

## ESTIMATION OF FEXOFENADINE HCL AND PSEUDOEPHEDRINE HCL BY SPECTROPHOTOMETER AND TLC IN COMBINED TABLET DOSAGE FORM

SAJID MAHMOOD<sup>1</sup>, ZAHEER AHMAD, MUHAMMAD ARSHAD

**ABSTRACT.** The objective of the present work was to develop and validate of an analytical method for the quantitative determination of Fexo. HCl and Pseudo. HCl in a combined tablet dosage form by  $UV - V$  is spectrophotometry and TLC. The main problem was to separate the two active ingredient from a single bilayered tablet because both the A.P.I's were soluble in the same solvents. As media selection, distilled water and ethanol (1 : 1) were used for Pseudo. HCl and methanol for Fexo. HCl, in which both the drugs were soluble and stable for a sufficient time. Both drugs were measured at 220nm and 247nm, where they showed maximum absorbance. Beer Lambert's law was obeyed at concentration range 4 – 14 ppm and 5 – 30 ppm for Fexo. HCl and Pseudo HCl respectively. Fexo. HCl ( $Y = 0.0643x + 0.9370$ ) was measured with correlation coefficient  $r = 0.9574$  and Pseudo. HCl ( $Y = 0.0843x + 0.0219$ ) with correlation coefficient  $r = 0.9992$ . The results of analysis have been validated statistically and recovery studies were carried out as  $99.29\% \pm 0.943$  and  $99.29\% \pm 0.941$  which were close to the assay value 100.1% & 100.6 %. Precision of the method was measured which showed results for SD (99.57 % & 99. 51% ) and % RSD (99.53 % & 99.54). The proposed method may be suitably applied for the analysis of Fexo. HCl and Pseudo.HCl in tablet pharmaceutical formulation for routine analysis.

*Key words and phrases:* Fexofenadine; Pseudoephedrine; Validation; Spectrophotometer; Nasal decongestant; Water-Ethanol.

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<sup>1</sup> Corresponding Author

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## 1. Introduction

Pseudoephedrine (Figure 1) is the most popular active nasal decongestant due to its effectiveness and relatively mild side effects [1]. In recent years, it has become increasingly difficult to obtain pseudoephedrine in many states because of its use as a precursor for the illegal drug N-methyl amphetamine (also known under various names including crystal meth, meth ice, etc.) [2]. Fexofenadine, (Figure 2) 2-[4-(1-hydroxy-4-(4-[hydroxyl (biphenyl) methyl] piperidin-1-yl) butyl) phenyl]-2-methylpropanoic acid is a highly selective peripheral histamine H1 receptor antagonist used in the treatment of allergic diseases such as allergic rhinitis and chronic urticarial.

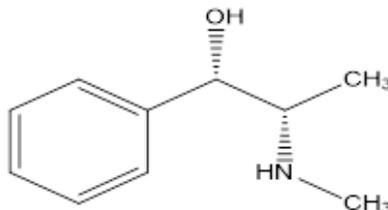


Figure 1. Pseudoephedrine

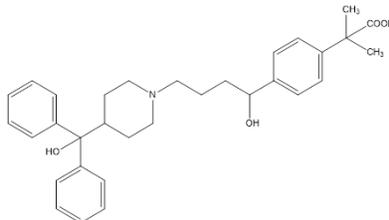


Figure 2. Fexofenadine

Fexofenadine is the active derivative of the antihistamine terfenadine, with no anti-cholinergic or alpha 1-adrenergic receptor-blocking effects and without severe cardiac side effects of terfenadine [3, 4].

In literature survey many analytical methods have been reported for the estimating of individual Pseudoephedrine hydrochloride [5, 6], few HPLC assay and dissolution methods have been reported for determination of fexofenadine in pharmaceutical preparation [7]. The estimation of fexofenadine in biological fluids using liquid chromatography with mass spectrometry [8], ionspray tandem mass spectrometry [9], electrospray tandem mass spectrometry [10], UV detection [11, 1] The published method on HPLC was time taking and expensive for the routine analysis of pharmaceutical sectors. However, we have made an attempt to separate both the drugs by Thin Layer Chromatography and estimate it by UV-Visible spectrophotometer which is more reliable and economical. However, no work has so far been carried out for the simultaneous determination of Fexo. HCl and Pseudo.HCl in combined tablet dosage form by UV-Vis spectrophotometer and TLC. The aim of the present study is to develop and validate

a new and economical method for the simultaneous estimation of Fexo. HCl and Pseudo. HCl in combine pharmaceutical tablet preparations. The method was validated in compliance with ICH guidelines [12].

## 2. Materials and method

**2.1. Chemicals and reagents.** The reference standards Fexofenadine HCl and Pseudoephedrine HCl (99.4%) pure were received as a gift sample from Java Pharmaceutical Kot Lakhpat, Lahore. Organic solvents ethanol and methanol (AR grade) was procured from Merck Chemical. Distilled water was used throughout the study. Sample tablets Fexet-D (Fexo. HCl and Pseudo. HCl 60mg/120mg) were purchased from local market Lahore, Pakistan.

**2.2. Apparatus.** TLC tank was used for the separation of both drugs. A single beam UV-Spectrophotometer (Cecil CE 2041, 2000 series) was used for the measurement. Analytical balance (JS-110, Japan) was used to weigh the sample and standard (Fexo. HCl and Pseudo.HCl ) material.

**2.3. Selection of common solvent.** Main criteria for media selection was solubility and stability, i.e. Fexo. HCl and Pseudo. HCl should be soluble as well as stable for sufficient time in selected media. Pseudo. HCl show solubility in distilled water and ethanol (1:1) and Fexo. HCl in methanol, respectively. It is economical and hence selected for analysis.

## 3. Methodology

**3.1. Thin layer Chromatograph.** The grind powder of tablet was dissolved in methanol and filtered the solution with filter paper. The obtained concentrated solution was subjected on precoated silica gel plates. The polarity system  $\text{CHCl}_3/\text{n-Hexane}$  (80:20%) was developed for TLC. The two A.P.I's were separated which showed the  $R_f$  values **0.250.01** and **0.67+/-0.01** for Fexo. HCl and Pseudo. HCl , respectively. As media selection, distilled water and ethanol (1:1) were used for Pseudo. HCl and methanol for Fexo.HCl, in which both the drugs were soluble and stable for a sufficien time.

**3.2. Preparation of standard stock solutions and calibration curve:** An accurately weighed 100mg each Fexo.HCl and Pseudo. HCl (reference standards) were transferred to two 100 mL volumetric flask separately and dissolved in methanol and distilled water/ethanol (1:1) individually and make up the volume up to the mark with the same solvent to obtain standard solution having concentration 1000ppm. Magnetic stirrer was used for better dissolution. Further 10ppm dissolution was made by taking 1mL from each of the above solution and make up the volume to 100mL with methanol and distilled water/ethanol (1:1).

The working standard solutions 10  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$  of Fexo.HCl and Pseudo. HCl were scanned in the entire UV range 200-400nm to obtain the absorption spectra Fexo.

HCl and Pseudo. HCl showed maximum absorption at 220nm and 247nm, respectively. Further six dilutions from each stock solution were made with their respective solvents in the range 4-14  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$  and 5-30  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$  for Fexo. HCl and Pseudo.HCl, respectively. The absorbance of resulting solutions were measured at respective  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  and plotted a calibration curve against concentration to get the linearity and regression equation as shown in Figures 3 and 4.

**3.3. Application of the Proposed Procedure for the Determination in Tablets.** The proposed method was applied to determine the concentration of active drug in tablets dosage form. Twenty tablets were weighed and crushed to fine powder, drug equivalent to 60 mg and 120 mg Fexo. HCl and Pseudo. HCl was weighed and taken in 100 mL volumetric flask and make up the volume with methanol and distilled water/ethanol (1:1) respectively. The above solution was filtered by using Whattmann filter paper No. 41. From the above filtrate 10 ppm solution of each active drug was made and subjected for analysis. Analysis procedure was repeated six times with tablet formulation. Aliquot was scanned in the UV range (200-400nm). The amount of drug present in the tablets was calculated from the standard graphs as given in Table 1.

**3.4. Assay Measurement.** The mean assay results of six sample tablets were comparable with claimed value. The obtained results are presented in Table 1 and percentage was found to be 100.1% and 100.6% respectively.

TABLE 1. Assay Determination of Fexo .HCl and Pseudo. HCl from its Tablet

Sample Tablet	$\lambda_{\text{max}}$	Label Claimed	Amount Found mg /Tab.	Mean % Assay
Fexo .HCl	220 nm	60 mg	60.1 mg	100.1 %
Pseudo. HCl	247 nm	120 mg	120.8 mg	100.6 %

#### 4. Method Validation

The developed method was validated by following parameters as provided by ICH.

**4.1. Specificity.** The sample and the standard spectra were scanned to check the specificity of the method. There was not found any interference of the excipients for the determination of Fexo. HCl and Pseudo. HCl which confirmed the method is highly specified for the estimation of Fexo. HCl and Pseudo.HCl in its tablet formulation.

**4.2. Linearity.** Various concentrations of the both analyte were made to measure the linearity of the method. The concentration range was 4-14 ppm at 220nm for Fexo. HCl and 5-30 ppm at 247nm for Pseudo.HCl. A calibration curve of absorbance versus concentration was plotted. Regression analysis was the confirmation of linearity of this method.

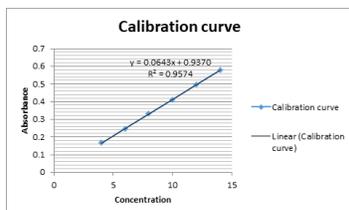


Figure 3. Linearity curve for Fexo. HCl

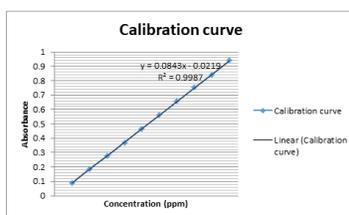


Figure 4. Linearity curve for Pseudo. HCl

**4.3. Accuracy.** To ensure the accuracy of method, recovery study was performed by preparing six sample solutions of both drugs and added a known amount of active drug to each sample solution then measuring absorbance at 220nm and 247nm respectively. The % recovery was calculated along with SD and % RSD as listed in Table 2 & 3

TABLE 2. % Recovery Result of Fexofenadine HCl

Formulation	Parameters	Results
Fexo. HCl	Regression equation	$Y = 0.0643x + 0.9370$
	Regression coefficient	$R^2 = 0.9574$
	Correlation coefficient	$R = 0.9993$
Pseudo. HCl	Regression equation	$Y = 0.0843x + 0.0219$
	Regression coefficient	$R^2 = 0.9987$
	Correlation coefficient	$R = 0.9992$

TABLE 3. % Recovery Result of Fexofenadine HCl

Samples after addition	Absorbance after addition	% Recovery Assay
Sample 1	0.717	99.88%
Sample 2	0.708	97.06%
Sample 3	0.713	99.86%
Sample 4	0.721	100.2%
Sample 5	0.715	99.23%
Sample 6	0.720	98.99%
Mean % Recovery Assay SD		99.29% $\pm$ 0.943
Mean% Recovery Assay RSD		99.29% $\pm$ 0.95

TABLE 4. % Recovery result of Pseudoephedrine HCl

Samples after addition	Absorbance after addition	% Recovery Assay
Sample 1	0.178	99.88%
Sample 2	0.172	97.06%
Sample 3	0.179	99.86%
Sample 4	0.176	100.2%
Sample 5	0.177	99.23%
Sample 6	0.174	98.99%
Mean % Recovery Assay SD		99.29% $\pm$ 0.941
Mean% Recovery Assay RSD		99.29% $\pm$ 0.93

**4.4. Precision.** Two different tablet solution was taken to measure the precision of method (Tablet-A and Tablet-B) and comparing the value of mean percentage assay with the proposed assay. The mean percentage (%) assay of the tablets was found to be very close to the proposed assay value (100.1 % and 100.6 %) respectively both for Fexo. HCl and Pseudo.HCl. Hence the assay method was found to be precise.

**4.5. Robustness.** Robustness was measured by changing the wavelength as 220 + 1nm and 247 + 1nm (+ 1nm 221nm, 219 nm and 248 and 246 nm). The effect of change in wavelength was observed and mean percentage assay was calculated at two different wavelengths and was found to be very close to the proposed assay value (100.1% and 100.6 %), thus the robustness parameter was passed by the sample tablets.

**4.6. Ruggedness.** Ruggedness was determined by analyzing the sample preparations on two different days to check the Ruggedness of the method. The mean percentage % assay at two consecutive days was found to be very close to the proposed value (100.1% & 100.6 %) respectively.

TABLE 5. % Recovery result of Pseudoephedrine HCl

Fexofenadine HCl	Absorbance of Tablet-A	% Assay of Tablet-A	Absorbance of Tablet-B	% Assay of Tablet-B
Sample 1	0.717	99.6 %	0.716	99.26%
Sample 2	0.708	99.51 %	0.702	99.53%
Sample 3	0.713	100.2 %	0.709	98.77%
Sample 4	0.721	99.02%	0.714	100.11%
Sample 5	0.715	100.48 %	0.719	99.75%
Sample 6	0.720	98.65 %	0.723	100.8%
Mean % Recovery Assay $\pm$ SD	-	99.57 % $\pm$ 0.689		99.53% $\pm$ 0.851
Mean % Recovery Assay $\pm$ %RSD	-	99.57 % $\pm$ 0.691		99.53% $\pm$ 0.854

TABLE 6. % Assay result of Tablet-A and Tablet -B

Pseudoephedrine HCl	Absorbance of Tablet-A	% Assay of Tablet-A	Absorbance of Tablet-B	% Assay of Tablet-B
Sample 1	0.178	99.6 %	0.180	99.26%
Sample 2	0.172	99.51 %	0.173	99.53%
Sample 3	0.179	100.2 %	0.182	98.77%
Sample 4	0.176	99.02%	0.184	100.11%
Sample 5	0.177	100.48 %	0.181	99.75%
Sample 6	0.174	98.65 %	0.183	100.8%
Mean % Recovery Assay $\pm$ SD	-	99.51 % $\pm$ 0.751		99.54% $\pm$ 0.687
Mean % Recovery Assay $\pm$ %RSD	-	99.51 % $\pm$ 0.763		99.54% $\pm$ 0.696

**4.7. LOD and LOQ.** The LOD and LOQ of Fexo.HCl and Pseudo. HCl in its tablet formulation by proposed method were determined using calibration standards. LOD and LOQ were calculated and the results are shown in Table 11.

## 5. Results and Discussions

Fexofenadine HCl and Pseudoephedrine HCl are used as antiallergic and nasal decongestant respectively. The present article deals with the development and

TABLE 7. % Assay result of  $\lambda_{max+1}$  and  $\lambda_{max-1}$  Conditions

Fexofenadine HCl	Wavelength plus condition $\lambda_{max+1}$		Wavelength subtract condition $\lambda_{max-1}$	
	Absorbance	% Assay	Absorbance	% Assay
Sample 1	0.715	100.4 %	0.719	99.26%
Sample 2	0.720	98.65 %	0.723	99.53%
Sample 3	0.713	100.2 %	0.716	98.77%
Sample 4	0.721	99.02%	0.702	100.11%
Sample 5	0.708	99.5 %	0.714	99.75%
Sample 6	0.717	99.6 %	0.709	100.8%
Mean % Recovery Assay $\pm$ SD	-	99.34 % $\pm$ 0.836		99.43% $\pm$ 0.913
Mean % Recovery Assay $\pm$ %RSD	-	99.34 % $\pm$ 0.841		99.43% $\pm$ 0.915

TABLE 8. % Assay result of  $\lambda_{max+1}$  and  $\lambda_{max-1}$  Conditions

Pseudoephedrine HCl	Wavelength plus condition $\lambda_{max+1}$		Wavelength subtract condition $\lambda_{max-1}$	
	Absorbance	% Assay	Absorbance	% Assay
Sample 1	0.178	99.60 %	0.176	99.02%
Sample 2	0.172	99.51 %	0.177	100.48%
Sample 3	0.179	100.2 %	0.174	98.65%
Sample 4	0.180	99.26%	0.184	100.11%
Sample 5	0.173	100.53 %	0.181	99.75%
Sample 6	0.182	98.77 %	0.183	100.8%
Mean % Recovery Assay $\pm$ SD	-	99.34 % $\pm$ 0.836		99.48% $\pm$ 0.911
Mean % Recovery Assay $\pm$ %RSD	-	99.34 % $\pm$ 0.841		99.48% $\pm$ 0.914

validation of a new and an economical method for the simultaneous determination of Fexo. HCl and Pseudo. HCl in combined tablet dosage form by UV-Vis Spectrophotometer and TLC. The two drugs are present combine in the ratio of (1:2) which poses a problem in their assay determination. The main problem was to separate the two active ingredients from a single bilayered tablet because both the A.P.I's were soluble in the same solvents. The published method was carried

TABLE 9. % Assay result of two different days say Day -1 and Day

Samples	Day-1		Day-2	
	Absorbance	% Assay	Absorbance	% Assay
Sample 1	0.715	100.04 %	0.721	99.02%
Sample 2	0.719	99.75 %	0.702	99.53%
Sample 3	0.723	100.8 %	0.717	99.6%
Sample 4	0.713	100.2%	0.714	100.11%
Sample 5	0.720	98.65 %	0.709	98.75%
Sample 6	0.716	99.26 %	0.708	99.5%
Mean % Recovery Assay ± SD	-	99.39%± 0.763		99.78%± 0.0968
Mean % Recovery Assay ± %RSD	-	99.39 %± 0.767		99.78%± 0.971

TABLE 10. % Assay result of two different days say Day -1 and Day

Samples	Day-1		Day-2	
	Absorbance	% Assay	Absorbance	% Assay
Sample 1	0.178	99.87 %	0.182	98.77%
Sample 2	0.173	99.38 %	0.179	99.88%
Sample 3	0.184	100.4 %	0.183	100.03%
Sample 4	0.181	99.51%	0.176	99.75%
Sample 5	0.177	99.02 %	0.180	98.38%
Sample 6	0.172	98.16 %	0.174	101%
Mean % Recovery Assay ± SD	-	99.39%± 0.763		99.78%± 0.0968
Mean % Recovery Assay ± %RSD	-	99.39 %± 0.767		99.78%± 0.971

out on HPLC which is time taking and expensive for the routine analysis of pharmaceutical sectors. However, we have made an attempt to separate both the drugs by TLC and estimate it by UV-Visible spectrophotometer which is more reliable and economical. The grind powder of tablet was dissolved in methanol and filtered the solution with filter paper. The obtained concentrated solution was subjected on precoated silica gel plates. The polarity system CHCl<sub>3</sub>/n-Hexane (80:20%) was developed for TLC. Both the A.P.I's were separated which showed the R<sub>f</sub> values 0.250.01 and 0.67+/-0.01 for Fexo. HCl and Pseudo. HCl,

TABLE 11. Limit of Detection (LOD) and Limit of Quantitation (LOQ) Results

Samples	Parameters	Results
FexofendineHCl	Slope	0.0643
	Standard deviation	0.021
	LOD	1.077 ppm
	LOQ	3.265 ppm
PseudoephedrineHCl	Slope	0.0843
	Standard deviation	0.03
	LOD	1.174 ppm
	LOQ	3.585 ppm

respectively. Visualization of single spot on TLC plate confirmed the purification of compounds. For media selection, distilled water and ethanol (1:1) were used for Pseud. HCl and methanol was used for Fexo. HCl in which both the drugs were soluble and stable for sufficient time. Both drugs were measured at 220nm and 247nm respectively, where they showed maximum absorbance. Beer Lambert's law was obeyed at concentration range 4-14ppm and 5-30 ppm for Fexo. HCl and Pseudo.HCl, respectively. A linearity curve was calibrated by concentration versus absorbance. Fexo.HCl ( $Y=0.0643x+0.9370$ ) was measured with correlation coefficient  $r = 0.9574$  and Pseudo. HCl ( $Y=0.0843x+0.0219$ ) with correlation coefficient  $r = 0.9992$ . The results of analysis have been validated statistically and recovery studies was carried out as 99.19% and 99.29% which were close to the assay value 100.1% and 100.6% respectively. Precision of the method was measured which showed results for SD (99.57 %) and % RSD (99.53 %), The LOD (1.077ppm) and LOQ (3.265ppm) following ICH guidelines were measured which were found to be within limit. The proposed method was found to be specific, stable, linear, accurate, precise, and reproducible, therefore it can be used for routine quality control analysis of these drugs in either alone or in combined pharmaceutical dosage forms.

## 6. Conclusion

The present method is specific, linear and reproducible thus it can be used for routine quality control analysis of these drugs in either alone or in combined pharmaceutical dosage forms.

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## Competing Interests

The authors do not have any competing interests in the manuscript.

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### Sajid Mahmood

Division of Science and Technology, University of Education, Lahore-54590, Pakistan.  
e-mail: drsajidue@gmail.com

### Zaheer Ahmed

Department of Chemistry, University of Wah, Wah Cantt, Pakistan.

### Muhammad Arshad

Institute of Chemistry, University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan.