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TO STUDY THE DETERMINATION OF PHYSIOLOGICAL PERFORMANCE OF DRUGS IN VARIOUS BIOLOGICAL FLUIDS BY DIRECT INJECTION OF SAMPLES FOR LIQUID - CHROMATOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS.

Indu Kumari
Department of chemistry
Sunrise University Alwar Rajasthan (India)

ABSTRACT

Liquid chromatography, often known as LC, is a very effective analytical method that is utilized for the accurate evaluation of drug concentration and performance in a variety of biological fluids, including plasma, serum, urine, and saliva. The direct injection of biological materials for liquid chromatography analysis is a method that is both straightforward and effective. This method reduces the amount of time and effort required for significant sample preparation, extraction, or derivatization stages. Through the use of this technology, pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic investigations may be conducted with greater precision and throughput. This method makes it possible to conduct quick examination of medicines and their metabolites. The simultaneous analysis of several chemicals is made possible by this method, which improves the capabilities of drug monitoring and detection in clinical and forensic applications. This approach offers great sensitivity and specificity in the detection of trace quantities of pharmaceuticals. It does this by optimizing the parameters of the chromatographic process, which includes the selection of mobile phases, stationary phases, and detection modalities (such as ultraviolet, fluorescence, or mass spectrometry). In the fields of pharmaceutical research, clinical diagnostics, and drug development, direct injection LC techniques are an invaluable instrument because of their compatibility with automation, reduced sample handling, and less danger of contamination. Some of the key advantages of these methods include the reduction of sample handling. Nevertheless, obstacles such as matrix effects and the requirement for robust column selection continue to be obstacles that must be overcome in order to get optimal results.

Keywords : analysis, drug abuse, high-performance liquid chromatography

INTRODUCTION

When it comes to understanding the pharmacokinetics (absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion) and pharmacodynamics (biological effects) of drugs, the study of drug behavior in biological systems is absolutely necessary. Protein precipitation, extraction, and derivatization are some of the stages that are commonly included in the traditional methods of detecting drug concentrations in biological fluids. These procedures often take a significant amount of sample preparation effort. Although these processes are successful, they frequently require a significant amount of time and work, and they have the potential to introduce unpredictability and contamination. Due to its great accuracy, sensitivity, and capacity to separate

complicated mixtures, liquid chromatography (LC) has emerged as the gold standard for drug analysis. This is because LC, when paired with other methods such as mass spectrometry (MS), achieves unprecedented levels of separation. An novel method that aims to simplify the analytical procedure is the direct infusion of biological fluids for liquid chromatography (LC) analysis. By reducing the amount of sample handling, minimizing preparation mistakes, and increasing overall analytical efficiency, this approach decreases the amount of time spent on sample handling by injecting samples directly into the chromatographic system without requiring extensive pre-treatment. For the purpose of monitoring drug levels and determining the efficacy and toxicity of the drugs being studied, pharmacokinetic studies frequently make use of biological fluids as matrices. Examples of such fluids include plasma, urine, and cerebrospinal fluid. Direct injection is a strategy that is particularly useful in clinical, forensic, and toxicological contexts, which are all places where it is essential to have data that is both trustworthy and quick. The most recent developments in liquid chromatography (LC) systems, such as high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) and ultra-performance liquid chromatography (UPLC), have made it possible to analyze drugs and metabolites in these fluids with minimal sample preparation, while still maintaining high levels of sensitivity and specificity. Despite the fact that this method has a number of benefits, it also provides a number of obstacles. One of these issues is the possibility of matrix effects, which are brought about by the intricate composition of biological fluids and have the ability to disrupt chromatographic performance. For this reason, it is vital to optimize chromatographic parameters such as column selection, mobile phase composition, and detector sensitivity in order to guarantee accurate and reproducible findings. The purpose of this research is to investigate the use of direct injection liquid chromatography (LC) techniques for the purpose of determining the amounts of drugs in a variety of biological fluids. In this technique, the focus is on evaluating the physiological performance of medications using efficient, high-throughput analysis with little sample preparation. This strategy addresses both the benefits and the issues that come along with it.

Drugs of Abuse

There are numerous sorts of medications that have been abused, and this has led to serious worries regarding the health of humans. As shown in Figure 1, the number of individuals who were taken into custody in Japan in 2022 for a variety of drug-related offenses is displayed. During the year 2022, there were 524 people under the age of 20 who were arrested for offenses utilizing stimulants. The majority of these individuals were members of parliament. Nevertheless, the quantity of pills that have been confiscated that contain MDMA is rapidly increasing, despite the fact that the illegal use of MDMA is lower than that of MP-containing pills. There were 39,3062 MDMA tablets that were seized in Japan in the year 2022.

Getting the materials ready for chromatographic analysis, whether that be through liquid-liquid or solid-phase extraction (SPE), is typically the part of any study that takes the biggest amount of time. Moreover, these methods have additional downsides that should be considered. When extracting liquids from liquids, it is frequently necessary to use a large quantity of solvents of a high purity, and the process is not simple to automate. Traditional solid-phase extraction (SPE) provides a great deal of versatility; however, automating the process typically requires a great deal of high-purity solvents and expensive robotic instruments.

Before doing an HPLC analysis, it is standard procedure to eliminate macromolecular components from samples. Examples of such substances include proteins. This is due to the fact that these compounds are either denatured by the remaining silanol groups on the chromatographic support or precipitated by the greater amounts of organic solvents that are present in the mobile phase. In the field of bioanalysis, the introduction of new column packing materials has made it feasible to inject untreated bio fluids directly and frequently. This has made it possible to do automated LC-integrated sample preparation. Initially, the sample is separated into a sample matrix before being subjected to analysis with a particular extraction column is performed. The newly developed bimodal restricted access material (RAM) makes it possible to do liquid-solid extraction online, while at the same time extracting and enriching low-molecular weight target compounds (such as pharmaceuticals) and entirely rejecting macromolecules with an adsorption size greater than 15,000. The following are some benefits of LC-integrated sample clean-up of fluids employing coupled-column switching and materials like LiChrospher RP-18 ADS (alkyl-diol-silica): extensive matrix removal, on-column analyte enrichment, quantitative matrix-independent recovery, complete automation, safe handling of infectious or hazardous samples, high number of analysis cycles, low costs per analysis, and repeated direct injection of untreated fluids. Regrettably, there is no one strategy that can ensure all of the possibilities. A larger injection volume, for example, suggests a higher sensitivity; nevertheless, it also decreases the number of analyses and increases costs. In addition, it reduces the number of analyses.
The following drugs and metabolites were tested in an automated two column high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) system using the new packing material LiChrospher RP-18 ADS: articaine, detajmium, ajmaline, lamotrigine, oxprenolol, triamterene, celiprolol, metoprolol, trimethoprim, tiracizine, articaine, supernatants of cell cultures, and supernatants after protein denaturation.

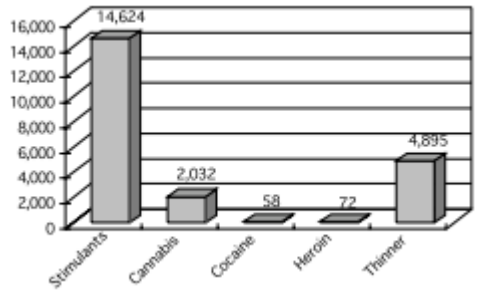

Fig.1 Number of Arrestees for Representative Drugs of Abuse in Japan in 2022

METHODOLOGY

The ways to detecting PLCs High-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) is a technology that is quite versatile. Multiple spectroscopy (MS), electrochemistry, fluorescence, and ultraviolet (UV) detection are the four most common methods of detection. In order to improve the sensitivity of HPLC-UV and -FL techniques, it is often required to employ a derivatization approach. LC-MS is the method of choice when it comes to accurately determining the presence of a wide variety of chemicals, including amphetamines, to a high degree of sensitivity. Because of its status as a conventional approach, gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS) has been widely utilized in forensic and toxicological investigations ever since it was first introduced.

Due to the fact that it requires derivatization in order to make the target molecules more volatile, gas chromatography is not very useful for analyzing compounds that dissolve in water: unfortunately. On the other hand, derivatization of target compounds is typically not required for LCMS. On the other hand, one of the most significant advantages of analytical methods is the time they save. Because of this, liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry is progressively becoming the method of choice, replacing gas chromatography-mass spectrometry. The rapid emergency drug identification high-sensitivity (REMEDi-HS) system, which makes use of high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC), has been implemented in emergency hospitals in order to detect drugs and other chemicals that are toxic.

ANALYSIS OF BIOLOGIC SAMPLES

A Sample of Blood The most common sample that is used for the purpose of determining the presence of illegal chemicals such as opiates and amphetamines is urine. Some of the many practical processes that make use of high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) are described below. The enantiomers of MP and its metabolite amphetamine (AP) were sensitively detected by FL detection. This was accomplished through derivatization with 4-(4,5-diphenyl1H-imidazol-2-yl)benzoyl chloride (DIB-Cl). P-hydroxymethamphetamine, as well as S(+)- and R(-)-enantiomers, were found in urine samples taken from 19 Japanese individuals who had abused the substance. The S(+)-Minto metabolite, which is connected to AP, possesses a significantly higher degree of N-demethylation in comparison to the R(-)-enantiomer. All of the achiral and chiral quantifications of MP and AP were carried out with the assistance of a semi-microcolumn separation with DIBCl as a label.

The typical RP-column was also utilized in order to identify the presence of methamphetamines in human urine. The presence of AP and its metabolite, p-hydroxyamphetamine, was sensitively determined in rat urine using dabsyl chloride, which was fluorescently tagged both substances. Recovery rates for ap and p-hydroxyamphetamine were respectively 97% and 94%. Both of these substances were recovered. 10 mg was the maximum amount that the technique could detect for each of the drugs. Additionally, we were able to screen for and quantify MP after performing dansyl chloride derivatization and solid-phase extraction with high-performance liquid chromatography-fluorescence detection; GC-MS.

The correlation between HPLC and GC-MS was found to be quite strong (r = 0.95), when it comes to urinary MP. Using o-phtaldialdehyde and nacetyl-L-cysteine as labeling reagents, an automated HPLC-FL or -UV system was developed for AP. This system utilized a columnswitching and on-column derivatization process. Also included in this system was a column switching mechanism. The method that has been given is not only speedy but also simple to put into action; the entire analysis should not take more than eight minutes. The limits of detection for UV detection were 25ng/ml, but for FL detection, they were 10 ng/ml. UV detection was used to detect anything. Through the utilization of high-performance liquid chromatography-ultraviolet (HPLC-UV) with a column-switching technique and a phenyl-βcyclodextrin-bonded semi-microcolumn, in conjunction with a strong cation-exchange precolumn (SCX), the enantiomers of MP were directly identified. Both enantiomers were able to be detected at a concentration of 0.1µg/ml.Precolumn derivatization with 9-

fluorenylmethyl chloroformate was utilized in order to successfully identify N-Methylephedrine, which is classified as a tertiary AP. In terms of detection, the limit of detection was 0.1 µg/ml, while the limit of quantification was 0.5 µg/ml. The detection of APs and ephedrines was accomplished in a speedy and uncomplicated manner by utilizing diode arrays and solid-phase extraction. The majority of the patients, at least 85 percent, were able to recover. It was determined that the detection thresholds for ephedrine and AP in human urine were 0.2 and 0.5 mg/ml, respectively. AP, MP, and their derivatives were screened and identified using immunochemical (Triage and fluorescence polarization immunoassay, or FPIA) and chromatographic (REMEDi) procedures.

These methods were utilized for screening and identification purposes. With minimal rates of false positives and negatives, REMEDi was able to provide data on a single drug and its major metabolites that were present in the samples for analysis. DimethylamphetamineN-oxide, the major metabolite of dimethylamphetamine, as well as additional metabolites MP and AP, were all evaluated concurrently using LC-electrospray ionization (ESI)-MS in the selected ion monitoring (SIM) mode.

This was done in order to determine all of the metabolites simultaneously. Using a semimicro SCX column, we were able to reach detection limits that varied from 5 to 50 nuclear grams per milliliter. An investigation was conducted to determine whether or not selegiline-N-oxide, a specific metabolite of selegiline, could serve as a novel marker of selegiline administration in the treatment of Perkinson diseases. Analyzing the metabolites of selegiline in urine is essential in order to differentiate between the usage of selegiline and the use of MP. The urine was the first place where a number of selegiline metabolites, such as selegiline-N-oxide, AP, and desmethyl selegiline, were discovered.

Blood Samples

Through the examination of blood samples, it is possible to determine the extent of drug use that has taken place in the short term. With that being said, there are a few obstacles to overcome from a legal aspect when it comes to collecting blood samples from abusers. It was feasible to identify MP and AP in human plasma samples by using FL detection with DIB-Cl as the labeling reagent. This analysis was carried out. There was a detection of plasma values that were lower than 0.87 ng/ml. Both of the cases involved MP that was consumed in an illegal manner, and the method was applied in both of them. A simultaneous determination of free-form AM in rat blood and brain was accomplished through the utilization of in vivo micro dialysis, with dansyl chloride serving as the FL-label.

There have been reports published regarding the pharmacokinetic properties of AP in the blood and brain of rats. Microdialysis of rat brain and blood samples was performed with HPLC-FL with DIB-Cl as the label. The drugs phentermine and fenfluramine, which are used to treat obesity, were assessed. The excellent sensitivity of the approach was demonstrated by the fact that it detected less than 23 fmol (signal-to-noise ratio = 3) of both compounds on the column. In order to evaluate the cardiovascular agent pholedrine (4′-hydroxymethamphetamine), an ion-pair reagent known as bis (2-ethylhexyl)phosphoric acid was utilized in the process of amperometric detection. In addition, LC-MS/MS was utilized in the investigation of pholedrine

in accordance with a fatal poisoning case. Having a low limit of quantification of 3 ng/ml (S/N = 10) and a limit of detection of 0.8 ng/ml (S/N = 3), the method that was developed is extremely sensitive.

For the purpose of analyzing underivatized APs and phenethylamines, we utilized LC-atmospheric pressure chemical ionization (APCI)-MS methodology in conjunction with solid-phase extraction. Among the substances that were examined were AP, MP, and illegal designer phenethylamines such as MDEA, MDMA, MBDB, and BDMPEA. Additionally, other phenetylamines such as benzyl-1-phenylethylamine, cathinone, ephedrine, fenfluramine, norfenfluramine, phentermine, 1-phenylethylamine, phenylpropanolamine, and propylhexedrine were also examined. According to the results, the recovery rates ranged from 58% to 96%, while the detection limits were found to be between 1 and 5 µg/l serum.Using HPLC-AP-ESI, it was possible to identify chemicals in plasma that were toxicologically significant; hence, the possibility of constructing a drug library was studied.

For the purpose of extracting forty different drugs, the patient samples and the spiked blank plasma were utilized.

Over ninety-five percent of the identifications were correct as a result of using the MS library to search for noteworthy chromatogram peaks. The identification of paramethoxyamphetamine and other amphetamine-related synthetic compounds, such as MDMA, AP, and MDA, was accomplished through the utilization of LC in conjunction with sonic spray ionization MS. In order to generate weighted (1/x) quadratic calibration curves for samples of blood and urine (with concentrations ranging from 10 to 1000 ng/ml) and tissue (with concentrations ranging from 20 to 2021 ng/g), correlation coefficients greater than 0.995 were utilized. For the purpose of conducting sensitivity tests on selegiline and its three metabolites, the LC-APCI-MS/MS technique was utilized. The quantitative accuracy of the extracted plasma samples was maintained even after holding them for up to seventy hours at room temperature or seven days at a temperature of -20 degrees Celsius. The quantification limits for selegiline and N desmethylselegiline were 0.1 ng/ml, while the limits for MP and AP were 0.2 mg/ml.

Hair Samples

Hair is a desirable sample for forensic and toxicological research studies due to the fact that it has been used for medication for a significant amount of time, that it is very easy to handle in comparison to other biologic samples, and that it is quite stable. Additionally, segmental hair analysis has the potential to shed light on a person's history of abuse. DIB-Cl was used as a label in an extremely sensitive HPLC-FL detection method that was developed for the purpose of determining AP-related compounds such as MDMA, MDA, AP, and MP. As seen in Figure 2, preliminary chromatograms are displayed.

There is a detection range for these drugs that ranges from 11 to 200 pg/mg hair. The findings of utilizing the method to identify MDMA and MDA in the hair of a person who had a history of abusing MDMA are displayed in Figure 3.24. This methodology was also used to shed light on the effects of the chemical. With the help of the DIB-Cl derivatization method, we were able to identify minute amounts of MP and AP in the

hair samples of a person who had utilized substance addiction. Through the utilization of enantiomer-specific FL detection and DIB-Cl as a marker, an additional approach was developed for the detection of MPs in the hair of abusers. To build segment analysis for MP and AP, we utilized FL detection with DIB-Cl as a label. This allowed us to create segment analysis. A segment analysis was carried out on hair samples using segments that were one centimeter in length. None of the four samples had any AP or MP enantiomers other than their S(+) versions.

This was the case all of the time. Moreover, single-hair examinations of abusers were carried out by employing chiral and achiral semi-microcolumn high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) techniques, with fluorescence detection carried out with DIB-Cl. A total of eight victims from Japan whose hair was examined had been found to contain S(+)-Enantiomers. The achiral method was utilized in order to investigate the levels of these compounds that were found in individual strands of black and white hair belonging to abusers.

Utilizing HPLC-FL with DIBCl as a label, an analysis was performed to determine whether or not fenfluramine and norfenfluramine were present in human hair. In the case of N-nitrosofenfluramine, also known as N-Fen, these metabolites function as biomarkers. The results of the study indicate that it is conceivable that the patients had been using N-Fen for a period of at least five months. Researchers utilized the chemiluminescence detection method in order to gain an understanding of the various ways in which the hair of abusers would respond to treatments such as permanent wave, dye, and decolorant. The amounts of both substances decreased for every single one of them. According to the findings of the research, hair treatments like such may make it more difficult to identify MP and AP.

In order to determine all eight underivatized APs (ephedrine, methcathinone, p-methoxyamphetamine, MP, MDA, MDMA, and MDEA) in hair at the same time, we utilized LC-APCI-MS. The first step was to dissolve the analytes in 1 M sodium hydroxide. The extraction process was then carried out with 1-chlorobutane. Different detection limits were found, ranging from 0.05 to 0.2 ng/g of hair. An application of the procedure was carried out using 93 genuine hair samples that were provided by subjects who were undergoing detoxification and methadone treatment. Utilizing a capillary in-tube solid-phase micro extraction that was coated with polypyrrole allowed for the simultaneous testing of stimulants in spiked human hair samples. This was accomplished through the utilization of ES/MS detection.

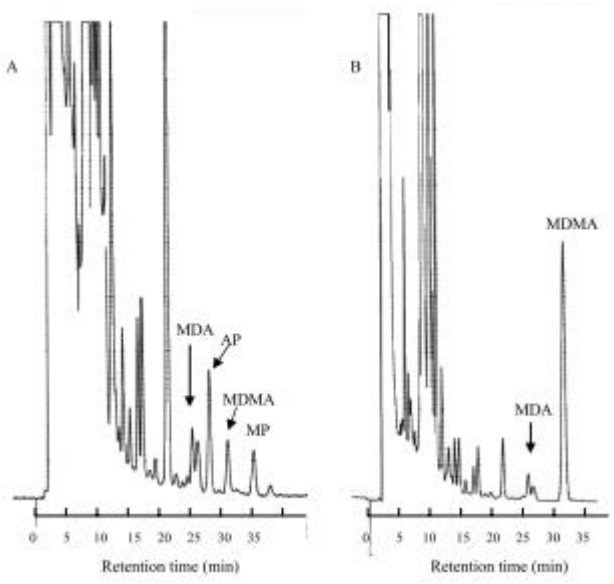

Fig.2 The chromatograms of (A) human hair from a control subject that had been spiked with MDA and AP at 1 ng/mg, MDMA at 2 ng/mg, and MP at 1.1 ng/mg, and (B) hair from an abuser with 1.67 ng/mg of MDMA and 42.2 ng/mg of AP, respectively. The sensitivity of the detector in (B) is four times less than in (A). This sentence is copied from Reference 24 by Wiley & Sons Ltd.

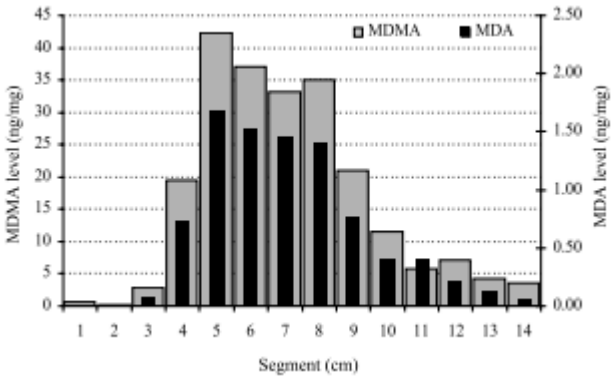

Fig.3 Hair Samples from People Who Abuse MDMA and Their MDA and MDMA Concentrations, Sliced into 1-Cm Pieces This sentence is copied from Reference 24 by Wiley & Sons Ltd.

RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS

Extra Illustrations The sensitive determination of AP in the brains of rats was accomplished through the utilization of ion-pairing LC with ES-MS/MS as well as in vivo micro dialysis. Following the column, there was no addition of any organic modification for the purpose of detection. With a signal-to-noise ratio (S/N) of 3, the detection limit was set at 0.001 µg/ml, which is equivalent to 5 nM. Following the administration of a single intraperitoneal dosage of 3.0 mg/kg, the concentration of AP reached its highest point at 0.086 ± 0.017 µg/ml twenty to forty minutes later.

Our determination of the AP, MP, and MDA derivatives in me conium was accomplished through the utilization of LC-API-MS, with 3,4m ethylenedioxypropylamphetamine serving as an internal reference. In order to achieve separation, a reverse-phase column was utilized with mobile phases consisting of a linear gradient of 10 nM ammonium bicarbonate (pH 9) and methanol.

The quantification limits for AP, MP, and 4-hydroxy3-methoxymethamphetamine were determined to be 0.005 µg/g of meconium by the laboratory. For the substances MDA, MDMA, MDEA, and N-methyl-1- (3,4-methylenedioxyphenyl)-2-butanamine, the limits were determined to be 0.004 µg/g of meconium. This method was utilized to conduct an analysis of newborn meconium in order to ascertain the quantity of AP derivatives that were exposed to the fetus. We were able to identify MP and AP on the clothing of the abusers by utilizing fluid chromatography and ultraviolet detection. On the column, the UV limit of detection was established at 37.3 pg, while the FL limit of detection was established at 0.4 pg. Additionally, the MP and AP that are eliminated from the human body through perspiration were successfully discovered.

CONCLUSION

The determination of drug performance in biological fluids is vital for advancing our understanding of pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics. By leveraging direct injection methods in liquid chromatography, this study aims to provide a streamlined and effective approach to drug analysis, paving the way for more rapid and accurate assessments in clinical and research settings. The findings will not only elucidate the potential of direct injection techniques but also address the challenges inherent in analyzing complex biological matrices, ultimately contributing to the field of pharmaceutical sciences. Using the recently developed HPLC methods for the detection of stimulant-related substances in biologic samples, it is possible to examine a great number of additional medications that are used for an abusive purpose. These methods are varied and convenient in their application. To better predict and protect human health from the risks associated with drug use, the author anticipates that HPLC techniques will undergo further development. This will allow for improved protection of human health. For the purpose of preparing biological fluid samples with LC integration, it has been demonstrated that the newly developed reversed-phase sorbent Li Chrospher RP-18 ADS is suitable. There is a possibility that the amount of time spent manually preparing samples for solid-phase or liquid-liquid extraction could be significantly reduced with the use of online liquid-solid extraction. Adapting normal processes to work with the automated column-switching high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) equipment was a straightforward process, and the technique has proven to be of considerable use to our clinical laboratory.

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