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HPLC method development and validation for simultaneous estimation of Doxycycline and Tinidazole

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ABSTRACT

The aim of the present work was to develop a gradient RP-HPLC for simultaneous analysis of Doxycycline and Tinidazole in tablet dosage form. Method: chromatographic system was optimized using an agilent XDB C18 (150 x 4.6mm,5µm) column with potassium dihydrogen phosphate (pH 3) and acetonitrile in the ratio of 70;30%v/v, as a mobile phase, at a flow rate of 1.0 ml/min. Detection was carried out at 220 nm by a photodiode array detector. Result: doxycycline and tinidazole were eluted with retention times of 3.372 and 2.490 mins, respectively. Beer's lambert's law was obeyed over the concentration ranges of 50 -200µg/ml and 150 - 600µg/ml for doxycycline and tinidazole, respectively. Conclusion: the high recovery and low coefficients of variation confirm the suitability of the method for simultaneous analysis of both drugs in a tablet dosage form. Statistical analysis proves that the method is sensitive and significant for the analysis of doxycycline and tinidazole in pure and in pharmaceutical dosage form without any interference from the excipients. The method was validated in accordance with ICH guidelines. Validation revealed the method is specific, rapid, accurate, precise, reliable, and reproducible.

Keywords: Doxycycline, Tinidazole, HPLC, ICH guidelines.

INTRODUCTION

Doxycycline and Tinidazole combination of drugs belong to the Tetracycline derivative and Imidazole group respectively. Chemically Doxycycline is 2-(amino-hydroxy-methylidene)-4-dimethylamino-5, 10,11,12-tetrahydroxy-6-methyl- 4a,5,5a, 6-tetrahydro-4H-tetracene-1, 3,12-trione is commonly used to treat variety of infections like chronic sinusitis,

syphilis.[1-4]. The structure of Doxycycline was shown in the figure-1. Doxycycline is lipophilic and can pass through the lipid bilayer of the bacteria. It binds to the 30S and 50S ribosomal subunits and blocking the binding of aminoacyl tRNA to the mRNA and inhibiting bacterial protein synthesis. Tinidazole is 1-(3-chloro-2-hydroxy propyl) -2-

methyl-5 nitroimidazole is an antiamoebic drug. Tinidazole is a prodrug and antiprotozoal agent. A free nitro radical is generated from the nitro group of Tinidazole through ferredoxin mediated electron transport system. This free radical covalently binds to DNA causing DNA damage which leads to cell death.[1-3] The structure of Tinidazole was shown in the figure-2.

The liquid chromatographic method for the determination of Doxycycline is the choice of some Pharmacopoeias [5-6]. Several techniques have been reported for the *in vitro* and *in vivo* determination of Doxycycline and include microbiology [7], fluorimetry [8], lanthanide sensitized luminescence [9], chemiluminescence [10], optical fibre sensor [11], solid surface phosphorescence [12], ion selective electrode (ISE)-potentiometry [13], cyclodextrin based fluorosensor [14], internal solid contact sensor based on a conducting polypyrrole

[15], thin-layer chromatography (TLC) [16], TLC-fluorescence scanning densitometry (TLC-FSD) [17], derivative spectrophotometry [18] and HPLC for body fluids [19-25]. Tinidazole was estimated in body fluids and in pharmaceutical formulations by spectrophotometry [26-31], potentiometry [31], HPLC methods [31-33], polarography [34,35] and resonance light scattering technique [36]. It is necessary to develop a method to determine the combination both in pure and formulation. The present paper describes a simple, sensitive validated and economic method for the simultaneous determination of doxycycline and tinidazole by HPLC.

All chemicals were of AR-grade. All reagents were of HPLC grade and purchased from Merck pharmaceuticals. The formulation was purchased from the local pharmacy.

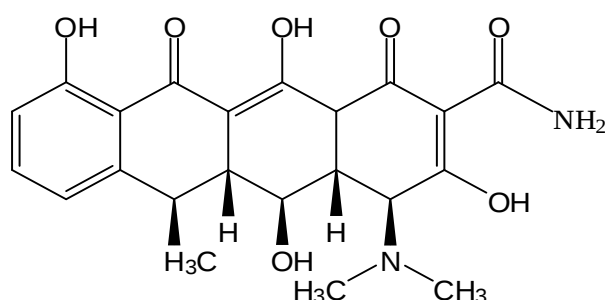


Figure 1: Structure of Doxycycline

INSTRUMENTATION

The analysis was performed on Waters2695 HPLC system with Waters2996 Photodiode Array detector. Data acquisition was performed by using Empower 2 software. Agilent XDB, C18 column (150 x 4.6mm, 5 μ) was used as stationary phase. Injections were performed by the manual injector with 10 μ l. Different mobile phases were tested in order of their polarity to find out the best conditions for the separation of doxycycline and tinidazole. The selected mobile phase Potassium Dihydrogen Phosphate buffer of 0.1% (pH 3) and acetonitrile in the ratio of 70:30v/v gave acceptable retention time (RT) and good resolution between doxycycline and tinidazole. The flow rate was maintained at 1.0 mL min⁻¹, with a run time of 10 min. The mobile phase

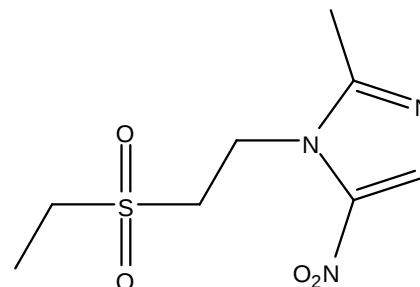


Figure 2: Structure of Tinidazole

was filtered by using 0.45 μ filter and it was degassed by sonication prior to use. All determinations were made at ambient temperature.

STANDARD SOLUTION AND CALIBRATION CURVE PREPARATION

Doxycycline (10mg) and Tinidazole (30mg) were weighed and transferred separately to 10ml volumetric flask. Both the drugs were dissolved in 7ml of HPLC grade methanol and the volume was made up with the same to prepare 1000 μ g/ml. Pipette out 0.5ml of above and transfer in 10ml volumetric flask and make up the volume till the mark with methanol to make 50 μ g/ml standard solutions. Calibration standards were prepared taking aliquots and further diluted stock solutions in the

concentration ranges of 50 to 200 µg/ml and 150 to 600 µg/ml for doxycycline and tinidazole respectively and peak areas were plotted against the corresponding concentrations to obtain the calibration graphs.

SAMPLE PREPARATION

For the analysis of a tablet dosage form, 20 tablets were weighed individually and their average mass was determined. Then the tablets were crushed to fine powder. Transferred an accurately weighed portion of the powder, equivalent to 100mg of doxycycline and 300mg tinidazole to a 100ml volumetric flask and diluted with methanol till the mark and sonicated for 25 minutes. The solution was filtered through a Whatmann filter paper no.1. Filtrate was then appropriately diluted with mobile phase to get a final concentration. Before the assay of the tablet formulations, five replicate aliquot of the appropriately diluted tablet stock solution were sonicated for 15 minutes, then injected into the chromatographic system and analyzed quantitatively.

OPTIMISATION OF HPLC METHOD

The HPLC procedure was optimized with a view to develop a simultaneous assay method for doxycycline and tinidazole. Preliminary experiments were carried out to optimize the parameters affecting simultaneous estimation of two drugs. Reverse phase column [Agilent XDB C18 (150 x 4.6mm, 5 µm) column] was selected on the basis of the polarity of drugs for analysis. Following parameters were optimized for the development of method i.e. column, wavelength, mobile phase concentration, solvent, flow rate, concentration of buffer. The solvent type, solvent strength, detection wavelength and flow rate were varied to determine the best chromatographic conditions for the separation of doxycycline and tinidazole in chromatogram. The mobile phase conditions were optimized to avoid interference from solvent and formulation excipients. Other criteria, for example, time required for analysis, flow rate of mobile phase, symmetry of eluted peaks, assay sensitivity and solvent noise during drug analysis were also considered. The spectra of the analytes were determined independently and in combination. It was observed that at wavelength 220nm both the drugs could be

detected simultaneously with no mobile phase interference, good separation, sensitivity and consistent baseline. The feasibility of various combinations of solvents such as acetonitrile, methanol, buffer and water with altered flow rate (in the range 0.8 – 1.2 ml/min), was investigated for complete chromatographic resolution of above drugs with best sensitivity, efficiency, and peak shape.

METHOD VALIDATION

Validation of an analytical method is a necessary step in controlling the quality of quantitative analysis. Validation can be defined as the process by which it is established, by laboratory studies that the analytical parameters of the method should meet the requirements for the intended analytical applications. Thus, with the background knowledge of linearity, accuracy,

Precision and robustness of the analytical method, it is relatively easy to derive the confidence and the reliability of the analytical data obtained with it. Validated the developed method as per ICH and FDA [37-41] guidelines with parameters like specificity, precision, accuracy, linearity and range, ruggedness and robustness etc..

System Suitability

System suitability parameter was calculated before starting validation parameters. It was determined by taking the Coefficient of variation of peak area, peak asymmetry and theoretical plate of the six standards injections by using the same standard method which given assay method.

Linearity and Range

The linearity of an analytical procedure is its ability (within a given range) to obtain test results which are directly proportional to the concentration (amount) of the analyte in the sample.

The range of the analytical procedure is the interval between the upper and lower concentration of analyte in the sample (including these concentrations) for which it has been demonstrated that the analytical procedure has a suitable level of precision, accuracy and linearity. Linearity established across the range of the analytical procedure. It was determined at seven levels over the range of 25% to 200% of test concentrations. A standard linearity solution was

prepared to attain concentration of 25%, 50%, 75%, 100%, 125%, 150% and 200% of the test concentration. The area at each level is calculated and a graph area versus concentration is plotted. The correlation co-efficient (r^2) was calculated and recorded.

Precision

The precision of an analytical procedure expresses the closeness of agreement (degree of scatter) between a series of measurements obtained from multiple sampling of the same homogenous sample under the prescribed conditions. Precision may be considered at three levels: repeatability, intermediate precision and reproducibility. The precision of an analytical method was determined by assaying a sufficient number of aliquots of a homogenous sample to be able to calculate statistically valid estimates of standard deviation and relative standard deviation.

Repeatability

Repeatability expresses the precision under the same operating conditions. It was assessed by performing the determination of concentrations and three replicates of working standard solution in intraday and inter day study.

Reproducibility

Reproducibility expresses the precision between laboratories. The reproducibility of an analytical method was determined by analysis of aliquots from homogenous lots in different laboratory. It was assayed by performing six determinations and two replicator of each concentration in two laboratories.

Robustness

The robustness of analytical procedure is a measure of its capacity to remain unaffected by small, but deliberate variations in method parameters and provides an indication of its reliability during normal usage. The robustness was studied by evaluating the effect of small but deliberate variations in chromatographic conditions. The conditions studied were flow rate (altered by ± 0.2 ml/min).

Accuracy and recovery study

The accuracy of an analytical procedure expresses the closeness of the agreement between value which is accepted either as conventional true value or an accepted reference value and value found. Accuracy is calculated as the percentage of recovery by the assay of the known added amount of analyte (50%, 100% and 150%) in the sample. Accuracy assayed by using nine determinations over a minimum of three concentration levels, covering the specified range (i.e. three concentrations and three replicates of each concentration).

Specificity

In case of the assay, demonstration of specificity requires that it can be shown by the presence of impurities or excipients. It was done by spiking the drug substance or product with the appropriate levels of impurities or excipients and demonstrating that the assay result is unaffected by the presence of these extraneous materials. Placebo (sample without analyte) was prepared in the same way as the sample under the conditions prescribed in the assay method and duplicate injection was taken and observed any significant peak area (not more than 1%) at the analyte RT.

RESULTS

Development and optimization of HPLC method

The proposed method was optimized with a view to develop a suitable analytical method for the analysis of doxycycline and tinidazole in combined pharmaceutical dosage form. It was found that the mobile phase containing Potassium Dihydrogen Phosphate buffer of 0.1% and acetonitrile (pH 3) in the ratio of 70:30%v/v in gradient elution mode at a flow rate of 1.0ml/min gave optimum and adequate peak separation, with less tailing and resulted in the best resolution. All experiments were performed at ambient temperature. Run time was taken 10min for each run. Under the optimum chromatographic conditions, the retention times obtained.

Validation

System suitability

System suitable parameters such as retention time, theoretical plates, peak area, resolution, and peak

asymmetry were determined. The results obtained were statistically analyzed and found within the range (table-1).

Linearity and range

The statistical data obtained are represented in table-2. The result shows that within the concentration range 50 to 200 µg/ml and 150 to 600µg/ml for doxycycline and tinidazole, respectively. There was an excellent correlation between peak area and concentration of each drug.

Limit of Detection (LOD) and Limit of Quantification (LOQ)

The limit of detection and limit of quantification for Doxycycline and Tinidazole were calculated from the linearity data using relative standard deviation of the response and the slope of the calibration curve. The limit of detection of a compound is defined as the lowest concentration of analyte that can be detected. LOD value of Doxycycline and Tinidazole was found to be 0.419 and 2.228 µg/mL respectively. The limit of quantification is the lowest concentration of a compound that can be quantified with acceptable precision and accuracy. LOQ value of Doxycycline and Tinidazole was found to be 1.27 and 6.75µg/mL respectively.

Repeatability

The results of the intraday and inter day precision experiments are shown in table – 3. Separation of the drugs was found to be similar when analysis was performed on different time (intraday) and on different days (inter day). The developed method was found to be precise, with relative standard deviation (RSD) values less than 2%.

Reproducibility

The results of the reproducibility experiments (performed in different laboratories) are shown in table -4. The developed method was found to be precise, with RSD values less than 2%

Robustness

Minor change in chromatographic condition (change in flow rate, altered by 0.2ml/min) did not cause a significant change in, peak area, theoretical plates and RT of doxycycline and tinidazole.(table - 5).

Accuracy and recovery study

Good recoveries of the doxycycline (98.61 -100.88) and Tinidazole (94.966 – 100.87) were obtained at various added concentrations for the Doxycycline and Tinidazole (table - 6).

Specificity

Injections of placebo (sample without analyte) were performed to confirm specificity of method. Obtained results show that excipients mixture of the tablet shows no specific peak at the RT of the analyte peak. This shows that the excipients do not interfere with the analyte peak and the assay is specific for the simultaneous estimation of doxycycline and tinidazole tablets.

DISCUSSION

A suitable analytical procedure refers to the way of performing the analysis with accuracy and precision. This developed method describes in detail the steps necessary to perform each parameter for validation. The objective of validation of an analytical procedure is to demonstrate that it is suitable for its intended purpose. The quality control laboratory requires analytical methods which are simple, robust, and rugged, interpretation of results of method is directly proportional to the concentration of analyte within a given range shows linearity of method. Different environmental condition doesn't cause any significant change in results shows stability and reproducibility of developed method. There was no interference by excipients with analyte peak shows proposed method is specific for analyte. As well as recovery study shows the developed method is highly accurate. Hence the proposed HPLC method has been evaluated and validated for the accuracy, precision, and linearity and found to be convenient, sensitive and specific for the quality control of doxycycline and tinidazole in tablet dosage form.

Table.1.: System suitability tests (S.D – Standard Deviation, R.S.D – Relative Standard Deviation)

Parameter	Compound	
	Doxycycline	Tinidazole
Retention Time	S.D – 0.033	S.D – 0.0102
	R.S.D – 1.049	R.S.D – 0.4121
Peak Area	S.D – 3504.5	S.D – 5027
	R.S.D – 0.6	R.S.D – 0.4
Peak Asymetry	S.D – 0.024	S.D – 0.0167
	R.S.D – 1.708	R.S.D – 1.415
Theoretical Plates	S.D – 59.69	S.D – 142.75
	R.S.D – 1.259	R.S.D – 2.901

Table. 2.: Linearity parameters for calibration curves of DOXY and TINI

Compound	Level of conc. In µg/ml	Slope	Intercept	Correlation coefficient (r ²)
		Mean ± S.D	Mean ± S.D	
DOXY	50 - 200	4776.3 ± 6.658	4182.3 ± 606.6	0.999
TINI	150 - 600	4070.6 ± 19.65	3510.6 ± 2748.8	0.999

Table.3.: Precision of method. (S.D – Standard Deviation, R.S.D – Relative Standard Deviation)

Compound	Interday		Intraday	
	Mean area ± S.D	R.S.D	Mean area ± S.D	R.S.D
DOXY	542501 ± 1949.4	0.4	555289 ± 3504.5	0.6
TINI	1420592 ± 6538	0.5	1383458 ± 5027	0.4

Table.4.: Ruggudness study. (S.D – Standard Deviation, R.S.D – Relative Standard Deviation)

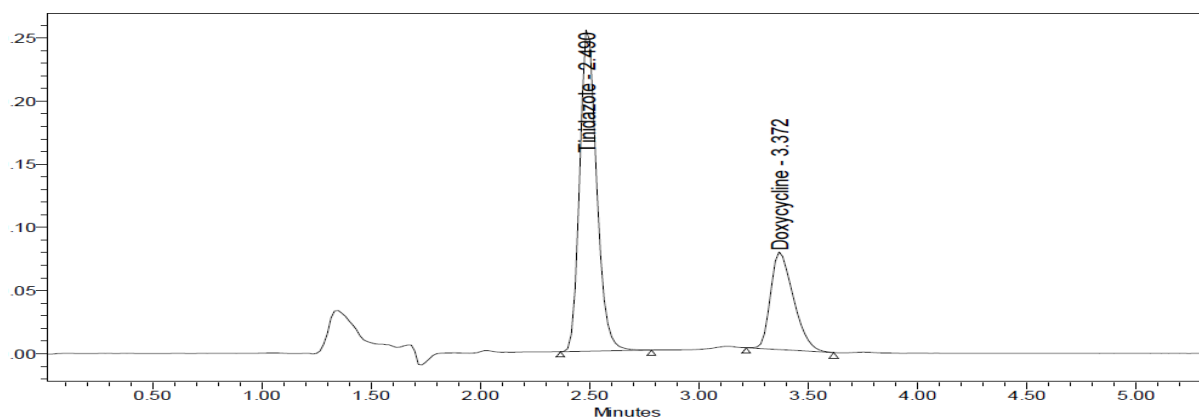
Compound	Analyst - 1		Analyst – 2	
	Mean area ± S.D	R.S.D	Mean area ± S.D	R.S.D
DOXY	555289 ± 3504.5	0.6	568496 ± 51107.6	9.0
TINI	1383458 ± 5027	0.4	1436252 ± 110282.3	7.7

Table.5.: Robustness study. (S.D – Standard Deviation, R.S.D – Relative Standard Deviation)

Parameter		Doxycycline		Tinidazole	
		Mean area ± S.D	R.S.D	Mean area ± S.D	R.S.D
Flow Rate	0.8ml/min	609739 ± 2135.7	0.4	1560916 ± 903.6	0.1
	1.2ml/min	519783 ± 2501.7	0.5	1266861 ± 1748.6	0.1
Mobile Phase	65:35	544005 ± 7434.4	1.4	1385404 ± 10568.4	0.8
	75:25	555521 ± 1684.4	0.3	1401547 ± 2316.8	0.2
Temperature	- 5 °C	553059 ± 159.9	0.0289	1389294 ± 2454.9	0.2
	+ 5 °C	548788 ± 2628.7	0.5	1385268 ± 2628.7	0.1

Table.6.: Accuracy and recovery study. (S.D – Standard Deviation, R.S.D – Relative Standard Deviation)

Compound	Amount of drug added (%)	Theoretical cotent (µg/ml)	Concentration found (µg/ml) ±SD	RSD (%)	Recovery (%)
Doxycycline	50	50	49.86 ± 0.57	1.143	99.74
	100	100	100.82 ± 0.78	0.7736	100.82
	150	150	148.67 ± 0.59	0.3968	99.11
Tinidazole	50	150	147.37 ± 4.54	3.08	98.25
	100	300	300.91 ± 1.071	0.3559	100.29
	150	450	445.96 ± 3.07	0.6907	98.92

**Figure.3** chromatogram of assay of doxycycline and tinidazole

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