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**De-salting of tryptic digested peptides**

The desalting of tryptic digested samples were optimized and performed using octadecyl carbon chain (C18) pipette tips (ZipTip® Pipette Tips, Millipore). Briefly, for the C18 tips, the desalting pipette tip was pre-equilibrated using a solution of 50% Acetonitrile (SRL) in LC-MS grade water and then equilibrated twice in 0.1% formic acid in LC-MS water. After carefully and gently pipetting the entire sample up and down for at least 10 times, the membrane was washed with 0.1% formic acid in LC-MS water. The peptides were eluted in 70% acetonitrile in LC-MS grade water and vacuum dried and stored for further analysis(26).