



Use of a High Resolution Accurate Mass Spectrometer to Expand the Scope of EPA Methods for Emerging Contaminants (EPA 539 and 537)

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Why Use Another Toy?



- We don't know what we don't know....
- At trace levels there is always a possibility of **false positives and false negatives**, because the existing methods don't require the same level of certainty as European LC-MS-MS methods.
- The Orbitrap has resolution of >70,000, allowing one to also watch for false positives and false negatives.
- It gives the ability to look for unknown unknowns.



- Compare performance in Parallel Reaction Monitoring (PRM) mode to existing EPA methods
- Determine sensitivity
- Assess performance in full mass scan mode
- Look for additional library compounds
- Look for unknown unknowns

Hormones in Water are NOT a New Concern



As the TOF-MS and GC-MS concepts were introduced at Harvard, scientists were already speculating on fate and transport of hormones in water streams.

**USGS; ES&T Article:
Pharmaceuticals, Hormones,
and Other Organic Wastewater
Contaminants in U.S. Streams,
1999-2000 - some at low ppt
levels, using LCMS as SIM for
two of their 5 methods**

**Directive 2013/39/EU–
Estrone, Estradiol and
Ethynodiol at
1.0, 0.3 and 0.03 ppt in
water streams such as
effluents**

1950s

1970s

2001

2010

2013

New analytical technologies made studies possible using GC-MS or TOF-MS but still detection limits were inadequate for needed levels.

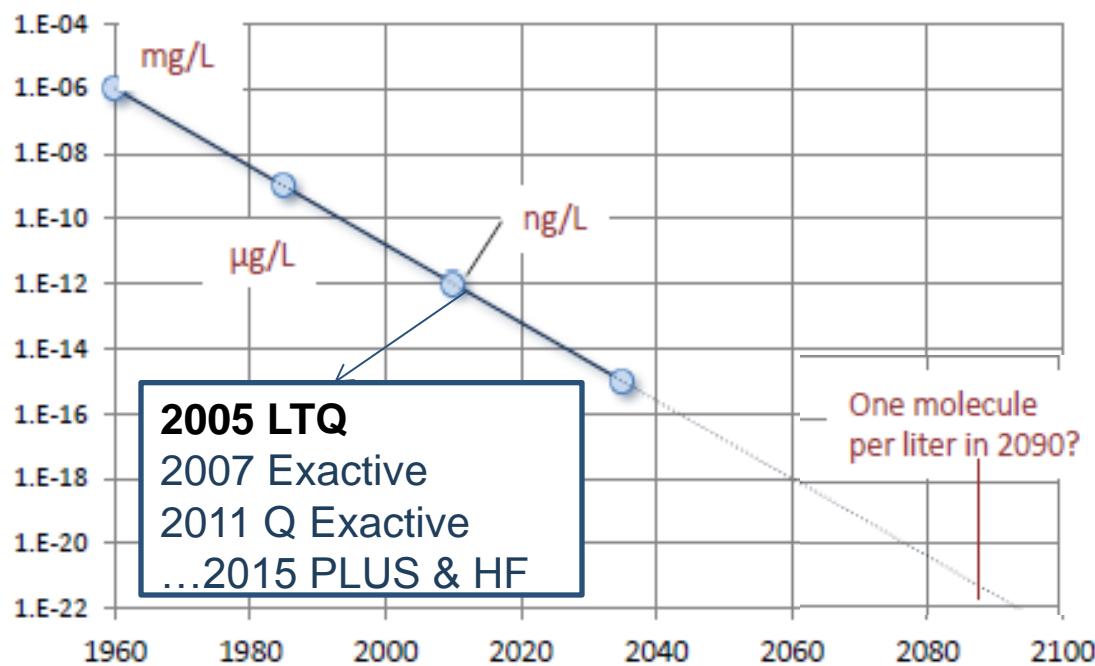
EPA 539 published for UCMR 3 monitoring (2013-2015) using Tandem MS for selected hormones at low to sub ppt levels. The lowest reporting limit was set for Testosterone at 0.1ppt.

2011 Q Exactive: a Hybrid HRAM is Added to the Orbi Exactive Family



- The fastest-growing area of technoscience in water is analytical technology

History of Detection Limits



Moore's Law:

No. of transistors on
A microchip doubles
Every 2 years

A New Law:

Detection Limit for TOrCs
doubles (drops 2-fold)
every 2.5 years

EPA 539 Summary - Mass Spectrometer Requirements



Summary : A 1 Liter dechlorinated sample with Omadine is extracted with SPE Octadecyl (C-18) functional group after adding surrogates. The SPE eluent is concentrated to dryness, and diluted to 1 ml with 50/50% MeOH/H₂O. **An aliquot is injected to the LC-MS/MS after adding IS and quantified against the IS.**

3.16 MULTIPLE REACTION MONITORING (MRM) – A mass spectrometric technique in which a precursor ion is isolated, then fragmented into a product ion(s). **Quantitation is accomplished by monitoring a specific product ion.** MS parameters must be optimized for each precursor ion (Sect. 3.17) and product ion (Sect. 3.19).

6.12.3 ELECTROSPRAY IONIZATION-TANDEM MASS SPECTROMETER (ESI-MS/MS) – The MS must be capable of **rapid switching between negative ion and positive ion electrospray ionization modes.** The system must be capable of performing MS/MS to produce unique product ions for the method analytes within specified retention time segments. At least 10 – 15 scans across the chromatographic peak are needed to ensure adequate precision.

The Orbitrap™ Technology meets these requirements

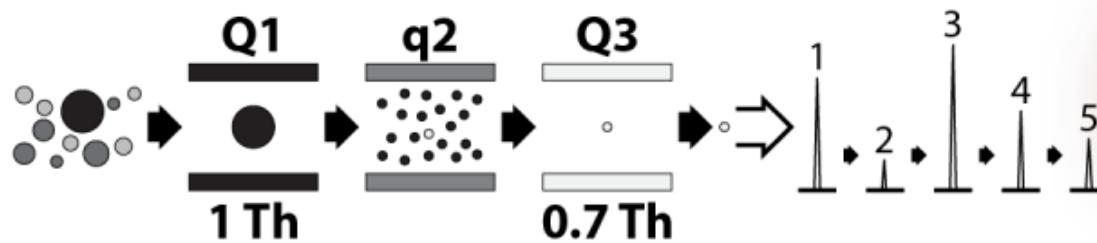
EPA 539 Is Written For LC-MS/MS so the QE PRM Mode Is Truest To The Method



Quadrupole-equipped HR/AM instruments

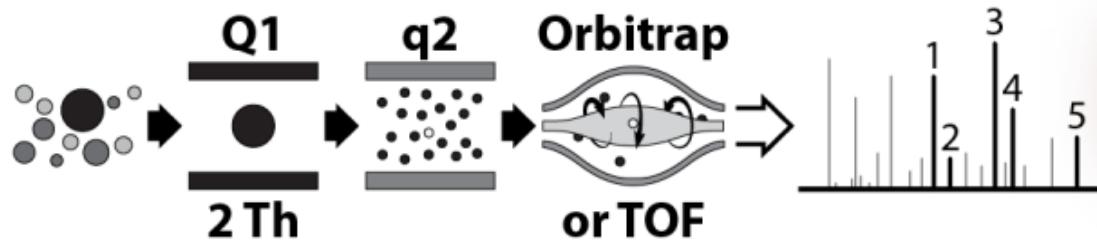
HR/AM analyzer permits parallel detection of all target product ions in one concerted high resolution mass analysis

A SRM



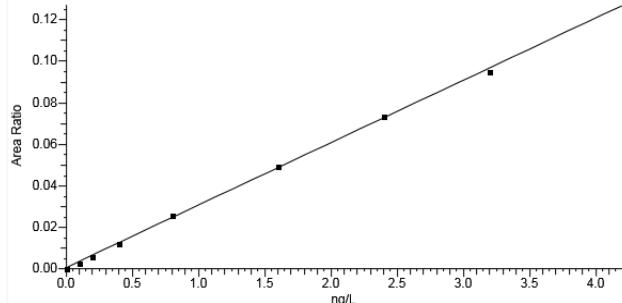
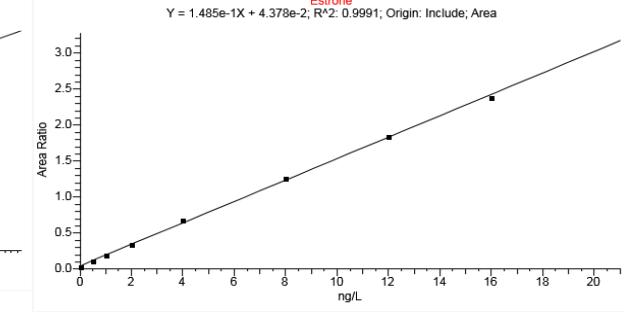
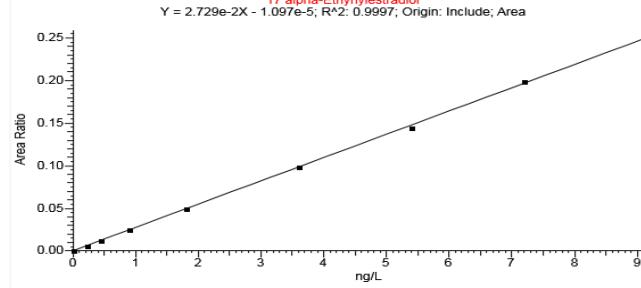
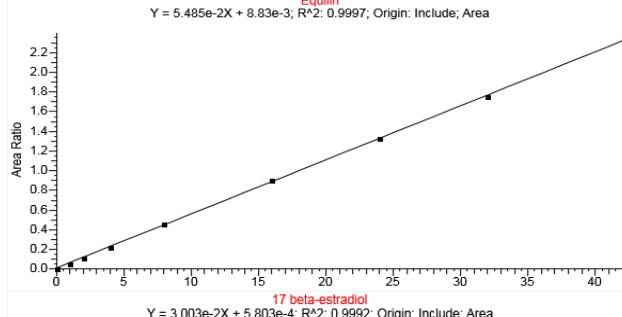
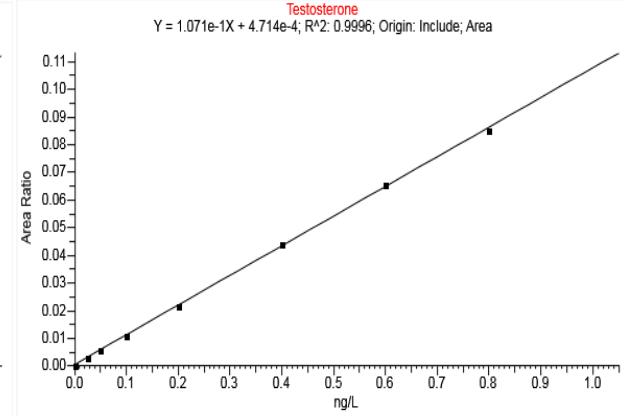
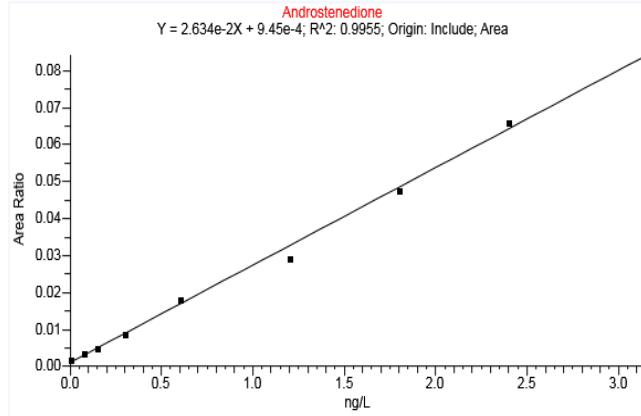
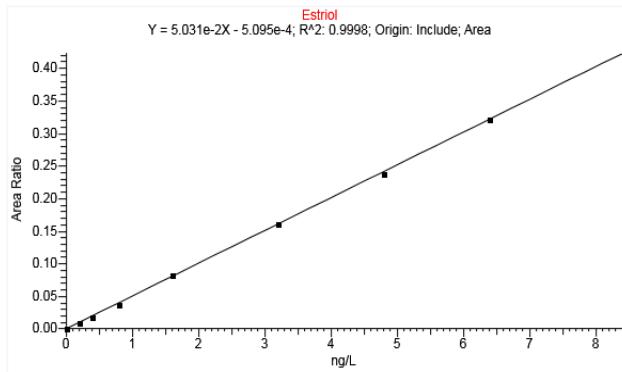
Serial monitoring

B PRM



Parallel monitoring

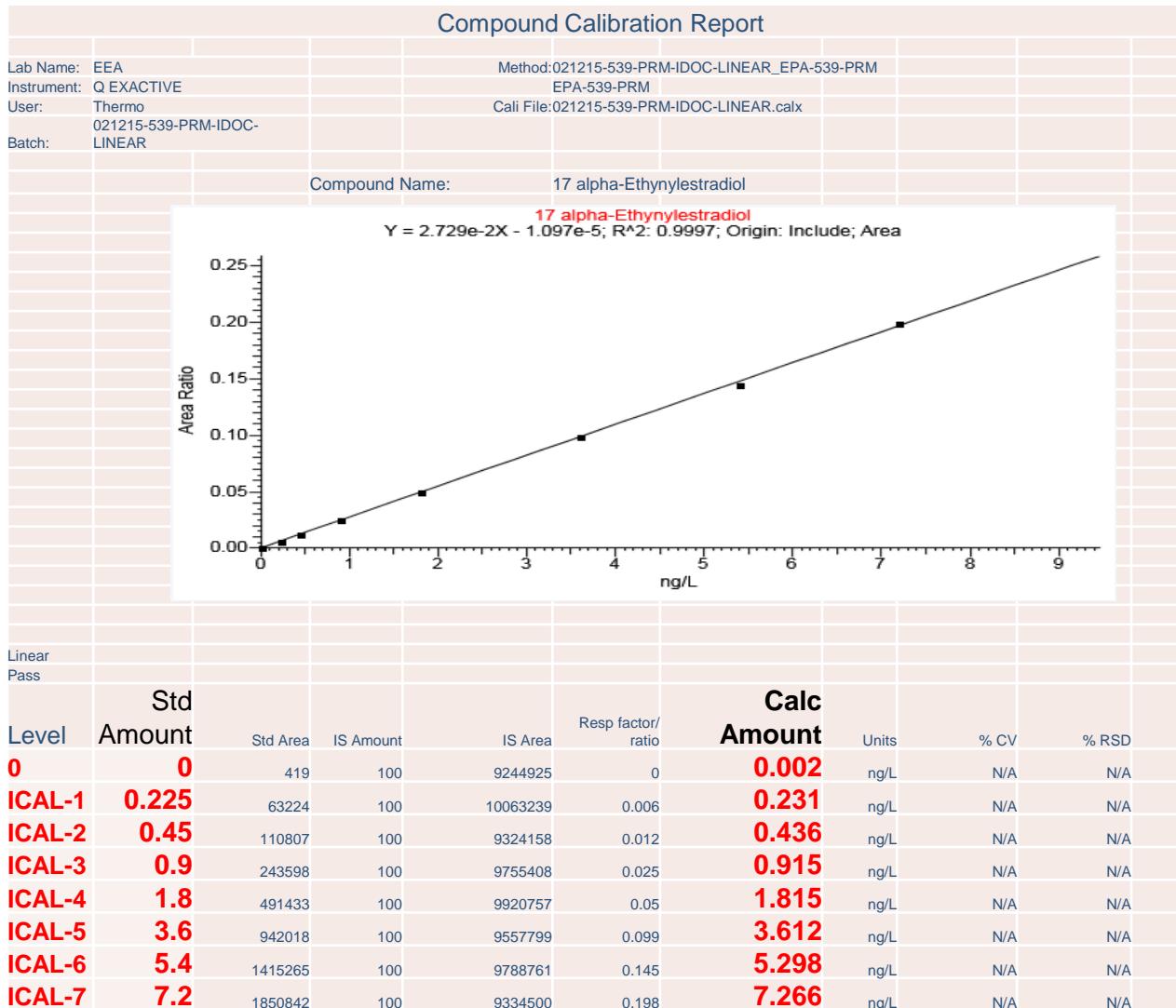
All Calibration Coefficients > 0.99 and Good Dynamic Range and Linearity



EE2 range 0.225 – 7.2ppt



An Example of a Calibration for EE2 Using TraceFinder 3.2



Determination of Minimum Reporting Limit (MRL) using LCMRL calculation



Enter Test Data

Contaminant - 17 alpha-Ethyneestradiol

Method - EPA 539

Units for all measurements - Nanograms/Liter (ng/L)

NB – Calculator only works with 32 bit computers.

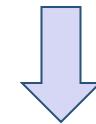
****Important** Please do not truncate or round any of the results. If possible, results should have a minimum of 3 significant digits.**

Use the buttons below to add a concentration (column) or measured value (row). To remove a row or column check the box next to it and click the Remove button.

Add Concentration

Add Measurement

Remove



Concentrations

<input type="checkbox"/> Conc. 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Conc. 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Conc. 3	<input type="checkbox"/> Conc. 4	<input type="checkbox"/> Conc. 5	<input type="checkbox"/> Conc. 6	<input type="checkbox"/> Conc. 7	<input type="checkbox"/> Conc. 8
0.225	0.45	0.9	1.8	3.6	5.4	7.2	0

Measured Concentrations

<input type="checkbox"/> Value 1	0.184	0.347	0.684	1.361	2.657	4.469	6.07	0.003
<input type="checkbox"/> Value 2	0.184	0.35	0.728	1.365	2.819	4.551	5.814	0.000
<input type="checkbox"/> Value 3	0.202	0.36	0.705	1.363	2.66	4.323	6.046	0.000
<input type="checkbox"/> Value 4	0.174	0.4	0.534	1.362	2.987	4.207	5.563	0.000

http://water.epa.gov/scitech/drinkingwater/labcert/analyticalmethods_ogwdw.cfm

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Next >>

The LCMRL is defined as the lowest spiking concentration at which recovery of between 50 and 150 percent is expected 99 percent of the time by a single analyst. The procedure requires, at a minimum, four replicates at each of seven fortification levels. Four laboratory reagent blanks should also be included. All must be processed through the entire method procedure

Evaluating the QE in Parallel Reaction Mode (PRM) for EPA 539



➤ Initial Demonstration of capability (IDC) from the method:

- 1. DEMONSTRATION OF LOW SYSTEM BACKGROUND <1/3 MRL
- 2. DEMONSTRATION OF PRECISION – 4-7 LFB's RSD </= 20%
- 3. DEMONSTRATION OF ACCURACY – LFB's recovery diff. </= 30% of T.V.
- 4. MINIMUM REPORTING LEVEL (MRL) CONFIRMATION or doing **LCMRL**

➤ Targeted compounds and their MRLs:

Analyte	DL Fortified Concentration (ng/L)	DL (ng/L)	LCMRL (ng/L)
Estriol	1.10	0.24	0.28
Estrone	1.05	0.19	4.0
17 β -Estradiol	1.30	0.39	0.32
17 α -Ethynodiolide	1.75	0.33	1.3
Androstenedione	0.50	0.20	0.37
Testosterone	0.50	0.04	0.062
Equilin	1.25	2.94	3.0

LCMRL<0.19 ppt for EE2. It Could Not Be Calculated Because It Needed a Lower Point



Test Results

Results for: 17 alpha-Ethyneestradiol

Number of true concentrations: 8

Total number of true measurements: 32

Results

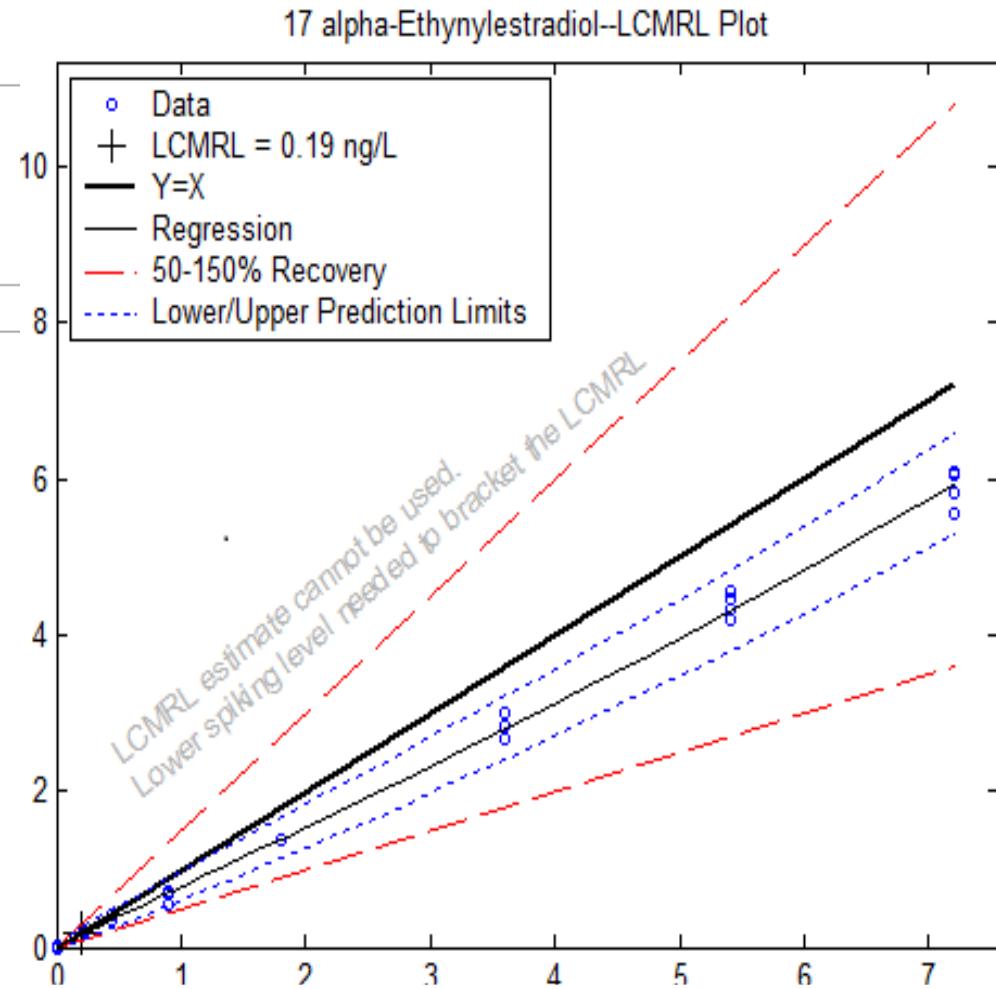
Adj. R squared :

The LCMRL cannot be determined due to the following reason:
Lower spiking level needed to bracket the LCMRL

DL: 0.10 ng/L

Critical Level : 0.051 ng/L

0.05ppt as critical level



Area and Height of the Lowest CAL Std for EE2 – Using Trace Finder 3.2



Can Directive 2013/39/EU be met at 0.03ppt based on Area & Height ?

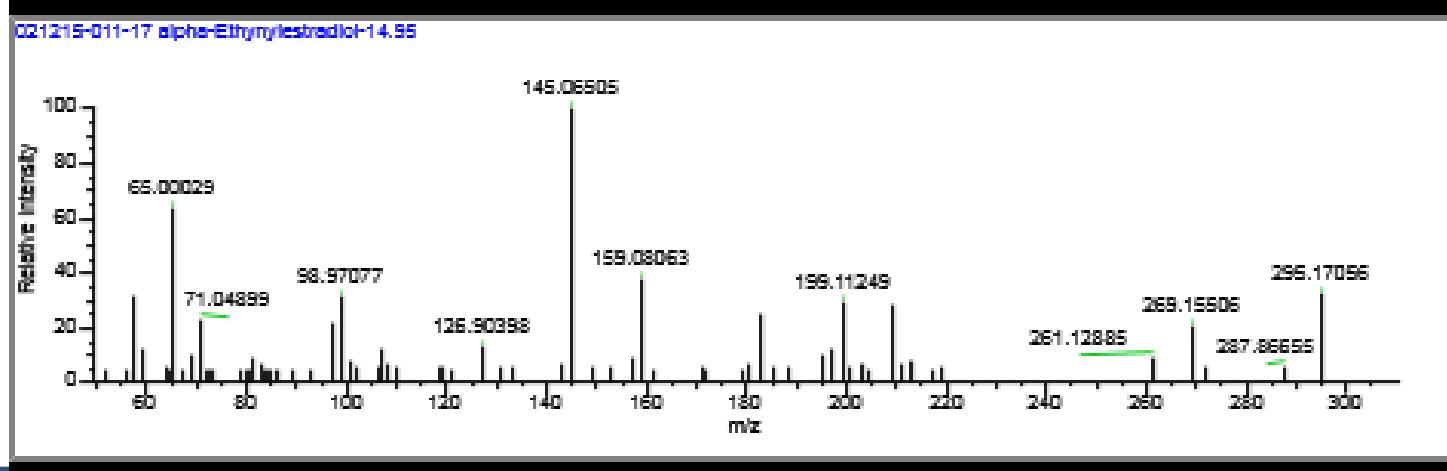
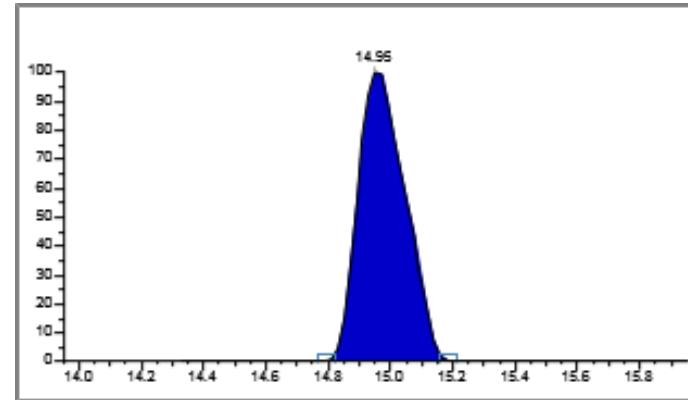
Compound Name: 17 alpha-Ethynylestradiol

Sample Conc: 0.225 ng/L

Retention time: 14.96

Area (Quan): 61535

Height (Quan): 5855



HRAM is More Sensitive than the Published LCMRL for EPA539



Extraction:	Concentrated 500 ml of solutions to final 1 ml - per EPA 539 preservatives/extraction procedure			
Instrument:	Q- Exactive, hybrid quadrupole Mass Spectrometry HRAM, Resolution for collected data : 70000 (mz 200 FWHM)			
Scans/peak	AGC 2e5 Max IT 200 ms Isolation window 1.0 m/z			
HPLC:	collected >10-15 scans per peaks Thermo RS Ultimate UHPLC 3000, binary pump, autosampler and column heater with 100 ul sample loop			
Column:	Acclaim Polar Advantage II, 2.1x150 mm, 3 um, 120A			
Eluents:	A) 1 mM Ammonium Fluoride B) 50%/50% ACN/MeoH Gradient flow at 0.3ml/min with a 21.4 minutes run.			
Injection volume:	50 ul			
Method 539 UCMR3 Analyte	UCMR MRL (ng/L)	EPA 539 published LCMRL (ng/L)	Q Exactive HRAM 70000 Res. LCMRL (ng/L)	QE-LCMRL Calc -DL (ng/L)
17 α -ethynodiol	0.9	1.3	Critical level 0.05	0.1
17 β -estradiol	0.4	0.32	0.17	0.047
equilin	4	0.28	Critical level 0.23	0.48
estriol	0.8	3	0.27	0.2
estrone	2	4	0.84	0.48
testosterone	0.1	0.062	0.033	0.027
androstenedione	0.3	0.37	0.19	0.08

Precision and Accuracy for LFB (10xMRL) and a Spiked Sample at MRL



QE-HRAM-MS2 70000 resolution PRECISION AND ACCURACY IN FORTIFIED REAGENT WATER (n=4)

Analyte	Fortified Concentration (ng/L)	Avg. %Recovery	%RSD
17 α -ethynodiol	7.2	82%	4
17 β -estradiol	3.2	84%	3
equilin	32	81%	3
estriol	6.4	100%	4
estrone	16	83%	4
testosterone	0.8	87%	5
4-androstene-3,17-dione	2.4	85%	8

QE-HRAM-MS2 70000 resolution PRECISION AND ACCURACY IN

Analyte	Fortified Concentration (ng/L)	Sample 20150108002 (2) Low Level spike	
		Avg. %Recovery	%RSD
17 α -ethynodiol	0.72	95%	2.3
17 β -estradiol	0.32	87%	0.6
equilin	3.2	92%	8.2
estriol	0.64	101%	4.0
estrone	1.6	95%	3.4
testosterone	0.08	99%	0.1
4-androstene-3,17-dione	0.24	118%	0.1

Continued: Spiked Field Samples at Reporting Levels. Samples Had No Hits.



Spike recovery at the MRL is a truer measure of performance than the LCMRL.

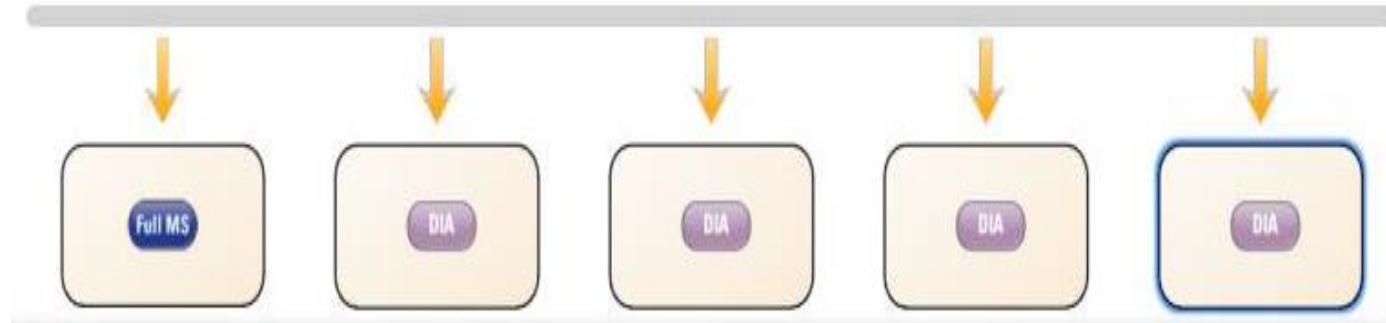
QE-HRAM-MS2 70000 resolution PRECISION AND ACCURACY IN Sample 20150108002 (2) Low Level spike

Analyte	Fortified Concentration (ng/L)	Avg. %Recovery	%RSD
17 α -ethynodiol	0.72	95%	2.3
17 β -estradiol	0.32	87%	0.6
equilin	3.2	92%	8.2
estriol	0.64	101%	4.0
estrone	1.6	95%	3.4
testosterone	0.08	99%	0.1
4-androstene-3,17-dione	0.24	118%	0.1

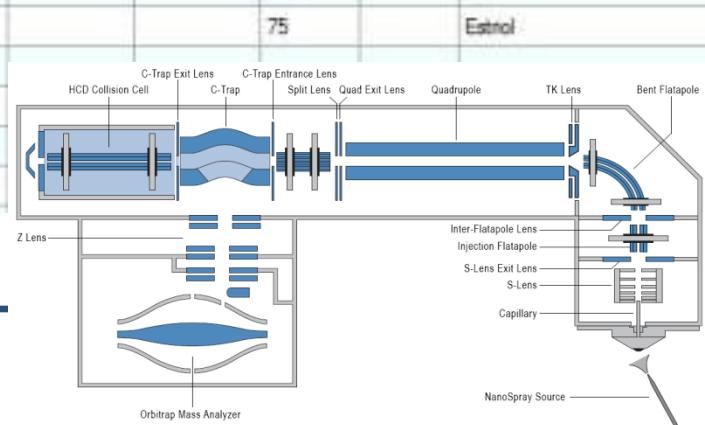
QE-HRAM-MS2 70000 resolution PRECISION AND ACCURACY IN Sample 201501090001 (2) Low Level spike

Analyte	Fortified Concentration (ng/L)	Avg. %Recovery	%RSD
17 α -ethynodiol	0.72	97%	16
17 β -estradiol	0.32	95%	13
equilin	3.2	92%	11
estriol	0.64	107%	13
estrone	1.6	95%	14
testosterone	0.08	97%	19
4-androstene-3,17-dione	0.24	104%	20

Look For Non Targeted And Unknowns While Simultaneously Quantifying 539



	File	Edit	Help	Mass [m/z]	Formula [M]	Species	CS [z]	Polarity	Start [min]	End [min]	(N)CE	MSX ID
1	125.00000							Negative				
2	175.00000							Negative				
3	225.00000							Negative				
4	275.00000							Negative				
5	325.00000							Negative				
6	375.00000							Negative				
7	287.16527	C18H24O3	-H	1				Negative			75	Estriol
8	425.00000							Negative				
9	475.00000							Negative				
10	700.00000							Negative				
11	900.00000							Negative				



DIA # 1: 50 amu isolation window, loop 6

DIA # 2: Estriol with isolation window 1 amu, NCE 75

Loop 1

DIA # 3: 50 amu isolation window loop 1

DIA # 4 : 200 amu isolation window loop 2

Why add a PRM for estriol?

Estriol Problematic In Full-MS (70K) Method. No Signal for Cal1&2 (0.2 & 0.4ppt) Stds



Thermo TraceFinder EFS LC

File View Tools Help

Real time status | User: Thermo | [Logout](#)

Analysis

Batch View

- Samples
- Reference Sample
- Threshold Samples
- Data Review**
- Sample View
- Compound View
- Comparative View
- Qualitative View

Report View

Local Method

- Acquisition
- Quantitation
- Processing
- Compounds
- QAQC
- Groups
- Reports

ICAL-3 = MRL

Compounds

Flags	Compound	Expected RT	Compound Type
Aa	13C2-Ethynelestadiol	13.25,16.93	Internal Standard
Aa	13C6-Estradiol	12.29	Internal Standard
Aa	17 alpha-Ethynelestadiol	13.25	Target Compound
Aa	17 beta-estradiol	12.29	Target Compound
⚠️	Androstenedione	8.95	Target Compound
Aa	Equulin	10.05,10.77	Target Compound
Aa	Estriol	6.44	Target Compound
Aa	Estriol-d2	6.36	Internal Standard
Aa	Estrone	10.77	Target Compound
Aa	Ethynelestadiol-d4	13.19	Surrogate
⚠️	Testosterone	10.01	Target Compound
Aa	Testosterone-d3	10.01	Internal Standard

Sample Results

Acc	Flags	Flag Details	Status	Filename	Sample Type	Level	Sample ID	Sample Name	Comments	Height	Area	Expected RT	Actual RT	RT Delta	Formula	Adduct
1	1	<<CF	Unknown	031515-001	SOLVENT3	SOLVENT3	N/F	N/F	6.44	N/F						
2	2	<<,CF	Cal Std	031515-002	0	0	N/F	N/F	6.44	N/F						
3	3	<<,CF	Cal Std	031515-003	ICAL-1	ICAL-1	N/F	N/F	6.44	N/F						
4	4	<<,CF	Cal Std	031515-004	ICAL-2	ICAL-2	N/F	N/F	6.44	N/F						
5	5	✓	Cal Std	031515-005	ICAL-3	ICAL-3	937	6569	6.44	6.28	-0.16					
6	6	✓	Cal Std	031515-006	ICAL-4	ICAL-4	4693	35328	6.44	6.25	-0.19					
7	7	✓	Cal Std	031515-007	ICAL-5	ICAL-5	9393	77038	6.44	6.27	-0.17					
8	8	✓	Cal Std	031515-008	ICAL-6	ICAL-6	13686	120166	6.44	6.28	-0.16					
9	9	✓	Cal Std	031515-009	ICAL-7	ICAL-7	18737	168055	6.44	6.25	-0.19					
10	10		Chk Std	031515-010	MRL_CHK	CAL-2.5	CAL-2.5	N/A	N/A	6.44	N/A					
11	11		Chk Std	031515-011	QCS	QCS	N/A	N/A	6.44	N/A						
12	12		Unknown	031515-012	MBLK	MBLK	N/A	N/A	6.44	N/A						
13	13		Unknown	031515-013	2.5-1	2.5-1	N/A	N/A	6.44	N/A						

Compound Details

Quan Peak

Calibration Curve

Spectra

MS-Data

Relative Intensity

m/z

Area Ratio

RT(min)

RT(min)

Apex RT: 6.28

Area: 6569

m/z: 171.08080

CAL 1 & 2

Y = -3.292e-3X^2 + 8.449e-2X - 4.281e-2; R^2: 0.9941; Origin: Ignore; W: 1/X; Area

100
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0

5.4 5.6 5.8 6.0 6.2 6.4 6.6 6.8 7.0 7.2

0.0 0.5 1.0 1.5 2.0 2.5 3.0 3.5 4.0 4.5 5.0 5.5 6.0 6.5 7.0

ng/L

100 96.655 147 07.744 173 09.946 236 89.796 258 16.959

(171.07966137695, 270.9716796875)

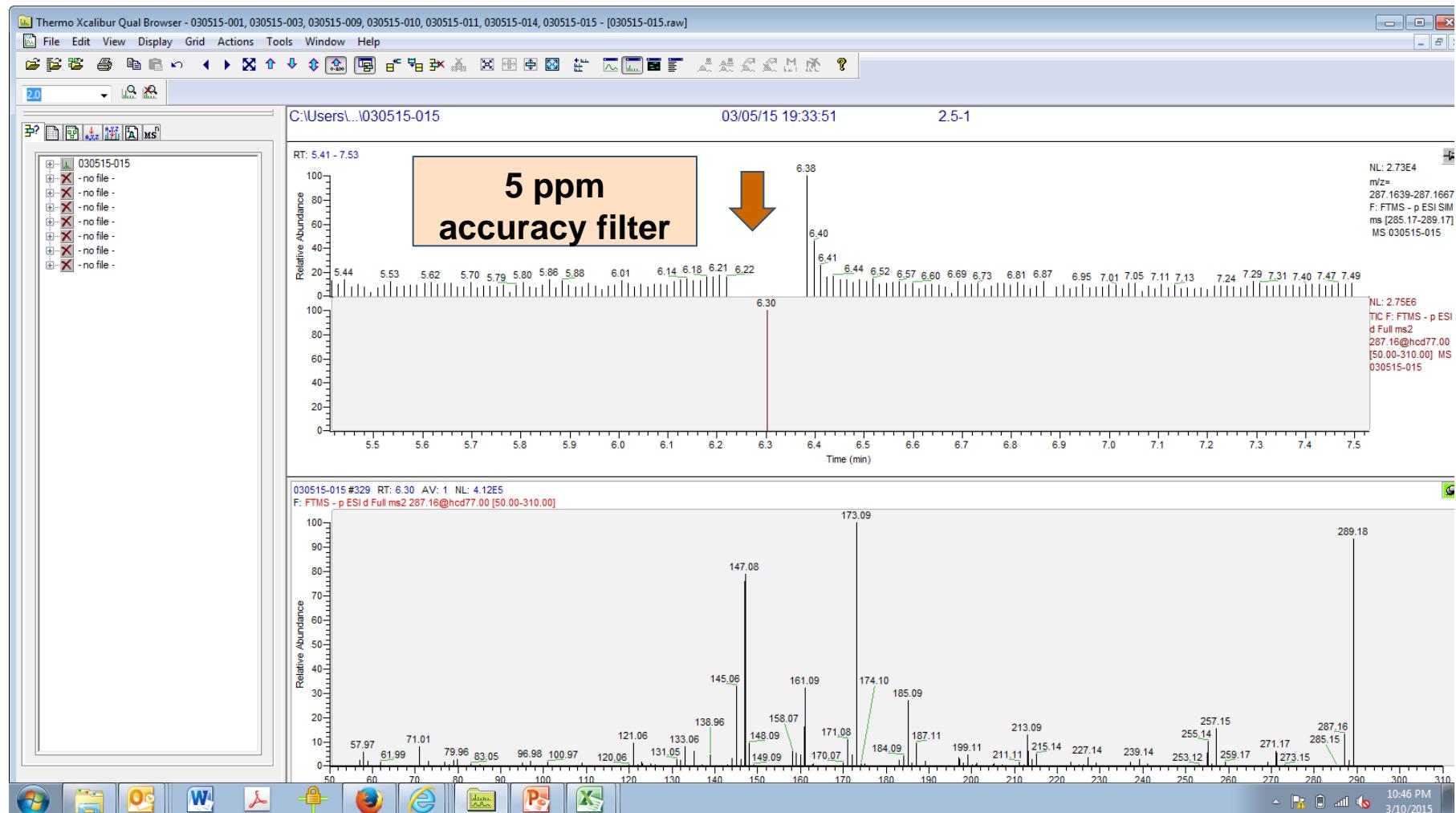
145.06487
183.08098
214.91386
255.13809
287.16531

59.01263
131.04938
171.08080
214.91386
255.13809
287.16531

MS-Reference

171.08080

Estriol At Ultra Low Concentrations Shows Selectivity Issues @ 70000 res(TSIM/ddMS2)



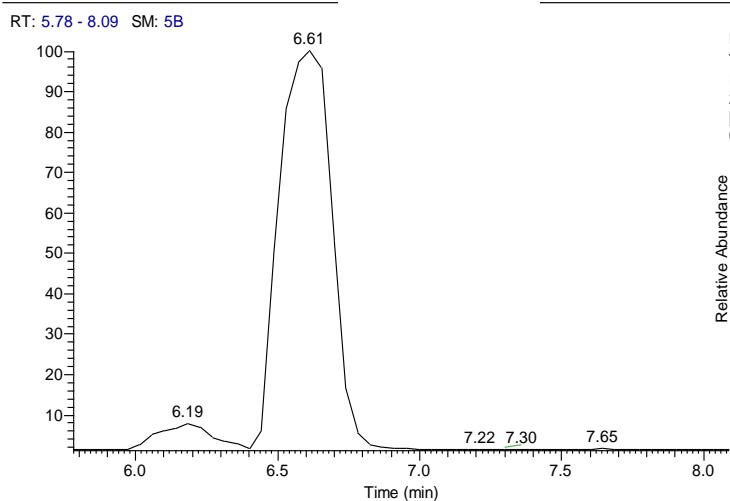
Internal Std Estriol-d2 Spiked At 10x In DI 289.7773 AMU + Contaminated Interference 287.16171 as a Suspect for Non Selectivity >10ppm For Estriol 287.16528



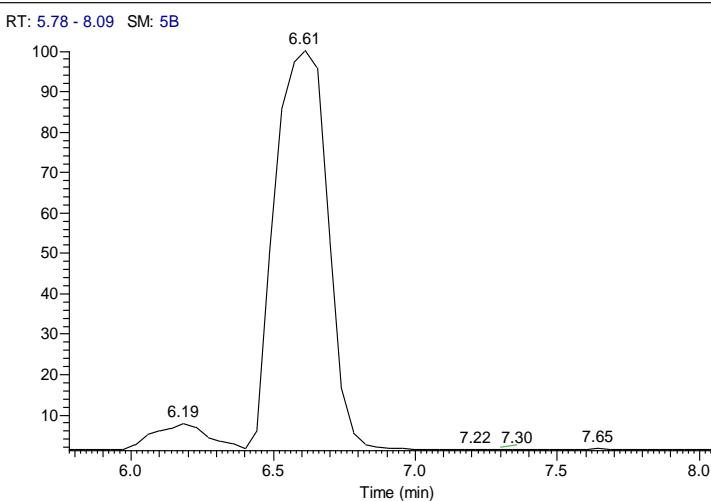
C:\TraceFinderData\..\Data\030515-071

03/25/15 20:59:58

IS

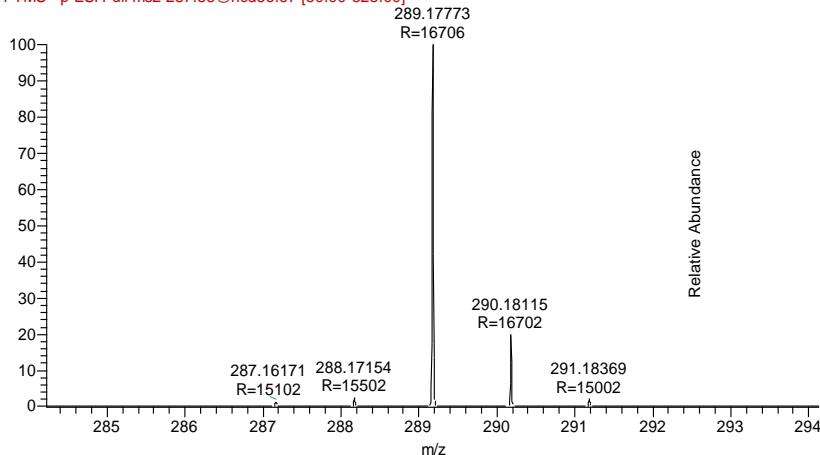


NL: 1.73E7
TIC F: FTMS - p
ESI Full ms2
287.88@hcd56.67
[50.00-325.00] MS
030515-071

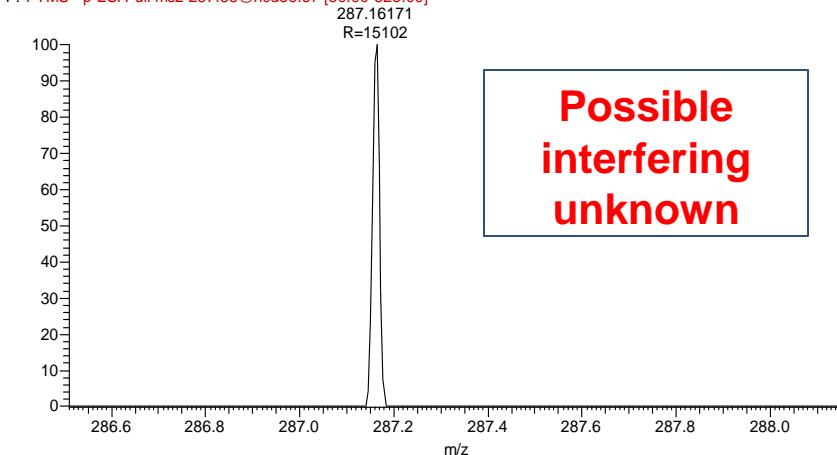


NL: 1.73E7
TIC F: FTMS - p
ESI Full ms2
287.88@hcd56.67
[50.00-325.00] MS
030515-071

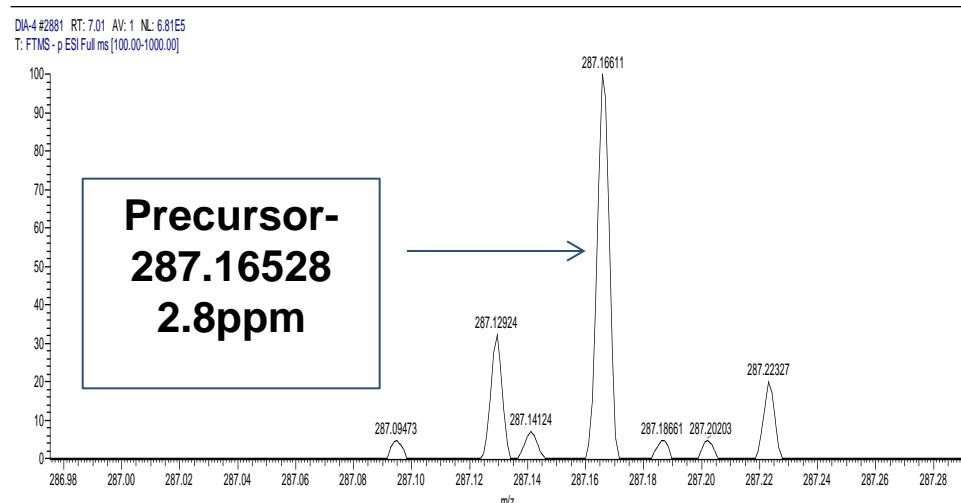
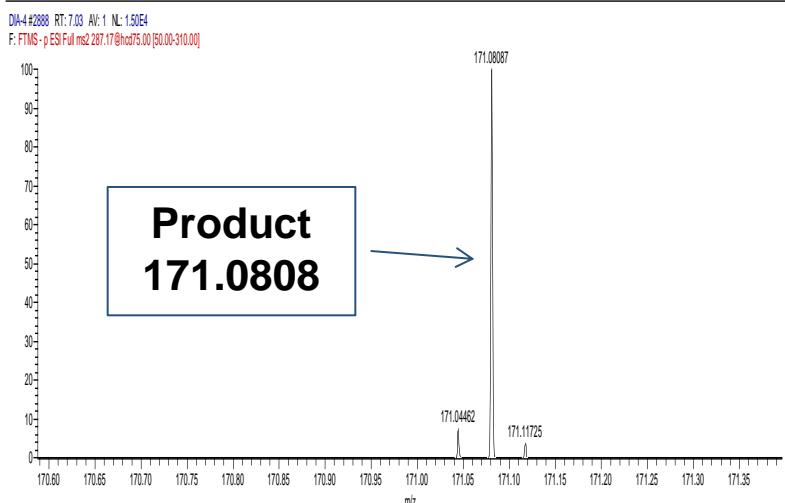
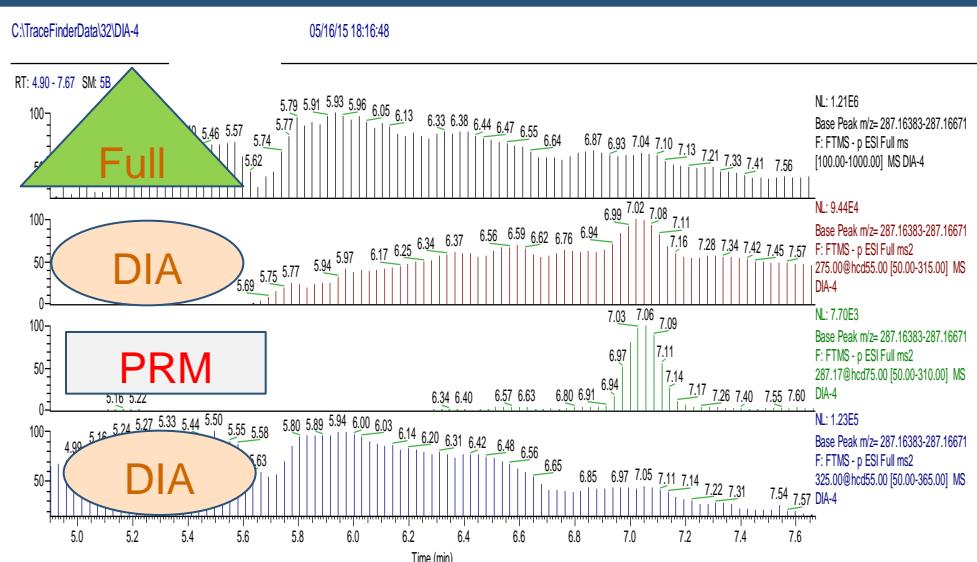
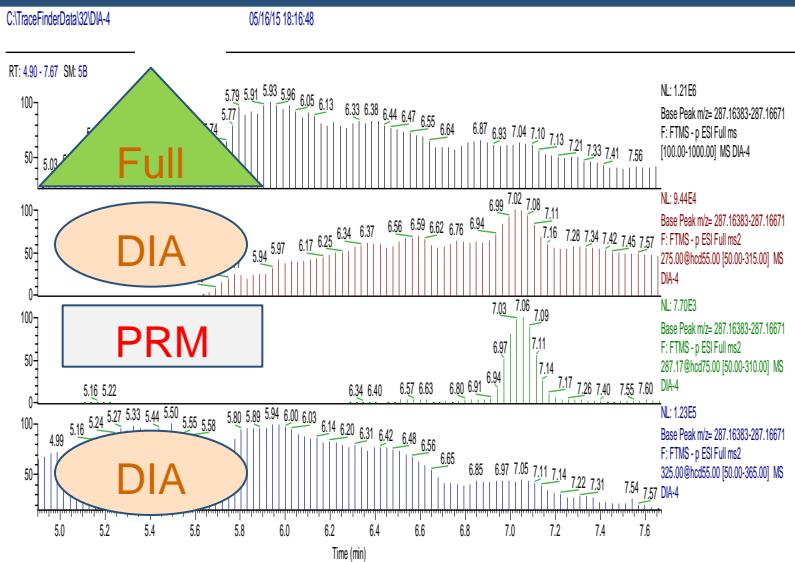
030515-071 #3243 RT: 6.61 AV: 1 NL: 1.82E7
F: FTMS - p ESI Full ms2 287.88@hcd56.67 [50.00-325.00]



030515-071 #3243 RT: 6.61 AV: 1 NL: 2.84E5
F: FTMS - p ESI Full ms2 287.88@hcd56.67 [50.00-325.00]

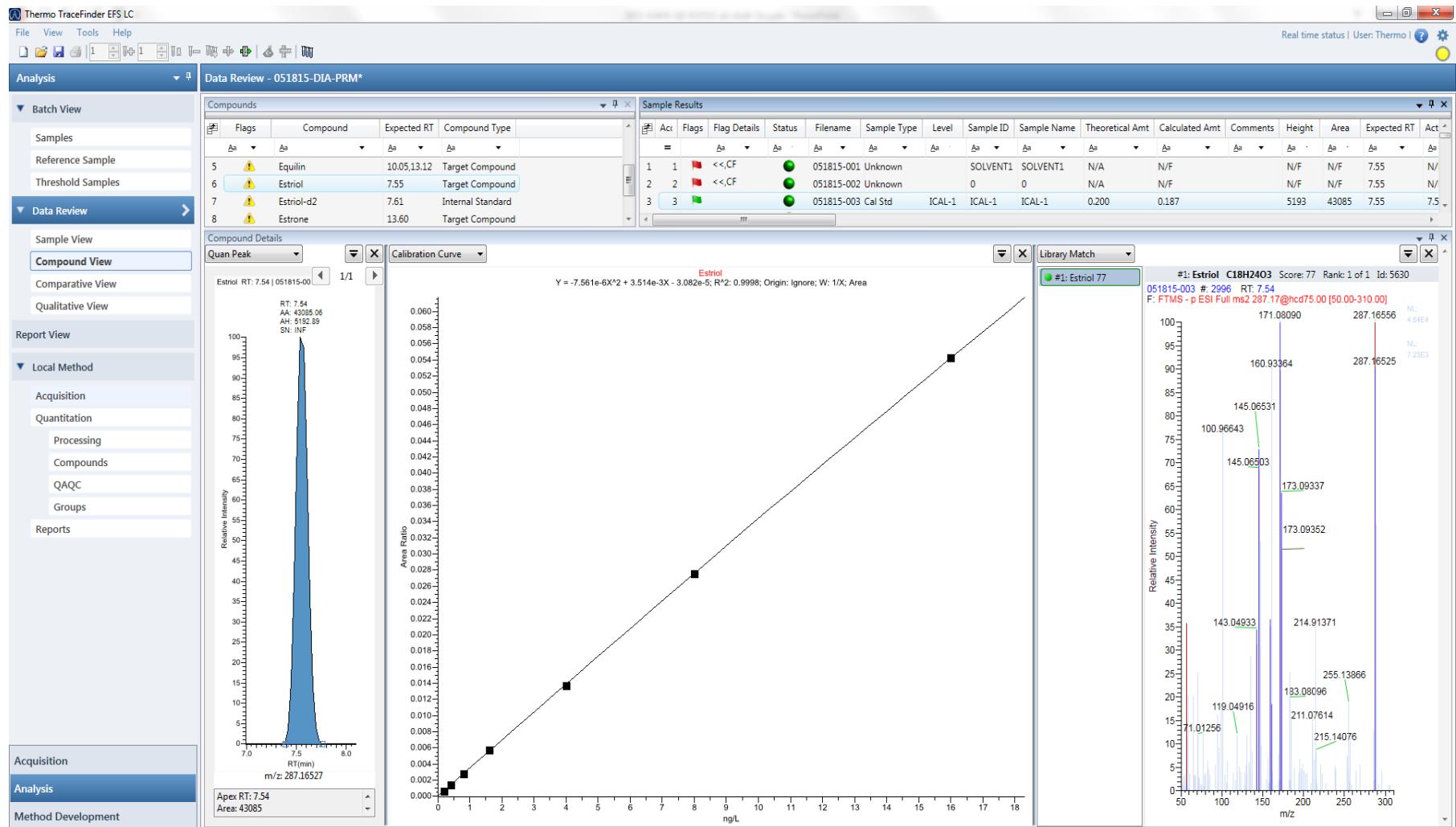


Full MS Does Not See 287.16528. DIA/PRM Sees Precursors In MS2 + Product Ion: Spiked Sample At MRL



Estriol Lowest Standard Using Trace Finder

3.2 Spectral Library Match / Identified



Full-ms/DIA Gives The Same Result As PRM Experiment. Precision/Accuracy Of LFB And Matrix Spikes Matched Very Closely To PRM Experiment.



Extraction: Instrument:	Concentrated 500 ml of solutions to final 1 ml - per EPA 539 preservatives/extraction procedure Q- Exactive, hybrid quadrupole Mass Spectrometry HRAM,				Q- Exactive, hybrid quadrupole Mass Spectrometry HRAM,	
	Resolution for collected data : 70000 (mz 200 FWHM)		Full-MS - Resolution for collected data : 70000 (mz @200 FWHM)			
	Isolation window 1.0 m/z		DIA experiment one 100-520 60 amu isolation window, loop 7		DIA experiment #2 510-1100 200 amu isolation window, loop 2	
HPLC: Column:	Thermo RS Ultimate UHPLC 3000., binary pump, autosampler and column heater with 100 ul sample loop Acclaim Polar Advantage II, 2.1x150 mm, 3 um, 120A		Step NCE 35, 80			
Eluents:	A) 1 mM Ammonium Fluoride B) 50%/50% ACN/MeoH					
	Gradient flow at 0.3ml/min with a 21.4 minutes run.		Injection volume: 50 ul		FULL-MS/DIA(Estriol PRM)	FULL-MS/DIA(Estriol PRM)
Method 539 UCMR3 Analyte	UCMR MRL (ng/L)	EPA 539 published LCMRL (ng/L)	Q Exactive HRAM 70000 Res. LCMRL (ng/L)	QE-LCMRL Calc -DL (ng/L)	Q Exactive HRAM 70000 Res. LCMRL (ng/L)	QE-LCMRL Calc -DL (ng/L)
17 α -ethynodiol	0.9	1.3	Critical level 0.05	0.1	Critical level 0.05	0.1
17 β -estradiol	0.4	0.32	0.17	0.047	0.16	0.12
equilin	4	0.28	Critical level 0.23	0.48	Critical level 0.23	0.44
estriol	0.8	3	0.27	0.2	Critical level 0.046	0.068
estrone	2	4	0.84	0.48	0.7	0.45
testosterone	0.1	0.062	0.033	0.027	NA	NA
androstene-dione	0.3	0.37	0.19	0.08	NA	NA

Using Full-MS data with Sieve Software for Site Specific Emerging Contaminants



FrameTable: 209 Items

CompID	ID	CompMW	Formula	MZ	Time	HitCount				
10	10	211.1428815	C9H24N1[32]S2	210.1356049	5.512476921	1				
DetailTable: 1 Items										
CSID	Name	Formula	SMILES	MW	AvgMass	MonoisotopicMass	SearchMass	DeltaPPM	Adduct	
14620	Atraton	C_{9}H_{17}N_{5}O	CC/N=c\1\[nH]/c(=N/C(C)C)/[nH]c(n1)OC	211.2642	211.2642	211.143311	211.1428815	2.03436459	comp	
11	11	232.016676	C1H5O9N5	231.0093994	7.780558586	1				
DetailTable: 1 Items										
CSID	Name	Formula	SMILES	MW	AvgMass	MonoisotopicMass	SearchMass	DeltaPPM	Adduct	
3008	Diuron	C_{9}H_{10}Cl_{2}N_{2}O	CN(C)/C(=N\c1ccc(c(c1)Cl)Cl)/O	233.0945	233.0945	232.017014	232.016676	1.45673122	comp	
12	12	234.1254712		233.1181946	5.222514153	2				
DetailTable: 2 Items										
CSID	Name	Formula	SMILES	MW	AvgMass	MonoisotopicMass	SearchMass	DeltaPPM	Adduct	
4E+06	Stiripentol	C_{14}H_{18}O_{3}	CC(C)(C)C(/C=C/c1cc2c(c1)OCO2)O	234.29092	234.2909	234.125595	234.1254712	0.528861389	comp	

537 Produces Similar Results: Better than Traditional LC-MS-MS



Method more than meets UCMR3 sensitivities.

PRM Mode	LCMRL (ng/L)	Full-MS, vDIA	LCMRL (ng/L)	Method 537	LCMRL (ng/L)	UCMR3	MRL
PFBS	4.5	PFBS	<2.5	PFBS	3.7	PFBS	90
PFDA	<2.5	PFDA	3.2	PFDA	3.8	PFDA	not included
PFDoA	<2.5	PFDoA	2.9	PFDoA	3.5	PFDoA	not included
PFHpA	3	PFHpA	<2.5	PFHpA	3.8	PFHpA	10
PFHxA	<2.5	PFHxA	<2.5	PFHxA	2.9	PFHxA	not included
PFHxS	<2.5	PFHxS	<2.5	PFHxS	8	PFHxS	30
PFNA	3.4	PFNA	3.1	PFNA	5.5	PFNA	20
PFOA	<2.5	PFOA	3.7	PFOA	5.1	PFOA	20
PFOS	<2.5	PFOS	<2.5	PFOS	6.5	PFOS	40
PFTA	<2.5	PFTA	<2.5	PFTA	4.7	PFTA	not included
PFTrDA	2.5	PFTrDA	5	PFTrDA	3.8	PFTrDA	not included
PFUnA	<2.5	PFUnA	2.8	PFUnA	6.9	PFUnA	not included

We Can Take the Same Approach with Method 537 (PFCs) Extracts



- Analyzed 5 UCMR3 samples for PFCs on the HRAM.
- Compared to library of ~75 PFCs and related compounds
- All 5 had detects for PFHpS
- In addition we found....

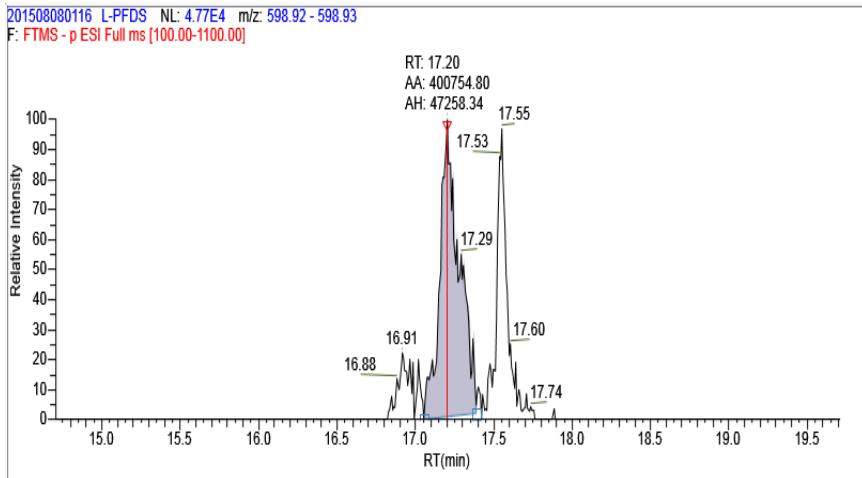
- 6:2 diPAP – 5 out of 5
- PFDS – 3 out of 5 (063, 116, 355)
- 10:2 FTOH – 1 out of 5 (116)
- 8:2 FTA - 1 out of 5 (348)
- 2,3,3,3-tetrafluoro-2-(heptafluoropropoxy)propanoate – 1 out of 5 (116)
- PFDOA – 1 out of 5 (355)
- PFHxDA – 1 out of 5 (355)

All have mass errors of < 3 ppm so highly accurate identification

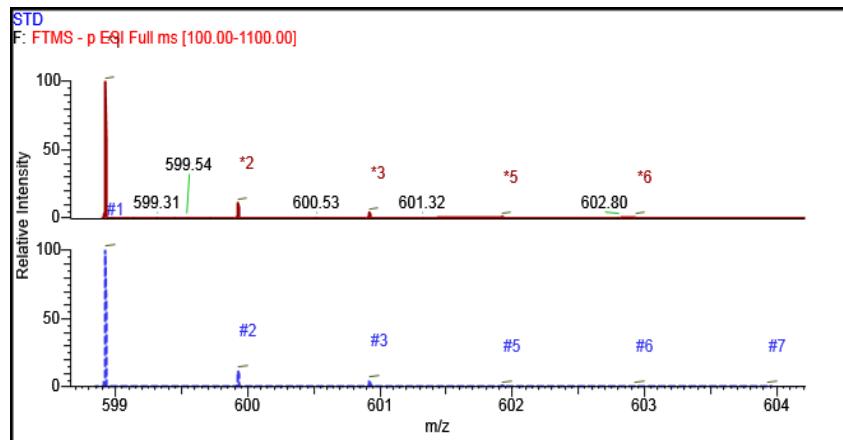
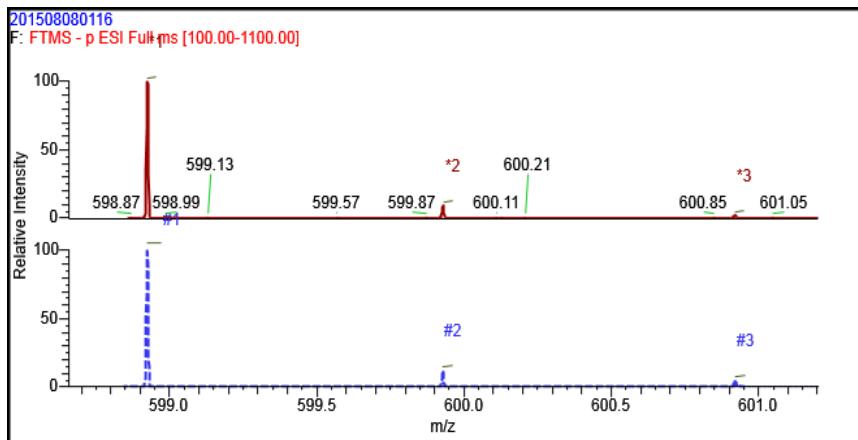
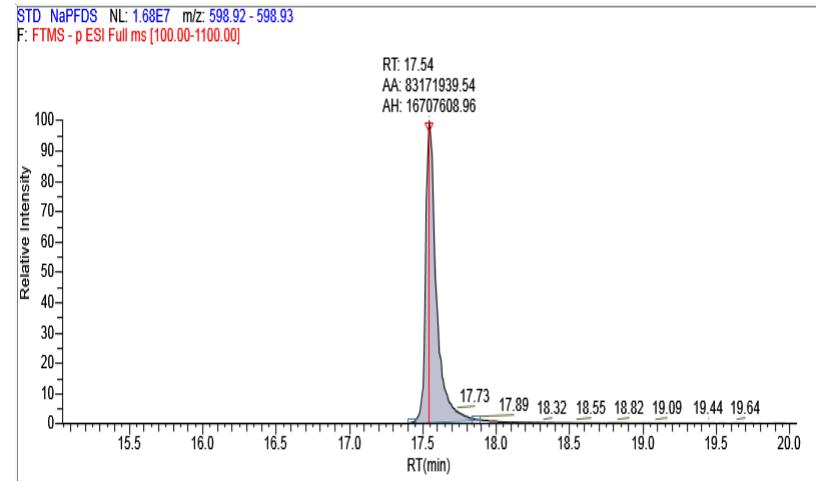
But Are Concentrations Significant?



Sample 116 PFDS 400K area



PFDS 80 ng/L unbranched standard
80E6 area



Summary and Questions



- The HRAM performance has better sensitivity than LC-MS/MS for EPA 539 and EPA 537 with additional confirmation such as product ions and a spectral library match.
- Further the same injection can be used for identification of non-target and unknowns simultaneously, using built in library, Sieve software, and/or looking for formation and degradation products using Compound discovery software.

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