

by passage through RO plant (Waterman, Pakistan) and was further filtered through a 0.45 µm membrane filter (Millipore, Bedford, MA, USA).

Chromatographic conditions

The HPLC analysis was carried out at ambient temperature. The compound was chromatographed isocratically with a mobile phase consisting of Methanol (HPLC grade): deionized water (90:10, % v/v) with the pH adjusted to 2.8 ± 0.1 using phosphoric acid. The mobile phase was filtered by passing through a 0.45 µm membrane filter (Millipore, Bedford, MA, USA). The flow rate was 1.0 ml/min, and the injected volume was 20 µL. The eluent was monitored spectrophotometrically at a wavelength of 220 nm.

Apparatus

For chromatography we used a SIL 10A auto injector HPLC system comprising of SCL 10A system controller, SPD 20A prominence UV/VIS detector, with a Shimadzu LC 20 AT pump with LC Solutions software. Separation was performed on a Hyperpack ODS C18 HPLC column, (4.6×250 mm; 5 µm bead size) maintained at ambient temperature 25 °C, Ultrasonic cleaner (Elmasoni E 60 H), Jenway 3240 pH meter and Sartorius TE2145 analytical balance. Throughout the work only amber glass vials were used to avoid light effect on the solution of montelukast standards and samples.

Analytical Procedure

Standard preparation

In a 100 ml volumetric flask, weighed accurately about 20.8 mg of Montelukast sodium reference standard. Dissolve up to 50 ml in Methanol (HPLC Grade) sonicate for 10 minutes let it cool to room temperature and make up volume with the extraction solvent stir well for 20 minutes and diluted 2.5 ml in a 50 ml volumetric flask to get 10 µg/ml working standard solution of Montelukast base. Filter through 0.45 micron filter paper. This solution can be used for 3 days, if stored protected from light.

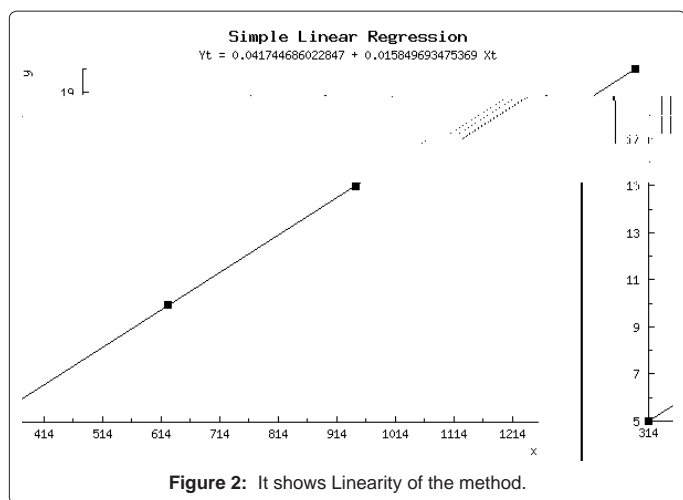
Sample preparation

Analysis of tablets: For making sample of 10 µg/ml Montelukast, 20 tablets were weighed and ground to get an evenly homogenized powder. The sample was weighed accurately equivalent to 10 mg of Montelukast and taken in 100 ml volumetric flask and 50 ml of extraction solvent was added. The sample was sonicated for 10 minutes and the placed for stirring for 10 minutes to cool down the temperature and then added extraction solvent up to the mark. The solution was diluted in a 50 ml volumetric flask to get 10 µg/ml working standard solution by adding 5.0 ml of stock solution. The sample was then filtered through 0.45 mm filter paper and injected into the HPLC system.

Analysis of suspension: To prepare a sample of 10 µg/ml Montelukast from suspension, the suspension was shaken well before and was accurately weighed as 11.1gram (density, 1.1 g/ml) equivalent to 10 mg of Montelukast. The sample was taken in 100 ml volumetric flask and 50 ml of extraction solvent was added. The sample was sonicated for 20 minutes and then placed for stirring for 30 minutes to cool down the temperature and then added extraction solvent up to the mark. The solution was diluted in a 50 ml volumetric flask to get 10 µg/ml working standard solution by adding 5.0 ml of stock solution. The sample was then filtered through 0.45 mm filter paper and injected into the HPLC system.

Method Validation

6(h)4(m)-9(d)-195(va)-5(lid)-3(a)19(t)-5(io)12(n)-195(wa)3(s)-195g feribdc/



decreasing concentrations, in the range of 10-1.25 ng/ml of Montelukast and injected onto the chromatograph.

Robustness

The robustness was studied by analyzing the same samples of MKT by deliberate variation in the method parameters. Doing small changes in the chromatographic conditions like mobile phase, flow rate etc. and change in the responses of MKT was noted. For this purpose changing in the extraction time of MKT from dosage forms by ± 2 min, composition of mobile phase by ± 2 % of methanol, flow rate by ± 0.2 ml/min and column temperature by ± 2 °C was performed.

System-Suitability

System suitability of the method was evaluated by analyzing the symmetry of the standard peaks, theoretical plates of the column. For this purpose five consecutive replicate analysis of the drug were assessed in order to investigate the suitability parameters including repeatability, peaks symmetry, and column efficiency (theoretical plates).

Results and Discussion

The HPLC method development for the determination of drugs has received a substantial consideration in the new era of technology, because of their importance in the quality control of drugs and drug products. The major purpose of developing this LC method was to attain determination of the drug in different pharmaceutical formulations under economical conditions that are applicable for routine quality control and research & development laboratories.

A number of methods are available for MKT determination [8-18], but many of them are used for certain specific purposes and no one can be generalized for MKT determination in its different forms of pharmaceutical dosages. The literature survey also revealed that almost all the methods developed so far have utilized acetonitrile as a major component in mobile phases [20], due to the supreme solubilizing properties and UV absorbance characteristics of acetonitrile, and there is no counterpart substitute for acetonitrile in the reverse-phase HPLC, UV application. However, keeping in view the increasing shortage of acetonitrile "Great Acetonitrile Shortage", and high cost, laboratories are in search of cost-effective solutions to manage the impact on their research and business timelines. Also considering the chromatography type and the detection wavelengths in use, it may be possible to replace acetonitrile with methanol or with a longer chain alcohol. Also as

Methanol is less expensive than acetonitrile and TFA or TCA etc., therefore the use of methanol as an alternative solvent to acetonitrile was evaluated in MKT analysis on large industrial basis, and a very simple and easy to use method has been developed.

Validation of Method

Linearity

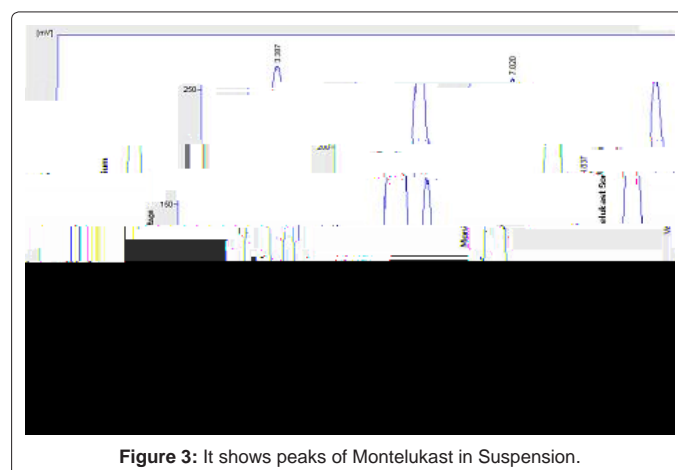
The linearity ranges were found in the range of 5-20 µg/ml. The assay was judged to be linear as the correlation coefficient was greater than 0.995 by the least-square method. A linear correlation was found between the peak areas and the concentrations of Montelukast, in the assayed range. The regression analysis data are presented in Table 1 and Figure 2.

Specificity

Chromatogram shown in Figure 3, proves specificity or selectivity of the assayed method, as chromatogram of Montelukast in samples were found identical with standard chromatogram and no interference peak was observed in sample chromatogram, Peak purities higher than 98.0% were obtained in the chromatograms of sample solutions, demonstrating that other compounds did not co-elute with the main peaks (Figure 3). The chromatogram obtained with the mixture of the tablet excipients proves that here is no any interference from excipient and peak of interest fulfilled all the requirements of symmetrical peak, and hence the specificity is confirmed.

Precision

The precision of an analytical method is the degree of agreement among individual test results when the method is applied repeatedly to multiple sampling of homogeneous sample. Intra-day precision of the method was evaluated for montelukast at three different independent concentrations i.e. 8, 10, and 12 µg/ml (n=3) by determining their assay. The RSD values ranged from 0.54 to 1.14% (Table 2) while Coefficient of variation (CV) of the assay results was NMT 3. Inter-day



Nominal concentration	Day 1			Day 2			Day 3		
	Mean	SD	%RSD	Mean	SD	%RSD	Mean	SD	%RSD
8	7.95	0.15	0.81	7.89	0.14	0.87	7.86	0.11	1.14
10	10.03	0.64	0.57	9.98	0.58	0.97	9.91	0.84	1.10
12	12.09	0.77	0.54	11.81	0.67	0.55	12.05	0.67	0.55

Table 2: Inter-Day and Intra-Day Precision of Montelukast (n = 3).

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