

Development and Validation of RP-HPLC Method for the Simultaneous Estimation of Hydrochlorothiazide and Losartan Potassium in Tablet Dosage Form

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ABSTRACT: In the present study, a simple, sensitive and specific liquid chromatography (RP-HPLC) method has been developed and validated for the quantification of hydrochlorothiazide and losartan potassium in tablet dosage form. A shim-pack CLC-ODS column (250 mm X 4.6 mm, 5 μ and a mobile phase constituting 0.025 M phosphoric acid solution: acetonitrile (60:40 v/v, pH 3.0 adjusted with 80% phosphoric acid) were used. The flow rate was 1.5 ml/min and detection was carried by using ultraviolet (UV) detector at a wavelength of 254 nm. The retention times of hydrochlorothiazide and losartan potassium were 3.748 min and 8.790 min, respectively. The peaks of hydrochlorothiazide and losartan potassium were well separated (resolution 22.17). The calibration curves were linear over the concentration range of 80% to 120% ($R^2 > 0.999$ for both the drugs). The proposed method is accurate with 100.165% recovery for hydrochlorothiazide and 100.422% recovery for losartan potassium and precise (% RSD < 0.5). The proposed method was successfully applied for the estimation of hydrochlorothiazide and losartan potassium in market products (three brands) and potency was found within limit. Therefore, this method can be a convenient and efficient option for the analysis of hydrochlorothiazide and losartan potassium in tablet dosage form.

Key words: Hydrochlorothiazide, losartan potassium, method validation, HPLC, quantitative analysis

INTRODUCTION

Hydrochlorothiazide (HCT), chemically, is 6-chloro-3,4-dihydro-2H-1,2,4-benzothiadiazine-7-sulphamide 1,1-dioxide (Figure 1), is a popular diuretic drug of the thiazide class. It is often used in the treatment of hypertension, congestive heart failure, symptomatic edema and in the prevention of kidney stones.

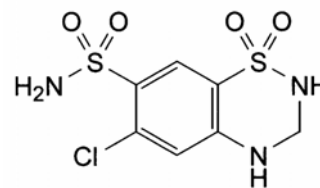


Figure 1. Hydrochlorothiazide

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Losartan (LOP), chemically, is (2-butyl-4-chloro-1-{{[2'-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl) biphenyl-4-yl] methyl}-1Himidazol-5-yl) methanol. It is an angiotensin II receptor antagonist used mainly to treat hypertension (Figure 2).

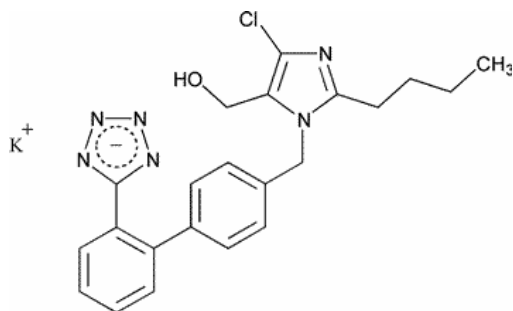


Figure 2. Losartan Potassium

Combination of HCT and LOP is widely prescribed by the physicians due to simple dosing regimens, improved hypertension control, fewer dose-dependent side effects and low cost treatment of hypertension.¹ So it is essential to develop a simple method for simultaneous estimation of HCT and LOP in combined formulation.

HCT is official in BP and IP, whereas LOP is official in IP and USP²⁻⁴ The British Pharmacopoeia describes titration method for HCT in bulk and UV method for the assay of hydrochloride tablet. United States Pharmacopoeia describes HPLC methods for the determination of LOP both in bulk and tablet. Literature survey revealed that a number of spectroscopic, HPLC methods are reported for the estimation of HCT and LOP individually or in combination with other drugs.⁵⁻²⁷ Analysis of combination dosage form by spectroscopic method is not free from limitations as various excipients present in the formulation may affect the assay result by providing some absorbance. Very few UV method and HPLC methods are reported for simultaneous estimation of HCT and LOP in tablet dosage form.²⁸⁻³⁰ All these methods are not free from limitations. Therefore, there is still a need to develop a simple HPLC method for the estimation of HCT and LOP in combination dosage form.

The purpose of the present study was to develop and validate an economic, rapid reversed-phase high performance liquid chromatographic method for the quality control of HCT and LOP in pharmaceutical preparations with lower solvent consumption along with the short analytical run time that leads to an environmentally friendly chromatographic procedure and will allow the analysis of a large number of

samples in a short period of time. The proposed method can be used for routine analysis of HCT and LOP in combine dosage forms in the pharmaceutical industry.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Materials. Hydrochlorothiazide and losartan potassium were provided by Drug International Ltd. Dhaka, Bangladesh. HPLC grade acetonitrile was purchased from E. Merck, Darmstadt, Germany. Phosphoric acid and other reagents were of analytical-reagent grade and purchased from E. Merck, Darmstadt, Germany. Water was deionised and double distilled. Three commercial brands of tablets containing 12.5 mg hydrochlorothiazide and 50 mg losartan potassium were purchased from local drug shops in Dhaka city after checking their manufacturing license numbers, batch numbers, production and expiry dates.

Instrumentation. A Shimadzu (Japan) HPLC system consisting of a CMB-20 Alite system controller, two LC-20AT pumps, SIL-20A auto-sampler and CTO-10ASVP column oven were used. Ultraviolet detection was achieved at 254 nm with a SPD-20A UV-VIS detector (Shimadzu, Japan). The drug analyses data were acquired and processed using LC solution (Version 1.3, Shimadzu, Japan) software running under Windows XP on a Pentium PC.

Chromatographic conditions. The mobile phase, a mixture of buffer and acetonitrile (60:40 v/v) pumped at a flow rate of 1.5 ml/min through the column (C18; 250 mm × 4.6 mm, 5 μ shim-pack) at 30°C. The mobile phase was filtered through a 0.2 μ nylon membrane filter and degassed prior to use under vacuum. Elutions were analyzed by UV detector at a sensitivity of 0.0001.

Preparation of standard solution. For 100% standard solution of target concentration 8.0 mg hydrochlorothiazide and 25.0 mg losartan potassium were weighed, dissolved in mobile phase and sonicated. The solution was diluted to produce target concentration for analysis. 80%, 90%, 110%, and 120% standard solutions of target concentration were

also prepared in the same way. All the solutions were filtered through 0.2 μ syringe filter.

Preparation of sample solution. 20 tablets were accurately weighed and the average weight was calculated. The tablets were ground to a fine powder with the help of mortar and pestle. Then, 6.25 mg hydrochlorothiazide and 25 mg losartan potassium powder were transferred to a volumetric flask, dissolved in mobile phase and then filtered through filter paper. The filtered solution was further diluted in the mobile phase to make the final concentration of working sample equivalent to 100% of target concentration.

Validation of HPLC method. Present study was conducted to obtain a new, affordable, cost-effective and convenient method for HPLC determination of HCT and LOP in tablet dosage form. The experiment was carried out according to the official specifications of USP, ICH- 1996, Global Quality Guidelines-2002.^{4, 31,32} The method was validated for the parameters like system suitability, selectivity, linearity, accuracy, precision and robustness.

The system suitability was assessed by six replicate analyses of HCT and LOP at a 100% level to verify the resolution and reproducibility of the chromatographic system. This method was evaluated by analyzing the repeatability of retention time, tailing factor, theoretical plates (Tangent) of the column and resolution between the peaks of HCT and LOP.

Selectivity is the ability to measure accurately and specifically the analyte in the presence of components that may be expected to be present in the sample matrix. 8.0 mg HCT and 25.0 mg LOP were mixed with different amount of placebo formulations (60 mg to 90 mg), dissolved in mobile phase and diluted to produce 100% of nominal concentration. The solutions were run and chromatograms were analyzed for retention time, peak area and peak shape to determine selectivity of the method.

The linearity of an analytical method is its ability to elicit that test results are proportional to the concentration of analyte in samples within a given range. This was determined by means of

calibration graph using increasing amounts of a standard solutions (80%, 90%, 100%, 110%, and 120%) of both HCT and LOP. These standards were tested six times in agreement to the International Conference on Harmonization (ICH).³¹ Calibration curves were constructed and the proposed method was evaluated by its correlation coefficient and intercept value, calculated in the corresponding statistical study (ANOVA) ($p < 0.05$). Characteristic parameters for regression equation ($y = a + bx$) of the HPLC method were obtained by least squares treatment of the results and these parameters were used to confirm the good linearity of the method developed.

Accuracy indicates the deviation between the mean value found and the true value. Accuracy was determined by means of recovery experiments, by the addition of active drugs to placebo formulations. The accuracy was calculated from the test results as the percentage of the analyte recovered by the assay.

The precision of the method was investigated with respect to repeatability (intra-day), intermediate precision (inter-day variation) and reproducibility (by means of an inter laboratory trial). Repeatability was determined by performing four repeated analysis of the three standard solutions (90%, 100% and 110% of target concentration) of HCT and LOP on the same day, under the same experimental conditions. The intermediate precision of the method was assessed by carrying out the analysis of previous standard solutions on three different days (inter-day) in the same laboratory. For reproducibility the procedure repeated in the Quality Control Laboratory of Drug International Limited. The relative standard deviation (% RSD) was determined in order to assess the precision of the method.

The robustness of the method was assessed by altering the some experimental conditions such as, by changing the flow rate from 1.4 to 1.6 ml/min, amount of acetonitrile (38% to 42%), the temperature of the column (28°C to 32°C) and pH (2.9-3.1) of the mobile phase.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Method development and optimization. The isocratic mode method with UV detection was developed for the determination of the active ingredients, HCT and LOP, at 100% level. The reversed-phase column, shim-pack CLC, ODS (C18), 250 mm × 4.6 mm, 5 μ was tested first. The mobile phase was chosen after several trials with 0.025 M phosphoric acid and acetonitrile in various proportions like 70: 30, 60:40, 50:50, 40: 60, 30:70 and 35:65 at different pH values. A mobile phase constituting 0.025 M phosphoric acid solution: acetonitrile (60:40 v/v, pH 3.0 adjusted with 80% phosphoric acid) was selected to achieve maximum separation and sensitivity.

Different flow rates in between 0.50 to 2.0 ml/min were studied. A flow rate of 1.5 ml/min gave an optimal signal to noise ratio with a reasonable separation time.

Wavelength for UV detection was determined by scanning individual and combined standard of HCT and LOP in the UV region. Then HPLC analysis of individual and combined standard was measured at 228, 240, 254, 314, and 332 nm. Finally, all the analysis were done at 254 nm as at this wavelength, both drugs absorb light better and two peaks could be distinguished properly.

For peak identification a blank sample was injected three times to observe the peak of the blank. No peak was observed. Then samples containing HCT and LOP individually and collectively were injected. Peak area and retention time were found 600820 and 3.470 min for HCT at 100% concentration at the width of 50, threshold of 500

and minimum area of 100000. Whereas peak area of 1408234 with retention time of 8.79 min was observed for single injection of LOP at 100% nominal concentration at the same width, threshold and minimum area. Solution containing of HCT and LOP with 100% concentration produced two peaks separately (peak area 601731 for HCT and 1408981 for LOP) with the same retention times 3.47 min (for HCT) and 8.79 min (for LOP) as found in individual sample run.

Method validation

System suitability. The system suitability tests were carried out to evaluate the resolution and reproducibility of the system for the analysis. Table 1 represents system suitability results of this method. The system is found suitable in respect of retention time (3.748 min with % RSD 0.048 for HCT and 8.790 min with %RSD 0.169 for LOP) mean theoretical plate count (8178 for HCT and 14786 for LOP) and resolution between HCT and LOP (22.16 min).

Selectivity. Selectivity is the ability to assess the analyte in the presence of components that may be expected to be present. Typically these might include impurities, degraded products, matrix, etc. Standard solution (100%) containing both the drugs was injected first. Then drugs solution containing different amount of placebo formulations (60 mg-90 mg) were injected one after another. Figure 3 showed that there was no changes in the retention time of HCT and LOP in the presence of excipients. On the other hand no other peaks other than drugs were found within 12 min run time of the chromatogram which proves the selectivity of the method.

Table 1 Results of system suitability study

Injection no.	HCT				LOP					
	Retention time	Area	Theoretical plates	Tailing factor	Retention time	Area	Theoretical plates	Tailing factor	Resolution	Capacity factor
1	3.746	600820	8195	1.241	8.772	1408234	14702	1.066	22.095	1.342
2	3.750	601731	8176	1.244	8.805	1408045	14790	1.066	22.197	1.348
3	3.750	601335	8176	1.244	8.805	1408825	14790	1.066	22.197	1.348
4	3.746	600820	8195	1.241	8.772	1408234	14702	1.066	22.095	1.342
5	3.748	601654	8166	1.242	8.792	1407250	14868	1.066	22.207	1.346
6	3.748	601608	8166	1.242	8.792	1407703	14866	1.066	22.206	1.346
Average	3.748	601328	8179	1.242	8.790	1408049	14786	1.066	22.166	1.345
SD	0.002	415.515	13.21	0.001	0.015	534.557	73.871	0.000	0.055	0.003
%RSD	0.048	0.069	0.161	0.110	0.169	0.038	0.500	0.000	0.249	0.203

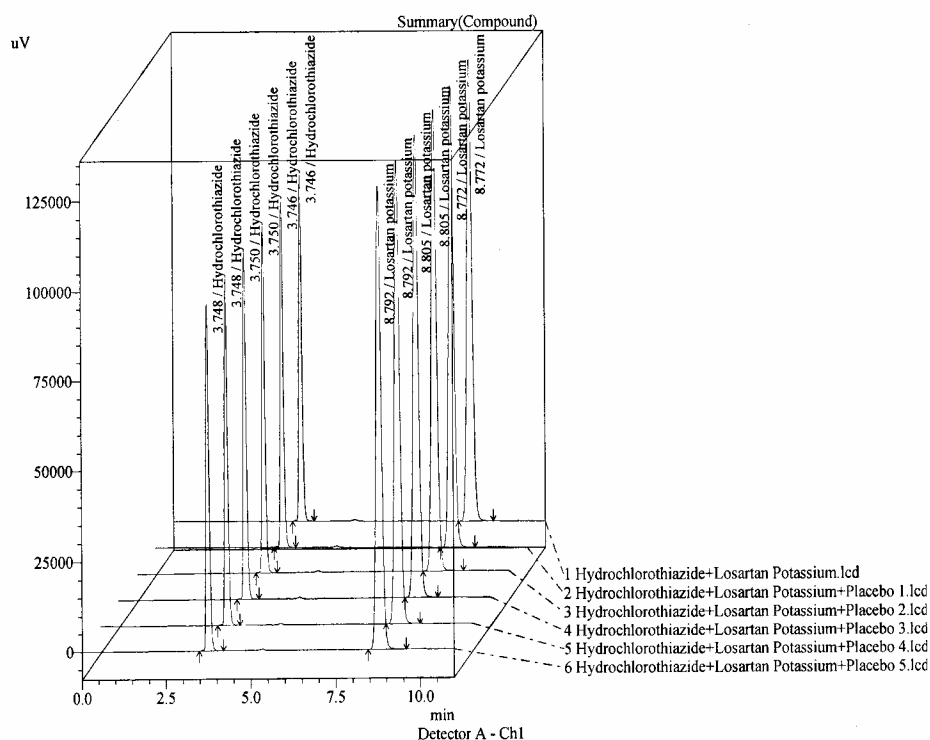


Figure 3. Chromatogram of HCT and LOP along with placebo

Linearity. Linearity of the method was evaluated from the correlation coefficient of calibration curves that were constructed from average peak area of HCT and LOP at different concentration levels (80, 90, 100, 110 and 120%). Correlation coefficient was 0.999 both for HCT and LOP (Table 2) which prove that the method is linear for HCT and LOP. It means that the response is directly proportional to the concentration of analytes.

Accuracy. Accuracy is generally assessed by analyzing a sample with known concentration and comparing the measured value with the true value. The measured value was obtained by recovery test. Spiked amount of both HCT and LOP were plotted against the recovery amount. In case of HCT % recovery was $100.165 \pm .078$ (% RSD 0.078) and in case of LOP % recovery was 100.422 ± 0.154 (% RSD 0.153). All the results indicate that the method is highly accurate.

Repeatability. The measurements for repeatability were done from 9.00 am to 9.00 pm. Four

determinations of three concentrations across the intended range (90%, 100% and 110% of target concentration) were included in the study. % RSD of peak areas was calculated for various run. The method is highly precise as % RSD of peak area was 0.026% in case of HCT and 0.078% in case of LOP.

Intermediate precision. The same concentration levels as in the repeatability experiment were used in this study. The results are obtained by 3 concentrations with 4 runs over 3 days. The average peak area obtained at different levels and different days indicate that the method is precise. % RSD were 0.029% in case of HCT and 0.21% in case of LOP.

Reproducibility. Intra day variability was also done in Drug International Limited. The % RSD of recovery was 0.48% and 0.44% for HCT and LOP respectively.

Robustness. 100% HCT and LOP sample solution was used in this study. The study was performed by making slight variations in flow rate, amount of acetonitrile, temperature and pH of the

mobile phase. The results of robustness in the present method are summarized in Table 3. As the changes are not significant we can say that the method is robust.

Analysis of market products. The proposed method was used to determine the potency of

commercially available tablets (three brands) containing 12.5 mg of HCT and 50 mg of LOP. Six replicate determinations (n=6) were carried out and the results are summarized in Table 4.

Table 2. Results of accuracy, precision and linearity study

Validation parameters		HCT	LOP
Linearity (regression coefficient- R^2) (*Y = mX + C)	R^2 (mean \pm SD)	0.999 \pm 0.0006	0.999 \pm 0.0008
	% RSD **	0.060	0.080
	Slope (mean \pm SD)	581476 \pm 6061	1449679 \pm 9992
Accuracy	% Recovery	100.165 \pm .078	100.422 \pm 0.154
	% RSD	0.078	0.153
Precision (% RSD)	Intra day	0.026	0.078
	Inter day	0.029	0.210
	Reproducibility	0.480	0.440

*Y = mX+C; where Y = peak area, m = slope, X = concentration (μ g/ml) and C = intercept. **%RSD = Relative standard deviation = (Standard deviation X 100)/mean, R^2 = Correlation coefficient

Table 3. Results for robustness test of HCT and LOP

Parameters	Changes	% Recovery of HCT	% Recovery of LOP
Flow rate (ml/min)	1.4	99.8	100.25
	1.5	99.9	100.14
Column temperature ($^{\circ}$ C)	28	99.7	99.9
	32	99.9	99.7
Acetonitrile variation	38%	99.5	99.7
	42%	99.6	99.8
pH of mobile phase	2.9	99.8	99.8
	3.1	99.9	99.6

Table 4. Analysis of market products by proposed HPLC method

Assay	Brand-1		Brand-2		Brand-3	
	HCT	LOP	HCT	LOP	HCT	LOP
1	12.52	50.21	12.52	50.28	12.54	50.21
2	12.34	50.13	12.23	50.43	12.43	50.32
3	12.41	50.11	12.41	50.15	12.48	50.13
Average	12.423	50.150	12.387	50.287	12.483	50.220
% Potency	99.387	100.300	99.093	100.573	99.867	100.440
SD	0.091	0.053	0.146	0.140	0.055	0.095
SEM	0.730	0.106	1.182	0.279	0.441	0.190

CONCLUSION

The validation study shows that the developed method is accurate, rapid, precise, reproducible and inexpensive with acceptable correlation co-efficient, RSD (%) and standard deviations which make it versatile and valuable for simultaneous

determination of HCT and LOP in pharmaceutical dosage forms. The proposed method is simple and do not involve laborious time-consuming sample preparation. So this RP-HPLC method can be used for the routine analyses of HCT and LOP in tablets.

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