



DTT Applications

Dithiothreitol (DTT) is a key reagent in bioconjugation workflows, particularly for the preparation of Antibody–Drug Conjugates (ADCs) and Peptide–Drug Conjugates (PDCs). It efficiently generates thiols for cysteine–based conjugation and should be fully removed prior to coupling to avoid competitive quenching.

CAS No.: 3483-12-3

| Application Area | Purpose / Role of DTT | Key References |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| Protein chemistry | Breaks disulfide bonds, unfolds proteins, assists in refolding | Cleland, W.W. Biochemistry (1964) – original DTT paper |
| Enzymology | Maintains cysteine residues in reduced state, preserves enzyme activity | Gilbert, H.F. Methods Enzymol. (1995) |
| Electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE) | Reduces disulfide bonds so proteins migrate as monomers | Laemmli, U.K. Nature (1970) |
| Western blotting | Ensures proteins remain in reduced, analyzable form | Towbin et al. PNAS (1979) |
| RNA/DNA work | Inhibits RNases, supports polymerase activity in PCR | Sambrook & Russell, Molecular Cloning (Cold Spring Harbor Manual, 2001) |
| Crystallography / NMR | Keeps proteins reduced for accurate structural studies | Otwinowski & Minor, Methods Enzymol. (1997) |
| Protein folding studies | Controls thiol–disulfide exchange in folding pathways | Anfinsen, C.B. Science (1973, Nobel lecture) |
| Cell biology | Protects against oxidative stress, used in redox signalling studies | Jones, D.P. FASEB J. (2008) |
| Thiol labelling | Reduces thiol groups prior to fluorescent/affinity tagging | Hermanson, G.T. Bioconjugate Techniques (3rd Ed., 2013) |
| Drug discovery assays | Maintains targets in active reduced state during screening | Inglese et al. Nature Chem. Biol. (2007) |
| Neurodegenerative research | Model compound for oxidative stress in Parkinson's/Alzheimer's studies | Kim et al. J. Biol. Chem. (2003) |



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