



Bari,  
7-10 novembre 2013

# Il caso dell'aldosterone: fra certezze e pitfalls

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12° congresso Nazionale AME

6th Joint Meeting with ACE



# Punti chiave



Bari,  
7-10 novembre 2013

1. Impiego diagnostico del dosaggio dell'aldosterone e della renina
2. Il rapporto aldosterone/renina (ARR)
3. Criticità del dosaggio dell'aldosterone e della renina
  - Preanalitiche
  - Analitiche
  - Postanalitiche



# Impiego diagnostico dell'ARR



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Il rapporto A/R può essere utilizzato  
per la rapida classificazione di tutti i disordini  
del sistema renina-aldosterone  
Iperaldosteronismo primario (PA) e secondario  
Ipoaldosteronismo primario e secondario

**The Simultaneous Measurement of Plasma-  
Aldosterone- and -Renin-Concentration Allows Rapid  
Classification of all Disorders of the Renin-Aldosterone  
System**

Author

S. Diederich<sup>1,2</sup>, K. Mai<sup>1</sup>, V. Bähr<sup>1</sup>, S. Helffrich<sup>2</sup>, A. Pfeiffer<sup>1</sup>, F. H. Perschel<sup>3</sup>



# Impiego diagnostico dell'ARR



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Clinical Practice Guideline

## Case Detection, Diagnosis, and Treatment of Patients with Primary Aldosteronism: An Endocrine Society Clinical Practice Guideline

John W. Funder, Robert M. Carey, Carlos Fardella, Celso E. Gomez-Sanchez, Franco Mantero, Michael Stowasser, William F. Young Jr., and Victor M. Montori\*

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## Patients with relatively high prevalence of PA

Stage 2 (>160-179 mmHg/100-109 mmHg) or stage 3 (>180/110 mmHg) hypertension

Drug resistant hypertension

Hypertension and spontaneous or diuretic-induced hypokalemia

Hypertension with adrenal incidentaloma

Hypertension and family history of early-onset hypertension or cerebrovascular accident at young age (<40 years)

Hypertensive first-degree relatives of patients with PA



# ARR and PA



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The aldosterone to renin ratio (ARR) is currently the most reliable available mean of screening for PA  
ARR is superior to measurement of potassium or aldosterone (lower sensitivity) or renin (lower specificity) in isolation (Hiramatsu, 1981; McKenna 1991; Stowasser, 2010)

### A Screening Test to Identify Aldosterone-Producing Adenoma by Measuring Plasma Renin Activity

Results in Hypertensive Patients

Kunihide Hiramatsu, MD; Takashi Yamada, MD; Yaichiro Yukimura, MD; Ichiro Komiya, MD; Kazuo Ichikawa, MD; Masaki Ishihara, MD; Hajime Nagata, MD; Tomio Izumiya, MD

### Review Article

#### Laboratory Investigation of Primary Aldosteronism

\*Michael Stowasser, Paul J Taylor, Eduardo Eimonta, Ashraf H Al-Asaly Ahmed, Richard D Gordon  
Endocrine Hypertension Research Clinic, University of Queensland School of Medicine, Queensland and Princess Alexandra Hospital, Woolloongabba, Qld 4102, Australia  
\*For correspondence: Prof Michael Stowasser at stowasser@uq.edu.au



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ARR is not without false positive and negative  
ARR should be regarded as a **detection (screening) test**  
ARR should be **repeated** if the initial results are inconclusive or difficult to interpret because of suboptimal sampling conditions



# ARR:

## variabili preanalitiche



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Test characteristics of the aldosterone-to-renin ratio as a screening test for primary aldosteronism

### J Hypertens 2013

Pieter M. Jansen<sup>a</sup>, Bert-Jan H. van den Born<sup>b</sup>, Wijnanda J. Frenkel<sup>b</sup>, Emile L.E. de Bruijne<sup>c</sup>,  
Jaap Deinum<sup>d</sup>, Michiel N. Kerstens<sup>e</sup>, Yvo M. Smulders<sup>f</sup>, Arend Jan Woittiez<sup>g</sup>,  
Johanna A.M. Wijnenga<sup>h</sup>, Robert Zietse<sup>a</sup>, A.H. Jan Danser<sup>a</sup>, and Anton H. van den Meiracker<sup>a</sup>

Factors Affecting the Aldosterone/Renin Ratio

### Horm Metab Res 2012

Authors

M. Stowasser, A. H. Ahmed, E. Pimenta, P. J. Taylor, R. D. Gordon

Assay Characteristics Influence the Aldosterone to Renin Ratio as a Screening Tool for Primary Aldosteronism: Results of the German Conn's Registry

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Authors

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For the Participants of the German Conn's Registry – Else Kröner-Fresenius-Hyperaldosteronism Registry

Postura

Ora del prelievo

Età

Sesso

Dieta sodica

Concentrazione del potassio

Farmaci



# Aldosterone/renina: variabili preanalitiche



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Postura:

- 1 Campione dopo 5-15 minuti in posizione seduta
- No: 2 campioni (ortostatismo/1 ora-clinostatismo)

Ora:

- Metà mattina (ritmo circadiano di ACTH)
- No: pomeriggio





# Aldosterone/renina: variabili preanalitiche



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## Reference Intervals for Aldosterone, Renin, and the Aldosterone-to-Renin Ratio in the Population-based Study of Health in Pomerania (SHIP-1)

Authors

A. Hannemann<sup>1</sup>, N. Friedrich<sup>1</sup>, J. Lüdemann<sup>1</sup>, H. Völzke<sup>2</sup>, R. Rettig<sup>2</sup>, J. Peters<sup>2</sup>, M. Reincke<sup>3</sup>, A. Döring<sup>3</sup>, M. Nauck<sup>1</sup>, H. Wallaschofski<sup>1</sup>

Clinical Chemistry 57:11  
1607–1611 (2011)

## Reference Values for Aldosterone–Renin Ratios in Normotensive Individuals and Effect of Changes in Dietary Sodium Consumption

Michiel N. Kerstens,<sup>1\*</sup> Anneke C. Muller Kobold,<sup>2</sup> Marcel Volmer,<sup>2</sup> Jan Koerts,<sup>2</sup> Wim J. Sluiter,<sup>1</sup> and Robin P.F. Dullaart<sup>1</sup>

Età:

20-54/55-74

Sesso

Maschi/Femmine



# Aldosterone/renina: variabili preanalitiche



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## Review Article

### Laboratory Investigation of Primary Aldosteronism

\*Michael Stowasser, Paul J Taylor, Eduardo Fimenda, Ashraf H Al-Asaly Ahmed, Richard D Gordon

Endocrine Hypertension Research Centre, University of Queensland School of Medicine, Griggisley and Princess Alexandra Hospitals, Woolloongabba, Qld 4102, Australia

\*For correspondence: Prof Michael Stowasser m.stowasser@uq.edu.au

Dieta sodica:

Dieta libera: no restrizione sodica

Concentrazione del potassio:

Ipopotassiemia associata con risultati falsi negativi: correzione

Iperpotassiemia fattizia: corretto prelievo di plasma



# Aldosterone/renina: variabili preanalitiche



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## Farmaci

Induttori di falsi positivi: beta-bloccanti, metildopa, clonidina, FANS

Induttori di falsi negativi: diuretici, calcio-antagonisti, ACE-inibitori, ARBs

Effetti complessi: inibitori renina, estroprogestinici, antidepressivi



# Aldosterone/renina: variabili analitiche



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## Dosaggio dell'aldosterone (e della renina)

Metodi immunometrici isotopici vs. non-isotopici

Metodi manuali vs metodi automatizzati

Effettivo impiego dei metodi cromatografici

# Aldosterone: analytical characteristics



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**Concentration (Plasma/serum): ng/L**  
(Cortisol/Aldosterone: 1000/1)

Methods of detection

**Bioassay (isotope derivative assay)**

**Radioimmunoassay**

**GC-MS/MS**

**HPLC-MS/MS**

**Enzyme immunoassay (ELISA)**

**Chemiluminescence immunoassay**



**60 Years of aldosterone (electrocortin)**  
**Simpson SA, Tait JF, Reichstein T, 1953**



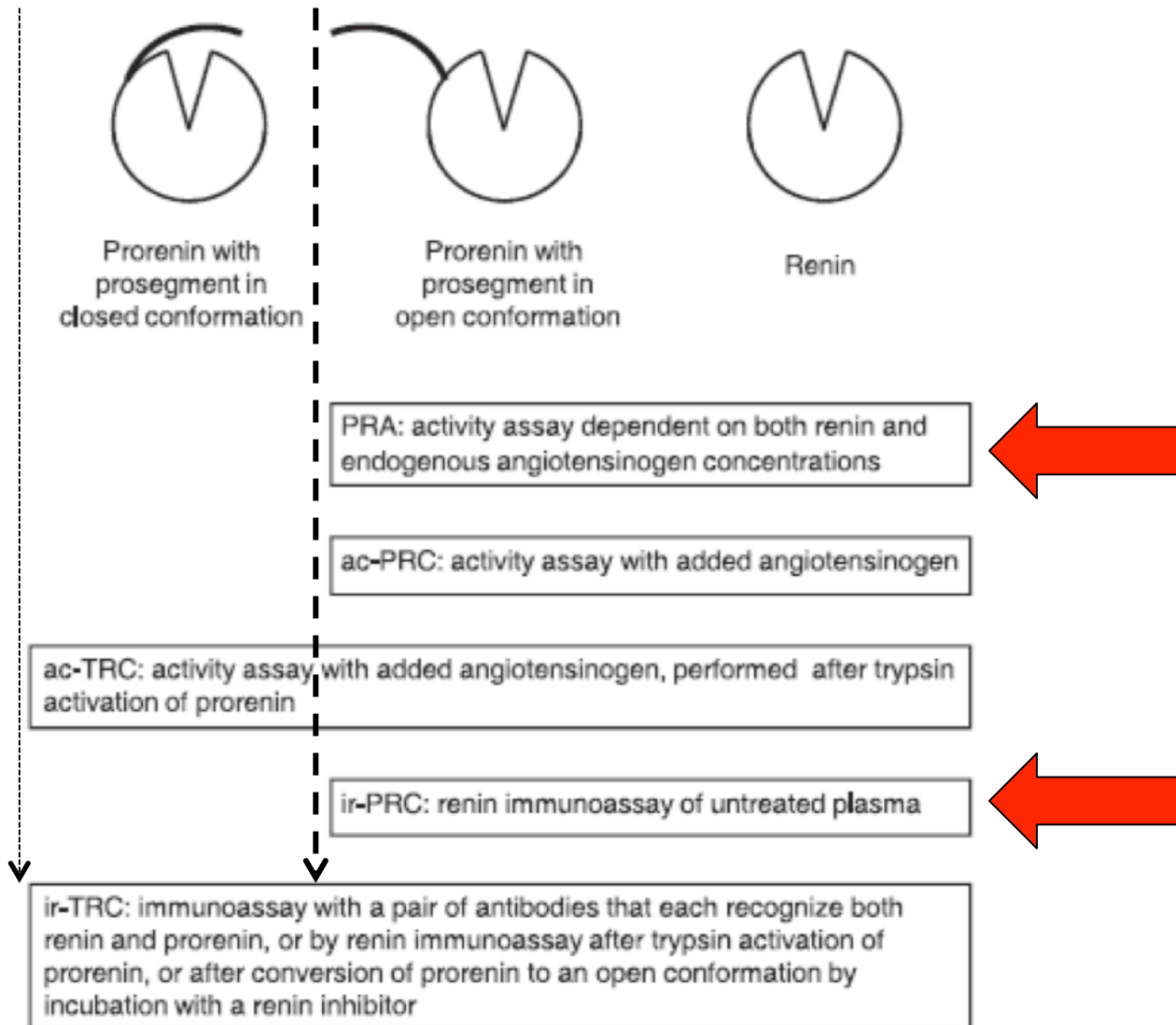
# Aldosterone: assay methods



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Method	Tracer	Chromatography	Extraction	Procedure	Author
Bioassay	$^3\text{H}$ , $^{14}\text{C}$	Paper, Celite, Amberlite, Sephadex	Dichloromethane Benzene-methanol	Manual	Simpson, 1953
RIA	$^3\text{H}$	Paper, Celite, Amberlite, Sephadex	Dichloromethane Benzene-methanol	Manual	Mayes, 1970 Boyard, 1970
RIA	$^3\text{H}$	No	Dichloromethane Benzene-methanol	Manual	Drewes, 1973 Farmes, 1973
RIA	$^{125}\text{I}$	No	Dichloromethane Benzene-methanol	Manual	Hariyama, 1976
RIA	$^{125}\text{I}$	No	No	Manual	Al-Duijaili, 1978
GC-MS/ MS	-	C18 column	No	Manual	Prone, 1988
HPLC-MS/ MS	-	C18 column	Acetonitrile	Semiautomated	Fredline, 1997
CLIA	AE	No	No	Automated	Perschel, 2004

# Renin and prorenin measurement





# Nomenclature for different forms of renin or prorenin measured by activity assays and immunoassays



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Renin form measured	Activity assays	Immunoassays	Units
Plasma renin activity (PRA)	PRA: Ang I production by plasma renin activity (both renin or prorenin with open conformation) acting on endogenous plasma angiotensinogen		$\mu\text{g}$ or $\text{nmol Ang I/L/h}$
Plasma renin concentration (PRC)	Ac-PRC: Ang I production by plasma renin enzymatic activity (both renin and prorenin with open conformation) acting on exogenous angiotensinogen	Ir-PRC: Renin immunoassay of untreated plasma (measures both renin and prorenin with open conformation)	IU/L, $\text{ng/L}$ , or $\text{pmol/L}$

Clinical Chemistry 55:5  
867-877 (2009)

Reviews

## Activity Assays and Immunoassays for Plasma Renin and Prorenin: Information Provided and Precautions Necessary for Accurate Measurement

Duncan J. Campbell,<sup>1\*</sup> Juerg Nussberger,<sup>2</sup> Michael Stowasser,<sup>3</sup> A. H. Jan Danser,<sup>4</sup> Alberto Morganti,<sup>5</sup> Erik Frandsen,<sup>6</sup> and Joel Ménard<sup>7</sup>





# PRA vs PRC



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Factor	PRA	PRC
Ice cooling	Yes	No
Angiotensinogen (liver cirrhosis, cardiac failure, pregnancy, glucocorticoid excess, estrogens, diabetes)	Dependent	Indipendent
Reproducibility	Poor	Acceptable
Sensitivity	High	Acceptable
Prorenin interference	No	No, with short incubation time at 37°C
Savings of time	No	Yes

Clinical Chemistry 55:5  
867-877 (2009)

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# Aldosterone: analytical variability



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Test	Method	Concentration (mean)	Concentration (DS)	CV%	p
Nichols Advantge	CLIA	<b>150.0</b>	17.2	11.4	
DPC-Siemens Coat-A-count	RIA	<b>222.0</b>	96.1	<b>43.2</b>	0.001
Adaltis Maia	RIA	<b>239.5</b>	15.3	10.7	0.001
Demeditec	RIA	<b>351.4</b>	15.3	18.6	0.006

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Fisher E, et al. Horm Metab Res 2013;45:526-31

# Renin: analytical variability



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Test	Method	Concentration (mean)	Concentration (DS)	CV%	p
Nichols Advantge	PRC-ILMA	<b>2.86</b>	0.42	14.6	
CIS-bio	PRC-IRMA	<b>4.48</b>	0.69	15.4	0.001
Adaltis Maia	PRA-RIA	<b>0.015</b>	0.04	26.7	
DiaSorin	PRA-RIA	<b>0.020</b>	0.06	30.0	0.009

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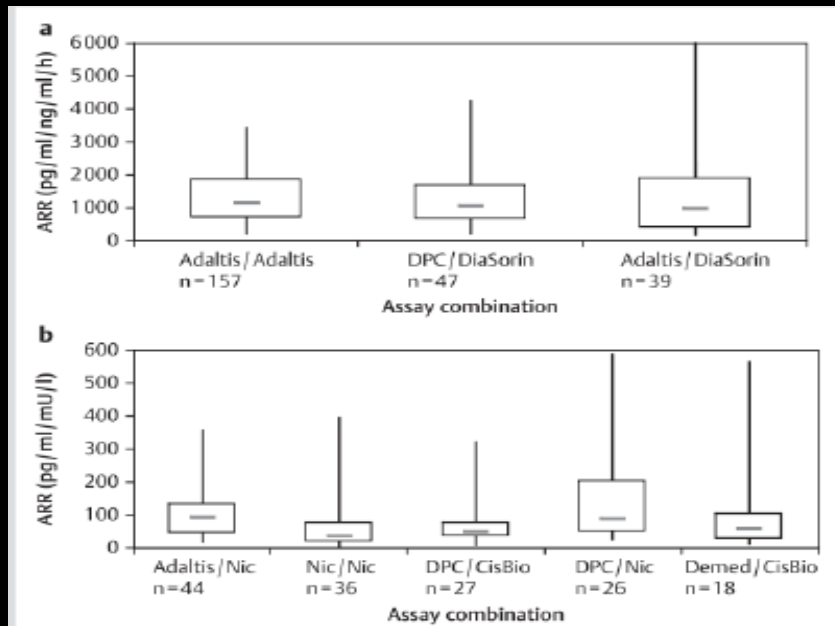
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# ARR: analytical variability



Assay Combination	ARR (mean)	p
Adaltis/Nichols	92.2	
DPC/Nichols	85.5	0.05
Demeditec/Cis-bio	57.1	0.01
DPC/Cis-bio	45.4	0.006
Nichols/Nichols	34.7	0.004



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# Criticità postanalitiche

## La torre di Babele: Quali unità?



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		Unità
PAC	ng/dL	Convenzionali
	ng/L	Convenzionali
	<b>pmol/L</b>	SI
PRA	ng/mL/h	Convenzionali
	pmol/L/h	SI
PRC	ng/L	Convenzionali
	<b>mU/L (IRP 68/356)</b>	SI
ARR	<b>1/10/100</b>	



# ARR: post-analytical variability



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- Clinical sensitivity: 66-100%
- Clinical specificity: 61-96%
- Different cut-offs: 20-100
- Proposed cut-offs from Endocrine Society
  - PAC/PRA=60-80
  - **PAC/PRC=91-122**
- Sensitivity: 22.2%
- Specificity: 98.7%

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J. Hypertens 2013 (EAOP)



# The automated CLIA analyzers: a new era ten years after?



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Nichols Advantage

DiaSorin Liaison



IDS iSYS





# Automated CLIA analyzers: analytical characteristics



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System	Precision WA (CV%)	Precision BA (CV%)	Sensitivity (FS)	Author (year)
<b>Aldosterone (PAC)</b>				
<b>Manual RIA</b>	<b>3.5-6.4</b>	<b>3.6-10.4</b>	<b>2.0-3.0 ng/dL</b>	<b>Schirpenbach, 2006</b>
Nichols Advantage	2.9-14.0	4.9-18.6	3.5 ng/dL	Diederich, 2007
DiaSorin Liaison	2.4-4.8	4-4-10.4	3.0 ng/dL	Package insert
IDS iSYS	1.8-9.0	1.9-9.2	3.7 ng/dL	Manolopoulou, 2012 Fortunato, 2012
<b>Renin (PRC)</b>				
Nichols Advantage	1.7-5.3	2.7-8.2	2.65 mU/L	Diederich, 2007
DiaSorin Liaison	1.3-7.2	7.3-10.4	5.0 mU/L	Dorrian, 2010
IDS iSYS	2.5-5.4	1.5-6.1	5.0 mU/L	Manolopoulou, 2012 Fortunato, 2012





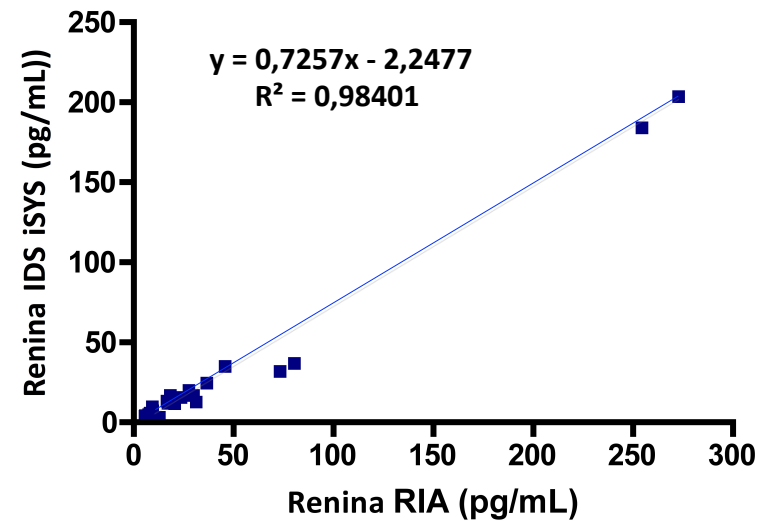
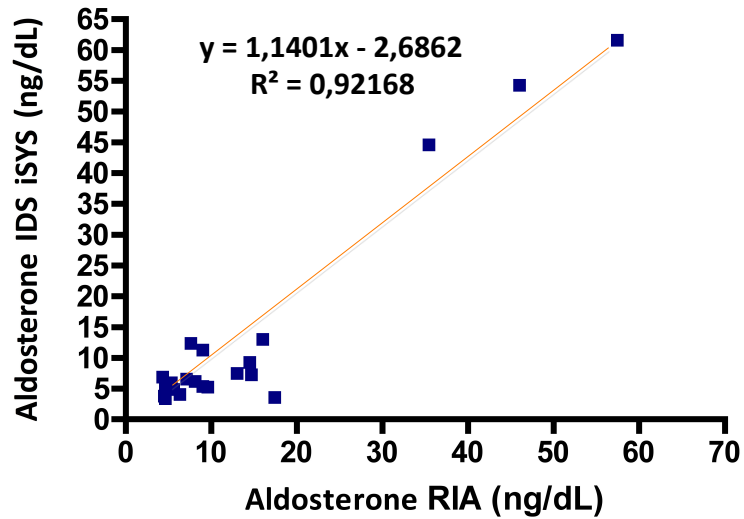
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# Aldosterone-Renina IDS-iSYS

Parametri		Aldosterone
Sensibilità funzionale (LoQ)		6,8 ng/dL
Precisione	CV% Intra-assay	4%-10%
	CV% Inter-assay	2,3%-14%
Matrice del test		EDTA-Plasma
N° tests/ora		68 test/ora
Stabilità kit a bordo		1 mese
Stabilità calibrazione		4 giorni

Parametri		Renina
Sensibilità funzionale (LoQ)		2,1 mUI/L
Precisione	CV% Intra-assay	3%-11%
	CV% Inter-assay	2,3-11%
Matrice del test		EDTA-Plasma
N° tests/ora		68 test/ora
Stabilità kit a bordo		1 mese
Stabilità calibrazione		10 giorni

# Correlazione



# U-Aldosterone: è ancora utile?



- 9 lavori in letteratura negli ultimi 10 anni
- Impiego in medicina veterinaria, in pediatria e nel PA solo nel test di conferma con carico orale di sodio
- Criticità analitiche
  - Raccolta urine 24 ore: **impiego di UACR**
  - Presenza di aldosterone libero (5%), aldosterone-18 oxo-glucuronide (10%) renale, tetraidroaldosterone (35%), metaboliti non conosciuti (50%): **estrazione o HPLC-MS/MS**
  - Non può essere usato in: ipertensione severa non controllata, insufficienza renale, scompenso cardiaco, aritmie, ipopotassiemia



# PA: test di conferma



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Test	Sigla	Procedura	Analiti	Raccomandazioni
Carico orale di sodio	SLT	>200mmol/die	UA	Young, Mulatero, ES
Infusione di sodio	SIT	2 L 0.9% NaCl	PAC, PRA/PRC, K	Mulatero, ES, JES
Captopril challenge test	CCT	Captopril	PAC, PRA/PRC, Cortisolo	ES, JES
Test di soppressione con fludrocortisone	FST	Fludrocortisone	PAC, PRA/PRC, Cortisolo	Mulatero, ES
Furosemide upright test	FUT	Furosemide	PAC/PRA/PRC, Cortisolo	JES



# Standardization of ARR: a proposal



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Characteristic	Proposal	EBM
Time of venipuncture	Midmorning (2 hours out of bed, 5-15 minutes seating)	ES Guidelines
Sample	Plasma (urine)	ES Guidelines
Type of method	CLIA (HPLC)	?
Aldosterone	Automated Direct	?
Renin	Automated PRC	?
Units	SI Units (pmol/L-mU/L)	ES guidelines
Manufacturer	The same (parallel detection)	?
Cut-off	Method-dependent ROC Curves	?
Reference sample	Healthy Adults (95.0%ile) Age, Gender-dependent	?
Other Conditions	Aldosterone > 400 pmol/L	?