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Perspective

# Pharmaceutical Analysis in Drug Development

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## Description

Pharmaceutical analysis is an important process in drug development that involves the application of analytical techniques to determine the quality, purity, and potency of a drug. The goal of pharmaceutical analysis is to ensure that drugs are safe and effective for use in humans.

Drug development is the process of discovering, designing, and bringing to market new medications to treat or prevent diseases. The process is lengthy and expensive, taking an average of 10-12 years and costing hundreds of millions or even billions of dollars. However, the potential benefits to patients and society are enormous, making it a critical area of research and development.

#### Importance

Pharmaceutical analysis plays an important role in drug development as it ensures that drugs meet regulatory requirements for safety, efficacy, and quality. Pharmaceutical analysis helps to identify impurities, contaminants, and degradation products in drug substances and products, which could pose a risk to human health. Pharmaceutical analysis also helps to determine the appropriate dosage and administration of drugs.

Pharmaceutical analysis is essential in the development of new drugs as it helps to identify potential drug candidates and optimize their properties. Analytical techniques can be used to study the physical, chemical, and biological properties of drug candidates and select the most promising ones for further development. Pharmaceutical analysis also helps to monitor the stability of drug products during storage and transportation, ensuring that they remain safe and effective throughout their shelf life.

#### Techniques used in pharmaceutical analysis

There are various techniques used in pharmaceutical analysis, including spectroscopic, chromatographic, and electrochemical techniques. Spectroscopic techniques, such as infrared spectroscopy, Ultraviolet (UV)-Visible spectroscopy, and Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) spectroscopy, are used to study the structure and properties of drug molecules. Chromatographic techniques, such as High-Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC), Gas Chromatography (GC), and Thin-Layer Chromatography (TLC), are used to separate and quantify drug substances and impurities. Electrochemical techniques, such as potentiometry and voltammetry, are used to measure the electrochemical properties of drug molecules.

Other techniques used in pharmaceutical analysis include mass spectrometry, X-ray crystallography, and thermal analysis. Mass spectrometry is used to determine the molecular weight and structure of drug molecules, while X-ray crystallography is used to study the crystal structure of drug molecules. Thermal analysis, such as Differential Scanning Calorimetry (DSC), is used to investigate the thermal behavior of drug substances and formulations, including their melting points, glass transition temperatures, and thermal stability.

DSC measures the difference in heat flow between a sample and a reference material as the temperature changes. As the sample is heated, it undergoes physical changes, such as melting or crystallization, which are detected as changes in the heat flow. These changes can provide information on the purity, stability, and thermal behavior of the drug substance or formulation.

Other thermal analysis techniques used in pharmaceutical analysis include Thermo Gravimetric Analysis (TGA), which measures the weight loss of a sample as it is heated or cooled, and Dynamic Mechanical Analysis (DMA), which measures the mechanical properties of a sample as it is subjected to temperature changes.

### Conclusion

Analytical techniques are always important and in pharmaceutical development and quality control, ensuring the safety and efficacy of drug products. They allow researchers to characterize drug molecules and formulations in detail, providing information on their physical and chemical properties, and helping to optimize their performance and stability.

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