

Development and Validation of a Simple Procedure for the Kinetic Spectrophotometric Quantitative Determination of Ceftriaxone Using Potassium Caroate

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A simple procedure for the quantitative determination of the Ceftriaxone pure substance by the spectrophotometric method in its kinetic modification using Caro's acid has been developed and validated. The scheme of the chemical transformation of Ceftriaxone with the reaction of potassium caroate has been proposed. The appearance of a new wave gives the possibility of developing a new procedure for the quantitative determination of Ceftriaxone. The obtained results of accuracy and precision are as follows: RSD = 1.63-2.25 %, δ = 0.33-0.96 %. LOD = 0.1 $\mu\text{g/mL}$, LOQ = 0.33 $\mu\text{g/mL}$.

Introduction

The quantitative determination of drugs becomes more and more important. The control of the quality and quantity is one of the obligatory steps for manufacturing medicines. The number of medicines produced increases from year to year and the quality of the drugs have to be controlled. Therefore, the development of new procedures that are easy to perform and cost-effective is of great interest. The procedures proposed should be unified, selective, sensitive, and precise, and they should be validated by the monograph "Validation of analytical methods" of the State Pharmacopeia of Ukraine (SPhU).

Antibiotics are extremely important in medicine. Cephalosporins belong to the most commonly used types of antibiotics.

Ceftriaxone is a third-generation cephalosporin having 2-(2-amino-1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-2-(methoxyimino)-acetyl-amino and [(2-methyl-5,6-dioxo-1,2,5,6-tetrahydro-1,2,4-triazin-3-yl)-sulfanyl]-methyl side groups. It is an antibacterial drug, an EC 3.5.2.6 (beta-lactamase) inhibitor, and a drug allergen. This cephalosporin contains in its structure a 1,2,4-triazine, a 1,3-thiazole, and an oxime O-ether (**Figure 1**).

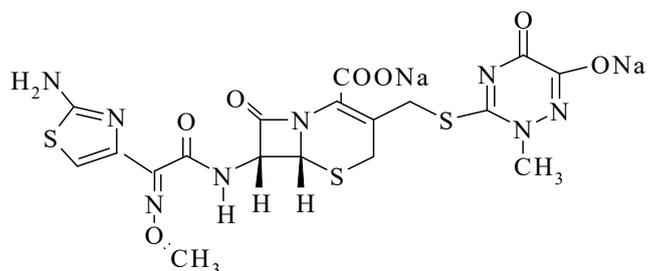


Figure 1. The chemical structure of Ceftriaxone.

The SPbU and BP describe HPLC for the cephalosporin determination; this is by far the best method, but it requires lengthy preparation, is expensive, and is difficult to perform [1-6]. The classical iodometric method is provided for the assay of most Pharmacopeial β -lactams, for which iodometric titration is particularly adapted [7]. The iodometric method is not applicable to antibiotics, the initial substances of their production as well as their degradation products being oxidized by iodine. It is therefore not suitable for controlling the purity of antibiotics of this group [8]. Usually, titration is a rapid and easy procedure, but compared to it, iodometric titration of cephalosporins is a long-lasting procedure (approximately 40 min) [7].

However, the development of new methods for titrimetric determination is relevant due to its simplicity, reliability, speed, and economic benefits. One of such procedures is described in the work of Nabi et al. [9]. The iodometric determination of some drugs of the cephalosporin series using Caro's acid was proposed by Blazhevsky M.Ye. and Serdiukova Yu.Yu. [10- 14].

Chromatographic methods for the quantitative determination of substances are the most accurate and sensitive. These are modern techniques that are very promising, and some procedures are described in the literature for the quantitative determination of Ceftriaxone, [15-23].

Comparing the currently existing polarographic methods for the determination of cephalosporins with the classical microbiological and iodometric methods regarding their accuracy, correctness, and selectivity, the advantages of the polarographic method in all three aspects were shown. [24-29].

The possibility of the selective determination of β -lactam preparations without the preliminary stage of hydrolytic cleavage in the presence of related substances was demonstrated in several spectrophotometric methods. Some methods of β -lactam determination have been developed by IR spectrophotometry using chemical transformations [30, 31]. Most spectrophotometric procedures for the β -lactam determination were developed in the visible and near-ultraviolet range. Other authors also quantitatively analyzed Ceftriaxone by spectrophotometry. [32-39]. The methods listed above are long-lasting, require heating and toxic reagents, thus justifying the development of quick and easy procedures using "Green chemistry" reagents.

The possibility of kinetic-spectrophotometric determination of some cephalosporins was shown by Blazhevskiy M.Ye. [40-42].

The extensive literature review revealed kinetic-spectrophotometric procedures as the most prospective and the best alternative procedures to be developed for the Ceftriaxone

quantitative determination. This can be achieved using a proper oxidation analytical reagent, which must meet all the claims of analytical reagents.

Potassium Caroate (KHSO₅) belongs to these reagents. It is a commercially available powder giving stable solutions that can be used in the experiments. This research is thus devoted to the development and validation of a novel procedure for the Ceftriaxone quantitative determination using Potassium Caroate as an analytical reagent in the kinetic-spectrophotometric modification.

This work aims at studying a new reaction of Ceftriaxone with Potassium Caroate and validation of the kinetic-spectrophotometric procedure of Ceftriaxone S-oxidation and the per hydrolysis product in bulk.

Experimental part

All the chemicals were of analytical reagent grade, and the solutions were prepared with double-distilled water.

The triple potassium salt of Caro's acid was used as an oxidizing agent, 2KHSO₅•KHSO₄•K₂SO₄ (the commercial name "Oxon[®]" produced by DuPont). The active substance was potassium hydrogenperoxomonosulfate, KHSO₅. The choice of the reagent was determined by its rather high oxidative activity, E₀ = 1.84 V, availability, and satisfactory solubility in water.

Preparation of 0.02 mol·L⁻¹ solution of potassium caroate. 0.615 g of

2KHSO₅•KHSO₄•K₂SO₄, was dissolved in a 100 mL volumetric flask in double-distilled water. The concentration of potassium caroate was controlled by iodometric titration.

0.51 mol·L⁻¹ of sodium hydroxide solution was prepared by dissolving 2 g sodium hydroxide in a 100 mL volumetric flask.

The Ceftriaxone pure substance was used in this work (the content of the main substance = 99%, w = 8.85).

The titrant volume was measured using a 10 mL micro burette with an accuracy of ±0.01 mL.

Preparation of Ceftriaxone solution, 1·10⁻² mol·L⁻¹. 0.6620 g of Ceftriaxone sodium was diluted in double-distilled water in a 100 mL flask at 20 ° C.

The procedure for the S-oxidation reaction kinetics study. 10.0 mL of 0.02 mol·L⁻¹ potassium caroate solution was transferred into a 100 mL volumetric flask using a pipette, 5.0 mL of 0.01 mol·L⁻¹ Ceftriaxone solution was added, and a stopwatch was switched on. The solution was diluted to the volume and mixed. At certain intervals, 10 mL of the mixture obtained was transferred into a titration flask using a pipette, 1 mL of 0.1 mol·L⁻¹ sulfuric acid solution, and 1 mL of 5 % potassium iodide solution were added. The isolated iodine was titrated with a 0.02 mol·L⁻¹ titrated solution of sodium thiosulfate in the presence of starch.

It was determined that the oxidation-reduction reaction between Ceftriaxone and

The redox interaction between Ceftriaxone and potassium caroate in acidic medium (pH = 3-5) was stoichiometric and fast: 1 mol of Ceftriaxone per 2 mol of KHSO_5 (the observation time was 30 min) was determined by the iodometric method.

In basic medium, Ceftriaxone S,S'-dioxide underwent hydrolytic cleavage. **Figure 3** shows the electronic spectra of Ceftriaxone and the reaction product. The appearance of a new band of absorbance at $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 295$ nm demonstrates its formation during the alkaline hydrolysis of Ceftriaxone S,S'-dioxide in the presence of potassium caroate (the perhydrolysis reaction).

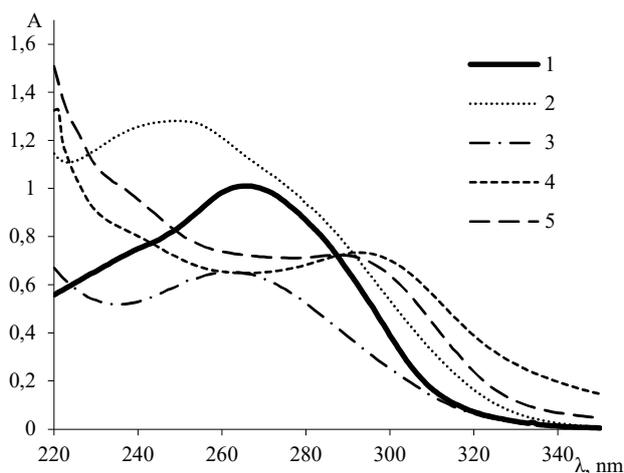


Figure 3. Electronic spectra of Ceftriaxone (CFT) absorption (1) and products of conjugated reactions of S-oxidation and perhydrolysis with Caro's acid

- (1) $c(\text{CFT}) = 4 \cdot 10^{-5} \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$,
- (2) $c(\text{CFT}) = 4 \cdot 10^{-5} \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ and $c(\text{NaOH}) = 0.02 \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$,
- (3) $c(\text{CFT}) = 4 \cdot 10^{-5} \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ and $c(\text{KHSO}_5) = 8 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ (the volume was diluted with $\text{HCl} 0.1 \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$),
- (4) $c(\text{CFT}) = 4 \cdot 10^{-5} \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$, $c(\text{KHSO}_5) = 8 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ and $c(\text{NaOH}) = 0.02 \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$,
- (5) $c(\text{CFT}) = 4 \cdot 10^{-5} \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$, $c(\text{NaOH}) = 0.02 \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ and $c(\text{KHSO}_5) = 8 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$.

The appearance of a new band gave the possibility for developing a new procedure of the Ceftriaxone quantitative determination. To solve this question, optimal conditions should be developed.

The effect of Caro's acid

1 mL of $1 \cdot 10^{-2} \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ solution of Ceftriaxone was pipetted into 100 mL volumetric flasks containing 1 mL, 2 mL, 3 mL, 4 mL and 5 mL of $0.02 \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1} \text{KHSO}_5$ solution and 1 mL of $0.5168 \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1} \text{NaOH}$ solution. The content of the mixture of each flask was mixed well, and the increase in absorbance at 295 nm was recorded for 30 min against the reagent blank as a function of time. It showed the dependence of absorption at 295 nm of Ceftriaxone alkaline solutions against time as a function of the acid concentration. A linear dependence was observed for the first 30 min.

The absorbance changed significantly with an increase in the concentration of Caro's acid (**Figure 4**).

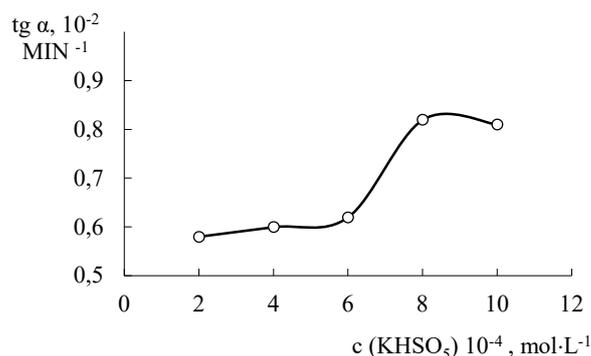


Figure 4. The effect of 0.02 M Caro's acid on the slope in the reaction between Ceftriaxone ($1 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$) and Caro's acid.

The maximum slope was obtained when 4.0 mL of 0.02 M Caro's acid was used. The

concentration of potassium caroate of $8 \cdot 10^{-4}$ mol·L⁻¹ was chosen as the optimal one.

The effect of the Sodium Hydroxide concentration

1 mL of $1 \cdot 10^{-2}$ mol·L⁻¹ solution of Ceftriaxone was pipetted into 100 mL volumetric flasks containing 0.5 mL, 1 mL, 2 mL, and 4 mL of 0.5168 mol·L⁻¹ NaOH solution and 4 mL of 0.02 mol·L⁻¹ KHSO₅ solution. The content of the mixture of each flask was mixed well, and the increase in absorbance at 295 nm was recorded for 30 min against the reagent blank as a function of time (**Figure 5**). It showed the dependence of the absorption at 295 nm of Ceftriaxone alkaline solutions against time as a function of the acid concentration. A linear dependence was observed for the first 10-15 min.

The maximum slope was obtained when 1 mL of 0.5168 mol·L⁻¹ NaOH was used. No changes in absorption could be detected above this volume. Thus, 1 mL of 0.5168 mol·L⁻¹ NaOH was chosen as the optimal value.

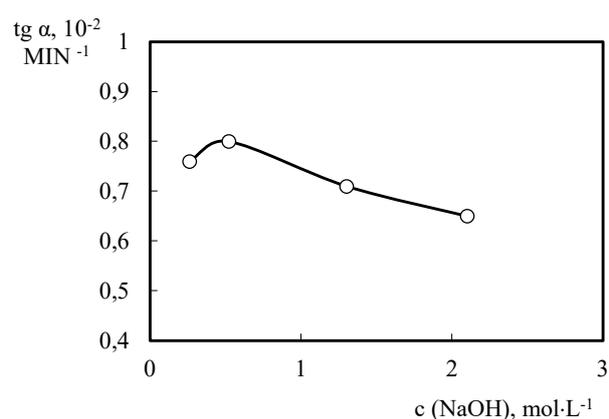


Figure 5. The effect of the sodium hydroxide concentration on the slope in the reaction between Ceftriaxone ($1 \cdot 10^{-3}$ mol·L⁻¹) and alkaline Caro's acid.

During the experiment, it was found that the mixing order affected the kinetics and the yield of the reaction. The highest rate of the product accumulation was observed only after the preliminary addition of Caro's acid to the cephalosporin (formation of the Ceftriaxone S,S'-dioxide), and then into the base solution at optimal concentrations: $8 \cdot 10^{-3}$ mol·L⁻¹ of Caro acid, 0.5168 mol L⁻¹ of the alkaline solution at 298-299 K. The reaction product was not formed without an oxidizer for the first 30 min. The product formation rate was assessed by the slope ($\tan \alpha$, min⁻¹) of linear plots of kinetic absorption curves A against time t (in minutes). The dependence of $\tan \alpha$ linear concentration was observed within the Ceftriaxone content in 1-10 mmol L⁻¹ solution.

The effect of the Ceftriaxone concentration

1 mL, 2 mL, 4 mL, 6 mL, 8 mL, 10 mL of $1 \cdot 10^{-3}$ mol·L⁻¹ solution of Ceftriaxone was pipetted into 100 mL volumetric flask containing 4 mL of 0.02 mol·L⁻¹ KHSO₅ solution and 1 mL of 0.5168 mol·L⁻¹ NaOH solution. The content of the mixture of each flask was mixed well, and the increase in absorbance at 295 nm was recorded for 30 minutes against the reagent blank as a function of time.

The initial rate of the reaction at different concentrations was obtained from the slope curves to the absorption time. The calibration graph was constructed by plotting the tangent of the initial reaction rate versus the molar

concentration of Ceftriaxone (**Figure 6**). The straight line was observed in a wide range of concentrations (1-10 mmol·L⁻¹). The regression coefficient R is 0.9989. Thus, the procedure proposed can be validated for further determination of Ceftriaxone in the kinetic fixed modification.

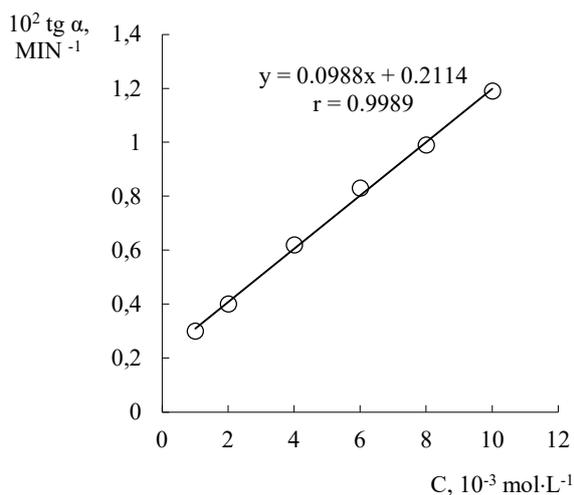


Figure 6. The calibration graph for the kinetic determination of Ceftriaxone in a pure substance by the method of peroxiacidic oxidation and perhydrolysis using potassium caroate. $c(\text{KHSO}_5) = 8 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$; $c(\text{NaOH}) = 0.05 \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$.

Identification

The method proposed is based on the reaction of peroxiacidic oxidation and perhydrolysis. The peculiarity of the reaction is the formation of a new band, which characterizes only Ceftriaxone. Other cephalosporins after the formation of S-oxide have the maximal absorption at another wavelength, but the S,S'-dioxide of Ceftriaxone has the maximal absorption at 295 nm.

This gives an advantage as compared to other methods, and excludes the error associated with the presence of impurities.

The procedure was developed in a kinetic-spectrophotometric modification. This gives advantages when determining Ceftriaxone without any impurities since the change in absorption is measured during the experiment and the impurities do not interact during the reaction.

Linearity and Range

Linearity was studied over a wide range of drug concentration from 60-160 %. The correlation coefficient $r=0.9993$ obtained for the regression line showed a good relationship between the tangent of the reaction initial rate and the molar concentration of Ceftriaxone. The results are shown in **Figure 7**. The data obtained statistically are given in **Table 1**.

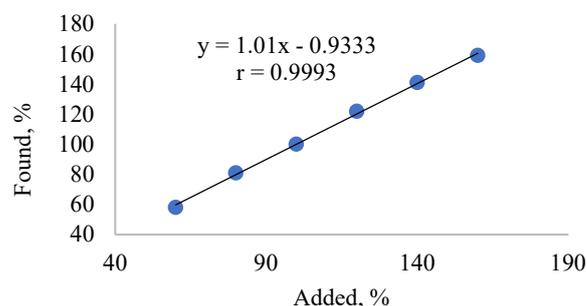


Figure 7. Linearity of the Ceftriaxone quantitative determination in normalized coordinates: $c(\text{KHSO}_5) = 8 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$; $c(\text{NaOH}) = 0.05 \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$

LOD and LOQ were calculated based on the standard deviation of response and the slope of the calibration curve and expressed as

$$\text{LOD} = 3 \times S_a / b,$$

$$\text{LOQ} = 10 \times S_a / b,$$

where S_a is the standard deviation of response, and b is the slope of the calibration curve.

Table 1. Statistical characteristics of the straight linear dependence of the Ceftriaxone quantitative determination

Linear range, %	Intercept (<i>a</i>)	Intercept standard deviation (<i>S_a</i>)	Slope (<i>b</i>)	Slope standard deviation (<i>S_b</i>)	Correlation coefficient (<i>r</i>)	LOD, µg/mL	LOQ, µg/mL
60-160	-0.933	6.07	1.01	0.048	0.9993	0.1	0.33

The graph had a linear dependence in a wide range of concentrations: 60-160 %, the correlation coefficient ($r=0.9993$) was in good agreement with the required value.

Accuracy and Precision

The validity of the method proposed was studied by performing recovery studies. Precision and accuracy were considered by analyzing five replicates of sample solutions at three concentration levels. The relative standard deviations calculated were all below 2.2%, indicating excellent precision of the procedure proposed.

0.56 g (accurate weight) of Ceftriaxone were introduced in a 100 mL volumetric flask, diluted to the volume with double distilled water. Then, 1 mL of this solution was further diluted to 100 mL with double distilled water at 20° C. 10.00 mL of the solution obtained was introduced into a 100 mL volumetric flask containing 4 mL of 0.02 mol·L⁻¹ KHSO₅ solution and 1 mL of 0.5168 mol·L⁻¹ NaOH solution. The content was shaken and finally diluted to the volume with double distilled water. After the NaOH solution was added, the stopwatch was switched on. The solution obtained was transferred to a 1 cm cell to measure the absorbance at 295 nm during 20 min against water. A kinetic dependence curve of absorbance *A* versus time (min) was obtained.

The calculation was performed using the fixed time method by the following equation:

$$w = \frac{(A - a) \cdot M \cdot 10 \cdot V_0 \cdot 100}{b \cdot m_i (100 - w_{H_2O}) \cdot 1000 \cdot V_1} 100\%,$$

where *A* – is the optical density of the working solution at 295 nm;

a, *b* – are constant values: standard deviation (*a*) and slope (*b*) of the straight linear dependence (regression line) $A = b \cdot C + a$, respectively (where *C* – is the concentration of Ceftriaxone, mmol L⁻¹);

Coefficients of the regression line:

$$a=0.2114, b=0.0988;$$

M – is the Ceftriaxone molar mass;

V₀ – is the volume of the flask, mL;

V₁ – is the pure substance volume taken for analysis, mL;

m_i – is the weight mass, g;

1000 – is recalculation in mg.

Five repeated estimations were performed the same way. The content of Ceftriaxone capsules was calculated, and compared with the label claim. The results are presented in **Table 2**.

Table 2. Metrological characteristics of calculation of accuracy and precision for Ceftriaxone using Caro acid

Taken	Found	Metrological characteristics P=0.95
Ceftriaxone pure substance, %		
100.00	100.12	$\bar{x} = 100.30$ $S = 1.62$ $S_{\bar{x}} = 0.53$ $\Delta\bar{x} = 1.67$ $RSD = 1.31\%$ $\varepsilon = 1.60\%$ $\delta = -0.30\%$
	99.15	
	101.08	
	99.15	
	102.01	

* The results were compared to the HPLC standard method data (μ); $\delta = (x-\mu)100\%/\mu$

Three concentrations of Ceftriaxone were used to calculate accuracy and precision. 3 mL, 5 mL or 7 mL of 0.01 mol·L⁻¹ Ceftriaxone solution were transferred into a 100 mL volumetric flask. Further analysis was performed as in the procedure for the quantitative determination of the Ceftriaxone pure substance. The operation was repeated 5 times. The results are shown in **Table 3**.

Table 3. The results of calculation of accuracy and precision for the Ceftriaxone pure substance (P=0.95)

Taken, mol·L ⁻¹ 10 ³	Found, mol·L ⁻¹ 10 ³	Mean, mol·L ⁻¹ 10 ³	Recovery, %	RSD, %	δ , %
3.00	2.95	3.01	100.33	2.25	0.33
	2.95				
	2.95				
	3.10				
	3.10				
5.00	5.12	5.05	100.96	1.95	0.96
	4.94				
	4.94				
	5.12				
	5.12				
7.00	6.96	7.04	100.55	1.63	0.55
	6.96				
	6.96				
	7.15				
	7.15				

*Results were compared to the HPLC standard method data (μ); $\delta = (x-\mu)100\%/\mu$

Conclusions

The possibility of the Ceftriaxone analytical determination by the biologically active part of the molecule (alicyclic sulfur and β -lactam ring) was shown, the proposed procedure giving reproducible and accurate results. The fixed time method can be easily applied to determine Ceftriaxone in a pure substance, providing advantages during the experiment. The procedure developed has good specificity and allows determining the content of the Ceftriaxone main component while avoiding the influence of impurities. The results of accuracy and precision are in good agreement

with the results obtained by the reference method. For a pure substance RSD = 1.63-2.25 %, δ = 0.33-0.96 %. LOD = 0.1 $\mu\text{g/mL}$, LOQ = 0.33 $\mu\text{g/mL}$. The obtained data meet the requirements of the State Pharmacopoeia of Ukraine including the accuracy, precision, LOD and LOQ as well as linearity range. The procedure of the Ceftriaxone assay developed can be included in the routine analysis of the main substance in pharmaceutical laboratories and plants.

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