

Modern methods of structural studies of oligo- and polysaccharides – Współczesne metody badania struktury oligo- i polisacharydów

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The modern state-of-the art of the structural studies of oligo- and polysaccharides is reviewed. The primary structure of polysaccharides is determined when the following features are known: sugar compositions including D or L sugar configurations, ring size of sugar units, anomeric configuration of glycosidic carbons, the linkage type for each intersugar glycosidic linkages, sequence of sugar residues, position of removable substituents and their stereochemistry. The most meaningful procedures for polysaccharides structure elucidations consist of chemical modifications of the samples, gas chromatography and mass spectrometry analyses.