



Quantification of rasagiline mesylate by stability indicating RP-HPLC method: Development and validation

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ABSTRACT

A novel reversed phase-high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) method for the estimation of rasagiline mesylate (RM), a potent anti-Parkinson drug in Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API), and tablet dosage form was developed and validated in the present research. HPLC instrument (Shimadzu) comprises ultraviolet detector and phenomenex 100 C18 (250 × 4.6 mm, 5 μm) column was utilized in the study. A mixture of acetonitrile and water in the ratio of 50:50, adjusted to pH 3.0 ± 0.05 with ortho-phosphoric acid was used as the mobile phase. The chromatographic conditions; flow rate 0.8 ml/minute, run time 6.0 minutes, injection volume 50 μl, and detection wavelength 268 nm were maintained during the study at room temperature. To ensure performance of novel method developed, it was validated according to International conference on harmonization guidelines. The developed method was subjected to the forced degradation studies to find out the stability indicating nature of the method by quantifying the RM in presence of its degradation products and the peaks which were responsible for the degraded products were not interfered with the API principle peak. The proposed stability indicating newly developed and validated method can be adopted for the quantification of RM in bulk and pharmaceutical formulations.

INTRODUCTION

Recently, the International Conference on Harmonization (ICH) has recommended any novel analytical method for the estimation of drugs as Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API) and in formulations, the developed method must be stability indicating in nature to access the effect of degraded products on estimation of principle API. The stability indicating nature of the developed method suggest that even in the presence of very minute quantity of degraded products, it enables to quantify the principle API. Hence, in the present research work, a novel analytical RP-HPLC method was developed, validated. The developed method is stability indicating in nature.

Rasagiline mesylate (RM) is a monoamine oxidase-B inhibitor (Fig. 1) used in the treatment of Parkinson's disease as a monotherapy or as an adjunctive therapy for advanced disease

conditions. For initial monotherapy, recommended dosage is 1 mg once daily, whereas for adjunctive therapy with levodopa, 0.5 mg/day initial dose is recommended. Literature review on analytical methods of RM reveals that there are very few methods, viz., reverse phase high-performance liquid chromatography (RP-HPLC) (Ravi *et al.*, 2012; Sundaramurthy *et al.*, 2011; Sunil Reddy *et al.*, 2013), high performance thin layer chromatography (Singaram *et al.*, 2012) and UV-visible spectrophotometry (Patel and Mulgund, 2013). All the reported methods in the literature either have longer retention time or tedious analytical procedures and stability indicating methods are seldom observed. Since RM is very potent drug with very lower dose as 0.5 mg to 1 mg, a sensitive method was developed in the current study. A novel analytical method was developed to quantify RM in API and tablet formulation by RP-HPLC method. The developed method was validated as per the ICH guidelines which include System suitability, Specificity, Precision, Linearity, Accuracy, Ruggedness, Robustness, Limit of Detection (LOD), and Limit of Quantification (LOQ) (Chandran and Singh 2007; ICH 2003; 2005). In this work, we have adopted wherever necessary, the procedures by many published papers related to stability indicating

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HPLC method (Alarfaj, 2012; Blessy *et al.*, 2014; Dey *et al.*, 2017; Kongkiatpaiboon *et al.*, 2017; Vamsi *et al.*, 2016).

The primary objective of this research was to develop and validate an analytical RP-HPLC method comprises stability indicating nature by subjecting the RM to forced degradation, viz., acid hydrolysis, alkali hydrolysis, oxidation, photolytic, and thermal degradation to study the effect of degradation on estimation of RM.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Chemicals

A RM reference standard and API were procured from Apotex Pvt Ltd, Bangalore, India and characterized by Fourier Transform Infra-Red and Ultra Violet spectroscopy. RM tablets (Rasalect-1) were purchased from local pharmacy. Analytical grades of Methanol, acetonitrile, and other HPLC solvents used in the analysis were purchased from E-Merck (India) Ltd. Mumbai, India. Ortho-phosphoric acid, hydrochloric acid, and sodium hydroxide were purchased from S D Fine Chem Ltd. Mumbai, India and were used for the study. Hydrogen peroxide was purchased from Karnataka Fine Chem, Bangalore, India. Millipore HPLC grade water used for the analysis.

Instruments

Electronic balance (Mettler Toledo), sonicator (Lab India), digital pH meter (systronics), hot air oven (Servewell), HPLC instrument (Shimadzu) consisting of ultraviolet detector equipped with LC solution software, Fourier-Transform Infra-Red spectroscopy (Shimadzu IR-1S affinity), Ultra Violet Visible spectroscopy (Shimadzu-UV 1800).

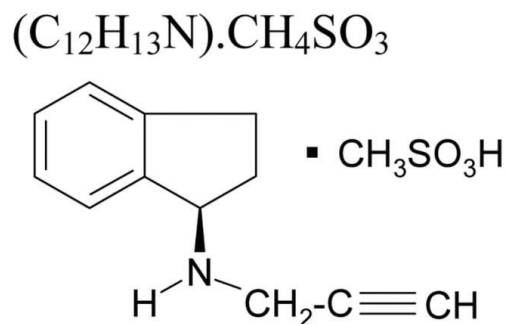


Figure 1. Chemical structure of RM.

Table 1. Chromatographic conditions for RM analysis.

Parameters	Conditions
Stationary phase	C18 (250 × 4.6 mm), 5 μm column
Mobile phase	Acetonitrile: Water (50:50%, v/v), adjusting the pH to 3.0±0.05 with ortho-phosphoric acid
Flow rate (ml/minute)	0.8
Run time (minute)	6
Injection volume (μl)	50
Detection wavelength (nm)	268
Retention time (min)	2.6

Chromatographic conditions

The chromatographic separations were performed on a phenomenex 100 C18 (250 × 4.6 mm), 5 μm column at room temperature using flow rate of 0.8 ml/minute with run time 6.0 minutes and UV detection wavelength at 268 nm. Injection volume was set as 50 μl. Acetonitrile and water in the ration of 50:50% v/v, adjusted to pH to 3.0 ± 0.05 using ortho-phosphoric acid was used as mobile phase which was filtered (0.2 μm finer porosity nylon membrane filter) and degassed by sonication. Mobile phase is used as the diluent (Table 1).

Preparation of standard stock solution

RM standard equivalent to 100 mg was dissolved in 100 ml of diluent to prepare standard stock solution. The stock solution was diluted to get a final standard concentration of 100 μg/ml.

Preparation of sample solution

Twenty tablets each containing 1 mg of rasagiline were weighed, average weight found, and finely powdered. The sample solution was prepared by taking weight equivalent to 10 mg RM from powdered 20 tablets into 100-ml volumetric flask and kept for sonication with 75 ml mobile phase for 30 minutes and shaken occasionally. After cooling to room temperature, the volume was made up with mobile phase, solution was filtered (0.2-μm nylon membrane filter).

Validation

The method developed was validated for the RM assay (1 mg per tablet strength) in formulation for different parameters as follows:

System suitability

Six replicates of prepared 100 μg/ml concentration of RM standard were injected. From standard preparation analysis by the developed method, the tailing factor obtained for RM peak should be less than 2 and theoretical plates of not less than 2,000 determines the column efficiency. Likewise six replicates of standard solution were injected, the mean value calculated for each determination and % Relative Standard Deviation (RSD) should be less than 2%.

Specificity

If developed method has the ability of measuring analyte response even in the presence of potential impurities, the method is said to be specific. Also, the absence of interferences of mobile phase and excipients with the principal analyte response peak denotes specificity. Sample and blank solutions were prepared and analyzed to check the interference of mobile phase with the analyte (RM).

Precision

Degree of scatter in terms of closeness of agreement among analyte responses from multiple sampling of the similar sample under prescribed conditions represents the precision. In the evaluation for precision, system precision, method precision, and intermediate precision were carried out. Six replicates (100

µg/ml RM solution) of injections each for system and method precision was determined and examined. It was represented as % RSD of area counts of RM peak obtained. Ruggedness, which is also represented as intermediate precision, was carried out using different analysts, using different column, on different days, and on different instruments makes. RSD for overall set of data was calculated.

Linearity

Standard stock solution was serially diluted to get the different concentration ranged from 25 to 1,000 µg/ml of RM solution. At all the concentration levels, the peak responses were measured in triplicate. Linear regression analysis was carried out by plotting peak response versus concentration data. Linearity for RM response was determined by the correlation coefficient (R^2) calculation, which shall not be less than 0.997.

Accuracy

Accuracy was performed using marketed formulation. Known amount of samples were taken in a clean dried volumetric flasks separately. To these flasks were spiked by the addition of known amount of RM standards in three different levels, namely, 80% (Level 1) 100% (Level 2), and 120% (Level 3) of sample concentration. The amount of RM recovered was calculated by subjecting these samples for analysis by the developed method.

Robustness

The capacity of an analytical method to remain unaffected by small but deliberate changes in method parameters measures robustness. It was investigated by varying detection wavelength and flow rate. For each variation system suitability (theoretical plates and tailing factor), parameters were checked. For each set of data, %RSD of area counts was determined. Overall %RSD between method precision data and each varied condition data represents the robustness. The developed method is said to be robust if conditions like system suitability should pass and overall %RSD not more than 2% were met.

Limit of detection (LOD) and limit of quantification (LOQ)

LOD represents the lowest possible detectable analyte amount in a sample, not necessarily be quantified. LOQ represents the lowest amount of analyte for which quantification is possible by developed method with suitable precision and accuracy. Serial dilutions were made and chromatographs were recorded till the drug solution gives response and peak area. The peak should be detected at the LOD level and the peak should be quantified at LOQ level by visual evaluation.

The percent relative standard deviation (%RSD) for each validation parameter was obtained by adopting descriptive statistics using MS Excel.

Forced degradation studies

During stability studies investigated by subjecting RM to forced degradation studies. RM was exposed to different conditions of stress, such as acid hydrolysis, alkali hydrolysis,

oxidation, and degradation by thermal and light. The aim was to study the ability of the developed method to measure the analyte response in presence of its degradation products.

Stock Solution Preparation

Accurately weighed and transferred 100 mg of RM standard in to dry and clean 100 ml volumetric flask, dissolved and diluted to 100 ml with diluent, to get a concentration of 1,000 µg/ml. This solution was used as a stock solution for further studies.

Acid and alkali hydrolysis

Nearly, 10 ml of RM stock solution was transferred to a 100-ml volumetric flask. The solution was mixed with 10 ml of 0.1 N HCl or 0.1 N NaOH. The prepared solutions were kept at 80°C for 2 hours in a water bath. The samples were cooled at room temperature. The solution was neutralized with an amount of acid or base equivalent to that of the previously added. Then, volume was made up to 100 ml with the diluent to get a final concentration of 100 µg/ml.

Oxidative degradation

Nearly, 10 ml of RM stock solution was transferred to a 100-ml volumetric flask. The contents were then mixed with 10 ml of 3% hydrogen peroxide solution. The prepared solution was kept at 80°C for 2 hours in water bath and the reaction mixture was allowed to proceed at room temperature with intermittent shaking. Then, volume was made up to 100 ml with the diluent to get a final concentration of 100 µg/ml.

Thermal degradation

A standard drug of RM was exposed to a temperature of 80°C for 2 hours in hot air oven. Nearly, 100 mg of dried powder is weighed and transferred to a 100-ml volumetric flask, dissolved in diluent, and the volume is made up to the mark with the same, to get a concentration of 1,000 µg/ml, 1 ml of above stock solution was diluted to 10 ml with diluent to get a final concentration of 100 µg/ml.

Photolytic degradation

Nearly, 10 ml of stock solution (1,000 µg/ml) was exposed to UV light (254 nm) for 72 hours. Then, volume was made up to 100 ml with the diluent to get a final concentration of 100 µg/ml.

Estimation of RM in marketed product (Rasalect 1)

Standard Solution: Standard stock solution was prepared by dissolving RM standard equivalent to 25 mg in 25 ml of diluent. The above stock solution was diluted to get a final standard concentration of 100 µg/ml.

Sample Solution: 20 tablets each containing 1 mg of rasagiline were weighed, average weight found, and finely powdered. The sample solution was prepared by taking weight equivalent to 10 mg rasagiline from powdered 20 tablets into 100-ml volumetric flask and kept for sonication with 75 ml mobile phase was added and sonicated for 30 minutes with intermittent shaking. Allowed to cool to room temperature and made up the

volume. Then, the solution was filtered through 0.2- μm nylon membrane filter.

Nearly, 50 μl of standard and sample solutions were injected to the system and chromatographs were recorded. The calculations were performed on the comparative basis including the correction factor. The concentration was found by calculation using average peak areas of standard and sample as given in detail in Table 4.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

RP-HPLC method development for RM

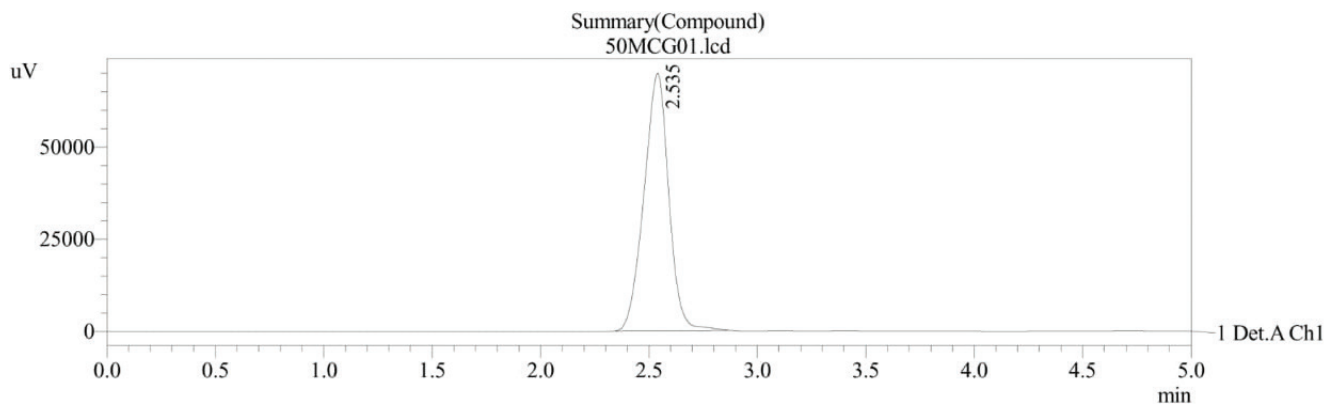
Initially various parameters, such as mobile phase composition and mobile phase pH, were varied and tried to finalize the chromatographic conditions. Percentage of acetonitrile and pH influenced the retention time and separation. Various mobile phases with different organic modifier and with different pH values in combination were tried. As acetonitrile was having the advantages of low background noise and strong elution effect, it was chosen over methanol for RM analysis to shorten analysis time and also there were no interferences from blank acetonitrile. Moreover, the addition of ortho-phosphoric acid in the mobile phase (pH 3) contributed to better symmetry of chromatographic peaks, good symmetrical peak were obtained with mobile phase consisting of water and acetonitrile in the ratio 50:50% v/v with Phenomenex 100 C18 5 μm column within a short runtime of 6 minutes. The mobile phase selection depicts the less possibilities of variation compared to methods with buffers as found in literature, where weighing of ingredients are involved as a part of the mobile phase preparation procedure. Figure 2 illustrates the chromatogram with system suitability parameters obtained by the finalized mobile phase for 50 μl injection of the RM assay preparation. The retention time for RM was only around 2.6 minutes which accounts for high turnout of the samples when compared to others with 4.152 minutes (Sundaramurthy *et al.*, 2011), around 5.5 minutes (Ravi *et al.*, 2013) and at 33.1 minutes (Sunil Reddy *et al.*, 2013). There was no interference from blank at the retention time.

The method by Sundarmurthy *et al.* (2011) utilized a mobile phase which consisted of potassium dihydrogen phosphate buffer and conditions were 1.2 ml flow rate and injection volume of 100 μl to get retention time around 4.152 minutes, whereas in the proposed method, utilized only mixture of acetonitrile and water pH adjusted to 3.0 with o-phosphoric acid with 0.8 ml flow rate, 50 μl injection volume to achieve retention time of 2.6 minutes. In another method by Sunil Reddy *et al.* (2013), authors concentrated on estimation of process related impurities. The method could very well be utilized in bulk manufacturing industries and was a gradient elution technique based separation which was run for more than 70 minutes of runtime. RM retention time being around 31 minutes, it might be difficult to utilize the same in routine analysis of the quality control of samples where quick turnout of the sample is essential.

The objectives of the newly developed analytical method for RM was to achieve shorter retention time, less utilization of mobile phase, minimizing the errors during mobile phase preparation, and to make the method more economical by high turnout of the samples. The earlier researcher (Sunil Reddy *et al.*) opted gradient elution technique of analysis since their prime objective was simultaneous estimation of process related impurities and degradation products, which resulted in increased retention time. Achieving low retention time in RM analysis by this method when compared to other methods in the literature, have the advantages of quick analysis and less consumption of mobile phase which make the developed and validated method to be cost effective.

System suitability

During the validation study, standard solution analysis was carried out by using validated method on different days. Theoretical plates and tailing factor for RM peak were calculated using LC solution system suitability software. Six replicate injections were analyzed and %RSD was calculated. The tailing factor for the RM standard peak was found to be 0.981, with



ID#1 Compound Name: RASAGILINE MESYLATE

Title	Sample Name	Sample ID	Ret. Time	Area	Theoretical Plate#	Tailing Factor
50MCG01.lcd	RASAGILINE MESYLATE	SS	2.535	557485	2111.528	0.983

Figure 2. A typical HPLC chromatogram for RM.

the theoretical plates 2,114.64 and the %RSD for the mean area calculated for RM peak was 0.201%. During the entire course of validation process, all the above system suitability parameters were met.

Specificity

There were no interferences from co-eluting peaks from blank indicates that the RM peak is homogeneous.

Precision

The individual and overall %RSD (not more than 2%) was achieved successfully in all the precision parameters. %RSD of the area counts for six injections of the standard solution was 0.19 for the system precision. That for the method for RM in the sample was 0.16 which indicates and proved the method precision. The individual %RSD of amount present for RM in intermediate precision was found to be within the limits and overall 0.23 with other instrument, analyst and column, and hence the method is found to be rugged (Table 2).

Linearity

The regression equation $y = 10,061x + 58,291$ obtained by plotting peak response versus concentrations plot, with a correlation coefficient (R^2) was 0.9999 indicating that the response is linear over the range of 25–1,000 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ (Fig. 3).

Accuracy

Sample prepared at each three levels of the accuracy studies showed the recoveries ranged from 100.76% to 101.82%. The percentage recovery was found within the acceptable limits (98%–102%). The individual and overall %RSD of percentage recovery study was found to be well within 2%, hence the method is accurate.

Robustness

The results obtained in all the deliberate varied chromatographic conditions (wavelength of detection and flow rate) were well within the limit. The validation data have been

found within the limit which proves the robustness of the method (Table 2).

LOD and LOQ

In this method LOD was found to be 0.1 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ (peak area 12,021) and LOQ was found to be 1 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ (peak area 18,269).

Forced degradation studies

During forced degradation studies the RM was found to be degrading considerably in acidic, basic and oxidative stress condition. The RM solution during alkali stress (0.1 M NaOH at 80°C for 2 hours) showed 88.49% degradation. During acid stress condition (0.1 M HCl, heated at 80°C for 2 hours) degradation showed 47.39% and oxidative degradation (3% H_2O_2 , at heated at 80°C for 2 hours) showed 31.32% degradation of RM. The degradation peaks in alkaline stress condition were observed at 3.09 and 3.85 minutes and that for acidic stress condition were observed at 2.85 and 3.81 minutes. The RM was found to be stable in thermal stress condition (at 80°C for 2 hours) and photo degradation (exposed to UV light for 72 hours), where it was observed negligible degradation of 0.903% and 0.828%, respectively (Table 3). However, chromatogram did not showed appearance of any degradation peaks in case of oxidative, thermal, and photo degradation. Typical chromatograms obtained for RM

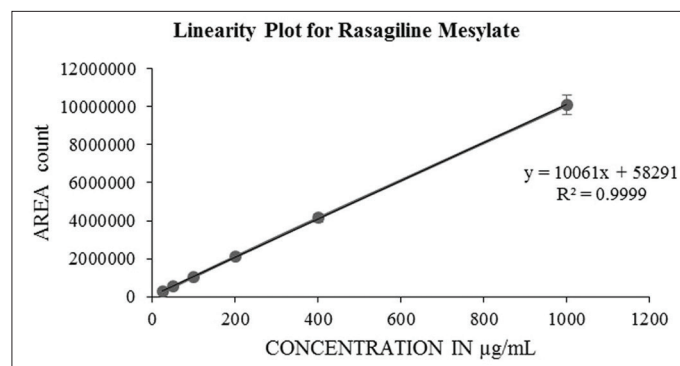


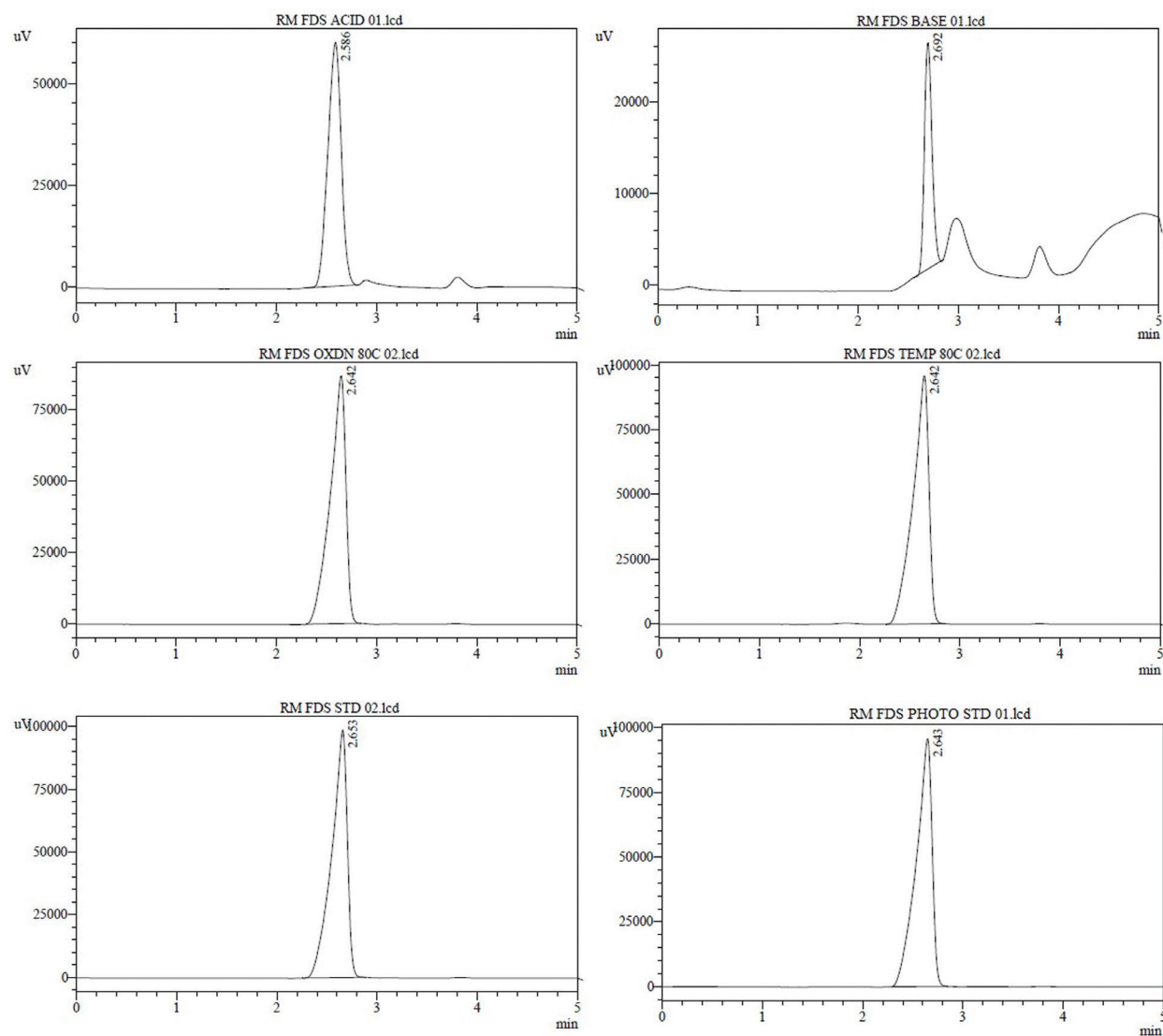
Figure 3. Calibration curve for RM.

Table 2. Results of RM method validation.

Rasagiline mesylate concentration values found by method for various parameters (%)													
Sl. No.	System	Method	Precision						Robustness				Ruggedness
			Intraday			Interday			Change in flow rate		Change in wavelength		
			Hour 1	Hour 2	Hour 3	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	0.6 ml	1 ml	263 nm	273 nm	
1	104.359	105.070	100.194	99.949	100.064	100.194	100.138	100.040	100.105	100.037	100.120	99.990	99.684
2	104.382	105.243	100.223	100.055	100.177	100.223	100.051	99.950	99.986	99.681	99.915	100.061	99.948
3	104.244	105.200	100.097	99.908	99.907	100.097	99.889	99.990	99.895	100.281	99.964	99.949	99.578
4	104.086	105.034	99.817	100.014	99.793	99.817	100.082	100.001	100.107	100.017	100.121	99.992	99.766
5	104.003	104.874	99.927	100.009	100.116	99.927	100.159	100.057	99.859	99.816	99.951	100.060	99.261
6	103.907	104.805	99.742	100.064	99.944	99.742	99.681	99.962	99.958	100.291	99.649	99.499	99.592
Std dev	0.19501	0.17325	0.20095	0.06068	0.14371	0.20095	0.18314	0.04226	0.10835	0.26975	0.09565	0.05069	0.22907
Average	104.215	105.038	99.998	99.987	100.001	99.998	100.002	99.998	99.965	99.993	100.001	100.001	99.638
%RSD	0.18713	0.16494	0.20095	0.06068	0.14371	0.20095	0.18314	0.04226	0.10839	0.26975	0.09565	0.05069	0.22990

Table 3. Results of RM forced degradation studies.

Sl. No.	Nature of stress	Retention time (minute) \pm SD*	Area \pm SD*	% Degraded	Retention times (min) for degradation products
1	Acid hydrolysis	2.58 \pm 0.199	560921 \pm 0.292	47.39	2.85, 3.81
2	Base hydrolysis	2.71 \pm 0.608	122679 \pm 0.910	88.49	3.09, 3.85
3	Oxidation at 80 °C	2.64 \pm 0.448	953673 \pm 0.623	31.32	---
4	Thermal degradation at 80 °C	2.64 \pm 0.062	1056733 \pm 0.128	0.903	---
5	Photo degradation UV 254 nm	2.63 \pm 0.083	1057526 \pm 0.076	0.828	---

n* = 3.Figure 4.** Forced degradation study of RM; HPLC chromatographs for different stressed conditions.

under different conditions are shown in Figure 4. From the forced degradation study, it can be stated that RM peak obtained in all the stress conditions was homogenous and the presence of its degradation products did not affect the principal analyte peak. This confirms the stability indicating nature of the developed method. This proves the method is able to determine RM in presence of its degradation products.

Estimation of RM in tablet dosage forms

Estimation of RM in marketed product, Rasalect 1 tablets, was carried out employing the developed method. Satisfactory results were obtained with the label claim. The percentage assay of RM in marketed formulation was found to be 99.03%. The results showed that there was no interference of excipients and no impurities were observed in samples for the developed method (Table 4).

Table 4. Estimation of RM in marketed product (Rasalect-1).

Brand name	Standard peak area	Average	Sample peak area	Average	Amount found/tablet (mg) ± %SD	Label claim (mg)	% amount found
Rasalect 1	1,068,701	1067224	1,642,579	1,643,306	0.99025 ± 0.18	1	99.025
	1,067,763		1,640,618				
	1,066,044		1,646,167				
	1,068,103		1,643,642				
	1,068,916		1,634,842				
	1,063,818		1,651,986				

CONCLUSION

The analytical methods developed earlier for quantification of RM by various researchers had higher retention times like 4.152 and 5.5 minutes. Further method for the simultaneous estimation of process related impurities and degradation products of RM had retention time of 33.1 minutes. Enhanced retention time attributes to higher mobile phase consumption and less turnout of the samples making the analytical methods less economical. The present RP-HPLC method for the determination of RM in API and pharmaceutical dosage form is simple, rapid, economical, accurate, and precise. Satisfactory results were observed for all the tested validation parameters for the developed method. The retention time was found to be 2.6 minutes due to this the method require less time, the consumption of the mobile phase is less. The preparation of mobile phase involved no weighing procedures there by reduces the human and instrumental error and increase the efficacy of the method when compared to other methods available in the literature. The stress testing results revealed that the method is specific. Hence, the developed method could be conveniently used for quantification of RM in API and in pharmaceutical dosage forms.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Authors declare that there are no conflict of interest.

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