

Idaho State Police

Forensic Services

Approval for Quality System Controlled Documents



Discipline/Name of Document: Toxicology

3.10.2 – Extraction and Quantitation of Methamphetamine and Amphetamine from Blood Employing the Bond Elut Certify™ Extraction Column (FOR QUALITATIVE USE ONLY)

Revision Number: 0

Issue Date: 11/21/2006

APPROVED BY: *Corinna C. Owsley*
Quality Manager

6/26/07
Date Signed

Original Certificate did not document that the approval was only for reporting qualitative results.

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Toxicology Discipline

Section Three
Blood Toxicology

3.10 SPE Methods for Quantitative GC/MSD Confirmation

3.10.2 Extraction and Quantitation of Methamphetamine and Amphetamine
from Blood Employing the Bond Elut Certify™ Extraction Column

3.10.2.1 BACKGROUND

Amphetamine dates back to 1887. It was used freely as a nasal decongestant, appetite suppressant, and to treat disorders such as narcolepsy in the early part of the 20th century until its potential for abuse was fully realized.^{4,5,6} The use of amphetamine and methamphetamine to treat narcolepsy, attention deficit disorder and obesity continues in a more regulated environment. Amphetamine (figure 1) and Methamphetamine (figure 2) are phenethylamines structurally related to norepinephrine and epinephrine, respectively.

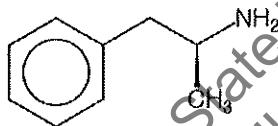


figure 1

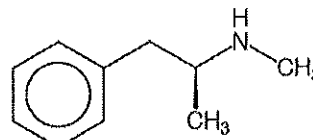


figure 2

The blood concentrations of methamphetamine and amphetamine should be considered in conjunction with all available information to determine the degree and nature of an individual's impairment.^{2,3} Therapeutic levels for legitimate methamphetamine and amphetamine use are one to two orders of magnitude less than abuse and toxic levels.⁶

Consult provided references for additional information regarding the pharmacology of these compounds.

3.10.2.2 PRINCIPLE

Methamphetamine and amphetamine are recovered through the application of the Varian Bond Elut Certify® solid phase extraction (SPE) cartridge. The Bond Elut Certify® SPE cartridge contains a sorbent which utilizes cation exchange and non-polar mechanisms to recover methamphetamine and amphetamine from blood. Following the addition of deuterated internal standard mixture, the blood proteins are precipitated with acetonitrile. The supernatant is made basic with a phosphate buffer. The sample is loaded onto the SPE cartridge that has been conditioned with methanol and a

100mM phosphate buffer (pH 6). The methanol conditioning opens up the coiled hydrophobic portion of the sorbent so that it interacts with the polar, buffered blood matrix. The addition of the buffer removes excess methanol and creates an environment similar to the matrix thus allowing for optimal interaction between the sorbent and the analytes of interest. The analyte is retained by ionic interaction of the cationic functional groups present on the drug and the anionic sulfonic acid exchanger on the sorbent. The cartridge is subsequently washed with 1.0M acetic acid and methanol, to selectively remove matrix components and interfering substances from the cartridge. The wash also disrupts the hydrophobic and adsorption interactions leaving behind the ionically bound material. Next, the sorbent is thoroughly dried to remove traces of aqueous and organic solvents which could adversely affect the analyte recovery. When the sorbent is dry, the analytes of interest are recovered from the cartridge with alkaline ethyl acetate. The alkaline environment serves to disrupt the ionic interactions of the analyte with the sorbent and the methanol disrupts the hydrophobic interactions. Following the elution from the SPE cartridge the evaporated extract is acylated for confirmation on the GC/MSD. The quantitation is accomplished through the use of a deuterated internal standard and a five-point calibration curve. This method is based on the method utilized by the Bioaeronautical Sciences Research laboratory.¹

3.10.2.3 EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

- 3.10.2.3.1 Varian Bond Elute Certify[®] SPE Cartridge
 Product No: 1210-2051 (Laboratory Robot Compatible (LRC)) or 1211-3050 (Straight barrel) or equivalent
 Sorbent type: Mixed mode octyl (C8) and benzenesulfonic acid (SCX), Sorbent mass: 130mg, Particle size: 40 μ m
- 3.10.2.3.2 Drybath or laboratory oven (Fisher or comparable)
- 3.10.2.3.3 Evaporative concentrator equipped with nitrogen tank.
- 3.10.2.3.4 Vacuum manifold/pump
- 3.10.2.3.5 Tube rocker
- 3.10.2.3.6 Vortex mixer
- 3.10.2.3.7 Laboratory centrifuge capable of \approx 3200 - 3400rpm
- 3.10.2.3.8 Fixed and adjustable volume single channel air displacement pipetters, and appropriate tips, capable of accurate and precise dispensing of volumes indicated.
- 3.10.2.3.9 pH indicator strips 3.10.2.3.9 16 x 100mm round bottom glass tube
- 3.10.2.3.10 Screw Cap for 16mm O.D. tube
- 3.10.2.3.11 GC/MS Automated Liquid Sample (ALS) vials
- 3.10.2.3.12 GC/MS Vial Microinsert
- 3.10.2.3.13 GC equipped with a mass selective detector and a nonpolar capillary column with a phase composition comparable to 100%-dimethylpolysiloxane or 95%-dimethyl-polysiloxane with 5%-diphenyl.

3.10.2.4 REAGENTS

Refer to manual section 5.12 for solution preparation instructions.

- 3.10.2.4.1 Deionized/distilled (DI) water
- 3.10.2.4.2 Methanol (Certified ACS grade or better)
- 3.10.2.4.3 Hexane (Certified ACS grade or better)
- 3.10.2.4.4 Ethyl Acetate (Certified ACS grade or better)
- 3.10.2.4.5 Acetonitrile (Certified ACS grade or better)
- 3.10.2.4.6 Ammonium Hydroxide (Certified ACS grade or better)
- 3.10.2.4.7 Concentrated HCl (Certified ACS grade or better)
- 3.10.2.4.8 1% HCl in Methanol
- 3.10.2.4.9 100mM Phosphate Buffer (pH 6.0)
- 3.10.2.4.10 100mM Acetic Acid
- 3.10.2.4.11 Pentafluoropropionic acid anhydride (PFAA)

3.10.2.5 QUALITY ASSURANCE MATERIAL**3.10.2.5.1 Drug Stock Solutions**

- 3.10.2.5.1.1 **1 mg/mL Calibrators and Controls**
(±)-Methamphetamine
(±)-Amphetamine

The source of a corresponding calibrator and control must be obtained from a different vendor.

3.10.2.5.2 Working Drug Solutions**3.10.2.5.2.1 10ng/μL**

Add 100.0μL each 1mg/mL Amphetamine and Methamphetamine Stock Solution to ≈9mL Methanol in a 10mL volumetric class A flask. QS to 10mL. Store remaining stock solution in ALS vial in freezer.

3.10.2.5.2.2 1ng/μL

Add 1.0mL 10ng/μL working drug solution to ≈5mL Methanol in a 10mL volumetric class A flask. QS to 10mL.

3.10.2.5.2.3 Working solutions are stable for 6 months when stored at 4°C.

3.10.2.5.3 1mg/mL Internal Standard Stock Solutions

- (±)-Methamphetamine-D₈
- (±)-Amphetamine-D₈

3.10.2.5.4 10ng/μL Working Internal Standard Solution

Add 100.0µL each 1mg/mL Amphetamine-D₈ and Methamphetamine-D₈ Stock Solution to ≈9mL Methanol in a 10mL volumetric class A flask. QS to 10mL. Store remaining stock solution in ALS vial in freezer.

3.10.2.5.5 Whole Blood Controls

3.10.2.5.5.1 **Negative Whole Blood**

3.10.2.5.5.1 **Positive Whole Blood**

Control containing Amphetamine and Methamphetamine each at a specified target concentration. Refer to package insert for verified value and expected range.

3.10.2.6 **PROCEDURE**

3.10.2.6.1 Initial set-up

Label extraction tubes, 200mg CLEAN SCREEN[®] extraction columns, and GC/MSD vials with microinserts for calibrators, controls and case samples.

3.10.2.6.2 Calibration Standard Preparation

3.10.2.6.2.1 Add 2mL of negative whole blood to five screw-top extraction tubes.

3.10.2.6.2.2 Add the volume of working 1ng/µL Amphetamine and Methamphetamine mixed standard as indicated in the chart below.

| Level | Desired ng/mL | µL Working Standard |
|-------|---------------|---------------------|
| 1 | 25 | 50 |
| 2 | 50 | 100 |

3.10.2.6.2.3 Add the volume of working 10ng/µL Amphetamine and Methamphetamine mixed standard as indicated in the chart below.

| Level | Desired ng/mL | µL Working Standard |
|-------|---------------|---------------------|
| 3 | 100 | 20 |
| 4 | 250 | 50 |
| 5 | 500 | 100 |

3.10.2.6.3 Positive Control Sample Preparation

3.10.2.6.3.1 Add 2mL of negative whole blood to two screw top tubes.

3.10.2.6.3.2 Add indicated amount of working 10ng/μL mixed control solution.

| Desired ng/mL | μL Control | Working |
|---------------|------------|---------|
| 75 | 15 | |
| 300 | 60 | |

3.10.2.6.4 Negative Control Sample Preparation
Add 2mL of negative whole blood to screw top tube.

3.10.2.6.5 Case Sample Preparation

3.10.2.6.5.1 Based on enzyme immunoassay screen results, samples may be diluted with distilled water prior to analysis.

3.10.2.6.5.2 Add 2mL neat or diluted sample to labeled screw top tube.

3.10.2.6.6 Internal Standard Addition

3.10.2.6.6.1 To calibrators, controls and case samples, add 20μL of internal standard mix (100ng/mL).

3.10.2.6.6.2 Cap tube and vortex tube briefly.

3.10.2.6.6.3 Allow tubes to stand 15 to 30 minutes for sample equilibration.

3.10.2.6.7 Protein Precipitation

3.10.2.6.7.1 While vortexing, add 5mL cold acetonitrile to case, calibrator and control samples.

3.10.2.6.7.2 Cap tubes and rock samples for approximately 15 minutes. Tubes should be at room temperature. Remove from rocker and place samples into centrifuge and let stand for 5 minutes.

3.10.2.6.7.3 Centrifuge at 3200-3400 rpm for 10 minutes.

3.10.2.6.7.4 Transfer organic supernatant into second

labeled tapered bottom centrifuge tube.

- 3.10.2.6.7.5 Transfer tube to TurboVap and evaporate under nitrogen at approximately 37°C to approximately 1mL. *Do not allow extract to go to dryness.*
- 3.10.2.6.7.6 To evaporated extract add 2mL 100mM phosphate buffer (pH 6). Vortex to mix.
- 3.10.2.6.7.7 If needed, centrifuge an additional 5 minutes to remove blood fragments or foam.
- 3.10.2.6.8 SPE Column Preparation
- 3.10.2.6.8.1 Insert labeled 200mg CLEAN SCREEN[®] Extraction column in the vacuum manifold.
- 3.10.2.6.8.2 Add 2mL methanol to the column. Aspirate at ≤ 3 in. Hg to prevent sorbent drying.
- 3.10.2.6.8.3 Add 2mL 100mM Phosphate buffer (pH 6.00) to the column. Aspirate at ≤ 3 in. Hg.
- 3.10.2.6.9 Blood Extract Loading
Load buffered blood onto column and allow to gravity flow or apply minimal vacuum.
- 3.10.2.6.10 Column Clean-up
- 3.10.2.6.10.1 Add 1mL 100mM Acetic Acid. Aspirate at ≤ 3 in. Hg.
- 3.10.2.6.10.2 Increase vacuum to ≥ 10 in. Hg (≥ 34 kPa) for $\cong 5$ minutes (disc should be dry).
- 3.10.2.6.10.3 Add 6.0mL methanol.
- 3.10.2.6.11 Pre-Elution Dry Disc
Increase vacuum to ≥ 10 in. Hg (≥ 34 kPa) for $\cong 2$ minutes.
- 3.10.2.6.12 Compound Elution
- 3.10.2.6.12.1 Open vacuum manifold, wipe collection tips, and insert the collection rack containing the labeled tapered tip centrifuge tubes.
- 3.10.2.6.12.2 Add 4mL 2% NH₄OH in ethyl acetate

elution solvent to the column.

Collect eluate with gravity flow or apply minimal vacuum.

3.10.2.6.12.3 Add 50 μ L 1% HCl in Methanol into each tube to minimize analyte loss.

3.10.2.6.13 Eluate Evaporation

Transfer centrifuge tube to TurboVap. Take solvent to dryness, under a gentle stream of nitrogen at $\leq 40^{\circ}\text{C}$.

3.10.2.6.14 Derivatization

3.10.2.6.14.1 In fume hood add 50 μ L ethyl acetate. Vortex for $\cong 15$ seconds.

3.10.2.6.14.2 Add 50.0 μ L PFAA.

3.10.2.6.14.3 Cap tubes and vortex briefly.

3.10.2.6.14.4 Place tubes in 70 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ dry bath or oven for 20 minutes.

3.10.2.6.14.5 Remove from heat and allow to cool.

3.10.2.6.14.6 Return tubes to TurboVap and evaporate to dryness under nitrogen at approximately 37 $^{\circ}\text{C}$.

3.10.2.6.14.7 Reconstitute extract with 50.0 μ L ethyl acetate.

3.10.2.6.14.8 Transfer reconstituted extract to labeled GC/MSD ALS vial with microinsert.

3.10.2.6.15 Preparation for GC-MS Run

3.10.2.6.15.1 Perform an AUTOTUNE and TUNE EVALUATION. Evaluate applying acceptance criteria outlines in analytical method 5.3.1.

3.10.2.6.15.2 When tune values are acceptable, program SEQUENCE TABLE with sample, calibrator and control information.

3.10.2.6.15.3 Load ALS vials into quadrant racks as indicated in the SEQUENCE TABLE.

- 3.10.2.6.16 GC-MS Calibration Curve
 - 3.10.2.6.16.1 The calibration curve should be established with a minimum of five data points.
 - 3.10.2.6.16.2 All reported results must be bracketed by calibrators.
 - 3.10.2.6.16.3 Calibrators should be analyzed in order of increasing concentration.
 - 3.10.2.6.16.4 The least squares line resulting from the analysis of calibrators must have a coefficient of correlation of ≥ 0.99 .
 - 3.10.2.6.16.5 If calibration standards are run in duplicate, it is not required that duplicate calibration points are included as long as the linearity requirement is met.

3.10.2.7 GC and MSD ACQUISITION PARAMETERS

Critical parameters are specified below. Parameters not specified are at the discretion of the analyst and should be optimized for the particular GC-MSD instrument. Each laboratory should maintain a centrally stored printed or electronic copy of current and past GC-MSD methods. The data supporting the GC-MSD method should be stored centrally.

3.10.2.7.1 GC Temperature Parameter

Injection Port: 250°C

3.10.2.7.2 MSD Instrument Parameters

Detector/Transfer Line: 280°C

3.10.2.7.3 ALS Parameters

Injection Volume: 1µL (1 stop)

Viscosity Delay: A minimum of 3 seconds

Solvent Washes (A & B): A minimum of 4 pre- and post-wash rinses.

3.10.2.7.4 MS SIM Parameters

| Analyte | Target Ion | Qualifier Ion 1 | Qualifier Ion 2 |
|----------------|------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Amphetamine | 190 | 118 | 91 |
| Amphetamine-D8 | 193 | 126 | 96 |

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| Analyte | Target Ion | Qualifier Ion 1 | Qualifier Ion 2 |
|--------------------|------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Methamphetamine | 204 | 160 | 118 |
| Methamphetamine-D8 | 211 | 163 | 123 |

3.10.2.8 REPORTING CRITERIA

3.10.2.8.1 Qualitative Chromatographic Criteria

Acceptable retention time window established by calibrators is ± 0.2 minute.

3.10.2.8.2 Qualitative Mass Spectral SIM Criteria

Ion ratios for the analyte and its corresponding internal standard, established by calibrators for target and qualifier ions, must not differ by more than $\pm 20\%$.

3.10.2.8.3 Quantitative Mass Spectral and Control Criteria

3.10.2.8.3.1 Quantitative results can be accepted if the calculated concentration of all calibration standards and control samples are within $\pm 20\%$ of their respective concentrations.

3.10.2.8.3.2 Quantitation is achieved through the plotting of the target ion response ratio versus the concentration for each calibrator.

3.10.2.8.3.3 Quantitative values for case samples, calibrators and controls will be truncated for reporting purposes.

3.10.2.8.3.4 Administrative limit of detection (LOD) for Amphetamine and Methamphetamine is 50ng/mL. Results < this LOD should be reported as negative unless there are extenuating circumstances. The Toxicology Discipline Leader must be consulted to evaluate exceptions.

3.10.2.8.3.5 If the concentration exceeds the calibration range, the sample can either be appropriately diluted with DI water for reanalysis or reported as greater than 400ng/mL.

3.10.2.9 REPORTING OF RESULTS

3.10.2.9.1 Quantitative Value

Analysis results should be truncated and reported out without decimal places.

3.10.2.9.2 Uncertainty Value

Based on the current uncertainty assessment, the +/- range should be included on the analysis report. Refer to method quality monitoring spreadsheet for current uncertainty figure.

3.10.2.10 QUALITY ASSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

3.10.2.10.1 General

3.10.2.10.1.1 Blood samples are to be stored under refrigeration after aliquots are removed for analysis.

3.10.2.10.1.2 Refer to toxicology manual section 5.1 for pipette calibration options.

3.10.2.10.1.3 Refer to toxicology manual section 5.2 for balance calibration requirements.

3.10.2.10.1.4 Refer to toxicology manual section 5.3.1 for GC-MSD maintenance schedule.

3.10.2.10.1.5 Refer to toxicology manual section 5.8 for reference standard authentication and additional GC-MSD quality assurance requirements.

3.10.2.10.2 Per Analysis Run Quality Requirements

3.10.2.10.2.1 Solvent blank should follow the highest calibrator as well as each case sample.

3.10.2.10.2.2 A minimum of two blood commercially obtained controls and the spiked controls described in section 3.10.3.6.3 must be run per batch of samples.

3.10.2.10.2.3 In addition to the four blood controls indicated above, for each additional 10 case samples, one control must be run. The preparation of controls is outlined in analytical method section 3.10.2.6.3.

Additional concentrations may be used.

- 3.10.2.10.3 Monitoring of Control Values
Upon the completion of analysis, input blood control values on spreadsheet used to assess uncertainty for this method.

3.10.2.11 ANALYSIS DOCUMENTATION

- 3.10.2.11.1 A packet containing original data for controls and standards will be prepared for each analysis run and stored centrally in the laboratory where the analysis was performed until archiving.
- 3.10.2.11.2 A copy of controls and standards need not be included in individual case files. When necessary, a copy of the control and standard printouts can be prepared from the centrally stored document.

3.10.2.12 REFERENCES AND RECOMMENDED READING

- 3.10.2.12.1 Chaturevidi, A.K., Cardona, P.S., Soper, J.W. and Canfield, D.V., *Distribution and Optical Purity of Methamphetamine Found in Toxic Concentration in a Civil Aviation Accident Pilot Fatality*, U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Aviation Administration Technical Report, December 2004.
- 3.10.2.12.2 Logan, B.K., *Methamphetamine - Effects on Human Performance and Behavior*, Forensic Science Rev. 14(1/2): 133-151, 2002.
- 3.10.2.12.3 Logan, B.K., *Methamphetamine and Driving Impairment*. J Forensic Sci, 1996, 41(3):457-464.
- 3.10.2.12.4 Drummer, O.H., *Stimulants*, pp. 49-96. *in: The Forensic Pharmacology of Drugs of Abuse*, Arnold: London, 2001.
- 3.10.2.12.5 Moore, K.A., *Amphetamine/Sympathomimetic amines*. pp. 245-264. *in: Principles of Forensic Toxicology*. Levine, B. ed., AACC, 2003.
- 3.10.2.12.6 Baselt, R.C., *d-Methamphetamine*, pp. 683-685. and *Amphetamine*, pp. 66-69. *in: Disposition of Toxic Drugs and Chemicals in Man*, Seventh ed., 2004.

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| Revision # | Issue Date | History |
|------------|------------|----------------|
| 0 | 11-21-2006 | Original Issue |

Approval

Discipline Leader: _____ Date: _____
Susan C. Williamson

Issuance

QA Manager: _____ Date: _____
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