

# Development and validation of zero and first-order derivative area under curve spectrophotometric methods for the determination of entacapone in bulk material and in tablets

Abstract

S. S. Chalikwar,  
A. A. Shirkhedkar,  
M. A. Bagul, P. S. Jain,  
S. J. Surana

R. C. Patel Institute of  
Pharmaceutical Education and  
Research, Shirpur Dist, Dhule,  
Maharashtra, India

## Address for correspondence:

Mr. S. S. Chalikwar,  
R. C. Patel Institute of  
Pharmaceutical Education and  
Research,  
Shirpur Dist, Dhule,  
Maharashtra - 425 405, India.  
E-mail: pharmashailesh@  
rediffmail.com

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**Aim:** The aim of this work is to establish two simple, economical, and rapid spectrophotometric methods for the quantification of entacapone in bulk material and in tablets. Further, this study is designed to validate the developed methods as per ICH guidelines. **Materials and Methods:** In Methods I and II, a stock standard solution was prepared by dissolving 10 mg of entacapone in 100 mL of 10% *v/v* acetonitrile to obtain a concentration of 100 µg/mL. After suitable dilution, 10 µg/mL of entacapone was prepared and scanned in the UV-visible range 500–200 nm; entacapone showed a maximum absorbance at 384.40 nm. In Method I, area under curve (AUC) of the zero-order spectrum was recorded between 348.00 and 410.20 nm. While, in Method II, zero-order spectra were derivatized into first-order, and the AUC was recorded between 386.40 and 460.20 nm. For a linearity study, series of dilutions were prepared from stock solutions. **Results:** In Method I, and II, entacapone followed linearity in the concentration range of 2–12 µg/mL and 5–30 µg/mL with ( $r^2 > 0.999$ ). The amounts of entacapone estimated by both these methods were found to be  $99.24 \pm 0.054$  and  $98.68 \pm 1.04$ , respectively. **Conclusion:** The developed methods are simple, precise, rugged, robust, and economical. Both these methods can be used for routine analysis of entacapone from its tablet formulation.

**Key words:** Area under curve spectrophotometry, derivative-spectrophotometry, entacapone

## INTRODUCTION

Entacapone is used as an adjunct to levodopa and carbidopa in the treatment of Parkinson's disease.<sup>[1]</sup> Chemically entacapone Figure 1 is known as 2-cyano-3-(5-dihydroxyamino-3,4-dioxo-1-cylcohexa-1, 5-dienyl)-*N,N*-diethyl-prop-2-enamide.<sup>[2]</sup>

A literature survey revealed a few methods such as HPLC,<sup>[3,4]</sup> stability-indicating LC,<sup>[5]</sup> and UV-spectrophotometric<sup>[6-9]</sup> methods for the determination of entacapone in bulk material and in tablets.

In this work two simple, economical, and rapid spectrophotometric methods have been established for the quantification of entacapone in bulk material and in tablets.

The developed methods were validated for accuracy, precision, ruggedness, and sensitivity. Accordingly, the objective of this study was to develop and validate the simple spectrophotometric method for the estimation of entacapone hydrochloride in bulk and tablets as per ICH guidelines.<sup>[10]</sup>

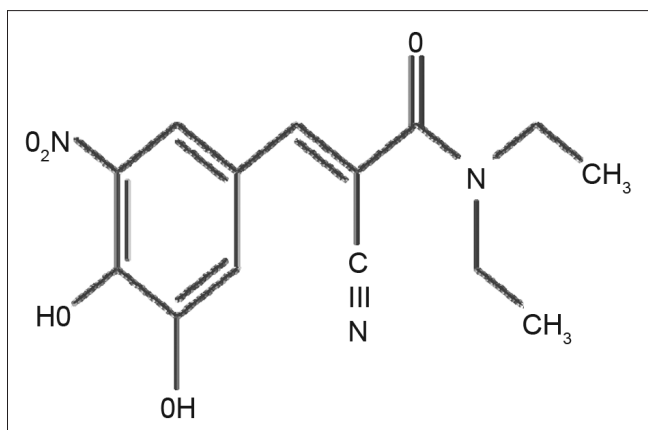


Figure 1: Chemical structure of entacapone

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Materials

Entacapone was a gift sample from Wockhardt Pharmaceuticals, Aurarangabad. All chemicals and reagents used were of analytical grade and purchased from Qualigens Fine Chemicals, Mumbai, India.

### Instrument

A double beam UV-VIS spectrophotometer (UV-2450, Shimadzu, Japan) connected to computer loaded with spectra manager software UV Probe with 10 mm quartz cells was used. The spectra were obtained with the instrumental parameters as follows: Wavelength range: 200–500 nm; scan speed: Medium; sampling interval: 1.0 nm. All weights were taken on an electronic balance (Model Shimadzu AUX 120).

### Preparation of stock standard solution and selection of wavelengths

A stock standard solution was prepared by dissolving 10 mg of entacapone in a 100 mL of 10% *v/v* acetonitrile to obtain a concentration of 100 µg/mL. From it, an appropriate concentration of 10 µg/mL was prepared and scanned in the UV-visible range 500–200 nm; entacapone showed a maximum absorbance at 384.40 nm. In Method I, area under curve (AUC) of the zero-order spectrum was recorded between the 348.00 and 410.20 nm. While, in Method II, zero-order spectra were derivatized into first-order and the AUC was recorded between 386.40 and 460.20 nm.

### Validation of the method

#### Study of linearity curves

From the stock standard solution, an appropriate amount of aliquots portion in the range of 0.2–1.2 mL were transferred into a series of 10 mL volumetric

flasks and diluted up to mark using the same solvent to obtain a concentration in the range of 2–12 µg/mL. The solutions were scanned on a spectrophotometer in the range of 500–200 nm. The calibration curves were plotted concentrations *versus* AUC between 348.00 nm and 410.20 nm (Method I). While in Method II, an appropriate amount of aliquots portion in the range of 0.5–3.0 mL were transferred into a series of 10 mL volumetric flasks and diluted up to the mark using the same solvent to obtain concentration in the range of 5–30 µg/mL. The calibration curve was plotted as concentration *versus* AUC between 386.40 and 460.20 nm (Method II).

### Recovery studies

To the pre-analyzed sample solutions, a known amount of stock standard solution was added at different levels, i.e. 80%, 100%, and 120%. The solutions were re-analyzed by the proposed methods.

### Precision

Precision of the methods was studied as intra-day and inter-day variations. In Method I, precision was determined by analyzing the 4, 6, and 8 µg/mL of entacapone solutions as intra-day and inter-day variations. In Method II, precision was determined by analyzing the 15, 20, and 25 µg/mL of entacapone solutions as intra-day and inter-day variations.

### Sensitivity

The sensitivity of measurements of entacapone by the use of the proposed methods was estimated in terms of the limit of quantification (LOQ) and the limit of detection (LOD). The LOQ and LOD were calculated using equation  $LOD=3.3 \times N/B$  and  $LOQ=10 \times N/B$ , where 'N' is the standard deviation of the AUC of the drugs ( $n=3$ ), taken as a measure of noise, and 'B' is the slope of the corresponding calibration curve.

### Repeatability

Repeatability was determined by analyzing 6 and 20 µg/mL concentration of entacapone solution for six times for Methods I and II, respectively.

### Ruggedness

Ruggedness of the proposed methods was determined for 6 and 20 µg/mL concentrations of entacapone by analysis of aliquots from a homogenous slot by two analysts using the same operational and environmental conditions for Methods I and II, respectively.

### Analysis of marketed formulation

Twenty tablets were accurately weighed, average weight determined and ground into fine powdered.

A quantity of powder equivalent to one tablet was transferred into a 100 mL volumetric flask containing 30 mL of 10% *v/v* acetonitrile, sonicated for 15 min, the volume was adjusted to the mark using the same solvent and filtered through Whatman filter paper no. 41. An appropriate volume 1.0 mL was transferred into a 10 mL volumetric flask and the volume was adjusted to the mark to obtain the desired concentration of 10 µg/mL. The AUC was recorded at selected wavelengths for Method I. While in Method II, AUC of the first-order derivative spectrum was recorded in between selected wavelength ranges. The concentration of the drug was determined from the respective linear regression equations.

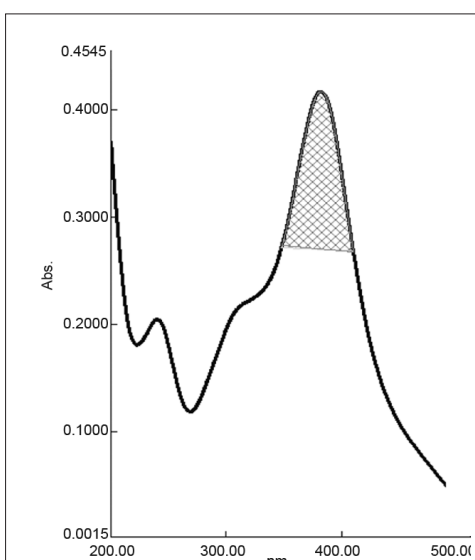


Figure 2: UV-spectrum of entacapone in 10% *v/v* acetonitrile

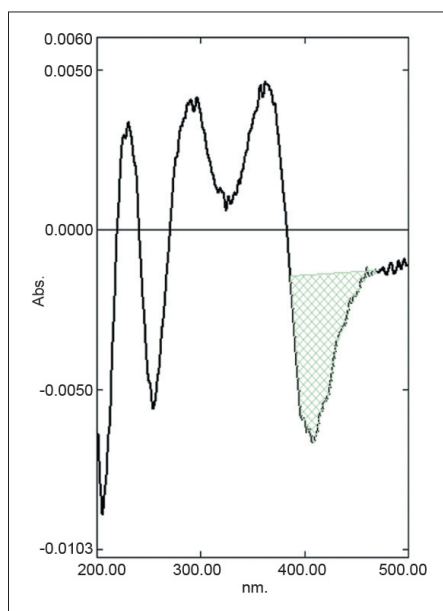


Figure 3: First-order derivative spectrum of entacapone in 10% *v/v* acetonitrile

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Selection of wavelengths

Figures 2 and 3 show the selection of wavelengths in Methods I and II, respectively. The selection of wavelengths in both the methods is based on the reproducibility of the results.

### Linearity studies

The linear regression data for the calibration curves showed a good linear relationship over the concentration range 2–12 µg/mL for Method I and 5–30 µg/mL for Method II. The results are expressed in Table 1.

### Accuracy

The pre-analyzed sample used in Methods I and II was 4 and 10 µg/mL, respectively. In Method I, the mean % recovery was found to be in the range of 99.98–100.06%. While in Method II, it was found to be in the range of 99.35–100.31% [Table 2].

### Precision

The precision of the developed method was expressed in terms of % relative standard deviation (% RSD). These results show reproducibility of the assay. The % RSD values found to be less than 2 indicate that the methods were precise for the determination of drugs in formulation [Table 3].

### Sensitivity

The LOD and LOQ for entacapone were found to be 0.21 and 0.62 µg, respectively, for Method I. For Method II, they were found to be 0.49 and 1.42 µg, respectively.

Table 1: Optical characteristics and linearity data of entacapone

Parameters	Method I	Method II
Linearity range (µg/mL)	2–12	5–30
Selected range (nm) for AUC	348.00–410.20	386.40–460.20
Slope	1.1965	0.0021
Intercept	1.3627	0.178
Correlation coefficient	0.999	0.999
Limit of detection (µg)	0.21	0.49
Limit of quantitation (µg)	0.62	1.42

Table 2: Accuracy

% Value	Method I		Method II	
	% Recovery <sup>a</sup>	% RSD	% Recovery <sup>a</sup>	% RSD
80	99.98	0.85	99.35	1.15
100	99.78	1.14	99.83	1.25
120	100.06	0.64	100.31	1.35

<sup>a</sup>Average of three estimates at each level

**Table 3: Precision**

Conc. ( $\mu\text{g/mL}$ )		Intra-day <sup>a</sup>		Inter-day <sup>a</sup>	
Method I	Method II	% RSD Method I	Method II	% RSD Method I	Method II
4	15	1.22	0.93	0.85	1.08
6	20	0.92	0.81	0.99	0.95
8	25	0.98	1.07	0.86	0.90

<sup>a</sup>Average of three estimates**Table 4: Ruggedness**

Methods	Analysts	Amount found [%]	% RSD <sup>a</sup>
Method I	1	99.40	0.96
Method I	2	99.58	0.91
Method II	1	98.75	0.64
Method II	2	97.46	1.52

<sup>a</sup>Average of five estimations

### Repeatability

Repeatability was determined by analyzing 6  $\mu\text{g/mL}$  (Method I) and 20  $\mu\text{g/mL}$  (Method II) concentrations of entacapone solution for six times and the % amount determined with % RSD < 2 for both the methods.

### Ruggedness

The peak area was measured for the same concentration solutions, six times for both methods. The results were in the acceptable range for both the drugs. The results showed that the % RSD was less than 2% [Table 4].

### CONCLUSION

Both the developed methods are economical, simple, accurate, precise and rugged, and can be used for the usual study of entacapone from its pharmaceutical formulations. The methods are developed for quantification of entacapone in tablets. It is also used in routine quality control of the formulations

containing entacapone.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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