

**Additional file 1 – Diurnal cortisol activity in women exposed to childhood abuse (CHA) and DVA**

<b>Research (year), country</b>	<b>n =</b>	<b>Type of abuse</b>	<b>Cortisol protocol</b>	<b>Mental health measures</b>	<b>Findings</b>
Altemus et al (2003) [27]	31	Physical and sexual CHA	1 plasma sample + 6 saliva samples every 3 hours from 8:00 to 23:00	PTSD, MDD, anxiety	1) Salivary and plasma cortisol levels <b>did not differ</b> between PTSD patients and comparison subjects; 2) No difference in mean salivary or plasma cortisol in patients with PTSD and comorbid major depression and in those without depression
Seedat et al (2003), USA [28]	38	Physical and/or sexual IPV, CHA	1 morning plasma sample between 09:00-12:00	PTSD	1) Women with IPV trauma had significantly <b>lower</b> cortisol compared with controls; 2) Cortisol levels were not significantly correlated with PTSD symptom measures.

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Newport et al (2004), USA [29]	64	Repeated physical and sexual CHA	Plasma sample at 08:00	PTSD, MDD, anxiety	1) Baseline cortisol was <b>lower</b> in CHA survivors without MDD compared to non-abused controls.
Pico-Alfonso et al (2004), Spain [30]	162	Physical, sexual, psychological IPV, CHA	4 consecutive days 2 saliva samples at 08:00 and 20:00	PTSD, MDD, anxiety	1) IPV survivors had <b>higher</b> levels of evening cortisol; 2) IPV was the main factor predicting the alterations in cortisol levels; 3) Mental health status did not have a mediating effect on the impact of IPV on cortisol levels.
Griffin et al (2005), USA [31]	84	Physical, sexual, psychological IPV	1 morning plasma sample at 09:00-09:15	PTSD, MDD	1) Baseline cortisol levels in IPV survivors with PTSD and those with PTSD plus depression were significantly <b>lower</b> than the baseline cortisol levels of

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					the IPV survivors with no diagnosis and controls.
Inslicht et al (2006), USA [32]	49	Physical, sexual, emotional IPV	4 saliva samples at 1,4,9,11 h after awakening	PTSD, MDD	1) The PTSD group had <b>higher</b> levels of cortisol than IPV controls without PTSD; 2) More recent abuse was associated with higher cortisol; 3) Cortisol levels did not differ significantly between women with a sole diagnosis of PTSD and those who had PTSD and depression.
Johnson et al (2008), USA [33]	52	Physical, sexual, psychological IPV	4 saliva samples: awakening and 30-45-60 min post-awakening	PTSD, MDD	1) IPV-related PTSD severity is associated with a significantly <b>greater</b> cortisol output the first hour after awakening; 2) More chronic abuse is associated with lower CAR; 3) PTSD severity and

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					<p>abuse chronicity did not significantly correlate; 4)</p> <p>There were no significant interactions between PTSD severity and abuse chronicity for CAR.</p>