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Formulation Development with Box-behnken design Study of Ondansetron HCl Ethosome for chemotherapy induced nausea vomitting

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ABSTRACT

Aim of this work was evaluation of Ethosome by box-behnken design study of Ondansetron HCl Ethosome for physicochemical characterization was carried out by scanning electron microscopy, zeta sizer, particle size analyser and freeze fracture performed. Ethosomes shown a higher % EE greater ability to deliver entrapped drug because of ethonol effect. The optimized batch of Ethosome has zeta potential of -24 mv, vesicle size was found to 242.3nm (PDI = 0.245). *In-vivo* release study performed using Guinea pig skin through Franz's cells for (24 hr). Ethosome shows higher flux by Hyton and chains analysis. Gel prepared by using Carbopol 940 shows pesudoplastic flow. Ondansetron HCl undergoes first-pass metabolism, so its bioavailability may be improved when delivered through transdermal route. The 3-D response plots were constructed from linear model obtained from the regression analysis through Design Expert®. ANOVA on the basis of p-value was found to be less than 0.05 at 95% Confidence limit by student-t test.

Keywords: vesicle, box-behnken design, ondansetron HCl, Ethosomes, permeation enhancer.

INTRODUCTION

Cancer Treatment suffer from side effects of nausea and vomiting, To prevent or minimize these side effects of anticancer treatments with 5 HT-3 antagonist such as tropisetron, ondansetron, granisetron and dolasetron, known as serotonin receptor antagonists have been widely administered either parenteral or orally on a daily basis. The transdermal delivery of antiemetic drug is an interesting concept, and seems to be beneficial in a great many patients with chemotherapy induced nausea vomitting[1].

Ondansetron HCl is a potent and selective 5hydroxytryptamine (5HT-3) receptor antagonist with antiemetic activity indicated for the prevention or treatment of nausea and vomiting associated with cytotoxic chemotherapy radiotherapy and postoperative nausea and vomiting. Ondansetron HCl is rapidly absorbed from the gastrointestinal tract and reaches maximum concentration in serum after approximately 1.6 hr. Ondansetron HCl undergoes first-pass metabolism so its bioavailability may be improved when delivered through transdermal route. So there is a need to develop a transdermal formulation of Ondansetron HCl which increases patient compliance and non-invasive. The word vesicle' having a biological origin actually means a bubble of liquid within a cell. Technically a vesicle is a small, intracellular, membrane-enclosed sac that stores or transports substances within a living cell[2]. Touitou (1998) discovered and investigated lipid vesicular systems embodying ethanol in relatively high concentration and named them Ethosomes. The basic difference between and Ethosomes lies in Liposomes their composition. The high concentration of ethanol (20-50%) in ethosomal formulation could disturb the skin lipid bilayer organization. Touitou (19980) discovered and investigated lipid vesicular systems embodying ethanol in relatively high concentration and named them Ethosomes. Ethanol acts as a penetration enhancer through the skin. The mechanism of its penetration enhancing effect is well-known. Ethanol penetrates into intercellular lipids and increases the fluidity of cell membrane lipids and decrease the density of lipid multilayer of cell membrane. Increased cell membrane lipid fluidity caused by the ethanol of Ethosomes results increased skin permeability. So the Ethosomes permeates very easily inside the deep skin layers, where it got fused with skin lipids and releases the

*Corresponding Author Address: Giram Prabhanjan Sridhar, PhD fellow, CSIR-NCL, Pashan Road, Pune, Maharashtra 41100, India; Email: Prabhanjanpharma@gmail.com drugs into deep layer of skin. Liposome have problem of drug leakage which is overcome by using Ethosome. Stability of vesicle is enhanced by use of the ethanol. Ondansetron HCl BCS -3 drug, so permeation of the vesicle containing Ondansetron HCl enhanced virtue of ethanol effect of ethanol and ethosomal effect of Ethosomes. Literature revels that no work is reported on ondansetron in gel based vesicular delivery of antiemetic drug is an interesting concept but its clinical use has found limited application due to remarkable barrier properties of the outermost layer of the skin.

Literature also suggests that Ethosomes has better stability than Liposomes, niosomes and more permeation than Liposomes and liquid drug solutions. First time attempt to develop liposomal and ethosomal TDDS for antiemetic drugs for the treatment of chemotherapy induced nausea and vomiting (CINV).Development of sustain release ethosomal and liposomal transdermal gel of ondansetron HCl. Attempt to increase permeation of ondansetron HCl through liposomal and ethosomal based system . Prolonged drug release frequency Improve patient Reduce dose compliance [3]. The animal experiment was approved by Institutional Animal Ethics Committee (IAEC) of Government College of Pharmacy, Aurangabad India (Ref. No. GCPA/IAEC/2012/555-Date: 4/6/2012) and carried out as per the guidelines of the committee.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Ondansetron HCl from (Cipla Mumbai), Was a Kind Gift Soya Lecithin from (ResearchLab), Cholesterol from (Dipa Laboratory Chemicals), Carbopol 940 From (Noveon), Ethanol extra pure from (Loba Chemie) All Other Chemicals Was of Analytical grade. Animal guinea pig from Wockhardt .The animal experiments was approved by Institutional Animal Ethics Committee (IAEC) of Government College of Pharmacy, Aurangabad, India (Ref. No. GCPA/IAEC/2012/555- Date: 4/6/2012).

Preparation of Ethosome: Preliminary batches of the Ethosomes was prepared by hot methode using soya lecithin (10-40mg), ethanol (20-50%) and cholesterol (10 -40 mg) as independent variable. The optimized batch (E5) was selected by Box-Behnken optimization (Table1) and In this method phospholipid soya lecithin is dispersed in water by heating in a water bath at 40°C until a colloidal solution is obtained. In a separate vessel ethanol, propylene glycol 0.5ml and cholesterol are mixed and heated to 40°C. Once both mixtures reach 40°C the organic phase is added to the

aqueous once. The drug initially dissolved in ethanol. The vesicle size of ethosomal formulation can be decreased to the desire extent using Sonication for 15 min. Then formulation is stored under refrigeration at 4° C for 24 hr[4].

Preparation of Ethosomal Gel: Ethosomal suspension containing Ondansetron HCl was incorporated into Carbopol 940 (20%w/w) as a gelling agent with constant stirring using a Teflon-coated magnetic bead, and the resulting mixture was then refrigerated at 4°C for 24 hr to obtained a completely hydrated, homogeneous and clear solution[5]. After solution as removed from refrigerator placed at room temperature, until it forms a completely hydrated, homogeneous, and clear gel. (Table2)

Characterization of Vesicles

In-vivo Permeation Studies: The guinea pig skin was mounted on modified franz diffusion cell. Invivo evaluation of permeation rates of preliminary and optimized ethosomal (E5) was performed respectively and drug solution containing same concentration of Ondansetron HCl through guinea pig skin was studied (As control)[20,21]. At the predetermined sampling intervals, aliquots of 1 ml was withdrawn periodically and replaced with the same volume of fresh receptor fluid (20% PEG).Skin Permeation was studied for 24 hr. preliminary Experiments for batches was performed in triplicate. Drug concentrations was measured by UV-Spectrophotometric method. After the experiment the skin was cut into pieces and kept in 20% v/v (PEG-400) in water for 24hr to determined skin drug content. Then solutionwas filtered and analyzed by RP-HPLC method[6]. From this amount of drug remain in skin was determined By Hyton and Chien Equation (table 1, 2 and Fig :11)

$$C_n^1 = Cn (Vt/Vt - Vs)(C_n^1 - 1/Cn - 1)$$

Entrapment Efficiency Determination: Ethosomal Suspension prepared by hot methd Method was further optimized for the entrapment efficiency[7,8,9]. The prepared Ethosomes was kept overnight at 4° C and ultra centrifuged (Megafuge 1.0 R, Heraeus, Hanau, Germany) for 5 hr at 14000 rpm. The free (unentrapped) Ondansetron HCl concentration was determined in the supernatant spectrophotometrically (Shimadzu UV–1601 PC Double Beam, Kyoto, Japan) at λ max 310.5nm. The Ondansetron HCl entrapment percentage was calculated from the following formula:

EE = [(Qt - Qs)/Qt] * 100

Skin Irritation Studies: The skin irritation potential of the optimized batch(E5) of Ethosomes

was investigated in guinea pigs[10]. Skin irritation following single application (single insult challenge) was assessed by a visual erythema scoring method (Fig1).

Vesicle Size and Size Distribution: Vesicle size of optimized (E5) batch of Ethosomes and was determined using zeta sizer (Beckmann coulter counter) (Fig2).

Microscopic Examination: MicroscopyOlympus® Cx31 Equipped With Magnus Pro.V.3.0. Software of the Optimized E5 Formulations of Ethosomes Revealed the Presence of Ethosomal vesicle.

Zeta Potential Analysis: Zeta potential of optimized (E5) batch of Ethosomes was determined using zeta sizer (Beckmann coulter counter) (Fig4). which was initially calibrated according to Beckmann instrument specification[11,12].

Surface Morphology Evaluation: Scanning electron microscopy (Jsm-760 Of Philips) Photomicrographs of optimized (E5) batch of Ethosomes vesicle was taken using a scanning electron microscope to study the surface morphology of Vesicle (Fig5).

Evaluation of Ethosomal Gel Formulations: The gel formulation containing Ondansetron HCl was evaluated for pH, viscosity, consistency and clarity, drug content uniformity, histopathology (Table3) (Fig8).

Freeze Fracture Analysis: Vesicle characterization, the samples, after centrifugation for 30 min at room temperature (Microcentrifuge Ole Dich. NCL Pune),was examined by means of the freeze fracture microscopy technique: samples were impregnated with 30% glycerol and then frozen in partially solidified Freon 22, freeze fractured in a freeze fracture device (_105 8C, 10-6 mm Hg) and replicated by evaporation from a platinum/carbon gun[13]. The replicas were extensively washed with distilled water, picked up onto Formvar-coated grids and examined with a Philips CM 10 transmission electron microscope.(Fig9).

Statistical Analysis Optimization: E5 batch showing max entrapment 74%. flux permeability $27.52(\mu g/cm^{2}/hr),$ coefficient 2.4(cm/hr) was selected for further studies by boxbehnken optimization cube plot. ANOVA on the basis of p-value was found to be less than 0.05 at 95% Confidence limit by student-t test. (Fig 5-10.)Data analysis of factorial batches with statistical software has been very popular, especially for a small number of factors. For t = 3factors, the Box-Behnken (BB) design requires only 12 runs, plus a recommended n = 3 center point. Box-Behnken (BB) was used for the study and 3 factors were evaluated variables of study were formula percentage of Ethanol, soya lecithin and Cholesterol. The dependent parameter was drug entrapment, flux and permeation. Experimental design can be defined as the strategy for setting up experiments in such a manner that the information required is obtained as efficiently and precisely as possible. The factorial experimental designs are suitable over traditional optimization in terms of minimum number of experiments and ease evaluation of statistical significance in of independent factors on dependent variables. The factorial design requires lesser efforts than that of traditional optimization methods[14,15].

The factorial design can serve as an essential tool to understand the complexity of mechanisms of pharmaceutical formulations. The polynomial equations are used to evaluate the statistical significance of the obtained responses. An asymmetrical general factorial experimental design was used for study. The ethanol, soya lecithin and cholesterol were independent variables and entrapment (%) flux (ug/cm2/hr) and permeability coefficient ug/hr were responses of the study.

Y=b0+b1 X1+b2 X2+b12 X1X2+b11X12+b22X22

Where, Y is the dependent variable, $isb_{0}s$ the arithmetic mean response of the twelve runs and bi(b1,b2,,b12,b11) and b22)is the estimated coefficient for corresponding factor Xi (X1,X2,X12,X11,and X22), which represents the average results of changing one factor at a time from its low to high value. The interaction term (X1X2) depicts the changes in the response when two factors are simultaneously changed. The polynomial terms (X12 and X22) are included to investigate nonlinearity[19,20]

The final equations in terms of coded values of factors and actual values of factor obtained from , Final Equations for % entrapment in Terms of Coded Factors: Entrapment =+42.38+0.45 * A[1]+1.44 * A[2]+6.15 * A[3]-6.32 * B-2.86 *C+6.35 * A[1]B-4.50 * A[2]B-1.02* A[3]B-1.54* A[1]C-3.41 * A[2]C+4.08* A[3]C-3.32 * BC

(r2 =0.0277015)

Final Equations for flux in Terms of Coded Factors:

Flux =+14.54-9.05 * A[1]-4.51 * A[2]+17.23 * A[3]-4.76 * B+2.41* C+5.90* A[1]B

+8.15 * A[2]B-18.08* A[3]B-1.05 * A[1]C-0.84* A[2]C+2.92 * A[3]C+0.23* BC (r2 =0.024947)

The percent entrapment and flux of factorial batches is shown in the Tables 14. The summary of response as reported earlier reveals dependence of flux on the concentration ethanol and soya lecithin while cholesterol, another independent variable was found to have overall no significant effect on the entrapment and flux. The effects of variables can be studied by the above equations. The regression coefficient values are used to validate the model fitting [22-23]. The regression coefficient was high indicating the adequate fitting of the quadratic model for response entrapment and flux. The polynomial equations can also be used to draw conclusions considering the magnitude of coefficient and mathematical sign it carries; i.e. positive or negative. If the terms in the equation are positive it contribute positively to the response similarly if the terms is negative it contribute negatively to the response. In the present study positive coefficient of independent factor ethanol showed that it contributes positively to entrapment and flux and leads to enhancement of the drug release at all response points and it is a significant variable in the drug release. However, the negative coefficient of soya lecithin of equations of flux and entrapment indicates significance of independent variable. The analysis of variance study of the data also showed same results revealing the ethanol as significant variable (P value <0.05) at flux, permeability coefficient. As response point and insignificant at entrapment response, while the cholesterol, soya lecithin was insignificant variable at all response point. It again indicates the significance of ethanol in the drug release from the developed formulation of ethosomes.

The 3-D response plots were constructed from linear model obtained from the regression analysis through Design Expert® in which the responses were represented by bars as a function of independent variables as shown in the Figures9 to 12. The relationship between the response and independent variables can be directly visualized from the response plots. The response and interaction plots used to observe the response's dependence on the input variables to predict this response over the whole of the domain, and possibly also at its periphery.[16,17,18]

RESULTS

Size of optimized E5 batch of Ethosomes was found in nano range (242.3 nm). It was observed that increase in concentration of ethanol reduces vesicle size which leads to enhancement in permeation and flux. Polydispersity index of 0.245 indicates that vesicles are monodispersed with distribution of vesicles from 242.3 nm to 349.20 nm range. Vesicle size of optimized Microscopic examination of the optimized Ethosomesbatch formulations revealed the presence of vesicles. Zeta potential of optimized Ethosomes E5batch % entrapment efficiency of optimized was found to be 74%. Flux of optimized Ethosomes E5batch was found to be 27.52 (µg/cm²/hr). Permeability coefficient of optimized Ethosomes E5 batch and flux of was found to be 2.4 (cm/hr) respectively. Surface morphology analysis performed by using scanning electron microscopy.skin sensitivity test shows no erythema for optimized E5 so suitable for transdermal application.ethosome as better drug delivery for Ondansetron HCl.

DISCUSSION

In the present study an attempt was made to formulate, optimise and develop ethosomal system of Ondansetron HCl with the aim to have rapid onset of action which will last for prolonged period of time. In preliminary trial batches for preliminary studies two levels of ethanol, two levels of cholesterol and two level of soya lecithin was selected based on entrapment efficiency. Boxbehnken design was used for further optimization containing twelve batches. Three independent variables ethanol, soya lecithin and cholesterol was used against entrapment efficiency and flux as dependent variables sows significant effect on formulation. E5 batch showing max entrapment flux 27.52 (μ g/cm²/hr), permeability 74%. coefficient 2.4(cm/hr) was selected for further studies. Ethosomal gel containing ethosomal suspension (E5) and Carbopol 940 as gelling agent (20 % w/w) was prepared and compared with plain gel containing same drug concentration for in vitro drug release. Comparative In-vitro drug release study of plain drug solution, drug in ethosomal suspension form, gel with plain drug and gel with ethosomal suspension was carried out for 24 hours. It was found that cumulative release and flux of ethosomal suspension was more than drug solution containing same drug concentration (less Lag time) and ethosomal gel showed enhanced permeation as compared to plain gel. prepared gels was evaluated for pH, viscosity, consistency and uniformity of content.

CONCLUSION

Entrapment increases with increase in concentration of ethanol ethosomal gel shows increased in permeation than plain gel containing same drug concentration. Finally, it can be concluded that Ondansetron HCl can be

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successfully formulated in gel based ethosomal TDDS which can be used to achieve faster onset of action and the formulation can still prolong the drug delivery for more than 24 hours. However it requires further study on human cadaver skin, in vivo study and establishment if *In-vitro* relations

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Table 1: Ethosomal Box-behnken design									
Batch Code	ONDA HCl (mg)	Ethanol(ml)	Soya lecithin (mg)	Propylen e glycol (ml)	Choleste rol (mg)	Entrap ment (%)	Flux (ug/cm2/ hr)	Permea bility coefficie nt(x10 ⁻³) (cm/h)	
E1	8	3.50	10.00	0.5	10.00	49	1.5	0.014	
E2	8	4.00	10.00	0.5	15.00	51	3.82	0.33	
E3	8	3.00	10.00	0.5	15.00	41	0.6608	0.0539	
E4	8	4.00	15.00	0.5	20.00	44	6.36	0.0564	
E5	8	4.00	15.00	0.5	10.00	74	27.52	2.4	
E6	8	3.50	20.00	0.5	20.00	47	3.3	0.0294	
E7	8	3.50	20.00	0.5	10.00	38	26.93	2.3	
E8	8	3.00	15.00	0.5	20.00	42	8.264	0.0733	
E9	8	4.00	20.00	0.5	15.00	56	9.1	0.015	
E10	8	3.00	20.00	0.5	15.00	50	10.72	0.957	
E11	8	3.00	15.00	0.5	10.00	43	12.31	1.093	
E12	8	3.50	10.00	0.5	20.00	61	10.71	0.951	
*Box-behnken o	lesion								

*Box-bennken	design

Table2: Ethoson	al gel composition						
Composition	Ingredients						
	ONDA HCl		8 (w/w %)				
Plain Ondansetron HCl	Carbopol 940		20 (w/w %)				
	Water		80 (V/V%)				
Ethogonal Cal	Ethosomal susper	sion (E5)	80 (V/V%)				
Ethosomal Gel	Carbopol 940	Carbopol 940					
Table 3: Ethosomal gel evaluation							
Formulation pH code (E5)	Viscosity (cp)	Clarity	Content Uniformity				
Ethosomal gel 5.2							
Ethosomal gel 5.2	$0 15 \pm 0.26$	++	98.01%				
6	$\frac{0}{15 \pm 0.26}$		98.01%				
*+ = Poor ++	= Good +++ = Exceller	nt	98.01%				
*+ = Poor ++		nt					
*+ = Poor ++ Table 4 <u>: Ethoso</u>	= Good +++ = Exceller me parameter evaluation	nt					
*+ = Poor ++ Table 4: Ethoso Sr.no	= Good +++ = Exceller me parameter evaluation Parameter	nt n Ethosome					
*+ = Poor ++ Table 4 <u>: Ethoso</u> Sr.no 1	= Good +++ = Exceller me parameter evaluation Parameter % EE (%)	nt 1 Ethosome 74					
* = Poor + + Table 4: Ethoso 1 2	= Good +++ = Exceller me parameter evaluation Parameter % EE (%) Particle size (nm)	nt Ethosome 74 242.3					

Zeta potential

-14.12

5

Formulation code	ONDA HCl (mg)	Ethanol(ml)	Soya lecithin (mg)	Propylene glycol (ml)	Cholesterol (mg)
<i>E1</i>	8	3.50	10.00	0.5	10.00
E2	8	4.00	10.00	0.5	15.00
<i>E3</i>	8	3.00	10.00	0.5	15.00
<i>E4</i>	8	4.00	15.00	0.5	20.00
<i>E5</i>	8	4.00	15.00	0.5	10.00
<i>E6</i>	8	3.50	20.00	0.5	20.00
<i>E7</i>	8	3.50	20.00	0.5	10.00
E8	8	3.00	15.00	0.5	20.00
E9	8	4.00	20.00	0.5	15.00
E10	8	3.00	20.00	0.5	15.00
E11	8	3.00	15.00	0.5	10.00
E12	8	3.50	10.00	0.5	20.00

Giram *et al.*, World J Pharm Sci 2015; 3(2): 288-298 Table 5: Factorial Batches for Ethosome by Box-behnken design

Table6:Summary of Statistical Design

Factor	Names	Units	Type	Subtype	Min	Max	Cod	Values	Std.
A	SOYA LECITHIN	mg	Numeri	Contin	10.00	20.00	1.000=10.00	1.000=20.00	4.08
B	CHOLEST EROL	mg	Numeri	Contin	10.00	20.00	1.000=10.00	1.000=20.00	4.08
С	ETHANOL	ml	Numeri	Contin	3.00	4.00	1.000=3.00	1.000=4.00	0.41

Table7:Summary of Responses

Response	Description	Units	Obs.	Analysis	Min	Max	Mean
Y1	Entrapment	%	12	Polynomial	Min	Max	Mean
Y2	Flux	(ug/cm ² /hr)	12	Polynomial	38	74	49.6667
Y3	Permeation coefficient	cm/hr	12	Polynomial	0.6608	27.52	10.0996

Table 8 : % EE ANOVA for Response Surface Linear Model

Sum of Source	Square	Mean Df	F Square	P-Value	Prob> F	
Model	327.75	3	109.25	1.11	0.234	Significant
A-SOYA LECITHIN	15.13	1	15.13	0.15	0.188	
B-CHOLESTEROL	12.50	1	12.50	0.13	0.232	
C-ETHANOL	300.13	1	300.13	3.04	0.199	

Table9:Flux ANOVA for Response Surface Linear Model

Sum of Source	Squares	Mean Df	F Square	P-Value	Prob> F	
Model	711.48	6	118.58	4.01	0.0746	significant
A-SOYA LECITHIN	139.10	1	139.10	4.70	0.0823	
B-CHOLESTEROL	196.28	1	196.28	6.63	0.0497	
C-ETHANOL	27.55	1	27.55	0.93	0.0789	

Table 10: Permeation Coefficient ANOVA for Response Surface Linear Model

Sum of Source	Squares	Mean df	F Square	P-Value	Prob>F	
Model	6.66	6	1.11	3.05	0.01206	significant
A-SOYA LECITHIN	0.48	1	0.48	1.31	0.03042	
B-CHOLESTEROL	2.76	1	2.76	7.58	0.0402	
C-ETHANOL	0.049	1	0.049	0.13	0.01294	

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Fig 1: Skin Irritation Study

Visual observation	Erythema score	Conclusion	Suitability
	0	No erythema	Suitable
a contractor			
Contraction of the second			
For Ethosome			



Fig 3: Microscopic Examination of Ethosome E5



* Ethosome E5

Fig 4: Zeta Potential Analysis of Ethosome E5



* Ethosome E5

Giram et al., World J Pharm Sci 2015; 3(2): 288-298 Fig 5: Surface Morphology Study of Ethosome E5



* Ethosome E5





*cube plot Ethosomes E5



* response surface plot for Ethosomes E5



Giram *et al.*, World J Pharm Sci 2015; 3(2): 288-298 Fig 7:cumulative release for Ethosome E5

Fig8: Histopathology of Guinea pig skin with E5 Ethosome



Fig9: Freeze Fracture of E5 Ethosome



Fig:10 Spreadsheet template for quantification and non-linear regression analysis of data generated from *in vitro* skin permeation study.



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