

DEVELOPMENT AND VALIDATION OF SOME PHARMACEUTICAL DRUGS BY STABILITY ASSAY METHOD

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ABSTRACT

A stability-indicating HPLC, UV and HPTLC assay method has been developed and validated for Metformin Hydrochloride and Benfotiamine in bulk drug and pharmaceutical dosage forms. An isocratic HPLC was achieved on Waters 2695 using Symmetry C18 (250mm × 4.6mm × 5μ) column with the mobile phase consisting of 0.02 mM sodium dihydrogen ortho-phosphate, pH adjusted to 2.5 using ortho-phosphoric acid (solvent A), and acetonitrile (solvent B) in the ratio of 58:42 %v/v. The stress testing of Metformin Hydrochloride and Benfotiamine was carried out under acidic, alkaline, oxidative, thermal, and photolytic conditions. Metformin Hydrochloride and Benfotiamine was well resolved from its degradation products. The proposed method was validated as per ICH guidelines. The method

was found to be suitable for the quality control of Metformin Hydrochloride and Benfotiamine in bulk and pharmaceutical dosage forms as well as the stability-indicating studies.

KEYWORDS: Stability assay (HPLC, UV and HPTLC), Metformin and Benfotiamine.

1. INTRODUCTION

Analytical chemistry involves the techniques of separation, quantifications and chemical additives identification of herbal and synthetic materials having one or more than one compounds. Analytical chemistry is separated into two classes, a qualitative evaluation that is to say the identification with regard to the chemical additives exists in the sample, whereas quantitative evaluation estimates the amount of positive detail or compound within the substance, i.e. the sample.^[1,2] Analytical methods are generally classified into two categories: 1) Instrumental & 2) Non-Instrumental.

In the Instrumental method certain physical property is measured to determine the contents of compositions of a substance, while in non-instrumental; the conventional physicochemical properties are used to analyse the sample.^[7,8]

1.2 High Performance Thin Layer Chromatography (HPTLC)

HPTLC is the simplest separation technique today available to the analyst. It can be considered as time machine that can speed your work and allows you to do many things at a time usually not possible with other analytical techniques. It can concurrently analyse several samples even of divergent nature and composition supporting several analysts at a given time. A major advantage of HPTLC is its ability to analyse a number of samples simultaneously using a small quantity of mobile phase; this reduces the time and cost of analysis. In addition, it also minimizes exposure risks and disposal problems of toxic organic effluents, thereby reducing possibilities of environment pollution. HPTLC also facilitates repeated detection of chromatogram with the same or different parameters.^[9,10] Furthermore, in the case of HPTLC, there are no limits for the choice of solvents and mobile phases; drug and lipophilic excipients can be dissolved in a suitable solvent and that was evaporated during spotting on HPTLC plate leaving behind analyte as a thin band. Therefore, for such methods, extraction procedure is not required always and could be developed for analyzing drug without any interference from excipients.^[11,12]

1.3 High performance liquid chromatography (HPLC)

Chromatography is essentially a group of techniques for separation of the compounds from the mixtures by their continuous distribution between two phases, one of which is moving over the other. The systems associated with this definition are.

- **Adsorption chromatography**
- **Partition chromatography**
- **Ion exchange chromatography**
- **Gel chromatography**

The basis of separation of the component from a mixture may be defined in terms of one of these four modes of separation or by a combination. The technique of HPLC is developed from advances made in column chromatography. The technique is based on the same modes of separation mentioned above. It is different than conventional column chromatography as the mobile phase is pumped through the packed column under high pressure. Liquid chromatography though more troublesome than gas chromatography has the main advantage of operating at low temperatures and can be used with advantage for separation of substances as proteins, nucleosides which are thermolabile.^[13,14] In conventional liquid chromatography, a dilute solution of the sample is passed through a column packed with solid particles. Thus, the liquid is passed through vertical columns under gravitational flow. This is passed with slow speed and especially if the packing granules were small enough to give efficient separation, then the delivery under gravity decreases even up to a few drops per minute.^[15,16] The obvious way to increase the flow rate and efficient separation is to force the liquid by a positive displacement pump or by gas pressure. This versatility can be achieved by making certain modifications in columns and by using smaller diameter and smaller surface area of column particles and by using other suitable packing structure. This is HPLC i.e., High Pressure/Performance Liquid Chromatography.^[17,18]

2. MATERIAL AND METHODS

Drug (Metformin Hydrochloride & Benfotiamine) are received as gift sample from Alkem Pharmaceuticals Mumbai. All other chemical is analytical grade.

2.1 Development and validation of Stability Indicating HPTLC, UV and HPTLC method for simultaneous estimation of metformin (MET) and Benfotiamine (BENT) in combined solid dosage form.

2.1.1 Solvent

MET and BENT both are soluble in methanol, methanol was selected as a solvent.

2.1.2 Selection of analytical wavelength

Standard stock solutions (10 µg/ml) of drugs were prepared in methanol and their isosbestic point is observed at 249 nm on UV-spectrophotometer.

2.1.3 Preparation of standard stock solution

Standard stock solution of MET was prepared by dissolving 50 mg of drug in 10 ml of methanol to get concentration of 5000 µg/ml from which 1 ml was further diluted with methanol to get the final concentration 500 ng/µl. Standard stock solution of BENT was prepared by dissolving 7.5 mg of drug in 10 ml of methanol to get concentration of 750 µg/ml from which 1 ml was further diluted with methanol to get the final concentration 75 ng/µl.

2.1.4 Selection of mobile phase and chromatographic conditions

Chromatographic separation studies were carried out initially by using different solvents like Chloroform, Methanol, Toluene, Ethyl Acetate, Benzene and Triethylamine in different proportions. Finally, the combination Benzene: Methanol: Triethylamine (8.5:1:0.5, v/v/v) offered good resolution. This mobile phase system was observed to give compact spots for both MET and BENT and the R_f values were 0.26 ± 0.04 and 0.72 ± 0.03 for MET and BENT respectively. The chamber saturation time for mobile phase was 20 min and activation of plate was done at 110°C for five min to obtain distinct spots.

2.1.5 Analysis of marketed formulation

Twenty tablets were weighed accurately and finely powdered. A quantity of powder equivalent to 75 mg of BENT and 500 mg of MET was weighed and transferred to a 100 ml volumetric flask containing approximately 50 ml methanol. The mixture was sonicated for 15 min and diluted to volume with methanol. The solution was filtered using Whatman paper no. 41. One milliliter of the above solution was further diluted with methanol to obtain the concentration 75 ng/band for BENT and 500 ng/b and for MET. Two microlitre volume of this solution was applied on TLC plate to furnish concentration 150 ng/band for BENT and 1000 ng/band for MET. After chromatographic development the peak areas of the bands were measured. The same analytical procedure was repeated for six times. MET and BENT produced distinct peak at R_f 0.24 ± 0.04 , 0.70 ± 0.03 respectively when scanning was done at 249 nm. The result also shows that there is no interference between the drug and the excipients present in tablet formulation.

2.1.6 Validation of analytical method

2.1.6.1 Linearity

Calibration was done by automatic sample applicator Linomat 5 on TLC plate to give concentration 500, 1000, 1500, 2000, 2500, 3000 ng/b and of MET and 75, 150, 225, 300, 375, 450 ng/band of BENT. The plates were developed in mobile phase. The graph for calibration was plotted as peak areas versus concentration.

2.1.6.2 Precision

The precision study was performed by intra-day and inter-day variation study. In the intraday study, three replicates of three different concentrations of MET (1500, 2000, 2500 ng/band) and of BENT (225, 300, 375 ng/band) were analysed in a day and percentage RSD was calculated. The % RSD was found to be in the range of 0.56-0.64 for MET and 0.69-1.07 for BENT. For the inter day variation study, three replicates of three different concentrations were analysed on three consecutive days and percentage RSD was calculated. The % RSD was found to be in the range of 0.70-0.84 for MET and 1.14-1.43 for BENT.

2.1.6.3 Accuracy

The consistency and accuracy of technique was ensured by recovery study. This study was carried out by spotting a mixture of standard drug solution to pre-analysed sample solution at three different levels 80, 100 and 120 %. Basic concentration of sample chosen was 1000 ng/band for MET and 150 ng/band for BENT.

2.1.6.4 Limit of Detection (LOD) and Limit of Quantification (LOQ)

The LOD and LOQ of Metformin Hydrochloride and Benfotiamine are calculated by mathematical equation:

$$\text{LOD} = 3.3 \times \text{Standard deviation} / \text{Slope}$$

$$\text{LOQ} = 10 \times \text{Standard deviation} / \text{Slope}$$

2.1.6.5 Specificity

Specificity of the developed method was ascertained by analysing standard MET and BENT and MET and BENT extracted from tablets. The band for MET and BENT in the sample was confirmed by comparing the R_f and spectra of the band with those obtained from the standard.

2.1.6.6 Robustness

As per the ICH, method robustness expresses its capacity to remain unaltered through small, deliberate variations in parameters of method. The parameters altered were change in mobile phase composition ($\pm 1\%$) and wavelength (± 1 nm). The effect on result is observed by applying 3000 ng/band for MET and 450 ng/band for BENT.

2.1.7 Forced degradation studies

Forced degradation studies were carried under condition of acid, base, neutral hydrolysis, oxidation, photolytic and dry heat in order to evaluate the ability of the proposed method to separate both the drugs from their degradation products. Dry heat and photo degradation study was carried out in solid state.

2.1.7.1 Acid degradation

From the standard solution of MET (5000 $\mu\text{g/ml}$) 1 ml solution was mixed with 1 ml of 0.1N HCl and 8 ml of methanol. The solution was refluxed at 80°C for 4 hrs. 3 μl volume was applied on TLC plate to get concentration 1500 ng/band. Similarly, from the standard stock solution of BENT (750 $\mu\text{g/ml}$) 1 ml solution was mixed with 1 ml of 0.1N HCl and 8 ml of methanol. The solution was refluxed at 80°C for 4 hrs. 3 μl volume was applied on TLC plate to get concentration 225 ng/band. After acid treatment, MET showed 11.47 % of degradation with additional degradation peak at R_f 0.44 and BENT showed 23.36% of degradation with two additional degradation peak at R_f 0.54, 0.59.

2.1.7.2 Alkaline degradation

From the standard solution of MET (5000 $\mu\text{g/ml}$) 1 ml solution was mixed with 1 ml of 0.1N NaOH and 8 ml of methanol. The solution was refluxed at 80°C for 4 hrs. 3 μl volume was applied on TLC plate to get concentration 1500 ng/band. Similarly, from the standard stock solution of BENT (750 $\mu\text{g/ml}$) 1 ml solution was mixed with 1 ml of 0.1N NaOH and 8 ml of methanol. The solution was refluxed at 80°C for 4 hrs. 3 μl volume was applied on TLC plate to get concentration 225 ng/band. 13.48% of degradation was observed for MET with degradation product at R_f 0.51 and 12.95% of degradation was observed for BENT with degradation peak at R_f 0.82.

2.1.7.3 Oxidative degradation

From the standard solution of MET (5000 $\mu\text{g/ml}$) 1 ml solution was mixed with 1 ml of 3% solution of H_2O_2 and 8 ml of methanol. The solution was refluxed at 80°C for 4 hrs. 3 μl

volume was applied on TLC plate to get concentration 1500 ng/band. Similarly, from the standard stock solution of BENT (750 µg/ml) 1ml solution was mixed with 1 ml of 3% solution of H₂O₂ and 8 ml of methanol. The solution was refluxed at 80°C for 4hrs. 3 µl volume was applied on TLC plate to get concentration 225 ng/band. In the oxidative condition, 21.77% degradation was observed for MET with two additional peaks of degradation at R_f 0.40, 0.45 and 26.29 % of degradation was observed for BENT with peak of degradation at R_f 0.58.

2.1.7.4 Neutral Hydrolytic Degradation

From the standard solution of MET (5000 µg/ml) 1 ml solution was mixed with 1ml of water and 8 ml of methanol. The solution was refluxed at 80°C for 4 hrs. 3 µl volume was applied on TLC plate to get concentration 1500 ng/band. Similarly, from the standard stock solution of BENT (750 µg/ml) 1ml solution was mixed with 1ml of water and 8 ml of methanol. The solution was refluxed at 80°C for 4hrs. 3 µl volume was applied on TLC plate to get concentration 225ng/band. On neutral hydrolysis, 8.11% of MET was degraded without appearance of degradation product and 14.74% of BENT was degraded with degradation product at R_f 0.61.

2.1.7.5 Degradation under dry heat

Dry heat studies were performed by keeping drug samples separately in oven (80°C) for a period of 2 hour. Samples were withdrawn after 2hr, dissolved in methanol and diluted appropriately to get concentration of 500 µg/ml for MET and 75 µg/ml for BENT. 3 µl volume was applied on TLC plate to get concentration 1500 ng/band for MET and 225 ng/band for BENT. Under dry heat degradation condition, MET showed 14.67% of degradation with additional product at R_f 0.47 and 27.94 % of degradation observed for BENT with degradation products at R_f 0.83 and 0.88.

2.1.8 Photo-degradation studies

Photolytic study was carried out by exposure of drug individually to UV light upto 200-watt hours/square meter for period of 4 hrs. Sample was weighed, dissolved and diluted to get 1500 ng/band and 225 ng/band concentration for MET and BENT resp. After exposing to UV light, 14.04% of degradation was observed for MET with degradation product at R_f 0.14 and 13.55% of degradation was observed for BENT without appearance of degradation product.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Development and validation of Stability Indicating HPTLC, HPLC and UV method for simultaneous estimation of Metformine Hydrochloride and Benfotiamine in combined solid dosage form.

3.1.1 Analysis of MET and BENT tablet formulation

Table 1: Tablet formulation.

Label claim (mg)	Amount taken (ng/band)	Amount found (ng/band)	% Drug content	S. D.	% R.S. D
500 MET	1000	999.89	99.98	1.06	1.06
75 BENT	150	149.25	99.41	1.58	1.59

3.1.2 Linearity studies of MET and BENT

Table 2: Linearity studies.

Sr.No	Conc. of MET (ng/band)	Mean Peak Area	Conc. of BENT (ng/band)	Mean peak area
1	500	3613	75	1278
2	1000	4333	150	1923
3	1500	4981	225	2620
4	2000	5601	300	3312
5	2500	6229	375	3947
6	3000	6828	450	4611

3.1.3 Precision Studies of MET and BENT

Table 3: Precision Studies.

	Amount taken (ng/band)	Amount found (%)	% RSD	Amount taken (ng/band)	Amount found (%)	% RSD
Intra day [n=3]	1500	99.44	0.56	225	101.93	1.07
	2000	99.86	0.64	300	100.48	0.82
	2500	99.86	0.64	300	100.48	0.82
Inter day [n=3]	1500	99.59	0.84	225	99.05	1.43
	2000	99.56	0.76	300	99.69	1.43
	2500	100.29	0.70	375	100.0	1.14

3.1.4 % Recovery Studies of MET and BENT

Table 4: % Recovery studies.

Drug	Amount taken (ng/band)	Amount standard drug added (ng/band)	Amount recovered (ng/band)	% Amount recovered	% RSD
MET	1000	800	1796.97	99.85	0.63
	1000	1000	2001.25	100.58	0.62
	1000	1200	2205.89	100.26	0.85
BENT	150	120	270.74	100.36	1.36
	150	150	299.65	99.88	0.63
	150	180	331.25	100.35	0.65

3.1.5 LOD & LOQ Studies of MET and BENT

Table 5: LOD & LOQ Studies.

Drug	LOD	LOQ
MET	140.74 ng/band	426.48 ng/band
BENT	19.60 ng/band	59.39 ng/band

3.1.6 Robustness studies of MET and BENT

Table 6: Robustness studies.

S.no	Parameter	Drug	% RSD
1	Mobile phase composition Methanol (+1%)	MET	0.53
		BENT	1.19
	Methanol (-1%)	MET	1.83
		BENT	1.40
2	Wavelength (+ 1 nm)	MET	0.89
		BENT	0.49
	(-1 nm)	MET	0.92
		BENT	0.52

3.1.7 Forced degradation studies of MET and BENT.

Table 7: Forced degradation studies.

Agent	Time(4h)	Number of degradation products (Rf value)		% Drug remaining after degradation	
		MET	BENT	MET	BENT
HCL (0.1N)	4	1(0.44)	2 (0.54,0.59)	88.53 76.64	2 (0.54,0.59)
NaOH(0.1N)	4	1(0.51)	1 (0.82)	86.52 87.05	1 (0.82)
Water	4	No degradation	1 (0.61)	91.89 85.26	1 (0.61)
H ₂ O ₂ (3%)	4	2(0.40,0.45)	1 (0.58)	78.23 73.71	1 (0.58)
Dry heat	2	1(0.47)	2 (0.83, 0.88)	85.32 72.06	2 (0.83, 0.88)
Photo degradation	4	1(0.14)	No degradation	85.95	86.45

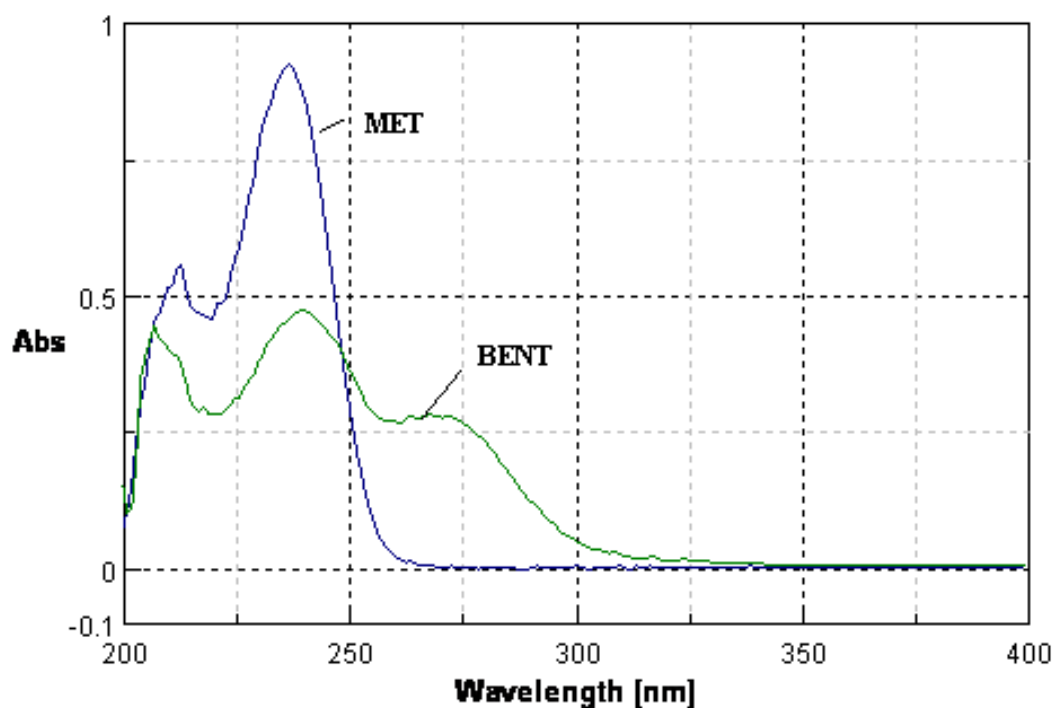


Figure 1: UV Spectra of MET and BENT.

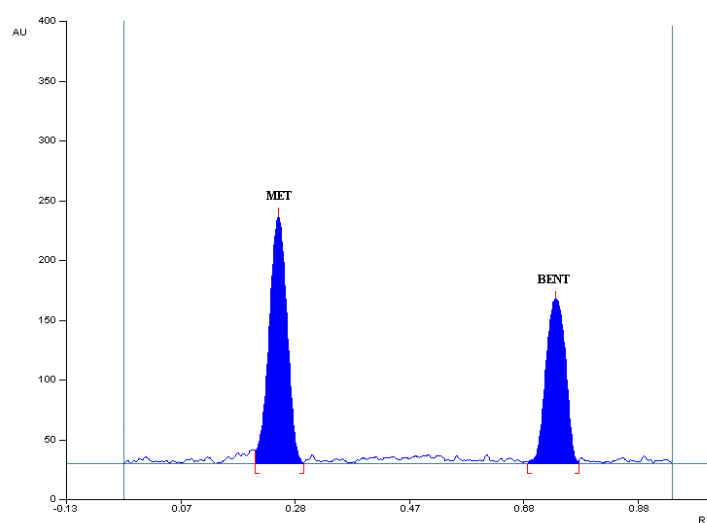


Figure 2: mixed standard solution of MET and BENT

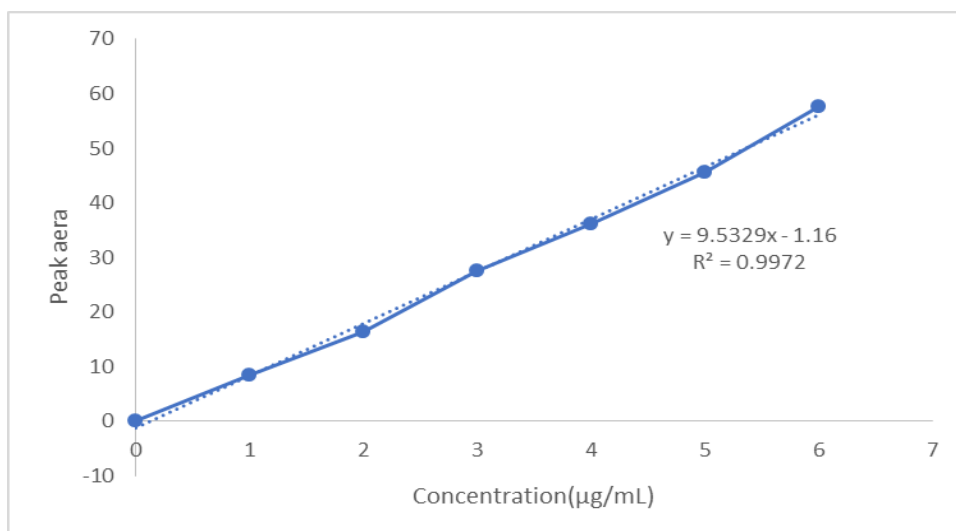


Figure 3: Calibration curve of Metformin.

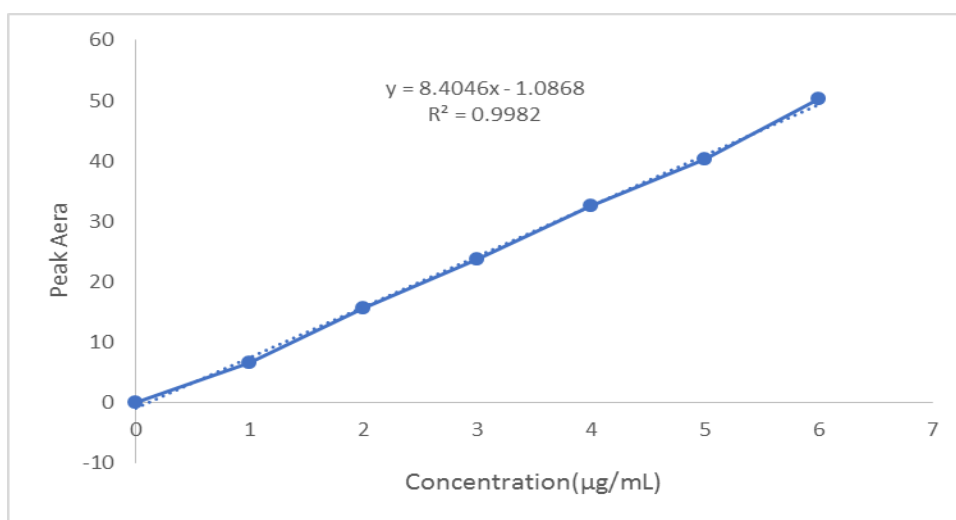


Figure 4: Calibration curve of Benfotiamine.

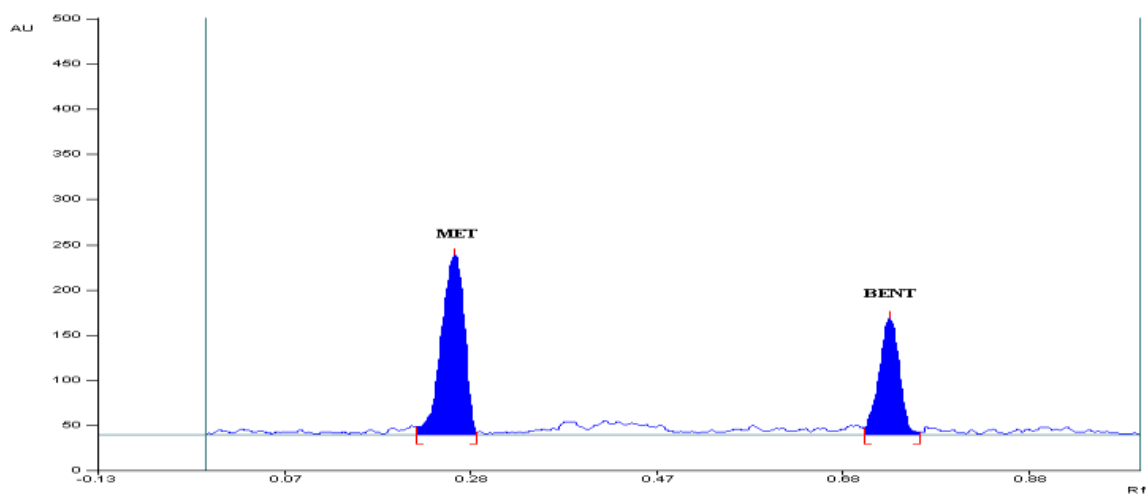


Figure 5: Sample MET and BENT.

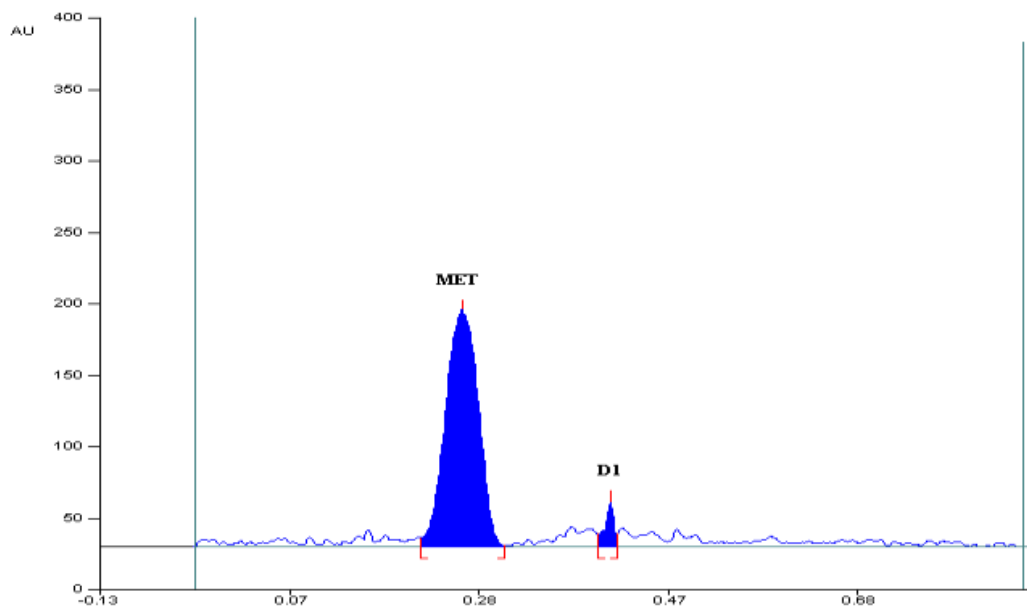


Figure 6: MET after acid degradation with degradation product.

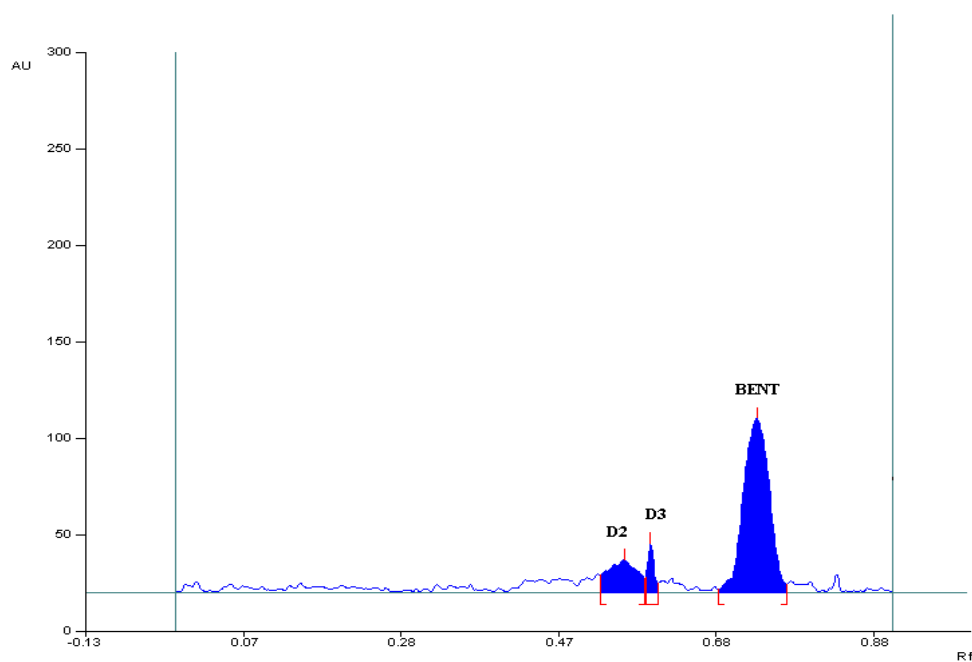


Figure 7: BENT after acid degradation with degradation product.

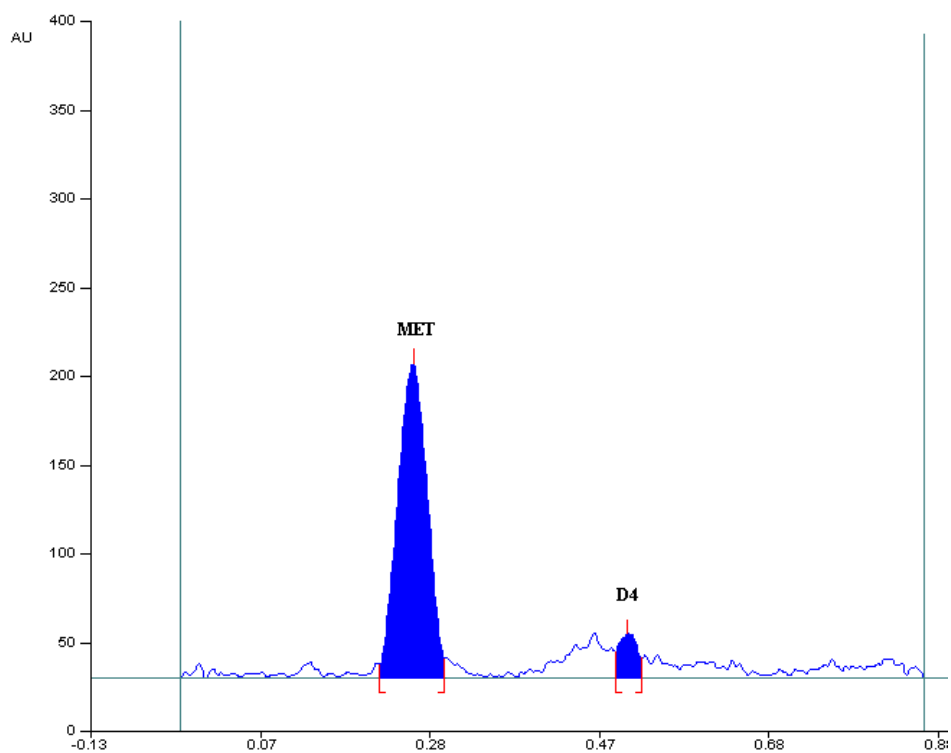


Figure 8: MET after alkaline degradation with degradation product.

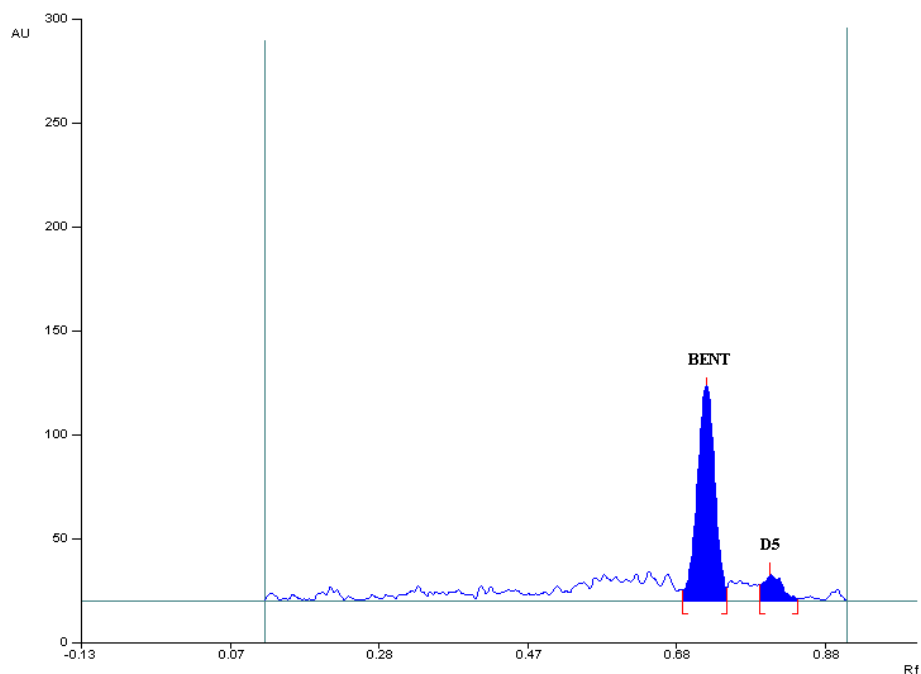


Figure 9: BENT after alkaline degradation with degradation product.

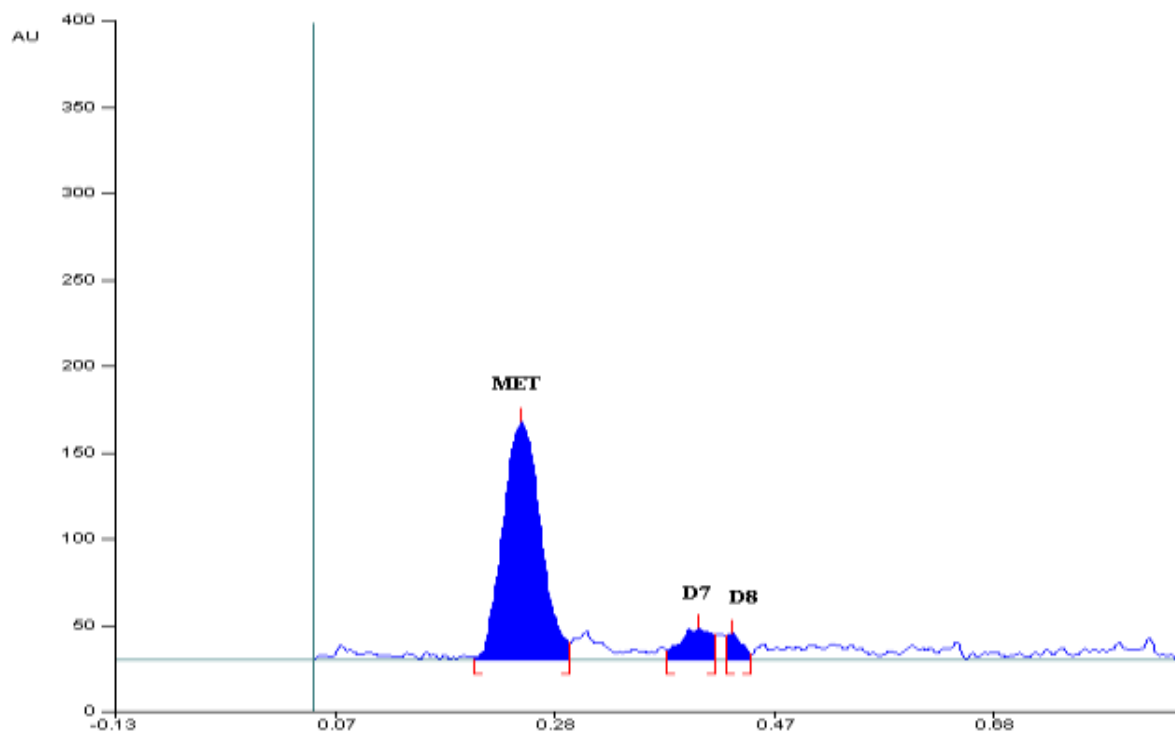


Figure 10: MET after oxidative degradation with degradation product.

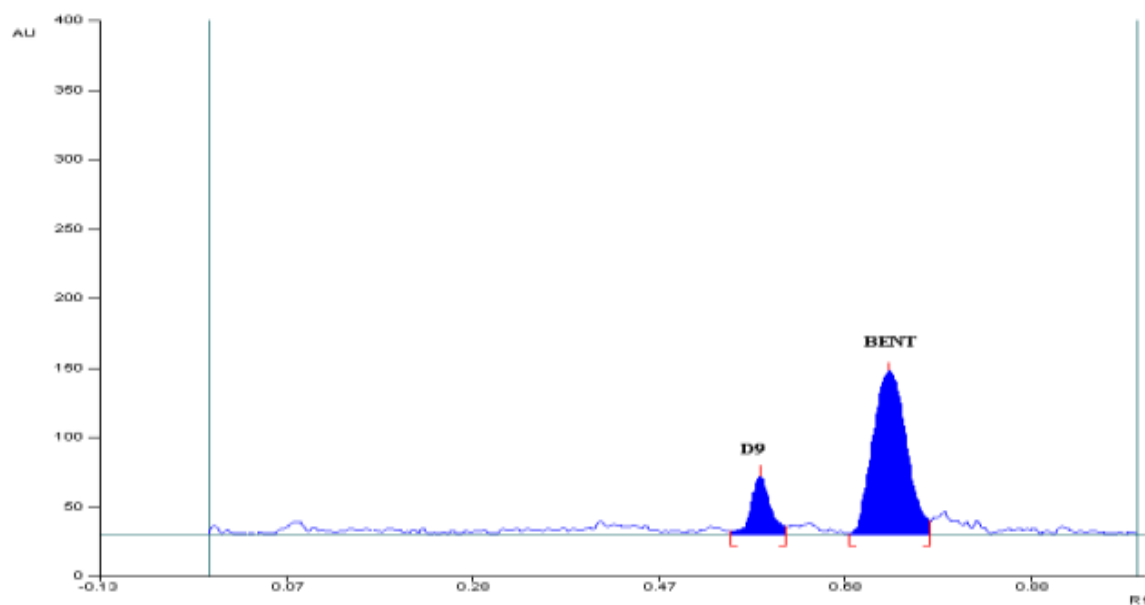


Figure 11: BENT after oxidative degradation with degradation product.

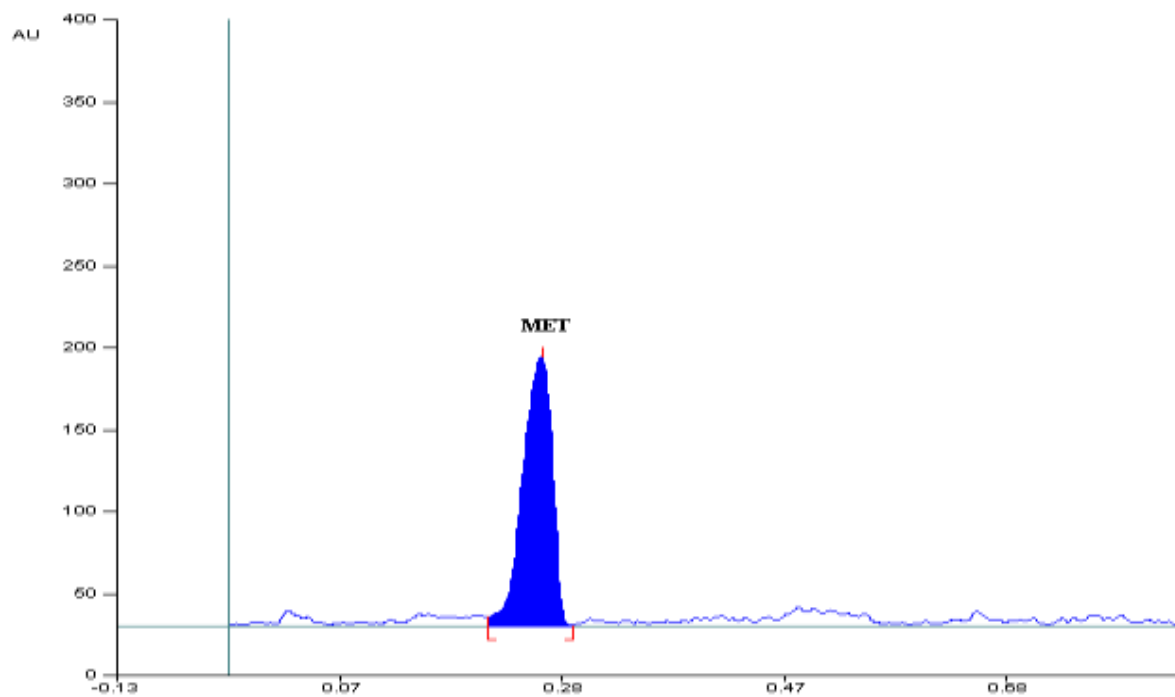


Figure 12: MET after neutral degradation with degradation product.

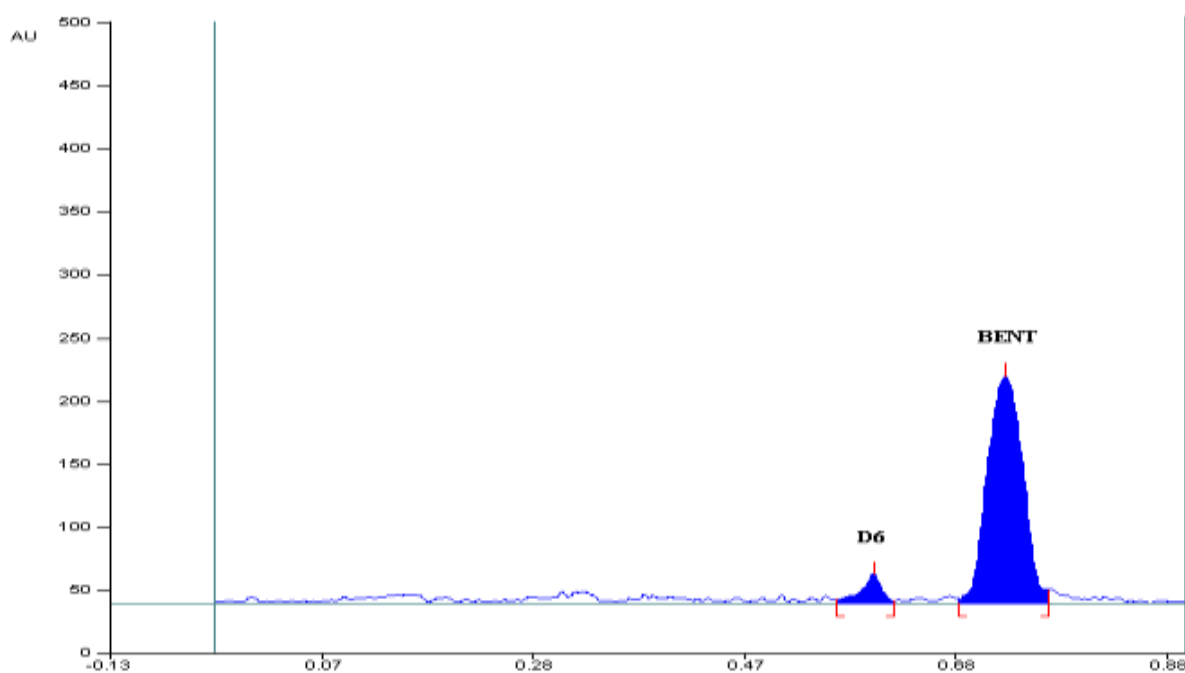


Figure 13: MET after neutral degradation with degradation product.

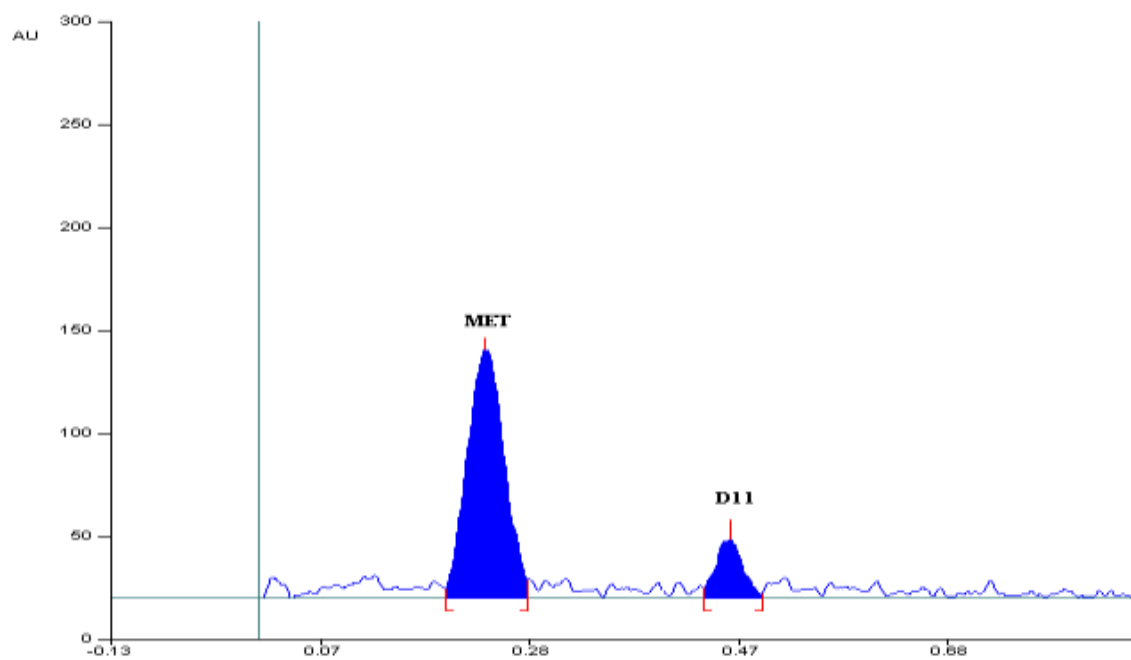


Figure 14: MET after dry heat degradation with degradation product.

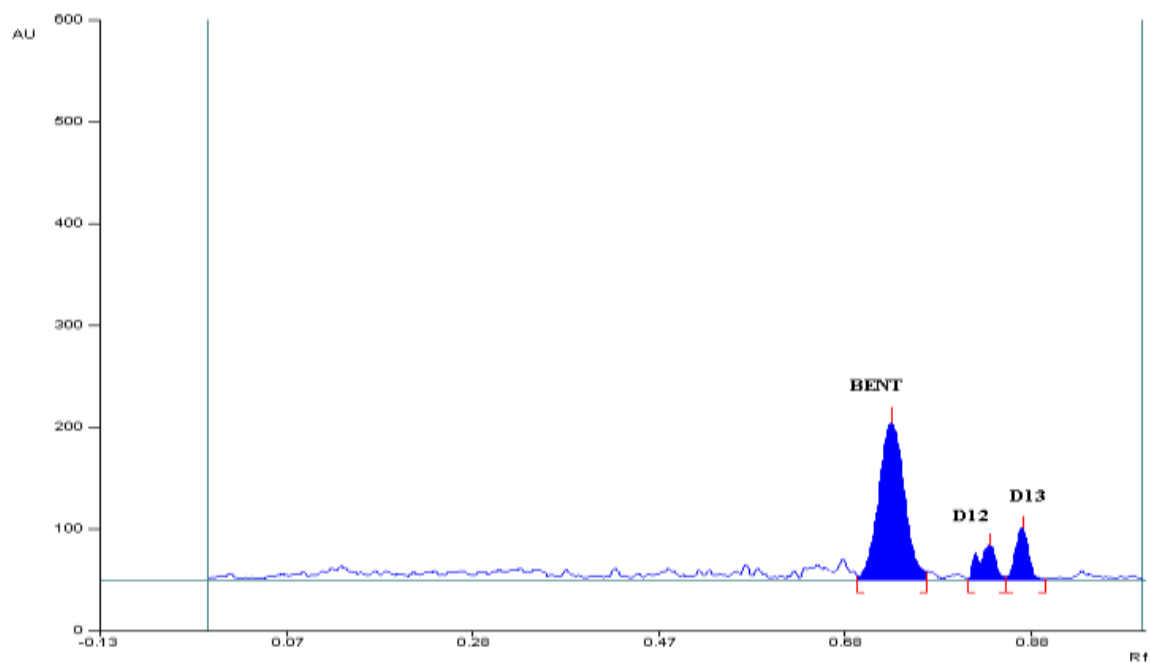


Figure 15: BENT after dry heat degradation with degradation product.

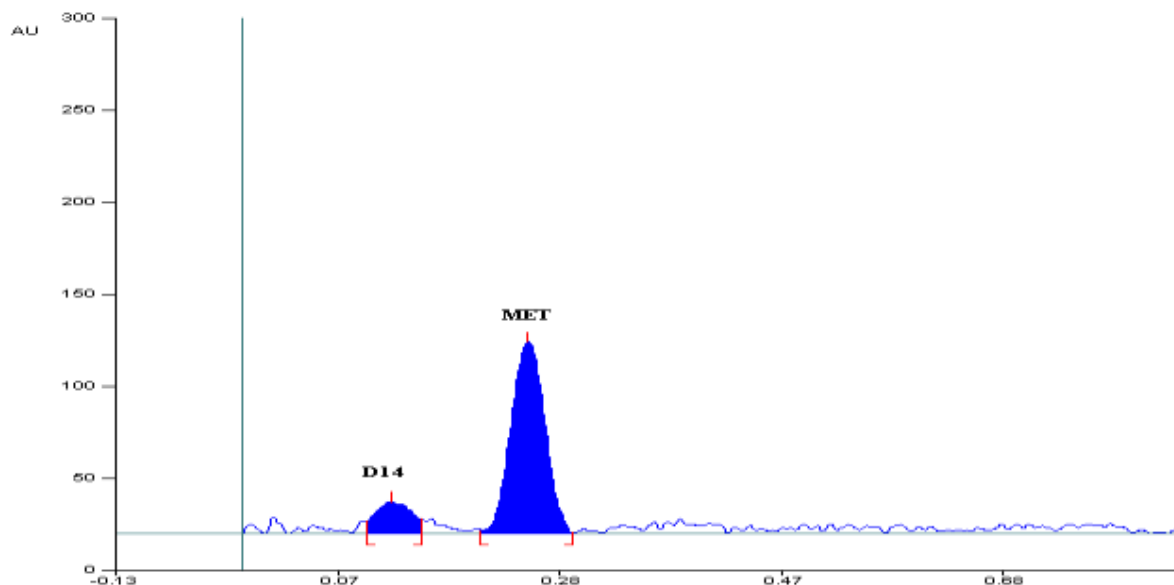


Figure 16: MET after exposing to UV light with degradation product.

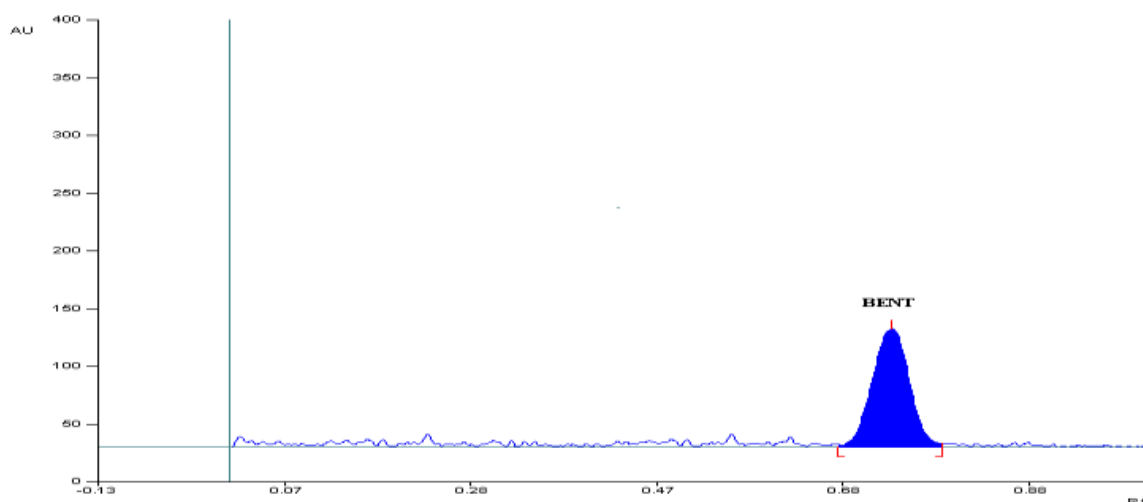


Figure 17: MET after exposing to UV light with degradation product.

4. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Metformin Hydrochloride and Benfotiamine in combination are used as antihyperglycemic agent. Market survey reveals that Benforce-M combination manufactured by Shield Health Care Pvt. Ltd. is recently introduced in market containing Metformin Hydrochloride (500mg) and Benfotiamine (75mg) as solid dosage form. MET and BENT were separated on silica gel 60 F254 TLC plate using Benzene:Methanol:Triethylamine(8.5: 1: 0.5, v/v/v) as mobile phase. Chamber saturation time was 15min. The optimum wavelength for detection and quantification used was 249 nm. The retention factors for MET and BENT were found to be

0.26±0.04 and 0.72±0.03 respectively. Straight-line calibration graphs were obtained in the concentration range 500-3000 ng/band for MET and 75-450 ng/band for BENT with high correlation coefficient. The commercially available tablet formulation was evaluated and % drug content was found to be 99.98±1.06 for MET and 99.41±1.58 for BENT. The method was validated as per ICH guidelines for Linearity, accuracy, precision, and robustness. The accuracy of method was studied by recovery study at 80%, 100% and 120 %. The precision of the method was expressed as % RSD and observed less than 2 indicate method is precise. The low value of LOD and LOQ indicates sensitivity of the method. The method robustness was studied by modifying chromatographic conditions and results were concluded in terms of % RSD and found within acceptable limits for each parameter which express method is robust.

MET and BENT were exposed to various stress degradation conditions. Peaks obtained from the samples degraded by acid, alkali, water, hydrogen peroxide, dry heat and Photo treatment showed well separated spots of pure drugs and few degradation products spots at various R_f values. MET showed degradation product peak under acid (0.44), alkali (0.51), oxidation (0.40, 0.45), dry heat (0.47) and Photo (0.14) conditions but did not show any observable peak in neutral condition. BENT showed degradants peaks for acid (0.54, 0.59), alkali (0.82), neutral (0.61), oxidation (0.58) and dry heat (0.83, 0.88) condition but did not show any observable peak in photo stress condition. The degradation peaks developed under various stress condition for both MET and BENT were well separated from the peak of the intact drugs. The peaks of the MET and BENT were not remarkably shifted in the presence of the degradation peaks, which specify the stability-indicating character of the developed method.

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