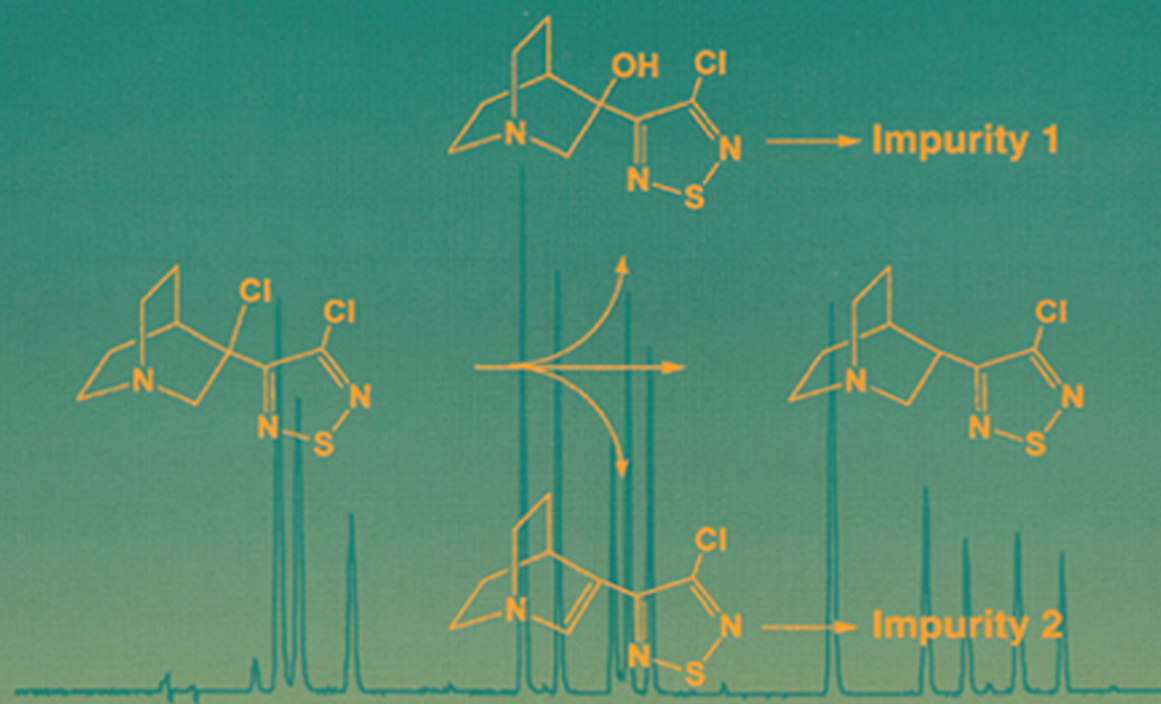


HANDBOOK OF ISOLATION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF IMPURITIES IN PHARMACEUTICALS

Edited by
Satinder Ahuja
Karen Mills Alsante



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IMPURITIES IN PHARMACEUTICALS**

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CONTENTS

PREFACE xi
CONTRIBUTORS xv

I. Overview: Isolation and Characterization of Impurities

SATINDER AHUJA

- I. Introduction 1
- II. Designations of Impurities 4
- III. Regulatory Requirements 7
- IV. Sources of Impurities 8
- V. Analytical Method Development 14
- VI. Isolation Methods 18
- VII. Characterization Methods 20
- VIII. Case Studies 22
- IX. Summary 24
- References 24

2. Review of Regulatory Guidance on Impurities

RADHIKA RAJAGOPALAN

- I. Introduction 27
- II. Types of Impurities—Drug Substance 28
- III. Role of Compendia 30
- IV. Role of Drug Master Files (DMF)—Type II and Impurities Evaluation 31
- V. Reference Standards for the Quantitation of Impurities and Analytical Procedures 32

- VI. Qualification of Impurities and New Impurities 32
- VII. Impurities in Drug Products 33
- VIII. Analytical Methodology for Impurities in Drug Product 33
- IX. Impurities Quantitation Post-Approval 36
- X. Role of Sponsors 36
- XI. Summary 36
- References 37

3. Polymorphic and Solvatomorphic Impurities

HARRY G. BRITAIN AND ALES MEDEK

- I. Introduction 39
- II. X-ray Diffraction 40
- III. Thermal Methods of Analysis 44
- IV. Vibrational Spectroscopy 49
- V. Solid-State Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrometry 57
- References 69

4. Impurities in Drug Products

KENNETH C. WATERMAN, ROGER C. ADAMI, AND JINYANG HONG

- I. Introduction 75
- II. Water 76
- III. Peroxides 78
- IV. Aldehydes 79
- V. Metal Impurities 80
- VI. Small Molecule Carboxylic Acids 82
- VII. Leachables/Extractables 82
- VIII. Alcohols as Impurities 83
- IX. Biological Impurities 83
- X. Additives in Excipients 84
- XI. Final Observations 85
- XII. Summary 85
- References 85

5. Strategies for Investigation and Control of Process- and Degradation-Related Impurities

BERNARD A. OLSEN AND STEVEN W. BAERTSCHI

- I. Introduction 89
- II. Goals and Strategies 91
- III. Process-Related Impurities 95
- IV. Degradation-Related Impurities 102
- V. Summary and Conclusions 115
- References 116

6. Reference Standards

PAUL A. CULBERT AND BRUCE D. JOHNSON

- I. Introduction 119
- II. Definitions 120
- III. Life Cycle 121
- IV. Governance 125
- V. Qualification Process 127
- VI. Summary 139
 - References 139

7. Sample Selection for Analytical Method Development

HUGH J. CLARKE AND KENNETH J. NORRIS

- I. Introduction 145
- II. Components of the Key
 - Predictive Sample Set (KPSS) 147
- III. Stereoisomers 147
- IV. Matrix Components 150
- V. Process-Related Impurities (PRIs) 150
- VI. Purposeful Degradation Samples 152
- VII. Stability Samples 155
- VIII. Phase-Solubility Analysis 156
- IX. Sample Selection Strategies 159
- X. Summary 162
 - Glossary 162
 - References 163

8. Sample Preparation Methods for the Analysis of Pharmaceutical Materials

DAVID T. ROSSI AND KENNETH G. MILLER

- I. Introduction 166
- II. Solid-Phase Extraction (SPE) 166
- III. Liquid-Liquid Extraction (LLE) 174
- IV. Supercritical Fluid Extraction (SFE) 181
- V. Accelerated Solvent Extraction (ASE) 189
- VI. Centrifugation 194
- VII. Filtration 195
- VIII. Summary 199
 - References 199

9. Isolation Methods I: Thin-Layer Chromatography

PAMELA M. GORMAN AND HONG JIANG

- I. Introduction to Thin-Layer Chromatography (TLC) 203
- II. TLC Applications in Pharmaceutical Industry 206
- III. TLC Method Development and Validation 207
- IV. Impurity Isolation and Characterization by TLC 221
- References 228

10. Isolation Methods II: Column Chromatography

MARK GUINN, RONALD BATES,
BENJAMIN HRITZKO, TERI SHANKLIN,
GLENN WILCOX, AND SAM GUHAN

- I. Introduction 231
- II. Background 232
- III. Stationary Phases 233
- IV. Equipment 237
- V. Screening 240
- VI. Development of Preparative Method 244
- VII. Scaleup of Preparative Method 246
- Summary 248
- References 248

II. Mass Spectral Characterization

DAVID J. BURINSKY AND FENG WANG

- I. Introduction 249
- II. Relevance of Impurity
Characterization 252
- III. The coupling of Liquid-Phase Separations
and Mass Spectrometers 259
- IV. Ion Formation 264
- V. Analyzers 273
- VI. Ion Structure Interrogation 277
- VII. Data Acquisition and Interpretation 282
- VIII. Applications 286
- IX. Conclusions 288
- X. Summary 289
- References 290

12. NMR Characterization of Impurities

LINDA L. LOHR, ANDREW J. JENSEN, AND THOMAS R. SHARP

- I. Introduction to Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) 301
- II. Information Gathering 304
- III. Sample Preparation for NMR 305
- IV. Sample Preparation for LC-NMR 307
- V. NMR Instrumentation 309
- VI. NMR Experiments 314
- VII. Choosing an Experiment Set 324
- VIII. Data Interpretation 325
- IX. Final Steps 334
- X. Summary 336
- References 337

13. Hyphenated Characterization Techniques

THOMAS N. FEINBERG

- I. Introduction 341
- II. Experimental Examples 350
- III. Conclusions 356
- References 357

14. Solving Impurity/Degradation Problems: Case Studies

KAREN M. ALSANTE, TODD D. HATAJIK, LINDA L. LOHR,
DINOS SANTAFIANOS, AND THOMAS R. SHARP

- I. Introduction and Background 361
- II. Case Studies 368
- III. Summary and Conclusions 398
- Appendix—Lessons Learned 398
- References 399

Index 401

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PREFACE

The pharmaceutical industry is required by the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to establish the identity and purity of all marketed drug products. The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and other regulatory bodies around the world require that impurities in drug substance and drug product when present at threshold levels recommended by the International Conference on Harmonisation (ICH) be isolated and characterized. This book fills the need for a text on the complex process of isolation and characterization of process-related (synthesis and formulation) impurities and degradation products to meet critical regulatory requirements. The identification of process-related impurities and degradation products can provide an understanding on production of impurities and define degradation mechanisms. When this process is performed at an early stage of drug development, there is ample time to address various aspects of drug development to prevent or control the production of impurities and degradation products well before the regulatory filing and thus assure production of a high-quality drug product.

The chapters in this book have been organized in a logical sequence to reflect the process used for the isolation and characterization of impurities. Chapter 1 points out that there are ethical, economic, and persuasive regulatory reasons to isolate and characterize impurities and degradation products. It provides an understanding of various sources of impurities and degradation products, the process and methodologies involved in separation, isolation, and characterization of impurities. Chiral impurities are also discussed from the standpoint of their origin, analytical methodology, and regulatory perspective for controlling them.

Regulatory guidance is provided in Chapter 2, which includes a significant discussion on ICH guidelines. Thresholds for identification, safety qualification, and reporting impurities have been set in these guidelines with

specific action levels reflective of the proposed daily dose of drugs under development. The rule of thumb for identifying impurities in drug substance and drug product is 0.1% (depending on the daily dose). Identification and control of toxic impurities present even well below the 0.1% level may be required.

Chapter 3 discusses polymorphic and solvatomorphic impurities. Since a major pharmaceutical manufacturing goal is to produce drug substance that is phase-pure and stable, the question of small amounts of polymorphic and solvatomorphic impurities in a bulk solid is of great importance. The drug substance should also remain phase-pure during drug product formulation and shelf life.

Chapter 4 specifically addresses impurities in drug product originating from formulation ingredients and processing that are likely to cause stability or performance issues in the drug product. The sources of the impurities as well as resulting drug stability issues are outlined in this chapter. Chapter 5 describes strategies for investigating process-related and degradation-related impurities in drug substances and drug products, with emphasis on a “chemistry-guided approach.”

A critical component in the analytical quantification of impurity levels is reference standard materials. Chapter 6 provides useful information on the role of reference standards in monitoring impurities. It includes the qualification process and governance of reference standards. Chapter 7 reviews analytical method development for the quantification of impurities and degradation products present in drug substance and drug product. This process involves selecting the key impurities/degradation product sample set, screening of chromatographic conditions, and optimizing method parameters.

To assure the high quality of pharmaceutical products, it is of critical importance to carry out elucidation of structure of impurities and degradation products present in the drug substance and drug product throughout the drug development process. For low-level impurities/degradation products, this quite often involves isolation. The next three chapters detail the isolation of impurities and degradation products. Chapter 8 provides guidance on extraction and isolation techniques for successful sample preparation including specificity for the targeted material, homogeneity, and good recovery.

An excellent isolation technique is exemplified by thin-layer chromatography (TLC), discussed in Chapter 9. TLC is particularly useful when high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) fails to yield useful information because of retention on the head of column, early elution, or poor detection issues. It can be easily scaled up for preparative work.

The resolving power of HPLC is frequently needed for challenging isolation problems. Chapter 10 details the use of HPLC for the isolation of impurities and covers the various options that are available for stationary phases, detectors, and the preparative scaleup process.

Structure elucidation of impurities and degradation products at trace levels in complex matrices requires advanced instrumental techniques and collaborative efforts of scientists from various disciplines. Chapter 11 describes the fundamental of mass spectrometry-based techniques for ion

structure analysis, including aspects of ion formation, attributes of various mass analyzers, and scan modes used for collision-induced dissociation experiments and interpretation of mass spectra. It also discusses at some length LC-MS, the powerful combination of a versatile separation technique like HPLC with the universal detectability of MS. Chapter 12 focuses on nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy, which provides key structural information and intramolecular interactions not readily available from other analytical methods. Vast improvements in NMR sensitivity limits have been made to assist with structural elucidation of impurities at low levels. Nondestructive NMR analysis allows additional characterization experiments to be performed with the same sample. Chapter 13 explains how hyphenated techniques have improved efficiency in structure elucidation of impurities and degradation products. Techniques discussed include HPLC-DAD, LC-MS, GC-MS, LC-IR, and LC-NMR.

Chapter 14 provides practical guidance with case studies on isolating and characterizing process-related impurities and degradation products for pharmaceutical drug candidates. The case studies utilize isolation or synthesis in conjunction with mass spectral and NMR characterizations. A collaborative multiple disciplinary strategy has been found to be the most efficient way to solve impurity/degradation product problems.

We sincerely believe that the detailed information provided by all authors, actively working with the pharmaceutical industry and FDA, will be of great value to various readers who are interested in the isolation and characterization of impurities and degradation products.

Satinder Ahuja
Karen Mills Alsante

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