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Development and validation for the simultaneous quantification of Montelukast and Levocetirizine by UV, RP-HPLC and HPTLC methods in tablets

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ABSTRACT

The present study was aim to develop and validate a UV, HPLC and HPTLC methods for simultaneous estimation of montelukast and levocetirizine in tablet dosage form. Linearity was observed for levocetirizine and montelukast in all the methods. Percent recoveries obtained for both the drugs were 99-100%. The percentage RSD for precision and accuracy of the method was found to be less than 2% as per the ICH these methods. The percentage purity thus found is 99.02% and 100.04% for montelukast and levocetirizine. A simple, selective, linear, precise, and accurate UV, HPTLC and RP-HPLC method was developed and validated for the simultaneous estimation of montelukast and levocetirizine in its bulk and liquid dosage form. The method was validated according to the ICH guidelines with respect to specificity, linearity, accuracy, precision, robustness and ruggedness. The methods were developed successfully it is applied for the analysis of simultaneous estimation of montelukast and levocetirizine in tablet dosage form.

Keywords: Montelukast, Levocetirizine, HPTLC, RP-HPLC

INTRODUCTION

Levocetirizine (LCZ), is a third-generation non-sedative antihistamine used for the treatment of allergic rhinitis and chronic idiopathic urticaria, chemically described as 2-[2-[4-[(R)- (4-chlorophenyl) - phenyl-methyl] piperazin-1-yl] ethoxy] acetic acid. It is an active Renantiomer of cetirizine, orally active, potent, selective and long acting H1- histaminereceptorantagonist with no

anticholinergic activity [1]. Montelukast (MLK) is a selective and orally active leukotriene receptor antagonist that inhibits the cysteinyl leukotriene receptor in the lungs and bronchial tubes. It is used for the treatment of asthma and to relieve symptoms of seasonal allergies. MLK described chemically as 2-[1-[(1R)- 1- [3- [2- (7-chloroquinolin-2-yl) ethenyl]phenyl]-3-[hydroxypropan-2yl] phenyl] propyl] sulfanylmethyl] cyclopropyl]acetic acid [2]. The

molecular chemical structure of Levocetirizine and Montelukast were shown in **Figure 1**. Pharmacotherapeutic application of combination therapy is used in the management of chronic asthma and allergic rhinitis [3].

Several analytical methods were reported for the determination of LCZ either alone or in combination with other drugs including UV spectrophotometric and HPLC where as montelukast was determined alone or in combined

dosage form by UV spectrophotometric, capillary electrophoresis, Voltammetric and HPLC methods [4,5,6]. Literature survey for simultaneous determination of LCZ and MLK in their binary mixture was revealed UV spectrophotometric HPLC and HPTLC methods [7,8,9]. The present work describes newly developed and validated UV spectrophotometric, RP-HPLC and HPTLC methods for simultaneous estimation of LCZ and MLK in pharmaceutical tablet dosage form.

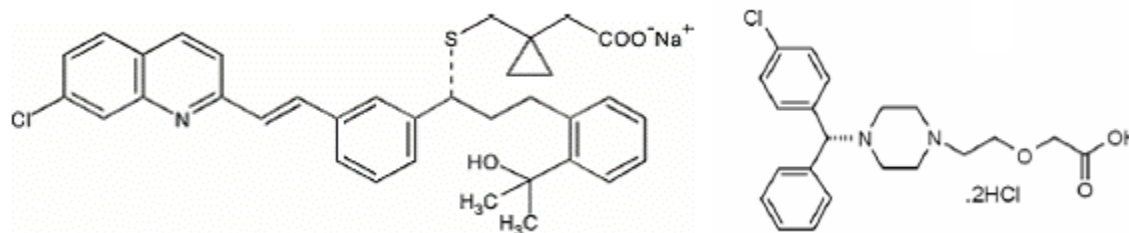


Figure 1: Chemical structure of Montelukast and Levocetirizine

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Materials

Working standards of pharmaceutical grade Levocetirizine dihydrochloride (99.78 %, w/w) and Montelukast sodium (99.30 %, w/w) were obtained as gift samples from Unichem Laboratories Ltd. India and Lupin Ltd. India respectively. Fixed dose combination Tablets (Montair-LC) containing 5 mg of levocetirizine dihydrochloride and 10 mg of Montelukast sodium were purchased. All chemicals and reagents of analytical grade were purchased from Merck Chemicals, Mumbai, India. High purity deionized water was obtained from Millipore, Milli-Q (Bedford, MA, USA) water purification system.

METHODS

UV spectroscopy analysis

Preparation of standard stock solution

Weighed 100mg each of Montelukast sodium RS and Levocetirizine hydrochloride RS was transferred to 100ml volumetric flask and dissolved separately in 95% methanol and diluted to the mark with the same solvent. For simultaneous estimation of Montelukast sodium (MON) and Levocetirizine hydrochloride (LC), 10 µg/ml solution of MON and 5 µg/ml solution of LC were prepared by diluting

appropriate volumes of the standard stock solutions. The scanning of the solution MON and LC were carried out in the range 200 – 400 nm for obtaining the overlain spectra. Absorbances and Absorptivities of standard solutions were recorded at selected wavelengths λ_1 (267nm) and λ_2 (225nm).

Preparation and analysis of tablet

Twenty tablets were weighed and triturated to fine powder. The powder equivalent to 10mg of MON and 5mg of LC was transferred to 100ml volumetric flask and the content was dissolved in 95% methanol and was sonicated for 10 minutes finally the volume was made up to the mark with 95% methanol. The solution was filtered through a 0.45µ membrane filter. The final concentration was made to 10 µg/ml of MON and 5 µg/ml of LC with 95% methanol. Absorbances of this solution were measured at 267 nm (λ_{max} of MON) and 225 nm (λ_{max} of LC).

RP-HPLC ANALYSIS

Preparation of standard solution

Weighed about 50mg of Montelukast sodium RS and 25mg of Levocetirizine hydrochloride RS working standard in a 50ml volumetric flask, dissolved the content and the volume make up with mobile phase. Pipetted out 1ml of the above solution in a 100ml volumetric flask and the

volume make up with diluent and filtered through a 0.45 μ membrane filter and degassed. (Stock solution contains 10 μ g/ml and 5 μ g/ml respectively).

Preparation of sample solution

Twenty tablets were weighed and triturated to a fine powder. A quantity of powder equivalent to 50mg of Montelukast Sodium and 25mg of Levocetirizine hydrochloride was weighed and transferred to a 50ml volumetric flask. The powder was dissolved by sonication with sufficient amount of mobile phase and then made up to the mark with mobile phase. The solution was filtered through a 0.45 μ membrane filter. Pipetted out 1ml of the above solution and transferred in 100 ml volumetric flask and volume make up with diluent so as give a concentration of 10 μ g/ml of Montelukast sodium and 5 μ g/ml of Levocetirizine hydrochloride.

20 μ l of standard and sample solutions were injected under the optimized chromatographic conditions and the scans were recorded. Each solution was injected six times at an interval of 10 minutes, to ensure complete elution earlier injection. The amount of Montelukast sodium and Levocetirizine hydrochloride present in each tablet formulation was calculated by comparing the peak area of standard. Chromatogram was recorded under the following conditions after injecting the mixture of Montelukast and Levocetirizine.

Conditions

Mobile phase	:	Buffer: Methanol (35: 65, v/v)
Column	:	Inertsil ODS (250 x 4.6 mm, 5 μ) Column
Diluent	:	Mobile phase
UV Detection	:	234 nm
Injection volume	:	20 μ l
Flow rate	:	1.5 ml/min
Temperature	:	Ambient
Run time	:	10 minutes

HPTLC analysis

The chromatography estimation was performed using the following conditions: stationary phase was precoated silica gel 60 F254 aluminum sheets (10 x 10 cm, E. Merck) and the mobile phase used was chloroform: methanol: toluene: glacial acetic acid (10:5:3:0.5 v/v/v/v). Chromatogram was developed in a camag twin trough chamber using a

linear ascending technique. The chamber saturation time for mobile phase was optimized to 25 min. The length of chromatogram run was approximately 60 mm. Subsequent to the development; the TLC plates were dried in a current of air. The densitometric analysis was performed on a Camag TLC scanner III in the absorbance at 302 nm with slit dimensions of 5.0 x 0.45 mm and scanning speed of 15mm/s were employed. Spotting parameters used were, 5 mm bandwidth, 15 mm space between two bands and spraying rate 20 s/ μ l.

Calibration-curve

Stock solutions of Montelukast sodium (10 mg/ml) and Levocetirizine (10 mg/ml) were prepared in glacial acetic acid. A series of standard curves were prepared over a concentration range of 200-3,200 ng for Montelukast sodium. For Levocetirizine the stock solution was spotted to give concentrations in the range of 400-1,300 ng. The data of spot area versus drug concentration was treated by linear least square regression analysis. Calibration curve was established by plotting peak area on ordinate and corresponding concentration on abscissa.

Validation of UV, HPTLC and HPLC method

The optimized UV, HPTLC & HPLC method was validated with respect to the following Parameters. The validation was performed as per the ICH guidelines.

Linearity

For HPTLC, 1 to 5 μ L volumes of the working standard stock solution were spotted in triplicate on HPTLC plate to obtain a final concentration range of 500-2500 ng spot⁻¹ for levocetirizine dihydrochloride and 1000-5000 ng spot⁻¹ for montelukast sodium. The plate was then developed using the previously described mobile phase. For HPLC, 20- μ L of working standard solution was injected into the HPLC system six times for each concentration and chromatogram under the above mentioned conditions. Linear calibration curves were generated using least-squares linear regression analysis by plotting the peak area against concentration of the drug. The limit of detection (LOD) and limit of quantification (LOQ) were determined by diluting known concentrations of standard stock solution until the average

responses were approximately three (For LOD) or ten times (for LOQ) the responses of the blank.

Precision

The precision of the method was analyzed by repeatability and intermediate precision studies. Repeatability studies were performed by analysis of three different concentrations of 500, 1500, 2500 ng spot⁻¹ and 1000, 3000, 5000 ng spot⁻¹ for levocetirizine dihydrochloride and Montelukast sodium, respectively by HPTLC and 1, 4, 10 µg mL⁻¹ and 2, 8, 20 µg mL⁻¹ for levocetirizine dihydrochloride and Montelukast sodium, respectively by HPLC. Method repeatability was achieved from RSD% values obtained by repeating the assay six times on the same day for intra-day precision. The intermediate (interday) precision of the method was checked by performing same procedure on different days under the same experimental conditions.

Robustness

The robustness was studied by evaluating the effect of small but deliberate variations in the chromatographic conditions. For HPTLC method, following the introduction of small changes in the mobile phase composition (±0.1 mL for ammonia), the effect on the results was examined. Mobile phases having different proportions of components, e.g. toluene: ethyl acetate: methanol: ammonia (2.6: 7: 2.5: 1, v/v/v/v), (2.4: 7: 2.5: 1, v/v/v/v), (2.5: 7: 2.6: 1, v/v/v/v), (2.5: 7: 2.4: 1, v/v/v/v) etc., were tried and chromatograms were run. The amount of mobile phase was varied over the range of ±5%. The time from spotting to chromatography and from chromatography to scanning was varied by 10 min and analysed. The robustness of the method was determined at three different concentration levels of 500, 1500, 2500 ng spot⁻¹ for levocetirizine dihydrochloride and 1000, 3000, 5000 ng spot⁻¹ for montelukast sodium. For HPLC, robustness of the method was studied by deliberately varying parameters like flow rate (±0.1 mL min⁻¹) and mobile phase composition (±1 mL).

Specificity

The ability of an analytical method to unequivocally assess the analyte in the presence of other components (impurities, degradants and excipients) can be demonstrated by evaluating specificity. The specificity of the HPTLC method

was determined by analyzing standard drug and test samples. The spot for levocetirizine dihydrochloride and montelukast sodium in the samples was confirmed by comparing the R_F and spectrum of the spot to that of a standard. The peak purity of levocetirizine dihydrochloride and montelukast sodium was determined by comparing the spectrum at three different regions of the spot i.e. peak start (S), peak apex (M) and peak end (E). For HPLC, The specificity of the method was determined by injecting excipient solution having the same concentration as that of the tablet solution.

Accuracy

Accuracy of the two proposed methods was carried out by applying the methods to drug sample (Levocetirizine dihydrochloride and Montelukast sodium combination tablets) to which known amount of levocetirizine dihydrochloride and montelukast sodium standard powder corresponding to 50, 100 and 150% of label claim had been added (standard addition method). The absolute recovery was calculated by comparing the peak areas obtained from standard solution of levocetirizine dihydrochloride and montelukast sodium with the peak areas of samples of different concentration.

Assay of tablets

Twenty tablets were weighed and triturated to fine powder. The powder equivalent to 10mg of MON and 5mg of LC was transferred to 100ml volumetric flask and the content was dissolved in 95% methanol and was sonicated for 10 minutes finally the volume was made up to the mark with 95% methanol. The solution was filtered through a 0.45µm membrane filter. The final concentration was made to 10 µg/ml of MON and 5 µg/ml of LC with 95% methanol. Absorbances of this solution were measured at 267 nm (λ_{max} of MON) and 225 nm (λ_{max} of LC) and the values were substituted in respective simultaneous equation to obtain concentrations.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Optimization of UV, RP-HPLC and HPTLC

UV spectroscopy analysis, Montelukast sodium and Levocetirizine hydrochloride showed linearity in the concentration range of 5-25 µg/ml and 2.5-

12.5 µg/ml respectively. Absorptivity values for Montelukast sodium and Levocetirizine hydrochloride were calculated. A summary of the data showing the slopes, y-intercepts values are furnished in **Table 1 and 2**. To optimize the HPLC assay conditions, different ratios of Sodium dihydrogen phosphate buffer and methanol at different pH were tried. The ideal mobile phase was used Buffer: Methanol in the ratio of 30:70 v/v by isocratic elution to obtain satisfactory, good resolution and sensitivity. The detection was carried out by using UV-Visible detector at 234 nm. The separation was carried out at ambient temperature with a flow rate of 1.0 ml/min. The retention times for levocetirizine dihydrochloride and montelukast sodium were found to be 2.05 and 5.22 min, respectively (**Figure 2**). Acceptable retention time (t_R), theoretical plates, asymmetry and good resolution for levocetirizine

dihydrochloride and montelukast sodium were obtained. A summary of the linearity data showing the slopes, y-intercepts values are furnished in **Table 3**. The correlation coefficients for standard preparation of Montelukast sodium and Levocetirizine hydrochloride are 0.999847 and 0.999824. The relationship between the concentration and response (peak area) of Montelukast sodium and Levocetirizine hydrochloride is linear in the range examined as all the points fall in a straight line and the correlation coefficients are within the specified limit. The Limit of Detection (LOD) were found to be 1.85 µg/ml for the Montelukast sodium and 1.63 µg/ml Levocetirizine hydrochloride while Limit of Quantitation (LOQ) were found to be 3.42 µg/ml for Montelukast sodium and 4.14 µg/ml Levocetirizine hydrochloride.

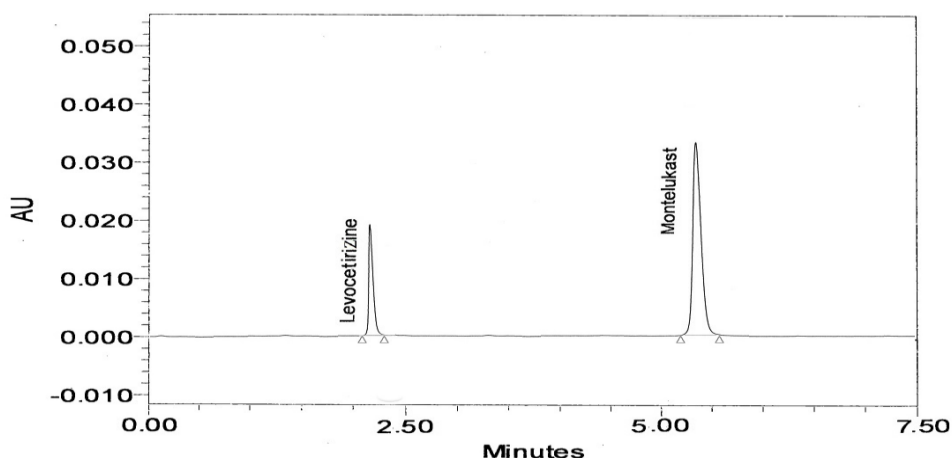


Figure 2: Retention times for levocetirizine dihydrochloride and montelukast sodium

HPTLC analysis of montelukast and levocetirizine was shown in **Figure 3 and 4**. The proposed HPTLC method shows that the chromatographic layer gives the best separation of the two component in the mobile phase consisting of n-Hexane: Chloroform: Methanol: Acetic Acid (3.5:5.0:1.2:0.3); other system like Toluene: Ethyl Acetate: Acetic Acid (4.5:5.0:0.5); where the components move along with solvent front; chloroform: Methanol: Formic acid: Acetic Acid (9:0.5:0.25:0.25) where the component (Levocetirizine) not moved. Finally n-Hexane: Chloroform: Methanol: Acetic Acid (3.5:5.0:1.2:0.3) gave the complete separation with R_f values of Montelukast and Levocetirizine were

0.29 ± 0.1 and 0.65 ± 0.02 respectively. Total separation time for both components was reasonably short. The linearity of the HPTLC method used for assay was evaluated by spotting standard concentration of Montelukast and Levocetirizine ranging from 5-15 µg/ml and 2.5-7.5 µg/ml respectively. A summary of the data showing the slopes, y-intercept value, P-value are furnished in **Table 4**. The correlation coefficient all assay of Montelukast and Levocetirizine were all greater than 0.999. In addition, the analysis of residuals for the assay Montelukast and Levocetirizine shows that the values of randomly scattered around zero which show a good fit with the linear model. To evaluate whether the y-intercepts were significantly

different than zero, the P- value was determined for each line. If P-value was >0.05 then the intercept

was considered statistically equal to zero.

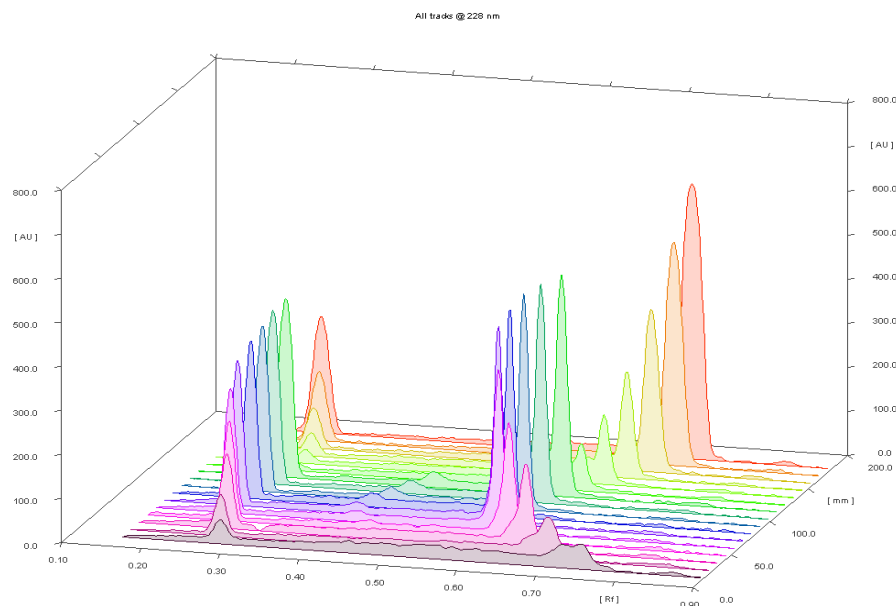


Figure 3: 3 Dimensional spectra of Montelukast and Levocetirizine (HPTLC)

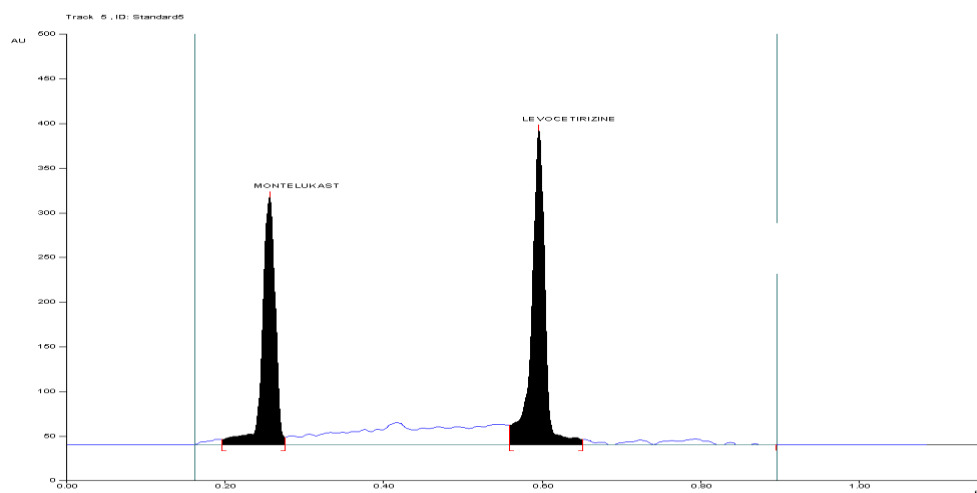


Figure 4: Densitogram of Montelukast and Levocetirizine (HPTLC)

Table 1: Linearity of Montelukast and Levocetirizine (UV)

Montelukast sodium			Levocetirizine hydrochloride	
S. No	Concentration in µg/ml	Absorbance at 267nm	Concentration in µg/ml	Absorbance at 225nm
1	5	0.10972	2.5	0.17823
2	10	0.21129	5	0.33674
3	15	0.30971	7.5	0.47628
4	20	0.41375	10	0.65376

5	25	0.49908	12.5	0.80708
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Table 2: Analytical performance of Montelukast and Levocetirizine (UV Spectrophotometry)

Parameters	Montelukast sodium	Levocetirizine Hydrochloride
Absorption maximum (λ max)	267	225
Beer's lamberts limit ($\mu\text{g/ml}$)	5-25	2.5-12.5
Molar absorptivity	0.0133×10^5	0.0329×10^5
Coefficient correlation (r^2)	0.9991	0.9994
Regression equation	$y = 0.0196x + 0.0144$	$y = 0.063x + 0.018$
Slope	0.0196	0.063
Intercept	0.0144	0.018
Limit of detection ($\mu\text{g/ml}$)	0.2	0.6
Limit of Quantification ($\mu\text{g/ml}$)	0.6	1.8
Standard error	0.0002	0.0001

Table 3: Linearity of Montelukast and Levocetirizine (RP-HPLC)

S. No	Montelukast sodium		Levocetirizine hydrochloride	
	Conc. ($\mu\text{g/ml}$)	Peak area	Conc. ($\mu\text{g/ml}$)	Peak area
01	4	334905	2	297899
02	8	380802	4	333456
03	12	423994	6	371796
04	16	467911	8	408126
05	20	515854	10	448101

Table 4: Linearity of Montelukast and Levocetirizine data (HPTLC)

S. No	Montelukast sodium			Levocetirizine hydrochloride		
	Conc. ($\mu\text{g/ml}$)	Peak area	R_f	Conc. ($\mu\text{g/ml}$)	Peak area	R_f
1	5.0	827.54	0.30	2.5	2316.48	0.65
2	7.5	1625.76	0.29	3.75	4609.07	0.65
3	10.0	2517.85	0.29	5.0	6711.27	0.63
4	12.5	3271.99	0.29	6.25	8948.22	0.65
5	15.0	4061.03	0.29	7.5	11041.52	0.66

Table 5: Analytical performance parameter (HPTLC)

Parameter	Montelukast sodium	Levocetirizine hydrochloride
Slope	324.5 ± 4.862	1743 ± 14.89
y-intercept	-784.5 ± 51.57	-1990 ± 78.97
Correlation coefficient	0.9993	0.9998
p-value of intercept	0.24	0.24
Percentage of intercept at	+3.89	+1.12
Quantification level		
Limit of detection (ng/spot)	100	110
Limit of quantification (ng/spot)	210	240

Precision

The precision for the Montelukast sodium and Levocetirizine hydrochloride were evaluated by using homogeneous sample in six times determination for both system precision and method precision (100% target). The results of the

repeatability and intermediate precision experiments are shown in **Table 6 and 7**. The developed methods were found to be precise as the RSD values for repeatability and intermediate precision studies were <2%, respectively as recommended by ICH guidelines.

Table 6: Statistical data for precision (RP-HPLC)

Sample No	System Precision		Method Precision	
	Montelukast sodium	Levocetirizine hydrochloride	Montelukast sodium	Levocetirizine hydrochloride
1	100.45	100.70	100.00	100.25
2	99.73	99.85	100.19	99.69
3	100.89	100.62	100.20	100.50
4	100.85	100.10	100.24	100.27
5	100.78	100.43	100.67	100.18
6	100.43	100.74	100.90	100.66
Mean	100.52	100.41	100.36	100.26
% RSD	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.3
Grand mean	Montelukast sodium 100.44		Levocetirizine hydrochloride 100.31	
%RSD	0.5		0.3	

Table 7: Precision Data (HPTLC)

	Montelukast sodium	Levocetirizine hydrochloride
	99.89	100.10
	100.12	99.57
	99.94	100.34
	99.84	99.57
	100.60	99.96
	99.73	99.49
Mean	100.02	99.83
% RSD	0.28	0.31

Robustness

For HPLC, robustness of the method was studied by deliberately varying parameters like flow rate ($\pm 0.1 \text{ mL min}^{-1}$) and mobile phase composition ($\pm 1 \text{ mL}$). The low values of the RSD

%, indicated the robustness of the two proposed methods (**Table 8**). The standard deviation of the peak areas was calculated for each parameter and the RSD was found to be less than 2 % for HPTLC.

Table 8: Robustness data (RP-HPLC)

Parameter	Condition	Assay (% Labeled amount)			
		Montelukast sodium	% RSD	Levocetirizine hydrochloride	% RSD
Flow rate	Original	100.52	0.5	100.41	0.4

Mobile phase	-10%	99.91	0.3	100.62	0.4
	+10%	100.24	0.1	99.52	0.3
	-2%	99.71	0.9	99.48	0.1
	+2%	100.58	0.2	100.51	0.3
Wavelength	-2 nm	100.39	0.3	100.26	0.4
	+2 nm	100.84	0.0	99.80	0.2

Specificity

The specificity of both methods was noticed by the complete separation of levocetirizine dihydrochloride and montelukast sodium peaks in the presence of tablet excipients. The peak purity of levocetirizine dihydrochloride and Montelukast sodium was assessed by comparing their respective spectra at the peak start, apex and peak end positions of the spot i.e., $r = 0.9979$. A good correlation ($r^2 = 0.9981$) was also obtained between the standard and sample spectra of levocetirizine dihydrochloride and Montelukast sodium, respectively. For UV, HPLC and HPTLC no interference was observed due to any unknown excipients of tablet dosage forms at the retention times of levocetirizine dihydrochloride and montelukast sodium. The peaks obtained were sharp and had clear baseline separation for all the methods.

Accuracy

The Accuracy/Recovery for the Montelukast sodium and Levocetirizine hydrochloride were

determined by fortifying sample and standard drug substances at concentration from (80 to 120% of target level and results were shown in Table 9. Overall recovery of Montelukast sodium ranging from 98.72% - 99.86% and grand mean of 99.40% whereas Levocetirizine hydrochloride ranging from 98.49% – 99.48% grand mean of 99.08%. The % RSD for all recovery values (3 concentrations) are within the range of 2.0%. The percentage relative standard deviation for Montelukast sodium and Levocetirizine hydrochloride was found to be 0.6 and 0.3. Hence, the method is accurate in the range of 80% to 120% of test concentration. As shown from the data, satisfactory recoveries % with small relative standard deviations (RSD%) were obtained at various added concentrations for both the methods. The results indicate that the methods are highly accurate for simultaneous determination of the two drugs.

Table 9: Accuracy/ recovery (RP-HPLC)

% Level	Montelukast sodium	Levocetirizine hydrochloride
80	99.27	99.43
	99.60	98.75
	99.52	99.40
	Mean	99.19
	% RSD	0.4
100	98.72	99.29
	99.61	98.64
	99.58	98.49
	Mean	98.81
	% RSD	0.4
120	99.86	99.01
	99.39	99.24
	99.09	99.48
	Mean	99.24
	% RSD	0.2
Grand mean	99.40	99.08
% RSD	0.4	0.3

Analysis of a marketed formulation (Assay)

Using the proposed UV, HPLC and HPTLC methods, assays of levocetirizine dihydrochloride and montelukast sodium in their tablets were carried out. Satisfactory results were obtained for both drugs in a good agreement with the label claims thereby suggesting suitability of the methods.

CONCLUSION

The proposed UV, HPTLC and RP-HPLC methods provide simple, accurate and reproducible methods of quantitative analysis for simultaneous determination of levocetirizine dihydrochloride and

montelukast sodium in bulk and in pharmaceutical formulation. Both methods were validated as per ICH guidelines. The methods are specific and there is no interference from any of the sample components. The statistical analysis proves that the method is reproducible and selective for the simultaneous estimation of Montelukast sodium and Levocetirizine in pharmaceutical formulations. The proposed method has advantage of simplicity and convenience for the separation and quantitation of Montelukast sodium and Levocetirizine in the combination and can be used for the assay of their dosage form.

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