

Deferiprone: A review of Analytical methods

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ABSTRACT

Deferiprone is an iron chelating agent, used as second line agent during thalassemia disorder. Thalassemias are form of genetic anemia which occurs due to deficiency in hemoglobin production. It is generally selective to iron than some other metals like zinc, aluminum and copper. Deferiprone drug is absorbed in the upper gastro intestinal tract where absorption is fast with high plasma concentrations arising after two hours in fed state and one hour in fasted state. More than half of deferiprone drug is detached through plasma in 5-6 hours of administration. Determinations are categorized into different analytical methods that are used. Efforts are taken to collect all related articles published till May 2021. This article covers analytical methods that are reported so far for estimation of deferiprone in pharmaceutical preparations and biological samples. They include various techniques like spectrophotometry, High performance liquid chromatography, Liquid chromatography-mass spectroscopy and electrochemical methods. The techniques discussed in this review follow the ICH guidelines for method validation.

I. INTRODUCTION

Deferiprone is chemically 3-hydroxy-1, 2-dimethylpyridin-4(1H)-one. It is sparingly soluble in water and methanol and slightly soluble in ethanol and chloroform. The molecular formula is $C_7H_9NO_2$ and molecular weight is 139.152 g/mol. Deferiprone drug is an oral iron chelator, mostly used as second line agent in thalassemia disorder during iron overload that occurs after blood transfusions. Basically thalassemias are form of genetic anemia which is generally due to deficiency in hemoglobin production. As a result, erythropoiesis, the production of new red blood cells, is impaired. Deferiprone normally binds to the ferric ions and also forms 3:1 (deferiprone: iron) stable complex, later then eliminated through urine. It is generally selective to iron than some

metals like zinc, aluminium and copper having lesser attraction for deferiprone. [1]

Deferiprone belongs to alpha-ketohydroxypyridines family which is a comparatively new class of chelating agents. Deferiprone can eliminate extra iron from different parts of the body of iron-loaded patients, including the liver and the heart. The drug is used worldwide to treat leukemia, hemodialysis, cancer and some other diseases.

Deferiprone is absorbed in the upper gastro intestinal tract (GIT). Basically absorption is fast with extreme plasma concentrations arising after 2 hrs in fed state and 1 hour in fasted state. It is usually metabolized by using UGT1A6 to 3-O-glucuronide which cannot chelate the iron. More than 90% of deferiprone is removed through plasma in 5-6 hours of administration. 75 to 90% deferiprone drug is eliminate in urine as metabolite. [2]

UV SPECTROSCOPIC METHOD

It is the cheapest and easiest working analytical tool available used in the pharmaceutical laboratories and research. The analytical applications of the UV spectroscopy are qualitative and quantitative estimation. There are various spectrophotometric techniques which are used in the pharmaceutical world for the analysis of the pharmaceutical ingredients. [3]

In the literature 5 methods were reported for the estimation of deferiprone using spectrophotometry. Table 1 shows the summary of reported spectroscopic methods indicating basic principle, wavelength, solvent and results.

Reliable UV spectroscopic technique has been established for quantitative determination of Deferiprone. Deferiprone was exposed to stress degradation recommended by the standard guidelines. Deferiprone displays maximum absorbance at wavelength of 279nm and also calibration graph shows linearity in range 5-25 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ using 0.9997 correlation co-efficient. The higher proportion of recovery indicates that no

interference of excipients. Stability study specifies appreciable variations were seen by treating the drug with acidic as well as basic hydrolysis and with oxidation. [4]

To develop First Order derivative spectrophotometric way for determination of deferiprone and validate the method by ICH guidelines is reported. Method is passed using Distilled water as solvent with absorption wavelength set at 270nm. Linearity was proven over the range of 2-10 µg/ml where correlation coefficient was about 0.9998. The results been validated statistically plus recovery studies confirmed the accuracy of method. [1]

Spectrophotometric approaches for estimation of three drugs along with deferiprone were developed based on oxidation by KMnO₄. Initial rate and also fixed time process are used for construction of calibration curves in the range 4-24 µg/ml for deferiprone. Recovery studies by pure samples and formulations have been done. Excellent recoveries specify that approaches are accurate as well as precise. Methods been validated by ICH guidelines. [5]

Spectrophotometric method was developed for deferiprone in its dosage form. The solvent and wavelength were optimized to maximize sensitivity method. The method was validated for different factors like linearity, precision, accuracy, limit of detection and limit of quantitation as per ICH guidelines. Maximum absorption of Deferiprone was monitored at 278nm. The method was linear in the range of 2 to 12µg/ml with a correlation coefficient of 0.999. The accuracy was studied and % recovery was found to be 101.07%. The method is modest, accurate and needs inexpensive instrument. [6]

A precise spectrometric method including Area under curve has been developed in bulk and capsule form for estimation of deferiprone. Four UV spectrometric methods were carried out for deferiprone by using double beam UV spectrophotometer. Deferiprone with distilled water shows maximum absorbance at 278 nm. Deferiprone obeys Beer Lambert's law in range of 2-10 µg/ml. By proposed method % recovery found to be 98-101%. %RSD indicates precise nature of method. [7]

Table No.1 UV SPECTROSCOPIC METHOD

| Sr.no | Method | Matrix | Detection | Solvent | Linearity, LOD, LOQ (µg/ml) | Reference |
|-------|--|-----------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|---|-----------|
| 1 | Stability indicating UV Spectroscopy | Bulk and formulation | 279 nm | water | Linearity: 5-25 LOD: 0.1123 LOQ: 0.3404 | [4] |
| 2 | First Order derivative spectrophotometric method | Bulk and capsule form | 270 nm | water | Linearity: 2-10 LOD: 0.150 LOQ: 0.455 | [1] |
| 3 | Kinetic spectrophotometry | Bulk drug and capsule | 610 nm | Water, KMnO ₄ , NaOH | Linearity: 4-24 LOD: 1.324 LOQ: 4.01 | [5] |
| 4 | UV Spectroscopic Assay Method | Bulk and formulation | 278 nm | Water and ethanol | Linearity: 2-12 LOD: 0.18083 LOQ: 0.547 | [6] |
| 5 | Area under curve spectrophotometric method | Bulk and capsule | 278 nm | water | Linearity: 2-10 | [7] |

High Performance Liquid Chromatography

Liquid Chromatography is now one of the most powerful tool in analytical chemistry. It has the ability to separate, identify and quantify the compounds that are present in any sample that can be dissolved in a liquid. HPLC is the most accurate analytical method widely used for the quantitative as well as qualitative analysis of drug product and used for determining drug product stability. [8]

Analytical methods for the determination of deferiprone in pharmaceutical dosage form using HPLC are shown in table 2

HPLC method was used for quantification of deferiprone in human plasma using UV/VIS detector. Chromatographic separation was carried out on C₁₈ column, with a mobile phase of methanol-buffer (18:82, v/v), pH 3.5 and caffeine was used as an internal standard. The calibration curve was linear over the range 0.25-10 µg/mL in human plasma. The deferiprone plasma concentration showed a rapid absorption and average area under the plasma concentration-time curve (AUC) of deferiprone was 17.0 ± 1.23 h.µg/mL. Average absorption and elimination half-life values of deferiprone of 24 volunteers were 0.62 ± 0.12 and 2.65 ± 0.43 hours. This study confirms the rapid absorption of deferiprone in humans. [9]

The objective of the study was to develop a simple, accurate, precise and rapid RP-HPLC method and subsequently validate as per ICH guidelines for the determination of Deferiprone using mobile phase [mixture of Phosphate buffer pH-3.6 and methanol in the ratio of 20:80 v/v] as the solvent. The retention time of Deferiprone was found to be 5.404 at 280 nm. The linearity of the proposed method was investigated in the range of 10-50 µg/ml and regression was found to be (R²= 0.9998). The method was statistically validated for its linearity, accuracy and precision. [10]

A method was developed for deferiprone where separation was done using column C₁₈ with mobile phase entails water and acetonitrile in ratio of 55:45v/v ratio. The detection wavelength was 280 nm with flow rate of 1 ml/min and temperature of 30°C. The method been validated as per standard guidelines. In range of 10- 50µg/ml, linearity of Deferiprone shows R²= 0.999 and precision was found in % RSD to be 0.70. The mean recovery were 98.40 %.[11]

A method was developed for the estimation of deferiprone in formulation by using RP-HPLC. The separation was carried on Inertsil ODS C18, 250x 4.6mm, 5µm i.d. column using mobile phase as 60 volumes of Mixed Phosphate buffer (KH₂PO₄+K₂HPO₄) and 40 volumes of methanol. Detection was 280nm using PDA detector. The process found to be validated for accuracy, precision, specificity, linearity and sensitivity. Stability studies reported absence of impurities at the peak retention time. The drug was steady to different situations like alkali, thermal, acidic and photolytic condition. [12]

RP-HPLC method was developed for Deferiprone in pure form. Acetonitrile and 0.1% formic acid (70: 30 v/v) as mobile phase during the method development at 280 nm. Retention time was 3.942 min. Method was validated by using ICH guidelines. In the range of 10µg/mL to 60µg/mL, linearity of Deferiprone shows a R²=0.999. Precision study found of 1.77 (%RSD). Percentage mean recovery of Deferiprone was found to be 100.34%. [13]

LC method is described for the determination of Deferiprone. Chromatographic separation was achieved on a c18 column using mobile phase consisting of a mixture of Triethylamine: ACN (50:50v/v), with detection of 280 nm. Linearity was detected in the range 125-375 µg/ml (R² =0.994). The accuracy of the methods was assessed at three different levels by recovery studies. By the repeatability analysis and showing %RSD less than 2, this indicates the method to be precise. [2]

Table No. High Performance Liquid Chromatography Method

| Sr. no | Method | Matrix | Stationary phase | Mobile phase | Detection | Result (µg/ml) | Ref |
|--------|------------------------|--------|--|-------------------------------------|-----------|---|-----|
| 1 | Bio Analytical RP-HPLC | Plasma | C ₁₈ Discovery Supelco (250 x 4.6; 5µm) | Methanol-buffer(pH 3.5) 18:82 (v/v) | 280 nm | Linearity: 0.25-10 LOD: 0.1 LOQ: 0.25 | [9] |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|------------------------------|------------------|---|--|--------|--|------|
| 2 | RP-HPLC | Capsule | C ₁₈ (250 x 4.6; 5µm) | Phosphate buffer(pH3.6)-methanol 20:80 (v/v) | 280 nm | Linearity: 10-50 LOD: 132.17 LOQ: 400.53 | [10] |
| 3 | RP-HPLC | Bulk and capsule | C ₁₈ Phenomenxlu na column | Water – ACN 55:45 (v/v) | 280 nm | Linearity: 10-50 LOD:0.0659 LOQ:0.199 | [11] |
| 4 | Stability indicating RP-HPLC | Capsule | C ₁₈ Inertsil ODS (250 x 4.6; 5µm) | Mixed phosphate buffer (KH ₂ PO ₄ + K ₂ HPO ₄) pH 3.0, methanol 60:40 (v/v) | 280 nm | Linearity: 75–125 LOD: 3.9 LOQ: 11.8 | [12] |
| 5 | RP-HPLC | Pure drug | C ₁₈ Phenomenex Luna (250x4.6 mm; 5µ) | Acetonitrile and 0.1% formic acid 70: 30 (v/v) | 280 nm | Linearity:10-60 LOD: 2.40 LOQ: 7.28 | [13] |
| 6 | RP-HPLC | Bulk and capsule | Inertsil column,C ₁₈ (150x4.6 ID; 5µm) | Triethylamine buffer (pH 3.5): ACN 50:50(v/v), | 280 nm | Linearity: 125-375 | [2] |

LC-MS

It is one of the hyphenated technique uses for the determination of chemical entity.It separates chemicals on basis of mass to charge ratio.There are only two method reported for determination of deferiprone given in table 3

LC-MS/MS assay for the deferiprone estimation in the human plasma. To attain protein precipitation,analytes were extracted using acetonitrile. Separation was done using a Synergi Fusion-RP 80A column. Mobile phase composed of

methanol plus 0.2% formic acid holding 0.2 mM EDTA (60:40, v/v) with flow rate set for 0.8 mL/min. Validation was estimated for linearity, recovery, precision, stability and accuracy.[14]

For affinity studies,sensitive techniques were established for estimation of metal bound deferiprone. The method being carried on monolithic column with mobile phase having ammonium formate solution, water and methanol. Identification was attained on single quadrupole mass spectrometer. [15]

Table No 3. LC-MS Method

| Sr.no | Matrix | Stationary phaase | Mobile phase | Result | Reference |
|-------|-----------|--|--|--|-----------|
| 1 | Plasma | Synergi Fusion-RP 80A column (4 mm, 150 × 4.6 mm i.d.; Phenomenex, USA). | methanol and 0.2% formic acid containing 0.2mM EDTA (60:40 v/v), | Linearity: 0.1-20 µg/ml LOD: 0.05 µg/ml | [14] |
| 2 | Bulk drug | monolithic column Chromolith | ammonium formate so lution (pH 7.4; 10 mM), H ₂ O, | Linearity: 0.5–17.5 mM LOD:17.7 µM LOQ:53.8 µM | [15] |

| | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--------------|--|--|
| | | | and methanol | | |
|--|--|--|--------------|--|--|

ELECTROCHEMICAL METHOD

In electrochemical method, voltametry, spectrofluometry and potentiometry methods has been developed for determination of deferiprone shown in table 4

The deferiprone was examined on modified carbon nanotube glassy carbon electrode inwith pH7.4 in phosphate buffer. Voltammetric study specified that oxidation method is diffusion controlled and irreversible. In electro-oxidation procedure, amount of the exchanged electrons was gained and data specified that deferiprone was oxidized through two-electron stages. The results exposed that the carbon nanotube helps the oxidation rate by increase in peakcurrent. Thus deferiprone will be oxidized at lesser potentials which are mostly thermodynamically favorable. This result has been confirmed using impedance measurements. A sensitive differential-pulse voltammetric method was established for study of deferiprone. [16]

A very rapid fluorometric technique have been reported for estimation of deferiprone drug in serum samples and urine. This technique is built on development of luminescent compound by Tb3+ ion and assessed in terms of validation parameters.

Relative intensities are linear at 545nm, with range of 0.072–13 mmol/L. The result values are all less than 5% for precision whereas accuracy is in range 97.1–103.8%. The method can be effectively applied to deferiprone determination in serum samples and urine. [17]

Fluorometric technique for deferiprone determination was develop. Method was built on development of luminescent compound with Tb3+. Determined emission and excitation wavelengths were 545 and 295 nm individually. The validation outcomes specify that at 545 nm this relative intensity has linear connection with concentration of drug. Precision results were lesser than 5% and also recovery results were within the standard limit. [18]

Selective potentiometric method was developed for deferiprone. Method is built on fabricating a PVC membrane sensor that helps to estimate the studied drug. The method was linear over range of 10-2-10-5 M with a nernstian slope of 58.4mV. The accuracy and precision of the technique was found to be within the standard limits. Besides, the methods were statistically associated to a reported method. [19]

Table No.4. Electrochemical Method

| Sr.no | Method | Matrix | Solvent | Linearity and LOD | Reference |
|-------|--------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|---|-----------|
| 1 | Electrochemical (voltametric method) | Bulk form | phosphate buffer solution pH 7.40 | LOD: 5.25×10^{-7} M. LOQ: 1.75×10^{-6} M | [16] |
| 2 | fluorometric method | urine and serum | water | Linearity 0.072–13 mmol/L , The LOD and LOQ: 0.014 and 0.045 mmol/L for urine and 0.022 and 0.072 mmol/L for serum samples. | [17] |
| 3 | fluorometric method | Tablet form | water | Linearity: 7.2×10^{-9} to 1.4×10^{-5} M LOD and LOQ: 6.3×10^{-9} and 2.1×10^{-8} M | [18] |
| 4 | potentiometric method w | Bulk and capsule | potassium chloride buffer pH (2.0) | Linearity: 10^{-5} - 10^{-2} M, LOD: 3.3×10^{-6} | [19] |

II. CONCLUSION

There are varieties of techniques available for deferiprone analysis in biological samples and formulations. Deferiprone an iron chelator, used for treatment of thalassemia. In present review, different analytical approaches are used for analysis study of deferiprone. Numerous practices like HPLC, UV-Spectroscopy, LC-MS and electrochemical has been performed for assessment of deferiprone drug in plasma, bulk and formulation. Review study reveals that most common method for identification plus quantification for deferiprone is HPLC. UV-Spectroscopy methods mostly used for analysis purpose of bulk and formulation whereas LC-MS only practiced for biological fluids used for detection plus quantification of drug content in plasma. The present review article reveals that there is not a single article performed for HPTLC analysis. This review give information which is useful for future study for researcher involved in formulation development and quality control of deferiprone.

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