

A New and Enantioselective Chromatographic Method for Linagliptin on Amylose Coated Chiral Stationary Phase

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Abstract

A new and enantioselective liquid chromatographic method was developed for estimation of S-Linagliptin in Linagliptin (LINA) drug substances. The desired enantiomeric separation was achieved on Chiralpak AD-H (250*4.6 mm*5 µm) column with the mobile phase composition of ethanol, methanol and diethylamine in a ratio of 90:10:0.1 (v/v/v) with flow rate of 0.5 mL·min⁻¹ and column oven temperature 30°C and the eluted compounds were monitored at 225 nm. In the proposed chiral method, USP resolutions between both the enantiomers were more than 5.0. Limit of detection and Limit of quantitation of S-LINA was found to be 0.03 µg·mL⁻¹ and 0.10 µg·mL⁻¹ respectively. Linearity study was conducted from LOQ to 150% and correlation coefficient found to be 0.9997. Accuracy was within the range of 98.6% to 101.5%. To prove selectivity power of the method specificity study was conducted by subjecting drug substance to acid, base, hydrolysis, oxidation and photolysis and ensured the peak purity of analyte in degraded samples. Moreover, the method has been fully validated as per ICH guidelines. The proposed method is precise, accurate, linear, rugged, robust and suitable for accurate quantification of S-LINA in LINA drug substance.

Keywords

Enantiomers, Amylose Based Stationary Phase, Method Development, Method Validation, Specificity

1. Introduction

LINA is chemically (R) 8-(3-aminopiperidin-1-yl)-7-(but-2-yn-1-yl)-3-methyl-1-[(4-methylquinazolin-2-yl) me-

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thyl]-3, 7-dihydro-1H-purine-2, 6-dione with molecular formula $C_{25}H_{28}N_8O_2$. Linagliptin is a xanthine based DPP-4 (Dipeptidyl peptidase-4) inhibitor, which can be orally taken for treatment of type-II diabetes, which is approved by US Food and Drug Administration.

Type 2 diabetes mellitus is a progressive disease, and it occurs with increasing prevalence in the elderly and those with other comorbidities. Blood glucose control presents a challenge that is magnified by these co-existing problems. To achieve glycemic targets, many patients need more than one antidiabetic drug, and additional medications are often required as glucose control deteriorates [1]. Consequently, the development of new antidiabetic drugs that can help meet this challenge has been a field of intensive research.

The dipeptidyl peptidase-4 inhibitors are one of the recently developed therapeutic classes for treatment of hyperglycemia in Type 2 diabetes mellitus. The various agents in the class have differing chemical structures, but all acts by inhibiting the DPP-4 enzyme, thus prolonging the life of incretin hormones, which in turn raise insulin levels and suppress glucagon secretion in a glucose-dependent manner. As a class, DPP-4 inhibitors have been shown to provide significant improvements in glycosylated hemoglobin (HbA1c), and to have a good safety profile. In addition, their glucose-dependent mechanism of action is associated with a low rate of hypoglycemic events [2].

High-throughput screening using an assay to detect inhibition of DPP-4 led to the discovery of linagliptin, a xanthine-based molecule with a high selectivity for DPP-4. The pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of linagliptin have been reviewed in detail elsewhere [3]. Of note, unlike other DPP-4 inhibitors, which are predominantly excreted via the kidneys, linagliptin is mainly excreted unchanged via the enterohepatic system [4].

The separation of chiral isomers can be carried out by using HPLC through direct and indirect methods. Indirect methods are based on adding a chiral additive to the mobile phase. The optical isomers react with the chiral additives, and then the derivatives are separated on an achiral stationary phase. Direct methods separate the isomers on a chiral stationary phase. But in recent development into the chiral separation technology the enantiomers can be separated directly over a chiral stationary phase, they must form short-lived diastereomeric molecular complexes of non-identical stability by interacting rapidly and reversibly [5]. There are five different categories of HPLC chiral stationary phases which are commercially available: brush type, synthetic polymer, cyclodextrin bonded, ligand exchange, and protein.

The polysaccharides coated on silica are the most widely used synthetic polymer for preparation of stationary phase. The polysaccharide phase is comprised of derivatized cellulose or amylose coated on a silica support. Derivatization of the polysaccharide hydroxyl groups with various side chains gives different helical supramolecular structures. The curved groove of the helix is chiral, and can greatly favor the binding of one enantiomer over the other. The result is separation of the enantiomers. Interaction between analyte and synthetic polymer chiral stationary phases are based on both attractive interactions (H-bonding, pi-pi interaction, and/or dipole stacking) and inclusion complexes. Instead of a silica surface, inclusion complexes utilize cavities in which the analyte fits [6]. Synthetic polymer chiral stationary phases are most commonly used with non-polar mobile phases of alkanes (hexane or heptane) and a polar mobile phase modifier. An alcohol, such as ethanol or isopropyl alcohol, is generally the polar mobile phase modifier of choice. The structure of the alcohol plays an important role in the retention and resolution due to competition at or near the binding site.

LINA is a chiral molecule, and exists as S-LINA and R-LINA mentioned in (Figure 1(a) and Figure 1(b)). Both the enantiomers of drug substance may have different properties of toxicology, pharmacokinetics, and biological activities [7]. From past two decades, regulatory guidelines for chiral molecules became more stringent. According to ICH Q6A, it is required to control the unwanted enantiomers in drug substances, US FDA also recommends the study of each enantiomer activity of racemic drugs in the body [8]. Hence it is important to monitor the content of undesired isomer in chiral drug while developing process to synthesize the same. For estimation of undesired enantiomer, techniques like gas chromatography, high performance liquid chromatography, supercritical fluid chromatography, thin layer chromatography and capillary electrophoresis are available in literature [9]. As more versatile chiral stationary phases are available for HPLC, this technique is more prominent and user friendly to monitor the enantiomeric purity of chiral drug substance. Among available chiral stationary phases, most of chiral separations were reported by using derivatized polysaccharides [10]-[12].

During through literature survey it is understood that there were few methods for single LINA estimation by spectrophotometry and HPLC [13]-[22], whereas there is no single method available in literature for enantio-selective separation of LINA. The purpose of the present research work was to develop a suitable, robust HPLC method for the determination of S-LINA in LINA. Hence, an attempt has been made to develop an accurate, rapid, specific

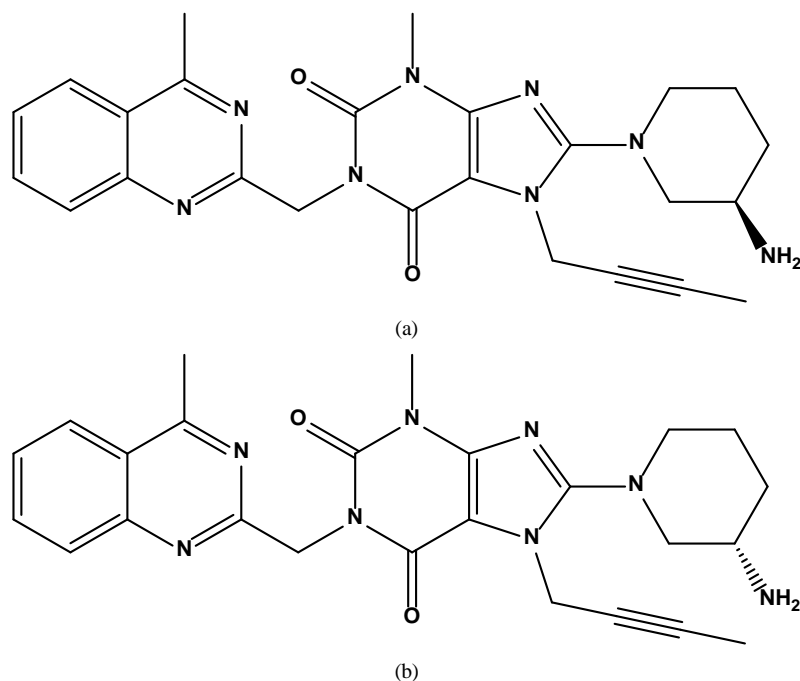


Figure 1. (a) R-Enantiomers of Linagliptin (R-LINA): (R)-8-(3-aminopiperidin-1-yl)-7-(but-2-yn-1-yl)-3-methyl-1-[(4-methylquinazolin-2-yl) methyl]-3, 7-dihydro-1H-purine-2, 6-dione. (b) S-Enantiomers of Linagliptin (S-LINA): (S)-8-(3-aminopiperidin-1-yl)-7-(but-2-yn-1-yl)-3-methyl-1-[(4-methylquinazolin-2-yl) methyl]-3, 7-dihydro-1H-purine-2, 6-dione.

and reproducible method for the quantification of S-LINA in LINA. Method was validation as per ICH guidelines. Specificity study also conducted to proven the selectivity power of the method.

2. Experimental

2.1. Chemicals

Individual enantiomers of Linagliptin were prepared and provided by Dr. Reddys Laboratories Limited, IPDO, Hyderabad, India. Ethanol, Methanol and Diethyl amine was purchased from Merck Germany.

2.2. Chromatographic Conditions and Equipment

All experiments were carried out on a Waters e2695 separation module consisting of 2998 photodiode array detector and Agilent 1260 series ternary pump with variable wavelength detector. Empower 2 software was used for signal monitoring and data processing. The method was developed by using Chiralpak AD-H (250*4.6 mm*5 μ m) column which contains Amylose Tris (3, 5-Dimethylphenylcarbamate) as stationary phase. Mobile phase consists of ethanol, methanol and diethylamine in a ratio of 90:10:0.1 (v/v/v) with a flow rate of 0.5 mL \cdot min $^{-1}$, 5 μ L injection volume, 30 $^{\circ}$ C column oven temperature and chromatographic signal was monitored at 225 nm. Chromatograms were summarized in (Figures 2(a)-(c)).

2.3. Preparation of Sample Solutions

LINA samples are prepared in the methanol (1 mg \cdot mL $^{-1}$). The system suitability was prepared by mixing equal portion of R-LINA and S-LINA at 0.2 mg \cdot mL $^{-1}$ in methanol.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Method Development and Optimization

The main goal of method development was to achieve separation of S-LINA from R-LINA. As part of method development screened various chiral columns namely Chiralcel OD-H, Chiralcel OJ-H, Chiralpak-IA, Chiralpak-IB,

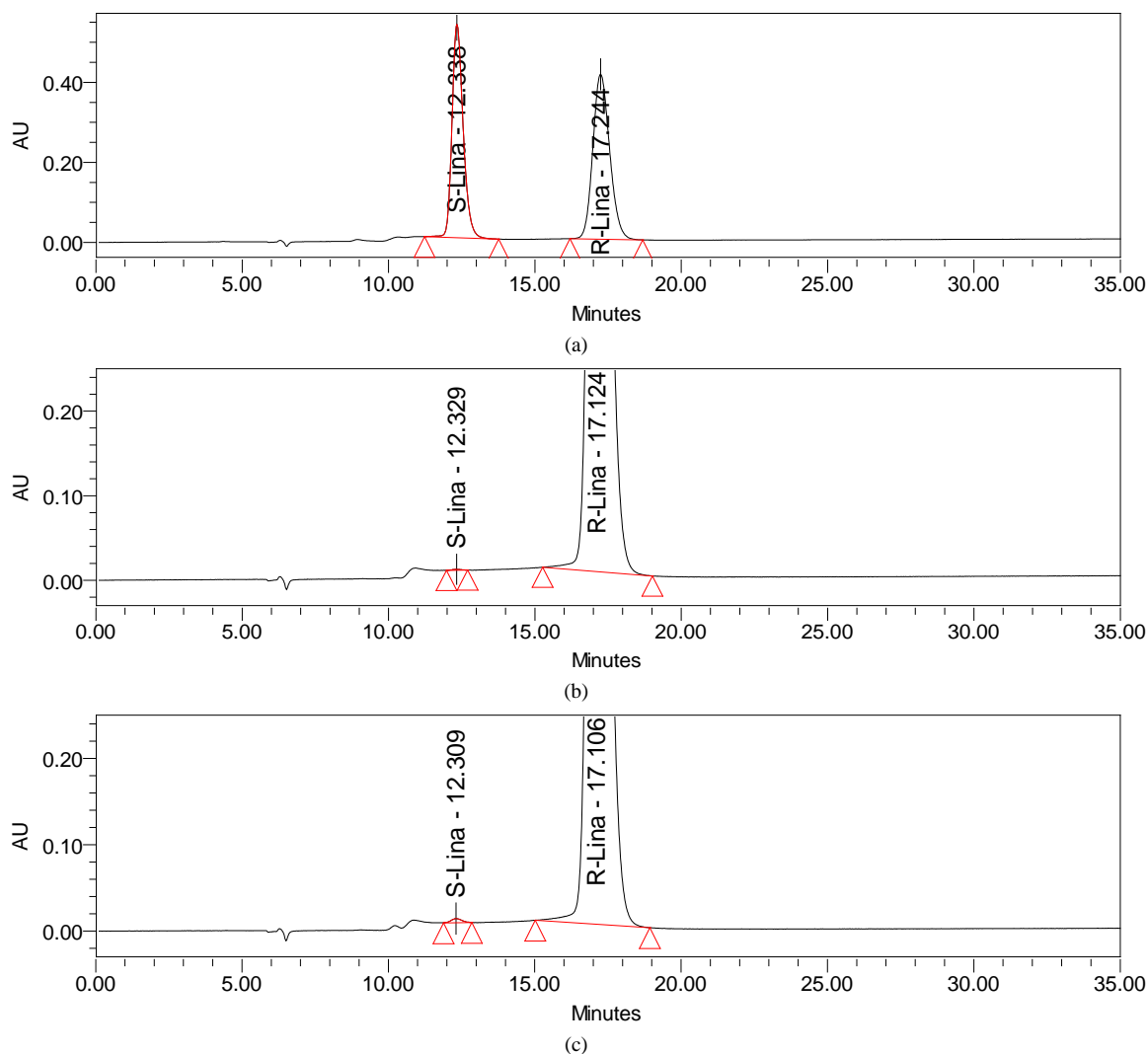


Figure 2. (a) Typical system suitability chromatogram of LINA enantiomers; (b) Typical chromatogram of LINA sample; (c) Typical chromatogram of 0.15% spiked S-LINA in LINA sample.

Chiralpak-IC and Chiralpak-IE manufactured by Diacel Japan were employed. A series of experiments were conducted to select the best stationary and mobile phase that would give optimum resolution for S-LINA from R-LINA. For this study mobile phase with different ratios of n-Hexane, 2-Propanol and Ethanol were used. As the Linagliptin contains basic functional group, Diethyl amine used as mobile phase modifier to improve the peak shape. It was observed that the usage of n-Hexane more than 50% in mobile phase is highly retaining the compound in stationary phase and decrease in % of n-Hexane in mobile phase provided no separation of enantiomers. Hence further trials were carried out by using Methanol, Acetonitrile and Ethanol in all above mentioned columns. No adequate separation was found with above columns.

After careful screening of columns and mobile phase compositions it was observed that Chiralpak AD-H provides better resolution between S-LINA and R-LINA using n-Hexane, Ethanol and diethylamine in the ratio of (10%:90%:0.1% v/v/v) as mobile phase. To improve the chromatographic efficiency and resolution between enantiomers further mobile phase composition was altered and prepared the mobile phase in the composition of ethanol, methanol and diethylamine in the ratio of (90:10:0.1 v/v/v). In this optimized method the typical retention times of S-LINA and R-LINA were approximately about 12.3 min. and about 17.2 min. respectively. Resolutions between two enantiomers are found more than 5 and total run time of method was within 35 minutes. The complete screening of chiral columns and mobile phase compositions were summarized in **Table 1** and **(Figures 3(a)-(d))**.

Table 1. Summary of method development experiments.

Sr. No.	Column name and dimensions	Mobile phase composition (% v/v)	Observations and Retention time (min)	Resolution	Tailing factors of S-LINA and R-LINA
1	Chiralpak OD-H (250 × 4.6 mm)	90:10:0.1 n-Hex:EtoH:DEA	Peaks not eluted	NA	NA
		30:70:0.1 n-Hex:IPA:DEA	25.21 and 33.44	1.2	1.2 and 1.3
		100:0.1 IPA:DEA	Peaks not eluted	No Res	NA
		100:0.1 EtoH:DEA	20.99 and 23.47	1.1	0.9 and 1.5
2	Chiralpak OJ-H (250 × 4.6 mm)	30:70:0.1 n-Hex:IPA:DEA	10.63	No Res	NA
		100:0.1 IPA:DEA	16.24	No Res	NA
		100:0.1 EtOH:DEA	11.83	No Res	NA
		100:0.1 EtoH:DEA	Peaks not eluted	NA	NA
3	Chiralpak IC (250 × 4.6 mm)	50:50:0.1 MeoH:EtoH:DEA	Peaks not eluted	NA	NA
		50:50:0.1 EtoH:ACN:DEA	26.01 and 27.97	0.9	1.0 and 2.1
		100:0.1 EtoH:DEA	31.59 and 34.67	1.2	1.1 and 1.4
4	Chiralpak IE (250 × 4.6 mm)	50:50:0.1 MeoH:EtoH:DEA	Peaks not eluted	No Res	NA
		100:0.1 IPA:DEA	11.43	No Res	NA
		100:0.1 EtoH:DEA	7.17 and 7.87	1.3	1.1 and 1.5
5	Chiralpak IA (250 × 4.6 mm)	50:50:0.1 MeoH:EtoH:DEA	9.10 and 10.59	1.5	1.5
		90:10:0.1 n-Hex:EtoH:DEA	Peaks not eluted	NA	NA
		30:70:0.1 n-Hex:IPA:DEA	10.27	No Res	NA
		10:90:0.1 n-Hex:EtoH:DEA	13.72 and 15.41	2.2	1.3 and 1.2
6	Chiralpak AD-H (250 × 4.6 mm)	100:0.1 EtoH:DEA	14.25 and 17.68	3.8	1.3 and 1.2
		90:10:0.1 EtoH:MeoH:DEA	14.25 and 17.69	5.5	1.1 and 1.3

Note: n-Hex: n-Hexane; MeoH: Methanol; EtoH: Ethanol; DEA: Diethyl amine; IPA: Isopropyl alcohol; ACN: Acetonitrile; NA: Not applicable; No Res: No resolution.

3.2. Method Validation

3.2.1. Method Precision

The developed method was validated in terms of repeatability (Intra-day) and intermediate precision. Repeatability was established at four different levels (LOQ, 50%, 100%, and 150%) to the specification limit of 0.15% as per ICH guidelines. Performed the study by spiking the S-LINA in test sample at four different concentration as per above.

The same study has been repeated to generate intermediate precision for two consecutive days by using different instruments, different columns and different analyst. The intermediate precision and method repeatability are measured by calculating % relative standard deviation (% RSD) for area of S-LINA. The % RSD values for intra-day precision and inter-day precision were found less than 0.5%, these values indicate that developed method was precise.

3.2.2. Detection Limit and Quantification Limit

Limit of detection (LOD) and limit of quantitation (LOQ) were established based on signal to noise ratio. LOD is the lowest analyte concentration that can be detected and LOQ is the lowest analyte concentration that can be quantified. LOD and LOQ values are established by injecting a series of diluted solutions of S-LINA and calculated signal to noise ratio (S/N ratio). The LOD and LOQ values achieved for S-LINA were 0.03 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{mL}^{-1}$ and 0.10 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{mL}^{-1}$ respectively.

3.2.3. Linearity

Linearity is performed by injecting a series of diluted solutions of S-LINA ranging from LOQ to 150%. The linearity curve was plotted for peak area of S-LINA and concentration using least squares method. The correlation

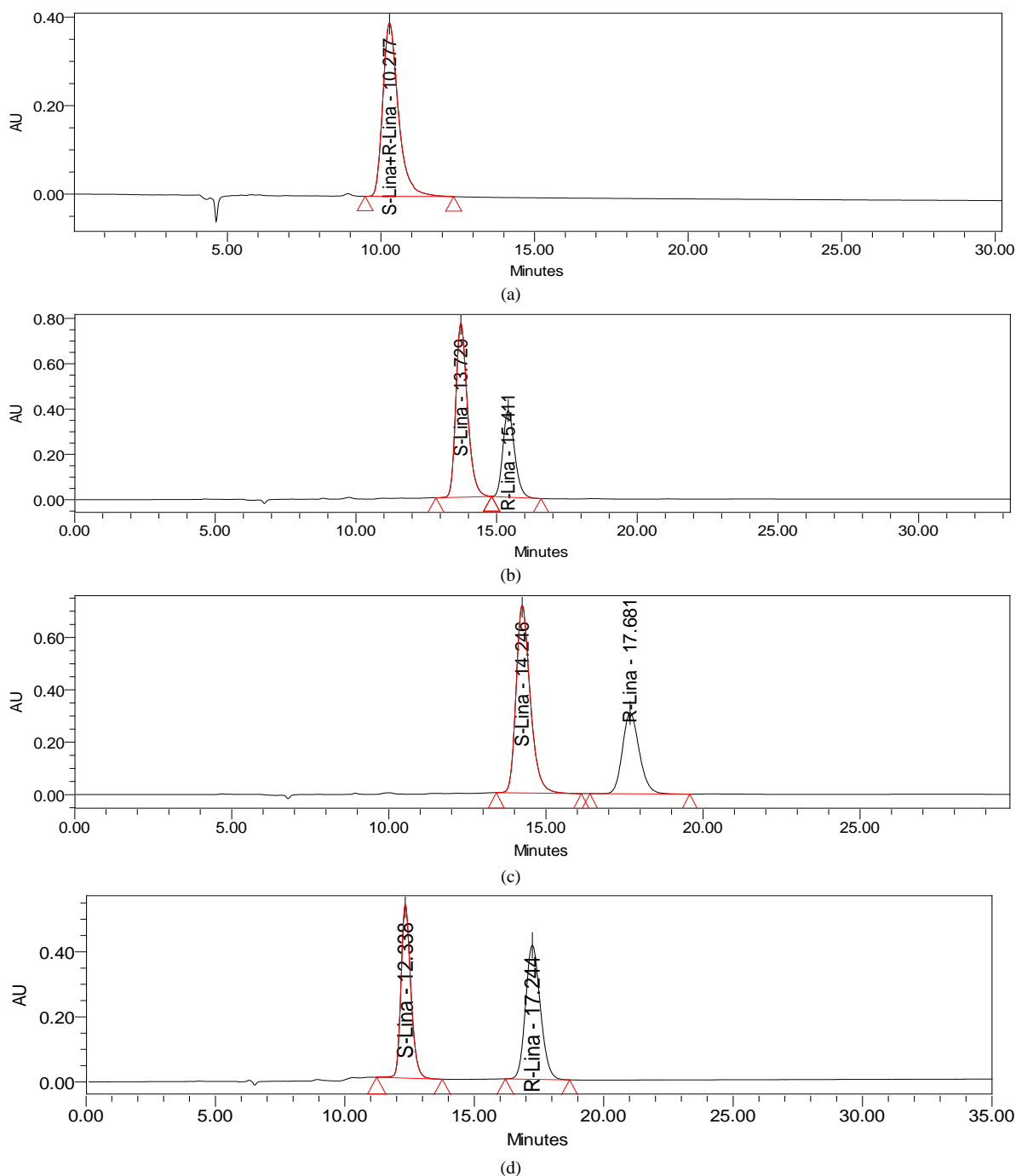


Figure 3. Method development chromatograms. (a) Typical chromatogram of method development experiment. Chromatographic conditions; Column: Chiralpak AD-H (250*4.6 mm*5 μm), mobile phase composition: 30:70:0.1 (v/v/v) n-hexane: iso-propyl alcohol: diethyl amine at a flow rate of 0.5 mL·min⁻¹ with column oven temperature 30°C. No resolution between S-LINA and R-LINA. (b) Typical chromatogram of method development experiment. Chromatographic conditions; Column: Chiralpak AD-H (250*4.6 mm*5 μm), mobile phase composition: 10:90:0.1 (v/v/v) n-hexane: ethanol: diethyl amine at a flow rate of 0.5 mL·min⁻¹ with column oven temperature 30°C. Resolution between S-LINA and R-LINA was 2.2. (c) Typical chromatogram of method development experiment. Chromatographic conditions; Column: Chiralpak AD-H (250*4.6 mm*5 μm), mobile phase composition: 100:0.1 (v/v) Ethanol: Diethyl amine at a flow rate of 0.5 mL·min⁻¹ with column oven temperature 30°C. Resolution between S-LINA and R-LINA was 3.8. (d) Typical chromatogram of method development experiment. Chromatographic conditions; Column: Chiralpak AD-H (250*4.6 mm*5 μm), mobile phase composition: 90:10:0.1 (v/v/v) Ethanol: Methanol: Diethyl amine at a flow rate of 0.5 mL·min⁻¹ with column oven temperature 30°C. Resolution between S-LINA and R-LINA was 5.5.

coefficient between concentration and peak area was 0.9997. Slope, y-intercept and % y-intercept at 100% level were calculated.

3.2.4. Accuracy

The recovery studies were performed at LOQ, 50%, 100% and 150% to the specification level. Each concentration level was prepared in triplicate, and the recovery was calculated based on mentioned in Equation (1).

$$\% \text{Recovery of S-LINA} = \frac{\% \text{S-LINA Found}}{\% \text{S-LINA added}} \times 100 \quad (1)$$

The accuracy values are in between 98.6% to 101.5%.

3.2.5. Solution and Mobile Phase Stability

Establishing solution and mobile phase stability by keeping the system suitability solution, Reference solution, test solution and spiked solution separately in tightly closed volumetric flasks at room temperature for 48 hr. during which they were analysed at 12 hrs intervals. Stability of mobile phase was demonstrated by analysis of freshly prepared sample solution at 12 hrs intervals for 48 hrs and comparing the results with those obtained from freshly prepared reference solution. Mobile phase was kept constant during the study period. From the data it can be concluded that mobile phase and sample solutions were found to be stable for 48 hrs.

3.2.6. Robustness

Robustness was studied by altering chromatographic conditions like flow rate and column oven temperature and found to be there is no significant change observed in resolution between S-LINA and R-LINA.

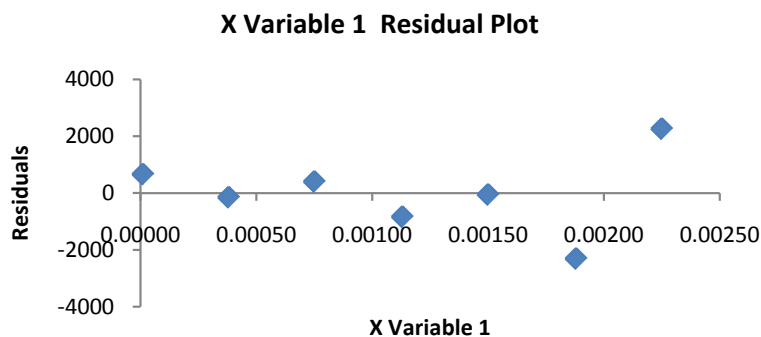
Validation parameters were summarized in **Tables 2-4**.

Table 2. Summarized data of method validation.

Parameter	S-LINA
<i>Linearity</i>	
Correlation coefficient	0.9997
Slope	76,094,169.1
Y-Intercept	1137.7
% Y-Intercept	0.99
<i>Accuracy (% Recovery)</i>	
LOQ (n = 3)	98.6
50% (n = 3)	101.5
100% (n = 3)	100.3
150% (n = 3)	99.8
<i>Precision (% RSD)</i>	
LOQ (n = 6)	1.53
50% (n = 6)	0.42
100% (n = 6)	0.35
<i>Ruggedness; Different day and analyst (% RSD)</i>	
100% (n = 6)	0.49
<i>Robustness (Resolution)</i>	
Actual flow 0.5 mL/min	5.5
Different flow 0.45 mL/min	5.8
Different flow 0.55 mL/min	5.0
Different Column Temperature 35°C	5.2
Different Column Temperature 25°C	5.6
<i>Limit of Detection (Concentration in µg/mL)</i>	0.03
<i>Limit of Quantification (Concentration in µg/mL)</i>	0.1

Table 3. S-LINA anova.

SUMMARY OUTPUT		ANOVA					
Regression Statistics		<i>df</i>	<i>SS</i>	<i>MS</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Significance F</i>	
Multiple R	0.999740884	Regression	1	22,669,609,164	22,669,609,164	9644.441	2.07553E-09
R Square	0.999481835	Residual	5	11,752,681.75	2,350,536.349		
Adjusted R Square	0.999378202	Total	6	22,681,361,846			
Standard Error	1533.145899						
Standard Error × 3	4599.437698	<i>Coefficients</i>	<i>Standard Error</i>	<i>t Stat</i>	<i>P-value</i>	<i>Lower 95%</i>	
Observations	7	Intercept	1137.723473	1049.036734	1.084541118	0.327627	-1558.9113
		X Variable 1	76,094,169.07	774,841.4559	98.20611494	2.08E-09	74,102,375.7
		<i>Upper 95%</i>	<i>Lower 95.0%</i>	<i>Upper 95.0%</i>			
		3834.358245	-1558.9113	3834.358245			
		78,085,962.45	74,102,375.7	78,085,962.45			
RESIDUAL OUTPUT							
<i>Observation</i>	<i>Predicted Y</i>	<i>Residuals</i>	<i>Standard Residuals</i>				
1	1898.665163	664.3348367	0.474672601				
2	30,053.50772	-146.507721	-0.104680949				
3	58,208.35028	405.6497212	0.289839999				
4	87,124.13453	-832.1345272	-0.594566834				
5	115,278.9771	-50.97708498	-0.036423539				
6	144,194.7613	-2303.761333	-1.64605606				
7	172,349.6039	2263.396109	1.617214781				

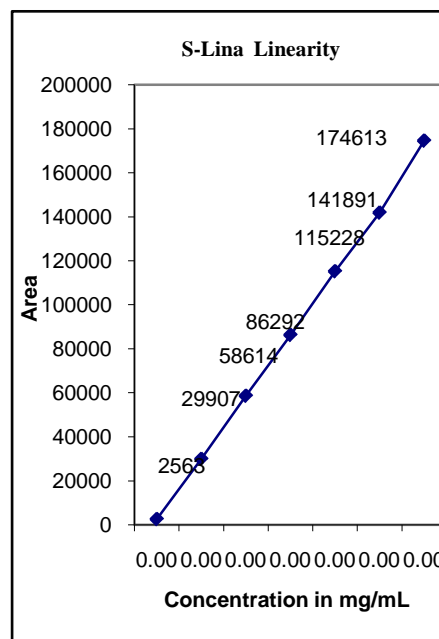


3.2.7. Specificity

Specificity is the ability of the method to measure the analyte in presence of degradation products. The specificity of developed method for LINA was performed in the presence of degradation products. Stress studies were performed at concentration of $1 \text{ mg}\cdot\text{mL}^{-1}$ for LINA drug substance. Linagliptin was subjected to Thermal, photolytic, water, oxidation, Acid and Basic conditions were applied. Each degraded sample was injected as such and spiked with enantiomer. To evaluate the ability of proposed method to separate S-LINA from its degradation products, stressed samples were analyzed by using PDA detector and peak purities were calculated, and found that purity angle was within the purity threshold limit in all stressed samples which demonstrates the homogeneity of analyte peak. S-LINA content remains same in all stressed samples. Enantiomer was well separated from the obtained degradation products. Stress conditions for LINA and purity plot were summarized in Table 5 and Figure 4.

Table 4. S-LINA linearity.

S. No	concentration	Actual concentration in mg/ml	S-LINA Area
1	LOQ	0.00001	2563
2	25%	0.00038	29,907
3	50%	0.00075	58,614
4	75%	0.00113	86,292
5	100%	0.00150	115,228
6	125%	0.00188	141,891
7	150%	0.00225	174,613
		Correlation	0.9997
		Slope	76,094,169.1
		y-intercept	1137.7
		% y-intercept	0.99

**Table 5.** Summarized data of specificity study.

S. No.	Specificity condition	Time	Purity Angle	Purity Threshold	Purity Flag	
1	Unstresssample		8.312	8.812	No	
2	UV (Photolytic) Degradation	200 watt hours/m2	10 Days	8.231	8.928	No
3	Visible (Photolytic) Degradation	1.2 million lux hours	10 Days	8.319	8.891	No
4	Thermal Degradation	105°C	10 Days	7.256	7.956	No
5	Acid hydrolysis	0.5 N HCl, 70°C	30 Hrs	3.199	3.316	No
6	Base hydrolysis	0.5 N NaOH, 27°C	16 Hrs	7.101	7.342	No
7	Oxidation Degradation	3% H2O2	10 min.	7.982	8.125	No
8	Water hydrolysis	70°C	30 Hrs	4.256	4.896	No

4. Conclusions

A simple, precise, accurate and cost effective chiral method was developed and validated as per ICH guidelines.

Enantiomers were well separated from each other and the method validation data showed satisfactory results for all tested method parameters. All the degradation products formed during stress conditions were well separated from the S-LINA and purity angle was within the purity threshold limit in all stressed samples indicating that the developed liquid chromatographic method was specific. This simple HPLC method was precise, accurate, linear, robust, sensitive and rugged. Developed method can be used for routine testing in quality control laboratories for estimation of S-LINA in LINA drug substance.

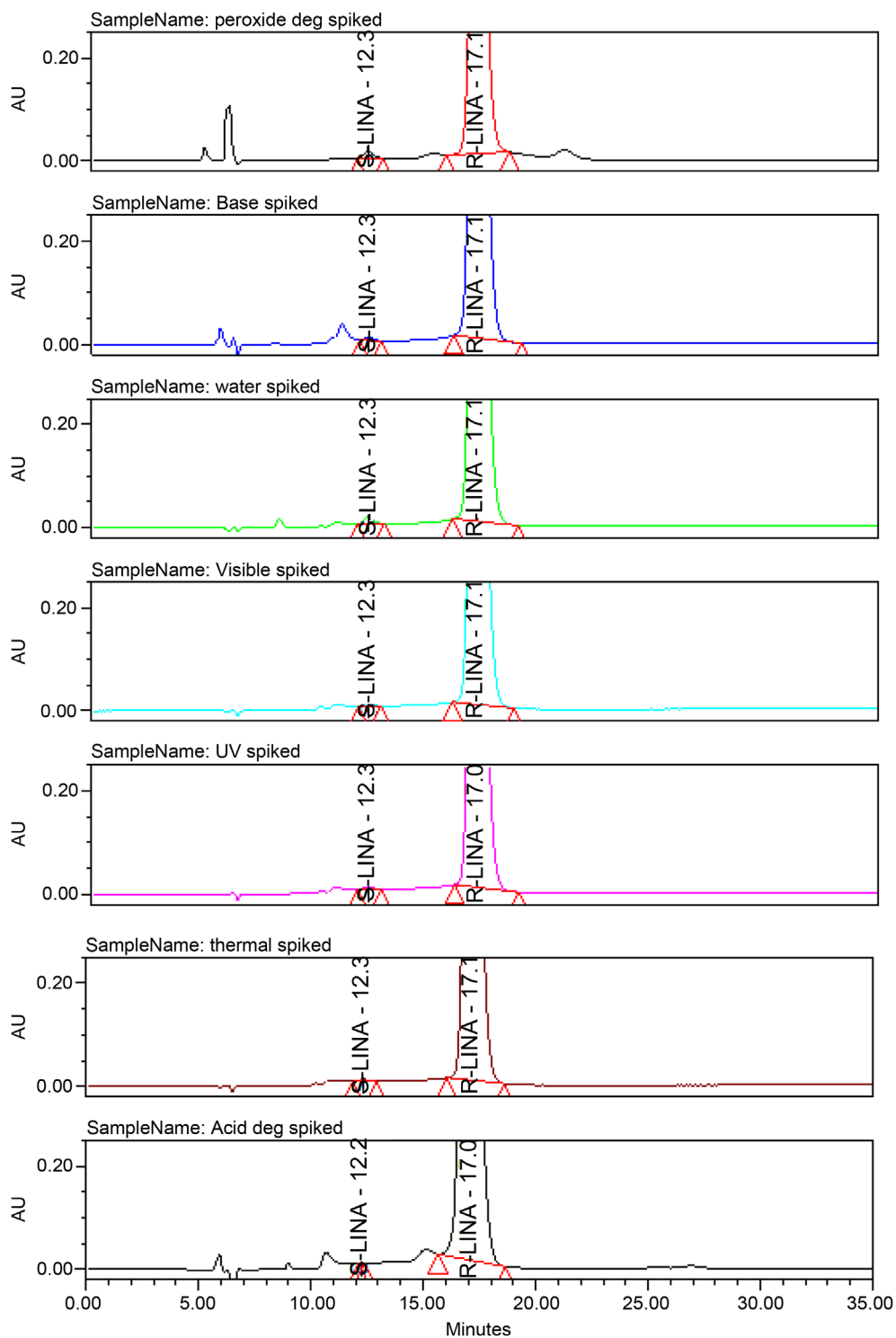


Figure 4. Linagliptin specificity chromatograms.

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