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Formulation and Evaluation of Sustained Release Matrix Tablets of Captopril

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ABSTRACT

The objective of the present study was to study the effect of polymers on sustained release of Captopril from tablets. Compatibility was studied by Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy and DSC. The tablets were prepared by direct compression technique using Xanthan gum and Ethyl Cellulose. The prepared matrix tablets were evaluated for their physicochemical parameters such as weight variation, hardness, friability, content uniformity and in-vitro dissolution. Pre and post compression parameters were evaluated and all the parameters were found within the limit. The drug release data were subjected to different models in order to evaluate release kinetics and mechanism of drug release. Formulation F4 was selected as best formulation. The dissolution of formulation F4 can be Shows Non-fickian drug release mechanism.

Keywords: Matrix tablets, Captopril, Xanthan gum, Ethyl cellulose.

INTRODUCTION

Sustained release technology is relatively new field and as a consequence, research in the field has been extremely fertile and has produced many discoveries. With many drugs, the basic goal is to achieve a steady state blood level that is therapeutically effective and non-toxic for an extended period of time. The design of proper dosage form is an important element to accomplish this goal. Sustained release, sustained action, prolonged action, controlled release, extended action, timed release and depot dosage form are term used to identify drug delivery system that are designed to achieve prolonged therapeutic effect by continuously releasing medication over an extended period of time after administration of a single dose. In the case of oral sustained released dosage form, an effect is for several hours depending upon residence time of formulation in the GIT. The success of a therapy depends on selection of the appropriate delivery system as much as drug itself.1 Sustained release dosage forms are designed to complement pharmaceutical activity of the medication in order to achieve better selectivity and longer duration of action. Captopril belongs to class Angiotensin Converting Enzyme inhibitor (ACE inhibitor). It effects the rennin-Angiotensin system and inhibits the conversion of relatively inactive Angiotensin I to active Angiotensin II. Thus, ACE inhibitors attenuate or abolish responses to Angiotensin I but not to Angiotensin II. Hence the inhibition of ACE therefore may induce the effect unrelated to reducing the level of Angiotensin II. ACE inhibition increase bradykinin synthesis which stimulate prostaglandin biosynthesis. Bradykinin and prostaglandin contribute pharmacological effect of ACE inhibitor. All these effects produce pharmacological actions like vasodilatation etc which ultimately decrease the blood pressure. Captopril is freely water-soluble and has a half-life 1.9 hours. It is usually prescribed to patients who are chronically ill and require long term use for therapeutic benefits. Development of a captopril oral formulation would be a significant advantage for patient compliance accompanied by minimization of the drug side effects as a result of reduction in the drug blood concentration fluctuations, especially in long-term therapy. The aim of this study was to prepare matrix tablets of Captopril using varying proportions of the Xanthan gum and Ethyl cellulose.

MATERIALS & METHODS

MATERIALS

Captopril was purchased from Swapnroop Drugs and Pharmaceuticals (Aurangabad, India)., HPMC K 100,Xanthan gum, PVP K30 purchased from Balaji Drugs, Ethyl cellulose, Lactose are from Modern Industries (Malegaon), and

Magnesium stearate , Talc are from Research lab fine chem industries (Mumbai).

METHOD OF PREPARATION OF MATRIX TABLETS

Matrix tablets of Captopril were prepared by direct compression technique using varying proportions of polymers in combination. The composition of matrix tablets is given in table -1. All the ingredients were individually passed through a 60 mesh sieve, except glidant and lubricant. For each formulation required quantities of Captopril, polymer (xanthan gum and Ethyl Cellulose), were accurately weighed according to the composition and mixed in a polybag for about 30 to 45 minutes. The obtained blend was lubricated with talc and magnesium stearate for another 5 minutes. The appropriate amount of the mixture was weighed and then compressed using 8 station rotary tablet press (CEMACH machineries ltd Ahmedabad, India) equipped with 11 mm flat faced punches at a constant compression force required to produce hardness of tablets about 2-4 kg/ cm². All the tablets were stored in airtight containers for further use.

Table 1: Formulation code for each Batch

Sr.no.	Excipients (mg)	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6	F7	F8	F9
1	Drug	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25
2	HPMC K-100	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
3	Xanthan gum	30	30	30	40	40	40	50	50	50
4	Ethyl cellulose	30	40	50	30	40	50	30	40	50
5	PVP	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
6	Lactose	54	44	34	44	34	24	34	24	14
7	Magnesium stearate	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
8	Talc	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
9	Total weight	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200

PRE-COMPRESSION PARAMETERS

Angle of repose (θ)

Angle of repose is defined as the maximum angle possible between the surface of a pile of the powder and horizontal plane. The frictional force in a loose powder or granules can be measured by the angle of repose.

$$\tan\theta = h / r$$

$\theta = \tan^{-1}(h/r)$

Where, θ is the angle of repose

h is height of pile

r is radius of the base of the pile

Carr's compressibility index

The compressibility index of the granules was determined by the Carr's compressibility index. (%) Carr's Index can be calculated by using the following formula

$$\text{Carr's Index (\%)} = \frac{\text{TBD - LBD}}{\text{TBD}} \times 100$$

POST-COMPRESSION PARAMETERS

The prepared matrix tablets were evaluated for their physical properties like , hardness and friability, swelling index and drug content.

Hardness test

Tablets require a certain amount of strength, or hardness and resistance to friability, to withstand mechanical shocks of handling during manufacture, packaging and shipping. The hardness of the tablets was determined using Digital Hardness tester. It is expressed in Kg/cm². Three tablets were randomly picked from each formulation and the mean and standard deviation values were calculated.

Friability test

It is the phenomenon whereby tablet surfaces are damaged and/or show evidence of   lamination or breakage when subjected to mechanical shock or attrition.

The friability of tablets was determined by using Electro lab, USP EF 2 friabilator. It is expressed in percentage (%). Ten tablets were initially weighed ($W_{initial}$) and transferred into friabilator. The friabilator was operated at 25 RPM for 4 minutes. The tablets were weighed again (W_{final}). The percentage friability was then calculated by,

$$F = \frac{W_{initial} - W_{final}}{W_{initial}} \times 100$$

% Friability of tablets less than 1% is considered acceptable.

Swelling index

Swelling of tablet involves the absorption of a liquid resulting in an increase in weight and volume. Liquid uptake by the particle may be due to saturation of capillary spaces within the particles or hydration of macromolecule. The liquid enters the particles or hydration of macromolecules. The liquid enters the particles through pores and bind to large molecule; breaking the hydrogen bond and resulting in the swelling of particle .The extent of swelling can be measured in terms of %weight gain by the tablet. The swelling index of tablets was determined in 0.1 N HCl (pH 1.2) at room temperature. After each interval the tablet was removed from beaker, remove the excess buffer by using filter paper and weighed again upto 8 hrs.

The swelling index was calculated by the following equation:

Swelling index (SI) = (Wt – W0)/WO × 100

Where, Wt= Weight of tablet at time t.

W0 = Initial weight of tablet

Drug content

Take the powder of 20 tablets. Weighed a quantity of powder containing 0.1gm of Captopril with 150ml of phosphate buffer pH6.8 for 10 minutes, add sufficient phosphate buffer pH6.8 to produce 200ml and filter. Dilute 10 ml of filtrate to 100ml with water and measure the absorbance at 233nm.

In vitro dissolution study

In vitro drug release studies of matrix tablets were done in eight-station USP XXII type II dissolution test apparatus(Electro lab TDT-08, India) at 37°C (± 0.5°C) and 50 rpm speed in 900 mL of dissolution medium. Dissolution medium consisted of 0.1N hydrochloric acid for the first 2 hours and phosphate buffer pH 6.8 from 3 to 8 hours. Five millitre (5ml) samples were taken by filtration at predetermined time intervals and after each sampling the volume of dissolution medium was replaced with 5ml of phosphate buffer (pH 6.8) .The amount of drug released is determined spectrophotometrically

In- Vitro Drug Release Kinetic Study

Zero Order Kinetics

A Zero order release would be predicted by the following equation,

$$Q_t - Q_0 = K^0 t$$

Where

Q_t =Amount of drug release dissolved in time 't'

Co=Initial amount of drug concentration in solution.

$K^o t$=Zero order rate constant.

When the data were plotted as cumulative % drug release versus time, if the plot is linear then data obeys zero order kinetics with slope equal to K0. This model represents an ideal release profile in order to achieve the prolonged pharmacological action.

First Order Kinetics:

A first order release would be predicted by the following equation

$$Log\ Q_t = Log\ Q_0 - K_l t/2.303$$

Where,

Q_t=Amount of drug released in time 't'

Co=Initial amount of drug concentration in solution.

$K_l t$=first order rate constant

When data were plotted as log cumulative% drug remaining versus time yields a straight line indicating that the release follows first order kinetics. The constant K can be obtained multiplying slope values.

Higuchi's Model:

Drug release from the matrix device by diffusion has been described by Higuchi's diffusion equation

$$Ft = Q = VD5/T(2C-5C_s)C_s t$$

Where,

Q=Amount of drug release dissolved in time 't'.

Co=diffusion coefficient of drug in the release matrix.

Cs=Solubility of drug in the matrix.

5=porosity of matrix

t=Tortuosity

T=Time (h)

The equation may be simplified then the equation becomes,

$$Ft = Q = Kh X\ t1/2$$

Where,

Kh=Higuchi dissolution constant

When data were plotted according to this equation, i.e. cumulative drug released versus square root of time, yields a straight line, indicating that the drug was released by diffusion mechanism.

Peppas Korsmeyer Equation

In 1983 korsmeyer et.al developed a simple, semiempirical model, when diffusion is the main drug release mechanism, relating exponentially the drug release to the elapsed time (t)

$$At/Ao = Kt/n$$

Where,

K=Constant

n=Release

t=Time

At and Ao=Absolute cumulative amount of drug released at times.

This is used when the release mechanism is not well known or when more than one type of a release phenomenon could be involved.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Precompression parameters:

The powder mixture of all the formulations were evaluated for angle of repose, bulk density, tapped density, compressibility index and their values were shown in table 2. The bulk density 0.36 to 52 g/ml and Powder blend indicated good flow properties with an angle of repose values ranging from 22.56to 31.44. The compressibility index for all the formulations were found to be less than 22 %, which indicates that the powder mixture has good flow properties. Hausner's ratio was also calculated, the ration was ranged between 1.07 and 1.28.

Precompression parameters

Table 2: Precompression parameters for sustained release matrix tablets of captopril F1 to F9

Formulation code	Angle of repose(^{0})	Bulk density (g/ml)	Tapped density (g/ml)	Carr's index (%)	Hausner's ratio
F1	31.44±0.14	0.42±0.07	0.54±0.10	22.22±0.1	1.28±0.1
F2	24.72±0.2	0.39±0.110	0.42±0.9	7.14±0.2	1.07±0.4
F3	27.58±0.9	0.36±0.096	0.41±0.69	12.19±0.1	1.13±0.1
F4	28.73±0.2	0.52±0.135	0.59±0.2	11.86±0.3	1.13±0.1
F5	25.52±0.4	0.50±0.108	0.63±0.2	20.63±0.2	1.26±0.1
F6	23.85±0.1	0.37±0.160	0.45±0.2	17.77±0.1	1.21±0.1
F7	30.24±0.4	0.48±0.195	0.56±0.1	14.28±0.1	1.16±0.1
F8	22.56±0.4	0.42±0.17	0.52±0.18	19.23±0.1	1.23±0.2
F9	31.68±0.5	0.44±0.145	0.56±0.13	21.42±0.2	1.27±0.1

Evaluation of postcompression parameters

Sustained release matrix tablets of Captopril were prepared by direct compression technique. Total nine formulations were prepared. The tablet weight variation, hardness, friability and content uniformity for each formulation are shown in table 3. The weight variation test indicated that the percentage deviation of all tablet formulations was found to be within pharmacopoeial acceptable limit. The hardness of all the tablets was within the range of 2.8±3.9kg/cm. The drug content in all the batches was determined by measuring absorbance of sample at 233 nm using double beam UV spectrophotometer (LABINDIA). The content uniformity among different formulations was found to be higher and the drug content in the range of 82.23 to 90.75% which indicates uniform drug distribution in all the formulations.

Post compression parameters

Table 3: Post compression parameters for sustained release matrix tablets of captopril F1 to F9

Formulation code	Hardness	Thickness	Friability	Weight variation
F1	3.3±0.20	2.84±0.02	0.67±0.02	200.0±0.17
F2	3.2±0.05	2.8±0.04	0.50±0.12	200.8±1.06
F3	2.9±0.05	2.83±0.08	0.63±0.05	201.5±0.63
F4	3.9±0.23	2.82±0.15	0.72±1.35	201.0±1.25
F5	2.9±0.11	2.70±0.07	0.59±0.13	200.3±0.86
F6	3.2±0.15	2.68±0.19	0.82±0.01	200.4±0.44
F7	3.1±0.25	2.74±0.21	0.68±0.16	200.4±0.69
F8	2.8±0.11	2.77±0.06	0.59±0.10	200.3±0.73
F9	3.3±0.45	2.80±0.26	0.67±0.17	200.8±0.68

Swelling Index

The swelling behavior of a dosage unit was measured by studying its weight gain. The swelling index of tablets was determine by placing the tablets in a petridish using dissolution medium as 0.1N HCL(pH 1.2) and pH 7.4 phosphate buffer. After 1, 2, 4, 6, and 8 hours. Each tablet was withdrawn carefully, blotted with tissue paper to remove for each time interval.

Table 4. Swelling index of formulations (F1-F9)

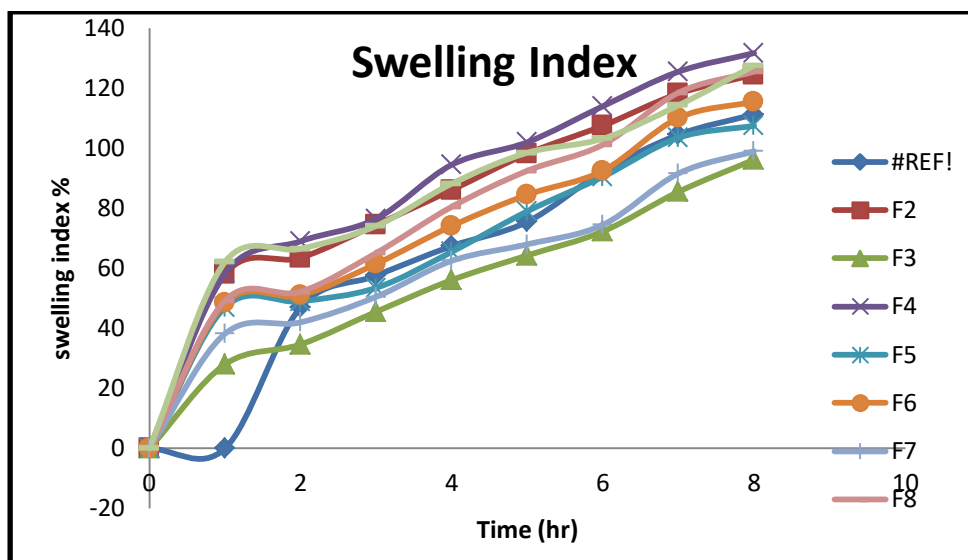| Sr.no	Time	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6	F7	F8	F9
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	47	58	28	58.2	47	48.4	38.2	49.2	62.1	47
3	57.56	63.5	34.65	69	49	51	42.01	52.2	66.5	57.56
4	67.4	74.5	45.54	76.5	53.5	61.5	50.5	65.1	74.1	67.4
5	75.5	86.1	56.1	94.5	65.5	74.1	62.5	80.5	88.2	75.5
6	92.2	98.2	64.3	102	79	84.5	68	92.5	98.5	92.2
7	104.5	107.5	72.3	114	90.5	92.5	74.5	101.2	103.2	104.5
8	111.3	118.2	85.5	125.5	103.5	110.1	91.59	118.5	114.3	111.3
9	119.2	124.5	96.2	131.7	107.5	115.5	99.01	125.5	127.5	119.2

Figure 1.Swelling index of Captopril SR Matrix tablet

In vitro dissolution study

Captopril release from the matrix tablets was studied for first two hours in 0.1 n HCL and the next six hours in pH 6.8 phosphate buffer. Total nine formulations were made with Xanthan gum and Ethyl Cellulose with different ratios. In batch F1, F2, & F3 Xanthan gum & Ethyl cellulose was used as a sustained release polymers. Preformulation study & Physicochemical evaluation of matrix tablets was conducted and results are shown in table 18 & 19.In vitro dissolution study results of F1 showed 59.57% drug release within 8 hrs. F2 showed 60.31% & F3 showed 64.73% cumulative drug release in 8 hrs. Thus sustained release profile was not achieved. So in next batch F4 it was decided to increase the amount of xanthan gum. In batch F4 amount of xanthan gum

was increased as compared to used in batch F1, F2 & F3. Results obtained of dissolution study showed 90.75% cumulative drug release within 8 hrs. which is in compliance with desired drug release profile. It happened due to the increase amount of xanthan gum. Xanthan gum used to produce directly compressed matrices that display a high degree of swelling due to water uptake and hence it gives desired results.

In Batch F5, F6, F7, F8, F9 xanthan gum & ethyl cellulose was used in different ratios. In vitro dissolution study showed 71. 05 %, 80.21 % , 85.78%, 93.47% & 88.42% cumulative drug release in 8 hrs.These results indicated that the Xanthan gum could control the release of Captopril up to 8 hr when it combined with Ethyl Cellulose.
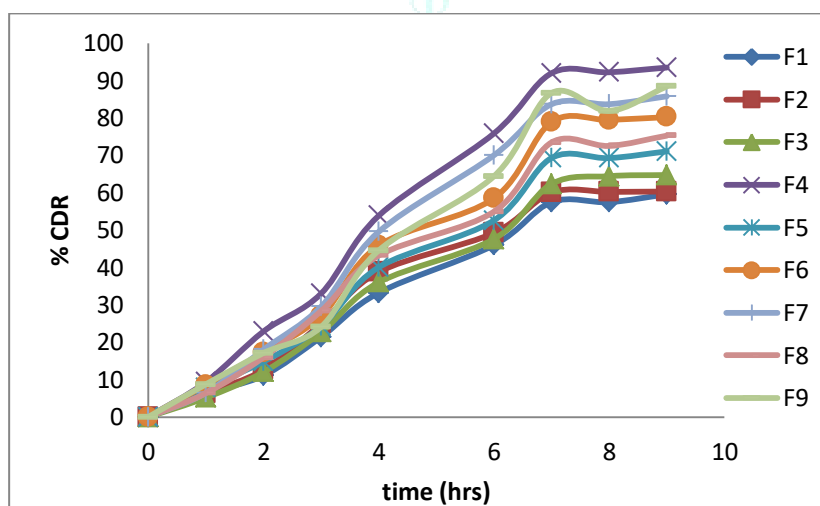

Fig.- 2: Comparative *in-vitro* dissolution profile of all the formulations

KINETIC STUDY

The classical zero order released curved was found to be linear the curve plotted according to first order and Highuchi and Conner's were also found to be linear respectively. For the Korsemeyer's Peppas released curves r^2 was found to be ≥ 0.90 for all formulation and n value was found to be ≥ 0.5 which indicate that all the formulation show anomalous or non-fickian diffusion. The drug release

occurs probably by diffusion, erosion and dissolution follows.

In the present study, the drug released mechanism from all Sustained release matrix tablet formulation different kinetic models was analyzed using factorial design batches followed zero order , first order kinetic, Highuchi model and Korsemeyer's Peppas model kinetics
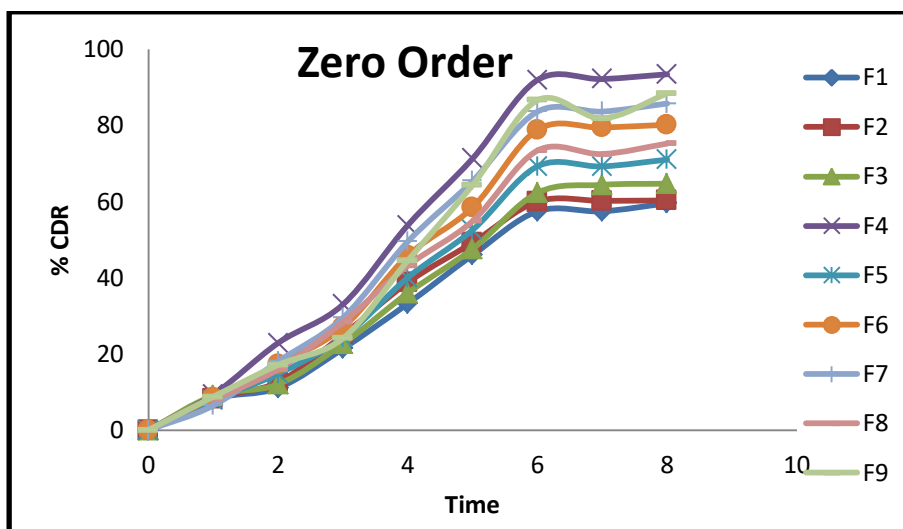
Figure 3: Model graph for comparative evaluation of zero order release kinetics
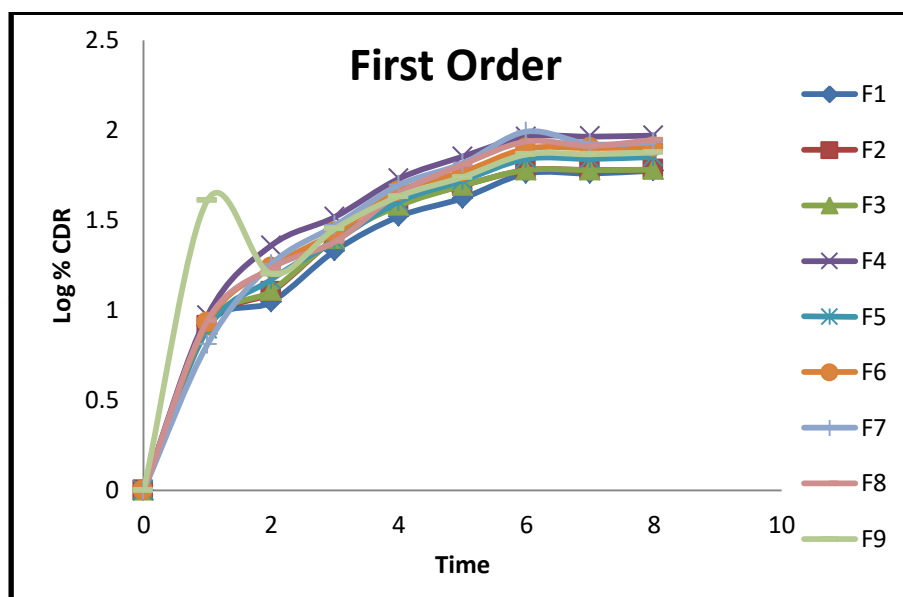

Figure 4: Model graph for comparative evaluation of first order release kinetics
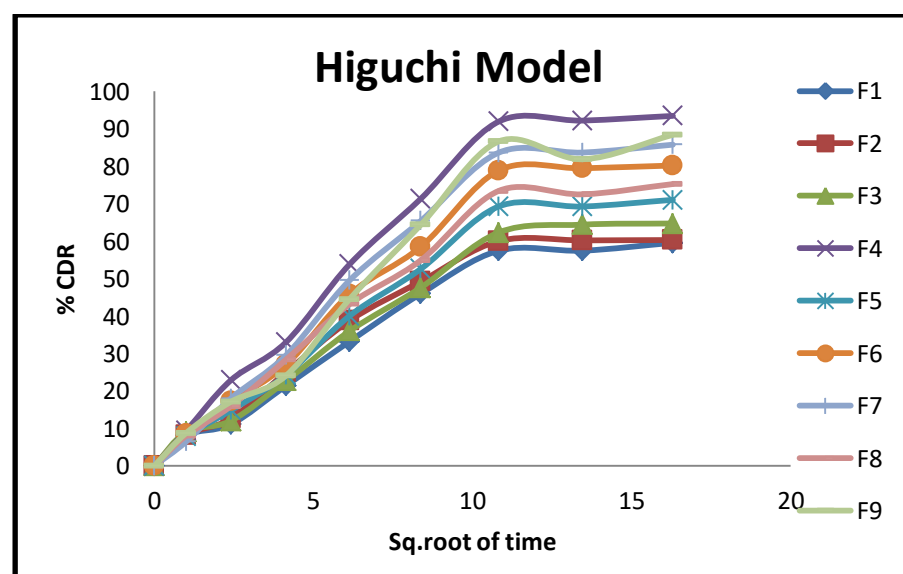

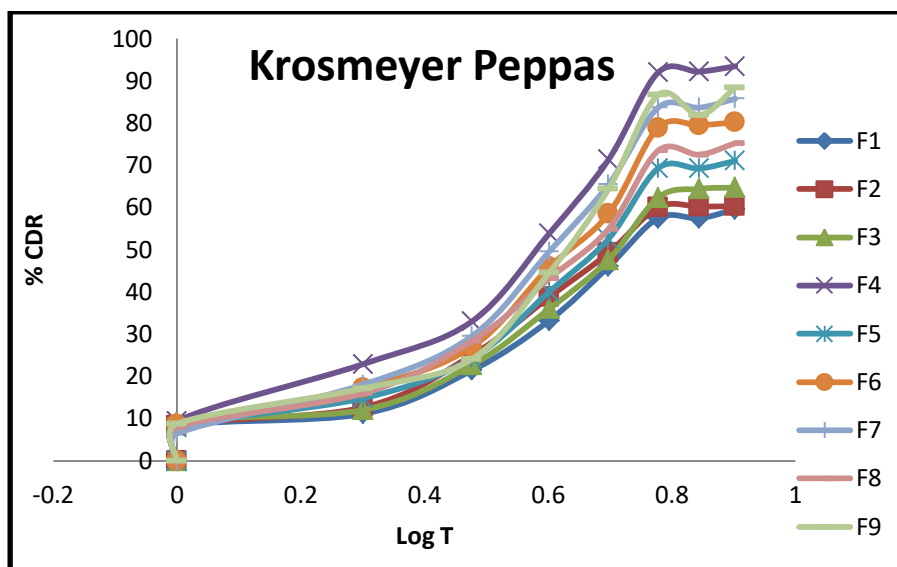**Figure 5: Model graph for comparative evaluation of Higuchi order release kinetics**

Figure 6: Model graph for comparative evaluation of krosemayers peppas

Table 5: Correlation coefficients according to the different kinetic equations used for describing Captopril release behavior from sustained release matrix tablets.

Formulation code	Zero order	First order	Higuchi Model	Krosmeyer peppas
F1	0.961	0.515	0.910	0.927
F2	0.952	0.463	0.872	0.947
F3	0.964	0.458	0.921	0.921
F4	0.963	0.434	0.907	0.941
F5	0.963	0.511	0.918	0.931
F6	0.962	0.489	0.918	0.929
F7	0.960	0.552	0.914	0.941
F8	0.953	0.530	0.912	0.942
F9	0.949	0.027	0.926	0.901

DRUG EXCIPIENT COMPATIBILITY STUDY

Infrared spectrophotometer is a useful analytical technique utilized to check the chemical interaction between the drug and the other excipients used in the formulation. The sample 1mg was powdered and mixed with the 10mg of dry powdered potassium bromide. The powdered mixture was taken in a sampler and the spectrum was recorded by scanning in the wavelength region of 4000-400 cm^{-1} using FTIR spectrophotometer.

Fourier transform infra red spectroscopy studies revealed that pure Captopril showed typical bands at 1734.06 cm^{-1} due to C=O stretching of carboxylic group and a band at 1690 cm^{-1} due to C=O s stretching of amide group ,C-H stretching at a 2970 cm^{-1} and C-C stretching at cm^{-1} .No significant shifts of reduction in intensity of the FTIR bands of Captopril were observed as shown in figure 7 a). From the FTIR spectra shown in fig 7 b), it is very clear that there are no interactions between drug and excipients.
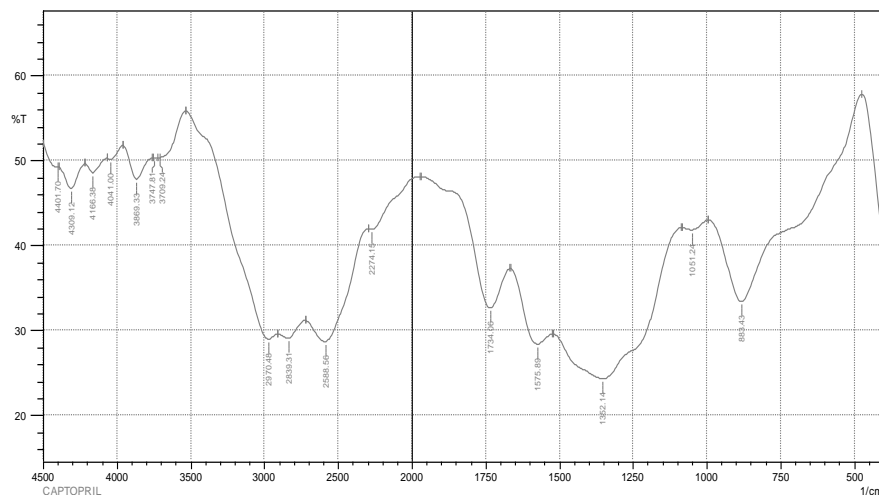

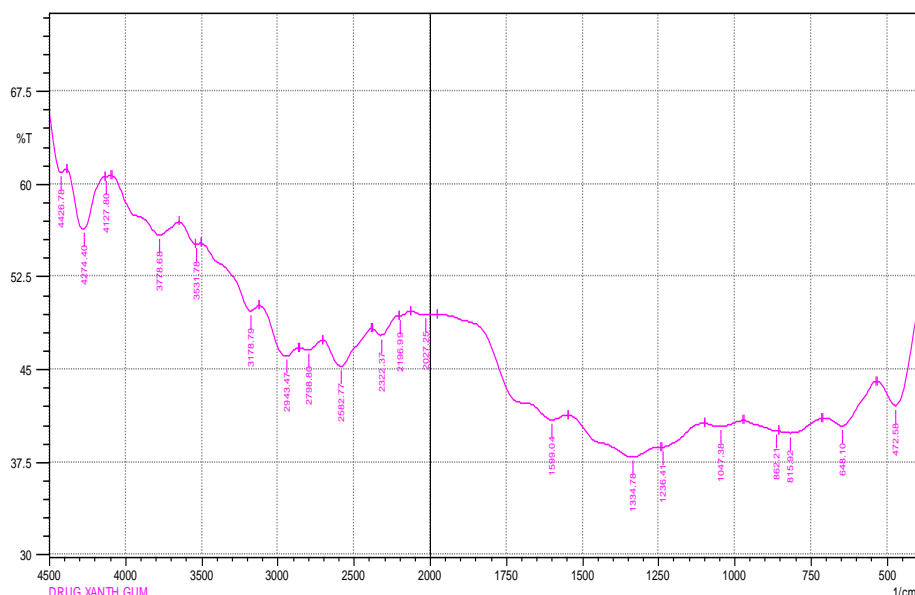
Fig.- 7 a) : FTIR spectra of pure Captopril

Figure- 7 b) : FTIR spectra of Captopril + Xanthan gum

Differential Scanning Calorimetry:

Thermal analysis of drug was carried out using DSC. The DSC curve of captopril profile a sharp exothermic peak at 108 ^{0}C corresponding to its melting, and indicating its crystalline nature and purity of sample. The DSC thermogram is shown in figure.
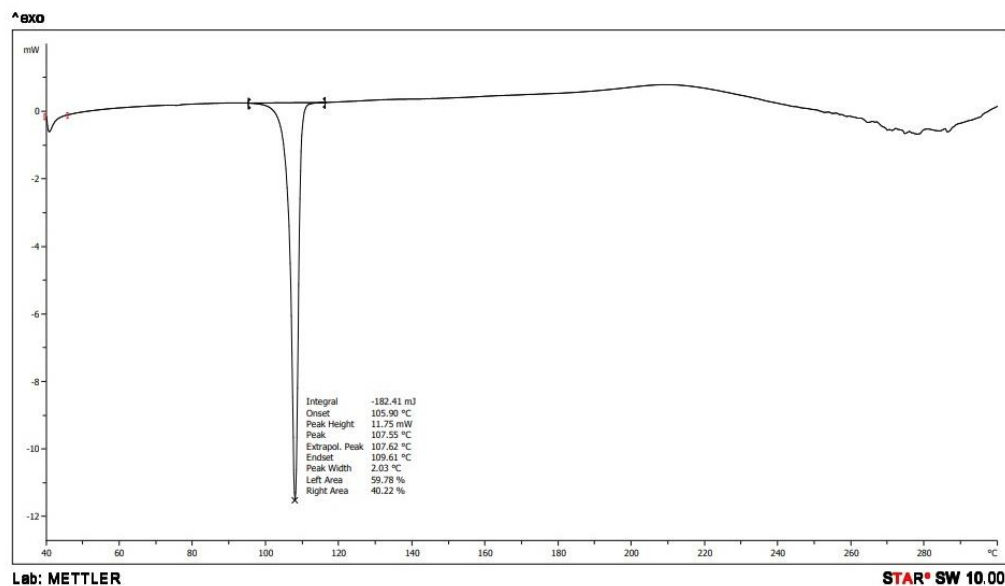

Figure 8: DSC Thermogram of Captopril

CONCLUSION

Sustained release matrix tablets of Captopril were prepared using different ratios of xanthan gum and Ethyl cellulose by direct compression method. The results of the present study demonstrates that the xanthan gum and Ethyl Cellulose control the Captopril release effectively for 8 hrs,. It is concluded that sustained release of Captopril over a period of 8 hours was obtained with formulation (F-4) containing high amount of Xanthan gum and Ethyl cellulose. Sustained release matrix tablets of Captopril can be expected to reduce the frequency of administration and decrease the dose dependent side effects associated with repeated administration of conventional Captopril tablets.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

Declared None.

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