

Original Research Article

Investigation of Enzymes Binding to “Voglibose- An Antidiabetic Drug” and the choice of Enzyme to be used for Biosensing.

ABSTRACT

Aims: This paper concentrates on the investigation of the enzymes binding to Voglibose and the choice of the enzyme which is suitable for Biosensing. Voglibose is an antidiabetic drug which is reactive and hence used in very low concentrations. The existing methods of analysis of this drug are associated with certain disadvantages. Hence there is a need to establish alternative, simpler method of analysis to overcome the disadvantages of available methods.

Study design: This is based on biosensing which requires a bioreceptor for this drug. Thus, enzymes interacting with the drug are studied and the choice of the enzyme that can act as bioreceptor for this drug is confirmed and the same could be used for the next experimentation.

Place and Duration of Study: This experiment was carried out as a part of the project under Indian Nanotechnology User Program (INUP) at IITB, Mumbai.

Methodology: The approach is based on two steps for the confirmation and choice of the enzyme binding to the drug. The first approach is Molecular Docking which is a simulation done to check the enzymes binding with the drug and the second approach is Chemical Analysis to confirm the same.

Results: The experiments conducted shows that Voglibose inhibits both Alpha Amylase and Alpha Glucosidase. The literature mentions that Voglibose is an inhibitor of Alpha Glucosidase. This experiment confirms that Voglibose is an inhibitor of Alpha Amylase also. Thus in future Alpha Amylase can also be chosen as an appropriate target Voglibose.

Conclusion: The present *In-silico* and *In-vitro* swot analysis indicates that like Alpha glucosidase even Alpha amylase binds to Voglibose. The interaction outcome suggests that in future one can consider Alpha amylase as a choice of target in applications of Biosensing.

Keywords: Voglibose, Alpha Amylase, Alpha Glucosidase, Molecular Docking, Chemical Analysis.

1. INTRODUCTION

Diabetes Mellitus is an important concern for the health care sector. Postprandial hyperglycemia (which are normally measured two hours after and before eating in a postprandial glucose test) is one of the earliest abnormalities of glucose homeostasis associated with type 2 diabetes and is markedly exaggerated in diabetic patients with fasting hyperglycemia. It is known that Postprandial hyperglycemia (PPHG) contributes to the increased risk of both micro- and macrovascular complications in patients with diabetes mellitus. It appears in the literature that managing postprandial plasma glucose is more important in order to prevent the complications of type-2 diabetes [1].

Different types of drug are available for lowering PPHG levels. Amongst the oral drug are the Alpha Glucosidase inhibitors like Acarbose, Miglitol and Voglibose. These drugs are comparatively inexpensive and can be orally taken for longer durations [2].

23 The literature mentions that Miglitol and Voglibose have equal efficacy in reducing PPHG as compared to
24 Acarbose. The clinical benefit of Voglibose was its better safety profile as compared to Miglitol and
25 Acarbose. Looking at the efficacy and safety profile amongst the available Alpha glucosidase inhibitors,
26 Voglibose has a preferential choice in the management of postprandial hyperglycaemia in treatment of
27 type-2 diabetes mellitus [1].

28
29 Voglibose [3] is a research product of Takeda Pharma, a Japan based company. Voglibose is a highly
30 reactive drug and is recommended in small dosages of 0.2mg to 0.3mg, which is supposed to be lowest
31 in the pharmaceutical industry. The analysis of this drug is of great importance because of its reactivity
32 and low concentration and also as it is an anti- diabetic drug; which is used for the treatment of type 2
33 diabetes; one of the prevalent ailments in the society.

34

35 ***Existing Methods for the Analysis of Voglibose***

36 There are different methods of analysis of this particular drug. JP describes the post derivatization
37 methods with Fluorescent detectors for the estimation (assay) of Voglibose in its monographs. This
38 describes about an LC_FD method with post column derivatization for the determination of Voglibose in
39 pharmaceutical tablets. For the post column derivatization, Sodium Periodate and Taurine dissolved in
40 water was used as post column reagent. Voglibose was detected at an excitation wavelength of 350nm
41 and an emission wavelength of 430nm [3]. The paper on “Development and validation of UV-
42 Spectroscopic method for estimation of Voglibose in bulk and tablets” mentions about UV spectroscopic
43 methods for the analysis of Voglibose in pharmaceutical formulation. This also mentions of the post
44 derivatization method. Voglibose was estimated at 282nm. This method was used for the estimation of
45 Voglibose in bulk and tablet dosage forms [4]. The paper on “Development and Validation of RP-HPLC
46 Method for Quantitative Analysis Voglibose in Pure and Pharmaceutical Formulations” mentions of
47 reverse phase HPLC method for the analysis of Voglibose in tablet and bulk forms. In this method
48 Voglibose was derivatized with Sodium Periodate and Taurine as Voglibose cannot be directly detected.
49 Voglibose was detected at 282nm [5].

50 The paper on “Stability Indicating RP-HPLC Method for Estimation of Voglibose in Bulk and Tablet
51 Dosage forms” mentions about two methods used for the analysis of Voglibose. The first method
52 describes about an LC_FD method with post column derivatization for the determination of Voglibose in
53 pharmaceutical tablets. In this Voglibose was detected at an excitation wavelength of 350nm and an
54 emission wavelength of 430nm [6]. The second method mentions about an LC_MS assay procedure for
55 the analysis of Voglibose which is without derivatization. Voglibose was detected in an ESI mode with
56 single ion recording (SIR, m/z 268.1) [6]. The paper on “Quantitative determination of Voglibose in
57 pharmaceutical tablets using high-performance liquid chromatography-fluorescence detection with post-

58 column derivatization and mass spectrometric detection” mentions about a methods used for the analysis
59 of Voglibose in bulk and tablet dosage forms using HPLC. Voglibose was detected at 272nm [7].

60 ***Challenges of the Existing Methods***

61 Assay method of analysis has to be performed for every drug. When the concentrations are less than
62 10mg per tablet, Uniformity of Content (UOC) is also an important parameter to be tested.

63 If a standard method is not available for analysis of any drug, then a method has to be established for the
64 analysis.

65 Voglibose is antidiabetic drug used in very low concentrations and has least absorbability. There are
66 methods established using UV detector but they suffers low response.

67 In all the above mentioned methods of analysis, Voglibose is detected after performing post derivatization
68 which requires expensive instrumentation and skilled personnel.

69 Thus in cases of Assay and UOC the method either suffer poor resolution or requires expensive
70 instrumentation and skilled personnel.

71 There is another parameter called the Dissolution which is a method of evaluation of absorption rate of
72 drug in the body where the drug is diluted to a still lower concentration. Because of its dilution no method
73 of analysis is established for this parameter. Even JP does not mention any method of analysis for
74 dissolution studies because of the dilution to low concentrations.

75 Thus there is requirement for a new method of analysis to estimate the drug in low concentration using
76 simpler techniques and also to provide a method for dissolution studies [8]

77

78 ***The Approach:***

79 This alternative method can be based on the principle of Biosensing [9][10][11] which is based on the
80 Drug Enzyme interaction.

81 Thus the first step towards this biosensing is to identify the Enzyme binding to the Drug.

82 This paper concentrates on the investigation of the enzymes interacting to the drug and then the choice of
83 the enzyme for further studies.

84 For the investigation there are three enzymes considered

- 85 1. CYP450[12][13][14] series of enzymes which are involved in the formation (synthesis) and
86 breakdown (metabolism)
- 87 2. Alpha Glucosidase as Voglibose is an Alpha Glucosidase Inhibitor AGI [15]
- 88 3. Alpha Amylase

89 Enzymes produced from the Cytochrome P450 [12][13][14] genes are involved in the formation
90 (synthesis) and breakdown (metabolism) of various molecules and chemicals within cells.

91 The cytochrome P450 enzymes account for the metabolism of approximately 20% of therapeutic drugs
92 including certain oral antidiabetic drugs (OADs). 2C9 is the CYP450 enzyme for metabolizing antidiabetic
93 drug [12]. But the CYP enzymes are associated with their disadvantages of instability and are expensive.

94 Thus, these drawbacks limit the use of CYP 450 series of enzymes as potential enzymes to be used to
95 bind with Voglibose.

96
97 The literature strongly mentions in the Mechanism of Voglibose [15] that Voglibose is a competitive
98 inhibitor of Alpha Glucosidase thus it is clear that Voglibose binds to Alpha Glucosidase. This point is as
99 mentioned in the Drug Bank of Voglibose. There are references that Acarbose another anti diabetic drug
100 inhibits Alpha Amylase so an attempt was done to test if Voglibose also inhibits Alpha Amylase [16]. The
101 binding of Alpha Amylase and Voglibose was tested using Molecular Docking process. The same was
102 confirmed by chemical analysis [17]. As the literature of binding of Alpha Glucosidase with Voglibose is
103 already in the Drug Bank of Voglibose, this paper more concentrates to confirm the binding of Voglibose
104 and Alpha Amylase. Molecular Docking is the first step to confirm the binding of the Alpha Amylase and
105 Voglibose which is followed by the chemical analysis.

106 107 **2. MATERIAL AND METHODS / EXPERIMENTAL DETAILS / METHODOLOGY**

108 109 **2.1 In-Silico Methodology.**

110 **2.1.1. Receptor Protein:**

111 The 3D crystallized complex structure of Alpha glucosidase with Acarbose Pdb-id:2QMJ [18] and crystal
112 complex structure of alpha-amylase with Acarviostatin amylase Pdb-id: 3OLD [19] were downloaded from
113 the RCSB Protein Data Bank

114 **2.1.2. Active site:**

115 Identification of an active site or binding site on a protein is a principal analysis in a structure based drug
116 discovery. In present work the default binding site for Acarbose and Acarviostatin was considered for the
117 Voglibose too.

118 **2.1.3. Ligand preparation:**

119 The 3D structure of Voglibose in sketched using Chemskech 12.0 [20] and optimized the structure using
120 UFF [21] in Argus lab [22] and converted to .Pdb file format.

121 **2.1.4 Molecular docking:** Molecular interactions play a key role in all biological reactions. Chemical
122 structure are either mimicking or mitigating the effect of natural ligands binding on to the receptor by
123 exerting the pharmacological reactions. Computational methods are used to understand this mode of
124 binding of ligands to their receptors is known as Molecular Docking [23]. Molecular docking study is
125 carried out in AutodockVina [24].

126 Gasteiger charges are added to the ligand and maximum numbers of calculated rotatable bonds were
127 considered torsions using AutoDock4.0 [25] tool. Kollman charges and the solvation term were then
128 added to the protein structure using the same. Considering the default active site, grid box is adjusted
129 with the number of points in X, Y, Z-axis so that the entire active site of protein is covered. Due to large
130 volume of active site is acquired by Acarbose and Acarviostatin we have increased the spacing value to

131 1.0 Å from default value of 0.375 Å between grid points so to investigate the large volume space.
132 Considering with default parameters the molecular docking process is successfully carried out.

133 **2.2 Chemical Analysis to verify the Binding of Alpha Amylase with Voglibose.**

134 The chemical analysis was done to confirm the following

- 135 1. The activity of Alpha Amylase
- 136 2. Inhibition of Alpha Amylase by Voglibose

137

138 **2.2.1 Materials used**

- 139 1. Starch Solution
- 140 2. Buffer solution
- 141 3. Alpha Amylase Solution
- 142 4. Iodine Indicator

143 *2.2.1.1 Preparation of Starch Solution:*

144 The starch used was potato starch and 50mg was dissolved in 100ml water with continuous stirring at
145 100 degree C.

146 *2.2.1.2 Preparation of buffer*

147 The Alpha Amylase used is Fungal Diastase which is active in Acetate buffer of pH=5-6. This was
148 obtained as a complimentary sample from Anthem Solutions.

149 357ml of 0.1M Acetic Acid was mixed with 643ml of 0.1M Sodium Acetate to get Acetate buffer of pH=5.

150 *2.2.1.3 Preparation of Alpha Amylase Solution*

151 The Alpha Amylase used is fungal diastase with strength of 1:800

152 100units of Alpha Amylase corresponds to 125mg of the Fungal Diastase used. This was dilute 1000ml of
153 the buffer. Then 10ml of this solution was diluted in 100ml Acetate Buffer.1ml of this test solution should
154 be capable of digesting about 10mg of starch.

155 *2.2.1.4 Iodine Indicator*

156 The Indicator used is Iodine Indicator of 2mM. This was prepared mixing 0.2% Iodine and 2% Potassium
157 Iodide.

158

159 **2.3 Procedure for testing the activity of Alpha Amylase used in the experiment (Fungal 160 Diastase)**

161 Starch Iodine Test is used to confirm the activity of the Alpha Amylase.

162 Weigh accurately a quantity containing 100units of Alpha Amylase. Make a solution in 200ml of acetate
163 buffer solution of pH=5. 10ml of Alpha Amylase is diluted to 100ml with acetate buffer. Different volumes
164 like 3.5ml, 4.5ml, 5ml were added with 5ml of starch solution. The test tubes were kept in water bath at 40
165 degree C for 1 hour. The absorbance value was noted after the addition of 0.5ml Iodine Indicator.

166 **2.4 Procedure for testing inhibition activity of Alpha Amylase by Voglibose.**

167 A known concentration of Alpha Amylase was prepared. Voglibose of 0.3mg/ml, 0.4mg/ml, 0.5mg/ml were
168 prepared in acetate buffer. Then 1ml of Voglibose (of the above mentioned concentrations) and 1 ml of
169 Alpha Amylase were maintained at 40 degree C for 60 minutes. Later 1ml of Starch was added and
170 maintained at 40 degree C for 60 minutes. Iodine indicator was added and the spectroscopy was
171 obtained.

172

173 **2.5 Procedure for testing Inhibition activity of Alpha Amylase by Voglibose with the**
174 **concentration of 0.3mg/ml which is the concentration available in tablets.**

175 A known concentrations of Alpha Amylase were prepared. Voglibose of 0.3mg/ml was prepared in
176 acetate buffer. Then 1ml of Voglibose and 1 ml of Alpha Amylase (of various concentrations) were
177 maintained at 40 degree C for 60 minutes. Later 1ml of Starch was added and maintained at 40 degree C
178 for 60 minutes. Iodine indicator was added and the spectroscopy was obtained.

179 The inhibition of Alpha Amylase by 0.3mg/ml Voglibose was obtained by the formula: $A(\text{control}) -$
180 $A(\text{test})/A(\text{control}) * 100$

181

182 **3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

183

184 **3.1 Results of Molecular docking**

185 The 3D optimized structure of Voglibose exhibited a minimum energy of 18.3637 kcal/mol from 210.3295
186 kcal/mol. Molecular docking studies predicts the interaction between selected ligand molecule and
187 element of an amino acid involved in an active site of a receptor protein. Therefore the optimum binding
188 energy, types of bonding, interaction and as well as pharmacophoric points are equally important in
189 justification and validation of results. The binding energy of Voglibose to Gluco-amylase is -6.1kcal/mol
190 and Voglibose to Alpha-amylase is -6.4kcal/mol. Both the generated complexes exhibited a hydrogen
191 bond, vander waal interaction and covalent features. In case of Pdb id 2QMJ Gluco amylase, Voglibose
192 appropriately placed inside the binding site cavity forming a typical hydrogen, Vander Waal and covalent
193 bond interaction to most of the pharmacophoric amino acid residues. Where ASP 203, ASP 443, ARG
194 526 are core amino acid for binding the Acarbose within the Gluco amylase by hydrogen bond formation,
195 similar binding activity is exhibited with Voglibose too, such as hydrogen bond: ASP 203, ASP 443, ARG
196 526. Vander Waal interaction: TYR 299, ILE 364, TRP 441, TRP 539, PHE 575 and Covalent bond with
197 ASP 327, TRP 406, MET 444, ASP 542. Whereas in a crystallized structure Pdb id 3OLD Alpha amylase
198 exhibited a binding affinity with ASP 197, ALA 198, GLU 233, HIS 299, ASP 300, GLY 306 and etc. Here
199 similar binding can be seen with Voglibose too, where ASP 197, ALA 198, GLU 233, HIS 299, ASP 300,
200 GLY 306 formed a hydrogen bond between Voglibose and Alpha amylase, Vander Waal interaction with
201 TRP 58, GLU 60, VAL 98, HIS 101, LEU 162, THR 163, LEU 165 and Covalent bond with TYR 62, GLN
202 63, ARG 195, HIS 299, HIS 305 given in Table (1), Figure (1) and (2).

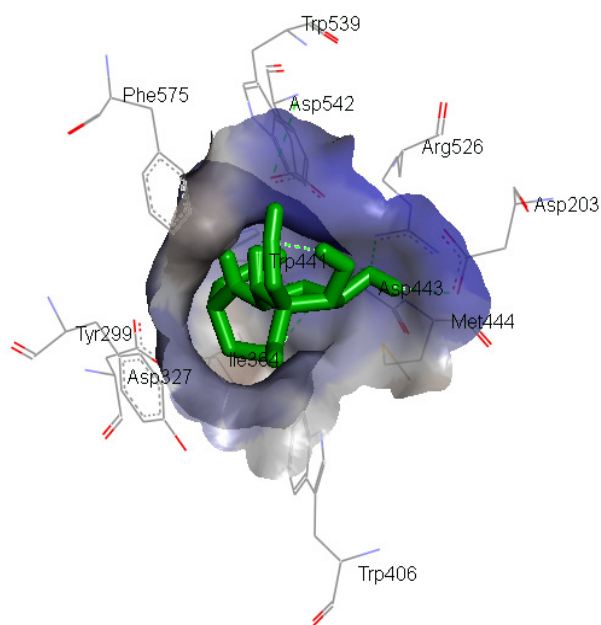
203 **Table 1: Molecular Docking Interaction Analysis**

204

Complex		Hydrogen bond	Vander Waal interaction	Covalent bond	Binding energy Kcal/mol
Voglibose	to	ASP 203, ASP 443, ARG 526	TYR 299, ILE 364, TRP 441, TRP 539, PHE 575.	ASP 327, TRP 406, MET 444, ASP 542	-6.1
Voglibose	to	ASP 197, ALA 198, GLU 233, HIS 299, ASP 300, GLY 306.	TRP 58, GLU 60, VAL 98, HIS 101, LEU 162, THR 163, LEU 165.	TYR 62, GLN 63, ARG 195, HIS 299, HIS 305.	-6.6

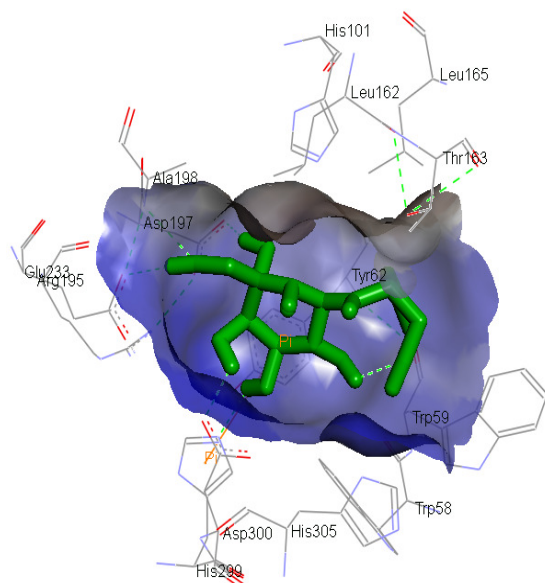
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206



207

208 **Fig 1: Interaction of Alpha Glucosidase with Voglibose**



209
210 **Fig 2: Interaction of Alpha Amylase with Voglibose**

211
212 **3.2 Results of Chemical Analysis**

213 Alpha amylase is active and as the concentration of alpha amylase increases the absorption of starch
214 increases which is shown in Table (2) and Table (3)

215
216 **Table 2: Testing the activity of Alpha Amylase (Fungal Diastase) used for the experiment, the**
217 **absorbance was observed at wavelength of 576nm**

Alpha amylase	Starch	Iodine	Absorbance value
3.5ml	5ml	0.5ml	0.18
4ml	5ml	0.5ml	0.15
4.5ml	5ml	0.5ml	0.148
5ml	5ml	0.5ml	0.11

218
219 **Table 3: Testing Inhibition activity of Alpha Amylase by Voglibose, the absorbance was observed**
220 **at wavelength of 576nm.**

Alpha amyloses	Voglibose	Starch	Absorbance value
-	-	1ml	0.565
1ml	-	1ml	0.029
1ml	0.3mg	1ml	0.12
1ml	0.4mg	1ml	0.16
1ml	0.5mg	1ml	0.18

221 **3.2.1 Tabulation for testing percentage inhibition of Alpha Amylase by 0.3mg/ml of Voglibose.**

222
 223 **Experiment 1:** Testing the inhibition of 25ml Alpha Amylase in 25ml buffer by 0.3mg/ml Voglibose which
 224 is shown in Table (4).

225
 226 **Table 4: Inhibition of 25ml Alpha Amylase in 25ml buffer by 0.3mg/ml Voglibose**

Starch	Alpha amylase	Voglibose	Wavelength	Absorbance value	Percent
1ml	-	-	578	0.983	100
1ml	1ml	-	566	0.229	76.7
1ml	1ml	0.3mg	574	0.39	60.32

227
 228 This shows 16.4% inhibition of Alpha Amylase by 0.3 mg/ml Voglibose.

229
 230 **Experiment 2:** Testing the inhibition of 30ml Alpha Amylase in 20ml buffer by 0.3mg/ml Voglibose which
 231 is shown in Table (5).

232
 233 **Table 5: Testing the inhibition of 30ml Alpha Amylase in 20ml buffer by 0.3mg/ml Voglibose**

Starch	Alpha amylase	Voglibose	Wavelength	Absorbance value	Percent
1ml	-	-	578	0.983	100
1ml	1ml	-	573	0.34	65.41
1ml	1ml	0.3mg	577	0.487	50.45

234
 235 This shows 15% inhibition of Alpha Amylase by 0.3mg/ml Voglibose

236 **Experiment 3:** Testing the inhibition of 40ml Alpha Amylase in 10ml buffer by 0.3mg/ml Voglibose which
 237 is shown in Table (6)

238
 239 **Table 6: Testing the inhibition of 40ml Alpha Amylase in 10ml buffer by 0.3mg/ml Voglibose**

Starch	Alpha amylase	Voglibose	Wavelength	Absorbance value	Percent
1ml	-	-	578	0.983	100
1ml	1ml	-	570	0.409	58.39
1ml	1ml	0.3mg	581	0.557	43.33

240
 241 This shows 15.06% inhibition of Alpha Amylase by 0.3mg/ml Voglibose.

242 **Discussion:**

243 The experiments conducted shows that Voglibose inhibits both Alpha Amylase and Alpha Glucosidase.
244 The literature mentions that Voglibose is an inhibitor of Alpha Glucosidase [14]. This experiment confirms
245 that Voglibose is an inhibitor of Alpha Amylase also. Thus in future Alpha Amylase can also be chosen as
246 an appropriate target Voglibose.

247
248

249 **4. CONCLUSION**

250 The present *In-silico* and *In-vitro* swot analysis indicates that like Alpha glucosidase even Alpha amylase
251 binds to Voglibose. The interaction outcome suggests that in future one can consider Alpha amylase as a
252 choice of target in applications of Biosensing.

253

254 **Reference to a journal:**

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