

## Review Article

## A Comprehensive Review on Amoxicillin and Clavulanic Acid as Potential Antibacterial Agent

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### ABSTRACT

Suspensions comprise finely divided medication particles (the suspensoid) spread uniformly in a vehicle with or without stabilisers and other ingredients. Conventional oral suspension is ready-to-use and does not require reconstitution. Dry syrup is more bioavailable than tablets and capsules because it dissolves in water outside the mouth and enters the GI tract. GIT absorbs suspension quickly: Amoxicillin and clavulanic acid have been used since the 1970s. Despite having the same half-life as amoxicillin, clavulanic acid is protein-bound and heat unstable. It causes gastrointestinal side effects, including Clostridium difficile infection, and restricts amoxicillin oral combination doses. Due to clavulanic acid's  $\beta$ -lactamase tendency, the first amoxicillin-clavulanic acid ratio was 4:1; currently it's 2:1, 7:1, 14:1, and 16:1. Few ratio comparisons exist. Amoxicillin-clavulanic acid is often used as empiric therapy for WHO's Priority Infectious Syndromes in adults and children, resulting in large consumption. Some of these syndromes may be handled with a delayed antibiotic prescription approach or amoxicillin alone.

**Keywords:** Suspensions, Dry Powder, Clavulanic Acid, Amoxicillin

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### INTRODUCTION

Manufacturers prefer insoluble antibiotics in aqueous solutions or as dry powder for reconstitution because to their long-term stability in solution. Different formulations have questioned the effectiveness of bitter flavours. Doctors worry about giving bitter medications to toddlers and the elderly. Palatability encompasses taste, smell, texture, and sight. Substances interact with Taste Buds' taste receptor cells. Flavor buds send taste information to the brain. Taste receptor cells vary by type. Ion channels handle salty and sour chemicals, while G protein gustducin handles bitter and sweet. When gustducin's alpha and beta subunits are broken down, IP3 and DAG are produced, lowering cAMP and triggering phospholipase C. Biological activities cause the brain to perceive an unpleasant taste. If you can't taste it,

you won't eat unhealthy food. Oral drug delivery has gained popularity for decades. Oral dosage forms are popular because they are convenient, patient-friendly, and stable. Antibacterial oral suspensions include antibiotics (such as erythromycin derivatives and tetracyclines) as well as sulfonamides and anti-infective medicines (like methenamine mandelate and nitrofurantoin) (eg., sulfamethoxazole-trimethoprim). Oral suspensions are beneficial for paediatric and adult patients who prefer liquid dosing. Reconstituted solution is stable in the refrigerator for the specified time period, usually 7 to 14 days, depending on the preparation, even though studies show dry oral suspension is stable for 24 hours after preparation. This allows the patient to complete their specified regimen. Any leftover drug after therapy should be thrown away<sup>[1]</sup>. Dry medicinal syrup is 0.5-5 insoluble particles in a suitable

media. Oral usage of dry syrups requires rehydration. Antibiotics, moisture-sensitive drugs, and paediatric pharmaceuticals are in dry syrup [2]. Oral dry powder combinations or granules are available for Amoxicillin trihydrate, Erythromycin ethylsuccinate, Dicloxacillin sodium, etc. Reconstitute unstable drugs. Dry mix for oral suspension contains drugs, colourants, flavours, sweeteners, stabilising agents, suspending agents, and preservatives. Dry syrup's bioavailability is better than pills and capsules. A reconstitutable suspension can retain active ingredient chemical stability. Children of different ages can swallow the same suspension by adjusting the volume [3, 4]. Pharmaceutical suspension is a granular internal-to-external dispersion. A single or combination of suspending agents maintains an internal phase of insoluble solid particles within the suspending medium. Organic or oily exterior phase (suspending media) for non-oral application [5].

### Classification of Suspension

- Oral suspensions must be flavoured and sweetened for oral use.
- Topical suspensions should not contain coarse particles.
- Syringable, sterile parenteral suspensions are required.
- Sterile ophthalmic solutions with tiny particles are required.

### Application of Suspension

- Suspensions are useful for low-soluble drugs. If patients have trouble swallowing solids, the medicine must be liquid.
- Unpalatable soluble drugs can be converted into insoluble compounds and produced as a solution. Chloramphenicol (soluble), palmitate (insoluble.)
- In oral suspensions, the medication is finely split and dissolves promptly in GI fluids. Suspension absorption is faster than solid oral dose forms but slower than solution. Viscosity affects the rate of drug release from suspensions; the more viscous, the slower the release. Insoluble medicines extend pharmacological action by limiting fast breakdown in water.
- When the drug is unstable in contact with the vehicle, suspensions are made soon before giving to the patient to decrease the time the drug particles are in contact with the dispersion medium. Ampicillin suspension, for example, is made by adding water to powder or granules. 14 days if refrigerated. [6]

### Preparation of dry Syrup

Dry syrup uses powder mixtures. Weighing and distributing ingredients.

Next sift components.

Dry syrup should have homogenous granules, therefore sieving may involve many operations. Drum mixer powder. Dry ingredients must be mixed twice.

Mix powder and dispersant. Stage 2 combines excipients. Mix granulated and powdered excipients. Heat-sensitive excipients like flavours are added to the dry syrup mixture.

Machines pack dry syrup. Sealing dry syrup. Wide lips with appropriate airspace ease liquid flow. Heat, wetness, and freezing should be prevented. After packaging, the jar says "shake before use." This mark guarantees homogeneous reconstituted dry syrup.

Instructions on labels include use and reconstitution. It contains reconstitution storage conditions. Automatic machines box. Dry syrup should be kept at room temperature.

Dry syrup production involves quality tests. Moisture and temperature are evaluated during mixing and granule formation to ensure drug safety. [7]

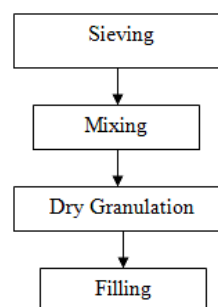


Figure: 1 Dry Syrup Preparation

Mixing powdered dry ingredients makes powder mixtures. Small excipients require two-stage mixing. These excipients can help disperse a main excipient. Milled sucrose absorbs flavour oils well. Mix the remaining excipients. The mixer should promptly and reliably homogenise.

### Advantages

- Fewer resources.
- Without heat or solvents, chemical and physical instability are reduced.
- Low-moisture mixture.
- Problems
- Homogeneous. Mixing parameters include particle size and powder flow.
- Losses from mixing.

### A low-concentration medicine loses potency while mixing.

#### Mixture

Powdered and granulated excipients can overcome granulated disadvantages. Adding diluents after granulation saves energy and equipment. After granulation, heat-sensitive excipients can be added. Before filling the container, some excipients are granulated and mixed with dry granules. Diluents reduce segregation and dust.

- Negatives
- Unevenness

- Regulate particle sizes.
- Dry-mixing
- Well-mixed
- Timing mixing.
- Mix without heat or moisture.
- Reduce humidity/temperature swings. Standard is 700 C and 40% humidity.
- Moisture-proof the batch. desiccant-lined containers.
- Sample uniformity. Top, centre, and bottom the dry mixture.
- Evaluating systems

### Piperine- cephalixin oral suspension <sup>[8]</sup>

#### Pharmacology

0.125g Cephalexin is in 3.4g/5ml. 100 ml of distilled water and 0.22 m nylon were used to extract the chemical. The UV spectrophotometer read max 260 nm after 0.1 ml of solution was diluted with distilled water. From distilled water calibration curve, extrapolated medicine concentration.

#### pH

pH of reconstituted suspension was measured using Systronic pH system 361. In a 50-ml beaker of 100 mg drug suspension, a glass rod was dipped. <sup>[9,10]</sup>

#### Viscosity

The steady shear approach measured the suspensions' "non-Newtonian viscosity." RVT Brookfield viscometer measured suspension rheology at Choksi Lab (Indore, M. P.) We measured suspensions without thixotropy. <sup>[11]</sup>

#### Gradient

We tracked sedimentation volume to study suspended sedimentation. The sedimentation volume F is the ratio of  $V_u$  to  $V_0$  before settling.

$$[V_u/V_0]=F.$$

This study tracked sediment volume. 9-cm-tall suspension was decanted into a 100-ml, 2.5-cm cylinder. 1 h, 24 h, 1 w determined F.

#### In-vitro drug release <sup>[12]</sup>

In vitro dissolving tests employed 100 rpm USP Type II equipment. 900 cc 37°C 0.50C distilled water was used for dissolution. Two-hour drug release was measured by Hitachi U-2800 UV spectrophotometer.

#### Limitations microbiologic <sup>[13][14]</sup>

GMP and QA require microbiological limit testing. In general, drug products should be examined unless their components are tested before manufacture and the manufacturing method poses no risk of microbial contamination or proliferation. The ideas in this Guideline may apply to excipients and new pharmaceutical products. In both cases, skipping tests is acceptable.

Oral powders may not require microbiological limit testing if supported by science. Accept aerobic microorganisms, yeasts, moulds, and unwanted bacteria (e. g.,

Staphylococcus aureus, Escherichia coli, Salmonella, Pseudomonas aeruginosa). These should be examined using pharmacopeial techniques and a sample frequency or manufacturing time point indicated by data and experience. <sup>[15][16]</sup>

#### Antimicrobials

Antimicrobial liquid preservatives need acceptance criteria. Acceptance standards for preservative content should be based on antimicrobial levels needed to maintain product microbiological quality during use and shelf life. The lowest pharmacopeial antibacterial preservative concentration should control microorganisms. Antimicrobial preservatives can be released without in-process testing. In-process antimicrobial preservative testing should include acceptance criteria. Antimicrobial preservative effectiveness should be proven during development, scaleup, and shelf life (e. g., instability testing). <sup>[17,18]</sup>

#### Preservatives anti-oxidants

Standardize antioxidant testing. Shelf-life testing and release testing may be unnecessary in some instances. In-process antioxidant testing needs acceptance criteria. If only release testing is done, reconsider this option anytime the manufacturing process or container/closure system changes.

When development and stability statistics demonstrate container/closure extractables are below safe levels, this test can be omitted. <sup>[19,20]</sup>

#### Reevaluate if container/closure or formulation changes.

Oral solutions packed in non-glass systems or glass containers with non-glass closures must pass tests and approval criteria for extractable container/closure system components (e.g., rubber stopper, cap liner, plastic bottle, etc.). List container/closure components early in development.

Dissolution testing and acceptability standards for oral suspensions and dry powder resuspension products may be important (e.g., insoluble drug ingredient). Dissolve testing. This test can be performed in-process if product development data warrants it. Use pharmacopeial testing apparatus, media, and conditions. Validate dissolving techniques using pharmacopeial or non-pharmacopeial equipment/circumstances. <sup>[19]</sup>

Immediate-release formulations have single-point measurements. Multiple-point sampling is required for modified-release formulations. Acceptance criteria should consider in vivo disintegration characteristics. Examine developmental data while deciding between dissolving and particle size distribution. <sup>[20]</sup>

#### Sizing

Oral suspensions may need acceptance criteria and particle size dispersion.

Examine development data to see if these formulations need dissolving or particle size distribution. Test particle size distribution. In-process testing may be justified by product development data. If these products reliably release drugs quickly, a particle size distribution test may be omitted. Replace dissolving tests with particle size tests. Acceptance

criterion should include a particle size percentage. Mean, maximum, and minimum particle sizes should be specified. Acceptance criteria should be based on the variation and dissolving profiles of batches with acceptable in vivo performance and the product's intended use. Particle growth should be investigated and considered in product development.<sup>[21][22]</sup>

### Re-dispersion

Oral suspensions that settle may require re-dispersibility. Shaking helps. Procedure (mechanical or manual). Specify the procedure's resuspension time. During product development, data may be enough to bypass or remove lot testing.<sup>[23][24]</sup>

### Rheology

Viscous solutions or suspensions may have viscosity/specific gravity specifications. Test and acceptance criteria. During product development, data may be enough to bypass or remove lot testing.

### Packaging/storage<sup>[25]</sup>

Reconstitution powders should be stored in wide-mouth containers with ample air to flow.

Store dry powders away from moisture, cold, heat, and light.

Shake before use to ensure correct dose and particle distribution.

Store powders at room temperature.

Refrigerate reconstituted suspension (freezing should be avoided to prevent aggregation)

Single-dose packaging employs 4-layer foil sachets.

Multiple dose powders may require measuring equipment.

Five-milliliter dosages. A package-provided gadget measures each oral dose.<sup>[26][27]</sup>

### Labeling

Liquid preparation contents.

Oral liquid preparation instructions, including type and amount.

Storing reconstituted solution.

Properly prepared and stored oral liquid shelf life.

Reconstituted dose's active ingredients.<sup>[28]</sup>

### Reconstituting

- To reconstitute and distribute one of these products, the pharmacist taps the container to release the powder at the bottom, adds the label-recommended amount of filtered water, and shakes until all the dry powder is suspended.
- Add the necessary amount of filtered water to the dry mixture to produce the required medicine concentration per dose unit.
- Purified water is needed to avoid pollutants that could affect stability.

- Manufacturers put dry powder or granule mixture in larger containers to allow shaking after adding filtered water.<sup>[29]</sup>

### Amoxicillin-clavulanate

Antibiotics such as amoxicillin-clavulanate are commonly found in U.S. hospital emergency rooms and general care offices. Amoxicillin and clavulanic acid are two distinct medications that work together to treat bacterial infections. Antibacterial activity of amoxicillin is similar to penicillin, a penicillin derivative. With the inclusion of clavulanic acid, beta-lactamase producing strains and other bacterial species are included in the scope of the treatment.<sup>[30]</sup> To ensure the safe and efficient use of amoxicillin-clavulanate, a multidisciplinary team approach is essential. This activity covers its indications, contraindications, administration, side effects, and interactions with other medications.<sup>[31]</sup>

### Amoxicillin and clavulanic acid history

Infections, especially respiratory, are the main cause of death worldwide. 50 years ago, antibiotic resistance was low.<sup>[32][33]</sup> New antimicrobials like amoxicillin were released in the 1970s, but beta-lactamases might render penicillins worthless. 1972 discovered beta-lactamase inhibitors. Beecham discovered clavulanic acid in 1974<sup>[34]</sup>. clavulanic acid is a "suicide inhibitor" that binds to antibiotic-resistant bacteria's b-lactamase enzymes. clavulanic acid pills only contain amoxicillin or ticarcillin. *S. clavuligerus* produces clavulanic acid. Clavulanic acid was released as Augmentin in the UK in 1981 because to its antibacterial efficacy and oral absorption. Most novel antibacterials are preclinical. This needs efficient agents. Amoxicillin/clavulanate is used to treat a number of ailments, primarily respiratory infections, in adults and children globe.<sup>[36]</sup>

### Combining amoxicillin and clavulanic acid

#### Amoxicillin

Amoxicillin differs from ampicillin at the benzene para position. Ampicillin-like in vitro. Orally absorbed, it's preferred than ampicillin in most cases. 2-2.5 times ampicillin's peak blood levels, and meals don't limit absorption. Oral amoxicillin is equivalent to IM. Healthy adults have an 80-minute half-life.<sup>[37]</sup> Amoxicillin had increased urine excretion and similar tissue distribution. Parenteral amoxicillin equals parenteral ampicillin. Penicillin semisynthetic. Amoxicillin kills even nonpenicillin-resistant gram-positive cocci. It destroys aerobic, anaerobic, and gram-negative bacteria. Amoxicillin cures *Helicobacter* and spirochetes. Clavulanic acid fights penicillinase-producing bacteria with amoxicillin. Amoxicillin cures lung, skin, UTI, and ear infections.<sup>[37]</sup> Otitis media, bronchitis, pneumonia, typhoid, gonorrhoea, and UTIs are treated with amoxicillin. Children with otitis media should take 80–90 mg/kg/day of amoxicillin. Community-acquired pneumonia treatment comprises 1 g amoxicillin three times daily. Nonmeningeal *S. pneumoniae* infections can exceed Amoxicillin MICs. Amoxicillin is a poor shigellosis treatment. Amoxicillin has similar side effects to ampicillin, but less diarrhoea. Adults take 0.5 to 1 g every 8 to 12 hours, however 1 g every 4 hours has been

used. Children take 20 to 40 mg/kg/day and up to 90 mg/kg/day in two or three divided doses every 8 hours.<sup>[38]</sup>

Amoxicillin-clavulanate must be taken orally at regular intervals to avoid peaks and troughs. This strategy maintains serum concentrations above the MIC by giving the drug twice or three times daily.<sup>[39]</sup> Pills, reconstituted liquids, and chewable tablets are oral formulations. Food reduces GI negative effects from antimicrobials.<sup>[39]</sup><sup>[40]</sup> Oral Suspension reconstitution strengths. Children choose apple, banana cream, bubble gum, cherry, or watermelon flavours. Check the amoxicillin-clavulanic acid ratio of interchangeable dosage forms. Before using, shake the reconstituted solution well. Amoxicillin 200/clavulanate 28.5 mg/5 mL

600mg amoxicillin/42.9mg potassium clavulanate/5mL (ES formulation: It is not interchangeable with other immediate release strengths)

Tablet strengths: Check the amoxicillin-clavulanic acid ratio of interchangeable dosage forms. Amoxicillin 250 mg and potassium clavulanate 125 mg pills are not recommended for children.

250mg amoxicillin/125mg clavulanate

Amoxicillin with clavulanate 875mg/125mg

Amoxicillin 400mg/kcl57mg (chewable) (chewable)

1000mg amoxicillin/62.5% clavulanate (extended-release 12-hour formulation: It is not interchangeable with other immediate release strength).

### Clavulanic Acid

Clavulanic acid is used with amoxicillin to treat beta-lactamase-producing bacterial infections. Beta-lactamase inhibitor. This activity highlights clavulanic acid as a beneficial agent in the treatment of beta-lactamase-producing bacterial infections when used with amoxicillin and how the interprofessional team can employ this drug to fight infections. Clavulanic acid is FDA-approved for use alongside amoxicillin to treat certain bacterial infections. Clavulanic acid with amoxicillin can induce moderate GI symptoms. Vomiting, nausea, loose stools, and pain. Amoxicillin-clavulanic acid therapy commonly causes diarrhoea. When combined to amoxicillin, clavulanic acid increases diarrhoea. High doses of extended-release clavulanic acid and amoxicillin can cause diarrhoea.<sup>[41]</sup> Clavulanic acid with amoxicillin can cause pancreatitis.<sup>[43]</sup> This medicine combination for UTIs causes candida vaginitis.<sup>[42]</sup> Amoxicillin and clavulanic acid are the most common cause of idiosyncratic drug-induced harm, notably cholestatic liver injury, which can raise alkaline phosphatase and bilirubin levels.<sup>[44]</sup> Since clavulanic acid is always given with amoxicillin, consider its negative effects as well. This medicine combination can cause hypersensitivity responses, generally due to amoxicillin. No allergic responses have been linked to clavulanic acid alone. Clavulanic acid has no antibacterial properties without amoxicillin. It's solid and liquid. Chewable tablets and immediate and extended-release tablets must be taken whole for the solid form. Children who can't chew or swallow tablets should use the oral liquid suspension. To

improve oral absorption and reduce gastrointestinal irritation, all forms of the medicine should be taken after a light meal. Clavulanic acid boosts amoxicillin absorption. This pharmacological regimen should be taken twice to three times daily at regular intervals to maintain serum concentrations.<sup>[45]</sup> Clavulanic acid does not boost amoxicillin's antibacterial action against non-beta-lactamase bacteria. This medicine combination is only for patients with suspected beta-lactamase infections.<sup>[46]</sup> This combination is effective against urinary tract infections, lower respiratory infections, sinusitis, otitis media, and several skin and soft tissue infections caused by *H. influenzae*, *M. catarrhalis*, and *S. aureus*. Amoxicillin/clavulanate should be used before ceftriaxone to reduce re-infection and consequences.<sup>[47]</sup> Animal bites, impetigo, COPD exacerbations, bronchiectasis, and odontogenic infections are off-label applications.

### Amoxicillin-clavulanic acid Combination

Beecham pharmacists set the first amoxicillin-clavulanic acid ratio at 4:1 due to clavulanic acid's high affinity for b-lactamases<sup>[48]</sup>. Later, 7:1 was used to reduce clavulanic acid toxicity. Some places have 14:1 and 16:1 ratios. Few clinical and microbiological data compare the ratios' effectiveness. In a randomised trial of nearly 900 patients with chronic bronchitis exacerbations, a 16:1 formulation of amoxicillin (2 g, extended release) combined with 125 mg of clavulanic acid (traditional formulation) was compared to a 7:1 formulation of 875/125 mg for clinical efficacy. Clinical non-inferiority was demonstrated at 14e21 days. Only 30% of sputum samples were positive for possible bacterial pathogens; bacteriological success rates for b-lactamase-positive organisms were equal in both groups (22/24, 92% vs. 21/25, 84%).<sup>[49]</sup>

Recent findings that oral-tablet amoxicillin absorption is saturable<sup>[50]</sup> may further explain the absence of clinical difference, given the 2-g dose's low uptake. Both formulations had similar adverse event patterns, with 14% and 17% of patients reporting diarrhoea.

### CONCLUSION

In many countries, amoxicillineclavulanic acid is used more than amoxicillin alone, however in some clinical and geographical settings, it's needed less often. Use of either medication should be questioned for most clinical syndromes: a complete microbiological work-up should be undertaken whenever possible, and delayed prescription should be sought in patients with non-severe presentations likely to be viral or represent only mucosal infection (e.g. lower urinary tract infection). Oral amoxicillin without clavulanic acid is safer. When taking fewer daily dosages and targeting Gram-negative organisms, use a narrow ratio of amoxicillin to clavulanic acid.

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