



**DEVELOPMENT AND VALIDATION OF HPLC METHOD FOR  
DETERMINATION OF THEOPHYLLINE AND 1METHYL URIC ACID FROM  
HUMAL PLASMS**

Bharat

**ABSTRACT**

A stable, simple, rapid, precise, accurate HPLC method for analysis of Theophylline and 1-Methyl Uric Acid was developed and validated as per ICH guidelines without need of any internal standard. Separation was carried out using X'terra RP18 (250\*4.6) mm, 5 $\mu$  column with potassium dihydrogen orthophosphate buffer (pH 3): acetonitrile (30:70 v/v) as mobile phase with flow rate 1 mL min<sup>-1</sup>. The parameters studied were retention time, linearity and range, accuracy, precision. The proposed method can be used for determination of Theophylline and 1-Methyl Uric Acid from Human plasma.

**Keywords:** Theophylline, HPLC, Validation.

## INTRODUCTION

In the early 20th century, the German chemist Paul Ehrlich was developing theories of selective toxicity based largely on the ability of certain dyes to kill microbes. Gerhard Domagk, who would later win a Nobel Prize for his efforts, made a major breakthrough in 1932 with the discovery of the antibacterial prontosil red. Further investigation into the active chemicals involved led to the discoveries of antibacterial sulfonamides (1935) by Daniel Bovet and his team at Pasteur Institute, then of Theophylline (1937) independently by Ernest Fourneau in France and Gladwin Buttl in United-Kingdom.

## MATERIAL AND METHOD

### Analytical Section:

Extraction of THEOPHYLLINE and 1-METHYL URIC ACID from plasma was achieved by a simple deproteination with trichloroacetic acid; this results in easy, rapid, and convenient separation of the analytes<sup>16, 18</sup>. The chromatograms obtained under the assay conditions used were clean, despite injection of the sample on to the column without pre-purification.

Ion pair chromatography with 1-hexanesulfonic acid sodium salt in the mobile phase, results in retention of THEOPHYLLINE, a polar molecule of low molecular weight, on the column by the formation of a complex. It is important the proportion of 1-hexanesulfonic acid sodium salt in the mobile phase is relatively high at the beginning of the chromatographic run (gradient starts with 90% of this phase). Under these conditions the hydrocarbon chain of the ion pair interacts with the octadecylsilane chains of the stationary phase and the complex is retained long enough to be chromatographically separated.

This HPLC method enabled rapid simultaneous measurement of THEOPHYLLINE and its acetylated metabolite 1-METHYL URIC ACID in plasma samples. Use of the gradient described resulted in sharp and symmetrical peaks. Total analysis time, including sample pretreatment and rapid elution, was less than 15 min.

### HPLC method development for Pure Theophylline (THEOPHYLLINE) And MonoacetylTheophylline (1-METHYL URIC ACID):

The linearity of the response of the drug was verified from 0.5 to 15 ng/ml concentrations. The calibration graphs were obtained by plotting the response versus the concentration. The calibration curve was found to be linear in the aforementioned concentrations. The correlation coefficient ( $r^2$ ) of determination was 1 which indicates that the method is accurate.

Sr. No.	Theophylline Concentration (µg/ml)	Area	1-Methyl Uric Acid Concentration	Area
1	1.043165858	80059.1	0.978702662	85173
2	2.085241811	161304	1.956382769	171608
3	3.144483784	244733	2.95016811	260367
4	4.190615444	323979	3.9316533	344675
5	5.248274957	406166	4.923953971	432113
6	6.286620077	487541	5.898133795	518685
7	7.346084223	569989	6.89212758	606400
8	8.384563486	652471	7.866433258	694151
9	9.431669774	734634	8.848832848	781562
10	10.48033756	812333	9.832697443	864225
	Slope	86799	Slope	81587
	Intercept	-1497	Intercept	-1407
	Correlation co-efficient	1	Correlation co-efficient	1

**Table 1:** Linearity of Theophylline and MonoacetylTheophylline for HPLC method development

Actual Value (µg/mL-1)	THEOPHYLLINE			1-METHYL URIC ACID		
	0.8	5	13	0.8	5	13
Mean concentration found (µg/mL-1)	0.9	4.5	12.7	0.7	4.6	12.5
Number of replicates	10	10	10	10	10	10
Standard deviation (SD)	0.04	0.3	0.6	0.02	0.06	0.2
CV (%) <sup>a</sup>	4.5	7.0	5.0	2.9	4.3	0.9
Accuracy (%) <sup>b</sup>	10.4	-9.8	-2.2	-4.3	-6.9	-3.7

**Table 2:** Within- run precision and accuracy of the HPLC method

$$CV = (SD/Mean) \times 100\%$$

$$\{[(\text{Amount found}) - (\text{amount added})] / (\text{amount added})\} \times 100\%$$

### Linearity:

When average peak area was plotted against the Theophylline concentration and its metabolite in plasma the plots were linear in the range 0.5 to 15.0  $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ . Typical calibration plots for plasma extracts had good correlation coefficients (0.9998 for Theophylline and 0.9905 for MonoacetylTheophylline;  $n = 6$  calibration points).

### Limits of Quantification and Detection:

The limit of quantification, defined as the lowest concentration that could be measured with accuracy and precision, i.e. within  $\pm 20\%$  of the actual value<sup>20</sup>, was 0.5  $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ . The lower limits of detection of THEOPHYLLINE and 1-METHYL URIC ACID (three times the baseline noise) were 0.24 and 0.12  $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ , respectively.

### Intra-Day Repeatability:

Assay performance was evaluated as intra-day accuracy and precision, determined by replicate analysis of QC samples.

These results show the repeatability of the assay, including both sample processing and chromatographic measurement, is good. Small deviations from perfect accuracy were observed (i.e. 10.4% at most).

Actual Value ( $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ )	THEOPHYLLINE			1-METHYL URIC ACID		
	0.8	5	13	0.8	5	13
Mean concentration found ( $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ )	0.84	5.0	13.1	0.8	4.7	12.8
Number of replicates	6	6	6	6	6	6
Standard deviation (SD)	0.04	0.2	0.4	0.02	0.06	0.2
CV (%) <sup>a</sup>	3.3	4.6	3.3	3.2	1.2	1.7
Accuracy (%) <sup>b</sup>	4.5	0.8	1.2	-3.5	-6.6	-1.8

**Table 3:** Reproducibility and accuracy of the method

$$\text{CV} = (\text{SD}/\text{Mean}) \times 100\%$$

$$\{[(\text{Amount found}) - (\text{amount added})] / (\text{amount added})\} \times 100\%$$

Actual Value ( $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ )	THEOPHYLLINE			1-METHYL URIC ACID		
	0.8	5	13	0.8	5	13
Mean Initial concentration ( $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ )	0.866	4.861	13.487	0.757	4.655	12.055
CV (%) <sup>a</sup>	2.16	4.1	0.26	2.24	6.30	0.29
Number of replicates	6	6	6	6	6	6
Mean final concentration ( $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ )	0.858 <sup>b</sup>	4.860 <sup>b</sup>	12.95 <sup>b</sup>	0.556 <sup>c</sup>	3.62 <sup>c</sup>	9.68 <sup>c</sup>
Recovery (%) <sup>d</sup>	99.07	99.97	96.01	73.44	77.76	80.29
CV (%) <sup>a</sup>	2.18	4.1	0.26	9.2	1.58	0.61
Number of replicates	6	6	6	6	6	6

**Table 4:** Stability of THEOPHYLLINE and 1-METHYL URIC ACID in plasma samples at  $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$

$$\text{CV} = (\text{SD}/\text{Mean}) \times 100\%$$

Data obtained after 30 days

Data obtained after 1 days

$$[(\text{Initial concentration})/(\text{Final concentration})] \times 100\%$$

### Inter-Assay Precision:

As is apparent, inter-assay coefficients of variation determined from experiments performed on three days ( $n = 6$ ) were  $<5\%$ , this is indicative of good assay precision.

### Recovery:

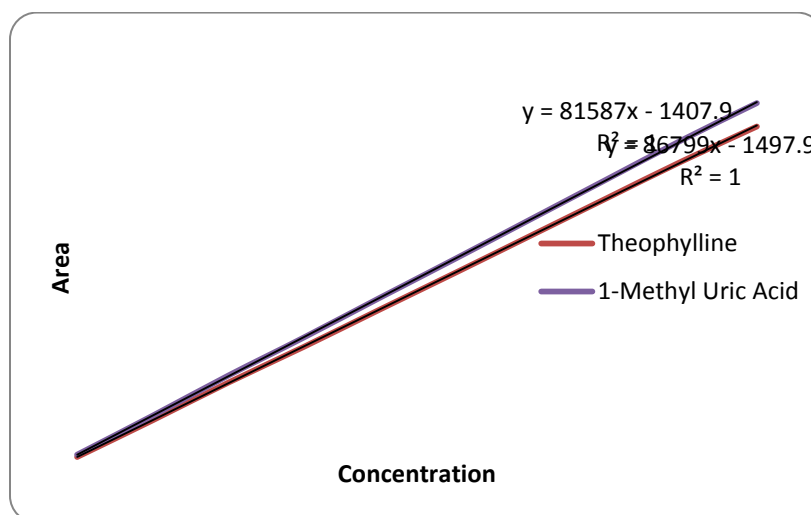
Recovery was determined by dividing the peak area obtained from analysis of each of the two compounds added to plasma by that observed for the same amount of each compound injected directly into the chromatograph. Recovery of THEOPHYLLINE and 1-METHYL URIC ACID from plasma was 64 and 55%, respectively; these values were constant in the concentration range studied and are higher than those obtained in other studies<sup>21, 22</sup>. MonoacetylTheophylline was partially retained (11%) on the protein precipitate when trichloroacetic acid was used for deproteination<sup>16</sup>. This partially explains the low recovery of MonoacetylTheophylline.

Mobile Phase	Acetonitrile (ACN): buffer (pH 3.0) (70:30v/v)
pH	3.0 ( $\pm$ 0.05) adjusted with orthophosphoric acid
Flow rate	1.0 mL/min
Injection volume	25 $\mu$ l
Elution type	Isocratic elusion
Column	X'terra RP18 (250*4.6) mm, 5 $\mu$
Temperature	25 $\pm$ 2 $^{\circ}$ C

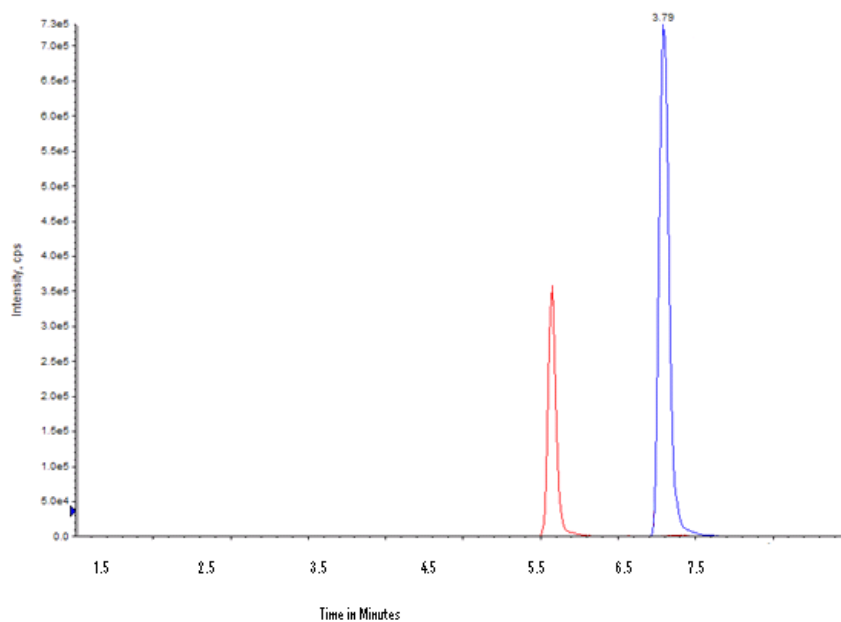
**Table 5:** Chromatographic Conditions.

### Stability:

Experiments conducted in our laboratory showed that QC solutions of Theophylline in plasma were stable for at least 30 days at  $-80^{\circ}$ C; the amount of the initial concentration remaining after this time was  $98.35 \pm 2.07\%$ . In contrast, loss of MonoacetylTheophylline in these plasma samples was substantial after storage at the same temperature for 1 day (a decrease to  $77.16 \pm 3.46\%$  of the initial concentration).



**Figure 1:** Linearity Plot of Theophylline and MonoacetylTheophylline



**Figure 2:** Peaks for THEOPHYLLINE and 1-METHYL URIC ACID

## CONCLUSION

The HPLC method developed for analysis of various formulations of Theophylline and 1-Methyl Uric Acid can be used for determination of Diclofenac in stratum corneum with the help of tape stripping method.

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