

Simple Spectrophotometric and Conductometric Methods for Determination of Gemifloxacin in Pure, Pharmaceutical Dosage Form and Human Urine

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ABSTRACT

Two Simple, accurate, precise, and rapid spectrophotometric and conductometric methods were developed for the estimation of gemifloxacin (GEM) in pharmaceutical dosage forms and biological human urine. Method A: A spectrophotometric method is based on the oxidation reaction between phosphomolybdic acid (PMA) and GEM to form molybdenum blue (Mo^{+5}). Beer's law was obeyed in the concentration range of (5-27 $\mu\text{g/ml}$). The correlation coefficient (r^2) for the studied drug was found to be 0.9999. The molar absorptivity (ϵ), Sandell's sensitivity, limit of detection (LOD), and limit of quantitation (LOQ) were also calculated. Method B: A conductometric method is based on formation of an ion associate with PMA. It involves direct titration with PMA in the range of 1-20 mg. The precipitate obtained by ion pairing GEM with PMA has been spectroscopically characterized using IR spectroscopy. The method was successively applied to pharmaceutical formulations containing GEM. The results obtained were favorably compared with those obtained using the reported method.

INTRODUCTION

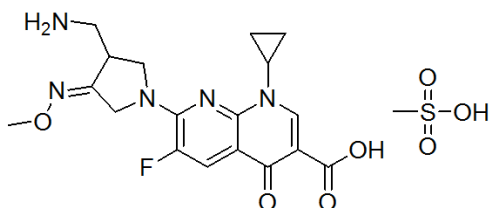
Gemifloxacin is chemically designated as (R,S)-7-[[4(Z)-3-(aminomethyl)-4-(methoxyimino)-1-pyrrolidinyl]-1-cyclopropyl-6-fluoro-1,4-dihydro-4-oxo-1,8-naphthyridine-3-carboxylic acid (schem 1_a) (Martindale and Sweetman, 1999), has antibacterial activity against both gram-positive bacteria and gram-negative bacteria and used for the treatment of respiratory tract infections (Martindale and Sweetman, 1999; Lopez *et al.*, 2001). Mechanism of antibacterial action of gemifloxacin depends on blocking of bacterial DNA replication through binding itself to DNA gyrase enzyme, allowing the untwisting required to replicate one DNA double helix into two.

The drug has 100 times higher affinity for bacterial DNA gyrase than for mammalian. It also causes inhibition of the enzymes topoisomerase II (DNA gyrase) and topoisomerase IV, which are required for bacterial DNA replication, transcription, repair, and recombination (Blondeau, 2004). Various methods have been reported for the determination of GEM. Those methods are the various spectrophotometric techniques (Hassan *et al.*, 2014; Gouda *et al.*, 2014), high performance liquid chromatography (Gumustas and Ozkan, 2012; Nageswara Rao *et al.*, 2012; Kaiser *et al.*, 2011; Sultana *et al.*, 2011; Al-Hadiya *et al.*, 2010), capillary electrophoresis (Elbashir *et al.*, 2008), microchip electrophoresis (Cho *et al.*, 2004), chemiluminescence (Zhao *et al.*, 2013), LC-mass spectrometry (Roy *et al.*, 2010; Robledo and Smyth, 2008; Doyle *et al.*, 2000), and potentiometry (Al-Mohaimed *et al.*, 2012). These methods were related to some major drawbacks such as having inadequate sensitivity, being time-consuming, tedious and sophisticated sample preparation.

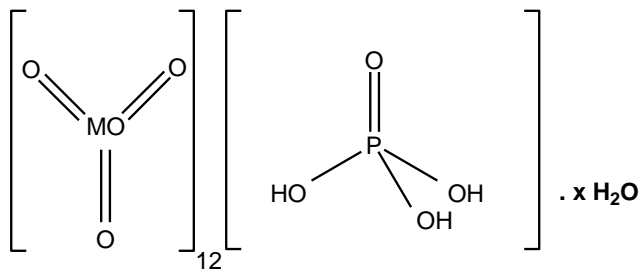
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The majority of the reported methods are HPLC methods which require complex and expensive equipment, intensive sample preparation, and also require personal skills in chromatographic techniques.

Also, Due to weak UV absorbance of quinolone antibiotics, it is difficult to develop a simple method for analysis of the drugs in pharmaceutical applications and biological fluids using conventional UVdetection, so there is a need for simple spectrophotometric and conductometric method for the analysis of the cited drug in pharmaceutical formulations. In this study we develop simple, sensitive and accurate spectrophotometric and conductometric methods. The application of PMA to the spectrophotometric and conductometric determination of gemifloxacin in its pure, pharmaceutical preparation and to the human urine after extraction using acidified methylene chloride has also been used successfully. Additionally, structural elucidation of GEM-PMA ion associate was performed using IR spectroscopy.



Scheme 1a. Chemical structure of gemifloxacin.



Scheme 1b. Chemical structure of phosphomolybdic acid

EXPERIMENTAL

Instruments

- Spectrophotometric measurements were done using a Shimadzu UV-Visible 1601 PC Spectrophotometer (Kyoto, Japan P/N 206-67001) equipped with 10 mm matched quartz cell.

-Conductometer model 470 portable conductivity/JENWAY meter, 25 DEG.C-F10 dip-type cell was used with acellconstant, Kcell, of1.10.

-IR measurements were recorded as KBr disks using Mattson 1000 spectrophotometer.

Reagents and Materials

All chemicals and materials were of analytical grade, and double distilled water was used throughout the work.

- Gemifloxacin mesylate (claimed purity, >98%) were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, MO, USA).

- Factive[®] tablet equivalent to 320 mg gemifloxacin were obtained from local pharmacy.
- Phosphomolybdic acid obtained from (Aldrich, Germany) 1% w/v and 5×10^{-3} M were prepared in double distilled water for method (A) and (B), respectively.
- Hydrochloric acid, ethanol, methanol and acetone purchased from (El- Nasr Pharmaceutical Chemicals Company (ADWIC), Cairo, Egypt).
- Blank human urine was collected from healthy volunteers stored at -20°C .

Preparation of Standard Solutions

Standard solution of Gemifloxacin for method A and method B was prepared fresh, as required, by dissolving the appropriate amount of GEM in doubled distilled water to provide 1mg/ml. The standard solutions must be stored under light-protected conditions at about 4°C .

Recommended Procedures and Calibration Curves

Method A: Spectrophotometric assay procedure for pure drug

Into a series of 10 ml volumetric flasks, aliquots of drug solutions equivalent to 5-27 μg /mL for GEM were transferred. To each flask 2 mL of 0.1N HCl and 0.2 mL of 1.0% of PMA were added. These solutions were mixed by shaking and placed for 45 min in a boiling water-bath. After completion of the heat treatment, the solution was cooled immediately to room temperature using a cold water-bath. The resulting blue solution was diluted to the mark with ethanol. The absorbance of the blue solution was measured at maximum absorbance 794nm against a reagent blank that had been treated similarly.

Method B: Conductometric Measurements

Aliquots of the standard drug solution containing 1–20 mg of GMF were transferred to a 50 ml titration cell and the volume was made to the mark with water. The conductivity cell was immersed in titration cell and the solution was titrated with 5×10^{-3} M of the PMA. The conductance was determined after stirring for 2 minutes subsequent each addition of the reagent. A conductivity (corrected for dilution) versus volume for the added titrant was constructed and the end point was determined. Corrected for dilution effect was calculated according to the following equation, (assuming that conductivity is a linear function of dilution):

Corrected conductivity= the observed electrolytic conductivity ((initial volume + volume of the reagent added)/ (initial volume)). The nominal content of MVH was calculated using the following equation:

Amount of the drug = $(V \times \text{MWT} \times M) / N$ Where
 V = volume (mL) of the titrant consumed in the titration, MWT = relative molecular mass of the analyte, M = molarity of the titrant, and N = number of moles of the titrant consumed per one mole of the analyte. A graph of corrected conductivity versus the volume of added titrant was constructed and end point was determined (Fig 7).

Preparation of ion-associates for IR method

The ion associate was prepared by mixing solutions containing 0.01 M of PMA, and the requisite amount of GEM. The precipitate obtained was filtered, washed with water, and then dried at room temperature. The precipitate was subjected to IR spectroscopy.

Assay procedure for tablets

Twenty tablets were weighed and finely powdered. A quantity of the powder contain 100 mg of the active ingredient was weighted accurately then transferred into a 100 mL conical flask and dissolved with 30 ml of double distilled water. After shaking for 15 min, the contents were filtered into a 100 ml volumetric flask. The conical flask was washed with little amount of distilled water. The washing was passed into the same volumetric flask. The volume was completed to the mark with double distilled water. The nominal content of the active component in tablets was determined either from the previously plotted calibration graphs or using the corresponding regression equations.

Procedure for spiked urine

Different quantities of gemifloxacin (1mg/ml) were transferred to 10 ml volumetric flasks and the volume was adjusted to the mark with urine. 1 ml from each flask was taken and 2 ml 1 N HCl and 4 ml methylene chloride were added. Shake well and centrifugation was done for 5 min at 3500 rpm. Evaporate the methylene chloride extract under a stream of nitrogen till dryness. Dissolve in 1 ml water and proceed as described under spectrophotometric assay for pure drug.

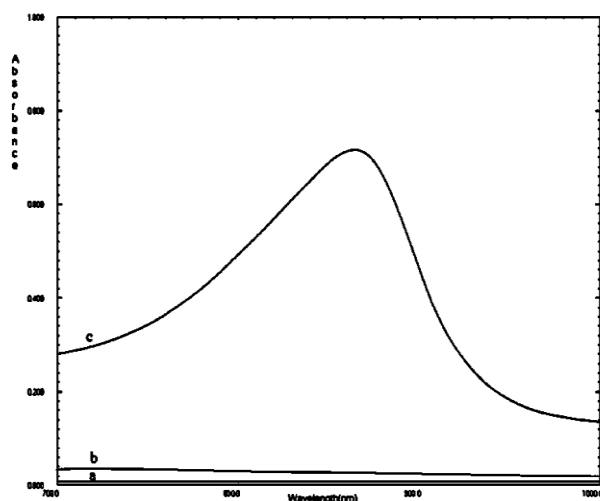


Fig. 1: Absorption spectra for (a) gemifloxacin solution 22µg/ml, (b) blank (c) Absorption spectrum of the reaction product from the reaction of 22µg/ml gemifloxacin with phosphomolybdic acid.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Optimization of Variables

For method A; the electronic spectrum of the reaction of GEM and PMA is shown in fig (1). The reaction gave a maximum

absorption peak at 794nm. Investigations were carried out to establish the most favorable conditions for maximum colour development for spectrophotometric method (method A) while for conductometric method (method B) using PMA as an ion pairing reagent for GEM. The optimum conditions for performing the titration in a quantitative manner more elucidated as described below.

Conditions for method A

Effect of acid type

In a trial to determine the most suitable acid used with phosphomolybdic acid, the effect of acetic, hydrochloric and sulfuric acid was examined. It was found that hydrochloric gave maximum and reproducible colour intensity (fig 2).

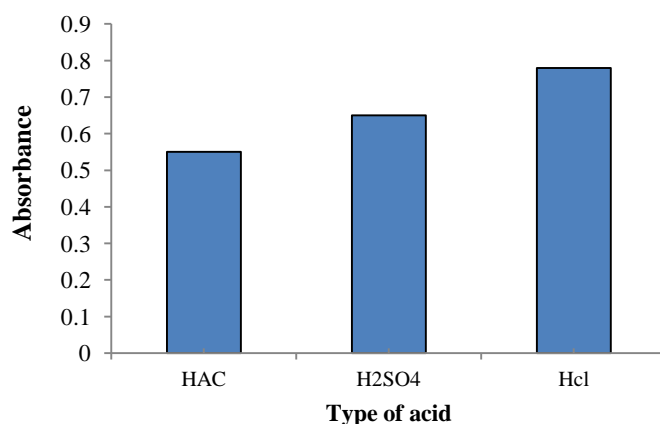


Fig. 2: Effect of acid type.

Volume of acid effect

After trying on several volumes 0.5, 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5 ml of hydrochloric acid for GEM to elucidate the optimum volume for quantitative estimation of the studied drug, it was found that optimum volume is 2 mL for both drugs (fig 3).

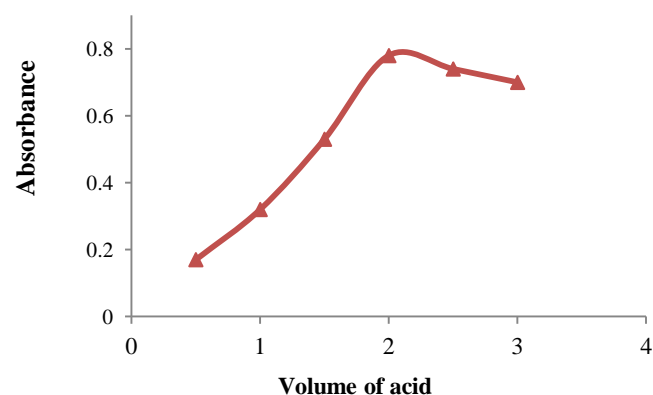


Fig. 3: Volume of HCl acid.

Volume of reagent effect

The volume of reagent that gave reproducible colour intensity and highest constant absorption was found to be 0.2 mL for GEM (fig 4).

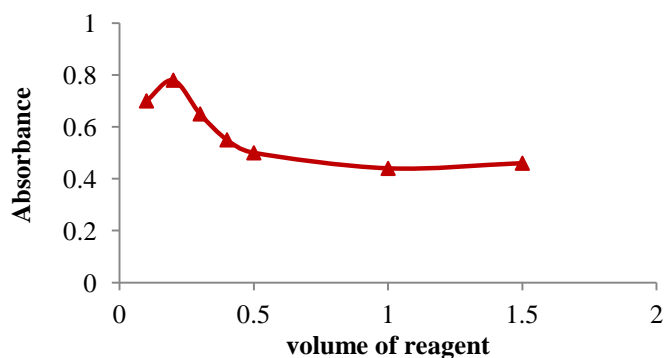


Fig. 4: Volume of reagent.

Heating time effect

It was found that heating in boiling water bath for 40 min. give maximum colour intensity (fig 5).

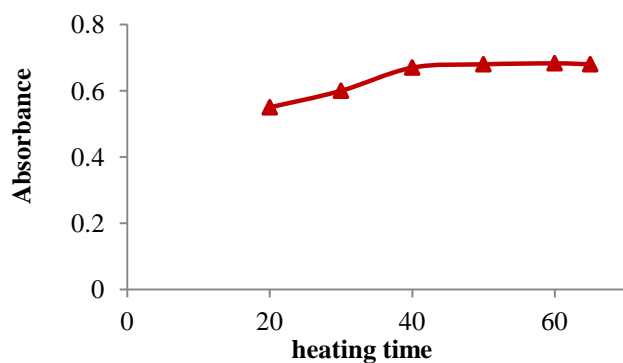


Fig. 5: Heating time.

Effect of Sequence of addition

From the trials on the sequence of addition, it was found that order of addition had no effect on the reaction of both drugs.

Colour stability

The colour intensity was found to be stable for about one hour (fig 6).

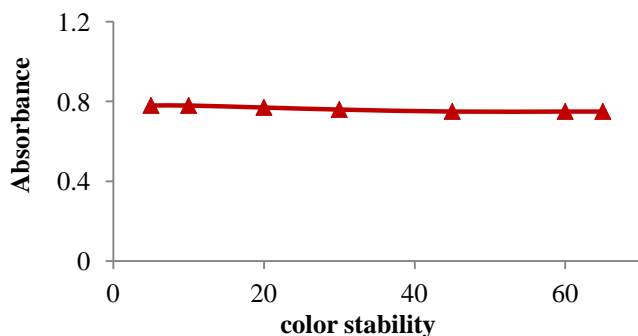
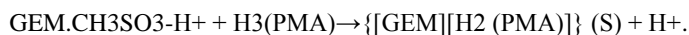


Fig. 6: colour stability.

Determination of Stoichiometric Balance Using Molar Ratio Method (Yoe and Jones, 1944)

The stoichiometric reaction between the cited drug and PMA was studied by molar ratio method using an equimolar (5×10^{-3} M) solution of the cited drug and PMA of the same

molarities. The obtained results showed that the composition of the complex was 1:1.



Conditions for method B

Investigations were carried out to estimate the most suitable conditions for the complex formed from the cited drugs with PMA to obtain the sharp endpoint. The optimum conditions for performing the titration in a quantitative manner were described later.

Reaction medium

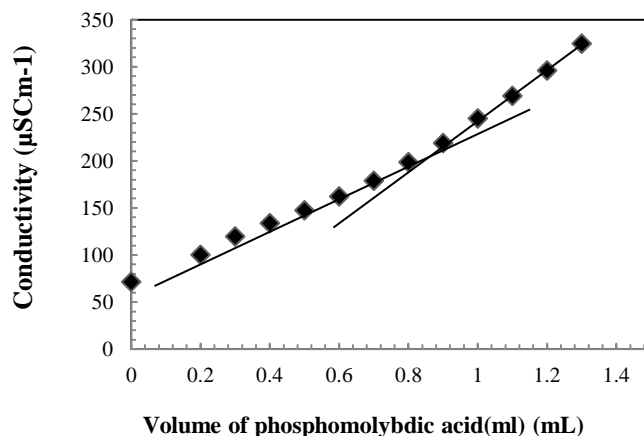
Reaction medium titrations in different media were attempted to obtain the best results. Preliminary experiments were in:

- 1) Aqueous drug solution prepared by dissolving 100mg drug in 100ml water with aqueous reagent solution.
- 2) Ethanol drug solution with ethanol reagent solution,
- 3) Drug solution with reagent solution, both in ethanol-water (50%, v/v) mixture,
- 4) Methanol drug solution with methanol reagent solution,
- 5) Drug solution with reagent solution, both in methanol-water mixture (50% v/v),
- 6) Drug solution with reagent solution, both in acetone-water (50% v/v) mixture.

From the previous Preliminary experiments, it was found that there is no effect of the pervious experiment except for acetone in shifting end point.

Reagent Concentration

Different concentrations of PMA solution were tried ranging from 5×10^{-4} to 5×10^{-3} molar solutions. The optimum concentration of the reagent was found to be 5×10^{-3} M in titration of the studied drug in order to achieve a constant and highly stable conductance reading in 2min of mixing. Concentrations less than these Limits led to unstable readings, and more time was needed to achieve constant values of conductance.

Fig. 7: Conductometric titration curve of 2 mg gemifloxacin versus 5×10^{-3} M phosphomolybdic acid.

Titration curve in (Fig.7) showed two straight lines intersected at the end point; the first line ascending, and the second has conductance values that would slightly increase after the equivalence point. This increase may be due to the formation of ion associate. After the end-point, the titration curves showed slightly increase in the value of conductance, despite the excess of the reagent. This may be due to further ionic condensation, leading to species of lower mobility. A curve break is noted at drug-reagent molar ratio 1:1. This molar ratio also ascertained through spectrophotometric determination (method A). The results from the conductometric titrations are summarized in Table 6. The data show that accurate results were obtained with good recoveries and low standard deviation values. The optimum concentration range for determination of the cited drug was in the range of 1–20mg. At such ranges, sharp inflection (Fig.7) and stable conductance reading were obtained.

Method Validation

For method A

Linearity

Under the optimum conditions described, standard calibration curves for gemifloxacin with acidified phosphomolybdic acid was constructed by plotting the values of the absorbance *versus* the final concentrations of the drug ($\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$). Beer's law was obtained in the concentration range of the final dilution of the cited drug in Table 1. Beer's law was constructed over the concentration ranges of 5-27 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ for GEM Table 2. The linear regression equation for the cited drug was listed in Table 1. The correlation coefficient was 0.9999 for GEM indicating good linearity over the working concentration range.

Table 1: Quantitative parameters for the spectrophotometric determination of gemifloxacin.

Parameter	GEM
λ_{max} (nm)	794
Beer's law ranges($\mu\text{g /ml}$)	5-27
Regression equation**	
Slope (a)	0.0365
Intercept (b)	- 0.0371
Correlation coefficient (r^2)	0.9999
LOD($\mu\text{g /ml}$)	4.49
LOQ($\mu\text{g /ml}$)	13.47
Ringbom optimum concentration range ($\mu\text{g /ml}$)	5-22
Sandell's sensitivity ($\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}$)	0.03
$\epsilon(\times 10^4) \text{ L}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}\cdot\text{cm}^{-1}$	1.8
Molar ratio	1:1

Average of three determinations., **A=a+bc. A is the absorbance, a is the intercept, b is the slope and c is the concentration of the drug.

Sensitivity

The limit of detection (LOD) of the method was calculated according to the ICH and FDA guidelines (Guideline, 2005; Food and Administration, 2001) using the following equation:

$$\text{LOD}=3.3\sigma/S$$

Where σ = the standard deviation of replicate blank responses (under the same conditions as for sample analysis), and S = the slope of the calibration curve.

While the limit of quantitation calculated from the following equation:

$$\text{LOQ}=10\sigma/S$$

The calculated values of LOD and LOQ were calculated as in Table 1 confirmed the sensitivity of the proposed method.

Table 2: Spectrophotometric Determination of Gemifloxacin In Bulk Powder.

Taken ($\mu\text{g/ml}$)	Found($\mu\text{g/ml}$)	% Recovery
5	5.1	102.05
7	6.86	97.94
10	10.06	100.63
15	15	100
17	16.93	99.62
22	22.07	100.31
23	22.94	99.72
25	24.94	99.78
27	27.06	100.24
Mean	100.03	
\pmSD	1.08	
%RSD	1.08	
%Er	0.03	

Accuracy and Precision

The inter and intraday accuracy and precision were determined by preparing three different concentration of each drug and each concentration is analysed in 11 replicates. The relative standard deviation as a precision (RSD %) and percentage relative error (Er%) as accuracy of the suggested method were calculated. The RSD % and Er% can be calculated according the following equations:

$$\text{RSD}\% = (\text{SD}/\text{mean}) * 100 \text{ And}$$

$$\text{Er}\% = [(\text{found}-\text{added})/\text{added}] * 100$$

Where SD=the standard deviation of replicate responses of one concentration.

The analytical results for accuracy and precision (Table 3) showed that the proposed method has good repeatability and reproducibility.

Table 3: Intra- and inter-day precision and accuracy of GEM using the proposed method A.

Taken ($\mu\text{g/ml}$)	Inter-day(n=11)				Intra-day(n=5)			
	Found ^a ($\mu\text{g /ml}$)	% Recovery	Precision (%RSD) ^b	Accuracy (%Er) ^c	Found ^a ($\mu\text{g /ml}$)	% Recovery	Precision (%RSD) ^b	Accuracy (%Er) ^c
7	7.01	100.19	1.26	0.19	7.04	100.50	0.012	0.503
17	17.044	100.26	1.02	0.26	17.11	100.62	0.004	0.621
25	25.004	100.02	0.79	0.02	25.01	100.05	0.434	0.047

^a average of three determination

^b%RSD, Percentage relative standard deviation

^c %Er, Percentage relative error

For method B

The validity of the proposed method can be estimated using statistical analysis of the data obtained from its application on the cited drug in the pure form and in the formulation was performed. The results revealed in Table 4 showed that the proposed method is

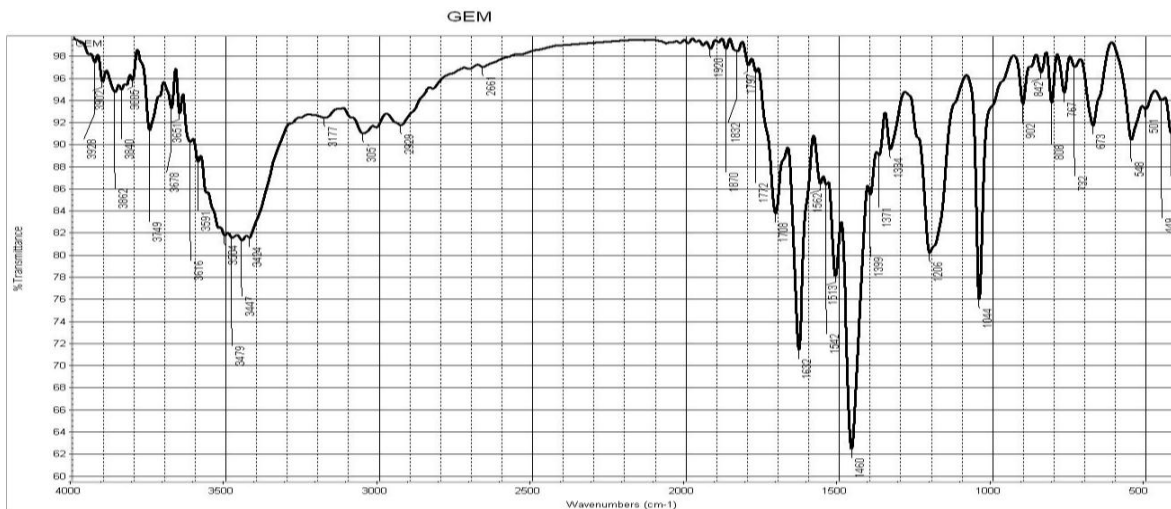


Fig. 8: FT-IR spectrum of gemifloxacin.

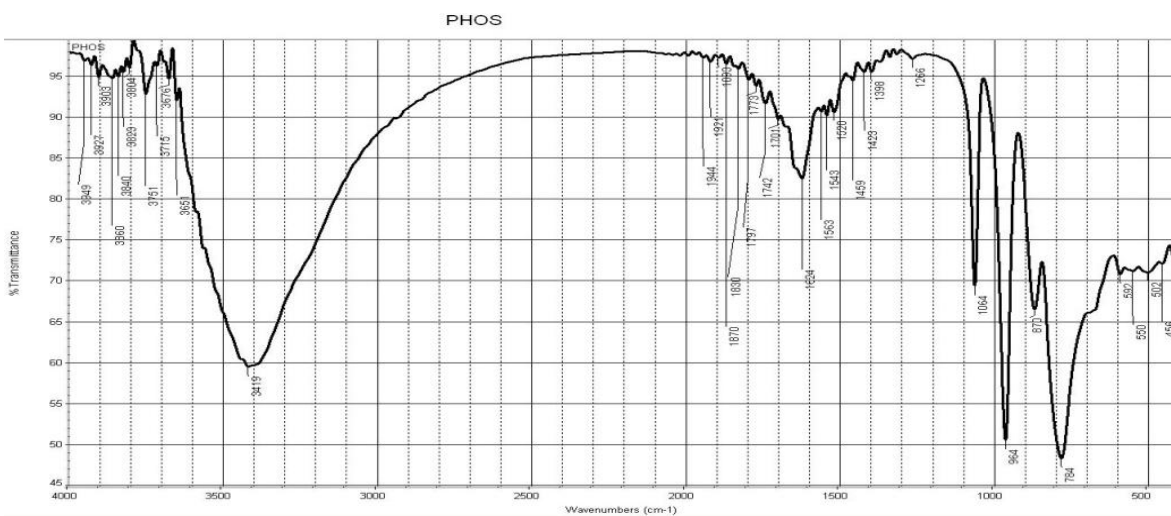


Fig. 9: FT-IR spectrum of PMA.

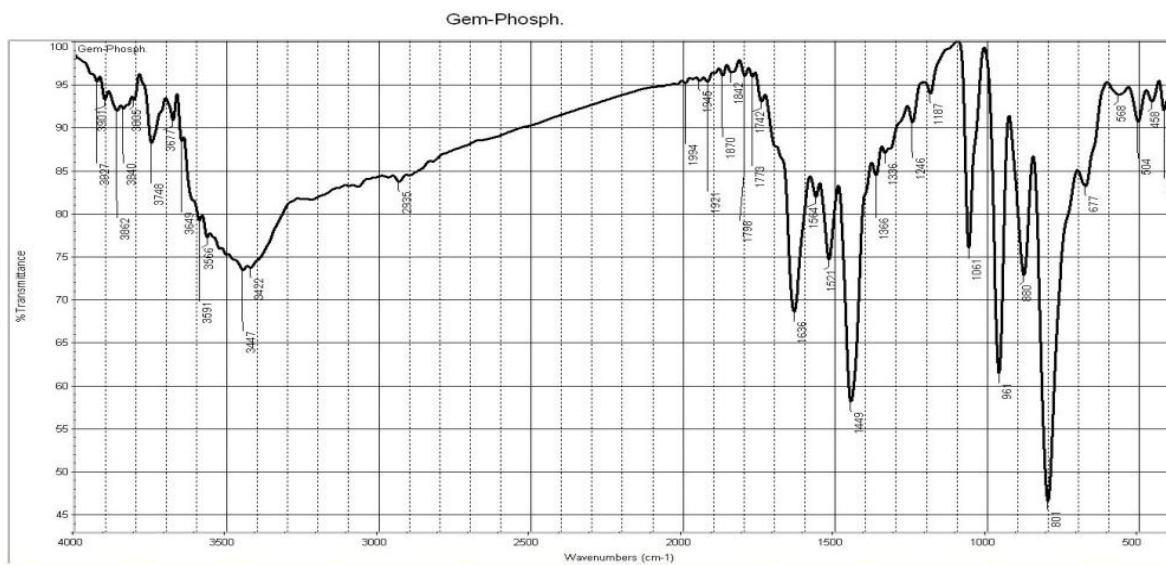


Fig. 10: FT-IR spectrum of gemifloxacin and PMA.

satisfactorily accurate, precise, and reproducible over a concentration range of 1–20mg.

Table 4: Conductometric Determination of Gemifloxacin using phosphomolybdic Acid.

Taken (mg)	Found (mg)	% recovery
1	1	100.00
2	2	100.00
5	5.08	101.60
7	7.11	101.57
9	9.09	101.00
15	15.1	100.67
20	20.15	100.75
Mean		100.79
±SD		0.66
%RSD		0.65
%Er		0.80

Analytical Applications.

For method A.

The analytical application of the proposed method to the studied drug in its pharmaceutical dosage form and in biological human urine was determined. Satisfactory results were obtained. The recovery of the cited drug was calculated by comparing the concentration obtained from the spiked mixtures with those of the drug. The results of analysis of the commercial dosage form and the recovery study are shown in Tables 5, 6.

Table 5: Application of the proposed spectrophotometric method to the determination of gemifloxacin in its pharmaceutical dosage form.

Factive® tablet		
Taken (µg/ml)	Found (µg/ml)	% recovery ^a
7	7.09	101.28
10	10	100.00
15	15.21	101.39
17	16.92	99.510
22	22.06	100.26
25	24.80	99.190
Mean		100.28
±SD		0.9
%RSD		0.901
%Er		0.28

^aaverage of three determination

Table 6: Application of the proposed spectrophotometric method to the determination of gemifloxacin in spiked human urine.

Taken (µg/ml)	Found(µg/ml)	%Recovery
10	10.11	101.11
15	15.15	101.03
17	17.17	101.01
22	22.08	100.35
25	25.02	100.07
27	27.07	100.25
Mean ±SD		100.64±0.461
%RSD		0.358
%Er		0.636

For method B.

Satisfactory results were obtained from the application of the proposed method in its pharmaceutical dosage form as shown in table 7. The results that obtained were compared with the reported method (Ebraheem *et al.*, 2011). There is no significant differences were found between the proposed methods and reported method. Statistical comparison of the results was

performed using Student's t test and variance ratio F-test at 95% confidence level (Table 8).

Table 7: Conductometric determination of gemifloxacin using phosphomolybdic acid in the IR dosage forms.

Factive® tablet		
Taken (mg)	Found ^a (mg)	%recovery
2	2	100
4	4.05	101
6	6.03	100.5
8	8	100
10	10.01	100.
12	12.04	100.3
14	14.01	100.3
Mean±SD		100.79±0.66
%RSD		0.65
%Er		0.8

Table 8: Statistical data for determination of GEM in its dosage form using spectrophotometric method with PMA.

Items	Factive tablet		
	Proposed method		Reported method
	Method A	Method B	
Mean	100.28 ^a	100.5	99.94 ^b
±SD	0.901	0.5	0.82
Variance	0.811	0.25	0.67
t test	0.29	0.56	
F test	1.2	0.37	
n	3	3	5

Elucidation of the reaction product of gemifloxacin mesylate and PMA by means of IR

The IR spectrum of gemifloxacin showed characteristic bands at 3177 (CH aromatic), 2929 cm⁻¹ (CH aliphatic), 1772 cm⁻¹ (C=O acidic), 1708 cm⁻¹ and 1632 cm⁻¹ (C=O aromatic) and 3504 cm⁻¹ (-NH₂ primary amino group). On the other hand, the IR spectrum of PMA displayed characteristic strong broad band at 3419 cm⁻¹ (OH) and bands at 1870, 1830, 1797, 1742 and 1701 cm⁻¹ (P=O). The IR spectrum of the formed ion associate showed both bands corresponding to the drug and PMA as C=O (acidic) at 1773cm⁻¹ and C=O (aromatic) at 1798 and 1636cm⁻¹ in addition to strong broad band at 3422 cm⁻¹. The above arguments indicate that an ion associate has been formed (figures 8-10)

CONCLUSION

The data of the previously proposed methods reveal that the proposed methods are simple, accurate, and sensitive with good precision and accuracy which made it more advantageous when compared with many of the reported methods in having higher sensitivity. Also with these methods, the analysis can be done at low cost without losing accuracy. In comparison with the chromatographic methods, the proposed methods are advantageous as HPLC and GLC require complex and expensive equipment, intensive sample preparation, and personnel skilled in chromatographic techniques. In addition that HPLC and GLC are not available especially in developing countries. So, the proposed methods can be used as alternative methods for determination of GEM in the pure form and in pharmaceutical formulations in addition to application in biological human urine.

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