



## ANALYTICAL METHODS FOR ESTIMATION OF MYCOPHENOLIC ACID IN BULK AND IN PHARMACEUTICAL DOSAGE FORM: A REVIEW

Mr. A.U. Manjare\* and Mr. Kale R.N.

Department of Quality Assurance, SVPM's College Of Pharmacy, Malegaon (Maharashtra) India.

Conflicts of Interest: Nil

Corresponding author: Mr. A.U. Manjare

### ABSTRACT

Mycophenolic acid is an anti-metabolite immunosuppressant. It also inhibits the enzyme inosine monophosphate dehydrogenase; essential for purine synthesis. High performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) and the UV are an essential analytical tools in assessing drug product. HPLC methods should be able to isolate, detect, and enumerate the various drugs and drug associated degradants that can form on storage, or manufacturing. It should also detect and enumerate any drugs and drug-related impurities that may be introduced during synthesis. Validation is the process of establishing the performance characteristics and limits of a method and identification of the effects which may change these features and to what extent. This article discusses the current and potential uses of the drug mycophenolic acid as well as the plans and the subjects related to designing UV and HPLC method for development and validation.

**Keywords:** Mycophenolic acid, Immunosuppressant, HPLC, UV, Validation

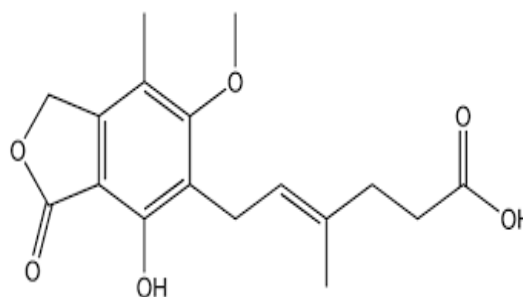
### Introduction:

Mycophenolic acid is an immunosuppressive drug used for prevention of rejection in solid organ transplantation. It is not only useful in preventing rejection, being even superior to azathioprine, but also seems to cause less adverse effects than other immunosuppressive drugs.<sup>[1]</sup> It is one of the few drugs, which were discovered more than a century ago and still in active use. The drug is currently used in patients with liver, lung and bone marrow transplantation.<sup>[2]</sup> Mycophenolic acid has also been used in renal, rheumatological, gastrointestinal, ophthalmological, dermatological and neurological autoimmune diseases.<sup>[2]</sup> It is a fungal metabolite that was initially discovered by Bartolomeo Gosio in 1893 as an antibiotic against anthrax bacillus, *Bacillus anthracis*.<sup>[3]</sup> MPA was not and is not used as an antibiotic because of its side effects profile and as there is availability of safer antibiotics. But, studies are still continued on its antibiotic action.<sup>[4]</sup>

Though mycophenolic acid remained out of clinical use for decades after discovery in 1983, the interest of researchers in the molecule continued. Fortunately, the efforts of researchers were not futile. MPA was approved in 1995 by USFDA for the prevention of rejection in renal transplant patients. MPA also possess antiviral<sup>[5]</sup> and antifungal activities.<sup>[6]</sup> Studies also reported antitumor, and

antipsoriasis activities.<sup>[7, 8]</sup> MPA was therefore found as the broad-spectrum acting drug having antiviral, antifungal, antibacterial, anticancer, and antipsoriasis properties.<sup>[9]</sup> MPA also has antifibrotic effects.<sup>[10]</sup>

To advance oral bioavailability, MPA is administered as mycophenolate mofetil.<sup>[11]</sup> An oral dose of mycophenolate is hydrolyzed quickly during first pass metabolism to mycophenolic acid which is further metabolized to two minor metabolites namely acyl glucuronide (AcMPAG) and phenolic glucoside of MPA. MPA is highly bound to plasma proteins, mainly to human serum albumin (97-99 %).<sup>[12]</sup>



**Figure 1: Structure of Mycophenolic Acid**

Mycophenolic acid is often used in unification with a calcineurin inhibitor (cyclosporine or tacrolimus) and prednisolone in the primary post-transplant period.<sup>[12]</sup> MPA hinders inosine monophosphate dehydrogenase, the enzyme that controls the rate

of synthesis of guanine monophosphate in the de novo trail of purine synthesis used in the proliferation of B and T lymphocytes.

“Chromatography” a overall term for a variety of physicochemical separation techniques all of which have in common the circulation of a component between a mobile phase and a stationary phase.

The method of HPLC flourished after it became possible to create columns with filling materials made of very small beads (10µm) and to utilize them under high pressure. The advance of HPLC and the theoretic understanding of the separation process rest on the basic works of Horvath, Knox, Scott, Snyder, Guiochon, Mockel, and others.

**Table 1: Methods for determination of Mycophenolic acid by RP-HPLC and other chromatographic techniques**

Sr. No.	Drug	Method	Description	Reference
1	Mycophenolic acid	RP-HPLC method	<b>Column</b> : USP L7 Octylsilane chemically bonded to porous silica C8, (5 m), (4.6 x 250mm) <b>Flow rate</b> : 1.5ml/min. <b>Mobile phase</b> : Acetonitrile : Buffer (50: 50) <b>Buffer</b> : 0.1% v/v solution of Orthophosphoric acid. <b>Diluent</b> : Methanol <b>Injection volume</b> : 10g/ml <b>Detector Wavelength</b> :254nm <b>Temperature</b> : 28°C <b>Retention time</b> : 4.872 min	13
2	Mycophenolic acid	RP-HPLC method	<b>Column</b> :- C18 (size-250 x 4.60 mm, I.D-5 µ) (Phenomenex) <b>Flow rate</b> : 1.2 mL/min. <b>Detector Wavelength</b> : 216 nm <b>Mobile phase</b> : tetra butyl ammonium hydrogen sulphate and methanol(52: 48, v/v) <b>Linearity range</b> : 0.5–160 µg/mL (r2 = 0.999) <b>LOQ</b> :0.321µg/mL <b>LOD</b> :0.102µg/ML	14
3	Mycophenolic acid	HPLC assay method	<b>Mobile phase</b> : Acetonitrile: Sodium acetate buffer (40:60 v/v) <b>Column</b> :- C18 (size-250 x 4.60 mm, I.D-5 µ) (Phenomenex). <b>Flow Rate</b> :- 1.0 ml/min. <b>Detector</b> :-250nm <b>Recovery</b> : 99.86 –101.54% <b>Injection volume</b> : 20 µL.	15
4	Mycophenolic acid and its glucuronide metabolite	HPLC-tandem-MS (HPLC/MS/MS) and an HPLC-UV	<b>Mobile phase</b> : 20 mmol/l NaH <sub>2</sub> PO <sub>4</sub> buffer (pH 3.0, adjusted with 20% phosphoric acid) and methanol (45:55, v/v) <b>Column</b> :- Zorbax column (250 mm 4.6 mm i.d, 5 mm) <b>Column Temperature</b> - 45°C, <b>Flow rate</b> - 1.2ml/min <b>Detector Wavelength</b> : 304 nm <b>Linearity</b> - 0.2–50 mg/ml	16
5	Mycophenolic Acid	LC-MS/MS	<b>Column</b> : Zorbax RP-C18, 2.1=30 mm <b>Linearity</b> - 30, 15 and 17 Mg/L, respectively. Imprecision -10% <b>flow rate</b> :- 500 mL/min <b>Mobile Phase</b> :- 2mmol/L ammonium acetate:water and methanol	17
6	Mycophenolic acid	HPLC-UV	<b>Mobile phase</b> : 75% methanol and 25% ammonium.	18

			<p><b>Column:</b> PFPP column (50 mm × 2 mm, 5m).  <b>Flow Rate:-</b> 0.2 ml/min.  <b>Temperature:-</b>Ambient</p>	
7	<b>Mycophenolate Mofetil, Tacrolimus with Prednisolone</b>	<b>RP-HPLC Method</b>	<p><b>Mobile phase:</b> acetonitrile and 0.35% triethylamine (pH 4.2) with Orthophosphoric acid (70:30)  <b>Column :</b> cKinetex Polar, C18, 5 µm, 4.6 × 250 mm  <b>Injection volume:</b> 20 µL.  <b>linearity-</b> 10-100 µg/mL  <b>Flow rate-</b>1.2 mL/min.  <b>Detector Wavelength:</b> 254 nm for Prednisolone and Mycophenolate and 210 nm for Tacrolimus.</p>	19
8	<b>HPLC-Ms/Ms</b>	<b>HPLC-Ms/Ms</b>	<p><b>Column :</b> Phenomenex Kinetex C18 (30 mm × 4.6 mm, 2.6 µm)  <b>Mobile phase:</b> acetonitrile-water  <b>flow rate:</b> 0.4 mL/min  <b>Spray voltage</b> 3250 V  <b>Capillary temperature</b> 222°C  <b>Sheath gas</b> 30 arb. unit  <b>Sweep gas</b> 2 arb. Unit  <b>Aux Gas</b> 20 arb. Unit  <b>Vaporizing temperature</b> 324°C  <b>Collision gas pressure</b> 1.5 m Torr  <b>linear range-</b> 0.5-30 µg/mL  <b>accuracy and precision rang</b> - 99.76 to 111.38% and from 2.54 to 9.01%, respectively</p>	20
9	<b>Mycophenolic Acid</b>	<b>Mycophenolic Acid</b>	<p><b>Mobile phase -</b> 54:46 (v/v) methanol-0.1% (v/v) aqueous trifluoroacetic acid.  <b>Flow rate</b> -1.2 mL/min.  <b>Column:-</b>  Kromasil C8  <b>Column temperature-</b> 40°C  <b>Detector Wavelength:</b> 325.</p>	21
10	<b>Mycophenolic acid</b>	<b>HPLC method</b>	<p><b>Mobile phase :</b> 0.1M triethylammonium phosphate (pH=5.4)-acetonitrile (65:35, v/v)  <b>Column :</b> C8 analytical (250mm 4.6mm, particle size 5µm; Perfectsill, MZ-Analysen technik, Germany)  <b>Flow rate:</b> 1.5 ml/min.  <b>Wavelength-</b>304 nm  <b>LOD-</b> 0.05 µg/ml  <b>LOQ-</b>0.2 µg/ml  <b>Concentration Range-</b> 0.2-10 µg/ml</p>	22
11	<b>Mycophenolic Acid</b>	<b>HPLC</b>	<p><b>Mobile phase:</b> 450 ml acetonitrile/550 mL 20 mmol/L phosphate buffer, pH 4.5)  <b>Flow rate:-</b> 1.2 mL/min.  <b>Run time:-</b>13 min  <b>retention time</b> - 5.7 min</p>	23
12	<b>Mycophenolate mofetil</b>	<b>HPTLC method</b>	<p><b>Mobile phase-</b> toluene, acetone, and methanol 6:2:2(V/V/V)  <b>Detector Wavelength:-</b>254 nm.  <b>Correlation coefficient-</b>0.9998±0.0102  <b>LOD-</b>20.33 µg/ml  <b>LOQ-</b>60.72 µg/ml</p>	24

13	<b>Mycophenolate Mofetil Capsule</b>	<b>RP-HPLC METHOD</b>	<b>Column-</b> Hypersil BDS C18 (150mm x 4.6 mm, 5µm) <b>Mobile phase-</b> buffer and Acetonitrile(650:350)V/V <b>Diluent-</b> Mobile phase <b>Flow Rate-</b> 2.00mL/min <b>Column Temperature-</b> 50°C <b>Sample temperature-</b> 20°C <b>Injection Volume-</b> 10µL <b>Wave Length-</b> 250nm <b>Run time-</b> 15 min <b>USP Plate Count-</b> 10348.12 <b>Resolution-</b> 1.658551	25
----	--------------------------------------	-----------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----

## References

- Sollinger HW. Mycophenolates in transplantation. *Clin Transpl* 2004; 18:485-492.
- Patricia MS, Cees GMK, Coen AS. Use of mycophenolic acid in non- transplant renal diseases. *Nephrol Dial transplant* 2007;22(4): 1013-1019.
- Bentley R. Mycophenolic acid: a one hundred year odyssey from antibiotic to immunosuppressant. *Chem Rev* 2000; 100: 3801-3826
- Kavanagh F. Activities of twenty-two antibacterial substances against nine species of bacteria. *J.Bacteriol.* 1947; 54761-54766.
- Borroto-Esoda K, Myrick F, Feng J, Jeffrey J, Furman P. In-vitro combination of amdoxovir and inosine monophosphate dehydrogenase inhibitors mycophenolic acid and ribavirin demonstrates potent activity against wild-type and drug-resistant variants of human immunodeficiency virus type 1. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother.* 2004; 48:4387-94.
- Nicoletti R, De Stefano M, De Stefano S, Trincone A, Marziano F. Antagonism against *Rhizoctonia solani* and fungitoxic metabolite production by some penicillium isolates mycopathologia. 2004; 158:465-474.
- Tressler RJ, Garvin LJ, Slate DL. Anti-tumor activity of mycophenolate mofetil against human and mouse tumors in-vivo. *Int J Cancer* 1994;57:568-573.
- EpINETTE WW, Parker CM, Jones EL, Greist MC. Mycophenolic acid for psoriasis. A review of pharmacology, long term efficacy, and safety. *J Am Acad Dermatol* 1987;17:962-971.
- Kichin JES, Pomeranz MK, Pak G, Washenik K, Shupack JL. Rediscovering mycophenolic acid: A review of its mechanism, side effects, and potential uses. *J Am Acad Dermatol* 1997;37(3):445-449.
- Eugui EM. Fibrogenesis in chronic allograft rejection: underlying mechanism and pharmacological control. *Transplant Proc* 2002; 34:2867-2871.
- Ransom JT. Mechanism of action of mycophenolate mofetil. *Ther Drug Monit.* 1995;17:681-4
- Nowak I, Shaw LM. Mycophenolic acid binding to human serum albumin: characterization and relation to pharmacodynamics. *Clin Chem.* 1995;41(7):1011-7.
- Gopalakrishnan S, Vadivel E, Krishnaveni P, Jeyashree B.A Novel reverse phase –HPLC method development and validation of mycophenolate sodium –An immune-suppressant drug. *Res J Pharma, Bio Chem Sci* 2010; 1(4):200-207.
- Angirekula N, Mukthinuthalapati MA, Keta RK. Forced degradation studies: A stability indicating liquid chromatographic method for quantification of mycophenolate mofetil in tablets. *J Chem Pharma Sci* 2017; 10(2):771-777.
- Mehta HS, Singhvi I, Hasumati R. Forced degradation studies and development and validation of stability-indicating RP-HPLC chromatographic method for mycophenolate mofetil assay and related substances. *Int J Pharm Pharma Res* 2018; 11(4): 14-24.
- Chen B, Zhang W, Yu Z, Cai W. Determination of mycophenolic acid (MPA) and its acyl and phenol glucuronide metabolites simultaneously in human plasma by a simplified HPLC method. *Analytical Letters* 2007; 40: 2465-2475
- An-sofie CD, Favoreel N, Fien VH, Verstraete AG. Performance of the roche total mycophenolic acid assay on the cobas integra 400, cobas 6000 and comparison to LC-Ms/Ms in liver transplant patients. *Clin Chem Lab Med* 2011; 49(7): 1159-1165.
- Atcheson B, Taylor PJ, Mudge DW, Johnson DW, Pillans PI, Tett SE. Quantification of free mycophenolic acid and its glucuronide metabolite in human plasma by liquid-chromatography using mass spectrometric and

- ultraviolet absorbance detection. *J Chromatogr B* 2004;799: 157-163.
19. Sharma PK, Mishra V, Verma S, Bhatia A. Simultaneous estimation by RP-HPLC method for the immunosuppressant drug combination mycophenolate mofetil, tacrolimus with prednisolone. *Pertanika J Sci and Technol* 2019; 27(1): 371-385.
  20. Khokhlov AL, Yaichkov II, Shitav LN, Dzhurko YA, Shitova AM, Ryska M et al. Accurate method of HPLC- Ms/ Ms determination of mycophenolic acid in human plasma. *J Bioequiv Availab* 2016; 9(1): 306-311.
  21. Xu L, Jiao Z, Liu F, Qiu X, Ji L and Zhang M. Pharmacokinetics Evaluation Of Mycophenolic Acid And Its Glucuronide Metabolite In Chinese Renal Transplant Recipients Receiving Enteric Coated Mycophenolate Sodium And Tacrolimus, *Therapeutic Drug Monitoring*, 2018,1:1-30.
  22. Hossein D, Mehrdad H. Simple and sensitive high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) Method with UV detection for mycophenolic acid assay in Human plasma. Application to a bioequivalence study. *Adv Pharm Bull* 2015;5(4): 563-568.
  23. Shipkova M, Niedmann PD, Armstrong VW, Schutz E, Wieland E, Shaw LM et al. Simultaneous determination of mycophenolic acid and its glucuronide in human plasma using a simple high-performance liquid chromatography procedure. *Clin Chem* 1998; 44(7): 1481-1488 .
  24. Kathirvel S, Rajendra Prasad K, Madhu Babu K, Development And Validation of HPTLC Method For The Determination Of Mycophenolate Mofetil In Bulk And Pharmaceutical Formulation, *Pharmaceutical Methods*,2012;3(2):90-93.
  25. Vijaya Kumari M, Anusha devi V, Nureshbabu AV, Patan A, Anjaneyulu V, New stability indicating RP-HPLC method for estimation of mycophenolate mofetil capsule in pharmaceutical dosage form, *Int Res J Pharm App Sci*,2012;2(5):149-154.