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Highlights

Sulfamethazine, a member of the sulfonamide class of antimicrobial drugs used to treat dairy cattle and other livestock, is known to cause thyroid cancer in rats and mice. Sulfa drugs in milk also cause severe respiratory problems in people who are sensitive to the drugs. Yet despite the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) best efforts to educate dairy farmers, sulfonamide residues, in excess of enforcement-action levels, are showing up in the United States milk supply.

In 1988, the FDA and the National Conference on Interstate Milk Shipments encouraged states to develop a monitoring program for sulfamethazine residues in raw milk. The recommended method of testing milk samples is an interference-free HPLC procedure that measures sulfamethazine apart from other sulfonamide drugs. The analysis is sensitive to sulfamethazine in amounts below the FDA'S 10ppb action level and is applicable to raw and processed milk.

The chromatogram (right) was furnished by AMSI Laboratories of College Station, Texas whom the Texas Department of Health has contracted to monitor milk samples from all over the state for sulfamethazine residues. In 1989, AMSI analyzed thousands of raw milk samples via this HPLC method.

Operating Conditions

Sample Preparation: As described by

Weber and Smedley¹

System: Waters 510 Solvent Delivery System, U6K Injector, Temperature Control Module and Column Heating Unit, Variable Wavelength UV/Vis

Absorbance Detector

Column: Nova-Pak® C₁₈ (3.9 X 150mm)

@ 35°C

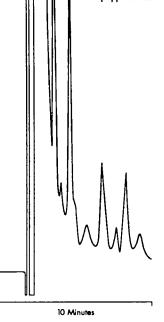
Mobile Phase: Methanol/0.1M KH₂PO₄,

24/76

Flow Rate: 0.5 ml/min. Detection: UV/Vis @ 265nm Injection Volume: 50µl

. Sulfamerazine

(10ppm of each in row milk)





1. Weber, J.D., and Smedley, M.D., J. Assoc. Off. Anal. Chem. 72(3) (1989) 445-447

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Ion Chromatography



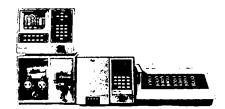
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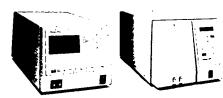
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