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## Steroids

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# Identification and quantification of dehydroepiandrosterone sulphate in saliva

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## Abstract

$3\beta$ -Hydroxy-5-androsten-17-one (dehydroepiandrosterone) sulphate has been separated from an extract of human saliva by ion exchange gel chromatography and identified by high resolution gas chromatography-high resolution mass spectrometry of the tert-butyldimethylsilyl derivative of the neutral steroid obtained by enzymic hydrolysis. Quantitative analyses, employing  $7,7\text{-}^2\text{H}$ -dehydroepiandrosterone sulphate as the internal standard, have indicated concentrations in the saliva of young adult subjects to be generally in the range  $0.9\text{--}5.7$  nmol/l, though concentrations as high as  $10.7$  nmol/l have been observed.



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