

# Development of pH Independent Drug Release System for Dipyridamole

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## ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** Dipyridamole is an Anti-platelet agent exhibits release problems at higher pH of small intestine due to its pH dependent solubility and precipitation followed by interruption of drug release from dosage form. To overcome this extended release formulation was developed by using pH modulating agent (tartaric acid). **Objective:** Present study was undertaken with a view of the formulations evaluated by performing dissolution testing on developed extended released tablets. **Method:** development of dissolution method at different time points and USP Apparatus 1 (basket) and 2 (paddle) at rotating speeds of 50 or 100 rpm used to evaluate the release characteristics of the formulations. Furthermore, solubility and *in vitro* dissolution studies of formulated tablets were performed at pH values of 1.2 and 5.5. **Results:** In this study we found increasing volume of dissolution medium pH 5.5 phosphate buffers drug precipitation is increased. The developed dissolution method was validated according to ICH guidelines for various parameters such as specificity, accuracy, precision, and stability. The dissolution method was confirmed by determining the dissolution rate of extended released Dipyridamole tablets containing pH modulating agent. The best *in vitro* dissolution profile was obtained using pH 5.5 phosphate buffer as the dissolution medium (500 ml) stirred at 100 rpm. A comparison of the dissolution profiles in official and developed media showed significant differences based on f1 and f2 values. **Conclusion:** The developed dissolution test exhibited a higher capacity than the compendia methods in differentiating the release profiles of pH independent extended release tablets. It can be applied during formulation development and quality control analysis of pH independent extended release tablets for evaluation of the effects of pH modifier in dissolution medium and processing parameters.

**Key words:** Tartaric acid, Dissolution media, Extended release Dipyridamole Tablets.

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## INTRODUCTION

Dissolution testing has been a key tool during drug development process and in the marketable preparation of the formulation.<sup>1</sup> At the formulation development process, dissolution testing is used to evaluate stability of the product consistency, and evaluate the effect of variables on the characteristics of the final drug product.<sup>2</sup> For commercial dosage form, dissolution testing is used to confirm manufacturing and product consistency and to evaluate different process variables.<sup>3</sup> In dissolution test development, the process should focus on assessing relevant

physical and chemical properties of the API and dosage form design, because these will guide the choice of the dissolution medium and apparatus.<sup>4</sup> Most of the drugs have pH-dependent solubility exhibiting varying release rates with changing pH in the gastrointestinal tract.<sup>5</sup> Weakly basic drugs are highly soluble in acidic pH (1-3) to increase the pH solubility, it will be decreased. It causes conversion of the more ionizable drug to a less soluble form. Therefore the diffusion rate of the drug through the matrix is reduced. This conversion into an



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insoluble form depends on the  $pK_a$  value of the drug substance and the pH of the gastro intestinal Fluids.<sup>6</sup> It is impossible to change the pH of the medium; an optimized pH in the dosage form can be used to modulate the release rate of drugs exhibiting pH-independent solubility and to overcome the problem of varying drug release patterns in different pH environments. Most widely used strategy is the inclusion of pH modifiers in the dosage form. This will alter the micro environmental pH within and in the close surrounding area of the matrix system. A buffer is a solution that can resist pH change upon the addition of acidic or basic substances. It is capable to neutralize small amounts of added acid or base, as a result maintaining the pH of the solution relatively stable. This is important for processes and reactions which require specific and stable pH ranges. The aim of this investigation was to assess the effect of different dissolution medium and release mechanisms of Dipyridamole Extending release matrix tablet dosage form with pH modulating agent.<sup>7</sup>

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

Dipyridamole was received as a gift sample from R-chem pharma Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad. Methocel K100M was purchased from Yarrow chem., Product, Mumbai. Micro crystalline cellulose (Avicel PH 101), Sodium hydroxide, Magnesium Stearate, and Talc were purchased from (S.D.Fine Chem Ltd., India), Sodium hydroxide from Merck (Darmstadt, Germany). Methanol (isocratic grade), Potassium dihydrogen phosphate (ACS grade) and Tartaric acid were purchased from Aman scientific Vijayawada.

### Determination of Dipyridamole drug content sample

During dissolution testing, samples were collected at specified time intervals, and the Dipyridamole drug content was determined by UV spectroscopy at absorption maxima 283 nm.<sup>8</sup> In addition to the officially recommended at dissolution medium (pH 1.2, and pH 5.5), phosphate buffer 5.5 alone and with different volumes were used as dissolution media.

### Dissolution test

Dipyridamole tablets with pH modulating agent was passed out using a VEEGO Scientific dissolution apparatus (8DR, INDIA). The test was performed according to pharmacopoeia specifications using Apparatus 2 (paddle method). The dissolution media employed for testing were pH 1.2, pH 5.5 phosphate buffers, Paddle rotation was set at 100 rpm. Medium temperature was set at  $37 \pm 0.5^\circ\text{C}$ . Six tablets of each formulation were

placed one in each vessel containing 900 ml of the test medium. Samples (5 ml) were withdrawn at predetermined different time points and the volume withdrawn was taken into consideration when calculating the percentage release of Dipyridamole in the remaining volume of test medium. The percentage release of Dipyridamole from formulations was determined using the UV spectroscopic method described above. The linearity of the method over the expected concentration range of 2–10  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ , which covers 20–125% of the anticipated 100% concentration (i.e., the concentration resulting from the dissolution of an 200 mg Dipyridamole tablet in 900 mL of medium).<sup>9</sup> With an average correlation coefficient of 0.9984, the effect of paddle speed on the dissolution rate was studied at 50 rpm (*usf* recommended speed) and 100 rpm in all dissolution media.<sup>10</sup>

### Preparation of standard stock solution

A stock solution of Dipyridamole was prepared by dissolving drug in methanol to obtain a concentration of 1 mg/ml. Working solutions were prepared on a daily basis by diluting aliquots from the stock solution 2–10 $\mu\text{g}$  with respective dissolution media. Each solution was filtered before analysis.<sup>11</sup>

### Specificity

Specificity of the dissolution method was evaluated by investigative the effect of each dissolution medium and concentration absorbance values. Each dissolution medium was evaluated without drug and with a known amount of drug, and the results were compared.

### Accuracy

The percent recovery was used to determine the accuracy of the anticipated dissolution method. A solution containing 1 mg/ml was prepared in methanol. Aliquots concentration of the solution was added to the dissolution medium (900 ml) to obtain a drug concentration in the range of 80–120% of the nominal dose. The dissolution medium was kept at  $37 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$  and stirred at 100 rpm for 15 min. Samples (5 ml) were withdrawn and analyzed for drug content.

Where  $A$  is the absorbance of the test solution and  $B$  is the absorbance of standard solution. For each sample, percent recovery was calculated in triplicate, and results are accessible in terms of mean, standard deviation, and relative standard deviation (mean  $\pm$  SD; RSD).

### Precision

The method was determined in terms of repeatability and intermediate precision. For repeatability, the dissolution test was performed simultaneously in six dissolution vessels under the same conditions, and the

results were compared for Intermediate precision was evaluated on the basis of intraday and inter day studies. An intraday study was performed by repeating the dissolution test three times a day, and the results were compared. For the intraday study, the dissolution test was repeated on daily basis for two days under the same conditions, and results were compared for similarity. An RSD less than 5% indicates acceptable precision of the method. Solution stability was determined at three temperatures (2–8 °C, 24 ± 3°C, and 40 ± 3 °C) for two days. A stock solution of Dipyridamole was diluted with the respective different volumes of dissolution media to 20 µg/ml. Each solution was divided into three portions and stored at the specified temperatures. Samples were analyzed daily for Dipyridamole content, and the percent recovery was calculated in triplicate.

### Dissolution Profiles by Model-Independent Method

A model-independent approach was applied for the comparison of dissolution profiles. The dissolution profiles of the formulated Dipyridamol tablets were compared with both medium pH 1.2 and pH 5.5 phosphate buffer and evaluate pH-independent release pattern of Dipyridamole from the optimized tablets. The comparison of dissolution profiles was based on the similarity factor ( $f_2$ ) and dissimilarity factor ( $f_1$ ), calculated using following equations:

$$f_2 = 50 \times \log \{ [1 + (1/n) \sum_{t=1}^n (R_t - T_t)^2]^{-0.5} \times 100 \} \dots (1)$$

$$f_1 = \{ [ \sum_{t=1}^n |R_t - T_t| ] / [ \sum_{t=1}^n R_t ] \} \times 100 \dots (2)$$

Where  $R_t$  is the dissolution rate of pH 1.2 at time  $t$ , and  $T_t$  is the dissolution rate in pH 5.5 at time  $t$ . An  $f_2$  value of 50 or greater ensures sameness or equivalence of the two curves and also the performance of the two mediums.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Effect of pH on solubility of Dipyridamole

Solubility plays a major role in the dissolution of a drug substance from a solid dosage form. Relationship between solubility and dissolution rate of different drug substances in various media are well established. The Solubility of Dipyridamole was carried out in different acidic and basic buffer mediums, the solubility studies was revealed Dipyridamole is a completely pH dependent soluble drug solubility data was shown in Table 1. The drug maximum solubility in acidic media 0.1 N HCl, whereas increasing the pH of the medium solubility was decreased, and immediate lump formation of the drug was found in pH 6.8. Which indicates remarkable difference in drug solubility. Sink conditions occur when the

**Table 1: Effect of pH on solubility of Dipyridamole.**

Sample Number	pH dissolution medium	Solubility (mg/ml)
1	1.2	30±0.11
2	3.4	23±0.43
3	4.2	10.8±0.36
4	5.0	3.7±0.17
5	5.5	0.067±0.024
6	6.8	0.046±0.011
7	7.4	0.022±0.01

Values reported as mean ± SD (n = 3)

amount of drug that can be dissolved in the dissolution medium is three times greater than the amount of drug to be dissolved. On the basis of solubility, sink conditions can be achieved using pH 5.5 phosphate buffer as dissolution medium. The rate of drug dissolution will be slowed by the limited solubility of the drug in that medium.<sup>15</sup>

### Dissolution development of Dipyridamole extended released tablets

Dipyridamole is a pH dependent weakly basic Class 2 insoluble drug and is available market as 200-mg pellets. The drug release of Dipyridamole tablets found the highest solubility and lower (pH 1.2), and drug precipitation was found in pH 5.5 which would mark the effect of variables on dissolution rate. Tablet dosage form was not available in market due to pH dependent solubility. A novel experiment has done Dipyridamole matrix tablet (200 mg) with pH modulating agents to create micro environmental pH and drug release will enhance in intestinal pH. The inability of the recommended FDA, the pH 5.5 as the medium for dissolution 900 ml testing of Dipyridamole at 100 rpm. The objective of this study was the development and validation of a dissolution method for novel pH independent extended Dipyridamole tablets. Drug release is found completely pH dependent drug release. The official method is unable to drug release in pH 5.5 phosphate buffers. A summary of the dissolution profiles obtained is presented in Table 2.

### Development of dissolution method test conditions

Dissolution test conditions were selected on the basis of a selection study conducted on pH independent extended release tablets of Dipyridamole (200 mg) using USP Apparatus 2 (paddle). The dissolution rate was determined in deferent dissolution media (pH1.2), purified water, and phosphate buffer (5.5), at deferent volumes (100- 900 ml), and at different string speeds (50 and 100 rpm). The highest dissolution rate was

Table 2: Dissolution profile studies of Dipyridamole HCl.				
TIME(hr)	50 rpm in 900ml dissolution medium		100rpm in 500 ml dissolution medium	
	pH 1.2	pH 5.5	pH 1.2	pH 5.5
1	24.11±0.73	2.11±0.83	25.11±0.73	17±0.9
2	36±1.12	4.34±0.13	38±1.12	29.11±1.23.
3	51±2.23	6.14±1.28	53±2.23	42±2.11
4	62±1.23	.8.18±2.23	65±1.23	59±0.97
5	79±0.98	9.88±0.63	81±0.98	65±1.5
6	85±0.83	10.94±0.27	89±0.83	75±1.2
7	91±1.12	12.81±0.73	94±1.12	85±0.89
8	98±0.93	13.94±0.64	100±0.93	97±0.67

Values reported as mean ± SD (n = 6)

observed with the dissolution medium (pH1.2), irrespective of volume of dissolution medium. There was no difference in percentage of drug released at 50 and 100 rpm in different volumes (100 - 900 ml) of the pH1.2, because of its high solubility. In case of phosphate buffer (pH 5.5) higher volume (900 ml) drug was immediately precipitated due to pH dependent solubility of Dipyridamole. The following stages were done to develop dissolution medium.

*Step-1:* Drug and Dipyridamol was taken 1:1 ratio. 200mg Dipyridamole and 200mg of tartaric acid was dissolved in 1ml of water. We found that drug was clear solution completely soluble, further that 1ml drug and tartaric acid solution was transferred in 900ml of pH 5.5 . Based on our investigations we found the drug was immediately precipitated in 5.5 phosphate buffer, in case of water we found clear solution precipitation was not formed, then we found drug and tartaric acid interaction occur, phosphate buffer in inhibiting the tartaric acid action.

*Step-2:* Dipyridamole and tartaric acid 1:1 ratio was dissolved in different volumes of dissolution medium (100,200,300,400,500,600,700,800,900 ml) and observed up to 24h in a normal room temperature. 900ml to 600ml within 10min, precipitation was formed; Whereas 500, 400 and 300ml precipitation was formed after 15h. In case 100 and 200ml 250, precipitations was not found after 24hr, finally we found when the phosphate buffer volume was increased, drug precipitation also increased and drug content decreased. Drug precipitation was shown in Figures 1, 2.

#### Authorization of Dissolution method test conditions

The pH independent controlled release of Dipyridamole containing tartaric acid as pH modulating agent were prepared, and the *in vitro* release study was determined in the selected dissolution medium method. Based on these results, this dissolution test method is considered



Figure 1: Precipitation of the drug in pH 5.5 dissolution medium (900ml).



A) pH 6.8 phosphate buffer B) pH 5.5 phosphate buffer

Figure 2: Drug was not precipitated phosphate buffer pH 5.5 (500ml volume).

to conduct dissolution test for pH independent extended release tablets by using pH modulating agents because it differentiate between products having differences in pharmaceutical attributes (pH dependent solubility). pH independent extended released tablets exhibited almost similar dissolution profiles at the two levels of paddle speed (50 and 100 rpm) irrespective of dissolution volume in pH 1.2.. On the other hand, up to 10% drug release was observed in phosphate buffer (pH 5.5) due to pH dependent solubility, Dipyridamole is practically

insoluble in pH 5.5 leading to its incomplete dissolution rate. The reduce the volume of dissolution medium is usually recommended due to enhance drug release in pH 5.5 due to reducing the interaction of tartaric acid effect on pH modulating agent function, in case existing official method of 900ml pH 5.5 phosphate buffer tartaric acid effect is diluting with high concentrations of phosphate buffer than drug is precipitating in this formulation for pH independent release tartaric acid was used as release modifier it should maintain acidic pH inside of the tablet to enhance the drug release in pH 5.5 phosphate buffer. Still tablet dosage form was not available in marked official dissolution data was there for pellet form this data was not possible with this novel developed dosage form. From the study of drug release profiles, it is possible to establish dissolution test parameters that can be used as an alternative to the official dissolution test for Dipyridamole tablets, the use of 500 ml of pH 5.5 phosphate buffers at 37°C with a string rate of 100 rpm provided complete drug, released from Dipyridamole matrix tablets. The similarity factor ( $f_2$ ) was calculated for both the profiles, which further confirmed similarity value is 62. Developed dissolution method Drug release in different volume of dissolution medium graph was shown in Figures 3 and 4.

### Specificity

The disolutio method was estimated on the basis of stability dissolution medium and dissolution medium containing deferent concentrations of Dipyridamole, while media with deferent concentrations of Dipyrido-mole exhibited 100% drug concentration.<sup>16</sup>

### Accuracy

The method was evaluated on the basis of percent recovery. Percent recovery from 95.0 to 105.0% is recommended for the accuracy test. The mean recovery for Dipyridamole was in the range of 99.5–102.9%, as show in Table 3, representing that the dissolution method is accurate.

### Precision

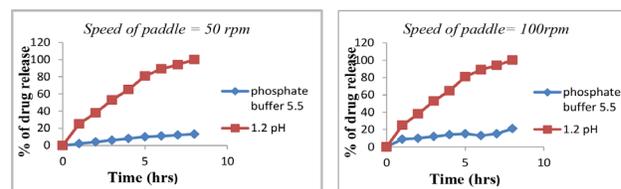
Results for the intraday and intraday precision are concluded in Table 2. The RSD value is less <1% and shows that the dissolution method has been superior precision **Stability:** The stability of Dipyridamole in the dissolution medium purified water, pH 1.2and pH 5.5 was evaluated using standards and samples. The drug content of the samples was within 98–101% (Table 4) of the initial value over the test period (2days), and drug degradation was not observed in any of the dissolution medium, signifying stability of Dipyridamole in the dissolution medium.

**Table 3: Dissolution Method Validation Parameters.**

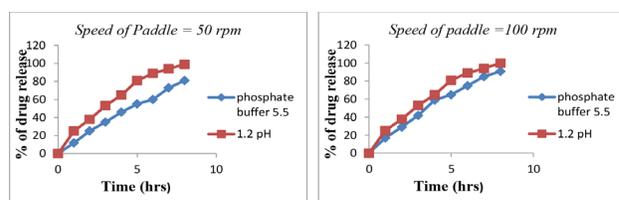
Parameter	Result (Mean ± SD; RSD)
Accuracy	
200 mg (100%)	100.01 ± 0.32;0.32
100 mg (100%)	100.01 ± 0.32;0.32
Precision	
Repeatability	
Vessel 1 (V <sub>1</sub> )	100.94 ± 0.56
Vessel 2(V <sub>2</sub> )	99.97 ± 0.41
Vessel 3 (V <sub>3</sub> )	98.72 ± 0.32
Vessel 4 (V <sub>4</sub> )	100.92 ± 0.73
Intermediate precision	
Intraday reproducibility	
1 hr	100.02 ± 0.67
10hr	99.02 ± 0.64
24hr	98.02 ± 0.76
Inter day reproducibility	
Day 1	.12 ± 0.76
Day 2	98.02 ± 0.76

Results are mean ± S.D; RSD (n = 3).

Dissolution medium: pH 5.5 phosphate buffer, temperature: 37 ± 2 °C; paddle speed: 100rpm; medium volume: 500 ml.



**Figure 3: Release profiles of Dipyridamole from tablet determined at different paddle speeds (50 and 100 rpm) in 900 mL of medium.**



**Figure 4: Release profiles of Dipyridamole from tablet determined at different paddle speeds (50 and 100 rpm) in 500 mL of medium.**

**Table 4: Percent Recovery (Stability) of Dipyridamole from Different Dissolution Media).**

Composition of Solvent	Percent Recovery		
	Ambient Temperature	Refrigerator Temperature	Elevated Temperature
Standard solution	99.88 ± 0.53	99.7 ± 0.43	99.76 ± 0.36
purified water	100.09 ± 0.61	99.82 ± 0.67	98.63 ± 0.60
pH 1.2 medium	99.67 ± 0.29	99.69 ± 0.28	99.49 ± 0.62
pH 5.5 dissolution medium (200ml)	99.73 ± 0.52	99.78 ± 0.39	101.03 ± 0.57

Values reported as mean ± SD (n = 3)

## CONCLUSION

The present study focused the importance of pH independent extended releases formulations with pH modulating agent, dissolution method for Dipyridamole was developed and validated according to ICH guidelines. Still tablet dosage form is not available in the market due to their pH dependent solubility. The use of 250 ml of pH 5.5 phosphate buffer as the dissolution medium at  $37 \pm 0.5^\circ\text{C}$  and 100 rpm produced satisfactory results. This is the first time new method was developed for pH dependent soluble Dipyridamole. This kind of information may be useful in the proposal of official monographs for dissolution assays that resemble physiological conditions. The developed dissolution method will be helpful in formulation development of pH dependent soluble drugs and assessment of quality.

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## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors report no conflict of interest.

## ABBREVIATIONS

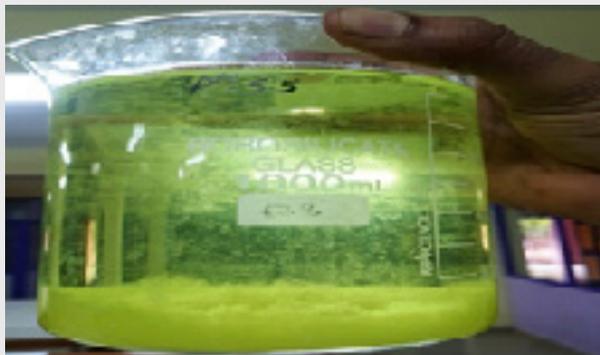
**ICH:** International Conference on Harmonisation;  
**USP:** United States Pharmacopeia; **Rpm:** revolutions per min-

*ute*; **RSD:** Relative Standard Deviation; **µg:** micro-gram; **DIP:** Dipyridamole; **°C:** Degree Centigrade; **ML:** Milli Liter.

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## PICTORIAL ABSTRACT



**Precipitation of the drug in pH 5.5 dissolution medium (900ml)**

## SUMMARY

The compressed coated tablets, on dissolution study was performed in to individual pH mediums both pH 1.2 and 5.5 phosphate buffer, with controlled release up to 10h. The New dissolution method for Dipyridamole extended pH independent released tablets was developed and validated according to ICH guidelines. The use of 500 ml of pH 5.5 phosphate buffer as the dissolution medium at  $37 \pm 0.5$  °C and 100 rpm produced satisfactory results. Dissolution testing of pH independent extended released tablets containing Dipyridamole with pH modulating agent (tartaric acid) resulted in different dissolution profiles, confirming the best dissolution method. The developed dissolution method will be helpful in formulation development of pH independent extended released Dipyridamole tablet dosage form and assessment of quality and performance of different batches.

## About Authors



**Dr. T.E. Gopala Krishna Murthy:** M. Pharm., Ph. D. Principal, Professor , Bapatla College of Pharmacy served as an academic supervisor to more than 60 Master Degree dissertations and 9 PhD Degree dissertations for the award of M.Pharm and PhD Degrees. He has published many research articles in reputed national and international Journals. He received fellowship from Association of Pharmacy and Biotechnology and is a recipient of meritorious teacher award from JNTUK, Kakinada. He is acting as Editorial Board Member for various journals, authored 4 text books and filed for 5 Patents. He acted as Convener for two AICTE Sponsored National Seminars and two Staff Development Programmes. He was granted generous funds from AICTE under RPS and MODROBS Schemes during his academic service till now



**Dr. Prameela Rani Avula:** Principal and Professor University College of Pharmaceutical Sciences Acharya Nagarjuna University Nagarjuna Nagar, Guntur. Carried out the research work under the guidance of Prof. K P R Chowdary, AU and was awarded the Ph.D from JNTU, Hyderabad in the year 2005. His is having 25 yrs of teaching includes 20yrs of Research Experience, Major research projects funded by UGC – 1 (11Lakhs sanctioned by UGC) AICTE – 1 (15 Lakhs sanctioned by AICTE) She has published many research articles in reputed national and international Journals. She has shared his research experience on the platforms of national and international conferences, workshops, seminars and symposia.



**A. Anil kumar** is an Associate Professor at the Department of Pharmaceutics, Vikas College of pharmacy, Vissannapeta. He is having 8.5 yrs of teaching experience. His research interest is in the area of oral pH independent controlled drug delivery system, Floating, Mucoadhesive and herbal formulations. Currently perusing part time Ph.D. from JNTU, kakikinada, under the guidance of Dr. T.E. Gopala Krishna Murthy Professor and principal, Bapatla college of pharmacy, Bapatla and Dr.A. PRAMEELA RANI, Principal and Professor University College of Pharmaceutical Sciences Acharya Nagarjuna University Nagarjuna Nagar, and Guntur on topic: Oral pH independent controlled drug delivery system

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