



# Intrinsic Stability Study and Forced Degradation Profiling of Olopatadine Hydrochloride by RP-HPLC-DAD-HRMS Method

## RP-YBSK -DAD-HRMS Yöntemi ile Olopatadin Hidrokloridin Gerçek Stabilite ve Zorlanmış Bozunma Profilinin Oluşturulması

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### ABSTRACT

**Objectives:** Forced degradation determines the intrinsic stability of a molecule by establishing degradation pathways in order to identify the likely degradation products (DPs). The objective of the present research was to establish intrinsic stability and forced degradation profiling of olopatadine hydrochloride.

**Materials and Methods:** The intrinsic stability of olopatadine hydrochloride was evaluated by RP-HPLC, where a mixture of 0.1% formic acid and organic phase (methanol:acetonitrile; 50:50 % v/v) was used as mobile phase at 1.0 mL/min in gradient mode. Different stress conditions were employed to explore the intrinsic stability of olopatadine hydrochloride.

**Results:** In acidic condition, five DPs, i.e. OLO1, OLO2, OLO3, OLO4, and OLO5, were observed. OLO5 was the major DP that increased with time and the peak area of OLO was decreased. In addition to OLO3 and OLO5, two more DPs were observed in alkaline condition, i.e. OLO6 and OLO7. OLO5 and OLO6 were two major DPs; OLO5 increased with time while OLO6 had a zigzag pattern of peak area with time. All DPs of neutral condition were also found in acidic condition while OLO3 and OLO5 were common in all three types of hydrolytic degradation.

**Conclusion:** Thus, OLO has similar pattern of degradation profiling in all hydrolytic conditions (acidic, alkaline, and neutral). No degradation was found in thermal, ultraviolet light, or oxidative conditions over 10 days. OLO-imp was recognized as an analogue structure of OLO and proposed as 11-[(3-dimethylamino)-propylidene]-6,11-dihydro-dibenz[b,e]oxepin-2-propanoic acid in standard drug. OLO1 was identified as (2-(4-(dimethylamino)butyl) phenyl)methanol, which may be formed by cleavage of the tricyclic ring in neutral condition.

**Key words:** Olopatadine hydrochloride, forced degradation, HPLC

### ÖZ

**Amaç:** Zorlanmış bozunma, muhtemel bozunma ürünlerini (DP) tanımlamak için bozunma yolları oluşturarak bir molekülün gerçek stabilitesini belirler. Bu araştırmanın amacı, olopatadin hidrokloridin gerçek stabilitesini ve zorlanmış bozunma profilini oluşturmaktır.

**Gereç ve Yöntemler:** Olopatadin hidrokloridin gerçek stabilitesi, %0,1 formik asit ve organik faz karışımı (metanol:asetonitril;% 50:50 h/h) mobil faz olarak 1,0 mL/dak'de gradyan modunda kullanımıyla RP-YBSK ile değerlendirilmiştir. Olopatadin hidrokloridin gerçek stabilitesini araştırmak için farklı stres koşulları kullanılmıştır.

**Bulgular:** Asidik koşulda, beş DP, yani OLO1, OLO2, OLO3, OLO4 ve OLO5 gözlenmiştir. başlıca DP OLO5 idi, pik süresi artmış ve OLO'nun pik alanı azalmıştır. OLO3 ve OLO5'e ek olarak, alkali koşullarda, iki DP daha, OLO6 ve OLO7 gözlenmiştir. OLO5 ve OLO6 iki ana DP idi; OLO5 zamanla

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artarken OLO6 zamanla zikzak bir tepe alanı düzenine sahipti. Nötral koşullardaki bütün DP'ler asidik koşullarda da bulunurken, OLO3 ve OLO5 üç hidrolitik bozunma tipinde de ortaklı.

**Sonuç:** OLO, tüm hidrolitik koşullarda (asidik, alkali ve nötr) benzer bir bozulma profiline sahiptir. Termal, ultraviyole ışığı veya oksidatif koşullarda 10 gün boyunca hiçbir bozulma bulunamamıştır. OLO-Imp, OLO'nun analog bir yapısı olarak kabul edilmiş ve standart ilaçta 11-[(3-dimetilamino)-propiliden]-6,11-dihidro-dibenz [b, e] oksepin-2-propanoik asit olarak önerilmiştir. OLO1, trisiklik halkanın nötr koşulda bölünmesiyle oluşturulabilecek (2-[4-(dimetilamino) butil] fenil) metanol olarak tanımlanmıştır.

**Anahtar kelimeler:** Olopatadin hidroklorid, zorlanmış bozunma, YBSK

## INTRODUCTION

Forced degradation involves degradation of a new drug substance or drug product at more severe conditions than accelerated conditions. Forced degradation studies afford information for the identification of possible degradants, degradation pathways, and the inherent stability of the active pharmaceutical ingredient. It also yields information about any possible polymorphic or enantiomeric substances and the difference between drug related degradation and excipient interferences. A New Drug Application (NDA) registration requires data of forced degradation studies in the form of forced degradation products (DPs), degradation reaction kinetics, structure, mass balance, drug peak purity, etc. Therefore, forced degradation and impurity profiling is one of the inputs for an NDA registration manuscript.<sup>1</sup> Due to the presence of impurities or DPs The Food and Drug Administration has recalled finished pharmaceutical products; they include adagen (pegademase bovine) injection, azelastine hydrochloride ophthalmic solution, brimonidine tartrate ophthalmic solution, ciclopirox gel, diflorasone diacetate cream, fludeoxyglucose F18 injections, hydroxyzine hydrochloride oral solution, leflunomide tablets, pediatric atropine sulfate injection, prednisolone sodium phosphate oral solution, ropinirole hydrochloride tablets, and topiramate tablets.<sup>2</sup> The intrinsic stability of armodafinil hydrochloride was explored by forced degradation and impurity profiling, where the structures of four DPs were established and a possible pathway was postulated. In the present work, the whole research methodology was adopted from Jain and Basniwal.<sup>3</sup>

Chemically, olopatadine (OLO) is 11-((Z)-3-(dimethyl-amino) propylidene)-6,11-dihidro-dibenz[b,e] oxepin-2-acetic acid<sup>4</sup> and is indicated for allergic rhinitis, urticaria, and itching resulting from skin diseases such as eczema/dermatitis, prurigo, pruritus cutaneous, psoriasis vulgaris, and multiform exudative erythema. OLO primarily acts as a selective histamine H1 receptor antagonist. It also inhibits the production and release of chemical mediators such as leukotriene and thromboxane, and the release of the neurotransmitter tachykinin.<sup>5-9</sup> Analytical methods for OLO determination in different matrices have been reported, i.e. radioimmunoassay,<sup>10</sup> liquid chromatography (LC) with tandem mass spectrometry,<sup>11</sup> LC-ESI-MS-MS,<sup>12,13</sup> capillary zone electrophoretic method,<sup>14</sup> high performance LC (HPLC), and high-performance thin-layer chromatography (HPTLC),<sup>15</sup> but there is no study reported on forced degradation profiling including the intrinsic stability of OLO. The objective of forced degradation is to provide guidance for the development of executing purposeful degradation experiments for

pharmaceutical drug candidates. The International Council for Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Pharmaceuticals for Human Use (ICH) Guideline provides some guidance on stress testing or purposeful degradation stress testing helps to determine the intrinsic stability of the molecule by establishing degradation pathways in order to identify the likely DPs.<sup>16</sup> The objective of present research was to establish intrinsic stability and forced degradation profiling of OLO by reverse phase (RP) HPLC diode array detector (DAD) high-resolution mass spectrometry (HRMS).

## EXPERIMENTAL

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

#### *Chemicals and reagent*

Working standard of OLO hydrochloride was gifted by Ranbaxy Laboratories Limited, Gurgaon, Harayana. HPLC grade solvents (methanol and acetonitrile), formic acid, hydrochloric acid, sodium hydroxide, and hydrogen peroxide were procured from Merck Specialties Private Limited, Mumbai, India. Triple distilled water was prepared in-house.

#### *Instrument and chromatography*

All dilutions, mobile phase, and other solutions were filtered through a 0.2- $\mu$ m nylon filter and chromatographed by an Agilent Infinity 1260 series system equipped with a 1260 binary pump VL 400 bar, 1260 manual injector 600 bar, Rheodyne 7725i 7-port sample injection valve with 20  $\mu$ L fixed loop, ZORBAX Eclipse Plus C18 (250 $\times$ 4.6 mm, 5  $\mu$ m), 1260 DAD VL, 20 Hz detector, standard flow cell 10 mm, 13  $\mu$ L, 120 bar, OpenLab CDS EZChrom Ed. Workstation, and syringe 50.0  $\mu$ L, FN, LC tip. Micromass Q-TOF micro (Waters) LC-mass spectrometry (MS) was performed in HRMS mode using electrospray positive ionization. The parameters desolvation gas (500 L/h), cone gas (25 L/h), desolvation temperature (250 $^{\circ}$ C), source temperature (120 $^{\circ}$ C), capillary voltage (3000 V), cone voltage (30 V), and collision energy (10 V) were used for HRMS analysis. All dilutions, mobile phase, and other solutions used for the analysis were filtered through a 0.2- $\mu$ m nylon filter (Ultipor<sup>®</sup> N66 Nylon 6,6 membrane, Pall Sciences, Pall India Pvt. Ltd. Mumbai, India). The mobile phase was composed of water adjusted to 0.1% formic acid (A) and acetonitrile and methanol (50:50) (B) in gradient mode (Tmin/A:B; T0/70:30; T4/70:30; T14/20:80; T22/80:20; T25/70:30). The flow rate was set to 1.0 mL/min with UV detector wavelength fixed at 300 nm. The injection volume was 20  $\mu$ L.

### Standard solution

An accurately weighed amount of 100 mg of OLO was dissolved in 100 mL of methanol to prepare stock P (1000 µg/mL). An aliquot of stock P was diluted to prepare stock Q (100 µg/mL), which was used to prepare a series of standard dilutions, i.e. 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10 µg/mL OLO.

### Method validation

As per ICH guidelines,<sup>17-19</sup> the proposed method was validated for the stability indicating assay and to establish the inherent stability of OLO drug with forced degradation profiling in different conditions by RP-HPLC determination. The developed method was validated to assure the reliability of results of analysis for different parameters, i.e. linearity, range, accuracy, precision, robustness, limit of quantification (LOQ), limit of detection (LOD), and specificity. The serial dilutions (2-10 µg/mL) of the OLO in 50% methanol in triplicate were used for the linearity determination. Accuracy was determined by recovery method by spiking the standard solution into pre-analyzed samples. The precision of the method was studied under the head of repeatability and intermediate precision. The six replicates of 10 µg/mL were chromatographed subsequently to assure repeatability. The intermediate precision was determined by day-to-day analysis variation and analyst-to-analyst variation in the linearity range. The robustness of the method was studied with variation in the temperature (20, 25, and 30°C) and content of formic acid (0.1%) in aqueous phase variation by 5% change. LOD and LOQ were determined by signal-to-noise ratio. The specificity was ascertained by degrading the drug sample in stressed conditions. Sample solution stability was demonstrated by analyzing six replicates of 10 µg/mL OLO standard samples at different time intervals with freshly prepared mobile phase each time.

### Forced degradation

Forced degradation studies of bulk drug included appropriate solid state (thermal and photolytic) and solution state stress conditions (hydrolytic and oxidative). The stock solution was used for the forced degradation study to provide an indication of the stability indicating the property and specificity of the proposed method. Accurately weighed about 100 mg of OLO was dissolved in 50 mL of methanol and the volume was made up to 100 mL with water/0.2 N HCl/0.2 N NaOH to perform hydrolytic degradation in neutral (water), acidic (0.1 N HCl), and alkali (0.1 N NaOH) conditions, respectively, followed by refluxing at 60°C. Bulk drug (powder form) was exposed to 60°C (hot air oven) and ultraviolet (UV) light separately for temperature and UV degradation, respectively. Oxidative degradation of OLO was performed in 3% and 10% H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> solution. Prior to injection, samples were withdrawn at the appropriate time, neutralized (in the case of acid and alkali hydrolysis), and the solutions were diluted with 50% methanol. Thermal and photolytic degraded drug (solid powder) was dissolved in 50% methanol to prepare samples for injection.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Optimization of chromatographic conditions

OLO was eluted at 3.77 min by the mixture of 0.1% formic acid and methanol (35:65) on a ZORBAX Eclipse Plus C18 column (250×4.6 mm, 5 µm) at 1.0 mL/min flow rate and it was successfully applied for determination of the OLO drug in dosage form,<sup>20</sup> but it was not suitable for separation of the DPs along with OLO.

Thus, chromatographic conditions were optimized to develop a stability-indicating assay to separate the related compounds and DPs from the drug content. RP-HPLC mode chromatography was selected based on the solubility and pKa value of OLO. A ZORBAX Eclipse Plus C18 column (250×4.6 mm, 5 µm) was used to separate all degradants along with the drug. The wavelength of 300 nm was selected due to maximum absorbance of all the DP and drug, which was optimized by 1260 DAD VL, 20 Hz detector.

Peak broadening and splitting were observed with both mobile phases, methanol and water (50:50) and acetonitrile and water (50:50). The drug's peak was merged with the diluent's as the organic phase was increased. After using the acidic aqueous phase (pKa of drug 4.29), the broadening and tailing of the OLO peak persisted. It was improved by increasing the organic phase (methanol) up to 65%. Further, methanol content was reduced to 60% to resolve 4-5 grouped peaks in degraded samples, where little separation was found, but the peak shapes were not acceptable. Then acetonitrile content was incorporated in the organic phase along with methanol (50:50). All peaks of degraded samples were very sharp but not well resolved with 0.1% formic acid and above organic phase (40:60). Degradant peaks were well separated up to 6 min when this ratio was reversed (60:40), but high tailing was observed in the drug's peak. Thus, degradants were well resolved in 60:40 ratios while the drug eluted in 40:60; then it was concluded to run gradient mode.

DPs were resolved before the drug peak but a few of them were merged with the drug peak between 11 and 13 min and two DPs were merged with each other at 16.5 min in gradient mode (Tmin/A:B; T0/70:30; T7/70:30; T9/30:70; T17/70:30; T20/70:30). Basically, the above elution mode is not purely gradient; it was a combination of more isocratic and less gradient mode. Fine resolution was observed up to 16 min, when gradient mode was increased (Tmin/A:B; T0/70:30; T5/70:30; T16/30:70; T17/70:30; T20/70:30), but groups of DPs were observed between 16 and 19 min. Therefore, the run time was extended to 25 min with increased gradient mode (Tmin/A:B; T0/70:30; T4/70:30; T20/30:70; T22/70:30; T25/70:30). Most of the DPs were resolved but tailing in the drug peak was seen, which may have been due to less exposure to the organic phase, and so it was decided to increase organic content in the mobile phase (Tmin/A:B; T0/70:30; T4/70:30; T14/20:80; T22/70:30; T25/70:30). In this gradient mode, OLO and all DPs in different forced degradation conditions were well separated with acceptable resolution.

### Method validation

The consistence performance of the HPLC system was assured by system suitability parameters. Six replicates of OLO samples were injected, and column performance parameters like tailing factors, retention time, and number of theoretical plates were observed. The values of % relative standard deviation (RSD) for these parameters were within the acceptance criteria of system performance. OLO has better separation in the set of conditions as the higher theoretical plates (59526) with less than one unit of % RSD (0.88). The tailing factor was 0.68 with acceptable % RSD. The capacity factor was 15.02, i.e. OLO has sufficient opportunity to interact with the stationary phase, resulting in differential migrations. The co-elution of impurities or degradants is generally investigated by examining peak purity using a PDA detector. The three-dimensional view of the chromatogram confirmed that there was no peak around the OLO elution time. Here the peak purity at 11.62 min was 1.0; there was no interference with elution of OLO at retention time, or nothing was co-eluting along with OLO at 11.62 min. Thus, all system suitability parameters were within the acceptance criteria.

The linear regression equation was  $Y=16751x+26.50$  with correlation coefficient  $r^2=0.999$  and a calibration graph was plotted for concentration versus area found in the chromatogram. The accuracy of the developed method was assured at all levels of linearity. It was 99.50-100.28% by the recovery method with % RSD of 0.32, which shows the reliability for accuracy of the developed RP-HPLC method. The developed method was performed under two heads: repeatability and intermediate precision. The repeatability of sample injections was measured as the determined amount of OLO in six different serial replicates, which was expressed as 99.89% with % RSD of 0.08, while intermediate precision was evaluated on the heads of interday analysis as well as analyst-to-analyst. Both parameters were determined near to 100% (99.93% and 99.95%) with less than unit % RSD (0.11 and 0.12) at all three levels of concentration.

The robustness of the developed method was assured by the variation in the amount of formic acid (0.1%) in the aqueous phase of mobile phase composition and temperature of real-time analysis. The three variations in formic acid in the aqueous phase (0.105%, 0.100%, and 0.095%) and temperature variation (20, 25, and 30°C) had no significant effect of change in parameters on the results. These were found to be 99.97 and 100.17, with % RSD 0.13 and 0.29, respectively. The LOD and LOQ were determined by signal-to-noise ratio. These were found to be 0.045 µg/mL and 0.149 µg/mL, respectively, which show the sensitivity of the developed method. The % RSD value was less than two. Analysis of degraded drug sample in stressed conditions was evidence for specificity of the method. The retention time, peak symmetry, peak purity, and UV spectrum of the recorded chromatograms of different samples were confirmed to assure the specificity. The AUC of the OLO peak in the chromatogram decreased with an increase in the AUC of the degradant's peak. This experimental evidence confirmed that the developed method was specific for the analysis of OLO. The stability of OLO was assured during analysis by response

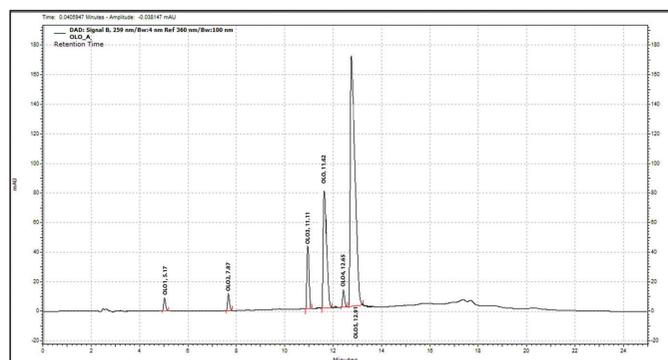
ratio. The response ratio of the drug at all concentration level varied between 16565.67 and 16973.33 with % RSD of 0.89. This is evidence that the drug is stable in selected solution at room temperature and the RP-HPLC method is continuously sensitive toward the analyte.

### Forced degradation profiling

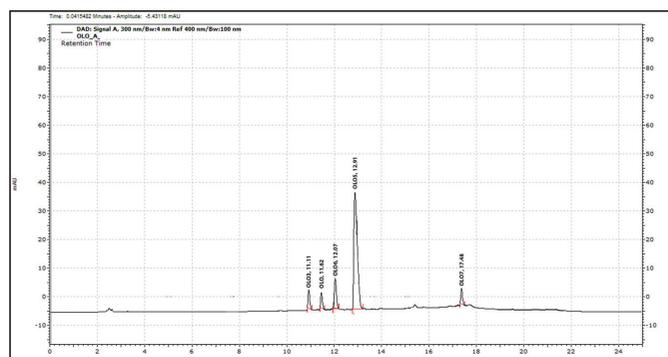
**Acidic degradation:** Five DPs, i.e. OLO1 (5.17), OLO2 (7.87), OLO3 (11.11), OLO4 (12.65), and OLO5 (12.91), were observed in acidic condition (Figure 1). OLO5 was the major DP that increased with time and the peak area of OLO was decreased. All DPs appeared on the first day except OLO1 and OLO2, which appeared on fourth and second day, respectively. The peak area of OLO3 and OLO4 increased first and then decreased. The other two DPs, OLO1 and OLO2, increased with time.

**Alkaline degradation:** OLO was gradually degraded into four DPs, i.e. OLO3 (11.11), OLO6 (12.07), OLO5 (12.91), and OLO7 (17.48), in alkaline condition (Figure 2). OLO3 and OLO5 were common DPs in acidic and alkaline conditions, while OLO6 and OLO7 were newer DPs in basic degradation. OLO5 and OLO6 were two major DPs; OLO5 increased with time while OLO6 had a zigzag pattern of peak area with time. Concentrations of both OLO3 and OLO7 increased with time.

**Neutral degradation:** All DPs in neutral condition were also found in acidic condition, while OLO3 and OLO5 were common in all three types of hydrolytic degradation (Figure 3). OLO5 was the major DP in all conditions. OLO was gradually degraded and the peak area of all DPs increased with time in neutral condition.



**Figure 1.** Representative chromatogram of OLO in acidic condition  
OLO: Olopatadine



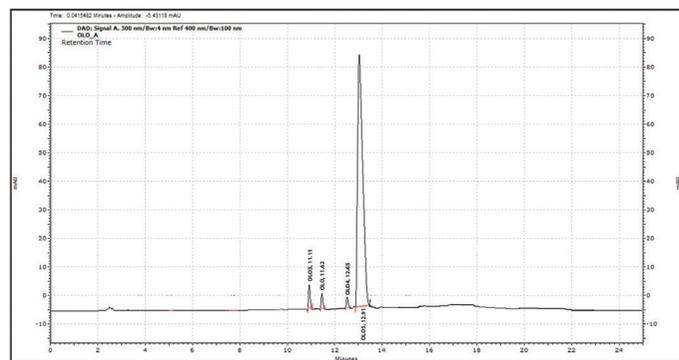
**Figure 2.** Representative chromatogram of OLO in alkaline condition  
OLO: Olopatadine

RP-HPLC analysis of stressed samples of OLO in thermal, oxidative, and photolytic degradation showed that there was no degradation in these conditions. It might be possible that due to solid sample in thermal stress condition no degradation was observed.

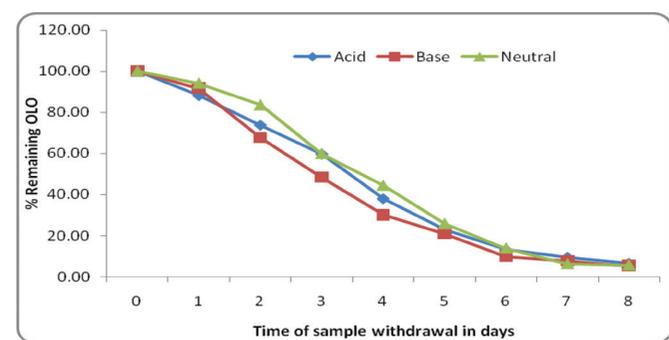
Thus, in acidic condition, five DPs, i.e. OLO1, OLO2, OLO3, OLO4, and OLO5, were observed. OLO5 was the major DP that increased with time and the peak area of OLO was decreased. In addition to OLO3 and OLO5, two more DPs were observed in alkaline condition, i.e. OLO6 and OLO7. OLO5 and OLO6 were two major DPs; OLO5 increased with time while OLO6 had a zigzag pattern of peak area with time. All DPs of neutral condition were also found in acidic condition, while OLO3 and OLO5 were common in all three types of hydrolytic degradation. Thus, OLO has a similar pattern of degradation profiling in all hydrolytic conditions (acidic, alkaline, and neutral) (Figure 4). No degradation was found in thermal and UV light exposure, as these were performed on solid powder of OLO, and so it is possible that degradation is less likely in the solid powder. Similarly, oxidative degradation was also not observed over 10 days.

#### Degradation pathway and impurity profiling

**Standard drug OLO:** LC-MS was performed in positive mode using leucine enkephalin as standard, where OLO and its impurity (OLO-Imp) were observed at relative retention time (RRT) of 1.00 and 1.11, respectively. The ESI mass spectrum of



**Figure 3.** Representative chromatogram of OLO in neutral condition  
OLO: Olopatadine

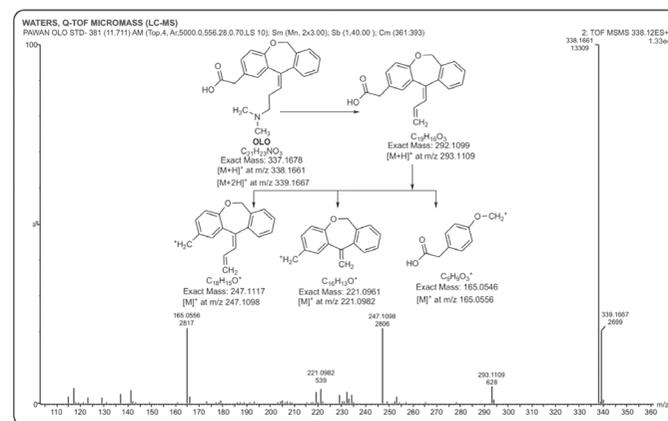


**Figure 4.** Degradation profiling of OLO in acidic, basic, and neutral conditions  
OLO: Olopatadine

OLO showed a protonated molecular ion  $[M+H]^+$  and its isotopic abundance  $[M+2H]^+$  at  $m/z$  338.1671 and 339.1663 with ppm errors in mass 2.08 and 4.45, respectively. It was advocated by its further fragmentation pattern into its daughter products as: 337.1678  $\rightarrow$  292.1099  $\rightarrow$  221.0961  $\rightarrow$  247.1117  $\rightarrow$  165.0546 (Table 1, Figure 5).

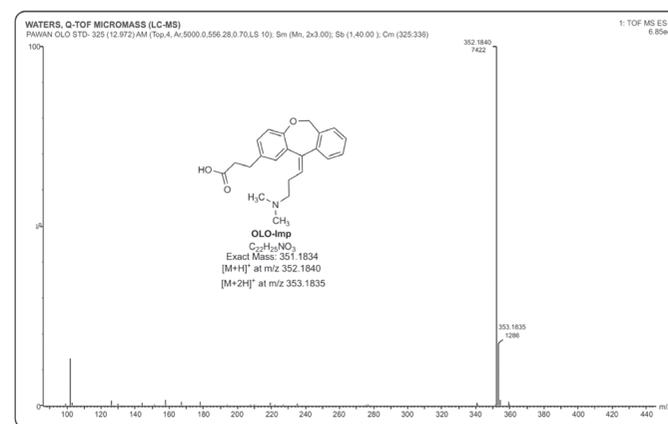
An impurity, OLO-Imp (OLO5), was observed in the ESI spectrum, and its protonated molecular ion  $[M+H]^+$  was observed at  $m/z$  352.1840 along with its isotopic abundance (Figure 6). Its structure was an analogue of OLO and proposed as 11-[(3-dimethylamino)propylidene]-6,11-dihydro-dibenz[b,e]oxepin-2-propanoic acid (Figure 6). It was also used as internal standard for the metabolite study.<sup>10</sup>

**Acidic degradation:** In addition to OLO, sodium salt of OLO (OLO3) and OLO5 (OLO-Imp) were observed in the MS spectrum of the acidic condition sample at RRT of 0.96 and 1.11. OLO3 was observed in all three degradation conditions. Its protonated molecular ion  $[M+H]^+$  was observed at  $m/z$  360.1502, which showed its carboxylic acid analogue at  $m/z$  338.1684. The MS-MS fragmentation pattern into its daughter products indicated the purposed structure as: 359.1497  $\rightarrow$  337.1678  $\rightarrow$  279.1623



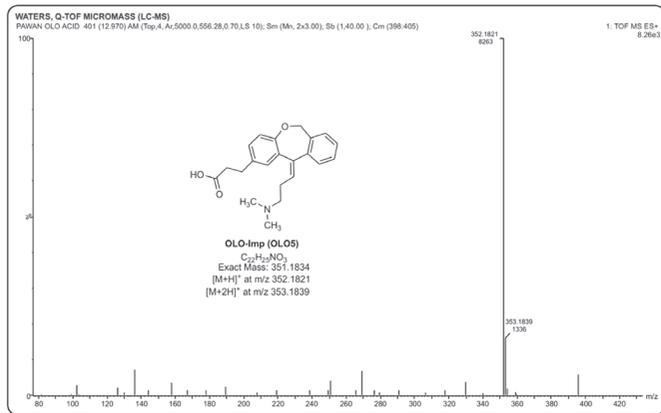
**Figure 5.** Chromatogram of OLO by TOF MS-MS spectrum and proposed fragmentation pattern of OLO

OLO: Olopatadine, MS: Mass spectrometry



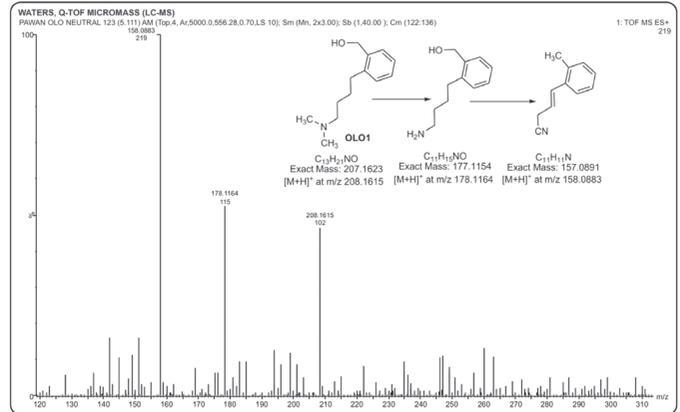
**Figure 6.** Chromatogram of OLO-Imp by TOF MS-ES+ and proposed structure of OLO-Imp

OLO: Olopatadine, MS: Mass spectrometry, ES: Electrospray



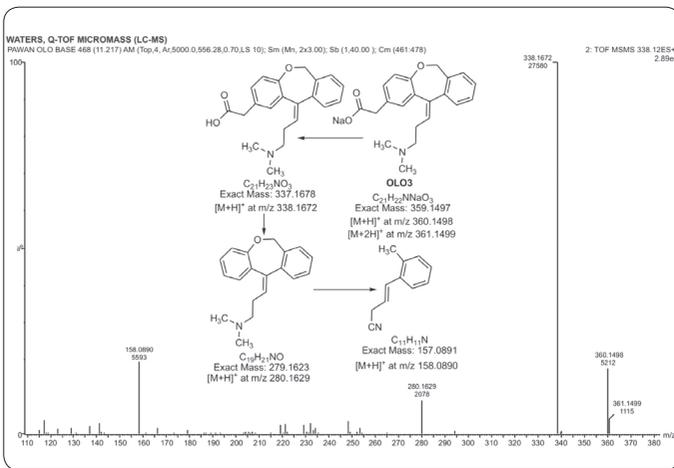
**Figure 7.** Chromatogram of OLO5 by TOF MS-ES<sup>+</sup> spectrum and proposed structure of OLO5 in acidic condition

OLO: Olopatadine, MS: Mass spectrometry, ES: Electrospray



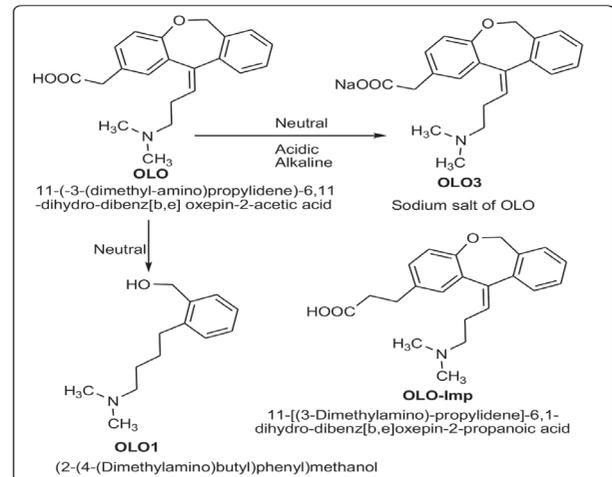
**Figure 9.** Chromatogram of degraded OLO in neutral condition by TOF MS-ES<sup>+</sup> spectrum and proposed fragmentation pattern of OLO1

OLO: Olopatadine, MS: Mass spectrometry, ES: Electrospray



**Figure 8.** Chromatogram of degraded OLO in alkaline condition by TOF MS-MS spectrum and proposed fragmentation pattern of OLO3

OLO: Olopatadine, MS: Mass spectrometry, ES: Electrospray



**Figure 10.** Proposed structure of OLO-Imp and proposed degradation pathway of OLO in acidic, alkaline, and neutral conditions

OLO: Olopatadine

**Table 1.** Observed  $m/z$  values for  $[M+H]^+$  ions and major fragments of OLO and its impurity

Analyte code	RRT in LC MS	MS-ES or MS-MS	$m/z$ value	Measured mass	Best possible molecular formulae	Exact mass	ppm error
OLO	1.00	MS-ES	338.1671	337.1671	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>23</sub> NO <sub>3</sub>	337.1678	2.08
			339.1663	337.1663	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>23</sub> NO <sub>3</sub>	337.1678	4.45
			340.1701	337.1701	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>23</sub> NO <sub>3</sub>	337.1678	-6.82
	1.00	MS-MS	338.1661	337.1661	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>23</sub> NO <sub>3</sub>	337.1678	5.04
			339.1667	337.1667	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>23</sub> NO <sub>3</sub>	337.1678	3.26
			293.1109	292.1109	C <sub>19</sub> H <sub>16</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	292.1099	-3.42
			247.1098	247.1098	C <sub>18</sub> H <sub>15</sub> O <sup>+</sup>	247.1117	7.69
OLO-Imp	1.11	MS-ES	352.1840	351.1840	C <sub>22</sub> H <sub>25</sub> NO <sub>3</sub>	351.1834	-1.71
			353.1835	351.1835	C <sub>22</sub> H <sub>25</sub> NO <sub>3</sub>	351.1834	-0.28

RRT: Relative retention time, OLO: Olopatadine, LC: Liquid chromatography, MS: Mass spectrometry, ES: Electrospray

→ 157.0891 (Table 2). OLO was also characterized in acidic degradation at RRT of 1.00. MS-ES<sup>+</sup> scanning revealed the protonated molecular ion [M+H]<sup>+</sup> of OLO at m/z 338.1676 with isotopic abundance. MS-MS of OLO in acidic condition showed the fragmentation pattern in the mass spectrum as: 337.1678 → 292.1099 → 247.1117; 165.0546 (Table 2). The protonated molecular ion [M+H]<sup>+</sup> of OLO5 was observed at m/z 352.1821 with isotopic abundance at 353.1839 (Figure 7). The ppm error in mass was less than five units (Table 2).

**Alkaline degradation:** The MS spectrum of the alkaline sample of OLO was similar to the MS spectrum of acidic condition. The degradation pathway and fragmentation pattern of OLO and its DPs were similar to those in acidic condition (Figure 8). Only ppm error in mass varied from acidic condition (Table 3).

**Neutral degradation:** In neutral condition, the tricyclic ring underwent cleavage and OLO1 was formed (RRT=0.44). OLO3 was also formed in a similar pattern to acidic and alkaline conditions (RRT=0.96). OLO5 (OLO-Imp) was also observed in the MS spectrum similar to all other conditions. Only one additional DP (OLO1) was observed in neutral condition, whose protonated molecular ion [M+H]<sup>+</sup> was found at m/z 208.1615 and identified as (2-(4-(dimethylamino)butyl) phenyl)methanol (Figure 9). The proposed structure was further advocated by its degradation pattern (207.1623 → 177.1154 → 157.0891) (Table 4). OLO3, OLO, and OLO5 were also characterized in neutral condition similar to above both acidic and alkaline conditions. The ppm error in mass is different from the above conditions but most of the error is below 5 units (Table 4).

Thus, OLO and its impurity (OLO-Imp) were observed at RRT of 1.00 and 1.11, respectively, in the LC-MS study. OLO-Imp was recognized as an analogue structure of OLO and proposed as 11-[(3-dimethylamino)-propylidene]-6, 11-dihydro-dibenz[b,e]oxepin-2-propanoic acid (Figure 10). In addition to OLO, sodium salt of OLO (OLO3) and OLO5 (OLO-Imp) were observed in the MS spectrum of acidic and alkaline conditions samples at RRT of 0.96 and 1.11. OLO3 was observed in all three degradation conditions and identified as sodium salt of OLO (OLO is a carboxylic acid derivative). Additionally, OLO1 (RRT=0.44) was identified as (2-(4-(dimethylamino)butyl) phenyl)methanol, which may be formed by cleavage of the tricyclic ring in neutral condition. OLO is an acetic acid derivative along with oxepin ring and tertiary nitrogen, which is quite a stable form of drug. There is no vulnerable functional group liable to convert or break down into DPs under stressed or forced degradation conditions. Thus, OLO forms relatively slow and fewer DPs.

## CONCLUSION

OLO has a similar pattern of degradation profiling in all hydrolytic conditions (acidic, alkaline, and neutral), while no degradation was found in thermal, UV light, and oxidative conditions over 10 days. OLO-Imp was recognized as an analogue structure of OLO and proposed as 11-[(3-dimethylamino)-propylidene]-6,11-dihydro-dibenz[b,e]oxepin-2-propanoic acid. OLO3 was observed in all three degradation conditions and identified as sodium salt of OLO (OLO is a carboxylic acid derivative). Additionally, OLO1 was identified as (2-(4-(dimethylamino)

**Table 2. Observed m/z values for the [M+H]<sup>+</sup> ions and major fragments of OLO and its degradation products in acidic condition**

Analyte code	RRT in LC MS	MS-ES or MS-MS	m/z value	Measured mass	Best possible molecular formulae	Exact mass	ppm error
OLO3	0.96	MS-ES	360.1502	359.1502	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>22</sub> NNaO <sub>3</sub>	359.1497	-1.39
			338.1684	337.1684	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>23</sub> NO <sub>3</sub>	337.1678	-1.78
	0.96	MS-MS	360.1491	359.1491	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>22</sub> NNaO <sub>3</sub>	359.1497	1.67
			361.1488	359.1488	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>23</sub> NO <sub>3</sub>	359.1497	2.51
			338.1676	337.1676	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>23</sub> NO <sub>3</sub>	337.1678	0.59
			280.1625	279.1625	C <sub>19</sub> H <sub>21</sub> NO	279.1623	-0.72
			158.0883	157.0883	C <sub>11</sub> H <sub>11</sub> N	157.0891	5.09
OLO	1.00	MS-ES	338.1676	337.1676	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>23</sub> NO <sub>3</sub>	337.1678	0.59
			339.1698	337.1698	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>23</sub> NO <sub>3</sub>	337.1678	-5.93
	1.00	MS-MS	338.1695	337.1695	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>23</sub> NO <sub>3</sub>	337.1678	-5.04
			339.1688	337.1688	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>23</sub> NO <sub>3</sub>	337.1678	-2.97
			293.1102	292.1102	C <sub>19</sub> H <sub>16</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	292.1099	-1.03
			247.1132	247.1132	C <sub>18</sub> H <sub>15</sub> O <sup>+</sup>	247.1117	-6.07
			165.0552	165.0552	C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>9</sub> O <sub>3</sub> <sup>+</sup>	165.0546	-3.64
OLO5	1.11	MS-ES	352.1821	351.1821	C <sub>22</sub> H <sub>25</sub> NO <sub>3</sub>	351.1834	3.70
			353.1839	351.1839	C <sub>22</sub> H <sub>25</sub> NO <sub>3</sub>	351.1834	-1.42

RRT: Relative retention time, OLO: Olopatadine, LC: Liquid chromatography, MS: Mass spectrometry, ES: Electrospray

**Table 3. Observed m/z values for the [M+H]<sup>+</sup> ions and major fragments of OLO and its degradation products in alkaline condition**

Analyte code	RRT in LC MS	MS-ES or MS-MS	m/z value	Measured mass	Best possible molecular formulae	Exact mass	ppm error		
OLO3	0.96	MS-ES	360.1507	359.1507	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>22</sub> NNaO <sub>3</sub>	359.1497	-2.78		
			338.1686	337.1686	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>23</sub> NO <sub>3</sub>	337.1678	-2.37		
			360.1498	359.1498	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>22</sub> NNaO <sub>3</sub>	359.1497	-0.28		
			361.1499	359.1499	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>23</sub> NO <sub>3</sub>	359.1497	-0.56		
			338.1672	337.1672	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>23</sub> NO <sub>3</sub>	337.1678	1.78		
	0.96	MS-MS	280.1629	279.1629	C <sub>19</sub> H <sub>21</sub> NO	279.1623	-2.15		
			158.0890	157.0890	C <sub>11</sub> H <sub>11</sub> N	157.0891	0.64		
			OLO	MS-ES	338.1696	337.1696	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>23</sub> NO <sub>3</sub>	337.1678	-5.34
					339.1688	337.1688	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>23</sub> NO <sub>3</sub>	337.1678	-2.97
					340.1675	337.1675	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>23</sub> NO <sub>3</sub>	337.1678	0.89
338.1685	337.1685	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>23</sub> NO <sub>3</sub>			337.1678	-2.08			
1.00	MS-ES	339.1688	337.1688	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>23</sub> NO <sub>3</sub>	337.1678	-2.97			
		293.1108	292.1108	C <sub>19</sub> H <sub>16</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	292.1099	-3.08			
		247.1110	247.1110	C <sub>18</sub> H <sub>15</sub> O <sup>+</sup>	247.1117	2.83			
		165.0540	165.0540	C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>9</sub> O <sub>3</sub> <sup>+</sup>	165.0546	3.64			
		352.1828	351.1828	C <sub>22</sub> H <sub>25</sub> NO <sub>3</sub>	351.1834	1.71			
OLO5	1.11	MS-ES	353.1839	351.1839	C <sub>22</sub> H <sub>25</sub> NO <sub>3</sub>	351.1834	-1.42		

RRT: Relative retention time, OLO: Olopatadine, LC: Liquid chromatography, MS: Mass spectrometry, ES: Electrospray

**Table 4. Observed m/z values for the [M+H]<sup>+</sup> ions and major fragments of OLO and its degradation products in neutral condition**

Analyte code	RRT in LC MS	MS-ES or MS-MS	m/z value	Measured mass	Best possible molecular formulae	Exact mass	ppm error		
OLO1	0.44	MS-ES	208.1615	207.1615	C <sub>13</sub> H <sub>21</sub> NO	207.1623	3.86		
			178.1164	177.1164	C <sub>11</sub> H <sub>15</sub> NO	177.1154	-5.65		
			158.0883	157.0883	C <sub>11</sub> H <sub>11</sub> N	157.0891	5.09		
			360.1489	359.1489	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>22</sub> NNaO <sub>3</sub>	359.1497	2.23		
			361.1498	359.1498	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>23</sub> NO <sub>3</sub>	359.1497	-0.28		
OLO3	0.96	MS-ES	338.1666	337.1666	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>23</sub> NO <sub>3</sub>	337.1678	3.56		
			280.1618	279.1618	C <sub>19</sub> H <sub>21</sub> NO	279.1623	1.79		
			158.0888	157.0888	C <sub>11</sub> H <sub>11</sub> N	157.0891	1.91		
			OLO	MS-ES	338.1681	337.1681	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>23</sub> NO <sub>3</sub>	337.1678	-0.89
					339.1685	337.1685	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>23</sub> NO <sub>3</sub>	337.1678	-2.08
338.1687	337.1687	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>23</sub> NO <sub>3</sub>			337.1678	-2.67			
339.1667	337.1667	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>23</sub> NO <sub>3</sub>			337.1678	3.26			
1.00	MS-ES	293.1118	292.1118	C <sub>19</sub> H <sub>16</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	292.1099	-6.50			
		247.1119	247.1119	C <sub>18</sub> H <sub>15</sub> O <sup>+</sup>	247.1117	-0.81			
		221.0965	221.0965	C <sub>16</sub> H <sub>13</sub> O <sup>+</sup>	221.0961	-1.81			
		165.0551	165.0551	C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>9</sub> O <sub>3</sub> <sup>+</sup>	165.0546	-3.03			
		352.1856	351.1856	C <sub>22</sub> H <sub>25</sub> NO <sub>3</sub>	351.1834	-6.26			
OLO5	1.11	MS-ES	353.1825	351.1825	C <sub>22</sub> H <sub>25</sub> NO <sub>3</sub>	351.1834	2.56		

RRT: Relative retention time, OLO: Olopatadine, LC: Liquid chromatography, MS: Mass spectrometry, ES: Electrospray

butyl)phenyl)methanol, which may be formed by cleavage of the tricyclic ring in neutral condition.

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