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A simple spectrophotometric method for the determination of haloperidol from pharmaceutical formulations

G. Sreedevi

Department of Chemistry, Rayalaseema University, Kurnool, (A.P)-518002, India

E. Chakravarthy

Department of Chemistry, Rayalaseema University, Kurnool, (A.P)-518002, India

N. Rami Reddy

Department of Chemistry, K.V. R. Government College, Kurnool, (A.P)-518002, India

Abstract---A simple, sensitive, rapid, accurate and cost effective spectrophotometric method has been developed and validated for the estimation of haloperidol in bulk drug and for its pharmaceutical formulations. The proposed method is based on the formation of chloroform extractable ion pair complex of haloperidol with bromothymol blue. The absorbance of the coloured extractable ion pair complex is measured at the wavelength of maximum absorbance 420 nm against the reagent blank. Beer's law is obeyed over a concentration range of 20 to 100 µg/ml of haloperidol, for a linear calibration curve. Results are statistically validated and found to be reproducible.

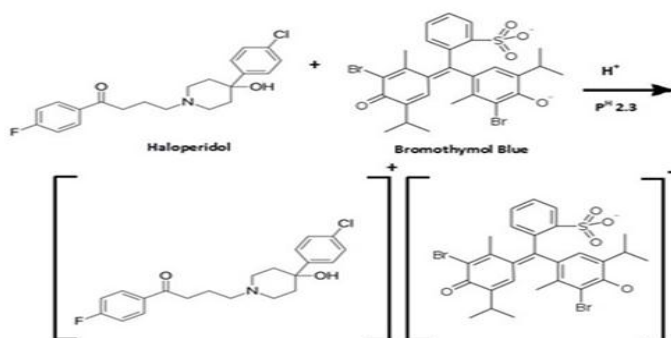
Keywords---spectrophotometry, haloperidol, bromothymol blue, pharmaceutical formulations.

Introduction

Haloperidol is the first of the butyrophenone series of major antipsychotics. The chemical designation is 4-[4-(p-chlorophenyl) -4- hydroxypiperidino]-4-fluorobutyrophenone. Haloperidol is used to treat psychotic disorders like schizophrenia, to control motor (movement) and verbal (for example, Tourette's syndrome) and is used to treat severe behavior problems in children. Haloperidol is also available as a sterile parenteral form for intramuscular injection. Various methods have been reported in literature for the determination of haloperidol, which includes Spectrophotometric methods¹⁻⁷,

RP-HPLC⁸⁻¹⁰, HPLC¹¹⁻¹², Gas chromatography¹³, Spectrofluorimetry¹⁴, Adsorption ratio method¹⁵, Stripping voltametry¹⁶, Thermodynamic method¹⁷. In the present communication, a simple spectrophotometric method has been developed for the determination of haloperidol in pharmaceutical formulations. Spectrophotometric technique is a most preferred method for routine analytical work due to its simplicity and reasonable sensitivity with significant economical advantage.

The present method is based on the formation of chloroform extractable ion pair complex of haloperidol with bromothymol blue in methanol medium. The absorbance of the coloured extractable ion pair complex is measured at 420 nm using optimized experimental conditions. The aim of present research work is to develop the simple spectrophotometric method for the determination of haloperidol in dosage forms without interference of excipients. The reaction sequence of haloperidol and bromothymol blue ion-pair complex is shown in the scheme .1.



Scheme 1. Reaction scheme of Haloperidol with Bromothymol blue

Experimental

All reagents and solvents used were analytical grade. Haloperidol drug is supplied by Rhyme Organics and Chemicals Ltd.

Instrument

All experimental measurements are taken by using Milton Roy 1001 spectrophotometer with 10 mm quartz cuvettes.

Reagents

Hydrochloric acid (1.0 N):

10 g of 36% HCl (Merck) is dissolved in 100 ml of distilled water.

Potassium Hydrogen Phthalate (0.1 M)

It is prepared by dissolving 2.0422 grams of potassium hydrogen phthalate (Fischer Scientific) in 100 ml of distilled water.

Buffer solution (pH 2.3)

It is prepared by mixing 100 ml of 0.1 M potassium hydrogen phthalate (20.422 gm of potassium hydrogen phthalate (Fischer scientific) in 1000 ml of distilled water) in 91.6 ml of 0.1M HCl (10 g of 36% HCl (Merck) is dissolved in 1000 ml of distilled water) and pH of the solution is adjusted to pH 2.3.

Bromothymol blue (BTB) (100 μ g/ml)

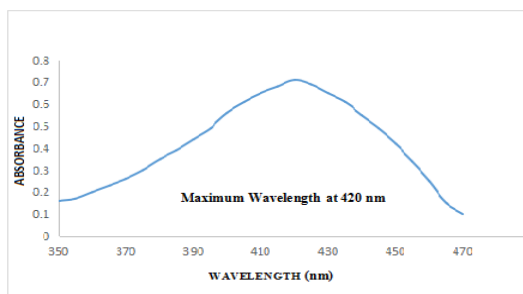
It is prepared by dissolving 10 mg of bromothymol blue (Fischer scientific) in 100 ml of methanol.

Preparation of standard stock solution of Haloperidol

An accurately weighed 50 mg of haloperidol is dissolved in methanol. The volume is adjusted to 50 ml with methanol in 50 ml standard flask. One ml of this solution contains 1 mg/ml. The stock solution is further diluted to get desired concentration 100 μ g/ml.

Spectrum of Haloperidol with bromothymol blue

Haloperidol with tertiary amino group reacts with bromothymol blue at pH 2.3 to give ion association complex. It is extracted into chloroform layer and absorbance of the yellow coloured ion association complex is determined from absorption spectrum and from the calibration curve amount of haloperidol is estimated. The absorbance of extractable ion pair complex is measured at 420 nm against reagent blank. Absorption spectrum is shown in the fig .1.



Scheme 1. Absorption spectrum of Haloperidol

Calibration curve for Haloperidol drug

Various amounts of haloperidol drug solution ranging from 0.2 to 1.0 ml are taken into different flasks and to each of these flasks 1.0 ml of bromothymol blue dye solution, 1.0 ml of buffer solution pH 2.3 are added and made up to the mark with distilled water. The reaction mixture is shaken well for 5 minutes and allowed to stand for 5 minutes. The reaction mixture in the flasks is taken into a series of separating funnels and extracted with 5 ml aliquots of chloroform three times and the combined chloroform layers are extracted in to 25 ml standard flask

and contents are made up to the mark with pure chloroform. The yellowcoloured chloroform solution is used to measure the absorbance against the reagent blank (reaction mixture without drug) at 420 nm of λ_{max} . The calibration curve is drawn by plotting absorbance against the concentration of haloperidol in $\mu\text{g/ml}$. It is a linear curve which is obtained over a concentration range of 20 to 100 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ of haloperidol. The amount of haloperidol present in the sample is estimated by using calibration curve represented by fig .2.

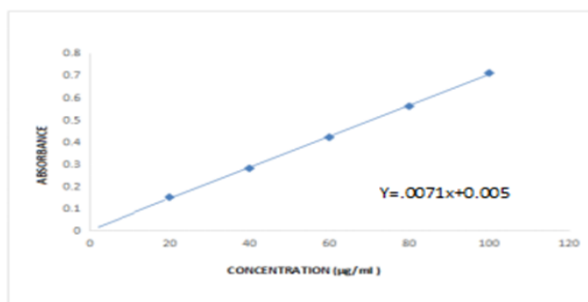


Fig.2. Calibration curve of Haloperidol

Assay of Haloperidol in pharmaceutical formulations

For the analysis of tablet formulations 20 tablets of haloperidol were weighed and finely powdered. 50 mg of accurately weighed powdered haloperidol drug is transferred into a 50 ml volumetric flask containing 25 ml of methanol. The solution is filtered using whatmann filter paper No: 41 into another 50 ml volumetric flask and the solution is made up to the mark with methanol. The concentration of drug solution is 1 mg/ml. The stock solution is further diluted with methanol to get the working concentration and absorbance values are recorded as per the procedure described for calibration curve. The amount of drug present in haloperidol was estimated from the predetermined calibration curve and the experimental results are statically validated.

Statistical analysis of results

The optical characteristics for haloperidol - bromothymol blue ion pair complex, like λ_{max} , Beer's law limit, molar absorptivity and Sandell's sensitivity are estimated and presented in table .1. The molar absorptivity and Sandell's sensitivity values indicates sensitivity of the method. Regression analysis is done by least square method, by taking different concentrations of drug. This helps to calculate intercept (a), slope(b) and correlation (r). The data is tabulated in the table .1. The correlation coefficient value of 0.9993 shows the good linearity of calibration curve. In table .2. %RSD values obtained are less than 2% indicates the excellent reproducibility. Low standard deviation value obtained indicates reproducibility and also high accuracy of the method followed. The t-test is used to give the perfect precision of the said method. The experimental values obtained in this are compared with theoretical value of 2.78. During the total process of ion association complex method there is no effect of additives and excipients like starch, glucose and calcium lactose present in different concentrations of general pharmaceutical formulations.

Table 1
Optical characteristics

Optical parameters	Experimental / Calculated values
λ_{max} (nm)	420
Beer's law limit ($\mu\text{g/ml}$)	20-100
Molar absorptivity (lit. $\text{mole}^{-1} \text{cm}^{-1}$)	2.81×10^4
Sandell's sensitivity ($\mu\text{g cm}^{-2}$ / 0.001 absorbance unit)	0.0354
Regression equation ($Y = bx+a$)	$Y=0.0071X+0.005$
Slope (b)	0.0071
Intercept (a)	0.005
Correlation coefficient (r)	0.9993

$Y = bx+a$ where Y is the absorbance and X concentration in $\mu\text{g/ml}$

Table 2
Assay of Haloperidol in pharmaceutical formulations

Tablets	Labeled amount(mg)	Amount found (mg) $\pm$ S.D	% label claim	%RSD	t-test value
Tablet 1	10	9.91 ± 0.0024	99.1	0.60	0.232
Tablet 2	10	9.90 ± 0.0023	99.0	0.55	0.250
Tablet 3	10	9.92 ± 0.003	99.2	0.70	0.095

Average of five determinations based on label claim

Conclusion

The proposed spectrophotometric method for the assay determination of selected drug is simple, sensitive, rapid, and low cost and gives precise, and accurate results. Hence the present proposed method can be successfully applied for the routine analysis of haloperidol in bulk samples and in pharmaceutical formulations.

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