

Functions of Various Hormones

Aldosterone secretions from adrenal cortex increases

- Increased renal reabsorption of sodium leading to increased fluid retention

Parathyroid hormone secretions increase

- Maintains higher calcium levels in maternal blood

Progesterone from placenta and corpus luteum

- Development of deciduas cells
- Decreased uterine contractions
- Increased secretions by uterine tubes and uterus
- Peak at 6 weeks

Estrogens from placenta and corpus luteum

- Increase size of uterus, breasts, external genitalia
- Produced by adrenals in fetus from progesterone
- Peak at 3-4 weeks

Human Chorionic Somatomammotropin

- Also called placental lactogen from placenta
- Partial breast development
- Actions similar to growth hormone
- Decreases glucose level in mother
- Promotes release of fatty acids

Inhibin

- Produced by ovaries
- Inhibits FSH production

Human Chorionic Gonadotropin (HCG)

- Produced by chorionic cells
- Peaks at 9 weeks
- Presence of HCG in blood or urine is used to confirm pregnancy