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Faire avancer la sûreté nucléaire





Renal localisation and quantification of uranium in rodent exposed to uranyl nitrate

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Context

The overexposure to uranium results in renal toxicity, which is derived from an excessive accumulation of the element in the kidney. This may induce nephrotoxicity characterized by reduced glomerular filtration, exerting its toxic effect by chemical and radiological action (alpha emitter) (1-3). In addition, its tissue distribution is heterogeneous mostly accumulating and producing pathological lesions in the S2 and S3 segments of the proximal tubule located in the cortical zone (100-fold above) mean renal concentration) (4-6). Chronic exposure (occupational exposure) to uranium, is linked to its bioaccumulation in kidney and could be associated with renal dysfunction, an increased risk of cancer mortality and kidney failure (7-9).

Rodents were exposed to varying concentration of uranium in their drinking water for a period of 9 months. Total uranium analysis was done by conventional liquid ICP-MS after acid digestion using one kidney from each pair. In parallel, the other kidney was employed for LA-ICP-MS analysis (10). In order to perform quantitative LA-ICPMS bio-imaging analysis, synthetic matrix-matched laboratory standards and a normalisation strategy based on internal standard spiked gelatine were developed. Quantitative images of cryo-sections of rat kidney revealed heterogeneous distribution of uranium within the renal tissue, being the cortical concentration up to 123fold higher than the medullary concentration.

Experimental procedure



External calibration

Objective:

Obtain a concentration – signal linear response to extrapolate the signal obtained from the sample.



Internal calibration

Objective:

An internal standard (IS) is used for the normalisation of the signal to compensate signal variation and instrumental drift.

Requirements of the IS:

1.IS should behave in a similar manner to the analyte 2.IS must be in similar concentration in samples and standards 3.IS must be homogeneously distributed in samples and standards

Gelatine as IS substrate: 1. Mimics the texture of biological tissue 2. Ease handling and fast preparation 3. Number of analytes and their concentrations can be adapted to the needs



LA-ICP-MS quantitative uranium bio-imaging in kidney samples

R15

R77

R78

Matrix-matched standard = spiked homogenates of analogous tissue

Step 1: Analytical protocol validation by QC samples analysis

Guideline on bioanalytical method validation

(EMA et FDA, 2018)

Quantification of Quality Control samples (QC) Why are they necessary and how must they be analysed?

- > A QC is a biological matrix with a known quantity of analyte that is used to monitor the performance of a bioanalytical method and to assess the integrity and validity of the results of study samples
- They should cover the expected study sample concentration range
- > Total QC should be at least six in number (low-, mid- and high-QC, in duplicate)

> They must be analysed in triplicate



The calculated concentrations of the QC should be within ± 15-20% of the nominal value

	Expected conc	Obtained conc
	ng g ⁻¹	ng g ⁻¹
	(Verified by ID-ICPMS)	(Calculated by LA-ICPMS)
QC 1	20 ± 1	19 ± 3 (15% RSD)
QC 2	1042 ±92	1420 ± 160 (11% RSD)
QC 3	9384 ± 1792	9128 ± 991 (10% RSD)





C. Poisson, J. Stefani et al. Free Radical Research, 48(10), 2014

U contamination?

NO

YES

YES

Ablation zone

Cortex

Cortex/Medula

Cortex

Step 2: Analysis of real samples







6729



blat

ō

Conclusions

In this work the feasibility of an internal standard doped gelatine was assessed for its use in quantitative bioimaging of U in kidney tissue by laser ablation coupled to ICP-MS. The proposed analytical bio-imaging approach was successfully applied for quantification of uranium of in biological samples (rat kidney). Quantitative images of cryo-sections revealed heterogeneous distribution of uranium within the renal tissue, being the cortical concentration up to 123-fold higher than the medullary concentration which is in great accordance with the studies found in the literature. For the author's knowledge, this is the first quantitative study using an internal standard other than C¹³ to precisely quantify and localise uranium in kidney by LA-ICP-MS.

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