

Multi-panel detection of drugs and drug metabolites in hair samples using a comprehensive extraction method

Using Scheduled MRM™ Algorithm on the SCIEX QTRAP[®] 6500⁺ LC-MS/MS System

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The ability to accurately identify the presence of a variety of drugs and drug metabolites in biological specimens is a critical aspect to any forensic and clinical toxicology investigation as it provides a comprehensive picture of past drug exposure towards xenobiotics, a history of the non-endogenous substances in the human body. Detection of these substances can be performed in several biological matrices including blood, urine, hair, sweat and saliva. Although urine and blood testing are the most common forms of drug testing, hair analysis has gained considerable attention over the years as a method enabling the determination of recent past drug use as well as the long term drug use through segmental analysis. Additional benefits of hair testing include the non-invasive nature of sample collection and the ease of sample storage and transportation. These advantages considerably minimize the risk of sample alteration and degradation over time as well as the risk of exposure to biohazards. As a result, these attribues are driving the widespread adoption of hair testing to address a wide range of challenges including postmortem analysis, DUID screening, therapeutic drug monitoring and drug-facilitated assault (DFA) investigations, all while providing a broader picture of past drug consumption and abuse with a longer detection window (months to years).



Figure 1: High linearity demonstrated across all the analytes included in the three panels. Representative calibration curves from each of the three panels showing excellent linear response across the calibration series, demonstrating the wide applicability of the sample preparation procedure to a large variety of drug and drug metabolite chemistries. The three separate workflows showed excellent linearity across their respective calibration ranges, resulting in R² values > 0.98 for all the analytes.



A comprehensive workflow for the detection of a wide range of drugs and drug metabolites in hair was successfully developed. The combination of an easily implemented sample extraction procedure with the sensitivity of the SCIEX QTRAP 6500+ System has enabled accurate identification and sensitive quantification of a wide range of chemically-diverse analytes: (panel 1) Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS), (panel 2) Drugs Of Abuse (DOA) and (panel 3) EtG, a direct alcohol metabolite used as an indicator of alcohol consumption.

Key features of the QTRAP 6500+ LC-MS/MS System for sensitive multi-drug panel detection in hair samples

- IonDrive[™] Technology on the QTRAP 6500+ System enabled optimum ionization efficiency and ion sampling, resulting in high detection sensitivity of the drugs and drug metabolites in the three panels (high pg/mg to low ng/mg)
- 14-step sample preparation procedure enabled extraction of of a wide array of chemically-diverse drugs and drug metabolites from real hair samples
- Three different LC separation methods resulted in near baseline separation of all drugs and drug metabolites present in each of the respective panels
- Method was applied to real hair samples collected from subjects who were suspected of past non-medical NPS use, recent DOA use or alcohol consumption
- Workflow allowed accurate identification and sensitive quantification of sub pg/mg detection limits of drugs and drug metabolites in these real hair samples



Methods

Hair sample preparation: ~50 mg of head hair were cut into small segments and twice-washed with methanol then diethyl ether (5 mL of solvent, votexed for 2 minutes). The solvent washes were removed following each votexing step. Following the washing steps, the hair samples were dried for 15 minutes at 60°C under a gentle nitrogen flow. 25 mg of hair were weighed and placed in a glass tube. The resulting hair samples were spiked with various drug calibrator mixtures and internal standard mixes (when applicable). 500 µL of aqueous extracting solution was added to the spiked hair samples, then gently vortexed and the resulting solution was centrifuged at 5,000 rpm for 1 minute. The resulting mixture was incubated for 60 minutes at 100°C. Following the incubation step, the liquid extract was transferred to a new tube and centrifuged at 5,000 rpm for 5 minutes. The organic phase was transferred to a sample vial for analysis. A summary of the hair samples preparation and extraction procedure is shown in Figure 2.

Load and mix	•Add ~50 mg of hair to 5 mL of MeOH and vortex mix
Remove solvent	Remove MeOH with pipette
Repeat	•Repeat washing and solvent removal procedures with MeOH a second time
Load and mix	Add 5 mL of diethyl ether and vortex mix
Remove solvent	Remove diethyl ether with pipette
Repeat	•Repeat washing and solvent removal procedures with diethyl ether a second time
Dry	• Dry for 15 minutes at 60°C under gentle N ₂ flow
Weigh sample	•Weigh out exactly 25 mg of hair and place in a glass tube with an airtight cap
Add standards	Add drug mixtures
Add buffer	$\bullet \text{Add}$ 500 μL of aqueous extracting solution with IS (when applicable) and vortex
Incubate	 Incubate at for 60 minutes at 100°C
Transfer	•Transfer the supernatant (~100 $\mu L)$ in total recovery vial
Centrifuge	•Centrifuge tube at 5,000 rpm for 1 minute
Inject	•Transfer organic phase to UHPLC glass vial for analysis

Figure 2. Hair samples preparation and extraction workflow. A fast, 14-step extraction procedure was used for extracting the drugs and drug metabolites included in the NPS, DOA and EtG panels from real hair samples for MS analysis.

NPS calibrator mixture preparation: A total of 77 compounds were included in the NPS panel. They consisted of 32 synthetic cannabinoids, 8 phenethylamines, 13 synethtic opioids (fentanyl analogs), 10 synthetic opioid metabolites, 11 tryptamines, 1 cathinone, 1 piperidine and 1 amino acid (endogenous serotonin precursor). A 0.25 μ g/mL stock standard solution mixture containing all the NPS was prepared in methanol and used for initial method development. This solution was used to pepare a series of 4 calibrator solutions that were used to spike the 25 mg of hair samples, resulting in final NPS concentrations ranging from 10 to 200 pg/mg. Table 1 summarizes the NPS used in this panel and lists them by drug class.

DOA calibrator mixture preparation: A total of 23 compounds and 20 internal standards (IS) were included in the DOA panel. The DOA panel consisted of 6 opioids, 9 stimulants, 4 antidepressants, 3 cannabinoids and 1 benzodiazepine. A 5 µg/mL stock standard solution mixture containing all the DOA and a 200 pg/mL IS solution were both prepared in methanol. A series of 4 calibrator solutions containing the 23 compounds were used to spike 25 mg of hair samples. These calibrator solutions were mixed with the aqueous extracting solution that was previously spiked with the internal standard (IS) solution, resulting in final DOA concentrations ranging from 0.05 to 2 ng/mg and a final IS concentration in each sample of 1 ng/mg, respectively. The full list of the DOA used in this panel is summarized in Table 2.

EtG calibrator mixture preparation: A 500 ng/mL solution of EtG was prepared in methanol. This solution was used to pepare a series of 4 calibrator solutions that were used to spike 25 mg of hair samples. These calibrator solutions were mixed with the aqueous extracting solution that was previously spiked with the internal standard (IS) solution, resulting in final EtG concentrations ranging from 20 to 300 pg/mg and a final IS (EtG-d5) concentration in each sample of 1 ng/mg, respectively.

Liquid chromatography: UHPLC separations were performed on a Phenomenex Synergi 2.5 µm Hydro-RP column (50 x 3 mm, 2.5 µm, P/N 00D-4387-Y0) at 50 °C on the ExionLCTM AC System (SCIEX). Mobile phases used consisted of water, acetonitrile and modifiers. Three separate gradients were used for each of the LC methods, resulting in total run times of 18 min for the NPS panel (LC flow rate of 0.5 mL/min, 4 µL injection volume), 8 min for the DOA panel (LC flow rate of 0.5 mL/min, 2 µL injection volume) and 4 min for the EtG experiment (LC flow rate of 0.4 mL/min, 3 µL injection volume), respectively.

Mass spectrometry: MS data was collected in positive electrospray ionization (ESI) mode on the SCIEX QTRAP 6500+ System equipped with an IonDrive Turbo V Ion Source. Three separate acquisition methods were created using the Scheduled MRM Algorithm in Analyst[®] Software 1.7.1 to ensure acquisition of an adequate amount of data points across the LC peak for high quality, quantifiable data. The acquisition methods consisted of 156 MRM transitions for the NPS panel, 71 MRM transitions for the DOA panel and 3 MRM transitions for the EtG experiment, respectively.

Data analysis: Data processing was performed in SCIEX OS Software 1.5. Detection and integration of the peaks from the background was achieved within the viewing window using the AutoPeak Algorithm. Quantitative analysis was performed in the Analytics module of the software where calibration curves and concentration calculations were generated.







Figure 3: Chromatographic profile of the Novel Synthetic SubstancesOpioid (NPS) panel by LC-MS analysis. Extracted Ion Chromatograms (XICs) resulting from the optimized LC separation conditions which enabled near baseline separation of the 77 NPS included in the panel. The combination of the 18-minute gradient and 0.5 mL/min flow rate was necessary to separate the closely related fentanyl analogs and other structurally-related NPS in the panel.

Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS) results

Control head hair samples were spiked with the 77 compounds of the NPS panel at various concentrations, resulting in final NPS concentrations ranging from 10 to 200 pg/mg. These standard hair mixtures were extracted using the aforementioned procedure and injected to build a data processing method.

Figure 3 shows the extracted ion (XIC) traces for the 77 NPS in a control head hair sample at a final NPS concentration of 10 pg/mg. The 18 minute long LC run time was necessary to achieve near baseline separation of all the NPS and to resolve the structurally-related and isobaric fentanyl analogs and synthetic cannabinoids included in the panel.

Calibration curves were generated to evaluate the linearity and quantification performance of the NPS method. Figure 4 shows the results from the calibration series performed for each drug class and includes representative calibration curves from 10 to 200 pg/mg for the 32 synethtic cannabinoids (A), 8 phenethylamine (B), 13 synthetic opioids (C), 10 synthetic opioid metabolites (D), 11 tryptamines (E) and one methylphenidate (F). Two MRM transitions were used to evaluate the quantitative response of each analyte. Overall, the calibration curves demonstrated excellent linearity for all sample types, with R² values > 0.98 for all the analytes included in the panel.

The robustness of the NPS screening method was further investigated by analyzing 10 real hair case samples from

subjects who were suspected of past non-medical NPS use. These case samples were prepared using the aforementioned procedures and run using the NPS screening method. Figure 5 shows a screenshot of the SCIEX OS Software Results Table showing the NPS positively identified in a real hair case sample along with their extracted ion chromatograms (XICs). The results table lists the drugs detected along with their calculated concentration. The two synthetic cannabinoids JWH-122 and AM-2201 were detected in case sample number 3 at concentration of 111.8 and 11.72 pg/mg, respectively.



Figure 4. Representative calibration curves resulting from the calibration series of the NPS organized by drug class from 10 to 200 pg/mg. High linearity (R² values > 0.98) was observed across all the analytes in the NPS panel. Representative calibration curves from 10 to 200 pg/mg were created by drug class and include synthetic cannabinoids (A) phenethylamines (B), synthetic opioids (C), synthetic opioid metabolites (D), tryptamines (E), methylphenidate (F), as well as a cathinone, a piperidine and an amino acid (not included in the figure). p 3





Figure 5: Robust NPS screening method enables positive identification of two synthetic cannabinoids in a real hair case sample. SCIEX OS Software results table showing positive detection of JWH-122 and AM-2201 in case sample number 3 at concentration of 111.8 and 11.72 pg/mg, respectively (top panel). XICs showing integration of the peaks for each MRM transition of JWH-122 and AM-2201 (bottom panel). Efficient review and easy visualization of the results was enabled by using the filtering options in SCIEX OS Software.

Drugs of Abuse (DOA) results

A second set of control head hair samples was spiked with the 23 analytes of the DOA panel at various concentrations. These standard hair mixtures were mixed with the aqueous extracting solution that was previously spiked with the 20 DOA internal standards (IS), resulting in final DOA concentrations ranging from 0.05 to 2 ng/mg and a final IS concentration of 1 ng/mg, respectively. The resulting samples were extracted using the same sample preparation procedure and injected to build a data processing method. These samples were injected in duplicate.

Figure 6 shows the chromatographic profile of the 23 analytes included in the DOA panel at final DOA concentrations of 0.1 ng/mL. The 8-minute long gradient resulted in the near baseline separation of all the analytes in the DOA panels, as seen in the extracted ion chromatogram (XIC) traces (Figure 6).

The linearity of the DOA method was assessed by plotting the regression curves for the 23 analytes included in the panel. Figure 7 shows representative regression curves for each of the drug classes in the DOA panel and include the calibration series performed for 6 opioids (A), 9 stimulants (B), 4 anti-depressants (C) and three cannabinoids (D). Five levels of calibrators ranging from 0.05 to 2 ng/mg were used to evaluate the linearity of the method. The results demonstrated excellent correlation of the generated regression curves with R² values > 0.98 for all the analytes included in the DOA panel. Figure 7 shows representative regression curves for each of the drug classes in the DOA panel and include the calibration series performed for 6 opioids (A), 9 stimulants (B), 4 anti-depressants (C) and three cannabinoids (D). Five levels of calibrators ranging from 0.05 to 2 ng/mg were used to evaluate the linearity of the method. The results demonstrated excellent correlation of the generated regression curves with R^2 values > 0.98 for all the analytes included in the DOA panel.



Figure 7. Representative calibration curves of four of the five drug classes making up the DOA panel. Excellent linearity (R² values > 0.98) across the calibration curves for the 23 analytes included in the DOA panel was observed for concentrations ranging from 0.05 to 2 ng/mg. Drug classes in the DOA panel include opioids, stimulants, anti-depressants, cannabinoids, as well as a benzodiazepine (not included in the figure).





Figure 6: Chromatographic profile of the Drugs of Abuse (DOA) panel by LC-MS analysis. Extracted Ion Chromatograms (XICs) showing near basline separation of the resulting from near baseline separation of the 23 DOA included in the panel. A shorter (8 min) gradient in combination with a 0.5 mL/min flow rate enabled fast separation of the chemically-diverse drugs included in the DOA panel.

The developed DOA screening method was further evaluated by testing real hair samples from subjects who reported past drugs of abuse consumption. In this case study, 8 real hair samples were analyzed to evaluate the robustness of the developed DOA screening method. Figure 8 and 9 show the results table and the extracted ion chromatograms (XICs) of the drugs of abuse that were successfully detected in case sample 2 and 3.

Ketamine, oxycodone, tramadol and zolpidem were detected in tested head hair sample number 2 at concentration of 0.3852, 1602.5, 248.4 and 0.0421 ng/mg, respectively (Figure 8). THC, cocaine and two of its metabolites; benzoylecgonine and cocaethylene were detected in hair sample 3 at concentration of 0.2920, 0.06450, 0.07894 and 0.4568 ng/mg, respectively (Figure 9). SCIEX OS Software provided the ability to streamline the review of the results and efficienty summarize them in the results table portion of the Analytics module for efficient sample results review.

Inde	x Sample Na	Sample T V	Component v	Compon Type	Component Group Na 7	Actual Conce	Expe v	Area 🔻	Rete Time	Rete v	v Us ⊽	Calculated	Adduct / Charge	Accur	Form v	Precu Mass
80	0 2	Unknown	KETAMINA-1	Quantifiers	KETAMINA	N/A	2.60	6.997e6	2.60	0.00		3.455e-1		N/A		238.200
80	1 2	Unknown	KETAMINA-2	Qualifiers	KETAMINA	N/A	2.60	6.324e6	2.60	0.00		4.249e-1		N/A		238.200
81	4 2	Unknown	OXICODON	Quantifiers	OXICODONE	N/A	2.26	1.241e7	2.30	0.04		1.599e3		N/A		316.100
81	5 2	Unknown	OXICODON	Qualifiers	OXICODONE	N/A	2.26	2.955e6	2.29	0.03		1.606e3		N/A		316.100
82	2 2	Unknown	TRAMADOL	Quantifiers	TRAMADOLO	N/A	2.78	1.269e7	2.78	0.00		2.722e2		N/A		264.200
82	3 2	Unknown	TRAMADOL	Qualifiers	TRAMADOLO	N/A	2.72	6.935e5	2.78	0.06		2.246e2		N/A		264.200
84	4 2	Unknown	ZOLPIDEM-1	Quantifiers	ZOLPIDEM	N/A	2.93	3.739e7	3.01	0.08		4.691e-2		N/A		308.400
84	5 2	Unknown	ZOLPIDEM-2	Qualifiers	ZOLPIDEM	N/A	2.93	2.062e7	3.01	0.08		3.733e-2		N/A		308.400
2 - KETA Area: 6.9	MINA-1 _ple Index: 10) 97e6, H6, RT: 2.60 min	2 - KETAMINA-2 Area: 6.324e6, H6	ple Index: 10) 0X90 ,RT: 2.60 min a: 1.2	ODONE-1ple Index 41e7, H6, RT: 2.30 r	: 10) 2 - OKICODOM nin Area: 2.955e6,	€-2ple Index: 1 H6, RT: 2.29 mi	10) 2 - TRAM n Area: 1.26	ADOLOple I 9e7, H6, RT:	index: 10) 2.78 min	2 - TRAMADOLO Area: 6.935e5, H	Dple In I5, RT: 2	dex: 10) 2 - ZC 78 min Area:	DLPIDEM-1ple Inde 3.739e7, H7, RT: 3.0	ex: 10) 2 - 2 1 min Are	COLPIDEM-2p 1: 2.062e7, H7,	le Index: 10) RT: 3.01 min
	3e6	3.0e6 2.5e6	2.595	5e6-	.297 1.2e6 1.0e6	22	95	6e6 5e6	2.781	3e5 -		2.781	1.5e7	3.014	1.0e7 8.0e6	3.013
Intensity	2e6 -	2.0e6 1.5e6		3e6	20 8.0e5		Intensity	4e6 3e6		2e5		Intensity	1.0e7	Intensity	6.0e6 4.0e6	
	166	1.0e6 - 5.0e5 -		1e6 -	4.0e5 2.0e5			2e6 - 1e6 -		1e5 -		l	5.0e6		2.0e6 -	
	0e0 2.6 2.8	0.0e0	26 28	0e0 22	4 0.0e0	22 24	-	2.6	2.8*	0e0 4	2.6	2.8*	0.0e0 2.8	0 *	0.0e02	8 30 7

Figure 8: Optimized DOA screening method leads to positive identification of drugs of abuse in two real hair case samples. SCIEX OS Software results table showing positive identification of a number of drugs and drug metabolites in case sample 2 (top panel) along with XICs of the p 5 positively detected analytes (bottom panel). Ketamine, oxycodone, tramadol and zolpidem were positively detected in case sample number 2 at concentration of 0.3852, 1602.5, 248.4 and 0.0421 ng/mg, respectively.



Index	Sample Na…⊽	Sample T 🗸	Component v	Compon Type	Component Group Na V	Actual .	RT	Area 1	Rete	Rete v	Us ⊽	Calculated Concent	Adduct / Charge	▼ Accur v	Form V	Precu v Mass
853	3	Unknown	THC-1	Quantifiers	THC	N/A	6.11	2.967e4	6.09	0.02		2.957e-1		N/A		315.200
854	3	Unknown	THC-2	Qualifiers	THC	N/A	6.20	4.615e4	6.09	0.11		2.882e-1		N/A		315.200
855	3	Unknown	BEG-1	Quantifiers	BEG	N/A	2.53	4.395e6	2.62	0.09		6.724e-2		N/A		290.100
856	3	Unknown	BEG-2	Qualifiers	BEG	N/A	2.53	7.975e5	2.62	0.09		6.157e-2		N/A		290.100
863	3	Unknown	COCAETILENE-1	Quantifiers	COCAETILENE	N/A	3.09	7.536e6	3.16	0.07		8.110e-2		N/A		318.300
864	3	Unknown	COCAETILENE-2	Qualifiers	COCAETILENE	N/A	3.09	1.036e6	3.16	0.07		7.678e-2		N/A		318.300
865	3	Unknown	COCAINA-1	Quantifiers	COCAINA	N/A	2.86	3.544e7	2.94	0.08		4.852e-1		N/A		304.200
866	3	Unknown	COCAINA-2	Qualifiers	COCAINA	N/A	2.94	4.595e6	2.94	0.00		4.283e-1		N/A		304.200
3 - THC-1 Area: 2.96	(Unkn_mple Index: 11) /e4, H_4, RT: 6.09 min	3 + THC-2 (Unkn Area: 4,615e4, H_A	mple Index: 1' 3 - BEG I, RT: 6.09 min Area: 4	-1 (Unknmple Inde 395e6, H6, RT: 2.62	ex: 11) 3 - BEG-2 (l 2 min Area: 7.975r	Jnknmple Inde r5, H5, RT: 2.62	x: 11) 3 - COC min Area: 7.	AETILENEpk 536e6, H6, R	e Index: 11) (7: 3.16 min	3 - COCAETILI Area: 1.036e6,	ENEple .H_5, RT	Index: 11) 3 - COC : 3.16 min Area: 3	AINA-1 (mple k 544e7, H7, RT: 2	Index: 11) 3 - 0	OCAINA-2 (E 4.595e6, H6	ple Index: 11) RT: 2.94 min
20 15 <i>A</i> ysua	000	25000 - 20000 - Žinus	6.093 21 jeu	2.0e6 1.5e6	2,617 4	15 - 15 -	2.616 Ajsua	3e6	3.163	5e5 4e5 25 3e5		3.163	1.5e7 1.0e7	2.938 Aşsua	2.0e6	2.937
<u>e</u> 10 5	000	10000 5000 0	E * 62 6	1.0e6 5.0e5 0.0e0		10 24 20	E	1e6 0e0	0 3Z	E 2e5 1e5 0e0	3.0	<u><u><u></u></u></u>	5.0e6 0.0e0	9 3.0	1.0e6 5.0e5 0.0e0	8 30
	Time, min		Time, min	Time, m	in	Time, m	in	Ti	ime, min		Tir	ne, min	Time	t, min		Time, min

Figure 9: Optimized DOA screening method leads to positive identification of drugs of abuse in two real hair case samples. SCIEX OS Software results table showing positive identification of a number of drugs and drug metabolites in case sample 3 (top panel) along with XICs of the positively detected analytes (bottom panel). THC, cocaine and two of its main metabolites; benzoylecgonine and cocaethylene were positively identified in case sample 1 and 0.07894 ng/mg, respectively.

Ethyl Glucuronide (EtG) results

Lastly, the same sample preparation procedure were used to extract EtG, one of the endogenous ethanol metabolites and a biomarker of alcohol intake. Prior to extraction, the control hair samples were spiked with EtG and EtG-D9 (IS), resulting in final concentrations ranging from 20 to 300 pg/mg for EtG and 200 pg/mg for EtG-D5, respectively. The current EtG calibration range covers the cut-off value of 30 pg/mg which corresponds to the concentration of EtG in hair samples used to discriminate between social and heavy drinkers (as measured in the 0-3 cm proximal hair segment).¹ A data processing method was developed in SCIEX OS Software to extract the peaks corresponding to EtG and build a data processing method.

Figure 10 shows the extracted ion chromatograms (A) and the calibration curves (B) resulting from the calibration series performed for EtG. Four calibration levels ranging from 20 to 300 pg/mg were used to generate the calibration curves. The regression curves showcase excellent correlation of the generated regression curves with R^2 values of 0.99902 and 0.99917 for each of the EtG transitions.

To further assess the robustness of the developed method for EtG detection, real hair samples were analyzed. Those case samples originated from subjects with known recent alcohol consumption as well as subjects restraint from alcohol consumption for at least 60 days prior to hair collection. Figure 11 summarizes the results of three case samples that tested positive for EtG. It was detected in these case samples at concentration of 7.6070 (case sample number 1) , 10.660 (case sample number 2) and 1.6071 pg/mg (case sample number 3).



Figure 10. Robust detection of EtG, a direct alcohol metabolite used as an indicator of alcohol consumption. (A) XICs showing each MRM transition monitored for EtG. (B) Calibration curves resulting from the calibration series for EtG showing excellent linear response (R^2 values > 0.99) across the calibration range from 20 to 300 pg/mg.



Index	Sample Na… ⊽	Sample T T	Component Name	Component V	Component Group Na ⊽	Actual Conce 7	Expe v	Area 🔻	Rete Time	Rete v	Us 🛛	Calculated Concent	Adduct 7	Accur 🗸	Form V	Precursor Mass
34	1	Unknown	ETG-1	Quantifiers	ETG	N/A	1.08	5.848e3	1.08	0.00		7.652e1		N/A		221.100
35	1	Unknown	ETG-2	Qualifiers	ETG	N/A	1.20	4.114e3	1.08	0.12		7.562e1		N/A		221.100
37	2	Unknown	ETG-1	Quantifiers	ETG	N/A	1.08	1.023e4	1.08	0.00		1.121e2		N/A		221.100
38	2	Unknown	ETG-2	Qualifiers	ETG	N/A	1.08	6.569e3	1.08	0.00		1.011e2		N/A		221.100
40	3	Unknown	ETG-1	Quantifiers	ETG	N/A	1.07	1.855e3	1.07	0.00		1.768e1		N/A		221.100
41	3	Unknown	ETG-2	Qualifiers	ETG	N/A	1.20	1.080e3	1.08	0.12		1.446e1		N/A		221.100
A A	Manual I	ntegration										View	*	Options	s	• 🕒 😸
- ETG rea: 5.	-1 (Unknample 848e3, He3, RT:	Index: 8) 1 - 1.08 min Ar	- ETG-2 (Unknar ea: 4.114e3, He	nple Index: 8) 2 3, RT: 1.08 min 4	2 - ETG-1 (Unkn Area: 1.023e4, H	ample Index: .e3, RT: 1.08 r	: 9) 2 - nin Are	ETG-2 (Uni a: 6.569e3,	knample He3, RT:	Index: 9) 1.08 min	3 - E Area	TG-1 (Unknm : 1.855e3, He2	ple Index: 10) 2, RT: 1.07 min	3 - ETG- Area: 1.	-2 (Unknm 080e3, He	ple Index: 10 2, RT: 1.08 mi
	2500 -	1.084	2000	1.083	4000 -	1.080	D	3000		1.078		900			900	
	2000 -				3000 -			2500				800 - 700 -	1.072		800 - 700 - 1	.084
(high	1500 -	nsity	1500 -		usity		usity	2000			nsity	600 -		usity	600 - 500 -	
	1000	Inte	1000 -		월 2000 1		Inte	1500			Inte	400 -		Inte	400	1
	500	him	500	MMMM	1000 -	M		500	An	lymp		300 - 200 - 100 -	Mhur]	300 200 100	Milling
	1.0	¹⁴ .2	1.0	1.2 1.4 Time min		1.0 Y.:	2		1.0 Time	T.2			1.0 ¹ 1.2		1.0	Time min

Figure 11: EtG positive real hair case samples demonstrating the overall robustness of the method for EtG detection. SCIEX OS Software results table showing sample information for the three real hair case samples in which EtG was detected (top) along with XICs corresponding to the detection of each MRM transition monitored for EtG. The table include the peak area as well as the calculated concentration for each MRM transition monitored. SCIEX OS Software enabled the ability to select the positive real hair case samples using the filtering option and include the peak area as well as the calculated concentration for each MRM transition monitored. Visualization of the XICs to review integration of the peaks was easily accomplished at the click of a button.

These results demonstrate that the current method is able to differentiate abstinent subjects from those with recent alcohol consumption (social drinkers rather than heavy drinkers in the presented case samples). Overall, the presented workflow provides an accurate and reliable quantitative measure of EtG concentration from real hair samples. In addition, this method provides the ability to monitor alcohol consumption of up to 60 days prior to hair collection.

Conclusions

A comprehensive workflow combining the sensitivity of the SCIEX QTRAP 6500+ LC-MS/MS System with a simple extraction procedure enabled detection of a wide variety of drugs and drug metabolites in hair samples. The developed workflow was shown to enable accurate identification and sensitive quantification of a wide range of chemically-diverse analytes included in three different panels. The broad applicability of the sample preparation procedure allows accurate quantification of these analytes in real head hair samples at high pg/mg to low ng/mg levels, proving the robustness of the extraction method and the rugedness of the the developed workflow.

- 14-step sample preparation procedure enabled extraction of of a wide array of chemically-diverse drugs and drug metabolites from real hair samples
- Optimized LC methods enabled separation of structurallyrelated and isobaric compounds present in each of the three panels with a high level of selectivity
- The three separate workflows showed excellent linearity across their respective calibration range, resulting in R² values >0.98 for all the analytes included in the panels
- Developed workflows enabled high pg/mg to low ng/mg detection limits of drugs and drug metabolites while maintaining linearity across the calibration range
- Extraction method was applied to real hair case samples from subjects who had reported recent drug and alcohol consumption
- Developed methods enabled identification and quantification of high pg/mg detection limits of NPS, DOA and EtG in these real hair samples



Table 1. List of analytes organized by drug class included in the Novel Psychoactive Substance (NPS) panel.

Analytes	Analytes	Analytes
Synthetic Cannabinoids	Phenethylamines	Synthetic Opioid Metabolites
5-fluoride ADB	3.4 - MDPV	cis-3-methil Norfentanyl
5-chloro-AB-PINACA	5-EAPB	4-ANPP
5-chloro-THJ 018	5-MAPB	AcetyInorfentanylloxalate
5-fluoro-AKB48	6-APB	Butyryrylfentanylcarboxy metabolite
5-fluoro-APP-PICA	6-MAPB	Butyryl-nor-fentanyl
5-fluoro-APP-PINACA	Butylone	Despropionyl para-Fluorofentanyl
5-fluoro-CUMYL-PINACA	Metylone	Furanyl-nor-fentanyl
5-fluoro-NNEI 2-naphtyl isomer		MethoxyacetyInorfentanyl
AB-CHEMISTRY	Synthetic Opioids	Norfentanyloxalate
AB-FUBINACA	Fentanyl	Valerylfentanylcarboxy metabolite
ADB-FUBINACA	Trans-3-methyl Norfentanyl	
APP-FUBINACA	Acetylfentanyl	Tryptamines
CUMYL-PeGACLONE	Alfentanyl	4-acetoxy DiPT
MDMB-CHEMISTRY	Butyrylfentanyl	4-acetoxy DMT
MMB2201	Carfentanyl	4-hydroxy DET
JWH-122	Cyclopropyl-Fentanyl	5-methoxy AMT
JWH 251	Fentanyl, New1	5-methoxy DALT
JWH -016	Phenyl-Fentanyl	5-methoxy DMT
JWH -007	Phenyl-acetyl-Fentanyl	5-methoxy DPT
JWH -019	Hydroxyl-Fentanyl	5-methoxy MiPT
JWH -3022	Hydroxyl-thio-Fentanyl	N,N-DMT
JWH -081	Phenyl-Fentanyl	Psilocybin
JWH -398	Trans-3-methil Norfentanyl	Alpha-Ethyltryptamine
JWH -147		
JWH -098	Methylphenidate	Amino Acid (Serotonin Precursor)
JWH -203	Ritalic acid	5-hydroxytryptophan
JWH -307		
JWH-210	Cathinone	
AM-694	Methedrone	
AM-2201		
RCS 4	Piperidine	
RCS 8	Ethylphenidate	



Table 2. List of analytes organized by drug class included in the Drugs of Abuse (DOA) panel.

Analytes	Analytes
Stimulants	Opioids
Cocaine	Morphine
Cocaethylene	Monoacetylmorphine
Ecgonine Methyl Ester (EME)	Codeine
Amphetamine	Tramadol
Methamphetamine	Oxycodone
MDMA	Fentanyl
MDEA	
Ketamine	Cannabinoids
Norketamine	THC
	CBD
Rx Depressants	CBN
Methadone	
Buprenorphine	Benzodiazepine
Zolpidem	Clobazam
EDDP	

References

 P. Kintz, Consensus of the Society of Hair Testing on hair testing for chronic excessive alcohol consumption 2011, *Forensic Sci. Int.* 218, 2.

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