

JOURNAL CLUB

Chemical labeling and enrichment of nitrotyrosine-containing peptides

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20. 4. 2016 at 3 pm

Protein tyrosine nitration (PTN) is a post-translational modification of proteins associated with a number of inflammatory diseases. Since PTN is a low-abundance post-translational modification, it is necessary to enrich modified proteins and/or to detect them with high selectivity and sensitivity. Until now, this has been mostly accomplished with anti-nitrotyrosine antibodies in combination with two-dimensional gel electrophoresis and mass spectrometry.

We propose a chemical labeling approach designed to allow enrichment of tyrosine-nitrated peptides independent of the sequence context, which is a potential shortcoming of antibody-based approaches. As a proof of concept, this method was successfully applied to the enrichment of tyrosine-nitrated angiotensin II in a tryptic digest of bovine serum albumin (BSA). The approach presented here is well adapted to peptide analysis, for instance in shotgun proteomics.

N. Abello, B. Barroso, H. A. M. Kerstjens, D. S. Postma, R. Bischoff, Chemical labeling and enrichment of nitrotyrosine-containing peptides, Talanta 2010, 80, 1503-1512.

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