THE APPROACH FOR EXPRESS SPECTROMETRIC DETERMINATION OF THE REDUCED FORM OF NICOTINAMIDE ADENINE DINUCLEOTIDE (NADH) CONTENT

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Received 16.01.2020
Revised 23.03.2020
Accepted 30.04.2020

It is known that nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide (NADH/NAD\textsuperscript{+}) serves as a cofactor for many enzymes involved in the cell metabolism, redox control, signaling, biodegradation and other processes. Thereby determination of NADH/NAD\textsuperscript{+} production is commonly used for the measurement of NADH/NAD\textsuperscript{+}-dependent enzymes activities. However, NADH may be oxidized spontaneously to NAD\textsuperscript{+} form, so the aim of this study was to develop new approach for spectrometric determination of real NADH content in a sample.

There had been used optical absorbance intensities at wavelengths 234, 260, 290, 340, and 400 nm in order to calculate the percent of NADH in a sample.

An original formula for the calculation of NADH percent in a sample was figure out, and the example of its application was presented.

The proposed calculation method could be applied for quick and routine NADH content determination at any laboratory equipped with spectrometer.

Proposed method may be used for quick and routine determination of NADH content in any laboratory equipped with spectrometer.

Key words: NADH content determination, ultraviolet (UV) spectrometry.
NADH may be spontaneously oxidized to NAD⁺ during storage [19, 20], so there is a strong need to develop a quick procedure for measurement the real NADH content in NADH reagent for the proper estimation of the obtained results.

Both NAD⁺ and NADH strongly absorb ultraviolet (UV) light because of the presence of adenine. For example, absorption peak of NAD⁺ is at a wavelength of 259 nanometers (nm), with an extinction coefficient of 16,900 M⁻¹cm⁻¹. NADH also absorbs at higher wavelengths, with a second UV absorption peak at 339 nm with an extinction coefficient of 6,220 M⁻¹cm⁻¹. This difference in the ultraviolet absorption spectra between the oxidized and reduced forms of the coenzymes at higher wavelengths makes it simple to measure the conversion of one to another forms in enzyme assays by measuring the amount of UV absorption at 340 nm using a spectrophotometer [21, 22].

NAD⁺ and NADH also differ in their fluorescence. NADH in solution has an emission peak at 445 nm (λ excitation — 340 nm) while the oxidized form of the coenzyme does not fluorescent [21, 22]. But sometimes such fluorescent estimation is not appropriate or not available for the determination of reduced/oxidized form ratio.

The aim of this study was to elaborate a method for the rapid evaluation of NADH content in NADH reagent by the UV spectroscopic measurement and calculation.

### Materials and Methods

**Chemicals and reagents.** NADH and NAD⁺ were obtained from AppliChem. Resazurin sodium was obtained from Sigma Chemical Company. Phenazine methosulfate and other reagents were obtained from Alfarus Company. All used reagents and chemicals were of analytical grade.

**Equipment and software.** Spectrophotometer mQuant Microplate Reader and fluorimeter FL800 Microplate Reader (BioTek Instruments) were used. Data was plotted using Gen5™ Data Analysis Software.

**Estimation of NADH samples fluorescence.** Three 0.18 mM NADH samples in 50 mM phosphate buffer (pH 7.6) were prepared from NADH-reagents with different storage time. These NADH samples were going to be used as the NADH concentration standard solution for enzymatic dehydrogenase reactions. To these samples were added 0.1 mM PMS (phenazine methosulfate) and 0.1 mM Resazurin dye and in 10 min the fluorescence data (ex 545 nm; em 600 nm) were measured.

**Data analysis.** Fluorescence (ex 545 nm; em 600 nm) of NADH samples with PMS/resazurin dye was present as mean±sd. Percent of NADH in selected samples of NADH reagent was calculated in Microsoft Excel using developed formula “% NADH”. Pearson correlation coefficients were determined using Microsoft Excel build-in procedure.

### Results and Discussion

**Development of the method.** NADH evaluation may be conducted using spectrophotometric or fluorescent methods [21, 22]. BioTek’s kit of reagents “Determination of NADH Concentrations” demonstrates linear concentration dependence on absorbance at 340 nm and fluorescence at 445 nm especially for low NADH concentration [22]. But for applying such methods, the standard of exact NADH concentration is needed for the correct calibration. Thereby, an express approach for the NADH content correct evaluation in NADH-reagents would be useful.

Spectral scan of the NADH solution is represented at Figure. It is supposed that five wavelength points reproduce such spectral feature. They are: 234 nm, 260 nm, 290 nm, 340 nm, and 400 nm. Three wavelength points (234 nm, 290 nm, 400 nm) describe the background of the spectra. Two other points (260 nm and 340 nm) are the maximum absorbance of NAD⁺ and NADH, correspondingly.

To diminish the influence of background data, it was calculated “relative absorbance” (OD’):

\[
OD'_\lambda = (OD_\lambda - OD_{234}) + \frac{OD_{290} - OD_{234}}{(290 - 234)} (\lambda - 234),
\]

for wavelength range from 234 nm to 290 nm

\[
OD'_\lambda = (OD_\lambda - OD_{290}) + \frac{OD_{400} - OD_{290}}{(400 - 290)} (\lambda - 290).
\]

for wavelength range from 290 nm to 400 nm.

The sum of the relative absorbance points (“integral”) for the two bands was calculated.

\[
I_{NAD} = \sum_{\lambda=234}^{290} OD'_\lambda, \quad I_{NADH} = \sum_{\lambda=290}^{400} OD'_\lambda.
\]

Then, these two obtained integrals were normalized by the maximal relative absorbance for each range.

\[
I'_{NAD} = \frac{I_{NAD}}{I_{NAD_{290}}}; \quad I'_{NADH} = \frac{I_{NADH}}{I_{NADH_{400}}}
\]
The results of this calculation for the spectrum of the experimental solution of NADH (Figure) are following: absorbance points OD$_{234}$ = 1.22; OD$_{260}$ = 2.47; OD$_{290}$ = 0.30; OD$_{340}$ = 1.08; OD$_{400}$ = 0.06; relative absorbance points OD’$_{234}$ = 0.0; OD’$_{260}$ = 1.67; OD’$_{290}$ = 0.0; OD’$_{340}$ = 0.89; OD’$_{400}$ = 0.0; the value of integrals $I_{NAD}$ = 41.49; $I_{NADH}$ = 46.82; the value of normalized integrals $I'_{NAD}$ = 24.78; $I'_{NADH}$ = 52.78. It is necessary to take into account the coefficient of molar extinction: $E_{NAD}$ = 16 900 M$^{-1}$cm$^{-1}$; $E_{NADH}$ = 6 200 M$^{-1}$cm$^{-1}$.

It is proposed the formula for calculating the percentage of NADH in a solution containing NADH + NAD$^+$:

$$\%NADH = \frac{NADH}{(NADH+NAD)} \times 100 = \frac{1}{1+NAD/NADH} \times 100,$$

or:

$$\%NADH = \frac{1}{1+(OD_{260} - OD_{290})\times(260 - 234)\times24.78/16900)}+(OD_{290} - OD_{340})\times(290 - 234)\times52.78/6200)\times100.$$  

This calculation is easy to carry out in Microsoft Excel. The formula in R1C1 reference style is:

$$\%NADH = 1/(1+(\text{RC}[1] - \text{RC}[4] + (\text{RC}[2] - \text{RC}[3])\times24.78\times16900)\times52.78\times6200)\times100.$$  

Application of the formula “%NADH”. Three samples of 0.18 mM NADH solution were used in order to demonstrate possible application of developed “% NADH” formula. After addition of PMS/resazurin dye fluorescence (ex 545 nm; em 600 nm) was measured. Obtained fluorescence intensity from three NADH samples with PMS/resazurin were very different from one to another. The fluorescence intensity data (relative units) were for the 1-st sample — (630 ± 20); for the 2-nd sample — (400 ± 10); for the 3-rd sample — (260 ± 10). The non-coincidence of the results indicated the different concentration of NADH in these samples. During NADH reagent storage, its reduced form gradually becomes oxidized one. Therefore, in order to use NADH solution as a standard, it is necessary to control its current concentration. These NADH samples were then tested by the optical absorbance and fluorescence (ex 340 nm; em 440 nm) methods. The results are presented in the Table. Different fluorescence intensity of these samples confirms the varying of NADH concentration. Applying the formula “% NADH” to the optical absorbance data resulted in the evaluation of NADH content in these samples. The concentration of NADH varied from 39% to 19% in the samples. The correlation coefficient between the calculated concentration of NADH using the formula “% NADH” and the samples fluorescence intensity (ex 340 nm; em 440 nm)
was 0.95; and the fluorescence intensity of samples with PMS/resazurin (ex 345 nm; em 600 nm) was 0.98. Strong correlation between calculated NADH content and fluorescent data demonstrates precision of developed “%NADH” formula.

**Conclusion**

Taken together, this study developed an original formula for rapid and precise evaluation of NADH content in (NADH+NAD+) reagent by the UV spectrometric measurement of the optical absorbance at the wavelengths 234 nm, 260 nm, 290 nm, 340 nm, and 400 nm. Proposed procedure is simple, quick, and require only routine laboratory equipment, such as spectrometer.

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**Experimental data of NADH samples**

| 1, nm | Samples |        |        |
|------|---------|--------|--------|
|      |         | 1      | 2      | 3      |
|      | Optical absorbance |        |        |        |
| 234  | 0.97    | 0.85   | 0.92   |
| 260  | 1.96    | 2.1    | 2.47   |
| 290  | 0.24    | 0.315  | 0.4    |
| 340  | 0.86    | 0.77   | 0.76   |
| 400  | 0.04    | 0.075  | 0.06   |
|      | Calculation of NADN content (%) |        |        |        |
|      | % NADH  | 38.5   | 26.7   | 18.9   |
|      | Fluorescence (340/440 nm) |        |        |        |
|      | Emission, rel. un. | 230    | 201    | 146    |

**Financial support**

This study was funded by budget themes “The Role of Amino Oxidases in the Development of Carbonyl-Oxidative Stress in Pathologies of Different Genesis”, registration number 0115U003644 (2015–2017) and “Study of the features of extracellular matrix changes as an indicator of cancer progression and development of ways for its correction”, registration number 0117U004344 (2017–2021).

**Conflicts of Interest**

No potential conflict of interest relevant to this article was reported.
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Никотинамиддinizуклеотид (НАДН/НАД⁰) служит кофактором для многих энзимов, участвующих в клеточном метаболизме, контроле окислительно-восстановительного равновесия, передаче сигналов, биодеградации и других процессах. Поэтому определение уровня продуцирования НАДН/НАД⁰ обычно используется для измерения активности НАДН/НАД⁰-зависимых энзимов. Однако НАДН может спонтанно окисляться до НАД⁰, поэтому целью этой работы была разработка нового метода определения реального содержания НАДН в препарате.

Для вычисления процентного содержания НАДН в препарате определяли интенсивность поглощения образцов при длинах волн 234 нм, 260 нм, 290 нм, 340 нм и 400 нм.

Была получена оригинальная формула для вычисления процентной концентрации НАДН в образцах и представлена пример ее применения.

Предложенный метод может быть использован для быстрого рутинного определения содержания НАДН в любой лаборатории, оборудованной спектrometerом.

**Ключевые слова:** определение концентрации НАДН, ультрафиолетовая (УФ) спектрометрия.