

## Potential of NIR Techniques for Quality Control of Cyclodextrins and Cyclodextrin Complexes

Near InfraRed (NIR) spectroscopy is a popular technique due to its advantages including the non-intrusive and non-destructive nature and wide applicability. Specifically, the NIR region covers the overtone and combination transitions of the C–H, O–H, N–H, and C=O groups, and since cyclodextrins (CDs) frequently possess these groups, the technique can be used for analysis of CDs and CD complexes, as well. Recently, NIR spectroscopy has become a routine technique in the quality control of pharmaceutical industry, but its application in the analysis of cyclodextrins has been limited so far [1].

Infrared spectroscopy (IR) was used for demonstration of complex formation; however, the traditional IR delivers only qualitative data. While the drug/CD mixture shows no appreciable spectral changes compared to the drug, when complex formation takes place frequency shifts of characteristic chromophore groups were observed if they were not covered by strong absorption bands of CD molecules [2]. This phenomenon can be applied to get quantitative data on drug-CD complexes using NIR technique.

In the case of CD derivatives, Fourier-transformed infrared (FTIR) technique was applied to get more characteristic data. Among the C–H stretching signals, the IR spectrum of (2-hydroxypropyl)- $\beta$ -cyclodextrin (HPBCD) shows the specific methyl signal of the hydroxypropyl groups. As the amount of hydroxypropyl groups increases, this methyl signal becomes more pronounced. Measuring the ratio of the methyl C–H stretching signal of the hydroxypropyl groups and the overall C–H stretching signals of HPBCD, good correlation with the average degree of substitution (DS) determined with  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  was demonstrated. FTIR provides a convenient, reproducible and safe method for DS determination, but calibration with an absolute method is needed [3].

The NIR technique was first introduced for characterization of CDs and CD complexes in 1994 on the 7<sup>th</sup> International Cyclodextrin Symposium in Tokyo [4]. In this work we showed that the developed NIR methods were suitable for determination of the free and complexed fraction of Molsidomine guest molecule in CD complexes. The calibration curves were developed using partial least square (PLS) method. The control results were obtained with absolute methods: HPLC for total Molsidomine content and DSC for free, non-complexed Molsidomine content. NIR absorption in the 900-1800 nm region was used to estimate the association constants of the

inclusion complexes between aromatic compounds (e.g., phenol, 4-chlorophenol, sodium 2-naphthalenesulfonate, and sodium 2-pyrenesulfonate) and  $\alpha$ -,  $\beta$ - and  $\gamma$ -CD [5].

It was also demonstrated in the above work that NIR method was able to detect the chemical modification of CD, the technique could be used for identification and as screen method in quick, routine determination of DS.

NIR and FT-IR spectroscopy were used to collect the physical and chemical fingerprints of 27 CD derivatives building a spectrum library in order to identify, differentiate and qualify the CDs quickly. Cluster analysis was provided as sensitive tool to detect the chemical modifications like acetylation, methylation or hydroxypropylation [6].

The type of CD derivative and the DS can be followed in three wavelength regions between 1650–1750 nm, 2090–2170 nm and 2300–2370 nm [7], (Fig. 1A). The effect of acetylation is very characteristic around 1700 and 2140 nm (increased intensity, appearance of new peak). The effects of random methylation are specific around 2350 nm (vibration of methyl groups). The Polar Quality Systems (PQS) evaluation method was applied [8]. The quality points of CDs and substituted CDs are spread in quality plane (Fig. 1B).  $\alpha$ -,  $\beta$ - and  $\gamma$ CDs and their hydroxypropyl derivatives are located around a "straight" line while acetylation and random methylation caused higher variation in quality measured by NIR.

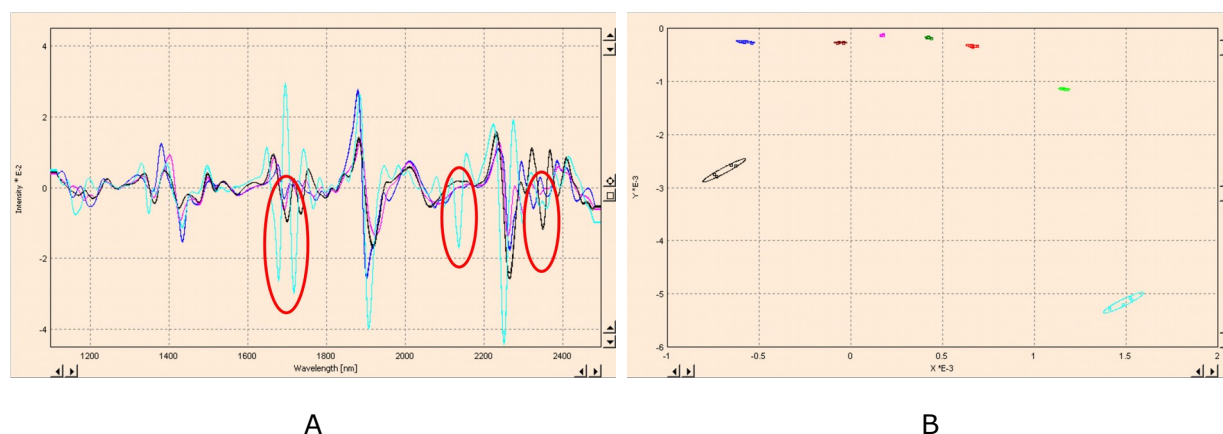


Figure 1: 2<sup>nd</sup> derivative of the spectra of different CD derivatives (typical wavelength ranges characteristic to the substituent and to the DS are marked (A) and Quality points of  $\alpha$ CD,  $\beta$ CD,  $\gamma$ CD, HP- $\alpha$ -CD, HP- $\beta$ -CD, HP- $\gamma$ -CD, randomly methylated  $\beta$ CD and acetylated  $\beta$ CD using PQS evaluation (B)

Complete characterization of CD derivatives in general requires the use of different analytical methods. For example, at least four different analytical methods are applied to determine the main characteristic properties of HPBCD. HPLC is used for measuring the content of non-substituted, natural  $\beta$ -cyclodextrin (BCD), whereas gas chromatography (GC) is suitable for analysis of residual propylene glycol content. DS is determined with NMR method, while Karl-Fischer titration or loss on drying should be used for quantification of water (moisture) content of the samples.



Applying NIR technique there are two wavelength regions in 2<sup>nd</sup> derivative spectra (1700–1770 nm and 2290–2320 nm) where the hydroxypropylation of BCD can be followed sensitively (Fig. 2).

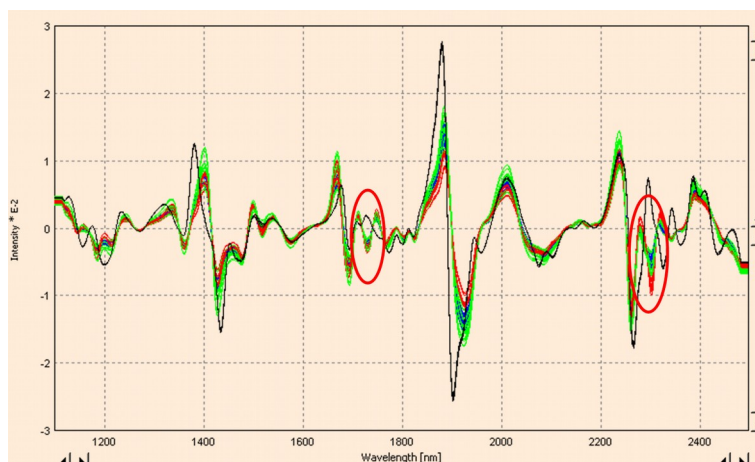


Figure 2. 2<sup>nd</sup> derivative spectra of BCD and HPBCD samples ( $DS < 3$ ,  $3 < DS < 5$ ,  $DS > 5$ )  
Marked wavelength regions 1700–1770 nm and 2290–2320 nm

The first overtone of C–H stretching of CH<sub>2</sub> group (1725 nm) and the C–H combination band of the same group (2310 nm) are responsible for these changes. The degree of substitution can be predicted based on the change of peak between 2300–2305 nm (Fig. 3).

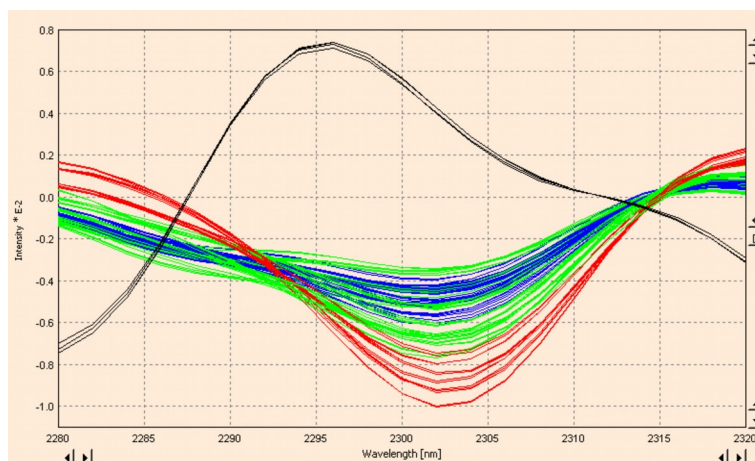


Figure 3. NIR spectra of HPBCD samples with different DS in the range of 2280–2320 nm

The quality of hydroxypropylated samples with different DS can be distinguished with PQS method (Fig. 4). Segregation of high DS (> 5) material was obvious while the prediction of DS smaller than 5 need bigger sample set.



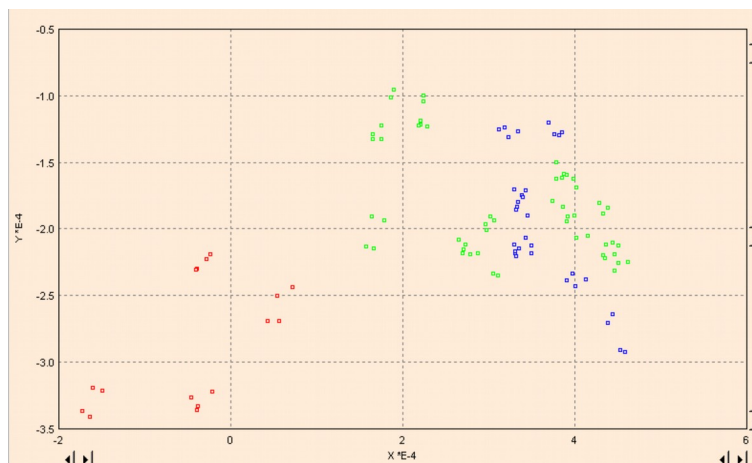


Figure 4. PQS quality points of HPBCD samples ( $DS < 3$ ,  $3 < DS < 5$ ,  $DS > 5$ )

The prediction equation of DS indicates a standard error of calibration (SEC) 0.3 which precision is acceptable and the scatter plot confirms the poor sensitivity of reference method (vertical location of points at given reference value) compared to NIR method (Fig. 5A).

Similar calibration curves were obtained for the BCD, propylene glycol and water content. The precision was 0.1–0.2% for BCD in a 0–3.3% range; while for the water content the standard error of cross validation (SECV) was 0.20% in a quite broad (4.8–9.0%) range. The residual propylene glycol (PG) content of HPBCD products were determined with high preciseness, SECV was only 5.12% in a 0–180 mg/100 g range and with low scattering using NIR model (Fig. 5B).

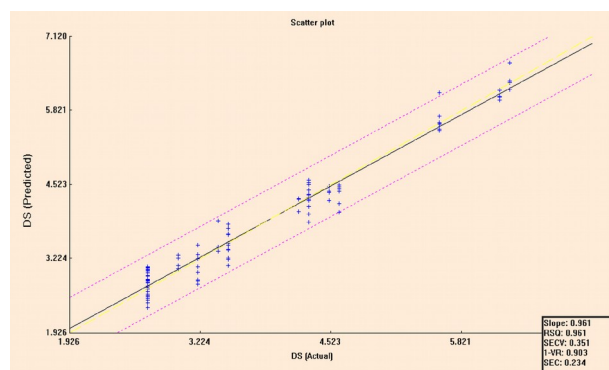


Figure 5A: Calibration curve for determination of DS

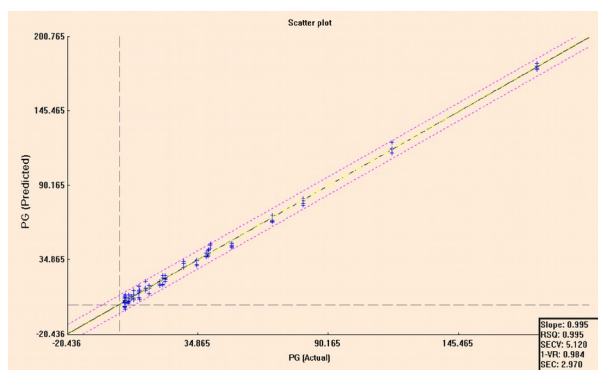


Figure 5B: Calibration curve for determination of PG content

## Conclusion

The versatility and economic benefits of NIR spectroscopy opens new perspectives in the simple, quick and reliable quality control of cyclodextrins and cyclodextrin complexes and generally in pharmaceutical research, technology and quality control [9].



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