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Post Views: 6,879 Analytical method validation in Pharma is a critical process in the development and implementation of methods used for data analysis in various scientific disciplines, including pharmaceuticals, environmental monitoring, food and beverage testing, and clinical diagnostics. This process ensures that the analytical method validation in pharma are appropriate, reliable, and capable of providing accurate and reproducible results within specific conditions. The process involves several key components and steps, each designed to assess different characteristics of the method. Here are the main components of Analytical Method Validation: 1. Specificity 2. Linearity 3. Accuracy 4. Precision 5. Detection Limit (LOD) and Quantitation Limit (LOQ) 6. Robustness 7. System Suitability Testing Validation of an analytical method follows a specific protocol that includes defining the application, scope, and specifications of the method; designing validation studies; conducting experiments; and analyzing and interpreting the results. This rigorous process ensures that the method is suited for its intended purpose and can produce reliable, consistent results critical for decision-making processes in regulatory compliance, quality control, and research development. Analytical method validation is the process to confirm that the analytical procedure employed for a specific test is suitable for its intended use. Analytical monitoring of a pharmaceutical product is necessary to ensure its efficacy throughout all phases of its shelf life; such monitoring is in accordance with the specifications elaborated during product development. Method validation ensures that the selective method will give reproducible, reliable and consistent results adequate for the intended purpose, it is, therefore, necessary to define precisely both the conditions in which the procedure is to be used and the purpose for which it is intended. The objective of this validation study is to: • Ensure and justify, through extensive testing, that the precision and consistency are in accordance with already established Acceptance Criteria. • Assess the effect of variables (within already set operating limits) on the testing method (identify and solve the problems), if any, encountered during testing. • Establish confidence on the existing testing process. • Find ways and means to increase productivity and improve quality. • Assure that the complete process is under control. The Scope of the document is: i. To describe the work required for the Validation of the Test Method for the determination of Ciprofloxacin. This method is routinely used in time of manufacturing and drug stability studies. This Validation Protocol also describes the analytical parameters to be used for the validation of the test method. ii. The method (SOP No. _____) used for the determination of Ciprofloxacin is also explained in this protocol along with the acceptance criteria. iv. This Protocol also defines the facilities, responsibilities and equipment, apparatus, glassware, material and documents that are used for the validation studies. v. In this validation protocol, the analytical results are evaluated by the application of statistical techniques and presented by means of graphical techniques. vi. This method validation protocol applies to all test methods performed for release or stability evaluation of all strengths of Ciprofloxacin Tablets. 4.0 Periodic Revalidation: In case there is no change or modification in the Validated Method, the Revalidation will be performed after every 5 years. Any modification or changes in the Validated Test Method (SOP No. _____) being used for the determination of Ciprofloxacin should be controlled and will be entered into the Change Control Form (Form No. _____) in accordance with the change control procedure (SOP No. _____). Provide Justification for proposing a test method. The proposed procedure should also be validated according to this Validation Protocol. 6.0 Validation Parameters: Following analytical parameters are to be considered 6.1 Calibration of Spectrophotometer: i. Calibration of Wavelength a. Turn the main power "ON" and both lamps. b. The instrument will confirm the filter automatically. c. Set the wavelength from 200 - 400 nm. d. Set the wavelength from wavelength counter. e. Fill the cell with blank and check the blank reading. f. Wash them all with distilled water g. Fill with the K2Cr2O7 solution. h. Note the absorbance from screen Wavelength (nm) Absorbance 235 nm (minima) 0.740 0.096 0.125 (maxima) 0.855 0.051 0.894 0.113 (minima) 0.950 0.064 0.966 (maxima) 0.640 0.076 0.650 (minima) 0.760 0.085 0.770 (maxima) 0.870 0.040 0.880 (minima) 0.980 0.050 0.990 (maxima) 0.600 0.060 0.610 (minima) 0.720 0.070 0.730 (maxima) 0.840 0.080 0.850 (minima) 0.960 0.090 0.970 (maxima) 0.680 0.090 0.690 (minima) 0.800 0.100 0.810 (maxima) 0.920 0.110 0.930 (minima) 0.040 0.050 0.060 (maxima) 0.160 0.060 0.170 (minima) 0.280 0.070 0.290 (maxima) 0.400 0.080 0.410 (minima) 0.520 0.090 0.530 (maxima) 0.640 0.100 0.650 (minima) 0.760 0.110 0.770 (maxima) 0.880 0.120 0.890 (minima) 0.000 0.000 0.000 (maxima) 0.100 0.010 0.110 (minima) 0.200 0.020 0.210 (maxima) 0.300 0.030 0.310 (minima) 0.400 0.040 0.410 (maxima) 0.500 0.050 0.510 (minima) 0.600 0.060 0.610 (maxima) 0.700 0.070 0.710 (minima) 0.800 0.080 0.810 (maxima) 0.900 0.090 0.910 (minima) 0.000 0.000 0.000 (maxima) 0.100 0.010 0.110 (minima) 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sample and the difference shall be not more than 15%. Peak purity of main peak shall be not less than 0.99. Degradation to the extent up to 15% is performed to evaluate the interference. Mass balance for main peak shall be required. Mass Balance should be verified by demonstrating that the decrease of the concentration of the substance exposed to stress conditions corresponds to an equivalent increased amount of degradation products. For all degraded samples, both assay and related substances have to be tested. If for some reason the official assay test cannot be performed, the decrease of the main peak signal in the related substances test could be evaluated and to justify mass balance. The following data should be reported both for stressed and unstressed samples (control). Amount of individual degraded substances found, total amount of degraded substances found, assay and some of assay and degraded substances. An example is provided in the below table: Impurity 1 (% w/w) Impurity 2 (% w/w) Total (% w/w) Assay Total Impurities + Assay Control 0.1 0.1 0.2 99.8 100.0 Stressed Sample 5.0 4.0 9.0 90.5 99.5 The mass balance should be in the range of 95 % - 105 % of the control sample. However, if the decrease in the assay value due to degradation is less than 5%, tighter criteria may be more appropriate. Mass balance is confirmed when the concentration of the parent drug found in the stressed sample is consistent with the amount of degraded compounds formed after the stress test. The following examples are intended to represent potential real case scenarios: Impurity 1 (% w/w) Total (% w/w) Assay Total Impurities + Assay Comment Control 0.1 0.2 99.8 100.0 Stressed sample 1 8.0 9.0 90.5 99.5 Good mass balance Stressed Sample 2 0.1 0.3 55.0 55.3 No Mass Balance (Some degradation products are not detected) Stressed sample 3 10.0 15.0 95 110 No Mass Balance (Some degradation products are overestimated) Mass balance cannot be accurately evaluated during early method development. However, the balance may be a useful tool to ensure that there is no significant degradation products unaccounted. In case mass balance is not achieved, the degradation should be scientifically evaluated and justified. Its ability (within a given range) to obtain test results which are directly proportional to the concentration levels shall be prepared. For assay, prepare and inject the standard solution in the range of 80% to 120% concentration level and Calculate the correlation coefficient "r" by calculation of a regression line by the least square method. Also determine the Residual sum of square. For content uniformity, prepare and inject the standard solution in the range of 70% to 130% concentration level and Calculate the correlation coefficient "r" by calculation of a regression line by the least square method. Also determine the Residual sum of square. For dissolution testing, ± 20% over the specified range (e.g., if the acceptance criteria for a controlled-release product cover a region from 30%, after 1 hour, and up to 90%, after 24 hours, the validated range would be 10% to 110% of the label claim. For related substances, prepare and inject the known impurities solution and standard solution in the range of LOQ to 200% concentration level calculate the correlation coefficient "r" by calculation of a regression line by the least square method and calculate the response factor for known impurities by using the below given formula:
$$\text{Slope of active substance Response Factor} = \frac{\text{Slope of impurity}}{\text{Slope of impurity Relative Response Factor (RRF)}}$$
 residual solvents, prepare a solution of known residual solvents and standard solution in the range of LOQ to 150% concentration level, Inject and calculate the correlation coefficient "r" by calculation of a regression line by the least square method. Also determine the residual sum of squares. The value of correlation coefficient "r" for dissolution and assay shall be not less than 0.999, for related substances and residual solvents not less than 0.99. Note: Acceptance criteria can be varied depending up on the requirement of method. The range of an analytical Method is the interval between the upper and lower concentration (amounts) of analyte in the sample (including these concentrations) for which it has been demonstrated that the analytical Method has a suitable level of precision, accuracy and linearity. The range is normally expressed in the same units as test results (e.g. percent, parts per million) obtained by the analytical method. For assay, prepare the sample solution by spiking the drug substance to the placebo at about 70%, 100% and 130% of test concentration level in triplicate in each level and calculate the RSD for recovery obtained at each level separately and overall RSD. In case, Dissolution prepare the sample solution by spiking the drug substance to the placebo at about ± 20% specified range in triplicate in each level and calculate the % overall average recovery. For related substances, prepare the sample solution without spiking known impurities in triplicates and inject, prepare the sample solution in triplicate by spiking with known impurities at LOQ level to 150% of specification limit (as per shelf life specification limit) and calculate the % overall average recovery for known impurities. For residual solvents, prepare the sample solution without spiking known residual solvents in triplicate and inject. Prepare the sample solution in triplicate by spiking with known residual solvents at LOQ level to 150% of specification limit and calculate the % overall average recovery for known residual solvents. Note: Accuracy experiment for API to be inferred from the experiment data of specificity, linearity and precision. % recovery of the drug at each level shall be between 98% and 102% and RSD shall be not more than 2%. The overall average shall be between 98% to 102% with RSD of not more than 2%. % recovery of the drug at each spiking level shall be between 95% and 105% and RSD shall be not more than 5%. The overall average recovery shall be between 95% to 105% with RSD of not more than 5%. Note: For less soluble drugs "In cases of poor drug solubility, if feasible, the stock solution may be prepared by dissolving the drug substance in a small amount of organic solvent and diluting to the final concentration with diluent". The recovery of known impurities of the drug at each spiking level shall be between 85% and 115% and RSD from replicate analysis shall be not more than 10%. The overall average recovery shall be between 85% and 115% with RSD of not more than 10%. For residual solvents, the recovery of known residual solvents of the drug at each spiking level shall be between 85% and 115% and RSD from replicate analysis shall be not more than 10%. The overall average recovery shall be between 85% and 115% with RSD of not more than 10%. It is the lowest concentration of analyte in a sample that can be detected but not necessarily quantitate under the stated experimental conditions. The limit of detection is usually expressed as the concentration of analyte e.g. percentage, ppm, ppb etc. Based on Signal-to-Noise Ratio Determination of the signal-to-noise ratio is performed by comparing measured signals from samples with known low concentrations of analyte with those of blank samples and establishing the minimum concentration at which the analyte can be reliably detected. A signal-to-noise ratio 3:1 is acceptable for estimating the detection limit. Based on the Standard Deviation of the Response and the Slope For related substances and residual solvents prepare and inject the known impurities solutions and standard solution in the range of LOD to 200% of specification level and calculate the limit of detection by using below formula.
$$3.3 \times \sigma \text{ LOD} = \frac{3.3 \times \sigma}{S}$$
 Where, σ = the standard deviation of the response. S = the slope of the calibration curve. The slope S may be estimated from the calibration curve of the analyte. The estimation of σ may be carried out based on the calibration curve. A specific calibration curve shall be studied using samples containing an analyte in the range of DL. The residual standard deviation of a regression line or the standard deviation of y-intercepts of regression line may be used as the standard deviation (σ). Prepare the LOD solution using blank/placebo spiked with known impurities or known residual solvents at determined LOD level and inject in six replicates. Calculate % RSD for six replicates of known impurities. % RSD for six replicates responses of known impurities or known residual solvent shall be not more than 30. It is the lowest concentration of analyte in a sample that can be quantitate with acceptable precision under the stated experimental condition. The limit of quantification is usually expressed as the concentration of analyte. e.g. percentage, ppm , ppb etc. Based on Signal-to-Noise Ratio Determination of the signal-to-noise ratio is performed by comparing measured signals from samples with known low concentrations of analyte with those of blank samples and establishing the minimum concentration at which the analyte can be reliably quantified. A typical signal-to-noise ratio is 10:1. For related substances and residual solvents prepare and inject the known impurities solutions and standard solution in the range of LOQ to 200% specification level calculate the limit of quantification by using below formula add perform the precision at LOQ analysis and calculate the %RSD. Calculate the limit of Quantitation by below formula:
$$10 \times \sigma \text{ LOQ} = \frac{10 \times \sigma}{S}$$
 Where, σ = the standard deviation of the response. S = the slope of the calibration curve. The slope S may be estimated from the calibration curve of the analyte. The estimation of σ may be carried out based on the calibration curve. A specific calibration curve shall be studied using samples containing an analyte in the range of OL. The residual standard deviation of a regression line or the standard deviation of y-intercepts of regression line may be used as the standard deviation (σ). Prepare the LOQ solution using blank/placebo spiked with known impurities or known residual solvents at determined LOQ level and inject in six replicates. Calculate % RSD for six replicates of known impurities. % RSD for six replicates responses of known impurities or known residual solvent shall be not more than 10. Note: Acceptance criteria can be varied depending up on the requirement of method. It is essential when validating an analytical method to confirm that the analyte has adequate stability in both the standard and sample solution during analytical measurement stages of the testing. For dissolution, prepare the standard solution and perform the dissolution on one tablet or capsule as per the test method. Analyze the standard solution and sample solution at the different time intervals and calculate the % difference for the result. For related substances, prepare the standard solution and sample solution spiked with known impurities at the specification level as per the test method. Analyze the standard solution and sample solution at the different time intervals and calculate the % cumulative RSD of peak area for known impurities and main peak. For dissolution, the difference in results shall not be more than 2. In case assay, the difference in results shall not be more than 2 for drug products and shall not be more than 1 for drug substance. For related substances, Cumulative % RSD of peak area for known impurities and main peak shall not be more than 10. Note: Acceptance criteria can be varied depending up on the requirement of method. If acceptance criteria are not met then a time limit is set within which the analysis is to be completed. This assumes that the precaution have been taken to minimize degradation. For analyses where a small degree of degradation in unavoidable, automation of the assay ensures that exactly the same degree of degradation occurs with each sample and standard. The method shall show reliability of an analysis with respect to deliberate variations in method parameters. If measurements are susceptible to variations in analytical conditions, mention the same in test method. Under the variable conditions in method parameters and system suitability parameters shall be established to ensure that the validity of the analytical Method and the conditions shall be suitability controlled or a precautionary statement shall be included in the procedure. Following deliberate variations shall be done in case of dissolution, assay and related substances: pH of mobile phase (± 0.2 units) Column oven temperature (± 5°C) Mobile phase composition (organic composition) (up to ±10% absolute) RPM (for dissolution) (±5RPM) System suitability parameters shall be performed as per the test method for each deliberate variation. For dissolution, prepare the standard solution and perform the dissolution on three tablets or capsules by deliberate variations made in the method for each condition as mentioned in protocol and analyze. Calculate the RRT's for known impurities and compare with RRT's from specificity experiment. For Related substances, prepare the standard solution and sample solution spiked with known impurities at the specification level as per the test method by deliberate variations made in the method for each condition as mentioned in protocol and analyze. Calculate the RRT for known residual solvents and compare with RRT from specificity experiment. For dissolution, overall % RSD shall be not more than 5 with of the method precision data for individual experiments. For assay, overall % RSD shall be not more than 2 with of the method precision data for individual experiments. Related substance and residual solvent, method shall meet the system suitability criteria. To meet acceptance criteria, robustness parameters can be changed as per method requirement. For Assay/Dissolution/OD: Prepare sample solution in triplicate as per test method. A portion of sample solution shall be centrifuged and other portion of sample solution shall be filtered with filters (e.g. PVDF/Nylon). Inject all the samples into HPLC as per method. Calculate the % Assay or % drug release difference for each sample and calculate the % difference between centrifuged vs. filtered samples. Prepare sample solution (spiked sample solution). A portion of sample solution shall be centrifuged and other portion of sample solution shall be filtered with filters (e.g. PVDF/Nylon). Inject all the samples into HPLC as per method. Calculate the % impurity for each sample and calculate the % impurity difference between centrifuged vs. filtered samples. Difference shall not be more than 2 % for Assay. Difference shall not be more than 5% for dissolution. If the impurity is less than 0.1%, no comparison shall be made. For known impurities and total impurities % difference shall be less than ±10%. System suitability tests are based on concept that the equipment, electronics, analytical operations and sample to be analyzed, Test of System suitability provide the added assurance that on specific occasion the method is given accurate and precise results. System suitability test shall be run before an experiment is initiated and whenever there is change in the environment analysis. The nature of the test and acceptance criteria shall be based upon the data generated during method development, optimization and validation experiments. System suitability parameters, which are generally required to be monitored including number of theoretical plates (efficiency of the column), internal precision (repeatability), reproducibility, tailing factor (peak asymmetry), resolution, relative retention time and capacity factor depending upon the requirement of analytical method being validated. Some other parameters may be included in system suitability test, shall be justified in validation report. Each experiment conducted as part of method validation exercise should have a corresponding system suitability test. After completion of validation experiment as part of protocol, prepare the report for the same as per annexure II. Summary – Analytical Method Validation (AMV): Analytical Performance Characteristics Assay Related Substances Dissolution Residual Solvents Accuracy $\sqrt{w} \times \sqrt{v}$ Precision Applicable $\sqrt{w} \times \sqrt{v}$ Specificity $\sqrt{w} \times \sqrt{v}$ * Applicable $\sqrt{w} \times \sqrt{v}$ Robustness $\sqrt{w} \times \sqrt{v}$ * Applicable $\sqrt{w} \times \sqrt{v}$ Forced Degradation $\sqrt{w} \times \sqrt{v}$ - Detection Limit $\sqrt{w} \times \sqrt{v}$ - Quantitation Limit $\sqrt{w} \times \sqrt{v}$ - Applicable $\sqrt{w} \times \sqrt{v}$ - Not applicable *. Required depending on the nature of the specific test. If analytical method of dissolution is by HPLC, precision shall be done. If analytical method of dissolution is by UV, accuracy, precision, specificity, linearity, robustness and solution stability shall be covered. Note: The above states will be protocol bound with respective projects. Compendial methods are accepted as the official method. However suitability of the method shall be checked from in-house product under actual conditions of use. General tests and assays, which are already established, may also be validated to verify their accuracy when used for new drug products. Revalidation may be required when there are changes in the drug product e.g. new source or synthesis of drug substance, product strength, new excipients, change in level of excipients, change in manufacturing process etc. Evaluate the parameters of the validation depending on the change. Revalidation of the method is required whenever significant changes in method are done, sample solution, chromatographic system components and chromatographic conditions. The parameters of the validation shall be evaluated depending on the change. Verification of validated analytical method shall be done at-least once in three years as per approved protocol. The verification process for compendial test procedures is the assessment of whether the procedure can be used for its intended purpose, under the actual conditions of use for a specified drugs substance and/or drug product matrix. Compendial analytical Method are not required to validate these procedures, when first used in their laboratories, but documented evidence of suitability should be established under actual conditions of use. In the United States, these requirements is established in 21CFR 211.194(9) (2) of the current GMP regulations which state that the "Suitability of all testing methods used shall be verified under actual conditions of use". Complete validation of a compendial method is not required to verify the suitability of a procedure under actual condition of use. Analytical performance characteristics used in method verification of pharmacopoeial methods shall be (but not limited to) Specificity, Precision, Linearity and Range, System Suitability and Stability in Analytical Solutions. Annexure-I and Annexure-II shall be used for the preparation of method verification protocol and report. Terminology "Validation" shall be replaced with "Verification" 5.0 REFERENCES : ICH guidelines - Q2 (R1) "Validation of Analytical Procedure : Text And Methodology" USP 38 chapter validation of compendial procedures. USP 38 chapter verification of compendial procedures. 6.0 GLOSSARY : SOP : Standard Operating Procedure AD : Analytical Development R & D : Research and development LOQ : Limit of Quantitation RSD : Relative standard deviation RPM : Rotation per minute LOD : Limit of detection SST : System suitability test SD : Standard Deviation 7.0 ANNEXURES: Annexure I: Template for Preparation of Analytical Method Validation (AMV) Protocol Sr. No. Subject Page No. 1. Protocol Approval 2. Objective 3. Scope 4. Responsibility of validation team 5. Product profile 6. Methodology 7. Incident/Deviation 8. Summary 9. Revision history Annexure II: Template for Preparation of Analytical Method Validation (AMV) Report APPROVAL: Prepared By: Functional Area Name Designation Signature/Date Quality Control Reviewed By: Functional Area Name Designation Signature/Date Quality Assurance Head Quality Control Approved By: Functional Area Name Designation Signature/Date Head QA Sr. No. Subject 1 Approval 2 Introduction 3 Objective 4 Summary Table 5 Methodology 6 Equipment & Materials 7 Validated parameters 8 Summary of system suitability 9 Incident/Deviation 10 Final Conclusion 11 Annexure 12 Revision History 1. INTRODUCTION : 2. OBJECTIVE : 3. SUMMARY TABLE : 4. METHODOLOGY : 5. EQUIPMENT & MATERIALS : 6. VALIDATED PARAMETERS : 7. SUMMARY OF SYSTEM SUITABILITY : 8. INCIDENT/DEVIATION : 9. FINAL CONCLUSION : 10. ANNEXURE : 11. REVISION HISTORY June 3, 2020 April 29, 2020 May 16, 2020