
| REVIEW ARTICLE

Comparison *In-vitro* Release and pH Effect Among Different Oral Antidiabetic Drugs: Review Article

Omar S. Salih¹ ✉ Mowafaq M. Ghareeb² and Mais Fadhel Mohammed³

^{1,2,3}*Department of Pharmaceutics, College of Pharmacy, University of Baghdad, Bab-Almoadham area, p.o Box 14026, Alrusafa District, Zip code 10047, Baghdad, Iraq*

Corresponding Author: Omar Saeb Salih, **E-mail:** omar.abbas@copharm.uobaghdad.edu.iq

| ABSTRACT

Diabetes is a metabolic condition that affects how the body utilizes digested food for growth and energy. The majority of the food we consume is broken down into glucose, which is the form of sugar in our blood. Glucose is the body's primary fuel source. The solubility of glibenclamide (glibenclamide), metformin, and sitagliptin were evaluated in triplicate in different pH using a water bath shaker at 37°C using the shake-flask technique. The quantity of medicine accessible for absorption is determined by the drug release. Each drug's physicochemical characteristics substantially impact release along the G.I.T. For each medication, a calibration curve and solubility measurement were performed. In the duodenum and the small intestine, glibenclamide was released more efficiently and fast than metformin and sitagliptin, which had higher pK_a values than glibenclamide, i.e., the metformin and sitagliptin were released more quickly and efficiently in pH 1.2 and pH 5.8. Glibenclamide is absorbed from the stomach, if not completely.

| KEYWORDS

Diabetes, solubility, In-Vitro Release, Antidiabetic drugs, Dissolution

| ARTICLE DOI: [10.32996/jmhs.2022.3.1.7](https://doi.org/10.32996/jmhs.2022.3.1.7)

1. Introduction

Diabetes is something that almost everyone knows about. Diabetes is a severe, lifelong ailment that affects an estimated 23.6 million individuals in the United States or 7.8 percent of the population. 17.9 million have been diagnosed, whereas 5.7 million are yet to be diagnosed. Diabetes was diagnosed in around 1.6 million persons aged 20 and above in 2007 (American Diabetes Association. Standards of medical care in diabetes,2013).

Diabetes is a metabolic condition that affects how the body utilizes digested food for growth and energy. The majority of the food we consume is broken down into glucose, which is the form of sugar in our blood. Glucose is the body's primary fuel source. Glucose enters the circulation after digestion and is needed by cells for growth and energy. Insulin is required for glucose to enter cells. Insulin is a hormone produced by the pancreas; a large gland located beneath the stomach. When humans eat, the pancreas creates the appropriate quantity of insulin to transport glucose from the blood into the cells. However, in persons with diabetes, the pancreas either generates little or no insulin, or the cells may not react properly to the insulin that is generated. Glucose accumulates in the blood, overflows into the urine, and exits the body via the urine. Even if the blood contains enormous levels of glucose, the body loses its primary source of fuel (Ramachandran A. et al.,2010). Type 1 diabetes is caused by a failure of the pancreas to create enough insulin, and Type 2 diabetes is caused by an inability of the body to effectively utilize insulin to control blood sugar levels. Many organs, including the nerves, kidneys, eyes, and blood vessels, can be damaged by uncontrolled diabetes, which results in high blood sugar or hyperglycemia. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), approximately 1.6 million people worldwide died as a direct result of diabetes in 2016, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). Between 2000 and 2016, there was a 5% increase in diabetes-related premature deaths (Naseem A. et al.,2022). Type 1 diabetes is an autoimmune condition. When the immune system, the body's first line of defence against infection, turns on itself, an autoimmune illness results. In diabetes, the pancreas' beta cells, which produce insulin, are targeted by the immune system and destroyed.

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Consequently, the pancreas is rendered inoperable. Diabetics with type 1 diabetes can't live without daily insulin injections (Daneman D.,2006). The exact cause of the immune system's attack on beta cells is unknown at this time, but scientists believe it is caused by autoimmune, genetic, and/or environmental factors, including viruses, about 5% to 10% of people with diabetes in the United States have type 1 diabetes. However, it is most common among children and young adults. Diabetes is usually diagnosed within a few months, but beta cell destruction can begin years earlier. Patients may experience symptoms such as excessive thirst and urination as well as constant hunger, weight loss, dizziness, and exhaustion. Diabetic ketoacidosis, also known as diabetic coma, can occur if a person with type 1 diabetes is not diagnosed and given insulin (DiMeglio LA. et al.,2018).In terms of diabetes, type 2 is the most frequent form. Diabetics with type 2 account for the vast majority (90–95 percent). The development of gestational diabetes mellitus is influenced by factors such as obesity, family history, previous gestational diabetes, physical inactivity, and ethnicity. Type 2 diabetes affects an estimated 80 percent of the population because of their weight (DeFronzo RA. et al.,2015). There are several unknown reasons why the pancreas is unable to produce enough insulin for the body when it is diagnosed with type 2 diabetes. This is known as insulin resistance. After a few years, the body's ability to produce insulin decreases. Type 2 diabetes has the same result, and the body is unable to utilize its principal fuel adequately. Symptoms of type 2 diabetes develop over time. Type 2 diabetes takes longer to develop than type 1. Some of the symptoms include fatigue, frequent urination, increased thirst and hunger, weight loss, blurred vision, and a slow rate of wound or sore healing. It's possible that some people do not display any signs of disease (Olokoba AB. et al., 2012). Gestational diabetes can develop late in pregnancy for certain women. After the birth of a child, gestational diabetes usually disappears. However, women with gestational diabetes may develop type 2 diabetes during the next five to ten years. In the United States, 3% to 8% of pregnant women have gestational diabetes. Pregnancy hormones or a deficiency of insulin can induce gestational diabetes. No symptoms may be seen in pregnant women with gestational diabetes (Jovanovic L,2001).

1.1 Diabetes diagnosis

Diagnosis of diabetes is most common in children and non-pregnant women, which can be made by using a fasting blood glucose test. Taking the test in the morning provides the best results (Emerging Risk Factors Collaboration,2001). The oral glucose tolerance test is the name given to this test (OGTT). A random blood glucose level of 200 mg/ml or more and the presence of diabetes symptoms are required for a diagnosis of diabetes. OGTT blood glucose levels are used to determine whether a woman has gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM). Diagnosing diabetes in pregnancy is easier because blood glucose levels are typically lower during pregnancy. Before consuming a beverage containing glucose, a woman's blood sugar levels are checked. After that, levels are checked every two and three hours for the next two and a half to three hours. Fasting levels of 95 mg/ml, 180 mg/ml, 155 mg/ml, or 140 mg/ml after one hour are all indicators of gestational diabetes, as are those of 95 or 180 mg/ml after two hours (Kjos SL, Buchanan TA,1999). Diabetes is on the rise in the United States, as evidenced by several different trends and indicators. It's important to remember that an increasing number of people are reaching retirement age. Hispanics/Latinos and other historically underserved groups are the nation's fastest-growing demographic. Finally, the American population is becoming increasingly obese and sedentary. In the United States, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently predicted that one in three people born in 2000 would have diabetes. As predicted by the CDC, the number of Americans with diabetes is expected to rise by 165 percent by 2050 (Caspersen. et al.,2012).

1.2 Oral hypoglycemics

Diabetes under control reduces the risk of kidney failure, blindness, heart disease, and limb amputation linked with uncontrolled diabetes. The most common kind of medicine is hypoglycemic treatment, which may be accomplished with oral hypoglycemics. Patients with type 1 diabetes mellitus need insulin injections because their bodies do not manufacture enough (or any) insulin. Non-injective insulin delivery has proved impossible due to the breakdown of the insulin protein in the digestive system. Vaccines for type I diabetes were invented based on glutamate decarboxylase enzyme, but they are not investigated to be licensed by pharmaceutical companies (Rother KI.,2007).

Any combination of nutrition, physical activity, and weight loss can be used as a form of diabetes treatment for type 2 diabetics. Obesity is a major contributor to insulin resistance in those with type 2 diabetes, and it is particularly prevalent in those with the disease. Tissue insulin sensitivity is increased by weight loss and exercise. According to 2008 research, a rising number of people with type 2 diabetes are receiving more sophisticated and expensive diabetic therapies. The data was studied from 1994 to 2007, and it was shown that the mean number grew rapidly from 1994 to 2007 (Marín-Peñalver JJ et al.,2016). Patient education and adherence to medication are critical in illness management. Improper medication and insulin administration might result in hazardous hypo- or hyperglycemic episodes (Coppola A. et al.,2016).

1.2.1 Sulphonyl urea drugs

Glibenclamide is the most famous drug in this family. Chemically, as the name suggests, glibenclamide is a dione derivative of sulphonamide. Second-generation sulphonylureas (-2-methoxy benzamide) inhibit ATP-sensitive potassium channels in beta cells of the pancreas. There is an increase in intracellular calcium in beta cells due to the depolarization caused by this inhibition, which leads to the release of insulin from the beta cells (Luzi L et al.,1995).

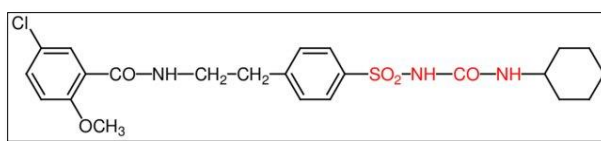


Figure 1. Structure of glibenclamide (Luzi L et al,1995)

Sulphonylurea class oral hypoglycemic Glibenclamide is used to treat noninsulin-dependent diabetes mellitus. A lack of bioavailability has been attributed to its poor dissolution properties¹ in the past (Gianotto,2007). Glibenclamide stimulates the pancreas to release more insulin to lower high blood glucose levels. Sulphonylureas, of which glibenclamide is a member, are a class of medications. It is possible to have hypoglycemia (low blood glucose) or hyperglycemia if you do not properly control your blood glucose (high blood glucose). Your heart, eyes, circulation, and kidneys can all be affected if your blood sugar levels are too high (Adrogué HJ,1992). Biopharmaceutical Classification System: Glibenclamide (pKa = 5.3) is an acid that is practically insoluble in water and acidic environments but is highly permeable (class II) (BCS). Complete, uniform and rapid bioavailability is achieved through the oral route. Glibenclamide therapy is usually started with a dose of 2.5mg once a day. The maximum dose that should be taken each day is 20 milligrams (Ahad et al.,2010).

1.2.2 Biguanides

Metformin is the most famous drug of this class. Type 2 diabetic patients are unable to control their blood sugar levels with diet alone. A 20–30% oral dose is recovered in the faeces, and low bioavailability of 40% without taking any meals associated with rapid elimination characterize metformin's gastrointestinal absorption. Metformin's hepatic metabolism appears to be negligible in humans, as evidenced by the fact that it decreases in concentration with increasing doses. It is possible to reduce the frequency of dosing and improve patient compliance by using a modified-release tablet dosage form (Hu et al.,2006).

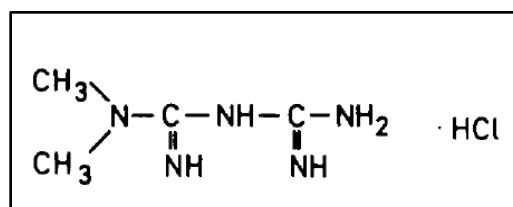


Figure 2. Structure of metformin HCL (Hu et al.,2006)

Type 2 diabetes is treated with the antihyperglycemic medication metformin HCl. It is an anti-hyperglycemic medication that is both unique and widely utilized around the world. No other oral anti-hyperglycemic drugs have a similar chemical or pharmacological profile. One of the drug's primary mechanisms of action appears to be its ability to inhibit gluconeogenesis. C4H11N5.HCl is the chemical formula for Metformin HCl (Dibbern HW,2002).

1.2.3 Dipeptidyl peptidase-4 inhibitors

The gliptin family of diabetes medicines includes sitagliptin. DPP-4, an enzyme that degrades and inactivates glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1), is inhibited by this drug (GLP-1). Sitagliptin-induced increases in GLP-1 lead to enhanced glucose tolerance and higher postprandial insulin secretion. Because of this and the fact that patients don't gain weight while on the medication, sitagliptin has become more popular as a second-line treatment for those with type 2 diabetes (Robert G.,2018). Chemically, Sitagliptin (2R)-4-Oxo-4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)-5,6-dihydro[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyrazin-7(8H)-yl]-1-(2,4,5-trifluorophenyl) Butan-2-amine exhibits a significant degree of DPP-4 selectivity. DPP enzymes do not form a bond with each other (DPP-8 and DPP-9). It has been licensed in the United States and Europe for the treatment of type 2 diabetes and is registered as Januvia® (Merck Pharmaceuticals, Whitehouse Station, NJ, USA) (Gallwitz B.,2007).

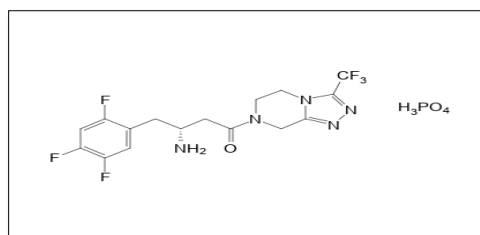


Figure 3. Structure of sitagliptin (Gallwitz B.,2007)

The dissolving method was used to study sitagliptin's *in vitro* drug release characteristics (USP 1, 100 rpm at pH 6.8 and pH 5.5). The immediate-release version of sitagliptin dissolving in phosphate buffer pH 6.8 and acetate buffer pH 5.5 exhibited around 91% to 95% of solubility. The breakdown of Januvia® and FDC appeared to be thorough and slow, despite the differences in salt content. However, there were certain variances in the breakdown process. The dissolution profiles of the reference and test formulations were compared using the similarity factor (f_2) to see if the differences in dissolution had any effect (Boddu R. et al.,2021). The enzyme amylase is responsible for breaking down starch into oligosaccharides in the small intestine to produce glucose. Glucoamylase and other membrane-bound enzymes such as maltase, isomaltase, isomaltase, and sucrase then continue the breakdown process. The α -glucosidase enzyme can be inhibited pharmacologically to modify carbohydrate digestion and absorption. They must be taken before meals because of their competitive character, which means they must be taken at the beginning (Aschenbrenner,2012).

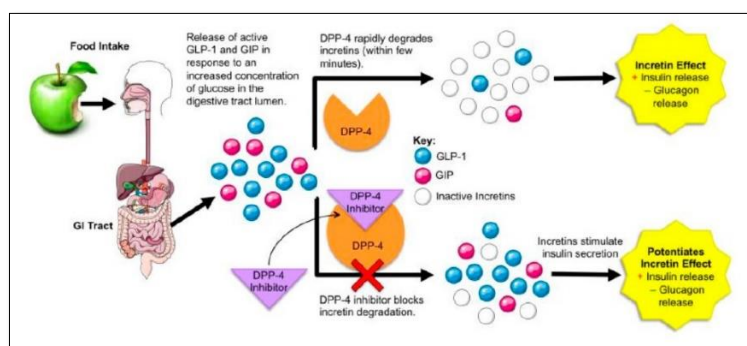


Figure 4. Sitagliptin mechanism of action (Makrilakis,2019)

1.2.4 Repaglinide

Type 2 diabetes treatment with a BCS class II medication. There is a pH-dependent dissolving profile for repaglinide, according to Preformulation tests, with the medication being more soluble in water at a higher pH. Because this treatment is needed to control postprandial glucose levels, the drug should disperse quickly in the stomach (where the pH of the contents can be below). Due to the drug's instability in basic solutions, it is also hydrolyzed at high pH. For the manufacture of a repaglinide powder formulation that dissolves quickly but is chemically stable, alkalizing agents and nonpolymeric surfactants could be added to the mix (Purvis T.,2007).

2. Determination of λ_{max}

2.1 Glibenclamide

The 100 g/ml prepared solution A UV spectrophotometer was used to scan a stock solution of glibenclamide in three different pH. and determine the absorbance of the drug. These standard curves were created by making various concentrations of glibenclamide from stock solution at concentrations of 10 micrograms per milliliter, 20 microgram per milliliter, 40 micrograms per milliliter, and 80 micrograms per milliliter. At a wavelength of max 300nm, spectroscopy was used to examine the prepared samples. Absorbance measurements were plotted against sample concentration. UV spectrophotometer scans at 200-400nm for a solution containing 100g/ml of glibenclamide at different pH gave the same peak. The findings are consistent with those reported in the literature (Bischoff H.,1994).

2.2 Metformin

The maximum concentration of metformin was determined by scanning the stock solution with a UV spectrophotometer at three different pH levels. Metformin stock solution (10 mg/ml), (20 mg/ml), 40 mg/ml, and 80 mg/ml were prepared from stock solution in order to obtain glibenclamide standard curves at pH 1.2, 5.5, and 6.8. The samples were prepared using spectrophotometric analysis at a wavelength of 234nm. Plots were made of the absorbance measurements for each sample and the corresponding concentration. At pH 1.2, 5.5, and 6.8, Glibenclamide had the same peak in a UV spectrophotometer scan at 200-400nm. The results are consistent with those previously reported (Patil Sudarshan,2009).

2.3 Sitagliptin phosphate

The λ_{max} of sitagliptin was determined by scanning the prepared solution with a UV spectrophotometer at wavelengths ranging from 300-700nm in three pHs. In previous work, alkaline potassium permanganate was used as an oxidizing agent to establish a calibration curve. The sitagliptin concentration is measured through 15-minute kinetic studies of its oxidation at room temperature was found to be 267 nm in wavelength. When the concentrations of Sitagliptin were 4, 5, 10, 15, and 20 g/ml, the absorbance concentration plot was rectilinear. In practice, the method worked well for determining dosage forms of drugs. According to the reference methods, the results were in close agreement. UV spectrophotometer scans at 300-700nm for solutions containing

100g/ml of glibenclamide at all pH values gave the same peak. The outcomes are in line with what was previously reported (Ajithdas A,2000).

3. In-vitro Determination of PH-solubility profile

Using a water bath shaker at 37 degrees celsius, the solubility of glibenclamide, metformin, and sitagliptin at pH (1.2,5.5 and 6.8) was tested. Small vials were filled with buffer, and 10ml of medication were poured into each of them to ensure a complete saturation solution. At 37°C, the shaker was filled with flasks of phosphate buffer. Using a UV scan set to a certain λ_{max} value for each drug, the solubility of the samples was evaluated (Patil Sudarshan,2009).

4. In-vitro drug Dissolution

This formulation's in-vitro release testing was carried out using the USP drug dissolving equipment II (paddle type). Three different pH levels were tested in the dissolution flask, which contained 900 ml of dissolving media. (pH 1.1) to (pH 5.5) is the range of phosphorus. Every 10 minutes, 10 ml samples were obtained and replaced with an equal amount of new buffer (1.2, 5.5, and 6.8). Glibenclamide was classified as a very barely soluble drug; at pH 6.8, it's just marginally solubilized. Approximately 20 milligrams per milliliter. Classification of Biopharmaceuticals: In water and acid, glibenclamide ($pK_a = 5.3$) is essentially insoluble, yet it is very permeable (class 2). (BCS). As the pH approached the pK_a -point, solubility declined, while ionization increased in this higher pH environment (Caroline Day,2007). This drug's pH ranges from sparingly soluble in 10 milliliters at pH 1.2 to almost completely non-soluble (pH 5.5) at pH 6.8 due to its weak base and its very slight solubility at pH 1.2, 70 milliliters (pH 5.5) at pH 5.8, and it's very slight solubility at pH 6.8. (4mg in 10ml) (Holt PR. et al.,1996). At pH 4.5 and 25°C, the solubility of sitagliptin phosphate monohydrate is 69.5 mg/ml. The solubility of sitagliptin phosphate monohydrate in 0.01M HCl and 0.10M sodium citrate is 68.1 mg/ml and 66.1 mg/ml, respectively. For 0.10M sodium carbonate solutions, the solubility of the sitagliptin-free base is 42.2 mg/ml. Sitagliptin's octanol/water distribution coefficient (Dow) is affected depending on pH. At pH 5.0, pH 7.0, and pH 9.0, the $D_{o/w}$ is -1.08, -0.03, and 1.11. 1.8 has also been reported as a partition coefficient in the scientific literature as well. The distribution and partition coefficients are in general agreement with the pK_a of sitagliptin (7.7). (Naseem A. et al.,2022)

Table 1. Drugs saturation solubility in different pH

Drug	Glibenclamide	Metformin	Sitagliptin
pH 1.2	1.3mg/ml	5.5mg/ml	10mg/ml
pH 5.5	15.5mg/ml	8mg/ml	3.4mg/ml
pH 6.8	10.5mg/ml	13.3mg/ml	5.56mg/ml

The product's in-vivo performance could not have been predicted without the data obtained from the in-vitro release. What can be absorbed depends on the amount of medicine that is released into the bloodstream. Study of drug release pattern from dosage form utilizing USP dissolving device I (James B. et al.,2018). Drug dissolution is greatly affected by each drug's physicochemical properties as pH changes throughout the G.I.T. In contrast to glibenclamide, metformin and sitagliptin, which have higher pK_a values than glibenclamide, released more in the acidic stomach (pH1.2). Several studies have shown that the stomach is the primary or even the only site of absorption for the drug glibenclamide (Brockmeier D,1985).

When a drug is injected into the stomach, blood levels rise in an S-shape. This shows that a transport mechanism is at play. There are two plausible explanations for this phenomenon: dissolution because glibenclamide dissolves only at pH levels that are neutral to slightly alkaline or delayed transit time to the intestinal site of absorption. As a result, the mean residence time shows no discernible change in the amount or rate at which a drug is absorbed (Sultana,2019). Lower gastrointestinal tract absorption is poor. When using an incorrect pH value of 5.3 instead of the more accurate 6.3-6.8 depending on the method, this hypothesis is flawed (Brockmeier D,1985). On the contrary of what they claim, absorption rates are slower in the colon than in the upper gastrointestinal tract, but the same amount is absorbed from both. As colon absorption is slower, it's possible that the amount of time a drug spends in contact with an absorbing surface can affect how much of it gets absorbed (Ikegami H. et al.,1986).

Glibenclamide dissolution was found to be slowed or even halted by foods, antacids like aluminum hydroxide and aluminum trisilicate, calcium carbonate, magaldrate, and simethicone, as well as magnesium oxide, magnesium trisilicate, and sodium bicarbonate, according to literature reviews. (Arayne MS,2004)

5. Conclusions

The objective of the study is to determine the release behavior of different oral antidiabetic drugs and to seek forward about which one is suitable for an individual depending on the physicochemical properties of each drug and the *in vitro-in vivo* correlation to an individual patient. As a result of different works of literature, the oral anti-diabetic drugs are affected by the local pH of the G.I.T and subsequently, the dissolution properties vary from one another, and this is due to the physical-chemical properties of the drugs studied. As a result, different responses are produced for these drugs, and so the onset of action to decrease glucose level within time interval upon administration. To summarize, we may deduce that glibenclamide, metformin, and sitagliptin dissolve

and absorb at different pH levels. According to the physicochemical features of each medicine, the optimal pH for each is the one that results in the highest release. It has been established that taking glibenclamide with antacid or meal alters the mechanism of absorption of the drug from G.I.T because antacids interfere with the pH of the dissolving medium in the G.I.T. so this can be used as future work to modify the dissolution and oral absorption of antidiabetic drugs to give great extent and release according to the physicochemical properties of the antidiabetic drugs and the onset of action needed from oral amination of drugs.

Acknowledgements: All authors are grateful for the College of Pharmacy of Baghdad University members in Iraq.

Conflict of interest: The authors report no conflicts of interest.

Adherence to Ethical Standards: This article does not contain any studies involving animals or human participants performed by any of the authors.

Funding: Authors declare no financial support.

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