Quantification of endogenous hormonal steroids and their precursors is essential for diagnosing a wide range of endocrine disorders.However, LC–MS/MS–based steroid ana– lysis is not straightforward, and understanding the chemical and analytical processes involved is essential for implementation of a robust clinical service.GC–MS is the method of choice for profiling steroid metabolites in urine, but these techniques are not appropriate for routine use in clinical laboratories owing to a need for extensive sample preparation, as well as analytical expertise.Historically, these analyses have been carried out using immunoassay, but such methods are problematic, especially for low–concentration analytes, due to assay interference by other endogenous steroids.MS offers improved specificity over immunoassay and can be highly sensitive.

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