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FULL PAPER

Thermodynamic study and spectrophotometric determination of cefixime trihydrate in pure form and pharmaceutical tablets using batch and normal flow injection analysis

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^aChemistry Department, College of Sciences, This study aimed at developing pectrophotometric methods for the determination of Cefixime Trihydrate [CFT] by simple, sensitive batch and flow-injection analysis in its purest form and tablet formulations. These developed methods were based on an oxidative coupling reaction of CFT with thaimine hydrochloride in the presence of a basic medium and using potassium ferricyanuide as an oxidant to produce a stable water-soluble, intense orange dye with a maximum absorption at 440 nm. Beer's law was followed over the concentration range [2.5-75 and 10-400 μg.mL⁻¹] of CFT with limits of detection of 0.7223 and 2.6145 μg.mL⁻¹ of CFT for batch and FIA methods, respectively. The average sample throughput for the FIA was 68 h⁻¹. The effects of various chemical and physical experimental parameters on the development and stability of the colored product were carefully investigated. CFT estimated in commercial tablets forms was successfully applied using these methods, in which the results were in good agreement with those produced using the official procedure. Thermodynamic parameters, including the free energy changes [ΔG], enthalpy [ΔH] and entropy [ΔS] were determined at different temperatures for the reaction product.

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KEYWORDS

Cefixime trihydrate; thiamine hydrochloride; thermodynamic; flow injection; spectrophotometry.

Introduction

Cefixime trihydrate [CFT] is used in the treatment of uncomplicated Neisseria gonorrhoeae vaginal infections. upper respiratory tract bacterial infections, and Neisseria simple gonorrhoeae genital infections [1]. It has the chemical formula $C_{16}H_{15}N_5O_7S_2.3H_2O$ (Figure 1) [2].

Determination of CFT concentration in pharmaceutical preparations was previously performed using high-performance liquid chromatography [HPLC] spectrophotometric [4-6]. Also, many visible

spectrophotometric methods have been presented in literature for determination of CFT including, chemilumences [7], Cloud point extraction [8,9], diazonium reaction [10], ion pair reaction [11] and complex formation [12]. Although the oxidative coupling reaction is a widely used method for the determination of many drugs [13,14], the studies reported a few oxidative coupling reactions [15] available for the determination of CFT; therefore, a simple reaction of oxidative coupling using Thiamine hydrochloride [TMH] is described in this study as a new chromogenic reagent with potassium ferricyanide and alkaline medium.

Thiamine HCl is also known as vitamin B1, as a drug compound with the chemical formula $C_{12}H_{17}N_4OS.HCl$ [1] (Figure 2).

FIGURE 1 Cefixime trihydrate structure

FIGURE 2 Thiamine HCl structure

A rapid oxidative coupling reaction of CFT with the TMH [as a green reagent] was used for sensitive assays of trace amounts of CFT in pure form and dosage. The formation orangedye was determined spectrophotometrically using both batch and flow injection methods; thermodynamic parameters [free energy changes ΔG , enthalpy of formation ΔH and entropy ΔS] have also been studied at different temperatures.

Experimental

Apparatus

- 1- Digital single-beam spectrophotometer [Shimadzu UV-Visible 1240] was used to measure the absorption and the spectra measurements were performed by a shimadzu UV-1800 digital double beam spectrophotometer using a quartz cell [1 cm bath length] for batch method. In FIA method, all the absorbance measurements were carried out using Quartz flow matched cells with 10 mm path length and 50 μL internal volume.
- 2- A six-channel peristaltic pump [Gilson, minipuls 2, beltline modulation. W1. 53562, France] used for reagent pumping solutions. A 6-way valve for injection with various loops [Rheodyne, Model 7000 Stream Switching Valve-USA] was used for injected samples.

A three-channel manifold (Figure 3) was employed for the FIA spectrophotometric determination of CFT drug. For the peristaltic pump, flexible 0.5 mm [internal diameter] of vinyl tubing has been employed and a Teflon reaction coil [RC] with an internal diameter of 0.5 mm was used.

3- Thermostatic water bath [15 $^{\circ}$ C -90 $^{\circ}$ C] model; YCW-40 M, Gemmy industrial corp., Taiwan.

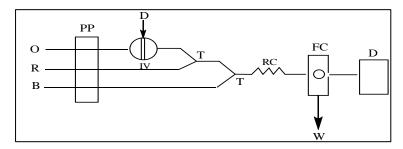


FIGURE 3 Manifold employed for FIA-Spectrophotometric determination of CFT, where; D=CFT, $O=K_3[Fe[CN]_6]$, R= TMH and B=NaOH, where: PP=peristaltic pump; IV= injection valve; T=T-link; RC= reaction coil; FC= flow cell; D= detector; W= waste

The solution of potassium ferricyanide reagent was transported through one of the three channels. The [TMH] reagent was transported through the second and the solution of sodium hydroxide was passed

through the third channel and was combined with the mixed solutions of injected CFT, oxidant and the TMH reagent and the reaction then completed at the reaction coil. With a total flow rate of 3 mL/min, the resulting



solutions have been driven into the detector by peristaltic pump. The colored product formed [orange dye] was measured at 440 nm. and at a temperature of 25 °C.

Materials and chemicals

All reagents used were of analytical grade and distilled water was used in this work. The state company for Drug Industries and Medical Appliance, [SDI, Samara-Iraq] supplied the work with pharmaceutical grade of CFT and excipients, commercial pharmacies provided the Pharmaceutical dosage forms containing CFT. For this study, two types of tablets [Winex, 400 mg, Tabuk pharmaceuticals Co., Saudi-Arabia and Cefix, 400 mg, Pharma International Co., Jordan], each contains CFT as its active constituent, were used for analysis.

Preparation of solutions for both batch and flow injection methods

The stock solution of Cefixime trihydrate [1000 μg.mL-1 = 1.9704 x 10-3 M]: A standard CFT [SDI] was weighted [0.10000 g] and dissolved in a certain volume of methanol [5 mL] then was completed to 100 mL in a volumetric flask with distilled water. Stock solutions of 500 μg.mL-1 and 100 μg.mL-1, were prepared directly by dilution of 50 mL and 10 mL of 1000 μg.mL-1 of the stock solution in 100 mL volumetric flask with distilled water respectively. More dilute solutions can be prepared daily by appropriate dilution using distilled water.

Thiamine Hydrochloride reagent solution [1x10-2M]: After dissolving 0.3373 g of standard TMH [SDI] in distilled water, the volume was completed to 100 mL volumetric flask using the same solvent.

Potassium ferricyanide solution [1x10- 2 **M]:** It was prepared by dissolving 0.3293 g of pure K₃[Fe[CN]₆] [BDH] in distilled water then in a 100 mL volumetric flask, complete the volume to the mark with the same solvent.

Sodium hydroxide [BDH] stock solution [0.5 M]: Prepared by dissolving 2 g of NaOH in

100 mL volumetric flask and complete the volume to the mark with distilled water.

Pharmaceutical dosage forms solutions

For both winex and cefix tablets, ten tablets [400 mg CFT] were weighed and then finally powdered. The residue was washed and diluted to volume with distilled water to obtain $1000~\mu g.m L^{-1}$ of CFT. An amount of resultant powder equivalent to 0.1000~g of CFT was dissolved in 5~m L of methanol and the resultant solution was shacked and filtered into a 100~m L volumetric flask. For batch and FIA methods, more dilute solutions were prepared daily by appropriate dilution using distilled water.

Calibration graphs

A- General Procedure of batch method

A series of 20 mL standard flasks were filled with increasing volumes [0.1-3 mL] of 500 μg.mL-1 [9.852x10-4 M] CFT. 1 mL potassium ferricyanide oxidant 1x10⁻² M, 1 mL TMH reagent 1x10⁻² M, and 1 mL sodium hydroxide 0.5 M. The contents of the flasks were then diluted to the mark with distilled water, mixed thoroughly, and left at room temperature [25] °C] for 15 minutes. The absorbance of the orange dye formed was measured at 440 nm against a reagent blank containing all materials except CFT. For the optimization of conditions and all subsequent experiments, a 1 mL of [500 μ g.mL⁻¹ = 9.852x10⁻⁴ M] CFT in a final volume of 20 mL was used with a calibration graph and the regression equation calculated.

B- General procedure of FIA

Working solutions of CFT in the range of [10–400 $\mu g.mL^{\text{-}1}]$ were freshly prepared and injected in triplicate through the FI manifold to test the method's linearity. A 150 μl portion of CFT was injected into the stream of oxidant solution Potassium ferricyanide 1x10-2 M, which was then mixed with the reagent

solution TMH $1x10^{-2}$ M, and the mixture was then combined with a stream of 0.5M sodium hydroxide [Figure 3]. The orange product's absorbance was measured at 440 nm, and a calibration graph is shown in Table 1. The conditions were optimized using CFT at a concentration of $100 \ \mu g.mL^{-1}$.

Results and discussion

A- batch spectrophotometric determination

The factors that influence the sensitivity and stability of the colored product produced by the reaction of the CFT and TMH in the presence of an oxidant and in an alkaline medium have been thoroughly investigated. A typical spectrum for the colored dye formed versus reagent blank (which has a minimum absorbance at λ max 440 nm) is showed in Figure 4.

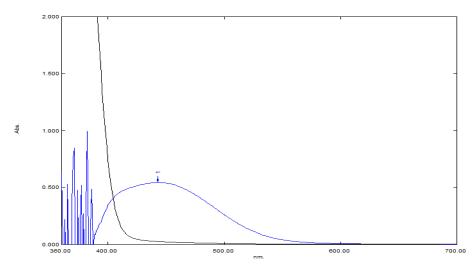


FIGURE 4 Absorption spectra of the orange colored product obtained from the reaction of 25 $\mu g.mL^{-1}$ of CFT with (0.01M) of TMH, (0.01 M) of potassium ferricyanide and (0.1 M) of sodium hydroxide [A] measured against the reagent blank. The reagent blank was measured against distilled water [B]

The optimization of conditions for the proposed method was important to have a complete reaction formation, highest sensitivity and maximum absorbance. 0.01M of TMH [0.1- 4 mL], $0.01\,M$ of K₃[Fe[CN]₆] [0.1- 4 mL], and $0.1\,M$ of NaOH [0.1- 4 mL] were found to be the best experimental conditions for CFT determining by adding appropriate volumes of their solutions to a fixed

concentration of CFT and measuring the absorbance at 440 nm. against a reagent blank for each one. The results (Figure 5) showed that for 25 μg mL⁻¹ of CFT, 1.0 mL of 0.01M TMH, 1.5 mL of 0.01M K₃[Fe[CN]₆], and 1 mL 0.1M NaOH gave the highest color intensity and led to the highest color stability of the dye product.

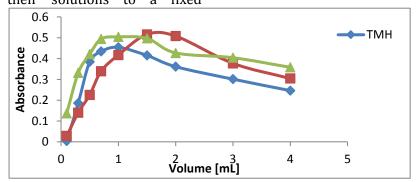


FIGURE 5 Effect of volumes of [0.01 M] TMH, [0.01 M] K₃[Fe [CN]₆ and [0.5 M] NaOH

SAMI

After CFT [25 μ g.mL⁻¹] had been reacted immediately with oxidant and reagent in aqueous basic medium, the color intensity was increased gradually and reached maximum, then became stable after 15 min. For about 120 minutes, the absorbance remained stable. The effect of order of addition was also investigated using various orders of addition, with the results revealing that the order of reagent addition [Drug+ Oxidant+ TMH+ Base], gave a maximum absorbance and stability of the product. The effect of temperature on reaction development was investigated at three different temperatures [5, 25, and 55 °C]. In practice, the calibrated

flasks produced higher absorbance at room temperature [25 °C] than at low temperature [5 °C] or high temperature [45 °C], so the room temperature was chosen for all subsequent experiments.

Using a 9.8522 x 10-4 M solution of equimolar for each CFT and TMH reagent, the product structure was determined using the mole continuous variation method [Job's method] and the molar ratio method [16]. The obtained results (Figures 6 and 7) showed that a 1:1 orange dye was formed between CFT and TMH reagent, which probably has the following structure (Scheme 1).

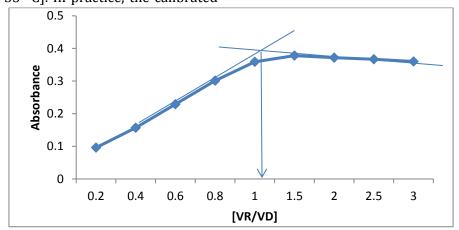


FIGURE 6 continuous variation plot of the reaction between CFT drug $[9.8522x10^{-4} \, M]$ and TMH reagent in the presence of oxidant and base

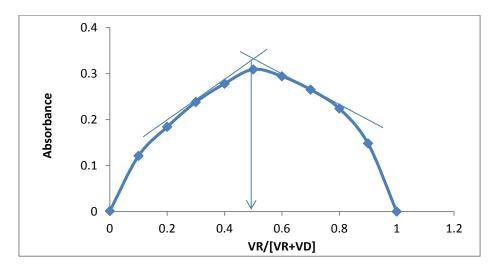


FIGURE 7 Mole ratio plot of the reaction between CFT drug [9.8522x10⁻⁴ M] and TMH reagent in the presence of oxidant and base

SCHEME 1 The probably structure of the dye formed

The FT-IR spectra of the dye product showed a new stretching single band at 3463 for NH group as shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1 FT-IR spectral data [cm⁻¹] for dye formed and reactant compounds

Compounds	υ [O-H]	υ [C=C]	υ [C=O]	υ [NH2]	others
CFT	-	1450	1785	Asym-3418 Sym-3335	-
ТМН	1045	1423	-	Asym-3352 Sym-3315	-
Dye formed	1070	1452	1757	<u>-</u>	υ [N=H[3463 Single band

The resulting product was water soluble. The apparent stability constant was calculated by comparing the absorbance of a solution containing stoichiometric amount of CFT [9.8522x10-4 M] and TMH [9.8522x10-4 M] in a final volume of 20 mL [As] with that of solution containing a five-fold excess of TMH reagent in a final volume of 20 mL [Am] and in accordance with the analytical procedure the average of stability constant [K] for three different concentrations 20, 40 and 90 $\mu g.mL^{-1}$ = 2.6490x10⁴ L.mol-1 , where [K=[1- α]/ α^2 C] and α =Am-As/Am [17]. The high value of stability constant indicates that the reaction product is stable.

The calibration graph intercept, slope, and correlation coefficient values were calculated and listed in Table 3, and the results were compared to those obtained using the FIA proposed method. A recovery test for CFT was performed in the presence of [10-fold] of excipients in order to examine the methods usefulness and freedom from interference by tablet additives. The high percentage recoveries indicated that there was no interference and that the method had good selectivity for analyzing CFT in its various dosage forms.



TABLE 2 Effect of excipients [250 μg.mL⁻¹] on the recovery of CFT [25 μg.mL⁻¹]

Excipient	Conc. of CFT [μg.mL ⁻¹]* Present	Conc. of CFT [µg.mL ⁻¹]* Found	Error %	Recovery %
Starch		25.9000	+3.600	103.6000
Talc		25.5762	+2.3048	102.3048
Lactose	25	25.1703	+0.6812	100.6812
Poly vinyl pyrrolidone [PVP]	25	24.7637	-0.9452	99.0548
Mg stearate		25.3080	+1.323	101.323

^{*} Average of three determination.

FIA-spectrophotometric determination

The development of the normal flow injection [nFIA] procedure was based on the previous batch method for CFT assay. The choice of the best manifold for a flow system is very essential, so various manifold reactions were used to carry out various paths, and the results revealed that the manifold in Figure 1 was chosen for further experiments because it gave the best absorbance of the reaction's product.

Maximum absorbance intensity was accomplished when a 150 μ L of (100 μ g.mL⁻¹) CFT was injected into the stream of 0.01 M of oxidant which mixed with the reagent solution 0.01 M the mixture then mixed with (0.1 M) of NaOH solution. As shown in Figure 1, the reaction was completed in reaction coil; each sample was injected three times, and different physical or chemical parameters optimized by changing one while leaving the others unchanged.

Chemical parameters optimization

The chemicals variables effect

To improve the sensitivity of the suggested reaction, chemical parameters were optimized and studied. The optimal concentration of the reagent [TMH] was determined by passing multiple concentrations in the manifold ranging from 0.0005 to 0.05 M. The results in Figure 7 showed that a concentration of 0.005 M produced a high absorbance and good accuracy; therefore, it was chosen for future testing. Different concentrations of oxidant [potassium ferricyanide] were also examined, with concentrations ranging from 0.0005 to 0.05; the optimum concentration of 0.005 gave the best results and minimum blank value as shown in Figure 7 and was considered as optimum value. On the other hand, the effect of sodium hydroxide concentration which was important factor on reaction development was also investigated in the range concentrations [0.01 M- 1 M] and the optimum concentration [0.2 M] seems to be best as shown in Figure 8.

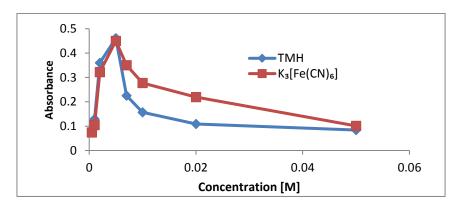


FIGURE 8 Effect of TMH and potassium ferricyanid concentrations

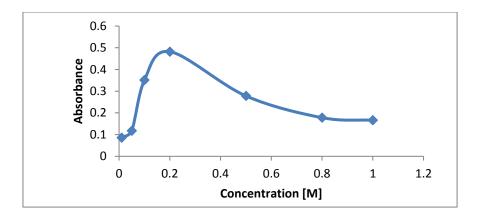


FIGURE 9 Effect of sodium hydroxide concentrations

The manifold parameters optimization

Physical factors such as flow rate, injection sample volume, and reaction coil length were investigated under optimal reagent concentrations. In the range of 0.5-4 mL.min⁻¹,

the influence of total flow rate on the sensitivity of the colored reaction product was examined. The results revealed that a total flow rate of 3 mL.min⁻¹ produced the maximum absorbance (Figure 9) and was employed in all following experiments.

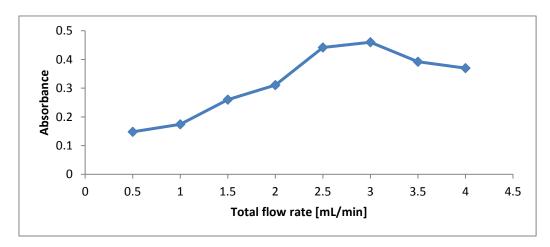


FIGURE 10 The total flow rate effect

The injection sample volume was changed between 50 and 250 μ l by varying the length of the sample loop. The results (Figure 10)

revealed that the 150 μ l injected sample had the highest absorbance.

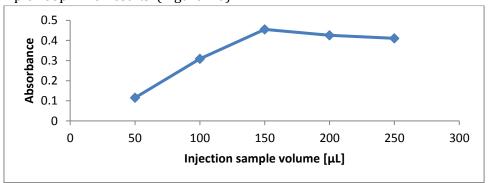


FIGURE 11 The injected sample volume effect



The length of reaction coil was an important parameter affecting the sensitivity of the colored reaction product and was studied in the range of 25-250 cm. The results showed that a coil length of 100 cm produced

the maximum absorbance then the absorbance decreased because of the increase in dispersion, as shown in Figure 11, same length was employed in all following experiments.

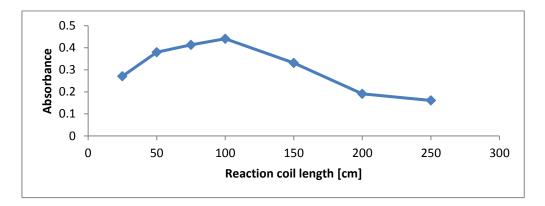


FIGURE 12 Effect of reaction coil length

The sampling frequency was investigated under the optimum conditions by monitoring the time from sample injection to maximum absorbance [53 seconds], resulting in a sample throughput of 68 samples per hour.

Using the optimum reaction conditions and the FIA manifold in Figure. 1, the dispersion of the colored product was determined to be 1.475, indicating a minimal dispersion in FIA that allows for high sample rates and sensitivity [16].

Characteristics of analysis

Under optimal conditions, each method's analytical features such as linear range, detection range, correlation coefficient, and relative standard deviation [RSD] were calculated [Table 3]. When comparing the batch and FIA procedures, the latter is more convenient due to its speed and the greater linear range of the calibration graph was obtained.

TABLE 3 Analytical values of statistical treatment for the calibration graphs of both batch and FIA methods

Danamatana	Value				
Parameters	Batch method	FIA method			
Regression equation	y = 0.0154x + 0.0509	y = 0.0033x + 0.079			
Linear range [µg.mL-1]	2.5-75	10-400			
Correlation coefficient [r]	0.9993	0.9995			
Limit of detection	0.7223	2.6145			
$[\mu g.mL^{-1}]$	$SD_B = 0.003708$	$SD_B = 0.002876$			
Limit of quantitation [µg.mL-1]	2.4079	8.71515			
Molar absorptivity	0.78155x10 ⁴	0.16747×10^{4}			
Sandell sensitivity	0.064935	0.3030			
Sample through-put [hr-1]	4	68			

Accuracy and precision

The accuracy and precision of the proposed methods for determining CFT using both batch and normal flow injection methods were investigated under optimum conditions using three different concentrations of standard CFT in both methods. Table 4 shows the E.%, Rec.%, and RSD.% of three CFT

determinations suggesting good recoveries and low RSD% values for that the developed methods was accurate to determine the micro amount of CFT in pure and pharmaceutical preparations.

TABLE 4 Accuracy and precision of the proposed methods

Proposed	Conc. of CFT µg.mL-1		E%*	Rec.%*	RSD%*
methods	Present	Found	E %0 .	Rec. %	K3D%
	10	10.0714	+0.7142	100.7142	1.0297
Batch method	20	20.2662	+1.331	101.3310	1.5825
	45	44.8246	-0.3896	99.6103	2.4142
	25	24.6131	-1.5476	98.4524	2.0412
FIA	150	149.6400	-0.2400	99.7600	1.6405
	300	297.8671	-0.7146	99.2853	0.9852

^{*}Average of three determinations.

Applications of analysis

By analyzing three different concentrations of tablets utilizing the analytical processes directly, batch and FIA techniques for determining CFT in pharmaceutical dosage forms were effectively used [Table 5]. The results were compared with those obtained using the British pharmacopeia standard method [19], to evaluate the efficacy and

success of the recommended approaches. Calculating the Student's t- and F-values [20] was used to evaluate the current method's performance. Table 6 shows that the estimated t- and F-tests did not exceed the theoretical values and there is no significant difference between either methods in accuracy and precision in determination of CFT in pharmaceutical formula.

TABLE 5 Application of the proposed methods for determination of CFT in pharmaceutical formulas

Proposed methods	Drug forms	Concentration of CFT µg.mL ⁻¹		E%*	Rec.%*	RSD.%*
		Present	found			
		10	9.9805	-0.1948	99.8051	2.8641
Batch	Winex	20	20.0714	+0.3571	100.3571	1.8590
		45	44.0324	+2.1702	102.1702	0.6130
Dattii		10	10.2662	+2.6623	102.6623	1.4502
	Cefix	20	19.6818	-1.5909	98.4090	0.4466
		45	45.7597	+1.683	101.6883	0.5968
		25	25.6812	+2.7248	102.7248	2.4035
FIA	Winex	150	149.8368	-0.1088	99.8912	2.1199
		300	298.5511	-0.4829	99.5170	1.3390
		25	25.9987	+3.9948	103.9948	2.5535
	Cefix	150	150.1369	+0.0912	100.0912	1.8408
		300	299.1178	-0.2942	99.7057	0.8243

^{*}Average of three determinations.



TABLE 6 The comparison of the suggested methods with standard method using t-and F- tests.

	Proposed methods				Standard method	
Drug	Batch		FIA		Rec.%	
forms	Rec.% [Xi] _a	$[xi-\overline{x}]_{a^2}$	Rec.% [Xi] _b	$[xi-\overline{x}]_{b^2}$	[Xi] ₂	$[xi-\overline{x}]_{2^2}$
CFT pure	100.5518	0.03920	99.1659	1.4745	100.3100	0.2466
Winex	100.7780	0.000795	100.7110	0.1094	99.3200	0.2433
Cifex	100.9198	0.0289	101.2639	0.7809	99.8100	0.00001
S	$0.3737 [S_a]$	2=0.03444[0.8447 S _b	² =1.1824	$[S_2^2 = 0]$.2449]
t[2.776]*	2.0465		0.5479		$[n_1+n_2]$	2-2]=4
F[19.000]*	7.1109		4.8281		[n ₁ -1]=2, [n ₂ -1]=2	

^{*}theoretical value

Thermodynamic studies

Thermodynamic studies [the free energy changes ΔG , enthalpy of formation ΔH and entropy ΔS] have been considered at different temperatures [15 °C, 25 °C, 35 °C and 45 °C], The Van't Hoff equation [21] illustrates the relationship between temperature and the stability constant [K]. A plot between lnK versus 1/T gave a straight line, a slop was equal to $\Delta H/R$ [where $\Delta H=$ enthalpy changes

and R is the gas constant 8.314 J.mol $^{-1}$.k $^{-1}$], The intercept was equal to the standard entropy changes divided by the gas constant $\Delta S/R$ [Figure 12]:

$$\ln K = \frac{-\Delta H}{RT} + \frac{\Delta S}{R}$$

The reaction's Gibbs free energy [G] was also estimated using the Gibbs-Helmholtz equation [22]: G= H-TS, and all thermodynamic parameters are presented in Table 7.

TABLE 7 Thermodynamic parameters for calculating TCH at various temperatures

Temperature, K	K, L.mol ⁻¹	ΔH, KJ.mol ⁻¹	ΔS, J.mol ⁻¹ .K ⁻¹	ΔG, KJ.mol ⁻¹
288	0.3755x10 ⁴			-19.8480
298	0.1924x10 ⁴	-47.7240	-96.7915	-18.8801
308	0.1285x10 ⁴	-47.7240	-90./915	-17.9122
318	0.0518×10^{4}			-16.9443

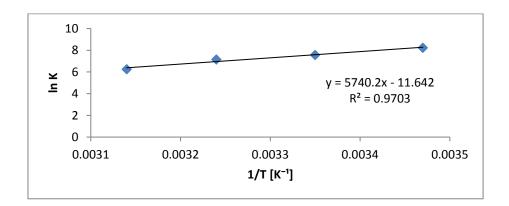


FIGURE 13 The relationship between the stability constant and temperature

The negative values of ΔG were indicated that the oxidative coupling reaction is spontaneous, while the negative value of ΔS means decreasing in disorder of the reaction

because of the thermal decomposition of complex as the temperature rises and suggest a fast reaction that may be studied using the spectrophotometric flow injection method. The negative value of ΔH , on the other hand, denotes that the reaction is exothermic and that heat is released as a result of the reaction, and this may explain the reason for decreasing on the stability constant with increasing in temperature.

Conclusion

For the determination of Cefixime trihydrate in pure and pharmaceutical preparations, batch and FIA spectrophotometric methods were proposed. These methods have many advantages of simplicity, speed, accuracy and the use of inexpensive equipment. The speed of the proposed methods and its precision make them suitable for the quality control of formulations containing this drug. The wide linear range of the proposed methods that followed Beer's law gave a good application for the pharmaceutical preparation, and can be used as a reliable and advantageous alternative to the other previously exported methods for routine analysis of CFT in pharmaceutical samples using the non-toxic reagent which is a drug [thiamine hydrochloride] and this was an important factor for improving the green chemistry. Also, the calculations of thermodynamic studies at different temperatures obtained indicated that the reaction was spontaneous and fast and did not need a high temperature to proceed the reaction.

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