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Enantiomeric separation of drugs by High-Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC)

Sajid Bashir[1]*, Kamalesh Mistry[2], Md Zulphakar Ali[3], Md. Aftab Alam[4], Neha Nahid[5], Noorul Huda[6]

[1]*Research Scholar, Department of Pharmacy, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Science, Mewar University, Gangrar, Chittorgarh 312901, Rajasthan, India. sajidbashir572@gmail.com

[2]Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmacy, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Science, Mewar University, Gangrar, Chittorgarh 312901, Rajasthan, India. drkamaleshmistry@gmail.com

[3]Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmacy, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Science, Mewar University, Gangrar, Chittorgarh 312901, Rajasthan, India.zulphakar@mewaruniversity.co.in

[4]Lecturer, Department of Pharmacy, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Science, Mewar University, Gangrar, Chittorgarh 312901, Rajasthan, India. Aftabalamm20@gmail.com

[5]Lecturer, Department of Pharmacy, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Science, Mewar University, Gangrar, Chittorgarh 312901, Rajasthan, India. Nehanahid9334@gmail.com

[6]Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmacy, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Science, Mewar University, Gangrar, Chittorgarh 312901, Rajasthan, India. Noorul1376@gmail.com

***Corresponding Author:**

Sajid Bashir, Research Scholar, Department of Pharmacy, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Science, Mewar University, Gangrar, Chittorgarh 312901, Rajasthan, India. sajidbashir572@gmail.com

ABSTRACT :

Since the enantiomers of chiral medicines frequently have distinct pharmacological, toxicological, and pharmacokinetic characteristics, enantiomeric separation is an essential component of pharmaceutical investigation. One of the most effective and popular methods for separating enantiomers is High-Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC). The principles, procedures, and uses of HPLC in the enantiomeric separation of pharmaceuticals are well covered in this review article. Recent developments in the subject are discussed, along with chiral stationary phases, mobile phase selection, and detection techniques. Using case studies and examples from the literature, the paper further emphasizes how crucial enantiomeric purity is to drug development and regulatory approval. Lastly, the difficulties and prospects for enantiomeric separation using HPLC are examined.

Introduction

A basic characteristic of molecules, chirality has significant ramifications for the pharmaceutical sector. Many medications are chiral, which means they exist as two enantiomers, which are non-superimposable mirror images. These enantiomers frequently interact differentially with biological systems, despite having the same physical and chemical characteristics in an achiral environment. For instance, whereas one enantiomer can be poisonous or inert, the other might be therapeutically active. The significance of enantiomeric separation in medication development and quality control is highlighted by this phenomena.

Because of its adaptability, sensitivity, and durability, High-Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) has emerged as the industry standard for enantiomeric separation. The effectiveness and usefulness of HPLC in this field have been improved throughout time by notable developments in chiral stationary phases (CSPs), mobile phase optimization, and detection approaches. The goal of this paper is to give readers a thorough understanding of the fundamentals, procedures, applications, and difficulties of enantiomeric separation by HPLC. Enantiomeric Separation Fundamentals

The Enantiomers and Chirality

When a molecule has no internal plane of symmetry, it produces two enantiomers that are mirror images of one another. This phenomenon is known as chirality. Optical activity is the ability of these enantiomers to rotate plane-polarized light in different directions. The presence of one or more stereogenic centers, such as a carbon atom bound to four distinct substituents, frequently introduces chirality in the context of pharmaceuticals.

Enantiomeric Purity Is Crucial

Enantiomers can differ greatly in their biological action. For example, esomeprazole's (S)-enantiomer works better than its ®-enantiomer to treat gastroesophageal reflux disease. Similar to this, thalidomide's ® enantiomer is sedative, but its (S) enantiomer is teratogenic, meaning it causes serious birth abnormalities. In order to guarantee safety and effectiveness, these instances emphasize the necessity of enantiomeric purity in drug formulations to ensure safety and efficacy.

Using HPLC as an Enantiomeric Separation Tool

An overview of HPLC

A chromatographic method called high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) divides mixture components according to how they interact with a stationary phase and a mobile phase. Usually, a column is filled with the stationary phase, and high pressure is used to pump the mobile phase through the column. Then, using a variety of detection techniques, the separated components are found and measured.

Phases of Chiral Stationary (CSPs)

Using chiral stationary phases is essential for enantiomeric separation by HPLC. CSPs are made to separate chiral compounds by having distinct interactions with their enantiomers. There are numerous varieties of CSPs, each based on a distinct chiral selector:

1.Polysaccharide-Based CSPs: These are some of the most popular CSPs and include cellulose and amylose derivatives. Amylose tris (3,5dimethylphenylcarbamate) and cellulose tris (3,5-dimethylphenylcarbamate) are two examples. High enantioselectivity is provided by these phases for a variety of substances.

2.Protein-Based CSPs: These CSPs employ proteins as chiral selectors, such as α1-acid glycoprotein (AGP) or bovine serum albumin (BSA). They are especially helpful in distinguishing between the enantiomers of acidic and basic medications.

3.CSPs Based on Cyclodextrins: Cyclodextrins are cyclic oligosaccharides that combine with chiral compounds to generate inclusioncomplexes. Enantiomers of small molecules and some polar substances can be effectively separated with these CSPs.

4.Pirkle-Type CSPs: These CSPs use π-π interactions, hydrogen bonds, and steric effects to separate enantiomers. They are based on tiny chiral compounds, including amino acid derivatives.

5.Ligand-Exchange CSPs: These CSPs employ coordination interactions to distinguish enantiomers by complexing metal ions, like copper(II),with chiral ligands.

Selection of Mobile Phases

For the best enantiomeric separation, the mobile phase selection is essential. The interactions between the analytes and the CSP can be greatly impacted by variables like polarity, pH, and the presence of additives. Aqueous buffers and combinations of organic solvents (such as methanol and acetonitrile) are examples of common mobile phases. To enhance peak shape and resolution, additives like acetic acid or triethylamine are frequently utilized.

Methods of Detection

UV-Vis detectors, which are generally accessible and sensitive, are commonly used to identify separated enantiomers. Nevertheless, depending on the type of analytes and the level of sensitivity needed, additional detection techniques like fluorescence, mass spectrometry (MS), and evaporative light scattering detection (ELSD) are also employed.

Applications of Enantiomeric separation by HPLC

Analysis of Pharmaceuticals

The pharmaceutical industry makes considerable use of HPLC to analyze chiral medicines. It is used in synthesis, formulation, and quality control, among other phases of medication development. For instance, HPLC is used to track the stability of chiral medications during storage and to ascertain the enantiomeric purity of active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs).

Pharmacokinetic Research

In pharmacokinetic investigations, which examine the distribution, metabolism, and excretion of particular enantiomers, enantiomeric separation by HPLC is also essential. These investigations offer important new information about the harmful and therapeutic effects of chiral medications.

Adherence to Regulations

Enantiomeric purity information is necessary for regulatory bodies like the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to approve chiral medications. Because to its accuracy and repeatability, HPLC is the preffered method for generating this data.

Examples of Cases

Case Study 1:

β-Blocker Separation β-blockers, which include atenolol and propranolol, are chemical medications used to treat heart conditions. The enantiomers of these medications have been effectively separated using HPLC using polysaccharide-based CSPs, allowing for the assessment of their pharmacokinetic characteristics and enantiomeric purity.

Analysis of Nonsteroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs) in Case Study 2:

Another class of chiral medications are NSAIDs, which include naproxen and ibuprofen. Their enantiomers have been separated using HPLC using cyclodextrin-based CSPs, yielding useful data for regulatory filings and medication development.

Obstacles and Prospects for the Future

Challenges

Enantiomeric separation by HPLC has drawbacks despite its many benefits. These include the necessity to design and optimize methods, the high cost of CSPs, and the fact that CSPs are only available for specific classes of molecules. Furthermore, it can be challenging to separate enantiomers with strikingly similar characteristics and may call for sophisticated methods like two-dimensional HPLC.

Prospects for the Future

The creation of novel CSPs with improved stability and selectivity holds the key to the future of enantiomeric separation by HPLC. The performance of CSPs may be enhanced by developments in materials science, such as the application of nanomaterials and molecularly imprinted polymers. Additionally, it is anticipated that combining HPLC with additional analytical methods like nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) and mass spectrometry (MS) may yield more thorough data on chiral medications.

Conclusion

An essential tool in the pharmaceutical sector, enantiomeric separation by HPLC allows for the creation of chiral medications that are safer and more effective. The possibilities of HPLC In this area have been greatly expanded by the ongoing development of CSPs, mobile phase optimization, and detection techniques. There are still issues, though, and further study is required to get over them and increase the uses of HPLC in enantiomeric separation.

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