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### High-Performance Liquid Chromatographic Determination of Cefoperazone in Serum

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HIGH-PERFORMANCE LIQUID CHROMATOGRAPHIC DETERMINATION  
OF CEFOPERAZONE IN SERUM

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ABSTRACT

A new HPLC method for the determination of Cefoperazone in serum is described.

INTRODUCTION

Cefoperazone<sup>2</sup> is a new semi-synthetic cephalosporin derivative with broad antibacterial spectrum against aerobic and anaerobic gram positive and gram negative organisms including "Enterobacteriaceae", indole positive "Proteus" and "Pseudomonas aeruginosa".

It is resistant to inactivation by penicillinase and very stable in the presence of cephalosporinase with wide substrate profiles (1).

A rapid HPLC method for the determination of Cefoperazone in serum is described after extraction with SEPPAK cartridges filled with a reverse phase of octadecylsilane ( $\mu$ Bondapak  $C_{18}$ /Porasil  $R_8$ ).

#### MATERIALS AND METHOD

A Hewlett-Packard high-performance liquid chromatograph 1084B and a reverse phase column ( $\mu$ Bondapak  $C_{18}$ , 10  $\mu$ m particle size, 250mm x 4,6mm i.d. ) were used.

This chromatograph is equipped with a variable wavelength detector (HP 79875 A) and connected to a LC Terminal integrator (HP 79850 B).

SEPPAK cartridges were purchased from Waters Associates (part n°51910). Cefoperazone was supplied by Pfizer Belgium and Methanol P.A. purchased from Merck.

A stock solution of Cefoperazone was prepared in bidistilled water at the concentration of 500  $\mu$ g/ml and diluted in water or serum in order to prepare a standard curve from 1 to 10  $\mu$ g/ml.

After prewashing the cartridge with methanol and water, pour 2 ml of sample (or standard) on it, using a syringe, and wash with water to elute the substances unadsorbed on the phase. Thereafter elute the adsorbed Cefoperazone with twice 1 ml of methanol-water (1/1) and inject twenty-five microliters onto the column using methanol-water(1/1) as mobile phase at a flow rate of 1,5 ml/min.( resulting pressure 120 bars ). Retention time is 2.30 min. and detection is made at 228 nm.

The concentrations of Cefoperazone were determined using the standard curve assayed following the described method. The detection limit is 0,25  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ .

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A standard curve was made at concentrations of 1 - 2 - 3 - 5 - 7,5 and 10  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ . (n=5 for each concentration) (TABLE 1). A graph of the peak area vs. concentration gives a straight line with a coefficient of correlation of 0,9994.

Recovery from aqueous solutions of Cefoperazone after SEPPAK is 99,6%  $\pm$  3,8% (TABLE 2).

Pure serum blank was not adsorbed onto the SEPPAK as controlled by a 97% recovery in the eluate,

TABLE 1

## Standard Curve of Cefoperazone

Concentration ( $\mu\text{g/ml}$ )	Mean area (range)
10	24792 (24870-25470)
7,5	19200 (19070-19270)
5	12230 (12030-12390)
3	6983 ( 6916-7300 )
2	4624 ( 4261-4688 )
1	2474 ( 2320-2543 )

TABLE 2

## Recovery from Aqueous Solutions of Cefoperazone

Concentration ( $\mu\text{g/ml}$ )	N	Mean recovery (SD) (%)
4	9	101,6 ( $\pm$ 5,8)
2	5	98,5 ( $\pm$ 2,6)
1	5	98,8 ( $\pm$ 3,0)

measured by a Biuret reaction. Further washing the SEPPAK with methanol-water (1/1) did not result in a peak on the chromatogram that could interfere with Cefoperazone determination.

Recovery from serum solutions of Cefoperazone after SEPPAK was 92% ( $n = 4$  for each concentration from 1 to 10  $\mu\text{g/ml.}$ ).

The method described is easy, rapid and reproducible. The limit of sensitivity (0,25  $\mu\text{g/ml.}$ ) is adequate for clinical use: A.F.Allaz et al. gave Cefoperazone 2 g every 12 hours I.V. to healthy subjects and measured at 10 hours after the injection a concentration of 3,8  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  (range: 1,5 to 10  $\mu\text{g/ml.}$ ) using a biological assay (2).

The SEPPAK extraction method allows the separation from biological fluids of hydrophilic drugs which cannot be extracted by organic solvents (3,4).

Therefore it is very useful and could find wide applications in pharmaceutical and pharmacological analysis.

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- (1): Author to whom correspondence should be addressed  
(2): Sodium 7- [D(-)-4-(4-ethyl-2,3-dioxo-1-piperazine-carboxamido)-4-(4-hydroxyphenyl)acetamido] -3-  
[(1-methyl-1H-tetrazol-5-yl)thiomethyl] -3-cephem-  
4-carboxylate.

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