
**FORMULATION AND EVALUATION OF AZILSARTAN DRUG
LOADED NANOPARTICLES**

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ABSTRACT

The objective of this study was to formulate and evaluate of the poorly soluble drug, azilsartan medoxomil into nano particles to increase the solubility and enhance the dissolution rate and then improve its bioavailability. Methods: Nanosuspension of azilsartan medoxomil was prepared using solvent-antisolvent precipitation method using PVP-K30 as a stabilizer. Eight formulations were prepared to show the effect of different parameters in which four formulations show the effect of stabilizer concentration, three formulations show the effect of stirring speed and two formulations prepare to show the effect of the addition of co-stabilizer such as sodium lauryl sulphate (SLS) and tween 80. All these formulation are evaluated for their particle size and entrapment efficiency. The selected one was evaluated for zeta potential, scanning electron microscope (SEM), saturation solubility, and in vitro drug release. Results: All the prepared formulations were in the nano size. The optimum concentration of the stabilizer was in the formulation when the drug: stabilizer ratio 1:1 and optimum stirring speed was 300 rpm. Dramatic effect on the particle size reduction was found by the addition of co-stabilizer (SLS) in formulation F3 that has P. S 157 ± 0.0 nm. The selected formula F3 showed an enhanced dissolution profile compared to the pure drug at all-time intervals. Conclusion: The results show that the formulation that contain drug: PVP-K30: SLS in ratio 1:0.75:0.25 is the best one and can be utilized to formulate azilsartan medoxomil nanoparticles.

KEYWORDS: Formulation, Evaluation, Nano particles.

INTRODUCTION

Several new pharmaceutical products that developed in the last years classified under class II of the biopharmaceutics classification system for which their poor solubility in the gastrointestinal tract is the limiting factors for their oral absorption. Many of these compounds are considering candidates for pharmaceutical development because of their insufficient oral absorption and low bioavailability [1]. Nowadays there are many formulation strategies available to solve the problems of low solubility and enhance the dissolution rate of the hydrophobic drugs. The conventional methods include micronization, use of co-solvents, surfactant dispersion, salt formation, and others but still, these techniques having limited usefulness in solubility enhancement for poorly soluble drugs.

METHOD DEVELOPMENT

Construction Of standard Curve For Azilsartan UV Spectroscopy Method Azilsartan is estimated spectrophotometrically at 220 nm and it obey Beer-Lambert's law in the range of 5-50 mcg/mL.

Determination of Absorbance maximum (λ_{max})

Azilsartan was dissolved in phosphate buffer saline pH 7.4 solution with 50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ concentration was prepared by suitable dilution. The solution was scanned in UV spectrophotometer at 200 to 400 nm using phosphate buffer saline pH 7.4 as blank. Absorbance maximum was determined as 220 nm. The drug was later quantified by measuring the absorbance at 220 nm in phosphate buffer saline pH 7.4.

Preparation of release media

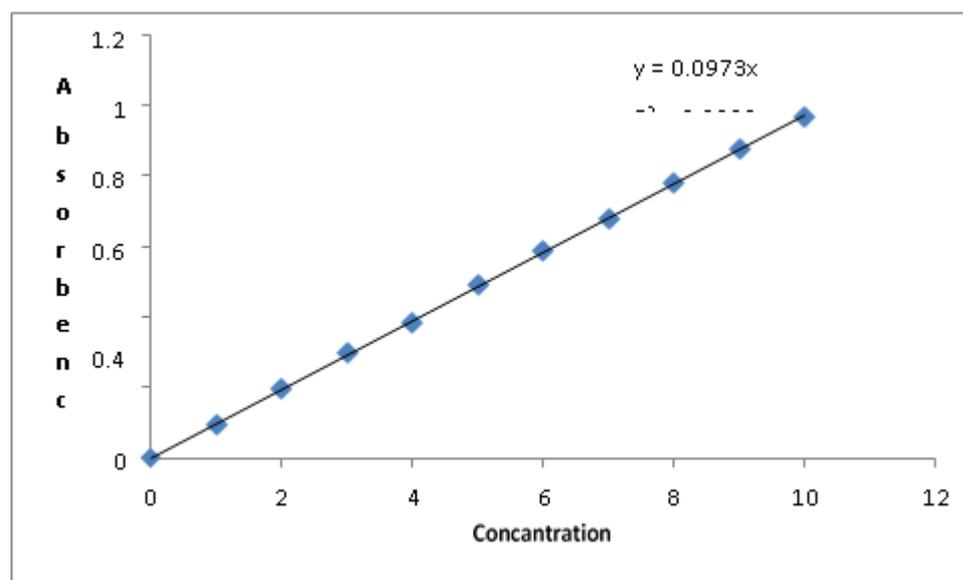
1.38 gm of disodium hydrogen phosphate, 0.19 gm of potassium dihydrogen phosphate and 8 gm of sodium chloride was dissolved in sufficient amount of distilled water and produced 1000 mL. pH was adjusted to 7.4

Standard curve for Azilsartan (By UV method)

A stock solution of Azilsartan was prepared by dissolving 50 mg of pure drug in pH 7.4 phosphate buffer saline in a 100 mL volumetric flask. From the above stock solution, 10 mL of solution was pipetted out into a 100 mL volumetric flask and made up to the mark. From this secondary stock solution, 1 mL, 2 mL, 3 mL, 4 mL up to 10 mL were taken and diluted to 10 mL to obtain the concentration of 5 to 50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$. The absorbance of these solutions were measured against the blank in a UV spectrophotometer. A calibration curve was obtained at 220 nm for a series of concentration in the range of 5 to 50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$.

Table 1: Calibration Curve Ofaziisartan.

Concentration ($\mu\text{g/ml}$)	Absorbance at 220nm
5	0.097
10	0.197
15	0.298
20	0.381
25	0.494
30	0.587
35	0.678
40	0.781
45	0.877
50	0.966

**Fig: 1: Standard curve for aziisartan.**

Method Ofpreparation OF AziIsartan Nanoparticie Nanoprccipitation Method

All batches of nanoparticles were prepared by nano precipitation method. The required quantity of polymer dissolved in 3ml ethanol, and drug was dissolved in 3 ml of ethanol, added finally both were mixed together and added β -cyclodextrin. The mixer was homogenized in vortex mixture for 1 min and then the final volume of the preparation was to 10ml. Then this preparation was centrifuged at 15000rpm at 4°C for half an hour. The supernatant was discarded and precipitate was washed 3 times with distilled water. Then nanoparticles thus obtained were dried overnight in oven at 60°C and stored in desiccators. The prepared formulation were characterized for loading efficiency, entrapment efficiency, particle size, particle size distribution, zeta potential and drug polymer compatibility studies,

Table 2: Various Composition of Nanoparticles Formulation.

Formulation Code	Drug (Azilsartan) in mg	PAV in mg	β Cyclodextrin
F1	50	25	5
F2	50	50	5
F3	50	75	5
F4	50	100	5
F5	50	25	10
F6	50	50	10
F7	50	75	10
F8	50	100	10
F9	50	25	15
F10	50	50	15

EVALUATION OF NANOPARTICLES

DRUG ANTRAPMANT STUDY

The antrapmant efficiency study was determined by free drug content in the supernatant which is obtained after centrifuging the solid lipid suspension at (15,000rpm for 20 min) using ultra centrifuge.

The absorbance was measured at 220 nm by UV spectrophotometrically. INVITRO DRUG RELEASE STUDIES BY UV Spectrophotometric Method.

The *invitro* drug release study was carried out by using the diffusion membrane technique. The nanoparticles preparation was placed in a dialysis membrane and it is dropped in a beaker containing 200ml of diffusion medium (phosphate buffer saline pH 7.4) the medium was maintained at 37° C under magnetic stirred at constant speed. At fixed time interval of 1ml sample was taken from the diffusion medium for every 1 hrs and it was replaced by 1 ml fresh medium. This process was carried out for 24 hrs. The sample was measured UV spectrometrically at 220nm. The percentage of drug released at various time intervals was calculated from calibration graph.

Scanning Electron Microscopy

The optimized formulation was morphologically characterized by scanning electron microscopy (SEM). The sample for SEM analysis was mounted in the specimen by using an adhesive, small sample which was mounted directly in scotch double adhesive tape. The sample was analyzed in scanning electron microscope operated at 15 kv and image was taken.

Surface Charge (Zeta Potential Determination)

Zeta potential is an important parameter to evaluate and establish an optimum condition for stability of colloidal or dispersed systems. The prepared nanoparticle suspension were characterized with respect to zeta potential by using zeta potential analyser (Malvern Zetasizer). Zeta potential is electrical charges on particles surface it create electrical barrier it is very important for drug stability. The effect of polyvinyl alcohol and β -cyclodextrin on the surface characteristics of the nanoparticle was studied.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Development of Azilsartan Nanoparticles

All batches of nanoparticles were prepared by nano precipitation method. The required quantity of polymer dissolved in 3ml ethanol, and drug was dissolved in 3ml of ethanol, added finally both were mixed together and added β -cyclodextrin. The mixer was homogenized in vortex mixture for 1 min and then the final volume of the preparation was to 10ml. Then this preparation was centrifuged at 15000rpm at 4°C for half an hour. The supernatant was discarded and precipitate was washed 3 times with distilled water. The nanoparticles thus obtained were dried overnight in oven at 60°C and stored in desiccators.

Formulations with different ratios of polymer were prepared, several physicochemical characteristics of nanoparticles such as particle size determination, drug release profile, were investigated and stability of optimized formulation at various temperature was evaluated.

Drug and Polymer Compatibility Studies by FTIR

Identification of the pure drug was performed using IR spectroscopy. IR spectroscopy (using PerkinElmer) by KBr pellet method carried out on drug. They are compressed under 15 tones pressure in a hydraulic press to form a transparent pellet. The pellet was scanned from 4000-400 cm^{-1} in a spectrophotometer and peaks obtained were identified.

Table 3: Entrapment efficiency of Azilsartan nanoparticles.

Formulation code	Drug(mg)	Poly vinyl alcohol (mg)	β cyclodextrin (mg)	Ethanol	Entrapment Efficiency(%)
F1	50	25	5	2%	60.16±0.14
F2	50	50	5	2%	64.15±0.17
F3	50	75	5	2%	68.28±0.15
F4	50	100	5	2%	71.12±0.09
F5	50	25	10	2%	88.23±0.12
F6	50	50	10	2%	94.26±0.18
F7	50	75	10	2%	99.38±0.08
F8	50	100	10	2%	87.42±0.09
F9	50	25	15	2%	85.35±0.06
F10	50	50	15	2%	82.25±0.04

Formulation F7 was carried out by increasing the polymer concentration same (Azilsartan 50 mg with 75 mg of Polyvinyl alcohol and 10 mg β -cyclodextrin) the entrapment efficiency was increased to 99.38%.

Formulation F8 was carried out by increasing the concentration (Azilsartan 50 mg with 100 mg of Polyvinyl alcohol and 10 mg β -cyclodextrin) which give the percentage of entrapment efficiency was 87.42% but in F8 the *in vitro* release of drug shows less than F7 formulation. So F7 formulation is optimized and further study was carried out.

Further formulation F9 and F10 was carried out in same process, drug and polymer concentration (Azilsartan 50 mg with 25 and 50 mg of Polyvinyl alcohol and 15 mg β -cyclodextrin) the entrapment efficiency is F9 85.35%, F10 82.25%. From the above result formulation F7 shows highest percentage of entrapment efficiency of 99.38%. So hence this formulation was optimized and further study was carried out.

In F1, F2, F3, F4 formulations, when increasing the polymer concentration the entrapment efficiency is not satisfactory limit. Nanoparticle using 5 mg β -cyclodextrin showed lower entrapment.

So further increasing the concentration of β -cyclodextrin in F5, F6 and F7 formulations. (Azilsartan 50 mg with 25 mg 50 mg and 75 mg of Polyvinyl alcohol and 10 mg β -cyclodextrin). In this formulations the entrapment efficiency was F5 for 88.23%, F6 for 94.26% and F7 for 99.38%. In this the optimum entrapment efficiency obtained in F7.

Invitro Drug Release Profile of Nanoparticles

The *in-vitro* drug release of Azilsartan nanoparticles can be carried out by membrane diffusion method for 24 hrs.

The *in-vitro* drug release of Azilsartan nanoparticles with Polyvinyl alcohol and β - cyclodextrin.

The *in-vitro* drug release of formulation F1 (Azilsartan 50 mg with 50 mg of Polyvinyl alcohol and 5 mg β - cyclodextrin) The percentage of *in-vitro* drug release was 97% in 9 hrs.

The formulation F2 was carried out by the increasing the polymer concentration (Azilsartan 50 mg with 50 mg of Polyvinyl alcohol and 5 mg β - cyclodextrin) The percentage of *in-vitro* drug release was found to be 96.40% in 11 hrs.

The formulation F3 was carried out by further increasing in polymer concentration (Azilsartan 50 mg with 75 mg of Polyvinyl alcohol and 5 mg β - cyclodextrin) The percentage of drug release was found to be 98.44% in 13 hrs.

The formulation F4 was carried out by further increasing in polymer concentration (Azilsartan 50 mg with 100 mg of Polyvinyl alcohol and 5 mg β - cyclodextrin). The percentage of drug release found to be 96.2% in 16 hrs.

The formulation F5 was carried out by further increasing in polymer concentration (Azilsartan 50 mg with 25 mg of Polyvinyl alcohol and 10 mg β - cyclodextrin). The percentage of drug release was found to be 98.0% in 19 hrs.

The formulation F6 was carried out by further increasing in polymer concentration (Azilsartan 50 mg with 50 mg of Polyvinyl alcohol and 10 mg β - cyclodextrin). The percentage of drug release was found to be 94.42% in 24 hrs.

The formulation F7 was carried out by combination of (Azilsartan 50 mg with 75 mg of Polyvinyl alcohol and 10 mg β - cyclodextrin). The percentage of drug release was found to be 98.46% in 24 hrs.

The formulation F8 was carried out by the combination of increasing the polymer concentration of (Azilsartan 50 mg with 100 mg of Polyvinyl alcohol and 5 mg β - cyclodextrin) percentage of drug release was found to be 88% in 24 hrs.

The formulation F9 was carried out by the combination of increased polymer concentration (Azilsartan 50 mg with 25 gm of Polyvinyl alcohol and 15 mg β - cyclodextrin) percentage of drug release was found to be 95% 14 hrs.

The formulation F10 was carried out by the combination of increased polymer concentration (Azilsartan 50 mg with 50 gm of Polyvinyl alcohol and 15 mg β - cyclodextrin) percentage of drug release was found to be 96.4% 17 hrs.

From the above formulation (F1-F10) confirms that the percentage of drug release was satisfactory in formulation F7 and it shows higher percentage of drug release of 98% for 24 hrs. So it was selected as an optimized formulation.

When increasing the polymer concentration the *in vitro* drug release also increased to a certain extent in the drug and polymer ratio up to 1:1.5.

Further the polymer concentration is increased in F8 formulation the *in vitro* drug release increased but not extend up to 24 hrs. So F7 was selected as an optimized formulation.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The present study was aimed to develop a nano particulate drug delivery system of antihypertensive drug Azilsartan using polymer (poly vinyl alcohol). The polymer enhances the binding of Azilsartan nanoparticles in specific or targeted site with sustained release of drug increasing therapeutic efficacy. These nanoparticles may also reduce the dose frequency with desired therapeutic response.

All batches of nanoparticles (F1-F10) were prepared by nano precipitation method.

The entrapment efficiency of the optimized formulation F7 (drug 50mg, polyvinyl alcohol 75mg, β - cyclodextrin 10 mg) was 99.38 ± 0.08 and *in vitro* drug release was 98.46% after 24 hours. It also obeys the zero order, follows diffusion and erosion mechanism of release.

Surface morphology of optimized formulation (F7) indicated that Irbesartan nanoparticles were found to be in average nanometer range (358.4nm) and showed ideal surface morphology.

The stability test performed revealed that the formulation (F7) showed no change in its characters.

The optimized formulation (F7) was also examined for zeta potential determinations.

The formulation (F7) showed maximum deviation of 9.16 mV which demonstrated that the particles are separate and highly repelling property found to be more useful in decreasing opsonization and favors target specificity.

The developed Azilsartan nanoparticle formulation increases water solubility, reduces the dosing frequency and improves the bioavailability of drug.

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