



## Bioequivalence Between Two Metronidazole Formulations

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**SUMMARY.** Two tablet formulations of 400 mg metronidazole were evaluated for their bioequivalence in twenty three healthy male volunteers (metronidazole, from EMS-Sigma Pharma, Brazil, as the test formulations *versus* Flagyl® from Rhodia, Brazil, as the reference formulation). A single 400 mg oral dose of each preparation was administered in a randomized two-way crossover design with a seven-day interval between doses. Metronidazole plasma concentrations were determined by the HPLC-UV detection. Pharmacokinetic parameters obtained included  $AUC_{0-t}$ ,  $AUC_{0-\infty}$ ,  $C_{max}$ ,  $T_{max}$ ,  $t_{1/2}$ , and  $K_e$ . Geometric mean of metronidazole / Flagyl® 400 mg individual percent ratio was 91.04% for  $AUC_{0-t}$ , 92.05% for  $AUC_{0-\infty}$ , and 98.09% for  $C_{max}$ . The 90% confidence intervals were 85.12 - 97.38%, 85.90 - 98.64% and 90.19 - 106.69 respectively. Since the 90% CI for the  $AUC_{0-t}$ ,  $AUC_{0-\infty}$ , and  $C_{max}$  were within the 80-125% interval proposed by ANVISA and by the Food and Drug Administration, and it was concluded that metronidazole 400 mg tablet from EMS-Sigma Pharma was bioequivalent to Flagyl® tablet 400 mg with regard to both the rate and extent of absorption.

**RESUMEN.** "Estudio de Bioequivalencia de Dos Formulaciones de Metronidazol". Se realizó un estudio de bioequivalencia entre dos formulaciones de Metronidazol 400 mg en comprimidos (EMS-Sigma Pharma como ensayo *versus* Flagyl - Rhodia como referencia). Una dosis única de 400 mg de cada formulación fue administrada en dos períodos cruzados con un intervalo de siete días entre los dos períodos, a un total de 23 voluntarios jóvenes y sanos. Se utilizó un ensayo por HPLC-UV para determinar las concentraciones plasmáticas de Metronidazol. Los parámetros farmacocinéticos determinados fueron: área bajo la curva de concentraciones *vs.* tiempo de cero a  $t$  ( $ABC_{0-t}$ ), área bajo la curva de concentraciones *vs.* tiempo desde cero a infinito ( $ABC_{0-\infty}$ ), concentración plasmática máxima ( $C_{max}$ ), tiempo máximo ( $T_{max}$ ), tiempo de vida media ( $t_{1/2}$ ) y constante de velocidad de absorción ( $K_e$ ). La razón de los promedios geométricos del Metronidazole EMS / Flagyl 400 mg fueron 91,04% para  $ABC_{0-t}$ , 92,05% para  $ABC_{0-\infty}$  y 98,09% para  $C_{max}$ . Los intervalos de confianza de 90% fueran 85,12 - 97,38%, 85,90 - 98,64% y 90,19 - 106,69 respectivamente. Los IC de 90% para  $ABC_{0-t}$ ,  $ABC_{0-\infty}$  y  $C_{max}$  estaban en el rango de 80-125% como ANVISA y la FDA recomienda. En base a nuestros resultados se concluye que las dos formulaciones son bioequivalentes, asumiéndose que tendrían igual eficacia clínica.

PALAVRAS CHAVE: Bioequivalência, HPLC-UV, Metronidazol

KEY WORDS: Bioequivalence, HPLC-UV, Metronidazole

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