Chromatographic Analysis of THC Metabolites

Chemical Structures







Tetrahydrocannabinolic acid (THCA)

11-Nor-9-carboxy-Δ9-THC (Δ9-carboxy-THC) 11-Nor-9-carboxy-A8-THC (A8-carboxy-THC)

Δ8-tetrahydrocannabinol (Δ8-THC)

THC Metabolism



Δ^9 -THC vs. Δ^8 -THC

∆ ⁹ -THC	∆ ⁸ -THC	
Chemical Formula: C ₂₁ H ₃₀ O ₂		
Molecular Weight: 314.46 g/mol		
Detectable in plasma following inhalation	More present in synthetic preparations	
Peak concentration in 3-5 minutes, much less after 3-4 hours	More chemically stable	
Rapidly metabolized to the inactive metabolite $\Delta 9\mbox{-}carboxy\mbox{-}THC$	Potentially better medicinal properties than $\Delta 9\text{-THC}$	
Conjugated with glucuronic acid	Excreted in urine	
Excreted in urine	Believed to have similar mentalism and excretion than $\Delta 9\text{-THC}$	

THC LC-MS/MS Analysis

- Application 17901 THC and Metabolites in Urine •
- Application 19947 THC and Metabolites in Whole Blood •
- Application 1088 Increased Sensitivity of THC and Metabolites using β-Gone[™]_ • Clean-up and Kinetex[™] LC Columns

348.0>330.1

315.2>193.1

218.2>196.1



THC in Blood Using LC-MS/MS



 Δ 9-Tetrahydrocannabinol (Δ 9-THC)

△9-Tetrahydrocannabinol-D3 (△9-THC-D3)

Column:	Kinetex 2.6 µm C18 100 Å, LC		
	Column		
Dimensions:	50 x 2.1 mm		
Part No.:	00B-4462-AN		
Guard Cartridge:	AJ0-7556		
Mobile Phase:	A: 1 mM ammonium formate with 0.1% FA		
	B: 0.1% FA/methanol:acetonitrile(1:1)		
Gradient:	Time (min)	% B	
	0	50	
	3	95	
	4.5	95	
	6	50	
Flow Bate	0.4 ml /min		
Temperature	2200		
Dotootion:	Mass Sportromator (MS) (22°C)		
Detection:	i mass specironneler (MIS) (22 C)		



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\triangle 8-THC vs \triangle 9-THC, \triangle 8-THC-COOH vs. \triangle 9-THC-COOH



β-Gone vs. Dilute-and-Shoot



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