

Rapid Characterization of Charge Isoforms of New Modalities by iCIEF-MS

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The National Institute for Innovation in Manufacturing Biopharmaceuticals





Biologics Manufacturing Process





New Modalities are rapidly progressing...



2010-2019 FDA Approved Drugs



J. Med. Chem. 2021, 64, 5, 2312-2338

for the *patients* with unmet medical needs

Bispecifics are Becoming the Next-Generation Biologics

- Three bispecifics are FDA-approved for therapy (Rybrevant, Blincyto, Hemlibra)
- > 100 are in clinical development
- > 80 different formats (5 distinct groups)



Knob-into-Hole Bispecific





Two distinct half antibodies dimerized via Knob-into-Hole technology.

Ridgway, JB., Presta, LG., Carter, P. Protein Engineering 9 (1996) 617-621

Challenges in Analytics of Bispecifics



KiH Bispecific Fermentation Products



- Product quality assessment of two different fermentation products
- Unique **assembly step added complexity** to the process
- Peculiar product and processrelated variants incite early characterization

Quality Attributes and Control System



Category	Quality Attributes	Control System Methods	
Charge	Deamidation, Glycation, Proline Amidation, C-terminal Lysine	iCIEF, IEC	
Size	HMW and LMW forms	SEC, CE-SDS	
Sequence Variant	Sequence variants	LC-MS/MS	
Oxidation	CDR and Fc oxidation	Peptide Map	
Cysteine related	Free thiol, trisulfide, disulfide scrambling	Non-reduced peptide map	



iCIEF is a Reliable Method for Charge Heterogeneity



- Provides a critical quality measure of "purity"
- Used for lot release, stability and extended characterization



- Separation based on isoelectric point (pl)
- pH gradient is provided by a mixture of ampholytes
- Proteins are focused through the ampholyte medium until they reach a net zero charge state at their isoelectric point
- Apparent pl values can be approximated using two internal markers

Challenges with Identification of Charge Isoforms











Identification

- **Days/weeks spent** on development, scale-up, LC-MS analysis
- **Huge sample** amount requirement for scale-up
- Potential **artifacts** induced from the isolation process can complicate data interpretation
- Necessitate both IEC/iCIEF and bridge back to LC-MS data

NIIMBL Project: Intabio Blaze[™] Microchip System for Real-Time Characterization of Intact Biopharmaceuticals

- To align this Intabio Blaze[™] technology with the most urgent needs of biopharma
 - 1. Verify and validate Blaze[™] assay performance on partner samples
 - Identify data analysis features and develop an MS adaptor to facilitate the efficient integration of Blaze[™] into the biopharmaceutical analytical workflow
 - 3. Assessment for in-line Bioreactor Analytics Workshop
- Genentech bispecific samples* analyzed:
 - 1. Basic pH stressed
 - 2. Main peak IEC fraction

*previously characterized by traditional methods



Intabio Blaze[™] iCIEF – MS System



Key Benefits: Integrated system – separation, ٠ quantitation and MS analysis Identification/characterization in minutes ٠ VIS system iCIEF is similar to release method ٠ iCIEF separation and UV detection Peak Sample Mass spec mobilization detection introduced to MS Electrospray Electrolyte ionization Separation Channel nebulizer channels C∝ A F Sample Introduction в D ESI to MS Microfluidic Chip

Intabio technology presentation:

Sept 16th, 10:15am PST Title: Technology Innovations to Enable Rapid, Comprehensive Charge Variant Characterization of Biotherapeutics by Microfluidic Chip-Based iCIEF-MS Presenter: Scott Mack, Intabio/SCIEX

Good Repeatability





UV Trace at 280 nm from iCIEF-MS

% CV < ~7 % (n = 3)

Peak Label	Average pl	%CV of pl	Average Relative Area %	%CV of Peak Area
Basic 2	9.17	0.06	2.0	6.7
Basic 1	9.15	0.00	1.5	7.2
Main	9.08	0.00	27.7	1.1
Acidic 1	9.00	0.06	37.5	0.9
Acidic 2	8.93	0.00	22.2	1.5
Acidic 3	8.84	0.26	9.1	2.6

MS (Base Peak) from iCIEF-MS

Consistent Profiles Between iCIEF (UV) and Mirror Image of MS BPE for Confident Peak ID



MS BPE = MS Base Peak Electropherogram



iCIEF-MS Analysis of a Bispecific Stressed Sample





Mass Spectra of Main and Acidic Peaks Identify Deamidation and Glycation





Mass (Da)



Deamidated Clips Measured by iCIEF-MS in Acidic Peaks



Clips and their charge variants are also separated and detected by Intabio iCIEF-MS

Comprehensive Characterization of Charge Heterogeneity in a Single iCIEF-MS Analysis





Annotated iCIEF electropherogram of basic pH stressed bispecific sample

Isolated Main Peak Fraction (IEC vs iCIEF)



- IEC and iCIEF have fundamentally different separation mechanisms
 - Protein-column interaction cause adsorption in IEC
- Imaged CIEF can resolve charge isoforms that IEC cannot
 - Intabio Blaze[™] system can help identify these isoforms

iCIEF-MS Analysis of Main Peak Fraction



Roche

Acidics in the main peak fraction primarily comprise of glycation and deamidation

iCIEF-MS Analysis of Main Peak Fraction





• In-depth and extensive characterization of a purified sample even for very low abundant attributes

Summary and Outlook



- iCIEF-MS as a new analytical tool for a rapid charge isoform characterization of bispecifics
- This new analytical platform yields comprehensive analysis providing UV quantitation, peak identification and pl values
- Deamidation events with a small mass difference of ~1 Da were resolved and characterized at the intact level
- Difficult to detect combinations of PTMs were detected and identified

Benefit of iCIEF-MS system:

 Speeds up decisions on bioprocess development and production (e.g. clone selection, process validation, product quality assessment)



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Doing now what patients need next