
Research Article



ISSN Print 2231 – 3648
 Online 2231 – 3656

Available Online at: www.ijpir.com

**International Journal of
Pharmacy and Industrial
Research**

Formulation and evaluation of albendazole tablet by using sublimating agent

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ABSTRACT

Sublimation technique is one of the promising approaches for the formulation of drug compounds with poor aqueous solubility. The characterization of the prepared tablet was carried such as FTIR, XRD and AFM studies. XRD graph revealed the absence of peak due to sublimation of camphor. The AFM microgram described the uneven surface due to pores formed by sublimation. SEM indicated the circular shapes contrast on the tablet surface formed due to sublimation of camphor.

Porosity was the most critical element in the uptake of water, but porosity beyond certain extent is regulated by an effective surface area of the tablet. The concentration of camphor had a little effect because of the limited surface area present in the tablet. Avicel enhanced the liquid transport into a tablet matrix, accelerating both diffusion and capillary action because avicel exhibited the fast aqueous penetration even at low porosity due to the breaking of hydrogen bonds and widening of pores. This phenomenon enhanced the solubility by increasing the surface area and water penetration leading to an increased dissolution. Thus it may be concluded that the developed novel method for preparing fast dissolving tablets for albendazole increases the porosity and enhances the bioavailability.

Keywords: Albendazole, Sublimating agent, Avicel, Camphor, manitol

INTRODUCTION

Oral drug delivery is the most preferred and convenient route of drug administration due to high patient compliance, cost effectiveness, good stability, flexibility in the design of dosage form and ease of production [1]. Albendazole is a white to yellowish powder. It is freely soluble in anhydrous formic acid and very slightly soluble in ether and in methylene chloride. Albendazole is practically insoluble in alcohol and in water. Albendazole is used to treat neurocysticercosis, an infection of the nervous system caused by pork tapeworms. This medicine is also used to treat cystic hydatid disease of the liver, lung, and peritoneum, an infection caused by dog tapeworms. Albendazole is used to treat infections caused by worms. It works by keeping the worm from absorbing sugar (glucose), so that the worm loses energy and dies. Albendazole, also known as albendazolum is a medication used for the treatment of a variety of parasitic worm

infestations. It is useful for giardiasis, trichuriasis, filariasis, neurocysticercosis, hydatid disease, pinworm disease, and ascariasis, among other diseases. It is taken orally.

Common side effects include nausea, abdominal pains, and headaches.^[2] Potentially serious side effects include bone marrow suppression which usually improves on stopping the medication.^[3] Liver inflammation has been reported and those with prior liver problems are at greater risk.^[3] It is pregnancy category C in the United States and category D in Australia, meaning it may cause harm if taken by pregnant women. Albendazole is a broad-spectrum antihelminthic agent of the benzimidazole type.

Rationale of drug selection

Albendazole is benzimidazole derivative, anti-parasitic drug against protozoan infection such as cystic hydatid, enterobiasis, Strongyloidiasis, Trichuriasis, neuro-

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cysticercosis, Filariasis, Giardiasis and ascariasis [9]. Albendazole is poorly absorbed from gastrointestinal tract due to its low aqueous solubility which comes under the category of BCS class-II. The pharmacokinetic studies reveal that bioavailability is meager which varies from 5% and tends to change with the gastric contents [10-11]. Albendazole has the half life of 8-9 hours and exhibits hepatic metabolism. In this context, there is a need to increase the systemic availability of drug for an increased plasma residence time for better therapeutic effect. This study will be an attempt to optimize the therapeutic effect of Albendazole by formulation as a sublimated tablet.

METHODOLOGY

Preparation of Sublimated tablets

By using design expert software, the optimized concentration of subliming material was determined and

the combined effect of formulation variable was analyzed. Accurately weighed quantity of Albendazole, sublimating agent (i.e. Camphor) and Avicel 102 were passed through number 60 mesh and physically mixed using mortar for 15 minutes. To this, sodium starch glycolate (super disintegrant) is added to impart swelling leading to rapid breakdown and fast drug dissolution. Mannitol is added to impart the good aqueous solubility and also enhances the property of breakdown of particles in tablet. The obtained blend was lubricated with talc and magnesium stearate for 5 minutes. The final mixture was directly compressed into tablets with 8mm round flat punches using rotary tableting machine [45]. The tablets were then subjected to sublimation by placing in a hot air oven at 60° C for 2 hours to generate a porous matrix, due to removal of volatile component [46]. The final weight of the tablet is adjusted to 750 mg and the composition of the tablets were given in table (1)

Table 1: Formulation of Albendazole tablet by sublimation technique

FORMULATION	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6	F7	F8	F9
DRUG	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200
CAMPHOR	150	187.5	225	150	187.5	225	150	187.5	225
MCC	176.25	176.25	176.25	213.75	213.75	213.75	251.25	251.25	251.25
MANNITOL	156.25	118.75	81.25	118.75	81.25	43.75	81.25	43.75	6.25
SSG	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
MG.ST	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
TALC	22.5	22.5	22.5	22.5	22.5	22.5	22.5	22.5	22.5
TOTAL	750	750	750	750	750	750	750	750	750

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Drug-excipient compatibility study

Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FT-IR)

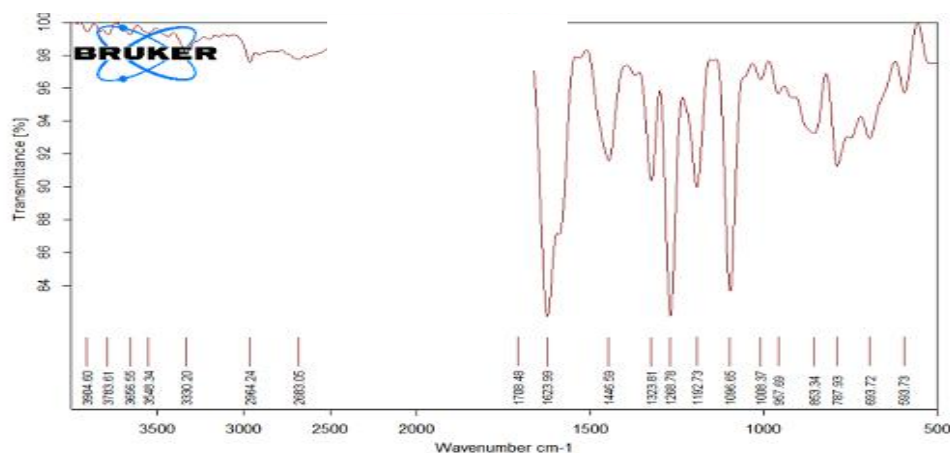


Fig 1: Drug (API)

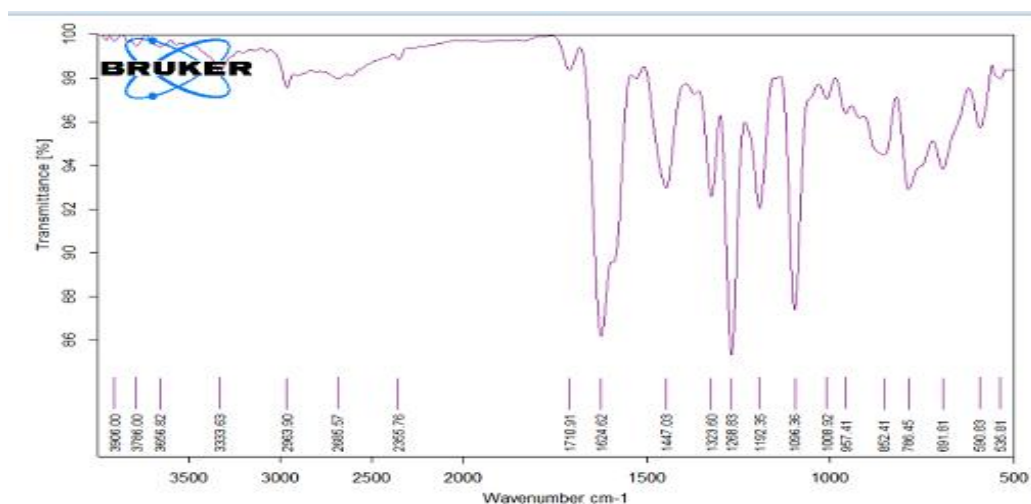


Fig 2: Drug + Sodium Starch Glycolate

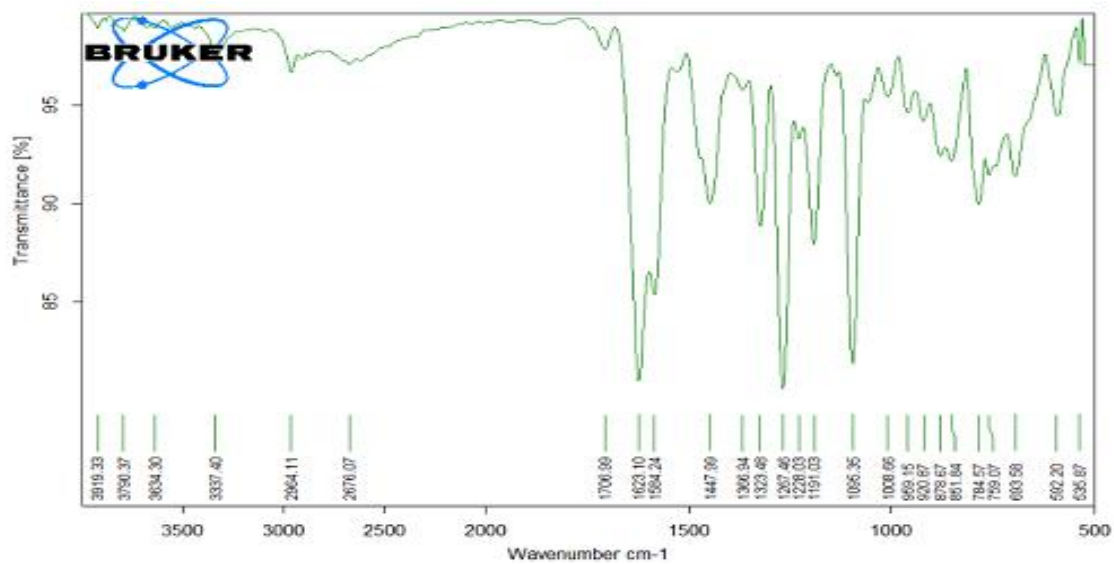
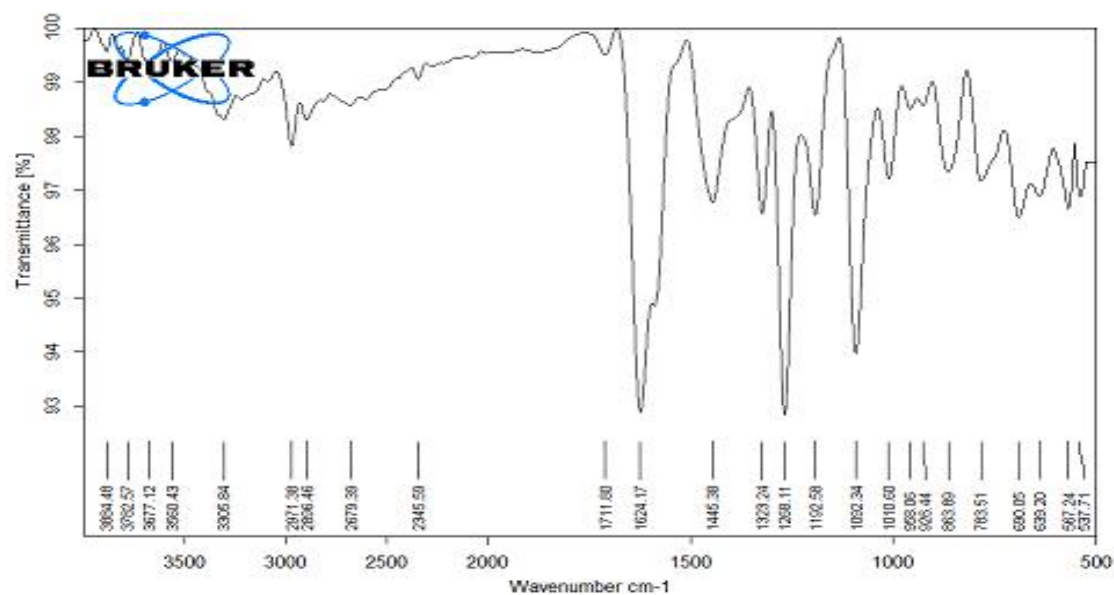


Fig 3: Drug + Camphor



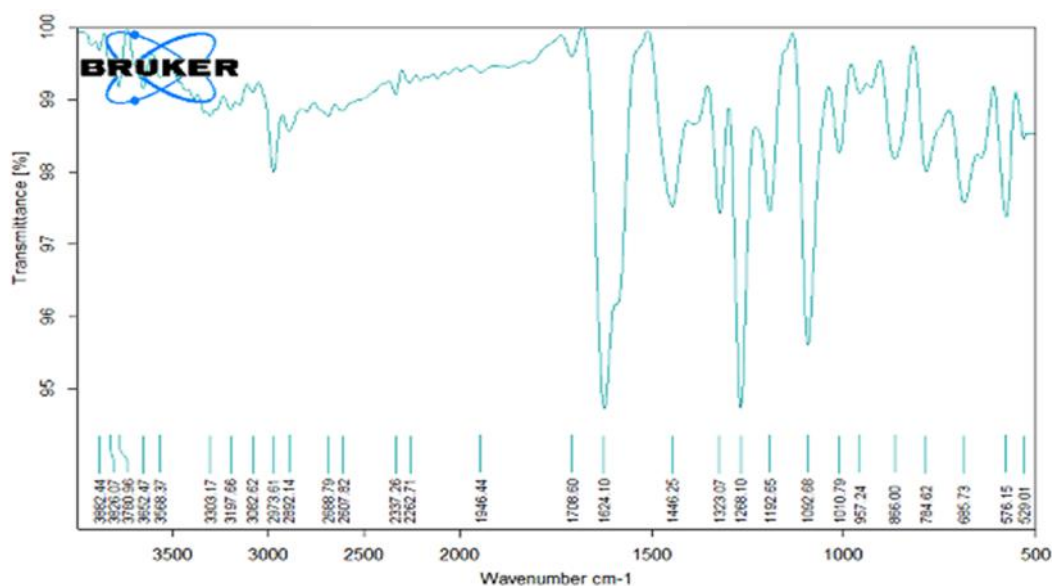


Fig 5: Drug + Avicel

Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API) was subjected to FT-IR study to evaluate the compatibility with other Excipients. FT-IR spectra of Albendazole exhibited characteristic benzimidazole vibrations. The stretching vibration observed at 1096 cm⁻¹ represented the C-S bond, a typical propyl-thio feature of Benzimidazole.

Compatibility studies were performed by comparing the FT-IR spectra of API and its physical mixture with Excipients. The examination clearly indicated the retention of ABZ core functional group, thereby indicating the Compatibility with the selected ingredients.

Table 2:

Formulation	Weight Variation		Hardness (kg/cm ²)	Friability (%)	Drug Content (%)	DT (sec)
	Before sublimation	After sublimation				
F1	749±1.2	617±1.2	3.7±0.2	0.51±0.09	98.8±0.8	56±5
F2	748±1.6	587±0.4	3.8±0.5	0.56±0.11	99.5±0.4	59±3
F3	750±2.2	545±1.6	3.7±0.3	0.63±0.07	98.6±1.0	61±7
F4	747±1.8	619±1.8	3.9±0.7	0.46±0.17	99.2±0.6	55±4
F5	751±0.8	585±0.6	3.7±0.4	0.68±0.13	99.8±0.6	57±2
F6	748±0.4	541±2.2	3.8±0.2	0.74±0.07	98.7±0.8	63±5
F7	749±0.6	613±0.6	3.7±0.5	0.54±0.15	99.4±1.2	65±3
F8	750±0.8	581±0.8	3.9±0.2	0.59±0.12	99.3±0.7	62±7
F9	748±1.2	551±0.8	3.8±0.3	0.62±0.17	98.2±1.3	60±4

Values are expressed as Mean ± S.D

Weight variation test

The decrease in mean weight of tablets after sublimation corresponds to weight of camphor added as shown in table (8.5). This study revealed that almost 90% of camphor had sublimated from the tablets. In all the formulation weight variations was within ±3.74% which was found to be within the IP limits.

Friability

Friability of all formulations was found to be 0.46-0.74% (±0.07%). The Formulation F3, F6, F9 containing 225 mg

of camphor shows more % friability when compared to other formulation. The friability data clearly indicates that as the concentration of camphor increases, % friability of formulation is also increased due to increased porosity. As per IP, All the formulation passed the % friability test.

Hardness

Hardness of all formulations was found to be 3.7-3.9 kg/cm². The hardness and friability studies revealed that the tablets possessed good mechanical resistance.

Uniformity of Drug Content

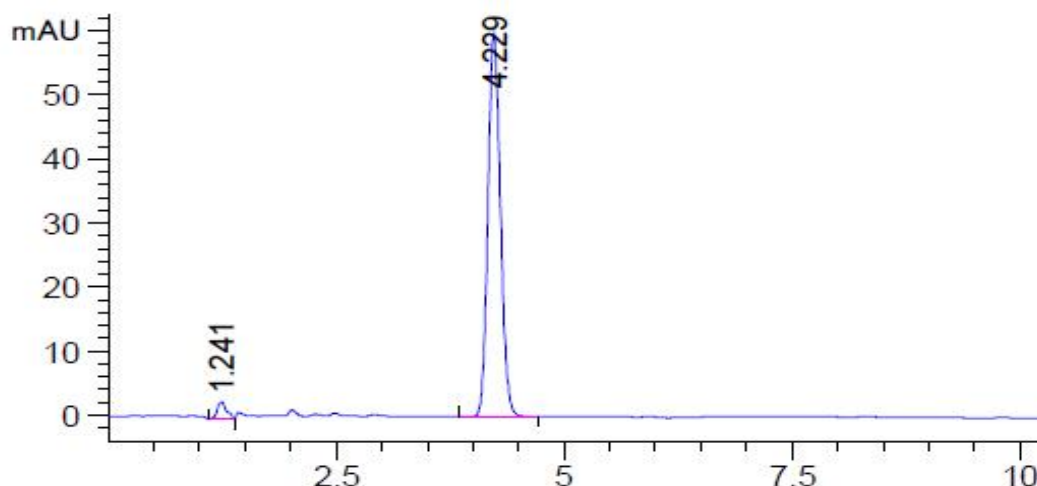


Fig 6: Uniformity of drug content

Uniformity of drug content was found to be more than 90% in all formulations. Hence, it was found to be within the IP limits.

In-vitro disintegration test

The most important parameter that needs to be optimized in the development of Fast dissolving tablets is the disintegration time of tablets. In present study all tablets disintegrated in less than 70 seconds. All formulation was

prepared using 150 to 225 mg concentration of camphor. In addition, sodium starch glycolate swells and Avicel enhances the breakage of hydrogen bond leads to widening of the pores [51-52]. The results showed that as concentration of camphor increases, the porosity of the tablet also increases which reveals the fastest disintegration, but due to higher porosity the tablet becomes more fragile.

Measurement of Porosity

Table 3: Evaluation of % Porosity

S.no.	FORMULATION	%POROSITY (% \pm S.D)
1.	F1	22.1 \pm 0.5
2.	F2	27.9 \pm 0.3
3.	F3	41.5 \pm 0.8
4.	F4	25.2 \pm 0.2
5.	F5	34.7 \pm 0.9
6.	F6	41.1 \pm 0.5
7.	F7	25.4 \pm 0.4
8.	F8	29.4 \pm 0.7
9.	F9	38.1 \pm 0.6

Values are expressed as Mean \pm S.D

Tablets exhibit % porosity in the range of 22.1 \pm 0.5-41.5 \pm 0.8 for camphor concentration in the range of 150-225 mg. Hence many porous structures are responsible for faster water uptake and also facilitate wicking action of sodium starch glycolate. Therefore, Porosity is directly

proportional to concentration of camphor and the effect of avicel on porosity has a negligible effect.

In-vitro dissolution study

Table 4: Cumulative percent drug release of Albendazole

Time	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6	F7	F8	F9	Control
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	22.7	21.1	26.8	22.7	30.6	32.3	31.9	27.4	32.1	5
30	38.9	31.9	34.1	38.9	39.7	38.5	41.6	42.20	42.4	9
45	44.4	44.3	44.4	44.4	48.7	45.4	47.9	47.5	45.5	11
60	48.6	46.8	45	48.6	49.9	48.6	50.2	49.6	47.7	15
90	52.9	49.3	52.9	54.7	51.9	54.8	53.1	52.6	53.6	19

Values are expressed in % CDR

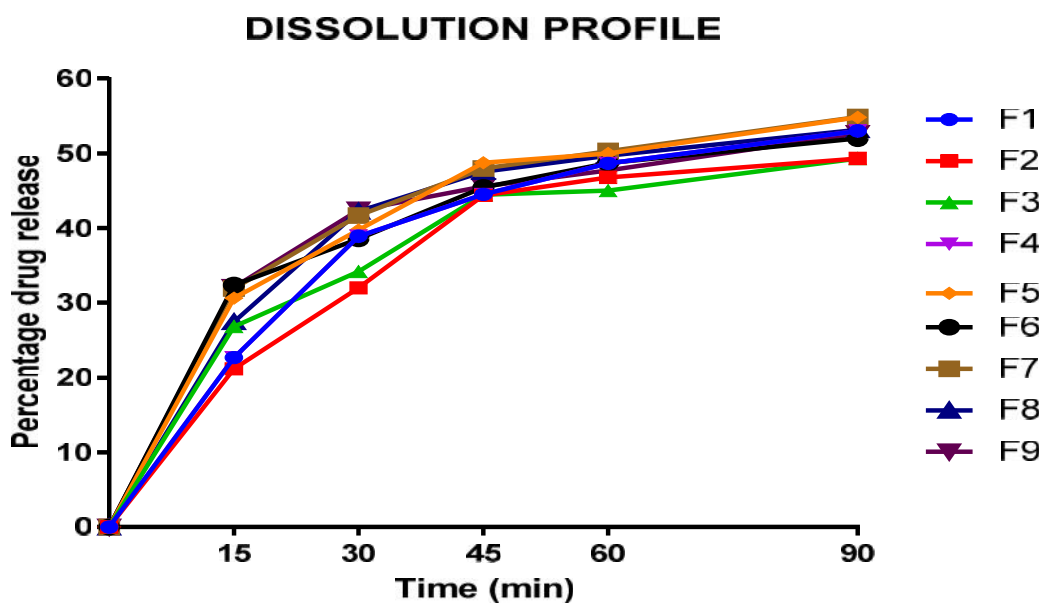


Fig 7: Percentage drug release of Albendazole

X-ray Powder Diffraction (XRD) Analysis

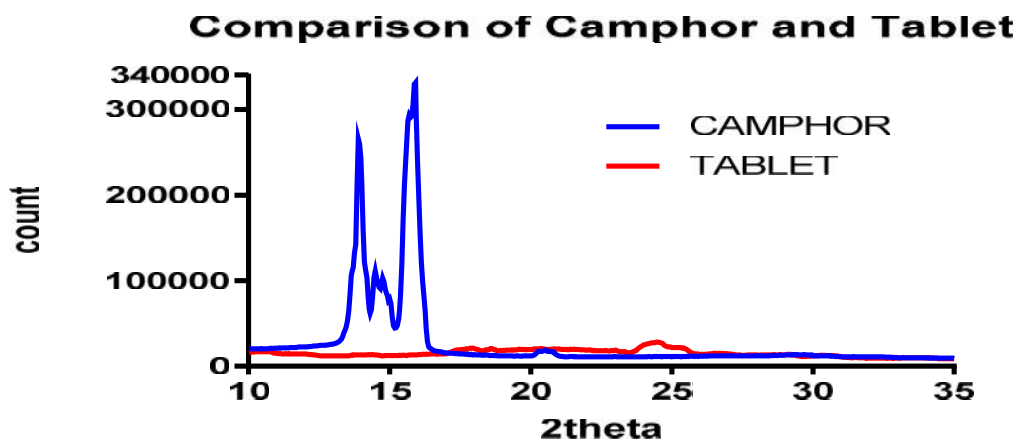


Fig 8A: XRD of Camphor and Tablet

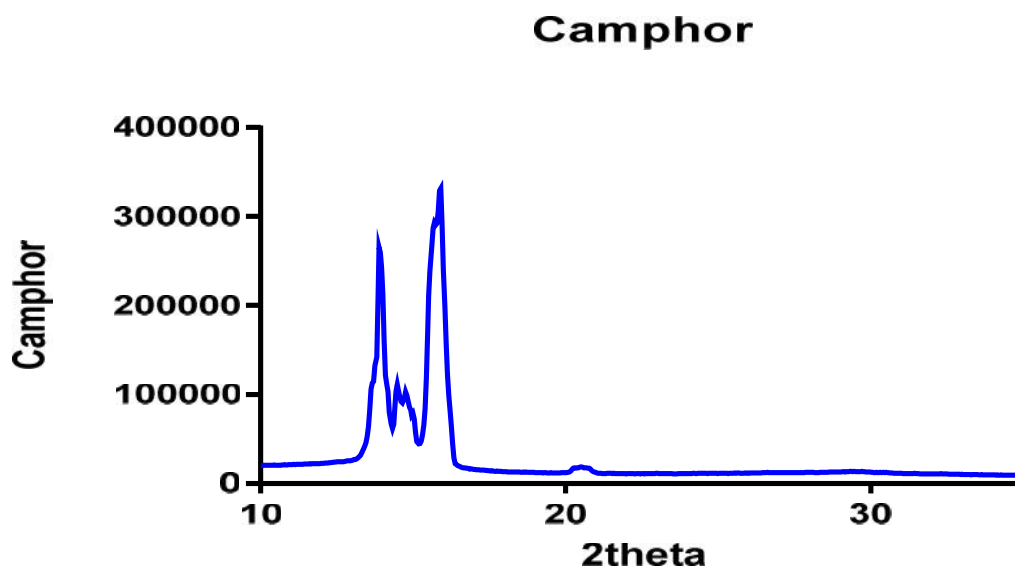


Fig 8B: XRD of Camphor

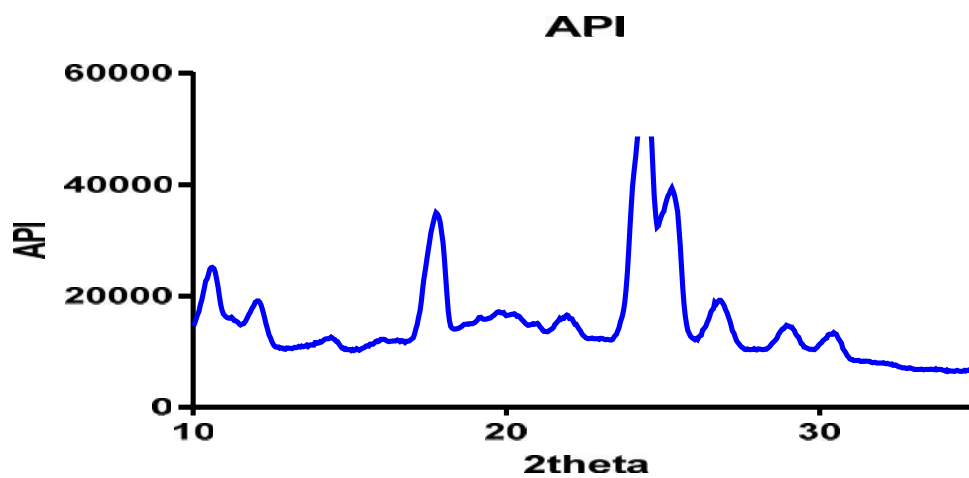


Fig 8C: XRD of API

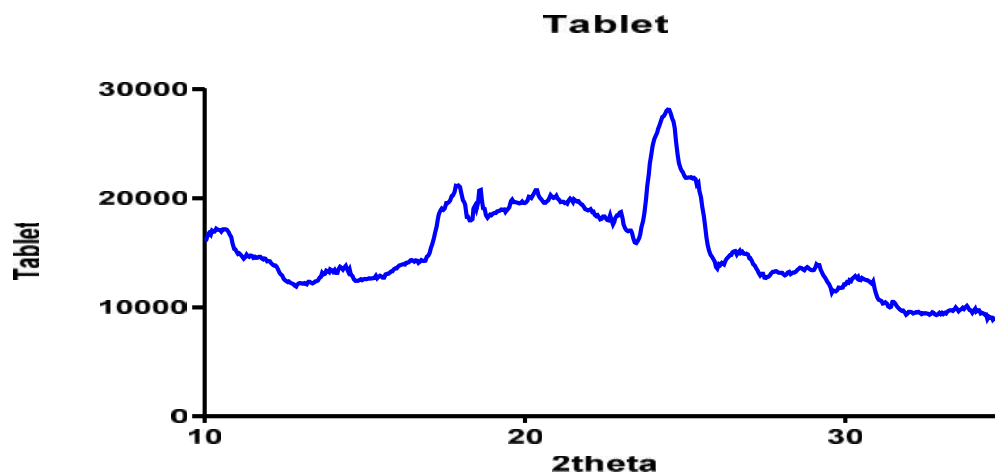


Fig 8D: XRD of Tablet

X-ray Powder Diffraction was conducted to establish the change in the crystalline nature of API and to establish the porosity of tablets. Powder XRD studies were conducted at a 2θ range of $10-35^\circ$ with a sampling width of 0.01° in continuous scanning mode [53]. Camphor exhibited a highly intense sharp peak at $2\theta = 13.9$ and 15.5 illustrate the highly ordered crystal lattice structure. This is a unique characteristic nature of terpenoid derivative. Meanwhile, API exhibited a peak at $2\theta = 24.5^\circ$ and 17.9° . The peaks

were intense and clearly illustrated its crystalline nature. Consequently, this crystalline nature explains the low soluble and dissolution of albendazole. After sublimation, XRD analysis was conducted on a tablet to evaluate the degree of crystallinity. The graph revealed the absence of peak corresponding to terpenoids which indicates the complete sublimation of camphor.

Scanning Electron Microscopic

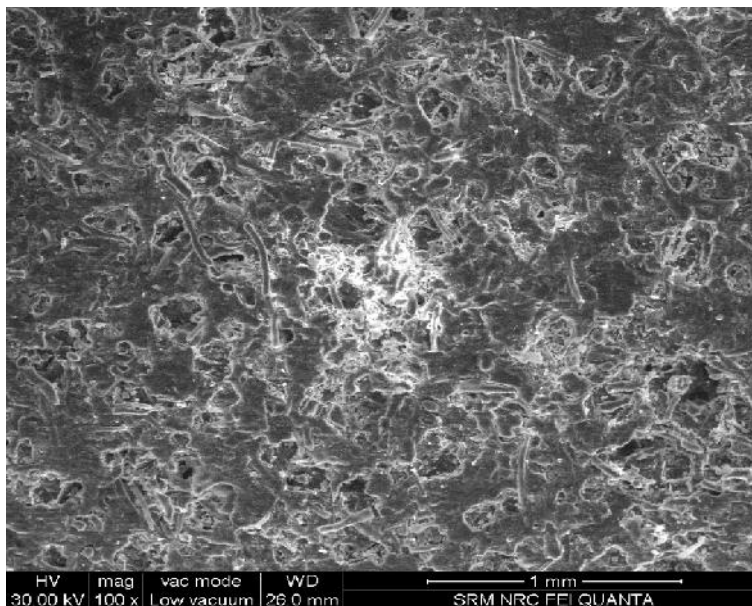


Fig 9A: Surface Topology of Tablet

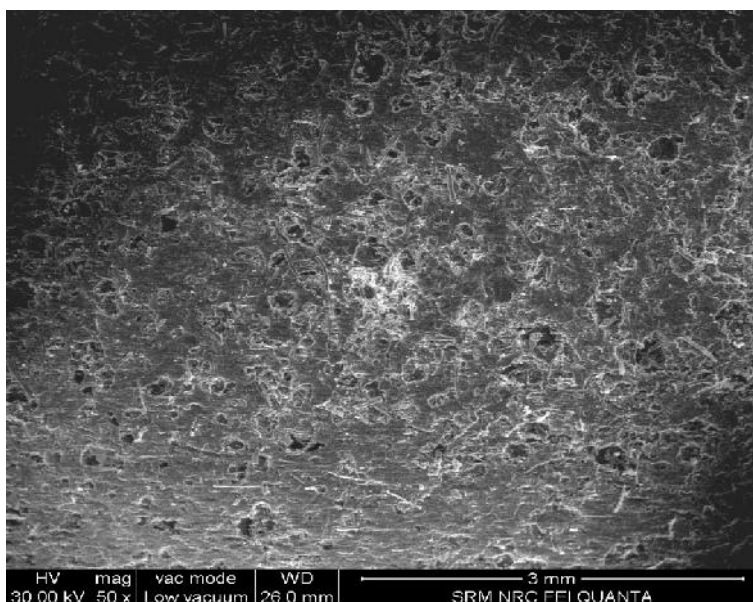


Fig 9B: Surface Topology of Tablet

SEM helps to analyze the surface morphology of the tablet at the microscopic level through a high-resolution image. Electrons were tunneled onto the tablet surface at high voltage to achieve better penetration in depth and to analyze the anomalous identification on the tablet surface. It was observed that tablet surface exhibited variations in secondary electron intensity appearing in a circular shape. This can be attributed to the electron channeling contrast, which indicates the uneven surface of the tablet. Furthermore, numerous circular shapes contrast observed can be attributed to the porous nature of the tablet surface formed due to camphor sublimation. Edge effect was observed around circular contrast also leverages the porosity of the tablet. In addition, the elongated rod-shaped crystals of microcrystalline cellulose were also seen in the field of examination.

Effect of Variables

Dissolution is an important parameter for a dosage form to determine the extent of bioavailability. The effect of variables on dissolution at 30 minutes was fitted in a linear regression model, and the results were represented in table [6]. It showed that dissolution at 30 minutes was increased significantly with increase in the concentration of microcrystalline cellulose, but camphor did not play a significant role in improving the dissolution. This can be witnessed in the Pareto chart and from P value- was

observed in the model. As a subliming material, camphor increased the percentage porosity of the tablet in the embedded spaces. But, it was observed that camphor didn't increase the percentage release significantly. This effect can be related at high concentration of camphor cannot impart maximum surface porosity beyond a certain extent, as dissolution is regulated by an effective surface area of the tablet.

Avicel, Because of its porous nature, aids in direct compression and also influences the disintegration and dissolution of a tablet. Increasing Avicel concentration significantly promoted the dissolution behavior of the tablet (P-value- 0.0105). This dissolution enhancing property absorbed in the study can be due to two reasons. In dissolution media, Avicel behaves by imbibing the water and widens the existing pores, and this phenomenon subsequently boosts the water imbibing nature of tablet in a higher effective surface area formed due to porosity by sublimation [52]. Albendazole tablet being prepared by direct compression technique with Avicel as a major ingredient was the primary reason for increased dissolution. The earlier investigation reported the conversion of crystalline avicel to a fracture and plastically deformed during compression [55]. The study reported structural change could have reduced the crystalline nature of Avicel. The combined effect of these two phenomenons could have amplified the solubility by increasing the surface area and water penetration leading to an increased dissolution.

Table 5: Model characteristics

Statistical term	Value
Model p value	0.0105
Camphor p value	0.3832
Avicel p value	0.0023
Interaction p Value	0.1771
Regression coefficient (R^2)	0.8271
Coefficient of variance (%CV)	4.66%
Lack of Fit	0.1523

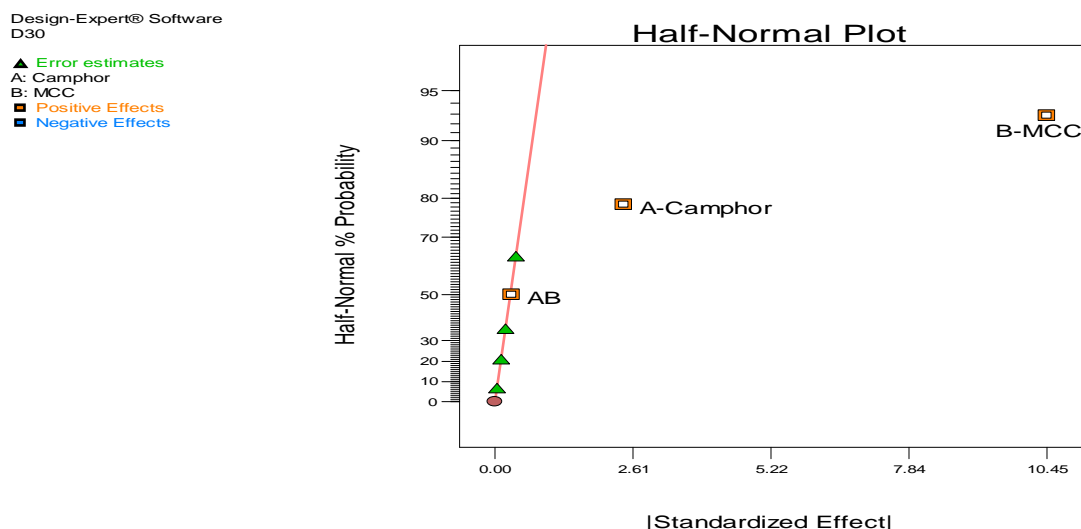


Fig 10.1: Effects of Ecipients

The results demonstrated that the effect of MCC plays a vital role in dissolution at 30 min when compared to camphor. It also reveals that interaction of camphor and MCC also influences the variables. This can also be

witnessed in Pareto chart and also from low p-value, $p < 0.0001$ observed in the model. The higher t-value observed in the Pareto chart endorse the selection of dominant effects altering the dissolution parameter.

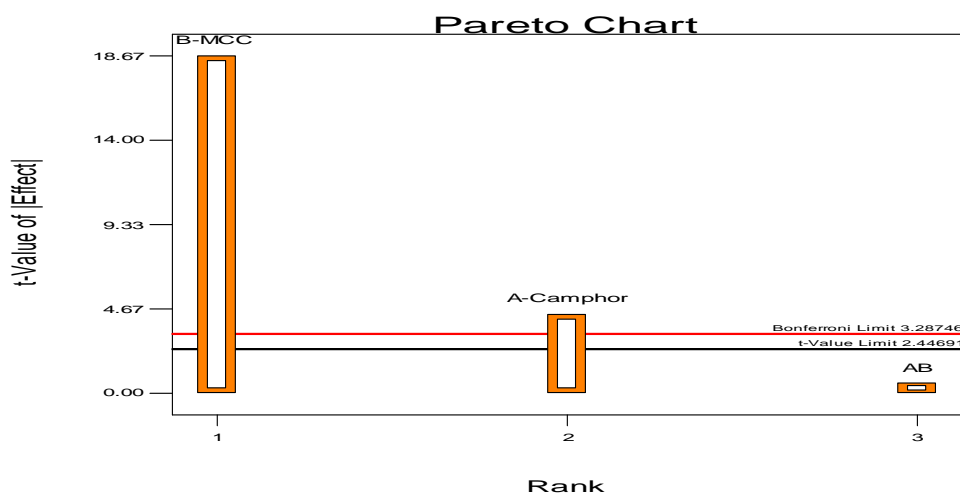


Fig 10.2: Pareto chart

Applying multiple regression analysis, the experimental data was analyzed and fitted to various models (linear, interactive, and quadratic) [56]. The results proclaim that linear order model exhibited higher regression (R^2), low P

value, and better descriptive statistics. Hence, linear model was adopted to fit the experimental data to establish an empirical model to facilitate the interrelation between formulation variables and response.

Table 6: Analysis of variance table

Source	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F Value	p-value Prob> F	
Model	142.03	3	47.34	139.44	< 0.0001	significant
A-Camphor	6.46	1	6.46	19.02	0.0048	
B-AVICEL	118.33	1	118.33	348.51	< 0.0001	
AB	0.11	1	0.11	0.32	0.5917	

Table 7: Statistical data model

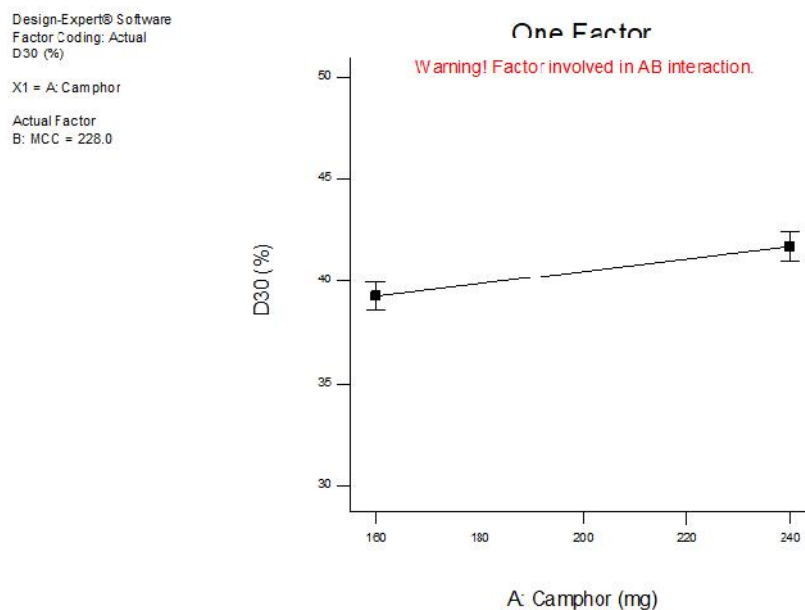
Standard Deviation	0.58	R-Squared
Mean	38.31	Adj R-Squared
C.V. %	1.52	Pred R-Squared
PRESS	7.17	Adeq Precision
-2 Log Likelihood	12.47	BIC

Table 8: Final Equation in terms of Actual Factors

D30	+10.58067
Camphor	+3.76444E-003
Avicel	+0.10444
Camphor * Avicel	+1.17333E-004

Intending to visualize the relationship between dissolution and formulation variables, model graphs, namely, contour plots, and 3D response surface, were generated, to assess the individual and interactive effects on the response. It was evident that the increasing the concentration of variables will influence the percentage porosity and

dissolution of the formulation. The planar 3D surface diagram (Fig 6) and linear curves observed that its contour region also assures the same. Moreover, the 3D plot also indicated an absence of curvature effect in the explored design space.

**Fig 10.3: Factor coding of Camphor**

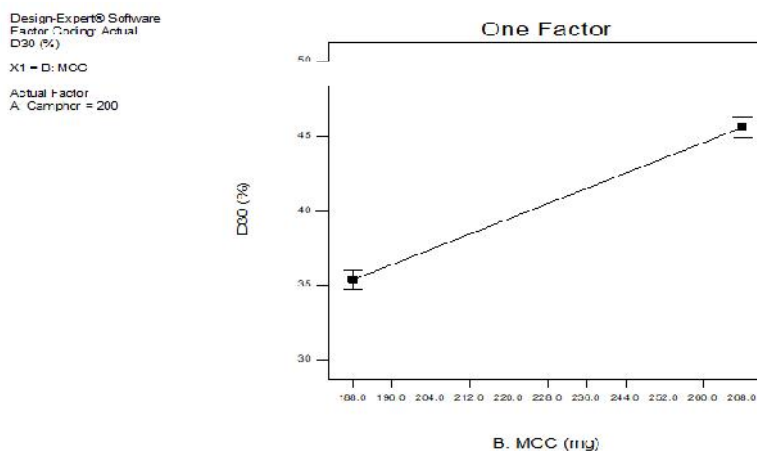


Fig 10.4: Factor coding of MCC

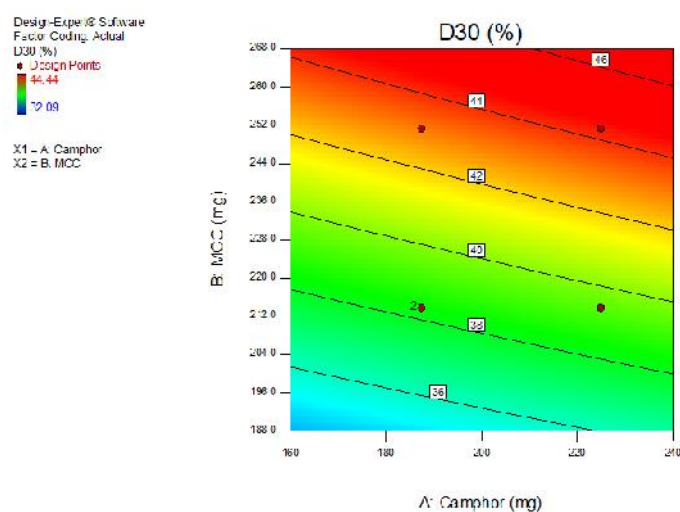


Fig 10.5: Model Diagnostics

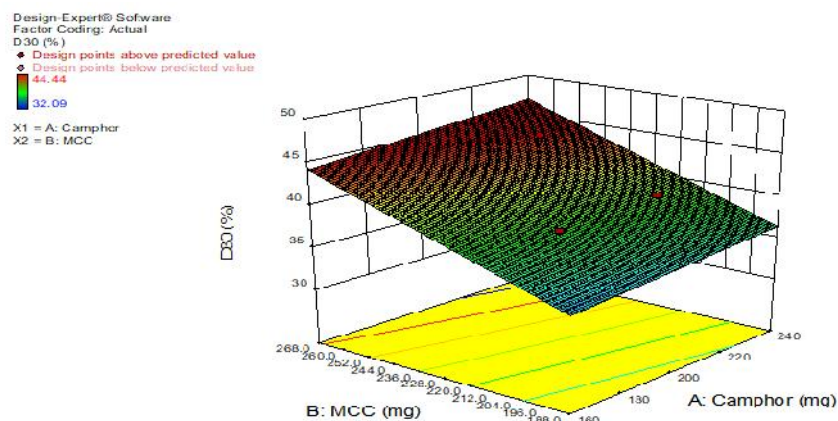


Fig 10.6: Dimensional plot of response (%CDR)

ANOVA analysis depicted that developed linear model was highly significant, as was evident from very low probability value. The goodness of the fit was checked by regression coefficient (R^2). Here, the value of regression coefficient ($R^2 = 0.8271$) indicated that only 0.58% of the total variations was not explained by the adopted

regression model. Furthermore, a good deal of reliability and high degree of precision of conducted experiments was indicated by low value of coefficient of variation ($CV=1.52$) which indicates the best fitness of developed model.

Stability Studies

The stability studies for the formulation (F6) of sublimation of albendazole - tablet was conducted over 3

months of time with the following parameters and the observations are tabulated below. This is done in order to access the stability of the drug along the period of time.

Table 9: Results of Stability studies

Parameters	Initial value	Value after 30 days
Description	White to off white colored, oblong shaped tablets	White to off white colored, oblong shaped tablets
Hardness (kP)	3.8±0.2	3.8±0.2
Average Weight (mg)	551±2.2	551±2.2
D.T. (sec)	63±5.0	63±5.0
Friability (%)	0.74±0.07	0.74±0.07
Dissolution:		
Fluconazole	54.8	54.8

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Sublimation technique is one of the promising approaches for the formulation of drug compounds with poor aqueous solubility. The characterization of the prepared tablet was carried such as FTIR, XRD and AFM studies. XRD graph revealed the absence of peak due to sublimation of camphor.

The AFM microgram described the uneven surface due to pores formed by sublimation. SEM indicated the circular shapes contrast on the tablet surface formed due to sublimation of camphor.

Porosity was the most critical element in the uptake of water, but porosity beyond certain extent is regulated by an

effective surface area of the tablet. The concentration of camphor had a little effect because of the limited surface area present in the tablet.

Avicel enhanced the liquid transport into a tablet matrix, accelerating both diffusion and capillary action because avicel exhibited the fast aqueous penetration even at low porosity due to the breaking of hydrogen bonds and widening of pores.

This phenomenon enhanced the solubility by increasing the surface area and water penetration leading to an increased dissolution. Thus it may be concluded that the developed novel method for preparing fast dissolving tablets for albendazole increases the porosity and enhances the bioavailability.

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