

Parathyroid:

Four tiny glands around the thyroid gland (4 corners)

Secretes parathyroxine

Promotes kidney function

Maintains calcium/phosphate and calcitonin

Adrenal Glands:

Triangular shaped

Situated on top on kidneys

Regulates response to stress by synthesising corticosteroids (from cortex of gland) and catecholamines (from medulla of gland)

Fight or flight response

Pineal Gland:

Located in brain and nerve pathways terminate here

Releases melatonin

Thymus gland:

Activates lymphocytes released to immune system

Gonads:

Responsible for production of the sex steroids

A name for ovaries and testes

Trophoblast Cells:

The trophoblast is the outer sphere of cells of the blastocyst (hollow cavity) and an inner mass of cells which develop into the embryo and the placenta

Enables implantation to occur

Trophoblast cells release hCG maintaining the corpus luteum (remnants of follicle that contains the now fertilised ovum)

Corpus Luteum:

Transient endocrine structure formed from the ovarian follicle after ovulation

Secretes oestrogen and progesterone during the first trimester (12 weeks) until placenta takes over function

Corpus luteum maintained by hormone hCG

Oestrogen stimulates growth of the uterine muscle while progesterone inhibits uterine contractions

Placenta:

Develops in early pregnancy and fully functional at approx. 12 weeks gestation (when corpus luteum declines)

Acts as an endocrine organ secreting oestrogen, progesterone, hCG and Human Placental lactogen (HPL)

Placental functions also include provision of oxygen and nutrients to fetus, as well as removing waste products.