

Degradation of common pharmaceuticals and personal care products in mixed solutions by advanced oxidation techniques

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ABSTRACT: Widespread detection of pharmaceutical compounds in water environment has been a serious concern recently, while conventional sewage treatments are ineffective for their elimination. But, advanced oxidation techniques are very promising to remove varieties of organic contaminants in water. This research aims to elucidate oxidation potentials of sixteen commonly used pharmaceutical compounds in mixed solutions by seven advanced oxidation techniques in laboratory batch experiments. The removal profiles exhibited four distinct patterns: a) easily degradable by all seven techniques, b) not easily degradable by all seven techniques, c) easily degradable by ozone-based techniques, but not by ultraviolet radiation-based techniques and d) easily degradable by ultraviolet radiation-based techniques, but not by ozone-based techniques. Ozone-based techniques rather than ultraviolet radiation-based techniques were very powerful for simultaneous removal of the compounds efficiently. Moreover, ozonation combined with ultraviolet radiation was the most appropriate technique for simultaneous removal of the tested compounds efficiently. Increased ozone dissolution and decomposition with ozone-based techniques did not always enhance the compounds' removal. Physicochemical properties of the compounds and solution pH also presumably played an important role on the removal which merits further attention.

Keywords: Degradation rate; Hydroxyl radical; Ozone-based methods; Photodegradation; Ultra violet based methods

INTRODUCTION

Presence of pharmaceuticals and personal care products (PPCPs) particularly in sewage effluents, and ineffectiveness of conventional methods to remove the compounds has been a major concern in wastewater treatment. Detection of PPCPs in trace concentrations both in groundwater (Ikehata *et al.*, 2006) and surface waters (Jasim *et al.*, 2006) are reported worldwide. Various oxidation techniques have been tested to eliminate trace organic contaminants including PPCPs in water. Ozonation (O_3) and O_3 -based advanced oxidation processes (AOPs) are the most commonly investigated methods for the elimination (Ternes *et al.*, 2003; Ikehata *et al.*, 2006; Jasim *et al.*, 2006; Snyder *et al.*, 2006) while ultraviolet (UV) irradiation and UV-based AOPs are in the second place (Doll and Frimmel, 2005; Lin and Reinhard, 2005; Dalrymple *et al.*, 2007; Pereira *et al.*, 2007a). Applications of O_3 and UV-based oxidation methods for elimination of an individual pharmaceutical or mixture of a few pharmaceuticals in water have been the main focus of most of the

investigations conducted (Vonga *et al.*, 2004; Calza *et al.*, 2006; Pereira *et al.*, 2007a,b). Removal of PPCPs by O_3 , UV, O_3 /UV and UV/ H_2O_2 was characterized by pseudo first-order reaction kinetic (Das *et al.*, 2008; Kim *et al.*, 2008). Ozonation was found to be a very effective method to remove trace level carbamazepine and ibuprofen in water (Ikehata *et al.*, 2006; Jasim *et al.*, 2006). Canonica *et al.* (2008) pointed out pH dependence of photodegradation of pharmaceuticals. Lin and Reinhard (2005) found enhanced photodegradation of gemfibrozil, naproxen and ibuprofen in oxygen atmosphere. Several investigations focused on UV/ H_2O_2 method to remove particularly industrial dyes. Snyder *et al.* (2006), Samarghandi *et al.*, (2007) and Malakootian *et al.*, (2009) concluded that addition of hydrogen peroxide in ozonation was of little use to enhance removal of pharmaceuticals. Medium pressure UV lamps were found superior to low pressure lamps to degrade pharmaceuticals by both UV photolysis and UV/ H_2O_2 process (Pereira *et al.*, 2007a). Photocatalysis also was found to be a promising method for oxidation of

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carbamazepine and clofibric acid in water (Doll and Frimmel, 2005; Giri et al., 2008).

Organic compounds particularly PPCPs in urban sewage, conventional sewage treatment plant effluents and effluents from agricultural and livestock farming facilities normally exist in complex water matrices. Removal of a PPCP coexisting with several similar compounds may not be the same as its removal in absence of the coexisting compounds. Some investigations have been carried out on removals of PPCPs in mixed solutions by AOPs (Jasim et al., 2006; Snyder et al., 2006; Kim et al., 2008), but removal characteristics of many PPCPs are not well understood. This article aimed to compare and discuss removals of fourteen commonly used pharmaceutical compounds (clofibric acid: CA, clarithromycin: CAM, carbamazepine: CBZ, diclofenac: DCF, fenoprofen: FEP, gemfibrozil: GFZ, ibuprofen: IBP, indomethacin: IDM, isopropylantipyrine: IPA, ketoprofen: KEP, naproxen: NPX, phenobarbital: PB, phenacetine: PNC and phenytoin: PNT) and two personal care products (triclocarban: TCC and triclosan: TCS) in mixed aqueous solutions (laboratory-grade water) using various oxidation techniques (ozonation: O_3 , TiO_2 -catalyzed ozonation: O_3/TiO_2 , UV irradiation: UV, O_3 combined with UV: O_3/UV , photocatalysis: UV/ TiO_2 , UV combined with H_2O_2 : UV/ H_2O_2 and photocatalytic ozonation: $O_3/UV/TiO_2$) in laboratory batch experiments. The experiments were carried out in the laboratory of New Industrial R and D Center, Osaka Sangyo University, during December 2008 to June 2009.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

IBP and TCC standards were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich Inc. and Tokyo Chemical Industry Co. Ltd., respectively. FEP, GFZ and CA standards were purchased from ICN Biomedicals Inc., LKT Lab Inc. and MP Biomedicals Inc., respectively. Other PPCPs, liquid H_2O_2 (30 % by weight) and Na_2SO_3 (for quenching residual ozone in samples) were purchased from Wako Pure Chemicals Ltd. A low power (10 W) low pressure tubular mercury lamp (UVL10D, 254 nm, Sen Light Corporation, Japan) was the source of UV irradiation. Ozone generation, reactor design and details of the experimental setup are mentioned elsewhere (Giri et al., 2007). Carrier gas flow rate and ozone concentration in the gas were maintained at 1.0 L/min and 2.0 mg/L in oxidations involving ozonation. High strength TiO_2 fiber catalyst (fiber diameter: 8.0 μm , 20 cm \times 20 cm

sheets) was supplied by Ube Industries Ltd., Japan. The catalyst was uniformly placed and rigidly supported to inner surface of a cylindrical module (outer diameter (OD): 10.4 cm, H: 18.2 cm) made of stainless steel wire mesh (3 mm \times 3 mm opening) and fitted exactly to inner surface of glass reactor. A recirculation cooler (CCA-111, Tokyo Rikakikai Co., Ltd.) was employed for maintaining temperature of reaction solution.

Experimental

Stock solution of each PPCP (1.0 g/L) was prepared in distilled-deionized water (ddw) and stored at 4 °C for future use. Mixed aqueous solutions (1.2 L) of the sixteen PPCPs (1.0 mg/L of each PPCP) were prepared in ddw using the stock solutions. The catalyst module was inserted into the reactor in experiments involving TiO_2 -catalyzed oxidations. Appropriate amount of H_2O_2 (11.03 mM initial concentration) was added into the reactor and mixed well before UV/ H_2O_2 experiments started. The initial H_2O_2 concentration (11.03 mM) in UV/ H_2O_2 process was decided based on a series of preliminary PPCPs degradation experiments. The reaction solution was continuously mixed using a magnetic stirrer and bar (\approx 300 rpm) under controlled temperature (25 ± 2 °C) in all the experiments. Solution pH values in any of the experiments were not adjusted. Samples were drawn at specified time intervals and analyzed for residual H_2O_2 and dissolved ozone and remaining PPCPs. Dissolved residual ozone and H_2O_2 in samples were quenched using Na_2SO_3 solution in ddw (1.0 g/L). Other details on experimental procedure can be found elsewhere (Giri et al., 2007).

Analyses

Remaining PPCPs in samples were measured using liquid chromatography tandem mass spectrometry (LCMS/MS, applied biosystems). A turbo ion spray interface was used as the ion source and mass detection was carried out using multiple reactions monitoring (MRM) mode. Eleven PPCPs (CA, DCF, FEP, GFZ, IBP, IDM, NPX, PB, PNT, TCC and TCS) were scanned in negative ion mode while the remaining (CAM, CBZ, KEP, IPA and PNC) were scanned in positive ion mode. Nitrogen was used as collision and curtain gas. Air was used as nebulizer and dryer gas. Ion source voltages in negative and positive scan modes were -4500.0 and 5000.0, respectively, while dryer gas temperatures for the two cases were 400 and



500 °C, respectively. The LC system consisted of a binary pump, an auto sampler and a degasser unit (Agilent 1100 series). Chromatographic separation was performed using ZORBAX Eclipse XDB-C18 column (2.1 × 150 mm, 3.5 μm) with 200 μL/min mobile phase flow rate, 10 μL sample injection volume and column temperature fixed at 40 °C. Mobile phases for negative scan mode were: 0.1 % (v/v) acetic acid in 2.0 mM ammonium acetate in ddw (A) and acetonitrile (B), while 0.1 % (v/v) formic acid in ddw and acetonitrile respectively were A and B in case of positive scan mode. Flow rate for A was set to 90 % from 0 to 2 min, which linearly decreased to 0 % at 7 min and the same continued until 15 min. Then the value increased again to 90 % at 15.1 min and continued the same until the end (i.e. 20 min). Photometric DPD (diphenylenediamine)-based method was used to measure residual aqueous phase ozone at 528 nm UV wavelength.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Solution pH

Initial pH values of reaction solutions with UV, O₃ and O₃/UV varied between 4.65 and 4.75. The values with UV/H₂O₂ were relatively bigger (≈ 5.0) and more large values (5.26 ~ 5.30) were observed with TiO₂ fiber (UV/TiO₂, O₃/TiO₂ and O₃/UV/TiO₂). The initial pH values for all the cases decreased with increasing reaction time (Fig. 1), which is attributed to formation of organic acids (Vonga *et al.*, 2004; Rosal *et al.*, 2008). Therefore, decrease in solution pH may be considered

as an indication of the extent of PPCPs degradation. The values dropped sharply (1.48) within 60 min with O₃/UV/TiO₂, while O₃/TiO₂ was in the second place (1.21) among the three TiO₂-catalyzed methods during the same time interval. O₃/UV, O₃/TiO₂ and O₃ were in decreasing order in terms of pH drop among the tested methods excluding UV/H₂O₂. Slightly larger initial pH values with UV/H₂O₂ may be attributed to H₂O₂, while photolysis of H₂O₂ also might have contributed to relatively larger pH drop within 30 min (1.27).

Dissolved residual ozone

Dissolution of gas phase ozone in aqueous solution is the first step for oxidation of organics by the methods involving ozonation. Measurement of dissolved residual ozone may be helpful to get better insight of PPCPs degradation. Aqueous phase ozone profiles (Fig. 2) for the four methods involving ozonation exhibited the largest ozone concentrations with O₃/UV, followed by O₃. Very smaller ozone concentrations were observed with O₃/TiO₂ and O₃/UV/TiO₂ compared to those of O₃ and O₃/UV. It is argued that dissolved ozone is first adsorbed onto TiO₂ surface (Beltran *et al.*, 2005) in TiO₂-catalyzed ozonation resulting in its reduced aqueous concentrations compared to those in ozonation. Ozone photolysis is a well-documented phenomenon ultimately resulting to formation of very powerful hydroxyl radical (·OH) in O₃/UV. It appeared from the concentration profiles (Fig. 2) that ozone dissolution also might be enhanced in presence of UV

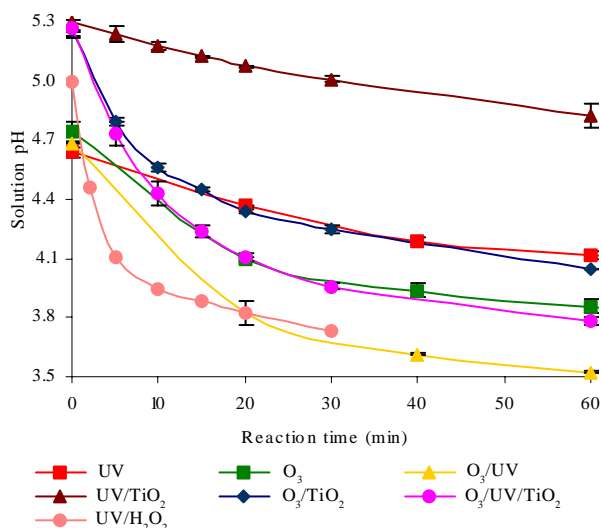


Fig. 1: Variation in solution pH during oxidation of pharmaceutical compounds

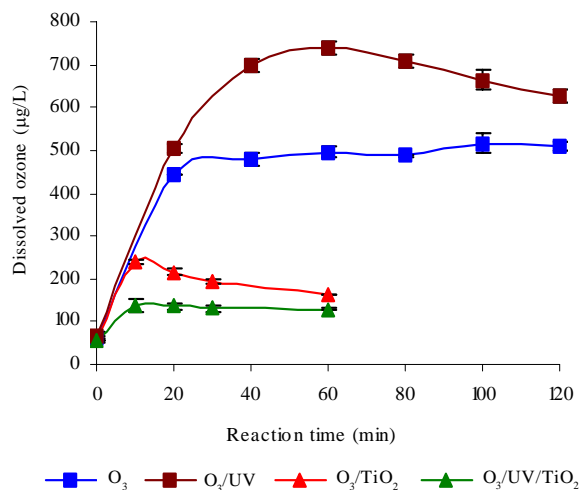


Fig. 2: Variation in dissolved ozone during oxidation of pharmaceuticals by O₃, O₃/UV, O₃/TiO₂ and O₃/UV/TiO₂



PPCPs degradation in mixed solution by AOPs

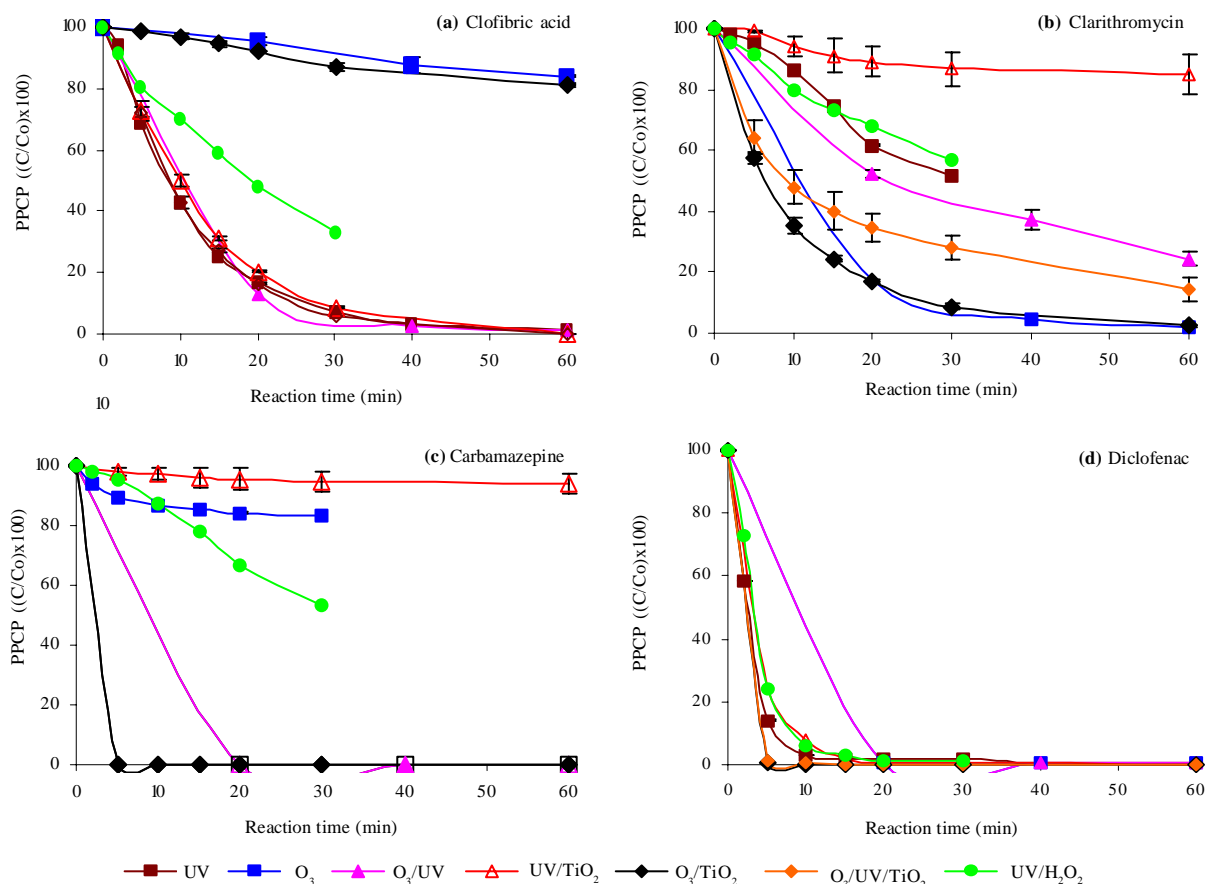


Fig. 3 Relative concentration profiles for clofibric acid, clarithromycin, carbamazepine and diclofenac

irradiation. The process of ozone adsorption onto TiO₂ surface and its subsequent decomposition leading to ·OH formation is significantly enhanced in UV-assisted TiO₂-catalyzed ozonation (O₃/UV/TiO₂) (Beltran *et al.*, 2005; El-Diwani and El-Rafie, 2008; Gharbani *et al.*, 2008). Thus, the very small ozone concentrations with O₃/TiO₂ may be attributed to its adsorption onto TiO₂ surface, while both adsorption onto TiO₂ surface and enhanced decomposition in presence of UV might have resulted to further smaller ozone concentrations with O₃/UV/TiO₂.

Removal performance

Inconsistency in initial concentration of particularly TCC was observed throughout the investigation. Small initial TCC concentrations with UV, UV/TiO₂, O₃ and O₃/UV were attributed to its very small water solubility (0.0237 mg/L). However, reason behind its very high concentrations with O₃/TiO₂ and O₃/UV/TiO₂ was not

known. Slightly smaller initial CAM concentrations observed in this investigation may also be associated to small water solubility value (0.342 mg/L) of the compound. Smaller initial TCS concentrations with TiO₂-catalyzed methods were possibly due to its adsorption onto TiO₂.

O₃ and O₃/TiO₂ were inefficient to degrade CA (Fig. 3a), which is consistent with an earlier report (Ikehata *et al.*, 2006), while other methods (except UV/H₂O₂) exhibited greatly enhanced, but similar removals of the compound. Thus, UV-based methods exhibited better CA removals than ozone-based methods. The inefficiency of O₃-based methods to degrade CA may be attributed to relatively smaller initial solution pH values (Ikehata *et al.*, 2006). UV alone was more efficient than UV/TiO₂ to degrade CAM (Fig. 3b), while no significant difference on its degradation by UV and UV/H₂O₂ was observed. Unlike with CA, O₃ and O₃/TiO₂ appeared to be the most efficient methods for



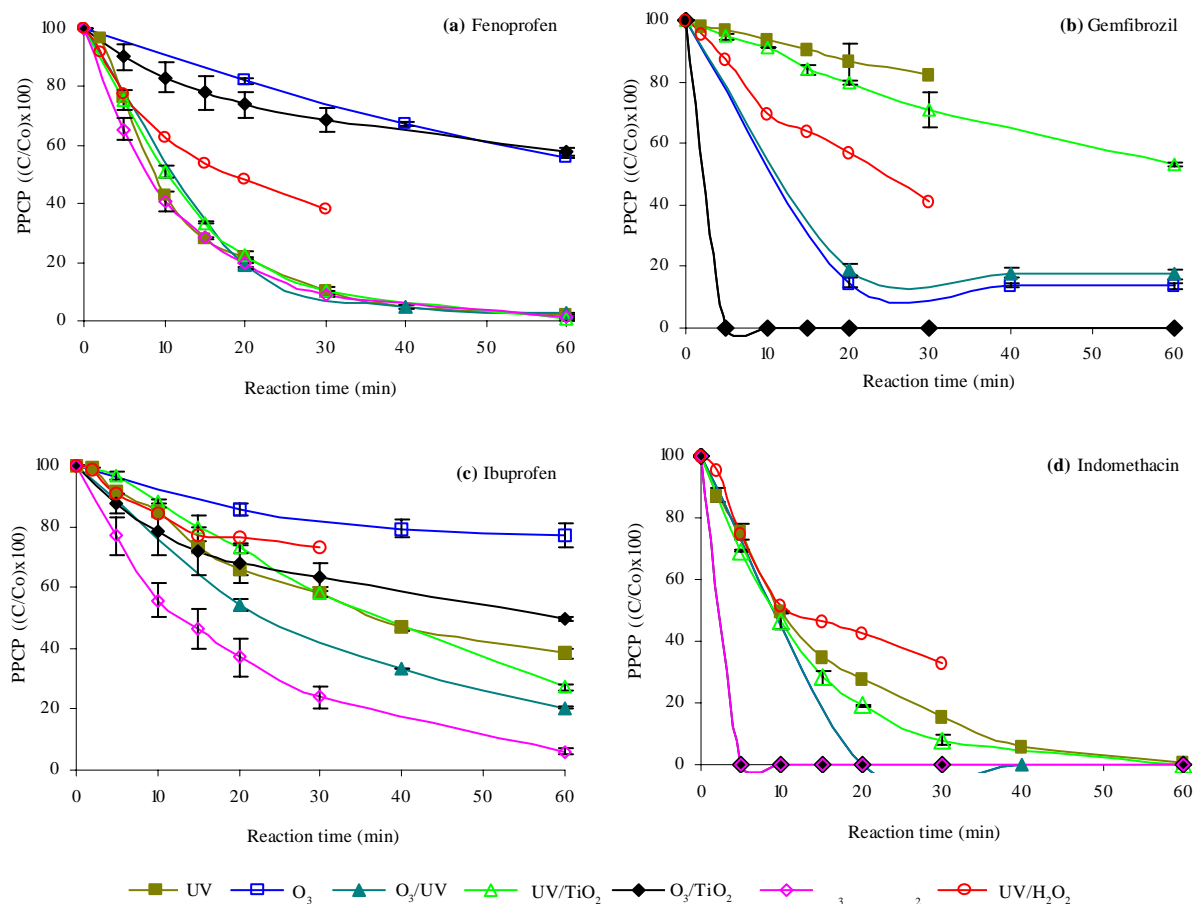


Fig. 4: Relative concentration profiles for fenoprofen, gemfibrozil, ibuprofen and indomethacin

CAM degradation. Moreover, its degradations by O₃/UV drastically decreased compared to those by ozonation alone. But the negative impact of UV in O₃/UV process was significantly reduced in presence of TiO₂ (i.e. O₃/UV/TiO₂). Therefore, ozone-based methods appeared to be more suitable than UV-based methods for CAM removal. An earlier report also mentioned ozonation as a suitable method for its efficient removal (Lange *et al.*, 2006). Similar with CAM, UV-based methods were inefficient to degrade CBZ (Fig. 3c). UV/H₂O₂ appeared to be relatively better than UV alone while UV/TiO₂ was the most inefficient method. Contrary to an earlier report (Ikehata *et al.*, 2006), UV/TiO₂ and UV/H₂O₂ were found to be very inefficient than O₃ to degrade CBZ. Ozone-based methods degraded CBZ more efficiently than CAM due to high reactivity of CBZ with ozone (Ikehata *et al.*, 2006). DCF was degraded very efficiently within short reaction periods irrespective of the employed oxidation methods

(Fig. 3d). Its efficient degradation by O₃ and UV/H₂O₂ is reported earlier (Vonga *et al.*, 2004). Oxidation of FEP (Fig. 4a) was similar to that of CA. O₃ and O₃/TiO₂ were not very effective, while other methods excluding UV/H₂O₂ degraded the compound very efficiently. The reduced FEP degradation by UV/H₂O₂ compared to those by other UV-based methods may be attributed to UV scavenging by H₂O₂ resulting in reduced quantum yield. Thus, UV-based methods were superior to ozone-based methods to remove the compound. To the contrary, ozone-based methods rather than UV-based methods degraded GFZ very efficiently (Fig. 4b). O₃ and O₃/UV appeared not to be very useful to degrade GFZ at low concentrations, while the compound was very efficiently removed in presence of both O₃ and TiO₂ (e.g. O₃/TiO₂ and O₃/UV/TiO₂). The compound was degraded by UV/TiO₂ relatively faster than that by UV alone, while the degradation was further enhanced in case of UV/H₂O₂ possibly due to ·OH



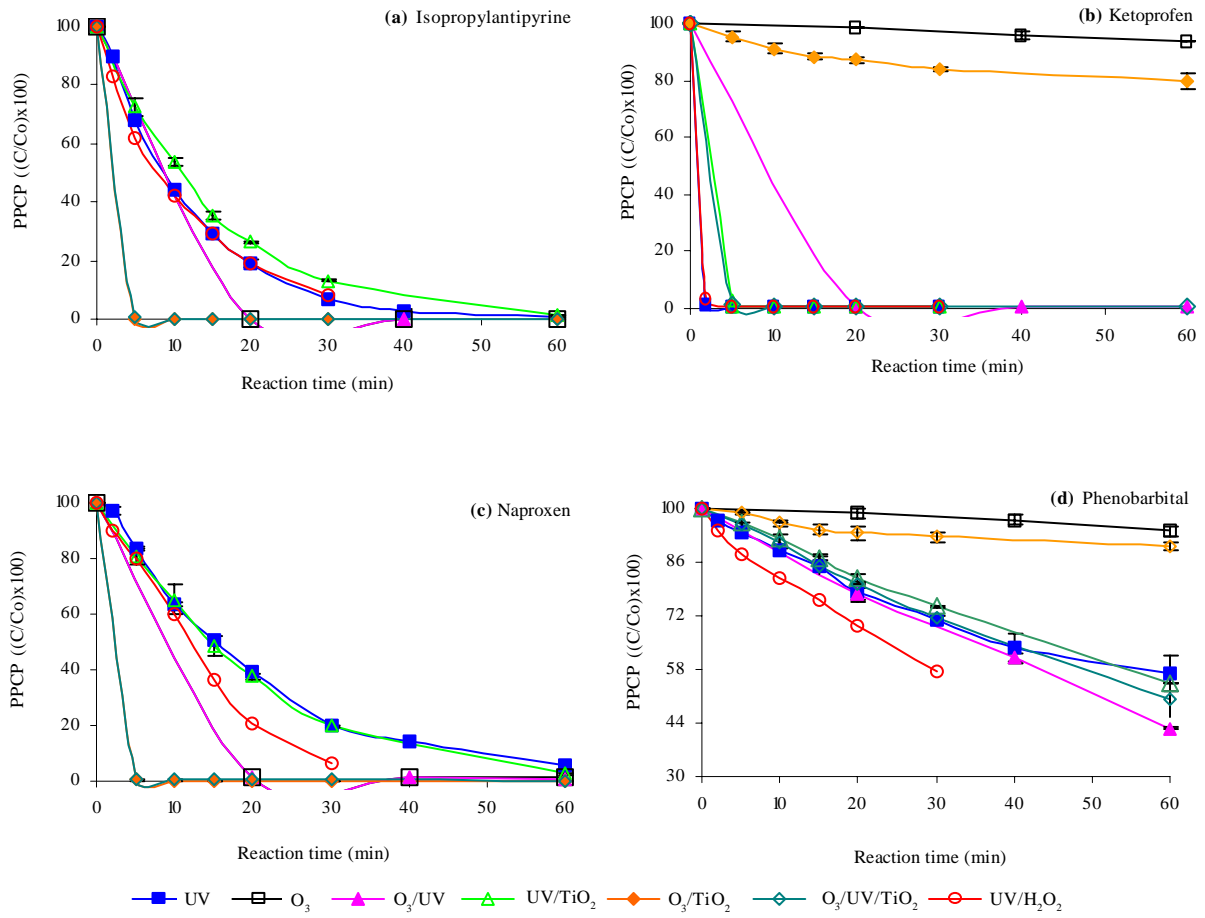


Fig. 5: Relative concentration profiles for isopropylantipyrene, ketoprofen, naproxen and phenobarbital

Table 1: Apparent first-order removal rate values (h⁻¹) for PPCPs

PPCPs	Oxidation methods						
	UV	UV/TiO ₂	UV/H ₂ O ₂	O ₃	O ₃ /UV	O ₃ /TiO ₂	O ₃ /UV/TiO ₂
CA	5.38	4.98	2.18	0.16	6.80	0.28	5.83
CAM	1.42	0.32	1.13	5.86	1.85	4.82	1.75
CBZ	1.30	0.13	1.30	64.20	158.47	118.33	NA
DCF	17.02	16.00	14.93	108.33	70.47	71.33	56.47
FEP	4.82	4.85	2.54	0.49	5.05	0.74	4.52
GFZ	0.40	0.64	1.76	40.79	63.37	121.06	NA
IBP	1.28	1.33	1.07	0.31	1.76	1.19	2.75
IDM	3.78	5.11	3.36	73.86	95.90	120.48	NA
IPA	5.29	4.37	4.91	NA	197.39	113.88	64.97
KEP	58.47	31.09	62.39	1.02	96.72	0.42	53.78
NPX	3.24	3.73	4.51	85.35	61.49	65.75	55.81
PB	0.68	0.62	1.06	0.88	0.97	0.24	0.71
PNC	0.26	0.15	0.28	1.85	0.57	10.94	1.36
PNT	3.34	2.65	2.97	0.20	4.19	0.10	3.65
TCC	9.75	1.52	1.93	2.10	3.91	2.41	2.89
TCS	12.82	NA	8.12	NA	NA	NA	NA

NA: Not available



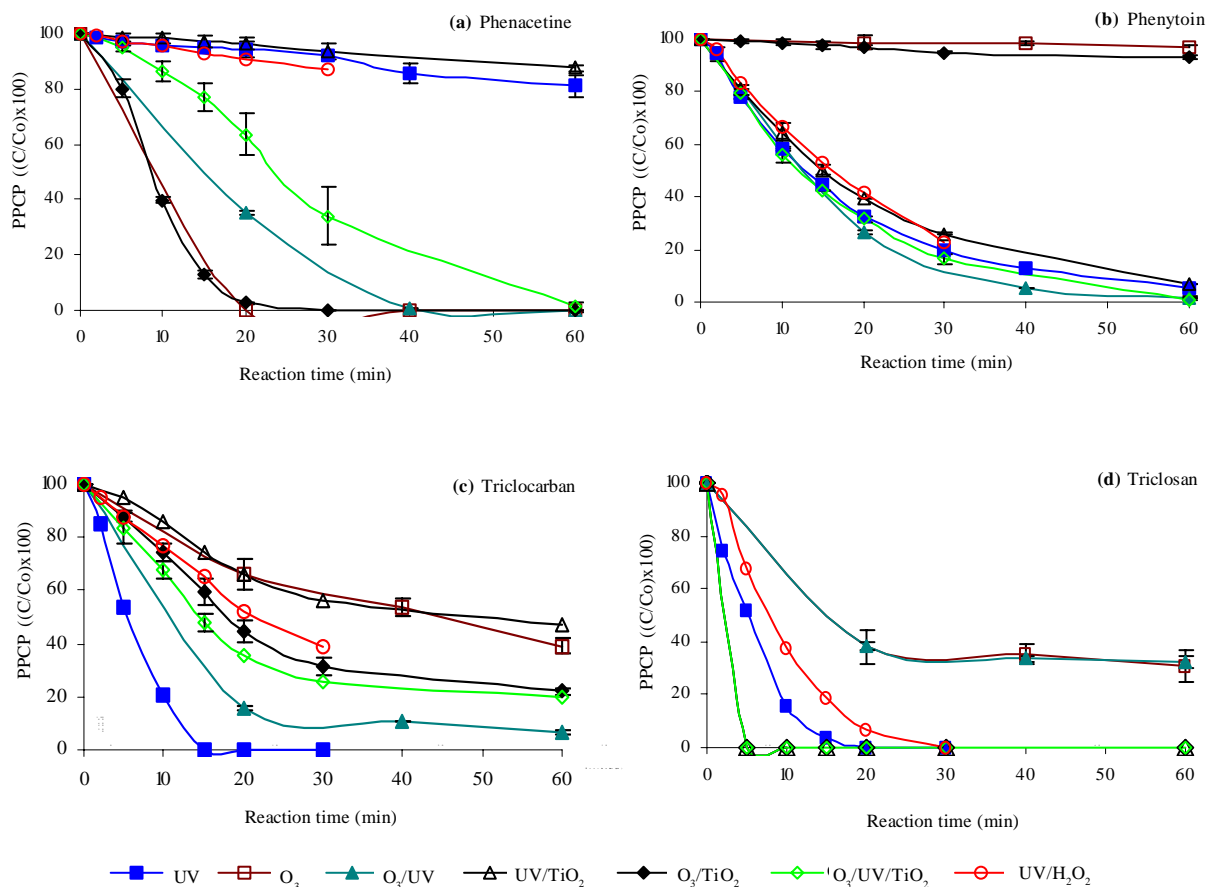


Fig. 6: Relative concentration profiles for phenacetine, phenytoin, triclocarban and triclosan

formation. IBP was relatively more resistant to degradations than the PPCPs discussed so far (Fig. 4c). Similar with CA, ozonation alone could not degrade IBP considerably, which is consistent to an earlier report (Ikehata *et al.*, 2006). But, Snyder *et al.* (2006) reported over 80 % removals of the compound by ozonation alone in bench and pilot-scale experiments. UV alone was more powerful than O₃, but no clear differences were observed among UV, UV/TiO₂ and UV/H₂O₂ with respect to IBP removals. O₃/UV appeared to be better than other methods excluding O₃/UV/TiO₂, while the latter exhibited the best performance for IBP removal. IDM was easily degraded by all the methods investigated (Fig. 4d). But O₃ and O₃-based methods appeared relatively better than UV-based methods. But, only a few investigations are reported on advanced oxidation of IDM (Ikehata *et al.*, 2006).

Similar to IDM, all the seven AOPs very efficiently degraded IPA (Fig. 5a). But KEP (Fig. 5b) behaved very

differently with UV-based methods and O₃-based methods. O₃-based methods were of no use to degrade KEP, while UV-based methods degraded the compound within short reaction periods. Similar to DCF, IPA and IDM, NPX (Fig. 5c) was effectively degraded by all the methods investigated. But O₃-based methods appeared relatively better than UV-based methods. PB (Fig. 5d) was more resistant to degradations than IBP discussed in earlier paragraph. O₃ and O₃/TiO₂ were not useful at all to degrade the compound, while degradation profiles for other methods excluding UV/H₂O₂ were similar. UV/H₂O₂ exhibited better PB removal performance than UV/TiO₂, O₃/UV and O₃/UV/TiO₂.

Similar to CAM, CBZ and GFZ, UV-based methods (UV, UV/TiO₂ and UV/H₂O₂) were not useful at all to degrade PNC, but O₃ and O₃-based methods were very powerful to degrade the compound (Fig. 6a). O₃ and O₃/TiO₂ were similar in terms of PNC removals. The



decreased PNC removals by O_3/UV and $O_3/UV/TiO_2$ may be attributed to ozone scavenging by UV and TiO_2 . PNT (Fig. 6b) exhibited similar behaviors to those of CA and PB with respect to its removals. O_3 and O_3/TiO_2 were not useful at all to degrade the compound, while other methods were very efficient with similar removal profiles. As mentioned earlier, very large differences in initial TCC concentrations were observed that might have significantly influenced its degradations. UV was the most effective method to degrade TCC, while O_3 -based methods (O_3 , O_3/TiO_2 and $O_3/UV/TiO_2$) were less efficient than UV and O_3/UV (Fig. 6c). UV scavenging by H_2O_2 and TiO_2 may have resulted to the greatly reduced TCC removals by UV/H_2O_2 and UV/TiO_2 , respectively. TCS quickly disappeared with the methods involving TiO_2 fiber presumably due to its adsorption to the catalyst (Fig. 6d). UV was the most efficient method to degrade TCS, while UV/H_2O_2 followed UV. O_3 and O_3/UV appeared not being efficient to degrade the compound at low concentrations, which is contrary to an earlier report (Snyder *et al.*, 2006) that presented over 80 % TCS removals by ozonation.

Based on the removal profiles discussed so far, the sixteen compounds can be roughly grouped into four categories. DCF, IDM, IPA, NPX and TCS were easily degraded by all the seven tested AOPs. But, IBP and PB were relatively difficult to degrade by all the AOPs. CA, FEP, KEP, PNT and TCC were easily degraded by UV and UV-based methods, but O_3 and O_3 -based methods were of no use for their removal. On the other hand, CAM, CBZ, GFZ and PNC were easily degraded by O_3 and O_3 -based methods, but UV and UV-based methods were not effective at all for their removal.

Degradation kinetic and rate values

A separate set of experiments with 20 min reaction period were conducted for degradation kinetic analysis of the compounds in mixed solutions using the AOPs. The degradations were well described by the first-order reaction kinetic ($R^2 \geq 0.98$), which is consistent to an earlier report (Kim *et al.*, 2008). The apparent first-order degradation rate (k) values are shown in Table 1.

The k values for PNC and TCC with O_3/TiO_2 and UV respectively were at least 6-folds and 2.5-folds larger than the values with other methods. The k values for CAM with O_3/TiO_2 and O_3 , respectively were at least 2.6 and 3.2-folds larger than the values with remaining methods. Therefore, O_3/TiO_2 and O_3 , respectively could be the methods of choice for efficient oxidations of the

compounds. Small k value with UV and significant reduction in the value for CAM with O_3/UV compared to that with O_3 were consistent to an earlier reported result (Kim *et al.*, 2008). However, the values with UV and UV/H_2O_2 were closer unlike in the earlier report. Similarly, k values for CA and PNT with O_3/UV were at least 1.1 to 1.2-folds larger than those with other methods. The k values for FEP with O_3 and O_3/TiO_2 were about 6.5-folds smaller than those with other methods excluding UV/H_2O_2 . Unlike an earlier report (Kim *et al.*, 2008), rate value for the compound with UV/H_2O_2 was about half of the value with UV. Very small k values for PB (0.24 ~ 1.06/h) and IBP (0.31 ~ 2.75/h) with all the investigated AOPs once again indicated recalcitrant nature of the two compounds for oxidation.

The k values for IPA with O_3/UV , O_3/TiO_2 and $O_3/UV/TiO_2$ were respectively about 39, 23 and 13-folds larger than those with other methods excluding O_3 . IPA with O_3 disappeared within a very short period and hence k value could not be evaluated. The decreasing k -values of IPA with O_3/UV , O_3/TiO_2 showed that direct ozone reaction was presumably the most powerful oxidation method for the compound. The value with O_3/UV in this investigation was about 4-folds larger than reported in Kim *et al.* (2008). The k values for CBZ with O_3/UV , O_3/TiO_2 and O_3 were about 122, 91 and 49-folds larger than those with the remaining AOPs excluding $O_3/UV/TiO_2$. The k value with O_3/UV in this investigation was about 9-folds larger than reported in Kim *et al.* (2008). Very quick disappearance of the compound with $O_3/UV/TiO_2$ indicated its larger k value than with O_3/UV .

The k values for IDM and GFZ with O_3 , O_3/UV and O_3/TiO_2 were respectively about 15, 19, 24 and 23, 36, 69-folds larger than those for other AOPs excluding $O_3/UV/TiO_2$. The k value for IDM with O_3/UV in this investigation was about 2-folds larger than reported in Kim *et al.* (2008). Similar to CBZ, IDM and GFZ disappeared very quickly with $O_3/UV/TiO_2$ indicating larger k values of the compounds with the method. Unlike for IPA, the significantly increasing k values for IDM and GFZ with O_3/UV , O_3/TiO_2 and $O_3/UV/TiO_2$ may be explained on the basis of enhanced ozone dissolution and decomposition in presence of UV and TiO_2 (Beltran *et al.*, 2005). But this explanation appeared not to be always applicable to all the tested PPCPs in this investigation. The rate values for NPX and DCF successively decreased with O_3 , O_3/TiO_2 , O_3/UV and



$O_3/UV/TiO_2$, while Kim *et al.* (2008) reported largest k values of the compounds with O_3/UV . The value for NPX with O_3 was 1.3, 1.4 and 1.5-folds larger than those of O_3/TiO_2 , O_3/UV and $O_3/UV/TiO_2$, respectively. Similarly, k value for DCF was respectively 1.5, 1.5 and 1.9-folds larger. It is apparent from this observation that increased dissolution and decomposition of ozone in ozone-based oxidation methods may not enhance degradations of all organic compounds.

The k value for TCS with UV was about 1.6-fold larger than that with UV/H_2O_2 . KEP exhibited different behaviors with the AOPs in terms of its k values. The k values for KEP with UV/TiO_2 , UV/H_2O_2 , O_3/UV and $O_3/UV/TiO_2$ were respectively about 0.5, 1.1, 1.6 and 0.9-folds of the value with UV, while the values with the remaining two AOPs were negligibly small. Therefore, O_3/UV was the most appropriate method for KEP removal. Unlike with other compounds, k value for KEP with O_3/UV in this investigation was about 2.5-fold smaller than the value reported in Kim *et al.* (2008). Moreover, k values for majority of the compounds with UV/H_2O_2 were similar to and/or smaller than the corresponding values with UV, which is contrary to the cases reported in Kim *et al.* (2008). The largest k values for TCC and TCS were observed with UV. PB and IBP respectively showed the largest k values with UV/H_2O_2 and $O_3/UV/TiO_2$. Similarly, the largest k values for DCF, NPX, CAM and IDM, GFZ, PNC were observed with O_3 and O_3/TiO_2 respectively. CA, CBZ, FEP, IPA, KEP and PNT exhibited the largest k values with O_3/UV (Table 1). Similarly, CAM, DCF, NPX and GFZ, IDM, PNC showed the largest k values with O_3 and O_3/TiO_2 respectively. Only two compounds (TCC and TSC) had the largest k values with UV, only PB and IBP showed the largest k values with UV/H_2O_2 and $O_3/UV/TiO_2$ respectively, while any of the compounds did not exhibit the largest k value with UV/TiO_2 . Based on the k values (Table 1), O_3/UV removed simultaneously the largest number of PPCPs (twelve) efficiently among the tested AOPs, while the numbers for $O_3/UV/TiO_2$, O_3/TiO_2 and O_3 are ten, nine and six respectively.

Relatively larger solution pH values with UV/TiO_2 might have negatively affected its performance to some extent in this investigation. Addition of H_2O_2 in UV photodegradation was not worthy, which is consistent to an earlier report (Baumgarten *et al.*, 2007). Since increased ozone dissolution and decomposition alone did not fully explain degradations of PPCPs by TiO_2 -catalyzed methods, physicochemical characteristics of

the compounds too presumably played an important role on their removal. It is apparent from the results that O_3 -based methods rather than UV-based methods were very efficient to remove a large number of the compounds simultaneously in mixed solutions, which is consistent to earlier reports (Jasim *et al.*, 2006; Snyder *et al.*, 2006; Baumgarten *et al.*, 2007; Kim *et al.*, 2008). Furthermore, O_3/UV was the most appropriate method among the tested O_2 -based AOPs based on removal profiles and k values for the compounds.

CONCLUSION

Removal profiles of sixteen pharmaceutical compounds with seven AOPs demonstrated four distinct patterns. DCF, IDM, IPA, NPX and TCS were easily removed, while IBP and PB were very resistant to degradation by all AOPs. UV-based AOPs efficiently removed CA, FEP, KEP, PNT and TCC, but O_3 -based AOPs were of no use. Similarly, O_3 -based AOPs were very efficient to eliminate CAM, CBZ, GFZ and PNC, while UV-based AOPs were not useful at all. Ozone-based AOPs rather than UV-based AOPs were very efficient to simultaneously remove a large number of the compounds based on the first-order removal rate values. Both removal profiles and rate values demonstrated O_3/UV as the most appropriate AOP for simultaneous removal of the tested compounds very efficiently in mixed solution. Increased ozone dissolution and decomposition with O_3 -based AOPs did not always enhance removal of the tested compounds. Solution pH and physicochemical characteristics of the compounds also presumably played an important role on the removal, which merits further attention.

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