

Preparation and Evaluation of Nimesulide Loaded Nanoparticles by Nanoprecipitation Technique

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ABSTRACT

Nimesulide loaded nanoparticles were prepared by nanoprecipitation technique. Ethyl cellulose was chosen as a polymer. The obtained nanoparticles were evaluated for product yield, drug content, and entrapment efficiency and loading capacity. The product yield, drug content, entrapment efficiency and loading capacity were observed to be 80.5%, 60.7%, 38.2% and 9.9% respectively. The SEM image clearly indicates the nanoparticles

INTRODUCTION

Nanotechnology can be termed as the synthesis, characterization, exploration and application of nano sized (1-1000nm) materials for the development of science. It deals with the materials whose structures exhibit significantly novel and improved physical, chemical, and biological properties, phenomena, and functionality due to their nano scaled size. Because of their size, nano particles have a larger surface area than macro-sized materials. Nano particles, because of their small size, have distinct properties compared to the bulk form of the same material, thus offering many new developments in the fields of biosensors, biomedicine, and bio nanotechnology. Nanotechnology is also being utilized in medicine for diagnosis, therapeutic drug delivery and the development of treatments for many diseases and disorders. Nanotechnology is an enormously powerful technology, which holds a huge promise for the design and development of many types of novel products with its potential medical applications on early disease detection, treatment, and prevention^{1,2}.

NANOPRECIPITATION

Also known as the solvent displacement method, the basic principle of this method is based on the interfacial deposition of a polymer after displacement of a semipolar solvent, miscible with water, from a lipophilic solution. Rapid diffusion of the solvent into non-solvent phase results in the decrease of interfacial tension between the two phases, which increases the surface area and leads

to the formation of small droplets of organic solvent. Nano precipitation system comprises of three basic components: the polymer (synthetic, semi synthetic or natural), the polymer solvent and the non-solvent of the polymer. Organic solvent (i.e., ethanol, acetone, hexane, or dioxane) which is miscible in water and easy to remove by evaporation is selected as the polymer solvent. Due to this reason, acetone is the most commonly employed polymer solvent in this method sometimes; it consists of binary solvent blends, acetone with small amount of water, blends of acetone with ethanol and methanol. On the other hand, the non-solvent phase consisting of a non-solvent or a mixture of non-solvents is supplemented with one or more naturally occurring or synthetic surfactants^{3, 4}.

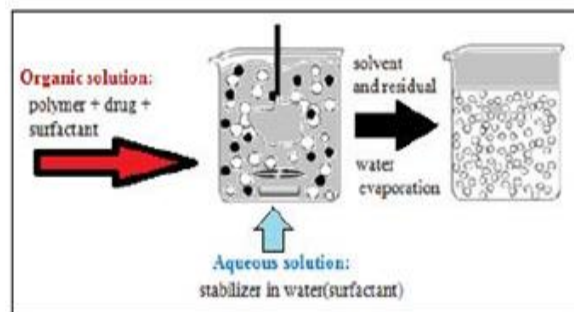


Fig1.2. Schematic representation of Nano precipitation method

Nano precipitation is an easy, fast and reproducible method which is widely used for the preparation of both nano spheres and nano capsules. Although low polymer surfactant concentrations are being used, challenges pertaining to low polymer concentration

in the organic phase need to be addressed^{5,6}. Nimesulide (MA) is non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAIDS) that exhibits anti-inflammatory, analgesic activities. It is a BCS class-2 drug. It is available as tablets, capsules and suspension forms. The drug has wide range of gastrointestinal disorders, like gastrointestinal bleeding & gastric upset. It has poor solubility. The biological half-life of MA is 2-4hrs. It causes the COX-1 and COX-2 inhibition. By inhibiting COX-1 receptors it causes severe gastric bleeding and peptic ulcers. By inhibiting COX-2 receptors it causes severe cardiovascular side effects. Because of short half-life frequent administration of the drug is required which leads to missing the dose of the drug. Hence, formulating Nimesulide loaded nanoparticles can minimize the dose and dosing frequency and side effects^{7, 8}.

METHODOLOGY

Weighed quantities of drug and polymer were dissolved in 20 ml of acetone forming organic phase. 500 mg of PVA (Polyvinyl alcohol) was taken in 100 ml of water which makes aqueous phase. The aqueous phase was kept under stirring at 700 rpm. Now the organic phase was added to the aqueous phase drop by drop. The stirring was continued until the formation of precipitate which was considered as the end point^{9, 10}.

EVALUATION

Study of Surface Morphology of Nanoparticles by Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM)

The prepared amorphous nanoparticles were dispersed in deionised water and sonicated for 30 minutes. A circular metal plate is taken on to which carbon double tape (1mm×1mm) is stickered; a drop of the resultant nano dispersion is placed on to the tape and allowed to dry for a while. Then it is scanned under SEM for morphology [15]. The obtained nanoparticles were found to be spherical in shape¹¹.

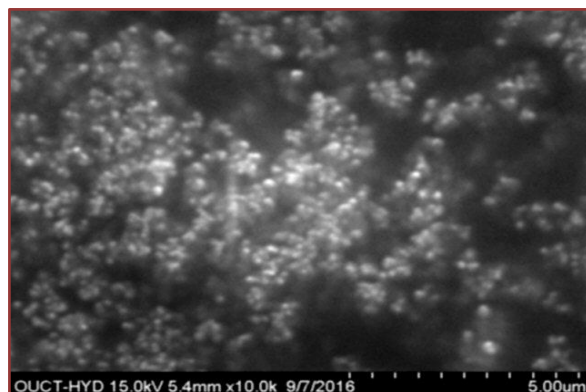
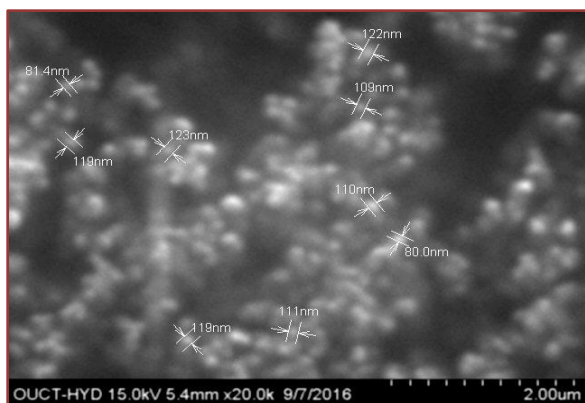


Fig1. SEM images of the Nimesulide formulations

The yields of the prepared nanoparticles were calculated. The dried nanoparticles were weighed and the yield of Nano-particles was calculated using the formula:

$$\text{Product yield} = \left(\frac{\text{Amount of nanoparticles obtained}}{\text{Theoretical yield}} \right) \times 100$$

To determine the drug content, 50mg drug equivalent to formulation was weighed accurately and transferred into three necked RBF containing 50ml of methanol. The solution was stirred at 700rpm for 3hrs by using magnetic stirrer. The resultant solution was filtered and the amount of the drug in the filtrate was estimated after suitable dilution by ultraviolet (UV) spectrophotometer. The product yield was found to be 80.5% Drug content

Entrapment Efficiency

Entrapment efficiency indicates the amount of drug encapsulated in the formulation. The method of choice for drug content determination is separation of free drug by ultra Centrifugation, followed by quantitative analysis of the drug from the formulation. The samples were centrifuged by using ultracentrifuge at 17640 rpm for 40min.

Percentage entrapment efficiency may be calculated from the following formula:

$$\text{Entrpment efficiency} = \frac{\text{Total amount of drug entrapped}}{\text{Total drug added}} \times 100$$

The Entrapment efficiency was found to be 38.2%

Loading Capacity

The loading capacity (L.C) refers to the percentage amount of drug entrapped in nanoparticles.

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Loading capacity is given by following formula

$$\frac{\text{Total amount of drug entrapped}}{\text{Total weight of nanoparticles}} \times 100$$

The loading capacity was found to be 9.9 %

CONCLUSIONS

Nimesulide loaded nanoparticles were prepared by nanoprecipitation technique using ethyl cellulose as a polymer. The SEM images reveals the formation of nanoparticles. The product yield and drug content were found to be 80.5%, 60.7%, respectively. The entrapment efficiency and loading capacity were observed to be 38.2% and 9.9% which has to be improved. Further studies have to be conducted to improve the entrapment efficiency of the formulation.

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