

columns are pre-packed with an inert hydrophilic matrix having a large surface area, on to which the aqueous phase is first adsorbed. Subsequent additions of an appropriate organic solvent removed the extractable material from the adsorbed aqueous phase.

Each 1 ml ClinElut was first washed by allowing 8 ml ethyl acetate (EtAc) in the case of blood samples or EtAc/CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (20:80 v/v) in the case of urine samples, followed by 8 ml acetone, to drain through. In the case of urine, the less polar solvent was as efficient in extracting the toxins, but less likely to co-extract other contaminants. The columns were then allowed to dry overnight at room temperature. This removed extractable contaminants, which were found to vary according to the particular batch of ClinEluts.

1 ml of thawed, mixed plasma was pipetted on to a washed, dry 1 ml ClinElut. The same procedure was also followed for urine. After a few minutes, the ClinElut was extracted with 8 x 1 ml aliquots of EtAc, allowing a few minutes between the addition of each aliquot of EtAc. The eluate was collected in a 15 ml tube and was taken to dryness using a rotary evaporator.