BUDESONIDE COMPATIBILITY STUDY WITH EXCIPIENTS FOR PREPARATION OF NANOPARTICLE

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INTRODUCTION

Budesonide is a potent glucocorticosteroid with a strong topical anti-inflammatory activity and low systemic effects, which was commonly used by inhalation for the treatment of asthma. Structurally, budesonide is a 16α, 17α-acetal prepared with nbutyraldehyde by reacting 16α, 17α-dihydroxy steroid (16α-hydroxy prednisolone) [1]. Budesonide is a combination of two epimers (22R and 22S) due to the insertion of the alkyl chain at the C22 atom (fig. 1). The two epimers tend to have similar pharmacological effects, but in vitro studies have shown that the anti-inflammatory effects of the R-epimer are two to three times stronger. While budesonide has been widely used in the United States, the European Pharmacopoeia has the only pharmacopoeia monograph for budesonide (EP). The EP monograph for budesonide notes that the R:S epimer ratio should be in the range 60:49 to 40:51. Budesonide is subject to thermal degradation, alkali and acid [2, 3].

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Materials

Based on their versatility and physicochemical properties, solvents and excipients have been selected. Glycerol Monostearate (GMS) was obtained from CDH Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai, Poloxamer 188 from BASF, Mumbai and Ethanol from New Neeta Chemicals, Pune.

Methods

Specific proportions of the different formulations of solvent, water, GMS and Poloxamer 188 were prepared as shown in table 1. In addition, the compatibility study was observed with respect to appearance (coarser particle size, aggregates) at Accelerated (40 °C±2 °C/75 percent RH±5 percent RH), Intermediate (30 °C±2 °C/65 percent RH±5 percent RH), Long-term (25 °C±2 °C/60 percent RH±5 percent RH) and at 2-8 °C. The stability of drugs is influenced not only by their chemistry but also by their climatic conditions, such as room temperature, moisture content, light, etc. is likely to be unstable. However, knowledge about compatibility testing is still very limited. The objective of this article was to evaluate the stability of the budesonide solution in mixture of solvent and polymers and to further study researchers in the production of budesonide nanoparticles [6-8].

Fig. 1: Structure of budesonide

Large differences between the actual content and the label statements of drug substances have frequently been reported in some mixtures of solvents, excipients and manufactured products [4]. Several other potential variables that could be related to the origin of the materials can be attributed to the low quality of the products [5, 6]. No published studies have been conducted on the solution stability of solvents and excipients under strictly regulated conditions, as well as on factors that affect stability. In fact, few such experiments have been recorded in the field. Restricted solution phase stability analysis is necessary even for a substance intended to be formulated into dosage forms to ensure that the drug does not degrade in gastrointestinal fluids. This knowledge will allow us to choose the right excipients and solvents to use in budesonide nanoparticles [6-8].
Budesonide is a crystalline powder insoluble in water, sparingly soluble in aqueous buffers but soluble in organic solvents such as ethanol, dimethyl sulfoxide and dimethylformamide. In ethanol, the observed solubility is respectively 10, 20 and 25 mg/ml. A clear solution was observed when a specific amount of budesonide was dissolved in 1 ml of ethanol and 9 ml of water. Ethanol, taking into account glycerol monostearate, poloxamer 188 and water, was therefore used in each mixture [3, 9, 10].

**Effect of poloxamer 188**

Poloxamer 188, a poly (ethylene oxide) (PEO) and poly (propylene oxide) (PPO) triblock copolymer, is also a surfactant that solubilizes drug molecules, leading to the formation of fine particles [20, 23, 24]. The same phenomenon might have occurred in this mixture leading to the formation of fine particles [20, 23, 24].

**Effect of glycerol monostearate**

As an effective stabilizer, poloxamer 188 and poloxamer 188 for heat-sensitive scenarios by Poloxamer 188 (P188), 8,400 g/mol PEO -PO-PEO triblock copolymer comprising two segments of 75 PEO units on either side of a segment of 30 PPO units [13-15]. Pluronic’s is, therefore a new form of nanomedicine that can increase solubility, increase circulation time, and release drugs to target sites. In aqueous medium, it can typically form cylindrical aggregates which exhibit a higher solubilization capacity than the spherical micelles produced by the hydrophobic Pluronic. Pluronic has a well-known colloidal steric stabilization effect with a high ratio of EO/PPO [16-19].

**Table 1: Varied mixtures for preparation of nanoparticles**

| S. No. | Mixtures | 30 °C±2 °C/65% RH±5% RH | 40 °C ±2 °C/75% RH±5% RH | 25 °C±2 °C/60% RH±5% RH | 2-8 °C |
|--------|----------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------|
| 1.     | Ethanol: Water | Clear Solution | Clear Solution | Clear Solution | Clear Solution |
| 2.     | Ethanol: Water+Budesonide | Clear Solution | Clear Solution | Clear Solution | Clear Solution |
| 3.     | Ethanol: Water+Glycerol Monostearate | Clear Solution | Fine Particle Observed | Few particles observed | Few particles observed |
| 4.     | Ethanol: Water+Poloxamer 188 | Clear Solution | Clear Solution | Clear Solution | Clear Solution |
| 5.     | Ethanol: Water+Budesonide+Glycerol Monostearate | Fine Particle Observed | Clear Solution | Clear Solution | Clear Solution |
| 6.     | Ethanol: Water+Budesonide+Glycerol Monostearate+Poloxamer 188 | Crystal Growth | Clear Solution | Clear Solution | Clear Solution |
| 7.     | Ethanol: Water+Budesonide+Glycerol Monostearate+Poloxamer 188 | Clear Solution | Fine Particle Observed | Clear Solution | Clear Solution |
| 8.     | Ethanol: Water+Glycerol Monostearate+Poloxamer 188 | Crystal Growth | Clear Solution | Clear Solution | Clear Solution |

**Table 2: Impact on mixtures when kept for accelerated (40 °C±2 °C/75 percent RH±5 percent RH), intermediate (30 °C±2 °C/65 percent RH±5 percent RH) and at 2-8 °C for one month**

| S. No. | Mixtures | 30 °C±2 °C/65% RH±5% RH | 40 °C ±2 °C/75% RH±5% RH | 25 °C±2 °C/60% RH±5% RH | 2-8 °C |
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| 3.     | Ethanol: Water+Glycerol Monostearate | Clear Solution | Fine Particle Observed | Few particles observed | Few particles observed |
| 4.     | Ethanol: Water+Poloxamer 188 | Clear Solution | Clear Solution | Clear Solution | Clear Solution |
| 5.     | Ethanol: Water+Budesonide+Glycerol Monostearate | Fine Particle Observed | Clear Solution | Clear Solution | Clear Solution |
| 6.     | Ethanol: Water+Budesonide+Glycerol Monostearate+Poloxamer 188 | Crystal Growth | Clear Solution | Clear Solution | Clear Solution |
| 7.     | Ethanol: Water+Budesonide+Glycerol Monostearate+Poloxamer 188 | Clear Solution | Fine Particle Observed | Clear Solution | Clear Solution |
| 8.     | Ethanol: Water+Glycerol Monostearate+Poloxamer 188 | Crystal Growth | Clear Solution | Clear Solution | Clear Solution |

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

**Effect of ethanol**

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**Ethanol: water and budesonide**

At room temperature, budesonide has very low solubility in water. With adjustable polarity, water is a solvent. When the water temperature is high, the polarity of the water decreases. To measure polarity, the dielectric constant is used. The polarity of water is reduced from 84 to 45 at 150 °C. Decreasing the polarity allows water to dissolve a number of hydrophobic organic compounds. In order to improve the temperature solubility of water, the solubility of organic compounds in water can be improved by adding organic solvents mixed with the solution. The dielectric constant of the mixture of solvents is decreased by adding organic solvents to the mixture like, ethanol [4, 9, 28]. With the addition of ethanol, the solubility of drugs increased, reached maximum values, and then again decreased in ethanol. The same was found in the combination of ethanol: water and ethanol: water+budesonide forming the fine particles at 2-8 °C [3, 9, 10, 29].

**Ethanol: water+glycerol monostearate**

This showed that there is a level of concentration where the intermolecular interaction between GMS and budesonide effectively occurs. The pH of the solution led the development of lamellar structures in the mixture, regardless of the ratios between GMS and budesonide. It promoted the formation of crystal-like structures leading to the formation of fine particles [20, 23, 24]. The same phenomenon might have occurred in this mixture leading to the formation of the fine particles at 40 °C±2 °C/75% RH±5% RH and 25 °C±2 °C/60% RH±5% RH one-month conditions.
Ethanol: water+budesonide+glycerol monostearate and ethanol: water+budesonide+glycerol monostearate+poloxamer 188

Clear solution was obtained at 40 °C±2 °C/75% RH±5% RH for Ethanol: Water+Budesonide+Glycerol Monostearate and at 30 °C±2 °C/65% RH±5% RH for Ethanol: Water+Budesonide+Glycerol Monostearate+Poloxamer 188. The other conditions exhibited presence of fine particles which can be controlled by varying the concentrations of the surfactant and the solvent used in the formulation. The observed fine particles may be because of a heterogeneous network of crystalline particles was formed by the mixture of GMS, promoting non-uniform bond strength and the resulting "ductile-like" rupture [22]. As the gel is sheared, the system might collapse into smaller clusters of aggregates, but with the reduction in shear, the reestablishment of these clusters into an organized and cohesive network would be hampered as the shear forces have overcome the Brownian motion of suspended crystals [14, 30]. Nanoparticles are affected by the initial amount of drug used. The pH of the aqueous medium can also be changed by increasing the concentration of the drug, especially when the drugs have pH-dependent groups, and these changes in pH can lead to precipitation of the drug and increase the PS and PDI. Therefore, as used, drugs generally buffer the aqueous phase to preserve the pH. Additionally, the amount of drug present is generally much smaller than the amount of aqueous phase. In such cases, by increasing the concentration of the drug, the pH of the aqueous phase will not be significantly changed [31-33]. Due to the increase in free surface energy, aggregation occurs so that the particles begin to interact with each other, causing changes in the particle size. As a dispersing medium, the use of a surfactant serves as a steric stabilizer and inhibits the incorporation of particles to prevent the formation of aggregates. A change in particle size is caused by the presence of these aggregates [26, 28-30].

Ethanol: water+glycerol monostearate+poloxamer 188

Crystal growth was observed when kept for 30 °C±2 °C/65% RH±5% RH whereas a clear solution was obtained in rest of the conditions. This may be observed due to particle aggregation induced by surface-bound surfactants, an increase in surfactant concentration contributes to a higher PDI. This was accompanied by an observation that, as increased drug molecules attempt to build up the system, there is a need for surfactants to stabilize the system [4].

CONCLUSION

The various mentioned combinations have advantages and disadvantages of its own at a specific concentration. Many factors should be considered when choosing an appropriate mixture to prepare nanoparticles for its efficacy, quality, and safety. Budesonide in few mixtures showed good compatibility at defined stability conditions in one month. Such type of preformulation compatibility study is necessary in preparation of nanoparticles. It would be helpful in screening and identifying a suitable solvent, polymer and mixture at a desired concentration.

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AUTHORS CONTRIBUTIONS

All the authors have contributed equally.

CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interests regarding the publication of this manuscript.

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