

HPLC Analysis of Vitamin E with Electrochemical Detection

Hideharu Shintani*

School of Engineering, Chuo University, Tokyo, Japan

Introduction

Extraction of vitamin E (V.E) from tissue usually involves saponification with ethanolic potassium hydroxide. Direct extraction without saponification, however, is used for plasma. HPLC equipped with a spectro fluorimeter (λ_{ex} 298 nm, λ_{em} 325 nm) or with electrochemical detector (ECD) have enabled measurement of small amounts of tocopherols in biological samples [1-4].

Experimental

Plasma or cell suspensions

Protocol

- 0.5 ml of sample was placed in a tube.
- Phosphate buffer (pH 7.4, 150 mM, 0.5 ml) containing EDTA (0.27 mM) was added.
- Pyrogallol was added in ethanol (6% w/v, 1 ml).
- A solution of tocol (2-methyl 2-phytyl 6-chromanol; 2 μ g) was added in ethanol (1 ml) as internal standard.
- It was shaken.
- It was preincubated for 2 min at 70°C.
- KOH was added (60%, 0.2 ml).
- It was incubated for 30 min at 70°C.
- n-hexane and distilled water (2.5 ml) was added. Both reagents were from Wako, chromatography grade.
- It was shaken.
- It was centrifuged for 5 min at 3000 rpm.
- 4 ml of n-hexane layer was taken and evaporated under N_2 gas.
- Ethanol was added (100 ml).
- It was analysed by HPLC.

HPLC was performed with an Irica Instruments chromatograph

equipped with 250 mm \times 4 mm i.d. RP-18 column (Shiseido Co., Sepak C-18). The mobile phase was 100:2:7 (v/v/w) methanol:H₂O:NaClO₂ at 1 ml/min. The injection volume was 10 μ L. Typical chromatograms detected by ECD 900 mV are illustrated in figure 1.

Results and Discussion

In figure 1 the admixture in plasma were not interfered, indicating pretreatment was attained satisfactory.

Result of HPLC with ECD detection at 900 mV application was presented. ECD detection was selective to analysis for the compounds with tautomerism such as keto \rightleftharpoons enol or amin \rightleftharpoons imine [5] with relatively lower oxidation-reduction voltage. So in case of V.E analysis, ECD detection can be applicable because phenolic OH \rightleftharpoons carbonyl tautomerism exist when voltage applied.

In addition, ECD detection was around more than 10 times sensitive than UV detection [5]. Sensitivity and selectivity of ECD detection was almost identical to fluorescence detection.

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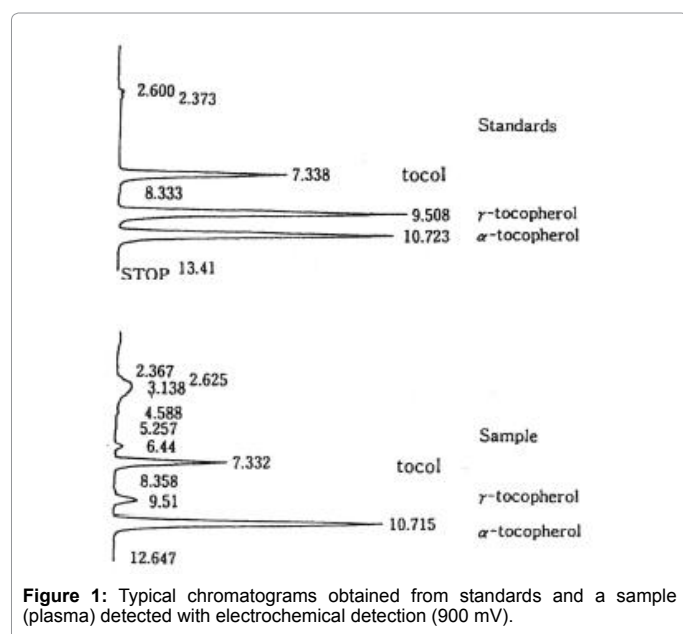


Figure 1: Typical chromatograms obtained from standards and a sample (plasma) detected with electrochemical detection (900 mV).

*Corresponding author: Hideharu Shintani, 1-10-60, Minamidaira, Hino, Tokyo 191-0041, Japan, Tel: +81425922336; E-mail: shintani@mail.hinocatv.ne.jp

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