



Research Article

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## Nucleophilic substitution method for the determination of Adefovir in bulk and formulations

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### ABSTRACT

A Simple and rapid spectrophotometric method has been developed and validated for the determination of Adefovir (ADE) bulk and formulations. The proposed method is based on nucleophilic substitution reaction of ADE with 1,2-naphthoquinone-4-sulphonate (NQS) in an alkaline medium to form an orange-colored product of maximum absorption peak ( $\lambda_{max}$ ) at 450 nm. The stoichiometry and kinetics of the reaction were studied, and the reaction mechanism was postulated. Under the optimized reaction conditions, Beer's law correlating the absorbance with ADE concentration was obeyed in the range of 1–7  $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ . The limits of detection and quantitation were 0.3 and 0.8  $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$  respectively. The proposed method was successfully applied to the determination of ADE in its pharmaceutical tablets with good accuracy and precisions; the label claim percentage was  $99.56 \pm 0.45$  to  $99.92 \pm 0.20$ .

**Key Words:** spectrophotometry, 1,2-naphthoquinone-4-sulphonate (NQS), Alkaline medium

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### INTRODUCTION

The chemical name of Adefovir dipivoxil is 9-[2-[bis[pivaloyloxy) methoxy]phosphinyl] methoxy]ethyl]adenine. Adefovir is an acyclic nucleotide analog with activity against human hepatitis B virus (HBV). It is an acyclic nucleotide analog with activity against human HBV. It is important to develop and validate analytical method for its determination in pharmaceutical dosage forms. The method was validated by parameters such as correlation coefficient, intercept and slope. A very few physio-chemical methods appeared in the literature for the determination of ADE[1-5] in pharmaceutical formulations (less) the methods so far reported includes TLC, spectrophotometric (UV and visible), Tandem mass spectrometry. The analytically important functional groups of ADE are active methylene, purine, primary amine, phosphate ester were not properly exploited designing suitable spectrophotometric methods for the determination of the selected drug. The reaction of 1,2-naphthoquinone-4-sulfonic acid (NQS) with primary aromatic amines was discovered by Boniger[6] as far back as 1894. The applications of NQS for spectrophotometric methods [7-18] as the chromogenic reagent are in good number and it is simplest reagent because of its well stability and the stability of colored complexes it formed with a series of reagents was been well utilized by good number of researchers. It is clear from the literature that usage of NQS for

the determination of ADE, the selected drug by the author was not attempted. Therefore in this paper, the author has made a valid attempt to develop a sensitive and reproducible method for the assay of the ADE. The author has also developed simple and sensitive UV method (0.1N HCl as solvent) and adopted it as a reference method (Figs.4,5) for comparing accuracy of the results obtained by the proposed method for ADE. The present paper describes the evaluation of NQS as a chromogenic reagent in the development of simple and rapid spectrophotometric method for the determination of ADE in its tablets. It is official in [19-20]

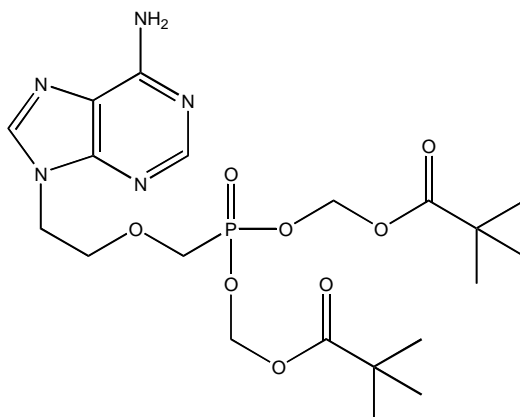


Fig.1. Chemical Structure of ADE

## EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

### Chemicals and reagents

All the chemicals and reagents were of analytical grade and the solutions were prepared freshly.

NQS solution (Luba, 0.075%,  $2.38 \times 10^{-3}$  M) is prepared by dissolving 75 mg of NQS in 100 ml of distilled water, NaOH solution (E. Merck, 10%, 2.5 M) is prepared by dissolving 10 g of NaOH in 100 ml of distilled water.

### Apparatus

A UV-1601 and SHIMADZU digital spectrophotometer with 1 cm matched quartz cells were used for the spectral and absorbance measurements. A SYSTRONICS digital pH meter 361 was used for pH measurements.

### Preparation of standard solutions

A 1 mg/mL solution was prepared by dissolving 100 mg of pure ADE in 100 ml of water and further diluted to 400  $\mu$ g/mL

**Procedure:** Aliquots of standard drug solution (0.25 ml – 2.5 ml) 400  $\mu$ g/mL were placed in a series of 20 ml calibrated test tubes. Then 2.5 ml of NQS and 2.0 ml of NaOH solution were added to each tube and kept aside at room temperature. The solution was made up to the mark with distilled water. The absorption was measured at 450 nm against reagent blank prepared simultaneously (Fig.2). The amount of ADE was deduced from the Beer's plot (Fig.3).

### Preparation of formulation samples

The tablet powder equivalent to 100 mg of ADE was extracted with 3 x 25 mL of chloroform and filtered. The combined filtrate was evaporated to dryness and the residue was dissolved in 100 ml of distilled water to achieve a concentration of 1 mg/mL stock solution. The solution was further diluted step wise with distilled water to get working standard solutions and analysed under procedures described for bulk samples.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The optimum conditions for this method were established by varying one parameter at a time and keeping the others fixed and observing the effect produced on the absorbance of the coloured species. Beer's law limits, molar extinction coefficient, Sandell's sensitivity and regression characteristics of the method are presented in Table-1. The

relative standard deviation and % range of error are also given in Table-1. Recovery studies were carried out by addition of known standard drug solution to pre analyzed sample solution. Results of recovery studies were presented in Table-2. The interference studies in the determination of ADE in pharmaceutical formulations revealed that the normally existing excipients and additives like hydroxyl propyl cellulose, lactose, carboxy methyl cellulose were found not to interfere even when present in excess. In developing the method, a systematic study of the effects of various relevant parameters in the concerned were under taken by varying one parameter at a time and controlling all other parameters to get maximum colour development, minimum blank colour, reproducibility and reasonable period of stability of final coured species formed.

#### Nature of coloured species

The reaction of 1,2-naphthaquinone-4-sulfonic acid (NQS) with primary aromatic armines was discovered by Boniger as far back as 1894. The colored species formed from ADE in this method can be explained based on the analogy of previous reports [21-22]. As ADE possesses primary amino groups over purine moiety it involves in yielding coloured produced by nucleophilic displacement of the Sulfonic acid group of 1,2-naphthaquinone-4-sulfonic acid in alkaline conditions.

**TABLE:1 OPTICAL CHARACTERISTICS, PRECISION, ACCURACY OF THE METHOD PROPOSED IN THE DETERMINATION OF ADE**

S.No	OPTICAL CHARACTERISTICS	NQS
1	$\lambda_{max}$ (nm)	450
2	Beer's Law limits( $\mu\text{g/ml}$ )	1-7
3	Molarabsorptivity( $\text{l mol}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	$4.03 \times 10^4$
4	Correlation coefficient (r)	0.9999
5	Sandell's sensitivity ( $\mu\text{g/cm}^2/0.001$ absorbance unit)	0.001
6	Regression equation( $y=a+bc$ ) (i)slope (b)	0.0455
	(ii) Standard deviation on intercept( $S_b$ )	$1.96 \times 10^{-4}$
	(iii)intercept (a)	0.0029
	(iv) standard deviation ( $S_a$ )	$7.66 \times 10^{-4}$
	(v)Standard error of estimation( $S_e$ )	$8.23 \times 10^{-4}$
7	Optimum photometric range ( $\mu\text{g/ml}$ )	6.99-12.99
8	Relative Standard deviation *	0.7044
9	Detection limit	0.00505
10	% of range of error(confidence limit) (i)0.05 level	0.7347
	(ii)0.01 level	1.209

**Table-2.DETERMINATION OF ADE IN PHARMACEUTICAL FORMULATIONS**

SAMPLE	LABELLED AMOUNT(mg)	AMOUNT FOUND	
		PROPOSED METHOD	REFERENCE METHOD
Tablets- T <sub>1</sub>	200mg	$99.96 \pm 0.283$ t = 1.09 F = 1.96	$99.57 \pm 0.25$
Tablets- T <sub>2</sub>	200mg	$99.73 \pm 0.460$ t = 0.51 F = 2.15	$99.92 \pm 0.20$
Tablets- T <sub>3</sub>	200mg	$100.04 \pm 0.462$ t = 1.00 F = 1.32	$99.56 \pm 0.45$
Tablets- T <sub>4</sub>	200mg	$99.84 \pm 0.475$ t = 0.94 F = 1.45	$99.83 \pm 0.50$

\*Tablets from four different pharmaceutical companies.

\*\*Average  $\pm$  standard deviation of six determinations, the t-and F-test values refer to comparison of the proposed method with the reference method.

Theoretical values at 95 % confidence limit, F=5.05, t=2.57.

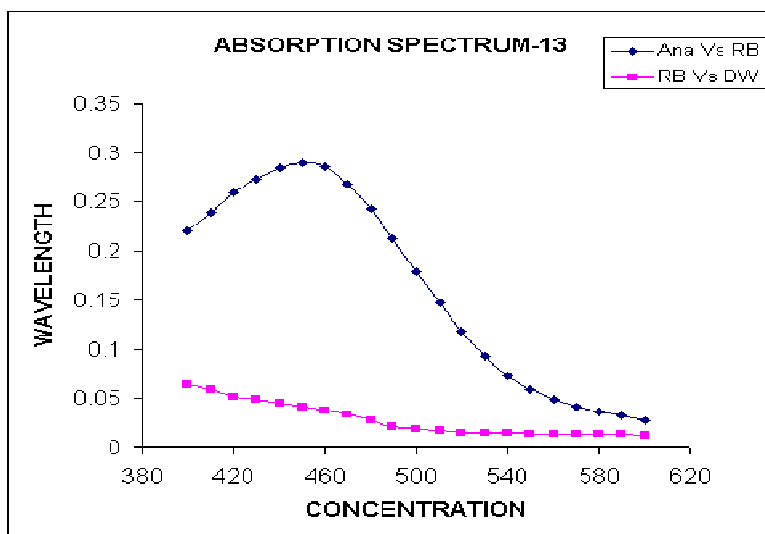


Fig.2 Absorption Spectrum of ADE with NQS/NaOH

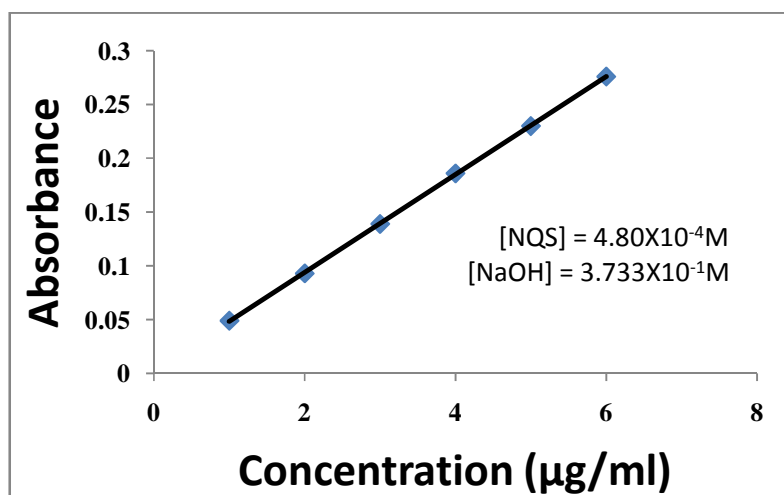


Fig.3. Beer's Plot of ADE with NQS/NaOH

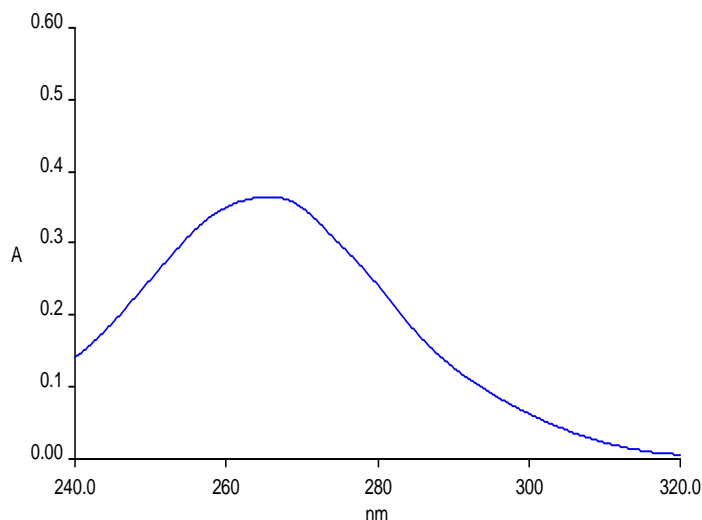


Fig.4. UV spectrum of 10 µg/ml solution of ADE in 0.1 N HCl  
Wavelength max = 265 nm, Absorbance = 0.369  
Slope = 0.0364, Intercept = 0.0003, CC = 0.9998

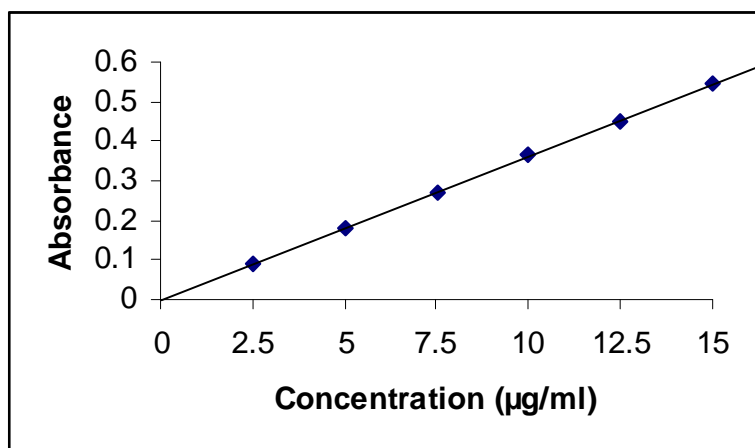


Fig.5. Beer's Plot of ADE (UV Reference Method)

### CONCLUSION

The proposed method is superior in one way or other in terms of simplicity,  $\lambda_{\max}$ ,  $\epsilon_{\max}$  stability of coloured species over very few visible spectrophotometric methods reported so far. It can be seen from the results presented above, that the proposed method has good sensitivity and  $\lambda_{\max}$ . Statistical analysis of the results (Table 1) shows that the proposed procedure has good precision and accuracy. Results of the analysis of pharmaceutical formulations reveal that the proposed method is suitable for the analysis with virtually no interference of the usual additives. The proposed method is simple, sensitive, and reliable and can be used for routine determination of ADE in bulk samples and pharmaceutical formulations depending upon the needs of the specific situation.

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