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Aim: To determine the percentage purity of Metronidazole tablets.

Apparatus required: Volumetric flask 100ml, Burette 50mL, Conical flask 150mL, Pipette 20mL, Funnel, Measuring cylinder 50ml, Porcelain tile, Burette stand, Digital balance.

Chemicals required:

Metronidazole tablets, perchloric acid, glacial acetic acid, acetic anhydride, potassium hydrogen phthalate and crystal violet indicator.

Principle:

Substances which are too weakly basic or too weakly acidic to give sharp end points in aqueous solution can often be titrated in non-aqueous solvents. Metronidazole is a weakly basic drug, hence the percentage of metronidazole présent in tablets is determined by non-aqueous titration method. In the official method, metronidazole is titrated with 0.1N perchloric acid using crystal violet solution as indicator. 0.1N perchloric acid solution is prepared by dissolving perchloric acid in glacial acetic acid. When a very strong acid such as perchloric acid is dissolved in acetic acid, the later can function as a base and combine with protons donated by perchloric acid to form as onium ions. Since the onium ion can readily donate its proton to a base, a solution of perchloric acid in glacial acetic acid functions as a strongly acidic solution.

When a weak base such as metronidazole is dissolved in acetic acid, the acetic acid exerts its leveling

effect and enhances the basic properties of metronidazole. Hence the weak base like metronidazole in acetic acid medium can be titrated with perchloric acid to get a sharp end point.

Procedure:

I. Preparation of 0.1N perchloric acid:

Mix 8.5 ml of perchloric acid With 500ml of giacial acetic acid and 21ml of acetic anhydride cool and add glacial acetic acid to make 1000ml. Allow the prepared solution to stand for 1 day for the excess acetic anhydride to be combined.

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Equivalent factor:

Each ml of 0.1N perchloric acid is equivalent to 0.02042 g of potassium hydrogen phthalate.

II. Assay of metronidazole tablets:

Chemical reaction:

CIO₄-

---% w/w of C₆H₉N₃O₃

CH,COOH,+

Weigh accurately 20 Metronidazole tablets and powder them using a glass mortar. Weigh accurately a quantity of the powder equivalent to about 0.2g of metronidazole. Transfer the weighed powder into a clean 150ml conical flask. Add 10 ml glacial acetic acid solution into the flask. Add two drops of crystal violet solution and titrate the solution with 0.1N perchloric acid solution until violet color changes to green.

Equivalent factor:

Each 1 mL of 0.1N perchloric acid solution is equivalent to 0.01712g of C₆H₉N₃O₃

Report:

- 1. The amount of Metronidazole present in each tablet = $\frac{6.212}{5.212}$
- 2. The percentage purity of Metronidazole tablets