

# Research of Stability of “Exkair” Tablets by the Method of Long-Term Storage

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## To cite this article:

Urziya Alimova, Assyl Boshkayeva, Nurgan Tussupova, Roza Omarova, Galiya Ibadullayeva, Zuriyadda Sakipova, Yernar Dzhadranov, Kurakbai Zharimbetov, Eduard Bissenbaev, Ubaidulla Datkhayev. Research of Stability of “Exkair” Tablets by the Method of Long-Term Storage. *Clinical Medicine Research*. Vol. 5, No. 2, 2016, pp. 13-19. doi: 10.11648/j.cmr.20160502.12

**Received:** February 16, 2016; **Accepted:** April 13, 2016; **Published:** April 26, 2016

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**Abstract:** The raised standard requirements regulated by the State Pharmacopoeia and the Analytical Normative Document (AND) are imposed to quality of the medicines applied in medical practice of the Republic of Kazakhstan. One of the main requirements imposed to quality of medicines is stability. The specification of test of stability of the tablets "Exkair" reflecting an assessment of physical and chemical properties of tablets and the list of indicators of quality according to requirements of the project of the AND is developed for expression of this concept. Determination of stability of tablets was carried out in the mode (long-term/real time testing) of long-term tests: temperature of natural storage -  $25\pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$ , relative humidity -  $(60\pm 5)\%$ . The indicators of quality of tablets included in the specification of stability on HP "Exkair" with reduction of test conditions and techniques of definition are presented. Results of test of stability of tablets confirm structure of a preparation: active substances - extract from the rhizomes of *Acorus Calamus* (0.009 g), extract of flowers of the *Calendula officinalis* (0.003 g); auxiliary substances - ascorbic acid (0.005 g), calcium stearate (0.006 g), sugar powder (0.517 g), aerosil (0.0015 g). On the basis of these test the assessment of quality of tablets with establishment of numerical values of parameters including period of storage is carried out. Period of storage of medicine established experimentally by the method of long-term storage under natural conditions within 2 years in packing regulated by the draft of the Analytical Normative Document (AND). Initial period of storage of the tablets "Exkair" makes 2 years. In this research period of storage of ready medicine was determined irrespective of expiration dates of the main substance (extract from the rhizomes of *Acorus Calamus* and extract of flowers of the *Calendula officinalis*).

**Keywords:** Extracts, Tablets, Stability, Quality of Drugs, Storage, Provisional Analytical Normative Document (PAND)

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## 1. Introduction

Determination of the stability and shelf life, is an important requirement for new drugs [1, 2, 3, 4]. As is known, the conditions of storage of medicinal products should ensure the preservation of property, safety of medicines throughout their life-cycle, to prevent contamination, cross-contamination and regrading.

Stability of the medicinal substances (MS) and their

quality are inseparably linked among themselves. Experts of various field of pharmacy, including pharmaceutical chemistry are engaged in the solution of this problem. Important criterion of stability is preservation of quality of medicinal substances. Decrease in quantitative content pharmacological of active agent in the medicines confirms instability. Reduction of amount of (MS) shouldn't be followed by formation of toxic products or change of physical and chemical properties of the operating

components and decrease them for 10% shouldn't happen within 3-4 years in ready dosage forms [5, 6, 7, 8].

As period of storage of medicines understand the period of time during which they have to keep completely the therapeutic activity, harmlessness and on the level of qualitative and quantitative characteristics to conform to requirements of the State Pharmacopoeia and the provided on this dosage form that is AND [9, 10]. After an expiration date medicine can't be used without the corresponding requality control.

Decomposition at the wrong storage of medicines can be established on appearance. However formation of products of decomposition isn't always followed by noticeable decrease in pharmacological activity of medicines. Not always external changes can be caused by decomposition of insignificant amount of medicinal substances with formation of nontoxic or indifferent products of decomposition. AND allows a certain amount of such impurity in medicinal substances. Sometimes external doesn't undergo changes of medicines, however at their chemical research the impurity of products of decomposition differing in toxicity or other orientation of pharmacological action are found. Control of availability of such impurity is strictly regulated by AND.

Pay to questions of stability of medicines huge attention, however approach to this problem was purely empirical. The assessment of quality was carried out on change of taste, color, a consistence, formation of a deposit and so on. Only in the last decades research of stability is put on a scientific basis.

Increase of stability of the medicines can be reached on the basis of research of indicators of quality of the medicines defining their period of storage. Test of stability of medicines is the obligatory module of the registration file [11, 12].

Research objective was research of stability of the tablets "Exkair" by method of long-term storage under natural conditions.

Research problems:

- To develop the specification of long-term test of stability of the tablets "Exkair" on quality indicators according to the draft of AND;
- To develop techniques of definition of indicators of quality of tablets;

- To establish numerical values of parameters of quality of the tablets "Exkair";
- To determine period of storage of the tablets "Exkair".

## 2. Results and Discussion

By using the classical method of determining the stability of the (long-term) drug in the expiration date is stored in compliance with the required conditions and analyzed by PAND (Provisional Analytical Normative Document). Then give a conclusion about the optimal shelf life.

"Exkair" studies conducted on stability of tablets three experimental-industrial batches produced in the laboratory of the Partnership, Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) "Production of medicines "ZHANAFARM". Tests were conducted in the package for sale (contour special packaging made of paper with polyethylene according to TS (technical specifications) 9572-037-11624078-99). Terms and regulations of the frequency of the tests: 0, 3, 6, 9, 12, 18, 24 months, the storage temperature of  $25 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ , relative humidity ( $60 \pm 5$ )%.

In line with the specification of the results of the definition of stability, covering a set of indicators obtained by physical, chemical and microbiological tests.

Over 2 years does not change the composition of the tablets in the primary package. Qualitative and quantitative characteristics of quality parameters were within acceptable limits.

Primary packaging provides adequate protection of the drug against external influences, microbiological characteristics were unchanged and in full compliance with the requirements of the specification.

The results of stability studies indicate the ethnic composition of the drug, the optimum technology for tablets "Exkair" three series (Table 1). Composition "Exkair" pill: active substance - thick extract of rhizome *Acorus Calamus* (0.009 g) and dense extract of flower *Calendula officinalis* (0.003); auxiliary substances - ascorbic acid (0.005 g), calcium stearate (0.006 g), sugar powder (0.517 g), aerosil (0.0015 g). Excipients are selected in accordance with the technological purpose, with the physico-chemical and functional characteristics.

**Table 1.** Experimental industrial series of Exkair tablets for the research of stability.

Nº series	Mass of series	Date of manufacture	Time of research (months)
100313	49.9 kg	the fifth of March 2013	0, 3, 6, 9, 12, 18, 24.
100314	50.0 kg	the tenth of March 2013	0, 3, 6, 9, 12, 18, 24.
100315	51.9 kg	the fifteenth of March 2013	0, 3, 6, 9, 12, 18, 24.

Table 2-4 shows the results of determining the stability embracing complex of quality parameters of tablets "Exkair", obtained by physical, chemical and microbiological tests: description, identification, average mass, the deviation from the average mass, content uniformity, abrasion strength disintegration, aerosil, related impurities, microbiological purity, quantify the content of active substance (camphor,  $\beta$ -pinene, based on the carotenoid  $\beta$ -carotene). The norms of deviations and test methods for these quality parameters are

in accordance with draft of PAND [14]. In tabular data are given the description of all indicators of quality of the tablets "Exkair".

*Related impurity.*

Determination of related impurities was performed by gas chromatography (State Pharmacopoeia of Republic of Kazakhstan I, vol. 1, 2.2.28) [15].

5330.0 mg weighed sample is placed in a volumetric flask of 100 ml, 60 ml of water is added P, stirred until dissolved, bring

to the mark with the same solvent and stirred (test solution).

Weigh 20.0 mg of 5-hydroxymethylfurfural (Sigma-Aldrich, № W501808 category or equivalent quality) was placed in a volumetric 200 mL flask, dissolved in 50 ml of water, P, the solution was stirred and brought up to the mark with the same solvent. 5.0 ml of this solution was placed in a volumetric flask of 100 ml, the solution volume is adjusted to the mark with water and mix P.

1 microliter (mcl) test solution and reference solution was chromatographed successively on a gas chromatograph with a flame ionization detector to obtain at least 5 chromatograms, the following conditions:

- column capillary quartz the size of 30 m x 0.32 mm coated with a stationary phase layer - poly [(cyanopropyl) (phenyl)] [dimethyl] siloxane, thickness 1.8 mm, or equivalent, which satisfies the requirements of the test "Check the suitability of the chromatographic system";

- column oven temperature was programmed from 40°C (delayed 12 minutes) to 240°C (delay of 8 minutes), the rate of increase of temperature - 10°C / min;

- the temperature of the evaporator unit - 200°C;

- flow separation - 1:20;

- detector temperature - 280°C;

- the flow rate of carrier gas (helium for chromatography R) - 35 cm/sec;

- injection volume - 1 mcl.

Area 5-hydroxymethylfurfural peak in the chromatogram of the test solution should not exceed the peak area in the chromatogram of the reference solution (0.1%).

The peak area of any unidentified impurities on the chromatogram of the test solution should not exceed the peak area of the 5-hydroxymethylfurfural in the chromatogram of the reference solution (0.1%).

The sum of the peak areas of impurities should not exceed five areas of 5-hydroxymethylfurfural peak in the chromatogram of the reference solution (0.5%).

Do not take into account the system peak and placebo peaks.

The results are considered reliable if the requirements of the test, "Check the suitability of the chromatographic system".

Notes. Preparation of the reference solution. Weigh 20.0 mg of 5-hydroxymethylfurfural (Sigma-Aldrich, Cat. № W501808 quality or similar) was placed in a volumetric 200 mL flask, dissolved in 50 ml of water P, the solution was stirred and brought up to the mark with the same solvent. 5.0 ml of this solution was placed in a volumetric flask of 100 ml, the solution volume is adjusted to the mark with water P and mix.

Check the suitability of the chromatographic system. The chromatographic system is considered suitable when the condition: the symmetry factor of the peak 5-hydroxymethylfurfural should be between 0.8 to 1.5;

- the relative standard deviation of repeated administration should not exceed 2.0%.

*Microbiological purity.*

Test to determine the microbiological purity is carried out in accordance with the requirements of State Pharmacopoeia of Republic of Kazakhstan, 2.6.12, 2.6.13, category 3 A.

*Preparation of test solution.* 10 g of crushed tablets average sample is placed in a sterile graduated vessel, the volume was adjusted to 100 ml sterile phosphate buffer solution and sodium chloride peptone pH 7.0 and mixed.

*Determination of total bacterial count.* In 1.0 ml of the test sample are plated two-layer method on each of two Petri dishes with nutrient dense number 1.

*Determination of the total number of fungi.* 1.0 ml of the test sample by two-layer plated on each of two Petri dishes with nutrient dense № 2.

*Testing for the presence of bacteria of the family Enterobacteriaceae.* 10.0 ml of test sample introduced into 100 ml of medium № 3.

*Testing for the presence of Staphylococcus aureus and Pseudomonas aeruginosa.* 10.0 ml of test sample introduced into 100 ml of medium № 8.

The preparation is allowed total viable aerobic microorganisms is not more than  $10^3$  bacteria and fungi not more than  $10^2$  in 1 g.

It is not allowed the presence of Enterobacteriaceae in 1 g.

It is not allowed the presence of Staphylococcus aureus and Pseudomonas aeruginosa in 1 g.

**Table 2.** Results of research of stability of Exkair® tablets (series 100313).

Temperature: 25±2°C Date of the beginning of research - 10.03.2013				
Relative humidity: 60±5% Date of the finishing of research - 10.03.2015				
Packing - contour non-porous				
		Months		
		1	3	6
Description	Tablets are cream-coloured, flattened cylindrical in shape.	normal in accordance with PAND Tablets from rhizome Acorus Calamus and from flower Calendula officinalis	normal in accordance with PAND Tablets from rhizome Acorus Calamus and from flower Calendula officinalis	normal in accordance with PAND Tablets from rhizome Acorus Calamus and from flower Calendula officinalis
Identification	In the chromatogram of the experimental solution the time of principal peak should coincide with the time of camphor peak in the chromatogram of comparative solution.	normal in accordance with PAND	normal in accordance with PAND	normal in accordance with PAND
Average mass	Average mass of tablets 0.580 g –	0.59	0.60	0.60

Temperature: 25±2°C Date of the beginning of research - 10.03.2013					
Relative humidity: 60±5% Date of the finishing of research - 10.03.2015					
Packing - contour non-porous					
		Months			
		1	3	6	
Disintegration, min	0.629 g. Not more than fifteen minutes in water (min).	9	8	7	
Abrasion strength	Not more than 1% (in per cent).	0.4	0.5	0.4	
Firmness (in case of crushin)	Not less than 3.5 H.	3.8	3.9	4.1	
Aerosil	Not more than 5.5%.	2.4	2.3	2.4	
Related impurities: 5-hydroxymethylfurfural	Not more than 0.1%.	0.05	0.07	0.05	
Microbiological purity	One gramm of the drug should contain not more than 10 <sup>3</sup> bacteria, 10 <sup>2</sup> yeast and mycelia fungi. The drug shouldn't contain Escherichia coli.	normal in accordance with requirements of the project PAND	normal in accordance with requirements of the project PAND	normal in accordance with requirements of the project PAND	
Content of: - camphor	Not less than 0.9 mg in a tablet.	0.91	0.82	0.91	
- β-pinen	Not less than 0.9 mg in a tablet.	0.90	0.87	0.86	

Table 2. Continue.

Temperature: 25±2°C Date of the beginning of research - 10.03.2013					
Relative humidity: 60±5% Date of the finishing of research - 10.03.2015					
Packing - contour non-porous					
		Months			
		9	12	18	24
Description	Tablets are cream-coloured, flattened cylindrical in shape.	normal in accordance with PAND Tablets from rhizome Acorus Calamus and from flower Calendula officinalis	normal in accordance with PAND Tablets from rhizome Acorus Calamus and from flower Calendula officinalis	normal in accordance with PAND Tablets from rhizome Acorus Calamus and from flower Calendula officinalis	normal in accordance with PAND Tablets from rhizome Acorus Calamus and from flower Calendula officinalis
Identification	In the chromatogram of the experimental solution the time of principal peak should coincide with the time of camphor peak in the chromatogram of comparative solution.	normal in accordance with PAND	normal in accordance with PAND	normal in accordance with PAND	normal in accordance with PAND
Average mass	Average mass of tablets 0.580 g – 0.629 g.	0.59	0.61	0.60	0.60
Disintegration, min	Not more than fifteen minutes in water (min).	8	9	9	8
Abrasion strength	Not more than 1% (in per cent).	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.4
Firmness (in case of crushin)	Not less than 3.5 H.	4.0	3.8	3.9	4.1
Aerosil	Not more than 5.5%.	2.2	2.3	2.5	2.2
Related impurities: 5-hydroxymethylfurfural	Not more than 0.1%.	0.055	0.05	0.06	0.05
Microbiological purity	One gramm of the drug should contain not more than 10 <sup>3</sup> bacteria, 10 <sup>2</sup> yeast and mycelia fungi. The drug shouldn't contain Escherichia coli.	normal in accordance with requirements of the project PAND	normal in accordance with requirements of the project PAND	normal in accordance with requirements of the project PAND	normal in accordance with requirements of the project PAND
Content of: - camphor	Not less than 0.9 mg in a tablet.	0.90	0.90	0.89	0.90
- β-pinen	Not less than 0.9 mg in a tablet.	0.90	0.91	0.92	0.92

**Table 3.** Results of research of stability of Exkair® tablets (series 100314).

Temperature: 25±2°C Date of the beginning of research - 10.03.2013				
Relative humidity: 60±5% Date of the finishing of research - 10.03.2015				
Packing - contour non-porous				
		Months		
		1	3	6
Description	Tablets are cream-coloured, flattened cylindrical in shape.	normal in accordance with PAND Tablets from rhizome Acorus Calamus and from flower Calendula officinalis	normal in accordance with PAND Tablets from rhizome Acorus Calamus and from flower Calendula officinalis	normal in accordance with PAND Tablets from rhizome Acorus Calamus and from flower Calendula officinalis
Identification	In the chromatogram of the experimental solution the time of principal peak should coincide with the time of camphor peak in the chromatogram of comparative solution.	normal in accordance with PAND	normal in accordance with PAND	normal in accordance with PAND
Average mass	Average mass of tablets 0.580 g – 0.629 g.	0.60	0.59	0.59
Disintegration, min	Not more than fifteen minutes in water (min).	25	24	22
Abrasion strength	Not more than 1% (in per cent).	0.4	0.5	0.4
Firmness (in case of crushin)	Not less than 3.5 H.	3.8	3.9	4.1
Aerosil	Not more than 5.5%.	2.4	2.3	2.4
Related impurities: 5-hydroxymethylfurfural	Not more than 0.1%.	0.06	0.06	0.05
Microbiological purity	One gramm of the drug should contain not more than 10 <sup>3</sup> bacteria, 10 <sup>2</sup> yeast and mycelia fungi. The drug shouldn't contain Escherichia coli.	normal in accordance with requirements of the project PAND	normal in accordance with requirements of the project PAND	normal in accordance with requirements of the project PAND
Content of:	Not less than 0.9 mg in a tablet.	0.90	0.88	0.91
- camphor				
- β-pinen	Not less than 0.9 mg in a tablet.	0.91	0.86	0.86

**Table 3.** Continue.

Temperature: 25±2°C Date of the beginning of research - 10.03.2013					
Relative humidity: 60±5% Date of the finishing of research - 10.03.2015					
Packing - contour non-porous					
		Months			
		9	12	18	24
Description	Tablets are cream-coloured, flattened cylindrical in shape.	normal in accordance with PAND Tablets from rhizome Acorus Calamus and from flower Calendula officinalis	normal in accordance with PAND Tablets from rhizome Acorus Calamus and from flower Calendula officinalis	normal in accordance with PAND Tablets from rhizome Acorus Calamus and from flower Calendula officinalis	normal in accordance with PAND Tablets from rhizome Acorus Calamus and from flower Calendula officinalis
Identification	In the chromatogram of the experimental solution the time of principal peak should coincide with the time of camphor peak in the chromatogram of comparative solution.	normal in accordance with PAND	normal in accordance with PAND	normal in accordance with PAND	normal in accordance with PAND
Average mass	Average mass of tablets 0.580 g – 0.629 g.	0.60	0.61	0.59	0.60
Disintegration, min	Not more than fifteen minutes in water (min).	23	25	24	25
Abrasion strength	Not more than 1% (in per cent).	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.4
Firmness (in case of crushin)	Not less than 3.5 H.	4.0	3.8	3.9	4.1
Aerosil	Not more than 5.5%.	2.2	2.3	2.5	2.2
Related impurities: 5-hydroxymethylfurfural	Not more than 0.1%.	0.07	0.05	0.05	0.05
Microbiological purity	One gramm of the drug should contain not more than 10 <sup>3</sup> bacteria, 10 <sup>2</sup> yeast and mycelia fungi. The drug shouldn't contain Escherichia coli.	normal in accordance with requirements of the project PAND	normal in accordance with requirements of the project PAND	normal in accordance with requirements of the project PAND	normal in accordance with requirements of the project PAND
Content of: - camphor	Not less than 0.9 mg in a tablet.	0.94	0.93	0.90	0.90
- β-pinen	Not less than 0.9 mg in a tablet.	0.90	0.91	0.91	0.92

Table 4. Results of research of stability of *Exkairl*® tablets (series 100315).

Temperature: 25±2°C Date of the beginning of research - 10.03.2013				
Relative humidity: 60±5% Date of the finishing of research - 10.03.2015				
Packing - contour non-porous				
		Months		
		1	3	6
Description	Tablets are cream-coloured, flattened cylindrical in shape.	normal in accordance with PAND Tablets from rhizome Acorus Calamus and from flower Calendula officinalis	normal in accordance with PAND Tablets from rhizome Acorus Calamus and from flower Calendula officinalis	normal in accordance with PAND Tablets from rhizome Acorus Calamus and from flower Calendula officinalis
Identification	In the chromatogram of the experimental solution the time of principal peak should coincide with the time of camphor peak in the chromatogram of comparative solution.	normal in accordance with PAND	normal in accordance with PAND	normal in accordance with PAND
Average mass	Average mass of tablets 0.580 g – 0.629 g.	0.59	0.59	0.60
Disintegration, min	Not more than fifteen minutes in water (min).	25	24	22
Abrasion strength	Not more than 1% (in per cent).	0.4	0.5	0.4
Firmness (in case of crushin)	Not less than 3.5 H.	3.8	3.9	4.1
Aerosil	Not more than 5.5%.	2.4	2.3	2.4
Related impurities: 5-hydroxymethylfurfural	Not more than 0.1%.	0.05	0.06	0.05
Microbiological purity	One gramm of the drug should contain not more than 10 <sup>3</sup> bacteria, 10 <sup>2</sup> yeast and mycelia fungi. The drug shouldn't contain Escherichia coli.	normal in accordance with requirements of the project PAND	normal in accordance with requirements of the project PAND	normal in accordance with requirements of the project PAND
Content of: - camphor	Not less than 0.9 mg in a tablet.	0.92	0.92	0.91
- β-pinen	Not less than 0.9 mg in a tablet.	0.91	0.87	0.86

Table 4. Continue.

Temperature: 25±2°C Date of the beginning of research - 10.03.2013					
Relative humidity: 60±5% Date of the finishing of research - 10.03.2015					
Packing - contour non-porous					
		Months			
		9	12	18	24
Description	Tablets are cream-coloured, flattened cylindrical in shape.	normal in accordance with PAND Tablets from rhizome Acorus Calamus and from flower Calendula officinalis	normal in accordance with PAND Tablets from rhizome Acorus Calamus and from flower Calendula officinalis	normal in accordance with PAND Tablets from rhizome Acorus Calamus and from flower Calendula officinalis	normal in accordance with PAND Tablets from rhizome Acorus Calamus and from flower Calendula officinalis
Identification	In the chromatogram of the experimental solution the time of principal peak should coincide with the time of camphor peak in the chromatogram of comparative solution.	Normal in accordance with PAND	normal in accordance with PAND	Normal in accordance with PAND	Normal in accordance with PAND
Average mass	Average mass of tablets 0.580 g – 0.629 g.	0.60	0.59	0.60	0.60
Disintegration, min	Not more than fifteen minutes in water (min).	23	25	24	25
Abrasion strength	Not more than 1% (in per cent).	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.4
Firmness (in case of crushin)	Not less than 3.5 H.	4.0	3.8	3.9	4.1
Aerosil	Not more than 5.5%.	2.2	2.3	2.5	2.2
Related impurities: 5-hydroxymethylfurfural	Not more than 0.1%.	0.065	0.05	0.05	0.05
Microbiological purity	One gramm of the drug should contain not more than 10 <sup>3</sup> bacteria, 10 <sup>2</sup> yeast and mycelia fungi. The drug shouldn't contain Escherichia coli.	normal in accordance with requirements of the project PAND	normal in accordance with requirements of the project PAND	normal in accordance with requirements of the project PAND	normal in accordance with requirements of the project PAND
Content of: - camphor	Not less than 0.9 mg in a tablet.	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90
- β-pinen	Not less than 0.9 mg in a tablet.	0.91	0.92	0.91	0.91
- ascorbic acid	From 0.045 to 0.055 g in a tablet.	0.0493	0.0492	0.0493	0.0492

### 3. Conclusions

1. The specification of test of stability of the tablets "Exkair" by method of long-term storage in the natural mode is developed: storage temperature -  $25 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ , relative humidity of definition -  $(60 \pm 5)\%$ .

2. The assessment of quality of the tablets "Exkair" on all indicators of quality is carried out: the description, identification, average weight, deviations from average mass, uniformity of dispensing, durability on attrition, disintegration, aerosil, related impurity, microbiological purity, quantitative definition, period of storage with the description of techniques of their definition, regulated by the draft of AND on tablets.

3. According to requirements of test of stability of tablets numerical values of indicators of quality with the appendix of techniques of their definition are defined.

4. An established period of the validity of the tablets "Exkair" which makes 24 months.

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