

# Salivary cortisol among subjects with and without Cushing Syndrome

## Determinación de los niveles de cortisol salival en una muestra de sujetos de Santiago de Chile

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**Background:** Salivary cortisol measurement is recommended as a screening measure when a Cushing Syndrome is suspected. The proposed cut-off point for a probable diagnosis is 0.16 ug/dL.

**Aim:** To determine salivary cortisol concentrations during the day in patients with and without Cushing syndrome and with depression. **Material and Methods:** Salivary cortisol was measured by competitive enzyme immuno assay (EIA), in samples obtained at 8:00, 15:00 and 23:00 h in 78 patients without Cushing syndrome, aged  $40 \pm 15$  years (28 males), 30 patients with depression aged  $40 \pm 12$  years (nine males) and four females with Cushing syndrome aged  $42 \pm 17$  years.

**Results:** Salivary cortisol was higher among patients with Cushing syndrome than the rest of patients. A salivary cortisol over the cut-off value of 0.16 ug/dL was found in 42% of subjects without Cushing syndrome and in 33% of patients with depression. Median values among patients without Cushing syndrome, depression and with Cushing syndrome were