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Simultaneous Spectrophotometric Estimation of Nalidixic Acid and Metronidazole In Combined Dosage Forms.

VAISHALI NAGULWAR*, P. A. UPADHYE, N. K. MEHTA, KANCHEEN UPADHYE, SUPARNA BAKHLE, SHILPA DESHPANDE AND GOURI DIXIT.
J. L. Chatuvedi College of Pharmacy, 846, New Nandanvan, Nagpur-440 009

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Nalidixic acid and metronidazole in combination are routinely used as antidiarrhoeal. The present investigation attempts to develop estimation method for these two drugs in combined dosage forms. It was found that both the drugs follow the Beer's Law from 2.0-10.0 μg/ml and 2.0-12.0 μg/ml at 257 and 277 nm, respectively. The absorptivity (1%, 1 cm), values at the specified wavelengths for nalidixic acid was found to be 1232.84 and 211.05, respectively and for metronidazole 263.65 and 376.18, respectively. Thus, the present method is simple, rapid and accurate and is based on the principle of simultaneous UV spectrophotometric determination of binary mixture.

The combination of nalidixic acid and metronidazole is marketed as tablet and suspension formulations and is used as antidiarrhoeal. Chemically, nalidixic acid is 1-ethyl-1,4-dihydro-7-methyl-4-oxo-1,8-naphthyridine-3-carboxylic acid and official in IP1. It is an antibacterial agent active against enterobacteriaceae and is given orally to treat urinary tract infections2. Chemically, metronidazole is 2-(2-methyl-5-nitro-1H-imidazol-1-yl)-ethanol and is also official in IP3. It is an antimicrobial drug, active against obligate anaerobic microorganisms both bacteria and protozoa. Though both the drugs have overlapping UV absorption spectra in acidic media, their absorption maxima are quite well separated from each other. In this attempt, the Vierordt's method, one of the standard methods for simultaneous estimation of binary mixture was employed 4.

Nalidixic acid was procured from M/s Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd., Devas and metronidazole from M/s Oscar Laboratories Pvt. Ltd, New Delhi as gift samples. The tablets (referred as T1 and T2) and suspension (referred as S) of the said combination were purchased from a local pharmacy. (The label claim for both T1 and T2 contained 300 mg nalidixic acid and 200 mg of metronidazole and each 5 ml of S contained 150 mg of nalidixic acid and 100 mg of metronidazole). All the chemicals and solvents used were of AR/GR grade. The instrument, LKB Ultraspec 4050 Spectrophotometer and a Shimadzu 150 UV/Vis Spectrophotometer were used for spectrophotometric readings.

To establish the suitability of the proposed method for determination of nalidixic acid and metronidazole in the pharmaceutical formulation, the method was first tried for the estimation of components in standard laboratory mixture of two drugs.

*For correspondence
E-mail: vaishali614@yahoo.com.
For estimation of drugs in standard laboratory mixture, accurately weighed quantities of nalidixic acid (equivalent to 50 mg) and metronidazole (equivalent to 25 mg) were taken in 50 ml volumetric flask and the mixture was dissolved in 40 ml of methanol by warming. The solution was cooled to room temperature and was adjusted to the mark by adding sufficient methanol. An aliquot of 10 ml of this solution was diluted to 100 ml with 0.1 N hydrochloric acid. A portion (5 ml) of the resultant solution was further diluted to 100 ml with 0.1 N hydrochloric acid and the absorbance of the solution was measured at 257 nm and 277 nm, respectively. The contents of nalidixic acid and metronidazole were calculated by substituting the absorbance values at 257 nm and 277 nm in the simultaneous equation given as follows, 

\[ c_1 = \frac{\lambda_2 a_2}{\lambda_1 a_1} \times \frac{\lambda_a}{\lambda_2} a_b, \quad c_2 = \frac{\lambda_1 a_1}{\lambda_2 a_2} \times \frac{\lambda_a}{\lambda_1} a_b, \]

where, \( c_1 \) and \( c_2 \) are the concentrations and \( \lambda_1 \) and \( \lambda_2 \) are the wavelengths (257 and 277 nm) of nalidixic acid and metronidazole, respectively. \( \lambda_1 \) and \( \lambda_2 \) are the absorbances of the sample solution at \( \lambda_1 \) and \( \lambda_2 \), \( \lambda_a \) and \( \lambda_2 a_2 \) are the absorptivity values of nalidixic acid at \( \lambda_1 \) and \( \lambda_2 \), respectively and \( \lambda_1 a_1 \) and \( \lambda_2 a_2 \) are the absorptivity values of metronidazole at \( \lambda_1 \) and \( \lambda_2 \), respectively.

For estimation of nalidixic acid and metronidazole in tablets, twenty tablets (Abdogyl-Biddle Sawyer Pharmaceutical Ltd.) were weighed and finely powdered. An accurately weighed quantity of tablet powder equivalent to the about 50 mg nalidixic acid was transferred to 50 ml volumetric flask and 40 ml methanol was added to it and mixture was warmed for about 15 min. The solution was cooled to room temperature and was adjusted to mark with methanol. The solution was then filtered and 10 ml portion of the filtrate was diluted to 100 ml with 0.1 N hydrochloric acid. A portion (5.0 ml) of the resultant solution was further diluted to 100 ml with 0.1 N hydrochloric acid. The absorbance of the solution was measured at 257 and 277 nm, respectively against a blank. The content of nalidixic acid and metronidazole were calculated using simultaneous equations. The results are shown in Table 1.

For estimation of nalidixic acid and metronidazole in suspension, weight per ml of the suspension was determined at room temperature and accurately weighed quantity of suspension equivalent to about 50 mg of nalidixic acid was transferred to 50 ml volumetric flask. About 40 ml methanol was added in the flask and the mixture was warmed for about 15 min. The solution was cooled to room temperature and was adjusted to mark with methanol. The solution was then filtered and 10 ml portion of the filtrate was diluted to 100 ml with 0.1 N hydrochloric acid. A portion (5.0 ml) of the resultant solution was further diluted to 100 ml with 0.1 N hydrochloric acid. The absorbance of the solution was measured at 257 and 277 nm, respectively against a blank. The con-

| TABLE 1: RESULTS OF ASSAY OFNALIDIXIC ACID AND METRONIDAZOLE IN PHARMACEUTICAL FORMULATIONS* |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| **Samples and formulations**                     | **Amount of drug (mg)** | **% of Labeled claim** | **% Recovery** |
| Lab. Mixture                                     | 49.4             | 48.7±0.06       | 98.5±0.13       |
| Nalidixic Acid                                   | 22.4             | 22.9±0.04       | 101±2.2         |
| Metronidazole                                    | ~33.3            | 33.8±0.24       | 99.5±1.0        |
| Tablet T₁                                        | ~50.0            | 49.1±0.22       | 98.2±0.81       |
| Nalidixic Acid                                   | ~33.3            | 32.7±0.08       | 98.1±1.83       |
| Metronidazole                                    | 50.0             | 48.9±0.35       | 96.8±0.69       |
| Suspension (S)                                    | ~33.3            | 32.6±0.06       | 97.7±0.24       |

*Brand name of the marketed formulations - Abdogyl (Biddle Sawyer). **All the observations are the mean of five readings.
tent of nalidixic acid and metronidazole were calculated using simultaneous equations. The results are shown in Table 1.

Recovery studies for tablet formulations were then done by accurately weighing the quantity of tablet powder equivalent to 100 mg of nalidixic acid and transferring to 50 ml volumetric flask and then it to 10 mg of pure nalidixic acid and 10 mg of metronidazole were added accurately. The mixture was then dissolved in methanol with slight warming and diluted to 50.0 ml. The solution was then filtered and 10 ml portion of the filtrate was diluted to 100 ml with 0.1N hydrochloric acid. A portion (5.0 ml) of the resultant solution was further diluted to 100 ml with 0.1 N hydrochloric acid. The absorbance of the solution was measured at 257 nm and 277 nm against a blank. The content of nalidixic acid and metronidazole were calculated using simultaneous equations. The percent recovery was then calculated with respect to the amount of pure nalidixic acid and metronidazole added.

For recovery studies for suspension formulation, the same procedure as detailed under recovery studies for tablet was repeated by weighing the quantity of suspension equivalent to about 50 mg of nalidixic acid and adding accurately weighed quantities of nalidixic acid and metronidazole. The results are shown in Table 1.

Accuracy of the analysis was determined by calculating recovery of nalidixic acid and metronidazole by standard addition method. The results indicated that the recovery of nalidixic acid ranged between 99.0-100 and that of metronidazole between 98.0-100, ensuring that the method is accurate and reproducible. It also appears that the excipients present in formulation do not interfere in the proposed method. In addition to this, the method is simple rapid and cost effective. Hence, the method may be employed for routine quality control of formulations containing nalidixic acid and metronidazole.

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Validation of a RP-LC Method for Simultaneous Determination of Paracetamol, Methocarbamol and Diclofenac Potassium in Tablets

G. SUBRAMANIAN**, M. VASUDEVAN, S. RAVISANKAR AND B. SURESH
J. S. S. College of Pharmacy, Rocklands, Ooty-643 001
Department of Pharmaceutical Quality Assurance, Manipal College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Manipal-576 104

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A simple, fast, precise and accurate liquid chromatographic method was developed for the simultaneous estimation of paracetamol, methocarbamol and diclofenac potassium in tablets. Drugs were chromatographed on a reverse phase Hypersil C18 column using a mobile phase, 25 mM

*For correspondence
E-mail: ganrajesh@yahoo.com

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