Formulation development and establishment of quality standards of sedative drug “Flegmen”

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ABSTRACT

**Background:** Sedatives have long been widely used in all sectors of traditional and folk medicine (stress - sensitive patients with neurasthenia, neurosis, anxiety - depressive states, irritability, sleep disorders, emotional disorders, etc.). The objectives of this study were to determine the quantitative content of flavonoids in the collection of “Flegmen”.

**Methods:** As raw materials use the herb of Jerusalem sage Regel (Herba phlomis Regelii) - 30 pieces; Turkestan motherwort grass (Herba Leonuri turkestanicae) - 30 pieces; licorice root (Radix Glycyrrhizae) - 20 parts; peppermint leaves (Folia Mentha piperite) - 20 pieces. All components of sedative collection are grown in Uzbekistan and have sufficient natural stock. The loss in weight upon drying were made in the range of 8.41 to 9.67%; ash shared from 7.9 to 8.73%; ash insoluble in 10%. HCl from 2.0 to 2.32; Particles not passing through a sieve with hole diameter of 7 mm from 5.1 to 7.5. Particles passing through a sieve with a hole diameter of 0.5 mm, from 2.8 to 3.2 percent. Particles of raw materials, loss of natural color from 1.7 to 2.4 percent. Organic impurity ranged from 1.1 to 1.32%; mineral admixture is 0.4 to 0.9%.

**Results:** The content of flavonoids sedative collection “Flegmen” in the range of 0.88-0.9 percent. Based on these data, the rate of content of flavonoids in the collection set at least 0.4%. In order to determine the period of validity of sedative collection “Flegmen”, the storage stability and optimum expiration date were studied. New sedative collection “Flegmen” consists exclusively of local official medicinal plants with sufficient natural reserves. The expiration date of the licorice roots is 4 years, for herb of Jerusalem sage Regel and motherwort is 3 years, and for peppermint leaves, it is 2 years. For establishing expiry date of studied collection, five batches of laboratory sample of the drug were prepared, packed according to project temporary pharmacopeia article (TPA).

**Conclusions:** According to the results of commodity and chemical study of the collection, the characteristics of its authenticity and quality. To determine the expiry date, the stability during storage of the studied collection and the optimum shelf life for 2 years. Vegetable collection “Flegmen” is recommended for use in medical practice as a sedative for central nervous system diseases (neurosis, migraine, neurasthenia, insomnia, etc.).

**Keywords:** Characteristics of authenticity, Medicinal plants, Pharmacological screening, Quantification, Sedatives fees, Standardisation

INTRODUCTION

Sedatives have long been widely used in all sectors of traditional and folk medicine (stress - sensitive patients with neurasthenia, neurosis, anxiety - depressive states, irritability, sleep disorders, emotional disorders, etc.). In the modern rhythm of life, everyone without sedatives, to cope not. Normal functions of the nervous system is great importance for all systems and organs of our body. Today it is not customary to put your emotions out in the world, but rather had to suppress it all inside. Forced suppression of natural reaction is visceral, so modern
people cannot be peace without sedatives. The interests are increased on the part of doctors and patients due to 
the possibility of self-medication, ease of application, 
ease of dose, a minimum of contraindications and side 
effects. These properties are due to, primarily, of 
vegetable origin of most components, relatively low 
concentration of active substances (a complex of sedative 
drugs), which virtually eliminates the possibility of 
overdose, as well as a wide range of indications for their 
use: vegetarians, nervous with phobic disorders, trouble 
falling asleep, anxiety, neurasthenia, etc.¹ In this regard, 
relevant is the creation of new medicinal fee on the basis 
of local vegetable raw materials. Modern studies have 
shown that the composition fees due to the interaction 
of medicinal plants can more fully demonstrate the 
pharmacologic action while limiting its toxicity. A 
phenomenon in which there is a symbiotic action of 
biologically active substances of one or more plants is 
called photokinetic synergy. It is also believed that from 
the variety of biologically active substances (BAS) of 
various plants included in the collection, the body has the 
ability through self-regulation to select for the missing 
components and include them in the processes of 
exchange. The therapeutic efficacy of fees is a 
manifestation of the general laws of the synergies of 
existing and related substances, summation and 
potentiation of their pharmacological effects.²

METHODS

The development of new sedative composition of the 
collection and further on its basis of new, highly effective 
drugs sedation quite relevant.³⁻⁵ To achieve this goal, the 
number of medicinal plants most commonly used in the 
formulation of sedatives and having sufficient natural 
resources were compiled sedation fees.

For the study, we selected 10 different kinds of raw 
materials, which is grown in the Republic of Latvia; the 
most commonly used in the formulation of sedatives and 
sufficient commercial reserves have yet in the country. 
The compositions of the four recommended sedative fees 
were subject pharmacognosy quality of analysis 
according to the requirements of GF XI and 
pharmacological screening test on the subject of sedation. 
Pharmacological studies of the proposed collection were 
conducted on laboratory white mice of both sexes, 
weighing 19 to 21 g.

The research was conducted at the Department of 
Pharmacology and Clinical Pharmacy, Tashkent 
Pharmaceutical Institute, under the direction of Professor 
Aliev H.U. The results of the research showed that the 
most pronounced sedative activity had a drug collection 
no. 3, called by us “Flegmen”.

Part of the collection includes a new medicinal plant 
Jerusalem sage Regel, which belongs to the family 
Lamiaceae. It is a perennial herbaceous plant. As raw 
materials use the herb of Jerusalem sage Regel (Herba 
phlomis Regelii) - 30 pieces; Turkestan motherwort grass 
(Herba Leonuri turkestanicae) - 30 pieces; licorice root 
(Radix Glycyrrhizae) - 20 parts; peppermint leaves (Folia 
Mentha piperite) - 20 pieces. All components of sedative 
collection are grown in Uzbekistan and have sufficient 
natural stock.

The Jerusalem sage Regel - a new medicinal plant used 
for conditions of increased excitability of the central 
nervous system: neurosis, epilepsy, nervous insomnia, as 
a sedative in hypertension. In Central Asia, there is 
widely spread in the Western Tien Shan, and it dominates in 
the lower part of the upper band of hills, Chirchik-Angren 
Rivers on the Northern slopes.

According to the research and literature, Jerusalem sage 
Regel contains flavonoids, rutin, hyperoside - 4.50%, 
tannins (polyphenols titrated) - 2.30%, essential oil - 
0.1%, resinous substances (β - sitosterol and ursolic acid) 
- 3.32%, anthocyanins, cyanine and pelargonin - 0.43%, 
phenolic acids are 3.2%, coumarins (xanthotoxin) - 
0.42%, iridoids (harpagide and harpagide-8-acetate) - 
5.15%, carotenoids - 0.13%, ascorbic acid - 0.055%, 
organic acids - 1.76%, phenol carboxic acids (coffee, 
chloren, rosemary, 1-cofeil quinic acid) - 1.35%, sugars 
galactose, glucose, fructose, rhamnose) - 4.34%.

This collection is a mixture of medicinal - plant raw 
materials of various shapes, consisting of roots, stems, 
leaves, flowers and unripened fruit residue. Colour 
collection bright green, the smell of weak, specific, 
flavour - sweet, slightly chilling.

To establish high quality of the collection was determined 
by the following numerical indicators: loss in weight 
when absolutely dried, the content of total ash and ash 
insoluble in 10% hydrochloric acid, organic and mineral 
impurities, and the content of biologically active 
substances.

Numeric collection rates were determined in five batches of 
the collection according to methods specified in the 
relevant ND.⁶ As impurities in the collection was 
determined by a measure of “particles of raw materials, 
loss of natural colour”. Our experiments show that the 
components of the collection when grinding to a particle 
size from 0.5 to 7.0 mm distributed relatively evenly 
collection, which is an important factor in proper dosing 
of the drug.

The loss in weight upon drying were made in the range of 
8.41 to 9.67%; ash shared from 7.9 to 8.73%; ash 
insoluble in 10%, HCl from 2.0 to 2.32; Particles not 
passing through a sieve with hole diameter of 7 mm from 
5.1 to 7.5. Particles passing through a sieve with a hole 
diameter of 0.5 mm, from 2.8 to 3.2 percent. Particles of 
raw materials, loss of natural color from 1.7 to 2.4 
percent. Organic impurity ranged from 1.1 to 1.32%; 
mineral admixture is 0.4 to 0.9%.
On the basis of commodity and chemical analysis standards are numeric parameters, determining high quality of the studied collection. Thus, the moisture content of the fee should be no more than 13.0%, total ash - no more than 10.0%. Ash insoluble in 10% hydrochloric acid - no more than 3.0%, particles of raw materials, change of natural color - no more than 3.0%. Particles of raw material passing through a sieve with a hole diameter of 7 mm, it is no more than 10.0%, particles of raw material passing through a sieve with holes’ diameter of 0.5 mm to no more than 4.0%, an organic impurity is no more than 2.0%, mineral impurity is no more than 1.0%.

When developing methods of standardization of collection came from the fact that its pharmacological effect due to the complex of biologically active substances contained in the individual components of collection, primarily flavonoids, saponins and essential oils. Given this fact, as well as the literature data on physiological properties of flavonoids, saponins and essential oils - these groups of biologically active substances were selected as a criterion of the high-quality collection.

To establish the authenticity of the collection is the following qualitative reactions:

- About 1 g of the minced collection were boiled for 5 min with 20 ml 50% ethanol, and filtered through a paper filter. 1 ml of filtrate was added 2 ml 2% solution of aluminium chloride in 95% ethanol and 7 ml of 95% ethanol, the solution becomes greenish - yellow colour (flavonoids).

- On the start line of the chromatographic plate, “Silica gel 60/254” size 13 cm x 5 cm pipette was applied 0.01 ml of the alcoholic extract. In parallel, with a distance of 2 cm from the test sample, 0.01 ml 0.5% solution of menthol in 95% alcohol is applied (to check the suitability of chromatographic system). Plate with applied samples was air dried for 3-5 minutes, then placed in a camera with the solvent of chloroform-benzene (3:1). When the solvent front reached 10 cm plates, they were pulling from the chamber, and dried in air for 2-3 minutes (before the elimination of solvents smell), and sprayed with a solution of vanillin (0.2 g vanillin in 10 ml of concentrated sulfuric acid) until the yellow spots (saponins).

On the chromatogram, tested solution showed a single spot of yellow colour on the level of spot chromatograms of a solution of witness (glycyrrhizic acid).

The aim of our further studies was to determine the quantitative content of flavonoids in the collection of “Flegmen”. Drugs of vegetable origin, usually standardization of biologically active substances, the content of which determines the therapeutic effect of the herbal mixture. In the standardization of the studied collection “Flegmen”, we followed the principle of “pass-through” standardization, ensuring unification of performance standards and methods of quality assessment in a number of raw materials, collect finished dosage form. The main components of the studied collection are standardized on a content of total flavonoids, which determine their therapeutic effect. Therefore, development of quantitative method determination used the spectrophotometric method after reaction with a solution AlCl₃ at a wavelength of 430 nm in terms of quercetin.

For this analytical test, raw material was milled to a particle size passing through a sieve with holes of 1 mm diameter. Approximately 1 g (exact amount) of the crushed material was placed in a flask with a ground joint and a capacity of 150 ml, added 30 ml of 50% alcohol. The flask was attached to reverse refrigerator, and heated on boiling water bath for 30 minutes, periodically shaking to remove particles of raw materials from the walls. Hot extract was filtered through cotton wool into a measuring flask with the volume capacity of 100 ml, so that the raw material particles falling on the filter. Cotton wool was placed in a flask for extraction and added 30 ml of 50% alcohol. The extraction was repeated twice, in the conditions described above, filtering the extract into the same measuring flask. After cooling, the extract volume was brought to 50% alcohol up to the mark and mixed (solution A).

In a volumetric flask with a capacity of 25 ml was placed 1.0 ml of solution A and 1 ml of 1% solution of aluminium chloride in 95% alcohol, and brought the volume of solution 95% alcohol to the label. After 40 minutes measured optical density of the solution on the spectrophotometer at a wavelength of 430 nm in a cuvette with a layer thickness of 10 mm. as a solution comparison solution was used, consisting of 1.0 ml of extract, 1 drop of diluted acetic acid and brought to 95% alcohol to the mark in a volumetric flask with capacity of 25 ml.

In parallel, we measured the optical density of the solution - State standard sample (SSS) of quercetin,
prepared analogously to the test solution. The sum of flavonoids in terms of quercetin and dry raw materials in percentage (X) was calculated by this formula:

\[ X = \frac{D \cdot m_0 \cdot 5 \cdot 100 \cdot 100 \cdot 100}{D_0 \cdot m \cdot 100 \cdot 25(100 - W)} \]

where D - optical density of test solution; D0 - optical density of the solution of quercetin bonds; m - mass of raw material, g and m0 mass of SSS quercetin, gram; W - loss in weight when drying raw, %.

RESULTS

The results of quantitative determination of flavonoids and their metrological characteristics are presented in Table 1.

Table 1: The results of quantitative determination of flavonoids in sedative collection “Flegmen”.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Xi</th>
<th>f</th>
<th>Xcp</th>
<th>d1</th>
<th>d1²</th>
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</table>

P=95%; t (P,f)=2,78; S²=0,000049; S,cp=0,0031; ΔX=0,0195; ΔXcp=0,0087; ε=2,18; ε=0,97

As can be seen from Table 1, the content of flavonoids sedative collection “Flegmen” in the range of 0.88-0.9 percent. Based on these data, the rate of content of flavonoids in the collection set at least 0.4%.

In order to determine the period of validity of sedative collection “Flegmen”, the storage stability and optimum expiration date were studied.6,7 New sedative collection “Flegmen” consists exclusively of local official medicinal plants with sufficient natural reserves. The expiration date of the licorice roots is 4 years, for herb of Jerusalem sage Regel and motherwort is 3 years, and for peppermint leaves, it is 2 years. For establishing expiry date of studied collection, five batches of laboratory sample of the drug were prepared, packed according to project Temporary Pharmacopeia Article (TPA). The collection was packaged in 50 g packs of cardboard from a cardboard box, type chrome-ersatz and 1.5 g filter bags for one-time welding of paper filter for 25 pieces and placed in packs of cardboard, leaving, their storage in natural conditions in a dry, dark place. Test samples of drugs were examined for purity by numeric indicators and the quantitative content of flavonoids. The content of flavonoids was determined by the above-described spectrophotometric method.

The results of the commodity analysis 5 parties collection showed that within 2 years the main numeric indicators of the investigated series of charges did not change significantly.

Proceeding from this, we can conclude that the optimum shelf life of sedative collection “Flegmen” based on the data of commodity and chemical analyses. Revealed that the collection “Flegmen” at the observance of conditions of storage stands the test for the content of active ingredients (not less than 0.4% flavonoids calculated as quercetin) for 2 years.

DISCUSSION

It is illustrated that the analysis of the obtained data testifies to positive dynamics of the clinical condition of patients in all groups. Negative impact of sedation on indicators of hemoglobin, erythrocytes, erythrocyte sedimentation rate and leukogram are not installed. There are also no reliable oscillations of bilirubin, aminotransferases in the blood, which indicates the safety of the drug and the absence of negative hepatotropic effects. Side effects when you use is not fixed.8 This article presents a comparative evaluation of efficacy and tolerability of a treated with sedative drug - “Flegmen” produced by “SORB-TECH”. Uzbekistan, and patients taking traditional basic therapy. Clinical trials showed that utilizing the drug “sedative drug Flegmen” produced by “SORB-TECH”, Uzbekistan in the complex treatment of patients with syndrome of vegetative dystonia, improves clinical status, general well-being and disappearance of irritability, nervousness and improve sleep patients. The sedative drug “Flegmen” is well tolerated by patients in clinical trials, adverse reactions were identified. Sedative drug “Flegmen” is an effective sedative drug, well tolerated, and fully comparable with other sedative drugs. Further, the fact that this drug is the development of Tashkent Pharmaceutics Medical Institute permitted for clinical use and registered in the Republic of Uzbekistan, on the basis of positive clinical trial results from 3 clinical centers. Currently LLC “Sor-btex” Uzbekistan plans to produce sedative drug “Flegmen” based on “guidance on conducting clinical trials and examination of materials” (order of the MOH of Republic of Uzbekistan No. 334, dated 25.07.2001) registration of the drug will be carried out on the basis of limited clinical trials.9
CONCLUSION

The results of a pharmacological screening test on the subject of sedation, a sedative created a new collection “Flegmen”, as mentioned above consists of exclusively local official medicinal plants, which have sufficient natural stock. It is determined by its specific pharmacological activity, and quantitative content of flavonoids. According to the results of commodity and chemical study of the collection, the characteristics of its authenticity and quality. To determine the expiry date, the stability during storage of the studied collection and the optimum shelf life for 2 years. Vegetable collection “Flegmen” is recommended for use in medical practice as a sedative for central nervous system diseases (neurosis, migraine, neurasthenia, insomnia, etc.).

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