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Journal of Liquid Chromatography & Related Technologies

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:

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Online publication date: 17 April 2002

To cite this Article Santos, Benjamín , Sayalero, Ma Luisa , Zarzuelo, Aránzazu and Lanao, José M.(2002) 'DETERMINATION OF AMIKACIN IN BIOLOGICAL TISSUES BY HPLC', *Journal of Liquid Chromatography & Related Technologies*, 25: 3, 463 – 473

To link to this Article: DOI: 10.1081/JLC-120008760

URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1081/JLC-120008760>

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DETERMINATION OF AMIKACIN IN BIOLOGICAL TISSUES BY HPLC

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ABSTRACT

A rapid, specific, and reliable technique has been developed for the determination of Amikacin in biological tissues by high performance liquid chromatography. The technique involves the use of reverse phase liquid chromatography employing methanol, water (69:21, v/v), and tripotassium EDTA (2.2 g/L) as the mobile phase and emission and excitation wavelengths of 360 nm and 435 nm, respectively, the range of concentrations used being 0.25–25 µg/mL.

The techniques afford excellent linearity, accuracy, and within- and between-day precision for the concentration range studied, allowing it to be used in daily practice for the determination of Amikacin at the laboratory.

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INTRODUCTION

The aminoglycoside antibiotics are a family of drugs widely used in the outpatient setting and especially in hospitals (1–3).

Although they provide more efficient treatment (4), the new dosage schedules of the aminoglycoside antibiotics have not managed to solve the main limitation of this group of drugs, such as their potential toxicity for the ear and, especially the kidney (5).

The use of biocompatible and biodegradable vectors (6–7) that selectively modify tissue drug distribution, improving therapeutic efficiency, and reducing toxicity, is an excellent alternative in antibiotic therapy (8).

A possible alternative in the field of vector systems is that of microspheres made of biocompatible polymers (9–10).

For the determination of Amikacin by HPLC with fluorescence detection, it is necessary to perform a derivatization reaction using *o*-phthalaldehyde (11), which was thought to be more promising, because the fluorescent product is detectable with lower levels of antibiotic.

The aim of the present work was to set up and validate (12–16) a reverse-phase chromatographic technique for the quantification of Amikacin in biological samples following subcutaneous administration of a microsphere formulation, a technique that can be applied to the quantitative and qualitative analysis of the active principle in studies aimed at the development of new administration routes of the drug, and of aminoglycoside antibiotics in general.

EXPERIMENTAL

HPLC Instrumentation

The chromatographic equipment consisted of a Shimadzu pump (mod. LC-10AD), a Shimadzu system controller (mod. SCL-10A), and a Shimadzu autoinjector (mod. SIL-10AXL) coupled to a Shimadzu fluorescence detector (mod RF-10AXL). Data collection was accomplished with a Shimadzu chromatography data system Class VP version 4.0.

Reverse phase Kromasil 100 C-18 columns (15 × 0.4 cm.) (Tecnokroma, Barcelona, Spain) of 5 μm particle size were used. The mobile phase was composed of a mixture (69 : 31 v/v) of methanol, water, and 2.2 g of EDTA tripotassium salt (Sigma, Steinheim, Germany) (17). This mobile phase was prepared daily, filtered in a Supelco vacuum system (mod. 5-8068) with a 0.45 μm nylon filter (Whatman, Malstone, U.K.), and degassed in a P-Selecta ultrasound bath (mod. M-515). Flow rate during the assays was 1.5 mL/min and λ_{exc} was 360 nm and λ_{emi} 435 nm. The process was carried out in a temperature-controlled bath at 37°C¹⁸.



Chemicals and Reagents

Amikacin sulphate (Sigma-Aldrich Chemie, Steinheim, Germany), methanol (Merck Darmstad, Germany), o-phthaldialdehyde (Sigma-Aldrich Chemie, Steinheim, Germany), sodium carbonate (Panreac, Barcelona), potassium di-hydrogen phosphate (Panreac, Barcelona), sodium hydroxide (Panreac, Barcelona), 2-propanol (Panreac, Barcelona), boric acid (Panreac, Barcelona), 2-mercaptoethanol (Sigma-Aldrich Chemie, Steinheim, Germany).

Sample Preparation

Prior to their analytical determination by HPLC, the biological samples were conditioned in a process comprising four essential phases (deproteinisation, removal of impurities, the derivatization reaction, and extraction of the derivatized compound), as described in Figure 1.

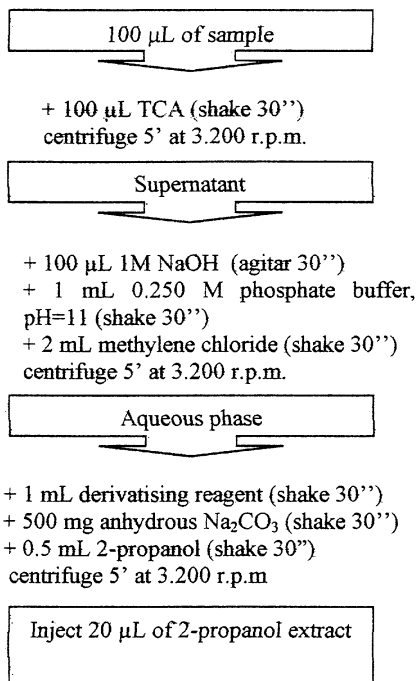


Figure 1. Protocol used for conditioning biological samples for the determination of Amikacin by HPLC.

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The derivatization reaction is the main reaction in the analysis of Amikacin by HPLC since the aminoglycosides do not absorb UV radiation and neither do they emit fluorescent radiation, such that, in this technique a pre-column reaction was employed, using *o*-phthaldialdehyde as the derivatizing reagent. The derivatizing solution was prepared fresh daily and was made up dissolving 20 mg of *o*-phthaldialdehyde in a solution made of 2 mL of mercaptoethanol, 10 mL of ethanol and 100 mL of borate buffer, pH = 10.4 (19).

Once derivatized, the samples were stored on ice until their determination.

Selectivity

To study the selectivity of the method (15), a sample of plasma was prepared with the components used to manufacture the microspheres: *d,l*-lactide-co-glycolide (0.1%), cottonseed oil (0.01%), and soybean lecithin (0.01%).

Sensibility

The sensibility of technique was evaluated using quantification limit (Q.L.) and detection limit (D.L.) from the following Equations (16).

$$Q.L. = \frac{a + (3 \times S_a)}{b \times \sqrt{n}}$$

$$D.L. = \frac{a + (10 \times S_a)}{b \times \sqrt{n}}$$

where *a* is the ordinate at the origin and *b* is the slope of the calibration straight line, *S_a* is the standard deviation of ordinate at the origin of the calibration straight lines and *n* is the number of points, for concentrations ranging from 0.25–5 µg/mL.

Quantification

The concentration of Amikacin in the problem samples was determined from the following equation:

$$x = (\text{response} - a)/b$$

where *x* is the concentration of Amikacin in µg/mL, *a* is the ordinate at the origin of the calibration straight line, *b* is the slope of the calibration straight line, and response is the area of the chromatographic peak (15).



RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Selectivity

Figure 2 shows a chromatogram of Amikacin (25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$) in plasma as compared with a plasma blank containing (*d,l*-lactide-co-glycolide, cottonseed oil, soybean lecithin).

The good selectivity and specificity of the analytical technique used for Amikacin determination can be seen ($t_r=7.50$), with no overlapping of the chromatographic peaks or interferences with any other compounds possibly present in the samples analyzed being observed.

Linearity

Figure 3 shows the chromatograms of the calibration straight line of concentrations between 2.5 and 25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$.

Over the ranges of 0.25–5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ and 2.5–25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ for Amikacin, respectively (anticipated concentration range in biological fluids), a linear fit was

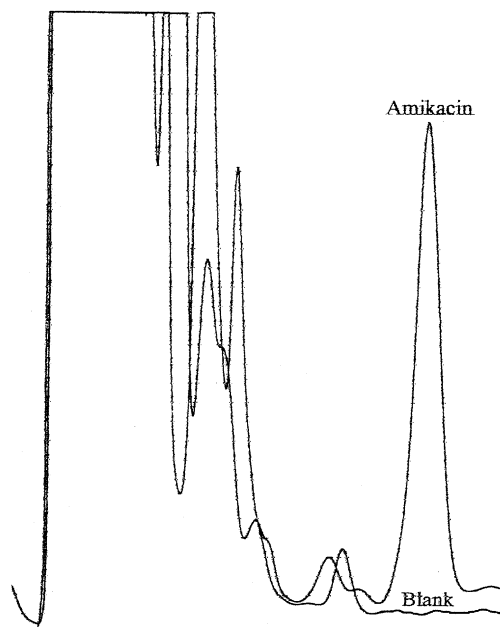


Figure 2. Chromatogram of a blank and of a sample of Amikacin in plasma.



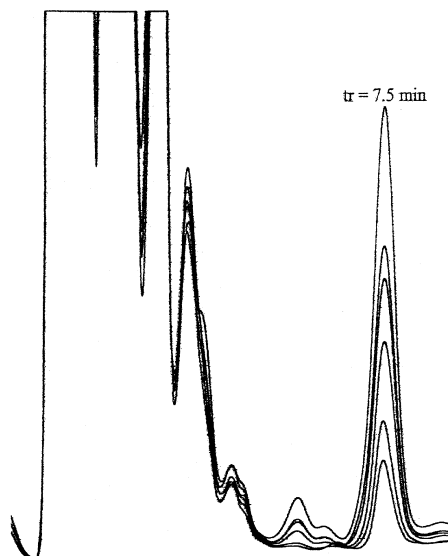


Figure 3. Chromatograms corresponding to the calibration range of Amikacin in plasma (2.5, 5, 10, 15, 20, and 25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$).

used with satisfactory results (13). The data were fitted to a line by the Equation $y = a + bx$, where y = response (area), b = slope, a = intercepts, and x is the concentration of Amikacin in $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ of the standard samples (Figure 4). Claims of linearity are supported by regression data that include the correlation coefficient (r) and r -squared value (determination coefficient) (14). Table 1 shows the parameters of the Equations obtained in the regression study of each concentration in an intra-day (5 times) follow-up.

Analysis of the response factor (fr) served to check the good linearity of calibration. Table 2 shows the C.V. (%) of the response factor in an intra-day study. As may be seen, the variation coefficient of that factor is lower than 6% for both concentration ranges.

Comparison of the variances observed, reveals that the linearity is correct for a very high level of significance and that the slope of the straight line is significantly different from zero in both cases (Tables 3 and 4).

Sensibility

2.00E-01 and 6.01E-02 are the quantification and detection limits, respectively. The samples with concentrations between the above limits can be detected but not adequately quantified.



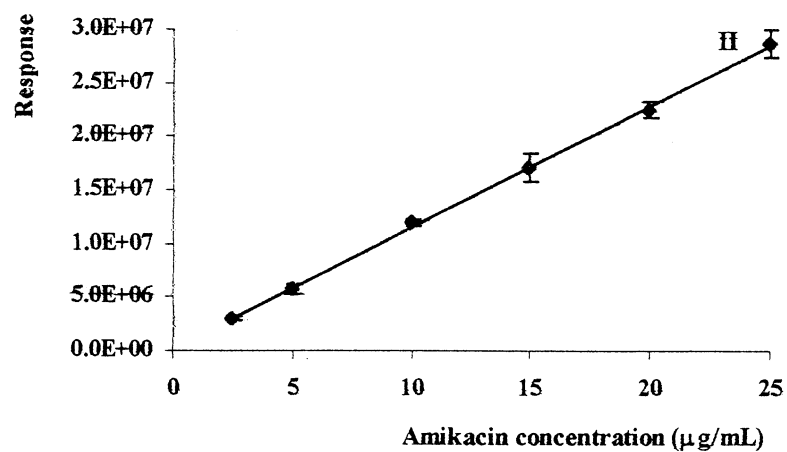
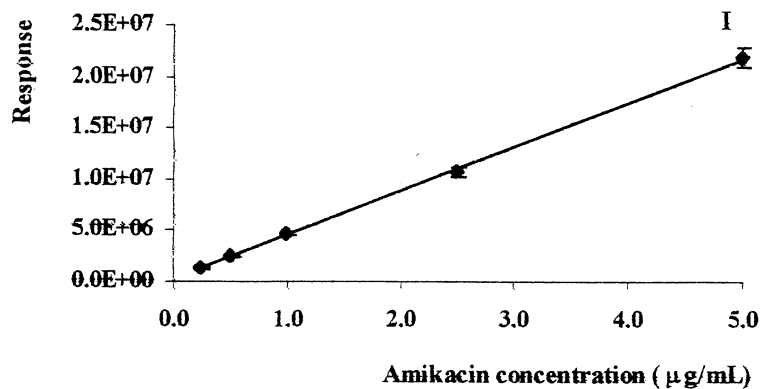


Figure 4. Calibration straight line of Amikacin in plasma for concentrations ranging from 0.25–5 µg/mL (I) and 2.5–25 µg/mL (II), respectively.

Table 1. Regression Linearity Fit by Equation ($y = a + bx$)

Straight Line	a	Confidence Interval (95%)	b	r	r^2
0.25–5 µg/mL	267957	–182039–717953	4294631	0.995	0.991
2.5–25 µg/mL	251544	–295200–798288	1115656	0.997	0.993

a = intercepts, b = slope, r = correlation coefficient, r^2 = determination coefficient.



Table 2. Study of Relative Factor of Response (fr) in a Intra-Day Study

Conc. (µg/mL)	x	σ_{n-1}	(%) C.V.
0.25–5	4723570.21	466031.00	9.98
2.5–25	1143489.23	63314.95	5.54

x = mean value, σ_{n-1} = standard deviation, (%) C.V. = variation coefficient.

Table 3. Analysis of Variance for the 0.25–5 µg/mL Concentration Range

Source of Variation	SS	Degrees of Freedom	MS	DF	Probability
Regression	1.42E+15	1	1.43E+15	2538.38	10E–16
Residual	1.29E+13	23	5.61E+11		
Total	1.44E+15	24			

Table 4. Analysis of Variance for the 2.5–25 µg/mL Concentration Range

Source of Variation	SS	Degrees of Freedom	MS	DF	Probability
Regression	2.37E+15	1	2.36E+15	4022.03	10E–16
Residual	1.65E+13	28	5.88E+11		
Total	2.38E+15	29			

Accuracy

The technique was exact in measuring the response by areas for the straight line corresponding to low concentrations and, also, for high ones. In the first case, mean recovery was $99.18\% \pm 11.7$, with a C.V. (%) of 11.89. The real and observed values did not show statistically significant differences when subjected to Student's t test: $t_{\text{exp}} (2.11) < t_{\text{tab}} (2.75)$, $p > 0.05$ and 29 degrees of freedom. In the second case, mean recovery was 99.28 ± 6.05 , with a C.V. (%) of 6.10. Likewise, the real and observed values did not show statistically significant differences: $t_{\text{exp}} (0.94) < t_{\text{tab}} (2.75)$, $p > 0.05$ and 29 degrees of freedom.

Precision

To study the precision of this analytical method, standard solutions at the same concentrations as those described above were used. Repeatability, or



Table 5. Results of Study of Precision of a 0.25–5 and 2.5–25 µg/mL Concentration Range of Amikacin in the Intra-Day Study

Conc. (µg/mL)	Mean Area	C.V. (%)	Conc. (µg/mL)	Mean Area	C.V. (%)
0.25	1001372	8.65	2.5	2968880	8.25
0.50	2493932	9.91	5	5731720	8.02
1	4707806	9.97	10	11945443	2.52
2.5	10672134	9.42	15	17056447	7.49
5	21871501	6.01	20	22440559	3.49
			25	28643532	4.52

Table 6. Results of Study of Precision of a 0.25–5 and 2.5–25 µg/mL Concentration Range of Amikacin in the Inter-Day Study

Conc. (µg/mL)	Mean Area	C.V. (%)	Conc. (µg/mL)	Mean Area	C.V. (%)
0.25	2271701	8.64	2.5	3191215	8.25
0.50	2978321	12.42	5	5987620	9.34
1	5054075	4.24	10	11961913	4.52
2.5	10828164	11.66	15	17050056	8.22
5	22479004	10.75	20	25148629	5.70
			25	28113028	7.42

intra-day precision studies, were carried out by analyzing the samples five times on the same day and reproducibility studies were performed by analyzing five samples on five different days (inter-day precision). The mean values of the results obtained and their variation coefficients are shown in Tables 5 and 6.

In both the intra-day and inter-day precision studies, the CVs of the measurements by areas for both straight lines were, in all cases, lower than 15%, pointing to the good repeatability and reproducibility of the analytical technique.

CONCLUSIONS

A method for the quantitation of Amikacin in biological samples has been developed and validated. Our results reveal the excellent linearity, precision, and accuracy of the analytical technique, allowing it to be used as a standard method for the quantitation of Amikacin both in clinical practice and in research. Also, only a small sample volume is required, which is important when studies with this type of sample are to be performed.

With small variations, the technique could be used for the quantitative and qualitative determination of other aminoglycoside antibiotics.

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Received May 2, 2001

Accepted August 30, 2001

Manuscript 5639



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