

Neciljana lipidomika kod muškaraca s prekomjernom tjelesnom masom i kardiovaskularnim bolestima - utjecaj statusa pušenja

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FACULTY OF CHEMISTRY AND TECHNOLOGY
GRADUATE STUDY OF CHEMISTRY
ORIENTATION: ORGANIC CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY**

**UNTARGETED LIPIDOMICS IN OVERWEIGHT MALES WITH
CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES -INFLUENCE OF SMOKING
STATUS**

DIPLOMA THESIS

**VIKTORIJA JURIĆ
Index number:
Split, October 2021**

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KEMIJSKO-TEHNOLOŠKI FAKULTET
DIPLOMSKI STUDIJ KEMIJE
ORGANSKA KEMIJA I BIOKEMIJA**

**NECILJANA LIPIDOMIKA KOD MUŠKARACA S
PREKOMJERNOM TJELESNOM MASOM I
KARDIOVASKULARNIM BOLESTIMA-UTJECAJ STATUSA
PUŠENJA**

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UNTARGETED LIPIDOMICS IN OVERWEIGHT MALES WITH CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES -INFLUENCE OF SMOKING STATUS

Viktorija Jurić,285

Abstract:

Tobacco smoking is responsible for the premature development of cardiovascular disease by various mechanisms, and abnormal serum lipid profile and lipoprotein levels are one of the consequences. Lipids are crucial small biomolecules and play vital roles in a variety of physio-pathological events. In order to unravel lipid function, it is of utmost importance to identify and quantify single lipid molecular species in complex biological systems. Lipidomics is a rapidly evolving analytical technique capable of measuring hundreds of lipids and is currently at the forefront of scientific research due to the importance of lipids in health and disease. The aim of this study was to evaluate the effect of cigarette smoking on lipid profile in overweight patients with already developed cardiovascular disease by liquid chromatography (LC) coupled online to mass spectrometry (MS). The overall observation of the present study was that, there was an increase in concentration of fatty acids, and some specific triglycerides (TG) and diglycerides (DG) and decrease in the concentration of colesteryl esters (both saturated and unsaturated) phosphatidylcholines (especially unsaturated) and lysophosphatidylcholines (especially saturated), and triglycerides saturated in smokers compared to nonsmokers. Thus, it can be said, based on the present study, that smoking affects and deranges the lipid profile, but in patients with already existing cardiovascular diseases and many confounding factors smoking may not have such significant influence as before disease development.

Keywords: cardiovascular disease, tobacco smoking, lipidomics, lipids

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NECILJANA LIPIDOMIKA KOD MUŠKARACA S PREKOMJERNOM TJELESNOM MASOM I KARDIOVASKULARNIM BOLESTIMA-UTJECAJ STATUSA PUŠENJA

Viktorija Jurić , 285

Sažetak:

Pušenje duhana odgovorno je za prerani razvoj kardiovaskularnih bolesti različitim mehanizmima, a abnormalne razine lipidnih seruma i razina lipoproteina jedna su od posljedica. Lipidi su biomolekule koje igraju vitalnu ulogu u raznim fiziopatologijama. Kako bi se otkrila funkcija lipida, od iznimne je važnosti identificirati i kvantificirati pojedinačne molekularne vrste lipida u složenim biološkim sustavima. Lipidomika je brzo razvijajuća analitička tehnika sposobna mjeriti stotine lipida i trenutno je na čelu znanstvenih istraživanja zbog važnosti lipida u zdravlju i bolesti. Cilj ove studije bio je procijeniti učinak pušenja cigareta na profil lipida u pacijenata s prekomjernom tjelesnom težinom s već razvijenom kardiovaskularnom bolešću pomoću tekuće kromatografije (LC) spojene online s masenom spektrometrijom (MS). Sveukupno zapažanje ove studije bilo je da je došlo do povećanja koncentracije masnih kiselina i nekih specifičnih triglicerida (TG) i diglicerida (DG) te do smanjenja koncentracije kolesterol estera (i zasićene i nezasićene) , fosfatidilkolina (osobito nezasićene) i lizofosfatidilkolina (osobito zasićene), i TG zasićen u pušača u usporedbi s nepušačima. Stoga se na temelju ove studije može reći da pušenje utječe i narušava profil lipida, ali kod pacijenata s već postojećim kardiovaskularnim bolestima i mnogim dodatnim čimbenicima pušenje možda nema tako značajan utjecaj kao prije razvoja bolesti

Ključne riječi: kardiovaskularne bolesti, pušenje duhana, lipidomika, lipidi

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Viktorija Juric

OBJECTIVES OF THE THESIS

Lipids are crucial small biomolecules and play vital roles in a variety of physiological events by serving as constituents of cellular membranes, cellular barriers, signal transduction, energy sources, and intermediates in signaling pathways.

Lipids are extracted from serum samples by using a biphasic solvent system of cold methanol, methyl tertbutyl ether (MTBE), and water with some modifications.

The aim of this study was to evaluate the effect of cigarette smoking on lipid profile in overweight patients with already developed cardiovascular disease by liquid chromatography (LC) coupled online to mass spectrometry (MS).

SUMMARY

Cigarette smoking is one of the leading causes of preventable morbidity and mortality that usually starts in adolescence and continues into adult life. The tobacco smoking is responsible for premature development of cardiovascular disease by various mechanism, and abnormal serum lipid profile and lipoprotein levels are one of the consequences.

Lipids are crucial small biomolecules and play vital roles in a variety of physiological events by serving as constituents of cellular membranes, cellular barriers, signal transduction, energy sources, and intermediates in signaling pathways.

In order to unravel lipid function, it is of utmost importance to identify and quantify single lipid molecular species in complex biological systems.

Lipidomics is a rapidly evolving analytical technique capable of measuring hundreds of lipids and is currently at the forefront of scientific research due to the importance of lipids in health and disease.

The aim of this study was to evaluate the effect of cigarette smoking on lipid profile in overweight patients with already developed cardiovascular disease by liquid chromatography (LC) coupled online to mass spectrometry (MS).

Lipids were extracted from serum samples by using a biphasic solvent system of cold methanol, methyl tertbutyl ether (MTBE), and water.

The overall observation of the present study was that, there was an increase in concentration of fatty acids, and some specific triglycerides (TG) and diglycerides (DG) and decrease in the concentration of cholesteryl esters (both saturated and unsaturated) phosphatidylcholines (especially unsaturated) and lysophosphatidylcholines (especially saturated), and triglycerides saturated in smokers compared to nonsmokers.

Thus, it can be said based on the present study that smoking affects and deranges the lipid profile, but in patients with already existing cardiovascular diseases and many confounding factors smoking may not have such significant influence as before disease development.

SAŽETAK

Pušenje je jedan od vodećih uzroka morbiditeta i mortaliteta koji obično počinje u adolescenciji i nastavlja se u odrasloj dobi. Pušenje duhana odgovorno je za razvoj kardiovaskularnih bolesti, a abnormalni profil lipida i lipoproteina u serumu su glavni uzorak.

Lipidi su male biomolekule koje igraju važnu ulogu u raznim fizio-patološkim događajima, služeći kao sastavni dijelovi staničnih membrana, staničnih barijera, transdukcije signala, izvora energije i posrednika u signalnim putovima.

Kako bi se otkrila funkcija lipida, od iznimne je važnosti identificirati i kvantificirati pojedinačne molekularne vrste lipida u složenim biološkim sustavima.

Lipidomika je brzo razvijajuća analitička tehnika sposobna mjeriti stotine lipida i trenutno je glavna tema znanstvenih istraživanja zbog važnosti lipida u zdravlju i bolesti kod ljudi.

Cilj ove studije bio je procijeniti učinak pušenja cigareta na profil lipida u pacijenata s prekomjernom tjelesnom težinom s već razvijenom kardiovaskularnom bolešću pomoću tekuće kromatografije (LC) spojene online s masenom spektrometrijom (MS).

Lipidi su ekstrahirani iz uzoraka seruma korištenjem dvofaznog sustava otapala hladnog metanola, MTBE i vode.

Sveukupno zapažanje ove studije bilo je da je došlo do povećanja koncentracije masnih kiselina i nekih specifičnih triglicerida (TG) i diglicerida (DG) te do smanjenja koncentracije kolesterol estera (i zasićene i nezasićene), fosfatidilkolina (osobito nezasićene) i lizofosfatidilkolina (osobito zasićene), i TG zasićen u pušača u usporedbi s nepušačima. Stoga se na temelju ove studije može reći da pušenje utječe i narušava profil lipida, ali kod pacijenata s već postojećim kardiovaskularnim bolestima i mnogim dodatnim čimbenicima pušenje možda nema tako značajan utjecaj kao prije razvoja bolesti.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|-----------|
| 1. LIPIDS IN BIOLOGICAL SYSTEMS | 1 |
| 2. MATERIALS AND METHODS | 4 |
| 2.1. Reagents and Chemicals | 4 |
| 2.2. Sample collection..... | 4 |
| 2.3. Sample preparation..... | 5 |
| 2.4. LC MS Analysis..... | 7 |
| 2.5. Quality control..... | 7 |
| 2.6. Data Processing | 7 |
| 2.7. Statistical and Data Analysis..... | 9 |
| 3. RESULTS | 10 |
| 3.1. Lipid Classes | 17 |
| 3.2. Individual lipid species | 22 |
| 4. DISCUSSION | 29 |
| 5.CONCLUSIONS | 32 |
| 6. REFERENCES..... | 33 |

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|-----------|--|
| CE | Cholesteryl ester |
| Cer_NS | Ceramide non-hydroxyfatty acid-sphingosine |
| CL | Cardiolipin |
| DG | Diacylglycerol |
| Ether PE | Ether-phosphatidylethanolamine |
| EtherOxPE | Ether oxidized phosphatidylethanolamine |
| EtherPC | Ether-phosphatidylcholine |
| FA | Fatty acyls |
| FAA | Free Fatty acid |
| GL | Glycerolipids |
| GLP | Glycerophospholipids |
| LPC | Lysophosphatidylcholine |
| MG | Monoacylglycerol |
| NAE | N-acyl ethanolamines |
| OxTG | Oxidized triglyceride |
| PC | Phosphatidylcholine |
| PE | Phosphatidylethanolamine |
| PI | Phosphatidylinositol |
| PK | Polyketides |
| PR | Prenol lipids |
| SL | Saccharolipids |
| SM | Sphingomyelin |
| SP | Sphingolipids |
| ST | Sterol lipids |
| TG | Triglycerides |

INTRODUCTION

Cigarette smoking is one of the most potent and prevalent addictive habits. It is associated with increased risk of a variety of health problems and causes about 6 million deaths worldwide every year.¹

Nicotine, carbon monoxide, and other toxic substances from tobacco smoke are absorbed through the lungs into the bloodstream and are distributed throughout the body. In particular, smoking is considered a major risk factor for development of cardiovascular diseases (especially atherosclerosis and coronary heart disease).¹

In particular, it may lead to changes in normal plasma lipid profile. It increases the concentration of serum total cholesterol (TC), low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C) and triglycerides (TG), and decreases the level of high-density lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL-C) circulating in the blood vessels, making serum lipid profile more atherogenic.² Nicotine causes secretion of catecholamines and stimulation of sympathetic adrenal system results in increased lipolysis - hepatic free fatty acids and TG along with very low-density lipoprotein cholesterol are released into the bloodstream.³ However, the influence of tobacco smoke on other lipid species in human body is not well understood.

Lipidome in biological systems consists of hundreds of thousands of individual lipid molecules that possess complex structures, multiple categories, and diverse physicochemical properties assembled by different combinations of polar headgroups and hydrophobic fatty acyl chains.⁴ Lipids are crucial small biomolecules and play vital roles in a variety of physio-pathological events by serving as constituents of cellular membranes, cellular barriers, signal transduction, energy sources, and intermediates in signaling pathways.⁵ In order to unravel lipid function, it is of utmost importance to identify and quantify single lipid molecular species in complex biological systems. Lipidomics is a rapidly evolving analytical technique capable of measuring hundreds of lipids and is currently at the forefront of scientific research due to the importance of lipids in health and disease.⁶

The aim of this study was to evaluate the effect of cigarette smoking on lipid profile in overweight patients with already developed cardiovascular disease by liquid chromatography (LC) coupled online to mass spectrometry (MS).

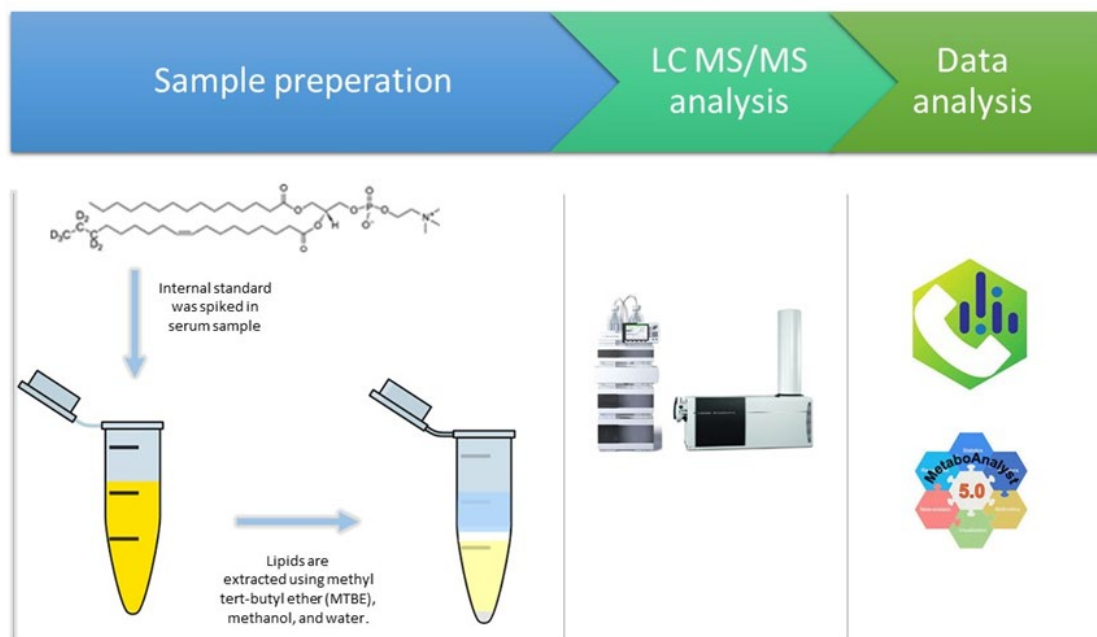


Figure 1. Workflow of LC-MS-based lipidomics and automated identification of lipids using the LipidBlast in-silico MS/MS library.⁷

1. LIPIDS IN BIOLOGICAL SYSTEMS

Lipids are defined as hydrophobic or amphipathic small molecules that originate entirely or, in part, from carbanion-based condensation of thioesters (ketoacyl groups) and carbocation-based condensation of isoprene units (isoprene groups).⁸ The polar head group of lipids in combination with the hydrophobic tails provides the basis for the energy-driven formation of lipid bilayers within the aqueous, polar cellular environment. Lipid species play key roles in cellular membranes, cell signaling, and cell metabolism.⁹ Lipids in biological systems consist of tens to hundreds of thousands distinct chemical entities with wide diversities in structures and physiochemical properties.¹⁰

The structural diversity of the lipidome arises via variations in the type of the head groups, the fatty acyl chain length, the level of unsaturation, double bond location, *cis-trans* geometric isomerism, branched functional groups in the fatty acyl chains, the type of the covalent bond, i.e., ester (acyl-), ether (alkyl-) and vinyl-ether (alkenyl-), linked to the head groups.³

Currently, LIPID MAPS Structure Database has enrolled 46 285 unique lipid structures dispersed in eight categories, including fatty acyls (FA), glycerolipids (GL), glycerophospholipids (GP), sphingolipids (SP), sterol lipids (ST), prenol lipids (PR derived from condensation of isoprene), saccharolipids (SL), and polyketides (PK derived from condensation of ketoacyl subunits).³

Brief characteristic of each group is provided in table 1.

Table 1. Lipid classes

| Lipid class (abbr) | Characteristic |
|-----------------------|--|
| Fatty acyls (FA) | circulates as free FAs bound to albumin or form components of complex lipids. ¹¹ |
| Glycerolipids (GL) | abundant cellular lipids with physiological roles in energy storage (primarily in the form of triacylglycerol) and membrane structure (phospholipids and other lipids, varying by organelle type). ¹² |

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Glycerophospholipids (GPL) | fatty acid diglycerides with a phosphatidyl ester attached to the terminal carbon; the terminal ester groups are mainly ethanolamine, choline, serine, or inositol; GPLs are highly amphiphilic and normally are components of cellular or vesicle membranes. ¹³ |
| Sphingolipids (SP) | composed of an sphingoid base backbone to which a fatty acid may be attached through an amide bond and a head group at the primary hydroxyl; the head groups range from a simple hydrogen to more complex species, such as the phosphocholine moiety of sphingomyelin (SM) and the simple to complex glycans of glycosphingolipids. ¹⁴ |
| Sterols (ST) | ubiquitous and essential membrane components in all eukaryotes, affecting membrane rigidity, fluidity, and permeability by interacting with other lipids and proteins within the membranes. ¹⁵ |
| Prenol lipids (PR) | synthesized from the 5-carbon precursors isopentenyl diphosphate and dimethylallyl diphosphate; the simple isoprenoids (linear alcohols, diphosphates, and so on) are formed by the successive addition of C5 units, and are classified according to the number of these terpene units. This class includes the carotenoids, which are precursors of vitamin A and also possess antioxidant effects. PR containing more than 40 carbon atoms are termed as polyterpenes. ¹⁶ |
| Saccharolipids (SL) | compounds in which fatty acids are linked directly to a sugar backbone, forming structures that are compatible with membrane bilayers. ¹⁷ |

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Polyketides (PK) | bioactive natural products isolated from diverse microorganisms. ¹⁸ Polyketides are the amplest class of fungal secondary metabolism and are biosynthesized by type I polyketide synthases (PKSs). ¹⁹ |
|---------------------|---|

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1. Reagent and Chemicals

SPLASH® LIPIDOMIX® Mass Spec Standard was purchased from Avanti Polar Lipids (Alabaster, AL, USA). The chemicals acetonitrile, prop-2-anol, methanol, chloroform, formic acid, ammonium acetate, and ammonium formate were purchased by Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, MO, USA) .²⁰

2.2. Sample collection

The research was carried out on 40 patients of the Clinic of Cardiology of the Wrocław Medical University who were admitted to the hospital in 2013-2015 due to suspected myocardial infarction, which was finally excluded. They were overweight males (body mass index, BMI 27.47 ± 1.23), aged above 50 (56.80 ± 6.71) with at least one of the following cardiovascular disease: hypertension (50%), atherosclerosis (90%), stable coronary artery disease (50%), chronic heart failure (85%). Patients were routinely treated with hypotensive (angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors), hypolipemic (statins) and antiplatelet drugs (acetylsalicylic acid). The presence of diabetes was an exclusion criteria. Based on the medical interview collected during admission to the hospital, patients were divided into smokers (S) and nonsmokers (NS). The detailed lipid profile of examined subjects is described in table 1 (data is presented as mean \pm SD, the statistical significance of differences between S and NS is calculated by Mann-Whitney U test).

Table 2. Detailed lipid profile of examined subjects

| Parameter | All (n=40) | Smokers (n=20) | Nonsmokers (n=20) | P value |
|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------|
| Age [years] | 56.80 ± 6.71 | 59.60 ± 8.41 | 54.00 ± 2.29 | 0.03 |
| BMI | 27.47 ± 1.24 | 27.33 ± 1.31 | 27.60 ± 1.18 | ns |
| Total cholesterol [mg/dL] | 185.92 ± 53.01 | 157.25 ± 36.23 | 214.60 ± 52.19 | <0.001 |

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------|
| LDL [mg/dL] | 111.05 ± 41.60 | 89.45 ± 29.68 | 132.65 ± 41.10 | 0,002 |
| HDL [mg/dL] | 42.62 ± 11.47 | 39.95 ± 11.74 | 45.30 ± 10.81 | ns |
| Triglycerides [mg/dL] | 159.72 ± 76.67 | 139.15 ± 55.13 | 180.30 ± 90.21 | ns |

2.3. Sample preparation

Extraction of serum lipids was carried out using a biphasic solvent system of cold methanol, methyl tertbutyl ether (MTBE), and water with some modifications.

Plasma samples were thawed at 4°C and vortex briefly to homogenize. Aliquot 20 µL of plasma per sample into pre-labeled 1.5 mL eppendorf tubes.

Then, 975 µL 3:10 extraction solvent mixture was added to each aliquot, keeping the extraction solvent on the ice during the procedure. Samples were vortex samples for 10 seconds, and then shake for 6 minutes at 4°C on the orbital mixer. 5 µL of internal standard, methanol solution was added to each eppendorf tube (Table 3).

Table 3. Avanti's SPLASH™ LIPIDOMIX® Quantitative Mass Spec Internal Standard. Each sealed ampule of SPLASH™ contains 1mL of methanol solution with 14 deuterated lipid internal standards at concentrations relative to human plasma lipid ratios. The concentrations are verified and based on the isotopic purity of each individual compound.²¹

| Mixture Component | Chemical Formula | Target Conc. µg/mL | Target Conc. µM | Exact Mass | M-H | M+H | M+NH ₄ | M+AcO |
|------------------------|--|--------------------|-----------------|------------|----------|----------|-------------------|----------|
| 15:0-18:1(d7) PC | C ₄₁ H ₇₃ D ₇ NO ₈ P | 160.7 | 213 | 752.6061 | × | 753.6134 | × | 811.6199 |
| 18:1(d7) Lyso PC | C ₂₆ H ₄₅ D ₇ NO ₇ P | 25.5 | 48 | 528.3921 | × | 529.3994 | × | 587.4059 |
| 15:0-18:1(d7) PE | C ₃₈ H ₆₇ D ₇ NO ₈ P | 5.7 | 8 | 710.5591 | 709.5519 | 711.5664 | × | × |
| 18:1(d7) Lyso PE | C ₂₃ H ₃₉ D ₇ NO ₇ P | 5.3 | 11 | 486.3451 | 485.3379 | 487.3524 | × | × |
| 15:0-18:1(d7) PG | C ₃₉ H ₆₈ D ₇ O ₁₀ P | 29.1 | 38 | 741.5537 | 740.5464 | × | 759.5875 | × |
| 15:0-18:1(d7) PI | C ₄₂ H ₇₂ D ₇ O ₁₃ P | 9.1 | 11 | 829.5698 | 828.5625 | × | 847.6036 | × |
| 15:0-18:1(d7) PS | C ₃₉ H ₆₇ D ₇ NO ₁₀ P | 4.2 | 5 | 754.5490 | 753.5417 | 755.5562 | × | × |
| 15:0-18:1(d7)-15:0 TAG | C ₅₁ H ₈₉ D ₇ O ₆ | 57.3 | 71 | 811.7646 | × | × | 829.7985 | × |
| 15:0-18:1(d7) DAG | C ₃₆ H ₆₁ D ₇ O ₅ | 9.4 | 16 | 587.5506 | × | × | 605.5844 | × |
| 18:1(d7) MAG | C ₂₁ H ₃₃ D ₇ O ₄ | 2 | 6 | 363.3366 | × | 364.3429 | 381.3704 | 422.3504 |
| 18:1(d7) Chol Ester | C ₄₅ H ₇₁ D ₇ O ₂ | 356.1 | 541 | 657.6441 | × | × | 675.6779 | × |
| d18:1-18:1(d9) SM | C ₄₁ H ₇₂ D ₉ N ₂ O ₆ P | 30.9 | 42 | 737.6397 | × | 738.6470 | × | 796.6536 |
| 15:0-18:1(d7) PA | C ₃₆ H ₆₁ D ₇ NaO ₈ P | 7.4 | 11 | 667.5181 | 666.5097 | × | × | × |
| Cholesterol-d7 | C ₂₇ H ₄₉ D ₇ O | 98.4 | 248 | 393.3988 | × | 394.4061 | 411.4326 | |

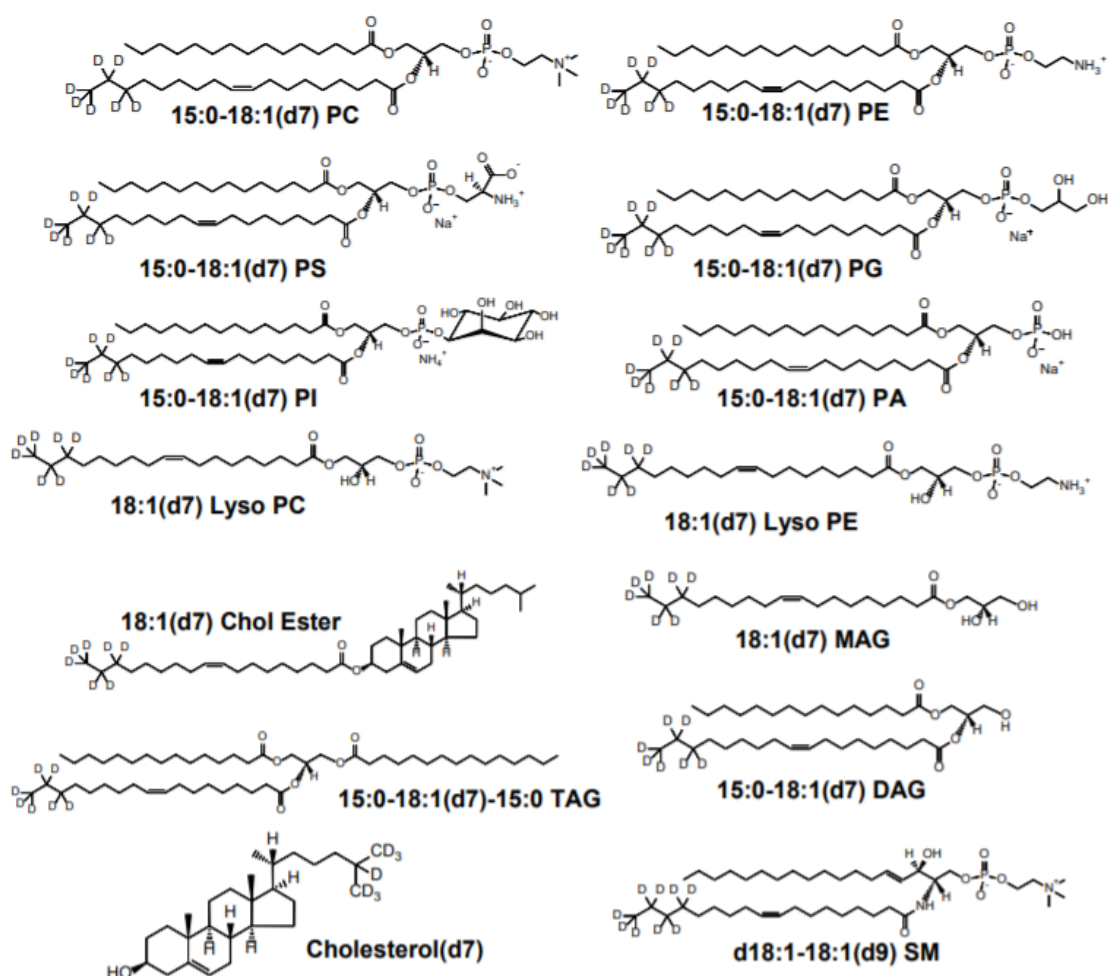


Figure 2. Chemical structure of *SPLASH LipidoMIX™ Internal Standards*²²

Phase separation was induced by adding 188 μ L room temperature LC-MS grade water to each tube. Tubes were vortex for 20 seconds and then centrifuge @ 14,000 rcf (12300 rpm) for 2 minutes. The upper organic phase was transferred to two separate tubes (350 μ L/each tube) for lipidomics analysis. Samples were dried down under the nitrogen steam. Tubes were stored at -80°C until ready for analysis.^{23,24}

Resuspend dry samples in 110 μ L resuspension solution MeOH: Tol (9:1). Resuspended samples were vortex for 10 seconds. Sonicated at room temperature for 5 minutes, and then centrifuge for 2 minutes @ 16,100 g. The volume of 50 μ L was transferred from each tube to two separate amber glass vials with micro-inserts.^{23,24}

2.4. LC MS Analysis

Mass spectrometry detection (ESI-Q-TOF, model Compact, Bruker Daltonics, Germany) was made in positive and negative ion mode with auto MSMS measurements. The instrument was calibrated with solution of sodium formate in a HPLC calibration method and the scan range was 100-1700 m/z. Nitrogen was used as a drying gas at 2.0 bar and flow rate of 8 L/min. The capillary temperature was set at 210°C and spray voltage was 4.5 kV.

All samples were analyzed in duplicate in both positive and negative mode with electrospray ionization.²⁴

Each LC system consisted of a pump, a column oven and an autosampler. Lipids were separated on an Acquity UPLC CSH C18 column (100 × 2.1 mm; 1.7 µm) coupled to an Acquity UPLC CSH C18 VanGuard precolumn (5 × 2.1 mm; 1.7 µm) (Waters, Milford, MA). The column was maintained at 65 °C at a flow-rate of 0.4 mL/min. The mobile phases consisted of (A) 60:40 (v/v) acetonitrile:water with ammonium formate (10 mM) and formic acid (0.1%) and (B) 90:10 (v/v) isopropanol:acetonitrile with ammonium formate (10 mM) and formic acid (0.1%). The separation was conducted under the following gradient: 0 min 15% (B); 0–2 min 30% (B); 2–2.5 min 48% (B); 2.5–11 min 82% (B); 11–11.5 min 99% (B); 11.5–12 min 99% (B); 12–12.1 min 15% (B); and 12.1–15 min 15% (B).²⁴

2.5. Quality control

Quality control was assured by randomization of the sequence, injection of 3 pooled samples to equilibrate the LC–MS system before the actual sequence of samples; injection of pool samples at the beginning each 10 actual samples.²⁴

2.6. Data Processing

In case of the instrument, the .d files were centroided and by converting files to ABF format. Raw data files were converted to ABF format using Reifycs Abf (Analysis Base File) Converter (accessible at: <http://www.reifycs.com/AbfConverter/>).²⁴

For data processing, MS-DIAL (v. 4.48) software program was used.

The following parameters for data collection, peak detection, identification and alignment were used: retention time begin, 0 min; retention time end, 15 min; mass range begin, 0 Da; mass range end, 2000 Da; MS1 (centroiding) tolerance 0.01 Da MS2 (centroiding) tolerance, 0.025 Da; smoothing method: Linear Weighted Moving Average, smoothing level, 3 scans; minimum peak height 1000; mass slice width, 0.1 Da; retention time tolerance for retention time–m/z (tR–m/z) library, 100 min; accurate mass tolerance (MS1) 0.01, accurate mass tolerance (MS2) 0.05, retention time tolerance 0.1, accurate mass tolerance 0.01, identification score cut off 85.²⁴

For lipid identification, accurate mass and MS/MS matching was used with the public LipidBlast library of over 200000 MS/MS spectra.²⁴

Normalization was performed in MSDial and by using class-specific internal standards and reported “estimated” concentrations (μmol/ml).

$$c(lipid) = c(IS) \cdot \frac{h(lipid)}{h(IS)}$$

c(lipids)- lipids concentration

c(IS)- Internal Standard concentration

h(lipids)-peak height of lipids

h(IS)- peak height of internal standard

If multiple isomeric lipid species were detected, the sum of their abundances would be further considered. This operation is driven by the fact that the exact position and stereochemistry of the unsaturations could not be deduced from this kind of experiment.²⁵

Data were then filtered for blank samples signals with a fold change >10. Lipids that presented a coefficient of variation (CV%) ≥30% in the QC were excluded for further investigation.²⁶

Data was exported in Excel file and filtered according to following manner:MS/MS true, rev dot product ≥700 te dot product ≥350.

2.7. Statistical and Data Analysis

As a first approach to evidence differences in lipid metabolisms between overweight smokers and non-smokers, the different classes (sum of the concentrations of the species) were compared by t-test with GraphPad Prism 7.0 (GraphPad Software, Inc, La Jolla, CA, USA).²⁵

GraphPad Prism was also used to remove outliers from the data set and then, for biomarker discovery, data tables with the lipids identified under both smokers and non-smokers detected in positive and negative set were formatted as .csv files and uploaded to the MetaboAnalyst server (version 4.0).^{27,28}

In Metabo Analyst server data was processed as follows: row wise normalization to constant sum, log transformation (base 10) and Pareto scaling (mean-centered and divided by the square root of the standard deviation of each variable) was applied. Univariate analysis methods were used for exploratory data analysis, specifically for two-group data, Fold Change (FC) analysis and t-tests method was performed. Multivariate statistics (PCA and PLS-DA analysis) and cluster analysis (heatmaps) were also done.

3. RESULTS

In examined cohort of overweight participants 232 lipid were annotated and detailed list of detected compounds is provided in table 4.

Table 4. List of annotated and detected compounds

| Average Rt(min) | Average Mz | Metabolite name | Adduct type | Fill % | Formula | Ontology |
|-----------------|------------|------------------------------|------------------------|--------|-----------|----------|
| 13.9 | 640.6 | CE 16:1 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.824 | C43H74O2 | CE |
| 14.5 | 670.7 | CE 18:0 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.809 | C45H80O2 | CE |
| 14.2 | 668.6 | CE 18:1 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.824 | C45H78O2 | CE |
| 13.9 | 666.6 | CE 18:2 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.824 | C45H76O2 | CE |
| 13.6 | 664.6 | CE 18:3 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.824 | C45H74O2 | CE |
| 13.7 | 690.6 | CE 20:4 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.824 | C47H76O2 | CE |
| 13.4 | 688.6 | CE 20:5 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.824 | C47H74O2 | CE |
| 13.5 | 714.6 | CE 22:6 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.824 | C49H76O2 | CE |
| 12.8 | 714.6 | CE 22:6 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.765 | C49H76O2 | CE |
| 12.2 | 632.6 | Cer 42:1;2O Cer 18:1;2O/24:0 | [M+H-H2O] ⁺ | 0.809 | C42H83NO3 | Cer_NS |
| 12.2 | 650.6 | Cer 42:1;2O Cer 18:1;2O/24:0 | [M+H] ⁺ | 0.809 | C42H83NO3 | Cer_NS |
| 12.2 | 694.6 | Cer 42:1;2O Cer 18:1;2O/24:0 | [M+HCOO] ⁻ | 0.902 | C42H83NO3 | Cer_NS |
| 12.2 | 694.6 | Cer 42:1;2O Cer 18:1;2O/24:0 | [M+HCOO] ⁻ | 0.902 | C42H83NO3 | Cer_NS |
| 11.6 | 692.6 | Cer 42:2;2O Cer 18:1;2O/24:1 | [M+HCOO] ⁻ | 0.118 | C42H81NO3 | Cer_NS |
| 11.6 | 692.6 | Cer 42:2;2O Cer 18:1;2O/24:1 | [M+HCOO] ⁻ | 0.745 | C42H81NO3 | Cer_NS |
| 11.6 | 692.6 | Cer 42:2;2O Cer 18:1;2O/24:1 | [M+HCOO] ⁻ | 0.118 | C42H81NO3 | Cer_NS |
| 11.6 | 692.6 | Cer 42:2;2O Cer 18:1;2O/24:1 | [M+HCOO] ⁻ | 0.745 | C42H81NO3 | Cer_NS |
| 8.1 | 531.4 | DG 28:2 | [M+Na] ⁺ | 1 | C31H56O5 | DG |
| 9.3 | 563.5 | DG 30:0 | [M+Na] ⁺ | 1 | C33H64O5 | DG |
| 8.1 | 553.4 | DG 30:5 | [M+Na] ⁺ | 1 | C33H54O5 | DG |
| 3.2 | 551.4 | DG 30:6 | [M+Na] ⁺ | 0.809 | C33H52O5 | DG |
| 10.7 | 591.5 | DG 32:0 | [M+Na] ⁺ | 1 | C35H68O5 | DG |
| 10.1 | 589.5 | DG 32:1 | [M+Na] ⁺ | 0.794 | C35H66O5 | DG |
| 11.4 | 619.5 | DG 34:0 | [M+Na] ⁺ | 1 | C37H72O5 | DG |
| 10.8 | 617.5 | DG 34:1 | [M+Na] ⁺ | 0.824 | C37H70O5 | DG |
| 10.1 | 615.5 | DG 34:2 | [M+Na] ⁺ | 0.574 | C37H68O5 | DG |
| 12.0 | 647.6 | DG 36:0 | [M+Na] ⁺ | 0.971 | C39H76O5 | DG |
| 11.5 | 645.5 | DG 36:1 | [M+Na] ⁺ | 0.779 | C39H74O5 | DG |

| | | | | | | |
|------|-------|----------------------|-----------------------|-------|------------|-----|
| 10.8 | 643.5 | DG 36:2 | [M+Na] ⁺ | 0.824 | C39H72O5 | DG |
| 10.8 | 638.6 | DG 36:2 DG 18:1_18:1 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.824 | C39H72O5 | DG |
| 10.3 | 641.5 | DG 36:3 | [M+Na] ⁺ | 0.824 | C39H70O5 | DG |
| 11.3 | 647.5 | DG 37:7 | [M+Na] ⁺ | 1 | C40H64O5 | DG |
| 14.5 | 675.6 | DG 38:0 | [M+Na] ⁺ | 0.809 | C41H80O5 | DG |
| 10.1 | 665.5 | DG 38:5 | [M+Na] ⁺ | 0.794 | C41H70O5 | DG |
| 11.3 | 669.4 | DG 39:10 | [M+Na] ⁺ | 1 | C42H62O5 | DG |
| 12.2 | 699.6 | DG 40:2 | [M+Na] ⁺ | 1 | C43H80O5 | DG |
| 12.1 | 705.5 | DG 41:6 | [M+Na] ⁺ | 0.044 | C44H74O5 | DG |
| 13.1 | 721.6 | DG 42:5 | [M+Na] ⁺ | 0.5 | C45H78O5 | DG |
| 12.2 | 721.6 | DG 42:5 | [M+Na] ⁺ | 1 | C45H78O5 | DG |
| 12.8 | 719.6 | DG 42:6 | [M+Na] ⁺ | 0.809 | C45H76O5 | DG |
| 12.7 | 743.6 | DG 44:8 | [M+Na] ⁺ | 0.647 | C47H76O5 | DG |
| 12.2 | 757.6 | DG 45:8 | [M+Na] ⁺ | 0.029 | C48H78O5 | DG |
| 12.4 | 835.6 | DG 51:11 | [M+Na] ⁺ | 0.015 | C54H84O5 | DG |
| 6.8 | 283.3 | FA 18:0 | [M-H] ⁻ | 0.902 | C18H36O2 | FA |
| 6.1 | 281.2 | FA 18:1 | [M-H] ⁻ | 0.804 | C18H34O2 | FA |
| 5.3 | 279.2 | FA 18:2 | [M-H] ⁻ | 0.549 | C18H32O2 | FA |
| 9.0 | 409.3 | FA 28:7 | [M-H] ⁻ | 0.02 | C28H42O2 | FA |
| 2.6 | 518.3 | LPC 16:0 | [M+Na] ⁺ | 0.809 | C24H50NO7P | LPC |
| 2.9 | 518.3 | LPC 16:0_1 | [M+Na] ⁺ | 0.824 | C24H50NO7P | LPC |
| 2.6 | 540.3 | LPC 16:0_2 | [M+HCOO] ⁻ | 0.824 | C24H50NO7P | LPC |
| 4.8 | 546.4 | LPC 18:0 | [M+Na] ⁺ | 0.809 | C26H54NO7P | LPC |
| 4.7 | 568.4 | LPC 18:0 | [M+HCOO] ⁻ | 0.804 | C26H54NO7P | LPC |
| 4.8 | 568.4 | LPC 18:0 | [M+HCOO] ⁻ | 0.098 | C26H54NO7P | LPC |
| 3.3 | 544.3 | LPC 18:1 | [M+Na] ⁺ | 0.809 | C26H52NO7P | LPC |
| 3.3 | 566.3 | LPC 18:1 | [M+HCOO] ⁻ | 0.078 | C26H52NO7P | LPC |
| 3.3 | 566.3 | LPC 18:1 | [M+HCOO] ⁻ | 0.824 | C26H52NO7P | LPC |
| 2.3 | 542.3 | LPC 18:2 | [M+Na] ⁺ | 0.809 | C26H50NO7P | LPC |
| 2.3 | 564.3 | LPC 18:2 | [M+HCOO] ⁻ | 0.118 | C26H50NO7P | LPC |
| 2.2 | 564.3 | LPC 18:2 | [M+HCOO] ⁻ | 0.784 | C26H50NO7P | LPC |
| 2.2 | 566.3 | LPC 20:4 | [M+Na] ⁺ | 0.75 | C28H50NO7P | LPC |
| 5.7 | 408.3 | MG 21:5 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.853 | C24H38O4 | MG |
| 5.1 | 376.3 | NAE 22:4 | [M+H] ⁺ | 0.618 | C24H41NO2 | NAE |
| 3.8 | 376.3 | NAE 22:4 | [M+H] ⁺ | 0.588 | C24H41NO2 | NAE |
| 4.3 | 374.3 | NAE 22:5 | [M+H] ⁺ | 0.059 | C24H39NO2 | NAE |

| | | | | | | |
|------|-------|----------------------|-----------------------|-------|------------|-----|
| 4.0 | 374.3 | NAE 22:5 | [M+H] ⁺ | 0.044 | C24H39NO2 | NAE |
| 4.1 | 374.3 | NAE 22:5 | [M+H] ⁺ | 0.471 | C24H39NO2 | NAE |
| 7.4 | 428.4 | NAE 26:6 | [M+H] ⁺ | 1 | C28H45NO2 | NAE |
| 9.4 | 778.6 | PC 32:0 PC 16:0_16:0 | [M+HCOO] ⁻ | 0.902 | C40H80NO8P | PC |
| 9.5 | 782.6 | PC 34:1 | [M+Na] ⁺ | 0.824 | C42H82NO8P | PC |
| 9.1 | 780.6 | PC 34:2 | [M+Na] ⁺ | 0.029 | C42H80NO8P | PC |
| 9.1 | 780.6 | PC 34:2 | [M+Na] ⁺ | 0.029 | C42H80NO8P | PC |
| 8.9 | 802.6 | PC 34:2 | [M+HCOO] ⁻ | 0.118 | C42H80NO8P | PC |
| 8.9 | 802.6 | PC 34:2 | [M+HCOO] ⁻ | 0.784 | C42H80NO8P | PC |
| 8.9 | 780.6 | PC 34:2 PC 0:0_34:2 | [M+Na] ⁺ | 0.824 | C42H80NO8P | PC |
| 8.2 | 800.5 | PC 34:3 | [M+HCOO] ⁻ | 0.098 | C42H78NO8P | PC |
| 9.3 | 816.6 | PC 35:2 PC 17:0_18:2 | [M+HCOO] ⁻ | 0.235 | C43H82NO8P | PC |
| 10.2 | 832.6 | PC 36:1 PC 18:0_18:1 | [M+HCOO] ⁻ | 0.078 | C44H86NO8P | PC |
| 10.2 | 832.6 | PC 36:1 PC 18:0_18:1 | [M+HCOO] ⁻ | 0.824 | C44H86NO8P | PC |
| 9.0 | 808.6 | PC 36:2 | [M+Na] ⁺ | 0.794 | C44H84NO8P | PC |
| 9.6 | 808.6 | PC 36:2 | [M+Na] ⁺ | 0.824 | C44H84NO8P | PC |
| 9.6 | 830.6 | PC 36:2 PC 18:0_18:2 | [M+HCOO] ⁻ | 0.902 | C44H84NO8P | PC |
| 9.1 | 806.6 | PC 36:3 | [M+Na] ⁺ | 0.824 | C44H82NO8P | PC |
| 9.3 | 828.6 | PC 36:3 PC 18:0_18:3 | [M+HCOO] ⁻ | 0.118 | C44H82NO8P | PC |
| 9.1 | 828.6 | PC 36:3 PC 18:1_18:2 | [M+HCOO] ⁻ | 0.902 | C44H82NO8P | PC |
| 8.8 | 828.6 | PC 36:3 PC 18:1_18:2 | [M+HCOO] ⁻ | 0.804 | C44H82NO8P | PC |
| 9.0 | 828.6 | PC 36:3 PC 18:1_18:2 | [M+HCOO] ⁻ | 0.745 | C44H82NO8P | PC |
| 9.0 | 828.6 | PC 36:3 PC 18:1_18:2 | [M+HCOO] ⁻ | 0.098 | C44H82NO8P | PC |
| 8.8 | 804.6 | PC 36:4 | [M+Na] ⁺ | 0.824 | C44H80NO8P | PC |
| 8.8 | 826.6 | PC 36:4 | [M+HCOO] ⁻ | 0.902 | C44H80NO8P | PC |
| 8.4 | 826.6 | PC 36:4 PC 18:2_18:2 | [M+HCOO] ⁻ | 0.078 | C44H80NO8P | PC |
| 8.4 | 826.6 | PC 36:4 PC 18:2_18:2 | [M+HCOO] ⁻ | 0.569 | C44H80NO8P | PC |
| 8.3 | 802.5 | PC 36:5 | [M+Na] ⁺ | 0.824 | C44H78NO8P | PC |
| 8.3 | 824.5 | PC 36:5 PC 16:0_20:5 | [M+HCOO] ⁻ | 0.902 | C44H78NO8P | PC |
| 9.8 | 836.6 | PC 38:2 | [M+Na] ⁺ | 0.765 | C46H88NO8P | PC |
| 9.8 | 834.6 | PC 38:3 | [M+Na] ⁺ | 0.824 | C46H86NO8P | PC |
| 9.8 | 856.6 | PC 38:3 PC 18:0_20:3 | [M+HCOO] ⁻ | 0.902 | C46H86NO8P | PC |
| 9.3 | 854.6 | PC 38:4 PC 18:0_20:4 | [M+HCOO] ⁻ | 0.412 | C46H84NO8P | PC |
| 9.5 | 854.6 | PC 38:4 PC 18:0_20:4 | [M+HCOO] ⁻ | 0.902 | C46H84NO8P | PC |
| 9.0 | 852.6 | PC 38:5 PC 18:0_20:5 | [M+HCOO] ⁻ | 0.902 | C46H82NO8P | PC |
| 8.6 | 852.6 | PC 38:5 PC 18:1_20:4 | [M+HCOO] ⁻ | 0.902 | C46H82NO8P | PC |

| | | | | | | |
|------|-------|--------------------------------|-----------|-------|-----------------|---------------|
| 8.8 | 852.6 | PC 38:5 PC 18:1_20:4 | [M+HCOO]- | 0.902 | C46H82NO8P | PC |
| 8.6 | 828.6 | PC 38:6 | [M+Na]+ | 0.824 | C46H80NO8P | PC |
| 8.6 | 850.6 | PC 38:6 | [M+HCOO]- | 0.902 | C46H80NO8P | PC |
| 9.3 | 856.6 | PC 40:6 | [M+Na]+ | 0.824 | C48H84NO8P | PC |
| 9.3 | 878.6 | PC 40:6 PC 18:0_22:6 | [M+HCOO]- | 0.804 | C48H84NO8P | PC |
| 9.3 | 878.6 | PC 40:6 PC 18:0_22:6 | [M+HCOO]- | 0.098 | C48H84NO8P | PC |
| 9.5 | 804.6 | PC O-34:2;1O PC O-17:0_17:2;1O | [M+HCOO]- | 0.902 | C42H82NO8P | EtherOxP C |
| 9.2 | 812.6 | PC O-36:4 PC O-16:0_20:4 | [M+HCOO]- | 0.902 | C44H82NO7P | EtherPC |
| 9.2 | 838.6 | PC O-38:5 PC O-18:1_20:4 | [M+HCOO]- | 0.882 | C46H84NO7P | EtherPC |
| 10.4 | 746.6 | PE 36:1 | [M+H]+ | 0.471 | C41H80NO8P | PE |
| 9.8 | 742.5 | PE 36:2 PE 18:0_18:2 | [M-H]- | 0.745 | C41H78NO8P | PE |
| 9.7 | 744.6 | PE 36:2 PE 18:1_18:1 | [M+H]+ | 0.132 | C41H78NO8P | PE |
| 9.7 | 766.5 | PE 38:4 PE 18:0_20:4 | [M-H]- | 0.902 | C43H78NO8P | PE |
| 9.7 | 768.6 | PE 38:4 PE 19:2_19:2 | [M+H]+ | 0.809 | C43H78NO8P | PE |
| 9.3 | 722.5 | PE O-36:5 PE O-16:1_20:4 | [M-H]- | 0.686 | C41H74NO7P | EtherPE |
| 10.0 | 750.5 | PE O-38:5 PE O-18:1_20:4 | [M-H]- | 0.824 | C43H78NO7P | EtherPE |
| 9.3 | 748.5 | PE O-38:6 PE O-18:2_20:4 | [M-H]- | 0.627 | C43H76NO7P | EtherPE |
| 10.0 | 752.6 | PE P-38:4 PE P-18:0_20:4 | [M+H]+ | 0.809 | C43H78NO7P | EtherPE |
| 9.0 | 885.5 | PI 38:4 PI 18:0_20:4 | [M-H]- | 0.902 | C47H83O13P | PI |
| 7.9 | 697.5 | SM 32:1;2O | [M+Na]+ | 0.809 | C37H75N2O6 P | SM |
| 8.7 | 725.6 | SM 34:1;2O | [M+Na]+ | 0.824 | C39H79N2O6 P | SM |
| 8.7 | 747.6 | SM 34:1;2O SM 18:1;2O/16:0 | [M+HCOO]- | 0.804 | C39H79N2O6 P | SM |
| 8.0 | 723.5 | SM 34:2;2O | [M+Na]+ | 0.809 | C39H77N2O6 P | SM |
| 8.0 | 745.5 | SM 34:2;2O | [M+HCOO]- | 0.765 | C39H77N2O6 P | SM |
| 10.9 | 809.7 | SM 40:1;2O | [M+Na]+ | 0.824 | C45H91N2O6 P | SM |
| 11.2 | 823.7 | SM 41:1;2O | [M+Na]+ | 0.809 | C46H93N2O6 P | SM |
| 11.5 | 837.7 | SM 42:1;2O | [M+Na]+ | 0.809 | C47H95N2O6 P | SM |
| 10.8 | 835.7 | SM 42:2;2O | [M+Na]+ | 0.824 | C47H93N2O6 P | SM |
| 10.8 | 857.7 | SM 42:2;2O SM 18:1;2O/24:1 | [M+HCOO]- | 0.902 | C47H93N2O6 P | SM |
| 11.5 | 656.6 | TG 36:0 TG 10:0_12:0_14:0 | [M+NH4]+ | 0.118 | C39H74O6 | TG |

| | | | | | | |
|------|-------|---------------------------|----------------------|-------|-----------|----|
| 12.1 | 684.6 | TG 38:0 TG 10:0_12:0_16:0 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.382 | C41H78O6 | TG |
| 8.0 | 701.6 | TG 39:1 TG 10:0_16:0_13:1 | [M+Na] ⁺ | 0.824 | C42H78O6 | TG |
| 12.7 | 712.6 | TG 40:0 TG 10:0_14:0_16:0 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.662 | C43H82O6 | TG |
| 12.2 | 710.6 | TG 40:1 TG 10:0_12:0_18:1 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.103 | C43H80O6 | TG |
| 13.2 | 740.7 | TG 42:0 TG 12:0_14:0_16:0 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.838 | C45H86O6 | TG |
| 12.7 | 738.7 | TG 42:1 TG 8:0_16:0_18:1 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.588 | C45H84O6 | TG |
| 12.2 | 736.6 | TG 42:2 TG 12:0_12:0_18:2 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.044 | C45H82O6 | TG |
| 13.6 | 768.7 | TG 44:0 TG 14:0_14:0_16:0 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 1 | C47H90O6 | TG |
| 13.2 | 766.7 | TG 44:1 TG 12:0_14:0_18:1 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.809 | C47H88O6 | TG |
| 12.7 | 764.7 | TG 44:2 TG 12:0_14:0_18:2 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.647 | C47H86O6 | TG |
| 12.3 | 762.7 | TG 44:3 TG 12:0_14:0_18:3 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.044 | C47H84O6 | TG |
| 10.9 | 787.7 | TG 45:0 TG 11:0_11:0_23:0 | [M+Na] ⁺ | 0.824 | C48H92O6 | TG |
| 13.8 | 782.7 | TG 45:0 TG 14:0_15:0_16:0 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 1 | C48H92O6 | TG |
| 14.0 | 796.7 | TG 46:0 TG 14:0_16:0_16:0 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.971 | C49H94O6 | TG |
| 10.5 | 799.7 | TG 46:1 TG 12:0_12:0_22:1 | [M+Na] ⁺ | 0.397 | C49H92O6 | TG |
| 13.6 | 794.7 | TG 46:1 TG 12:0_16:0_18:1 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.838 | C49H92O6 | TG |
| 13.2 | 792.7 | TG 46:2 TG 12:0_16:0_18:2 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.824 | C49H90O6 | TG |
| 12.8 | 790.7 | TG 46:3 TG 10:0_18:1_18:2 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.485 | C49H88O6 | TG |
| 12.8 | 790.7 | TG 46:3 TG 12:0_16:0_18:3 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.162 | C49H88O6 | TG |
| 11.1 | 815.7 | TG 47:0 TG 13:0_13:0_21:0 | [M+Na] ⁺ | 0.765 | C50H96O6 | TG |
| 11.5 | 815.7 | TG 47:0 TG 14:0_14:0_19:0 | [M+Na] ⁺ | 0.824 | C50H96O6 | TG |
| 14.1 | 810.8 | TG 47:0 TG 15:0_16:0_16:0 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 1 | C50H96O6 | TG |
| 10.8 | 813.7 | TG 47:1 TG 9:0_11:0_27:1 | [M+Na] ⁺ | 0.824 | C50H94O6 | TG |
| 14.0 | 822.8 | TG 48:1 TG 14:0_16:0_18:1 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 1 | C51H96O6 | TG |
| 13.6 | 820.7 | TG 48:2 TG 14:0_16:0_18:2 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.824 | C51H94O6 | TG |
| 13.2 | 820.7 | TG 48:2 TG 14:0_16:1_18:1 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.765 | C51H94O6 | TG |
| 13.2 | 818.7 | TG 48:3 TG 12:0_18:1_18:2 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.824 | C51H92O6 | TG |
| 12.8 | 816.7 | TG 48:4 TG 12:0_18:2_18:2 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.662 | C51H90O6 | TG |
| 12.4 | 814.7 | TG 48:5 TG 12:0_18:2_18:3 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.029 | C51H88O6 | TG |
| 13.9 | 838.8 | TG 49:0 TG 16:0_16:0_17:0 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.059 | C52H100O6 | TG |
| 14.3 | 838.8 | TG 49:0 TG 16:0_16:0_17:0 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 1 | C52H100O6 | TG |
| 14.1 | 836.8 | TG 49:1 TG 15:0_16:0_18:1 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 1 | C52H98O6 | TG |
| 13.8 | 834.8 | TG 49:2 TG 15:0_16:0_18:2 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.824 | C52H96O6 | TG |
| 14.4 | 852.8 | TG 50:0 TG 16:0_16:0_18:0 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 1 | C53H102O6 | TG |
| 14.1 | 852.8 | TG 50:0 TG 9:0_19:0_22:0 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.059 | C53H102O6 | TG |
| 14.0 | 850.8 | TG 50:1 TG 16:0_16:0_18:1 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.824 | C53H100O6 | TG |

| | | | | | | |
|------|-------|----------------------------------|----------------------|-------|-----------|------|
| 14.2 | 850.8 | TG 50:1 TG 16:0_16:0_18:1 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 1 | C53H100O6 | TG |
| 14.0 | 848.8 | TG 50:2 TG 16:0_16:1_18:1 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 1 | C53H98O6 | TG |
| 13.7 | 846.8 | TG 50:3 TG 14:0_18:1_18:2 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.824 | C53H96O6 | TG |
| 13.3 | 844.7 | TG 50:4 TG 16:1_16:1_18:2 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.824 | C53H94O6 | TG |
| 12.9 | 842.7 | TG 50:5 TG 14:0_18:2_18:3 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.515 | C53H92O6 | TG |
| 13.1 | 842.7 | TG 50:5 TG 16:0_16:1_18:4 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.088 | C53H92O6 | TG |
| 14.3 | 864.8 | TG 51:1 TG 16:0_17:0_18:1 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.824 | C54H102O6 | TG |
| 14.1 | 862.8 | TG 51:2 TG 16:0_17:1_18:1 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.838 | C54H100O6 | TG |
| 13.8 | 860.8 | TG 51:3 TG 15:0_18:1_18:2 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.824 | C54H98O6 | TG |
| 14.4 | 878.8 | TG 52:1 TG 16:0_18:0_18:1 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 1 | C55H104O6 | TG |
| 14.2 | 878.8 | TG 52:1 TG 16:0_18:0_18:1 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.824 | C55H104O6 | TG |
| 14.0 | 876.8 | TG 52:2 TG 16:0_18:1_18:1 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.824 | C55H102O6 | TG |
| 14.2 | 876.8 | TG 52:2 TG 16:0_18:1_18:1 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 1 | C55H102O6 | TG |
| 12.7 | 890.8 | TG 52:3;1O TG 16:0_18:1_18:2;1O | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.059 | C55H100O7 | OxTG |
| 13.0 | 922.8 | TG 52:3;3O TG 17:1_17:1_18:1;3O | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.309 | C55H100O9 | OxTG |
| 14.0 | 874.8 | TG 52:3 TG 16:0_18:1_18:2 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 1 | C55H100O6 | TG |
| 13.4 | 872.8 | TG 52:4 TG 16:0_18:2_18:2 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.779 | C55H98O6 | TG |
| 13.7 | 872.8 | TG 52:4 TG 16:1_18:1_18:2 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.824 | C55H98O6 | TG |
| 13.5 | 870.8 | TG 52:5 TG 16:0_16:1_20:4 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.103 | C55H96O6 | TG |
| 13.4 | 870.8 | TG 52:5 TG 16:0_18:2_18:3 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.824 | C55H96O6 | TG |
| 13.2 | 868.7 | TG 52:6 TG 16:0_18:2_18:4 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.176 | C55H94O6 | TG |
| 13.0 | 868.7 | TG 52:6 TG 16:1_18:2_18:3 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.074 | C55H94O6 | TG |
| 12.9 | 868.7 | TG 52:6 TG 16:1_18:2_18:3 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.044 | C55H94O6 | TG |
| 13.1 | 868.7 | TG 52:6 TG 16:1_18:2_18:3 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.471 | C55H94O6 | TG |
| 12.9 | 866.7 | TG 52:7 TG 16:0_18:3_18:4 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.176 | C55H92O6 | TG |
| 14.5 | 892.8 | TG 53:1 TG 17:0_18:0_18:1 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.676 | C56H106O6 | TG |
| 14.3 | 890.8 | TG 53:2 TG 17:0_18:1_18:1 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.824 | C56H104O6 | TG |
| 14.1 | 888.8 | TG 53:3 TG 17:0_18:1_18:2 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.824 | C56H102O6 | TG |
| 10.4 | 906.8 | TG 54:1 TG 18:0_18:0_18:1 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.044 | C57H108O6 | TG |
| 10.1 | 906.8 | TG 54:1 TG 18:0_18:0_18:1 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.015 | C57H108O6 | TG |
| 10.5 | 906.8 | TG 54:1 TG 18:0_18:0_18:1 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.015 | C57H108O6 | TG |
| 14.2 | 904.8 | TG 54:2 TG 18:0_18:1_18:1 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.882 | C57H106O6 | TG |
| 14.4 | 904.8 | TG 54:2 TG 18:0_18:1_18:1 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.985 | C57H106O6 | TG |
| 14.0 | 902.8 | TG 54:3 TG 18:1_18:1_18:1 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.824 | C57H104O6 | TG |
| 14.2 | 902.8 | TG 54:3 TG 18:1_18:1_18:1 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 1 | C57H104O6 | TG |

| | | | | | | |
|------|-------|----------------------------|----------------------|-------|-----------|----|
| 14.0 | 900.8 | TG 54:4 TG 18:1_18:1_18:2 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.956 | C57H102O6 | TG |
| 13.9 | 898.8 | TG 54:5 TG 16:0_18:1_20:4 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.809 | C57H100O6 | TG |
| 13.7 | 898.8 | TG 54:5 TG 18:1_18:2_18:2 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.824 | C57H100O6 | TG |
| 13.6 | 896.8 | TG 54:6 TG 16:0_18:2_20:4 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.824 | C57H98O6 | TG |
| 13.4 | 896.8 | TG 54:6 TG 18:1_18:2_18:3 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.824 | C57H98O6 | TG |
| 13.2 | 894.8 | TG 54:7 TG 16:0_18:2_20:5 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.176 | C57H96O6 | TG |
| 13.3 | 894.8 | TG 54:7 TG 16:0_18:2_20:5 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.647 | C57H96O6 | TG |
| 13.0 | 894.8 | TG 54:7 TG 18:2_18:2_18:3 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.559 | C57H96O6 | TG |
| 12.9 | 892.7 | TG 54:8 TG 16:1_18:2_20:5 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.632 | C57H94O6 | TG |
| 12.6 | 892.7 | TG 54:8 TG 18:2_18:3_18:3 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.059 | C57H94O6 | TG |
| 14.2 | 920.9 | TG 55:1 TG 18:0_19:0_18:1 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.824 | C58H110O6 | TG |
| 14.4 | 920.9 | TG 55:1 TG 18:0_20:0_17:1 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.824 | C58H110O6 | TG |
| 14.2 | 918.8 | TG 55:2 TG 18:0_18:1_19:1 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.897 | C58H108O6 | TG |
| 12.8 | 934.9 | TG 56:1 TG 18:0_20:0_18:1 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.015 | C59H112O6 | TG |
| 12.8 | 916.7 | TG 56:10 TG 16:0_18:4_22:6 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.015 | C59H94O6 | TG |
| 12.6 | 916.7 | TG 56:10 TG 16:1_18:3_22:6 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.015 | C59H94O6 | TG |
| 14.4 | 930.8 | TG 56:3 TG 18:1_18:1_20:1 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.824 | C59H108O6 | TG |
| 14.1 | 926.8 | TG 56:5 TG 18:0_18:1_20:4 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.824 | C59H104O6 | TG |
| 13.9 | 924.8 | TG 56:6 TG 16:0_18:1_22:5 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.824 | C59H102O6 | TG |
| 13.6 | 924.8 | TG 56:6 TG 16:0_20:3_20:3 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.809 | C59H102O6 | TG |
| 13.7 | 922.8 | TG 56:7 TG 16:0_18:1_22:6 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.824 | C59H100O6 | TG |
| 13.2 | 922.8 | TG 56:7 TG 16:0_18:1_22:6 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.176 | C59H100O6 | TG |
| 13.6 | 922.8 | TG 56:7 TG 16:0_18:2_22:5 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.824 | C59H100O6 | TG |
| 13.4 | 920.8 | TG 56:8 TG 16:0_18:2_22:6 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.824 | C59H98O6 | TG |
| 13.2 | 920.8 | TG 56:8 TG 18:1_18:2_20:5 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.338 | C59H98O6 | TG |
| 13.0 | 918.8 | TG 56:9 TG 16:0_18:3_22:6 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.5 | C59H96O6 | TG |
| 13.0 | 918.8 | TG 56:9 TG 16:1_18:2_22:6 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.147 | C59H96O6 | TG |
| 12.9 | 918.8 | TG 56:9 TG 18:2_18:2_20:5 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.029 | C59H96O6 | TG |
| 14.4 | 946.9 | TG 57:2 TG 18:0_21:0_18:2 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.824 | C60H112O6 | TG |
| 13.0 | 944.8 | TG 58:10 TG 18:2_18:2_22:6 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.735 | C61H98O6 | TG |
| 12.9 | 942.8 | TG 58:11 TG 16:0_20:5_22:6 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.015 | C61H96O6 | TG |
| 12.7 | 942.8 | TG 58:11 TG 18:1_18:4_22:6 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.015 | C61H96O6 | TG |
| 12.6 | 942.8 | TG 58:11 TG 18:2_18:3_22:6 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.044 | C61H96O6 | TG |
| 12.3 | 940.7 | TG 58:12 TG 18:2_18:4_22:6 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.015 | C61H94O6 | TG |
| 13.1 | 968.8 | TG 60:12 TG 16:0_22:6_22:6 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.324 | C63H98O6 | TG |
| 12.5 | 966.8 | TG 60:13 TG 18:2_20:5_22:6 | [M+NH4] ⁺ | 0.015 | C63H96O6 | TG |

Cholesteryl ester (CE), Ceramide non-hydroxyfatty acid-sphingosine (Cer_NS), Diacylglycerol (DG), Fatty Acyls (FA), Lysophosphatidylcholine (LPC), Monoacylglycerol (MG), N-acyl ethanolamines (NAE), phosphatidylcholine (PC), Ether-linked oxidized phosphatidylethanolamine (EtherOxPE), Ether-phosphatidylcholine (EtherPC), Ether-phosphatidylethanolamine (EtherPE), Phosphatidylethanolamine (PE), Phosphatidylinositol (PI), Sphingomyelin, (SM), OxTG Oxidized triglyceride (OxTG) , Triacylglycerol(TG).

3.1. Lipid Classes

LS-MS analysis allow to identify lipids from several different classes. The most abundant was triglycerides (TG) and the least abundant was monoacylglycerol (MG).

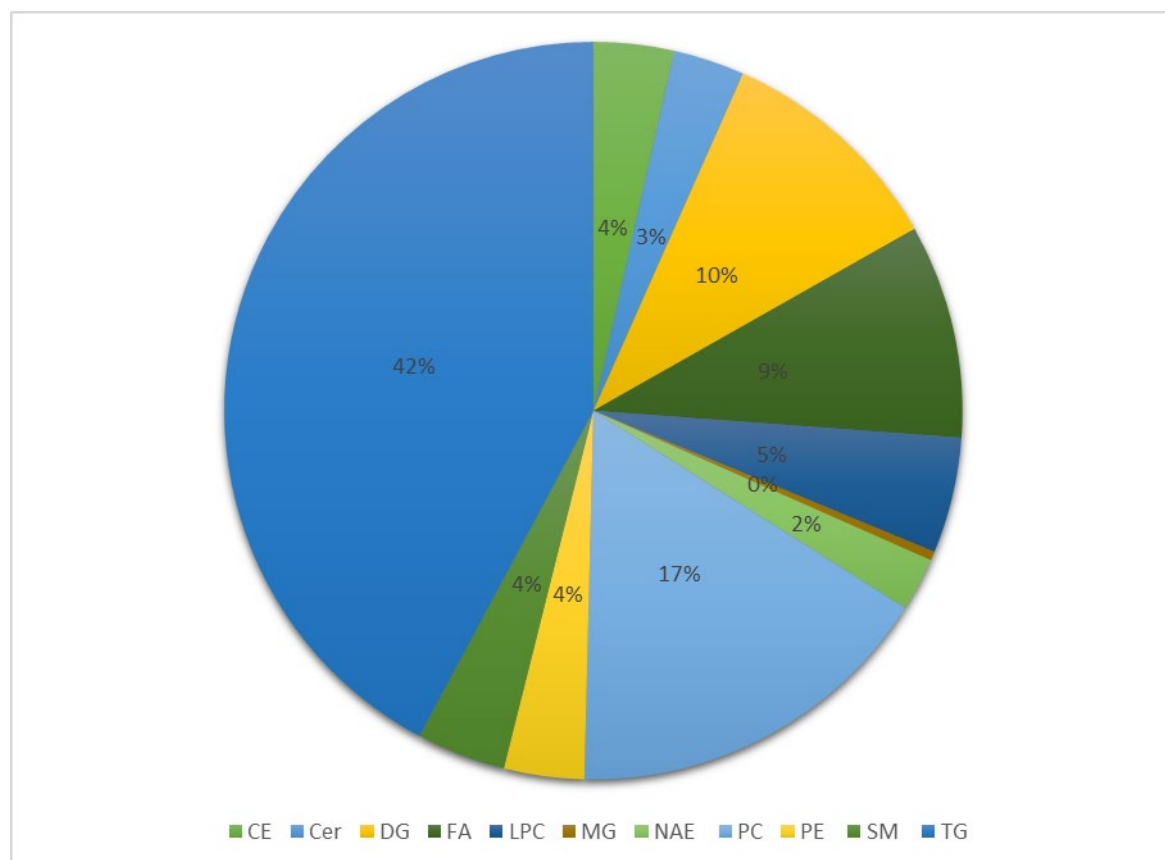


Figure 3. Different lipid classes identified by LC MS analysis. The graph represents the number of lipids that are detected per group.

Cholesteryl ester (CE), Diacylglycerol (DG), Fatty Acyls (FA), Lysophosphatidylcholine (LPC), Monoacylglycerol (MG), N-acyl ethanolamines (NAE), phosphatidylcholine (PC), Phosphatidylethanolamine (PE), Phosphatidylinositol (PI), Sphingomyelin, (SM), Triacylglycerol (TG).

Comparing smokers and non-smokers some lipid classes were considerably changed as revealed by fold change analysis. Those classes are listed in the table.

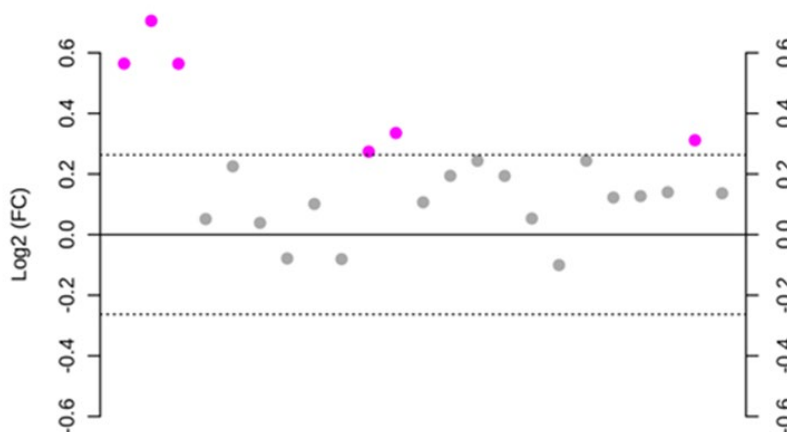


Figure 4: Important features selected by fold-change analysis with threshold 1.2. The purpled circles represent features above the threshold. The values are on log scale, so that both up-regulated and downregulated features are identified (direction of comparisons: NS vs S).²⁷

Tabel 5: Important features selected by fold-change analysis with threshold 1.2.

| Lipid groups | Fold Change | log2(FC) |
|----------------|-------------|----------|
| CE (total) | 1.4788 | -0.56446 |
| CE saturated | 1.631 | -0.70572 |
| CE unsaturated | 1.4784 | -0.56407 |
| LPC (total) | 1.209 | -0.27379 |
| LPC saturated | 1.2617 | -0.33535 |
| TG saturated | 1.2411 | -0.31157 |

Cholesteryl ester (CE), Lysophosphatidylcholine (LPC), Triacylglycerol (TG)

T-test showed many significant differences in lipid classes among smokers and non-smokers. A general trend to decrease was observed in lipid classes in smokers. Exceptionally, fatty acids were upregulated in S vs NS.

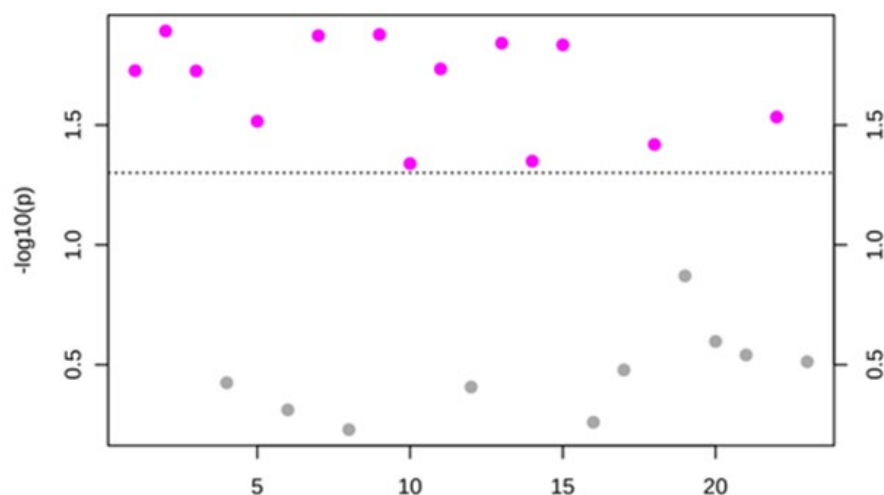


Figure 5: Important features selected by *t*-tests with threshold 0.05. The red circles represent features above the threshold.²⁷

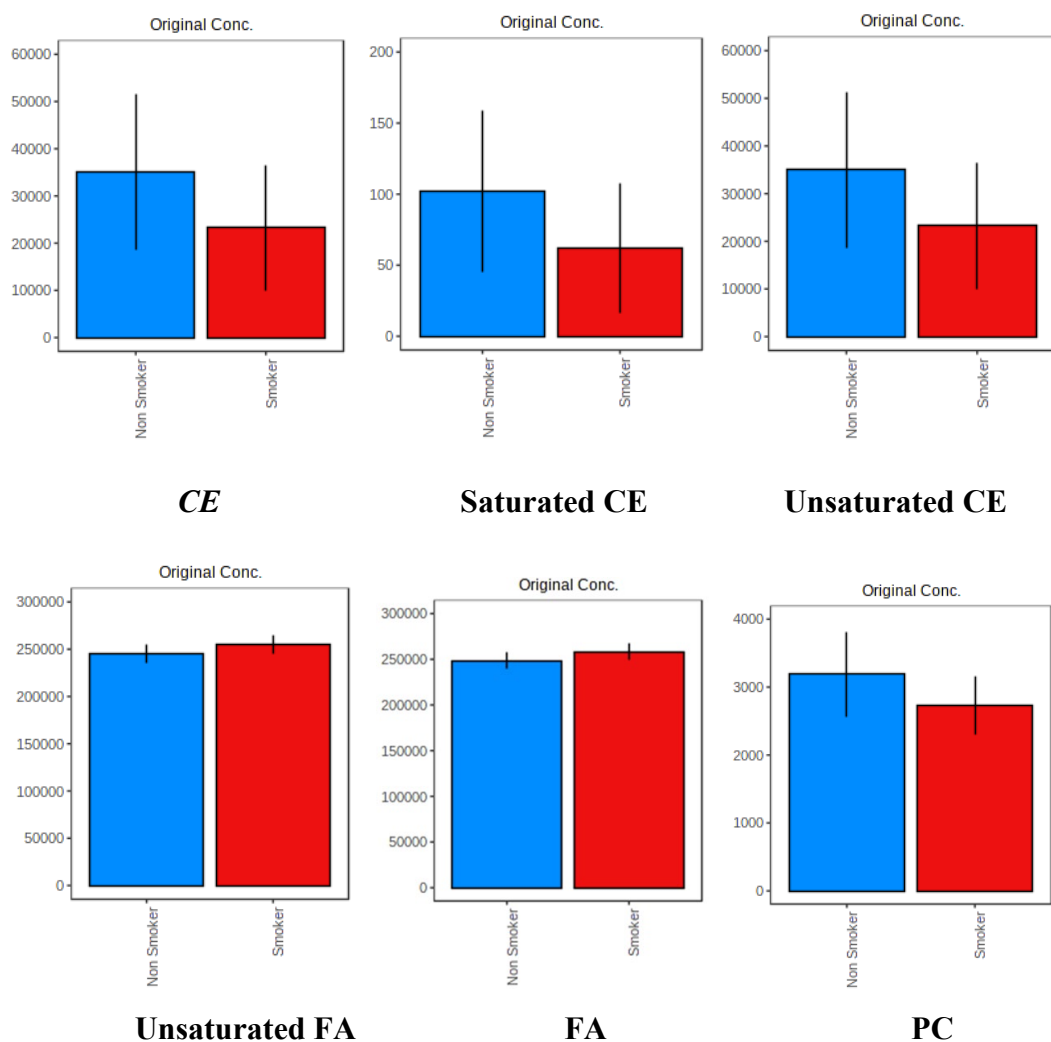
Table 6: Important features selected by *t*-tests with threshold 0.05.

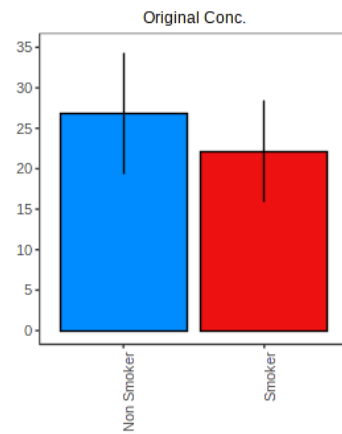
| Lipids | t.stat | p.value | -log10(p) |
|----------------|--------|----------|-----------|
| CE saturated | 2.6163 | 0.012812 | 1.8924 |
| FA unsaturated | -26022 | 0.013257 | 1.8775 |
| FA | -25979 | 0.0134 | 1.8729 |
| PC | 2.5695 | 0.014397 | 1.8417 |
| PC unsaturated | 2.5628 | 0.014638 | 1.8345 |
| LPC saturated | 2.4698 | 0.01845 | 1.734 |
| CE | 2.4588 | 0.01875 | 1.727 |
| CE unsaturated | 2.4575 | 0.018807 | 1.7257 |
| TG saturated | 2.2712 | 0.029288 | 1.5333 |
| DG saturated | 2.2505 | 0.030492 | 1.5158 |

| | | | |
|--------------|--------|----------|--------|
| Ether PE | 2.1577 | 0.038129 | 1.4187 |
| PC saturated | 2.0778 | 0.044755 | 1.3492 |
| LPC | 2.0676 | 0.045819 | 1.339 |

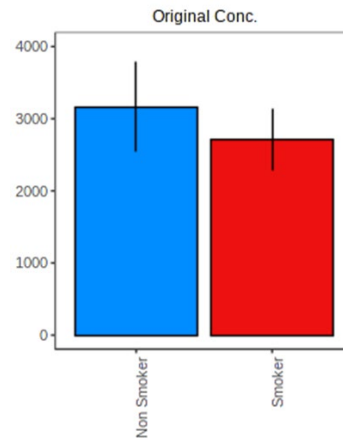
Cholesteryl ester (CE), Diacylglycerol (DG), Fatty Acyls (FA), Lysophosphatidylcholine (LPC), Phosphatidylcholine (PC), Ether-phosphatidylethanolamine (EtherPE), Phosphatidylethanolamine (PE), Triacylglycerol (TG).

Exact concentrations of significantly different lipid classes are shown in graphs (figure 6). Most of them are decreased in smokers in comparison to non-smokers.

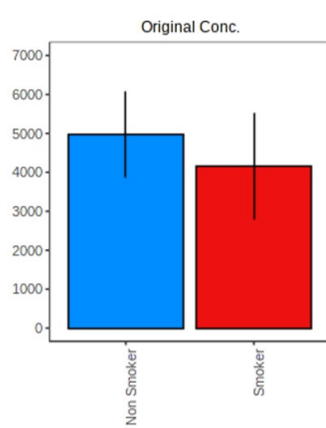




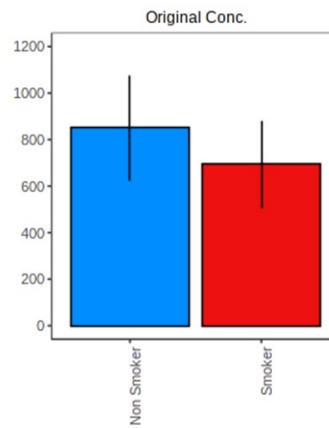
Saturated PC



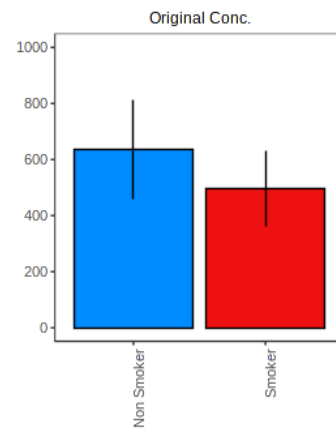
Unsaturated PC



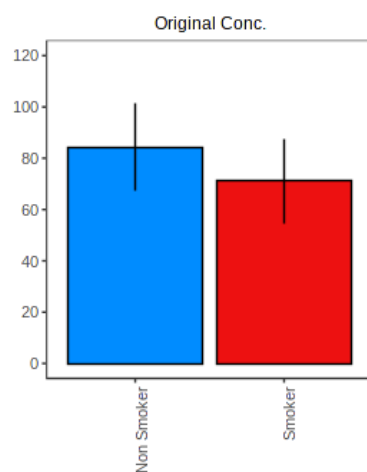
Ether PE



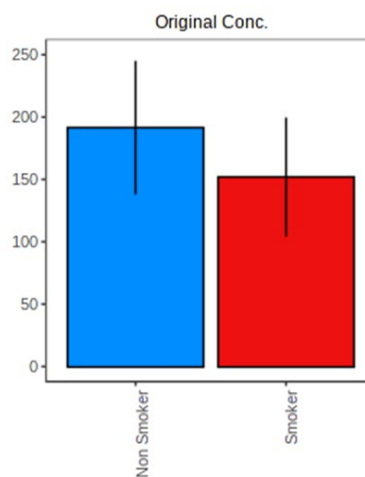
LPC



Saturated LPC



Saturated DG



Saturated TG

Figure 6. Lipid content comparison between non-smoker samples vs smokers. Graphs represent the lipid amount (Amount of lipids in $\mu\text{mol/ml}$, mean \pm SD), which indicates the sum of the metabolites intensities within a class after normalization by internal standard.²⁷

Cluster analysis do not show any obvious diversity between smoking and non-smoking subjects (heatmap is presented in figure 7).

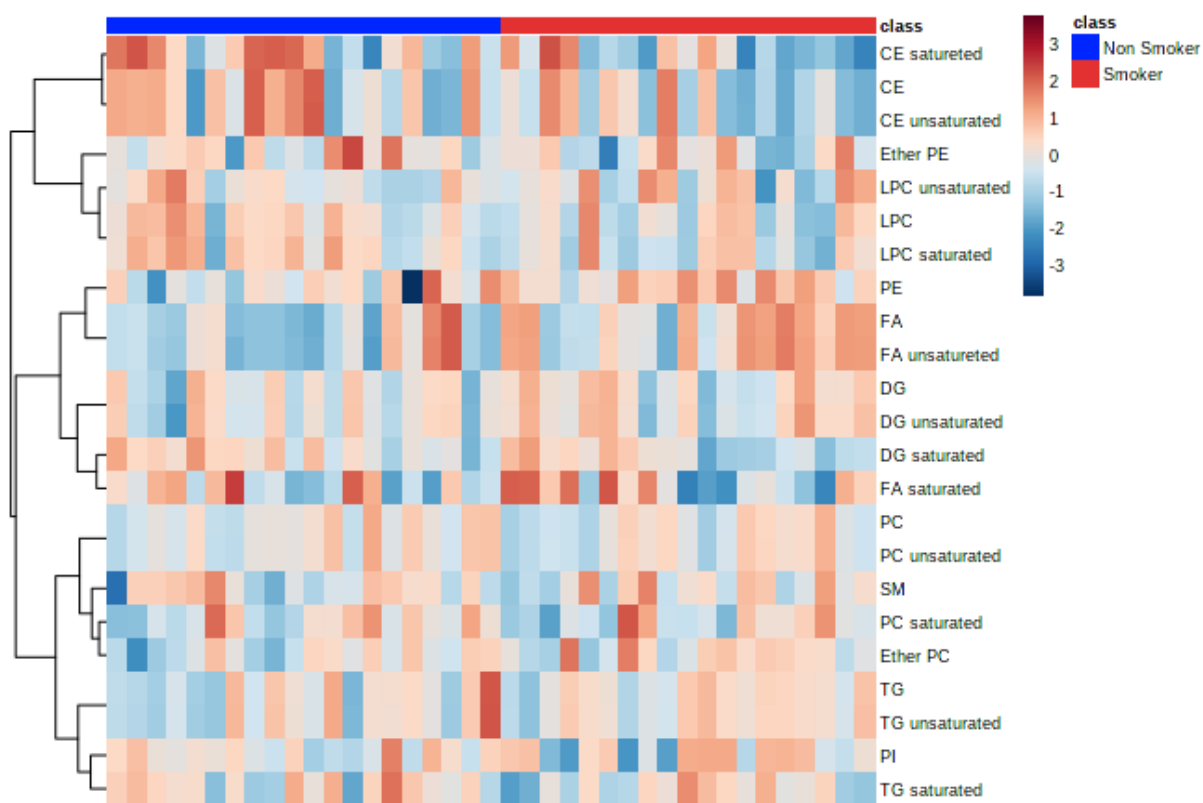


Figure 7: Clustering result shown as heatmap (distance measure using correlation, and clustering algorithm using ward.D).²⁷

3.2. Individual lipid species

Comparing smokers and non-smokers some lipids were considerably changed as revealed by fold change analysis. Graphical representation of fold change analysis is shown in figure 8 and list of important features is in Table 7.

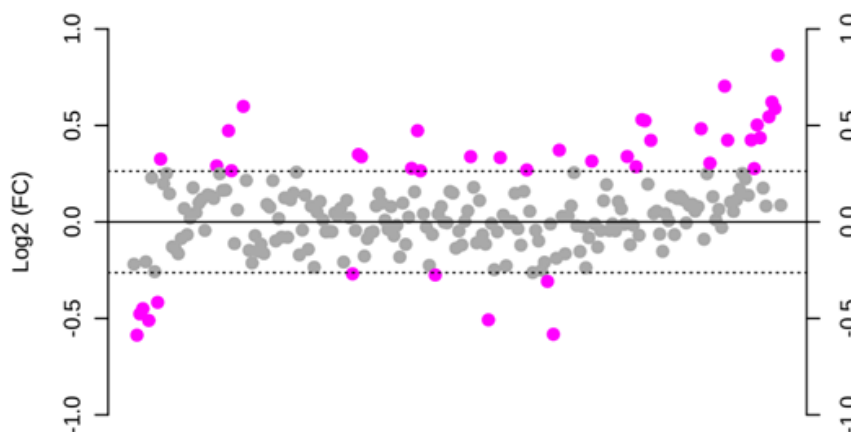


Figure 8: Important features selected by fold-change analysis with threshold 1.2. The purpled circles represent features above the threshold. The values are on log scale, so that both up-regulated and downregulated features are identified. ²⁷

Table 7: Important features identified by fold change analysis

| Metabolite name | Fold Change | log2(FC) |
|----------------------|-------------|----------|
| CE 18:0 | 0.66585 | -0.58673 |
| CE 18:1 | 0.71866 | -0.47663 |
| CE 18:2 | 0.73214 | -0.44982 |
| CE 20:4 | 0.70188 | -0.5107 |
| CE 22:6.1 | 0.74902 | -0.41692 |
| DG 28:2 | 1.2533 | 0.32569 |
| DG 41:6 | 1.223 | 0.2904 |
| DG 44:8 | 1.3875 | 0.47251 |
| DG 45:8 | 1.2019 | 0.26536 |
| FA 18:1 | 2.292 | 1.1966 |
| FA 18:2 | 1.5145 | 0.5988 |
| PC 36:4 PC 18:2_18:2 | 0.82986 | -0.26906 |
| PC 36:5 | 1.2741 | 0.34953 |
| PC 36:5 PC 16:0_20:5 | 1.2638 | 0.33776 |
| PE 36:1 | 1.2123 | 0.27773 |
| PE 36:2 PE 18:1_18:1 | 1.3879 | 0.47288 |
| PE 38:4 PE 18:0_20:4 | 1.2015 | 0.2648 |

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---------|----------|
| PE P-38:4 PE P-18:0_20:4 | 0.8265 | -0.27492 |
| TG 36:0 TG 10:0_12:0_14:0 | 1.2643 | 0.3383 |
| TG 42:1 TG 8:0_16:0_18:1 | 0.70337 | -0.50764 |
| TG 44:2 TG 12:0_14:0_18:2 | 1.2597 | 0.33311 |
| TG 46:3 TG 12:0_16:0_18:3 | 1.2054 | 0.26951 |
| TG 48:2 TG 14:0_16:1_18:1 | 0.8077 | -0.3081 |
| TG 48:4 TG 12:0_18:2_18:2 | 0.6679 | -0.58231 |
| TG 49:0 TG 16:0_16:0_17:0 | 1.2941 | 0.37192 |
| TG 50:5 TG 14:0_18:2_18:3 | 1.2441 | 0.31505 |
| TG 52:4 TG 16:0_18:2_18:2 | 1.2649 | 0.33904 |
| TG 52:5 TG 16:0_18:2_18:3 | 1.2193 | 0.28611 |
| TG 52:6 TG 16:1_18:2_18:3 | 1.444 | 0.53006 |
| TG 52:6 TG 16:1_18:2_18:3.1 | 1.4386 | 0.52466 |
| TG 52:7 TG 16:0_18:3_18:4 | 1.3403 | 0.42253 |
| TG 54:7 TG 16:0_18:2_20:5.1 | 1.3975 | 0.48289 |
| TG 54:8 TG 18:2_18:3_18:3 | 1.2351 | 0.30467 |
| TG 56:10 TG 16:0_18:4_22:6 | 1.6286 | 0.70366 |
| TG 56:10 TG 16:1_18:3_22:6 | 1.3412 | 0.42355 |
| TG 56:8 TG 16:0_18:2_22:6 | 1.3419 | 0.42425 |
| TG 56:8 TG 18:1_18:2_20:5 | 1.2114 | 0.27667 |
| TG 56:9 TG 16:0_18:3_22:6 | 1.4167 | 0.50257 |
| TG 56:9 TG 16:1_18:2_22:6 | 1.3527 | 0.43587 |
| TG 58:10 TG 18:2_18:2_22:6 | 1.4586 | 0.54459 |
| TG 58:11 TG 16:0_20:5_22:6 | 1.5383 | 0.6213 |
| TG 58:11 TG 18:1_18:4_22:6 | 1.5027 | 0.58759 |
| TG 58:11 TG 18:2_18:3_22:6 | 1.8199 | 0.86384 |

Cholesteryl ester (CE), Diacylglycerol (DG), Fatty Acids (FA), Phosphatidylcholine (PC), Phosphatidylethanolamine (PE), Triacylglycerol (TG).

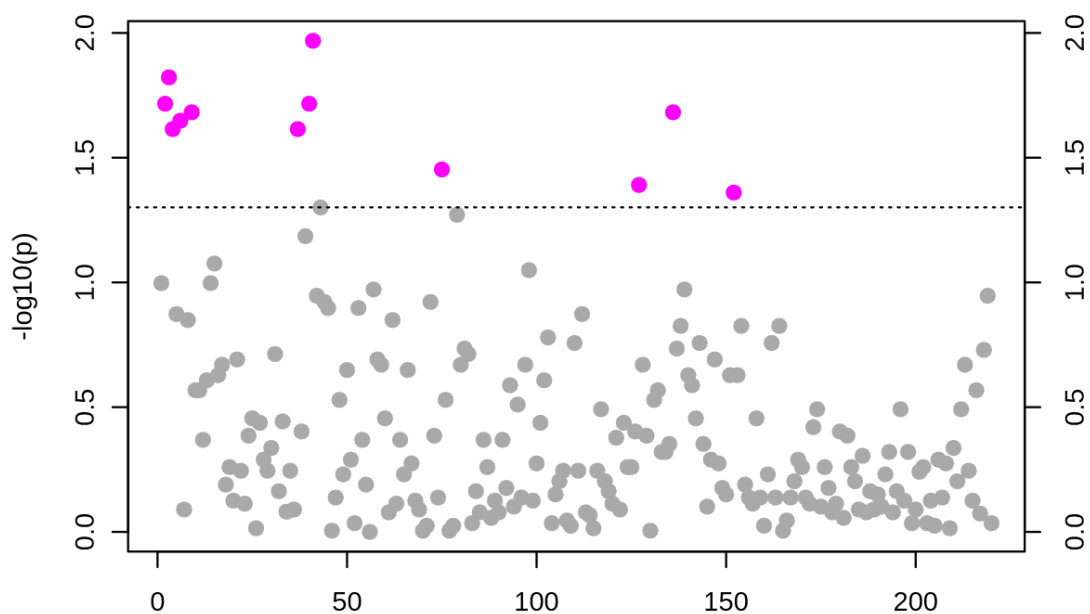


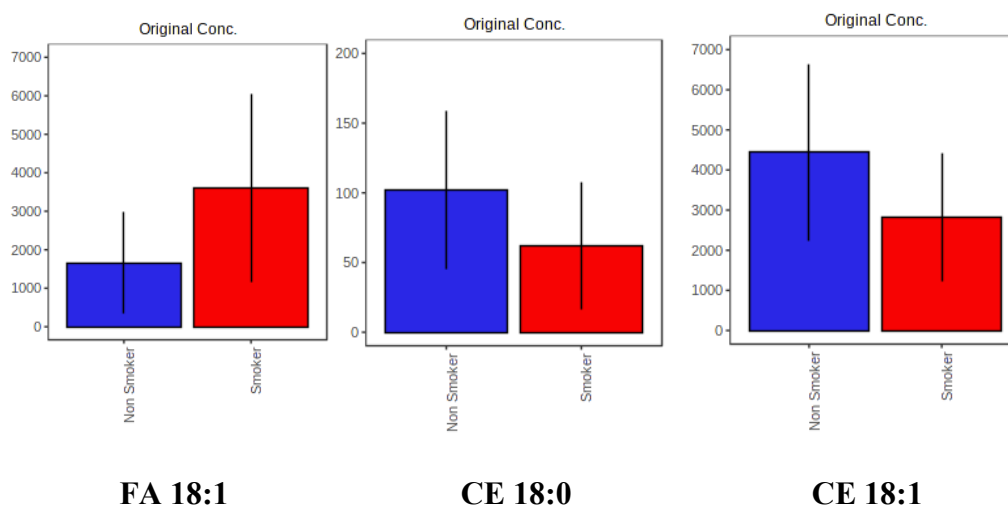
Figure 9. Important features selected by t-tests with threshold 0.05. The purple circles represent features above the threshold.²⁷

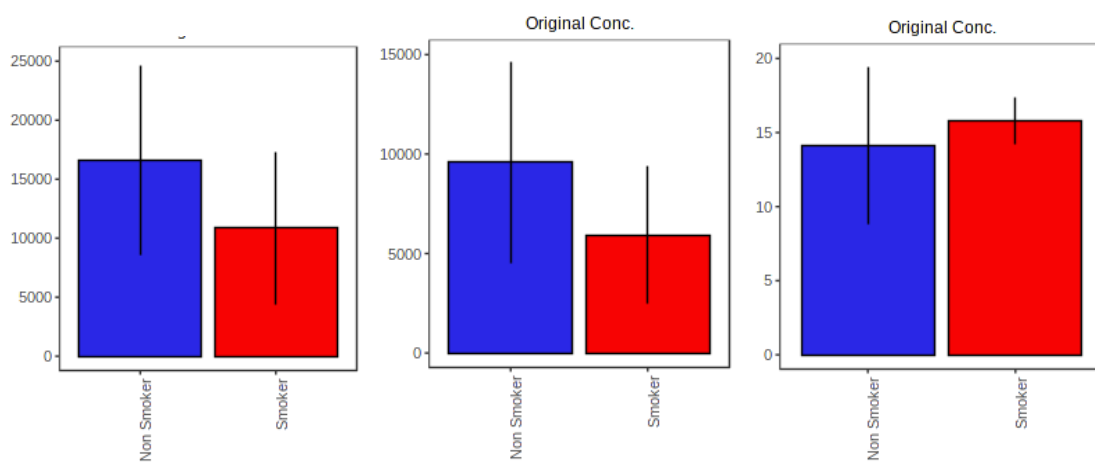
Tabel 8: Important features selected by t-tests with threshold 0.05.

| Metabolite name | t.stat | p.value | -log10(p) |
|-----------------------------|---------|----------|-----------|
| CE 18:0 | 2.5453 | 0.015218 | 1.8176 |
| CE 18:1 | 2.7428 | 0.009335 | 2.0299 |
| CE 18:2 | 2.6418 | 0.012012 | 1.9204 |
| CE 20:4 | 2.7628 | 0.008874 | 2.0519 |
| DG 28:2 | -2.1246 | 0.040364 | 1.394 |
| FA 18:1 | -2.9115 | 0.006061 | 2.2174 |
| TG 52:7 TG 16:0_18:3_18:4 | -2.2582 | 0.029917 | 1.5241 |
| TG 54:7 TG 16:0_18:2_20:5.1 | -2.3723 | 0.022987 | 1.6385 |
| TG 56:10 TG 16:0_18:4_22:6 | -2.4101 | 0.021036 | 1.677 |
| TG 58:11 TG 18:2_18:3_22:6 | -2.0272 | 0.049896 | 1.3019 |

Cholesteryl ester (CE), Diacylglycerol (DG), Fatty Acyls (FA), Triacylglycerol (TG).

Exact concentrations of significantly different individual lipid are shown in graphs (figure 10). Most of them are decreased in smokers in comparison to non-smokers.

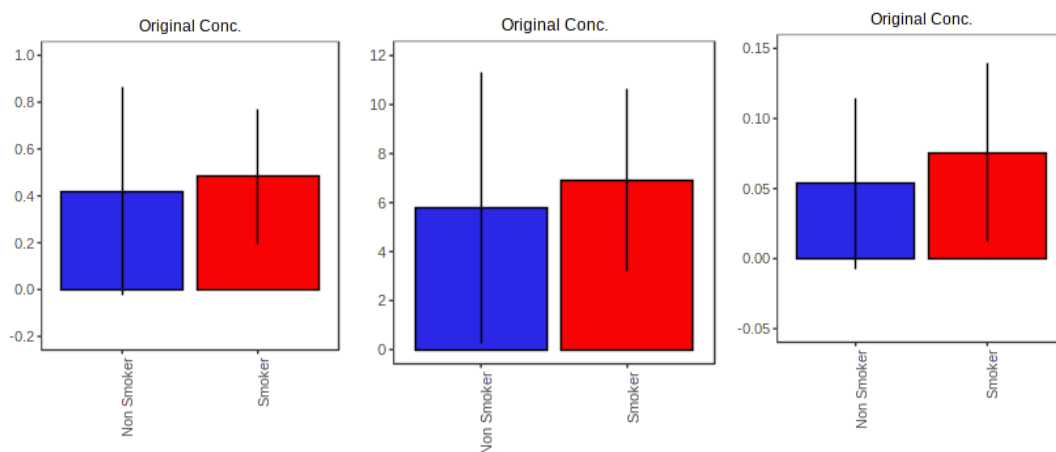




CE 18:2

CE 20:4

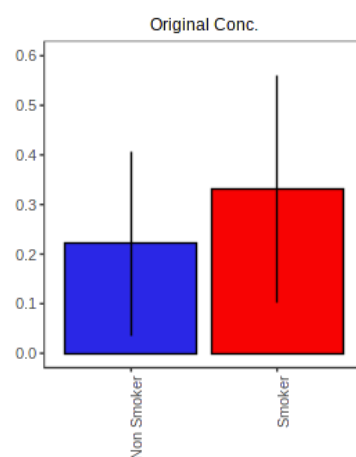
DG 28:2



TG 52:7

TG 54:7

TG 56:10



TG 58:11

Figure 10. Lipid content comparison between non- smokers vs smokers Graphs represent the lipid amount (Amount of lipids in $\mu\text{mol/ml}$, mean \pm SD), which indicates the sum of the metabolites intensities within a individual metabolite after normalization by internal standard.²⁷

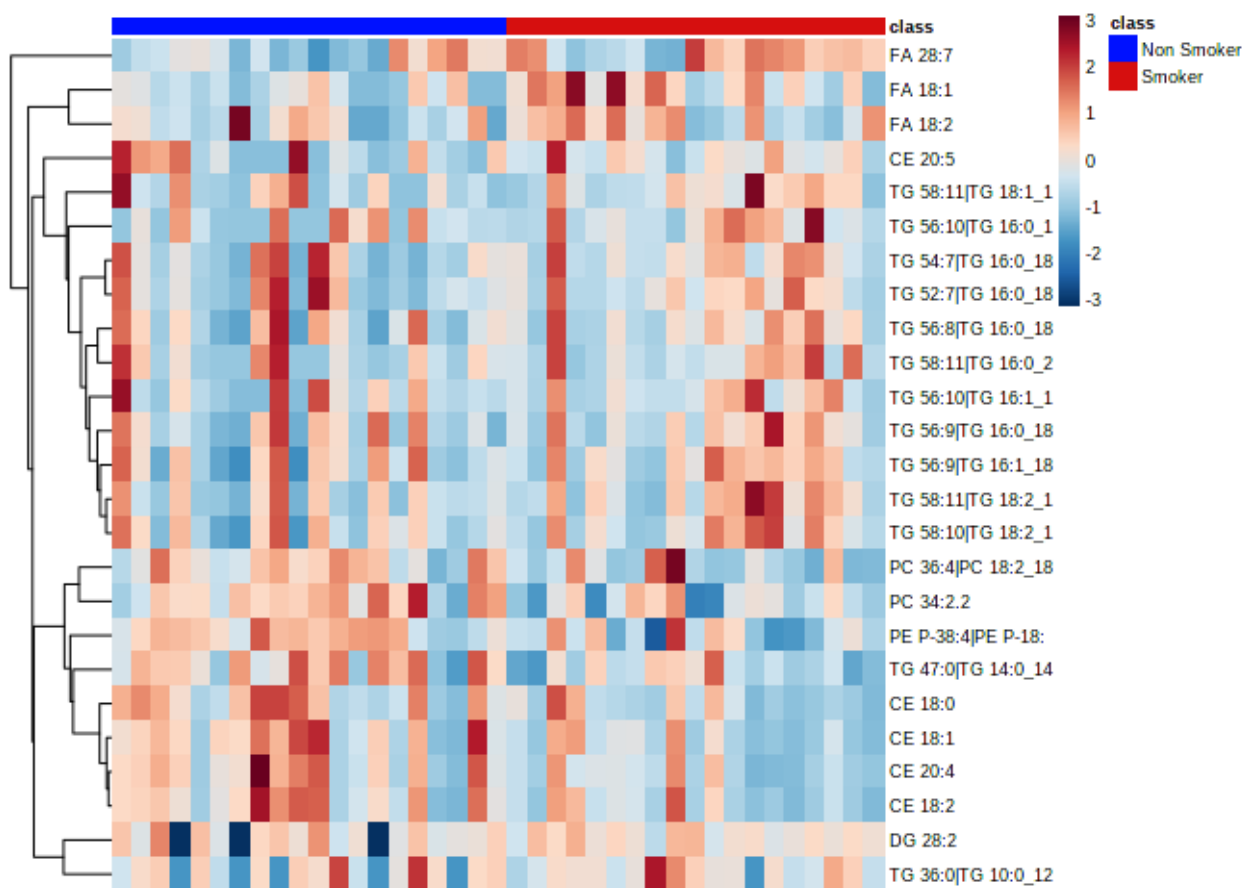


Figure 11: Clustering result shown as heatmap (distance measure using euclidean, and clustering algorithm using ward.D).²⁷

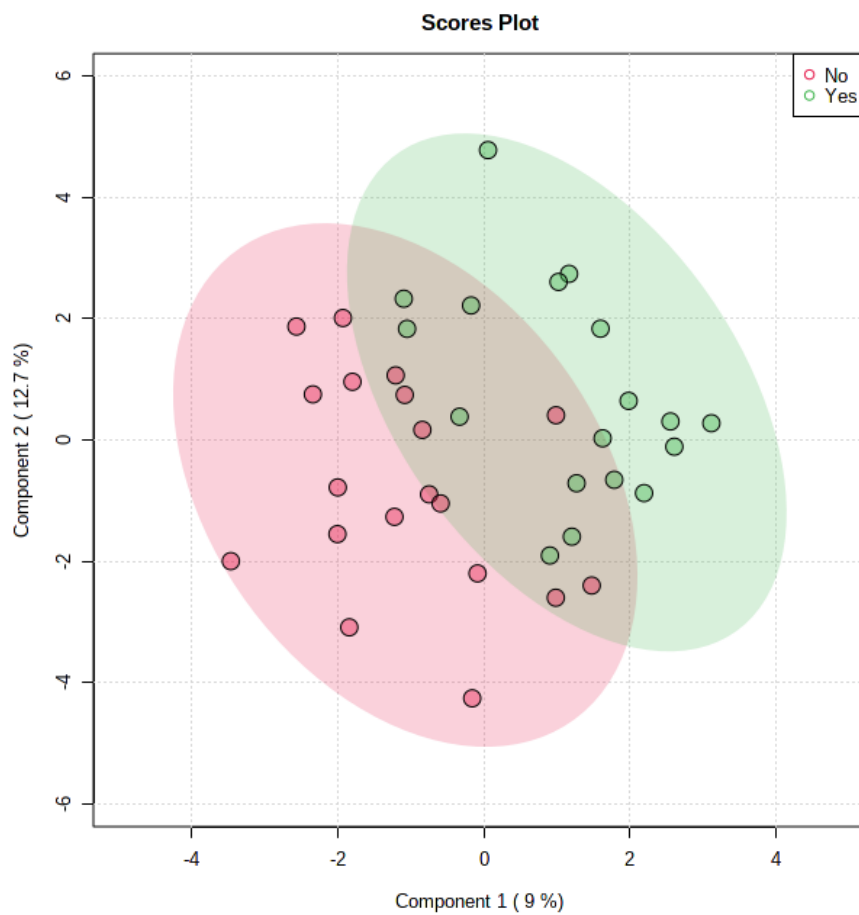


Figure 12- Partial Least Squares Discriminant Analysis (PLS-DA) for the subgroups (red color represents non- smokers, green color represents smokers).²⁷

4. DISCUSSION

Cigarette smoking is one of the leading causes of preventable morbidity and mortality that usually starts in adolescence and continues into adult life.^{29,30} Tobacco smoking is responsible for the premature development of cardiovascular disease by various mechanisms, and abnormal serum lipid profile and lipoprotein levels are one of the consequences.^{31,32}

Participants showed an increase in fatty acids in smoker groups compared with non-smokers. It is consistent with the available data on the effect of intravenous nicotine on the increase of free fatty acids in the plasma through enhanced lipolysis resulting from sympathoadrenal stimulation.³³ In these studies, one of the detected species of fatty acids, oleic acid (FA18:1) in particular changed significantly. It is known that smoking can reduce the conversion of short-chain unsaturated fatty acids to long-chain derivatives, resulting in the accumulation of the former. *In vitro* studies have shown that oleic acid may promote oxidative stress and lipid accumulation in hepatocytes,³⁴ so it can be concluded that this compound causes unfavorable phenomena in human metabolism. Recently it has been shown that higher circulating oleic acid levels are related to greater risks of cardiovascular events and all cause mortality.³⁵ Some authors reported that after smoking cessation concentration of this compound tends to decrease.³⁶

In turn, cholesterol esters were significantly downregulated in smokers (both saturated and unsaturated), which is difficult to explain as their contribution to atherosclerosis is well-documented.³⁷ In the examined cohort total cholesterol concentration was also significantly decreased in smokers and it was not an effect of treatment or co-morbid conditions as checked by regression analysis. However, HDL-C was also decreased. CE, along with phosphatidylcholines, is one of the most abundant lipid pool not only in low-density, but also in high-density lipoprotein.³⁸ Thus, decreased concentration of CE in smokers may somehow reflect decreased HDL-C in these patients, but this hypothesis needs verification by lipidomic analysis in separated lipoprotein fractions. Many authors considered HDL-C fraction as the most susceptible to changes during smoking.³⁹ It should be underlined that multiple mechanism of adverse effects of smoking on HDL-C particle has been documented, such as inhibition of lecithin: cholesterol acyltransferase (LCAT) and/or altering cholesterol ester transfer protein (CETP) and hepatic lipase activity, which attributes to its impact on HDL metabolism and HDL subfractions

distribution.³⁹ Analyzing changes in individual compounds some CE species were shown as important: CE 18:0, 18:1, 18:2 (all were decreased in smokers). This may again result from deficient conversion of free cholesterol to CE (catalyzed by LCAT), but it is somehow inconsistent. Particles enriched with monounsaturated CE (CE 18:1) are considered as more active in binding to arterial proteoglycans, leading to the subsequent formation of atherosclerotic lesions, while CE with linoleic acid (CE 18:2) are thought to be less atherogenic.

Thus smoking appears to have at least two lipid effects that may promote atherosclerosis and coronary artery disease : increased plasma FFA and decreased plasma high-density lipoprotein cholesterol fraction.⁴⁰

Although I did not reach statistical significance in lipid groups diacylglycerol (DAG) and triacylglycerol (TAG) showed increase in male smokers as individual metabolites: TG 58:11, TG 56:10, TG 52:7, TG 54:7 and DG 28:2.

Komiya et al. reported smokers with Brinkman index ≥ 554 (defined as the number of cigarettes smoked per day multiplied by duration of smoking in years) to have 1.657 times the odds of having abnormal triglyceride (TG) levels among Japanese males aged 24–68 years.⁴¹

A possible mechanism of how cigarette smoking may alter lipid levels in serum has been suggested.⁴² As mentioned above, absorption of nicotine induces lipolysis of stored TG and release of free fatty acids. This, in turn, results in increased hepatic synthesis of TG and VLDL.⁴³ My results stay in accordance with available scientific reports. Titz et al. reported that TAG 52:2 levels were positively associated with smoking and CE 22:6 and LPC 18:0 levels were positively associated with non-smoking.⁴⁴

Also, I observed general downregulation of PC class and such profile is associated with coronary artery disease.⁴⁵

Surprisingly, lipid profile was better for smokers than nonsmokers (lower total cholesterol, LDL and triglyceride concentration), only HDL concentration was higher in nonsmokers (but without statistical significance). Received hypolipemic treatment did not differ between subgroups.

The overall observation of the present study was that, there was an increase in the concentration of fatty acids, and some specific triglycerides and diglycerides and a

decrease in the concentration of CE (both saturated and unsaturated) PC (especially diunsaturated, data not shown), and LPC (especially saturated), and TG saturated in smokers compared to nonsmokers. Thus, it can be said based on the present study that smoking affects and deranges the lipid profile, but in patients with already existing cardiovascular diseases and many confounding factors smoking may not have such significant influence as before disease development.

5. CONCLUSIONS

- The tobacco smoking is responsible for premature development of cardiovascular disease by various mechanism, and abnormal serum lipid profile and lipoprotein levels are one of the consequences.^{31,32}
- Participants showed an increase in fatty acids in smoker groups compared with non smokers.
- Oleic acid (FA18: 1) in particular changed significantly. It is known that smoking can reduce the conversion of short chain unsaturated fatty acids to long chain derivatives, resulting in the accumulation of the former.
- Cholesterol esters were significantly downregulated in smokers (both saturated and unsaturated).
- There was an increase in concentration of fatty acids, and some specific triglycerides and diglycerides and decrease in the concentration of CE (both saturated and unsaturated) PC (especially diunsaturated, data not shown), and LPC (especially saturated), and TG saturated in smokers compared to nonsmokers.

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