

A Stability Indicating Reverse Phase-HPLC Method Development and Validation for the Estimation of Rucaparib in Bulk and Pharmaceutical Dosage Form

D. Suchitra¹, Satyanarayana Battu^{2*}

¹Department of Pharmacy, University College of Technology, Osmania University, Hyderabad, India

²Department of Chemistry, University College of Science, Osmania University, Hyderabad, India

Email: suchirakhi@gmail.com, *satyambchem@yahoo.co.in

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Abstract

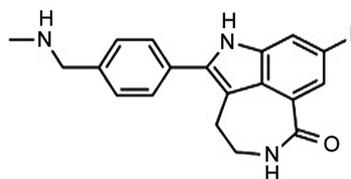
The research was carried out for establishing a new reverse phase-HPLC stability indicating method for the quantification of Rucaparib. The experiment was determined on Waters HPLC instrument using 996 photo-diode array detector. The separation was done by using symmetry C-18 ODS (25 cm × 0.46 cm internal diameter) 5 μm analytical column containing mobile phase of Phosphate buffer (0.02 M) and methanol [65:35% v/v] adjusted pH to 4.8 by adding dilute ortho phosphoric acid. The method was run at 1 ml·min⁻¹ at 286 nm detection. The drug was eluted at 5.484 min. After developing the method, it was assured for the intended use by validation which was done according to ICH Q2B guidelines. The analytical parameters checked were linearity, accuracy, repeatability, intermediate precision, limit of detection, limit of quantitation, ruggedness and robustness. It was observed that the response of the detector was linear in the range of 6 - 14 μg/ml with correlation coefficient of 0.999. The results of all the parameters were found to be within the acceptance criteria. The stability indicating assay method was established by using the samples generated by forced degradation process. The forced degradation was carried out by subjecting the drug to acid, alkali, thermal, oxidative and photolytic degradation and the results showed that the degradation products were successfully separated from the drug. Hence, this can be applied perfectly later for the analysis of quality of the rucaparib drug.

Keywords

Rucaparib, Reverse-Phase High Performance Liquid Chromatography, Method Development, Validation

1. Introduction

Rucaparib chemically, 8-fluoro-2-{4-[(methylamino) methyl] phenyl}-1,3,4,5-tetrahydro-6H-azepino[5,4,3-cd] indol-6-one is a small molecule inhibitor of Poly ADP-Ribose Polymerase (PARP) which is used for treating patients with refractory and advanced carcinoma. It is the best targeting first-in-class drug on PARP 1, 2 and 3 DNA repair enzyme. Upon administration, it selectively binds to PARP-1,2 and 3 receptors for inhibiting the DNA repairing mechanism by PARP enzyme. Thus, it leads to breaking of DNA strands, causes genomic instability, arrest cell cycle and finally apoptosis [1].



The complete information with data supplemented from the literature that there are only few methods like LC-MS/MS [2] [3] [4] [5] techniques which are very expensive but there was no simple method developed till date for the analysis of Rucaparib drug. Hence, it felt necessary to establish a new, easier, cost effective, precise, accurate and specific stability indicating analytical method which can be easily applicable for routine drug performance evaluations.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Materials

The investigated sample Rucaparib [Maxheal Pharmaceutical Pvt. Ltd.] was procured from local market, Hyderabad. The standard Rucaparib drug was procured from Sanzyme Ltd. Acetonitrile [Merck], Methanol [Merck], Triethylamine [Merck], Water [Merck], Potassium dihydrogen phosphate were of HPLC grade.

2.2. Equipment

Waters HPLC system equipped with 996 photo diode array detector was used for quantitation of Rucaparib. The processing with complete data obtained from Empower 2 software. The samples solubility in mobile phase was enhanced using Sonicator (SE60US model) Labman company. All the samples prepared were filtered using Vacuum filtration kit made by Labman.

3. Methodology

3.1. Chromatographic Conditions

The reverse-phase chromatography was performed on Waters HPLC using 996 photo diode array detection. The separation was done by using symmetry C18 ODS (25 cm × 0.46 cm internal diameter) 5 μm analytical column containing

Phosphate buffer (0.02 M) and Methanol [65:35% v/v] mobile phase, adjusted the pH to 4.8 by dilute ortho phosphoric acid solution. The method was run at 1 ml·min⁻¹ at 286 nm UV detection. The elution time for Rucaparib drug was at 5.484 min.

3.2. Preparation of Rucaparib Stock and Working Stock Solutions

Accurately weighed 10 mg of Rucaparib standard drug was taken into 10 ml volumetric flask, diluted to volume and mixed thoroughly by ultrasonication in order to enhance solubility and to degas the solutions. From the stock solution 0.1 ml was pipetted into 10 ml volumetric flask, diluted to volume mixed thoroughly, treated with 0.45 µl filter paper and finally sonicated for 15 min. The prepared solution was introduced into the flow stream of mobile phase and recorded chromatograms. After so many experimental trials, the successful separation was achieved. Noted the optimized conditions and proceeded for validation as per ICH guidelines.

3.3. Preparation of Sample Solution

Twenty tablets of Rubraca (300 mg) were made into fine powder using mortar and pestle. From this, an amount equivalent to 10 mg was taken into clean dry volumetric flask [10 ml], diluted to volume, treated with 0.45 µl filter paper and sonicated for 15 min. From this, further pipetted out 0.1 ml solution, diluted to volume and mixed thoroughly. Injected the standard and sample solutions in triplicates and the % assay was calculated.

4. Method Validation

As per ICH guidelines [6] [7] the checked validation parameters were accuracy, precision, linearity, LOD, LOQ, robustness and specificity [8].

4.1. System Suitability

For evaluating the suitability of HPLC system and procedure, the Rucaparib standard solution of 10 µg ml⁻¹ concentration of about 20 µl was introduced into the HPLC system and recorded the chromatogram.

4.2. Accuracy

In order to determine the method's accuracy, the drug was spiked at 50%, 100% and 150% levels. The chromatograms were recorded and noted the peak areas. From this, the average recovery of analyte was calculated.

4.3. Precision

Intra-day assay and intermediate precision were evaluated to determine method's precision.

4.3.1. Intra-Day Assay Precision

To evaluate the intra-day precision, 10 µg/ml concentration solution was in-

jected for five times under unchanged conditions within a short period of time. The peak areas for the five replicate injections were collected and calculated the % Relative standard deviation.

4.3.2. Intermediate Precision

To evaluate the Intermediate precision, the sample was analyzed on different days under unchanged conditions. Collected the peak areas and calculated the % Relative standard deviation.

4.4. Linearity

The linearity was evaluated by injecting over the range of 6 - 14 µg/ml concentration solutions of Rucaparib. A calibration curve was plotted between analyte concentration and analyte response. Performed regression analysis using least square method and calculated the correlation coefficient (r).

4.5. Robustness

Robustness was evaluated by slightly changing the chromatographic conditions which includes percent organic solvent and flow rate.

4.5.1. Effect of Slight Change in Flow Rate

The Rucaparib solution was analysed at 0.9 ml·min⁻¹ and 1.1 ml·min⁻¹ rather than optimized flow rate of 1.0 ml·min⁻¹. Chromatograms were collected to compare with optimized chromatographic conditions.

4.5.2. Effect of Slight Changes in Percent Organic Solvent

The Rucaparib solution was analysed by slightly varying the percent organic solvent *i.e.*, Phosphate buffer and Methanol as 60:40 and 70:30 ratios rather than 65:35 v/v. Chromatograms were collected to compare with optimized chromatographic conditions.

4.6. Limit of Detection

The formula used to determine the lowest amount of analyte was,

$$\text{LOD} = 3.3 \times \text{standard deviation of response/slope of the calibration curve}$$

4.7. Limit of Quantitation

The formula used to calculate the quantitation limit was,

$$\text{LOQ} = 10 \times \text{standard deviation of response/slope of the calibration curve.}$$

5. Forced Degradation Studies

The stress testing was carried out to generate samples for establishing the stability indicating assay method by treating the Rucaparib solution to extreme conditions such as acidic, basic, peroxide, thermal, ultraviolet and water degradation. Chromatograms were recorded and purity of the peak was determined by calculating the % of degraded amount and % of active amount.

5.1. Acid Degradation

Taken 1ml of Rucaparib stock solution and 1 ml of 2 N HCl, refluxed for 30 min at 60°C. Later it was neutralized with 1 ml 2 N NaOH and made up to final volume to obtain 10 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{ml}^{-1}$ solution. Cooled to the room temperature and treated with 0.45 μl membrane filter. 20 μl sample was introduced into the HPLC system and recorded the chromatogram.

5.2. Basic Degradation

Taken 1 ml of Rucaparib stock solution and 1 ml of 2 N Sodium hydroxide, refluxed for 30 min at 60°C. Later it was neutralized with 1 ml 2 N HCl and made up to the final volume to obtain 10 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{ml}^{-1}$ solution. Cooled to the room temperature and treated with 0.45 μm membrane filter. 20 μl sample was introduced into system, and recorded the chromatogram.

5.3. Oxidative Degradation

Taken 1 ml of Rucaparib stock solution and 1 ml of 20% hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2) and left for 30 min at 60°C. Later the solution was made up to the final volume to get 10 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{ml}^{-1}$ solution. Cooled to room temperature, treated with 0.45 μm membrane filter. Finally, 20 μl sample was introduced into the HPLC system, and recorded the chromatogram.

5.4. Thermal Degradation

Kept 1 ml of Rucaparib stock solution in an oven at 60°C for 6 hrs and made up to final volume to get 10 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{ml}^{-1}$ concentration. Cooled to room temperature and treated with 0.45 μm member filter. Later, 20 μl sample solution was introduced into the HPLC system and recorded the chromatogram.

5.5. Photo Degradation

1 ml of stock solution of Rucaparib was exposed to Ultra-violet light for 1 day and made up to final volume to get 10 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{ml}^{-1}$ concentration and treated with 0.45 μm membrane filter. Later 20 μl sample solution was introduced into the HPLC system and recorded the chromatogram.

6. Results and Discussions

6.1. Method Development

For this method development, various ratios and combination of mobile phases, different stationary phases and flow rates were tried to elute the drug with good peak parameters and to provide good performance in assay. Finally, the best separation was achieved on symmetry C18 ODS column (250 mm \times 4.6 mm id, 5 μm) comprising mobile phase of phosphate buffer (0.02M): Methanol [65:35% v/v], adjusted the pH to 4.8 by dilute ortho phosphoric acid. The method was run at a flow rate of 1.0 $\text{ml}\cdot\text{min}^{-1}$ and the eluent was detected at 5.484 min by UV detector at 286 nm. The chromatogram showed the peak with good shape,

more theoretical plates and the tailing factor was also found to be within the limits. All the method development trials with various mobile phase compositions, columns and flow rates results were shown in **Table 1**. The standard chromatogram of rucaparib drug was presented in **Figure 1**.

6.2. Analytical Method Validation

6.2.1. System Suitability

The theoretical plate number, peak asymmetry and percentage relative standard deviation obtained are within the acceptance criteria and demonstrated that the method can generate the accurate and precise results. The results were presented in **Table 2**.

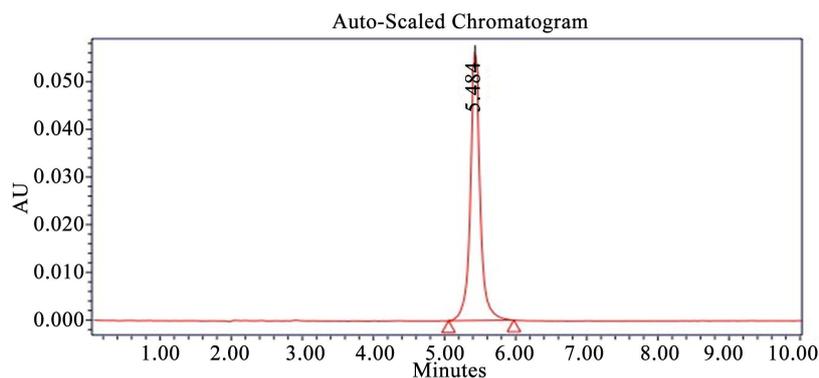


Figure 1. Optimized chromatogram (standard) of Rucaparib.

Table 1. Method development trials and observation.

Trials		Chromatographic conditions				Result
S. No.	Analytical Column	Mobile phase composition	Flow rate	Retention time (min)		
1	Inertsil C18 (15 cm × 0.46 cm) 5 μm	Water: Methanol (50:50% v/v)	0.8 ml/min	7.553	Improper peak separation and more RT.	
2	Zodiac C18 (4.6 × 150 mm) 5 μm	ACN: MeOH (40:60%) v/v	0.9 ml/min	2.508	Improper peak separation and less plate count.	
3	Develosil C18 (4.6 × 150 mm) 5 μm	ACN: 0.1% OPA (pH-3.6) (30:70) v/v	1.0 ml/min	3.213	Improper peak separation and less plate count.	
4	Phenomenex C18 ODS (4.6 × 150 mm) 5 μm	ACN: Ammonium buffer (0.1 M) (45:55% v/v)	1.0 ml/min	3.213	Improper peak separation, more tailing and less plate count.	
5	Symmetry C18 ODS (4.6 × 150 mm) 5 μm	MeOH: Phosphate buffer (0.01 M) (40:60%) v/v	1.0 ml/min	4.161	Improper peak separation and peak broadening.	
6	Symmetry C18 ODS (4.6 × 150 mm) 5 μm	MeOH: Phosphate buffer (0.05 M) (20:80%) v/v	1.0 ml/min	4.396	Improper peak separation, broad peak and peak tailing.	

Table 2. System suitability data.

S. No.	Parameters	Rucaparib
1.	Rt (min)	5.482
2.	Plate count	6967
3.	Asymmetry	1.12
4.	Peak Area (AUC)	647856

6.2.2. Accuracy

It was found that the average recovery at 50%, 100%, and 150% were found to be within the limits which indicated the methods Accuracy. The measured results were provided in **Table 3**.

6.2.3. Precision

The % RSD obtained was within the limits indicating the methods precision. **Tables 4-6** depicts the results of intraday precision and intermediate precision respectively.

6.2.4. Linearity

The method exhibited linearity in the range of 6 to 14 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{ml}^{-1}$. The obtained data was statistically analysed and results were presented in **Table 7** and the calibration curve was depicted in **Figure 2**.

6.2.5. Robustness

Upon slight changes in the flow rate and percent organic solvent, the results confirmed the reliability of the method. Results were presented in **Table 8**.

6.2.6. Limit of Detection (LOD) and Limit of Quantitation (LOQ)

The calculated LOD and LOQ values of rucaparib are 0.49 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{ml}^{-1}$ and 1.486 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{ml}^{-1}$ respectively.

6.2.7. Assay Determination of Rucaparib

The % purity of Rucaparib present in the marketed formulation was found to be 99.328%. The assay results of standard and marketed formulation of rucaparib were shown in **Table 9** and **Table 10** respectively.

6.2.8. Forced Degradation Studies

The forced degradation results showed that the rucaparib drug was found to be liable to acid and degraded to about 17.24%. In basic degradation, it was found to be degraded to about 16.18%. Upon oxidation, it was degraded to about 14.06% and in thermal degradation to about 13.59%. Very less degradation was observed in photolytic degradation to about 5.38%. According to FDA guidance, for the validation of any chromatographic assay 5% to 20% of degradation is acceptable. Therefore, in the present method the % degraded amount is within the specified limits and moreover, the successful separation of active pharmaceutical product from degradation products without any interference proved the stability indicating nature. The obtained chromatograms during stress testing were depicted in **Figures 3-7**. The measured values are provided in **Table 11**.

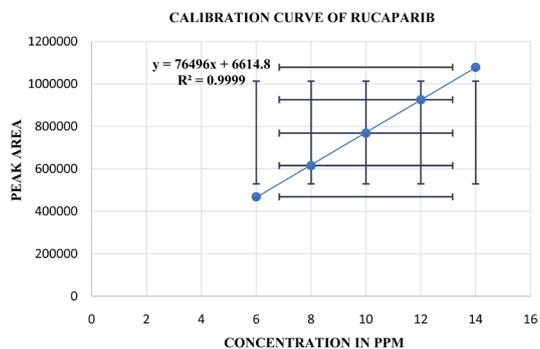


Figure 2. Calibration curve of Rucaparib.

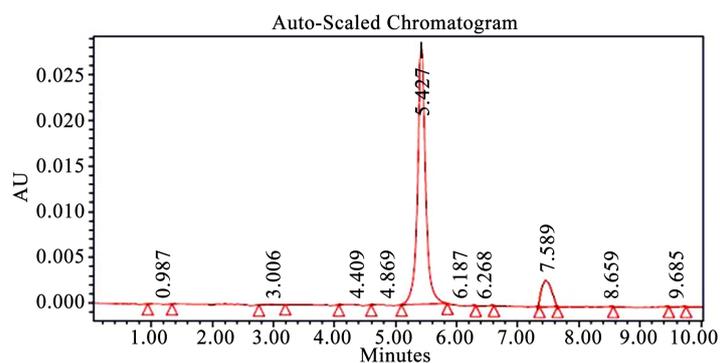


Figure 3. Acid degradation chromatogram of Rucaparib.

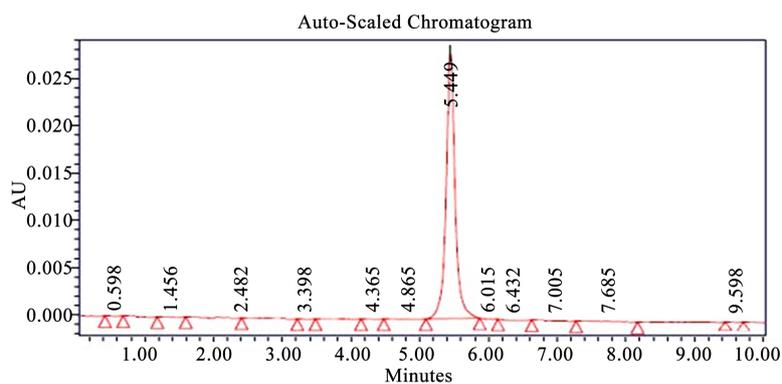


Figure 4. Basic degradation chromatogram of Rucaparib.

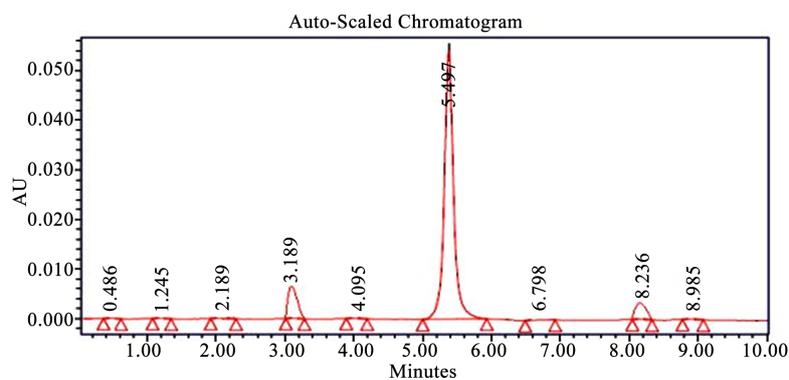


Figure 5. Oxidative degradation chromatogram of Rucaparib.

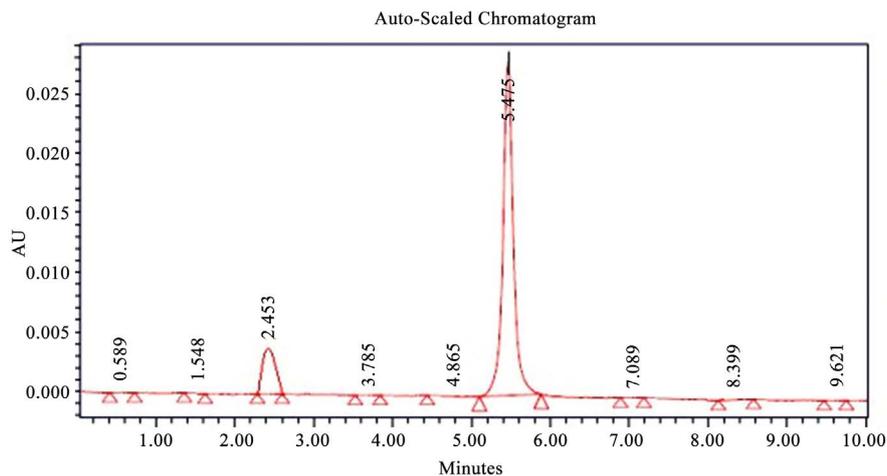


Figure 6. Thermal degradation chromatogram of Rucaparib.

Table 3. Rucaparib recovery data.

Spiking level	Peak Areas	Average Area	Spiked concentration (ppm)	Found concentration (ppm)	Percentage Recovery	Average Recovery
50%	387,568	386,559	5	5	100.000%	
	385,246					
	386,863					
100%	768,796	768,536	10	9.965	99.650%	100.130%
	768,354					
	768,458					
150%	1,165,247	1,164,522	15	15.111	100.740%	
	1,163,586					
	1,164,732					

Table 4. Intra-day precision data of Rucaparib.

Drug	S. No.	Retention time (min)	Peak Area	No. of Theoretical plates	Asymmetry	
Rucaparib	1	5.419	645,784	6825	1.05	
	2	5.405	642,589	6849	1.09	
	3	5.478	643,658	6845	1.08	
	4	5.466	648,759	6839	1.09	
	5	5.466	647,854	6874	1.10	
	Mean			645,729		
	SD			2638.569		
			% Relative standard deviation		0.408619	

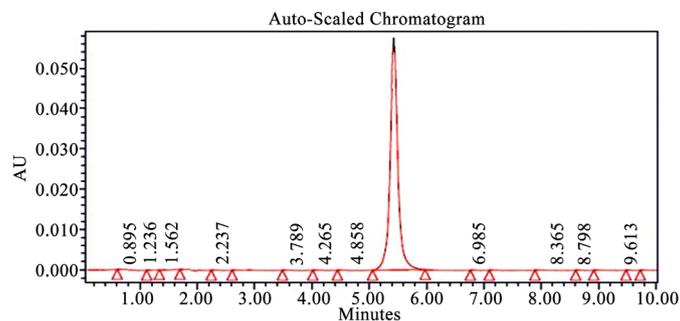


Figure 7. Photolytic degradation chromatogram of Rucaparib.

Table 5. Day 1 Intermediate precision data of Rucaparib.

Drug	S. No.	Retention Time (min)	Peak Area	No. of theoretical plates	Peak Asymmetry
Rucaparib	1	5.484	636,854	6758	1.09
	2	5.493	637,489	6726	1.08
	3	5.406	635,762	6749	1.09
	4	5.419	636,984	6698	1.07
	5	5.446	634,856	6728	1.08
	6	5.452	639,689	6699	1.08
	Mean		636,939		
	Standard Deviation		1649.149		
	% RSD		0.258918		

Table 6. Day 2 Intermediate precision data of Rucaparib.

Drug	S. No.	Retention Time (min)	Peak Area	No. of Theoretical plates	Peak Asymmetry
Rucaparib	1	5.491	628,985	6985	1.09
	2	5.482	624,879	6899	1.07
	3	5.416	625,846	6928	1.06
	4	5.482	623,568	6874	1.09
	5	5.495	628,985	6984	1.07
	6	5.427	628,473	6872	1.08
	Mean		626,789.3		
	Standard Deviation.		2340.636		
	% RSD		0.373433		

Table 7. Linearity data of Rucaparib.

S. No.	Concentration ($\mu\text{g/ml}$)	Peak Area
1	6	468,784
2	8	615,798
3	10	768,759
4	12	925,748
5	14	1,078,765
Mean	-	771,570.8
SD	-	216,375.5

Table 8. Robustness data of Rucaparib.

Parameters	Peak Area	Retention Time (min)	Theoretical plates	Peak Asymmetry
Optimized flow rate of 1.0 mL·min ⁻¹	648,759	5.484	6845	1.08
At 0.9 mL·min ⁻¹ flow conditions	635,248	5.599	6786	1.09
At 1.1 mL·min ⁻¹ flow conditions	659,865	4.576	6528	1.05
Lesser percent organic solvent	625,986	7.415	6689	1.03
Higher percent organic solvent	615,869	3.827	6354	1.01

Table 9. Assay data of standard rucaparib drug.

S. No.	Retention Time	Peak Area	Asymmetry	No. of Theoretical plates
1	5.427	647598	1.09	6895
2	5.430	648759	1.10	6826
3	5.443	649856	1.08	6863

Table 10. Assay data of marketed formulation.

Drug	S. No.	Retention Time	Peak Area	Asymmetry	No. of Theoretical plates
Rucaparib	1	5.453	658,754	1.12	6859
	2	5.462	656,842	1.13	6873
	3	5.466	657,895	1.12	6829

Table 11. Forced degradation studies data for Rucaparib.

S. No.	Stress Condition	Peak Area	% of Degraded Amount	% of Active Amount	Total % of Amount
1	Standard	648,759	0	100%	100%
2	Acidic	536,912.94	17.24	82.76	100%
3	Basic	543,789.79	16.18	83.82	100%
4	Oxidative	557,543.48	14.06	85.94	100%
5	Thermal	560,592.65	13.59	86.41	100%
6	Photolytic	613,855.76	5.38	94.62	100%

7. Conclusion

The present established stability indicating Reverse phased High-performance liquid chromatographic method is new, fast and easier to quantify the Rucaparib drug with precise and accurate results. The successful separation of all the degradation products from the active pharmaceutical ingredient proved the specificity and the stability indicating nature of the developed method. In comparison to the reported method for the identification and quantification of degraded impurities by HPLC and characterization by LC-MS technique, where the Rucaparib showed the retention time at 11.9 min and the detection limit was 11 µg/ml, the present developed method requires lesser analysis time and more sensitive, showing the retention time of 5.484 min and detection limit of 0.49 µg/ml.

Thus, the shorter duration of analysis time, more sensitivity and cost effectiveness revealed that it is suitably applied for routine laboratory use.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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