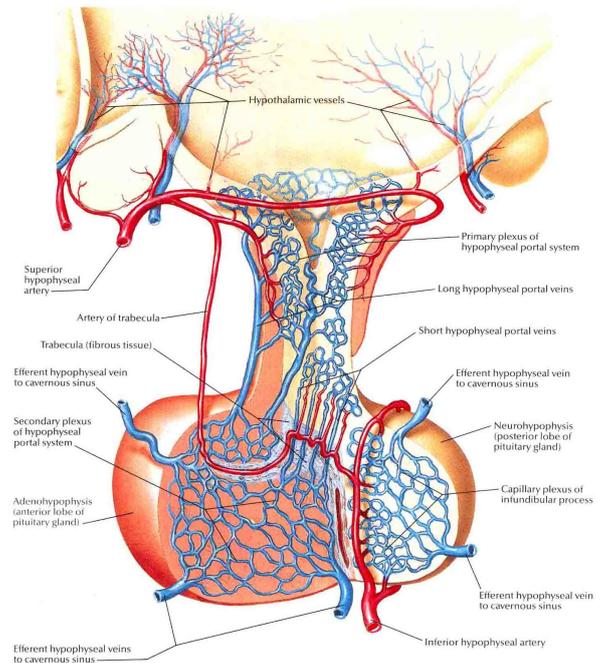


# Pituitary gland

The pituitary gland, or hypophysis, is an endocrine gland about the size of a pea and weighing 0.5 grams (0.018 oz) in humans. It is a protrusion off the bottom of the [hypothalamus](#) at the base of the brain, and rests in a small, bony cavity ([sella turcica](#)) covered by a dural fold ([diaphragma sellae](#)).



## Parts

[Adenohypophysis](#).

[Neurohypophysis](#).

## Function

see [Pituitary gland function](#).

## Books

[MRI of the Pituitary Gland](#) By Jean-François Bonneville, Fabrice Bonneville, Françoise Cattin, Sonia Nagi

This clinically oriented book will familiarize the reader with all aspects of the diagnosis of tumors and other disorders of the pituitary gland by means of [magnetic resonance imaging](#) (MRI). The coverage includes [acromegaly](#), [Cushing's disease](#), [Rathke cleft cysts](#), [prolactinomas](#), [incidentalomas](#), [Clinically nonfunctioning pituitary adenomas](#), other lesions of the [sellar region](#), [hypophysitis](#), and central [diabetes insipidus](#). Normal radiologic anatomy and the numerous normal variants are described, and guidance is also provided on difficulties, artifacts, and other pitfalls. The book combines concise text and high-quality images with a question and answer format geared toward the needs of the practitioner. MRI is today considered the cornerstone in the diagnosis of diseases of the hypophysial-hypothalamic region but the relatively small size of the pituitary gland, its deep location, the many normal anatomic variants, and the often tiny size of lesions can hinder precise evaluation of the anatomic structures and particularly the pituitary gland itself. Radiologists and endocrinologists will find [MRI of the Pituitary Gland](#) to be full of helpful information on this essential examination, and the book will also be of interest to internists and neurosurgeons.

## Pathology

see [Pituitary adenoma](#).

see [Pituitary tumor](#).

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Last update: **2019/11/16 12:54**

