Research Article

A Validated RP-HPLC Method for the Simultaneous Determination of Multicomponent Dosage Form Containing Amlodipine, Telmisartan, Hydrochlorothiazide, Atenolol, and Losartan

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ABSTRACT

This paper describes the simple, economic, selective, and precise RP-HPLC method for the simultaneous determination of Amlodipine, Telmisartan, Hydrochlorothiazide, Atenolol and Losartan either as single or in combination with each other. The proposed method utilizes Inertsil C18 column (100 mm, 4.6 mm id., 5 µm) and the separation was achieved by using gradient method. Mobile phase-A contains 0.1% Orthophosphoric acid and Mobile phase-B comprised of a mixture of Acetonitrile and Methanol in the ratio of 95:5 v/v, with flow rate of 1.5 mL/min and column temperature was maintained at 40^{0}C. Quantitation was achieved with UV detection at 217 nm. The method was linear over wide concentration range of 0.08-0.12 mg/mL for Atenolol, 0.02-0.03 mg/mL for Hydrochlorothiazide, 0.064- 0.096 mg/mL for Telmisartan, 0.008-0.012 mg/mL for Amlodipine and 0.08-0.12 mg/mL for Losartan. The method was validated for specificity, linearity, robustness, precision and accuracy. Method is specific for active analyzed as no interference from the blank and excipients were observed at the Retention time of any of the active ingredients. The developed method has an advantage that all the drugs can be quantified alone or in combination using a single mobile phase.

Keywords: Amlodipine, Atenolol, Hydrochlorothiazide, ICH, Losartan, RP-HPLC, Telmisartan, Validation.

INTRODUCTION

Amlodipine, (*RS*)-3-ethyl 5-methyl 2-[(2-aminoethoxy)methyl]-4-(2-chlorophenyl)-6-methyl-1,4-dihydropyridine-3,5-dicarboxylate, is a long-acting calcium channel blocker used as an antihypertensive. It is mostly used in the management of hypertension[1-2] and coronary artery disease.[3] Hydrochlorothiazide, 6-chloro-1,1-dioxo-3,4-dihydro-2*H*-1,2,4-benzothiadiazine-7-sulfonamide, is a diuretic drug that acts by inhibiting the kidneys ability to retain water. Hydrochlorothiazide is frequently used for the treatment of hypertension.[4-5] Atenolol, (*RS*)-2-{4-[2-Hydroxy-3-(propan-2-ylamino)propoxy]phenyl} acetamide, is a selective β_1 receptor antagonist, a drug belonging to the group of beta blockers, a class of drugs used primarily in cardiovascular diseases and hypertension.[6-7] Telmisartan, 2-(4-{[4-methyl-6-(1-methyl-1*H*-1,3-benzodiazol-2-yl)-2-propyl-1*H*-1,3-benzodiazol-1-yl]methyl}phenyl)benzoic acid is a highly selective angiotensin II (AII) type 1(AT1) receptor antagonist, is approved for the treatment of hypertension.[8] Losartan, (2-butyl-4-chloro-1-{[2'-(1*H*-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl}-1*H*-imidazol-5-yl)methanol, is an angiotensin II antagonist drug used mainly to treat high blood pressure (hypertension).[9-10]

Several combinations of these drugs are available in market. Literature survey reveals that a variety of methods reported for determination all these drugs either single or in combination with other drugs. However, so far, no method is reported for the simultaneous determination of Amlodipine, Atenolol, Telmisartan, Losartan and Hydrochlorothiazide when combined together. Hence in this study we have developed a single assay method, which is simple, economical, precise and accurate for simultaneous estimation of these active ingredients.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Chemicals and reagents

Amlodipine (AMLO), Telmisartan (TELMI), Atenolol (ATN), Losartan (LOS) and Hydrochlorothiazide (HCT) were obtained from Medley Pharma, Mumbai, India. Excipients for preparation of synthetic mixture were provided by Medley Pharma, Mumbai, India.

HPLC grade, methanol, Acetonitrile and Orthophosphoric acid (88%) were obtained from Merck chemicals. Distilled water was prepared using a Milli-Q system (Millipore). Nylon syringe filters (0.45 µm) were from Millipore.

Equipment's Used

Chromatographic separation was achieved using HPLC System (Waters Alliance 2695 Separation Module) containing binary solvent manager, a sample manager and UV detector. The output signal was monitored and processed using Empower Software. The analytical balance used was from Sartorius, Model – CPA225D. UV spectrophotometer used was from Shimadzu, UV-1800.

Selection of UV wavelength

10ppm solution of each Amlodipine, Atenolol, Telmisartan, Losartan and Hydrochlorothiazide was prepared separately in methanol. UV scan of the above solutions were carried out over a wavelength range of 200–400 nm by using the Shimadzu UV spectrophotometer, Model- UV-1800. The detection wavelength was set at 217 nm because all the

components exhibited higher responses. An overlaid UV absorption spectrum is shown in Figure 1.

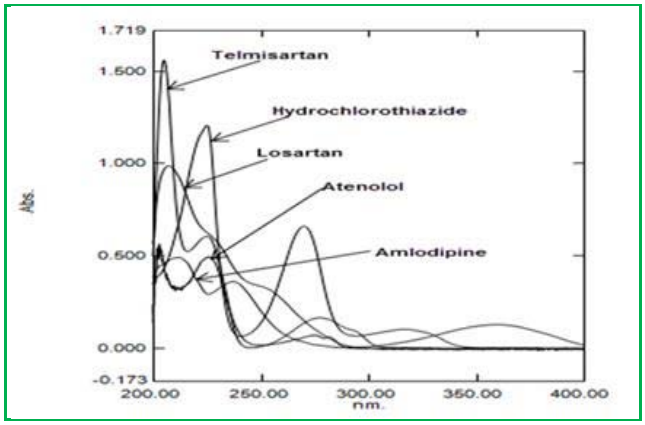

Figure 1: Overlapping UV absorption spectrum of all the active ingredients.

HPLC instruments and analytical conditions

An Inertsil C18 column (100 mm X 4.6 mm id and 5 µm particle size) was used as the stationary phase. Mobile phase A, Buffer (0.1% Orthophosphoric acid in HPLC water) and Mobile Phase B, Acetonitrile and methanol in the ratio 95:5 v/v with simple gradient programme (0-4 min :: MP-A : 100-90; 4-8 min :: MP-A : 90-50; 8-14min :: MP-A : 50-10; 14-15 min :: MP-A : 10-100; 15-20 min :: MP-A : 100-100) was delivered at a flow rate of 1.5 mL/min. The column temperature was kept at 40°C. The detector was set at the wavelength of 217 nm. Injection volume kept was 5 µL. Sample and standard preparation was done in a Solvent mixture was prepared using Acetonitrile and water in the ratio of 50:50 v/v.

Solutions and sample preparation

Preparation of standard solution

A stock solution of Amlodipine (0.10 mg/mL), Telmisartan (0.80 mg/mL), Hydrochlorothiazide (0.25 mg/mL), Atenolol (1.00 mg/mL), and Losartan (1.0 mg/mL) was prepared by dissolving an appropriate amount of the active substances in a solvent mixture. Working solutions of different concentrations for Amlodipine (0.01 mg/mL), Telmisartan (0.08 mg/mL), Hydrochlorothiazide (0.025 mg/mL), Atenolol (0.10 mg/mL), and Losartan (0.10 mg/mL) were prepared from the above stock solution and diluted with the solvent mixture.

Preparation of Sample solutions

A Formulation containing all these actives is not available in market. Hence Synthetic mixture containing all these actives at the concentration level available in its individual or combined marketed formulation was prepared. To these actives, the basic excipients were added. [11]

Synthetic mixture equivalent to 5 tablets was weighted and transferred to 250 mL volumetric flask. Added 150 mL of diluent to this mixture and sonicated the solution for approximately10 minutes. Cooled to room temperature and diluted to the mark with diluent. 5 mL aliquot of this sample stock solution was transferred to 50 mL volumetric flask and diluted to the mark with diluent to obtain a working sample solution of Atenolol (0.10 mg/mL), Hydrochlorothiazide (0.025 mg/mL), Telmisartan (0.08 mg/mL), Amlodipine (0.01 mg/mL) and Losartan (0.10 mg/mL). The solution was filtered through Nylon 0.45 µm membrane filter. 5 µL of these solutions were injected into the HPLC system and the peak area was recorded from the respective chromatograms.

Preparation of Placebo solution

Placebo was prepared with excipients containing Starch, Lactose, Crosspovidone, PVPK 30, Aerosil and Magnesium stearate.

Placebo equivalent to 5 tablets was weighted and transferred to 250 mL volumetric flask. Added 150 mL of diluent to this mixture and sonicated the solution for approximately10 minutes. Cooled to room temperature and diluted to the mark with diluent. 5 mL aliquot of this sample stock solution was transferred to 50 mL volumetric flask and diluted to the mark with diluent to obtain placebo solution. The solution was filtered through Nylon 0.45 µm membrane filter. 5 µL of placebo solution was injected into the HPLC system and the peak area was recorded from the respective chromatogram.

Calculation

All active ingredients were quantified with the following calculation:

$$\% \text{ Assay} = \frac{\text{Sample Area} \times \text{Standard dilution factor} \times 100}{\text{Standard area} \times \text{Sample dilution factor}}$$

Method Validation

The developed RP-HPLC method was validated as per International Conference on Harmonization (ICH) guideline, VALIDATION OF ANALYTICAL PROCEDURES: Q2(R1), for the parameters like system suitability, linearity and range, precision (repeatability), intermediate precision (ruggedness), specificity, accuracy and robustness.[12-13]

System suitability

The system suitability test performed according to USP36.[14] The standard solution was injected six times and results were recorded to find the adequate peak separation (resolution), percentage relative standard deviation for area, retention time, symmetry factor and theoretical plates. The results obtained were compiled in Table-1.

Specificity

Specificity was performed to detect the presence of interfering peak (blank and placebo peaks) at the retention time of the analyte peak. The specificity of the method was checked by comparison of chromatograms obtained from synthetic mixture and the corresponding placebo. The interference of excipients was detected by

preparing placebo solution equivalent to about the weight in proportion of synthetic mixture preparation as per the test method and was injected into the HPLC system. The interference of blank was detected by injecting diluent as per the test method. The representative chromatogram obtained for standard solution is shown in Figure 2.

Table 1: System suitability – Percentage relative standard deviation for area and Retention time

	Atenolol	Hydrochlorothiazide	Telmisartan	Amlodipine	Losartan
Reference solution Peak Area for n=6					
% RSD	0.30	0.18	0.16	0.55	0.09
Acceptance Criteria	Not more than 2.0%				
Reference solution Peak retention time (min), for n=6					
% RSD	0.06	0.07	0.05	0.04	0.04
Acceptance Criteria	Not more than 1.0%				
Reference solution Peak Resolution , for n=6					
Resolution	-	5.34	11.05	13.25	11.61
Acceptance Criteria	Not less than 2.0				
Reference solution Peak Symmetry Factor, for n=6					
Symmetry Factor	0.96	1.03	1.03	1.04	1.03
Acceptance Criteria	Should be between 0.8 – 1.2				
Reference solution Peak Theoretical plates, for n=6					
Theoretical plates	24466	27429	65271	91627	97376
Acceptance Criteria	Not less than 2000				

Table 2: Precision and Intermediated precision results

	Atenolol	Hydrochlorothiazide	Telmisartan	Amlodipine	Losartan
Precision (Day 1) –Assay %					
Average Assay (%)	99.41	100.94	100.09	100.17	100.40
% RSD	**0.06**	**0.82**	**0.40**	**0.45**	**0.85**
Intermediate Precision (Day 2) – Assay %					
Average Assay (%)	99.37	101.43	99.51	100.70	99.70
% RSD	**0.75**	**0.48**	**0.72**	**0.55**	**0.43**
Average Assay for Precision and Intermediate Precision	99.39	101.19	99.80	100.43	100.05
% RSD for Precision and Intermediate Precision	**0.51**	**0.69**	**0.64**	**0.55**	**0.74**
Acceptance Criteria	% RSD should not be more than 2.0% for day-1 and day-2.				

Precision and Ruggedness (Intermediate precision)

Method precision was evaluated by injecting six different sample preparation of synthetic mixture. Different analyst from the same laboratory evaluated the intermediate precision of the method. The assay of these samples was determined. Precision and intermediate precision of the method was evaluated by calculating the %RSD. The values were given in Table-2.

Linearity and range

The linearity of detector response was determined by preparing a series of solution of the working standards (mixture of all active ingredients) over the range of 80% to 120% of targeted concentration. These solutions were injected into the chromatographic system and response area was recorded.

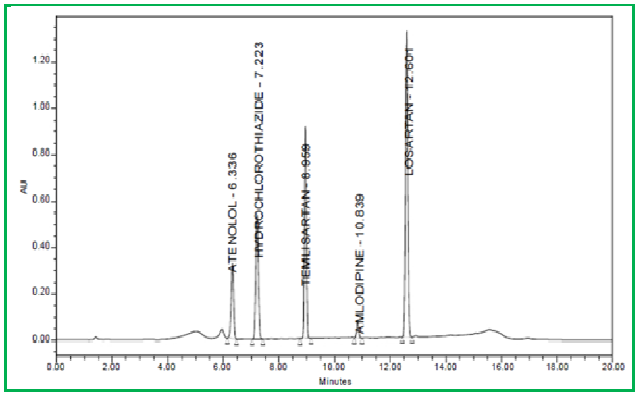

Figure 2: Typical Chromatograms of Combined Standard Solution containing Atenolol, Hydrochlorothiazide, Telmisartan, Amlodipine and Losartan.

Table 3: Accuracy (Recovery)

Active Ingredient Name	Concentration (%)	Amount Added (mg/mL)	Amount found (mg/mL)*	Mean Recovery (%)**	Average Recovery (%)
Atenolol	80	0.080	0.084	98.6	99.0
	100	0.100	0.105	99.8	
	120	0.120	0.127	98.7	
Hydrochlorothiazide	80	0.020	0.020	98.3	98.4
	100	0.025	0.025	98.6	
	120	0.030	0.031	98.2	
Telmisartan	80	0.064	0.065	99.7	99.3
	100	0.080	0.081	99.2	
	120	0.096	0.097	99.0	
Amlodipine	80	0.008	0.008	101.4	100.9
	100	0.010	0.010	100.7	
	120	0.012	0.012	100.5	
Losartan	80	0.080	0.080	99.8	100.3
	100	0.100	0.099	100.6	
	120	0.120	0.120	100.4	
Acceptance criteria	**The mean and individual recoveries should be within 98.0 – 102.0%**				

* mean of 3 readings for individual level; ** Average recovery for all levels

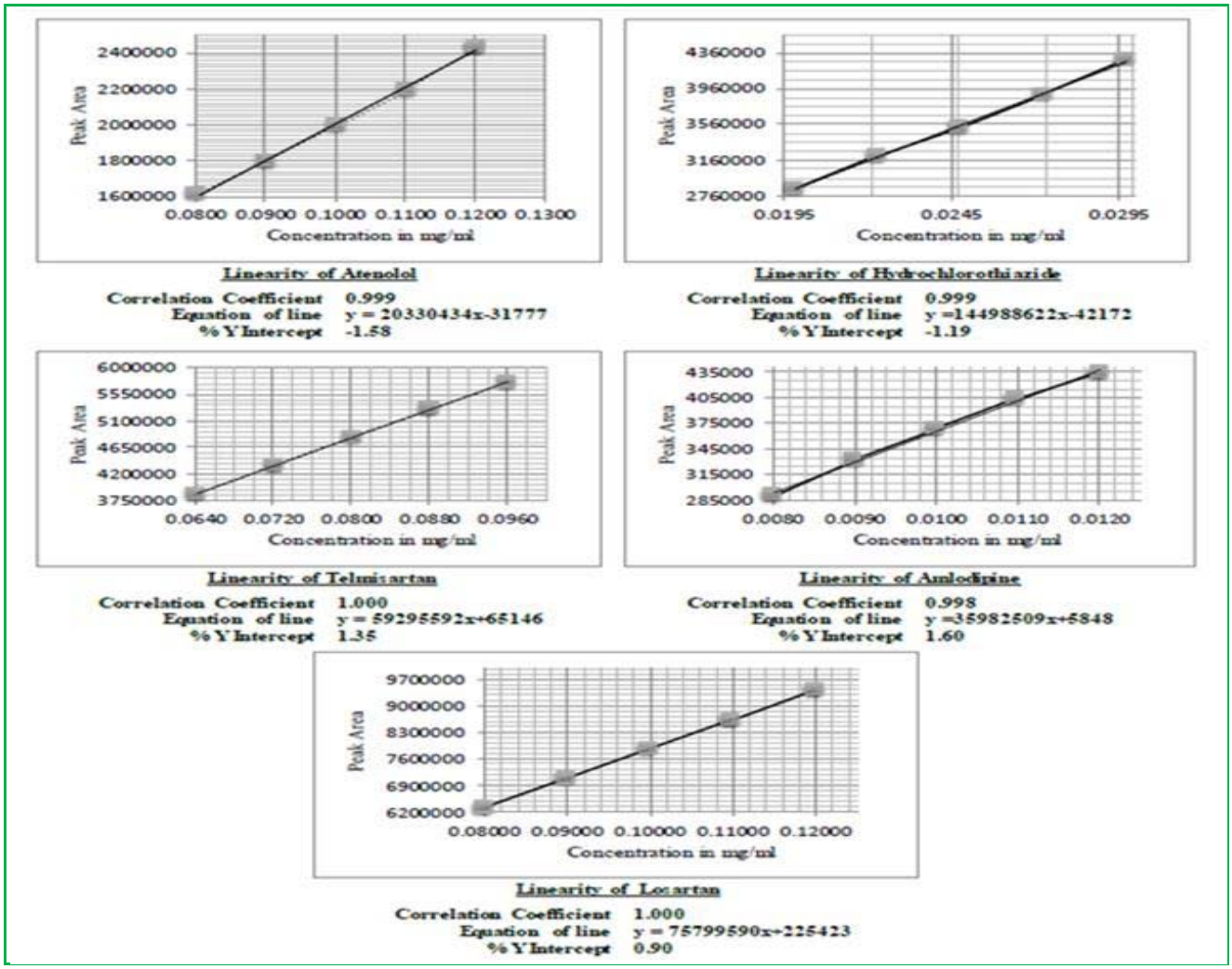

Figure 3: Calibration curves of Atenolol, Hydrochlorothiazide, Telmisartan, Amlodipine and Losartan

Table 4: Robustness results (Resolution, symmetry factor and Theoretical plates)

Summary of system suitability Parameters															
Variations	Resolution					Symmetry Factor					Theoretical plates				
	ATN	HCT	TELMI	AMLO	LOS	ATN	HCT	TELMI	AMLO	LOS	ATN	HCT	TELMI	AMLO	LOS
1.5 mL/min 40°C	-	5.33	11.02	13.21	11.63	0.95	1.03	1.02	1.04	1.02	24938	27193	66378	91606	98784
1.7 mL/min	-	5.28	11.51	13.3	11.42	0.93	1.03	1.02	1.03	1.02	21404	25978	61177	90401	95542
1.3 mL/min	-	5.76	10.22	13.24	11.92	0.98	1.06	1.04	1.05	1.05	30631	31233	65993	91738	96560
45°C	-	6.23	10.13	13.39	11.3	0.98	1.06	1.02	1.00	1.04	29583	32192	64995	90377	93173
35°C	-	5.37	11.48	12.99	12.38	0.94	1.03	1.02	1.05	1.02	21868	27275	64917	91012	101102
Acceptance Criteria	Not less than 2.0					Should be between 0.8 – 1.2					Not less than 2000				

Table 5: Solution Stability results

Test Solution - Solution stability										
Time (Hours)	% Assay of ATN	% Change w.r.t. Initial	% Assay of HCT	% Change w.r.t. Initial	% Assay of TELMI	% Change w.r.t. Initial	% Assay of AMLO	% Change w.r.t. Initial	% Assay of LOS	% Change w.r.t. Initial
Initial	99.39	**0.00**	101.98	**0.00**	100.64	**0.00**	100.14	**0.00**	101.71	**0.00**
6	99.41	**0.02**	101.90	**0.08**	100.63	**0.01**	100.16	**0.02**	101.72	**0.01**
12	99.35	**0.04**	101.94	**0.04**	100.64	**0.00**	100.10	**0.03**	101.70	**0.01**
18	99.40	**0.01**	101.95	**0.04**	100.60	**0.04**	100.09	**0.05**	101.71	**0.00**
24	99.22	**0.17**	101.89	**0.09**	100.62	**0.02**	100.09	**0.05**	101.69	**0.02**
Acceptance Criteria :	% Change w.r.t. initial for Test solution should NMT 1% of initial assay results.									
Reference Solution - Solution stability										
Time (Hours)	Area of ATN	% Change w.r.t. Initial	Area of HCT	% Change w.r.t. Initial	Area of TELMI	% Change w.r.t. Initial	Area of AMLO	% Change w.r.t. Initial	Area of LOS	% Change w.r.t. Initial
Initial	1982097	**0.00**	3516894	**0.00**	4815277	**0.00**	370402	**0.00**	7871661	**0.00**
6	1982123	**0.00**	3516003	**0.03**	4815145	**0.00**	370078	**0.09**	7871001	**0.01**
12	1983024	**0.05**	3516691	**0.01**	4815445	**0.00**	371093	**0.19**	7872094	**0.01**
18	1981935	**0.01**	3515983	**0.03**	4814967	**0.01**	370193	**0.06**	7871274	**0.00**
24	1981720	**0.02**	3515725	**0.03**	4813926	**0.03**	370034	**0.10**	7871167	**0.01**
Acceptance Criteria :	% Change w.r.t. initial for reference solution should NMT 1% of initial.									

Calibration curve was constructed by plotting area against concentration and regression equation was computed. The linearity plots were shown in Figure-3**.**

Accuracy (Recovery)

To study the accuracy of the method recovery experiments were carried out. The accuracy of the test method was determined by preparing recovery samples (spiking method) at the level of 80%, 100% and 120% of targeted concentration. The recovery samples were prepared in triplicate at each level. The contents were determined from the respective chromatograms. The samples at different levels were chromatographed and the percentage recovery for the amount added was calculated. The values were given in Table-3.

Robustness -Effect of variation in Temperature and variation in flow rate

Small, deliberate changes were made to the chromatographic condition. A study was performed to determine the effect of variation in the temperature and flow rate. Standard solution prepared as per the test method and was injected into the HPLC system at 35°C and 45°C temperature. Flow rate change was done by varying flow rate at from 1.5 mL/min to 1.3 mL/min and 1.7 mL/min. The system suitability parameters were evaluated. The values were given in Table-4.

Solution Stability

To study solution stability, reference standard and test solutions were stored at ambient condition for 25 °C for

24 hours, and injected in HPLC system at predetermined time interval. The percentage change with respect to initial for test and reference solutions were evaluated. The values were given in Table-5.

RESULTS AND DISCUSION

The RP-HPLC method was developed for the simultaneous estimation of Atenolol, Hydrochlorothiazide, Telmisartan, Amlodipine and Losartan in bulk drug and synthetic mixture prepared(as per tablet formulation) and validated as per ICH guidelines for the parameters: system suitability, linearity and range, precision (repeatability), intermediate precision (ruggedness), specificity, accuracy and robustness. The observations and results obtained for each of the parameters lies well within the acceptance criteria. The developed method is simple, specific, linear, precise, accurate, robust and rugged.

System suitability parameters proved that the proposed method suits for the simultaneous estimation of Atenolol, Hydrochlorothiazide, Telmisartan, Amlodipine and Losartan. Chromatogram for Atenolol, Hydrochlorothiazide, Telmisartan, Amlodipine and Losartan was found satisfactory on Inertsil C18, 5µm, 100 mm x 4.6 mm. No interference from diluent, excipients or any other peak was found at the retention time of Atenolol, Hydrochlorothiazide, Telmisartan, Amlodipine and Losartan. Drug peaks were found symmetrical as observed from asymmetry factor. Resolution of the proposed method was satisfactory. Sensitivity of the method was good and also linearity was observed over a wide concentration range of 0.08-0.12 mg/ml for Atenolol, 0.02-0.03 mg/ml for Hydrochlorothiazide, 0.064- 0.096 mg/ml for Telmisartan, 0.008-0.012 mg/ml for Amlodipine and 0.08-0.12 mg/ml for Losartan. The correlation coefficients for individual analytes were within the limit 0.998 and Y-intercept values were within ± 3 %. Accuracy of the method was determined by recovery with spiked concentration of pure drug at three levels for Atenolol, Hydrochlorothiazide, Telmisartan, Amlodipine and Losartan. Recovery of drug was well within the acceptance limits of 98.0-102.0%. %RSD obtained from the precision results was less than 2.0% for day – 1 and day -2.

From variation in Temperature and flow rate, it was observed that there were no marked changes obtained in the chromatograms, which demonstrated that the method developed is robust. Resolution, symmetry factor and Theoretical plate limits for flow rate variation and temperature variation are within the acceptance criteria, which show that the method exhibit good system suitability under given set of conditions.

Both Test and reference solution was found to be stable up to 24hours, at 25°C (laboratory temperature).

CONCLUSION

The RP-HPLC method developed for quantitative determination of Atenolol, Hydrochlorothiazide, Telmisartan, Amlodipine and Losartan is novel, rapid, precise, accurate and selective and is suitable for its intended purpose. The method was validated as per ICH guidelines, showing satisfactory data for all the method validation parameters tested. The developed method was found "specific" to the drug and for the dosage form, as the peaks of the excipient did not interfere with the drug peak. Hence, the proposed method can be employed for assessing the quantitative determination of Atenolol, Hydrochlorothiazide, Telmisartan, Amlodipine and Losartan in as a bulk drug and also for its dosage form.

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