Identification of N-Linked Glycans from Bovine α-Thrombin Using a Combination of LC-MS Techniques

Dennis Gessmann (presenter) with Andrew Saati & Naomi Biok

14 October 2022



• Biological Activity & Biosynthesis of α-Thrombin



- Biological Activity & Biosynthesis of  $\alpha$ -Thrombin
- Pfizer's Hospital Business Unit (HBU) and Thrombin-JMI  $\ensuremath{\mathbb{R}}$



- Biological Activity & Biosynthesis of  $\alpha$ -Thrombin
- Pfizer's Hospital Business Unit (HBU) and Thrombin-JMI®
- Manufacturing of Thrombin-JMI® from bovine



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Preliminary Intact Mass Analysis



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Biological Activity of Thrombin











BTx-ARD, PSSM and PGS

https://www.britannica.com/science/fibrin

Clinical use of topical thrombin as a surgical hemostat. Biologics. 2008, 4, 593-599.







#### - Biosynthesis of α-Thrombin





# - Biosynthesis of α-Thrombin















-

## - Biosynthesis of α-Thrombin: Protein Structure and Function



A Serine Protease (H-D-S) with a Heavy and Light Chain and one N-Glycosylation Site



## - Biosynthesis of α-Thrombin: Autolytic Products





## - Biosynthesis of α-Thrombin: Autolytic Products





#### Delivers Vital Medicines Where They Are Needed Most

Pfizer's HBU (est. 2019)

 A global business with one of the broadest portfolios of medicine in the industry



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a topical product of bovine origin



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#### **Indication and Usage**

Indicated to aid hemostasis whenever oozing blood and minor bleeding from capillaries and small venules is accessible and control of bleeding by standard surgical techniques (such as suture, ligature, or cautery) is ineffective or impractical.

BTx-ARD, PSSM and PGS

# THROMBIN-JMI®: Manufacturing



Stef Bennett - The Hungry Aperture/Getty Images/iStockphoto



#### **Bovine**

- Bovine plasma used to manufacture Thrombin-JMI® is sourced solely from animals of U.S. origin
- USDA inspections ensure cattle are disease free and fit for human consumption

#### **Bovine Plasma**

 Thrombin-JMI® does not contain nor is derived from specified risk materials defined in Commission Decision 97/534/EC

#### **Purification**

- Isolate Prothrombin
- Convert Prothrombin to Thrombin
- Viral Inactivation
- Chromatography Purification
- Chromatography Polishing
- Viral Filtration
- Bulk Thrombin

#### **Thrombin-JMI®**

- THROMBIN-JMI is available
  - 5,000 and 20,000 IU vial
  - Pump Spray Kit
  - Syringe Spray Kit
  - Epistaxis Kit
  - Gelfoam-Thrombin Kit
  - Gel-flow-Thrombin Kit

# Presentation Overview

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https://www.fda.gov/media/124397/download

### Characterization

 $\rightarrow$  identity, stability and consistency



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 $\rightarrow$  identity, stability and consistency

In general, characterization may include, but need not be limited to the following:

- Potency Assays
- Chromatographic Assays
- Electrophoresis, e.g., SDS-PAGE
- Immunoblot Analysis
- Fluorescence Activated Cell Sorter (FACS) Analysis
- Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA)



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FDA - Guidance for Industry For the Submission of CMC for a Therapeutic Recombinant DNA-Derived Product or a Monoclonal Antibody Product for in vivo use

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#### **Characterization/Proof of Structure**

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### Characterization/Proof of Structure

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### [...] are not necessarily limited to the following:

- Amino Acid Analysis
- Amino Acid Sequencing, entire sequence or amino- and carboxyterminal sequences
- Peptide Mapping
- Determination of Disulfide Linkage
- SDS-PAGE (Reduced and Non-Reduced)
- Isoelectric Focusing
- Conventional and HPLC e.g., Reverse-Phase, Size Exclusion, Ion-Exchange, etc
- Mass Spectroscopy
- Assays to detect product-related proteins including deamidated, oxidized, cleaved, and aggregated forms and other variants e.g., amino acid substitutions, adducts/derivatives
- Assays to detect residual host proteins, DNA, reagents
- Immunochemical Analyses
- Assays to quantitate bioburden, endotoxin



### **Preliminary Intact Mass Analysis**





Stef Bennett - The Hungry Aperture/Getty Images/iStockphoto



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Stef Bennett - The Hungry Aperture/Getty Images/iStockphoto





Pfizer BTX-ARD, F



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Davie et al *An Overview of the Structure and Function of Thrombin*, Seminars in Thrombosis and Hemostasis/Volume 32, Supplement 1 2006

Both bovine and human prothrombin contain three N-linked carbohydrate chains, two of which are located in kringle domain 1 and one of which is present within the serine protease domain. The latter of these has been the focus of structural analyses that have identified slight differences between human and bovine carbohydrate as well as minor microheterogeneity within the single carbohydrate chain attached to human thrombin.<sup>53–55</sup>



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Thrombin from Bovine Plasma: Sigma PN T4648

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#### Bovine α-Thrombin N-Glycan ID: Literature Search



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→ MW of N-Glycan = 2.5 kDa

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G2 + NeuAc

Nelsestuen and Suttie (31) reported that bovine prothrombin contains both N-glycolyl and N-acetylneuraminic acid.

G2 + NeuGc and/or NeuAc



- Characterize N-glycan profile from bovine plasma thrombin
- Determine if 16 Da mass differences from the intact thrombin analysis is related to N-glycan heterogeneity



2-AB Labeled N-Glycan Analysis









2-AB Labeled N-Glycan Analysis by NP-AEX-MS







Chromatography geared toward highly sialylated (charged) N-glycans





#### **Exhaustive** 2-AB Labeled N-Glycan **Elucidation** Analysis by NP-AEX-MS of N-Glycans 34.00 Trisialylated Disialylated 32.00 Monosaccharide Symbol G2+2 NeuAc+ G2+NeuAc+NeuGc Fucose NeuGc 30.00-• Disialylated Mannose Trisialylated 28.00 Galactose 0 32.00 G2+NeuAc+ NeuGc G2+2 NeuAc+ G2+NeuAc+ 30.00 NeuGo 26.00-GlcNAc <u>.</u>... G2+2 NeuGc G2+2 NeuGc 2 NeuGc 28.00-G2+NeuAc+ 2 NeuGc NeuAc ٠ 26.00 24.00 <u>-</u>---◇-○-■-**\_\_\_**∎● 24.00 NeuGc $\diamond$ G2+2 NeuAc 22.00-G2+3 NeuAc 22.00 Monosialylated G2+2 NeuAc ..... 20.00 G2+3 NeuAc •**•**•••• 20.00-Monosialylated 18.00 ⊒ 16.00-Neutrals G2+NeuAc G2+3 NeuGc 18.00-G2+NeuGc 14.00 <u>}</u> ..... 12.00 ⊒ 16.00-G2F+2 alpha-Gal G2+NeuAc 10.00 G2F+alpha-Gal ••**•** G2+NeuAc Neutrals G2+3 NeuGc G2+2 NeuAc NeuGc 8.00 G2+NeuGc ..... 14.00-6.00 4.00 G2+3 NeuAc $\diamond$ 12.00-G2+2 NeuGc 2.00 G2F+2 alpha-Gal 0.00-10.00-G2+NeuAc+ 15.00 20.00 25.00 30.00 35.00 40.00 45.00 50.00 55.00 60.00 65.00 70.00 G2+2 NeuAc Minutes 8.00-NeuGc 6.00 G2F+alpha-Gal \_|**○■●<sub>≫■</sub>** 4.00-G2+2 NeuGc 2.00-0.00--2.00+ 10.00 15.00 20.00 35.00 40.00 45.00 50.00 55.00 60.00 70.00 25.00 30.00 65.00 Minutes



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Sialic acids are mixture of NeuAc and NeuGc

► 16 Da mass difference supports intact data

BTx-ARD, PSSM and PGS

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2-AB Labeled N-Glycan

BTx-ARD, PSSM and PGS

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- Predominant structures contained two and three sialic acids

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- Multiple peaks observed per monosaccharide composition
- ► Trisialylated structures are much wider

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Elucidation

#### 2-AB Labeled N-Glycan **Analysis by NP-AEX-MS**





borts intact data

ontained two and

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- Trisialylated structures are much wider

Why?

- ► Sialic Acids are located on the terminal Gal or antennal GlcNAc residues
- Sialic Acids contain  $\alpha$ 2-3 and  $\alpha$ 2-6 linkages

#### **Exhaustive** 2-AB Labeled N-Glycan Elucidation Analysis by NP-AEX-MS of N-Glycans 34.00 Trisialylated Disialylated 32.00-Monosaccharide Symbol G2+2 NeuAc+ G2+NeuAc+NeuGc Fucose NeuGc 30.00-• Mannose 28.00 Galactose 0 G2+NeuAc+ 26.00 GlcNAc G2+2 NeuGc 2 NeuGc ٠ 24.00 NeuAc \_\_\_\_ NeuGc $\Diamond$ G2+2 NeuAc 22.00 G2+3 NeuAc 20.00-Monosialylated 18.00-G2+NeuAc G2+3 NeuGc Neutrals G2+NeuGc 14.00-12.00-G2F+2 alpha-Gal 10.00-G2+NeuAc+ G2+2 NeuAc 8.00-NeuGc 6.00 G2F+alpha-Gal Í<mark>○∎●<sub>●∎</sub></mark> 4.00-G2+2 NeuGc 2.00-0.00--2.00<del>|-</del> 10.00 15.00 20.00 45.00 50.00 55.00 60.00 25.00 30.00 35.00 40.00 65.00 70.00 Minutes

BTx-ARD, PSSM and PGS

- Sialic acids are mixture of NeuAc and NeuGc
- ► 16 Da mass difference supports intact data
- Predominant structures contained two and three sialic acids

- Multiple peaks observed per monosaccharide composition
- Trisialylated structures are much wider

Why?

- Sialic Acids are located on the terminal Gal or antennal GlcNAc residues
- Sialic Acids contain  $\alpha$ 2-3 and  $\alpha$ 2-6 linkages
- ► These differences result in multiple elution positions for the same N-glycan composition
- ► Wider peaks due to bisecting GlcNAc

**Exhaustive** 

Elucidation

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BTx-ARD, PSSM and PGS

- Sialic acids are mixture of NeuAc and NeuGc
- ► 16 Da mass difference supports intact data
- Predominant structures contained two and three sialic acids
- Tetrasialylated structures not detected
- Multiple peaks observed per monosaccharide composition
- Trisialylated structures are much wider
- Sialic Acids are located on the terminal Gal or antennal GlcNAc residues
- Sialic Acids contain  $\alpha$ 2-3 and  $\alpha$ 2-6 linkages
- These differences result in multiple elution positions for the same N-glycan composition
- ► Wider peaks due to bisecting GlcNAc

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2-AB Labeled N-Glycan Analysis by NP-AEX-MS Exhaustive Elucidation of N-Glycans

Comparison to CHO-Derived Protein

Are tetrasialylated structures recovered from a CHO-derived protein?





Are tetrasialylated structures recovered from a CHO-derived protein?

#### ►Yes.

Conformational differences of N-glycans between bovine and CHO likely account for differences in retention times of charged glycans.







Comparison to CHO-Derived Protein

Are tetrasialylated structures recovered from a CHO-derived protein?

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Why are tetrasialylated structures not detected?







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### Profiling Analysis of Released N-Glycans by LC-MS: RapiFluor



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#### Profiling Analysis of Released N-Glycans by LC-MS: RapiFluor



BTx-ARD, PSSM and PGS

#### Tetrasialylated structures were effectively recovered

- Sialic acid residues observed were a combination of NeuAc and NeuGc which differ by 16 Da
- N-glycans from bovine plasma α-Thrombin are comprised of the complex-type, afucosylated, biantennary structure (G2) with one to four sialic acid residues
- Multiple elution positions for the same N-glycan compositions are due to sialic acids located on the terminal Gal or bisecting GlcNAc residues with  $\alpha 2 \rightarrow 3$  and/or  $\alpha 2 \rightarrow 6$  linkages



#### - Preliminary Intact Mass Analysis of Bovine α-Thrombin by LC-MS































Identification of N-Linked Glycans from Bovine α-Thrombin Using a Combination of LC-MS Techniques







Identification of N-Linked Glycans from Bovine α-Thrombin Using a Combination of LC-MS Techniques


# Identification of N-Linked Glycans from Bovine α-Thrombin Using a Combination of LC-MS Techniques



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## Thank You

Questions?





Authors have no conflict of interest to declare.

