

Draft Guidance on Metformin Hydrochloride

This draft guidance, when finalized, will represent the current thinking of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA, or the Agency) on this topic. It does not establish any rights for any person and is not binding on FDA or the public. You can use an alternative approach if it satisfies the requirements of the applicable statutes and regulations. To discuss an alternative approach, contact the Office of Generic Drugs.

Active Ingredient: Metformin hydrochloride

Dosage Form; Route: For extended release suspension; oral

Recommended Studies: Two studies

1. Type of study: Fasting
Design: Single-dose, two-treatment, two-period crossover, in vivo
Strength: 500 mg/5 mL
Subjects: Males and non-pregnant, non-lactating females, general population
Additional comments: This drug product includes two components (pellets and diluent), both containing metformin. Administer with 240 mL of a 20% glucose solution in water, followed by 60 mL of the glucose solution administered every 15 minutes for up to 4 hours after dosing.

2. Type of study: Fed
Design: Single-dose, two-treatment, two-period crossover, in vivo
Strength: 500 mg/5 mL
Subjects: Males and non-pregnant, non-lactating females, general population
Additional comments: See comments above

Analyte to measure (in appropriate biological fluid): Metformin in plasma

Bioequivalence based on (90% CI): Metformin

Additional strengths: Not applicable

Dissolution test method and sampling times: For modified release drug products, applicants should develop specific discriminating dissolution methods. Applicants may use the dissolution method set forth in any related official United States Pharmacopeia (USP) drug product monograph, or in the FDA's database (available at <http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cder/dissolution/>), provided that applicants submit adequate dissolution data supporting the discriminating ability of such a method. If a new dissolution method is developed, the dissolution method development and validation report with the complete information/data supporting the proposed method should be submitted. Conduct comparative dissolution testing on 12 dosage units each of the test and reference products. Specifications will be determined upon review of the abbreviated new drug application.

In addition to the method above, dissolution profiles on 12 dosage units each of the test and reference products generated using USP Apparatus 1 at 100 rpm and/or Apparatus 2 at 50 rpm in at least three dissolution media (pH 1.2, 4.5 and 6.8 buffer) should be submitted. Agitation speeds may be increased if appropriate. It is acceptable to add a small amount of surfactant if necessary. Include early sampling times of 1, 2, and 4 hours and continue every 2 hours until at least 80% of the drug is released to provide assurance against premature release of drug (dose dumping) from the formulation.

Due to concerns of dose dumping from this drug product when taken with alcohol, conduct additional dissolution testing using various concentrations of ethanol in the dissolution medium as follows:

Testing Conditions: 1000 mL 0.1 N HCl, USP Apparatus 2 (Paddle) at 100 rpm, with and without alcohol:

Test 1: 12 units tested according to the proposed method (with 0.1 N HCl), with data collected every 15 minutes for a total of 2 hours

Test 2: 12 units analyzed by substituting 5% (v/v) of test medium with Alcohol USP and data collection every 15 minutes for a total of 2 hours

Test 3: 12 units analyzed by substituting 20% (v/v) of test medium with Alcohol USP and data collection every 15 minutes for a total of 2 hours

Test 4: 12 units analyzed by substituting 40% (v/v) of test medium with Alcohol USP and data collection every 15 minutes for a total of 2 hours

Both test and reference products should be tested accordingly, and data should be provided on individual unit, means, range and %CV.