

The Axis of Contamination

Dextrose and Amino Acids

False Positives due to TPN for VLBW Infants

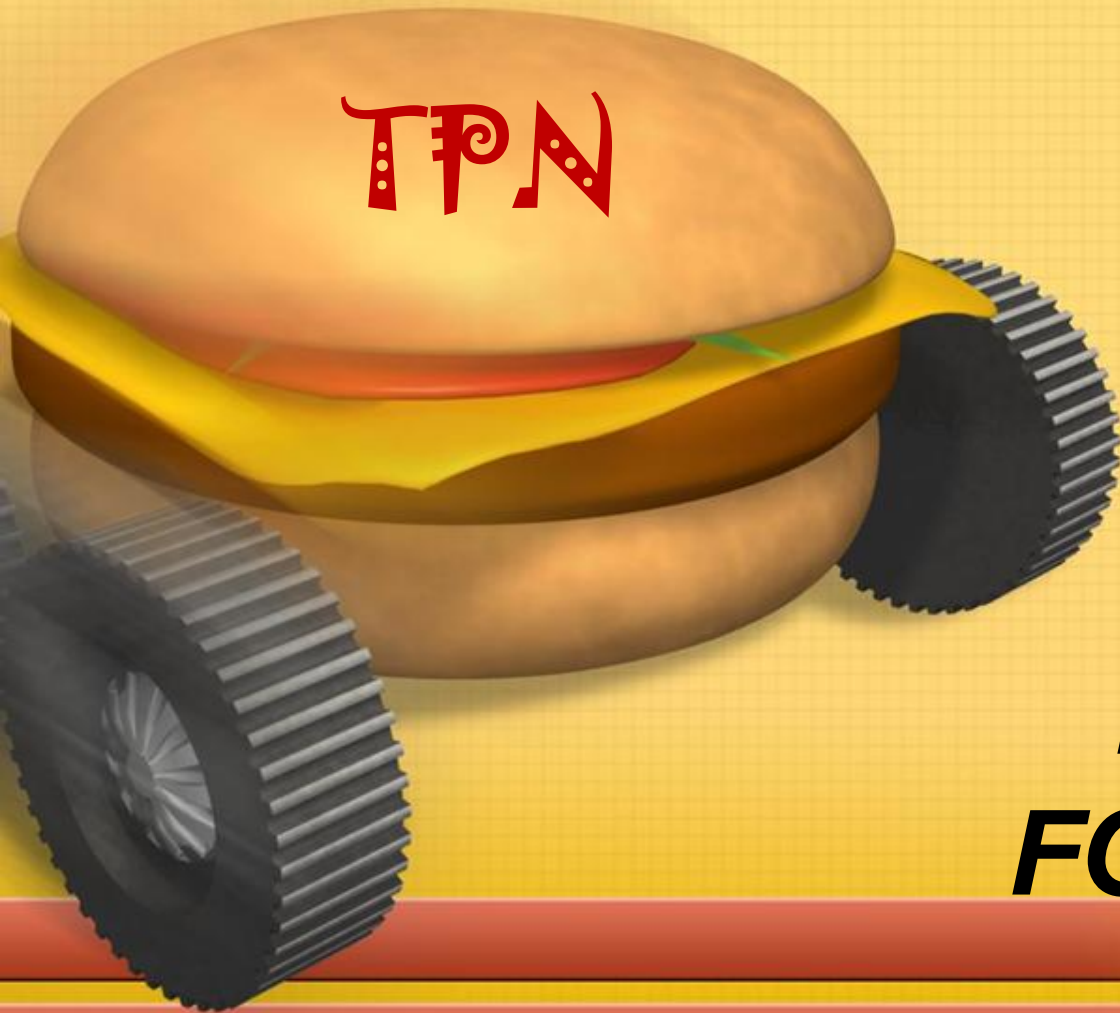
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The title I would like to use...



FAST FOOD FOR PREEMIES

VLBW – Very Low Birth Weight

* Hypothesis:

- * Extremely high concentrations of amino acids in DBS are **not** due to a biochemical defect.
- * False Positive Results are ***in part*** due to mixing (contamination) of IV feeds (total parenteral nutrition solutions) that contain very high concentrations of amino acids.
- * A marker for contamination by TPN would help identify infants whose DBS sample is invalid / unacceptable and reduce presumptive positives.
 - * Would not reduce repeat sampling in the short term.
 - * Reduce repeat sampling in the long term by identifying laboratories that do not collect samples properly



Brief History

- * High FP rate for premature infants historically.
 - * even with better analytical instruments and methods.
- * False Positives characterized by very high Leu/Ile, Phe, Met, Ala but not Tyr.
 - * Interpretation guidelines in some labs act on milder elevations of Tyr and/or Met but not on much higher concentrations of Met when Leu/Phe/Ala are also high.
- * Clinical trial of 100 premature infants with multiple collections points on TPN did not have these very abnormal profiles.
- * Examination of all very high AA profiles revealed markers in the acylcarnitine profiles that were not acylcarnitines.
 - * Process of elimination indicated dextrose
 - * Mass spectra indicated a carbohydrate
 - * Mayo suggested dextrose in an abstract at an SIMD meeting.



What is TPN?

- * Source of Energy

- * DEXTROSE (D-glucose)

- * 5, 10 and 12.5% (% = g per 100mL, dL)

- * Source of Protein

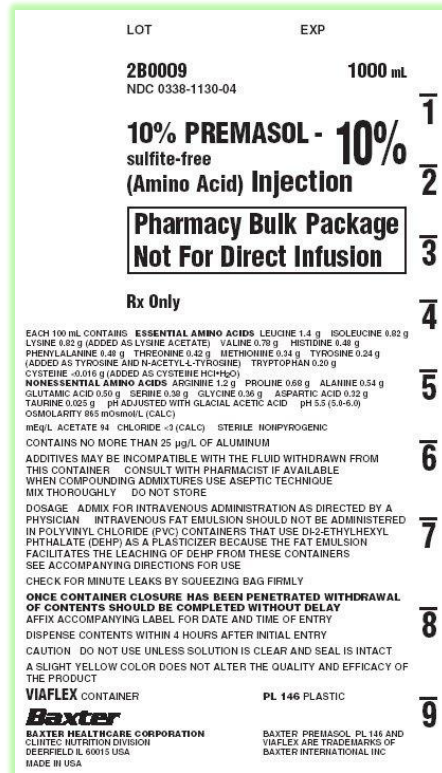
- * Free L-Amino Acids

- * 2 – 4 g per kg per day

- * Proprietary mix of AA

- * Isotonic Saline

- * Salts, minerals etc...



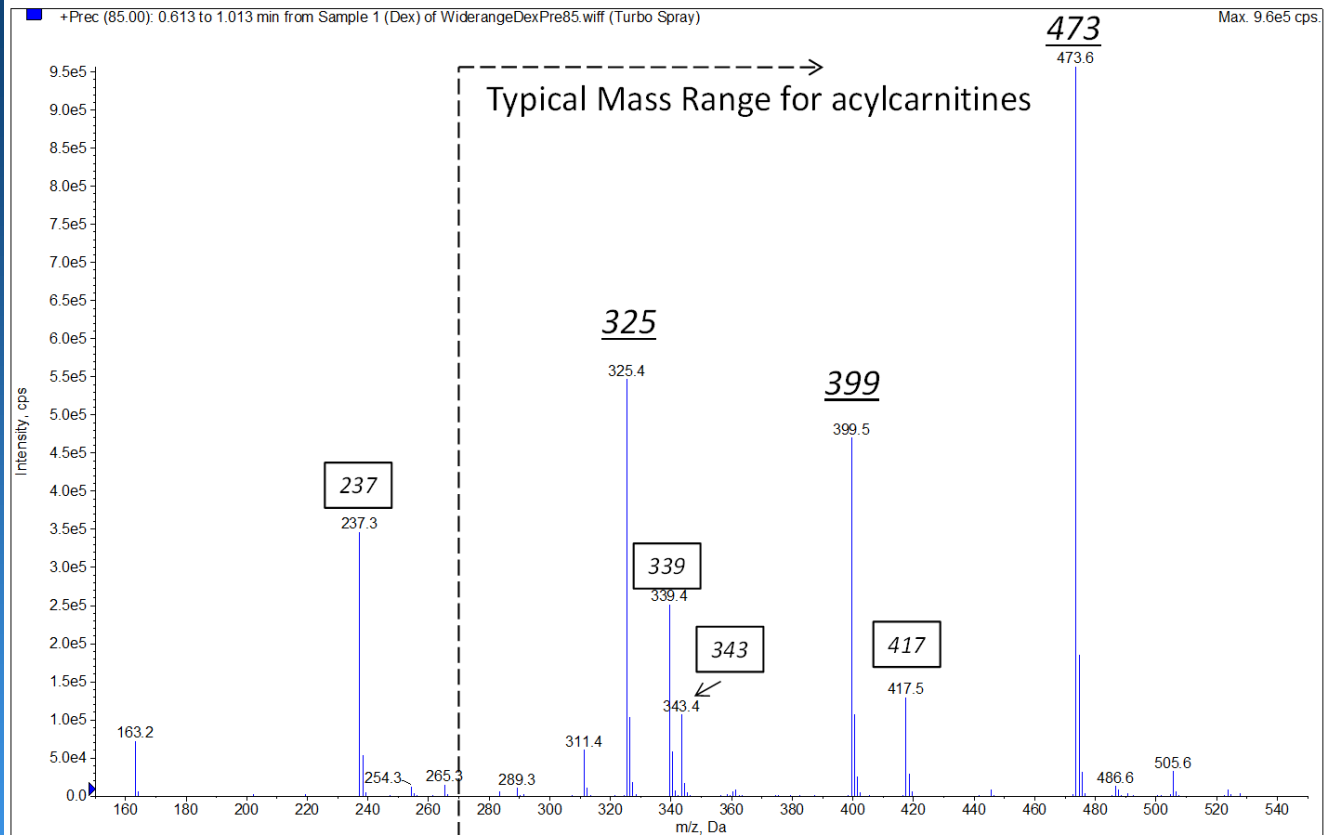
Unusual m/z values in the AC-BE Profiles (Pre 85)

- * Nearly all false positive results with high amino acid concentrations had the following markers in the acylcarnitine profile:

***m/z:* 325 399 473**

- * Dextrose suspected based on
 - * Product ion profile had fragmentation profiles similar to carbohydrates.
 - * Eliminated other components of TPN
- * Conclusive evidence for dextrose not easily obtained because:
 - * Analysis of pure dextrose did not show markers
 - * (subsequently found that preparation in same manner of a DBS did show markers)
 - * m/z values did not add up to dextrose (MW = 260)

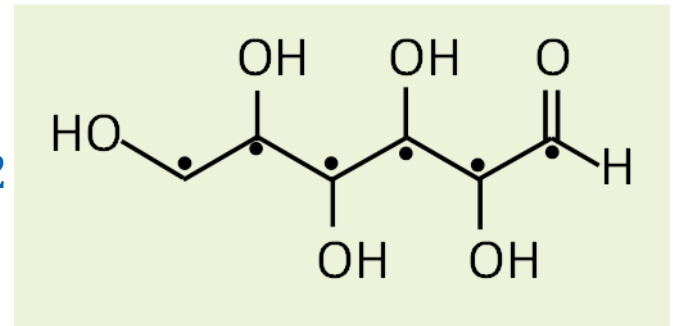
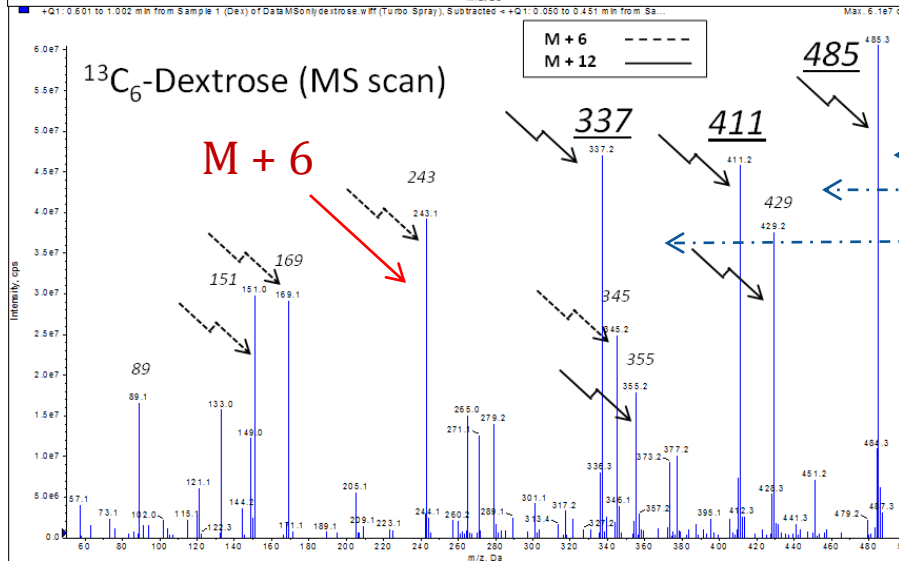
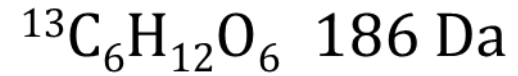
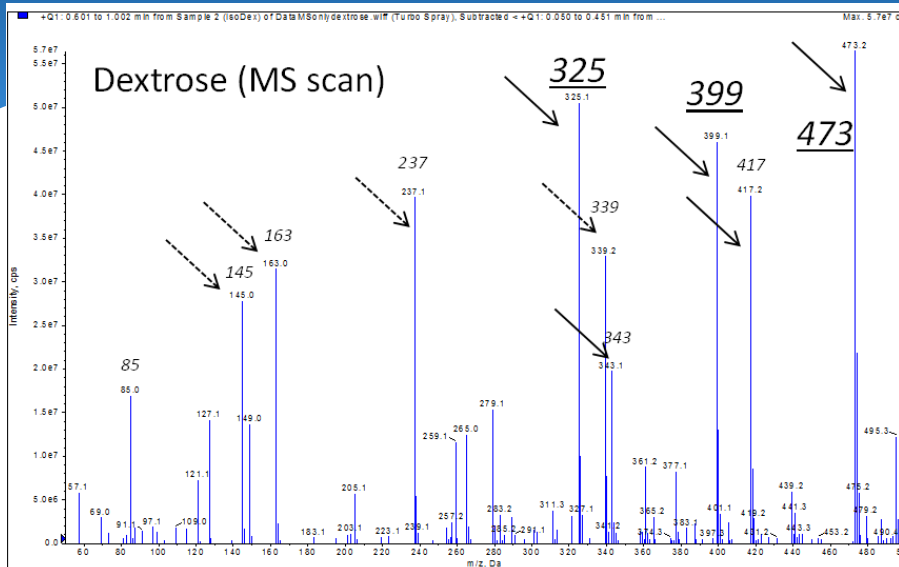
Precursor Ion m/z 85, extended range (dextrose only – BE treatment)



Pre – 85 (AC profile)

Dextrose – (prepared in same manner as DBS – butyl esterification)

Solution: Isotope Labeled D-glucose (m/z 180)

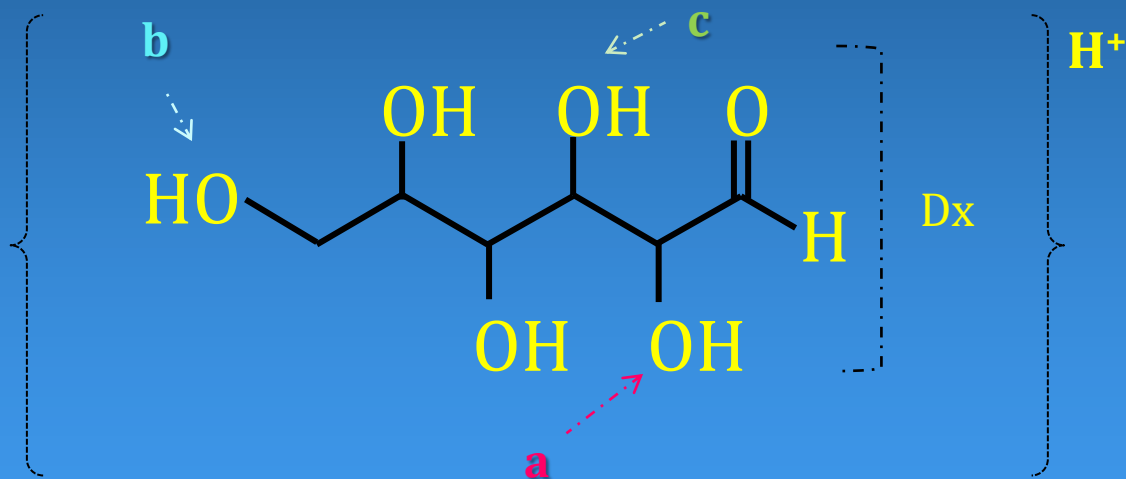


Shift of fragments by 12 Daltons

Can only occur if "2" dextrose molecules

Found a dextrose monomer at m/z 237

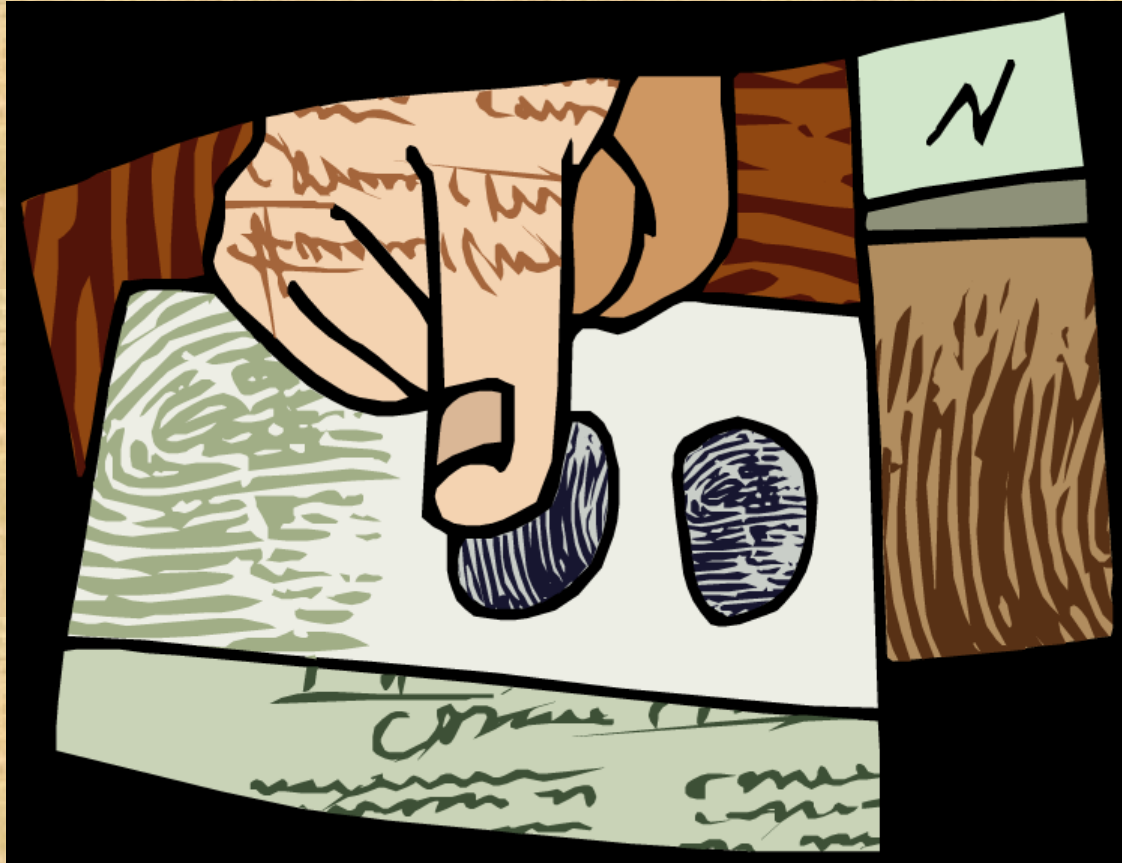
m/z	Dx	a	b	c	Formula	Comments
237	Dex	Butyl	-	-	$[C_{10}H_{21}O_6]^+$	butyl ether
325	Dex	Dex-H ₂ O	-	-	$[C_{12}H_{21}O_{10}]^+$	Dimer - water
399	Dex	Dex	Butyl	-	$[C_{16}H_{31}O_{11}]^+$	Dimer + butyl ether
417	Dex	Dex	Butyl	-	$[C_{16}H_{33}O_{12}]^+$	237 + 180
473	Dex	Dex	Butyl	Butyl	$[C_{20}H_{41}O_{12}]^+$	2 x 237 - H ⁺



Butyl ethers with dextrose!

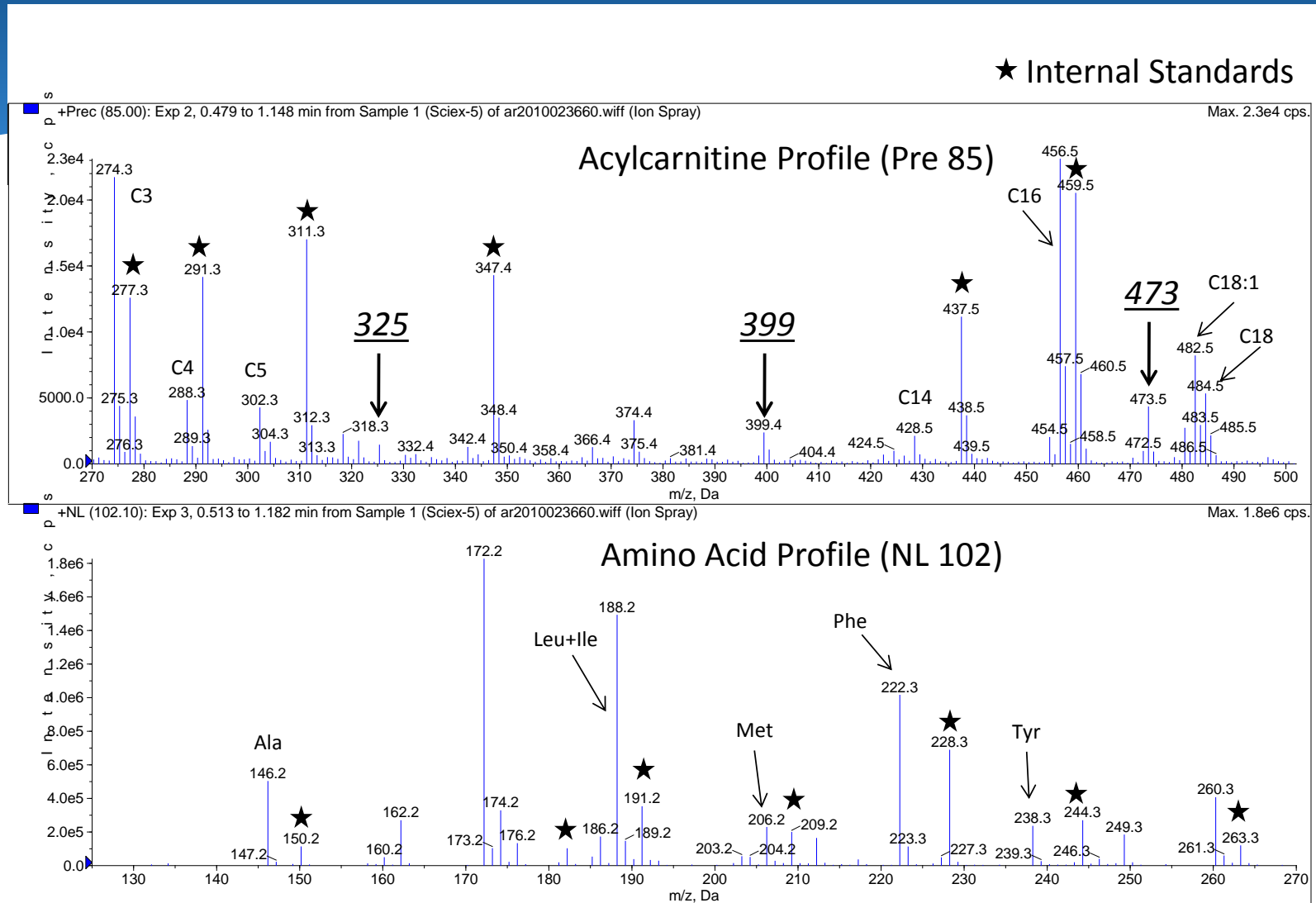
Monomers, dimers and trimers – Oh My!

DEXTROSE IDENTITY CONFIRMED



BUT WAS THE CRIME SCENE CONTAMINATED?

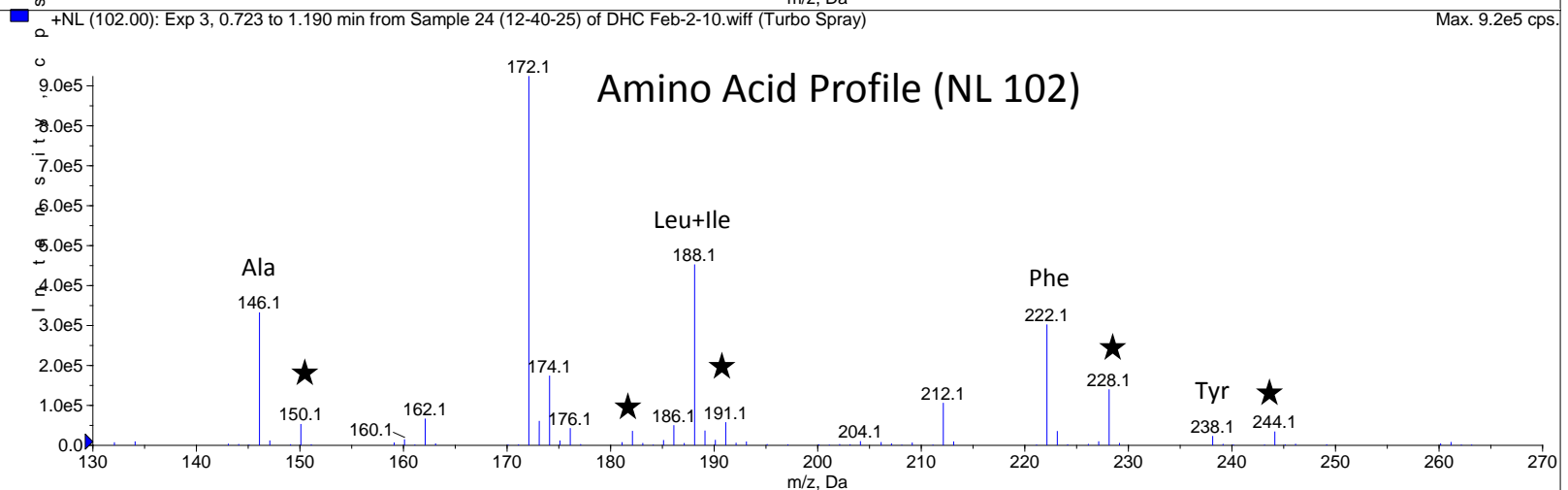
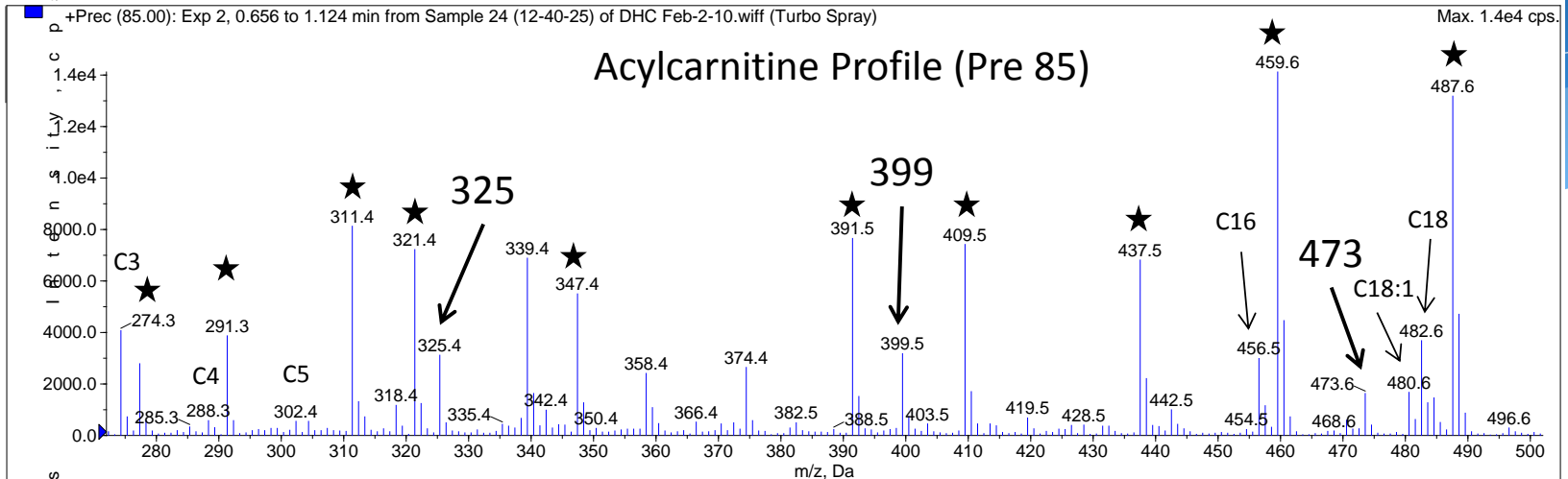
Classic High FP from a Preemie DBS



DBS spiked with TPN for Comparison

1:40 TPN/Blood (TPN 12.5% Dex, 2.5 g/kg/day amino acids)

★ Internal Standards

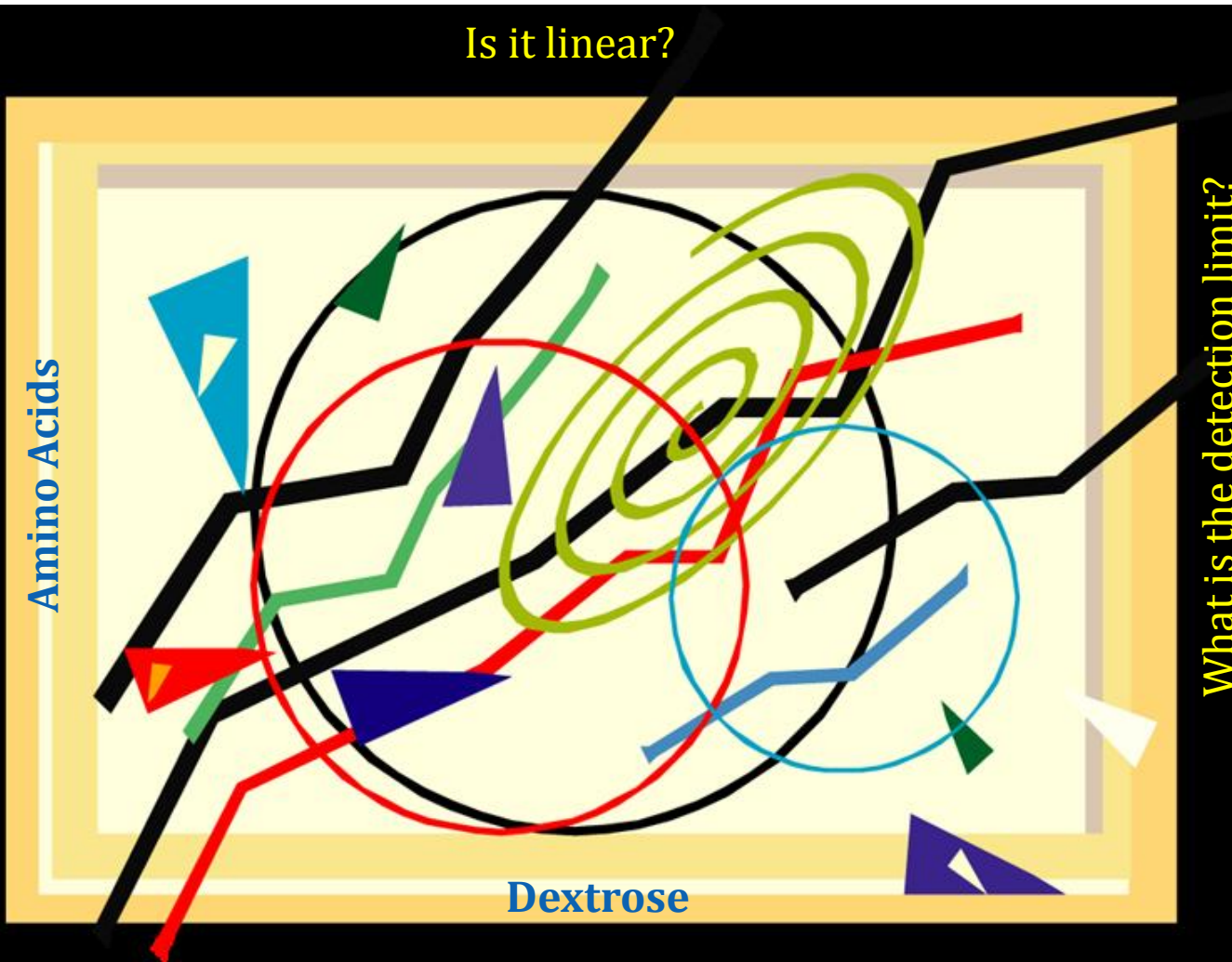


1:40 dilution of TPN solution in Blood before making DBS

Dextrose Marker Quantification – Amino Acid Relationship

Can I use data in my interpretation?

Is it linear?

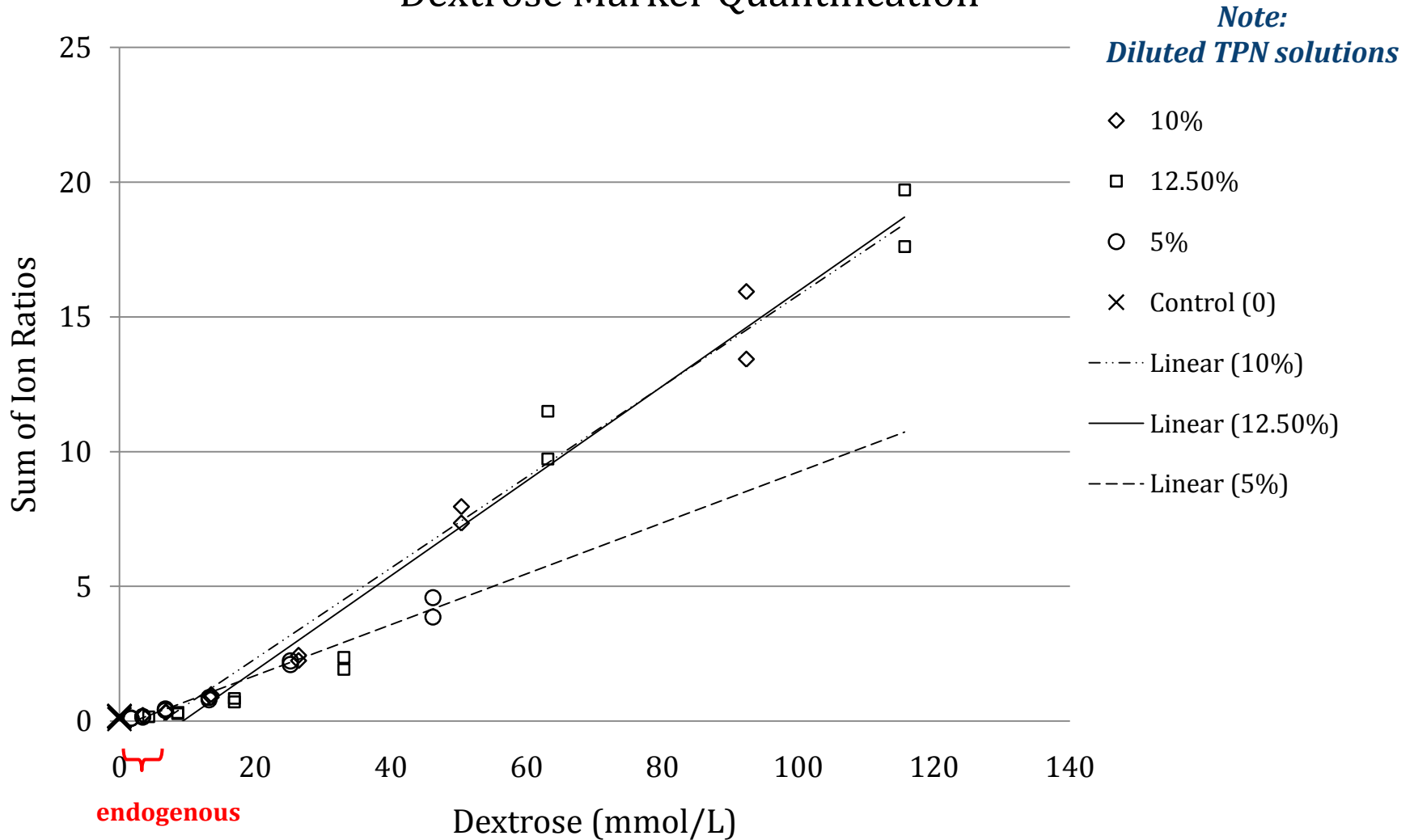


What is the detection limit?

Is there a direct relationship between Dextrose and Amino Acids?

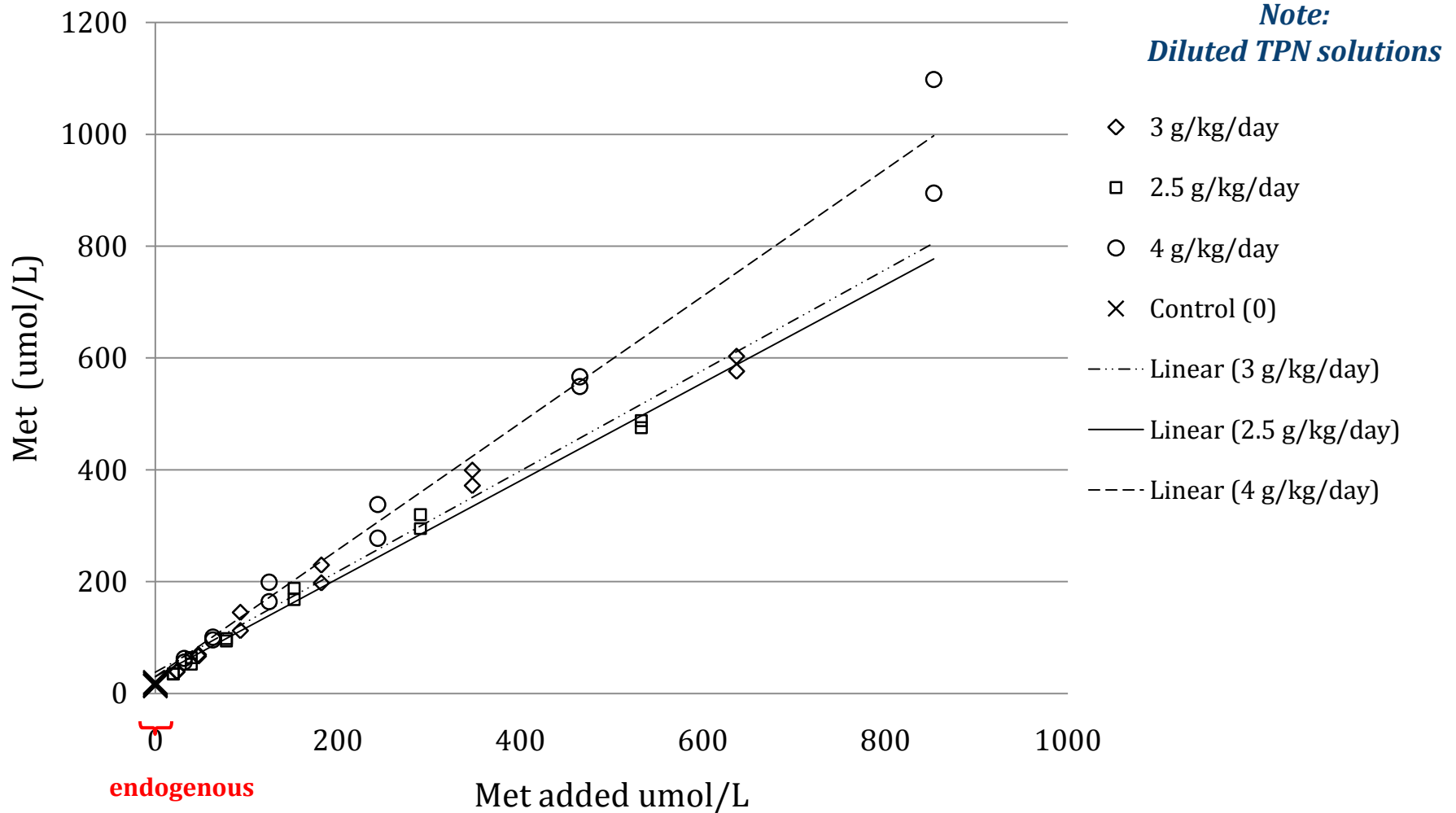
Dextrose Blood Concentration vs Sum of Dextrose Marker Pseudo-concentrations

Dextrose Marker Quantification



Methionine blood Concentrations (a representative marker of amino acids)

Methionine Quantification



A bit more data....

Table 4

Selected actual and estimated amino acid concentrations ($\mu\text{mol/l}$).

3.0 g/kg/day	Ala	Leu + Ile	Met	Phe	Tyr
Endogenous	330.59	136.44	18.78	47.6435	42.39
1:5 saline/endog	262.82	106.64	13.97	37.02	34.15
1:80	504.21	576.66	68.18	128.15	51.69
1:5	2119.49	4338.00	589.44	865.53	119.16
Estimated 1:5	1706.80	4829.77	636.95	829.09	367.35

Table 2

Regression analysis for dextrose marker ion ratios and dextrose enrichments.

Dex marker	Correlation coefficient	Slope	Intercept
325 (solutions A, B and C)	0.98	0.05	-0.20
399 (solutions A, B and C)	0.97	0.07	-0.39
473 (solutions A, B and C)	0.96	0.04	-0.39
DxSum (solutions A, B and C)	0.98	0.16	-0.98
DxSum (solution A)	0.98	0.18	-1.6
DxSum (solution B)	0.99	0.16	-0.57
DxSum (solution C)	0.99	0.09	-0.2

Note that a 1:80 contamination increases Leu+Ile above most cutoffs and Met and Phe are borderline. Tyr remains normal.

1:80 is a detectable dex marker concentration

Dextrose / Amino Acids correlate with calculated concentrations in TPN

Table 3

Regression analysis of added TPN and selected amino acids.

Amino acid	Correlation coefficient	Slope	Intercept
Ala	0.99	0.99	407
Leu + Ile	0.99	0.89	301
Met	0.98	1.0	21
Phe	0.98	1.1	54
Tyr	0.94	0.22	44

TPN's Signature Profile

* Molar Ratios

- * As the TPN contamination increases, the molar ratios of amino acids approach a signature TPN profile rather than a normal endogenous profile
- * Reducing FP for PKU via an elevated Phe/Tyr ratio does not work.
 - * As published – a secondary ratio (Phe/Leu) is necessary to rule out PKU in preemies. These results confirm why.

Table 5
Amino acid molar ratios of selected blood pools.

3.0 g/kg	Phe/Tyr	Phe/Leu	Leu/Phe	Met/Phe	Leu/Ala
Endogenous	1.12	0.35	2.86	0.39	0.41
1:5 saline/endog	1.08	0.35	2.88	0.38	0.41
1:80	2.48	0.22	4.50	0.53	1.15
1:5	7.26	0.20	5.00	0.68	2.05

Approach for use in the NBS lab...

- * Verify markers on your instrument...
 - * Ionization efficiency of instruments vary thus the three markers may also vary in relative intensity
 - * It is why the sum of the markers was used in the study
- * An exact determination of the increase concentration of amino acids cannot be made based on the dextrose marker sum.
 - * It can be approximated based on information of what was given to infant.
- * Further study in ongoing in a 1000 premature infant clinical trial where the marker is measured at 5 different time points.

Conclusions

- * Detection of dextrose markers together with elevated amino acids indicate that a DBS was contaminated by TPN solution.
 - * Profile does not reflect infants metabolism
- * Higher concentrations of TPN contamination more closely reflect the TPN solution.
- * It is likely that dextrose markers may be more frequent in certain collection facilities/nurseries.
 - * An opportunity to revisit collection procedures
- * False positive rates reduced. Short term follow-up / repeat sample increased. Long term follow up /repeat sample reduced with improved collection.



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Tandem mass spectrometric identification of dextrose markers in dried-blood spots from infants receiving total parenteral nutrition

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Detection of TPN contamination of dried blood spots used in newborn and metabolic screening and its impact on quantitative measurement of amino acids

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**Evidence Suggest
Markers are Present in**

UNDERIVATIZED METHOD USING HYDRAZINE

Hydrazine derivatizes succinylacetone and...

New Markers at m/z 177,195,339,357

This crime (not doing butylesters) is under investigation!

PS – if you do butyl esterification and hydrazine you get even more markers! Just what we need in our profiles!

AMERICA'S MOST Wanted *(Scientists at the CDC)*



Partners in Crime Research—
The ~~Line-Up~~ spot check