Quaternary amines analysis by LCM and finding the right ion – How To

When analyzing quaternary amines in LC-MS, you should remember that they are permanently charged species.

A tertiary amine for example, may be observed in the positive ion mode as the $[M + H]^+$ ion, but because quaternary amines are already ionized, you should look for the $[M]^+$ ion in the extracted ion chromatograms (EICs) instead.

If you look for the m/z of the $[M + H]^+$ ion, you may see no peak or a peak corresponding to some other compound in the sample because quaternary amines do not form these ions.

These kinds of suggestions can help you identify the proper peak for your **analyte** and avoid peak assignment errors.

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