

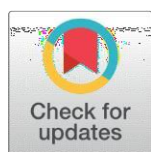
# Current Development in Bioanalytical Sample Preparation Techniques

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## ABSTRACT

The preparation of the sample is the most important stage in bioanalysis. Proteins, salts, and other organic compounds with chemical characteristics similar to the target analytes are commonly found in biological samples. As a result, sample preparation is an essential step that improves matrix suitability for analysis in multiple ways, including by separating the analytes and clearing the matrix of obstructive elements. Innovative sample preparation techniques have been more and more popular over the last 10 years due to their advantages over conventional techniques in terms of accuracy, automation, simplicity of sample preparation, storage, and delivery. This article's goal is to raise awareness of the most recent advancements in the processing of bioanalytical samples. Different extraction stages are provided by modern techniques, such as sorbent-based microextraction, and the advantages of bioanalytical approaches have been highlighted.



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**Keywords:** Bioanalysis, Sample preparation, Sorbent based microextraction, Biological samples

## INTRODUCTION

The word "bioanalysis" is used to describe the research and measurement of analytes (such as medicines and metabolites) in natural samples (biofluids or tissues). Bioanalysis is at present included in many examination regions, like the improvement of new medications, scientific investigation, distinguishing proof of biomarkers and doping control. The drug industry has a strong tradition of using bioanalysis to aid with drug disclosure and medication improvement. It also plays a crucial role in toxicokinetic, pharmacokinetic, and pharmacodynamic investigations.

Sample preparation, analyte separation, and detection are the three key elements of a bioanalytical approach. Preparation of sample is pointed toward moving a complex matrix

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to a reasonable structure before infusion into the instrument. The value of a sample preparation method: (i) eliminate meddling mixtures, (ii) dispose of particle concealment, and (iii) pre-concentrate the analytes to work on the strategy's responsiveness.<sup>1, 2</sup>

Bioanalytical research makes use of a variety of biological s, including blood, serum, plasma, urine, human breast milk, hair, saliva, sweat, and tissue. Likewise, every matrix has one of a kind difficulties. For instance, phospholipids are more prevalent in plasma, while a significant amount of salts are present in urine.<sup>3</sup> Biofluids are frequently used in bioanalysis, including plasma, serum, blood, urine, perspiration, saliva, and tissue. As of late, human breast milk, hair and feces have likewise utilized as biological specimen.<sup>4</sup> A remarkable indicator of drugs and contaminants from the environment is human breast milk.<sup>5</sup>

### **SAMPLE PREPARATION TECHNIQUES**

It is evident that effective and environmentally responsible sample preparation techniques are currently needed. Solvent extraction methods, inclusive LLE, liquid-phase microextraction (LPME), and related optimal approaches for bioanalysis include solid-liquid extraction (SLE). These methods reduce the price of medication research and increase interest in the pharmaceutical industry.<sup>6</sup> Current research has aimed on the advancement of sample preparation procedures in order to gain advantages. Robotics-based strategies for preparing samples such as SPE, LPME, and LLE have been cybernated, resulting in new and elegant perspectives on bioanalysis.<sup>7</sup>

Solid-phase microextraction (SPME) is a technology that Arthur and Pawliszyn introduced in 1990.<sup>8</sup> Sample collection, preconcentration, and extraction are all done in one step as an example of non-restrictive process that SPME illustrates.<sup>9</sup> This method's benefits include quick and easy operation and excellent precision, improved sample purification, and reduced solvent consumption. SPME simultaneously pre-concentrates and separates volatile and non-volatile samples. Recently, the application of fluorescence-based SPME technology and handheld fluorometers has also provided opportunities for in-situ drug testing.<sup>10, 11</sup>

## **MICROEXTRACTION TECHNIQUES**

The goal of the microextraction technique is to use the least quantity of solvent possible. The microextraction technique is tough, versatile, solvent-free and inexpensive.

Advantages: i) Cheap, ii) Easy to use, iii) Little use of Solvent.

Disadvantages: i) Impermanence of drops, ii) Low sensitivity and precision, iii) Limited Solvent choice.

The main micro-extraction techniques developed are:

### **Single drop microextraction (SDME)**

SDME is a practical and affordable little instrument for separating multiple analytes of interest from complex matrices. SDME was introduced by Liu and Dasgupta to address the issue of solvent evaporation.<sup>12</sup> The analyte is divided between the aqueous sample and the microscopic amounts of organic solvent in SDME. The single drop of SDME is the extraction medium. Microdrops are usually composed of organic solvents (e.g. 1-10  $\mu$ L).<sup>13</sup> There is no carry-over in a straightforward, affordable, and environmentally friendly microextraction method. Small solvent volume usage makes SDME an environmentally favourable analytical procedure that generates little to no waste. Although, the instability and volatility in drop volume are the main drawbacks. In general, direct immersion (DI-SDME) and headspace mode (HS-SDME) are the two key principles that have application to execute SDME.<sup>14</sup>

### **Stir bar sorptive microextraction (SBSME)**

In SBSME, desorption and extraction are essential procedures. A stir bar covered with polydimethylsiloxane is immersed in the sample solution during the analysis.<sup>15</sup> Commercial SBSME requires slightly more than 125  $\mu$ L of sorbent, which is more than SPME. SBSME cannot be utilised to analyse very hydrophilic substances. To overcome this issue, researchers have proposed the use of molecularly imprinted polymers (MIPs), better coating materials, dual-phase stir bars, and monolithic materials. Carbon Nanotubes, Graphene, Metal-Organic Frameworks (MOFs), Graphene Oxide, Porous Organic Polymers and Monoliths are recently developed materials that are useful for SBSME coating.<sup>16</sup>

### **Hollow fiber liquid-phase microextraction (HF-LPME)**

A little amount of extraction solvent (about 10–20  $\mu$ L) is placed into a hollow tube made of porous hydrophobic fibre material. A supported liquid membrane (SLM) is produced when an organic solvent that is immiscible with the fibre is added. The solvent becomes immobilised in the pores of the fibre. An affordable and efficient microextraction technique is HF-LPME, which is very simple to programme. Due to the interchangeable fibres, it has greater solvent stability compared to SDME and lacks memory and carry-over effects. Rapidity, high repeatability, clear extract, and a favourable enrichment factor are further benefits. Despite being widely used at the moment, this method has two drawbacks: air bubble production on the fibre surface, which reduces the transfer rate and limits repeatability, and non-polar substance adsorption on the fibre surface, which causes obstruction (for example, in blood, plasma, and urine samples).<sup>17</sup>

### **Dispersive liquid-liquid microextraction (DLLME)**

Dispersive liquid-liquid microextraction (DLLME) and its variants, such as sugaring-out assisted liquid-liquid extraction (SULLE), ionic liquid-based DLLME, deep eutectic solvent-based DLLME, and ultrasound-assisted DLLME (UA-DLLME), all have unique advantages. These benefits include the potential for combination extraction, lowest cost, ease of usage, and a high initial concentration factor for the target analytes.<sup>18, 19, 20</sup> By increasing the exposure surface between the sample and the extractant in DLLME, the dispersion approach dramatically improves the kinetics of extraction. Centrifugation used to separate the resultant

emulsion, and the extractant is extracted.<sup>21</sup>

The use of DLLME with highly polar metabolites has been supported by numerous investigations (e.g., folate derivatives and neurotransmitters). Pyrethroid insecticides and hexachlorocyclohexane isomers have been detected in milk using DLLME.<sup>22</sup>

Recent advancements in DLLME include, air-assisted DLLME, binary solvent (BS)-DLLME and vortex-assisted DLLME, which solidify floating organic droplets (DLLME-SFO) in an effort to limit the consumption of hazardous solvents in extraction.<sup>23</sup> The simultaneous detection of linezolid, piperacillin, ciprofloxacin, and metronidazole in human plasma samples is another application of DLLME. Tramadol concentrations in urine samples have been measured using BS-DLLME.<sup>24, 25</sup>

### **Electromembrane extraction (EME)**

The extraction speed in HF-LPME is influenced by a number of variables, including the partition coefficient between the sample (donor solution) and the organic solvent, the partition coefficient between the acceptor solution and the organic solvent, the volume of the acceptor solution and the sample, the area of the liquid membrane, and the thickness of the stagnant boundary layer between the sample and SLM.<sup>26</sup> The process is still comparatively slow even when these parameters are optimised. The electromembrane extraction (EME) proposal from 2006 addressed this by generating an electrical field across the SLM to move charged materials from the sample through the SLM and into the acceptor solution.<sup>27</sup>

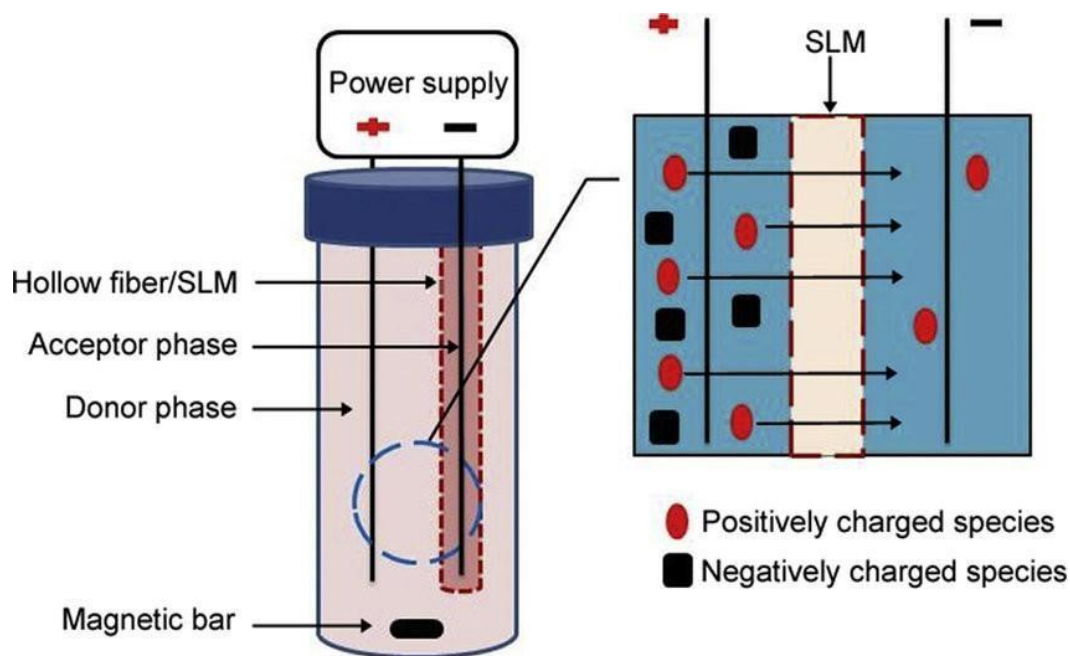
Employing an electrical potential to encourage movement through an extremely thin organic liquid membrane is what makes EME unique. In contrast to the more conventional liquid-liquid extractions made possible by electrical fields, EME has recently gained a lot of interest. This is because this kind of electro-driven device is highly effective when it is in the shape of a thin membrane. EME has also demonstrated excellent potential for real-world bioanalysis applications.<sup>28, 29</sup> Recently, antipsychotic medications such as risperidone, and haloperidol and aristolochic acid were isolated in total urine and blood were examined by EME-LC-MS/MS.<sup>30, 31</sup>

## **MICROSAMPLE PREPARATION TECHNIQUES**

Small sample quantities (<50 µL) of biological fluids are prepared using microsample preparation procedures. They can enhance animal welfare because fewer animals are needed in investigations because the quantity of biological matrices is reduced.<sup>32</sup>

Advantages: i. Allow to construct better Pharmacokinetic/Pharmacodynamic profile and comparison of multiple formulations using the same animal, ii. Less painful and stressful often have fewer requirements on handling and storage.

Disadvantages: The technique often suffers from variations in sample quantification and analysis due to technical errors and biological fluctuations, such as hematocrit.



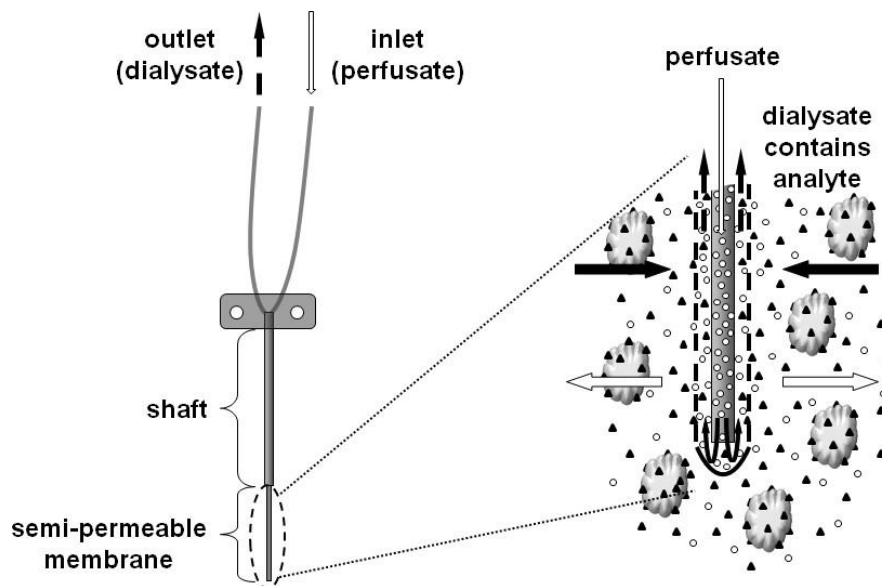
**Figure 1** A schematic mechanism of electromembrane extraction.

### Cloud point extraction (CPE)

Surfactant solutions that divide in two isotropic phases after becoming hazy are the foundation of CPE. Over LLE, SPME, SPE and CPE has a number of advantages. Fewer samples were required for the analysis because CPE not requires the use of organic solvents. In CPE safe and affordable surfactants are use which have been utilize to measure metals and a variety of chemical moieties (such as medicines, vitamins, and insecticides) in various biological matrices using green surfactant.<sup>33, 34</sup> In bioanalytics, CPE is the preferred technique for saliva analysis.<sup>35</sup> CPE is superior to other sample preparation methods in that it is straightforward, inexpensive, has higher extraction kinetics, and has a favourable environmental profile. Regarding the role of CPE in bioanalysis, there is, unfortunately, little information currently available. A surfactant, such as Triton X-114, was used to quantify the presence of antazoline in human plasma, and this was followed by LC-ESI-MS/MS (liquid chromatography-electrospray ionization-tandem mass spectrometry).<sup>36</sup>

### Microdialysis

Microdialysis has been utilised to gather samples devoid of macromolecules inside intricate biological matrices. To acquire a sample through perfusion, a tiny microdialyser is fastened using a membrane that is perm-selective inside the human body. The pharmacokinetic (PK) analysis of a variety of analytes derived from organs including the muscle, brain, blood vessels, liver, tumour, kidney, gastrointestinal tract, and skin has shown that microdialysis is a dominating technique for detecting xenobiotic containing metabolites inthe interstitial space<sup>37 38 39</sup> .



**Figure 2** Schematic illustration of microdialysisprobe.

### Dried blood spots (DBS)

DBS is based on the idea that biological elements adhere to the surface of a membrane carrier, then dry.<sup>40</sup> DBS has recently attracted a lot of interest in clinical and bioanalytical laboratories. Dried blood spots functions as a key technique for researching novel biomarkers and aiding therapeutic medication monitoring, similar to metabolomics analysis.<sup>41, 42</sup>

### Dried plasma spots (DPS)

A recently developed method for the early identification of neurodegenerative disorders, DPS is similar to DBS. The dried plasma spots is a special remote blood collection device that uses two filter papers.<sup>43</sup> Compared to standard plasma collecting methods, it offers a most of advantages. The least amount of biohazard risk can be represented by dried spot collection on filter paper due to its portability, simplicity, and lack of refrigeration. Compared to the traditional techniques of sample preparation, these advantages give DPSs a great deal of flexibility. Trimethoprim, ritonavir, sulfamethoxazole, and fosfomycin have all been found in biological matrices using DPS.<sup>44, 45, 46</sup>

### Dried saliva spot (DSS)

Examining the distribution of salivary proteins in the oral cavity with DSS is a low-risk procedure. DSS provides a number of benefits, including affordability and simple, non-

invasive sample collection.<sup>47</sup> In comparison to other approaches, for extraction and sample preparation operations DSS is advantageous and feasible. DSS expands the use of saliva to identify circulating biomarkers, identify matrix metalloproteinase-1 as one of the best salivary indicators for oral squamous cell carcinoma (OSCC), and detect (dl)-lactic acid in type 2 diabetes in order to diagnose Alzheimer's disease.<sup>48</sup>

### **Dried urine spot (DUS)**

Depending on the situation, it has been expected that DUS will lower the costs of handling, specimen collection, storage, and transportation for therapeutic research.<sup>49</sup> This method makes it possible to detect drugs of abuse using many analytes in dried urine specimens. DUS validated the rise in methylcitrate, a biochemical marker of inherited flaws in propionate metabolism.<sup>50</sup> Titanium, molybdenum and organophosphate pesticides as well as neuroleptics, antidepressants, cardiovascular drugs, opioids, benzodiazepines and stimulants can all be detected with DUS in urine samples.<sup>51</sup>

## **RESTRICTED ACCESS MEDIA**

Another method makes use of normal laminar flow liquid chromatography to enable direct injection of plasma or serum into the chromatographic system while it is running. The RAM particles packed within columns are designed to inhibit or restrict the passage of large macromolecules to the interior adsorption sites of the bonded phase. Internal Surface Reversed Phase (ISRP) is the most widely utilised RAM column in bioanalysis (ISRP). The exterior particle surface of this type of column is covered with a non-adsorptive yet hydrophilic substance, and the internal particle surface (pore) is coated with a bonded reversed phase material. The sample matrix macromolecules and the target analyte are successfully separated by this dual-phase column. Proteins and bigger matrix elements are rejected whereas drugs and other tiny molecules pass through the hydrophobic reversed phase holes to partition and retain.

The biological sample matrix can be directly injected onto the column as dual-phase structure of the RAM materials allows it; little or no preparation is necessary. Retention time for RAM columns can be very long (over 10 min), washing the column between injections is necessary, and necessary mobile phases aren't necessarily compatible with all ionisation procedures used in LC-MS/MS. Techniques for dual column RAM are also employed. These methods employ a column connected in series after the RAM column and used for analytical separation.

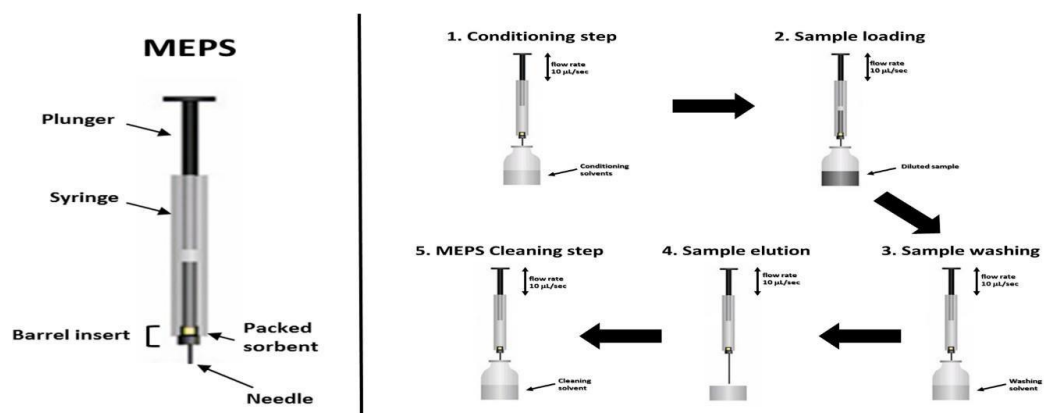
Advantages: i. High repeatability, ii. Good clean-up ability.

Disadvantages: i. Relatively long extraction time, ii. Limited solvent choice.

## MICROEXTRACTION BY PACKED SORBENT (MEPS)

This extraction method exhibits a number of very intriguing potential advantages, including low solvent consumption, small sample volumes (10–50  $\mu\text{L}$ ), and the capability to be directly injected into the HPLC system without additional treatments. Solvent volumes are also compatible with a variety of instrument configurations and analyses.

This device is employed in a variety of industries, including biological applications. The biggest disadvantage is also connected to its benefits. Its use in analyses where only small quantities are available, like plasma, is actually made possible by the ability to use small sample volumes.



**Figure 3** Device (left) and general procedure (right) applied in MEPS extraction.

There are several different types of packing materials available today, including: Silica-based sorbents SIL (unmodified silica), C2 (ethyl), C8 (octyl), and C18 (octadecyl); Mixed-mode C8 and ion exchange (SCX), Mixed-mode M1 (80% C8 and 20% SCX with sulfonic acid linked silica); PS-DVB (polystyrene-divinylbenzene), porous graphitic carbon Monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) for the creation of immunoaffinity sorbents are examples of molecular imprinted polymers (MIPs) based on various templates.<sup>52, 53</sup>

Advantages: i) Cheap, ii) Easy to automate, iii) Miniaturise

Disadvantages: i) Possibility of fibre pores getting block, iii) Low selectivity and precision

## CONCLUSION

Bioanalysis are crucial to support drug discovery and are used to analyse metabolites and biomarkers. The most frequent biological sample matrices used in bioanalysis are plasma, urine, and cerebrospinal fluid. Techniques for sample preparation in bioanalysis make it possible to extract and enrich important molecules that are present in complicated matrices at extremely low quantities. Biological application extraction procedures are selective enough to retain and identify the target analyte from diverse samples when detection

techniques are used. Numerous interesting methods for preparing bioanalytical sample are identified in the current review, including HF-LPME, EME, DLLME, SPME and SBSME. The salient characteristics of various sample preparation methods are outlined. Modern sample preparation methods have been shown to be more accurate, well-liked, and practical than older methods.

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## DECLARATIONS

### Authors' contributions

All authors contributed equally to the design, execution, and interpretation of the research, as well as the drafting and revision of the manuscript. All authors approved the final version of the manuscript and are responsible for its content

### Conflict of interest

All authors declare no conflicts of interest.

### Ethical approvals

(Institutional ethical approvals and informed consent)

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