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LC-Based Lipidomics Analysis on QTRAP[®] Instruments

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Topics Covered

- Lipid extraction techniques
- Hydrophilic Interaction Chromatography (HILIC) LC method for lipid class separation
- Targeted MRM list for lipids
- Data processing by MultiQuant[™] Software
 - Relative quantitation
 - Accurate quantitation
- Links to helpful tools/references

This presentation is intended to provide LC and MS conditions that will enable targeted yet broad coverage of multiple lipid classes present in biological samples. It has not been validated and is intended to be a starting point for further method development. The technique can be adapted to include additional lipid classes as long as care is taken to ensure sufficient points across a peak are generated for quantitative purposes



For a consistent, broad-based lipid extraction, use either of these two methods

Bligh and Dyer:

1 Part aqueous (sample), 2 parts methanol, 0.9 part dichloromethane; Vortex (except plasma and brain—gently invert sealed test tube to avoid emulsion); Add 1 part water, 1 part dichloromethane; Vortex; Centrifuge (1200 rpm x 10 min); Take lower layer and evaporate solvent; Re-suspend in appropriate solvent for injection.

Folch:

1 Part aqueous (sample), 19 parts 50:50 methanol/ dichloromethane; Vortex; Add 4 parts water (or 0.9% sodium chloride); Vortex; Centrifuge (1200 rpm x 10 min); Take lower layer and evaporate solvent; Re-suspend in appropriate solvent for injection.

NOTE: Dichloromethane will extract plasticizers; always use glass



Lipid Extraction Techniques

Example protocol for plasma extraction

- 1. Use 13 x 100 mm new glass screw capped tubes. Do not use washed tubes as you may extract detergent residue.
- 2. To 25 µl plasma, add 975 µl water; let sit on ice for 10 min
- 3. Add 2.0 mL methanol
- 4. Add 0.9 ml dichloromethane
- 5. Vortex
- 6. Make sure you have a mono-phase at this stage. If you see two distinct phases, add 50 μl methanol and vortex, check to see if solution is a single phase. If not repeat addition of 50 μl methanol and vortex
- 7. Add Internal standard, vortex and let mixture sit for 30 min
- 8. Add 1 ml water
- 9. Add 0.9 ml dichloromethane
- 10. Invert tubes 10 times. DO NOT VORTEX or you will form an emulsion
- 11. Centrifuge at 1200 rpm for 10 min
- 12. Collect lower layer and put into a fresh glass tube
- 13. Add 2 mL dichloromethane to remains in extraction tube
- 14. Mix, centrifuge, collect lower layer and add to first extract
- 15. Evaporate solvent under a stream of nitrogen
- 16. Re-suspend lipids in 50:50 LC solvents A and B

Adapted from the method of Bligh and Dyer (Can J Biochem Phys, Vol 31, 912-917, 1959)



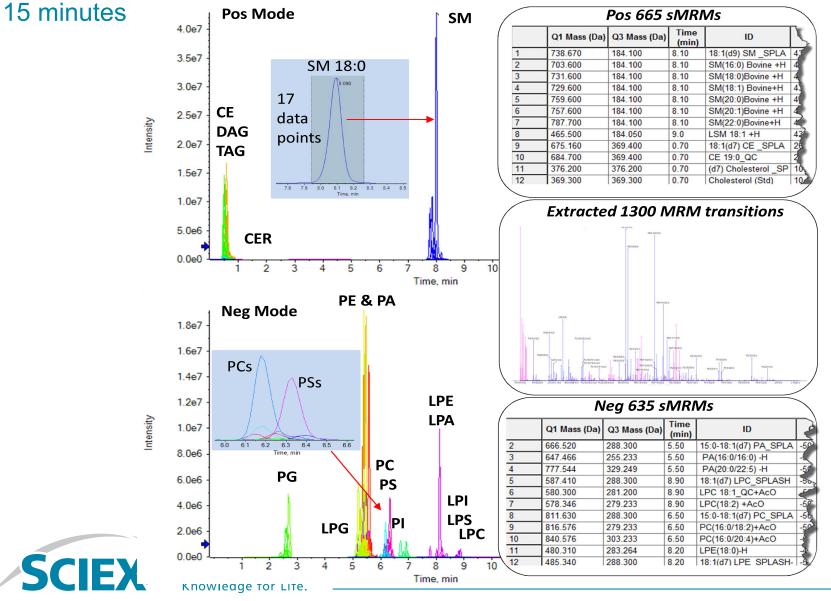
Important things to consider:

- Lipids are very sticky and will contaminate the MS. Some lipids are more tenacious than others—especially phosphorylated lipids such as sphingosine-1-phosphate. Always dilute a test sample to determine the optimal sample concentration.
- Use a relatively high curtain (CUR) gas setting—25 to 40 is ideal—to minimize lipid contamination.
- The LC rinse solvent should be a strong organic such as 100% IPA. The addition of 0.1% phosphoric acid reduces carry over of some lipid species such as phosphatidic acid (PA) and phosphatidylserine (PS).
- HILIC columns are very pH-sensitive. Carefully adjust the pH of your LC solvents to the proscribed levels to ensure reproducible chromatography. Additionally, HILIC columns generally require longer equilibration times. In this method, the column is equilibrated for 5 min at high flow.
- There is a certain amount of non-specific lipid binding to LC columns—especially with new columns. Run 4-5 test runs with a lipid extract to condition the column before using for analysis.



Lipidomics Analysis Using a HILIC LC Strategy

Over 1300 lipids analyzed with the capacity for accurate or relative quantitation in



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LC-MS Parameters for HILIC-Based Lipid Class Separation

LC Parameters

Mobile Phases	 (A): water/acetonitrile (5:95, v/v) with 10 mM ammonium acetate; pH = 8.0 (pH adjustment critical) (B): water/acetonitrile (50:50, v/v) with 10 mM ammonium acetate; pH = 8.0 (pH adjustment usually not needed)
Flow Rate	0.5 mL/min
HPLC Column	Waters Acquity UPLC BEH HILIC , 1.7µm, 2.1 x 100 mm (Part #186003461, Waters [Milford, MA 01757])
Column Temperature	35°C (* see note below)
Autosampler Temp.	4°C
Injection Volume	5 μL
Needle Wash	IPA
LC Program	Gradient with column diversion (to minimize contamination)

LC Gradient

Time (min)	% Mobile Phase B
0.0	0.1
10	20
11	98
13	98
13.1	0.1
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MS Parameters

Parameter	Value
CUR	35
GS1*	50
GS2*	60
IS	5200/-4500
TEM	500

Preparation of Mobile Phase A (1 L)

- Fill a 1L flask with 950 mL water/acetonitrile (5:95, v/v)
- Prepare 1 M stock solution of ammonium acetate in above solvent
- Add 10 ml ammonium acetate stock solution and mix well
- Using a pH meter, carefully adjust pH to 8.0
- Mix well, bring up to 1 L volume with water/acetonitrile (5:95, v/v)
- Store at 20°C for up to 6 months

Preparation of Mobile Phase B (1 L)

- Fill a 1L flask with 950 mL water/acetonitrile (50:50, v/v)
- Prepare 1 M stock solution of ammonium acetate in above solvent
- Add 10 ml ammonium acetate stock solution and mix well
- Using a pH meter, carefully adjust pH to 8.0, if needed
- Mix well, bring up to 1 L volume with water/acetonitrile (50:50, v/v)
- Store at 20°C for up to 6 months

* Zero-grade air should be used as the nebulizing gas to avoid corona discharge.

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Method Development

To develop a scheduled MRM method, a short list of IS and major lipid molecular species typically found in most biological samples was used to identify retention times of all major lipid species

Cycles	1054 🊔	Cycle:	0.9106	(sec)	
	Q1 Mass (Da)	Q3 Mass (Da)	Time (msec)	ID	CE (volts)
23	773.600	305.200	5.0	dPE(18:0d5/20:3)	-43 000
24	771.500	303.200	5.0	dPE(18:0d5/20:4)	
25	769.500	301.200	5.0	dPE(18:0d5/20:5)	
6	797.600	329.200	5.0	dPE(18:0d5/22:5)	
27	795.500	327.200	5.0	dPE(18:0d5/22:6)	
8	578.346	279.233	5.0	LPC(18:2) +AcO	-50.000
9	480.310	283.264	5.0	LPE(18:0)	-40.000
0	500.278	303.233	5.0	LPE(20:4)	-40.000
1	816.576	279.233	5.0	PC(16:0/18:2)+A	-50.000
2	840.576	303.233	5.0	PC(16:0/20:4)+A	-50.000
13	844.607	279.233	5.0	PC(18:0/18:2)+A	-50.000
4	816.576	281.249	5.0	PC(18:1/16:1)+A	-50.000
15	814.560	253.217	5.0	PC(18:2/16:1)+A	-50.000
6	864.576	303.233	5.0	PC(18:2/20:4)+A	-50.000
7	766.539	303.233	5.0	PE(18:0/20:4)	-50.000
8	712.492	279.233	5.0	PE(18:2/16:1)	-50.000
19	724.529	303.233	5.0	PE(O-16:0/20:4)	-50.000
10	698.500	279.233	5.0	PE(P-16:0/18:2)	-50.000
1	722.500	303.233	5.0	PE(P-16:0/20:4)	-50.000
12	748.500	301.217	5.0	PE(P-18:0/20:5)	-50.000
3	749.534	283.264	5.0	PG(16:0/18:0)	-50.000
4	769.503	303.233	5.0	PG(16:0/20:4)	-50.000
5	747.518	253.217	5.0	PG(18:0/16:1)	-50.000
16	773.534	279.233	5.0	PG(18:0/18:2)	-50.000
7	797.534	303.233	5.0	PG(18:0/20:4)	-50.000
8	769.503	279.233	5.0	PG(18:2/18:2)	-50.000
9	807.503	281.249	5.0	PI(14:0/18:1)	-50.000
i0	805.487	279.233	5.0	PI(14:0/18:2)	-50.000
i1	829.487	303.233	5.0	PI(14:0/20:4)	-50.000
2	814.560	277.217	5.0	PI(16:0/18:3)	-50.000
i3	865.581	283.264	5.0	PI(18:0/18:0)	-50.000
i4	861.550	279.233	5.0	PI(18:0/18:2)	-50.000
5	831.503	279.233	5.0	PI(18:2/16:1)	-50.000
6	788.545	281.249	5.0	PS(18:0/18:1)	-50.000
7	786.529	279.233	5.0	PS(18:0/18:2)	-50.000
8	838.560	303.233	5.0	PS(20:0/20:4)	-50.000
9					

Duration:	15.997	(min) Delay Ti	ime: 0	(sec)		
Cycles:	1054 🛓	Cycle:	0.9106	(sec)		
(Q1 Mass (Da)	Q3 Mass (Da)	Time (msec)	ID	CE (volts)	
70	3.600	184.100	5.0	SM(16:0)	43.000	
2 73	1.600	184.100	5.0	SM(18:0)	43.000	
72	9.600	184.100	5.0	SM(18:1)	43.000	
75	9.600	184.100	5.0	SM(20:0)	43.000	
	57.600	184.100	5.0	SM(20:1)	43.000	
	37.700	184.100	5.0	SM(22:0)	43.000	
	35.700	184.100	5.0	SM(22:1)	43.000	
	5.700	184.100	5.0	SM(24:0)	43.000	
	3.700	184.100	5.0	SM(24:1)	43.000	
	13.700	184.100	5.0	SM(26:0)	43.000	
-	1.700	184.100	5.0	SM(26:1)	43.000	
	0.600	184.200	5.0	dSM(16:0)	43.000	
-	6.600	184.200	5.0	dSM(18:1)	43.000	
	2.700	184.200	5.0	dSM(24:0)	43.000	
	20.700	184.200	5.0	dSM(24:1)	43.000	
	9.600	376.500	5.0	dCE(16:0)	22.000	
	17.600	376.500	5.0	dCE(16:1)	22.000	
	5.600	376.500	5.0	dCE(18:1)	22.000	
	3.600	376.500	5.0	dCE(18:2)	22.000	
	9.600	376.500	5.0	dCE(20:3)	22.000	
	7.600	376.500	5.0	dCE(20:4)	22.000	
	5.600	376.500	5.0	dCE(20:5)	22.000	
	21.600	376.500	5.0	dCE(22:6)	22.000	
	2.600	264.400	5.0	dCER(12:0)	43.000	
-	7.600	264.400	5.0	dCER(d16:0)	43.000	
	34.700	266.400	5.0	dDCER(d12:0)	43.000	
-	19.600 16.800	266.400 264.400	5.0 5.0	dDCER(d16:0)	43.000	
	16.800 71.900	264.400	5.0	dLCER(12:0)	43.000	
	1.900	264.400	5.0	dLCER(16:0) dHCER(12:0)	43.000	
-	14.600 19.700	264.400	5.0	dHCER(12:0) dHCER(16:0)	43.000	
2	13.100	204.400	5.0	UNCER(10.0)	45.000	
3						
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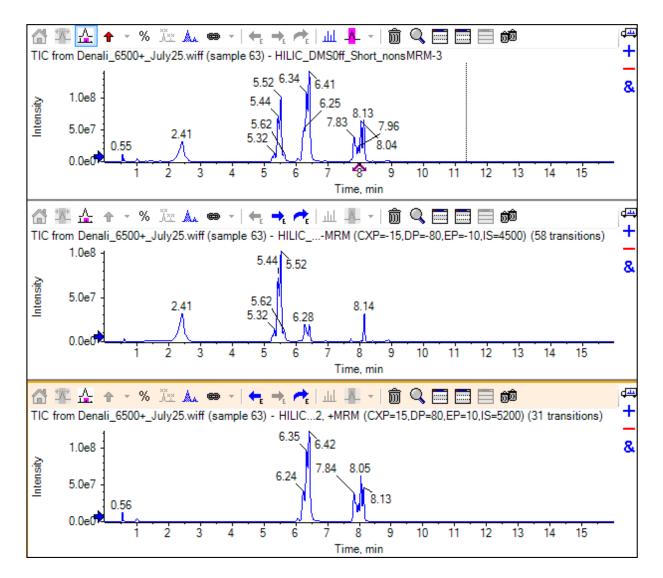


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HILIC method with Short MRM List

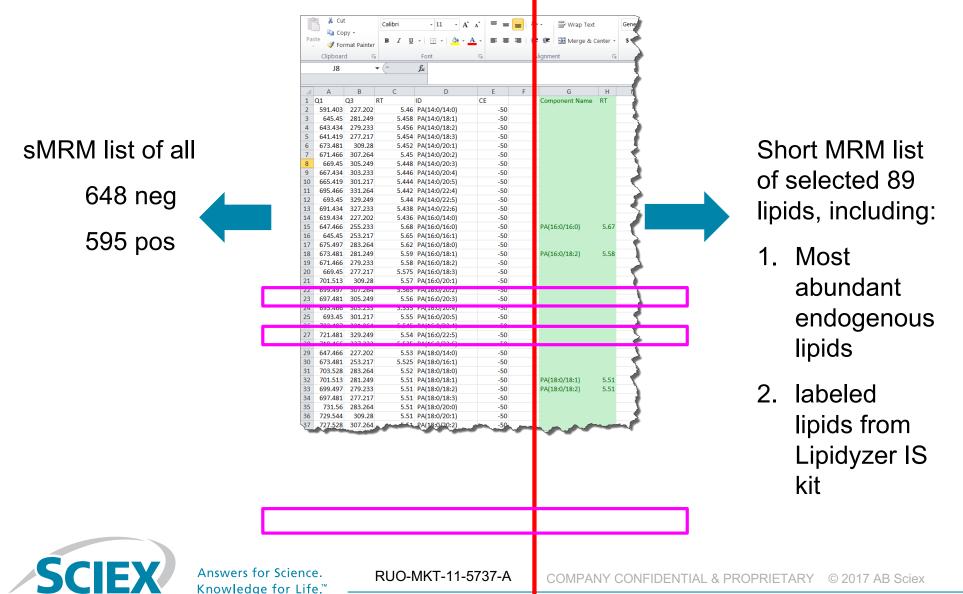




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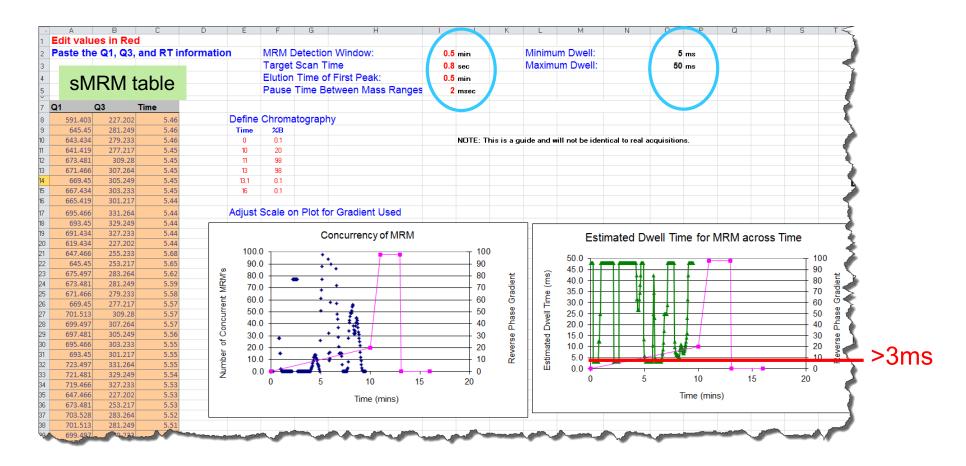
Retention Time Alignment Using Selected Lipids and IS

A similar strategy can be used to add compounds to target list



Scheduled MRM transitions Optimization

An excel macro is available to help optimize instrument parameter settings to obtain the best signal for each analyte





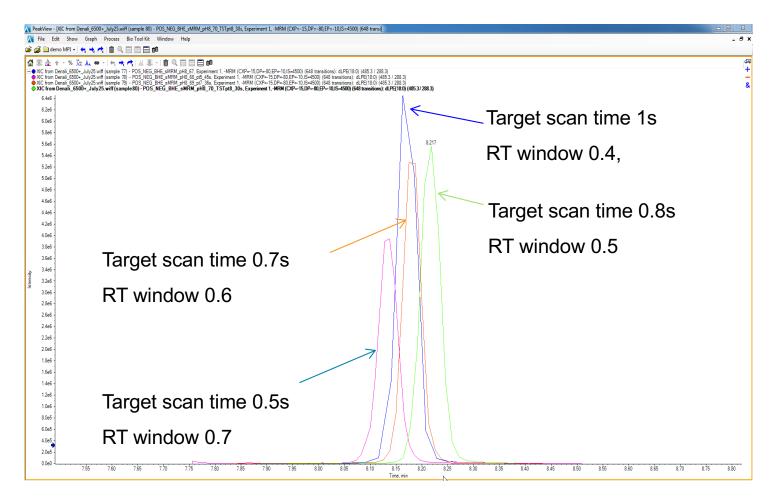
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Scheduled MRM Optimization

Monitoring a single MRM transition, sMRM settings can be optimized based on suggestions from sMRM macro

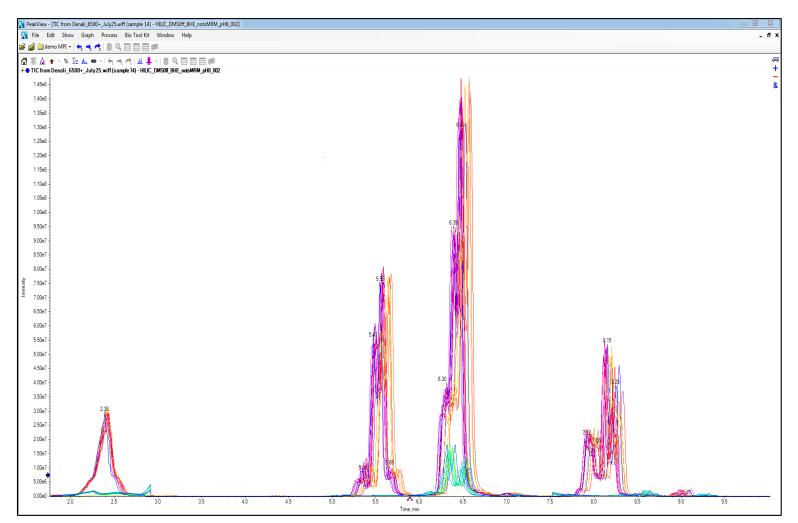




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HILIC method: Reproducibility

Multiple injections over the course of 1 day

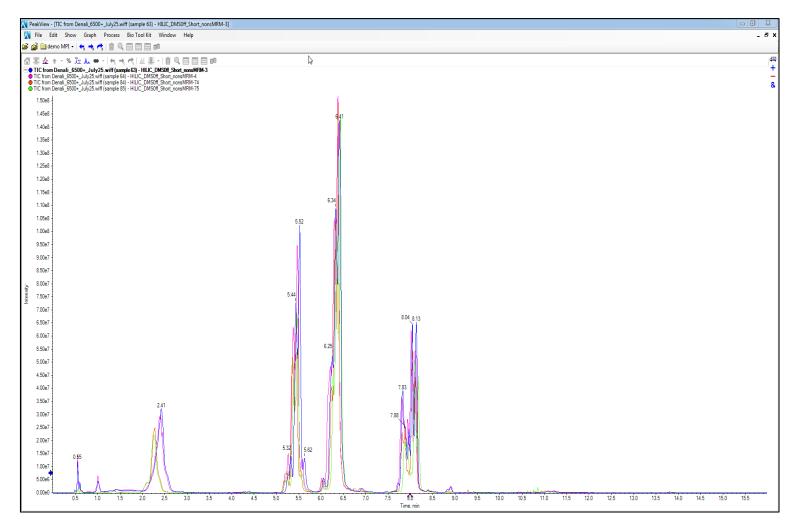




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HILIC method: Reproducibility

Multiple injections over the course of 4 days



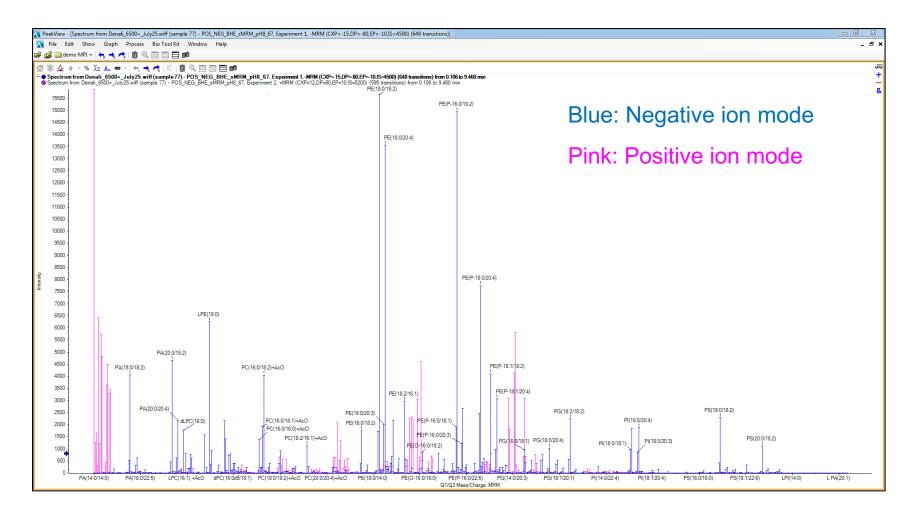


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Extracted MRM transitions from TIC

~1300 lipid molecular species monitored



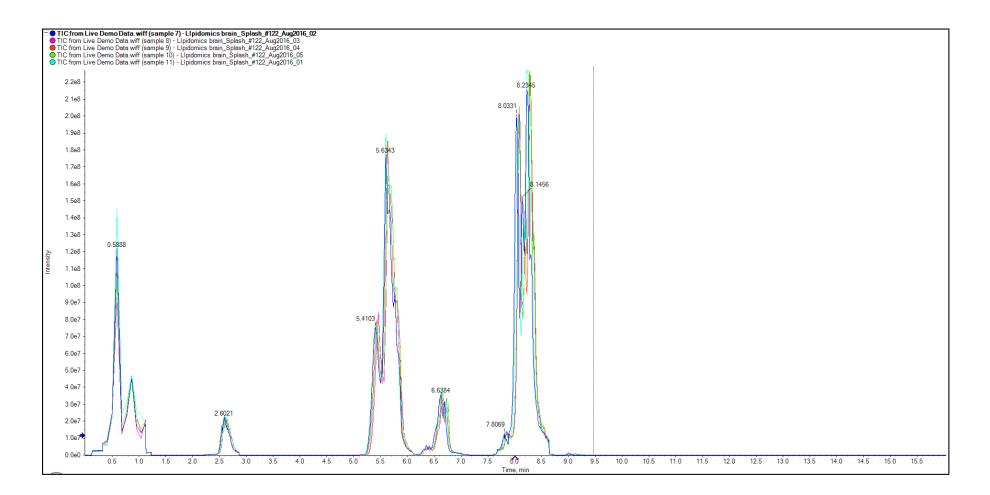


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Brain lipid extract (5 technical replicates)



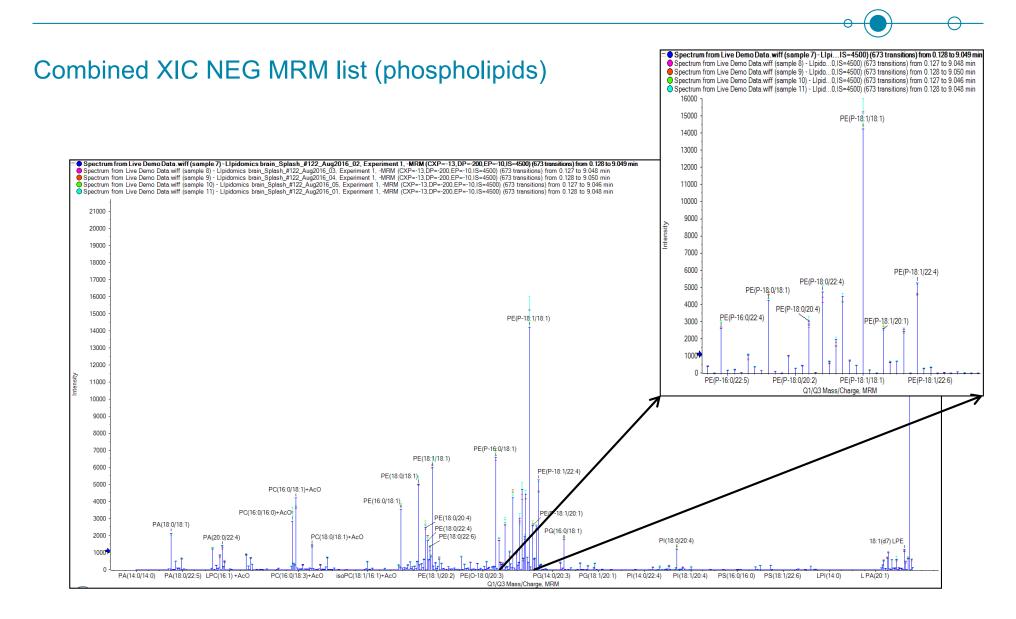
100 mg brain tissue extracted via Bligh and Dyer (SPLASH and Lipidyzer IS included)



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Biological Example: Brain Lipidome



100 mg brain tissue extracted via Bligh and Dyer (SPLASH and Lipidyzer IS included)

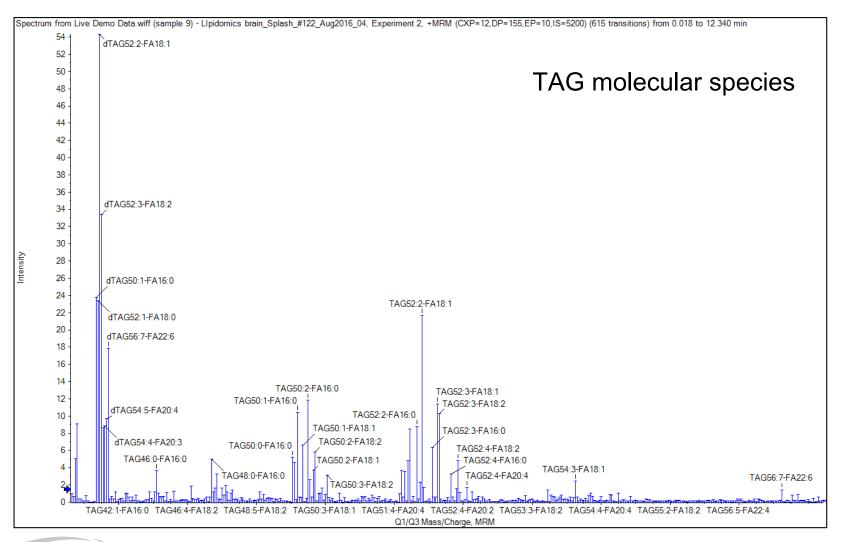
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XIC of triglyceride molecular species in brain extract





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Two potential internal standard kits can be used for quantitative purposes: SPLASH mix and the Lipidyzer[™] Platform internal standards

SPLASH Mix is used for relative quantitation

Mixture Components	Target Conc. (µg/ml)
15:0-18:1(d7) PC 15:0-	160
18:1(d7) PE 15:0-18:1(d7)	5
PS	5
15:0-18:1(d7) PG	30
15:0-18:1(d7) PI	10
15:0-18:1(d7) PA	7
18:1(d7) LPC	25
18:1(d7) LPE	5
18:1(d7) Chol Ester	350
18:1(d7) MG	2
15:0-18:1(d7) DG	10
15:0-18:1(d7)-15:0 TG	55
18:1(d9) SM	30
Cholesterol (d7)	100

Using one standard / lipid class enables relative quantitation. The standards correct for extraction efficiency and ionization efficiency only.



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Two potential internal standard kits can be used for quantitative purposes: SPLASH mix and the LipidyzerTM Platform internal standards

Lipidyzer[™] Platform standards correct for extraction and ionization efficiencies, but also correct for differential fragmentation efficiencies due to fatty acid chain length and number of double bonds within the fragmenting fatty acid chain. This enables accurate quantitation; however, phospholipid classes PS, PA, PI and PG are not included.

	STRUCTURE	FATTY ACID	POS	%
000	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	FA16:1 - Palmitoleic acid	sn-2	5
33	,,,,,,,,	FA18:1 - Oleic acid	sn-2	20
		FA18:2 - Linoleic acid	sn-2	20
	,l	FA18:3 - α-Linoleic acid	sn-2	5
	······	FA20:3 - Dihomo-γ-linoleic acid	sn-2	5
		FA20:4 - Arachidonic acid	sn-2	20
	,, i.	FA20:5 - Eicosapentaenoic acid	sn-2	5
	i	FA22:4 - Eicosatetraenoic acid	sn-2	5
	i	FA22:5 - Docosapentaenoic acid	sn-2	5
	in the second se	FA22:6 - Docosoahexaenoic acid	sn-2	10
		d916:0 - Labeled palmitic acid	sn-1	100

Example of the multiple internal standards available for each lipid class. Each class IS mix contains multiple different fatty acids that enables normalization at the molecular species level.



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Pre-configured MultiQuant[™] Software method file can rapidly process lipid data

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Components & Groups 🛛 🖪 🏜 📝 🕢 🗸 🧏 🖾 🖾 👘 🕌 All Sample Types 🔻 🖂 🐲 🌮 🦚 🔍 🚍												
Components	<u>^</u>	Sample Name	Sample Type	Acquisition Date & Time	Component Name	Retention Time	Area	IS Name	IS Reten_ Time	IS Area	Area Ratio	Col
Group C Group	=	POS_NEG_BH_	Unknown	8/1/2016 4:02:24 PM	PA(14:0/14:0)	5.71	1334	dPE(18:0d5/18	5.81	193	6.919	N/A
EGroup		POS_NEG_BH_	Unknown	8/1/2016 4:02:24 PM	PA(14:0/18:1)	5.67	235	dPE(18:0d5/18	5.81	193	1.217	N/A
Group Group		POS_NEG_BH	Unknown	8/1/2016 4:02:24 PM	PA(14:0/18:2)	N/A	N/A	dPE(18:0d5/18	5.81	193	N/A	N/A
Group Group		POS_NEG_BH_	Unknown	8/1/2016 4:02:24 PM	PA(14:0/18:3)	N/A	N/A	dPE(18:0d5/18	5.81	193	N/A	N/A
Group		POS_NEG_BH_	Unknown	8/1/2016 4:02:24 PM	PA(14:0/20:1)	5.67	242	dPE(18:0d5/18	5.81	193	1.256	N/A
Group		POS_NEG_BH_	Unknown	8/1/2016 4:02:24 PM	PA(14:0/20:2)	5.53	1059	dPE(18:0d5/18	5.81	193	5.491	N/A
Group		POS_NEG_BH_	Unknown	8/1/2016 4:02:24 PM	PA(14:0/20:3)	5.68	59	dPE(18:0d5/18	5.81	193	0.307	N/A,
Group		POS_NEG_BH_	Unknown	8/1/2016 4:02:24 PM	PA(14:0/20:4)	5.68	197	dPE(18:0d5/18	5.81	193	1.024	N/A
Group R Group		POS_NEG_BH_	Unknown	8/1/2016 4:02:24 PM	PA(14:0/20:5)	N/A	N/A	dPE(18:0d5/18_	5.81	193	N/A	N/A
ER Group ER Group		POS_NEG_BH_	Unknown	8/1/2016 4:02:24 PM	PA(14:0/22:4)	5.21	49	dPE(18:0d5/18	5.81	193	0.254	N/A
notv Group)		POS_NEG_BH_	Unknown	8/1/2016 4:02:24 PM	PA(14:0/22:5)	5.23	224	dPE(18:0d5/18	5.81	193	1.161	N/A
G Group		POS_NEG_BH_	Unknown	8/1/2016 4:02:24 PM	PA(14:0/22:6)	5.67	1733	dPE(18:0d5/18	5.81	193	8.992	N/A
nternal Standards C(16:0)		POS NEG BH	Unknown	8/1/2016 4:02:24 PM	PA(16:0/14:0)	5.63	973	dPE(18:0d5/18	5.81	193	5.048	NA
E(18:0) C(16:0d9/16:1)		POS_NEG_BH_	Unknown	8/1/2016 4:02:24 PM	PA(16:0/16:0)	5.87	136	dPE(18:0d5/18	5.81	193	0.706	N/A
C(16:0d9/18:1)		POS_NEG_BH_	Unknown	8/1/2016 4:02:24 PM	PA(16:0/16:1)	5.88	108	dPE(18:0d5/18	5.81	193	0.560	N/A
(16:0d9/18:2) (16:0d9/18:3)		POS NEG BH_	Unknown	8/1/2016 4:02:24 PM	PA(16:0/18:0)	5.79	274	dPE(18:0d5/18	5.81	193	1.422	N/A
(16:0d9/20:3) (16:0d9/20:4)		POS NEG BH	Unknown	8/1/2016 4:02:24 PM	PA(16:0/18:1)	5.83	71	dPE(18:0d5/18	5.81	193	0.366	N/A
(16:0d9/20:5)		POS_NEG_BH_	Unknown	8/1/2016 4:02:24 PM	PA(16:0/18:2)	5.79	21	dPE(18:0d5/18	5.81	193	0.106	N/A
(16:0d9/22:4) (16:0d9/22:5)		POS_NEG_BH_	Unknown	8/1/2016 4:02:24 PM	PA(16:0/18:3)	5.67	1267	dPE(18:0d5/18_	5.81	193	6.571	N/A
(16:0d9/22:6) (18:0d5/18:1)		POS NEG BH_	Unknown	8/1/2016 4:02:24 PM	PA(16:0/20:1)	5.72	225	dPE(18:0d5/18_	5.81	193	1,167	N/A
(18:0d5/18:2)		POS_NEG_BH_	Unknown	8/1/2016 4:02:24 PM	PA(16:0/20:2)	5.79	72	dPE(18:0d5/18	5.81	193	0.372	N/A
(18:0d5/18:3) (18:0d5/20:3)		POS_NEG_BH	Unknown	8/1/2016 4:02:24 PM	PA(16:0/20:3)	5.80	167	dPE(18:0d5/18	5.81	193	0.864	N/
(18:0d5/20:4) (18:0d5/20:5)		POS NEG BH_	Unknown	8/1/2016 4:02:24 PM	PA(16:0/20:4)	5.74	537	dPE(18:0d5/18	5.81	193	2.785	N/A
(18:0d5/22:5)		POS_NEG_BH_	Unknown	8/1/2016 4:02:24 PM	PA(16:0/20:5)	5.77	264	dPE(18:0d5/18	5.81	193	1.369	N/A
(18:0d5/22:6) (16:0)		POS NEG BH	Unknown	8/1/2016 4:02:24 PM	PA(16:0/22:4)	5.73	430	dPE(18:0d5/18_	5.81	193	2.229	N/A
(18:1) (24:0)		POS NEG BH_	Unknown	8/1/2016 4:02:24 PM	PA(16:0/22:5)	5.79	16	dPE(18:0d5/18	5.81	193	0.081	N/A
(24:1)		POS_NEG_BH_	Unknown	8/1/2016 4:02:24 PM	PA(16:0/22:6)	5.77	54	dPE(18:0d5/18	5.81	193	0.278	N/A
(16:0) (16:1)		POS_NEG_BH_	Unknown	8/1/2016 4:02:24 PM	PA(18:0/14:0)	5.75	426	dPE(18:0d5/18	5.81	193	2.211	N/A
(18:1) (18:2)		POS_NEG_BH_	Unknown	8/1/2016 4:02:24 PM	PA(18:0/16:1)	N/A	N/A	dPE(18:0d5/18	5.81	193	N/A	N/A
(20:3)		POS_NEG_BH_	Unknown	8/1/2016 4:02:24 PM	PA(18:0/18:0)	5.58	1729	dPE(18:0d5/18	5.81	193	8.967	N/A
(20:4) (20:5)		POS_NEG_BH_	Unknown	8/1/2016 4:02:24 PM	PA(18:0/18:1)	5.67	1171	dPE(18:0d5/18	5.81	193	6.075	N/A
(22:6) R(12:0)		POS_NEG_BH_	Unknown	8/1/2016 4:02:24 PM	PA(18:0/18:2)	5.56	967	dPE(18:0d5/18	5.81	193	5.014	N/A
R(d16:0)		r oo_neo_bn_	CHINA DOWN	01 11 20 10 4.02.24 F W	1 (10.0/10.2)	0.00		ar =(10.000)10	0.01	100	0.011	1.40



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Two different approaches to quantitation can be used

- **Relative quantitation** utilizes a single internal standard for each lipid class. The lipid-class IS is assigned for all MRM transitions within its specific lipid class. The data output is an area ratio of analyte to IS that can be used to compare relative changes between samples. However, these data cannot be used to measure relative concentrations within the same sample.
- Accurate quantitation utilizes the Lipidyzer[™] Platform standards that are comprised of multiple molecular species of each lipid class. A specific IS within the mixture must be assigned to each analyte according to the fatty acid chain lost during CID. This accommodates the differential fragmentation efficiency due to chain length and number of double bonds. The quantitative bias using these standards is <10%.



Appendix – Web tools and References



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• LIPIDMAPS

- Extensive, searchable lipid database with structural and chemical information
- Library of LC and MS methods
- Avanti Polar Lipids
 - Commercial site that has comprehensive offering of high quality lipid standards
 - Technical application notes of lipid handling methods
- AOCS Lipid Library
- Lipidweb
- Lipidomics: Technologies and Applications, by Kim Ekroos (IMBD 978-3-527-33098-0)





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It's Time to Uncover What's Beyond the Genome

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