Synthesis and Formulation Development of Phenytoin by Inclusion Complexation

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Phenytoin is a classical anticonvulsant drug used in the treatment of epilepsy. It is a Biopharmaceutics classification system class II drug that has poor aqueous solubility, which affects dissolution rate. The main objective of this study was to enhance the dissolution rate of phenytoin and formulate the optimized chewable tablet. The phenytoin sodium was chemically synthesized and its solubility was enhanced with inclusion complexation by the kneading method using beta-cyclodextrin. This results in increased solubility of phenytoin sodium from 0.0150 to 0.0171 g/ml and solubility was found to be directly proportional to concentration beta-cyclodextrin. Further, 22 factorial design was used to optimize phenytoin sodium chewable tablet with enhanced solubility. *In vitro* evaluations were done for all 12 formulations to find out the optimized formulation. We found the significant increase in the percentage of drug release, at the end of 2 h, for formulation B6 (81.66 %) and C12 (92.76 %). Also, the pre-compressional and post-compressional properties of B6 and C12 formulations were found to be within the acceptable range of chewable tablets. In conclusion, the solubility of phenytoin sodium was enhanced and we successfully developed two (B6 and C12) optimized formulation of phenytoin sodium chewable tablet.

Key words: Epilepsy, solubility, phenytoin, biological availability

Epilepsy is one of the most common neurological diseases, with about 50 million patients globally^[1]. Phenytoin is one of the potential candidates for epilepsy treatment, but it has low bioavailability due to lower aqueous solubility^[2]. Fosphenytoin, a prodrug is widely used to overcome the low bioavailability problem of phenytoin. High cost, transient paraesthesia and pruritus are some of the disadvantages of fosphenytoin over phenytoin^[3].

Phenytoin sodium is a high-yielding chemically synthesized anticonvulsant drug, which is prescribed to be taken orally (phenytoin or phenytoin sodium) or by slow intravenous injection (phenytoin sodium). It stabilizes the excitable membranes of cardiac muscle and neuronal cells by decreasing the resting fluxes of sodium and inducing chemical depolarisations^[4]. It is widely used to control tonic-clonic (grand mal) seizures, partial (focal) seizures and prophylactic seizures during neurosurgery or post-traumatic injury to the head^[5].

The oral dose of phenytoin sodium is 150 to 300 mg daily, which can be increased gradually to 600 mg according to the need of the patient. In status epilepsies, the maintenance dose is 100 mg/6 h. The loading dose

of 10-15 mg/kg is given through slow Intravenous (IV) at the rate not exceeding 50 mg/min. In children recommended initial dose is 5 mg/kg daily and a maintenance dose is 4-8 mg/kg daily in divided doses. Phenytoin sodium can also be used as an antiarrhythmic agent^[6].

Phenytoin sodium can be administered through oral, IV or Intramuscular (IM) route. IM administration shows very slow absorption and is only appropriate to control prophylactic seizures during neurosurgery. It is usually prescribed daily to prevent convulsants, which makes self-administration difficult through the IV route^[7]. Therefore, chewable tablets are mostly preferred over other routes of administration.

The direct compression method is one of the most effective techniques of tablet manufacturing. Direct compression is a simple and economical method for the

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manufacturing of tablets. It requires fewer processing steps than other techniques such as wet granulation and roller compaction. Some pharmaceutical active ingredients cannot be compressed directly into tablets due to lack of flow, cohesion properties and lubrication. Thus, such active ingredients are blended with other excipients that can be directly compressed^[8].

In this study, we chemically synthesized phenytoin sodium and enhanced its solubility with the inclusion complexation (kneading method) technique. Further, we aimed to formulate optimized phenytoin sodium chewable tablet with enhanced solubility, using 2^2 factorial design. We also performed percompressional and post-compressional studies to identify the optimized formulation.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

All the chemicals used were supplied by SMBT College of Pharmacy, Dhamangaon, Nashik. The chemicals used were; Benzoin, acetic acid, sodium nitrate, copper sulphate, urea, Sodium Hydroxide (NaOH), methanol, ethanol, chloroform, diethyl ether, Potassium Bromide (KBr), Sodium Chloride (NaCl), Hydrochloric Acid (HCl), pyridine, cupric sulphate, Beta (β)-cyclodextrin, silicon dioxide, starch, magnesium stearate, mannitol, talc and sodium lauryl sulfate. All the chemicals used were of Laboratory Grade (LR).

Synthesis:

Synthesis of phenytoin: In the Round Bottom Flask (RBF), 4.3006 g benzoin, 12.5 ml acetic acid and 2 g sodium nitrate were taken. The 2 % copper sulfate was prepared separately and 2.5 ml was added to RBF. The mixture in RBF was stirred in circumfluence for 1.5 h. The mixture was cooled to 50-60°. Phenytoin was separated by placing the mixture in the ice water bath. Phenytoin was dried and recrystallized using methanol. Melting Point (MP) and Percentage (%) yield of phenytoin was then calculated^[9].

Synthesis of phenytoin sodium: 2.1088 g phenytoin and 0.6103 g urea were added to a 50 ml flask, containing 5 ml water maintained at 98°. Then, 6 ml 30 % NaOH was added drop wise into the reactor in circumfluence for 1 h. The mixture was discolored, by adding 10 ml of water. The mixture was then filtered and the filtrate was adjusted to pH 5-6 at 45°. The precipitate was washed with water to obtain 5,5-diphenylhydantoin (diphenylhydantoin). Diphenylhydantoin was adjusted to the pH 11-11.5 by using 30 % NaOH, which was then discolored by heating at 70-80° for 0.5 h. The solution was filtered and the residue was dried to obtain the phenytoin sodium (product)^[9]. MP and percentage yield of phenytoin sodium was then calculated.

Drug evaluation:

Organoleptic properties: Visual colour and odour were found out.

Solubility: The amount of solvent required for complete saturation of 1 g of phenytoin sodium was found out. Solubility of phenytoin sodium in water, ethanol, chloroform and diethyl ether was calculated^[10].

Melting point: The MP was determined using digital melting point apparatus (model S-972). One end of the capillary tube was sealed and dried phenytoin sodium was filled by jabbing the open end of the tube. The tube was inverted and gently tapped on the benchtop to cause the solid to fall to the closed end and was filled up to 2-3 mm of height. The tube was placed into the melting point apparatus. Once the temperature of 20° below the expected melting point was reached, the temperature was further increased at the rate of not more than 1° every 30 s. The melting point range was recorded from the first visible drop of liquid to a completely melted solid^[10].

Infrared Spectroscopy (IR): The IR of the synthesized drug was found out using Jasco Fourier-Transform (FT)/IR instrument (model 4100). The sample was prepared by using the KBr pellet technique. Dried KBr powder was used in a ratio of 100 times the weight of pure phenytoin sodium. The phenytoin sodium and KBr mixture were pressed in a die at 10 000 to 15 000 pounds. The disk was then held in the path of the IR beam of the instrument for spectroscopic examination. The resulting spectra showed bands at 3450 cm⁻¹ and 1640 cm⁻¹ due to absorbed moisture. Carbon dioxide and water absorption were removed manually^[11]. The IR spectrum was compared with the reference spectrum of phenytoin published in a book by Philip *et al.*^[12].

Elemental analysis: The sodium concentration in the synthesized drug was detected using flame photometry (model SLiSCO) at 589 nm. NaCl standard solution was used to prepare series of dilutions, having a concentration of 5, 10, 25, 50, 75, 100 mg/ml. The calibration curve was drawn. The sample solution was prepared and the emission was recorded to find out the concentration of sodium in a sample^[13-16].

Ultraviolet (UV): A Jasco double beam spectrophotometer (model V-730) was used. Standard

stock solution (0.1 mg/ml) of phenytoin sodium in ethanol was prepared. A dilutions series of concentration 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 and 14 μ g/ml was prepared using standard stock solution and ethanol. The baseline was obtained using 14 μ g/ml dilution at 200-250 nm. The maximum absorbance was found out using ethanol as blank. The absorbances of serial dilutions (each analysis in triplicate) were calculated using Beer-Lambert's law. The standard curve of concentration *vs.* absorbance was plotted to find linearity. The method was validated using Limit of Detection (LOD), Limit of Quantitation (LOQ), Standard Deviation (SD) and Relative standard Deviation (RSD).

Chemical analysis: 0.25 g of the drug was dissolved in 5 ml of water and acidified with dilute HCl. It should produce a white precipitate; 0.1 g of the drug was dissolved in 10 ml of a 10 % w/v solution of pyridine, 1 ml of cupric sulphate with pyridine solution was added and allowed to stand for 10 min. The blue precipitate must be produced^[6].

Solubility enhancement:

Solubility is defined in quantitative terms as the concentration of the solute in a saturated solution at a certain temperature. In qualitative terms, it may be defined as the spontaneous interaction of two or more substances to form a homogeneous molecular dispersion. Drug solubility is the maximum concentration of the drug solute dissolved in the solvent under the specific condition of temperature, pH and pressure^[18].

Phenytoin sodium has low solubility and high permeability. It belongs to a class II drug in Biopharmaceutics Classification System (BCS)^[19]. Its solubility was enhanced by the phenomenon of inclusion complexation by using the kneading method^[20,21]. The kneaded mass of β -cyclodextrin and the drug was prepared using a sufficient amount of water. The kneaded mass was dried at 45° and pulverized^[22,23]. The β -cyclodextrin was used in three different concentrations to observe its effect on solubility. Table 1 represents the combination A, B and C with the corresponding proportions of phenytoin sodium and β -cyclodextrin used for kneading.

Evaluation of enhanced solubility:

The Shake-flask method was used to determine the equilibrium solubility at a given pH and temperature. Phenytoin sodium was added in surplus to ethanol, which was then shaken at a predetermined time interval for 24 h. The undissolved material represents the

saturated solution. The saturated solution was filtered and UV analysis of filtrate was performed to determine the enhanced solubility (concentration)^[24,25].

Formulation of chewable tablet:

The solubility enhanced drug (mixture of phenytoin sodium and β -cyclodextrin by kneading method) was used to formulate a chewable tablet. The 2² factorial design was applied for two factors i.e. silicon dioxide and starch (Table 2 and Table 3). The excipients used were silicon dioxide, starch, magnesium stearate, talc, mannitol and solubility enhanced drug along with β -cyclodextrin. One high and one low level was set up for silicon dioxide and starch. For each solubility enhanced drug (combination A, B, C) 2² factorial design was applied. Total 12 formulations were obtained (4 for each A, B and C combination), which were labelled as A1 to A4 for A, B5 to B8 for B, C9 to C12 for C^[26-29]. Table 4 highlights the composition of B6 and C12 formulations.

Five excipients were selected based on their organic properties, particle size, density, compressibility, flow ability, mode of compression and water solubility to optimize powder compatibility, blend uniformity, tablet appearance, tablet weight, tablet hardness, tablet

TABLE	1:	DRUG	AND	β-CYCLODEXTRIN
PROPOR	TION	IS		

Ingredient	A (mg)	B (mg)	C (mg)
Drug	100	100	100
B-Cyclodextrin	300	400	500

TABLE 2: LEVELS OF FACTOR

S. No.	Factor	Low level	High level
1	Silicon dioxide (A)	-	+
2	Starch (B)	-	+

TABLE 3: TWO-LEVEL 2 FACTOR-FULL FACTORIAL EXPERIMENT DESIGN PATTERN

Formulations	Combination —	Fac	tor
Formulations	Complitation –	Α	В
A1	1	-	-
A2	А	+	-
A3	В	-	+
A4	AB	+	+
B5	1	-	-
B6	А	+	-
B7	В	-	+
B8	AB	+	+
С9	1	-	-
C10	А	+	-
C11	В	-	+
C12	AB	+	+

friability and tablet disintegration^[30]. As previously reported in the literature, the excipients had no drugexcipients interactions^[31-33]. Drug and excipients were weighted accurately, passed through sieve no. 80 and were mixed completely for 5 min. The chewable tablets were prepared by the direct compression method. The 8 stage mini rotary tablet press was used for tablet compression. All 12 batches were performed similarly.

Evaluation of tablet:

Pre-compressional studies of drug and excipients:

The pre-compressional studies were performed before compression, for the potential development of a drug. The flow properties were calculated to obtain flow ability. The flow properties evaluated were the angle of repose, Carr's index, bulk density and tapped density.

Angle of repose (θ)=tan⁻¹ h/r

Bulk density (ρ b)=M/Vb (where, M is the mass of the sample, Vb bulk volume)

Tapped density (pt)=Weight of powder blend/Minimum volume occupied by cylinder

Carr's index=Tapped density-Bulk density×100/ Tapped density^[34].

Post-compressional evaluation:

Thickness: The tablet thickness was calculated by vernier callipers. Tablet was placed in between two jaws vertically and thickness was measured. 12 tablets were used for this test and thickness was expressed in mm^[34].

Hardness: Hardness is a diametric tablet crushing strength. The tablet hardness was determined by the Monsanto hardness tester. The tablet was placed lengthwise between the upper and lower plunger and force was applied until the tablet fractures, to give the hardness of the tablet in kg/cm^{2[34]}.

Weight variation test: From each formulation, the weight of 20 tablets was recorded. The average weight of an individual tablet was then calculated. The weight of the individual tablet was recorded. The percentage weight deviation (variation) was calculated using the formula:

% weight deviation (variation)=(IW-AW)/AW×100

Where, IW is Individual Weight; AW is Average Weight. The percentage weight deviation should be present within the allowed percent deviation as per Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP)/United States Pharmacopeia (USP). Table 5 represents the percentage weight deviation allowed according to IP/British Pharmacopoeia (BP)/USP^[6,33,35,36].

Friability: It is a method to determine the physical strength of uncoated tablets upon exposure to mechanical shock and attrition. The weight of 15 tablets was recorded. All tablets were placed in the friability apparatus, revolving at 24-25 rpm for 4 min (100 times). After 100 revolutions the tablets were dedusted and reweighted^[37]. The percentage friability is determined from the weight loss using the formula:

% Friability= $W_i - W_f / W_i \times 100$ (where, W_i is weight before a test, W_f is weight after a test)

Disintegration test: It is the time taken by the tablet to disintegrate, which was measured using the disintegration test apparatus as described in the USP/ National Formulary (NF). One tablet was placed in each of the 6 tubes with 10 nm mesh at the closed end. The basket rack was positioned in a 1 l beaker of water at 37°. The time taken for complete disintegration was noted^[38].

Dissolution studies:

The *in vitro* drug release studies (dissolution studies) were performed using USP dissolution apparatus Type II (paddle apparatus), with 900 ml of 0.05 M Tris buffer as the dissolution medium. The dissolution medium was maintained at 37° , with a paddle rotation speed of 100 rpm. Each sampling was done by withdrawing 5 ml of a sample at a 10 min time interval for about 2 h. On each withdrawal of sample, 5 ml of buffer was re-added. The collected samples were suitably diluted. The absorbance of the solutions was determined at λ_{max} of 214 nm in a UV visible spectrophotometer, using buffer solution as a blank^[36,39].

TABLE 4: COMPOSITIONS OF FORMULATIONS B6 AND C12

Ingredients	B6 (%)	C12 (%)
Silicon Dioxide	5	5
Starch	15	25
Combination by kneading	14	14
Magnesium Stearate	1.5	1.5
Talc	4	4
Mannitol	q.s.	q.s.

TABLE 5: PERCENTAGE WEIGHT DEVIATION ALLOWED

IP/BP	Limit	USP
80 mg or less	10 %	130 mg or less
80 mg to 250 mg	7.5 %	130 mg to 324 mg
250 mg or more	5 %	More than 324 mg

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RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The percentage yield and MP of phenytoin was found to be 63 % and 280-282°, respectively. The percentage yield and MP of phenytoin sodium was found to be 56 % and 290-292°, respectively. The percentage yield was observed to be reduced after recrystallization. White, odourless powder of phenytoin sodium was obtained. Phenytoin sodium was soluble in water (1 g/61 ml) and ethanol (1 g/12.3 ml) and insoluble in chloroform and diethyl ether. Yellow color of flame was observed in flame photometry, which shows the presence of sodium in the sample^[40]. The concentration of sodium was found out to be 11 %. Outcomes of these primary identification test match with the properties of phenytoin sodium.

In the IR spectrums of the synthesized drug (fig. 1), 3271.27 cm^{-1} and 3207.62 cm^{-1} were assigned to the stretching vibration of secondary amines. 3070.68 cm^{-1} was assigned to stretching vibration of =C-H on the aromatic ring. 1722.43 cm^{-1} was assigned to stretching vibration of C=O. The 1494.83 cm⁻¹ was assigned to the skeleton vibration of the aromatic ring. The IR spectrum of the drug matches the reference spectrum of phenytoin sodium.

The performed dilutions were scanned at 200-400 nm. λ_{max} for the highest concentration was found out to be 207 nm using ethanol as blank. The observed λ_{max} matches the λ_{max} of phenytoin sodium^[6,36]. Except for

peaks at 207 nm, no other peaks were seen in the UV spectrum, which represents the sample had no impurity. Table 6 represents the absorbance and validation results. Table 7 shows the summary of validation parameters for the proposed UV method. Fig. 2 represents the standard curve of phenytoin sodium in ethanol. The calibration curve and R² show the linearity. Low % RSD values represent that the method is precise. The microgram level of LOQ and LOD indicates the method to be sensitive^[41]. Therefore the proposed UV analysis method is validated.

White precipitate was observed on acidification of aqueous solution of phenytoin sodium; the blue precipitate was observed after 10 min of mixing the cupric sulphate with a pyridine solution of phenytoin sodium. Chemical analysis indicated that the synthesized drug is phenytoin sodium. Therefore, from all the above analysis it can be concluded that the synthesized drug is phenytoin sodium.

Table 8 shows the different compositions of kneaded mass and their solubility. The results show enhanced solubility of phenytoin sodium. The highest solubility was found for 500 mg β -cyclodextrin with 100 mg of phenytoin sodium. It is observed that the solubility increases with the increase in the concentration of β -cyclodextrin.

The flow properties are given in Table 9. Except for A2 and B5, all other formulations have an angle of repose





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TABLE 6: UV ABSORBANCE AND VALIDATION

Concentration (µg/ml)	Absorbance	SD	RSD	% Recovery
2	0.215	0.006807	3.165981	100.233
4	0.492	0.012530	2.546741	100.343
6	0.735	0.013577	1.846366	100.136
8	0.983	0.011590	1.178667	100.128
10	1.23	0.018148	1.475410	100.108

TABLE 7: VALIDATION PARAMETERS

Parameters (units)	Result
Absorption maxima (nm)	207
Linearity range (µg/ml)	2-10
Standard regression equation	y=0.1261x-0.0253
Regression coefficient (R ²)	R ² =0.9994
% Accuracy	100.1896
Precision	1.475-3.165
LOD (µg/ml)	0.32791
LOQ (µg/ml)	0.99368



Fig. 2: Standard curve of phenytoin sodium in ethanol

TABLE 8: SOLUBILITY ENHANCEMENT RESULTS

Combination	Concentration (g/ml)
Phenytoin sodium	0.0150
Α	0.0159
В	0.0163
С	0.0171

TABLE 9: PRE-COMPRESSION PARA	METER
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less than 35°, which indicates good flow ability. The highest bulk density was found to be 0.76 ± 0.01 g/ml for A2 and the lowest was found out to be 0.33 ± 0.01 g/ml for B7. Similarly, highest and lowest tapped densities were 0.92 ± 0.01 mg/ml (A2) and 0.52 ± 0.01 mg/ml (C12). Carr's index value indicates formulation B6, C9 and C10 has excellent flow ability, formulation A2, A3 and C12 has good flow ability and formulation A1, B5 and C11 have very poor flow property^[6].

The tablets were compressed by the direct compression technique. The hardness for the conventional tab is between $4-10 \text{ kg/cm}^2$ but for chewable tablet, the hardness should be up to 3 kg/cm^{2[42]}. Hardness (Table 10) for all formulation except for A4, B8, C9 and C11 is less than 3 kg/cm².

Based on our result, the average thickness of tablets is 4.058 mm, as the thickness obtained for every 12 tablets lies within the range of 3.80 mm to 4.20 mm (Table 10). According to the average weight of 20 tablets, for each A1-C12 formulation percentage weight variation allowed was 5 % and it was reported that the batches of all the formulation passed the weight variation test (Table 10). Thus, all the tablets within each formulation have a uniformity^[43]. The percentage friability was below 1 % and no tablet was broken (Table 10). Thus, all the formulation passed the percentage friability test, which indicates all the formulations are resistant to friability.

In dissolution studies, the maximum percentage of drug release (2 h) was recorded to be 92.76 % and 81.66 % for C12 and B6 formulations, respectively (Table 11). For most of the other formulation, the percentage of drug release was found to be less than 60 %, which were then discarded. Fig. 3 represents the graph percentage of drug release against time for C12 and B6 formulations.

The pre-compressional and post-compressional studies show that the formulations C12 and B6 are optimal.

Formulations	Bulk density (g/ml)	Tapped density (g/ml)	Angle of repose (θ)	Carr's index
A1	0.48±0.017	0.86±0.01	25.3±0.264	44.19±1.477
A2	0.76±0.01	0.92±0.01	38.7±0.1	17.39±0.189
A3	0.51±0.01	0.62±0.017	33.8±0.1	17.72±1.207
A4	0.44±0.02	0.59±0.026	22.7±0.2	25.42±1.139
B5	0.59±0.01	0.85±0.01	36.4±0.1	30.57±1.993
B6	0.47±0.02	0.53±0.01	30.5±0.2	11.31±1.775
B7	0.33±0.01	0.44±0.01	33.3±0.1	24.95±3.415
B8	0.42±0.01	0.53±0.02	32.6±0.26	20.63±4.885
С9	0.73±0.01	0.82±0.01	25.6±0.132	10.97±0.133
C10	0.62±0.02	0.69±0.01	24.1±0.229	10.14±2.512
C11	0.46±0.01	0.76±0.01	33.2±0.1	39.45±2.112
C12	0.43±0.01	0.52±0.01	25.7±0.132	17.31±0.332

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TABLE 10: POST-COMPRESSION PARAMETER

Formulations	Hardness (kg/cm²)	Thickness (mm)	% Weight variation	% Friability	Disintegration time (min)
A1	2.30±0.026	4±0.073	4.1±0.021	0.01±0.001	7.1±0.164
A2	2.92±0.095	4.2±0.056	3.8±0.021	0.03±0.003	7.6±0.302
A3	2.5±0.081	3.9±0.052	4.3±0.021	0.05±0.001	6.8±0.26
A4	3.3±0.078	3.5±0.047	4.5±0.022	0.01±0.003	8.4±0.242
B5	2.1±0.127	4.0±0.052	3.2±0.021	0.2±0.03	8.1±0.289
B6	2.23±0.06	3.8±0.047	4.3±0.016	0.4±0.01	8.6±0.235
B7	2.76±0.087	4.2±0.067	4.0±0.026	0.1±0.026	7.8±0.609
B8	3.98±0.072	4.8±0.1	3.8±0.023	0.3±0.026	8.4±0.401
С9	3.39±0.079	3.9±0.056	2.9±0.022	0.6±0.01	7.5±0.42
C10	2.2±0.043	4.5±0.036	4.1±0.024	0.5±0.036	9.0±0.25
C11	3.20±0.062	3.8±0.082	4.7±0.027	0.7±0.01	8.1±0.271
C12	2.34±0.06	4.1±0.042	3.5±0.016	0.4±0.017	9.2±0.151

TABLE 11: DISSOLUTION TESTING (% DRUG RELEASE)

Sampling time (min)	B6 (%)	C12 (%)
10	6.21	5.71
20	11.3	12.46
30	17.6	19.16
40	22.53	26.45
50	29.26	33.32
60	35.35	39.43
70	41.83	46.07
80	46.2	54.8
90	55.3	67.2
100	68.35	75.03
110	75.12	82.57
120	81.66	92.76



Fig. 3: Percentage drug release of B6 and C12 formulation

In conclusion, the solubility of phenytoin sodium was enhanced and an optimized chewable tablet formulation was developed.

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Conflict of interests:

The authors declared no conflicts of interest.

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