



Identification and validation of potential genotoxic impurity in Rizatriptan by ultra performance liquid chromatography

Veeraswami Boddu^{1*} , Rama Rao Rayala²

¹GITAM Central Research Laboratories, GITAM School of Science, Visakhapatnam, India.

²Divis Laboratories LTD, Visakhapatnam, India.

ARTICLE HISTORY

Received on: 04/08/2023

Accepted on: 10/12/2023

Available Online: 04/01/2024

Key words:

Ultra performance liquid chromatography, Rizatriptan benzoate, genotoxic impurity, Acquity BEH C18 column.

ABSTRACT

Rizatriptan is the most popular medicine used for the treatment of acute migraine headaches and its extensive use damages the structure of deoxyribonucleic acid leads to several biological malfunctions. During its synthesis, there is a possibility to form nitrosamine impurity which is a potential genotoxic nature. In the present study a new ultra performance liquid chromatographic (UPLC) method was developed to determine Genotoxic impurity (GI) in active pharma ingredient (API) Rizatriptan benzoate and emphasizes its controlled consumption. A UPLC method was optimized for the dimer impurity 2-(5-((1H-1,2,4-triazol-1-yl)methyl)-2-((3-(2-(dimethylamino)ethyl)-1H-indol-5-yl)methyl)-1H-indol-3-yl)-N,N dimethylethan-1-amine and Rizatriptan benzoate were separated on Waters Acquity BEH C18 column with dimensions of 100 mm length, 3.0 mm internal diameter and 1.8 μm of particle size by using 0.1% orthophosphoric acid in water as buffer with organic modifier acetonitrile as a gradient composition with flow rate of 1.0 ml/minute. Different column oven temperatures have been tested between the 25°C and 45°C temperatures and we found that the 40°C column temperature was best for the well-separated and reproducible results. The proposed method was validated according to an International Conference on Harmonization (ICH) guidelines. The primary standard solution of dimer impurity 2-(5-((1H-1,2,4-triazol-1-yl)methyl)-2-((3-(2-(dimethylamino)ethyl)-1H-indol-5-yl)methyl)-1H-indol-3-yl)-N,N dimethylethan-1-amine was prepared by dissolving 3.8 mg in to a 100 ml volumetric flask and it was further diluted to make 0.38 μg/ml of working standard solution was prepared. The experiment was carried out for six replicates of 5 μl of this solution was injected into the UPLC system in order to check the system's suitability. The observed results are % RSD and Tailing factors are 1.9724, and 1.12, respectively. The validation results show linearity with a correlation of coefficient values not less than 0.99. The proposed method was validated according to ICH guidelines in the concentration range of 5–28 μg/g. The UV absorption maximum of dimer impurity-A was observed at 280.7 nm. The proposed UPLC technique is significant with respect to accuracy, simple and sensitive for determination of potential genotoxic dimer impurity 2-(5-((1H-1,2,4-triazol-1-yl)methyl)-2-((3-(2-(dimethylamino)ethyl)-1H-indol-5-yl)methyl)-1H-indol-3-yl)-N,N dimethylethana-1-amine in Rizatriptan benzoate as per API during its manufacturing. This method is reliable to use for the identification of potential GI in commercially viable drugs and pharmaceutical industries.

INTRODUCTION

Rizatriptan benzoate is a new class of 5-hydroxytryptamine 1B/1D receptor and its International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry name is N, N-dimethyl-5-(1H-1,2,4-triazol-1-yl-methyl)-1H-indole-3-ethanamine mono benzoate and its structure shown in [Figure 1](#). This drug

is efficiently useful for the treatment of brain-related chronic syndromes like severe headaches and migraines. The biochemical reaction of the drug is bonded with serotonin in the brain results in relief from the pain [1,2]. Plentiful pharmaceutical industries have been manufacturing this drug product either in combination or individually with other drug substances of different strengths.

The literature study found that an author [3] finds the synthetic route of Rizatriptan benzoate includes the evidence of impurity 2-(5-((1H-1,2,4-triazol-1-yl)methyl)-2-((3-(2-(dimethylamino)ethyl)-1H-indol-5-yl)methyl)-1H-indol-3-

*Corresponding Author

Veeraswami Boddu, GITAM Central Research Laboratories,

GITAM School of Science, Visakhapatnam, India.

E-mail: veeraswamiboddu@gmail.com

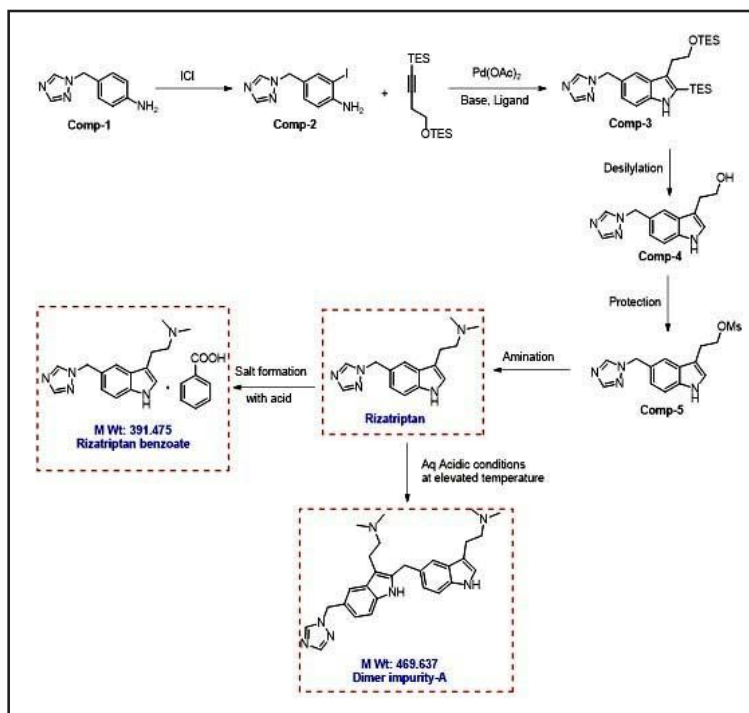


Figure 1. Root of synthesis for Rizatriptan benzoate.

yl)-N,N dimethylethan-1-amine and developed a preparative chromatography method for isolation and removal.

So far there is no analytical method for quantification and validation of this impurity in Rizatriptan drug substance by using ultra performance liquid chromatographic (UPLC) technique. The chemical structure of this impurity shows the presence of the hydrazine (-N-N-) group which shows genotoxic alerts [4]. So many organic molecules containing the hydrazine group and these chemicals show toxicological concerns like genotoxic, carcinogenic, and mutagenic characteristics. A genotoxic impurity (GI) might be evident in a drug substance through the synthetic process through reagents, by-products, starting material, intermediate, or upon the stability of the drug substance as a degradant. As per the interpretation of the International Conference on Harmonization (ICH) procedures for unknown peak as GI, the threshold of toxicological concern (TTC) based on an acceptable intake of 1.5 $\mu\text{g/g}$ was considered and it might be an insignificant risk. Generally acceptable limit is adapted as intake with a default of pharmaceuticals. According to a maximum daily dosage of Rizatriptan is 30 mg and claimed GI is targeted to control at 50 $\mu\text{g/g}$. Therefore, to assess this quantity required a specific and sensitive analytical method to regulate GI below the TTC level of 50 $\mu\text{g/g}$ in Rizatriptan benzoate.

The literature study found that few authors developed several methods for quantification and identification of Rizatriptan benzoate and its related substances by using high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) [5–11] Spectrophotometric methods [12–14] UPLC [15] and liquid chromatography–mass spectrometry [16]. However, there is no analytical method for identification and validation of GI in Rizatriptan benzoate lower than TTC acceptable level. The proposed method is useful for monitoring the strengths of impurity during the process. The impacts of GI the authors

developed a UPLC analytical method for the quantification and validation of GI in Rizatriptan benzoate.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Instrumentation and software

For determination of Rizatriptan assay and related substances are analysed on Agilent manufactured UPLC system equipped with sample manager, quaternary solvent manager, column heating compartment and variable wavelength detector (VWD) assembled with Empower control software.

The chromatographic requirements are Waters Acquity BEH C18 HPLC column with dimensions 100 \times 3.0 mm \times 1.8 μm was used. The preparation of standard solutions by Sartorius semi-micro analytical balance was used for all weights of samples. Bandelin sonicator was used for dissolving the standard sample and maintain physiological pH by Thermo pH meter. Hermle centrifuge machine was used for centrifuging of turbidity components.

Chemicals and reagents

Standard dimer impurity-A and Rizatriptan benzoate were purchased from Toronto research chemicals, India. Acetonitrile (ACN) (HPLC grade, Purity-99.9%) and orthophosphoric acid (GR grade, Purity-85.0%) were procured from Merck Limited, Mumbai, India. All quantitative dilutions were performed with triple distilled water in the class-A glass volumetric flasks.

Mobile phase preparations

Preparation of buffer

The standard buffer solution was prepared by dissolving 1 ml of ortho phosphoric acid in 1,000 ml Milli-Q-Water and mixed well.

Preparation of mobile phase-A

Mobile phase solution-A was prepared by thoroughly mixing 20:80% (v/v) compositions of ACN and buffer solutions respectively.

Mobile phase-B

ACN.

Preparation of diluent

All solutions have been prepared by ACN as a diluent.

Standard stock solutions preparation

Weighed and transferred approximately 3.8 mg of dimer impurity-A into a 100 ml volumetric flask and it consists of 50 ml of diluent by mixing well through sonication and it is further saturated to get 0.38 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ of dimer impurity-A standard concentration.

Preparation of working standard solution

Accurately prepare 0.38 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ of working standard solution via taking 1 ml of the stock fed in to 100 ml of glass volumetric flask of class-A then it was further diluted with diluents.

Sample solution preparation

400 mg (weigh to an accuracy of 0.1 mg) of Rizatriptan benzoate sample was accurately weighed by using butter paper and transferred into 20 µl class-A volumetric flask and added 10 µl of diluent and dissolved the sample matrix for 10 minutes by sonication. Later, this solution makeup with diluent up to mark.

Spiked sample solution preparation

400 mg (weigh to the accuracy of 0.1 mg) of Rizatriptan benzoate sample was precisely weighed and transmitted into a class-A volumetric flask of 20 µl and added 10 ml of diluent was. Further dissolved the components for 10 minutes by sonication. Later, added 0.2 ml of stock standard solution and the remaining volume makeup up to the mark with diluent.

Method development

The dimer impurity-A in the Rizatriptan benzoate drug substance is determined by a newly developed reverse phase UPLC instrument. This analytical UPLC method was optimized based on the following parameters diluent, flow rate, injection volume, oven temperature, UPLC column, and wavelength selection.

Wavelength selection for dimer impurity-A

Dimer impurity-A standard solution was prepared by using diluent and the obtained solution concentration was ~0.38 µg/ml. This solution was analyzed by UPLC instrument with a VWD. The absorption maxima of dimer impurity-A were observed at 280.7 nm. Hence, we quantified this impurity at 280 nm in the Rizatriptan benzoate drug substance. The obtained chromatogram spectrum of dimer impurity-A is presented in [Figure 2](#).

Column selection

Based on the packing material, internal diameter, length, and particle size of the column, various experimental trails were made for column selection. Finally, good peak separation was attained on the UPLC column of Waters Acquity BEH C18.

Selection of mobile phase

Initially, we tried with different proportions of water and methanol as a mobile phase in the different ratios, in all trails the dimer impurity-A peak was not identified. The

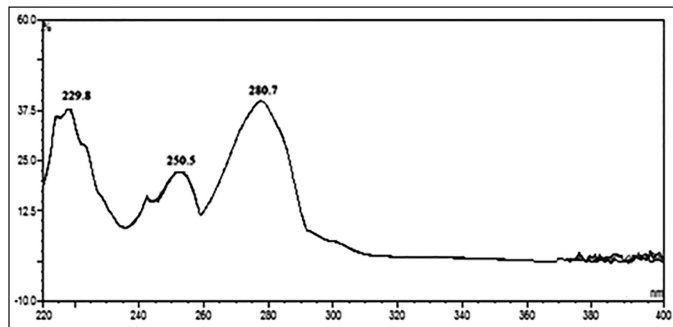


Figure 2. PDA spectrum of dimer imp-A.

organic modifier was modified in various ratios with ACN. It was observed that the impurity-A peak has more tailing factor and is broad. For ideal peak shape and tailing was observed by replacing water with phosphate buffer. The organic modifier of ACN and buffer composition was finalized after a number of trails. The mobile phase solution-A contains the organic solvent of ACN with ratios of 80:20% v/v of ACN and mobile phase solution-B.

Column oven temperature selection

Different column oven temperatures have been tested between the 25°C and 45°C temperatures and we found that the 40°C column temperature was best for the well-separated and reproducible results.

Selection of flow rate

For the good resolution of the chromatogram, optimized the instrument flow rate from 0.3 to 0.6 ml/minute. Finally, 0.5 ml/minute was given separation of the chromatogram.

Selection of injection volume

The optimized injection volume was from 2 to 10 µl but the ideal chromatogram separation was observed at 5 µl.

Selection of diluent

The Rizatriptan drug substance and dimer impurity-A solubility were checked in methanol, water, buffer solution, ACN, and the mixture of ACN: water, methanol: water, and ACN: buffer solution in different ratios. Good solubility was observed in the organic solvent of ACN. Therefore, ACN is used for further quantitative dilutions of standard and

Table 1. Optimized chromatogram specifications.

Inflow rate	0.5 ml/minute	
Wavelength	280 nano meter	
Temperature for column oven	40°C	
Auto sampler injection volume	5 µl	
Column	Waters Acquity BEH C18 100 × 3.0 mm, 1.8 µm	
Run time (RT)	15.0 minutes	
Mobile phase A	Buffer: Taken 1 ml of ortho phosphoric acid in 1,000 ml Milli-Q-Water and mixed well.	
Mobile phase B	Mix Buffer: ACN (80:20)	
Diluent	ACN	
Gradient mixing program	Time (min)	Mobile phase-A %
	0	90
	7	20
	10	20
	10.10	90
	15	90
		Mobile phase-B %
		10
		80
		80
		10

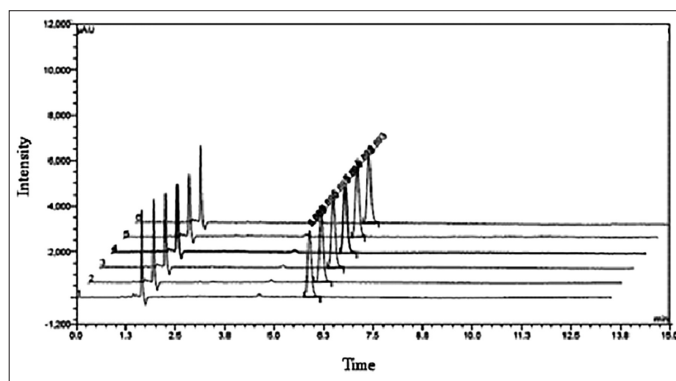


Figure 3. Overlay chromatogram six replicate standard solution injections.

Table 2. Chromatogram results of six replicate standard injections.

Trial injection for standard samples	Impurity retention time (minute)	Area
1	5.888	15,472
2	5.891	15,846
3	5.892	15,963
4	5.893	15,178
5	5.891	15,796
6	5.893	15,935
Average		15,698
SD		309.6376
%RSD		1.9724
Tailing factor		1.12

Table 3. Results of specificity parameter.

Description of the injection	Observation
Blank of diluent injection	No diluent interference
Standard solution of dimer impurity-A injection	5.911 minutes
Solution of Rizatriptan benzoate injection	Eluted below 3.5 minutes
Solution of spiked injection	5.935

Table 4. Results of LOD and LOQ.

Detection type	Concentration ($\mu\text{g/g}$)	S/N factor
LOD	1.86	3.95
LOQ	5.63	14.11

sample solutions. The developed analytical chromatographic conditions for the quantification of dimer impurity-A in Rizatriptan benzoate substance by UPLC and the optimized chromatogram specifications were placed in Table 1.

Validation of analytical method

The developed and optimized UPLC approach for the identification and validation of dimer impurity-A in Rizatriptan benzoate sample based on ICH [17] and USP

[18] guidelines. The individual validation parameters were evaluated experimentally by injected sample solution and standard solution.

System suitability

A 0.38 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ concentration of the dimer Impurity-A standard solution was prepared. Six replicates of 5 μl of this solution were inoculated into the UPLC system. Statically calculated the relative SD, and SD and checked the tailing factor and theoretical plate counts for the six replicated areas. The chromatograms obtained during the study are presented in Figure 3 and their calculated results are in Table 2.

Specificity

The developed method specificity was established by injecting dimer impurity-A standard solution, drug substances of Rizatriptan benzoate, and blank and dimer impurity-A spiking solution. The observations are summarized in Table 3. Experimentally generated analytical chromatograms are represented in Figure 4.

Limit of detection and limit of quantification (LOD and LOQ)

The dimer impurity-A LOD and LOQ were performed by S/N ratio approach and preparing various concentrations of dimer impurity-A solution and evaluated through UPLC equipment. The LOD concentration of the impurity was determined by observing that the S/N ratio was 3:1. The LOQ concentration of the impurity was determined by observing an S/N ratio of approximately 10:1. The results and their chromatograms are shown in Table 4 and Figures 5 and 6 of LOD and LOQ, respectively.

Precision at the limit of quantitation level

Prepared dimer impurity-A solution at LOQ concentration level for determination impurity precision at LOQ level and six replicates were injected into developed method conditions. Calculated the % RSD for the area of six injections and results are placed in Table 5.

Linearity and range

The linearity of the proposed method was assessed by preparing their impurity-A standard stock solutions of the dimer into six concentrations from LOQ to 150%. Analyzed each diluted concentration and have been recorded area responses at 280 nm. Draw the linearity plot between peak versus concentration and their data was used for the analytical parameters like the correlation coefficient of the regression line, slope, intercept, and sum of squares.

The obtained linearity results are tabulated in Table 6 and the linearity curve is represented in Figure 7 for impurity-A and their overlay chromatograms are shown in Figure 8.

Precision

The precision is studied through repeatability and intermediate precision for optimized analytical method and calculated %RSD.

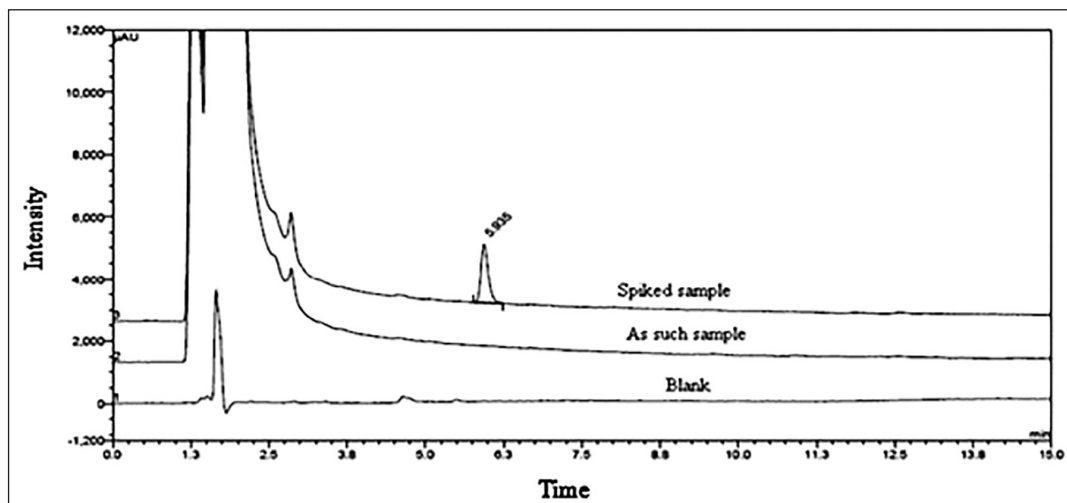


Figure 4. Super imposed chromatogram.

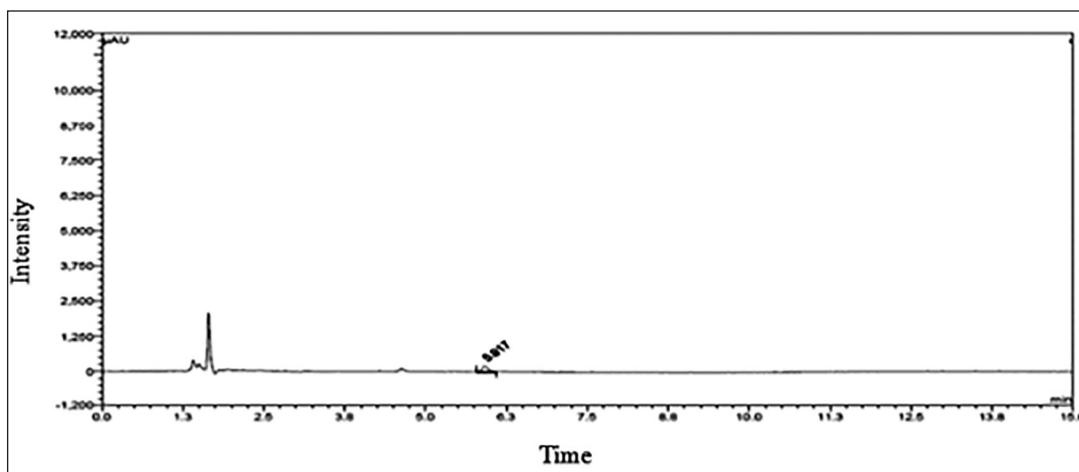


Figure 5. Detection limit chromatogram.

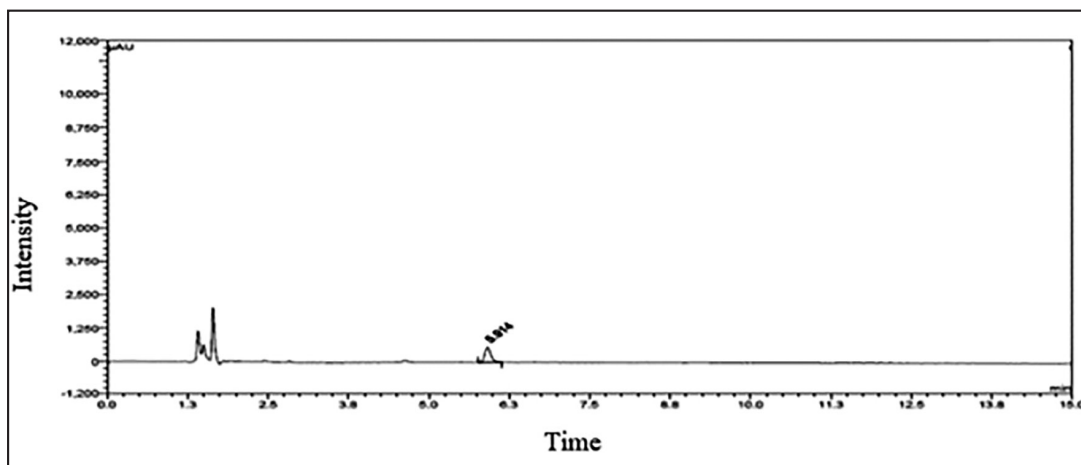


Figure 6. Quantification limit chromatogram.

Repeatability

Six solutions were prepared by mixing the dimer impurity-A with the Rizatriptan benzoate sample and analyzed in the proposed method conditions for assessing the correctness of the proposed approach. The content of dimer impurity-A in µg/g was calculated by average, SD, and the %RSD, and which results were found to meet the limits.

Intermediate precision

Performing the intermediate precision analysis by two operators on a couple of days by using the UPLC instrument.

Table 5. Precision reports at the limit of quantitation concentration.

Description of injection	Dimer imp-A retention time (minute)	Area response
LOQ preparation-1	5.914	4,850
LOQ preparation-2	5.918	4,792
LOQ preparation-3	5.908	4,680
LOQ preparation-4	5.925	4,831
LOQ preparation-5	5.912	4,685
LOQ preparation-6	5.915	4,189
Average		4,671
SD		246.93
%RSD		5.29

Table 6. Results of linearity.

Level	Concentration (µg/g)	Area
Limit of quantitation	5.63	4,872
50%	9.38	8,127
80%	15.00	12,489
100%	18.75	15,893
120%	22.50	19,145
150%	28.13	23,961
Slope		847.01
Y-Intercept		50.43
Correlation coefficient		0.9998
Residual sum square		0.9996

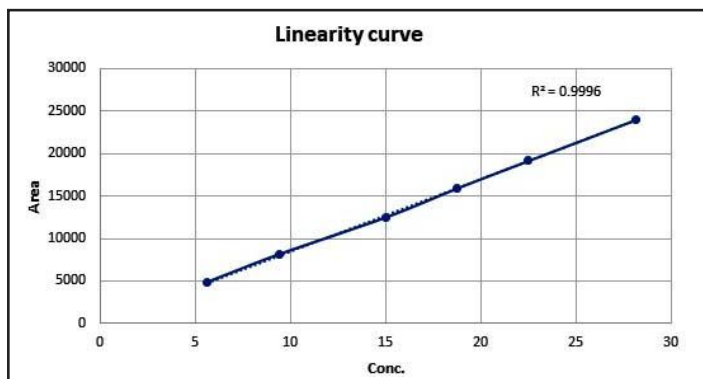


Figure 7. Linearity plot of impurity-A.

Statically calculated the mean of dimer impurity-A, SD, and percentage of relative SD and these results are in the acceptable limits. Tables 7 and 8 represent the repeatability and intermediate precision data. The representative chromatograms are shown in Figures 9 and 10.

Accuracy

By spiking the dimer impurity-A into the drug sample at 50% upper and lower levels of target concentration and

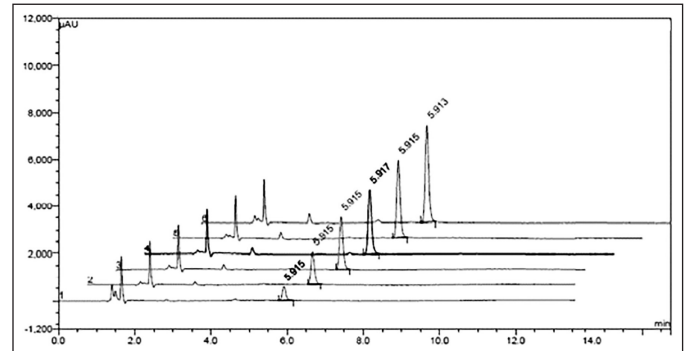


Figure 8. Overlay chromatogram of linearity.

Table 7. Results of repeatability.

Preparation	Weight (mg)	Area	Impurity (%)	Impurity (µg/g)
Sample solution-1	402.62	16,024	0.001982	19.818
Sample solution-2	401.64	15,574	0.001931	19.308
Sample solution-3	400.89	15,732	0.001954	19.540
Sample solution-4	401.23	15,951	0.001980	19.796
Sample solution-5	399.82	15,318	0.001908	19.077
Sample solution-6	399.40	15,693	0.001956	19.565
Mean				19.517
SD				0.285
%RSD				1.464

Table 8. Results of intermediate precision.

Preparation	Weight (mg)	Area	Impurity (%)	Impurity (µg/g)
Sample solution-1	401.53	15,962	0.001928	19.278
Sample solution-2	400.54	15,245	0.001846	18.457
Sample solution-3	401.02	15,463	0.001870	18.699
Sample solution-4	401.48	15,873	0.001917	19.173
Sample solution-5	400.97	15,328	0.001854	18.538
Sample solution-6	400.35	15,041	0.001822	18.219
Mean				18.727
SD				0.417
%RSD				2.226
Overall % RSD during repeatability and intermediate precision study				2.800

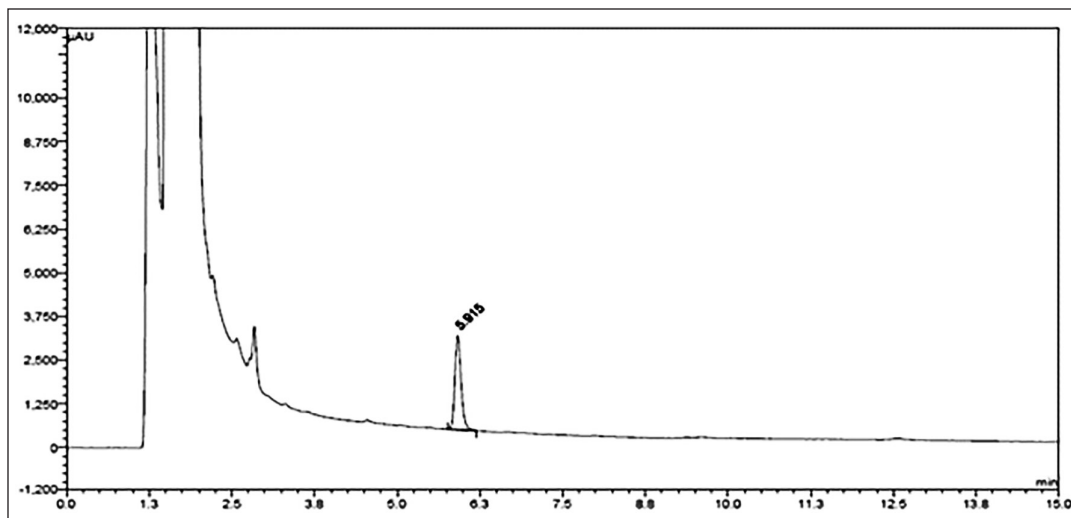


Figure 9. Chromatogram of repeatability.

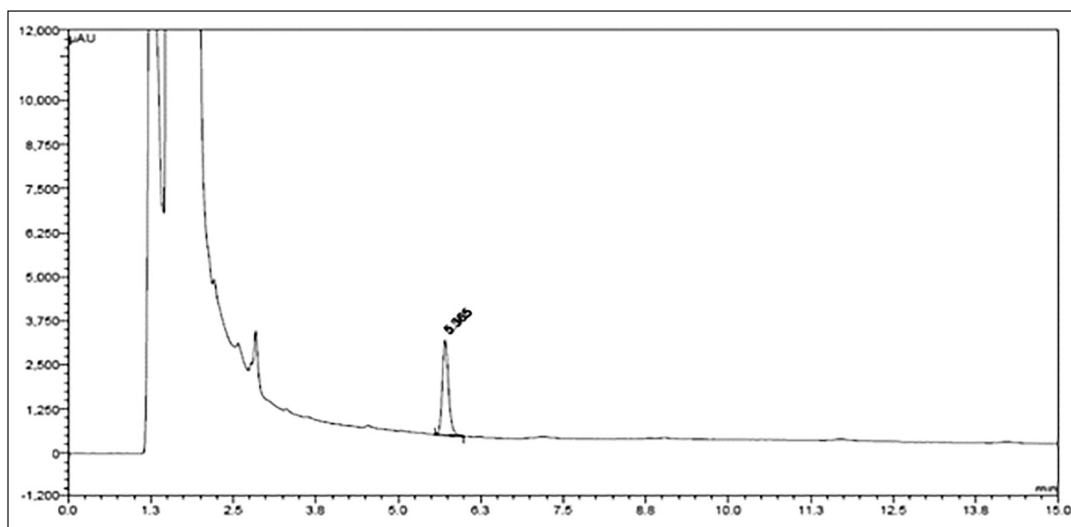


Figure 10. Chromatogram of intermediate precision.

Table 9. Results of recovery.

Strengths	Quantity of the sample (mg)	Quantity mixed (µg/g)	Area	Observed quantity (µg/g)	Recovery (%)	Average recovery (%)	% of RSD
At LOQ	400.76	5.69	4,772	5.76	101.23	100.06	1.07
	400.28	5.69	4,669	5.64	99.12		
	400.54	5.69	4,707	5.68	99.82		
50%	401.03	9.48	8,056	9.72	102.53	102.53	0.61
	399.98	9.48	7,985	9.66	101.90		
	400.25	9.48	8,092	9.78	103.16		
100%	399.86	18.95	15,890	19.22	101.42	101.99	0.63
	400.43	18.95	15,976	19.30	101.85		
	400.54	18.95	16,114	19.46	102.69		
150%	400.12	28.43	24,230	29.29	103.02	102.48	0.63
	400.73	28.43	23,968	28.93	101.76		
	399.87	28.43	24,136	29.19	102.67		

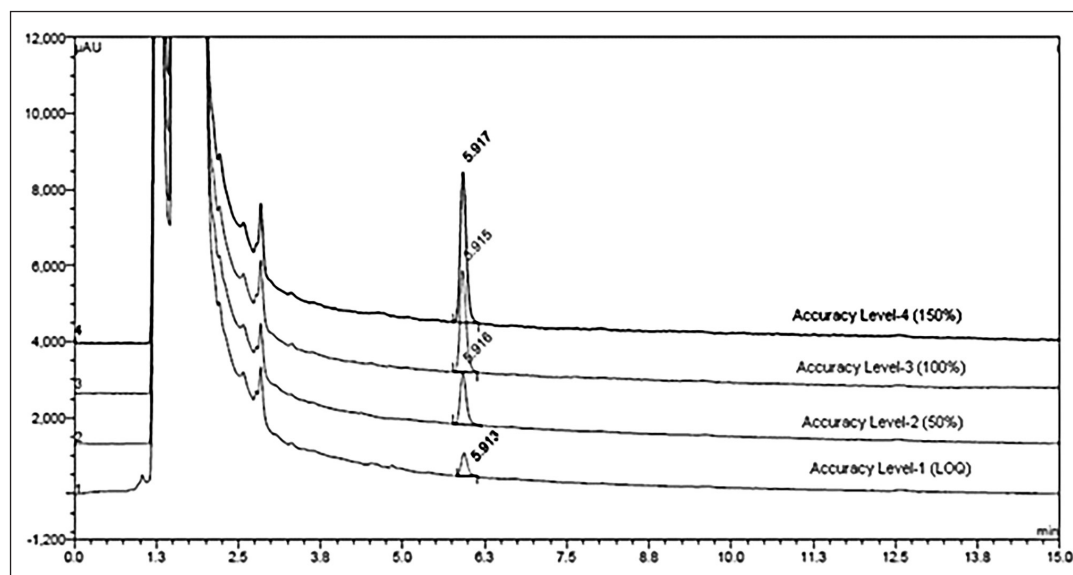


Figure 11. Accuracy overlay chromatograms at 150%, 100%, 50%, and LOQ level.

Table 10. Results of solution stability.

Interval	Area	Impurity ($\mu\text{g/g}$)	Absolute variation
Initial	15,611	19.08	--
4 hours	15,485	18.92	0.16
8 hours	15,824	19.34	-0.26
12 hours	15,464	18.90	0.18
16 hours	15,526	18.97	0.11
20 hours	15,706	19.19	-0.11
24 hours	15,444	18.87	0.21

analyzed in instrument conditions. The spiked and recovered amount of dimer impurity-A was calculated the percentage of recovery was presented in Table 9 and chromatograms were presented in Figure 11. The obtained recovery values are between 99% and 103% which provides the recovery nature of the method.

Solution stability

Dimer impurity-A stability was established by using the precision sample and it was kept in RT for a period of 24 hours and analyzed in an interval of 4 hours increment up to 4 hours and then analyzed with an interval of 4 hours up to 24 hours. The chromatograms for these intervals were evaluated for the absolute changes of dimer impurity-A at specific concentrations are presented in Table 10.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The proposed UPLC method for estimation and validation of potential genotoxic dimer impurity 2-(5-((1H-1,2,4-triazol-1-yl)methyl)-2-((3-(2-(dimethylamino)ethyl)-1H-indol-5-yl)methyl)-1H-indol-3-yl)-N,N dimethylethan-1-amine in Rizatriptan benzoate active pharma ingredient (API) using Waters Acquity BEH C18 column with specific dimensions

like 100×3.0 mm, $1.8 \mu\text{m}$ and gradient mobile phase. This approach was validated through fulfill ICH guidelines show various analytical parameters like linearity, accuracy, specificity, precision, stability, robustness, LOD, and LOQ obey the acceptance limits. The specificity of the proposed analytical method was proved by good separation with no interference observed at the region of dimer impurity-A. A linear graphical representation was achieved by drawing the plot between the strengths of impurity-A from LOQ to 150% of the dimer impurity-A. The correlation coefficient of GI-A was found 0.999 is within the accepted criteria of more than 0.990.

The detection limit for this method is $1.86 \mu\text{g/g}$ and the S/N ratio proved at this concentration level. This S/N ratio is 3.95 against the ICH guidelines of 3:1. The limit of quantitation is $5.63 \mu\text{g/g}$ and signal to noise ration observed as 14.11. This is well within the acceptance criteria i.e., 10:1. And the %RSD for six replicate injections at the limit of quantitation concentration is 2.29 which is within the ICH criteria of not more than 10.0%. This approach precision was identified through multiple trials and intermediate precision was calibrated based on % RSD of six replicate solutions. These results are 1.464% and 2.226% were found and meet the acceptance criteria of not more than 10.0% for ICH guidelines. Accuracy was evaluated at LOQ, 50%, 100%, and 150% levels of dimer impurity-A and results of recovery were obtained as 99% to 103%. These results are well within the criteria of 80% to 120%. The proposed method is stable for all the sample solutions and has good stability for about 24 hours under at room temperature.

CONCLUSION

The proposed UPLC technique is significant with respect to the accuracy, simple, and sensitive for the determination of potential genotoxic dimer impurity 2-(5-((1H-1,2,4-triazol-1-yl)methyl)-2-((3-(2-(dimethylamino)ethyl)-1H-indol-5-yl)methyl)-1H-indol-3-yl)-N,N dimethylethan-1-amine

in Rizatriptan benzoate as per API during its manufacturing. This method is reliable to use for the identification of potential GI in commercially viable drugs and pharmaceutical industries.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors are acknowledged to GITAM Central Research Laboratories for providing necessary facilities to perform this research work.

AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS

All the authors are collectively worked to do this research work at various stages of data collection, design of the work, data analysis, interpretation and drafting the article.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

There is no funding report.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The authors report no financial or any other conflicts of interest in this work.

ETHICAL APPROVALS

This study does not involve experiments on animals or human subjects.

DATA AVAILABILITY

All data generated and analyzed are included in this research article.

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

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How to cite this article:

Boddu V, Rayala RR. Identification and validation of potential genotoxic impurity in Rizatriptan by ultra performance liquid chromatography. *J Appl Pharm Sci.* 2024;14(01):212–220.