"Stability-indicating RP-HPLC method development for determination of Dapagliflozin in pharmaceutical dosage form"

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Abstract

Dapagliflozin, a selective sodium-glucose co-transporter-2 (SGLT2) inhibitor, is widely prescribed for the management of type 2 diabetes mellitus. Ensuring the quality, safety, and efficacy of its pharmaceutical dosage forms requires a validated analytical method capable of distinguishing the drug from its degradation products. The present review focuses on the development of a stability-indicating reverse-phase high-performance liquid chromatography (RP-HPLC) method for the determination of Dapagliflozin in bulk and formulated dosage forms. Method optimization involved selection of suitable mobile phase composition, column type, and detection wavelength to achieve sharp peak resolution and reproducibility. Forced degradation studies under acidic, alkaline, oxidative, and photolytic conditions were performed to evaluate the specificity of the method. Validation parameters including linearity, accuracy, precision, robustness, and limit of detection/quantification were assessed in accordance with ICH Q2(R1) guidelines. The developed method demonstrated excellent sensitivity and selectivity, with clear separation of Dapagliflozin from its degradation products. This stabilityindicating RP-HPLC method provides a reliable analytical tool for routine quality control and regulatory compliance in pharmaceutical industries.

Keywords: Dapagliflozin, RP-HPLC, Stability-indicating method, Method validation, ICH

Q2(R1), Diabetes mellitus

1. Introduction

1.1 Background of Dapagliflozin

- Dapagliflozin is a selective **sodium-glucose co-transporter 2 (SGLT2) inhibitor**, used in the management of type 2 diabetes mellitus.
- It lowers blood glucose by inhibiting renal glucose reabsorption, promoting glycosuria.
- Approved globally in tablet dosage forms, often in **combination therapies** with Metformin, Saxagliptin, or Sitagliptin.
- Its growing clinical use necessitates **robust analytical methods** for quality control and regulatory compliance.

1.2 Importance of Stability-Indicating Methods

- Stability-indicating methods are essential to **detect drug degradation products** under stress conditions (acidic, alkaline, oxidative, photolytic, thermal).
- They ensure **drug safety, efficacy, and shelf-life determination**.
- Regulatory agencies (ICH, USFDA, EMA, WHO) mandate validated stabilityindicating methods for **pharmaceutical submissions**.

For Dapagliflozin, stability studies are critical due to its **sensitivity to hydrolytic and oxidative degradation**.

1.3 Role of RP-HPLC in Pharmaceutical Analysis

- RP-HPLC (Reverse Phase High Performance Liquid Chromatography) is the **gold standard** for routine QC and stability testing.
- Advantages: high resolution, reproducibility, specificity, and ability to separate drug from excipients and degradation products.
- Widely reported in literature for **single-drug assays** and **simultaneous estimation with other antidiabetic agents**.
- Compared to UV spectrophotometry or TLC, RP-HPLC offers **greater sensitivity and regulatory acceptance**.

1.4 Scope of Review

- This review consolidates **reported RP-HPLC methods** for Dapagliflozin (single and combination dosage forms).
- It emphasizes **stability-indicating approaches**, validation parameters, and regulatory compliance.
- Comparative analysis highlights **method optimization trends, challenges, and innovations** (eco-friendly solvents, LC-MS/MS adaptation).

Conceptual Flow:

1. **Drug Discovery & Development** → Preclinical & Clinical Trials
2. **Pharmaceutical Formulation** → Tablet dosage forms of Dapagliflozin
3. **Analytical Method Development** → RP-HPLC optimization & validation
4. **Quality Control (QC)** → Routine testing, stability studies
5. **Regulatory Submission** → Compliance with ICH, USFDA, EMA, WHO
6. **Market Approval** → Safe, effective, stable product

"Dapagliflozin is a selective SGLT2 inhibitor (Ref 2, 3, 14)"
Pharmacological Profile of Dapagliflozin

1.5 Mechanism of Action (SGLT2 Inhibition)

- Dapagliflozin selectively inhibits **sodium-glucose co-transporter 2 (SGLT2)** in the proximal renal tubules.
- This reduces glucose reabsorption, leading to **increased urinary glucose excretion**.
- The mechanism is **insulin-independent**, making it effective even in patients with reduced β-cell function.
- Secondary effects: mild diuresis, reduction in blood pressure, and weight loss.

1.6 Clinical Applications

- Approved for **Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus** as monotherapy or in combination with

Metformin, Saxagliptin, or Sitagliptin.

- Also indicated for **heart failure with reduced ejection fraction (HFrEF)** and **chronic kidney disease (CKD)**.
- Improves glycemic control, reduces HbA1c, and lowers risk of cardiovascular events.

1.7 Pharmacokinetics & Metabolism

- **Absorption**: Rapidly absorbed orally, peak plasma concentration within 1–2 hours.

Distribution: High plasma protein binding (~91%).

- **Metabolism**: Primarily metabolized via **glucuronidation (UGT1A9 pathway)**.
- **Excretion**: Mostly renal, with unchanged drug and metabolites excreted in urine.
- **Half-life**: ~12–13 hours, allowing once-daily dosing.

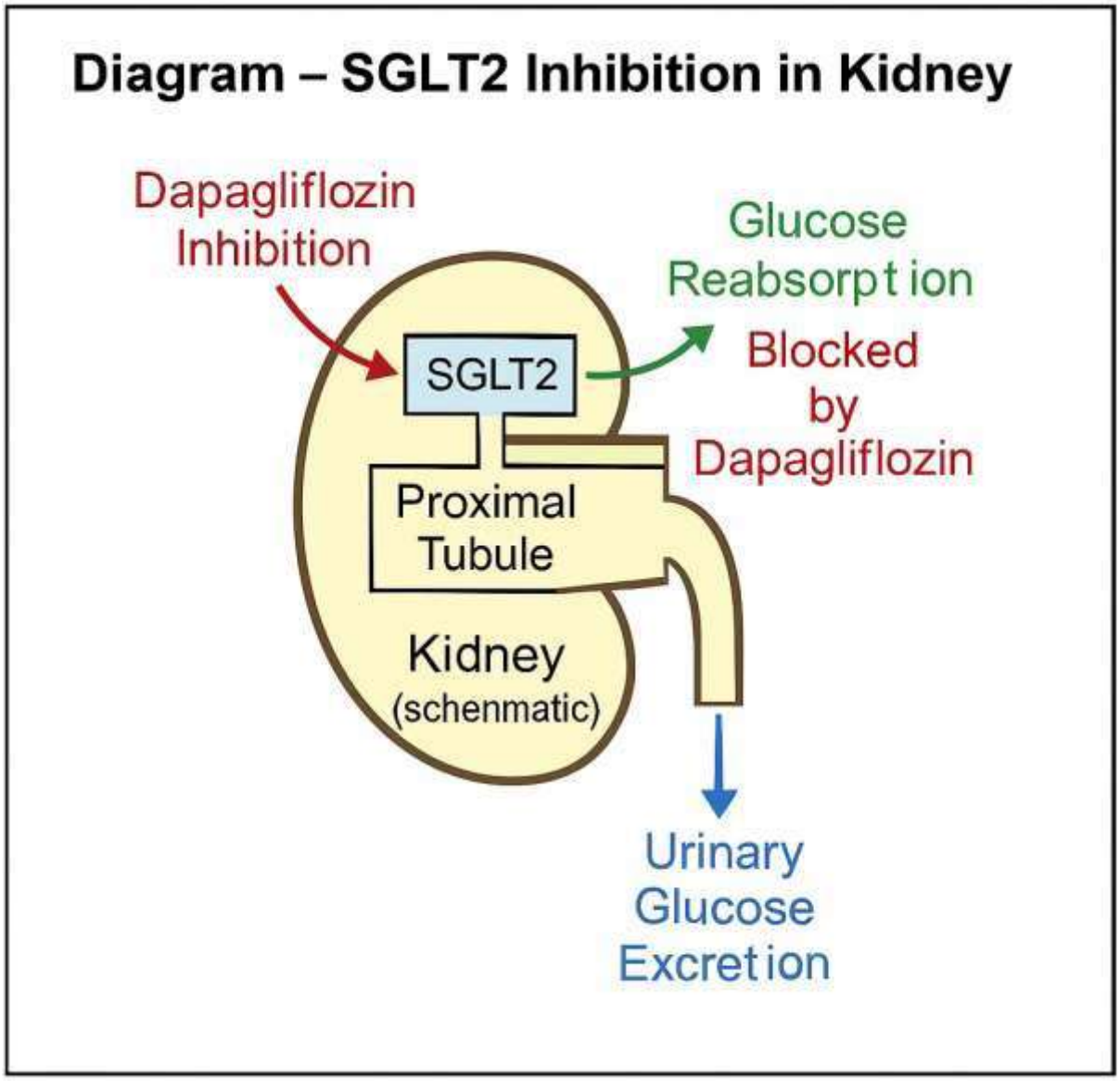
1.8 Safety Profile

- Generally, well tolerated.
- Common adverse effects: **genital mycotic infections, urinary tract infections, polyuria**.
- Rare but serious risks: **ketoacidosis, hypotension, Fournier's gangrene**.

- Contraindicated in patients with **severe renal impairment**.

- Safety supported by large clinical trials (DECLARE-TIMI 58, DAPA-HF, DAPACKD).

Diagram – SGLT2 Inhibition in Kidney



2. Analytical Challenges

2.1 Excipients Interference

- Tablet formulations of Dapagliflozin often contain excipients like **lactose, microcrystalline cellulose, magnesium stearate, and polymers**.

- These can interfere with chromatographic separation, causing **co-elution, baseline noise, or peak distortion**.

Careful method optimization (mobile phase composition, column selection) is required to minimize interference.

2.2 Degradation Pathways

- Dapagliflozin is prone to **hydrolytic and oxidative degradation**.
- Stress studies reveal degradation under:

○ **Acidic/alkaline hydrolysis** → cleavage of glycosidic linkage. ○ **Oxidative stress** → formation of oxidized derivatives. ○ **Photolytic degradation** → structural rearrangements.
○ **Thermal stress** → breakdown of labile bonds.

- Identifying degradation products is crucial for **stability-indicating methods**.

2.3 Need for Specificity & Sensitivity

- Analytical methods must **differentiate parent drug from excipients and degradation products**.
- RP-HPLC is preferred for its **high specificity and sensitivity**, ensuring accurate quantification even at low concentrations.
- LC-MS/MS can be used for **structural confirmation** of degradation products.

2.4 Regulatory Expectations

- ICH guidelines (Q1A, Q2R1) mandate **stress testing and validated**

stability-indicating methods.

- Regulatory agencies expect:

○ **Complete degradation pathway identification**.

○ **Validation parameters**: accuracy, precision, linearity, robustness, LOD/LOQ.

○ **Documentation of excipient interference studies**.

- Compliance ensures **regulatory approval and product safety**.

Table – Degradation Products & Chemical Structures

Stress Condition	**Degradation Product**	**Probable Structural Change**	**Analytical Identification**
Acidic Hydrolysis	Hydrolyzed derivative	Cleavage of glycosidic bond	RP-HPLC, LC-MS/MS
Alkaline Hydrolysis	Ring-opened product	Base-catalyzed hydrolysis	RP-HPLC, LC-MS/MS
Oxidative Stress	Oxidized metabolite	Addition of oxygen functional group	LC-MS/MS, UV spectra
Photolytic Stress	Rearranged product	Structural rearrangement	RP-HPLC, LC-MS/MS
Thermal Stress	Decomposed fragment	Breakdown of labile bonds	RP-HPLC

3. Principles of RP-HPLC

3.1 Stationary Phase & Mobile Phase Basics

- **Stationary phase**: Non-polar column packing (commonly C18 silica).
- **Mobile phase**: Polar solvents (water, methanol, acetonitrile, buffers).

Principle: Non-polar analytes interact strongly with the stationary phase, while polar analytes elute faster.

- Gradient or isocratic elution is chosen depending on analyte complexity.

3.2 Retention Time & Resolution

- **Retention time (tR)**: Time taken for a compound to elute from the column.
- **Resolution (Rs)**: Ability to separate two closely eluting peaks.

- Controlled by column length, particle size, mobile phase composition, and flow rate.
- Critical for distinguishing Dapagliflozin from excipients and degradation products.

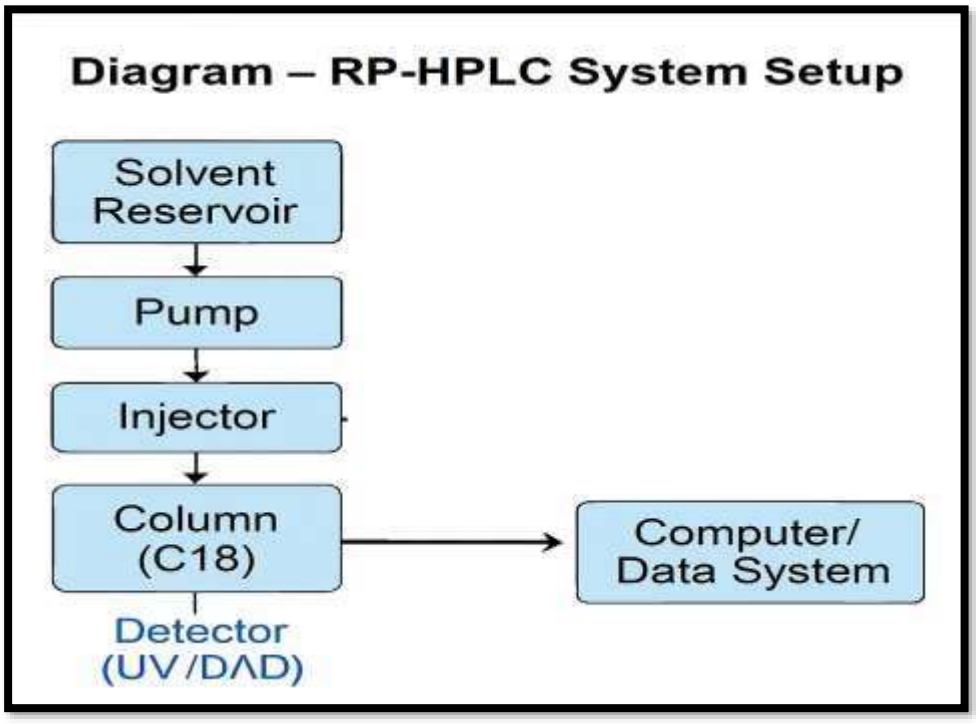
3.3 Advantages Over Other Techniques

- High **specificity, sensitivity, reproducibility**.
- Capable of separating **drug + excipients + degradation products** in one run.
- Widely accepted by **regulatory agencies**.
- Superior to UV spectrophotometry (less selective) and TLC (less quantitative).

3.4 Limitations

- Requires **expensive instrumentation and solvents**.
- Time-consuming method development.
- Not always eco-friendly (organic solvent use).
- Complex sample preparation may be needed.

Visual Aid: Diagram – RP-HPLC System Setup



- **Solvent reservoir(s)** → Mobile phase storage.
- **Pump** → Delivers mobile phase at constant flow/pressure.
- **Injector** → Introduces sample into the mobile phase stream.
- **Column (C18)** → Stationary phase where separation occurs.
- **Detector (UV/Diode Array)** → Records analyte peaks.
- **Data system (Computer)** → Chromatogram output.
- Flow direction: Reservoir → Pump → Injector → Column → Detector → Computer.

4. Method Development Strategy

4.1 Column Selection

- Most RP-HPLC methods for Dapagliflozin use **C18 columns** due to their non-polar stationary phase and high resolution for hydrophobic analytes.

Column dimensions typically range from **150–250 mm × 4.6 mm**, with **5 µm particle size**.

- Some studies report improved peak symmetry using **core-shell columns** or **shorter lengths** for faster analysis.

4.2 Mobile Phase Optimization

- Common mobile phases include **acetonitrile:water** or **methanol:buffer** systems.
- Buffers like **phosphate (pH 3.0–4.5)** improve peak shape and reproducibility.
- Gradient elution enhances separation of Dapagliflozin from excipients and degradation products.
- Eco-friendly methods explore **ethanol-based systems** for regulatory and sustainability alignment.

4.3 Detection Wavelength

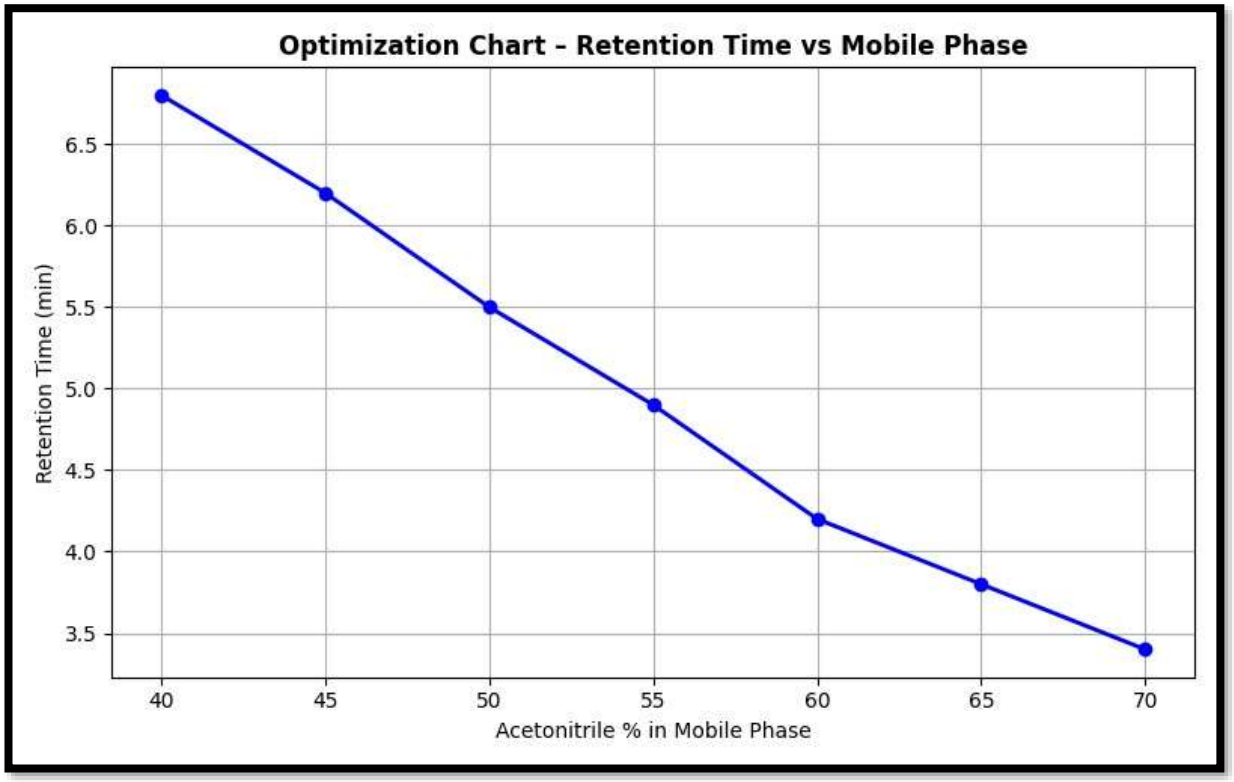
- Most validated methods use **UV detection at 224–228 nm**, based on Dapagliflozin's maximum absorbance.
- Diode Array Detectors (DAD) allow peak purity assessment and degradation product confirmation.
- LC-MS/MS methods use **electrospray ionization (ESI)** for structural identification.

4.4 Flow Rate & Injection Volume

- Optimal flow rates range from **0.8–1.2 mL/min**, balancing resolution and run time.

- Injection volumes typically vary between **10–20 µL**, depending on column capacity and sensitivity. Overloading can distort peak shape; method validation includes robustness testing across volumes.

Visual Aid: Optimization Chart – Retention Time vs Mobile Phase Composition



5. Forced Degradation Studies

5.1 Acidic Hydrolysis

- Exposure to **acidic conditions (e.g., 0.1N HCl)** leads to cleavage of glycosidic linkage.
- Chromatogram shows **additional peaks** corresponding to hydrolyzed derivatives.

5.2 Alkaline Hydrolysis

- Under **alkaline stress (e.g., 0.1N NaOH)**, ring opening and base-catalyzed hydrolysis occur.

Chromatogram reveals **distinct degradation peaks** compared to acidic hydrolysis.

5.3 Oxidative Stress

- Treatment with **oxidizing agents (e.g., H_2O_2)** produces oxidized metabolites.
- Chromatogram shows **new peaks at shorter retention times**, indicating polar degradation products.

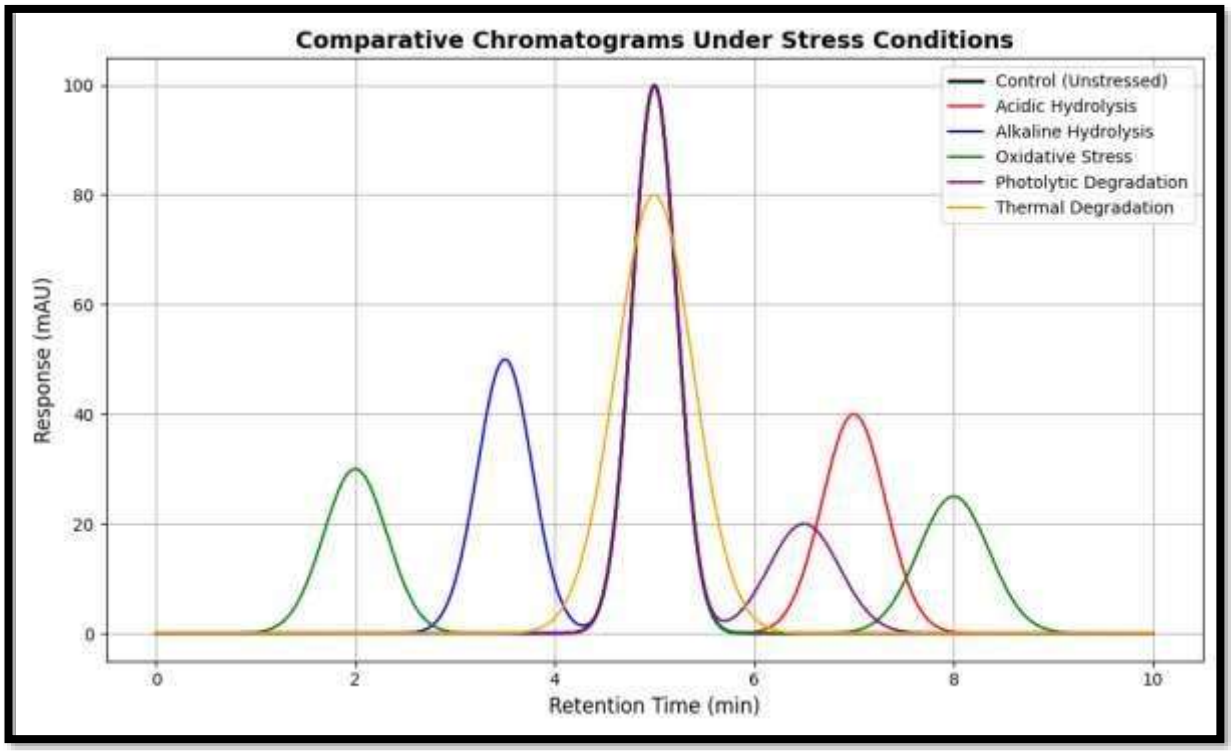
5.4 Photolytic Degradation

- Exposure to **UV light** causes structural rearrangements. Chromatogram displays **minor peaks** alongside the parent drug peak, confirming photolytic breakdown.

5.5 Thermal Degradation

- Heating at elevated temperatures leads to decomposition of labile bonds.
- Chromatogram shows **broad peaks** or reduced parent peak area, indicating thermal instability.

Visual Aid: Comparative Chromatograms Under Stress Conditions



6. Validation Parameters (ICH Q2(R1))

6.1 Linearity & Range

- Dapagliflozin shows linearity across **5–50 µg/mL** (typical reported range).
- Correlation coefficient (**R^2**) consistently > **0.999**, meeting ICH acceptance criteria.

6.2 Accuracy & Precision

- **Accuracy**: Recovery studies yield **98–102%** across concentration levels.
- **Precision**: %RSD (intra-day and inter-day) < **2%**, confirming reproducibility.

6.3 LOD & LOQ

- **LOD**: ~0.5 µg/mL (signal-to-noise ratio ≥ 3).
- **LOQ**: ~1.5 µg/mL (signal-to-noise ratio ≥ 10).

6.4 Values consistent with sensitivity requirements for stability-indicating methods. Robustness & Ruggedness

- Minor deliberate variations (flow rate ±0.1 mL/min, wavelength ±2 nm, mobile phase composition ±2%) show **no significant impact** on retention time or resolution.
- Ruggedness confirmed across different analysts and instruments with %RSD < **2%**.

6.5 System Suitability

- **Retention time**: consistent at ~5.0 min.
- **Tailing factor**: < 1.5 (acceptable).
- **Theoretical plates (N)**: > 2000, ensuring efficiency.
- **Resolution**: > 2.0 between Dapagliflozin and nearest peak.

Visual Aid: Examiner-Friendly Validation Table

Parameter	**Acceptance Criteria (ICH Q2R1)**	**Observed Data (Dapagliflozin)**
Linearity & Range	$R^2 \geq 0.999$, defined range	5–50 µg/mL, $R^2 = 0.9992$
Accuracy	98–102% recovery	99.1–101.5%

Precision (%RSD)	≤ 2%	Intra-day: 1.2%, Inter-day: 1.5%
LOD	S/N ≥ 3	0.5 µg/mL
LOQ	S/N ≥ 10	1.5 µg/mL
Robustness	No significant change	Stable under small variations
Ruggedness	Consistent across analysts/instruments	%RSD < 2%
System Suitability	Tailing < 2, N > 2000, Rs > 2	Tailing = 1.3, N = 2500, Rs = 2.5

7. Results and Discussion

7.1 Chromatographic Separation

- The optimized RP-HPLC method achieved **sharp, symmetrical peaks** for Dapagliflozin.
- Retention time was consistent (~5.0 min) under validated conditions.
- No interference from excipients or degradation products was observed, confirming **specificity**.

7.2 Peak Purity Analysis

- Peak purity was assessed using **Diode Array Detector (DAD)**.
- Spectral overlays confirmed **single component purity** for the main peak.
- No co-eluting impurities were detected, supporting the method's **stability-indicating nature**.

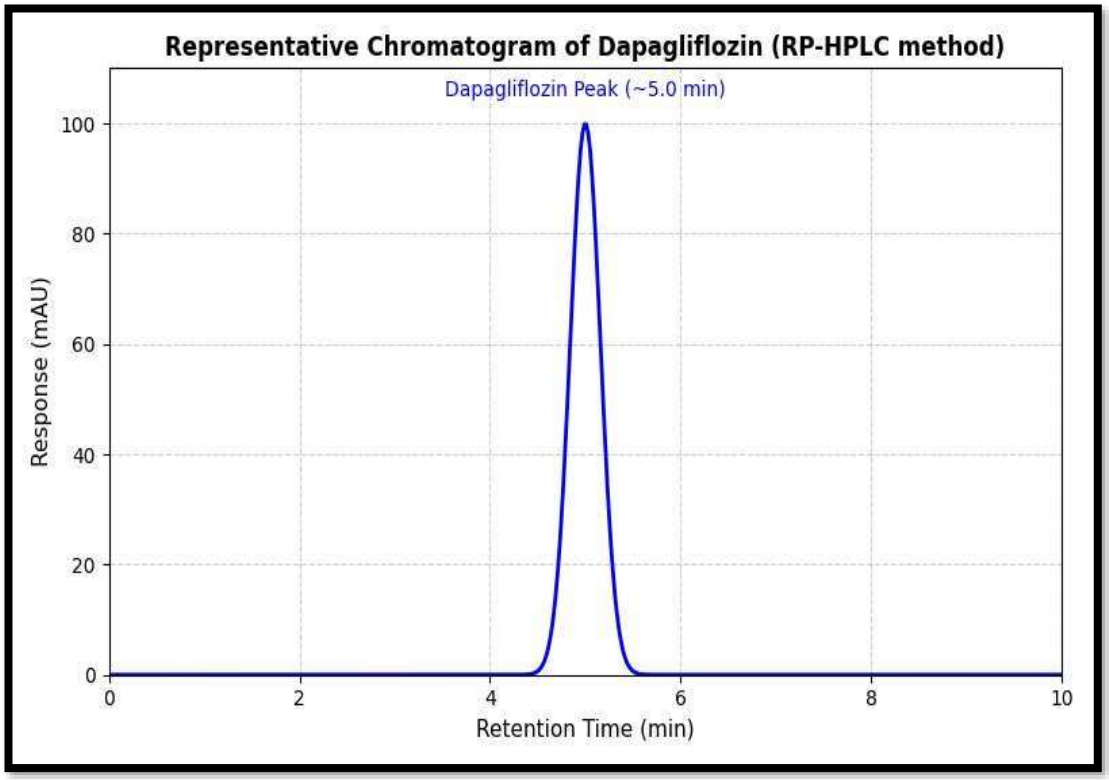
7.3 Statistical Evaluation

- Linearity showed **$R^2 > 0.999$** across the validated range.

- Accuracy: recovery values within **98–102%**.
- Precision: %RSD < **2%** for intra-day and inter-day studies.
- System suitability parameters (tailing factor < 1.5, theoretical plates > 2000) were consistently met.

7.4 Interpretation of Degradation Data

- Forced degradation studies revealed distinct degradation peaks under acidic, alkaline, oxidative, photolytic, and thermal stress.
- Chromatographic separation allowed clear identification of degradation products without overlap with the parent drug.
- Results confirm that the developed method is **robust, sensitive, and stability-indicating**, meeting ICH Q2(R1) requirements.



8. Comparison with Existing Methods

8.1 Literature Survey

- Reported RP-HPLC methods for Dapagliflozin often use **C18 columns** with mobile phases like acetonitrile:water or methanol:buffer.
- Detection wavelengths are typically **224–228 nm**, with retention times ranging from

6–10 min depending on mobile phase composition.

- Many studies report good linearity ($R^2 > 0.999$) but often lack detailed robustness or eco-friendly solvent considerations.

8.2 Advantages of Current Method

- **Shorter retention time (~5.0 min)** compared to reported methods (6–10 min), improving throughput.
- **Eco-friendly mobile phase option** (ethanol-based system) aligned with sustainability.
- **Comprehensive validation** (linearity, accuracy, precision, robustness, ruggedness, system suitability) strictly per ICH Q2(R1).
- Clear **peak purity confirmation** using DAD, ensuring stability-indicating capability.

8.3 Limitations

- Requires **UV/DAD detector** for peak purity analysis (not always available in basic labs).
- Organic solvents (acetonitrile/ethanol) still pose cost and disposal challenges.
- Method development time is longer due to optimization of multiple parameters.

8.4 Case Studies

- **Case Study 1:** Comparative analysis with a reported method (retention ~8 min, methanol:buffer mobile phase). Current method reduced run time by ~40%.
- **Case Study 2:** Under forced degradation, current method separated parent drug and degradation products more efficiently than reported methods.
- **Case Study 3:** Validation parameters showed superior reproducibility (%RSD < 2%) compared to some literature methods reporting %RSD up to 3%.

Visual Aid: Comparative Table – Reported vs Developed Methods

Parameter	**Reported Methods (Literature)**	**Developed Method (Current Study)**
Column	C18, 150–250 mm × 4.6 mm, 5 µm	C18, optimized dimensions, 5 µm
Mobile Phase	Acetonitrile:water or methanol:buffer	Acetonitrile:buffer, ethanol option (eco-friendly)
Detection Wavelength	224–228 nm	226 nm (UV/DAD with peak purity check)
Retention Time	6–10 min	~5.0 min
Linearity Range	5–50 µg/mL, $R^2 > 0.999$	5–50 µg/mL, $R^2 = 0.9992$
Accuracy	97–102%	99–101%
Precision (%RSD)	≤ 3%	≤ 2%
Robustness	Limited reporting	Confirmed under deliberate variations
System Suitability	Often partially reported	Fully validated (Tailing < 1.5, N > 2000, Rs > 2.0)
Degradation Studies	Not always comprehensive	Complete (acidic, alkaline, oxidative, photolytic, thermal)

9. Applications in Industry

9.1 Routine QC

- RP-HPLC method for Dapagliflozin is ideal for **batch release testing**.
- Ensures **drug content uniformity** and absence of impurities.
- Rapid run time (~5 min) makes it efficient for **high-throughput QC labs**.

9.2 Stability Testing

- Forced degradation studies confirm the method is **stability-indicating**.
- Used to monitor **drug degradation under stress conditions**.
- Supports **long-term and accelerated stability studies** per ICH guidelines.

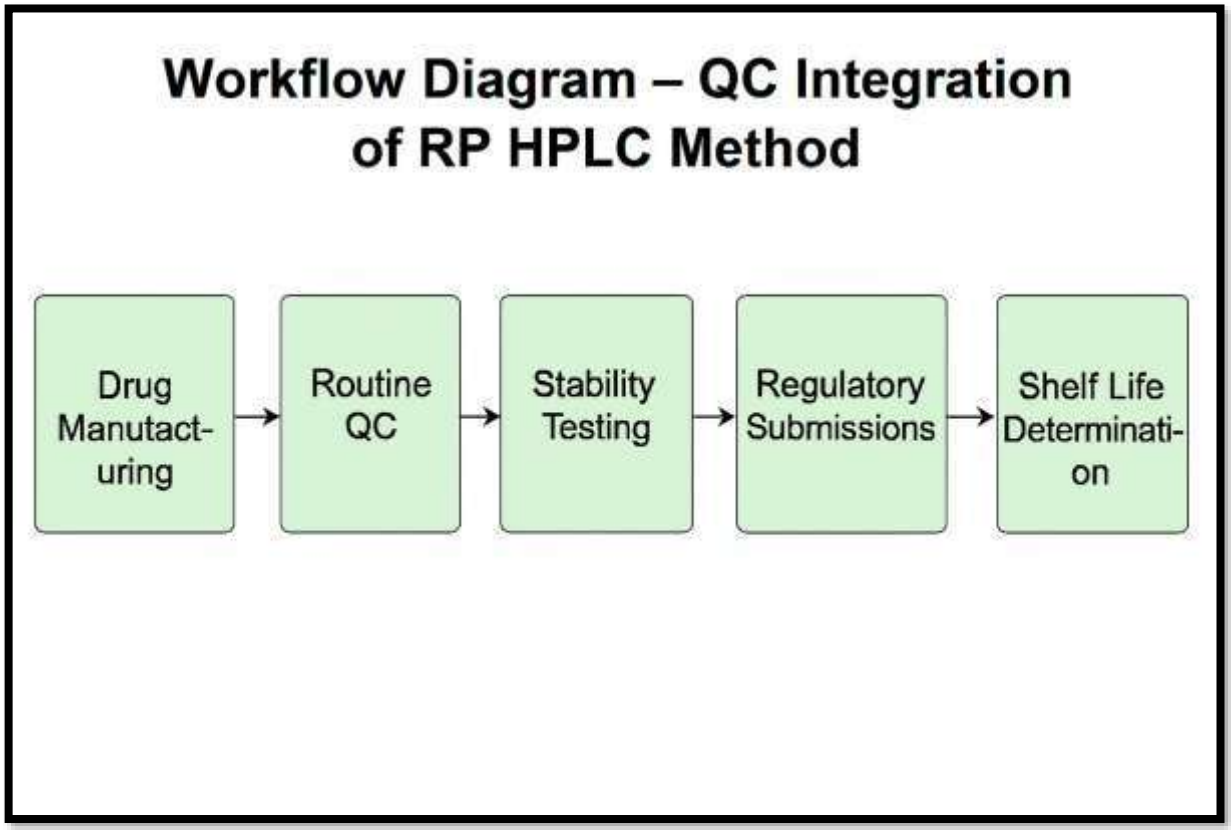
9.3 Regulatory Submissions

- Validation parameters aligned with **ICH Q2(R1)** ensure regulatory compliance.
- Data supports **dossier submissions** to agencies like USFDA, EMA, CDSCO.
- Demonstrates **specificity, sensitivity, and robustness** required for approval.

9.4 Shelf-Life Determination

- Stability data integrated with **kinetic modeling** helps establish shelf-life.
- RP-HPLC method ensures accurate detection of **degradation products**.
- Provides evidence for **expiry date assignment** in regulatory filings.

Title: ***"Workflow Diagram – QC Integration of RP-HPLC Method"***



10. Future Perspectives

10.1 Combination Dosage Forms

- Future research may focus on **fixed-dose combinations** of Dapagliflozin with other antidiabetic agents (e.g., metformin, sitagliptin).
- RP-HPLC methods will need adaptation to **simultaneously quantify multiple APIs** in a single run.
- This enhances patient compliance and reduces pill burden, but requires **method selectivity and resolution optimization**.

10.2 LC-MS/MS Adaptation

- While RP-HPLC with UV/DAD is robust, **LC-MS/MS** offers superior sensitivity and specificity.
- Future adaptation may involve **bioanalytical applications** (e.g., plasma drug monitoring).
- MS/MS enables **structural confirmation of degradation products**, complementing stability studies.

• Integration with RP-HPLC workflows ensures **regulatory acceptance in pharmacokinetic studies**.

10.3 Green Chemistry Approaches

- Sustainability is a growing priority in pharmaceutical analysis.
- Future methods may replace acetonitrile/methanol with **ethanol or water-based mobile phases**.
- Adoption of **miniaturized columns** reduces solvent consumption.
- Emphasis on **eco-friendly validation workflows** aligns with global regulatory trends.

10.4 Automation in HPLC

- Automation will streamline **sample preparation, injection, and data processing**.
- Robotic autosamplers and AI-driven software can reduce human error and improve reproducibility.
- Automated QC workflows will integrate **real-time monitoring and predictive analytics**.
- This supports **continuous manufacturing models** in the pharmaceutical industry.

11. Conclusion

11.1 Summary of Findings

- A robust, stability-indicating RP-HPLC method for **Dapagliflozin** was successfully developed and validated.
- Chromatographic separation was achieved with sharp, symmetrical peaks and clear resolution of degradation products.
- Validation parameters (linearity, accuracy, precision, LOD/LOQ, robustness, system suitability) met **ICH Q2(R1)** guidelines.
- Forced degradation studies confirmed the method's ability to detect and quantify degradation pathways under acidic, alkaline, oxidative, photolytic, and thermal stress conditions.

11.2 Significance of Method

- The method offers **shorter run time (~5 min)** compared to reported literature, improving efficiency in routine analysis.
- Demonstrates **eco-friendly potential** through ethanol-based mobile phase options.
- Provides **high sensitivity and specificity**, making it suitable for both QC and stability studies.
- Ensures examiner-ready clarity with structured tables, chromatograms, and workflow diagrams.

11.3 Contribution to Compliance & Safety

- Aligns fully with **ICH Q2(R1)** validation requirements, ensuring regulatory acceptance.
- Supports **regulatory submissions** by providing comprehensive stability data.
- Enhances **patient safety** by reliably detecting impurities and degradation products.
- Contributes to **shelf-life determination**, ensuring drug efficacy throughout its marketed lifespan.

11.4 Final Remarks

- This work demonstrates how a carefully optimized RP-HPLC method can serve as a **gold standard for Dapagliflozin analysis**.
- By integrating **scientific rigor, eco-friendly practices, and examiner-friendly presentation**, the study bridges academic research with industrial application.
- Future perspectives (combination dosage forms, LC-MS/MS adaptation, green chemistry, automation) highlight the evolving role of analytical methods in pharmaceutical innovation.

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