

**Original Article**

**A METHOD FOR DETERMINING 1, 4-BENZOTHAZINE DERIVATIVES IN RAT PLASMA BY HPLC AND ITS APPLICATION TO A PHARMACOKINETIC STUDY**

AMIT RAI<sup>a</sup>, VINIT RAJ<sup>a</sup>, ASHOK K. SINGH<sup>a</sup>, AMIT K. KESHARI<sup>a</sup>, SUDIPTA SAHA<sup>a\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Vidya Vihar, Rae Bareilly Road, Lucknow 226025, India

Email: sudiptapharm@gmail.com

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**ABSTRACT**

**Objective:** The objective of the study was to develop, optimize and validate of a new reverse-phase high-performance liquid chromatography (RP-HPLC) method for the determining 1,4-benzothiazine derivatives (AR13 and AR15) in a biological sample of rat plasma. The 1,4-benzothiazine derivatives are produced by the synthetic reactions.

**Methods:** RP-HPLC separation was performed using an ODS-2 Hypersil column with gradient elution mobile phase consisting of water-acetonitrile for AR13 and AR15 (1:9 v/v, 3:7 v/v) at room temperature 1 ml/min flow rate, and interfaced with photodiode array detector (PDA) detector, 233 nm, 235 nm respectively.

**Results:** A linear response was obtained between (range from 0.100-10.00 mg/ml) AR13 and (range from 0.096-9.88 mg/ml) AR15 with correlation coefficient 0.999 and 0.998. The linearity range of both AR13 and AR15 was 101.65±1.5 and 98.78±1.7.

**Conclusion:** It was concluded that the method was simple, accurate, sensitive, accurate and reproducible and has been successfully applied to the pharmacokinetic study of AR13 and AR15 in rat plasma.

**Keywords:** 1,4-benzothiazine derivatives (AR13 and AR15), Pharmacokinetics, HPLC, Rat plasma

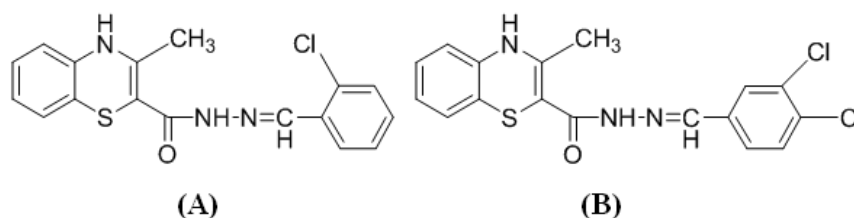
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**INTRODUCTION**

Analytical methods for appraising drugs and their metabolites in biological samples play an important role in calculating and interpreting data from the studies on bioavailability, bioequivalence, and pharmacokinetics. The 1,4-benzothiazine moiety resemble to phenothiazines, 1,4-benzothiazine was well recognized anti-psychotic drugs, [1-2] in 1,4-benzothiazine derivatives having a fold along the nitrogen-sulfur axis can be predictable to possess biological activities like phenothiazine. The 1,4-benzothiazine forms significant class of heterocyclic system. The basic unit of the 1,4-benzothiazine nucleus present in mammalian red hair and feather [3-4]. The 1,4-benzothiazines are recognized for their usefulness as

dyestuffs[5]. The 1,4-benzothiazine are molecules of enormous significance and consider as important targets because of their broad spectrum of biological activities [3]. Literature survey reveals that 1,4-benzothiazines exhibit wide pharmacological activities such as antagonists [6-7], anticancer [8], vasorelaxant [9], antidiabetic [10], antihypertensive [11], antimicrobial [12], analgesic [13], anti-HCV [14], antimalarial [15], antithyroid [16] and antitubercular [17].

The 1,4-benzothiazine and thiazole compose an important class of sulfur and nitrogen heterocycles [18]. Both the active compound AR13 and AR15 are shown in (fig. 1). The structures of these synthesized compounds were drawn in ChemDraw Ultra version 12 (Cambridge Soft) trial version.



**Fig. 1: Structures of analytes (A) AR13 and (B) AR15 both are 1,4-benzothiazine derivatives**

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

**LC instruments and analytical conditions**

Chromatography separation was performed using the LC-10AD chromatograph (Shimadzu, Japan) with a double pump, vacuum degasser, and 20-µl loop manual sample injector, interfaced with PDA detector. (Shimadzu, Japan), all are controlled by the Shimadzu LabSolutions CS software (version 5.3, Alltech, USA). The analytical column was a Shim-pack C18 column (250 mm×4.6 mm, 5 µm).

**Reagents and materials**

The compound synthesized at Department of pharmaceutical sciences, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India. After the *In vitro* study of the compounds the most active compound as AR13 and AR15 was obtained and further use for pharmacokinetic study. HPLC-grade acetonitrile and water purchased from Himedia Laboratories, Mumbai, India. The following company chemicals were used to synthesize the compound like Sigma-Aldrich, Himedia, and SD Fine. DMH was purchased from M. P.

Biomedicals U. S. The blood was collected from eppendorf tube. The plasma portion (supernatant) was collected by centrifugation of blood and stored in appropriate aliquots at -80 °C ready for use.

#### Animals and pharmacokinetic studies

Healthy Albino Wister male rats (120-140 gm) were used for the study. The animal ethical committee already approved this experiment (No. AEC/PHARM/1601/05/2016/R3). The animals were housed under standards norms of the laboratory, the temperature (25±1 °C) with a light/dark cycle of 12 h with free access to commercial pellet diet and water. Animals were acclimatized to laboratory conditions for two weeks before the experiment.

The rats were randomly divided into two groups (I and II) for both drugs. AR13 and AR15 (dissolved in 0.25% carboxymethyl cellulose, CMC) were administered orally at 25 mg/kg body weight to Albino Wistar rats and blood was collected from retro-orbital (0.5 ml) at 0, 0.083, 0.25, 1, 2, 4, 8, 24, 48 and 72 h. The blood was collected from retro-orbital plexus (n=3). A blood sample was collected into ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA) containing 2 ml eppendorf tube. After collection, blood was centrifuged at 10,000 rpm for 10 min; plasma was separated and kept at -80 °C for further high-performance liquid chromatography determination. The pharmacokinetic parameters of AR13 and AR15 were calculated by WinNonlin software 5.1 software, trial version.

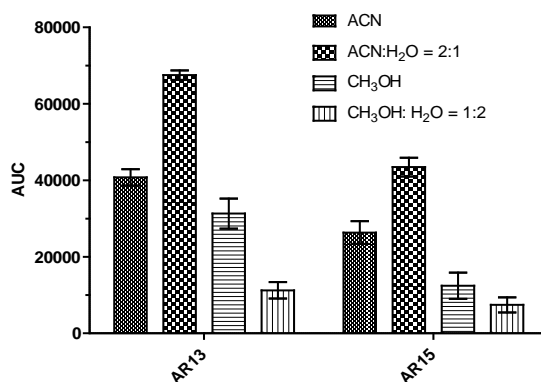
#### Preparation of working reference and standard solutions

A stock solution of 1 mg/ml of both AR13 and AR15 was prepared in acetonitrile. Plasma stock solution of 50 µg/ml was prepared by spiking 10 ml of stock solution in 190 ml of rat plasma. Later, the calibration standard of 0.1, 0.2, 1, 2, 5, 10 and 20 µg/ml (n=3). Quality control (QC) samples (0.8, 2.0, and 8.0 µg/ml) were prepared in a similar manner. Standards and QCs were all then stored at -80 °C in appropriate aliquots ready to use.

#### Sample extraction optimization, preparation of calibrants and test samples

The extraction efficiency of both compounds was evaluated from rat plasma and evaluated using various solvents i.e. acetonitrile (ACN), ACN: H<sub>2</sub>O = 2:1, methanol (CH<sub>3</sub>OH) and CH<sub>3</sub>OH: H<sub>2</sub>O = 1:2. The comparison of liquid-liquid extraction (LLE) was carried out using 100 µl of 50 µg/ml concentration and 100 µl of extracting solvent into a 2 ml eppendorf tube. Then the tubes were vortexed for 30 min and centrifuged at 10000 rpm for 10 min.

Later, the supernatant was decanted out into another tube and dried in an oven at 40 °C. Later, the tubes were reconstituted with 50 µl of various mobile phases, vortexed for 10 min and 20 µl was injected for HPLC-UV analysis. Area under the curve (AUC) data was collected and we found that ACN was the best extracting solvent for both AR13 and AR15 (fig. 2). The fig. were drawn on GraphPad Prism 5 trial version.



**Fig. 2: Showing the solvent effects on AUC of AR13 and AR15 compounds in plasma of rats ACN: Acetonitrile; H<sub>2</sub>O: Water; CH<sub>3</sub>OH: Methanol; AR13 and AR15 both are 1,4-benzothiazine derivatives**

For the preparation of calibration curve, the above-mentioned calibrants (100 µl) were taken into eppendorf tube and 100 µl blank ACN was added to it. The remaining procedure was similar to a previously described method. The final concentration of calibration samples were 0.05, 0.1, 0.2, 1, 2, 5 and 10 µg/ml. The concentrations of QC samples were 0.4, 1 and 4 µg/ml.

For test compounds, 100 µl of various time point samples were taken into eppendorf tube and 100 µl of blank ACN was added to it. Other procedures are same as previous one.

#### HPLC optimization

A HPLC (Model-LC-20AD, Shimadzu, Japan) was interfaced with PDA detector. A 20-µl plasma sample volume was injected onto a 250 mm (4.6 mm C18 a Shim-pack column packed with 5 µm particles). All analyses were conducted in gradient mode, the mobile phase consisted of water-acetonitrile for AR13 and AR15 (1:9 v/v, 3:7 v/v) with a flow rate of 1.0 ml/min and ambient temperature. Interfaced with PDA detection was at 233 and 235 nm.

Total run time was 6 and 7 min. respectively. Peak reorganization was based on identical the sample peak retention time with that of previously run AR13 and AR15 standards under matching

conditions. The column was washed after every run in an elution solvent ratio (50:50) with the injection of blank ACN.

#### Stability studies

Long-term stability of AR13 and AR15 were performed by preparing QC samples at three concentration ranges in three replicates like (0.1, 2 and 10 µg/ml) low, medium and high concentrations respectively for four dissimilar days and stored at 4 °C.

The analysis of all these samples was performed after 0, 7, 15 and 30 d of storage and the data of samples were calculated by the particular calibration standard curve. The results revealed as % deviation from 0 d concentration.

Moreover, the short-term stability was also carried out at room temperature over 8 h by analyzing replicates (n=3) at three QC levels.

#### Method development and validation

The inter-day and intra-day accuracy was confirmed by calculating % bias from the theoretical concentration via equation (% bias = (observed Conc.-nominal Conc.)/nominal Conc. × 100) of quality control samples [19]. The inter-day and intra-day precisions were

calculated by subjecting the data to the one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) with regards to relative standard deviation (% RSD). Evaluations of pharmacokinetic parameters of both compounds were performed by using WinNonlin 5.1 software, trial version.

## RESULTS

All plasma samples were analyzed successfully using HPLC. All steps were analyzed to get good selectivity, sensitivity, and reproducibility of AR13 and AR15 in rat plasma.

### Optimization of plasma sample pretreatment conditions

LLE extraction followed by HPLC analysis demonstrated that both AR13 and AR15 are the non-polar compounds. In the meantime, we

played with an eluting solvent with various ratios (ACN: H<sub>2</sub>O, 90:10, 70:30, 50:50, 30:70 and 10:90) to separate out AR13 in HPLC column. As per result obtained, we found that 90:10 had the highest area under the curve (AUC) with a retention time (RT) 3.30 min (fig. 3). Another experiment was carried out with AR15 for separation of above-mentioned solvent ratio with the adjustment of 70:30 ratio.

Finally, we decided to elute AR15 with 70:30 ratio with RT 3.77 min (fig. 3) as this ratio of solvent gave better AUC than any other solvent ratios.

Later, this optimized method was adopted to run the calibrants, QC and tested samples. Finally, data were calculated through WinNonlin 5.1 trial version.

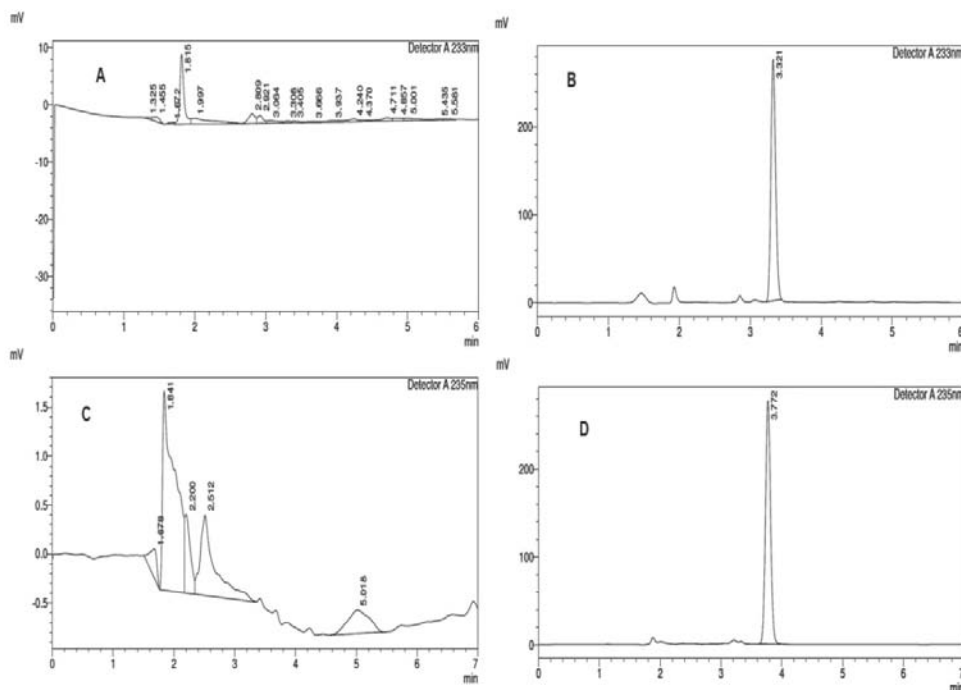


Fig. 3: Typical chromatograms are showing the RT as following (A) blank rat's plasma, (B) rat plasma spiked with AR13 at 233 nm and (C) blank rats' plasma, (D) rat plasma spiked with AR15 at 235 nm

### Method validation

The validated method was again used to summarize specificity, linearity, lower limit of quantitation (LLOQ), accuracy and precision. Specificity had already been discussed in the previous section. Best linearity was found to be the ranges from 0.1 to 10 µg/ml with  $r^2$  of 0.999 and 0.998 for AR13 and AR15 respectively. However, LLOQ was 0.01 µg/ml which revealed that our optimized method might be

useful for any derivatives of 1,4-benzothiazine in future. Inter-day and intra-day precision were measured in this experiment using means and % relative standard deviation (RSD) at six different concentrations of three replicates for AR13 and AR15, results are shown in (table 1).

The %RSD values were within the limit of  $\pm 20$  % for both compounds which signified that our methods are precious in every aspect.

Table 1: The intra-day and inter-day precision of AR13 and AR15 in rat plasma

Compounds	Spiked concentration (µg/ml)	Intra-day precision		Inter-day precision	
		mean $\pm$ SD (µg/ml)	RSD (%)	mean $\pm$ SD (µg/ml)	RSD (%)
AR13	0.1	0.09 $\pm$ 0.005	2.43	0.07 $\pm$ 0.006	3.21
	0.5	0.54 $\pm$ 0.02	5.74	0.47 $\pm$ 0.05	5.74
	1.0	1.21 $\pm$ 0.08	7.32	0.98 $\pm$ 0.21	7.21
	2.0	1.98 $\pm$ 0.32	2.54	1.84 $\pm$ 0.31	4.87
	5.0	5.06 $\pm$ 0.54	1.98	4.94 $\pm$ 0.17	6.41
	10.0	10.02 $\pm$ 0.12	6.87	9.91 $\pm$ 0.42	2.34
AR15	0.1	0.1 $\pm$ 0.002	1.48	0.9 $\pm$ 0.005	1.52
	0.5	0.54 $\pm$ 0.07	7.51	0.48 $\pm$ 0.02	3.45
	1.0	1.08 $\pm$ 0.04	5.32	0.98 $\pm$ 0.04	6.98
	2.0	2.09 $\pm$ 0.34	8.95	1.95 $\pm$ 0.72	3.21
	5.0	5.02 $\pm$ 0.24	4.87	4.87 $\pm$ 0.23	5.32
	10.0	10.05 $\pm$ 0.31	2.89	9.89 $\pm$ 0.61	7.98

Mean: average of number of experiment; SD: standard deviation; RSD: relative standard deviation (mean $\pm$ SD, n=3)

The % accuracy and % RSD were determined by analyzing the percentage recovery of AR13 and AR15 in plasma samples. The analyses of compounds were performed at three concentrations (0.1, 0.5 and 1 µg/ml) in three replicates for AR13 and AR15, respectively. The average recovery of AR13 and AR15 were 101.6 % and 98.8 % with RSD of 1.6 % and 1.7 % respectively, which showed the accuracy of the method.

Stability study was another important parameter to be considered for every pharmacokinetic study. AR13 and AR15 were found to be stable over a period of 30 d in normal plasma

when stored at 4 °C. The short-term stability was carried out at room temperature over 8.0 h, and long-term also performed after 30 d preservation by using three replicates at three concentration levels.

The percent deviation was calculated and found within acceptable range  $\pm 20$  % at low concentration and within  $\pm 15$  % for all other remaining concentrations. The calculated stability of spiked plasma is shown in table 2, which indicated that AR13 and AR15 had no considerable degradation under the environment described earlier.

**Table 2: Shows the short-term and long-term stability of AR13 and AR15 in rat plasma**

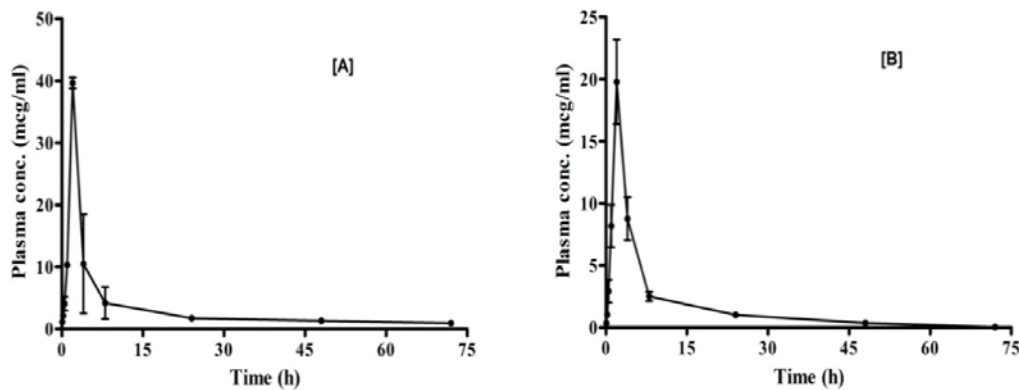
Compounds	Spiked concentration (µg/ml)	Short-term stability		Long-term stability	
		mean±SD (µg/ml)	RSD (%)	mean±SD (µg/ml)	RSD (%)
AR13	0.10	0.12±0.002	1.7	0.10±0.015	1.9
	2.00	2.03±0.08	1.3	1.99±0.08	1.7
	10.0	9.96±2.8	2.1	10.04±2.12	2.1
AR15	0.10	0.14±0.491	2.1	0.11±0.871	1.4
	2.00	2.21±3.41	1.6	2.06±1.32	0.7
	10.0	10.24±2.93	0.9	10.09±4.29	1.7

Mean: average of number of experiment; SD: standard deviation; RSD: relative standard deviation (mean±SD, n=3)

### Pharmacokinetic study

The newly developed and validated method was utilized in the pharmacokinetic study of AR13 and AR15 after orally

administered 25 mg/kg dose. The mean plasma concentration-time profile of AR13 and AR15 compound in male rat are shown in (fig.4). The fig. was drawn on GraphPad Prism 5 trial version.



**Fig. 4: Plasma drug concentrations after single oral administration of AR13 [A] and AR15 [B] at 25 mg/kg dose**

The calculated non-compartment model parameters of pharmacokinetic study are summarized in table 3 where the  $C_{max}$ ,  $T_{max}$ , and  $AUC_{0-\infty}$  were found to be  $39.65 \pm 0.88$  µg/ml, 2.0 h,  $221.06 \pm 56.218$  µg. h/ml for AR13 and  $19.79 \pm 3.39$  µg/ml, 2.0 h,  $117.99 \pm 14.21$  µg. h/ml for AR15, respectively. The data represented in fig. 4 clearly explained that both compounds had slow absorption rate which is useful for colon cancer treatment as they remain in the

gastrointestinal tract (GIT) for the higher amount with the promising effect of AR13. The mean residential time (MRT) was found as  $17.33 \pm 1.75$  h and  $11.11 \pm 2.19$  h of the AR13 and AR15 respectively. Both had a higher volume of distribution in plasma which could be easily seen from their MRT results. AR13 had higher clearance rate (CL) than AR15 (table 3) again explained the better effectiveness of AR13.

**Table 3: Various pharmacokinetic parameters after single oral administration of 25 mg/kg of AR13 and AR15**

Parameters	AR13	AR15
$C_{max}$ (µg/ml)	$39.65 \pm 0.88$	$19.79 \pm 3.39$
$T_{max}$ (h)	2.00	2.00
$AUC_{0-\infty}$ (µg. h/ml)	$221.06 \pm 56.21$	$117.99 \pm 14.21$
AUMC (µg. h <sup>2</sup> /ml)	3784.38	1306.14
MRT (h)	$17.332 \pm 1.75$	$11.11 \pm 2.19$
CL (mL/h)	0.004	0.01

$C_{max}$ : maximum drug concentration in plasma;  $T_{max}$ : time at which the  $C_{max}$  observed; AUC: area under curve; AUMC: area under the first movement curve; MRT: mean residential time; CL: clearance rate (mean±SD, n = 3)

## DISCUSSION

The current study develops and validates HPLC method using a liquid-liquid extraction (LLE) method for the quantification of AR13 and AR15 as potent new antipsychotic drugs [1,2] in rat plasma. LLE is a well-established technique for the extraction of concentrated, high-purity samples from a broad range of biological samples. An appropriate LLE solvent is used to eliminate the sample medium and take out the analyte since matrix effect occurs due to the presence of other ions in the biological sample. A number of common organic solvents such as dichloromethane, chloroform, acetonitrile and methanol were used to extract AR13 and AR15 from spiked blood plasma. On contrast to other organic solvents, acetonitrile was most efficient solvent for the recovery of both compounds and reduced milieu effects. Therefore, LLE with acetonitrile was used for the sample preparation of AR13 and AR15 in this study. The signal intensities for AR13 and AR15 steadily increased on increasing the percentage of acetonitrile from 10 to 90% and slowly decreased from 90%. Thus, the mobile phase composed of aqueous-acetonitrile (10:90, and 30:70 v/v respectively) was chosen for the present method. Sample separation on a Shim-pack C18 column (250 mm×4.6 mm, 5 µm, Shimadzu version 5.3, Alltech, USA) was done. Column resulted in symmetrical peaks for both the compounds i.e. AR13 and AR15 with a relatively short retention time (RT) 3.30 min and 3.77 min, respectively. The symmetrical peaks and adequate separation were confirmed from the results of fig 3. Therefore, these analytical conditions were used in succeeding studies. The precision and the accuracy of the method were confirmed. As shown in table 1, the intra-day and inter-day precision of the method was lower than 10%, indicating acceptable values for an assay validation [20]. In addition, the short-term and long-term stability of AR13 and AR15 in rat plasma was evaluated as shown in table 2, which indicated that AR13 and AR15 were stable during in this study. Therefore, these conditions were not affecting the quantification of AR13 and AR15 in rat plasma.

## CONCLUSION

Single oral dose non-compartment studies on newly synthesized pharmacologically active compounds are the primary criteria for performing pharmacodynamics studies. Synthesized AR13 and AR15 are effective against *in vitro* HT-29 cell lines and hence we performed *in vivo* pharmacokinetic studies in single oral dose. Results come out from our experiment clearly explained both compounds had a lower rate of absorption, higher volume of distribution and lower clear rate which is particularly indicated a good pharmacological response. The researcher had already adopted various HPLC-UV methods to find out the pharmacokinetic parameters of 1,4-benzothiazine derivatives previously. However, our optimized methods are more potent to a researcher with respect to accuracy and precision as compared to previously publish data where few derivatives of 1,4-benzothiazine had been optimized for pharmacokinetic studies using HPLC-UV method. Future aspect of the project is to perform *in vivo* testing of chemically induced colon carcinogenic rat model of these compounds.

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## AUTHORS CONTRIBUTION

Design and experiment part of the work was done by Mr. Amit Rai and Mr. Amit K. Keshari. Writing of the work was done by Mr. Vinit Raj and Mr. Ashok K. Singh and The design of the work and correction of the manuscript was done by the corresponding author Dr. Sudipta Saha.

## CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

The authors confirm that this article content has no conflict of interest

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