

ROLE OF OTHER ORGANS IN EXCRETION

In addition to the kidneys, the lungs, liver, and skin contribute significantly to the elimination of excretory wastes.

The lungs play a pivotal role in expelling substantial quantities of carbon dioxide (approximately 200 mL/minute) and noteworthy amounts of water on a daily basis. The liver, being the largest gland in the human body, releases bile that contains various substances such as bilirubin, biliverdin, cholesterol, degraded steroid hormones, vitamins, and drugs. A majority of these substances eventually exit the body alongside digestive wastes.

The skin, through its sweat and sebaceous glands, also participates in the elimination of certain substances. Sweat, produced by sweat glands, is a watery fluid containing sodium chloride, small amounts of urea, lactic acid, and more. While the primary function of sweat is to induce a cooling effect on the body surface, it concurrently aids in the removal of some of the mentioned wastes. Sebaceous glands eliminate substances like sterols, hydrocarbons, and waxes through sebum, providing a protective oily covering for the skin. Interestingly, small amounts of nitrogenous wastes can be expelled through saliva as well.