

## High Speed Separation of Steroid Drug Betamethasone utilizing Extreme High Pressure Liquid Chromatography System (*X-IC*<sup>®</sup>)

### Introduction

Betamethasone, a steroid, is administered to reduce tissue inflammation or to suppress the human immune system. The U.S. Pharmacopeia (USP)<sup>1)</sup> method requires that HPLC analysis of components of a betamethasone drug should have a resolution, R, between the analyte and internal standard peaks to be greater than 1.7 and the relative standard deviation for replicate injections to be not greater than 2.0%.

We examined the utility of an X-PressPak C18S column (2.1 mm I.D. x 50 mm L.) packed with 2 μm diameter packing material for the ultra-high speed separation of the above steroid drug. The results were examined to determine whether the performance of

the column and chromatography separation meets the USP requirements.

### Experimental

The chromatography system utilized in this experiment was a JASCO *X-IC* system consisting of a 3185PU HPLC pump, 3080DG degasser, 3067CO column oven, 3070UV UV/Vis detector, 3059AS auto sampler and a chromatography data system.

### Results and Discussion

Figure 1 shows the separation of a standard mixture of betamethazone (0.04 mg/mL) and butyl paraben (0.057 mg/mL). The *X-IC* system provides an analysis time 9 times shorter than conventional HPLC while the resolution between the betamethazone and butyl paraben was 18.8; the reproducibility of the peak ratio is 0.44%. These results well exceed the USP requirement for the analysis.

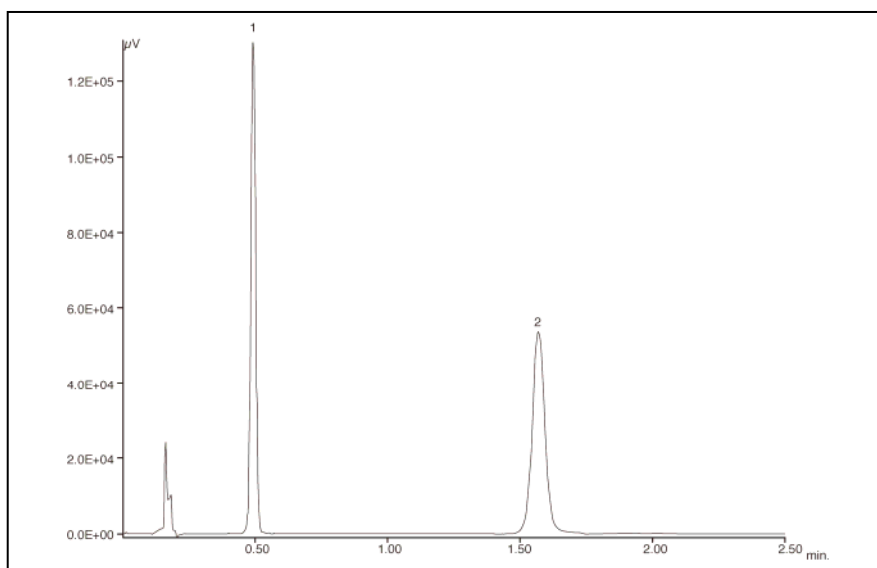


Figure 1 *X-IC* chromatogram of the standard mixture of betamethazone and p-oxybenzoate butyl Peak: 1=betamethazone (0.04 mg/mL), 2=p-oxybenzoate butyl (0.057 mg/mL) Measurement conditions: Column=X-PressPak C18S (2.1 mm I.D. x 50 mm L.), Mobile phase=CH<sub>3</sub>CN/H<sub>2</sub>O (40/60), Column temperature=25 °C, Flow rate=0.7 ml/min, Detection wavelength=240 nm, Injection volume=1 μL

### References