

UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DO RIO GRANDE DO SUL

Faculdade de Farmácia

Disciplina de Trabalho de Conclusão de Curso de Farmácia

**Validation of a simple HPLC method for the determination of Chlorhexidine Digluconate in
solution**

Mariana Colombo

Porto Alegre, novembro de 2013.

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Mariana Colombo

Trabalho final da Disciplina de Trabalho de Conclusão de Curso em Farmácia

Orientador: Prof^a. Dr. Letícia Scherer Koester

Coorientadora: Dr. Letícia Lenz Sfair

Porto Alegre, novembro de 2013.

“Happiness only real when shared.”

Christopher McCandless

AGRADECIMENTOS

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À Dr. Letícia S. Koester pela orientação deste trabalho e durante a iniciação científica.

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Ao Fabrício por me mostrar que a vida pode ser e é bem mais fácil e simples.

À minha família, principalmente aos meus avós, Xande, Lu e Ana Maira pelo apoio e ensinamentos em todos os momentos.

APRESENTAÇÃO

Este trabalho está apresentado sob a forma de artigo científico, dividido nos seguintes tópicos: Introdução, Materiais e Métodos, Resultados e Discussão, Conclusão e Referências e será submetido à *Latin American Journal of Pharmacy*. Os experimentos foram realizados na Indústria Vidora Farmacêutica, Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul.

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VALIDATION OF A SIMPLE HPLC METHOD FOR THE DETERMINATION OF CHLORHEXIDINE DIGLUCONATE IN SOLUTION

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KEY WORDS. Chlorhexidine Digluconate. High performance liquid chromatography. Stability studies.

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SUMMARY. Chlorhexidine Digluconate (CDG) is an antiseptic of biguadines class widely used as skin disinfectant. A high performance liquid chromatography method has been developed and validated for a rapid determination of CDG in commercial product (Kuratop®, 1%) and raw material. The method proved to be fast, specific, linear, precise, exact and robust for quantifying CDG in commercial product and raw material. Furthermore, the method was applied to quantification of CDG in the product filled in two different packings and submitted to accelerated (up to 6 months) and long-term (up to 1 year) stability studies. Throughout the period evaluated CDG content remained between 9.04 and 9.86 % and RSDs of the analysis were lower than 2,46% demonstrating the development of a precise analytical methodology.

INTRODUÇÃO

Chlorhexidine Digluconate (CDG) (Figure 1) ¹, [N,N'' -bis (4-chlorophenyl)-3, 12-diimino-2, 4, 11, 13-tetraazatetradecanedimidamide di-*D*-gluconate] is the most popular antiseptic of biguadines class. It has been described a high antibacterial activity for this compound, mainly against most gram-positive and some gram-negative bacteria, and is often used as a skin disinfectant ². The antimicrobial properties have been attributed to its di-cationic structure ³. Moreover, CDG induces rupture of cytoplasmic membrane (lipopolysaccharides) by changing the membrane potential ⁴.

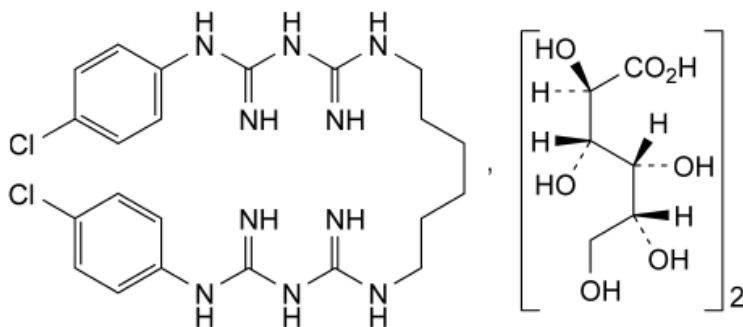


Figure 1.

Several analytical methods have been reported to chlorhexidine analysis by high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) in complex biological matrices as, for instance, saliva ^{5,6,7,8}, urine ^{9,10} and human serum ^{11,9}. With respect to pharmaceutical products CDG has been evaluated by HPLC in topical ointment ¹², ophthalmic solution ¹³, suspension ¹⁴, pastille ¹⁵, spray and gargle dosage forms ¹⁶. The official HPLC method for CDG determination has been described in USP 34 using a gradient of acetonitrile and buffer solution ¹⁷.

In order to ensure maintenance of quality in pharmaceutical product, stability testing must be performed at several stages. The efficacy and safety of a new formulation depends of a robust assay before commercialization. Therefore, the product under development must be subjected to accelerated and long-term stability testing. The accelerated stability testing provides an early

indication of product shelf life since the product is submitted to relatively high temperatures and/or humidity, that is, an accelerated degradation condition. In parallel, long-term stability testing under less rigorous conditions has been recommended to determine a product shelf life¹⁸.

Considering that isocratic methods are fast and favourable to routine analysis and that the official method is a long standing gradient analysis assay, the purpose of this study was to develop and validate a fast, simple and efficient isocratic high-performance liquid chromatography method to determine CDG for both the commercial product and its raw material. Furthermore, the stability of the commercial product was assessed and the method was applied to CDG quantification.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Chemicals

Chlorhexidine Acetate USP reference standard (batch I0J311) and p-Chloroaniline USP reference standard (batch G0K0206) were obtained from US Pharmacopeia. The Chlorhexidine Digluconate 20% (raw material) and 1% aqueous solution (Kuratop®, commercial product) was obtained from Smaart Pharmac (India) and Vidora Farmacêutica (Porto Alegre, Brazil), respectively. Methanol and Acetonitrile HPLC grade were purchased from Panreac (Barcelona, Spain) and Merck (Darmstadt, Germany), respectively. Trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) and triethylamine (TEA) were purchased from Vetec (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil). Purified water was obtained by Line Master System Gehaka (São Paulo, Brazil).

Equipment and Chromatographic Conditions

The HPLC system consisted of a Merck Hitachi LaChrom equipped with a model L-2130 pump, L-2200 auto sampler, L-2300 column oven, L-2400 detector and EZChrom Elite software was used for data processing.

The column used was a SGE Analytical Science 250x4.6mm P C₁₈H₁₂₅ 5µm particle size, coupled to a C₁₈ guard column (Australia). The mobile phase was composed of methanol, aqueous solution containing 0.5% TEA adjusted to pH 3.0 with TFA and acetonitrile (40:42:18, v/v/v). The mobile phase was filtered through 0.45 µm filter prior to use.

The HPLC system was operated in isocratic mode at a flow rate of 1.4 mL.min⁻¹, with detection at 240 nm, temperature of 35 °C and injection volume set at 20 µL.

Method validation

The method was validated according to the International Conference on Harmonization–ICH guideline (Q2(R1), 2005) ¹⁹.

Specificity was determined by analyzing a solution containing the excipients employed for the preparation of the commercial product, and a solution containing the degradation product (*p*-Chloroaniline) ^{14,17,20,21,22}. All solutions were injected in triplicate.

The linearity of the method was evaluated by injecting five standard solutions ranging from 60.0 to 100.0 µg.mL⁻¹, in three different days. Linearity was evaluated by calculation of a regression line using the least square method. The linearity was statistically evaluated by analysis of variance (ANOVA) and by the value of the correlation coefficient of the standard curve.

The detection (LOD) and quantification (LOQ) limits were calculated based on the standard deviation of the response (σ) and the slope (S) of the calibration curve, using the equations: $LOD = 3.3\sigma/S$ and $LOQ = 10\sigma/S$.

The accuracy of the proposed method was determined by the recovery of known amounts of chemical reference samples added to the samples solution ($60 \mu\text{g.mL}^{-1}$). The added levels were 20, 40 and 60%, that is, 12, 24 and $36 \mu\text{g.mL}^{-1}$. Three samples were used for each recovery level.

The intra-day precision (repeatability) was evaluated by assaying six samples at CDG concentration of $80 \mu\text{g.mL}^{-1}$, during the same day and under the same experimental conditions. Inter-day precision was studied by comparing the response of same solutions in three different days. The relative standard deviation (RSD) was calculated.

The robustness of the method was evaluated by testing the susceptibility of the measurements to deliberate variations of the analytical conditions, as pH values of the aqueous phase of the mobile phase, column temperature and wavelength.

Preparation of standard and sample solutions

The stock solution of Chlorhexidine Acetate USP ($200 \mu\text{g.mL}^{-1}$) was prepared in water and subsequent dilutions were carried out to obtain five standard solutions ($60.0, 70.0, 80.0, 90.0$ and $100.0 \mu\text{g.mL}^{-1}$) in mobile phase. The solution of p-Chloroaniline USP ($100 \mu\text{g.mL}^{-1}$) was prepared using mobile phase as diluting solution.

To prepare working sample solution, separately, 1 mL of the Chlorhexidine Digluconate 20% and 1% aqueous solution were diluted in mobile phase until the concentration of $80.0 \mu\text{g.mL}^{-1}$. The solutions were filtered through a $0.45 \mu\text{m}$ membrane filter.

To calculate the concentration of the samples, a correction factor was used, considering the molecular weight of Chlorhexidine Acetate (625.55) and Chlorhexidine Digluconate (897.76).

Stability studies

The stability of CDG in the 1% aqueous solution was assessed using the validated method. Different batches of commercial products filled in two different types of packing, amber polyethylene terephthalate (batches I, II and III) and polyethylene (batches IV, V, and VI) were monitored for 3 and 6 months stored in original packing in stability chamber (40 °C and 75% relative humidity) for accelerated stability testing and for 3, 6, 9 and 12 months in stability chamber (30°C and 75% relative humidity) for long term stability testing²³. We also evaluated organoleptic characteristics, density, pH and microbial contamination.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Method validation

The chromatographic conditions were adjusted based on system suitability parameters. During the optimization of the analytical method, different organic solvents and aqueous phase with different pH values were tested. The best condition with a retention time of 6.8 min was obtained using a SGE Analytical Science 250x4.6mm PC₁₈H₁₂₅ (5µm particle size) column and mobile phase composed of methanol, aqueous solution containing 0.5% TEA adjusted to pH 3.0 with TFA and acetonitrile (40:42:18, v/v/v). The addition of TEA improved peak symmetry. Upon performing the

system suitability test, the column efficiency (plates) was >5000, the USP Tailing Factor < 1.5 and the Capacity Factor (k') was $1 < k' < 5$.

The chromatograms shown in Figure 2 demonstrate that the method is specific and has no interference from the excipients or degradation product (*p*-Chloroaniline).

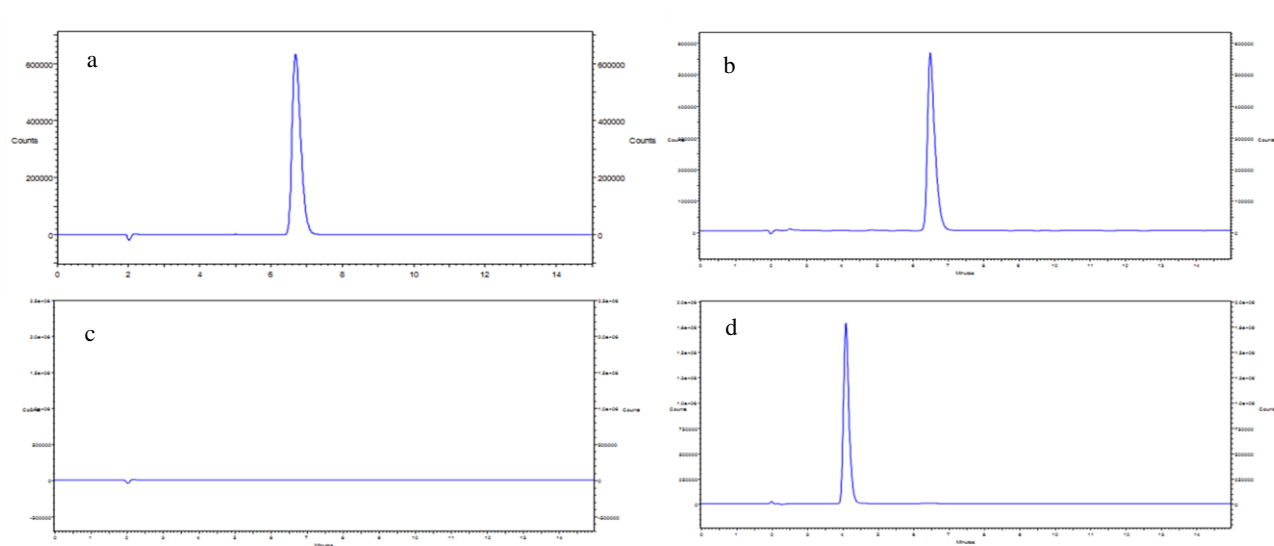


Figure 2.

The method demonstrated good linearity in the range of $60 - 100 \mu\text{g.mL}^{-1}$ and the standard equation $y = 125238.407x + 1033434.369$ showed excellent correlation coefficient ($r > 0.999$). According to ANOVA there is linear regression and there is no deviation from linearity ($p=0.05$). The detection and quantification limits were 1.7 and $5.17 \mu\text{g.mL}^{-1}$, respectively.

The low RSD values for intra-day and inter-day analysis indicated the acceptable precision of the method. The results were presented in Table 1.

		Theoretical amount ($\mu\text{g.mL}^{-1}$)	Experimental amount ($\mu\text{g.mL}^{-1}\pm\text{SD}$)	RSD (%)
Raw material	Intra-day			
	Day 1 (n=6)	80.0	80.71 \pm 0,76	0.94
	Day 2(n=6)	80.0	81.77 \pm 0.48	0.58
	Day 3(n=6)	80.0	81.38 \pm 0.61	0.75
	Inter-day (n=18)	80.0	81.29 \pm 0.54	0.66
Commercial product	Intra-day			
	Day 1 (n=6)	80.0	74.55 \pm 1.09	1.46
	Day 2(n=6)	80.0	75.90 \pm 1.26	1.67
	Day 3(n=6)	80.0	76.59 \pm 1.18	1.54
	Inter-day (n=18)	80.0	75.68 \pm 1.03	1.37

Table 1.

The table 2 shows the accuracy results. The recovery values ranged from 98.99% to 103.51% (raw material) and from 97.76% to 99.49% (commercial product) demonstrating the accuracy of the method.

	Added ($\mu\text{g.mL}^{-1}$)	Found ($\mu\text{g.mL}^{-1}\pm\text{SD}$)	Recovery (%)
Raw material	12.07	12.04 \pm 0.46	100.35
	24.14	23.73 \pm 0.64	98.99
	36.20	37.26 \pm 0.41	103.51
Commercial product	11.72	11.94 \pm 0.05	99.49
	23.44	23.46 \pm 0.07	97.76
	35.16	35.44 \pm 0.60	98.44

Table 2.

The robustness results show that there were no relevant changes in the concentration, retention time, tailing factor and theoretical plate, after slight modifications of the analytical conditions, showing the robustness of the proposed method (Table 3a and 3b).

Modifications	Concentration ($\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{mL}^{-1}$)	Retention Time (min)	Tailing Factor (TF)	Theoretical Plate (N)
pH Mobile Phase				
2.8	80.30	6.6 min	1.46	5502
3.2	80.72	6.4 min	1.50	5532
Temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)				
33	80.82	7.0 min	1.43	6002
37	79.87	6.5 min	1.45	5754
Wavelength (nm)				
238	79.35	6.8 min	1.43	5631
242	80.70	6.8 min	1.46	5565
None	80.55	6.8 min	1.43	5547

a.

Modifications	Concentration ($\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{mL}^{-1}$)	Retention Time (min)	Tailing Factor (TF)	Theoretical Plate (N)
pH mobile phase				
2.8	74.63	6.6 min	1.47	5487
3.2	76.96	6.4 min	1.51	5457
Temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)				
33	75.90	7.0 min	1.43	6084
37	74.36	6.5 min	1.46	5685
Wavelength (nm)				
238	74.76	6.8 min	1.43	5770
242	76.75	6.8 min	1.47	5572
None	75.10	6.8 min	1.43	5502

b.

Table 3.

CDG assay during stability studies

Finally, the method was applied to CDG assay in the commercial product under stability studies. No relevant change was observed during the period examined in both the accelerated stability and the long-term stability regarding organoleptic characteristics, pH, density and microbiological contamination (data not shown). Table 4 shows the results obtained for the assay of CDG in different periods. The drug content remained within the specified range (not less than 9.0 mg.mL⁻¹ and not more than 11.0 mg.mL⁻¹) between 9.04 and 9.86 % and the RSD of the analysis were lower than 2,46%.

Batch	Initial	Concentration (mg.mL ⁻¹) ± SD					
		Accelerated stability testing		Long term stability testing			
		3 months	6 months	3 months	6 months	9 months	12 months
I	9.80± 0.08	9.63±0.01	9.58±0.47	9.71±0.01	9.67±0.03	9.20±0.10	9.26±0.01
II	9.82±0.00	9.55±0.06	9.53±0.09	9.67±0.01	9.58±0.02	9.29±0.12	9.23±0.07
III	9.77±0.06	9.68±0.01	9.64±0.06	9.70±0.01	9.65±0.14	9.53±0.02	9.23±0.09
IV	9.54±0.00	9.52±0.02	9.47±0.00	9.52±0.01	9.56±0.07	9.06±0.01	9.34±0.28
V	9.56±0.03	9.45±0.00	9.50±0.05	9.50±0.01	9.45±0.00	9.28±0.02	9.18±0.00
VI	9.67±0.10	9.30±0.01	9.86±0.11	9.41±0.00	9.37±0.02	9.04±0.08	9.37±0.08

Table 4.

CONCLUSION

The proposed HPLC method can be used for Chlorhexidine Digluconate assay in raw material and commercial product. The method is faster and uses simple reagents, compared to the pharmacopeial method and was successfully applied to drug monitoring during stability studies.

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Captions of Figures

Figure 1. Chemical structure of Chlorhexidine Digluconate.

Figure 2. Chromatograms of (a) Chlorhexidine Acetate ($80.0 \mu\text{g}\cdot\text{mL}^{-1}$); (b) Chlorhexidine Digluconate ($80.0 \mu\text{g}\cdot\text{mL}^{-1}$); (c) Placebo Solution; (d) p-Chloroaniline ($100.0 \mu\text{g}\cdot\text{mL}^{-1}$).

Captions of Tables

Table 1. Intra-day and inter-day precision of the method.

Table 2. Recovery of standard solution added to samples.

Table 3. Robustness of the method (3a: Raw material; 3b: Commercial product).

Table 4. Results of stability studies.

ANEXO

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- (2) Vogel, W.H., B.A. Scholkens, J. Sandow & G. Muller (2002). *"Drug discovery and evaluation, Pharmacological assay"*, Second Edition, Springer-Verlag, Berlin Heidelberg, New York, pp. 906-44.
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- (4) Duke, J.A. *"Medical Botany. Module 8: Amazonian (Iberoamerican)"*.

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