

Original Article

DEVELOPMENT AND VALIDATION OF DIFFERENTIAL PULSE POLAROGRAPHIC ANALYSIS OF FENOFIBRATE IN PURE AND PHARMACEUTICAL DOSAGE FORMS USING DROPPING MERCURY ELECTRODE

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ABSTRACT

Objective: An easy, fast, accurate and sensitive differential pulse polarographic analysis for determination of fenofibrate (FEN) in pure and pharmaceutical dosage forms using dropping mercury electrode (DME) was applied.

Methods: The method involves the electrochemical reduction of fenofibrate at DME by differential pulse polarographic analysis (DPPA). Different buffer solutions were used over a wide pH range (1.0–10.0). The best definition of the analytical signals was found in lithium perchlorate trihydrate buffer at pH 6.0 containing 24% (v/v) acetonitrile at -994 to -1025mV (versus Ag/AgCl).

Results: Under optimized conditions the peak current (I_p) is linear over the range 0.0361-3.608 $\mu\text{g/ml}$. The DPPA was used successfully for the determination of FEN in pure and pharmaceutical dosage forms. The relative standard deviation did not exceed 2.1% for the concentration of FEN 0.0361 $\mu\text{g/ml}$. Regression analysis showed a good correlation coefficient ($R^2= 0.9994$) between I_p and concentration at the mentioned range. The limit of detection (LOD) and the limit of quantification (LOQ) was to be 0.0025 and 0.0076 $\mu\text{g/ml}$, respectively. The proposed method was validated for linearity, precision and accuracy, repeatability, sensitivity (LOD and LOQ), robustness and specificity with an average recovery of 99.8-100.6%.

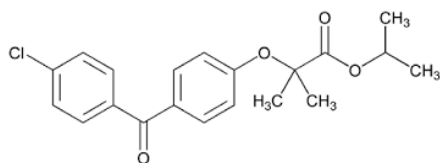
Conclusion: The developed method is applicable for the determination of FEN in pure and different dosage forms with the assay of marketed formulations 99.8-104.0% and the results are in good agreement with those obtained by square-wave voltammetry (SWV) reference method.

Keywords: Differential pulse polarographic analysis, Fenofibrate, Pharmaceutical formulations

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INTRODUCTION

Fenofibrate (FEN) a third-generation fibric acid derivative, is a highly effective agent for the treatment of atherogenic dyslipidemias. FEN therapy also produces substantial reductions in the levels of very-low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (VLDL-C) and in the concentration of triglyceride-rich lipoproteins. FEN is a prodrug which is hydrolyzed by tissue and plasma esterases to the active metabolite fenofibrate acid [1, 2]. FEN is slightly soluble in acetonitrile and ethanol (95%), very soluble in methylene chloride and insoluble in water. The molecular formula of FEN is $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{21}\text{Cl}_5\text{O}_4$ and the molecular weight is 360.831 g/mol, see Scheme 1.



Scheme 1: Chemical structure of Fenofibrate (FEN)

The electrochemical reduction of FEN at a hanging mercury drop electrode (HMDE) was investigated by cyclic voltammetry (CV), square wave voltammetry (SWV) and chronoamperometry. Different buffer solutions were used over a wide pH range (3.0–10.0). The best definition of the analytical signals was found in borate buffer (pH 9.0) tetrabutylammonium iodide mixture containing 12.5% (v/v) methanol at -1.2 V (versus Ag/AgCl). According to CV studies, the reduction was irreversible and diffusion controlled.

Validation parameters such as sensitivity, accuracy, precision and recovery were evaluated. The proposed method was applied to the determination of fenofibrate in pharmaceutical formulations [3]. The results were compared with those obtained by a published high-performance liquid chromatography method [4]. No difference was found statistically. Fenofibrate was determined in their pharmaceutical preparations and human plasma using differential pulse polarographic (DPP) and SWV techniques by reduction at a dropping mercury working electrode (DME) versus Ag/AgCl reference electrode. Optimum conditions such as pH, scan rate, and pulse amplitude were studied, and validation of the proposed method was performed. The proposed methods proved to be accurate, precise, robust and specific for determination of the drug [5]. Several analytical methods for the determination of fenofibrate have been reported including high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) [3, 6-8] and spectrophotometric methods [9-11].

In the present work, development and validation of differential pulse polarographic determination of fenofibrate in pure and pharmaceutical dosage forms using dropping mercury electrode was applied. The method is easy, fast, accurate and sensitive for the determination of this compound in pharmaceutical formulations.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Reagents and instruments

Working reference standard of fenofibrate (99.5%) was supplied by D. K. Pharmachem Pvt. Ltd (INDIA), (Mfg. 12-2014, Exp. 11-2019). Lithium perchlorate trihydrate, di-Sodium tetraborate decahydrate (borax), disodium hydrogen phosphate dodecahydrate, sodium acetate trihydrate, sodium hydroxide, perchloric acid 70%, orthophosphoric acid (85%), methanol, ethanol (absolute) and acetonitrile were of GR for analysis purchased from MERCK.

A Metrohm 746 VA processor, A Metrohm 747 VA stand with a dropping mercury electrode (DME) as a working electrode, a platinum auxiliary electrode and a reference electrode, double junction type, (Ag/AgCl) saturated with a 3.0 M KCl solution and the three-electrode cell were used. All measurements were done at room temperature 25 ± 5 °C. Highly pure nitrogen gas (99.999 %) was used for de-oxygenation. pH meter from Radiometer company model ion check was used for the studying and monitoring the pH effects. The diluted pipette model DIP-1 (Shimadzu), having 100 μ L sample syringe and five continuously adjustable pipettes covering a volume range from 20 to 5000 μ L (model PIPTMAN P, GILSON), were used for the preparation of the experimental solutions. An ultrasonic processor model Power sonic 405 was used to sonicate the sample solutions. Electronic balance (Sartorius-2474; $d=0.01$ mg) was used for weighing the samples.

Supporting electrolyte

Lithium perchlorate trihydrate buffer 1.000 mol/l (16.044 g/100 ml) at pH 6.0.

A standard stock solution of fenofibrate (1×10^{-4} mol/l)

This solution was prepared by dissolving 18.13 mg from fenofibrate in 50 ml acetonitrile (1×10^{-3} mol/l), then diluting 10.000 ml from this solution to 100 ml (1×10^{-4} mol/l).

Working solutions

The stock solutions were further diluted to obtain working solutions daily just before use in the concentrations of FEN: 0.100, 0.200, 0.400, 0.600, 0.800, 1.000, 2.000, 4.000, 6.000, 8.000 and 10.000 μ mol/l (0.0361, 0.0722, 0.1443, 0.2165, 0.2887, 0.3608, 0.7217, 1.4433, 2.165, 2.887 and 3.608 μ g/ml) by dilution of the volumes: 0.025, 0.050, 0.100, 0.150, 0.200, 0.250, 0.500, 1.000, 1.500, 2.000 and 2.500 ml from stock standard solutions which were transferred into a 25 ml volumetric flasks. 6.0 ml of acetonitrile and 1.0 ml of supporting electrolyte were added and diluted with double distilled deionized water to the mark. Ultrapure mercury from Metrohm Company was used throughout the experiments.

Sample preparation

A commercial formulations (as capsules) were used for the analysis of FEN by using DPPA with DME) the pharmaceutical formulations were subjected to the analytical procedures:

- (1) *Lipa* capsule, Medical Bahri Co., Damascus-SYRIA, each capsule contains 100 mg of FEN (Exp. 12.2018).
- (2) *Lipa* capsule, Medical Bahri Co., Damascus-SYRIA, each capsule contains 300 mg of FEN (Exp. 08.2019).
- (3) *Lipozor* capsule, Avenzor, Damascus-SYRIA, Each capsule contains 250 mg of FEN (Exp. 08.2017).

Stock solutions of pharmaceutical formulations

Contents of 20 capsules of each studied pharmaceutical formulation were weighed accurately, crushed to a fine powder and mixed well. An amount equivalent to 25% from the weight of one capsule content, was solved in 20 ml acetonitrile by using ultrasonic, filtered over a 25 ml flask and diluted to 25 ml with acetonitrile, the resulting solution contains the follows: 1000, 2500 and 3000 μ g/ml for all studied pharmaceutical formulations content 100, 250 and 300 mg/cap, respectively.

Working solutions of pharmaceuticals

These solutions were prepared daily by diluting 200 μ l from stock solutions of each pharmaceutical formulations, adding 8.00 ml from supporting electrolyte and 48 ml acetonitrile, then diluting to 200 ml with double distilled deionized water, these solutions contain 1.000, 2.500 and 3.000 μ g/ml of FEN, respectively.

Analytical procedure

25 ml of working solutions of fenofibrate or working solutions of pharmaceuticals was transferred to the cell. The solution was deoxygenated with N_2 gas for 300 s. The studied potential range was from -650 to -1400 mV versus Ag/AgCl with differential pulse

polarographic analysis using dropping mercury electrode in the optimum conditions were applied.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Differential pulse polarographic behavior

The polarograms for concentration 0.10-10.0 μ mol/l (0.0361-3.608 μ g/ml) of FEN in the optimal conditions (supporting electrolytes, pH, an organic solvent, scan rate, initial potential, final potential.... etc.) using DPPA at DME were studied. The best definition of the analytical signals was found in lithium perchlorate trihydrate (0.04 M) buffer at pH 6.0 containing 24% (v/v) acetonitrile at -994 to -1025mV (versus Ag/AgCl).

The effect of supporting electrolytes (buffer)

Different buffer solutions (lithium perchlorate trihydrate, sodium acetate trihydrate, disodium hydrogen phosphate dodecahydrate, disodium tetraborate decahydrate) containing 24% (v/v) acetonitrile were used. The best definition of the analytical signals was found in lithium perchlorate trihydrate buffer (pH 6.0). The effect of supporting electrolytes (buffer) on the peak current (I_p) and E_p was studied. It was found that the lithium perchlorate trihydrate was the best buffer at concentration 0.04 mol/l. The values of E_p were 1001, 1097, 1124 and 1132 mV for the mention buffers, respectively, see fig. 1.

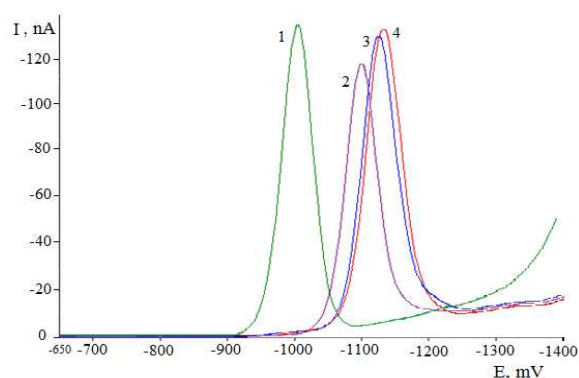


Fig. 1: The effect of buffer solutions on polarograms of FEN (2.800 μ M) using DPPA at DME containing 24% (v/v) acetonitrile with (0.04 M) buffers: 1-LiClO₄.3H₂O, 2-NaCH₃COO.3H₂O, 3-Na₂HPO₄.12H₂O, 4-Na₂B₄O₇.10H₂O (Purge gas N_2 , purge time 300 s, sweep rate 5 mV/s, U. amplitude-60 mV, t. meas. 32 ms, t. pulse 45 ms, t. step 1.6 s, U. step 8 mV, temperature 25 ± 5 °C)

The effect of pH

The influence of pH from 1.0 to 10.0 using different buffer solutions on I_p and E_p was studied. The best definition of the analytical signals was found in lithium perchlorate trihydrate (0.04M) buffer (pH 6.0) containing 24% (v/v) acetonitrile. The values of I_p increase with increasing pH value of 1.0 to 5.0, then become semi-fixed until pH 6.5, and finally decrease until pH 10.0. A pH value of 6.0 was optimal for FEN as the peak current (I_p) was the highest at this pH value. While E_p values are growing a negative value from -862 mV (when pH 1.0) to -986 mV (when pH 5.0), then become semi-fixed until pH 10.0, see fig. (2).

The effect of organic solvent

The effect of some organic solvents (methanol, ethanol and acetonitrile) on I_p showed that, I_p increases with increasing ratio of organic solvents until a specific value (methanol 40%, ethanol 28% and acetonitrile 24%, v/v) and then decreases, while E_p almost did not change, see fig. (3and4).

The effect of negative pulse amplitude (U ampl.)

The effect of negative pulse amplitude (U ampl.) between -10 to -100 mV on I_p and E_p was studied. I_p linearly increases with increasing amplitude value until -60 mV and then increases slowly, while E_p has a positive value increasing. The value -60 mV was better than another's (the peak was in the best shape), see fig. (5).

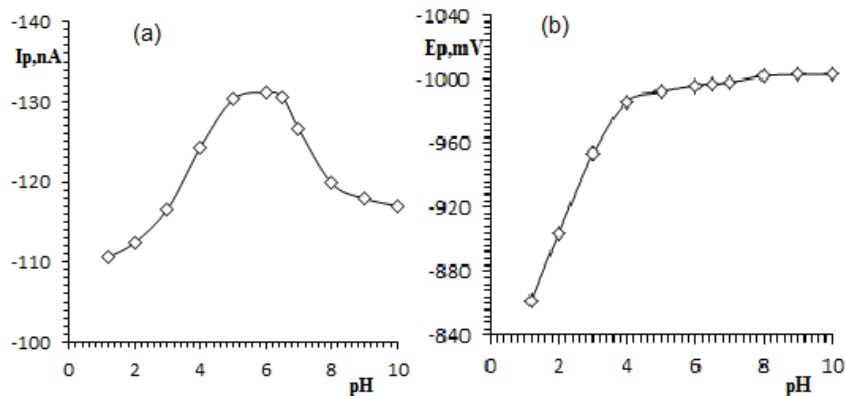


Fig. 2: The effect of pH solution on I_p (a) and E_p (b) of FEN ($2.800 \mu\text{M}$) using DPPA at DME containing 24% (v/v) acetonitrile with buffer (0.04 M) lithium perchlorate trihydrate (Purge gas N_2 , purge time 300 s, sweep rate 5 mV/s, U. amplitude-60 mV, t. meas. 32 ms, t. pulse 45 ms, t. step 1.6 s, U. step 8 mV, temperature $25 \pm 5 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$)

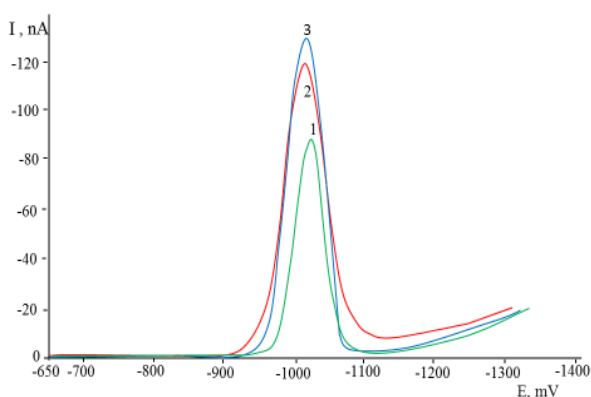


Fig. 3: The effect of organic solvents on polarograms of FEN ($2.800 \mu\text{M}$) using DPPA at DME with buffer (0.04 M) lithium perchlorate trihydrate containing organic solvents: 1-ethanol, 2-methanol, 3-acetonitrile (Purge gas N_2 , purge time 300 s, sweep rate 5 mV/s, U. amplitude-60 mV, t. meas. 32 ms, t. pulse 45 ms, t. step 1.6 s, U. step 8 mV, temperature $25 \pm 5 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$)

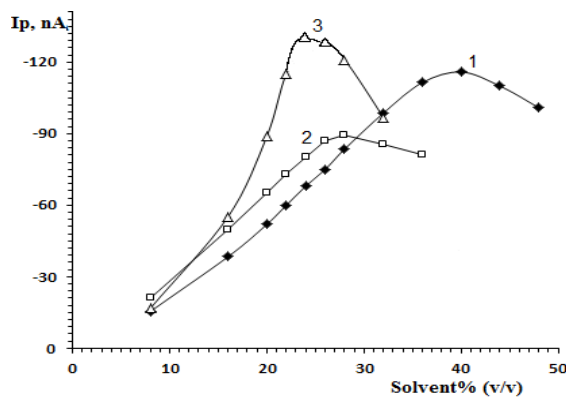


Fig. 4: The effect of organic solvents on I_p of FEN ($2.800 \mu\text{M}$) using DPPA at DME with buffer (0.04 M) lithium perchlorate trihydrate containing organic solvents: 1-methanol, 2-ethanol, 3-acetonitrile (Purge gas N_2 , purge time 300 s, sweep rate 5 mV/s, U. amplitude-60 mV, t. meas. 32 ms, t. pulse 45 ms, t. step 1.6 s, U. step 8 mV, temperature $25 \pm 5 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$)

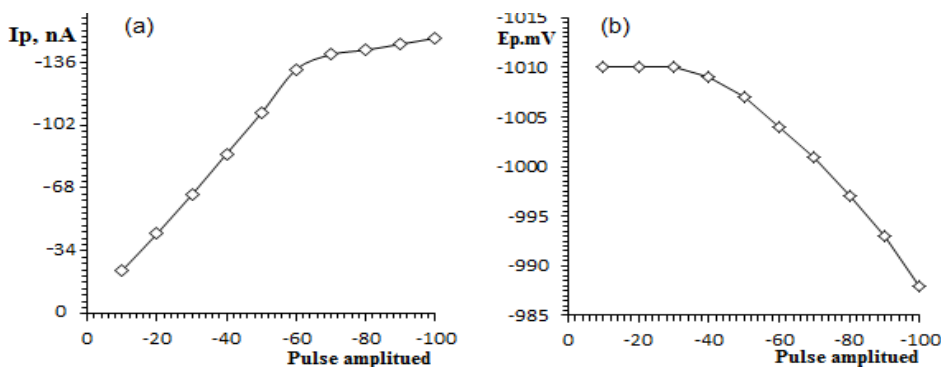


Fig. 5: The effect of negative pulse amplitude (U. ampl.) on I_p and E_p of FEN ($2.800 \mu\text{M}$) using DPPA at DME (Purge gas N_2 , purge time 300 s, sweep rate 5 mV/s, U. amplitude-60 mV, t. meas. 32 ms, t. pulse 45 ms, t. step 1.6 s, U. step 8 mV, temperature $25 \pm 5 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$)

The effect of initial and final potential

The effect of initial and final potential on the I_p and E_p was studied. It was found that better initial potential was -650 mV and better final potential was -1400 mV.

The effect of temperature and time

The effect of temperature and time on the electrochemical reaction of FEN was studied at different values (15-35 $^\circ\text{C}$, 5-60 min) by

continuous monitoring of the I_p . It was found that the value of I_p was not affected by a temperature between 20 to 30 $^\circ\text{C}$ (the temperature $25 \pm 5 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ was used). The effect of waiting time was determined at ambient laboratory temperature ($25 \pm 5 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$). It was found that the value of I_p was not affected by the time between 5 to 60 min.

The effect of time pulse (t. pulse)

The effect of time pulse (35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95 and 100 ms) on polarograms was as the follows: I_p decreases

with increasing time pulse, and E_p has become latency positive value increasingly (-1015 to -991 mV) with increasing t. pulse. The peak was more symmetrical when the t. pulse value of 45 ms.

The effect of time interval for voltage step (t. step)

I_p linearly increases with increasing t. step (0.2, 0.3, 0.4, 0.5, 0.6, 0.7, 0.8, 0.9, 1.0, 1.2, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.8, 2.0, 2.2 and 2.5 s), while E_p has become increasingly latency positive value (-1004 to -990 mV) with increasing t. step. The value of the preferred t. step was 1.6 s.

The effect of measurement time (t. meas.)

I_p increases with increasing t. meas. (4, 8, 12, 16, 20, 24, 28 and 32 ms), while E_p remains quasi-static. The value of the preferred t. meas. was 32 ms. The optimum parameters established for determination of FEN using DPPA at DME are showed in table 1.

Calibration curves

Calibration curves for the determination of fenofibrate using differential pulse polarographic analysis at dropping mercury electrode with negative amplitude in lithium perchlorate trihydrate (0.04 M) buffer at pH 6.0 containing 24% (v/v) acetonitrile were applied. One reduction peak was observed in the range -994 to -1025 mV (E_p). The peak current (I_p) was proportional to the concentration of FEN over the ranges 0.0361-3.608 µg/ml (0.100-10.000 µmol/l), while the ranges were 0.145-4.96 µg/ml and 0.5-2.5 µg/ml by using optimized conditions of SWV [3] and DPP [5]. The polarograms in the optimum conditions using DPPA at DME of FEN at different concentrations are showed in fig. 6. The regression equation and correlation coefficient (R^2) were as the follows: $y = -128.72x - 0.6153$, $R^2 = 0.9994$; where y: I_p , nA ($I_p = I_{p, total} - I_{elect}$; where I_{elect} is electrolyte current at E_p) and x: C_{FEN} , µg/ml, see fig. 7.

Analytical results

Determination of FEN using DPPA at DME in the optimum conditions using analytical curves, $I_p = f(C_{FEN})$, showed that the accuracy was ready over the ranges of FEN concentration between 0.0361-3.608 µg/ml. The relative standard deviation (RSD) was not more than 2.1%. Limit of detection (LOD) and limit of quantitation (LOQ) for the determination of FEN by this method was as the follows: 0.0025 and 0.0076 µg/ml, respectively. The results obtained from the developed method have been compared with the official SWV method [3] and good agreement was observed between them (table 2).

Table 1: The optimum parameters established for determination of FEN using DPPA at MDE

Parameters	Operating modes
Working electrode	Dropping mercury electrode (DME)
Supporting electrolytes (buffer)	0.04 M lithium perchlorate trihydrate
pH	6.0
Medium	double distilled deionized water containing 24% (v/v) acetonitrile
Value of pulse amplitude	-60 mV
Purge gas	Pure N ₂
Purge time	300 s
Initial potential	-650 mV
Final potential	-1400 mV
Scan rate	5 mV/s
U. amplitude	-60 mV
t. meas.	32 ms
t. pulse	45 ms
t. step	1.6 s
Temperature of solution	25 ± 5 °C

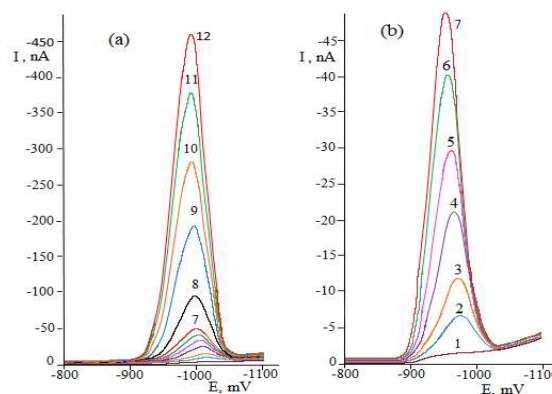


Fig. 6: The polarograms in the optimum conditions using DPPA on DME of FEN in lithium perchlorate trihydrate (0.04 M) buffer at pH 6.0 containing 24% (v/v) acetonitrile at concentrations: 1-0; 2-0.0361; 3-0.0722; 4-0.1443; 5-0.2165; 6-0.2887; 7-0.3608; 8-0.7217; 9-1.4433; 10-2.165; 11-2.887 and 12-3.608 µg/ml

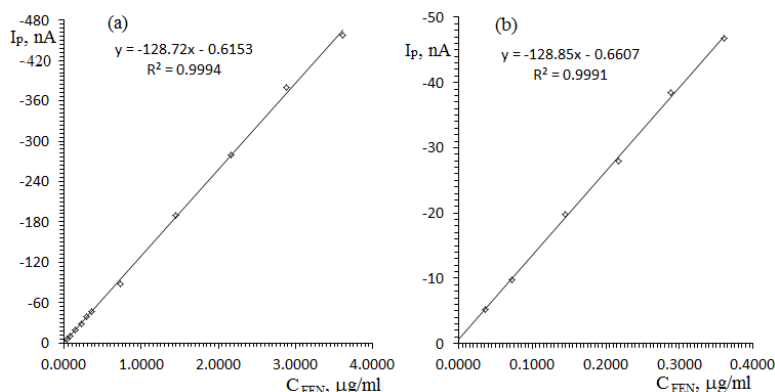


Fig. 7: Calibration curves for the determination of FEN using DPPA on DME in the optimum conditions ($I_p = I_{p, total} - I_{elect}$)

Method validation

The developed method for simultaneous estimation of FEN has been validated in accordance with the International Conference on Harmonization guidelines (ICH) [12].

Selectivity

Selectivity test determines the effect of excipients on the assay result. To determine the selectivity of the method, standard solution

of FEN were analyzed. The results of the tests proved that the components other than the drug did not produce any interfere.

Linearity

Several aliquots of a standard stock solution of FEN were taken in different 25 ml volumetric flasks such that their final concentrations were 0.0361-3.608 µg/ml for FEN using DPPA at DME in lithium perchlorate trihydrate (0.04 M) buffer at pH 6.0 containing 24%

(v/v) acetonitrile. Linearity equation obtained was $y = -128.91x - 0.0824$ for the mentioned range ($R^2 = 0.9994$).

Precision and accuracy

The precision and accuracy of proposed method were checked by recovery study by addition of standard drug solution to pre-analyzed sample solution at three different concentration levels

(80%, 100% and 120%) within the range of linearity for FEN. The basic concentration level of sample solution selected for spiking of the FEN standard solution was 2.165 µg/ml. The proposed method was validated statistically and through recovery studies and was successfully applied for the determination of FEN in pure and dosage forms with percent recoveries ranged from 99.8% to 100.6%, see table 3.

Table 2: Determination of fenofibrate using differential pulse polarographic analysis on DME with negative amplitude in lithium perchlorate trihydrate (0.04 M) buffer at pH 6.0 containing 24% (v/v) acetonitrile

(Taken) x_i , µg/ml	(Found) * $\bar{X} \pm SD$, µg/ml (mean±SD)	$\frac{SD}{\sqrt{n}}$, µg/ml	$\frac{-t \cdot SD}{\sqrt{n}}$, µg/ml	RSD %	* $\bar{X} \pm SD$, µg/ml Using SWV [3]
0.0361	0.0357±0.00075	0.00034	0.0356±0.00093	2.1	not determined
0.0722	0.0713±0.0015	0.00067	0.0713±0.0019	2.1	not determined
0.1443	0.1490±0.0030	0.0013	0.1490±0.0037	2.0	0.1392±0.0054
0.2165	0.2127±0.0043	0.0019	0.2127±0.0053	2.0	0.2157±0.0056
0.2887	0.2943±0.0056	0.0025	0.2943±0.0069	1.9	0.2890±0.0058
0.3608	0.3588±0.0064	0.0029	0.3588±0.0080	1.8	0.3600±0.0062
0.7217	0.712±0.0128	0.0057	0.7120±0.0159	1.8	0.723±0.0120
1.4433	1.482±0.0252	0.0113	1.4820±0.0313	1.7	1.464±0.0243
2.165	2.171±0.0347	0.0155	2.1710±0.0431	1.6	2.168±0.0335
2.887	2.948±0.0442	0.0198	2.9480±0.0549	1.5	2.879±0.0430
3.608	3.553±0.0533	0.0238	3.5530±0.0661	1.5	3.607±0.0512

* n=5, t=2.776.

Table 3: Results of recovery studies

Level	% recovery
80% (n=5)	100.2
100% (n=5)	99.8
120% (n=5)	100.6

Repeatability

The repeatability was evaluated by performing 10 repeat measurements for 2.165 µg/ml of FEN using the studied DPPA at DME in lithium perchlorate trihydrate (0.04 M) buffer at pH 6.0 containing 24% (v/v) acetonitrile under the optimum conditions. The found amount of FEN ($\bar{X} \pm SD$) was 2.171±0.035 µg/ml and the percentage recovery was found to be 100.3±1.6 with RSD of 0.016. These values indicate that the proposed method has high repeatability for FEN analysis.

Sensitivity (limit of detection [LOD] and limit of quantitation [LOQ])

The sensitivity of the presented method was evaluated by determining the LOD and LOQ. The values of LOD and LOQ for FEN are 0.0025 and 0.0076 µg/ml, respectively.

Robustness

The robustness of the method adopted is demonstrated by the constancy of the absorbance with the deliberated minor change in the experimental parameters such as the change in the concentration of excipients, buffer (±10%), acetonitrile (±1%), temperature (±5 °C) and waiting time (30 min).

Specificity

The specificity of the method was ascertained by analyzing standard FEN in the presence of excipients. These findings prove that the suggested methods are specific for determination of the investigated drugs without interference from the co-formulated adjuvants.

APPLICATION

Many applications for the determination of fenofibrate in some Syrian pharmaceutical preparations using differential pulse polarographic analysis on mercury drop electrode with negative amplitude in lithium perchlorate trihydrate (0.04 M) buffer at pH 6.0 containing 24% (v/v) acetonitrile according to the optimal conditions were proposed. The amount (m) of FEN in one capsule was calculated from the following relationship: $m = h \cdot m'$, where: m' is the amount of FEN in capsule calculated according to the regression equation of calibration curve, h conversion factor is equal to 100 for all studied pharmaceutical formulations. The results of quantitative analysis for FEN in pharmaceutical preparations were summarized in Tables 4. The proposed method was simple, direct and successfully applied to the determination of FEN in pharmaceuticals without any interference from excipients. Average assay ranged between 99.8 to 104.0%. The results obtained by this method agree well with the contents stated on the labels and were validated by SWV method [3]. Therefore, the presented method can be recommended for routine analysis of fenofibrate in pharmaceutical formulations.

Table 4: Determination of FEN in some Syrian pharmaceutical preparations using DPPA on DME with negative amplitude in lithium perchlorate trihydrate (0.04 M) buffer at pH 6.0 containing 24% (v/v) acetonitrile according to the optimal condition

Tablet dosage form	Label claim of FEN, mg/cap.	*mean±SD (as FEN), mg/cap.	RSD%	Assay%	* (Assay%), using SWV [3]
Lipa	100	99.8±1.9	1.9	99.8	100.0
	300	312.0±4.5	1.6	104.0	104.3
Lipozor	250	258.5±4.4	1.7	103.4	103.4

* n=5, Assay=(found mean/label claim)x100.

CONCLUSION

Electrochemical behavior and DPPA of FEN in pure form and in pharmaceutical preparations using DME with negative amplitude in

lithium perchlorate trihydrate (0.04 M) buffer at pH 6.0 containing 24% (v/v) acetonitrile according to the optimal conditions was applied. One reduction peak was observed. Ip is linear over the range 0.0361-3.608 µg/ml; which makes this method more sensitive

compared to what is available in the literature. The relative standard deviation did not exceed 2.1% for the concentration 0.0361 µg/ml of FEN. Regression analysis showed a good correlation coefficient ($R^2=0.9994$) between I_p and concentration over the mentioned range. The proposed method was successfully applied to the direct analysis of FEN in pharmaceutical formulations without any interference from excipients and with adequate accuracy and sensitivity without any pre-separation such as extraction.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

The authors have declared that no conflict of interests exists.

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