

Testosterone

Optical polarized photomicrograph by Michael W. Davidson, Florida State University, Tallahassee

Testosterone is the principal androgen secreted by the steroidogenic Leydig cells, which are located in the interstitial spaces of the testis. Men produce 2.5 to 10 mg of testosterone daily and plasma concentrations are 200 to

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1000 ng/dL. Plasma levels fluctuate in a circadian pattern in young men and are maximal in the early morning. Superimposed on this rhythm are shorter, smaller secretory peaks that follow elevated luteinizing hormone secretion within hours. These variations in plasma hormone levels demonstrate the importance of multiple blood sampling in some experimental and diagnostic situations.