

Special Issue

Innovative Tools for Drug Analysis and Therapeutic Drug Monitoring (TDM)

Message from the Guest Editors

Therapeutic drug monitoring (TDM) is a measurement of drug concentration in various body fluids or tissues. This field has been developing since the 1980s and is mainly related to the development of specific laboratory methods that allow the determination of the concentration of a drug in biological fluids, most often in serum or urine. Excluding “traditional drugs”, TDM is used for drugs with a well-defined relationship between concentration and effect, and drugs with large inter- or intra-individual differences in distribution or in clearance. TDM is also used in clinical practice for other drugs, e.g., β -lactam or peptide antibiotics. To determine the levels of drugs in biological fluids and/or in dosage forms, accurate analytical methods (e.g., HPLC, CE, MS) are needed. These methods represent an extremely valuable tool in the clinical, quality control, and regulatory environment. They are characterized by robustness, relative simplicity, universality, and the high throughput of samples, which are extremely desirable attributes for the quick decision making needed in the setting/adjustment of pharmacotherapy based on TDM.

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