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Original Article

ANALYTICAL METHOD DEVELOPMENT, VALIDATION AND SOLUBILITY ESTIMATION OF NICARDIPINE HCL IN VARIOUS OIL SOLVENTS, SURFACTANTS AND COSURFACTANTS

RAHUL Y. PAGAR* [,](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4403-3096) AVINASH B. GANGURDE

Department of Pharmaceutics, K. B. H. S. S. Trust's Institute of Pharmacy, Malegaon, Nashik-423105, Maharashtra, India *Corresponding author: Rahul Y. Pagar; *Email[: raahulpagar@gmail.com](mailto:raahulpagar@gmail.com)

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ABSTRACT

Objective: This study is focused on the development of an analytical method and the evaluation of the solubility of Nicardipine HCl (NHCL) in various oil solvents, surfactants, and cosurfactants using the saturated solubility determination method employing UV Spectrophotometry.

Methods: Lipophilic solvents such as Caprylic Capric, Soyabean oil, linseed oil, Coconut oil, Sunflower oil, Corn oil, Olive oil, Peanut oil, and Cottonseed oil were utilized, along with surfactants Tween 60 and Tween 80, and cosurfactants PEG 200 and Transcutol HP. Analytical validation parameters, including linearity and range, precision, limit of Detection (LOD), limit of Quantification (LOQ), ruggedness, robustness, and accuracy, were assessed according to the International Council for Harmonisation (ICH) guidelines. The solubility of NHCL in all of the aforementioned solvents was evaluated using the saturated solubility determination method.

Results: Linearity analysis revealed a linear relationship, determined by an R² value between concentration and absorbance. Intra-day precision demonstrates method reliability, with all Percent Relative Standard Deviation (%RSD) values ranging between 0.8426 and 1.9417%. LOD and LOQ values ranged between 1.1478 and 8.1632 µg/ml and 3.4783 and 24.7368 µg/ml, respectively. Ruggedness analysis exhibited good control over external experimental factors, with %RSD between 0.3433 and 1.9183%. Robustness assessment demonstrated consistent performance even with slight changes in environmental conditions, with %RSD between 0.5450 and 1.6443%. Accuracy study indicated % recovery values between 98.53 and 100.89%, suggesting minimal interference from excipients in the formulation.

Conclusion: Caprylic Capric, as an oil/triglyceride, exhibited a solubility of 0.94 mg/ml. Tween-80, as a surfactant, showed a solubility of 23.58 mg/ml, and Transcutol HP, as a cosurfactant, demonstrated a solubility of 38.18 mg/ml for NHCL

Keywords: Solubility, Bioavailability, Nicardipine HCl, Caprylic capric, Tween 80, Transcutol HP

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INTRODUCTION

Nicardipine HCl (NHCL) falls under the category of dihydropyridine derivatives. NHCL represents the monohydrochloride salt of 2,6 dimethyl-5-methoxycarbonyl-3-(2-N-benzyl-methylamino) ethoxycarbonyl-4-(3-nitrophenyl)-1,4 dihydropyridine hydrochloride. This substance presents as a greenish-yellow crystalline powder with a subtle bitter taste and no discernible odour [1].

NHCL is a calcium channel blocker with potent vasodilator and antihypertensive characteristics. It undergoes rapid absorption primarily from the jejunum and ileum, key segments of the digestive tract [2]. It may be administered alone or in combination with an angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor. Additionally, NHCL dilates coronary arteries; thereby augmenting blood supply to the myocardium [3-5]. NHCL is classified as a BCS class II drug, indicating high permeability but low solubility. Water solubility significantly affects drug dissolution and bioavailability. Compounds with greater solubility typically exhibit enhanced absorption and increased bioavailability [6-18].

The solubility of BCS class II drugs can be improved through the dry emulsion techniques, employing lyophilization [19-25].

This study focuses on comprehensive exploration of the solubility behaviour of NHCL, an important cardiovascular drug, in a wide range of oil solvents, surfactants, and cosurfactants. By examining the solubility profiles across different solvents, this research will help for enhancing the bioavailability and efficacy of NHCL formulations. Furthermore, the inclusion of surfactants and cosurfactants in the investigation reflects a contemporary approach to pharmaceutical formulation, considering the importance of solubility enhancement techniques in improving drug delivery systems.

Moreover, the analytical method development and validation aspects underscore the rigor and reliability of the analytical techniques employed in quantifying NHCL concentrations. The validation process

ensures the linearity, precision, LOD, LOQ, ruggedness, robustness, and accuracy of the analytical method, thus ensuring the credibility of the experimental results. This contributes to the scientific community by providing a validated analytical method that can be utilized for routine quality control analysis of NHCL formulations.

In essence, this study amalgamates analytical chemistry principles with pharmaceutical formulation science to address the critical need for robust analytical methods and enhanced solubility understanding in the development of NHCL formulations. Its comprehensive approach and scientific rigor make it a valuable contribution to both academia and the pharmaceutical industry, with potential implications for improving therapeutic outcome and patient care.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Materials

NHCL, Caprylic Capric, and Transcutol HP were obtained as gift samples from Subhash Chemical Industries Pvt. ltd. Polyethylene glycol 200 (PEG-200), Tween-60, and Tween-80 were purchased from Vishal Chemicals. The Coconut Oil (Marico limited, Mumbai), Soyabean Oil (Pataldhamal Wadhwani Agri Tech Pvt. ltd.), Linseed Oil (Mahesh Agro Food Industries, Rajasthan), Corn Oil (Cargill India Pvt. ltd., Mumbai), Cottonseed Oil (Ashwin Vanaspati Industries Pvt. ltd.), Olive Oil (V. G. Kannan Foods Pvt. ltd., Mumbai), and Peanut Oil (Nav Maharashtra Agro Industries Pvt. ltd., Pune) were purchased from the suppliers.

Determination of ʎ max of NHCL in various solvent

A standard stock solution containing 100 µg/ml of NHCL was prepared by dissolving 10 mg of NHCL in Caprylic Capric, Soyabean Oil, Linseed Oil, Coconut Oil, Sunflower Oil, Corn Oil, Olive Oil, Peanut Oil, Cottonseed Oil, Tween-60, Tween-80, PEG-200, and Transcutol HP, and analysed on UV Spectrophotometer between 400-200 nm, and λ max was recorded.

Linearity and range

For the linearity study, five different dilutions of NHCL were prepared in each solvent as shown in table 1 and used for calibration curve plot (n=3). The intercept and slope for each solvent used were determined from the calibration curve.

Precision

Solutions of dilutions, as shown in table 2, were used to determine precision. Six samples (n=6) of the same concentration were used, and absorbance was recorded. Mean, Standard Deviation (SD), and % RSD were calculated.

LOD and LOQ

LOD and LOQ were calculated for each used solvent by using formula for

 $\text{LOD} = \frac{3.3 \times \text{Standard Deviation}}{\text{Slope}} \text{LOQ} = \frac{10 \times \text{Standard Deviation}}{\text{Slope}}$ Slope

Ruggedness

Solutions of dilutions, as shown in table 3, were used to study ruggedness. Two analysts at the same environmental condition and on the same instrument conducted the experiment. Three samples (n=3) of the same concentration were used, and absorbance was recorded mean absorbance, SD, and %RSD were calculated.

Robustness

Solutions of dilutions, as shown in table 4, were used to study robustness at two different temperature conditions (Room Temperature-36 °C and 20 °C). Six samples (n=6) of the same concentration were used, and absorbance was recorded. Mean absorbance, SD, and %RSD were calculated.

Accuracy/% recovery

Three different concentrations of 80%, 100%, and 120% of NHCL in each solvent were prepared using the label claim of the marketed product and bulk NHCL. Three samples (n=3) of each concentration were used, and absorbance was recorded. Mean absorbance, SD, and % Recovery were calculated [26-33].

Table 4: Solvent and different concentration (µg/ml) used for robustness study

Saturated solubility study

Excess amounts of the drug were added to 10 ml of an appropriate solvent in glass vials. These vials were then placed on an orbital shaker and subjected to agitation for 48 h at a speed of 50 rpm, maintaining a constant temperature of approximately 37±0.5 °C. Subsequently, the resulting samples were filtered using syringe filters with a pore size of 0.22 µm. The filtrate was collected and appropriately diluted with the same solvent. The absorbance of the drug was then analysed using a UV-Visible Spectrophotometer at the

pre-scanned λmax in the respective solvent (n=3). Finally, the mean absorbance values were converted into concentrations using a standard curve of the drug in the solvent [34].

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Linearity and Range

Table 4 represents the λ max, concentration range, and mean absorbance for different dilutions of the solvents used. Fig. 1 to 13 show concentration-versus-absorbance graphs, along with the corresponding R² values for each solvent.

Linearity, studied by the \mathbb{R}^2 value, was found to be between 0.9873 and 0.9999, revealing a linear relationship between the concentration and absorbance of NHCL in various solvents. These values are close to those determined by Naik and Pai (2013) and Nagaraju *et al.* (2014), which were 0.991 and 0.997, respectively [35, 36]. Apridamayanti P. *et al.*(2024), discussed the significance of R² value in linearity study [37].

Table 4: λ max, concentration range, and mean absorbance for NHCL in solvents used

The data is expressed as a mean±SD, n=3

Fig. 1: NHCL in caprylic capric Fig. 2: NHCL in soyabean oil

Precision

Table 5 shows the Precision study and its % RSD for each solvent used.

Intra-day precision demonstrates method reliability, with all %RSD values ranging between 0.8426% and 1.9417%. According to Patil

(2017) and Snyder *et al.* (2010), for a standard solution containing 100% analyte, the % RSD should be less than 2% to meet the acceptable precision criteria. This means that the variability in results obtained from repeated analyses of the standard solution should not exceed 2% of the mean value. When analyzing a sample solution with 1% analyte content, the acceptable %RSD is specified to be below 2.7%. This slightly relaxed criterion reflects the lower concentration of analyte in the sample solution, allowing for a slightly higher degree of variability while still maintaining acceptable precision standards [38, 39].

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Fig. 13: NHCL in transcutol HP

*The data is expressed as a mean±SD, n=6

Table 6: LOD and LOQ values for NHCL in solvents used

LOD and LOQ

Table 6 shows the LOD and LOQ values for each solvent used.

The calculated LOD and LOQ values ranged between 1.1478 and 8.1632 µg/ml and 3.4783 and 24.7368 µg/ml, respectively. lOD and lOQ are derived from a linear regression analysis applied to a standard curve. These values indicate the method's sensitivity and the lowest concentration of NHCL that can be reliably detected and quantified with acceptable precision and accuracy [40].

Ruggedness

Table 7 shows Ruggedness study and its %RSD value for each solvent used by different analyst.

Ruggedness analysis exhibited good control over external experimental factors, with %RSD between 0.3433% and 1.9183%.

*The data is expressed as a mean±SD, n=3

Robustness

Table 8 shows Robustness study and its % RSD of each solvent used at two different temperature conditions.

Robustness assessment demonstrated consistent performance even with slight changes in environmental conditions, with %RSD between 0.5450% and 1.6443%. The %RSD values fell within the acceptable range, indicating its reliability [41, 42].

Table 8: Robustness study and its %RSD for NHCL in solvents usedat two different temperature conditions

*The data is expressed as a mean±SD, n=6

Accuracy/% recovery

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Table 9 shows the % recovery values for each solvent used at 80%, 100% and 120% concentrations.

The accuracy study indicated % recovery values between 98.53% and 100.89%, suggesting minimal interference from excipients in the formulation. The capability to precisely recover known concentrations of the drug from the sample solution enhances confidence in the accuracy and suitability of the method [43].

Solubility estimation

Table 10 shows the solubility of NHCL in each solvent used.

Among the oils/triglycerides, Caprylic Capric exhibits the highest solubility, followed by coconut oil, soyabean oil, linseed oil, peanut oil, sunflower oil, olive oil, corn oil, and cottonseed oil, in descending order. As for surfactants, Tween-80 demonstrates the highest solubility, followed by Tween-60. Among the cosurfactants, Transcutol HP displays the highest solubility, followed by PEG-200.

*The data is expressed as a mean±SD, n=3

*The data is expressed as a mean±SD, n=3

CONCLUSION

Analytical method validation for each solvent was successfully conducted in accordance with ICH guidelines. Caprylic Capric, as an oil/triglyceride, Tween-80 as a surfactant and Transcutol HP as a cosurfactant, exhibited high solubility for NHCL.

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Nil

AUTHORS CONTRIBUTIONS

Rahul Y. Pagar: Conceptualization, Investigation, Data Analysis, Writing-original Draft.

Avinash B. Gangurde: Supervision, Data Analysis, Writing-reviewing and editing.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

Declared none

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