WORLD JOURNAL OF PHARMACEUTICAL RESEARCH
SJIF Impact Factor 5.045
Volume 3, Issue 10, 1088-1097. Research Article ISSN 2277– 7105

FACTORIAL STUDIES ON FORMULATION DEVELOPMENT OF ACECLOFENAC TABLETS EMPLOYING β CYCLODEXTRIN AND KOLLIPHOR HS15

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Article Received on
05 October 2014,

Revised on 28 Oct 2014,
Accepted on 19 Nov 2014

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ABSTRACT

Aceclofenac is an effective anti inflammatory and analgesic drug. It belongs to class II under Biopharmaceutical classification system and exhibit low and variable oral bioavailability due to its solubility. It is practically insoluble in water and aqueous fluids and its oral absorption is dissolution rate limited. It needs enhancement in solubility and dissolution rate for improvement of its oral bioavailability and therapeutic efficacy. The objective of the present study is enhance the solubility, dissolution rate and formulation development of aceclofenac tablets with fast dissolution characteristics employing βCD and Kolliphor HS15, a non ionic surfactant. The effects of βCD (factor A) and Kolliphor HS15 (factor B) on the solubility and dissolution rate of aceclofenac were evaluated in a series of 2^2 factorial experiments. Aceclofenac - βCD-Kolliphor HS15 inclusion complexes were also evaluated for their formulation into tablets with fast dissolution rate characteristics. Kolliphor HS15 has not been investigated earlier for this purpose.

The individual and combined effects of βCD and Kolliphor HS15 in enhancing the solubility, dissolution rate and dissolution efficiency of aceclofenac were highly significant ($P < 0.01$). βCD and Kolliphor HS15 individually gave 1.57 and 21.72 fold increase in the solubility of aceclofenac respectively. Where was combination of βCD with Kolliphor HS15 resulted in a much higher enhancement in the solubility of aceclofenac (28.97 fold) than is possible with them individually. The dissolution of aceclofenac was rapid and higher in the case of

aceclofenac- βCD and aceclofenac- βCD - Kolliphor HS15 complexes prepared when compared to aceclofenac pure drug. βCD alone gave a 8.66 fold increase and in combination with Kolliphor HS15 it gave 9.85 fold increase in the dissolution rate of (K_1) of aceclofenac. Aceclofenac –βCD – Kolliphor HS15 inclusion complexes could be formulated into compressed tablets by wet granulation method and the resulting tablets also gave rapid and higher dissolution of aceclofenac. Aceclofenac tablets formulated with βCD and Kolliphor HS15 individually gave 4.75 and 6.1 fold increase in the dissolution rate and those containing drug - βCD -Kolliphor HS15 complex gave much higher enhancement (21.35 fold) in the dissolution rate when compared to tablets formulated with aceclofenac pure drug. Combination of βCD and Kolliphor HS15 gave much higher enhancement in the dissolution rate of aceclofenac tablets than is possible with them individually. A combination of βCD with Kolliphor HS15 is recommended to enhance the solubility and dissolution rate in the formulation development of aceclofenac tablets with fast dissolution rate characteristics.

KEYWORDS: Aceclofenac, β Cyclodextrin, Kolliphor HS15, Solubility, Dissolution Rate, Aceclofenac Tablets, Formulation development.

INTRODUCTION

Aceclofenac is an effective anti inflammatory and analgesic drug. It belongs to class II under Biopharmaceutical classification system and exhibit low and variable oral bioavailability due to its solubility. It is practically insoluble in water and aqueous fluids and its oral absorption is dissolution rate limited. It needs enhancement in solubility and dissolution rate for improvement of its oral bioavailability and therapeutic efficacy. Techniques used to enhance the solubility, dissolution rate and bioavailability of poorly soluble drugs are reported. [1] in detail. Complexation.[2,5] with β cyclodextrin (βCD) and use of surfactants. [6, 8] are two industrially used techniques in the formulation development of insoluble drugs to enhance their solubility and dissolution rate.

The objective of the present study is to enhance the solubility, dissolution rate and formulation development of aceclofenac tablets with fast dissolution characteristics employing βCD and Kolliphor HS15, a non ionic surfactant. Kolliphor HS15 is reported as non toxic and safe for human and animal use. [9] The effects of βCD (factor A) and Kolliphor HS15 (factor B) on the solubility and dissolution rate of aceclofenac were evaluated in a series of 2^2 factorial experiments. Aceclofenac - βCD-Kolliphor HS15 inclusion complexes

were also evaluated for their formulation into tablets with fast dissolution rate characteristics. Kolliphor HS15 has not been investigated earlier for this purpose.

EXPERIMENTAL

Materials

Acecofenac and β cyclodextrin were obtained from Ms/ Hetero Drugs Ltd., Hyderabad. Kolliphor HS15, Croscarmellose Sodium, Lactose and PVP K30 were procured from commercial suppliers. Other chemicals used were of Pharmacopoeial standard.

METHODS

Aceclofenac Estimation

Aceclofenac was estimated by ultraviolet spectrophometric method and absorbance was measured at 275 nm using pH 6.8 phosphate buffer as solvent. Validation of the method was carried for accuracy, precision, interference and linearity. The method exhibited linearity in the concentration range 0-10 µg/ml. The accuracy (relative error) and precision (RSD) of the method were found to be 0.65% and 1.45 % respectively. It was observed that the excipients used did not have any interference in the method of analysis.

Determination of Solubility

Aceclofenac (100 mg) was added to 15 ml of fluid taken in a 25 ml stoppered test tube and the mixtures were shaken for 24 h at room temperature (27±1^{o}C) on a test tube shaker. Shaking was continued for 24 h to achieve saturation. After 24 h, samples (2 ml) were withdrawn at 2 h interval and filtered immediately using a 0.5 µ disk filter. The filtered samples were assayed for aceclofenac content at 275 nm after suitable dilution. Shaking was continued until two consecutive estimations are the same. The solubility determinations were replicated three times each (n=3).

Preparation of Aceclofenac - βCD Complexes

Solid inclusion complexes of Aceclofenac – βCD - Kolliphor HS15 were prepared by kneading method. Aceclofenac, βCD and Kolliphor HS15 were triturated in a dry mortar with a small volume of solvent dichloromethane. The thick slurry formed was kneaded for 45 min and then dried at 55^{o}C until it become dry. **T**he dried mass was powdered and screened through sieve No.120.

Preparation of Aceclofenac Tablets Employing βCD Complexes

Aceclofenac (100 mg) tablets were prepared as per 2^2 – factorial study by wet granulation method employing aceclofenac- βCD - Kolliphor HS15 inclusion complexes as per the formulae given in Table 3. Drug-CD-Kolliphor HS15 complex systems were initially prepared in each case by kneading method. To the dried complex in the mortar lactose and PVP were added and mixed thoroughly. Water (q.s) was added and mixed thoroughly to form a dough mass. The mass was pressed through mesh No. 12 to obtain wet granules. After drying the wet granules at 60°C for 4 hr, they were passed through mesh No. 16 to break the aggregates. To this dried granules croscarmellose sodium, talc and magnesium stearate (already screened through sieve No.100) were added and mixed thoroughly in a polyethylene bag. Then the granules were punched into tablets using a 16 station tablet punching machine (M/s. Rimek) using 9 mm flat and round punches.

Evaluation of Tablets

Monsanto hardness tester was used for testing hardness of the tablets prepared. Friability of the tablets was determined in a Roche friabilator. Disintegration time of the tablets was tested in a Thermonic tablet disintegration test machine using water as test fluid.

Dissolution Rate Test

Aceclofenac dissolution from βCD - Kolliphor HS15 inclusion complexes and their tablets was studied in phosphate buffer of pH 6.8 (900 ml) using Veego Electro Lab 8 station dissolution test apparatus. A paddle stirrer at 50 rpm and a temperature of 37 ±1^{o}C were used. Inclusion complex or tablet containing 100 mg of aceclofenac was used in each test. Samples of dissolution media (5 ml) were withdrawn through a filter (0.45 µ) at 5, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 and 60 min, suitable diluted and assayed for aceclofenac at 275 nm. The sample of dissolution fluid withdrawn at each time was replaced with fresh fluid. The dissolution experiments were replicated three times each (n=3).

Analysis of results

Dissolution data were analysed as per zero order and first order kinetics to evaluate the dissolution rates. Dissolution efficiency (DE_{30}) values were calculated as per the method of Khan[10]. Solubility and dissolution data were also analyzed by Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) of 2^2 factorial studies.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The objective of the present study is to enhance the solubility,d dissoformulation development of aceclofenac tablets with fast dissolution characteristics employing βCD and Kolliphor HS15, a non ionic surfactant. The effects of βCD (factor A) and Kolliphor HS15 (factor B) on the solubility and dissolution rate of aceclofenac were evaluated in a series of 2^2 factorial experiments. Aceclofenac - βCD-Kolliphor HS15 inclusion complexes were also evaluated for their formulation into tablets with fast dissolution rate characteristics. Kolliphor HS15 has not been investigated earlier for this purpose.

For 2^2 factorial experiments on solubility, the two levels of βCD (factor A) are 0 and 5 mM and the two levels of Kolliphor HS15 (factor B) are 0 and 2 %. Accordingly the four treatments involved are purified water (1), water containg 5 mM βCD (a), water containing 2% Kolliphor HS15 (b), and water containing 5 mM βCD and 2% Kolliphor HS15 (ab).

The solubility of aceclofenac was determined in the above four fluids each three times (n=3). The results obtained are given in Table 1. The solubilty data were analysed as per ANOVA to evaluate the significance of main and combined effects of βCD and Kolliphor HS15 on the solubility of acecofenac. The results indicated that the individual and the combined effects of βCD and Kollphor HS15 in enhancing the solubility of aceclofenac were highly significant ($P < 0.01$). βCD and Kolliphor HS15 individually gave respectively 1.57 and 21.72 fold increase in the solubility of aceclofenac. Whereas combination of βCD with Kolliphor HS15 resulted in a much higher enhancement in the solubility of aceclofenac (28.97 fold) than is possible with them individually.

For 2^2 factorial experiments on dissolution rate, the two levels of βCD (factor A) are 0 and 1:2 ratio of drug : βCD and the two levels of Kolliphor HS15 (factor B) are 0 and 2 %. Accordingly the four treatments involved are aceclofenac pure drug (1), aceclofenac- βCD (1:2) inclusion complex (a), aceclofenac - Kolliphor HS15 (2%) complex (b) and aceclofenac- βCD (1:2) - Kolliphor HS15 (2%) complex (ab). The complexes were prepared by kneading method.

The prepared solid inclusion complexes were fine and free flowing powders. Low RSD values < 1. 4 % in the percent drug content indicated uniformity of drug content in each batch of solid inclusion complexes prepared. The dissolution rate of aceclofenac from the βCD complexes prepared was studied in phosphate buffer of pH 6.8.

The dissolution of aceclofenac followed first order kinetics with R^2 (coefficient of determination) values greater than 0.9254. The dissolution parameters estimated are given in Table-2. All the dissolution parameters indicated rapid and higher dissolution of aceclofenac from the aceclofenac- βCD and aceclofenac- βCD - Kolliphor HS15 complexes when compared to aceclofenac pure drug. The dissolution profiles of various inclusion complexes prepared are given in Fig-1.

The results of ANOVA indicated that the individual main effects of βCD and Kolliphor HS15 and their combined effects in enhancing the dissolution rate (K_1)and dissolution efficiency (DE_{15}) were highly significant ($P < 0.01$). βCD individually gave a 8.66 fold increase in the dissolution rate of (K_1) of aceclofenac. Whereas when it is combined with Kolliphor HS15 the dissolution rate (K_1) was enhanced by 9.85 fold. Kolliphor HS15 (F_b) individually also gave 7.75 fold increase in the dissolution rate (K_1) of aceclofenac. DE_{15} values were also much higher in the case of βCD – Kolliphor HS15 solid complexes when compared to aceclofenac pure drug.

The aceclofenac - βCD – Kolliphor HS15 solid complexes (1,a,b,ab) were formulated into tablets by wet granulation method as per the formulae given in Table 3.

All the prepared tablets were tested for drug content, hardness, friability and disintegration time and dissolution rate of aceclofenac. The results are given in Tables 4, 5 and Fig. 2. Aceclofenac content of the tables was within 100± 2% of the labeled claim. Hardness of the tablets was in the range 6.0-7.5 Kg / cm^2. Percentage weight loss was less than 0.65% in the friability test. All the tablets formulated employing inclusion complexes disintegrated rapidly within 3.5 min.

Dissolution of aceclofenac from all the tablets prepared followed first order kinetics with the coefficient of determination (R^2) values greater 0.925. Aceclofenac dissolution was rapid and higher from the tablets formulated employing drug- βCD- Kolliphor HS15 inclusion complexes when compared to the tablets containing aceclofenac pure drug. The results of ANOVA indicated that the individual as well as combined effects of the two factors involved i.e., βCD (factor A) and Kolliphor HS15 (factor B) were highly significant ($P< 0.01$) in enhancing the dissolution rate (K_1) and dissolution efficiency (DE_{30}) of aceclofenac tablets. Tablets F_a and F_b formulated respectively with βCD and Kolliphor HS15 alone gave 4.75 and 6.1 fold increase in the dissolution rate when compared to control tablets F_1 formulated with

aceclofenac pure drug. Tablets F_{ab} containing drug - βCD -Kolliphor HS15 complex gave much higher enhancement (21.35 fold) in the dissolution rate when compared to control formulation F_1 and also formulations F_a and F_b. Thus combination of βCD and Kolliphor HS15 resulted in a much higher enhancement in the dissolution rate of aceclofenac tablets than is possible with them individually.

Based on the results obtained, a combination of βCD with Kolliphor HS15 is recommended to enhance the solubility and dissolution rate in the formulation development of aceclofenac tablets with fast dissolution rare characteristics.

Table 1: Solubility of Aceclofenac in Various Fluids (n=4) as per 2^2 Factorial Study.

Fluid	Solubility (mg/100 ml) $\bar{x}$ ± sd	Increase in solubility (no. of folds)
Purified water	5.42 ± 0.184	-
Water containing βCD (5mM)	8.53 ± 0.311	1.57
Water containing Kolliphor HS15 (2%)	117.74 ± 5.54	21.72
Water containing βCD (5mM) and Kolliphor HS15 (2%)	157.06 ± 10.48	28.97

Table 2: Dissolution Parameters of Aceclofenac- βCD-Kolliphor HS15 Inclusion Complexes Prepared as per 2^2 Factorial Study.

Ace-CD complex (Statistical Code as per 2^2 Factorial design)	DE_{15} (%)		$K_1 \times 10^2$ (min^{-1})	
	$\bar{x}$	Increase (no. of folds)	$\bar{x}$	Increase (no. of folds)
Aceclofenac (1)	10.11	-	5.27	-
Aceclofenac-βCD (a)	63.87	6.31	45.66	8.66
Aceclofenac -Kolliphor HS15 (b)	52.17	5.16	40.85	7.75
Aceclofenac -βCD- Kolliphor HS15 (ab)	73.89	7.30	51.90	9.85

Table 3: Formulae of Aceclofenac Tablets Prepared Employing βCD and Kolliphor HS15 as per 2^2 Factorial Design.

	FORMULATION			
Ingredient (mg/tab)	A1(F_1)	A2(F_a)	A3(F_b)	A4(F_{ab})
Aceclofenac	100	100	100	100
β-CD	--	200	--	200
Kolliphor HS15	--	--	5	5
Cross Carmellose Sodium	15	15	15	15
PVP	7	7	7	7
Talc	7	7	7	7
Magnesium sterate	7	7	7	7
Lactose	214	14	209	9
Total weight (mg)	350	350	350	350

Table 4: Hardness, Friability, Disintegration Time and Drug Content of Aceclofenac Tablets Formulated employing βCD and Kolliphor HS15.

Formulation (code as per 2^2 Factorial Design)	Hardness (kg/sq.cm)	Friability (%)	Disintegration Time (min.)	Aceclofenac content (mg/tablet)
A1 (F_1).	7.0	0.54	3.5	99.4
A2 (F_a).	6.5	0.64	2.5	98.2
A3 (F_b).	6.0	0.35	2.0	100.6
A4 (F_{ab}).	7.5	0.65	2.0	98.8

Table 5: Dissolution Parameters of Aceclofenac Tablets Formulated Employing βCD-Kolliphor HS15 as per 2^2 Factorial Design.

Formulation	DE_{30} (%)		K_1 (min^{-1}) $\times 10^2$	
	$\bar{x} \pm$ s.d.)	Increase in DE_{30} (N0.of folds)	$\bar{x} \pm$ s.d.)	Increase in K_1 (N0.of folds)
A1(F_1)	7.29	-	0.2 ± 0.01	-
A2(F_a)	22.11	3.03	0.95 ± 0.057	4.75
A3(F_b)	31.77	4.35	1.22± 0.057	6.1
A4(F_{ab})	43.32	5.94	4.27± 0.40	21.35

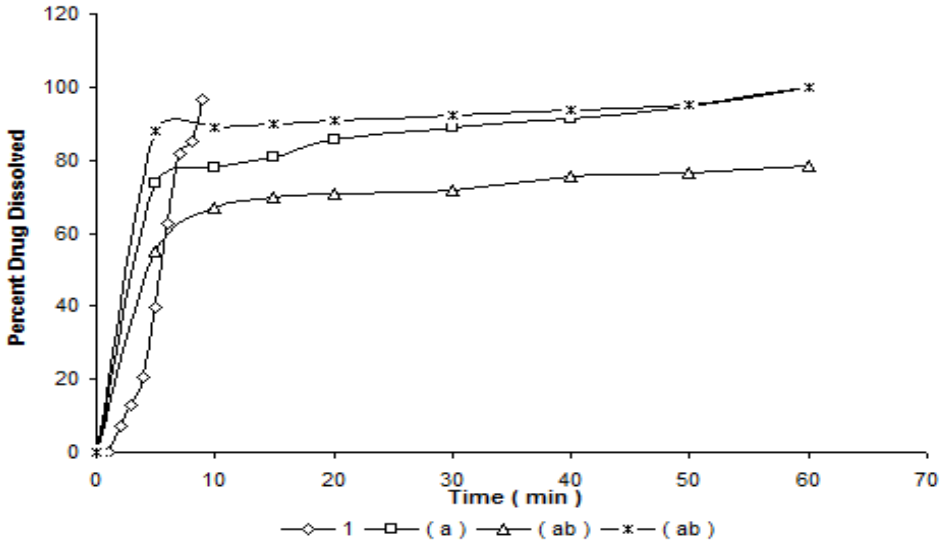

Fig.1: Dissolution Profiles of Aceclofenac-βCD- Kolliphor HS15 Complex Systems Formulated as Per 2^2 Factorial Design

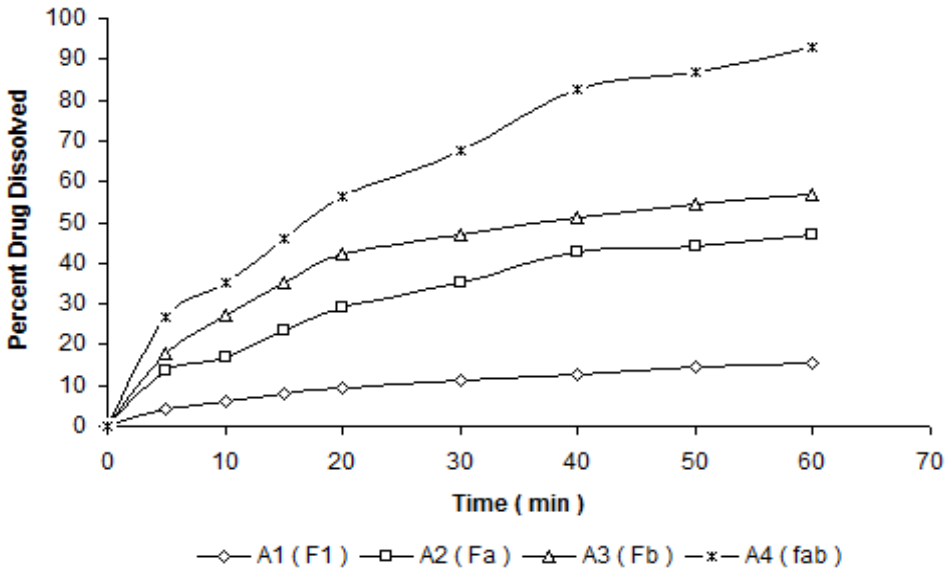

Fig.2: Dissolution Profiles of Aceclofenac Tablets Formulated Employing βCD and Kolliphor HS15 as per 2^2 Factorial Design.

CONCLUSIONS

1. The individual and combined effects of βCD and Kolliphor HS15 in enhancing the solubility, dissolution rate and dissolution efficiency of aceclofenac were highly significant ($P < 0.01$).
2. βCD and Kolliphor HS15 individually gave 1.57 and 21.72 fold increase in the solubility of aceclofenac respectively. Whereas combination of βCD with Kolliphor HS15 resulted in a much higher enhancement in the solubility of aceclofenac (28.97 fold) than is possible with them individually.
3. The dissolution of aceclofenac was rapid and higher in the case of aceclofenac- βCD and aceclofenac- βCD - Kolliphor HS15 complexes prepared when compared to aceclofenac pure drug. β CD alone gave a 8.66 fold increase and in combination with Kolliphor HS15 it gave 9.85 fold increase in the dissolution rate of (K_1) of aceclofenac.
4. Aceclofenac –βCD – Kolliphor HS15 inclusion complexes could be formulated into compressed tablets by wet granulation method and the resulting tablets also gave rapid and higher dissolution of aceclofenac.
5. Aceclofenac tablets formulated with βCD and Kolliphor HS15 individually gave 4.75 and 6.1 fold increase in the dissolution rate and those containing drug - βCD -Kolliphor HS15 complex gave much higher enhancement (21.35 fold) in the dissolution rate when compared to tablets formulated with aceclofenac pure drug. Combination of βCD and

Kolliphor HS15 gave much higher enhancement in the dissolution rate of aceclofenac tablets than is possible with them individually.

6. A combination of βCD with Kolliphor HS15 is recommended to enhance the solubility and dissolution rate in the formulation development of aceclofenac tablets with fast dissolution rate characteristics.

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