

Development and Application of an MRM Method for Simultaneous Quantification of Sodium Channels Na_v 1.1, Na_v 1.2 and Na_v 1.6 in Stable HEK293 cell lines, and Solubilized Membrane Proteins from Rodents and Human Brain Tissues.

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Abstract

Rationale Na_v1.1, 1.2 and 1.6 are transmembrane proteins acting as voltage gated sodium channels implicated in various forms of epilepsy. There is a need for knowing their actual concentration in target tissues during drug development. **Methods** Unique peptides for Na_v1.1, Na_v1.2 and Na_v1.6 were selected as quantotropic peptides for each protein and used for their quantification in plasma membranes from stably transfected HEK293 cells and rodent and human brain samples using ultra-high-performance liquid chromatography/electrospray ionization tandem mass spectrometry. **Results** Na_v 1.1, 1.2 and 1.6 protein expressions in three stably individually transfected HEK293 cell lines were found to be 2.1±0.2, 6.4±1.2 and 4.0±0.6 fmole/μg membrane protein respectively. Na_v1.2 showed the highest expression, with approximately 3 times higher (p<0.003) in rodents than in human at 3.05±0.57, 3.35±0.56 in mouse and rat brains and 1.09±0.27 fmole/μg in human, respectively. Both Na_v1.1 and 1.6 expressions were much lower than Na_v1.2, with approximately 40% less expression in human Na_v1.1 when compared with rodents Na_v1.1 at 0.49±0.1 (mouse), 0.43±0.3 (rat), and 0.28±0.04 (human); while Na_v1.6 was approximately 60% less expression in human when compared to rodents at 0.27±0.09 (mouse), 0.26±0.06 (rat) and 0.11±0.02 (human) fmole/μg membrane proteins. **Conclusions** MRM was used to quantify sodium channels Na_v1.1, 1.2 and 1.6 expressed in stably transfected HEK293 cells and brain tissues from mouse, rat, and human. We found significant differences in the expression of these channels in mouse, rat, and human brains. Na_v expression ranking among the three species was Na_v1.2 >> Na_v1.1 > Na_v1.6, with the human brain expressing much lower concentrations overall in comparison to rodents.

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