Supplemental Table 1: characteristics of hormonal assays

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| **Hormonal Assay** | **Manufacturer** | **sensitivity** | **Intra -assay CV** | **Inter-assay Cv** |
| GH | Genway | 0.2ng/ml | <6% | <8.9% |
| IGF-I (in house) | (ref 19) | 0.2ng/ml | <3.7% | <4.5% |
| IGF-I | Biosource | 0.2nmol/L | <6% | <7.5% |
| IGFBP3  | Biochem Immuno Syst | 0.04 nmol/L | <3.3% | <5.6% |
| IGFBP3 | Nichols Avantage | 0.02g/ml | <8.8% | <16.7% |
| GHBP  | DSL | 1.7pmol/L | <5.6% | <8.4% |
| IGF-II | DSL | 0.1ng/ml | <7.2% | <10.4% |
| ALS  | DSL | 0.07 g/ml | <7.5% | <8.9% |
| Leptin | Linco  | 0.5ng/ml | <3.4% | <8.3% |
| Insulin  | AxSym  | 2IU/ml | <6.4%  | <8% |
| LH | Abbott Axsym analyser | <0.5mIU/ml | <3.6% | <3.9% |
| FSH | Abbott Axsym analyser | <0.5mIU/ml | <4.2% | <4.6% |
| f.T4 | Abbott Axsym analyser |  <3 pmol/L  | <5.3% | <7.8 |
| Cortisol | Abbott Axsym analyser | <10ng/ml | <5.9% | <7.7% |
| Prolactin | Abbott Axsym analyser | 0.6ng/ml | <3.8% | <4.7% |
| ACTH | Abbott Axsym analyser | 5pg/ml | <9;5% | <10% |