A Research Article on Nanogel as Topical Promising Drug Delivery for Diclofenac sodium

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ABSTRACT

Background: Transdermal delivery of drug is promising but challenging system is available for local as well as systemic effect of drug. The prolonged residence of drug formulation in the skin is important for transdermal drug delivery. Objective: The objective of the present investigation was to develop a nanogel with reduced particle size in order to improve the bioavailability of the anti-inflammatory drug, Diclofenac sodium. Methods: The present study is to formulate nanosizes dispersion of diclofenac sodium by emulsionsolvent diffusion method and incorporation of gelling agent to produce nanogel. The formulation are characterized for particle size ranging from 100-400 nm. A drug named diclofenac sodium used in rheumatoid disorders and chronic inflammatory diseases. Results: Glycerol: Water (20:80) co-solvent system is selected for preparing diclofenac sodium nanogels using different polymers and has better permeability coefficient than alcohol: water co-solvent. Permeation through cellophane membrane was carried using 0.9% w/v sodium chloride using receptor fluid in franz diffusion cell (1.74 cm₂). Gels containing diclofenac sodium with eudragit polymer shown better permeability coefficient. Conclusion: Diclofenac sodium nanogels formulated using carbopol with permeation enhancer has shown better flux enhancement in comparison with nanogels formulated using HPMC and methyl cellulose. It has been concluded that diclofenac sodium nanogels using carbopol 940 as gelling agent and Eudragit S-100 has shown better flux enhancement with propylene glycol as permeation enhancer.

Key words: Diclofenac sodium, TDDS, Eudragit S-100, Glycerol, Carbopol-940, Cellophane membrane.

INTRODUCTION

Transdermal delivery of drug is promising but challenging system is available for local as well as systemic effect of drug. The entry of drug through the stratum corneum may follow the intercellular, transcellular or appendageal route. The intercellular route is the more common pathway of the drug permeation through the skin. Nanogel can be termed as dispersion of hydrogel by physical and chemical cross-linking polymer at nanoscale size. Nanogel exhibit properties between those of solids and liquids. It consist of small amount of solid components entangled with polymers dispersed in large volume of liquid in which solids form 3D network forming the nanoscale size leading to high surface area providing biconjugation

of active targeting sites. Nanogels combine the advantage of hydrogels inherting the property of nanoscale size. Nanogel network provide high specific form can host and protect drug molecules. The release of the drug molecules can be incorporated by providing high-affinity functional groups. Nanogels are able to carry encapsulated drug molecules to targeted tissues or cell structures without premature leakage of the drug into the blood stream or other tissues. Nanogel has been the form having size ranging from 1-100 nm. In oral drug delivery, nanogels have been used to protect unstable peptides from harsh manufacturing and physiological environments and to enhance the drug absorption at specific

Submission Date: 23-03-2017; Revision Date: 18-05-2017; Accepted Date: 25-07-2017

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sites. The nanogel of Diclofenac sodium has been used as Non-Steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID's) for its anti-inflammatory and analgesic effect. Oral route causes irritation and ulceration of GIT. An improved Diclofenac formula with high degree of skin permeation can be useful in treatment of not only inflamed tissues but also inflammatory pain.

The present study was conducted to design and evaluate Diclofenac sodium nanogel which provides prolonged release, increase the residence time of drug on the skin thereby enhance bioavailability.

MATERIALS AND METHOD

Diclofenac sodium and Eudragit S-100 was purchased from Evonik industries, Mumbai. Carbopol 940 and Glycerol was gift sample from Loba Chemie Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai. Tween 80 was purchased from S.D. Fine chemical Ltd., Mumbai. Triethanolamine was purchased from Spectrochem, Mumbai.

METHOD

Preparation of Diclofenac Sodium Nanogel

Accurately weighed quantity of Drug, Eudragit S-100 (polymer), and Tween-80 as stabilizer are dissolved in glycerol while stirring. Prepared aqueous phase containing Carbopol-940 dissolved in water with continuous stirring and heat. These drug containing phase is sonicated on Ultra sonic bath sonicator. The drug phase is added drop by drop into the aqueous phase during homogenization to form emulsion. The emulsion converted into nanodroplets by homogenizer which formed O/W emulsion. Homogenization was continued for one hour. Triethanolamine added to form the gel with continuous stirring to nanogel. Batch A1, A2, A3 was prepared at highest rpm 8000 with variation in composition. Whereas prototype batches B1, B2, B3 and C1, C2, C3 prepared at different rpm 5000, 6000, 7000 using homogenizer respectively. As shown in Table 1, Table 2, Table 3.

Evaluation Parameters

Appearance: The prepared gel bases were inspected visually for clarity, colour and presence of any particles.

Homogeneity

All developed gels were tested for homogeneity by visual inspection after the gels have been set in the container. They were tested for their appearance and presence of any aggregates.

Measurement of particle size of formulation

The mean size of the selected nanogels were determined by using Malvern Mastersizer 2000 MS. The mean particle size was recorded.

PH measurement

The pH measurement was carried out by using calibrated digital type pH meter by dipping the glass electrode and the reference electrode completely into gel system so as to cover the electrodes.

Drug content

For the estimation of the drug in gel, Diclofenac sodium was extracted from 1 gm of gel formulation with 50 ml of phosphate buffer 6.8 and mixture was filtered through membrane filter (pore size 0.45 μ m). From this, 2 ml was pipette out and made upto 10 ml. The absorbance of the sample was determined spectrophotometrically at 276 nm. The concentration of Diclofenac sodium was estimated from the calibration curve.

In vitro Release studies

The drug release from the formulation was determined by using the apparatus known as Franz Diffusion Cell, which consist of a cylindrical glass tube which was opened at both the ends. 1 gm of gel equivalent to 10 mg of Diclofenac sodium was spread uniformly on the surface of cellophane membrane (previously soaked in medium for 24 hrs) and was fixed to the one end of tube. The whole assembly was fixed in such a way that the lower end of tube containing gel was just touches (1-2 mm deep) the surface of diffusion medium i.e. 100 ml of pH 6.8 phosphate buffer contained in 100 ml beaker. The assembly was placed on thermostatic hot plate with magnetic stirrer and maintained at temperature $37^{\circ}\pm 2^{\circ}$ the contents were stirred using magnetic bar at 100 rpm for a period of 24 hrs, 5 ml of samples were withdrawn at different time intervals. This 5 ml was diluted up to 10 ml of fresh phosphate buffer (pH 6.8) and sample were analyze at 276 nm in UV-Vis spectrometer for diclofenac sodium.

Skin irritation test: Test for irritation was performed on human volunteers. For each gel, four volunteers were selected and 1.0 g of formulated gel was applied on an area of 2 square inch to the back of hand. The volunteers were observed for lesions or irritation.

Spreadability

Spreadibility is determined by apparatus suggested by Mutimer. It consist of wooden block, which is provided by a pulley at one end. By this method, spreadibility is measured on the basis of "Slip" and "Drag". A ground glass slide is fixed on this block. A sample of 0.1 g of nanogel under study is placed on this ground slide. The gel is fixed on the beach formula was pressed between two slides and a 1 kg weight is placed on the top of two slides and left for about 5 min to expel air and to provide a uniform film of the nanogel between two slides. Excess of the gel is scrapped from edges. The top plate is then subjected to pull the weight. With help of string attaches to the hook and the time required by top slide to cover the distance is noted. A shorter interval indicate better spreadibility, spreadability was calculated by using the formula,

S=M.L/T,

Where, S=spreadability, L=Length of glass slide, M=weight tied to upper slide,

T=Time taken to separate the slides.

Extrudability:

It is a usual empirical test to measure the force required to extrude the material from tube. The method applied for determination of applied shear in the region of the rheogram corresponding to a shear rate exceeding the yield value and exhibiting plug flow. The method adopted for evaluating nanogel formulation for extrudability is based upon the quantity in percentage of nanogel and nanogel extruded from lacquered aluminium collapsible tube on application of weight in grams required at least 0.5cm ribbon of nanogel in 10 sec. The measurement of extrudability of each formulation shows the triplicate and averages value is presented.

Extrudability = Applied weight to extrude the nanogel from tube (in gm)/ Area (in cm2).

Rheological Studies: Brookfield viscometer was used for the studies. First, the spindle was dipped into the gel till the notch on the spindle touched the gel surface. 3gm each of gel I and gel II (Stability chamber and Room temperature) was used in the study. The spindle no.61, 63, 64 was selected based on viscosity of gel. The dial readings were taken at 50, 100, 150, 250rpm and viscosity was measured.^{2,4,5,6,7}

From the evaluation parameter performed for the three prototype batches, the result for the batch A-1 was found to be satisfactory in all attributes and hence selected for trial batches. As shown in Table 7, Table 8, Table 9.

The evaluation parameter was performed on marketed product as shown in Table 11.

RESULTS AND DISSCUSIONS

FTIR Spectroscopy⁷

The FTIR spectrum for is shown in Figure 1 and in Diclofenac sodium interpretation of FTIR spectra is given in Table 4.

FTIR spectrum of drug sample showed all the peaks corresponding to the functional groups present in the structure of Diclofenac sodium. From FTIR spectrum it was concluded that the drug sample was in pure form.

Differential Scanning Calorimetry Studies⁸

Pure drug- Diclofenac sodium

Polymer-Eudragit S-100 Binary Mixture- Drug + Polymer DSC thermogram of Diclofenac sodium is shown in the Figure 2. DSC studies indicate a sharp endothermic peak at 282°C corresponding to the melting point of the sample which matches with the melting point of Diclofenac sodium indicating the purity of drug.

From the DSC overlay thermogram of pure drug and physical mixture with Eudragit S-100; it can be concluded that the excipients and drug doesn't have any interaction with each other. Also the drug did not form a complex with the excipients as the endothermic peaks remained unchanged in position.

UV Spectroscopy^{8,9}

After studying the UV spectra of diclofenac sodium, it was found that drug shows absorbances at 226 and 276 nm but maximum absorbance was at 276 nm when solution is prepared in distilled water. So, 276 nm was considered as λ_{max} . UV spectra diclofenac sodium is shown in Figure 3.

Effect of change in pH on λ_{max}^{9}

 λ_{max} of drug was observed by making its solution in different pH to check the effect of pH on λ_{max} . Result of the same is given in Table 5.

There was no significant change in λ_{max} of Diclofenac sodium at different pH. So calibration plot can be constructed by using distilled water and can be used for quantitative evaluation purpose; though the medium of evaluation of release is phosphate buffer pH 7.4.

Calibration curve of Diclofenac sodium¹⁰

The calibration curve for diclofenac sodium in phosphate buffer 6.8 is shown in Figure 4 and its observation values in Table 6. The graph of absorbance vs. concentration was found to be linear in the concentration range of 4-24 μ g/ml at 276 nm. The R² of the calibration curve was found to be 0.999.

Trial batches

Table 1: Diclofenac Sodium Nanogel (Composition of Batch A)					
Comosition A-1 A-2 A-3					
Diclofenac sodium (g)	100	100	100		
Eudragit S-100 (g)	0.15	0.2	0.25		
Tween-80 (ml)	0.1	0.3	0.5		
Glycerol (ml)	5	10	15		
Carbopol (g)	0.5	0.1	0.3		
Water (ml)	70	30	50		
Triethanolamine (ml)	2	3	4		

Table 3: Diclofenac Sodium Nanogel (Composition of Batch C)			
Composition	C-1	C-2	C-3
Diclofenac sodium (g)	100	100	100
Eudragit S-100 (g)	0.15	0.15	0.15
Tween-80 (ml)	0.1	0.1	0.1
Glycerol (ml)	5	5	5
Carbopol (g)	0.1	0.1	0.1
Water (ml)	30	30	30
Triethanolamine (ml)	2	2	2

Table 2: Diclofenac Sodium Nanogel (Composition of Batch B)					
Composition B-1 B-2 B-3					
Diclofenac sodium (g)	100	100	100		
Eudragit S-100 (g)	0.15	0.15	0.15		
Tween-80 (ml)	0.1	0.1	0.1		
Glycerol (ml)	5	5	5		
Carbopol (g) 0.1 0.1 0.1					
Water (ml)	30	30	30		
Triethanolamine (ml)	2	2	2		

Table 4: Interpretation of FTIR spectrum of pure Diclofenac sodium.		
Peaks cm ⁻¹	Groups	
3351	О-Н	
1208	C-0	
2936	Aliphatic C-H	
1179	Asymmetric C-O-C	
1042	Symmetric C-O-C	

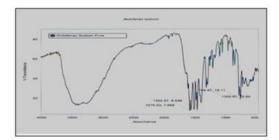


Figure 1: FTIR spectrum of pure Diclofenac sodium

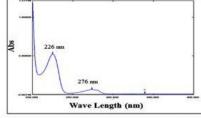
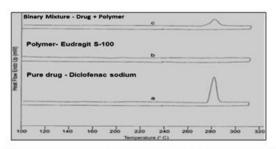


Figure 3: UV spectra of Diclofenac sodium





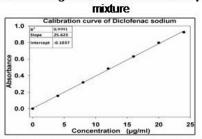


Figure 4: Calibration curve of Diclofenac sodium

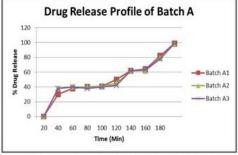


Fig.5 Drug Release profile of Batch A

Table 6: Ca	Table 6: Calibration curve values of Diclofenac sodium.		
Sr. No.	Concentration (µg/ml)	Absorbance	
1	0	0	
2	4	0.1548	
3	8	0.3173	
4	12	0.4842	
5	16	0.6303	
6	20	0.7963	
7	24	0.9237	
R ²	1		
Slope	25.61		
Intercept	-0.1020		

Trial batches evaluation

Drug solution in pH

6.8 7.4

Table 5: Effect of pH on λ_{max}

λ_{max} 276 nm

276 nm

Table 7: Evaluation Parameters for Batch A			
Evaluation parameters	A-1	A-2	A-3
Appearance	Clear	Clear	Clear
Homogenicity	Homogeneous	Homogenous	Homogenous
Particle size (nm)	165	189	213
pН	6.9 ± 0.00	6.5 ± 0.02	6.2 ± 0.20
Drug content±SD	98.8 ± 0.02	96.5 ± 0.02	97.8 ± 0.04
In vitro drug release (%)	96.72 ± 0.0784	94.75 ± 0.963	92.78 ± 0.77
Skin irritation test	No irritation	No irritation	No irritation
Spreadability (g.cm/s)	6.3 ± 0.5	6.7 ± 0.6	6.0 ± 0.6
Extrudability (g)	279 ± 0.7	268 ± 0.5	254 ± 0.7
Viscosity in cp at 50 (rpm)	9563	8562	8000

Table 8: Evaluation Parameters for Batch B			
Evaluation parameters	B-1	B-2	B-3
Appearance	Clear	Clear	Clear
Homogenicity	Homogenous	Homogenous	Homogenous
Particle size (nm)	165	175	220
pН	6.8 ± 0.00	6.7 ± 0.02	6.5 ± 0.20
Drug content±SD	98.8 ± 0.02	98.5 ± 0.02	98.8 ± 0.04
In vitro drug release (%)	96.72 ± 0.0784	95.75 ± 0.963	95.78 ± 0.77
Skin irritation test	No irritation	No irritation	No irritation
Spreadability (g.cm/s)	6.6 ± 0.5	6.5 ± 0.6	6.7 ± 0.6
Extrudability (g)	279 ± 0.7	270 ± 0.5	260 ± 0.7
Viscosity in cp at 50 (rpm)	9863	9582	9888

Table 9: Evaluation Parameters for Batch C			
Evaluation parameters	C-1	C-2	C-3
Appearance	Clear	Less clear	Clear
Homogenicity	Homogeneous	Homogeneous	Homogeneous
Particle size (nm)	165	160	160
рН	6.5 ± 2	6.7 ± 1	6.2 ± 2
Drug content±SD	98.2 ± 0.029	98.6 ± 0.04	98.5 ± 0.072
In vitro drug release (%)	93.25 ± 0.903	95.72 ± 0.861	94.3 ± 0.85
Spreadability (g.cm/s)	6.3	6.4	6.3
Extrudability (g)	254	243	254
Viscosity in cp at 50 (rpm)	9585	9588	8500

Table 10: Stability data of Optimized Formulation		
Time period	Particle size(nm)	Total drug content(%)
Initial	165	98.2 ± 0.029
After storage (40°C ± 2°C and 75% ± 5%RH)		
1 Month	162	95.72 ± 0.861
2 Month	160	94.3 ± 0.85
3Month	164	93.25 ± 0.903

Table 11: Evaluation Parameter of marketed product		
Evaluation Parameters	Market product (Serrini)	
Appearance	Clear	
Homogenicity	Homogenous	
Particle size (nm)	168	
pН	6.5 ± 0.2	
Drug content±SD	96.8 ± 0.02	
In vitro drug release (%)	95.72 ± 0.0784	
Skin irritation test	No irritation	
Spreadability (g.cm/s)	6.6 ± 0.5	
Extrudability (g)	275 ± 0.7	
Viscosity in cp at 50 (rpm)	9400	

Stability batches evaluation

The stability studies were carried out on optimized formulation. The samples were stored at $40^{\circ}C\pm 2^{\circ}C$ and $75\%\pm 5\%$ relative humidity for three months as per ICH guidelines. After 1, 2 and 3 months samples were withdrawn and tested for appearance, pH, particle size, drug content, spreadability, extrudability, viscosity.

Stability data of Optimized Formulation

The evaluation parameter performed for the trial batches (B and C) are the same as done for the above prototype batch (A) and they are appearance, homogeneity, particle size measurement, pH measurement, drug entrapment efficiency, drug content, *in vitro* drug release, skin irritation study, spreadibility, extrudability, rheological study, stability batches From the evaluation parameter result of trial batches we found Batch-A1 as the optimized batch and further experimental design is formulated. Figure 5.

The evaluation parameter performed for the trial batches (B and C) are the same as done for the above prototype batch (A) and they are appearance, homogeneity, particle size measurement, pH measurement, drug entrapment efficiency, drug content, in vitro drug release, skin irritation study, spreadibility, extrudability, rheological study, stability batches From the evaluation parameter result of trial batches we found Batch-A1 as the optimized batch and further experimental design is formulated. As shown in Table 10.

CONCLUSION

Nanogel formulation containing Diclofenac sodium was successfully prepared and shows effective as well as better carrier for the transdermal/topical preparation. The formulated nanogel was optimized for homogenicity, particle size, pH, drug content, in vitro drug release, skin irritation test, spreadability, extrudability, and viscosity. Administration of this through dermal route bypass the disadvantages of oral route and maintain the consistently plasma levels for the therapy for single dose. The initial release rate from each formulation was very rapid, this may be due to incomplete gel formation in the earlier time period, but the release became slow in latter period after complete gel formation. The release profiles exhibited an inflection point, which indicated gel formation on the diffusion membrane in donor compartment of diffusion cell. During gel formation, formulation got converted into the gel phase and thus drug release became slow. The results showed that the formed gels had the ability to retain diclofenac sodium for the duration. The production of the formulation is also proved to be better and cost effective in comparison with oral dosage forms.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The authors are thankful to the management, principal and the staff of Sandip Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences for their kind help and support.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There are no conflict of interest.

ABBREVIATION USED

nm: Nanometer; **GIT:** Gastrointestinal tract; **gm:** Gram; **ml:** Milliliter; **kg:** Kilogram; **cm:** Centimeter; **rpm:** Revolutions per minute; **ICH:** International Conference on Harmonisation; μm: Micrometer; mm: Milimeter; **sec.:** Second; μg/ml: Microgram per mililiter; **g.cm/s:** Gram centimeter per second; **RH:** Relative Humidity.

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SUMMARY

• Diclofenac sodium has been used as Non-Steroidal anti-inflamma¬tory drug (NSAID's) for its anti-inflammatory and anal¬gesic effect. Oral route causes irritation and ulceration of GIT. An improved Diclofenac formula with high degree of skin permeation can be useful in treatment of not only inflamed tissues but also inflammatory pain.

• Nanogel combines the advantage of hydrogel inherting the property of nanoscale size. Nanogel network provide high specific form can host and protect drug molecules. The release of the drug molecules can be incorporated by providing highaffinity functional groups. Diclofenac sodium nanogel which provides prolonged release.

• The present study is to formulate nanosize dispersion of diclofenac sodium by emulsion-solvent diffusion method and incorporation of gelling agent to produce nanogel. Diclofenac sodium nanogel formulated using carbopol with permeation enhancer has shown better flux enhancement in comparison with nanogel formulated using HPMC and methyl cellulose. Gels containing diclofenac sodium with Eudragit polymer shown better permeability coefficient.

• The formulated nanogel was optimized for homogenicity, particle size, pH, drug content, *in vitro* drug release, skin irritation test, spreadability, extrudability, and viscosity.



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Cite this article: Talele S, Nikam P, Ghosh BD, Deore C, Jaybhave A, Jadhav AG. A Research Article on Nanogel as Topical Promising Drug Delivery for Diclofenac Nanogel. Indian J of Pharmaceutical Education and Research. 2017;51(4S):S580-S7.