



# Validation of Amoxicillin iodometric procedure in quantitative analysis of pure substance and medical preparation

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A – research concept and design; B – collection and/or assembly of data; C – data analysis and interpretation; D – writing the article;  
E – critical revision of the article; F – final approval of the article

**The aim of the work** is to validate a simple and rapid iodometric procedure for the quantitative determination of amoxicillin in pure substance and medicinal preparation using potassium caroate as analytical reagent.

**Materials and methods.** The procedure involves the use of potassium caroate ( $\text{KHSO}_5$ ) as an oxidant. The assay is based on the quantitative penicillin oxidation by  $\text{KHSO}_5$  to the corresponding S-oxide. The interaction between amoxicillin and analytical reagent is stoichiometric. Indirect iodometric method is used for the quantitative determination of amoxicillin main substance. The validation procedure was performed according to the State Pharmacopeia of Ukraine.

**Results.** The precision, accuracy, limit of detection (LOD), and limit of quantitation (LOQ) are accepted over the concentration range of 80–120 % with a correlation coefficient of 0.999. LOD and LOQ were found to be 4.91 % and 14.73 % for amoxicillin pure substance respectively. The precision calculated as the relative standard deviation (RSD) was less than 0.8 % and accuracy ( $\delta$ , relative error) was better than 0.4 %. The proposed method was validated statistically and through recovery studies. For Amoxicillin medical preparation RSD  $\geq 1.93$  % and  $\delta \geq 1.62$  %.

**Conclusions.** The obtained data showed acceptable agreement with the certificate results, so the proposed procedure can be used for the assay of amoxicillin in medicinal preparation.

**Key words:** analysis, validation, amoxicillin, potassium caroate.

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## Валідація йодометричної методики кількісного визначення амоксициліну в субстанції та лікарському препараті

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**Мета роботи** – валідація простої та швидкої йодометричної методики кількісного визначення амоксициліну в субстанції та лікарському препараті з використанням калій кароату як аналітичного реагенту.

**Матеріали та методи.** Методика передбачає використання калій кароату ( $\text{KHSO}_5$ ) як окисника. Аналіз заснований на кількісному окисненні пеніциліну  $\text{KHSO}_5$  до відповідного S-оксиду. Окисно-відновна взаємодія є кількісною та стехіометричною. Непряма йодометрична методика використана для кількісного визначення основної речовини амоксициліну. Процедуру валідації виконали відповідно до Державної Фармакопеї України.

**Результати.** Точність, відтворюваність, межу виявлення (МВ) і межу кількісного визначення (МКВ) встановлювали прийнятними в діапазоні концентрації 80–120 % із коефіцієнтом кореляції 0,999. МВ і МКВ – 4,91 % та 14,73 % для амоксициліну субстанції відповідно.

Відтворюваність, що розрахована як відносне стандартне відхилення (RSD), становила менше ніж 0,8 %, а точність ( $\delta$ , відносна похибка) – 0,4 %. Запропонований метод провалідовано статистично. Для амоксициліну лікарського препарату RSD  $\geq 1,93$  % і  $\delta \geq 1,62$  %.

**Висновки.** Результати мали вірогідну кореляцію з даними сертифіката. Отже, запропоновану методику можна використовувати для кількісного визначення амоксициліну в лікарському препараті.

**Ключові слова:** аналіз, валідація, амоксицилін, калій кароат.

**Актуальні питання фармацевтичної і медичної науки та практики. 2022. Т. 15, № 1(38). С. 19–24**

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## Валидация йодометрической методики количественного определения амоксициллина в субстанции и лекарственном препарате

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**Цель работы** – валидация простой и быстрой йодометрической методики количественного определения амоксициллина в субстанции и лекарственном препарате с использованием кароата калия в качестве аналитического реагента.

**Материалы и методы.** Методика предполагает использование кароата калия ( $\text{KHSO}_5$ ) в качестве окислителя. Анализ основан на количественном окислении пенициллина  $\text{KHSO}_5$  до соответствующего S-оксида. Окислительно-восстановительное взаимодействие является количественным и стехиометрическим. Для количественной оценки основного вещества амоксициллина был использован метод непрямого йодометрического титрования. Процедура валидации проводилась в соответствии с Государственной Фармакопеей Украины.

**Результаты.** Точность, воспроизводимость, предел обнаружения (ПО) и предел количественного определения (ПКО) были приемлемы в диапазоне концентраций 80–120 % с коэффициентом корреляции 0,999. ПО и ПКО составили 4,91 % и 14,73 % для амоксициллина субстанции соответственно. Воспроизводимость, рассчитанная как относительное стандартное отклонение (RSD), составила менее чем 0,8 %, а точность ( $\delta$ , относительная погрешность) – 0,4 %. Предложенная методика провалидирована статистически. Для амоксициллина препарата RSD  $\geq$  1,93 % и  $\delta \geq$  1,62 %.

**Выводы.** Полученные результаты имели достоверную корреляцию с данными сертификата. Следовательно, предложенная методика может быть использована для количественного определения амоксициллина в лекарственном препарате.

**Ключевые слова:** анализ, валидация, амоксициллин, кароат калия.

**Актуальные вопросы фармацевтической и медицинской науки и практики. 2022. Т. 15, № 1(38). С. 19–24**

Penicillin is widely used in nowadays treatment of various diseases. It belongs to a  $\beta$ -lactam group of antibiotics. The modern literature reveals the following procedures proposed for quantitative analysis of Amoxicillin assay in bulk and medicinal preparation. There are chromatography procedures [1,2]. The techniques are accurate and precise but require long-lasting preparation and expensive reagents. The titrimetric procedures [3] are developed for some penicillins. A blank determination is required. Voltammetric [4,5], spectrophotometric [6,7], and chemiluminescence [8,9] procedures are also described in modern research results. They are sensitive enough, show precise and repeatable data. The proposed methods the require application of additional equipment which is not suitable for small laboratories. HPLC is a pharmacopeial method recommended for the penicillin assay [10–12].

The reverse iodometric titration is used for the quantitative determination of penicillins. The titer of the procedure depends on temperature and should be corrected each time. The experiment performance is approximately 40 min [13].

So, the titration procedures can be applicable for Amoxicillin assay because of their simplicity, economic profit, and duration.

One of the advantages of the developed procedures is the usage of one oxidation reagent for the determination of different  $\beta$ -lactams. This reagent is nonpoisonous, low-cost, stable while stored storage for a long time. Potassium caroate as an analytical reagent meets all of the requirements.

That is why validation of Amoxicillin pure substance and medical preparation reverse iodometric titration quantitative determination by means of potassium caroate is of great interest.

### Aim

The aim of this work is the investigation a reaction of Amoxicillin with potassium caroate and validation of the deve-

loped iodometric procedure for pure substance and medical preparation.

### Materials and methods

All used reagents were of a chemical purity.

Potassium caroate ( $\text{KHSO}_5$ ) solution was used as an analytical reagent. Caro acid is commercially available under the trade name “Oxon”. The 0.02 mol L<sup>-1</sup> solution of potassium caroate is stable enough (the oxidation activity remains constant during 30 days). It is nontoxic and not expensive.

1. Preparation of 0.02 mol L<sup>-1</sup> potassium caroate solution. 0.615 g (the precise weight) of  $\text{KHSO}_5$  are dissolved in 100 mL of distilled water at 293 K. The reverse iodometric titration is used for blank determination of potassium caroate content.

2. Preparation of 0.02 mol L<sup>-1</sup> sodium thiosulphate solution. The standard titer fixanal was used for preparation of the 0.1 mol L<sup>-1</sup> sodium thiosulphate solution at 293 K.

3. Preparation of 5 % potassium iodide solution. 5.0 g of potassium iodide was dissolved in 100 mL volumetric flask in distilled water.

4. Preparation of 0.1 mol L<sup>-1</sup> sulfuric acid solution. The standard titer fixanal was used for the preparation of the solution.

The microburette with the  $\pm 0.01$  mL accuracy was used for iodometric investigation.

Amoxicillin pure substance was used as received. The content of the main substance was determined independently by the method of HPLC and given in the quality certificate, together with the moisture. Amoxicillin medical preparation was used in the form of capsules (0.5 g, produced by TEVA, France). The quality certificate data were obtained by the HPLC method (the content of Amoxicillin is 0.491 g).

**The procedure of Amoxicillin assay using HPLC method.** Liquid chromatography (2.2.29) as described in the test for related substances with the following modifications. Mobile phase

Initial composition of the mixture of mobile phases A and B, adjusted where applicable. Injection Test solution (a) and reference solution (a). System suitability Reference solution (a): – repeatability: maximum relative standard deviation of 1.0 percent after 6 injections.

Calculate the percentage content of  $C_{16}H_{19}N_3O_5S$  from the declared content of amoxicillin trihydrate CRS [10–12].

**Investigation of S-oxidation reaction of Amoxicillin with potassium caroate.** 10.0 mL of 0.02 mol L<sup>-1</sup> of potassium caroate solution and 10.0 mL of 0.01 mol L<sup>-1</sup> penicillin solution were pipetted into 100 mL volumetric flask and brought to the mark with distilled water. After the addition of Amoxicillin, the stopwatch was switched on. The volume was mixed. After certain periods of time 10 mL of the obtained mixture were taken for titration into flask containing 1 mL of sulfuric acid solution and 1 mL of potassium iodide solution. The 0.02 mol L<sup>-1</sup> sodium thiosulphate solution was used for titration of isolated iodine in the presence of starch.

**The procedure of Amoxicillin pure substance determination using potassium caroate.** 0.35 g of penicillin were dissolved by heating in 10 mL of DMFA 100.00 mL volumetric flask. After the complete dissolution, the volume was brought to the mark with distilled water. Further like in the S-oxidation reaction of Amoxicillin.

The blank investigation was performed in the same conditions paralleled (without Amoxicillin with the same amount of KHSO<sub>5</sub> 0.02 mol L<sup>-1</sup> solution).

**The procedure of Amoxicillin medical preparation determination using potassium caroate.** The content of the capsule was dissolved in 10 mL of DMFA by heating in 100.00 mL volumetric flask and brought to the mark with distilled water. Further like in the Amoxicillin pure substance.

**Method Validation.** The method was validated according to the State Pharmacopeia of Ukraine article “Validation of analytical methods” [14]. The following criteria were analyzed: specificity, accuracy, precision, linearity, range, detection limit, quantitation limit. Microsoft® Excel 2010 was used for the calculation of regression parameters.

## Results

The procedure is based on the reaction of amoxicillin S-oxidation using potassium caroate in acidic medium. The scheme of the hypothetic reaction is assumed from literature survey and our investigations and is shown in the Fig. 1.

The excess of potassium caroate was determined by reverse iodometric titration.

Each one mL of sodium thiosulphate 0.01 mol L<sup>-1</sup> solution is equivalent to 0.001827 g of amoxicillin preparation.

The recommended range of titration procedure is the interval from 80 % to 120 %. The straight linear dependence was investigated for five working solutions with the concentrations 80 %; 90 %; 100 %; 110 % and 120 %. The titration was repeated three times for every concentration. The results obtained were analyzed by the least square method for the straight linear dependence:  $Y = b \cdot X + a$ . They are shown in Table 1. The linearity was studied in the normalized coordinates and is proposed in Fig. 2.

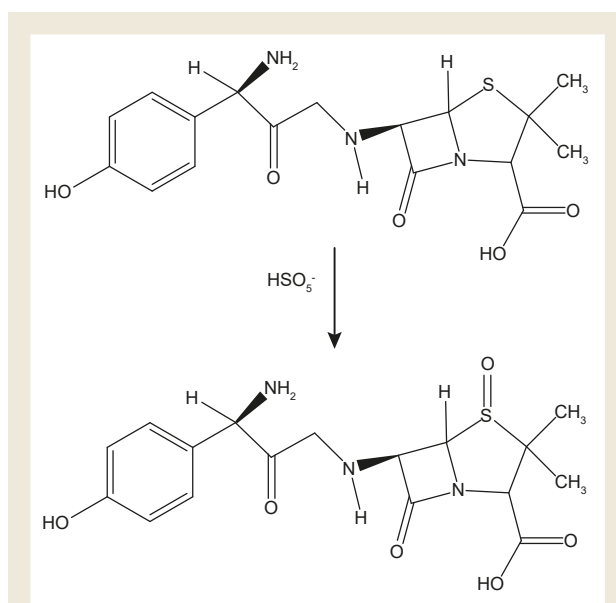


Fig. 1. The scheme of chemical interaction between amoxicillin and potassium caroate.

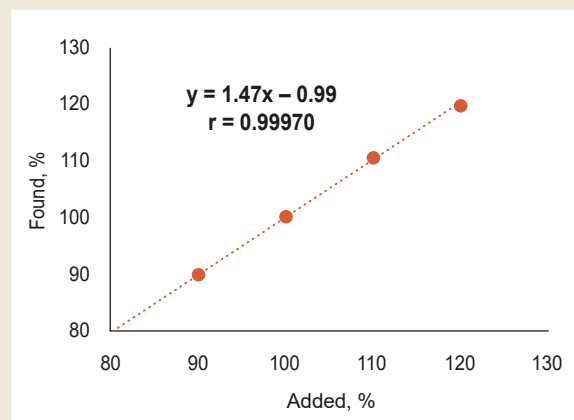


Fig. 2. Straight linear dependence of sodium thiosulphate volume on concentration of amoxicillin.

The precision and ruggedness of the proposed procedure were studied by measuring five different concentrations with three times repetition. Accuracy and convergence were studied using the same working solutions. The obtained results were analyzed statistically. The received data were compared to the SPhU criterion. The results are shown in Table 2.

The results of Amoxicillin capsules quantitative determination using potassium caroate as an analytical reagent by the iodometric procedure are given in Table 3. The investigation was performed for 3 different concentrations and robustness was studied for two days.

## Discussion

The S-oxidation reaction between Amoxicillin and potassium caroate is quantitative and stoichiometric: 1 mol of potassium caroate goes per 1 mol of Amoxicillin. Amoxicillin S-oxide is the product of redox interaction. The duration of interaction is not more than 1 min [3].

**Table 1.** Characteristic parameters of the linearity of amoxicillin assay using potassium caroate ( $Y = b \cdot X + a$ )

Parameter	Value	Standard deviation (SD)	Statistical uncertainty criterion ( $\leq 1.21 \cdot SD$ )	Practical acceptability criterion	Conclusion
a	1.4735	$S_a = 1.465$	$ a  \leq 2.25$		corresponds
b	0.9850	$S_b = 0.015$	$ b-1  \leq 0.146$		corresponds
$S_{rest}$	0.465			$\leq 0.48$	corresponds
R	0.99969			$\geq 0.99959$	corresponds
LD	4.91 %				
LOQ	14.73 %				

**Table 2.** The results of validation parameters analysis for Amoxicilline iodometric determination using potassium caroate

No. of working solution	Nominal $x_i$ , %	Titrant volume ( $V_o - V_f$ ), mL	Actual $y_i$ (%)	Actual in compare with nominal, % $Z_i = 100 (Y_i / X_i)$
1	80.00	1.14	78.95	98.69
2		1.17	77.59	96.99
3		1.16	79.63	99.53
4	90.00	1.30	90.03	100.03
5		1.29	89.34	99.27
6		1.31	90.72	100.80
7	100.00	1.43	99.03	99.03
8		1.43	99.03	99.03
9		1.44	99.73	99.73
10	110.00	1.61	111.50	101.36
11		1.59	110.11	100.10
12		1.60	110.81	100.74
13	120.00	1.75	121.20	101.10
14		1.74	120.50	100.42
15		1.74	120.50	100.42
Mean				99.82
Relative standard deviation				0.82
Relative confidence interval				0.44
Systematic error				+0.02
Statistical insignificance of systematic error $\delta \leq \Delta_R$		$0.01 \leq 0.47$		Performed
Statistical insignificance of systematic error $\delta \leq \max \delta$		$0.01 \leq 0.67$		Performed

**Table 3.** Quantitative determination of Amoxicillin capsules 0.5 g results using potassium caroate as analytical reagent

Level	Day 1			Day 2		
	0.500	0.400	0.300	0.500	0.400	0.300
1	0.475	0.375	0.295	0.495	0.389	0.280
2	0.489	0.385	0.280	0.495	0.392	0.285
3	0.485	0.385	0.285	0.489	0.377	0.289
4	0.485	0.387	0.285	0.479	0.389	0.289
5	0.489	0.392	0.287	0.485	0.385	0.295
Mean, g	0.485	0.385	0.286	0.489	0.386	0.288
RSD, %	1.18	1.61	1.91	1.40	1.50	1.93
$\delta$ , %	1.01	1.15	1.62	0.41	1.15	1.52

Straight linear dependence is significant in the range of 80–120 % investigated concentrations. The linear equation is used for the calculation of amoxicillin pure substance quantitative determination using reverse iodometric titration. The equation of the calibration curve is  $Y = (1.47 \pm 0.15)X$  with a correlation coefficient  $r = 0.99$ . The obtained results of linearity dependence meet the requirements of the SPhU article for validation of analytical procedures such as titration. The values received correspond to obligatory for evaluation of the proposed procedure.

The limit of detection (LOD) and the limit of quantification (LOQ) are less than 32 % and do not influence the quantitative determination of amoxicillin in the pure substance-using calibration curve method.

The method was successfully applied for the determination of amoxicillin in pure substance for five different concentrations with percent recoveries of 99.82 %. The statistic parameters meet the standards of the requirement investigation.

The procedure of amoxicillin quantitative determination using potassium caroate was performed for amoxicillin capsules. The precision, accuracy, and robustness were determined. Under three concentrations within two days, RSD did not exceed 1.93 % ( $\delta = 1.62$  %).

## Conclusions

The reaction of Amoxicillin and potassium caroate was studied and the possibility of its application in the pharmaceutical analysis was shown. The developed procedure had statistical results that allow determining the content of Amoxicillin content in pure substance and medicinal preparation. For Amoxicillin in bulk and capsules RSD = 0.82 %,  $\delta = 0.44$  % and RSD = 1.93 %,  $\delta = 1.62$  %, correspondingly. LOD = 4.15 %, LOQ = 12.46 %. The investigated procedure of Amoxicillin assay using potassium caroate by reverse iodometric titration can be provided into the analysis as an alternative to pharmacopeia.

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