

Establishing an ECD(Electro Chemical Detector)-HPLC System Using a Unique Diamond Electrode

High-precision Quantitative Analysis of SAA (Sulfur Amino Acids)

The poster was presented at pittcon 2009.

Joint presentation with AJINOMOTO Co., Inc., Pharmaceutical Research Lab Japan.

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Data source : poster
Year : 2009

Conditions

Column : Inertsil ODS-3
Detection : ECD (ED703 pulse EC Detector, Diamond)
Sample : Nutrition solutions
blood plasma
Analyte : L-Cysteine
L-Cystine

Establishing an ECD(Electro Chemical Detector)-HPLC System Using a Unique Diamond Electrode

High-precision Quantitative Analysis of SAA (Sulfur Amino Acids)

Junichi Isegawa ¹, Akira Nakayama ¹, Naoko Arashida ¹, Izumi Miyazaki ², Takao Tamura ²
¹AJINOMOTO CO., INC. Pharmaceutical Research Lab. ²GL Sciences Inc.

A taste of the future.
AJINOMOTO

GL Sciences Inc.

Summary

We have established an ECD-HPLC system equipped with a special stabilization-treated conductive diamond electrode, which provides high-precision, stability, selectivity and efficiency compared to the existing ECD detectors.

Existing ECD detectors widely adopt a glassy carbon or graphite electrode as a working electrode, but have the following weaknesses.

- Unsuitable for quantitative analysis as the impurities become adsorbed to the working electrode, resulting in low stability with wide sensitivity variation.
- High-voltage cannot be applied to the electrode, which results in lack of sensitivity.

Conductive diamond electrode has received a lot of attention to overcome the above weaknesses and there has been a report that it produces stable results. However a sensitivity variation was confirmed on compounds such as SAA, resulting in lack of precision of quantification.

Therefore we have developed a special stabilization-treated conductive diamond electrode and established an ECD-HPLC system as stated earlier.

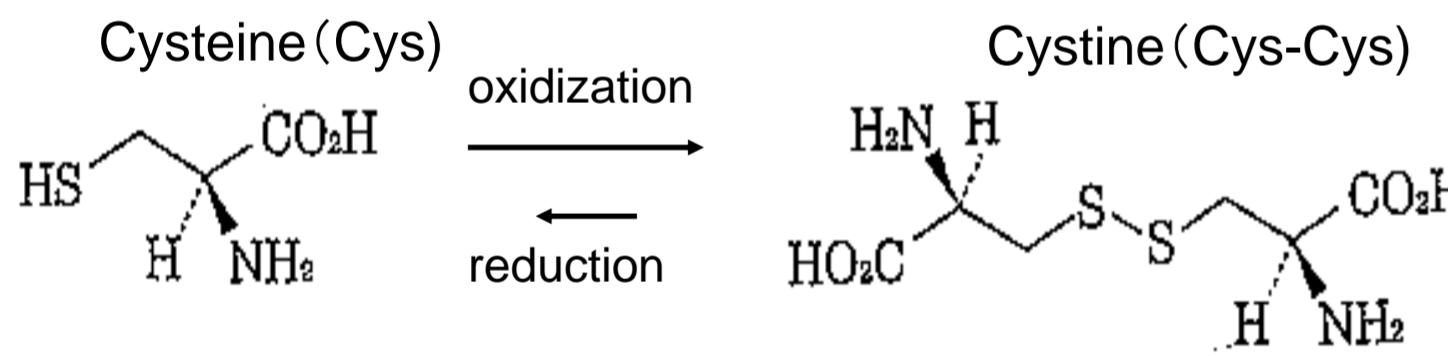
This system was applied to SAA analysis in pharmaceuticals and in biological samples. Existing analytical methods of SAA in infusion solutions cannot quantify an SH-group cysteine and SS-group cystine at once, hence it is analyzed separately which is a time consuming method. Using this system combined with a column switching method, both cysteine and cystine could be analyzed at once within 20 minutes and with high accuracy.

Meanwhile, SAA in biological samples are typically analyzed using ECD equipped with a carbon electrode or fluorescence derivatization method. In the former case, quantitative analysis is unsuitable as has been mentioned. In the latter case, it lacks in stability as there are many complicated sample preparation steps.

By using this system, cysteine, cystine, glutathione and homocysteine could be analyzed simultaneously and in accordance with FDA guidance (2001 May).

1

Relationship between Cysteine and Cystine



3

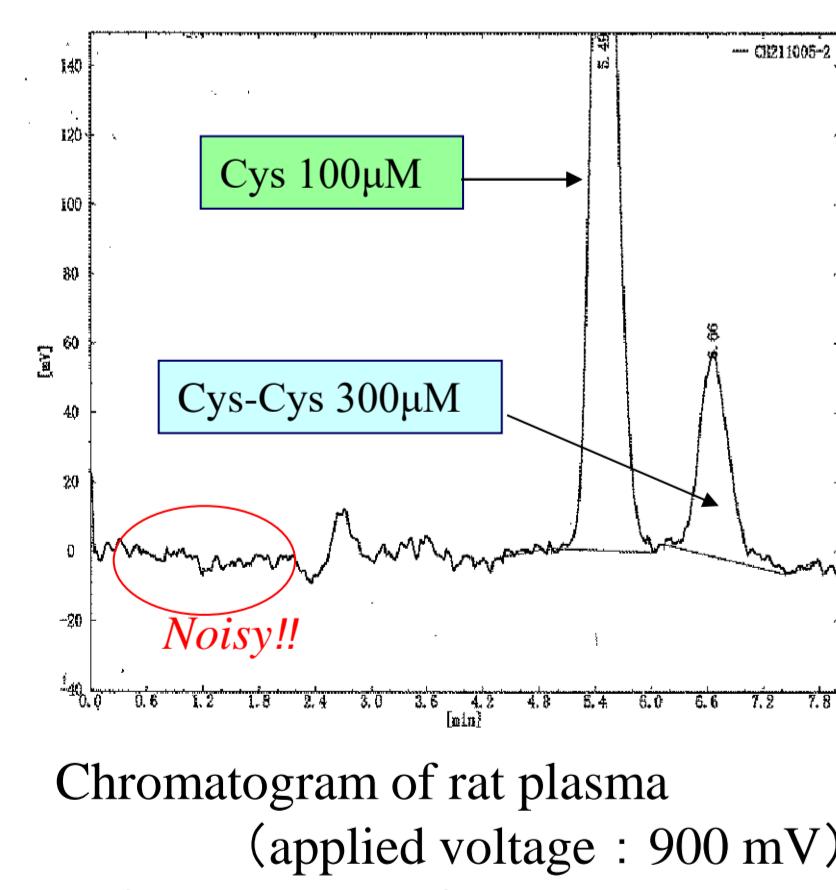
Our first choice was ECD-HPLC system. But the robustness of carbon electrode ECD was not so good.

So we had tried a new ECD equipped with "Diamond electrode" with bio-analysis team and the manufacturer of the products.

2

Evaluation of the traditional method

Cys and Cys-Cys analysis in plasma using ECD detector equipped with carbon electrode



Column : Inertsil ODS-3 3 mm i.d. X 150mm 3um(GL-Sciences)
 Column temp. : 40°C
 Solvent : 100mM NaH₂PO₄-5mM OSA *Buffer pH2.2 /MeOH = 95/5 (v/v)
 Flow rate : 0.8mL/min
 Pretreatment : deprotonation using HClO₄

- Weak Point!
- 1. Need high applied voltage for Cys-Cys Analysis
 >>> Low S/N sensitivity
- 2. Low robustness even at low applied voltage for Cys analysis

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Back Ground

Signification

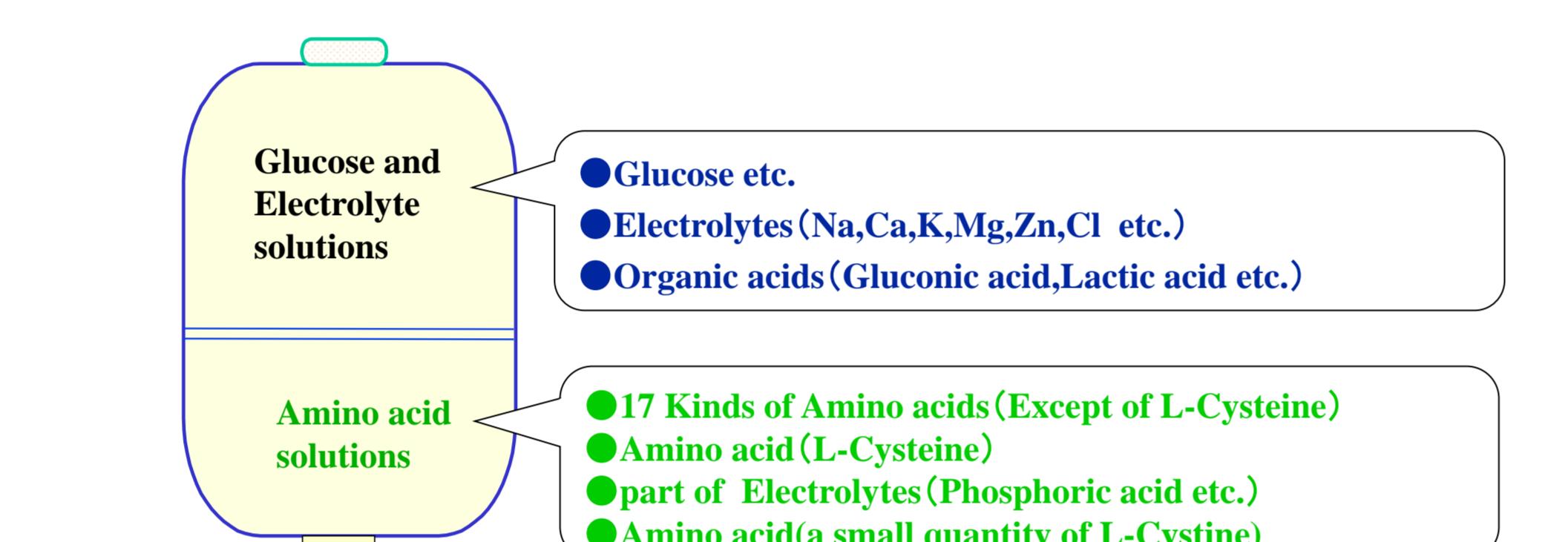
Nutrition solutions for infusion contain many kinds of ingredients such as amino acids, glucose and electrolyte. The analysis of L-Cysteine and L-Cystine are important in order to assure the quality of the products, because L-Cysteine is an unstable amino acid and is known to be quickly oxidized into L-Cystine under neutral or weakly alkaline condition (See slide 3). But for the same reason the analysis of these compounds were complex and time-consuming.

Original method in nutrition solutions

L-Cysteine : Ultraviolet and Visible Adsorption Spectrophotometry
 L-Cystine : Amino Acid Analysis (post-column method : Ninhydrin)

Characteristic of Original method in nutrition solutions

- ① Unsimultaneous analysis method
- ② Long analysis time
- ③ Complicated pretreatment



To improve the method of L-Cysteine and L-Cystine

Minimum Requirement

- ① Simultaneous analysis of L-Cysteine and L-Cystine
- ② High robustness
- ③ Short analysis time
- ④ Easy pretreatment

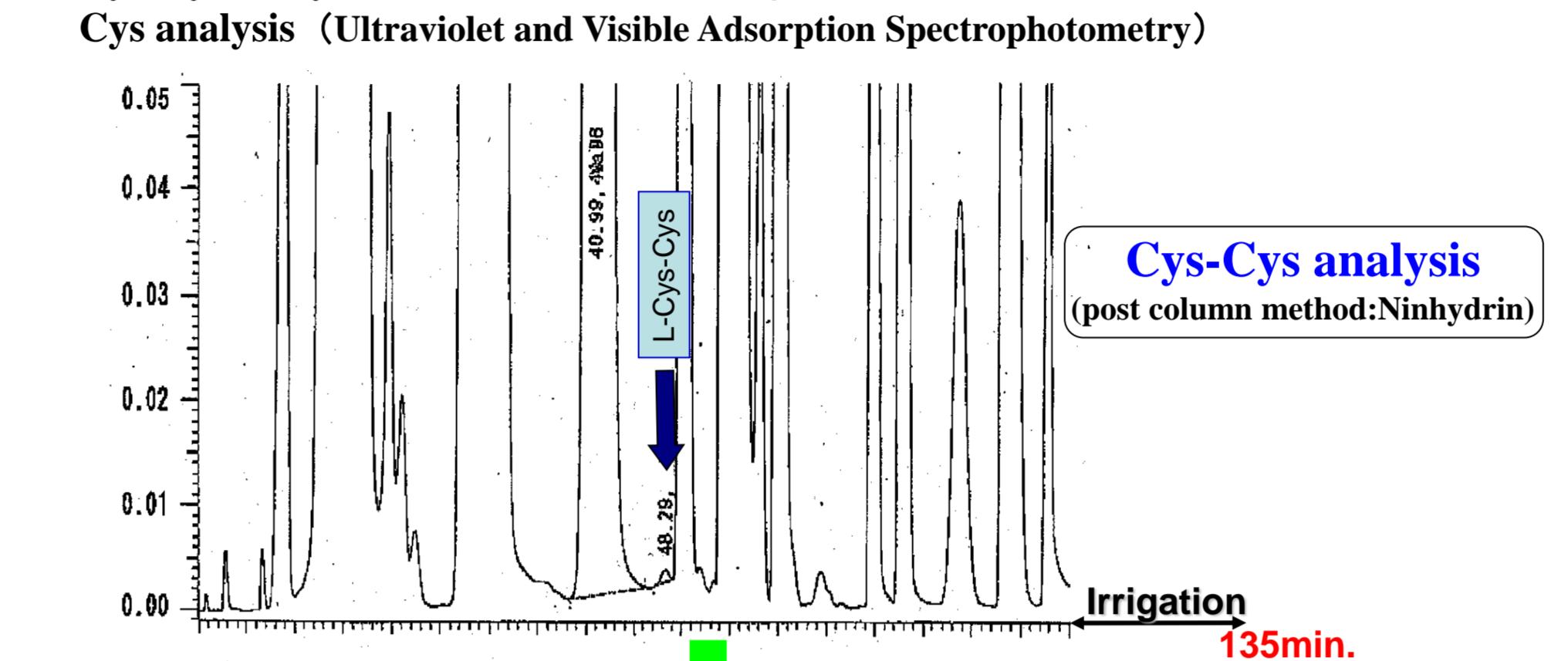
Our first choice was ECD-HPLC system. But the robustness of carbon electrode ECD was not so good.

So we had tried a new ECD equipped with "Diamond electrode" with bio-analysis team and the manufacturer of the products.

Establishing a New method for Cys and Cys-Cys Combination of ECD equipped with diamond electrode and column switching system

Original Method

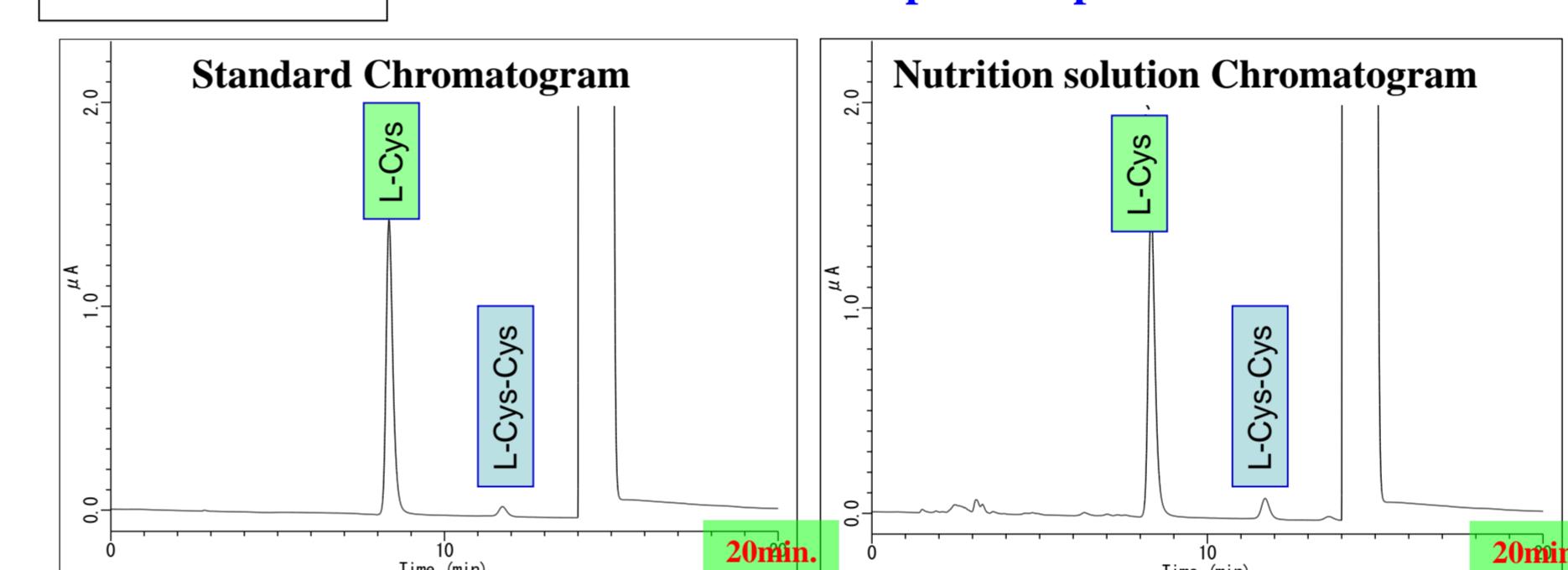
Cys-Cys analysis (Amino Acid Analysis)
 Cys analysis (Ultraviolet and Visible Adsorption Spectrophotometry)



Cys analysis (Unsimultaneous method)

Achieving simultaneous analysis (Short analysis time and simultaneous method)

New method Stable baseline and Good peak shapes



Analytical Conditions : See Slide 14

Validation of new method for nutrition injection formulation According to ICH guideline Q2A and Q2B

<Validation Study>

All items met the criteria according to ICH guideline

Characteristics	L-Cysteine	L-Cystine
Specificity	Good	Good
Linearity (Correlation Coefficient)	0.9999	0.9999
Accuracy (Recovery)	99.8 ~ 102.9%	99.3 ~ 100.9%
Repeatability	0.9%	0.7%
Intermediate Precision	Good	Good
Quantitation Limit (μg/mL)	0.16	0.0074

<Cross-Validation>

There were no difference between the original and new method !!

Sample	L-Cysteine		L-Cystine	
	Original Method	New Method	Original Method	New Method
Conc.	Conc.	Conc.	Conc.	Conc.
Nutrition solutions	100.2	98.6	2.1	1.1
	101.0	98.3	1.2	1.1
	99.3	99.7	1.6	1.2

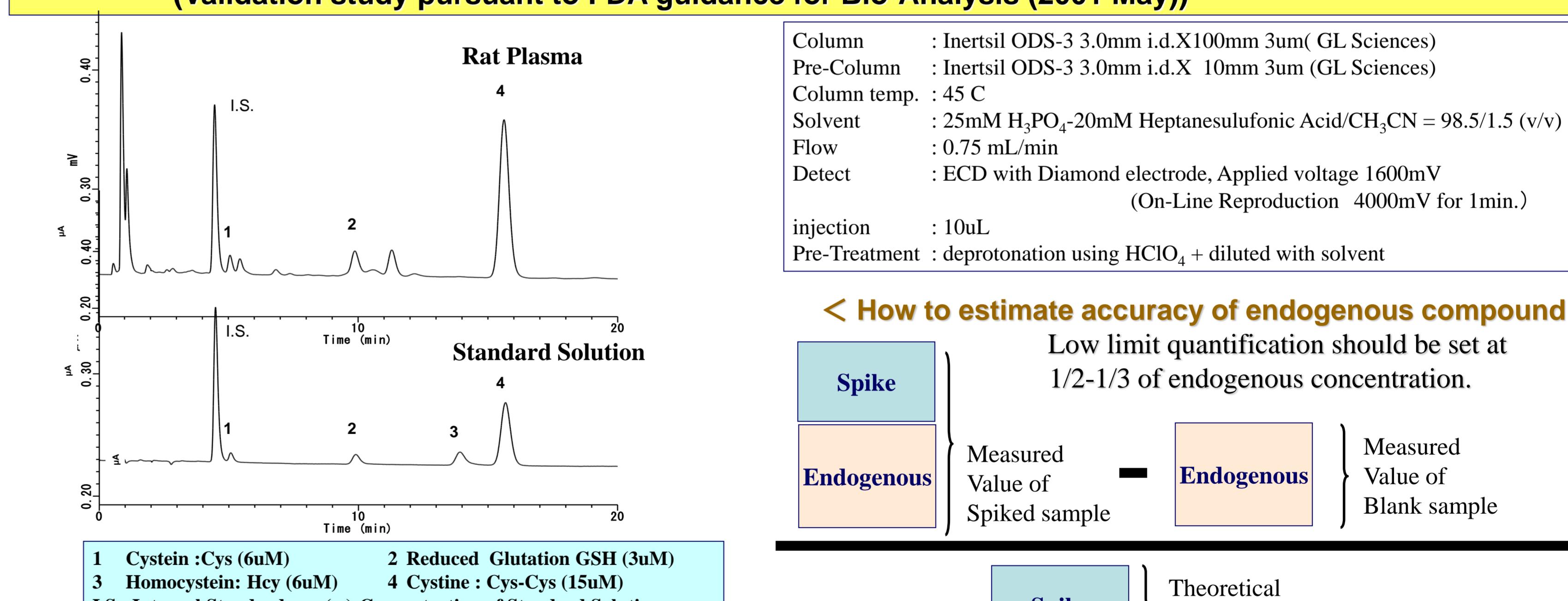
Comparison of Original method and New method

Items	Original Method	New Method
Simultaneous method	Compatible	Not Compatible
Analysis time	Cysteine: 360min. Per 20 Samples Cystine : 135min. Per 1 Sample	20min. Per 1 Sample
Number of Analytes per Day	Cysteine: 20 Samples Cystine : 11 Samples	Cysteine and Cystine: 70 Samples
Working day per Worker	6 days	1.5 days

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Application for biological samples

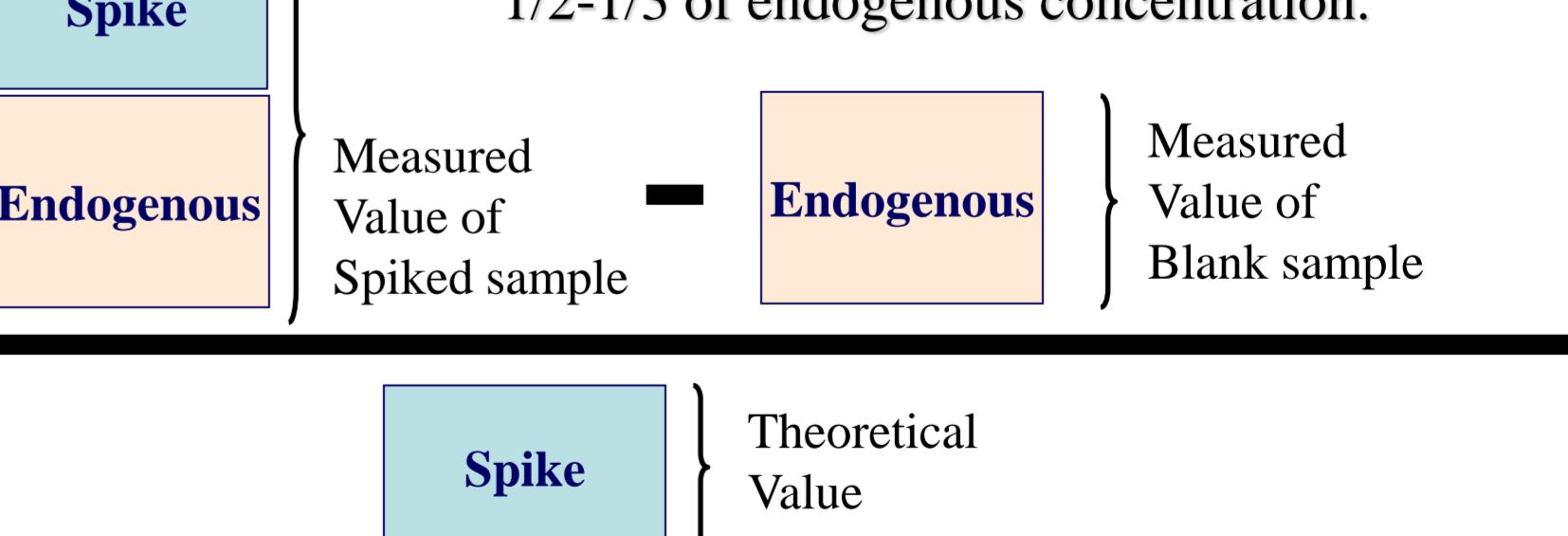
Simultaneous analysis of Cys, Cys-Cys, Homocysteine(Hcy), reduced glutathione (GSH) in rat plasma (Validation study pursuant to FDA guidance for Bio-Analysis (2001 May))



Column : Inertsil ODS-3 3.0mm i.d.X100mm 3um(GL Sciences)
 Pre-Column : Inertsil ODS-3 3.0mm i.d.X 10mm 3um (GL Sciences)
 Column temp. : 45°C
 Solvent : 25mM H₃PO₄-20mM Heptanesulfonic Acid/CH₃CN = 98.5/1.5 (v/v)
 Flow : 0.75 mL/min
 Detect : ECD with Diamond electrode, Applied voltage 1600mV
 (On-Line Reproduction 4000mV for 1min.)
 injection : 10uL
 Pre-Treatment : deprotonation using HClO₄ + diluted with solvent

< How to estimate accuracy of endogenous compound >

Low limit quantification should be set at 1/2-1/3 of endogenous concentration.



< Evaluation of Intra-day Precision : Spiked plasma samples >

Criteria of FDA Guidance : Accuracy 85 - 115% , Precision <15%

Cys		GSH		Hcy		Cys-Cys	
Conc. (μmol/L)	Accuracy (%)						
12	104.3	6	99.7	12	96.3	30	102.4
30	104	15	100.2	30	99	75	97
60	102.4	30	100.2	60	102	150	86.8
120	96.9	60	98.8	120	99.4	300	108.4
300	91	150	100.5	300	100	750	108.4

Normal concentrations in rat Plasma
 Cys:10~15μmol/L, GSH: <10μmol/L, Hcy:<1μmol/L(Under LOD), Cys-Cys:20~30μmol/L

The quantitative ability for Cys, GSH and Cys-Cys were demonstrated at normal concentration level of rat plasma.
 >>> Slight variation of concentration were observed because of pathological condition or dosing would be detected

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- Low Noise level
- Remarkable Tolerance
- High Sensitivity especially for -SS- compounds

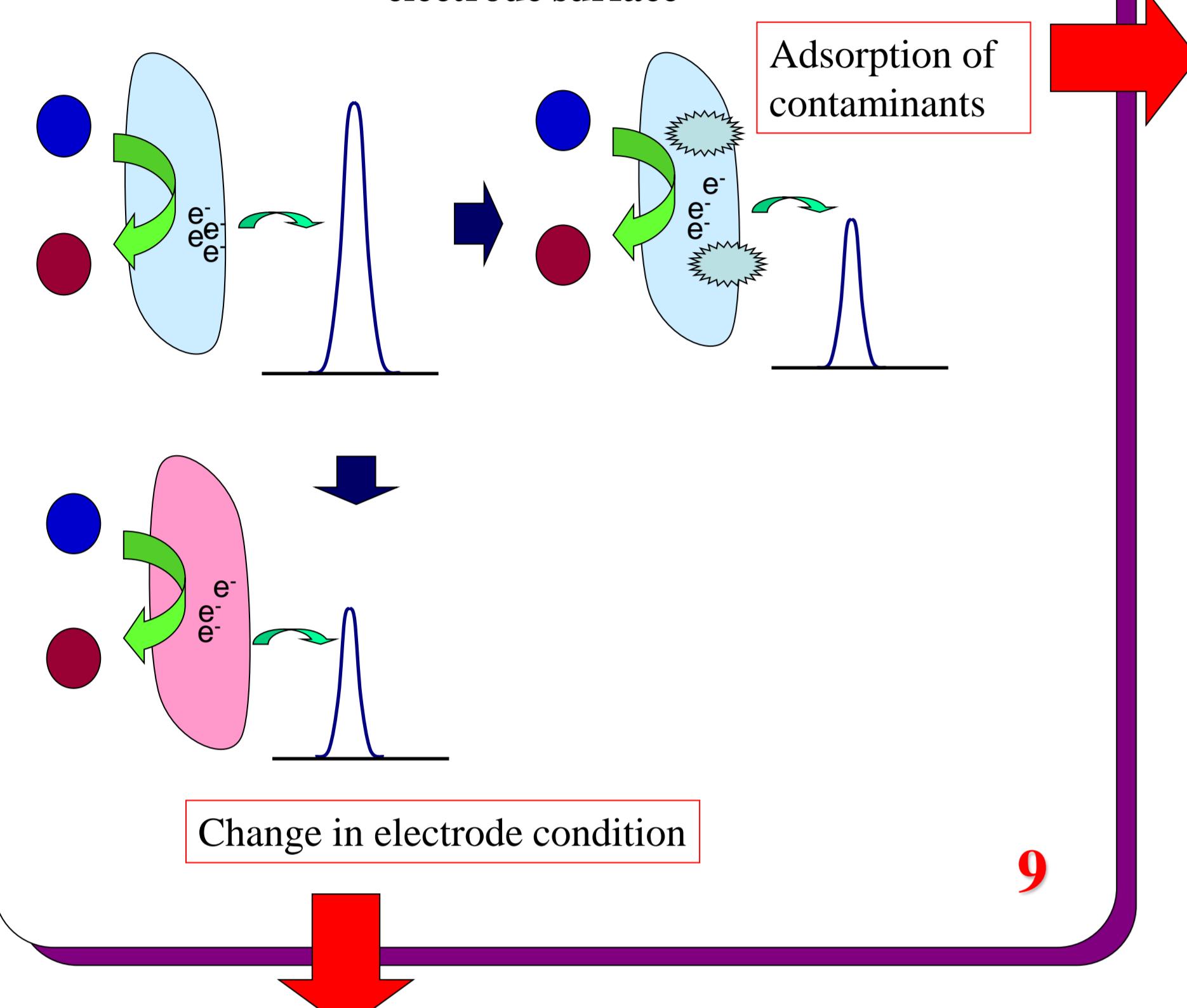
8

Overcome the existing problems of ECD by the state-of-the-art technology !!

Major causes led to irreproducibility of electrochemical detector

During redox reactions, the electrode surface can be deteriorated/contaminated by reduced or oxidized products, resulting in low sensitivity and unstable response.

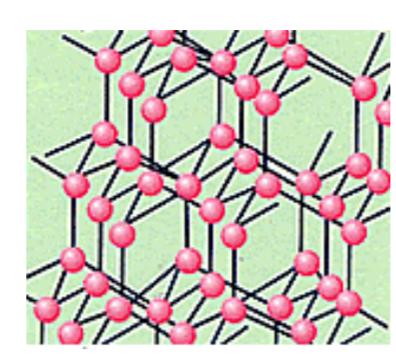
Model of irreproducible results caused by deterioration/contamination of the electrode surface



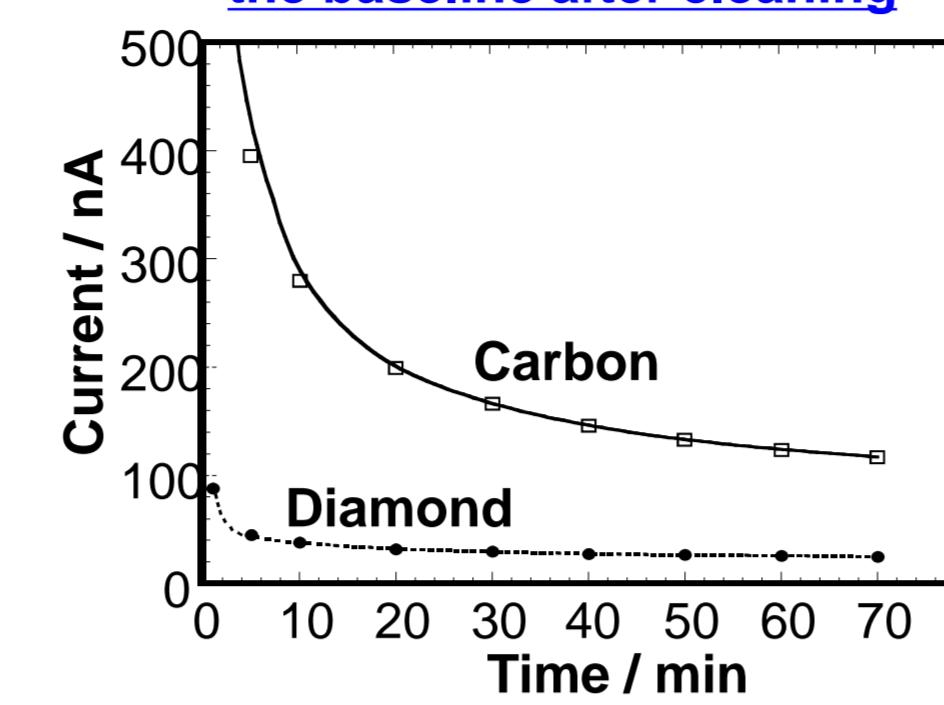
New technology 1 : On-Line Cleaning using High Voltage

Advantage of Diamond electrode : Solidity for high voltage!!

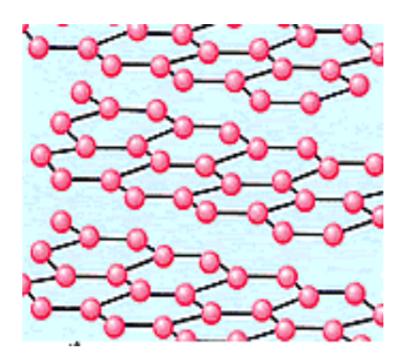
Diamond
High potential
→ SP³ carbon structures



Extremely fast to stabilize the baseline after cleaning



Carbon
Limited potential
→ SP² carbon structures

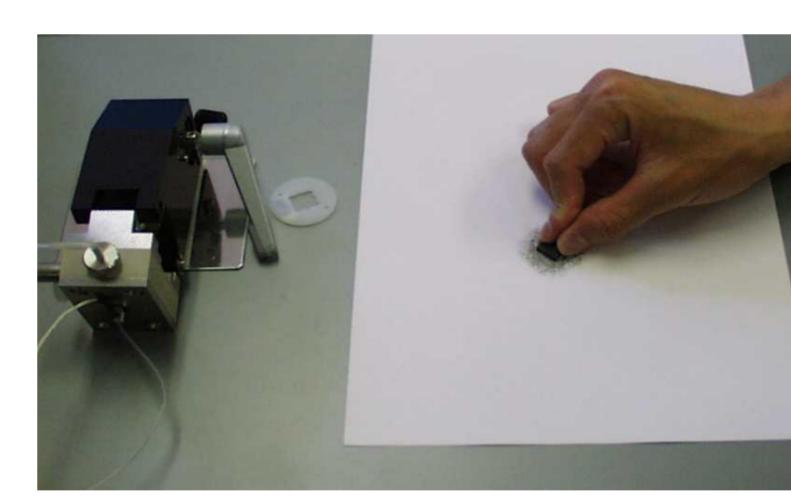


Ref : <http://www.courtside.co.jp/racket/dunlop/rim40.htm>

Regeneration of electrode activity

Conventional carbon electrode

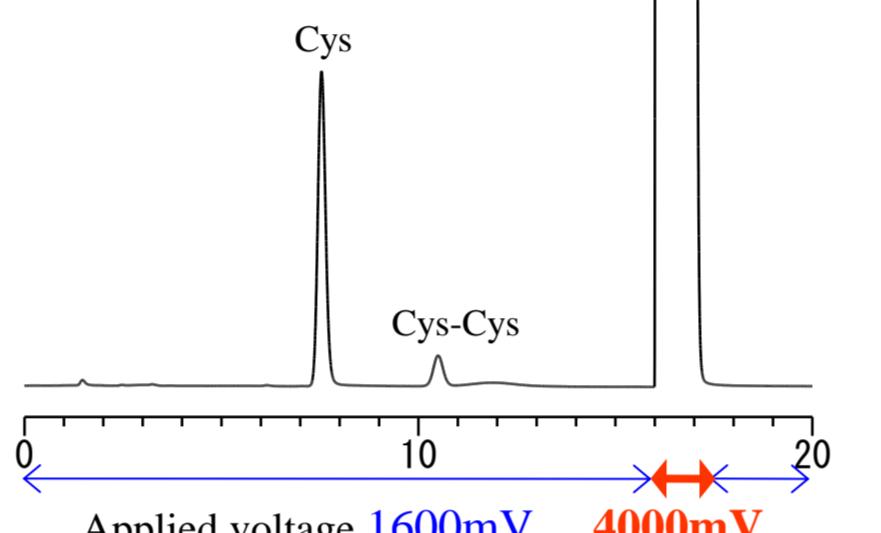
mechanical or manual polishing



Time-consuming mechanical or manual polish.
Polishing is an off-line process,
and a long time is necessary to get a stable baseline.

Diamond electrode

Electrochemically stable
>> based on on-line cleaning!



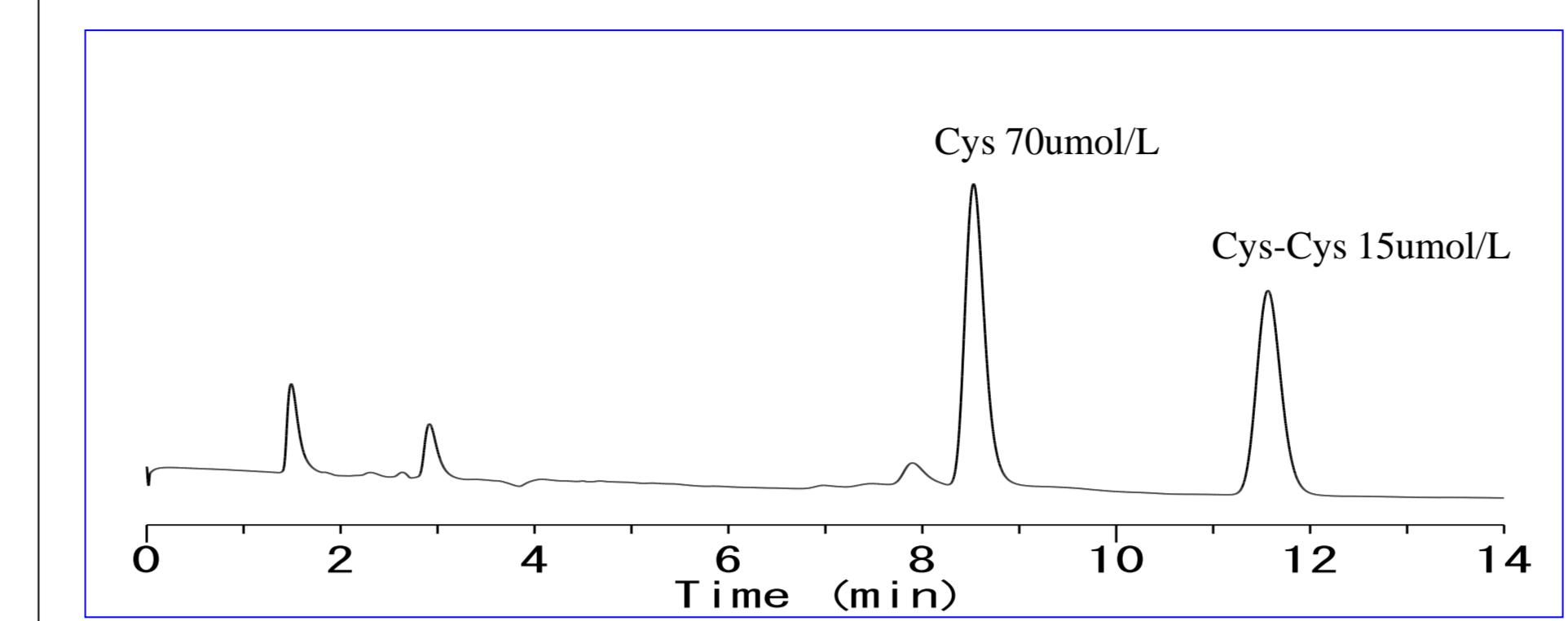
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On-Line cleaning

At a high potential, the on-line cleaning process is automatically performed using a time sequence between analytical runs.

Typical System

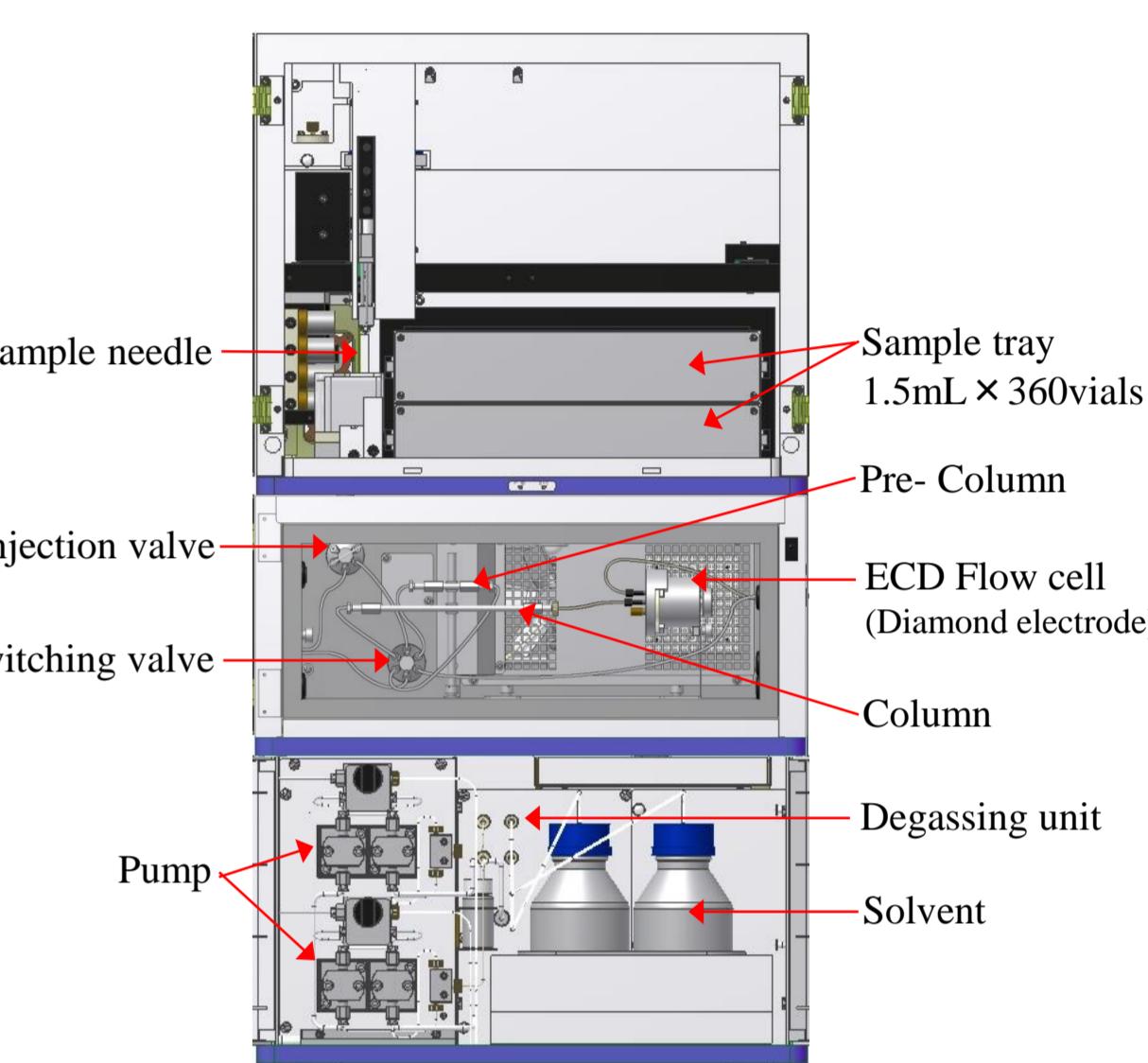
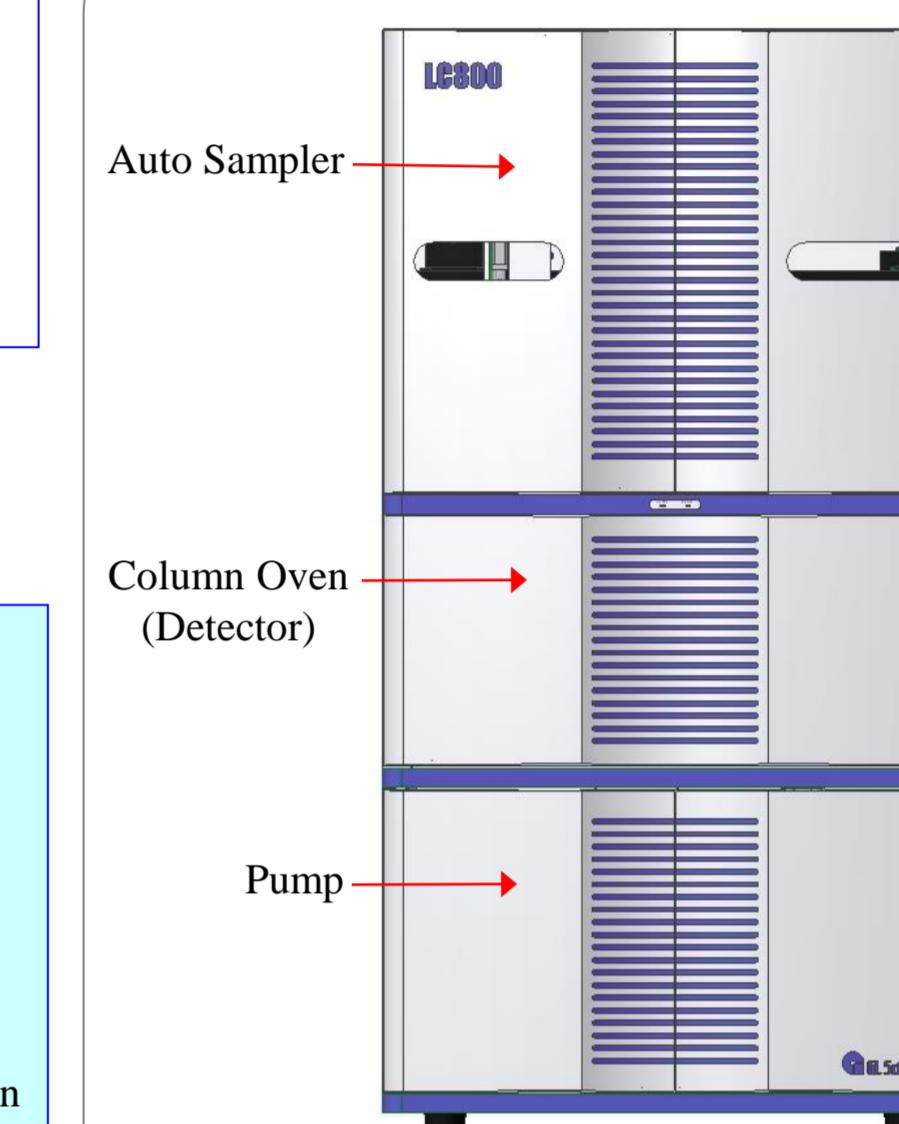
Cys and Cys-Cys analysis in rat plasma



Electro chemical detector ED703 pulse (GL Sciences)

- Measuring method : Pulsed amperometric, Amperometric, Scan
- Working electrode : Diamond, Gold,
- Reference electrode : Ag/AgCl
- Oven : 20 to 45 degree C

HPLC System LC800 (GL Sciences)



The new HPLC system featured that all units including injector, switching valve, column and flow cell of the electrochemical detector were installed into an oven to achieve high reliability of the analytical results.

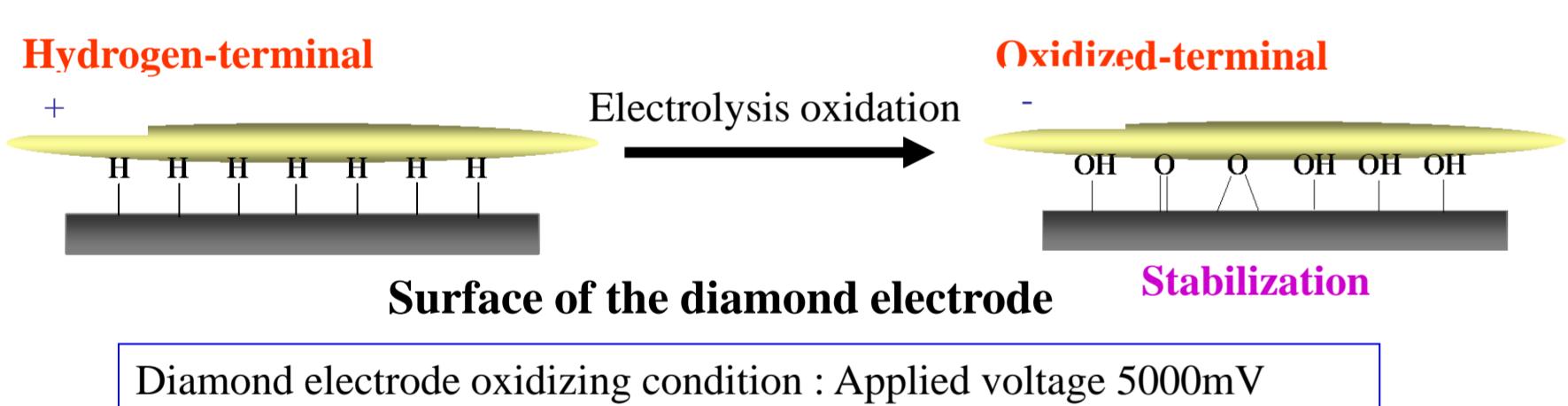
14

New technology 2: Stabilization of the electrode surface

On-line electrochemical polarization

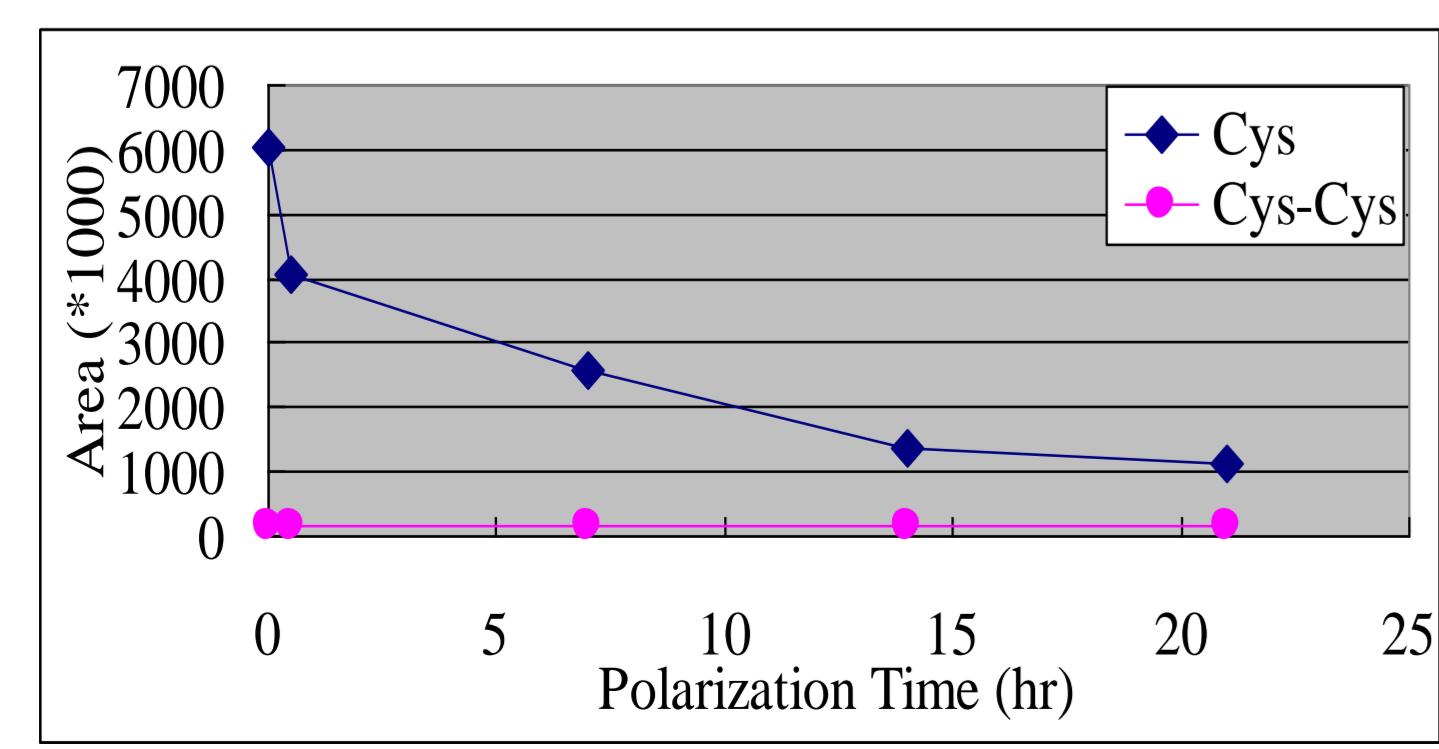
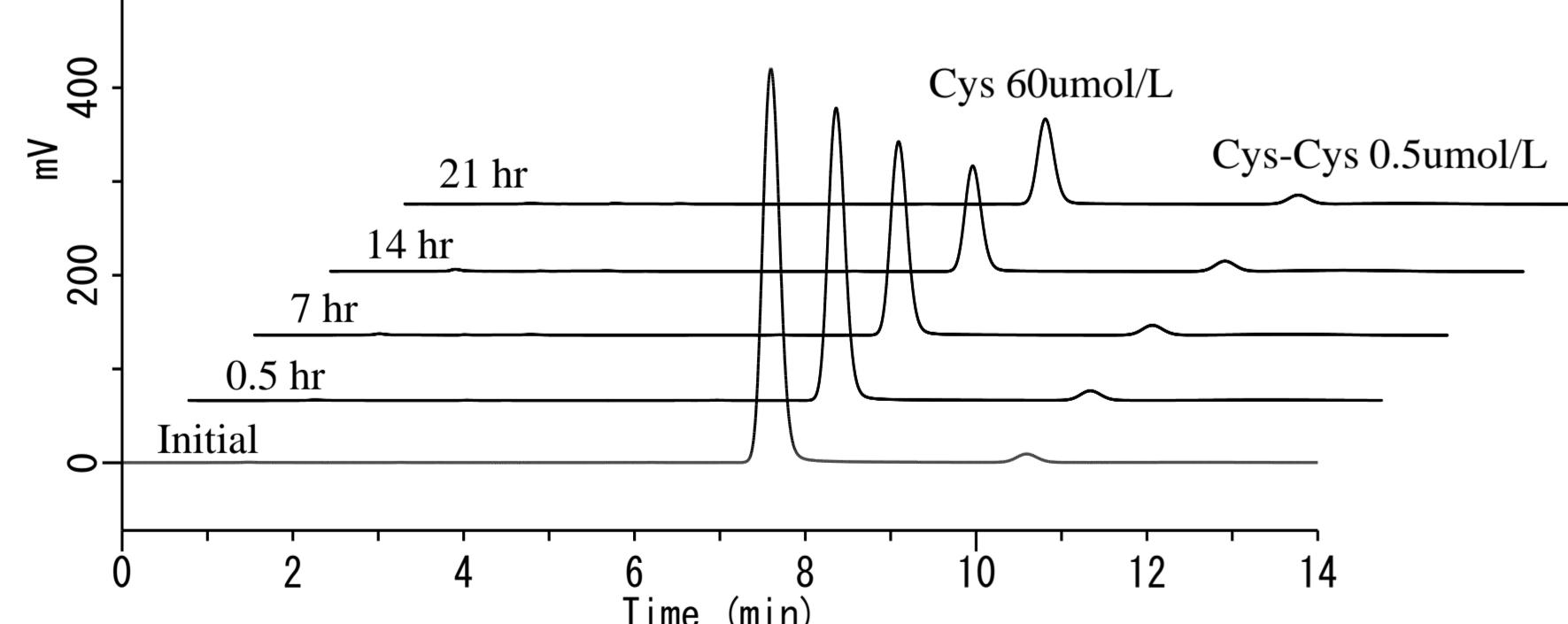
The diamond electrode can exhibit two status including a hydrogen-terminated and an oxidized surfaces. Generally, while original hydrogen-terminated surface is changed to other oxidized surface, the response is unstable and irreproducible, leading to decrease in peak area.

The results demonstrate that on-line electrochemical polarization can accelerate conversion of the hydrogen-terminated surface to oxidized surface, and achieve long-term stability and excellent analytical results.



Electrochemical polarization time and peak area

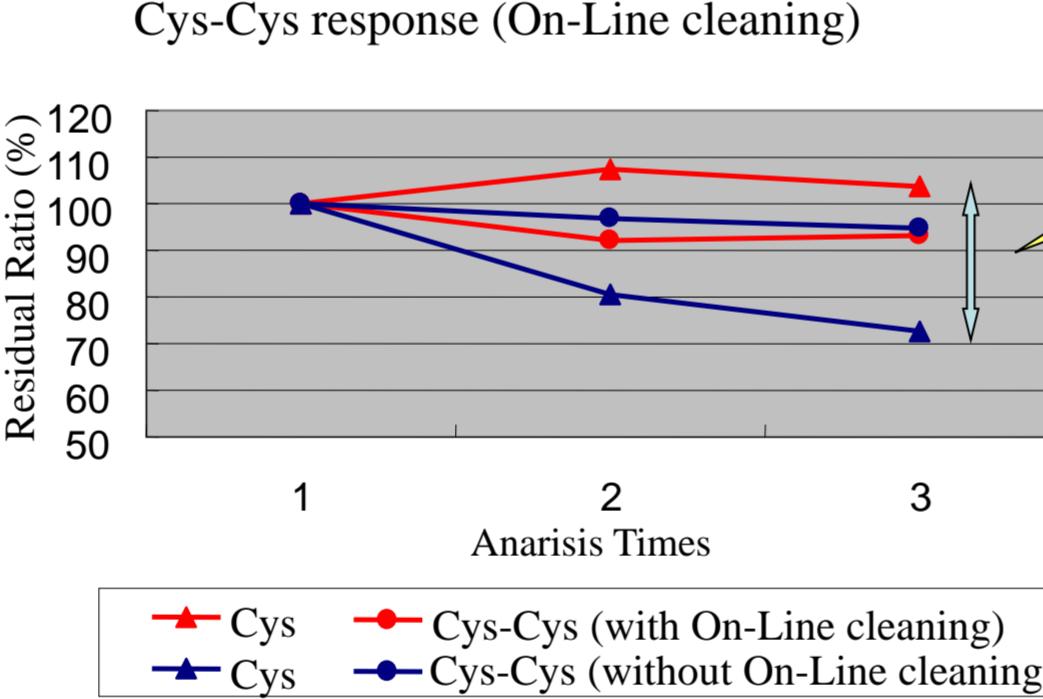
As a result, the peak areas of Cys decreased as increased electrochemical polarization time, however, tended to be stable after 20 hours.



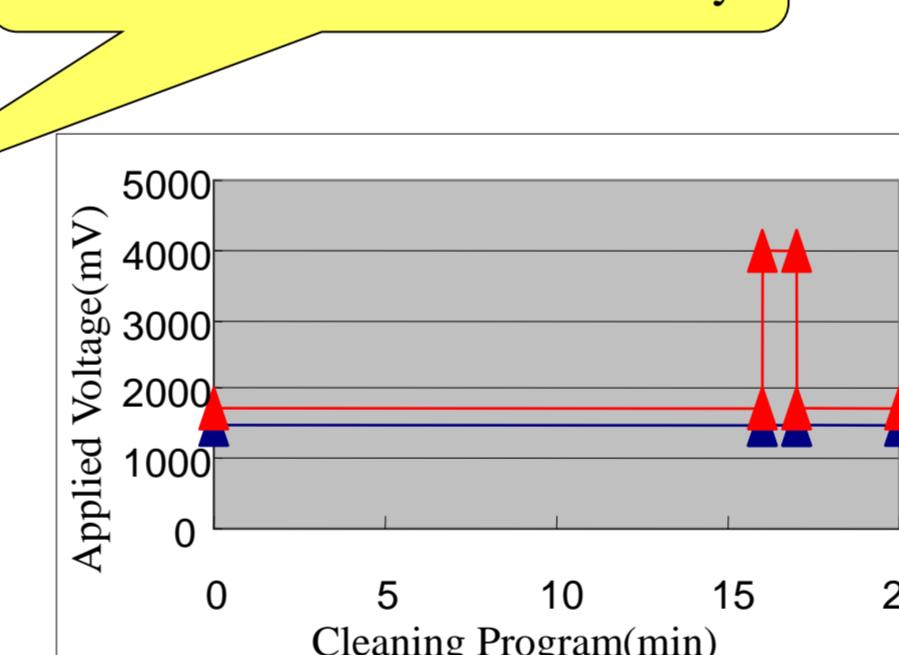
Advantage of New technologies ⇒ Taking usability as UV detector !!

Efficiency of on-line cleaning

Effect of High Applied Voltage in Cys and Cys-Cys response (On-Line cleaning)



Repeated measurements (n=3)
led to 30% decrease in sensitivity.



Without on-line cleaning, the sensitivity for Cys was obviously decreased

>>> The electrode may have been deteriorated/contaminated by oxidized products.

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Conclusion

1. Established an ECD-HPLC system equipped with a special stabilization-treated conductive diamond electrode by a column switching method enabling a simultaneous analysis of cysteine and cystine.
2. To assure the robustness of this electrode used in this system, surface treatment (stabilization method) and On-line cleaning methods were established. This led to a phenomenal robust electrode.
3. The robustness of this electrode was proved again as the sensitivity did not vary even conducting a continuous analysis of biological samples for 2 weeks.
4. This system enables high-precision and selectivity in less time for the specification test of cysteine and cystine in infusion solutions.
5. Also enables simultaneous high throughput/precision analysis of thiol and disulfide, and the trace amount measurement of varying sensitivity of SAA in biological samples.

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12

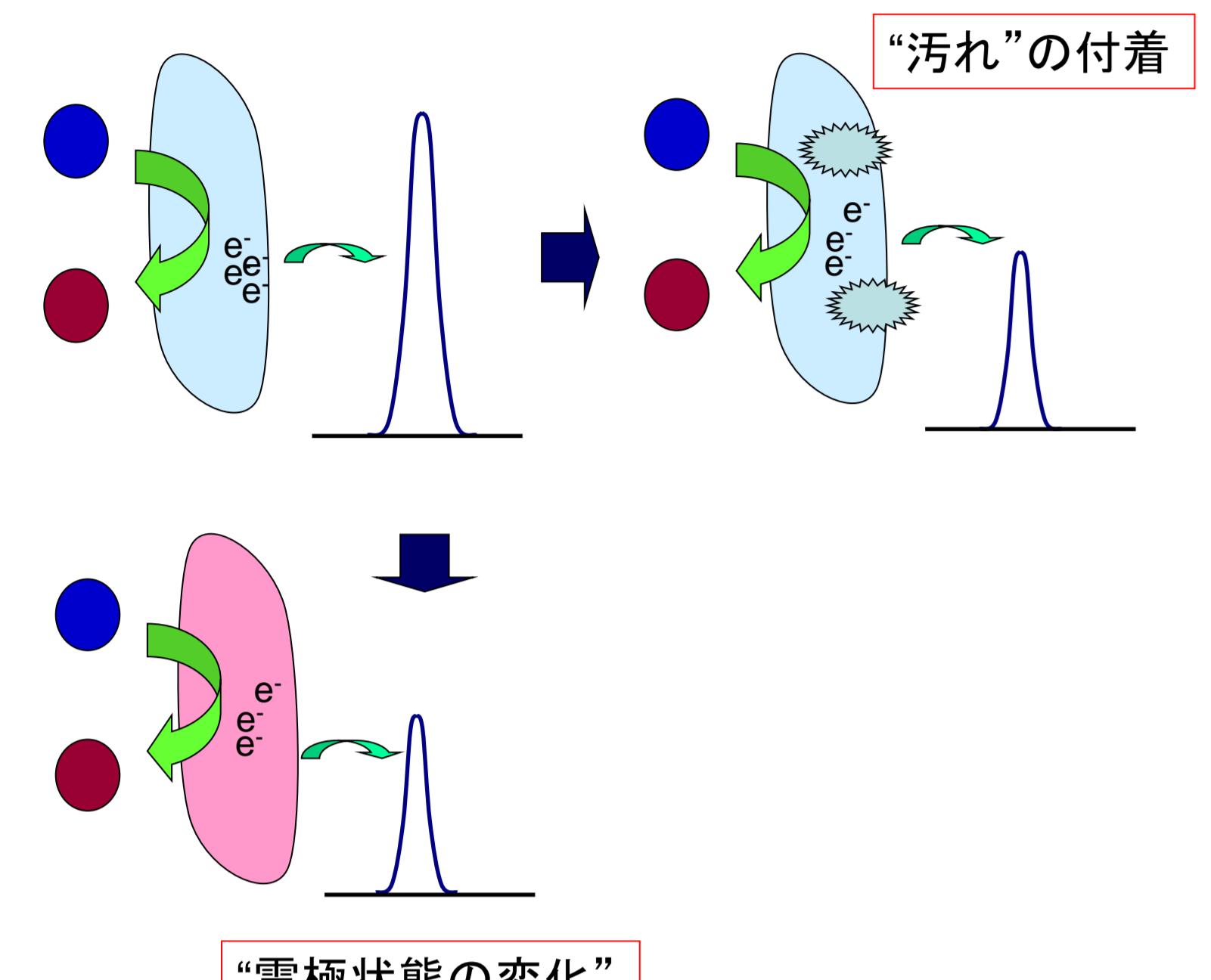
新技術により従来の問題点を克服！

旧タイプの電気化学検出器の定量性が悪い理由

電気化学検出器の特性

電気化学検出器の宿命として、サンプルを測定すると次第に電極表面の状態が変化したり、電極表面にサンプルや移動相などに由来する汚れが付着し、レスポンスが変化する現象がある

電気化学検出器の不安定さの原因 電極劣化と感度変化の模式図

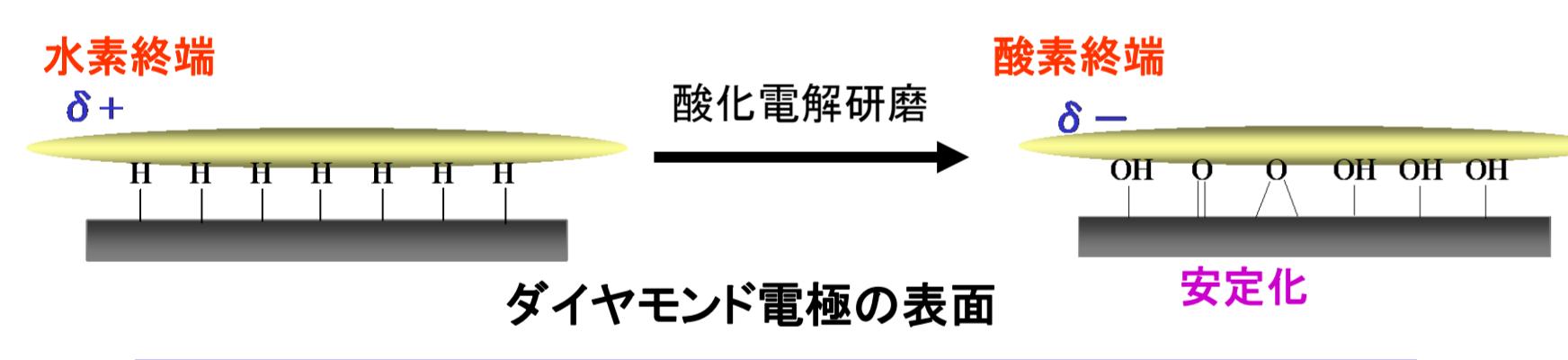


New Technology 2 On-Line 酸化電解研磨処理による、電極表面の安定化

ダイヤモンド電極の表面処理

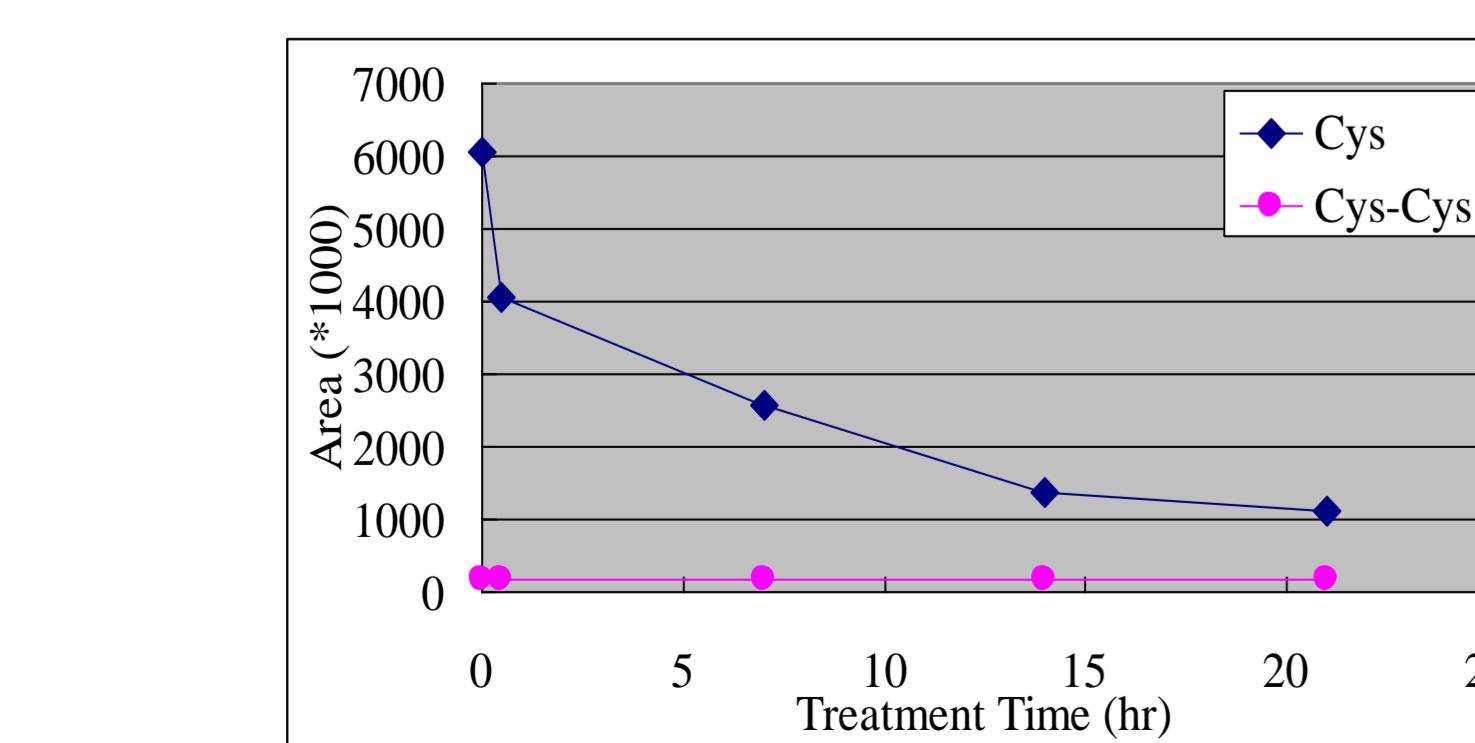
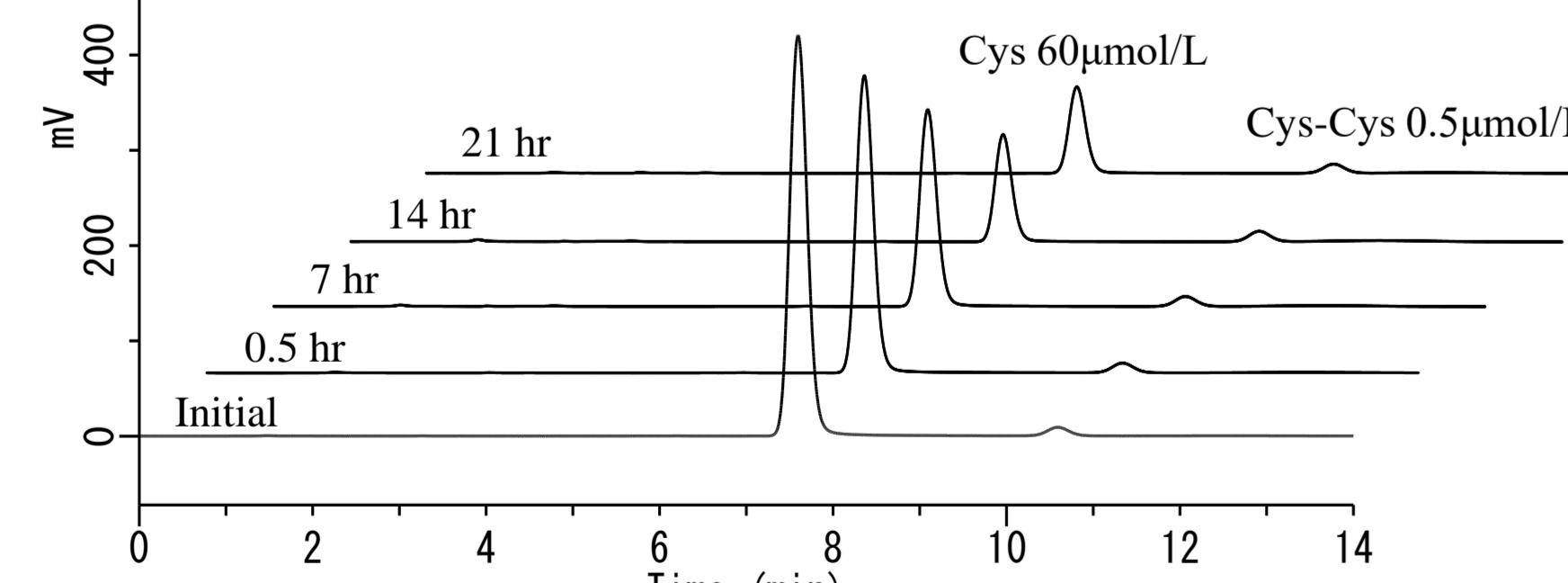
ダイヤモンド電極の表面状態には水素終端と酸素終端の2種類がある。一般的に初期状態は水素終端であるが、徐々に酸化されて酸素終端に変化する。この計時変化により目的成分によってはピーク面積が徐々に減少して、感度のバラツキの原因となる。

そこで水素終端のダイヤモンド表面に酸化電解研磨処理を加え、電極表面状態を高度に酸素終端にして安定化させることにより、長期にわたり再現性の良い分析結果が得られるようになる。



表面処理時間とピーク面積

酸化電解研磨処理の時間とCysの面積値の関係をみると最初に急激な面積値の減少がみられ、徐々に安定化して20時間を越えるとほとんど変化がみられなくなる。

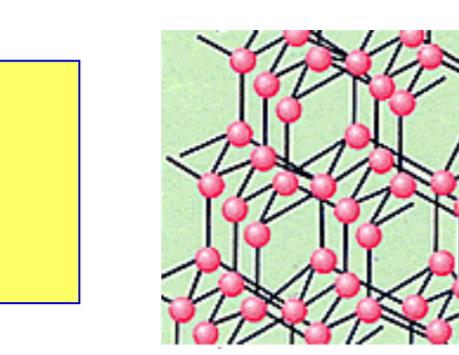


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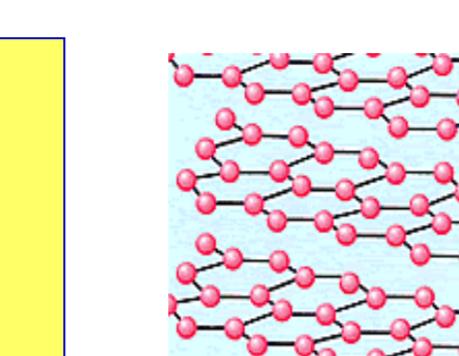
New technology 1 : 高電圧による電極のOn-Line洗浄

ダイヤモンド電極の特長：高電圧に対する耐久性がある！！

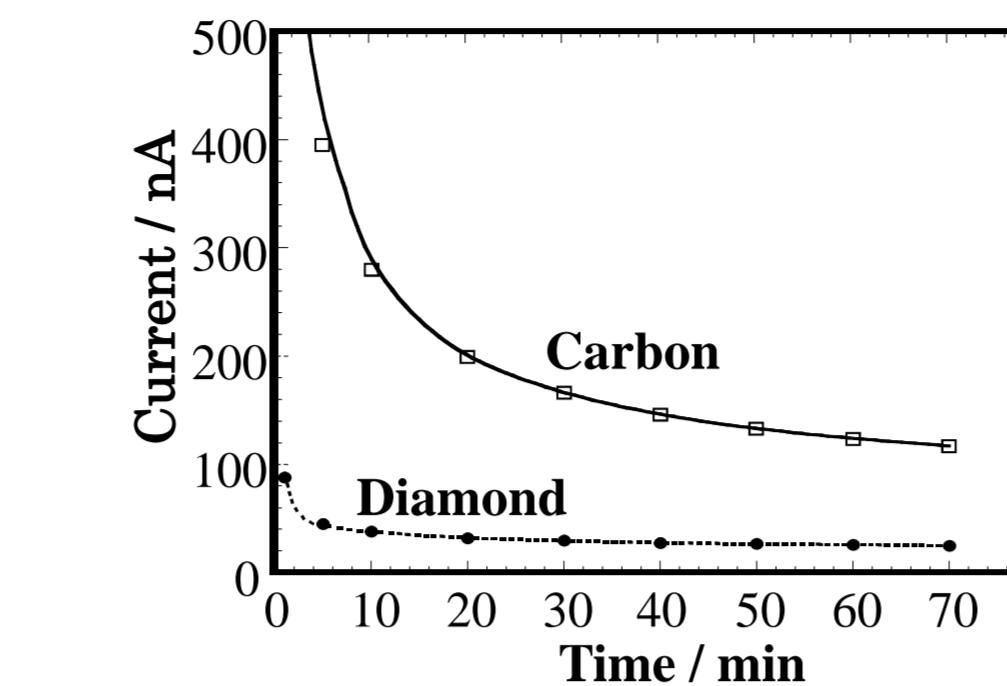
Diamond



Carbon



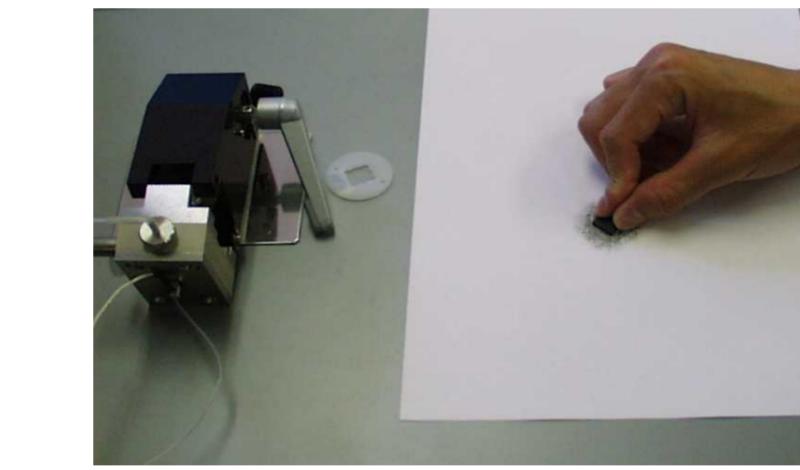
<http://www.courtside.co.jp/racket/dunlop/rim40.htm>
よりイラスト引用



電極再生法

従来のカーボン電極

研磨などの機械的洗浄



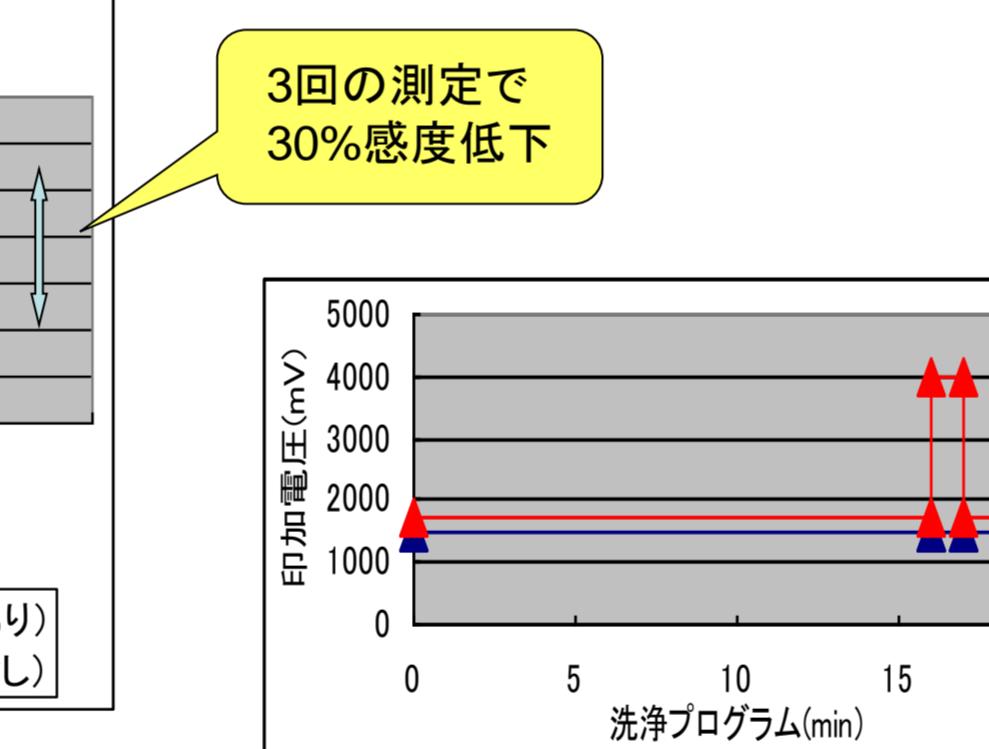
面倒な作業、時間がかかる…
電極をセルから取り外す必要あり…
研磨後の安定性が悪い…

On-Line洗浄
分析毎に最後のピークが溶出後1分間高電圧をかけるだけ！
しかもタイムシーケンスにより自動的に！

⑩

ON-Line洗浄の効果

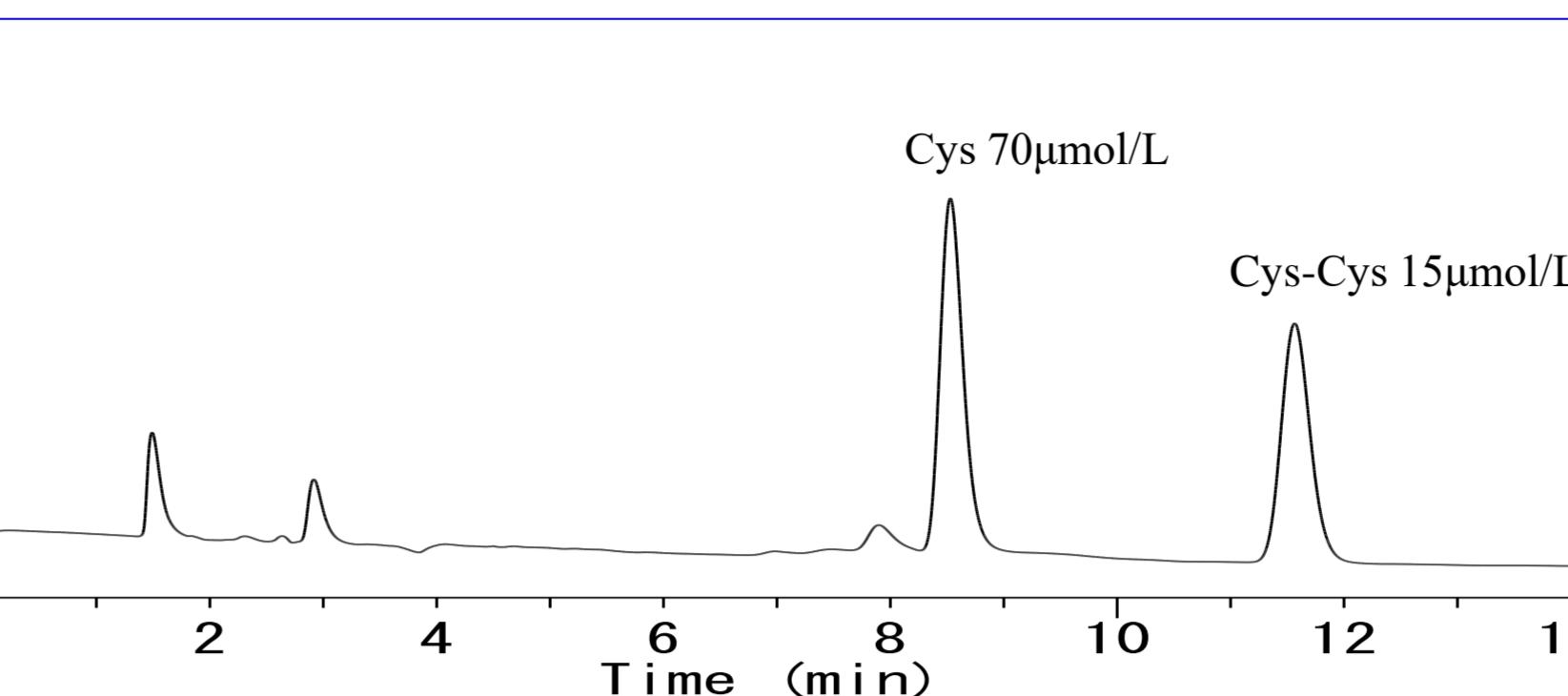
On-Line洗浄の効果 (Plasma添加サンプルの連続測定の結果)



⑪

基本分析システムの紹介

-除タンパク後のラット血漿に添加したシステイン、シスチンの分析-

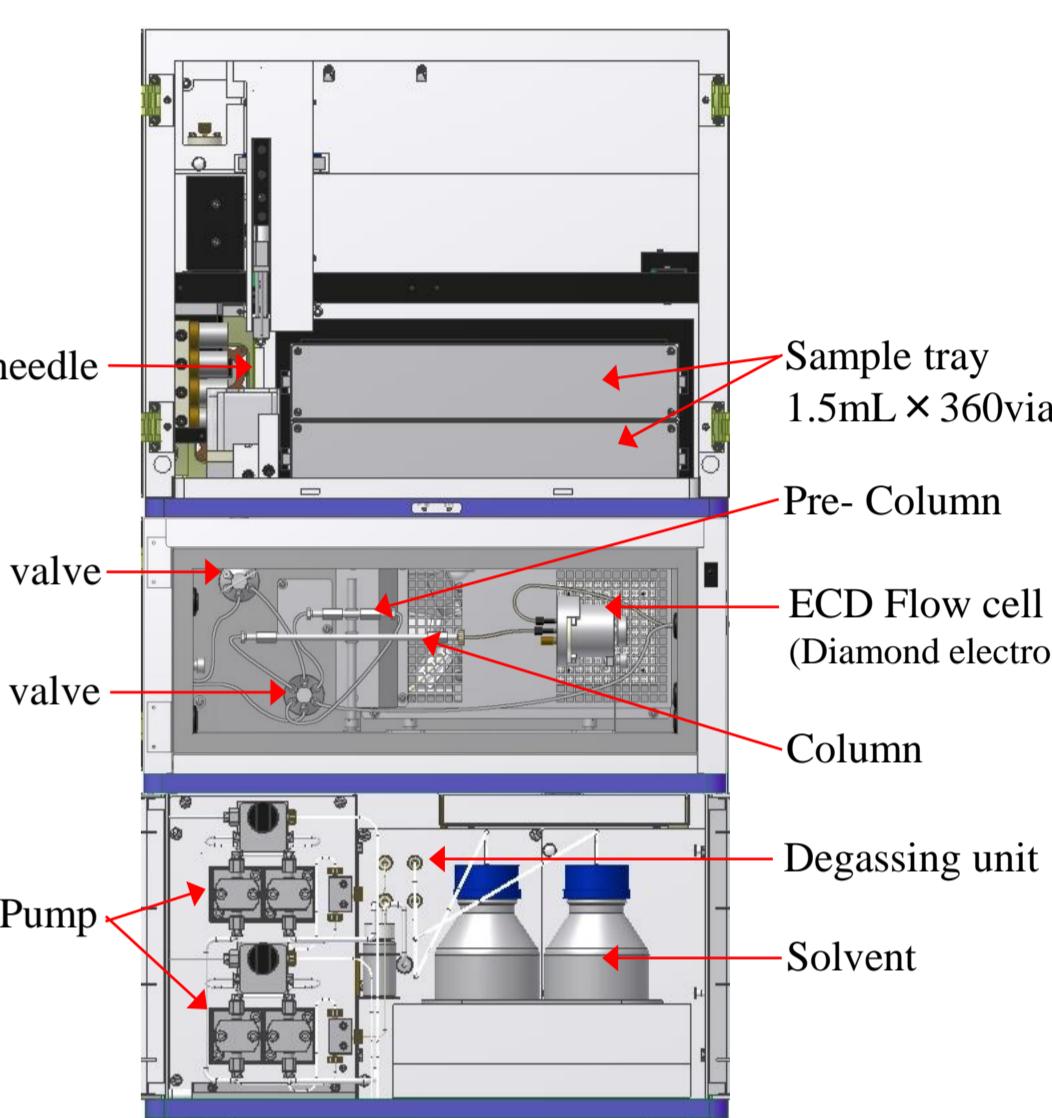
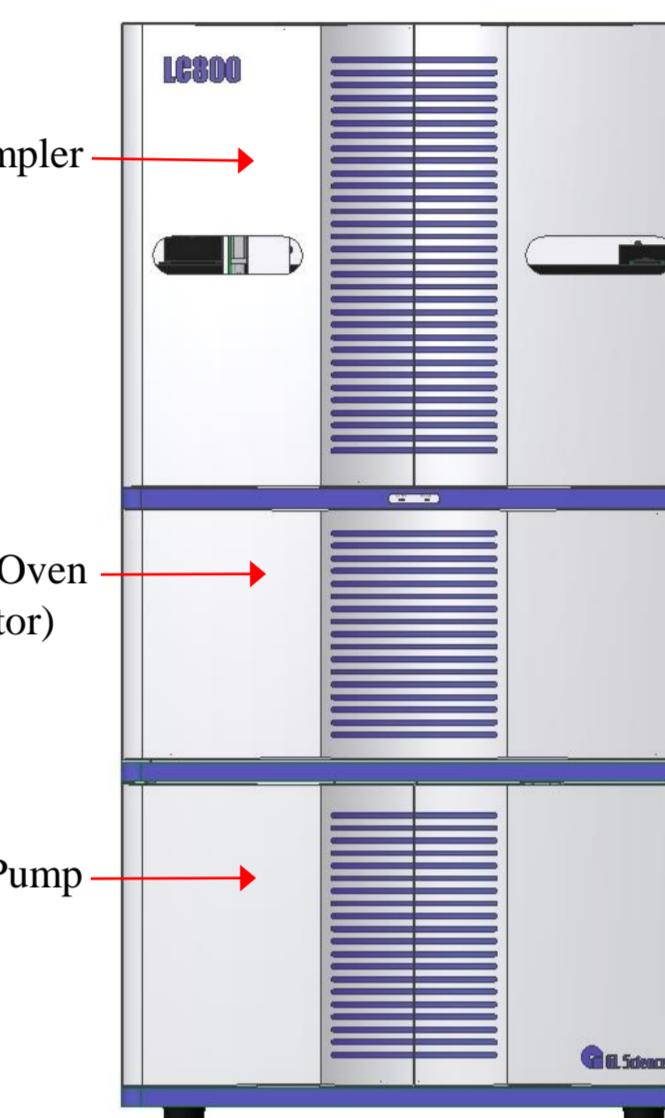


Electro chemical detector ED703 pulse (GL Sciences)



- Measuring method : Pulsed amperometric, Amperometric, Scan
- Working electrode : Diamond, Gold,
- Reference electrode : Ag/AgCl
- Oven : 20 to 45 degree C

HPLC System LC800 (GL Sciences)



この新しいHPLCシステムはインジェクションバルブ、スイッチングバルブ、カラムとECDのフローセルのすべてをオープンに内蔵したことによって、より安定した分析結果をもたらします。

⑭

Conclusion

- 導電性ダイヤモンド電極電気化学検出器とカラムスイッチング法を組み合わせることにより、システイン、シスチンの同時分析法を確立した。
- 本分析に用いる導電性ダイヤモンド電極の堅牢性を確保する手段として表面処理法(安定化法)およびOn-Line洗浄法を確立した。
これにより、電気化学検出器としては驚異的な堅牢性が確保できた。
- 本法を用いて、生体試料を用いた連続測定(約2週間)をしたところ、感度がほとんど変動せず、堅牢性の高さが証明された。
- 本法を製剤中のシステイン・シスチン規格試験法に応用了。
輸液製剤中のシステイン・シスチンを同時に、高精度、高選択的に短時間で分析することが可能となった。
- 本法を生体試料中のチオール・ジスルフィド化合物を含む含硫アミノ酸分析に応用、同時に高精度、短時間で分析することが可能となった。

⑬

⑯