

## Research Article

# Development of High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) Method for the Estimation of Fosamprenavir Calcium in Pharmaceutical Formulation

Pekamwar SS<sup>1\*</sup>, Bhavar GB<sup>2</sup>, Aher KB<sup>2</sup> and Kakad SJ<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded, MS, India

<sup>2</sup>Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Amrutvahini College of Pharmacy, Sangamner, MS, India

\*Corresponding author: Pekamwar SS, Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, School of Pharmacy, Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded – 431606, Maharashtra, India

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## Abstract

A Novel, rapid, precise, accurate and stability indicating High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) method was developed for quantitative analysis of Fosamprenavir Calcium in tablet formulation. Detection of Fosamprenavir calcium in the presence of degradation products was achieved on X-Bridge C<sub>18</sub> (250 X 4.6 mm, 5μ) column at 30 °C using a mixture of Phosphate Buffer (pH 6.8 ± 0.05) and Acetonitrile in the proportion 70:30, v/v as the mobile phase. A PDA detector set at 265 nm was used for detection. The peak for Fosamprenavir calcium was observed at 7.97 minute. A linear response was observed in the range of 50-150 μg/mL with a correlation coefficient of 0.9991. The investigated validation parameters showed that the method is specific, accurate, precise and robust. The method can be used for routine quality control analysis of Fosamprenavir calcium drug substance. The method was validated as per ICH guideline.

**Keywords:** Fosamprenavir calcium; HPLC; Forced degradation; Validation

## Abbreviations

SD: Standard Deviation; RSD: Relative Standard Deviation

## Introduction

Fosamprenavir Calcium, chemically (3S)-Tetrahydro-3-furyl {(αS)-α-[(1R)-1-hydroxy-2-(N1-isobutylsulfanylamido) ethyl] phenethyl} carbamate calcium phosphate (Figure 1), is a novel antiretroviral drug. Fosamprenavir calcium is one of the most recently approved HIV-1 protease inhibitor and is rapidly and extensively converted to amprenavir after oral administration. It is administered orally with a dose of 700 mg two times a day [1-5].

The literature review revealed a dissolution method [6] and an electrochemical method [7] for evaluation of Fosamprenavir Calcium in tablet formulation. However, some HPLC and HPLC-MS methods had been reported for estimation of Fosamprenavir Calcium along with other antiretroviral drugs in human blood plasma and body fluids [8-19]. One HPLC method is available for quantitative determination of Fosamprenavir Calcium in tablet formulation [20]. Further, no

official or draft monograph of Fosamprenavir Calcium was published in any of the pharmacopoeia of compendia applications.

It was felt necessary to develop a simple, precise, and rapid HPLC method for the quantitative determination of Fosamprenavir Calcium. The developed method should be advantageous to the reported method in terms of chromatographic conditions. Hence the aim of the present work was to develop an economic, precise, accurate, specific, and stability-indicating HPLC method using UV detection for the determination of Fosamprenavir calcium in the presence of its degradation products, in bulk and pharmaceutical dosage form. The method was validated as per International Conference on Harmonization (ICH) guidelines [21-23].

## Experimental

### Chemicals and reagents

Fosamprenavir calcium working standard was received as a sample from Mylan Laboratories Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad (India). Acetonitrile used to be of HPLC grade (Qualigens, Mumbai). Millipore water was used throughout the analysis. Pharmaceutical dosage form (Fosamprenavir Calcium tablets containing 100 mg Fosamprenavir) was prepared in laboratory using Lactose Monohydrate, Microcrystalline Cellulose, Starch and Magnesium Stearate. Water was obtained from a Milli-Q UF-Plus apparatus (Millipore) and was used to prepare all solutions for the method. Analytical reagent grade Potassium dihydrogen orthophosphate and Triethylamine were used. Other chemicals used were analytical or HPLC-grade.

### Equipments

Chromatography was performed with Agilent 1100 Series HPLC system (Agilent Technologies, Waldron, Germany) equipped with

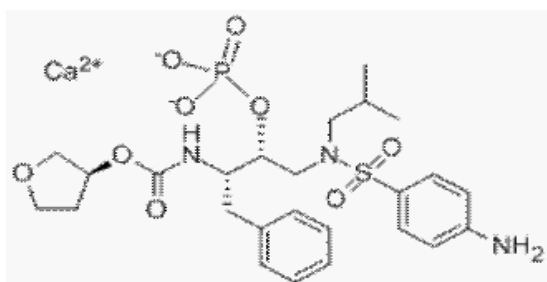


Figure 1: Structure of Fosamprenavir calcium.

a G1311A quaternary pump, a G1313A degasser, a G1313A auto sampler, a G1316A thermos tatted column compartment, and a G1314A PDA-detector; data were processed by use of chromeleon software. Chromatography was performed on X-Bridge C18, (250 X 4.6 mm, 5  $\mu$ m) column (Supplier- HYM Brothers, Mumbai, India). The Balance (Mettler Toledo XP205, Mumbai) was used for weighing and an Ultrasonicator (ENERTECH Electronics Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai) was used for sonication. Thermo Scientific Forma 3960 Series environmental chamber was used for stress testing.

### Chromatographic conditions

The analysis was carried out on X Bridge C<sub>18</sub>, (250 X 4.6mm, 5 $\mu$ ) column at 30 °C using a mixture of Phosphate Buffer (pH 6.8  $\pm$  0.05) and Acetonitrile in the proportion 70:30 as the mobile phase at a flow rate of 1.0 mL/minute. A PDA detector set at 265 nm was used for detection. The injection volume was 20  $\mu$ L. The peak for Fosamprenavir calcium was observed at 7.97 minutes and the total run time was 15 minutes.

### Preparation of phosphate buffer (pH 6.8)

Accurately weighed 6.8g of potassium dihydrogen orthophosphate was transferred to a 1000 mL volumetric flask and dissolved in about 980 mL of water. The solution was diluted to volume with water. The pH was adjusted to 6.8  $\pm$  0.05 with diluted triethylamine. The solution was filtered through 0.45 $\mu$ m porosity membrane filter.

### Preparation of standard stock solution

An accurately weighed Fosamprenavir calcium working standard equivalent to 100 mg of Fosamprenavir was transferred to a 100 mL volumetric flask and dissolved in methanol by sonication. The solution was diluted to mark with the methanol to give the solution of concentration 1000  $\mu$ g/mL. Aliquot of 5.0 mL from this solution was diluted to 50 mL with the methanol to give the standard stock solution of the concentration 100  $\mu$ g/mL. The solution was then filtered through 0.45  $\mu$  nylon filter.

### Method validation

The developed HPLC method was validated as per the ICH guidelines [21-24].

### Linearity

For the linearity study aliquots from the standard stock solution were transferred to series of 100 mL volumetric flasks and volume was made up to the mark with methanol to give solutions of concentrations in the range of 50 - 150  $\mu$ g/mL. The chromatograms and peak areas of these solutions were measured at 265 nm. The linearity graph of concentration against peak response was plotted and the correlation coefficient was determined.

### Specificity

To determine the specificity of the method, the mixture of standard Fosamprenavir calcium and the degradation products was injected and chromatogram was recorded. The sample chromatogram was compared with the standard chromatogram.

### Precision

Precision of the method was studied in terms of repeatability and intermediate precision.

### Repeatability

Six test solutions of Fosamprenavir calcium tablets were prepared as per the analytical method. The % RSD of assay of six test solutions was calculated.

### Intermediate precision

Six test solutions of Fosamprenavir calcium Tablets were prepared as per the analytical method on different days. These test solutions were analyzed by a different analyst. The % RSD of assay results of twelve test solutions (six samples from method precision and six samples from intermediate precision) was calculated.

### Accuracy (Recovery)

Accuracy study was performed by analyzing Fosamprenavir calcium test solutions of concentration 50  $\mu$ g/mL spiked with a quantity of Fosamprenavir calcium standard to produce three different concentration solutions equivalent to 50 %, 100 % and 150 % of test concentration.

### Robustness

To determine the robustness of the method the experimental conditions were deliberately altered and peak area was evaluated. Three test solutions of the same lot of Fosamprenavir calcium from tablets were prepared as per analytical method. These solutions were injected with different chromatographic conditions as Change in flow rate ( $\pm$ 0.2 mL/minute), Change in Column Oven Temp ( $\pm$ 5°C), and change in wavelength ( $\pm$ 2 nm) and Change in pH of the mobile phase ( $\pm$ 0.2). When the effect of altering one set of conditions was tested, the other conditions were held constant at the optimum values.

### Limit of detection and quantitation

Limit of Detection and Quantitation is established by injecting six times very low concentration of Fosamprenavir calcium standard preparation i.e. 5.0  $\mu$ g/mL and 10  $\mu$ g/mL respectively.

### System suitability parameters

Six replicate injections of system suitability solution (Fosamprenavir calcium standard working solution) were injected. The retention time, areas, theoretical plates, peak asymmetry and resolution were calculated for standard solutions

### Analysis of pharmaceutical dosage form

To determine the content of Fosamprenavir Calcium in tablet dosage form (Fosamprenavir Calcium tablets containing 100 mg Fosamprenavir), twenty tablets were weighed and finely powdered. An accurate quantity of the powder equivalent to 100 mg Fosamprenavir was weighed and transferred into a 100 mL volumetric flask containing 50 mL methanol, sonicated for 30 min, and diluted to 100 mL with methanol. The solution was filtered through 0.45  $\mu$  nylon filter. The aliquot of 5.0 mL from this solution was transferred into a 50 mL of volumetric flask and diluted to volume with the methanol. The chromatogram was developed using previously described chromatographic conditions. Six replicates injections of this solution were injected and chromatogram and peak area were recorded. The concentration of tablet solution was determined using linear regression equation of calibration graph and amount of drug in tablet was determined. The possibility of excipient interference in the analysis was studied.

**Table 1:** Forced degradation conditions.

Stress condition	Description of stress condition
Acid-induced degradation	5 N HCl heated at about 60 °C for 10 min on water bath.
Base-induced degradation	5 N NaOH heated at about 60 °C for 10 min on a water bath.
Oxidative degradation	3 %v/v H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> heated at about 60 °C for 10 min on a water bath.
UV degradation	254 nm for 7 days in UV chamber.
Thermal degradation in presence of humidity	60 °C at 80 %RH for 7 days in a humidity chamber.

**Forced degradation studies**

The forced degradation studies were performed to establish the stability indicating nature and specificity of the assay method and to observe any degraded compounds. Fosamprenavir calcium working standard and Sample (Fosamprenavir calcium Tablets, 50 mg) were subjected to stress with 5 N hydrochloric acid, 5 N sodium hydroxide, 3 % v/v hydrogen peroxide, UV degradation at 254 nm and thermal degradation at 60 °C in the presence of 80 %RH (Table 1). Chromatograms were recorded for all the above solutions.

**Result and Discussion**

**Method validation**

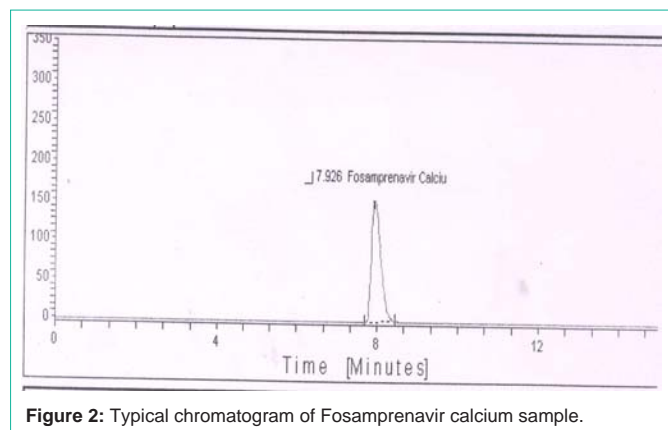
**Linearity:** The average peak area of Fosamprenavir calcium peak at each concentration level was determined and the linear graph was plotted over the range of 50 - 150 µg/mL. The results of linearity study are as given in Table 2.

**Specificity:** The spectra obtained from tablet solution (Figure 2) were identical with that obtained from standard solution containing an equivalent concentration of standard Fosamprenavir calcium (Figure 3). This showed that there was no any interference from Excipients. The peaks due to degradation products were found to be well separated from the peak due to Fosamprenavir calcium. The peak purity criteria of Fosamprenavir calcium were found to pass at each condition of degradation.

**Precision:** Precision was expressed in terms of % R.S.D. All values

**Table 2:** Linearity data for Fosamprenavir calcium.

Linearity range (µg/mL)	50 - 150
Slope	23.96
Y-intercept	20.90
Correlation coefficient (r <sup>2</sup> )	0.999



**Figure 2:** Typical chromatogram of Fosamprenavir calcium sample.

**Table 3:** Results of repeatability.

% Assay (Mean ± SD)*	101.01 ± 0.49
(%) RSD	0.48

\* Mean of six determinations.

**Table 4:** Results of intermediate precision.

% Assay (Mean ± SD)*	100.12 ± 0.46
(%)RSD (n=12)	0.46

\*Mean of twelve determinations.

**Table 5:** Results of recovery studies.

Level	Amount added (µg/mL)	Amount found (µg/mL) (Mean ± SD)	%Recovery*	(%)RSD
50	25	24.61 ± 0.01	98.46	0.04
100	50	49.52 ± 0.04	99.05	0.09
150	75	74.74 ± 0.08	99.66	0.11

\*Mean of three determinations.

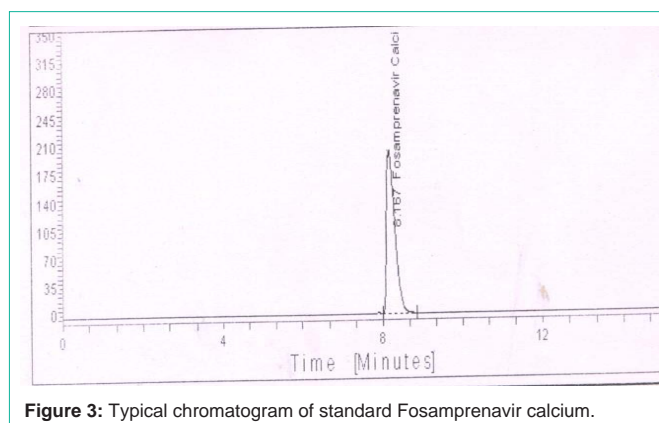
for precision were within recommended limits.

**Repeatability:** Analysis of six separate solutions of Fosamprenavir calcium showed the repeatability of the method. The results of assay obtained from six test solutions preparations are given in Table 3.

**Intermediate precision:** The % RSD of assay results of analysis carried out on two different days as summarized in Table 4 indicated that the method is precise and reproducible.

**Accuracy (Recovery):** The results of recovery studies showed the accuracy of the method. The recoveries were ranged between 98.46-99.66 %, Results obtained are given in Table 5.

**Robustness:** Robustness of the method was indicated by the small % RSD observed for the assay of Rilpivirine HCl sample at deliberately altered experimental conditions. For all changes of conditions the sample was assayed in triplicate. Assay of Rilpivirine HCl for all



**Figure 3:** Typical chromatogram of standard Fosamprenavir calcium.

**Table 6:** Results of robustness studies.

Condition		% Assay*	% RSD
Flow Rate	0.8 mL/min	101.78	0.18
	1.2 mL/min	98.91	0.57
Column Temperature	25 °C	101.63	0.95
	35 °C	99.14	1.06
Wavelength	263 nm	100.49	0.15
	267 nm	100.12	0.31
pH	pH 6.6	101.46	0.34
	pH 7.0	98.98	0.72

\*-Mean of three determinations.

**Table 7:** System suitability parameters.

Parameter	Average	% RSD
Retention time	7.97 minute	0.63
Peak Area	2455.59	0.35
HETP	5814	
Tailing Factor	1.28	

**Table 8:** Results of assay of Fosamprenavir calcium in tablets.

Amount taken (mg)	100
Amount found* ± SD (mg)	100.80 ± 0.55
% Assay	100.80
% RSD	0.55

\*Mean of six determinations.

deliberate changes of conditions was within 98.91– 101.78%. The results are shown in Table 6.

**Limit of detection and quantitation:** Limit of Detection and Quantitation was observed to be 5.0 ppm and 10.0 ppm respectively. The % RSD for the peak response of Fosamprenavir calcium obtained for six replicate solutions was less than 5%.

**System suitability parameters:** System suitability parameters were tested for the chromatographic conditions and results are as shown in Table 7.

**Assay of fosamprenavir calcium in tablets:** The concentration of tablet solution was determined using linear regression equation (using slope and Y-intercept) and amount of drug in tablet was determined. The results of the assay in tablets are summarized in Table 8.

**Forced degradation:** The purity of Fosamprenavir Calcium was unaffected by the presence of its degradation products thus method can be said to be stability-indicating. The percent assay of the all degraded samples varied between 98.9 and 100.2%. The forced degradation results are summarized in Table 9.

The numbers of degradation peaks observed in different stress condition were as follows

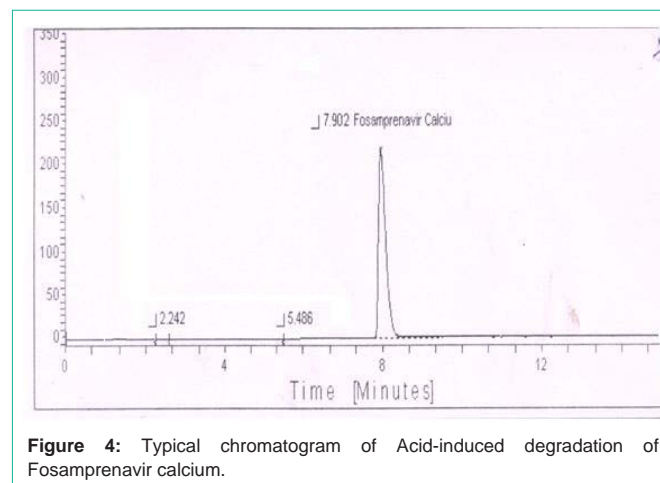
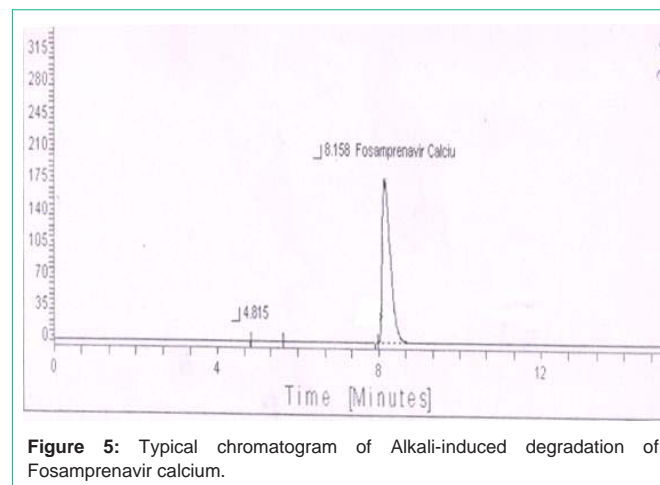
**Acid-induced degradation:** Two very small degradation peaks were observed in acid degradation of standard preparation (Figure 4) as well as sample preparation.

**Base-induced degradation:** One degradation peak was observed in alkali degradation of standard preparation (Figure 5) and sample

**Table 9:** Results of degradation study of Fosamprenavir calcium.

Stress condition	% Assay* of Fosamprenavir	Peak Purity
Acid-induced degradation	94.2	Passes
Base-induced degradation	96.1	Passes
Oxidative degradation	92.2	Passes
Thermal with humidity degradation	99.7	Passes

\*Mean of three determinations.

**Figure 4:** Typical chromatogram of Acid-induced degradation of Fosamprenavir calcium.**Figure 5:** Typical chromatogram of Alkali-induced degradation of Fosamprenavir calcium.

preparation.

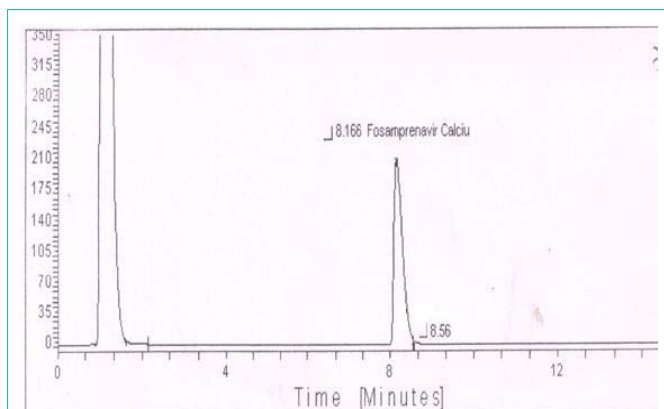
**Oxidative degradation:** One degradation peak was observed in peroxide degradation of standard preparation (Figure 6) as well as sample preparation.

**UV-radiation degradation (at 254 nm):** No degradation product was observed after exposure of standard Preparation and sample in to UV light (Figure 7).

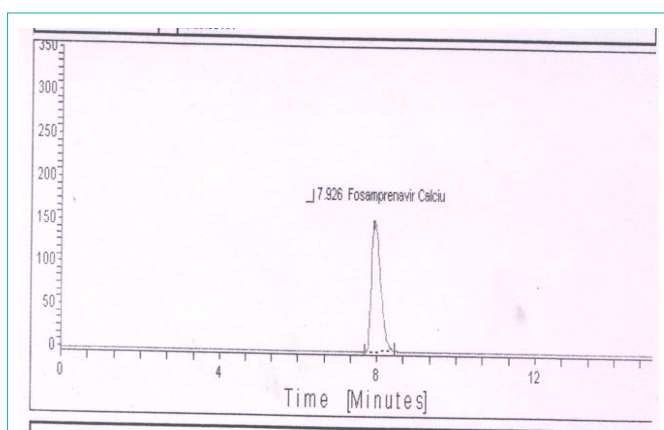
**Thermal with humidity degradation (60°C/80%RH):** One degradation peak was observed in thermal with humidity degradation of standard preparation (Figure 8) and sample.

## Conclusion

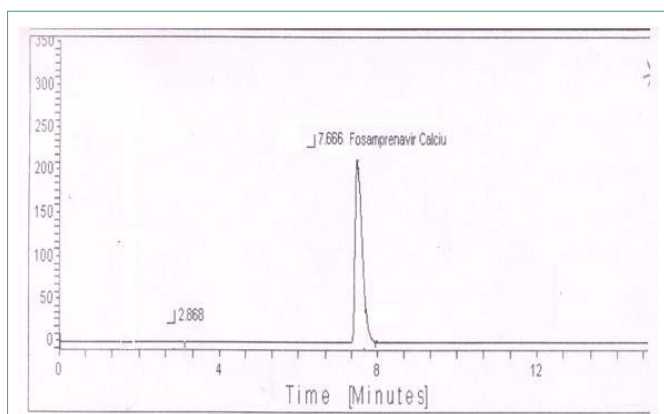
A simple, rapid and reliable HPLC method has been developed and successfully validated for estimation of Fosamprenavir calcium in the presence of degradation products. As the method separates the



**Figure 6:** Typical chromatogram of peroxide degradation of Fosamprenavir calcium.



**Figure 7:** Typical chromatogram of UV degradation of Fosamprenavir calcium.



**Figure 8:** Typical chromatogram of thermal with humidity degradation of Fosamprenavir calcium.

drug from its degradation products, it can be employed as a stability-indicating one. The results of the validation tests indicated that the method was accurate, precise, robust, and stability indicating. The proposed HPLC method is suitable for routine determination of Fosamprenavir Calcium in pharmaceutical formulation in quality control laboratories, where economy and time are essential.

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