

## Characterization of famciclovir by physico-chemical methods

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### ABSTRACT

The compound Famciclovir is synthesized and characterized by elemental analysis, <sup>1</sup>H NMR, <sup>13</sup>C NMR, mass spectra, electronic spectra and IR spectra. This confirms the proposed structure for the compound Famciclovir

**Keywords:** Synthesis, Famciclovir, Characterization, <sup>1</sup>H NMR, <sup>13</sup>C NMR, Mass spectra, Electronic spectra and IR spectra.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Famciclovir, an *anti-viral agent* (acyclic guanine derivative), chemically it is 2-[2-(2-amino-9H-purin-9-yl) ethyl]-1, 3-propanediol diacetate. Famciclovir is a guanine analogue used for the treatment of various herpes viral infections, most commonly for herpes zoster (shingles). It is a prodrug form of penciclovir undergoes rapid biotransformation to the active antiviral compound penciclovir, which has inhibitory activity against herpes simplex virus types 1 (HSV- 1) and 2 (HSV-2) and varicella zoster virus (VZV). Torii et al.,<sup>[1]</sup> have established practical methods for the synthesis of Famciclovir (FCV) from readily available N2-acetyl-7-benzylguanine. Chiodini et al.,<sup>[2]</sup> have reported the manufacture of Famciclovir using phase-transfer catalysts. Kobe et al.,<sup>[3]</sup> have reported a new process for the preparation of alkyl substituted purine derivatives. Wang et al.,<sup>[4]</sup> have established a new method for the preparation of Famciclovir with 21% yield via regio selective alkylation of 2-amino purine with 5-(2-bromoethyl)-2,2-dimethyl-1,3-dioxan as a pivotal step. Based on the above literature the authors proposed to synthesize the compound with good quality and economy. Famciclovir is indicated for the treatment of herpes zoster (shingles)<sup>[5]</sup>, treatment of herpes simplex virus 2 (genital herpes)<sup>[6]</sup>, herpes labialis (cold sores) in immunocompetent patients<sup>[7]</sup> and for the suppression of recurring episodes of herpes simplex virus 2. It is also indicated for treatment of recurrent episodes of herpes simplex in HIV patients.

### 2. MATERIAL AND METHODS

All the Chemicals and reagents used were of Analytical Grade and were purchased from Merck.

The <sup>1</sup>H Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum of the compounds I & II are recorded in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> at 27°C on Bruker Avance NMR Spectrometer (300MHz) and the compounds III & IV are recorded in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at 27°C on Bruker Avance NMR Spectrometer (300MHz). The <sup>13</sup>C Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrum are recorded for compound I in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, for compound II in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> + D<sub>2</sub>O and for compounds III & IV in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at 27°C on Bruker Avance NMR Spectrometer (300MHz). The mass spectra of all the compounds are recorded on Waters Quattro Micro Mass Spectrophotometer. The infrared spectra of all the compounds are recorded in a KBr pellet on Perkin Elmer infrared Spectrophotometer. The Ultra-Violet spectra of all the compounds in methanol are scanned from 200 to 400 nm on Perkin Elmer Lambda 35 UV/Vis Spectrophotometer

The preparation of Famciclovir utilizes 2-Amino-6-Chloropurine as a starting material (available commercially). Synthesis involves Esterification, peptide coupling between 2-Amino-6-Chloropurine and Triethyl 3-bromopropane 1, 1, 1-tricarboxylate using Potassium Carbonate as a catalyst gives Dimethyl 2-(2-amino-6-chloro 9H-purin-9-yl)malanoate (FCV-I). This (FCV-I) on further reduction with Sodium borohydride gives 2-[2-(2-amino-6-Chloro-9H-purin-9-yl) ethyl]

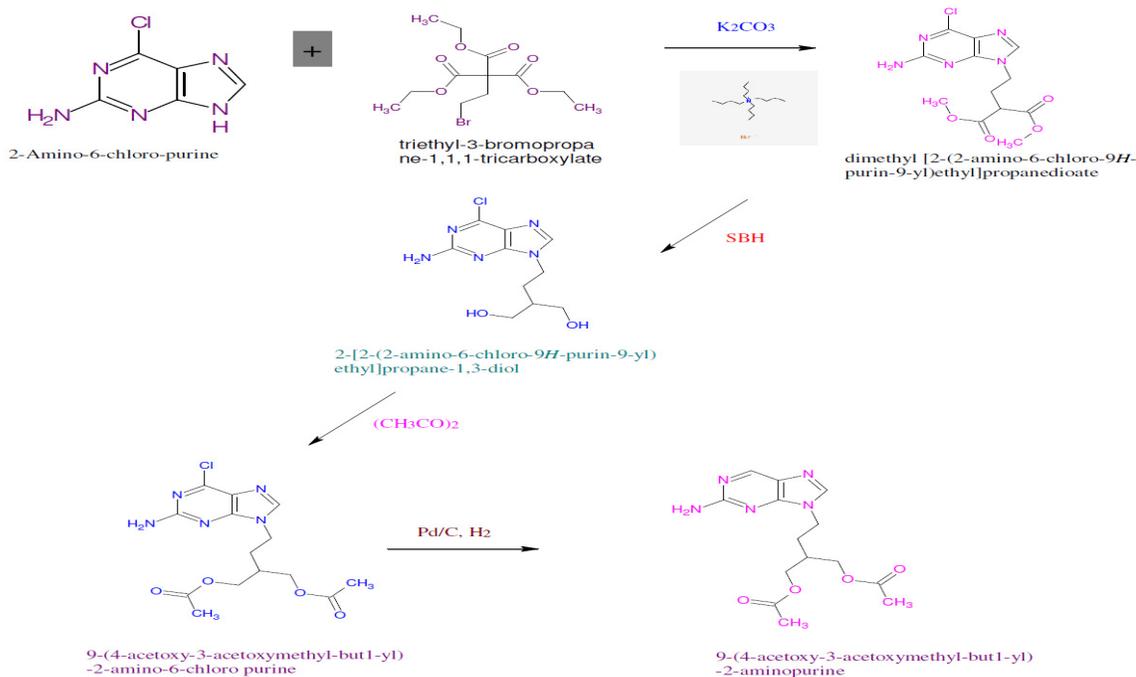
propane-1, 3-diol(FCV-II). By acetylation of FCV-II using Acetic anhydride and Triethyl amine as a solvent, 9-(4-acetoxy-3-acetoxy methyl-but-1-yl)-2-amino-6-chloropurine (FCV-III) is formed. FCV-III on reductive acylation using 5% palladium on carbon and sodium acetate in triethyl amine under hydrogen atmosphere at room temperature gave

Famciclovir (FCV-IV). Physical state of the compound is white amorphous. Melting point is 102-104°C. Percentage of yield is 90.

The detailed procedure for the synthesis of all the four compounds is shown in the following table 1.

Table – 1: A detailed procedure for the synthesis

Compound	Reactants	Catalyst/ Medium	Conditions
FCV-I	2-amino-6-chloro purine and Triethyl 3-bromopropane-1,1,1-tricarboxylate	Potassium carbonate and tetrabutyl ammonium bromide	The reaction mixture is heated to 60°C for 16 hours , the residue obtained to cooled to 20°C, stirred for one hour and dried in hot air oven at 60°C.
FCV-II	FCV-I and methylene dichromate	Sodium borohydride	The reaction mixture is cooled to 20°C, added methanol, pH is adjusted to 6.5, distilled at 60°C and the resultant solid obtained is dried at 50°C
FCV-III	FCV-II, methylene dichromate and triethyl amine	Acetic anhydride	Heated slowly for one hour, cooled to room temperature, pH is adjusted to 7, organic layer is separated, dried with Na <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> , distillation followed by the addition of di-isopropylate (DIP) and finally dried in hot air oven at 60°C
FCV-IV	FCV-III and isopropyl alcohol	Carbon, palladium (5%) and sodium acetate	Stirred well, heated to 60°C till a clear solution is obtained, filtered, pH is adjusted to 7, organic layer is separated , dried with Na <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> to remove water and finally dried in hot air oven at 65°C



Scheme – 1: Steps involved in the synthesis of Famciclovir

### 3. RESULTS

#### 3.1. Physical properties

The physical properties of the final compound as well as intermediates are shown in table 2.

**Table - 2: Physical properties of the Compounds synthesized**

Compound	Molecular Formula	Molecular Weight	Physical State	Color
FCV-I	C <sub>12</sub> H <sub>14</sub> ClN <sub>5</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	327.72	Amorphous	White
FCV-II	C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>14</sub> ClN <sub>5</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	271.70	Amorphous	White
FCV-III	C <sub>14</sub> H <sub>18</sub> ClN <sub>5</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	355.78	Amorphous	Pale Yellow
FCV-IV	C <sub>14</sub> H <sub>19</sub> N <sub>5</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	321.33	Amorphous	White

#### 3.2. Elemental analysis

The compounds were analysed for carbon, hydrogen and nitrogen and the results are shown in table 3.

**Table - 3: Analytical data for the compounds**

Compound	Molecular Weight	Found (Calculated) %		
		C	H	N
FCV-I	327.72	43.89	4.22	21.28
		(43.98)	(4.31)	(21.37)
FCV-II	271.70	44.10	5.10	25.69
		(44.21)	(5.19)	(25.78)
FCV-III	355.78	47.19	4.99	19.59
		(47.26)	(5.10)	(19.68)
FCV-IV	321.33	52.24	5.89	21.71
		(52.33)	(5.96)	(21.79)

#### 3.3. <sup>1</sup>H NMR Spectral data:

The <sup>1</sup>H NMR Spectra of all the compounds is taken and the data obtained is tabulated in table 4 and the spectra are shown in figure 2 and 3.

**Table - 4: <sup>1</sup>H NMR Spectral data for the compounds**

Compound	Proton Number	Multiplicity	Chemical shift (ppm)
FCV-I	H-8 (1H)	s	8.08
	H-10 (2H)	s	6.09
	H-2" (2H)	t	4.09-4.13
	H-4',5' (6H)	s	3.60
	H-2' (1H)	t	3.51-3.55
	H-1" (2H)	m	2.26-2.36
FCV-II	H-8 (1H)	s	8.16
	H-10 (2H)	s	6.90
	H-4',5' (2H)	m	4.51
	H-2" (2H)	t	4.08-4.13
	H-1',3' (4H)	m	3.36-3.45
	H-1" (2H)	q	1.71-1.78
FCV-III	H-8 (1H)	s	7.79
	H-10 (2H)	s	5.11
FCV-IV	H-1' (2H)	t	4.17-4.22
	H-4',5' (4H)	d	4.13-4.15

	H-7',9' (6H)	s	2.07
	H-2',3' (3H)	m	1.92-1.99
FCV-IV	H-6 (1H)	s	8.70
	H-8 (1H)	s	7.77
	H-10 (2H)	s	5.05
	H-1' (2H)	t	4.18-4.23
	H-4',5' (4H)	d	4.13-4.15
	H-7',9' (6H)	s	2.06
	H-2',3' (3H)	m	1.91-2.03

#### 3.4. <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectral Data:

The <sup>1</sup>H NMR Spectra of all the compounds is taken and the data obtained is tabulated in table 5.

**Table - 5: <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectral Data for the compounds**

Compound	Carbon Number	Chemical Shift (ppm)
FCV-I	C-1',3'	168.77
	C-2	159.74
	C-4	154.13
	C-6	149.34
	C-8	143.09
	C-5	123.39
	C-4',5'	52.50
	C-2"	48.46
	C-2'	40.97
	C-1"	27.92
FCV-II	C-2	160.01
	C-4	154.38
	C-6	149.88
	C-8	143.94
	C-5	123.78
	C-1',3'	61.62
	C-2"	42.00
FCV-III	C-2'	40.92
	C-1"	28.66
	C-6'8'	170.73
	C-2	159.11
	C-4	153.73
	C-6	151.12
	C-8	141.97
FCV-IV	C-5	124.99
	C-4'5'	63.48
	C-1'	41.22
	C-3'	34.80
	C-2'	28.67
	C-7',9'	20.68
	C-6'8'	170.57
FCV-IV	C-2	159089
	C-4	152.97
	C-6	149.53
	C-8	141.88
	C-5	127.83
	C-4'5'	63.39
FCV-IV	C-1'	40.50
	C-3'	34.67

### 3.5. Mass spectrum

The mass Spectra of all the compounds is taken and the data obtained is tabulated in table 5 and the spectrum is shown in figure 4

**Table - 5: Mass spectral data for the compounds**

Compound	m/z	Fragment
FCV-I	349.89 (M+Na)	C <sub>12</sub> H <sub>14</sub> ClN <sub>5</sub> O <sub>4</sub> Na
	327.92 (m/z)	C <sub>12</sub> H <sub>14</sub> ClN <sub>5</sub> O <sub>4</sub>
	158.83	C <sub>7</sub> H <sub>11</sub> O <sub>4</sub>
FCV-II	295.91 (M+2+Na)	C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>14</sub> ClN <sub>5</sub> O <sub>2</sub> Na
	293.88 (M+Na)	C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>14</sub> ClN <sub>5</sub> O <sub>2</sub> Na
	271.95 (m/z)	C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>14</sub> ClN <sub>5</sub> O <sub>2</sub>
FCV-III	379.84 (M+2+Na)	C <sub>14</sub> H <sub>18</sub> ClN <sub>5</sub> O <sub>4</sub> Na
	377.86 (M+Na)	C <sub>14</sub> H <sub>18</sub> ClN <sub>5</sub> O <sub>4</sub> Na
	355.88 (m/z)	C <sub>14</sub> H <sub>18</sub> ClN <sub>5</sub> O <sub>4</sub>
FCV-IV	343.95 (M+Na)	C <sub>14</sub> H <sub>19</sub> N <sub>5</sub> O <sub>4</sub> Na
	321.96 (M+1)	C <sub>14</sub> H <sub>19</sub> N <sub>5</sub> O <sub>4</sub>

### 3.6. Electronic spectral data

The electronic spectral data of all the compounds is taken and tabulated in table 6.

**Table - 6: Electronic spectral data for the compounds**

Compound	Wave length (nm)	Band
FCV-I	223.20	K band of aromatic ring
	247.99	B band of aromatic ring
	310.24	β band of aromatic ring
FCV-II	223.72	K band of aromatic ring
	310.27	β band of aromatic ring
FCV-III	223.46	K band of aromatic ring
	248.24	B band of aromatic ring
	310.50	β band of aromatic ring
FCV-IV	223.00	K band of aromatic ring
	310.37	β band of aromatic ring

### 3.7. Infrared Spectral data:

The IR Spectral data of all the compounds is taken and tabulated in table 7 and the spectrum is shown in figure 6

**Table - 7: IR Spectral data for the compounds**

Compound	Frequency (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Assignment
FCV-I	3465 & 3313	NH stretching
	3109 & 3013	C-H stretching in aromatic ring
	2960, 2947 & 2853	C-H stretching in CH <sub>2</sub> , CH <sub>3</sub>
	1741 & 1717	C=O stretching
	1633 & 1611	C=N stretching
	1562 & 1523	C=C stretching
	1473, 1444 & 1411	NH bending
	1358 & 1337	CH bending in CH <sub>2</sub> , CH <sub>3</sub>
	1312 & 1301	C-N stretching
	1283 & 1260	C-O stretching
	1228 & 1213	C-Cl stretching

FCV-I	1195, 1168 & 1153	C-C stretching
	1047, 998 & 962	In plane bending vibrations of C-H in aromatic ring
	913, 886 & 783	Out of plane bending vibrations of C-H in aromatic ring
FCV-II	3327 & 3206	NH, OH stretching
	3090	C-H stretching in aromatic ring
	2934 & 2881	C-H stretching in CH <sub>2</sub> , CH <sub>3</sub>
	1639 & 1611	C=N stretching
	1569 & 1526	C=C stretching
	1473 & 1411	NH, OH bending
	1379 & 1358	CH bending in CH <sub>2</sub> , CH <sub>3</sub>
	1315	C-N stretching
	1283 & 1315	C-Cl stretching
	1166 & 1105	C-C stretching
FCV-III	1076, 1040 & 1020	In plane bending vibrations of C-H in aromatic ring
	985, 918 & 783	Out of plane bending vibrations of C-H in aromatic ring
	3484 & 3303	NH stretching
	3195 & 3117	C-H stretching in aromatic ring
	2064, 2944 & 2926	C-H stretching in CH <sub>2</sub> , CH <sub>3</sub>
	1748 & 1731	C=O stretching
	1652 & 1623	C=N stretching
	1558 & 1520	C=C stretching
	1472 & 1446	NH bending
	1410 & 1382	CH bending in CH <sub>2</sub> , CH <sub>3</sub>
FCV-IV	1367 & 1358	C-N stretching
	1326 & 1309	C-O stretching
	1242	C-Cl stretching
	1171 & 1148	C-C stretching
	1070, 1035 & 1023	In plane bending vibrations of C-H in aromatic ring
	988, 907 & 880	Out of plane bending vibrations of C-H in aromatic ring
	3404 & 3310	NH stretching
	3080	C-H stretching in aromatic ring
	2963, 2871 & 2824	C-H stretching in CH <sub>2</sub> , CH <sub>3</sub>
	1748, 1733 & 1724	C=O stretching
FCV-IV	1664 & 1636	C=N stretching
	1615 & 1528	C=C stretching
	1427	NH bending
	1400 & 1370	CH bending in CH <sub>2</sub> , CH <sub>3</sub>
	1330 & 1304	C-N stretching
	1259, 1247 & 1231	C-O stretching
	1172, 1132 & 1109	C-C stretching
	1088, 1060 & 1029	In plane bending vibrations of C-H in aromatic ring
	964, 901 & 792	Out of plane bending vibrations of C-H in aromatic ring

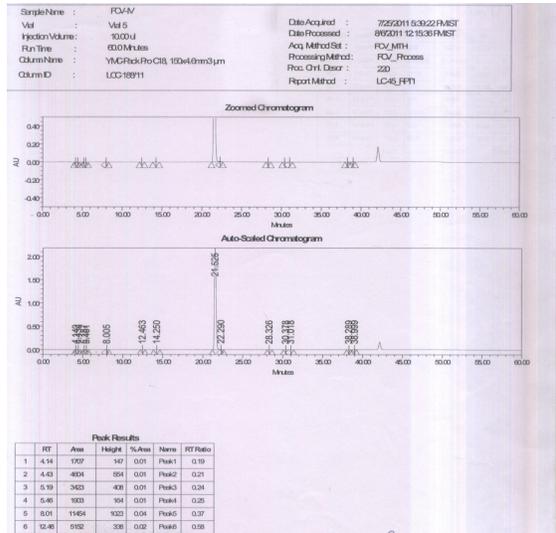


Figure - 1: HPLC for FCV-4

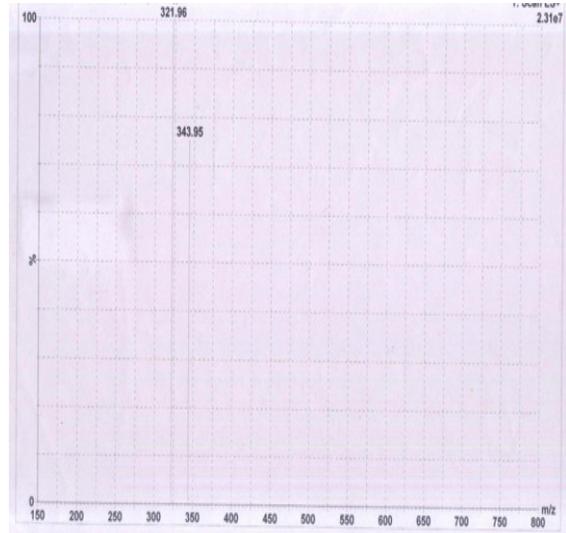


Figure - 4: Mass spectrum for FCV-4

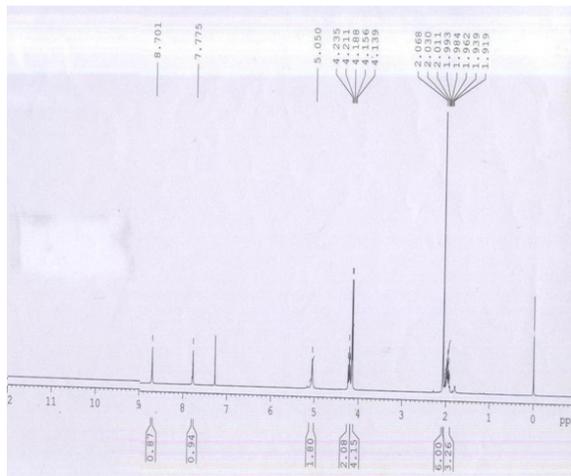


Figure - 2: <sup>1</sup>H NMR Spectrum for FCV-4

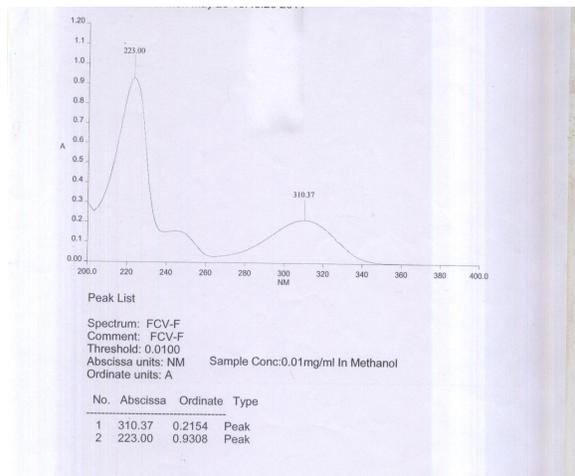


Figure - 5: Electronic Spectrum of FCV-4

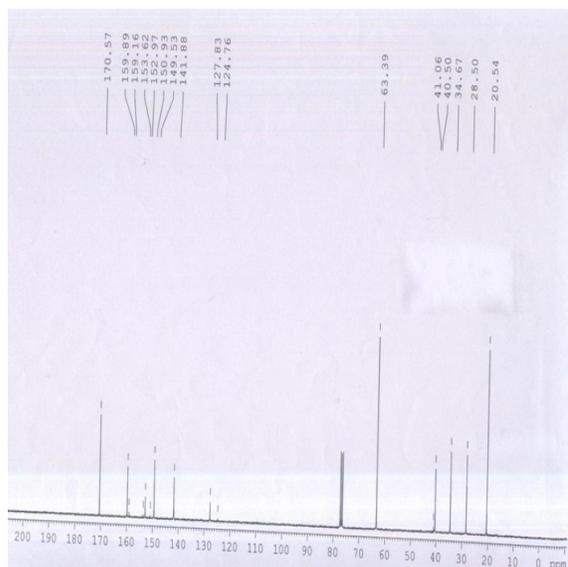


Figure - 3: <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectrum for FCV-4

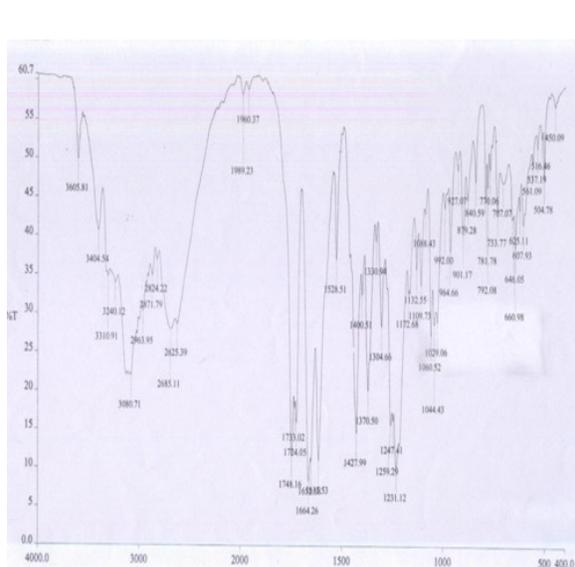


Figure - 6: IR Spectrum of FCV-4

**4. DISCUSSION**

The elemental analysis data, <sup>1</sup>H-NMR, C<sup>13</sup> NMR, Mass, Electronic, IR Spectral data confirm the synthesis of the compound Famciclovir as well as proposed structure for the compound. The purity of the compound is confirmed by HPLC

**5. CONCLUSION**

The compounds (FCV-I to FCV-IV) were synthesized and characterized by elemental analysis, <sup>1</sup>H NMR, <sup>13</sup>C NMR, mass, electronic and IR spectra. The spectra confirmed the proposed structures for all the compounds.

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