

## I. General Characteristics of the **Endocrine System** A. The endocrine system is made up of the cells, tissues, and organs that secrete hormones into body fluids. B. "Local hormones" include paracrine secretions that are released to interstitial fluid and affect only nearby cells, and autocrine secretions that influence the cell secreting the hormone. C. Endocrine glands and their hormones regulate a number of metabolic processes within cells, as well as reproduction, development, and growth.























































































