



"Advancements in Nanoparticle Drug Delivery Systems: Revolutionizing Targeted Therapeutics and Overcoming Conventional Limitations"

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ABSTRACT:

Nanoparticles represent a transformative advancement in novel drug delivery systems (NDDS), offering significant improvements over traditional dosage forms, which often suffer from rapid drug release, high doses, limited availability, instability, first-pass effects, and variable plasma drug levels. NDDS, particularly those employing nanoparticles, enhance drug shelf life, patient compliance, safety, and efficacy, addressing the limitations of conventional drug delivery methods. Nanoparticles, defined as particles with diameters between 10 and 100 nm, are pivotal in altering the pharmacokinetic and pharmacologic properties of drugs, facilitating targeted delivery, and enhancing therapeutic outcomes. They are created using diverse methods, resulting in particles that dissolve, encapsulate, or adsorb active ingredients within a matrix. The design of nanoparticles requires precise control over size, release patterns, and surface characteristics to achieve site-specific action at optimal rates and dosages. Historically, the first nanoparticles utilized non-biodegradable polymers; however, recent advancements have focused on biodegradable polymeric nanoparticles, such as those coated with poly (ethylene glycol) (PEG), known for their ability to circulate for extended periods and target specific organs. These systems have been extensively researched for applications in targeted drug delivery, including cancer chemotherapy and enzyme replacement therapy, through both passive and active targeting mechanisms. The necessity for innovative drug delivery systems is underscored by the suboptimal pharmacokinetic and biopharmaceutical properties of the majority of new therapeutic candidates. Nanoparticles address these issues by improving drug stability, solubility, absorption, and specificity, ultimately reducing required dosages and enhancing therapeutic indices and safety profiles. Nanoparticles, as colloidal drug delivery systems, include a variety of types such as solid lipid nanoparticles, liposomes, and nanostructured lipid carriers, each with unique structural and functional attributes. These systems can deliver drugs via multiple routes, including oral, nasal, and parenteral, and offer controlled drug release rates and improved therapeutic efficacy. Despite the advantages, challenges such as particle aggregation, limited drug loading, and burst release must be addressed to fully realize the clinical and commercial potential of nanoparticles. Nevertheless, the ongoing research and development in nanomedicine hold promise for revolutionizing drug delivery and improving patient outcomes across a wide range of therapeutic areas.

Keywords: Novel Drug Delivery Systems (NDDS), Nanoparticles, CRISPR Delivery, Quantum Dots (QD), Therapeutic Index, Biodegradable Nanoparticles, Polymerization Techniques.

Introduction

Several innovative carriers in novel drug delivery systems (NDDS) offer advantages over traditional dosage forms. Conventional dosage forms have quick drug release, high dose and limited availability, instability, first pass effect, and changes in plasma drug level[1]. One of the key instruments in the pharmaceutical industry for growing drug markets is NDDS. By improving product shelf life, patient compliance, safety, and efficacy, NDDS can reduce issues[2]. Because of the growing body of knowledge regarding the potential impacts of nanoparticles on human health and environmental sustainability, as well as the growing amount of artificial nanoparticles entering the environment, nanoparticles are currently of interest. Nanoparticles are produced using a variety of methods and have a wide range of uses. Analytical hurdles in measuring and characterizing them are intriguing. Nanoparticles are defined as particles with a diameter of between 10 and 100 nm[3]. They alter the pharmacologic and pharmacokinetic characteristics of small and big compounds, making them useful as tailored delivery systems. They are systems that have the active ingredient dissolved, encapsulated, or adsorbed in a matrix substance that serves as the intended delivery vehicle.

Nanoparticles have been utilized to see how a medicine affects the target tissue, to boost stability against enzyme degradation, and to solubilize at the intravascular route[4]. Certain controls, like the nanoparticle's size, release pattern, and surface characteristics, must be considered throughout design in order to achieve site-specific activity at the best rate possible while adhering to the recommended dosage schedule. Sub-nano sized colloidal structures made of synthetic or semi-synthetic polymers are known as nanoparticles. Based on non-biodegradable polymeric systems (polyacrylamide, polymethylmethacrylate, and polystyrene), the first nanoparticles were reported. The antigen(s) or drug(s) can be carried by the polymeric nanoparticles. These bioactives are either chemically or physically bonded to the surface of the particles, or they are entrapped in the polymer matrix as solid solutions or particles[5].

The medication(s) may be added to the already created nanoparticles or during the nanoparticle preparation process. The word "particulates" is overly broad and ignores the system's morphological and structural organization. A new area of medicine called nanomedicine offers innovative uses. Particulate dispersions or solid particles with a size range of 10–1000 nm are referred to as nanoparticles[6]. The medication was encapsulated, dissolved, or connected to the matrix of nanoparticles. Nanoparticles can be either amorphous or crystalline, and they are in the solid form. This includes nanospheres and nanocapsules with sizes between 10 and 200 nm. Nanoparticle preparation has made considerable use of polymeric materials. One can obtain nanoparticles, nanospheres, or nanocapsules depending on the preparation technique used[7]. Whereas nanospheres are matrix systems where the drug is uniformly and physically spread, nanocapsules are systems where the drug is contained within a hollow surrounded by a special polymer membrane. Biodegradable polymeric nanoparticles, especially those coated with hydrophilic polymers like poly (ethylene glycol) (PEG), also referred to as long-circulating particles, have been explored as possible drug delivery vehicles in recent years due to their capacity to target specific organs for extended periods of time, act as carriers of DNA in gene therapy, and deliver proteins, peptides, and genes[8-12]. A great deal of research has been done on the formulation of nanoparticles as a targeted drug delivery mechanism. One of the two methods for achieving targeted drug delivery is passive targeting or active targeting. Drugs can be actively targeted by conjugating their molecules with ligands that are unique to cells or tissues. On the other hand, drug molecules can be included into microparticles or nanoparticles to achieve passive drug targeting. Colloidal drug delivery systems known as nanoparticles (NP) are made of natural, synthetic, and semi-synthetic polymers. The diameter of NP particles ranges from 10 nm to 1,000 nm. The internal structure of this colloidal drug delivery mechanism is distinct in Nanospheres in matrix type system, Nanocapsules in reservoir type system[13-16].

2. Need For Study

Currently, the pharmacokinetic and biopharmaceutical qualities of 95% of newly developed treatment candidates are subpar. Thus, it is necessary to create appropriate drug delivery systems that deliver the therapeutically active drug molecule exclusively to the site of action, sparing healthy organs and tissues. These systems should also reduce the dosages needed for effective treatment while raising the therapeutics indices and safety profiles of novel therapies[17]. For various reasons,

- 1) Pharmaceutical
 - a) Drug instability in conventional dosage form
 - b) Solubility

- 2) Biopharmaceutical
 - a) Low absorption
 - b) High membrane bounding
 - c) Biological instability

- 3) Pharmacokinetic/ Pharmacodynamic
 - a) Short half life
 - b) Large volume of distribution
 - c) Low specificity

- 4) Clinical
 - a) Low therapeutic index[18].

3. Goal / Objective

Controlling particle size, surface characteristics, and pharmacologically active agent release are key objectives in the design of nanoparticles as a delivery system. This allows for the achievement of the drug's site-specific action at the therapeutically ideal rate and dosage. to deliver a targeted action with low side effects and an improved therapeutic index by achieving the intended pharmacological response at a chosen location without unfavorable interactions at other sites. For example, enzyme replacement treatment and chemotherapy for cancer[19].

4. Ideal Characteristics

Targeted drug delivery system should be Biochemically inert (non-toxic), non-immunogenic Both physically & chemically stable in vivo & in vitro. Restrict drug distribution to target cells (or) tissues (or) organs & should have uniform capillary distribution. Controllable & predicate rate of drug release. Drug release does not affect drug action. Therapeutic amount of drug release. Minimal drug leakage during transit. Carriers used must be biodegradable (or) readily eliminated from the body without any problem & no carrier induced modulation of diseased state. The preparation of the delivery system should be easy (or) reasonably simple reproductive & cost effective[20].

5. Pros and cons

Nano -particles benefits

- They are site-specific, biodegradable, non-toxic and store for at least a year.
- You may target a drug to a particular position in the body by adding targeted ligands to particle surfaces or by using magnetic guidance.
- They give regulated drug release rates and characteristics for particle degradation that can easily be modulated using matrix constituent selection.
- The loading of the medication is high and without a chemical reaction drugs can be introduced into the systems; this is an essential factor to safeguard drug operation.
- They have better therapeutic efficacy and overall response/unit dose.
- The system can be used on different routes such as oral, nasal, maternal, intraocular, etc.
- Nanoparticles can easily be manipulated to achieve both passive and active drug targets

Cons

- There are limits on bioacceptability.
- Hard to produce in big quantities.
- The small amount of particles and the large area can make it difficult to aggregate particles due to their small size, thereby making it difficult to physically handle nanoparticles in liquid and dry form.
- Restricted loading and explosion contributes to the small particle size, as well as large surface area. Until nanoparticles can be clinically or commercially available, these practical problems should be solved.
- The present work is a step towards the production of drug delivery systems for nanoparticles, surface modulation, drug loading strategies, release control and future applications for nanoparticles[21].

6. Drug delivery mechanism using nanoparticular

By avoiding the reticuloendothelial system, employing increased permeability and retention effect, and target-specific targeting, nanoparticles achieve site-specific drug delivery. There are two methods used when applying drugs that use nanoparticles as carriers.

1) Surface Bound: The drug molecules stick to the nanoparticles' surface.

2) Core Bound: Using this technique, medication particles are concentrated within the nanoparticle matrix and sent to the intended location within the body. Adding drugs to a solution containing pre-prepared nanoparticles or adding them to the reaction mixture during the polymerization process are two ways to load drugs onto nanoparticles. There could be no binding or contact at all, surface adsorption, or a chemical nature to the nanoparticle-drug interaction. The chemical structure of the drug, the polymer, and the circumstances surrounding drug loading determine the amount of bound drug and the kind of drug-nanoparticle interaction[22].

By inhibiting the reticulo endothelial system and employing enhanced permeability, retention effect, and targeting, nanoparticles transport the medication to the desired location. Dogs that carry nanoparticles use two different methods[23].

Surface bound: The drug molecules are adhered to the surface of the nanoparticles.

Core bound: Using this method, the drug particles are condensed into the nano pharma matrix and then delivered to the target inside the body. By adding or adding to the reaction mixture during polymerization to a solution that contains previously manufactured nano particles, drugs can be loaded onto nanoparticles. The fundamental element of the interaction between nanoparticles and therapeutic products may be chemistry, surface adsorption, or any binding or contact. The digit.

depend on the drug's and polymer's chemical structures, drug loading circumstances, drug binding, and drug-nanoparticle interaction mode[24].

7.Types of nanoparticles

Although the kinds of nanoparticles listed below are all quite broad and multifunctional, this section describes some of their fundamental characteristics and their current recognized applications in nanomedicine.

- Solid lipid nanoparticles (SLNs)
- Liposomes
- Nanostructured lipid carriers (NLC)
- Fullerenes
- Nanoshells
- Quantum dots (QD)
- Super paramagnetic nanoparticles

Solid lipid nanoparticles (SLN)

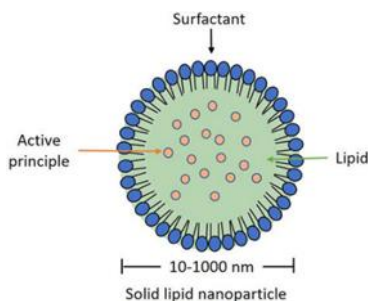


Fig.1 Solid lipid Nanoparticles (SLNs)

Surfactants for emulsification and lipids in the solid phase at room temperature make up the majority of SLNs. For colloid drug delivery applications, the mean diameters of these surfactants range from 50 nm to 1000 nm. Small size, vast surface area, high drug loading, phase interaction at interfaces, and other unique characteristics make solid-state nanoparticles (SLNs) appealing due to their potential to enhance the performance of medicines, nutraceuticals, and other materials[25]. High pressure homogenization (HPH), spray drying, high shear mixing, and ultrasonication are common techniques for creating SLNs. Fatty acids (such as palmitic acid, decanoic acid, and behenic acid), triglycerides (such as trilaurin, trimyristin, and tripalmitin), steroids (such as cholesterol), partial glycerides (such as glyceryl monostearate and glyceryl behenate), and waxes (such as cetyl palmitate) are examples of solid lipids used in SLN formulations. To stabilize lipid dispersion, emulsifiers such as soybean lecithin, phosphatidylcholine, poloxamer 188, sodium cholate, and sodium glycocholate are frequently utilized. These solid lipid nanoparticles' (SLN) benefits[26].

Liposomes

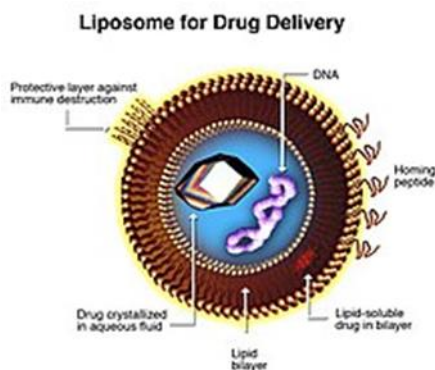


Fig.2 Liposomes

Liposomes are vesicular structures with an aqueous core surrounded by a hydrophobic lipid bilayer, created by the extrusion of phospholipids. Phospholipids are GRAS (generally recognized as safe) ingredients, therefore minimizing the potential for adverse effects. Solutes, such as drugs, in the core cannot pass through the hydrophobic bilayer however hydrophobic molecules can be absorbed into the bilayer, enabling the liposome to carry both hydrophilic and hydrophobic molecules. The lipid bilayer of liposomes can fuse with other bilayers such as the cell membrane, which promotes release of its contents, making them useful for drug delivery and cosmetic delivery applications[27]. Liposomes that have

vesicles in the range of nanometers are also called nanoliposomes. Liposomes can vary in size, from 15 nm up to several μm and can have either a single layer (unilamellar) or multiple phospholipid bilayer membranes (multilamellar) structure. Unilamellar vesicles (ULVs) can be further classified into small unilamellar vesicles (SUVs) and large unilamellar vesicles (LUVs) depending on their size range. The unique structure of liposomes, a lipid membrane surrounding an aqueous cavity, enables them to carry both hydrophobic and hydrophilic compounds without chemical modification. In addition, the liposome surface can be easily functionalized with 'stealth' material to enhance their *in vivo* stability or targeting ligands to enable preferential delivery of liposomes. These versatile properties of liposomes made them to be used as potent carrier for various drugs like antibacterials, antivirals, insulin, antineoplastics and plasmid DNA[28].

Nanostructured Lipid Carriers (NLC)

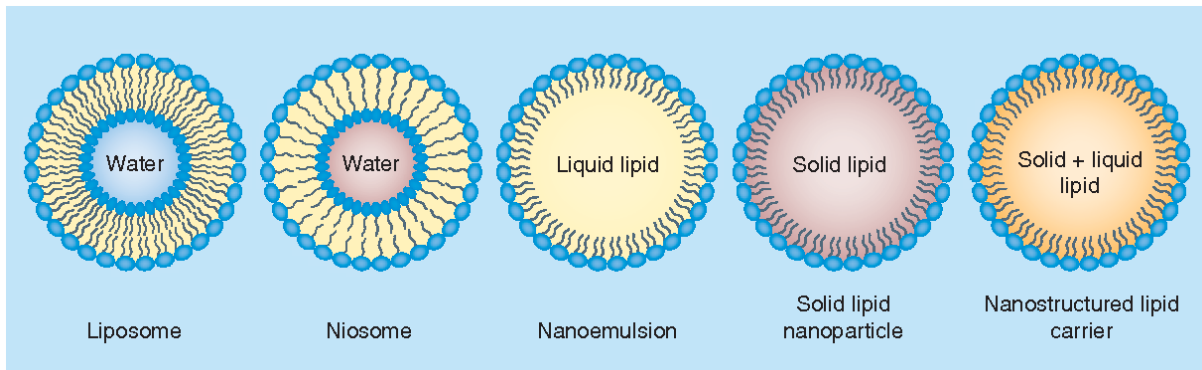


Figure 1. Various lipid-based systems explored for drug delivery applications.

Fig. 3 Nanostructured Lipid Carriers (NLC)

The materials used to create nanostructured lipid carriers are a mixture of liquid and solid lipids, however at body temperature, the particles are solid. Lipids are multifunctional chemicals that can form variously shaped solid matrices, including lipid drug conjugate nanoparticles (LDC) and nanostructured lipid carriers (NLC), which are designed to increase drug loading capacity. The technologies of solidified emulsion (dispersed phase) underpin the manufacturing of NLC. Drug evacuation following polymorphic change during storage may result in NLC presenting an inadequate loading capacity, especially if the lipid matrix is composed of identical molecules. Drug release from lipid particles happens via diffusion and concurrently with the body's breakdown of lipid particles. It may occasionally be preferable to have a regulated rapid release that goes beyond degradation and diffusion. When the particles are delivered, an impulse should ideally cause this release. Because of their very unordered lipid structures, NLCs are able to accommodate the medication. Applying the trigger impulse to the matrix to turn it into a more ordered structure can start the intended burst drug release. In this method, NLCs of certain structures can be activated. In general, NLCs can be used in situations where solid nanoparticles are advantageous for drug administration. Topical medication delivery, oral administration, and parenteral (subcutaneous or intramuscular and intravenous) routes are important pharmaceutical application areas. LDC nanoparticles have shown to be especially helpful in addressing the administration of water-soluble medications. They are also used in food, cosmetics, and agricultural items. In addition to increasing bioavailability and drug loading capacity, they have been used in the delivery of anti-inflammatory chemicals, cosmetic preparation, and topical corticotherapy[29].

Fullerene

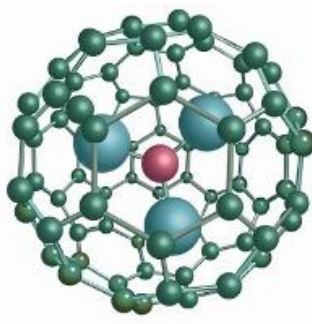


Fig. 4 Fullerene

Any molecule that is made completely of carbon and takes the shape of a hollow tube, ellipsoid, or sphere is known as a fullerene. Buck balls are another name for spherical fullerenes, whereas buck tubes or carbon nanotubes are the names given to cylindrical ones. In structure, fullerenes resemble graphite, which is made up of stacked grapheme sheets connected by hexagonal rings. In addition, fullerenes may have pentagonal (or occasionally heptagonal) rings, which could result in molecules with potential pores. Endohedral fullerenes, which comprise buckyballs or buck balls with fewer than 300 carbon atoms, are the most prevalent type of fullerene and include buckminsterfullerene (C₆₀). Mega tubes can potentially be used to transport a range of molecules of varying sizes because they have a wider diameter than nano tubes and are made with walls that vary in thickness. The term "nano onions" refers to spherical particles that are suggested for use in lubricants. They are composed of many carbon layers encircling a buck ball core. These fullerene qualities have enormous potential for use in personal care and wellness applications[30].

8.Limitations of Nanoparticles

- a) Particle-particle aggregation caused by small size and vast surface area can make handling nanoparticles in liquid and dry forms challenging.
- b) Moreover, restricted drug loading and burst release are easily produced by tiny particle size and vast surface area. The resolution of these pragmatic issues is necessary prior to the clinical application or commercialization of nanoparticles[31].

9.Applications of Nanoparticles

Nanoparticulate delivery method for tumor targeting. The justification for targeting tumors with nanoparticles is based on

- Nanoparticles will be able to deliver a concentrate dose of drug in the vicinity of the tumor targets via the enhanced permeability and retention effect or active nanoparticles.
- By limiting the distribution of drugs to the target organ, nanoparticles will lower the amount of drugs that are exposed to healthy tissues. An experiment showed that mice treated with doxorubicin integrated into poly (isohexylcynoacrylate) nanospheres showed increased doxorubicin concentrations in their liver, spleen, and lungs compared to mice treated with free doxorubicin[32].

Conclusion

In the realm of modern pharmaceuticals, Nanoparticle Drug Delivery Systems (NDDS) represent a groundbreaking advancement over conventional dosage forms. Traditional delivery methods are often plagued by rapid drug release, high dosage requirements, instability, first-pass metabolism, and erratic plasma drug levels. NDDS, through the innovative application of nanoparticles, addresses these challenges by enhancing drug stability, bioavailability, and patient compliance. Nanoparticles, defined as particles with diameters between 10 and 1000 nm, have revolutionized drug delivery by offering precise control over the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of therapeutic agents. These colloidal systems, whether in the form of nanospheres or nanocapsules, can be engineered to provide targeted delivery, controlled release, and improved therapeutic indices. They achieve site-specific drug delivery through mechanisms that either bind drugs to the nanoparticle surface or encapsulate them within the nanoparticle core, thereby minimizing systemic side effects and maximizing therapeutic efficacy. The versatility of nanoparticles extends across various medical applications, including cancer therapy, where they enhance the concentration of chemotherapeutic agents in tumor tissues while sparing healthy organs. In the context of neurological disorders, they facilitate the delivery of drugs across the blood-brain barrier, offering new hope for treating conditions like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases. Furthermore, nanoparticles play a crucial role in gene therapy, vaccines, and imaging, demonstrating their broad applicability in advancing healthcare. Despite their promising potential, the development and application of nanoparticles face challenges such as particle aggregation, limited drug loading, and burst release. Overcoming these obstacles is crucial for the clinical and commercial viability of nanoparticle-based therapies. Moreover, understanding the environmental and health impacts of artificial nanoparticles remains a priority, given their increasing presence in our surroundings. The need for innovative drug delivery systems is underscored by the subpar pharmacokinetic and biopharmaceutical profiles of many new therapeutic candidates. NDDS, with their ability to deliver active drug molecules directly to the site of action, represent a solution that not only improves therapeutic outcomes but also enhances safety profiles. In conclusion, the integration of nanoparticles in drug delivery systems heralds a new era in medicine, offering solutions to long-standing challenges in drug formulation and delivery. As research continues to refine and expand the capabilities of these nanoscale carriers, their role in providing more effective, safe, and patient-friendly treatments will undoubtedly grow, marking a significant leap forward in pharmaceutical science.

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