Preanalytics and shipping of hair samples for steroid analysis

How to help the lab to get you your results most quickly & accurately



Step 1: Preparation



Please note: For Packthread loop see PDF "How to make the packthread loop"

Step 2: Hair division



- 1. Divide the hair at the back of the head using the hairgrip
- 2. Separate 2-3 hair strands (approx. 2 cm below the cranial bone)

Please note: Overall diameter = half of a pencil = at least 3 mm or $\frac{1}{8}$ inch

3. Comb the strands

Step 3: Packthread loop



Thread the combed strands through the loop and **tighten** the loop

Step 4: Cutting the strand



Cut the hair **as close as possible to the scalp**

Step 5: Mark scalp-near end on aluminium foil



- 1. Place the strands on the aluminium foil
- 2. Mark the scalp-near end of the hair strand by drawing a line on the aluminium foil using a permanent marker

Step 6: Folding aluminium foil







- **1. Fold** the aluminium foil
- Make sure both ends are sealed, so that hair cannot fall out
- 3. Also make sure that the aluminium foil is large enough to fully cover the hair strands

Step 7: Write consecutive numbers



- 1. Please write consecutive numbers on your samples
- 2. Please do not use letters together with the consecutive numbers as the lab operates only with numbers!!
- If you wish you can also add your own study ID written below the consecutive number (see picture)
- Please send us an
 Excel-File with all hair
 samples and
 corresponding code via
 E-Mail
 Ina.Kaden@tu-dresden.de



The higher the quality of your delivered hair samples, the higher the quality of the results that we can provide for you!

Step 8: Packaging



For larger number of samples: Please arrange samples in a clear order, e.g. store every 50 hair samples in separate packages (picture only exemplarily)

Order form – please fill out completely!

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		Performance of Hair	r Analysis								
		Immunoassay	LC-MS/MS	(full steroid panel, pleas	se specify your reque	st below)					
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methods for steroid analysis

Immunoassay:

- Standard assessment method for the detection of cortisol only
- Use for other steroid hormones in hair is not recommended
- Issues of cross-reactivity may affect results to some extent



LC-MS/MS:

- Gold-standard method with highest sensitivity and specificity
- Simultaneous identification and quantitation of a steroid hormone panel in hair (cortisol, cortisone, corticosterone, DHEA, testosterone, progesterone)



Shipping

Shipping address

Prof. Dr. C. Kirschbaum Biopsychologie – TU Dresden Zellescher Weg 19, Raum 212 D – 01062 Dresden, GERMANY phone: +49-1525-3724735 (Prof. Dr. Clemens Kirschbaum)

Shipping

Further notes

- 1. Use a **courier service** that will deliver the samples within 3-4 working days (TNT, FedEx, UPS etc.)
- 2. When doing the paperwork, DO NOT STATE ANY COMMERCIAL VALUE (write 0.1\$ in the form; otherwise we will have to pay taxes), Name the following customs tariff number: 3001 20100
- **3.** Print out the next page and attach it on top of your shipping box so that it is clearly visible for customs. This usually avoids unnecessary hold-up of your shipment.

Zollerklärung

Diese Sendung enthält menschliche Haarproben. Die Proben stammen aus einer staatlich unterstützten wissenschaftlichen Studie und sollen von dem Empfänger auf Hormone untersucht werden. Sie sind nicht infektiös und dienen ausschließlich wissenschaftlichen Zwecken.

Kein kommerzieller Wert. Wert nur für Zollzwecke: 0,1 Euro.

Warentarif-Nummer: 3001 2010

Bitte kontaktieren Sie bei Fragen Clemens Kirschbaum unter +49-1525-3724735.