Reviewer’s report

Title: Salivary testosterone levels in preadolescent children

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Reviewer: Dr Jonathan Fry

Level of interest: A paper of considerable general medical or scientific interest

Advice on publication: Accept after discretionary revisions

General Comments

This manuscript describes an investigation of salivary testosterone in preadolescent children. The study has been carefully performed, provides useful reference values and documents gender differences. A concise and well-written account gives the reader adequate background information and points to future applications of this work in child health.

Specific comments

1. Under Subjects and saliva sampling, could a few words be added to state the principles of operation of the salivary blood contamination kit? (And presumably this comes from State College, PA not "State Collge").
2. The legend for Figure 3 should state what the various lines, boxes and symbols represent; it is not enough simply to describe this as a "Box and whiskers plot”.
3. In Table 1, do the authors need to give results to 5 decimal places? Surely, this is below the limits of precision of the assays?

Competing interests:

None declared.