

# Prolactin

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**Prolactin** is a peptide hormone formed and secreted by the anterior lobe of the pituitary (adenohypophysis). Prolactin stimulates the growth of the mammary gland (ductal system) and the production of breast milk. Prolactin secretion increases significantly during pregnancy and a few months after childbirth (if a woman is breastfeeding), a slight increase in secretion also occurs during physical exertion and psychological stress (in both women and men). Prolactin secretion is inhibited by prolactin-inhibiting hormone (PIH, it is dopamine formed in the hypothalamus).

anterior lobe of the pituitary gland  
3 forms, *little prolactin* of 22 kDa, **big prolactin - 48 kDa**, *big big prolactin'* - 150 kDa <sup>[1]</sup>  
mammary gland  
prolactin receptors with MAPK activity <sup>[2]</sup>  
176760 (<https://omim.org/entry/176760>)

## Links

### Related Articles

- Prolactinoma

### References

- GANONG, William F. *Review of Medical Physiology*. 20. edition. Prague : Galen, 2005. 890 pp. ISBN 80-7262-311-7.

### References

1. KIEFER, K A – MALARKEY, W B. Size heterogeneity of human prolactin in CSF and serum: experimental conditions that alter gel filtration patterns. *J Clin Endocrinol Metab* [online]. 1978, vol. 46, no. 1, p. 119-24, Available from <<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/752015>>. ISSN 0021-972X.
2. MANCINI, Tatiana – CASANUEVA, Felipe F – GIUSTINA, Andrea. Hyperprolactinemia and prolactinomas. *Endocrinol Metab Clin North Am* [online]. 2008, vol. 37, no. 1, p. 67-99, viii, Available from <<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18226731>>. ISSN 0889-8529.

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