



## RP – HPLC method development and validation for the determination of escitalopram oxalate and clonazepam in tablet dosage form

PV Subash Chandra Boss<sup>1\*</sup>, Dr. S Anbazhagan<sup>2</sup>, P Rishop Raja<sup>3</sup>, S Valarmathy<sup>4</sup>, G Winkumar<sup>5</sup>, R Suriya<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Pharmaceutical Analysis, Surya School of Pharmacy Surya Group of Institutions, Vikravandi, Tamil Nadu, India

<sup>2-6</sup> Surya School of Pharmacy Surya Group of Institutions, Vikravandi, Tamil Nadu, India

### Abstract

A simple, specific, precise and accurate reverse phase liquid chromatography method has been developed for estimation of Escitalopram oxalate and Clonazepam in solid dosage forms. The chromatographic separation was achieved on a 5 – micron C 18 column (250x 4.6mm) using a mobile phase consisting of a mixture of ORTHO PHOSPHORIC ACID pH 6: Acetonitrile: Methanol (55:20:25 % v/v) was used pH 6.0 The flow rate was maintained at 1.0 ml / min. The detection of the constituents was done using UV detector at 220 nm for Escitalopram oxalate and Clonazepam. The retention time of Escitalopram oxalate and Clonazepam found is eluted 4.06 and 6.34 minutes min respectively. The developed method was validated for accuracy, linearity, precision, limit of detection (LOD) and limit of quantification (LOQ) and robustness as per the ICH guidelines.

**Keywords:** development and new validation, escitalopram oxalate and clonazepam tablet form and RP

### Introduction

Most of the pharmaceutical industries are manufacturing new drug formulations to meet the market demand based on the literature survey Escitalopram oxalate and Clonazepam and their pharmaceutical dosage form. The Escitalopram oxalate and Clonazepam is used for the Depression, Anxiety, and Treatment of panic disorder.

Standard analytical procedure for newer drugs of formulation may not be available in pharmacopoeias; hence it is essential to develop newer analytical methods which are simple, accurate, precise, specific, economic, linear and rapid.

The survey reveals that there are only few methods reported for quantitative analysis of, Escitalopram oxalate and Clonazepam and their pharmaceutical dosage form by High performance liquid chromatography (RP-HPLC). Estimation of Escitalopram oxalate and Clonazepam and their pharmaceutical dosage forms until now made it a worthwhile project. Plan was aimed to presume the present research work by selecting Escitalopram oxalate and Clonazepam as drug.

Therefore in the proposed project, a successful attempt has been made to develop simple, accurate, economic and rapid methods for the estimation of Escitalopram oxalate and Clonazepam in bulk and various capsule formulations and to validate the methods, as a result for simple, economic, precise and accurate methods were developed and validated as follow Today modern Pharmaceutical analysis has more emphasis to satisfy our query for better understanding of Pharmaceutical compounds, by the use of advanced instrumental methods. It also plays an important tool for quality assurance of Pharmaceutical product throughout the self-life.

Standard analytical procedure for newer drugs or formulation may not be available in pharmacopoeia; hence, it is essential to develop newer analytical methods, which are accurate, precise, and specific, linear, simple and rapid.

### RP-HPLC Method

An effort has been made to identify simple, precise, specific and accurate methods for the estimation of aspirin and Escitalopram oxalate and Clonazepam in bulk and in formulation by using RP-HPLC.

The solution of 10 µg/ ml and 25 mg of Escitalopram oxalate and Clonazepam in mobile phase a mixture of ortho phosphoric acid pH 6: Acetonitrile: Methanol (55:20:25 % v/v) was used pH 6.0 was prepared and the solution was scanned in the range of 200-400 nm. At 220 nm, the drug showed maximum absorbance with 2 hours stability. Hence in this was selected as a detection wavelength. Quantification of Escitalopram oxalate and Clonazepam was done by external standard calibration method.

### Materials and Methods

#### Materials

#### Drug Samples

Escitalopram oxalate and Clonazepam was purchased from Tristar Pharma Pudhucherry

#### Formulation used

Desilam plus (Msn Laboratories Pvt. Limited) containing Metoprolol Tartrate equivalent to 10MG AND 75MGmg was purchased from a Local Pharmacy.

#### Chemicals and solvents used

Distilled water (RP-HPLC GRADE), Methanol (RP-HPLC grade), Water for RP-HPLC, Acetonitrile (RP-HPLC grade) was purchased from Qualigens India Pvt. Limited and Loba Chemicals India Limited.

#### Instruments used

1. Shimadzu AUX- 220 Digital balance

2. Shimadzu RP-HPLC system
3. Sonicator – Sonica ultrasonic cleaner

4. Micropipette.

### Specifications of instruments

#### a) Shimadzu AUX- 220 Digital balance (Shimadzu Instruction Manual)

**Table 1**

Specifications	
Weighing capacity	200 gms
Minimum display	0.1 mg
Standard deviation	≤ 0.1 mg
Operation temperature range	5 to 40° C

Model: Shimadzu, UV- 1700; Cuvetts: 1 cm quartz cells.

Specifications	
Light source	20 W halogen lamp, Deuterium lamp.
Monochromator	Light source position automatic adjustment mechanism
Detector	Aberration- correcting concave holographic grating
Stray Light	Silicon Photodiode
Measurement wavelength range	0.04% or less (220 nm: NaI 10g/l) 0.04% or less (340 nm: NaNO <sub>2</sub> 50g/l)
Spectral Band Width	190~ 1100 nm
Wavelength Accuracy	1 nm or less (190 to 900 nm)
Recording range	± 0.5 nm automatic wavelength calibration mechanism
Photometric accuracy	Absorbance: -3.99 ~ 3.99 Abs Transmittance: -399 ~ 399%
Operating Temperature/ Humidity	± 0.004 Abs (at 1.0 Abs), ± 0.002 Abs (at 0.5 Abs)
	Temperature range: 15 to 35° C Humidity range: 35 to 80% (15 to below 30° C) 35 to 70% (30 to below 35° C)

#### b) Shimadzu HPLC (Shimadzu Instruction Manual)

**Table 2**

Detector Specifications	
Light source	Deuterium arc lamp
Wavelength range	190 to 700 nm
Spectral Band Width	5 nm
Wavelength Accuracy	± 1 nm
Cell path length	10 nm
Cell volume	20 µl
Operating temperature range	4 to 40°C (39 to 104°F)
Recording range	0.0001 to 4.000 AUFS
Operating Temperature/ Humidity	4 to 35°C/ 75 %

Pump Specifications	
Pump type	Double reciprocating plunger pump
Pumping methods	Constant flow delivery and constant pressure delivery
Suction filter	45 µm
Line filter	5 µm mesh
Operating temperature	4 to 40°C

### Methods

#### Selection of Chromatographic Method

Proper selection of the method depends upon the nature of the sample, molecular weight, and solubility. The drug selected for the present study was polar. Polar compounds can be separated by reverse phase chromatography, as regularly practiced, reverse phase chromatography utilizes a hydrophobic bonded phase packing, usually processing a C<sub>18</sub> or C<sub>8</sub> functional group and polar mobile phase, usually a practically or fully aqueous mobile phase. From the above

considerations for this Reverse phase chromatographic technique, C<sub>18</sub> column was chosen as stationary phase, different ratios of mobile phases were performed from that a mixture of ORTHO PHOSPHORIC ACID pH 6: Acetonitrile :Methanol (55:20:25 % v/v) was selected as mobile phase.

#### Selection of Detection wavelength

A solution of Escitalopram oxalate and Clonazepam (10 µg/ml) was scanned in the UV region using ORTHO PHOSPHORIC ACID pH 6: Acetonitrile: Methanol (55:20:25 % v/v). The  $\lambda_{\max}$  was found at 220nm. Escitalopram oxalate and Clonazepam have marked absorbance in all the different ionic strength of and ratios of mobile phase. There was no significant change in  $\lambda_{\max}$ . Hence, 220nm was selected as detection wavelength for the estimation of Desilam plus by RP-HPLC method.

#### Initial Separation Conditions

The following chromatographic conditions were fixed initially to improve the separation of Ecosprin-av

Mode of operation: GRADIENT

Stationary phase: C<sub>18</sub> Column (150 mm × 4.6 mm i.d., 5 µ)

Mobile phase: OPA PH6: Acetonitrile:Methanol

Ratio: 55:20:25 % v/v.

Detection wavelength: 220nm

Flow rate: 1.0 ml/min

Temperature: Ambient

Sample volume: 20 µl

Operating pressure: 210 kgf

Quantification method: External Standard Calibration Method

His mobile phase was allowed to run for 60 minutes to record a steady baseline. Desilam plus drug solution was injected and

chromatogram was recorded. It was observed that the drug was eluted Escitalopram oxalate and Clonazepam at 4.06 and 6.34 minutes. Hence the different ratios of mobile phase were tried to get the good peak shape, short retention time and acceptable system suitability parameters.

#### **Effect of Ratio of mobile phase**

The mobile phase concentration of buffer was changed in different proportions like 50:25:25 % v/v, 55:25:20 % v/v and 55:20:25 % v/v of ORTHO PHOSPHORIC ACID pH 4: Acetonitrile 55:20:25 % v/v. The chromatograms were recorded for the above ratios. In this ORTHO PHOSPHORIC ACID pH 6: Acetonitrile: Methanol (55:20:25 % v/v), the drug was eluted Escitalopram oxalate and Clonazepam at 4.06 and 6.34 minutes. In the ratio of (ORTHOPHOSPHORIC ACID pH 6: Acetonitrile: Methanol (55:20:25 % v/v) the peak shape and system suitability parameters were good. Hence, the ratio was selected for further analysis.

#### **Effect of ratio of mobile phase**

In the ratio of ORTHO PHOSPHORIC ACID pH 6: Acetonitrile: Methanol (55:20:25 % v/v) the peak shape and system suitability parameters were good. Hence, the ratio was selected for further analysis.

Buffer; Water previously adjusted to pH 6.0 with orthophosphoric acid filter and degas before use.

#### **Preparation of standard solution**

##### **A. Preparation of standard solution**

Weigh accurately about 100mg of Escitalopram oxalate working standard in a 100 ml volumetric flask. Add about 20 ml of mobile phase, sonicate to dissolve, and make up to the mark with mobile phase.

##### **B. Preparation of standard solution**

Weigh accurately about 50 mg of Clonazepam working standard into a 100 ml volumetric flask. Add about 20 ml of mobile phase, sonicate to dissolve, and make up to the mark with mobile phase.

#### **Mixed standard preparation**

Take 10ml of standard solution A and 1ml of standard solution B to 100 ml with mobile phase.

#### **Sample Preparation**

Weigh and remove capsule and crush the content of 20 tablets,

weigh accurately powder sample (10 mg equivalent of Escitalopram oxalate) and 05mg equivalent Clonazepam 118 mg into a 100 ml volumetric flask, add 20 ml of mobile phase. Sonicate for 10 minutes and dilute to the volume with mobile phase sonicate to dissolve too completely. Filter with 0.45µm membrane filter and inject.

#### **Preparation of calibration curve**

In this method, the aliquots of stock solution of Escitalopram oxalate (6.0- 14.0ml) and Clonazepam (1-5ml) were transferred into a 100 ml of volumetric flask and made up to the mark with mobile phase. A solution contains 10, 20, 30, 40, 50µg / ml of Escitalopram oxalate and 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 µg /ml of Clonazepam in mobile phase were injected and the chromatograms were recorded at 220nm. It was found that the above concentration range was linear. The procedure was repeated for three times. The peak areas were plotted against concentration and the calibration curve was constructed.

#### **Estimation of escitalopram oxalate and clonazepam in tablet formulation**

Weigh remove the Tablet and crush the content of 20 tablets, the average weight was found and powdered 10 mg equivalent of escitalopram oxalate and 75mg equivalent Clonazepam 188 mg into a 100 ml volumetric flask, add 20 ml of Mobile phase. Sonicate for 10 minutes and dilute to the volume with mobile phase sonicate to dissolve completely. Filter with 0.45 µm membrane filter and inject. Inject the solution and recorded the chromatogram. The concentration of each test solution was determined by using slope and intercept values from calibration graph.

#### **Recovery Studies**

To ensure the reliability of the methods, recovery studies were carried out by mixing a known quantity of standard drug solution with the pre – analyzed sample formulation and the content were mixed and made to the volume with mobile phase and re- analyzed by the proposed method, the percentage recovery was calculated.

#### **Limit of detection (LOD) and limit of quantification (LOQ)**

Calibration of standard was repeated for three times. The limit of detection and limit of quantification was calculated by using the average value of slope and standard deviation of intercept.

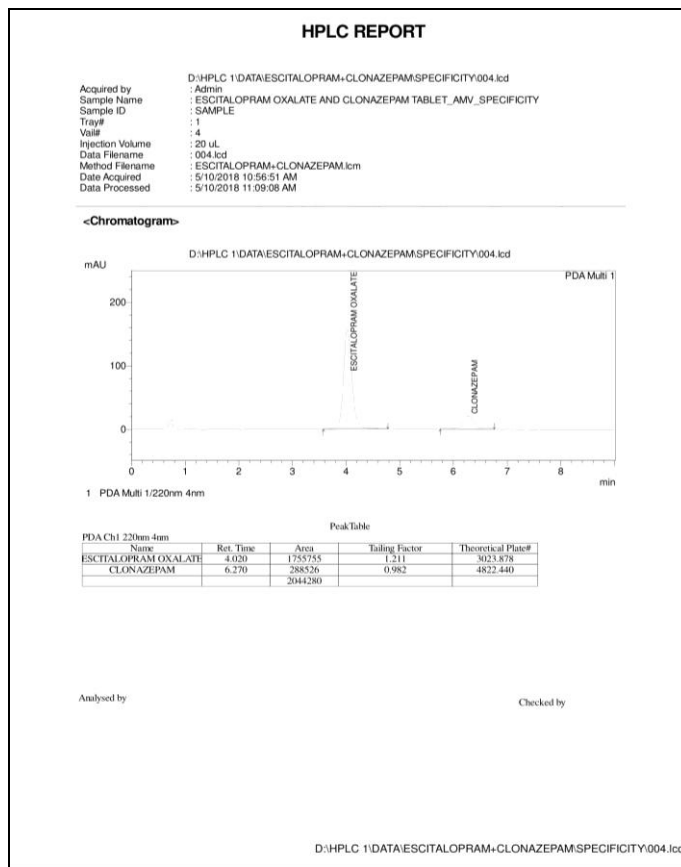


Fig 1

ANALYTICAL METHOD VALIDATION FOR  
ESCITALOPRAM OXALATE AND CLONAZEPAM TABLET

**SPECIFICITY**

Date: 10.05.2018

**CLONAZEPAM**

STANDARD DILUTIONS AND AREA:

50.1 mg---->      100 mL---->      1 mL----->      100 mL

<u>INJECTION No.</u>	<u>RETENTION TIME</u>	<u>AREA</u>
1	6.328	298810
2	6.337	302689
3	6.341	301759
4	6.345	299783
5	6.343	300732
6	6.345	298916
Average:	6.340	300448
SD :	0.01	1568.04
% RSD :	0.10	0.52

<u>INJECTION No.</u>	<u>RETENTION TIME</u>	<u>AREA</u>
BLANK	About 6.340	0
PLACEBO	About 6.340	0
STANDARD	6.267	283604
SAMPLE	6.270	288526

RESULTS AND REMARKS:  
THERE IS NO INTERFERENCE PEAK OBSERVED AT THE RETENTION TIME OF CLONAZEPAM PEAK

Analysed by \_\_\_\_\_

Checked by \_\_\_\_\_

Fig 2

ANALYTICAL METHOD VALIDATION FOR ESCITALOPRAM OXALATE AND CLONAZEPAM TABLET		
<b>SPECIFICITY</b>		Date: 10.05.2018
<b>ESCITALOPRAM OXALATE</b>		
<u>STANDARD DILUTIONS AND AREA:</u>		
127.7 mg-----> 100 mL-----> 10 mL-----> 100 mL		
<u>INJECTION No.</u>	<u>RETENTION TIME</u>	<u>AREA</u>
1	4.045	1836657
2	4.053	1829223
3	4.057	1839799
4	4.061	1839878
5	4.060	1837155
6	4.062	1837777
Average:	<b>4.056</b>	<b>1836748</b>
SD :	0.01	3923.36
% RSD :	<b>0.16</b>	<b>0.21</b>
<u>INJECTION No.</u>	<u>RETENTION TIME</u>	<u>AREA</u>
BLANK	About 4.056	0
PLACEBO	About 4.056	0
STANDARD	4.015	1757078
SAMPLE	4.020	1755755
<u>RESULTS AND REMARKS:</u>		
<b>THERE IS NO INTERFERENCE PEAK OBSERVED AT THE RETENTION TIME OF ESCITALOPRAM OXALATE PEAK</b>		
Analysed by		Checked by

Fig 3

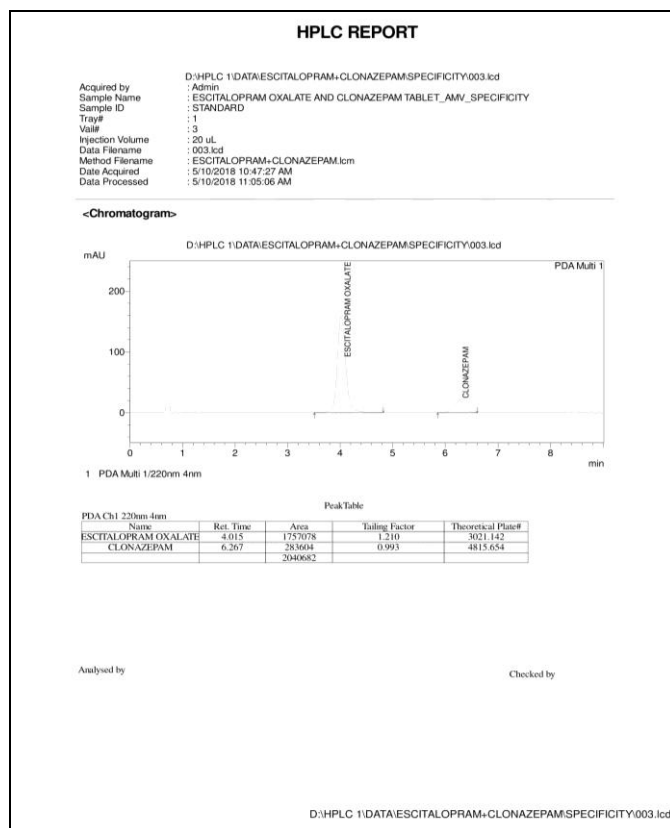


Fig 4

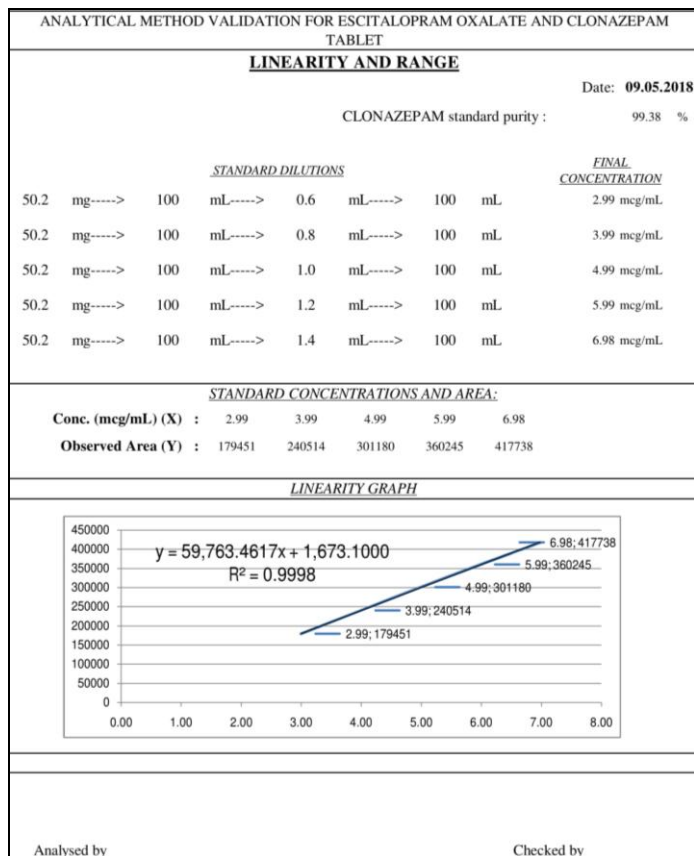


Fig 5

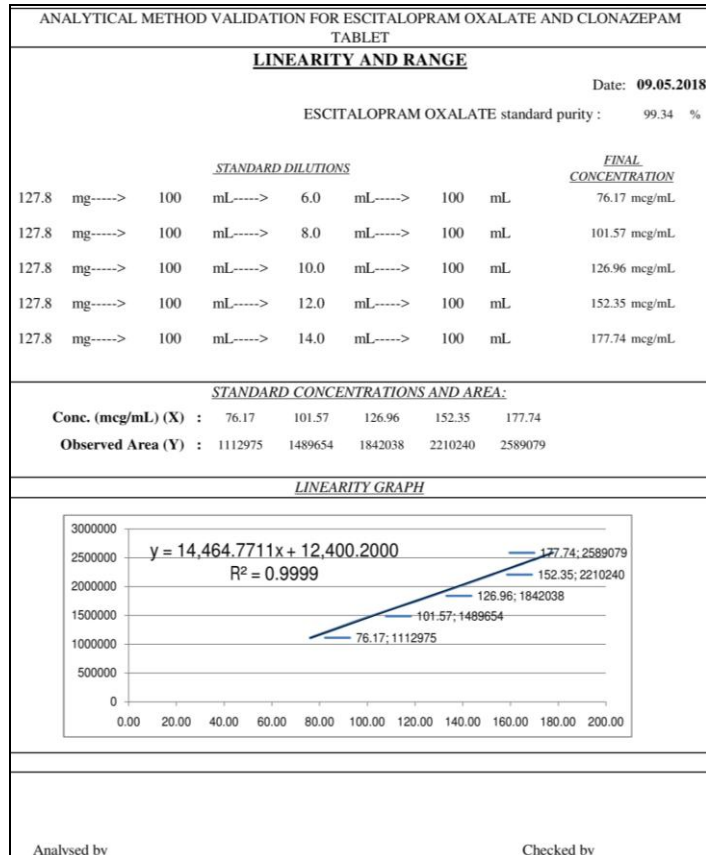


Fig 6

ANALYTICAL METHOD VALIDATION FOR ESCITALOPRAM OXALATE AND CLONAZEPAM TABLETS									
ACCURACY AND METHOD PRECISION FOR CLONAZEPAM									
Label claim of the formulation :						DATE		09.05.2018	
CLONAZEPAM                      0.5                      mg						Average weight :		118.4 mg	
						Standard Purity :		99.38 %	
						Conversion factor :		1	
ASSESSMENT OF ASSAY USING NINE DETERMINATION COVERING THE ENTIRE RANGE									
STANDARD DILUTIONS : 50.2 mg → 100 ml → 1 ml → 100 ml.									
STANDARD AREAS : 300821   308051   305749   298215   300103   AVG: 302588   SD: 4130.89   RSD: 1.37									
LOW LEVEL DILUTIONS - 01 : 94.8 mg → 100 ml → 1 ml → 1 ml.      SPL 01 AREA : 237347									
MIDDLE LEVEL DILUTIONS - 01 : 119.5 mg → 100 ml → 1 ml → 1 ml.      SPL 04 AREA : 305946									
HIGH LEVEL DILUTIONS - 01 : 142.1 mg → 100 ml → 1 ml → 1 ml.      SPL 07 AREA : 355849									
RESULTS									
S no.	Sample ID	Standard Area	Sample Area	ACCURACY		PRECISION			
				mg / tab	Assay percentage	Average at individual concentration levels	SD at individual concentration levels	% CV at individual concentration Levels	
1	Low level - 01	302588	237347	0.489	97.75	97.75	1.27	1.30	
2	Middle level - 01	302588	305946	0.500	99.96	99.96	1.27	1.27	
3	High level - 01	302588	355849	0.489	97.77	97.77	1.27	1.30	
Overall Average:				0.492	98.49	98.49	1.27	1.29	
Overall SD:				0.006	1.269				
Overall % CV:				1.29	1.29				
LIMIT : NMT 2.0 %									

Fig 7

ANALYTICAL METHOD VALIDATION FOR ESCITALOPRAM OXALATE AND CLONAZEPAM TABLETS									
ACCURACY AND METHOD PRECISION FOR ESCITALOPRAM OXALATE									
Label claim of the formulation :						DATE		09.05.2018	
ESCITALOPRAM OXALATE EQU. TO ESCITALOPRAM                      10                      mg						Average weight :		118.4 mg	
						Standard Purity :		99.34 %	
						Conversion factor :		0.7828	
ASSESSMENT OF ASSAY USING NINE DETERMINATION COVERING THE ENTIRE RANGE									
STANDARD DILUTIONS : 127.2 mg → 100 ml → 10 ml → 100 ml.									
STANDARD AREAS : 1839918   1832010   1844975   1830023   1835597   AVG: 1836505   SD: 6050.52   RSD: 0.33									
LOW LEVEL DILUTIONS - 01 : 94.8 mg → 100 ml → 1 ml → 1 ml.      SPL 01 AREA : 1487878									
MIDDLE LEVEL DILUTIONS - 01 : 119.5 mg → 100 ml → 1 ml → 1 ml.      SPL 04 AREA : 1850799									
HIGH LEVEL DILUTIONS - 01 : 142.1 mg → 100 ml → 1 ml → 1 ml.      SPL 07 AREA : 2221888									
RESULTS									
S no.	Sample ID	Standard Area	Sample Area	ACCURACY		PRECISION			
				mg / tab	Assay percentage	Average at individual concentration levels	SD at individual concentration levels	% CV at individual concentration Levels	
1	Low level - 01	1836505	1487878	10.009	100.09	100.09	0.68	0.68	
2	Middle level - 01	1836505	1850799	9.877	98.77	98.77	0.68	0.69	
3	High level - 01	1836505	2221888	9.971	99.71	99.71	0.68	0.68	
Overall Average:				9.952	99.52	99.52	0.68	0.68	
Overall SD:				0.068	0.680				
Overall % CV:				0.68	0.68				
LIMIT : NMT 2.0 %									

Fig 8



AMV_ASSAY CALCULATION SHEET_METHOD PRECISION											
Product		ESCITALOPRAM AND CLONAZEPAM TABLET				Date				09.05.2018	
B.No		MTT 613									
Mfg.date		Mar-18									
Exp.date		Feb-20									
Label claim :		Clonazepam 0.5 mg				Average Weight		118.4		mg	
						Standard Purity :		99.38		%	
						Conversion factor :		1.0000			
STANDARD DILUTIONS: 50.2 mg----> 100 mL----> 1 mL----> 100 mL											
STANDARD AREAS: 305565 307007 302889 302313 306068      AVG: 304768      SD: 2055.2369      RSD: 0.67											
SAMPLE - 01		118.3	mg----	100	mL----	1	mL----	1	mL	SPL. 01 AREA :	304880
SAMPLE - 02		119.3	mg----	100	mL----	1	mL----	1	mL	SPL. 02 AREA :	305714
SAMPLE - 03		120.1	mg----	100	mL----	1	mL----	1	mL	SPL. 03 AREA :	307623
SAMPLE - 04		118.7	mg----	100	mL----	1	mL----	1	mL	SPL. 04 AREA :	300566
SAMPLE - 05		118.2	mg----	100	mL----	1	mL----	1	mL	SPL. 05 AREA :	303973
SAMPLE - 06		118.8	mg----	100	mL----	1	mL----	1	mL	SPL. 06 AREA :	302373
<b>RESULTS</b>											
S no	Sample ID	Standard Area	Sample Area	Content	percentage	Limit					
1	Sample 01	304768	304880	0.499	99.90	90.0 % to 110.0 %					
2	Sample 02	304768	305714	0.497	99.33						
3	Sample 03	304768	307623	0.496	99.29						
4	Sample 04	304768	300566	0.491	98.15						
5	Sample 05	304768	303973	0.498	99.69						
6	Sample 06	304768	302373	0.493	98.66						
				Overall Average:	0.496	99.17					
				Overall SD:	0.00	0.65					
				Overall % CV:	0.66	0.66					

Fig 9

AMV_ASSAY CALCULATION SHEET_METHOD PRECISION											
Product		ESCITALOPRAM AND CLONAZEPAM TABLET				Date				09.05.2018	
B.No		MTT 613									
Mfg.date		Mar-18									
Exp.date		Feb-20									
Label claim :		Escitalopram Oxalate eq.to Escitalopram 10 mg				Average Weight		118.4		mg	
						Standard Purity :		99.34		%	
						Conversion factor :		0.7828			
STANDARD DILUTIONS: 127.8 mg----> 100 mL----> 10 mL----> 100 mL											
STANDARD AREAS: 1834949 1837454 1842816 1827300 1837697      AVG: 1836043      SD: 5662.0900      RSD: 0.31											
SAMPLE - 01		118.3	mg----	100	mL----	1	mL----	1	mL	SPL. 01 AREA :	1831221
SAMPLE - 02		119.3	mg----	100	mL----	1	mL----	1	mL	SPL. 02 AREA :	1833362
SAMPLE - 03		120.1	mg----	100	mL----	1	mL----	1	mL	SPL. 03 AREA :	1845260
SAMPLE - 04		118.7	mg----	100	mL----	1	mL----	1	mL	SPL. 04 AREA :	1851460
SAMPLE - 05		118.2	mg----	100	mL----	1	mL----	1	mL	SPL. 05 AREA :	1839623
SAMPLE - 06		118.8	mg----	100	mL----	1	mL----	1	mL	SPL. 06 AREA :	1850968
<b>RESULTS</b>											
S no	Sample ID	Standard Area	Sample Area	Content	percentage	Limit					
1	Sample 01	1836043	1831221	9.920	99.20	90.0 % to 110.0 %					
2	Sample 02	1836043	1833362	9.849	98.49						
3	Sample 03	1836043	1845260	9.847	98.47						
4	Sample 04	1836043	1851460	9.996	99.96						
5	Sample 05	1836043	1839623	9.974	99.74						
6	Sample 06	1836043	1850968	9.985	99.85						
				Overall Average:	9.929	99.29					
				Overall SD:	0.07	0.68					
				Overall % CV:	0.68	0.68					

Fig 10



ANALYTICAL METHOD VALIDATION FOR ESCITALOPRAM OXALATE AND CLONAZEPAM TABLET				
Date: 09.05.2018				
SYSTEM SUITABILITY				
<u>STANDARD DILUTIONS AND AREA:</u>				
<b>ESCITALOPRAM OXALATE</b>				
127.7 mg----->	100 mL----->	10 mL----->	100 mL	
<b>CLONAZEPAM</b>				
50.1 mg----->	100 mL----->	1 mL----->	100 mL	
ESCITALOPRAM OXALATE				
INJECTION No.	AREA	RT	TF	TP
1	1836657	4.045	1.221	3144.675
2	1829223	4.053	1.215	3148.857
3	1839799	4.057	1.217	3146.771
4	1839878	4.061	1.216	3143.659
5	1837155	4.060	1.22	3148.162
6	1837777	4.062	1.218	3150.202
Average:	1836748	4.05633	1.21783	3147.05
SD :	3923	0.00644	0.0023	2.52
% RSD :	0.21	0.16	0.19	0.08
CLONAZEPAM				
INJECTION No.	AREA	RT	TF	TP
1	298810	6.328	0.997	4938.502
2	302689	6.337	0.971	4923.112
3	301759	6.341	0.986	4910.913
4	299783	6.345	0.988	4936.202
5	300732	6.343	0.994	4979.82
6	298916	6.345	0.998	4978.936
Average:	300448	6.33983	0.989	4944.58
SD :	1568	0.00652	0.0100	28.72
% RSD :	0.52	0.10	1.02	0.58
<u>RESULTS AND REMARKS:</u>				
The % coefficient of variation (%RSD) for 6 replicate injections is below 2.0%				
THEORETICAL PLATE = NLT 1500 ; TAILING FACTOR = NMT 2.0				

Fig 11

### System suitability studies

The system suitability studies carried out as specified in ICH guidelines and USP. The parameters like tailing factor, asymmetry factor, number of theoretical plates, capacity factor were calculated.

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