

FORMULATION AND EVALUATION OF MOUTH DISSOLVING TABLET OF AMLODIPINE BESYLATE

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Received: 11 Dec 2018, Revised and Accepted: 26 Apr 2019

ABSTRACT

Objective: The main objective of this research work was to formulate and evaluate the mouth dissolving tablet of amlodipine besylate for the treatment of hypertension and coronary artery disease.

Methods: In this study, mouth dissolving tablet were prepared by direct compression method by using croscarmellose sodium and sodium starch glycolate as superdisintegrants. The designed tablets were subjected to various assessment parameters like friability test, hardness test, disintegration test, wetting time, *in vitro* drug release and drug content.

Results: All the prepared formulations were subjected to various assessment parameters, and the findings obtain within the prescribed limit. The calibration curve of pure drug using various solvents like phosphate buffer pH 6.8, methanol was plotted. F1-F9 containing croscarmellose sodium and sodium starch glycolate in various concentration demonstrate the minimum disintegration time. Among all these formulations F9 shows disintegration time up to 22±1.12 seconds due to the high concentration of superdisintegrants. *In vitro* drug release was tested in phosphate buffer pH 6.8 at a time interval of 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 min. The F9 shows drug release 100.22±1.08%. Accelerated stability study of optimized formulation (F9) up to 2 mo showed there was no change in disintegration time and percentage drug release.

Conclusion: The results obtained in the research work clearly showed a promising potential of mouth dissolving tablets containing a specific ratio of croscarmellose sodium and sodium starch glycolate as superdisintegrants for the effective treatment of hypertension and coronary artery disease.

Keywords: Mouth dissolving tablet, Amlodipine besylate, Superdisintegrants, Bioavailability, Calcium channel blocker

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DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.22159/ijap.2019v11i4.31288>

INTRODUCTION

Oral route of drug administration has wide acceptance of up to 50-60% of total dosage forms. Solid dosage forms are popular because of ease of administration, accurate dosage, self-medication, pain avoidance and most importantly the patient compliance. The most popular solid dosage forms are being tablets and capsules, one important drawback of this dosage form for some patients is the difficulty to swallow. Mouth dissolving tablets provide an advantage, particularly for pediatric and geriatric populations who have difficulty in swallowing conventional tablets and capsules. Mouth dissolving of tablet results in quick dissolution and rapid absorption, which provide rapid onset of action. Moreover, drug candidates that undergoes pre-gastric absorption when formulated as mouth dissolving tablets may show increased oral bioavailability. It provides good stability, accurate dosing, easy manufacturing. Angina pectoris is chest pain due to ischemia of heart muscle due to obstruction or spasm of the coronary arteries. Amlodipine besylate is a long-acting calcium channel blocker mainly used in the treatment of chronic stable angina vasospastic angina and hypertension. It inhibits the transmembrane influx of calcium ion into vascular smooth muscle and cardiac muscle. Peak plasma concentrations are reached 6-12 h. It has an oral bioavailability of 64-90% and half-life of about 30-50 h. Amlodipine besylate is a slightly soluble drug the rate of absorption is controlled by the rate of dissolution. The rate of dissolution can be increased by the use of super disintegrants. Mouth dissolving tablets are designed to be placed in mouth allowed to dissolve in the saliva and then swallowed without the aid of water. The objective of the present study was to deliver the drug at a faster rate and to provide immediate onset of action in a shorter period of time with improved bioavailability. The basic approach in the development of oral disintegrating tablets is the use of superdisintegrants like croscarmellose sodium, sodium starch glycolate [1-10].

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Materials

Amlodipine besylate procured from Blue cross Pvt. Ltd., Nashik. All the other reagents used were of analytical grade.

Methods

Determination of λ max of amlodipine besylate

The UV spectrum of amlodipine besylate was obtained by using a UV-visible spectrometer (UV-2450, Shimadzu). Accurately weigh 10 mg of the drug was added to 100 ml of volumetric flask. Volume was made up to 100 ml with water (100 µg/ml). This solution was used as a stock solution. From this solution (100 µg/ml) suitable working solutions of different concentrations of 10, 20, 30, 140, and 50 µg/ml were prepared. The resultant solution was scanned from 400 to 200 nm, and the spectrum was recorded to obtain the value of the maximum wavelength in the respective solvents. The absorbance of each standard solution was determined spectrophotometrically. Using absorbance concentration data, Beer-Lambert's plot was constructed [11].

Drug excipients compatibility study Infrared spectrum

The infrared (IR) spectrum of amlodipine besylate was recorded with potassium bromide (KBr) discover the wave number of 4000 to 400 cm⁻¹ by using fourier transform infrared spectrophotometer (FTIR) [12].

Formulation of mouth dissolving tablets

Direct compression method was followed to manufacture tablets for all batches. Amlodipine besylate, sodium starch glycolate, croscarmellose sodium, d-Mannitol, microcrystalline cellulose, magnesium stearate, saccharine sodium, were passed through #690

sieves. Weighed amounts of the drug as well as all other ingredients were transferred to mortar and blended for 15 min with the help of pestle. The accurately weighed quantity for one tablet was poured in die cavity. Tablet thickness and hardness were adjusted with the help of thickness adjustment screw and compression pressure adjustment knob respectively. Powder filled in die cavity was subjected to compression using 10-station rotary press using round shaped concave punches measuring 8 mm diameter. Collected tablets were de-dusted and subjected to further evaluation parameters [13].

Formulation optimization

The 3² full factorial design was adopted for formulation purpose. The amount of superdisintegrants, sodium starch glycolate (X₁) and croscarmellose sodium (X₂) were taken as independent variables. The factors were studied at three levels (-1, 0, +1) indicating low, medium and high, respectively. The statistical optimization procedure was performed with the help of optimization software design expert 8.0.4 (Stat-Ease Inc. MN, USA). The software performs an analysis of variance and statistical optimization.

Table 1: Independent variables

Factor level	Coded form	Actual value (mg)		Predicted value (mg)	
		X ₁	X ₂	X ₁	X ₂
Low	-1	2	1	1	0.5
Medium	0	5	3	2.5	1.5
High	+1	8	5	4	2.5

Table 2: Composition of mouth dissolving tablet of amlodipine besylate

Ingredients (mg/tablets)	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6	F7	F8	F9
amlodipine besylate	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Croscarmellose sodium	1	3	5	1	3	5	1	3	5
sodium starch glycolate	2	2	2	5	5	5	8	8	8
d-mannitol	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40
microcrystalline cellulose	93	91	89	90	88	86	87	85	83
saccharin sodium	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
magnesium stearate	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
total	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150

Evaluation

Precompression parameters

Angle of repose (θ)

Angle of repose is defined as the maximum angle possible between the surface of a pile of the powder and horizontal plane. The frictional force in loose powder or granules can be measured by the angle of repose [14].

$$\tan\theta = \frac{h}{r}$$

Where θ = angle of repose,

h = height of the pile,

r = radius of the pile base

Bulk density

The bulk density of a powder is dependent on particle packing and changes as the powder consolidate. Apparent bulk density was determined by pouring the bulk powder into a graduated cylinder via a large funnel and measuring the volume and weight. Bulk density can be calculated by the following formula [14, 27].

$$\text{Bulk density} = \frac{\text{weight of powder}}{\text{Bulk volume}}$$

Tapped density

Tapped density is the bulk density of a powder which has been compacted by tapping or vibration. Tapped density was determined by placing a graduated cylinder containing a known mass of powder on a mechanical tapping apparatus, which is operated for a fixed number of taps (100) or until the powder bed volume has reached a minimum. The tapped density was computed by taking the weight of the drug in the cylinder and final volume [11, 28].

$$\text{Tapped density} = \frac{\text{weight of powder}}{\text{tapped volume}}$$

Hausner's ratio

Hausner's ratio is an indirect index of ease of powder flow. It is calculated by the following formula [14].

$$\text{Hausner's ratio} = \frac{\text{tapped density of powder}}{\text{bulk density of powder}}$$

Compressibility Index (Carr's Index)

Another indirect method of measuring powder flow from bulk densities was developed by Carr's. The percentage compressibility of a powder is a direct measure of the potential powder arch or bridge strength and stability. It is calculated according to the following equation [14].

$$\text{Carr's index} = \frac{(\text{tapped density} - \text{bulk density})}{\text{tapped density}} \times 100$$

Weight variation test

Twenty tablets were selected randomly from each batch and weighed individually in electronic balance (shimadzu). The Indian pharmacopeia allows a little variation in the weight of a tablet. Average weight was calculated, and the standard deviation was computed. Average of 20 readings is taken [14].

Uniformity of thickness

The thickness of individual tablet may be measured with a digital vernier caliper, which permits accurate measurements and provides information on the variation between tablets. Averages of triplicate readings were taken [14].

Hardness test

The strength of the tablet is expressed as tensile strength (Kg/cm²). The tablet crushing load, which is the force required to break a tablet into pieces by compression. It was measured using a tablet hardness tester (Monsanto hardness tester). Three tablets from each formulation batch were tested randomly and the average readings were noted [15, 16].

Friability

Friability of the tablets was determined using roche friabilator. This device consists of a plastic chamber that is set to revolve around 25 RPM for 4 min dropping the tablets at a distance of 6 inches with each revolution. Pre-weighed a sample of 20 tablets was placed in the friabilator and was subjected to 100 revolutions. Tablets were dusted using a soft muslin cloth and reweighed. The friability (F %) was then calculated by [15, 16].

$$\% \text{ Friability} = \frac{(\text{original weight} - \text{weight after 100 revolutions})}{\text{original weight}} \times 100$$

Drug content

Twenty tablets from each batch were weighed accurately and powdered. Weight the quantity of the powder equivalent to 100 mg of amlodipine besylate, and was shaken with 100 ml of distilled water in 100 ml volumetric flask. From this 10 ml was pipette out and diluted upto 100 ml with distilled water. From this solution again 10 ml pipette out and diluted up to 100 ml in 100 ml volumetric flask. Resulting solution was filtered and absorbance was checked at 239 nm and content of amlodipine besylate was calculated using distilled water as a blank [17].

Wetting time

A piece of tissue paper (12 cm x 10.75 cm) folded twice was placed in a petri dish (internal diameter=9 cm) containing 9 ml of buffer solution, which had the following to the petri dish. A tablet was carefully placed on the surface of tissue paper. The time required for water to reach the upper surface of the tablets was noted as the wetting time. Six tablets from each formulation batch were tested randomly and the average reading noted [18].

Water absorption ratio

A petri dish with an inner diameter of 6.5 cm and having 6 ml water in it was used for this test. A tissue paper folded twice was put in the petri dish. A pre-weighed tablet was positioned on it, after complete wetting the tablet was re-weighed [19].

$$R = \frac{W_a}{W_b} \times 100$$

R= water absorption ratio

W_a= weight of tablet after wetting

W_b= weight of the tablet before wetting

In vitro disintegration time

Disintegration time for mouth dissolving tablets was determined using USP disintegration apparatus with phosphate buffer of pH 6.8. The volume of the medium was 900 ml and the temperature was 37 °C±2 °C. The time in seconds taken for the complete disintegration of the tablet with no palatable mass remaining on the mesh was measured. To comply the test, all tablets should disintegrate within 3 min [18].

In vitro drug release studies

To study the drug release from the tablet, the USP type II (paddle) apparatus was employed. In this method, 900 ml of phosphate buffer

pH 6.8 was used as the dissolution media and the paddle was rotated at a constant speed of 500 rpm. The temperature of the medium was maintained at 37 °C±0.5 °C. Sample of 5 ml was removed at an interval of one minute for 7 min. The sample were filtered and the concentration in each sample was determined by UV spectrophotometer and reported as an average of three determinations [20-24, 26].

Stability study

Stability study was conducted as per ICH guidelines 40 °C±2 °C, 75%±2% RH to test the chemical and physical stability of fast dissolving tablets for the period of 2 mo [25].

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Determination of λ max of amlodipine besylate

λ max of amlodipine besylate was determined in methanol. The calibration curve of amlodipine besylate shown linearity as per Beers Lambert's law at 239 nm represented in fig. 1.

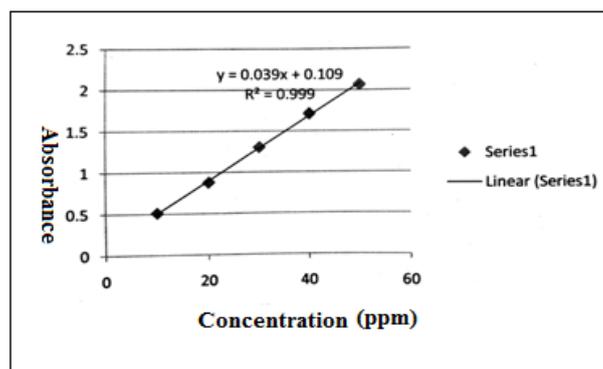
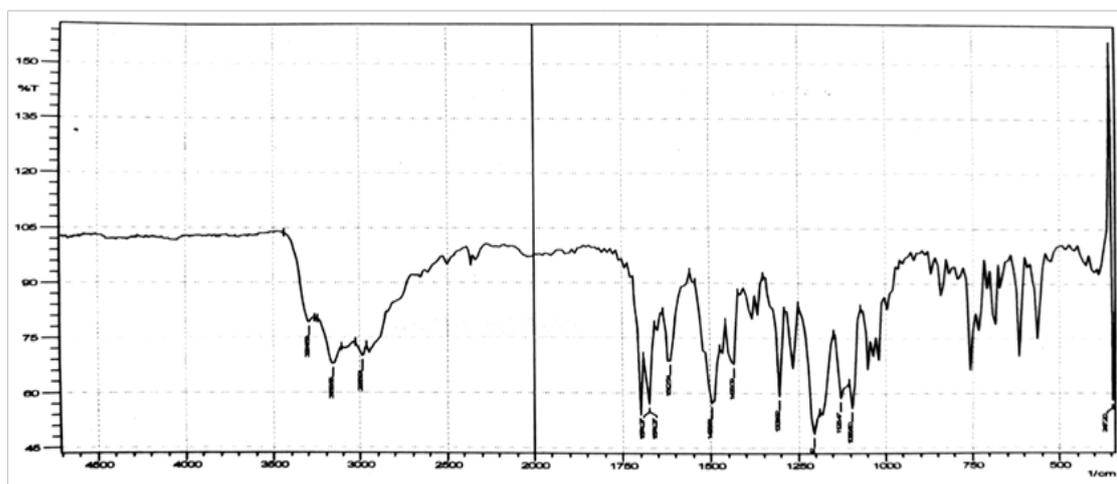


Fig. 1: Calibration curve of amlodipine besylate in methanol

Drug excipients compatibility study IR spectrometer study

The IR spectra of amlodipine besylate, polymers, and physical mixture are shown in fig. The IR absorption bands observed in the IR spectrum of drug and polymers resembles with that of found in physical mixture proves the compatibility of the drug with polymers. The fig. 3 shows absorption spectrum of drug and croscarmellose sodium and fig. 4 shows an absorption spectrum of drug and sodium starch glycolate [28].



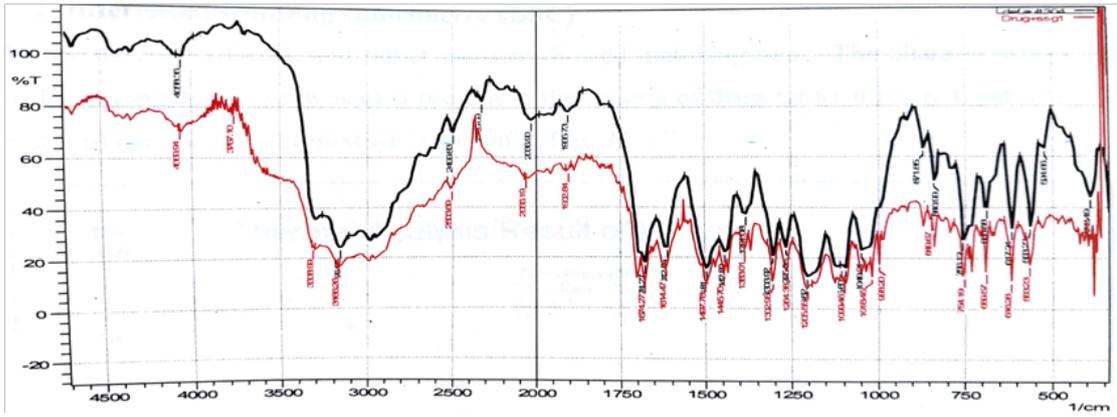


Fig. 2: FTIR of amlodipine besylate

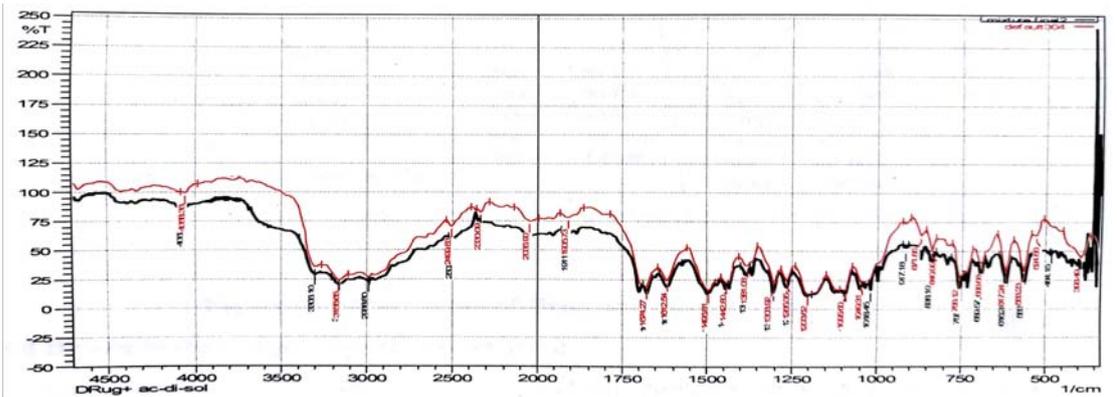


Fig. 3: FTIR spectra of drug and drug+croscarmellose sodium

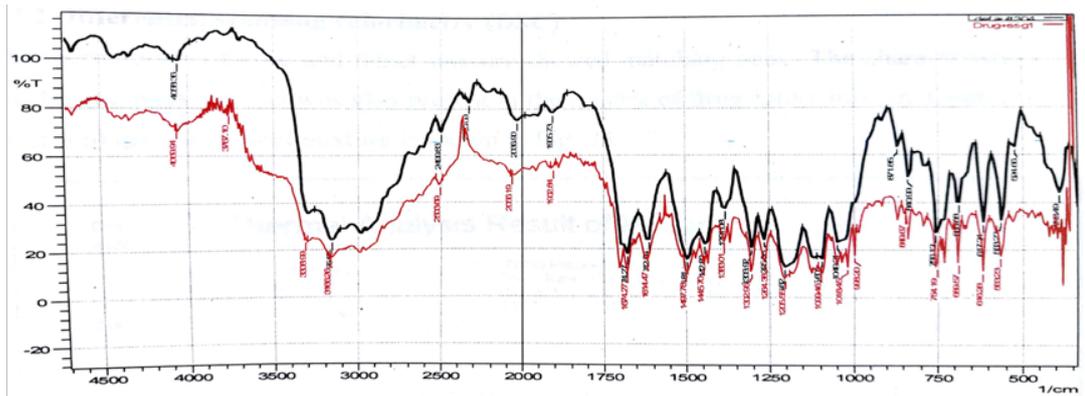


Fig. 4: FTIR spectra of drug and drug+sodiumstarch glycolate

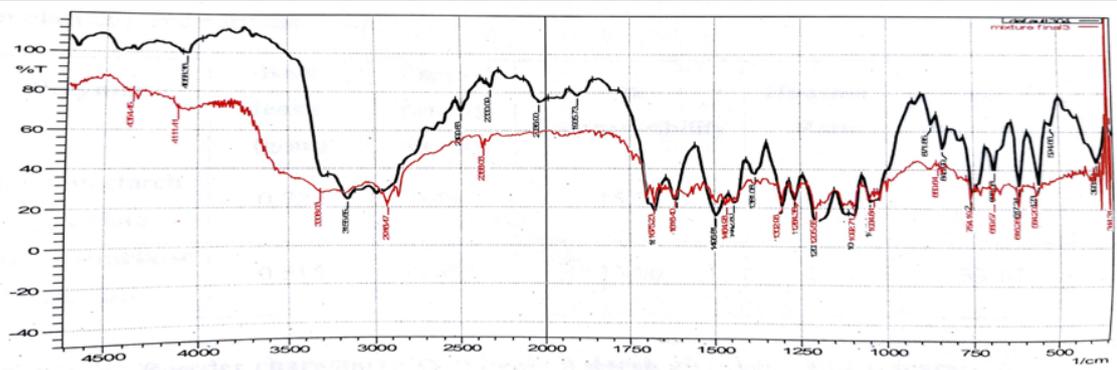


Fig. 5: FTIR spectra of drug and drug+mixture

Differential scanning calorimetry (DSC)

Thermal analysis of drugs carried out using DSC. The DSC curve of amlodipine besylate profiles a sharp exothermic peak at 106.53 °C

corresponding to it's melting, and indicating it's crystalline nature and purity of the sample. The DSC of thermogram is shown in fig. 6. [28].

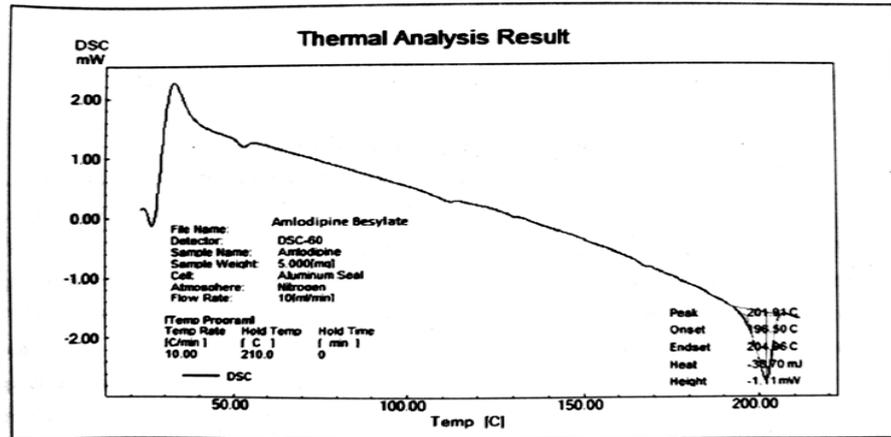


Fig. 6: DSC of amlodipine besylate

The thermogram of drug and tablet mixture showed matching peaks. The characteristic exothermic peak of the drug was also present in

the spectra of the drug-tablet mixture. Overlay spectra of drug with the total mixture is shown in fig. 7.

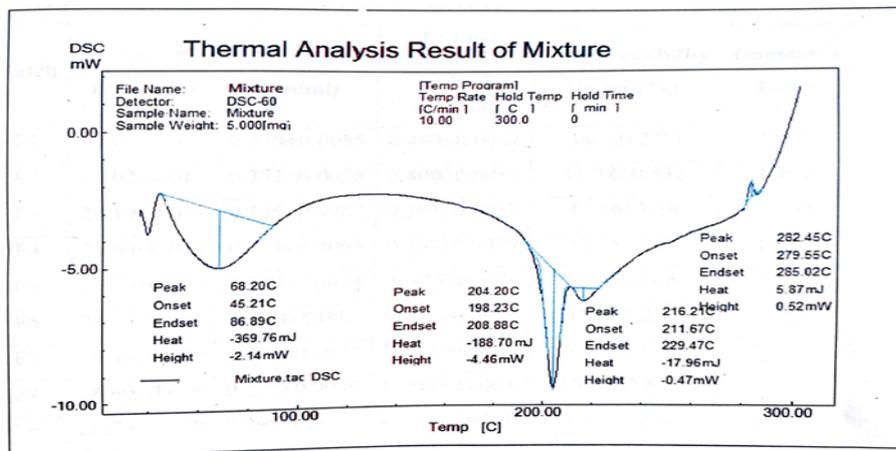


Fig. 7: DSC of drug+mixture

Precompression evaluation parameters of powder

Angle of repose

The angle of repose is an inactive parameter of powder flowability from the hopper to die cavity. An angle of repose between 25 ° to 30 ° indicates excellent flowability of the powder bed. In this work, the angle of repose was found to be varying between 25.40 °-29.76 ° when

glidants were incorporated. These studies indicated that the powder beds of all formulations are easily flow able. All the precompression parameters were found to be within the acceptable limit.

Bulk density

Bulk density was found in the range of 0.273±0.0030 to 0.378±0.0055 g/ml.

Table 3: Precompression parameters for fast dissolving tablets of F1 to F9

Formulation code	*Angle of repose (°)	*Bulk density (g/ml)	*Tapped density (g/ml)	Compressibility index (%)	Hausner's ratio
F1	26.91±0.021	0.378±0.0055	0.440±0.0061	14.12±2.26	1.079
F2	28.02±0.017	0.353±0.0028	0.400±0.0050	11.17±0.532	1.132
F3	27.19±0.031	0.325±0.0087	0.393±0.0057	17.16±3.38	1.206
F4	25.99±0.075	0.373±0.0065	0.393±0.0073	12.25±2.97	1.139
F5	29.76±0.023	0.329±0.0028	0.425±0.006	13.45±2.05	1.155
F6	29.20±0.051	0.314±0.002	0.381±0.0096	8.40±2.257	1.086
F7	25.40±0.040	0.296±0.0037	0.343±0.0070	7.56±1.100	1.073
F8	26.90±0.025	0.273±0.0030	0.304±0.0063	10.03±2.875	1.108
F9	26.75±0.020	0.295±0.0015	0.322±0.0061	8.44±2.219	1.091

*All the values are expressed as mean±SD, where n=3, SD: Standard deviation

Tapped density

Tapped density was found to be in the range of 0.304 ± 0.0063 to 0.440 ± 0.0061 g/ml.

Percentage compressibility index

Compressibility index was found to be in the range of 7.56 % to 17.16 %. All formulations showed good flow properties which are given in table 3.

Hausner's ratio

Hausner's ratio was found to be in the range of 1.073 to 1.206 [24].

Post-compression evaluation of fast dissolving tablets of amlodipine besylate**Thickness**

The thickness of the tablets was found to be uniform, between 2.21 ± 0.005 mm to 2.29 ± 0.005 mm for (F1 to F9).

Hardness

The hardness of the tablets varied between 2.89 ± 0.036 Kg/cm² to 3.78 ± 0.047 Kg/cm² indicating good binding and satisfactory strength of tablets to withstand stresses during transportation and also may offer good dissolution property.

% Friability

The % friability was found in the range of $0.44 \pm 0.05\%$ to $0.88 \pm 0.06\%$ which passes standard.

Weight variation

The weight of the formulated tablets of amlodipine besylate (F1 to F9) was found to be uniform with low standard deviation values from 148.96 ± 1.35 to 150.56 ± 1.44 mg. The prepared formulations comply with the weight variation test as per IP. The results are given in table 4.

Water absorption ratio

The water absorption ratio ranged from 95.33 ± 0.67 to 100.89 ± 1.01 . All the formulations pass the test as per IP standards [24].

Wetting time

It is the time required for complete wetting of tablet. The wetting time was found in the range of 15 ± 0.56 to 31 ± 0.89 sec.

Disintegration time

It is the time required for complete disintegration of the tablet. The disintegration time was found in the range of 22 ± 1.12 to 35 ± 1.84 sec.

Drug content

Drug content found in the fast dissolving tablets resembling that of literature value. Range of drug content is 95.16%-101.28%. Therefore uniformity of content was maintained in all formulations. Drug content of all formulations is listed in table 4. [24].

Table 4: Post compression parameters for mouth dissolving tablets of F1 to F9

Formulation code	Thickness (mm) (mean±SD)	Hardness* (Kg/cm ²)(mean±SD)	Friability* % (mean±SD)	Average weight Mg (mean±SD)	Water absorption ratio
F1	2.21±0.005	3.46±0.028	0.62±0.05	149.1±1.04	98.21±1.389
F2	2.25±0.01	3.14±0.128	0.58±0.03	149.3±1.84	100.89±1.01
F3	2.26±0.032	3.78±0.047	0.58±0.08	148.96±1.35	97.99±0.665
F4	2.29±0.005	3.38±0.047	0.55±0.06	150.56±1.44	99.3±0.10
F5	2.22±0.015	3.63±0.015	0.54±0.08	149.16±0.93	96.44±0.38
F6	2.22±0.015	2.95±0.046	0.45±0.06	149.1±1.04	97.29±0.28
F7	2.22±0.01	3.15±0.132	0.59±0.02	149.34±0.87	99.99±1.32
F8	2.23±0.115	2.89±0.036	0.44±0.05	150.1±1.31	95.33±0.67
F9	2.25±0.01	3.22±0.0023	0.88±0.06	150.19±1.10	96.6±0.38

*All the values are expressed as mean±SD, where n=20 and # n=3

Table 5: Post compression parameters for mouth dissolving tablets of F1 to F9

Formulation code	Wetting time*(Sec) (mean±SD)	Disintegration time (Sec) (mean±SD)	Drug content (%) (mean±SD)
F1	20±0.88	25±1.76	98.11±0.56
F2	22±0.67	28±1.34	96.20±0.96
F3	31±0.89	35±1.84	101.28±1.25
F4	21±0.87	26±1.36	99.3±0.45
F5	27±0.98	32±1.25	97.2±0.65
F6	22±0.32	28±1.45	95.16±1.56
F7	28±0.77	34±1.69	97.46±1.69
F8	18±0.65	24±1.77	98.86±0.87
F9	15±0.56	22±1.12	99.24±0.26

All the values are expressed as mean±SD, SD: Standard deviation, where* n=3.

% cumulative drug release of the different formulations is shown in fig. 4. In this formulations as the level of croscarmellose sodium and sodium starch glycolate is increased the drug release will also increase. Release of the drug *in vitro*, was determined by estimating the dissolution profile, USP 2 paddle apparatus was used and the paddle was allowed to rotate at 50 rpm,

phosphate buffer (pH 6.8) (900 ml) was used as a dissolution medium [28].

% cumulative drug release

% cumulative drug release was found in the range of 90.57 ± 0.99 to $99.65 \pm 0.63\%$.

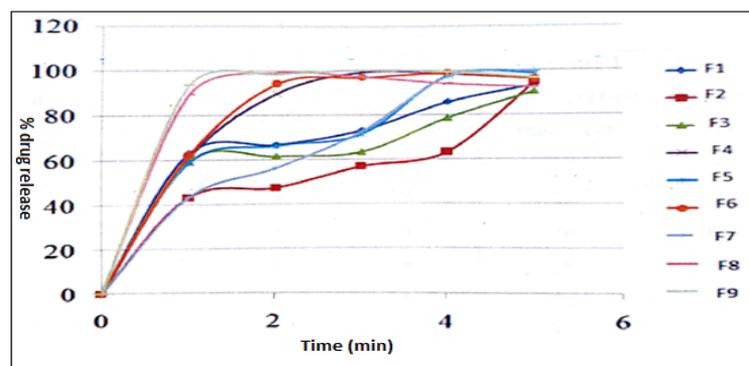


Fig. 8: Graph of %drug release of mouth dissolving tablet of amlodipine besylate

Table 6: Stability study of the optimized formulation

S. No.	Observations	Before stability *(mean±SD)	Stability testing interval days	
			1 mo *(mean±SD)	2 mo *(mean±SD)
1	Visual Appearance	White	White	White
2	disintegration time(sec)	22±1.12	22±1.35	23±1.54
3	drug content	99.24±0.26	99.50±0.26	100.25±0.26

All values are mean±SD, SD: Standard deviation, where n=3

Stability study

Results of the stability studies showed that there is no change in the physical parameters of the formulation. Drug content of the formulation was also found to be same as that before stability testing. Stability data is shown in table 6.

CONCLUSION

The current studies are aimed at successful development and optimization of the mouth dissolving tablet of amlodipine besylate and to enhance the bioavailability of the drug by avoiding first pass effect. Among the prepared batches of tablets based on performance with respect to friability, hardness, uniformity of drug content, disintegration and *in vitro* drug release studies, F9 delivers the best results as compared to other formulations. Thus, drug release from the mouth dissolving tablet was increased by using the increased concentration of superdisintegrants, assisting in faster disintegration in the oral cavity. As the drug having fast disintegration may leads to more drug availability for dissolution, resulting in faster absorption and possibly bioavailability leads to the quick onset of action in the systemic circulation.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Authors are thankful to Mr. M. S. Junagade for their valuable guidance. Literature review, experimental work, development, optimization of the formulations and interpretation of results was done by Ms. M. R. Badwar.

AUTHORS CONTRIBUTIONS

All the author have contributed equally

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

Declared none

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