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Publication date: 2016

Document Version
Accepted author manuscript, peer reviewed version

Link to publication from Aalborg University

Citation for published version (APA):
Therapeutic Drug Quantification using Targeted Mass Spectrometry

Michael Kruse Meyer¹,², Marlene Andersen¹, Troels Vindbæk Stausbo², Tue Bjerg Bennike³, Grethe Neumann Andersen¹ & Allan Stensballe²

Author Affiliations:

¹ Department of Rheumatology, North Denmark Regional Hospital, Denmark, and Center for Clinical Science, Aalborg University, Denmark
² Department of Health Science and Technology, Aalborg University, Denmark
³ Departments of Pathology, Boston Children’s Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

* To whom correspondence should be addressed:

Michael Kruse Meyer, Department of Rheumatology, North Denmark Regional Hospital, Denmark. Bispensgade 37 – 9800 Hjørring, Denmark. Email: michael.o@rn.dk, Phone: +45 20 31 39 03

MaxQuant Summer School 8th

Abstract (2000)

Keywords

Biological Treatment, disease modifying anti-rheumatic treatment (DMARD), b biological DMARD (bDMARD), parallel reaction monitoring

Introduction:

Rheumatic diseases involve auto-immune, and inflammatory diseases, in which the inflammatory activity degrades cartilage, and eventually destroys the joints. We have the past five years, systematically reduced treatment frequency and dosage using empirical clinical data and patient
outcome. Previous, determination of the optimal treatment dosage and frequency for biological drugs was based on clinical symptoms and patient questionnaire feedback, with no truly objective biochemical evaluations. Hence, we seek to quantify the biological drug concentrations in the patients to establish a more objective dosing strategy. Previous studies have utilized immuno-based assays, which are sensitive, but limited to availability of good antibodies. They also require high volumes of sample, and are not readily multiplexed. In this study, we developed a parallel reaction monitoring (PRM) based method on four selected biological drugs on a QExactive HF.

Method:

A standard method for ELISA preparation was optimized and scaled down for nUPLC-MS/MS. Four biological drugs and serum samples from patients were immunoprecipitated, and characterized on a Q Exactive high field mass spectrometer. Based on the results, a target list of proteotypic peptides and a spectral database was constructed, and used to establish a PRM method in Skyline, which was utilized to reanalyze the samples.

Results:

We have successfully established a method able to quantify three of the four biological drugs. Interestingly, we show that the PRM method from one commonly administered biological drug, infliximab, also works on the biosimilar version of infliximab with no modifications made to the method used above.

Conclusion:

We have established the foundation for accurately determining the concentration of several biological drugs routinely used in clinical settings. The methods can provide objective measurements to help establish the correct treatment dosage and frequency.