

## What do your hormone results mean?

## **ESTRADIOL**

Estradiol acts mainly as a growth hormone for the reproductive structures in females. In addition, estradiol works in conjunction with progesterone during the menstrual cycle and pregnancy. Low estrogen levels can cause low libido or diminished sex drive and too much estrogens can cause symptoms of estrogen dominance. In males, estradiol is involved in sperm maturation and also helps to maintain a healthy libido.

Estradiol has a significant role in maintaining healthy bone growth and improving blood flow in coronary arteries in addition to offering neuroprotective effects. Estrogens have been known to contribute to risk of breast cancer as well as some non-cancerous conditions like endometriosis and uterine fibroids.

## PROGESTERONE

Progesterone in females is known to be involved in maintaining normal menstrual cycles and early stages of pregnancy. Low levels of progesterone can cause abnormal cycles or conception problems. Low progesterone levels could also result in higher estrogen levels, which has been known to decrease sex drive and cause weight gain. High progesterone levels have been known to be responsible for symptoms like mood swings, bloating, breast tenderness.

In men, progesterone acts as a precursor to testosterone. As men age, the testosterone levels decrease, the estradiol increases, and progesterone levels decline. Low progesterone levels in men can cause problems like weight gain, low sex drive, hair loss, depression or erectile dysfunction.