



Application Note AN-V-240

Determination of total iodine in thyroid tablets with polarography

Polarography in pharmaceutical analysis: indirect determination of iodine after dry ashing in a muffle furnace

Thyroid hormones are made by the thyroid gland and play an important role in regulating metabolism and growth. Iodine acts as a building block and the specific number of iodine atoms determines the type of the hormone: four for thyroxine (T4) and three for triiodothyronine (T3). The number of iodine atoms is critical for the functionality of thyroid hormones. Levothyroxine and liothyronine (synthetic forms of thyroid hormones T4 and T3) are essential components of thyroid tablets. T4 is less active and

needs to convert to the more active T3 to be fully effective. Accurate iodine determination in thyroid tablets is a crucial quality control measure, ensuring the effectiveness and safety of thyroid treatments.

A robust method is introduced for indirect determination of total iodine content in thyroid tablets as iodate, according to United States Pharmacopeia (USP) guidelines using the 884 Professional VA and the Multi-Mode Electrode pro.

SAMPLE

Commercially available thyroid tablet containing 100

µg levothyroxine and 20 µg liothyronine.

EXPERIMENTAL

Sample preparation and the determination of iodine is carried out according to the USP monograph «Thyroid Tablets». The process involves dry ashing of the tablets, where organically bound iodine is released and later converted to iodate. The iodate content is determined with the 884 Professional VA (Figure 1) by differential pulse polarography.



Figure 1. 884 Professional VA.

ELECTRODES

- Working electrode: Multi-Mode Electrode pro
- Reference electrode: Ag/AgCl/KCl (3 mol/L) reference electrode with electrolyte vessel.
- Bridge electrolyte: KCl (3 mol/L)
- Auxiliary electrode: Platinum rod electrode

Table 1. Parameters for IO₃ determination

Parameter	Setting
Working electrode	DME
Mode	DP – Differential Pulse
Start potential	-0.8 V
End potential	-1.5 V
Potential step	0.005 V
Potential step time	1 s
Pulse amplitude	0.05 V
Peak potential Iodate	-1.18 V

RESULTS

Calculation of the results was carried out according to the USP monograph «Thyroid Tablets».



Figure 2. Determination of iodate in a thyroid tablet by differential pulse polarography with the 884 Professional VA and the Multi Mode Electrode pro.

Table 2. Results of iodine determination with the 884 Professional VA and the Multi-Mode Electrode pro.

Sample	Iodine in µg / tablet	Recovery rate
Tablet	70.59	92.3%
Tablet spiked with 72.55 µg	144.58	101.9%

Internal reference: AW VA CH-0633-042024

CONTACT

Metrohm AG
Ionenstrasse
9100 Herisau

info@metrohm.com

CONFIGURATION



884 Professional VA manual for Multi-Mode Electrode (MME)

884 Professional VA manual for Multi-Mode Electrode (MME) is the entry-level instrument for high-end trace analysis with voltammetry and polarography with the Multi-Mode Electrode pro or the scTRACE Gold or the Bismuth drop electrode. The proven Metrohm electrode methods in combination with a high-performance potentiostat/galvanostat and the extremely flexible viva software open up new perspectives for the determination of heavy metals. The potentiostat with a certified calibrator readjusts itself automatically before each measurement, thus guaranteeing maximum precision.

Determinations with rotating disc electrodes can also be performed with the instrument, e.g. determinations of organic additives in electroplating baths with "Cyclic Voltammetric Stripping" (CVS), "Cyclic Pulse Voltammetric Stripping" (CPVS), and chronopotentiometry (CP). The replaceable measuring head enables rapid changes between the various applications with different electrodes.

The **viva** software is required for control, data collection, and evaluation.

The 884 Professional VA manual for MME is supplied with extensive accessories and a measuring head for the Multi-Mode Electrode pro. Electrode set and **viva** license need to be ordered separately.



Multi-Mode Electrode pro

Mercury electrode for voltammetry. Can be operated as DME, SMDE or HMDE.