

Hormonal Control

Biology

How hormones differ from nerves, and the main axes.

Nervous control

- Electrical then chemical
- Milliseconds
- Targeted to specific cells
- Short-lived effect
- Via neurones

Hormonal control

- Chemical only
- Seconds to hours
- Any cell with the receptor
- Longer-lasting effect
- Via the bloodstream

THE DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

The hypothalamus links the two: it receives neural input and controls the pituitary, converting nervous signals into hormonal

Most hormone axes are negative feedback loops: the end hormone inhibits the hypothalamus and pituitary that triggered it.