Analytical Characterization of Antibody Drug Conjugates

Haiying Chen and Ke Yang
Sepax Technologies, Inc., 5 Innovation Way, Newark DE 19711

INTRODUCTION

Antibody drug conjugates are created by linking a potent small molecule to a monoclonal antibody. Due to the small molecule property, the chemical linking chemistry and different amino acid conjugation, ADC exhibits a more complex and heterogeneous structure than the parent monoclonal antibody. Analytical techniques are employed for product and process characterization for lot release and product stability studies. Depending on the ADC structure, the analytical method (column phase, mobile phase etc.) of parent mAb may not work for the corresponding ADC.

In this poster, we would like to present the ADC characterization in the following areas:

- ADC aggregate, monomer and fragment analysis using Zenix®-C SEC-300 size exclusion chromatography. This analysis can be part of the ADC lot release and stability assays.
- Free small molecule drugs analysis after the conjugation reaction can be achieved with Zenix®-C SEC-80 (the smallest pore size 80 Å in the Sepax SEC product line).
- Intact ADC with different hydrophobicity variants can be analyzed by polymer based reversed-phase chromatography.
- ADC charge variants can be analyzed and fraction collected off Sepax cation exchange chromatography for further characterization.

EXPERIMENTAL

Columns: Zenix® - C SEC-300 (3 µm, 7.8 x 300 mm)
Zenix® - C SEC-80 (3 µm, 4.6 x 50 mm)
PolyRP-1000 (5 µm, 2.1 x 100 mm)
Proteomix® SCX (5 µm, 4.6 x 250 mm PEEK)

Samples: monoclonal antibody, antibody drug conjugates, small molecule drug

Running condition: see detail result section

REFERENCE

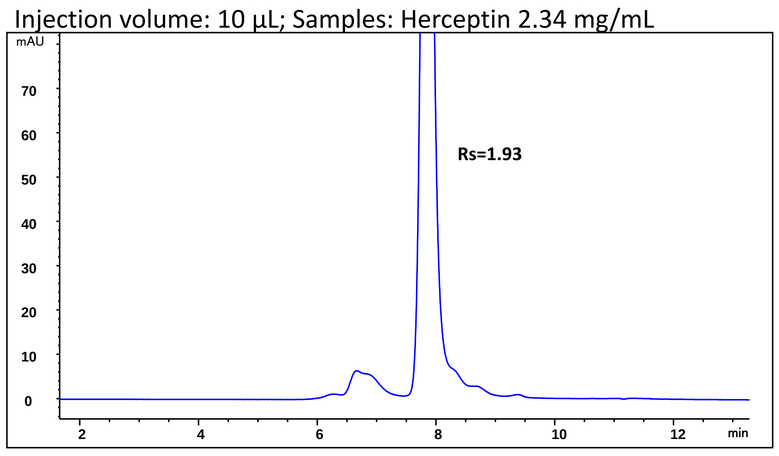
Wakankar A., Chen Y., Gokarn Y. and Jacobson F. Analytical methods for physicochemical characterization of antibody drug conjugates.
mAbs 3:2, 161-172; March/April 2011.

CONCLUSION

- Zenix®-C SEC phase has better recovery and separation for antibody drug conjugate, which has secondary interaction with traditional resin surface due to the hydrophobic property from the conjugated small drugs.
- Different mobile phase additives such as organics, chaotropic agent can improve the sample recovery and separation resolution depending on individual ADCs.
- Smaller pore size Zenix®-C SEC is proven to be beneficial in free drug analysis, which can be in line with mass spectrometry with volatile mobile phases.
- With small particle size and short column, PolyRP reversed-phase chromatography provides high throughput, resolution and fast analysis of intact mAb, ADC with online mass spec analysis capability.
- Proteomix® SCX can provide charge variants study for antibody drug conjugates. Conjugated and free mAb can be separated due to the different protein surface charges. Further characterization on the collect fractions of individual peaks is needed to identify the nature of those charge variants.

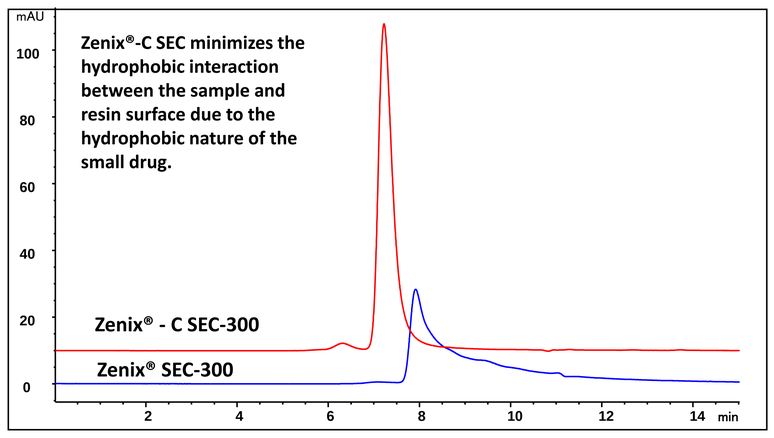
HERCEPTIN ANALYSIS ON ZENIX® SEC-300

Column: Zenix® SEC-300 (3 µm, 300 Å, 7.8 x 300 mm)
Mobile phase: 150 mM phosphate buffer; Flow rate: 1 mL/min;
Detector: UV 280 nm; Column temperature: 25 °C;
Injection volume: 10 µL; Samples: Herceptin 2.34 mg/mL



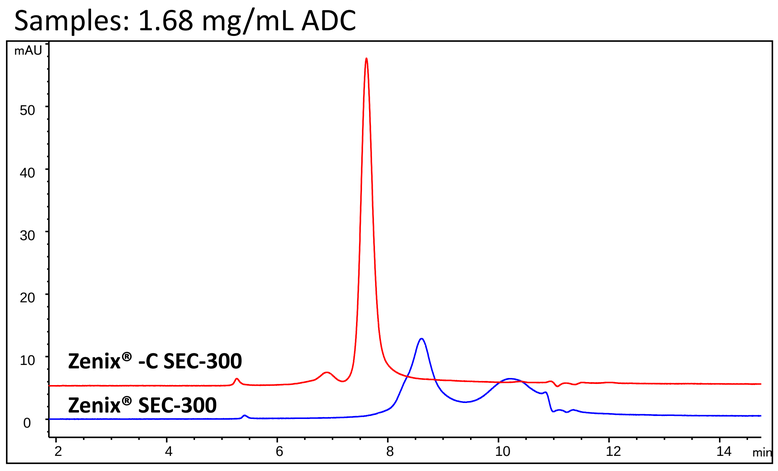
HERCEPTIN LYSINE ADC ANALYSIS ON SEC-300

Column: Zenix® SEC-300, Zenix® - C SEC-300
(3 µm, 300 Å, 7.8 x 300 mm);
Mobile phase: 150 mM phosphate buffer;
Flow rate: 1 mL/min; Detector: UV 280 nm;
Column temperature: 25 °C; Injection volume: 10 µL;
Samples: Herceptin lysine conjugate 2.05 mg/mL



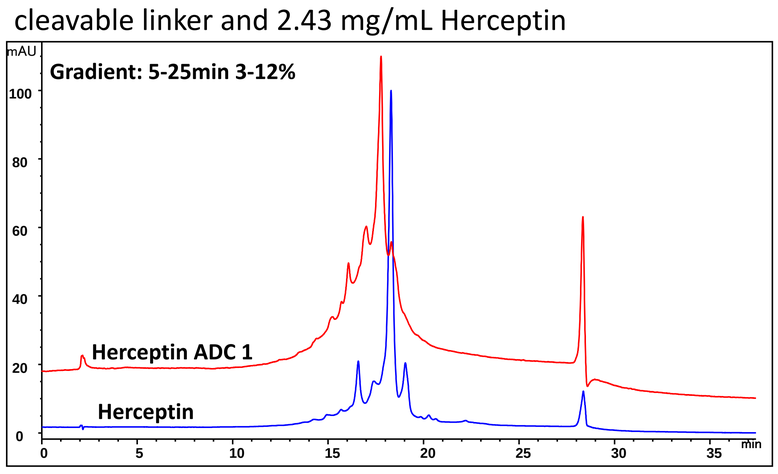
CYSTEINE ADC ANALYSIS ON SEC-300 PHASE COMPARISON

Column: Zenix® SEC-300, Zenix®-C SEC-300
(3 µm, 300 Å, 7.8 x 300 mm);
Mobile phase: 150 mM phosphate buffer;
Flow rate: 1 mL/min; Detector: UV 280 nm;
Column temperature: 25 °C; Injection volume: 20 µL;
Samples: 1.68 mg/mL ADC



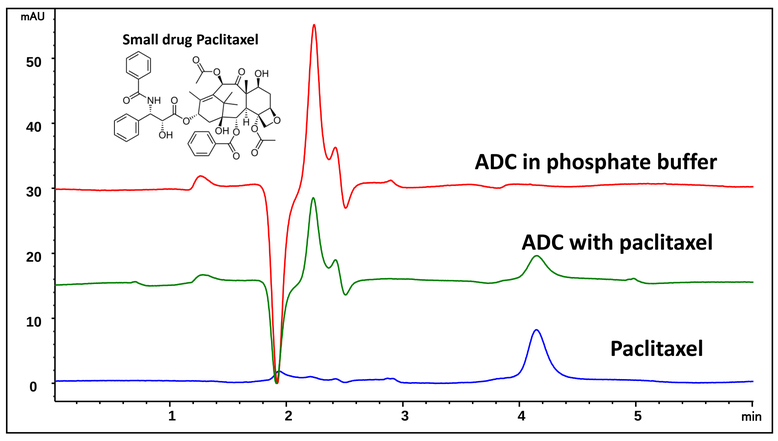
HERCEPTIN AND CYSTEINE ADC1 WITH CLEAVABLE LINKER-HEPES GRADIENT

Column: Proteomix® SCX NP5 (5 µm, 4.6 x 250 mm PEEK);
Mobile phase A: 20 mM HEPES, pH 7.2, B: A+1M NaCl, pH 7.2; Flow rate: 0.8 mL/min; Detector: UV 280 nm;
Column temperature: 25 °C; Injection: 25 µg;
Sample: 4.13 mg/mL Herceptin-cysteine ADC 1 with cleavable linker and 2.43 mg/mL Herceptin



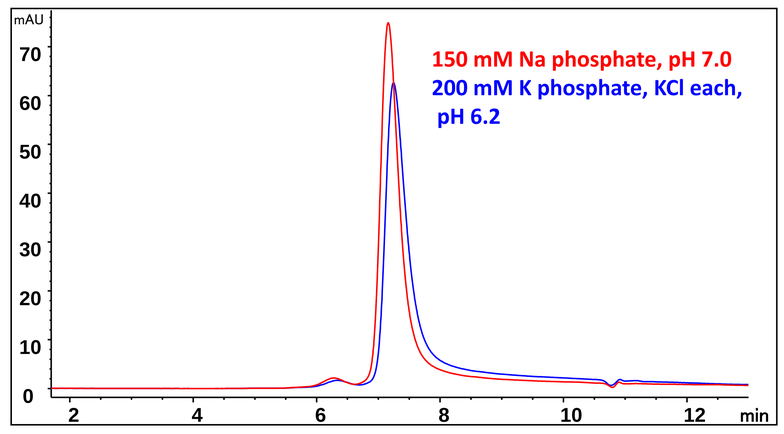
ADC AND FREE DRUG PACLITAXEL ANALYSIS ON ZENIX®-C SEC-80

Column: Zenix®-C SEC-80 (3 µm, 80 Å, 4.6 x 50 mm);
Mobile phase: 50 mM Ammonium acetate : ACN = 80 : 20 (v/v); Flow rate: 0.3 mL/min;
Detector: UV 228 nm;
Column temperature: 25 °C; Injection volume: 2 µL;
Samples: See below, Pressure: 21 bar



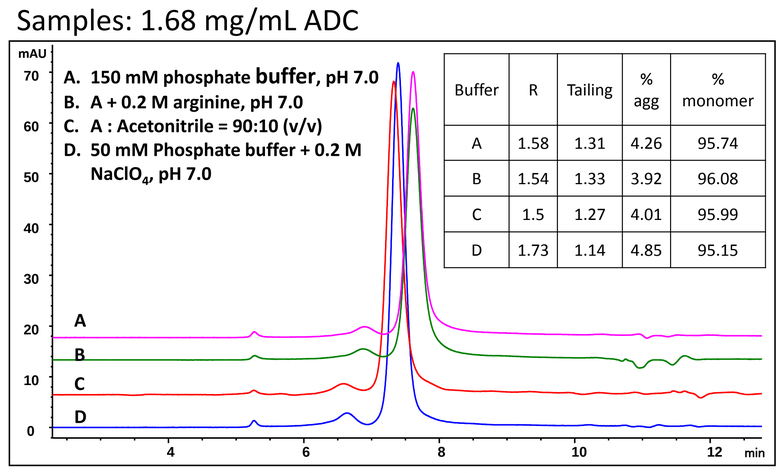
HERCEPTIN LYSINE ADC ANALYSIS ON SEC-300 -SALT DIFFERENCE

Column: Zenix® - C SEC-300 (3 µm, 300 Å, 7.8 x 300 mm);
Mobile phase: as indicated;
Flow rate: 1 mL/min;
Detector: UV 214 nm;
Column temperature: 25 °C; Injection volume: 10 µL;
Samples: Herceptin lysine ADC 2.05 mg/mL



CYSTEINE ADC ANALYSIS ON ZENIX®-C SEC-300 -MOBILE PHASE DIFFERENCE

Column: Zenix®-C SEC-300 (3 µm, 300 Å, 7.8 x 300 mm);
Mobile phase: As indicated;
Flow rate: 1 mL/min; Detector: UV 280 nm;
Column temperature: 25 °C;
Injection volume: 20 µL;
Samples: 1.68 mg/mL ADC

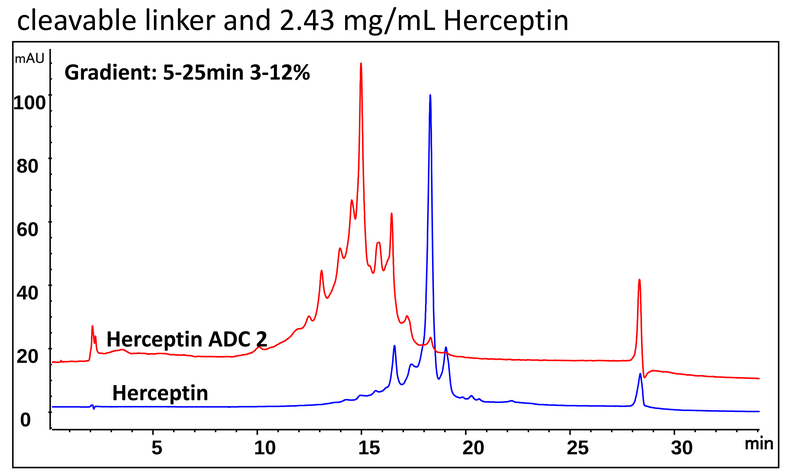


Buffer	R	Tailing	% agg	% monomer
A	1.58	1.31	4.26	95.74
B	1.54	1.33	3.92	96.08
C	1.5	1.27	4.01	95.99
D	1.73	1.14	4.85	95.15

With 10% acetonitrile and 200 mM $NaClO_4$, total protein recovery, resolution and tailing factor of monomer peak are improved.

HERCEPTIN AND CYSTEINE ADC2 WITH NON-CLEAVABLE LINKER-HEPES GRADIENT

Column: Proteomix® SCX NP5 (5 µm, 4.6 x 250 mm PEEK);
Mobile phase A: 20 mM HEPES, pH 7.2, B: A+1M NaCl, pH 7.2; Flow rate: 0.8 mL/min; Detector: UV 280 nm;
Column temperature: 25 °C; Injection: 25 µg;
Sample: 7.52 mg/mL Herceptin-cysteine ADC 2 with non-cleavable linker and 2.43 mg/mL Herceptin



HERCEPTIN/CYSTEINE-ADC SEPARATION ON POLYRP-1000 REVERSED PHASE

Column: PolyRP-1000 (5 µm, 1000 Å, 2.1 x 50 mm)
Mobile phase: A: 0.1% TFA in water; B: 0.1% TFA in 100% ACN; Flow rate: 0.6 mL/min; Detector: UV 210 nm;
Column temperature: 80 °C;
Sample: Herceptin, ADC1, ADC2 1 mg/mL diluted in 0.1% TFA; Injection volume: 1 mL