

Hplc Method Development And Validation Of Ivacaftor And Lumacaftor, Characterization Of Its Degradants By Lc- Ms/Ms

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ABSTRACT

Objective: An assay method was developed and validated for the simultaneous estimation of Ivacaftor and Lumacaftor using RP-HPLC.

Methods: An effective chromatographic separation was achieved using Hyper clone 5 μ BDS C18 130 $^{\circ}$ A column of dimensions 250X4.6mm, 5 μ m, as a stationary phase. HSA pH-2.5/OPA and acetonitrile in 60:40 v/v was used as a mobile process with a rate of 1 ml/min and UV detection was carried out at 260nm, respectively. Isocratic chromatography at ambient temperature was performed.

Results: Ivacaftor and Lumacaftor were separated by a running time of around 10min, at 3.152min. and 6.932min. respectively. By injecting the norm six times, device suitability parameters were studied and the outcomes were well under the acceptance criteria. The linearity analysis was performed at levels ranging from 25% to 150% and the R² value was found to be 0.999.

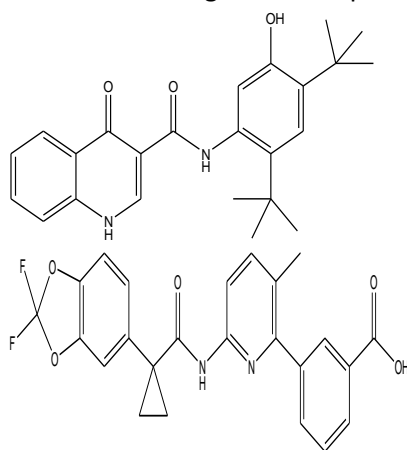
Conclusion: Assay method validation was performed by using the marketed formulation and found to be within the limit. Degradation tests were conducted and the degradants were characterized by using LC-MS/MS.

Key Words: Development, Validation, Ivacaftor, Lumacaftor, LC-MS/MS.

INTRODUCTION

1. Ivacaftor[Fig.1] is a medication used to treat cystic fibrosis[Shteinberg Michal et al, 2021; Warnock L, 2023; Shteinberg M, 2021] in people with certain mutations in the cystic fibrosis trans membrane conductance regulator (CFTR) gene (primarily the G551D mutation), who account for 4–5% cases of cystic fibrosis. It is also included in combination medications, lumacaftor/ivacaftor, tezacaftor/ivacaftor, and elexacaftor / tezacaftor / ivacaftor [Middleton PG, 2019] which were used to treat people with cystic fibrosis. Cystic fibrosis is caused by any one of several defects in the CFTR protein [Sharma S, 2018; Csanády L, 2019], which regulates fluid flow within cells and affects the components of sweat, digestive fluids, and mucus [Ohar JA, 2019; Dash S, 2018]. One such defect is the G551D mutation [Slocombe L, 2021; Monroe JG et al., 2022], in which the amino acid glycine (G) [Wang W, 2013] in position 551 is replaced with aspartic acid [Adelnia Hossein, 2019] (D). G551D is characterized by a dysfunctional CFTR protein on the cell surface. In the case of G551D, the protein is trafficked to the correct area, the epithelial cell surface [Gudipaty SA et al, 2017], but once there the protein cannot transport chloride through the channel. Ivacaftor, a CFTR potentiator, improves the transport of chloride through the ion channel by binding to the channels directly to induce a non-conventional mode of gating which in turn increases the probability that the channel is open.
2. **Lumacaftor (VX-809)**[Fig. 1] is a pharmaceutical drug that acts as a chaperone[Bascos NA, 2019; Sadigh-Eteghad S, 2015] during protein folding and increases the number of CFTR proteins that are trafficked to the cell surface. It is available in a single pill with ivacaftor; the combination, lumacaftor/ivacaftor (brand name Orkambi), is used to treat people with cystic fibrosis who are homozygous [Gabbett MT et al, 2019] for the F508del mutation in the cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator (CFTR) gene, the defective protein that causes the disease. Lumacaftor is a drug used in combination with Ivacaftor as the fixed dose combination product Orkambi for the management of Cystic Fibrosis (CF) in patients aged 6 years and older. Cystic Fibrosis is an autosomal recessive disorder caused by one of several

different mutations in the gene for the Cystic Fibrosis Transmembrane Conductance Regulator (CFTR) protein, a transmembrane ion channel involved in the transport of chloride and sodium ions across cell membranes [Mishra NN, 2011; Lombard J. 2014] of the lungs, pancreas [Banks PA, 2010; Wang Y et al, 2011], and other organs. Mutations in the CFTR gene result in altered production, misfolding, or function of the CFTR protein and consequently abnormal fluid and ion transport across cell membranes. As a result, CF patients produce thick, sticky mucus that clogs the ducts of organs where it is produced making patients more susceptible to infections [Riley LW, 2019; Negut Irina, 2018], lung damage, pancreatic insufficiency [Capurso Gabriele, 2019; RitivoiuMirela-Elena, 2023], and malnutrition [Trehan I, 2013; Mark HE, 2020]. Lumacaftor improves CF symptoms and underlying disease pathology by aiding the conformational stability of F508del-mutated CFTR proteins, preventing misfolding and resulting in increased processing and trafficking of mature protein to the cell surface.



Ivacaftor Lumacaftor

Figure 1: Chemical structures of Ivacaftor and Lumacaftor

There were number of HPLC methods [Karuppasamy C, 2020; Dr. Nagamallika Gorantla, 2019; Sravanthi B, 2016; AkramN. Md, 2017; Saniye Özcan, 2023]and one UPLC method [Balaswami B 2019] was reported in the literature, but these methods are developed only for routine analysis of Lumacaftor and Ivacaftor in bulk and formulation studies. In this present study we developed a new HPLC method for the estimation of Lumacaftor and Ivacaftor in the combined and dosage forms in vitro method and also the characterization of its degradants carried out by LC-MS/MS.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Chemicals

Acetonitrile, Ortho phosphoric acid, Hexane sulfonic acid and water all are of HPLC grade were purchased from Merck India pvt ltd., Worli, Mumbai, India. APIs of Ivacaftor, Lumacaftor were purchased from Spectrum Parma research solutions pvt ltd., Hyderabad.

Equipment

HPLC

The chromatographic device of Waters quaternary pump alliance e-2695, PDA detector 2998 and chromatographic software Empower -2.0 were used.

LC-MS/MS

An HPLC system (waters alliance e2695 model) connected with mass spectrometer QTRAP 5500 triple quadrupole instrument (sciex) was used [Syed Rafi, 2021; Naveen V M K, 2021; Bhavani P, 2020]. By the Empower 2.0 software operation was performed. Working parameters of mass spectrometry after optimization as follows : Ion spray voltage 5500V [Naresh Kumar D, 2017]; temperature source 550°C ; Drying gas temperature 120-250°C; Collision gas –Nitrogen [Supriya T, 2018]; Pressure 55psi; Drying gas flow stream-5mL/min; Delustering potential 40V; Entrance potential 45V ; Exit potential 15V; Capillary voltage 5500V and Dwell time 1Sec respectively.

Preparation of buffer

In 1 lt of HPLC Water, 1.8g of Hexane sulfonic acid was dissolved, adjust its pH-2.5 with OPA and filter through 0.45 μ filter paper.

Preparation of mobile phase

Mix Acetonitrile and buffer in 40:60 v/v ratio and sonicated to 5 min. After that filter it by using 0.45 μm membrane filter paper.

Diluent

Mobile phase.

Preparation of standard solution

Standard stock solution of Ivacaftor and Lumacaftor were prepared by appropriately estimating about 25 mg of Ivacaftor and 40 mg of Lumacaftor drug in a 100 ml volumetric flask. Then

the drug was liquified in solvent and filter through a 0.45 μ filter. Standard stock solution concentrations of 250 μ g/ml and 400 μ g/ml were obtained. Further pipette 5ml of the above solution into a 50ml volumetric flask and make up to the mark with diluents.

Preparation of the solution for samples

Tenivacaftor and Lumacaftor tablets were accurately weighed and triturated to get a fine powder. A 91.6 mg of Ivacaftor and Lumacaftor sample was transferred into a 100 ml volumetric flask and dissolved in diluent. The solution was ultra-sonicated for 10 min and made the volume with diluent. Further pipette 5ml of the above solution into a 50ml volumetric flask and make up to the mark with diluents. The tablet sample solution was then filtered through 0.45 micron syringe filter and utilized for preparing sample solution for the assay.

Optimization of chromatographic conditions

Various combinations of mobile phases were screened with respect to resolution, theoretical plate count, tailing and other system suitability parameters. Finally the separation was performed with freshly prepared the mobile step is composed of Acetonitrile and buffer in 40:60 v/v ratio with a 1 ml/min flow rate. Wave length of 260 nm with injection volume 10 μ l and ambient temperature was maintained during the entire process to obtain symmetric peak of Ivacaftor and Lumacaftor.

Method Optimization:

The current study was designed to develop a simple, reliable and rapid analytical RP-HPLC system which can be used to evaluate assay method of current estimation of Ivacaftor and Lumacaftor pharmaceutical and bulk dosages forms. In order to have good results for the assay, the chromatographic conditions were optimized. Different combinations of Ivacaftor and Lumacaftor have been tried to optimize the mobile process. The final working mobile phase was acetonitrile: HSA pH-2.5/OPA at 40:60v/v. Based on its polarity, the mobile phase was selected for each drug. In order to achieve adequate sensitivity for the two smaller proportions of APIs (Ivacaftor and Lumacaftor), detection was carried out at several wavelengths. Finally, as a detection wavelength, the 260 nm wavelength at which the two drugs showed strong absorbance was chosen. The rate of flow was 1.0 ml/min, which is important as it affects the parameters of peak symmetry. The retention time for Ivacaftor and

Lumacaftor was 3.152 min and 6.932 min. respectively. The suggested approach is checked in compliance with the ICH guidelines [ICH Q2(R1); 2005] and found to be within the limit.

Method validation

In acquiescence with ICH recommendations [Shivani C P 2016; V L N Balaji Gupta T, 2021; Mukta D. Naykode et al, 2017; Mayanka Singh, 2011; Ashutosh Kumar S, 2016; Malathi S, 2020], the validity parameters were established.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

System suitability

In six replicates, system suitability was achieved by injecting a regular solution containing 25µg/ml Ivacaftor and 40µg/ml of Lumacaftor. The findings suggest that the criteria of system suitability were within the boundaries.

Table 1: Results of system suitability

System suitability parameter	Acceptance criteria	Ivacaftor			Lumacaftor		
		Mean	Std Dev	% RSD	Mean	Std Dev	% RSD
USP Plate count	NLT 2000	4649	19.201	0.41	12245	16.709	0.14
USP Tailing	NMT 2.0	1.05	0.025	1.26	0.96	0.029	1.31
USP Resolution	NLT 2.0	-	-	-	17.06	0.043	0.25
Retention time	NLT 2.0	3.155	0.003	0.10	6.934	0.003	0.04

Mean±SD (n=6)

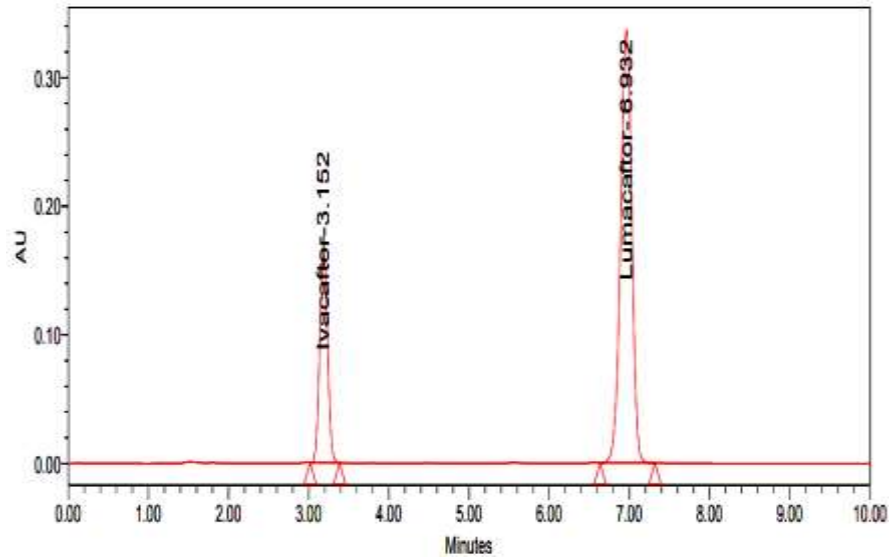


Figure 2: Chromatogram of system suitability

Specificity

At the retention time of Ivacaftor and Lumacaftor, no intervention [Potturi Ramadevi, 2021] from the blank occurred. The process is also unique.

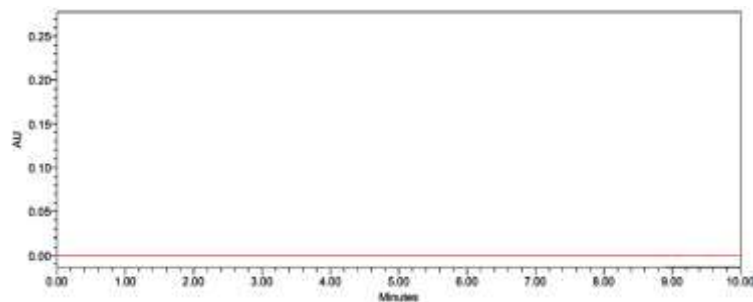


Figure 3: Chromatogram of blank

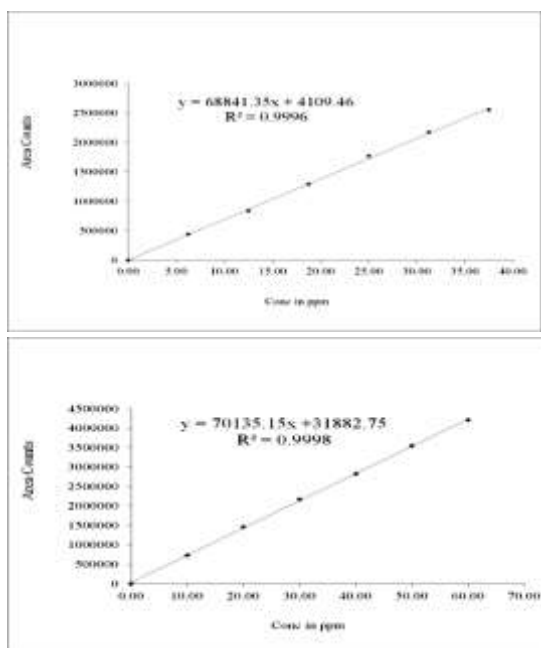
Linearity

Linearity was determined by plotting a curve between peak area to its respective concentration. From this calibration curve [Malak Y, 2020;Vijayakumari M, 2020], it was noticed that the curve was linear over the 6.25-37.5µg /ml Ivacaftor and 10-60µg /ml Lumacaftor concentration range. The calibration curve regression equations were $Y=68841.35x + 4109.46$ ($R^2 =0.999$) for Ivacaftor and $Y=70135.15x + 31882.75$ ($R^2 = 0.999$) for Lumacaftor.

Table 2: Linearity data

Linearity level	Ivacaftor		Lumacaftor	
	Conc. (µg/ml)	Peak area counts	Conc. (µg/ml)	Peak area counts
Linearity-1	6.25	442624	10.00	729383
Linearity-2	12.50	836984	20.00	1458638

Linearity-3	18.75	1291647	30.00	2174572
Linearity-4	25.00	1768351	40.00	2830368
Linearity-5	31.25	2172646	50.00	3550920
Linearity-6	37.50	2551942	60.00	4207679
Slope	68841.35		70135.15	
Intercept	4109.46		31882.75	
CC	0.99960		0.99984	



A

B

Figure 4: Linearity plot of (A) Ivacaftor and (B) Lumacaftor Precision

The precision of this approach was evaluated in terms of inter and intraday variations. The intraday studies were calculated by six repeated tests of the Ivacaftor and Lumacaftor sample solution under the same experimental conditions on the same day. In the same Laboratory, the intermediate precision of this approach was carried out by examining the analysis with various analyst and different instruments [Gomathy S, 2020; SubbaRaoYarlagadda, 2021; Ramachandran D, 2020]. As the percent RSD values were found to be < 2 percent, the method is highly accurate. At each added concentration, good recovery of the drug was achieved; suggesting that the procedure was successful. Below table represents the outcomes given.

Table 3: Results of precision

Parameter	Ivacaftor			Lumacaftor		
	Mean % Recovery	Std Dev	Conc. ($\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$)	Mean % Recovery	Std Dev	Conc. ($\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$)
Method precision	100.2	0.571	25.0	100.1	0.659	40.0
Intermediate precision	100.1	0.749	25.0	99.9	0.880	40.0

Mean \pm SD (n=6)

Accuracy

By measuring the recovery experiments at three stages (50 percent, 100 percent, and 150 percent), the precision [Gadhvi M.P, 2013; SenthilRajan D, 2020; Rajakumari R et.al., 2016] of the process was carried out. APIs were prepared at concentrations of 12.5, 25.0, 37.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ of Ivacaftor and 20.0, 40.0, 60.0 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ of Lumacaftor. For each spike level, the test solution was injected three times and as per the test process, the assay was performed and the RSD values were less than 2 percent. Recovery percentage, mean and relative standard deviation have been determined. Recovery values showed that the approach within the desired range was specific.

Table 4: Results of accuracy

Accuracy level	Ivacaftor		Lumacaftor	
	% Recovery	Std Dev	% Recovery	Std Dev
50%	100.4	0.330	100.2	0.870
100%	100.3	0.320	100.1	0.890
150%	99.8	0.690	100.3	0.520

Mean \pm SD (n=3)

Robustness

By varying flow rate and mobile phase composition, the robustness of the chromatographic process was calculated. It was found that RSD was within the appropriate range.

Table 5: Results of robustness

Change in parameter	Ivacaftor (% RSD)	Lumacaftor (% RSD)
Flow plus (1.1 ml/min)	0.45	0.45
Flow minus (0.9 ml/min)	0.67	0.77

Organic plus (44:56)	0.65	0.31
Organic minus (36:64)	1.08	0.90

RSD- Relative standard deviation; All the values are presented as Mean±SD (n=3)

Forced degradation

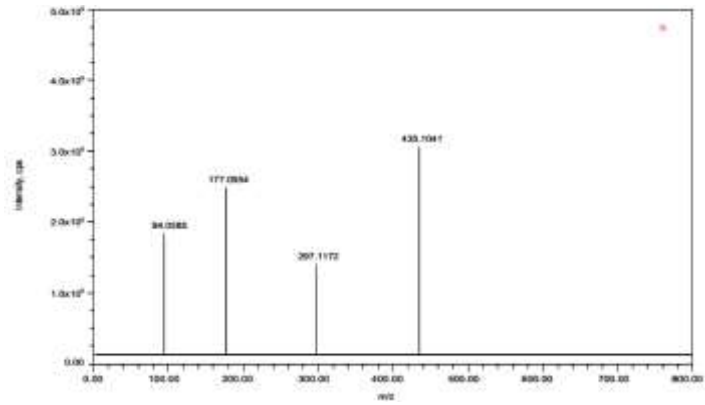
The forced degradation study [CharuPandya P, 2018; BirvaAthavia A et al., 2017; Swati K, 2020] was carried out according to ICH guidelines include acid, base, peroxide, reduction, thermal and hydrolysis degradation. From the chromatograms it is evident that selected drugs were stable under the applied stress conditions though the degradation peaks [Narasimha S. Lakka, 2020; Balasaheb B Chavan et al, 2018; Mukta D. Naykode et al, 2017] were obtained. The formed degradants were characterized by using LC-MS/MS.

Forced degradation:

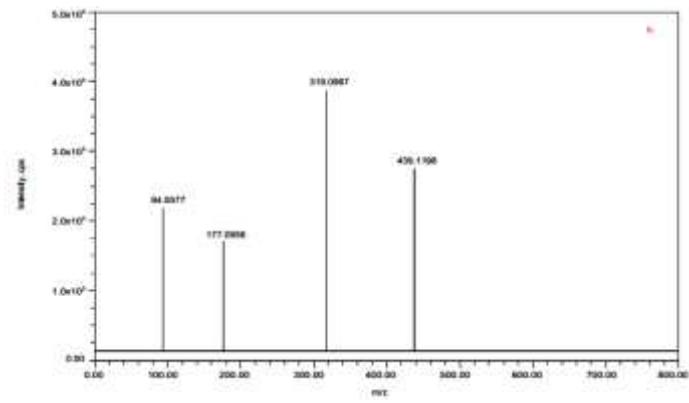
Table 6: Results of forced degradation

Stress condition	Ivacaftor (%degradation)	Lumacaftor (%degradation)
	Mean	Mean
Control degradation	0	0
Acid degradation	11.8	13.4
Alkali degradation	13.4	12.3
Peroxide degradation	14.3	2.2
Reduction degradation	1.8	10.9
Thermal degradation	0.8	10.0
Photolytic degradation	4.8	2.7
Hydrolysis degradation	2.6	4.5

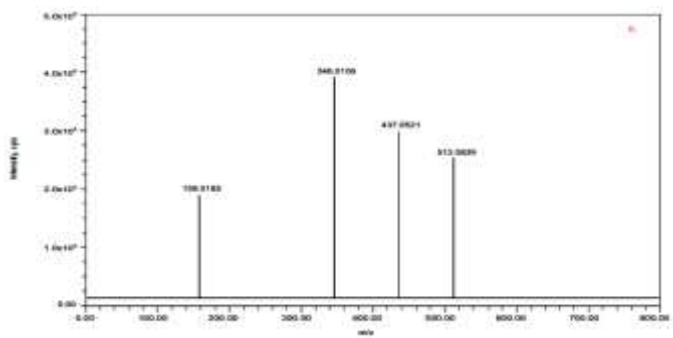
Data expressed as Mean±SD (n=3)



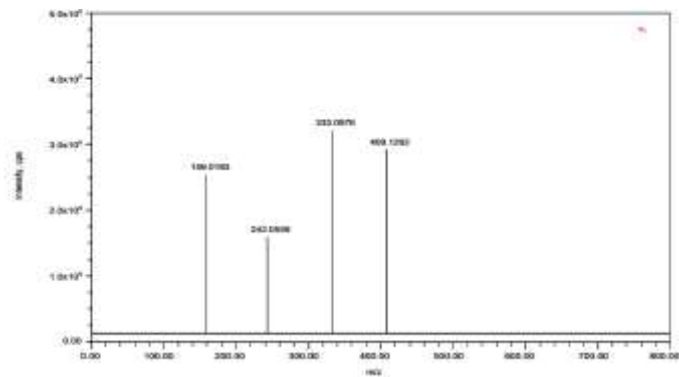
A



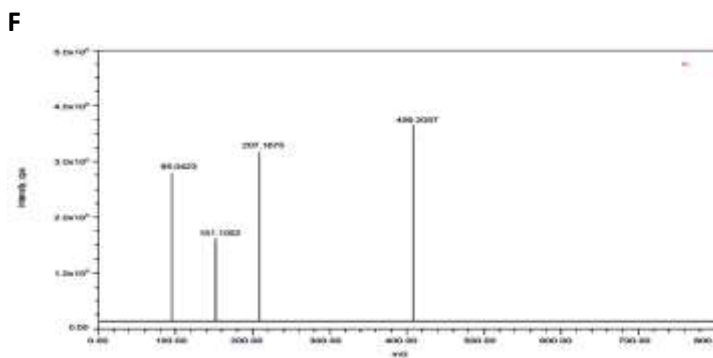
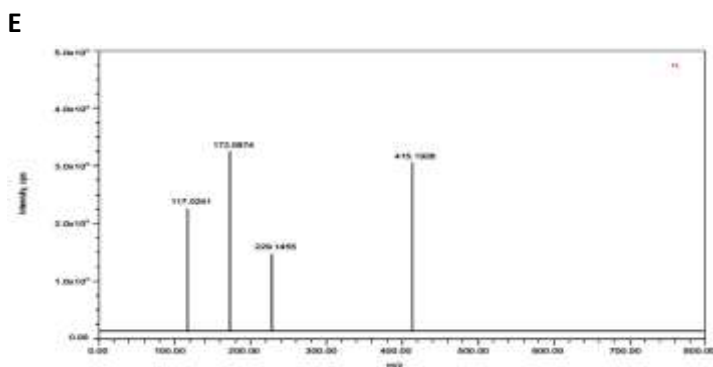
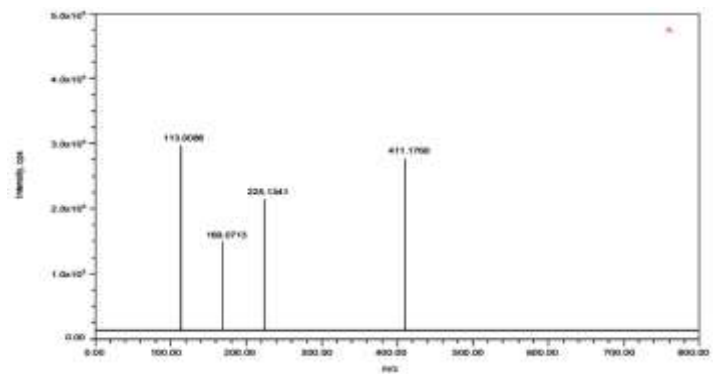
B



C



D

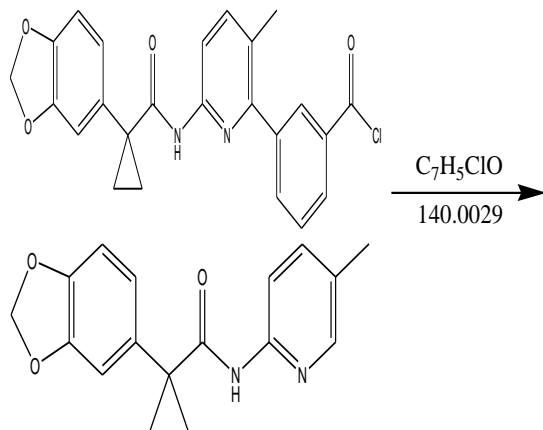


G

Figure 5: Mass spectras of (A) D₁ (B) D₂ (C) D₃ (D) D₄ (E) D₅ (F) D₆ (G) D₇

Collision induced dissociation of Ivacaftor and Lumacaftor

Scheme 1



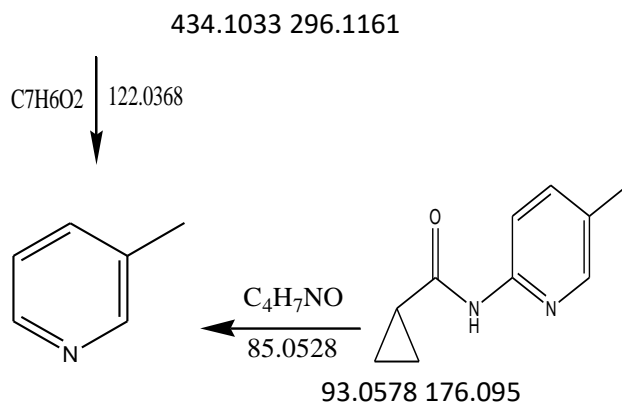
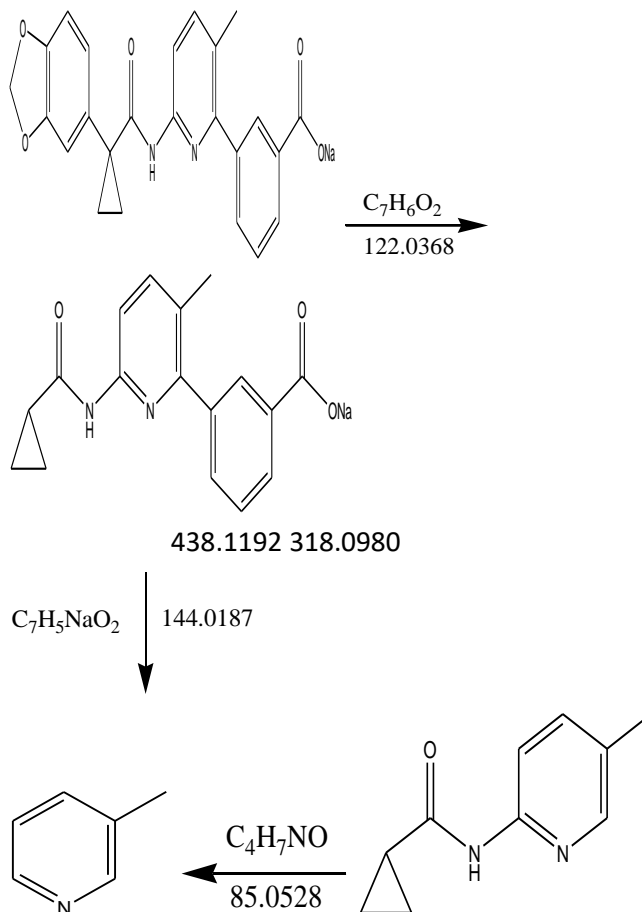


Figure 6: Mechanism for proposed fragmentation of DP₁ of m/z-434

MS/MS degradation product

The fragmentation mechanism of degradation product 1 of m/z-434.1033 observed under acidic, degradation conditions is shown in figure 6. Abundant substance ions are seen on the spectrum at m/z-296.1161 (C₇H₅ClO loss), m/z-176.0950 (C₇H₆O₂ loss), m/z-93.0578 (C₄H₇NO loss). The proposed structures were confirmed by the accurate mass measurements and MS / MS studies.

Scheme 2



93.0578 176.0950

Figure 7: Proposed fragmentation mechanism of DP₂ of m/z-438**MS/MS degradation product**

Figure 7 shows the fragmentation process of degradation product 2 of m/z-438, which was observed under conditions of Alkali degradation. Abundant product ions are seen on the spectrum at m/z-318.0980 (C₇H₆O₂ loss), m/z-176.0950 (C₇H₅NaO₂ loss), m/z-93.0578 (C₄H₇NO loss). The proposed structures were confirmed by the accurate mass measurements, MS/MS studies.

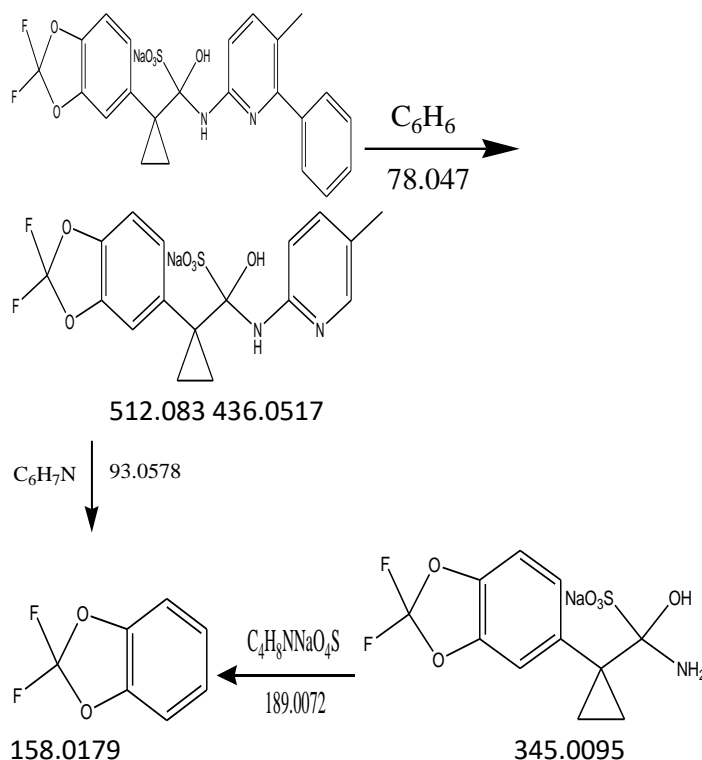
Scheme 3**Figure 8: Proposed fragmentation mechanism of DP₃ of m/z-512****MS/MS degradation product**

Figure 8 shows the fragmentation mechanism of degradation product 3 of m/z-512.0830, which has observed under conditions of reduction degradation. Abundant product ions are shown in the spectrum at m/z-436.0517 (C₆H₆ loss), m/z-345.0095 (C₆H₇N loss), m/z-158.0179 (C₄H₈NNaO₄S loss). The proposed structures were confirmed by the MS/MS experiments in combination with accurate mass measurements.

Scheme 4

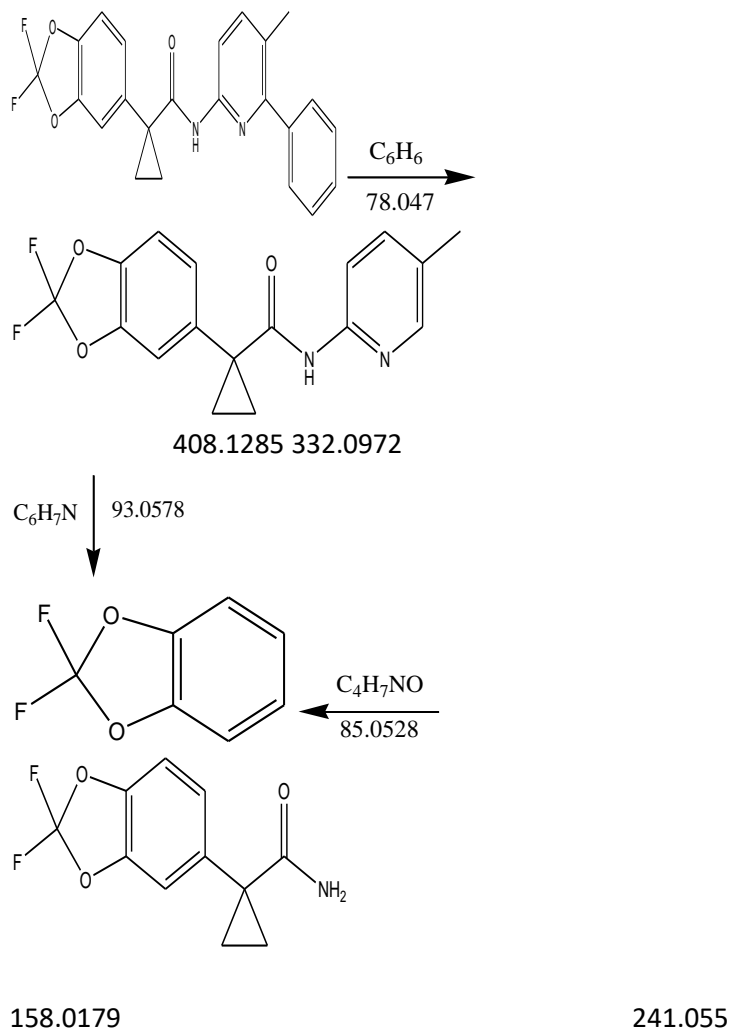


Figure 9: Proposed fragmentation mechanism of DP₄ of m/z-408

MS/MS degradation product

The fragmentation mechanism of degradation product 4 of m/z-408.1285 observed under Thermal degradation conditions is shown in Figure 9. Abundant substance ions shown on the spectrum at m/z-332.0972 (C₆H₆ loss), m/z-241.0550 (C₆H₇N loss), m/z-158.0179 (C₄H₇NO loss, from). The proposed structures were confirmed by the MS/MS experiments in combination with accurate mass measurements.

Scheme 5

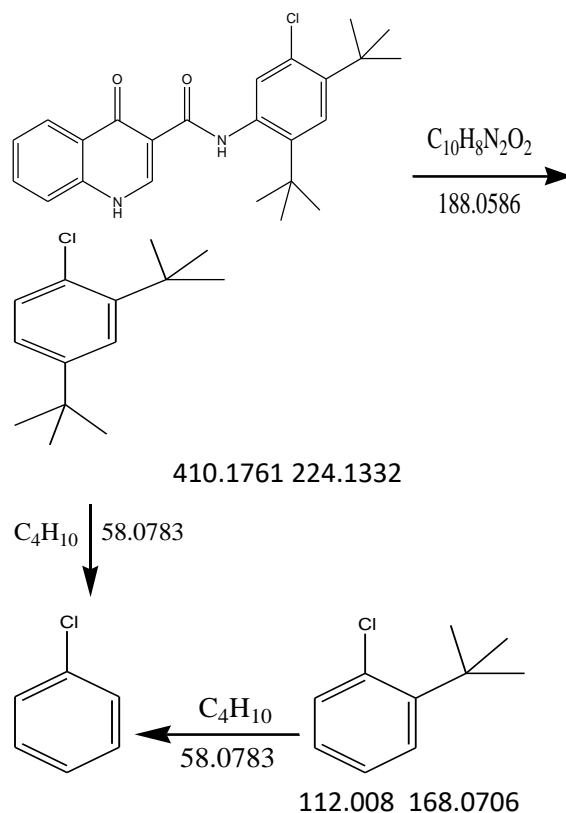


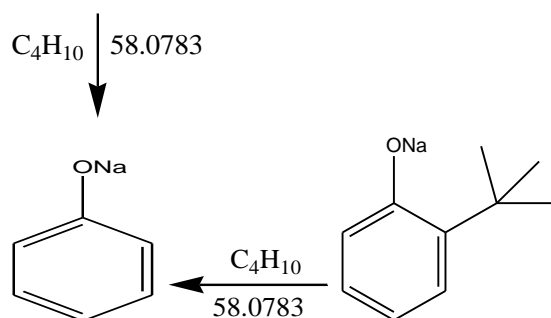
Figure 10: Proposed fragmentation mechanism of DP₅ of m/z-410

MS/MS degradation product

Figure 10 shows the fragmentation process of degradation product 5 of m/z-410.1761, that was observed under conditions of acid degradation. Abundant substance ions are seen on the spectrum at m/z-224.1332 (C₁₀H₈N₂O₂ loss), m/z-168.0706 (C₄H₁₀ loss), m/z-112.0080 (C₄H₁₀ loss). The proposed structures were confirmed by the MS/MS experiments in combination with accurate mass measurements.

Scheme 6





116.0238 172.0864

Figure 11: proposed fragmentation mechanism of DP₆ of m/z-414

MS/MS degradation condition

Figure 11 shows the possible fragmentation mechanism of degradation product 6 of m/z-414.1919, which was observed under conditions of Alkali degradation. Abundant substance ions on the spectrum at m/z-228.1490 ($C_{10}H_8N_2O_2$ loss), m/z-172.0864 (C_4H_{10} loss), m/z-116.0238 (C_4H_{10} loss). The proposed structures were confirmed by the MS/MS experiments in combination with accurate mass measurements.

Scheme 7

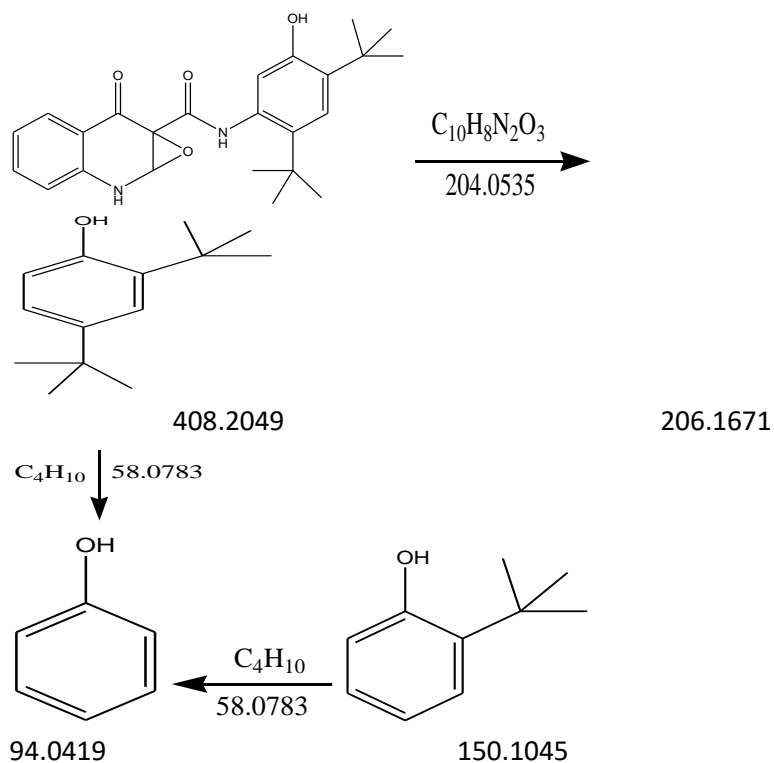


Figure 12: Proposed fragmentation mechanism for product degradation 7 of m/z-408

MS/MS degradation product

Figure 12 shows the mechanism of fragmentation of degradation product 7 of m/z-408.2049, which was observed under peroxide degradation. The spectrum shows abundant ions of the substance at m/z-206.1671 (loss of $C_{10}H_8N_2O_3$), m/z-150.1045 (loss of C_4H_{10}), m/z-94.0419 (loss of C_4H_{10}). The proposed structures were confirmed by accurate mass measurements, MS/MS experiments.

Conclusion

In this study a fast novel, economical, sensitive and easily available method of HPLC has been produced for the simultaneous determination of Ivacaftor and Lumacaftor in bulk and a type of pharmaceutical dosage form. The advantage of this process was no HPLC methods were reported. This method consists of shorter run time, low price, accessibility, sensitivity, reliability and reproducibility. These properties are important when a large number of samples are to be analyzed. The validation of all the parameters like linearity, accuracy, specificity, robustness was done and found to be within the acceptance criteria. The RSD values were found to be less than 2.0 percent for all the parameters, which indicates the validity of the process and the results obtained by this process are seen to be in good agreement. So, the proposed method could be easily used for the routine analysis and pharmaceutical formulations of Ivacaftor and Lumacaftor in quality control laboratories without any preliminary separation.

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