

Bioequivalence Study of Tadalafil Tablets in Healthy Chinese Volunteers under Fasting Conditions



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Abstract

A two way, randomized cross-over bioequivalence study was conducted to comparing the rate and extent of absorption of two formulations of tadalafil tablets after a single dose of 20mg. The study was carried out using healthy male volunteers (N=29) under fasting conditions. A highly sensitive liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry method was developed and validated, which was employed to determine the tadalafil in human plasma. Phoenix Win Nonl in 8.0 was used for pharmacokinetic analysis and bioequivalence between the two Tadalafil Tablets was determined by calculating 90% confidence intervals (90% C.I.) for the ratio of C_{max}, AUC_{0-t} and AUC_{0-∞} values for the test and reference products. The 90% confidence intervals for the ratio of C_{max} (87.60-101.01%), AUC_{0-t} (89.98-104.55%) and AUC_{0-∞} (89.45-104.03%) values for the test and reference products. These values were within the acceptable range of 80.00%-125.00%, proposed by FDA. It was concluded that there was no significant difference between the rate and extent of absorption of the two Tadalafil Tablets.

Introduction

Approved by FDA in 2003 for the treatment of penile erectile dysfunction and in 2009 for the treatment of the pulmonary arterial hypertension, tadalafil is a selective, reversible inhibitor of PDE5 and it is the active compound of Cialis® [1,2]. The therapeutic dose of tadalafil for the treatment of penile erectile dysfunction ranges from 2.5 to 20mg, daily. While in the treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension the doses of tadalafil usually at 40mg. It has been confirmed that tadalafil could improve exercise capacity and tolerance, pulmonary hemodynamic and quality of life [3-5].

In many instances, the differences of generic drugs and the original product was correlated successfully to dissimilar drug blood levels caused mainly by impaired absorption. The bioequivalent of two drug products is defined as they are pharmaceutical equivalents or pharmaceutical alternatives and their rates and extents of absorption do not show a significant difference when administered at the same molar dose of the therapeutic moiety under similar experimental conditions [6]. The purpose of this study is to evaluate bioequivalence of domestically produced Tadalafil Tablets and Cialis® from Lilly.

Method Validation

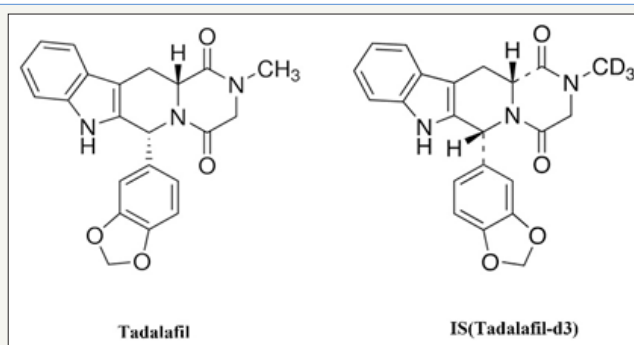


Figure 1: Chemical structures of tadalafil and tadalafil-d3.

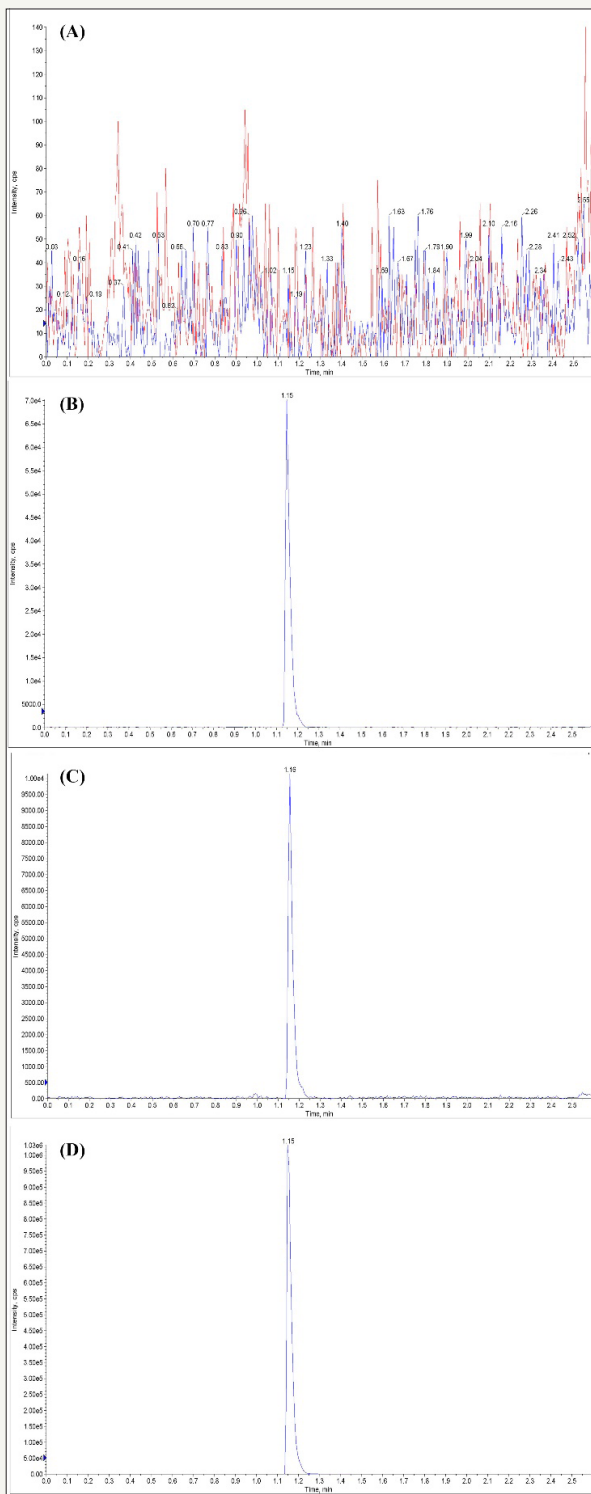


Figure 2: Representative chromatograms of blank human plasma matrix (A) and LLOQ of tadalafil-d3 (B) and Representative Chromatograms of tadalafil (2ng/mL) (C) and Representative chromatograms of samples (D).

A rapid, selective, sensitive, and reliable UPLC-MS/MS based method for the determination of tadalafil in human plasma was developed and validated to support the bioequivalence trial. Tadalafil was extracted from human plasma by protein precipitation with acetonitrile. In this paper; tadalafil-d3 was used as the internal standard of tadalafil Figure 1. A good chromatographic separation of tadalafil was achieved on a Shim-pack Giss C18 column (2.1×50mm,

1.9µm), with the analytical time 2.6min for each sample Figure 2. The linearity range of the assay was from 2 to 500ng/ml. The intra-day precision and inter-day precision ranged from 3.19 to 6.08%, and the accuracy (RE) was within±11.0%. The extraction recoveries of tadalafil from human plasma were 97.6-102%, and the overall CV calculated for the concentration of matrix effects was 1.56-1.92%, respectively.

Bioequivalence Trial

The study was an open, randomized, two-period, two-group crossover trial, with two weeks washout interval. During the first period, the group A received a single 20mg dose of Cialis® (reference product), while the group B received a single 20mg dose of test product. At the second period, the procedure was repeated on the groups in reverse. The study was performed according to the guideline of Good Clinical Practice. The protocol of this study was approved by Ethical Committee of Nanjing First Hospital. The tablets were given to the volunteers in the morning, after an overnight fast, with 240ml of water. Volunteers did not ingest any alcoholic drink, coffee or other xanthine-containing drinks during the trial. Furthermore, they did not take any other drug, 3 week before the study and during its execution. Blood samples were collected at 0 (pre-dose) and at 0.25, 0.5, 1.0, 1.5, 2.0, 2.5, 3, 3.5, 4.0, 5.0, 6.0, 8.0, 12, 24, 36, 48, and 96h post-dose. The samples were centrifuged and the plasma was stored at -70 °C until quantification.

Quantification of Plasma Samples

Calibration standards of 2, 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200 and 500ng/ml and quality-control samples of 6, 60 and 400ng/ml were prepared by spiking blank human plasma with standard solutions of tadalafil of the samples, 11.11% were reanalyzed (116 out of 1044). Incurred sample reanalysis performance was 98.2%. The ISR result meets the acceptance criteria.

Bioequivalence Evaluation Results

Average concentration versus time curves after given reference (Cialis® 20mg, Lilly) and test (20mg) products to 29 healthy volunteers is shown in Figure 3. The average values of pharmacokinetic parameters after given reference (Cialis® 20mg, Lilly) and test (20mg) products to 29 healthy volunteers is shown in Table 1. The 90% confidence intervals (90% C.I.) for the ratio of Cmax, AUC0-t and AUC0-∞ values for the test and reference products were calculated by Phoenix Win Nonlin 8.0, is shown in Table 2.

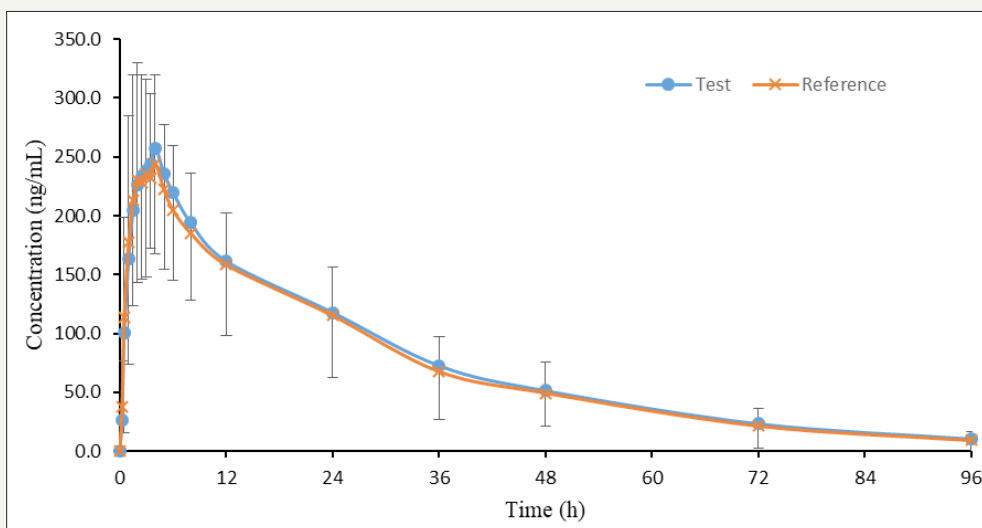


Figure 3: Average plasma concentrations of tadalafil after given reference (Cialis® 20mg, Lilly) and test (20mg) products to 29 Chinese healthy volunteers. Bars indicate standard deviations (upper bars for reference and lower bars for test).

Table 1: Pharmacokinetic parameters after given reference (Cialis® 20mg, Lilly) and test (20mg) products to 29 Chinese healthy volunteers.

	Reference (Cialis® 20mg, Lilly)				Test (20mg)			
	Tmax	Cmax	AUC0-t	AUC0-∞	Tmax	Cmax	AUC0-t	AUC0-∞
	hr	ng/mL	hr*ng/mL	hr*ng/mL	hr	ng/mL	hr*ng/mL	hr*ng/mL
Average	3.1	283.7	7210.3	7578.5	2.7	267.4	6936.8	7231
S.D.	1.3	80.3	3215.2	3604.1	1.3	75.9	2493.8	2713.5
CV (%)	41.5	28.3	44.6	47.6	47.5	28.4	36	37.5

Table 2: Bioequivalence evaluation of two Tadalafil Tablets in healthy Chinese volunteers (n=29).

Dependent	Units	Form Ref	CI_90_Lower	CI_90_Upper
Ln(Cmax)	ng/mL	R	87.6	101.01
Ln(AUC0-t)	hr*ng/mL	R	89.98	104.55
Ln(AUC0-∞)	hr*ng/mL	R	89.45	104.03

Conclusion

The 90% confidence intervals for C_{max} (87.60-101.01%), AUC_{0-t} (89.98-104.55%) and AUC_{0-∞} (89.45-104.03%), are within the 80-125% interval proposed by regulatory agencies (FDA). It was concluded that the two Tadalafil Tablets are bioequivalent in their rate and extent of absorption. Thus, two Tadalafil Tablets can be used interchangeably, without any prejudice of therapeutic effect.

Acknowledgement

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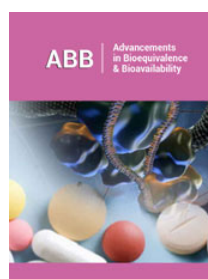
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