ANALYTICAL METHOD DEVELOPMENT AND VALIDATION OF ATOMOXETINE HYDROCHLORIDE USING RAPID HIGH-PERFORMANCE LIQUID CHROMATOGRAPHIC TECHNIQUE

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ABSTRACT
Objective: A simple, novel, sensitive, rapid high-performance liquid chromatographic (RP-HPLC) method has been developed and validated for quantitative determination of atomoxetine HCl (ATH) in bulk and formulations.

Methods: The chromatographic development was carried out on RP-HPLC. The column used as Xterra RP 18 (250 mm × 4.6 mm, 5 µ particle size), with mobile phase consisting of methanol: water 80:20 V/V. The flow rate was 1.0 mL/min and the effluents were monitored at 270 nm.

Results: The retention time was found to be 5.350 min. The method was validated as per International Conference on Harmonization Guideline with respect to linearity, accuracy, precision, and robustness. The calibration curve was found to be linear over a range of 2–10 µg/mL with a regression coefficient of 0.9999. The method has proved high sensitivity and specificity.

Conclusion: The results of the study showed that the proposed RP-HPLC method was simple, rapid, precise and accurate which is useful for the routine determination of ATH in bulk drug and in its pharmaceutical dosage form.

Keywords: Atomoxetine hydrochloride, Capsules, Rapid high-performance liquid chromatographic, Validation.

INTRODUCTION
The atomoxetine HCl (ATH) (Fig. 1) is the first non-stimulant drug approved by the United States FDA for symptomatic treatment of attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder and selective noradrenaline (norepinephrine) reuptake inhibitor [1,2]. Chemically, it is (R)-N-methyl-3-(o-tolyloxy)-3-phenylpropylamine hydrochloride [3,4]. Its molecular formula is C₂₁H₂₈NO₂HCl and its molecular weight are 291.82 g/mol. Atomoxetine, principally it is metabolized by CYP4502D6 through oxidative enzymatic pathway and by glucuronidation [5]. The literature survey shows that several analytical techniques such as high-performance liquid chromatographic (HPLC) [6-11], LC-MS-MS [12], HPTLC [13], chemiluminescence [14], and UV [15,16] have been reported for its determination of ATH in plasma and capsule dosage forms. The validation of analytical procedure used for different type of synthetic and natural substance [17-19]. The present work reports simple, rapid, sensitive and economical rapid HPLC (RP-HPLC) method with UV detection, useful for the routine analysis of ATH in bulk and pharmaceutical formulations. The method parameters such as linearity, accuracy, precision, robustness, stability, and system suitability validated as per International Conference on Harmonization (ICH) guidelines and USP guidelines [20,21].

METHODS
The ATH pure standard was supplied by TCI Chemicals Pvt. Ltd. Chennai, India. Faint 10 mg capsules (Sun Pharmacy, Chennai), labeled to contain 10 mg ATH, were obtained from the market. Analytical reagent grade chemicals were procured from Company Merck Specialties Pvt. Ltd. (Mumbai, India). The column used as Xterra RP 18 (250 mm × 4.6 mm, 5 µ particle size) for the study.

Instrumentation, chromatographic conditions
HPLC analysis was carried out on Xterra RP 18 (250 mm × 4.6 mm, 5 µ particle size), reversed phase column. The mobile phase consisting of methanol: water 80:20 V/V. The flow rate of mobile phase was 1 mL/min. The detection was carried out by at 270 nm. All analysis was carried out at a temperature of 30°C under isocratic conditions.

Preparation of standard solutions
Accurately weigh and transfer 10 mg of working standard into a 10 mL clean dry volumetric flask add about 10 mL of HPLC-grade water and sonicate to dissolve it completely and make volume up to the mark with the same solvent (stock solution). Further dilution is made and finally prepared 10 µg/mL of solution.

Selection of detection wavelength
ATH showed significant absorbance at 270 nm using UV-visible spectrophotometer.

Preparation of sample solutions
Accurately weigh and transfer 25 capsules (equivalent to 10 mg) into 50 mL volumetric flask add about 25 mL of HPLC grade water, sonicate for 15 min with occasional shaking. Cool the solution to room temperature and dilute to volume with HPLC grade water and mix. Further pipette 5 mL of the above solution into a 50 mL volumetric flask and dilute up to the mark with diluent.

Assay validation
The proposed RP-HPLC method was validated as per the guidelines of the ([ICH] Q2 [RI]) for various parameters.

Linearity and range
The standard solution of ATH was applied in the concentration of 2–10 µg/mL of ATH to evaluate linearity. The standard solution of ATH was applied in the concentration of 2–10 µg/mL of ATH to evaluate linearity. The standard solution of ATH was applied in the concentration of 2–10 µg/mL of ATH to evaluate linearity. The standard solution of ATH was applied in the concentration of 2–10 µg/mL of ATH to evaluate linearity.
Sensitivity
Limit of detection (LOD) and limit of quantitation (LOQ) were calculated using formula 3.3 \( \sigma \) /S and 10 \( \sigma \) /S, respectively, where \( \sigma \) is the standard deviation of the response (y-intercept) and S is the slope of the linearity plot.

Specificity
The specificity of the method was determined by comparing test results obtained from analysis of sample solution containing excipients with that of test results those obtained from standard drug.

Precision studies
Precision was calculated by intra- and inter-day precision studies. 6 µg/mL concentration of ATH sample was analyzed six times on the similar day to find out any differences in the results. Interday precision study was done on three successive days.

Accuracy studies
Accuracy is the closeness in agreement between the accepted true value or a reference value and the actual results obtained. Accuracy studies are usually evaluated by determining the recovery of a spiked sample of the analyte into the mixture of the sample to be analyzed. For accuracy studies, I have used three different concentration of solution such as 4 µg/mL, 6 µg/mL, and 8 µg/mL. For these, each concentration was injected and the mean % recovery was calculated.

Robustness studies
The effect of small but deliberate variations in method parameters such as flow rate, composition of the mobile phase, and wavelength was evaluated in this study. 2–10 µg/mL concentration of ATH was used in six replicates to study robustness of the method. The standard deviation of peak areas and % relative standard deviation (RSD) was determined.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
Chromatographic development
Chromatographic analysis was developed using a Xterra RP 18 (250 mm × 4.6 mm, 5 µ particle size) column. The mobile phase consists of methanol: water (80: 20 v/v) and that was supplied at a flow rate of 1.0 mL/min. The mobile phase was degassed and filtered through 0.45 µ filter under vacuum before pumping into HPLC system. The effluent was monitored by UV detection at 270 nm. Fig. 2 shows the optimized chromatogram of ATH.

Validation of the method

Linearity
The analyte response was linear (r²=0.9999) over the concentration range of 2–10 µg/mL of ATH. The results were shown in Table 1 and Fig. 3 shows the calibration curve. The curve shows the selected concentration gives acceptable accuracy and precision over a wide concentration range. The results demonstrate that an excellent correlation coefficient between the absorbance and concentration of ATH drug substance.

Sensitivity
The LOD was found to be 0.0001 µg for ATH. The LOQ for ATH was found to be 0.0005 µg representing good sensitivity of the method.

Specificity
The chromatograms obtained from standard and sample solutions are not interfering. It proves method is highly selective.

Precision
Intra- and inter-day variation in estimation of ATH (Table 2) showed that the % RSD was <2% during the analysis. These low values of RSD show that the precision of the method is good.

Accuracy
The study of accuracy reveals influences of additives that are usually present in the dosage forms on the quantitative parameters. The recovery study data presented in Table 3 indicates that the accuracy of the quantification of ATH was more than 98%, which indicate that the proposed simultaneous RP-HPLC method is reliable for the estimation of in the marketed formulation used in the study.

Robustness studies
The % RSD of peak areas was calculated for each parameter and was found to be <2% [Table 4].

![Fig. 1: Chemical structure of atomoxetine HCl](image1)

![Fig. 2: Optimized chromatograms of atomoxetine](image2)

![Fig. 3: Linearity graph of atomoxetine HCl by rapid high-performance liquid chromatographic analysis of ATH](image3)

Table 1: Linear regression analysis of ATH

| Parameters                  | Values           |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Linearity range (µg/mL)     | 2–10             |
| Correlation coefficient (r²)| 0.9999          |
| Slope                       | 11.078.185       |
| Intercept                   | 7.0166           |
| Standard error              | 30.7944          |

ATH: Atomoxetine HCl
Table 2: Intraday- and inter-day precision studies of ATH

| Drug          | Actual concentration intra-/interday (%) RSD |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Atomoxetine HCl | 6 µg                                      |
|               | 99.63/99.71                               |
|               | 0.771/1.088                               |

ATH: Atomoxetine HCl

Table 3: Results of recovery studies of Atomeoxetine HCl

| Amount taken | Amount added | Amount found* | Amount recovery* | %RSD |
|--------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|------|
| 6            | 6            | 10.01         | 3.99             | 0.31 |
| 6            | 6            | 11.97         | 6.13             | 0.19 |
| 6            | 8            | 14.22         | 7.91             | 0.12 |

*Average of three determination

Table 4: Robustness studies of ATH

| Parameter                | Parameter varied | %RSD |
|--------------------------|------------------|------|
| Mobile phase             | 60:40            | 0.32 |
| (methanol: water) ratio  | 80:20            |      |
|                          | 85:15            |      |
| Flow rate in ml          | 0.8              | 0.89 |
|                          | 1.0              |      |
|                          | 1.2              |      |
| Wavelength in nm         | 268              | 0.74 |
|                          | 270              |      |
|                          | 272              |      |

ATH: Atomoxetine HCl

Analysis of a marketed preparation

The results obtained for the amount of ATH in capsules as against the label claims were in good agreement, signifying that there is no interference from any of the excipients present in capsules. The percent assay was found to be 99.93%, for ATH, in marketed formulation in six replicate determinations.

CONCLUSION

The purpose of this investigation was to develop and validate a method using a simple, rapid, sensitive, precise, and accurate RP-HPLC for the routine determination of ATH in bulk and pharmaceutical preparations. The proposed method is suitable for the pharmaceutical analysis in various analytical laboratories. The retention time and run time were very short, hence, requires less mobile phase for this method, making it more economical and rapid. Hence, this method can be used for the analysis of large number of samples.

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AUTHORS CONTRIBUTION

The entire author equally contributed to this work.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No.

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