



FORMULATION AND EVALUATION OF SUSTAINED RELEASE ZIDOVUDINE MATRIX TABLETS

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ABSTRACT

The investigation was concerned with design and characterization of oral Sustained release matrix tablets of Zidovudine (AZT) in order to improve efficacy and better patient compliance. Matrix tablets were prepared by Wet granulation method using various proportions of hydrophilic polymers like Sodium CMC, HPMC, Eudragit-L155, & Xanthan gum along or in combination with hydrophobic polymer ethyl cellulose. In vitro drug release studies were performed using USP type II apparatus (rotary paddle type). The release kinetics was analyzed using Zero order, First order, Higuchi and Hixson Crowell. Compatibility of drug with various formulations excipients was also studied. In this study Formulations X₃, X₄, X₅, X₇, X₉, X₁₂ and X₁₄ shows zero-order kinetic of release with 80% to 97% of drug released. As these formulations containing a combination of two polymer i.e. Xanthan gum, combine with EC, Sodium CMC, HPMC in the different ratios. But in presence of sodium CMC in the formulation X₄, X₉, X₁₄, E₃, E₇ and E₁₁, the drug released in 12 hour was in the range of 75% to 85% and shows zero-order kinetics. The formulation X₄ & E₃ containing Na CMC with Xanthan gum and EC respectively in the ratio 1:1 gave more sustaining action i.e. 79.16% and 65.21% respectively in 12 hour. From the above study it was concluded that presence of sodium CMC gives zero-order release kinetics and the linearity ranges from 0.990 to 0.996. It has also good drug entrapment efficiency ranges from 96 to 106% of drug. Formulation containing sodium CMC with Xanthan gum and EC gives sustained release of drug more than 12hrs.

Keywords: Sustained release; Matrix tablets; Release kinetics; Zidovudine; Hydrophilic & Hydrophobic polymers

INTRODUCTION

Oral route is the most preferred route for administration of drugs. Tablets are the most popular oral formulations available in the market and preferred by the patients and physicians alike. In long-term therapy for the treatment of chronic disease conditions, conventional formulations are required to be administered in multiple doses, and therefore have several disadvantages¹. Sustained release (SR) tablet formulations are much desirable and preferred for such therapy because they offer better patient compliance, maintain uniform drug levels, reduce dose and side effects, and increase safety margin for high-potency drugs².

The major drawbacks of antiretroviral drugs for the treatment of AIDS are their adverse side effects during long-term therapy, poor patient compliance and huge cost of the therapy³⁻⁴. Zidovudine (AZT), the first anti-HIV compound approved for clinical use is widely used for treatment of AIDS either alone or in combination with other antiviral agents. However, the main limitation to therapeutic effectiveness of AZT is its dose-dependent hematological toxicity, low therapeutic index, short biological half-life, and poor bioavailability⁵. The biological half-life of AZT-triphosphate is 4 hours, thus necessitating frequent administration (3 to 4 times a day) to maintain constant therapeutic drug levels. Treatment of AIDS using conventional formulations of AZT is found to have many drawbacks such as adverse side effects due to accumulation of drug in multi-dose therapy⁶⁻⁷, poor patient compliance⁸ and high cost. So, SR formulations of AZT can overcome some of these problems.

AZT is absorbed throughout the GIT. The drug is freely soluble at any pH; hence judicious selection of release retarding excipients is necessary for achieving constant in-vivo release. The most commonly used method of modulating the drug release is to include it in a matrix system⁹. Matrix tablets can be prepared by wet granulation or by direct compression¹⁰. Many polymers have been used in the formulation of matrix based SR drug delivery systems. Reports are found on the use of hydrophilic polymers like hydroxyl propyl methylcellulose (HPMC), methylcellulose, sodium carboxy methylcellulose¹¹, carbopols¹² and polyvinyl alcohol¹³ for the preparation of CR formulations of different drugs. Hydrophilic polymer matrix systems¹⁴⁻¹⁹ are widely used for designing oral controlled drug delivery dosage forms because of their flexibility to provide a desirable drug release profile, cost effectiveness, and broad regulatory acceptance²⁰. Hydrophilic polymers provide pH-independent drug release to oral dosage forms that can be used for

formulating the sustained-release dosage forms. However, the use of hydrophilic matrix alone for extending drug release for highly water soluble drugs is restricted due to rapid diffusion of the dissolved drug through the hydrophilic gel network. For such drugs it becomes essential to include hydrophobic polymers in the matrix system²¹.

Hence, in the present work, an attempt has been made to formulate the Sustained-release matrix tablets of AZT using hydrophilic matrix material (HPMC, Sodium CMC, Xanthan gum & Eudragit-L155) along or in combination with hydrophobic polymer material (ethyl cellulose).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Zidovudine was received as a gift sample from Cipla Ltd. Goa, Ethyl cellulose, Xanthan Gum, Hydroxy propyl methyl cellulose(HPMC-ELV-15), Magnesium stearate and Starch(potato) from Loba Chemie Pvt. Ltd, Carboxy Methyl Cellulose from Merck specialities Pvt. Ltd, Eudragit-L155 gift sample from Cipla Ltd. Goa, Potassium dihydrogen Phosphate & Sodium hydroxide from Merck specialities Pvt. Ltd, Compression Machine(CIP Machineries Pvt. Ltd., Ahmedabad, India), FTIR-Spectrophotometer model NEXUS 870 [THERMO NICOLET], Eight Stage Dissolution Apparatus model TD7-08L ELECTROLAB, Roche Friabilator Indian Equipment Corporation, Bombay, Monsanto Hardness Tester Rupa Industries, India. Hot air oven, Unilab, India.

Preparation of sustained release matrix tablet of Zidovudine

Different tablet formulations (Batch size of 50 tablets) were prepared by wet granulation technique X₁ to X₁₅ (Table no-1) and E₁ to E₁₂ (Table no-2). Before preparing the tablets all the ingredients to be pass through sieve no-60. Drug and polymer to be mixed by mortar and pestle for uniform drug distribution. The above mixture then to be granulated using granulating agent 15%w/w of aqueous solution of starch and the dump mass of drug and polymer was passed through sieve no- 10 and dried at 60°C in hot air oven till the granules contain less than 5% of moisture. After drying the granules are forcedly passed through a sieve no 22 screen. The prepared granules are lubricated with specified amount of magnesium stearate until it was well mixed. Finally the lubricated granules are compressed by 8-station rotary tableting machine using flat-faces 10mm die.

Evaluation of drug loaded granules

The angle of repose²² of granules was determined by funnel method. A funnel with 10 mm inner diameter of stem was fixed at a height of 2 cm. over the platform. About 10 gm of sample was slowly passed

along the wall of the funnel till the tip of the pile formed and touches the steam of the funnel. A rough circle was drawn around the pile base and the radius of the powder cone was measured.

Bulk densities²³ of all types of granules were determined by pouring gently some amount of sample through a glass funnel into a 10ml graduated cylinder. The volumes occupied by the sample were recorded. Bulk density was calculated

$$\text{Bulk density (g/ml)} = \frac{\text{weight of sample in gms}}{\text{volume occupied by the sample}}$$

Tapped densities²³ of all types of granules were determined by pouring gently some amount of sample through a glass funnel into a 10 ml graduated cylinder. The cylinder was tapped from height of 2 inches until a constant volume was obtained (300 taps). Volume occupied by the sample after tapping were recorded and tapped density was calculated.

$$\text{Tapped density (g/ml)} = \frac{\text{weight of sample in gms}}{\text{volume occupied by the sample}}$$

% compressibility was determined by the Carr's compressibility index²³.

$$\text{Carr's index} = \frac{\text{Tapped density} - \text{bulk density}}{\text{Tapped density}} \times 100$$

Evaluation of matrix tablets

The prepared matrix tablets were evaluated for Weight variation, hardness, friability & content uniformity were determined using reported procedure²⁴. Weight variation was evaluated on 20 tablets using an electronic balance and test was performed according to official method. Friability was determined by taking 10 tablets in a Roche Friabilator for 4min at 25 rpm. Tablet hardness was determined for 6 tablets using a Monsanto hardness tester.

Drug content

Five tablets were weighed accurately and powdered. Powder equivalent to 100 mg of Zidovudine was accurately weighed and transferred to a 100 ml volumetric flask. Initial about some amount of pH 7.4 phosphate buffer was added to the volumetric flask and the flask was shaken for 10 min and then the mixture was sonicated. Finally the volume was made up to 100 ml with phosphate buffer and then filtered by using of 0.45µm membrane filter paper. The filtrate was suitably diluted with pH 7.4 phosphate buffers and analyzed against blank (pH 7.4 phosphate buffers) solution for the drug content by spectrophotometrically at 267.0 nm.

The drug-polymer interaction was studied by FTIR spectroscopy. (NEXUS 870 THERMONICOLET).

Determination of in-vitro drug release studies

Drug release was evaluated by conventional *in-vitro* dissolution testing. The dissolution tests for matrix tablets were performed by using Dissolution Tester (USP)-Eight stages paddle model. The medium was 900 ml of pH-7.4 phosphate buffer at 37°C ± 0.5° C. The paddles were rotated a 100 rpm., 0.5 ml of sample were withdrawn at every one hour interval and replaced with the same amount of pH 7.4 buffer to maintain the perfect sink conditions. 0.5 ml of sample was made up to 10 ml with pH 7.4 buffer and the drug absorbance was measured at wavelength of 267.0 nm using a double beam UV spectrophotometer.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The present investigation was to fabricate and evaluate the sustained release formulation Zidovudine matrix tablet. The sustained release granules of Zidovudine were prepared by using combined polymers i.e. Xanthan gum with Ethyl cellulose, HPMC (E.Lv-15), Na CMC, Eudragit -L155 and Ethyl cellulose with HPMC (E.Lv-15), CMC Sodium, and Eudragit-L155. Other ingredients including Starch paste as binder and Magnesium stearate as lubricant were incorporated for matrices. The matrices were prepared by wet granulation method in different ratios and finally compressed. In each batches 50 tablets were prepared.

Table 1: The Zidovudine matrix tablets (Quantity in mg/tablets)

Sl. No.	Ingredients	Formulation batch														
		X ₁	X ₂	X ₃	X ₄	X ₅	X ₆	X ₇	X ₈	X ₉	X ₁₀	X ₁₁	X ₁₂	X ₁₃	X ₁₄	X ₁₅
1.	Zidovudine (AZT)	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
2.	Xanthan gum	300	150	150	150	150	225	112.5	112.5	112.5	112.5	150	75	75	75	75
3.	Ethyl Cellulose	----	150	----	----	----	----	112.5	----	----	----	----	75	----	----	----
4.	HPMC- (E.LV-15)	----	----	150	----	----	----	----	112.5	----	----	----	----	75	----	----
5.	Sodium CMC	----	----	----	150	----	----	----	----	112.5	----	----	----	----	75	----
6.	Eudragit-L155	----	----	----	----	150	----	----	----	----	112.5	----	----	----	----	75
7.	Magnesium stearate (% wt/wt)	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
8.	Starch paste (15%)	q.s	q.s	q.s	q.s	q.s	q.s	q.s	q.s	q.s	q.s	q.s	q.s	q.s	q.s	q.s

*q.s indicates quantity sufficient.

Table 2: The Zidovudine matrix tablets (Quantity in mg/tablet)

Sl. No.	Ingredients	Formulation Batch											
		E ₁	E ₂	E ₃	E ₄	E ₅	E ₆	E ₇	E ₈	E ₉	E ₁₀	E ₁₁	E ₁₂
1.	Zidovudine (AZT)	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
2.	Ethyl Cellulose	300	150	150	150	150	225	112.5	112.5	112.5	150	75	75
3.	HPMC- (E.LV-15)	----	150	----	----	----	----	112.5	----	----	----	75	----
4.	Sodium CMC	----	----	150	----	----	----	112.5	----	----	----	75	----
5.	Eudragit-L155	----	----	----	150	----	----	----	112.5	----	----	----	75
6.	Magnesium stearate (%wt/wt)	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
7.	Starch paste (15%)	q.s	q.s	q.s	q.s	q.s	q.s	q.s	q.s	q.s	q.s	q.s	q.s

Table 3: Evaluation of granules of formulation batches X₁ to X₁₅

Batch No.	Bulk Density (g/ml)	Tapped density (g/ml)	Comprssi bility (%)	Hausner Ratio	Angle of repose (°)
X ₁	0.314	0.389	19.2	1.237624	25.0
X ₂	0.368	0.426	13.6	1.157407	19.0
X ₃	0.399	0.476	16.2	1.193317	20.0
X ₄	0.421	0.512	17.7	1.215067	23.0
X ₅	0.458	0.534	14.3	1.166861	20.0
X ₆	0.369	0.454	18.7	1.230012	25.0
X ₇	0.356	0.406	12.3	1.140251	19.0
X ₈	0.358	0.424	15.5	1.183432	19.0
X ₉	0.421	0.505	16.6	1.199041	22.0
X ₁₀	0.465	0.536	13.2	1.152074	21.0
X ₁₁	0.396	0.484	18.1	1.221001	24.0
X ₁₂	0.365	0.418	12.7	1.145475	19.0
X ₁₃	0.412	0.486	15.2	1.179245	20.0
X ₁₄	0.389	0.464	16.1	1.191895	24.0
X ₁₅	0.432	0.493	12.4	1.141553	19.0

Table 4: Evaluation of granules of formulation batches E₁ to E₁₂

Batch No.	Bulk density (g/ml)	Tapped density (g/ml)	Compressibility (%)	Hausner Ratio	Angle of repose (°)
E ₁	0.405	0.451	10.2	1.113586	19.0
E ₂	0.387	0.464	16.6	1.199041	22.0
E ₃	0.401	0.483	16.9	1.203369	23.0
E ₄	0.421	0.476	11.5	1.129944	20.0
E ₅	0.395	0.442	10.7	1.119821	20.0
E ₆	0.412	0.497	17.1	1.206273	22.0
E ₇	0.376	0.45	16.4	1.196172	22.0
E ₈	0.366	0.416	12.1	1.137656	19.0
E ₉	0.409	0.459	10.9	1.122334	21.0
E ₁₀	0.425	0.515	17.4	1.210654	23.0
E ₁₁	0.429	0.512	16.2	1.193317	24.0
E ₁₂	0.398	0.457	12.9	1.148106	20.0

The granules of formulations prepared from Xanthan gum with different polymers (i.e. X₁ to X₁₅) showed angle of repose between 19° to 25°, whereas the granules containing ethyl cellulose with the same other polymers (i.e. E₁ to E₁₂) showed the angle of repose between 19° to 24° indicating excellent flow behavior. Compressibility index of all the formulations was found to come within the range of 13% to 19% and in case of packing factor value of all formulations shown about 1.24 indicating good flow property (Table no-3 & 4).

The tablets of different batches were subjected to various evaluation tests such as weight variations, friability and hardness according to procedures specified in Indian Pharmacopoeia (Table no-5 & 6). The

weight variation test revealed that the weight was within the specified limits and found to be less than 4%. The friability test of different batches were carried out and the result showed it was below 1% ranging from 0.09 to 0.43 respectively which are well under the acceptable criteria as per I.P. The hardness of the tablets compressed form in various formulations was measured by using Monsanto hardness tester. The hardness was found to be 5 to 10 Kg/cm².

All the formulations were assayed for drug content. The drug content in formulation batches X₃, X₄, X₆, X₇, X₁₂ and E₃, E₅, E₉, E₁₁ were found in the range between 90 to 99%, whereas in formulation batches X₁, X₂, X₅, X₉, X₁₁, X₁₄ and E₂, E₄, E₇ were found in the range between 100 to 105% (Table no-5 & 6).

Table 5: Evaluation of tablet of formulation batches X₁ to X₁₅

Batch no.	Weight variation (%)	Friability (%)	Hardness (kg/cm ²)	Drug content (%)
X ₁	±4.0	0.12	7.8±0.13	113.026
X ₂	±2.0	0.39	6.7±0.18	105.93
X ₃	±3.0	0.24	7.3±0.02	95.89
X ₄	±2.0	0.11	9.8±0.01	98.53
X ₅	±3.0	0.43	6.8±0.07	105.12
X ₆	±2.0	0.13	7.2±0.21	95.81
X ₇	±4.0	0.36	6.4±0.35	92.75
X ₈	±4.0	0.24	7.1±0.13	----
X ₉	±2.0	0.12	8.7±0.11	100.98
X ₁₀	±2.0	0.39	6.7±0.03	----
X ₁₁	±3.0	0.09	7.4±0.16	105.15
X ₁₂	±3.0	0.29	6.5±0.41	98.85
X ₁₃	±3.0	0.18	7±0.32	----
X ₁₄	±3.0	0.13	8.5±0.06	102.57
X ₁₅	±4.0	0.31	6.9±0.12	----

Table 6: Evaluation of tablet of formulation batches E₁ to E₁₂

Batch no.	Weight variation (%)	Friability (%)	Hardness (kg/cm ²)	Drug content (%)
E ₁	±2.0	0.49	6.2±0.03	86.495
E ₂	±2.0	0.21	6.9±0.37	102.00
E ₃	±3.0	0.09	8.2±0.01	96.375
E ₄	±2.0	0.41	5.3±0.12	107.93
E ₅	±3.0	0.42	6.1±0.27	90.43
E ₆	±2.0	0.20	6.5±0.35	----
E ₇	±4.0	0.11	7.9±0.02	106.04
E ₈	±2.0	0.37	5.2±0.11	----
E ₉	±2.0	0.39	6.4±0.22	97.06
E ₁₀	±4.0	0.19	6.7±0.16	----
E ₁₁	±2.0	0.11	7.8±0.03	99.36
E ₁₂	±3.0	0.46	5.4±0.43	----

The studies revealed that there was no significant interaction between drug and polymer in the formulations shows in Fig No-11 to 22.

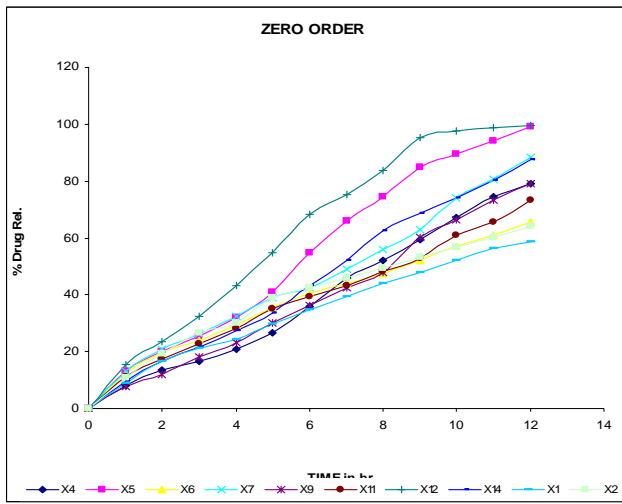


Fig. 1:

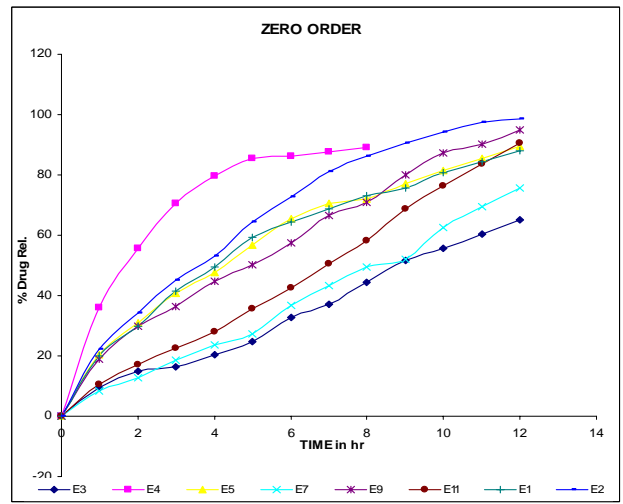


Fig. 2:

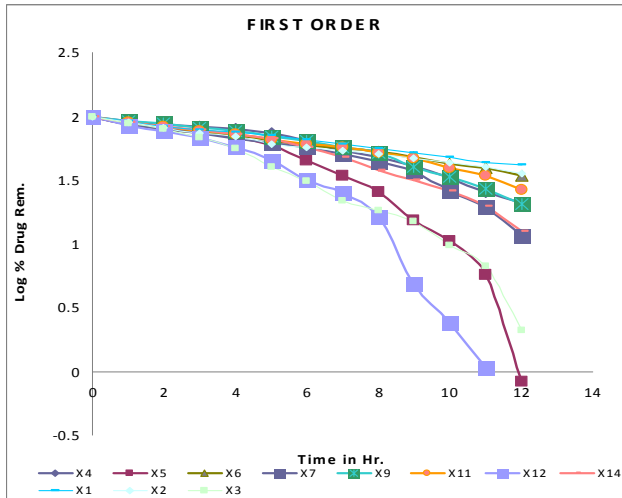


Fig. 3:

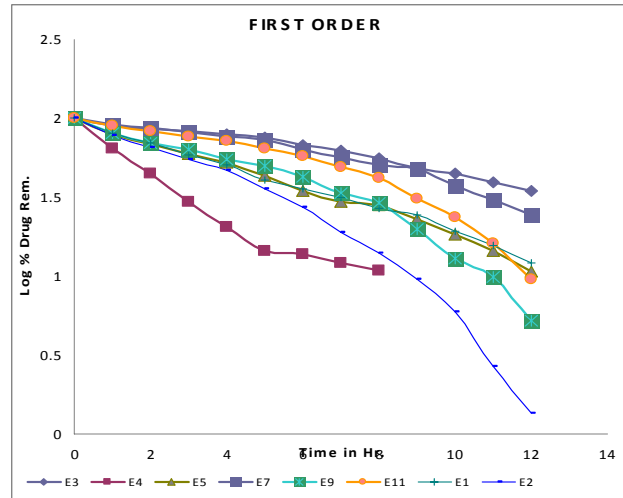


Fig. 4:

Comparative Dissolution Study of formulation- X₁ to X₁₄ & E₁ to E₁₁

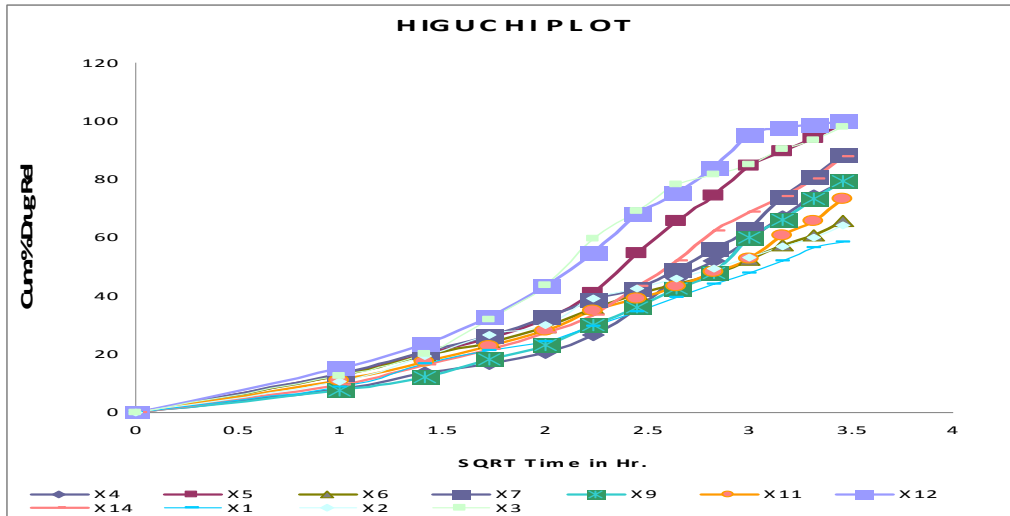


Fig. 5: Comparative dissolution study of formulation- X₁ to X₁₄

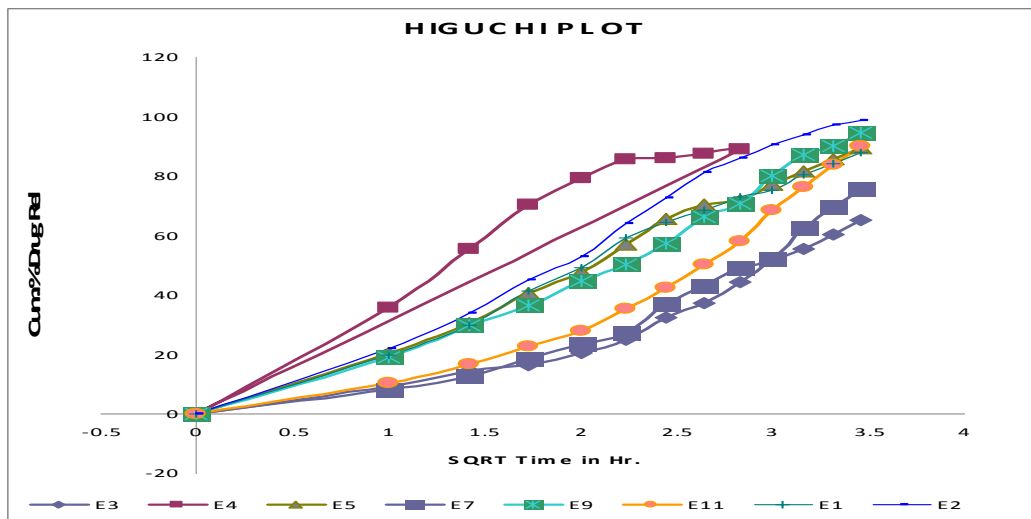


Fig. 6: Comparative dissolution study of formulation- E₁ to E₁₁

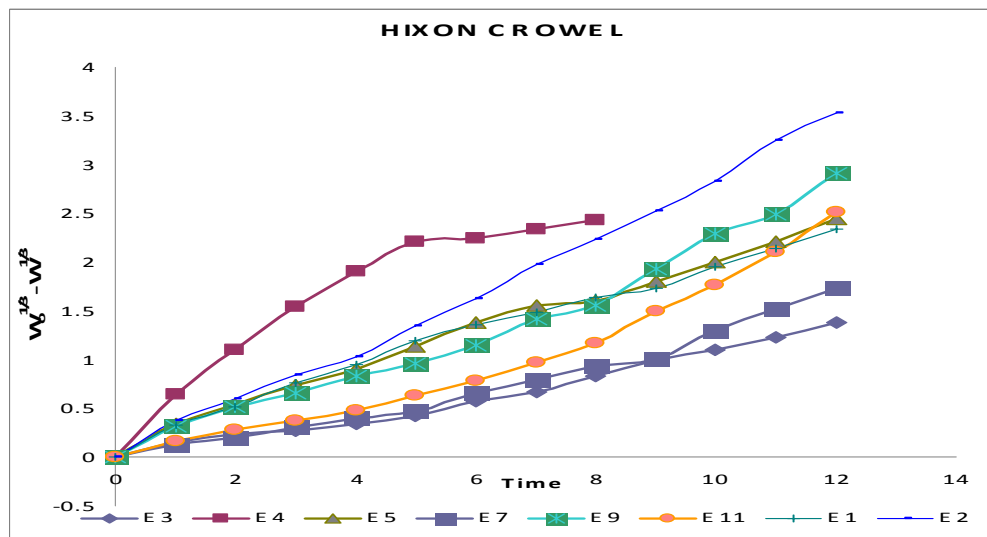


Fig. 7: Comparative Dissolution Study of Formulation- E₁ to E₁₁

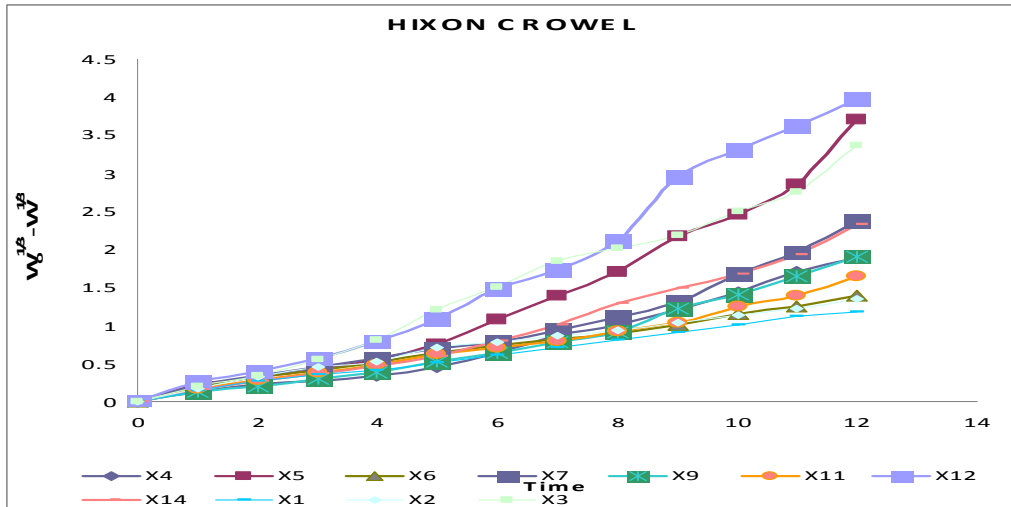


Fig. 8: Comparative dissolution study of formulation- X₁ to X₁₄

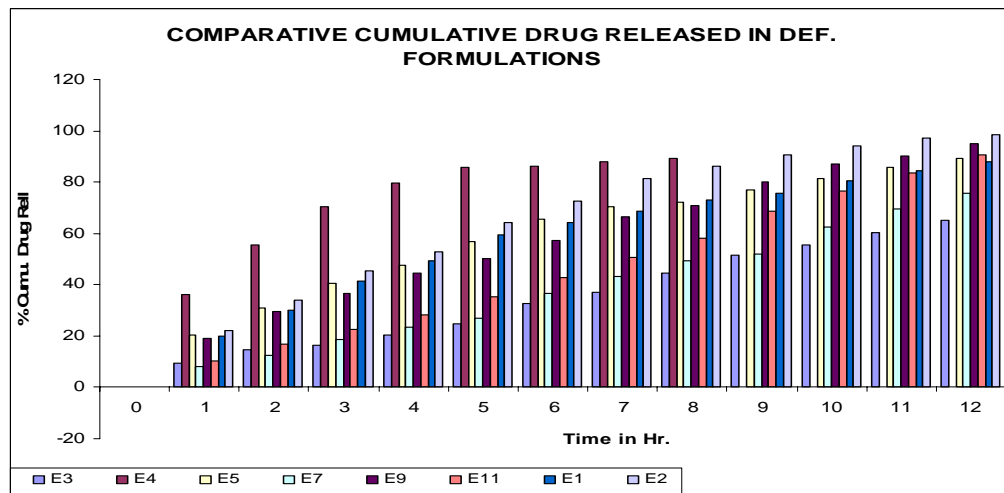


Fig. 9: Comparative cumulative drug release study of formulation E₁ to E₁₁

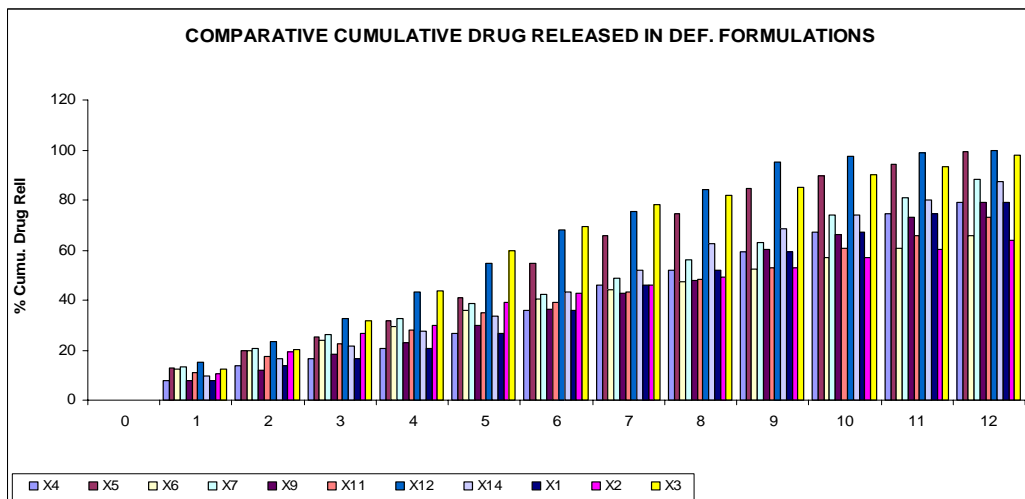


Fig. 10: Comparative Cumulative Drug Release Study of Formulation X₁ to X₁₄

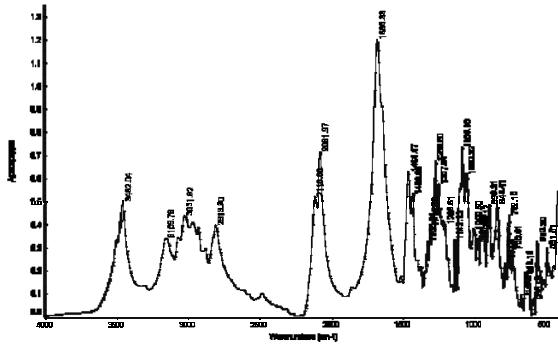


Fig. 11: FTIR Study of Zidovudine (AZT)

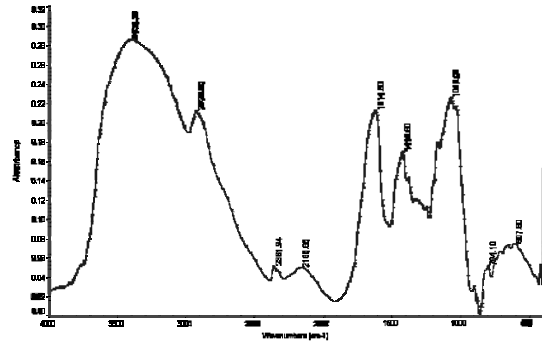


Fig. 12: FTIR Study of Xanthan gum

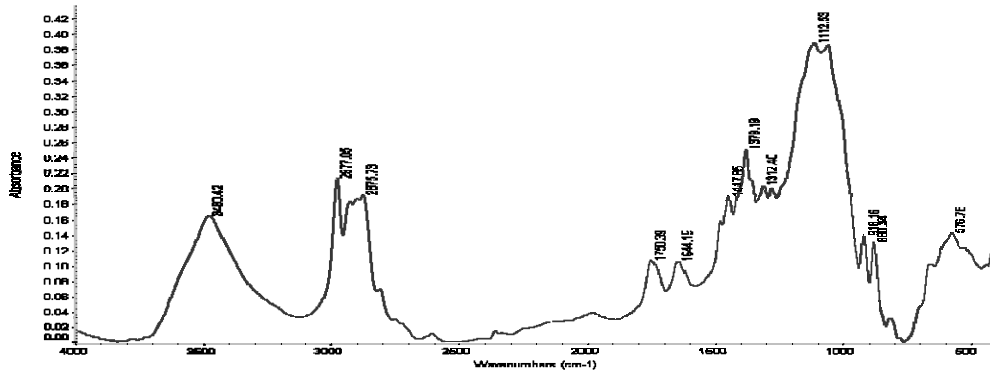


Fig. 13: FTIR study of Ethyl Cellulose

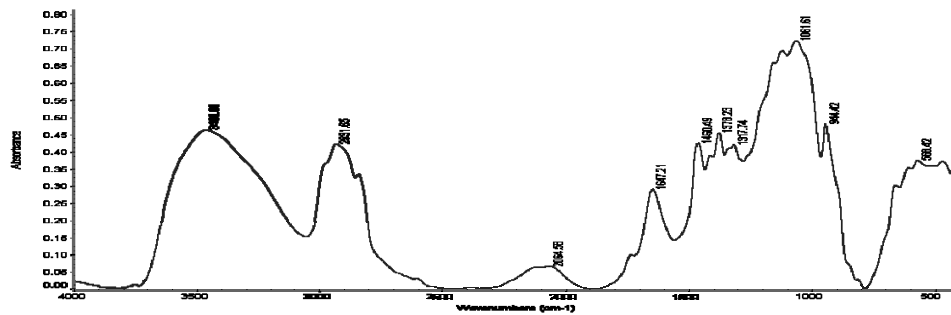


Fig. 14: FTIR study of HPMC E.LV-15

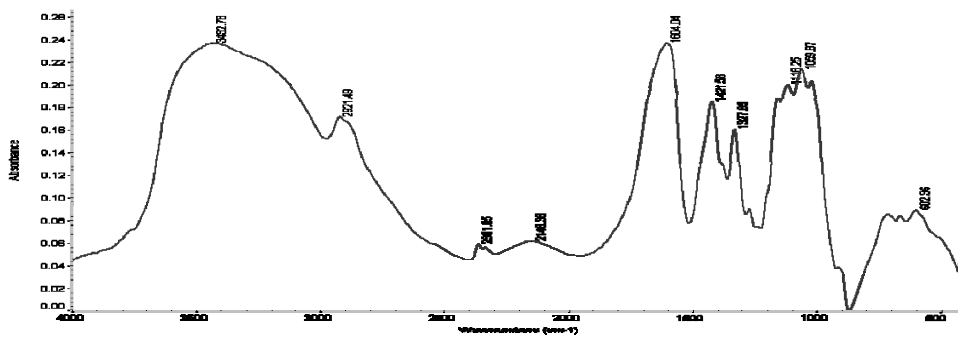


Fig. 15: FTIR study of Sodium CMC

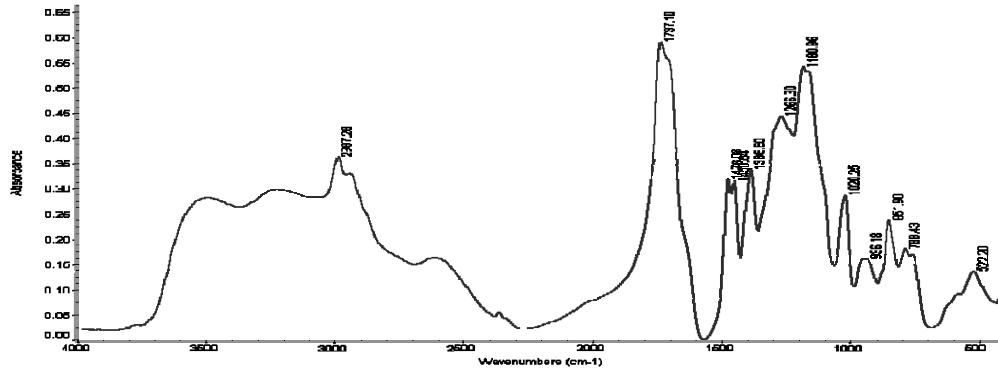


Fig. 16: FTIR study of Eudragit-L155

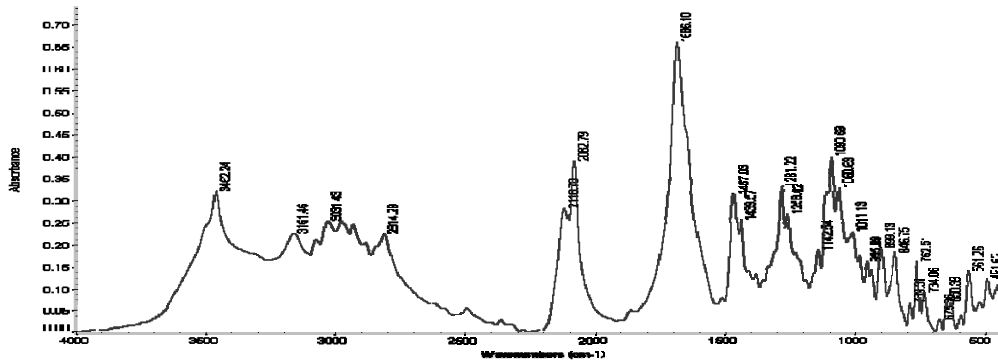


Fig. 17: FTIR study of AZT: (Xanthan: EC)

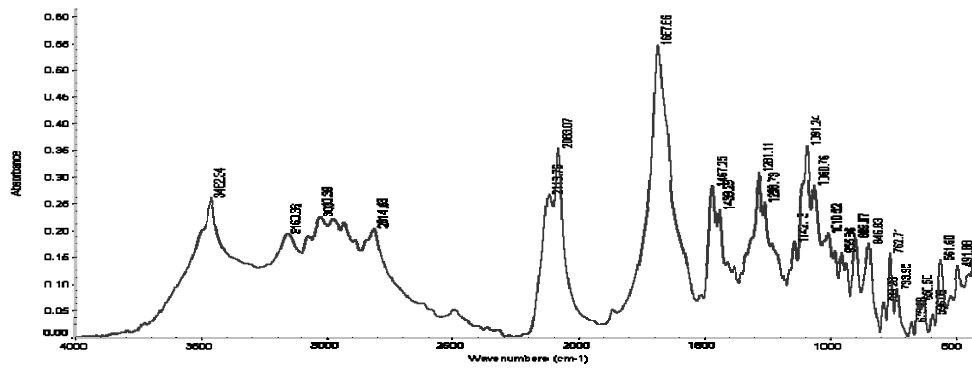


Fig. 18: FTIR study of AZT: (EC: Sodium CMC)

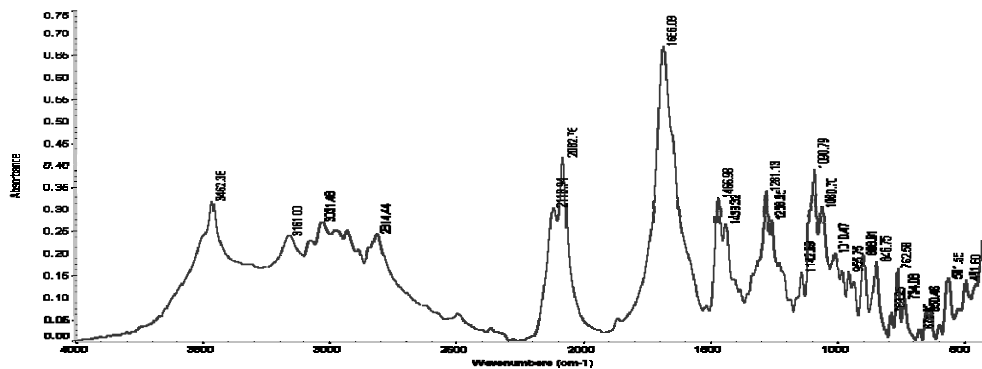


Fig. 19: FTIR study of AZT: (Xanthan gum: Sodium CMC)

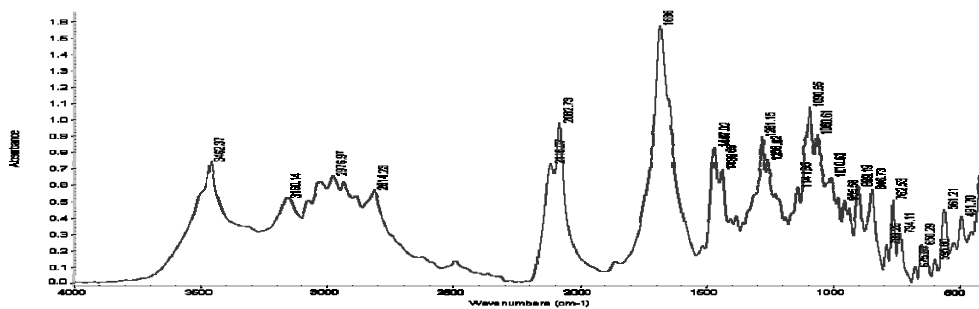


Fig. 20: FTIR study of AZT: EC

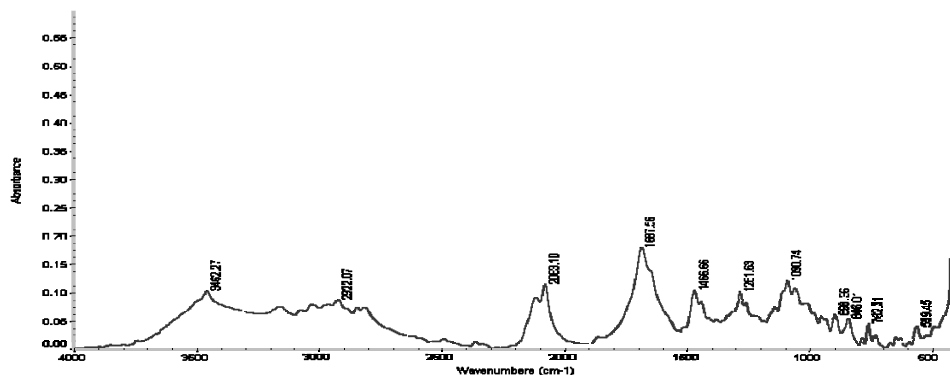


Fig. 21: FTIR study of AZT: (Xanthan gum: HPMC E.LV-15)

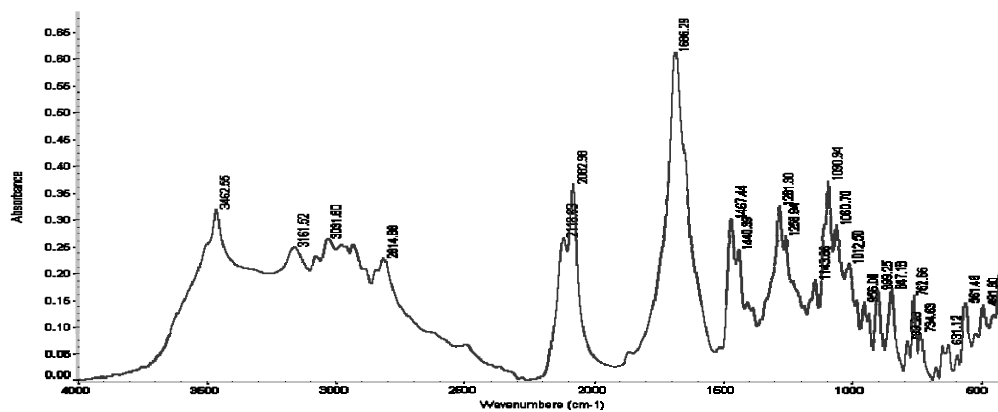


Fig. 22: FTIR study of AZT: (Xanthan gum: Eudragit L-155)

Dissolution study

In this study formulation X₁, X₂, X₄ and X₆, the drug release was found in the range between 58 to 79% within 12hrs. Whereas in formulation E₃ and E₇ it was in the range between 65 to 75%, it is due to the nature of polymer's characteristics. The formulation X₁, X₆ and X₁₁ containing only Xanthan gum were found only swelling of polymer without erosion throughout the study. Due to non erosion effect the total drug could not released and showed fast order release kinetics. But in case of X₁₁ the release kinetics is zero-order with correlation factor 0.99272.

The formulation X₃, X₄, X₅, X₇, X₉, X₁₂ and X₁₄ shows zero-order kinetic of release with 80% to 97% of drug released. As these formulations containing a combination of two polymer i.e. Xanthan gum, combine with E.C, Sodium CMC, HPMC in the different ratios, which helps to erosion of the polymer network. But in presence of

sodium CMC in the formulation X₄, X₉, X₁₄, E₃, E₇ and E₁₁, the drug released in 12 hour was in the range of 75% to 85% and shows zero-order kinetics. The drug release was depends on the concentration of Na CMC i.e. by increasing the concentration of Na CMC the formulation gives more sustaining action. The formulation X₄ & E₃ containing Na CMC with Xanthan gum and EC respectively in the ratio 1:1 gave more sustaining action i.e. 79.16% and 65.21% respectively in 12 hour which was independent of initial drug concentration.

From the above study it was concluded that presence of sodium CMC gives zero-order release kinetics and the linearity ranges from 0.990 to 0.996. It has also good drug entrapment efficiency ranges from 96 to 106% of drug. The release kinetics of formulations X₁ to X₁₄ was shown in table no-7 and for formulations E₁ to E₁₁ shown in table no-8.

Table 7: Kinetic values obtained from different plots of formulation x₁ to x₁₄

Formulations	Correlation coefficient			
	Zero order	First order	higuchi'plot	Hixson-crowel plot
X ₁	0.98794277	0.99655081	0.966274422	0.997200541
X ₂	0.961519923	0.994518117	0.985052755	0.988134552
X ₃	0.950749432	0.930232387	0.954837715	0.988425871
X ₄	0.990353116	0.936309347	0.884786845	0.962661314
X ₅	0.988712076	0.803764053	0.920952362	0.938299617
X ₆	0.97974623	0.993735945	0.978419418	0.994620801
X ₇	0.991189284	0.891966258	0.926575406	0.944478336
X ₉	0.99402494	0.931597371	0.893318875	0.961409396
X ₁₁	0.992712221	0.963677891	0.963677891	0.982143961
X ₁₂	0.966360705	0.866387688	0.952479763	0.966456077
X ₁₄	0.990353116	0.931953782	0.914691193	0.969073451

Table 8: Kinetic values obtained from different plots of formulation e₁ to e₁₁

Formulations	Correlation Coefficient			
	Zero order	First order	higuchi'plot	Hixson-crowel plot
E ₁	0.925304937	0.994105359	0.992383022	0.989546995
E ₂	0.932950765	0.939081943	0.988152236	0.995945802
E ₃	0.992099977	0.969597392	0.910797572	0.981054711
E ₄	0.782894464	0.940362299	0.980779641	0.898852318
E ₅	0.935799366	0.990150473	0.992698695	0.992777298
E ₇	0.994803028	0.943876608	0.904527566	0.969005957
E ₉	0.97817746	0.92866615	0.977666115	0.979009559
E ₁₁	0.996335215	0.894334511	0.894334511	0.948371114

From the above discussion it was concluded that the formulation containing sodium CMC with Xanthan gum and EC gives sustained release of drug more than 12hrs.

CONCLUSION

In the present investigation, Zidovudine matrix tablets were successfully fabricated using selected polymers as detailed in the formulation table and evaluated for its sustained release properties. From the results obtained, it can be concluded that stable formulation could be developed by incorporating both hydrophilic and hydrophobic polymers in a definite proportion so that sustained release profile is maintained for an extended periods of time. A total number of twenty seven formulations were prepared with varying proportions of the polymers. It can be concluded from the research study that among the prepared formulations, X₄ and E₃ are the best.

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