CMC FORUM ADVANCING BIOPHARMACEUTICAL DEVELOPMENT EUROPE 2021 VIRTUAL FORUM 18-21 OCTOBER



Monitoring Clearance of Lipase Host Cell Proteins in mAb Manufacturing using an LC-MS/MS Quantitation Method

Rachel Chen

Analytical Development, Biogen, MA, USA



Host Cell Protein (HCP) Impurities



Harvest cell culture fluid



Host cell proteins (HCPs)

- Secreted or from cell lysis
- CHO, HEK, NS0: 20k+ genes
- Potentially immunogenic
- Enzymatic activity: affect product and excipient stability



Lipase host cell proteins (HCPs) and Polysorbate Degradation

Residual lipase HCPs can cause polysorbate degradation



Better detection of lipases

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• phospholipase A2 group VII (PLA2G7)

• liver carboxylesterase

Chiu J, et al. *Biotechnol Bioeng* 2017; 114(5), 1006. Dixit N, et al. *J. Pharm. Sci.* 2016; 105(5), 1657. Hall T, et al. *J. Pharm. Sci.* 2016; 105(5), 1633. Li X, et al. *Anal. Chem.* 2021; 93(23), 8161. Zhang S, et al. *J. Pharm. Sci.* 2020. Biogen | Confidential and Proprietary 3

Methods for Lipase Quantitation

Non-targeted Methods

Targeted Methods

Total HCP ELISA

- Quantify total HCP
- Not specific for lipase

Lipase-specific ELISA

- Specific to one lipase
- Sensitive
- Method development can be time consuming and expensive

HCP proteomics

- Profiling of total HCP
 population
- Sensitivity can be boosted by affinity enrichment

Targeted LC-MS/MS

- Specific to one or more lipases
- Sensitive
- Monitor multiple HCPs simultaneously
- Fast development timeline

Sensitivity requirement: single digit to subppm

Other methods: lipase activity-based method, etc.

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LC-MS/MS Based Targeted Quantitation Scheme



*/S: internal standard; heavy isotope labeled peptides



Chen, Y, et al. *Journal of pharmaceutical sciences* **2021.** (10.1016/j.xphs.2021.08.024).

Three Lipase HCPs for Targeted Quantitation

Three lipase HCPs identified through shot-gun proteomics

Lipase Name	Size (kDa)	Peptides for Quantitation
Lipoprotein lipase	52.8	GLGDVDQLVK
		LSPDDADFVDVLHTFTR
		SIHLFIDSLLNEENPSK
Lysosomal acid lipase	45.6	WPEVIIEDLFGHK
		VNVYTSHSPAGTSVQNLR
		GNTWSLK
Putative phospholipase B- like 2	65.4	LTLLQLK
		SVLLDAASGQLR
		AFIPNGPSPGSR



- 20 min RPLC gradient
- High resolution MRM using Sciex TripleTOF MS
- MRM scans scheduled
 according to retention time

Method Limit of Quantitation (LOQ) and Accuracy

Protein	Peptide LOQ	Linear range (nM)	LOQ of HCP
	(M q)		(ng/mL)
Lipoprotein lipase	12.5	12.5-2500	0.7
Lysosomal acid lipase	25	25-2500	1.1
putative phospholipase B-like 2	6.25	6.25-2500	0.4

- Close or lower than 1 ng/mL of lipase HCP can be quantified
- Linear range spanning three orders of magnitude
- Accuracy and reproducibility demonstrated

Accuracy assessment by spiking in recombinant PLBL2

Spike-in amount (ppm)	Calculated (ppm)	%CV (N=3)	%Accuracy
1	1.0	6%	103%
5	6.1	12%	121%
10	11.3	4%	113%
100	117.0	6%	117%

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Applications: HCP Analysis Throughout Downstream Process





Monitoring Lipase Clearance in Downstream Process





Understanding the Capacity of Lipase Clearance for Each Column





- Column 2 has limited capacity for PLBL2 clearance
- Column 3 was able to clear PLBL2 down to <LOQ for two mAbs



Applications of the Lipase Quantitation Method

Identify and monitor lipases throughout the purification process

A valuable tool to troubleshoot polysorbate degradation and/or particle formation issues

Potential to add other problematic HCPs to the method for routine monitoring

Orthogonal tool to HCP ELISA for data confirmation;

Capture problematic HCPs that are under-represented by ELISA



Acknowledgment



AB Sciex







Thank you! Questions?

