

# Role of Semiconductors (Zinc Oxide as a Model) for Removal of Pharmaceutical Tetracycline (TCs) from Aqueous Solutions in the Presence of Selective Light

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**Abstract:** In this work treatment of drug in wastewater using Zinc oxide (ZnO) nanoparticle as catalyst has been investigated. The effects of various parameters, such as the influence of initial drug concentration, time of irradiation, the effect of catalyst loading, the effect of intensity of light in order to reach to the optimum operational conditions in which the best treated of drug. The highest removal efficiency of drug was indicated at 0.2 gm/100cm<sup>3</sup> mass of Zinc oxide (ZnO) nanoparticle and 50 ppm of drug. Photocatalytic degradation of drug was favorable in the 7.33 mW/cm<sup>2</sup> light intensity. The percentage efficiency of removal drug equal 80.388%. The results explained the photocatalytic degradation efficiency, which was increased by increasing catalyst loading from 0.05 g to 3 g. The degradation efficiency decreased with the increase in catalyst loading. Results also showed that the rate of photocatalytic degradation was increased with decreasing drug concentration.

**Keywords :** Zinc oxide(ZnO) nanoparticle, Light intensity, Pharmaceutical, Tetracycline, Photocatalytic.

## I. INTRODUCTION

During the 1990s, Pharmaceuticals such as antibiotics, analgesics, lipid-regulating drugs, hormones, chemotherapy, antiseptics and beta-blocking heart drugs were detected in wastewaters, ground-water, and streams resources across walled [1-3]. Although Pharmaceuticals had been detected previously sewage-treatment plants (STPs) [4, 5] and in effluent from landfills [6, 7], these more recent investigations indicated that some Pharmaceuticals are nearly ubiquitous at low concentrations in water bodies that receive STP effluent [6, 8, 9].

Advanced oxidation processes (AOPs) concerned with the total oxidation of inorganic and organic materials by heterogeneous photocatalysis. In Photocatalytic oxidation the organic molecules were degradable in the presence of oxidizing agents such as oxygen or air and light, semiconductor [10-13]. Zinc oxide is an excellent Photocatalytic oxidant for different types of pollutants in

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wastewater such as printing, pharmacy wastewater, papermaking wastewater and dyeing wastes [13]. Zinc oxide has good Photocatalytic properties. Catalysts are nominated to be promising substrates for photo degradation of different organic pollutants under artificial and solar irradiation. It was found that ZnO is more efficient than TiO<sub>2</sub>-P25 and TiO<sub>2</sub>-UV-100 in Photocatalytic degradation of drug; however, ZnO has the disadvantage of undergoing photo corrosion under illumination in acidic conditions [14-16].

## II. EXPERIMENTAL MATERIALS

Commercial ZnO powder was purchased from (sigma-aldrich, Germany). Tetracycline (TCs) drug was supported by Samara Company of textile drug/Iraq. Chemical structure of Tetracycline (TCs). Fig 1. Freshly prepared aqueous solution of the pure drugs in a volumetric flask of 1000 mL by dissolving 0.1 g of drug TCs in distilled water. All chemicals used in this study were analytical grade and used directly without further purification.

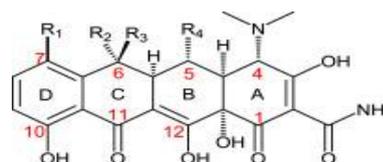


Figure 1: Chemical structure of Tetracycline (TCs).

## III. PHOTOCATALYTIC EXPERIMENTS

Zinc oxide with 99.5% purity was supplied by Carlo ERBA and used as supplied. In all experiments of removal processes of drug have been performed by mixing 0.2 gm / 100 cm<sup>3</sup> of the catalyst with 50 ppm of the drug solution, using a magnetic stirrer. At predetermined times, 2 cm<sup>3</sup> of suspension reaction mixture was withdrawn every 15 min, and then centrifuged at 4000 rpm. The supernatant was carefully removed by a syringe with a long pliable needle. The centrifugation was found very important to remove fine particles of ZnO. The absorbance at 360 nm wavelengths of the supernatants was determined.



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using ultraviolet-visible spectrophotometer (Apel-303 England). Photocatalytic reaction was carried out in a homemade photo reactor equipped with a Philips 125 W/542, high pressure mercury lamp (Holland) as a source for near-UV radiation.

### IV. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

#### Effect of mass dosage

To investigate the effect of catalyst loading on the final decolonization efficiency, a series of experiments were carried out by varying the catalyst from 0.5 to 3.0 g/L in the solution with 50 mg/L drug concentration, reaction temperature = 25 °C, time = 1 h. . The profile behavior of photo catalytic degradation is illustrated in Figure 2.

From Figure 2, results indicates that the rate of photo degradation increases by increasing the amount of ZnO upto 2 g/L<sup>-1</sup>. Furthermore 2 g/L<sup>-1</sup>, the rate of Photocatalytic degradation was taken a plateau region from 0.05-3 g/L<sup>-1</sup>, then the rate of degradation decreased with increase in mass dosage[15, 17, 18]

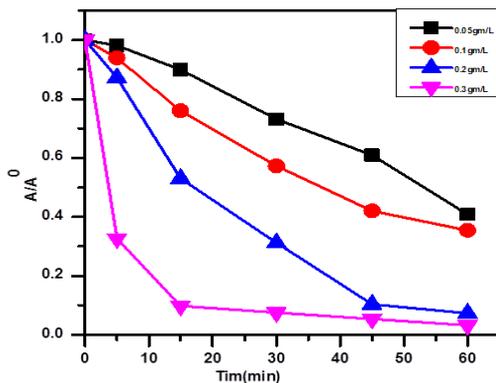


Figure 2: The effect masses of TiO<sub>2</sub> on Photocatalytic degradation of Tetracycline (TCs) drug .

#### The Effect of Initial Concentration of drug on Removal Processes

The removal of drug has been conducted by using different initial drug concentration in the range (10 - 80 ppm). These experiments was performed at range ( 0.2gm / 100 cm<sup>3</sup> ),the suspension solution was irradiated with 7.33 mW/cm<sup>2</sup> intensity of light, flow rate of air bubble 10 cm<sup>3</sup>/ min, at room temperature and 0.2 gm/100 cm<sup>3</sup> of ZnO nanoparticle as actuals . As illustrated in Figure3. the removal of drug decreases with increased the initial concentration of drug because the number of active site of ZnO nanoparticle catalyst doesn't change, so when the concentration of drug increases and cover all active sites that can cause reduced generation of an electron-hole pair which subsequently reduces the removal of drug[16]. The optimum concentration of drug was 50ppm the greatest

removal of drug because the drug was cover the largest area of the ZnO nanoparticle particles, therefore absorbed maximum exciting photons to generate higher concentration of the activated catalyst show in figure 4 [10, 19, 20]

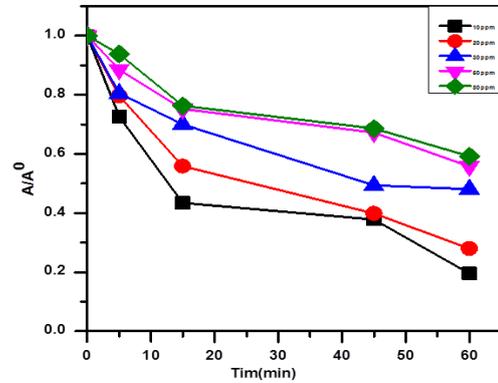


Figure 3: Photo catalytic degradation of Tetracycline (TCs) drug at different initial concentration.

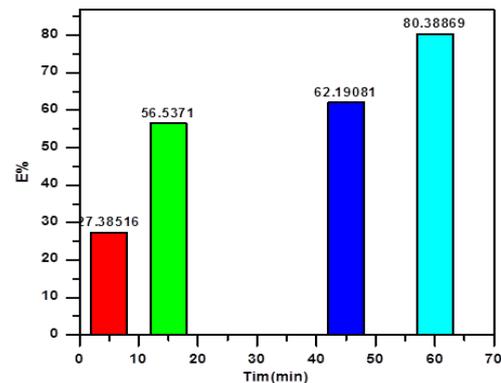


Figure 4: : percent removal Tetracycline (TCs) drug at different initial concentration.

#### Removal of a real sample (pharmaceuticals Pollutant ) from aqueous solution.

100 ml real sample (mixture of pharmaceuticals compounds)with a refry concentration were using in this study, then added beakers in the presence of 2 g/L<sup>-1</sup> from TiO<sub>2</sub>, after that the mixture the beaker was put under the ultraviolet light maintaining the distance between the light source and the surface of the solution controlled by using UVA-meter (Dr. Honle/Germany)for 1 hr, after that the supernatant were separated by centrifuge and measured the remaining concentration by using UV-Visible spectrophotometer at a chosen wavelength at 360 nm show in figure 5 . and found when time increase the absorption decrease and gave higher percentage removal [21].

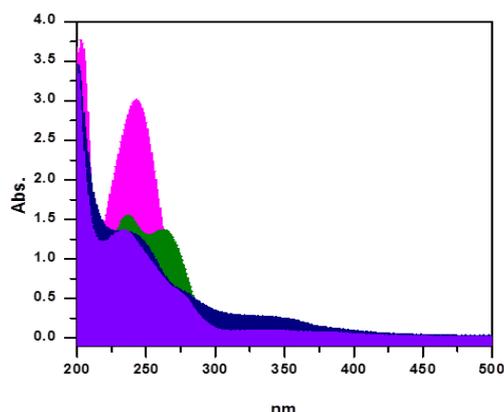


Figure 5: Removal of a real sample (mixture of pharmaceuticals compounds) by using TiO<sub>2</sub>

## V. CONCLUSION

- Increasing the concentration of the adsorbent promoted an increase in the percentage of removal until saturation of the adsorbent.
- The percentage of removal decreased with increasing in the drug concentrations.
- The concentration of TCs drug 50 ppm gives the optimum Photocatalytic degradation efficiency which is equal to 80.388 % after 60 min.
- Removal of a real sample (pharmaceuticals Pollutant ) from aqueous solution found when time increase the absorption decrease and gave higher percentage removal.

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