

SPECTROPHOTOMETRIC DETERMINATION OF AMITRIPTYLINE HCl IN PURE AND PHARMACEUTICAL FORMS

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ABSTRACT

Five spectrophotometric methods for determination of Amitriptyline HCl have been developed, validated and applied for the assay of the drug in pharmaceuticals. Methods A, B and C are based on ion pair complexation of drug, in acidic buffers, with triphenylmethane dyes *viz.*, Bromothymol blue (BTB), Bromophenol blue (BPB) and Bromocresol purple (BCP). The complexes are extracted into chloroform and absorbance is measured around at 415 nm as function of concentration of the drug. The stoichiometry of the complex is found 1:1 in each case. Method D depends upon charge transfer complexation of neutralized drug with iodine which produces iodide ion whose absorbance at 366 nm is measured as function of concentration of the drug. This complex, too, has 1:1 composition as determined by Job's method. Method E is developed on the basis of oxidation of the drug with alkaline KMnO_4 which generates green colored manganate ion with λ_{max} 610 nm. As the intensity of green color increased with increasing time kinetics of the reaction is followed and calibration curves are constructed by using initial rate and fixed time methods. Excellent recovery studies with high accuracy and precision indicate that the methods can be successfully used in industries for the assay of drug in pure form and pharmaceuticals.

Keywords: Spectrophotometry, Amitriptyline HCl, Bromothymol blue, Bromophenol blue, Bromocresol purple, Iodine, Alkaline KMnO_4

1. INTRODUCTION

Amitriptyline HCl (AMT) chemically [3-(10, 11-dihydro-5H-dibenzol [a, d] cyclohept-5-ylidene) propyldimethylamine] hydrochloride constitute an important class of neurotherapeutics¹ belonging to first generation of antidepressant drug^{2,3} It may be used to treat depression, irritable bowel

syndrome, diabetic neuropathy, post-traumatic stress disorder and for migraine prophylaxis. Various analytical methods developed for determination of amitriptyline HCl *viz.*, spectrophotometric⁴⁻¹¹, spectrofluorometric¹², flow injection method¹³, atomic absorption spectroscopic¹⁴, conductometric^{15,16}, voltammetric¹⁷, UPLC-MS/MS¹⁸ MEPS by LC&GC-MS¹⁹, Electrogenated Chemiluminescence²⁰ and HPLC²¹ methods have been enumerated.

Table I. Comparison with other quantification methods for the determination of Amitriptyline hydrochloride

S.No.	Method	λ_{max} (nm)	Working range	Remarks
1	Spectrophotometric {AMIYTP(β CD)(PEG) ₃ }	242	0.1-1.0 $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$	costly reagents
2	CT Complexation with TCNQ	842	10 - 300 $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$	
3	Extractive spectrophotometry molybdenum and thiocyanate		1-30 $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$	low sensitivity
4	MEPS by LC & GC-MS		0.08 – 0.360 $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$	
5	Electrogenated Chemiluminescence		0.09 – 0.24 $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$	Involves
6	Spectrofluorimetry		0.05 – 1.3 $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$	Expensive
7	HPTLC		2.47-7.5 $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$	instruments
8	RP-HPTLC		0.01- 0.035 $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$	

From the comparison table it is clear that the methods used so far for quantification of AMT suffer from involving costly equipment^{7,12,19,20} or costly chemicals^{4,6} or instruments with low sensitivity⁸ and not useful for routine laboratory analysis. Therefore it seems necessary to develop a sensitive, simple and rapid determination of Amitriptyline HCl. In the present communication we report five quantification methods *viz.*, A, B, C, D, and E which have been developed and validated for quantification of Amitriptyline HCl both in pure and pharmaceutical forms.

2. EXPERIMENTAL

2.1 Instruments

The UV-Visible spectra of the samples were recorded on SHIMADZU 140 double beam, Thermo Nicolet 1000 and ELICO 159 UV-Visible single beam spectrophotometers using quartz cells of 10 mm path length. An Elico model Li-120 pH meter was used for pH measurement.

2.2 Materials

HPLC grade chloroform, 1, 2 Dichloroethane (DCE), Analytical grade (AR) HCl, Sodium acetate, KMnO_4 , Sodium hydroxide and dyes *viz.*, a) BTB b) BPB c) BCP supplied by Sd Fine Chemicals, Mumbai were used in the study. Iodine (BDH, Poole, UK) was twice sublimed and preserved in vacuum

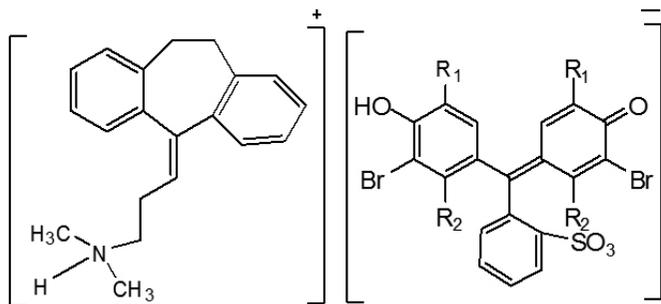
desiccator (mp 113.6 -3°C). Iodine in 1, 2 dichloroethane was freshly prepared (daily) by dissolving 254mg solute in 50mL of solvent ($4.0 \times 10^{-3} M$). The drug was procured from Aurobindo Pharmaceuticals, Hyderabad, as gift sample.

Neutralisation is carried out by dissolving 100 mg of AMT in 10mL of distilled water and solution is transferred into 100 mL separating funnel and rendered alkaline with 5mL of 0.45M NaOH solution. The liberated base is extracted with three times, each with 25mL of 1,2 Dichloroethane. The solution is further diluted with same solvent to obtain the working solution.

2.3. Methods A, B and C

The methods A, B and C are based on the interaction of the drug with Bromothymol blue (BTB), Bromophenol blue (BPB) and Bromocresol purple

(BCP) respectively, to form chloroform extractable ion pair complexes (Scheme 1) which absorb around 415 nm. (Fig. 1) The absorbance of this band increases with increasing the concentration of the drug and formed a basis for the quantification of the drug. The dyestuffs were used as 0.025% solutions in doubly distilled water. Sodium acetate-hydrochloric acid buffers of pH 2.8, 2.5 and 2.5 were prepared by mixing 50ml of 1.0M sodium acetate solution with 49.50 mL, 50.50mL and 50.50 mL of 1.0 M HCl solution respectively and diluted to 250 mL with doubly distilled water. The pH of each solution was adjusted to an appropriate value with the aid of a pH meter.



Bromothymol blue: R₁=isopropyl, R₂=CH₃
 Bromophenol blue: R₁ = Br, R₂ = H
 Bromocresolpurple: R₁ = .CH₃, R₂ = H

Scheme 1 Amitriptyline HCl – dye complex

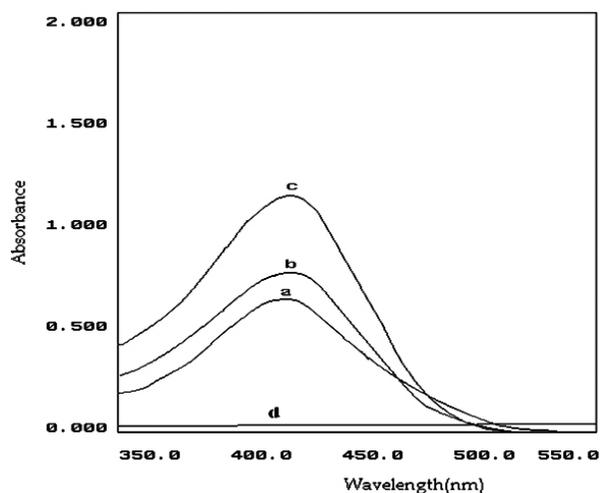
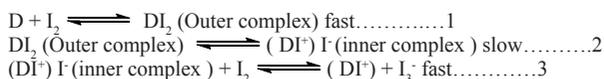


Figure1. Absorption spectra of Amitriptyline Hydrochloride - dyes complex extracted into 10 mL chloroform:

- (a) drug = 20 µg mL⁻¹ + 5 mL of 0.025% BTB + 5 mL of pH 2.8 buffer;
- (b) drug = 20 µg mL⁻¹ + 5 mL of 0.025% BPB + 5 mL of pH 2.5 buffer;
- (c) drug = 22.5 µg mL⁻¹ + 5 mL of 0.025% BCP + 5 mL of pH 2.5 buffer;
- (d) drug = 0 µg mL⁻¹ + 5 mL of 0.025% Dye + 5 mL of buffer

2.4. Method D

The method depends upon the interaction of neutralized drug with Iodine that generates iodide ion having an absorption band at 366 nm. (Fig. 2) The absorbance of this band increases with increasing the concentration of the drug and formed a basis for the quantification of the drug. Mixing the solution of iodine prepared in DCE with AMT resulted in a change of violet color of iodine into light brown to pale yellow and as a consequence, absorption spectra exhibited a new band of 366nm. This is attributed due to I₃⁻ ion formed by the interaction of iodine with drug. (Scheme 2).



Scheme – 2

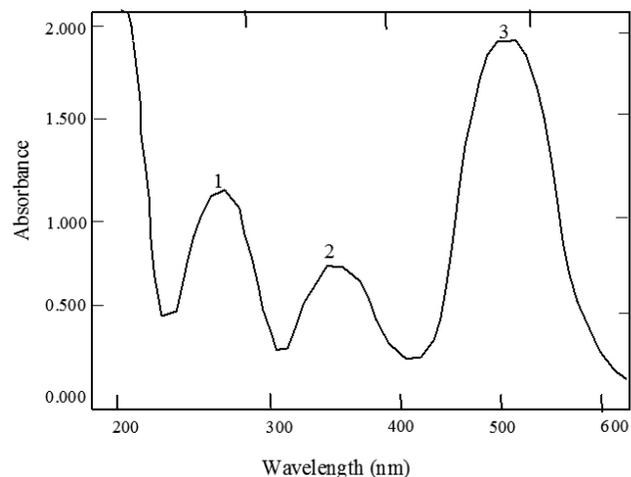


Figure 2. Absorption spectra (2) reaction product of 5 µg mL⁻¹ Amitriptyline hydrochloride with iodine in 1, 2 Dichloroethane (3) iodine

2.5. Method E Kinetic method

The method depends on the oxidation of the drug with alkaline KMnO₄ (1x10⁻² M) to produce Manganate ion which absorbs at 610 nm (Fig.3) and formed a basis for quantification of drug. A solution of 0.45M NaOH is used to produce required alkalinity. Mixing the solutions of permanganate and the drug slowly developed green color and hence kinetics of the reaction was followed spectrophotometrically. The initial rate and fixed time methods are followed for the determination of AMT. The literature survey reveals that Amitriptyline undergoes oxidation at exocyclic double bond and gives rise to dibenzosuberone²². (Scheme -3)

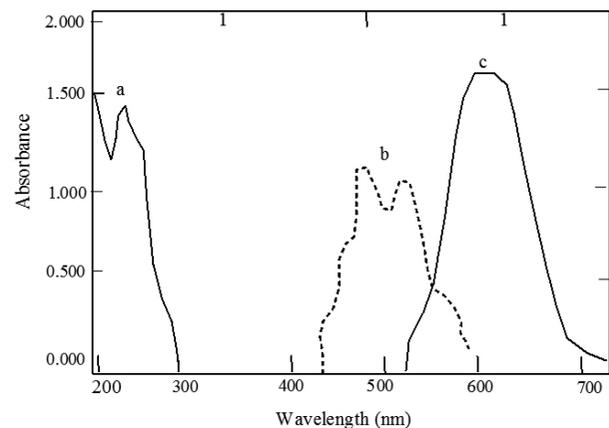
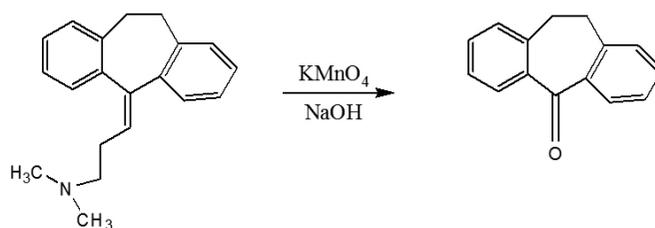


Figure 3. Absorption spectra of (a) Drug (b) KMnO₄ (1 x 10⁻² M) (c) Reaction product of 10µg mL⁻¹ Amitriptyline hydrochloride with alkaline KMnO₄



Scheme – 3 Oxidation of Amitriptyline HCl with alkaline KMnO₄

2.6. Calibration curves for method A, B and C

Different aliquots of drug solution were transferred into 125 mL separating

funnel. To this 5 mL of buffer, 5 mL of dye were added and total volume was made up to 20 mL with water. 10 mL of chloroform was added and the contents were shaken for 5 min. The two layers were allowed to separate for 5 min and the organic layer was separated and absorbance of yellow colored solution which is stable at least for 3 hr is measured at 415 nm against blank similarly prepared. The same procedure of analysis is followed either for assay of pure drug or for dosage form. The calibration graphs are linear over a range of drug 1.25 - 25 $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ (BTB), 1.5 - 25 $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ (BPB), 2.0 - 25 $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ (BCP).

2.7. Calibration curve for method D

Into separate 10mL of volumetric flasks different aliquots of AMT solution was transferred followed by the addition of 1mL of iodine solution. The volume was completed using the 1, 2 dichloroethane solvent and the absorbance was measured against reagent blank at 366nm and calibration curve is linear over a range of drug 2.5 - 25 $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$

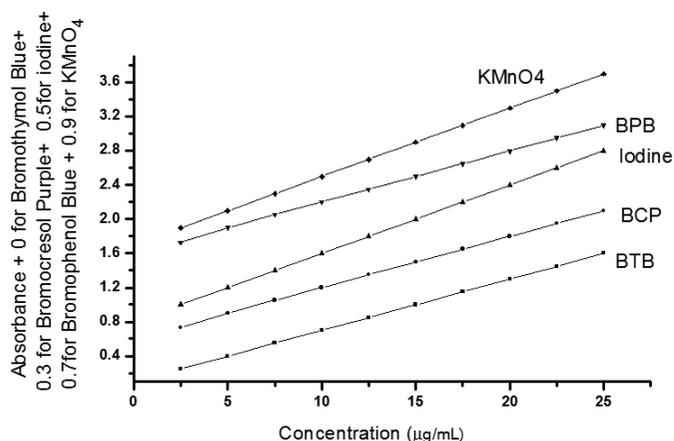


Figure 4. Calibration curves

Table II Performance data for the proposed methods.

Parameters	A	B	C	D	E
λ_{max} (nm)	415	410	415	366	610
Beer's law limit ($\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$)	1.25-25	1.5-25	2.0-25	2.5-25	6.25-50
Sandell sensitivity ($\mu\text{g cm}^{-2}$)	0.0169	0.0131	0.0147	0.014	0.0823
Slope, a	0.059	0.0766	0.0680	0.071	0.0121
Intercept b	0.1164	0.1140	-0.0710	0.0107	0.0192
Correlation coefficient (r)	0.9997	0.9988	0.9944	0.9987	0.9967
Standard deviation of intercepts (% n=6)	0.0150	0.0320	0.0200	0.021	0.02
Limit of detection, ($\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$)	0.80	1.30	0.97	0.9	5.4
Limit of quantification, ($\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$)	2.40	3.90	2.91	2.9	16.2
Regression equation $Y = a \cdot C + b$	$Y = 0.059 \cdot C + 0.1164$	$Y = 0.0766 \cdot C + 0.114$	$Y = 0.068 \cdot C - 0.071$	$Y = 0.071 \cdot C + 0.010$	$Y = 0.0121 \cdot C + 0.019$

$Y = a \cdot C + b$, Where C is the concentration in $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$

2.8. Calibration curve for method E

The calibration curves are constructed by using initial rate method and fixed time method.

2.8.1. Initial rate method

Aliquots of 1 to 8 mL of Amitriptyline HCl solution containing 2.5 mg mL^{-1} of drug were pipetted into a series of 10 mL standard flasks. To each flask, 1.0 mL of 0.45 M NaOH and 1 mL of 1×10^{-2} M potassium permanganate were added successively and then diluted with distilled water at $25 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$. The contents of each flask were mixed well, and the increase in absorbance as a function of time was measured at 610 nm. The initial rate of the reaction at different concentrations was evaluated by deferring the slope of the tangent to the absorbance-time plot. The calibration graphs in the range 6.25 - 50 $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ were obtained by plotting the initial rate of reaction versus the molar concentration of the Amitriptyline HCl (Fig. 4)

2.8.2. Fixed time method

A fixed time of 25 min was selected for the fixed time method. At this time the absorbance of reaction mixture was measured at 610 nm against a reagent blank prepared similarly. The calibration curve was obtained by plotting the absorbance against concentration of Amitriptyline HCl.

2.9. Assay of drug in pharmaceuticals

2.9.1. Procedure for the assay of pure drug

Five different solutions of pure drug in the range of calibration curve were selected and the recovery experiments were performed. The recoveries and their relative standard deviation are tabulated in Table III.

2.9.2. Procedure for the assay of dosage forms

Five tablets of Elavil 10 mg with composition Amitriptyline HCl -10 mg, microcrystalline cellulose, croscarmellose sodium, magnesium stearate, colloidal silicon dioxide, hydroxyl propyl methyl cellulose, polyethylene glycol, carnauba wax are powdered and dissolved in doubly distilled water and stirred thoroughly, filtered through a Whatman No. 42 filter paper. This solution was transferred into 100 mL standard volumetric flask and diluted with doubly distilled water as required. Different solutions of drug in the range of calibration curve were chosen and its quantify was estimated using the calibration curve and the results of the recovery studies are tabulated in Table IV.

Table III. Application of proposed methods for the determination of AMT in pure form.

	A	B	C	D	E
Amount taken ($\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$)	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00
	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00
	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00
	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00
Amount found ($\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$)	9.98	10.22	10.15	9.98	9.99
	15.04	14.96	15.07	14.96	15.01
	20.06	19.99	20.09	19.97	19.99
	25.28	25.05	25.10	24.19	25.05
	29.99	30.05	30.05	29.87	30.08
Recovery (%)	99.8	102.2	101.5	99.32	99.9
	100.27	99.73	100.47	100.74	100
	100.3	99.95	100.45	100.50	99.95
	101.12	100.2	100.4	100.20	100.2
	99.97	100.17	100.17	99.56	100.2
Mean \pm SD	100.29 \pm 0.50	100.45 \pm 0.99	100.60 \pm 0.51	100.06 \pm 0.608	100.05 \pm 0.141
Reference method ⁴ Mean \pm SD	100.33 \pm	100.33 \pm	100.33 \pm	100.33 \pm	100.33 \pm
	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44
t-test*(2.306)	0.134	0.247	0.896	0.804	1.35
F-test*(5.05)	1.29	5	1.3	1.9	0.9

Each result is the average of five separate determinations. *Values in parenthesis are the tabulated t and F values at $p=0.05^{23}$

Table IV. Application of proposed methods for the determination of AMT in Pharmaceutical form.

	A	B	C	D	E
Amount taken ($\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$) (Elavil – 10mg)	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00
	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00
	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00
Amount found ($\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$)	9.98	10.02	9.95	9.98	9.97
	20.02	19.95	20.15	20.03	19.98
	29.96	30.10	30.15	29.95	29.88
	39.00	40.05	39.77	39.55	39.88
	49.60	50.11	50.22	49.4	50.8
Recovery (%)	99.8	100.2	99.5	99.80	99.7
	100.1	99.75	100.75	100.15	99.9
	99.87	100.33	100.5	99.83	99.6
	97.5	100.13	99.43	98.88	99.7
	99.2	100.22	100.44	98.80	101.6
Mean \pm SD	99.29 \pm 1.06	100.13 \pm 0.22	100.12 \pm 0.61	99.49 \pm 0.613	100.1 \pm 0.845
Reference method ⁴ Mean \pm SD	100.33 \pm	100.33 \pm	100.33 \pm	100.33 \pm	100.33 \pm
	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44
t-test*(2.306)	1.617	0.045	0.01	2.28	0.539
F-test*(5.05)	5.8	0.2	1.9	1.9	3.6

*Values in parenthesis are the tabulated t and F values at $p=0.05^{23}$

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Methods A, B and C

AMT forms ion-pair complexes in acidic buffer with dyestuffs viz., BTB, BPB and BCP which are quantitatively extracted into chloroform. Ion-pair complexes of drug with dyes absorbed maximally at 415 nm (Fig. 1). AMT contains a tertiary nitrogen atom and in strongly acidic medium it exists as a cation and sulphonic acid group present in the dyes that is the only group undergoing dissociation in the pH range 1-5. Finally the protonated AMT forms ion-pairs with the dyestuff which is quantitatively extracted into chloroform.

3.2. Stoichiometry

In order to establish molar ratio between AMT and dyestuffs used, the Job's method of continuous variation has been applied²⁴. In this method, solutions of drug and dyestuff with identical molar concentrations [$8 \times 10^{-5}M$] were mixed in varying volume ratios in such a way that the total volume of each mixture is the same. The absorbance of each solution was measured and plotted against the mole fraction of the drug, $[\text{drug}]/[\text{drug}]+[\text{dyestuff}]$. This measurement showed that 1:1 complex was formed.

The Job's method of stoichiometry is also applied for Iodine with AMT which indicated the charge transfer complex formed is of 1:1 composition (Fig 5).

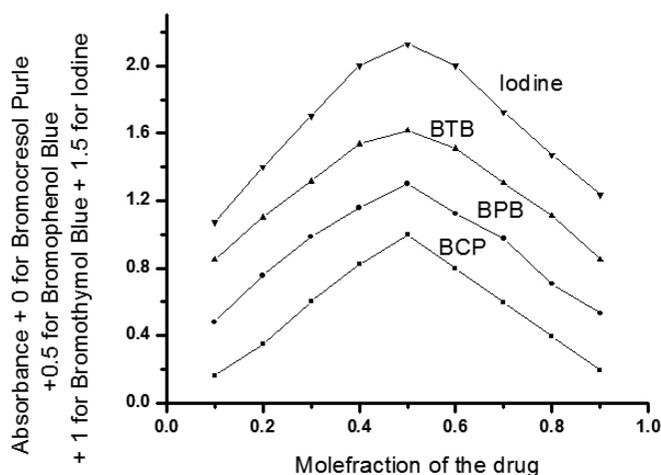


Figure 5. Jobs continuous variation plot-

The stoichiometric ratio between Amitriptyline and potassium permanganate was evaluated by limiting logarithmic method²⁵. The method involves two sets of experiments. In the first set the concentration of AMT was varied keeping a constant concentration of $KMnO_4$, while in the second set, the concentration of AMT was kept constant and the $KMnO_4$ concentration was varied. Log absorbance versus log [AMT] or $[KMnO_4]$ was plotted to evaluate the slopes of the respective lines. The slope was found to be unity in each case thus indicating the molar combining ratio of 1:1 between Amitriptyline and potassium permanganate.

3.3. Formation constants

The formation constants for methods A, B and C was estimated from Job's plot by following method described by Likussa and Boltz²⁶, and Momoki *et al*²⁷. The method involves drawing the tangents at the origin of Job's plot from both side and the absorbance at intersection point is taken for 100% complexation. The absorbance at peak height of Job's plot is taken for (100 - x) % where x is the % degree of dissociation of the complex. The instability constant, $K' = Cx/(100 - x)$ is calculated, where C is concentration of drug used for Job's method. The reciprocal of K' is the required stability constant K.

3.4. Formation constant for method E

Formation constant (K) has been evaluated by using Benesi-Hildebrand equation²⁸

$$[A_0]/d = 1/K [D_0] \epsilon + 1/\epsilon$$

Where d is absorbance, ϵ is molar absorptivity, A_0 and D_0 are initial concentrations of acceptor $[I_2]$ and donor [drug] respectively. A plot of $[A_0]/d$ Vs $1/[D_0]$ yields a straight line whose slope and intercept gives the value of K.

3.5. Optimization of the factors affecting the absorbance.

The factors effecting the absorbance of ion pair complexes like pH and volume of the dye, in methods A, B and C have been optimized. 1.8 mL of BTB and buffer of pH 2.8, 1.6 mL of BPB and buffer of pH 2.5 and 1.7 mL of BCP and buffer of pH 2.5 are found to be optimal for methods A, B and C respectively. However 5 mL of each dye is used, at optimal pH, in the study to ensure complete extraction of the drug. Similarly the 1 mL of iodine for method D and 1 mL of $KMnO_4$, 1 mL of 0.45 NaOH for method E are found to be optimal and hence are used in the study.

3.6. Validation of the proposed methods

The proposed method have been validated in terms of guidelines proposed by ICH²⁹ viz., selectivity, specificity, accuracy, precision, limits of calibration curve, LOD, LOQ, robustness, ruggedness and regression equation. The student t-test and variance F-test have been performed in comparison with a reference method. To test the reproducibility of the proposed methods, five replicate determinations of 15.0 μg mL of AMT were made. The coefficient of variation was found to be less than 1.2% for all the procedures.

The proposed methods have been successfully applied to the determination of AMT in pharmaceutical preparations. The results obtained and shown in Table II were compared to those obtained by a reference method⁴ by means of t-test at 95% confidence level. In all cases, the average results obtained by proposed methods and reference method were statistically identical, as the difference between the average values had no significance at 95% confidence level.

The proposed methods are simple, sensitive and reproducible and can be used for routine analysis of AMT in pure form and in formulation

4. CONCLUSIONS

The proposed spectrophotometric methods present selective and simple, specific and inexpensive analytical procedures for determination of AMT, in pure or in tablet dosage forms without interference from common excipients. Moreover, the developed methods are time saving and do not require elaborate treatments associated with chromatographic methods. These attributes, make them suitable for routine analysis in quality control laboratories.

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