



Mass Spectrometry Coupled to Ion Mobility for Antibody-Based Product Characterization

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OUTLINE

□ Native MS and IMS-MS : basics

TOPIC 1 : IMS-MS to monitor conformational heterogeneity/homogeneity

- Qualitative IMS-MS data interpretation for batch to batch comparison
- For S-S bridge assessment

TOPIC 2 : IMS-MS to monitor dynamics of conformational changes

- Fab Arm Exchange of IgG4
- Drug conjugation for ADC formation

□ TOPIC 3 : IMS-MS to distinguish between mAb isotypes/subclasses

- Middle level v. intact level IMS-MS CIU
- SEC-CIU
- High resolution CIU-cIMS

TOPIC 4 : IMS-MS for the characterization of complex mAb formats

- The multispecific case-study

Concluding remarks

Multi-level therapeutic protein characterization



Native Mass Spectrometry

Native MS also « MS in non-denaturing conditions » gives information on assemblies maintained by noncovalent interactions



Native MS is less « destructive » than denaturing MS

□ Example of cysteine linked ADC



Native MS analysis allows cysteine-linked ADC characterization through intact DAR mass measurements

Towards automated native MS: online SEC coupled to native MS (SEC-nMS)

Fast, Efficient & Automated sample preparation



SEC allows separation of non-volatile salts (100 Da) from mAbs (150 kDa)

SEC-native (IMS)-MS affords more efficient desalting than manual desalting



- Improved desalting efficiency

- Improved mass resolution, accuracy and sensitivity
- Increase in throughput 3-5 min/run on 3-5 cm cartridges
 - Automated LC-native MS

Online non-denaturing LC-native MS for mAb analyses



Online SEC-native MS for size variant analysis

NISTmab (2 months thermally stressed at 37°C) 100 mM AcONH4 pH 6.8 BEH 200Å, 4.6 x 150 mm, 1.7 µm Vc: 180 V: Pi: 6 mbar

SEC – native MS

for size variants



SEC-UV allows separation and quantification of mAb size variants



Native MS allows identification of each size variant

Native Ion Mobility MS (IMS-MS) for conformational characterization

□ Native IMS-MS: simultaneous measurement of conformations and masses in non-denaturing conditions



Ion Mobility brings an additional level of conformational characterization

IMS-MS principles and CCS calculations



- Collision Cross-section (Å²)
- IMS ion separation according to Shape/Size (Mass) and Charge - IMS can distinguish different conformations

- From drift time values, collision cross sections (CCS) can be calculated.
- These CCS values represent the effective area for the interaction between an individual ion and the neutral gas through which it is travelling.

$$\Omega = \frac{3e}{16N} \times \frac{T}{273.15} \times \frac{760}{P} \sqrt{\frac{2\pi}{k_b T}} \times \sqrt{\frac{1}{M_{gas}} + \frac{1}{M_{ion}}} \times \frac{z \times tD \times E}{L}$$



a 2D representation of a 3D structure !

CCS measurements are often not enough to distinguish conformers

Especially true for mAb-based products due to

- Inherent mAb conformational heterogeneity flexibility and broad ATD peaks
- Low 1st generation IMS cell resolutions



- No ATD separation CCS differences fall within the uncertainty of the technique (Δ CCS<2%)

Alternative IMS-MS approaches to circumvent lack of resolution of IMS cells: Collision Induced Unfolding - CIU



□ Trap collision voltages increased

□ lons collide with the trap gas = Activation

CIU = Unfolding patterns

*CIUSuite 2 software: Polasky et al., Anal Chem, 2019





Fast and efficient online desalting

+ Overall time process divided by 3

CILL

Alternative IMS-MS approaches to circumvent lack of resolution of IMS cells: high resolution IMS-MS





SLIM device (Structures for Lossless Ion Manipulations)

> 13.5m separation in T-Waves (serpentines)





Topic 1

IMS-MS to monitor conformational heterogeneity/homogeneity

- Qualitative IMS-MS data interpretation for batch to batch comparison
- For S-S bridge assessment

Native IMS-MS for global conformational characterization of mAb-products



Native IMS-MS to tackle conformational heterogeneity of drug binding within ADCs



- Site-specific ADCs are more homogeneous than 1st generation ADCs.

- IMS-MS can provide a snapshot of ADC homogeneity/heterogeneity without extensive data interpretation.

Botzanowski et al. mAbs. 2017, 9,801.

Cys-ADC: Native IMS-MS of intact cysteine-linked ADC

CQAs can also be obtained by native IMS-MS

Native IMS-MS provides a snapshot of Adcetris heterogeneity of conjugation



IMS-MS can provide also quantitative data for DLD distribution and average DAR calculations

Native IMS-MS for batch comparability studies of VHH samples

□ Comparability study of 3 different anti-HER2 VHH batches:

- from Pichia pastoris (Pp)
- from Escherichia coli (Ec)
- from chemical synthesis (synth)



- (a) 10 20 30 40 50 60 EVQLVESGGG LVQAGGSLRL SCATSGITFM RYALGWYRQS PGKQREMVAS INSGGTTNYA 70 80 90 100 110 120 DSVKGRFTIS RDNAKNTVYL QMNSLKPEDT AVYYCNARWV KPQFIDNNYW GQGTQVTVSS HHHHHH
- (b) F1: EVQLVESGXGLVQAGGSLRLS-NHNH₂ F2: CATSGITFMRYALGWYRQSPGKQREMVASINSGGTTNYADSVKGRFTISRDNAKNTVYLQMNSLKPEDTAVYY-NHNH; F3: CNARWVKPQFIDNNYWGQGTQVTVSSHHHHHH



LC-MS to assess purity and homogeneity of S-S bond formation



Purity and homogeneity ranking from LC-MS: Synth > P. pastoris > E.coli

Hartmann L et al. Protein Sci. 2019, 28(10):1865-1879.

Native IMS-MS for batch comparability studies of VHH samples

Native IMS-MS for conformational characterization of anti-HER2 VHH batches



CIU experiments for gas-phase conformational stability of anti-HER2 VHH batches



Ranking of resistance towards gas phase unfolding: Synth > P. pastoris > E.coli

Native IMS-MS for batch comparability studies of VHH samples

CIU experiments of P. pastoris +/- DTT reduction



Differences in gas phase behavior between chemical synthesis and *P. pastoris/E.coli* can be attributed to the presence of reduced VHH forms in both samples

High Resolution cIMS-MS to Assign Additional Disulfide Bridge Pairing



Can IMS-MS provide separation of disulfide peptide structural isomers?

Classical IMS-MS to Assign Additional Disulfide Bridge Pairing



Based on arrival time and ATD profile, IMS-MS results might suggest that:

- T2-T7 is similar to P1 or P3
- P2 can be discarded
- P3 cannot be definitively ruled out (different peak shapes but very close ATDs + same number of conformers after Gaussian fitting)
- P1 and P3 also co-elute in rpLC

Can high-resolution IMS-MS provide better separation of disulfide peptide isomers?

Single pass cIMS separation



High Resolution cIMS-MS to Assign Additional Disulfide Bridge Pairing



25

Multipass cIMS separation



High Resolution cIMS-MS to Assign Additional Disulfide Bridge Pairing



High Resolution cIMS-MS to Assign Additional Disulfide Bridge Pairing







Based on arrival time and ATD profile, cIMS-MS results confirm that :

- T2-T7 is similar to P1 or P3
- P2 can be discarded
- P3 can be ruled out

Benefits of multipass cIMS-MS :

- Increased resolution
- Detection of new conformational features

High Resolution cIMS-MS: Isolation experiment



High Resolution cIMS-MS: Isolation experiment

After n=5, strictly identical isolated-ATD profiles were obtained for T2-T7 and P1, strengthening data obtained after n=2

High Resolution cIMS-MS to Assign Additional Disulfide Bridge Pairing: Conclusions

Linear TWIMS IMS-MS: a high similarity between T2-T7 and P1 can be hypothesized, but P3 conformer cannot be definitively ruled out

High-resolution cyclic IMS-MS allowed increased confidence in IMS profile to definitively conclude that T2-T7 disulfide bond connectivities resemble to P1 ones This is obvious after one pass but even strengthened after multiple passes through the cIMS device

1. A comparison between ATDs obtained on the cIMS device for the mAb-collected peptide and synthetic peptides provided unequivocal determination of disulfide bridges.

2. Benefits of higher IMS resolutions obtained on a cyclic instrument over linear TWIMS are clearly illustrated.

3. Potential of high-resolution IMS for rapid and unambiguous profiling of disulfide pairings in biotherapeutics

Topic 2

IMS-MS to monitor dynamics of conformational changes

- Fab Arm Exchange of IgG4
- Drug conjugation for ADC formation

Dynamics and real-time native MS and IMS-MS to monitor bispecific mAb formation through Fab Arm Exchange (FAE)

In vivo, IgG4s can exchange half molecules by a dynamic process called Fab-arm exchange (FAE). In vitro, the FAE process can be mimicked by a reaction with glutathione (GSH)

Serine 228 in IgG4 introduces flexibility in the core hinge region. Besides the usual disulfide bonds connecting two heavy chains (covalent between HC), intrachain disulfide bonds may form instead (only non-covalent bonds between HC).

Native MS to monitor bispecific mAb formation after FAE

Real-time native IMS-MS to monitor bispecific mAb formation

Native MS and CIU to distinguish wt and stabilized IgG4

Hernandez-Alba et al. Anal Chem. 2018, 90(15):8865-8872.

wt IgG4 S228

S228P

lgG4

25

30

Native MS and CIU to monitor site-specific ADC formation

in Collaboration with Genovis (Sweden)

Deslignière E et al. Pharmaceuticals 2021, 24;14(6):498.

Native IMS-MS fails in monitoring conformational changes induced upon drug conjugation

The chemical conjugation process does not drastically affect the overall global conformation of the mAb

Charge state z+

Native IMS-MS fails in monitoring conformational changes induced upon drug conjugation

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Native MS to monitor site-specific ADC formation

- Similar CIU fingerprints before and after deglycosylation
- Still 3 transitions after deglycosylation

- 1st transition: similar voltages

- 2nd transition: lower CIU50 values (57.1 V) than for glycosylated T0 (66.6 V)

- 3rd transition: lower voltage also (177.8 V for T1, but only at 192.6 V for T0)

Deglycosylated trastuzumab T1 is more prone to unfolding than its glycosylated counterpart

Native MS to monitor site-specific ADC formation

Native MS to monitor site-specific ADC formation

Native IMS-MS strategies to monitor ADC formation

Drug conjugation reinforces the overall stability of the mAb towards gas-phase unfolding, as reported for:

a DAR2 site-specific oligo-ADC engineered using the GlyCLICK technology (Genovis)

a DAR4 site-specific therapeutic ADC (Catalent Biologics)

MABS 2017, VOL. 9, NO. 5, 801–811 https://doi.org/10.1080/19420862.2017.1316914

REPORT

Insights from native mass spectrometry approaches for top- and middle- level characterization of site-specific antibody-drug conjugates

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Botzanowski et al. MAbs. 2017, 9,801.

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avlor & Francis Group

Topic 3

IMS-MS to distinguish between mAb isotypes/subclasses

- Middle level v. intact level IMS-MS CIU
- SEC-CIU
- High resolution CIU-cIMS

CCS measurements to distinguish mAb isotypes/subclasses

- CCS measurements do not allow mAb isotype classification neither @intact (150 kDa) nor @middle (50 kDa) levels
 - CCS differences fall within the uncertainty of the technique (Δ CCS < 2%)

Intact-level CIU Isotype classification is not straighforward

F(ab')₂ CIU fingerprints exhibit differences: - In the number of transitions - In CIU50 values

Higher differentiation scores for F(ab')₂ regions

Middle-level CIU provides more accurate isotype classification: the eculizumab case study

Eculizumab: a composite IgG2/IgG4 mAb

30 1.00 24 27.5 22 25.0 0.75 £ 22.5 (su 20 lgG1 **E** 20.0 **Drift time** (vs eculizumab Drift 0.50 15.0 **RMSD=26.5** 12.5 14 10.0 L 0.25 75 100 125 150 175 200 25 50 12 eculizumab Collision Voltage (V) 0.00 10 125 150 175 200 25 50 75 100 30.0 Collision Voltage (V) 27.5 25.0 lgG2 **Su** 22.5 20.0 vs eculizumab Classification H 17.5 100 15.0 Relative isotype classification (%) **RMSD=14.7** 12.5 10.0 75 100 125 150 175 200 25 50 Collision Voltage (V) 30.0 27.5 25.0 lgG4 **Ĕ** 22.5 vs eculizumab 20.0 17. lgG2 lqG1 lgG4 eculizumab intact 15 (**RMSD=27.8** 12.5 10.0 25 100 125 150 175 200 í٥ 50 75

Collision Voltage (V)

Intact-level CIU fails in detecting the hybrid format of eculizumab

Botzanowski et al., Anal Chem, 2020

Middle-level CIU provides more accurate isotype classification: the eculizumab case study

Fast and efficient online desalting

+ Overall time process divided by 3

CILL

SEC-CIU allows fast mAbs IgG subclasses differentiation

SEC-CIU detects subtle differences between mAbs isotypes

Tricks to improve SEC-CIU throughput

Targeted SEC-CIU for fast-mAb classification

10 min / 7 CVs (1 mAb in triplicate)

trastuzumab

Acquisition of the most diagnostic CVs only

From CCS calculations

- not easy neither for intact- nor middle-level mAb analysis
- inherent mAb flexibility
- lack of IMS resolution

From CIU data

- Possible on 1st and 2nd generation TWIMS instruments
- Automation through SEC coupling

@ intact level

- ✓ Clear benefit of high-resolution
- × Tricky with linear TWIMS

@ middle level

- Clear benefit of high-resolution with more informative CIU fingerprints
- ✓ Good results also on linear TWIMS

... waiting for CCS measurements on high resolution IMS instrumentations

Topic 4

IMS-MS for the characterization of complex mAb formats

- Engineered new generation multispecific mAb

Concluding remarks: where do we stand with IMS-MS for mAb characterization?

Thanks!

Thanks !

The structural MS team

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