

QBD-Enabled HPLC Method Development and Validation for the Simultaneous Estimation of Benserazide and Levodopa in Pharmaceutical Dosage Forms

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Abstract:

This study presents the development and validation of a high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) method for the simultaneous estimation of Benserazide and Levodopa in pharmaceutical formulations. A Box-Behnken response surface design was employed to systematically optimize key chromatographic parameters, including mobile phase composition, buffer pH, and flow rate. Statistical analysis revealed that flow rate significantly influenced resolution, while buffer pH and organic phase ratio affected peak tailing. The optimized method utilized a SPURCIL C18 column (250×4.6 mm, 5 μm) with a mobile phase of ammonium acetate buffer (pH 5.0) and methanol in a 70:30 ratio, at a flow rate of 1.0 ml/min and UV detection at 220 nm. The system suitability parameters resolution >2, tailing factor <2, and theoretical plates >2000 confirmed the method's efficiency and reliability. Validation was conducted in accordance with ICH Q2(R1) guidelines, demonstrating excellent accuracy, precision, linearity, sensitivity, and robustness. Recovery rates for Benserazide and Levodopa were within the acceptable range of 98–102%, with %RSD values below 2% for both repeatability and intermediate precision. Linearity was observed over the ranges of 10–50 μg/ml for Benserazide and 40–200 μg/ml for Levodopa, with correlation coefficients of 0.9997 and 0.9998, respectively. The method exhibited low limits of detection and quantification, confirming its sensitivity. Robustness testing showed consistent performance under minor variations in chromatographic conditions. Overall, the developed HPLC method is reliable, reproducible, and suitable for routine quality control of Benserazide and Levodopa in combined pharmaceutical dosage forms.

Keywords: HPLC, Benserazide, Levodopa, ammonium acetate buffer, system suitability, ICH Q2(R1), linearity, precision, accuracy, LOD, LOQ

Introduction

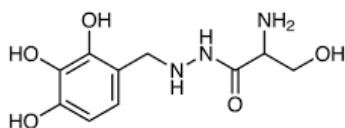


Fig.1: Benserazide

Basic Information

IUPAC Name: (S)-2-amino-3-(3,4-dihydroxyphenyl)propanoic acid

Molecular Formula: C₉H₁₁NO₄

Molecular Weight: 197.19 g/mol

Category: Central nervous system agent, Antiparkinsonian agent

Physical Properties

Melting Point: 275-280°C (decomposes)

pKa: 2.32 (carboxyl group), 9.74 (amino group)

Solubility

Solubility: Soluble in water; slightly soluble in ethanol; insoluble in chloroform and ether.

Description

Levodopa is a precursor to dopamine, used primarily in the treatment of Parkinson's disease. It is often administered in combination with carbidopa to enhance its efficacy and reduce side effects.

Mechanism of Action

Levodopa is converted to dopamine in the brain, replenishing the depleted levels of dopamine in patients with Parkinson's

disease. This helps alleviate symptoms such as tremors, stiffness, and slowness of movement.

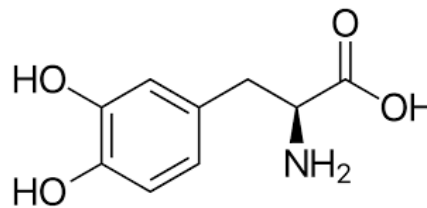


Fig.2: Levodopa

Basic Information

• **IUPAC Name:** (2S)-2-amino-3-(3,4-dihydroxyphenyl)propanoic acid

• **Molecular Formula:** C₉H₁₁NO₄

• **Molecular Weight:** 197.19 g/mol

• **Category:** antiparkinsonian agent

Physical Properties

• **Melting Point:** 276-278°C

Solubility

• **Solubility:** slight solubility in water.

Description

Levodopa (L-DOPA) is a dopaminergic agent and dopamine precursor primarily used to treat Parkinson's disease. As a central nervous system agent, it works by crossing the blood-brain barrier and converting into dopamine.

Mechanism of Action

Levodopa by various routes crosses the blood brain barrier, is decarboxylated to form dopamine Label. This supplemental dopamine performs the role that endogenous dopamine cannot due to a decrease of natural concentrations and stimulates dopaminergic receptors.

Materials and Methods**Optimization of Column:**

SPURCIL C18 (4.6*250mm, 5 μ) (DIKMA) was found to be ideal as it gave good peak shape and resolution at 1.0 ml/min flow.

Optimized Chromatographic Conditions

Equipment: High performance liquid chromatography equipped with Auto Sampler and PDA detector

Column : Spurcil C18 (4.6*250mm, 5 μ m) (DIKMA)

Buffer : Ammonium acetate

PH : 5.0

Mobile phase : 30% buffer: 70% Methanol

Flow rate : 1.0 ml per min

Wavelength : 220 nm

Injection volume : 20 μ l

Run time : 10 min.

Preparation of buffer and mobile phase:**Preparation of Phosphate buffer pH 5:**

To prepare Ammonium acetate buffer solution, by adding 5gm of Ammonium acetate in 1000ml water. Adjust this solution to pH 5 by using tetrahydro furan.

Preparation of mobile phase:

Mix a mixture of above buffer 300ml (30%), 700 ml Methanol (70%) and degas in ultrasonic water bath for 5 minutes. Filter through 0.45 μ filter under vacuum filtration.

Diluent Preparation:

Ammonium acetate buffer: Methanol (70:30) ratio.

System Suitability:

Tailing factor for the peaks due to Benserazide and levodopa in Standard solution should not be more than 2.0

Theoretical plates for the Benserazide and levodopa peaks in Standard solution should not be less than 2000

Method validation parameters:**Assay:****Standard Solution Preparation:**

Accurately weigh and transfer 6.25mg of Benserazide and 25mg levodopa working standard into a 25 ml clean dry volumetric flask add Diluents and sonicate to dissolve it completely and make volume up to the mark with the same solvent. (Stock solution). Further pipette 1.2ml of the above stock solution into a 10ml volumetric flask and dilute up to the mark with Diluents.

Sample Solution Preparation:

Accurately weigh and transfer equivalent to 6.25mg of Benserazide and 25mg levodopa equivalent weight of the sample into a 25 ml clean dry volumetric flask add about 7ml of Diluents and sonicate to dissolve it completely and make volume up to the mark with the same solvent. (Stock solution). Further pipette 1.2ml of the above stock solution into a 10ml volumetric flask and dilute up to the mark with Diluents.

Procedure:

Inject 10 μ L of the standard, sample into the chromatographic system and measure the areas for the Benserazide and levodopa peaks and calculate the % Assay by using the formulae.

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Formula: Calculation: (For Benserazide and levodopa)

$$\% \text{ Assay} = \frac{AT}{AS} * \frac{WS}{DS} * \frac{DT}{WT} * \frac{\text{Average weight}}{\text{Label Claim}} * \frac{P}{100} * 100$$

Linearity:**Preparation of stock solution:**

Accurately weigh and transfer 6.25mg of Benserazide and 25mg levodopa working standard into a 25 ml clean dry volumetric flask add Diluents and sonicate to dissolve it completely and make volume up to the mark with the same solvent. (Stock solution)

Preparation of Level – I (10ppm of Benserazide and 40pp levodopa): 0.4ml of stock solution has taken in 10ml of volumetric flask dilute up to the mark with Diluents.

Preparation of Level – II (20ppm of Benserazide and 80ppm levodopa): 0.8 ml of stock solution has taken in 10ml of volumetric flask dilute up to the mark with Diluents.

Preparation of Level – III (30ppm of Benserazide and 120ppm levodopa): 1.2ml of stock solution has taken in 10ml of volumetric flask dilute up to the mark with Diluents.

Preparation of Level – IV (40ppm of Benserazide and 160ppm levodopa):

1.6ml of stock solution has taken in 10ml of volumetric flask dilute up to the mark with Diluents.

Preparation of Level – V (50ppm of Benserazide and 200ppm levodopa): 2.0ml of stock solution has taken in 10ml of volumetric flask dilute up to the mark with Diluents.

Procedure:

Inject each level into the chromatographic system and measure the peak area. Plot a graph of peak area versus concentration (on X-axis concentration and on Y-axis Peak area) and calculate the correlation coefficient.

Precision:**Standard Solution Preparation:**

Accurately weigh and transfer 6.25mg of Benserazide and 25mg levodopa working standard into a 25 ml clean dry volumetric flask add Diluents and sonicate to dissolve it completely and make volume up to the mark with the same solvent. (Stock solution) Further pipette 1.2ml of the above stock solution into a 10ml volumetric flask and dilute up to the mark with Diluents.

Procedure:

The standard solution was injected for six times and measured the area for all six injections in HPLC. The %RSD for the area of six replicate injections was found to be within the specified limits.

Intermediate precision/ruggedness:

To evaluate the intermediate precision (also known as Ruggedness) of the method, Precision was performed on different day within the laboratory.

Standard Solution Preparation:

Accurately weigh and transfer 6.25mg of Benserazide and 25mg levodopa working standard into a 25 ml clean dry volumetric flask add Diluents and sonicate to dissolve it completely and make volume up to the mark with the same solvent. (Stock solution). Further pipette 1.2ml of the above stock solution into a 10ml volumetric flask and dilute up to the mark with Diluents.

Procedure:

The standard solution was injected for five times and measured the area for all six injections in HPLC. The %RSD for the area of six replicate injections was found to be within the specified limits.

Accuracy:

For accuracy determination, three different concentrations were prepared separately i.e. 50%, 100% and 150% for the analyte and chromatograms are recorded for the same.

Standard Solution Preparation:

Accurately weigh and transfer 6.25mg of Benserazide and 25mg levodopa working standard into a 25 ml clean dry volumetric flask add Diluents and sonicate to dissolve it completely and make volume up to the mark with the same solvent. (Stock solution). Further pipette 1.2ml of the above stock solution into a 10ml volumetric flask and dilute up to the mark with Diluents.

Preparation Sample solutions:

For preparation of 50% solution (With respect to target Assay concentration):

Accurately weigh and transfer 3.12mg of Benserazide and 12.5mg levodopa working standard into a 25 ml clean dry volumetric flask add Diluents and sonicate to dissolve it completely and make volume up to the mark with the same solvent. (Stock solution)

Further pipette 1.2ml of the above stock solution into a 10ml volumetric flask and dilute up to the mark with Diluents.

For preparation of 100% solution (With respect to target Assay concentration):

Accurately weigh and transfer 6.25mg of Benserazide and 25mg levodopa working standard into a 25 ml clean dry volumetric flask add Diluents and sonicate to dissolve it completely and make volume up to the mark with the same solvent. (Stock solution). Further pipette 1.2ml of the above stock solution into a 10ml volumetric flask and dilute up to the mark with Diluents.

For preparation of 150% solution (With respect to target Assay concentration): Accurately weigh and transfer 9.37mg of Benserazide and 37.5mg levodopa working standard into a 25 ml clean dry volumetric flask add Diluents and sonicate to dissolve it completely and make volume up to the mark with the same solvent. (Stock solution)

Further pipette 1.2ml of the above stock solution into a 10ml volumetric flask and dilute up to the mark with Diluents.

Procedure: Inject the standard solution, Accuracy -50%, Accuracy -100% and Accuracy -150% solutions. Calculate the Amount found and Amount added for Benserazide and levodopa and calculate the individual recovery and mean recovery values.

Limit of detection:

Preparation of Benserazide and levodopa solution:

Preparation of 0.02µg/ml Benserazide solution:

Accurately weigh and transfer 6.25mg of Benserazide working standard into a 25 ml clean dry volumetric flask add Diluents and sonicate to dissolve it completely and make volume up to the mark with the same solvent. (Stock solution)

Further pipette 1.2ml of the above stock solution into a 10ml volumetric flask and dilute up to the mark with Diluents.

Further pipette 0.1ml of the above stock solution into a 10ml volumetric flask and dilute up to the mark with Diluents.

Further pipette 0.8ml of the above stock solution into a 10ml volumetric flask and dilute up to the mark with Diluents.

Preparation of 0.04µg/ml levodopa solution:

Accurately weigh and transfer 25mg levodopa working standard into a 25 ml clean dry volumetric flask add Diluents and sonicate to dissolve it completely and make volume up to the mark with the same solvent. (Stock solution)

Further pipette 1.2ml of the above stock solution into a 10ml volumetric flask and dilute up to the mark with Diluents.

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Further pipette 0.1ml of the above stock solution into a 10ml volumetric flask and dilute up to the mark with Diluents.

Further pipette 0.3ml of the above stock solution into a 10ml volumetric flask and dilute up to the mark with Diluents.

Limit of quantification:

Preparation of Benserazide and levodopa solution:

Preparation of 0.07µg/ml Benserazide solution:

Accurately weigh and transfer 6.25mg of Benserazide working standard into a 25 ml clean dry volumetric flask add Diluents and sonicate to dissolve it completely and make volume up to the mark with the same solvent. (Stock solution)

Further pipette 1.2ml of the above stock solution into a 10ml volumetric flask and dilute up to the mark with Diluents.

Further pipette 0.1ml of the above stock solution into a 10ml volumetric flask and dilute up to the mark with Diluents.

Further pipette 2.4ml of the above stock solution into a 10ml volumetric flask and dilute up to the mark with Diluents.

Preparation of 0.2µg/ml levodopa solution:

Accurately weigh and transfer 25mg levodopa working standard into a 25 ml clean dry volumetric flask add Diluents and sonicate to dissolve it completely and make volume up to the mark with the same solvent. (Stock solution)

Further pipette 1.2ml of the above stock solution into a 10ml volumetric flask and dilute up to the mark with Diluents.

Further pipette 0.1ml of the above stock solution into a 10ml volumetric flask and dilute up to the mark with Diluents.

Further pipette 1.25ml of the above stock solution into a 10ml volumetric flask and dilute up to the mark with Diluents.

Robustness:

The flow rate was varied at 0.8ml/min to 1.2ml/min.

Standard solution 30µg/ml of Benserazide and 120µg/ml levodopa prepared and analysed using the varied flow rates along with method flow rate.

The Organic composition in the Mobile phase was varied from 63% to 77%: Standard solution 30µg/ml of Benserazide and 120µg/ml levodopa was prepared and analysed using the varied Mobile phase composition along with the actual mobile phase composition in the method.

Results and Discussion

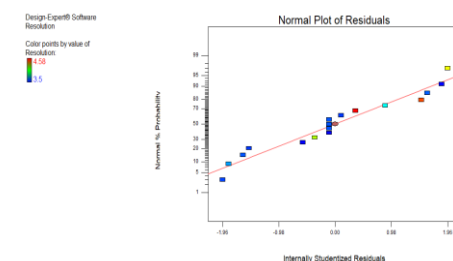


Fig.3: Normal plot of Residuals for Benserazide and Levodopa

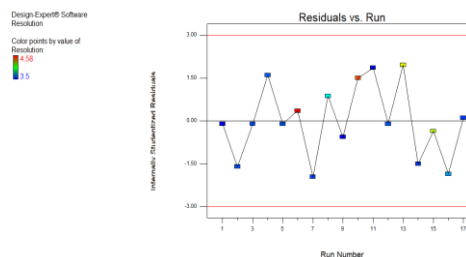


Fig.4: Residuals vs. Run for Benserazide and Levodopa

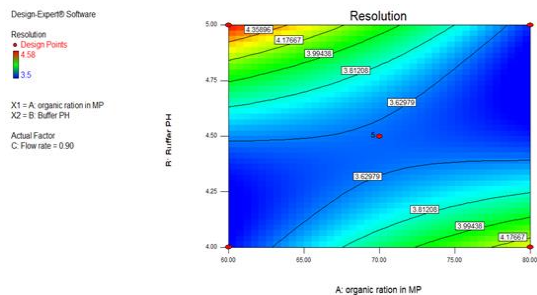


Fig.5: Resolution for Benserazide and Levodopa

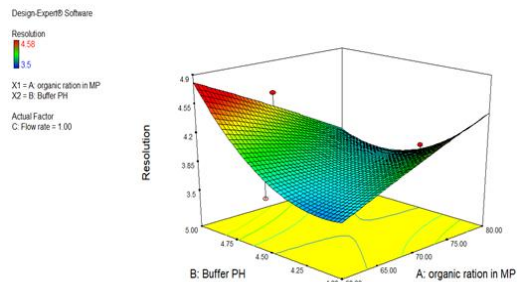


Fig.7: 3D Surface for Benserazide and Levodopa

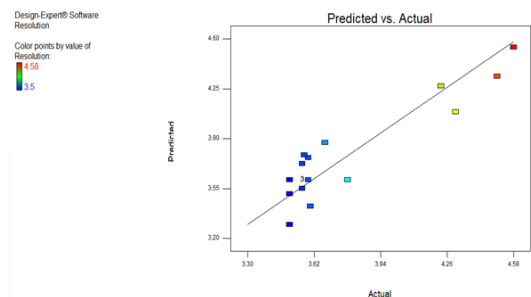


Fig.6: Predicted vs. Actual for Benserazide and Levodopa

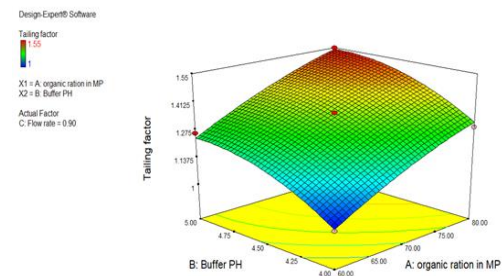


Figure 15: 3D Surface for Benserazide and Levodopa

Table 1: Tailing Factor of Benserazide and Levodopa

Source	Sum of Squares	df	mean Square	F-Value	p-value Prob> F
Mean vs Total	27.09	1	27.09	Suggested	
Linear vs Mean	0.29	3	0.098	5.70	0.0102
2FI vs Linear	0.10	3	0.034	2.79	0.0955
Quadratic vs 2FI	0.087	3	0.029	5.98	0.0241
Cubic vs Quadratic	0.034	3	0.011	6.366E+007	< 0.0001
Residual	0.000	4	0.000		
Total	27.61	17	1.62		

Table 2: ANOVA for Response Surface Quadratic Model

Sources	Sum of square	df	Mean square	F value	P value Prob>F
Model	0.48	9	0.053	11.01	0.0023
A-organic ration in MP	0.19	1	0.19	38.96	0.0004
B-Buffer PH	0.10	1	0.10	21.33	0.0024
C-Flow rate	0.000	1	0.000	0.000	1.0000
Residual	0.034	7	4.854E-003		
Lack of Fit	0.034	3	0.011		
Pure Error	0.000	4	0.000		

Table 3: Results of system suitability parameters

S.No	Name	RT(min)	Area (µV sec)	Height (µV)	USP tailing	USP plate count
1	Benserazide	3.361	18731	209210	1.15	3547
2	Levodopa	4.251	102954	418413	1.10	7412

Table 4: Results of LOD

Drug name	Baseline noise(µV)	Signal obtained (µV)	S/N ratio	Conc. In PPM
Benserazide	53	147	2.77	0.02µg/ml
Levodopa	53	151	2.85	0.04µg/ml

Table 5: Results of LOQ

Drug name	Baseline noise(µV)	Signal obtained (µV)	S/N ratio	Conc. In PPM
Benserazide	53	521	9.83	0.07µg/ml
Levodopa	53	528	9.96	0.15µg/ml

Conclusion

The analytical method developed for the simultaneous estimation of Benserazide and Levodopa using High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) was extensively optimized and validated as per ICH guidelines. A Box-Behnken response surface design was used to evaluate the effects of method parameters such as mobile phase composition, pH, and flow rate. The statistical analysis showed that the flow rate

significantly influenced resolution, while the organic phase ratio and buffer pH had notable effects on the tailing factor. The optimized chromatographic conditions using a SPURCIL C18 column (250×4.6 mm, 5 µm), ammonium acetate buffer (pH 5.0), and methanol (70:30), with a flow rate of 1.0 ml/min and detection at 220 nm, yielded well-resolved peaks with acceptable system suitability parameters (resolution >2, tailing factor <2, and theoretical plates>2000). Method validation

confirmed that the developed method is robust, accurate, precise, and linear over the tested ranges. The assay results showed recovery rates within 98–102%, with %RSD values for both repeatability and intermediate precision under 2%, confirming method precision. Linearity was established for Benserazide (10–50 µg/ml) and Levodopa (40–200 µg/ml) with correlation coefficients (R^2) of 0.9997 and 0.9998 respectively. Limits of detection (LOD) and quantification (LOQ) for both drugs were satisfactorily low, supporting the method's sensitivity. The method was also robust to small variations in flow rate and mobile phase composition, indicating reliability in routine analysis. Thus, the developed HPLC method is suitable for the simultaneous quantitative determination of Benserazide and Levodopa in pharmaceutical formulations.

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