

FLOATING GASTRORETENTIVE OF AMOXICILLIN USING HARD ALGINATE CAPSULES AND ITS ANTIBACTERIAL ACTIVITIES

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ABSTRACT

Objective: The aim of this study was to formulate the floating gastroretentive of amoxicillin using hard alginate capsules shell and evaluate the antibacterial activities of floating gastroretentive of amoxicillin.

Methods: Amoxicillin was prepared in the solid dispersion form, it was prepared by a solvent method using polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP) K30. The solid dispersion was characterized by X-ray diffraction and Fourier transformed infra-red analysis. The drug was filled into alginate capsule shell. Drug release test was carried out using USP paddle method in simulated gastric fluid. Concentrations of amoxicillin were determined using spectrophotometer ultraviolet at wavelength of 272 nm. The antibacterial activity of aliquots dissolution was assessed using agar plate diffusion method against *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Escherichia coli* as bacterial model.

Results: The dissolution test results showed that amoxicillin in the solid dispersions form with a weight ratio of amoxicillin and PVP K30 was 1:1 caused sustained release of amoxicillin for 12 hrs, while the release of amoxicillin without solid dispersion was too slow. The floating lag time was 0 minute and floating time was more than 12 hrs. The X-ray diffraction pattern of amoxicillin solid dispersion had amorphous shape. Antibacterial activity test showed that the dissolution aliquots of amoxicillin solid dispersion were effective against *S. aureus* and *E. coli*.

Conclusions: Based on the results of this study, it is concluded that the alginate capsules shell can be used for the preparation of floating gastroretentive of amoxicillin using amoxicillin solid dispersion and the dissolution aliquots give antibacterial effect.

Keywords: Floating, Gastroretentive, Alginate capsule, Amoxicillin, Solid dispersion, Release, Antibacterial.

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INTRODUCTION

Helicobacter pylori is believed to be the main cause of peptic ulcer due to an imbalance between aggressive factors (*H. pylori*, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs [NSAIDs], and gastric acid) and defensive factors (mucin, bicarbonate, and prostaglandins), leading to disturbances in the mucosal tissue [1]. The prevalence of peptic ulcers in developed countries is 30-40%, while in developing countries is 80-90%. As many as 48% of patients with peptic ulcers are caused by *H. pylori* infection and 24% due to the use of NSAID drugs [2].

Amoxicillin is a beta-lactam antibacterial, which has a broad-spectrum activity against different types of infections caused by both Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria, including *H. pylori* by inhibiting the process of cell wall synthesis [3]. Clinical studies using amoxicillin show that amoxicillin is the least resistant compared to clarithromycin or metronidazole against *H. pylori* [4], but amoxicillin is ineffective even at high dose when it is administered in conventional oral dosage form because the limited contact time [5]. The contact time of antibacterial drug with organism should be long enough to be able to achieve successful eradication of *H. pylori* from gastric mucosa. Hence, a suitable pharmaceutical dosage form for *H. pylori* eradication is also an important basic principle of the drug delivery system dominating these constraints and offering a proper delivery strategy [6].

Several approaches of dosage formulations with gastroretentive system have been developed to achieve a controlled release of amoxicillin to stay longer in the stomach [7,8]. Floating system is a novel approach toward gastroretentive drug delivery systems [9]. One of them is floating drug delivery system or hydrodynamic system, a system that is controlled by the density of pharmaceutical dosage form that can float

on gastric fluid and the drug is slowly released on the desired level [10]. In the previous study, it was reported that the formulation tablets of amoxicillin and metronidazole in swellable effervescent floating tablets were carried out as single and double layer tablets using polyethylene glycol and hydroxypropyl methylcellulose polymers [11].

Sodium alginate is a nontoxic polysaccharide that is derived from seaweed (brown algae) [12]. Alginate can be used for the preparation of periodontal drug delivery system and gastroretentive drug delivery system of antacids [13-15]. In the previous study [16], it was reported the preparation and the characterization of hard alginate capsules' shell, and it was found that alginate capsules' shell was resistant or did not disintegrate in artificial gastric fluid (pH 1.2), but it swelled and disintegrated in artificial intestinal fluid (pH 4.5 and pH 6.8).

In this paper, it will be discussed the application of alginate capsules shell as floating gastroretentive capsules, and amoxicillin was used as a drug model. Amoxicillin was prepared in the solid dispersion form. The lag and floating time, drug release, antibacterial activity, and the characterization of amoxicillin solid dispersion will be discussed.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Materials

Amoxicillin was obtained from PT. Mutifa, calcium chloride dihydrate, ethanol, and HCl were product of Merck. Sodium alginate 80-120 cP (Wako pure chemical industries, Ltd. Japan), polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP) K30 (Nacalai tesque). Hard alginate capsules shell (size 0) was obtained from Laboratory of Physical Pharmacy, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Sumatera Utara.

Methods

Preparation of amoxicillin solid dispersion

Solid dispersion of amoxicillin was prepared by solvent method with various weight ratio of amoxicillin to PVP K30 by dissolving amoxicillin, and PVP 30 in alcohol and the solvent was then evaporated at 40-50°C until constant weight, stored for 24 hrs in desiccator. Scraped and crushed and sieved using a sieve no. 12.

Drug release

The drug release test was performed using paddle method (100 rpm) in simulated gastric fluid (pH 1.2) at 37±0.5°C. The capsules contained 500 mg amoxicillin or amoxicillin solid dispersion equivalent to 500 mg amoxicillin. In amoxicillin solid dispersion was used two capsules of each capsule containing amoxicillin solid dispersion equivalent to 250 mg amoxicillin. Drug concentrations were measured by ultraviolet spectrophotometer at a wavelength of 272 nm (n=3).

Fourier transformed infra-red spectroscopy (FTIR)

IR spectra were obtained using Shimadzu IR Prestige-21 spectrometer. The pulverized samples were micronized with KBr powder and measured in the range of 4000-400/cm.

X-ray diffraction analysis pattern

The physicochemical properties of the solid dispersions were investigated with X-ray diffraction (Shimadzu) using the source from Cu radiation. Observations were made on 2θ, and the scanning speed was 0.8000 per second.

Antibacterial activities assessment

The antibacterial activity of amoxicillin solid dispersion was performed by agar plate diffusion method. First, the different dilution of standard was prepared in simulated gastric fluid (pH 1.2) with a concentration of 0-200 µg/mL. Then, the aliquots were taken from dissolution experiment at 0, 0.5, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 hrs.

dissolution aliquot was measured with a calliper in mm scale. The minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) of amoxicillin was calculated using the following equation [7].

$$\ln(\text{MIC}) = \ln(C) - \frac{x^2}{2} \quad (1)$$

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Floating lag time, floating time, and drug release

Floating lag time of hard alginate capsule containing amoxicillin was 0 minute, it means that when capsule was immersed in simulated gastric fluid pH 1.2, it floated immediately. The capsules floated during drug release experiment for 12 hrs as shown in Fig. 1. Capsules floated was due to the air entrapped inside of the alginate capsules shell and the density of alginate capsules shell was lower than the density of simulated gastric fluid.

The release of amoxicillin from floating hard alginate capsule is shown in Fig. 2.

The release of pure amoxicillin from hard alginate capsules was too slow as sustained release dosage form for 12 hrs dose interval and did not meet the requirement of sustained release dosage form. The requirement of sustained release dosage form is shown Table 1 [17]. Therefore, to increase the release of amoxicillin, amoxicillin was prepared in solid dispersion form. The release of amoxicillin from hard alginate capsules increased significantly in the solid dispersion form as shown in Fig. 2. In this case, the release of amoxicillin in the solid dispersion form fulfilled the requirement of sustained release dosage form for 12 hrs dose interval.

In amoxicillin solid dispersion form, the dissolution rate of amoxicillin increased because PVP is a water-soluble polymer that enhances the wetting process of amoxicillin. In addition, the modification of amoxicillin to amoxicillin solid dispersion form reduces the particle size of amoxicillin so that the rate of dissolution increased.

Hard alginate capsule shell which was placed in artificial gastric fluid (pH 1.2) remained in intact condition during drug release. This is

Table 1: The requirement of drug release for sustained release products

Administration interval	Time (hrs)	Amount released (%)	Requirements [17]
0.25 D	3	24.84	20-50
0.5 D	6	50.65	45-75
1 D	12	90.80	≥75

D: Dosing interval (12 hrs)

Table 2: The comparison of R² values on the plots of zero-order, first-order, and Higuchi model drug release

Kinetic order	Linear equation	R ²
Zero-order	y=0.133x+0.505	0.994
One order	y=0.002x+0.525	0.698
Higuchi model	y=3.994x-21.69	0.966

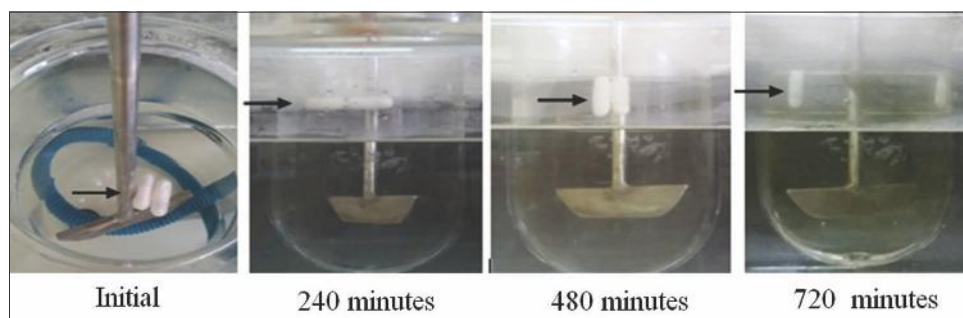


Fig. 1: Floating of hard alginate capsule containing amoxicillin during drug release experiment in simulated gastric fluid at 37°C. Arrow shows the floating capsules

caused by the content of alginate capsules 47.5% is calcium guluronate that is insoluble in simulated gastric fluid (pH 1.2) [18]. Hard alginate capsules disintegrate in the small intestine. Therefore, hard alginate capsules can be used as floating gastroretentive drug delivery system.

Drug release kinetics

The drug-release data were analyzed to determine the drug release kinetic. The kinetic release of amoxicillin solid dispersion from alginate capsules shell was determined for zero-order, first-order, and Higuchi model. The comparison of the correlation coefficient (R^2) of amoxicillin release on the plot of zero-order, first-order, and Higuchi model drug release is presented in Table 2, and the plot for zero-order is shown in Fig. 3. The plot of cumulative of drug released (%) versus time gives a straight line with the value of R^2 is closer to one (0.994) compared to the

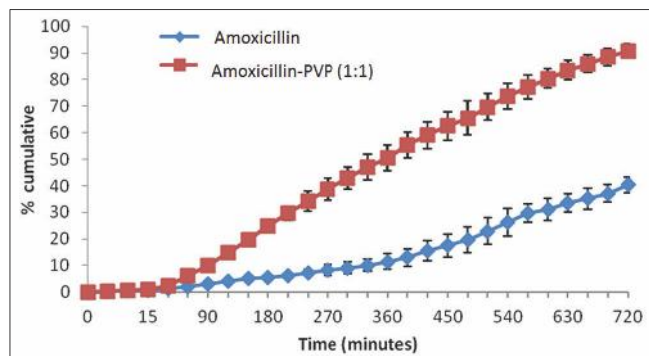


Fig. 2: Release of amoxicillin from floating hard alginate capsules containing amoxicillin and amoxicillin solid dispersion in simulated gastric fluid (pH 1.2) at 37°C for 12 hrs

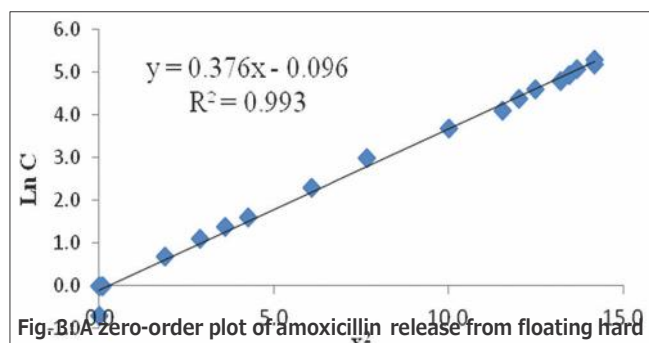


Fig. 3: A zero-order plot of amoxicillin release from floating hard alginate capsules shell in the medium of simulated gastric fluid (pH 1.2) at 3°C

R^2 of other orders. It means that the release of amoxicillin from alginate capsule follows zero-order release.

FTIR analysis

The FTIR spectrum results of amoxicillin showed that the absorption band of O-H stretching vibration at 3525/cm, but the O-H stretching vibration at 3525/cm of solid dispersion was disappeared (Fig. 4). Therefore, amoxicillin solid dispersion shows an interaction as the intermolecular hydrogen bond between amoxicillin and PVP K-30.

X-ray analysis

Diffractiongram of pure amoxicillin showed crystalline shape (Fig. 5a), but PVP showed amorphous shape (Fig. 5b). Diffractiongram of solid dispersion of amoxicillin-PVP (1:1) was the same with pure PVP, it was an amorphous shape (Fig. 5c). X-ray diffraction analysis shows that the change of amoxicillin's crystal structure is caused by the formation of hydrogen bonds between molecules of amoxicillin and PVP as verified by FTIR analysis (Fig. 4). A similar behavior is observed for curcumin solid dispersion with PVP K-30 [19].

Scanning electron microscopy (SEM)

SEM analysis shows that the surface of alginate capsule shell 80-120 cP is different between before and after dissolution for 12 hrs as shown in Fig. 6. After the dissolution test, the surfaces of capsule shows have many pores.

Antibacterial activities

The photographs of antibacterial activity test of amoxicillin standard solution with a concentration of 0-200 µg/ml on the growth of *S. aureus* and *E. coli* using agar plate diffusion method are shown in Figs. 7 and 8 and the data experiment of amoxicillin standard solution is listed in Table 3. The ZOI increased with increasing antibiotic concentrations.

Determination of MIC of amoxicillin

Equation (1) as shown previously is revealed to be:

$$\ln(C) = \ln(\text{MIC}) + \frac{x^2}{4Dt} \quad (2)$$

From Equation (2), the plot of $\ln C$ versus x^2 is made and is obtained a straight line as shown in Figs. 9 and 10. The intercept of the line equation is $\ln \text{MIC}$, then the value of MIC of a standard solution of amoxicillin is obtained.

Plots on Figs. 9 and 10 give straight line and the correlation coefficient (R^2) are 0.990 and 0.993 (good linearity relationship). Values of intercept from the equation, $\ln \text{MIC}$ is -0.018 and -0.096; therefore, the MIC values of amoxicillin against *S. aureus* and *E. coli* are 0.982 µg/mL and 0.909 µg/mL, respectively.

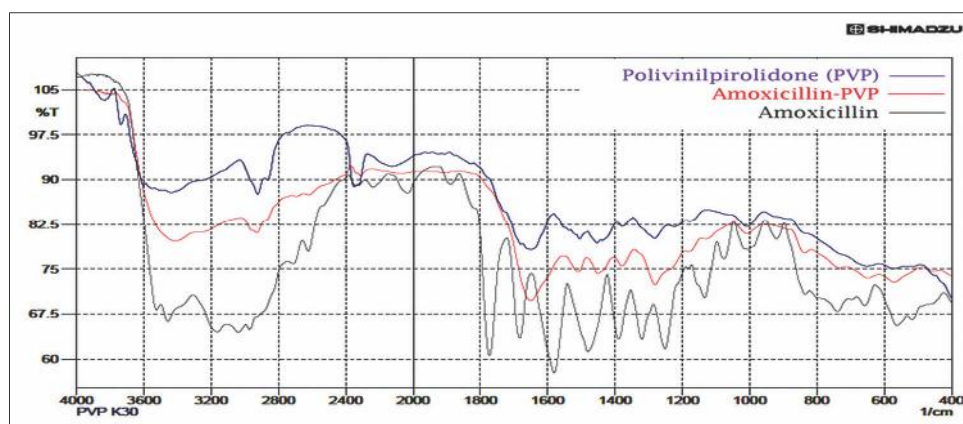


Fig. 4: Infrared spectrograms of amoxicillin as pure chemical and as solid dispersion (amoxicillin-polyvinylpyrrolidone [PVP]), and PVP only

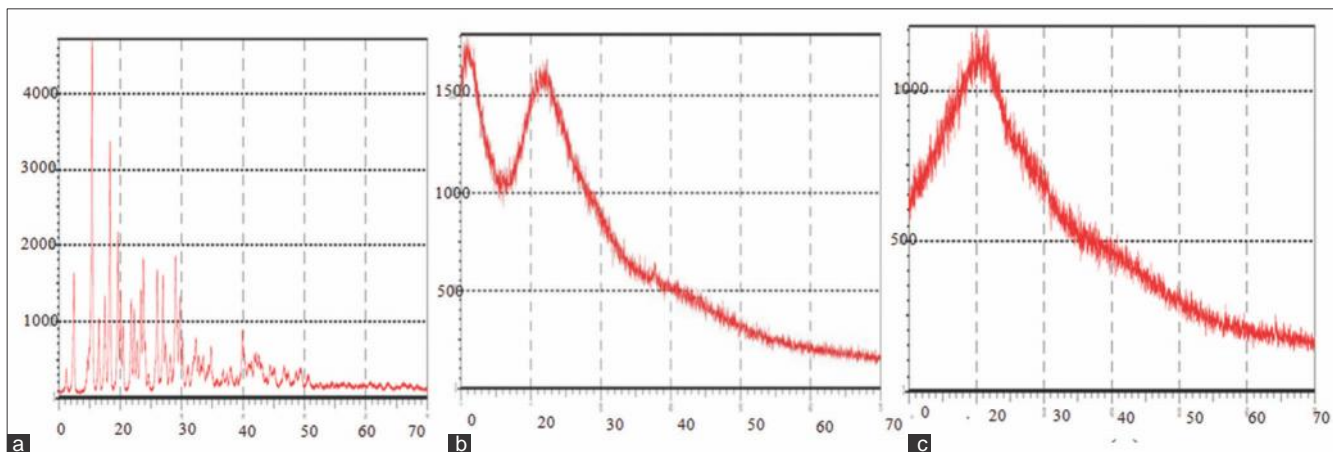


Fig. 5: Diffraction patterns of amoxicillin (a), polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP) (b), and solid dispersion amoxicillin-PVP(c)

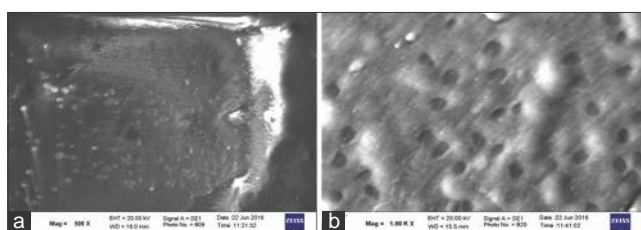


Fig. 6: Scanning electron microscopy of alginate capsule shell. (a) initial and (b) after drug release experiment

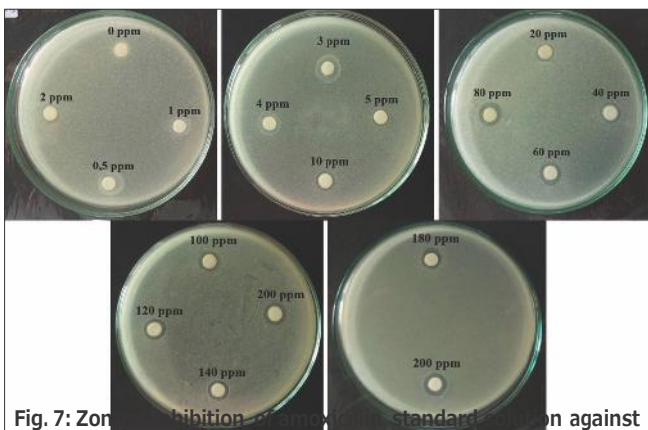


Fig. 7: Zone of inhibition of amoxicillin standard solution against *Staphylococcus aureus*

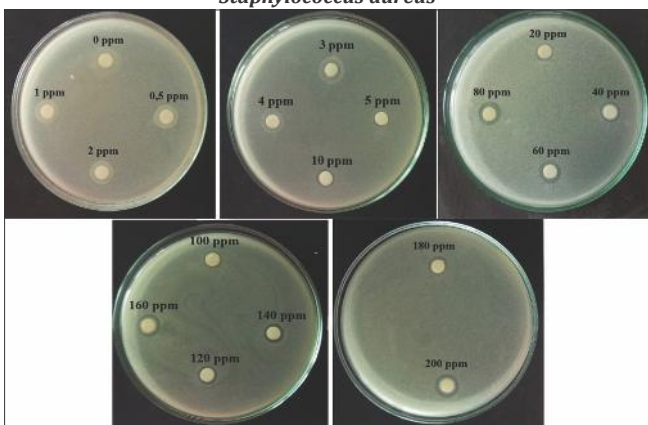


Fig. 8: Zone of inhibition of amoxicillin standard solution against *Escherichia coli*

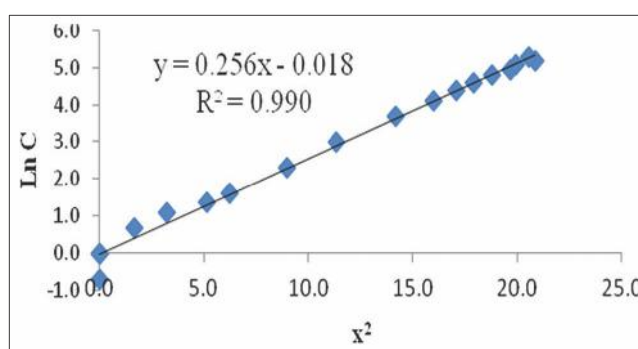


Fig. 9: Plot ln C versus x² of amoxicillin standard solution against *Staphylococcus aureus*

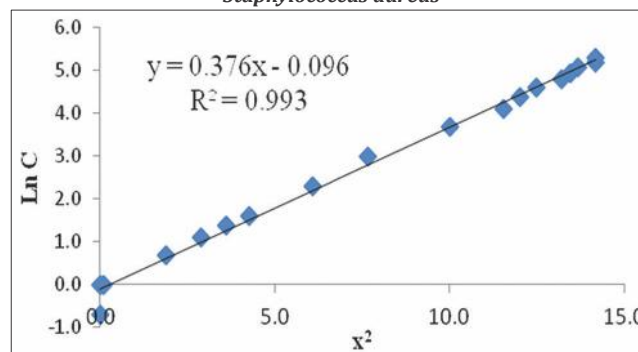


Fig.10: Plot of ln C versus x² of amoxicillin standard solution against *Escherichia coli*

Antibacterial activities of dissolution aliquot of amoxicillin solid dispersion

The photographs of dissolution aliquots effect on the growth of *S. aureus* and *E. coli* with agar diffusion method are shown in Figs. 11 and 12 and the data experiment is listed in Table 4. Table 4 shows the antibacterial activities of dissolution aliquots containing amoxicillin-PVP K30 (1:1) solid dispersion which is released from alginate capsule. The dissolution aliquots inhibited the growth of *S. aureus* with ZOI increased from 0.27 ± 0.03 to 6.94 ± 0.48 mm and inhibited the growth of *E. coli* with ZOI from 0.37 ± 0.17 to 6.04 ± 0.84 mm.

The results showed that the ZOI for *S. aureus* was not much different with ZOI for *E. coli*. Amoxicillin is a broad-spectrum antibiotic that is effective against bacteria both Gram-negative and Gram-positive bacteria [3]. ZOI of amoxicillin solid dispersion against *S. aureus* and

Table 3: Antibacterial activities of standard solution of amoxicillin against *S. aureus* and *E. coli*

Concentrations (µg/mL) (C)	<i>S. aureus</i>			<i>E. coli</i>		
	ln (C)	ZOI (mm) (x)	x ²	ln (C)	ZOI (mm) (x)	x ²
0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
0,5	-0.693	0.067	0.004	-0.693	0.033	0.001
1	0.000	0.167	0.028	0.000	0.300	0.090
2	0.693	1.300	1.690	0.693	1.367	1.868
3	1.099	1.800	3.240	1.099	1.700	2.890
4	1.386	2.267	5.138	1.386	1.900	3.610
5	1.609	2.500	6.250	1.609	2.067	4.271
10	2.303	2.993	8.960	2.303	2.467	6.084
20	2.996	3.367	11.334	2.996	2.767	7.654
40	3.689	3.767	14.188	3.689	3.167	10.028
60	4.094	4.000	16.000	4.094	3.400	11.560
80	4.382	4.133	17.084	4.382	3.467	12.018
100	4.605	4.233	17.921	4.605	3.533	12.484
120	4.787	4.333	18.778	4.787	3.633	13.201
140	4.942	4.433	19.654	4.942	3.667	13.444
160	5.075	4.467	19.951	5.075	3.700	13.690
180	5.193	4.567	20.854	5.193	3.767	14.188
200	5.298	4.533	20.551	5.298	3.767	14.188

ZOI: Zone of inhibition, *S. aureus*: *Staphylococcus aureus*, *E. coli*: *Escherichia coli*

Table 4: Antibacterial activities of dissolution aliquot of amoxicillin solid dispersion

Time (hrs)	ZOI (mm)	
	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	<i>Escherichia coli</i>
0	0.00±0.00	0.00±0.00
0,5	0.27±0.03	0.37±0.17
1	0.80±0.24	0.91±0.32
2	1.08±0.30	1.44±0.08
3	1.88±0.23	2.01±0.07
4	2.48±0.41	2.51±0.18
5	3.09±0.70	3.07±0.30
6	3.62±0.95	3.71±0.59
7	4.11±0.92	4.20±0.75
8	4.56±0.92	4.51±0.89
9	5.07±0.80	4.88±0.79
10	5.62±0.77	5.32±0.96
11	6.13±0.63	5.71±0.86
12	6.94±0.48	6.04±0.84

ZOI: Zone of inhibition

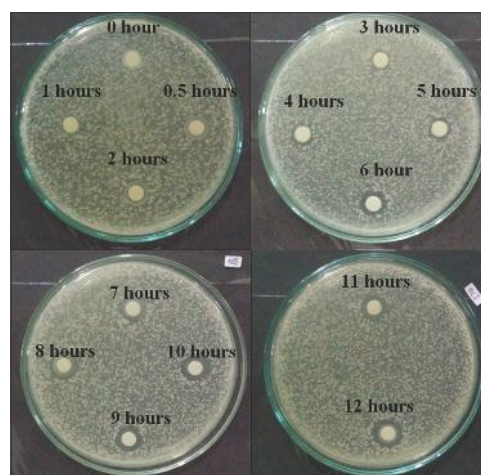


Fig. 11: Zone of inhibition of dissolution aliquot of amoxicillin solid dispersion against *Staphylococcus aureus*

E. coli increased with increasing time of dissolution due to the increase of amoxicillin concentration in the solution.

Correlation of ZOI of aliquot dissolution of amoxicillin solid dispersion with calculated ZOI of standard solution

Calculated ZOI values of standard solution for *S. aureus* are listed in Table 5. Calculated ZOI of standard solution was obtained by inserting the ln C values of dissolution aliquot of solid dispersion into the regression equation of the graph of Fig. 9 to obtain the calculated ZOI of standard solution for *S. aureus*. The same method of ln C values of Table 6 is inserted to the regression equation of the graph of Fig. 10 to obtain the calculated ZOI of standard solution for *E. coli*. Calculated ZOI values of standard solution for *E. coli* are listed in Table 6.

The correlation of ZOI of aliquot dissolution of amoxicillin solid dispersion with ZOI of standard solution (calculated) is shown in Fig. 13a for *S. aureus* and Fig. 13b for *E. coli*. As shown in Fig. 13, the plot of ZOI of dissolution aliquot of amoxicillin solid dispersion versus ZOI of standard solution (calculated) gives a straight line with R² is 0.999. It means that there is a high correlation between ZOI of standard solution and ZOI of dissolution aliquot of amoxicillin solid dispersion. This indicates that the inhibitory effect of amoxicillin standard solution and dissolution aliquot of amoxicillin release from floating alginate capsules is not different against *S. aureus* and *E. coli*.

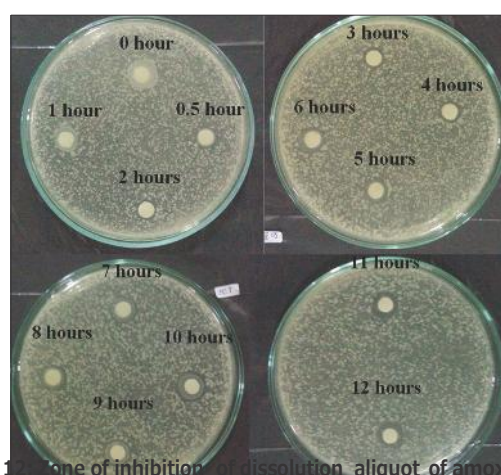


Fig. 12: Zone of inhibition of dissolution aliquot of amoxicillin solid dispersion against *Escherichia coli*

CONCLUSIONS

Hard alginate capsules shell can be used to obtain a sustained release of floating gastroretentive of amoxicillin, but amoxicillin should be used in

Table 5: ZOI of dissolution aliquot of amoxicillin solid dispersion and standard solution (calculated) against *Staphylococcus aureus*

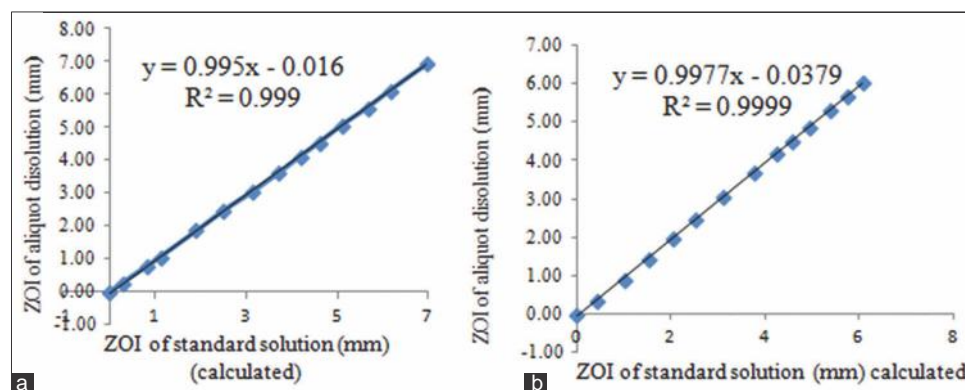
Dissolution aliquot				Standard solution (calculated)	
Time (hrs)	ZOI (mm) (x)	C	ln C (y)	x ²	ZOI (mm) (x)
0	0.00	0.982	-0.00	0.00	0.000
0.5	0.27	1.000	0.00	0.07	0.268
1	0.80	1.168	0.16	0.68	0.823
2	1.08	1.342	0.29	1.22	1.105
3	1.88	2.443	0.89	3.56	1.886
4	2.48	4.864	1.58	6.25	2.500
5	3.09	12.295	2.51	9.87	3.141
6	3.62	32.959	3.50	13.72	3.704
7	4.11	85.777	4.45	17.46	4.178
8	4.56	230.249	5.44	21.32	4.617
9	5.07	783.068	6.66	26.10	5.108
10	5.62	3549.524	8.17	32.00	5.657
11	6.13	16004.215	9.68	37.89	6.155
12	6.94	235007.995	12.37	48.38	6.955

ZOI: Zone of inhibition

Table 6: ZOI of dissolution aliquot of amoxicillin solid dispersion and standard solution (calculated) against *Escherichia coli*

Dissolution aliquot				Standard solution (calculated)	
Time (hrs)	ZOI (mm) (x)	C	ln C (y)	x ²	ZOI (mm) (x)
0	0.00	0.000	-0.000	0.00	0.000
0.5	0.37	0.968	-0.032	0.17	0.412
1	0.91	1.317	0.275	0.99	0.994
2	1.44	2.149	0.765	2.29	1.513
3	2.01	4.397	1.481	4.19	2.048
4	2.51	10.112	2.313	6.41	2.531
5	3.07	32.574	3.483	9.52	3.085
6	3.71	180.320	5.194	14.07	3.751
7	4.20	814.097	6.702	18.08	4.252
8	4.51	2410.204	7.787	20.97	4.578
9	4.88	8255.688	9.018	24.24	4.923
10	5.32	49642.150	10.812	29.01	5.386
11	5.71	236530.185	12.373	33.16	5.758
12	6.04	1014802.37	13.830	37.04	6.085

ZOI: Zone of inhibition

Fig. 13: Correlation plot of zone of inhibition (ZOI) of dissolution aliquot of amoxicillin solid dispersion versus ZOI of standard solution against *Staphylococcus aureus* (a) and *Escherichia coli* (b)

the solid dispersion form. The release of pure amoxicillin (without solid dispersion) is too slow. Therefore, amoxicillin should be formulated in the solid dispersion form. Hard alginate capsules containing amoxicillin solid dispersion are immediately float and it float during the dissolution experiment for 12 hrs. The dissolution aliquots of amoxicillin solid dispersion inhibit the growth of *S. aureus* and *E. coli*.

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