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## Development and validation of stability and bioavailability indicating LC-MS/MS method for the determination of Letrozole in biological fluids

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**Purpose:** Letrozole (LZ) is a non-steroidal aromatase inhibitor that is used in the treatment of breast cancer. Our lab is currently conducting *in vitro* and *in vivo* studies on a newly developed dosage form of LZ, which requires the development of a highly sensitive method of analysis. The main objective of this study therefore, was to develop and validate a simple, rapid, stability and bioavailability indicating liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS) method for the determination of LZ in biological fluids.

**Methods:** Following liquid phase extraction, the analysis was performed using Agilent 1290 rapid resolution LC-system equipped with Zorbax Eclipse XDB C18 column (4  $\mu$ m, 4.6  $\times$  200 mm) maintained at 30°C. The mobile phase consisted of 0.1% Acetic Acid in water as solvent A and acetonitrile solvent B (30/70) using isocratic program with flow rate 1.25 ml/min. The injection volume was 10  $\mu$ L. Progesterone (PG) was used as an internal standard. All chromatograms were recorded and analyzed on Agilent Mass Hunter software. MS analysis was performed by multiple reaction monitoring (MRM) mode using 6460 triple quadrupole mass spectrometer (Agilent) equipped with a Jet stream electrospray source. The method was fully validated using international harmonization conference (ICH) and FDA guidelines.

**Results:** The retention times were 0.89 and 2.35 min for LZ and PG respectively. The method was specific and sensitive to LZ and was found linear over the concentration range of 25 pg/ml - 200 ng/ml ( $R^2 = 0.999$ ). The limit of detection and the limit of quantitation were found to be 8.7 and 17.5 nM, respectively. The inter-day and intra-day precisions (% RSD) were within acceptable limits. All other validation parameters were in the acceptable range within ICH guidelines.

**Conclusion:** The proposed LC/MS/MS method is simple, rapid, accurate, and can be successfully used for the analysis of LZ in blood and urine for assessment of its bioavailability and drug monitoring.

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