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Letter to the Editor

Analysis of barbiturates in blood by high-performance liquid chromatography

Sir,

In their recent paper, Gill et al. [1] have described a procedure for the analysis of barbiturates in blood by high-performance liquid chromatography. They have used an ODS-silica column for optimal separation and a mobile phase of pH 8.5 for enhanced detection sensitivity. However, the suppliers of ODS-silica columns recommend 7.5, the highest pH of the mobile phase to be used with these columns. In some applications mobile phase of pH 8 has been used after it has been saturated with silica by use of a precolumn to avoid any damage to the analytical column. In our experience mobile phase of pH greater than 8 causes a void in the column and the efficiency of the column, which is quite expensive, is lost within a few days.

I am sure that the readers of this paper would like to share with the authors their experiences with the life and performance of their ODS-silica column with the use of a mobile phase of pH 8.5.

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1 R. Gill, A.A.T. Lopes and A.C. Moffat, *J. Chromatogr.*, 226 (1981) 117.

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