# $\left(\frac{1 \mathrm{sm}}{}{ }^{\mathrm{s}}{ }^{2}\right.$ <br> INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL <br> PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES <br> AND <br> RESEARCH <br> Received on 02 February 2022; received in revised form, 09 April 2022; accepted, 27 April 2022; published 01 September 2022 <br> AN ECO-FRIENDLY HPLC METHOD FOR THE SIMULTANEOUS ESTIMATION OF ABACAVIR, DOLUTEGRAVIR AND LAMIVUDINE IN ACTIVE PHARMACEUTICAL INGREDIENTS AND MARKETED TABLET FORMULATION 

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## Keywords:

Abacavir, Dolutegravir and Lamivudine, Bulk drug, Formulation, Eco-friendly, HPLC

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#### Abstract

Selective and novel method has been optimized to evaluate Abacavir, Dolutegravir and Lamivudinein bulk and formulation by HPLC. The principle analytes were eluted with the conditions of the mobile phase having the Ethanol: Ethyl acetate ( $80: 20, \% \mathrm{v} / \mathrm{v}$ ) using the Lichrosphere RP C8 column (Phenomenex, USA ( $250 \times 4.6 \mathrm{~mm}, 5 \mu$ ) analytical column with the $1.0 \mathrm{ml} / \mathrm{min}$ flow rate and $10 \mu 1$ sample volume at 260 nm in UV detector. The retention times of Abacavir, Dolutegravir and Lamivudine were 2.31 $\mathrm{min}, 3.120 \mathrm{~min}$ and 4.59 min with a total run time of 6 min . The curve indicates correlation coefficient $\left(r^{2}\right)$ was superior by having a value nearer to 1.000 with a linear range of $40 \mu \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{ml}-130.0 \mu \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{ml}$ for Abacavir, Dolutegravir and Lamivudine. The correlation coefficient $\left(r^{2}\right)$ 0.9971for Abacavir, 0.9979 for Dolutegravir and 0.9947 for Lamivudine were found. The LOD and LOQ for the Abacavir, Dolutegravir and Lamivudine were found at $1.40 \mu \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{ml}, 3.01 \mu \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{ml}, 5.84 \mu \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{ml}$, and $4.25 \mu \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{ml}, 9.12 \mu \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{ml}$ and $17.71 \mu \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{ml}$. The developed method was applied for the bulk and formulation.


INTRODUCTION: Abacavir, which is chemically called 1S,cis-4-6- cyclopropyl-2-amino-9H-purin-9 -yl-2-cyclopentene-1-methanol sulphate (abacavir), is a C7- cyclic purine that is transformed to 9-dihydro-2 residues sulfurate and then to 9-amino-7(dichloro)adenosine. The nano-particle transforms to the activated neurotransmitter carbovir triphosphate if the liver absorbs it. Carbovir triphosphate is an analogue that represents deoxyguanosine-5`-triphosphate (dGTP). Carbovir triphosphate is an antiviral medication used to block HIV-1 reverse transcriptase (RT).

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The drug is also a powerful inhibitor of RT and, therefore a macromolecule that gets integrated into the viral DNA. The chemical compound Dolutegravir (DTG) 1 which is chemically (4R, 12aS) - 9 - $\{[(2$, 4difluorophenyl) methyl] carbamoyl\}-4 - methyl-6, 8-dioxo-3, 4, 6, 8, 12, 12a-hexahydro-2 Hpyrido[1',2':4, 5] pyrazino [2,1b] $[1,3]$ oxazin- 7 -olate, might disrupt the retroviral DNA integration steps. This is seen as a benefit because within this chemical compound; there is a mechanism that can block retroviral DNA integration, which is essential to HIV infection.

Lamivudine (3TC) 1 is a compound that is chemically [2R, cis]4-amino-1-(2hydroxymethyl-1,3-oxathiolan-5-yl)-(1H)-pyrimidin-2-one (i.e. a synthetic nucleoside analogue). Like several proteins, the HIV-1 RT is phosphorylated to the active 5'-triphosphate metabolite, lamivudine triphosphate (L-TP).

The key mode of action of L-TP is the rapid inhibition of HIV-1 RT and the subsequent termination of viral DNA chains ${ }^{1-4}$. Based on the literature survey, there was no Eco-friendly analytical method for this formulation, i.e., Abacavir, Dolutegravir and Lamivudine. Several methods were developed for Abacavir, Dolutegravir and Lamivudine with combinations ${ }^{5-}$
${ }^{25}$. For the Abacavir, Dolutegravir and Lamivudine combination, there was a lack of an eco-friendly analytical method for identifying and quantifying bulk and formulation. And there was no sensitive Eco-friendly analytical method having the 40 $\mu \mathrm{g} / \mathrm{ml}$ detectability to quantify the product traces of the manufacturing area when the product change is over.





FIG. 1: CHEMICAL STRUCTURES OF ABACAVIR (A), DOLUTEGRAVIR (B), LAMIVUDINE (C)

MATERIALS AND METHODS: Abacavir, Dolutegravir and Lamivudine Fig. 1, high purity Ethyl acetate (J. T. Baker, Phillipsburg, NJ, USA), Ethanol (HPLC grade, Sigma Aldrich).

Preparation of Standard Solution: Abacavir, Dolutegravir and Lamivudine standards stock solution prepared by taking 10 mg in 10 ml volumetric flask then adding 10 ml ethanol and sonicated for 3 min . Then makeup to 10 ml with the ethanol.

Preparation of Mobile Phase: Added 500 ml of ethanol to the 500 ml of Ethyl acetate, degassed to prepare 1000 ml of the mobile phase.

Optimization of Chromatographic Conditions: After series of trials, the chromatographic conditions were accomplished with the Ethanol:

Ethyl acetate ( $80: 20$, \% v/v) by utilizing the stationary phase Lichrosphere RP C8 column (Phenomenex, USA ( $250 \times 4.6 \mathrm{~mm}, 5 \mu$ ) Spherisorb $\mathrm{C}_{18}, 5 \mu . \mathrm{m}, 4.6 \mathrm{~mm} \times 150 \mathrm{~mm}$ to obtain the best peak shape. The Abacavir, Dolutegravir and Lamivudine separation was good at 260 nm with a column temperature $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and sample compartment temperature $10^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ with the flow $1.0 \mathrm{ml} / \mathrm{min}$ with the sample volume $10 \mu \mathrm{l}$.

Assay Sample Preparation: One tablet has Abacavir 60 mg , Dolutegravir 30 mg , and Lamivudine 60 mg into 1000 ml volumetric flask and dissolved in the diluent and make up to the 100 ml . This preparation is considered a stock solution. From the stock solution, take 1 ml to 10 ml in a volumetric flask and make up to the mark with the diluents and filter.


FIG. 2: TEST SAMPLE CHROMATOGRAM

Validation of Analytical Methods: Validation was performed for the developed method with the stringent limit to prove the efficiency of this method ${ }^{26}$.

System Suitability: To verify the system produces the consistent results with the optimized method injected the standard six times with the criteria of \% RSD for retention time and area NMT $2.0 \%$, theoretical plates NLT 3000 plates, tailing factor NMT 1.5 and resolution NLT 4.

TABLE 1: SYSTEM SUITABILITY PARAMETERS

| Parameter | Compound | Result |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Retention Time | Abacavir | 2.31 min |
|  | Dolutegravir | 3.21 min |
|  | Lamivudine | 4.59 min |
| Peak Area | Abacavir | 294621 |
|  | Dolutegravir | 867991 |
|  | Lamivudine | 512422 |
| Theoretical plates | Abacavir | 5120 |
|  | Dolutegravir | 4200 |
|  | Lamivudine | 12013 |
| Tailing factor | Abacavir | 0.72 |
|  | Dolutegravir | 0.64 |
|  | Lamivudine | 0.32 |
| Resolution | Abacavir | - |
|  | Dolutegravir | 5.61 |
|  | Lamivudine | 6.53 |
| \% Rsd | Abacavir | 0.53 |
|  | Dolutegravir | 0.17 |
|  | Lamivudine | 0.23 |

Selectivity: To verify the method validation in terms of the selectivity and exactness, injected triplicate preparations of $100 \%$ concentration, i.e.,
$100 \mu \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{ml}$ of Abacavir, Dolutegravir and Lamivudine.

Then injected one blank to prove the method did not have the carryover issue. The specificity's limit is that it should pass the system suitability criteria, and there should not be an RT shift for all three preparations.


FIG. 3: BLANK CHROMATOGRAM
Precision: After passing the specificity and system suitability criteria, the method was verified for the system precision and method precision with the limit of \% RSD for the retention time and area NMT $2 \%$.

The intermediate precision was verified the next day with another column by following the limit as \% RSD for the retention time and the area should be NMT 2\%.

TABLE 2: PRECISION AND ACCURACY OF DATA

| Intraday precision |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Abacavir |  | Dolutegravir |  | Lamivudine |  |
| Mean | 293930 | 97.48 | 861297 | 97.40 | 502985 | 99.80 |
| SD | 1222.49 | 0.74 | 8167.69 | 1.20 | 8934.62 | 1.80 |
| \% RSD | 0.42 | 0.76 | 0.95 | 1.23 | 1.78 | 1.80 |
| Intermediate precision |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Abacavir |  | Dolutegravir |  | Lamivudine |  |
| Mean | 294904 | 96.61 | 865243 | 96.20 | 507801.17 | 98 |
| SD | 2154.36 | 0.74 | 2056.04 | 1.22 | 5110.41 | 1.02 |
| \% RSD | 0.73 | 0.76 | 0.24 | 1.27 | 1.01 | 1.04 |

Accuracy and Recovery: To verify the method's accuracy, triplicate preparations were prepared at $80 \%$ and $100 \%$, and $120 \%$ levels of $100 \%$
concentration by spiking the standard into the diluent. Calculated the recovery with the acceptance criteria of $95-105 \%$.

TABLE 3: RECOVERY DATA

|  | Abacavir | Dolutegravir |  |  | Lamivudine |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Mean | SD | \%RSD | Mean | SD | \%RSD | Mean | SD | \%RSD |
| 97.71 | 1.11 | 1.14 | 97.87 | 1.42 | 1.45 | 98.36 | 1.10 | 1.12 |
| 98.59 | 0.96 | 0.97 | 96.59 | 1.30 | 1.35 | 97.24 | 1.06 | 1.09 |
| 97.27 | 1.78 | 1.83 | 96.60 | 1.42 | 1.47 | 96.12 | 1.60 | 1.66 |

Linearity: The method linearity was verified with the six concentrations of $100 \%$ concentration as 40 $\mu \mathrm{g} / \mathrm{ml}, 60 \mu \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{ml}, 80 \mu \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{ml}, 100 \mu \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{ml}, 120 \mu \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{ml}$, and $130 \mu \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{ml}$ for the Abacavir, Dolutegravir and Lamivudine with the acceptance criteria of the regression coefficient ( $\mathrm{R}^{2}$ ) NLT 0.99 .

To verify the method efficiency when the minor changes happened in the optimized method parameters like mobile phase composition, flow rate and wavelength parameters were performed with the criteria, it should pass the system suitability criteria.


FIG. 4: LINEARITY DATA OF ABACAVIR (A), DOLUTEGRAVIR (B), LAMIVUDINE (C) ROBUSTNESS
TABLE 4: ROBUSTNESS EVALUATION OF CHROMATOGRAPHIC METHOD

| Compound | Altered conditions | Condition | System suitability parameters |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | Area | $\%$ Change | RT | \% Change | N | $\%$ Change | Tailing factor | \% Change |
| Abacavir | Mobile Phase | $\mathrm{A}=80 \%$ | 294621 | 0.38 | 2.310 | -0.43 | 5120 | -0.04 | 0.710 | -1.41 |
|  | composition ( $\pm 2 \%$ ) | $\mathrm{a}=70 \%$ | 293511 |  | 2.320 |  | 5122 |  | 0.720 |  |
|  | Wavelength $( \pm 2 \mathrm{n}$ | $\mathrm{A}=260 \mathrm{~nm}$ | 289512 | -1.76 | 2.310 | 0.87 | 5110 | -0.20 | 0.730 | 1.37 |
|  | m) | $\mathrm{a}=262 \mathrm{~nm}$ | 294611 |  | 2.290 |  | 5120 |  | 0.720 |  |
|  | Flow rate | $\mathrm{A}=1.0 \mathrm{~mL} / \mathrm{min}$ | 294621 | 0.34 | 2.300 | -0.87 | 5210 | -0.38 | 0.710 | -1.41 |
|  | $\pm 0.2 \mathrm{~mL}$ | $\mathrm{a}=1.2 \mathrm{~mL} / \mathrm{min}$ | 293620 |  | 2.320 |  | 5230 |  | 0.720 |  |
| Dolutegravir | Mobile Phase | $A=80 \%$ | 856814 | 0.11 | 2.300 | -0.87 | 5140 | -0.21 | 0.640 | 1.56 |
|  | composition $( \pm 2 \%)$ | $\mathrm{a}=70 \%$ | 855914 |  | 2.320 |  | 5151 |  | 0.630 |  |
|  | Wavelength | $\mathrm{A}=260 \mathrm{~nm}$ | 854814 | -0.23 | 2.300 | -0.87 | 5260 | -0.19 | 0.610 | -1.64 |
|  | ( $\pm 2 \mathrm{~nm}$ ) | $\mathrm{a}=262 \mathrm{~nm}$ | 856814 |  | 2.320 |  | 5270 | -0.19 | 0.620 |  |
|  | Flow rate | $\mathrm{A}=1.0 \mathrm{~mL} / \mathrm{min}$ | 853814 | -0.35 | 2.330 | 0.43 | 5180 |  | 0.642 | -0.16 |
|  | $\pm 0.2 \mathrm{~mL}$ | $\mathrm{a}=1.2 \mathrm{~mL} / \mathrm{min}$ | 856814 |  | 2.320 |  | 5190 |  | 0.643 |  |
| Lamivudine | Mobile Phase | $A=80 \%$ | 512422 | 0.19 | 2.300 | -0.43 | 5300 | -0.19 | 0.320 | -0.31 |
|  | composition ( $\pm 2 \%$ ) | $\mathrm{a}=70 \%$ | 511432 |  | 2.310 |  | 5310 |  | 0.321 |  |
|  | Wavelength | $\mathrm{A}=260 \mathrm{~nm}$ | 520442 | 0.57 | 2.330 | 0.43 | 5220 | -0.19 | 0.323 | 0.93 |
|  | ( $\pm 2 \mathrm{~nm}$ ) | $\mathrm{a}=262 \mathrm{~nm}$ | 517472 |  | 2.320 |  | 5230 |  | 0.320 |  |
|  | Flow rate | $\mathrm{A}=1.0 \mathrm{~mL} / \mathrm{min}$ | 515481 | -0.19 | 2.300 | -0.43 | 5240 | -0.19 | 0.311 | -1.29 |
|  | $\pm 0.2 \mathrm{~mL}$ | $\mathrm{a}=1.2 \mathrm{~mL} / \mathrm{min}$ | 516482 |  | 2.310 |  | 5250 |  | 0.315 |  |

$\mathrm{A}=$ Average values obtained at nominal concentration; $\mathrm{a}=$ Average values obtained at altered conditions.

Lower Level of Quantification: By considering the $10 \%$ concentration of the target concentration, injected the sample into the system with the acceptance criteria S/N ration NLT 10. The LOQ concentration was injected with the different concentration preparation to identify the detectability with the acceptance criteria $3: 1$ and minimum detectability five times out of six injections from the same concentration.

Lower Level of Quantification Precision: LOQ precision verified with the limit NMT $2.0 \%$ for the RT and area.

Assessment of Stability of Standard: The prepared standards were verified up to 72 h for stability at room temperature and refrigerated conditions.

Filter Compatibility: To evaluate the impact of PVDF and Nylon filters on the assay results, the samples were analyzed after passing through the filters.

## TABLE 5: FILTER COMPATIBILITY AND ASSAY OF TEST FORMULATION

| Filter type | Label claimed (mg/Tab) |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| PVDF | Abacavir | Dolutegravir | Lamivudine |
|  | 600 | 50 | 300 |
|  | Conc. found (mg/Tab) |  |  |
|  | 594.26 | 49.32 | 296.18 |
|  |  | \% Assay |  |
|  | 99.04 | 98.64 | 98.73 |
| Filter type | Label claimed (mg/Tab) |  |  |
| Nylon | Abacavir | Dolutegravir | Lamivudine |
|  | 600 | 50 | 300 |
|  | Conc. found (mg/Tab) |  |  |
|  | 593.94 | 48.75 | 298.82 |
|  |  | \% Assay |  |
|  | 98.99 | 97.50 | 99.61 |

RESULTS: There was a clear separation and good resolution, and without any carryover was achieved with this method, as shown in Fig. 1 and 2. The system suitability acceptance criteria were also satisfactory, as shown in Table 1. For the system precision parameter, the \%RSD of RT and area for the Abacavir, Dolutegravir and Lamivudine achieved $0.53 \%, 0.17$, and $0.23 \%$ as shown in Table 3 against the limit NMT $2.0 \%$. The linearity parameter was quantified by peak area $v s$. concentration methodology. Different concentrations from $40 \mu \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{ml}$ to $130 \mu \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{ml}$ standard solutions for Abacavir, Dolutegravir and

Lamivudine were prepared and injected into the system. The calculated regression coefficient for Abacavir, Dolutegravir and Lamivudine is nearer to 1.000 as shown in Fig. 4.

For the method precision parameter, the \% RSD of area for the Abacavir, Dolutegravir and Lamivudine achieved $0.73 \%, 0.24$ and 1.01 \% against the limit NMT $2.0 \%$. The method was verified for the ruggedness as intraday and interday precision. For the intermediate precision parameter, the \%RSD of area for the Abacavir, Dolutegravir and Lamivudine achieved in day- 1 as $0.76 \%$, $1.23 \%$, and $1.80 \%$ on the next day (Day-2)0.76\%, $1.27 \%$ and $1.04 \%$ against the limit NMT $2.0 \%$ as shown in Table 2.

The recovery for the $80 \%, 100 \%$, and $120 \%$ was more than $95 \%$ against the acceptance criteria of $95-105 \%$ as shown in Table 3. To evaluate the method's capability of producing precise results with the minor variations of flow, mobile phase composition, and wavelength variations as robustness was performed. The results were shown in Table 4. The results proved that the method was stable to produce consistent results with the minor variation of the method parameters.

The LOQ and LOD were identified by injecting the lower concentration of $40 \mu \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{ml}$ with the $\mathrm{S} / \mathrm{N}$ ratio criteria. The LOQ for the Abacavir, Dolutegravir and Lamivudine was $1.40 \mu \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{ml}, 3.01 \mu \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{ml}$ and $5.84 \mu \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{ml}$. The LOD for the Abacavir, Dolutegravir and Lamivudine was $4.25 \mu \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{ml}, 9.12$ $\mu \mathrm{g} / \mathrm{ml}$ and $17.71 \mu \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{ml}$. Based on the stability results, the standards were stable up to 72 h at room temperature and refrigerated conditions. The compatibility of the filters was verified with the PVDF and Nylon filters. The assay of the Abacavir, Dolutegravir and Lamivudine was more accurate ( $99.04 \%$ for Abacavir, $98.64 \%$ for Dolutegravir and $98.73 \%$ for Lamivudine) with the PVDF filter compared to Nylon filter ( $98.99 \%$ for Abacavir, $97.50 \%$ for Dolutegravir and $99.61 \%$ for Lamivudine) as shown in Table 5.

DISCUSSION: During method optimization, organic solvents were initially used as mobile phases in different compositions. But three compounds were not detected. Then, an organic solvent such as ethanol and ethyl acetate were used
in different ratios with the Lichrosphere RP C8 column (Phenomenex, USA ( $250 \times 4.6 \mathrm{~mm}$, $5 \mu$ ). Finally, the method was found to be optimized with the conditions of mobile phase (ethanol and ethyl acetate ( $80: 20 \% \mathrm{v} / \mathrm{v}$ ), wavelength 260 nm , flow rate of $1.0 \mathrm{ml} / \mathrm{min}$, column temperature of $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, sample compartment temperature of $10^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, a sample volume of $10 \mu$. With this method, both actives i.e. Abacavir, Dolutegravir and Lamivudine eluted at $2.31 \mathrm{~min}, 3.120 \mathrm{~min}$, and 4.59 with good resolution and symmetry.

After the method optimization, the method was validated as per ICH guidelines. As per the results obtained in the method validation, there was no interference of the blank and carryover problem even at the LOQ level quantification. Both LOQ and LOD of this method were verified practically in the instrument with $\mathrm{S} / \mathrm{N}$ ratio criteria. The results were found satisfactory. Based on the recovery results, it proves that the method has the capability of high extraction efficiency (NLT 90\%). The method was successfully applied to the assay of dosage forms to verify filter capability. The assay results show satisfactory and free from the interference of nylon and PVDF filters.

CONCLUSION: Based on the results obtained, the developed method was very sensitive, accurate, linear, and economical. Due to the short time of the chromatographic program, more samples can be analyzed within the short period, which will be helpful in the industry at the time of multiple products manufacturing continuously. The method met all the predefined acceptance criteria. The bulk and formulation samples can be analyzed in various dosage forms containing Abacavir, Dolutegravir and Lamivudine.

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