Development and validation of RP-HPLC Method for the Simultaneous Estimation of Brimonidine tartrate and Timolol maleate in Combined Dosage form

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Abstract
A simple, efficient, and reproducible RP-HPLC method for the simultaneous determination of Brimonidine tartrate and Timolol maleate in bulk and in pharmaceutical formulations has been developed and validated. The chromatographic analysis was performed on an Inertsil ODS hypersil@ C18 (150 x 4.6 mm i.d, 5µ) column in isocratic mode using Acetonitrile:0.02 M 1-octane sulfonic acid buffer (adjusted to pH 3.35 with ortho-phosphoric acid) in the ratio of 50:50v/v as eluent. The flow rate was 1 ml/min and eluent was detected at 285 nm. The retention time of Brimonidine tartrate and Timolol maleate were 3.017 and 5.943 min, respectively. The linear dynamic range was 2-12 µg/ml and 5-30 µg/ml for Brimonidine tartrate and Timolol maleate, respectively. Percentage recoveries for Brimonidine tartrate and Timolol maleate were 100.05 and 100.48 %, respectively. All the analytical validation parameters were determined and found in the limit as per ICH guidelines, which indicates the validity of the method. The developed method is also found to be precise and robust for the simultaneous determination of Brimonidine tartrate and Timololmaleate in tablet dosage forms.

Keywords: Brimonidine tartrate, Timolol maleate and Simultaneous determination

Contents
1. Introduction ................................................................. 58
2. Experimental ............................................................. 59
3. Results and discussion ................................................... 60
4. Conclusion ................................................................. 63
5. Acknowledgement ......................................................... 63
6. References ................................................................ 63

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1. Introduction
Brimonidine is an alpha adrenergic receptor agonist (primarily alpha-2). It is used to treat glaucoma. It acts via decreasing aqueous humor synthesis. It has a dual mechanism of action by reducing aqueous humor production and increasing uveoscleral outflow. It is used to treat raised pressure inside the eye due to open-angle glaucoma or ocular hypertension. It is used to lower the pressure inside the eye by reducing the amount of watery fluid in the eye (aqueous humour). It does this by constricting blood vessels, which reduces the amount of fluid that filters out of the vessels to form aqueous humour (Figure 1). Timolol maleate is a non-selective beta-adrenergic receptor antagonist which has been proposed as an antihypertensive, antiarrhythmic, antiangina, and antiglaucoma agent. The levosomer is the more active. It is used to treat open-angle and occasionally secondary glaucoma by reducing aqueous...
humour production through blockage of the beta receptors on the ciliary epithelium. Timolol competes with adrenergic neurotransmitters such as catecholamines for binding at beta(1)-adrenergic receptors in the heart and vascular smooth muscle and beta(2)-receptors in the bronchial and vascular smooth muscle. Beta(1)-receptor blockade results in a decrease in resting and exercise heart rate and cardiac output, a decrease in both systolic and diastolic blood pressure, and, possibly, a reduction in reflex orthostatic hypotension. Beta (2)-blockade results in an increase in peripheral vascular resistance. It is also used in the treatment of migraine disorders and tremor.(Figure 2). Literature survey reveals a few spectrophotometric and bioanalytical methods for the estimation of both drugs as a single component and in combination with other drugs. However no method has been reported for analysis of these drugs in combined dosage form. The objective of present communication is to develop simple, rapid, and precise RP-HPLC method for the estimation of Brimonidine tartrate and Timolol maleate in combined tablet dosage form.

![Figure 1: Structure of Brimonidine tartrate](image1)

![Figure 2: Structure of Timolol maleate](image2)

**2. Materials and methods**

**Reagents and chemicals:**
Brimonidine tartrate and Timolol maleate reference substances are gifted Dr. Reddy’s laboratories limited, Hyderabad, India. Ophthalmic dosage forms (COMBIGAN, Allergan Pharmaceuticals Pvt Ltd.) were procured from the local market, each dosage form containing 0.2% w/v of Brimonidine tartrate and Timolol maleate of 0.5% w/v. HPLC grade water and Acetonitrile were purchased from E.Merck (India) Ltd., Mumbai. Ortho-phosphoric acid of AR Grade were obtained from S.D. Fine Chemicals Ltd., Mumbai.

**Instrumentation:**
The Instrument is equipped with LC-20 AT Vp Series binary pump & variable wavelength UV-VISIBLE detector, SPD-20A. A 20µL Rhenodynesyringe was used for injecting the samples. Data was analysed by using spinchrom21 CFR software. Shimadzu Prominence HPLC was used for spectral studies. Degassing of the mobile phase was done by using a Loba ultrasonic bath sonicator. A Shimadzu balance was used for weighing the materials.

**Chromatographic conditions:**
Inertsil ODS Hypersil C18 column (150 x 4.6 mm i.d, 5µ) was used for separation. The mobile phase containing Acetonitrile:0.02 M 1-octane sulfonic acid buffer (adjusted to pH 3.35 with ortho-phosphoric acid) in the ratio of 50:50v/v was delivered at a flow rate of 1.0 ml/min with detection at wavelength 285 nm. The Injection volume was 20 µl and the analysis was performed at ambient temperature.

**Standard stock solution:**
Stock solutions of Brimonidine tartrate and Timolol maleate (1 mg/ml) were prepared separately using mobile phase as solvent. From the standard stock solutions, mixed standard solutions of different concentrations ranging from 2-12µg/ml Brimonidinetartrate and 5-30µg/ml of Timolol maleate were prepared by diluting with mobile phase. With
the optimized chromatographic conditions, a steady baseline was recorded. Twenty micro litres of each mixed standard solution was injected six times and chromatograms were recorded. The retention time of Brimonidine tartrate and Timolol maleate were found to be 3.017 and 5.943 min, respectively. Calibration curves were constructed by plotting the average peak areas against the respective concentrations and found to be linear in the above range with the correlation coefficients ($r^2$) 0.999 and 0.999 for Brimonidine tartrate and Timolol maleate, respectively.

**Analysis of Brimonidine tartrate and Timolol maleate in combined dosage form:**
Locally available ophthalmic dosage form (COMBIGAN) contains 0.2% w/v of Brimonidine tartrate and Timolol maleate of 0.5% w/v were taken. About 10ml of sample solution was transferred to a 100ml volumetric flask containing 50 ml of the mobile phase and the volume was made up to 100 ml with mobile phase. Then the mixture was filtered through a 0.45µm membrane filter. Above solution was further diluted and 20 µl was then injected six times into the column. The mean peak areas of the drugs were calculated and the drug content in the formulation was calculated.

**Validation:**
The method was validated for accuracy, precision, linearity, limit of detection, limit of quantitation and robustness as per ICH guidelines.

**Linearity:**
The linearity of the method was determined at six concentration levels ranging from 2-12 µg/ml Brimonidine tartrate and 5-30 µg/ml of Timolol maleate. The regression equation of calibration curves were $Y = 41.35x - 4.038$ for Brimonidine tartrate and $Y = 47.28x - 15.57$ for Timolol maleate.

**Accuracy:**
The accuracy of the method was determined by recovery experiment. To carry out recovery studies, fixed amount of sample was taken and standard drug was added at three different levels (50, 100, 150 %). Each level was repeated three times.

**Precision:**
Precision was studied to find out intra and inter day variation in the proposed method at three different levels on the same day and on three different days, respectively. The %RSD was calculated for intra-day and inter-day precision was found to be less than 1%.

**Limit of detection (LOD) and limit of quantitation (LOQ):**
Calibration curves were prepared using concentrations in the range of 2-12 µg/ml Brimonidine tartrate and 5-30 µg/ml of Timolol maleate (expected detection limit range). The standard deviation of Y intercepts of regression lines were determined and kept in the following equation for the determination of LOD and LOQ. Detection limit = $3.3\sigma$/S; Quantitation limit = $10\sigma$/S; where, $\sigma$ is the Standard deviation of Y intercept of regression lines and S is the slope of calibration curve. The LOD was found to be 0.43 µg/ml for Brimonidine tartrate and 1.24 µg/ml for Timolol maleate. Limit of quantitation was found to be 1.30 µg/ml for Brimonidine tartrate and 3.77 µg/ml for Timolol maleate, respectively.

**Robustness:**
Robustness of the method was determined by making slight changes in the composition of mobile phase ± 2 %, flow rate by ±0.2 ml, detection wavelength by ± 2 nm and temp by ± 2°C. It was observed that there were no marked changes in the retention time and area of the chromatograms and the % RSD was less than 1 %, which demonstrated that the RP-HPLC method developed was robust.

**Specificity:**
Commonly used excipients (starch, lactose, magnesium stearate) were spiked into a pre weighed quantity of drug mixture. The chromatogram was taken by appropriate dilutions and the amount of each drug present in the sample mixture was determined.

**Stability:**
In order to demonstrate the stability of the both the standard and sample solutions during analysis, both the solutions were analyzed over a period of 5 hours at room temperature. The peak areas and retention time of both the drugs remained almost unchanged and no significant degradation within the indicated period.

**3. Results and Discussion**
The goal of this study was to develop a rapid HPLC method for analysis Brimonidine tartrate and Timolol maleate in its bulk and pharmaceutical formulations using a commonly used reverse phase C$_{18}$ column. To develop an effective method for the analysis of the drugs, preliminary tests were performed in order to select adequate and optimum conditions. Parameters such as detection wavelength, ideal mobile phase and its combination, optimum pH and concentration of the standard solution were studied. The mobile phase containing Acetonitrite:0.02 M 1-octane sulfonic acid buffer (adjusted to pH 3.35 with ortho-phosphoric acid) in the ratio of 50:50v/v with a flow rate of 1.0 ml/min was selected for analysis after preliminary tests. The retention time of Brimonidine tartrate and Timolol maleate were found to be 3.017 and 5.943 min, respectively, respectively. Resolution between Brimonidine tartrate and Timolol maleate was found to be 14.983, which indicate good separation of both the compounds.
System suitability tests were carried out on freshly prepared standard solutions and the parameters are summarized in Table 1. The values obtained demonstrated the suitability of the system for analysis of these drugs in combined dosage form. Typical chromatogram of Brimonidine tartrate and Timolol maleate is shown in Figure 3. The calibration curves of Brimonidine tartrate and Timolol maleate were constructed by plotting the peak area and the drug (Y-axis) to the concentration (x-axis). It was found to be linear with a correlation coefficient of 0.999 and 0.999 which shows that good correlation exists between area of the peak and the concentration (Figure 5 and 6). This method is validated for its intra-day and inter-day precision. The results obtained were in the acceptable limit (Table 1). Robustness of the method was studied by changing the chromatographic conditions slightly and the results were presented in the Table 2. Detection limit for Brimonidine tartrate and Timolol maleate was 0.43 µg/ml and 1.23 µg/ml and quantitation limit was 1.30 µg/ml and 3.77 µg/ml, which suggest that a nanogram quantity of both the compounds can be estimated accurately. The RP-HPLC method developed in present study was used to quantify Brimonidine tartrate and Timolol maleate in combined dosage form and the results of assay were comparable with the corresponding labeled amounts (Table 3). High recovery values and no additional peaks, in the chromatogram indicate that the proposed procedure is free from interference of the commonly used excipients in the formulation. So the proposed method is accurate and specific and can be used for routine analysis of Brimonidine tartrate and Timolol maleate in their combined dosage form.

![Figure 3: Typical chromatogram of Brimonidine tartrate (8 µg/ml) and Timolol maleate (20 µg/ml) in combined dosage formulation](image)

![Figure 4: Calibration curve of Brimonidine tartrate](image)
**Figure 5: Calibration curve of Timolol maleate**

**Table 1: System Suitability and Validation Parameters**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameters</th>
<th>Brimonidine tartrate</th>
<th>Timolol maleate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Theoretical plates</td>
<td>5673</td>
<td>11142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resolution</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>14.983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tailing factor</td>
<td>1.32</td>
<td>1.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retention Time (min)</td>
<td>3.01</td>
<td>5.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linearity range (µg/ml)</td>
<td>2.12</td>
<td>5.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regression Equation</td>
<td>Y = 41.35x – 4.038</td>
<td>Y = 47.28x – 15.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slope (m)</td>
<td>41.35</td>
<td>47.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intercept (c)</td>
<td>4.038</td>
<td>15.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correlation coefficient</td>
<td>0.999</td>
<td>0.999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent RSD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intra day (n=3)</td>
<td>0.16</td>
<td>0.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inter day (n=3)</td>
<td>0.09</td>
<td>0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOD (µg/ml)</td>
<td>0.43</td>
<td>1.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOQ (µg/ml)</td>
<td>1.30</td>
<td>3.77</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Average of six determinations, Y-Area under the curve and x is the concentration, RSD-Relative standard deviation, LOD-Limit of detection, LOQ-Limit of quantitation

**Table 2: Robustness data**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Proposed</th>
<th>Variation</th>
<th>Brimonidine tartrate</th>
<th>Timolol maleate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wavelength (nm)</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>287</td>
<td>0.087</td>
<td>0.171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile phase</td>
<td>50:50v/v</td>
<td>48:52</td>
<td>0.129</td>
<td>0.175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flow rate</td>
<td>1 ml/min</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>0.164</td>
<td>0.101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temperature</td>
<td>30°C</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>0.100</td>
<td>0.078</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*%RSD – Percent Relative Standard Deviation (Six determinations)
Table 3: Results of the recovery studies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug</th>
<th>Recovery Level</th>
<th>Amount added (µg/ml)</th>
<th>Amount recovered* (µg/ml)</th>
<th>%Recovery±SD*</th>
<th>%RSD*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brimonidine tartrate</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.04</td>
<td>102.16±0.01</td>
<td>0.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4.01</td>
<td>100.33±0.01</td>
<td>0.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>150%</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5.97</td>
<td>99.50±0.02</td>
<td>0.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timolol maleate</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4.94</td>
<td>98.86±0.04</td>
<td>0.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10.01</td>
<td>100.06±0.01</td>
<td>0.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>150%</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14.96</td>
<td>99.75±0.03</td>
<td>0.25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Mean of three replicates, SD-Standard deviation, %RSD- Relative standard deviation

Table 4: Results of analysis of commercial formulation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug</th>
<th>Amount mg/tablet</th>
<th>% RSD</th>
<th>% Drug estimated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brimonidine tartrate</td>
<td>Label claim</td>
<td>Amount found±SD</td>
<td>0.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timolol maleate</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5.02±0.17</td>
<td>0.16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Average of six determinations, SD-Standard deviation

Table and figure titles and legends:
Table 1: System Suitability and Validation Parameters
*Average of six determinations, Y-Area under the curve and x is the concentration,
RSD-Relative standard deviation, LOD-Limit of detection, LOQ-Limit of quantitation

Table 2: Robustness data
**%RSD –Percent Relative Standard Deviation (Six determinations)

Table 3: Results of analysis of formulation and recovery study

*Average of six determinations, SD-Standard deviation

4. Conclusion

Proposed study describes a new RP-HPLC method for the estimation Brimonidine tartrate and Timolol maleate in combination using simple mobile phase. The method gives good resolution between the compounds with a short analysis time. The method was validated and found to be simple, sensitive, accurate and precise.

5. Acknowledgement

Authors wish to thank Dr. Reddy’s laboratories limited, Hyderabad, for providing the gift samples of Brimonidine tartrate and Timolol maleate for this work. We are also thankful to the management of Hindu College of Pharmacy for providing the required facilities and for their constant encouragement.

6. Reference


