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Batch and Flow Injection Spectrophotometric Determination of Tetracycline Hydrochloride and Doxycycline Hyclate in Pharmaceutical Preparations

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Abstract:

New, simple and accurate batch and flow injection spectrophotometric methods have been developed for the determination of tetracycline hydrochloride (TCH) and doxycycline hyclate (DCH) in pharmaceutical preparations. The methods are based on diazotization of metchloramide and coupling reaction with either TCH or DCH in alkaline medium to form yellow–orange water soluble dye with absorption maxima at 414 and 436 nm for TCH and DCH, respectively. A graphs of absorbance versus concentration show that Beer's law was obeyed over the concentration ranges of 1 –52 $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ TCH and DCH for batch method and of 8 – 240 $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ TCH and 5 – 350 $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ DCH for FIA method. The limits of detection in batch methods were 0.333 and 0.235 $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ for TCH and DCH respectively, and in FIA methods were 0.895, 0.612 $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ for TCH and DCH respectively. Sample throughputs in FIA procedures were 120 and 80 samples per hour for TCH and DCH, respectively. Different chemical and physical experimental parameters affecting on the development and stability of the colored product were carefully studied and the proposed methods were successfully applied for determination of TCH and DCH in pharmaceutical preparations.

Keywords: Tetracycline hydrochloride, Doxycycline hyclate, Metchloramide, Flow injection analysis

التقدير الطيفي للتراسايكلين هيدروكلورايد والدوكسي سايكلين هايكلات في المستحضرات

الصيدلانية بطريقة الدفعة والحقن الجرياني

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الخلاصة

يتضمن البحث تطوير طرائق بسيطة وجديدة وذلك باستخدام تقنية المطياف الضوئي بطريقة الدفع والحقن الجريان للتقدير الكمي لكمالنتراسايكلين هيدروكلورايد و الدوكسي سايكلين هايكلاتي المستحضرات الصيدلانية. اعتمدنا الطرائق على تفاعل الازودنة والازدواج بين المينكلوربيرمايد المؤزوت والنتراسايكلين والدوكسي سايكلين حيث تكون ناتج من اصباغ الازو الملونة وذات الجاهل اعطت على قمة امتصاص عند طول موجي 414 و 436 نانوميتر لكل من النتراسايكلين والدوكسي سايكلين عند التوالي. تشير منحنيات الامتصاص مقابل التركيز بان قانون بيرينطبق ضمن مدى التركيز 1-52 و 1-50 مايكروغرام لكل مل لكل من النتراسايكلين هيدروكلورايد والدوكسي سايكلين على التوالي ويحدد كشف 0.333 و 0.235 مايكروغرام لكل مل للنتراسايكلين هيدروكلورايد والدوكسي سايكلين هيكلات على التوالي لطريقة الدفع. اما بطريقة الحقن - الجريان في كاندى التركيز من 5-280 و 5-350 مايكرو غرام لكل مل للنتراسايكلين هيدروكلورايد والدوكسي سايكلين هيكلات على التوالي، وحدود الكشف كانت 0.895 و 0.612 مايكروغرام لكل مل للنتراسايكلين والدوكسي سايكلين على التوالي، تمت دراسة الظروف المثلى للتغيرات الكيميائية والفيزيائية بدقة وطبقا لطريقتين بنجاح على المستحضرات الصيدلانية الحاوية على النتراسايكلين هيدروكلورايد والدوكسي سايكلين هيكلات، وقورنتا النتائج التيمت الحصول عليها مع نتائج طرائق التحليل القياسية للادوية اعلاها وظهرت نتائج المقارنة عدم وجود فرق جوهري بين نتائج الطرائق المقترحة ونتائج الطريقة القياسية .

Introduction:

Tetracyclines (TCs) represent a class of antibacterial compounds which got their name because they share chemical structures that has four rings (Figure-1). Tetracycline hydrochloride (TCH) and doxycycline hyclate (DCH) with all tetracycline drugs have the same broad spectrum antibiotics for their activity against nearly all gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria but differ between them in bioavailability and other pharmacological properties. Due to their broad antibacterial spectrum and economic advantages, TCs have been commonly used in human pathologies as well as in veterinary medicine, animal nutrition and feed additives for cattle growth. TCs are used for many different infections, such as respiratory tract infections and have a role in the treatment of multidrug resistant malaria. [1-3]

Several methods have been reported in the literature for the analysis of TCs including spectrophotometry [4-9]; chromatography [10], and high performance liquid chromatography [11-13], fluorimetry [14-16], chemiluminescence [17-19], potentiometry [20-23] and flow injection methods [24-26] have also been reported for the determination of TCs.

In the present paper an automated procedure is proposed for the spectrophotometric determination of TCH and DCH by coupling reaction with diazotized metoclopramide (DMCP) in alkaline medium. The reaction can be carried out in batch and in FIA and in this paper the two approaches are compared. The reaction products have been spectrophotometrically measured at 414, 436 nm for TCH and DCH respectively.

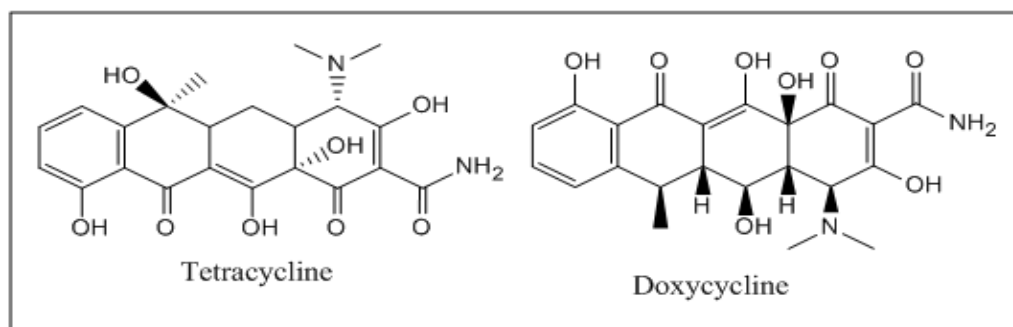


Figure 1-Chemical Structure of Tetracycline and Doxycycline

Experimental part: Materials and methods

Apparatus:

All spectral and absorbance measurements were carried out by using a Shimadzu UV – visible – 260 digital double beam recording spectrophotometer (Tokyo – Japan), and using 1 cm quartz cells. A quartz flow cell with 50 μL internal volume and 1 cm bath length used for the absorbance measurements. A two channel manifold (Figure-2) was employed for the FIA spectrophotometer determinations of TCH and DCH. A peristaltic pump (Ismatec Loboteknik – Analytic, CH – 8512, Glatbragg – Zurich, Switzerland, Six channels) was used to transport the reagents solutions. Injection valve (Rheodyne, Altex 210, supeko use) was employed to provide appropriate injection volumes of standard solutions and samples, flexible vinyl tubing of 0.5 mm internal diameter was used for the peristaltic pump. Reaction coil (RC) was of Teflon with internal diameter of 0.5 mm. The diazotized metochlopramide (DMCP) (A) stream was combined (Figure-2) with injected sample (TCH or DCH) and they merged with sodium hydroxide (B) stream at T – link then mixed in reaction coil (RC) with length (75 cm) for TCH and (100 cm) for DCH, injection loop (200 μL), total flow rate 1.5 mL min^{-1} , the absorbance was measured at 414 nm for TCH and 436 nm for DCH at temperature 25 $^{\circ}\text{C}$.

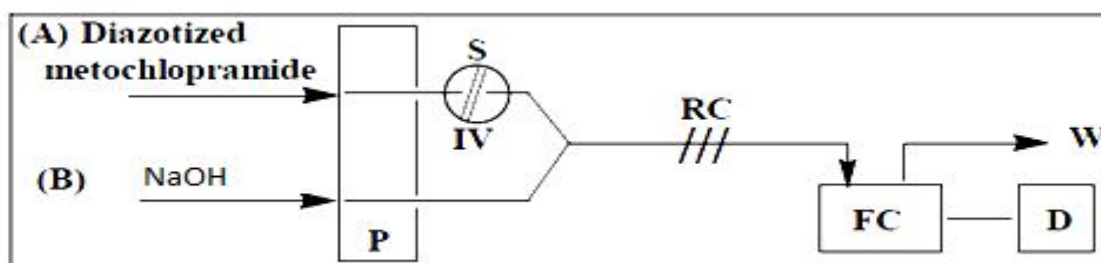


Figure 2 -A schematic diagram of FIA manifold where : (A) & (B) , solutions of diazotized metochlopramide and sodium hydroxide respectively ; P = peristaltic pump ; S= injection sample for TCH or DCH ; IV = injection valve ; RC=reaction coil ; FC = flow cell ; D=detector ; W= waste

Reagents and materials

Analytical reagents grade chemicals and distilled water was used throughout.

A. Tetracycline and Doxycycline stock solutions (500 $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$):

0.05 g amount of pure TCH (SDI-Iraq) or DCH (SDI-Iraq) was dissolved in distilled water then completed to 100 mL in a volumetric flask with the same solvent; more dilute solutions were prepared by suitable dilution of the stock standard solutions with distilled water.

B. Hydrochloric acid (BDH-England) (1M):

was prepared by diluting 21.5 mL of concentrated hydrochloric acid (11.64 M) with distilled water in 250 mL volumetric flask.

C. Sodium hydroxide (BDH-England) (0.5M):

A 5.00 g amount of NaOH (BDH) was dissolved in a 250mL volumetric flask with distilled water; 0.1M of sodium hydroxide was prepared by dilution with distilled water.

D. Diazotized metoclopramide(DMCP) (5×10^{-3} M) reagent solution:

0.1772g of pure metoclopramide (SDI-Iraq) was dissolved in distilled water in 100 mL volumetric flask, 3 mL of hydrochloric acid (1M) was added and was placed in an ice bath for 5 min then 0.0345 g of sodium nitrite was added. After 5 min, complete the volume to mark by distilled water and used as stock solution for batch procedure.

For FIA procedure stock solution of DMCP (1×10^{-2} M) was prepared by dissolving 0.6857 g of metoclopramide (SDI) with amount of distilled water in 250 mL volumetric flask and add 7.5 mL of hydrochloric acid (1M) and put it in ice bath for 5 min then add 0.725 g of sodium nitrite. After 5 min, the volume was completed to the mark with distilled water, more dilute solutions were prepared by suitable dilution of the stock solution with distilled water.

Pharmaceutical preparations:

All pharmaceutical preparations were obtained from commercial sources as follow:

- 1- Samacycline 10-capsules (Samara-Iraq), each capsule contain 250 mg of tetracycline hydrochloric.
- 2- Apcycline 10-capsules (Ajenta-India), each capsule contain 250 mg of tetracycline hydrochloride.
- 3- Tetracycline.HCl 10-capsules (MEHECO-China), each capsule contain 250 mg of tetracycline hydrochloride.
- 4- Doxycycline hyclate 8-capsules (Actvis-Barnstaple, UK), each capsule contain 100 mg of doxycycline.
- 5- Tabocline 10-capsules (Tabuk-K.S.A), each capsule contain 100 mg of doxycycline hyclate.
- 6- Medomycin 10-capsules (Medochemie Ltd.-Cyprus), each capsule contain 100 mg of doxycycline.HCl.

General Batch procedure:

Into a series of 25 mL volumetric flasks, an increasing volume of tetracycline and doxycycline working solutions ($100 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$) were transferred to cover the range of the calibration graphs (Table 1), and then add 1mL of DMCP (5mM) and 1mL of NaOH (0.1 M). The solutions were diluted to the mark with distilled water, mixed well and left for 10 min at room temperature ($25 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$). The absorbance was measured at 414nm and 436 nm for TCH and DCH respectively versus the reagent blanks prepared in the same way containing no tetracycline drugs.

A calibration graphs were drawn and regression equations were calculated. For the optimization of conditions and in all subsequent experiments were carried out on $10 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ of TCH and DCH.

General FIA procedure:

Working solution of TCH and DCH in the range ($5\text{-}240 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$) for TCH and ($5\text{-}350 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$) for DCH cited in (Table 1) were prepared from stock solution. A $200 \mu\text{L}$ portion of the drugs solutions were injected into the stream of the 5mM of DMCP and was then combined with a stream of 0.1 M sodium hydroxide with a total flow rate of 1.5 mL min^{-1} . The resulting absorbance of the colored dye was measured at maximum wave length for each drug. A calibration graphs was prepared over the range cited in (Table 1), optimization of conditions was carried out on $40 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ for both drugs.

Analysis of pharmaceutical preparations:

An accurate weight (from 10 powdered capsules of 250mg of TCH and 100 mg DCH for each drug), equivalent to 50 mg DCH or TCH of the pure drug was dissolved in distilled water and was transferred into a 100 mL volumetric flask (to prepare $500 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ of drug) and was completed to the mark with distilled water. The flask with its contents was shaken well and filtered. More dilute solutions of pharmaceutical for batch and FIA procedures were made up by simple dilution with distilled water and the measurement was carried out as described earlier under general procedures.

Results and Discussion:

The factors affective on the sensitivity and stability of the colored products resulting from the diazotization-coupling reaction of diazotized metoclopramide with either TCH or DCH in an alkaline medium were carefully studied. A typical spectrum for the $40 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ of the dye formed was measured versus reagent blank which has negligible absorbance at 414 nm for TCH and 436 nm for DCH (Figure-3).

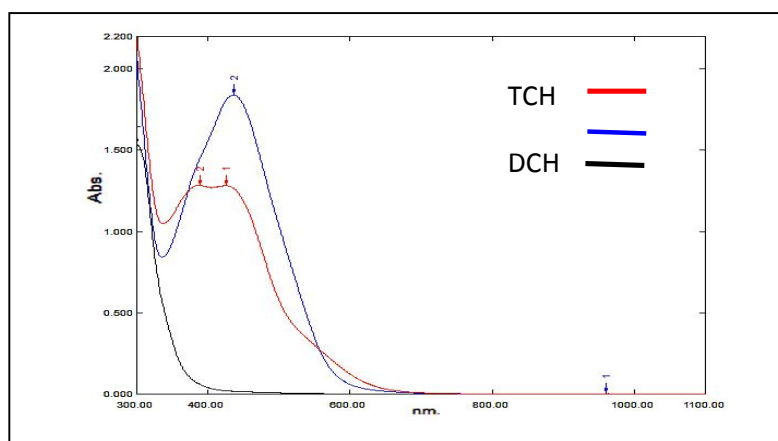


Figure 3- Absorption spectra of the azo dye ($40 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$) of TCH & DCH and blank against distilled water

The colored dye product was only formed in alkaline medium, therefore, the effect of different alkaline solutions were studied such as sodium acetate, sodium carbonate, ammonium hydroxide and sodium hydroxide and a maximum sensitivity and stability were obtained only when the reaction was carried out in the presence of sodium hydroxide solutions.

Batch spectrophotometry determinations:

The best experimental conditions for the determination of TCH and DCH were established for DMCP (5×10^{-3} M) (from 0.3 to 6 mL), sodium hydroxide 0.1 M (from 0.3 to 5 mL) by adding various volumes of their solutions to fixed concentrations of TCH and DCH ($250 \mu\text{g}$ in a fixed volume of 25 mL) and measuring the absorbance at maximum wave length, also the effect of hydrochloric acid 1M solution was used for preparing DMCP and was studied in the range (from 0.5 to 5 mL).

The obtained results show that 3 mL of hydrochloric acid (1 M), 1 mL of DMCP (5×10^{-3} M) and 1 mL of sodium hydroxide are the volumes that can give a higher absorbance intensity and stability of the dye product at 414 nm for $10 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ TCH and 436 nm for $10 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ DCH. Experimental results recorded that the color intensity reaches a maximum after drug solution had been reacted with DMCP in alkaline medium for 5 min therefore a 10 min development time was suggested as the optimum reaction time and remained stable for 60 min. The order of addition of the reagents is an essential part of the experiment it was found that the order of addition of the reagent cited under general procedure

gave maximum color intensity and a minimum absorbance of the blank and was used in all subsequent experiments.

The effect of temperature on the color intensity of the dye was studied, in practice, high absorbance was obtained when the color was developed at room temperature (25°C) then when the calibrated flasks were placed in an ice-bath at (0°C) or in a water bath at (45°C).

The stoichiometry of the reaction was studied using equimolar concentrations of the drugs and DMCP (5.125×10^{-4} M) at constant sodium hydroxide concentrations, adopting a continuous variation (Job's method) and mole ratio methods [27], a molar ratio of 1:1 drugs to DMCP obtained by applied methods as shown in Figure-4 the proposed reaction mechanism proceed according to (Figure-5). The stability constants of the dye products were calculated [28] by comparing the absorbance of the solution containing stoichiometric amount of TCH or DCH and DMCP with that of solution containing five-fold excess of DMCP reagent. The stability constants of the dye products in water under the described experimental conditions were 3.014×10^5 and $3.627 \times 10^4 \text{ L.Mol}^{-1}$ for each of TCH and DCH respectively.

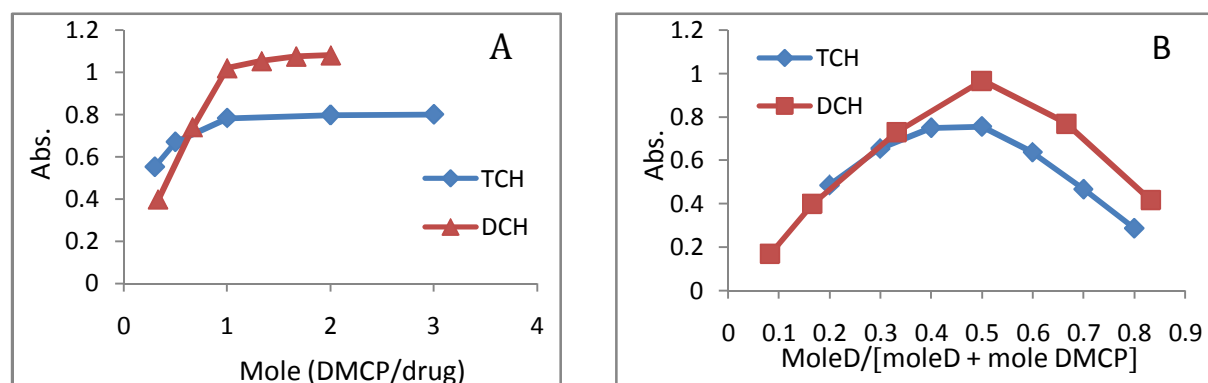


Figure 4- Stoichiometric plots for colored dye products: A: mole ratio plot; B: continues variation plots

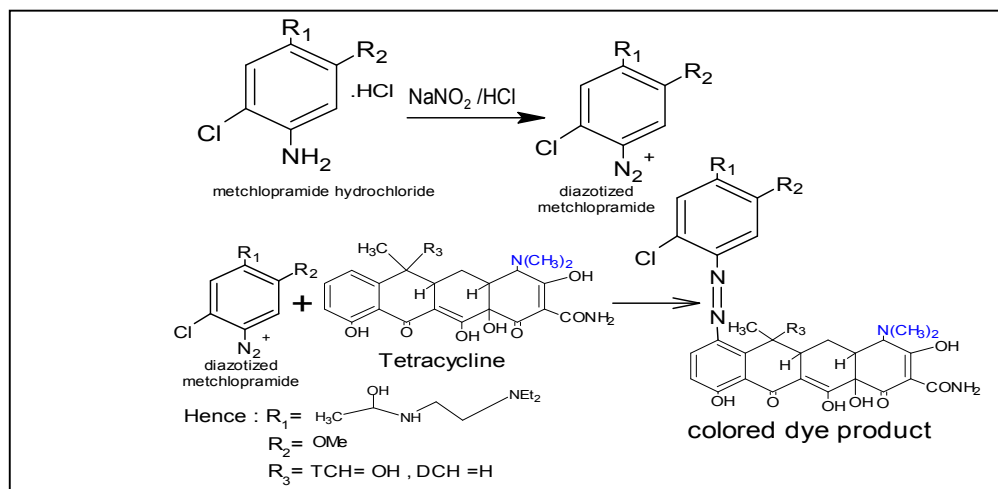


Figure 5-reaction mechanism for producing colored azo-dye

In order to assess the possible analytical applications of the proposed methods the effect of some common excipients frequently found with TCH and DCH drugs in pharmaceutical formulations, such as poly vinyl pyrrolidone (PVP), lactose, talc, starch and magnesium stearate were studied by analyzing synthetic sample solutions containing $10 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ of either TCH and DCH and excess amounts (10-fold excess of each excipient), none of these substances interfered seriously.

The regression equations obtained from a series of TCH or DCH standards and the analytical features of the procedures are summarized in Table 1. It also summarizes the main performance of the flow procedure developed for TCH and DCH determination in order to make an effective comparison between the two approaches.

Table 1- Analytical characteristics of the procedures for the determinations of TCH and DCH

Parameter	Bach method		FIA method	
	TCH	DCH	TCH	DCH
Regression equation	$Y=0.03x+0.0211$	$Y=0.0426x+0.057$	$Y=0.0067x+0.0135$	$Y=0.007x+0.0165$
Linear range ($\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$)	1-56	1-52	5 – 240	5 – 350
Correlation coefficient	0.9993	0.9981	0.9993	0.9996
Limit of detection ($\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$)	0.3339	0.2352	0.6127	0.8955
Average of recovery, %	99.432	102.452	100.414	102.096
Relative standard deviation (RSD), %	1.918	1.876	0.915	0.8015
Sandell's Sensitivity ($\mu\text{g cm}^{-2}$)	0.0333	0.0234	0.1492	0.1428
Through-put (hr^{-1})	6	6	120	80
Molar absorptivity ($\text{L mol}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$)	21.849×10^3	14.427×10^3	3.222×10^3	3.590×10^3

FIA determination:

The batch method for the determination of TCH and DCH were adopted as a basis to develop FIA procedure. The manifolds used for the determination of each of TCH and DCH were so designed to provide different reaction conditions for magnifying the absorbance signal generated by the reaction of TCH and DCH drugs with DMCP in sodium hydroxide medium. Maximum absorbance intensity was obtained when the sample was injected into a stream of DMCP reagent and was combined with the stream of sodium hydroxide. The influence of different chemical and physical FIA parameter on the absorbance intensity of the colored product was optimized as follows:

Chemical variables

The effect of different concentrations range (1×10^{-3} - 1×10^{-2} M) of DMCP was investigated, while keeping other conditions constant, it was found that a 5×10^{-3} M of DMCP was found to be the most suitable concentration for obtaining maximum absorbance (Figure- 6), and was chosen for further use, sodium hydroxide was found necessary for developing the colored product and increase its stability the effect of sodium hydroxide was studied in the concentration range (0.04-0.14)M and a greatest absorbance intensity with lower baseline intensity was obtained with 0.1M of sodium hydroxide for determination of TCH and DCH respectively (Figure-7).

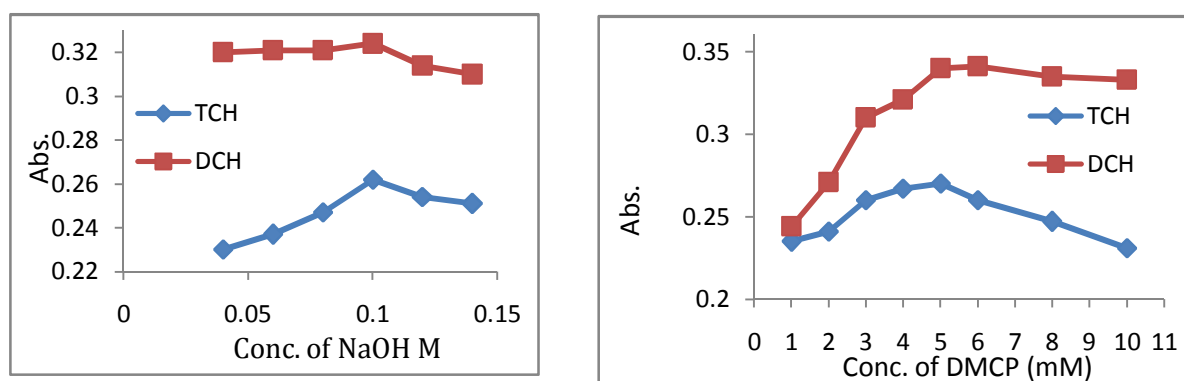


Figure 6-Effect the concentration of NaOH **Figure 7**-Effect the concentration of DMCP

Physical variables

The variables studied under the optimized reagent concentrations were the flow rate, the injected sample volume and the reaction coil length. The effect of total flow rate on the sensitivity of the colored reaction product was investigated in the range (0.5-4)mL.min⁻¹ the result obtained showed that a total flow rate of 1.5mL.min⁻¹ gave the highest absorbance as shown in (Figure-8) and was used in all subsequent experiments. The volume of the injected sample was varied between 100 – 250 μ L using different length of sample loop, the result obtained showed that injected sample of 200 μ L gave the best absorbance and good reproducibility(Figure-9). Reaction coil is an essential parameter that affected on the sensitivity of the colored reaction product and was investigated in the range of (25 – 250 cm). The result obtained showed that a coil length of 75 cm for TCH and 100 cm for DCH gave the highest absorbance as shown in (Figure-10), and was used in all subsequent experiments. A standard calibration lines, obtained for series of TCH and DCH standards and the main analytical feature of merits of the developed procedures are indicated in Table 1. The accuracy and the precision of the proposed method were studied as shown in Table2.

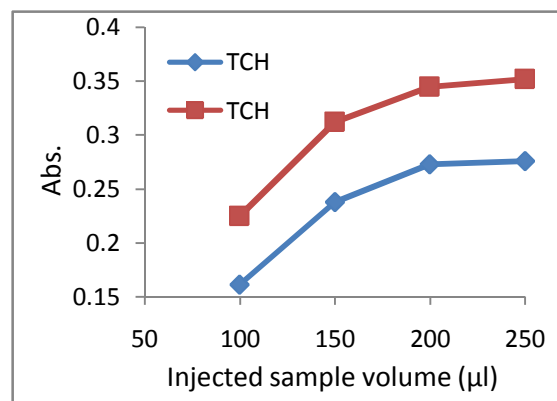
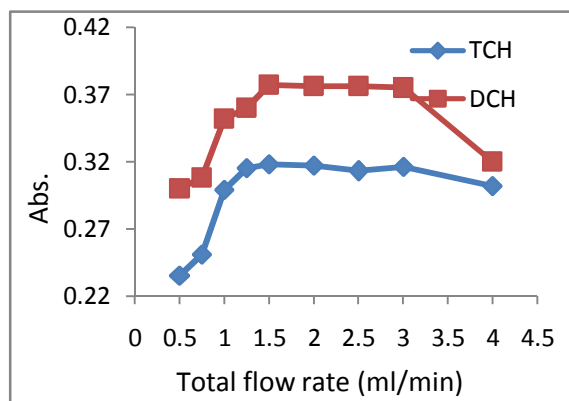


Figure 8-Effect of the total flow rate (mLmin^{-1}) Figure 9-Effect of the injection volume (μl)

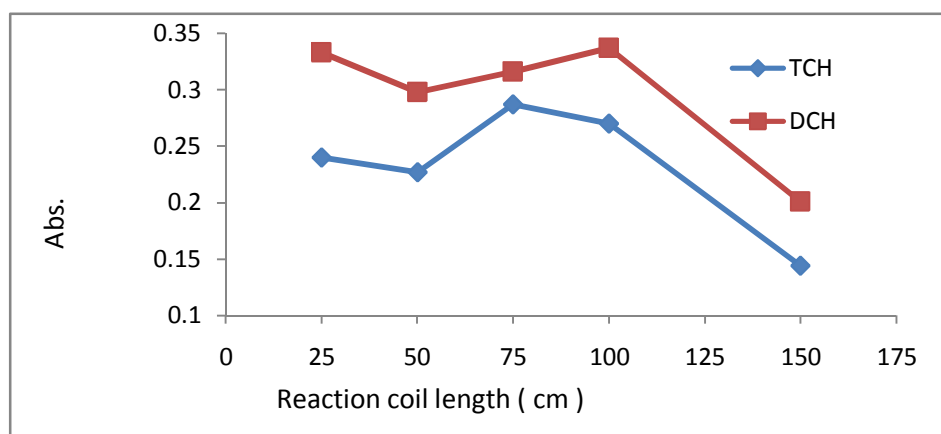


Figure 10- Effect of the length of the reaction coil (cm)

Table 2- The accuracy and precision of the proposed methods (Batch and FI)

Drug	Batch method					Flow injection method				
	Conc. $\mu\text{g.mL}^{-1}$		E%*	Rec.%*	RSD%*	Conc. $\mu\text{g.mL}^{-1}$		E%*	Rec.%*	RSD%*
	Present	Found				present	found			
TCH	8	7.87	-1.54	98.45	1.76	32	32.29	0.92	100.93	1.51
	16	16.00	0.02	100.02	2.36	80	79.61	-0.48	99.51	0.38
	24	23.95	-0.18	99.81	1.62	120	120.95	0.79	100.79	0.83
DCH	8	8.27	3.46	103.46	3.09	50	51.04	2.08	102.08	0.84
	16	16.41	2.58	100.58	1.49	80	81.5	1.87	101.87	0.94
	20	20.26	1.31	101.31	1.04	100	100.32	2.32	102.32	0.61

* Average of five determinations

Analytical applications:

Analytical application of the proposed methods were applied successfully to the analysis of some pharmaceutical preparations containing TCH and DCH. The results obtained are summarized in Table 3 which is in comparison with those obtained by the official standard methods [28]. Finally, statistical analysis [29], showed there is no significant different in precision and accuracy between the proposed methods and the official methods.

Table 3-Applications of the proposed and official methods to the determinations of some TCH and DCH in capsule forms

Pharmaceuticals	Batch			Flow injection analysis			Official method	
	Conc. $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$	Rec. %*	RSD %*	Conc. $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$	Rec.% *	RSD %*	Rec.% *	RSD% *
Samacycline (TCH) Capsule 250mg (SDI,Iraq)	16	100.0	0.41	50	101.80	0.651	100.74	1.422
	20	1	0.787	100	98.75	0.664	4	
		100.4						
Apocycline (TCH) Capsule 250 mg (ajenta,india)	16	100.3	1.518	50	99.67	1.254	97.529	3.122
	20	7	1.046	100	97.02			
		100.1						
Tetracycline(TC H) Capsule.250 mg (MEHECO., china)	16	98.93	0.348	50	97.30	1.606	98.69	2.044
	20	100.4	3.33	100	98.75	0.581		
		0						
Medomycin (DCH) Capsule 100mg (Kyprus)	16	100.9	1.09	50	101.75	1.518	101.58	1.364
	20	1	1.724	100	98.28	0.844	3	
		99.8						
Doxycycline(DC H) Capsule 100mg (actvas , UK)	16	98.87	2.71	50	99.321	0.977	102.28	0.776
	20	100.3	2.138	100	100.70	0.912	6	
		4						
Tabocine (DCH) capsule100mg (Tabok,K.S.A)	16	98.56	1.85	50	100.05	1.428	99.627	2.181
	20	101.7	1.242	100	99.80	0.987		

* Average of five determinations

Conclusion:

The application of diazotization–coupling reaction of diazotized metoclopramide in sodium hydroxide medium to the spectrophotometric determinations of the tetracycline hydrochloride and doxycycline hydrochloride in pharmaceutical preparations was described by batch and FIA systems. Although the batch system has the advantages of higher sensitivity and lower limit of detection over the FIA system, the FIA system has several advantages over the batch system simplicity, reproducibility, time saving, low reagent consumption, need of small sample volume, large dynamic range and high sample

throughput (120 sample h⁻¹ for TCH) and (80 sample h⁻¹ for DCH) are important features of the FIA system.

The proposed methods offer a good linearity and precision and can be applied to the analysis of a wide concentration range of TCH and DCH in real samples with satisfactory results.

The proposed methods are simple and inexpensive since it requires simple instrumentation.

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