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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

An Integrated Precipitation and Ion-exchange Chromatography
Process for Antibody Manufacturing: Process Development Strategy
and Continuous Chromatography Exploration

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Abstract

8 In the past decades, research was carried out to find cost-efficient alternatives to Protein A chro-

matography as a capture step in monoclonal antibody (mAb) purification processes. In this work,

polyethylene glycol (PEG) precipitation has shown promising results in the case of mAb yield and

purity. Especially with respect to continuous processing, PEG precipitation has many advantages,

like low cost of goods, simple setup, easy scalability, and the option to handle perfusion reactors.

Nevertheless, replacing Protein A has the disadvantage of renouncing a platform unit operation as well. Furthermore, PEG precipitation is not capable of reducing high molecular weight impurities (HMW) like aggregates or DNA. To overcome these challenges, an integrated process strategy combining PEG precipitation with cation-exchange chromatography (CEX) for purification of a

⁷ mAb is presented.

This work discusses the process strategy as well as the associated fast, easy, and material-saving process development platform. These were implemented through the combination of high-throughput methods with empirical and mechanistic modeling. The strategy allows the development of a common batch process. Additionally, it is feasible to develop a continuous process. In the presented case study, a mAb provided from cell culture fluid (HCCF) was purified. The precipitation and resolubilisation conditions as well as the chromatography method were optimized, and the mutual influence of all steps was investigated. A mAb yield of over 95.0% and a host cell protein (HCP) reduction of over 99.0% could be shown. At the same time, the aggregate level was reduced from 3.12% to 1.20% and the DNA level was reduced by five orders of magnitude. Furthermore,

the mAb was concentrated three times to a final concentration of $11.9 \, mg/mL$.

28 Keywords: Antibody manufacturing, Integrated processing, Protein precipitation, Mechanistic

²⁹ modeling, Periodic counter-current chromatography

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