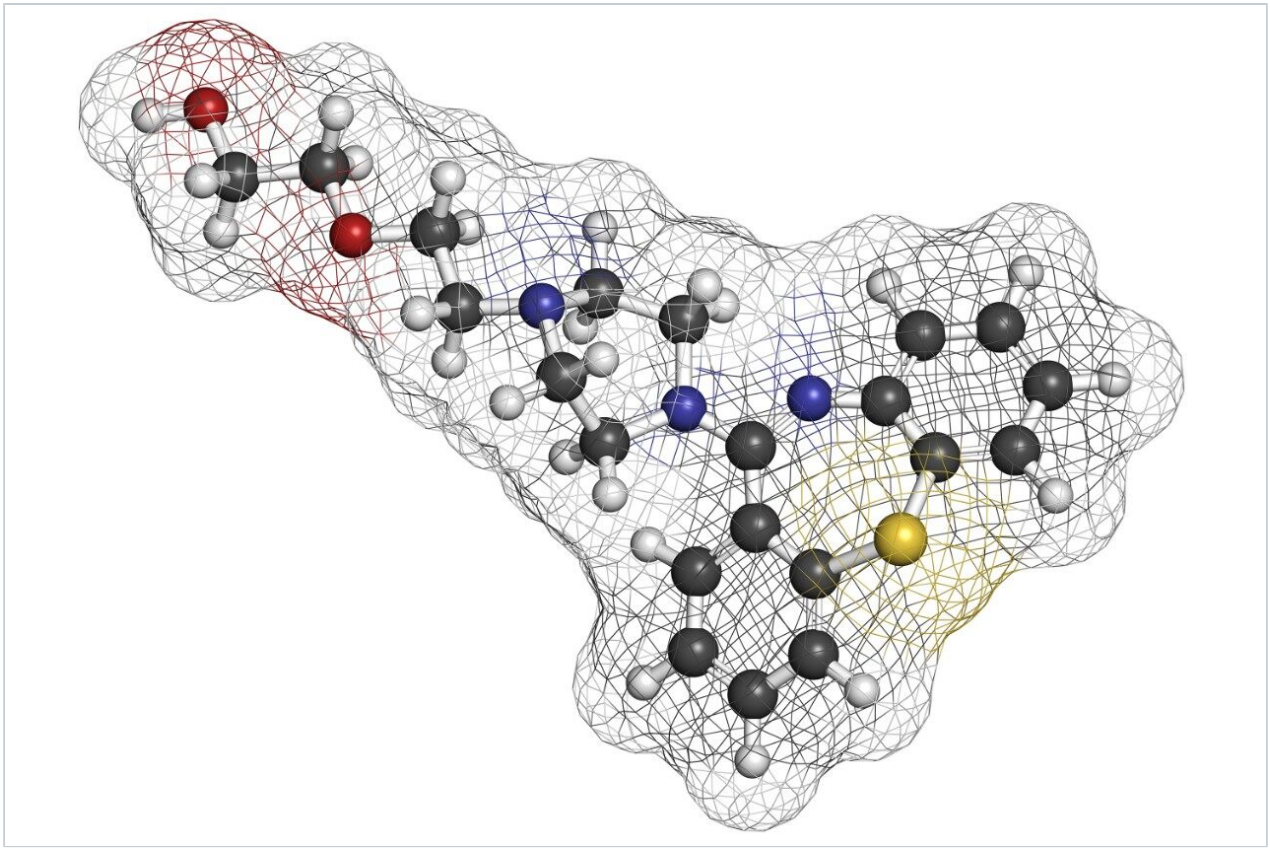
Waters™

Nota applicativa

A Sensitive and Wide Range Method for the Estimation of Quetiapine Using UPLC and ACQUITY TQD

Sudarshan Mantha, Gopal Vaidyanathan

Waters Corporation



Abstract

This application note demonstrates the benefits of combining solid phase extraction (SPE) methodology of silica, UltraPerformance LC, and a moderately sensitive tandem quadrupole mass spectrometer, ACQUITY TQD for the development of a method for quantification of quetiapine in plasma. In addition to addressing the challenge of achieving medium to high sensitivity without using a high end TQ mass spectrometer, this method addresses several other challenges faced by the bioanalytical scientist, such as robustness, high throughput, and high selectivity.

Benefits

Enables the bioanalytical scientist to address several challenges, such as medium tohigh sensitivity of a sample without using high end TQ mass spectrometers, robustness, high throughput, and high selectivity.

Introduction

Quetiapine (2-[2-(4-dibenzo[*b,f*][1,4]thiazepin-11-yl-1-piperazinyl)ethoxy]ethanol fumarate (2:1 salt)) is an atypical antipsychotic drug with a unique receptorbinding profile that belongs to a new chemical class, the dibenzothiazepine derivatives. Quetiapine is used for the treatment of schizophrenia and acute manic episodes associated with bipolar 1 disorder. The antipsychotic effect of Quetiapine is hypothesized to be mediated through antagonist activity at dopamine and serotonin receptors. Quetiapine also has an antagonistic effect on the histamine H1 receptor. These antipsychotics have a low incidence of extrapyriamidal side effects and tardive dyskinesias compared to older antipsychotics.

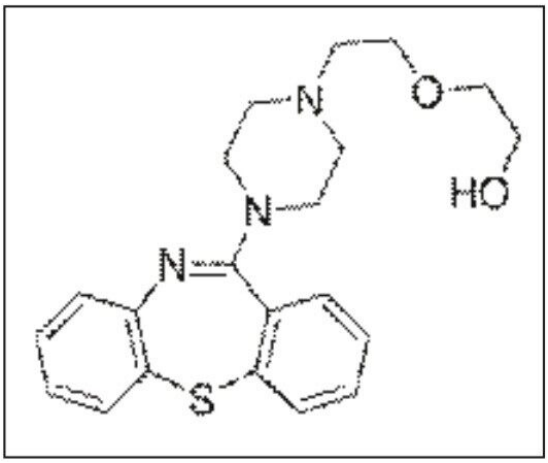


Figure 1. Molecular diagram of quetiapine.

The advantages of the therapeutic profile of quetiapine have led to increased use in the clinical practice, which encourages the development of new pharmaceutical preparations. As a consequence, there are increased demands for new analytical methods to determine pharmacokinetic parameters in bioequivalence studies. Some of these methods could also be used in therapeutic drug monitoring. Quetiapine binds strongly to protein, which when combined with its low bio-availability (~9%), requires high dosage levels. It is metabolized by the liver and appears to be a major circulating species in plasma. Such high dosage strengths require development of an LC-MS assay to determine quetiapine in the range of 150 pg/mL as LLOQ (lowest limit of quantitation). Although several HPLC methods for the determination and/or quantitation of quetiapine have been reported, none of these methods are sensitive enough to address the determination in the expected drug levels. In this application note, ACQUITY TQD and Waters sample preparation chemistries were used for bioanalysis of quetiapine within a range of 150 pg/mL to 150 ng/mL.

Quetiapine in spiked plasma samples was extracted using solid phase extraction (SPE) using an Oasis HLB (3 cc, 60 mg) Cartridge. A 300-µL aliquot of plasma was diluted with 4% o-phosphoric acid, and loaded onto the SPE cartridge previously conditioned with organic solvent and water. The plasma solution was then washed with water followed by an organo-aqueous solution, eluted in aqueous basic buffer, followed by a wash with acetonitrile. The eluted samples were injected on to the system directly.

Experimental

LC conditions

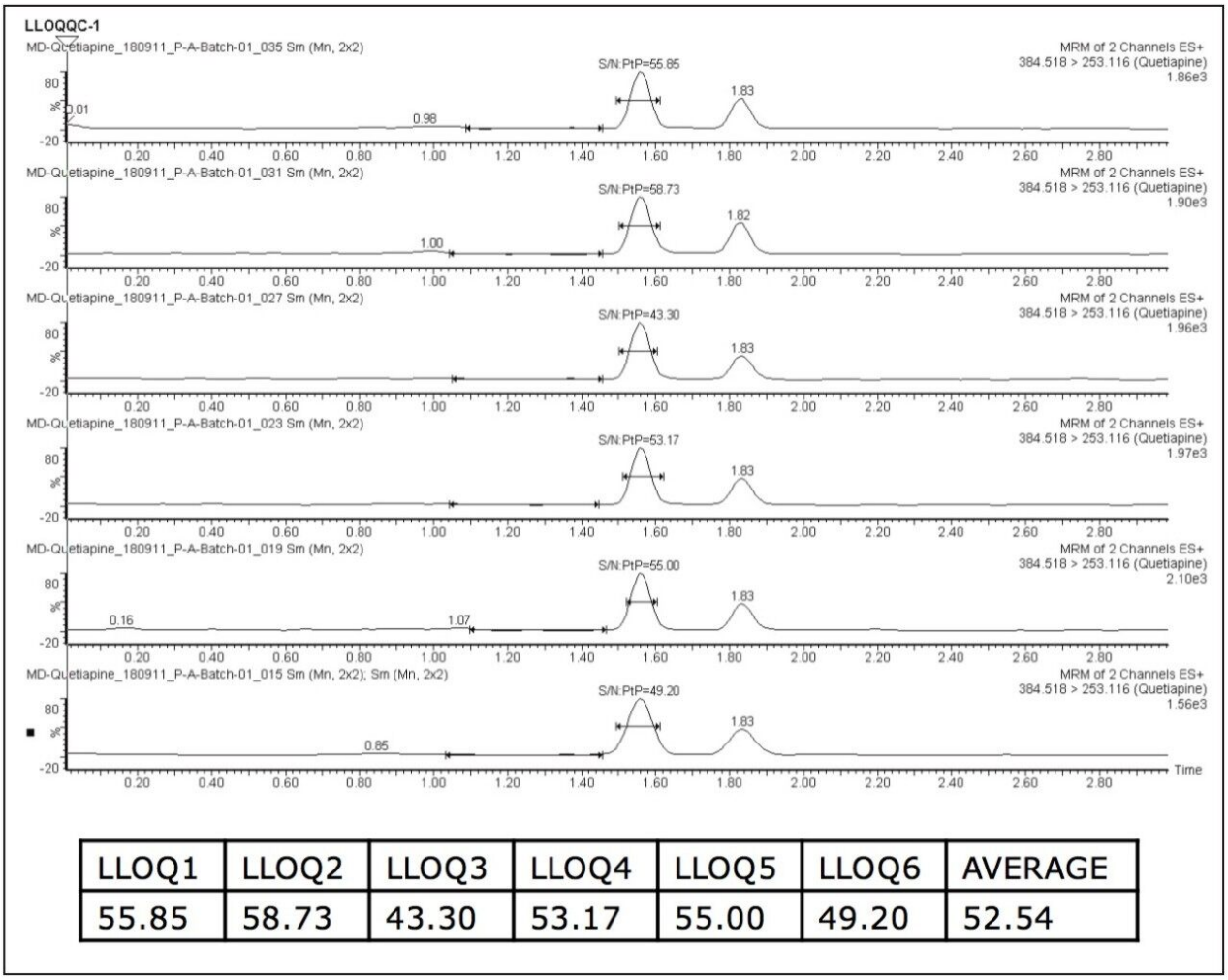
LC system:	ACQUITY UPLC
Column:	ACQUITY UPLC BEH C_{18} 1.7 µm, 150 mm x 2.1 mm
LC column elution:	90% organic solvent, 10% basic aqueous buffer over 3 min followed by a high concentration aqueous wash in the post run phase for 2 min, then the elution conditions were changed back to initial isocratic conditions
Column temp.:	40 °C
Flow rate:	0.275 mL/min

MS conditions

MS system:	ACQUITY TQD
MS mode:	ESI positive
MRM transition:	383.59 → 337.32

Results and Discussion

The chromatographic method was obtained using an ACQUITY UPLC System and an ACQUITY UPLC BEH C_{18} (1.7 µm, 150 mm x 2.1 mm) Column, which provided resolution for quetiapine from other possible co-eluting plasma endogenous peaks present in the samples. Quetiapine eluted at 1.54 min with a peak width of 12 s at the base. Quetiapine gave a signal-to-noise (S/N) ratio of approximately 53 for an average of six replicates of plasma samples at the lower limit of quantification (LLOQ), as shown in Figure 2.



LLOQ1	LLOQ2	LLOQ3	LLOQ4	LLOQ5	LLOQ6	AVERAGE
55.85	58.73	43.30	53.17	55.00	49.20	52.54

Figure 2. Chromatogram of quetiapine at the LLOQ concentration of 150 pg/mL and S/N ratio for six replicates of quetiapine at the LLOQ level.

The ACQUITY TQD is a triple quadrupole mass spectrometer that offers an LC-MS/MS system solution with medium- to high-range sensitivity, and it is suitable for fast-paced, routine analysis in multi-user laboratory environments.

For the assay detailed in this application note, quetiapine exhibited a linear calibration curve over a range of 150 pg/mL to 150 ng/mL with an r^2 value of 0.998. The back-calculated concentrations of the standards were within ±7 % of the nominal concentration, as shown in Table 1. This assay was performed within a 3 min injection-to-injection time scale in isocratic mode (inclusive of a post-run gradient wash), which allowed for high throughput analysis with high precision.

Sample	Type	Nominal	Analyte area	ISTD area	Area ratio	Accuracy
EXT_BLANK	Blank		12	3		
EXT_BLANK+ISTD	Blank		20	11997	0.00170	
EXT_STD_1	Standard	0.150	119	14634	0.00814	95.03
EXT_STD_2	Standard	0.225	196	16436	0.01193	106.70
EXT_STD_3	Standard	0.675	456	15468	0.02948	102.39
EXT_STD_4	Standard	2.250	1305	14598	0.08942	99.20
EXT_STD_5	Standard	7.500	4146	13664	0.30340	103.10
EXT_STD_6	Standard	12.500	7881	16524	0.47695	97.55
EXT_STD_7	Standard	25.000	13273	13799	0.96188	98.64
EXT_STD_8	Standard	75.000	35660	11911	2.99392	102.53
EXT_STD_9	Standard	150.000	74364	13428	5.53780	94.86

Table 1. Calibration data of quetiapine in the range of 150 pg/mL to 150 ng/mL.

Recovery of the analyte and IS was also performed by comparison of extracted QC samples against neat samples, which was found to be approximately 65% throughout the range. The % accuracy of these measurements was also found to be satisfactory, as shown in Figure 3.

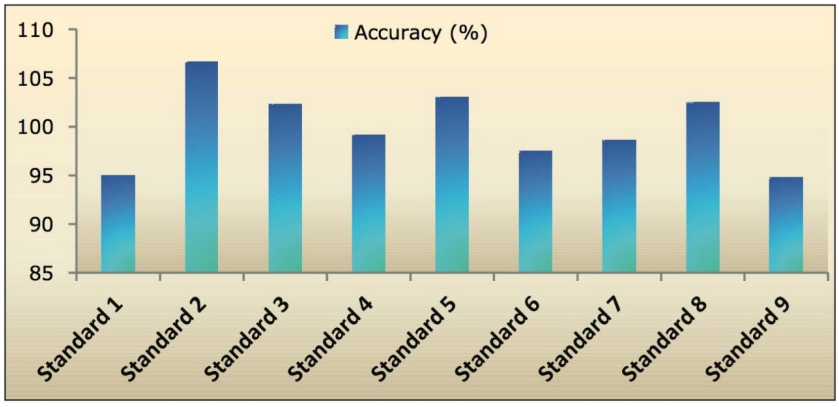


Figure 3. Accuracy (%) measured from quetiapine calibration within the range of 150 pg/mL (LLOQ) to 150 ng/mL.

For a comparison of samples within the global batches, two separate batches were prepared with six samples in each batch for LLOQQC, LQC, MQC, and HQC concentration levels. The data showed excellent agreement between the six samples in all the three batches, as shown in Table 2.

P-A-GLOBAL DATA												
P-A-Batch-01	LLOQQC-1	0.15	0.1370	LQC-1	0.675	0.7020	MQC-1	6.75	6.607	HQC-1	85	81.3880
	LLOQQC-2	0.15	0.1680	LQC-2	0.675	0.6660	MQC-2	6.75	6.021	HQC-2	85	82.1400
	LLOQQC-3	0.15	0.1520	LQC-3	0.675	0.6700	MQC-3	6.75	6.371	HQC-3	85	82.9500
	LLOQQC-4	0.15	0.1550	LQC-4	0.675	0.7180	MQC-4	6.75	6.131	HQC-4	85	83.3160
	LLOQQC-5	0.15	0.1510	LQC-5	0.675	0.6780	MQC-5	6.75	6.344	HQC-5	85	83.5670
	LLOQQC-6	0.15	0.1400	LQC-6	0.675	0.7340	MQC-6	6.75	6.184	HQC-6	85	82.3700
P-A-Batch-02	LLOQQC-1	0.15	0.1590	LQC-1	0.675	0.7690	MQC-1	6.75	6.607	HQC-1	85	85.6230
	LLOQQC-2	0.15	0.1740	LQC-2	0.675	0.7280	MQC-2	6.75	6.438	HQC-2	85	83.1280
	LLOQQC-3	0.15	0.1520	LQC-3	0.675	0.7600	MQC-3	6.75	6.431	HQC-3	85	88.3780
	LLOQQC-4	0.15	0.1560	LQC-4	0.675	0.7060	MQC-4	6.75	6.362	HQC-4	85	77.8960
	LLOQQC-5	0.15	0.1550	LQC-5	0.675	0.7040	MQC-5	6.75	6.380	HQC-5	85	85.1570
	LLOQQC-6	0.15	0.1350	LQC-6	0.675	0.6900	MQC-6	6.75	6.116	HQC-6	85	84.4710
	Mean		0.1530			0.7100			6.333			83.3650
	SD		0.0116			0.0331			0.1866			2.5449
	%CV		7.5700			4.6500			2.9500			3.0500
	Accuracy		101.8889			105.2469			93.8172			98.0768

Table 2. Comparison of the three separate batches, each containing six quetiapine samples at the LLOQQC, LQC, MQC, and HQC concentrations.

Conclusion

Featured Products

ACQUITY UPLC System <https://www.waters.com/514207>

720004410, June 2012

©2019 Waters Corporation. All Rights Reserved.