



1. SYNONYMS

CFR: Heroin

CAS #: Base: 561-27-3
Hydrochloride: 1502-95-0 (anhydrous)

Other Names: 3,6-Diacetyl-7,8-didehydro-4,5-epoxy-17-methyl-5- α ,6- α -morphinan-3,6-diol 7,8-Didehydro-4,5-epoxy-17-methyl-5- α ,6- α -morphinan-3,6-diol diacetate ester (5- α ,6- α)-7,8-Didehydro-4,5-epoxy-17-methylmorphinan-3,6-diol diacetate ester

Diamorphine
Acetomorphine
Diacetylmorphine

2. CHEMICAL AND PHYSICAL DATA

2.1. CHEMICAL DATA

Form	Chemical Formula	Molecular Weight	Melting Point (°C)
Base	C ₂₁ H ₂₃ NO ₅	369.4	173
Hydrochloride monohydrate	C ₂₁ H ₂₄ NO ₅ Cl·H ₂ O	423.9	243-244

2.2. SOLUBILITY

Form	A	C	E	H	M	W
Base	S	FS	SS	SS	PS	I
Hydrochloride	PS	FS	I	I	VS	FS

A = acetone, C = chloroform, E = ether, H = hexane, M = methanol and W = water, VS = very soluble, FS = freely soluble, S = soluble, PS = sparingly soluble, SS = slightly soluble, VSS = very slightly soluble and I = insoluble

3. SCREENING TECHNIQUE

3.1. COLOR TESTS

REAGENT	COLOR PRODUCED
Marquis	Purple violet
Mecke	Dark green
Froehde	Purple

3.2. CRYSTAL TESTS

REAGENT	COLOR PRODUCED
Mercuric iodide	Clusters of needles and threads - also blades in clusters and dendrites
Platinic chloride	Small dark needles formed into a burr
Mercuric chloride	Fine dendrites

3.3. THIN LAYER CHROMATOGRAPHY

Visualization

UV light

Fluorescent quenching

Dragendorff reagent

Orange spots on yellow background

Acidified potassium iodoplatinate

Blue to purple spots

COMPOUND	RELATIVE R _f		
	System TLC3	System TLC4	System TLC5
morphine	0.3	0.3	0.8
codeine	0.7	0.6	0.5

heroin	1.0	1.0	1.0
papaverine	1.3	1.2	1.1
noscapine	1.5	1.4	1.1

3.4. GAS CHROMATOGRAPHY

Method HER- GCS1

Internal Stock Solution:

0.05 mg/mL tetracosane in chloroform:methanol (4:1)

Standard Solution Preparation:

Accurately weigh and prepare standard solutions at approximately 0.05 mg/mL using above internal standard stock solution.

Sample Preparation:

Weigh approximately 20 mg into a GC vial (~2 mL). Fill with internal standard stock solution. If necessary, filter sample through glass wool.

Instrument: Agilent 6890 Series II (or comparable) gas chromatograph operated in split mode equipped with FID

Column: 5% phenyl/95% methyl silicone 12.0 m x 0.2 mm x 0.33 µm

Carrier gas: Helium at 1.0 mL/min for 5 min ramped flow to 2.0 mL/min

Temperatures: Injector: 270°C
 Detector: 280°C
 Oven program:
 1) 175°C initial temperature for 1.0 min
 2) Ramp to 280°C at 15°C/min
 3) Hold final temperature for 4.0 min

Injection Parameters: Split Ratio = 60:1, 1 µL injection

Typical Retention Time: Heroin: 9.57 min
 Tetracosane: 6.01 min

COMPOUND	RRT	COMPOUND	RRT
dimethyl Sulfone	0.08	methadone HCl	0.71
amphetamine Sulfate	0.10	propoxyphene HCl	0.73
methamphetamine	0.11	atropine sulfate	0.74
N,N-dimethylamphetamine	0.13	cocaine HCL	0.74
phenylpropanolamine HCl	0.15	tetracaine HCl	0.75

niacinamide	0.17	triprolidine	0.77
methylephedrine	0.19	tetracosane	0.81
MDA HCl	0.22	phenylbutazone	0.84
MDMA HCl	0.24	codeine phosphate	0.85
benzocaine	0.27	morphine sulfate	0.88
MDEA	0.27	diazepam	0.88
guaifenesin	0.32	hydrocodone bitartrate	0.89
acetaminophen	0.34	acetylcodeine	0.92
phenacetin	0.35	monoacetylmorphine	0.93
caffeine	0.47	oxycodone base	0.93
ketamine HCl	0.49	benzoylecgonine tartrate	0.97
diphenhydramine HCl	0.50	chloroquine Phosphate	0.97
antipyrine	0.50	heroin HCl	1.00
lidocaine HCl	0.51	quinine base	1.10
doxylamine succinate	0.54	quinine HCl	1.10
aminopyrine	0.54	quinidine HCl	1.10
phenobarbital	0.57	zolpidem	1.10
xylazine	0.59	papaverine	1.12
levamisole	0.59	clonazepam	1.14
dipyrrone	0.61	hydroxyzine	1.14
procaine HCl	0.63	alprazolam	1.21
clenbuterol HCl	0.65	diltiazem	1.22
brompheniramine	0.69	noscaphine	1.44

4.0. SALT FORM DETERMINATION

Heroin is most frequently encountered either as the free base or as the hydrochloride salt. It is also not uncommon for the bulk of a heroin sample to be the hydrochloride salt while a few percent is the free base. Two other heroin salt forms, which are encountered less frequently, are the tartrate and the citrate. On rare occasions, a heroin sample will be a combination of the hydrochloride, tartrate, and citrate salts, along with a small quantity of heroin base.

To identify the salt forms, each can be separated based on their different solvent solubilities. Once separated through a series of rinses, anion testing can be done where results from selected reactions are determined by the presence or absence of a precipitate.

Base: Heroin base is soluble in anhydrous ether; whereas, salts of heroin are completely insoluble.

Hydrochloride: Heroin hydrochloride is soluble in chloroform and methylene chloride. Heroin tartrate, heroin citrate, and most inorganic chlorides are insoluble in these solvents. Therefore, dissolve the sample in chloroform or methylene chloride, filter, and then take to dryness. Redissolve the evaporated material in water and treat with silver nitrate solution. A white precipitate will form. After washing the precipitate with water, it should be insoluble in concentrated nitric acid but should be soluble in dilute ammonia solution. From the ammonia solution, it can be reprecipitated by the addition of nitric acid.

Tartrate: Heroin tartrate is insoluble in methylene chloride and chloroform, but is soluble in methanol. Therefore, dissolve the sample in methanol, filter, and then take to dryness. Redissolve the evaporated material in water and treat with silver nitrate solution. The silver nitrate will produce a white precipitate due to free tartaric acid or a tartrate salt. This precipitate is soluble in nitric acid. Congo red will produce a negative result with tartrate salts, but forms a blue color when the free acid is present.

Citrate: Heroin citrate is insoluble in methylene chloride and chloroform, but is soluble in methanol. Therefore, dissolve the sample in methanol, filter, and then take to dryness. Redissolve the evaporated material in water and treat with silver nitrate solution. The silver nitrate will produce a white precipitate due to free citric acid or a citrate salt. This precipitate is soluble in nitric acid. Acetic anhydride can also be used to test for citrates and free citric acid. The test involves adding 0.5 mL acetic anhydride to a small amount of sample in a test tube and heating the tube at 80°C for 10 minutes. A purple color will develop if a citrate salt or free citric acid is present along with a tertiary amine such as heroin.

5. QUANTITATIVE PROCEDURES

5.1. GAS CHROMATOGRAPHY

Method HER-GCQ-1

Internal Standard Stock Solution:

0.5 mg/mL tetracosane in methylene chloride.

Standard Solution Preparation:

Accurately weigh and prepare a standard solution of heroin hydrochloride at approximately 0.5 mg/mL using above internal standard stock solution.

Sample Preparation:

Accurately weigh an amount of sample into a volumetric flask and dilute with internal standard stock solution. If necessary, dilute the sample so the final concentration approximates the standard concentration.

Instrument:

Agilent 6890 Series II (or comparable) gas chromatograph operated in split mode equipped with FID

Column:

100% dimethylpolysiloxane 30 m x 0.25 mm x 0.25 µm film thickness

Carrier gas:

Hydrogen at 1.2 mL/min

Temperatures:

Injector: 265°C

Detector: 285°C

Oven program:

1) 205°C initial temperature for 1.0 min

2) Ramp to 280°C at 12°C/min

3) Hold final temperature for 7.0 min

Injection Parameters:

Split Ratio = 60:1, 1 µL injection

Typical Retention Time: Heroin: 8.60 min
Tetracosane: 6.65 min

Linear Range: 0.02 - 4.0 mg/mL

Repeatability: RSD less than 2.0%

Correlation Coefficient: 0.999

Accuracy: Error less than 5%

COMPOUND	RRT	COMPOUND	RRT
salicylic acid	0.18	Phenobarbital	0.46
aspirin	0.18	Tropacaine	0.47
thiamine*	0.19	Chlorpheniramine	0.48
phenylpropanolamine	0.19	Methocarbamol	0.49
nicotinamide	0.20	Methapyrilene	0.49
ephedrine	0.20	dipyron*	0.50
thiamine*	0.20	Procaine	0.51
pseudoephedrine	0.21	Dextromethorphan	0.60
methylparaben	0.22	Methadone	0.62
salicylamide	0.22	methaqualone	0.62
dimethylphthalate	0.22	cocaine	0.65
dimethylterephthalate	0.22	amitriptyline	0.66
barbital	0.23	c-doxepin	0.66
diethylpropion	0.23	t-doxepin	0.68
benzocaine	0.26	dipyron, acetylated*	0.75
ibuprofen	0.26	acetylprocaine	0.77
acetaminophen	0.27	phenylbutazone	0.79
phenacetin	0.29	codeine	0.81
acetylated acetaminophen	0.30	ethylmorphine	0.84

amobarbital	0.31	diazepam	0.85
butalbital	0.32	morphine	0.85
meconin	0.32	O ³ -monoacetylmorphine	0.89
pentobarbital	0.32	chlorpromazine	0.89
methylphenidate	0.33	acetylcodeine	0.90
meperidine	0.34	O ⁶ -monoacetylmorphine	0.91
secobarbital	0.35	acetylthebaine	0.94
caffeine	0.36	methandriol	0.94
glutethimide	0.40	chloroquine	1.00
carisoprodol	0.40	heroin	1.00 (8.60 min)
antipyrine	0.40	methandriol acetate	1.06
diphenhydramine	0.40	fentanyl	1.08
lidocaine	0.42	quinine	1.17
hydrocotarnine	0.42	papaverine	1.18
doxylamine	0.43	phenolphthalein	1.54
aminopyrine	0.44	strychnine	1.67
theophylline	0.45	noscapiene	1.69

* thermal decomposition products

Method HER- GCQ-2

Internal Standard Stock Solution (ISSS):
4.8 mg/mL *n*-docosane in chloroform.

Standard Solution Preparation:

Prepare a standard solution of heroin hydrochloride at 1.7 mg/mL with an ISSS concentration of 0.96 mg/mL (2 mL of ISSS per 10 mL total volume).

Sample Preparation:

Accurately weigh an amount of sample into an appropriately sized volumetric flask so that the final heroin concentration is approximately equivalent to that of the standard solution. Dissolve in a minimal amount of methanol, add appropriate amount of ISSS (2 mL into 10 mL ratio) and dilute to volume with chloroform.

Instrument:

Agilent 6890 Series II (or comparable) gas chromatograph operated in

split mode equipped with FID

Column: 5% Phenyl/95% Methyl silicone gum 12.5 m x 0.2 mm x 0.33 µm film thickness

Carrier gas: Helium (ramp flow)

Temperatures: Injector: 270°C
Detector: 285°C
Oven program:
1) 260°C initial temperature for 4.75 min
2) Ramp to 290°C at 40°C/min
3) Hold final temperature for 1.0 min
4) Oven equilibration 0.5 min

Injection Parameters: Split Ratio = 100:1, 1 µL injection

Typical Retention Time: Heroin: 3.93 min
n-docosane: 1.32 min

Linear Range: 0.35 – 3.5 mg/mL

Repeatability: RSD less than 2.0%

Correlation Coefficient: 0.9999

Accuracy: Error less than 5%

COMPOUND	RRT	COMPOUND	RRT
thiamine *	0.240	chlorpheniramine	0.372
salicylic Acid	0.241	procaine	0.377
pseudoephedrine	0.249	n-docosane	0.413
nicotinamide	0.250	cocaine	0.478
benzocaine	0.266	tetracaine	0.481
guaifenesin	0.277	tetracosane	0.553
acetaminophen	0.279	codeine	0.658
phenacetin	0.281	morphine	0.716
carisoprodol	0.315	acetylcodeine	0.809

caffeine	0.319	O ⁶ -monoacetylmorphine	0.828
diphenhydramine	0.322	chloroquine	0.941
lidocaine	0.328	heroin	1.00
doxylamine	0.337	quinine	1.15
aminopyrine	0.346	papaverine	1.16
phenobarbital	0.353	noscipine	1.61
theophylline	0.354		

* thermal decomposition product

5.2. HIGH PERFORMANCE LIQUID CHROMATOGRAPHY

Method HER-LCQ1

Standard Solution Preparation:

Prepare a standard solution of heroin at approximately 0.5 mg/mL using water, buffer or methanol.

Sample Preparation:

Accurately weigh an amount of sample into an appropriate volumetric flask and dilute so the final heroin concentration is approximately that of the standard concentration. If necessary, filter the sample with a 0.45 µm filter prior to injection.

Instrument:

Agilent 1100 Series (or comparable) high performance liquid chromatograph equipped with diode array detector

Column:

5 µm Phenomenex Luna, 150 mm x 3.2 mm at 35°C

Detector:

UV, 210 nm

Flow:

0.76 mL/min

Injection Volume:

5 µL

Buffer:

3480 mL water
40.0 mL phosphoric acid
150 mL of 2 N sodium hydroxide
pH between 2.2 to 2.3 using phosphoric acid or NaOH
filter the buffer, add 12.7 mL hexylamine, cover and mix

Mobile Phase:

1) Equilibrate buffer: methanol 95:5 for 15 min
2) Gradient to buffer: methanol 70:30 over 20 min
3) Maintain buffer: methanol 70:30 for 6 min

- 4) Gradient to buffer: methanol 20:80 over 10 min
- 5) Maintain buffer: methanol 20:80 for 4 min
- 6) Gradient to buffer: methanol 5:95 over 5 min

Typical Retention Time:	Heroin: 17.247 min
Linear Range:	0.05 mg/mL – 2.0 mg/mL
Repeatability:	RSD less than 0.5%
Correlation Coefficient:	0.9999
Accuracy:	Error less than 5%

COMPOUND	RRT	COMPOUND	RRT
thiamine	0.051	theophylline	0.603
nicotinamide	0.075	caffeine	0.849
morphine	0.140	cocaine	0.887
ephedrine	0.158	acetylcodeine	0.944
pseudoephedrine	0.174	heroin	1.000 (17.247min)
acetaminophen	0.177	aspirin	1.120
procaine	0.203	noscapine	1.322
codeine	0.335	phenacetin	1.331
lidocaine	0.337	papaverine	1.479
O ⁶ -monoacetylmorphine	0.406	diphenhydramine	1.581
chloroquine	0.507	propiopphenone	1.836
quinine	0.571		

5.3. CAPILLARY ELECTROPHORESIS

Method HER-CEQ1

Internal Standard Stock Solution:

0.1 mg/mL naphazoline in 100 mM sodium phosphate at pH of 4.5.

Standard Solution Preparation:

Accurately weigh and prepare a standard solution of heroin (hydrochloride or base) at approximately 0.3 mg/mL using above internal standard stock solution.

Sample Preparation:

Accurately weigh an amount of sample into a volumetric flask and dilute with internal standard stock solution. Dilute the sample so the final concentration approximates the standard concentration. If necessary, filter the sample with a 0.45 µm filter prior to injection if necessary.

Mode:	Free zone
Column:	37 cm x 50 µm fused silica capillary
Run Buffer:	200 mM sodium phosphate buffer, pH 4.5
Detector:	UV, 210 nm
Voltage:	20 kV
Temperature:	30°C liquid cooled
Injection:	2 s hydrodynamic
Run Time:	5 min
Rinse Time:	1 min
Typical Retention Time:	Heroin: 3.92 min Naphazoline: 2.80 min
Linear Range:	0.025 - 0.6 mg/mL
Repeatability:	RSD less than 2.0%
Correlation Coefficient:	0.999
Accuracy:	Error less than 5%

COMPOUND	RRT	COMPOUND	RRT
amphetamine	0.64	<i>t</i> -cinnamoylcocaine	0.90
methamphetamine	0.67	codeine	0.91
naphazoline	0.72	morphine	0.93

phenylpropanolamine	0.72	acetylcodeine	0.96
pseudoephedrine	0.73	O ⁶ -monoacetylmorphine	0.97
ephedrine	0.74	papaverine	0.98
diphenhydramine	0.75	heroin	1.00 (3.92 min)
procaine	0.77	noscapine	1.02
quinine	0.79	nicotinamide	>2.5
cocaine	0.81	acetaminophen	>2.5
lidocaine	0.84	caffeine	>2.5
thebaine	0.85	benzocaineamine	>2.5
c-cinnamoylcocaine	0.86	phenacetin	>2.5
tetracaine	0.89	benzoylecgonine	>2.5
hydromorphone	0.89	aspirin	>2.5

6. QUALITATIVE DATA

6.1 INFRARED SPECTROSCOPY (FT-IR)

An additional difficulty in comparing the IR spectra of heroin hydrochloride arises from the existence of different crystalline forms or polymorphs, which generate differences in spectra. To overcome this difficulty, both sample and standard should be subjected to the same preparations.

See spectra on the following pages for [LC-MS](#), [FT-IR](#), [FT-Raman](#), [Mass Spectrometry](#), [Nuclear Magnetic Resonance](#), and [Vapor Phase IR](#).

6.2. HIGH PERFORMANCE LIQUID CHROMATOGRAPHY – MASS SPECTROMETRY

Sample Preparation:

Dissolve a small amount of sample into 0.1% Formic Acid. Filter sample with 0.45-micron filter if necessary.

Instrument:

High performance liquid chromatograph equipped with diode array and mass spectrometer detector (Agilent 1100 Series SL or equivalent).

Column:

Synergi MAX-RP, 150 mm x 3.2 mm at 40°C

Detector:

UV, 237 nm, 280 nm, and 310 nm
MSD, Positive Mode, 110 V Fragmentor

Ionization Mode:

API-ES

Drying gas - temp 350°C, flow 13.0 L/min
40 psig Nebulizer Pressure
Capillary Voltage 4000 V

Flow: 0.50 mL/min

Injection Volume: 2.0 µL

Buffer: 0.1% Formic Acid

Mobile Phase: Linear Gradient: 95% Buffer:5% MeOH to 50% Buffer:50% MeOH in 20 minutes. Return to 95% Buffer:5% MeOH in next 2 minutes.

Typical Retention Time: Heroin in 12.9 min

7. REFERENCES

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8. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[Forendex](#)

[Wikipedia](#)



















