

# Stability-Indicating HPTLC Method for Estimation of Guaifenesin in Bulk and in Pharmaceutical Formulation

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## Abstract

A HPTLC/ Densitometric method has been developed for the determination of Guaifenesin (GFN) in bulk and pharmaceutical formulation. The estimation of drug was performed on HPTLC aluminium plates precoated with silica gel 60 RP-18 TLC F254 S using toluene: methanol: ethyl acetate: acetic acid (7:0.8:1.2:0.5 v/v/v/v) as mobile phase. The densitometric quantification for the drug was carried out at 274 nm. GFN obeyed linearity in concentration range 800 – 2800 ng/band with coefficient of correlation 0.999. The R<sub>f</sub> for GFN was found to be 0.6 ± 0.02. The proposed method was applied for pharmaceutical formulation and % label claim for GFN was found to be 100.34 ± 1.06. The method was validated for accuracy, precision and ruggedness. Accuracy of the method was checked by recovery studies at three different levels i.e. 80 %, 100 % and 120 %. The % recovery of GFN was found to be in the range of 99.48% - 100.68 %; the % RSD value was less than 2 indicates the accuracy of the method. The method was found to be precise as indicated by the inter-day, intra-day and repeatability analysis; showing % RSD less than 2. The results did not show any statistical difference between operators showing that developed method was rugged. GFN was subjected to acid and alkali hydrolysis, oxidation and thermal degradation. The drug undergoes degradation under acid-base conditions, hydrolysis, oxidation, photo degradation except dry heat degradation. This indicates that the drug is susceptible to acid and base. The degraded product was well resolved from the pure drug with significantly different R<sub>f</sub> value. Statistical analysis proves that the method is repeatable, selective and accurate for the estimation of investigated drug. The proposed developed HPTLC method can be applied for the identification and quantitative determination of GFN in bulk drug and pharmaceutical formulation.

**Keywords:** Guaifenesin; High-performance thin-layer chromatography; Validation; Stability; Degradation

## Introduction

Guaifenesin, (RS)-3-(2-methoxyphenoxy)propane-1,2-diol (Figure 1), Guaifenesin may act as an irritant to gastric vagal receptors, and recruit efferent parasympathetic reflexes that cause glandular exocytosis of a less viscous mucus mixture. Cough may be provoked. This combination may flush tenacious, congealed mucopurulent material from obstructed small airways and lead to a temporary improvement in dyspnea or the work of breathing. Guaifenesin is an expectorant which increases the output of phlegm (sputum) and bronchial secretions by reducing adhesiveness and surface tension. The increased flow of less viscous secretions promotes ciliary action and changes a dry, unproductive cough to one that is more productive and less frequent. By reducing the viscosity and adhesiveness of secretions, Guaifenesin increases the efficacy of the mucociliary mechanism in removing accumulated secretions from the upper and lower airway [1,2].

Various methods such as Spectrophotometric estimation of Guaifenesin and salbutamol in pure and tablet dosage form by using different methods, Determination of Guaifenesin and Dextromethorphan in a Cough Syrup by HPLC with Fluorometric Determination, HPLC determination of Guaifenesin with selected medications on underivatized silica with an aqueous-organic mobile phase, Determination of Guaifenesin in human serum by capillary gas chromatography and electron capture detection, Simultaneous, stability indicating, HPLC-DAD determination of Guaifenesin and methyl and propyl-parabens in cough syrup [3-7]. To our knowledge, no articles related to the stability-indicating chromatographic determination of guaifenesin by high-performance thin-layer chromatography (HPTLC) in pharmaceutical dosage forms have been reported in literature. The hydrolytic and the photolytic stability also are required. An ideal stability-indicating method is one that quantifies the drug and also resolves its

degradation products. Unlike HPLC, consumption of mobile phase per sample basis is quite low. This saves cost per analysis and analysis time as well. HPTLC facilitates repeated detection (scanning) of the chromatogram with the same or different parameters. HPTLC technique is most suited for impurity profile of drug substances and content uniformity test as per compendia specifications [8,9]. The aim of this work is to develop an accurate and specific, repeatable and stability-indicating method for the determination of ciprofibrate in the presence of its degradation products as per ICH guidelines [10,11].

## Experimental

### Chemicals and reagents

Guaifenesin was supplied as a gift sample from Macloeds Pharmaceutical, Daman, India all chemicals and reagents used were of analytical grade (MERCK Chem. Ltd., Mumbai). Methanol was selected as the solvent for sample preparation.

### HPTLC instrumentation

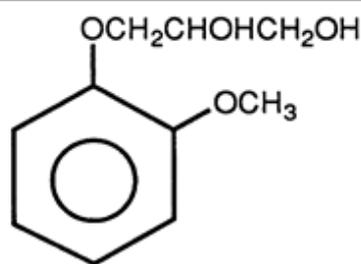
Chromatography was performed on 20 cm × 10 cm aluminum-backed TLC plates coated with 200 μm layers of silica gel 60F<sub>254</sub> S (E. Merck, Darmstadt, Germany; supplied by Merck India, Mumbai, India). The plates were prewashed by methanol and activated at 100 –

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Guaifenesin

Figure 1: Chemical structure of Guaifenesin.

110 °C for 10 min prior to chromatography. The samples were applied on the plates as 6 mm wide bands, by means of a CAMAG (Muttentz, Switzerland) Linomat-5 sample applicator fitted with a 100 µL sample syringe (Hamilton, Bonaduz, Switzerland). Plate was developed to a distance of 8 cm using toluene: methanol: ethyl acetate: acetic acid (7:0.8:1.2:0.5) as mobile phase in a Camag twin-trough glass chamber previously saturated with mobile phase vapors for 10 min at ambient temperature. Densitometric scanning was performed at 274 nm using Camag TLC Scanner 3 equipped with win CATS software version 1.3.0.

### Preparation of standard solution and linearity study

An accurately weighed GFN (20 mg) was transferred to 10 mL volumetric flask; dissolved in methanol and the volume was made up to mark with the same solvent to give 2000 ng/µL solution. Linearity was performed using working standard of GFN. Calibration was done by applying standard stock solution ranging from 0.4-1.4 µL on TLC Plate; which gives concentration of 800 – 2800 ng/band. The plate was developed and scanned as described under above chromatographic conditions. Calibration curve was constructed by plotting the peak area vs. corresponding drug concentration.

### Preparation of In-House Tablet

#### Tablet compression

**Direct compression method:** MCC and talc were dispensed to the correct masses and blended together. GFN was then transferred and blended together. Powders were blended for 5 minutes and subjected for direct compression. Each tablet contains 100 mg of drug [12].

### Method Validation

#### Precision

**Intra-day and inter-day precision:** Intraday precision was determined by analyzing, the three different concentrations 800 ng, 1200 ng and 1600 ng of GFN, for three times within the day. Day to day variability was assessed using above mentioned three concentrations and analyzing it for three consecutive days, which shows reproducibility of the method.

**Repeatability:** Repeatability of sample application was assessed by applying 0.8 µL (1600 ng) of drug solution six times on a TLC plate followed by development of plate and recording the peak height and area for 6 bands.

### Limit of Detection and Limit of Quantification

Limit of Quantification (LOQ) LOD and LOQ were calculated by

the method which was based on the SD of the response and the slope (S) of the calibration curve at levels approximating the LOD and LOQ, Sensitivity of the proposed method was estimated in terms of Limit of Detection (LOD) and  $LOD = 3.3(SD/S)$  and  $LOQ = 10(SD/S)$ . Stock solution of GFN was prepared and different volume of stock solution in the range 700 to 1200 ng were applied in triplicate.

### Ruggedness

Ruggedness of the method was checked by analyzing 1600 ng (n = 6) of GFN, with the help of two analysts and the variations in the results were checked.

### Accuracy

Recovery study was carried out by over spotting at 80, 100 and 120 % level where known amount of standard GFN was added to pre analyzed sample (800 ng of GFN) and subjected them to the proposed TLC method.

### Robustness

Robustness was studied at the concentration level of 1600 ng/band. In this study, few parameters (mobile phase composition, development distance and duration of saturation) were studied and the effects on the results were examined.

### Application of Proposed Method to Tablet Formulation

To determine the content of GFN in tablets, twenty tablets, each containing 250 mg GFN, were accurately weighed and finely powdered. An amount equivalent to 20 mg GFN was transferred to 10 mL volumetric flask and extracted with methanol for 20 minutes by shaking mechanically. The solution was diluted to volume with the same solvent and filtered; from it, the sample solution (0.8 µL, containing 1600 ng of GFN) was applied on TLC plate, developed and scanned.

### Forced Degradation of Guaifenesin

#### Acid-and base-induced degradation

The 20 mg of GFN was separately dissolved in 10 ml of methanolic solution of 1N HCl and 1N NaOH. These solutions were kept for 8 h at room temperature. The 1ml of above solutions was taken and neutralized, then diluted up to 10 ml with methanol. The resultant solution were applied on TLC plate in triplicate (0.8 µl each, i.e. 1600 ng per spot).

#### Hydrogen peroxide-induced degradation

The 20 mg of GFN was separately dissolved in 10 ml of methanolic solution of hydrogen peroxide (10.0%, v/v). The solution was kept for 8 h at room temperature in the dark in order to exclude the possible degradative effect of light. The resultant solution was applied on TLC plate in triplicate (0.8 µl each, i.e. 1600 ng per spot).

#### Dry heat degradation products

The powdered drug was kept at 60°C for 8 h under dry heat condition and then 20 mg sample was taken and dissolved in 10ml methanol. Spot were applied and chromatograms were run.

#### Photochemical degradation

The photochemical stability of the drug was also studied by exposing the stock solution to direct sunlight for 24 h. The resultant

solution (0.8  $\mu$ L, i.e. 1600 ng per spot) was applied on a TLC plate and chromatograms were run.

## Results and Discussion

### Development of optimum mobile phase

Different ratios of toluene, methanol and ethyl acetate were tried as mobile phase was tried but, tailing of spot, less persistent spots were observed in most of the attempts. In order to overcome the problems, toluene: methanol: ethyl acetate: acetic acid (7:0.8:1.2:0.5 v/v/v/v) was tried and results is good resolution, sharp and symmetrical peak with  $R_f$  value of 0.6 for GFN (Figure 2).

### Calibration curve

The linear regression data for the calibration curves showed good linear relationship over the concentration range 800-2800 ng/spot. Linear regression was found to be  $Y = 2.118x + 428.8$ , Slope = 2.118, Intercept = 428.8, Correlation coefficient = 0.999

### Validation of Method

#### Precision

The precision of the developed HPTLC method was expressed in terms of percent relative standard deviation (% RSD). The results, presented in Table 1, revealed high precision of the method.

#### LOD and LOQ

Detection limit and quantification limit were calculated by the method described in the section "Limit of detection and limit of quantification". The LOQ and LOD were found to be 2.24 and 6.79 ng, respectively. This indicates the adequate sensitivity of the method.

#### Recovery studies

The proposed method when used for extraction and subsequent estimation of ciprofibrate from the pharmaceutical dosage formed after over spotting with 80%, 100% and 120% of additional drug afforded good recovery of ciprofibrate. The amounts of drug added and determined and the percentage recovery are listed in Table 2.

### Robustness of the Method

The standard deviation of peak areas was calculated for each parameter, and % RSD was found to be <2%. The low values of % RSD values, shown in Table 3, indicated the robustness of the method.

### Analysis of In-House Tablet

A single spot at  $R_f$  0.6 was observed in the chromatogram of the drug samples extracted from tablets. There was no interference from the excipients commonly present in the tablet. The % drug content and % RSD were calculated. The low % RSD value indicated the suitability of this method for the routine analysis of ciprofibrate in pharmaceutical dosage forms (Table 4 and 5).

### Force Degradation

GFN was subjected to acid and alkali hydrolysis, oxidation and thermal degradation. The drug undergoes degradation under acid-base conditions, hydrolysis, oxidation, photo degradation except dry heat degradation. This indicates that the drug is susceptible to acid and base. The degraded product was well resolved from the pure drug with significantly different  $R_f$  value. Statistical analysis proves that

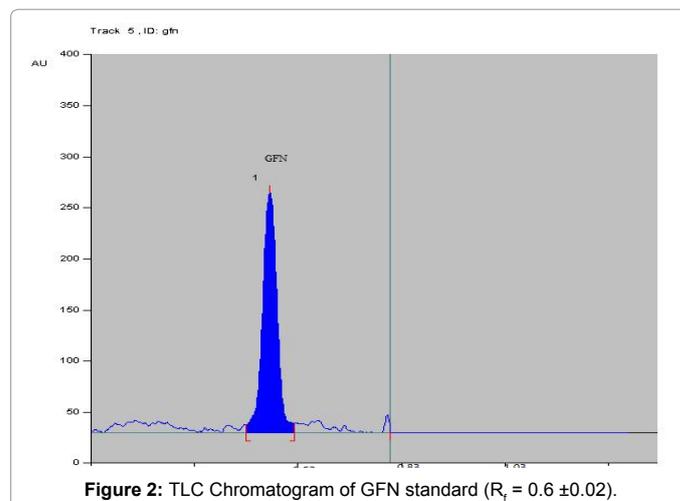


Figure 2: TLC Chromatogram of GFN standard ( $R_f = 0.6 \pm 0.02$ ).

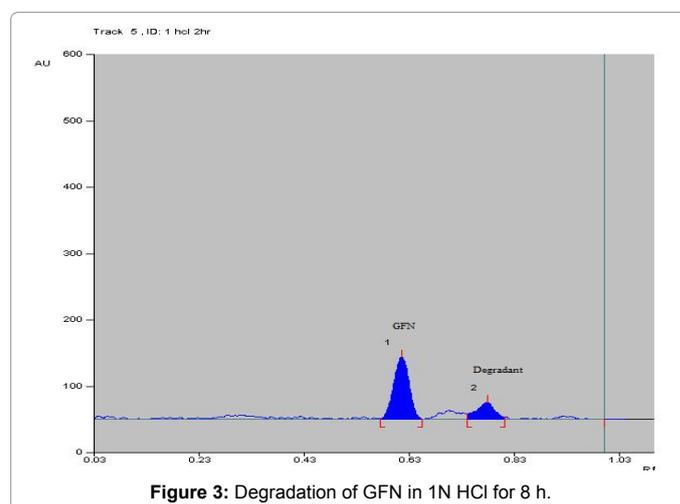


Figure 3: Degradation of GFN in 1N HCl for 8 h.

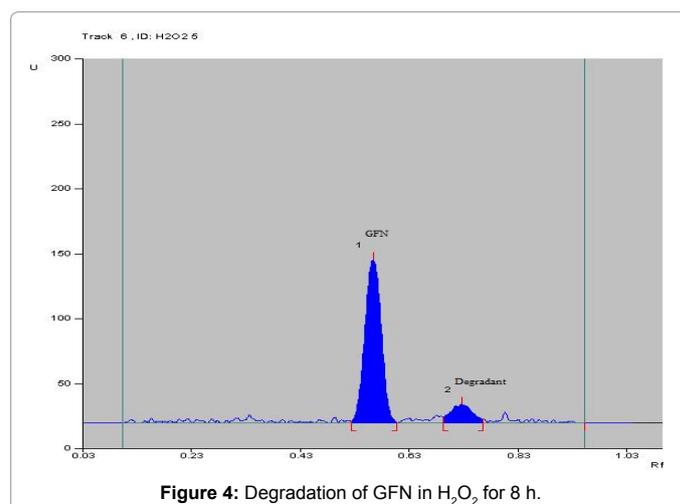


Figure 4: Degradation of GFN in  $H_2O_2$  for 8 h.

the method is repeatable, selective and accurate for the estimation of investigated drug. The proposed developed HPTLC method can be applied for the identification and quantitative determination of GFN in bulk drug and pharmaceutical formulation (Figure 3-5).

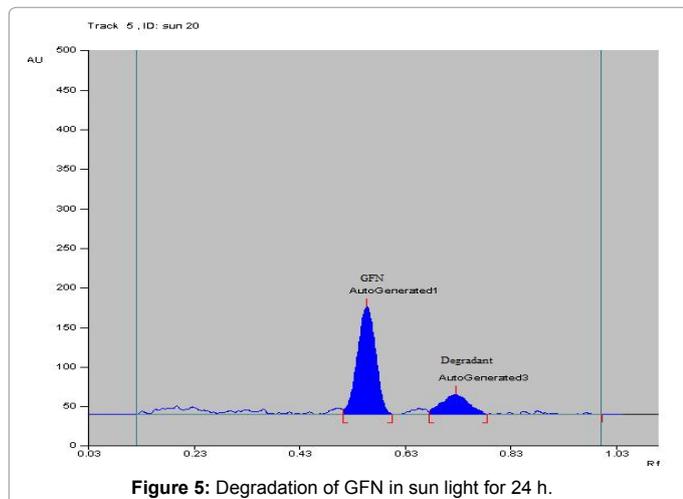


Figure 5: Degradation of GFN in sun light for 24 h.

**Intra-day.**

Conc. (ng/band) (n=3)	Mean ± SD	%RSD
800	1557.65 ± 4.73	0.304
1200	2510.9 ± 17.3	0.692
1600	3579.6 ± 4.80	0.134

**Inter-day**

Conc. (ng/band) (n=3)	Mean ± SD	%RSD
800	1663.13 ± 2.00	0.120
1200	2333.43 ± 1.24	0.053
1600	3578.23 ± 1.88	0.054

Table 1: Intra-day and Inter-day

Conc. (ng/band) (n=3)	Mean ± SD	%RSD
800	1663.13 ± 2.00	0.120
1200	2333.43 ± 1.24	0.053
1600	3578.23 ± 1.88	0.054

Table 2: Recovery Study.

Parameters	± SD of peak area ( n = 3)	% RSD
Mobile phase composition ( ± 0.5 mL)	25.632	0.645
Mobile phase volume ( ± 5ml)	17.32	0.433
Duration of saturation ( ± 5 min.)	40.76	1.032

Table 3: Results of Robustness Study.

Parameters	Result
Linearity range	800-2800 (ng/band)
Correlation coefficient	0.999
LOD	149.23 ng
LOQ	182.65 ng
% Recovery (n = 3)	99.89
% RSD	0.759
<b>Precision (%RSD)</b>	
Intra-Day(n = 3)	0.134 – 0.692
Inter-Day(n = 3)	0.053 – 0.120
Repeatability (n = 6)	1.165
<b>Ruggedness (%RSD)</b>	
Analyst I (n = 6)	0.302
Analyst II (n = 6)	0.131

Table 4: summary of validation method.

Agent	Exposure time	Condition	Degradants peak	R <sub>f</sub>	% Degradant
1 N HCl	8 h	Room temp	peak Found	0.75	20.25 %
1N NaOH	8 h	Room temp	peak Found	0.7	19.99 %
10% H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	8 h	Room temp	peak Found	0.69	13.84 %
Dry Heat	8 h	60° C	not Found	-	-
Light	24 h	Sunlight	peak Found	0.72	21.74 %

Table 5: Forced degradation studies.

**Conclusion**

The developed HPTLC method was precise, specific, and accurate and stability indicating and validated based on ICH guidelines. Statistical analysis proves that the method is repeatable and selective for the analysis of GFN as bulk drug and in pharmaceutical formulations. The method can be used to determine the purity of the drug available from the various sources by detecting the related impurities. As the method separates the drug from its degradation products, it can be employed as a stability indicating one.

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