

Collecting Saliva Cortisol at Home in Antisocial Girls

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This study's purpose is to gather pilot data for a larger proposal that will be resubmitted to the National Institutes of Health on the relationships between the HPA axis function and antisocial behavior in young women. As part of the protocol, each participant will be asked to perform in-home collection of salivary cortisol. Each girl and a parent will be interviewed with a structured psychiatric interview (DISC) and a brief medical history interview to determine eligibility to participate. Exclusion criteria will be absence of a diagnosis of Conduct Disorder, the presence of major medical illness, or a Tanner Stage of pubertal development less than V. Girls selected to participate will be asked to contact the office when they have their next menstrual cycle. When she calls, the girl will be scheduled to get her supplies to collect 7 saliva samples over the next 24 hours. Saliva samples will be analyzed for cortisol using a commercial kit (Diagnostic Systems Lab).