

Endocrine Regulation of Biochemical Networks

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It has now been established that estrogen causes differences in cell metabolism between men and women during the years of menstruation. These differences, though long ignored, are both large and medically important. This raises interesting questions for the general theory of networks. The parameter representing endocrine regulation will affect many rates in the network. So, the question is whether the transition from testosterone to estrogen is smooth and gradual, or whether there are sharp bifurcations. Similar questions arise naturally in fetal development.

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