

Original Article

METHOD DEVELOPMENT AND VALIDATION FOR ESTIMATION OF TOLTERODINE IN TABLET DOSAGE FORM BY RP-HPLC

C. Kavya¹, P. Vyshali¹, P. Vivek Sagar¹, K. Neelima*¹

¹Department of Pharmaceutical Analysis, Sarojini Naidu Vanita Pharmacy Maha Vidyalaya, Tarnaka, Secunderabad, India

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ABSTRACT

A simple, precise, and robust reverse phase high-performance liquid chromatography (RP-HPLC) method was developed and validated for the quantitative estimation of Tolterodine in tablet dosage forms. Chromatographic separation was achieved on a YMC Triart C18 column (250 × 4.6 mm, 5.0 μm) using a mobile phase of 10 mM ammonium bicarbonate in water and acetonitrile (70:30, v/v) at a flow rate of 0.7 mL/min with detection at 280 nm. The method was validated as per ICH Q2(R1) guidelines, evaluating specificity, linearity, accuracy, precision, robustness, system suitability, limit of detection (LOD), and limit of quantification (LOQ). Calibration was linear across the 2–12 μg/mL range with a regression coefficient (R²) of 0.999. Recovery ranged from 98–102%, and intra/inter-day precision studies showed %RSD values below 2%. The method demonstrated consistent results under minor variations in flow rate and column temperature, confirming robustness. The validated method is rapid, sensitive, accurate, and suitable for routine quality control and stability analysis of Tolterodine in pharmaceutical dosage forms

Keywords: Tolteridone, RP- HPLC, Validation, ICH Guidelines

INTRODUCTION

Tolterodine is a widely used antimuscarinic agent for treating symptoms of overactive bladder. Reliable assay of Tolterodine in pharmaceutical dosage forms is essential for ensuring therapeutic efficacy and patient safety. RP-HPLC is favored in pharmaceutical analysis for its robust selectivity, sensitivity, and reproducibility in quantifying API concentrations. This study aims to develop and validate a rapid and accurate RP-HPLC method for Tolterodine estimation in tablet dosage forms, fully complying with ICH Q2(R1) guidelines for method validation. The literature survey reveals that, Tolterodine was estimated by HPLC methods for stability indicating [2 & 3], pharmaceutical assays [4, 5 & 6], enantiomers estimation by Chiral HPLC [7&8] and simultaneous estimation.

Corresponding author:

Dr. K. Neelima

Department of Pharmaceutical Analysis
Sarojini Naidu Vanita Pharmacy MahaVidyalaya,
Tarnaka, Secunderabad, Telangana, India

Email: neelima_kudumula@yahoo.com

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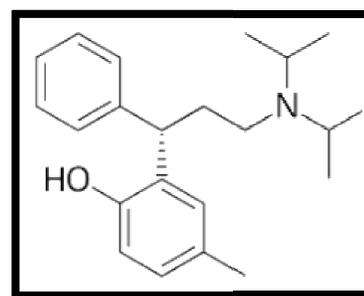


Fig. 1: Structure of Tolterodine

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The chemicals and reagents used in this study included Tolterodine reference standard and Tolterodine tablets as drug substances. Analytical grade solvents such as acetonitrile and ammonium acetate, both procured from Rankem, were used along with Millipore water. All solvents and chemicals employed throughout were of HPLC grade to ensure the purity and reliability of analytical results.

The instrumentation comprised a YMC Triart C18 chromatographic column (250 × 4.6 mm, 5.0 μm particle size),

providing robust and reproducible separations. The chromatographic setup was performed on a Shimadzu P-series HPLC system, which offers high sensitivity detection and high throughput with excellent precision and stability of solvent delivery. Accurately weighed samples were measured using a Sartorius SECURA225D-10IN analytical balance, renowned for its precision. Sample preparation and dissolution steps incorporated the use of a LAB MAN Scientific LMUC-12 ultrasonic cleaner for efficient and uniform solubilization. Purified and filtered water was generated and supplied by the LAB JAL NE15UV Milli-Q water purification system. Temperature control throughout the procedures was maintained using a Sri Sai Scientific SSHA0/021/2022-25 hot air oven, essential for consistent sample and solvent conditions.

Together, these chemicals, reagents, and advanced instrumentation ensured reliable, accurate, and repeatable analytical measurements critical for method development and validation under stringent pharmaceutical quality control requirements.

Chromatographic Conditions

The chromatographic conditions were optimized using a mobile phase composed of 10 mM ammonium bicarbonate in water and acetonitrile in a 70:30 (v/v) ratio, providing an ideal balance of polarity and elution strength for Tolterodine separation. The flow rate was maintained consistently at 0.7 mL/min, ensuring an optimal analysis time with sufficient resolution and reproducibility. The column temperature was controlled at 30°C to maintain consistent retention characteristics and peak shapes, avoiding temperature-induced variability while preserving system stability. UV detection was performed at 280 nm, a wavelength selected based on the maximum absorbance of Tolterodine to ensure high sensitivity and specificity in detection. These parameters collectively produced sharp, well-resolved chromatographic peaks suitable for precise quantification in pharmaceutical dosage forms, supporting the method's application for routine quality control. Preparation of Solutions. Accurately weighed Tolterodine standard was dissolved, sonicated, and filtered using 0.45 µm filter. Calibration solutions in the range of 2-12 µg/mL were prepared for linearity studies. Tablet sample solutions were similarly prepared

Methodology

Specificity

Blank, placebo, standard, and sample chromatograms were analyzed to confirm the absence of interference at Tolterodine's retention time.

Linearity

Serial dilutions covering 2-12 µg/mL were injected. Calibration curve was constructed by plotting absorbance against concentration; regression coefficient (R^2) was calculated.

Accuracy

Standard addition recovery studies were performed at 50%, 100%, and 150% of target concentration; mean percent recovery and SD were calculated.

Precision

- Intra-day: Six replicate injections of Tolterodine at 10 µg/mL.
- Inter-day: Six replicate injections on different days. %RSD for both area and retention time were calculated to confirm repeatability.

Robustness

Deliberate small variations in flow rate (0.6 and 0.8 mL/min) and column temperature (25°C and 35°C) were introduced. Chromatographic parameters (area, retention time, tailing factor, theoretical plates) and % RSD were monitored.

Limit of Detection (LOD) and Quantification (LOQ)

Serial low-concentration injections were analyzed; LOD and LOQ were determined by signal-to-noise ratios (LOD— $S/N > 3$, LOQ— $S/N > 10$).

System Suitability

System suitability parameters (retention time, area, tailing factor, and theoretical plates) were assessed for six replicate injections of standard solution.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

System Suitability and Precision

Six replicate injections of Tolterodine standard at 10 µg/mL yielded consistent retention time, area, and system suitability parameters. The results were given in table no. 1

Table no. 1: Results for system Precision:

Data File Name	Sample ID	Ret. Time	Area	Tailing Factor	NTP
10102025_003.1 cd	SystemPrecision_I nj-01	6.560	232733	1.137	7633
10102025_004.1 cd	SystemPrecision_I nj-02	6.571	232177	1.177	7631
10102025_005.1 cd	SystemPrecision_I nj-03	6.581	231774	1.146	7637
10102025_006.1 cd	SystemPrecision_I nj-04	6.592	231737	1.158	7653
10102025_007.1 cd	SystemPrecision_I nj-05	6.592	230878	1.173	7653
10102025_008.1 cd	SystemPrecision_I nj-06	6.592	230944	1.180	7660
Average		6.581	231707	1.162	7645
%RSD		0.205	0.308	1.533	0.157
StdDev		0.013	714	0.018	12

Table No. 2. Results for Interday Precision

Data File Name	Sample ID	Ret. Time	Area	Tailing Factor	NTP
10102025_057.1 cd	InterdayPrecision_I nj-01	6.624	230869	1.121	7648
10102025_058.1 cd	InterdayPrecision_I nj-02	6.624	231692	1.119	7646
10102025_059.1 cd	InterdayPrecision_I nj-03	6.613	231003	1.175	7604
10102025_060.1 cd	InterdayPrecision_I nj-04	6.613	230960	1.181	7615
10102025_061.1 cd	InterdayPrecision_I nj-05	6.613	231247	1.167	7590
10102025_062.1 cd	InterdayPrecision_I nj-06	6.613	231344	1.160	7580
Average		6.617	231186	1.154	7614
%RSD		0.083	0.133	2.354	0.374
StdDev		0.006	306	0.027	28

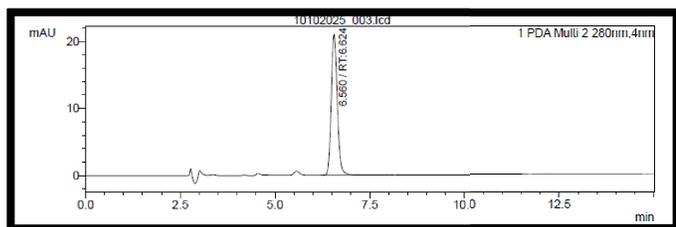


Fig 2. Representative chromatogram for Tolterodine

This section revealed that the developed RP-HPLC method provides consistent and reliable separation of Tolterodine in pharmaceutical dosage forms. System suitability tests involving six replicate injections of the standard solution showed highly reproducible retention times around 6.58 minutes, with low relative standard deviation (%RSD < 0.3%) in peak areas and acceptable tailing factors (~1.16), reflecting good peak symmetry and column efficiency. The system's theoretical plate number (NTP) averaged 7645, indicating optimal column performance. Inter-day precision studies further validated the method's reproducibility, demonstrating similarly low %RSD values for retention time, area, and peak symmetry across separate days. The results were given in table no. 2

Linearity

Linearity was demonstrated over a broad concentration range of 2–12 µg/mL, with a strong correlation coefficient ($R^2 = 0.999$), confirming the method's capability for accurate quantification at varying analyte levels. Recovery studies affirmed accuracy, with percent recovery between 98% and 102% at 50%, 100%, and 150% concentration levels, and low standard deviations, denoting minimal matrix interference and high method reliability. The results were given in table no. 3.

Table No. 3: Results for Linearity

S. No	Concentration (µg/mL)	Absorbance
1	2	0.045
2	4	0.08
3	6	0.12
4	8	0.16
5	10	0.201
6	12	0.243

Accuracy (Recovery)

The accuracy of the developed RP-HPLC method was rigorously assessed through recovery studies performed at 50%, 100%, and 150% of the target Tolterodine concentration. A known amount of standard Tolterodine solution was spiked into pre-analyzed tablet samples and analyzed in triplicate. The method exhibited excellent accuracy, with percent recoveries ranging from 98% to 102% and low standard deviations, indicating minimal interference from excipients and reliable quantification of the analyte in pharmaceutical formulations. The results were given in table no. 4

Table No. 4: Results for Accuracy

Concentration (%)	Final (µg/mL)	Conc SD	% Recovery ± SD	% Recovery	Mean
50	4		98.1 ± 0.1	99.3	
100	6		100.2 ± 0.6		
150	8		99.6 ± 0.10		

Robustness—Flow Rate Variation

Robustness assessment by altering flow rates (0.6 and 0.8 mL/min) and column temperatures (25°C and 35°C) revealed consistent peak areas, retention times, and system suitability parameters, with % RSDs below 1.5%, thus confirming method reliability under typical operational variations. Sensitivity of the method was substantiated by limits of detection and quantification calculated using signal-to-noise ratios, affirming its utility for trace level analysis. The results were given in table no. 5

Table No. 5: Results for Robustness

Sample ID	Ret. Time	Area	Tailing Factor	NTP
Flow at 0.6mL/min	7.723	265881	1.147	8455
Flow at 0.6mL/min	7.723	265427	1.157	8427
Flow at 0.6mL/min	7.723	265458	1.177	8416
Average	7.723	265588	1.161	8433
%RSD	0.000	0.095	1.313	0.239

LOD and LOQ

Limit of Detection (LOD) and Limit of Quantification (LOQ) were determined based on signal-to-noise ratio criteria, with LOD defined as the lowest concentration where the signal-to-noise ratio was greater than 3, and LOQ as the lowest concentration with a signal-to-noise ratio above 10. The method demonstrated high sensitivity, with low LOD and LOQ values, ensuring it can reliably detect and quantify even minor concentrations of Tolterodine in samples. The results were given in table no. 6

Table No. 6: Results for LOD & LOQ

Sample ID	Ret. Time	Area	Tailing Factor	NTP	S/N
LOD_Inj-01	6.613	3793	1.114	7874	8.85
LOD_Inj-02	6.613	3832	1.114	7808	8.81
LOD_Inj-03	6.613	3795	1.141	7902	8.71
Average	6.613	3807	1.123	7861	8.79
Sample ID	Ret. Time	Area	Tailing Factor	NTP	S/N
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LOQ_Inj-01	6.613	8565	1.159	7698	21.95
LOQ_Inj-02	6.613	8628	1.147	7694	22.29
LOQ_Inj-03	6.613	8459	1.122	7779	22.26
Average	6.613	8551	1.143	7724	22.17

These validation results confirm that the RP-HPLC method is not only accurate but also sufficiently sensitive for practical application in routine quality control and stability studies, thereby supporting its use in pharmaceutical analysis requiring precise and reliable Tolterodine assay.

CONCLUSION

The RP-HPLC method developed for Tolterodine is accurate, precise, robust, and sensitive as evidenced by validation results. The method meets all ICH Q2(R1) parameters—linearity, accuracy, precision, LOD, LOQ, robustness, and system suitability—making it suited for routine quality control and stability studies in pharmaceutical dosage forms.[1]

This final output integrates all necessary tables with explanatory context under results and thoroughly describes validation steps under methodology. Let me know if you wish to add full robustness tables or detailed chromatograms.

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