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METABOLOMICS ANALYSIS OF LIVER TO REVEAL PROFILES DISRUPTION IN BOVINES UPON STEROID TREATMENT



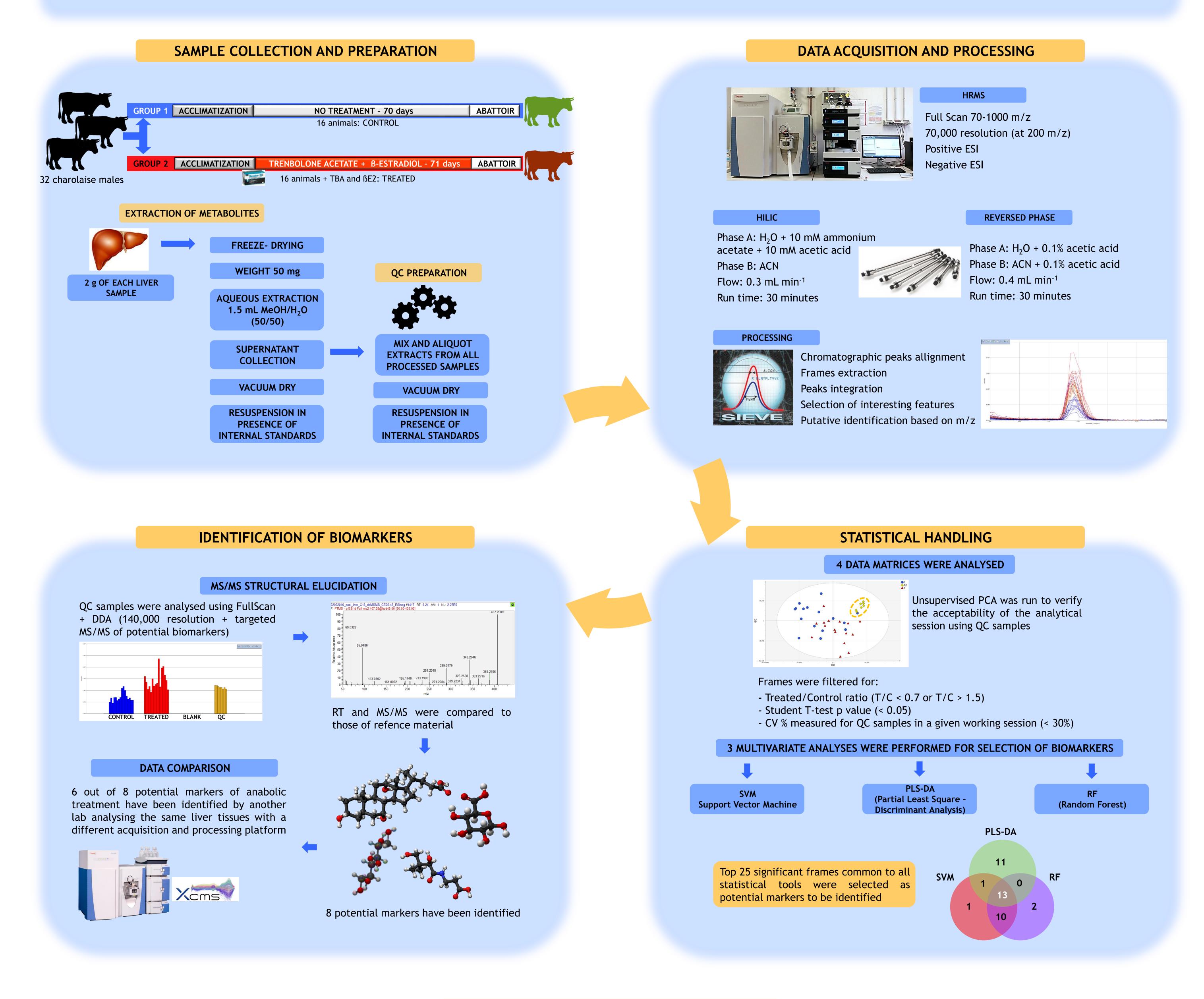
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INTRODUCTION

The surveillance of illegal anabolic practices in bovine meat production is necessary to guarantee consumers' health. Screening strategies based on the recognition of indirect biological effects are considered by the community as promising tools to overcome some limitations of classical analytical methods and might therefore concur to ensure safer food for the consumer.

Given that hormonal therapies influence the physiology of an organism, strategies based on the detection of metabolic changes that occur following anabolic practices are promising approaches to identify their misuse [1-3]. The present work is aimed at characterizing the metabolic profile induced in liver by administration of anabolic steroids, and to identify potential disturbances in the hepatic metabolism. A total of 32 liver samples, 16 from untreated bulls and 16 from bulls treated with an ear implant (Revalor-XS®) containing trenbolone acetate (200 mg) and estradiol (40 mg), were analyzed following a LC-HRMS-based metabolomics analysis using RP and HILIC chromatographic separations.



CONCLUSIONS

Different multivariate statistical tools were applied to the datasets to select common metabolites for classification of samples and to reveal potential biomarkers on the basis of their significant changes in concentrations after administration of sexual steroids.

The identity of 8 candidate biomarkers was confirmed using reference standard material and fragmentation spectra. Moreover, a subset of biomarkers was also validated by a different laboratory that performed the same analyses using an independent instrumental and elaboration platform, confirming the robustness of the results achieved. The identified metabolites can be considered as candidate markers of the proposed anabolic treatment with sexual steroids and will be further tested using independent animal sets. Their biochemical interpretation is under evaluation.

References

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