Медицински Университет - Пловдив

Фармацевтичен факултет

СБОРНИК РЕЗЮМЕТА

Национална научна конференция

15 години фармация
в Медицински университет - Пловдив



01 - 03 юни 2018 г.

СПА хотел "Орфей", гр. Девин.

Materials and methods. Male Wistar rats, divided into 2 groups (n=10), were treated orally respectively with: distilled water (control) and pregabalin in dose 150 mg/kg b.w. We determined the effects of pregabalin on the motor function using a bar holding test and open field test.
Results. Our data demonstrated that pregabalin in dose 150 mg/kg p.os. did not impair the muscular activity compared to the control group.
Conclusion. Pregabalin does not possess skeletal muscle relaxant activity and this can be seen as an advantage to other antiepileptic and anxiolytic drugs.

FORMULATION, EVALUATION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF TASTE MASKED MICROPARTICLES OF ENALAPRIL MALEATE

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ABSTRACT
Enalapril maleate, inhibitor of the angiotensin converting enzyme, which can be used for treatment of hypertension and congestive heart failure by children and adults, is a bitter tasting drug, which is a problem for the patient compliance. The purpose of this study was to develop taste masked drug-polymer complexes in the form of microparticles, using the precipitation method. These microparticles could be suitable for incorporation in orodispersible tablets. Taste masking was achieved by complexing enalapril maleate with aminoalkyl methacrylate copolymer (Eudragit EPO®) in 7 different ratios: 2.5 / 1; 2 / 1; 1.5 / 1; 1 / 1; 1 / 1.5; 1 / 2; 1 / 2.5. The models were characterized in terms of size, shape, production yield, moisture content, drug content and drug release in two different media - simulated salivary fluid (SSF, pH 6.8) and simulated gastric fluid (SGF, pH 1.2). The particle size ranged between 284 – 410 μm, the production yields varied between 24 ÷ 72%, the moisture content – 4.3÷8.0%. The shape of the obtained microparticles was irregular because of the preparations method. The models formulated with higher polymer concentrations showed minimum percentage of released enalapril maleate in SSF. The results proved the feasibility of the method for taste masking.
Acknowledgements: The study was financially supported by the Medical University – Plovdiv (Project – SDP – 11/2017)

ACUTE TOXICITY AND ANTI-INFLAMMATORY ACTIVITY OF AQUEOUS FRUITS AND FLOWERS EXTRACTS OF *SAMBUCUS NIGRA* L. (CAPRIFOLIACEAE) IN MICE

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ABSTRACT
The objective of this study was to evaluate the acute toxicity and anti-inflammatory activity of extracts from flowers (SNFE) and berries (SNBE) of Sambucus nigra growing in Bulgaria. Both extracts were subjected to phytochemical screening and HPLC quantification of polyphenols. The acute oral (p.o.) and intraperitoneal (i.p.) toxicity was determined according to the OECD 425. Anti-inflammatory activity was tested in a model of cotton-pellet induced granuloma in rats. Eighty male albino Wistar rats weighting 200-250 g were used for the study. The animals were randomly divided into following groups: negative control, extracts treated (10, 20, 50 mg/kg b.w.) and diclofenac (10 mg/kg b.w.) as a standard reference.
The results showed that SNFE and SNBE are non-toxic up to a dose of 3000 mg/kg b.w. and a dose of 5000 mg/kg b.w. respectively. The anti-inflammatory effect of the SNBE at a dose of 50 mg/kg b.w. is comparable to that of standard anti-inflammatory drug diclofenac sodium and significantly inhibited the granuloma tissue formation ($p < 0.05$).
Our findings indicate that SNBE extract have obvious in vivo anti-inflammatory effect. The study provides experimental evidence for the traditional use of medicinal plant Sambucus nigra in treatment of inflammatory diseases.

HPLC METHOD FOR CHEMICAL STABILITY OF HUMAN B-DEFENSIN 2

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ABSTRACT
Antimicrobial peptides are one of the effector molecules against pathogens. According to many authors they could be use as a new antibiotics. Defensins are group of antimicrobial peptides, with 18-50 amino acids length and three disulphide bonds. Human β-defensin 2 is a part of host immunity system with a large antimicrobial effect. HPLC-UV method was developed to analyse the chemical stability of antimicrobial peptide β-defensin 2, and the kinetic behavior in different biological pH (acid media with pH = 2.0, neutral media with pH = 7.4 and alkaline media with pH = 9.0) and time. The HPLC method was validated according to European Pharmacopoeia requirements and chromatographic and analytical parameters specificity, reproducibility, accuracy, linearity, LOD, LOQ and system suitability test were studied. System suitability test was developed and applied to test samples prepared with different solvents – water R and PSB.

ICP-MS ANALYSIS OF FOOD SUPPLEMENTS FOR LEAD CONTENT (PB)

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ABSTRACT
Introduction: The consumption of food supplements has grown the last 2 decades. Elevated lead levels of lead in food supplements may pose a serious health risk. Lead is a tissue poison impeding normal enzyme metabolism. Regulation (EC) 1881 had not set maximal admissible values for lead content in food supplements (FS) by 2016. Since 2016 lead is regulated to maximum 3 mg/kg per FS pill/capsule.
Aim: determination of lead in foods/food supplements