

Aug 30, 2019 Version 1

🌐 Automatic Deposition of DAN Matrix using a TM Sprayer for MALDI Analysis of Lipids V.1

DOI

dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.4srgwd6

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DOI: dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.4srgwd6

Protocol Citation: Jamie Allen, Elizabeth Neumann, Jeff Spraggins 2019. Automatic Deposition of DAN Matrix using a TM Sprayer for MALDI Analysis of Lipids. **protocols.io** <https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.4srgwd6>

Manuscript citation:

J Yang, JL Norris, R Caprioli. "Novel Vacuum Stable Ketone-Based Matrices for High Spatial Resolution MALDI Imaging Mass Spectrometry." *Journal of Mass Spectrometry*. 2018, 53 (10), 1005-1012.

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Protocol status: Working

We use this protocol in our group to apply DAN to human tissue for MALDI analysis and it is working.

Created: June 26, 2019

Last Modified: October 18, 2023

Protocol Integer ID: 25137

Abstract

Scope:

To describe the procedure for spraying tissue sections with DAN for imaging lipids.

Expected Outcome:

Slides should be coated with DAN. Tissue sections should be imaged within 24 hours of matrix application.

Guidelines

Definitions:

1. ACN is Acetonitrile
2. MeOH is Methyl Alcohol/Methanol
3. DAN is 1,5-diaminonaphthalene is DAN
4. THF is tetrahydrofuran

Materials

Reagents:

1. Water: (H₂O), Milli-Q System Water
2. Ethyl Acetate, Fisher E195
3. 1,5-diaminonaphthalene (DAN), Sigma-Aldrich 56451
4. Ammonium Formate, Sigma-Aldrich 516961
5. Methanol, Fisher A452
6. Acetonitrile, Fisher A9984
7. Glacial Acetic Acid, Fisher A35
8. Tetrahydrofuran (THF), Sigma-Aldrich 401757

Equipment:

1. Ultrasonic Cleaner, Branson
2. TM Sprayer, HTX Imaging
3. HPLC, Agilent

Reagent Preparation:

1. Matrix prep:

Add 200 mg DAN to a scintillation vial

Add 10mL THF to vial

Sonicate for 5 minutes

2. Stock of 90% Acetonitrile + 1% Acetic Acid

Add 5mL Glacial Acetic Acid to 450 mL of Acetonitrile and 45mL Milli-Q H₂O

3. Stock of 80% Acetonitrile:

Add 400 mL Acetonitrile to 100 mL Milli-Q H₂O

4. 50mM Ammonium Formate

Add 1.5765 g of Ammonium Formate to 500 mL Milli-Q H₂O

Keep bottle at 4°C

Safety warnings

Health and Safety:

1. Safety glasses or goggles, proper gloves, and a lab coat required. The area should be adequately vented and a lab mat placed underneath all solutions.
2. **Warning:** Trifluoroacetic Acid and Ammonium Hydroxide: HARMFUL or FATAL if swallowed. Vapor harmful. Affects the central nervous system. Causes severe eye irritation and respiratory tract irritation. May be harmful if absorbed through skin. Chronic exposure can cause adverse liver, kidney, and blood effects. Flammable liquid and vapor.
3. **Warning:** 1,5-diaminonaphthalene is a category 2 carcinogen.

Wash/Scan

- 1 Remove slides from freezer and place in desiccator for  00:30:00 .
- 2 Scan for autofluorescence on Zeiss Axio Scanner
- 3 Use a transfer pipet to add cold 50mM ammonium formate to slides, covering tissue. Allow to sit for  00:00:05 , and gently tip slide to allow the ammonium formate to fall onto kim wipes.

TM Sprayer Setup

- 4 Change nitrogen to 6 psi and turn on sprayer.
- 5 Open software and set nozzle temperature to  40 °C
- 6 Change LC solvent to A1 to 100% acetonitrile at 0.05 mL/min.
- 7 “Load” sprayer loop with  5 mL acetonitrile.
- 8 Switch sprayer to “Inject” and spray for 2 minutes.
- 9 “Load”  6 mL of matrix solution into sprayer loop.
- 10 Switch sprayer to “Inject” and spray for ~1 minute. Use slide to check that matrix is flowing.
- 11 Tape slide(s) onto  75 °C heated block on top of stage and adjust software scanning area.



- 12 Set method in software:
 - 1350 mm/min nozzle velocity
 - 1.5 mm track spacing
 - 0.05 mL/min flow rate
 - CC Pattern
 - 2 L/min flow rate
 - 5 passes
 - 40mm nozzle height
 - No drying time
- 13 Save method and make sure it is highlighted.
- 14 Under Cycle, click "Start," then click "Continue."
- 15 When finished, remove slide and place in slide box.

Cleanup

- 16 Set TM sprayer temperature to .
- 17 Switch A1 solvent line to 100% ACN and set flow rate to 1 mL/min for three minutes then return to 50% ACN 0.05 mL/min
- 18 "Load" loop with acetonitrile and "Inject" loop for .
- 19 Spray tip of nozzle with 5 mL of MEOH
- 20 Log the pressure at your flow rate post cleaning. It must be within 3-4 psi of the starting pressure; if it is not, the cleaning procedure must be repeated.
- 21 Change the HLPC flow rate to 0.05 mL/min.



- 22 Spray nozzle with methanol.
- 23 Remove the foil and wipe stage down with methanol.
- 24 Replace wypall and bench diapers.
- 25 Place all syringes in the biohazard container and empty the solvent waste.
- 26 Shut down the software and turn off the TM Sprayer.
- 27 Shut the nitrogen off.