

## DEVELOPMENT AND VALIDATION OF SPECTROPHOTOMETRIC METHODS FOR SIMULTANEOUS ESTIMATION OF VILANTEROL AND FLUTICASONE FUROATE IN PHARMACEUTICAL FORMULATIONS

 SIVA KISHORE MASIMUKKU<sup>1</sup>, RAMBABU CHINTALA<sup>2\*</sup>
<sup>1</sup>Department of Chemistry, K.B.N. P.G. College, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, India. <sup>2</sup>Department of Chemistry, Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, India. Email: siva.kishore@rediff mail.com

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### ABSTRACT

**Objective:** To develop a simple, rapid, precise, accurate, sensitive spectrophotometric methods (A and B) were developed for simultaneous estimation and validation of vilanterol (VTL) and fluticasone furoate (FFE) in pure and tablet dosage forms.

**Methods:** Method A is a simultaneous equation method and Method B is a first-order derivative spectrophotometric method. Pure drug samples of VTL and FFE were dissolved in a mixture of methanol and ethanol in the ratio of 1:1 (v/v) and found to have absorbance maxima at 231 nm for VTL and 260 nm for FFE, respectively.

**Results:** The linearity lies between 2.5-10 µg/ml for VTL and 10-60 µg/ml for FFE in these two methods (A and B). The correlation coefficient ( $r^2$ ) was found to be 0.999 for both VTL and FFE, the limit of detection and limit of quantification were found to be 0.015 and 0.05 µg/ml for VTL and 0.05 and 0.2 µg/ml for FFE, respectively. The results of analysis have been validated statistically by recovery studies as per International Conference on Harmonization guidelines.

**Conclusion:** The two methods A and B showed good reproducibility and recovery with %RSD <2. Hence, both methods were found to be rapid, specific, precise, and accurate and can be successfully applied for the routine analysis of VTL and FFE in pure and combined dosage form.

**Keywords:** Fluticasone furoate, Vilanterol, Derivative spectrophotometric, Simultaneous equation method, Method development and validation.

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### INTRODUCTION

Fluticasone furoate (FFE) [(6 $\alpha$ ,11 $\beta$ ,16 $\alpha$ ,17 $\alpha$ )-6,9-difluoro-17-[[[(fluoromethyl)thio]carbonyl]-11-hydroxy-16-methyl-3-oxoandrost-1,4-dien-17-yl 2-furancarboxylate] and vilanterol (VTL)[4-{{(1R)-2-[[6-{{2-[[2,6-Dichlorobenzyl]oxy]ethoxy}hexyl]amino]-1-hydroxyethyl}-2-hydroxymethyl]phenol]} are available in a combined dosage form (trade names BreoEllipta and RelvarEllipta) approved by USFDA in 2013 used for the treatment of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), including chronic bronchitis and emphysema and asthma [1]. FFE is a synthetic trifluorinated corticosteroid with potent anti-inflammatory activity used for long-term maintenance treatment of airflow obstruction in patients with COPD, including chronic bronchitis and emphysema [2]. It is also approved for the treatment of asthma [3,4], nasal allergy symptoms, including congestion, sneezing, itching, and runny nose. It works by reducing inflammatory reactions in the nasal airway in response to allergens and irritants in the air. VTL is a selective long-acting beta2-adrenergic agonist used for once daily treatment of COPD and asthma [5,6]. Literature survey revealed that there is only a single ultra-performance liquid chromatography method developed for determination of FFE and benzalkonium chloride [7]. Since no spectrophotometric method is reported for simultaneous estimation, the present study is aimed to develop two spectrophotometric methods, i.e., first-order derivative spectrophotometric and simultaneous equation method for simultaneous estimation of VTL and FFE in its pharmaceutical formulations.

### METHODS

#### Chemicals and materials

Analytically pure FFE and VTL were obtained as gift samples from reputed pharmaceutical companies. Methanol, (Merck, Mumbai, India)

water was of HPLC grade, while ethanol used for the preparation of mobile phase was of analytical grade (Merck Specialties Private Limited, Mumbai, India). Formulations of BreoEllipta inhalation powder contains a combination of fluticasone and VTL containing labeled amount of fluticasone 100 µg-VTL 25 µg were procured from the local market.

#### Equipment

A double beam ultraviolet (UV)/visible spectrophotometer model Tec comp UV-2301 was used to carry out spectral analysis and the data were recorded by Hitachi software. Standard and sample drugs were weighed by using Denver electronic analytical balance (SI-234). A Synchronies C-18 (250 mm × 4.6 mm, 5 µm) column was used as a stationary phase.

#### Preparation of standard drug solution

Amount of 10 mg of standard drug VTL and FFE were weighed separately and dissolved in 5 ml diluent then transferred to a 10 ml volumetric flask sonicate it for 5 minutes, finally volume was made up to the mark with same solvent to make 1000 µg/ml stock solution.

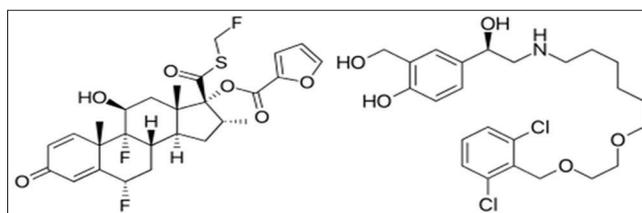


Fig. 1: Chemical structures of fluticasone furoate and vilanterol

From this, 1 ml was again diluted to 10 ml to get a concentration of 10,000 µg/ml solution of VTL and FFE were obtained separately. From the solution, required concentrations were prepared separately, and then, 1 ml from each of the solution was mixed to obtain a combined solution for the simultaneous estimation of VTL and FFE.

**Method A: Simultaneous equation method**

From the stock solution of 1000 µg/ml, working standard solutions of drugs were prepared by appropriate dilution and were scanned in entire UV range to determine the absorbance max. VTL has maximum absorbance at 231 nm while FFE at 260 nm (Fig. 2). Standard solutions were prepared having concentration 2.5-15 µg/ml for VTL and 10-60 µg/ml for FFE. At the absorbance's of these standard solutions, calibration curves were plotted at these wavelengths. Two simultaneous were formed using these absorptivity coefficient values [8,9].

$$C_x = \frac{A_2 a_{y1} - A_1 a_{y2}}{a_{x2} a_{y1} - a_{x1} a_{y2}}$$

$$C_y = \frac{A_1 a_{x2} - A_2 a_{x1}}{a_{x2} a_{y1} - a_{x1} a_{y2}}$$

Where,

$a_{x1}$  = Absorptivity of VTL at 231 nm

$a_{x2}$  = Absorptivity of VTL at 260 nm

$a_{y1}$  = Absorptivity of FFE at 260 nm

$a_{y2}$  = Absorptivity of FFE at 231 nm

$A_1$  and  $A_2$  are the absorbance of the diluted sample at 231 nm and 260 nm respectively.

**Method B: First-order derivative spectrophotometric method**

The absorption spectra thus obtained by working standard solutions of VTL and FFE in the wavelength range of 200-400 nm against solvent methanol and ethanol in the ratio of 1:1 (v/v) as blank were derivatized from first order. From the overlay spectra of both the drugs (Fig. 3), wavelengths selected for quantitation were 231 nm was used for VTL and 260 nm was used for FFE. The proposed method was validated according to the United States Pharmacopeia and International Conference on Harmonization guidelines [10-12] in terms of linearity and range, precision, accuracy.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

**Method A: Simultaneous equation method**

Study of overlain spectra shows that VTL has maximum absorbance at 231 nm while FFE at 260 nm, respectively. The linearity with absorbance in the range 2.5-15 µg/ml for VTL and 10-60 µg/ml for FFE at their respective maxima was validated by least square method. Linearity results were presented in Table 1; calibration graphs were presented in Fig. 4. The accuracy of the method was determined by calculating mean percentage recovery. It was determined at 50,100 and 150% level. The percentage recovery ranges from 98.5 to 99.2 for VTL and 98.22-99.70

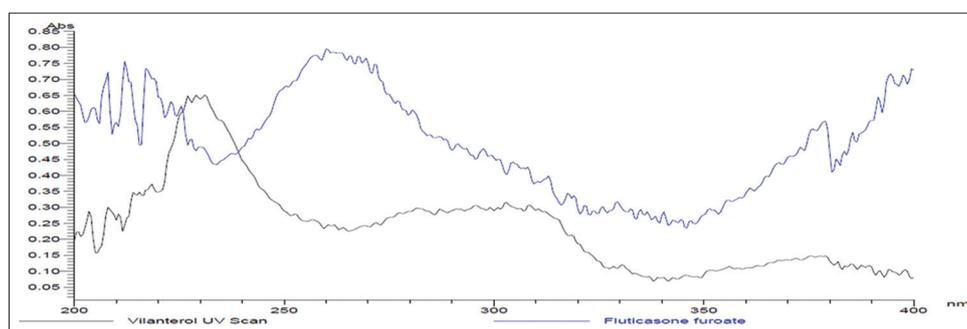


Fig. 2: Overlay spectra of vilanterol and fluticasone furoate

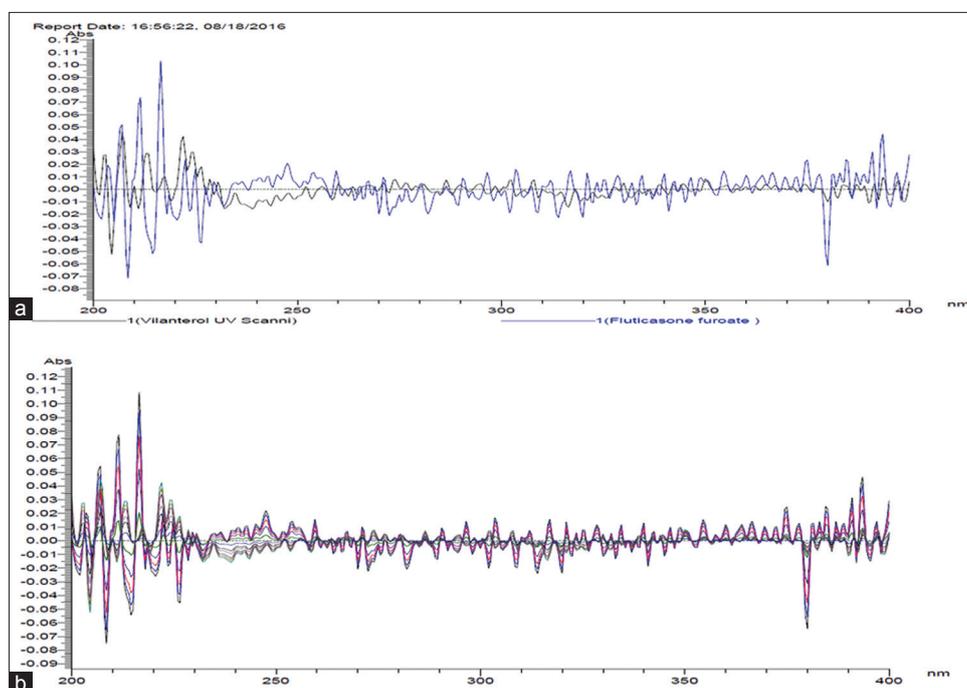


Fig. 3: (a and b) Overlay spectra of vilanterol and fluticasone furoate

for FFE, respectively. Precision was calculated as repeatability (%RSD <2) and inter and intraday variations (%RSD <2) for both drugs. The proposed methods were found to be simple, accurate and rapid for the routine determination of VTL and FFE in tablet formulation.

**Table 1: Results of linearity**

VTL		FFE	
Concentration	Absorbance	Concentration	Absorbance
2.5	0.181±0.002	10	0.231±0.003
5	0.343±0.001	20	0.423±0.003
7.5	0.499±0.005	30	0.629±0.002
10	0.637±0.008	40	0.849±0.003
12.5	0.795±0.005	50	1.028±0.011
15	0.961±0.002	60	1.246±0.012

The values given in table are the average±standard deviation for three replicate measurements. VTL: Vilanterol, FFE: Fluticasone furoate

Marketed brand of the tablet was analyzed, and the amount of drug determined by proposed methods was found to be 99.07-98.62 for VTL and FFE, respectively (Table 2). The method can be successfully used for simultaneous estimation of VTL and FFE in combined dosage form.

**Method B: First-order derivative spectrophotometric method**

Six points calibration curve were obtained in a concentration range from 2.5 to 15 µg/ml for VTL and 10-60 µg/ml for FFE, respectively. The response of the drug was found to be linear in the investigation concentration range and the linear regression equation was  $y = 0.000245x - 0.00047$  with correlation coefficient ( $r^2$ ) 0.999 for VTL and  $y = 8E-05x + 0.001$  with correlation coefficient ( $r^2$ ) 0.999 for FFE (Table 3 and Fig. 5). The precision results were found to be within the limit where %RSD values for VTL found to be 0.723, 1.255, and 0.626 for intraday, interday and ruggedness studies. And also %RSD values for VTL found to be 0.411, 0.22 and 0.26 for intraday, interday, and ruggedness studies. Recovery results also found within the validation limit that percentage of recovery are 98.6-100.24 for VTL and 99.55-100.75 for FFE, respectively.

**Table 2: Formulation analysis VTL and FEE by proposed methods**

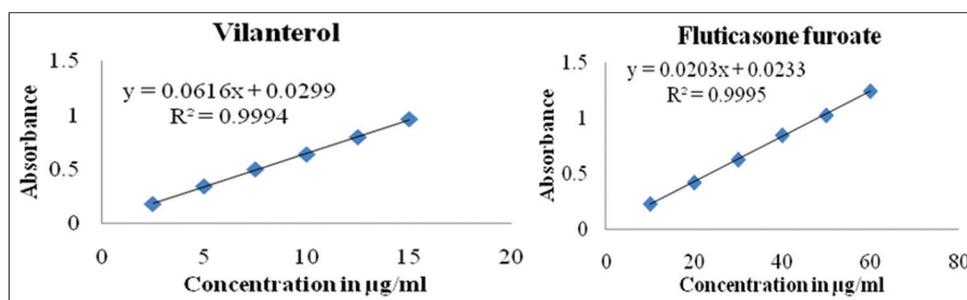
Method	Drug	Brand name	Labeled claim µg/ml	Amount prepared µg/ml	Amount found µg/ml	% assay
Simultaneous equation method	VTL	BreoEllipta	25	15	14.86±0.04041	99.0667
	Fluticasone		100	60	59.17±0.075	98.6167
Derivative method	VTL	BreoEllipta	25	15	14.91±0.0265	99.40
	Fluticasone		100	60	59.43±0.0153	99.05

The values given in table are the average±standard deviation for three replicate measurements. VTL: Vilanterol, FFE: Fluticasone furoate

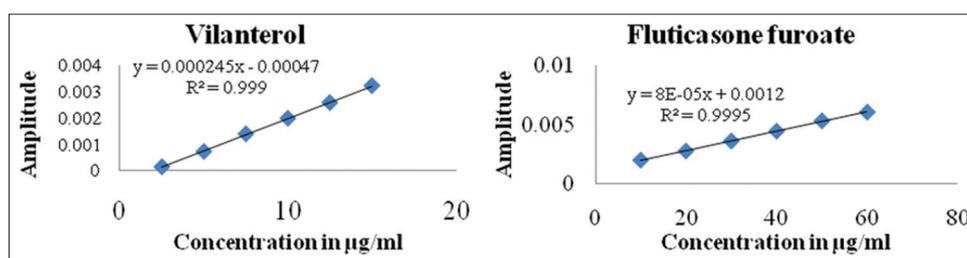
**Table 3: Results of linearity**

VTL		FFE	
Concentration	Absorbance	Concentration	Absorbance
2.5	0.00015±1E-06	10	0.00201±1.1547E-05
5	0.00073±1E-05	20	0.00278±0.000010
7.5	0.00139±0.000011	30	0.00362±0.000011
10	0.00198±0.000013	40	0.00445±0.000016
12.5	0.00257±0.000010	50	0.00532±0.000014
15	0.00321±0.000012	60	0.00605±0.000019

The values given in table are the average±standard deviation for three replicate measurements. VTL: Vilanterol, FFE: Fluticasone furoate



**Fig. 4: Calibration graph of vilanterol and fluticasone furoate**



**Fig. 5: Calibration graph of vilanterol and fluticasone furoate**

**Analysis of tableted formulation**

About 10 tablets were weighed and powdered. The quantity of powder containing the equivalent of about 25 µg/ml of VTL and 100 µg/ml of FFE was weighed accurately into 100 ml volumetric flask. A volume of 50 ml of the solvent was added, sonicated for 20 minutes with intermediate shaking, diluted up to the mark with the solvent and mixed, filtered through 0.22 µm filter. Further, it is diluted to achieve concentrations of 15 µg/ml of VTL and 60 µg/ml of FFE. Analysis of tablet formulation BreoEllipta was carried out and the amount recovered was expressed as percentage amount of tablet claim (Table 3). The percentage recovery for VTL is 99.40 and FFE is 99.05, respectively. The method can be successfully used for simultaneous estimation of VTL and FFE in combined dosage form.

**CONCLUSION**

The proposed methods (A and B), i.e., simultaneous equation method and derivative method are found to be very simple and can be performed using any spectrophotometer and does not require much costly instruments. It also shows good linearity values and sensitivity. Thus, the methods are applicable for simple and economic estimation of VTL and FFE in their pharmaceutical dosage forms. Finally, it is also concluded that this was the first method developed in this combination of drugs VTL and FFE in their pharmaceutical dosage forms.

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