Control Strategies of Genotoxic Impurities
in
Drug Substance & Product

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Introduction

Genotoxic substances: Impact genetic material by means of mutations.

Mutations: Chromosomal breaks, rearrangements, covalent binding or insertion into DNA during replication. Indirectly by activating a cell to produce genotoxic substances. Caused by exposure to very low levels of a genotoxic, can lead to cancer.

IDENTIFICATION → MONITORING → CONTROL → PUBLIC SAFETY
Guideline and Recommendations

- ICH provides guidelines for impurities (Q3A, B and C), but does not specifically provide acceptable levels for those genotoxic in nature. It does address the need of lowered levels for unusually potent impurities, such as those that are genotoxic.
- Guided by genotoxicity data or the present of structure alerts, potential genotoxic impurity may be defined.
- Acceptance criterion defined by Threshold of Toxicological Concern (TTC).
- TTC Concept: Maximum intake of 1.5 µg/day of genotoxic impurity over a patient’s lifetime.

Guideline and Recommendations

A TTC value of 1.5 µg/day intake of a genotoxic impurity is concern to be associated with an acceptable risk in most pharmaceuticals.
Genotoxic Substances in Pharmaceuticals

Get carried over into the final product
• Starting materials
• Reagents
• Intermediates
• Solvents
• Unwanted side reactions from the API synthetic process
• In addition, the API itself can decompose to form genotoxic impurities

Genotoxic Impurities

Three step scheme:
✓ Ascertain alerts based on chemical structure.
✓ Establish qualification strategy based on structural-alert classification.
✓ Establish acceptable impurity limits based on the maximum daily intake of drug substance.
List of structural alerts

- N-Hydroxysulfhydryl
- N-Acetylated amines
- Aminosulfhydryl
- Amines and alkylated amines
- Aldehydes
- N-Methylamines
- Nitrosamines
- Nitro compounds
- Carbamates (Ureas)
- Epoxides
- Aziridines
- Propiolactones
- Propiolactones
- Aromatic compounds
- Hydrazines and Azo compounds
- Michael reactive acceptors
- Allyl esters of phosphonates or sulfonates
- Haloalkanes
- Haloalkanes
- Primary halides (aryl and aryl-C(=O))

Legend: A = Alkyl, Acyl, or H
Halogen = F, Cl, Br, I
EWG = Electron withdrawing group (CN, C=O, ester, etc.)

List of some Genotoxic Impurities

- Hydrazine
- 1,1 dimethylhydrazine
- Benzaldehyde
- 3,4-dihydroxybenzaldehyde
- Formaldehyde
- Pentanal
- Hexanal
- Octanal
- 1-methyl-4-nitro-3-propylpyrazole-5-carboxlic acid (MNP)
- Nitro containing intermediate
- Methylacrylate
- Acrylonitrile
- Azo compound
Some of the most common Genotoxic Impurity

- **Methyl methanesulfonate**
  - C₇H₈O₃S
  - Molar mass 110.13 g/mol

- **Ethyl methanesulfonate**
  - CH₃SO₂C₂H₅
  - Molar mass 124.16 g/mol

- **Methyl acrylate**
  - CH₂=CHOOCH₃
  - Molar mass 86.09 g/mol

- **Methyl -4-toluene sulfonate**
  - C₇H₈O₃S
  - Molar mass 186.2 g/mol

- **Ethyl -4-toluene sulfonate**
  - CH₃C₆H₄SO₂C₂H₅
  - Molar mass 200.25 g/mol

- **p-toluene sulfonate**
  - CH₃C₆H₄SO₃H
  - Molar mass 172.2 g/mol
Strategies to Control / Identification

Carry out stress studies of API according to the ICH guidelines

- Temperature (50-60°C)
- Acid Hydrolysis (0.1 N HCl)
- Base Hydrolysis (0.1 N NaOH)
- Oxidation (3-30%H₂O₂)
- Light (1.2 million lux hours)

Strategies to Control / Identification

- Chromatographic separation and evaluation of mass scan of all the degraded impurities with the help of LC/GC-MS (with high loading injection/concentration)
- Establish possible structure of all the degraded impurities and evaluate the degradation structural similarity with the genotoxic alert.
- Separation and characterization of degradation products which may be genotoxic as per structure alerts by using prep-HPLC, FTIR, NMR, LC-MS etc
- Evaluation the presence of known common genotoxic substances by comparing obtained experimental molecular mass.
**Conclusion:**

- These findings may have an impact on the further investigation for confirmation as genotoxic and thereby control and monitoring in drug products to be fit for human consumption.
- Ames test to confirm or rule out genotoxic potential structures.
- Quantitation of these types of impurities. Using analytical testing to quantify impurities, build process knowledge, and guide process / formulation development for control.
- Ensure quality of API or drug product throughout product life cycle to safeguard public health.
- Supportive in Post marketing Adverse Drug Reaction (ADR).
- This study useful to justify that, Product is free from potential GTIs.

*Let’s Not Forget*

‘WHAT IS PURE TODAY MIGHT BE IMPURE TOMORROW’

Analysis of the substances and finish product at the end of the self life, and comparison study with initial data, trend analysis is equally important to monitor the Quality of the medicine.