

## **Copyright Warning & Restrictions**

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material.

Under certain conditions specified in the law, libraries and archives are authorized to furnish a photocopy or other reproduction. One of these specified conditions is that the photocopy or reproduction is not to be “used for any purpose other than private study, scholarship, or research.” If a user makes a request for, or later uses, a photocopy or reproduction for purposes in excess of “fair use” that user may be liable for copyright infringement,

This institution reserves the right to refuse to accept a copying order if, in its judgment, fulfillment of the order would involve violation of copyright law.

**Please Note: The author retains the copyright while the New Jersey Institute of Technology reserves the right to distribute this thesis or dissertation**

Printing note: If you do not wish to print this page, then select “Pages from: first page # to: last page #” on the print dialog screen

The Van Houten library has removed some of the personal information and all signatures from the approval page and biographical sketches of theses and dissertations in order to protect the identity of NJIT graduates and faculty.

## ABSTRACT

### DISSOLUTION TESTING OF PREDNISONE AND SALICYLIC ACID CALIBRATOR TABLETS AT DIFFERENT TABLET LOCATIONS

by  
**Anandhavalavan Arulmozhi**

Dissolution testing is routinely carried out in the pharmaceutical industry to determine the rate of dissolution of solid dosage forms. This test is one of the several tests that pharmaceutical companies typically conduct on oral dosage formulations (e.g., tablets) to determine compliance. The USP Dissolution Testing Apparatus 2 is the most common of the apparatuses listed in the USP. However, it has been shown previously that the dissolution profile of a tablet undergoing dissolution in the USP Dissolution Apparatus 2 can be affected by the tablet location in the apparatus.

In this work, the dissolution rates of both non-disintegrating tablets (salicylic acid) and disintegrating tablets (Prednisone) were experimentally determined for many different tablet locations, both centered on the vessel bottom and off-center. The location of the tablet was experimentally varied in very small increments in order to determine the exact location where a transition in the dissolution profile occurred. It was found that in a small region (2-4 mm in radius) centered around the vessel centerline just below the impeller the dissolution profiles were similar to those observed with a centered tablet. However, outside this region the dissolution profiles were found to be significantly different, as indicated by the values of the Similarity Factor  $f_1$  and the Difference Factor  $f_2$ . These findings are consistent with previous hydrodynamic investigations that showed the existence of a poorly mixed zone below the USP Apparatus 2 impeller. The results of

this work can guide the practitioner on when to accept dissolution testing results based on tablet location.

**DISSOLUTION TESTING OF PREDNISONE AND SALICYLIC ACID  
CALIBRATOR TABLETS AT DIFFERENT TABLET LOCATIONS**

**by  
Anandhavalavan Arulmozhi**

**A Dissertation  
Submitted to the Faculty of  
New Jersey Institute of Technology  
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of  
Master of Science in Pharmaceutical Engineering**

**Otto H. York Department of Chemical Biological and Pharmaceutical Engineering**

**May 2011**

Blank Page

**APPROVAL PAGE**

**DISSOLUTION TESTING OF PREDNISONE AND SALICYLIC ACID  
CALIBRATOR TABLETS AT DIFFERENT TABLET LOCATIONS**

**Anandhavalavan Arulmozhi**

---

Dr. Piero M. Armenante, Thesis Advisor Date  
Distinguished Professor of Chemical Engineering, NJIT

---

Dr. Laurent Simon, Committee Member Date  
Associate Professor of Chemical Engineering, NJIT

---

Paul A. Melamud, Committee Member Date  
Validation Manager, Q Pharma., Inc.  
Adjunct Professor of Chemical Engineering, NJIT

## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

**Author:** Anandhavalavan Arulmozhi

**Degree:** Master of Science

**Date:** May 2011

### **Undergraduate and Graduate Education:**

- Master of Science in Pharmaceutical Engineering,  
New Jersey Institute of Technology, Newark NJ, 2011
- Bachelor of Technology in Pharmaceutical Engineering and Technology,  
Bharthidasan University, Trichy, India 2008

**Major:** Pharmaceutical Engineering

### **Presentation:**

Anandhavalavan Arulmozhi and Piero M. Armenante “Dissolution Testing Of Prednisone And Salicylic Acid Calibrator Tablets At Different Tablet Locations,” ISPE student poster competition, Nutley, NJ April 2011.



Dedicated to my parents for their, Love, Support and Encouragement

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

I would like to express my deepest appreciation to Dr. Piero M. Armenante, who not only served as my research supervisor, providing valuable and countless resources, insight, and intuition, but also constantly gave me support, encouragement, and reassurance.

Special thanks are given to Dr. Laurent Simon and Mr. Paul A.Melamud for actively participating in my committee and their considerations and helps.

The helps from Ms. Yimin Wang and Ms. Shilan Motamedvaziri are highly appreciated.

The author also wishes to thank Ms. Shruthiben Parekh, Mr. Xiaming Wu for their contribution and support.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

| <b>Chapter</b>                                   | <b>Page</b> |
|--|-------------|
| 1 INTRODUCTION.....                              | 1           |
| 2 LITERARTURE REVIEW.....                        | 4           |
| 3 OBJECTIVE.....                                 | 6           |
| 4 EXPERIMENTAL EQUIPMENT AND METHOD.....         | 7           |
| 4.1 Dissolution Vessel and Agitation System..... | 7           |
| 4.2 Experimental Materials.....                  | 9           |
| 4.3 Experimental methods.....                    | 10          |
| 4.4 Data Processing.....                         | 17          |
| 5 RESULTS.....                                   | 19          |
| 5.1 Results for Prednisone Tablets.....          | 19          |
| 5.2 Results for Salicylic Acid Tablets .....     | 21          |
| 6 DICUSSION.....                                 | 24          |
| 7 CONCLUSION.....                                | 27          |
| APPENDICES.....                                  | 29          |
| REFERENCES.....                                  | 43          |

## LIST OF TABLES

| Table   | Page |
|---|------|
| 4.1 Operation Conditions for Dissolution Experiments.....   | 13   |
| 4.2 Calibration data for Prednisone.....  | 15   |
| 4.3 Calibration data for Salicylic Acid.....  | 15   |
| 5.1 $f_1$ and $f_2$ values for Prednisone Tablet Dissolution Profiles in the Standard System.....     | 21   |
| 5.2 $f_1$ and $f_2$ values for Salicylic acid Tablet Dissolution Profiles in the Standard System..... | 23   |

## LIST OF FIGURES

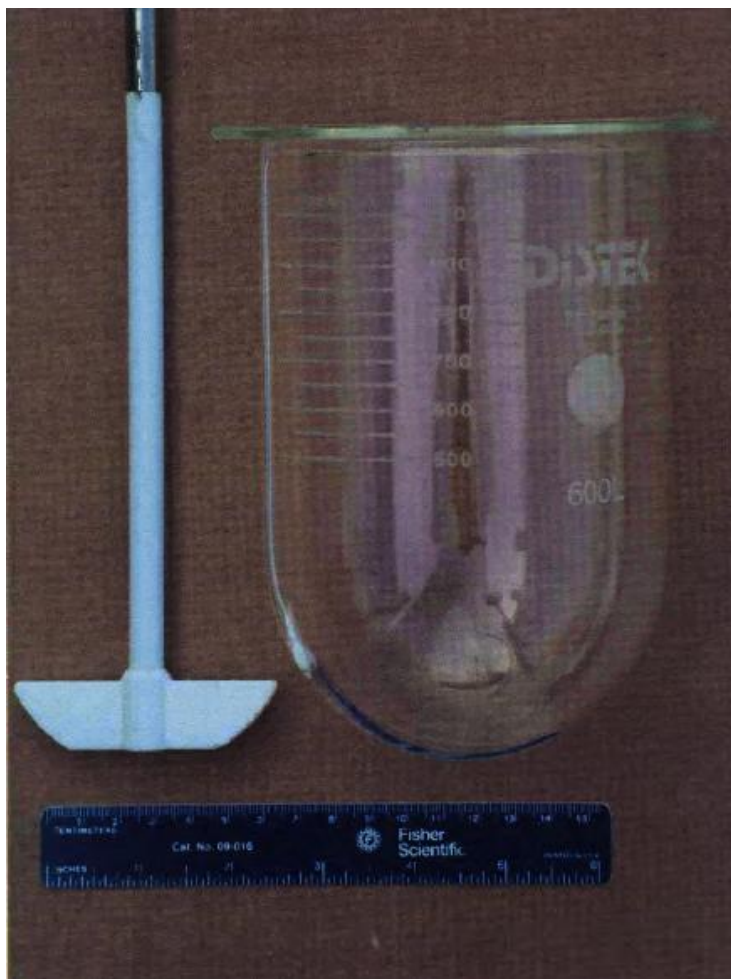
| Figure   | Page |
|--|------|
| 1.1 USP Dissolution Apparatus II: paddle impeller and glass vessel.....                                | 2    |
| 1.2 USP Dissolution Apparatus II: typical commercial dissolution.....                                  | 3    |
| 4.1 Dimensions of USP Dissolution Testing Apparatus 2.....   | 8    |
| 4.2 Equipment used to de-aerate the dissolution medium.....  | 10   |
| 4.3 Locations of the tablets on the vessel bottom.....   | 12   |
| 4.5 (a) Calibration curve for Prednisone.....  | 16   |
| (b) Calibration curve for salicylic acid.....  | 16   |
| 5.1 Experimental dissolution profiles for prednisone tablets at different tablet<br>locations.....     | 20   |
| 5.2 Experimental dissolution profiles for salicylic acid tablets at different tablet<br>locations..... | 22   |

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

Dissolution testing is routinely carried out in the pharmaceutical industry to determine the rate of dissolution of solid dosage forms. In addition to being routinely used by pharmaceutical companies to demonstrate adequate drug release *in vivo* (through *in vivo/in vitro* (IVIVC) correlation), *in vitro* dissolution testing is used to assist with formulation design, process development, and especially the demonstration of batch-to-batch reproducibility in production. Dissolution testing is one of the several tests that pharmaceutical companies typically conduct on oral dosage formulations (e.g., tablets) to determine compliance and to release products for distribution and sales.

Although the USP lists several different dissolution test apparatuses (USP, 2008), most dissolution tests are currently conducted with USP Dissolution Test Apparatuses 1 and 2. The USP Dissolution Apparatus 2 is the most commonly and widely used apparatus specified by the USP, and it is the focus of the study presented in this work. The dimensions, characteristics, and operating conditions of USP Dissolution Apparatus 2 are detailed by the USP and all users must conform to these prescriptions when conducting dissolution tests. The USP Dissolution Apparatus 2 comprises a glass vessel and an agitation system. The glass vessel is a cylindrical glass tank with a semispherical bottom, and a working volume of either 500 mL or 900 mL (Figure 1.1). The agitation system consists of a two-blade paddle impeller mounted on a shaft centrally located in the vessel and profiled to follow the hemispherical portion of the vessel.



**Figure 1.1** USP Dissolution Apparatus 2: paddle impeller and glass vessel.

In the industrial practice, replicate dissolution tests are typically conducted in parallel using commercially available systems containing six or more individual USP Dissolution Apparatus 2 units (Figure 1.2). These systems allow the agitation system (motor and impellers) to be lifted above the rack holding the vessels, as shown in this figure, in order to prepare the system for the actual test. Each vessel is filled with a prescribed amount of a fluid simulating gastric or intestinal fluids, and maintained at constant temperature of 37°C by either a water bath or a heating jacket. The test consists of lowering the agitation system so that the paddles reach their predetermined location

inside the vessels, as required by the USP, starting the agitation so that the paddles rotate at 50 RPM or 100 RPM, adding a single dosage form unit, such as a tablet, to each vessel simultaneously, drawing liquid samples over time from a prescribed location within the vessel, analyzing the drug concentration in each sample, and determining the dissolution profile over time. These profiles must be within a predefined range, and cannot differ significantly from the dissolution profile that the drug manufacturer has initially submitted to the FDA when the drug was approved. Any dissolution profile that is found to be statistically different, according to a predefined criterion (Moore and Flanner, 1996), from the reference profile established for that dosage form implies failure of the test and non-compliance of the production batch being tested. When this occurs, the batch cannot be released for commercialization and it is often disposed of. The cost of such failure is often significant given the typical high value of the product.



**Figure 1.2** USP Dissolution Apparatus 2: typical commercial dissolution



## **CHAPTER 2**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

The USP Dissolution Apparatus 2 has been used in the pharmaceutical industry for decades, since this test was first officially introduced almost 30 years ago (Cohen et al. 1990). Nevertheless, and despite its widespread use in the industry, dissolution testing remains susceptible to significant error and test failures. A review of the literature shows testing systems containing seven Apparatus 2 units (Distek 5100 bathless dissolution apparatus). that there have been numerous reports describing high variability of test results (Manger et al. 2003, Moore et al. 1995, Qureshi and McGilveray, 1999, Qureshi and Shabnam, 2001, Costa and Lobo, 2001, Bocanegra et al. 1990, Cox and Furman, 1982, Cox et al. 1983) even when the so called "calibrator tablets" (i.e., tablets manufactured for the sole purpose of testing the proper operation of the dissolution test equipment) are used (Moore et al. 1995, Qureshi and Shabnam, 2001, Cox and Furman, 1982, Kukura et al. 2003, Baxter et al. 2005) Failures linked to dissolution testing resulted in 47 product recalls during the period 2000-2002, representing 16% of non-manufacturing recalls for oral solid dosage forms (FDC Reports, 2001, FDC Reports, 2002, FDC Reports, 2003) Irrespective of the underlying causes (such as incorrect use of the equipment or deviation of dissolution profile from the standard caused by incorrect tablet formulation) failed dissolution tests can result in product recalls, costly investigations, potential production delays, which, in turn, can have a significantly negative financial impact. Some of the same studies have indicated that the hydrodynamics of the USP dissolution 2 appears to play a major role in the poor

reproducibility of dissolution testing data and the inconsistency of dissolution results. This is hardly surprising considering that the USP Dissolution Apparatus 2 is a small, unbaffled vessel with a hemispherical bottom provided with a slowly rotating paddle, in which a tablet (or another dosage form) is dropped. This system is associated with a complex hydrodynamics resulting in fluid velocities whose directions and intensities are highly dependent on the location within the vessel (Bai and Armenante, 2008). To complicate the issue farther, tablets have often been reported to land at different locations at the bottom of the vessel after they are dropped in the vessel at the beginning of a test, making the dissolution process even more susceptible to hydrodynamic factors. Until recently, limited information has been available on the hydrodynamics of the dissolution apparatus and the effects of operating and geometric variables on the velocity distribution in the system. Such information is critical to advance the fundamental understanding of the dissolution rate process, enhance the reliability of dissolution testing, and eliminate artifacts associated with test methods, especially since dissolution measurements have often been reported to be inconsistent and poorly reproducible. Only a few researchers (Kukura et al. 2004, Baxter et al. 2005, Bai and Armenante, 2008) have conducted dissolution test in which drug tablets were fixed at different locations along the bottom of the USP Dissolution Apparatus 2.

## **CHAPTER 3**

### **OBJECTIVE OF THIS WORK**

The literature review presented in the previous chapter shows that our current knowledge of the dissolution testing systems is still incomplete, and that there is a need for conducting work aimed at understanding the impact of a number of operating variables. In particular, although it is now known that the location of the tablet on the vessel bottom can, in general, affect the dissolution profiles, especially if the location is significantly different from that of a centered tablet, it still remains to be determined whether small changes in tablet location can still affect the results of dissolution test, as it had been hypothesized in the literature (Ge and Armenante, 2008).

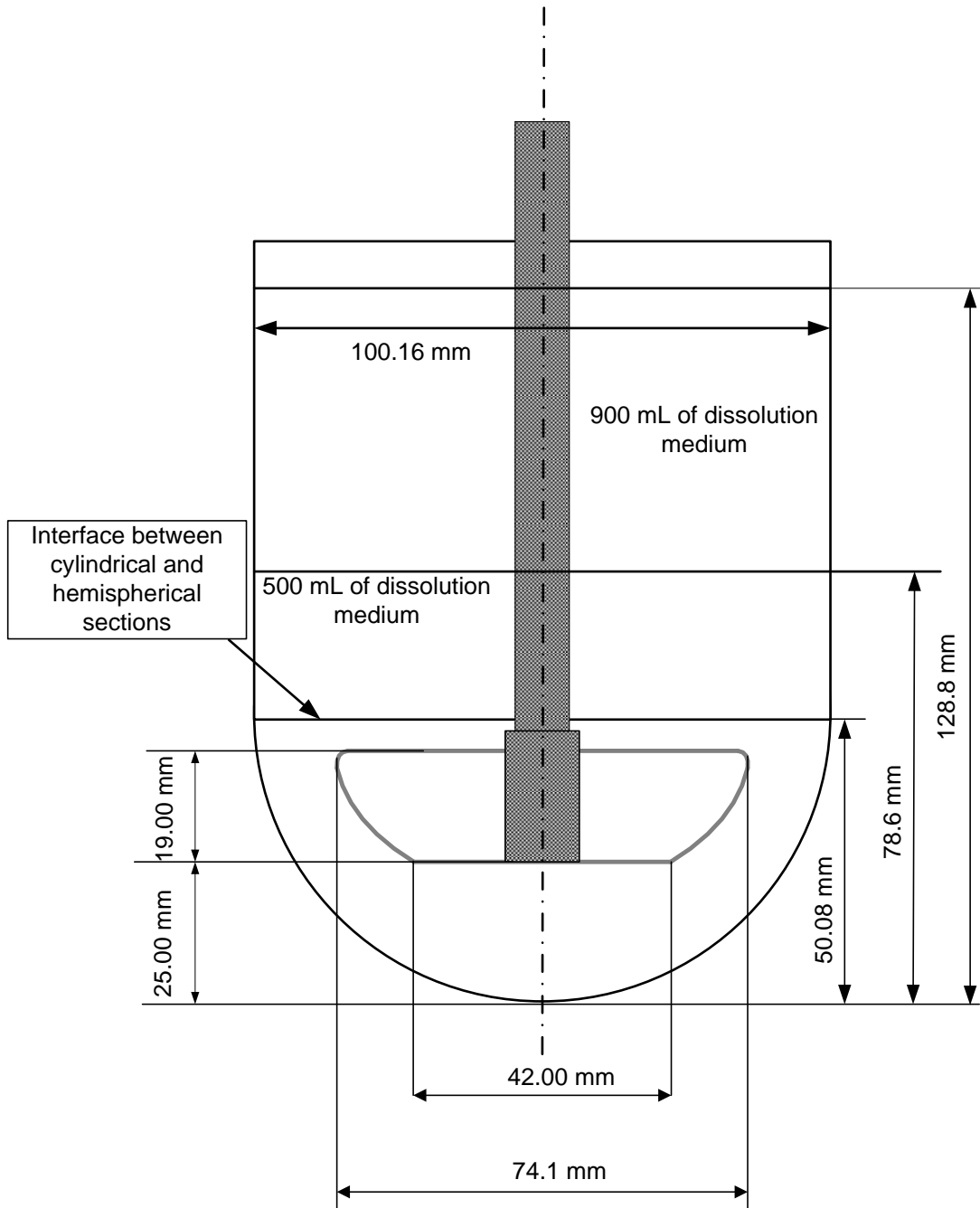
Therefore, the overall goal of this research work is to conduct dissolution testing experiments with disintegrating and non-disintegrating calibrator tablets (10-mg Prednisone tablets and 300-mg salicylic acid tablets) in order to determine precisely the effect of tablet location on dissolution profiles, especially when the tablet location is varied in small increments. The achievement of this objective can help the dissolution testing practitioners understand whether it is prudent to discard the results of a dissolution test even before the test is completed, based on the initial position of the tablet after it has been dropped in the vessel and it has reached its resting position at the beginning of a dissolution test.

## CHAPTER 4

### EXPERIMENTAL APPARATUS, MATERIALS, AND METHOD

#### 4.1 Dissolution Vessel and Agitation System

All dissolution experiments were conducted using a Distek 5100 Bathless Dissolution Apparatus 2 (Distek Inc., North Brunswick, NJ), capable of operating seven dissolution vessels at a time. An Apparatus 2 vessel consisting of an unbaffled, cylindrical, transparent, glass tank with hemispherical bottom, and internal diameter,  $T$ , equal to 100.16 mm and overall capacity of 1 L was used as the dissolution vessel. The agitation system consisted of a standard USP 2 two-blade paddle impeller mounted on a shaft and connected to the motor in the Distek system. The exact geometry of each component of the impeller was obtained by measuring the actual dimensions with a caliper, which were found to be as follows: shaft diameter, 9.53 mm; length of the top edge of the blade, 74.10 mm; length of the bottom edge of the blade, 42.00 mm; height of the blade, 19.00 mm; and thickness of the blade, 5.00 mm. The impeller clearance off the vessel bottom was 25 mm, as specified by the USP (2008). When the vessel was filled with 500 mL of dissolution media, the corresponding liquid height,  $H$ , as measured from the bottom of the vessel, was 78.6 mm. When the vessel was filled with 900 mL of dissolution media,  $H$  was 128.8 mm. Figure 4.1 shows the Dimensions of USP Dissolution Testing Apparatus 2.



**Figure 4.1** Dimensions of USP Dissolution Testing Apparatus 2

## 4.2 Experimental Materials

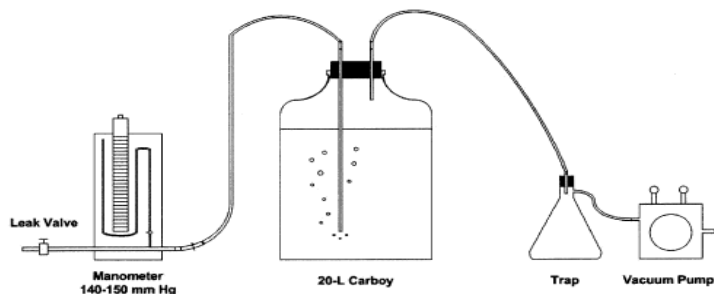
Dissolution studies were conducted using both disintegrating and non-disintegrating solid oral dosage forms, i.e., respectively, 10-mg Prednisone calibrator tablets (disintegrating tablets, NCDA #2), kindly provided by Dr. Zongming Gao (Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Division of Pharmaceutical Analysis, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, St. Louis, MO), and 300-mg salicylic acid calibrator tablets (non-disintegrating tablets; USP Lot Q0D200), purchased from USP, Rockville, MD. The dimensions of the tablets were measured using a caliper. Their diameters were found to be 7.80 mm for Prednisone tablets and 9.52 mm for salicylic acid tablets. Their corresponding thicknesses were 3.76 mm and 4.4 mm, respectively. A commercial acrylic glue was used to fix the tablet at a particular location on the bottom of the dissolution vessel.

The dissolution medium for Prednisone tablets consisted of de-aerated distilled water. The dissolution medium for salicylic acid tablets consisted of a de-aerated 0.05 M monobasic potassium phosphate buffer solution to which an NaOH solution (50% (w/w) concentration) was added to reach a final pH value of 7.4.

All media were de-gassed in the de-gassing apparatus shown in Figure 4.2 following the USP General Test Chapter on DISSOLUTION <711>, based on to the degassing method developed by Moore (Moore, 1996). Accordingly, the medium was placed in carboy tank, which was then connected to a vacuum pump. Vacuum was applied for 30 minutes while all other valves in the system were closed. Stock solutions

were used as needed, i.e., in 500 mL aliquots for the experiments with Prednisone tablets and 900 mL aliquots for the experiments with salicylic acid tablets.

Disposable PVDF 0.45  $\mu\text{m}$  filters were during sampling to remove possible solid particles that could have entered the sample prior to sample analysis as described below.



**Figure 4.2** Equipment used to de-aerate the dissolution medium.

### 4.3 Experimental Method

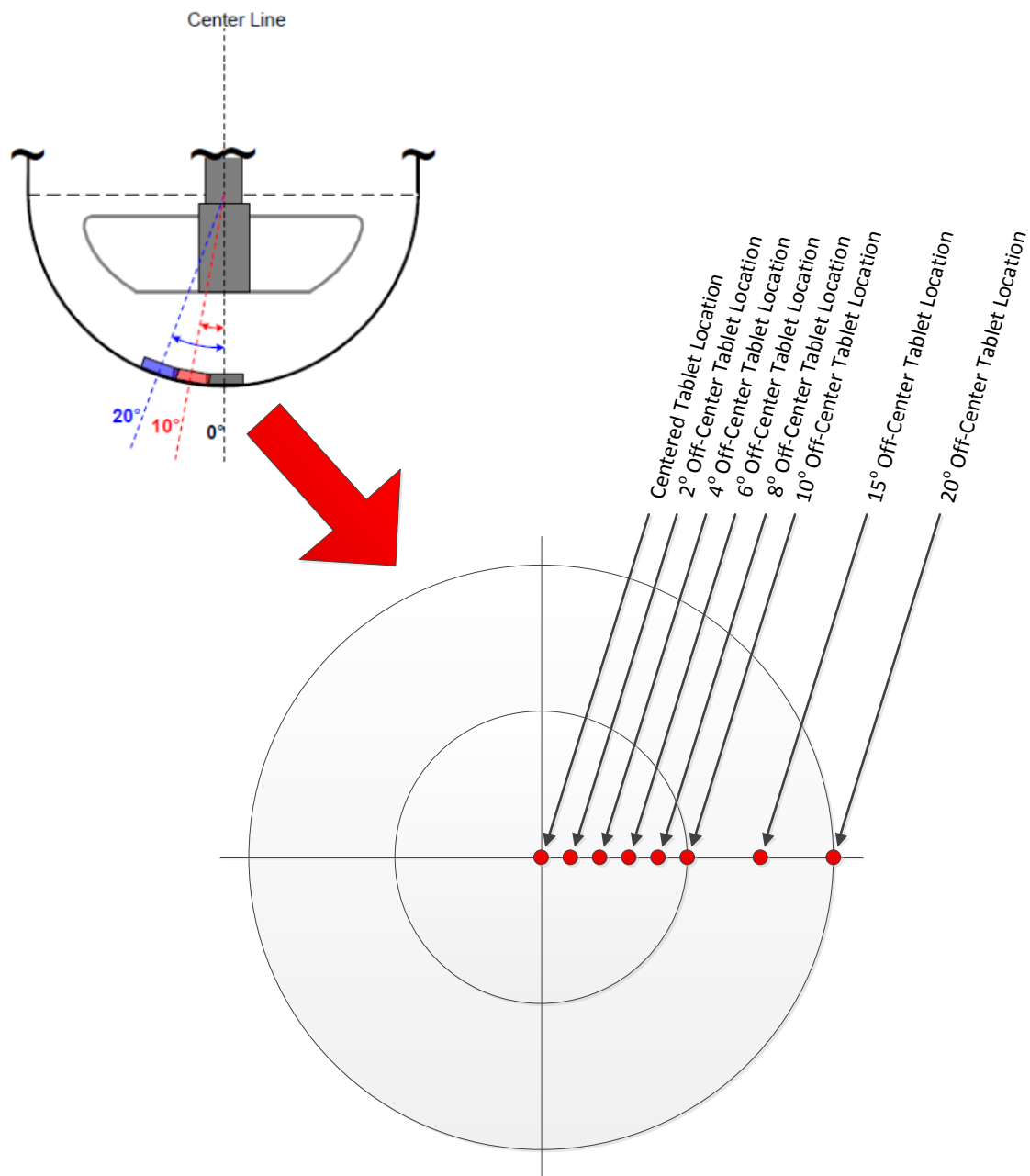
The experimental procedure used in this work was slightly different from that typically used in dissolution testing (USP, 2008) since the tablet was not dropped in the stirred dissolution medium but was glued in place with a minute amount of glue prior to the addition of the dissolution medium and the beginning of the experiment.

Before each experiment, all key geometrical measurements were checked (impeller clearance, impeller position, etc.). In order to test the effect of tablet location during dissolution testing, a tablet was attached at one of eight predefined points on the vessel bottom with a very small bead of commercial glue. The locations of the tablets on the vessel bottom are shown in Figure 4.3. Centered tablets were placed at the center of

the vessel bottom. Off-center tablets were placed so that their center was at one of seven off-center locations on the vessel bottom, 2°, 4°, 6°, 8°, 10°, 15° or 20° away from the vessel vertical centerline. This angle originated from the center of the sphere comprising the hemispherical vessel bottom, and was measured starting from the vertical centerline to the point of interest, (e.g., the angle would be zero for the central point below the impeller). Additional details of the experimental operating conditions are presented in Table 4.1.

Once the tablet and the vessel were setup properly, the de-aerated dissolution medium (500 mL of distilled water for Prednisone or 900 mL of buffer medium for salicylic acid), previously preheated at 37.5 °C, was gently poured into the vessel in order to minimize the introduction of gas and prevent the rapid initial dissolution of the tablet. Because of the thermal inertia of the vessel, the resulting temperature of the liquid was 37 °C. This temperature was maintained throughout the dissolution experiment by the system's temperature controller. Agitation was started immediately after the addition of the dissolution medium. The agitation speed was 50 rpm for Prednisone tablets and 100 rpm for salicylic acid tablets, respectively (USP, 2008). The first sample was taken immediately after agitation was started. This data was defined as zero-time point. The time interval between samples was 5 minutes. Each experiment lasted 45 minutes and a total of 10 samples were taken for each experiment. Experiments were performed in triplicates for each tablet location (0°, 2°, 4°, 6°, 8°, 10°, 15°, and 20°).





**Figure 4.3** Top Panel: side view of the bottom portion of the USP Apparatus 2 showing the different locations of a tablet center during dissolution experiments (only centered, 10°, and 20° tablets are shown); Bottom Panel: top view of a smaller section of the bottom of a USP Apparatus 2 showing the different locations of a tablet during dissolution experiments.

**Table 4.1** Operation Conditions for Dissolution Experiments.

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Dose                                | 10 mg (Prednisone tablets)<br>500 mg (Salicylic acid tablets)                                      |
| Medium                              | 500 mL of de-aerated, distilled water (Prednisone tablets)<br>900 mL of de-aerated buffer solution |
| Temperature                         | 37°C   |
| Agitation Speed                     | 50 rpm (Prednisone tablets)<br>100 rpm (Salicylic acid tablets)                                    |
| Filter                              | PVDF 0.45µm  |
| UV Wavelength in spectrophotometer) | 242 nm (Prednisone tablets)<br>296 nm (Salicylic Acid tablets)                                     |
| Standard Tablets                    | Calibrated tablets   |
| Sampling time                       | 5-minute intervals; 45 minutes total   |

Sampling consisted of removing a 10-mL medium aliquot with a 10-mL syringe connected to a cannula (2 mm ID). The volume of medium removed by sampling was not replaced, in accordance to the USP procedure (2008). The sampling point was horizontally located midway between the impeller shaft and the vessel wall, and midway between the top edge of the impeller and the surface of the dissolution medium, i.e., within the sampling zone prescribed by the USP. After sample withdrawal, about 2-mL of the sample were discarded, the cannula was removed, and a PVDF 0.45 µm filter was mounted on the syringe. The remaining sample volume (about 8-mL) was transferred to a vial until analyzed.

Analysis of samples was carried out using 1-cm quartz cells filled with the solution and placed in a UV-visible spectrophotometer (Varian CARY 50 Bio) measuring absorbance at a specified wavelength, i.e., 242 nm for Prednisone and 296 nm for salicylic acid (the approximate wavelengths of maximum absorbance for the respective tablets). Before placing the quartz cell into the UV spectrometer, the cell was rinsed three times with the same solution sample. Knowing the calibration curve described below, this absorption reading was used to obtain the concentration of dissolved Prednisone or salicylic acid in the sample.

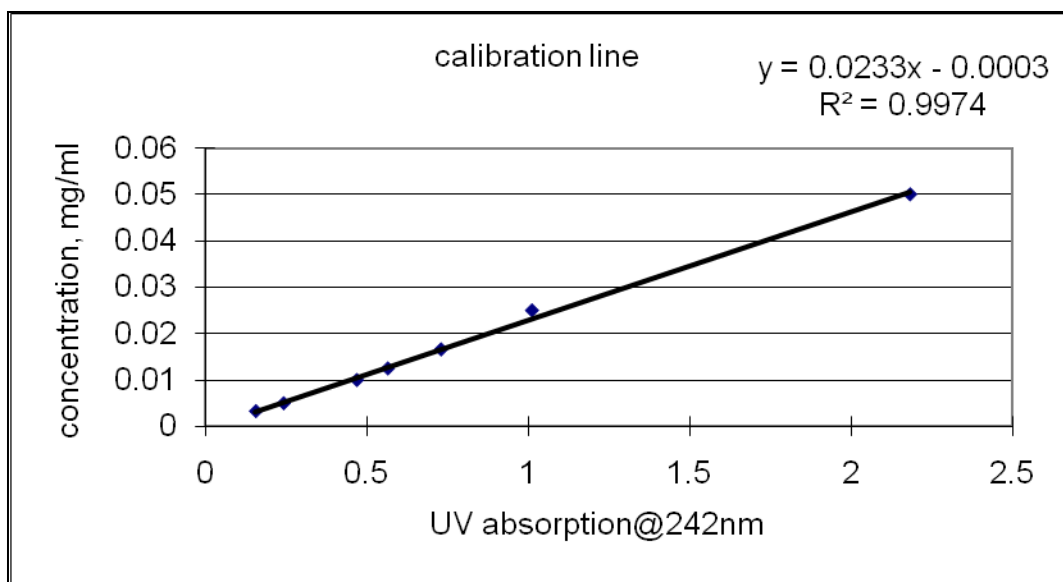
Calibration curves for Prednisone and salicylic acid tablets were obtained. Reference standard solutions of each drug were prepared in the dissolution medium and diluted to obtain solutions of different known concentrations. The absorbance of these solutions was obtained in order to generate absorbance-vs.-concentration standard curves. The calibration curves are presented in Table 4.2 and Figure 4.5. These results show that the calibration curves were always linear ( $R^2=0.9974$  for Prednisone, and  $R^2=0.9999$  for salicylic acid) in the concentration range of interest here.

**Table 4.1** Calibration data for Prednisone

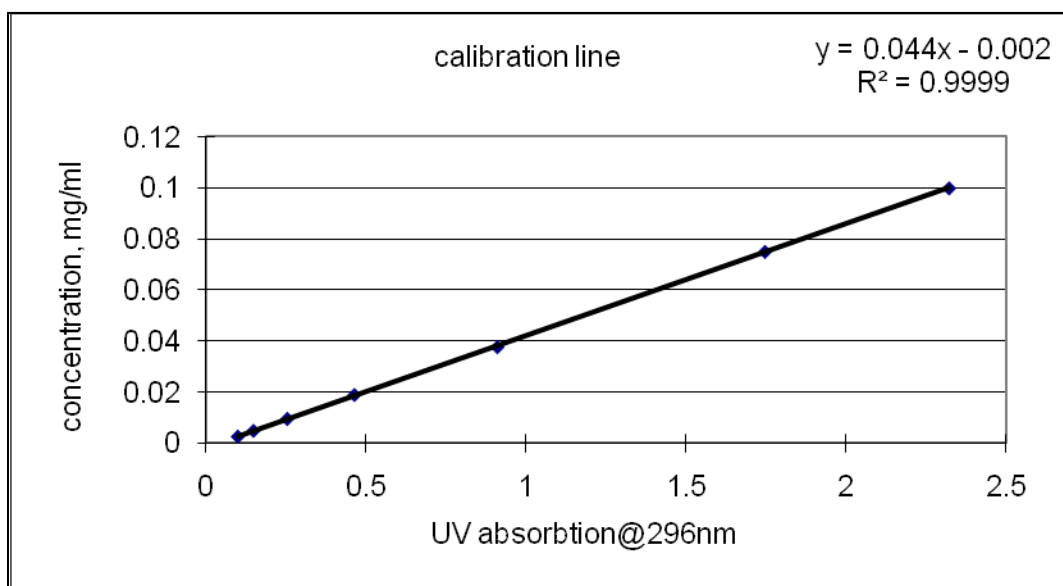
| Absorption1 | Absorption2 | Absorption3 | Average Absorption | Concentration (mg/mL) |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 0.156       | 0.155       | 0.155       | 0.155333333        | 0.0033                |
| 0.241       | 0.242       | 0.241       | 0.241333333        | 0.005                 |
| 0.469       | 0.468       | 0.467       | 0.468              | 0.01                  |
| 0.564       | 0.565       | 0.563       | 0.564              | 0.0125                |
| 0.73        | 0.729       | 0.728       | 0.729              | 0.0166                |
| 1.012       | 1.011       | 1.009       | 1.010666667        | 0.025                 |
| 2.185       | 2.182       | 2.181       | 2.182666667        | 0.05                  |

**Table 4.2** Calibration data for Salicylic Acid

| Absorption1 | Absorption2 | Absorption3 | Average Absorption | Concentration (mg/mL) |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 2.321       | 2.324       | 2.32        | 2.321667           | 0.1                   |
| 1.749       | 1.745       | 1.746       | 1.746667           | 0.075                 |
| 0.911       | 0.91        | 0.912       | 0.911              | 0.0375                |
| 0.464       | 0.465       | 0.464       | 0.464333           | 0.0187                |
| 0.255       | 0.254       | 0.255       | 0.254667           | 0.0093                |
| 0.149       | 0.15        | 0.149       | 0.149333           | 0.0046                |
| 0.101       | 0.1         | 0.1         | 0.100333           | 0.0023                |



(a)



(b)

**Figure 4.5** (a) Calibration curve for Prednisone. (b) Calibration curve for salicylic acid.

#### 4.4 Data Analysis

The dissolution profiles obtained with tablets at off-center locations in the USP Apparatus 2 were compared to those obtained with the centrally located tablets in the same apparatus in order to determine whether these dissolution curves were statistically similar or different.

The similarity of two dissolution profiles was determined using the FDA-recommended approach consisting of using a model-independent method based on the similarity factor ( $f_1$ ) and difference factor ( $f_2$ ) proposed by Moore and Flanner (Moore and Flanner, 1996; Baxter et al. 2005):

$$f_1 = \frac{\sum_{t=1}^n |R_t - T_t|}{\sum_{t=1}^n R_t} \times 100 \quad (4.4.1)$$

$$f_2 = 50 \log_{10} \left\{ \left[ 1 + \left( \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n (R_t - T_t)^2 \right)^{0.5} \right] \times 100 \right\} \quad (4.4.2)$$

Where  $R_t$  is the reference assay at time  $t$ ,  $T_t$  is the test assay at the same time, and  $n$  is the number of points. The  $f_1$  factor measures the percent error between two curves for all points. The percent error is zero when the test and drug reference profiles are identical, but increases proportionally with the dissimilarity between the two dissolution profiles. The higher the similarity factor  $f_1$  (which can be in the range 0 to 100), the higher the average difference between reference and test curves is. The  $f_2$  factor is a logarithmic transformation of the sum-squared error of differences between the test and the reference products over all time points (which can be in the range  $-\alpha$  to 100). If this difference is higher than 100, normalization of the data is required. The higher the difference factor  $f_2$ , the lower the average difference between reference and test curves (Costa and Lobo,

2001). Public standards have been set by Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for  $f_1$  and  $f_2$ . Accordingly, statistical similarity between the two curves being compared requires that both  $0 < f_1 < 15$  and  $50 < f_2 < 100$  (FDA, 1997; Baxter et al. 2005).

## CHAPTER 5

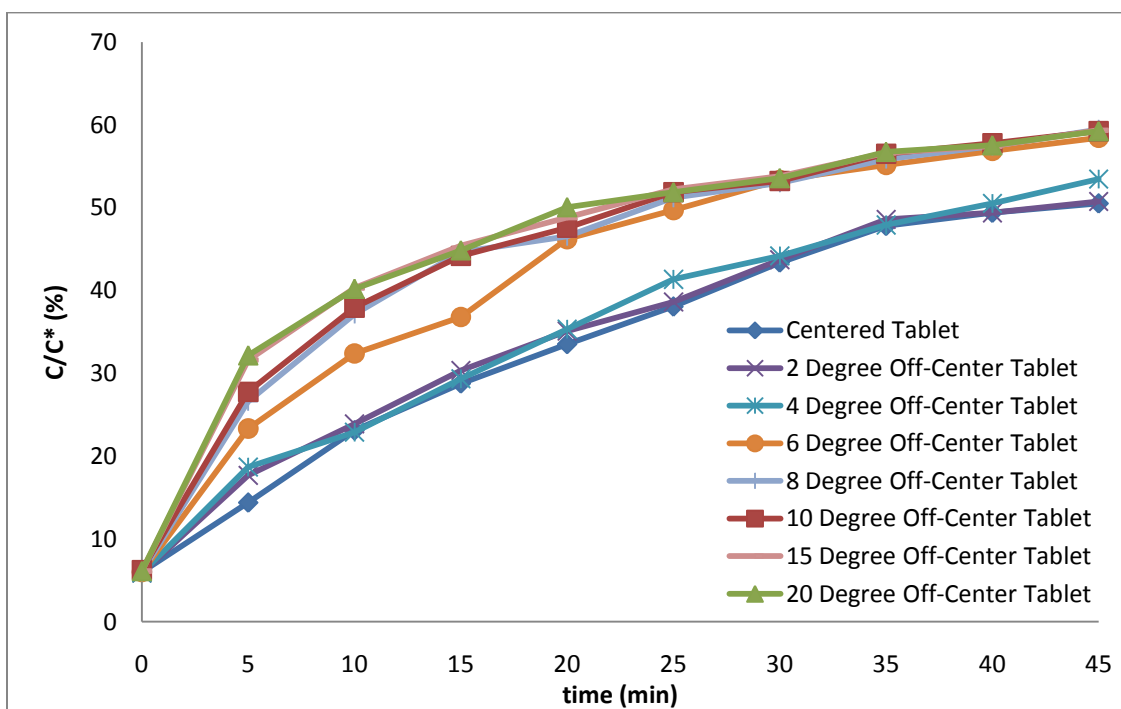
### RESULTS

#### 5.1 Results for Dissolution of Prednisone Tablets

In this section of the study, the dissolution profiles are presented for Prednisone tablets at eight different tablet locations ( $0^\circ$ ,  $2^\circ$ ,  $4^\circ$ ,  $6^\circ$ ,  $8^\circ$ ,  $10^\circ$ ,  $15^\circ$ , and  $20^\circ$ ) at the bottom of the dissolution vessel using the Standard USP Dissolution System at an agitation speed of 50 rpm. The results are reported in terms of  $C/C^*$ , i.e., the ratio of the Prednisone concentration in the dissolving medium,  $C$ , at a given time,  $t$ , relative to the final concentration,  $C^*$ , obtained when the entire 10-mg tablet was completely dissolved. Figure 5.1 presents these results. One can see that there is a significant similarity between the dissolution profiles for the tablets located at the  $0^\circ$ ,  $2^\circ$  and  $4^\circ$  locations. However, these profiles are very different from those obtained at tablet locations where the angle was equal to, or larger than,  $6^\circ$  off the vertical centerline. The corresponding  $f_1$  and  $f_2$  values quantifying the similarity/difference of the dissolution profiles with respect to that for the centrally located tablet are presented in the Table 4.1. Both  $f_1$  and  $f_2$  were in the required range when the tablets were at the  $2^\circ$  and  $4^\circ$  locations. When the tablet was  $6^\circ$  off center, the  $f_1$  value was out of range, whereas the  $f_2$  value was in-range, although barely above 50. However, for tablets at locations  $6^\circ$  or above, both the  $f_1$  values and the  $f_2$  values were out of the required range to insure statistical similarity, which implies that tablets at or above the  $6^\circ$  locations would fail the dissolution test. These results confirm that the dissolution profiles for the chosen disintegrating solid



dosage form (Prednisone) depend strongly on tablet location in a standard USP Apparatus 2 Dissolution System. These results are in agreement with previously reported work from this and other research groups, although the results presented here show a very high degree of sensitivity of the dissolution profiles to even small deviations of the tablet location from the centered symmetric position. In other terms, even tablet locations only a few degrees (as low as  $6^\circ$ ) off center result in dissolution profiles that are statistically different from those for the “regular” center-position tablet. Detailed results are presented in Appendix C.



**Figure 5.1** Dissolution profiles for Prednisone for eight different tablet positions during dissolution testing experiments.

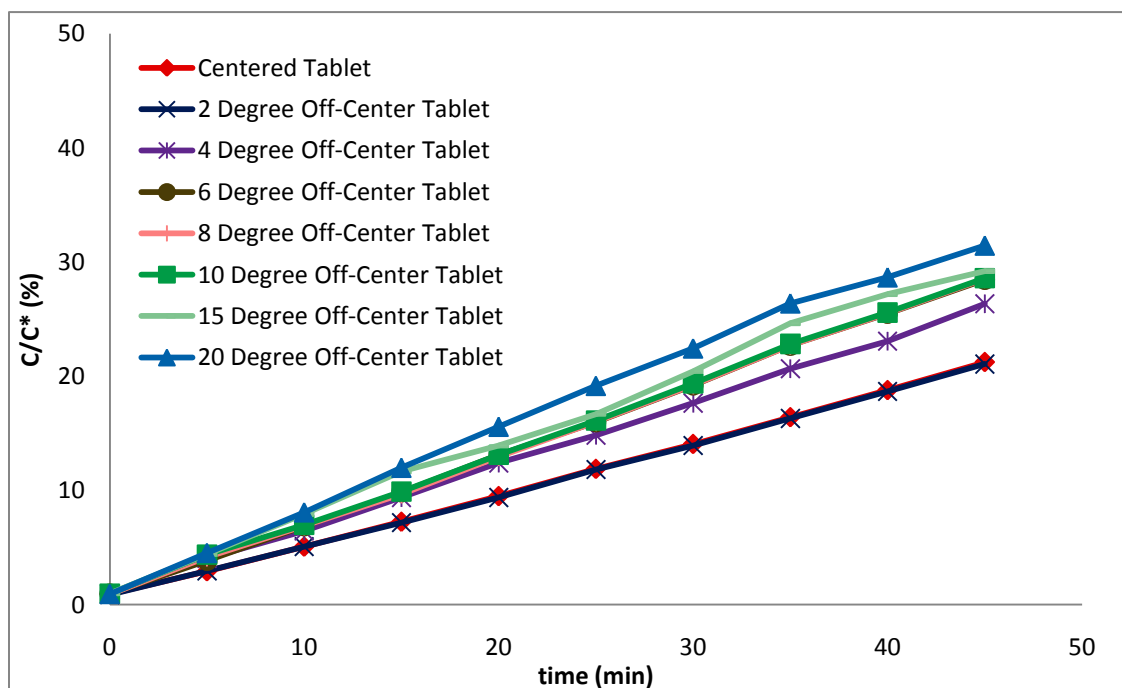
**Table 5.1**  $f_1$  and  $f_2$  values for the dissolution profiles of Prednisone tablets at different off-center locations compared to that for a centered tablet.

| Tablet off-center angle | $f_1$  | $f_2$  |
|-------------------------|--------|--------|
| 2                       | 2.789  | 88.993 |
| 4                       | 4.614  | 81.779 |
| 6                       | 25.344 | 52.286 |
| 8                       | 31.301 | 47.556 |
| 10                      | 32.575 | 46.714 |
| 15                      | 35.468 | 44.607 |
| 20                      | 37.81  | 44.445 |

## 5.2 Results for Dissolution of Salicylic Acid Tablets

In this section of the study, the dissolution profiles are presented for salicylic acid tablets at eight different tablet locations ( $0^\circ$ ,  $2^\circ$ ,  $4^\circ$ ,  $6^\circ$ ,  $8^\circ$ ,  $10^\circ$ ,  $15^\circ$ , and  $20^\circ$ ) at the bottom of the dissolution vessel using the Standard USP Dissolution System at an agitation speed of 100 rpm. As before, the results are reported in terms of  $C/C^*$ , i.e., the ratio of salicylic acid concentration in the dissolving medium,  $C$ , at a given time,  $t$ , relative to the final concentration,  $C^*$ , obtained when the entire 300 mg tablet was completely dissolved. Figure 5.2 presents these results. One can see that there is a significant similarity between the dissolution profiles for the tablets located at the  $0^\circ$  and  $2^\circ$  locations. However, these profiles are very different from those obtained at tablet locations where the angle was equal to, or larger than,  $4^\circ$  off the vertical centerline. The corresponding  $f_1$  and  $f_2$  values quantifying the similarity/difference of the dissolution profiles with respect to that for the centrally located tablet are presented in the Table 5.2. Both  $f_1$  and  $f_2$  were in the required range when the tablet was at the  $2^\circ$  location. However, when the tablets were  $4^\circ$  off center or above, the  $f_1$  values were out of range, although the  $f_2$  values were

(barely) in-range, which still implies that these tablets would fail the dissolution test. These results confirm that the dissolution profiles for the chosen disintegrating solid dosage form (salicylic acid) depend strongly on tablet location in a standard USP Apparatus 2 Dissolution System. These results are in agreement with previously reported work from this and other research groups, although the results presented here show a very high degree of sensitivity of the dissolution profiles to even small deviations of the tablet location from the centered symmetric position. In other terms, even tablet locations only a few degrees (as low as  $4^\circ$ ) off center result in dissolution profiles that are statistically different from those for the “regular” center-position tablet. Detailed results are presented in Appendix D.



**Figure 5.2** Dissolution profiles for salicylic acid for eight different tablet positions during dissolution testing experiments.

**Table 5.2**  $f_1$  and  $f_2$  values for the dissolution profiles of salicylic acid tablets at different off-center locations compared to that for a centered tablet.

| Tablet off-center angle | $f_1$    | $f_2$    |
|-------------------------|----------|----------|
| 2                       | 0.71756  | 99.90817 |
| 4                       | 25.92636 | 73.90919 |
| 6                       | 35.83108 | 66.75391 |
| 8                       | 36.00753 | 66.70632 |
| 10                      | 36.23103 | 66.65084 |
| 15                      | 45.77109 | 62.17712 |
| 20                      | 55.46406 | 58.09357 |

## CHAPTER 6

### DISCUSSION

The experimental results presented here clearly demonstrate the importance of tablet location during dissolution testing. The experimental dissolution data for both disintegrating and non-disintegrating tablets indicate that the location of the tablet produces statistically different dissolution testing results. This is in good agreement with the previous results of Bai and Armenante (2009), Bai and Armenante, (2007), and Baxter et al. (2005). The statistical difference between the results obtained here for different tablet locations can be quantified by examining the value of the difference factor,  $f_1$ , which is always outside the range established by FDA for statistical similarity (Table 4.1 and 4.2). The difference factor  $f_2$  calculated for the off-center tablets vs. the centered tablets produces more ambiguous results, since many of the values reported in Table 4.1 and 4.2 for this factor are within the FDA limits (50-100), although always borderline. This apparent conflict between the factors recommended by the FDA is caused by the fact that  $f_2$  is not a very sensitive statistical tool to assess differences among dissolution curves. The contradictory outcome of these two factors has also been reported by other researchers (Bai and Armenante, 2009, Baxter et al. 2005, Costa. and Lobo, 2001), who have pointed out that the conflict between the two methods shows that the similarity factor  $f_2$  may not be very robust for its intended task. While the difference between dissolution curves obtained at different tablet locations may make sense for non-disintegrating, eroding tablets (since the complex hydrodynamics of the Apparatus 2 can be expected to produce different flows around tablets at different locations (Bai and Armenante, 2007; Bai and Armenante, 2009), it is more difficult to justify for

disintegrating tablets, since the tablet fragments, once the tablet disintegrates, move toward the center of the vessel, thus possibly eliminating any further effect of the initial tablet location on the remaining portion of the dissolution process. The explanation for this apparent contradiction comes from a closer examination of Figure 4.1. This figure shows that at  $t=0$  minutes all curves start at the same point, and that the concentration ratio  $C/C^*$  at this time is appreciably high (6%). Within 5 minutes, the curves for the off-center tablets diverge from those for the centrally located ones. However, after this time the two sets of curves remain nearly parallel to each other. One can conclude that what happens during the first 5 minutes is critical to promote dissolution and disintegration, and that the remainder of the dissolution process simply adds to that initial basis. In fact, it was visually observed that by  $t=5$  minutes the off-center tablets were nearly completely disintegrated, whereas it took about 8 minutes for the centered tablet to do the same. Apparently, the improved hydrodynamics experienced by off-center tablets results in a more rapid dissolution *and* disintegration of the tablet, generating a higher dissolved concentration of the drug during the initial phase of the dissolution process. Once this initial process is complete and the tablet is fully disintegrated, the dissolution process proceeds at a similar rate irrespective of the initial location of the tablet in the vessel.

The process is different for non-disintegrating tablets. Here, since the tablets remain at their initial location during the whole process, the improved hydrodynamics experienced by off-center tablets results in their faster dissolution rate throughout the entire dissolution test. This can be clearly seen in Figure 4.2, where the gap between the curves keeps growing as times goes by (obviously this cannot go on forever, as predicted by Equation 2.6, since eventually all curves must reach the same  $C/C^*$  ratio of 1 if

$C^* < C_S$ , where  $C_S$  is the saturation concentration). Unlike the disintegrating prednisone tablets, the non-disintegrating salicylic acid tablets are subjected to higher dissolution rates during the entire test, and not only until disintegration occurs. Although a major difference in dissolution performance can be seen between off-center and centered tablets, not all off-center tablet positions are equal. A small off-center tablet displacement of only  $4^\circ$  is already capable of producing significantly and statistically different dissolution results compared to the centered tablet case. One can only speculate on how many dissolution tests routinely fail simply as a result of such small random variations in the tablet resting position after it has been dropped in the vessel. However, greater off-center deviations of the tablet location from the centerline can produce even larger variations in test results. Both Figure 4.1 and Figure 4.2 show that the dissolution curves for tablets above  $10^\circ$  off-center deviate the most from the curves for the centered tablets.

## CHAPTER 7

### CONCLUSION

A number of conclusions can be drawn from this work, as follows:

1. The dissolution performance of both disintegrating Prednisone tablets and non disintegrating salicylic acid tablets in the USP Dissolution Testing Apparatus 2 is strongly dependent on tablet position, as previously reported by this and other research groups. Thus, this apparatus is prone to highly variable results which may not be associated with the tablets undergoing testing but with the hydrodynamic characteristics of the apparatus itself and the location of the tablet on the vessel bottom.
2. In most of the cases reported here with calibrator tablets, displacing and keeping the tablet off center often resulted in failing the dissolution test. Test failures occurred with both disintegrating and non-disintegrating tablets even when the tablets were only slightly displaced from the centered tablet location ( $\leq 4^\circ$  for Prednisone tablets and  $\leq 2^\circ$  for salicylic acid tablets), as indicated by the systematic and statistically significant off-specification values of the similarity factor  $f_1$ . In the same experiments, the difference factor  $f_2$  was less sensitive to detect differences in dissolution profiles, and its value was either off-specification or borderline.
3. Non-disintegrating off-center tablets may fail because the flow fields surrounding them are appreciably different from the flow field surrounding a centrally placed tablet throughout the entire dissolution process.

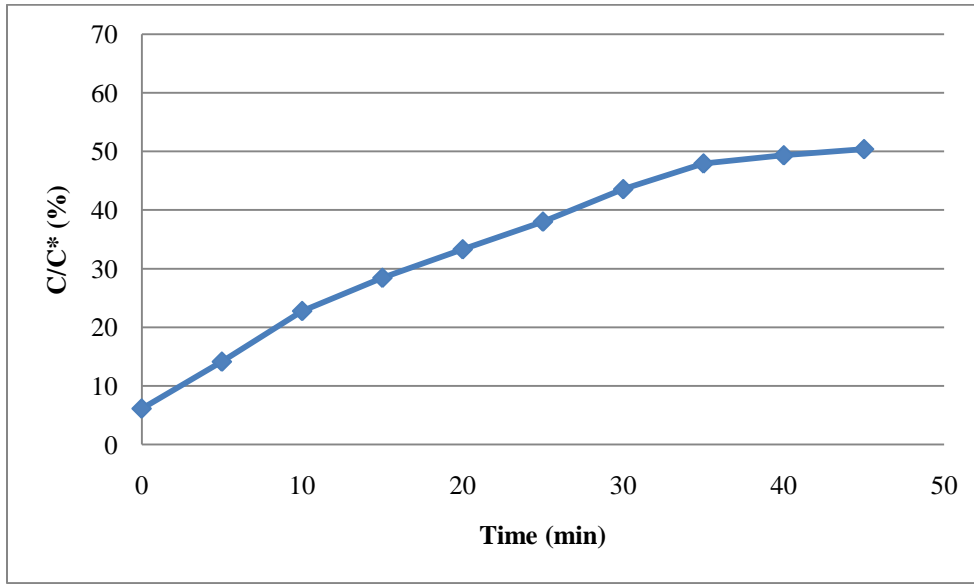


4. Disintegrating off-center tablets may fail because the initial disintegration and dissolution process during the first few minutes of the test is sufficiently different between off-center and centered tablets.
5. These findings are consistent with previous hydrodynamic investigations that showed the existence of a poorly mixed zone below the USP Apparatus 2 impeller (Ge and Armenante, 2007; Ge and Armenante, 2009).
6. The results of this work can guide the practitioner on when to accept or discard dissolution testing results based on tablet location.

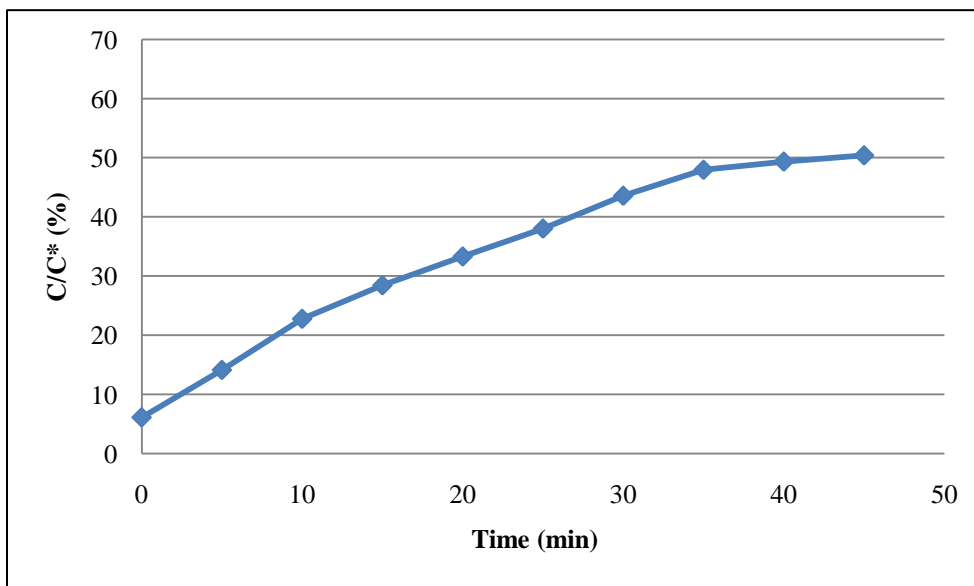
## APPENDIX A

### DISSOLUTION PROFILE OF PREDNISONE TABLETS

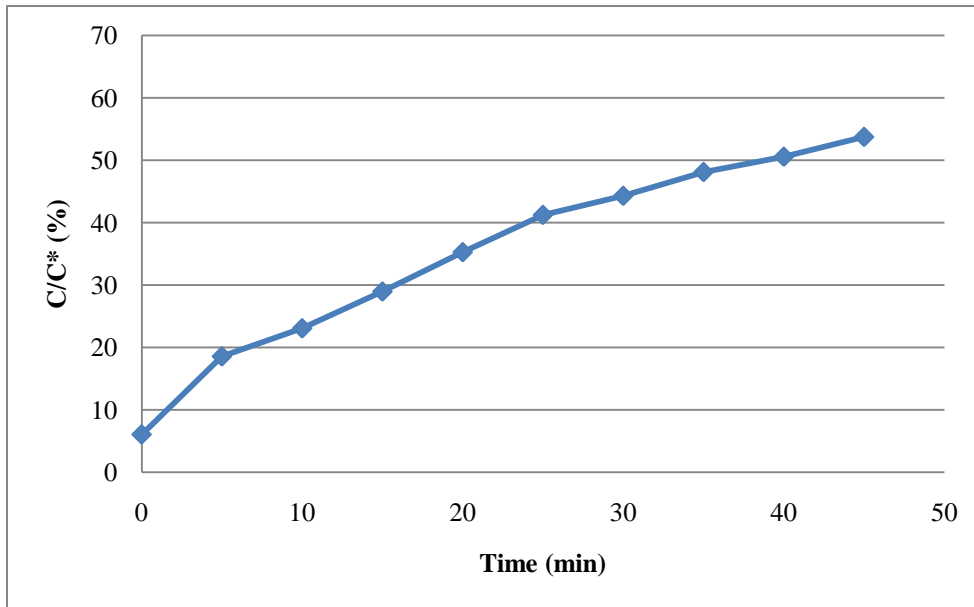
Figure A.1 to A.8 show Dissolution of Prednisone Tablet at different locations.



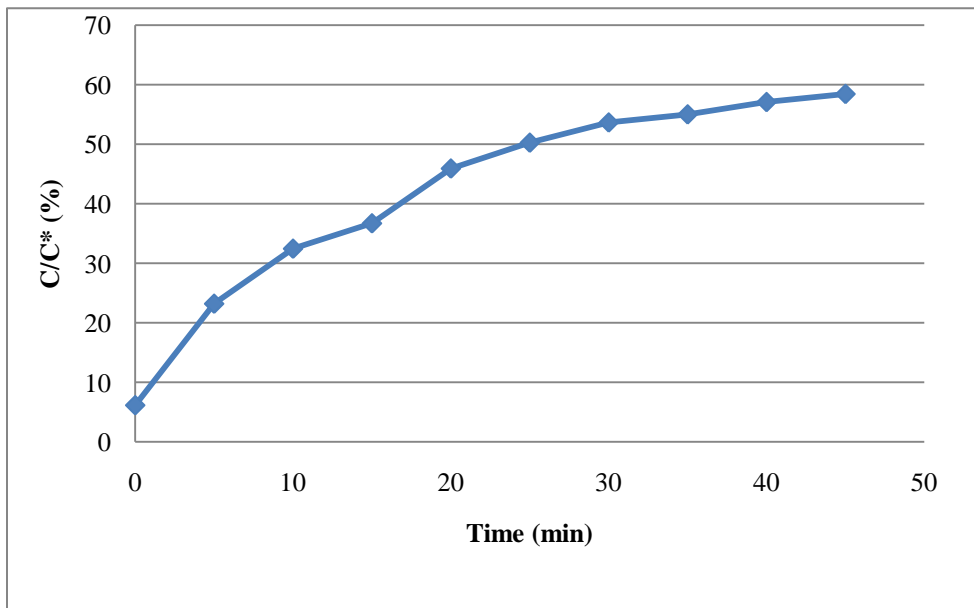
**Figure A.1** Dissolution profile of Prednisone tablet at Central location.



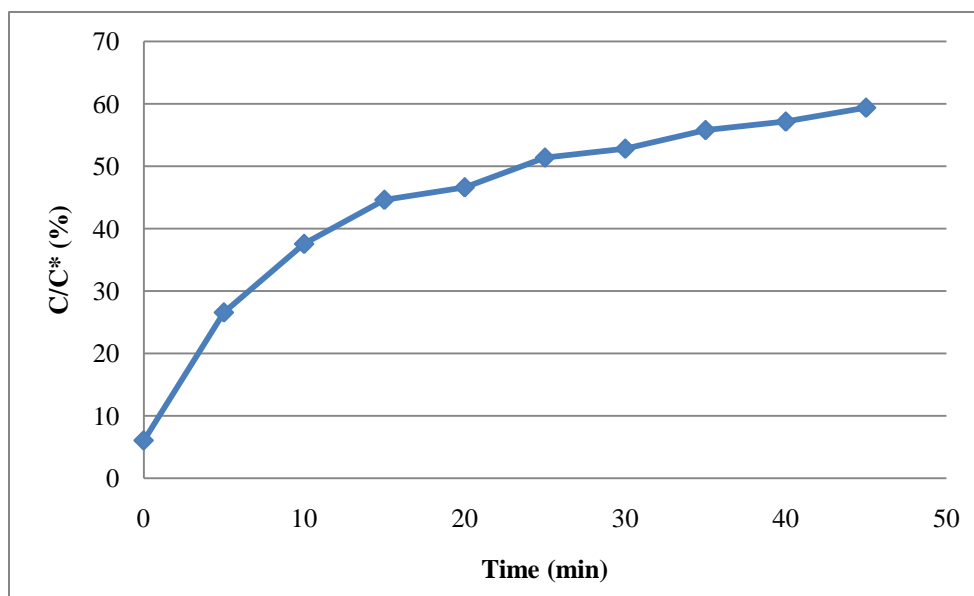
**Figure A.2** Dissolution profile of Prednisone tablet at 2° off-center.



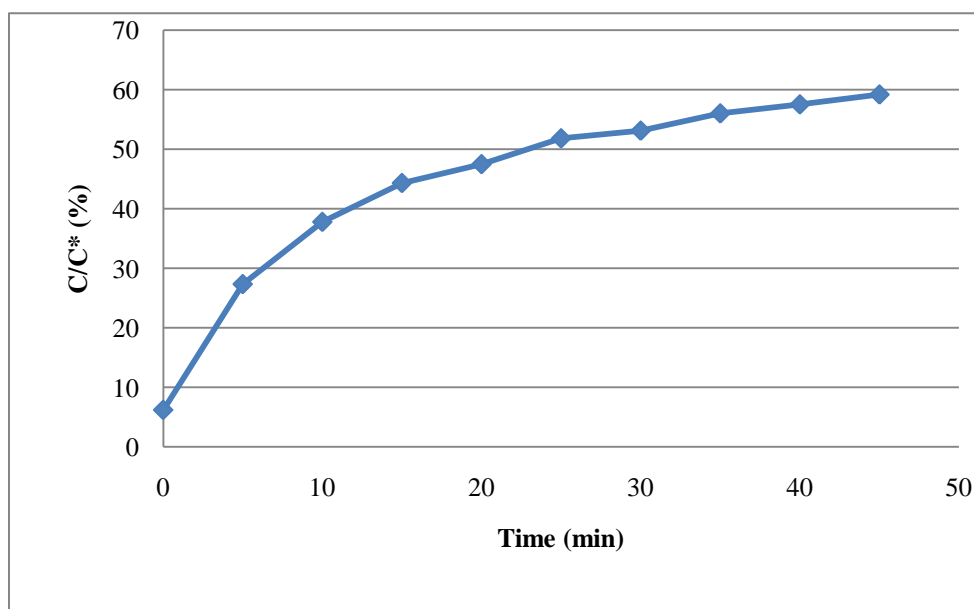
**Figure A.3** Dissolution profile of Prednisone tablet at 4° off-center.



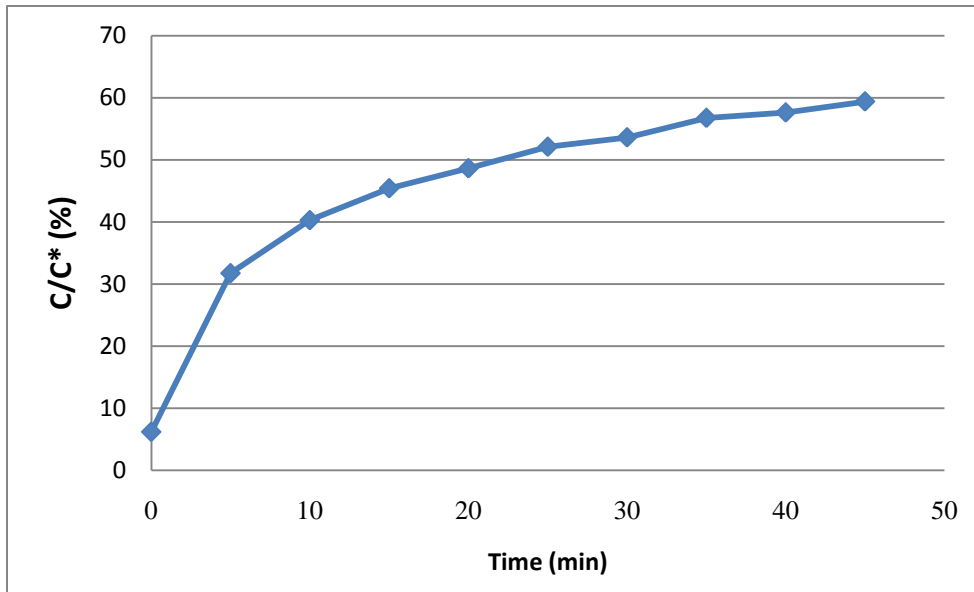
**Figure A.4** Dissolution profile of Prednisone tablet at 6° off-center.



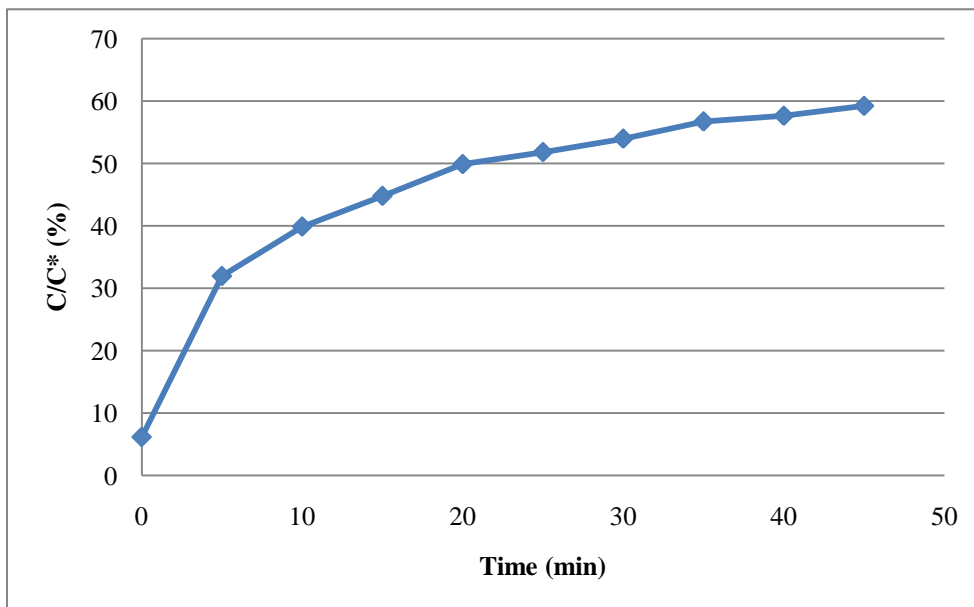
**Figure A.5** Dissolution profile of Prednisone tablet at 8° off-center.



**Figure A.6** Dissolution profile of Prednisone tablet at 10° off-center.



**Figure A.7** Dissolution profile of Prednisone tablet at 15° off-center.

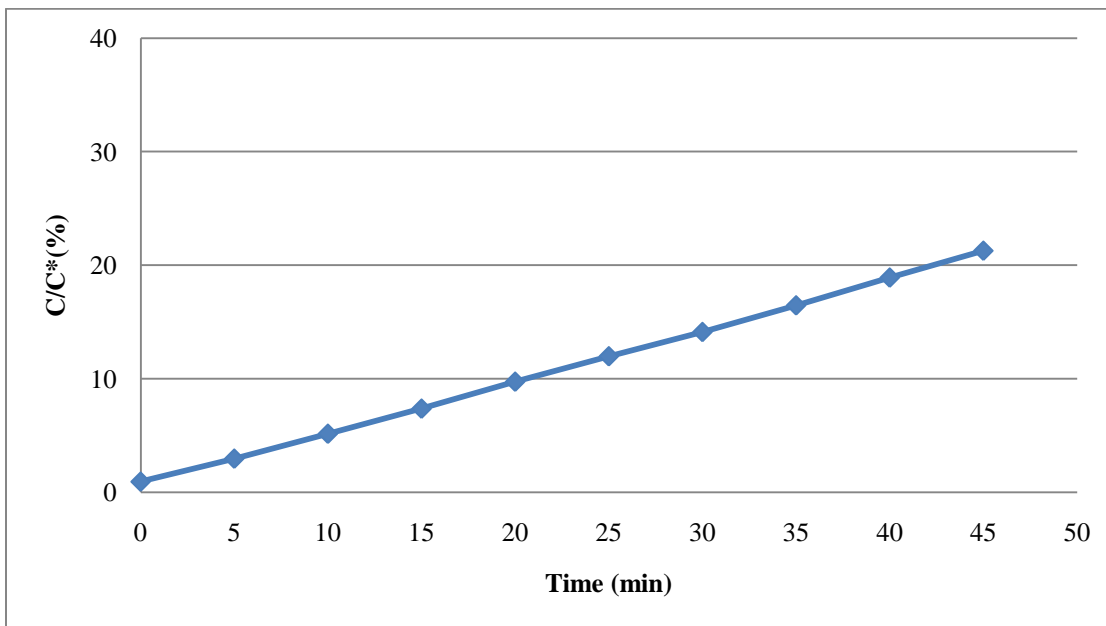


**Figure A.8** Dissolution profile of Prednisone tablet at 20° off-center.

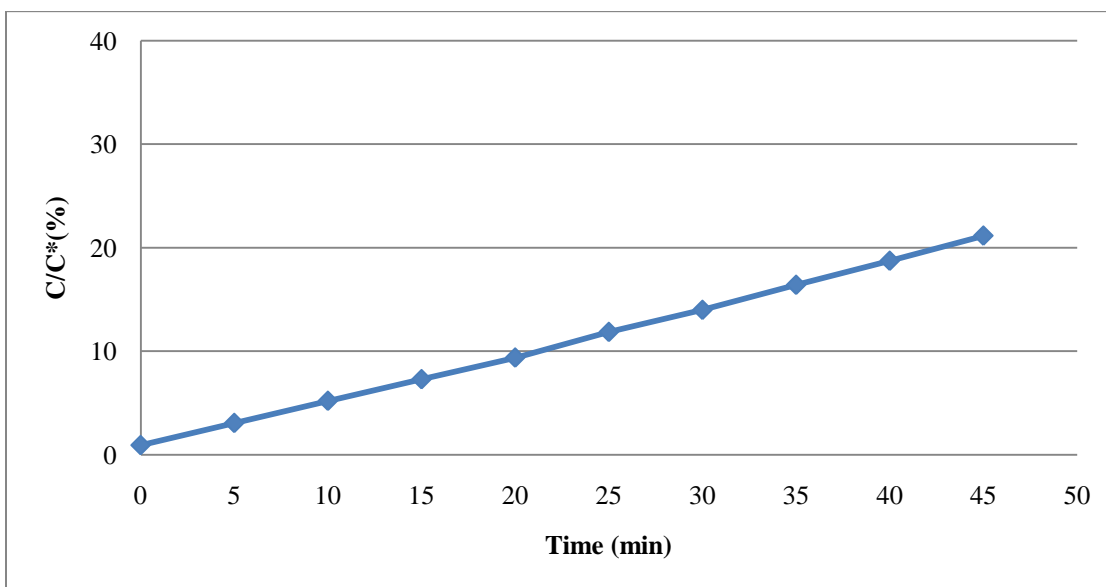
## APPENDIX B

### DISSOLUTION PROFILE OF SALICYLIC ACID TABLETS

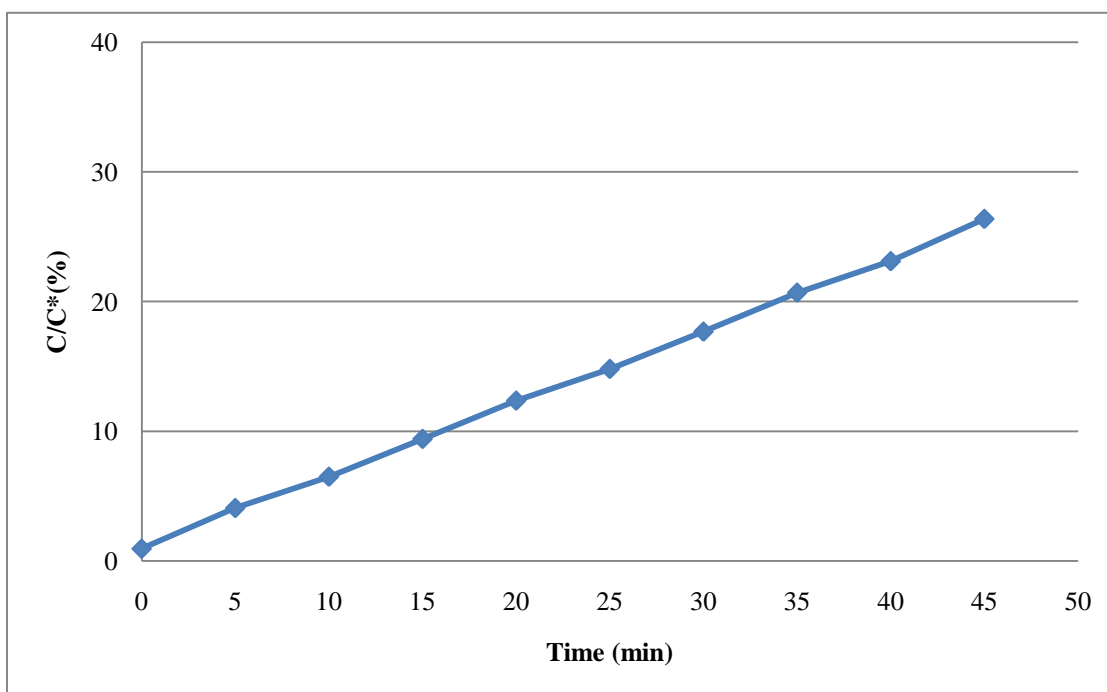
Figure B.1 to B.8 show Dissolution of Salicylic Acid Tablet at different locations.



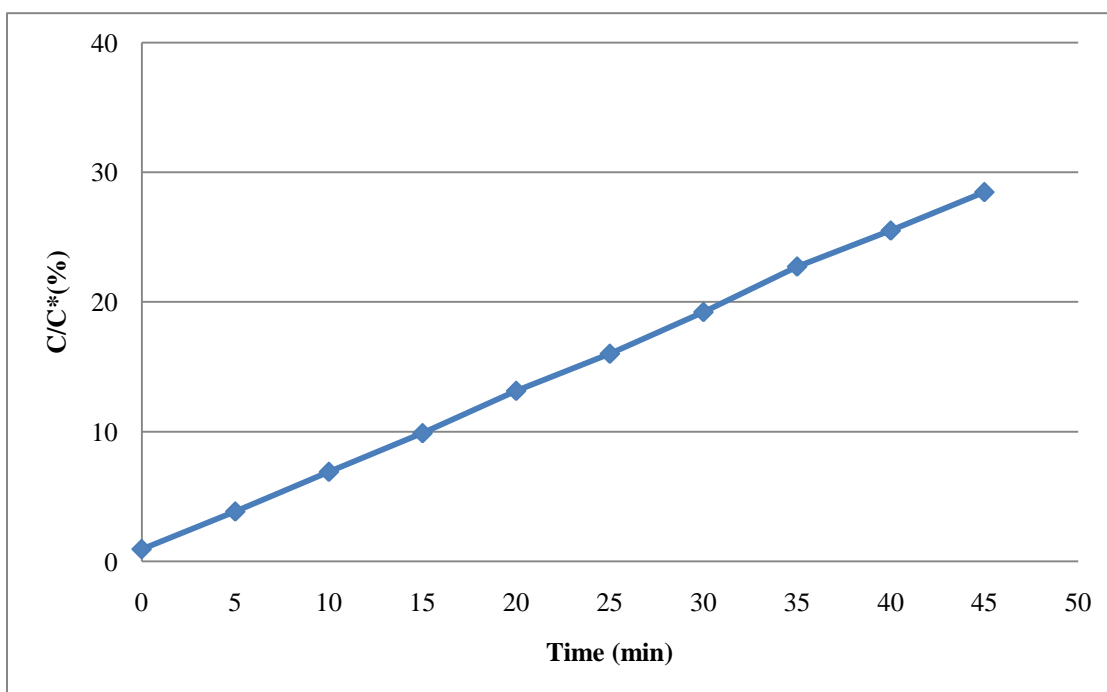
**Figure B.1** Dissolution profile of Salicylic Acid tablet at Central location.



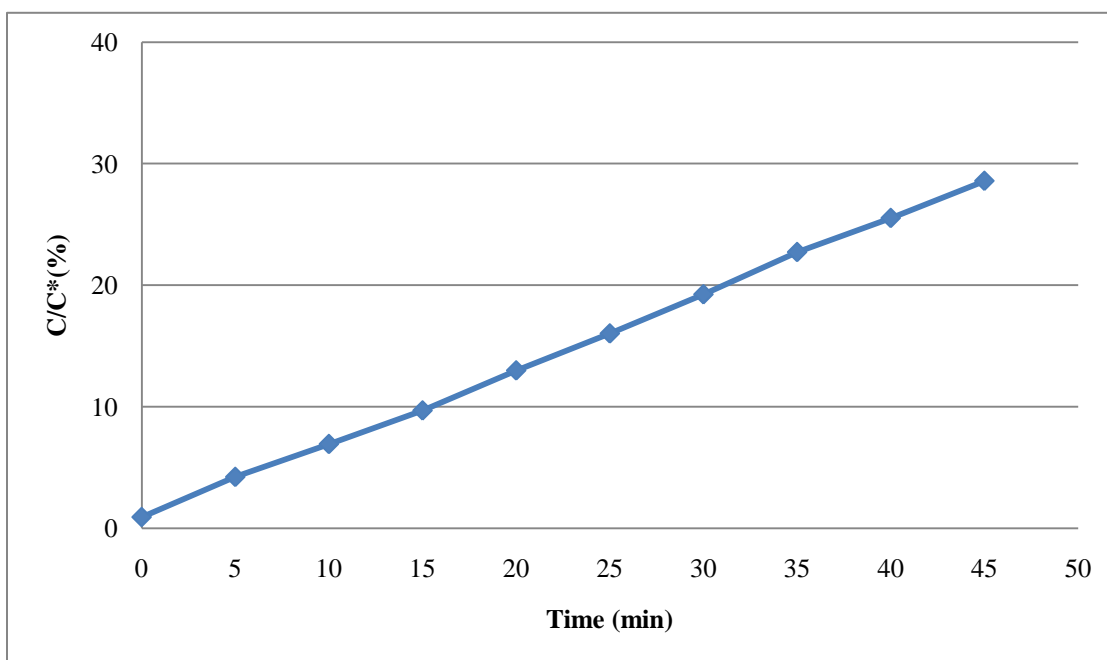
**Figure B.2** Dissolution profile of Salicylic Acid tablet at 2° off-center.



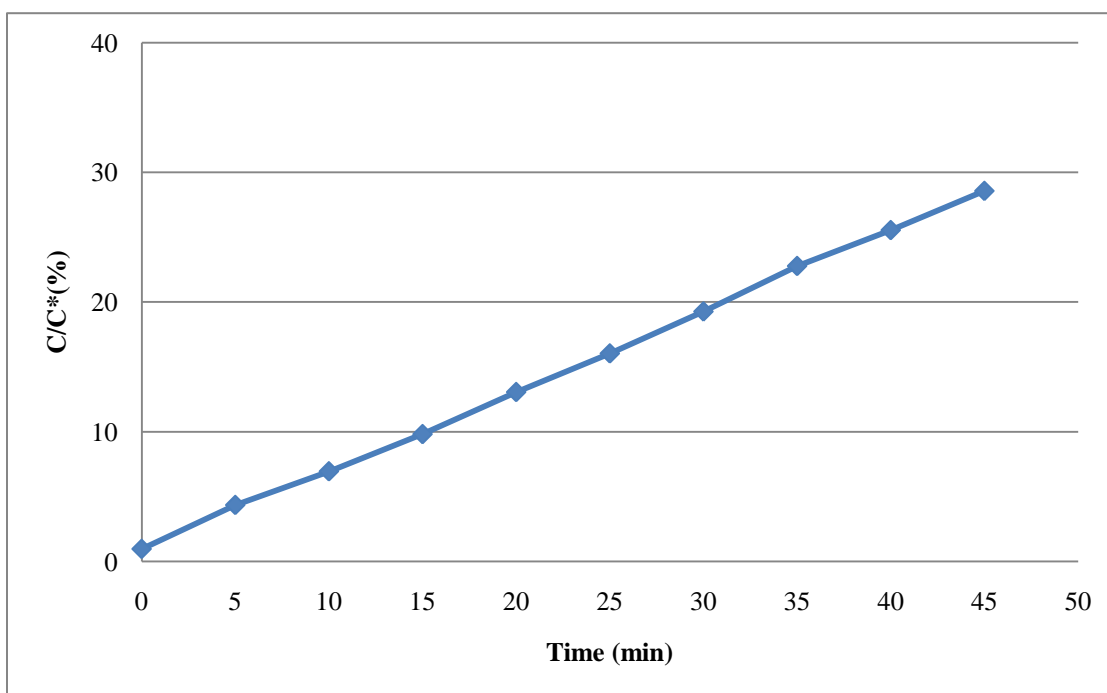
**Figure B.3** Dissolution profile of Salicylic Acid tablet at 4° off-center.



**Figure B.4** Dissolution profile of Salicylic Acid tablet at 6° off-center.

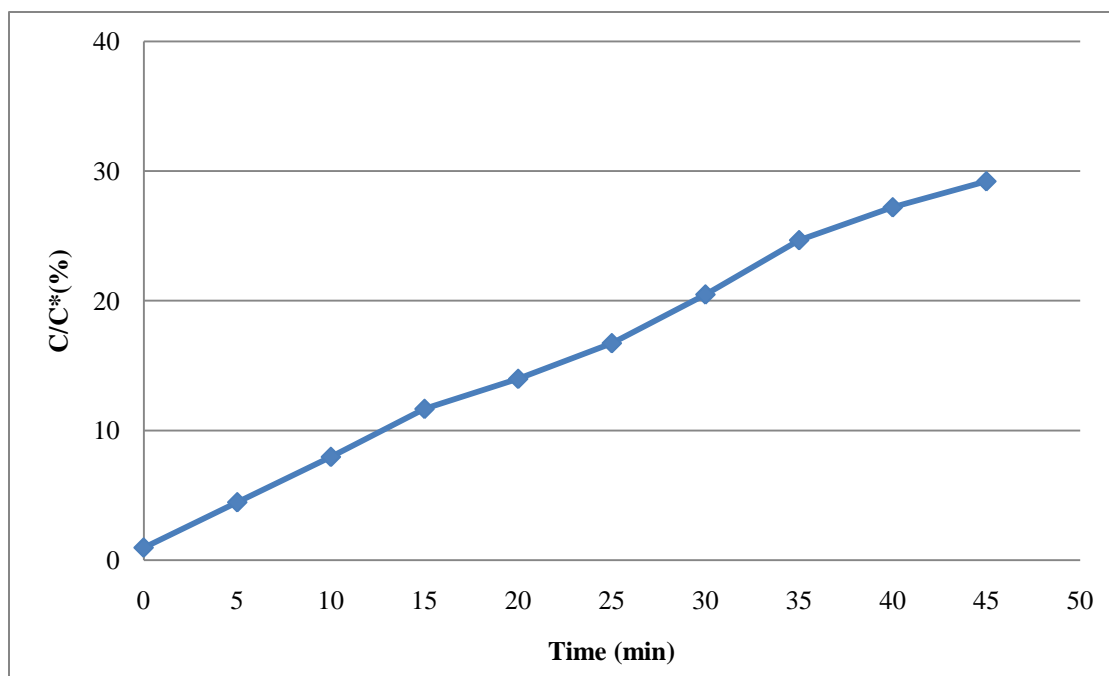


**Figure B.5** Dissolution profile of Salicylic Acid tablet at 8° off-center.

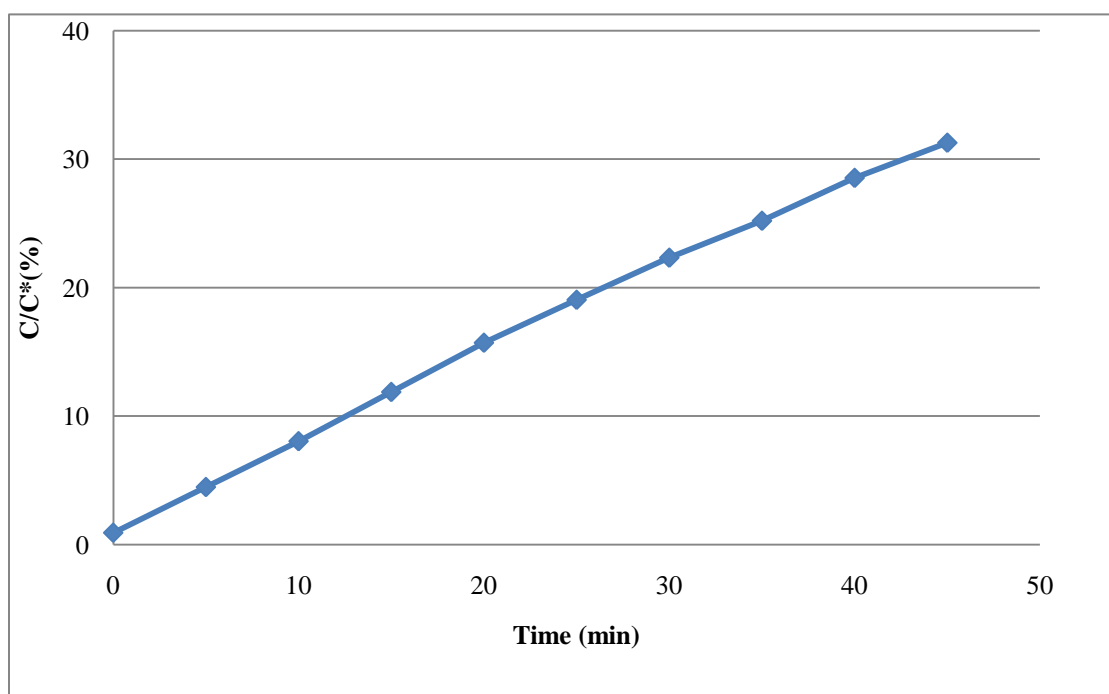


**Figure B.6** Dissolution profile of Salicylic Acid tablet at 10° off-center.





**Figure B.7** Dissolution profile of Salicylic Acid tablet at 15° off-center.



**Figure B.8** Dissolution profile of Salicylic Acid tablet at 20° off-center.

## APPENDIX C

This appendix includes all tables of Dissolution Profiles of Prednisone Tablet at different tablet locations in detail.

**Table C.1** Dissolution Profile of Prednisone at Central Location

| Time (min) | Average Absorption | Slope | Intercept | C (mg/mL) | C/C*   | C/C* Standard Deviation | C/C* (%) |
|------------|--------------------|-------|-----------|-----------|--------|-------------------------|----------|
| 0          | 0.053              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0012    | 0.0600 | 0.0011                  | 6.0023   |
| 5          | 0.127              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0029    | 0.1438 | 0.0036                  | 14.3828  |
| 10         | 0.204              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0046    | 0.2310 | 0.0034                  | 23.1030  |
| 15         | 0.254              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0058    | 0.2877 | 0.0049                  | 28.7655  |
| 20         | 0.296              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0067    | 0.3352 | 0.0060                  | 33.5220  |
| 25         | 0.336              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0076    | 0.3805 | 0.0051                  | 38.0520  |
| 30         | 0.383              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0087    | 0.4337 | 0.0043                  | 43.3748  |
| 35         | 0.422              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0096    | 0.4779 | 0.0047                  | 47.7915  |
| 40         | 0.436              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0099    | 0.4938 | 0.0040                  | 49.3770  |
| 45         | 0.446              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0101    | 0.5051 | 0.0041                  | 50.5095  |

**Table C.2** Dissolution Profile of Prednisone at 2° off-center Position

| Time min | Average Absorption | Slope | Intercept | C mg/mL | C/C*   | C/C* Standard Deviation | C/C* (%) | $f_1$  | $f_2$  |
|----------|--------------------|-------|-----------|---------|--------|-------------------------|----------|--------|--------|
| 0        | 0.052              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0012  | 0.0589 | 0.0013                  | 5.8890   | 2.7893 | 88.993 |
| 5        | 0.156              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0035  | 0.1767 | 0.0083                  | 17.667   |        |        |
| 10       | 0.211              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0048  | 0.2390 | 0.0060                  | 23.895   |        |        |
| 15       | 0.268              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0061  | 0.3035 | 0.0094                  | 30.351   |        |        |
| 20       | 0.31               | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0070  | 0.3511 | 0.0029                  | 35.107   |        |        |
| 25       | 0.341              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0077  | 0.3862 | 0.0043                  | 38.618   |        |        |
| 30       | 0.386              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0087  | 0.4371 | 0.0024                  | 43.714   |        |        |
| 35       | 0.429              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0097  | 0.4858 | 0.0017                  | 48.584   |        |        |
| 40       | 0.436              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0099  | 0.4938 | 0.0017                  | 49.377   |        |        |
| 45       | 0.448              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0101  | 0.5074 | 0.0024                  | 50.736   |        |        |

**Table C.3** Dissolution Profile of Prednisone at 4° off-center Position

| Time min | Average Absorption | Slope | Intercept | C mg/mL | C/C*   | C/C* Standard Deviation | C/C* (%) | $f_1$  | $f_2$   |
|----------|--------------------|-------|-----------|---------|--------|-------------------------|----------|--------|---------|
| 0        | 0.052              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0012  | 0.0589 | 0.0017                  | 5.8890   | 4.6143 | 81.7799 |
| 5        | 0.165              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0037  | 0.1869 | 0.0011                  | 18.6863  |        |         |
| 10       | 0.202              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0046  | 0.2288 | 0.0017                  | 22.8765  |        |         |
| 15       | 0.259              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0059  | 0.2933 | 0.0035                  | 29.3318  |        |         |
| 20       | 0.312              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0071  | 0.3533 | 0.0013                  | 35.3340  |        |         |
| 25       | 0.365              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0083  | 0.4134 | 0.0020                  | 41.3363  |        |         |
| 30       | 0.39               | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0088  | 0.4417 | 0.0020                  | 44.1675  |        |         |
| 35       | 0.423              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0096  | 0.4790 | 0.0017                  | 47.9048  |        |         |
| 40       | 0.446              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0101  | 0.5051 | 0.0017                  | 50.5095  |        |         |
| 45       | 0.472              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0107  | 0.5345 | 0.0024                  | 53.4540  |        |         |

**Table C.4** Dissolution Profile of Prednisone at 6° off-center Position

| Time min | Average Absorption | Slope | Intercept | C mg/mL | C/C*   | C/C* Standard Deviation | C/C* (%) | $f_1$   | $f_2$   |
|----------|--------------------|-------|-----------|---------|--------|-------------------------|----------|---------|---------|
| 0        | 0.053              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0012  | 0.0600 | 0.0017                  | 6.0023   | 25.3444 | 52.2864 |
| 5        | 0.206              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0047  | 0.2333 | 0.0030                  | 23.3295  |         |         |
| 10       | 0.286              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0065  | 0.3239 | 0.0024                  | 32.3895  |         |         |
| 15       | 0.325              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0074  | 0.3681 | 0.0024                  | 36.8063  |         |         |
| 20       | 0.408              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0092  | 0.4621 | 0.0036                  | 46.2060  |         |         |
| 25       | 0.439              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0099  | 0.4972 | 0.0057                  | 49.7168  |         |         |
| 30       | 0.471              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0107  | 0.5334 | 0.0041                  | 53.3408  |         |         |
| 35       | 0.487              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0110  | 0.5515 | 0.0041                  | 55.1528  |         |         |
| 40       | 0.502              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0114  | 0.5685 | 0.0036                  | 56.8515  |         |         |
| 45       | 0.516              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0117  | 0.5844 | 0.0029                  | 58.4370  |         |         |

**Table C.5** Dissolution Profile of Prednisone at 8° off-center Position

| Time min | Average Absorption | Slope | Intercept | C mg/mL | C/C*   | C/C* Standard Deviation | C/C* (%) | $f_1$   | $f_2$   |
|----------|--------------------|-------|-----------|---------|--------|-------------------------|----------|---------|---------|
| 0        | 0.053              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0012  | 0.0600 | 0.0007                  | 6.0023   | 31.3017 | 47.5564 |
| 5        | 0.235              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0053  | 0.2661 | 0.0017                  | 26.6138  |         |         |
| 10       | 0.328              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0074  | 0.3715 | 0.0046                  | 37.1460  |         |         |
| 15       | 0.394              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0089  | 0.4462 | 0.0034                  | 44.6205  |         |         |
| 20       | 0.411              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0093  | 0.4655 | 0.0007                  | 46.5458  |         |         |
| 25       | 0.452              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0102  | 0.5119 | 0.0024                  | 51.1890  |         |         |
| 30       | 0.468              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0106  | 0.5300 | 0.0033                  | 53.0010  |         |         |
| 35       | 0.493              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0112  | 0.5583 | 0.0017                  | 55.8323  |         |         |
| 40       | 0.507              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0115  | 0.5742 | 0.0036                  | 57.4178  |         |         |
| 45       | 0.525              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0119  | 0.5946 | 0.0035                  | 59.4563  |         |         |

**Table C.6** Dissolution Profile of Prednisone at 10° off-center Position

| Time min | Average Absorption | Slope | Intercept | C mg/mL | C/C*   | C/C* Standard Deviation | C/C* (%) | $f_1$   | $f_2$   |
|----------|--------------------|-------|-----------|---------|--------|-------------------------|----------|---------|---------|
| 0        | 0.055              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0012  | 0.0623 | 0.0007                  | 6.2288   | 32.5758 | 46.7143 |
| 5        | 0.245              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0055  | 0.2775 | 0.0036                  | 27.7463  |         |         |
| 10       | 0.335              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0076  | 0.3794 | 0.0036                  | 37.9388  |         |         |
| 15       | 0.39               | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0088  | 0.4417 | 0.0047                  | 44.1675  |         |         |
| 20       | 0.42               | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0095  | 0.4757 | 0.0035                  | 47.5650  |         |         |
| 25       | 0.458              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0104  | 0.5187 | 0.0017                  | 51.8685  |         |         |
| 30       | 0.47               | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0106  | 0.5323 | 0.0020                  | 53.2275  |         |         |
| 35       | 0.499              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0113  | 0.5651 | 0.0051                  | 56.5118  |         |         |
| 40       | 0.51               | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0116  | 0.5776 | 0.0023                  | 57.7575  |         |         |
| 45       | 0.523              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0118  | 0.5923 | 0.0007                  | 59.2298  |         |         |

**Table C.7** Dissolution Profile of Prednisone at 15° off-center Position

| Time min | Average Absorption | Slope | Intercept | C mg/mL | C/C*   | C/C* Standard Deviation | C/C* (%) | $f_1$   | $f_2$   |
|----------|--------------------|-------|-----------|---------|--------|-------------------------|----------|---------|---------|
| 0        | 0.054              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0012  | 0.0612 | 0.0011                  | 6.1155   | 35.4683 | 44.6077 |
| 5        | 0.279              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0063  | 0.3160 | 0.0036                  | 31.5968  |         |         |
| 10       | 0.356              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0081  | 0.4032 | 0.0040                  | 40.3170  |         |         |
| 15       | 0.401              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0091  | 0.4541 | 0.0045                  | 45.4133  |         |         |
| 20       | 0.431              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0098  | 0.4881 | 0.0024                  | 48.8108  |         |         |
| 25       | 0.461              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0104  | 0.5221 | 0.0011                  | 52.2083  |         |         |
| 30       | 0.475              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0108  | 0.5379 | 0.0017                  | 53.7938  |         |         |
| 35       | 0.5                | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0113  | 0.5663 | 0.0011                  | 56.6250  |         |         |
| 40       | 0.507              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0115  | 0.5742 | 0.0017                  | 57.4178  |         |         |
| 45       | 0.524              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0119  | 0.5934 | 0.0017                  | 59.3430  |         |         |

**Table C.8** Dissolution Profile of Prednisone at 20° off-center Position

| Time min | Average Absorption | Slope | Intercept | C mg/mL | C/C*   | C/C* Standard Deviation | C/C* (%) | $f_1$   | $f_2$   |
|----------|--------------------|-------|-----------|---------|--------|-------------------------|----------|---------|---------|
| 0        | 0.054              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0012  | 0.0612 | 0.0007                  | 6.1155   | 37.8104 | 44.4455 |
| 5        | 0.284              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0064  | 0.3216 | 0.0023                  | 32.1630  |         |         |
| 10       | 0.355              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0080  | 0.4020 | 0.0034                  | 40.2038  |         |         |
| 15       | 0.396              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0090  | 0.4485 | 0.0035                  | 44.8470  |         |         |
| 20       | 0.442              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0100  | 0.5006 | 0.0017                  | 50.0565  |         |         |
| 25       | 0.458              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0104  | 0.5187 | 0.0013                  | 51.8685  |         |         |
| 30       | 0.473              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0107  | 0.5357 | 0.0035                  | 53.5673  |         |         |
| 35       | 0.501              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0113  | 0.5674 | 0.0017                  | 56.7383  |         |         |
| 40       | 0.508              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0115  | 0.5753 | 0.0013                  | 57.5310  |         |         |
| 45       | 0.523              | 0.023 | -0.00035  | 0.0118  | 0.5923 | 0.0007                  | 59.2298  |         |         |

## APPENDIX D

### TABLES FOR DISSOLUTION PROFILES OF SALICYLIC ACID.

This appendix includes all tables of Dissolution Profiles of Salicylic Acid Tablet at different tablet locations in detail.

**Table D.1** Dissolution Profile of Salicylic Acid at Central Position

| Time min | Average Absorption | Slope | Intercept | C mg/mL | C/C*   | C/C* Standard Deviation | C/C* (%) |
|----------|--------------------|-------|-----------|---------|--------|-------------------------|----------|
| 0        | 0.075              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0032  | 0.0095 | 7.3E-05                 | 0.945    |
| 5        | 0.232              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0097  | 0.0292 | 0.00112                 | 2.923    |
| 10       | 0.403              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0169  | 0.0508 | 0.00065                 | 5.078    |
| 15       | 0.576              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0242  | 0.0726 | 0.00091                 | 7.258    |
| 20       | 0.754              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0317  | 0.0950 | 0.00207                 | 9.500    |
| 25       | 0.943              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0396  | 0.1188 | 0.00084                 | 11.882   |
| 30       | 1.116              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0469  | 0.1406 | 0.00045                 | 14.062   |
| 35       | 1.302              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0547  | 0.1641 | 0.00050                 | 16.405   |
| 40       | 1.49               | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0626  | 0.1877 | 0.00120                 | 18.774   |
| 45       | 1.685              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0708  | 0.2123 | 0.00032                 | 21.231   |

**Table D.2** Dissolution Profile of Salicylic Acid at 2° off-center Position

| Time min | Average Absorption | Slope | Intercept | C mg/mL | C/C*   | C/C* Standard Deviation | C/C* (%) | $f_1$  | $f_2$   |
|----------|--------------------|-------|-----------|---------|--------|-------------------------|----------|--------|---------|
| 0        | 0.071              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0030  | 0.0089 | 0.00026                 | 0.895    | 0.7176 | 99.9082 |
| 5        | 0.234              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0098  | 0.0295 | 0.00095                 | 2.948    |        |         |
| 10       | 0.404              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0170  | 0.0509 | 0.00093                 | 5.090    |        |         |
| 15       | 0.57               | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0239  | 0.0718 | 0.00095                 | 7.182    |        |         |
| 20       | 0.745              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0313  | 0.0939 | 0.00052                 | 9.387    |        |         |
| 25       | 0.939              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0394  | 0.1183 | 0.00041                 | 11.831   |        |         |
| 30       | 1.106              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0465  | 0.1394 | 0.00044                 | 13.936   |        |         |
| 35       | 1.294              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0543  | 0.1630 | 0.00088                 | 16.304   |        |         |
| 40       | 1.482              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0622  | 0.1867 | 0.00044                 | 18.673   |        |         |
| 45       | 1.672              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0702  | 0.2107 | 0.00069                 | 21.067   |        |         |

**Table D.3** Dissolution Profile of Salicylic Acid at 4° off-center Position

| Time min | Average Absorption | Slope | Intercept | C mg/mL | C/C*   | C/C* Standard Deviation | C/C* (%) | $f_1$   | $f_2$   |
|----------|--------------------|-------|-----------|---------|--------|-------------------------|----------|---------|---------|
| 0        | 0.076              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0032  | 0.0096 | 0.00015                 | 0.958    | 25.9264 | 73.9092 |
| 5        | 0.322              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0135  | 0.0406 | 0.00025                 | 4.057    |         |         |
| 10       | 0.513              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0215  | 0.0646 | 0.00032                 | 6.464    |         |         |
| 15       | 0.745              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0313  | 0.0939 | 0.00019                 | 9.387    |         |         |
| 20       | 0.985              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0414  | 0.1241 | 0.00050                 | 12.411   |         |         |
| 25       | 1.177              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0494  | 0.1483 | 0.00033                 | 14.830   |         |         |
| 30       | 1.401              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0588  | 0.1765 | 0.00033                 | 17.653   |         |         |
| 35       | 1.64               | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0689  | 0.2066 | 0.00019                 | 20.664   |         |         |
| 40       | 1.831              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0769  | 0.2307 | 0.00033                 | 23.071   |         |         |
| 45       | 2.091              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0878  | 0.2635 | 0.00026                 | 26.347   |         |         |

**Table D.4** Dissolution Profile of Salicylic Acid at 6° off-center Position

| Time min | Average Absorption | Slope | Intercept | C mg/mL | C/C*   | C/C* Standard Deviation | C/C* (%) | $f_1$   | $f_2$   |
|----------|--------------------|-------|-----------|---------|--------|-------------------------|----------|---------|---------|
| 0        | 0.076              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0032  | 0.0096 | 0.00013                 | 0.958    | 35.8311 | 66.7539 |
| 5        | 0.305              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0128  | 0.0384 | 0.00038                 | 3.843    |         |         |
| 10       | 0.546              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0229  | 0.0688 | 0.00048                 | 6.880    |         |         |
| 15       | 0.781              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0328  | 0.0984 | 0.00038                 | 9.841    |         |         |
| 20       | 1.042              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0438  | 0.1313 | 0.00029                 | 13.129   |         |         |
| 25       | 1.268              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0533  | 0.1598 | 0.00026                 | 15.977   |         |         |
| 30       | 1.524              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0640  | 0.1920 | 0.00019                 | 19.202   |         |         |
| 35       | 1.801              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0756  | 0.2269 | 0.00045                 | 22.693   |         |         |
| 40       | 2.022              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0849  | 0.2548 | 0.00025                 | 25.477   |         |         |
| 45       | 2.258              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0948  | 0.2845 | 0.00026                 | 28.451   |         |         |

**Table D.5** Dissolution Profile of Salicylic Acid at 8° off-center Position

| Time min | Average Absorption | Slope | Intercept | C mg/mL | C/C*   | C/C* Standard Deviation | C/C* (%) | $f_1$   | $f_2$   |
|----------|--------------------|-------|-----------|---------|--------|-------------------------|----------|---------|---------|
| 0        | 0.072              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0030  | 0.0091 | 0.00015                 | 0.907    | 36.0075 | 66.7063 |
| 5        | 0.331              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0139  | 0.0417 | 0.00048                 | 4.171    |         |         |
| 10       | 0.547              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0230  | 0.0689 | 0.00033                 | 6.892    |         |         |
| 15       | 0.769              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0323  | 0.0969 | 0.00013                 | 9.689    |         |         |
| 20       | 1.028              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0432  | 0.1295 | 0.00026                 | 12.953   |         |         |
| 25       | 1.271              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0534  | 0.1601 | 0.00038                 | 16.015   |         |         |
| 30       | 1.526              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0641  | 0.1923 | 0.00013                 | 19.228   |         |         |
| 35       | 1.801              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0756  | 0.2269 | 0.00033                 | 22.693   |         |         |
| 40       | 2.024              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0850  | 0.2550 | 0.00041                 | 25.502   |         |         |
| 45       | 2.265              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0951  | 0.2854 | 0.00038                 | 28.539   |         |         |

**Table D.6** Dissolution Profile of Salicylic Acid at 10° off-center Position

| Time min | Average Absorption | Slope | Intercept | C mg/mL | C/C*   | C/C* Standard Deviation | C/C* (%) | $f_1$   | $f_2$   |
|----------|--------------------|-------|-----------|---------|--------|-------------------------|----------|---------|---------|
| 0        | 0.075              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0032  | 0.0095 | 0.00007                 | 0.945    | 36.2310 | 66.6508 |
| 5        | 0.341              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0143  | 0.0430 | 0.00044                 | 4.297    |         |         |
| 10       | 0.548              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0230  | 0.0690 | 0.00048                 | 6.905    |         |         |
| 15       | 0.774              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0325  | 0.0975 | 0.00084                 | 9.752    |         |         |
| 20       | 1.032              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0433  | 0.1300 | 0.00067                 | 13.003   |         |         |
| 25       | 1.267              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0532  | 0.1596 | 0.00086                 | 15.964   |         |         |
| 30       | 1.526              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0641  | 0.1923 | 0.00100                 | 19.228   |         |         |
| 35       | 1.804              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0758  | 0.2273 | 0.00051                 | 22.730   |         |         |
| 40       | 2.024              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0850  | 0.2550 | 0.00038                 | 25.502   |         |         |
| 45       | 2.265              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0951  | 0.2854 | 0.00026                 | 28.539   |         |         |

**Table D.7** Dissolution Profile of Salicylic Acid at 15° off-center Position

| Time min | Average Absorption | Slope | Intercept | C mg/mL | C/C*   | C/C* Standard Deviation | C/C* (%) | $f_1$   | $f_2$   |
|----------|--------------------|-------|-----------|---------|--------|-------------------------|----------|---------|---------|
| 0        | 0.078              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0033  | 0.0098 | 0.00013                 | 0.983    | 45.7711 | 62.1771 |
| 5        | 0.351              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0147  | 0.0442 | 0.00038                 | 4.423    |         |         |
| 10       | 0.63               | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0265  | 0.0794 | 0.00025                 | 7.938    |         |         |
| 15       | 0.925              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0389  | 0.1166 | 0.00015                 | 11.655   |         |         |
| 20       | 1.106              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0465  | 0.1394 | 0.00038                 | 13.936   |         |         |
| 25       | 1.325              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0557  | 0.1670 | 0.00032                 | 16.695   |         |         |
| 30       | 1.623              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0682  | 0.2045 | 0.00032                 | 20.450   |         |         |
| 35       | 1.956              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0822  | 0.2465 | 0.00025                 | 24.646   |         |         |
| 40       | 2.158              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0906  | 0.2719 | 0.00033                 | 27.191   |         |         |
| 45       | 2.318              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0974  | 0.2921 | 0.00032                 | 29.207   |         |         |

**Table D.8** Dissolution Profile of Salicylic Acid at 20° off-center Position

| Time min | Average Absorption | Slope | Intercept | C mg/mL | C/C*   | C/C* Standard Deviation | C/C* (%) | $f_1$   | $f_2$   |
|----------|--------------------|-------|-----------|---------|--------|-------------------------|----------|---------|---------|
| 0        | 0.074              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0031  | 0.0093 | 0.00013                 | 0.932    | 55.4641 | 58.0936 |
| 5        | 0.356              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0150  | 0.0449 | 0.00133                 | 4.486    |         |         |
| 10       | 0.639              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0268  | 0.0805 | 0.00122                 | 8.051    |         |         |
| 15       | 0.943              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0396  | 0.1188 | 0.00079                 | 11.882   |         |         |
| 20       | 1.247              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0524  | 0.1571 | 0.00081                 | 15.712   |         |         |
| 25       | 1.512              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0635  | 0.1905 | 0.00079                 | 19.051   |         |         |
| 30       | 1.772              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0744  | 0.2233 | 0.00084                 | 22.327   |         |         |
| 35       | 2                  | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0840  | 0.2520 | 0.00596                 | 25.200   |         |         |
| 40       | 2.265              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.0951  | 0.2854 | 0.00063                 | 28.539   |         |         |
| 45       | 2.482              | 0.044 | -0.002    | 0.1042  | 0.3127 | 0.00088                 | 31.273   |         |         |

## REFERENCES

- Armenante, P.M., Muzzio, F., Inherent Method Variability in Dissolution Testing: The Effect of Hydrodynamics in the USP II Apparatus, A Technical Report Submitted to the Food and Drug Administration.
- Bai G., Armenante P.M., Plank R.V., Gentzler M., Ford K., Harmon P., 2007a. Hydrodynamics investigation of USP dissolution test Apparatus 2. *J Pharm Sci.* 96 (9), 2327-2349.
- Bai, G., Armenante, P.M., Plank, R.V., 2007b. Experimental and computational determination of blend time in USP dissolution testing apparatus II. *J. Pharm Sci.* 96 (11), 3072-3086.
- Bai G., Armenante P.M., 2008. Velocity distribution and shear rate variability resulting from changes in the impeller location in the USP dissolution testing apparatus II. *Pharm Res.* 25 (2), 320-336.
- Bai G., Armenante P.M., 2009. Hydrodynamic, mass transfer, and dissolution effects induced by tablet location during dissolution testing. *J Pharm Sci.* 98 (4), 1511-1531.
- Bai, G., Wang, Y. and Armenante, P. M., 2011. Velocity Profiles and Shear Strain Rate Variability in the USP Dissolution Testing Apparatus 2 at Different Impeller Agitation Speeds, *Int. J. Pharmaceutics*, 403: 1-14.
- Baxter, J. L., Kukura, J., Muzzio, F. J., (2005). Hydrodynamics-induced Variability in the USP Apparatus II Dissolution Test. *International Journal of Pharmaceutics*, 292, 17-28.
- Bocanegra, L. M., Morris, G. J., Jurewicz, J. T., Mauger, J. W., (1990). Fluid and Particle Laser Doppler Velocity Measurements and Mass Transfer Predictions for USP Paddle Method Dissolution Apparatus. *Drug Development and Industrial Pharmacy*, 16, 1441-1464.
- Cohen, J. L., Hubert, B. B., Leeson, L. J., Rhodes, C. T., Robinson, J. R., Roseman, T. J., Shelter, E., (1990). The Development of USP Dissolution and Drug Release Standards, *Pharmaceutical Research*, 7, 983-987.
- Division of Drug Analysis, Food and Drug Administration, (1995). Dissolution Test Performance Standard #2
- Guidance for Industry - Dissolution Testing of Immediate Release Solid Oral Dosage forms, (1997). Food and Drug Administration.



Kukura, J., Arratia, P. C., Szalai, E. S., Muzzio, F. J., (2003). Engineering Tools for Understanding Hydrodynamics of Dissolution Tests. *Drug Development and Industrial Pharmacy*, 29, 231-239.

Kukura, J., Baxter, J. L., Muzzio, F. J., (2004). Shear distribution and variability in the USP Apparatus 2 under turbulent conditions. *International Journal of Pharmaceutics*, 279, 9-17

Mirza, T., Joshi, Y., Qian, L., Richard, V., Evaluation of Dissolution Hydrodynamics in the USP, Peak and Flat-Bottom Vessels Using Different Solubility Drugs. *Pharmaceutical and Analytical Development*, Novartis Pharmaceutical Corporation.

USP Certificate, (2007). USP Prednisone Tablets RS, Lot P0E203, United States Pharmacopeia,