

# Development and Validation of Stability Indicating RP-HPLC Method for Simultaneous Estimation of Loteprednol Etabonate and Levofloxacin in Bulk Drug

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## ABSTRACT

To develop RP-HPLC method for simultaneous estimation of Loteprednol etabonate and levofloxacin in synthetic mixture. In HPLC method the retention time of loteprednol and levofloxacin was found to be 5.68 and 12.08 min, respectively. Linearity was observed in the concentration range 50-150 µg/ml and 5-15 µg/ml with correlation coefficient of loteprednol and Levofloxacin (R<sup>2</sup>) 0.998 and (R<sup>2</sup>) 0.997, respectively. The Mean recovery were found to be in the range 99.72 - 100.47% and 99.68 - 100.87% respectively. A simple, precise, rapid, economic, specific and accurate stability indicating RP-HPLC method have been developed and validated for the simultaneous estimation of Loteprednol and Levofloxacin in its bulk drug. All method validation parameters lie within its acceptance criteria as per ICH Q2(R1) guideline. The developed method can be used for routine analysis of Loteprednol and Levofloxacin in bulk drug and in pharmaceutical dosage form.

**Key Words:** Loteprednol, levofloxacin, RP-HPLC

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## INTRODUCTION

### EYE INFECTION

#### Disease (eye infection)<sup>1-2</sup>

The human eye, which is constantly exposed to the external environment, is a unique organ serving as the window for the body. Ocular disease with its complications, due to microorganisms, is a significant health problem worldwide particularly in the least developed countries [1]. Ocular infections can damage the structure of the eye which can lead to reduced vision or even blindness if it is inappropriately diagnosed and treated. The most frequently affected parts of the eye due to microorganisms are the conjunctiva, eyelid, and cornea. Conjunctivitis, blepharitis, and macrocystitis are considered the most common manifestations of external eye infections [2]. These pathogenic microorganisms include bacteria, fungi, viruses, and parasites.

#### Levofloxacin<sup>3</sup>

Levofloxacin is used to treat a variety of bacterial infections. This medication belongs to a class of drug known as quinolone anti-biotics. It works by stopping the growth of bacteria. This anti-biotic treats only bacterial infection.

**Mechanism of action:** Inhibition of topoisomerase (DNA gyrase) enzymes, which inhibits relaxation of supercoiled DNA and promotes breakage of double stranded DNA.

**Use:** Levofloxacin is used to treat bacterial infection.

#### Loteprednol Etabonate<sup>4</sup>

Loteprednol etabonate was introduced for the treatment of steroid responsive inflammatory conditions of the palpebral and bulbar conjunctiva, cornea, and anterior segment of the ocular globe.

**Mechanism of action:** Loteprednol etabonate specifically induces phospholipase A<sub>2</sub> inhibitory proteins (collectively called lipocortin's), which inhibit the release of arachidonic acid, thereby inhibiting the biosynthesis of potent mediators of inflammation, such as prostaglandins and leukotrienes.

**Use:** This medication is used to treat certain eye conditions due to inflammation or injury. It is also used after eye surgery. Loteprednol works by relieving symptoms such as swelling, redness, and itching. It belongs to a class of drugs known as corticosteroids.

**High Performance Liquid Chromatography 12-14**

The term chromatography meaning “color writing,” was first discovered by Mikhail Tsvet, a Russian botanist who separated plant pigments on chalk (CaCO<sub>3</sub>) packed in glass columns in 1903. High pressure liquid chromatography was developed in the mid-1970’s and quickly improved with the development of column packing materials and the additional convenience of online detectors. In the late 1970’s, new methods including reverse phase liquid chromatography allowed for improved separation between very similar compounds. By the 1980’s HPLC was commonly used for the separation of chemical compounds. Computers and automation added to the convenience of HPLC.

Liquid chromatography (LC) is a physical separation technique conducted in the liquid phase. Analyte is forced to flow through a column under high pressure. Then it is separated into its constituent components by distributing between the mobile phase (a flowing liquid) and a stationary phase (sorbents packed inside a column). Four major separation modes of HPLC are normal phase, reversed phase, ion exchange chromatography, and size exclusion chromatography (gel permeation and gel filtration chromatography).

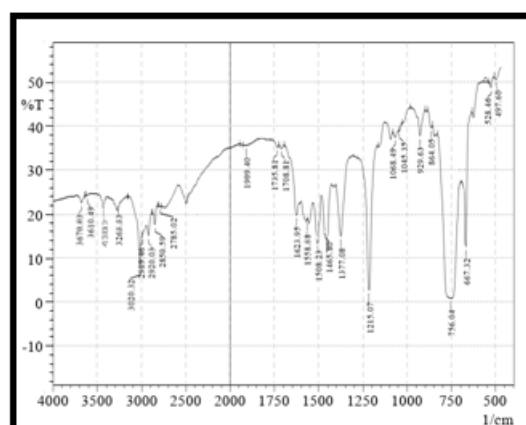
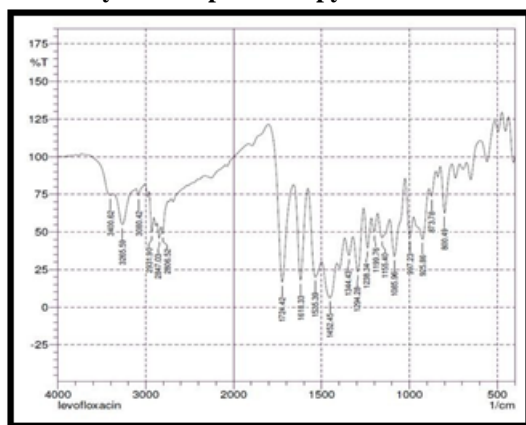
**MATERIALS AND METHOD**

**Melting Point Determination of Loteprednol Etabonate and Levofloxacin:**

**Melting point of Drugs**

Sr. No.	APIs	Melting point (°C)	
		Reported	Measured
1	Loteprednol Etabonate	220.5 to 223.5 °C	220-222°C
2	Levofloxacin	225 to 227 °C	226-227°C

**Identification by FTIR Spectroscopy:**



**IR Spectra of sample Levofloxacin IR Spectra of sample Loteprednol Etabonate**

**IR Spectral interpretation of Levofloxacin**

Sr No.	Functional Group	Frequency (cm <sup>-1</sup> )
1	-COOH	3265
2	-CH <sub>3</sub>	2931
3	C=O	1724
4	C-N	1294
5	F (halogen group)	1085

### IR Spectral interpretation of Loteprednol Etabonate

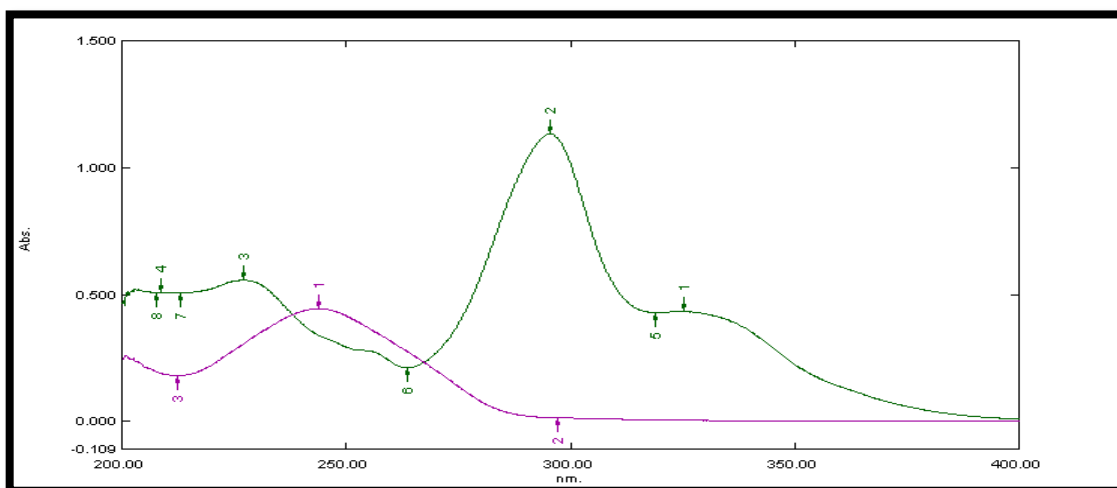
Sr. No.	Functional Group	Theoretical Peaks (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Practical Peaks (cm <sup>-1</sup> )
1	C-H (stretch)	2800-2900	2853
2	C-N (stretch)	1000-1350	1137
3	N-H (stretch)	3100-3500	3363
4	C-O (stretch)	1300-1200	1215
5	C=O (stretch)	1600-1770	1623
6	C=C (stretch)	1475-1610	1503
7	C-Cl (stretch)	540-785	756

### Solubility data of Loteprednol Etabonate and Levofloxacin

#### Solubility Data

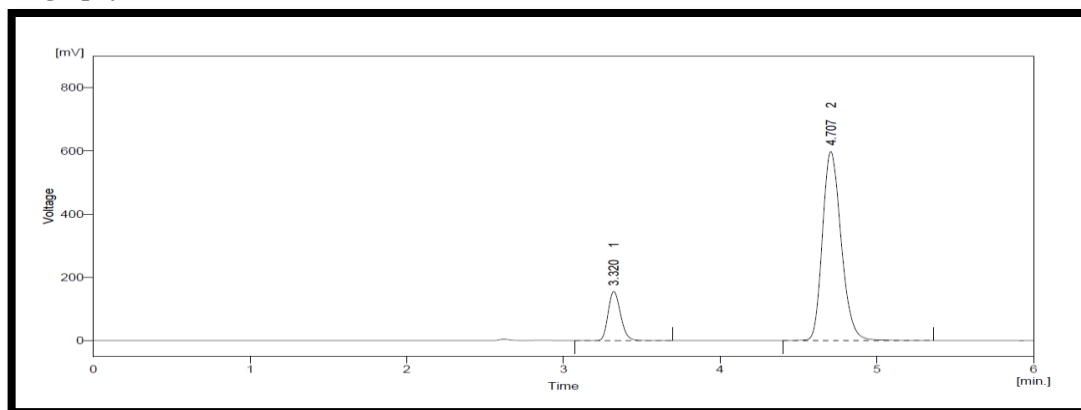
Solvent	Loteprednol Etabonate	Levofloxacin
Water	Freelysoluble	Freely soluble
0.1 N HCl	Slightlysoluble	Slightly soluble
0.1 N NaOH	Highlysoluble	Soluble
Methanol	Freelysoluble	Freelysoluble

#### Selection of Wavelength:



### UV spectrum of Loteprednol Etabonate and Levofloxacin for detection of wavelength.

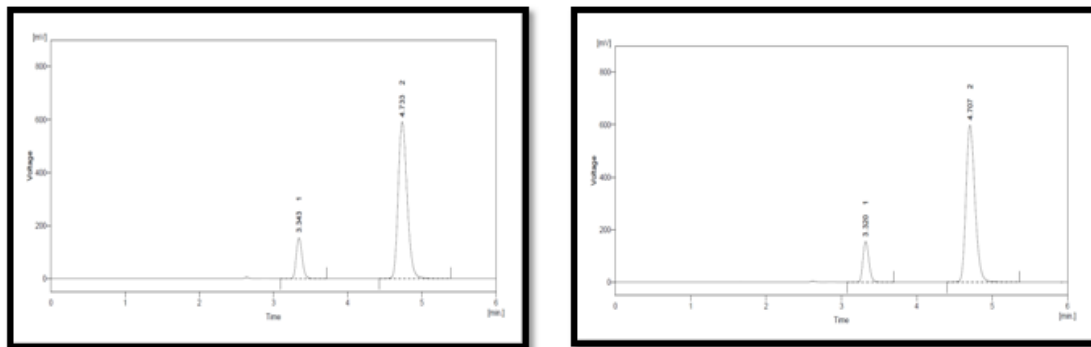
#### Chromatography:



HPLC Chromatogram of Levofloxacin 2 ppm and Loteprednol Etabonate 50 ppm in Buffer (pH 5.0): Methanol (50:50) (Final)

Mobile Phase was selected based on the review of literature. Various mobile phases were tried. Trial contains various mobile phases which consisted of Methanol, Water, Phosphate Buffer in different proportions with various pH and different volumes at flow rate 1 ml/min were tried. On the basis of various trials the mixture of Buffer (pH 5.0) : Methanol (50:50)d

### 7.3 Stability Indicating Method for Simultaneous Estimation of Levofloxacin and Loteprednol Etabonate done by RP-HPLC



#### Loteprednol Etabonate and Levofloxacin Loteprednol Etabonate and Levofloxacin sample Standard for stability

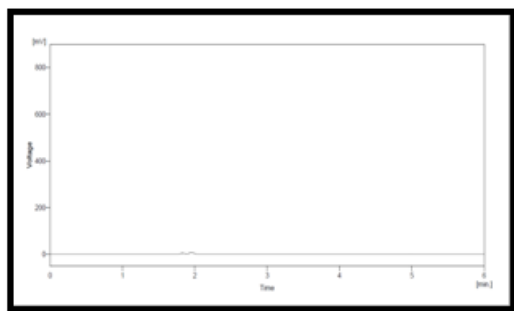
##### Fored Degradation:

##### Acid degradation

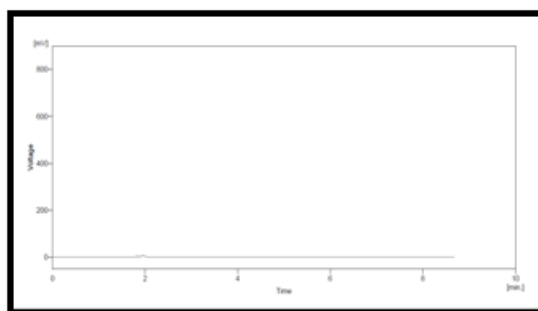
Acid decomposition studies were performed by Refluxing 1 ml of stock solution was transferred in to 10 ml of volumetric flask. 2 ml of 0.1 N Hydrochloride solutions was added and mixed well and put for 5 hrs at 70 °C 250 ml roundBottom flask. After time period the content was cooled to RT. Then the volume was adjusted with diluent to get 50 µg/ml for Loteprednol Etabonate and 2 µg/ml for Levofloxacin.

##### Base degradation

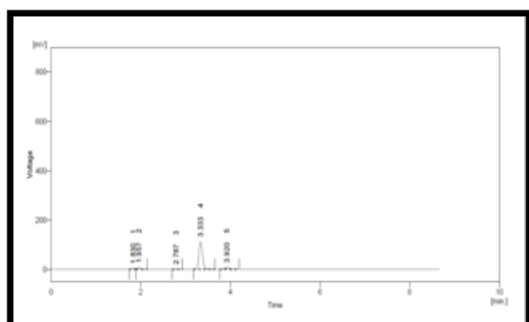
Basic decomposition studies were performed by refluxing 1 ml of stock solution was transferred in to 10 ml of volumetric flask. 2 ml of 0.1 N NaOH solutions was added and mixed well and put for 6 hrs at 70 °C 250 ml round bottom flask. After time period the content was cooled to RT. Then the volume was adjusted with diluent to get 50 µg/ml for Loteprednol Etabonate and 2µg/ml for Levofloxacin.



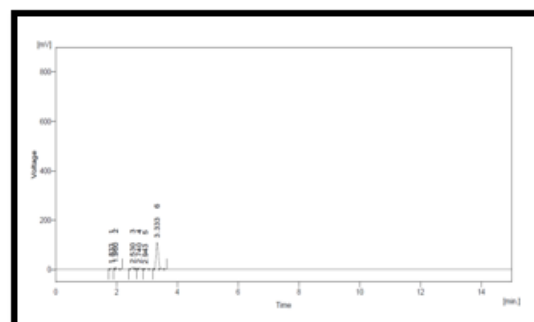
Acid Degradation Blank

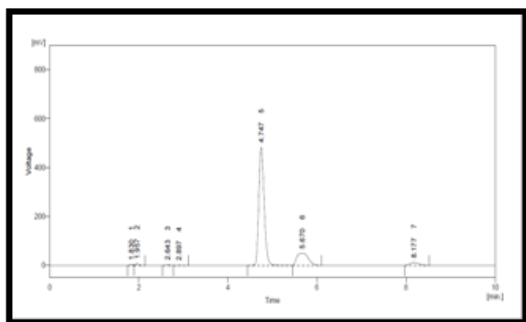


Base Degradation Blank

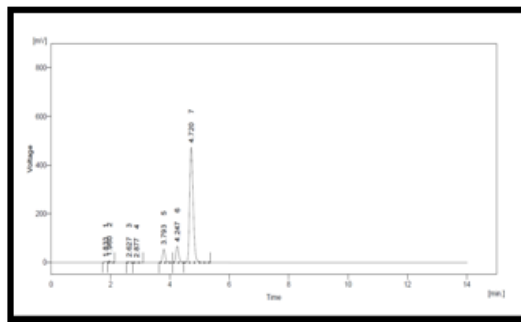


Levofloxacin Acid Degradation Standard Levofloxacin Base Degradation Standard

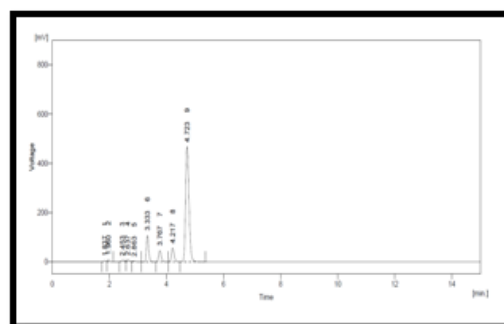
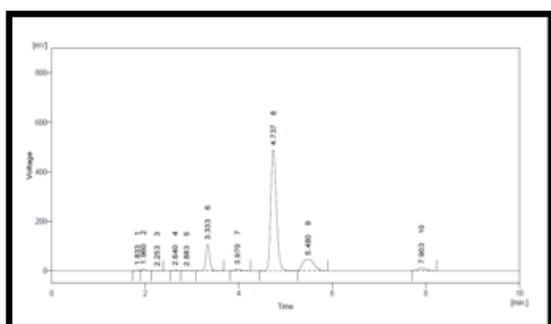




**Loteprednol Etabonate Acid Degradation Standard**



**Loteprednol Etabonate Base Degradation Standard**



**Loteprednol Etabonate and Levofloxacin Acid Degradation Sample**  
**Loteprednol Etabonate and Levofloxacin Base Degradation Sample Calculation for Stability**

Drugs	Area
LoteprednolEtabonate	4936.824
Levofloxacin	844.565

**Loteprednol Etabonate and Levofloxacin for stability**

Parameter	Sample	
	Area	%Degradation
Acid	603.711	28.52
Base	587.895	30.39
Oxidation	630.229	25.38
Photo	686.227	18.75
Thermal	593.39	29.74

**Levofloxacin % Degradation**

Parameter	Sample	
	Area	%Degradation
Acid	4091.43	17.12425
Base	3895.506	21.09287
Oxidation	3410.381	30.91953
Photo	3854.245	21.92865
Thermal	4128.013	16.38323

**Loteprednol Etabonate% Degradation**

**Validation of RP-HPLC Method:**

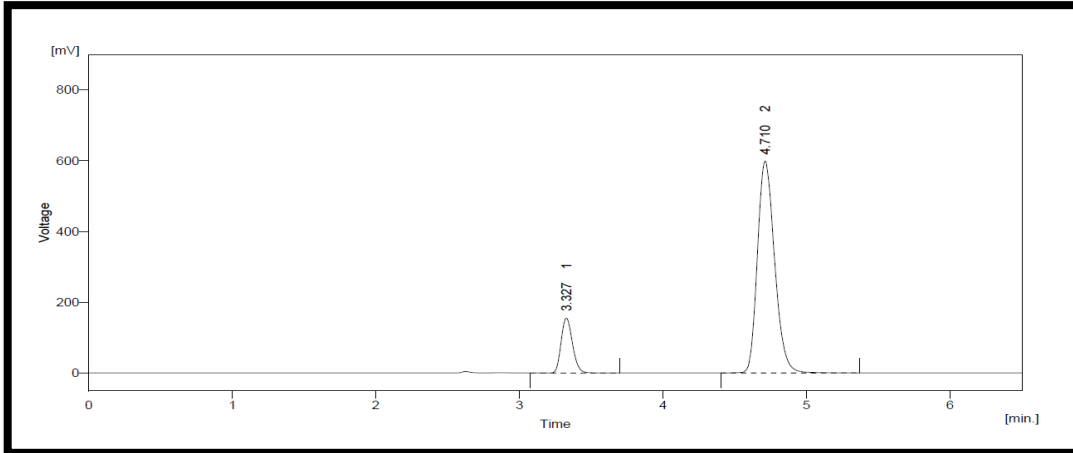
Levofloxacin standard stock solution: (20 µg/mL)

A 2 mg of HBB was weighed and transferred to a 100 mL volumetric flask. Volume was made up to the mark with mobile phase.

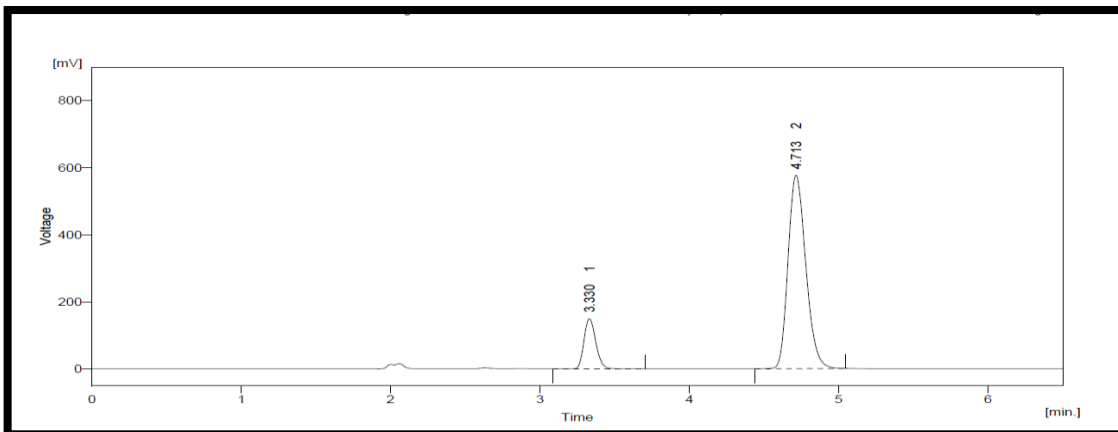
**LoteprednolEtabonate standard stock solution: (500 µg/mL)**

A 50 mg of Loteprednol Etabonate was weighed and transferred to a 100 mL volumetric flask. Volume was made up to the mark with mobile phase. Take 10ml from this solution and Transfer to 100ml volumetric flask and made up the Volume with the Mobile phase

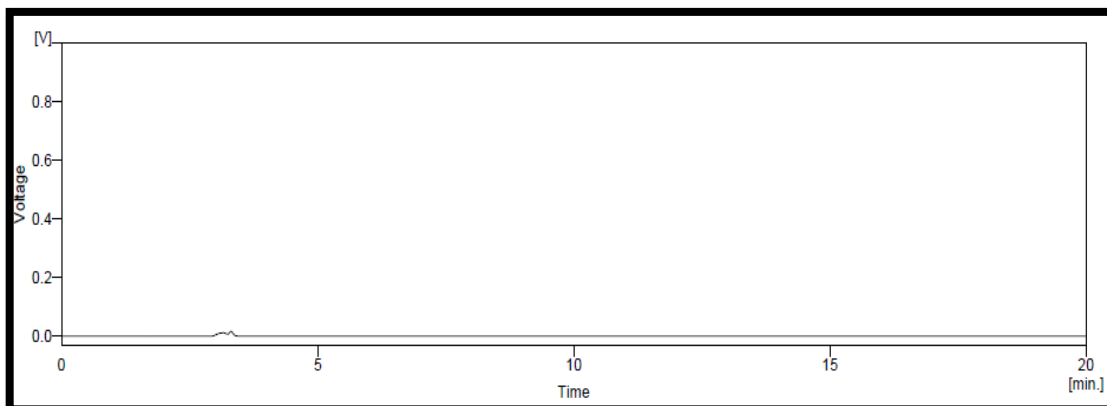
**Specificity:**



**Chromatogram of Levofloxacin and LoteprednolEtabonate Standard for Specificity**



**Chromatogram of Levofloxacin and Loteprednol Etabonate sample for Specificity**



**Chromatogram of Levofloxacin and LoteprednolEtabonate Blank for specificity**

**Linearity and range:**

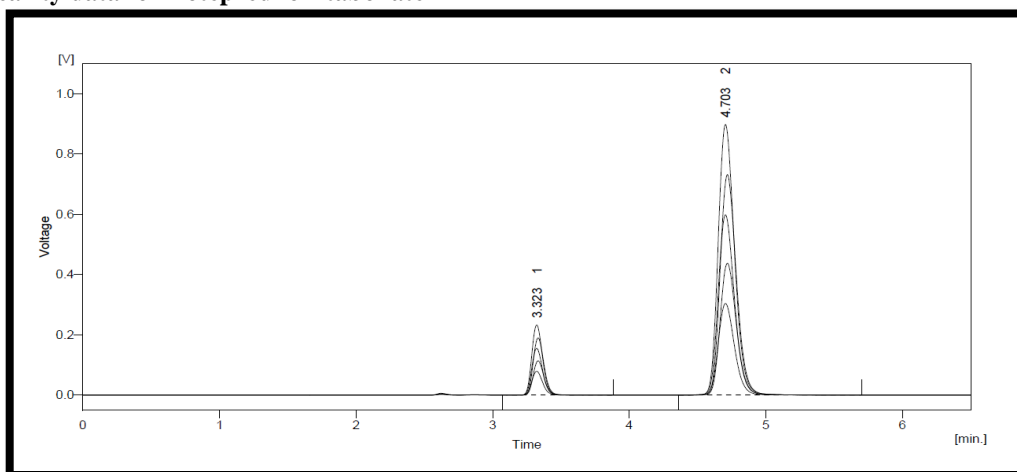
Sr.No	Concentration (µg/ml)	Peak Area
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1	1	430.105
2	1.5	621.961
3	2	847.982
4	2.5	1040.391
5	3	1273.655

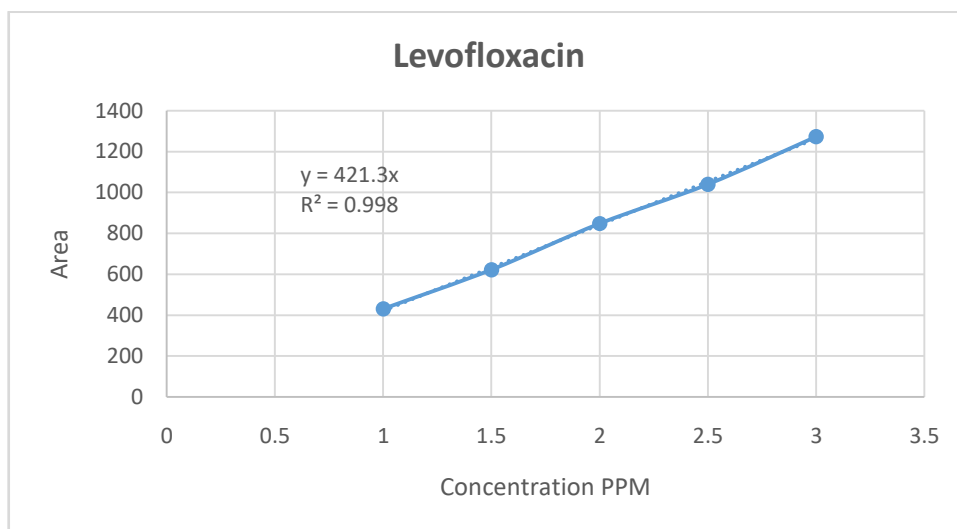
**Linearity data for Levofloxacin**

Sr.No	Concentration (µg/ml)	Peak Area
1	25	2517.111
2	37.5	3636.106
3	50	4923.711
4	62.5	6082.409
5	75	7446.404

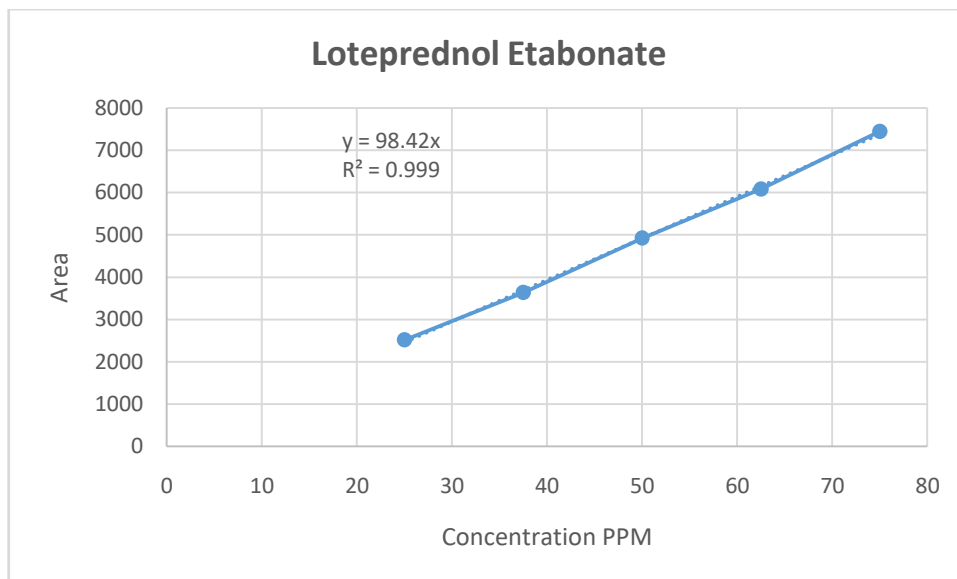
**Linearity data for LoteprednolEtabonate**



**Overlay chromatogram of different concentrations of mixtures of LoteprednolEtabonate and Levofloxacin for linearity**



**Calibration Curve of Levofloxacin(1-3 µg/ml)**



Calibration Curve of LoteprednolEtabonate (25-75 µg/ml).

**Precision**

**I. Repeatability**

The data for repeatability of peak area measurement for LoteprednolEtabonate(50 µg/ml) and Levofloxacin (2 µg/ml) based on six measurements of same solution of LoteprednolEtabonate (50 µg/ml) and Levofloxacin (2 µg/ml). The % RSD for LoteprednolEtabonateand Levofloxacin was found to be 0.5280 and 0.3739 respectively.

Levofloxacin				
Sr No.	Conc. (µg/ml)	Area	Mean ± S.D (n=6)	% R.S.D
1.	2	847.956	849.9733±3.1788	0.3739
		847.155		
		853.119		
		848.838		
		854.802		
		847.97		

**Repeatability data for Levofloxacin**

LoteprednolEtabonate				
Sr No.	Conc (µg/ml)	Area	Mean ± S.D (n=6)	% R.S.D
1.	50	4956.633	4962.454 ±26.202	0.5280
		4951.608		
		4986.296		
		4961.373		
		4996.102		
		4922.712		

**Repeatability data for LoteprednolEtabonate**



## II. Intraday precision

Standard solution containing (1, 2, 3 µg/ml) of Levofloxacin and (25,50,75 µg/ml) of LoteprednolEtaborate were analysed three times on the same day and % R.S.D was calculated.

Levofloxacin			
SR. NO.	Conc. (µg/ml)	Area Mean ± S.D. (n=3)	% R.S.D
1	1	424.703 ± 1.0822	0.254
2	2	856.778 ± 3.470	0.405
3	3	1272.3913 ± 5.2716	0.414

Intraday precision data for estimation of Levofloxacin

LoteprednolEtaborate			
SR. NO.	Conc. (µg/ml)	Area Mean ± S.D. (n=3)	% R.S.D
1	25	2482.292 ± 3.732	0.150
2	50	5000.660 ± 28.846	0.576
3	75	7438.857 ± 30.996	0.416

Intraday precision data for estimation of LoteprednolEtaborate

## III. Interday precision

Standard solution containing (1,2,3 µg/ml) of Levofloxacin and (25,50,75 µg/ml) of LoteprednolEtaborate were analysed three times on the different day and % R.S.D was calculated

Levofloxacin			
SR. NO.	Conc. (µg/ml)	Area Mean ± S.D. (n=3)	% R.S.D
1	1	421.478 ± 3.597	0.8535
2	2	849.944 ± 7.245	0.8524
3	3	1278.5 ± 5.597	0.4377

Interday precision data for estimation of Levofloxacin.

LoteprednolEtaborate			
SR. NO.	Conc. (µg/ml)	Area Mean ± S.D. (n=3)	% R.S.D
1	25	2460.137 ± 31.437	1.2778
2	50	4955.970 ± 61.494	1.2408
3	75	7470.511 ± 37.322	0.4995

Interday precision data for estimation of LoteprednolEtaborate

### Accuracy:

#### For LoteprednolEtaborate

50 µg/ml drug solutions were taken in three different flask label A, B and C. Spiked 80%, 100%, 120% of standard solution in it and diluted up to 10ml. The area of each solution peak was measured at 220 nm. The amount of LoteprednolEtaborate was calculated at each level and % recoveries were computed.

#### For Levofloxacin

2 µg/ml drug solution was taken in three different flask label A, B and C. Spiked 80%, 100%, 120% of standard solution in it and diluted up to 10ml. The area of each solution peak was measured at 243 nm. The amount of Levofloxacin was calculated at each level and % recoveries were computed.

SR. NO.	Conc. Level (%)	Sample amount (µg/ml)	Amount Added (µg/ml)	Amount recovered (µg/ml)	% Recovery	% Mean Recovery ± S.D
1	80 %	1	0.8	0.8075	100.944	100.571 ± 0.6478
2		1	0.8	0.7985	99.8235	
3		1	0.8	0.8075	100.946	
4	100 %	1	1	1.0011	100.111	100.325 ± 0.2179
5		1	1	1.0031	100.318	
6		1	1	1.0054	100.547	
7	120 %	1	1.2	1.1981	99.847	99.985 ± 0.5446
8		1	1.2	1.1942	99.523	
9		1	1.2	1.2070	100.586	

#### Recovery data for Levofloxacin

SR. NO.	Conc. Level (%)	Sample Amount	Amount Added	Amount recovered (µg/ml)	% Recovery	% Mean Recovery ± S.D
1	80 %	25	20	20.1361	100.680	99.6788 ± 1.7258
2		25	20	19.5371	97.6859	
3		25	20	20.1339	100.6696	
4	100 %	25	25	24.9699	99.8797	100.5386 ± 0.977
5		25	25	25.0185	100.0743	
6		25	25	25.4154	101.6616	
7	120 %	25	30	29.8913	99.6378	99.5888 ± 0.799
8		25	30	29.6298	99.7663	
9		25	30	30.1087	100.3623	

#### Recovery data for Loteprednol Etabonate

#### LOD and LOQ:

#### Limit of Detection:

Levofloxacin	LoteprednolEtabonate
LOD = 3.3 x (SD / Slope) = 3.3 x (12.4693 / 421.38) = 0.0976 µg/ml	LOD = 3.3 x (SD / Slope) = 3.3 x (71.0611 / 98.42) = 2.382 µg/ml

#### Limit of Detection data for Levofloxacin and Loteprednol Etabonate

**Limit of Quantitation:**

Levofloxacin	Loteprednol Etabonate
$LOQ = 10 \times (SD / \text{Slope})$ $= 10 \times (12.4693/421.38)$ $= 0.295 \mu\text{g/ml}$	$LOQ = 10 \times (SD / \text{Slope})$ $= 10 \times ((71.0611/98.42)$ $= 7.220 \mu\text{g/ml}$

**Limit of Quantitation data for Levofloxacin and Loteprednol Etabonate**

**Robustness:**

1. Flow rate of mobile phase was changed ( $\pm 0.2$  ml/min) 0.8 ml/min and 1.2 ml/min.
2. pH of Mobile phase was changed ( $\pm 0.2$ ) 5.2 and 4.8.
3. Ratio of Mobile phase was changed ( $\pm 2$ ) Buffer: Methanol (52:48) and Buffer: Methanol (48:52)

SR NO.	Area at Flow rate (+ 0.2 ml/min)	Area at Flow rate (- 0.2 ml/min)	Area at pH (+0.2)	Area at pH (-0.2)	Area at Mobile phase(+2)	Area at Mobile phase(-2)
1	2282.685	878.606	855.633	868.529	840.382	860.79
2	2354.415	875.087	859.95	868.557	843.762	848.87
3	2368.847	872.713	853.941	869.428	849.686	859.08
% R.S.D	1.9760	0.3386	0.3617	0.05883	0.5576	0.7525

**Robustness data for Levofloxacin.**

SR NO.	Area at Flow rate (+ 0.2 ml/min)	Area at Flow rate (- 0.2 ml/min)	Area at pH (+ 0.2)	Area at pH (- 0.2)	Area at Mobile phase (+2)	Area at Mobile phase (-2)
1	3333.63	5136.09	5001.41	5076.64	4912.14	5031.40
2	3282.56	5115.49	5001.07	5042.38	4909.36	5021.29
3	3374.72	5115.45	4991.10	5081.61	4966.24	5021.23
% R.S.D	1.3863	0.2323	0.1171	0.4215	0.6505	0.1165

**Robustness data for Loteprednol Etabonate**

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