

Ultra-High-Performance-Liquid Chromatography Electro-Spray QTRAP Mass Spectrometry (UHPLC-ESI-QTRAP-MS): All measurements were performed on an Agilent 1290 UHPLC coupled to a QTRAP 6500+ mass spectrometer (MS) with a Turbo-V ESI source from Sciex (Singapore). The UHPLC system comprised of a binary pump, a multi-sampler, and a column oven from Agilent Technologies (Waldbronn, Germany). The MS/MS measurements were performed with a curtain gas of 30 psi, collision gas medium, ion source gas 1 (GS1) 40 psi, GS2 40 psi, declustering potential (DP) 100 eV, entrance potential (EP) 10 eV, collision energy (CE) 50 eV, CXP of 10 eV, ion spray voltage (IS) of 4500 eV and a source temperature of 550°C. The multiple reaction monitoring (MRM) settings were positive ionization mode, Q1 m/z 292.104, Q3 m/z 163.050, dwell time 20 msec. Information-dependent acquisition (IDA) was performed with m/z 292.104 in the inclusion list for fragmentation at 1 minute. The IDA settings were 1 to 2 most intense peaks for ions greater than m/z 70 and smaller than m/z 1000, which exceeds 500 cps. In addition, former target ions were never excluded and a mass tolerance of 250 mDa was chosen. The enhanced product ion scan (EPI) was performed with 2 experiments and a scan rate of 10,000 Da/s. Liquid chromatography was performed on a CORTECS UHPLC T3 2.1 mm x 50 mm column 1.6 μ m particle size connected with the corresponding VanGuard column from Waters GmbH (Eschborn, Germany). All solvents and formic acid were of LC-MS grade and purchased from Sigma Aldrich (Germany). The GS-441524 standard was obtained from ABCR (Karlsruhe, Germany). Mobile phase A (MP-A) was 0.05% formic acid in water and MP-B was 0.05% formic acid in acetonitrile. For this analysis, a very short gradient run with a total run time of 5 minutes was chosen: 0-0.3 minutes with 5% MP-B, 0.3-0.35 minutes with 30%, 0.35-1.50 minutes with 70%, 1.50-1.80 minutes to 90%, 1.80-2.80 minutes with 90%, 2.80-2.90 minutes with 5% and 2.90-4.10 minutes with 5% MP-B for column regeneration. A flow rate of 0.4 ml/minute, a column temperature of 40°C and an injection volume of 1.5 μ l were chosen. Concerning the extraction of the drug product for LC-ESI-QTRAP-MS/MS analysis, the Xraphconn[®] tablet (50 mg drug, 90.5 mg dry weight)

was crushed to a fine powder. The compound was well-emersed in dried plant material, containing most probably polyphenolic compounds such as tannins and lignins. In total, 75.6 mg of the powder were extracted with 756 μ l MeOH to which 30 μ l 1 M aqueous HCl was added until a pH of 3 was obtained. After vortexing for 2 minutes, the extract was centrifuged for 10 minutes at 13,000 rpm and 4°C. The residue was re-suspended in 0.5 ml MeOH with 10 μ l 1 M HCl and was extracted as previously described. 200 μ l of the pooled extract was evaporated under flowing nitrogen to 50 μ l. Upon addition of 150 μ l Aqua dest., a precipitate was formed, which was removed by 20 minutes centrifugation. LC-MS/MS analysis was performed with 1.5 μ l of 1:10, 1:100 and 1:1000 dilutions with water. Higher dilution factors were advantageous in obtaining nice MS/MS spectra, since no pre-purification of the extract was performed.

Nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy: To extract the nucleoside analogue in Xraphconn[®] for NMR, 3 tablets were molded into a powder that was suspended in 15 ml H₂O. The pH of the suspension was adjusted to 3 by adding 500 μ l HCl 1M in H₂O, mildly simulating gastric conditions. At this pH, the nucleobase of the nucleoside analogue is protonated, which increases its solubility under aqueous conditions. After centrifugation (1,100 rpm for 7 minutes), an additional purification step was applied on the collected supernatant: pH was adjusted to 7 by adding 240 μ l NaOH 1M in H₂O to induce precipitation of the nucleoside analogue due to deprotonation of the nucleobase. Centrifugation was used to separate the precipitate from the supernatant. After lyophilization, 1 ml Dimethyl sulfoxide-d₆ (DMSO-d₆) and 50 μ l 0.1M HCl in D₂O were added to the precipitate (23 mg) and the saturated solution was analyzed by NMR using a Bruker Avance II 600 MHz at 293 K equipped with 5 mm TCI cryoprobe. The HOD signal was suppressed by applying pre-saturation during a relaxation delay for 1 second in proton detected 1- and 2-dimensional spectra.