Application of 2-Chloro-7-Nitrobenzo-2-Oxa-1, 3-Diazol (NBD-CL) for Spectrophotometric Determination of Finasteride in Pharmaceutical Formulation

Sally Mohammed Ahmed¹, Abdalla Ahmed Elbashir¹*, Younis Mohamed Elhassan²

¹University of Khartoum, Faculty of Science, Chemistry Department, Khartoum, Sudan ²University of Medical Sciences and Technology, Khartoum, Sudan

Abstract: A simple, sensitive and validated spectrophotometric method for the determination of finasteride using 2-Chloro-7-nitrobenzo-2-oxa-1, 3-diazol (NBD-CL) has been developed. The method is based on the reaction of finasteride and NBD-CL at alkaline medium (pH 11.0) to develop a deep brown adduct that bears maximum absorption at 467 nm. Beer's law is obeyed in the concentration range 25-75 µg/mL of finasteride at the selected wavelength. Under optimized reaction conditions, the linear regression equation of the calibration curve is y = 0.010489524x-0.012190476 with a linear regression correlation coefficient of 0.999. The limit of detection (LOD) and limit of quantification (LOQ) were found to be 0.17 µg/mL and 0.52 µg/mL respectively. The method has been successfully applied to the determination of finasteride in pharmaceutical formulation.

Keywords: Finasteride, spectrophotometric, pharmaceutical formulation, method validation, NBD-CL

Abbreviations: LOD: Limit of Detection; LOQ: Limit of Quantification; FNS: Finasteride, NBD-CL: 2-Chloro-7-nitrobenzo-2-oxa-1, 3-diazol; DHT: Dihydrotestosterone; BPH: Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia; GC: Gas-Chromatography; GC-MS: Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectroscopy; HPLC: High Performance Liquid Chromatography

1. INTRODUCTION

Finasteride chemically known as N-(1, 1-dimethylethyl)-3-oxo-(5α ,1 7β)-4-azaandrost-1-ene-17carboxamide is an antiandrogen which acts by inhibiting 5α - reductase, the enzyme that converts testosterone to dihydrotestosterone (DHT) [1]. It's widely used for the treatment of benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH), prostate cancer, and androgenetic alopecia [2–7]. Literature survey reveals that various methods have been reported for the analysis of finasteride in pharmaceutical preparations and biological samples such as gas-chromatography (GC) [9], and (GC-MS) [10] High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) with various detectors [11-13], polarography [14], voltammetry [15] and spectrophotometry [16-18].

In recent years, stringent quality control in the pharmaceutical industries has given rise to a growing need for simple, selective and sensitive analytical methods for their determination in pure and in dosage forms.

Spectrophotometry is considered the most convenient analytical technique, because of its inherent simplicity, low cost, and wide availability in most quality control laboratories. Only few spectrophotometric methods were reported for determination of finasteride in pharmaceutical formulation [16-18] however, some of these methods were associated with some major drawbacks such as laborious multiple extraction steps in the analysis by ion-pair based methods [18].

2-Chloro-7-nitrobenzo-2-oxa-1,3-diazol (NBD-CL) has been proved to be a useful and sensitive analytical derivatizing agent for spectrophotometric analysis of pharmaceuticals bearing a primary or secondary amino group [19-34]. The applications of NBD-CL for determination of pharmaceutical bearing amine group have been reviewed by Elbashir et al., [35-36].

The reaction between NBD-Cl and finasteride has not been investigated yet. Therefore, the present study was devoted to investigate the reaction between NBD-Cl and FNS, and utilize this color reaction in the development of simple rapid spectrophotometric method for determination of finasteride in its dosage form.

2. APPARATUS

Absorbance was carried out by using a Double beam UV-Visible spectrophotometer model Shimadzu 1800 with quartz cells of 1.0 cm optical path length, pH meter was used for pH measurements, Analytical Balance (Sartorius) and ultrasonic bath (Wise clean laboratory instrument).

3. MATERIAL AND REAGENT

The solvent (methanol) used in this work were of HPLC grade, and distilled water.

Pure drugs and pharmaceutical Tablets: Finasteride standard (Tabuk pharmaceutical industries company Ltd, Khartoum Bahri, Sudan) were obtained and used as received; its purity was 100.19% with water content 0.20%, The commercial tablets were obtained from commercial sources in the local Pharmacy - Finiscar Tablets 5 mg Batch No: D223,

Reagent: 2-Chloro-7-nitrobenzo-2-oxa-1, 3-diazol (NBD-CL) solution of 0.4% (w/v) was prepared by dissolving 0.4 g in methanol, transferred into a 100 mL volumetric flask and diluted to the mark with methanol and mixed well.

Buffer: Buffer solution of pH 11.0 was prepared by solution of 0.1 M disodium hydrogen phosphate adjusted to pH 11.0 with 1.0 M sodium hydroxide.

3.1. Stock Standard Solution of Finasteride (1000 µg/mL)

An accurately 100 mg of finasteride standard was dissolved in a mixture of equal volume of methanol and distilled water, transferred into 100 mL volumetric flask, diluted to the mark with same solvent and mixed well. This stock solution was further diluted to obtain working solutions in the range of 25-75 μ g/mL.

Determination of finasteride in dosage forms: For preparation of sample solution, 20 Tablets were weighed and powdered then a quantity of powder equivalent to 1.0 tablet (5 mg) of finasteride was transferred into 10 mL volumetric flask, dissolved in equal volume of methanol and distilled water and completed to the mark with the same solvent to obtain concentration 500 μ g/mL.

3.2. Procedure

A 1.0 mL of 500 μ g/mL of finasteride was transferred into 10 mL volumetric flask; 1.0 mL of NBD-CL was added and followed by 1.5 mL pH 11.0 Na₂HPO₄ buffer solution. The reaction was completed to volume with distilled water, and the resulting solution was measured at 467 nm against reagent blank treated similarly.

3.3. Job's method

The Job's method of continuous variation was employed. Master equimolar $(1 \times 10^{-3} \text{ M})$ aqueous solution of finasteride and NBD-CL were prepared. Series of 10 mL portions of the master solution of finasteride and NBD-CL were made up comprising different complementary proportions (1:9,...9:1, inclusive) in 10 mL volumetric flask containing 1.5 ml of buffer solution (pH=11.0). The solution was further manipulated as described under the general recommended procedures.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1. Absorption spectra

The absorption spectrum of finasteride was recorded against water (Figure 1); it was found that finasteride exhibits a maximum absorption peak (λ_{max}) at 201 nm. Because of highly blue shifted λ_{max} of finasteride, its determination in the dosage form based on the direct measurement of its absorption for ultraviolet is susceptible to potential interferences from the common excipients. Therefore, derivatization of finasteride red–shifted light-absorbing derivative was necessary. The reaction between finasteride and NBD-CL was performed, and the absorption spectrum of the product was recorded against reagent blank (Figure 1). It was found that the product is brown colored exhibiting λ_{max} at 467 nm, and the λ_{max} of NBD-CL was 344 nm. The λ_{max} of finasteride – NBD-CL derivative was red-shifted, eliminating any potential interference. Therefore, the measurements were carried out at 467 nm.

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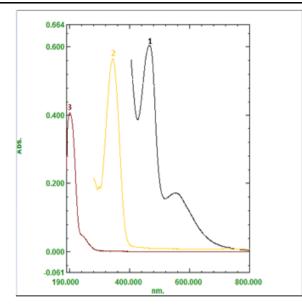


Figure1. (3) Absorption spectra of finasteride (15 μ g/ml) against a mixture of methanol and water blank, (2) NBD-CL (0.001% (w/v) against methanol blank, (1) the reaction product of finasteride with NBD-CL against reagent blank

4.2. Optimization of the reaction conditions

The study and development of the method for the determination of FNS in pure and pharmaceutical formulations, was performed to optimization of the experimental conditions in order to achieve both maximum sensitivity and selectivity. This step comprised the investigation of the influence of the pH, buffer volume, NBD-CL concentration and evaluation of the time required to complete the reaction.

4.3. Effect of pH

The influence of pH on the absorbance of the result of reaction between Finasteride and NBD-CL was investigated in the range of 8.0-13.0, the absorbance of the solution increases up to pH 11.0 and then decrease as shown in Figure 2. At pH 11.0, the absorbance reaches its maximum; this was possibly due to the existence of the amino group of finasteride in the form of hydrochloride salt, which facilitate nucleophilic substitution capability. As the pH increased, the readings increased dramatically, at pH values more than 11.0, a decrease in the absorption occurred. This was attributed probably to the increase in the amount of hydroxide ion that increases the rate of the backward the reaction of finasteride with NBD-CL.

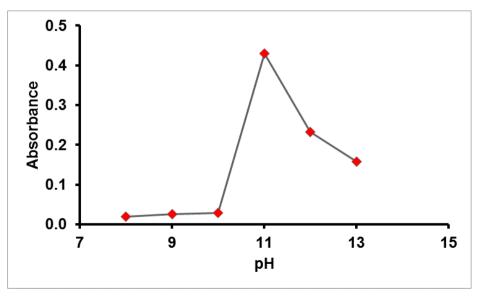


Figure2. Effect of pH on the reaction of finasteride with NBD-CL, 1 mL of finasteride (500 μ g/mL), 1mL buffer solution (pH 11), 1 mL NBD-CL (0.4 w/v %), reaction time: 25 min

4.4. Effect of amount of the buffer

Keeping pH at 11.0, the effect of amount of buffer solution on the absorbance of product was also studied. It shows that the absorbance of product enhances rapidly with the rise of amount of buffer solution. Increasing the amount of the buffer in more products up to an amount of 1.5 mL, after which the absorbance remained almost constant Therefore, the amount of 1.5 mL buffer solution was selected to ensure the highest absorbance of product 1, as shown in Figure 3.

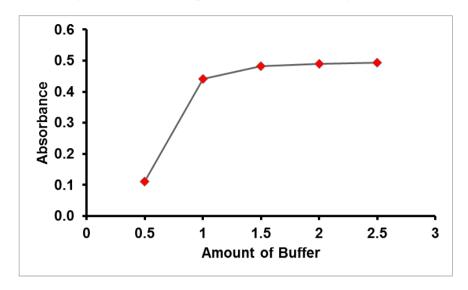


Figure3. Effect of amount of the buffer on the reaction of finasteride with NBD-CL, 1 mL of finasteride (500 μ g/mL), 1 mL NBD-CL (0.4 w/v %), reaction time:25 min

4.5. Effect of NBD-Cl concentration

The effect of NBD-CL concentration was studied over the range 0.2-0.6% (w/v) as shown in Figure 4. The highest absorption intensity was attained at NBD-CL concentration of 0.4% (w/v), and higher concentration of NBD-Cl leads to a decrease in the absorbance.

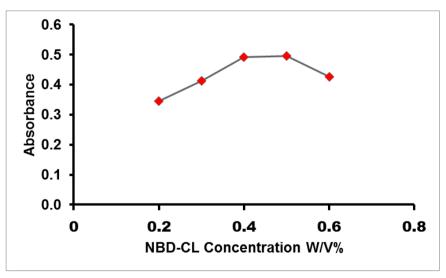


Figure4. Effect of NBD-CL concentration on the reaction of finasteride with NBD-CL, 1 mL of finasteride (500 μ g/mL), 1.5mL buffer solution (pH 11.0), reaction time:25 min

4.6. Effect of time

The absorbance of product 1 was determined at different time. Keeping other conditions unchanged, the absorbance of the product 1 was measured after standing for different time periods at 25 °C. The results show that finasteride react with NBD-CL at 25°C and the absorbance begins to increase instantly and becomes constant after 20 min., and a longer reaction time was not necessary (Figure 5).

From the above experiments, the optimized conditions used for the assay were: pH 11.0, NBD-CL concentration 0.4% w/v, volume of the buffer 1.5 mL, reaction time 20 min and temperature 25 °C.

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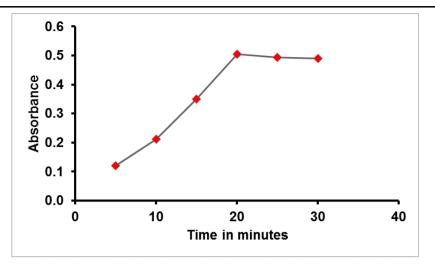


Figure5. Effect of standing time on the reaction of finasteride with NBD-CL, 1 mL of finasteride (500 μ g/mL), 1.5 mL buffer solution (pH 11.0), 1 mL NBD-CL (0.4 w/v %)

5. VALIDATION OF METHOD

The validity of the methods was tested regarding to linearity, limit of detection (LOD), limit of quantification (LOQ), accuracy, precision and robustness according to the International Conference on Harmonization (ICH) guidelines [37].

5.1. Linearity, Limit of Detection (LOD), Limit of Quantification (LOQ)

The linearity was evaluated by linear regression analysis determined by constructing seven concentrations of finasteride, in the range of 25–75 μ g/mL, which was calculated by the least square regression method to calculate the calibration equation and the correlation coefficient. The calibration curves were constructed by plotting concentration versus absorbance, using linear regression analysis.

The regression equation for the results was y = 0.010489524x-0.012190476 (r2=0.999), where y is the absorbance at 467 nm, x is the concentration of finasteride in µg/mL in the range of 25-75 µg/mL, and r is correlation coefficient (Table 1).

The limit of detection (LOD) and limit of quantification (LOQ) were determined according to the following formula LOD= $3.3 \times \text{SDa/b}$, and LOQ= $10 \times \text{SDa/b}$, SDa is the standard deviation of the blank, b is the slope. The LOD and LOQ were found to be 0.17 and 0.52 µg/mL, respectively (Table 1).

Parameter	value
Measurement wavelength (nm)	467
Linear range ($\mu g/mL$)	25-75
Intercept	0.012190476
Standard deviation of the Blank	0.0005
Slope	0.010489524
Correlation coefficient (r^2)	0.999
Limit of detection, LOD (µg/mL)	0.17
Limit of quant., LOQ (µg/mL)	0.52

Table1. Parameters for the performance of the proposed method

5.2. Accuracy

The accuracy of the proposed method was carried out by applying standard addition technique. A different amount of standard solution was added to a known concentration of the drug sample. The average percent recoveries obtained in range 99.8-103.9% Table 2.

Table2. The accuracy of the proposed method was carried out by applying 3 different concentrations of finasteride drug from linear range

Sample No.	Sample content (µg/mL)	Amount found	Recovery %
1	30	31.16	103.87±0.47
2	40	40.19	100.46±1.37
3	60	59.89	99.81±1.39

5.3. Precision

Precision of the assay was studied by the repetition of the assays on 2 different days. The relative standard deviation (RSD) of inter-mediate precision and accuracy were less than 2.0%, confirming adequate precision of the developed analytical method. The results are shown in Table 3.

Table3. Intermediate precision of proposed method was carried out by applying concentration of finasteride drug within two days

Assay %+RSD%		
Dosage form	Day 1	Day 2
5 mg Finiscar	100.39 + 1.63	100.82 + 0.95

5.4. Robustness

Robustness was examined by evaluating the influence of small variation in the method variables on its analytical performance. In these experiments, one parameter was changed whereas the others were kept unchanged, and the recovery percentage was calculated each time.

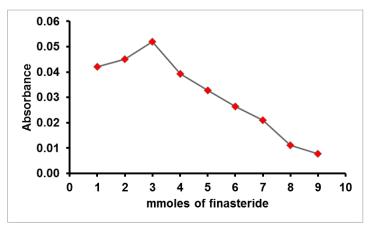
It was found that variation in the NBD-CL concentration of 0.4 ± 0.02 % (w/v), time (20 ± 2 min) and pH (11.0 ± 0.2) and wavelength (467 ± 2 nm) did not significantly affect the procedures. Recovery values were recorded in table 4. This indicated the reliability of the proposed method to routine application for the analysis of finasteride.

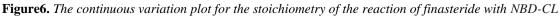
Table4. Influence of small variation in the assay condition on the analytical performance of the proposed spectrophotometric method for determination of Finasteride using NBD-CL reagent

Parameter	Recovery %	
Recommended conditions	100.39	
NBD-CL concentration (%, w/v)		
0.38	100.71	
0.42	98.46	
Buffer solution (pH)		
10.8	100.64	
11.2	101.16	
Reaction time (min)		
18	99.74	
22	101.16	
wavelength(nm)	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
465	100.39	
469	99.23	

5.5. Reaction mechanism

It has been reported that NBD -Cl could react with amino group of Secondary amine derivative. Similarly, amino group of finasteride, taking on nucleophilicity due lone electron pair of nitrogen atom, trend to attack on the electron–deficient center in NBD-Cl, At the same time, it has been proved that the composition of product 1 is 1:2 of Finasteride and NBD-Cl (Figure 6). So it is concluded that amino group of finasteride react with NBD-Cl to form brown adduct. The reaction equation is shown in Figure 7.





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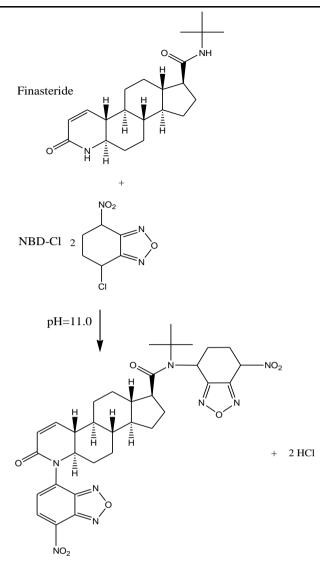


Figure7. *Reaction mechanism of Finasteride with NBD-Cl*

5.6. Application of the proposed method to analysis of finasteride dosage form:

Finasteride tablets were subjected to the analysis by the proposed method as well as with the official HPLC method (United States Pharmacopeia) and the results were statistically compared with each other. The label claim percentage was 100.39 ± 1.63 (Table 5). Statistical analysis of the results reveals that at the 95% level of confidence, the calculated t- and F-values indicate the proposed method to be as precise and accurate as the standard method, the proposed method has the advantage of being virtually free from interferences by excipients.

Table5. Analysis of finasteride containing dosage forms by the proposed and official HPLC methods (United States Pharmacopoeia)

Dosage form	Recovery % +RSD (n =5)		t-value	f-value
	Official	Proposed		
Finiscar 5mg	102.00 ± 0.46	100.39 ± 1.63	1.74	12.05
Batch no: D223				

The tabulated values for t and f at 95% confidence limit are 3.18 for t and 18.51 for f for Finiscar 5mg Batch no: D223

6. CONCLUSION

A novel, rapid, and simple method for evaluation of the finasteride in pharmaceutical formulation has been developed and validated. The results of the validation studies show that the method is simple, reliable, specific, accurate, reproducible, and highly sensitive. The present paper described the evaluation of NBD-Cl as analytical reagents in the development of simple spectrophotometric method, for the determination of finasteride in dosage forms. the validated method has advantages over pharmacopeia method because it is does not need necessitate any expensive apparatus; therefore the proposed method can be used advantageously as a routine method for the determination of finasteride in quality control and industry, the method may be applied to the determination of other Secondary amine derivatives as well.

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