Abstract

This book contains 24 articles on the various aspects of clinical research with regard to the normal and pathological secretion of prolactin. Some of the subjects covered are the technical aspects of assay methods, the possible osmoregulatory role of prolactin in fetal salt and water balance and in the control of fertility in man and animal, the physiological and pharmacological factors modulating prolactin secretion, breast cancer and prolactin and the characterization and management of hyperprolactinemic amenorrhea.

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Introduction: Recent data have shown that the maternal arterial supply to the human placenta is not fully established until the end of the first trimester. This timing corresponds to the end of the phase of organogenesis. In many mammalian species the conceptus is supported by histiotrophic nutrition from the endometrial glands during this period.