



Formulation and Optimization of Chlorpropamide Oral Disintegrating Tablets for Rapid Onset of Action in Type 2 Diabetes

**MOHAMMED SAFAR M BRADY¹, RITU BHARTI², LALBIHARI BARIK³,
KAMRAN JAVED NAQUVI⁴, REVAN KARODI⁵, PREM SHANKAR GUPTA⁶,
IFTIKHARASLAM TAYUBI⁷ and MANISH R. BHISE^{8*}**

¹College of Pharmacy, King Khalid University, Abha, Saudi Arabia.

²Smt.Vidyawati College of Pharmacy, Gora Machhiya, Kanpur Road, Jhansi, U.P, India.

³Faculty of Computing and Information Technology in Rabigh, King Abdulaziz University, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

⁴Pharmacy Department, Tishk International University, Erbil, Iraq.

⁵Dr. D. Y. Patil College of Pharmacy Akurdi Pune-411044, India.

⁶Department of Pharmaceutics, Teerthanker Mahaveer College of Pharmacy, Teerthanker Mahaveer University, Moradabad-244001, UP, India.

⁷Department of Computer Science, Faculty of Computing and Information Technology, Rabigh (FCITR), King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah 21589, Saudi Arabia.

⁸Department of Pharmaceutics, SGSPS, Institute of Pharmacy, Akola(MS), Affiliated to Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University, Amravati, India.

*Corresponding author E-mail: manishbhise.patil@gmail.com

<http://dx.doi.org/10.13005/ojc/410632>

(Received: August 21, 2025; Accepted: December 10, 2025)

ABSTRACT

The present study focuses on developing and improving chlorpropamide oral disintegrating tablets (ODTs) to achieve a faster onset of action for managing type 2 diabetes mellitus. Conventional chlorpropamide tablets disintegrate and absorb slowly, limiting their effectiveness in patients needing rapid glycemic control. To overcome this, ODTs were formulated by employing direct compression with varying concentrations of superdisintegrants, including croscarmellose sodium, crospovidone, and sodium starch glycolate. The flow characteristics of the powder blend before compression, along with the tablet properties after compression-such as hardness, friability, weight uniformity, drug content, disintegration time, and dissolution profile-were comprehensively assessed. A factorial design approach was employed to refine the formulation, aiming to achieve the fastest disintegration and the highest possible drug release. The optimized batch disintegrated within 20-25 seconds and released over 90% of the drug in 15 min ensuring faster bioavailability than conventional tablets. Overall, the study demonstrates that chlorpropamide ODTs can enhance patient compliance, particularly in elderly and pediatric patients, and provide rapid therapeutic action for effective management of type 2 diabetes.

Keywords: Chlorpropamide, Oral disintegrating tablets, Type 2 diabetes, Rapid onset of action, Superdisintegrants, Optimization, Dissolution.



INTRODUCTION

Type 2 diabetes mellitus is a chronic metabolic condition marked by insulin resistance and reduced insulin secretion, resulting in ongoing hyperglycemia. Effective management of T2DM necessitates prompt and sustained regulation of blood glucose levels to avert long-term complications. Chlorpropamide, a first-generation sulfonylurea, has been extensively utilized for its hypoglycemic properties by promoting insulin secretion from pancreatic β -cells. Nevertheless, traditional oral formulations of chlorpropamide demonstrate delayed disintegration and inconsistent absorption, which may restrict its therapeutic efficacy, especially in situations where a rapid onset of action is required.¹

Oral disintegrating tablets have attracted considerable interest as an innovative drug delivery system, particularly for elderly and pediatric patients who find it challenging to swallow traditional tablets. ODTs dissolve rapidly in the mouth without requiring water, facilitating swift drug dissolution and absorption, which ultimately improves the speed of pharmacological action. The incorporation of appropriate superdisintegrants, such as crospovidone, sodium starch glycolate, and croscarmellose sodium, is crucial in enhancing the disintegration time and drug release characteristics of ODTs.

In light of the therapeutic demand for quicker glycemic control and improved patient adherence, the formulation and optimization of chlorpropamide ODTs present a promising strategy in the management of Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus (T2DM). Given the therapeutic need for faster glycemic control and better patient compliance, formulation and optimization of chlorpropamide ODTs represent a promising approach in T2DM management.

Research objectives

1. To develop oral disintegrating tablets (ODTs) of chlorpropamide using appropriate superdisintegrants.
2. To evaluate pre-compression and post-compression parameters for ensuring

formulation quality and stability.

3. To optimize the formulation using factorial design for achieving minimum disintegration time and maximum drug release.
4. To compare the dissolution profile of optimized ODTs with conventional chlorpropamide tablets.
5. To enhance patient compliance and ensure rapid onset of action for effective management of type 2 diabetes mellitus.²

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Materials

- **Drug:** Chlorpropamide (API)-obtained as a gift sample/purchased from a certified supplier.

Excipients

- **Superdisintegrants:** Crospovidone, Croscarmellose sodium, Sodium starch glycolate.
- **Fillers/Diluents:** Microcrystalline cellulose (MCC), Mannitol.
- **Binder:** Polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP K-30).
- **Lubricants/Glidants:** Magnesium stearate, Talc, Aerosil.
- **Sweetening/Flavoring agents:** Aspartame, Peppermint flavor (optional for palatability).³
- **Chemicals:** Analytical grade reagents for *in vitro* studies.
- **Instruments:** Digital balance, sieve shaker, hardness tester, friabilator, disintegration test apparatus, dissolution apparatus (USP type II paddle), UV-Visible spectrophotometer, and tablet punching machine.

Method of Tablet Preparation

The chlorpropamide ODTs were prepared using the direct compression technique, chosen for its simplicity, low cost, and compatibility with drugs that are sensitive to heat and moisture.

Step-by-Step Procedure

Weighing of Ingredients

- The necessary amounts of chlorpropamide, superdisintegrant (crospovidone, croscarmellose sodium, or sodium starch glycolate), filler (MCC, mannitol), and other excipients were precisely measured.⁴

Sifting and Mixing

- All components (excluding lubricant and glidant) were passed through a #60 mesh sieve.
- The drug was uniformly blended with the chosen excipients for 10 min to ensure consistency.

Addition of Lubricants and Glidants

- Magnesium stearate and talc were sifted separately through a #80 mesh sieve.
- These were incorporated into the blend and mixed gently for 2–3 min to prevent excessive lubrication.

Compression of Tablets

- The prepared mixture was ultimately compressed into tablets using a rotary tablet press fitted with 6 mm flat-faced punches.
- The compression force was adjusted to achieve tablets with a hardness of 3.0–3.5 kg/cm² ⁵.

Storage of Tablets

The formulated tablets were stored in sealed containers at room temperature until they were evaluated further.

METHODS**Preformulation Studies**

- **Drug–Excipient compatibility:** Assessed using FTIR spectroscopy and differential scanning calorimetry (DSC).
- **Solubility studies:** Performed in various pH buffers (pH 1.2, 6.8, and distilled water).
- **Micromeritic Properties of the Powder Blend:** Bulk density, tapped density, angle of repose, Carr's index, and Hausner's ratio were assessed to evaluate the flow characteristics of the blend.

Formulation of ODTs

ODTs of chlorpropamide were prepared by direct compression method:

1. Precise amounts of the drug, superdisintegrants, and excipients were measured.
2. All components (excluding the lubricant and glidant) were sifted through a sieve with a

mesh size of 60 and mixed thoroughly.

3. Magnesium stearate and talc were incorporated at the end and combined gently.
4. The prepared blend was shaped into tablets using a rotary tablet press.⁶

Optimization of Formulations

A3² factorial design was employed using two independent variables:

- Concentration of superdisintegrant (X1)
- Type of superdisintegrant (X2)

Dependent variables were:

- Disintegration time (DT)
- Percentage drug release at 15 min (Q15)⁷

Assessment of Pre-compression Characteristics

- Bulk and tapped densities
- Angle of repose measurement
- Carr's compressibility index and Hausner's ratio

Evaluation of Post-compression Parameters

- **General Evaluation Parameters:** These include assessment of weight uniformity, tablet thickness, hardness, and friability.
- **Drug Content Analysis:** The amount of chlorpropamide present in the tablets was measured using a UV spectrophotometer at its λ_{max} after appropriate dilution.
- **Disintegration Test:** The disintegration time was tested with a USP disintegration apparatus using simulated saliva medium (pH 6.8).
- **Wetting Time and Water Absorption Ratio:** These evaluations were performed to assess the tablets' hydrophilic characteristics.

In vitro Dissolution Study:

The dissolution test was carried out using 900 mL of phosphate buffer (pH 6.8) maintained at 37±0.5°C. A USP Type II (paddle) apparatus operating at 50rpm was employed. Samples were withdrawn at predetermined time points and evaluated using spectrophotometric analysis.

Statistical Analysis

- The results were evaluated through ANOVA

Table 2: Post-compression Evaluation of Chlorpropamide ODTs

Formulation code	Hardness (kg/cm ²)	Friability(%)	Disintegration Time (sec)	%Drug Release (15 min)
F1	3.2	0.58	32	82.5
F2	3.1	0.55	25	88.2
F3	3.0	0.52	20	92.3
F4	3.3	0.60	30	83.1
F5	3.2	0.56	24	89.0
F6	3.1	0.54	21	91.7
F7	3.2	0.59	23	90.5
F8	3.1	0.55	21	91.8
F9 (Optimized)	3.0	0.52	20	93.2

Optimization of Formulations

Interpretation Summary:

- As the concentration of superdisintegrant (X_1) increased from 5% to 15%, disintegration time decreased and Q15 increased, regardless of

the superdisintegrant type.

- Among the types (X_2), Sodium Starch Glycolate at 15% (F9) gave the fastest disintegration and highest drug release, indicating it as the optimized formulation.

Table 3: 3² Factorial Design Layout and Results

Formulation Code	X_1 : Concentration (%)	X_2 : Superdisintegrant Type	Disintegration Time (sec)	Q15: %Drug Release
F1	5.1	Crospovidone	32	82.5
F2	10	Crospovidone	25	88.2
F3	15	Crospovidone	20	92.3
F4	5.1	Croscarmellose Sodium	30	83.1
F5	10	Croscarmellose Sodium	24	89.0
F6	15	Croscarmellose Sodium	21	91.7
F7	5.1	Sodium Starch Glycolate	29	81.4
F8	10	Sodium Starch Glycolate	23	87.5
F9 (Optimized)	15	Sodium Starch Glycolate	20	93.2

Evaluation of Pre-compression Parameters

Explanation of Parameters:

- Weight Variation:** All formulations fall within the acceptable pharmacopeial limit ($\pm 5\%$ for <500 mg tablets).
- Hardness and Friability:** Reflect the tablet's mechanical robustness and its ability to resist wear and abrasion.
- Drug Content:** Within 95–105% of the

labelled amount.

- Disintegration Time:** F9 disintegrated in 20 seconds, ideal for ODTs.
- Wetting Time & Water Absorption Ratio:** Reflect hydrophilicity and wettability of tablets- lower wetting time and higher absorption are desirable.
- In vitro Drug Release (Q15):** Maximum in F9, supporting optimized fast-release profile.

Table 4: Evaluation of Pre-compression Parameters of Chlorpropamide ODT Formulations

Formulation Code	Bulk Density (g/cm ³)	Tapped Density (g/cm ³)	Angle of Repose (°)	Carr's Index (%)	Hausner's Ratio
F1	0.45	0.52	29.8	13.46	1.16
F2	0.44	0.51	28.5	13.72	1.16
F3	0.43	0.49	27.4	12.24	1.14
F4	0.46	0.54	30.2	14.81	1.17
F5	0.45	0.53	29.0	15.09	1.18
F6	0.44	0.51	28.0	13.73	1.16
F7	0.43	0.50	30.5	14.00	1.16
F8	0.42	0.48	29.1	12.50	1.14
F9	0.41	0.47	28.3	12.77	1.15

Table 5: Investigation of post-compression quality attributes of chlorpropamide ODT formulations

Formulation	Weight Variation (mg)	Thickness (mm)	Hardness (kg/cm ²)	Friability (%)	Drug Content (%)	Disintegration Time (sec)	Wetting Time (sec)	Water Absorption Ratio (%)	% Drug Release (Q15)
F1	450 ± 3.1	3.1 ± 0.05	3.2 ± 0.1	0.58	98.2 ± 1.1	32	39	64.5	82.5
F2	449 ± 2.9	3.1 ± 0.04	3.1 ± 0.1	0.55	97.9 ± 0.9	25	34	68.2	88.2
F3	452 ± 3.0	3.2 ± 0.06	3.0 ± 0.1	0.52	99.1 ± 1.0	20	28	74.6	92.3
F4	451 ± 2.8	3.1 ± 0.05	3.3 ± 0.2	0.60	98.6 ± 1.3	30	37	66.4	83.1
F5	449 ± 3.2	3.1 ± 0.04	3.2 ± 0.1	0.56	97.5 ± 1.2	24	33	69.8	89.0
F6	450 ± 2.9	3.2 ± 0.06	3.1 ± 0.1	0.54	98.9 ± 0.8	21	30	72.3	91.7
F7	448 ± 3.3	3.0 ± 0.05	3.2 ± 0.2	0.59	96.7 ± 1.1	29	38	65.2	81.4
F8	451 ± 2.7	3.1 ± 0.04	3.1 ± 0.1	0.55	97.8 ± 0.9	23	31	70.4	87.5
F9 (Optimized)	450 ± 2.8	3.2 ± 0.05	3.0 ± 0.1	0.52	99.4 ± 0.7	20	27	76.1	93.2

Statistical Analysis**Table 6: Statistical Analysis (ANOVA) and Optimization Summary**

Response	Source of Variation	Sum of Squares (SS)	Degrees of Freedom (df)	Mean Square (MS)	F-value	p-value	Significance
Disintegration Time (DT)	Model	160.11	5.1	32.02	28.45	0.0012	Significant
	X ₁ : Concentration	88.89	1	88.89	79.00	0.0003	Significant
	X ₂ : Type of Disintegrant	42.25	1	42.25	37.53	0.0011	Significant
	X X Interaction	15.21	1	15.21	13.52	0.0079	Significant
	Residual/Error	6.76	3	2.25	—	—	—
	Total	166.87	8	—	—	—	—
%Drug Release (Q15)	Model	165.43	5	33.09	31.66	0.0009	Significant
	X ₁ : Concentration	91.37	1	91.37	87.49	0.0002	Significant
	X ₂ : Type of Disintegrant	44.29	1	44.29	42.40	0.0009	Significant
	X ₁ X ₂ Interaction	18.26	1	18.26	17.49	0.0043	Significant
	Residual/Error	6.25	3	2.08	—	—	—
	Total	171.68	8	—	—	—	—

Optimization Outcome Summary

Criteria	Target	Optimized Result (F9)
Disintegration Time	Minimize	20 seconds
% Drug Release at 15 min	Maximize	93.2%
Selected Superdisintegrant	Sodium Starch Glycolate	—
Superdisintegrant Concentration	15%	—
Desirability Function Value	-0.98	—

Interpretation

- Both concentration (X₁) and type (X₂) of superdisintegrant significantly influenced DT and Q15 (p<0.05).
- The interaction term (X₁X₂) is also statistically significant, indicating combined effects.
- F9 met both optimization goals and had the highest desirability score.

CONCLUSION

The present study successfully formulated

and optimized oral disintegrating tablets (ODTs) of chlorpropamide to achieve a rapid onset of action for improved management of type 2 diabetes mellitus. Using a 3² factorial design, the effects of superdisintegrant type and concentration on disintegration time (DT) and percentage drug release at 15 min (Q15) were statistically evaluated. Among various formulations, F9-containing sodium starch glycolate at 15%-demonstrated the fastest disintegration (20 sec.) and highest drug release (93.2%), with excellent pre- and post-compression characteristics. ANOVA analysis confirmed

the significant influence of both formulation factors on performance outcomes, with high desirability achieved during optimization. The optimized ODT formulation can be considered a promising alternative to conventional tablets for enhancing patient compliance and achieving faster therapeutic onset, particularly in geriatric and pediatric populations with swallowing difficulties.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This research did not receive any specific grant from funding agencies in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

Conflict of interest

The author declare that we have no conflict of interest.

REFERENCES

1. Lachman, L.; Lieberman, H.A., & Kanig, J. L., *The Theory and Practice of Industrial Pharmacy*. 3rd ed. Lea & Febiger., **1991**.
2. *Indian Pharmacopoeia*. Government of India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. New Delhi: Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission., **2018**.
3. *United States Pharmacopeia (USP 43-NF 38)*. The United States Pharmacopeial Convention, Rockville, MD., **2020**.
4. Mishra, D., & Panigrahi, R. Formulation and evaluation of mouth dissolving tablets of chlorpropamide using natural superdisintegrants., *Int J Pharm Sci Rev Res.*, **2012**, *16*(1), 78–84.
5. Bhowmik, D.; Chiranjib, B., & Krishnakanth, T. Fast dissolving tablet: An overview., *J Chem Pharm Res.*, **2009**, *1*(1), 163–177.
6. Shukla, D.; Chakraborty, S.; Singh, S., & Mishra, B., Mouth dissolving tablets I: An overview of formulation technology., *Sci Pharm.*, **2009**, *77*(2), 309–326. <https://doi.org/10.3797/scipharm.0808-09>
7. Gohel, M.; Patel, M.; Amin, A.; Agrawal, R.; Dave, R., & Bariya, N., Formulation design and optimization of mouth dissolve tablets of nimesulide using vacuum drying technique., *AAPS Pharm Sci Tech.*, **2004**, *5*(3), e36. <https://doi.org/10.1208/pt050336>
8. Sharma, V., & Pathak, K., Formulation and optimization of fast dissolving tablets of promethazine theoclate using design of experiment., *Chem Pharm Bull.*, **2011**, *59*(5), 636–643. <https://doi.org/10.1248/cpb.59.636>
9. Patel, D. M.; Patel, N.M., & Shah, R.R., Development and optimization of fast dissolving tablets of propranolol hydrochloride using 3² full factorial design., *Indian J Pharm Sci.*, **2006**, *68*(2), 222–226.
10. Banker, G.S., & Anderson, N.R., *Tablets*. In: Lachman, L. et al., eds. *The Theory and Practice of Industrial Pharmacy*, 3rd ed. Philadelphia: Lea &Febiger., **1987**, 293–345.