# Short Research Article

# Synthesis of radio- and stable-labelled LAF237(Galvus, Vildagliptin) $^{\dagger}$

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## Introduction

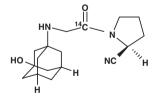
LAF237 (Galvus, Vildagliptin) is the first in a new class of oral dipeptidyl peptidase 4 (DPP4) anti-diabetes agents. It significantly improves glycemic control in patients with type-2 diabetes and is potentially the first therapeutical agent to modulate glucagons-like peptide-1 (GLP-1), which selectively controls blood sugar levels. Radiolabelled LAF237 was required to support the animal and human ADME studies. Stable-labelled (with an appropriately high number of labelled mass units) was also needed as an LC/MS internal standard for use in bioanalytical assays. [<sup>14</sup>C]LAF237 was labelled in two positions (carbonyl-<sup>14</sup>C and methylene-<sup>14</sup>C). Stable-labelled LAF237 was prepared with five-<sup>13</sup>C and <sup>15</sup>N incorporated in the L-proline moiety.

## **Results and discussion**

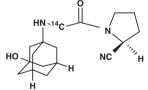
The procedures used for the preparation of  $[^{14}C]LAF237$  and  $[^{13}C_5, \, ^{15}N]LAF237$  were modifications of synthetic routes developed by Novartis Chemical & Analytical Development<sup>1</sup> and Discovery Research<sup>2</sup> chemists.

# Preparation of (<sup>14</sup>C) LAF237

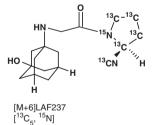
Proline amide **1** was acylated with either  $[1^{-14}C]$  or  $[2^{-14}C]$ - bromo-acetyl bromide and the resulting bromide **2** was dehydrated using Burgess reagent<sup>3</sup> to afford bromonitrile **3**. Treatment of **3** with 3-amino-1-adamantanol in the presence of base under anhydrous conditions yielded the crude drug substance, which



[<sup>14</sup>C]LAF237 labeled at carbonyl-<sup>14</sup>C position



[<sup>14</sup>C]LAF237 labeled at methylene-<sup>14</sup>C position



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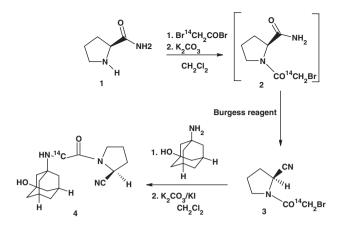
was purified by flash chromatography affording  $[^{14}C]$  LAF237. The radiochemical purity and chemical identity of the drug substance were determined by HPLC, TLC, MS, IR, and differential scanning calorimetry.



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#### Synthesis of (M+6) LAF237

 $[^{13}C_5, ^{15}N]_L$ -Proline, was adsorbed on Amberlyst-15 ion exchange resin (cation exchange resin) in methanol. On the resin surface, adsorbed  $[M + 6]_L$ -proline was converted to the ester and then amidated using ammonia gas affording  $[M + 6]_L$ -prolinamide. The conclusion of the synthesis was performed using analogous chemistry to that described for the preparation of  $[^{14}C]_LAF237$ .

#### Summary

 $[^{14}C]$ LAF237 labelled at the 1 or 2 position of the acetyl moiety were efficiently prepared in three-step syntheses starting from bromo-1- $[^{14}C]$ acetyl bromide or bromo-2- $[^{14}C]$ acetyl bromide with 12 and 42% yields, respectively, with radiochemical purity >97%.

 $[^{13}C_5, ^{15}N]LAF237$  labelled at the L-proline moiety was prepared in a five-step synthesis with 40% overall yield. For [M + 6]LAF237, no parent peak was detected by mass spectrometry (MS).

#### Acknowledgements

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