



pH Assists For Selective Determination Of Acyclovir By The Emission Enhancement Of Tb³⁺ Chemosensor In Tablet And Serum Samples



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Abstract

A new selective method for the determination of acyclovir in pharmaceutical tablet and serum samples was developed. The method depends on the luminescence enhancement of Tb³⁺ chemosensor with different concentrations of acyclovir at pH 10. Acyclovir can form a complex with Tb³⁺ ion of 3:1 molar ratio in DMSO, respectively. The luminescence intensity of Tb³⁺-acyclovir complex increases as the concentration of the drug increases at $\lambda_{ex}=320$ nm, pH 10 in DMSO. The linear range for determination of the selected drug in DMSO $1.0 \times 10^{-9} - 1 \times 10^{-5}$ mol L⁻¹ the detection limits were 0.24×10^{-9} mol L⁻¹.

Keywords: Acyclovir; Tb- Acyclovir Complex; Luminescence Intensity; Enhancement.

1. Introduction

Acyclovir (ACV) 2 - Amino - 1,9 - dihydro - 9-((2-hydroxyethoxy) methyl) -3H-purin-6-one (C₈H₁₁N₅O₃), Fig. (1), it is an anti-viral drug, its Action is by converted to Acyclovir monophosphate by virus specific thymidine kinase then converted to thymidine triphosphate by other cellular enzymes. Dosages: for adults 400 or 200 mg/day 5days [1]. A number of assay methods have been reported for determination of acyclovir in biological fluids using capillary electrophoresis [2] or liquid chromatographic methods with pulsed amperometric detection [3], tandem mass spectrometry [4], fluorescence detection [5-7] or ultraviolet detection [8- 15]. In the published methods, liquid-liquid extraction with acetonitrile or mixture of isopropyl alcohol and dichloromethane as solvent has been used for sample preparation [4, 8, 9]. The disadvantage of these methods employing liquid-liquid extraction (with grate chemical consumption) of acyclovir from biological fluids is that they involve several steps yielding poor separation from the serum endogenous interferences. In the present work, the chemosensor Tb³⁺ ion in DMSO and at pH 10 is used for sensitive determination of acyclovir in serum and

tablet samples. We determined acyclovir concentration in blood serum by luminescence enhancement of this chemosensor. This is a relatively simple and inexpensive technique providing a quick reproducible analysis and is relatively free from interference with coexisting substances.

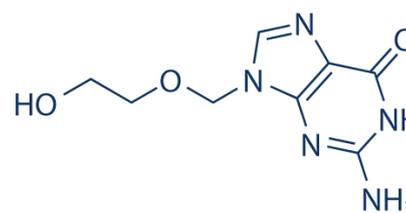


Fig. 1: Structure of Acyclovir

2. Experimental

2.1. Materials

Pure standard Acyclovir supplied by the National Organization for Drug Control and Research (Giza, Egypt). Pharmaceutical preparation (Acyclovir)

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containing 400 mg/tablets of Acyclovir produced by Misr Company for pharmaceuticals.

2.2 Reagents

All solvents were purchased from Sigma–Aldrich. All chemicals used are of analytical grade and the solvents (Dimethyl sulfoxide, dimethyl formamide, acetonitrile and ethanol) are of HPLC grade. In the present investigation. The materials NH_4OH , HCl and Terbium nitrate were purchased from Sigma–Aldrich. A stock solution ($1 \times 10^{-2} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$) of Acyclovir was prepared by exact weighing and dissolution in absolute acetonitrile. A stock solution ($1.0 \times 10^{-2} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$) of Tb^{3+} was freshly prepared by dissolving 0.0109g $\text{Tb}(\text{NO}_3)_3 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (delivered from Aldrich-99.99%) in small amount of Ethanol in 25 mL measuring flask, then dilute to the mark with the same solvent. The working solution of Tb^{3+} ion is of $1.0 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ was obtained by appropriate dilution of appropriated solvent. The pH of the working solution was adjusted to 4 and 10.7 for Acyclovir, by using 0.1 mol L^{-1} of NaOH and/or 0.1 mol L^{-1} of HCl solutions.

The Tb^{3+} complex was prepared by transferring of 0.1 ml aliquots of the drug working standard solution into a 5 ml volumetric followed by the addition of the required volume of Tb^{3+} solution. The solutions were then shaken vigorously before measuring their absorptions and luminescence spectra. Stock and working solutions are stored at 20°C when are not in use.

2.3 Apparatus

All Luminescence measurements were carried out on a Meslo-PN (222-263000) z Thermo Scientific Lumina fluorescence spectrometer equipped with a 150 W Xenon lamp source and quartz cells of 1 cm path length. The slit widths of excitation and emission wavelength were 10nm/10nm and the range of wavelength was (400 – 720 nm). All absorption spectra were performed on Thermo UV-visible double beam spectrophotometer equipped with quartz cells in the range of (200-800nm). The separation of serum in samples was carried out by centrifuging of sample for 15 min at 4000 rpm on thermo scientific 300 centrifuge.

2.4 General Procedure

Preparation of lanthanide complex Tb^{3+} -Acyclovir solution: To 10 mL measuring flasks, solutions were added in the following order: 0.1 mL of $1.0 \times 10^{-2} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ $\text{Tb}(\text{NO}_3)_3$ solution and 0.3 mL of $1.0 \times 10^{-2} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ acyclovir solution to give $1.0 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ of $\text{Tb}(\text{NO}_3)_3$ and $0.3 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ of acyclovir.

The mixture was diluted to the mark with DMSO. The above procedure was used for the subsequent measurements of absorption, emission spectra and effect of pH and solvents. The luminescence intensity was measured at $\lambda_{\text{ex}}/\lambda_{\text{em}} = 320/545 \text{ nm}$, The UV absorption spectra were measured in the range of (200-800nm).

2.5. Calibration curve:

After the preparation of the different standard solutions of Acyclovir in DMSO as described above, the chemo sensor Tb^{3+} was mixed with standard solution of Acyclovir in the cell of the spectrofluorimetric device, then the luminescence spectrum was measured at the selected excitation wavelength $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 320 \text{ nm}$.

2. 6. Determination of Acyclovir in pharmaceutical preparations

One tablet of pharmaceutical formulation Acyclovir 400 mg was carefully weighed and ground to finely divided powders. Accurate weights equivalent to $3.5 \times 10^{-2} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ was dissolved in 50 mL DMSO and mixed well and filtered up using 12 mm filter papers. The concentration of the drug was determined by using different concentrations from the corresponding calibration graph.

2.7. Preparation of serum samples

The whole blood samples were collected from patients in the Egyptian police hospital in Serum Separator Tube (SST) - This tube contains a clot activator and serum gel separator. It has no anticoagulant, centrifuged for 10 min at 4000 rpm to obtain the separated serum available for analysis after decantation, 0.1 ml of serum was added to $1 \times 10^{-7} \text{ mol. L}^{-1}$ of drug and 1.5 ml of 1×10^{-4} of $\text{Tb}(\text{III})$ sensor in 1.0 cm cell, and the luminescence intensity was measured at $\lambda_{\text{ex}}/\lambda_{\text{em}} = 320/545 \text{ nm}$.

3. Result and discussion

3.1 Absorption and emission spectra

The absorption spectrum of acyclovir with Tb^{3+} complex is shown in Figure 2, comparing its spectrum before and after the addition of $\text{Tb}(\text{III})$ ion into its solutions in DMSO, red shift was observed which indicates that the acyclovir can form a complex with $\text{Tb}(\text{III})$ ion in ground state.

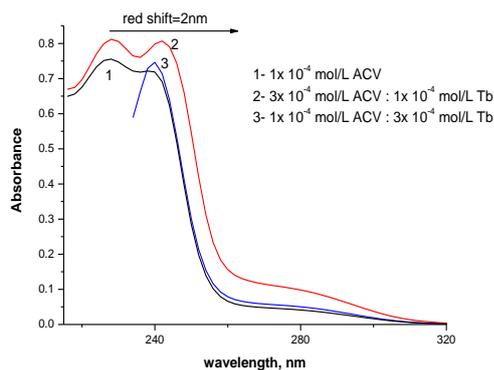


Fig. 2: Absorbance spectra of different molar ratios between Tb^{3+} and Acyclovir in DMSO.

3.2. Emission spectra:

The luminescence emission spectra of Tb^{3+} with different concentrations of acyclovir is shown in Figure (3). From curve 1 in Figure 3 it can be seen that single Tb^{3+} ion has nearly no peak. After the addition of acyclovir to Tb^{3+} ion, the characteristic peaks of Tb^{3+} ion ($^5D_4 \rightarrow ^7F_6=490$ nm, $^5D_4 \rightarrow ^7F_5=545$ nm, $^5D_4 \rightarrow ^7F_4=590$ nm, $^5D_4 \rightarrow ^7F_3=620$ nm and $^5D_4 \rightarrow ^7F_2=650$ nm) were appeared, (see curve 2 in Figure 3, which indicates that a good energy transfer from acyclovir to Tb^{3+} in its complexes [10-15]. From Figure 4 the molar ratio between Tb^{3+} and acyclovir is 1:3 (metal: ligand) which indicates that the metal may coordinate to the drug from different sites and not only through oxygen of the ketone ring, but the more preferred coordination sites are the O of the ketone group. Figure 5 shows the emission spectra of Tb^{3+} with different concentrations of acyclovir in DMSO, the intensities of the characteristic peak at 545 nm of Tb^{3+} is enhanced linearly as the concentration of the acyclovir increases indicating that Tb^{3+} ion can be used as a chemo sensor for the drug.

3.3. Effect of experimental variables

3.3.1 Effect of solvent

The influence of the solvent on the luminescence intensities of the solution containing 3.0×10^{-4} mol L^{-1} of Acyclovir and 1.0×10^{-4} mol L^{-1}

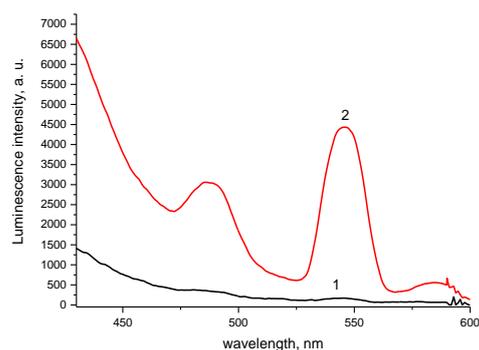


Fig. 3: Luminescence spectra of (1): 1×10^{-4} mol L^{-1} Tb^{3+} and (2): 1×10^{-4} mol L^{-1} Tb^{3+} with 3×10^{-4} mol L^{-1} of Acyclovir in DMSO at $\lambda_{ex}=320$ nm.

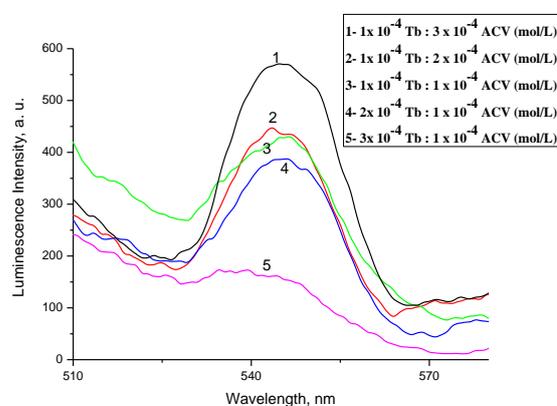


Fig. 4: Luminescence spectra of different Molar ratios between Tb^{3+} and 1×10^{-4} mol L^{-1} Acyclovir in DMSO at $\lambda_{ex}=320$ nm.

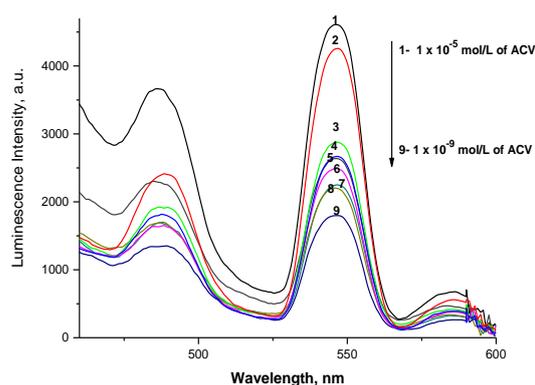


Fig. 5: Luminescence emission spectra of 1×10^{-4} mol L^{-1} Tb^{3+} in presence of different concentrations of ACv in DMSO at pH 10.

Tb³⁺ was studied under the conditions studied above. The results show the enhanced emission of Tb³⁺-Acyclovir in DMSO. This can be attributed to the formation of anhydrous solvates of Tb³⁺-Acyclovir complex introducing solvent molecules in the first coordination sphere of Tb³⁺-Acyclovir leads to the enhancement of the intensity of all transitions (⁵D₄ → ⁷F₆=490 nm, ⁵D₄ → ⁷F₅=545 nm, ⁵D₄ → ⁷F₄=590 nm, ⁵D₄ → ⁷F₃=620 nm and ⁵D₄ → ⁷F₂=650 nm), Figure 6.

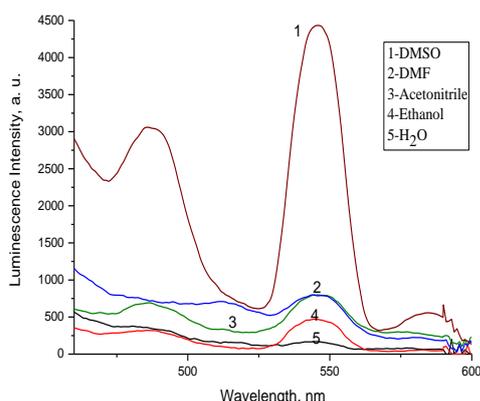


Fig. 6: Luminescence emission spectra of 1×10^{-4} mol L⁻¹ Tb³⁺ in the presence of 3×10^{-4} mol L⁻¹ of acyclovir at pH=10 in different solvents at $\lambda_{\text{ex}}=320$ nm.

By increasing the radiative rate, Tb³⁺ excited states will become less sensitive to deactivation process, ultimately resulting in a more efficiently emissive Tb³⁺ complex. Also, the luminescence intensities for the complexes in DMSO solutions are stronger than in ethanol. This may be due to vibrational energy transfer to solvent molecules. It is well known that the excited state of the lanthanide ions is efficiently quenched by interaction with high-energy vibrations like O-H groups thereby the luminescence of this complex in -OH containing solvents can be quenched easily because of the O-H oscillators. [15-26].

3.3. 2 Effect of pH

The pH of the medium has a great effect on the luminescence intensity of the Tb³⁺-ACV complexes. Figure (7) show the luminescence intensity of the Tb³⁺-ACV at different pHs ranged from 3 to 11 using 0.1 mol L⁻¹ of HCl and /or NaOH. The results obtained show that the maximum luminescence intensity is obtained at pH 10 for (ACV) Therefore, in the subsequent work; the pH of the tested solutions were adjusted by 0.1 mol L⁻¹ of

HCl and /or NaOH to pH 10 before each measurement.

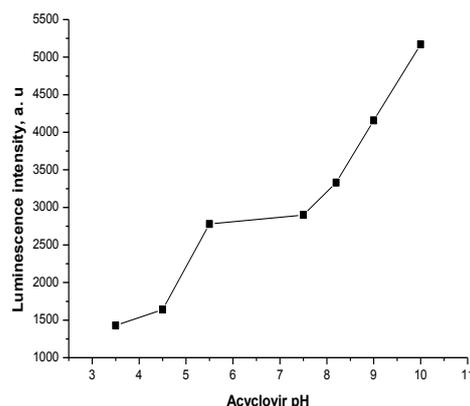


Fig. 7: Luminescence emission spectra of 1×10^{-4} mol L⁻¹ of Tb³⁺ in the presence of 3×10^{-4} mol L⁻¹ Acyclovir in DMSO at different pH at $\lambda_{\text{ex}}=320$ nm.

3.4. Linearity and validation parameters

3.4. 1 Linearity and range

A linear correlation was found between luminescence intensity of Acyclovir-Tb³⁺ complex at 545 nm and the concentration of Acyclovir shown in Figure (8). The five points (1.7×10^{-4} to 2.12×10^{-8} mol L⁻¹) calibration curve was obtained by plotting the peak intensity of Tb³⁺ at $\lambda_{\text{em}}=545$ nm versus the concentration of Acyclovir and the graph was described by the regression equation $Y = a + bX$ (where Y = luminescence intensity of the optical sensor at $\lambda_{\text{em}}=545$ nm; a = intercept; b = slope and x = concentration in mol L⁻¹). Regression analysis of luminescence intensity data using the method of least squares was made to evaluate the slope (b), intercept (a) and correlation coefficient R and the values were presented in Table (1).

3.4. 2 Detection and quantification limits

The limit of detection (LOD) and quantification (LOQ) calculated according to ICH guidelines [27] using the formula: $\text{LOD} = 3.3 S/b$ and $\text{LOQ} = 10 S/b$, (where S is the standard deviation of blank luminescence intensity values, and b is the slope of the calibration plot) are also presented in Table (1). The low value of LOD indicates the high sensitivity of the proposed method when compared by other methods. **3.4. 3 Accuracy and precision**

The results demonstrated that the proposed method is more accurate as well as more precise. These results complement the finding of the placebo blank analysis with respect to selectivity. To compute the accuracy and

precision, the assays were repeated three times within the day to determine the repeatability (intra-day precision) and three times on different days to determine the intermediate precision (inter-day precision) of the method. These assays were performed for three levels of the analyte. The results of this study are summarized in (Table 2). The percentage relative standard deviation (%RSD) values were $\leq 0.80\%$ (intra-day), $\leq 0.79\%$ (inter-day) of serum samples, respectively, the inter-day values indicating high precisions of the method. Accuracy was evaluated as percentage relative error (RE) between the measured mean concentrations and the taken concentrations of the Acyclovir. Bias {bias%=[(concentration found – known concentration) $\times 100$ /known concentration]} was calculated at each concentration and these results are also presented in Table (2). Percent relative error (%RE) values for ACV of $\leq 2.4 - 0.4$ and $2.8 - 2.6\%$ for tablet and serum samples, respectively, demonstrates the high accuracy of the proposed method.

3.4. 4 Selectivity

The proposed method was tested for selectivity by placebo blank and synthetic mixture

analysis. A placebo blank of (ACV) containing non-medicinal ingredients cellulose, indigotine, lactose, magnesium stearate, povidone, and sodium starch glycolate was extracted with DMSO and solution made as described under “analysis of dosage forms”. A convenient aliquot of solution was subjected to analysis according to the recommended procedures. In the method of analysis, there was no interference by the inactive ingredients. A separate test was performed by applying the proposed method to the determination of (ACV) in a synthetic mixture. To the placebo blank of similar composition, different amount of (ACV) in pharmaceutical formulation of Acyclovir tablets was added, homogenized and the solution of the synthetic mixture was prepared as described “under analysis of dosage forms” and the (ACV) 400 mg was prepared as described before. The filtrate was collected in a 100-ml glass bottle, making the necessary dilutions to form the final concentration 1×10^{-6} mol L⁻¹ of Acyclovir. The resulting solution was assayed (n=3) by proposed method which yield% average recovery of 100.2 ± 0.12 , and 98.6 ± 0.42 for tablet and serum samples, respectively.

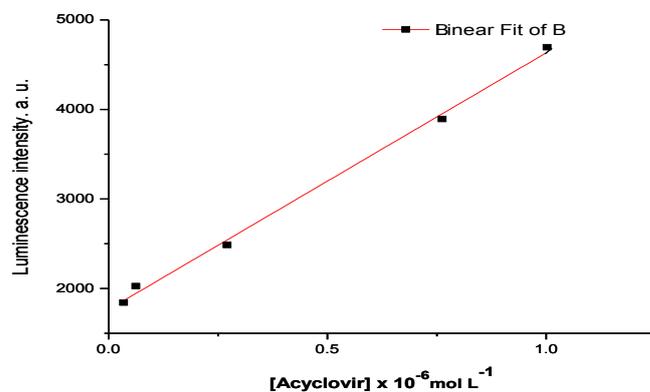


Fig. 8: Linear relationship between luminescence intensity of Acyclovir-Tb³⁺ complex at $\lambda_{em}=545$ nm and concentration of Acyclovir.

Table (1) sensitivity and regression parameters for optical sensor.

Parameter	(ACV)
λ_{em} , nm	545
Linear range $\times 10^{-6}$, mol L ⁻¹	0.001 – 10.0
Limit of Detection (LOD) $\times 10^{-9}$, mol L ⁻¹	0.24
Limit of quantification (LOQ) $\times 10^{-9}$, mol L ⁻¹	0.72
Intercept (a)	76
Slope (b) $\times 10^{-6}$	184
Standard deviation $\times 10^{-6}$	1.2
Variance (S ²) $\times 10^{-12}$	1.52
Regression Coefficient	0.98

Table 2: Evaluation of intra-day and inter-day precision for optical sensor Tb³⁺-(ACV)

Sample	Actual (ACV) found x 10 ⁻⁵	Intra-day precision (readings, n=3)			Inter-day precision (readings, n=3)		
		(ACV) average found±CL	%RE	%RSD	(ACV) average found±CL	%RE	%RSD
(ACV)	5	4.98	0.4	0.55	4.87	2.6	0.64
serum	5	4.87	2.6	0.80	4.86	2.8	0.79

CL. Confidence limits were calculated from: $CL = \pm tS/(n)^{1/2}$. The tabulated value of t is 4.303, at the 95% confidence level. S = standard deviation = $[(\text{average N-value1})^2 + (\text{average N-value2})^2 + (\text{average N-value3})^2]^{1/2}$. N = number of measurements. %RE. the percent relative error. $=[(\text{concentration proposed} - \text{concentration known})/\text{concentration known}] \times 100$ %RSD. relative standard deviation. $= [S/(\text{average measurement})] \times 100$.

4. Conclusion

The Tb³⁺ ion solution in DMSO has high sensitive characteristics peaks in the presence of Acyclovir. The proposed method for the determination of Acyclovir offers simple, rapid and sensitive method for the analysis of Acyclovir in DMSO and pH 10 with linear range of $(1.0 \times 10^{-5} - 1.0 \times 10^{-9}) \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ and detection limit of $0.24 \times 10^{-9} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$. The developed optical sensor is selective, accurate and attractive for routine control analysis of the drug.

5. References

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مساعدة الأس الهيدروجيني في تعيين اسيكلوفير عن طريق زيادة انبعاث المحس الضوئي التريبيم الثلاثي في عينات الأقراص والمصل

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تم تطوير طريقة انتقائية جديدة لتقدير الأسيكلوفير في الأقراص وعينات المصل. تعتمد الطريقة على زيادة شدة الانبعاث الفلورسيني لايون Tb³⁺ في وجود تركيزات مختلفة من الأسيكلوفير عند درجة الحموضة 10. يمكن أن يشكل الأسيكلوفير مترابك مع أيون Tb³⁺ بنسبة 1:3 مولار في DMSO. تزداد شدة الانبعاث الفلورسيني لمركب Tb³⁺-acyclovir مع زيادة تركيز الدواء عند $\lambda_{ex} = 320$ نانومتر ، ودرجة الحموضة 10 في DMSO. و تم رسم علاقة خطية في مدى 1.0×10^{-5} - 10^{-9} مول /لتر في مذيب الداى ميثيل سلفواكسيد ز.