

## A NOVEL OF BEZAFIBRATE ANALYSIS METHODS IN URINE (*IN VITRO*) USING SOLID PHASE EXTRACTION- HIGH-PERFORMANCE LIQUID CHROMATOGRAPHY-UV DETECTOR

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### ABSTRACT

**Objective:** Bezafibrate is the second generation of fibrate groups used as the drug of choice in the treatment of hyperlipidemia. The purpose of this study is to obtain a validated method for analyzing bezafibrate in urine using solid phase extraction (SPE)-High performance liquid chromatography (HPLC).

**Methods:** Solid phase extraction (SPE) using hydrophilic-lipophilic balance (HLB) cartridge was performed for bezafibrate extraction from urine, afterward, a validation of analysis method using high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC)-(UV) detection was conducted to parameters, including: selectivity (Rs), linearity (r), accuracy, precision, limit of detection (LOD) and limit of quantification (LOQ).

**Results:** Recovery extraction using SPE resulted %recovery 85-110%. The analysis was performed by high-performance liquid chromatography using reversed phase, C18 octadecylsilane (ODS) columns 250 x 26 mm, particle size 10 µl, with the composition of 0.01 M acetate buffer with pH 3.55: with percent composition (45:55) and 0.8 ml/minute on 230 nm UV detection. Validation includes selectivity, linearity, accuracy, precision LOD, and LOQ have fulfilled requirement value.

**Conclusion:** The result of recovery extraction using SPE and validation of method exhibited the values that fulfilled the requirements and can be used for analysis bezafibrate in the urine.

**Keywords:** Bezafibrate, HPLC, SPE, Urine

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### INTRODUCTION

Hyperlipidemia is a global problem that is facing today, this is due to changes in lifestyle that occurs [1]. Bezafibrate (2-[4-2-[4chloro-benzamido]-ethyl phenoxy]-2methylpropanoic acid) is a derivative of a known fibrate compound as a class of lipid-lowering drugs that is often prescribed [2]. The mechanism of decreasing lipid levels by bezafibrate is by increasing the release of triglycerides, cholesterol, low-density lipoprotein and raising the amount of high-density lipoprotein, bezafibrate works as a peroxisome proliferation activated receptor agonist (PPARs) [3]. Bezafibrate is expressed about 95% by urine in the form of unchanged bezafibrate [4].

Drugs or metabolite analysis in urine or plasma commonly used HPLC-UV method to reach good result [5, 6]. Studies that have been performed for bezafibrate analysis include: bezafibrate in plasma and urine using HPLC, where plasma bezafibrate is extracted with diethyl ether first, while bezafibrate in urine is directly analyzed after being diluted by mobile phase, its time consuming and resulted low accuracy [7] bezafibrate in human plasma applied in tablet dispersion system by HPLC method [8, 9] bezafibrate in pharmaceutical preparations by polarography method [8] bezafibrate in rat serum with Ag-Nitrate using HPLC method [10] but, the procedure of drug or metabolite isolation is complicated; bezafibrate in a pharmaceutical formulation of the HPLC method [1] especially just for high doses. Until now has not been reported an analysis of bezafibrate in biological fluids with SPE by UV detector. HPLC is a good method for analysis in biological fluids because it has good selectivity and sensitivity values and SPE is a method that excellent in the extraction of compounds with small levels and in a complex matrix [11, 12]. In this work, we attempt to get the simple, rapid and accurate of bezafibrate analysis method in human urine using SPE-HPLC-UV detector.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

#### Materials

Bezafibrate (Bezalip Purity >98% purchased from PT Rajawali Nusindo), acetonitrile HPLC grade (JT Baker), methanol pro analysis

(Merck), sodium acetate (Bratachem), acetic acid glacial (Bratachem), aquabidestillata (IKA).

#### Equipment

A set of HPLC (Shimadzu LC-10 ATVP) equipped with SPD UV-Vis detector) ODS column (Phenomenex) (length of 250 nm, 4.6 mm inner diameter, 10 µm particle size), UV-Vis spectrophotometer (Analytical Jena, Specord 200), SPE cartridge HLB 30 mg 1 cc (Oasis). pH meter (Ohmeter), ultrasonic bath (NEY 1510).

#### Methods

##### Preparation of working standard of bezafibrate

Accurately weigh of 2 g of bezafibrate were dissolved in methanol add to 100 ml, obtained standard solution with a concentration of about 20.000 µg/ml which was subsequently diluted to 200 µg/ml.

##### Determination of molar extinction

Prepare a series of bezafibrate solutions from the stock solution with concentrations of 11, 22, and 33 µM. The three solutions were then measured their maximum wavelength with the speculator and read the absorption of each concentration at the maximum bezafibrate wavelength and determined the value of its molar extension.

##### Preparation of mobile phase

Prepared of 0.1 molar acetate buffer with pH 3.5 by dissolving 0.234 g of sodium acetate up to 300 ml. The solution is stirred using a magnetic stirrer. The pH adjustment was performed with the addition of glacial acetic acid. Buffer solution then filtered using a filter membrane of 0.45 µl, and degassing. A number of acetonitrile to be used as a mobile phase are degassed before use.

##### Optimization HPLC analysis condition

To obtain optimum condition, an experiment with various concentration of mobile phase of HPLC system to be used is column

ODS/C18 (octadecylsilane), length 250 mm, inner diameter 4.6 mm, and particle size 10  $\mu\text{m}$  phase of ammonium acetate (0.01 M, pH 3.5, regulated by addition of acetic acid): Acetonitrile with optional % composition were (35:65, 40:60, and 45:55), flow rate will be set in 0.8; 0.9; or 1 ml/min at UV Detection 230. The optimum condition is stated by reaching a peak resolution ( $R_s$ ) greater than 1.5 and produce fastest in analysis time.

#### Optimization of extraction using SPE

The extraction was done by addition method of bezafibrate in urine with a variation of concentration 2.4; 3.8; 4.8; 6.2; and 7.4  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ . then extracted with SPE using HLB cartridge. The optimal conditions of extraction are expressed when the recovery value of extraction is in the range 85-100%

#### Validation of analysis method

Some aspects measured in the validation method are selectivity, linearity, precision, accuracy, LOD and LOQ [12].

#### Selectivity

Selectivity determination is conducted by calculating the value of chromatogram resolution ( $R_s$ ) from the chromatogram.

#### Linearity

While the linearity test obtained from the measurement data of standard series solution that has been made five variations of

concentration 2.4; 3.4; 4.8; 6.2; and 7.8  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  to obtain the calibration curve and correlation coefficient ( $r^2$ ).

#### LOD and LOQ

Measurement of the limit of detection and limit of quantification were calculated statistically using linear regression of calibration curve [13].

#### Precision

The repeatability test is performed by injecting of 6 times bezafibrate concentration of 4.8  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  in urine in the same day so that the data obtained will be expressed as the relative standard deviation (% RSD) [13].

#### Accuracy

The accuracy test was performed by preparing a standard solution with 3 and 7  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  of bezafibrate using blank urine, then it was analyzed using SPE, both of solution was injected 3 times into the HPLC tool in optimum condition. The accuracy value is expressed as (%) recovery [13].

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### Determination of molar extinction

The determination of molar extension ( $\epsilon$ ) results bezafibrate was carried out on three concentrations of 11, 22, and 33  $\mu\text{M}$  in methanol at a maximum bezafibrate wavelength of 230 nm (table 1).

**Table 1: Results of determination of bezafibrate molar extinction in wavelength 230 nm ( $\epsilon$ )**

No.	Concentration molar (M)	Absorbance	Molar extinction ( $\epsilon$ )( $\text{M}^{-1} \text{cm}^{-1}$ )
n=3	11 x 10 <sup>-6</sup>	0.2272	20700
	22 x 10 <sup>-6</sup>	0.5013	22700
	33 x 10 <sup>-6</sup>	0.5750	23000
$\bar{X} \pm \text{SD}$			22133.33 $\pm$ 1020.893

Values represent mean $\pm$ SD, n=3.

The results of bezafibrate molar extinction value presented an average value of 22133.33  $\text{M}^{-1} \text{cm}^{-1}$ . Its value indicates that bezafibrate is possible to be detected by UV detector in the HPLC system. The minimum value of molar extinction that can be detected in UV system must be greater than 10.000  $\text{M}^{-1} \text{cm}^{-1}$  [12].

#### Optimization HPLC condition

Optimization of HPLC conditions is carried out against the main chromatographic parameters of resolution, retention time, and flow rate of mobile phases of various compositions. The result of optimizing HPLC condition for bezafibrate is as follows: Column: LiChroCART C18, particle size 10  $\mu\text{m}$ , column length 250 mm. mobile phase: Ammonium Acetate (0.01 M, with pH 3.5): acetonitrile with

% composition (55:45), at UV detection 254 nm, flow rate: 0.8 ml/min and injection volume: 10  $\mu\text{l}$ . The  $R_s$  value obtained in this condition is 1.55 and retention time of bezafibrate is 6 min. Base on its result, analysis condition of HPLC was stated as an optimal condition. The short retention times (6 minutes) help to improve the efficiency of the analysis so that it is more effective than previous studies [8, 12].

#### Recovery of extraction

The result of the extraction result of bezafibrate test (table 2) was done with concentration of 2.4  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ , 4.8  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ , and 7.4  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ . The variation of the concentration was based on the level of bezafibrate secreted into urine ie about 4.8  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  as previously study [8].

**Table 2: Result of recovery extraction**

Replication	Concentration bezafibrate 2.4 $\mu\text{g/ml}$	Concentration bezafibrate 4.8 $\mu\text{g/ml}$	Concentration bezafibrate 7.4 $\mu\text{g/ml}$
n=3	88.4408	94.9437	96.2171
	89.0622	94.9184	96.4800
	90.7384	94.9888	98.2556
$\bar{X} \pm \text{SD}$	89.4138 $\pm$ 1.19	92.9503 $\pm$ 0.03	97.3179 $\pm$ 1.11

Values represent mean $\pm$ SD, n=3.

The result of recovery extraction for the concentration of bezafibrate 2.4  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  was valued 88.24%, bezafibrate with 4.8  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  was 92.55%, and bezafibrate with 7.8  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  equal to 97.01% respectively. Based on the results of the analysis, the % recovery of the three bezafibrate sample concentrations is eligible because the value is in the range of 80-120% [7, 13-15]. SPE method is very effective to trace analysis in a biological fluid. It is the recovery of extraction can be reach up to 99%. Its value higher than liquid-liquid extraction as previously studies that only reach 80-85% [3, 7].

#### Validation of analysis method

Validation of the analysis method includes parameter selectivity, linearity, accuracy, precision, LOD, LOQ, and system suitability test.

#### Selectivity

The selectivity test is performed by calculating the resolution value of the peak of the sample chromatogram and the other peak of the separate chromatogram (not overlapping).

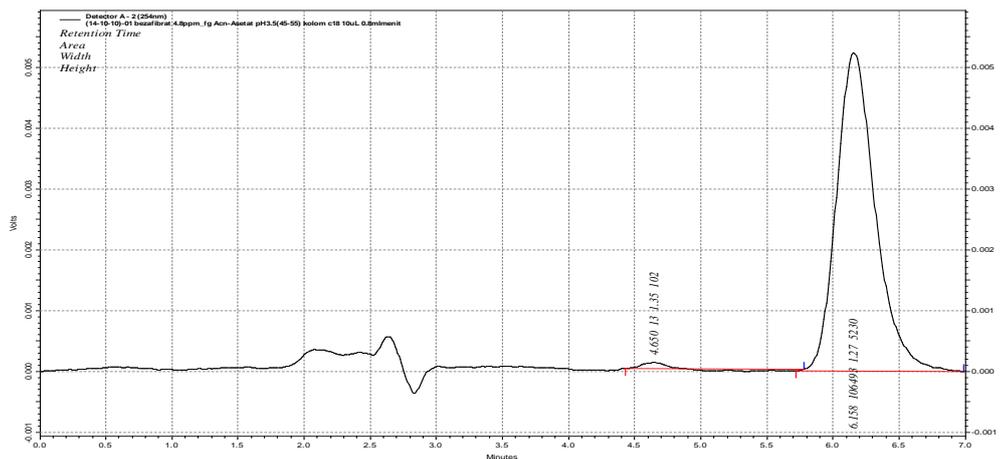


Fig. 1: Chromatogram for resolution of peak

The Rs value (fig. 1) obtained from the analysis is 1.55. It represents the good separation peaks on chromatograms between bezafibrate and impurity metabolites (extracted body metabolites).

The standard of resolution value allowed is greater than 1.5 [12], this indicates that the resolution value has fulfilled the validation requirements. The chromatogram is relatively clean from impurity so as not to interfere with the process of bezafibrate quantification.

**Linearity**

The linearity test (fig. 2) is done to find out the response of the method of analysis to the variation of the sample concentration in the form of a straight-line calibration curve. The parameter used is the correlation coefficient ( $r^2$ ) which will state the linear relationship of the calibration curve. The calibration curve was made by making 5 variations of bezafibrate concentrations in urine. Subsequently undergoing extraction step with SPE, at each concentration 3 repetitions were performed ( $n = 3$ ). Then we create a linear equation. Based on the calculation of linear line equation, the correlation coefficient ( $r$ ) is 0.997 with the straight-line equation  $y = 48019x - 11141$ . The  $r^2$  value meets the linearity requirement for the valid method of analysis that is  $>0.995$  [12]. This result shows a curve of calibration can be used to quantify bezafibrate levels in the urine.

**LOD and LOQ determination**

The LOD and LOQ values were obtained from the calculation of bezafibrate calibration curve to the area of the chromatogram. The equation used is  $y = 48019x - 11141$  so that the LOD value to area ratio is 0.055  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  and the LOQ to area ratio is 0.184  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ . Based on LOD and LOQ value, the method was sensitive enough to detect

bezafibrate in urine [13]. SPE help the extraction efficiency that it will be assisted to increase detection of drug level in the analysis. SPE increases the efficiency of extraction so as to help improve drug level detection in the analysis [11, 16].

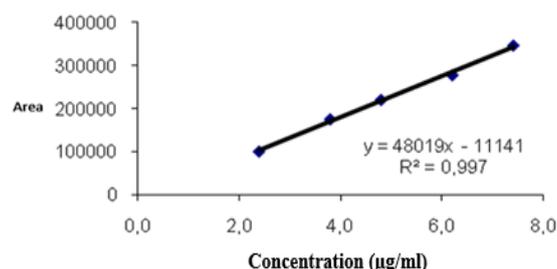


Fig. 2: Calibration curve of linearity

**Precision**

The precision test is done by measuring the bezafibrate sample of 4.8  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  concentration using HPLC with repetition 6 times ( $n = 6$ ) was presented in table 3. Based on the results of repeatability test, the % RSD for the area of the chromatogram is 2.23%. This indicates that the results of the repeatability test analysis were good enough and fulfilled the valid value, because a requirement RSD value for the biological fluid analysis must be less than 10% [13, 17].

Table 3: Result of precision

Concentration of bezafibrate ( $\mu\text{g/ml}$ )	Peak area (n=6)
4.8	221332
	221273
	221437
	215477
	216546
	229424
$\bar{X} \pm \text{SD}$	220914 $\pm$ 4502.55
RSD %	2.2326

Values represent mean  $\pm$  SD,  $n=6$ .

**Accuracy**

Based on the results of the analysis, accuracy value fulfilled the validation criteria (fig. 4). Both of the concentration of bezafibrate

with concentration 3  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  and 7  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  have % recovery 89.398% and 94.305% respectively. Percent recovery for accuracy allowed for a method of analysis in a biological matrix is 80-120% [13]. The method was accurate for bezafibrate quantification.

Tabel 4: Result of accuracy

Replication	Nominal concentration	
	3 µg/ml	7 µg/ml
Peak area	112974 119879 120078	302940 307326 307182
Concentration base on calibration curve (µg/ml)	2.584 2.728 2.326	6.54 6.63 6.62
$\bar{X} \pm SD$	2.681±0.203676	6.60±0.040
RSD %	3.95	2.15
Recovery %	89.39±2.809561	94.30±0.75
$\bar{X} \pm SD$		

Values represent mean±SD, n=3.

Table 5: System suitability

Parameters	RSD (%)
Retention time (n=6)	1.09
Peak area (n=6)	2.23

Values represent in RSD (relatif standar deviation), n=6.

### System suitability test

The system suitability test (table 5). Is done to know that the system used can run effectively and parameter used is % RSD. Its value must be fulfilled requirement that is RSD<10% for biological fluids [17]. Base on the value of % RSD, the system was effective for running.

### CONCLUSION

Extraction using SPE yields excellent results with percent recovery near 100% and it can be applied to bezafibrate analysis with a very small concentration in complicated matrices. The validation methods include parameters: selectivity, linearity, LOD, LOQ, accuracy, precision, and system suitability, proved that the method used has validity as required so it can be used to analyze bezafibrate human urine especially for routine analysis.

### ABBREVIATION

SPE: solid phase extraction, HPLC: high-performance liquid chromatography, UV: ultraviolet, HLB: hydrophilic-lipophilic balance, LDL: low-density lipoprotein, LOD: limit of detection, LOQ: limit of quantification, SD; standard deviation, RSD: relative standard deviation, Rs: Resolution, ODS: octadecylsilane

### AUTHORS CONTRIBUTIONS

All the authors have contributed equally.

### CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

Declared none

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