



Research Article

Simultaneous Determination of 11 Commonly used Cephalosporin Antibiotics Residue by High Performance Liquid Chromatography - Diode Array Detectors in Pharmaceutical Waste Water - A Tool for Controlling One of the Source of Antibiotic Resistance

Mohabbat Ullah^{1,2,*}, Md. Sohel Rana¹, Md. Monjil Hossain^{3,2}

¹Department of Pharmacy, Jahangirnagar University, Savar, Dhaka, Bangladesh

²The ACME Laboratories Ltd, Dhulivita, Dhamrai, Dhaka, Bangladesh

³Department of Pharmacy, Gono University, Savar, Dhaka, Bangladesh

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 27.04.2023

Accepted 18.08.2023

Published 16.09.2023

* Corresponding author.

Mohabbat Ullah

mohabbatullahhera@gmail.com

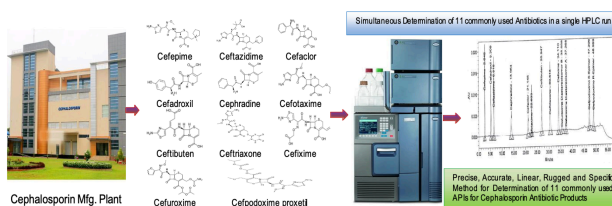
<https://doi.org/>

[10.18579/jopcr/v22.2.23.10](https://doi.org/10.18579/jopcr/v22.2.23.10)

ABSTRACT

11 commonly used Cephalosporin drugs from 1st, 2nd & 3rd Generation in wastewater from Cephalosporin Antibiotics Manufacturing plant is developed, validated and proposed for routine analysis of wastewater collected from waste water pre-treatment plant (wwptp). The determined residues included the routinely manufactured cephalosporin drugs for the treatment as β -Lactams Antibiotic drugs like Cefepime, Cefadroxil, Cefazidime, Cephadrine, Cefaclor, Cefotaxime, Cefibuten, Ceftriaxone, Cefixime, Cefuroxime Axetil and Cefpodoxime proxetil. A gradient program was developed with Xterra RP-18 (250 cm x 4.6 mm, 5 μ m) column as stationary phase. All cephalosporin molecules were selective and separated with a 0.2 M Tetra-butyl Ammonium Hydroxide (TBAH) buffer and Acetonitrile in the ratio of 85:15 V/V (Solution-A) and 25:75 V/V (Solution-B), pH 6.8 was adjusted with O-phosphoric acid into the buffer solution as the mobile phase at flow of 1.2 mL min⁻¹ with a UV detection at 254 nm using DAD. All peaks eluted within 60 minutes gradient run. The system suitability parameters such as theoretical plate count, tailing and resolution between the closest peaks were within the limit. The method was validated following all criteria regarding ICH (Q2) guidelines. Calibrations were linear over the concentration range of 0.5–150 μ g mL⁻¹ as indicated by correlation coefficient (r) of 0.999. The developed method can be the tool for determining the Cephalosporins residue as routine quantitative analysis of waste water discharged from the Antibiotic manufacturing plant.

Graphical Abstract



Keywords: Cephalosporins; Waste water; Method validation; Antibiotic Resistance; Antibiotic manufacturing plant

INTRODUCTION

Antibiotics are prescribed to treat or prevent Bacterial Infections. It also helps to prevent spreading of infec-

tions. Antibiotics are available with different types, but most of them can be classified into 6 groups, such as: Penicillins, Cephalosporin; Aminoglycosides; Tetracyclines;

Macrolides; Fluoroquinolone etc. There are series of drugs available with each groups and every antibiotic has its own criteria, thus, Chemical structure could be a great option to classify the Antibiotics^{1,2}. Cephalosporins antibiotic have unique structure (Figure 1) with a common β -lactam ring that act to hinder Cell wall synthesis of the bacteria³.

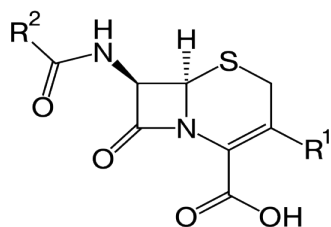


Fig. 1: Core Structure of Cephalosporins with β -Lactam ring ring

Cephalosporin Antibiotics are essentially most effective and most prescribed broad-spectrum antibiotics which are active against both Gram (+) and Gram (-) bacteria⁴. Although these antibiotics are helpful to protect human and animal health from different bacterial infections but at the same time, presence of these antibiotics as residue level into the aquatic environment might initiate an unexpected issue like bacterial resistance to Antibiotics. Several scientists found resistant bacteria into the environment due to unconscious uses of Bacteria⁵

Cephalosporins Antibiotic resistant bacteria have already been detected into the aquatic environment or into different sewage treatment plants as well. These antibiotics are recognized as one of the main source of Antibiotic resistance from all pharmaceutical active components present into the environment⁶⁻⁸. The water quality in perspective of Cephalosporin Antibiotic residue is very censorious in developing countries where self-medication and untreated sewage into the environment is very common⁹⁻¹¹. There are several other reasons also involved for the presence of mass of antibiotic contaminants into the environment, like, plant agriculture with antibiotics and also waste disposal from pharmaceutical manufacturing plants. Earlier pharmaceutical manufacturing plant was not in attention but recently it is identified as one of the main source for discharging effluent with Antibiotics in some Asian countries of up to several $L\ mg\ L^{-1}$ (ppm) level for single compound^{12,13}. Presently, Cephalosporins have five generations and most of them are used to treat as antibiotics to the patients. But cephalosporin 3rd Generations was mostly prescribed drugs (Table 1) than other Generations (1st or 2nd) in Bangladesh¹⁴.

According to use of Antibiotics, the Pharmaceutical manufacturing company also manufacture the products to supply into the market to meet the demand of patients, thus, it is obvious that Cephalosporin Antibiotics are mostly manufactured antibiotics from Pharmaceutical Companies.

Table 1: Frequency of suggested Antibiotics in groups in Bangladesh

Groups of Antibiotic	TSP	TAP (%)	FA-TAP (%)	FA-TSP (%)	Max
Cephalosporins			205 (34.28)	205 (18.64)	3 rd Generation
Macrolides			78 (13.04)	78(7.09)	Azithromycin
Quinolones			99 (16.55)	99(9.00)	Ciprofloxacin
Penicillines	1100	598 (54.36)	45 (7.52)	45(4.09)	Flucloxacillin
Tetracyclines			28 (4.68)	28(2.54)	
Metronidazoles			95 (15.88)	95(8.64)	
Antifungals			24 (4.01)	24(2.18)	
Others			24 (4.01)	24(2.18)	

So, Cephalosporin antibiotics contaminants are also in high risk to be available in Pharmaceutical waste water during discharge to outside surface water. Pharmaceutical manufacturing site especially Cephalosporin manufacturing site is one of the main source of Antibiotic Resistance. As we already discussed that among all antibiotics, β -Lactams and Florfenicol are mostly stable into the soil mostly than other Antibiotics, thus, these groups have affinity to show activity of Antibiotic resistance¹⁵. There are several ways by which a Pharmaceutical company can be involved to contaminate the Environment with Antibiotic Pharmaceuticals. Waste water from Cephalosporin manufacturing plant is one of the source of multiple antibiotics from Cephalosporin groups (Cephems). Increasing concentration of these multiple antibiotics can lead to multi-resistant bacteria in the environment¹⁶. Bacteria strains can be resistant by frequently contact with minor concentrations of antibiotics¹⁷. Due to long term presence of multiple Antibiotics into the waste water system and also pressures selection at sub-inhibitory concentrations of various antibiotics, ARG and ARB can be developed¹⁶.

Pre-treatment of Cephalosporin waste water from the WWPTP before transferring might be an option to degrade the Cephalosporin drugs. Identification and quantification of Cephalosporin residues in waste water is required for the quality control department of a pharmaceutical company to detect the Cephalosporin residues in waste water. Measurement of Cephalosporin residues in the aquatic environment is very much important to ensure the quality of the environment, especially in the surrounding of the pharmaceutical production plants. So, an analytical method is in high demand for analyzing all the Cephalosporin

drugs molecule in waste water. Literature survey reveals that the available analytical methods in the literature are either developed for formulation development/clinical/biological samples^{2,18-25}. Analytical HPLC method for Environmental water samples is available with a single Cephalosporin group^{5,26} or a multiple Cephalosporin group like^{3,27} which have determined mostly 06 (six) Cephalosporin drugs. By evaluating all relevant literature it is found that very recently in 2021, maximum 08 (Eight) Cephalosporin molecules has been detected and quantified in Pharmaceutical formulation through a HPLC method^{1,22}.

But in this study, we aimed to develop an analytical method for determination of most frequently prescribed and mostly manufactured eleven Cephalosporin drugs, which will be applicable for the analysis of waste water transferred from Cephalosporin manufacturing unit to the outside surface water. It will be used as an important tool for regular environmental monitoring program of factory quality control to ensure one health also. Our developed method will be a cost-effective and time-saving method as eleven different Cephalosporin molecules (Figure 2) will be identified and quantified in a single HPLC run. The method was developed and validated with well separated peaks as per ICH Q2(R1) guidelines.

EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES

Instruments

Waters 2695 with 2998 PDA detector HPLC systems (Empower 3 software), Sartorius Electronic analytical balance, Ultra sonic bath, Mettler toledo pH meter and Waters XTerra RP18 (4.6 x 250 mm, 5 μ m) Column were used.

Chemicals and reagents

Cefepime (potency: 83.8%), Cefadroxil (potency: 94.0%), Ceftazidime (potency: 84.3%), Cephadrine (potency: 92.5%), Cefaclor (potency: 91.9%), Cefotaxime (potency: 92.5%), Cefibuten (potency: 83.8%), Ceftriaxone (potency: 84.1%), Cefixime (potency: 85.6%), Cefuroxime Axetil (potency: 81.3%) and Cefpodoxime (potency: 67.4%) working standard obtained from The ACME Laboratories, Dhamrai, Dhaka, Bangladesh. And pharmaceutical waste water was achieved from the ETP pre-treatment plant of Cephalosporin unit, The ACME Laboratories Ltd., Bangladesh. HPLC grade methanol, acetonitrile, tetra butyl ammonium hydroxide 40% and phosphoric acid were procured from Merck, Germany. HPLC grade deionized water was used.

Buffer Solution

Tetra butyl ammonium hydroxide 40% solution (3.3 mL) was dissolved in 1000 mL of HPLC grade and adjusted the pH to 6.8 with Ortho-phosphoric acid.

Solution-A preparation

A mixture of buffer and acetonitrile (85:15) was prepared. It was filtered through 0.2 μ m nylon membrane filter and degassed. It was used as diluents for the preparation of different samples.

Solution-B preparation

A mixture of buffer and acetonitrile (25:75) was prepared. It was filtered through 0.2 μ m nylon membrane filter and degassed.

METHOD

Wavelength detection

Weighed Cefepime HCl, Cefadroxil monohydrate, Ceftazidime pentahydrate, Cephadrine, Cefaclor monohydrate, Cefotaxime sodium, Cefibuten dihydrate, Ceftriaxone sodium, Cefixime trihydrate, Cefuroxime axetil and Cefpodoxime proxetil equivalent to 25.0 mg each working standard and prepared a solution containing 5 μ g/mL concentration of each component. Filtered the solution through PTFE syringe filter, 0.45 μ m and collected the solution in a clean and dry vial and scanned between 200 and 400 nm with 2998 PDA detector of Waters 2695 HPLC system. The maximum absorbance of each molecule was around 254 nm, thus the wavelength detection had set at 254 nm.

Chromatographic conditions

Chromatographic conditions were finalized as 35 °C Column Temperature, 10°C Auto sampler (Cooling Temperature) with a 254 nm UV detection at a flow rate of 1.2 mL per min at gradient elution (Table 2) and run time was 60 minutes. Before injection, the column need to equalized with Mobile phase for 60 minutes. The injection volume was set to 20 μ L. The solvent interference was checked with diluent (Figure 3).

Table 2: Gradient program of the Mobile phase

Time (min)	Mobile phase A (percent V/V)	Mobile phase B (percent V/V)
0	100	0
15	100	0
25	85	15
50	60	40
55	100	0
60	100	0

System suitability solution preparation

Weighed accurately and transferred about 29.832 mg of Cefepime HCl equivalent to 25.0 mg Cefepime, 26.596 mg

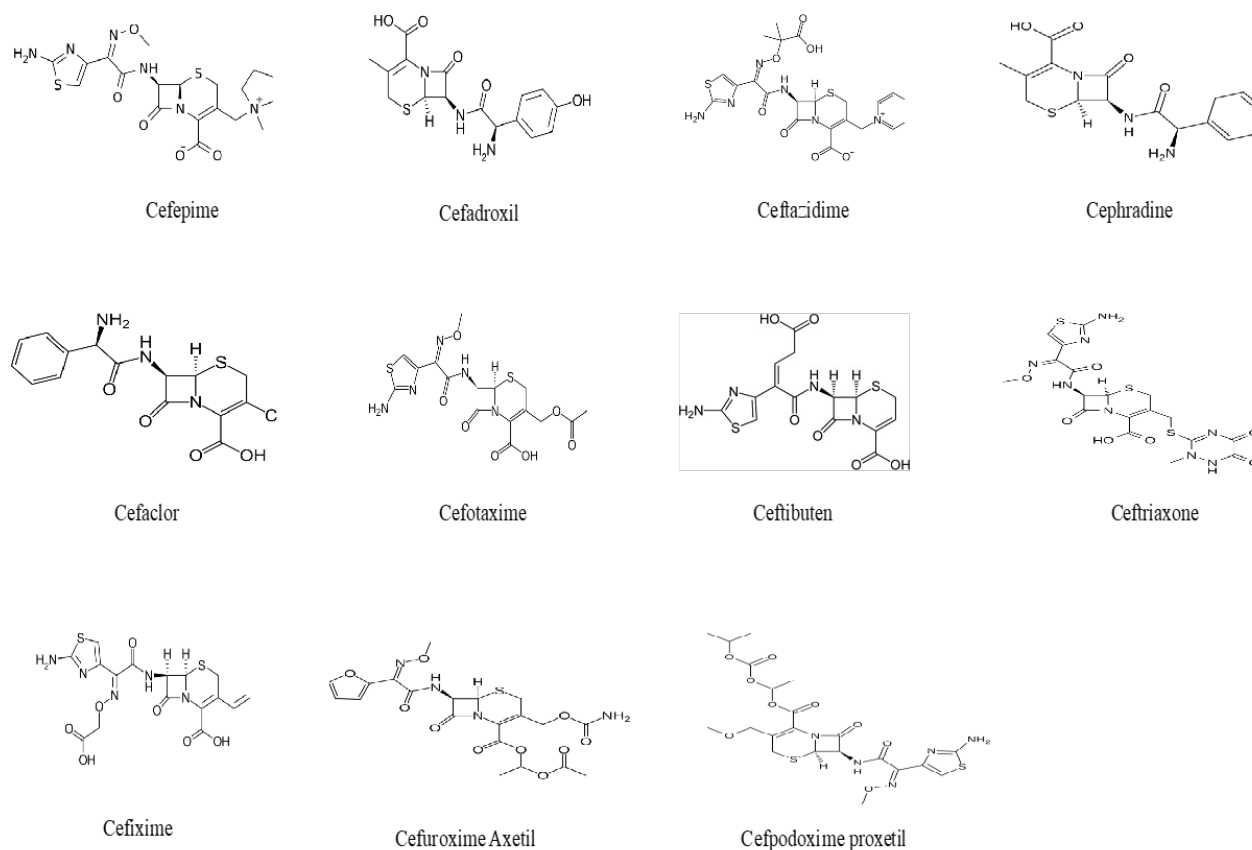


Fig. 2: Chemical structure of Cephalosporins studied

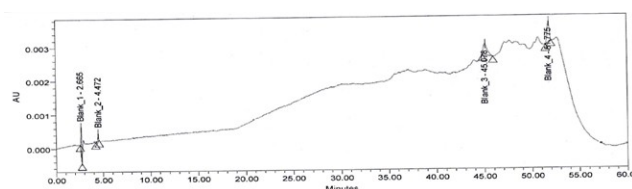


Fig. 3: Chromatogram (Diluent/Bank)

Cefadroxil monohydrate equivalent to 25.0 mg Cefadroxil, 29.657 mg Ceftazidime pentahydrate equivalent to 25.0 mg Ceftazidime, 27.027 mg Cephadrine with Cephalexin equivalent to 25.0 mg Cephadrine, 27.203 mg Cefaclor monohydrate equivalent to 25.0 mg Cefaclor, 27.027 mg Cefotaxime sodium equivalent to 25.0 mg Cefotaxime, 29.976 mg Ceftibuten dihydrate equivalent to 25.0 mg Ceftibuten, 29.727 mg Ceftriaxone sodium equivalent to 25.0 mg sodium, 29.206 mg Cefixime trihydrate equivalent to 25.0 mg Cefixime, 30.750 mg Cefuroxime axetil equivalent to 25.0 mg Cefuroxime and 37.092 mg Cefpodoxime proxetil equivalent to 25.0 mg Cefpodoxime working standard into a 100 mL clean and dried volumetric flask and added 5 mL methanol to dissolve then added 20 mL diluent and sonicated about 5 minutes to dissolve, made volume up

to 100 mL with diluent and mix well. A 5 µg/mL system suitability solution was prepared through further dilution of this solution with diluent. Filtered the solution through PTFE syringe filter, 0.45 µm and collect the solution in a clean and dry vial.

Evaluation of system suitability

All System Suitability criteria met as per the requirements by injecting 20 µL system suitability solution into the HPLC. The theoretical plate count for column efficiency was found more than 1000 USP, USP Tailing factor was more than 2.0 and resolution for the same peak is not less than 1.5 in the chromatogram as shown in Table 3 & Figure 4.

Sample preparation

Collect about 500 mL waste water from deactivation tank in a glass bottle. Filter the sample into a 500 mL conical flask through Whatman no. 1 filter paper. Again filter the filtrate through PTFE syringe filter, 0.45 µm and collect the filtrate in a clean and dry vial before injection.

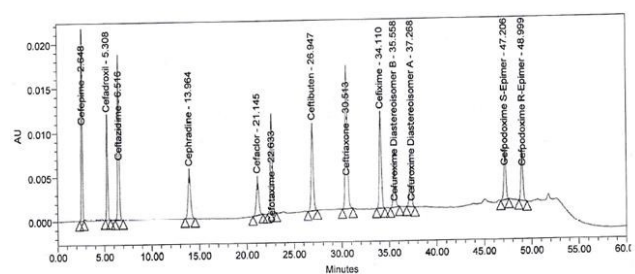


Fig. 4: Chromatogram (Standard preparation)

Table 3: System suitability Data

Peak Name	Retention Time	USP plate count	USP Tail-ing	Resolution	
Cefepime	2.65	1181	0.77	N/A	
Cefadroxil	5.31	7740	1.07	10.69	
Ceftazidime	6.52	7979	1.02	4.47	
Cephradine	13.96	12228	1.07	18.3	
Cefaclor	21.15	26423	1	13.75	
Cefotaxime	22.63	46469	0.99	3.12	
Ceftibuten	26.95	66835	0.99	10.15	
Ceftriaxone	30.51	81605	1.07	8.3	
Cefixime	34.11	109393	0.99	8.42	
Cefuroxime	Isomer B	35.56	114143	1.02	3.41
Axetil	Isomer A	37.27	129337	0.99	4.03
Cefpodoxime	S-Epimer	47.21	204910	0.93	23.53
Proxetil	R-Epimer	49	222262	1.05	4.24

VALIDATION PARAMETER²⁸

Specificity

Purified water was used as Placebo solution. Placebo, All individual APIs, Standard solution, sample solution and spiked sample solution were injected and the responses of the peaks were noted to observe any interference of the other API at the retention time of Cefepime HCl, Cefadroxil monohydrate, Ceftazidime pentahydrate, Cephradine with Cephalexin, Cefaclor monohydrate, Cefotaxime sodium, Ceftibuten dehydrate, Ceftriaxone sodium, Cefixime trihydrate, Cefuroxime axetil and Cefpodoxime proxetil individually (Figure 5). The data demonstrated in specificity below (Table 4).

Method Precision & Intermediate precision

Method precision and Intermediate precision were carried out of the sample injection into two different HPLC system (Waters and Shimadzu). Spiked sample with known

Table 4: Data of Specificity

Name of the Peak	Retention Time	Purity Angle	Purity Threshold	
Cefepime	2.6	0.51	1.09	
Cefadroxil	5.33	0.26	1.12	
Ceftazidime	6.51	0.11	1.08	
Cephradine	14.03	0.33	1.36	
Cefaclor	21.17	0.48	1.4	
Cefotaxime	22.59	0.16	1.17	
Ceftibuten	26.9	0.17	1.15	
Ceftriaxone	30.46	0.11	1.08	
Cefixime	34.06	0.16	1.12	
Cefuroxime	Isomer B	35.63	2.18	1.25
Axetil	Isomer A	37.34	0.74	1.22
Cefpodoxime	S-Epimer	47.25	1.52	1.25
Proxetil	R-Epimer	49.04	0.7	1.26

concentration has been injected and measure the peak area. The peak area of individual Cephalosporin component of six spiked sample solutions was calculated and reported along with the standard deviation and RSD of peak area of six sample solutions for Cefepime, Cefadroxil, Ceftazidime, Cephradine, Cefaclor, Cefotaxime, Ceftibuten, Ceftriaxone, Cefixime, Cefuroxime axetil, Cefpodoxime proxetil. This shows that the precision of the method is satisfactory as RSD is not more than 5% as shown in Table 5.

Linearity

The linearity of all 11 individual Cephalosporin compounds has been performed individually at concentration level 0.5 – 7.5 $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$. The statistical data for linearity has been calculated as per Linear regression line and found the linearity of Individual Cephalosporin compounds with a correlation coefficient (r) as equal or more than 0.999.

Result of LOD and LOQ

LOD means the lowest detectable amount of a sample solution which cannot be quantified but be detected with the analytical procedure. Standard deviation (SD) and slope values (S) were taken to calculate the LOD & LOQ calculated by using the calibration curve by with the formula $\text{LOD} = 3.3 (\text{SD}/\text{S})$ and $\text{LOQ} = 10 (\text{SD}/\text{S})$. The Final LOD and LOQ values for all 11 Cephalosporin compounds were shown in Table 6.



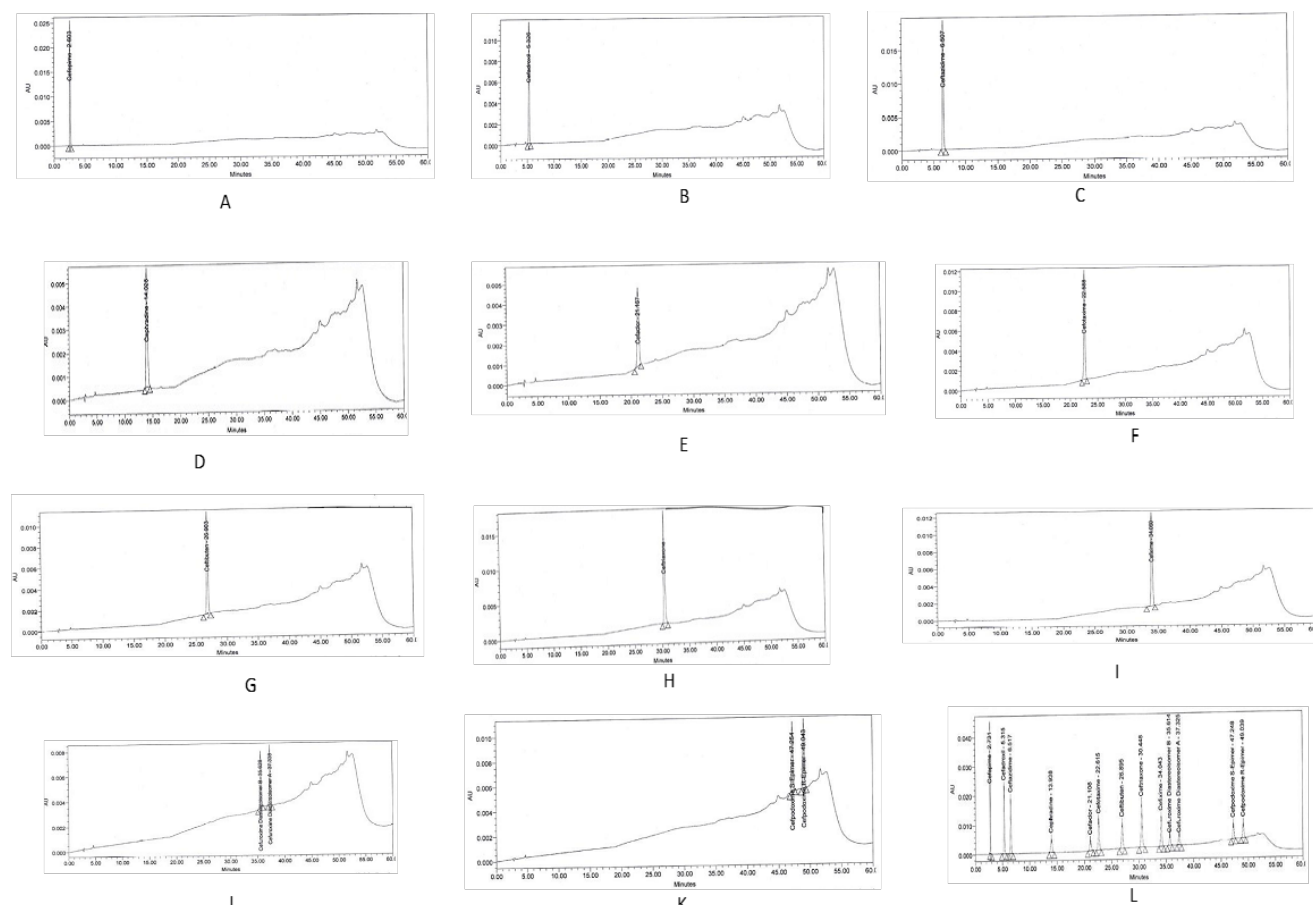


Fig. 5: Specificity Chromatograms; a) Cefepime, b) Cefadroxil, c)Ceftazidime, d) Cephadrine, e) Cefaclor, f) Ceforaxime, g) Ceftibuten, h) Ceftriaxone, i) Cefixime, j) Cefuroxime Diastereoisomer, k) Cefprozoxime S-Epimer & R-Epimer, l) Sample spiked with 11 Cephalosporin Drugs

Stability studies for standard and sample solution

Stability of standard and sample solutions has been determined by keeping the samples in Ambient condition and in 2-8°C condition. The standard and sample solutions were stable for at least 24 h in refrigerator (2-8 °C).

Accuracy

A known quantity of pure Cephalosporin drugs different Accuracy level has been added with placebo and analyzed accordingly to determine the recovery and the percentage recovery. The solution was prepared by taking weigh equivalent to 25 mg each of Cefepime HCl, Cefadroxil monohydrate, Ceftazidime pentahydrate, Cephadrine, Cefaclor monohydrate, Cefotaxime sodium, Ceftibuten dihydrate, Ceftriaxone sodium, Cefixime trihydrate, Cefuroxime axetil and Cefprozoxime proxetil accurately into a 100 mL volumetric flask. Final Accuracy solutions were prepared at LOQ level to 50%, 100% and 150% level of nominal test concentration. The resulting spiked sample solutions were

assayed in triplicate and the results were compared and expressed as percentage. The mean percentage recovery of all Cephalosporin compounds were found to be in the range between 97.1 and 103.2 which are within the acceptance limits as shown in Table 7.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

All 11 Cephalosporin molecules were identified and quantified into a minimum level by the developed method with a Gradient mobile phase consisting of a TBAH buffer, pH 6.8 and Acetonitrile at the ratio 85:15 & 25:75 V/V as Solution A & B for the Gradient program with a 250 cm x 4.6 mm, 5 μ column as stationary phase at 35°C COT and 1.2 FR. The developed method demonstrated a unique chromatogram with separated individual specific and selective peaks for all 11 Cephalosporin compounds such as Cefepime, Cefadroxil, Ceftazidime, Cephadrine, Cefaclor, Cefotaxime, Ceftibuten, Ceftriaxone, Cefixime, Cefuroxime and Cefprozoxime and placebo interference has also check by injecting Purified water as placebo, where the final sample is waste water.

Table 5: Method

Component Name	Parameters	Average area	% RSD	Acceptance Limit
Cefepime		168937	0.21	
Cefadroxil		102686	0.23	
Ceftazidime		196492	0.16	
Cephradine		90530	0.78	
Cefaclor		61275	0.97	
Cefotaxime	Method Precision	161593	0.2	
Ceftibuten		137248	0.34	
Ceftriaxone		238787	0.36	% RSD of all (Method precision & Intermediate precision) Cephalosporin peak area should be NMT 10.0%
Cefixime		160576	0.37	
Cefuroxime		130691	0.22	
Axetil				
Cefpodoxime		157806	0.4	
Proxetil				
Cefepime		172965	0.12	
Cefadroxil		112960	0.1	
Ceftazidime		211218	0.32	
Cephradine		100207	1.52	
Cefaclor		55104	1.86	
Cefotaxime	Intermediate Precision	175278	0.11	
Ceftibuten		134913	0.44	
Ceftriaxone		259606	0.41	
Cefixime		159139	0.19	
Cefuroxime		156462	0.55	
Axetil				
Cefpodoxime		159938	0.75	
Proxetil				

Table 6: LOD and LOQ determination

Name	LOD ppm	LOQ ppm	LOQ precision @ 0.1 ppm	
			Average Area	S/N of 1 st Injection
Cefepime	0.03724	0.11285	3808	123
Cefadroxil	0.07248	0.21964	2224	53
Ceftazidime	0.03767	0.11417	4448	87
Cephradine	0.12507	0.37903	1601	20
Cefaclor	0.1266	0.38365	1445	15
Cefotaxime	0.05265	0.15956	3809	45
Ceftibuten	0.03084	0.09345	2848	36
Ceftriaxone	0.02692	0.08159	5526	72
Cefixime	0.03971	0.12033	3210	45
Cefuroxime			797	16
Isomer B	0.05376	0.16293		
Axetil			1468	19
Isomer A				
Cefpodoxime			5617	58
S-Epimer	0.16204	0.49104		
Proxetil			3509	45
R-Epimer				
Final LOQ			0.1 ppm	
Final LOD			0.05 ppm	

The stability of analytical solution was determined and got the stability up to 24 hours for the solutions in refrigerator (2-8°C) condition. The system was suitable during every analysis and the method was found precise during method precision and intermediate precision with different analyst and different instrument. The Method is linear for individual Cephalosporin compound by giving a correlation coefficient (r) value ≥ 0.999 at the concentrations level 0.5 – 7.5 $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ for each Cephalosporin compound. A precise LOQ level was found with the concentration value as 0.10 ppm (100 ppb) and Lo=OD level was 0.05 ppm (50 ppb) for each Cephalosporin compound. The % Recovery for individual Cephalosporin compound was determined for LOQ, 50%, 100% & 150% level and found the % recovery between 95.0% to 105.0% that were within limit.

CONCLUSION

Waste water from any pharmaceutical plant is transferred to Central Effluent treatment plant to surrounding outside water like Ground water, surface water etc. Waste water from

Table 7: Accuracy

Name of the Cephalosporin components	LOQ Level	50% Level	100% Level	150% Level	Acceptance Limit
	Average	Average	Average	Average	
Cefepime	101.5	97.9	99.6	97.1	Recovery at each Level should be between 95.0% to 105%
Cefadroxil	101.2	98.2	100.9	99.5	
Ceftazidime	102.3	99.1	99.4	99.1	
Cephradine	100.2	100.8	103.2	101.7	
Cefaclor	100.2	101	102.3	99.2	
Cefotaxime	102	101.6	99.8	102.2	
Ceftibuten	102.7	101.8	101.1	100.5	
Ceftriaxone	99.6	101.7	102.8	101.9	
Cefixime	101	99.4	100.2	102.7	
Cefuroxime	99.9	101.1	101	101.7	
Axetil					
Cefpodoxime	101.1	101	102.7	102.7	
Proxetil					

antibiotic plant like Cephalosporin unit must be pre-treated with chemical before transferring to Central ETP or surface water to conform the absence of Cephalosporin compounds in the waste water. There should have a specific method which can determine the Cephalosporin compounds. In this method, 11 most commonly manufactured Cephalosporin compounds in Bangladesh has been considered for the development of a HPLC method to quantify all these Cephalosporins into the residue level in the waste water. The developed and validated method for the analysis of waste water was is very simple method to be executed. HPLC method is modernized in respect of cost, and time by changing the Mobile phase, stationary phase and chromatographic conditions. The validation results indicated that the developed HPLC method for determination of 11 Cephalosporin antibiotics from different generations such as Cefepime, Cefadroxil, Ceftazidime, Cephadrine, Cefaclor, Cefotaxime, Cefibuten, Ceftriaxone, Cefixime, Cefuroxime Axetil and Cefpodoxime proxetil in a single run is precise, accurate, linear over the test concentration range, rugged and specific.

The gradient solvent system to determine all these Cephalosporins in a single run will not only save the cost and time but also it will be a unique method to control all type of Cephalosporin wastes discharged from the manufacturing unit to the environment and it will be a better option for the analytical & quality control labs to control Cephalosporin residues. Therefore, this HPLC method by this study will be helpful and distinctive from the previous methods published into different journals. This method will be more efficient and simple to apply where, each drug from different Cephalosporin compounds need a specific method and a separate solvent system.

ABBREVIATIONS

HPLC : High Performance liquid chromatography; DAD : Photodiode-array Detection; TSP : Total survey prescriptions; TAP : Tital antibiotic suggested prescriptions; FA-TAP : Frequency of Antibiotics out of TAP; FA-TSP : Frequency of antibiotics out of the TSP; Max : Maximally prescribed antibiotics in their respective group; ICH : International Council for Harmonisation; ARG : Antibiotic-resistant Gene; ARB: Antibiotic-resistant bacteria; RSD : Relative standard Deviation; WWPTP : Waste water pre-treatment plant; LOD : Limit of detection; LOQ : Limit of quantification; COT : Column oven temperature; FR : Flow rate; TBAH : Tetra-butyl Ammonium Hydroxide

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors are very much thankful to the management of The ACME Laboratories Ltd., Dhaka, Bangladesh for providing support to carry out this study.

Funding Sources

This research received no internal or external funding.

Competing interests

The authors declare no conflict of interest

REFERENCES

- Patil PN, Jacob S. HPLC analysis of cephalosporins and study of different analytical parameters. *International Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Research*. 2012;3(1):1–14. Available from: [http://dx.doi.org/10.13040/IJPSR.0975-8232.3\(1\).1-14](http://dx.doi.org/10.13040/IJPSR.0975-8232.3(1).1-14).
- Shah J, Jan MR, Shah S, Khan MN. Development and Validation of HPLC Method for Simultaneous Determination of Ceftriaxone and Cefaclor in Commercial Formulations and Biological Samples. *Journal of the Mexican Chemical Society*. 2013;57(4):314–320. Available from: <http://dx.doi.org/10.29356/jmcs.v57i4.195>.
- Baeza-Fonte AN, Garcés-Lobo I, Luaces-Alberto MD, Gonçalves LM, Sotomayor MDPT, Valdés-González AC. Determination of Cephalosporins by UHPLC-DAD Using Molecularly Imprinted Polymers. *Journal of Chromatographic Science*. 2018;56(2):187–193. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1093/chromsci/bmx099>.
- Tunger O, Karakaya Y, Cetin CB, Dinc G, Borand H. Rational antibiotic use. *The Journal of Infection in Developing Countries*. 2009;3(02):88–93. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.3855/jidc.54>.
- Hue TTT, Son DC, Anh NTL, Phong TK, Hiramatsu K. A Simple and Rapid Method to Measure Residue of Cefexime – a Cephalosporin Antibiotic in the Wastewater of Pharmaceutical Production Plant. *Journal of the Faculty of Agriculture, Kyushu University*. 2014;59(1):169–175. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.5109/14344408>.
- Zhang XX, Zhang T, Fang HHP. Antibiotic resistance genes in water environment. *Applied Microbiology and Biotechnology*. 2009;82(3):397–414. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00253-008-1829-z>.
- Watkinson AJ, Murby EJ, Kolpin DW, Costanzo SD. The occurrence of antibiotics in an urban watershed: From wastewater to drinking water. *Science of The Total Environment*. 2009;407(8):2711–2723. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2008.11.059>.
- Gros M, Petrović M, Barceló D. Multi-residue analytical methods using LC-tandem MS for the determination of pharmaceuticals in environmental and wastewater samples: a review. *Analytical and Bioanalytical Chemistry*. 2006;386(4):941–952. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00216-006-0586-z>.
- Seifrtová M, Nováková L, Lino C, Pena A, Solich P. An overview of analytical methodologies for the determination of antibiotics in environmental waters. *Analytica Chimica Acta*. 2009;649(2):158–179. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aca.2009.07.031>.
- Li B, Zhang T, Xu Z, Fang HHP. Rapid analysis of 21 antibiotics of multiple classes in municipal wastewater using ultra performance liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry. *Analytica Chimica Acta*. 2009;645(1-2):64–72. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aca.2009.04.042>.
- Pena A, Chmielova D, Lino CM, Solich P. Determination of fluoroquinolone antibiotics in surface waters from Mondego River by high performance liquid chromatography using a monolithic column. *Journal of Separation Science*. 2007;30(17):2924–2928. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1002/jssc.200700363>.
- Larsson DGJ, De Pedro C, Paxeus N. Effluent from drug manufactures contains extremely high levels of pharmaceuticals. *Journal of Hazardous Materials*. 2007;148(3):751–755. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhazmat.2007.07.008>.
- Lin AYC, Yu TH, Lin CF. Pharmaceutical contamination in residential, industrial, and agricultural waste streams: Risk to aqueous environments in Taiwan. *Chemosphere*. 2008;74(1):131–141. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chemosphere.2008.08.027>.

14. Chouduri AU, Biswas M, Haque MU, Arman MSI, Uddin N, Kona N, et al. Cephalosporin-3G, Highly Prescribed Antibiotic to Outpatients in Rajshahi, Bangladesh: Prescription Errors, Carelessness, Irrational Uses are the Triggering Causes of Antibiotic Resistance. *Journal of Applied Pharmaceutical Science*. 2018;8(6):105–112. Available from: <http://dx.doi.org/10.7324/JAPS.2018.8614>.
15. Subbiah M, Mitchell SM, Ullman JL, Call DR. β -Lactams and Florfenicol Antibiotics Remain Bioactive in Soils while Ciprofloxacin, Neomycin, and Tetracycline Are Neutralized. *Applied and Environmental Microbiology*. 2011;77(20):7255–7260. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1128/AEM.05352-11>.
16. Kumar A, Pal D. Antibiotic resistance and wastewater: Correlation, impact and critical human health challenges. *Journal of Environmental Chemical Engineering*. 2018;6(1):52–58. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jece.2017.11.059>.
17. Hussain S, Naeem M, Chaudhry MN. Estimation of Residual Antibiotics in Pharmaceutical Effluents and their Fate in Affected Areas. *Polish Journal of Environmental Studies*. 2016;25(2):607–614. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.15244/pjoes/61229>.
18. Nemetlu E, Kir S, Katlan D, Beksaç MS. Simultaneous multiresponse optimization of an HPLC method to separate seven cephalosporins in plasma and amniotic fluid: Application to validation and quantification of cefepime, cefixime and cefoperazone. *Talanta*. 2009;80(1):117–126. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.talanta.2009.06.034>.
19. Pehourcq F, Jarry C. Determination of third-generation cephalosporins by high-performance liquid chromatography in connection with pharmacokinetic studies. *Journal of Chromatography A*. 1998;812(1-2):159–178. Available from: [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0021-9673\(98\)00265-9](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0021-9673(98)00265-9).
20. Alfeen A, Elias B. Determination of Some Cephalosporins in Pharmaceutical Dosage Forms by RP-HPLC Method. *Chemistry and material research*. 2015;7(11):66–73. Available from: <https://www.iiste.org/Journals/index.php/CMR/article/viewFile/26946/27629>.
21. Alfeen MA, Yildiz Y. New Development Method for Determination of Cefuroxime Axetil (CUA) and Cefprozil (CZ) in Pharmaceutical Drugs by RP-HPLC. *American Journal of Biomedical Science & Research*. 2019;4(1):54–57. Available from: <http://dx.doi.org/10.34297/AJBSR.2019.04.000759>.
22. Shama SAAEA, Azim SESAE, Elham AM, Shaimaa HN. A Simultaneous, Validated RP HPLC Method for Determination of Eight Cephalosporins in Pharmaceutical Formulations. *Systematic Reviews in Pharmacy*. 2021;12(03):646–653. Available from: https://bu.edu.eg/portal/uploads/Citations/1626216162_1.pdf.
23. Hassouna MEM, Mohamed MA. Stability Indicating Rp-HPLC Method for Simultaneous Estimation of Ceftazidime Pentahydrate and its Impurity Product Pyridine in Powder Used for Making Solution in Vial for 1M & IV Injections. *Annals of Reviews & Research*. 2018;1(3):0052–0060. Available from: <http://dx.doi.org/10.19080/ARR.2018.01.555561>.
24. Meng F, Chen X, Zeng Y, Zhong D. Sensitive liquid chromatography–tandem mass spectrometry method for the determination of cefixime in human plasma: Application to a pharmacokinetic study. *Journal of Chromatography B*. 2005;819(2):277–282. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jchromb.2005.02.015>.
25. McAteer JA, Hiltke MF, Silber BM, Faulkner RD. Liquid-chromatographic determination of five orally active cephalosporins–cefixime, cefaclor, cefadroxil, cephalixin, and cephadrine–in human serum. *Clinical Chemistry*. 1987;33(10):1788–1790. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1093/clinchem/33.10.1788>.
26. Gurupadayya BM, Disha NS. Stability indicating HPLC method for the simultaneous determination of Ceftriaxone and Vancomycin in Pharmaceutical formulation. *Journal of Chromatography & Separation Techniques*. 2013;4(10):1–5. Available from: <http://dx.doi.org/10.4172/2157-7064.1000207>.
27. Qureshi T, Memon N, Memon SQ, Abro K, Shah SW. LC/UV determination of cefradine, cefuroxime, and cefotaxime in dairy milk, human serum and wastewater samples. *SpringerPlus*. 2013;2(575):1–8. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1186/2193-1801-2-575>.
28. Validation of Analytical Procedures: Text and Methodology, Q2(R1). 2005. Available from: <https://database.ich.org/sites/default/files/Q2%28R1%29%20Guideline.pdf>.