



# **Integrative Medicine Academy**

## **Heavy Metal Testing and Treatment, Thyroid and Adrenal Evaluation**

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# Obtaining Absolute Levels of Heavy Metals Is Difficult

- Unfortunately, there is NO TEST that gives us the absolute level of heavy metals stored in the body.
- INSTEAD: *You can get an idea about the presence of heavy metals through various tests.*



# Different Types of Testing

- Hair Analysis:
  - *Good for chronic long-term exposure*
  - *Analogy to Hemoglobin A1c for diabetes control vs measuring blood glucose.*
- Blood and urine good for toxic emergency exposure to toxic metals:
  - *Red Blood Cell Analysis* – *does identify what has been stored for at least the past 120 days.*
- Baseline urine almost always is normal unless a recent exposure:
  - *Urine challenge is comparable to hair testing*
- Antibody testing for heavy metals



# Comparison of 3 Different Test Samples From Same Individual





# Same child - hair

TOXIC ELEMENTS	VALORE $\mu\text{g/g}$	INTERVALLO DI RIFERIMENTO	Percentuale	
			68 <sup>th</sup>	95 <sup>th</sup>
Aluminum	8,9	< 8,0		
Antimony	0,074	< 0,066		
Arsenic	0,046	< 0,080		
Beryllium	< 0,01	< 0,020		
Bismuth	0,018	< 0,13		
Cadmium	0,11	< 0,10		
Lead	0,57	< 1,0		
Mercury	4,7	< 0,40		
Platinum	< 0,003	< 0,005		
Thallium	< 0,001	< 0,010		
Thorium	< 0,001	< 0,005		
Uranium	0,009	< 0,060		
Nickel	0,08	< 0,40		
Silver	0,09	< 0,20		
Tin	0,23	< 0,30		
Titanium	0,64	< 1,0		
Total Toxic Representative				





# Same child - *whole blood*

			POTENTIALLY Equal to 2.0 mcg per dL	
TOXIC ELEMENTS	RESULT $\mu\text{g/g}$	REFERENCE RANGE	PERCENTILE	
			95 <sup>th</sup>	99 <sup>th</sup>
Bismuth	<0.0001	< 0.0050		
Cadmium	0.001	< 0.014	●	
Lead	0.020	< 0.055	▬	
Mercury	0.010	< 0.013	▬	
Nickel	0.017	< 0.019	▬	
Uranium	<0.0001	< 0.0060		



# Same child (urine) - *no chelator*

POTENTIALLY TOXIC METALS					
METALS	RESULT µg/g CREAT	REFERENCE RANGE	WITHIN REFERENCE RANGE	ELEVATED	VERY ELEVATED
Aluminum	25	< 60			
Antimony	< dl	< 1.5			
Arsenic	130	< 130			
Beryllium	< dl	< 0.6			
Bismuth	< dl	< 20			
Cadmium	0.4	< 2			
Lead	0.6	< 5			
Mercury	4.5	< 5			
Nickel	7.5	< 15			
Platinum	< dl	< 1			
Thallium	0.05	< 1.1			
Thorium	< dl	< 0.5			
Tin	< dl	< 15			
Tungsten	0.9	< 1.5			
Titanium	0.2	< 0.2			



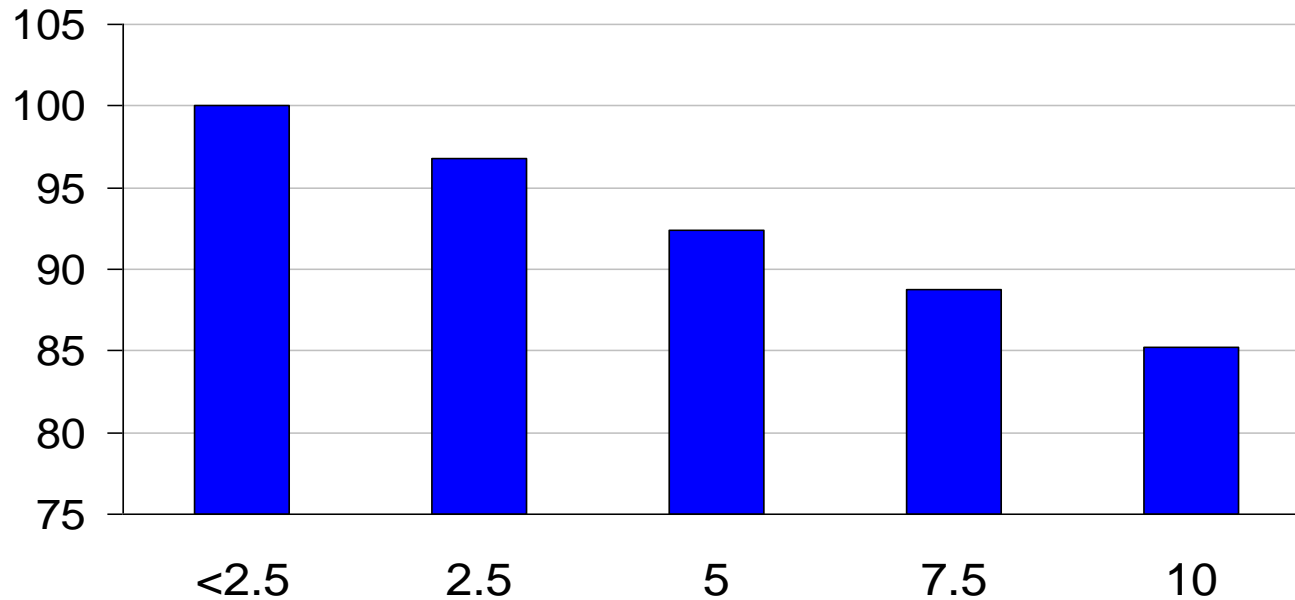
# Heavy Metals

- **Mercury** - *vaccines, fish (salmon, tuna), dental fillings*
- **Lead** - *paint, gas additive, solder in plumbing*
- **Cadmium** - *shellfish, cigarette smoke, tire steel-belts*
- **Arsenic** - *seafood, herbicide, chicken*
- **Copper** - *copper utensils, drinking water, copper pipes-copper/zinc profile blood.*
- **Aluminum** - *water purifier, antacids, dialysis, aluminum utensils, foods (anti-caking agent).*
- **Antimony** - *flame-retardant pajamas, alloys*





# Lead - *Associated Reading Deficits in U.S. Children*



Lanphear BP, et al. *Public Health Reports* 2000;115:521-529.





The Great Plains Laboratory, Inc.



SEX: Male

AGE: 3



### Toxic & Essential Elements; Hair

TOXIC METALS					
		RESULT µg/g	REFERENCE INTERVAL	PERCENTILE	
				68 <sup>th</sup>	95 <sup>th</sup>
Aluminum	(Al)	8.0	< 8.0	[Bar chart showing result at 68th percentile]	
Antimony	(Sb)	0.20	< 0.066	[Bar chart showing result at 68th percentile]	
Arsenic	(As)	0.50	< 0.080	[Bar chart showing result at 68th percentile]	
Barium	(Ba)	0.42	< 0.50	[Bar chart showing result at 68th percentile]	
Beryllium	(Be)	< 0.01	< 0.020	[Bar chart showing result at 68th percentile]	
Bismuth	(Bi)	0.020	< 2.0	[Bar chart showing result at 68th percentile]	
Cadmium	(Cd)	0.092	< 0.070	[Bar chart showing result at 68th percentile]	
Lead	(Pb)	10	< 1.0	[Bar chart showing result at 68th percentile]	
Mercury	(Hg)	2.1	< 0.40	[Bar chart showing result at 68th percentile]	
Platinum	(Pt)	0.003	< 0.005	[Bar chart showing result at 68th percentile]	
Thallium	(Tl)	0.001	< 0.002	[Bar chart showing result at 68th percentile]	
Thorium	(Th)	0.001	< 0.002	[Bar chart showing result at 68th percentile]	
Uranium	(U)	0.014	< 0.060	[Bar chart showing result at 68th percentile]	
Nickel	(Ni)	0.28	< 0.20	[Bar chart showing result at 68th percentile]	
Silver	(Ag)	0.40	< 0.20	[Bar chart showing result at 68th percentile]	
Tin	(Sn)	0.58	< 0.30	[Bar chart showing result at 68th percentile]	
Titanium	(Ti)	0.30	< 1.0	[Bar chart showing result at 68th percentile]	
Total Toxic Representation				[Bar chart showing total toxic representation]	



# Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, infantile autism, and elevated blood-lead: a possible relationship.

Eppright TD, et al. Mo Med 1996 Mar;93(3):136-8

- The child was treated for the elevated blood lead with the chelating agent succimer (DMSA).
- Decrease in repetitive behaviors while on DMSA with regression when medication was stopped.
- Decrease of hyperactive behavior while being treated with DMSA.









The Great Plains Laboratory, Inc.



SEX: Female

AGE: 4

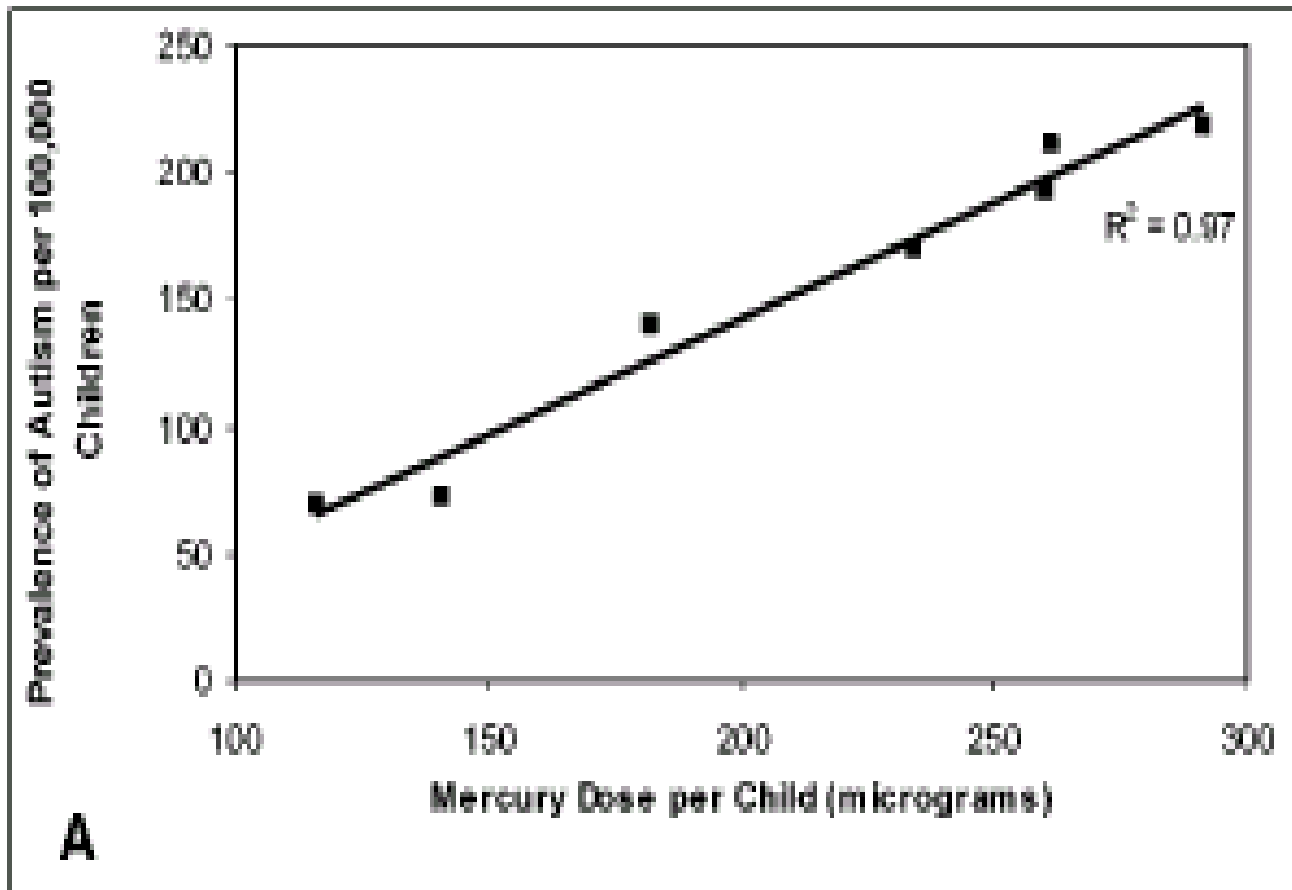


### Toxic & Essential Elements; Hair

TOXIC METALS				PERCENTILE	
	RESULT µg/g	REFERENCE INTERVAL	68 <sup>th</sup>	95 <sup>th</sup>	
Aluminum (Al)	3.5	< 8.0			
Antimony (Sb)	0.022	< 0.066			
Arsenic (As)	0.29	< 0.080			
Barium (Ba)	0.35	< 0.75			
Beryllium (Be)	< 0.01	< 0.020			
Bismuth (Bi)	0.037	< 2.0			
Cadmium (Cd)	0.024	< 0.070			
Lead (Pb)	0.71	< 1.0			
Mercury (Hg)	4.2	< 0.40			
Platinum (Pt)	< 0.003	< 0.005			
Thallium (Tl)	0.001	< 0.002			
Thorium (Th)	< 0.001	< 0.002			
Uranium (U)	0.003	< 0.060			
Nickel (Ni)	0.10	< 0.30			
Silver (Ag)	0.09	< 0.20			
Tin (Sn)	0.24	< 0.30			
Titanium (Ti)	0.23	< 0.90			
Total Toxic Representation					



# Effect of Mercury Dose on Autism Incidence in the USA



# Mother of Child With Autism

POTENTIALLY TOXIC METALS							
METALS	RESULT µg/g CREAT	REFERENCE RANGE	WITHIN REFERENCE RANGE	ELEVATED	VERY ELEVATED		
Aluminum	6.2	< 35					
Antimony	0.5	< 1					
Arsenic	27	< 130					
Beryllium	< dl	< 0.5					
Bismuth	0.3	< 15					
Cadmium	1.6	< 2					
Lead	5.4	< 5					
Mercury	69	< 4					
Nickel	5.9	< 12					
Platinum	< dl	< 1					
Thallium	0.2	< 0.8					
Thorium	< dl	< 0.3					
Tin	9.9	< 10					
Tungsten	0.08	< 1					
Uranium	< dl	< 0.2					
CREATININE							
	RESULT mg/dL	REFERENCE RANGE	2SD LOW	1SD LOW	MEAN	1SD HIGH	2SD HIGH
Creatinine	130	35 - 225					



# Environmental Health Perspectives 112 (2004):18

- Government researchers found that the amount of arsenic in chicken greatly exceeded the Environmental Protection Agency's new upper safety limit of arsenic allowed in drinking water.
- In fact, the amount of arsenic found in chicken was 6 to 9 times that allowed by the EPA.
- A “bucket” of KFC fried chicken would be expected to have up to almost 50 times the amount of arsenic allowed in a glass of water.
- How did the arsenic get into the chickens? The poultry industry fed it to them.





## **Smith AH, et al., “Cancer Risks from Arsenic in Drinking Water,” Environmental Health Perspectives 97 (1992), 259-67.**

- Arsenic is a human carcinogen linked to liver, lung, skin, kidney, bladder, and prostate cancers.
- It can also cause neurological, cardiovascular, gastrointestinal, and immune system abnormalities.
- Diabetes has also been linked to arsenic exposure.





The Great Plains Laboratory, Inc.



SEX: Male  
AGE: 2



### Toxic & Essential Elements; Hair

TOXIC METALS				PERCENTILE	
	RESULT µg/g	REFERENCE INTERVAL	68 <sup>th</sup>	95 <sup>th</sup>	
Aluminum (Al)	8.2	< 8.0	[Bar chart showing result at 68th percentile]		
Antimony (Sb)	0.13	< 0.066	[Bar chart showing result at 68th percentile]		
Arsenic (As)	0.87	< 0.080	[Bar chart showing result at 68th percentile]		
Barium (Ba)	0.46	< 0.50	[Bar chart showing result at 68th percentile]		
Beryllium (Be)	< 0.01	< 0.020	[Bar chart showing result at 68th percentile]		
Bismuth (Bi)	0.11	< 2.0	[Bar chart showing result at 68th percentile]		
Cadmium (Cd)	0.11	< 0.070	[Bar chart showing result at 68th percentile]		
Lead (Pb)	18	< 1.0	[Bar chart showing result at 68th percentile]		
Mercury (Hg)	0.86	< 0.40	[Bar chart showing result at 68th percentile]		
Platinum (Pt)	< 0.003	< 0.005	[Bar chart showing result at 68th percentile]		
Thallium (Tl)	0.002	< 0.002	[Bar chart showing result at 68th percentile]		
Thorium (Th)	0.001	< 0.002	[Bar chart showing result at 68th percentile]		
Uranium (U)	0.011	< 0.060	[Bar chart showing result at 68th percentile]		
Nickel (Ni)	0.24	< 0.20	[Bar chart showing result at 68th percentile]		
Silver (Ag)	0.72	< 0.20	[Bar chart showing result at 68th percentile]		
Tin (Sn)	0.39	< 0.30	[Bar chart showing result at 68th percentile]		
Titanium (Ti)	0.54	< 1.0	[Bar chart showing result at 68th percentile]		
Total Toxic Representation				[Bar chart showing result at 68th percentile]	





# Urine Challenge Testing





# Do You Absolutely Need To Do Provocative Testing?

- ??? – It is useful to track excretion overtime, and is considered by many to be the standard for assessing total body burden to heavy metals.

## HOWEVER...

- Approximately, 15% to 20% of people who do provocative, aka. “challenge” testing (*usually with intravenous or an oral chelator*) show no significant amount of metal on urine testing.



# Do You Absolutely Need To Do Provocative Testing

- Repeat hair testing may have some value to track metal excretion overtime – *checking hair every 3 to 4 months as an example.*
- **If doing urine challenge testing it is very important to first obtain a baseline urine test without the chelator to best compare the before and after tests.**



## URINE TOXIC METALS

Oral DMPS challenge using 7.5mg/Kg.

SEX: Male  
AGE: 5

CLIENT#: 24898  
DOCTOR: Kurt Woeller, DO  
Stillpoint Center For Integrative Medicine  
32605 Hwy 79 South Ste 201  
Temecula, CA 92592

### POTENTIALLY TOXIC METALS

METALS	RESULT µg/g CREAT	REFERENCE RANGE	WITHIN REFERENCE RANGE	ELEVATED	VERY ELEVATED
Aluminum	< dl	< 60			
Antimony	< dl	< 1.5			
Arsenic	37	< 130	██████████		
Beryllium	< dl	< 0.6			
Bismuth	< dl	< 20			
Cadmium	0.4	< 2	██████████		
Lead	< dl	< 5			
Mercury	42	< 5	██		
Nickel	7.6	< 15	██████████████████		
Platinum	< dl	< 1			
Thallium	< dl	< 1.1			
Thorium	< dl	< 0.5			
Tin	1.6	< 15	██████████		
Tungsten	< dl	< 1.5			
Uranium	< dl	< 0.2			

### CREATININE

	RESULT mg/dL	REFERENCE RANGE	2SD LOW	1SD LOW	MEAN	1SD HIGH	2SD HIGH
Creatinine	23	25- 180			██		

### SPECIMEN DATA

Comments:  
 Date Collected: 2/8/2006      Method: ICP-MS      Collection Period: Random  
 Date Received: 2/9/2006      <dl: less than detection limit      Volume:  
 Date Completed: 2/11/2006      Provoking Agent:      Provocation:

Toxic metals are reported as µg/g creatinine to account for urine dilution variations. **Reference ranges are representative of a healthy population under non-challenge or non-provoked conditions.** No safe reference levels for toxic metals have been established. V10.00



## URINE TOXIC METALS

Oral DMSA challenge  
at 30mg/kg

CLIENT#: 24898  
DOCTOR: Kurt Woeller, DO  
Biohealth Centers  
11770 Bernardo Plaza Court Suite 206  
San Diego, CA 92128

### URINARIALLY TOXIC METALS

METALS	RESULT µg/g CREAT	REFERENCE RANGE	TOXICITY		
			WITHIN REFERENCE RANGE	ELEVATED	VERY ELEVATED
Aluminum	< dl	< 100			
Antimony	< dl	< 2			
Arsenic	47	< 200			
Beryllium	< dl	< 0.6			
Bismuth	< dl	< 20			
Cadmium	< dl	< 3			
Lead	55	< 5			
Mercury	11	< 5			
Nickel	12	< 20			
Platinum	< dl	< 1			
Thallium	< dl	< 1.1			
Thorium	< dl	< 1			
Tin	2.2	< 20			
Tungsten	< dl	< 2			
Uranium	< dl	< 0.3			

### CREATININE

	RESULT mg/dL	REFERENCE RANGE	2SD LOW	1SD LOW	MEAN	1SD HIGH	2SD HIGH
Creatinine	18	15- 120					

### SPECIMEN DATA

Comments:  
 Date Collected: 7/5/2004      Method: ICP-MS      Collection Period: **timed: 8 hours**  
 Date Received: 7/8/2004      <dl: less than detection limit      Volume:  
 Date Completed: 7/15/2004      Provoking Agent: DMSA      Provocation: **POST**

Toxic metals are reported as µg/g creatinine to account for urine dilution variations. **Reference ranges are representative of a healthy population under non-challenge or non-provoked conditions.** No safe reference levels for toxic metals have been established.

V10.00



# Heavy Metal Detoxification Therapy Options

- Oral vs Transdermal vs Intravenous vs Suppository.
- Combination of different forms
- Provocative testing versus just starting therapy.



# Heavy Metal Oral Challenge Testing

## Oral Provocative Challenge (example):

- **DMPS** - 5mg to 10 mg/kg (average 7.5 mg). On the morning of the challenge empty bladder. Then administer all capsules of oral DMPS as single dose (bolus).
- **DMSA** - 20mg to 30mg/kg (average 25mg) – Do the same way as DMPS.
- Take on empty stomach (45 to 60 minutes) before breakfast or 2 hours after breakfast – *mixed with dilute juice okay.*
- Then collect all urine for next 6 hours.





# Heavy Metal Oral Challenge Testing

- No minerals 24 hours before or during the 6 hour urine collection.
- Generally, ½ to 1 liter of fluid on day of challenge.



# Challenge Testing with “Natural” Remedies

- Some have advocated to do challenge testing with supplement remedies, aka. “natural”
- For Example:
  - *NDF-Plus*
  - *Cilantro*
  - *Zeolite*
  - *Homeopathic Sprays*
  - *Transdermal*
- Personally, I have never seen significant metal excretion show up on urine challenge tests using these items.



# Testing Options

- **Standard Blood Tests** (CBC, Liver/Kidney, etc.)
  - *Before and every 2 months*
- **Blood Minerals** (*Red Blood Cell or Whole Blood*)
  - Before and every 2 to 4 months
- **Urine Essential Elements and Toxic Metals:**
  - Via challenge – *initially and after every challenge (done every 2 to 3 months).*
- Repeat Hair Test every 3 to 4 months
- Consider Organic Acid Test throughout detoxification process – *every 6 months.*



# Heavy Metal Therapy Options

- **DMPS** is available via prescription from some compounding pharmacies. Usually more expensive than DMSA.
- **DMSA** is available as prescription (i.e. Chemet 100mg), but some sources online still exist as supplement.
  - DMSA can also be obtained from compounding pharmacies.
  - **Living Supplements** – [www.livingsupplements.com](http://www.livingsupplements.com)



# DMPS

## DMPS (Dimercapto-propane sulfonate)

Is not Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved in US.  
Listed with the FDA as a *“Bulk Chemical That May Be Used in Pharmacy Compounding.”*

- Effective against a wide variety of metals such as mercury, arsenic, and lead. Also, removes cadmium (EDTA reported to be better for cadmium).

### Oral:

- 1mg-3mg/kg/dose every 8 hours - *3 days “on” and 11 days “off.”* Therapy can continue for months.
- Better oral absorption, approximately 45 to 50% compared to DMSA.



# DMSA

**DMSA (dimercaptosuccinic acid)** – FDA approved for lead removal in children.

## **Oral: Succimer (chemet):**

- Available via prescription or online from certain supplement distributors

PDR (physician's desk reference) – 10mg/kg/dose every 8 hours for 5 days, then reduce to every 12 hour dosing for 2 weeks – This recommendation is for acute lead poisoning.





# DMSA

- ***“Traditional” (older) Biomedical Therapy***  
***Example*** – 10mg/kg/dose not to exceed 30mg/kg – every 8 hours - 3 days “on” 11 days “off.”
- General rule is to not exceed 2000mg/dose.

***NOTE: many individuals develop digestive bloating and yeast exacerbation from high dose oral DMSA.***



# Low Dose DMSA (example)

- Can dose more frequently at smaller dosages.
- For example:
  - Oral DMSA at 0.625mg to 1.25mg/kg every 3 to 4 hours for 3 days “on” and 11 day “off” for a few months to see how patients responds.
  - *NOTE: 0.625mg to 1.25mg = approximately 0.25mg (1/4mg) to 0.50mg (1/2mg) per pound (lbs) body weight.*
  - After a few months consider switching to 3 days “on” and 4 days “off.”



# Low Dose DMSA (example)

- This approach is well tolerated and easy to implement.
- After 2 to 4 months consider the implementation of Alpha Lipoic Acid, i.e. at 1/8mg to ¼ mg/lbs. body weight with each dose of DMSA.
- Then gradually increase to ½ to 1mg/lbs. body weight after 4 to 8 weeks – *as tolerated*.
- Take your time with this program. There is no need to rush and use higher dosages for most individuals.



# Calcium EDTA (CaEDTA)



# Calcium EDTA

- Used since the 1940's for lead toxicity
- Over 50 years of use as intravenous therapy
- CaEDTA (more so than magnesium EDTA, or other forms of EDTA) is more effective for lead and mercury detoxification.
- CaEDTA assists in aluminum detoxification, as well as cadmium.
- Oral powder absorption is listed as fairly poor – *suppository is an option.*



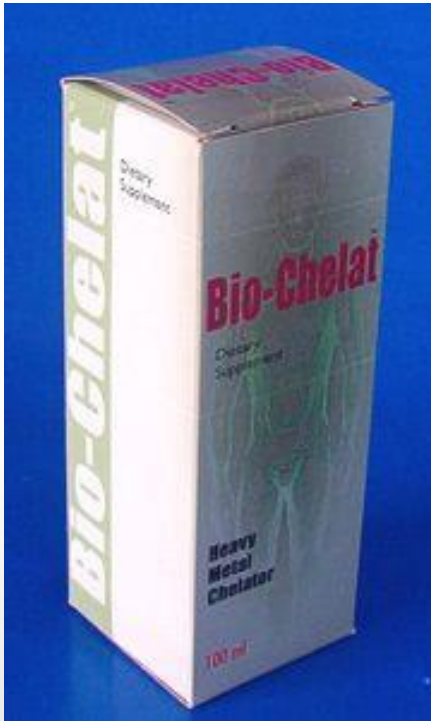
# Calcium EDTA

- *Detoxamin (discontinued by FDA pressure)*
- **Kelatox** (900mg CaEDTA, 100mg B3, 100mcg selenium) in cocoa butter base.
- Dissolves in approximately 1-1/2 to 2 hours.
- Bypasses liver as it is absorbed from GI mucosa.
- Can also have compounding pharmacies make up CaEDTA suppositories at different strengths.





# BioChelate



- Combination of Calcium EDTA, electrolytes, Sodium Bicarbonate.
- Alkalinity helps with cadmium detoxification.
- See [www.nbnus.com](http://www.nbnus.com) “**Detoxification Support**” section for dosing specifics.

**Low Dose CaEDTA**

**[www.nbnus.com](http://www.nbnus.com)**

# NDF-Plus



- **Children:** Start with 1 drop per day in 4 - 6 ounces of filtered water or juice once (1x) a day in the morning. Increase by 1 drop every 3 - 4 days, as tolerated. Work up to 26 drops twice (2x) a day.
- **Adults:** 3 - 6 drops in 6 - 8 ounces of filtered water twice (2x) a day. Increase intake by 6 drops every other day until intake is 52 drops twice (2x) a day. Stay hydrated with lemon and water. Ensure bowels are moving daily.

**Clustered Cell Wall Chlorella**

**[www.nbnus.com](http://www.nbnus.com)**

# Intravenous (IV) Chelation



# Intravenous Chelation

- Most direct as it bypasses the gut and liver
- Primarily use DMPS and CaEDTA
- Can infuse along with Glutathione and/or Vitamin C for potential added benefit.
- Weekly, biweekly, monthly – *depends on tolerance level of individual.*
- If doing challenge – collect urine for 6 hours (minimum). Do baseline urine first like with oral.
- After IV infusion (ideally, 8 to 9 hour urine collection if using CaEDTA).



# Intravenous Chelation

## Dosing Example *Only*:

- 1<sup>st</sup> IV – Glutathione 300mg to 900mg+

*Infuse with approximately 15cc to 20cc normal saline (NS) or 15cc to 20cc of sterile water.*

- 2<sup>nd</sup> IV – CaEDTA (10mg/kg) + 15cc to 20cc (NS) or sterile water.



# Intravenous Chelation

- 3<sup>rd</sup> IV – DMPS (1mg to 3mg/kg – avg. = 2mg/kg) + 15 to 20cc of NS or sterile water.

## NOTE:

**Glutathione:** 300mg (less than 50lbs), 600mg (50 to 69lbs), 900mg (greater than 70lbs).

**Vitamin C:** 2000mg (less than 4 y/o), 3000mg (greater than 4 y/o).



# Comparing The Different Ways of 'Traditional' Heavy Metal Detoxification

- **I.V.** – *most direct*
- **Oral** – *readily available and easier to use.*
- **Suppository** – *not user friendly*
- **Transdermal** – *still an option, but not used to a significant degree anymore.*





## Various Alternative Options To Choose From





# Supportive Therapy



# Additional Remedies



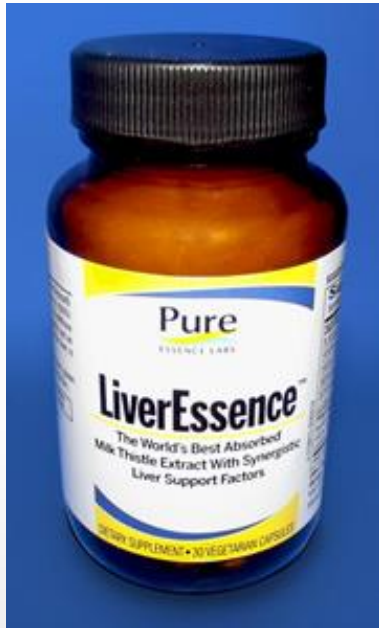
**Lipoceutical Glutathione – ¼ teaspoon per 30lbs body weight BID (children) or 1.5 teaspoons BID for 10 days of adults – then to 1 teaspoon thereafter.**



**Epsom Salt Cream – 1 to 2 teaspoons QD to BID**



# Liver Support



**Liver Essence – contains Lipoic Acid, NAC, and Artichoke Extract – 1 to 2 capsules daily.**



**Milk Thistle – 1 to 2 BID**

# Zinc



**Zinc Picolinate – 1 capsule =  
50mg**



**Liquid Zinc – 10 drops = 15mg  
Zinc Sulfate**

# Minerals



- Multi-mineral combination, i.e. selenium, molybdenum, magnesium, potassium, zinc.
- Does not contain calcium.
- Hides well in juice – *a bit salty tasting.*

**Chelate-Mate**

**½ to 1 tablespoon daily**



# Thyroid



# Common Thyroid Disorders

- *Hypothyroidism* (underactive thyroid) – autoimmune cause = **Hashimoto's Thyroiditis**
- *Hyperthyroidism* (*overactive thyroid*) – most common cause is **Grave's Disease** (autoimmune)
- *Thyroid Nodules* – most are benign; approximately 4% are cancerous.
- *Sub-Clinical Hypothyroidism* – elevated TSH, normal T4.
- ***Stress , Toxicity, and Chronic Illness***



# How Does the Thyroid Work

- ***Hypothalamus*** – in response to low levels of circulating thyroid hormone, the hypothalamus will excrete TRH (thyroid releasing hormone) to stimulate the pituitary gland to produce TSH
- ***Pituitary Gland*** – in response to TRH, the pituitary will send TSH (thyroid stimulating hormone) to the thyroid gland.
- ***Thyroid Gland*** - in response to TSH, the thyroid will produce T4 and T3.
- ***Liver and Peripheral Tissues*** – Convert T4 to the more active hormone, T3.
- ***Problems with Conversion of T4 to T3*** – stress, elevated cortisol, acute and chronic illness, fasting, formation of RT3, Selenium deficiency, heavy metals.





# Lab Testing - Thyroid Function

## Laboratory Evaluation:

✓ **TSH** – thyroid stimulating hormone

✓ **T4** – thyroxine (**free** and total)

✓ **T3** – triiodothyronine (**free** and total)

**FREE = physiologically active (not protein bound)**

• **Reverse T3 (RT3)**

✓ **Anti-TPO** – thyroid peroxidase

• **Thyroglobulin Antibodies**

• ***Thyroid Releasing Hormone (TRH) Test (next slide)***



# Thyroid Releasing Hormone (TRH) Stimulation Test

- TRH stimulation test done most commonly with suspicion of Secondary Hypothyroidism – *damage to hypothalamus or pituitary gland.*
- Small amount of TRH given via injection (infusion)
- TSH levels then followed over a period of time with subsequent blood draws, i.e. 20 to 30 minutes.
- Normal HPA Axis – *increase TSH subsequent to TRH*
- Problem with HPA Axis – *delayed or absent TSH increase following TRH administration.*



# Deiodinases

- Deiodinase enzymes act as converting enzymes for thyroid function:
  - D1 (Type 1) & D2 (Type 2) – increase cellular thyroid activity: T4 to active T3 conversion.
  - D3 (Type 3) – decrease cell thyroid activity – increase reverse T3 levels (inactive).
- Respond differently to various environmental changes.
- Deiodinases influence cellular thyroid levels and not serum levels.



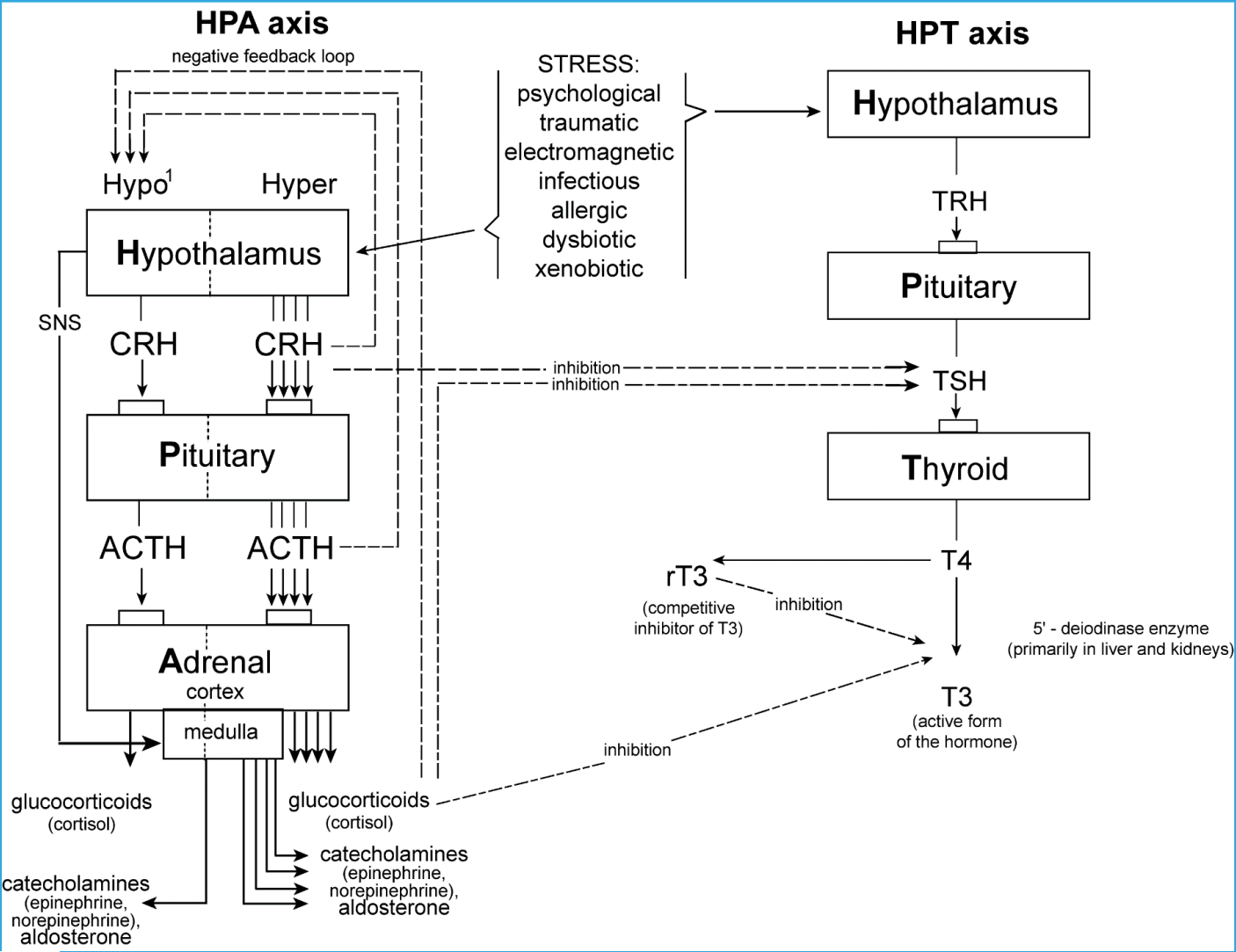
# Deiodinases

- General T4 to T3 conversion is controlled by D2 (Type 2).
- Peripheral cellular conversion is controlled by D1 (Type 1).
- PROBLEM = D1 negatively influenced by **STRESS**:
  - *Inflammation*
  - *Chronic infection*
  - *Emotional/Mental Stress*
  - *Toxins*

**High Cortisol Downregulates D1**



# HPA and HPT Axes



# Thyroid Nutrients

## Supplements:

- *Generally the same as for adrenal fatigue*
- *Mineral supplement - should contain Selenium (at least 45-55 mcg) and Iodine (at least 200-500 mcg).*
- *L-Tyrosine – 500mg-1000mg per day*
- ***Coconut Oil – 1 to 2 tablespoons per day***
- *Glandulars – bovine extracts of thyroid, pituitary and hypothalamus (optional).*



# Thyroid Hormone Replacement

## Natural Thyroid:

- ***Dessicated Thyroid*** – porcine thyroid; contains T4 and T3 (and other cofactors) - Brand Names: ***Armour (most common), Westhroid, Naturthroid.***

*Ex: Armour is 20% T3 and 80% T4*

## Compounded Thyroid:

- T4 and T3 ratio can be formulated on desired amounts based on lab tests and patient
- Ex: Armour Thyroid at 30mg (1/2 grain) = 4.5mcg T3 and 19 mcg T4.

**Synthetic** – *Synthroid (T4), Cytomel (T3), Thyrolar (T3, T4)*



# Thyroid Herbs - examples

- ***Kelp (Bladderwrack, Fucus vesiculosus)*** – natural source of Iodine, activates thyroid function, can boost T4.
- ***Wild Oat (Avena sativa)*** – restorative, nerve tonic, improves low libido and energy, supports thyroid.
- ***Coleus forskohli*** – stimulates the thyroid gland to release thyroid hormone.
- ***Licorice Root*** – balances the glandular system
- ***Nettles, Schisandra, Commifora mukur*** - endocrine tonic.





# Common Improvements With Thyroid Therapy

- Improved focus and attention
- Less mood swings, decreased fatigue
- Increased mental energy and memory
- Accelerated growth
- Improved nail growth, skin color, warmth, and dryness
- Increased cardiovascular and muscular fitness
- Increased body temperature
- Better ability to handle stress



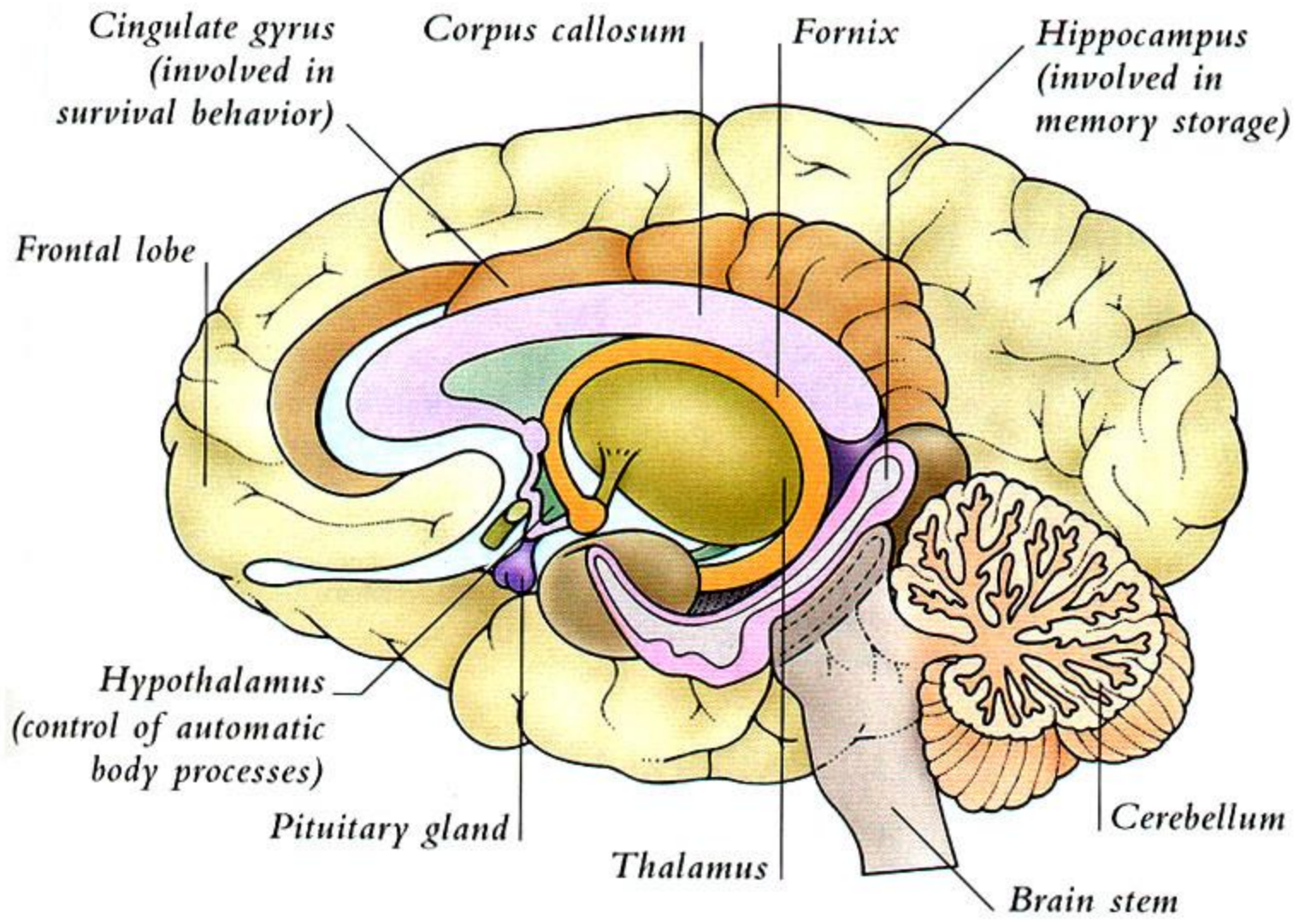
# Thyroid and Autism

- Early brain development dependent on proper thyroid function, i.e. migration of nerves cells, development of dopamine and cholinergic neurons.
- Helps with Methylation chemistry via support of MTHFR.
- Supports proper mitochondria function
- Gluten sensitivity – *can inhibit thyroid function.*

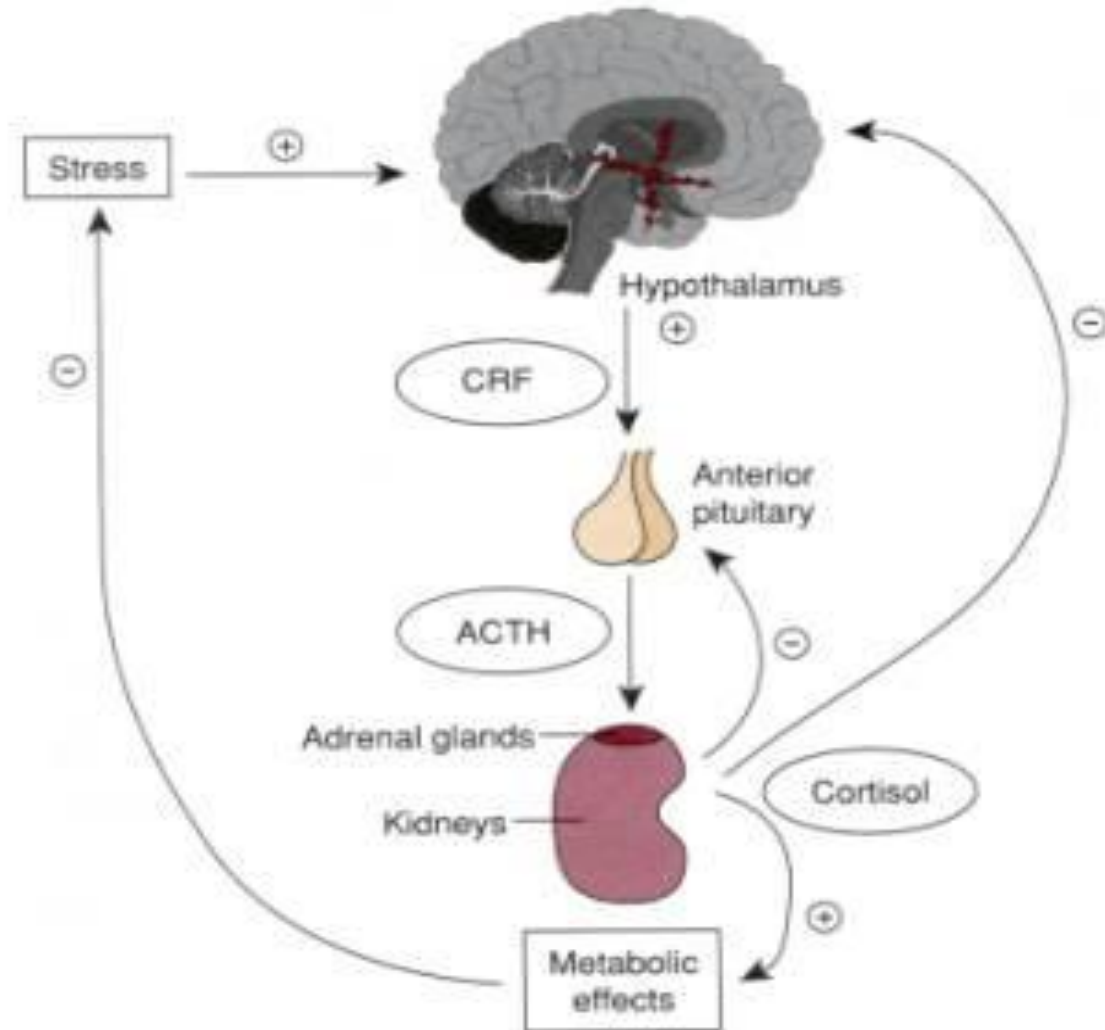


# Adrenals

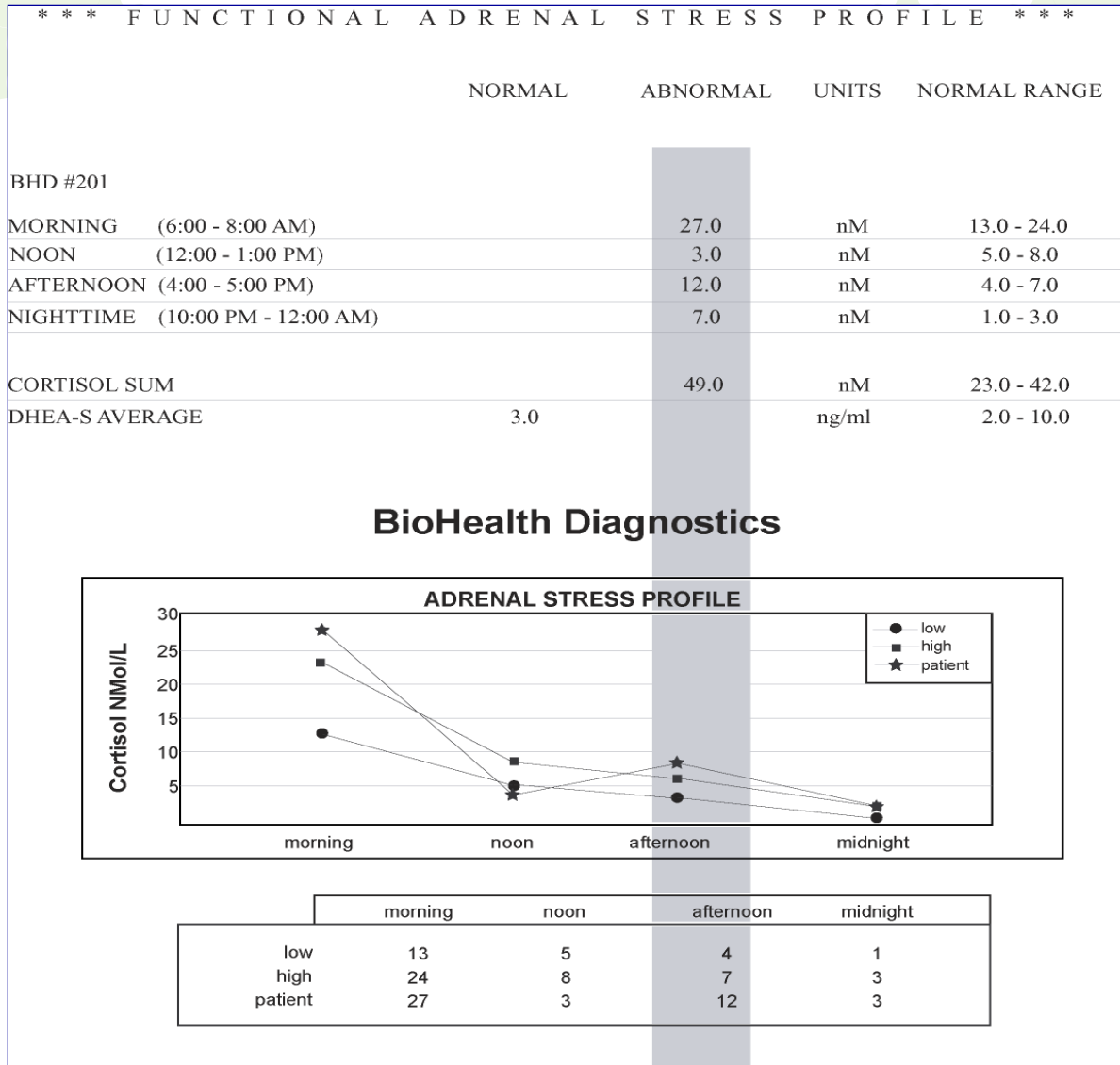




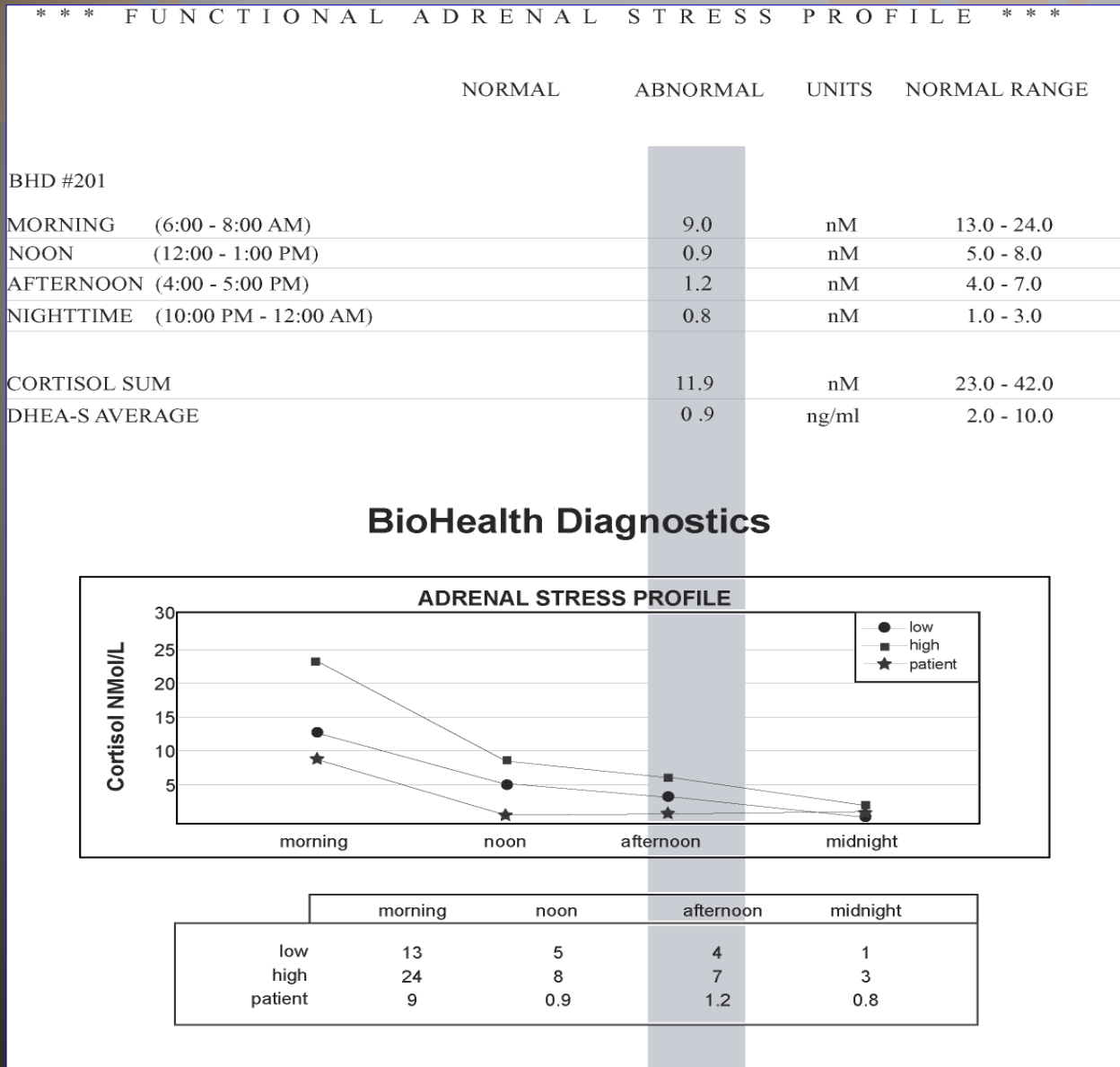
# Hypothalamus-Pituitary-Adrenal Axis



# Functional Adrenal Stress Profile

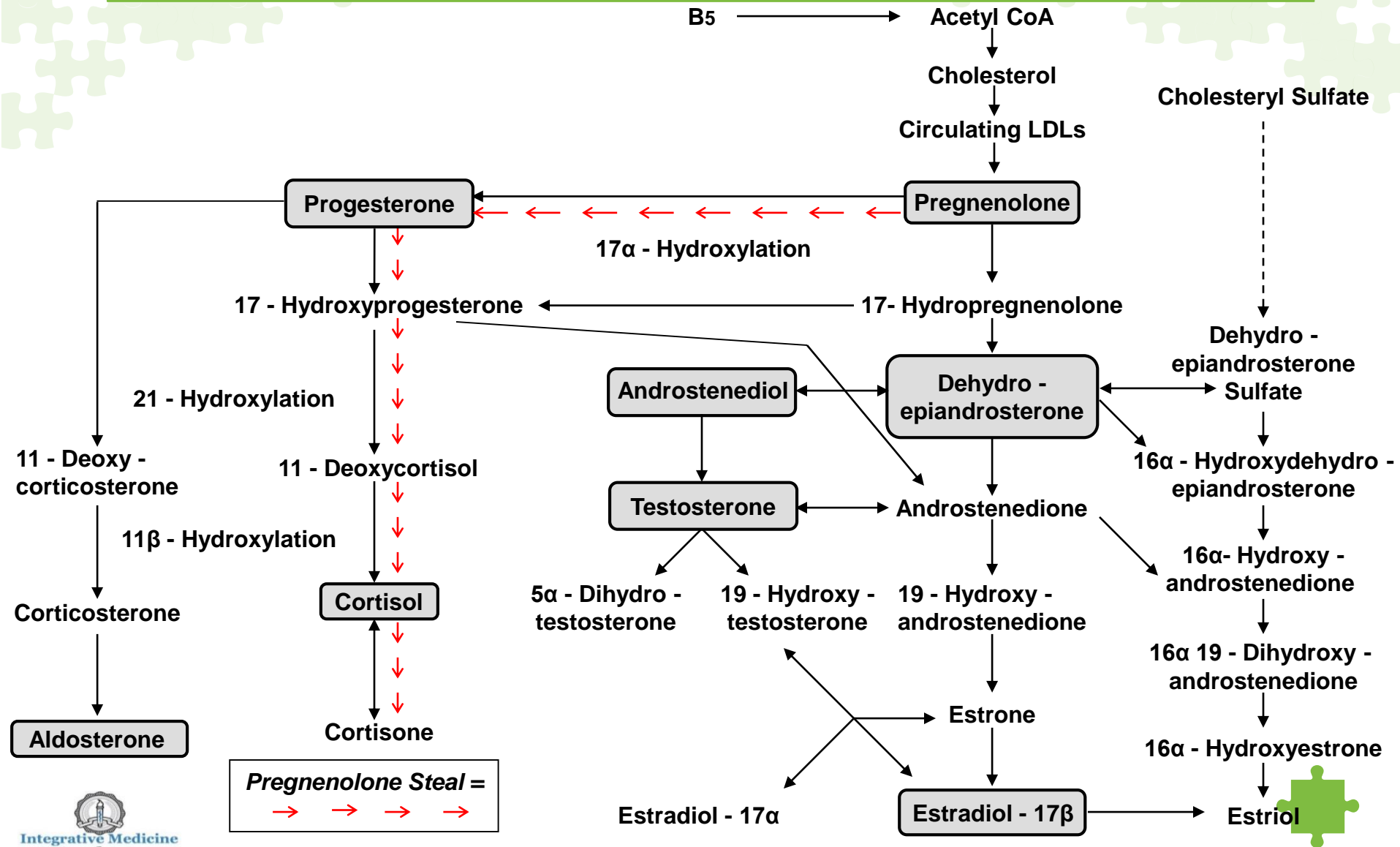


# Functional Adrenal Stress Profile



# Steroidal Hormone Principle Pathways

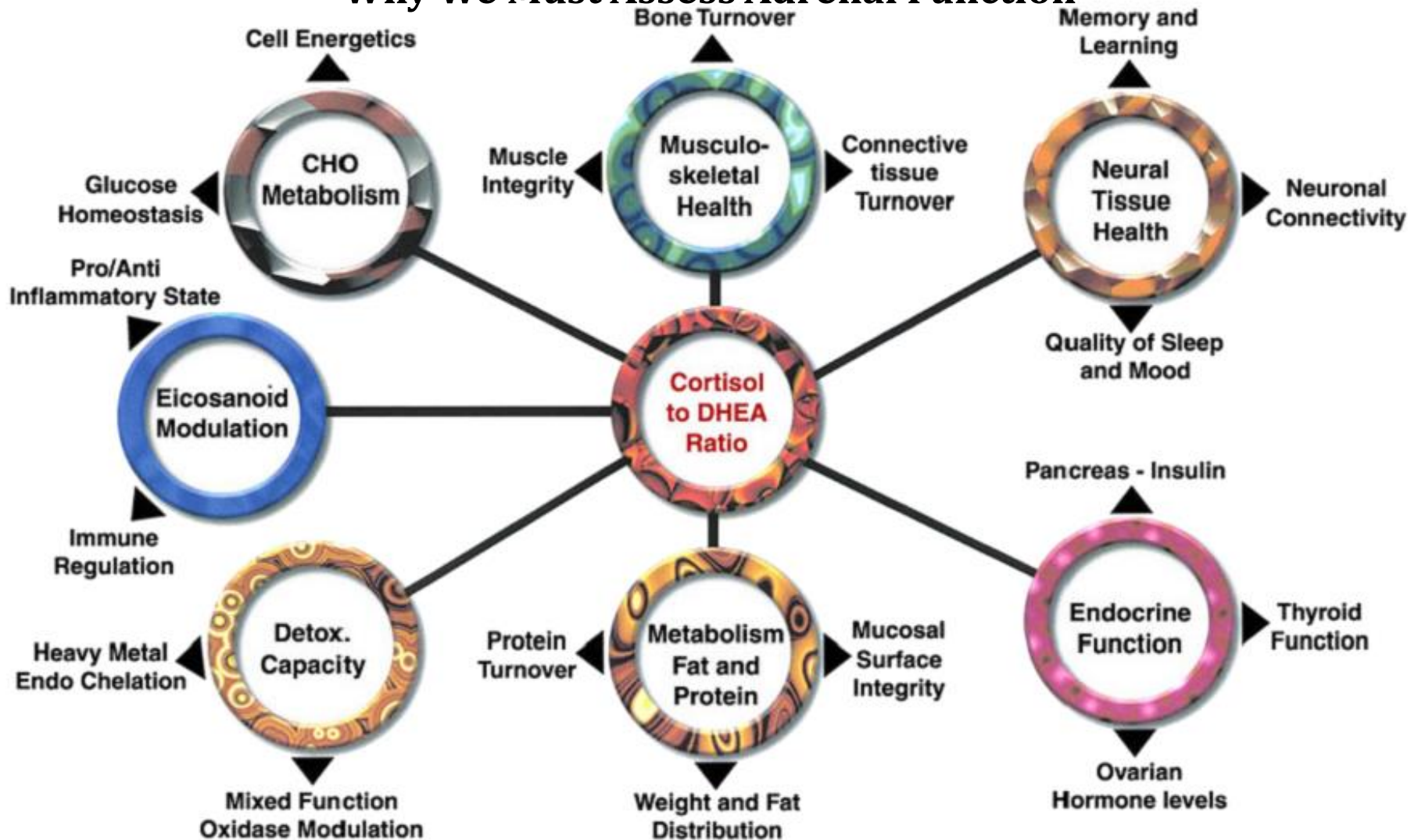
(Illustrating the chronic stress response/pregnenolone steal)



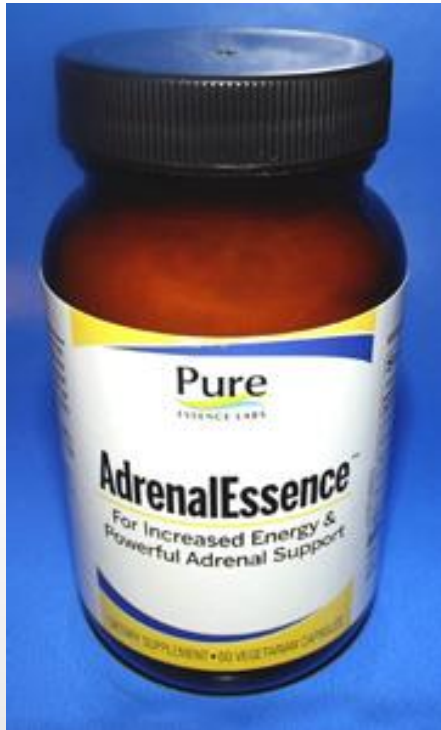


# Physiological Aspects of Cortisol & DHEA

## Why We Must Assess Adrenal Function



# Herbal Adrenal Support



- Herbal combination:
  - Cordyceps
  - Ashwagandha
  - Eleuthero Root (siberian ginseng)
  - Etc.
- 2 capsules daily

**Adrenal Essence**

[www.nbnus.com](http://www.nbnus.com)

# Adrenal Support Products



**Bovine Cortex Glandular**

**1 to 2 capsules daily**

**Bio-Identical Cortisol –  
Hydrocortisone**

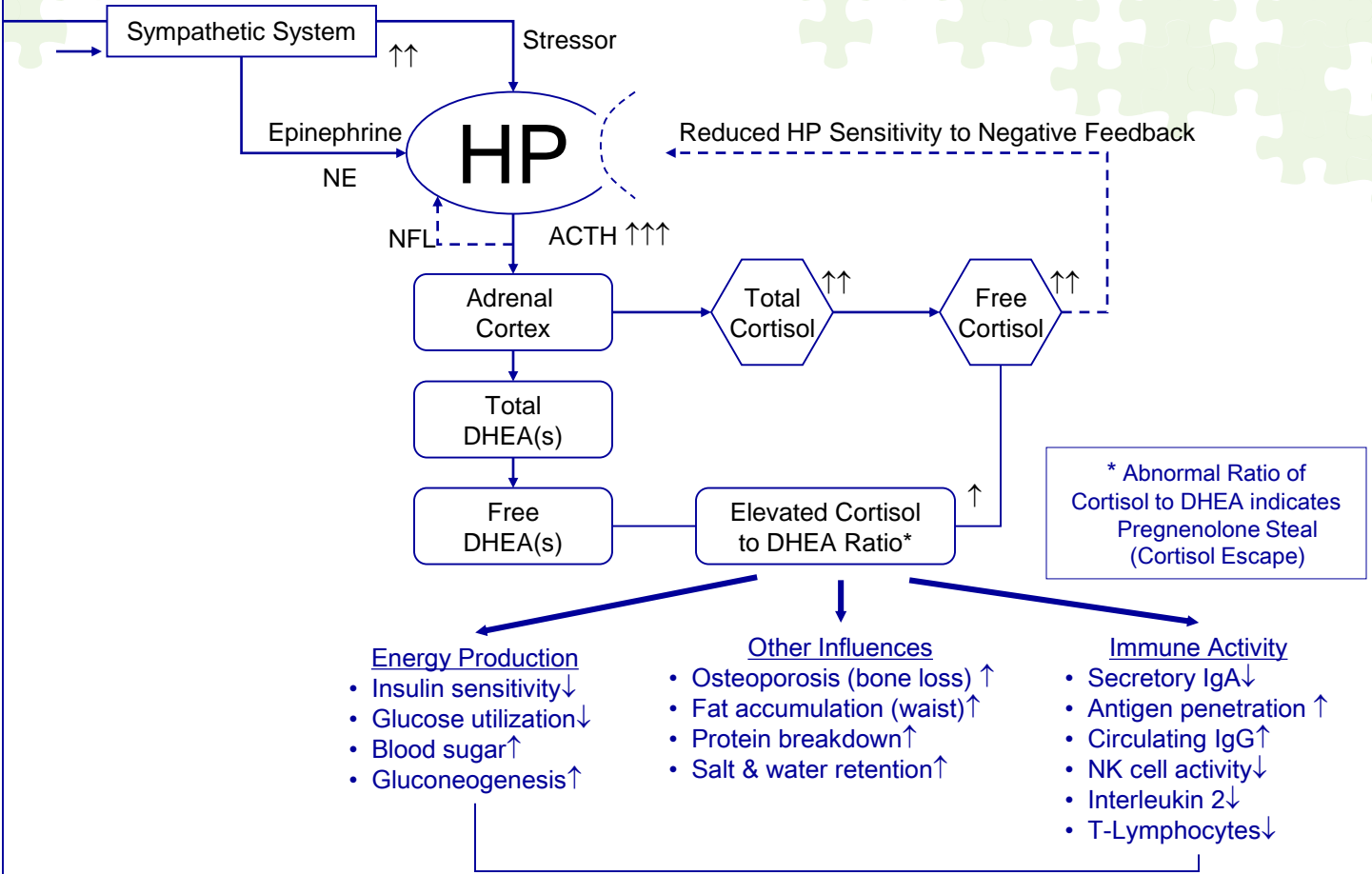


**½ to 1 tablet QD to BID**

# Chronic Stress Response

## Potential Sources of Stress

- Anger - Fear
- Worry/Anxiety
- Depression
- Guilt
- Overwork
- Physical and Mental strain
- Excessive exercise
- Sleep deprivation
- Light-cycle disruption
- Late hours
- Surgery
- Trauma/Injury
- Whiplash – Head injury
- Inflammation
- Pain
- Temperature extremes
- Toxic exposure
- Infections
- Chemicals - Heavy metals
- Electromagnetic fields
- Radiation
- Geophysical
- Malabsorption
- Maldigestion
- Illness
- Low blood sugar - Poor diet
- Nutritional deficiencies
- Allergies
- Foods
- Mold – Pollens



### KEY

- Association ———→
- Stimulus ———→
- Outcome ———→
- Inhibition - - - - -→

HP = Hypothalamus - Pituitary  
 NFL = Negative Feedback Loop  
 NE = Norepinephrine

### Clinical Conditions

- |  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| Chronic viral infections (EBV, CMV, Herpes I-II, etc.) | Insomnia           |
| Increased infections                                   | Hypoglycemia       |
| Yeast overgrowth                                       | Hunger             |
| Allergies  | PMS                |
| Fatigue  | Depression         |
| Headaches  | Irritable bowel    |
| Autoimmune disease                                     | Digestive problems |
| Cancer   | ADD/ADHD           |
| Cardiovascular disease                                 |                    |





# Thank You

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