

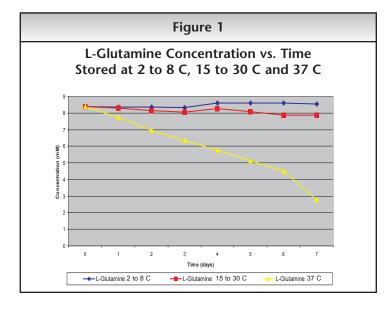
Technical Bulletin

L-Glutamine Stability

There are several amino acids which are crucial components of cell culture media. L-glutamine is one such essential component that can degrade in liquid medium and in culture. Maintaining required levels of L-glutamine in cell culture often requires the repeated supplementation of the medium with additional L-glutamine. This procedure can lead to toxic levels of ammonia build-up as well as potential contamination. Therefore, the stability of L-glutamine has become a key concern in research and industry when seeking to increase culture longevity and density while preventing the compromise of viability and growth.

In the field of biotechnology, it is especially important to maintain the integrity of products that are used in culture and to establish the efficacy of those products under recommended storage conditions. The stability of medium solutions over an extended period of time, when supplemented with labile components such as L-glutamine, is greatly dependent upon the temperature at which those solutions are stored. A study was designed to demonstrate the conditions under which L-glutamine in medium was most susceptible to degradation.

Dulbecco's Modified Eagle's Medium/High Modified (DMEM/High) (Catalog No. 51440) was supplemented with 8 mM concentrations of L-Glutamine Solution 200 mM (Catalog No. 59202) and stored at 2 to 8 C, 15 to 30 C and 37 C. Samples were taken daily from each condition and frozen for amino acid analysis. The level of remaining L-glutamine was measured as a function of time and temperature (see Figure 1).



This investigation provided supporting evidence for the storage of L-glutamine-supplemented medium at 2 to 8 C conditions. These data also demonstrated that medium storage at 37 C can significantly hasten degradation of L-glutamine in medium, and consequently in cell culture.

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Issued October 2005 XT075 0805

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