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REVIEW ARTICLE
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A REVIEW ON ANALYTICAL METHOD FOR ESTIMATION OF SIBUTRAMINE HYDROCHLORIDE AND TOPIRAMATE IN SYNTHETIC MIXTURE.

Sweety R. Patel[1], Dr. Neha Tiwari[2*], Dr. Pragnesh Patani[3]

[1]Khyati College of Pharmacy, Gujarat Technological University, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India.
[2*]Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Khyati College of Pharmacy, Gujarat Technological University, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India.
[3]Department of Pharmacology, Khyati College of Pharmacy, Gujarat Technological University, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India.

***Corresponding Author:** Dr. Neha Tiwari
*Khyati college of pharmacy, palodia, Ahmedabad, Gujarat. Email ID: tiwarin1707@gmail.com

❖ Abstract

Sibutramine hydrochloride and Topiramate are pharmacological agents with distinct therapeutic roles but a potential for complementary application. Sibutramine hydrochloride, a centrally acting serotonin and norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor, was primarily used as an anti-obesity agent due to its appetite-suppressing effects, though its use has declined owing to cardiovascular safety concerns. Topiramate, an anticonvulsant with multiple mechanisms including modulation of voltage-gated ion channels, enhancement of GABAergic activity, and inhibition of carbonic anhydrase, has been effectively employed in epilepsy, migraine prophylaxis, and weight management. Recent studies have explored their combined therapeutic potential in the management of obesity and related metabolic disorders, as Topiramate may enhance weight reduction and mitigate some adverse effects associated with Sibutramine. Analytical development for simultaneous estimation of these drugs is crucial for pharmaceutical formulation research, ensuring accuracy, precision, and regulatory compliance in accordance with ICH guidelines. The integration of pharmacological insights with validated analytical methods supports further investigation into their synergistic use and safe therapeutic application.

Keywords: Anti-obesity drug, GABAergic activity, Weight management, HPLC, LC-MS

❖ Introduction

Sibutramine belongs to the first class of compounds used for the treatment of obesity. It was initially developed as an antidepressant medication, and subsequent studies showed a significant effect of the drug on weight loss due to its satietogenic and calorigenic effects. Sibutramine is a centrally acting drug, and its mechanism of action is a selective serotonin and noradrenaline reuptake inhibition. It is usually available as sibutramine hydrochloride and the drug is a racemic mixture of the (+) and (-) enantiomers of cyclobutanemethanamine, 1-(4-chlorophenyl)- N, N-dimethyl-A-(2-methylpropyl), hydrochloride. Sibutramine HCl is a white to cream crystalline powder. [(2)]

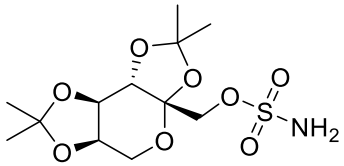
Topiramate (TPM) is a sulfa-derivative monosaccharide with several mechanisms of action, including blockage of voltage-gated sodium channels, hyperpolarization of potassium currents, enhancement of postsynaptic gamma-aminobutyric acid receptor activity, suppression of the α-amino-3-hydroxy-

5-methyl-4-isoxazolepropionic acid (AMPA)/kainite receptor, and mild inhibition of some carbonic anhydrase isoenzymes. This drug is rapidly absorbed after oral intake, crosses the blood-brain barrier, and is generally excreted in urine with an elimination half-life of almost 24 hours.[11]

Both sibutramine hydrochloride and topiramate are frequently studied together in pharmaceutical research for the development of analytical methods, particularly using chromatographic and spectroscopic techniques. Their different therapeutic roles—sibutramine in weight management and topiramate in neurological disorders make them important targets for simultaneous estimation in synthetic mixtures, bioanalytical studies, and stability-indicating method validation according to ICH guidelines.

❖ Chemical and Pharmacological profiles

➢ Sibutramine Hydrochloride: [1]



Chemical profile

- **IUPAC Name:** N-{1-[1-(4-chlorophenyl) cyclobutyl]-3-methylbutyl}-N,N-dimethylamine hydrochloride
- **Molecular Formula:** $C_{17}H_{26}ClN$
- **Molecular Weight:** 334.3 g/mol
- **Chemical Class:** It belongs to the chemical class of phenethylamine derivatives.
- **Structure:** A 4-chlorophenyl ring attached to an ethyl chain.

The chain is substituted with a tert-butyl group and a dimethylamine
groups.
Exists as the hydrochloride salt for pharmaceutical use.

- **Physical Properties:**

White to off white crystalline powder.
Solubility: freely soluble in methanol, ethanol and chloroform.
Slightly soluble in water.
Melting point: ~191–193 °C
Stability: stable at room temperature

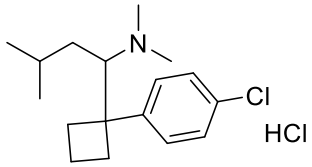
- **Mechanism and Clinical role:**

Sibutramine hydrochloride acts indirectly through its active metabolites, which inhibit serotonin, norepinephrine, and dopamine reuptake, leading to increased satiety and reduced appetite.
sibutramine hydrochloride was used as an adjunct therapy for obesity management to promote weight loss by appetite suppression, but its role is now obsolete due to safety concerns.

- **Pharmacokinetics:**

Sibutramine hydrochloride is well absorbed orally, undergoes extensive first-pass metabolism, and exerts its activity mainly through active metabolites with a long half-life. It is eliminated primarily via urine after hepatic metabolism.

➢ Topiramate: [11,12]



- **IUPAC Name:** 2,3:4,5-bis-O-(propan-2-ylidene)-β-D-fructopyranose sulfamate

- **Molecular Formula:** $C_{12}H_{21}NO_8S$
- **Molecular Weight:** 3339.36 g/mol
- **Chemical Class:** It is classified chemically as a sulfamate substituted monosaccharide.
- **Structure:** Topiramate is a sulfamate-substituted sugar derivative resembling a modified fructose ring with multiple hydroxyl and ether groups plus a sulfamate moiety.

- **Physical Properties:**

White to off white crystalline powder.
Solubility: freely soluble in acetone, ethanol
Melting Point: ~125–128 °C
Stability: Stable under normal storage conditions

- **Mechanism and Clinical role:**

Topiramate works by enhancing inhibitory GABA activity, blocking excitatory glutamate receptors, inhibiting voltage-gated sodium channels, and weakly inhibiting carbonic anhydrase, giving it broad pharmacological activity in epilepsy, migraine prevention, and weight management.

- **Pharmacokinetics:**

Topiramate is well absorbed orally, widely distributed with low protein binding, undergoes limited metabolism, and is primarily excreted unchanged in urine. Its relatively long half-life (20 hours) allows once or twice daily dosing.

❖ Analytical method for sibutramine hydrochloride and topiramte: [13,22]

Sr No.	Method	Sibutramine hydrochloride	Topiramte	Application
1	UV-Visible Spectrophotometer	Direct estimation at λ_{max} ≈ 223–226 nm; sometimes derivative methods	Weak absorption: usually λ_{max} ≈ 264–268 nm, may require derivatization	Routine assay in bulk & dosage forms
2	FTIR Spectroscopy	Confirms functional groups; used in solid-state characterization	Used for identification & structural confirmation	Drug identification
3	HPLC	RP-HPLC with C18 column; mobile phases: acetonitrile–water/methanol–buffer; detection ≈ 223 nm	RP-HPLC with C18; mobile phase: acetonitrile–buffer (pH adjusted); detection ≈ 210–220 nm (often after derivatization with FMOC-Cl)	Assay in formulations, impurity profiling
4	LC-MS/MS	Highly sensitive for plasma/urine; detects adulteration in herbal products	Gold standard for pharmacokinetics, TDM, metabolites	Clinical studies, bioanalysis, forensic analysis

❖ Official / Reported Methods for Sibutramine hydrochloride

Sr No.	Drug	Method	Detection mode	Description	Reference No.
1	Sibutramine hydrochloride	Chromatographic	220nm	Mobile phase: 1- butanesulfonic acid sodium salt monohydrate in water	7
2	Sibutramine hydrochloride	Hplc	225nm	Mobile phase: sodium phosphate buffer and methanol (30:70%v/v)	8

❖ Official / Reported Methods for Topiramate

Sr No.	Drug	Method	Detection mode	Description	Reference No.
1	Topiramate	Hplc	-	Mobile phase: ammonium acetate Buffer: methanol (80:20%v/v)	14

				Flow rate: 0.5mL/min	
2	Topiramate	Lc – ms	-	Mobile phase: acetonitrile: ammonium Acetate buffer (80:20v/v) Linearity range: 0.625-40 µg/ml	15
3	Topiramate	Hptlc	340nm	Mobile phase: Benzene:ethanol(5:2%v/v)	

❖ Application of Analytical Methods for simultaneous Estimation of Sibutramine hydrochloride and Topiramate

These both drugs in bulk drugs and formulated dosage forms (capsules, tablets, synthetic mixtures). Its helps in dose-fixing studies for combination therapies.

Simultaneous estimation of sibutramine hydrochloride and topiramate is crucial for pharmaceutical quality control, stability studies, bioanalytical research, adulteration detection, and regulatory validation. Among the available techniques, RP-HPLC and LC-MS/MS are the most widely applied due to their sensitivity, specificity, and robustness.

1. Pharmaceutical Quality Control

Ensures accurate dosage of both drugs in synthetic mixtures or combined formulations.Facilitates routine analysis during manufacturing, formulation development, and batch release.

2. Stability Studies

Stability-indicating HPLC/UPLC methods are applied to assess the effect of stress conditions (acidic, alkaline, oxidative, thermal, photolytic) on both drugs simultaneously.

3. Method Validation

Methods are validated as per ICH Q2(R2) guidelines for parameters such as accuracy, precision, linearity, specificity, LOD, LOQ, and robustness.

4. Pharmacokinetic and Bioanalytical Application

LC-MS/MS methods allow simultaneous detection in biological fluids (plasma, serum, urine), supporting pharmacokinetic, bioavailability, and bioequivalence studies.

Enables monitoring of drug–drug interactions when sibutramine and topiramate are co-administered.

5. Forensic and Adulteration Detection

Both drugs, particularly sibutramine, are sometimes found as adulterants in herbal weight-loss supplements.

Simultaneous estimation methods help detect the presence of sibutramine with topiramate in illicit or counterfeit formulations.

❖ Conclusion

The combination of sibutramine hydrochloride and topiramate provides a rational pharmacological strategy for obesity treatment by coupling monoamine reuptake inhibition with neuronal modulation of appetite and satiety. However, the clinical utility of sibutramine is severely restricted due to safety concerns, while topiramate remains an important therapeutic option, especially in migraine prophylaxis and adjunctive obesity management.

Sibutramine hydrochloride is a centrally acting serotonin–norepinephrine–dopamine reuptake inhibitor (SNDRI) that suppresses appetite and slightly enhances thermogenesis. It showed significant clinical efficacy in weight loss, but due to cardiovascular adverse effects (hypertension, tachycardia, risk of stroke), it has been withdrawn from many markets.

Topiramate is an anticonvulsant with a multifactorial mechanism, including enhancement of GABAergic activity, inhibition of excitatory glutamate receptors, and carbonic anhydrase inhibition. Beyond seizure control and migraine prevention, it also reduces appetite, alters taste perception, and increases satiety, making it beneficial in obesity management.

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