Unifying characterization strategies for novel proteins and gene therapy products





Biopharmaceutical technology with application flexibility

Multiple applications for multiple molecules on SCIEX LC/MS and CE systems



mAbs and next-generation

protein therapeutics



Cell and gene therapy applications



Key workflows for the analysis of protein therapeutics

CHARACTERIZING PROTEIN-BASED PRODUCTS

LOLKSGTASVVCLLNNFYPREAKVØW DSTYSLSSTLTLSKADYEKHKVYACEVT PSVFIFPPSDEQLKSGTASVVCLLNNFYP SVTEQDSKDSTYSLSSTLTLSKADYEKH RGECTVAAPSVFIFPPSDEQLKSGTASVV LQSGNSQESVTEQDSKDSTYSLSSTLTL SPVTKSFNRGECTVAAPSVFIFPPSDEQL WKVDNALQSGNSQESVTEQDSKDST







Post-translational modifications

Deamidated amino acid isomerization and sulfated species Glycosylation, glycation and AGEs screening Fragments and impurities Process- and product-

related

Charge heterogeneity



Key workflows for the analysis of protein therapeutics

CHARACTERIZING PROTEIN-BASED PRODUCTS

QLKSGTASVVCLLNNFYPREAKVQVV DSTYSLSSTLTLSKADYEKHKVYACEV1 PSVFIFPPSDEQLKSGTASVVCLLNNFYF SVTEODSKDSTYSLSSTLTLSKADYEKH GECTVAAPSVFIEPPSDEOLKSGTASV LOSGNSQESVTEODSKDSTYSLSSTLTL SPVTKSFNRGECTVAAPSVFIFPPSDEQ WKVDNALQSGNSQESVTEQDSKDS

Post-translational modifications

Deamidated amino acid isomerization and sulfated species

- Deamidation of asparagine leads to an increase in negative charge to the antibody¹ can greatly affect the structure, function and stability of protein therapeutics¹
 - Effects of deamidation on stability or function of mAbs¹, adenoassociated virus (AAV) capsid proteins² and SARS-CoV-2 spike protein³ have been reported
- Sulfation has an impact on antigen binding and biological activity of mAbs
 - Tyrosine sulfation proteoforms affected the potency of a potential drug candidate for HIV-1 prevention, demonstrating the important modification is a potential CQA⁴.

¹Gupta S. et al. Oxidation and deamidation of monoclonal antibody products: potential impact on stability, biological Activity, and efficacy. J Pharm Sci. 2021, 111: 903-918. ²Giles AR. et al. Deamidation of amino acids on the surface of adeno-associated virus capsids leads to charge heterogeneity and altered vector function. Mol. Ther. 2018. 26:2848. ³Lorenzo R. et al. Deamidation drives molecular aging of the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein receptor-binding motif. J. Biol. Chem 2021, 297:101175. ⁴Cindy Cai, Nicole Doria-Rose, et al. (2022) Ty rosine O-sulf ation proteof orms affect HIV-1 monoclonal antibody potency. Sci. Reports. 12: 8433.



Differentiation of deamidation isomers



- Differentiation of Asp vs. isoAsp isomers is challenging when using their elution pattern alone or collision-based MS/MS approaches
- EAD generates signature
 fragments (c + 57 and z 57 for isoAsp and z 44
 for Asp) for confident
 differentiation of these 2
 amino acid isomers



Deamidation isomers in heat-stressed NISTmAb



Elucidation of a complex deamidation profile using EAD



Singly deamidated species



Doubly deamidated species



Triply deamidated species



Positive and negative EAD of sulfated peptides

Positive EAD (15 eV)

Negative EAD (24 eV)



The tunability of electron KE in EAD enabled the detection of sulfate-containing fragments (dominated by *a* type) in both positive and negative modes, leading to accurate localization of this challenging modification.

Accurate localization of labile tyrosine sulfation in peptides using electron activation dissociation (EAD). SCIEX technicahote, RUO-MKT-02-14045-A.

Glycosylation, glycation, and advanced glycation end-products

CHARACTERIZING PROTEIN-BASED PRODUCTS



Glycosylation, glycation and AGEs screening

- Glycosylation is a common post-translational modification (PTM) which plays a critical role in antibody effector functions
 - Comprehensive characterization of N- and O-linked glycosylation in protein therapeutics is essential for ensuring drug safety and efficacy
- Glycation is a common non-enzymatic modification that can occur during fermentation and/or storage.¹ Protein therapeutics modified with glycation may undergo degradation to produce AGEs.
 - Glycation and AGEs increase product heterogeneity and can lead to protein aggregation and the expression of AGEs-specific receptors and cause adverse immune responses *in vivo*



¹Anna Robotham and John Kelly (2020) LC-MS characterization of antibody-based therapeutics: recent highlights and future prospects. Approaches to the Purification, Analysis and Characterization of Antibody-Based Therapeutics. Chapter 1: 1-33.

Biologics Explorer software 3.0: middle-down analysis of mAbs

MIDDLE-DOWN ANALYSIS OF MABS WITH THE ZENOTOF 7600 SYSTEM

 Streamlined middle-down workflow combines the benefits of EAD from the ZenoTOF 7600 system and automatic data analysis using Biologics Explorer software. It significantly reduces time and effort spent on method development and provides reproducibly high sequence coverages for mAb subunits in a single injection.





Biologics Explorer software 3.0: middle-down analysis of mAbs

SIMPLE, PRODUCTIVE WORKFLOW FOR SEQUENCE & PTM CONFIRMATION



Automatically annotated EAD spectra



Biologics Explorer software

NEXT GENERATION BIOPHARMA SOFTWARE

Biologics Explorer software delivers highly accurate and informative workflows for full characterization of protein biotherapeutics.

Current workflows include:

- Middle-down analysis
- Intact and subunit analysis
- Peptide mapping by EAD or CID
- Disulfide bond analysis
- PTM determination, including MAM



Glycan localization and isomer differentiation



EAD resulted in excellent fragmentation of the O-linked glycopeptide backbone and the formation of glycan-containing fragments, allowing accurate localization of the O-linked glycan and confident differentiation of two positional isomers (S vs. T glycosylated)

Accurate localization of multiple O-linked glycans



Excellent EAD data led to accurate localization of glycosylation for etanercept glycopeptides carrying as many as 7 O-linked glycan moieties.



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Differentiation of positional isomers



2 isomeric glycopeptides carrying 6 O-linked glycans can be confidently differentiated by EAD despite a minor difference in the position of 1 Olinked glycan

Challenges with glycation and AGE characterization



- Glycated peptides and AGEs are difficult to fragment by CID
- CID leads to preferential cleavage of H₂O from the hexose moiety and low yield of sequence ions
- Enzymatic digestion of glycated or AGE species, in which Lys and/or Arg residues are modified, leads to the formation of many long peptides containing the glycation and/or AGE moieties. The length of these species poses an additional challenge to CID.

Comprehensive characterization of glycation in protein therapeutics using electron activated dissociation (EAD). SCIEX technical note, RUO-MKT-02-15020-A. Comprehensive characterization of advanced glycation end products (AGEs) in protein therapeutics using electron activated dis sociation (EAD). SCIEX technical note, RUO-MKT-02-15080-A. RUO-MKT-02-15088-A.

Simultaneous localization of multiple modifications



Excellent EAD data allowed for simultaneous localization of 3 modifications, including 1 N-linked glycan (G1F) on an Asn residue, 1 AGE moiety (3DG-H) on an Arg residue, and 1 glycation residue (Hex) on a Lys residue. Such depth of information cannot be achieved using CID.

EAD of AGEs in low abundance



- Traditional low-energy ExD approaches suffer from low sensitivity
- EAD platform method provided excellent fragmentation of AGEs with relative abundance as low as ~0.1%, demonstrating the high sensitivity of the approach



CML: carboxymethyl, CEL: carboxyethyl

Released N-linked glycan analysis on the BioPhase 8800 system



BioPhase Fast Glycan Labeling and Analysis kit



BioPhase 8800 software 1.2 (or greater) with glycan analysis module



Screen your released glycans

FAST, PARALLEL SEPARATIONS WITH AUTOMATED SAMPLE PREP AND ANALYSIS CAPABILITIES

- Screen while maintaining resolution
 - 1 minute per sample, cycle time of 8 minutes per injection
 - <0.1 %RSD with glycan panel</p>
- All-inclusive released N-glycan sample prep kit
- Automatable sample preparation
- Default or customizable glucose unit (GU) libraries
- Improved data processing



Glycan screening of human serum IgG on the BioPhase 8800 system. 1) M5, 2) FA2, 3) FA2B, 4) FA2(6)G1, 5) FA2(3)G1 and 6) FA2G2.



Highly reproducible glycan separations

<1 MIN PER SAMPLE WITH INTRA-CAPILLARY REPRODUCIBILITY < 0.1%



8 representative electropherograms for a 9-glycan panel separation collected in parallel on the BioPhase 8800 system with high intra-capillary (n=72) and inter-capillary (n=576) reproducibility.



Characterizing protein fragments and impurities

HIGH-RESOLUTION PROTEIN SIZING AND QUANTIFICATION



Fragments and impurities

Process- and productrelated

- Determine product-related impurities including protein fragments and size variants
- Quantify process-related impurities including cell culture additives
- Key workflow:
 - Capillary gel electrophoresis using sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS-CGE)



The BioPhase 8800 system

Robustness

Designed for robustness, hardware and software advances ensure repeatability and increased reliability

Software

Reimagined software makes getting results quick and easy. Simple drag-and-drop functionality for method and sequence creation complements innovative data analysis to accelerate characterization from start-to-finish



Pre-assembled reagents/consumables

Simplify operation and minimize user error

Flexibility

Flexible for your workflow requirements, switching between UV and LIF detection is simple and seamless. Integrated detection modules make it easy to go from one assay to the next, without sacrificing consistency or performance

Compatibility

96-well plates are designed to ANSI/SLAS standards and are conveniently compatible with commercial liquid handling systems



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Throughput improvement on CE-SDS assay





Original SCIEX CE-SDS method settings on the BioPhase 8800 system



Cycle time 50–60 min (8 samples)

6.25 min (R) and 7.5 min (NR)/sample

High separation efficiency



Decreasing cycle time by shortening separation time



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Decreasing cycle time by shortening rinse time



Condition	Method	Cycle time	Min/sample	Hours/plate	Samples/hour			
Reduced IaG	Lightning	34 min	4.3	6.9	14			
Neudceu igo	Original	50 min	6.25	10	9			
Non-reduced lgG	Lightning	44 min	5.5	8.8	11			
	Original	60 min	7.5	12	8			



Reproducibility of lightning CE-SDS

CONSISTENT SEPARATION PROFILE OVER 24 CONSECUTIVE INJECTIONS (192 REPS)



Rapid characterization of protein therapeutic charge variants

HIGH PRECISION ANALYSIS OF CHARGE HETEROGENEITY



Charge heterogeneity

- Rapid characterization of protein therapeutic charge variants can be challenging for the growing number and wider variety of new modality drug candidates.
- Protein therapeutic charge variant assessment is essential at different manufacturing stages as they are subjected to instability, causing alterations in their primary amino acid sequence and variable post-translational modification (PTM)
- Key workflows:
 - Capillary isoelectric focusing (cIEF)
 - Imaged capillary isoelectric focusing coupled to mass spectrometry (icIEF-MS)



¹Anna Robotham and John Kelly (2020) LC-MS characterization of antibody-based therapeutics: recent highlights and future prospects. Approaches to the Purification, Analysis and Characterization of Antibody-Based Therapeutics. Chapter 1: 1-33.

New cIEF features simplify analysis





New cIEF features simplify analysis



BioPhase 8800 system

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	4	[pl 5.5]	34.4667	34.4667	5.67	34.3542	34.5542	123036.7969	380767.0938	20.32	3682.47						Ctr 🗸			
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Peak grouping as you want it



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USP IgG


cIEF assay repeatability



6 REPLICATE ANALYSIS FOR NIST IgG





Capillary	Total corrected area Avg	% Basic corrected area			% Main corrected a rea		% Acidic corrected area			
									Calibrated main pl	
		%RSD	Avg	%RSD	Avg	%RSD	Avg	%RSD	Avg	%RSD
Α	19595.9	2.7	11.6	0.8	69.5	0.2	18.9	0.8	9.08	0.1
В	20016.0	4.0	11.7	1.7	68.6	0.4	19.6	1.0	9.08	0.0
С	20769.4	2.9	11.7	1.0	68.8	0.8	19.5	3.1	9.08	0.1
D	20908.0	0.2	11.8	2.0	67.9	0.3	20.3	0.2	9.08	0.0
E	22005.1	2.4	11.7	1.0	68.6	0.5	19.7	1.8	9.08	0.0
F	21339.3	1.7	11.7	0.7	68.6	0.6	19.6	1.8	9.08	0.0
G	20622.4	3.9	11.6	1.7	68.8	0.3	19.6	1.3	9.08	0.1
Н	20010.0	3.7	11.5	1.1	68.4	0.9	20.1	3.7	9.08	0.1
Avg	20658.3		11.7		68.7		19.7		9.08	
%RSD	3.8		0.8		0.7		2.1		0.02	









Trastuzumab





ADC: Ado-trastuzumab emtansine





Bi-specific: emicizumab-kxwh





Key workflows for the analysis of AAV therapies

CHARACTERIZING AAV-BASED PRODUCTS





Viral protein

purity

Drug substance and drug

product analysis





Capsid protein characterization

Intact, sub-unit and peptide mapping

Genome integrity

Transgene sizing and process related impurities

Full and empty

Determination of full capsid percent



Intact mass analysis of capsid proteins

UTILIZING RECOMBINANT AAV8



Capsid protein characterization

Intact, sub-unit, and peptide mapping

- AAV capsid proteins are made up of viral protein 1 (VP1), viral protein 2 (VP2) and viral protein 3 (VP3)
 - Each is ~60-82 kDa protein derived from the same genome through alternative splicing
 - Characterization is necessary to confirm proper expression and identify modifications or impurities



LC-MS workflows for capsid protein characterization



LC-MS workflows for capsid protein characterization





Intact mass analysis of AAVs



LC-MS workflows for capsid protein characterization



Peptide mapping analysis



PTM characterization



Superior PTM characterization

EAD SPECTRA OF YGPFNGLDK (2+)

- Retention time is not an accurate measure to differentiate between Asp and isoAsp
- However, the different deamidated species could be identified as Asp and isoAsp through Zeno EAD
 - Asp produces descriptive fragment z-44
- IsoAsp produces descriptive fragment z-57 27.4 (B) L-isoAsp 4e4 cps 3e4 Intensity, 2e4 **D**-isoAsp 28.0 (C) **Native** 30.1 (D) Asp 1e4 26.1 0e0 27 30 25 26 28 29 31 Time, min



Understanding capsid protein quality

VIRAL PROTEIN RATIO AND IMPURITY ASSESSMENT





Quantitative ratio and impurity assessment

- Purity analysis of the AAV viral proteins is important for quality assurance and safety of AAV products
- High-sensitivity detection is required to analyze low-titer samples from process development
- Key workflow:
 - Capillary electrophoresis sodium dodecyl sulfate with laser induced fluorescence detection (CE-SDS-LIF)



Technologies for AAV capsid purity analysis

CHALLENGES WITH EXISTING METHODOLOGIES

• SDS-PAGE



• RP-HPLC





Capillary electrophoresis with sodium dodecyl sulfate

CE-SDS ANALYSIS OF VIRAL CAPSID PROTEINS



AAV viral protein characterization

1 WORKFLOW FOR MULTIPLE AAV SEROTYPES





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AAV titer determination

FAST STANDARD CURVE GENERATION



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AAV capsid protein titer determination

Separation of p503-labeled AAV capsid proteins Standard curve from serially diluted standard with known titer Corrected peak area of VP3 vs. AAV titer VP3 1250 140 **CE-LIF** 021 area 100 $R^2 = 0.9973$ 1000 100 peak ice Units (RFU) 80 750 Corrected 60 VP2 VP1 Rel. Fluoresce 40 500 VP3 20 Impurity 250 0.00E+00 1.00E+13 2.00E+13 3.00E+13 AAV titer (GC/ml) 0.8 0.9 1.1 1.2 1 LOD: 1.60E+9 GC/mL LOQ: 6.40E+9 GC/mL Relative migration time



Genome integrity and sizing

PRODUCT- AND PROCESS-RELATED IMPURITIES ANALYSIS



Genome integrity

Transgene sizing and process related impurities

- Quality of the transgene inside a viral vector impacts the infectivity, efficacy and safety of the gene therapy
- The transgene in the genome cassette could be
 - Not present (empty capsid)
 - Not present (partial capsid)
 - Truncated (partial capsid)
 - Not present, but capsid has contaminant fragments from host cell or plasmid (nuclease-resistant)
- Key workflow:
 - Capillary gel electrophoresis with laser-induced fluorescence detection (CGE-LIF)



AAV genome integrity analysis workflows



AAV genome integrity analysis workflows

TWO SAMPLE PREPARATION OPTIONS FOR PRODUCT AND PROCESS IMPURITIES



Product-related impurities

Product- and process-related impurities



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High-resolution genome integrity analysis





High-resolution genome integrity analysis



AAV2 with different genome sizes



AAV genome integrity analysis for multiple AAV serotypes

HIGH-THROUGHPUT, SEROTYPE-INDEPENDENT WORKFLOW





AAV genome titer determination on the BioPhase 8800 system



Full and empty capsid ratio monitoring

ANALYSIS OF THE ASSEMBLED DRUG SUBSTANCE



Full and empty

Determination of full capsid percent

- Full capsids deliver intact transgene into target cells
- Full capsids directly impact the potency of AAV therapeutics
- Monitoring full and empty capsid ratio is important during process optimization to remove empty and partial capsids for better efficacy and safety of AAV-based gene therapy
- Key workflow:
 - Calculating empty-to-full product ratio from protein and genome titer assays



Full and empty capsid workflow

• Comprehensive analysis of **AAV critical quality attributes** (CQAs) using a highthroughput method on a single **multi-capillary** electrophoresis (CE) platform



A novel approach for high-resolution full and empty AAV capsid analysis



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Full and empty ratio analysis with the BioPhase 8800 system

- AAV8 reference standard from
 Vigene was used as the test sample
- Value A from genome integrity analysis by CE: 2.21E+12 GC/mL
- Value B from AAV capsid analysis by CE: 2.65E+12 GC/mL
- Full capsids% in the AAV8 test sample:

(2.21E+12 GC/mL / 2.65E+12 GC/mL)*100 = 83.40%





Comparison of methods for determining full and empty ratio



Reference: Vigene w ebinars:

https://www.vigenebio.com/news-events/join-vigenes-webinars-about-gmp-productigenetivirus-and-plasmids-at-asgct-virtual-conference/#AAVRMCase



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LOLKSGTASVVCLLNNFYPREAKVØW DSTYSLSSTLTLSKADYEKHKVYACEVT PSVFIFPPSDEQLKSGTASVVCLLNNFYP SVTEQDSKDSTYSLSSTLTLSKADYEKH RGECTVAAPSVFIFPPSDEQLKSGTASVV LQSGNSQESVTEQDSKDSTYSLSSTLTL SPVTKSFNRGECTVAAPSVFIFPPSDEQL WKVDNALQSGNSQESVTEQDSKDST







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QLKSGTASVVCLLNNFYPREAKVQW DSTYSLSSTLTLSKADYEKHKVYACEV PSVFIEPPSDEQLKSGTASVVCLLNNFYF EODSKDSTYSLSSTLTLSKADYEKH TVAAPSVFIEPPSDEOLKSGTASV LOSGNSOESVTEODSKDSTYSLSSTLTL SPVTKSFNRGECTVAAPSVFIFPPSDEQ WKVDNALQSGNSQESVTEQDSKDS



















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