

In 1964, Levy, et al., (*Am. J. Hosp. Pharm.*, 21, 402 (1964)) reported a similar case. The inactive product, in this case, had a $T_{50\%}$ value of 174 minutes. It was noted in this paper that this product disintegrated in less than 3 minutes.

In our laboratory, we have examined the dissolution characteristics of 12 brands of prednisone tablets. Using the dissolution apparatus described in the papers cited above, we found that five of the brands had $T_{50\%}$ values of more than 120 minutes. In two cases, it was difficult to calculate the value because at the end of seven hours in the apparatus, very little of the five mg. in the tablet had gone into the solution.

One of these five brands contained more than the allowable amount of prednisone. Therefore, it is legally unacceptable. However, the other four brands meet all existing standards. I, for one, would not dispense these brands.

This means, therefore, that five (or 41.7 per cent) of the 12 brands are not equal to the best brands on the market.

3. *p*-Aminosalicylic Acid Tablets

I have previously said that all four brands are legally acceptable. Our results were based on products that had been purchased through a local wholesaler (or obtained from the manufacturer). Analyses were carried out as soon as the bottle had been opened.

Many drugs decompose on storage. By carefully formulating a product, such decomposition can be kept to a minimum. We, therefore, set up a stability study for the products tested.

Three of the products were relatively stable under all test conditions. The fourth product was not. For example, after being kept at 30°C and 90 per cent relative humidity for eight days, it lost 5 per cent of its potency. At higher temperatures, for example at 40° C., it assayed at 75 per cent of label potency at the end of ten days.

The first condition, that is, a temperature of 80° to 90° F and a relative humidity of 90 per cent, is not unrealistic. Such conditions are common in many parts of Canada during the summer months. The moral of the story is that one should handle, dispense, and store this product in a dry box, or better still, dispense a product that will withstand normal storage conditions.

We must, therefore, reject one of these four brands even though it met existing specifications at the time that the bottle was opened.

4. Phenylbutazone Tablets (Enteric Coated)

I have already said that one of the four products tested failed the disintegration test.

We have administered three of the four products to two subjects. Preliminary results have indicated that the product which failed to disintegrate yielded about 50 per cent-60 per cent of the amount of drug to the blood given