

Glucagon is a peptide hormone, produced by alpha cells of the pancreas, and it raises the concentration of glucose in the bloodstream. Its effect is opposite that of insulin, which lowers the glucose concentration.

The pancreas releases glucagon when the concentration of glucose in the bloodstream falls too low. Glucagon causes the liver to convert stored glycogen into glucose, which is released into the bloodstream. High blood-glucose levels stimulate the release of insulin. Insulin allows glucose to be taken up and used by insulin-dependent tissues. Thus, glucagon and insulin are part of a feedback system that keeps blood glucose levels at a stable level. Glucagon belongs to a family of several other related hormones.

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Last update: **2024/06/07 02:54**

