

## Articulation and Characterization of Hydrotropic Solid Dispersion of Vardenafil Hcl Trihydrate

Srishty Choudhary , Prof.(Dr.)Alok Mukerjee,Mr.Singh Shekhar Gautam  
 United Institute Of Pharmacy,Prayaraj,Uttar Pradesh

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**ABSTRACT:** Vardenafil is an oral treatment for erectile dysfunction. It is the selective inhibitor of cyclic guanosine monophosphate (CGMP) phosphodiesterase type 5 (PDE5). It is also used to lower pulmonary hypertension. It suffers from water insolubility and low bioavailability (15%) and falls under the Biopharmaceutical Classification System (BCS) Class II. The Hydrotropic Solid Dispersion Technique is a newly developed method that uses an aqueous solvent to prevent the use of an organic solvent and all together reduce their toxicity. Hydrotropic agents are water-soluble agents, when large amounts of hydrotropic agents occur in water, the drugs which are water-insoluble get dissolved.

**KEYWORDS:** vardenafil, hydrotropic solid dispersion, bioavailability, erectile dysfunction.

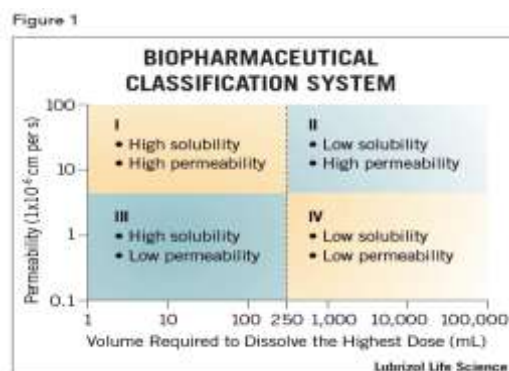
### I. INTRODUCTION

Many of the new chemical entity coming out of the invention have low bioavailability. Low bioavailability renders a drug functionless from a pharmacological point of view, necessarily requires a much higher dose. It can trigger significant side effects or cause problems in the treatment. Poor bioavailability also forces the formulator to choose the injection route rather than the oral

route. For good oral bioavailability the drug should be soluble in gastro-intestinal fluids, i.e. the drug should have aqueous solubility and good membrane penetration to reach the bloodstream. Poor aqueous solubility and high intra- and inter-subject variability are considered major barriers to poor oral bioavailability. Bioavailability can be increased by increasing the solubility and dissolution rate of the drug in gastro-intestinal fluids. Release from dosage form and solubility in gastric fluid of BCS Class III drugs is its rate limiting step, so by increasing solubility increases bioavailability for BCS class III drugs. Solubility is an important parameter in achieving the desired concentration of the drug in the systemic circulation for the drug reaction.[2]

### Biopharmaceutical classification system

The biopharmaceutical classification system (BCS) is an experimental model that measures permeability and solubility under defined conditions. The primary objective of the system is to assist in the control of postoperative changes and generics, allowing only when based on in-vitro data is appropriate.[5]



### **Hydrotrophy**

Hydrotrophy is one of the best methods to increase the aqueous solubility of the drug. It has a well-known ability to improve the solubility and solubility profile of hydrophobic drugs. This is a molecular phenomenon, where the addition of a second solvent (hydrotrope) helps to increase the solubility of water-insoluble drugs. The presence of a large amount of solvent in one solution only increases the solubility of the other solvent.[4]

### **Hydrotropic agents**

Hydrotropic agents are water-soluble agents. Salts or additives that increase solubility in given solvent are called "salt in" and those salts that decrease the solubility are called "salt out". Salts with large anions or cations which get itself soluble in water result in "salting in" of non-electrolytes and are called hydrotropic salts and phenomenon is known as hydrotropism. Hydrotrophy has both hydrophobic and hydrophilic fraction. The efficiency of hydrotropic solubility depends on the equilibrium between the hydrophobic and hydrophilic fractions. The improvement of aqueous solubility by hydrotrope depends on the molecular self-affiliation of the hydrotrophy with the solution molecules.[3]

### **Hydrotropic solid dispersion**

The Hydrotropic Solid Dispersion Technique is a newly developed method that uses an aqueous solvent to prevent the use of an organic solvent and all together reduce their toxicity. It is a novel, non-toxic and highly cost-effective technique for increasing the aqueous solubility of the substance and the bioavailability of water-insoluble drugs. Hydrotropic solid dispersion method prohibits the use of organic solvent for the preparation of solid dispersions. Hydrotropic agents are water-soluble, the drug is insoluble in water. However, when large amounts of hydrotropic agents occur in water, the drugs get dissolved. After that, the water evaporates by the appropriate evaporation method to obtain a solid mass, which is a solid dispersion. Then, the prepared solid dispersion can be referred to as a hydrotropic solid dispersion.[1]

## **II. METHODOLOGY:-**

### **DRUG NAME- Vardenafil hcl trihydrate**

#### **I] Preformulation studies**

Prior to the formulation process, determination of the characteristics of drug and excipients are done which may influence the process design and performance, which are known as preformulation studies. This study includes pH determination, melting point determination, solubility studies etc. [1]

#### **II] Solubility study**

10 mg of drug (Vardenafil hcl trihydrate) was taken and dissolved in 10 ml of various solvents. And was observed visually.

#### **III] Melting point analysis**

10 mg of drug was taken in capillary tube and melting point was analysed using melting point apparatus.

#### **IV] Physical identification**

Physical identification of the drug Vardenafil hcl trihydrate was done visually.

#### **V] pH determination**

pH of the drug was determined by using digital pH meter.

#### **VI] Calibration curve**

10 mg of VRD hcl trihydrate was weighed and taken into volumetric flask of 100 ml and was dissolved in 0.1N HCl and volume was made up to 100 ml to get 100 microg/ml of VRD hcl trihydrate. The solution was ultrasonicated for 10-20 minutes and then filtered through 0.2 micrometer membrane filter paper. Samples were diluted in series using 0.1N HCl. Then absorbance was taken at 245 nm using UV spectrophotometer.

#### **VII] Drug identification**

Drug (Vardenafil hcl trihydrate) identification was done by using FTIR.

#### **VIII] Formulation of hydrotropic solid dispersion**

Preheat 20 ml of distilled water at 70°C using hot plate magnetic stirrer. Hydrotropic agents (Sodium benzoate + Sodium citrate + Sodium salicylate) were added slowly and was allowed to dissolve completely in distilled water, then drug was added to the hydrotropic water mixture and was stirred using magnetic bead on magnetic stirrer at room temperature for 2-3 hrs till the solvent gets evaporated completely and semi-solid mass was obtained. Then obtained semi-solid mass was dried in oven at temperature

After 24 hrs. After drying, obtained solid mass was crushed and triturated using pestle-mortar and was passed through sieve

no.60, then was stored in glass ampoules and was kept in charged desiccator to prevent any contamination.

**Composition & codes of vardenafil hydrotropic solid dispersion (%w/w)**

**Table i: Formula codes and components**

COMPONENTS	FORMULA CODES		
	F1	F2	F3
Vardenafil hcl trihydrate	20	20	20
Sodium Salicylate	2	4	4
Sodium benzoate	2	4	7
Sodium citrate	1	2	4
Distilled Water	QS	QS	QS

**IX] Physical appearance of hydrotropic solid dispersion**

Prepared hydrotropic solid dispersion was examined visually for color, texture and other physical properties.

**X] Drug content analysis**

The drug content was calculated by using the slope and intercept obtained by linear regression analysis of standard calibration curve.

**IXI] In-vitro drug release study**

Franz diffusion cell was used for studying in-vitro drug release, HSD sample equivalent to 20 mg of vardenafil hcl trihydrate was applied on dialysis membrane which was placed between donor and receptor compartment of the Franz diffusion cell. 0.1N HCL was used as dissolution media. Hot water was circulating in water jacket and the temperature was maintained at 37°C, with the help of magnetic bead the whole assembly was fixed on a magnetic stirrer. A similar blank set was run simultaneously as a control.

5 ml samples were withdrawn at predetermined time intervals 5, 10, 15, 20, 30, 45 and 60 min and was replaced using same amount of fresh media for each time point. Suitable dilution were done of the withdrawn sample and then was analyzed by UV-spectrophotometer. Mean value of cumulative % release of vardenafil hcl trihydrate after 60 minutes was determined.

**XII] Scanning electron microscopy study**

For characterizing materials, SEM is a useful tool. For observing the surface

phenomenon of the material, a multipurpose state of the art instrument i.e. SEM is employed. To investigate solid state physical structure of prepared hydrotropic solid dispersion SEM was used. SEM images of vardenafil hcl trihydrate and its HSD were obtained using a Nova NanoSEM 450 with accelerating voltage 15 kv.

**XIII] Fourier transform infra-red spectroscopy**

For identification of functional groups present in the compound, FTIR is the most important tool. The IR spectra are the fingerprints of the functional groups present in the compound having specific vibrations. The FTIR spectra obtained helps to identify the interactions between the drug and the carrier..

**XIV] X-ray diffraction study**

Constructive interference of monochromatic X-rays and a crystalline sample is the basis of XRD. Identification of materials based on their diffraction pattern is the primary use of XRD analysis. It also gives information about the deviation of actual structure from ideal one due to internal stress and defects.

**III. RESULT**

**I] Preformulation study**

**i] Solubility study**

The solubility of vardenafil HCL trihydrate was studied in different types of solvents shown below:-

**Table 1:- solubility of vardenafil hcl trihydrate:**

Solvents	Solubility
Light liquid paraffin	+++
Propyleneglycol	+
Ethanol	+++
Methyl paraben	+
Benzene	+
Water	-

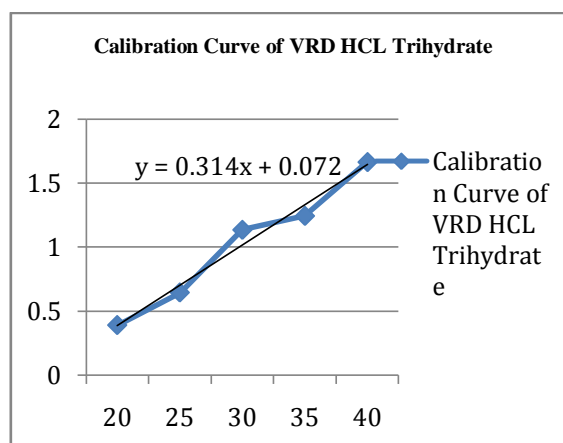
In liquid paraffin, VRD hcl trihydrate was found highly soluble and in ethanol, less soluble in propylene glycol, methyl paraben and benzene and insoluble in water.

**ii) Calibration curve of vardenafil hcl trihydrate**

Absorbance obtained at different diluted concentration are shown below in Table 2

**Table 2:- Absorbance of vardenafil hcl trihydrate at different concentration**

Concentration (mcg/ml)	Absorbance
20	0.391
25	0.646
30	1.136
35	1.245
40	1.666



**Fig 1:- Calibration graph of vardenafil hcl trihydrate**

**iii) Determination of pH and melting point**

Reported and observed value of pH and melting point of VRD hcl trihydrate are shown below in Table 3.

**Table 3:- pH and melting point of vardenafil hcl trihydrate**

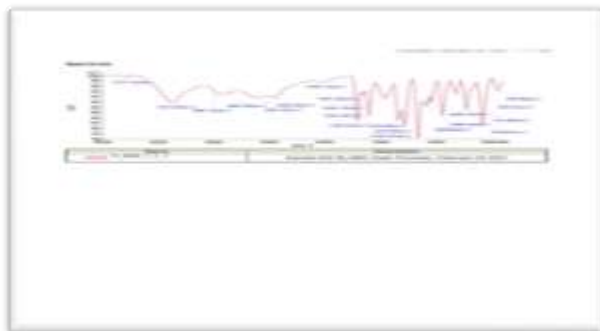
Parameter	Reported Range	Observed range	Observed Range
Melting Point	230 - 235°C	232°C - 234°C	229°C - 232°C
pH	7.3	7.2	7.2

**II) Drug identification**

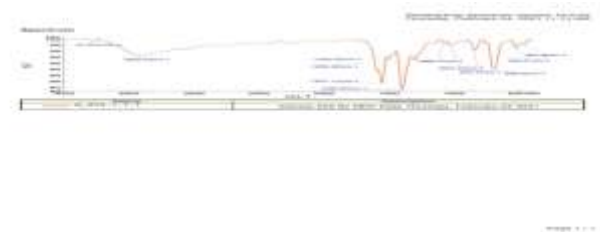
**a) FTIR spectroscopy**

The identification of drug was carried out by using FTIR testing. The FTIR spectrogram of

drug (varденафил hcl trihydrate ) and HSD of vardenafil hcl trihydrate are shown in Fig 2 and Fig 3 respectively.



**Fig 2:-FTIR spectra of vardenafil hcl trihydrate**



**Fig 3:-FTIR spectra of hydrochloride salt of vardenafil hcl trihydrate**

IR- spectra (bonds and frequencies) of drug and sample are shown in table 4 and table 5 respectively.

**Table 4:- FTIR spectra readings of vardenafil hcl trihydrate**

Bonds	Frequency(cm-1)
N-H stretch	3777.10
N-H stretch	3373.69
C-H stretch	2941.12
	2867.65
Hydroxyl stretch	2597.20
C aromatic ring stretch	2454.48
	2040.14
N-H Bending	1657.03
C=C aromatic stretch	1600.39
	1657.03
Aromatic C-C ring stretch	1454.13
O=C stretch	1706.44
Aromatic C-N stretch	1336.08
	1279.66
C-O stretch	1156.31
	1036.73
	1085.43

**Table 5:- iFTIR ispectra ireadings iof ihydrotropic isolid idispersion iof ivardenafil ihcl itrihydrate**

Bonds	Frequency i(cm-1)
N-H istrech	3777.10
N-H istrech	3373.69
C-H istrech	2941.12 2867.65
Hydroxyl istrech	2597.20
C iAromatic iring istrech	2454.48 2040.14
N-H iBending	1657.03
C=C i iaromatic istrech	1600.39 1657.03
Aromatic iC-C iring istrech	1454.13
O=C istrech	1706.44
Aromatic iC-N istretch	1336.08 1279.66
C-O i istrech	1156.31 1036.73 1085.43
NH-C=O i(N-H iBending)	1551.71 1495.02

### III]iPhysical examination

#### i) iAppearance:

The iprepared iHSD iof ivardenafil ihcl itrihydrate iwere iinspected ivisually ifor icolor,consistency iand ihomogeneity. i,which iis ishown ibelow iin iTable 6

**Table 6:- iCharacteristicsiappearance iof i formulation i**

Formulat ion	Color	Consistency	Homogeneity
F1	Offwhite	+	++
F2	White i	+++	+++
F3	White	++	+++

### IV] iDrug icontent ianalysis

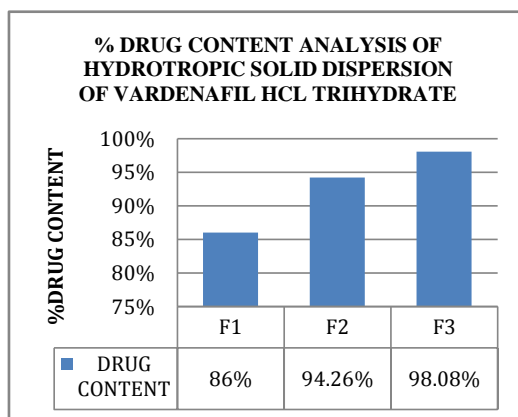
The idrug icontent iw as icalculated iby iusing islope iand iintercept iobtained iby ilinear iregression ianalysis iof istandard icalibration icurve, iw hich iis ishown iin iTable 7

**Table7: iDrug icontent iof ihydrotropic isolid idispersion iformulations iof ivardenafil ihcl itrihydrate ifrom if1 ito if3 iare igiven ibelow:**

Batch no.	Concentration of hydrotropic agents (%w/w)	%Drug icontent(mcg/ml)
F1	5%	86%
F2	10%	94.26%
F3	15%	98.08%

The drug content of HSD formulations was found to be maximum in formulation F3.

**Fig4:-Graph showing % drug content of HSD of vardenafil HCl trihydrate**



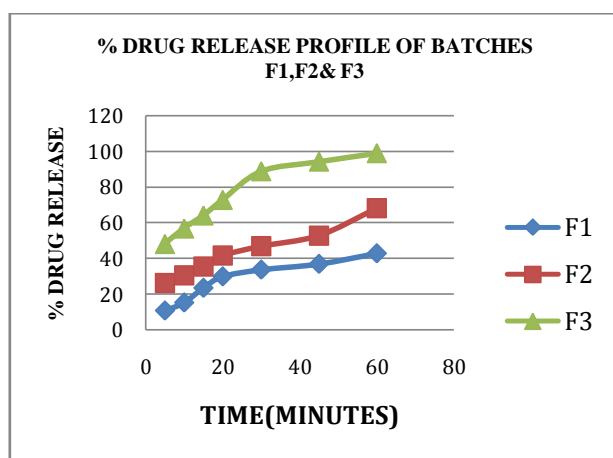
**V]In-vitro drug release study**

Data for in-vitro cumulative % drug release from formulation F1 to F3 are as follows in Table 8

**Table 8:- % in-vitro drug release profile**

Time(min)	F1	F2	F3
5	10.82	26.28	48.14
10	15.3	30.5	56.79
15	23.5	35.7	64.08
20	29.9	41.5	72.16
30	33.7	46.79	88.8
45	36.9	52.80	94.8
60	42.8	68.02	98.90

Highest % cumulative drug release was found to be 98.90% at 60 minutes in



**Fig 5:-Graph showing % drug release profile of batches F1,F2,F3**

**VI]Scanning electron microscopy study**

SEM images of drug and prepared HSD of vardenafil shown in Fig 6 and Fig 7

describes that hydrotropic solid dispersion of vardenafil showed rod like shape but there is no distinguishable shape in SEM images of

drug ivardenafil, suggesting total miscibility of

ivardenafil hcl trihydrate with the carrier.

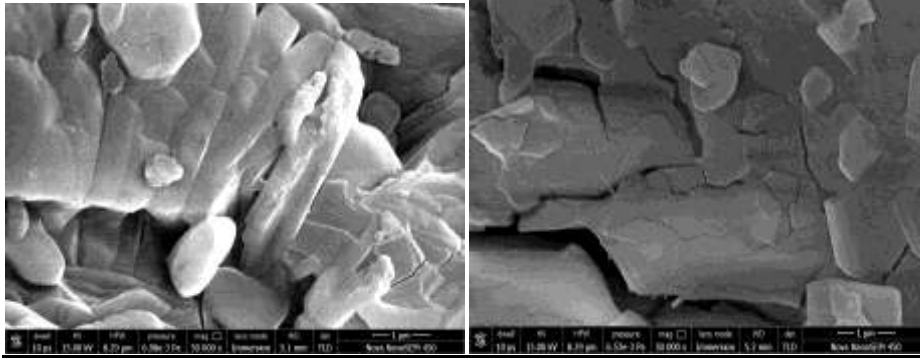


Fig 16:- SEM image of ivardenafil hcl trihydrate

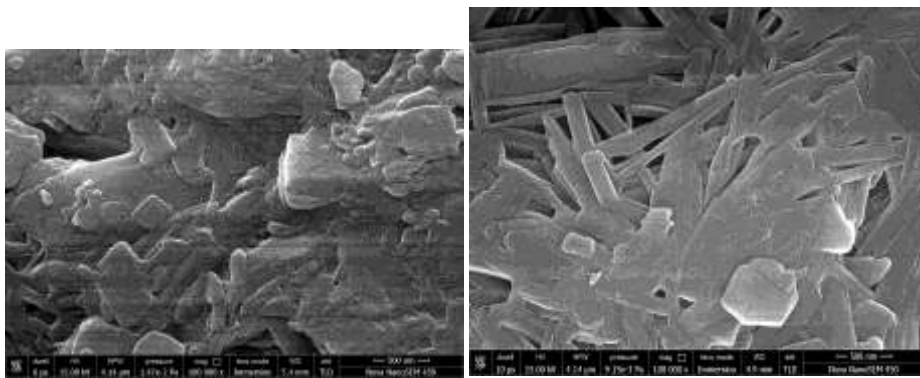


Fig 7:-SEM image of hydroalcoholic dispersion of ivardenafil hcl trihydrate

**VIII X-ray diffraction study**

X-ray diffractogram of ivardenafil hcl trihydrate and its hydroalcoholic dispersion is obtained and are given below in fig 8 & fig 9 respectively, XRD data showed same peaks at 2 theta at particular degrees which are

characteristics of pure ivardenafil hcl trihydrate. Therefore, it can be presumed that formation of HSD does not cause any physical and chemical interaction between ivardenafil hcl trihydrate and hydroalcoholic agents.

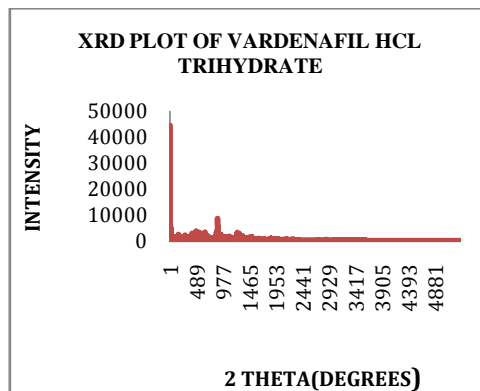


Fig 8:-XRD plot of ivardenafil hcl trihydrate



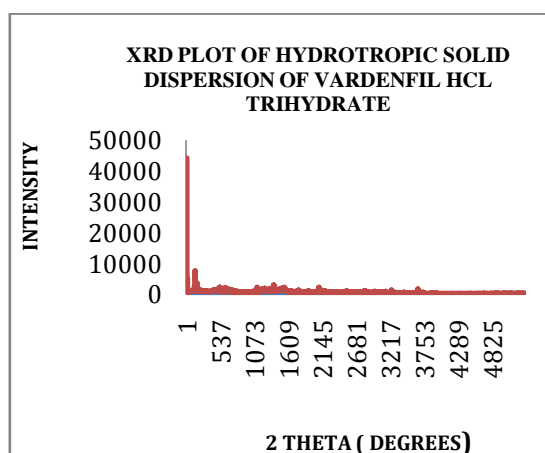


Fig 9:-XRD plot of hydrotropic solid dispersion of vardenafil hcl trihydrate

#### IV. CONCLUSION

In drug I formulation and development, solubility of the drug is the most important parameter. To achieve desired solubility with good oral bioavailability, lower dose frequency, good patient compliance and lower cost production, hydrotropy is a novel technique is employed with solid dispersion technique which showed magical enhancement in solubility.

Vardenafil hcl trihydrate is the salt form of vardenafil, which is used in the treatment of erectile dysfunction. The hydrotropic solid dispersion of vardenafil hcl trihydrate was formulated successfully by mixing of hydrotropic agents (sodium benzoate, sodium citrate and sodium salicylate) with distilled water and then drug was incorporated, formulated batches showed granular white appearance. The prepared HSD of VHT showed excellent physical and chemical stability which was evaluated in SEM testing, XRD and FTIR study. Cumulative % release data revealed the formulation of 3 (15%) was the optimum formulation which showed 98.9% drug release after 1 hr.

According to the results obtained from FTIR, SEM and XRD studies which were used to study interaction between drug and excipients, there is compatibility between drug and HSDs. Hence, it was concluded on the basis of result of evaluation that Hydrotropic solid dispersion will be the solution to the problem of bioavailability and aqueous insolubility of class II drugs as well as other class of drugs having problem with

bioavailability and aqueous insolubility without any alteration in physical and chemical property of the drug. Thus, due to cost effectiveness, novel and safe, hydrotropic solid dispersion technique showed a future promising tool for enhancing the solubility of the poorly water soluble drugs having low bioavailability.

- **Advantages of hydrotropic solid dispersion technique**
- It prevents the use of organic solvents and thus avoids residual toxicity, instability, cost etc.
- It is a new, simple, cost-effective, safe, accurate, accurate and environmentally friendly method for the analysis of poorly water-soluble drugs using titrimetric and spectrophotometric
- It requires mixing of drug with hydrotropes in water.
- Hydrotropy has been suggested to be better than another solubility method, such as micellar solubilization, co-solvency and is the solvent character is independent of pH and has a high selectivity and does not require emulsification.
- It does not require chemical modification of hydrophobic drugs

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