

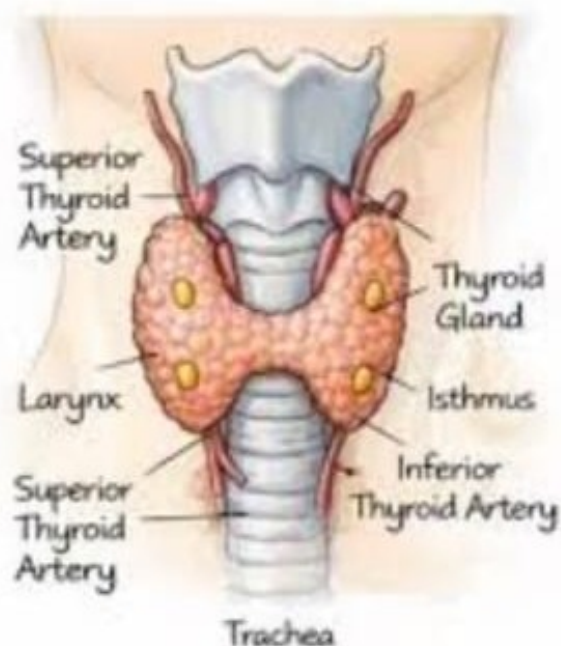
ENDOCRINE SYSTEM – THYROID GLAND

Definition

The thyroid gland is a butterfly-shaped endocrine gland located in the front of the neck, at the base of the throat. It produces thyroid hormones that regulate the body's metabolism, energy and growth.

Structure:

- Butterfly-shaped gland with two lobes connected by an isthmus.
- Located in the anterior neck, at the base of the throat, just below the larynx.
- Rich blood supply provided by superior and inferior thyroid arteries.
- Contains follicular cells (produce T3 & T4), and parafollicular cells (produce calcitonin).



Divisions:

- Anatomical Divisions
 - Right lobe
 - Left lobe
 - Isthmus
- Functional Divisions
 - Follicular cells
 - Produce T₃ (triiodothyronine) and T₄ (thyroxine)
 - Parafollicular cells
 - Produce calcitonin

Functions:

- Regulates metabolism by producing T₃ & T₄ hormones
- Controls heart rate, body temperature, and weight
- Promotes growth and development

Important Exam Points:

- Largest endocrine gland in the body
- Secretes T₃, T₄, and calcitonin
- Plays a major role in metabolism and calcium regulation
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