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*Hygeia* was the Greek goddess of health and she was worshiped in connection with Asclepius, her father, the god of medicine and health. She is said to be again, the granddaughter of the God, Apollo. She is also the sister of Panacea or Panacea (means all-cure) Aceso (Goddess of Healing), and Iaso (which means Remedies). Hygeia is usually depicted as a young woman, who holds a sacred snake (symbolizes resurrection), which is often combined with the rod of Asclepius to form the caduceus, a symbol of medicine. Often this snake is portrayed as drinking from a cup (symbolizing medicine), which has become known as the pharmacist's bowl. Originally, she was the guardian of physical health and later became the goddess of mental health, as well. Eventually, she became a protector against various kinds of danger, an attribute which she shared with Asclepius. It is from Hygeia, the word hygiene originates. Hygiene is the science of preserving health. The subject of hygiene includes all of the agencies affecting the physical and mental well being of people. In its public aspects, it is concerned with soil, climate, character; materials and arrangement of dwellings; heating and ventilation; removal of wastes; medical knowledge on the incidence and prevention of disease; and the disposal of the dead.

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Prof. Dr. Unnikrishnan M.K., M.Pharm, Ph.D.
Professor, Manipal College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Manipal University, Manipal, Karnataka, India.

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Professor & Head, Dept. of Phytopharmacy and Phytomedicine, JSS College of Pharmacy, Rocklands, Ooty, Tamilnadu, India.

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Research Asst. Scientist, Pathology & Lab Medicine, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, USA.

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Dean and Professor, Manipal College of Pharmaceutical sciences, MAHE Manipal, Karnataka, India.

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Professor of Pharmacy, University College of Pharmaceutical Sciences Kakatiya University, Warangal Andhra Pradesh- 506009, India.

Prof. Dr. P. Vijayan, M.Sc, Ph.D.
Professor of Biotechnology, JSS College of Pharmacy, Rocklands, Ootacamund, Tamilnadu, India – 643 001

Mr. K. C. Sivakumar MSc, MBA.
Information Officer, Bioinformatics Facility, Rajiv Gandhi Center for Biotechnology, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India 695014.

Dr. B. C. Behera, M.Sc, M.Phil., Ph.D.
Scientist-D, Agharkar Research Institute, Autonomous Institute of Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India, G.G. Agharkar Road, Pune-411004, INDIA.

Dr. L. Panayappan, M.Pharm, Ph.D.
Director, Pasumai Pharmacy, India (P) Ltd. pasumaipharmacy@yahoo.co.in Professor & Head, Department of Pharmacy Practice, JKK Nataraja College of Pharmacy, Kumarapalayam, Erode, Tamilnadu, India.

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Professor & Head, Dept. of Pharmaceutics, JSS College of Pharmacy, Rocklands, Ootacamund, Tamilnadu, India – 643 001.
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Professor & Head, Department of Pharmacy Practice, Sri Ramakrishna College of Pharmacy, SRIPMS,
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Associate Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences, M.D. University, Rohtak, Haryana, India.

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Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, PhD (Psy)
Director, SKITRAC (Skills Training Centre)
8/1M Mansion building, Race Course, Coimbatore -18, India.
email.drmindsr@yahoo.co.in

Dr. Konstantinos M. Kasiotis, PhD
Research Assistant
Benaki Phytopathological Institute, Department of Pesticides Control and Phytopharmacy,
Laboratory of Pesticides Toxicology, 8 Stefanou Delta Str.,
Kifissia, Athens, Greece 14561

Dr. C. Srinivas Reddy M. Pharm., PhD.
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Dr. Srinivas Rao Chennamaneni, M. Pharm., PhD
Pharmacology and Pharmacokinetics, iVeena LLC and Research Associate,
John A Moran Eye Center, University of Utah,
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Dr. SM Kadri, MB; MPH/ICHD
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(Schematic diagram of the editorial work flow of Hygeia J.D.Med.)

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EDITURAL

The Many Tentacles of Knowledge Asymmetry in Healthcare
Prof. M K Unnikrishnan
Manipal College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Manipal University, Manipal 576 104 INDIA


The other day, I was invited to participate in the National convention on Medicine and Law at Mumbai to deliberate on violence against doctors. The brochure ominously asserted that “75% of doctors have faced violence at work”

Why has this antipathy towards doctors become so commonplace? Is it from the seeds of suspicion planted by Google-driven health information systems retrieved from the Internet? Or is it the mounting expectations of the ‘informed’ patient with insurance cover and cash? Could it be the corporatization of healthcare that places profit before patient care? Or is it lack of personalized attention? Or a sense of being swindled by unnecessary diagnostic tests and avoidable hospital admissions?

Must be a combination of all of the above, in addition to even more reasons peculiar to India. The healthcare system is particularly vulnerable to exploitation because of ‘knowledge asymmetry.’ When we want to buy a car, we decide what car we need, what additional fittings it should adorn, and when we should take delivery. No such freedom exists when it comes to our own health. We have no idea what vaccinations or diagnostic tests we need, what medicines we should buy or what surgeries we have to go through. The knowledge intensive nature of healthcare typically creates a conflict of interest between the ignorant patients and well-informed, profit-seeking health care providers. Trust alone can bridge this divide....

A Cost effective HPLC method for the analysis of Curcuminoids

Radha A, P. Ragavendran, Alex Thomas, D. Suresh Kumar

Confederation for Ayurvedic Renaissance-Keralam Ltd, KINFRA Small Industries Park, Nalukettu Road, KINFRA Park, P.O. · 680 309, Koratty, Thrissur District, Kerala, India.


ABSTRACT

Plan: Validation of a method for the HPLC estimation of curcuminoids
Preface: Many methods are available for the assay of curcumin, the major pigment in turmeric rhizomes. These include direct fluorimetric, spectroscopic and HPLC methods. HPLC analysis of compounds is expensive, as HPLC grade water and solvents are used. Considering the expensive nature of solvents used in HPLC analysis, there is a need to develop cost-effective methods for the estimation of compounds using HPLC.
Methodology: We modified a recently-reported HPLC method for the estimation of curcuminoids. The modified method was validated and found to be accurate, precise, specific, reproducible, and rugged.
Outcome: This cost-effective method can be utilized for the speedy and routine HPLC estimation of curcuminoids.
Key words: Curcuminoids, HPLC validation, turmeric, Cost-effective method

Article citation

Dosage adjustments of potentially hepatotoxic medications in patients with liver dysfunction

College of Pharmacy, SRIPMS, Sri Ramakrishna Hospital Campus, Coimbatore, TamilNadu, India -641044.


ABSTRACT

Plan: To assess the incidence of inappropriate dosing of drugs having side effects like hepatotoxicity in hospitalized patients with hepatic impairment.

Preface: Inappropriate dosing in patients with liver dysfunction can cause toxicity or ineffective therapy.

Method: The degree of hepatic impairment was calculated using Child-Pugh classification which incorporates five variables to assess the severity of liver disease: total bilirubin, serum albumin, prothrombin time, the presence of encephalopathy and the presence of ascites. The dose of all drugs with potential hepatotoxicity was evaluated using the published drug dosing guidelines and the dosing interval was increased or the total dose was reduced when necessary.

Outcome: Four hundred and twenty nine drugs in 50 patients were evaluated, of which most of the drugs requiring dose adjustment were antihypertensives followed by antidiabetics. Major type of error identified was under dosing followed by overdosing and contraindications. About 27.58% of the drugs were to be avoided in hepatic impairment as per the available evidences.

Conclusion: Drug dosing evaluation and concurrent feedback mechanism by the pharmacist can improve drug safety in patients with hepatic impairment.

Keywords: Hepatic impairment, Child-Pugh Score, Dosage adjustment, Drug safety

Development and Validation of a RP-UFLC method for Estimation of synthetic steroid hormone Danazol

Shanmugam R1*, Kirthi A1, Madhuri K1, Ashok Kumar C K1, Lalitha Priyanka D2
1. Department of Pharmaceutical Analysis, Sree Vidyanikethan College of Pharmacy, Tirupati- 517102, India.
2. Department of Pharmaceutics JSS College of Pharmacy, Rocklands, Ooty- 643001, India.


ABSTRACT

Plan: Danazol is a synthetic steroid hormone with anti-estrogenic and anti-gonadotropic activities drug which acts on anterior pituitary suppressant by inhibiting the pituitary output of gonadotropins indicated for the treatment of endometriosis and benign breast disorders. The main objective of the research work was to develop simple, rapid and sensitive analytical method using RP-UFLC method for estimation of synthetic steroid hormone danazol in bulk and finished formulation.

Methodology: A simple, rapid and sensitive analytical method was developed. Separation of the chromatographic condition was done by using a mobile phase as isocratic flow with the concentration of 25 mM ammonium acetate (pH 4) and acetonitrile at the ratio of 50:50v/v. Flow rate of the mobile phase was maintained at 1 ml/min. Stationary phase used was C18 column (250 x 4.6 mm). Detection of danazol drug was carried out at 275 nm. The developed method was evaluated for the validation parameters such as specificity, sensitivity, linearity, accuracy, precision, ruggedness and robustness were performed as per the ICH guidelines.

Outcome: An optimized chromatographic condition for danazol drug was achieved and results showed good peak resolution. The developed method for the danazol can be used for the quantitative and qualitative estimation of bulk and finished formulations.

Keywords: Danazol, ICH, Validation, UFLC

Article citation

A descriptive review on *Myristica fragrans* Houtt.

Honey Jose¹, Arya KR¹, Sindhu TJ¹, Syamjith P¹, Vinod KR¹*, Sandhya S²

1. Sanjo College of Pharmaceutical Studies Vellapara, Palakkad, India 678702.  
2. St. James College of Pharmaceutical Sciences River Bank, Chalakkudi, Thrissur District, Kerala, India

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ABSTRACT

Nutmeg and mace are the two spices derived from several tree species in genus Myristica. They contain essential oil and is used therapeutically, cosmetic and culinary preparations. Several value addition products widens the commercial value of this herb. Although fifty percent shade is recommended in the initial levels, as the tree grows it can be reduced. It is better to adopt budding or grafting as there are possibility of plants seedlings to grow into male and female plants, resulting in the production of 50% unproductive male plants. The female trees start fruiting from 6 years old even though peak period is 20 years. Over dose of essential oils of nutmeg is having hallucination effects.

Key words: Chemistry, *Myristica fragrans*, Nutmeg, Pharmacology, Essential oils.

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LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS for Hygeia.J.D.Med.8 (1) May 2016

1. Alex Thomas  
2. Arya KR  
3. Ashok Kumar C K  
4. D.Suresh Kumar*  
5. Dhanu Josey  
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7. Evelyn Harold  
8. Honey Jose  
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22. Vinod KR*  

* Author for correspondence