

# Oligonucleotide development and manufacturing workflow

## Solid-phase synthesis

**Objective:** High-fidelity synthesis of single-stranded oligonucleotides

**Considerations**

- Optimization of coupling conditions
- Scale up from microgram to kilogram
- Regulatory requirements
- Reagent and solvent quality, supply, and disposal

**Strategies**

- Choose solid support to maximize coupling efficiency and recovery
- Use the same automation software across departments for easier transfer

**Removal of solid support and collection of crude oligo in aqueous ammonia solution. Optional: keep hydrophobic DMTr group on full-length oligonucleotide**



## Oligonucleotide purification with DMTr OFF

**OPTION 1**

**Objective:** Separation of full-length oligonucleotides from modified oligonucleotides and short-mers with DMTr off

**Considerations**

- Removal of all impurities by high resolution of full-length oligonucleotide from short-mers
- Use of Na<sup>+</sup> as counterion to the oligonucleotide as a more biological substrate

**Strategies**

- Anion exchange resin that gives sufficient resolution considering the flow properties
- Use Na<sup>+</sup>-based elution buffers

## Oligonucleotide purification with DMTr ON

**OPTION 2**

**Objective:** Capture of full-length oligonucleotides with a hydrophobic DMTr group on 5'-end

**Considerations**

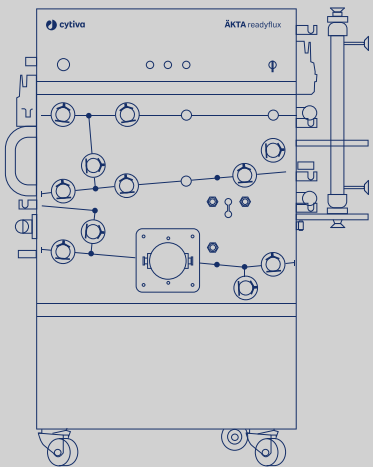
- Capture of full-length oligonucleotide and cleavage of DMTr<sup>+</sup> group
- Reversed phase chromatography with flammable buffers
- Removal of all impurities

**Strategies**

- Enrich DMTr-on oligos utilizing RPC or HIC chromatography
- Remove DMTr group by low pH-treatment
- Add ion exchange chromatography step to remove short-mers and change counterion

\* Dimethoxytrityl (DMTr) is a hydrophobic protecting group on the 5'-end of the oligonucleotide. The DMTr group is cleaved from the oligo under acidic conditions.

**ÅKTA readyflux™ XL and UniFlux™ tangential flow filtration systems. ReadyToProcess™ hollow fiber cartridges**



## Analysis

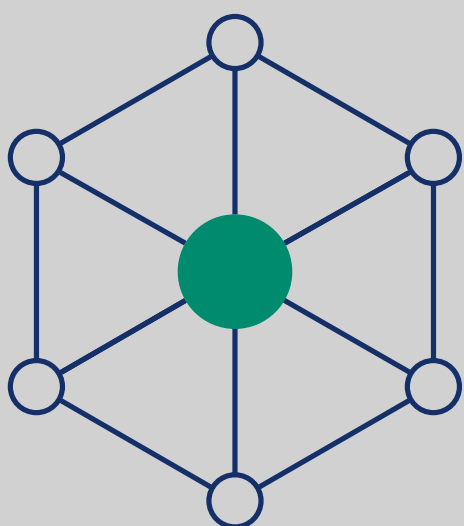
**Objective:** Measure purity, recovery, and identity

**Considerations**

- Robust and advanced analytical testing capabilities
- Quantitation of percentage full-length oligonucleotide
- Qualitative determination of oligonucleotide identity

**Strategies**

- Use analytical IEX-HPLC, ion-pairing RPC and MS
- Tailor analytics for final formulation (e.g., nanoparticle characterization)



## Drug product

**Objective:** Aseptic filling of oligonucleotides

**Considerations**

- Standardized aseptic process that allows format changes in clinical trials/for commercial launch
- Recipe-driven process control for product stability, eliminating human intervention

**Strategies**

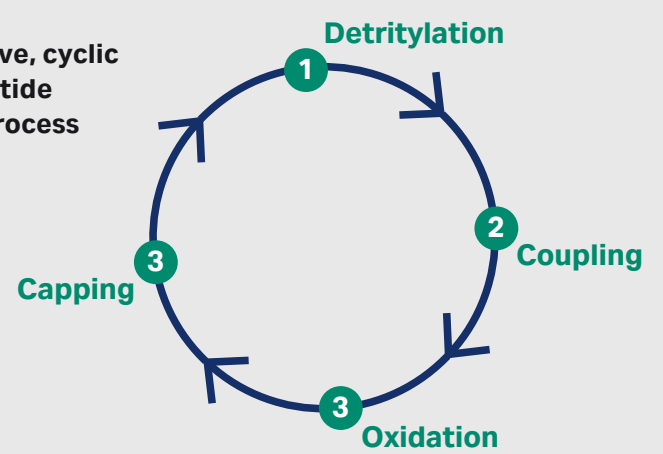
- Clinician/patient-centric delivery method in vials or pre-filled syringes, depending on indication/injection volume

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The repetitive, cyclic oligonucleotide synthesis process can be fully automated.



## Cleavage and deprotection

**Objective:** Cleavage from solid support and optional removal of protection groups

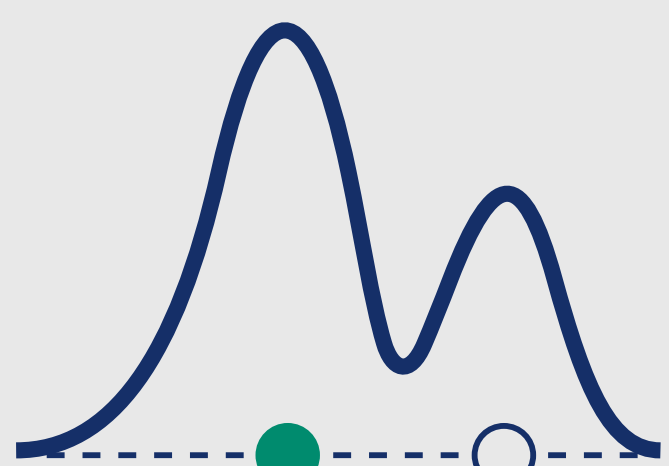
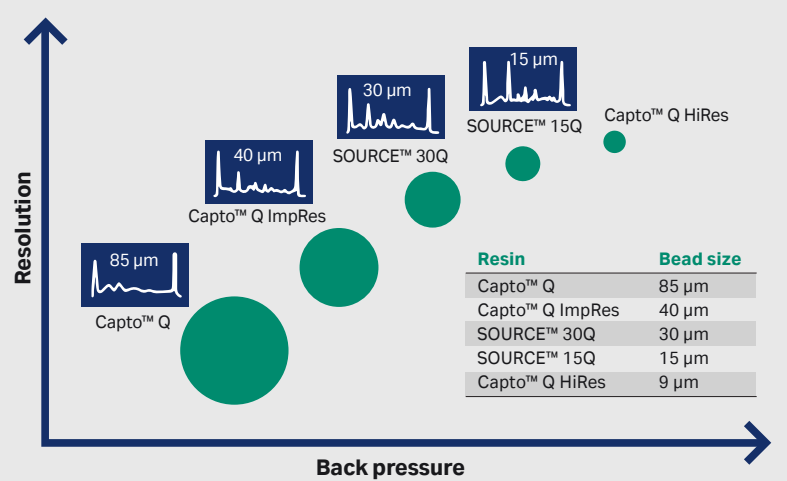
**Considerations**

- Cleavage and optional removal of DMTr group depend on the chemistry and overall downstream process
- Treatment in 25% ammonia at elevated temperature
- RNA requires additional cleavage step

**Strategies**

- Choose appropriate linker for the solid support
- Select appropriate cleavage protocols for DNA or RNA
- Decide if the DMTr 'handle' should be used to purify full-length oligos
- Develop process to treat column content with ammonia solution and elevated temperature

**Cytiva ion exchange chromatography resins. Optimize resolution and throughput with appropriate bead size.**



## Buffer exchange

**Objective:** Removal of salts from the IEX purification step

**Considerations**

- Optimal removal of excess salts
- Minimization of yield losses
- Selection of the appropriate equipment with scale

**Strategies**

- Choose a size exclusion chromatography at small scale, and to separate single- and double-stranded oligos (siRNA)
- Choose tangential flow filtration for scalable buffer exchange
- Select the right filter for the oligonucleotide's elongated shape

## Formulation

**Objective:** Creation of a stable solution, averting lyophilization

**Considerations**

- Evade nuclease degradation
- Avoid thermal terminal sterilization – the nanoparticle itself may degrade
- Long-term stability in solution – especially that of RNA oligonucleotides – is limited, due to sensitivity to hydrolysis

**Strategies**

- Drug product lyophilization (freeze-drying) step helps to remove the fill solvent
- Prefilled syringes, cartridges, and vials

**Cytiva Aseptic Filling Workcells™**



Learn more about oligonucleotide development and manufacturing here.