Analytical and Bioanalytical Chemistry

Electronic Supplementary Material

Improved matrix coating for positive- and negative-ion-mode MALDI-TOF imaging of lipids in blood vessel tissues

Christina Meisenbichler, Christian Doppler, David Bernhard, Thomas Müller

Matrix vapor deposition and recrystallization on small substrates

Matrix deposition on small sized stainless steel or ITO targets was carried out using a commercially available sublimation apparatus (Figure S1). The apparatus was filled with about 200 mg of 1,5-DAN, while the stainless steel or ITO target with an aortic tissue section was fixed at the cooling finger using adhesive tape. The sublimation apparatus was coupled to a rough pump, a liquid chiller and was placed in an oil bath. Sublimation was performed at an oil bath temperature of 144 °C and a rough vacuum <2x10-3 mbar for 2.5 minutes. The sublimation apparatus was then opened, the matrix removed and the flask was filled with 2 mL of e.g. acetonitrile, chloroform or toluene. The cooling finger was inserted into the flask with the boiling solvent to expose the matrix coating to the vapor for about 10 seconds. The metal slide was fixed on a MTP ground steel target using an UV curing glue and directly transferred into the vacuum system of the mass spectrometer.

Fig. S1 Experimental setup for matrix vapor deposition/recrystallization on small sized stainless steel or ITO glass slides. The commercially available sublimation apparatus on top of an oil bath, the attached rough pump and the chiller are not shown (1); small sized stainless-steel target with an aortic tissue section fixed at the cooling finger using an adhesive tape (2); small sized stainless-steel target fixed on the stainless steel MALDI target using an UV curing glue (3)

Matrix vapor deposition and recrystallization on ITO slides

Matrix deposition on ITO glass slides was carried out using in-house built sublimation apparatus (Figure S2). A petri dish on top of a heating plate was filled with about 200 mg of 1,5-DAN, while the ITO slide with an aortic tissue section was fixed on the cooling plate using adhesive tape. The sublimation apparatus was closed and coupled to a rough pump and a liquid chiller (15°C). Sublimation was performed within 5 minutes at a rising heating plate temperature between $123 - 136$ °C and a rough vacuum <2x10⁻³ mbar. According to a method described by Yang et al. [1], the amount of deposited matrix was determined to be 0.111 ± 0.004 mgxcm⁻². The sublimation apparatus was then opened, the petri dish with the matrix removed and the hot plate quickly cooled down to about 20°C above the boiling point of the solvent for recrystallization. Another petri dish filled with 5 mL of e.g. acetonitrile, chloroform or toluene was placed on the hot plate and the sublimation apparatus was closed for about 30 seconds to expose the matrix coating to the vapor of the boiling solvent. The ITO slide was fixed in a Bruker MTP Slide Adapter II and directly transferred into the vacuum system of the mass spectrometer.

Fig. S2 Experimental setup for matrix vapor deposition/recrystallization on standard ITO glass slides. The in-house built sublimation apparatus on top of a commercially available hot plate, the attached rough pump and the chiller are not shown (1); ITO glass slide with an aortic tissue section fixed at the cooling plate using adhesive tape (2); ITO glass slide inside the Bruker MTP Slide Adapter II (3)

Optimization of sample preparation for MALDI-MSI

Fig. S3 Effect of sample preparation on the signal intensities of matrix and lipid related signals in the positive ion-mode: Average mass spectra obtained from (A) aortic tissue, DAN matrix vapor deposition and recrystallization using toluene; (B) aortic tissue washed with NaCl solution prior to DAN matrix vapor deposition and recrystallization with toluene; (C) aortic tissue washed with NH₄HCO₂ solution prior to DAN matrix vapor deposition and recrystallization with toluene; (D) an empty ITO slide, DAN matrix vapor deposition

Fig. S4 Effect of sample preparation on the signal intensities of matrix and lipid related signals in the negative ion-mode: Average mass spectra obtained from (A) aortic tissue, DAN matrix vapor deposition and recrystallization using toluene; (B) aortic tissue washed with NaCl solution prior to DAN matrix vapor deposition and recrystallization with toluene; (C) aortic tissue washed with NH₄HCO₂ solution prior to DAN matrix vapor deposition and recrystallization with toluene; (D) an empty ITO slide, DAN matrix vapor deposition

Table S1 Validation of different sample preparation procedures. Open source mass spectrometry tool mMass[2] was used to process average spectra (whole sample). After automated peak picking (with a signal to noise threshold >6) and deisotoping a Kendrick mass defect plot[3] was utilized to determine the number of lipid related signals as well as to exclude signals, which are obviously not related to lipid compounds

Fig. S5 Effect of matrix recrystallization on the DAN matrix coating. Microscopic images of the matrix coating deposited on glass slides were taken using a polarized light microscope (Olympus BX40 with a 40x/0.65na objective): Without recrystallization (A and B) some scattered, crystalline spherical structures (40-50 µm diameter) were observed while most of coating appeared to be amorphous (black area). After 30 sec of recrystallization using toluene (C and D) crystalline matrix was found throughout the sample surface. The crystal size is estimated to be below 10 μ m

Fig. S6 Effect of DAN recrystallization using toluene on the lateral diffusion of a non-polar analyte. Pheophytin "a", a colored natural product, which is perfectly soluble in toluene, was dissolved in toluene and spotted onto four different ITO glass slides. After 5 minutes of DAN matrix vapor deposition microscopic images of selected spots were taken (panels A, D, G and J). After 45 sec, 30 sec and 15 sec of matrix recrystallization using toluene further microscopic images of the same spots were taken (panels B, E and H) and MALDI MSI in the positive ionmode (as described in Materials and Methods part of the main text) was performed at a lateral resolution of 35 µm: (C) 45 sec recrystallization using toluene resulted in an unacceptable lateral analyte diffusion of approx. 100 μ m; (F) optimum conditions were found at 30 sec recrystallization resulting in an acceptable lateral diffusion below 20 µm and high signal-tonoise ratios throughout the sample; (I and K) very short or no recrystallization showed no lateral analyte diffusion on the one side, but caused signal suppression due to lack of orthogonal analyte integration at the peripheral zones of the pheophytin spots

Fig. S7 Effect of recrystallization on the signal-to-noise ratio. For a better comparison two adjacent cryosections of human aortic tissue (8 μm thick) were thaw-mounted on the same ITO slide and coated with 1,5-DAN. While one section was covered with a piece of paper, the coating of the second section was recrystallized using toluene. The samples were subjected to MALDI MSI analysis and rastered in positive as well as negative ionmode under equal conditions (identical laser fluence; lateral resolution was set to 70 µm; 20 shot per spot; random walk after 5 consecutive shots). Average spectra were obtained from about $\frac{1}{4}$ of each aortic section comprising all layers of the tissue (black line = without recrystallization; red line = with recrystallization). In the negative ionmode (top) absolute signal intensities of lipid related signals were found to be increased by 30-65%, in the positive ion-mode (bottom) absolute signal intensities of lipid related signals were found to be increased by 5-23%

Processing MSI data and data visualization

MSI raw data were first exported to the common Analyze 7.5 format using FlexImaging (Bruker Daltonics) and then processed utilizing the open-source software mMass[2] as well as MALDIquant (Version 1.16.2)[4] and Cardinal (Version 1.8.0)[5] packages for the R environment. An in-house R script was developed to generate average spectra, preprocess and visualize the MSI data set.

Fig. S9A Positive ion-mode MALDI‐TOF MSI of lipids in human aortic tissue. A cryosection (8 μm thick) was thaw-mounted on a stainless steel slide and coated with 1,5-DAN. After matrix recrystallization using toluene the sample was rastered in the positive and then, with an offset of approx. 50µm, in the negative mode at a lateral resolution of 110 μm (laser spot size was set to 35 μm). From top left to bottom right: Photographic image of the matrix coated aortic tissue and all positive mode ion images of lipids listed in Table S2. All images are plotted using a color scale from black (0%) to red (100%). Corresponding negative ion-mode images are depicted in Fig. S9B

Fig. S9B Consecutive negative ion-mode MALDI‐TOF MSI of lipids in human aortic tissue. A cryosection (8 μm thick) was thaw-mounted on a stainless steel slide and coated with 1,5-DAN. After matrix recrystallization using toluene the sample was rastered in the positive and then, with an offset of approx. 50µm, in the negative mode at a lateral resolution of 110 μm (laser spot size was set to 35 μm). From top left to bottom right: All negative mode ion images of lipids listed in Table S3. All images are plotted using a color scale from black (0%) to red (100%). Corresponding positive ion-mode images are depicted in Fig. S9A

MALDI MSI: Assignment of lipids

Software mMass[2] was used to process average spectra obtained from an aortic tissue section washed with NH₄HCO₂ solution prior to DAN matrix sublimation and recrystallization using toluene. After automated peak picking (signal-to-noise threshold >6) and deisotoping a Kendrick mass defect plot[3, 6, 7] was utilized to identify lipid related signals. The signal assignment is based on a study from Doppler et al.[8], who published a quantification of metabolites in the same aortic tissue samples using AbsoluteIDQ1 p150 kit (BIOCRATES Life Sciences AG, Innsbruck, Austria) and was further validated by an LC-MS/MS analysis (see below).

Table S2 Positive ion-mode MALDI MSI: Protonated molecular ions ([M+H]+) of 11 identified lipids in human aortic tissue. The assignment is based on [8] as well as on LC-MS/MS analyses described below. Lipid related signals, which were not unambiguously assigned due to lack of mass spectrometric resolution, are not listed

Table S3 Negative ion-mode MALDI MSI: Fragment ions ([M-CH₃]⁻) as well as deprotonated molecular ions ([M-H]- ; marked with "#") of 23 lipids identified in human aortic tissue. The assignment is based on [8] as well as on LC-MS/MS analyses described below. Lipid related signals, which were not unambiguously assigned due to lack of mass spectrometric resolution, are not listed

	Assignment	Assignment due			
m/z	due to	to	Formula	m/z (calc)	Δ (ppm)
	[8]	LC-MS/MS			
673.53	SM(d18:1/15:0)	SM(d18:1/15:0)	$C_{37}H_{74}N_{2}O_{6}P$	673.5290	-4.8
685.53	SM(d18:1/16:1)	SM(d18:1/16:1)	$C_{38}H_{74}N_{2}O_{6}P$	685.5290	1.0
687.54	SM(d18:1/16:0)	SM(d18:1/16:0)	$C_{38}H_{76}N_{2}O_{6}P$	687.5447	-0.9
701.54	SM(d18:1/17:0)	SM(d18:1/17:0)	$C_{39}H_{78}N_{2}O_{6}P$	701.5603	-23.6
713.55	SM(d18:1/18:1)	SM(d18:1/18:1)	$C_{40}H_{78}N_2O_6P$	713.5603	-11.4
715.57	SM(d18:1/18:0)	SM(d18:1/18:0)	$C_{40}H_{80}N_{2}O_{6}P$	715.5760	-10.1
718.53	PC(32:0)	PC(16:0/16:0)	$C_{39}H_{77}NO_8P$	718.5392	-10.3
728.57	$PC(0-34:2)$		$C_{41}H_{79}NO_7P$	728.5600	11.8
742.55	PC(34:2)	PC(16:0/18:2)	$C_{41}H_{77}NO_8P$	742.5392	8.4
744.55	PC(34:1)	PC(16:0/18:1)	$C_{41}H_{79}NO_8P$	744.5549	-0.6
750.53	$PC(0-36:5)$		$C_{43}H_{77}NO_{7}P$	750.5443	-14.0
752.56	$PC(0-36:4)$		$C_{43}H_{79}NO_7P$	752.5600	6.0
766.52	PC(36:4)	PC(16:0/20:4)	$C_{43}H_{77}NO_8P$	766.5392	-26.5
768.54	PC(36:3)		$C_{43}H_{79}NO_8P$	768.5549	-14.0
769.62	SM(d18:1/22:1)		$C_{44}H_{86}N_{2}O_{6}P$	769.6229	-8.4
771.63	SM(d18:1/22:0)	SM(d18:1/22:0)	$C_{44}H_{88}N_2O_6P$	771.6386	-8.6
794.57	PC(38:4)	PC(18:0/20:4)	$C_{45}H_{81}NO_8P$	794.5705	1.2
795.64	SM(d18:1/24:2)		$C_{46}H_{88}N_2O_6P$	795.6380	6.0
797.66	SM(d18:1/24:1)	SM(d18:1/24:1)	$C_{46}H_{90}N_{2}O_{6}P$	797.6542	11.7
799.68	SM(d18:1/24:0)	SM(d18:1/24:0)	$C_{46}H_{92}N_{2}O_{6}P$	799.6699	8.5
835.53		PI(34:1)	$C_{43}H_{80}O_{13}P^*$	835.5342	$-1,4$
861.56		PI(36:2)	$C_{45}H_{82}O_{13}P^*$	861.5499	8.7
885.56		PI(18:0/20:4)	$C_{47}H_{82}O_{13}P^*$	885.5499	9.5

Fig. S10 Example of lipid class identification using on-tissue MALDI-TOF PSD. The lipid class of the compound related to the signal at m/z 725 was identified by performing Post Source Decay (PSD) experiments on the isolated ions[9] (isolation window was 10 Da). PSD fragmentation is dominated by a loss of 59 Da, which correspond to a cleavage at the quaternary ammonium residue, and a loss of 183 Da, which correspond to a cleavage of a phosphor ester bond. Based on further LC-MS/MS data (see below) the signal at m/z 725 was assigned to the sodiated molecular ion of the sphingomyelin SM(d34:1). Due to data from Doppler et al.[8] SM(d34:1) is SM(d18:1/16:0) as depicted

Identification of Lipids in human aortic tissue using LC-MS/MS

Lipid extraction of human aortic tissue slices

Two human aortic tissue slices (8 µm each) were detached from glass slides using a small spatula and transferred into an Eppendorf microcentrifuge tube. 100 µL of MeOH were added and the suspension was sonicated for 5 minutes and vortexed for additional 20 sec. The suspension was then centrifuged at 13400 rpm for 10 min. The lipid containing organic supernatant was transferred into a fresh tube and stored at -20°C until use.

LC-MS and LC-MS/MS

For LC-MS and LC-MS/MS analyses of the extracted lipids a Shimadzu HPLC-system coupled to a ThermoScientific LTQ Orbitrap XL mass spectrometer (positive ion-mode) and a ThermoScientific Q Exactive Hybrid Quadrupole-Orbitrap mass spectrometer (negative ion-mode) was used. Slightly different backpressures at the two ESI sources caused a 0.5 min shift of the retention times, which were determined from the extractedion chromatograms depicted in Fig. S11. The HPLC system was equipped with an LC-20AD pump, a DGU-20A5 online degasser unit, a SPD-M20A diode array detector, a Rheodyne injection valve with a 20 µL injection loop, and an Eclipse XDB-C18 column (ODS 3.5 μ m 100 x 3.0 mm I.D.). At a flow rate of 0.5 mLxmin⁻¹ a gradient adapted from Sato et al.[10] from 35% of solvent A $(60:27:13 \text{ H}_2O/ACN/MeOH, 10 \text{ mM ammonium}$ formate, 0.1% FA) to 100% of solvent B (80:20 IPA/MeOH, 10 mM ammonium formate, 0.1% FA) was used $(A/B (v/v))$: 0-1 min: 35/65; 1-2 min 35/65 to 27/73; 2-4 min 27/73 to 23/77; 4-7 min 23/77 to 20/80; 7-9 min 20/80 to 16.5/83.5; 9-11 min 16.5/83.5 to 14/86; 11-15 min 14/86 to 0/100; 15-25 min 0/100. Data were collected and processed using Shimadzu LC Solution software (version 1.24 SP1). The mass spectrometers were equipped with ESI sources and were set up for data dependent acquisition of MS/MS spectra. Data were collected with Xcalibur 2.2 software (Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc).

Table S4 High-resolution LC-ESI-MS and LC-ESI-MS/MS in positive ion-mode: Protonated molecular ions $([M+H]^+)$, sodium adducts $([M+Na]^+)$, potassium adducts $([M+K]^+]$ as well as ammonium adducts $([M+NH_4]^+)$ of 35 unambiguously identified lipids in methanolic extracts of human aortic tissue slices

Table S5 High-resolution LC-ESI-MS and LC-ESI-MS/MS in negative ion-mode: Deprotonated molecular ions ([M-H]-) as well as formate adducts ([M+HCOO] -) of 40 unambiguously identified lipids in methanolic extracts of human aortic tissue slices

Fig. S11 LC-ESI-MS analyses of extracts of human aortic tissue slices. Left: Positive ionmode TIC chromatogram (A) and exemplary extracted-ion chromatograms of (B) SM(d18:1/16:0) at m/z 725 ([M+Na]+); (C) PC(16:0/18:1) at m/z 760 ([M+H]+); (D) SM(d18:1/24:0) at m/z 815 ([M+H]⁺); (E) TG(44:0) at m/z 768 ([M+NH₄]⁺); (F) TG(54:3) at m/z 902 ([M+NH4] ⁺); Right: negative ion-mode TIC chromatogram (G) and exemplary extracted-ion chromatograms of (H) SM(d18:1/16:0) at m/z 747 ([M+Formate]–); (I) PC(16:0/18:1) at m/z 804 ([M+Formate]–); (J) SM(d18:1/24:0) at m/z 859 ([M+Formate]–); (K) Cer(d18:1/20:0) at m/z 638 ([M+Formate]–); (L) $PI(18:0/20:4)$ at m/z 885 ([M-H] \cdot). The systematic 0.5 min shift of the retention times (B/H; C/I; D/J) was caused by slightly different backpressures at the two different ESI sources

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