

A Semi Quantitative Method for the Analysis of Tryptic Peptides in Human Serum: A Rapid, Targeted UPLC-MS/MS Approach Using Biognosys Plasma Dive Kit

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Abstract

This application note demonstrates a high-throughput UPLC-MS/MS research method for the semi-quantitative analysis of various tryptic peptides in human serum samples.

Benefits

- Targeted, semi-quantitative UPLC-MS/MS analysis of 100 tryptic peptides
- High throughput analysis means larger sample sets can be analyzed
- Use of a generic LC-MS configuration yields versatility for switching from one compound class to another

Introduction

Proteins are important molecules that are involved in almost all biological processes. They are large, high molecular weight molecules, and therefore are analyzed using marker peptides that are produced using proteolytic enzymes like trypsin. Historically these types of analyses have been performed using high-resolution mass spectrometry coupled with micro/nano flow chromatographic systems. These methodologies however are low throughput, and are not suitable for large cohorts of samples. Here we demonstrate a high-throughput UPLC-MS/MS research method for the semi-quantitative analysis of various tryptic peptides in non-depleted, tryptically digested human serum samples. This application note is part of a Targeted Omics Method Package.

Experimental

Human serum sample preparation

Human serum samples were prepared using the Biognosys Plasma Dive Kit (Biognosys, Schlieren, Switzerland). Briefly, 10 μ L of sample was denatured, reduced, and alkylated before being diluted and typically digested using 5 μ L of 0.4 μ g/ μ L trypsin. Following acidification, centrifugation, and the addition of a fixed amount of the stable labeled forms of all 100 marker peptides, 6 μ L of the spiked supernatant was then injected onto the UPLC-MS/MS system.

LC conditions

UPLC separation was performed with an ACQUITY UPLC I-Class System (fixed loop), equipped with a CORTECS T3 2.7 μm (2.1 \times 30 mm) analytical column. A sample of 6 μL was injected at a flow rate of 0.15 mL/min. Mobile phase A was 0.01% formic acid (aq) containing 0.2 mM Ammonium Formate and mobile phase B was 50% isopropanol in acetonitrile containing 0.01% formic acid and 0.2 mM Ammonium Formate. After an initial 2.5-minute hold at 1% Mobile phase B, the tryptic peptides were eluted from the column and separated with a gradient of 1–45% Mobile phase B over 2.9 minutes, followed by a 2.5-minute column wash at 85% Mobile phase B. The column was then re-equilibrated to initial conditions. The analytical column temperature was maintained at 60 °C.

MS condition

Multiple Reaction Monitoring (MRM) analyses were performed using a Xevo TQ-S micro tandem quadrupole Mass Spectrometer. All experiments were performed in positive electrospray ionization (ESI+) mode. The ion source temperature and capillary voltage were kept constant and set to 150 °C and 2.0 kV respectively. The cone gas flow rate was 50 L/hr and desolvation temperature was 650 °C. Cone voltages and collision energies used were those calculated by the Skyline software (MacCoss Lab, University of Washington).

Informatics

Method information was imported onto the LC-MS system using the Quanpedia functionality within MassLynx. This extend able and searchable database produces LC and MS methods as well as processing methods for use in TargetLynx for compound quantification. Skyline was used for the production of MS methods and data visualization.

Results and Discussion

Table 1 details the 100 marker peptides analyzed, the proteins they represent, and the b and y product ions monitored. Tryptic peptides were detected using a series of MRM transitions. The product ions monitored are detailed in Table 1. These were all singly charged ions, with the exception of the y8 ion for P06276, where both singly and doubly charged ions were monitored. The precursor ions used were the doubly charged ions for all marker peptides, with the exception of P08603 and Q9PD5, where the triply charged precursors were used.

| UniProt ID | Description | Peptide sequence | b/y ions monitored |
|------------|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| P02763 | Alpha-1-acid glycoprotein 1 (Orosomucoid-1) | SDVVYTDWK | y5, y6, and y7 |
| P19652 | Alpha-1-acid glycoprotein 2 (Orosomucoid-2) | EHVAHLFLR | y6, y7, and y8 |
| P01009 | Alpha-1-antitrypsin | SVLGQLGITK | y4, y7, and y8 |
| P04217 | Alpha-1B-glycoprotein | LLELTGPK | y4, y6, and y7 |
| P08697 | Alpha-2-antiplasmin (Serpin F2) | LFGPDLK | y3, y4, and y5 |
| P02750 | Leucine-rich alpha-2-glycoprotein (LRG) | VAAGAFQGLR | y5, y7, and y8 |
| P01023 | Alpha-2-macroglobulin (Alpha-2-M) | AIGYLNTGYQR | y6, y7, and y9 |
| P01011 | Alpha-1-antichymotrypsin (ACT) | EIGELYLPK | y3, y5, and y7 |
| P43652 | Afamin (Alpha-albumin) | AESPEVCFNEESPK | y8, y9, and y11 |
| P02768 | Serum albumin | YLYEIR | y4, y5, and y6 |
| P35858 | Insulin-like growth factor-binding protein complex acid labile subunit | LEYLLLSR | y5, y6, and y7 |
| P02760 | Protein AMBP | TVAACNLPIVR | y6, y7, and y9 |
| P01019 | Angiotensinogen (Serpin A8) | ALQDQLVLVAAK | y6, y9, and y10 |
| P01008 | Antithrombin-III (Serpin C1) | EVPLNTIIFMGR | y5, y6, and y8 |
| P02647 | Apolipoprotein A-I | VSFLSALEYTK | y7, y8, and y9 |
| P02652 | Apolipoprotein A-II | EQLTPLIK | y4, y5, and y6 |
| P06727 | Apolipoprotein A-IV | LAPLAEDVR | y4, y5, and y7 |
| P04114 | Apolipoprotein B-100 | FSVPAGIVIPSFQALTAR | y9, y10, and y11 |
| P02654 | Apolipoprotein C-I | EFGNTLEDK | y4, y5, and y7 |
| P02655 | Apolipoprotein C-II | TAAQNLYEK | y5, y6, and y7 |
| P02656 | Apolipoprotein C-III | GWVTDGFSSLK | y6, y7, and y9 |
| P05090 | Apolipoprotein D | NILTSNNIDVK | y7, y8, and y9 |
| P02649 | Apolipoprotein E | AATVGSLAQPLQER | y5, y7, and y11 |
| P02749 | Apolipoprotein H | VCPFAGILENGAVR | y7, y10, and y12 |
| O14791 | Apolipoprotein L1 | VTEPISAESGEQVER | y7, y8, and y10 |
| O95445 | Apolipoprotein M | FLLYNR | y3, y4, and y5 |
| P43251 | Biotinidase | SHLIIAQVAK | y6, y7, and y8 |
| P02745 | Complement C1q subcomponent subunit A | SLGFCDDTNK | y5, y6, and y8 |
| P02746 | Complement C1q subcomponent subunit B | GNLCVNLMR | y5, y6, and y7 |
| P02747 | Complement C1q subcomponent subunit C | FQSVFTVTR | y5, y6, and y7 |
| P00736 | Complement C1r subcomponent | GLTLHLK | y3, y4, and y5 |
| P09871 | Complement C1s subcomponent | TNFDNDIALVR | y5, y7, and y8 |
| P04003 | C ₃ b-binding protein alpha chain | GYILVGQAK | y4, y5, and y6 |
| P08185 | Corticosteroid-binding globulin (Serpin A6) | GTWTQPPFDLASTR | y4, y5, and y8 |
| O43866 | CD5 antigen-like (CT-2) (SP-alpha) | IWLNDNR | y4, y5, and y6 |
| P00450 | Ceruloplasmin (Ferroxidase) | DIASGLIGPLICK | y6, y7, and y8 |
| P00751 | Complement factor B | YGLVYATYTPK | y6, y7, and y8 |
| P08603 | Complement factor H (H factor 1) | IDVHLVPDR | y3, y4, and y5 |
| P05156 | Complement factor I | IVIEYVDR | y4, y6, and y7 |
| P06276 | Cholinesterase (EC 3.1.1.8) | IFFPGVSEFGK | y5 and y8(#) |
| P10909 | Clusterin (Aging-associated gene 4 protein) (Apolipoprotein J) | ASSIIDELFQDR | y4, y7, and y8 |
| P06681 | Complement C2 | AVISPGDFVFAK | y7, y8, and y9 |
| P01024 | Complement C3 | GYTQQLAFR | y3, y5, and y7 |
| P0C0L4 | Complement C ₃ -A | PVAFSVVPTAAAVSLK | b4, y10, and y11 |
| P01031 | Complement C5 | TDAPDLPEENQAR | y7, y8, and y10 |
| P07357 | Complement component C ₅ alpha chain | HTSLGPLEAK | y6, y8, and y9 |
| P02748 | Complement component C9 | LSPIYNLVPVK | y3, y7, and y9 |
| P02775 | Platelet basic protein (C-X-C motif chemokine 7) | NIQSLEVIQK | y4, y7, and y8 |
| P00488 | Coagulation factor XIII A chain | STVLTIPEIIK | y3, y7, and y8 |
| P05160 | Coagulation factor XIII B chain | IAQYYTTFK | y4, y6, and y8 |
| P00742 | Coagulation factor X | ACIPTGPYPCGK | y6, y7, and y9 |
| P00740 | Coagulation factor IX | SALVLQYLR | y5, y6, and y7 |
| P23142 | Fibulin-1 | TGYVFDGISR | y4, y6, and y7 |
| P02765 | Alpha-2-HS-glycoprotein | FSVVYAK | y4, y5, and y6 |
| Q9UGM5 | Fetuin-B | LVVLPFPK | y4, y5, and y6 |
| P02671 | Fibrinogen alpha chain | GSESGIFTNTK | y5, y7, and y8 |
| P02679 | Fibrinogen gamma chain | DNCCILDER | y4, y5, and y6 |
| P02751 | Fibronectin (FN) | SYTITGLQPGTDYK | y6, y9, and y10 |
| P06396 | Gelsolin (Actin-depolymerizing factor) | AGALNSNDAFVLK | y7, y8, and y9 |
| P22352 | Glutathione peroxidase 3 | FLVGPDGIPIMR | y4, y8, and y9 |
| P68871 | Hemoglobin subunit beta | VNVDEVGGEALGR | y7, y8, and y10 |
| P02042 | Hemoglobin subunit delta (Delta-globin) | LLGNVLVCVLAR | y5, y6, and y7 |
| P02790 | Hemopexin (Beta-1B-glycoprotein) | NFPSPVDAAFR | y5, y7, and y8 |
| P05546 | Heparin cofactor 2 | TLEAQLTPR | y5, y6, and y7 |
| P00738 | Haptoglobin | VTSIQDWVQK | y5, y6, and y8 |
| P00739 | Haptoglobin-related protein | VGYVSGWGQSDNFK | y7, y9, and y10 |
| P04198 | Histidine-rich glycoprotein | GGEGTGYFVDFSVR | y5, y6, and y7 |
| P05155 | Plasma protease C1 inhibitor | LLDSLPSDTR | y5, y7, and y8 |
| P01876 | Ig alpha-1 chain C region | TPLTATLSK | y5, y6, and y7 |
| P01877 | Ig alpha-2 chain C region | DASGATFTWTPSSGK | y5, y6, and y8 |
| P01857 | Ig gamma-1 chain C region | GPSVFPLAPSSK | y4 and y7 |
| P01859 | Ig gamma-2 chain C region | GLPAPIEK | y4, y5, and y6 |
| P01860 | Ig gamma-3 chain C region (HDC) | WYVDGVEVHNAK | y9, y10, and y11 |
| P01871 | Ig mu chain C region | YAATSQVLLPSK | y3, y4, and y10 |
| P05154 | Plasma serine protease inhibitor | TLYLADTFPTNFR | y5, y8, and y9 |
| P19827 | Inter-alpha-trypsin inhibitor heavy chain H1 | AAISGENAGLVR | y6, y8, and y9 |
| P19823 | Inter-alpha-trypsin inhibitor heavy chain H2 | FYNQVSTPLLK | y4, y6, and y7 |
| Q14624 | Inter-alpha-trypsin inhibitor heavy chain H4 | ILDDLSR | y5, y6, and y7 |
| P29622 | Kallistatin (Kallikrein inhibitor) | LGFTDLFSK | y6, y7, and y8 |
| P03952 | Plasma kallikrein | IAYGTQSSSGYSLR | y7, y9, and y11 |
| P01042 | Kininogen-1 | YFIDFVAR | y4, y5, and y6 |

