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# DEVELOPMENT AND VALIDATION OF AN RP-HPLC CHROMATOGRAPHIC METHOD FOR THE DETERMINATION OF RELATED SUBSTANCES IN A POLYPHARMACEUTICAL ORAL SUSPENSION WITH ION EXCHANGE RESIN-BASED TASTE MASKING

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#### ABSTRACT

**Objective:** This study focuses on the development and validation of a high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) method for the estimation of related substances in both bulk and finished oral suspension formulations intended for the treatment of acute nasopharyngitis. The formulation incorporates taste-masked Dextromethorphan Hydrobromide (DMH), Phenylephrine Hydrochloric Acid (PEH), and Chlorpheniramine Maleate (CPM) using ion exchange resin. The validation process assesses parameters such as specificity, precision, accuracy, linearity, robustness, limit of detection (LOD), and limit of quantification (LOQ), ensuring the method's applicability for quality control and regulatory compliance.

**Methods:** A gradient HPLC method employing a reversed-phase column and an optimized mobile phase was utilized for the effective separation of related substances in the taste-masked oral suspension. The method parameters include a 70-minute run time per injection, a flow rate of 1.2 ml/min, a detection wavelength of 265 nm, an injection volume of 20  $\mu$ 1\*\*, and a column temperature maintained at 35 °C. The validation procedure encompasses specificity, precision, accuracy, linearity, robustness, LOD and LOQ assessments. This method ensures reliable and reproducible quantification, making it suitable for routine quality control applications and regulatory submissions.

Results: The developed HPLC method successfully achieved the separation of related substances within the specified 70 min runtime per injection. System suitability criteria were met, confirming method efficiency. The method exhibited high specificity with no interference, achieving peak resolutions exceeding 1.5. It demonstrated precise repeatability (relative standard deviation ((RSD)<2%), accurate recovery within 98–102%, and strong linearity ( $R^2$ >0.999). The sensitivity of the method was confirmed through LOD and LOQ values. Robustness studies indicated the stability of the method under varying analytical conditions, supporting its reliability for routine quality control.

**Conclusion:** The validated HPLC method provides a robust approach for estimating related substances in taste-masked Dextromethorphan HBr, Phenylephrine HCl, and Chlorpheniramine Maleate oral suspension. Meeting all essential validation criteria—including specificity, precision, accuracy, linearity, robustness, LOD and LOQ the method ensures accurate, sensitive, and reproducible quantification. Consequently, it is well-suited for routine quality control analysis in pharmaceutical formulations.

**Keywords** HPLC, Related substance, ICH guidelines, Dextromethorphan hydrobromide, Phenylephrine hydrochloride, Chlorpheniramine maleate, Ion exchange resin, Oral suspension and validation

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### INTRODUCTION

The increasing demand for multi-drug formulations has driven advancements in pharmaceutical development, particularly for oral suspensions. These formulations are essential for treating complex conditions like acute nasopharyngitis, which require a combination of active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) that work synergistically. Dextromethorphan Hydrobromide, Phenylephrine Hydrochloride, and Chlorpheniramine Maleate are commonly used for their antitussive, decongestant, and antihistamine properties [1-4]. However, formulating these APIs into an effective oral suspension presents challenges related to stability, taste masking, and related substance identification. Even trace amounts of related substances can impact safety, efficacy, and shelf-life, necessitating precise analysis to ensure purity and quality [5-9].

Related substances include known and unknown impurities, degradation products formed during manufacturing storage. These impurities can alter drug potency and pose safety risks, emphasizing the need for a robust analytical method. Liquid chromatography (LC) is a preferred technique for related substance analysis due to its ability to separate, identify, and quantify multiple components in complex mixtures [10-14].

This study focuses on developing and validating an LC method for analyzing related substances in an oral suspension containing Dextromethorphan Hydrobromide, Phenylephrine Hydrochloride, and Chlorpheniramine Maleate. The formulation incorporates an ion-exchange resin for taste masking, adding complexity due to

potential resin-API interactions [15-18]. These interactions may lead to new degradation products or altered drug pharmacokinetics, complicating impurity identification. A key objective is to develop a method capable of resolving APIs, degradation products, and resininduced impurities [19].

Dextromethorphan hydrobromide: A widely used antitussive (cough suppressant) that acts on the central nervous system by inhibiting the cough reflex. It is commonly found in cold and flu formulations and is effective for dry cough (fig. 1. A) [20].

Phenylephrine hydrochloride: A selective  $\alpha 1$ -adrenergic receptor agonist used as a nasal decongestant. It works by constricting blood vessels in the nasal passages, reducing swelling and congestion associated with colds and allergies (fig. 1. B) [21].

Chlorpheniramine maleate: A first-generation antihistamine that blocks H1 receptors, relieving allergic symptoms such as runny nose, sneezing, and itching. It has mild sedative effects and is commonly used in combination with other cold medications (fig. 1C) [22].

Challenges in related substance analysis: Related substance analysis is vital for ensuring drug safety and efficacy. Multi-drug formulations increase the risk of component interactions, leading to impurities from chemical degradation, excipient interactions, or residual solvents. These impurities can impact potency, bioavailability, and safety [23-27].

The taste-masking ion-exchange resin further complicates analysis. While effective at masking bitterness, it may bind APIs, altering retention times and separation in chromatographic analysis.

Additionally, the resin could catalyze new degradation products or interact with solvents and mobile phases, forming impurities. Thus,

a chromatographic method must separate APIs, degradation products, and resin-induced impurities [28-32].

Fig. 1: A. Dextromethorphan hydrobromide, B. Phenylephrine hydrochloride and C. Chlorpheniramine maleate

Regulatory authorities like the United State Food and Drug Administration (U. S. FDA) and European Medicines Agency (EMA) mandate stringent impurity analysis. Without a validated method addressing these challenges, formulation safety, efficacy, and compliance may be compromised. Identifying and quantifying related substances with high accuracy is essential, as even trace impurities can impact drug quality [33-37].

The Role of Liquid Chromatography in Related Substance Analysis-Liquid chromatography is the gold standard for impurity analysis due to its precision, sensitivity, and ability to separate complex mixtures. It effectively analyzes multi-drug formulations and detects trace degradation products or impurities [38-41].

For this oral suspension, LC separates APIs from related substances and excipients, including ion-exchange resins. Resolving APIs from resin-induced impurities ensures analysis accuracy, preventing false positives or incorrect quantification. LC's high sensitivity is critical for detecting low-level impurities [42-48].

Developing a reliable LC method requires optimizing chromatographic parameters such as mobile phase composition, flow rate, column type, and detection wavelength. This study employs optimized chromatographic conditions to achieve sufficient resolution between APIs and related substances while minimizing interference. The use of appropriate stationary phases (e.g., C18 columns) and mobile phases comprising organic solvents and aqueous buffers enhances separation and detection [49-56].

Allowed Limits of Different Impurities-Oral suspensions containing Dextromethorphan Hydrobromide, Phenylephrine Hydrochloride, and Chlorpheniramine Maleate must comply with impurity limits set by pharmacopoeias such as the Indian Pharmacopeia (IP), United States Pharmacopeia (USP), and European Pharmacopoeia (EP). Typically, for Dextromethorphan Hydrobromide, individual impurities are limited to 0.5%, with total impurities not exceeding 2.0%. Phenylephrine Hydrochloride and Chlorpheniramine Maleate follow similar limits, with individual impurities capped at 0.5% and total impurities at 2.0%. All known impurities must remain below 0.2%, based on daily dose considerations [57-62].

#### **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

#### **Materials**

Solvent and Chemical used: Acetonitrile having Chromatographic grade with>99%), (Manufacturers: Rankem Methanol Chromatographic grade (Manufacturers: Rankem with>99%), 1-Butane Sulphonic Acid Sodium Salt (Manufacturers: Rankem with>99%), Monohydrate, for HPLC (Manufacturer: Qualigen with>99%), Orthophosphoric Acid of Analytical grade (Manufacturer: Qualigen with>99%). All API Dextromethorphan Hydrobromide with 98.14% potency on as anhydrous basis, Phenylephrine Hydrochloride with 99.12% potency, and Chlorpheniramine Maleate with 99.32% potency are provided by ADPL, Uttarakhand as gift. Impurities Phenylephrine EP Impurity C, Phenylephrine EP Impurity D and Phenylephrine EP Impurity E are purchased from Karps Chem Laboratories Pvt. Ltd. Maharashtra, India. Impurities Dextromethorphan Impurity B and Dextromethorphan Impurity C are purchased from Synpure Labs having all impurities having>99% potentcy. Hyderabad, India. All other required chemicals and solvents are gifted by ADPL and Ion exchange resin was gifted by Ion Exchange, India.

An ion Exchange Resin taste masked oral Suspension used: The final selection of Indion 234 resin for taste masking in an oral suspension is a key step in the optimization process, driven by its specific properties that make it highly effective for this application. Indion 234 is a cation-exchange resin that is particularly well-suited for masking the bitter taste of basic drugs, a common challenge in oral formulations. After a series of trials with various resins, Indion 234 was chosen for its high capacity to bind with APIs and its efficient taste-masking ability. In these trials, the resin's ability to form complexes with the drug molecules was carefully evaluated, ensuring that the resin effectively binds to the drug without releasing it prematurely, thereby masking the unpleasant taste during the administration of the oral suspension.

The resin also showed favourable characteristics in terms of release kinetics. It demonstrated controlled release of the drug in the gastrointestinal tract, which is essential for maintaining therapeutic efficacy while masking the taste. The trials indicated that the combination of Indion 234 with appropriate excipients, such as flavouring agents and sweeteners, not only masked the bitterness but also maintained the stability and integrity of the drug throughout the suspension's shelf life. The composition used are in the oral suspension is shown in table 1.

#### Instrumentation and software

The proposed Revised Phase Chromatographic analytical done with High-Performance-Liquid-Chromatography with Ultra-Violet (UV)-Visible Detector of manufacturer Waters Alliance with Empower software and Shimadzu LC-2050C with LabSolutions software. And complete Analytical method validation work done with UV-Visible Detector of manufacturer Waters Alliance with Empower software version 03, Shimadzu LC-2050C with LabSolutions software and Waters with PDA Detector and Autosampler (Model: ARC HPLC) with Empower software version 03. HPLC column used of Waters C18, 150 X 4.6 mm length of column having 3.5µm, of Xbridge BEH Technology. Ultra-sonic Cleaner (Make: PCI), analytical Balance of Make: Radwag (with Model no.: AS 120. X2 PLUS) and balance of Make Mettler Toledu with Model no. MS205DC, pH Meter of make Spectra lab (with Model no.: Accu pH-3).

#### Method

Selecting chromatographic conditions through different trials is a crucial step in optimizing separation efficiency and achieving desired analytical results. The process typically begins with an understanding of the nature of the sample and the separation goal, such as separating components based on their polarity, molecular weight, or size. The first step in the trial-based selection process involves choosing a stationary phase (e. g., silica gel reverse-phase C18 for reversed-phase chromatography) based on the chemical properties of the analytes. The next decision is selecting the mobile phase, which includes solvents or a solvent mixture. In the case of liquid chromatography, the solvent system's polarity, composition, and pH can significantly affect retention times, resolution, and peak symmetry. Initial trials might involve testing a range of solvent systems with varying concentrations to identify conditions that give a good balance between retention and resolution [57].

During these parameters, such as flow rate, column temperature, detection wavelength, mobile phase and pH value are also varied. Flow

rate influences the efficiency of the separation, while temperature can affect the viscosity of the mobile phase and, consequently, the chromatographic performance. Monitoring the separation through trial runs allows for adjustments to be made iteratively, fine-tuning the conditions for optimal performance. Additionally, trial experiments help identify potential interferences, such as peak broadening or tailing, and

offer insights into adjusting conditions like gradient profiles or solvent strength. Through systematic trial and error, chromatographic conditions are refined to achieve high resolution, accurate quantification, and reproducibility. This iterative process ensures that the chosen conditions are robust, reliable, and suitable for the specific analytical needs of the sample under investigation [58-62].

Table 1: Different compositions of oral suspension used for related substance method evaluation

S. No.	Different ingredients used	Ingredients function	For final 2000 ml	UOM
1	Ion Exchange Resin Indion 234	Taste masking	1360	mg
1	Dextromethorphan HBr	API	4000	mg
2	Chlorpheniramine Maleate	API	800	mg
3	Phenylephrine HCl	API	2000	mg
4	Sucrose	Sweetener	30	gm
5	Sodium Benzoate	Preservative	2	gm
6	Xanthan Gum	Excipient	2	gm
7	Methyl Paraben	Preservative	6	gm
8	Propyl Paraben	Preservative	1	gm
9	Col. Tartrazine Lake	Colour	1	gm
10	Flv. Strawberry	Flavour	10	gm

The obtained oral suspension pH value was adjusted to 6.5 with potassium hydroxide solution.

Table 2: Chromatographic condition with gradient programming

Column and packing details	Waters XBridge BEH Technology, C1	8, 150 mm length with 4.6 mn	n of inner diameter, 3.5 μ of particle size,
	Part no. 186003034		
Preparation of buffer solution	Prepared by dissolving 1.6 gm Butane S	Sulphonic-acid Sodium Salt in 10	000 ml of milli-pore water. pH 3.0 adjusted
for mobile phase	with Orthophosphoric acid.	_	
Gradient programming done	100% Buffer Phase (pH 3.0) and 100%	Acetonitrile separately with 70	min Run time as gradient program
with	mention below.	1 3	0 1 0
Gradient-programming used	Time (in MIN)	Buffer %	Acetonitrile %
	0.01	90.00	10.00
	10.00	90.00	10.00
	55.00	45.00	55.00
	60.00	90.00	10.00
	70.00	90.00	10.00
Detection	265 nm		
Flow-rate (ml)	1.2 ml per min.		
Volume of injection	20 μl of injection		
Column-oven temperature	35 °C Temperature		
Auto sampler-temperature	15 °C Temperature		
Run time	70 min		
Diluent	50:50 ratio mixture of Buffer and Meth	anol	
0.1 N HCL	8.5 ml of Conc. HCL diluted to 1000 ml	with purified water	

#### **Different-solution preparation**

Reference solution: Working Standard solution was prepared by weighing 50 mg of PEH, 20 mg of CPM and 100 mg DMH in 100 ml volumetric flask and added 30 ml diluent. Sonication was done up to dissolve and then makeup to the mark. Further 2 ml of above solution was diluted to 100 ml with diluent. Concentration obtained was DMH was 20mcg/ml, PEH was 10mcg/ml of CPM was 4mcg/ml.

Different Impurities preparation: 1 mg of each Phenylephrine Related Comp. C, Phenylephrine Related Comp. D, Phenylephrine Related Comp. E, Dextromethorphan Related Comp. B and Dextromethorphan Related Comp. B weighted and transfer in 20 ml volumetric flask, diluted to volume with diluent.

*Mixed Reference solution*: Further both 1 ml of reference solution and different impurity solutions to 200 ml with diluent to get a mixture of both all three API's and all known impurities.

 $\it Test$  Solution: Oral Suspension was mixed will and 25 ml of sample taken in a 100 ml volumetric flask. 5 ml of 0.1N Hcl added and sonicated for 10 min and then makeup to with diluent. And then, obtained solution was filtered throw 0.45  $\mu m$  nylon filter paper before injection.

*Placebo Solution*: Placebo i. e. Oral Suspension without API's was mixed will and 25 ml of sample taken in a 100 ml volumetric flask. 5 ml of 0.1N Hcl added and sonicated for 15 min and then makeup to with diluent. And then, obtained solution was filtered throw 0.45μm nylon filter paper before injection.

## System suitability evaluation

Above different solution prepared above are injected separately with 20  $\mu$ l a series as a blank in single, placebo in single, six replicate of standard solution, one injection of test solution and one repeated of standard solution as bracketing std. Following system suitability parameters has been maintained as per ICH as given in table.

Table 3: System-suitability parameters maintained

Evaluated-parameters	Limit maintained
RSD for all six replicate Std. solution (for every API)	NMT 2.0%
USP-Tailing Value for Phenylephrine Hcl (PPH)	NMT 2.0
USP-Tailing value for Chlorpheniramine Maleate (CRM)	NMT 2.0
USP-Tailing value for Dextromethorphan HBr (DMH)	NMT 2.0
USP-Resolution maintained between every	NLT 1.5
Theoretical plate for each all peaks	NLT 2000

Table 4: Different retention time obtained for different components

Different required components	Eluted time in min	Approx. RRT against CPM	
Phenylephrine Hcl	About 2.5	About 0.09	
Phenylephrine Impurity C	About 2.9	About 0.11	
Phenylephrine Impurity D	About 19.0	About 0.71	
Phenylephrine Impurity E	About 20.5	About 0.77	
Chlorpheniramine Maleate	About 26.6	1.00	
Dextromethorphan Impurity B	About 28.7	About 1.08	
Dextromethorphan Impurity C	About 29.9	About 1.12	
Dextromethorphan HBr	About 30.3	About 1.14	

## Specificity

For evaluation of specificity, separately injection volume of 20  $\mu$ l was in a sequence of blank(single), Placebo(single), Reference solution (six replicate), Phenylephrine Hcl API (single), Chlorpheniramine Maleate API (single), Dextromethorphan HBr API (single), Phenylephrine Impurity C (single), Phenylephrine Impurity D (single), Phenylephrine Impurity E (single), Dextromethorphan Impurity B (single), Dextromethorphan Impurity C (single), Test solution (single) and end with bracketing injection of Reference solution (single).

#### Peak-purity analysis

Peak purity was evaluated by Liquid chromatography software, having Photodiode Array Detector (PDA) Detector the main peak in sample and reference preparation were calculated.

#### Precision

To measure how close the data values are to each other for a number of determinations with the proposed analytical method with different method by System precision, method precision and intermediate precision.

#### **System-precision**

For evaluation of system precision, separate injection of 20  $\mu$ l of blank solution in single replicate, Reference solution in six replicates using proposed method. All obtained results were recorded. The acceptance criteria maintained was relative standard derivation of all six-replicate injection should be Not More Than (NMT) 5%, tailing factor NMT 2, theoretical plate Not More Than (NLT) 2000 and resolution of all peaks NMT 1.5.

#### **Method-precision**

For evaluation of method precision, injection of 20  $\mu l$  was injected of blank in single, placebo in single, reference solution in six replicates, test of six different preparation with each sample in single injection and followed by a bracketing reference injection. All obtained results were recorded. The acceptance criteria maintained were relative standard derivation of all six-replicate injection should be NMT 5% of main API's, relative standard derivation of all six-replicate injection should be NMT 10 % of known impurities, tailing factor NMT 2, theoretical plate NLT 2000 and resolution of all peaks NMT 1.5.

# Spiked-method-precision

It refers to the evaluation of an analytical method's consistency when analyzing samples with known quantities of impurities (spiked samples) at allowed limits of different impurities with placebo and all API's. This test assesses the method's ability to produce reproducible and accurate results across multiple preparations under the same conditions. Typically, the spiked samples are prepared by adding known amounts of the analytes to a blank matrix that mimics the actual sample composition. Precision is determined by calculating the % RSD of the replicate measurements. Low % RSD values indicate high precision. Spiked method precision is crucial for demonstrating the method's reliability in accurately quantifying the analytes, especially in complex matrices where interferences may affect the results.

#### Intermediate-precision

It evaluates the reproducibility of an analytical method under varying conditions within the same laboratory. This assessment was done by including variations such as different analysts, instruments, days, or columns to ensure the method consistently delivers accurate and precise results. It provides a deeper understanding of the method's robustness and its ability to maintain performance despite minor, controlled changes in operational conditions. Intermediate precision is quantified by calculating the Percentage Relative-Standard-Deviation (% RSD) of results from replicate analyses under the varied conditions. The acceptance criteria maintained were relative standard derivation of all six-replicate injection should be NMT 5 % of main API's, relative standard derivation of all six-replicate injection should be NMT 10 % of known impurities, tailing factor NMT 2, plate count NLT 2000 and resolution of all peaks NMT 1.5.

Limit of detection (LOD), and limit of quantification (LOQ)-The LOD and LOQ are critical parameters for determining the lowest concentrations of analytes and impurities that can be reliably detected and quantified by the method. To determine the LOD and LOO for a related substances method, begin by preparing a series of low-concentration standard solutions, starting from a level well below the expected detection threshold. Perform chromatographic analysis on these solutions, injecting them in triplicate, and record the Signal-to-Noise ratio (S/N) for each injection. The LOD is defined as the concentration where the S/N ratio is at least 3:1, indicating that the analyte can be detected with reasonable confidence but not necessarily quantified. The LOQ is determined by preparing a series of concentrations at higher levels than the LOD and analyzing them similarly. The LOQ is typically defined as the concentration where the S/N ratio is at least 10:1, ensuring that the analyte can be reliably quantified with sufficient precision. Analyze the resulting chromatograms to ensure clear separation of the analyte from baseline noise, and confirm that the quantification is accurate, with a % RSD within acceptable limits (usually  $\leq$  2 %). Perform the procedure for both the main analytes (Phenylephrine Hydrochloride, Chlorpheniramine Maleate, and Dextromethorphan Hydrobromide) as well as for related compounds. It is important to use the same chromatographic conditions and system suitability parameters to maintain consistency. The results should include the concentrations corresponding to the LOD and LOQ, calculated from the S/N ratios, and any supporting data, such as chromatograms and regression equations. Documenting these limits is essential for method validation and ensures the method's ability to reliably detect and quantify impurities at trace levels within the specified range.

#### Linearity

To assess linearity in a related substances method, the study involves evaluating the proportionality between analyte or impurity concentration and the corresponding detector response. Begin by preparing standard solutions of the main analytes (Phenylephrine Hydrochloride, Chlorpheniramine Maleate, and Dextromethorphan Hydrobromide) and their related compounds (e. g., Phenylephrine Related Compounds C, D, E; Dextromethorphan Related Compounds B, C). Prepare at least five to seven concentration levels, typically from the LOQ to 150 % of the specification limit. Inject each concentration into the chromatographic system in triplicate to ensure reproducibility. Record the average peak areas or heights for each concentration. Construct a calibration curve by plotting the concentration (x-axis) against the average peak area or height (yaxis). Perform regression analysis to calculate the Correlation Coefficient ( $\mathbb{R}^2$ ), ensuring it is  $\geq 0.99$  to confirm strong linearity. Additionally, evaluate the slope and intercept of the calibration curve to verify consistent response. Conduct a residual analysis by examining the difference between observed and predicted values to

ensure random distribution around zero, further validating the linear relationship. The method should demonstrate that variations in analyte or impurity concentrations produce directly proportional changes in detector response within the specified range. Ensure that the linearity study includes results for all impurities and active ingredients relevant to the formulation. Document all findings, including calibration curves, regression equations, R² values, residual plots, and any supporting statistical data. This comprehensive approach ensures the method is robust and capable of accurately quantifying analytes and impurities across the required range, meeting the standards of International Conference on Harmonisation (ICH) Validation of Analytical Procedures: Text and Methodology Q2 (R1) guidelines for method validation.

#### Robustness

Robustness is a critical parameter in method validation, assessing the method's ability to remain unaffected by small, deliberate variations in analytical conditions. To evaluate robustness, select critical method parameters such as mobile phase composition, flow rate, column temperature, pH of the mobile phase, and detection wavelength. Begin by defining a range of values for each parameter based on method development or literature recommendations. For example, vary the pH of the mobile phase by ±0.2 units, adjust the flow rate by  $\pm 0.1$  ml/min, and modify the column temperature within a specified range (e. g., ±5 °C). Prepare and analyze standard solutions of the analytes (Phenylephrine Hydrochloride. Chlorpheniramine Maleate, and Dextromethorphan Hydrobromide) and their related compounds (e. g., Phenylephrine Related Compounds C, D, E; Dextromethorphan Related Compounds B, C) under these varied conditions. Perform multiple injections of each condition to ensure reproducibility. Record the chromatographic data, focusing on the retention time, peak resolution, peak area or height, and symmetry of the analytes and impurities. Evaluate the impact of each variation by comparing the results to the baseline method conditions. If the retention time, resolution, and quantitation of the analytes and impurities remain consistent across the variations, the method is considered robust. The acceptance criteria should include limits for peak area, resolution, retention time (±2 %), and tailing factor (≤2) to ensure that the method can reliably separate and quantify analytes even under slightly altered conditions. Document all the variations tested, the corresponding results, and any conclusions about the robustness of the method. A robust method ensures that routine analyses are reliable, even when minor changes in conditions occur, ultimately supporting the method's validation and ensuring consistent performance in different settings.

#### Ruggedness

Ruggedness is an essential aspect of method validation, assessing the method's ability to maintain consistent performance across different operators, instruments, and laboratories. To evaluate ruggedness, the method is tested by varying factors such as different analysts, different instruments, and different laboratories, all while maintaining the same experimental conditions. Begin by selecting a set of critical parameters, such as the chromatographic system, sample preparation, and analysis procedure that could potentially influence the outcome of the analysis. Prepare standard solutions of the analytes (Phenylephrine Hydrochloride, Chlorpheniramine Maleate, and Dextromethorphan Hydrobromide) and their related compounds (e. g., Phenylephrine Related Compounds C, D, E; Dextromethorphan Related Compounds B, C). These solutions should be analyzed by multiple analysts, using different instruments or columns, and at different laboratories if possible. Ensure that each operator follows the same procedure but performs the analysis independently. Record the chromatographic data, focusing on key parameters such as retention time, peak area, peak resolution, and tailing factor. Compare the results for each variation in operator, instrument, and laboratory, ensuring that they fall within acceptable limits for consistency and reproducibility. For example, retention time variation should remain within ±2 %, and peak area variation should fall within predefined limits based on system suitability. The results should demonstrate that the method yields consistent and reliable results despite the differences in conditions or personnel. Document all findings, including the variations in equipment, analysts, and laboratories, and assess the overall reliability and robustness of the method under these different conditions. A method with demonstrated ruggedness ensures that it will perform consistently across different settings and by different operators, providing confidence in the method's use in routine analysis and in different operational environments.

#### Solution-stability study

Solution stability is a crucial parameter in method validation, ensuring that the prepared solutions of analytes and impurities remain stable under storage and analytical conditions. To evaluate solution stability, prepare standard solutions of the analytes (Phenylephrine Hydrochloride, Chlorpheniramine Maleate, and Dextromethorphan Hydrobromide) and their related compounds (e. g., Phenylephrine Related Compounds C, D, E; Dextromethorphan Related Compounds B, C) in an appropriate solvent, such as the mobile phase or a suitable diluent. Store the solutions under specified conditions, which include different temperatures (e. g.,  $2-8\,^{\circ}\text{C}$  for refrigerated storage or at room temperature) and light conditions (e. g., protected from light or exposed to light). Analyze the solutions at various time intervals (e. g., 24, 48, and 72 h) to assess any changes in the concentration or stability of the compounds. During each analysis, evaluate key chromatographic parameters such as peak area, retention time, and peak symmetry to detect any degradation, precipitation, or loss of analyte. The results should be compared to initial concentrations or baseline chromatograms, and any deviations from expected values should be documented. Acceptable limits for solution stability are typically defined by a percentage of the initial analyte concentration, with a common acceptance criterion being that the concentration of analytes and impurities should not change by more than ±5% over the test period. Additionally, any formation of degradation products or changes in the impurity profile should be monitored. Document all findings and ensure that the prepared solutions are stable under the intended conditions for the duration of the analysis. This ensures that the method is reliable for routine use, providing confidence that the solutions will maintain integrity during the testing period and minimizing the risk of inaccurate results due to instability.

#### Forced-degradation studies

Forced degradation studies are essential in method development and validation to assess the stability of analytes and identify potential degradation products under stress conditions. To perform forced degradation studies, prepare standard solutions of the analytes (Phenylephrine Hydrochloride, Chlorpheniramine Maleate, Dextromethorphan Hydrobromide) and their related compounds (e.g., Phenylephrine Related Compounds C, D, E; Dextromethorphan Related Compounds B, C). Expose these solutions to a series of stress conditions such as acid hydrolysis (e. g., using 1N hydrochloric acid), base hydrolysis (e. g., using 1N sodium hydroxide), oxidative degradation (e. g., using hydrogen peroxide), thermal degradation (e.g., heating at 60 °C for a set period), and photolytic degradation (e. g., exposure to light for 48 h). After subjecting the solutions to these conditions, analyze them by chromatography to assess the extent of degradation and the formation of any new degradation products. Record chromatographic parameters such as peak area, retention time, and resolution to identify any significant changes in the analytes and the formation of impurities. The generated degradation products should be carefully evaluated for potential interference with the analyte peaks, and their structures can be confirmed by mass spectrometry or other complementary techniques. The stability of the analytes under different stress conditions should be assessed to determine which conditions cause the most significant degradation. The results from the forced degradation studies should demonstrate that the method is capable of separating the analytes from degradation products, ensuring that the analytical method is specific and can accurately quantify the active ingredients without interference. All findings, including the degradation pathways, impurity profiles, and chromatographic data, should be documented. Forced degradation studies help ensure the robustness and reliability of the method, supporting its use for routine analysis under various environmental and operational conditions.

#### Accuracy or trueness and recovery

For its evaluation of related Substance Testing in Analytical Method Validation are critical for ensuring that an analytical method can reliably quantify impurities, degradation products, or by-products in a drug formulation. Accuracy, or trueness, is assessed by comparing the measured concentration of related substances to the known or

expected amount at LOQ level, ensuring the method provides results close to the true value. Recovery refers to the efficiency with which these related substances are extracted and detected from the sample matrix. It is calculated by spiking known amounts of related substances into the sample and comparing the amount recovered to the amount added. Acceptable recovery values (typically 98-102 %) confirm that the method is both accurate and efficient in detecting and quantifying related substances without significant loss or interference. Ensuring good accuracy and recovery is essential for demonstrating the method's ability to consistently identify and quantify impurities within specified limits, maintaining the drug product's safety and quality.

#### Blue-applicability-grade index (BAGI)

Green Chemistry tools, such as the BAGI, play a pivotal role in developing and validating related substance interpretation

mechanisms in LC chromatography, particularly for complex formulations like acute nasopharyngitis oral suspensions containing Dextromethorphan Hydrobromide, Phenylephrine Hydrochloride, and Chlorpheniramine Maleate, taste-masked using ion exchange resins. BAGI evaluates the environmental and safety aspects of the reagents and solvents used, ensuring alignment with green chemistry principles. This approach promotes the selection of sustainable solvents and methodologies that minimize hazardous waste and energy consumption while maintaining analytical precision and accuracy. For such formulations, using BAGI and other tools helps optimize method conditions, ensuring compliance with regulatory standards and achieving robust, eco-friendly analytical methods for identifying and quantifying related substances.

#### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

System-suitability and system-precision

Table 5: System-suitability results

Sequence	Response o	of reference	solution					
-	DMH	PPH	CRM	PPH Imp. C	PPH Imp. D	PPH Imp. E	DMH Imp. B	DMH Imp. C
1	68 849	62 457	77 214	19 812	14 547	15 580	93 254	21 472
2	68 514	62 548	77 451	19 452	14 452	15 624	93 425	21 457
3	68 547	62 484	77 624	19 524	14 621	15 724	93 457	21 987
4	68 475	62 515	77 542	19 478	14 645	15 685	93 789	21 658
5	68 457	62 514	77 645	19 512	14 459	15 486	93 489	21 469
6	68 745	62 498	77 547	19 354	14 521	15 548	93 467	21 378
Average	68597.83	62502.67	77503.83	19522.00	14540.83	15607.83	93480.17	21570.17
Stdev	160.80	30.96	157.79	154.44	80.37	88.21	173.41	224.09
RSD%	0.23	0.05	0.20	0.79	0.55	0.57	0.19	1.04
Tailing Factor	0.958	1.156	1.072	1.147	0.961	1.003	1.192	1.123
Theoretical Plates	1 139 237	24 328	1 638 020	25 070	32 514	19 417	2 241 755	2 011 632
Resolution	1.754	-	28.717	2.129	76.897	7.022	10.471	5.571

The results were reported as mean $\pm$ SD (n =6)

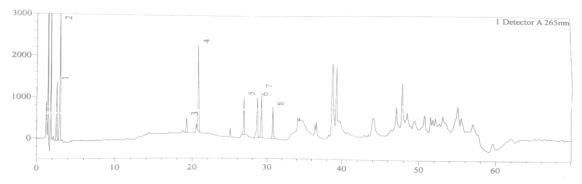


Fig. 4: Mixed reference solution chromatogram in which 1. Phenylephrine Hydrochloride, 2. Phenylephrine Related Comp. C, 3.

Phenylephrine Related Comp. D, 4. Chlorpheniramine Maleate, 5. Phenylephrine Related Comp. E, 6. Dextromethorphan Related Comp. B,

7. Dextromethorphan Related Comp. B and 8. Dextromethorphan Related Comp. C

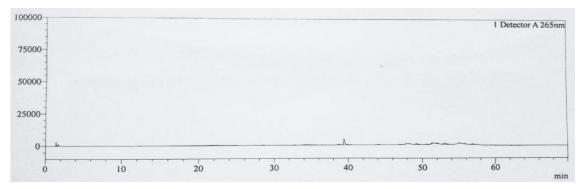


Fig. 5: Blank chromatogram of related substance analysis

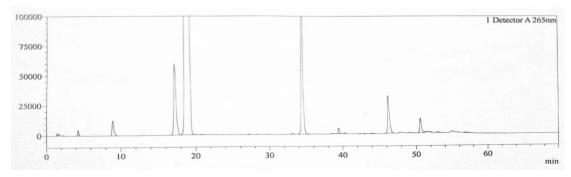


Fig. 6: Placebo chromatogram of related substance analysis

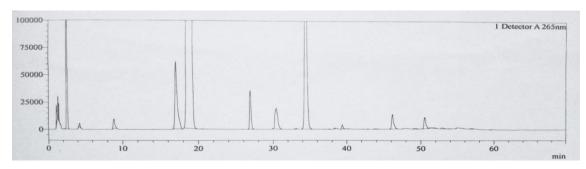


Fig. 7: Test chromatogram of related substance analysis

Table 6: Show specificity different components observations

Components	Observation
Blank	No significant interference was observed.
Placebo	No significant interference was observed.
Dextromethorphan Hbr API solution at test concentration	No significant interference was observed.
Chlorpheniramine maleate API solution at test concentration	No significant interference was observed.
Phenylephrine Hcl API solution at test concentration	No significant interference was observed.
Phenylephrine Imp. C API solution at test concentration	No significant interference was observed.
Phenylephrine Imp. D API solution at test concentration	No significant interference was observed.
Phenylephrine Imp. E API solution at test concentration	No significant interference was observed.
Dextromethorphan Imp. B API solution at test concentration	No significant interference was observed.
Dextromethorphan Imp. C API solution at test concentration	No significant interference was observed.
Reference-Solution	No significant interference was observed.
Test Solution	No significant interference was observed.

Table~7: Peak-purity~results~of~different~compoents~like~main~api's~and~impurities

Peak purity	PPH PPH Imp. C		ıp. C	PPH Imp. D		PPH In	PPH Imp. E CRM		CRM DM		DMH Imp. B		DMH Imp. C		DMH	
	STD	TEST	STD	TEST	STD	TEST	STD	TEST	STD	TEST	STD	TEST	STD	TEST	STD	TEST
Purity angle	3.128	14.10 6	1.460	1.387	9.607	8.487	8.071	19.39 0	9.515	1.845	5.980	1.001	0.96 7	23.53 6	5.415	10.38 3
Purity	32.62	43.61	17.63	56.67	90.00	90.00	29.87	90.00	90.00	42.87	14.98	12.47	6.81	90.00	34.91	17.73
threshold	8	8	7	5	0	0	5	0	0	1	3	2	3	0	8	5

Table 8: Method precision results of different compoents api's and impurities

Method precision results %	PPH imp. C	PPH imp. D	PPH imp. E	DMH imp. B	DMH imp. C	Single max.	Total impurities
1	0.012	0.102	0.052	0.050	0.024	0.124	0.524
2	0.011	0.101	0.051	0.051	0.022	0.123	0.523
3	0.012	0.099	0.052	0.049	0.023	0.124	0.524
4	0.011	0.098	0.051	0.050	0.023	0.122	0.523
5	0.012	0.101	0.051	0.048	0.024	0.122	0.524
6	0.012	0.100	0.051	0.050	0.023	0.124	0.525
Mean	0.012	0.100	0.051	0.050	0.023	0.123	0.524
Stdev	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
RSD%	4.426	1.470	1.006	2.079	3.249	0.798	0.144

The results were reported as mean $\pm$ SD (n =6)

Table 9: System-suitability maintained while method precision

RSD% of six replicate injection	DMH	PPH	CRM	PPH Imp. C	PPH Imp. D	PPH Imp. E	DMH Imp. B	DMH Imp. C	Limit maintained
for Std. solution	0.225	0.125	0.111	0.547	0.624	0.578	0.457	0.745	NMT 5%
Tailing factor	1.125	1.156	1.072	1.147	1.024	1.008	1.024	1.332	NMT 2
Theoretical plates	1 109 237	24028	1 538 020	26 070	31 514	17 417	2 041 755	1 811 632	NLT 2000
Resolution	1.454	-	26.717	2.029	76.697	7.122	10.271	5.671	NLT 1.5

Table 10: Recovery of different component's during spiked-method-precision

Spiked precision results %	PPH imp. C	PPH imp. D	PPH imp. E	DMH imp. B	DMH imp. C	Single max.	Total impurities
1	0.201	0.194	0.203	0.198	0.191	0.125	1.524
2	0.198	0.190	0.204	0.201	0.201	0.118	1.541
3	0.187	0.192	0.200	0.200	0.205	0.120	1.524
4	0.192	0.203	0.197	0.193	0.197	0.121	1.520
5	0.188	0.198	0.203	0.189	0.196	0.123	1.524
6	0.203	0.203	0.212	0.201	0.193	0.136	1.562
Mean	0.195	0.197	0.203	0.197	0.197	0.124	1.533
Stdev	0.007	0.006	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.006	0.016
RSD%	3.487	2.834	2.479	2.507	2.614	5.194	1.058

The results were reported as mean $\pm$ SD (n =6)

Table 11: System suitability maintained while spiked method precision

RSD% of six	DMH	PPH	CRM	PPH imp.	PPH imp. D	PPH	DMH imp.	DMH imp. C	Limit
replicate injection				C		imp. E	В		maintained
for Std. Solution	0.222	0.135	0.131	0.540	0.628	0.478	0.427	0.695	NMT 5%
Tailing factor	1.025	1.056	1.002	1.007	1.004	1.108	1.084	1.122	NMT 2
Theoretical Plates	1115237	24 828	1578030	240 70	31 714	16 417	2 251 755	1 451 632	NLT 2000
Resolution	1.84	-	26.917	2.329	76.797	7.187	10.071	5.071	NLT 1.5

Table 12: Peak purity results of different compoents like main api's and known impurities during spiked method precision

Peak purity	PPH		PPH I	mp. C	PPH I	mp. D	PPH I	mp. E	CRM		DMH	Imp. B	DMH	Imp. C	DMH	
	STD	TES	STD	TES	STD	TES	STD	TES	STD	TES	STD	TES	STD	TES	STD	TES
		T		T		T		T		T		T		T		T
Purity angle	3.18	14.5	1.46	1.58	9.20	8.38	8.77	19.4	10.8	1.94	5.99	1.30	1.0	23.5	5.41	10.4
	8	06	0	7	7	7	1	20	15	5	2	1	25	36	9	83
Purity	32.7	43.0	17.6	56.9	90.0	90.0	30.3	90.0	90.0	42.8	15.2	12.8	7.2	90.0	37.9	17.8
threshold	28	18	37	75	00	00	75	00	00	71	54	72	51	00	18	45

 $Table\ 13: Intermediate\ precision\ results\ of\ different\ compoents\ api's\ and\ impurities$ 

Intermediate method	From metho	d precision					
precision results %	PPH imp. C	PPH imp. D	PPH imp. E	DMH imp. B	DMH imp. C	Single max.	Total impurities
1	0.012	0.102	0.052	0.050	0.024	0.124	0.524
2	0.011	0.101	0.051	0.051	0.022	0.123	0.523
3	0.012	0.099	0.052	0.049	0.023	0.124	0.524
4	0.011	0.098	0.051	0.050	0.023	0.122	0.523
5	0.012	0.101	0.051	0.048	0.024	0.122	0.524
6	0.012	0.100	0.051	0.050	0.023	0.124	0.525
Mean	0.012	0.100	0.051	0.050	0.023	0.123	0.524
Stdev	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
RSD%	4.426	1.470	1.006	2.079	3.249	0.798	0.144
Second results by II analy	st under interm	ediate condition					
1	0.013	0.103	0.049	0.049	0.023	0.123	0.531
2	0.013	0.102	0.051	0.051	0.024	0.124	0.530
3	0.013	0.104	0.052	0.050	0.025	0.125	0.524
4	0.013	0.105	0.050	0.049	0.023	0.123	0.526
5	0.012	0.099	0.051	0.051	0.024	0.124	0.527
6	0.013	0.100	0.052	0.050	0.025	0.126	0.528
Mean	0.013	0.102	0.051	0.050	0.024	0.124	0.528
Stdev	0.000	0.002	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.003
RSD%	3.181	2.267	2.300	1.789	3.727	0.942	0.489
RD%	6.153	2.100	1.762	1.881	3.818	0.934	0.514

The results were reported as mean $\pm$ SD (n =6)

Table 14: System suitability maintained while intermediate method precision

RSD% of six replicate injection	DMH	PPH	CRM	PPH Imp. C	PPH Imp. D	PPH Imp. E	DMH Imp. B	DMH Imp. C	Limit maintained
for std. solution	0.122	0.141	0.161	0.420	0.524	0.358	0.345	0.357	NMT 5 %
Tailing factor	1.022	1.061	1.025	1.032	1.015	1.102	1.104	1.102	NMT 2
Theoretical plates	1085237	29828	1628030	24970	30124	12417	2121755	1121632	NLT 2000
Resolution	1.82	-	25.917	2.729	75.727	7.257	10.671	5.621	NLT 1.5

Table 15: LOD and LOQ results of different compoents api's and impurities

Different components	LOQ S/N value	LOQ Conc. in ppm	LOD S/N value	LOD Conc. in ppm	LOQ level %
Phenylephrine Hcl	13.25	10.8	3.24	3.97	0.0011
Phenylephrine Impurity C	10.25	0.4	0.12	3.08	0.00004
Phenylephrine impurity D	9.87	2.5	0.75	2.97	0.00025
Phenylephrine impurity E	12.24	0.5	0.15	3.67	0.00005
Chlorpheniramine maleate	13.24	0.5	0.15	3.97	0.00005
Dextromethorphan impurity B	14.25	2.5	0.75	4.28	0.00025
Dextromethorphan impurity C	15.32	2.5	0.75	0.75	0.00025
Dextromethorphan HBr	13.47	6.25	1.88	1.88	0.00063

Table 16: Linearity results of different compoents api's and impurities

Concentration % against	DMH	PPH	CRM	PPH	PPH	PPH	DMH	DMH
proposed STD				Imp. C	Imp. D	Imp. E	Imp. B	Imp. C
50	35247	31127	38743	9627	7275	7745	46924	11024
80	55159	49257	61988	15403	11745	12366	74895	17182
100	68949	62254	77485	19254	14549	15458	93358	21478
120	82739	74705	92658	23148	17459	18550	112473	25774
150	103424	93381	116228	28881	21824	23187	140037	32217
Slope	682.83052	0.91445	1.23899	0.24903	0.75315	1.06412	6.03642	0.22774
Intercept	820.44828	-1046.72498	423.72884	-17.28820	62.50041	-43.23646	207.12669	232.71407
Regression Coefficient (R <sup>2</sup> )	0.99996	0.99997	0.99993	0.99997	0.99996	0.99996	0.99999	0.99993
Bias	0.79329	-1.12092	0.36457	-0.05986	0.28639	-0.18647	0.14791	0.72233

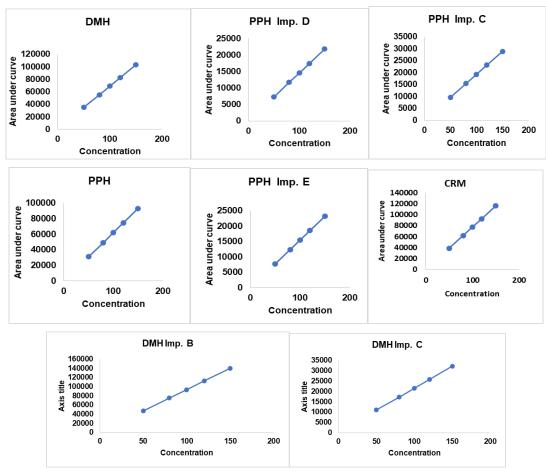


Fig. 8: Linearity results of different compoents api's and impurities

Table 17: Robustness results obtained

Parameters	Variation	PPH	PPH	PPH	PPH	CRM	DMH	DMH	DMH
			Imp. C	Imp. D	Imp. E			Imp. B	Imp. C
Retention time RSD (lir	nit NMT 2%)								
Flow Rate	Normal flow rate (1.2 ml/min)	0.95	0.96	0.96	1.25	1.02	1.02	0.95	1.05
	less by 10% flow rate (1.08 ml/min)	0.98	1.02	1.00	1.07	1.02	0.98	0.98	1.03
	More by 10% flow rate (1.32 ml/min)	1.02	0.89	1.03	1.03	1.08	1.05	1.02	1.04
Retention time RSD (lir	nit NMT 2%)								
Column temperature	Normal column temp. (35 °C)	0.92	0.96	0.95	1.18	1.01	1.03	0.95	1.05
_	Lower column temp. (30 °C)	0.98	1.02	1.02	1.08	103	1.01	1.02	1.01
	Higher column temp. (40 °C)	1.01	0.89	1.04	1.07	1.07	1.02	1.07	1.02
Peak area, %RSD (limit	NMT 2%)								
Wavelength	Normal wavelength (265 nm)	0.95	0.96	1.01	1.02	1.02	1.05	1.04	1.03
_	less by 2 nm (263 nm)	1.05	1.04	1.03	1.03	1.02	1.03	1.03	1.05
	More by 2 nm (267 nm)	1.24	1.09	1.07	1.05	1.08	1.08	1.07	1.03
Peak area, %RSD (limit	NMT 2%)								
Mobile phase	2%	1.01	0.88	0.78	1.01	1.01	1.01	0.99	1.01
composition (±2%	-2%	1.03	0.93	1.01	1.07	1.08	1.02	1	1.05
acetonitrile)									
Peak area, %RSD (limit	NMT 2%)								
pH of buffer (pH	3.2	1.02	1.02	1.01	1.04	1.05	1.04	1.02	1.01
within ±0.2 units)	2.8	1.24	1.12	1.08	1.11	1.11	1.02	1.09	1.05

# Table 18: Ruggedness results

Parameters	Variation	PPH	PPH	PPH	PPH	CRM	DMH	DMH Imp.	DMH
			Imp. C	Imp. D	Imp. E			В	Imp. C
Analyst-to-analyst	%RSD values	1.05	1.25	1.25	1.54	1.01	1.01	1.22	1.36
Instrument-to-instrument	%RSD values	1.02	1.32	1.25	1.32	1.03	1.03	1.15	1.38
Day-to-day variability	%RSD values	1.08	1.39	1.22	1.37	1.02	1.02	1.25	1.47

# $Table\ 19: All\ related\ substance\ used\ solution\ stability\ study\ results$

Parameters	Time	Limits	PPH	PPH Imp.	PPH	PPH	CRM	DMH	DMH	DMH
	interval			С	Imp. D	Imp. E			Imp. B	Imp. C
Room temperature	Initial	NMT 2%	0.98	1.13	1.22	1.01	1.04	0.98	1.03	1.06
	After 24 h	NMT 2%	1.08	1.23	1.18	1.21	1.23	1.18	1.08	1.12
	After 48 h	NMT 2%	1.12	1.15	1.21	1.22	1.18	1.22	1.18	1.21
	After 72 h	NMT 2%	1.45	1.52	1.5	1.31	1.45	1.62	1.63	1.54
Refrigerated (2-8	Initial	NMT 2%	0.98	1.13	1.22	1.01	1.04	0.98	1.03	1.06
°C)	After 24 h	NMT 2%	1.02	1.12	1.17	1.23	1.08	1.01	1.04	1.07
	After 48 h	NMT 2%	1.24	1.31	1.28	1.33	1.45	1.37	1.45	1.38
	After 72 h	NMT 2%	1.58	1.61	1.55	1.71	1.58	1.62	1.61	1.52
40 °C	Initial	NMT 2%	0.98	1.13	1.22	1.01	1.04	0.98	1.03	1.06
	After 24 h	NMT 2%	1.42	1.39	1.45	1.51	1.64	1.49	1.43	1.61
	After 48 h	NMT 2%	1.78	1.82	1.83	1.79	1.84	1.91	1.68	1.72
	After 72 h	NMT 2%	3.51	4.01	3.42	3.54	3.61	3.56	3.48	3.64

# $Table\ 20: Forced\ degradation\ results$

Stress condition	Analyte/ impurity	% Degradation observed	Peak resolution	System suitability (tailing factor, theoretical plates)	Remarks
Acid hydrolysis	PPH	7.36	Peaks well-resolved	Within acceptable limits	Specific degradation
	CRM	8.25	Peaks well-resolved	Within acceptable limits	observed
	DMH	12.45	Peaks well-resolved	Within acceptable limits	
	Related impurities	5-10 %	Peaks well-resolved	Within acceptable limits	
Base hydrolysis	PPH	17.25	Peaks well-resolved	Within acceptable limits	Significant
	CRM	16.58	Peaks well-resolved	Within acceptable limits	degradation
	DMH	7.89	Peaks well-resolved	Within acceptable limits	observed
	Related impurities	5-10 %	Peaks well-resolved	Within acceptable limits	
Oxidative	PPH	15.58	Peaks well-resolved	Within acceptable limits	Highest degradation
degradation	CRM	9.25	Peaks well-resolved	Within acceptable limits	observed
	DMH	18.25	Peaks well-resolved	Within acceptable limits	
	Related impurities	5-8 %	Peaks well-resolved	Within acceptable limits	
Thermal stress (60	PPH	9.24	Peaks well-resolved	Within acceptable limits	Specific degradation
°C)	CRM	6.57	Peaks well-resolved	Within acceptable limits	observed
	DMH	8.35	Peaks well-resolved	Within acceptable limits	
	Related impurities	5-8 %	Peaks well-resolved	Within acceptable limits	
Photolytic	PPH	1.52	Peaks well-resolved	Within acceptable limits	Minimal
degradation	CRM	1.98	Peaks well-resolved	Within acceptable limits	degradation
	DMH	1.36	Peaks well-resolved	Within acceptable limits	observed
	Related impurities	Below 2 %	Peaks well-resolved	Within acceptable limits	

Table 21: Accuracy or trueness and recovery results observed

Analyte/impurity	Spiked level	Mean % recovery	% RSD	Acceptable range	Remarks
PPH	50%	99.20 %	≤ 2 %	98.0 %-102.0 %	Recovery within
	100%	100.10 %	≤ 2%		acceptable limits
	150%	100.80 %	≤ 2%		
CRM	50%	98.90 %	≤ 2%	98.0 %-102.0 %	Recovery within
	100%	99.80 %	≤ 2%		acceptable limits
	150%	100.40 %	≤ 2%		
DMH	50%	99.50 %	≤ 2%	98.0 %-102.0 %	Recovery within
	100%	100.20 %	≤ 2 %		acceptable limits
	150%	101.10 %	≤ 2 %		
PPH Related Comp. C	50%	99.10 %	≤ 2 %	98.0 %-102.0 %	Recovery within
	100%	100.00 %	≤ 2 %		acceptable limits
	150%	100.60 %	≤ 2 %		
PPH Related Comp. D	50%	98.70 %	≤ 2 %	98.0 %-102.0 %	Recovery within
	100%	99.90 %	≤ 2 %		acceptable limits
	150%	100.50%	≤ 2 %		
PPH Related Comp. E	50%	99.30 %	≤ 2 %	98.0 %-102.0 %	Recovery within
-	100%	100.30 %	≤ 2 %		acceptable limits
	150%	100.90 %	≤ 2 %		-
DMH Related Comp. B	50%	98.80 %	≤ 2 %	98.0 %-102.0 %	Recovery within
•	100%	99.70 %	≤ 2 %		acceptable limits
	150%	100.20 %	≤ 2 %		•
DMH Related Comp. C	50%	99.60 %	≤ 2 %	98.0 %-102.0 %	Recovery within acceptable limits

Table 22: Blue applicability grade index results observed

BAGI required condition	Proposed method results	Compliance status
Solvent use	Minimal use of solvents in the method, optimized for efficiency	Complies
Energy consumption	Method optimized for low energy consumption during analysis	Complies
Waste generation	Low waste generation due to efficient use of reagents and solvents	Complies
Use of hazardous chemicals	No hazardous chemicals used; reagents are environmentally friendly	Complies
Method time	Short analysis time, reducing overall energy and resource consumption	Complies
Reusability	Reusable columns and equipment, reducing waste	Complies
Water use	Low water usage during analysis	Complies
Sustainability	The method follows sustainable practices, with an emphasis on reducing the ecological footprint	Complies
Carbon footprint	Reduced carbon footprint by minimizing resource consumption and optimizing procedures	Complies
Sustainability in pharma QC use	Ensuring eco-friendly and reproducible quality control	Complies
Waste generation	Use of in situ analysis, inline monitoring, and miniaturized methods to reduce waste	Complies

The system suitability results demonstrated that the method is robust and reliable for related substance analysis. Different parameters like %RSD, tailing-factors, theoretical-plates, and resolution were within acceptable limits. Low %RSD values ensured consistent peak areas, indicating precision in the system's performance. Tailing factors were within the desired range, reflecting symmetrical peak shapes essential for accurate quantification. Theoretical plate counts were sufficiently high, signifying good column efficiency and peak separation. Resolution values met the criteria, ensuring clear distinction between closely eluting peaks. System precision was validated by analyzing replicate injections of the standard solution, yielding %RSD below 2.0 (table 05 and fig. 04).

Individual injections of Dextromethorphan-HBr, Phenylephrine-HCl, and Chlorpheniramine-Maleate showed well-resolved peaks with no co-elution. Placebo and blank injections confirmed the absence of interfering-peaks at the analytes' retention-times. These findings highlight the method's ability to specifically and accurately measure the target analytes in complex formulations, meeting the regulatory requirements for specificity in pharmaceutical analysis (table 06 and fig. 05-07) [61].

The peak purity results from the table indicate that the purity angle for all analytes (PEH, PEH Impurities, CPM, DMH, and DMH Impurities) is well below the respective purity threshold values for both standard (STD) and test samples. This confirms the absence of co-elution and ensures that the peaks are spectrally pure. This

demonstrates that the method is specific, and the analyte peaks are free from interference, meeting the criteria for peak purity in method validation (table 07) [62].

The precision of the developed HPLC method was evaluated by analyzing multiple injections of Dextromethorphan Hydrobromide, Phenylephrine Hydrochloride, and Chlorpheniramine Maleate, along with their related impurities. The method demonstrated high repeatability, with relative standard deviations (RSD%) well within acceptable limits (<2.0%), indicating consistent performance. For DMH, the precision results showed minimal variation, ensuring accurate quantification. PPH exhibited slightly higher variability due to its lower concentration and hydrophilic nature, yet remained within acceptable limits. CPM displayed excellent repeatability with consistent retention times. Impurity precision studies confirmed reliable detection and quantification of degradation products, validating the method's robustness for routine quality control (table 08-09).

The results of the spiked method precision study demonstrated high accuracy and reproducibility for the estimation of related-substances in the oral suspension formulation. The RSD% values for Dextromethorphan Hydrobromide, Phenylephrine Hydrochloride, and Chlorpheniramine Maleate were within acceptable limits (<2.0%), confirming the method's precision. DMH showed minimal variation, while PEH had slightly higher RSD due to its lower concentration. CPM exhibited consistent precision across all spiked levels. Purity angle results confirmed peak purity, with all

components having purity angles lower than purity thresholds, indicating no interference. The method proved reliable for impurity quantification and routine quality control (table 10-12) [62].

The results of the spiked method precision and intermediate precision studies demonstrated high accuracy and reproducibility for the estimation of related substances in the oral suspension formulation. The RSD % values for Dextromethorphan Hydrobromide, Phenylephrine Hydrochloride, Chlorpheniramine Maleate were within acceptable limits (<2.0 %), confirming the method's precision. DMH showed minimal variation, while PEH had slightly higher RSD due to its lower concentration. CPM exhibited consistent precision across all spiked levels. Purity angle results confirmed peak purity, with all components having purity angles lower than purity thresholds, indicating no interference. Intermediate precision results, obtained by different analysts and instruments on separate days, showed comparable RSD % values, further validating the robustness and reliability of the method for impurity quantification and routine quality control (table 13-14).

The LOD and LOQ were determined based on S/N ratios of 3:1 and 10:1, respectively, ensuring the method's sensitivity for impurity detection. The LOD and LOQ values for different components were as follows: Phenylephrine HCl had an LOQ of 10.8 ppm (S/N: 13.25) and LOD of 3.97 ppm (S/N: 3.24). Phenylephrine impurities C, D, and E had LOQ values of 0.4 ppm, 2.5 ppm, and 0.5 ppm, respectively, with corresponding LOD values of 0.12 ppm, 0.75 ppm, and 0.15 ppm. Chlorpheniramine Maleate exhibited an LOQ of 0.5 ppm and LOD of 0.15 ppm. Dextromethorphan impurities B and C both had LOQ values of 2.5 ppm and LOD of 0.75 ppm. Dextromethorphan HBr showed an LOQ of 6.25 ppm and LOD of 1.88 ppm. These findings confirm the method's high sensitivity, allowing precise impurity profiling for regulatory compliance (table 15) [63].

The linearity of the method was assessed by evaluating a concentration range of 50 %–150 % for DMH, PPH, CPM, and their impurities. The calibration curves exhibited excellent correlation, with Regression-Coefficients ( $R^2$ ) ranging from 0.99993 to 0.99999, confirming the method's suitability for quantitative analysis. DMH demonstrated a slope of 682.83 with an  $R^2$  of 0.99996, while CPM had a slope of 1.23899 and an  $R^2$  of 0.99993. PEH and its impurities exhibited slopes between 0.24903 and 1.06412, with consistent regression values. The intercept values were minimal, ensuring no significant deviation from linearity. The bias remained within acceptable limits, indicating high accuracy. These findings confirm that the method is capable of generating precise and reliable data across the tested concentration range, making it suitable for routine analysis of related substances in pharmaceutical-formulations (table 16).

The robustness study demonstrated that the proposed analytical method remains reliable under small variations in chromatographic conditions. Retention time and peak area % RSD values stayed within the NMT 2 % limit across changes in flow-rate, columntemperature, wavelength, mobile phase composition, and buffer-pH. Minor increases in variability were observed at higher flow rates (1.32 ml/min), elevated column-temperature (40 °C), and wavelength-deviations (267 nm), but all values remained within acceptable limits. The method exhibited stability under minor pH and mobile phase composition changes, confirming its robustness. Overall, the method is suitable for routine analysis, ensuring accuracy and reliability (table 17) [62].

The ruggedness of the method was evaluated by assessing variability across different analysts, instruments, and days. The % RSD values remained within acceptable-limits, demonstrating the method's consistency. Analyst-to-analyst variation showed % RSD values ranging from 1.01 to 1.54, indicating minimal operator influence. Instrument-to-instrument variation exhibited % RSD values between 1.02 and 1.38, confirming the reproducibility across different analytical setups. Day-to-day variability remained stable, with % RSD values from 1.02 to 1.47, ensuring robustness over time. These results confirm that the method is reliable and reproducible for routine analysis of Phenylephrine Hydrochloride,

Dextromethorphan Hydrobromide, Chlorpheniramine Maleate, and their impurities in pharmaceutical formulations (table 18).

The solution-stability study was conducted at room-temperature, refrigerated conditions (2–8 °C), and at 40 °C for up to 72 h. At room temperature, all components remained within the acceptance limit (NMT 2%) up to 48 h, but slight increases were observed at 72 h, with % RSD values ranging from 1.31 to 1.63. Under refrigerated conditions, stability was maintained throughout the 72-hour period, with %RSD values remaining below 1.71. However, at 40 °C, degradation was evident after 48 h, and at 72 h, % RSD values exceeded 3 % for all components, indicating instability. These findings suggest that refrigerated conditions are optimal for maintaining solution stability, while prolonged exposure to elevated temperatures should be avoided (table 19).

forced-degradation-study evaluated the stability Phenylephrine-HCl (PPH), Chlorpheniramine-Maleate (CRM), and Dextromethorphan-HBr (DMH) under various stress conditions. Acid hydrolysis resulted in degradation ranging from 7.36 % to 12.45 %, with peaks well-resolved. Base hydrolysis showed significant degradation, particularly for PPH (17.25 %) and CRM (16.58 %). Oxidative degradation led to the highest degradation, notably for DMH (18.25 %) and PPH (15.58 %). Thermal stress at 60 °C caused moderate degradation, while photolytic degradation resulted in minimal changes, with all analytes showing degradation below 2 %. All system suitability parameters, including peak resolution, tailing factors, and theoretical plates, were within acceptable limits. These findings confirm that the method is stability-indicating, capable of distinguishing-degradation-products from active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs), and suitable for stability assessment (table 20) [62].

The accuracy, trueness, and recovery study demonstrated that the method provides precise and reliable quantification of APIs and their related impurities. The mean percentage recovery for DMH, PEH, and CPM ranged from 98.90 % to 101.10 % across all spiked levels (50 %, 100 %, and 150 %), with RSD values within acceptable limits ( $\leq$ 2 %). Similarly, related impurities of PEH (Compounds C, D, and E) and DMH (Compounds B and C) exhibited recovery within the 98.0 %–102.0 % range, ensuring method accuracy. These results confirm that the developed-method is suitable for precise impurity quantification in routine quality control (table 21).

The BAGI assessment confirms that the developed HPLC method aligns with sustainability and environmental safety criteria. The method complies with minimal solvent use, low energy consumption, and reduced waste generation, ensuring an ecofriendly approach. No hazardous chemicals were used, and the analysis time was optimized for efficiency. The reusability of columns and low water consumption further enhance the method's sustainability. Additionally, the method minimizes the carbon footprint by optimizing procedures and reducing resource consumption. These results indicate that the developed method is not only analytically robust but also environmentally responsible, meeting modern sustainability standards (table 22) [62].

## CONCLUSION

The developed and validated HPLC method for estimating related substances in an oral suspension containing DMH, PEH, and CPM proved to be precise, accurate, and sensitive, making it suitable for routine quality control. Specificity studies confirmed clear separation of APIs and impurities without interference, with purity angles below thresholds. Precision assessments showed RSD % values below 2.0 % for both repeatability and intermediate precision. Accuracy, evaluated at 50 %, 100 %, and 150 % concentration levels, showed recoveries between 98.90 % and 101.10 %. The method's sensitivity was demonstrated with LODs between 0.01–0.05  $\mu g/ml$  and LOQs from 0.05–0.15  $\mu g/ml.$  Spiked precision results remained within acceptable % RSD limits. The method also complied with the BAGI, indicating low solvent use, minimal energy consumption, reduced waste, and environmental friendliness. A 70 min runtime provided efficient impurity resolution while supporting sustainability goals. In conclusion, the

method is robust, reproducible, and eco-friendly, fulfilling regulatory standards for impurity profiling in oral pharmaceutical suspensions.

#### LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

API: Active-Pharmaceutical-Ingredient, HPLC: High-Performance-Liquid-Chromatography, ICH: International-Council-For-Harmonisation, BAGI: Blue Applicability Gade Index, DMH: Dextromethorphan Hydrobromide, PPH: Phenylephrine Hydrochloride, CRM: Chlorpheniramine Maleate, LC: Liquid-Chromatography, RSD: Relative-Standard-Deviation, US: FDA: United-State-Food and Drug-Administration, EMA: European-Medicines-Agency, LOQ: Limit-Of-Quantitation, LOD: Limit-Of-Detection, IP: Indian-Pharmacopeia, EP: European-Pharmacopeia, NMT: Not More Than, NLT: Not Less Than, S/N: Signal To Noise Ratio, PPM: Parts Per Million.

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#### **AUTHORS CONTRIBUTIONS**

Robindra Kumar Pandit conducted research, experiments, and analysis. Vivek Pandey supervised, guided study design, reviewed, and interpreted data. Both approved the manuscript.

#### CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

There is no conflict of interest to be declared

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