**DEVELOPMENT AND VALIDATION OF RP-HPLC METHOD FOR THE SIMULTANEOUS ESTIMATION OF METFORMIN AND NATEGLINIDE IN BULK AND COMBINED TABLET DOSAGE FORM**

**A. Pravalika1, Dr. M. Venkata Ramana2**

1Student, Department of Pharmaceutical Analysis, Surabhi dayakar Rao college of Pharmacy, Gajwel, Siddipet, Telangana 502312, India

2Associate Professor, Surabhi dayakar Rao college of Pharmacy, Gajwel, Siddipet, Telangana 502312, India.

**ABSTRACT**

An accurate, precise, simple, efficient and reproducible, isocratic Reversed Phase-High Performance Liquid Chromatography (RP-HPLC) method was developed and validated for the simultaneous estimation of Metformin and Nateglinide in bulk and combined pharmaceutical tablet dosage forms. Metformin and Nateglinide were separated by using a Symmetry ODS C18 (4.6mm×150mm) 5µm Particle Size, Waters Alliance e2695 HPLC system with 2998 PDA detector and the mobile phase contained a mixture of Methanol: 0.1% Orthophosphoric acid (64:36% v/v). The flow rate was set to 1ml/min with the responses measured at 224nm. The retention time of Metformin and Nateglinide was found to be 2.808min and 3.880min respectively with resolution of 5.68. Linearity was established for Metformin and Nateglinide in the range of 20-100µg/ml for Metformin and 60-140µg/ml for Nateglinide with correlation coefficient 0.999. The percentage recovery was found to be is 100.30% for Metformin and 100.21% for Nateglinide respectively. Validation parameters such as specificity, linearity, precision, accuracy and robustness, limit of detection (LOD) and limit of quantitation (LOQ) were evaluated for the method according to the International Conference on Harmonization (ICH) Q2 R1 guidelines. The developed method was successfully applied for the quantification of bulk and active pharmaceutical ingredient present and in combined tablet dosage form.

**Keywords:** Metformin and Nateglinide, RP-HPLC, Validation, Accuracy, Robustness.

1. **INTRODUCTION**

Nateglinide is chemically 3-phenyl-2-[(4-propan-2-yl cyclohexane carbonyl) amino] propanoic acid (Fig. 1) with molecular formula C19H27NO3. It acts by blocking adenosine triphosphate sensitive potassium channels of beta cells of pancreas, causes membrane depolarization results in calcium influx and their by stimulation of insulin secretion. Metformin HCl is chemically N, N-Dimethyl imidodicarbonimidic diamide hydrochloride with molecular formula C4H11N5.HCl. The main mechanism of metformin HCl was lowering glucose intestinal absorption, inhibition of hepatic glucose production, and improving glucose uptake and utilization. It was found that very few articles are available in detailed literature survey on simultaneous estimation of nateglinide and metformin HCl by reversed-phase high-performance liquid chromatography (RP-HPLC) in pure and dosage form. The resting literature was found on analytical and bioanalytical methods by HPLC, LC– MS/MS, RP-LC, high-performance thin-layer chromatographic, and ultraviolet (UV) spectrophotometric estimations, in combination with glinides (nateglinide, repaglinide, and mitiglinide) and metformin HCl.

**2. METHODOLOGY**

**Preparation of standard solution:**

Accurately weigh and transfer 10 mg of Metformin and Nateglinide working standard into a 10ml of clean dry volumetric flasks add about 7ml of Methanol and sonicate to dissolve and removal of air completely and make volume up to the mark with the same Methanol.

Further pipette 0.6ml of Metformin and 1ml of Nateglinide from the above stock solutions into a 10ml volumetric flask and dilute up to the mark with Methanol.

**2.1. Procedure:**

Inject the samples by changing the chromatographic conditions and record the chromatograms, note the conditions of proper peak elution for performing validation parameters as per ICH guidelines.

**2.2. Mobile Phase Optimization**:

Initially the mobile phase tried was Methanol: Water and ACN: Water with varying proportions. Finally, the mobile phase was optimized to Methanol: 0.1% Orthophosphoric acid in proportion 64:36 v/v respectively.

**2.3. Optimization of Column:**

The method was performed with various C18columns like Symmetry, X terra and ODS column. Symmetry ODS C18 (4.6mm×150mm) 5µm Particle Size was found to be ideal as it gave good peak shape and resolution at 1ml/min flow.

**2.4. METHOD VALIDATION PARAMETERS**

**2.4.1. SYSTEM SUITABILITY**

Accurately weigh and transfer 10 mg of Metformin and Nateglinide working standard into a 10ml of clean dry volumetric flasks add about 7mL of Diluents and sonicate to dissolve it completely and make volume up to the mark with the same solvent. (Stock solution)

Further pipette out 0.6ml of Metformin and 1ml of Nateglinide from the above stock solutions into a 10ml volumetric flask and dilute up to the mark with Diluent.

The standard solution was injected for five times and measured the area for all five injections in HPLC. The %RSD for the area of five replicate injections was found to be within the specified limits.

**2.4.2. SPECIFICITY STUDY OF DRUG:**

**Preparation of Standard Solution:**

Accurately weigh and transfer 10 mg of Metformin and Nateglinide working standard into a 10ml of clean dry volumetric flasks add about 7ml of Diluents and sonicate to dissolve it completely and make volume up to the mark with the same solvent. (Stock solution)

Further pipette out 0.6ml of Metformin and 1ml of Nateglinide from the above stock solutions into a 10ml volumetric flask and dilute up to the mark with Diluent.

**Preparation of Sample Solution:**

Take average weight of Tablet and crush in a mortar by using pestle and weight 10 mg equivalent weight of Metformin and Nateglinide sample into a 10mL clean dry volumetric flask and add about 7mL of Diluent and sonicate to dissolve it completely and make volume up to the mark with the same solvent. Filter the sample solution by using injection filter which contains 0.45µ pore size.

Further pipette out 0.6ml of Metformin and 1ml of Nateglinide from the above stock solutions into a 10ml volumetric flask and dilute up to the mark with Diluent.

Inject the three replicate injections of standard and sample solutions and calculate the assay by using formula:

%ASSAY =

Sample area Weight of standard Dilution of sample Purity Weight of tablet

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ × \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ × \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_×\_\_\_\_\_\_\_×\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_×100

Standard area Dilution of standard Weight of sample 100 Label claim

**2.4.3. PREPARATION OF DRUG** **SOLUTIONS FOR LINEARITY:**

Accurately weigh and transfer 10 mg of Metformin and Nateglinide working standard into a 10ml of clean dry volumetric flasks add about 7ml of Diluents and sonicate to dissolve it completely and make volume up to the mark with the same solvent. (Stock solution)

**Preparation of Level – I (20ppm of Metformin and 60ppm of Nateglinide):**

Pipette out 0.2ml of Metformin and 0.6ml of Nateglinide in to a 10ml volumetric flask and make the volume upto mark by using diluent and sonicate for air entrapment.

**Preparation of Level – II (40ppm of Metformin and 80ppm of Nateglinide):**

Pipette out 0.4ml of Metformin and 0.8ml of Nateglinide in to a 10ml volumetric flask and make the volume upto mark by using diluent and sonicate for air entrapment.

**Preparation of Level – III (60ppm of Metformin and 100ppm of Nateglinide):**

Pipette out 0.6ml of Metformin and 1ml of Nateglinide in to a 10ml volumetric flask and make the volume upto mark by using diluent and sonicate for air entrapment.

**Preparation of Level – IV (80ppm of Metformin and 120ppm of Nateglinide):**

Pipette out 0.8ml of Metformin and 1.2ml of Nateglinide in to a 10ml volumetric flask and make the volume upto mark by using diluent and sonicate for air entrapment.

**Preparation of Level – V (100ppm of Metformin and 140ppm of Nateglinide):**

Pipette out 1ml of Metformin and 1.4ml of Nateglinide in to a 10ml volumetric flask and make the volume upto mark by using diluent and sonicate for air entrapment.

Inject each level into the chromatographic system and measure the peak area.Plot a graph of peak area versus concentration (on X-axis concentration and on Y-axis Peak area) and calculate the correlation coefficient.

**2.4.4. PRECISION REPEATABILITY**

Accurately weigh and transfer 10 mg of Metformin and Nateglinide working standard into a 10ml of clean dry volumetric flasks add about 7ml of Diluents and sonicate to dissolve it completely and make volume up to the mark with the same solvent. (Stock solution)

Further pipette out 0.6ml of Metformin and 1ml of Nateglinide from the above stock solutions into a 10ml volumetric flask and dilute up to the mark with Diluent.

The standard solution was injected for five times and measured the area for all five injections in HPLC. The %RSD for the area of five replicate injections was found to be within the specified limits.

**2.4.5. INTERMEDIATE PRECISION:**

To evaluate the intermediate precision (also known as Ruggedness) of the method, Precision was performed on different days by maintaining same conditions.

Procedure:

DAY 1:

The standard solution was injected for Six times and measured the area for all Six injections in HPLC. The %RSD for the area of Six replicate injections was found to be within the specified limits.

DAY 2:

The standard solution was injected for Six times and measured the area for all Six injections in HPLC. The %RSD for the area of Six replicate injections was found to be within the specified limits.

**Accuracy:**

**For preparation of 50% Standard stock solution:**

Accurately weigh and transfer 10mg of Metformin and Nateglinide working standard into a 10ml of clean dry volumetric flasks add about 7mL of Diluents and sonicate to dissolve it completely and make volume up to the mark with the same solvent. (Stock solution)

Further pipette out 0.3ml of Metformin and 0.5ml of Nateglinide from the above stock solutions into a 10ml volumetric flask and dilute up to the mark with Diluent.

**2.4.6.ROBUSTNESS:**

Accurately weigh and transfer 10 mg of Metformin and Nateglinide working standard into a 10ml of clean dry volumetric flasks add about 7mL of Diluents and sonicate to dissolve it completely and make volume up to the mark with the same solvent. (Stock solution)

Further pipette out 0.6ml of Metformin and 1ml of Nateglinide from the above stock solutions into a 10ml volumetric flask and dilute up to the mark with Diluent.

**Effect of Variation of flow conditions:**

The sample was analyzed at 0.9 ml/min and 1.1 ml/min instead of 1ml/min, remaining conditions are same. 20µl of the above sample was injected and chromatograms were recorded.

**Effect of Variation of mobile phase organic composition:**

The sample was analyzed by variation of mobile phase i.e. Methanol: 0.1% Orthophosphoric acid (64:36% v/v) was taken in the ratio and 69:31, 59:41 instead of 64:36 remaining conditions are same. 20µl of the above sample was injected and chromatograms were recorded.

**3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

**3.1. System suitability for Metformin**

**Table 1.** **system suitability for Metformin and Nateglinide**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| S.No. | Name | Rt | Area | Height | USP plate count | USP Tailing |
| 1 | Metformin | 2.816 | 65358 | 4536 | **5.36** | 1.08 |
| 2 | Nateglinide | 3.893 | 8658746 | 658985 | 5.69 | 1.42 |

**Acceptance criteria:**

* %RSD of five different sample solutions should not more than 2.
* The %RSD obtained is within the limit, hence the method is suitable.

**3.2. SPECIFICITY**

The ICH documents define specificity as the ability to assess unequivocally the analyte in the presence of components that may be expected to be present, such as impurities, degradation products, and matrix components. Analytical method was tested for specificity to measure accurately quantitate Metformin and Nateglinide in drug product.

**Table 2. Peak Results for Assay Standard**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S.No.** | **Name** | **Rt** | **Area** | **Height** | **USP Resolution** | **USP Tailing** | **USP plate count** | **Injection** |
| 1 | Metformin | 2.813 | 65684 | 4365 |  | 1.08 | 5632.4 | 1 |
| 2 | Nateglinide | 3.886 | 8659824 | 659824 | 5.69 | 1.42 | 6859.2 | 1 |
| 3 | Metformin | 2.813 | 65985 | 4329 |  | 1.09 | 5682.3 | 2 |
| 4 | Nateglinide | 3.886 | 8645872 | 658266 | 5.68 | 1.43 | 6824.1 | 2 |
| 5 | Metformin | 2.813 | 65784 | 4426 |  | 1.08 | 5692.8 | 3 |
| 6 | Nateglinide | 3.886 | 8657847 | 6589412 | 5.69 | 1.43 | 6895.4 | 3 |

**3.3. LINEARITY**

**Table 3: Linearity study of Metformin:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Concentration  μg/ml | Average  Peak Area |
| 20 | 24759 |
| 40 | 47859 |
| 60 | 70898 |
| 80 | 93985 |
| 100 | 116698 |

**Figure1: Calibration graph for Metformin**

**Table 4: Linearity study of Nateglinide**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Concentration  μg/ml | Average  Peak Area |
| 60 | 4928578 |
| 80 | 6687842 |
| 100 | 8389878 |
| 120 | 10085847 |
| 140 | 11769854 |

**Figure2: Calibration graph for Nateglinide**

Table 5: Results of repeatability for Metformin

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| S.No. | Name | Rt | Area | Height | USP plate count | USP Tailing |
| 1 | Metformin | 3.003 | 654426 | 61521 | 8474 | 1.1 |
| 2 | Metformin | 3.005 | 659862 | 61937 | 8262 | 1.2 |
| 3 | Metformin | 3.007 | 650837 | 62018 | 8117 | 1.1 |
| 4 | Metformin | 3.008 | 651433 | 61893 | 7917 | 1.2 |
| 5 | Metformin | 3.005 | 652752 | 61867 | 8011 | 1.1 |
| Mean |  |  | 653862 |  |  |  |
| Std. Dev |  |  | 3626.323 |  |  |  |
| % RSD |  |  | 0.554601 |  |  |  |

Table-6: Results of method precision for Nateglinide:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| S.No. | Name | Rt | Area | Height | USP plate count | USP Tailing |
| 1 | Nateglinide | 3.851 | 3028371 | 381736 | 6881 | 3.851 |
| 2 | Nateglinide | 3.852 | 3009188 | 380138 | 9363 | 3.852 |
| 3 | Nateglinide | 3.854 | 3067464 | 386615 | 7844 | 3.854 |
| 4 | Nateglinide | 3.853 | 3076611 | 380183 | 9746 | 3.853 |
| 5 | Nateglinide | 3.851 | 3011912 | 379471 | 7883 | 3.851 |
| Mean |  |  | 3038709 |  |  |  |
| Std. Dev |  |  | 31463.69 |  |  |  |
| % RSD |  |  | 1.035429 |  |  |  |

**3.4. ACCURACY:**



**Fig-3: Chromatogram showing accuracy-50% injection**

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**Fig 4: Chromatogram showing accuracy-100% injection**



**Fig-5: Chromatogram showing accuracy-150% injection**

**3.5. LIMIT OF DETECTION**

Metformin:= 0.97µg/ml Nateglinide:=2.06µg/ml

**3.6.** **LIMIT OF QUANTITATION**

Metformin=2.91µg/ml

Nateglinide= 6.18µg/ml

**3.7**. **ROBUSTNESS**

Table7-: Results for Metformin and Nateglinide Robustness

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S.No** | **Change in Organic Composition in the Mobile Phase** | **System Suitability Results** | |
| **USP Plate Count** | **USP Tailing** |
| 1 | 10% less | 5895.3 | 1.12 |
| 2 | \*Actual | 5685.4 | 1.08 |
| 3 | 10% more | 5964.2 | 1.16 |
| **S.No** | **Change in Organic Composition in the Mobile Phase** | **System Suitability Results** | |
| **USP Plate Count** | **USP Tailing** |
| 1 | 10% less | 6785.2 | 1.46 |
| 2 | \*Actual | 6895.7 | 1.42 |
| 3 | 10% more | 6982.4 | 1.49 |

**4. CONCLUSION**

The study is focused to develop and validate HPLC methods for estimation of Metformin and Nateglinide in bulk and tablet dosage form.

For routine analytical purpose it is desirable to establish methods capable of analyzing huge number of samples in a short time period with good robustness, accuracy and precision without any prior separation steps. HPLC method generates large amount of quality data, which serve as highly powerful and convenient analytical tool.

The method shows good reproducibility and good recovery. From the specificity studies, it was found that the developed methods were specific for Metformin and Nateglinide

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