



Application Note AN-U-076

# Détermination de l'oxyde de zinc suivant le chapitre général <591>1) de l'USP

USP monograph modernization utilizing ion chromatography as a  
valid analysis method

Zinc is an essential trace element which is used in different pharmaceuticals and supplements [1]. In the form of zinc oxide, zinc is an integral part of skin care creams, pastes, and supplements [2,3]. In order to meet the stringent quality standards for pharmaceutical products, manufacturers and laboratories must employ validated methods as from the United States Pharmacopeia and National Formulary (USP-NF). In the course of their modernization activities, USP-NF also updated the zinc monograph and replaced the existing

identification procedure with titration by ion chromatographic analyses. Ion chromatography (IC) qualified as a methodical approach for the zinc assay in General Chapter <591>, Zinc Determination [4]. The analysis involves separation of zinc using, e.g., L91 column material (Metrosep A Supp 10) followed by post-column reaction using 4-(2-pyridylazo)resorcinol (PAR) and subsequent detection at 530 nm. IC was validated according to USP procedures as a highly specific and accurate method to ensure product safety and quality.

## SAMPLE AND SAMPLE PREPARATION

All analyses are performed with a solution of ultrapure zinc oxide. No additional sample preparation is

required unless stated in the individual USP monographs.

## EXPERIMENTAL

A sample stock solution is prepared by hydrolyzing 0.1868 g of ultrapure zinc oxide powder in 10 mL of 6 mol/L hydrochloric acid. This solution is made up to 100 mL in a volumetric flask with ultrapure water. The zinc concentration of this sample stock solution corresponds to 1500 µg/mL. To prepare the final sample solution, the sample stock solution is diluted 1:100 with 0.2% (w/v) HCl to obtain a final concentration of 15 µg/mL zinc.

The working standard solution is prepared from a

certified 1000 µg/mL zinc standard.

Samples and standard solutions were injected directly into the IC (**Figure 1**) using an 889 IC Sample Center – cool. Zinc is separated from all other cations using L91 column material (Metrosep A Supp 10 - 250/4.0 and Metrosep A Supp 10 Guard/4.0) applying the MetPac™ PDCA (pyridine-2,6-dicarboxylic acid) eluent (concentrate dilution 1:5) followed by post-column reaction (PCR) with MetPac™ PAR and subsequent detection at a wavelength of 530 nm.



**Figure 1.** Instrumental setup including a 930 Compact IC Flex with a 947 Professional UV/VIS Detector Vario, a 800 Dosino for PCR delivery and mixing, and an 889 IC Sample Center – cool. Cooling can prolong sample stability.

The calibration was performed using a single 15 µg/mL zinc standard injected six times. The sample was analyzed in duplicate.

**Table 1.** Requirements for IC method as per USP General Chapter <591>.

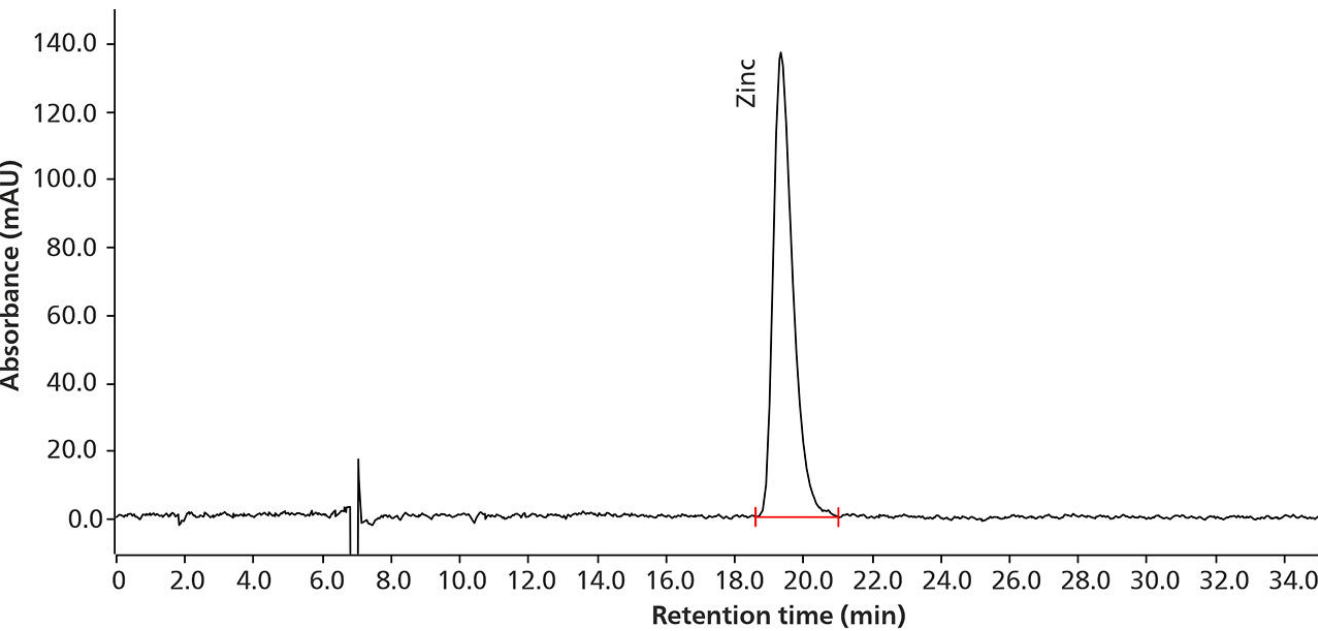
| Column with L91 packing | Metrosep A Supp 10 - 250/4.0                                    |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Eluent                  | MetPac™ PDCA concentrate (dilution 1:5)                         |
| Flow rate               | 1.2 mL/min                                                      |
| Temperature             | 30 °C                                                           |
| Injection volume        | 10 µL                                                           |
| PCR reagent             | PAR (0.12 g MetPac™ PAR reagent in 1000 mL MetPac™ PAR diluent) |
| PCR flow rate           | 0.6 mL/min                                                      |
| Detection               | Vis: 530 nm after PCR                                           |

The IC assay for zinc content was validated according to USP General Chapter <591>, Zinc Determination [4]. Ultrapure zinc oxide was analyzed for its zinc content. The accuracy of the zinc determination was calculated as 99% (Figure 2).

All acceptance criteria were fulfilled, e.g., asymmetry (tailing factor) for the zinc peak was <2, or the relative standard deviation of the standard solutions was <0.73% (n = 6, USP requirement no more than (NMT) 0.73) (Table 2).

**Table 2.** Required acceptance criteria according to General Chapter <591>.

| Parameter       | Actual | USP requirement | Status |
|-----------------|--------|-----------------|--------|
| % RSD           | 0.582  | NMT 0.73        | Pass   |
| Tailing factor  | 1.465  | NMT 2.0         | Pass   |
| Result standard | 98.9%  | +/- 2%*         | Pass   |
| Results sample  | 99.2%  | +/- 2%*         | Pass   |



**Figure 2.** Chromatogram of zinc in a zinc oxide sample containing 14.865 µg/mL Zn (99.1% recovery of the nominal concentration).

Ion chromatography qualifies for the determination of zinc as per USP General Chapter <591>. Using the column material L91, zinc can be reliably determined in pharmaceuticals and other samples using IC with post-column reaction and UV detection. The high degree of automation possibilities for IC

systems from Metrohm (e.g., autosampler, Metrohm intelligent Partial Loop Injection Technique, Inline Dilution, etc.) and the traceability of all steps during analysis make it a user-friendly, efficient, and valuable analytical technique for pharmaceutical quality control processes.

## REFERENCES

1. Royal Society of Chemistry. *Zinc*. The Royal Society of Chemistry's interactive periodic table. <https://www.rsc.org/periodic-table/element/30/zinc>.
2. Juch, R. D.; Ruffli, T.; Surber, C. Pastes: What Do They Contain? How Do They Work? *Dermatology* **1994**, *189* (4), 373–377. <https://doi.org/10.1159/000246882>.
3. Maier, T.; Korting, H. C. Sunscreens - Which and What For? *Skin Pharmacol Physiol* **2005**, *18* (6), 253–262. <https://doi.org/10.1159/000087606>.
4. U. S. Pharmacopeia/National Formulary. <591> Zinc Determination. In *General Chapter*, USP/NF, Rockville, MD, USA. [https://doi.usp.org/USPNF/USPNF\\_M99350\\_05\\_01.html](https://doi.usp.org/USPNF/USPNF_M99350_05_01.html).

## CONTACT

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## CONFIGURATION



### 930 Compact IC Flex Oven/ChS/PP/Deg

Le 930 Compact IC Flex Oven/ChS/PP/Deg est un appareil CI compact intelligent avec un **four à colonne**, **suppression chimique** et une **pompe péristaltique** pour la régénération du suppresseur et un **dégazeur** intégré. L'appareil peut être utilisé avec n'importe quelles méthodes de séparation et de détection.

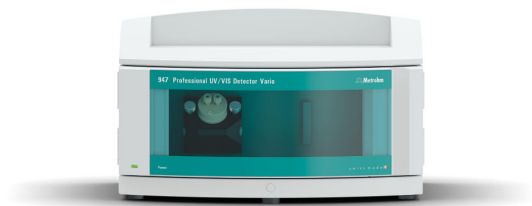
Domaines d'application typiques :

- Déterminations d'anions avec suppression chimique et détection de conductivité
- Acides organiques avec chromatographie d'exclusion d'ions et suppression inversée



### 889 IC Sample Center – cool

Le 889 IC Sample Center – cool est la solution d'automatisation appropriée, si vous avez très peu d'échantillon. Au-delà du 889 IC Sample Center, il dispose en plus d'une fonction de réfrigération, ce qui en fait le passeur d'échantillons idéal pour les échantillons utiles en biochimie ou instables thermiquement.



### 947 Professional UV/VIS Detector Vario SW

Le 947 Professional UV/VIS Detector Vario SW, un détecteur intelligent à longueur d'onde unique, permet une quantification sûre et fiable des substances actives dans le domaine ultraviolet ou visible. Une longueur d'onde peut être sélectionnée.



### Metrosep A Supp 10 - 250/4,0

La colonne de séparation Metrosep A Supp 10 - 250/4,0 est basée sur un copolymère haute capacité de polystyrène-divinylbenzène dont la dimension des particules est de seulement 4,6 µm. Cette colonne, la plus longue de la famille A Supp 10, offre la sélectivité et la flexibilité les plus grandes. L'utilisation du module MSM-HC est spécialement recommandée lorsque les durées de chromatogrammes sont longues. Sur cette colonne également, la possibilité de modifier la température, le débit et la composition de l'éluant permet les séparations d'anions les plus diverses.

La colonne Metrosep A Supp 10 - 250/4,0 possède une très grande capacité. Elle convient aux échantillons à force ionique élevée, aux tâches de séparation complexes et aux analyses d'échantillons dont les divers composants présentent des concentrations très différentes.



### **Metrosep A Supp 10 Guard/4,0**

La Metrosep A Supp 10 Guard/4,0 protège efficacement les colonnes de séparation analytiques Metrosep A Supp 10 contre les contaminations. La manipulation de la colonne Guard est fort simple grâce au système « On Column Guard ». La précolonne se simplement visse directement sur la colonne analytique. Aucun outil n'est requis pour ce faire.