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# Reliable HPLC Method for the Simultaneous Determination of Aspirin and Associated Related Substances in Drug Substance and Tablet Formulation

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## PURPOSE

To ensure compliance with the current good manufacturing practices (CGMP) regulations, the manufacturers must assure the identity, strength, quality, and purity of the pharmaceutical drug products. This requires establishment of robust analytical test methods that produce reliable and accurate results over the routine use in quality control (QC) laboratory. Aspirin is a common drug for relieving minor aches, pains, fevers, as well as prevention of heart attacks and mini strokes.

In this work, a single HPLC method was developed for the analysis of aspirin active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) and six related substances. Method performance characteristics including system suitability, linearity, accuracy, intraday and interday precisions were assessed in this study.

## METHODS

### Aspirin and related substances standard solutions

Individual stock standard solutions with related substances and aspirin API were prepared in diluent (60:40 water/acetonitrile with 0.1% formic acid) at 1.0 and 5.0 mg/mL, respectively. The API stock solution was diluted to 0.1 mg/mL and spiked with related substances at 10% level.

### Aspirin sample solutions

Drug tablets containing 81-mg of aspirin tablets were crushed and dissolved in diluent (60:40 water/acetonitrile with 0.1% formic acid) at 1.6 mg/mL of aspirin by sonication for 10 minutes. After extraction, sample test solutions were centrifuged for 10 minutes at 3000 rpm and diluted to 0.1 mg/mL for aspirin assay and to 0.5 mg/mL for impurities analysis, respectively. Solutions were filtered through 0.2 µm Nylon syringe filter prior analysis.

### Method conditions

LC System:	Alliance™ iS HPLC system with TUV detector				
Column:	XSelect™ HSS T3 Column, 4.6 x 150 mm, 3.5 µm (P/N 186004786)				
Column Temp.:	40°C				
Mobile Phase:	A: 0.1% formic acid in water B: 0.1% formic acid in acetonitrile				
Flow Rate:	1.8 mL/min				
Gradient:	Time (min)	Flow (mL/min)	%A	%B	Curve
	Initial	1.8	95.0	5.0	6
	0.10	1.8	95.0	5.0	6
	7.60	1.8	5.0	95.0	6
	9.20	1.8	5.0	95.0	6
	9.30	1.8	95.0	5.0	6
	13.00	1.8	95.0	5.0	6
UV Detection:	237 nm				
Injection Vol.:	15.0 µL				
Sample Temp.:	10°C				
Wash solvents:	Purge/Sample Wash: 60:40 water/acetonitrile Seal Wash: 90:10 water/acetonitrile				

## RESULTS

The XSelect HSS T3 column successfully separated all analytes, producing a USP Resolution (USP Rs) ≥ 4.9, peak tailing of 1.1 – 1.2, and retentivity factor (k\*) ≥ 2.1.

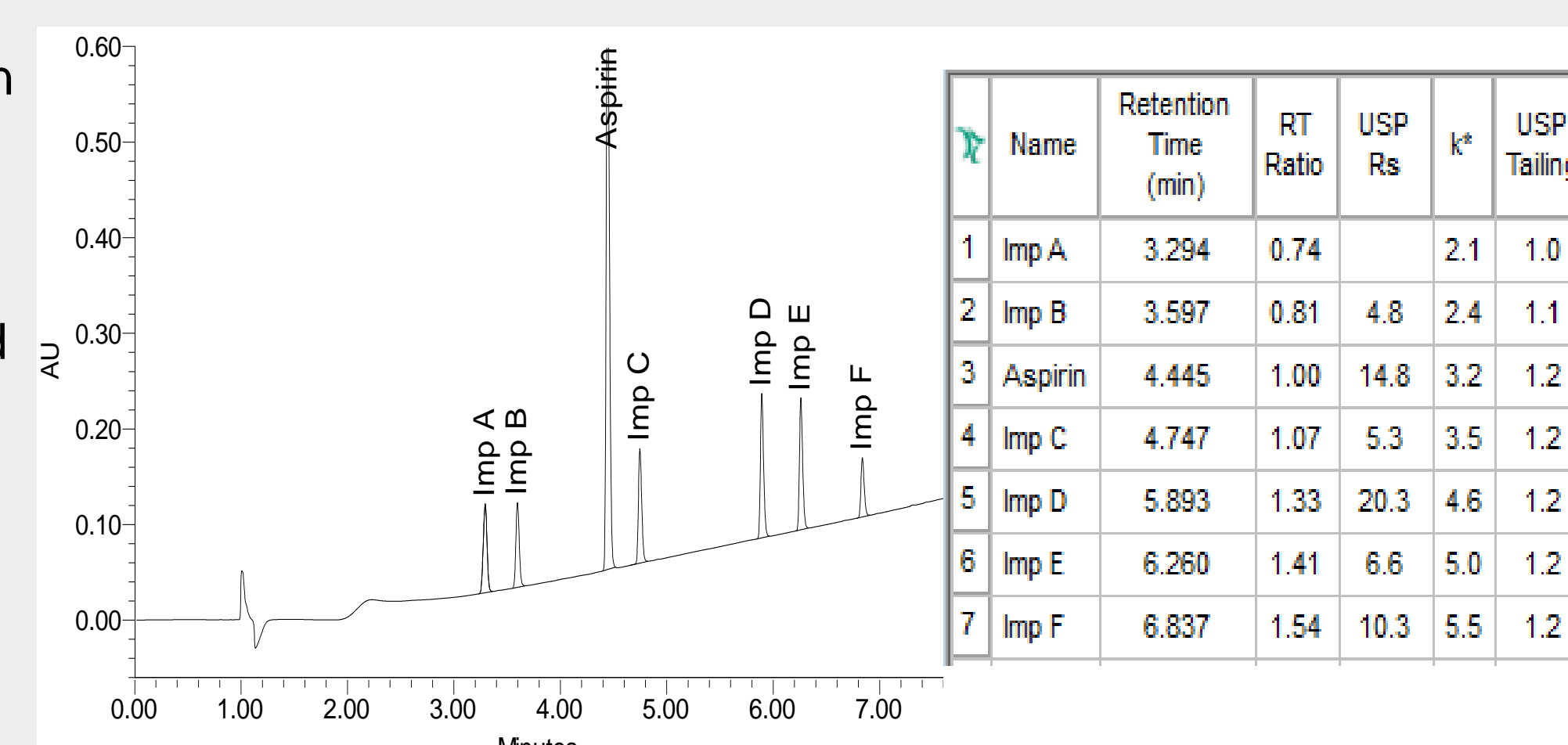


Figure 1. Chromatographic separation achieved using XSelect HSS T3 column. UV at 237 nm.

### Method performance

The performance of the method was assessed by measuring system suitability of five replicate injections of the standard mixture for intraday and interday assay analysis. The intraday and interday performance demonstrated excellent repeatability of replicate injections with relative standard deviation (RSD) of the peak areas and retention times ranging from 0.03 to 0.30% and 0.01 to 0.03%, respectively.

Intraday method performance measured against the USP suitability criteria defined in the USP monograph for aspirin tablets<sup>2</sup>. Method met the USP criteria across four sets of data for a one-day analysis. (salicylic acid: impurity C)

Parameter	USP Requirement <sup>2</sup>	System Suitability 1 Intraday	System Suitability 2 Intraday	System Suitability 3 Intraday	System Suitability 4 Intraday
<b>Aspirin Assay</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Tailing factor for aspirin	Not more than (NMT) 2.0	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
Relative standard deviation (RSD) for aspirin	Not more than (NMT) 2.0%	RSD of areas: 0.07% RSD of RT: 0.03%	RSD of areas: 0.08% RSD of RT: 0.02%	RSD of areas: 0.03% RSD of RT: 0.03%	RSD of areas: 0.03% RSD of RT: 0.02%
<b>Impurities</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Resolution between salicylic acid and aspirin	Not less than (NLT) 2.0	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3
RSD for salicylic acid	Not more than (NMT) 4.0%	RSD of areas: 0.17% RSD of RT: 0.02%	RSD of areas: 0.07% RSD of RT: 0.02%	RSD of areas: 0.25% RSD of RT: 0.02%	RSD of areas: 0.13% RSD of RT: 0.02%

Table 1. Intraday method performance.

Interday method performance measured on different days met the USP suitability criteria defined in the USP monograph for aspirin tablets<sup>2</sup>. (salicylic acid: impurity C).

Parameter	USP Requirement <sup>2</sup>	Day 1	Day 2	Day 5
<b>Aspirin Assay</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Tailing factor for aspirin	Not more than (NMT) 2.0	1.2	1.2	1.2
Relative standard deviation (RSD) for aspirin	Not more than (NMT) 2.0%	RSD of areas: 0.07% RSD of RT: 0.02%	RSD of areas: 0.03% RSD of RT: 0.03%	RSD of areas: 0.07% RSD of RT: 0.02%
<b>Impurities</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Resolution between salicylic acid and aspirin	Not less than (NLT) 2.0	5.3	5.3	5.3
RSD for salicylic acid	Not more than (NMT) 4.0%	RSD of areas: 0.14% RSD of RT: 0.02%	RSD of areas: 0.24% RSD of RT: 0.03%	RSD of areas: 0.15% RSD of RT: 0.02%

Table 2. Interday method performance.

### Linearity

The calibration plot for aspirin API in the range of 80 to 120% with respect to the API working concentration in the sample preparation of 0.1 mg/mL. The calibration curve of the concentration versus the peak area at each level produced a correlation coefficient (R<sup>2</sup>) ≥ 0.999. In addition, the percent deviation of the calculated X values or concentrations ranged from -0.35 to 0.81%.

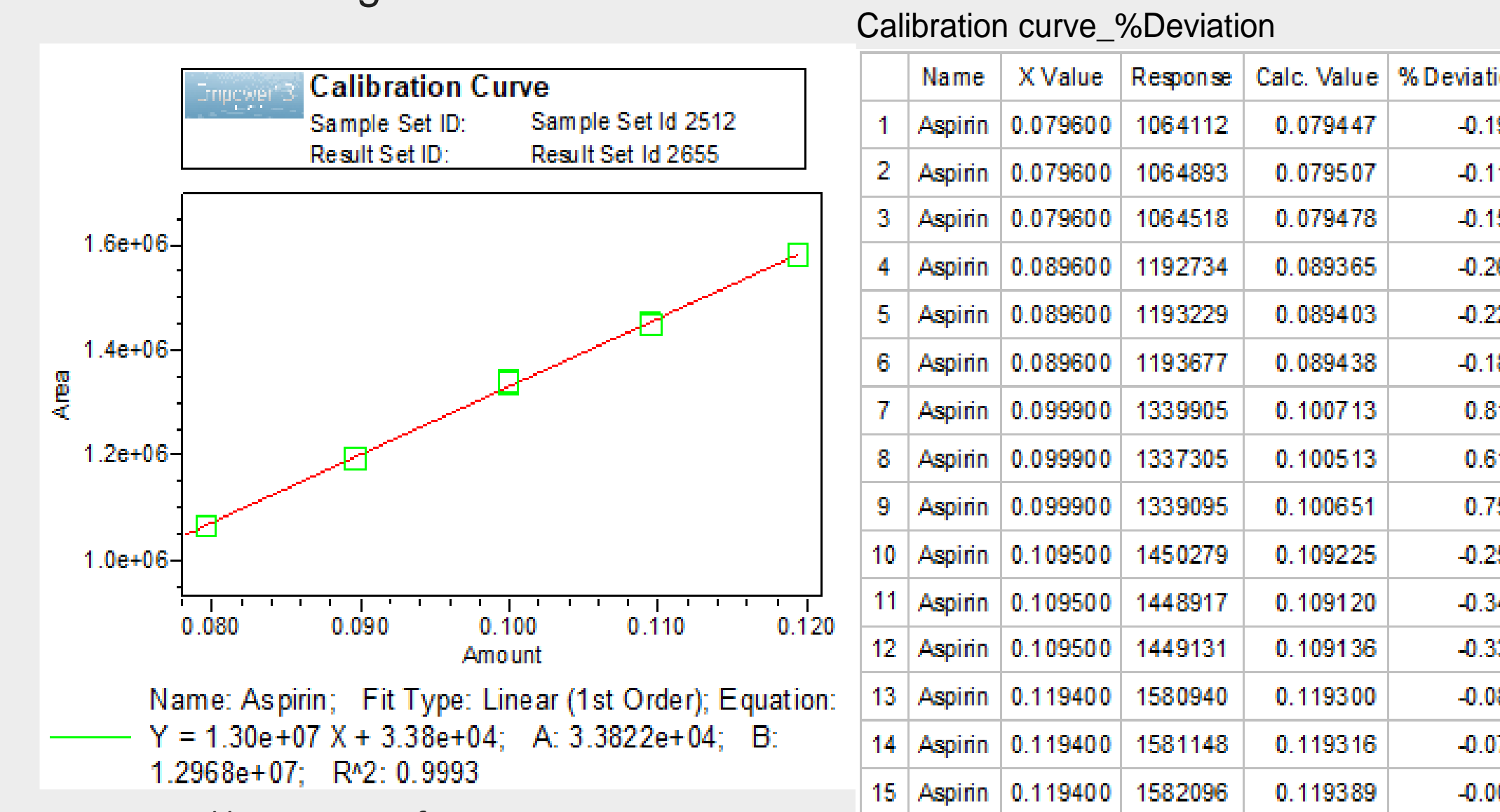


Figure 2. Calibration curve for aspirin API.

### Aspirin assay in tablet formulation

The assay results for six samples ranged from 93.4 to 93.6%, meeting the USP acceptance criteria of not less than (NLT) 90.0 and not more than (NMT) 110.0% of the labeled amount of aspirin<sup>2</sup>.

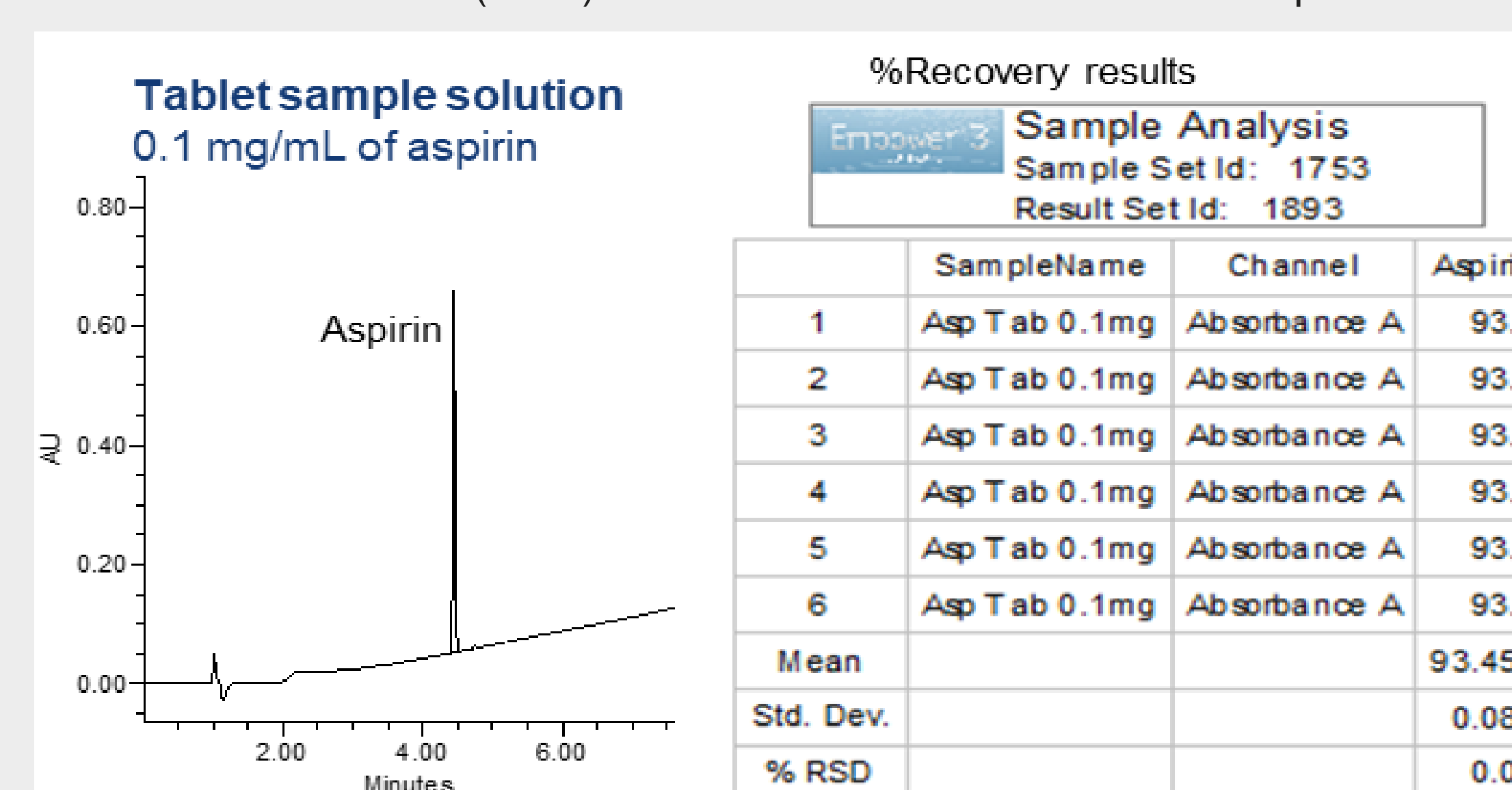


Figure 3. Aspirin assay determination in drug tablet formulation.

### Related substances analysis

The related substances content (% impurity) was determined by comparing peak areas of each related substance to the aspirin API peak area. For related substances testing, the drug tablets.

Results met the USP acceptance criteria for salicylic acid (imp. C): NMT 0.3% and for coated tablets of NMT 3.0%<sup>2</sup>.

SampleName	Imp C	Imp D
1 Asp Tab 0.5mg	0.906	0.050
2 Asp Tab 0.5mg	0.899	0.047
3 Asp Tab 0.5mg	0.908	0.044
4 Asp Tab 0.5mg	0.907	0.045
5 Asp Tab 0.5mg	0.906	0.045
6 Asp Tab 0.5mg	0.909	0.048
Mean	0.91	0.05
Std. Dev.	0.004	0.002
% RSD	0.40	4.42

Figure 4. Percent (%) impurity determination in drug tablet and drug substance formulation.

## CONCLUSIONS

- A single LC method run on the Alliance iS HPLC System was successfully developed for the simultaneous analysis of aspirin active ingredient and six associated related substances.
- Method exhibited excellent system suitability results, linearity, accuracy, intraday and interday performance.
  - Relative standard deviations (RSD) of peak areas and retention times for intraday and interday studies were ≤ 0.25% and ≤ 0.03%, respectively.
- Method demonstrated a reliable determination of aspirin assay and related substances (impurities) content in the drug substance and tablet formulations.

## REFERENCES

- Ph. Eur. Monograph. Acetylsalicylic Acid. The European Pharmacopeia 10.0. 01/2017:0309
- USP Monograph for Aspirin Tablets. United States Pharmacopeia USP43-NF38, official 1-May-2020

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