High Performance Liquid Chromatographic and Spectrophotometric Determination of Ranitidine HCl and Phenol in Injections

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Abstract
Two Spectrophotometric and HPLC methods are presented for the simultaneous determination of ranitidine HCl and phenol in pharmaceutical injections. The Spectrophotometric methods include first derivative (‘D) ultraviolet spectrophotometry with zero crossing measurement at 238.6 and 228.1 nm for ranitidine HCl and phenol, respectively and first derivative of the ratio spectra (‘DD) with measurement of the amplitude of the peak to-trough at 323.2-328.1 nm and peak to zero at 280.1 nm for ranitidine HCl and phenol, respectively. The HPLC method was developed using C18 column with mobile phase consisting of 35 mM potassium dehydrogenate phosphate of pH 7-8. The method was successfully applied for the determination of ranitidine HCl and phenol in synthetic mixtures and commercial injections.

Keywords: Ranitidine HCl; Phenol; First-derivative spectrophotometry; First-derivative of the ratio spectra; HPLC

Introduction
Ranitidine hydrochloride (RN), chemically N, N dimethyl-5- [2-(1-methylamine-2-nitrovinyl)-ethylihydrothiobutyl] furfurylamine hydrochloride (Figure 1) is a H2-receptor antagonist, widely used in short term treatment of duodenal ulcer and in the management of hypersecretory conditions [1]. It acts by blocking histamine receptors which are present on the cells in the stomach lining. Ranitidine binds to H2 receptors, replacing some of the histamine. As a result, the amount of stomach acid produced by these cells is decreased. Ranitidine decreases the amount of acid in the stomach and duodenum. As a result, ranitidine helps relieve the symptoms of indigestion and aids the healing of ulcers. It is also used to depress acid production in various other conditions.

Phenol is commercially used as preservative in pharmaceutical products; due to its antimicrobial activities especially below pH 9 [2].

Several methods have been reported for the determination of ranitidine in bulk, pharmaceutical dosage forms, and/or biological fluids. These methods include kinetic spectrophotometry [3, 4], HPLC [5-9], coulometry [10], capillary electrophoresis [11, 12], fluorimetry [13], HPTLC [14], voltammetry [15], potentiometry [16] and polarography [17]. But, such techniques are time consuming because of the need for sample pretreatment, require expensive instrumentation and beyond the reach of small laboratories. Here are several reports of the determination of RN by spectrophotometry involving the use of Folin Ciocalteu reagent [18], N-bromosuccinimide [19], Cerium (IV) [20], 3-methyl-2-benzothiazoline hydrazone-iron (III) [21], 7, 7, 8, 8 tetracyanoquinodimethane [22], 2, 6- dichloroquinone chlorimide [23], bromothymol blue [24], potassium dichromate [25], perchloric acid [26], DDQ [27], Hg(SCN)2 [28]. These methods are based on redox, coupling, charge-transfer complexation and ion pair complexation reactions. The reported Spectrophotometric methods suffer from one or other deficiency such as heating or extraction step, critical dependence on acid/pH condition, use of non-aqueous medium/expensive chemicals, poor sensitivity and/or narrow range of linear response. The official British Pharmacopoeia (B.P.) method for determination of RN is titration in bulk drug and HPLC in pharmaceutical dosage forms [29]. The official United State Pharmacopoeia (U.S.P.) method for determination of RN is HPLC in bulk drug and in pharmaceutical dosage form [30].

Several methods have been reported for the determination of PL, including HPLC [31-42], GC [42-48] and Spectrophotometric [49-57]. The official British Pharmacopoeia (B.P.) method for determination of PL is titration in bulk drug and in pharmaceutical dosage forms [29]. The official United State Pharmacopoeia (U.S.P.) method for determination of PL is titration in bulk drug and GC in pharmaceutical dosage forms [30].

No method has been reported in the literature for the simultaneous determination of RN and PL in their commercial formulations. It would be therefore beneficial to provide accurate, precise and reliable method for simultaneous determination of RN and PL.

The present work describes first derivative, first derivative of ratio spectra spectrophotometry and HPLC methods for simultaneous quantization of RN and PL.

Figure 1: Ranitidine HCl chemical structure.
Experimental

Instrumentation

Agilent UV-Visible spectrophotometer, model Cary 60 UV.Vis with Cary Win UV software (Agilent Technologies, USA). The spectral bandwidth was 2 nm and the wave length scanning speed was 2800 nm min⁻¹. The absorption spectra of test and reference solutions were recorded in 1-cm quartz cells over the range of 200–400 nm. The first derivative of the measured spectra was obtained using the accompanying software with Δλ = 3 nm and scaling factor of 100.

The HPLC system was WATERS with UV-visible photodiode array detector model 2996, WATERS binary HPLC pump model 1525 and WATERS 717 plus Auto sampler (WATERS Corporation, Milford, Massachusetts, USA). A 150 x 4.6 mm symmetry C18 column (5 µm particle size, WATERS Corporation, Bellefonte, USA) was used for separation and quantization. The detector was set at 215 nm. An EMPOWER software version 2002 was used for data acquisition.

Materials and reagents

Analytical pure RN (BIOTREND Chemikalien GmbH, Germany), and PL (NIGU Chemie GmbH, Germany) were certified by the supplier to be 99.9 % and 99.7 %, respectively.

Acetonitrile (HPLC grade), potassium dihydrogen phosphate and sodium hydroxide (analytical grade, Merck, Darmstadt, Germany).

Commercial Rantag ® Injections manufactured by Julphar (Gulf Pharmaceutical Industries), RAK., UAE, and labeled to contain 28 mg Ranitidine hydrochloride and 5 mg Phenol per 1 mL injection.

HPLC condition

The HPLC quantization was performed by using A 150 x 4.6 mm symmetry C₈, column (5 µm particle size, WATERS Corporation, Bellefonte, USA) with mobile phase consisting of 35 mM Potassium dihydrogen phosphate adjusted to pH 7.0 with sodium hydroxide: acetonitrile (78:28) v/v at a flow rate of 1.0 mL /min. Quantization was achieved with UV detection at 215 nm based on peak area. The injection volume was 20 µL in triplicate. Before injection, samples were filtered through 0.45 -µm filter (Millipore Corporation, Bedford, USA).

Preparation of stock standard solution

Stock solutions were prepared by dissolving RN and PL in de-ionized water for spectrophotometric methods and in mobile phase for HPLC method to obtain concentration of 100 µg/mL and 50 µg/mL for RN and PL, respectively.

Standard solutions and calibration

For ‘D method

Several dilutions for stock standard solutions of RN and PL were carried out with de-ionized water to obtain concentration in the range of 1–20 µg/mL and 0.2–3 µg/mL for RN and PL, respectively.

Working standard solutions of RN and PL were prepared from stock solutions of RN and PL in de-ionized water within concentration of 1–20 µg/mL and 0.2–3 µg/mL for RN and PL, respectively.

The ‘D spectrum of the working standards containing the varying amount of each drug were scanned in the range 270–200 nm against de-ionized water as blank. The value of ‘D amplitude at 228.1 nm (zero–crossing of RN) were measured for the determination of PL in presence of RN. The ‘D amplitudes value, at 238.6 nm (zero-crossing for PL) were used for the determination of RN in presence of PL.

For ‘DD method

Several dilutions for stock standard solutions of RN and PL were carried out with de-ionized water to obtain concentration in the range of 0.2–20 µg/mL and 0.1–3.5 µg/mL for RN and PL, respectively. For RN, the UV absorption spectra of standard solutions of RN were divided by a normalized spectrum of PL (a spectrum of unit concentration). The first derivative was calculated for the obtained spectra with Δλ= 3 nm. The first derivative of the ratio spectra obtained was smoothed with 5 experimental points. The amplitude of the peak-to-trough at 323.2–328.1 nm were measured and found to be proportional to the concentration of RN.

For PL, the UV absorption spectra of standard solutions of PL were divided by a normalized spectrum of PL (a spectrum of unit concentration). The first derivative was calculated for the obtained spectra with Δλ=3 nm. The first derivative of the ratio spectra obtained was smoothed with 5 experimental points. The amplitude at 280.1 nm were measured and found to be proportional to the concentration of PL.

For HPLC method

Several dilutions for stock standard solutions of RN and PL in mobile phase were carried out with mobile phase to obtain concentration in the range of 0.1–100 µg/mL and 0.05–40 µg/mL for RN and PL, respectively.

Twenty micro liters of each standard solution were injected. The peak areas were plotted against the corresponding concentrations to obtain the calibration graph.

Sample preparation

Marketed injection formulation (Rantag ® Injections) containing RN (28 mg/mL) and PL (5 mg/mL) was analyzed using the proposed methods.

For Spectrophotometric methods

2 mL of injection were accurately transferred to 100 volumetric flask, and the volume was completed to 100 with de-ionized water. 2 mL of the resulting solution were transferred to 100 volumetric flasks, and the volume was completed to 100 with de-ionized water. The general procedures for ‘D and ‘DD methods described under calibration were followed and the concentration of RN and PL were calculated.

For HPLC method

2 mL of injection were accurately transferred to 100 volumetric flasks, and the volume was completed to 100 with mobile phase. 2 mL of the resulting solution were transferred to 50 mL volumetric flask and the volume was completed to 50 mL with mobile phase. The general procedures for HPLC method described under calibration were followed and the concentration of RN and PL were calculated.

Percent recovery study

This study was performed by addition of known amounts of
RN and PL to a known concentration of the commercial injections (standard addition method). The resulting mixtures were assayed and results obtained were compared with expected results.

**Results and Discussions**

**For 1D method**

The main instrumental parameters that affect the shape of the derivative spectra are the wavelength scanning speed, the wavelength increment over which the derivative is obtained (Δλ) and the smoothing. These parameters need to be optimized to give a well-resolved large peak and to give good selectivity and larger sensitivity in the determination. Generally, the noise level decreases with an increase in Δλ thus decreasing the fluctuation in the derivative spectrum. However, if the value of Δλ is too large, the spectral resolution is very poor. Therefore, the optimum value of Δλ should be determined by taking into account the noise level and the resolution of the spectrum. Some values of Δλ were tested; Δλ = 3 nm and wavelength scanning speed=2800 nm min-1 were selected for the 1D method as the optimal conditions to give a satisfactory signal to noise ratio. PL possesses a relatively low absorption in the UV region while RN exhibits a relatively large absorption in the same region at their concentration ratio as pharmaceutical product (Figure 2). The conventional UV method for the assay of PL is susceptible to interference from RN. First derivative spectrophotometry can be used to overcome this problem. The first derivative spectra of RN and PL in de-ionized water (Figure 3, 4) showed significant differences in some areas that permits the determination of both drugs. The zero-crossing method is the most common procedure for the preparation of the analytical calibration graph [58]. The 1D value at 238.6 nm (zero-crossing of PL) has been used for quantization of (RN). Also the 1D value at 228.1 nm (zero-crossing of RN) has been used for quantization of PL. The plots of the absolute values of first derivative at 228.1 and 238.6 nm against concentrations of PL and RN respectively, showed a linear relationship.

**For 1DD method**

To optimize the simultaneous determination of the RN and PL by using the 1DD method, it is necessary to test the influence of the divisor standard concentration and the Δλ and smoothing function. All these variables were studied. The influence of the Δλ for obtaining the first derivative of the ratio spectra was tested and Δλ =3 nm was selected as the optimum value. A correct choice of the divisor standard concentration is fundamental. If the concentration of divisor is increased or decreased, the resulting derivative ratio values are proportionality decreased or increased with the consequent variation of both sensitivity and linearity range. From several tests, the best results in terms of signal to noise ratio, sensitivity and repeatability followed using normalized spectra as divisor. Due to the extent of the noise levels on the ratio spectra, a smoothing function was used and 5 experimental points were considered as suitable. In this method, the UV absorption spectra of RN were divided by a normalized spectrum [59] of PL (obtained by dividing the spectra for several standards of different concentrations by their corresponding concentrations and subsequently averaging them, in order to obtain a spectrum of unit concentration). The first derivative was calculated for the ratio spectra obtained with Δλ =3 nm. These spectra were smoothed with 5
The accuracy of 1D and 1DD methods were checked by analyzing six regression equations and correlation coefficients are given in Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameters</th>
<th>HPLC</th>
<th>'D</th>
<th>'DD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calibration range (µg/mL)</td>
<td>0.1-100</td>
<td>0.05-40</td>
<td>1.0-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regression equation (Y)</td>
<td>Y = 42224C + 9041 \ Y = 78940C - 4434</td>
<td>Y = 0.0493C - 0.00191</td>
<td>Y = 0.0649C - 0.00132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slope (b) (absorbance / minute)</td>
<td>4.22 X 10^1</td>
<td>7.89 X 10^1</td>
<td>4.93 X 10^2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard deviation of the slope (S_b)</td>
<td>2.26 X 10^-3</td>
<td>1.61 X 10^-2</td>
<td>1.44 X 10^-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relative standard deviation of the slope (%)</td>
<td>0.53</td>
<td>0.20</td>
<td>0.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confidence limit of the slope (b)</td>
<td>4.19 X 10^-3 to 4.25 X 10^-2</td>
<td>7.85 X 10^-2 to 7.941 X 10^-1</td>
<td>4.89 X 10^-3 to 4.97 X 10^-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intercept (a)</td>
<td>9.04 X 10^-1</td>
<td>-4.43 X 10^-2</td>
<td>1.91 X 10^-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard deviation of the intercept (S_a)</td>
<td>8.88 X 10^-2</td>
<td>4.15 X 10^-3</td>
<td>2.63 X 10^-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confidence limit of the intercept (a)</td>
<td>-2.05 X 10^-3 to -2.01 X 10^-2</td>
<td>-6.24 X 10^-3 to 1.09 X 10^-2</td>
<td>-5.39 X 10^-4 to 9.21 X 10^-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correlation coefficient (r)</td>
<td>0.9999</td>
<td>0.9999</td>
<td>0.9999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard error of estimation</td>
<td>1.38 X 10^-1</td>
<td>1.84 X 10^-2</td>
<td>1.46 X 10^-1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Y = a + bC, where C is the concentration of compound in µg/mL and Y is the amplitude for 'D and 'DD methods and peak area for HPLC method.

For the 'D and 'DD methods, the characteristic parameters of regression equations and correlation coefficients are given in Table 1. The accuracy of 'D and 'DD methods were checked by analyzing six synthetic mixtures of RN and PL at various concentrations within the linearity range. Satisfactory recoveries with small standard deviations were obtained (Table 2), which indicated the high repeatability and accuracy of the two methods.

**HPLC method**

Experimental conditions, such as buffer pH of the mobile phase, concentration of potassium dihydrogen phosphate, acetonitrile concentration were optimized to provide accurate, precise and reproducible results for the simultaneous determination of RN and PL. Optimum resolution with reasonable retention time (2.3 and 5.1 minutes for RN and PL, respectively) was observed with mobile phase consisting of 35 mM potassium dihydrogen phosphate adjusted to pH 7.0 with sodium hydroxide: acetonitrile (78:28, v/v).

For the HPLC method, the characteristic parameters of regression equations and correlation coefficients are given in Table 1.

The relationship between the concentration of each drug and peak area was investigated. To assess the specificity, accuracy and selectivity of the HPLC method for assay of both drugs without interference from one another, six synthetic mixtures of RN and PL at various concentrations within the linearity range were prepared and analyzed. Satisfactory recoveries with small standard deviations were obtained (Table 2), which indicate the high repeatability and accuracy of the HPLC method.

The specificity of the HPLC method was also evaluated by inspection of the three – dimensional chromatograms and by studying the peak purity index values (Table 3) for RN and PL in pharmaceutical injections. The peak purity index values include...
The non-instrumental methods for determination of the detection limit and the quantization limit were applied, the limit of detection is generally determined by the analysis of samples with known concentrations of analyte and by establishing the minimum level at which the analyte can be reliably detected. While the limit of quantization is generally determined by the analysis of samples with known concentrations of analyte and by establishing the minimum level at which the analyte can be determined with acceptable accuracy and precision. The detection limits of the proposed methods were found to be 0.3, 0.08 and 0.03µg/mL for RN and 0.08, 0.05 and 0.02µg/mL for PL, detected by 1D, 1DD and HPLC methods, respectively. While the quantization limits of the proposed methods were found to be 1.0, 0.2 and 0.1 µg/mL for RN and 0.2, 0.1, and 0.05 µg/mL for PL, determined by 1D, 1DD and HPLC methods, respectively.

The stability of RN and PL during the analytical procedures was studied and it was found that RN was stable for at least 48 hr in solution while PL was stable only for 10 hr in solution.

Application of the proposed methods for the determination of RN and PL in injections

Marketed injection formulation (Rantag ® Injections) containing RN (28 mg/mL) and PL (5 mg/mL) was analyzed using these methods. Six replicate determinations were made. Satisfactory results (Table 2) were obtained for RN and PL and were in a good agreement with the label claims. The recovery of the three procedures was tested by adding known amount (standard addition) of RN and PL to the commercial injections. Satisfactory results were obtained (Table 2). As no method has been reported in the literatures for the simultaneous determination of RN and PL in their commercial formulations, the results given by 1D, 1DD and HPLC methods, respectively. While the quantization limits of the proposed methods were compared with HPLC results, the statistical evaluation indicate that there was no significant difference between the results obtained by the three methods for the same batch, at the 95% confidence level (Student’s t- and F-ratio tests).

Conclusion

The proposed HPLC, 1D and 1DD methods provide simple, accurate, and reproducible quantitative analysis for simultaneous determination of RN and PL in injections. The 1D method is more rapid and simple than 1DD method. While the 1DD method has greater sensitivity and accuracy, the proposed methods are suitable for routine determination of both RN and PL in their formulations. The HPLC method has some advantages such as short run time.
Table 4: System suitability test results for RN and PL.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameters</th>
<th>RN</th>
<th>PL</th>
<th>Acceptable criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Retention time (tR, min)</td>
<td>2.30</td>
<td>5.10</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retention factor (k)</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>1 ≤ k ≤ 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asymmetry factor (As)</td>
<td>1.11</td>
<td>0.99</td>
<td>0.8 &gt; As &gt; 1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resolution (Rs)</td>
<td>14.12</td>
<td>9.72</td>
<td>Rs &lt; 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Theoretical plates (N)</td>
<td>4520</td>
<td>7910</td>
<td>N &lt; 2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selectivity (α)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2.16</td>
<td>α ≥ 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RSD% (injection repeatability for tR)*</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>≤ 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RSD% (injection repeatability for peak area)*</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>≤ 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Number of replicates=10

Table 5: Results from the precision validation of the ‘ID’, ‘DD’ and HPLC methods for determination of RN and PL.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Inter-day precision</th>
<th>Intra-day precision</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HPLC</td>
<td>‘ID’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recovery (%)</td>
<td>CV (%)</td>
<td>Recovery (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RN</td>
<td>100.2 ± 0.3</td>
<td>0.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PL</td>
<td>100.1 ± 0.4</td>
<td>0.40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Mean ±SD for six determinations.

Each injection was labeled to contain (mg / injection): RN 28 and PL, 10.

min), low limit of detection, low limit of quantization, good precision (standard deviation less than 1%) and good resolution between RN and PL peaks, with symmetric, pure and perfect homogeneity for peaks. At the same time, the analytical results confirm that the derivative spectrophotometry offers accuracy and precision with the added advantages of the low cost, speed and simplicity. Therefore, the proposed derivative Spectrophotometric methods are likely to be very suitable for the routine analysis of RN and PL in injection, and they can be used as alternative methods for HPLC method.

Acknowledgments

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References


