

# 4 MYTHS DISPROVED

## Choosing the Right HPLC Column

As scientists, we're driven by curiosity, but we also aim for consistency. As new products enter the market we ask ourselves, should we try them? We're here to help answer that question with four HPLC column buying myths disproved.

#1

### Myth: It's better to stay with your current column

The need to change from one brand column to another is largely driven by risk vs. reward. We all know the column is a critical component of LC analysis, and as such poses a real risk to the quality and reliability of results. Therefore, blindly using the same column over and over based purely on legacy may introduce unnecessary risk.

Periodic examination of any risk item should be performed from time to time. For example:

- Is the column from a reputable supplier?
- Has batch-to-batch and lot-to-lot reproducibility been problematic?
- Are you satisfied with the technical support and customer service you received?

If there is concern in any of these areas then investing a little time into migrating your method to a new column that better meets these criteria is a wise investment.

#2

### Myth: Changing columns requires lengthy method revalidation

This isn't necessarily the case. In most cases, a column with equivalent characteristics will give comparable results. In particular, a quick evaluation with actual chromatography can confirm if retention time performance and band spacing are comparable between the columns. If they are, then a simple equivalency study should suffice – and an entire revalidation of the method wouldn't be required.

#3

### Myth: You should use a column from the supplier of your instrument

Not true. In fact, a vast majority of LC systems are running with columns obtained from an alternate supplier. The column you choose should be based on the unique requirements of your methodology, the columns performance and quality, as well as your comfort and satisfaction with the supplier.

#4

### Myth: All columns are more or less the same

As with any product – this isn't the case at all. A column is a critical part of your system and there is wide variability in the quality and performance from brand to brand. In addition, there can also be wide variability in column pricing from brand to brand. What's important in the selection of your column is to carefully examine ALL variables and not to use brand or price as the sole determining factor. A thoughtful examination of all these parameters - performance, price, reliability, buying experience and support should always be done.

Ready to evaluate your LC column options?

Take a look at our new LC column finder tool - where efficiency and savings meet.

[www.perkinelmer.com/columnfinder](http://www.perkinelmer.com/columnfinder)

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