Novel Coated Wires Sensors with Flow-Injection for Potentiometric Determination of Neostigmine in Bulk, Amostigmine and Human Urine

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Abstract

Four types of coated wires sensors (silver, copper, graphite and glassy carbon) are constructed for the determination of neostigmine (Ns) based on the ion-pair associates neostigmine silicotungstate (Ns-ST), neostigmine silicomolybdate (Ns-SM), neostigmine phosphotungstate (Ns-PT), neostigmine phosphomolybdate (Ns-PM), and ion-pairs neostigmine tetraphenylborate (Ns-TPB) in a poly (vinyl chloride) as coated film with a plasticized tricresyl phthalate (TCP). The four types sensors are showed a Nernstian slopes ranged from 59-64 mV per decade in batch and 65-70 mV per decade in flow injection conditions (FIA) over a neostigmine concentration ranged from 5.0x10⁻⁷-1.0x10⁻² M and within the pH range 4.0-11.0. The influences of coated film composition, pH of the Ns and foreign ions on the sensors performance were investigated and were found to be very selective, precise and excellent selectivity. The sensors were successfully applied to the potentiometric determination of neostigmine bromide in pure state, in amostigmine, and human urine. FI analysis and dissolution profile for determination neostigmine were investigated. The data were comparable with official methods for the assay and excellent percentage recovery was obtained.

1 Introduction

Neostigmine Bromide [114-80-7] is [3-(dimethylcarbamoyloxy)-N,N,N trimethylanilinium bromide with white crystalline powder or colourless crystals, hygroscopic, very soluble in water, freely soluble in alcohol and empirical formula C₁₂₁₉₆BrN₂O₂ (mol. wt. 303.2)¹. The main advantage for the fabrication of the coated wires sensors is no need for the inner electrolyte solution as the liquid membrane sensor beside its high dynamic range. The sensors are simply designed and consists of conductive bed coated with a coating mixture that containing an electroactive material.

This work describes new selective coated wires sensors type, for the determination of neostigmine in pure state, pharmaceutical dosage form, human urine, and flow injection analysis and dissolution profile. No coated wires sensors for the determination of neostigmine bromide are available in the literature survey² (Fig1).

Our aim of the work is to develop, constructed and fabricated new types with the performance characteristics of the proposed coated wires sensors (CWS) that easy in work, simple in their design and can be hold without the inner solution as liquid membrane which may be contaminated.

2 Materials and Methods

All reagents used were chemically pure grade. Doubly distilled water was used. Neostigmine bromide and its pharmaceutical preparation Amostigmine [(tablets and injection) (15 mg/tablet), (0.5 mg/mL)] respectively, were provided by Amoun Pharmaceutical Co., Cairo, Egypt.

Fig. 1 The chemical structure of neostigmine bromide
Polyvinyl chloride (PVC), tricresyl phthalate (TCP), tetrahydrofuran (THF), silicotungstic acid (STA), siliconolybic acid (SMA), phosphotungstic acid (PTA), phosphomolybdic acid (PMA) and sodium tetraphenylborate (NaTPB) were selective products from Aldrich. In FIA measurements, the reagent and carrier solutions were degassed to remove air bubbles which may influence the sensitivity of the sensor potential or the carrier flow solution by means of vacuum-suction.

2.1 Preparation of Ion-Exchangers

For the preparation of ion-exchangers, neostigmine silicotungstate (Ns-ST₄), neostigmine siliconolydate (Ns-SM₄), neostigmine phosphotungstate (Ns-PT₃), neostigmine phosphomolydate (Ns-PM₃), and neostigmine tetraphenylborate (Ns-TPB), were prepared by adding 100 ml of 10⁻² M neostigmine bromide (NsBr) solution to 100 ml of equivalent solution of 2.5x10⁻⁴ M [STA], (SMA)], 3.3x10⁻⁵ M of [(PTA)], (PMA)], and 1.0x10⁻⁵ M of (NaTPB). The precipitates were filtered off, washed thoroughly with distilled water then dried at room temperature and ground to fine powder. The ion-pairs formation and purity of the ion-associates, chemical compositions of the precipitates were checked by elemental analysis for carbon, hydrogen and nitrogen at the Micro Analytical center, Cairo University. Results are given in table 1.

2.2 Construction of sensors

Pure silver, copper, graphite and glassy carbon rods of 12 cm in length and 1 mm diameter were insulated by tight polyethylene tubes leaving 0.5 cm at one end for connection and at the other end 2 cm for coating. The coating solutions were prepared by dissolving varying certain amounts of ion-exchanger in the minimum possible amount of tetrahydrofuran (2–3 ml) with powdered PVC and tricresyl phthalate (TCP) as plasticizer. Before coating, the polished surface of the rods was washed with rinsed water and detergent, and then dried with acetone. The polished surface of each type of the rod was coated with the active membrane by dipping (2 cm for coating) of the exposed end into the coating solution then the film left for about three min on the each wire to dry. By repeated several times the process until a coated plastic membrane of approximately 1.0 mm thickness was formed. The prepared CW sensors were ready by soaking them for about thirty min in 1x10⁻³ M solution of the Ns drug.

2.3 Apparatus

The potentiometric measurements same as pervers discussed in research before³.

2.4 Recommended procedures

2.4.1 Construction of the calibration graphs

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CW membranes of different compositions were prepared. The percentages of each ion-pairs association were changed to cover the ranges of 0.5-5%, Ns (ST, SM, PT, PM and TPB) for each rod (silver, copper, graphite and glassy carbon) as in table 2. Suitable increments of standard NsBr solution were added to 50 ml of doubly distilled water to cover the concentration range from 1.0 x 10⁻³ to 1.0 x 10⁻⁵ M. The concentration of unknown was determined from the calibration graph.

For FIA measurements, a series of freshly prepared solutions of the drug covering the range 1.0x10⁻⁷-1.0x10⁻³ M was injected to the flow stream and the corresponding peak heights were recorded and used to draw the calibration graphs.

2.4.2 Effect of Soaking on Life Span of the Sensor

In order to investigate the CW membrane life span, the CW sensor was soaked in 10⁻³ M NsBr drug solution at 25°C. The construction of calibration graph was built for each sensor after different time intervals covering the range from thirty min up to more than one month for each wire. Stop the measurements when the slope of the Nernstian value for calibration graph deviated largely where the sensor recovery was became out of range.

The regeneration was examined for the sensor by freshly reformation of the ion-association on the external CW membrane. The regeneration of the Ns CW membrane sensors was successfully achieved by soaking the exhausted sensor(s) for about 24 h in a 1.0 x 10⁻³ M STA, SMA, PTA, PMA and/or NaTPB solution, followed by soaking in 1.0 x 10⁻² M NsBr drug solution for about 3 h.

2.4.3 Effect of pH

The effect of pH for the Ns drug test solution on the potential values of the sensor system in different concentrations (1.0x10⁻³, 1.0x10⁻⁴ and 1.0x10⁻⁵ M) of the drug was studied. In 100 ml titration cell, aliquots of the Ns solution (50 ml) were added and the tested ion-selective sensor in conjunction with the calomel reference sensor with a combined glass sensor was immersed in the same solution. The change in mV with variation of pH readings was simultaneously recorded. The addition of very small volumes of 2 M HCl and/or (0.1-1.0 M) NaOH solution was responsible for variation of pH of the solution covering the range from 1.0-10.0. Construct the plot between mV-readings against the pH-values for the different concentrations.

2.4.4 Selectivity of the sensor

The determination of selectivity coefficients for different ionic species, sugars and amino acids for the sensors was studied by the matched potential methods (MPM)³-⁴ the potential of the drug (aₜₐₜₔₜ) in the range of 2.5x10⁻³-5.0x10⁻⁵ M were added to the reference solution and the corresponding potential change (ΔΕ) was recorded.

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In FIA conditions the separate solution method was used so first, the potential is measured in a solution containing known amount of the Ns, and second, the potential is measured in a solution containing the same concentration interfering ion. The selectivity values of $log K_{JNs,J\text{pot}}^{\text{pot}}$ are calculated using the following equation:

$$log K_{JNs,J\text{pot}}^{\text{pot}} = \frac{E_2 - E_1}{S} + log [\text{Drug}] - log [J^{z+}]^{1/z}$$

Where: $E_1$ and $E_2$ are the sensor potentials of $10^{-3}$ M solution of each of the Ns drug and interfering cation, $J^{z+}$, respectively and $S$ is the slope of the calibration graph.

| Ion-associate | Tentative Formulae | C% | H% | N% |
|---------------|-------------------|----|----|----|
| Ns-ST₄ (white) | [C₁₂H₁₅N₂O₂][SiW₁₂O₄₀]₄ | 18.57 | 18.00 | 2.45 | 2.65 | 3.61 | 3.50 |
| Ns-SM₄ (l.yellow) | [C₁₂H₁₅N₂O₂][SiMo₁₂O₄₀]₄ | 28.19 | 27.65 | 3.72 | 3.55 | 5.48 | 5.40 |
| Ns-PT₃ (buff) | [C₁₂H₁₅N₂O₂][PW₁₂O₄₀]₃ | 12.17 | 11.83 | 1.60 | 1.55 | 2.36 | 2.30 |
| Ns-PM₃ (g.yellow) | [C₁₂H₁₅N₂O₂][PMo₁₂O₄₀]₃ | 21.12 | 20.78 | 2.79 | 2.48 | 4.11 | 3.92 |
| Ns-TPB (white) | [C₁₂H₁₅N₂O₂][C₂₄H₅₀B] | 77.42 | 77.13 | 6.19 | 6.28 | 4.87 | 4.62 |

### 2.4.5 Potentiometric Determination of NsBr by standard addition method

The standard addition method was applied in batch measurements. A known volume of standard NsBr solution is added to a cell containing 50 ml water with different amounts of the Ns drug in its bulk, tablets and in spiked urine samples with known amounts of the drug. The reading in mV change was taken for each addition that used to calculate the concentration of the Ns in the sample solution using the following equation:

$$C_x = C_s \left( \frac{V_s}{V_s + V_x} \right) \left( \frac{V_x}{V_s + V_x} \right)^{-1}$$

Where $C_x$ is to be determined, $V_x$ is the volume of the original sample solution, $V_s$ and $C_s$ are the volume and concentration of the standard solution added to the sample to be analyzed, respectively, $\Delta E$ is the change in potential after addition of certain volume of standard solution, and $S$ is the calibration graph slope.

### 2.4.6 Determination of NsBr in Amostigmine tablets and injection

The contents of 20 tablets amostigmine (15 mg NsBr/tablet) were weighed, powdered, and an accurately weighed portion (200-250 mg) was mixed with 25 ml doubly distilled water, shaken for about thirty min in a mechanical shaker then filtered, the solution was completed to the mark with doubly distilled water and shaken. Taken different volumes of the native solution (1.0-10 ml) and injected to the potentiometric determination.

In case of amostigmine injection (0.5 mg/ml) taken different volumes after mixing ten ampoules and preparing the injection for standard addition method determination.

### 2.4.7 Determination of NsBr in spiked urine

In spiked urine addition quantities of the Ns drug and five ml of urine were mixed to a volumetric flask, completed to the 100 ml with doubly distilled water and adjust solutions of pH ranging from 4 to 5 by small addition of 0.01 M HCl from volume (0.1-2 ml) and concentrations from $5.0 \times 10^{-6}$ to $2.5 \times 10^{-4}$ M Ns. The standard addition method was used for drug determination.

### 2.4.8 Determination of NsBr in FI system

In FIA, amostigmine solutions of different concentrations were injected to the optimized FIA system. The peak heights were measured, and then compared to those obtained from injecting standard solutions of pure drug.

### 2.4.9 Content uniformity assay of neostigmine tablets

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Ten individual tablets were placed in separate 100 ml beaker and dissolved in 90–100 ml of distilled water. Concentration of the solutions was determined by the standard addition method, as described above.

2.4.10 Dissolution test

The test was carried out according to the USP XXXII method apparatus II [6]. One tablet (15 mg) was placed in the vessel, and the dissolution medium (900 ml 1.0x10-2 M hydrochloric acid) was maintained at 37±0.5 0C. The vessel was rotated at 50 rpm. For the potentiometric determination, after an appropriate time interval (0.5 – 5 min), the potential values were recorded, and the amount of the neostigmine was calculated from the calibration graph. For the spectrophotometric measurements, 5.0 ml aliquots of the dissolution solution were withdrawn, filtered, diluted with 0.01 M HCl and the absorbance was measured at 261 nm. A calibration graph was used for drug release calculation. In order to investigate all the important physical processes during the dissolution period, the release profiles were numerically simulated by a typical equation.

3 Results and discussion

3.1 Composition of the coating membrane

Twenty CW membranes sensors of the different compositions of varying nature and ratios of ion-exchanger/PVC/plasticizer were prepared and investigated to coat several conductive beds as given in table 2. CWSs made by using coating solution exhibited a calibration plot of Nernstain slope ranged from (57.0- 61.5) mV per concentration decade, at 25 °C, over a wide concentration range (5.0 x 10-7 -1.0 x 10-2 M) with a detection limit of range (4.0 x 10-8 – 7.9 10-5) M as shown in fig 2.

For FIA measurements, a series of freshly prepared solutions of the drug covering the range 1.0x 10-7-1.0x10-1 M was injected to the flow stream and the corresponding peak heights were recorded and used to draw the calibration graphs.

3.2. Effect of soaking and lifetime of the sensor

The performance characteristics of the NsBr CWEs were studied as a function of soaking time. For this purpose, the sensors were soaked in 1 x 10^{-3} M solution of NsBr and the calibration graphs (Eeiec. mV vs, pNsBr) were plotted after 30 min until reaches to one month. The optimum soaking time was found as in Table 2. Kept the sensors dry in an opaque closed vessel and stored in a refrigerator while not in use. The reproducibility of five repeated measurements on the same solution was ±1 mV. The calibration plot slopes decreased slightly after the first week and continued to decrease reaching to one month. This is due to leaching, through minimal, of the electro active species into the bathing solution. The slope of the calibration graph obtained by the CW sensors was found to decrease slightly after several times of use, which may be attributed to surface contaminations.

3.3. Optimization of the FIA response

The parameters of all optimization factors for FIA responsibility were discussed carefully as in a supplementary file of biosensor and bioelectronics journal for determine neostigmine bromide and the results for CW sensors were collected and given in table 3 and fig 3.

3.4. Effect of pH

The pH effect for the NsBr solution (10^{-5}, 10^{-4}, 10^{-3} M NsBr) on the sensors potentials was investigated. The NsBr solution was acidified by the addition of very small volumes of HCl then the pH value was increased gradually using NaOH (0.1 or 1.0 M). For each pH value, the potential was recorded and thus the potential-pH curves for three concentrations were constructed fig 4. As is obvious, within the pH range 4.0-11.0, the CW sensors potential are practically independent of pH, and in this range, the sensors can be safely used for neostigmine determination. The increase in mV readings at pH less than 4.0 may be due to penetration of H⁺ into the membrane surface or a gradual increase of protonated species dependence of the emf on the pH of the solution. At higher pH values, free base precipitates in the test solution and consequently, the concentration of unprotonated species gradually increased. As a result, lower emf readings were recorded.

3.5 Selectivity of the sensor

Many species were determined by the matched potential for the selectivity. The inorganic cations do not interfere because of differences in ionic size, mobility and permeability. In FI conditions, the values of selectivity coefficients were calculated based on potential values measured at the tops of the peaks for the same concentrations of the NsBr and the interferents according to the separate solution method.

The resulting values are listed in table 4. Most of the interfering ions show values of selectivity coefficient low, indicating negligible interference in the performance of the CW sensor assembly. By comparing the selectivity coefficients values obtained for the sensors under investigation both in steady state and FI conditions Table 4, it is recording that there are some differences between the values both in steady state and FI, for each interfering ion. The difference may be attributed to the applied different methods where the matched potential in steady state and separate solution methods in FI respectively. The interpretation by difference in time of interaction of interferents with the sensor in comparison to the main sensed ion where the rate of diffusion and the exchange reaction of the interfering ion are also the reasons for interference process.

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Table 2: Response characteristics of Ag, Cu, graphite and glassy carbon four different types coated CW sensors for NsBr

| Sensors         | I.P % | Linear range (M) | Slope (mV/decade) | t   | Sensors         | I.P % | Linear range (M) | Slope (mV/decade) | t   |
|-----------------|-------|------------------|-------------------|-----|-----------------|-------|------------------|-------------------|-----|
| Ag- CWE         |       |                  |                   |     | Cu-CWE         |       |                  |                   |     |
| Ns-ST/Ag        | 0.5   | 3.9 x 10^{-2}-1.0 x 10^{2} | 59.5±0.5          | 20 d | Ns-ST/Cu       | 0.5   | 1.0 x 10^{-6}-1.0 x 10^{2} | 57.5±0.5          | 9 d |
| Ns-SM/Ag        | 1.0   | 6.3 x 10^{-2}-1.0 x 10^{2} | 58.5±0.5          | 15 d | Ns-SM/ Cu      | 1.0   | 6.3 x 10^{-7}-5.0 x 10^{2} | 56.5±0.5          | 7 d |
| Ns-PT/Ag        | 1.0   | 5.0 x 10^{-2}-1.0 x 10^{2} | 60.5±0.5          | 27 d | Ns-PT/ Cu      | 1.0   | 7.8 x 10^{-7}-1.0 x 10^{2} | 58.5±0.5          | 12 d|
| Ns-PM/Ag        | 2.5   | 3.5 x 10^{-2}-1.0 x 10^{2} | 57.0±0.5          | 12 d | Ns-PM/ Cu      | 2.5   | 5.0 x 10^{-7}-1.0 x 10^{2} | 57.0±0.5          | 10 d|
| Ns-TPB/Ag       | 3.0   | 3.9 x 10^{-2}-7.9 x 10^{3} | 57.5±0.5          | 15 d | Ns-TPB/ Cu     | 3.0   | 5.0 x 10^{-6}-8.2 x 10^{3} | 57.5±0.5          | 7 d |
| Graphite-CWE    |       |                  |                   |     | Glassy carbon-CWE |       |                  |                   |     |
| Ns-ST/G         | 0.5   | 7.9 x 10^{-2}-1.0 x 10^{2} | 59.0±0.5          | 18 d | Ns-ST/GC       | 0.5   | 2.5 x 10^{-7}-1.0 x 10^{2} | 59.5±0.5          | 22 d|
| Ns-SM/G         | 1.0   | 6.3 x 10^{-2}-5.0 x 10^{3} | 59.5±0.5          | 17 d | Ns-SM/GC       | 1.0   | 1.0 x 10^{-7}-1.0 x 10^{2} | 59.5±0.5          | 25 d|
| Ns-PT/G         | 1.0   | 5.8 x 10^{-2}-1.0 x 10^{2} | 60.0±0.5          | 23 d | Ns-PT/GC       | 1.0   | 5.0 x 10^{-5}-1.0 x 10^{2} | 60.5±0.5          | 28 d|
| Ns-PM/G         | 2.5   | 5.0 x 10^{-2}-1.0 x 10^{2} | 60.0±0.5          | 15 d | Ns-PM/GC       | 2.5   | 8.9 x 10^{-8}-1.0 x 10^{2} | 61.0±0.5          | 26 d|
| Ns-TPB/G        | 3.0   | 8.3 x 10^{-2}-8.4 x 10^{3} | 58.5±0.5          | 12 d | Ns-TPB/GC      | 3.0   | 7.9 x 10^{-7}-1.0 x 10^{2} | 58.5±0.5          | 21 d|

Where: PVC: TCP=1:1, t: lifetime

3.6. Analytical application

The analytical applications of CW sensors investigated the determination of the Ns in its pure solution, pharmaceutical dosage forms, and human urine by the calibration curve, standard addition method and potentiometric titration which are the most widely and applied in analytical application. The data reflect the high degree of validation for accuracy, precision, and a wide concentration range of the drug. Also, the response times are instant so the CW sensors are very rapidly transferred forth and back between the biological human samples and washed by the bi-distilled water between measurements to protect the sensing component from adhering to the surface of some matrix components. As shown in table 5.

In FIA conditions, by comparison the peak heights which is the best method used for the determination of Ns in its bulk powder or pharmaceutical dosage form, where the peaks obtained from a series of different concentrations of the Ns is compared with those

Fig. 2 Calibration graphs for coated wires sensors Ns/Ag (1), Ns/Cu (2), Ns/G (3) and Ns/GC (4)
obtained by injecting a standard series of the Ns measured under the same conditions of sample volume, flow rate, temperature and pH.

Table 3: Optimized FIA conditions and the response characteristics of the sensors

| FIA conditions | Sensor characteristics |
|----------------|------------------------|
|               | Sensors | V<sub>inj</sub> (µL) | F<sub>m</sub> (mL/min) | Linear range (M) | S (mV/decade) | LOD | t<sub>resp</sub> (s) |
|---------------|---------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------|--------------|-----|-------------------|
|               | Ns-ST/Ag | 75                  | 12.50                | 5.0x10<sup>-6</sup>-5.0x10<sup>-2</sup> | 61.5±1.5     | 7.5x10<sup>-7</sup> | ≤12 |
|               | Ns-SM/Cu | 75                  | 12.50                | 1.0x10<sup>-5</sup>-1.0x10<sup>-2</sup> | 60.5±1.0     | 8.7x10<sup>-6</sup> | ≤15 |
|               | Ns-PT/G  | 75                  | 12.50                | 2.5x10<sup>-6</sup>-1.2x10<sup>-2</sup> | 62.5±2.0     | 6.5x10<sup>-7</sup> | ≤20 |
|               | Ns-PM/GC | 75                  | 12.50                | 1.0x10<sup>-6</sup>-1.0x10<sup>-2</sup> | 63.5±2.0     | 3.9x10<sup>-7</sup> | ≤25 |

V<sub>inj</sub>: Injection volume (µl), OD : Limit of detection, F<sub>m</sub>: Flow rate (mL/min), t<sub>resp</sub>: response time (s) in FI analysis

Fig 3. The FIA recordings obtained with Ns-CWs at optimum conditions

3.7 Validation of the Proposed Method

3.7.1 Linearity and detection limit (LOD)

The value of LOD for the proposed method is the sensitive for detection of very small concentrations of Ns with the optimal experimental CW sensors conditions with a linear relationship exists between the sensor potential /mV and the logarithm of corresponding concentration of the Ns drug.

3.7.2 Accuracy

The accuracy was investigated by the determination of NsBr in its pharmaceutical preparations without interfering of the proposed CWS methods from the co formulated adjuvant as indicated by the mean recoveries value as shown in table 5.

3.7.3 Precision

The precision was measured as the percentage of relative standard deviation (% RDS) and was tested by repeating the proposed CWS method for analysis of the investigated NsBr in intra-day (within the day) and inter-day (consecutive days) to five replicates. The obtained % RSD as shown in table 5 and the values are less than 2%, indicating good precision.
3.7.4 Robustness and Ruggedness

The robustness method was examined by the replacement of aqueous solution by another pH value for the Ns-CWs. The results are in good agreement with those obtained from standard drug solutions in another media ranging from 4-11. In addition, the ruggedness was shown by using another type of the potential readings as pH-meter model (Jenway, 3510) for each CW sensor.

Table 4: Selectivity coefficient values \(-\log K_{N_sJ}^{eff}\) for Ns-CW sensors

| Interferent   | Ns-ST/Ag | Ns-SM/Cu | Ns-PT/G | Ns-PM/GC | Ns-ST/Ag (FIA) |
|---------------|----------|----------|---------|----------|----------------|
| Na\(^+\)      | 3.45     | 3.34     | 3.28    | 3.28     | 2.5            |
| K\(^-\)       | 3.61     | 3.47     | 3.33    | 3.56     | 2.9            |
| Ca\(^{2+}\)   | 3.75     | 3.67     | 3.55    | 3.53     | 2.7            |
| Mg\(^{2+}\)   | 3.77     | 3.45     | 3.36    | 3.45     | 2.7            |
| NH\(_4\)^+    | 3.94     | 3.72     | 3.49    | 3.62     | 2.4            |
| Ba\(^{2+}\)   | 3.88     | 3.41     | 3.64    | 3.70     | 3.0            |
| Mn\(^{2+}\)   | 3.86     | 3.76     | 3.47    | 3.51     | 3.0            |
| Cu\(^{2+}\)   | 3.79     | 3.71     | 3.56    | 3.80     | 3.4            |
| Cd\(^{2+}\)   | 3.74     | 3.54     | 3.36    | 3.63     | 3.3            |
| Pb\(^{2+}\)   | 3.96     | 3.90     | 3.87    | 3.78     | 3.2            |
| Sr\(^{2+}\)   | 3.92     | 3.74     | 3.67    | 3.98     | 3.3            |
| Cr\(^{3+}\)   | 3.98     | 3.57     | 3.79    | 3.78     | 3.6            |
| Al\(^{3+}\)   | 3.86     | 3.72     | 3.69    | 3.77     | 3.5            |
| Glucose       | 4.32     | 4.26     | 4.19    | 4.06     | --             |
| Lactose       | 4.27     | 4.20     | 4.17    | 4.20     | --             |
| Fructose      | 4.26     | 4.17     | 4.15    | 4.11     | --             |
| Maltose       | 4.31     | 4.26     | 4.29    | 4.18     | --             |
| Urea          | 3.76     | 3.59     | 3.47    | 3.55     | --             |
| Vit. C        | 4.41     | 4.39     | 4.19    | 4.39     | --             |
| Thiamine HCl  | 3.63     | 3.73     | 3.44    | 3.43     | --             |
| Pyridoxine HCl| 3.95     | 3.87     | 3.85    | 3.14     | --             |
| Folic acid    | 3.40     | 3.55     | 3.42    | 3.33     | --             |
| Citric acid   | 3.93     | 3.82     | 3.74    | 3.67     | --             |
| Theromin      | 4.33     | 4.43     | 4.27    | 4.32     | --             |
| L-valine      | 4.41     | 4.59     | 4.61    | 4.25     | --             |
| L-lysine HCl  | 3.65     | 3.43     | 3.87    | 3.64     | --             |
| Asparagine    | 4.33     | 4.26     | 4.18    | 4.27     | --             |
| L-arginine    | 4.31     | 4.22     | 4.21    | 4.24     | --             |
| Glutamic acid | 4.35     | 4.27     | 4.23    | 4.13     | --             |

3.7.5 Reproducibility of the Sensor

The repeatability is the examination of the potential reading for the Ns-CWS sensors by the subsequent measurements in 1.0 x 10\(^{-5}\) M NsBr solution then followed by measuring the first set of solution at 1.0 x 10\(^{-3}\) M NsBr. The standard deviation values for each type of sensor are given in table 6 by measuring emf for five replicate measurements. The values indicate the excellent repeatability of the potential response of the sensors.

3.7.6 Content Uniformity of Amostigmine Tablets

The content uniformity assay for determination of amostigmine tablets by Ns-CWS methods described good accuracy, precision and reproducible results for the quality control tests so the sensors can be working for the quantification determination of neostigmine ions.
Table 5: Determination of neostigmine in pure solutions, amostigmine tablet (15 mg/tablet), amostigmine injection (0.5 mg/ml) and urine by the employing the coated wires sensors applying the standard addition method and potentiometric titration

| Sensors | CW | Ag | Cu | G | GC |
|---------|----|----|----|---|----|
|         | Taken | Recovery | RSD | Recovery | RSD | Recovery | RSD | Recovery | RSD |
| Ns-ST   | 1.52 | 99.9 | 0.33 | 98.9 | 0.41 | 99.3 | 0.51 | 99.6 | 0.18 |
|         | 3.03 | 99.8 | 0.25 | 99.0 | 0.29 | 99.7 | 0.35 | 99.8 | 0.32 |
|         | 4.55 | 99.6 | 0.13 | 98.7 | 0.37 | 99.4 | 0.44 | 99.6 | 0.39 |
|         | 1.52 | 99.2 | 0.51 | 98.9 | 0.61 | 99.5 | 0.28 | 99.8 | 0.55 |
|         | 3.03 | 99.1 | 0.40 | 98.7 | 0.37 | 99.3 | 0.43 | 99.7 | 0.71 |
|         | 4.55 | 99.0 | 0.36 | 98.0 | 0.64 | 99.0 | 0.37 | 99.5 | 0.54 |
| Ds-PT   | 1.52 | 99.5 | 0.23 | 98.7 | 0.33 | 99.6 | 0.41 | 99.4 | 0.40 |
|         | 3.03 | 99.3 | 0.37 | 98.6 | 0.50 | 98.5 | 0.60 | 99.6 | 0.27 |
|         | 4.55 | 99.7 | 0.28 | 98.3 | 0.48 | 99.1 | 0.38 | 99.3 | 0.30 |
| Ds-PM   | 1.52 | 99.1 | 0.57 | 98.3 | 0.26 | 99.0 | 0.60 | 99.5 | 0.46 |
|         | 3.03 | 99.4 | 0.35 | 99.1 | 0.33 | 99.1 | 0.68 | 99.6 | 0.70 |
|         | 4.55 | 99.2 | 0.39 | 98.5 | 0.54 | 99.3 | 0.58 | 99.4 | 0.53 |
| Ds-TPB  | 1.52 | 99.4 | 0.36 | 98.8 | 0.53 | 99.3 | 0.43 | 99.0 | 0.81 |
|         | 3.03 | 99.3 | 0.55 | 98.4 | 0.38 | 99.7 | 0.56 | 99.3 | 0.77 |
|         | 4.55 | 99.9 | 0.47 | 98.7 | 0.27 | 99.3 | 0.39 | 99.1 | 0.22 |
| Amostigmine tablet (15 mg/tablet) Ns-ST | 1.52 | 99.20 | 0.53 | 102.7 | 0.63 | 99.4 | 0.76 | 99.3 | 0.52 |
|         | 3.03 | 101.2 | 0.48 | 102.9 | 0.39 | 100.5 | 0.58 | 99.0 | 0.63 |
|         | 4.55 | 99.00 | 0.36 | 99.00 | 0.26 | 100.8 | 0.37 | 100.7 | 0.39 |
|         | 6.06 | 102.0 | 0.78 | 101.7 | 0.31 | 101.3 | 0.56 | 101.2 | 0.60 |
| Amostigmine injection (0.5 mg/ml) Ns-ST | 1.52 | 99.8 | 0.32 | 96.2 | 0.31 | 99.3 | 0.55 | 99.7 | 0.56 |
|         | 3.03 | 99.5 | 0.57 | 99.6 | 0.25 | 99.9 | 0.49 | 99.6 | 0.77 |
|         | 4.55 | 99.6 | 0.32 | 99.5 | 0.67 | 99.7 | 0.52 | 99.6 | 0.58 |
|         | 6.06 | 99.1 | 0.72 | 99.1 | 0.43 | 99.4 | 0.63 | 99.3 | 0.71 |
| Spiked Urine Ns-ST | 1.52 | 98.6 | 0.22 | 98.0 | 0.33 | 99.0 | 0.50 | 99.1 | 0.35 |
|         | 3.03 | 98.7 | 0.41 | 98.4 | 0.50 | 99.0 | 0.62 | 99.3 | 0.60 |
|         | 4.55 | 98.3 | 0.46 | 98.1 | 0.56 | 99.0 | 0.32 | 99.0 | 0.34 |

Potentiometric titration: (Ns-ST) as ion-association and as titrant:

| Pure solutions | 3.03 | 100.9 | 0.19 | 102.2 | 0.11 | 100.7 | 0.33 | 101.1 | 0.13 |
|               | 6.06 | 101.3 | 0.22 | 102.5 | 0.31 | 100.3 | 0.21 | 101.5 | 0.22 |
|               | 9.09 | 101.5 | 0.26 | 102.0 | 0.33 | 100.5 | 0.14 | 100.9 | 0.61 |
3.8 Potentiometric monitoring of neostigmine tablet dissolution

The changes in the electrochemical potential readings for the dissolution medium caused by the dissolving amostigmine tablet 15 mg/tablet can be detected by the CW sensor monitors to the dissolution of the tablet. These changes of potential are converted into the concentration in % of dissolved Ns drug release via dedicated (“Potential measured in mV, to Concentration”). The results are comparison with subsequent another sample analysis using UV spectrophotometric. The releases shows that immediately ruptured of Ns tablet. Taking into account that the releasing was achieved the first during 15 min nearly 50% was released, followed by the second more than 74% drug was released according to USP6.

For the UV spectrophotometric assay, the dissolution medium were diluted with 0.01 M HCl, measured at λ max 261 nm and compared with a calibration graph. Fig 5 Shows the dissolution profiles of neostigmine tablet using both measurement techniques. The spectrophotometric and potentiometry are almost identical results but the use of the potentiometric method sensor, however, has the advantage of more sensitive due to overcome the matrix effect.

Fig. 5 Dissolution profile 15 mg neostigmine tablet obtained by Ag, Cu, G and GC with spectrophotometric measurement at 261 nm

4 Statistical treatments of results

The recoveries of the results for the determination of Ns drug by applying the calibration curve, standard additions method and the potentiometric titration were evaluated statistically and were compared to those values obtained with the (Official) pharmacopeia method by applying the F-tests7, 8. The values were obtained table 7 show that the CWS determination methods have a precision comparable to that of the pharmacopeia method. However, the CWS methods are more practical regarding consumption of solvents, time of analysis, and sample pretreatment requirements for official analysis of neostigmine bromide.
### Table 7: Statistical treatment of data obtained for the determination of neostigmine bromide applying the standard addition method and potentiometric titration using CW sensors in comparison with official methods

| Sample                          | Official method | Standard addition method | Potentiometric titration |
|---------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
|                                 |                | Ag           | Cu           | G            | GC           | Ns-ST/Ag (FIA) |
| Pure solutions                  |                | X±S.E.       | F value      | T value      | X±S.E.       | F value      | T value      |
|                                 |                | 99.8±0.2     | 1.75         | 2.47         | 101.3±0.2    | 2.42         | 1.36         |
|                                 |                | 99.7±0.5     | 2.61         | 2.33         | 100.0±0.5    | 2.78         | 1.97         |
|                                 |                | 98.5±0.5     | 99.2±0.5     | 1.84         | 98.5±0.5     | 99.5±0.5     | 1.87         |
|                                 |                | 99.2±0.5     | 2.45         | 2.22         | 101.5±0.5    | 2.65         | 1.46         |
|                                 |                | 99.6±0.6     | 2.55         | 1.65         | 101.0±0.5    | 2.18         | 1.69         |
|                                 |                | 99.2±0.5     | 2.55         | 1.35         | 100.5±0.5    | 2.55         | 1.37         |
| Amostigmine tablets (15 mg/tablet) |                | X±S.E.       | F value      | T value      | X±S.E.       | F value      | T value      |
|                                 |                | 101.3±0.2    | 2.42         | 1.36         | 101.0±0.5    | 2.76         | 1.86         |
|                                 |                | 101.0±0.5    | 2.33         | 1.97         | 102.0±0.5    | 2.78         | 1.97         |
|                                 |                | 102.0±0.5    | 2.65         | 1.46         | 101.5±0.5    | 2.65         | 1.46         |
|                                 |                | 101.5±0.5    | 2.18         | 1.69         | 99.5±0.5     | 2.55         | 1.37         |
|                                 |                | 101.0±0.5    | 2.55         | 1.35         | 101.0±0.5    | 2.55         | 1.37         |
| Spiked Urine                    |                | X±S.E.       | F value      | T value      | X±S.E.       | F value      | T value      |
|                                 |                | 99.6±0.07    | 2.73         | 1.87         | 99.0±0.5     | 2.62         | 1.54         |
|                                 |                | 99.5±0.5     | 2.92         | 1.87         | 98.5±0.5     | 2.92         | 1.54         |
|                                 |                | 98.5±0.5     | 4.11         | 1.37         | 99.5±0.5     | 4.11         | 1.37         |
|                                 |                | 98.5±0.5     | 2.55         | 1.35         | 99.5±0.5     | 2.55         | 1.35         |
|                                 |                | 100.5±0.5    | 2.55         | 1.35         | 101.5±0.5    | 2.55         | 1.35         |
| Amostigmine tablet (15 mg/tablet)|                | X±S.E.       | F value      | T value      | X±S.E.       | F value      | T value      |
|                                 |                | 101.3±0.2    | 2.42         | 1.36         | 101.0±0.5    | 2.76         | 1.86         |
|                                 |                | 101.0±0.5    | 2.33         | 1.97         | 102.0±0.5    | 2.78         | 1.97         |
|                                 |                | 102.0±0.5    | 2.65         | 1.46         | 101.5±0.5    | 2.65         | 1.46         |
|                                 |                | 101.5±0.5    | 2.18         | 1.69         | 99.5±0.5     | 2.55         | 1.37         |
|                                 |                | 101.0±0.5    | 2.55         | 1.35         | 101.0±0.5    | 2.55         | 1.37         |
| Amostigmine injection (0.5 mg/mL)|                | X±S.E.       | F value      | T value      | X±S.E.       | F value      | T value      |
|                                 |                | 99.6±0.07    | 2.73         | 1.87         | 99.0±0.5     | 2.62         | 1.54         |
|                                 |                | 99.5±0.5     | 2.92         | 1.87         | 98.5±0.5     | 2.92         | 1.54         |
|                                 |                | 98.5±0.5     | 4.11         | 1.37         | 99.5±0.5     | 4.11         | 1.37         |
|                                 |                | 98.5±0.5     | 2.55         | 1.35         | 99.5±0.5     | 2.55         | 1.35         |
|                                 |                | 100.5±0.5    | 2.55         | 1.35         | 101.5±0.5    | 2.55         | 1.35         |

X±S.E.: Recovery ± standard error, F- tabulated is 6.39 at 95.0% confidence limit, t- tabulated at 99.0% confidence limit and 6 degrees of freedom

### 5 Conclusions

Some important advantages for the proposed method have: The proposed potentiometric methods based on the construction of different selective CW sensors with ion exchangers in analytical characteristics for the determination of Neostigmine Bromide proved to be complete successfully a rapid, simple and low cost potentiometric method for the determination of Neostigmine in bulk solutions and in pharmaceutical preparations: it ensures a good for the neostigmine assay due to the
possibility to control the ion activity continuously and also a fast assay of Amostigmine tablets. The excellent recoveries and low relative standard deviations obtained reflect the high accuracy and precision of the proposed method. In addition, the method is easy to operate, high sensitivity, simple, fast static response; reasonable selectivity; long term stability and applicability over a wide concentration range.

6 Conflict of interests
The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

7 Authors’ contributions
AFK and YMI carried out research work and draft the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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