



International Journal of Innovative Research in Science Engineering and Technology (IJIRSET)

(A Monthly, Peer Reviewed, Refereed, Scholarly Indexed, Open Access Journal)



Impact Factor: 8.699

Volume 14, Issue 6, June 2025

A Comprehensive Review of Pyrazolone-based Edaravone Derivatives: Synthetic Approaches, Molecular Characteristics and Biomedical Potential

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ABSTRACT: Pyrazolone-based Edaravone derivatives have garnered significant attention due to their wide-ranging applications in biomedical research, particularly in neuroprotection, anti-oxidant therapy, and treatment of ischemic injuries. These derivatives exhibit unique molecular characteristics that make them ideal candidates for drug development, owing to their anti-inflammatory, radical scavenging, and neuroprotective properties. This comprehensive review explores the synthetic strategies, molecular features, and biomedical potentials of Pyrazolone-based Edaravone derivatives. The study critically evaluates their roles in treating oxidative stress-induced conditions, emphasizing their future applications in clinical medicine.

KEYWORDS: Edaravone, Neuroprotection, Synthetic approaches, Ischemic injuries, Radical scavenging

I. INTRODUCTION

Pyrazolone-based compounds have a long-standing history in medicinal chemistry and are known for their versatile pharmacological properties, including anti-inflammatory, antipyretic, and analgesic effects. Edaravone, a potent free radical scavenger, has shown promise in treating neurodegenerative diseases and ischemic brain injury.^[1]

The fusion of Pyrazolone's scaffold with Edaravone's structure has led to the creation of novel derivatives with enhanced biomedical properties.^[2] These hybrid compounds exhibit improved pharmacokinetic profiles and possess multifaceted activities such as neuroprotection, anti-apoptotic effects, and mitigation of oxidative stress. With the rising interest in developing advanced therapeutics to combat oxidative stress-related conditions, Pyrazolone-based Edaravone derivatives have emerged as key molecular entities.^[3]

This review aims to provide a detailed exploration of the synthesis, molecular characteristics, and biomedical potential of these compounds, focusing on their therapeutic promise in conditions like stroke, Alzheimer's disease, and cardiovascular disorders. The fusion of Pyrazolone derivatives and Edaravone molecules represents a significant advancement in the field of medicinal chemistry, particularly for their potential biomedical applications.^{[2][4][5]}

Edaravone, primarily recognized for its neuroprotective properties, has been a cornerstone treatment in neurodegenerative conditions such as stroke and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).^[4] The emergence of hybrid compounds that combine these two distinct chemical classes opens new avenues in drug development, particularly in conditions where oxidative stress, neuronal damage, and inflammatory processes converge.

The increasing burden of neurodegenerative diseases and oxidative stress-related conditions worldwide underscores the need for new therapeutic agents with enhanced efficacy, better pharmacokinetic profiles, and fewer side effects. Traditional treatments have often failed to deliver comprehensive solutions, particularly in mitigating oxidative damage, which is a key contributor to the pathogenesis of many chronic diseases. This is where Pyrazolone-based Edaravone

derivatives come into play, offering a dual-action approach: the neuroprotection and radical scavenging abilities of Edaravone are amplified by the anti-inflammatory and analgesic effects of the Pyrazolone framework.^{[6] [7] [8] [13]}

In recent years, the biomedical potential of these hybrid derivatives has been explored in a wide range of preclinical studies.^[8] Their ability to mitigate the harmful effects of free radicals, reduce neuronal apoptosis, and prevent oxidative stress-induced damage has positioned them as promising candidates for drug development. These compounds hold significant promise not only in the treatment of neurodegenerative diseases but also in cardiovascular diseases, cancer, and other chronic conditions where oxidative stress plays a central role.^{[10] [11] [13]}

The synthesis of these derivatives has been a focal point in recent research, with efforts directed towards optimizing their structure-activity relationship (SAR).^[2] By tweaking the molecular structure of Pyrazolone and Edaravone moieties, researchers have been able to enhance the pharmacological effects of these compounds, improving their efficacy in both in vitro and in vivo models.^[6] The evolution of drug delivery systems, particularly nanotechnology-based approaches, has also contributed to the improved bioavailability and targeting of these derivatives, ensuring that they can be delivered efficiently to the affected tissues.

In conclusion, the introduction of Pyrazolone-based Edaravone derivatives marks a significant milestone in the field of medicinal chemistry. These compounds combine the best of both worlds, offering the neuroprotective and radical scavenging properties of Edaravone with the anti-inflammatory and analgesic effects of Pyrazolone. Their potential to address unmet medical needs in neurodegenerative diseases, cardiovascular disorders, and other oxidative stress-related conditions makes them a promising area of research.^[9] However, further studies are necessary to optimize their synthesis, evaluate their safety, and confirm their efficacy in clinical settings.

II. RATIONALE

- With the increasing prevalence of neurodegenerative diseases and oxidative stress-related conditions, there is a growing need for effective therapeutic agents.^[19]
- Current treatments are limited in their efficacy, and there is an urgent demand for novel compounds with superior antioxidant and neuroprotective properties. Pyrazolone-based Edaravone derivatives hold immense potential in addressing these challenges by offering multifaceted pharmacological effects.^[2]
- Pyrazolone-based Edaravone derivatives combine the benefits of both parent compounds, enhancing their neuroprotective and antioxidant properties.
- The derivatives show promise in a wide range of oxidative stress-induced conditions, providing a broad spectrum of therapeutic applications.^{[15] [19]}
- Limited clinical trials are available on the therapeutic efficacy of Pyrazolone-based Edaravone derivatives.^[16]
- The potential side effects and long-term safety profiles of these derivatives remain underexplored.

III. LITERATURE SURVEY

1. Current Trends:

Recent research focuses on enhancing the bioavailability and targeting efficiency of Pyrazolone-based Edaravone derivatives. Advances in nano-drug delivery systems have also been explored to improve their therapeutic efficacy.^[20] Ongoing studies are investigating their role in treating neurodegenerative diseases and cardiovascular disorders.

The ongoing research and development of Pyrazolone-based Edaravone derivatives are driven by their promising therapeutic potential in neuroprotection, antioxidation, and anti-inflammatory applications. Over the last decade, significant strides have been made in the synthesis, characterization, and biomedical application of these derivatives. Researchers are focused on improving the molecular properties, optimizing their therapeutic potential, and addressing limitations such as bioavailability and side effects.^[1] Below is a detailed exploration of the current trends in the field:

- **Structure-Activity Relationship (SAR) Studies:** One of the dominant trends in the synthesis of Pyrazolone-based Edaravone derivatives is SAR studies. Researchers are modifying different parts of the molecular structure, particularly the Pyrazolone ring and the phenyl moiety to optimize its neuroprotective, anti-inflammatory and

antioxidant properties.^{[2][22]} These studies focus on enhancing the drug's stability, solubility and ability to cross the blood-brain barrier (BBB) effectively.^{[19][24]}

- **Green Chemistry and Sustainable Synthesis:** Green chemistry approaches such as solvent-free reactions, microwave-assisted synthesis, and the use of renewable raw materials are gaining attention in the creation of these derivatives. This not only reduces the environmental impact of drug synthesis but also makes the process more economically feasible for large-scale production.^[23]
- **Multicomponent Reactions (MCRs):** MCRs allow for the simultaneous formation of multiple bonds in a single synthetic step, reducing the number of reagents, reaction times, and purification processes. This efficiency is critical for speeding up the discovery of new derivatives with potentially better pharmacological profiles.^[25]

2. Drug Delivery Innovations:

- **Nanotechnology-based Drug Delivery Systems:** One of the most significant trends is the integration of nanotechnology with Pyrazolone-based Edaravone derivatives to improve drug delivery while minimizing systemic side effects. This approach enhances the therapeutic efficacy and safety profile of the drug.^[9]
- **Hydrogel and Liposome Delivery Systems:** Hydrogel and liposome-based delivery platforms have emerged as effective strategies for sustained and controlled release of Pyrazolone-based Edaravone derivatives. These systems provide stability and improve the solubility of the drug, enhancing its therapeutic performance in vivo.^[26]

3. Biomedical Applications:

- **Neuroprotection and Stroke Management:** As neurodegenerative diseases and stroke remain global health concerns, the primary biomedical application of Pyrazolone-based Edaravone derivatives continues to be neuroprotection. Edaravone, originally used for acute ischemic stroke, shows amplified effects when modified with Pyrazolone structures, improving its antioxidant and radical scavenging properties. Research is focusing on these derivatives' ability to reduce neuronal apoptosis, protect against oxidative stress, and promote recovery in stroke models.^[27]
- **Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS):** Pyrazolone-based Edaravone derivatives are being studied as potential treatments for ALS, with ongoing clinical trials and preclinical studies. These derivatives aim to slow the progression of ALS by reducing oxidative stress and protecting motor neurons from degeneration.^{[20][28]}
- **Cardioprotection and Ischemic Heart Disease:** The use of Pyrazolone-based Edaravone derivatives in cardioprotection is another emerging trend. Researchers are investigating their potential to reduce oxidative damage in ischemic heart disease, where free radicals play a crucial role in damaging heart tissue. These compounds are being tested in preclinical models for their efficacy in minimizing myocardial infarction size and improving cardiac function post-ischemia.^[30]
- **Cancer Therapy:** Pyrazolone-based derivatives are also being explored for their potential in cancer treatment due to their ability to scavenge free radicals and inhibit tumour cell proliferation.^[13] Researchers are looking into their potential as adjunctive therapies in reducing oxidative stress in cancer cells, which can enhance the effects of chemotherapy or radiotherapy.^[30]
- **Health Centres:** Some scientific research centres that focus on pharmaceutical chemistry, drug development and biomedical research and are involved in studies related to Pyrazolone-based Edaravone derivatives include National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), located in Mohali. NIPER is one of the premier institutions in India for pharmaceutical sciences research and development. It focuses on drug design, synthesis, and testing, including neuroprotective agents like Edaravone and its derivatives.^[31] The Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT) located in Hyderabad, is a research centre under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR),^[31] specializing in organic chemistry, drug design and synthesis, including the work on pharmaceutical scaffolds such as Pyrazolones. Another centre located in Bhubaneswar, Institute of Life Sciences

(ILS) focuses on the basic and applied research in areas of biomedicine, drug discovery and disease mechanisms, particularly neurodegenerative diseases, where Edaravone derivatives are of interest while an international centre named National Institute of Neuroscience (NIN) located in Tokyo, Japan focuses on neuroprotection and neurodegenerative diseases, aligning with research on Edaravone derivatives.^[32] Japan is also a leader in the clinical application of Edaravone for ALS and stroke.

4. Early History of Pyrazolone Derivatives:

The origin of Pyrazolone chemistry can be traced back to the late 19th century. Pyrazolone, a five-membered heterocyclic compound, was first synthesized in 1883 by Ludwig Knorr, a German chemist, during his work on derivatives of phenyl hydrazine. Knorr's discovery led to the development of the first Pyrazolone-based drugs, notably antipyrine, which was widely used as an antipyretic and analgesic. Antipyrine's success in reducing fever and alleviating pain quickly made Pyrazolones an important class of pharmaceuticals during the early 20th century.^[1]

Following the success of antipyrine, other Pyrazolone derivatives were synthesized, including phenylbutazone, which became widely used as an anti-inflammatory drug in the mid-20th century. Phenylbutazone was particularly notable for its effectiveness in treating conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis and gout.^[33] This period marked a flourishing of Pyrazolone chemistry, with numerous derivatives being investigated for their potential therapeutic uses.

However, by the late 20th century, concerns over the side effects of certain Pyrazolone derivatives, including their potential to cause agranulocytosis (a dangerous reduction in white blood cells), led to a decline in their popularity. Despite this, Pyrazolones remained an important scaffold in medicinal chemistry due to their versatility and wide range of biological activities.

5. Discovery and Development:

The story of Edaravone begins in Japan during the late 1980s, when researchers were seeking treatments for ischemic brain injuries, particularly those resulting from stroke. Edaravone (3-methyl-1-phenyl-2-pyrazolin-5-one), a Pyrazolone derivative, was identified as a potent free radical scavenger capable of reducing oxidative damage in brain tissue.^[32]

In 2001, Edaravone was approved for clinical use in Japan as a treatment for acute ischemic stroke, making it one of the few drugs specifically targeted at protecting the brain from oxidative stress. Its unique mechanism of action, that offering to protect the neurons during the critical window following ischemia.^[1]

Over the time, Edaravone's potential expanded beyond stroke treatment. In 2015, it was approved in Japan for use in patients with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), a progressive neurodegenerative disease. This was a significant development, as few treatments existed for ALS at the time. Edaravone's ability to slow the progression of the disease.^[1]

6. Advances in Synthetic Strategies:

The synthesis of Pyrazolone-based Edaravone derivatives has been a significant focus of research in recent years.^[1] Early attempts to modify Edaravone's structure involved simple substitutions at the phenyl ring, which yielded compounds with varying degrees of neuroprotective and antioxidant activities. As synthetic techniques advanced, more sophisticated modifications were introduced, including the incorporation of heterocyclic rings, alkyl chains, and functional groups designed to improve the bioavailability and targeting efficiency of these compounds.

By the 2010s, researchers were exploring the use of nanotechnology-based drug delivery systems to further enhance the efficacy of Pyrazolone-based Edaravone derivatives. Nano-technology introduction approach has opened new possibilities for the use of these derivatives in a broader range of diseases, including cardiovascular disorders, cancer, and inflammatory conditions.^[34]

IV. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study employs a comprehensive literature review methodology, drawing from peer-reviewed journals, patents, and research articles focused on Pyrazolone derivatives and Edaravone compounds. The methodology includes:

- **Data collection** from various chemical and biomedical databases.
- **Comparative analysis** of synthetic strategies and molecular characteristics.
- **Evaluation of pharmacological data** to assess the biomedical potential of these derivatives.

V. DISCUSSION

Biomedical Potential and Current Research: As research into Pyrazolone-based Edaravone derivatives has progressed, their potential applications have expanded beyond neurodegenerative diseases. Studies have demonstrated that these derivatives can protect against oxidative damage in cardiac tissue, making them promising candidates for the treatment of ischemic heart disease.

In recent years, the biomedical community has increasingly recognized the need for multifaceted therapies that address the complex pathophysiology of chronic diseases.^[17] Pyrazolone-based Edaravone derivatives, with their ability to target oxidative stress, inflammation, and cell death, offer a promising solution to this challenge. As a result, ongoing research continues to explore new synthetic strategies, structure-activity relationships, and therapeutic applications for these compounds. The history of Pyrazolone-based Edaravone derivatives is a testament to the evolution of medicinal chemistry, where scientific knowledge and innovative thinking converge to address contemporary health challenges. From their origins in 19th century analgesics to their current role in cutting-edge neuroprotective therapies, these compounds have undergone a remarkable transformation.^[35]

The discussion focuses on the synergy between Pyrazolone's anti-inflammatory effects and Edaravone's radical scavenging ability. These hybrid molecules offer unique benefits, viz; higher bioavailability and better pharmacokinetic profiles. However, the major challenges remain in optimizing their efficacy and ensuring their safety for clinical use. Today, they stand at the forefront of drug development, offering hope for the treatment of a wide range of conditions where oxidative stress and inflammation play a critical role. Their future development will likely continue to push the boundaries of therapeutic innovation, providing new solutions for some of the most pressing medical issues of our time.

VI. CONCLUSION

The synthesis of Pyrazolone-based Edaravone derivatives has resulted in compounds with improved neuroprotective properties. In preclinical models, these derivatives have shown promise in reducing oxidative stress, preventing neuronal apoptosis, and improving recovery outcomes in ischemic injuries.

Pyrazolone-based Edaravone derivatives represent a promising avenue in the development of novel therapeutics for neurodegenerative diseases and oxidative stress-related conditions. Their combined pharmacological properties offer a multifaceted approach to treatment, though further research is required to fully explore their clinical potential. The exploration of Pyrazolone-based Edaravone derivatives has opened new avenues in biomedical research, especially in the treatment of conditions driven by oxidative stress, inflammation, and neurodegeneration. From a synthetic chemistry standpoint, significant progress has been made in modifying the molecular structure of these derivatives, optimizing them for enhanced therapeutic efficacy, improved bioavailability, and greater safety profiles.

The Pyrazolone-based Edaravone derivatives field is at the intersection of cutting-edge synthetic chemistry, innovative drug delivery, and groundbreaking biomedical applications. The future holds tremendous potential for these derivatives to revolutionize the treatment of neurodegenerative diseases, cardiovascular conditions and cancer. As research progresses and clinical trials advance, it is expected that these compounds will significantly enhance therapeutic options, offering more effective, sustainable, and personalized solutions to some of the most challenging health conditions in modern medicine.

VII. FUTURE SCOPE

Future research should focus on optimizing the synthetic approaches to reduce costs and improve yields. Moreover, exploring the derivatives' applications in other biomedical fields such as cancer therapy and inflammation control could broaden their therapeutic potential.

VIII. SUGGESTIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- Increasing the focus on clinical trials to assess the safety and efficacy of these derivatives in human subjects.
- Exploring the advanced drug delivery systems to improve the bioavailability and targeting of Pyrazolone-based Edaravone derivatives.

IX. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The authors acknowledge the institutional backing and infrastructural support rendered by Smt. C.H.M College, Ulhasnagar, Thane, Mumbai that facilitated the research process and proved instrumental in shaping the scholarly pursuits of the researchers.

X. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that there is no competing academic or financial conflict of interest associated with this publication

XI. CREDIT AUTHOR STATEMENT

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