



Edition: BP 2025 (Ph. Eur. 11.6 update)

## Ibuprofen Capsules

### [General Notices](#)

### Action and use

Cyclo-oxygenase inhibitor; analgesic; anti-inflammatory.

### DEFINITION

Ibuprofen Capsules contain Ibuprofen.

*The capsules comply with the requirements stated under [Capsules](#) and with the following requirements.*

### Content of ibuprofen, $C_{13}H_{18}O_2$

92.5 to 105.0% of the stated amount.

### IDENTIFICATION

Mix with the aid of ultrasound a quantity of the capsule contents containing 0.5 g of Ibuprofen with 20 mL of [water](#) and filter. Dissolve the residue in 20 mL of [acetone](#) and evaporate to dryness under a stream of nitrogen. The [infrared absorption spectrum](#) of the residue, [Appendix II A](#), is concordant with the *reference spectrum* of ibuprofen ([RS 186](#)).

### TESTS

#### Dissolution

Comply with the [dissolution test for tablets and capsules](#), [Appendix XII B1](#).

#### TEST CONDITIONS

- (a) Use Apparatus 2, rotating the paddle at 50 revolutions per minute.
- (b) Use 900 mL of [phosphate buffer pH 7.2](#), at a temperature of 37°, as the medium.

#### PROCEDURE

Carry out the method for [liquid chromatography](#), [Appendix II D](#), using the following solutions.

- (1) After 45 minutes, withdraw a sample of the medium, filter and dilute, if necessary, with the dissolution medium to produce a solution expected to contain 0.011% w/v of ibuprofen.
- (2) 0.011% w/v of [ibuprofen BPCRS](#) in the dissolution medium.

#### CHROMATOGRAPHIC CONDITIONS

- (a) Use a stainless steel column (25 cm × 4.6 mm) packed with [end-capped octadecylsilyl silica gel for chromatography](#) (10 µm) (Nucleosil C18 is suitable).

- (b) Use isocratic elution and the mobile phase described below.
- (c) Use a flow rate of 1.5 mL per minute.
- (d) Use an ambient column temperature.
- (e) Use a detection wavelength of 264 nm.
- (f) Inject 20 µL of each solution.

#### MOBILE PHASE

3 volumes of [orthophosphoric acid](#), 247 volumes of [water](#) and 750 volumes of [methanol](#).

When the chromatograms are recorded under the prescribed conditions the retention time of ibuprofen is about 7 minutes.

#### DETERMINATION OF CONTENT

Calculate the total content of ibuprofen, C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>18</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, in the medium using the declared content of C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>18</sub>O<sub>2</sub> in [ibuprofen BPCRS](#).

#### LIMITS

The amount of ibuprofen released is not less than 75% (Q) of the stated amount.

#### Related substances

Carry out the method for [liquid chromatography, Appendix III D](#), using the following solutions.

- (1) Shake a quantity of the capsule contents containing 0.2 g of Ibuprofen in 20 mL of [acetonitrile R1](#), add sufficient mobile phase A to produce 100 mL and filter (Whatman GF/C is suitable).
- (2) Dilute 1 volume of solution (1) to 100 volumes with mobile phase A.
- (3) Dissolve 20 mg of [ibuprofen BPCRS](#) in 2 mL of [acetonitrile R1](#), add 1 mL of a 0.006% w/v solution of [ibuprofen impurity B BPCRS](#) in [acetonitrile R1](#) and dilute to 10 mL with mobile phase A.
- (4) 0.0006% w/v of [4'-isobutylacetophenone BPCRS](#) (impurity E) in mobile phase A.
- (5) To 10 mg of [ibuprofen BPCRS](#), add 2 mL of [polyethylene glycol](#) and a drop of [sulfuric acid](#). Heat gently for 1 hour and cool. Make up to 20 mL with mobile phase A (generation of impurity 1).
- (6) Dissolve the contents of a vial of [ibuprofen for peak identification EPCRS](#) in 1 mL of [acetonitrile R1](#) and dilute to 5 mL with mobile phase A.
- (7) Dilute 1 volume of solution (2) to 10 volumes with mobile phase A.

#### CHROMATOGRAPHIC CONDITIONS

- (a) Use a stainless steel column (15 cm × 4.6 mm) packed with [end-capped octadecylsilyl amorphous organosilica polymer for chromatography](#) (5 µm) (XTerra MS C18 is suitable).
- (b) Use gradient elution and the mobile phase described below.
- (c) Use a flow rate of 2 mL per minute.
- (d) Use an ambient column temperature.
- (e) Use a detection wavelength of 214 nm.
- (f) Inject 20 µL of each solution.

#### MOBILE PHASE

**Mobile phase A** 0.5 volume of [orthophosphoric acid](#), 340 volumes of [acetonitrile R1](#) and sufficient [water](#) to produce 1000 volumes.

**Mobile phase B** 0.5 volume of [orthophosphoric acid](#), 100 volumes of [water](#) and sufficient [acetonitrile R1](#) to produce 1000 volumes.

Time (Minutes)	Mobile phase A (% v/v)	Mobile phase B (% v/v)	Comment
0-25	100	0	isocratic
25-55	100→0	0→100	linear gradient
55-70	0	100	isocratic
70-71	0→100	100→0	linear gradient
71-85	100	0	re-equilibration

When the chromatograms are recorded under the prescribed conditions, the relative retentions with reference to ibuprofen (retention time about 26 minutes) are: impurity J, about 0.2; impurity N, about 0.3; impurity A, about 0.9; impurity B, about 1.08; impurity E, about 1.11 and impurity 1, about 1.2.

#### SYSTEM SUITABILITY

The test is not valid unless, in the chromatogram obtained with solution (3), the peak-to-valley ratio is at least 5.0, where  $H_p$  is the height above the baseline of the peak due to impurity B and  $H_v$  is the height above the baseline of the lowest point of the curve separating this peak from the peak due to ibuprofen.

#### LIMITS

Use the chromatogram supplied with ibuprofen for peak identification EPCRS and the chromatogram obtained with solution (6) to identify the peaks due to impurities A, J, and N. Use the chromatogram obtained with solution (4) to identify the peaks due to impurity E. Use the chromatogram obtained with solution (5) to identify the peak due to impurity 1.

In the chromatogram obtained with solution (1):

the area of any peak corresponding to impurity 1 is not greater than 3.6 times the area of the principal peak in the chromatogram obtained with solution (2) (3.6%);

the area of any peak corresponding to impurity A, J or N is not greater than 1.5 times the area of the principal peak in the chromatogram obtained with solution (7) (0.15% of each);

the area of any peak corresponding to impurity E is not greater than 3 times the area of the principal peak in the chromatogram obtained with solution (7) (0.3%);

the area of any other secondary peak is not greater than the area of the principal peak in the chromatogram obtained with solution (7) (0.10%);

the sum of the areas of any secondary peaks, excluding impurity 1, is not greater than 0.7 times the area of the principal peak in the chromatogram obtained with solution (2) (0.7%).

Disregard any peak with an area less than half the area of the principal peak in the chromatogram obtained with solution (7) (0.05%).

## ASSAY

Carry out the method for liquid chromatography, Appendix III D, using the following solutions.

(1) Shake a quantity of the capsule contents containing 0.1 g of Ibuprofen with 50 mL of the mobile phase, add sufficient mobile phase to produce 100 mL and mix. Centrifuge and dilute 1 volume of the supernatant liquid to 10 volumes with the mobile phase.

(2) 0.01% w/v of ibuprofen BPCRS in the mobile phase.

#### CHROMATOGRAPHIC CONDITIONS

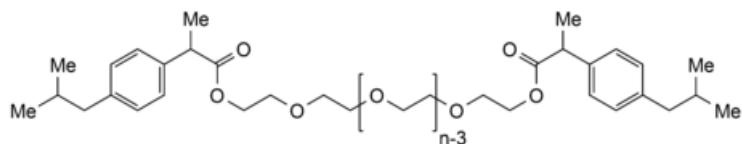
The chromatographic conditions described under Dissolution may be used.

#### DETERMINATION OF CONTENT

Calculate the content of ibuprofen,  $C_{13}H_{18}O_2$ , in the capsules from the chromatograms obtained and using the declared content of  $C_{13}H_{18}O_2$  in ibuprofen BPCRS.

## IMPURITIES

The impurities limited by the requirements of this monograph include those listed under ibuprofen and the following:



1. *rac*- $\alpha$ -({2-[4-(propan-2-yl)phenyl]propanoyloxy)methyl}poly(oxyethylene)- $\omega$ -yl 2-[4-(propan-2-yl)phenyl]propanoate (PEG-ibuprofen ester)