Abstract

A simple sensitive and reproducible spectrophotometric method have been developed for the determination of Salbutamol in pure form or in a tablet. The proposed method is based on the oxidation of hydroxyl group of Salbutamol with chromic acid. The green blue color of reduced Cr\(^{3+}\) ion were measured at \(\lambda_{\text{max}}\) 582 nm. Linearity was observed from 20 to 250 \(\mu\)g/ml with detection limit 10 \(\mu\)g/ml. the method is successfully employed for determination of salbutamol in pharmaceutical formulation. The proposed method offers the advantages of simplicity, reproducibility, rapidity and sensitivity without the need for extraction or chemical derivatization. The method described could be applied to routine quality control of tablets contain salbutamol. Statistical comparison of the results with the reference method shows an excellent agreement, and indicates no significant difference in accuracy and precision. The reliability of the methods has been ascertained by recovery studies.

Introduction

Salbutamol [1-(4-hydroxy-3-hydroxy-methyl phenyl) -2- (t - butylamino) ethanol] is a \(\beta_2\) adrenergic receptors agonist is a direct sympathomimetic with beta-adrenergic activity, used in treatment of bronchial asthma and other forms of allergic airways disease. It is also used as premature labor in pregnancy [1] and obstetrics for the prevention of premature labour and as nasal decongestant [2].
There are several different methods that have been proposed for the determination of Salbutamol in pharmaceutical dosage form[3]. Also it has been assayed by visible spectrophotometric methods based on oxidation[4,5], reduction[6], oxidative coupling[7], nitration[8], charge transfer complex formation[9], liquid chromatography[10], mass spectrometry [11], and flurometry[12] technique were also used.

In the present study, experimental conditions were established for the spectrophotometric determination of Salbutamol by employing Jones reagent[13] solution (CrO$_3$ in H$_2$SO$_4$) as oxidizing agent. The Jones oxidation was used to detect the presence of hydroxyl substituent that is on a carbon bearing at least one hydrogen. As the alcohol is oxidized, the solution changed from an orange-red color form to a blue to green color for the Cr$^{3+}$ ions.

The proposed method have the advantages of being rapid, simple, less time consuming and with a minimum amount of reagent have been used. Furthermore they do not use costly instrumentation.

**Experimental Apparatus:**
An T80 UV-Visible double beam spectrophotometer with 1 cm quartz cell was used for recording spectra and absorbing measurements.

**Chemicals:**
All reagents were of analytical grade, Salbutamol were supplied from Sammara Co. Salbutamol tablets were purchased from a local market. All water used was double distilled.

**Jones reagent:**
25 g of chromic anhydride (CrO$_3$) was poured slowly in 25 ml concentrated sulfuric acid with stirring in 75 ml of water. The deep orange solution was then cooled to room temperature[13].

**Construction of calibration curve:**
100 mg of Salbutamol was accurately weighted and dissolved in 100 ml of water to form a stock solution (1000 µg/ml). the stock solution was further diluted suitably with water to give a working standard solution of concentration (100 µg/ml). different aliquots of the working standard solution were taken in a series of 10 ml volumetric flasks containing 1 ml of Jones reagent and volume up with water to obtain standard solution contains 15 to 300 µg of Salbutamol. The standard solution and blank (1ml of Jones reagent diluted with water to 10 ml) was placed in water bath at 50 C for 10 min. the absorbance of these solutions were carries out against blank at 582 nm.

A calibration curve of Salbutamol was plotted. The concentration of the unknown was read from the calibration graph or computer from the regression equation.

**Determination of Absorption Maxima:**
Standard solution containing 150 µg was prepared as described above were scanned In the range 200 to 800 nm to determine the wavelength maxima absorption the solution showed absorbance maxima at 582 nm corresponding to Cr$^{3+}$ ions.

**Preparation of Dosage Form:**
Fifty tablets were weighted and finely powdered. A powdered amount equivalent to 50 mg was dissolved in water and filtered. The filtrate was made up to 100 ml and appropriate aliquots of the tablets solutions were treated as described in the recommended procedure for the pure sample.
Results and Discussions

**Determination of the Absorption Maxima:**
Salbutamole oxidized with Jones reagent at room temperature to give blue colored solution due to the formation of Cr$^{3+}$ ions. The reaction is rapid and color development is completed within 10 min. The intensity of the colored solution is completely stable and its absorbance did not significantly vary during 24 hr. The $\lambda_{max}$ of reaction products lies at 584 nm.

![Figure-1](image1.png)

**Figure-1:** Scan spectrum Curve of reaction mixture

**Effect of Temperature**
The color development was found to perform at room temperature 25°C within 4-8 min depending on the concentration of the solution. The intensity of the colored developed was measured each 2 min. It was found that the intensity of the color remained constant after 8 min. Therefore, the optimum reaction time was fitted to 10 min.

**Calibration Graph**
Calibration graphs were constructed by plotting the absorbance against the concentration of Salbutamol. Beer's law obeyed in the range 20 to 250 µg/ml with molar absorption coefficient of 0.00329 ml. µg$^{-1}$. cm$^{-1}$. Table 1 summarizes the characteristics and the results of statistical analysis of the experimental data.

![Figure 2](image2.png)

**Figure 2** Calibration curve of Salbutamol
Table 1 Optical and regression characteristics of the proposed method

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$\lambda_{\text{max}}$ (nm)</td>
<td>582</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beer's Law Limit (µg/ml) linear range</td>
<td>20-250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molar Absorptivity (ml. µg$^{-1}$. cm$^{-1}$)</td>
<td>0.00329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linear Regression equation</td>
<td>$A = 0.16557 + 0.00329 C$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correlation Coefficient ($r$)</td>
<td>0.999238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detection Limit (µg/ml)</td>
<td>0.037</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantitation Limit (µg/ml)</td>
<td>0.112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relative Standard Deviation RSD %</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The limit of detection (LOD) and quantitation (LOQ) were calculated using the following relation described by Ermer$^{(14)}$.

LOD = 3.3 $S_0/b$
LOQ = 10 $S_0/b$

Where $S_0$ is the standard deviation of the calibration curve and b is the slope.

Analytical Recovery

The accuracy of the proposed methods was also checked using recovery experiments through standard addition method by adding known amount of pure Salbutamol to preanalyzed dosage form. The mean recovery and RSD % values were in the range 99 to 104 and 0.6 - 3.2 %. The lower values of RSD % indicate the good precision and reproducibility of the method.

The RSD % values for the reproducibility and recovery studies shows that the method is precise and accurate.

Table 2 Results obtained in determination of Salbutamol in synthetic samples and tablets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample</th>
<th>Salb. Sulphate content (µg/ml)</th>
<th>Proposed Method</th>
<th>Official Method$^\text{b}$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Found (µg/ml)</td>
<td>% RE$^\phi$</td>
<td>Recovery ±% RSD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20.8</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>49.5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>82.0</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tablet</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$^\text{b}$British Pharmacopeia$^{15}$$^\phi$ RE=Relative Error

Conclusion

The proposed spectrophotometric method for the determination of Salbutamol is found to be simple, economical, precise, and sensitive. The proposed do not require any pretreatment of the drug and extraction procedure prior to its analysis and the color reaction does not require to any reagents or solvents with less reaction time. The statistical analysis show that the data from the proposed method are in good agreement with those of the reported method with good reproducibility and accuracy of the method.

References

2. A.G. Gilman, L.S. Goodman, T.W. Rall, and F. Murad, Goodman and Gilman's the Pharmacological