

**Supplementary Material:**

**Figure S1. Free DEX but not L-DEX increases serum cholesterol levels in ICR mice, throughout 4 weeks of administration**

Week 1 (top left panel) and week 2 (top right) cholesterol levels increase with DEX but not with L-DEX (n=5,  $P=0.009$  and  $P<0.0001$  week 1 and 2, respectively). Weeks 3 (bottom left) and 4 (bottom right) also show an increase in cholesterol with free DEX but not in L-DEX group (n=5,  $P<0.0001$  for both weeks)