

Design, Synthesis, and Biological Evaluation of Mutual Prodrugs of Some Selected NSAIDs



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Submission: March 26, 2017; **Published:** April 25, 2017

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Abstract

Non-steroidal Anti-inflammatory drugs (Aceclofenac, Mefenamic acid) have conjugated with different antioxidants such as Thymol, Menthol which having antiulcerogenic activity with the NSAIDs- antioxidant mutual prodrug gastro sparing NSAIDs devoid of Ulcerogenic side effects. Two mutual Prodrugs have synthesized in which NSAIDs have been conjugated with different antioxidants by a glycolic acid spacer. The structure was confirmed by using IR, NMR (1H-NMR) & Characterized by some physicochemical properties including the Melting point. Titled compounds showed the significant protection towards inflammation as well as exhibited potential antibacterial activity.

Keywords: NSAIDs; Mutual Prodrug; Ulcerogenic; Antioxidants

Introduction

Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) are the most widely used medicines in the world, because of their analgesic, anti-inflammatory, and antipyretic activities [1,2]. However, the use of NSAIDs results in serious upper gastrointestinal (GI) adverse effects [3]. The pharmacological activity of NSAIDs is related to their ability to inhibit the activity of the enzyme cyclooxygenases (COXs) involved in the biosynthesis of prostaglandin mainly prostaglandin H₂ (PGH₂) [4]. It is well known that COX exists in two is forms, namely COX-I and COX-II, which are regulated differently [5]. COX-I is constitutively expressed in the stomach to provide cytoprotection in the GIT [6]. COX-II is inducible and plays a major role in prostaglandin biosynthesis in inflammatory cells [7]. Since most of the NSAIDs used clinically inhibit both is forms, long-term use of these agents results in gastric ulcer and there is enough evidence that inhibition of COX-I rather than that of COX-II underlies gastric ulcer formation [8].

But initial enthusiasm for selective COX-II inhibitors as safer NSAIDs has faded due to the emergence of serious cardiovascular side effects on long term use and need for design and development of safer agents still remain [9,10].

It has been well known that local generation of various reactive oxygen species (ROS) plays a significant role in the

formation of gastric ulceration associated with NSAID therapy [11]. These observations indicate that antioxidants may be used to prevent NSAIDs-induced gastric ulcers. During the past few decades, a large number of naturally occurring compounds have been identified as antioxidants like Thymol, menthol, which are viewed as promising therapeutic agents for treating free radical mediated diseases including NSAID-induced peptic ulcers [12].

A Large number of herbs and spices are recognized as a source of natural antioxidants and studies have confirmed their efficacy for the treatment of gastrointestinal ulcers [13]. Based on these observations, it has been suggested that co administration of antioxidants and NSAIDs in formulated dosage form may possibly decrease the risk of NSAIDs induced gastrointestinal side effects [14].

However, there are potential advantages in giving such co-administered drugs having complementary pharmacological activities in the form of a single chemical entity. Such agents are named as mutual prodrugs which are designed with improved physicochemical properties [15,16]. In the view of this background, the present study was mutual prodrugs of NSAIDs with different antioxidants to get NSAIDs with lesser ulcerogenic side effects while retaining the anti-inflammatory and analgesic activity [17].

A mutual prodrug is a form of the drug in which two pharmacologically active agents are attached to each other in such a way that each drug acts as a moiety/carrier for each other and vice versa. The association may be "synergistic" if the carrier shows the same biological action as that of parent drug or may provide "additional" benefit if it shows new pharmacological action which is lacking in parent drug (Figures 1-3).

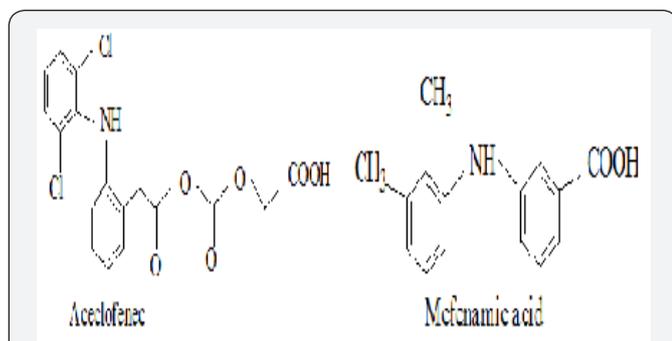


Figure 1: Chemical Structures of NSAIDs..

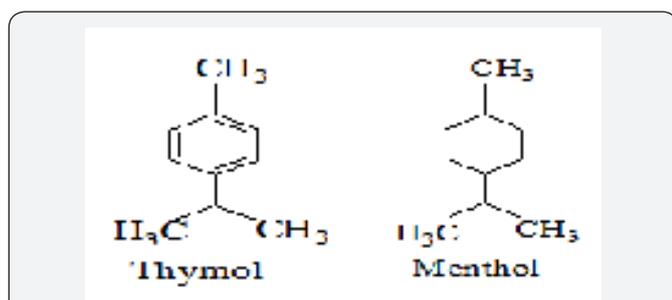


Figure 2: Chemical Structures of Antioxidants

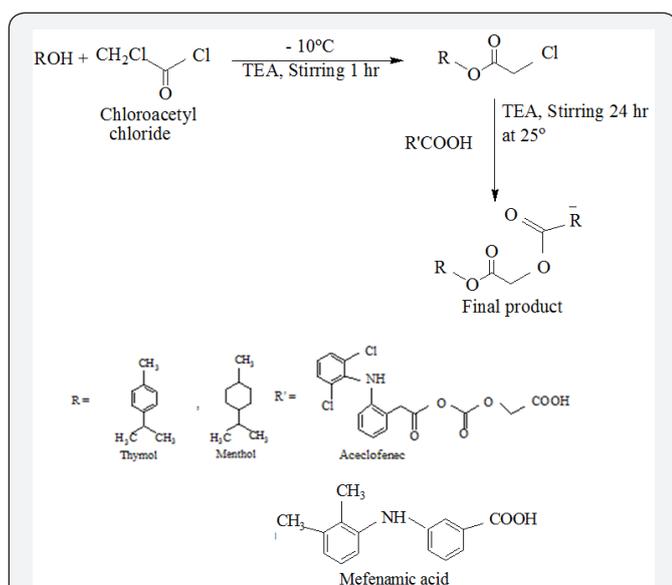


Figure 3: The synthetic pathway for the designated product.
Compound I if R= Thymol, R'= Aceclofenac
Compound II if R= Menthol, R'= Mefenamic acid

Experimental Procedure

A. Synthesis of Antioxidant-Chloroacetylchloride derivative

A mixture of an antioxidants (like 1.563 gm/mol Menthol, 1.502 gm/mol Thymol) (0.01 mol) and TEA (1.0119 ml, 0.01 mole) in dichloromethane (25ml) was cooled in an ice-salt mixture to 10 °C. To this reaction mixture, chloroacetyl chloride (1.1294 ml, 0.01 mole) in Chloroform (25ml) was added drop wise with constant stirring over a period of 1 h, maintaining the temperature constant. The reaction mixture was stirred overnight at room temperature, washed with 5% HCl (3×50 ml), 5% NaOH (3×50 ml) and finally with brine solution (2×25ml). The organic layer was dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, filtered and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure to obtain the corresponding antioxidant-chloroacetyl derivative. In this procedure, two derivatives of different antioxidants were prepared. These derivatives were recrystallized from petroleum ether and ethyl acetate (Figure 4).

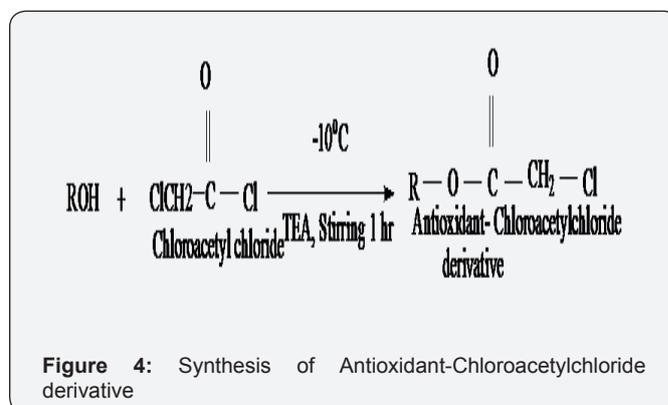


Figure 4: Synthesis of Antioxidant-Chloroacetylchloride derivative

B. Synthesis of NSAIDs-antioxidant mutual Prodrugs

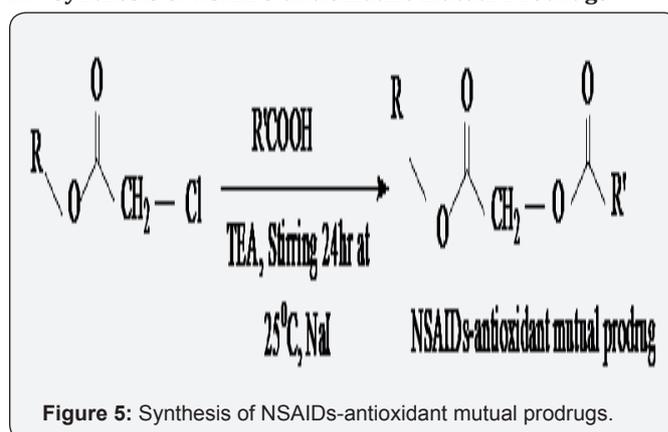


Figure 5: Synthesis of NSAIDs-antioxidant mutual prodrugs.

A mixture of above reaction compound (0.01mole), NSAID (like Mefenamic acid, Aceclofenac) (0.01mole), TEA (0.01mole) and sodium iodide (0.01mole) in DMF (25 ml) was stirred overnight at room temperature. The reaction mixture was poured into finely crushing ice with stirring and extracted with chloroform (4×25ml). The combined organic layer was washed with 2% sodium thiosulphate (3×25ml), 5% HCl (3×50ml), 5% NaOH (3×50 ml) and finally with brine solution (2×25ml). The

organic layer was dried over anhydrous sodium sulphate, filtered and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure to obtain the NSAIDs- antioxidant mutual prodrugs. The final products

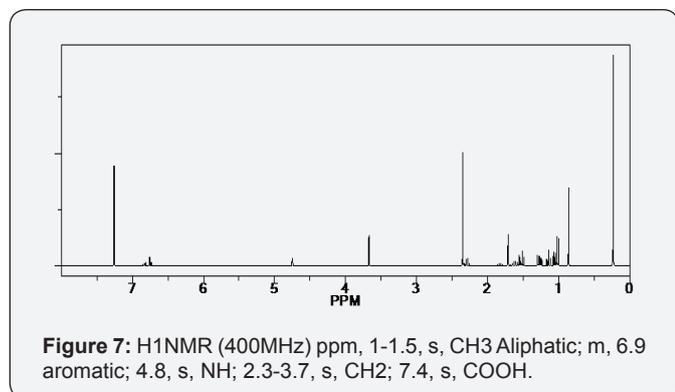
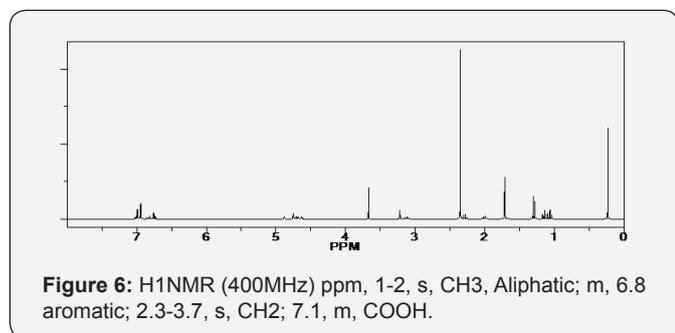
were obtained as solids and recrystallized from petroleum ether and ethyl acetate. The percentage yield, physical appearance, melting point and TLC are listed in the Table 1 (Figure 5).

Table 1: Physical data, Percentage yield, Rf values of the compound

Compounds	Empirical Formula	Molecular Weight	Description	% yield	Melting point	Rf Value
I	C ₂₈ H ₂₇ N ₁₀ O ₆ Cl ₂	544	Yellow powder	42	130-140°C	A= 0.83 B= 0.86
II	C ₂₇ H ₃₅ N ₁₀ O ₄	437	White	45	Decomposed	A= 0.87 B= 0.82

C. IR data of the final compound

Aceclofenac-Thymol mutual prodrug, IR (KBr): 3395.22 cm⁻¹ (N-H stretching), 3071.19 cm⁻¹ (aromatic, C-H stretching), 1646.40 cm⁻¹ (N-H bending), 751.28, 833.92 (Chloride), 1646.40 (amide) 1286.28 cm⁻¹ (C-N stretching, amine) (Figures 6 & 7).



Results & Discussion

The structure was confirmed by IR & NMR (¹H NMR) data. The purity of the compounds was checked by TLC. For the

Table 3: The result of Antimicrobial Activity.

S.No.	Compounds	Conc. (µg/ml)	Zone of inhibition in mm			
			S. aureus	B. subtilus	E. coli	K. pneumoniae
1	N1	100	85	95	70	11
2	N2	100	16	10	12	17
3	Ciprofloxacia	100	27	30	25	26

preparation of TLC plates, Silica gel G & Silica gel GF were used as a stationary phase, Methanol: CHCl₃ (2.5 mL: 7.5 mL) as a mobile state. Compounds were characterized by melting point. Synthesized compounds were subjected to pharmacological screening. For antimicrobial activity Ciprofloxacin, for antifungal Fluconazole & for anti-inflammatory activity Diclofenac Sodium was used as a standard drug.

I The result of Anti- inflammatory Activity

In this study, both compounds showed the similar effectiveness towards the standard drug. Moreover, compound II exhibited the more protection in inflammation remaining another compound of this series (Table 2). The mean Paw volume of anti-inflammatory activity of tested compounds data represents mean ± SEM of two animals per groups and data were analyzed by using one-way ANOVA followed by dinettes**p<0.01 compared to control.

Table 2: The result of Anti- inflammatory Activity

Compounds	Paw volume (mL) 1h	Paw volume (mL) 2h
Control	0.54±0.03	0.58±0.02
Diclofenac sodium	0.32±0.01 (40%)	0.29±0.03 (50%)
I	0.31±0.02** (31%)	0.24±0.03** (24%)
II	0.29±0.01** (46%)	0.25±0.03** (56%)

II. The result of Antimicrobial Activity

Antimicrobial activity of both titled compounds showed the better. Still, compound N1 showed the better zone inhibition as compared the standard drug (Table 3).

Conclusion

A mutual prodrug is a form of drug where two pharmacologically active agents are attached to each other in such a way that acts as a promoiety/carrier for each other. In this study, titled compounds act as a mutual prodrug, both compounds showed the significantly anti-inflammatory effect as well as antimicrobial activity. These would be used fully for the treatment inflammation. Further, the study would be concluded the mechanism of action and in-vivo study to predict the efficacy of these compounds on rats towards anti-inflammatory effect.

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 DOI: 10.19080/OMCIJ.2017.02.555586

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