Laboratory Ultrafiltration How to Choose the Optimal Device & Method

A Qualification Guide to Aid Device Selection Based on Sample Characteristics

This guide below is designed to help research and process development scientists select the best Sartorius ultrafiltration product for each application. It focuses on the three critical aspects of selection: target molecule type, target size and sample volume, to highlight the most suitable product ranges. Various treatments, process controls and application examples are also provided. This guide is based upon typical ultrafiltration models and selected data. Due to the variations within protein, membrane and inorganic chemistry, we always recommend establishing the most suitable device for your application as part of a robust process optimization strategy.

How to use this guide:

Sample Characteristic

Guidance includes information on the membrane angle, material and MWCO, the products available, and process methods and controls.

Some typical recommendations are also provided, based on application testing and data.

Target Type

Proteins (neutral or negatively charged)

Membranes:

Vertical PES, RC or CTA **Products Available:** Vivaspin® 500, 2, 6, 20, 100 Vivaspin® Turbo 4, 15 Vivaflow® 50, 200

Proteins (positively charged)

Membranes:

Vertical HY or RC **Products Available:** Vivaspin® 2, Filtrate Vivaspin® Turbo 15 Vivaflow® 50R, 200 Vivacon® 500, 2

Viruses

Membranes:

Vertical HY, PES or RC Products Available: Vivaspin® 500, 2, 6, 15R, 20, 100 Vivaspin® Turbo 4, 15 Vivaflow® 50, 50R, 200

Extracellular Vesicles

Membranes:

Products Available: Vivaspin® 500, 2, 6, 15R, 20, 100 Vivaspin® Turbo 4, 15 Vivaflow® 50, 50R, 200

Vertical HY, PES or RC

Nucleic Acids

Membranes:

Horizontal HY or CTA **Products Available:** Vivaspin® Filtrate Vivacon® 500, 2

Inorganics

Membranes:

Vertical HY, PES or RC Products Available: Vivaspin® 500, 2, 6, 15R, 20, 100 Vivaspin® Turbo 4, 15 Vivaflow® 50, 50R, 200

Target Size*

<10 kDa

MCWOs: 2 or 3 kDa

Products Available:

Vivaspin® 500, 2, 6, 15R, 20 Vivaspin® Turbo 4, 15 Vivaflow® 50, 200 Vivacon® 500, 2

10-30 kDa

MCWOs: 3 or 5 kDa

Products Available: Vivaspin® 500, 2, 6, 15R, 20, 100 Vivaspin® Filtrate, Turbo 4, 15 Vivaflow® 50, 50R, 200

30-150 kDa

MCWOs:

10, 20, 30 or 50 kDa **Products Available:** Vivaspin® 500, 2, 6, 15R, 20, 100 Vivaspin® Filtrate, Turbo 4, 15 Vivaflow® 50, 50R, 200 Vivacon® 500, 2

150 - 500 kDa

MCWOs:

50, 100 or 125 kDa **Products Available:** Vivaspin® 500, 2, 6, 20, 100 Vivaspin® Filtrate, Turbo 4, 15 Vivaflow® 50, 50R, 200 Vivacon® 500, 2

500-1000 kDa

MCWOs:

Vivacon® 500, 2

20-100 mL

100, 125 or 300 kDa **Products Available:** Vivaspin® 500, 2, 6, 20, 100 Vivaspin® Filtrate, Turbo 4, 15 Vivaflow® 50, 50R, 200

>1000 kDa

Vivaflow® 50, 200

100 - 5,000

MCWOs:

300 or 1,000 kDa, 0.2 μm **Products Available:** Vivaspin® 500, 2, 6, 20, 100 Vivaspin® Filtrate

Sample Volume

Treatment and Control

0.1-2.5 mL



Process Method:

Centrifuae Products Available:

Vivaspin® 500, 2, Filtrate Vivacon® 500, 2

2.5-20 mL



Process Method:

Products Available:

Vivaspin® Turbo 4, 15







Process Method: Centrifuge, pressure or pressure-shake

Products Available:

Vivaspin®100

Crossflow Products Available: Vivaflow[®] 50, 50R, 200

Process Method:

Buffer Exchange

Key Points:

Replacing the original buffer or desalting a sample to, e.g., ensure target molecule stability by preventing precipitation. Diafiltration allows for simultaneous buffer exchange and concentration

Process Control: Diafiltration available to all products, especially with **Vivaspin®** 20 diafiltration cups and Viva-

flow® diafiltration reservoir.

Application Note:

Low Concentrations

Key Points:

Samples with low concentrations rely on near 100% recovery, preventing nonspecific adsorption is key for this **Process Control:**

Passivation by rinsing with noninterfering protein and buffer solutions (e.g. BSA, Tween 20, SDS). Available to all products.

Application Note: <a>

Depyrogenation

Vivaspin® 6, 15R, 20, Filtrate

Centrifuge, pressure or pressure-fuge

Key Points:

Removal of endotoxins (lipopolysaccharides) from devices before sample concentration.

Process Control:

NaOH treatment prior to concentration and buffer exchange. Available in products resistant to NaOH; Vivaspin® Turbo 4 and 15, Vivaflow® 50R and 200

Application Note: <a> Image: Triangle of the control of the contro

Device Sanitization

Key Points:

Reduction of bioburden and contaminating microbes. Level of reduction to be determined by user testing.

Process Control: Pre-rinse with 70% ethanol or

apply an EtO gas treatment process. Available to **all** products excluding Vivaspin® 100 and Vivaflow® (separate cleaning processes)

Application Note: TBA

Final Volume

Key Points:

Varying speeds of concentration make it hard to judge time to reach the desired final volume. **Process Control:**

Pre-filling the filtrate tube limits the maximum concentration factor, thereby defining the final concentrated

Available to Vivaspin® 500, Vivaspin® Turbo 4 and 15

Application Note:

Sensitive Samples

Key Points:

Changing transmembrane pressures can result in varied shear stresses, degrading sensitive target molecules.

Process Method:

Pressurization and TFF provide more stable transmembrane pressure and flux compared to centrifugation. Available in Vivaspin® 100 and Vivaflow®



1. Monoclonal Antibodies

Application: Concentration for purification

Target: IgG1, IgG2a, IgG2b, IgG3 Target Size: 160 kDa

Sample Volume: 3 L **Product Used:** Vivaflow® 200, 30 kDa MWCO PES

Process Control: Pre-rinsing with 2 L DI water to remove storage buffer and

perform integrity check.

Result: 98% recovery from 3 L Hybridoma cell culture supernatant concentrated 10-fold, from 30 to >300 mg/L, with an average flux of 20 - 25 mL/ min (2 hour total processing time).

2. Extracellular Vesicles

Application: Concentration and purification of EVs **Target:** Exosomes, microvesicles, apoptotic bodies

Target Size: 50 - 5,000 nm Sample Volume: 2 mL Product Used: Vivaspin® 2, 6, Turbo 4 or Filtrate,

10 kDa MWCO PES, HY or CTA Process Method: Device benchmarking for optimal concentration of EVs from cell culture media. **Results:** 7 to 9-fold conc. factor in ≤ 8 min. Highest recovery and purity of EVs with mean particle size of 150 nm (NTA) was observed when using Vivaspin® 2 with 10 kDa MWCO PES membranes.

3. Lentivirus

Application: Polishing after AEX chromatography Target Type: Lentiviral vector

Target Size: ~100 nm

Sample Volume: 20 mL

Product Used: Vivaspin® 20, 100 kDa MWCO PES Process Control: Parallel desalting and

concentration with diafiltration cup **Results:** 78 to 143-fold concentrations of 20 mL samples within 34-40 minutes, increasing particle concentration from 6.1×10⁷ to 3.0×10⁹ per mL after purification.

4. DNA PCR Primers

Application: Concentration and purification of DNA Target: dsDNA

Target Size: 300 bp

Sample Volume: 1.8 mL

Product Used: Vivacon® 2, 30 kDa MWCO HY Process Control: Separation of amplified DNA from

Results: Near total removal (>95%) of primers and near total retention and recovery of 300 bp target DNA, within a 20 minute spin time and a total 40 minute procedure time.

*To convert from diameter or nucleic acid length to molecular weight, please refer to the table in the Laboratory Ultrafiltration Selection Guide

Example Applications