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# A simple and sensitive colorimetric method for the determination of Propranolol hydrochloride in pure and pharmaceutical preparation via oxidative coupling organic reaction

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## Abstract

Precise, rapid and simple spectrophotometric method for the estimation of Propranolol hydrochloride (PRO) drugs has been developed. This method is based on an oxidative coupling reaction between above drugswith 1,4-diamiobenzene reagent solution in a basic medium (pH 11.17) in the presence of N-Bromosuccinimideto production anorange colour, stable, soluble in water and gave absorption at 463 nm. With correlation coefficient 0.998 Beer's law isobeyed in the linear range (2.5-0.75)µg/ml of (PRO), the detection limit, Sandell's sensitivity and the molar absorptivity were 4.229 µg/ml, 0. 09µg.cm<sup>-2</sup> and 3.283x10 <sup>3</sup>liter. mol<sup>-1</sup>.cm<sup>-1</sup> respectively while RSD value and recovery were 2.02%, 100.007.% The proposed method was plate good success to the estimation of (PRO)drug in tablets. **Keywords:** spectrophotometric, Propranolol hydrochloride (PRO) drugs, 1,4-diamiobenzene reagent

INTRODUCTION:

Propranolol hydrochloride (PRO)is a non-selective beta blocker. It is chemically structure (RS)-2-(4-(2-methylpropyl) phenyl) 2-1-[(1-methylethyl) amino]-3-(1-naphthalenyloxy), Propanol. hydrochloride (Figure 1) [1,2]. $\{C_{16}H_{21}NO_2, HCl\}[3,4]$ . is an antihypertensive agent (PRO)is used in the manipulation or avoiding of many troubles including hypertensive emergencies, hyperthyroidism, acute myocardial infarction, angina pectoris, hypertension, anxiety, pheochromocytoma, arrhythmias, menopause, and, migraine[5-8]. This beta-blocker may work by stabilizing arteries or avoiding the central alternator of migraine in the brainstem from firing.(PRO)drugs is official in British Pharmacopoeia and United States Pharmacopoeia [9-11]. Due to its therapeutically and pharmacological properties, many analytical methods have been developed for determination of these drugs includes spectrophotometry[12-14].,colorimetric [15]. fluorimetry[16], voltammetry[17], gas chromatography-masspectrometry (GC-MS) [18,19], high-performance liquidchromatography (HPLC) [20-22], liquid chromatographymassspectrometry (LC-MS) [23,24], chemiluminescence electrophoresis [27,28] [25,26],capillary and Titrimetric method[29,30].Visible spectrophotometry methods, because of their inherent simplicity and rapidity of the procedure and low cost-effectiveness, sensitivity, selectivity and fair accuracy and precision of the techniques findfavour in most laboratories of limited means and consequently thesemethods continue to flourish. The proposal method is adopted on thereaction of the Propranolol hydrochloride drug with1,4-diamiobenzenein the presence of N-Bromosuccinimidet of orm an orange water soluble colour productin alkaline mediumwhich gave an absorption at  $\lambda_{max} = 463 \text{ nm}.$ 



Figure 1: Structure of Propranolol hydrochloride

# Apparatus

- UV-visible, shimadzu 1700
- spectrophotometer, with1.0 cm quartzcells was used for absorptionmeasurements,

EXPERIMENTAL

- WTW 720 pH meter.
- Electronic balance, Kernacj/ Germany, ACS..

#### Reagents

All chemicals and analytical reagents are high purity and supplied by companies SIGMA,CDH,Fiuke and S.D.I.

## Preparation of solutions

# A-Standard PRO solution, (1000µg/ml):

The stock solution of (PRO) was prepared by dissolving 0.1 gmof (PRO) in 10ml ethanol and diluting by distilled water to the mark 100 ml volumetric flask. Working solutions were prepared by diluting the solution in distilled water.

## B- 1,4-diamiobenzene reagent solution (1x10<sup>-2</sup> M):

This solution was prepared by dissolving 0.11 g of 1,4diamiobenzenein distilled water and diluting to mark in the volumetric flask to 100 ml distilled water.

# C- N-Bromosuccinimide (1x10<sup>-2</sup> M):

By dissolving 0.177 gm of N-Bromosuccinimidein 5 ml acetone and diluting to the mark100 ml volumetric flaskThis solution was prepared

#### **D** - Sodium hydroxide solution (1.0 M):

The NaOH solution was prepared by weighing 4.000 g of pure sodium hydroxide and dissolving in100 ml of distilled water and then calibration with standard hydraulic acid

#### E-The PRO tablets formulationSolution (500 µg/ml):

Pharmaceutical formulation of PRO (producedbyAccordHealthcare Ltd), the tablet contains 40 mg of PRO and the solution was prepared by following method: Fourteen tablets was weighed (0.2724g) and grinding well, then a weight of 0.34 g of the powder and dissolved in 15 ml of ethanol, The solution filtered by paper filtration, in100 ml volumetric flask the volume was completed with distilled water.

#### **Preliminary Investigations:**

A 1ml of N-Bromosuccinimide( $1x10^{-2}$  M) was added to 2ml of standard PRO(200µg/ml) solution and then add 1 ml of 1,4diamiobenzenereagent ( $1x10^{-2}$  M) in basic medium (1ml of 1M, Sodium hydroxide),in a 10 ml volumetric flask the solutionwas diluted with distilled water, anorange Color soluble product. the Colored dyeshows maximum absorption at 463 nm against its corresponding blank reagent whilethe blank reagent shows no absorbance at same wavelength.

## **Optimization of the experimental conditions:**

The influence of different variables on intensity of the colour of 1ml of N-Bromosuccinimide( $1x10^{-2}$  M), 2ml of standard PRO(200µg/ml) solution in the presence of 1ml of 1,4-diamiobenzenereagent ( $1x10^{-2}$ M) in basic medium (1ml of 1M, Sodium hydroxide), was studied to establish the optimum conditions.

## Selection of the coupling reagent

Different types of coupling reagents are investigated to select the best reagent that gives the highest color intensity, the results are shown in Table(1).

Reagent 1×10 <sup>-3</sup> M	Variable	Absorbance	$\lambda_{max}$ (nm)	$\Delta \lambda$ max (nm)	.mol <sup>-1</sup> .cm <sup>-</sup> <sup>1</sup> E.L
1,4-	В	1.32	272	101	8 615×10 <sup>3</sup>
diaminobenzene	S	0.112	463	191	0.015×10
Catachal	В	1.27	260	200	$7.152 \times 10^{3}$
Catechol	S	0.093	460	200	7.155×10
4-	В	0.72	359	96	$10.22 \times 10^{3}$
Aminoantipyrine	S	0.25	445	80	19.25×10
Ancidina	В				
Ansidille	S				

 $\Delta \lambda_{max} = \lambda_{max} (S) - \lambda_{max} (B)$ 

S = Sample Vs. Blank

B = Blank Vs. water

The results illustrated in Table (1) indicate 1,4- diaminobenzene reagent gives the highest color intensity and a good color contrast  $\Delta\lambda$  in comparison with other reagents. so this reagent is chosen in later experiments.

## Selection of the oxidizing agent

The effect of the oxidizing agent was studied by adding 1 ml of various types of oxidizing agents  $(1 \times 10^{-2} \text{M})$  to 2 ml of PRO(200µg/ml)solution, 1ml of 1,4-diamiobenzenereagent  $(1 \times 10^{-2} \text{ M})$ .and 1ml of sodium hydroxide solution(1M). The results are shown in Table (2).

Table (2) Selection of the oxidizing agent.

Oxidizing agent 5×10 <sup>-3</sup> M	Absorbance	$\lambda_{max}$ (nm)	.mol <sup>-1</sup> .cm <sup>-1</sup> E.L
N- Bromosuccinimide	0.112	463	$\textbf{8.615}\times\textbf{10}^{~3}$
Iron chloride	0.102	512	$7.846 \times 10^{-3}$
Sodiumnitroprusside			
Sodium metaperiodate			
Potassium iodated			

The N- Bromosuccinimide solution shows a higher absorption for orange product at a  $\lambda_{max} = 463$  nmwhen compared with other oxidizing agents, so N- Bromosuccinimide is select in subsequent experiments.

## Effect of pH

To study the effect of pH it was added 0.5-4.0 ml of 1.0 M various bases. Sodium carbonate was the best base, pH is found to be 11.17, so the pH of 11.17 was adopted in subsequent experiments, the results are shown in Table (3). It is worth noting that no color was obtained on the addition of any amount of acid indicating that no reaction is occurred.

# Effect of the amount of coupling reagent

The effect of the amount of 1,4-diamiobenzene reagent was examined by following method, In volumetric flask contains 2.0 ml of PRO(200  $\mu$ g/ml)and 1ml of N-Bromosuccinimide(1x10<sup>-2</sup> M) addedvarious volumes (2-0.25 ml) of 1,4-diamiobenzenereagent (1×10<sup>-2</sup> M), andthen added 1.0 ml of 1.0 M

sodium carbonate and with distilled water the volume is completed to 10ml, The Table (4) is show the results.

Table (3) Effect of pH

Volume(	Na	oH	Na2	CO <sub>3</sub>	NH	HO	NaH	CO3
ml) 1M)(	Abs	pН	Abs	pН	Abs	PH	Abs	pН
0.5	0.26 1	11.8 1	0.33 7	10.8 9	0.13 0	9.98	0.06	9.18
1	0.25 1	12.0 1	0.34 4	11.0 8	0.13 8	10.1 3	0.06 5	9.24
1.5	0.24 5	12.1 1	0.35 8	11.1 7	0.16 1	10.2 8	0.08 3	9.33
2	0.24 1	12.2 3	0.34 0	11.2 3	0.16 7	10.4 1	0.09	9.44
2.5	0.23 1	12.3 0	0.33 1	11.3 1	0.18 7	10.5 6	0.10 5	9.5 4
3	0.22 5	12.3 9	0.32 0	11.4 4	0.20 9	10.6 3	0.11 0	9.61
3.5	0.22 1	12.4 6	0.28 0	11.5 6	0.22 1	10.7 3	0.11 8	9.7
4	0.21 5	12.6 0	0.27 0	11.7 0	0.24 5	10.8 1	0.12 4	9.85

## Table (4) Effect of the amount of coupling reagent.

ml of 1,4 -diaminobenzene $(1 \times 10^{-2} \text{M})$	Absorbance	
0.25	0.125	
0.5	0.198	
0.75	0.255	
1	0.288	
1.25	0.244	
1.5	0.228	
1.75	0.218	
2	0.205	

From the Table (4) the best volume of 1.0ml of 1,4diamiobenzene  $(1 \times 10^{-2} M)$  was the best amount of coupling reagenttherefor it is chosen in later experiments

#### Effect of the amount of oxidizing agent

To investigate the best amount of oxidizing agent N-Bromosuccinimide( $1 \times 10^{-2}$  M) this study was conducted by the following method, added different volumes (0.5-2.5 ml) of N-Bromosuccinimideto 2.0 ml of PRO(200µg/ml) and 1,4-diamiobenzene in volumetric flasks (10 ml)then addition of 1.0 ml of 1.0M sodium carbonate andwith distilled water the volume was completed to 10ml, Table (5).

Table (5) Effect of the volume of oxidizing	agent.
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ml of N – Bromosccucinimide $(1 \times 10^{-2} \text{ M})$	Absorbance
0.5	0.147
0.75	0.221
1	0.235
1.25	0.250
1.5	0.266
1.75	0.251
2	0.243
2.25	0.230
2.5	0.219

Table (5) shows that the volume of 1.5ml of N – Bromosccucinimide solution( $1 \times 10^{-2}$ M) is the best amount, so it was used in later experiments.

#### Effect of oxidation time

1.5~ml of N-Bromosuccinimide(1x10 $^2~M)$ , 2ml of standard PRO(200µg/ml) solution added to a series of volumetric flasks, left this solutions for different periods of

time, then 1ml of1,4-diamiobenzenereagent  $(1x10^{-2}M)$  and1.5 ml of 1 M Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> solution were added. with distilled water the volume was completed to 10 ml, measured the absorption of solutions at  $\lambda_{max} = 463$  nm versus blank, Table (7).

Table (	(7)	Effect	of	oxidation	time.
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Time(min)	Absorbance
5	0.241
10	0.29
15	0.34
20	0.354
25	0.365
30	0.377
35	0.369
40	0.361
50	0.341
55	0.334

From Table (7), 30 min is sufficient time for the oxidation, so it is utilized in the later experiments.

#### **Effect of temperature**

The influence of temperature(5-50°C) ondetermined color intensity of the formed yield wasexamined by adding 2 ml of PRO(200µg/ml)and 1.5 ml of N-Bromosuccinimide(1x10<sup>-2</sup> M)then1,4-diamiobenzenereagent (1x10<sup>-2</sup>M), 1.5 ml of 1 M sodium carbonate solution were added, thenwith distilled water the volume is diluted to the mark in10 mlof series volumetric flasks, at  $\lambda_{max} = 463$  nm the absorption was measured versus blank, Table (8).

Table (8)Effect of temperature.

Temp C <sup>O</sup>	Absorbance
5	0.291
10	0.302
15	0.363
20	0.377
25	0.376
30	0.373
35	0.343
40	0.284
45	0.260
50	0.252

Table (8) show that the  $(15-30)^{\circ}$ C is the best temperature , so  $25^{\circ}$ C isutilized in the later experiments.

## Effect of stability time on the colored product

To study stability time of the coloredcompound taking 1.5 ml of N-Bromosuccinimide( $1 \times 10^{-2}$  M), 2ml of standardPRO ( $200 \mu g/ml$ ) solution, then 1ml of 1,4-diamiobenzenereagent ( $1 \times 10^{-2}$ M) and 1.5 ml of 1 M Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> solution were added.with distilled water the volume is diluted to the mark in10 ml of series volumetric flasks. After dilution the absorption remain unchanged for 60 minutes. Table (9).

Table (9) Effect ofstability	v time on the co	lored product.
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Time(min)	Absorbance				
Time(iiiii)	20µg/ml	40µg/ml	50µg/ml		
5	0.121	0.352	0.483		
10	0.114	0.339	0.462		
15	0.114	0.331	0.453		
20	0.110	0.318	0.438		
25	0.109	0.309	0.421		
30	0.107	0.302	0.415		
35	0.106	0.299	0.413		
40	0.104	0.291	0.406		
45	0.098	0.283	0.404		
50	0.096	0.274	0.401		
55	0.094	0.272	0.398		
60	0.093	0.271	0.395		

## Effect type of the solvents

The influence of the solvents on the product (colored compound) was investigated, instead of water the dilution was perform by adding different organic solvents. Table (10).

Table (10) Effect of the solvents.						
Solvent $\lambda_{max}$ Absorbance						
Water	463	0.353				
Ethanol	482	0.238				
Methanol	473	0.209				
Acetone	480	0.215				

From the Table (10) the water gavebest absorption at the 463 nm therefor it has been used as the best solventin the later experiments.

#### Effect of Order of additions:

Theinfluenceofreagents addition orders on the absorption of the orange productwereinvestigated. From Table(11) the addition in sequence (3) accomplishes a best absorption of orange product, therefore it is utilized in later experiments.

Table (11) Effect of Order of additio	ns
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NO			Order	of add	litions			Absorbance
1	D	+	0	+	R	+	В	0.371
2	D	+	R	+	0	+	В	0.046
3	R	+	0	+	D	+	В	0.381
4	0	+	D	+	R	+	В	0.321
5	R	+	0	+	В	+	D	
D = Propranolol HCl								

R = 1, 4 - Diaminobenzene

O = N - Bromosuccinide B = Sodium Carbonate Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>

#### The final absorption spectrum

The final spectrum of the orange product by oxidative coupling reaction of PROwith1,4-diamiobenzenereagent  $(1x10^{-2}M)$  in the presence of N-Bromosuccinimide  $(1x10^{-2} M)$  in temperature 25°C andbasic medium verses reagent blank show a maximum absorption at 463 nm while the blank reagent gave zero absorbance at  $\lambda_{max}$ . This spectrumis shown on Fig. (2).



Fig. (2) Final absorption spectrum of the determination PRO.

- A:PRO solution versus blank reagent.
- B: PRO solution versus distilled water.
- C: Blank reagent versus distilled water.

#### Procedure for construction of calibrationcurve

Toconstruct linear calibration curve of the estimation of PROin range2.5-0.75ml,1 ml of PRO(200 the µg/ml) were transferred, 1.5ml N-Bromosuccinimide( $1 \times 10^{-2}$ M) of and 1mlof1,4-diamiobenzenereagent ( $1 \times 10^{-2}$ M), 1.5 ml of 1 M sodium carbonate (pH 11.7)were added at 25°C . Solutions were left for 10 min to complete the reaction, then the volumes were diluted to the mark with distilled water. The absorption was measured at 463 nm verses the blank. Fig. (3)



Fig. (3) Calibration curve for determination PRO by oxidativecoupling with 1,4-diamiobenzenereagent.

## Accuracy and precision

For three different concentrations of the PROdrug(20,30,40)µg/mltheabsorption was measured(six times) at 463 nm and Accuracy and precision were calculated, the average recoveryand the relative standard deviation were (100.002 %) (<0.19%). The results Table (11) indicate that the method is of high accuracy and precision.

Table (	(11)	Results	of	accuracy	and	precision.
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			v 1	
Conc. 0f PRO [Mg/ml]	RE %	Recovery %	Average recovery %	RSD %
20	0.0002	100.0002		1.98
30	0.002	100.002	100.001	1.403
40	0	100		0.97

#### **Detection limit**

Detection limit was calculated by taking the lower concentration 15  $\mu$ g/ml at optimal conditions (six times) at 463 nm and measuring the absorption. Table ((12)

Table (12) Detection limit.

Concentration [Mg/ml]	x	S	D.L Mg/ml			
15	0.1098	0.01032	4.229			

# The nature of the colored product

Slop ratio method and mole ratio method were applied to detect the nature of the orangedye product (stoichiometry of PRO drug with the reagent). In these methods, both of the standard PRO solution and 1,4-diamiobenzenereagent solution were equal concentration ( $1 \times 10^{-2}$ M). In slop ratiomethod: by mixingdifferent volumes of the drug solutions (0.1-0.9) ml and different volumes(0.1-0.9) ml of 1,4-diamiobenzene reagent solution in a series of volumetric flasks (10ml), A 1.5 mlofN-Bromosuccinimide( $1 \times 10^{-2}$  M) and 1.5 ml of 1 M sodium carbonate solution were added andto the mark with distilled water the volumes were completed. The absorptions were measured at 463 nm versus the blank reagent. Fig. (4) show the ratio was 1:2



Fig. (4) Job's method of formed product by oxidativecoupling of PRO with 1,4-diamiobenzenereagent.

In molar ratio method, in a series of volumetric flasks (10 ml) 1 ml of the standard drugand different volumes 0.2-2.0 ml of 1,4diamiobenzenereagent solution were transferred, then adding1.5 mlofN-Bromosuccinimide( $1 \times 10^{-2}$  M) and 1.5 ml of 1 M sodium carbonate solution. To the mark with distilled waterthe volumes were completed, at 463 nm the absorption was measured versus the blank reagent. FromFig. (5) themolar ratio was 1:2. The results were agreement with the Job's method results.



Fig. (5) Molar ratio method for the product formed by oxidativecoupling of PRO with 1,4-diamiobenzenereagent

The formation of the color product may probably occursas following equation:



## Applications

This method was applied for the determination of PRO in its pharmaceutical formulation (production of Accord Healthcare Ltd).

#### **Direct method**

In 10 ml volumetric flaskstransferred different volumes (1.0,1.5, 1.75ml) of a pharmaceutical formulation solution(200  $\mu$ g/ml), the resulting concentrations (20,30,35)  $\mu$ g/ml treated as in construction of calibration curve thenat 463 nm the absorbance was measured for six times.calculated Recovery and RSD Table (13) show the results.

Table (15). Direct method						
Conc. Of PROµg/ml	RE %	Recovery	Average recovery%	RSD %		
20	0.0004	100.0004		9.37		
30	0	100	100.0002	1.7		
35	0.0004	100.0004		1.20		

Table (13): Direct method

Results from the above tablethe value of the recovery of 100.0007% in the product (production of Accord Healthcare Ltd) indicate the success of the proposed method to determinate PRO in itspharmaceutical preparation.

#### **Standard additions method:**

To prove that the proposed method is free from interferences. The standard additions method was applied for estimating of PRO in its pharmaceutical preparation, in seven volumetric flasks (10 ml) for each volumetransferred different volumes (1-1.2)ml of a pharmaceutical formulation solutions (200  $\mu$ g/ml), then increasing volumes (2.2 ,1.8 ,1.4, 0.6)mlof 200  $\mu$ g/ml of PRO standard solution were added with leaving the seventh flask without addition. The solutions were treated by using optimized conditions.at 463 nm. The absorptions were measured (Fig.6) the measured concentration was calculated from the equation of the straight line and the results of Recovery areshown in the Table (14).

Table (14): Standard additions method

Type of Drug	PROpresent µg/ml	PROmeasured µg/ml	Recovery,(%)
Tablets	12	8.57	100.007
PRO			
(40 mg)	28	23.81	100
accord			



Fig (6): Standard additions method

The results in Table (14) indicate that the Standard additions method is in agreement with the direct method within the acceptable range of error, therefore that the proposed method isaccepted and free from interferences

#### CONCLUSIONS

The developed method isaccurate, preciseand selectivefor the estimation of PRO. It's based on oxidative coupling reaction between PRO and 1,4-diamiobenzenereagent in presence of N-Bromosuccinimidein basic mediumto form orange colored productwhich isstable, water soluble shows a maximum absorption at 463 nm. The proposed method can be carried out with no need for furthersteps such as solvent extraction step, pH or Temperature control and it can be applied successfully for in estimation of (PRO) drug in tabletsandpharmaceutical formulation.

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