

Alternative Method of Hybrid SPE Sample Preparation for High Recovery LC-MS Analysis of Pharmaceutical Compounds in Plasma



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Outline:

- **Introduction to HybridSPE-PPT**
- **Alternative method – Methanol-based method, two examples.**
- **Summary**

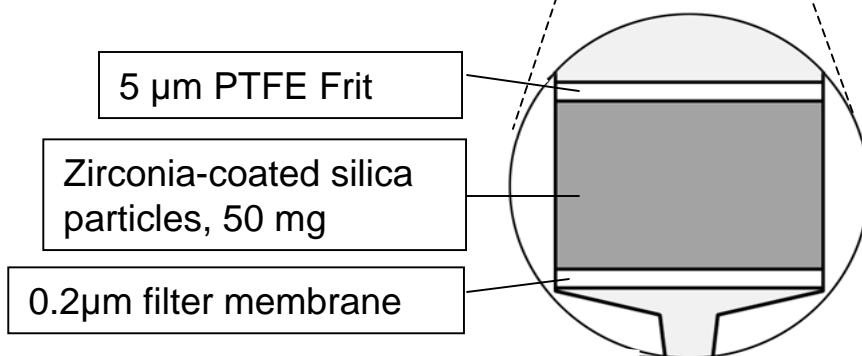
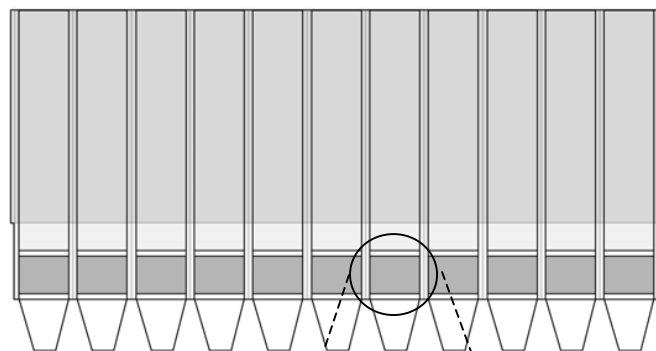


Introduction of HybridSPE PPT Technique

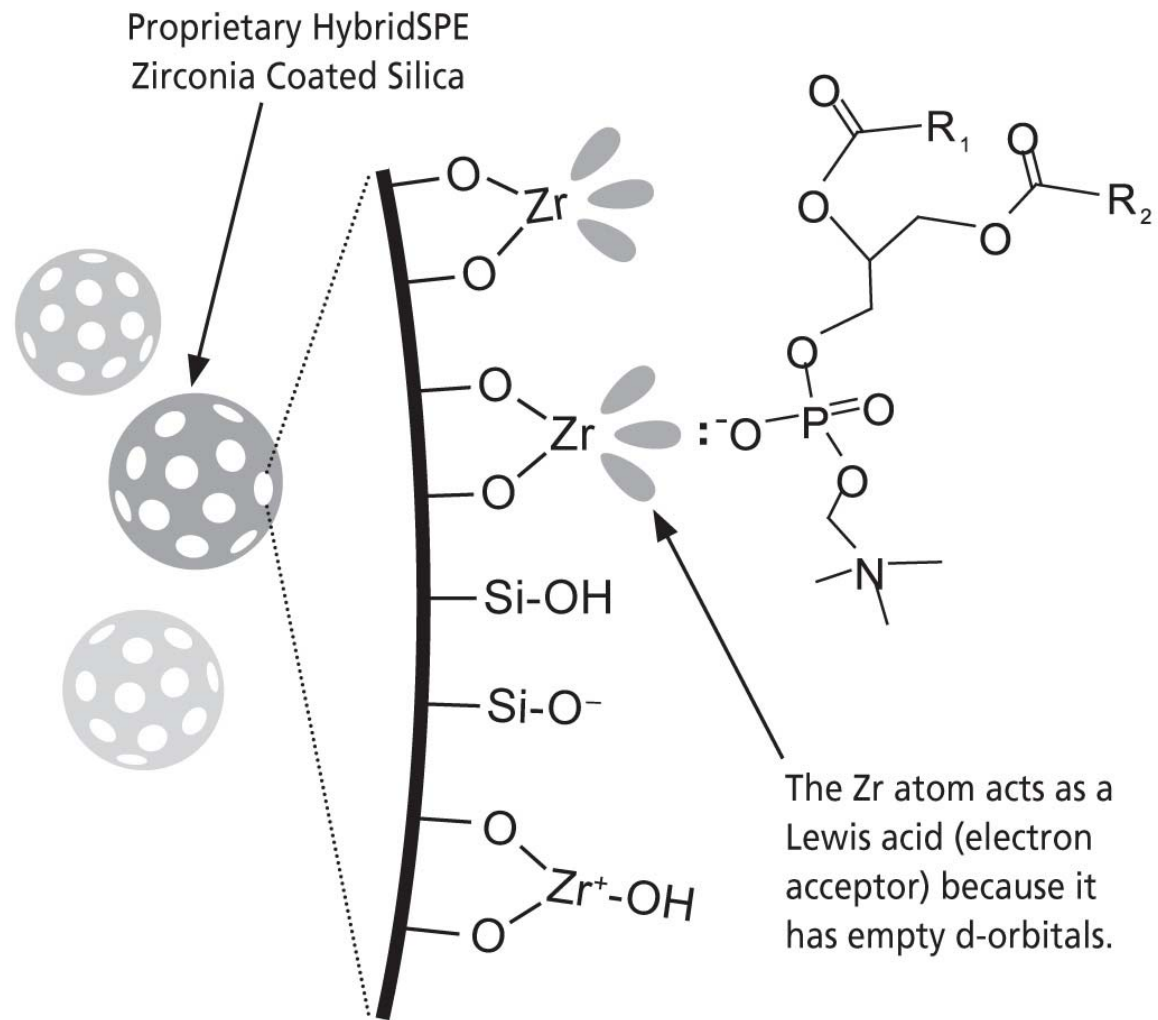
A sample cleanup method that removes both proteins and phospholipids in a simple platform.

- ✓ Protein are removed by precipitation with addition of organic solvents (e.g. acetonitrile, methanol).
- ✓ Phospholipids are removed by proprietary zirconia particles.
- ✓ The operation is both simple and fast, and is amenable to high throughput.

How Are Proteins and Phospholipids Removed?



Interaction of Phospholipids with Zirconia coated Silica Surface



Standard Protocol:

Protein precipitation agents including organic solvent and additives

1% formic acid acetonitrile

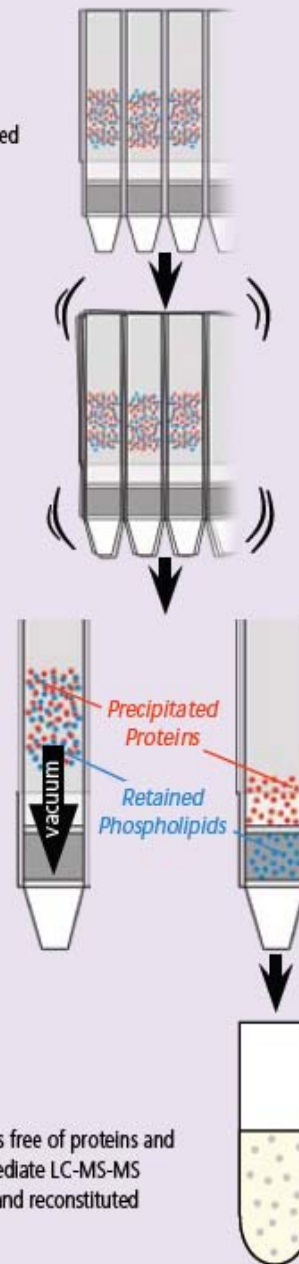
- primary recommended procedure.
- exhibits high recovery for broad range of test compounds in terms of recovery and protein PPT efficiency.

1) Precipitate Proteins by adding 100 μ L plasma or serum to the HybridSPE-PPT plate followed by 300 μ L 1% formic acid in acetonitrile. Add I.S. as necessary.

2) Mix by vortexing/shaking HybridSPE-PPT plate or by aspirating/dispensing with 0.5-1 mL pipette tip (e.g., TOMTEC Quadra liquid handler)

3) Apply vacuum. The packed-bed filter/frit assembly acts as a depth filter for the concurrent physical removal of precipitated proteins and chemical removal phospholipids. Small molecules (e.g., pharma compounds and metabolites) pass through unretained.

4) Resulting filtrate/eluate is free of proteins and phospholipids and ready for immediate LC-MS-MS analysis; or it can be evaporated and reconstituted as necessary prior to analysis



1. Load sample and protein precipitation agent

2. Mix

3. Apply Vacuum

4. Samples ready for analysis



Standard Protocol: Acetonitrile -Based Protein Precipitation

- In some cases, strongly basic compounds can exhibit lower recovery from the HybridSPE-PPT.
- Secondary ion-exchange interactions with Zirconia coated Silica surface and strongly basic compounds can cause lower recovery
- In some cases, limited solubility of analyte in acetonitrile can be cause of lower recovery
- Investigate alternative method for these types of compounds

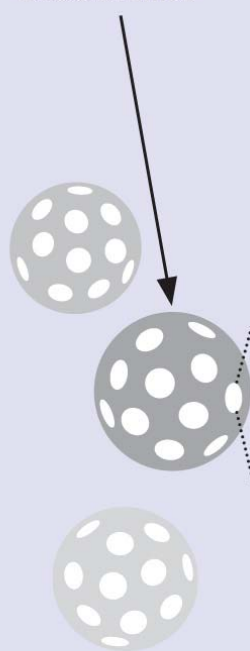


Alternative Method: Methanol-Based Protein Precipitation

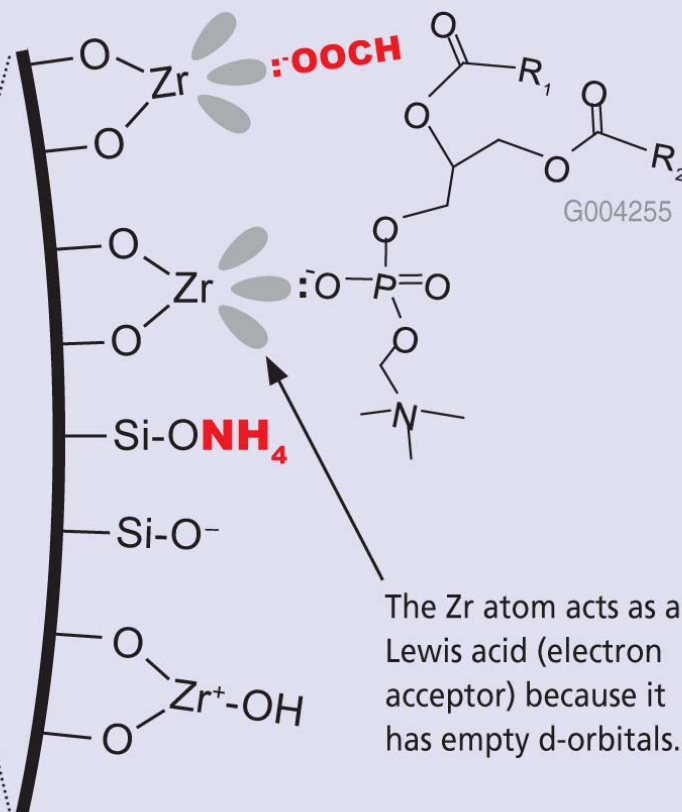
- 1% ammonium formate (NH_4FA) in methanol
- Milder condition for unstable metabolites when compared to 1% formic acid acetonitrile
- In cases, can exhibit higher recovery for basic compounds.
- Methanol can exhibit increased solubility for some pharmaceutical compounds.
- Methanol can disrupt secondary hydrogen bonding of analytes with silica surface

Alternative Method: Methanol-Based Protein Precipitation

Proprietary
HybridSPE
Zirconia
Coated Silica



The phosphate moiety of phospholipids is a strong Lewis base (electron donor) that interacts with Zr atoms coated on the silica surface.



The Zr atom acts as a Lewis acid (electron acceptor) because it has empty d-orbitals.

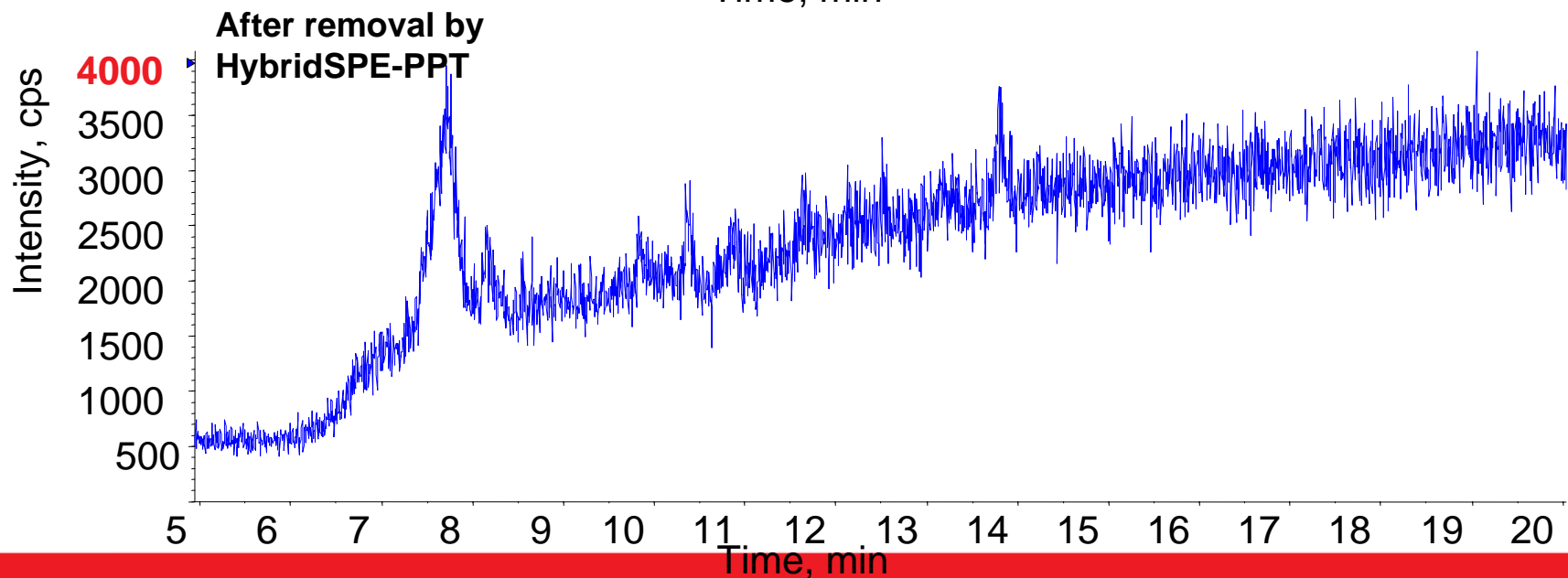
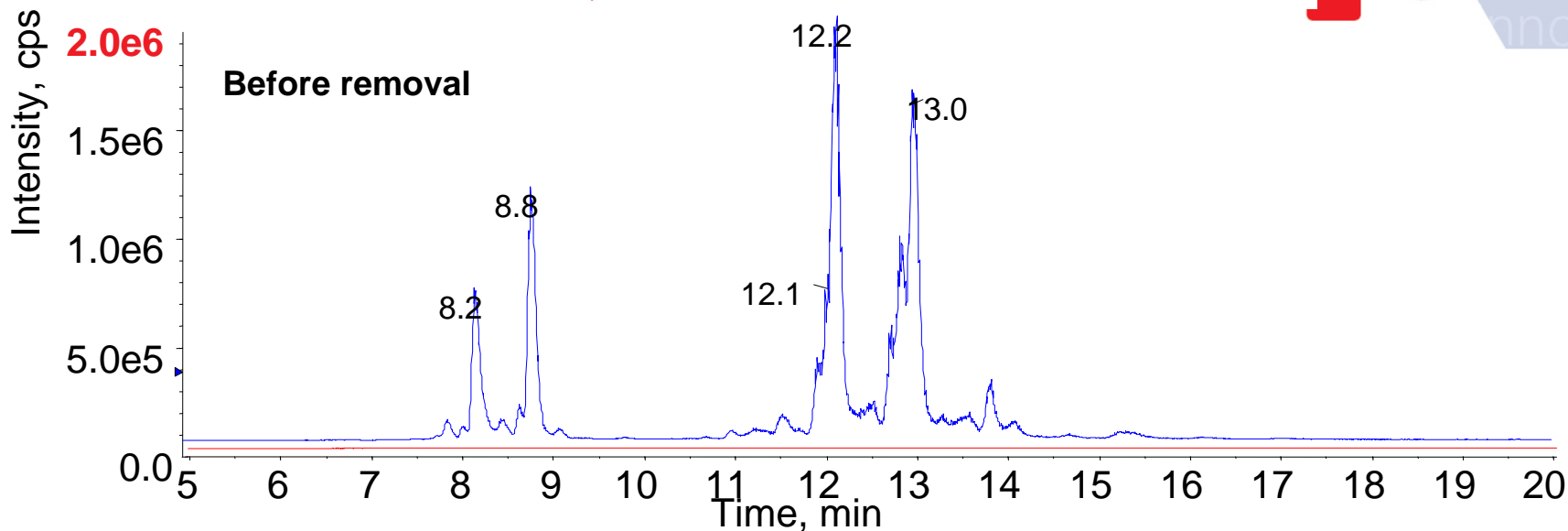
Protein Precipitation Comparison between Acetonitrile and Methanol



acetonitrile **1% formic acetonitrile** **methanol** **1% formic acid methanol** **1% ammonium formate methanol**

Comparable or better protein precipitation with Methanol.

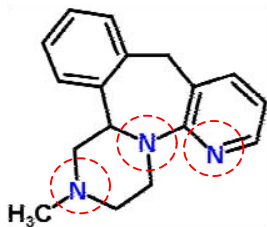
Methanol Method – Complete Phospholipid Removal from 100 μ L of Rabbit Plasma



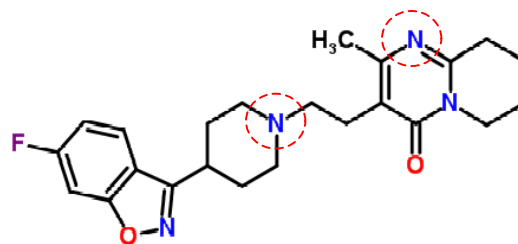
Examples of Improved Recovery of Basic Compounds



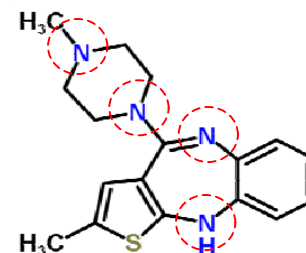
Recovery of Standard without matrix plasma					
Analyte	1% formic acetonitrile	methanol	1% ammonium formate methanol	1% ammonium chloride methanol	150mM NaCl methanol
Mirtazapine (266/195)	0.0	13.2	96.0	38.2	99.0
Risperidone (411/191)	0.0	10.4	99.1	111.6	64.0
Olanzapine (313/256)	0.0	13.6	89.4	NO experiment	74.0



Mirtazapine



Risperidone



Olanzapine,

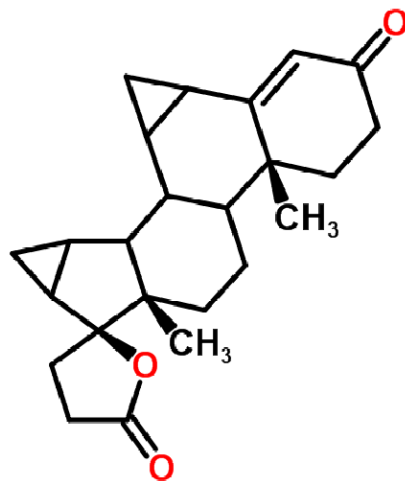


Potential Interactions between basic compounds and the Zirconia coated Silica

- ❖ Ion-exchange interaction is significant for basic compounds having at least one tertiary amine group.
- ❖ The ion-exchange interactions were effectively suppressed by the addition of salts such as ammonium formate, ammonium chloride and NaCl.
- ❖ Additions of additive raise effective pH of sample, decreasing ionization of analytes
- ❖ Ammonia ions bind with silanol surface thus decreasing surface activity
- ❖ The salt additives are readily dissolved in methanol, limited in acetonitrile.

Improved Recovery and Reproducibility of Neutral Hydrophobic Compounds

- Customer experienced low and irregular recovery using 1% formic acid acetonitrile protocol
- Variation of recovery 15-30%
- Analyte had limited solubility in acetonitrile

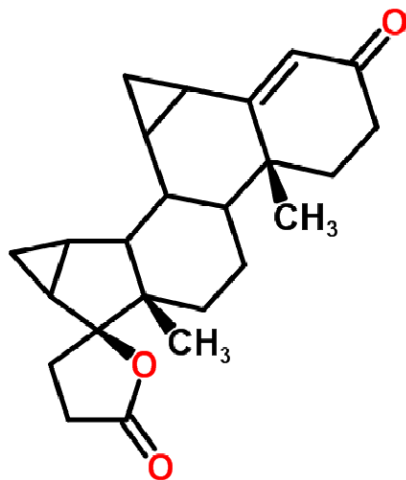


Drospirenone, C₂₄H₃₀O₃, MW 366.227 (mono),
ACD/LogD (pH 7.4): 3.16
MRM: 367.2→97.1 or 91

Recovery and Reproducibility using 1% ammonium formate methanol

Replicate	Recovery of Drospirenone Spiked in Rat Plasma	
	10 ng/mL spike	60 ng/mL spike
1	89.9	91.9
2	87.0	93.7
3	91.8	88.4
4	96.9	93.5
5	91.9	90.4
6	91.0	87.4
7	94.2	87.5
8	97.0	88.0
9	86.1	87.5
10	87.0	87.9
11	84.0	87.8
12	86.9	87.7
Avg	90.3	89.3
STD	4.3	2.4
%CV	4.7	2.7

Why better recovery and reproducibility?



Drospirenone has a limited solubility in acetonitrile causing increase interaction with precipitated proteins. This resulting precipitate caused fluctuation in analyte recovery

Summary

- An alternative and improved method using 1% ammonium formate in methanol
- Demonstrate improved recovery of model basic compounds over standard acetonitrile method
- Can improve recovery and reproducibility for analytes with low solubility in acetonitrile.
- The more basic conditions of the 1% ammonium formate in methanol is less aggressive towards unstable metabolites.