



A REVIEW: NOVEL ANALYTICAL METHOD DEVELOPMENT AND VALIDATION FOR THE DETERMINATION OF SELECTED ANTICANCER AND ANTIVIRAL DRUGS

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ABSTRACT

This review article determines the different analytical methods for the quantitative establishment of selected acalabrutinib, lorlatinib and olaparib and selected antiviral drug molnupiravir by using HPLC and LC-MS/MS. Pharmaceutical analytical method development of acalabrutinib, lorlatinib and olaparib and selected antiviral drug molnupiravir requires valid analytical procedures for quantitative and qualitative analysis in Pharmaceuticals dosage formulations. An Huge survey for determination of acalabrutinib, lorlatinib and olaparib anticancer and selected antiviral drug molnupiravir follow from the research articles published in various pharmaceutical and analytical

chemistry Journals. This assessment explain that the superiority of the HPLC/LC-MS methods reviewed is based on the quantitative analysis of drugs in formulations.

KEYWORDS: Method Validation, High performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC/LCMS), acalabrutinib, lorlatinib, olaparib and molnupiravir.

INTRODUCTION

Cancer is defined as a ‘group of diseases characterized by the uncontrolled growth and spread of abnormal cells’ and is one the deadliest diseases globally. Cancer represents the second most common cause of death in Europe and USA after cardiovascular diseases according to cancer facts and figure of 2016, a publication distributed by the American cancer society.^[1]

Acalabrutinib is a highly selective Bruton’s tyrosine kinase inhibitor, is associated with high

overall response rates and used for treated chronic lymphocytic leukemia.^[2] Acalabrutinib binds covalently to Cys481 in the ATP binding pocket of BTK.^[3] Acalabrutinib is chemically, (4-[8- amino3-[(2S)-1-but-2-ynoylpyrrolidin-2-yl]imidazo[1,5-a]pyrazin1-yl]-N-(2-pyridyl) benzamide)].^[4] The chemical structure of acalabrutinib shown in figure 1.

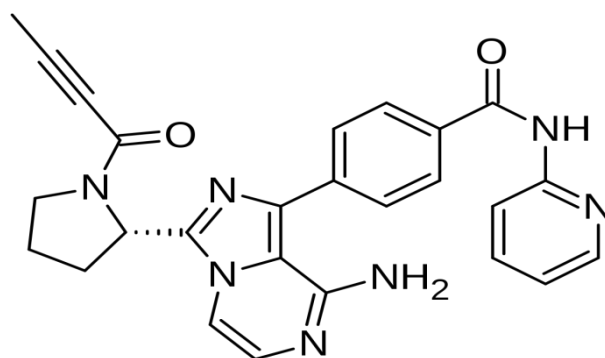


Figure 1: Chemical structure of acalabrutinib.

Lorlatinib (fig.2) is chemically 7-amino-12-fluoro-2, 10,16-trimethyl-15-oxo-10, 15,16,17-tetrahydro-2H-4,8-methenopyrazolomethenopyrazolo[4,3h][2,5,11]enzoxadiazacyclotetradecine-3-carbonitrile. Is a kinase inhibitor indicated for the treatment of patients with anaplastic lymphoma kinase (ALK)-positive metastatic non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC).^[5] Lorlatinib is available in markets as conventional tablets with a trade name of LORBRENA. It has shown survival benefits in the treatment of lung cancer in phase III trials. Some high-performance liquid-chromatographic (HPLC) methods with ultraviolet (UV) have been developed. Some methods with tandem mass spectrometry (MS=MS) each with its own advantages and limitations has been reported for the assay of Lorlatinib or other ALK drugs in human plasma.^[6-10]

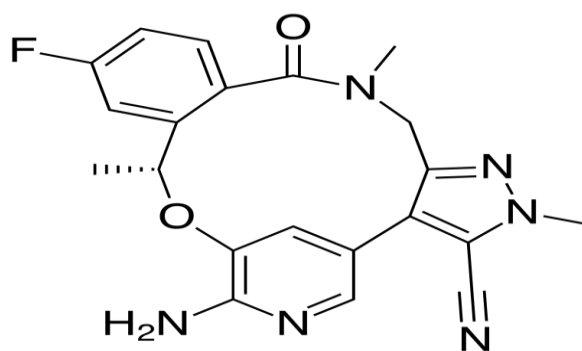


Figure 2: Chemical structure of lorlatinib.

Olaparib is an orally active inhibitor of poly (ADP-ribose) polymerases (PARP), of which PARP-1 is the most common. This enzyme assists with base-excision repair, fixing single-strand DNA breaks^[11] that, if not repaired, become double-strand breaks when encountered by the replication fork. Double-strand breaks are often repaired via homologous recombination (HR), where BRCA1 and BRCA2 play an important role.^[12] Deleterious mutations in BRCA1 or BRCA2 predispose carriers to breast and other cancers. When PARP is inhibited, BRCA1/2-deficient cells can no longer efficiently repair double-strand DNA breaks, leading to accumulation of DNA lesions, chromatid breaks, and eventual apoptosis. Thus, tumor cells with BRCA1/2 mutations are potentially sensitized to PARP inhibitors. Murai et al. reported that, in addition to inhibiting base-excision repair, PARP inhibitors exhibit further cytotoxic activity by trapping PARP at single-strand DNA breaks.^[13] The mechanism of PARP inhibitors offer the possibility of selectively killing cancer cells while avoiding the toxicities associated with most chemotherapy. Olaparib chemical structure was shown in figure 3.

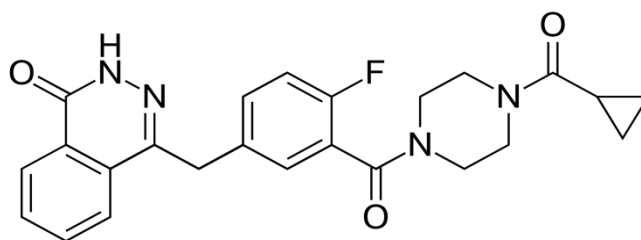


Figure 3: Chemical structure of olaparib.

Molnupiravir is an antiviral medication that inhibits the replication of certain RNA viruses.^[14] It is used to treat COVID-19 in those infected by SARS-CoV-2. Molnupiravir is a prodrug of the synthetic nucleoside derivative *N*⁴-hydroxycytidine and exerts its antiviral action through introduction of copying errors during viral RNA replication^[15,16] Molnupiravir was originally developed to treat influenza at Emory University by the university's drug innovation company, Drug Innovation Ventures at Emory (DRIVE), but was reportedly abandoned for mutagenicity concerns.^[17] It was then acquired by Miami-based company Ridgeback Biotherapeutics, which later partnered with Merck & Co. to develop the drug further.^[18] Based on positive results in placebo-controlled double-blind randomized clinical trials.^[19 & 20] Molnupiravir was approved for medical use in the United Kingdom in November 2021.^[21&22] In December 2021, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) granted an emergency use authorization (EUA) to molnupiravir for use in certain populations

where other treatments are not feasible. The emergency use authorization was only narrowly approved because of questions regarding efficacy and concerns that molnupiravir's mutagenic effects could create new variants that evade immunity and prolong the COVID-19 pandemic.^[23,24and25] Molnupiravir chemical structure was shown in figure4.

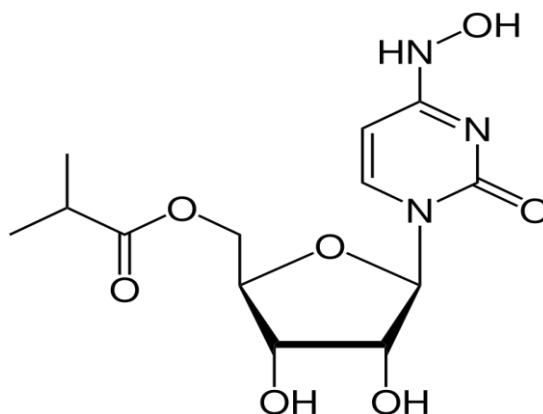


Figure 4: Chemical structure of molnupiravir.

Acalabrutinib Reported Methods

Priyanka P and Shyamala *et al.*, (2019) were developed on novel isocratic reverse phase liquid chromatography method for determination of Acalabrutinib was developed and validated after optimization of various chromatographic conditions. Chromatographic conditions used are stationary phase kromosil C18 column (250×4.6 mm5μ) with mobile phase 0.1% O-Phosphoric acid and methanol in ratio of 50:50 and flow rate was maintained at 1.0 ml/min, detection wavelength was 236nm.^[26] Pooja Singh *et al.*, (2021) reported on quantification and stability indicating UPLC method development and validation of acalabrutinib in bulk and pharmaceutical dosage form. This method was developed by using BEH C 18 (50 mm x 2.1 mm, 1.7μm) column was run through with Mobile phase 0.01N KH₂PO₄: Methanol in the ratio of 50:50 at a flow rate of 0.3 ml/min. Temperature was maintained at 30°C. Optimized wavelength selected for the separation was 234nm. Retention time was achieved 1.148minute in optimized chromatogram.^[27] Atchutarama krishna *et al.*, (2020) reported on development and validation of novel HPLC bioanalytical analysis method for acalabrutinib: an anticancer drug in human plasma. This method accomplished optimized chromatography conditions consist of methanol, acetonitrile and 0.1% orthophosphoric acid in the ratio of 45:35:20 (v/v) as a mobile phase with knauer Euros her II C18 Column (250 × 4.6 mm, 5μ) as stationary phase. Isocratic elution with 0.9 mL flow separates acalabrutinib at 4.6 min.^[28] Anusha *et al.*, (2019) developed Stability indicating RP-HPLC method

development and validation for the determination of Acalabrutinib in bulk drug and capsule dosage form. In this method separation was done using Zodiasil C18 150 x 4.6 mm, 5 μ column. The mobile phase (Water and methanol 60:40% v/v) was pumped at 0.8ml/min and effluent was detected at 230nm using a PDA detector. The retention time was 2.76 ± 0.1 min.^[29] Valluri, V. R et al., (2022) developed on A novel LC-MS/MS method for simultaneous estimation of acalabrutinib and its active metabolite acalabrutinib M₂₇ in human plasma and application to a human pharmacokinetic study. This method accomplished separation of the analytes was carried out on Zorbax Eclipse XDB-C₁₈ (150 \times 4.6 mm, 5 μ m) column with a mixture of acetonitrile and 10 mM ammonium formate in 0.1% formic acid buffer (65 : 35, v/v) as mobile phase at a flow rate of 1 mL/ min.^[30] The acalabrutinib summary reported methods shown in table 1.

Table 1: Acalabrutinib reported methods.

Sample	Instrument	Chromatographic conditions	References
API	RP-HPLC	C18(250 X 4.6 mm, 5 μ) 0.1% O-Phosphoric acid and methanol in ratio of 50:50, 236 nm	[26]
API and formulation	UPLC	BEH C 18 (50 mm x 2.1 mm, 1.7 μ m) Mobile phase 0.01N KH ₂ PO ₄ : Methanol in the ratio of 50:50, 234 nm	[27]
Human Plasma	HPLC	Euros her II C18 Column (250 \times 4.6 mm, 5 μ) methanol, acetonitrile and 0.1% orthophosphoric acid in the ratio of 45:35:20 (v/v) as a mobile phase, 242 nm	[28]
API and formulation	RP-HPLC	Zodiasil C18 150 x 4.6 mm, 5 μ column Water and methanol 60:40% v/v, 230 nm	[29]
Human plasma	LC-MS/MS	Zorbax Eclipse XDB-C ₁₈ (150 \times 4.6 mm, 5 μ m), acetonitrile and 10 mM ammonium formate in 0.1% formic acid buffer (65 : 35, v/v), m/e 466.1–372.1	[30]

Lorlatinib Reported Methods

Kalyan Chakravarthi et al., (2021) developed on RP-HPLC Method Development and Validation for the Determination of lorlatinib in Bulk and Its Pharmaceutical Formulation. This method accomplished C18 column (250mm X 4.6mm, 3 μ m) with mobile phase consisting of potassium dihydrogen orthophosphate, acetonitrile and methanol (45:30:25% V/V) having pH 5.8 was adjusted by using orthophosphoric acid. The flow rate was 1.0mL and effluents were monitored at 310nm. The Retention time of Lorlatinib was 7.871/min.^[31] Veerman et al., (2021) reported on quantify the small-molecule kinase inhibitors ceritinib, dacomitinib, lorlatinib, and nintedanib in human plasma by liquid

chromatography/triple-quadrupole mass spectrometry. In this method Acquity UPLC® BEH C18 column 1.7 μm , 50 mm x 2.1 mm was used with a binary gradient of pure water/formic acid/ammonium formate (100:0.1:0.02, v/v/v) and methanol/formic acid (100:0.1, v/v). Calibration curves for all small-molecule kinase inhibitors were 5.00-500 ng/mL.^[32] Anuradha *et al.*, (2019) reported on RP-HPLC method development and validation for the determination of lorlatinib in bulk and its pharmaceutical formulation. In this method C18 column (250mmX4.6mm, 3 μm) with mobile phase consisting of potassium dihydrogen orthophosphate, acetonitrile and methanol (50:30:20% V/V) having pH 4.2 was adjusted by using orthophosphoric acid. The flow rate was 1.0mL and effluents were monitored at 310nm. The Retention time of lorlatinib was 7.871/min.^[33] Sparidansa *et al.*, (2018) reported on bioanalytical assay for the quantification of the ALK inhibitor lorlatinib in mouse plasma using liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry. This method is explained about compounds were eluted at 0.5 mL/min and separated on a 3- μm particle-size, polar embedded octadecyl silica column by gradient elution using 0.1% of formic acid (in water) and methanol. Compounds were monitored with positive electrospray ionization using a triple quadrupole mass spectrometer in selected reaction monitoring mode.^[34] The lorlatinib summary reported methods shown in table 2.

Table 2: Lorlatinib reported methods.

Sample	Instrument	Chromatographic conditions	References
API and formulation	RP-HPLC	C18 column (250mm X 4.6mm, 3 μm) with mobile phase consisting of potassium dihydrogen orthophosphate, acetonitrile and methanol (45:30:25% V/V) having pH 5.8 was adjusted by using orthophosphoric acid, 310 nm.	[31]
Human plasma	LC-MS/MS	Acquity UPLC® BEH C18 column 1.7 μm , 50 mm x 2.1 mm was used with a binary gradient of pure water/formic acid/ammonium formate (100:0.1:0.02, v/v/v) and methanol/formic acid (100:0.1, v/v).	[32]
API and formulation	RP-HPLC	C18 column (250mmX4.6mm, 3 μm) with mobile phase consisting of potassium dihydrogen orthophosphate, acetonitrile and methanol (50:30:20% V/V) having pH 4.2 was adjusted by using orthophosphoric acid.310 nm.	[33]
Mouse plasma	LC-MS/MS	3- μm particle-size, polar embedded octadecyl silica column by gradient elution using 0.1% of formic acid (in water) and methanol. Compounds were monitored with positive electrospray ionization using a triple quadrupole mass spectrometer in selected reaction monitoring mode	[34]

Olaparib Reported Methods

Dasameswara Rao *et al.*, (2019) developed on new rapid stability indicating rp-uplc method for the determination of olaparib, its related substances and degradation products in bulk drug and dosage form. In this method UPLC® BEH C18 (2.1 mm × 100 mm, 1.7 micron) column, using buffer (1.0ml Orthophosphoric acid in 1000ml water) and acetonitrile in gradient elution mode. The flow rate was kept at 0.4mL/min.^[35] Daumar *et al.*, (2018) reported on development and validation of a high-performance liquid chromatography method for the quantitation of intracellular parp inhibitor olaparib in cancer cells. This method accomplished C₁₈ column (150 × 3.9 mm, 4 μm) using a mobile phase consisting of acetonitrile and ultra-pure water in gradient mode, at a constant 1.2 mL/min flow rate, at 35 °C. Detection was carried out at 254 nm.^[36] Ressiat *et al.*, (2018) reported on Development and Validation of a Simultaneous Quantification Method of Ruxolitinib, Vismodegib, Olaparib, and Pazopanib in Human Plasma Using Liquid Chromatography Coupled with Tandem Mass Spectrometry. This method accomplished he mobile phase consisted of a gradient elution of 10-mmol/L formate ammonium buffer containing 0.1% (vol/vol) formic acid (phase A) and acetonitrile with 0.1% (vol/vol) formic acid (phase B) at a flow rate at 300 μL/min.^[37] William D. Figg *et al.*, (2014) reported on A Sensitive and Robust Ultra HPLC Assay with Tandem Mass Spectrometric Detection for the Quantitation of the PARP Inhibitor Olaparib AZD2281) in Human Plasma for Pharmacokinetic Application. This method explains about Waters UPLC® BEH C18 column (2.1 × 50 mm, 1.7 μm) and mass spectrometric detection. The mass transitions m/z 435.4→281.1 and m/z 443.2→281.1.^[38] Priyanka Waje *et al.*, (2021). Method development and validation for quantitative estimation of olaparib in tablet dosage form by rp-hplc method. The chromatographic separation was achieved on Thermo Scientific C18 column (250mm x 4.6mm i.d.5μ). The mobile phase selected was 0.1% Trifluoroacetic buffer: Acetonitrile in the ratio of 60: 40 v/v at flow rate 1.0ml/min with column temperature maintained at 35°C and 10μl injection volume. The detection was carried out at 276nm³⁹. Pagidi rajagopaludu *et al.*, (2022) were developed on method development and validation of erythromycin and olaparib in human plasma by liquid chromatography–tandem mass spectrometry. The chromatography was carried out at 40°C on a phenomenax Luna column (C18, 5 m, 100×4.6 mm). It is set up as 75% A and 25% B for the first 0.5 min, then 10% A and 90% B for the next 3.5 min. Then, it steadily increased to 75% A and 255% B by 3.75 min and stayed there at 5.0 min at a flow rate of 0.5 mL/min. Olaparib mass-to-charge ratios of 435.08–102.04. In In the turbo electrospray interface, a positive ionization mode was

adopted. T the turbo electrospray interface, a positive ionization mode was adopted⁴⁰. The olaparib summary reported methods shown in table 3.

Table 3: Olaparib reported methods.

Sample	Instrument	Chromatographic conditions	References
API and formulation	RP-HPLC	UPLC® BEH C18 (2.1 mm × 100 mm, 1.7 micron) column, using buffer (1.0ml Orthophosphoric acid in 1000ml water) and acetonitrile in gradient elution mode,	[35]
API	RP-HPLC	C ₁₈ column (150 × 3.9 mm, 4 μm) using a mobile phase consisting of acetonitrile and ultra-pure water in gradient mode, at a constant 1.2 mL/min flow rate, at 35 °C. Detection was carried out at 254 nm	[36]
Human plasma	LC-MS/MS	10-mmol/L formate ammonium buffer containing 0.1% (v/v) formic acid (phase A) and acetonitrile with 0.1% (v/v) formic acid (phase B) at a flow rate at 300 μL/min	[37]
Human plasma	UHPLC-MS	Waters UPLC® BEH C18 column (2.1 × 50 mm, 1.7 μm) and mass spectrometric detection. The mass transitions m/z 435.4→281.1 and m/z 443.2→281.1	[38]
Formulation	RP-HPLC	Thermo Scientific C18 column (250mm x 4.6mm i.d.5μ). The mobile phase selected was 0.1% Trifluoroacetic buffer: Acetonitrile in the ratio of 60: 40 v/v,276 nm.	[39]
Human plasma	LC-MS/MS	Phenomenax Luna column (C18, 5 m, 100×4.6 mm), Olaparib mass-to-charge ratios of 435.08–102.04.	[40]

Molnupiravir Reported Methods

Tuba Recber et al., (2022) reported on A stability indicating RP-HPLC method for determination of the COVID-19 drug molnupiravir applied using nano formulations in permeability studies C18 Column (75 X 4.6 mm, 3 μm) was used at 30 °C. Isocratic elution was performed with ACN: water (20:80 v/v) mixture. The flow rate was 0.5 mL/min and UV detection was at 240 nm. Molnupiravir eluted within 5 min.^[41] Amara A eta al., (2021) reported on the development and validation of a novel LC-MS/MS method for the simultaneous quantification of Molnupiravir and its metabolite β-d-N4-hydroxycytidine in human plasma and saliva. Chromatographic separation was achieved using a polar Atlantis C₁₈ column with gradient elution of 1 mM Ammonium acetate in water (pH4.3) and 1 mM Ammonium acetate in acetonitrile. Analyte detection was conducted in negative ionisation mode using SRM. Analysis was performed using stable isotopically labelled (SIL) internal

standards (IS). The m/z transitions were: MPV (328.1→126.0). Validation was over a linear range of 2.5-5000 ng/ml for both plasma and saliva.^[42] Bhumika Parmar et al., (2022) were developed on uv visible spectroscopy method development and validation for estimation of molnupiravir in solid dosage form. Standard and sample solutions for molnupiravir were prepared in distilled water. Absorbance correction method for molnupiravir 280 nm was measured. The method followed linearity in range of 0.2-1 µg/ml with correlation value of 0.9998 for molnupiravir. This method was validated for various parameters according to ich guidelines.^[43] Pritam Jain et al., (2022) were reported on Quantitative estimation of molnupiravir by UV- Spectrophotometric method. UV-spectrophotometric method has been developed for estimation of Molnupiravir from bulk and pharmaceutical formulation. The λ_{max} of Molnupiravir in distilled water was found to be 235 nm. The drug follows linearity in the concentration range 5-30 µg/ml with correlation coefficient value 0.999. The proposed method was applied to pharmaceutical formulation and % amount of drug estimated 99.99 % was found in good agreement with the label claim.^[44] Molnupiravir chromatographic reported methods were shown in table 4 and spectrophotometric condition were shown in table 5.

Table 4: Molnupiravir chromatographic reported methods.

Sample	Instrument	Chromatographic conditions	References
API	RP-HPLC	C18 Column (75 X 4.6 mm, 3 µm) was used at 30 °C. Isocratic elution was performed with <u>ACN</u> : water (20:80 v/v) mixture, 240 nm.	[41]
Human plasma and saliva	LC-MS/MS	C ₁₈ column with gradient elution of 1 mM Ammonium acetate in water (pH4.3) and 1 mM Ammonium acetate in acetonitrile. The m/z transitions were: MPV (328.1→126.0).	[42]

Table 5: Molnupiravir spectro photometric reported methods.

Sample	Spectro photometric conditions	References
Formulation	Absorbance correction method for molnupiravir 280 nm, linearity in range of 0.2-1 µg/ml with correlation value of 0.9998.	[43]
API and formulation	The λ _{max} of Molnupiravir in distilled water was found to be 235 nm. The drug follows linearity in the concentration range 5-30 µg/ml with correlation coefficient value 0.999.	[44]

CONCLUSION

A sensitive and accurate HPLC and LC-MS/MS methods were developed for the estimation of the above selected anti-cancer and anti viral drugs acalabrutinib, lorlatinib, olaparib and

molnupiravir in pharmaceutical dosage forms. The above methods were evaluated for Specificity, Linearity, Accuracy, Precision, Ruggedness and Robustness as per ICH&FDA guidelines. From this study it is clear that it is possible to develop a new sensitive and accurate HPLC, UPLC and LC-MS/MS methods for anti cancer and anti viral drugs.

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