

Figure 1

Extracted biological fluid samples contain varying degrees of residual matrix which deposits on the front end components of the MS/MS (entrance plate and interface region) when samples are injected on the LC-MS/MS system. Eventually the interface region becomes contaminated and MS/MS performance is compromised—for example sensitivity (peak area) is decreased. The MS/MS is vented to atmospheric pressure and cooled. Interface components are removed and cleaned or replaced. The MS/MS is pumped down to operating vacuum pressures (e.g. 1×10^{-5} torr) and returned to use after checking/updating mass resolution and calibration. Typically the instrument is out of service for 18-24 hrs, most of the time spent on the pump down phase.

