

Introduction

Glycosylation is currently recognized as one of the most common posttranslational modifications of proteins and plays an important role in myriad of biological processes. Glycans and glycoproteins can be utilized as potential therapeutic and diagnosis assets. Therefore, qualitative and quantitative glycomic information has been deemed necessary to understand the biological roles of glycans and to control quality of glycosylated drugs. In this study, an LC-HRAM assay was developed and qualified to accurately and specifically quantify the total amount of different N-linked oligomannoses (Mannose-2a, Mannose-2b, mannose-3, mannose-4, mannose-5, mannose-6, mannose-7, mannose-8 and mannose-9) in mouse plasma and mouse brain tissues.

Methods

Sample Digestion and Labeling:

20 µL of plasma or tissue samples and 10 µL of working internal standard (2.0 µg/ml chitotriose and N,N',N"-Triacetyl-chitotriose combo solution in water) were digested with PNGase F in appropriate buffers. The samples were precipitated with 2.5X volumes of 50/50 MeOH/MeCN. The clear supernatant was dried and re-dissolved in 20 µL of freshly prepared labeling solution containing 400mM procainamide, 1M sodium cyanoborohydride in acetic acid:DMSO(3:7). The samples were incubated 3 hours at 65°C followed by addition of 500 uL of 95:5 MeCN:Water after cooling down. The samples were purified by SPE using Waters GlycoWorks HILIC µElution plate following the manufacture's instruction. 20 µL of the samples were injected for LC-HRAM analysis

UPLC-Fluorescence/HRAM:

HPLC System: Waters ACQUITY UPLC system  
LC column: Waters Glycan 2.1 x 150 mm (1.7 µm)  
Mobile Phases:  
A) 50 mM ammonium formate solution, pH 4.4  
B) MeCN  
Column Temperature: 60°C  
Flow Rate: 0.4 mL/min  
Fluorescence Detector: ACQUITY UPLC FLR Detector  
Mass Spectrometer: Bruker MicroTOFQ II Q-TOF

Results and Discussions

Figure 1, General reaction scheme for the enzymatic release of N-glycans by PNGases [Wang et. al., Bioscience Reports, 2014, 34 (6), e00149 ]. Waters GlycoWorks RapiFluo-MS N-Glycan Kit labels the amino groups of the freshly released N-glycans while the current procainamide method labels the carbonyl groups (free reducing ends) of the stable hydrolyzed the N-glycans.

