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**OPTIMIZATION OF PARALLEL SOLID PHASE EXTRACTION
USING POSITIVE PRESSURE TECHNOLOGY**

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LC/MS analysis has become the standard analytical technique for pharmacokinetics replacing HPLC UV based techniques. MS which is a highly selective detection technology allows analytical time to be considerably reduced (from 15 min for HPLC down to 3 min). Parallel sample preparation is necessary to achieve such a high throughput. A standard SPE method with bronchodilators has been set up to demonstrate the suitability of SPE 215 for high throughput sample preparation with various SPE plates (3M Empore• RP C18 , Waters OASIS •).

215 SPE with integrated sealing foot design uses the proven positive pressure elution technique to run 8 samples in parallel. Gas is applied on SPE columns after each SPE step to push fluids through the stationary phase. Gas pressure and duration is a crucial parameter to optimize in order to get high extraction recoveries and high reproducibility.

This poster presents the optimization process developed to reach both robust and fast SPE.

20 µg/ml of mixed theobromine, theophylline, hydroxyethyl theophylline and caffeine in reconstructed bovine plasma are extracted using a 5- step SPE process and diluted prior to injection. Air push duration is optimized for each SPE step, graphical data (recoveries and RSD% versus air push duration) will illustrate how this is accomplished. Within-batch recoveries and reproducibility are obtained on the basis of a complete 96 well plate extraction. Recoveries are highly dependent on stationary phase, high reproducibilities (RSD below 5.5% for Empore• 3M plates and below 3% for Waters OASIS• plates) are reached.

Throughput complies with LC/MS analysis but throughput always needs to compromise with recoveries.