

hours, and given a single oral dose of 50 mg diacerein inserted in a labeled plastic pack.

Blood samples were withdrawn through a cannula placed into a suitable forearm or hand vein, pre-drug administration and at the following times post drug administration: 0.16, 0.33, 0.50, 0.75, 1.00, 1.33, 1.66, 2.00, 2.50, 3.00, 4.00, 5.00, 6.00, 8.00, 10.00, 12.00 hours.

A standard breakfast and a standard lunch were offered to all subjects 4 and 9 hours respectively post drug administration. The subjects were supervised throughout the period of the study.

The blood samples (5 ml) were collected into 5 ml tubes using heparin as anticoagulation agent. After sampling, the tubes with blood were immediately centrifuged (4000 rpm, 21° C, for 5.0 min), the separated plasma were transferred into a polypropylene tubes, immediately frozen and stored at a temperature below -30° C.

Rhein, the active metabolite of diacerein, is light sensitive; therefore, all samples processed during experimental work should be handled under yellow light which will minimize UV exposure.

The plasma samples were transferred frozen from the hospital to the laboratories of Jordan Center for Pharmaceutical Research (JCPR) and kept frozen at a minimum of -30° C till analyzed.