Breaking Down the Barrier to Rapid Antibacterial Drug Levels with Paper Spray-Mass Spectrometry: Simultaneous Quantitation of Five βeta-lactams from Plasma

Lindsey M. Kirkpatrick, DO, PhD Indiana University School of Medicine Indianapolis, IN





Financial Disclosures:

• Thermo Fisher Scientific has provided travel compensation for one national conference to give a workshop about PS-MS/MS, but provides no other direct monetary support for my research

• I have no other relevant financial interests, arrangements, or affiliations to disclose



Learning Objectives

- Describe the problems facing clinicians in terms of ensuring appropriate drug levels in special populations, such as children
- Learn the most common methods for drug quantitation currently utilized by laboratories, as well as their strengths and limitations
- Name some ambient ionization methods that allow for the detection of analytes directly from crude samples
- Understand how paper spray mass spectrometry works and some of its potential applications for drug quantitation in the clinical laboratory



How Much Drug Is The Patient Really Seeing?



Taken from the show "Scrubs".

<u>Goal:</u> Develop better predictive models that take into account variable physiology, ontogeny, and disease state to inform more precise dosing in pediatric patients.





Drug Quantification Challenges in Medicine:



Acetaminophen Aspirin Ibuprofen Alcohols Caffeine Amikacin Gentamicin Tobramycin Vancomycin Aminophylline Carbamazepine Valproic acid

Phenytoin Lamictal Phenobarbital Topamax Lidocaine Digoxin Procainamide Cyclosporine Methotrexate Sirolimus Tacrolimus Theophylline

Most Common Methods for Drug Quantification:



https://www.thermofisher.com/order/cat alog/product/0373910

Immunoassays

High Performance-Liquid Chromatography (HPLC)



https://www.thermofisher.com/order/catalog/product /98630000



https://www.agilent.co m/en/products/liquidchromatography/infinit ylab-analytical-lcsolutions/



The Ideal On-site MS Analyzer of Biological Samples:

• Desktop size

- Fast turnaround time:
 <5 minutes
- Disposable cartridge
- Minimal sample

volume





Pictured: Agilent 6400 Triple Quadruple MS/Conceptualization

Widening the Scope of Chemical Analysis:

Extraction and Ionization

DESI







Mass Spectrometry









Paper Spray – Mass Spectrometry:



Quantitative Analysis by Paper Spray Mass Spectrometry:



Paper Spray Advantages and Disadvantages:



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No carryover Small sample volume Small solvent volume No solvent waste No sample prep Quick analysis No LC or GC system to maintain or troubleshoot

No analyte separation
Detection limits are not as good as some methods
Fewer described methods than LC- or GC-MS/MS

Goal LOD = $0.25 \mu g/mL$ Goal LLOQ = $1 \mu g/mL$ Goal ULOQ = $50 \mu g/mL$

Target Analytes:



Time-Dependent Killing: β-lactams







What About Anti-bacterial Agents?







Thermo Fisher TSQ Altis with Verispray source

thermo scientific TSQ ALTIS scientific thermoscientific VERISPRAY



Photos and information provided by Thermo Scientific[™]. This instrument is utilized for research purposes only.

Work the Problems: Six Sigma Lean



Visual taken from the Six Sigma Lean website

Challenges with Optimization: Fractional Factorial Design

Goal: Maximize analyte signal (AUC) and signal/blank ratio

Ampicillin = 1 µg/mL in plasma		Factors	Factor 1	Factor 2
		Pore size	<2 µm (Filter 1575)	16 µm (31-ET)
		Sample volume	1 µL	3 μL
		Solvent volume	40 µL	100 µL
Reduced number of experimental runs from thousands to <200		Solvent Type	60/30/10 ACN/THF/H ₂ 0 w/ 0.1% FA	90/10 THF/H ₂ 0 w/ 0.1% FA
		Paper wash	Wash (THF)	No wash
		Cut of paper	Bad	Good
		Solvent location	Front of paper	Back of paper 1

Challenges with Optimization: Fractional Factorial Design





19

Did It Work?

Goal LOD = 0.25 mcg/mLGoal LLOQ = 1 mcg/mL



All experiments run on a Thermo LTQ with Velox source

Challenges: Feasibility of Using Razor Cut Paper



All experiments run on a Thermo Altis with the Verispray source

Quick Recap:

Paper spray MS: a method for rapid drug quantitation by mass spectrometry with feasibility for near point-of-care implementation at the institutional level

- Legal and illicit drugs
- Immunosuppresants
- Tri-azole anti-fungal agents
- Many more applications...

Several limitations with hydrophilic drugs still need to be overcome

Other Applications:

- Other drug classes, including other anti-infectives
- Proteomics
- Biomarkers
- Metabolics/Lipidomics
- Bacterial and fungal differentiation from culture (phospholipids)
- And many more...



Future Directions:

Clinical application of the tri-azole anti-fungal and betalactam methods, as well as developing methods for other anti-microbials, to further develop physiologybased PK/PD and precision dosing models in pediatric populations

Advancements in automation: Integrated paper spray sources, plug and play technology

Advancements in micro-sampling: VP shunt sampling, heel sticks, VAMs







Acknowledgements:

Funding:

- NIH T32: Pediatric Clinical and Developmental Pharmacology
- Morris Green Scholars
 Professional Development
 Program

Other Research Support:

Thermo Fisher Scientific

Contact me: Lkirkpat@iu.edu



Special thanks to collaborators, Dr. Run Shi and Dr. El Taher M. El Gierari of Stanford Health Care and Dr. Thomas Davis and Dr. Christopher Emory of IU Health pathology laboratory, for providing remnant clinical samples.

Special thanks to my colleagues and mentors at the IU Health and Riley Hospital for Children Ryan White Center for Pediatric Infectious Diseases and Global Health



SRM Transition Selection for Quantitation: Selectivity is KEY!

- Isobaric analytes, isomeric analytes, and drug metabolites may be difficult to distinguish by MS/MS
- Fragment ions that will give good selectivity rather than most intense fragment ions should be chosen
- Small fragment ions tend to be less selective and should be avoided
- Fragments with common neutral losses, such as loss of water or ammonia, should be avoided due to poor selectivity and tendency to be higher in the blank signal



Manicke, N., et al, Anal. Methods, 2017, 9: 5037 - 5043.

How Many Analytes?

Each SRM channel must have an adequate number of scans

- 15 is typically sufficient for quantitation
- Number of scans depends on the analysis time, the dwell time for each SRM, and the number of SRM channels
- Longer ion dwell times improve sensitivity at the expense of the number of scans collected
- Analyst can vary analysis time
 - Longer times (2 minutes) for larger panels
 - Shorter times (~ 30 seconds) for small panels

More Information: Jett, et al., Analytical Methods 2017



Chronograms:

