

A STUDY ON THE STABILITY OF DIRECTLY  
COMPRESSED OXYTETRACYCLINE HYDROCHLORIDE AND DIIDOQUIN  
TABLETS

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ABSTRACT

*A study on the stability of directly compressed oxytetracycline hydrochloride and diidoquin tablets was performed. A comparison was made between diidoquin tablets prepared by direct compression and those prepared by wet granulation.  $T_{1/2}$  was determined using the calculated rate of reaction. The tablets were stored in amber coloured bottles for different periods. It was found that directly compressed tablets were more stable than those prepared by wet granulation method.*

INTRODUCTION

It has been recognized that there are legal, moral, economic and competitive reasons, as well as those of safety to monitor, predict and evaluate drug product stability<sup>1</sup>. Carstensen<sup>2</sup> reported a review about stability of solids and solid dosage forms.

The decomposition reaction may follow zero and first order reactions, the distinction between them is possible and important. There are of course time where first and zero order cannot be distinguished in anyway. Brownley and Lachman<sup>3</sup> studied the formation of hydroxymethyl furaldehyde from Lactose. Gross<sup>4,5</sup> studied the decomposition of

bacitracin. Haynes et al<sup>6</sup> explained the different kinetics, i.e., dehydration kinetics, two component systems decomposition involving moisture and photolysis.

Haynes et al reported about first order decomposition of chlorotetracycline capsules. Enezian<sup>7</sup> showed that tablets prepared by microcrystalline cellulose decomposed by a first order pattern and that the rate constant adhered to an Arrhenius equation. Carstensen<sup>8</sup> et al described preformulation screening program. He examined the interaction and the incompatibility that happened between drugs. Lach and others<sup>9, 10, 17</sup> developed methods for screening by using diffuse reflectance spectroscopy. Johnson et al<sup>18</sup> studied stability of ascorbic acid in various tablet formulations.

Heavy metals such as calcium salts, Magnesium salts, interact and inactivate tetracyclines<sup>19</sup>. The intertablet migration of nitroglycerin could be related to the container used for storage. This may lead to decrease in content uniformity<sup>20</sup>. Photosensitivity reaction have been reported for the tetracycline after exposure of the patient to strong sunlight<sup>21</sup>. The basic mechanism is the photosensitized oxidation of the adsorbate or substrate by molecular oxygen<sup>22, 23</sup>

The fading of coloured tablets by light was tested<sup>24</sup>. The intensity of ultra-violet rays contributed mainly to the fading, but visible light also, was responsible. The discolouration of reserpin, dihydralazin sulphate tablets on prolonged exposure to air was reported<sup>25</sup>, reserpine was responsible for discolouration of these tablets and it was recommended that discoloured material should not be used clinically<sup>26</sup>

## EXPERIMENTAL

### Materials and Equipment:

- I- Oxytetracycline hydrochloride powder, the same as used in the preparation of tablets.
- II- Sodium hydroxide, sodium nitrite, hydrochloric acid, Chloroform which saturated with water, and copper sulphate 0.1% w/v.
- III- Directly compressed oxytetracycline hydrochloride and diiodoquin tablets.
- IV- Pye unicum SP6-400 U.V. Spectrophotometer.

Method: for directly compressed oxytetracycline hydrochloride tablets.

The method used was colourimetric assay as suggested by Mortada et al<sup>27</sup> in 1975. Tablets under the test were powdered in a porcelain mortar and an equivalent weight which contains 1 mg oxytetracycline hydrochloride was used.

The powder was dissolved in 10 ml distilled water in a measuring flask, 25 ml of N hydrochloric acid 2 ml was added. The flasks were left for 10 minutes then they were cooled, 2 ml of 1% w/v sodium nitrite were added. The flasks were left for 15 minutes, then 3 ml sodium hydroxide 20% w/v. were added. The colour developed was measured at 450 nm. The test was carried out on tablets after compression and storage. Blank was performed using distilled water only. K values of reaction rate constant were determined.

The stability of diiodoquin in directly compressed tablets were investigated and compared with that in tablets prepared by the traditional wet granulation method. The procedure used was reported by Sarstensen<sup>2</sup> and Chu et al<sup>28</sup>. The procedure

is sensitive for both chloroiodoquin and diiodoquin .  
Tablets were powdered in porcelain mortar and equivalent amount containing 20 mg medicament was taken. The powder was transferred to a funnel and the medicament was extracted with 3 N hydrochloric acid, and filtered, 0.5 ml of 0.1% copper sulphate w/v was added to filtrate. The volume was completed to 50 ml by N sodium hydroxide. The solution was extracted by shaking with chloroform saturated with water using 25, 15 and 10 ml respectively. The absorbance was read at 430 nm.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Antibiotics, especially tetracyclines are sensitive to moisture, heat, light, heavy metals and other incompatible materials. They tend to undergo different chemical interactions. They are sensitive and decompose in acidic and alkaline media. Storage also, may lead to degradation. After storage period the percentage of oxytetracycline hydrochloride was calculated and the results are shown in Table 3. Each formulation has its own K. value (reaction rate constant).

With regard to formulations containing Avicel it was found that the increase in actual concentration of the vehicle lead to the increase in K value. On the other hand, Celutab had large value of reaction rate constant especially formula containing actual concentration 32.6% w/w . This may be due to sugar, humidity interaction during storage and/or the aldehydic group present in sugar, which deteriorates the antibiotic by oxidation. On the other side, STA-R<sub>x</sub> produced tablets with the least K value. This may be due to nonabsorbing character of STA-R<sub>x</sub>

*A Study on the stability of directly compressed oxytetracycline hydrochloride and diiodoquin Tablets. 19*

to humidity. Also, STA-R<sub>x</sub> has no aldehydic groups.

The highest values of reaction rate constant, were of tablets produced using Emcompress. The basic nature, and complex interaction of Emcompress were the main reasons of tablets instability. Tablets were blackened and were dark in colour. This due to ability to oxidation of the antibiotic which was accelerated by basic nature of Emcompress.

Tablets prepared using blends of vehicles were also, studied. The smaller values of reaction rate constant were those for tablets containing STA-R<sub>x</sub> blends. This can be shown in Table 2. Figure 1 explained the relationship between K values and vehicle concentration. Linear relationship was obtained between the actual vehicle concentration and K values determined • Emcompress showed the largest slope, while STA-R<sub>x</sub> showed the least slope.

Table 4 showed the relationship between K values and vehicle concentration used to compress diiodoquin tablets.

STA-R<sub>x</sub>1500 when used for the preparation of diiodoquin tablets gave rise to smaller reaction rate constant, the values increase by increasing the actual concentration of STA-R<sub>x</sub> in the formula.

On the other hand, blends of Avicel/STA-R<sub>x</sub> 1:1, when used for manufacturing diiodoquin tablets. relatively smaller reaction rate constant value was obtained. This may be due to the small affinity of starch and cellulose mixture to absorb moisture.

Tablets prepared using STA-R<sub>x</sub>/Celutab 1:1 blends gave the smallest reaction rate constant value. But, tablets produced by traditional wet granulation method showed the highest values. The value was not more than  $8.49 \times 10^{-3}$ . This can be attributed to the effect of moisture and heat

applied during granulation and drying.

Figure 2 explained the relationship between the reaction rate constant values and actual concentration of the different vehicles used

### CONCLUSION

From the previous discussion, it can be concluded that

- 1- The decomposition of oxytetracycline hydrochloride followed the first order reaction.
- 2- Emcompress(dicalcium phosphate dihydrate) showed the largest reaction rate constant values for oxytetracycline hydrochloride.
- 3- The least reaction rate values were for formulations containing STA-R<sub>x</sub> while oxytetracycline hydrochloride tablets containing Celutab showed high reaction rate constant values but less than that of tablets containing Avicel.
- 4- STA-R<sub>x</sub> blend gave decreased values of reaction rate constant to oxytetracycline hydrochloride, while the blends of Emcompress increased the values of reaction rate constant.
- 5- The directly compressed diiodoquin tablets had small reaction rate constant than the tablets produced by other techniques.
- 6- Celutab/STA-R<sub>x</sub> 1:1 blends produced tablets with the smallest reaction rate constant-while, high reaction rate constant values were shown for tablets prepared using traditional wet granulation method.

Table 1: Effect of various vehicles on the physical characteristics of oxytetracycline hydrochloride tablets.

Name	Vehicles		Weight		Thickness		Hardness		Friability		H.F.R.	D.T.	
	w/w	Conc. %	mean	C.V. %	mean	C.V. %	mean	C.V. %	mean	C.V. %		Mean	C.V. %
Avicel	0.0	0.1396	1.42	3.17	1.06	5.75	11.95	3.735	20.09	1.53	18.61	12.90	
	19.6	0.1228	1.47	2.90	9.02	6.15	12.14	0.8762	7.00	7.01	27.10	7.05	
	32.6	0.1156	7.80	2.66	5.90	5.65	7.28	0.769	18.53	7.33	42.88	9.50	
	42.0	0.1100	9.26	2.57	1.29	5.87	9.24	0.757	4.25	7.75	53.10	6.54	
Anhydrous Lactose	49.0	0.1045	6.50	2.57	2.03	6.05	3.25	0.685	38.79	8.82	75.10	23.36	
	19.0	0.0891	6.50	2.22	4.85	4.82	22.12	8.520	16.32	01.565	6.81	9.18	
	32.6	0.1226	1.57	2.61	11.85	5.17	10.19	5.585	14.53	0.925	10.95	15.06	
	42.0	0.1217	1.53	2.55	9.11	6.10	14.86	5.193	1.923	1.17	8.85	14.67	
Celutab	49.0	0.1209	7.56	2.54	5.16	6.10	12.09	4.725	1.83	11.11	3.89	17.69	
	0.0	0.1153	3.21	2.70	2.12	5.25	17.53	6.688	11.78	10.784	12.15	7.91	
	19.6	0.1246	1.57	2.88	1.25	5.55	15.51	1.1446	25.09	4.84	13.20	5.59	
	32.6	0.1338	51.37	2.99	6.80	5.80	8.57	1.1386	15.45	5.09	14.14	9.99	
Sugartab	42.0	0.1145	3.21	2.65	2.94	7.70	10.39	1.069	0.13	7.32	15.76	19.94	
	49.0	0.1228	1.840	2.80	1.29	7.60	11.09	1.0826	28.97	7.02	16.83	8.14	
	0.0	0.1112	3.22	2.39	1.80	7.32	9.10	0.887	11.30	8.24	3.85	17.6	
	19.6	0.1204	4.93	2.50	11.77	5.70	6.79	1.25	27.61	4.56	9.14	23.09	
STA-R <sub>x</sub>	32.0	0.1252	2.88	2.78	2.84	5.07	3.32	1.2471	22.54	4.06	10.61	28.27	
	42.0	0.1045	1.46	2.33	1.65	4.97	12.63	1.445	2.76	3.43	13.95	13.79	
	49.0	0.0916	3.13	2.16	22.24	5.02	10.60	1.1550	2.111	4.34	10.02	9.23	
	0.0	0.1031	3.86	2.43	2.17	6.19	11.22	1.868	18.26	3.31	4.99	5.78	
STA-R <sub>x</sub> /Celutab 1:1	19.6	0.1036	3.26	2.49	1.27	6.22	6.12	1.036	3.50	5.99	7.53	9.39	
	32.0	0.1066	3.40	2.52	1.98	6.87	11.03	1.332	11.51	4.40	6.24	4.29	
	42.0	0.1053	2.11	2.54	5.78	7.02	12.14	1.113	12.03	6.30	5.93	4.29	
	49.0	0.1077	3.19	2.58	2.35	7.55	57.98	0.943	16.05	8.004	6.91	4.89	
Avicel/Celutab 1:1	0.0	0.066	18.52	2.13	2.6	5.42	9.22	3.78	35.62	1.433	4.09	12.91	
	19.6	0.0962	2.75	2.29	2.11	7.42	10.29	0.858	44.93	8.647	4.83	7.41	
	32.6	0.1011	1.75	2.39	1.47	8.60	9.41	0.568	8.98	15.122	5.85	5.06	
	42.0	0.1063	1.56	2.50	1.45	9.37	6.31	0.539	11.50	17.355	6.52	2.28	
Avicel/Celutab 1:1	49.0	0.1103	2.24	2.56	1.67	9.85	6.35	0.367	15.29	26.839	8.32	5.60	
	0.0	0.0960	3.95	2.20	4.05	5.17	11.62	1.630	18.33	3.17	5.83	7.41	
	19.6	0.0989	1.71	2.26	1.75	7.32	9.79	1.169	25.16	6.31	9.73	7.74	
	32.6	0.1011	20.06	2.31	2.51	8.15	8.27	0.729	14.38	11.16	13.57	6.12	
Avicel/Celutab 1:1	42.0	0.0945	50.51	2.39	2.38	0.56	6.27	0.536	15.56	16.12	16.19	4.49	
	49.0	0.1062	1.22	2.39	1.174	8.85	3.03	0.462	23.65	19.13	16.59	7.27	

Table 2 : Effect of various vehicles on the physical characteristics of Didodquin tablets :

Vehicles	Conc. %	Weight (gm)		Thickness (mm)		Hardness (Kg)		Friability (Loss. %)		H.F.R.	D.T. (Minutes)	
		mean	C.V. %	mean	C.V. %	mean	C.V. %	mean	C.V. %		Mean	C.V. %
STA-R <sub>x</sub> 1500	0	0.0784	3.66	1.66	1.92	1.05	15.06	8.079	24.18	5	0.13	> 120
	19.6	0.0906	2.17	1.99	0.63	1.60	28.71	4.09	27.23	7	0.39	14.45
	32.6	0.0957	4.53	2.707	2.41	1.70	21.18	4.64	9.07	4	0.42	10.29
	42.0	0.1078	1.80	2.31	1.04	2.70	17.34	2.65	15.49	3	1.01	9.14
	49.0*	0.1101	1.71	2.34	0.73	2.88	15.09	2.08	9.28	3	1.38	9.03
STA-R <sub>x</sub> /Celutab 1:1	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
	19.6	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
	32.6	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
	42.0*	0.1132	3.81	2.41	1.03	1.45	19.57	2.11	35.25	15	0.69	13.31
	49.0	0.1032	2.53	2.32	1.76	2.5	22.53	1.81	37.70	11	1.33	12.99
STA-R <sub>x</sub> /Celutab 3:1	0	0.080	5.811	2.045	1.26	0.9	19.42	5.84	4.68	11	0.15	> 120
	19.6	0.0939	1.488	2.103	2.32	1.075	11.33	3.29	14.79	12	0.33	30.24
	32.6	0.102	2.60	2.24	1.06	1.30	15.16	2.40	8.84	15	0.54	13.80
	42.0	0.108	0.996	2.31	0.86	1.63	10.87	2.31	25.33	12	0.71	12.48
	49.0*	0.1164	1.99	2.47	1.57	2.36	7.43	1.91	23.81	7	1.67	17.17
Avicel/STA-R <sub>x</sub> 1:1	0	0.1019	1.37	2.43	0.59	1.10	11.73	3.27	7.44	13	0.34	> 120
	19.6	0.104	0.985	2.49	1.69	1.48	9.62	3.26	7.42	2	0.45	4.38
	32.6	0.108	2.12	2.54	1.86	1.77	14.04	2.35	10.32	4	0.75	2.44
	42.0*	0.119	1.08	2.70	1.29	3.20	8.66	1.90	16.52	0	1.66	20.16
	49.0*	0.1184	1.513	2.64	0.997	3.84	6.47	1.90	6.55	0	2.40	1.54
												24.76
												6.23



Table 3: Stability characters of oxytetracycline hydrochloride in oxy-tetracycline hydrochloride tablets after shelf storage.

Name	Vehicle Actual conc.% W/W	Initial conc.%	Storage Time in weeks	Final conc.%	K Values $\times 10^{-4}$
Avicel	49.0	100.32	52	90.90	19.0
	42.0	95.10		88.00	15.0
	32.6	98.00		86.30	24.0
	19.6	103.25		98.17	9.7
	0.0	101.37		98.30	6.0
Celutab	49.0	105.22	49	97.70	15.0
	42.0	99.24		91.81	16.0
	32.6	95.61		81.80	31.0
	19.6	98.41		95.45	6.2
	0.0	98.21		97.60	1.3
STA-RX 1500	49.0	100.81	44	96.21	11.0
	42.0	99.91		96.31	8.3
	32.6	96.86		93.10	9.0
	19.6	98.15		96.30	4.3
	0.0	94.83		93.18	4.0
Emcompress	49.0	98.11	46	75.00	49.0
	42.0	101.32		74.00	45.0
	32.6	96.16		52.50	110.0
	19.6	101.16		90.00	25.2
	0.0	101.32		96.00	12.00
Avicel/ Celutab 1:1	49.0	97.15	56	93.10	7.6
	42.0	92.35		79.50	27.0
	32.6	98.11		79.50	38.0
	19.6	95.12		88.36	13.0
	0.0	103		100.00	5.6
STA-RX/ celutab 1:1	49.0	91.23	55	81.81	46.0
	42.0	96.15		88.60	15.0
	32.6	98.22		97.7	6.7
	19.6	104.31		100.00	7.7
	0.0	101.20		100.00	2.2
Celutab/ Emcom- press 1:1	49.0	95.25	53	72.10	51.00
Avicel / Emcom- press 1:1	49.0	93.13	53	70.40	52.00
Emcomp- ress/ STA-RX 1500 1:1	49.0	94.23	53	78.12	35.00

Table 4: Stability characters of directly compressed diodoquin tablets prepared using STA-RX1500 starch and its blends and of that prepared by wet granulation, after shelf storage.

Name	Vehicle	Actual conc. % w/w	Initial conc. %	Storage Time in weeks	Final conc. %	K Values $\times 10^{-3}$
STA-R-X 1500	49.0 42.0 32.6 19.6 0	98.36 96.40 93.89 92.00 90.31	48	90.02 92.12 91.11 87.85 88.00	2.17 1.26 1.11 0.96 0.73	
STA-R-X /	49.0 42.0 32.6 19.6 0	99.54 46.63 91.44 90.36 90.12	48	93.56 89.89 86.12 85.89 85.50	1.72 1.83 1.67 1.41 1.49	
STA-RX /	49.0 42.0 32.6 19.6 0	95.02 96.08 --- --- ---	48	93.36 95.00 --- --- ---	0.41 0.27 --- --- ---	
Celutab 1:1	49.0 42.0 32.6 19.6 0	99.99 98.68 96.90 95.91 93.93	48	87.09 85.97 85.51 86.96 86.21	2.88 2.87 2.60 2.38 2.04	

Table 4 Cont:

Formula	Weight (g)	Thickness	Hardness (Kg)		Friability (Loss%)		Initial Conc. %	Final Conc. %	K $\times 10^{-3}$		
			Mean	C.V. %	Mean	C.V. %					
1	0.801	12.16	3.40	11.15	5.10	9.02	0.15	11.81	104.22	91.00	2.82
2	0.820	13.15	2.91	16.21	6.11	9.15	0.11	12.15	105.52	89.23	3.49
3	0.811	12.21	2.88	10.91	8.22	19.13	1.11	10.86	107.11	93.14	3.91
4	0.815	15.16	2.98	21.91	8.12	19.15	0.52	92.15	104.53	89.01	3.35
5	0.816	13.16	3.03	18.12	7.91	10.11	0.88	33.15	101.98	88.00	3.07

\* Storage time was 48 weeks.

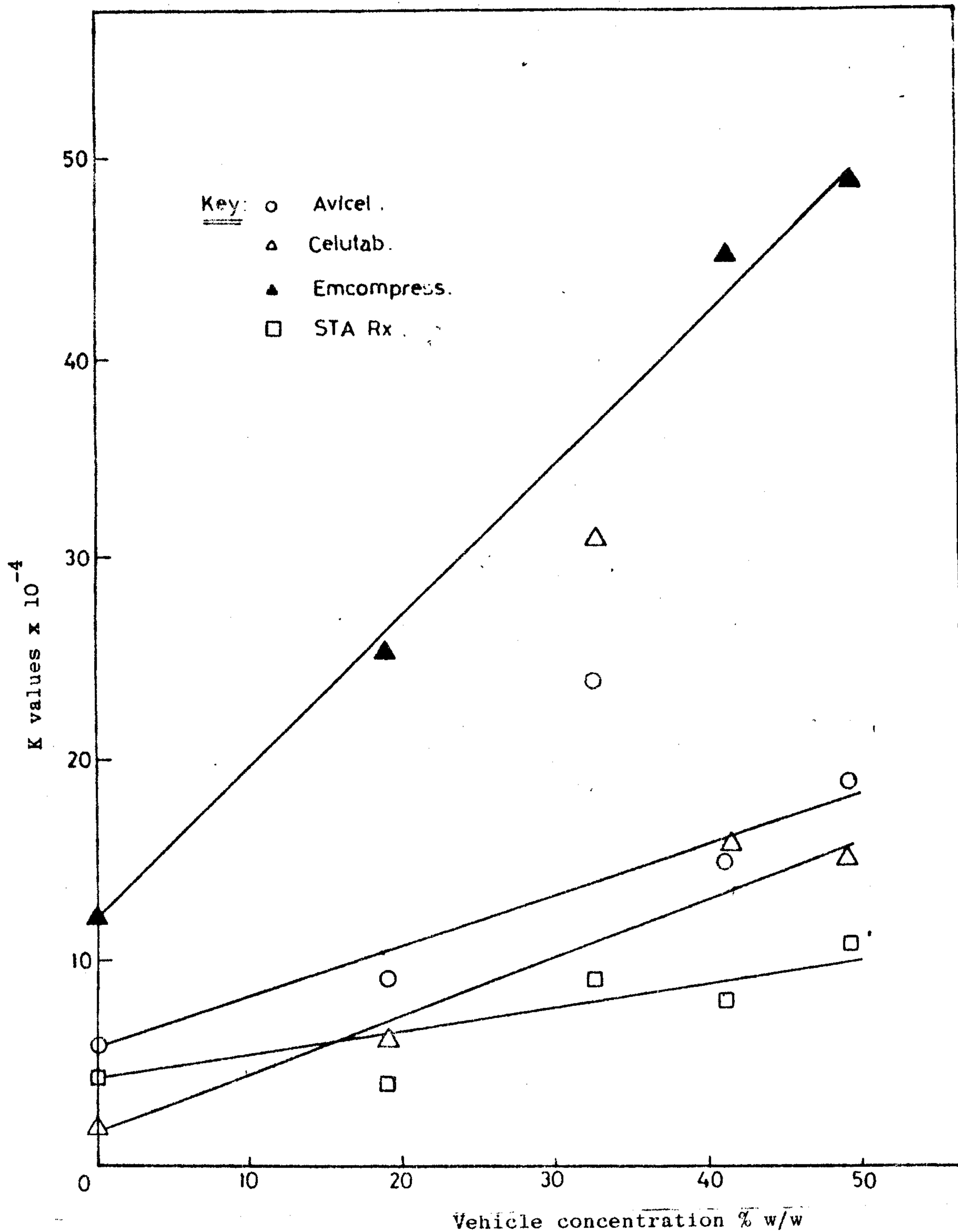


Fig. 1: Effect of vehicles concentration on K values of oxytetracycline hydrochloride .

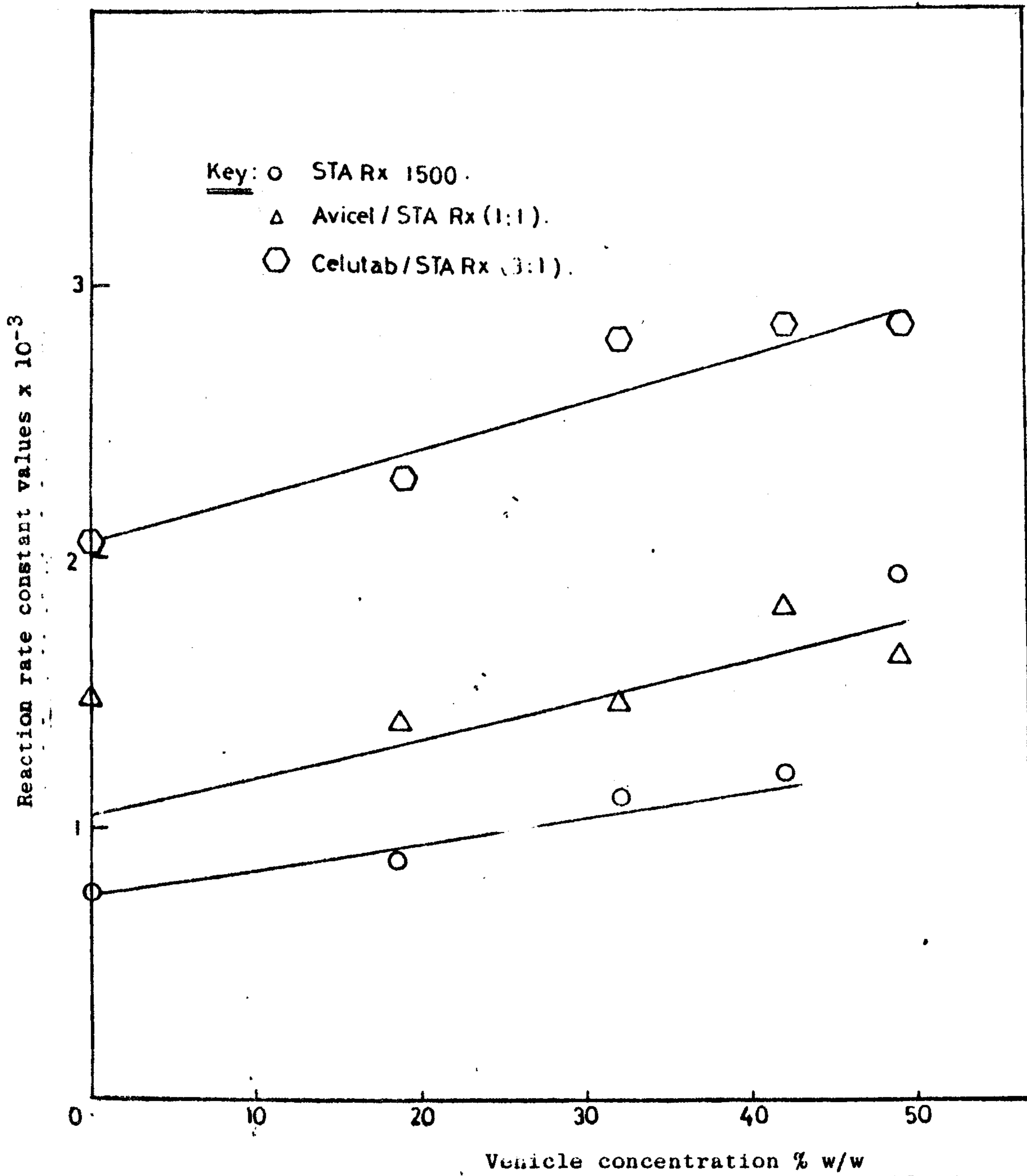


Fig. 2: Effect of direct compression vehicles and their blends on the reaction rate constant of diiodoquin

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دراسة على شبكات اقراص الاوكس تتراسيكلين هيدروكلوريد  
والداى ايودكيين المحضرة بطريقة الكيس المباشر  
والتحبيب الرطب

احمد السيد ابوطالب - صلاح تـوت  
قسم الصيدلة الصناعية - كلية الصيدلة - جامعة اسيوط

تمت دراسة شبكات كل من اقراص الاوكس تتراسيكلين والداى ايودوكين  
المحضرة بطريقة الكيس المباشر . ولقد اجريت مقارنة بين اقراص  
الداى ايودوكين المحضرة بطريقة الكيس المباشر وتلك التى  
حضرت بطريقة التحبيب الرطب . ولقد عين نصف الحياه لكل  
مستعملا فى ذلك حساب معدل التفاعل . ولقد خزنت الاقراص فى  
زجاجات عنبرية اللون لفترات مختلفة - ولقد وجد ان الاقراص  
المحضرة بطريقة الكيس المباشر اكثر شبكاتا من تلك التى  
حضرت بطريقة التحبيب الرطب .

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