

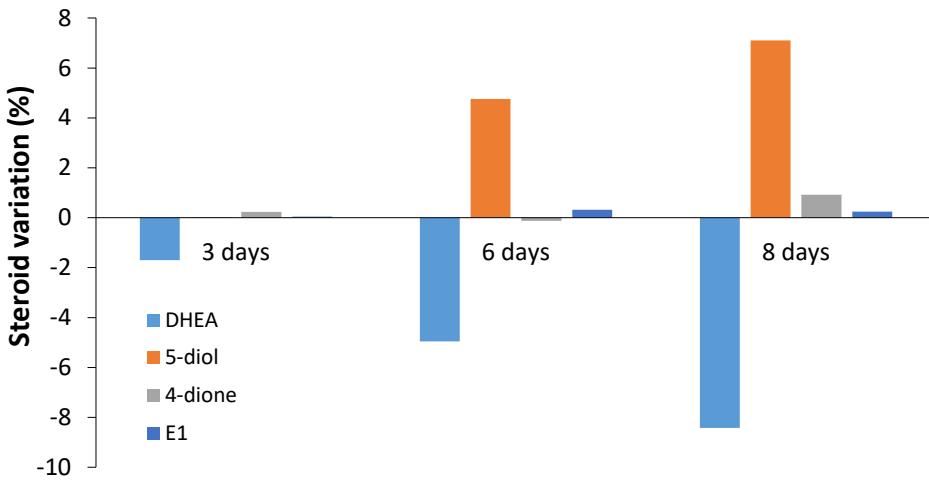
## **Supplementary Materials**

### **Transformation of DHEA and 4-dione in T-47D cells**

(see the manuscript section 4.2.2 in Materials and Methods for the experimental details)

Detection and quantification of steroids by TLC (thin-layer chromatography) and radioactivity measurement or GC-MS/MS (gas chromatography tandem mass spectrometry)

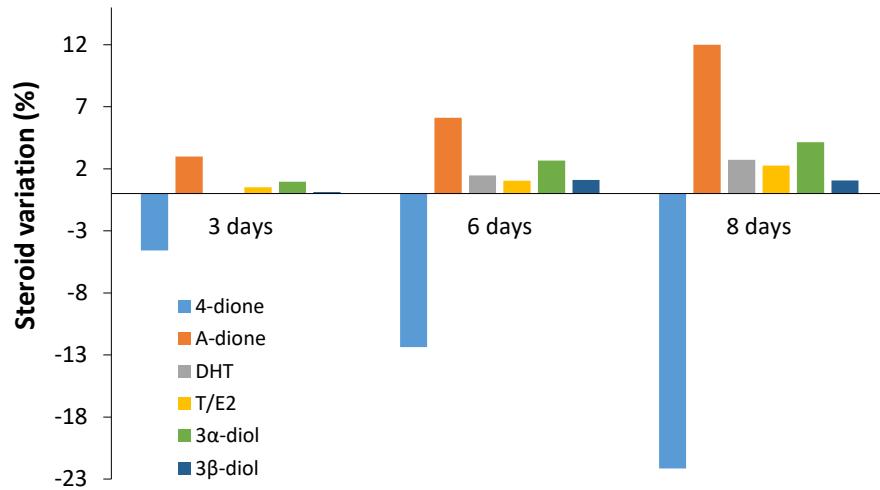
- 1) [<sup>14</sup>C]-DHEA; 24 000 cells; 3, 6 and 8 days; TLC (Figure S1 and Table S1)
- 2) [<sup>14</sup>C]-4-dione; 24 000 cells; 3, 6 and 8 days; TLC (Figure S2 and Table S2)
- 3) [<sup>14</sup>C]-DHEA; 6000, 12 000 and 24 000 cells; 6 days; TLC (Figure S3 and Table S3)
- 4) [<sup>14</sup>C]-4-dione; 6000, 12 000 and 24 000 cells; 6 days; TLC (Figure S4 and Table S4)
- 5) [<sup>14</sup>C]-4-dione; 6000 cells; 1, 2, 3 and 6 days; TLC (Figure S5 and Table S5)
- 6) [<sup>14</sup>C]-4-dione; 3000 cells; 1, 2, 3 and 6 days; TLC (Figure S6 and Table S6)
- 7) Proportion of steroids detected by GC-MS/MS from two incubations with DHEA (Table S7)



**Figure S1.** [<sup>14</sup>C]-DHEA; 24 000 cells; 3, 6 and 8 days; TLC (Figure S1 and Table S1).

**Table S1.** [<sup>14</sup>C]-DHEA; 24 000 cells; 3, 6 and 8 days; TLC.

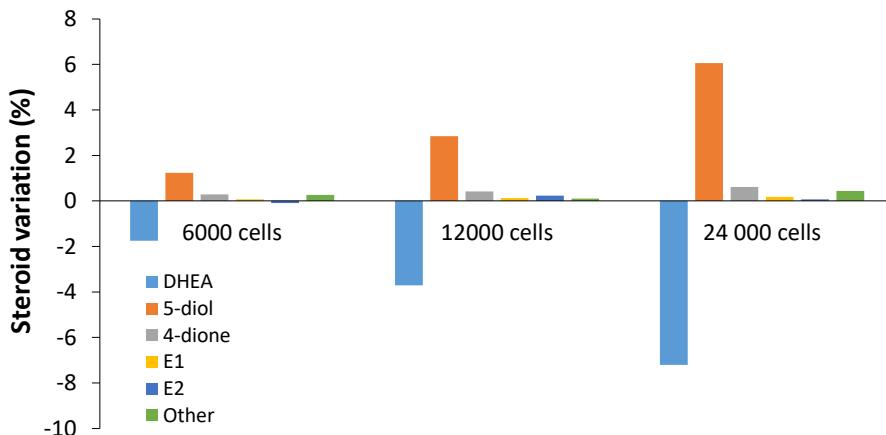
24000 cells	Steroid variation (%)		
	3 days	6 days	8 days
DHEA	-1.7	-4.96	-8.42
5-diol	0.02	4.76	7.11
4-dione	0.23	-0.12	0.92
E1	0.04	0.32	0.25



**Figure S2.** [<sup>14</sup>C]-4-dione; 24 000 cells; 3, 6 and 8 days; TLC (Figure S2 and Table S2).

**Table S2.** [<sup>14</sup>C]-4-dione; 24 000 cells; 3, 6 and 8 days; TLC.

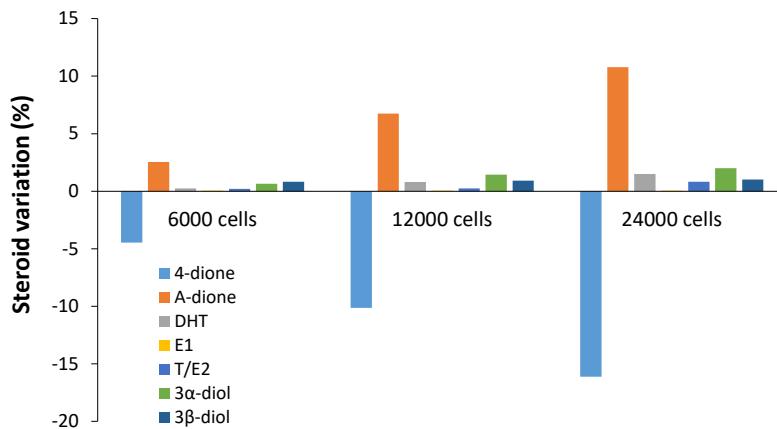
24000 cells	Steroid variation (%)		
	3 days	6 days	8 days
4-dione	-4.58	-12.38	-22.15
A-dione	2.98	6.11	11.99
DHT	0	1.47	2.72
T/E2	0.52	1.03	2.26
3α-diol	0.95	2.67	4.15
3β-diol	0.12	1.1	1.05



**Figure S3.** [<sup>14</sup>C]-DHEA; 6000, 12 000 and 24 000 cells; 6 days; TLC (Figure S3 and Table S3).

**Table S3.** [<sup>14</sup>C]-DHEA; 6000, 12 000 and 24 000 cells; 6 days; TLC.

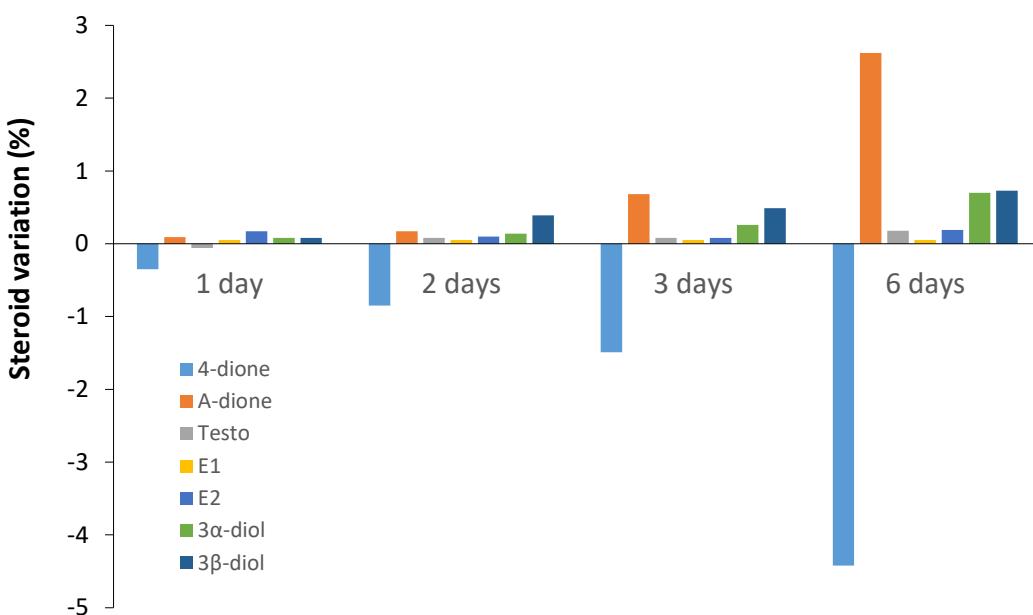
	Steroid variation (%)		
	6000 cells	12000 cells	24 000 cells
<b>DHEA</b>	-1.75	-3.71	-7.21
<b>5-diol</b>	1.23	2.85	6.06
<b>4-dione</b>	0.29	0.42	0.61
<b>E1</b>	0.07	0.12	0.18
<b>E2</b>	-0.09	0.23	0.07
<b>Other</b>	0.27	0.1	0.44



**Figure S4.** [C]-4-dione; 6000, 12 000 and 24 000 cells; 6 days; TLC (Figure S4 and Table S4).

**Table S4.** [C]-4-dione; 6000, 12 000 and 24 000 cells; 6 days; TLC.

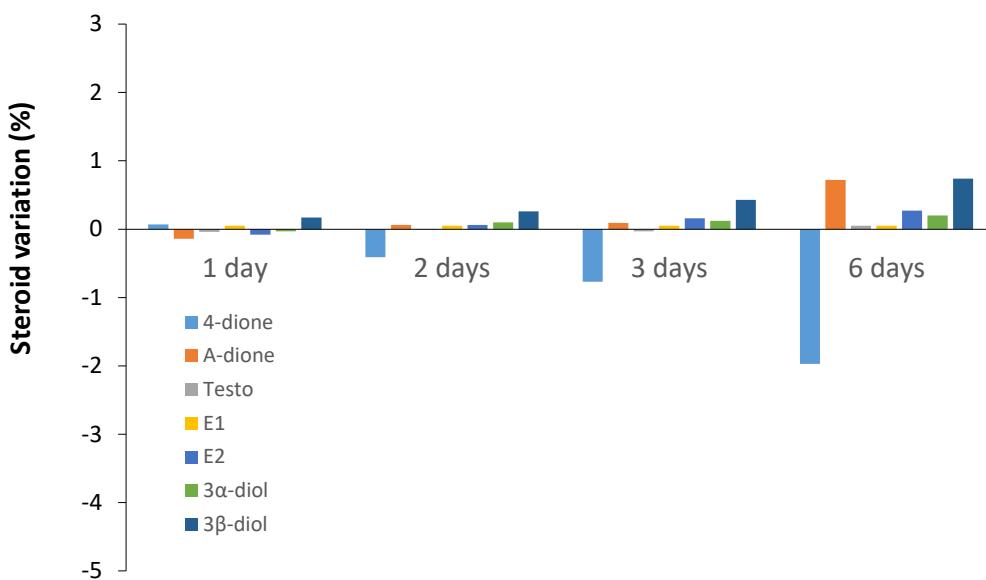
	Steroid variation (%)		
	6000 cells	12000 cells	24000 cells
<b>4-dione</b>	-4.47	-10.14	-16.13
<b>A-dione</b>	2.54	6.75	10.79
<b>DHT</b>	0.25	0.8	1.49
<b>E1</b>	0.05	0.05	0.05
<b>T/E2</b>	0.21	0.24	0.82
<b>3α-diol</b>	0.64	1.43	2
<b>3β-diol</b>	0.82	0.91	1.02



**Figure S5.** [ $^{14}\text{C}$ ]-4-dione; 6000 cells; 1, 2, 3 and 6 days; TLC (Figure S5 and Table S5).

**Table S5.** [ $^{14}\text{C}$ ]-4-dione; 6000 cells; 1, 2, 3 and 6 days; TLC.

	Steroid variation (%)			
	1 day	2 days	3 days	6 days
<b>4-dione</b>	-0.35	-0.85	-1.49	-4.42
<b>A-dione</b>	0.09	0.17	0.68	2.62
<b>Testo</b>	-0.06	0.08	0.08	0.18
<b>E1</b>	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05
<b>E2</b>	0.17	0.1	0.08	0.19
<b>3<math>\alpha</math>-diol</b>	0.08	0.14	0.26	0.7
<b>3<math>\beta</math>-diol</b>	0.08	0.39	0.49	0.73



**Figure S6.** [<sup>14</sup>C]-4-dione; 3000 cells; 1, 2, 3 and 6 days; TLC (Figure S6 and Table S6).

**Table S6.** [<sup>14</sup>C]-4-dione; 3000 cells; 1, 2, 3 and 6 days; TLC

	Steroid variation (%)			
	1 day	2 days	3 days	6 days
<b>4-dione</b>	0.07	-0.41	-0.77	-1.97
<b>A-dione</b>	-0.14	0.06	0.09	0.72
<b>Testo</b>	-0.04	-0.01	-0.03	0.05
<b>E1</b>	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05
<b>E2</b>	-0.08	0.06	0.16	0.27
<b>3α-diol</b>	-0.03	0.1	0.12	0.2
<b>3β-diol</b>	0.17	0.26	0.43	0.74

**Table S7.** Proportion of steroids detected by GC-MS/MS from two incubations (A and B) with DHEA. A and B: DHEA incubated 8 days in 24 000 T-47D cells.

Steroids	LLOQ (ng/mL)	A (ng/mL)	A (%)	B * (ng/mL)	B * (%)
DHEA	0.10	1130	79.6	905	77.9
5-diol	0.05	236	16.6	244	21.0
4-dione	0.05	27	1.9	12.1	1.04
DHT	0.01	0.3	0.02	0.34	0.03
T	0.03	1.9	0.13	NA	NA
3β-diol	0.01	0.1	0.007	NA	NA
ADT	0.05	0.7	0.05	NA	NA
E1	0.005	23	1.6	NA	NA
E2	0.005	0.9	0.06	0.18	0.01

(\*) Data from Table 1 (DHEA alone). LLOQ: Lower limit of quantification; DHEA: dehydroepiandrosterone; 5-diol: 5-androstene-3,17-dione; 4-dione: 4-androstene-3,17-dione; DHT: dihydrotestosterone; T: testosterone; 3β-diol: 5α-androstan-3β,17β-diol; ADT: androsterone; E1: estrone; E2: estradiol. NA: not available.