SPECTROPHOTOMETRIC ANALYSIS OF TABLETS OF PIROXICAM USING MELTED NIACINAMIDE AS SOLVENT (MIXED SOLVENCY CONCEPT)

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ABSTRACT
In the present research work, a novel method for spectrophotometric estimation of piroxicam tablets using melted niacinamide as solvent was developed. The main objective of the research is to show that solids also possess solubilizing power. The current study deals with a novel spectrophotometric analytical technique for quantitative estimation of piroxicam in tablets using melted niacinamide as solvent. According to the theory proposed by Maheshwari, each & every substance possesses solubilising power; the substance may be a gas, solid or liquid. Niacinamide imbibes large solubilizing power to piroxicam and having approximate solubility 110 mg per gm of melted niacinamide (135°C) whereas aqueous solubility of piroxicam is 0.40 mg/ml at room temperature. Niacinamide does not interfere above 300 nm in the spectrophotometric analysis. Calibration curve of piroxicam was plotted by recording the absorbances of standard solutions of the drug (5, 10, 15, 20 and 25 microgram/ml). The absorbances were observed at 358 nm against respective reagent blanks. The percent label claims were found very close to 100.0 (99.08 ±1.764 and 100.93 ±1.303) indicating the accuracy of the proposed method. Percent recoveries estimated by the proposed method are close to 100.0 (99.92 ±1.605 to 101.74 ±1.663) with significant low values of percent coefficient of variation and standard error. Thus, it may be concluded that the proposed method is simple, safe, and precise, and excludes the use of toxic organic solvents.

KEYWORDS : Mixed Solvency Concept, Solubilizing Power, Spectrophotometric Analysis, Niacinamide, Piroxicam.

INTRODUCTION
The mixed solvency concept can serve as a milestone for solubility enhancement and therefore deserves urgent attention of the scientific community to assess its efficiency and applicability. According to Maheshwari, each & every substance present on earth possesses solubilizing power, be it a solid, liquid or gas. Each substance possesses good solubilizing power for some solutes and bad solubilizing power for other solutes. The main objective of the present research is to show that solids also possess solubilizing power.

Commonly used organic solvents for spectrophotometric analysis of water-insoluble drugs include methanol, ethanol, chloroform, benzene, dichloromethane, dimethylformamide, acetonitrile, ethyl acetate, toluene, carbon tetrachloride, acetone, hexane etc. The main drawbacks of organic solvents include high cost, toxicity and pollution. Organic solvents have numerous adverse effects caused by single exposure like dermatitis, headache, drowsiness, nausea, eye irritation, and long term exposure causes serious effects such as neurological disorders, chronic renal failure, liver damage, necrosis, and mutagenesis disorder. They should be replaced by other eco-friendly alternative sources. The present investigation is an attempt to show that solvents can also be wisely used to act as solvent precluding the use of organic solvents. In a separate study, the author has attempted soxhlation using phenol as a solvent. The vapours of boiling phenol got condensed in the extraction chamber to effect the extraction of active constituents from a powder of crude drugs. The main objective of the present study is to demonstrate the solvent action of solids. Solid excipients can nicely be employed as solubilizers in the development of pharmaceutical dosage forms in solution form of poorly soluble drugs (mixed solvency concept). In the present research, melted niacinamide (at 135°C) was employed for dissolution of piroxicam tablets without using any organic solvents (therefore eco-friendly method).

MATERIALS AND METHOD
Piroxicam API was a generous gift from M/S Alkem Laboratories Ltd., Mumbai. Piroxicam tablets were procured from the local market. All other chemicals used were of analytical grade. The instrument used was Shimadzu UV-Visible spectrophotometer (model UV-160A) with 1 cm matched silica cells.

EXPERIMENTAL METHODS
SOLUBILITY STUDIES -
The solubility of piroxicam at room temperature in water was found to be 0.40 mg/ml. Using an approximate method of solubility determination, it was found that more than 110 mg piroxicam was dissolved in one gram of melted niacinamide (at 135°C).

CALIBRATION CURVE -
10 gm niacinamide was taken in a 500ml volumetric flask and it was heated carefully on the heating mantle. As soon as niacinamide was melted, 50 mg of standard sample of piroxicam was added and the flask was shaken to dissolve the drug. Intermittent heating and shaking were done for the complete dissolution of the drug. Then, 400 ml of hot distilled water (90°C) was transferred carefully (little at a time) to the volumetric flask and the contents were shaken for about 5 minutes. The flask was allowed to cool to attain the room temperature. Then, the volume was made up 500ml with distilled water. This was the stock solution of the drug (100 µg/ml). By appropriate dilution of this stock solution with distilled water, standard solutions of the drug (10, 20, 30, 40, 50 µg/ml) were prepared and their absorbances were noted at 358 nm against the respective reagent blanks and using these values, the calibration curve was obtained.

Submitted : 26th September, 2019  Accepted : 17th October, 2019  Publication : 15th December, 2019

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Then, 400 ml of hot (90°C) distilled water was carefully (little at a time) added to the flask and the flask was shaken for about 5 minutes. Then, the flask was allowed to cool to attain room temperature and the volume was made up to the mark with distilled water. After filtration through Whatman filter paper no 41, 5 ml filtrate was diluted to 50 ml with distilled water and the absorbance was noted at 358 nm against reagent blank. Using the calibration curve the drug, content was computed. Similar treatment was done for formulation II. All analysis were performed thrice.

PROPOSED METHOD –
20 tablets of piroxicam, formulation I were weighed and crushed to get a fine powder. Ten grams of niacinamide was kept in a 500 ml volumetric flask and the flask was carefully heated on the heating mantle to melt the niacinamide. After complete melting of niacinamide, tablet powder equivalent to 50mg of the drug was transferred to the flask and the flask was shaken for 10 minutes with intermittent heating and shaking.

RECOVERY STUDIES –

Recovery studies taking 15 mg and 30 mg of pure drug as spiked drug together with pre-analysed tablet powder equivalent to 50 mg drug were performed using the same proposed method.

| Tablet Formulation | Label Claim Per Tablet (mg) | % Label Claim Estimated (Mean ± SD) | % Recovery Estimated (Mean ± SD) | % Coefficient of Variation | Standard Error |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| I                   | 20                          | 100.93 ± 1.303                     | 1.291                             | 0.752                     |
| II                  | 20                          | 99.08 ± 1.764                      | 1.780                             | 1.018                     |

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The aqueous solubility of piroxicam at room temperature was 0.40 mg/ml whereas the solubility of piroxicam in melted niacinamide was found to be 110 mg per gram of melted niacinamide at 195°C. It is evident from Table I that the percent drug recoveries estimated in the formulation I and II were 100.93 ± 1.203 and 99.08 ± 1.764, respectively. The values are very close to 100.0, indicating the accuracy and precision of the proposed method. Further, Table II shows that the range of percent recoveries varied from 99.92 ± 1.605 to 101.74 ± 1.663 which are again very close to 100.0, indicating the accuracy of the proposed method. Proposed analytical technique is supported significantly by small values of statistical parameters viz. standard deviation, percent coefficient of variation and standard error (Table I & II).

CONCLUSION

The mixed solvency concept can be successfully employed in increasing solubility and analytical estimation of various drugs. A large number of poorly water-soluble drugs having absorption maxima above 300 nm can be tried for estimation by this method. Such solid as solvent (niacinamide) can be used in place of costly and toxic organic solvents.

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