



# Drug Residues Analysis and Implications for Doping Controls

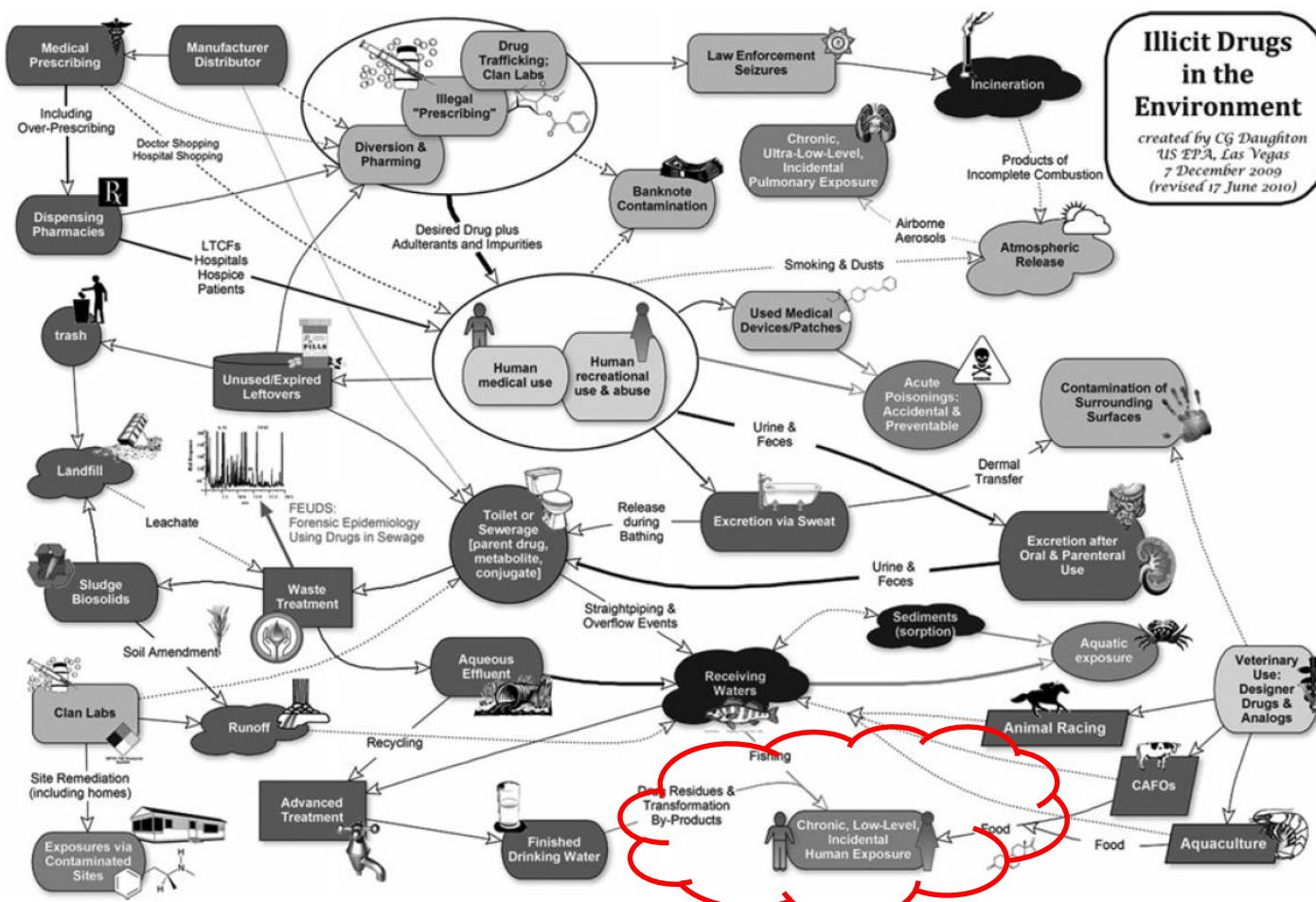
Mario Thevis



## Utmost sensitivity of doping control analytical assays

- is vital for detecting trace amounts of doping agents
  - ensures best possible detection windows / retrospectivity
  - allows for covering time periods between two doping controls
- 
- Raises question(s) as to the origin of the observed drug (residue)
  - Can result in adverse analytical findings where extensive result management is required

# Illicit Drugs: Contaminants in the Environment and Utility in Forensic Epidemiology





**Table 4** Drugs of abuse targeted and identified in environmental compartments<sup>a</sup>

	Wastewaters	Surface waters	Drinking water	Sewage sludge	Biosolids	Air	Banknotes	Wildlife tissue	Dermal transfer <sup>b</sup>
<b>Analgesics</b>									
6-AM (6-acetylmorphine; deacetylated heroin)	✗✓	✗✓	✗				✓		▲
6-AC (6-acetylcodeine)			✗						
Codeine <sup>c</sup>	✓✓✓	✓✓	✗✗✓				✗		▲
Dihydrocodeine <sup>d</sup>	✓	✓							
Heroin (diacetylmorphine) <sup>c</sup>	✗✗✓	✗	✗			✓	✓✓		▲
Hydrocodone <sup>c</sup>	✓✓	✗✓							
Morphine <sup>c</sup>	✓✓✓	✓	✗	✓✓		✗	✓		▲
Morphine-3β-D-glucuronide	✗✓	✗							
Norcodeine	✓	✓	✗✗✓						
Normorphine	✓	✗	✗						
Fentanyl <sup>d</sup> (excreted mainly as norfentanyl)	✗✗	✗✗	✗						‡
Norfentanyl	✗								
Oxycodone <sup>c</sup>	✓✓								
Tramadol <sup>d</sup>		✓						✓	
<b>Methadone</b>									
Methadone <sup>c</sup>	✓✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓✓		✗			▲
EDDP (2-ethylidene-1,5-dimethyl-3,3-diphenylpyrrolidine)	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓						
<b>Stimulants</b>									
Amphetamine <sup>c</sup>	✓✓	✗✓	✗✗✓	✓✓		✗✓	✓		▲
Ephedrine <sup>d</sup> /pseudoephedrine <sup>c</sup>	✓✓✓	✓				✗			
Methamphetamine <sup>c</sup>	✓✓✓	✓	✗✗✓		✓	✗✓	✓		▲
MDA <sup>c</sup>	✓	✗✓	✗✗✓						
MDBD	✗								



Table 4 (continued)

	Wastewaters	Surface waters	Drinking water	Sewage sludge	Biosolids	Air	Banknotes	Wildlife tissue	Dermal transfer <sup>b</sup>
MDEA <sup>d</sup>	✗✓	✗							
MDMA <sup>c</sup>	✓✓	✓	✓			✗✓			▲
Methylphenidate <sup>c</sup>									‡
<i>Cocainics</i>									
Benzoyllecgonine (BZE)	✓✓✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		▲
Cocaethylene	✗✓	✓				✗			
Cocaine <sup>c</sup>	✓✓	✓	✗✓			✓✓	✓✓✓		▲
Ecgone methyl ester (EME)	✗✓✓								▲
Norbenzoyllecgonine	✓	✓							
Norcocaine	✗✓	✓							
“Club” drugs (e.g., dissociative anesthetics)									
Ketamine <sup>d</sup>	✗✗✓	✗	✗						
Norketamine	✗								
PCP (phencyclidine) <sup>c</sup>	✗✓	✗	✗				✓		
<i>Hallucinogens</i>									
LSD	✗✗✓	✗	✗			✗			
Nor-LSD ( <i>N</i> -desmethyl-LSD)	✗✓	✗✗✓				✗			
<i>O-H</i> -LSD (2-oxo-3-hydroxy-LSD)	✗✓	✗✗✓				✗			
<i>Cannabinoids</i>									
Cannabinol (CNB)						✓✓	✗✓		
Cannabidiol (CND)						✗✓	✗✓		
OH-THC (11-hydroxy- $\Delta$ 9-tetrahydrocannabinol)	✗✓	✗✗✓				✗			
nor-THC	✓					✗	✓✓		
THC ( $\Delta$ 9-tetrahydrocannabinol) <sup>c</sup>	✓✓	✓✓	✗			✓✓	✗✓		▲
THC-COOH (11-nor-carboxy- $\Delta$ 9-tetrahydrocannabinol)	✓✓✓	✓✓	✗						



# Old drugs – new challenges

## Case Report Malaria Chemoprophylaxis

- 3 fencer return from Africa to Europe from competitions
- Two produce adverse analytical findings with chlorazanil (diuretic)
- Chlorazanil prohibited/tested since 1988 -> findings until 2015: **0**



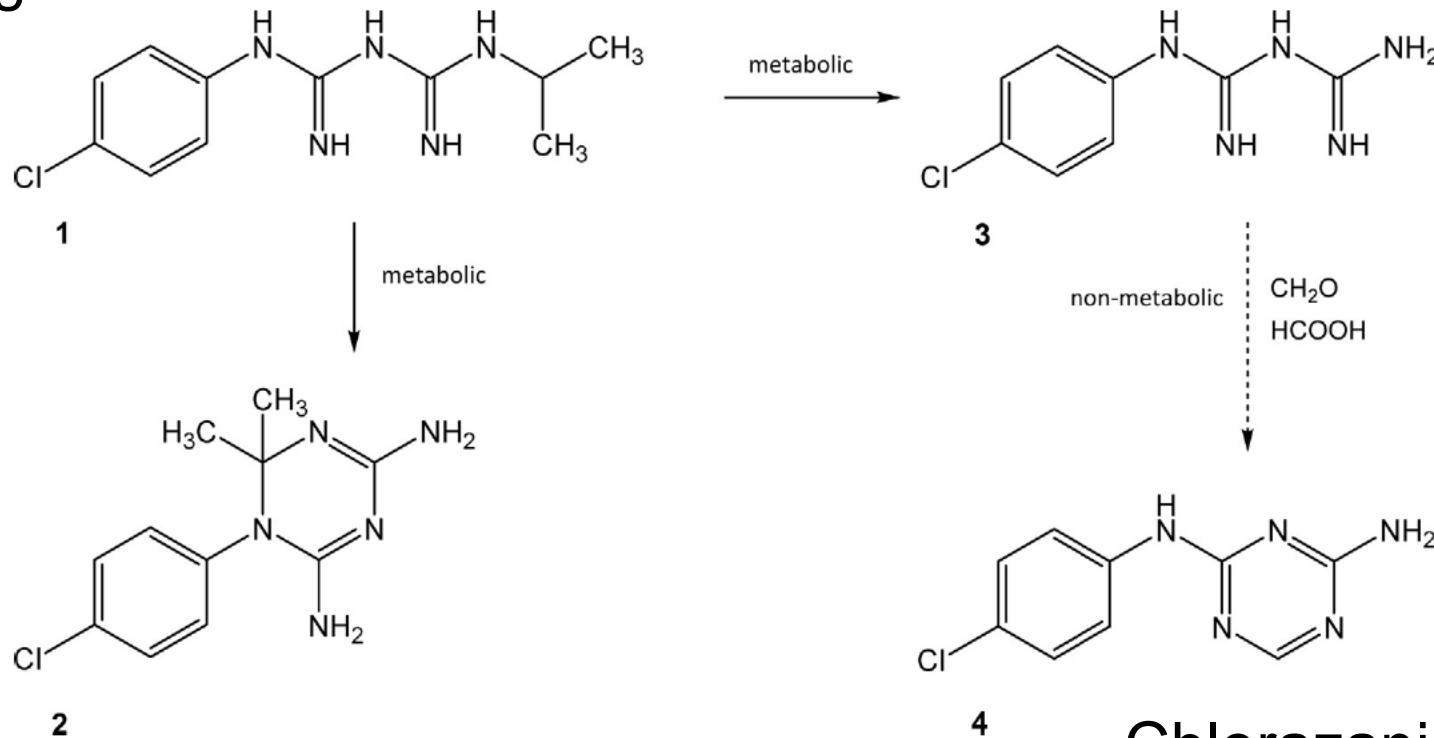


## Case Report Malaria Chemoprophylaxis

- These cases are the worldwide first two findings with the obsolete diuretic
- The laboratory's sensitivity increased over the past years to an LOD of 0.1 ng/mL
- Structural relationship to proguanil (anti-malaria drug) triggered in-depth investigation

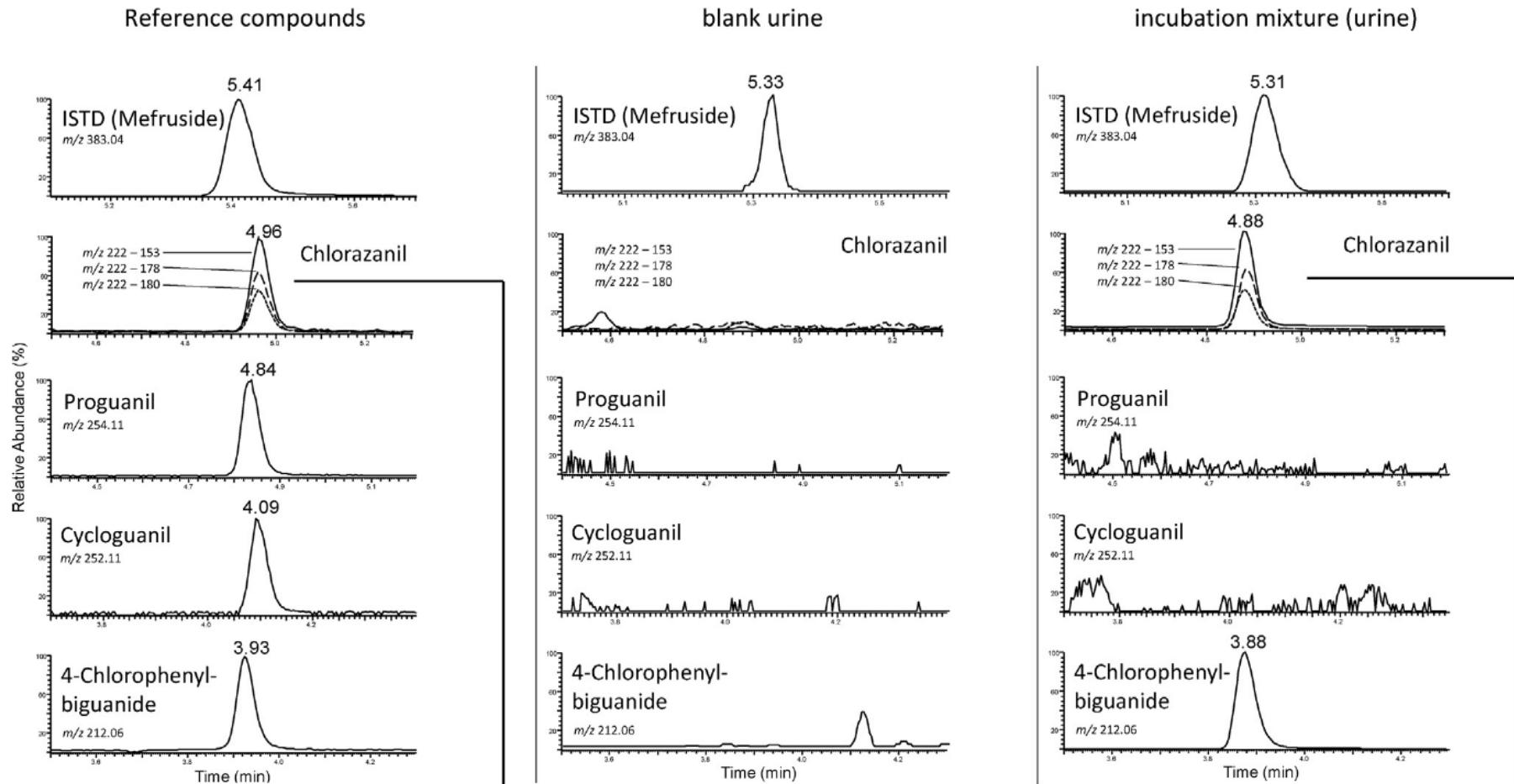
## 4-chlorophenyl-biguanide

### Proguanil



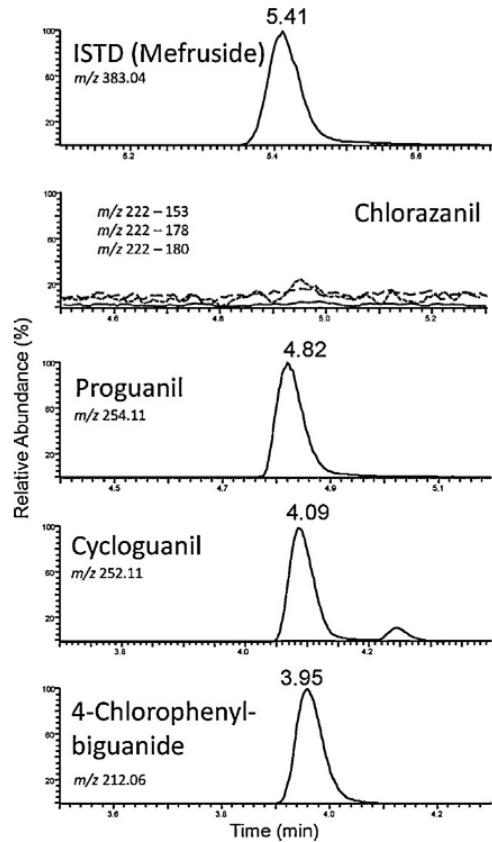
### Cycloguanil

### Chlorazanil

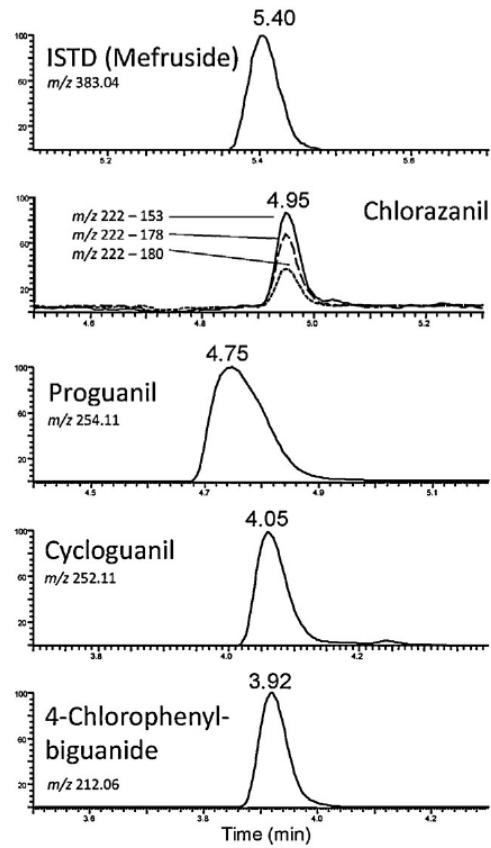




Patient's urine sample (no chlorazanil)



Patient's urine sample (with chlorazanil)





# Case Report Malaria Chemoprophylaxis

- Findings plausibly explained by anti-malarial chemoprophylaxis
- Arguably supported by dietary habits and increasing sensitivity of doping control analytical assays
  - → Athletes not sanctioned!



# Permitted drugs – new challenges

## Case Report contaminated NSAID

- Handball player tested positive for hydrochlorothiazide, urinary concentration ca. 5 ng/mL
- Administration of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug declared, remaining pills of used batch provided to RMA



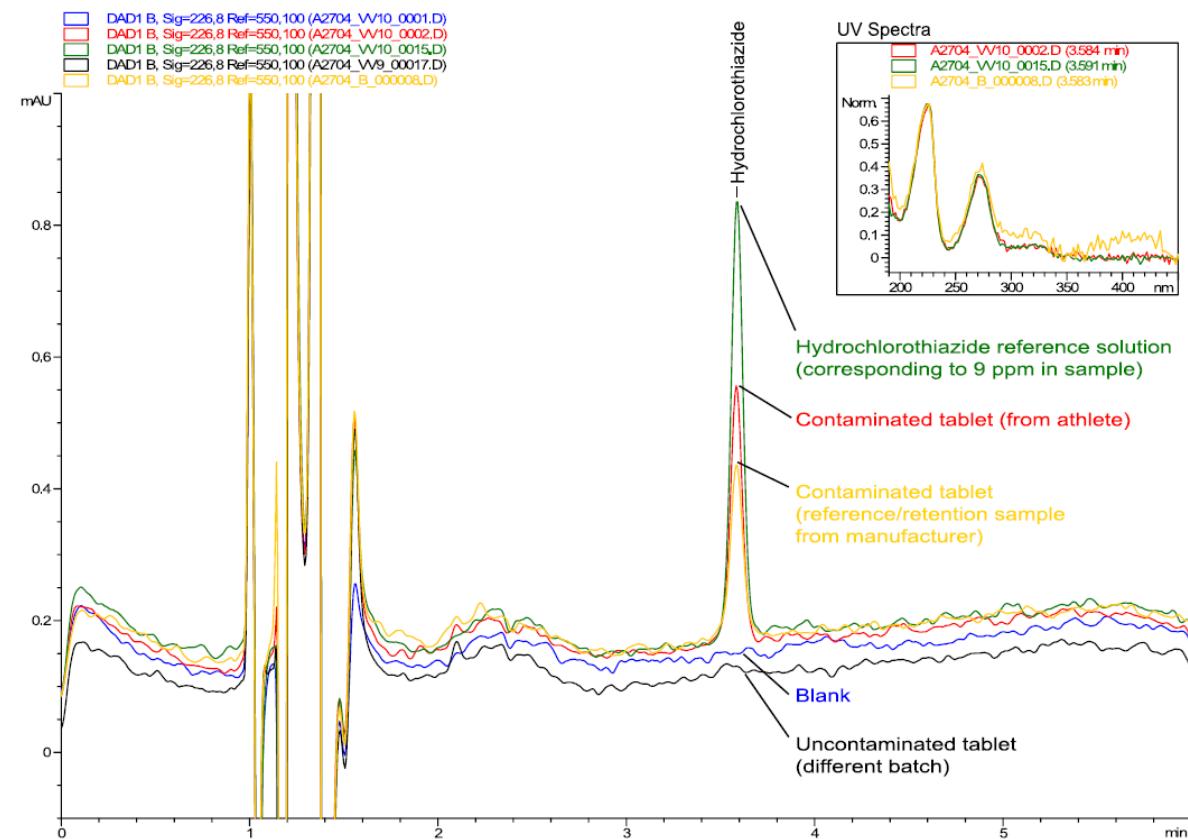
# Permitted drugs – new challenges

## Case Report contaminated NSAID

- Athlete's NSAID blister was analyzed for the presence of hydrochlorothiazide
- Manufacturer's retention sample was analyzed for the presence of hydrochlorothiazide

# Permitted drugs – new challenges

## LC-UV analysis

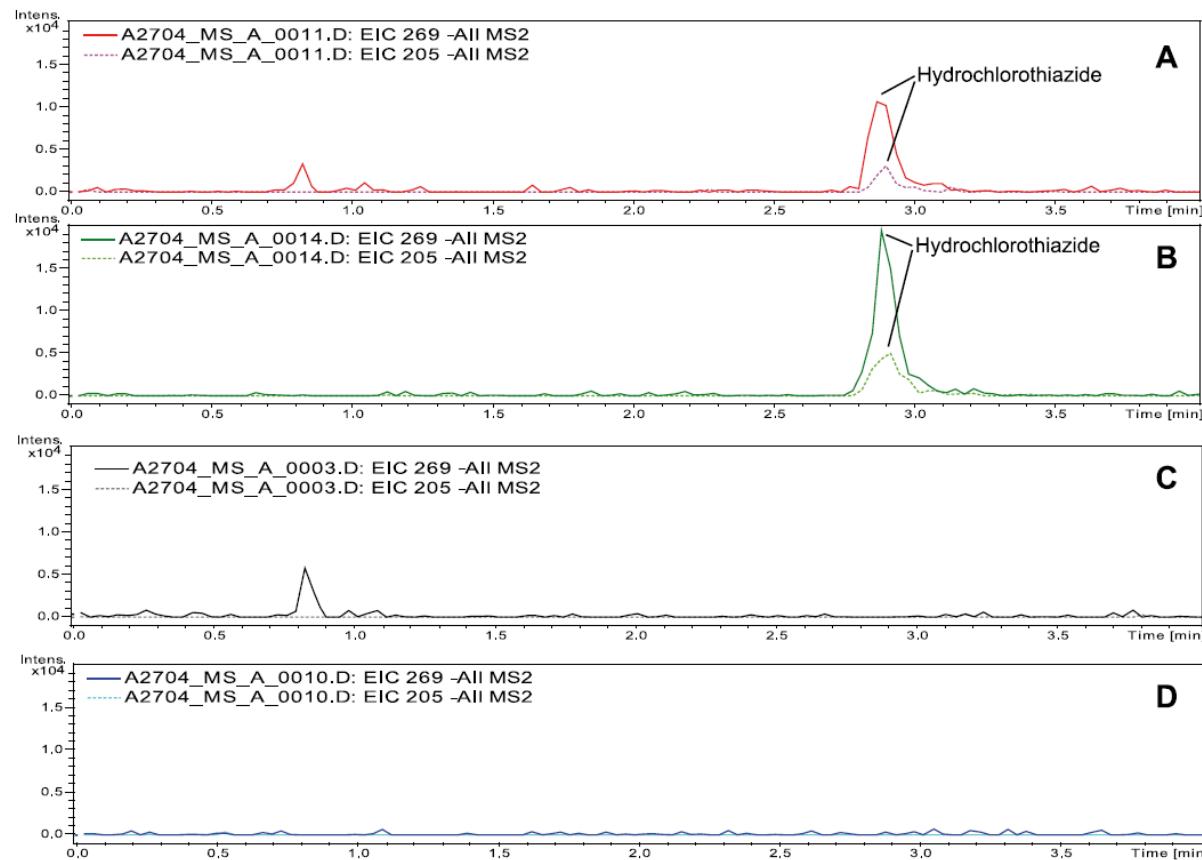


# Permitted drugs – new challenges

## LC-MS/MS analysis

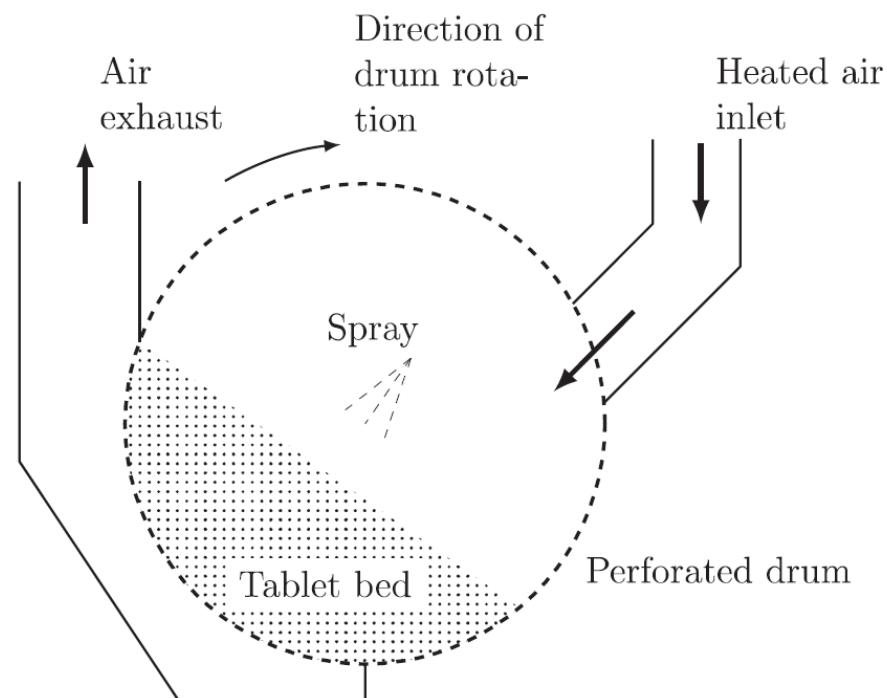


In-depth analysis proved a contaminated coating with ca. 2 µg/tablet





## Coating process



- Sugar coating
  - Seal coating
  - Subcoating
  - Syrup coating
  - Polishing / finishing (coloring)
- Film coating
- Enteric coating
- Press coating



## Coating process objectives

- Masking taste, odor or color of the drug
- Provide physical and chemical protection of the drug
- Control of drug release from tablet
- etc.

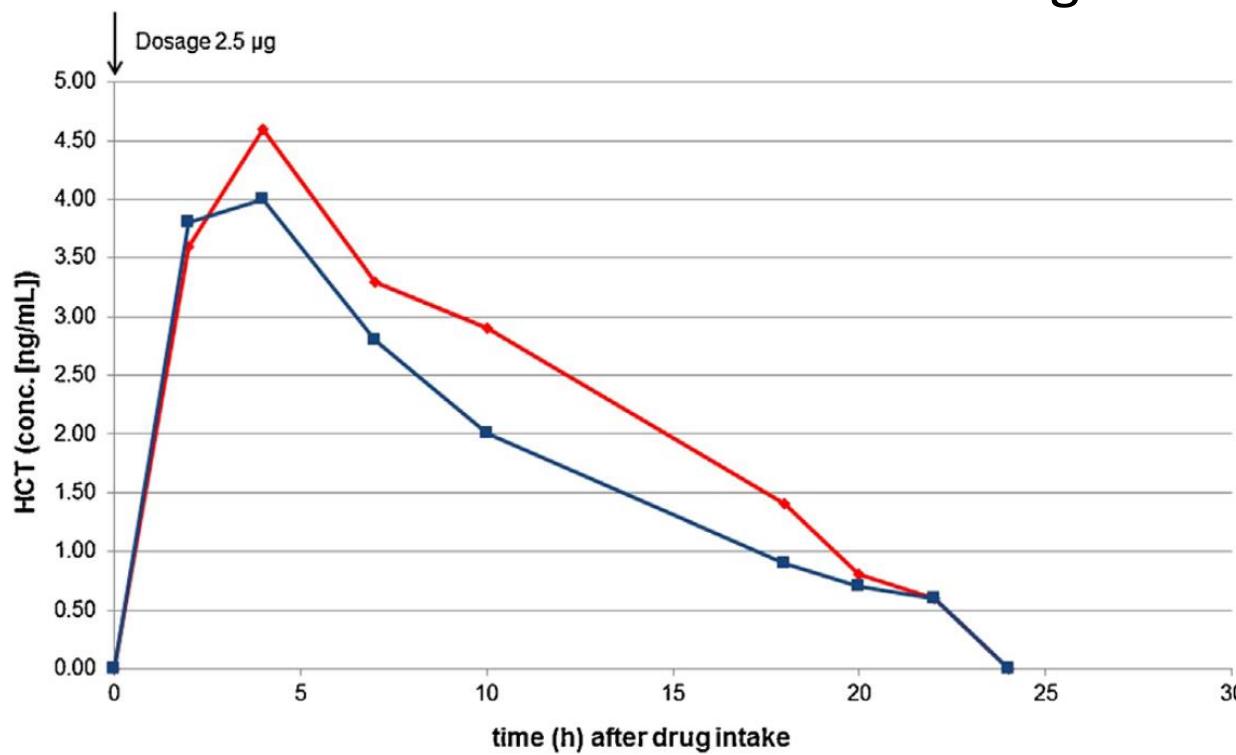


## Probing for plausibility of finding

- The athlete declared the use of the NSAID with 1 tablet every 6 h on competition day (3 tablets in total)
- Urine sample was collected ca. 3 h after last tablet ingestion
- Placebo tablets enriched with 2.5 µg of hydrochlorothiazide were produced
- Elimination studies with a single dose and multiple doses were conducted
- Urine samples were analyzed according to established doping control methods

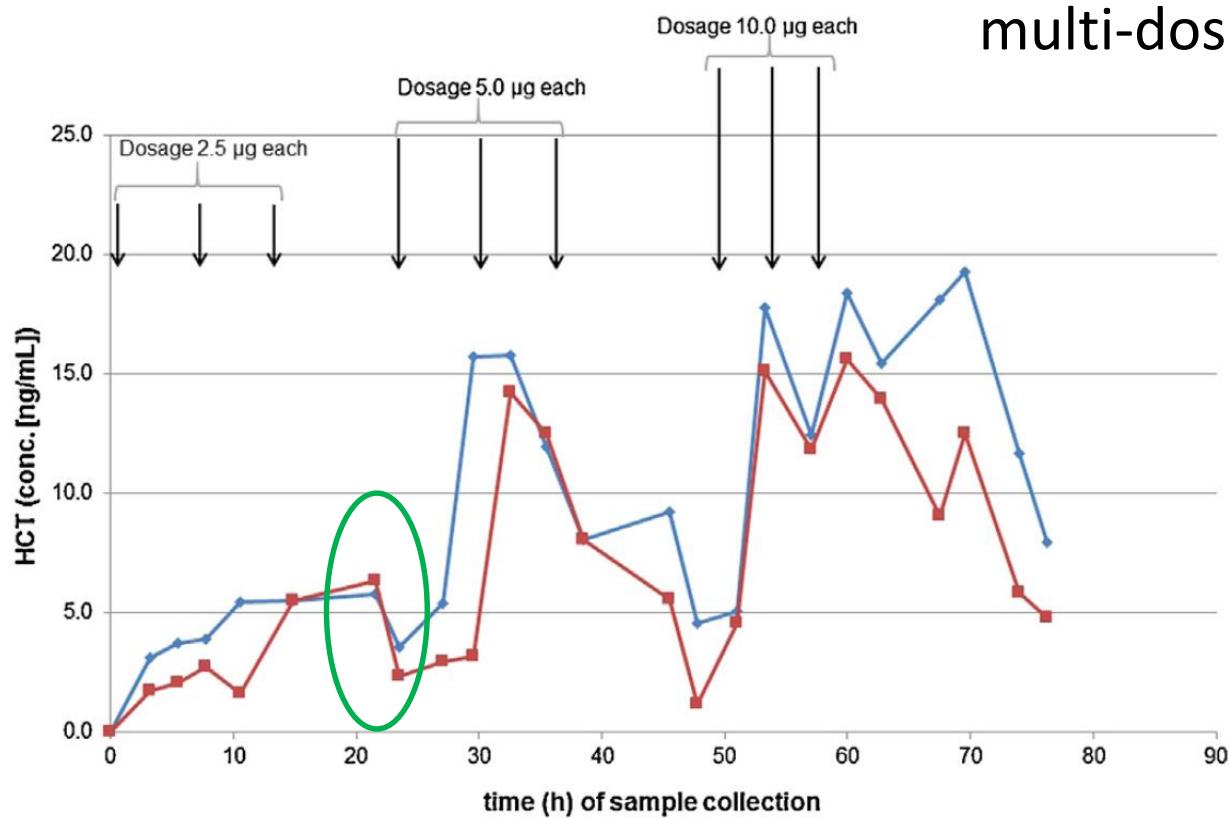
## Probing for plausibility of finding

single-dose elimination study



## Probing for plausibility of finding

multi-dose elimination study





BIOMEDICAL REPORTS 5: 665-666, 2016

## Detection of stanozolol in the urine of athletes at a pg level: The possibility of passive exposure

CHRISTINA TSITSIMPIKOU<sup>1</sup>, KONSTANTINOS TSAROUHAS<sup>2</sup>,  
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<sup>3</sup>Laboratory of Clinical Virology, Medical School, University of Crete; <sup>4</sup>Department of Forensic Sciences and Toxicology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Crete, Heraklion 71003, Greece

It is, therefore, possible that the detection of 3'-hydroxystanozolol in the urine of athletes at a pg level could correspond to an inadvertent doping case without the intentional use of stanozolol by the athlete and through an administration route, such as meat consumption for everyday dietary needs, that could not have been prevented by the athlete. In such a case, any advantage over other co-athletes while competing and any intention to enhance performance by steroids also becomes questionable.



# Stanozolol glucuronides as screening target analytes



Sensitive detection of 3'-hydroxy-stanozolol glucuronide by liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry

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## Research article

Drug Testing  
and Analysis

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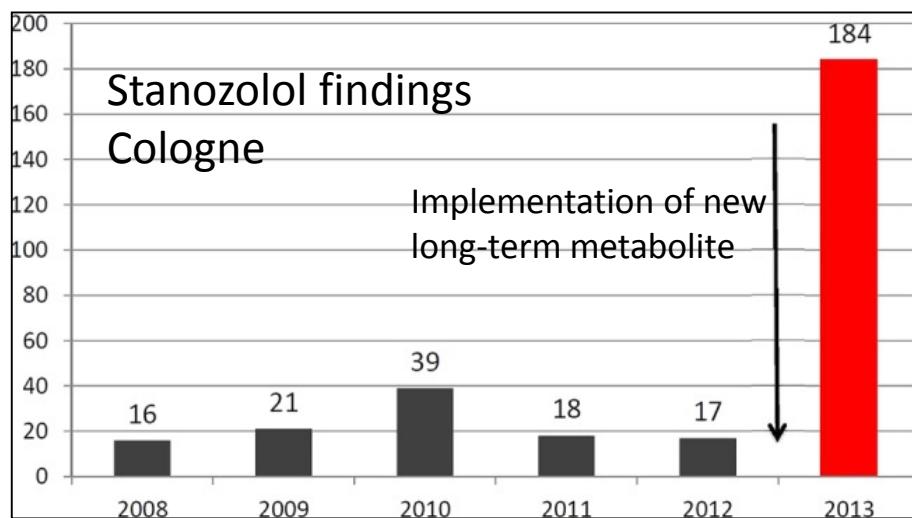
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(www.drugtestinganalysis.com) DOI 10.1002/dta.1516

**Expanding analytical possibilities concerning the detection of stanozolol misuse by means of high resolution/high accuracy mass spectrometric detection of stanozolol glucuronides in human sports drug testing**

Wilhelm Schänzer,<sup>a</sup> Sven Guddat,<sup>a</sup> Andreas Thomas,<sup>a</sup> Georg Opfermann,<sup>a</sup> Hans Geyer<sup>a</sup> and Mario Thevis<sup>a,b\*</sup>





## Stanozolol in food ... little (if any) evidence today

- Numerous findings (injection sites) in the late 1990s in Belgium / The Netherlands (Le Bizec, Sterk, *et al*)
- Continuously decreasing number of findings ever since
- Vigilance however warranted



# Stanozolol in food ... little (if any) evidence today

**Table 6 Determination of stanozolol in environmental and domestic water samples**

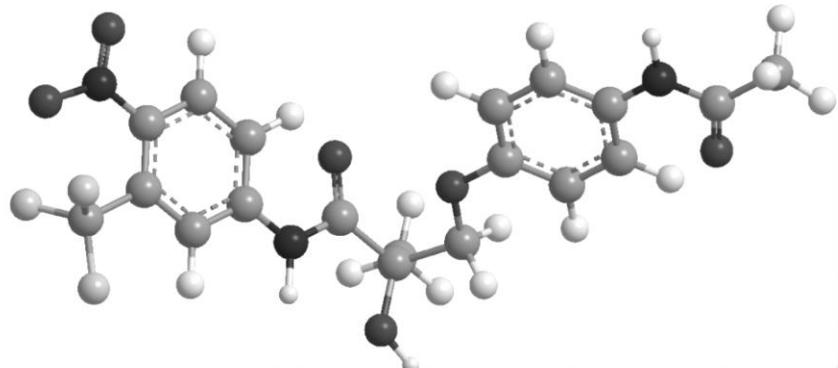
Environmental water sample (N = 3)	Average concentration pg/mL					
	31 <sup>st</sup> December 2009	18 <sup>th</sup> April 2010	21 <sup>th</sup> July 2010	01 <sup>st</sup> September 2010	24 <sup>th</sup> October 2010	05 <sup>th</sup> November 2010
River Danube	1.82 ± 0.19	0.71 ± 0.06	0.54 ± 0.03	ND	ND	ND
Budapest Tap	1.19 ± 0.03	0.31 (BLQ)	ND	ND	ND	ND
Lake Balaton	-	ND	-	-	-	-
Spring 'Rózsika'	-	ND	-	-	-	-

BLQ means below limit of quantification

ND means not detectable



# Thank you



**Antidoping Switzerland**

**World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)**

**Federal Ministry of the Interior (D)**



**Deutsche  
Sporthochschule Köln**  
German Sport University Cologne

**Institut für Biochemie**  
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