SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL 1

Aldosterone Assay. Plasma and salivary aldosterone levels were measured using a commercial enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA, "Aldosterone ELISA", RE 52301, IBL International GmbH, Hamburg, Germany) according to the manufacturers´ specifications. Briefly, 50 µl of each standard, control and plasma sample were pipetted into a 96-well Microtiter plate and incubated for 30 min at room temperature. Afterwards, 150 µl of Enzyme Conjugate (Aldosterone-HRP Conjugate) was added to each well and mixed for 10 seconds. After an incubation time of 60 min at room temperature, wells were rinsed five times with diluted Wash Buffer (405 LS Washer, BioTek Instruments Inc., Bad Friedrichshall, Germany). Next, 200 µl of Substrate Solution (Tetramethylbenzidine, TMB) was added to each well and the Microtiter plate was incubated for 30 min at room temperature. To stop the substrate reaction, 100 µl of Stop Solution (0.5 M H2SO4) was added. Within 10 min after adding the stop solution, optical density was measured using a microtiter plate reader (Synergy H1 Multi-Mode Microplate Reader, BioTek Instruments Inc., Bad Friedrichshall, Germany) at a wavelength of 450 nm and at a reference of 620 nm. The concentration was calculated over six standard concentrations using a four Parameter curve fit.

Renin Assay. We determined active renin from EDTA plasma by means of ELISA, according to the manufacturer's instructions ("Renin (active) ELISA", RE 53321, IBL International GmbH, Hamburg, Germany). First, 50 µl of each plasma sample, standard, and control were applied to a 96-well Microtiter plate prepared with Assay Buffer (150 µl). After incubation at room temperature for 90 min on an orbital shaker with 300 rpm, the Microtiter plate was washed four times with 300 µl of diluted Wash Solution (405 LS Washer, BioTek Instruments Inc., Bad Friedrichshall, Germany). Afterwards, 100 µl of enzyme conjugate (monoclonal anti-human renin antibody) was pipetted into all wells. After another 90 min of incubation at room temperature on an orbital shaker with 300 rpm, wells were again rinsed four times with diluted Wash Solution. Next, 100 µl of Substrate Solution (TMB) was added to each reaction and incubated for 15 min at room temperature. The enzymatic reaction was terminated by adding 100 µl of Stop Solution (0.5 M sulfuric acid, H2SO4). Within 10 min the absorbance (optical density, OD) was measured with a photometer (Synergy H1 Multi-Mode

Microplate Reader, BioTek Instruments Inc., Bad Friedrichshall, Germany) at a wavelength of 450 nm and at a reference of 620 nm. The concentration was determined over six standard concentrations using a four Parameter curve fit.