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## Development and Validation of New Analytical Method for The Simultaneous Estimation of Darunavir And Ritonavir in Pharmaceutical Dosage Form

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Article Info :	Abstract
<p><b>Article History</b> Received on: 03-03-2021 Revised on : 1-04-2021 Accepted on : 25-04-2021</p> <p><b>Keywords:</b> Darunavir, Ritonavir, RP-HPLC.</p>	<p>A simple, Accurate, precise method was developed for the simultaneous estimation of the Darunavir and Ritonavir in Tablet dosage form. The chromatogram was run through Agilent C18 150 x 4.6 mm, 5m. Mobile phase containing Buffer 0.1% Formic acid: Acetonitrile, taken in the ratio 70:30 was pumped through the column at a flow rate of 0.95 ml/min. The temperature was maintained at 30°C. The optimized wavelength selected was 293 nm. The retention times of Darunavir and Ritonavir were found to be 2.369min and 2.911. %RSD of the Darunavir and Ritonavir were and found to be 0.7 and 0.5 respectively. %Recovery was obtained as 99.67% and 99.78% for Darunavir and Ritonavir respectively. LOD, LOQ values obtained from regression equations of Darunavir and Ritonavir were 1.49, 5.19 and 0.37, 1.11 respectively. Regression equation of Darunavir is <math>y = 5421x + 640.7</math>, and <math>y = 3870.x + 5191</math> of Ritonavir. Retention times were decreased and run time was decreased, so the method developed was simple and economical that can be adopted in regular Quality control tests in Industries.</p>

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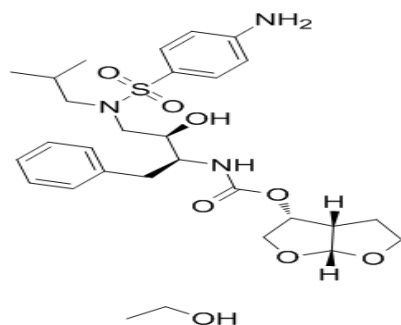
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### Introduction

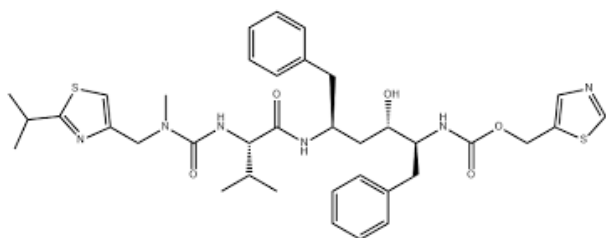
Pharmaceutical products formulated with more than one drug, typically referred to as combination products. These combination products can present daunting challenges to the analytical chemist responsible for the development and validation of analytical methods. The development and validation of analytical methods Spectrophotometric, High performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) and High-performance thin layer chromatography (HPTLC) for drug products containing more than one active ingredient. The official test methods that result from these processes are used by quality control laboratories to ensure the identity, purity, potency, and performance of drug

products. The number of drugs introduced into the market is increasing every year. These drugs may be either new entities or partial structural modification of the existing ones. Very often there is a time lag from the date of introduction of a drug into the market to the date of its inclusion in pharmacopoeias. This happens because of the possible uncertainties in the continuous and wider usage of these drugs, reports of new toxicities (resulting in their withdrawal from the market), development of patient resistance and introduction of better drugs by competitors. Under these conditions, standards and analytical procedures for these drugs may not be available in the pharmacopoeias. It becomes necessary, therefore to develop newer analytical methods for such drugs<sup>3</sup> Darunavir [1] (DRV) is chemically (3R,3aS,6aR)-hexahydrofuro[2,3-b]furan-3-yl N-[(2S,3R)-3-hydroxy-4-[N-(2-methylpropyl)4-aminobenzenesulfonamido]-1-phenylbutan-2-yl] carbamate Figure 1. It is a protease inhibitor used to treat HIV. It acts on the HIV aspartyl protease which the virus needs to cleave the HIV polyprotein into its functional fragments



**Figure 1: chemical structure of Darunavir**

Ritonavir<sup>2</sup> (RTV) is chemically 1,3-thiazol-5-ylmethyl N-[(2S,3S,5S)-3-hydroxy-5-[(2S)-3-methyl-2-[[methyl(2-(propan-2-yl)-1,3-thiazol-4-yl)methyl]] carbamoyl] amino] butanamido] 1,6-diphenylhexan-2-yl]carbamate Figure 2. It is an HIV protease inhibitor that interferes with the reproductive cycle of HIV.



**Figure 2: chemical structure of Ritonavir**

Although it was initially developed as an independent antiviral agent, it has been shown to possess advantageous properties in combination regimens with low-dose ritonavir and other protease inhibitors.<sup>3-7</sup> There are few methods reported in the literature of Darunavir and Ritonavir alone or in combination with other drugs in the pure and pharmaceutical formulation by UV, HPLC and UPLC-MS<sup>8-20</sup>. In view of the need of suitable, cost effective RP HPLC method for routine analysis of simultaneous estimation of RTV and DRV in bulk and synthetic mixture (tablet dosage form), attempts we made do develop a simple, accurate, precise and cost effective analytical method for the estimation of RTV and DRV. The purpose of stability testing is to check the drug quality under the action of many environmental factors like temperature, acid, base and oxidative condition. This is necessary for establishment of re-test period for the drug products and for recommendation conditions for their storage. ICH guidelines therefore emphasize stability-indicating analytical methods<sup>4</sup>. Efforts were therefore made to develop a novel, fast and validated stability indicating HPLC procedure for determining simultaneously both the drugs in tablet dosage forms The proposed method will be validated as per ICH guidelines.

## Experimental work

### Materials and Methods

#### Materials

Ritonavir and Darunavir pure drugs (API), Combination Ritonavir and Darunavir, Distilled water, Acetonitrile, Phosphate buffer, Methanol, Potassium dihydrogen ortho phosphate buffer, Ortho-phosphoric acid. All the above chemicals and solvents are from Rankem

### Instruments

Electronics Balance-Denver, pH meter -BVK enterprises, India, Ultrasonicator-BVK enterprises, WATERS HPLC 2695 SYSTEM equipped with quaternary pumps, Photo Diode Array detector and Auto sampler integrated with Empower 2 Software. UV-VIS spectrophotometer PG Instruments T60 with special bandwidth of 2mm and 10mm and matched quartz cells integrated with UV win 6 Software was used for measuring absorbances of Ritonavir and Darunavir solutions.

### Methods

#### Diluent

Based up on the solubility of the drugs, diluent was selected, Methanol and Water taken in the ratio of 50:50

#### Preparation of Standard stock solutions

Accurately weighed 12.5 mg of Ritonavir, 100mg of Darunavir and transferred to 25ml volumetric flask and 3/4 th of diluents was added to these flask and sonicated for 10 minutes. Flask were made up with diluents and labeled as Standard stock solution. (500µg/ml of Ritonavir and 4000µg/ml of Darunavir)

#### Preparation of Standard working solutions (100% solution)

1ml from each stock solution was pipetted out and taken into a 10ml volumetric flask and made up with diluent. (50µg/ml Ritonavir of and 400µg/ml of Darunavir)

#### Preparation of Sample stock solutions

5 tablets were weighed and the average weight of each tablet was calculated, then the weight equivalent to tablet was transferred into a 100 ml volumetric flask, 5ml of diluents was added and sonicated for 25 min, further the volume was made up with diluent and filtered by HPLC filters (500µg/ml of Ritonavir and 4000µg/ml of Darunavir)

#### Preparation of Sample working solutions (100% solution)

1ml of filtered sample stock solution was transferred to 10ml volumetric flask and made up with diluent. (50µg/ml of Ritonavir and 400µg/ml of Darunavir)

#### Preparation of buffer

##### 0.1% OPA Buffer

1ml of ortho phosphoric acid was diluted to 1000ml with HPLC grade water.

### Method Validation [21-22]

#### System suitability parameter

The system suitability parameters were determined by preparing standard solutions of Ritonavir (50ppm) and Darunavir (400ppm) and the solutions were injected six times and the parameters like peak tailing, resolution and

USP plate count were determined. The % RSD for the area of six standard injections results should not be more than 2%.

#### Specificity

Checking of the interference in the optimized method. We should not find interfering peaks in blank and placebo at retention times of these drugs in this method. So this method was said to be specific.

#### Precision

**Preparation of Standard stock solutions** Accurately weighed 12.5 mg of Ritonavir, 100mg of Darunavir and transferred to 25ml volumetric flask and 3/4 th of diluents was added to these flask and sonicated for 10 minutes. Flask were made up with diluents and labeled as Standard stock solution. (500µg/ml of Ritonavir and 4000µg/ml of Daruna)

**Preparation of Standard working solutions (100% solution)** 1ml from each stock solution was pipetted out and taken into a 10ml volumetric flask and made up with diluent. (50µg/ml of Ritonavir and 400µg/ml of Darunavir)

**Preparation of Sample stock solutions** 5 tablets were weighed and the average weight of each tablet was calculated, then the weight equivalent to tablet was transferred into a 10 ml volumetric flask, 5ml of diluents was added and sonicated for 25 min, further the volume was made up with diluent and filtered by HPLC filters (500µg/ml of Ritonavir and 4000µg/ml of Darunavir)

**Preparation of Sample working solutions (100% solution)** 1ml of filtered sample stock solution was transferred to 10ml volumetric flask and made up with diluent. (50µg/ml of Ritonavir and 400µg/ml of Darunavir)

#### Linearity

**Preparation of Standard stock solutions** Accurately weighed 12.5 mg of Ritonavir, 100mg of Darunavir and transferred to 25ml volumetric flask. and 3/4 th of diluents was added to these flask and sonicated for 10 minutes. Flask were made up with diluents and labeled as Standard stock solution. (500µg/ml of Ritonavir and 4000µg/ml of Daruna)

**25% Standard solution** 0.25ml each from two standard stock solutions was pipetted out and made up to 10ml. (12.5µg/ml of Ritonavir and 100µg/ml of Darunavir)

**50% Standard solution** 0.5ml each from two standard stock solutions was pipetted out and made up to 10ml. (25µg/ml of Ritonavir and 200µg/ml of Darunavir)

**75% Standard solution** 0.75ml each from two standard stock solutions was pipetted out and made up to 10ml. (37.5µg/ml of Ritonavir and 300µg/ml of Darunavir)

**100% Standard solution** 1.0ml each from two standard stock solutions was pipetted out and made up to 10ml. (50µg/ml of Ritonavir and 400µg/ml of Darunavir)

**125% Standard solution** 1.25ml each from two standard stock solutions was pipetted out and made up to 10ml. (62.5µg/ml of Ritonavir and 500µg/ml of Darunavir)

**150% Standard solution** 1.5ml each from two standard stock solutions was pipetted out and made up to 10ml (75µg/ml of Ritonavir and 600µg/ml of Darunavir)

#### Accuracy

**Preparation of Standard stock solutions** Accurately weighed 12.5 mg of Ritonavir, 100mg of Darunavir and transferred to 25ml volumetric flask. and 3/4 th of diluents was added to these flask and sonicated for 10 minutes. Flask were made up with diluents and labeled as Standard stock solution. (500µg/ml of Ritonavir and 4000µg/ml of Darunavir)

**Preparation of 50% Spiked Solution** 0.5ml of sample stock solution was taken into a 10ml volumetric flask, to that 1.0ml from each standard stock solution was pipetted out, and made up to the mark with diluent.

**Preparation of 100% Spiked Solution** 1.0ml of sample stock solution was taken into a 10ml volumetric flask, to that 1.0ml from each standard stock solution was pipetted out, and made up to the mark with diluent.

#### Preparation of 150% Spiked Solution

1.5ml of sample stock solution was taken into a 10ml volumetric flask, to that 1.0ml from each standard stock solution was pipetted out, and made up to the mark with diluent.

#### Acceptance Criteria

The % Recovery for each level should be between 98.0 to 102

**Robustness** Small deliberate changes in method like Flow rate, mobile phase ratio, and temperature are made but there were no recognized change in the result and are within range as per ICH Guide lines.

Robustness conditions like Flow minus (1ml/min), Flow plus (1.2ml/min), mobile phase minus, mobile phase plus, temperature minus (25°C) and temperature plus (35°C) was maintained and samples were injected in duplicate manner. System suitability parameters were not much effected and all the parameters were passed. %RSD was within the limit.

**LOD sample Preparation** 0.25ml each from two standard stock solutions was pipetted out and transferred to two separate 10ml volumetric flasks and made up with diluents. From the above solutions 0.1ml each of Ritonavir, Darunavir, solutions respectively were transferred to 10ml volumetric flasks and made up with the same diluents

**LOQ sample Preparation** 0.25ml each from two standard stock solutions was pipetted out and transferred to two separate 10ml volumetric flask and made up with diluent. From the above solutions 0.3ml each of Ritonavir, Darunavir, solutions respectively were transferred to 10ml volumetric flasks and made up with the same diluent.

#### Degradation studies [23]

##### Oxidation

To 1 ml of stock solution of Ritonavir and Darunavir, 1 ml of 20% hydrogen peroxide (H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>) was added separately. The solutions were kept for 30 min at 60°C.

For HPLC study, the resultant solution was diluted to obtain 50 µg/ml & 400 µg/ml solution and 10 µl were injected into the system and the chromatograms were recorded to assess the stability of sample.

**Acid Degradation Studies**

To 1 ml of stock solution Ritonavir and Darunavir, 1 ml of 2N Hydrochloric acid was added and refluxed for 30 mins at 60°C. The resultant solution was diluted to obtain 50 µg/ml & 400 µg/ml solution and 10 µl solutions were injected into the system and the chromatograms were recorded to assess the stability of sample.

**Alkali Degradation Studies:**

To 1 ml of stock solution Ritonavir and Darunavir, 1 ml of 2N sodium hydroxide was added and refluxed for 30 mins at 60°C. The resultant solution was diluted to obtain 50 µg/ml & 400 µg/ml solution and 10 µl were injected into the system and the chromatograms were recorded to assess the stability of sample.

**Dry Heat Degradation Studies**

The standard drug solution was placed in oven at 105°C for 1h to study dry heat degradation. For HPLC study, the resultant solution was diluted to 50 µg/ml & 400 µg/ml solution and 10 µl were injected into the system and the chromatograms were recorded to assess the stability of the sample.

**Photo Stability studies**

The photochemical stability of the drug was also studied by exposing the 500 µg/ml & 4000 µg/ml solution to UV Light by keeping the beaker in UV Chamber for 1 days or 200 Watt hours/m<sup>2</sup> in photo stability chamber. For HPLC study, the resultant solution was diluted to obtain 200 µg/ml & 300 µg/ml solutions and 10 µl were injected into the system and the chromatograms were recorded to assess the stability of sample.

**Neutral Degradation Studies**

Stress testing under neutral conditions was studied by refluxing the drug in water for 1 hrs at a temperature of 60°C. For HPLC study, the resultant solution was diluted to 50 µg/ml & 400 µg/ml solution and 10 µl were injected into the system and the chromatograms were recorded to assess the stability of the sample.

**Results and Discussion**

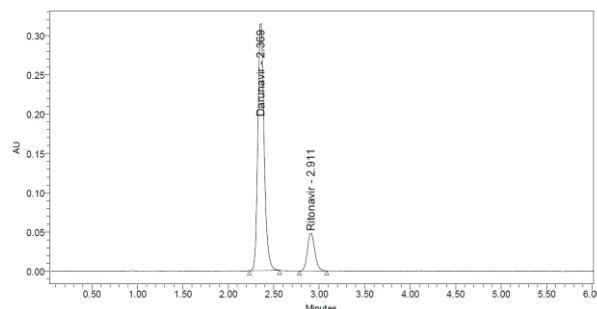
**Optimized method**

**Chromatographic conditions**

- Mobile phase** : 70% Formic acid (0.1%): 30% Acetonitrile
- Flow rate** : 1ml/min
- Column** : Azilent C18 (4.6 x 150mm, 5µm)
- Detector wave length** : 260nm
- Column temperature** : 30°C
- Injection volume** : 10µL
- Run time** : 6 min

**Diluent** : Water and Acetonitrile in the ratio 50:50

**Results** : Both peaks have good resolution, tailing Factor, theoretical plate count and resolution.



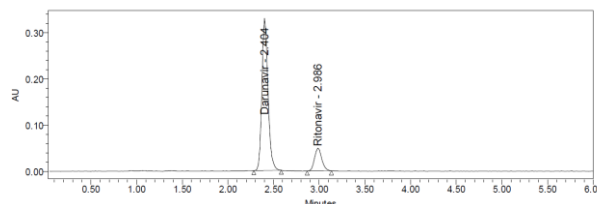
**Fig 3 Optimized Chromatogram**

**System suitability:** All the system suitability parameters were within the range and satisfactory as per ICH guidelines

**Table:1 Systemsuitability parameters for Darunavir and Ritonavir**

S n o	Darunavir			Ritonavir			
	RT(m in)	USP Plat e Cou nt	Taili ng	RT(m in)	USP Plat e Cou nt	Taili ng	Resolu tion
1	2.404	6178	1.19	2.986	6601	1.13	4.4
2	2.405	6198	1.16	2.986	7121	1.12	4.4
3	2.405	6089	1.20	2.988	6573	1.15	4.3
4	2.413	5924	1.17	2.998	6244	1.09	4.2
5	2.421	5892	1.18	3.013	6859	1.13	4.4
6	2.433	6253	1.18	3.036	6763	1.10	4.5

**Fig 4 Systemsuitability Chromatogram**

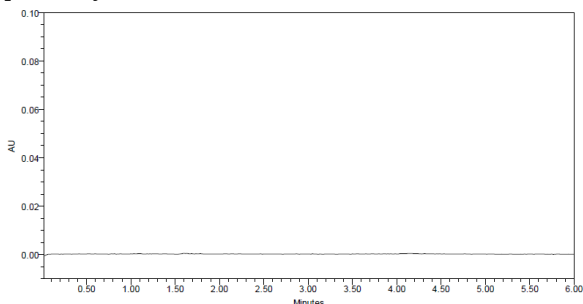


**Discussion**

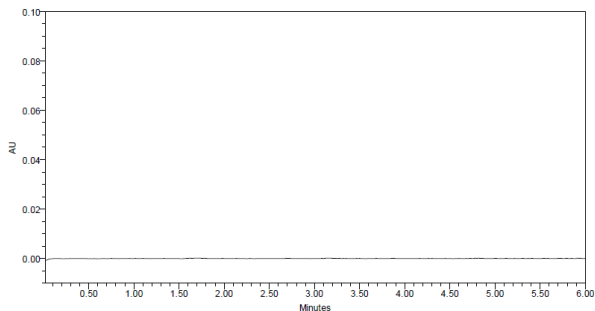
According to ICH guidelines plate count should be more than 2000, tailing factor should be less than 2 and resolution must be more than 2. All the system suitable parameters were passed and were within the limits.

**Validation**

**Specificity**



**Figure No. 5. Chromatogram of blank**

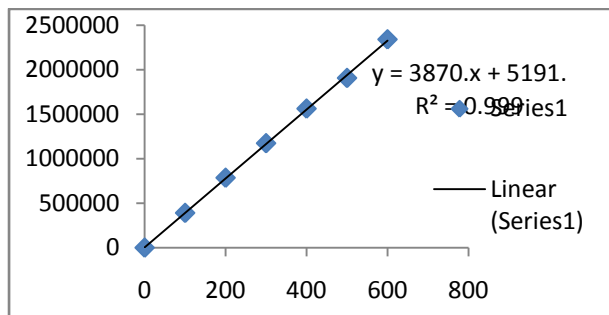


**Figure No. 6 Chromatogram of placebo**

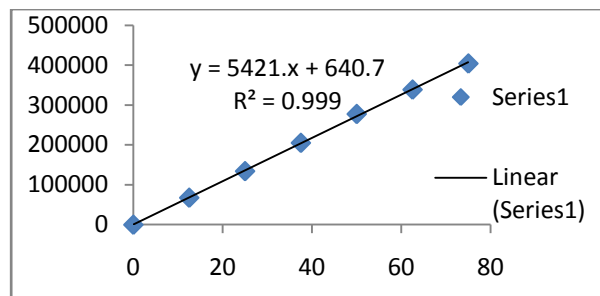
**Linearity:**

**Table 2 Linearity table for Darunavir and Ritonavir.**

Darunavir		Ritonavir	
Conc (µg/mL)	Peak area	Conc (µg/mL)	Peak area
0	0	0	0
100	390764	12.5	67733
200	786093	25	134305
300	1174300	37.5	205232
400	1563383	50	277599
500	1907925	62.5	338712
600	2341934	75	404125



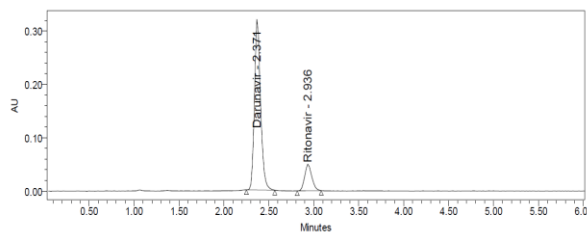
**Fig No. 7 Calibration curve of Darunavir**



**Fig No. 8 Calibration curve of Ritonavir**

**Discussion**

Six linear concentrations of Darunavir (100-600µg/ml) and Ritonavir (12.5-75µg/ml) were injected in a duplicate manner. Average areas were mentioned above and linearity equations obtained for Darunavir was  $y = 3870.x + 5191$  and of Ritonavir was  $y = 5421.x + 640.7$  Correlation coefficient obtained was 0.999 for the two drugs.



**Fig 9 Typical Chromatogram**

**Discussion**

Retention times of Darunavir and Ritonavir were 2.371 min and 2.938 min. respectively. We did not find any interfering peaks in blank and placebo at retention times of these drugs in this method. So this method was said to be specific.

**Precision**

**System Precision**

**Table 3 System precision table of Darunavir and Ritonavir**

S. No	Area of Darunavir	Area of Ritonavir
1.	1562412	272468
2.	1565061	277211
3.	1568363	271649
4.	1566157	270677
5.	1566158	273575
6.	1561519	272713
Mean	1564945	273049
S.D	2560.9	2264.3
%RSD	0.2	0.8

**Repeatability**

**Table 4 Repeatability table of Darunavir and Ritonavir**

S. No	Area of Darunavir	Area of Ritonavir
1.	1563796	273031
2.	1563323	274473
3.	1570928	275737
4.	1585721	275393
5.	1590713	273519
6.	1582460	272597
Mean	1576157	274125
S.D	11729.6	1282.7
%RSD	0.7	0.5

**Discussion:** Multiple sampling from a sample stock solution was done and six working sample solutions of same concentrations were prepared, each injection from each working sample solution was given and obtained areas were mentioned in the above table. Average area, standard deviation and % RSD were calculated for two drugs and obtained as 0.7% and 0.5% respectively for Darunavir and Ritonavir. As the limit of Precision was less than “2” the system precision was passed in this method.

**Intermediate precision (Day\_ Day Precision)**

**Table 5 Intermediate precision table of Darunavir and Ritonavir**

S. No	Area of Darunavir	Area of Ritonavir
1.	1508957	270706
2.	1506297	270017
3.	1488309	274639
4.	1509602	268996
5.	1502940	267494
6.	1499562	270510
Mean	1502611	270394
S.D	7958.4	2393.2
%RSD	0.5	0.9

**Discussion**

Multiple sampling from a sample stock solution was done and six working sample solutions of same concentrations were prepared, each injection from each working sample solution was given on the next day of the sample preparation and obtained areas were mentioned in the above table. Average area, standard deviation and % RSD were calculated for two drugs and obtained as 0.5% and 0.9% respectively for Darunavir and Ritonavir. As the limit

of Precision was less than “2” the system precision was passed in this method.

**Accuracy**

**Table 6 Accuracy table of Darunavir**

% Level	Amount Spiked (µg/mL)	Amount recovered (µg/mL)	% Recovery	Mean %Recovery
50%	200	200.00	100.00	99.67%
	200	202.03	101.02	
	200	196.43	98.22	
100%	400	396.33	99.08	
	400	398.75	99.69	
	400	400.62	100.15	
150%	600	596.41	99.40	
	600	590.94	98.49	
	600	605.68	100.95	

**Table 7 Accuracy table of Ritonavir**

% Level	Amount Spiked (µg/mL)	Amount recovered (µg/mL)	% Recovery	Mean %Recovery
50%	25	24.94	99.75	99.57%
	25	24.80	99.19	
	25	25.03	100.13	
100%	50	49.10	98.21	
	50	49.30	98.60	
	50	49.57	99.13	
150%	75	74.33	99.10	
	75	74.83	99.78	

	75	74.68	99.57	
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**Discussion**

Three levels of Accuracy samples were prepared by standard addition method. Triplicate injections were given for each level of accuracy and mean %Recovery was obtained as 99.67% and 99.57% for Darunavir and Ritonavir respectively.

**Sensitivity**

**Table 8 Sensitivity table of Darunavir and Ritonavir**

Molecule	LOD	LOQ
Darunavir	1.49	4.51
Ritonavir	0.37	1.11

**Robustness**

**Table 9 Robustness data for Darunavir and Ritonavir.**

S.no	Condition	%RSD of Darunavir	%RSD of Ritonavir
1	Flow rate (-) 0.9ml/min	1.1	1.1
2	Flow rate (+) 1.1ml/min	0.3	1.0
3	Mobile phase (-) 65:35A	0.8	1.0
4	Mobile phase (+) 75B:25A	0.5	0.7
5	Temperature (-) 25°C	0.5	0.4
6	Temperature (+) 35°C	0.8	0.7

**Discussion**

Robustness conditions like Flow minus (0.85ml/min), Flow plus (1.15ml/min), mobile phase minus (65B:35A), mobile phase plus (75B:25A), temperature minus (25°C) and temperature plus(35°C)was maintained and samples were injected in duplicate manner. System suitability parameters were not much affected and all the parameters were passed. %RSD was within the limit.

**Assay**

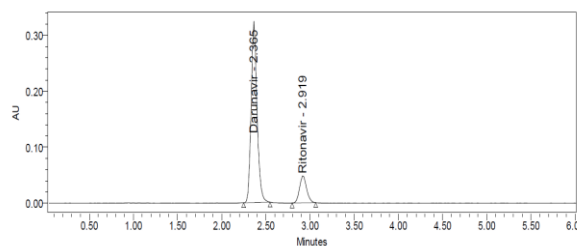
Mylan pharmaceuticals(Durart R 450 Tablet), bearing the label claim Darunavir 400mg, Ritonavir 50mg. Assay was performed with the above formulation. Average % Assay for Darunavir and Ritonavir obtained was 100.62% and 100.29% respectively

**Table 10 Assay Data of Darunavir**

S.no	Standard Area	Sample area	% Assay
1	1562412	1563796	99.83
2	1565061	1563323	99.80
3	1568363	1570928	100.28
4	1566157	1585721	101.23
5	1566158	1590713	101.54
6	1561519	1582460	101.02
Avg	1564945	1576157	100.62
Stdev	2560.9	11729.6	0.75
%RSD	0.2	0.7	0.7

**Table 11 Assay Data of Ritonavir**

S.no	Standard Area	Sample area	% Assay
1	272468	273031	99.89
2	277211	274473	100.42
3	271649	275737	100.88
4	270677	275393	100.76
5	273575	273519	100.07
6	272713	272597	99.73
Avg	273049	274125	100.29
Stdev	2264.3	1282.7	0.5
%RSD	0.8	0.5	0.5



**Fig 08 Chromatogram of working standard solution**

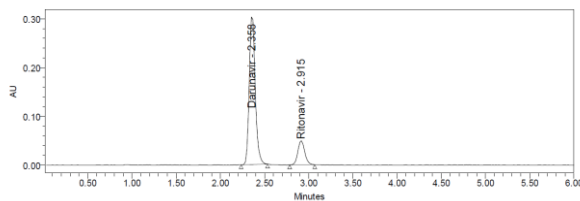


Fig No. 09 Chromatogram of working sample solution

Degradation data

Table 12 Degradation data for Darunavir and Ritonavir

Type of degradation	Darunavir			Ritonavir		
	AREA	%RECOVERED	% DEGRADED	AREA	%RECOVERED	% DEGRADED
Acid	1420809	90.70	9.30	256076	93.69	6.31
Base	1471589	93.94	6.06	260788	95.41	4.59
Peroxide	1453963	92.82	7.18	257555	94.23	5.77
Thermal	1522949	97.22	2.78	265997	97.32	2.68
Uv	1552374	99.10	0.90	269020	98.43	1.57
Water	1556561	99.36	0.64	270988	99.15	0.85

Conclusion

A simple, Accurate, precise method was developed for the simultaneous estimation of the Darunavir and Ritonavir in Tablet dosage form. Retention time of Darunavir and Ritonavir were found to be 2.369min and 2.911. %RSD of the Darunavir and Ritonavir were and found to be 0.7 and 0.5 respectively. %Recovery was obtained as 99.67% and 99.78% for Darunavir and Ritonavir respectively. LOD, LOQ values obtained from regression equations of Darunavir and Ritonavir were 1.49, 5.191 and 0.37, 1.11 respectively. Regression equation of Darunavir is  $y = 5421x + 640.7$ , and  $y = 3870x + 5191$  of Ritonavir. Retention times were decreased and run time was decreased, so the method developed was simple and economical that can be adopted in regular Quality control test in Industries.

Author Contribution

All authors are Contributed Equally.

Funding

No Funding.

Conflict of Interest

Authors are Declared no Conflict of Interest.

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