

## IN VIVO AND IN VITRO INTERACTION STUDIES OF ENALAPRIL WITH FLURBIPROFEN ON CARRAGEENAN INDUCED INFLAMMATION RATS (CIIR)

SAFILA NAVEED\*<sup>1,2</sup> NAJMA SULTANA<sup>1</sup>, AND M. SAEED ARAYNE<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Research Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Faculty of Pharmacy University of Karachi, Karachi-75270. Pakistan

<sup>2</sup>Faculty of Pharmacy, Jinnah University for Women, Karachi. Pakistan

<sup>3</sup>Department of Chemistry, University of Karachi, Karachi

### ABSTRACT

Both ACE inhibitors and non steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) are prescribed together in the elderly as different diseases may occur together. *In vivo* and *in vitro* interaction studies of ACE inhibitor (enalapril) was carried out with commonly used NSAID, flurbiprofen in carrageenan induced inflammation (CIIR) rats to check the anti-inflammatory response of NSAIDs in presence of enalapril and alone. In present study, altered anti-inflammatory response was observed for flurbiprofen when given simultaneously with enalapril by comparing decrease in paw size. Results were expressed in % reduction in paw size for every hour and were calculated for edema rate and percentage reduction. *In vitro* interaction studies carried out using HPLC and both the drugs were analyzed by assaying both drugs alone and in combination. The combination of enalapril and flurbiprofen showed increased activity of flurbiprofen as depicted by increase of % reduction and decrease in edema rate. It was also proved from AUC of the chromatogram of combine drugs. Since this study has certain limitation as a number of tested animals were small and the duration of anti-inflammatory response was checked for flurbiprofen alone and in combination with enalapril for few hours, further studies may be required to establish the strong relationship.

**Keywords:** *In vivo in vitro*, interaction, enalapril, flurbiprofen, HPLC

### INTRODUCTION

Enalapril maleate chemically described as (S)-1-[N-[1-(ethoxycarbonyl)-3-phenylpropyl]-L-alanyl]-L-proline, (Z)-2-butenedioate salt <sup>1</sup> (Figure 1). It is an ester prodrug which after hydrolysis is converted to pharmacologically active enalaprilate, a specific competitive inhibitor of angiotensin converting enzyme ACE and inhibits the active sites of a zinc glycoprotein (ACE) blocking the conversion of angiotensin I to angiotensin II, whose levels are elevated in patients of hypertension<sup>2</sup>. Musculoskeletal and hypertension are two common coexisting problems for which NSAIDs and antihypertensive as are most commonly prescribed together<sup>3</sup>. Over the two decades the concern about drug interactions between NSAIDs and antihypertensive agents has been grown and several cases with hypertensive emergency have been reported after using NSAIDs in patients with previously well-controlled hypertension <sup>4,5</sup>.

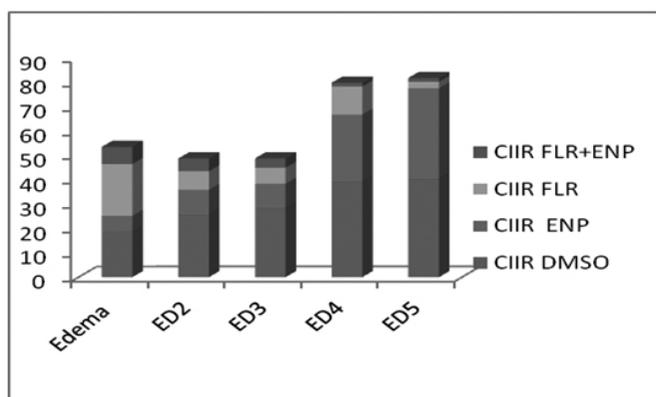


Figure 1 Edema rate in rat's paw after treatment

The combination of enalapril with other antihypertensive medicines may increase the antihypertensive effect when used especially in combination with diuretics <sup>6</sup>, hypoglycemic agents, beta-adrenergic blocking agents and methyl dopa or calcium entry blockers potentiates the hypotensive effects enalapril <sup>7</sup>.

Reports suggest that NSAIDs may alter the antihypertensive effect of ACE inhibitors. The interaction should be given consideration in patients taking NSAIDs concomitantly with ACE inhibitors <sup>8</sup>. NSAIDs antagonize the blood pressure lowering effect of antihypertensive drugs. When lithium or antihypertensive agents are co-prescribed with NSAIDs, close monitoring is

mandatory<sup>9</sup>. Lithium elimination may be reduced therefore the lithium levels of serum should be carefully compared if lithium salts are to be administered <sup>10-12</sup>. NSAIDs including aspirin, reduce renal excretion of ACE inhibitors, with increase in circulating drug concentrations <sup>13</sup>.

Over the last two decades the concern about drug interactions between NSAIDs and antihypertensive agents has been grown and several cases with hypertensive emergency have been reported after using NSAIDs in patients with previously well-controlled hypertension <sup>4,5</sup>.

Taking this into account we have worked on a number of *in vitro* interactions of enalapril with hypoglycemic agents <sup>14</sup> Lefunomide with NSAIDs<sup>15</sup>, enalapril maleate and H<sub>2</sub>-receptor antagonists <sup>16</sup>. To quantitate these interactions we reported simple and economical HPLC-UV methods for the quantitation of these drugs alone <sup>17</sup> as well as in combinations <sup>18,19</sup>. Diabetic patients who take a combination of medications especially NSAIDs are prone to drug interactions, so it is necessary to study these interactions with respect to the pharmacokinetics of the combined dosage forms. Thus our research group reported a number of *in vivo* interactions of NSAIDs with leflunomide <sup>20</sup>, as well as hypoglycemic agents <sup>21,22</sup> on Carrageenan Induced Inflammations.

In present paper the *in vivo* and *in vitro* interactions of enalapril with flurbiprofen on carrageenan induced inflammation rats (CIIR) has been studied to investigate the anti-inflammatory response of flurbiprofen with enalapril and alone. Earlier, we reported a facile method to quantitate enalapril with NSAIDs simultaneously using HPLC-UV technique which was used to study the *in vitro* interactions.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

#### Animals

Female rats weighing 180-250g were used for the study and six animals in each group were housed in an animal room under standard temperature conditions i.e. at 21°C.

#### Adjuvant induced inflammation

Adjuvant inflammation was induced in animals by a single intra dermal injection of 0.1ml/liter at the base of the foot. Solution prepared by carrageenan suspended in 0.9 NaCl normal saline to the concentration of 1 gm/100 ml.

#### Experimental design and drug treatment

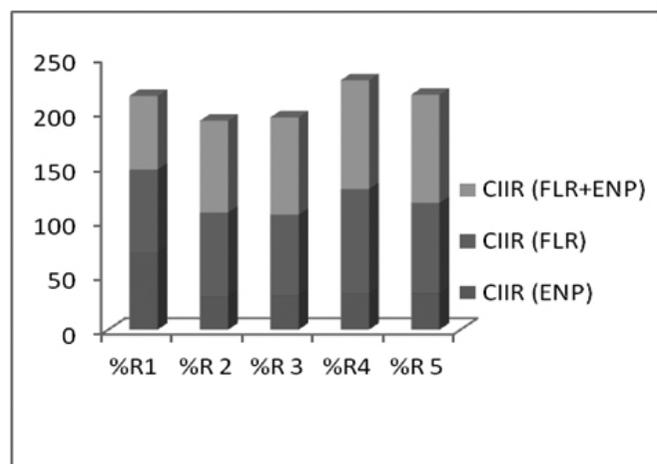
Rats (n=6) were randomly distributed into different groups received their respective treatment orally using 0.5ml dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) as vehicle one hour prior to inflammation induction table 1.

The severity of inflammation was assessed by paw volume change. Swelling in paw and the state of the animals were monitored in each hour. Paw volumes were measured by using plethysmometer (Model 7140; Italy Varese, Ugo Basile,) on 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 hour of the designed experiment. The paw volumes were deliberated in test and control groups on zero and then on

every alternate hour until 5 hour when the experiment ended. The dose regime of different drugs are given in table 1

**Table 1** Dose of different groups.

S. No	Groups	Treatment	Dose (mg. kg <sup>-1</sup> )
1	CII saline (Control)	Saline	---
2	CII ENP	Enalapril	2.5
7	CII FLR	Flurbiprofen	5
11	CII FLR+ENP	Flurbiprofen+ Enalapril	5+2.5



**Figure 2** % Reduction in rat's paw after treatment

**Statistical analysis**

The investigational outcomes were expressed as Mean ± S.D of n=6 rats in each group. Edema rate and percentage reduction was also calculated by using one way analysis of variance using software SPSS INC. Tukey's post-hoc test was conducted to determine group means differences with the level of significance chosen at  $p < 0.05$  or  $p < 0.005$ .

**In vitro studies**

Stock solutions (100 µg·mL<sup>-1</sup>) of enalapril, flurbiprofen were prepared in 80:20 methanol water individually. The ratio of solutions were mixed in 1:1 in flasks individually and kept on a water bath at 37°C for three hours with stirring. The samples were withdrawn after 30 minutes time interval for 3 hours and drug con-tents were filtered through a millipore filter (0.45 µ) and analyzed by RP-HPLC. The % availability of each drug was then calculated with respect their standard samples.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Both antihypertensive and analgesic drugs are prescribed together since hypertension and co-existing musculoskeletal problems are two frequent conditions [24, 25]. In order to identify the anti-inflammatory response of commonly used NSAIDs when administered concurrently with enalapril we used the group of rats with carrageenan induced paw inflammation. Inflammation was induced by carrageenan [26], which is acute, well-researched, non-immune and highly reproducible. In our study, an altered anti-inflammatory response of flurbiprofen was observed when given simultaneously with enalapril and comparing decrease in paw size (edema). Results were expressed in % reduction in paw size for every hour and were calculated. The formula were used to calculate edema rate and percentage reduction.

$$\text{Edema rate (E \%)} = \frac{V_t - V_o}{V_o} * 100$$

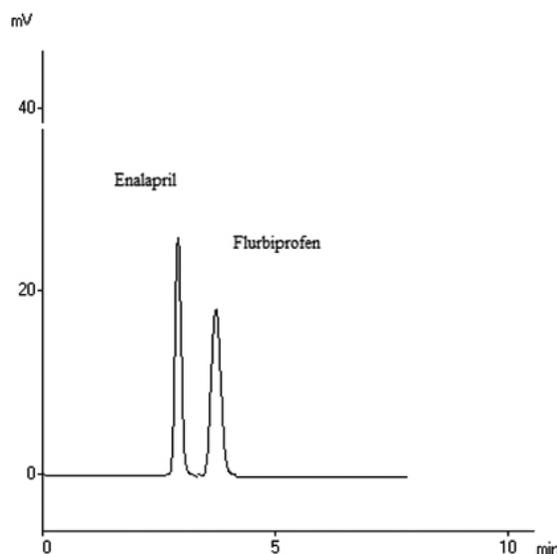
$V_o$  = Rat's hind paw volume before 1% Carrageenan administration.  
 $V_t$  = Rat's hind paw volume at t hour.  
 Percentage reduction (R %) =  $\frac{E_c - E_t}{E_c} * 100$   
 $E_c$  = Edema rate of control group  
 $E_t$  = Edema rate of test compound at t hour.

Edema rate and percentage reduction data was also analyzed by using one way analysis of variance using SPSS INC. Tukey's post-hoc test was conducted to determine group means differences taking significant level  $p < 0.05$  and highly significant  $p < 0.005$ .

Effect of enalapril on flurbiprofen induced anti-inflammatory response was studied by observing the groups CII FLR and CII FLR+ENP. Percent reduction by flurbiprofen was 3.0±1.0%, 72.01±1.01%, 79.53±0.5%, 67.20±1.06% and 66.07±1.0% in first, second, third, fourth and fifth hour respectively which was significantly low ( $p < 0.005$ ) in first hour while significantly high ( $p < 0.005$ ) in remaining hours. Simultaneous administration of flurbiprofen with enalapril in the group CII FLR+ENP showed percent reduction 67.61±0.29%, 84.36±0.21%, 89.44±0.14%, 99.92±0.49% and 99.49±0.20% in first, second, third, fourth and fifth hour respectively which was significantly high ( $p < 0.005$ ) when compared to group CII FLR, showing that % reduction was high as compare to flurbiprofen alone.

**In vitro interactions**

To develop a precise, accurate and suitable HPLC method for the simultaneous estimation of ENP and flurbiprofen different mobile phases were tried and the proposed chromatographic conditions were found to be appropriate for the quantitative determination. The short analysis time (<5 min) also enables its application in routine and quality-control analysis of the finished products. pH of mobile phase containing methanol: water (80:20) was adjusted to 2.9 with phosphoric acid while UV detection was performed at 225 nm. The retention time for enalapril maleate was found to be 3.3 minutes, while that of flurbiprofen was 4.3 minutes (figure 3). The mobile phase was filtered on a 0.45 micron membrane filter and then sonicated for 10 min; flow rate was set to 1.0 mL·min<sup>-1</sup>. All determinations were performed at constant column temperature (25 ± 2°C).



**Figure 3:** chromatogram of enalapril with flurbiprofen before interaction

The interaction results showed that the availability of flurbiprofen was increased in the presence of enalapril (figure 4). This suggested that for co administration of enalapril with flurbiprofen administration require continuous monitoring and a proper interval should be given to avoid such interactions.

**CONCLUSION**

The combination of enalapril and flurbiprofen showed increased activity of flurbiprofen as depicted by increase of % reduction and decrease in edema rate. It was also proved from AUC of the chromatogram of combine drugs. On the basis of clinical evidences that flurbiprofen can potentially interact with drugs that include b-blockers, ACE inhibitors, aspirin and corticosteroids. The drug interactions can metabolize the medicines differently than intended, increase risk of bleeding and make some drugs less effective, among other things. It would always be advisable to consult healthcare professionals about any flurbiprofen drug interactions, since this study has certain limitations due to limited number of tested animals as well as duration of anti-inflammatory response studied.

**Table 2** Edema rate in rat's paw

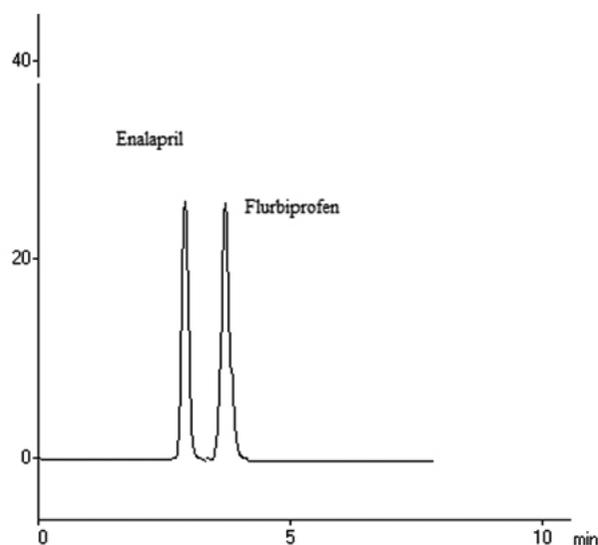
Groups	Edema	ED2	ED3	ED4	ED5
CIIR DMSO	18.69	25.54	28.3	39.12	40.18
CIIR ENP	6.4604	10.2933	10.0133	27.617	37.3564
CIIR FLR	21.36	7.69	6.66	11.58	2.74
CIIR FLR+ENP	6.9536	5.2224	3.7838	1.5333	1.5333
One Way	F1=26320.1	F2=1596.1	F3=1580.3	F4=3975.5	F5=10292.8
ANOVA(df= 8,18)	p<0.005	p<0.005	p<0.005	p<0.005	p<0.005

**Table 3** % Reduction in rat's paw

Groups	%R1	%R 2	%R 3	%R4	%R 5
CIIR (ENP)	70.3136	30.0973	31.0477	32.7781	33.03
CIIR (FLR)	76.45	77.16	74.21	96.1	82.98
CIIR (FLR+ENP)	67.6162	84.3648	89.444	99.9213	99.498
One Way ANOVA (df= 8,18)	F1=136914.084	F2=9.713	F3=9.162	F4=256.157	F5=2883.266
	p<0.005	p<0.005	p<0.005	p<0.005	p<0.005

**Table 4** % Availability of enalapril and NSAIDs by HPLC

Time (minutes)	Enalapril	Flurbiprofen	Enalapril + Flurbiprofen
30	98.04	99.02	99.02
60	107.4	95.31	99.31
90	100.1	105.6	105.6
120	100.1	98.3	105.3
150	100.3	98.88	105.88
180	101.2	100	105
Sig. (2-tailed)	t value2.674	df=6	.037

**Figure 4:** chromatogram of enalapril with flurbiprofen after interaction

**Disclosure:** Noting any conflicts of interest.

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