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"Solubility Enhancement Of NIFEDIPINE"

Miss. Sneha V. Pawar[1] , Miss. Shreya D. sondawale[2], Mr. Chaitanya S. Telkapalliwar[3] Miss. Nandini M. Kashikar[4] Ass. Prof. Diksha Bais[5],Dr. Manisha D. Kitukale[6]

Student, Department of Pharmaceutics [1]
Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmaceutics [2]
Principal, P. Wadhwani College of Pharmacy, Yavatmal, India [3]
Pataldhawal Wadhwani College Of Pharmacy, Yavatmal,Maharashtra,India [1,2,3]
snehapawar4460@gmail.com

ABSTRACT :

The goal of enhancing Nifedipine's solubility is to improve its dissolution rate, particularly for BCS Class-II drugs. Researchers have successfully increased Nifedipine's solubility using combinations of ethanol, sorbitol, propylene glycol, and PEG-polymers through co-solvency. Additionally, solubilization with polyoxyethylene sorbitol and hydrotropy using sodium salicylate, sodium benzoate, and sodium glycerate have also been employed.

Keyword : Improved Bioavailability, Enhanced Drug Solubilization, Rapid Dissolution Technology ,Instant Therapeutic Effect, Optimized Drug Delivery Systems

Introduction :

Nifedipine is a widely prescribed medication for managing severe chest pain, or angina, and hypertension. By alleviating high blood pressure, Nifedipine reduces the strain on the heart and arteries. As a calcium channel blocker, Nifedipine regulates calcium influx into cardiac and vascular cells, leading to vasodilation. According to established hypertension treatment guidelines, calcium-channel blockers like Nifedipine are among the preferred initial therapies for hypertension, alongside ACE inhibitors, Angiotensin II receptor antagonists, and Thiazide diuretics.

Descriptive Term	Solvent required for 1 part of solute
▪ Very soluble	Less than 1
▪ Freely soluble	From 1 to 10
▪ Soluble	From 10 to 30
▪ Sparingly soluble	From 30 to 100
▪ Slightly soluble	From 100 to 1000
▪ Very slightly soluble	From 1,000 to 10,000
▪ Practically insoluble	More than 10,000

Table 1: Solubility criteria as per I.P., 1985, B.P. 2010 Structure :

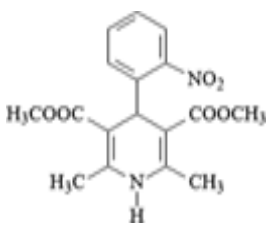

fig 1 : Nifedipine

Mechanism of Action :

Nifedipine functions by inhibiting voltage-gated L-type calcium channels in vascular smooth muscle and cardiac cells. This blockade prevents calcium ions from entering cells during depolarization, resulting in decreased peripheral vascular resistance and vasodilation.

Pharmacodynamics :

As a calcium channel blocker, Nifedipine reduces blood pressure and increases oxygen supply to the heart by inhibiting L-type calcium channels.

Dosage and Administration :

Immediate-release Nifedipine typically requires administration three times daily, with dosages ranging from 10-120mg daily. However, patients receiving Nifedipine are at risk of excessive hypotension, angina, and myocardial infarction.

Common adverse reactions associated with Nifedipine include:

1. Cephalalgia (head pain)
2. Dizziness or lightheadedness
3. Facial flushing
4. Cardiac arrhythmias (abnormal heart rhythms)
5. Peripheral edema (swelling of legs or ankles)

Literature :

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   The author explores various methods to enhance drug solubility, including salt formation, co-solvent approach, hydrotropic agents, and complexation approach.
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Significance of Solubility Enhancement :

Enhancing solubility is crucial for optimizing drug efficacy and safety. The key benefits of solubility enhancement include:

- Improved dissolution rates, leading to enhanced pharmacological effects.
- Uniform drug distribution, ensuring accurate dosing.
- Increased bioavailability, enabling better therapeutic outcomes.
- Enhanced solubility is vital for various dosage forms, including parenteral formulations.
- Achieving optimal solubility is essential for maintaining desired drug concentrations in systemic circulation, thereby ensuring the required pharmacological response.

Methods to Enhance Solubility of Nifedipine

The following approaches can be employed to improve the solubility of Nifedipine:

A) Physical Modification

1. Particle size reduction
2. Modification of crystal habit
3. Solid dispersion
4. Complexation

B) Chemical Modification

1. Change in pH
2. Salt formation
3. Prodrug approach
4. Use of buffer

C) Miscellaneous

1. Supercritical fluid process
2. Co-solvency
3. Addition of surfactants
4. Hydrotropes

Physical modifications:

- **Particle size reduction** : particle size reduction and crystal habit alteration, are effective strategies for enhancing Nifedipine's solubility. Decreasing particle size amplifies the molecule's surface area, fostering enhanced solute-solvent interactions and improved solubility. Techniques such as micro-ionization and nano-suspension facilitate this process. Micro-ionization, achieved through milling methods like jet milling, rotor-stator, and colloidal milling, accelerates dissolution rates by increasing surface area without altering equilibrium solubility. This approach can substantially enhance the bioavailability and efficacy of poorly soluble drugs, including Nifedipine.

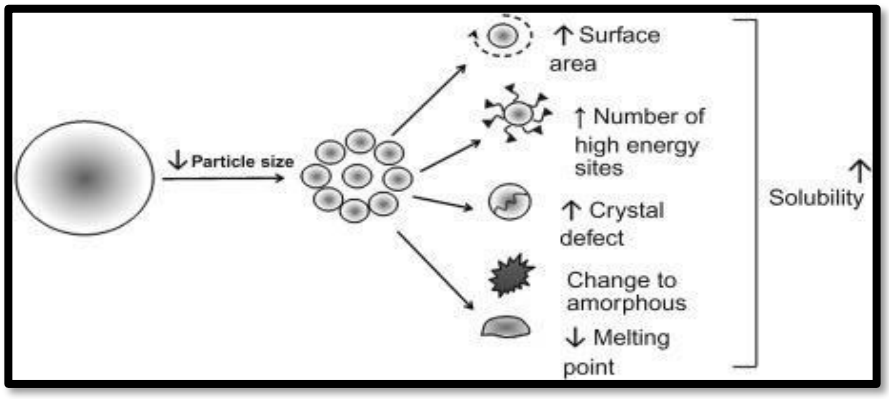

Fig 2 : Physical modifications:

- **Modifying crystal habit :**
  Modifying crystal habit, without altering its structure, is achieved through controlled precipitation techniques using crystal growth inhibitors and stabilizers. This method influences pharmaceutical properties, including bulk density, wettability, and surface area. Crystal habit affects dissolution rates, which depend on particle size and surface area. The relationship between particle size, surface area, and dissolution rate is crucial for enhancing solubility. Specifically, smaller particle sizes increase surface area, leading to faster dissolution rates and improved solubility.
  Solid Dispersion Technology

- **Solid dispersion:**
  is a promising technique for enhancing solubility. It involves dispersing a hydrophobic drug in a hydrophilic matrix. According to Chiou and Riegelman, solid dispersion systems can be defined as the dispersion of one or more active ingredients in an inert carrier or matrix at solid state.
  Classification of Solid Dispersions
  Solid dispersions can be classified into simple eutectic mixtures, solid solutions, glass solutions, and glass suspensions. They can also be categorized as amorphous precipitation in a crystalline carrier, compound, or complex formations.

- **Complexation Method**
  Complexation is another technique used to enhance solubility. It involves forming inclusion complexes with cyclodextrin, which improves aqueous solubility, dissolution rate, and bioavailability of poorly water-soluble drugs.

Chemical Modification

Chemical modification involves altering the drug's pH, forming salts, or using buffers. Changing the pH can increase solubility, while salt formation is a common method for improving solubility and dissolution rates.

- **pH Adjustment**

Adjusting the pH level can significantly impact the solubility of a drug. Increasing the pH can decrease solubility, while decreasing the pH can enhance solubility. For weakly acidic or basic drugs, adjusting the environmental pH within the dosage form can improve solubility.

- **Salt Formation**

Salt formation is a common and effective method for enhancing solubility and dissolution rates of acidic and basic drugs. This involves reacting an acid with a base, resulting in a salt with improved solubility.

- **Buffer Use**

Buffers play a crucial role in maintaining a stable pH range, which is essential for various processes and reactions. A buffer solution can resist pH changes and neutralize added acids or bases. When selecting a buffer, it is essential to ensure it is biologically safe, does not affect the final product's stability, and allows the use of other excipients.

Miscellaneous Techniques a] Supercritical Fluid Process

The supercritical fluid process (SFT) is a suitable method for obtaining solid dispersions of Nifedipine, as it is soluble in supercritical carbon dioxide. Studies have shown that PVP K30 is a superior polymer to PEG 4000 for SFT due to its ability to improve solubility performance. The SFT has also been explored for developing solid dispersions with PVP and various APIs.

- **b] Cosolvency**

Cosolvency is a technique used to enhance the solubility of weak electrolytes and non-polar molecules. This involves adding water-miscible solvents, known as co-solvents, to reduce interfacial tension and improve solubility. Examples of co-solvents include ethanol, propylene glycol, glycerine, and polyethylene glycols. These co-solvents work by disrupting the hydrogen bonding network of water, reducing the overall intermolecular attraction and enhancing solubility.

- **Surfactants and Hydrotropes for Solubility Enhancement**

Surfactants

Surfactants are compounds that reduce surface tension in liquids, making them useful for dispersing insoluble substances. In pharmaceuticals, surfactants can solubilize poorly soluble drugs, improving their dissolution and solubility profiles. They can also promote permeation and enhance drug delivery.

Types of Surfactants

1. **Anionic Surfactants**: These bear a negative charge at their hydrophilic head. **Examples** include sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS) and sodium lauryl sulfate (SLS).
2. **Cationic Surfactants**: These generate a positive charge at their hydrophilic head group. **Examples**
3. include cetyltrimethylammonium bromide (CTAB) and cetylpyridinium chloride (CPC).
4. **Non-Ionic Surfactants**: These have hydrophilic head groups that demonstrate low ionization in aqueous solutions. Examples include polysorbates and polyoxamers.

- **Hydrotropes**

  Hydrotropes are small molecules that help hydrophobic substances dissolve in water. They are commonly used in drug solubilization, fragrance extraction, and heterogeneous reactions.

Characteristics of Hydrotropes

1. Solubilization: Hydrotropes enhance the solubility of poorly water-soluble drugs.
2. Non-Inflammable: Hydrotropes are non-inflammable, making them safe to handle.
3. Environmentally Friendly: Hydrotropes are biodegradable and non-toxic.
4. Cost-Effective: Hydrotropes are inexpensive and easily available.

Examples of hydrotropes include sodium benzoate, urea, sodium citrate, and sodium salicylate. These compounds have been shown to enhance the solubility of hydrophobic molecules, making them useful in various industrial applications.

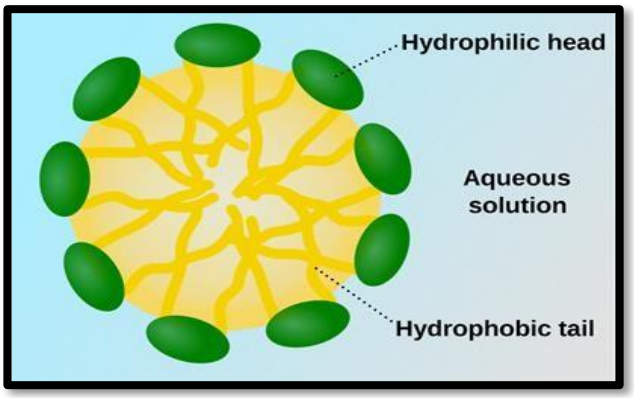

Fig 3 : Hydrotropes

Future Scope of Solubility Enhancement :

The solubility enhancement of nifedipine, a poorly soluble drug, is crucial for improving its bioavailability and efficacy. Several approaches hold promise for future research and development:

A) Nanotechnology

Nanocarriers, such as dendrimers, micelles, and nanogels, can increase the bioavailability of poorly soluble drugs like nifedipine. This technology can also revive marketed drugs with poor solubility.

B) Protein-Based Strategies

Proteins offer a natural and biocompatible approach to enhancing solubility. Their ability to bind and solubilize hydrophobic molecules makes them an attractive option for drug delivery.

C) Solid Dispersion

Solid dispersion is a well-established technique for improving solubility. By dispersing poorly soluble drugs like nifedipine in a hydrophilic matrix, solid dispersions can enhance bioavailability and improve drug efficacy.

D) Emerging Trends

Several emerging trends are expected to shape the future of solubility enhancement for nifedipine, including:

E) Novel techniques for solubility enhancement

Nanotechnological approaches, such as liposomes and lipidic nanoparticles Controlled release solid dispersions
Surface-active agents, such as poloxamer 407 and compritol 888

Plan of Work :

The objective of this study is to achieve the following:

1. Rapid Therapeutic Action: To design a formulation that enables fast therapeutic action.
2. Immediate Onset of Action: To develop a formulation that facilitates immediate onset of action.
3. Enhanced Bioavailability: To increase the bioavailability of the drug substance.
4. Solubility Enhancement: To improve the solubility of the drug.
5. Dissolution Rate Enhancement: To enhance the dissolution rate o

Conclusion:

This study demonstrates the efficacy of solid dispersions in enhancing nifedipine's solubility. A 10:90 drug-polymer ratio yielded increased solubility for all polymers tested, with vitamin E TPGS showing the greatest enhancement. The formation of an inclusion complex between nifedipine and β-CD contributed to this increased solubility.

New chemical entities often suffer from poor water solubility. Solid dispersions prepared using hydrophilic carriers offer a promising solution (Singh et al., 2017). These carriers can be synthetic or natural, providing a versatile approach to improving solubility and bioavailability.

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