



Validated LC-MS/MS Method for the Determination of Erlotinib in Rat Plasma

Hui ZHANG¹, Ling-min SHI¹, Wang-qiang CHEN¹,
Fu-mei SHANG², Chang-hao MO² & Xian-min WANG³*

¹ The Second Affiliated Hospital & Yuying Children's Hospital of Wenzhou Medical University, Wenzhou 325027, PR China

² Medical College of Henan University of Science and Technology, Luoyang, 471003, PR China

³ The First Affiliated Hospital of Wenzhou Medical University, Wenzhou, 325000, PR China

SUMMARY. In this study, a simple, rapid and sensitive liquid chromatography tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS) method is described for determination of erlotinib in rat plasma samples using diazepam as the internal standard (IS) from pharmacokinetic assays. Sample preparation was accomplished through a simple protein precipitation with acetonitrile, and chromatographic separation was performed on an Acquity BEH C18 column (2.1 × 50 mm, 1.7 μm) with gradient profile at a flow of 0.4 mL/min. The linearity of this method was found to be within the concentration range of 10-10000 ng/mL for erlotinib in rat plasma. Only 3.0 min was needed for an analytical run. The method was applied to a pharmacokinetic study of erlotinib in rats.

RESUMEN. Se describe un método de cromatografía líquida en tándem con espectrometría de masas (LC-MS/MS) simple, rápido y sensible para la determinación de erlotinib en muestras de plasma de rata utilizando diazepam como el estándar interno (IS) a partir de ensayos farmacocinéticos. La preparación de la muestra se llevó a cabo a través de una sencilla precipitación de proteínas con acetonitrilo y la separación cromatográfica se realizó en una columna Acquity BEH C18 (2,1 × 50 mm, 1,7 μm) con perfil de gradiente a un caudal de 0,4 mL/min. La linealidad de este método se encontró que estaba dentro del intervalo de concentración de 10-10000 ng/mL para erlotinib en plasma de rata. Sólo se necesitan 3,0 min para una serie de análisis. El método se aplicó a un estudio farmacocinético de erlotinib en ratas.

KEY WORDS: erlotinib, LC-MS/MS, pharmacokinetics, rat plasma.

* Author to whom correspondence should be addressed. E-mail: wyyxb@163.com