Assay of Clinical Product Long-Term Delivery Systems for PLGA Properties

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Introduction

- Poly(lactide-co-glycolide) (PLGA) is a biodegradable polymer used in a wide variety of clinical products due to its capacity to biodegrade by hydrolysis into non-toxic lactic and glycolic acids.
- There are many different types of PLGA depending on the lactide:glycolide (LA:GA) ratio, endcap, and molecular weight.
- There is no good method established for assaying the PLGA component properties of microparticles used in injectable depot formulations, such as Risperdal® Consta® and Trelstar®.
- Such an assay is necessary for quality control as well as ensuring that proposed generic formulations provide qualitative and quantitative (Q1/Q2) sameness in regards to the reference product.

Purpose of this work is to establish a testing protocol which extracts PLGA from clinically used microparticle formulations and assays it to ensure Q1/Q2 compliance for parental depot formulations.

Methods

- Commercially purchased Risperdal Consta, which is a monthly injection, as well as Trelstar 3.75, 11.25, and 22.5 mg doses (1, 3, and 6 month injections, respectively) were dissolved in dichloromethane (DCM) (Fig. 1)
- Solutions filtered and dialyzed for three days (MWCO 6000-8000Da) against organic solvent.
- Subsequently, these solutions were concentrated, and precipitated in a stirring excess of hexane (Fig. 2) and dried under deep vacuum.
- The PLGA was then analyzed by gel permeation chromatography (GPC) (Fig. 3), ¹H nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) and ¹³C NMR (Fig. 4). (1)

Results

- GPC was used to measure the molecular weight (Mol. Wt.) of PLGAs extracted from formulations (Figure 5). These results were processed against polystyrene standards for number average/weight average molecular weights.
- Figure 6 shows example HNMR spectra and peak assignments.
  - The LA:GA ratio was determined by relative peak integration at 5.2 ppm (LA, 1H) and 4.8 ppm (GA, 2H), respectively.
  - ¹³C NMR was performed using cryoprobe for a total of 12,000 scans acquired over 12.5 hours to maximize signal/noise ratio.
  - Peak at 14 ppm (red arrow in Figure 7) correlates to alkyl endcap carbon and is indicative of ester endcap. Lack of peak indicates acid endcap. All data summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. Formulation PLGA parameters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>LA:GA ratio (molar)</th>
<th>Mol. Wt. (Number average)</th>
<th>Mol. Wt. (Weight average)</th>
<th>End cap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Risperdal Consta</td>
<td>78:22</td>
<td>44,875</td>
<td>111,142</td>
<td>Ester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trelstar (3.75mg)</td>
<td>52:48</td>
<td>25,192</td>
<td>85,207</td>
<td>Ester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trelstar (11.25mg)</td>
<td>74:26</td>
<td>47,214</td>
<td>72,286</td>
<td>Acid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trelstar (22.5mg)</td>
<td>77:23</td>
<td>46,368</td>
<td>74,042</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion

- PLGAs were successfully extracted from formulations for assays of their parameters.
- Using the described method, results indicate that similar PLGAs were used for 3-month and 6-month Trelstar formulations. This is unexpected because the two have very different drug release profiles, 3 months vs 6 months.
- One limitation of the current assay method is that all PLGAs are extracted, regardless of identity, and assayed together. Thus, the assay presents average properties of different PLGAs rather than properties of individual PLGAs.
- The current method is suitable for formulations containing a single type of PLGA.
- There is a need to develop an advanced assay method which can separate individual PLGAs from a mixture of polymers in a single formulation.

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References: