



Research Article

DETERMINATION OF URINARY OXALATE WITH ARYLAMINE GLASS-BOUND SORGHUM OXALATE OXIDASE AND HORSERADISH PEROXIDASE

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Abstract

We describe an enzymic colourimetric method for determination of oxalate level in urine using arylamine glass-bound sorghum leaf oxalate oxidase and horseradish peroxidase. The method is based on quantification of H₂O₂ generated from oxidation of urinary oxalate by immobilized oxalate oxidase, by a colour reaction consisting of 4-aminophnazon, phenol and immobilized peroxidase as chromogen. Minimum detection limit of the method was 0.05 mmol/l. Analytical recovery of added oxalate in urine was 96.8± 3.0% (mean ±S.D.). Within and between day coefficient of variation (CV) for urinary oxalate in urine were < 3.5% and <6.46 % respectively. The urinary oxalate values in apparently healthy and urinary stone formers as measured by the present method were correlated with those by modified Sigma Kit method (r= 0.929). The method has the advantages that it provides ca 200 times reuse of oxalate oxidase and peroxidase and free from interferences by Cl⁻ and NO₃⁻ normally found in urine.

Keywords: Oxalate oxidase; peroxidase; arylamine glass beads; oxalate; urine

Introduction

Determination of oxalate in urine is essential for the diagnosis and medical management of various forms of hyperoxaluria, leading to urinary stone disease, malabsorption, steatorrhoea, ileal disease and ethylene glycol poisoning. The normal level of oxalic acid in urine is 20-30 mg/24h (Hodgkinson, and Williams, 1972). Among the various methods available for determination of oxalate (Sharma *et al.*,1993; Pundir and Sharma,2010; Devi *et al.*,2013; Sithole *et al.*,2014),the enzymic colourimetric method employing oxalate oxidase and peroxidase is simple, sensitive, specific and requires only a colorimeter, therefore suitable for routine. However the method becomes expensive for a large number of samples, due to high cost of enzymes. Immobilization of enzyme(s) onto insoluble support allows its reuse and thus reduce the cost of the method. We have developed an enzymatic colorimetric method for determination of urinary oxalate using alkylamine glass bound sorghum leaf oxalate oxidase and horseradish peroxidase (Thakur and Pundir,1999). However, the immobilization of an enzyme onto alkylamine glass through glutaraldehyde has the disadvantage of extensive self-polymerization nature of glutaraldehyde and protein crosslinking and the support needs to be well

washed prior to enzyme addition (Pundir *et al.*, 1993a). Further the glutaraldehyde coupling involves Schiff's base formation, which has a drawback of reversibility of the reaction at low pH (Kennedy, 1975). Immobilization of an enzyme on arylamine glass through diazotization has no such problem, as it enables the inter-deposition of a spacer arm between two reduced steric interactions and yields higher enzyme to carrier conjugation ratio than by other coupling procedures (Foster, 1980). We have reported the immobilization of sorghum oxalate oxidase and horseradish peroxidase onto arylamine glass beads and studied their properties (Pundir *et al.*; 1999a; Pundir *et al.*;1999b). The present report describes the method of urinary oxalate determination employing arylamine glass bound sorghum leaf oxalate oxidase and horseradish peroxidase and its evaluation.

Material and Methods

Chemicals

Zirconia coated arylamine glass beads (pore diameter 55 nm) (Corning Glass Works, New York, USA), horseradish peroxidase (RZ =1.1), oxalic acid, 4-aminophenazone (Sigma Chemical Co., St.Louis, USA), DEAE-Sephacel

and Sephadex G-200 (Pharmacia LKB Sweden). All other reagents were of analytical reagent grade.

Collection of Plant Material and Purification of Oxalate Oxidase

Ten day old seedling plants of grain sorghum hybrid (*Sorghum vulgare* var./genotype CSH-5) were raised in the laboratory and their leaves were collected as described in reference (Pundir and Nath,1984).The extraction and purification of oxalate oxidase from sorghum leaves was carried out by 80% ammonium sulphate precipitation, ion exchange chromatography on DEAE-Sephacel and Sephadex G-100 gel filtration as described by Satyapal and Pundir(1993).The purified enzyme showed apparently single band in polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis, using coomassie blue as protein staining (Results not given).

Immobilization of Oxalate Oxidase

Oxalate oxidase purified from sorghum leaves(2.0mg/ml 0.02M sodium phosphate buffer, pH 7.0) was immobilized onto arylamine glass beads through diazotization according to reference (Pundir *et al.*,1999a).One hundred mg arylamine glass beads were taken in a 10ml conical flask kept on ice bath. One ml chilled 2N HCl and 25mg solid NaNO_2 were added to the flask. The diazotization reaction in flask was allowed to proceed for 30 min in cold. The diazotized beads were washed several times with 0.1M sodium phosphate buffer, pH 7.0 to remove excess of acid until pH of the washing discard was 7.0.One ml of purified enzyme was added to these activated /diazotized beads and the flask was kept at 4°C for 48 hr with occasional stirring for immobilization. The enzyme/protein bound to glass beads was estimated by determining the loss of protein from the decanted enzyme solution using Lowry method.

Immobilization of Peroxidase

Commercially available horseradish was dissolved in 0.05M sodium phosphate buffer (pH 7.0) (4.0 mg/ml) immobilized on arylamine glass beads through diazo-coupling according to reference (Pundir *et al.*,1999b) as described above.

Preparation of Standard Curve for Oxalate with Immobilized Oxalate Oxidase and Peroxidase

In a 10 ml conical flask wrapped with black paper, the reaction mixture containing 85 μmol of sodium phosphate buffer (pH 6.0), 1.0 μmol of CuSO_4 and mixture of 100mg each of arylamine glass beads coupled to sorghum oxalate oxidase and horseradish peroxidase, were preincubated at 45°C for 5 min. The reaction was started by adding varying the concentration of oxalate in the range, 0.10-1.0 mM in a total volume of 2.0 ml. After incubation at 45°C for 5min, 1.0 ml of color reagent (consisting of 50 mg 4-aminophenazone and 100mg solid phenol in 100 ml 0.4M sodium phosphate buffer, pH 7.0),was added to the flask and kept at room temperature (30 \pm 2°C) for 10 min to develop pink colour. The flask was tilted, the beads were

allowed to settle down on the side wall of flask and the reaction mixture was transferred carefully into the cuvette with the help of Eppendorf pipette. A_{520} was read in Spectronic-20. A standard curve was plotted between oxalate concentration vs. A_{520} (Fig.1).

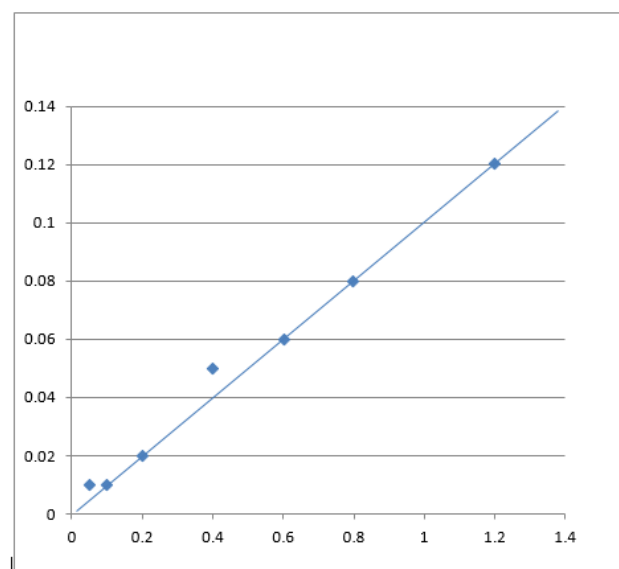


Fig. 1: Standard curve between oxalate concentrations vs A_{520} using arylamine glass bound sorghum leaf oxalate oxidase and arylamine glass bound horseradish peroxidase

Determination of Urinary Oxalate

Sample collection and pre-treatment

24 hr urine samples were collected from healthy individuals of different age groups in 2L plastic bottles containing 15 ml conc. HCl. Acidified urine samples were diluted with an equal amount of 0.1 M potassium phosphate buffer (pH 7.0) and the pH of urine sample was adjusted between 5-7 by adding NaOH drop wise. To avoid possible ascorbate interference, 0.1 ml buffered NaNO_2 (35 mg/10 ml 0.1 M sodium phosphate buffer, pH7.0) was added to 1 ml diluted urine (Satyapal and Pundir, 1993).

Assay of urinary oxalate

It was carried out as described for preparation of standard curve of oxalate except that oxalic acid solution was replaced with 0.1 ml pretreated urine. The value of oxalate in urine was extrapolated from the standard curve between oxalic acid concentrations vs. A_{520} (Fig. 1).

Evaluation of Method of Urinary Oxalate Determination

The following criteria were studied to evaluate the method:

Limit of detection (LOD)

LOD of the method was considered as the concentration of oxalate at which A_{520} was 0.01.

Analytical recovery

To determine the analytical recovery of the method, solid oxalate (20mg and 30 mg/L) was added to pretreated urine samples and oxalate content in urine was determined before

and after addition of oxalate. The percent recovery of added oxalate was calculated.

Precision

To study precision, the oxalate content was determined in six urine samples repeatedly on the same day (Within batch) and then after their storage at -20°C for one week. The within and between day coefficient of variation (CV) were calculated for urinary oxalate determination.

Correlation

To determine the accuracy of the method, the oxalate content in urine samples was determined by standard enzymic colorimetric method of Sigma with slight modification(x) and the present method(y) and the values were correlated by regression equation.

Reuse of Arylamine Glass Bead Bound Oxalate and Peroxidase

Arylamine glass beads bound to oxalate oxidase and peroxidase were washed off with the reaction buffer 3-4 times prior to use in their next assay. During each washing, the buffer was withdrawn by Eppendorf pipette carefully avoiding the loss of glass beads. The beads were stored in distilled water at 4°C when not in use.

Results and Discussion

An oxalate oxidase purified from the leaves of 10- day old seedling plants of grain sorghum hybrid (CSH -5) has been immobilized onto arylamine glass through diazo-coupling with a conjugation yield of 9.2 mg/g, which is better than that for barley enzyme on the same support (6.63 mg/g)

(Pundir *et al.*,1999a). The enzyme retained 34.1 % of its initial specific activity after immobilization. Commercially available horseradish peroxidase was also immobilized separately onto arylamine glass with a conjugation yield of 18.0 mg/g and 60% retention of its initial specific activity (Pundir *et al.*, 1999b).

The arylamine glass-bound oxalate oxidase showed maximum activity at pH 5.5, when incubated at 45°C for 5 min. The immobilized enzyme was unaffected by Cl⁻ (as NaCl) and NO₃⁻ (as NaNO₃) both at 1nM and their respective physiological concentration (Pundir 1999a). Earlier immobilized oxalate oxidase from other sources were found sensitive towards Cl⁻ and NO₃⁻ concentrations normally found in urine. These results showed the better suitability of sorghum enzyme than that from other sources for oxalate determination (Table1).The arylamine conjugated horseradish peroxidase exhibited maximum activity at pH 7.5 on incubation at 40 °C for 15 min (Pundir *et al.*, 1999b).

A new method for determination of urinary oxalate was developed employing mixture of arylamine glass bound sorghum oxalate oxidase and horseradish peroxidase. The method is based upon measurement of H₂O₂ generated from oxidation of urinary oxalate by immobilized sorghum oxalate oxidase. This H₂O₂ was measured by Trinder's colour reaction, where immobilized peroxidase was employed in place of free peroxidase, which catalyzes the oxidation of H₂O₂ and conjugation of 4-aminophenazone with phenol. The resulting pink quinoneimine dye is measured at 520nm.

Table 1: Effect of Cl⁻ (as NaCl) and NO₃⁻ (as NaNO₃) on plant oxalate oxidase immobilized on various supports

| Plant | Support | Property | Reference |
|-------------------------|---------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Barley Seedlings | Nylon tubing | Inhibition by Cl ⁻ | Potezny et al [18] |
| | Collagen membrane | Interference by Cl ⁻ | Saka Amini& Vallon [19] |
| | Gelatin | Interference by Cl ⁻ | Dinkaya & Telefoncu [12] |
| | Alkyamine glass | Inhibition by Cl ⁻ | Pundir et al [11] |
| Banana peel | Immune complex | 66% inhibition by Cl ⁻ | Inamdar et al [10] |
| Beet stem | Polyethylene glycol | Inhibition by Cl ⁻ | Varalakshmi et al [20] |
| Sorghum leaf | Arylamine glass | No inhibition by Cl ⁻ and NO ₃ ⁻ | Present |
| (Present work) | | | |

We studied the following analytic parameters for evaluation of the method

Minimum Detection Limit

The minimum detection limit of the present method was 0.05 mmol/L, which is similar to the earlier method using alkylamine glass-bound oxalate oxidase and peroxidase (Thakur and Pundir, 1999) and comparable to other methods employing barely oxalate oxidase immobilized to gelatin (0.1 mmoles/L) (Dinckaya and Telefoncu, 1993), polyamide membrane (0.1 mmoles/L) (Assolant *et al.*, 1987) and pig intestine membrane (0.1 mmoles/L) (Rahni and Guibault, 1986).

Recovery Studies

The reliability of the method was checked by performing recovery test in urine samples. The analytical recovery of added oxalate (20mg/L and 30mg/L) in urine samples was 96.5±1.2% (mean±S.D.) and 94.1±2.2% (mean±S.D.) respectively by the present method (Table 2), which is similar to that using sorghum and barely enzyme immobilized onto alkylamine glass beads (recovery 96.5% and 96.8%) (Pundir *et al.*, 1993b), (Thakur, and Pundir, 1999), on pig intestine membrane (93.5%-106.5%) (Rahni and Guibault, 1986), on nylon tubing (95.9%) (Bais *et al.*, 1980) and AF tresyl toyopearl gel (95.5%) (Yamato *et al.*, 1994).

Table 2: Analytical recovery of added oxalate in urine as determined by arylamine glass-bound sorghum oxalate oxidase and horseradish peroxidase

| Oxalate added (mg/L) | Mean oxalate value (mg/L) (n=6) | % recovery (Mean ± S.D.) (n=6) |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Nil | 16.2 | - |
| 20 | 34.5 | 96.5±1.2 |
| 40 | 43.65 | 94.1± 2.2 |

Precision

To check the reproducibility and reliability of the method, the oxalate content in the same urine sample in one run (within batch) and after one week storage at 20°C (between assay) were determined. The results showed that the oxalate values in the same samples agreed with each other and within & between batch coefficients of variation were <3.6% and <5.85% respectively (Table 3). These results are comparable with earlier reported methods using sorghum enzyme immobilized onto alkylamine glass (3.5% for within batch and <6.46% for between batch) (Pundir *et al.*, 1993b), barley oxalate oxidase immobilized to nylon tubing (2.0% for intrabatch and <7.0% for interbatch) (Bais *et al.*, 1980), pig intestine membrane mounted on the tip of O₂ electrode (C.V. 3.2% -5.16%) (Rahni and Guibault, 1986) and tresyl toyopearl gel (5.3% for intrabatch and 7.9% for interbatch) (Yamato *et al.*, 1994).

Table 3: Within and between assay coefficients of variation (CV) for determination of urinary oxalate by arylamine glass-bound sorghum oxalate oxidase and horseradish peroxidase.

| Type of assay (N= 6) | Mean Oxalate (mg/l) | % CV |
|----------------------|---------------------|-------|
| Within assay* | 27.4 | <3.6 |
| Between Assay** | 26.6 | <5.85 |

*sample assayed on the same day

** Same samples were assayed after one-week storage at -20°C

Accuracy

To evaluate the accuracy of the method, we compared the oxalate values of 15 urine samples as determined by the Sigma Kit method (x) with modifications and by the present method (y). A good correlation ($r = 0.929$) was obtained with the regression equation being $y = 0.99x + (0.0077)$ for a mean oxalate concentration of 34.3mg/24 h, which is comparable to earlier method using alkylamine glass-bound sorghum oxalate oxidase and horseradish peroxidase ($r = 0.9234$) (Thakur, and Pundir, 1999).

Interference Study

To study the interference of various urinary substances on the immobilized enzymes, the following substances were added to the reaction mixture, each at a final concentration of 1mM: Na₂CO₃, NaHCO₃, NaCl, KCl, MgSO₄, Na₂SO₄, MnCl₂, CdCl₂, CuSO₄, BaCl₂, FeSO₄, NiSO₄, ZnSO₄, pyruvate, urea, glycine, glutamate, citrate, glucose, fructose, and creatinine. These results as given in Table 4. Of these substances tested, CuSO₄ caused two-fold stimulation of immobilized oxalate oxidase. Rest of the compounds had practically no effect. NADH and ascorbate caused strong inhibition of colour reaction catalyzed by peroxidase but not the reaction of oxalate oxidase. Interference by ascorbate in both enzymic and non-enzymic methods for determination of urinary oxalate is well known (Bias *et al.*, 1980). Various methods for elimination of ascorbate interference in urinary oxalate determination by oxalate oxidase have been suggested, such as pretreatment of urine with NaNO₂, NaIO₄, FeCl₃, charcoal, alumina, ascorbate oxidase and selective precipitation of oxalate as its calcium salts (Inamdar *et al.*, 1987). They also compared the efficiencies of five of these ascorbate eliminating methods and found that the pre-treatment with FeCl₃, NaIO₄ or NaNO₂ was 90% effective with low concentrations of ascorbate in the urine, while charcoal and ascorbate oxidase treatments were 100% effective with high concentrations of ascorbate in urine. In the present work, the urine was pretreated with buffered NaNO₂ for elimination of ascorbate interference (Inamdar *et al.*, 1991).

Table 4: Effect of various substances on the activity of arylamine glass bound sorghum oxalate oxidase

| Compound added | Relative activity (%) |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| None | 100.0 |
| Na ₂ CO ₃ | 90.0 |
| Na HCO ₃ | 90.0 |
| NaCl (50 mM, 100 mM, 25 mM) | 100.0, 100.0, 100.0 |
| KCl | 100.0 |
| MgSO ₄ | 100.0 |
| Na ₂ SO ₄ | 100.0 |
| MnCl ₂ | 100.0 |
| Urea | 100.0 |
| Glycine | 100.0 |
| NADH | 20.0 |
| Ascorbate | 10.0 |
| CuSO ₄ | 125.0 |
| Pyruvate | 100.0 |
| Glutamate | 90.0 |
| Citrate | 110.0 |
| Glucose | 90.0 |
| Fructose | 110.0 |
| Creatinine | 100.0 |

Standard assay conditions were used except for the addition of compound indicated at a final concentration of 1.0 mM in the reaction mixture. NaCl also tested at additional concentration of 50 mM, 100 mM and 250 mM.

Measurement of Urinary Oxalate

The oxalate value in 24h urine collected from apparently healthy individuals of different age and sex were measured by the present method using immobilized oxalate oxidase and peroxides and were found in the range 11.0-41.5 mg/24 h (mean 19.0 mg/24 h, n=46) (Table 5). The mean values of urinary oxalate determinations by our enzyme are comparable to those obtained by barley oxalate oxidase immobilized onto arylamine glass beads (19.8 mg/24 hr) (Pundir *et al.*, 1993b) and immune complex of banana oxalate oxidase (17.17 mg/24hr) (Inamdar *et al.*, 1991).

Table 5: Oxalate values in urine samples of healthy individuals and urinary stone patients as determined by arylamine glass bound sorghum oxalate oxidase and horseradish peroxidase

| Age groups (years) | Sex | Number of samples analyzed | Oxalate values (mg/L) | |
|--------------------|-----|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | | | Healthy individual (Mean \pm S.D.) | Stone formers (Mean \pm S.D.) |
| 10-30 | M | 8 | 17.05 \pm 1.2 | 32.37 \pm 2.8 |
| | F | 8 | 15.5 \pm 1.5 | 35.7 \pm 3.6 |
| 31-50 | M | 6 | 19.0 \pm 1.7 | 36.4 \pm 3.3 |
| | F | 8 | 19.4 \pm 1.9 | 39.4 \pm 3.0 |
| 50 and above | M | 8 | 21.37 \pm 1.5 | 38.35 \pm 3.6 |
| | F | 8 | 21.41 \pm 2.0 | 31.6 \pm 2.6 |

Reusability and Storage of Arylamine Glass Bead Bound Oxalate Oxidase and Peroxidase

Arylamine glass bound oxalate oxidase and peroxidase lost 20 % of its initial activity during its regular use for about 200 times, when stored in distilled water at 4°C.

Arylamine glass bound sorghum oxalate oxidase and horseradish peroxidase were used about 200 times without any considerable loss of activity in the present method. Since the enzymes are the most expensive component of the commercial kit method, the use of glass bound enzymes would definitely reduce the cost of determination of oxalate in a large number of urine samples and thus method has an economic advantage. Further the use of immobilized sorghum oxalate oxidase in the method does not require pretreatment of urine for removal of Cl⁻ and NO₃⁻ prior to oxalate assay. The method could also be applied to hyperoxaluric patients and stoneformers to analyze high oxalate concentration because of its wide range from 0.05 mmol/l to 1.2 mmol/l. The method does not require any specialized equipment except that of a colorimeter, which is inexpensive and easy to operate. Hence the method is expected to be more suitable for developing countries, where the clinical laboratories are not well equipped.

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