



LIPID Based Carriers in Transdermal Patches: A Novel Drug Delivery Approach

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ABSTRACT:

Transdermal drug delivery is widely recognized as a promising alternative to traditional administration routes, offering benefits such as controlled release, first-pass metabolism, and better patients. Despite these benefits, the stratum corneum creates a major obstacle by restricting the entry of many drugs. To address this range, various lipid-based carriers-including liposomes, neosomes, transforcers, ethosomes, solid lipid nanoping and nanostructured lipid carriers, are included in the transdermal patch system. These carriers improve drug solubility, stability and skin permeability, enabling prolonged release and minimal dosage frequency. This review focuses on a variety of lipid-based carriers, emotions and evaluation techniques, medical applications, benefits on traditional systems, challenges and future capacity of lipid-medieval transdary distribution.

KEYWORDS: Keywords: Transdarmal delivery system, lipid-based nanocarriers, solid lipid nanoparticles (SLN), nanostructured lipid carriers (NLC), Skin Penetration Enhancement.

INTRODUCTION:

The transdermal drug delivery system (TDDS) has emerged as a promising and patient-liability option for traditional oral and injectable routes of administration. They provide many medical benefits, such as bypassing hepatic first-pass metabolism, enabling continuous and controlled drug release, improving systemic bio-availability, and increasing treatment. However, their broad applications are interrupted by the protective function of the stratum corneum, which significantly prohibits the entry of hydrophilic molecules and drugs with high molecular loads. To remove this range, innovative framework approaches are introduced, with lipid-based carriers stand as one of the most effective strategies. Carriers such as liposomes, niosomes, transforce, ethosomes, solid lipid nanoparticles (SLNs), and nanostructured lipid carriers (NLCs) demonstrate strong interactions with lipids of the skin, which improves solubility and promotes deep transit. The inclusion of these carriers in the transdarmal patch has expanded efficient and reliable drug delivery opportunities. This review discusses recent progress in lipid-based carriers for TDD, focusing on future possibilities in their formulation aspects, medical applications and advanced drug distribution.

SKIN BARRIERS AND CHALLENGES IN DRUG PERMEATION:

The skin is a high specific organ that mainly serves as a protective interface, which prevents the entry of harmful substances, reducing the loss of transdermal water. It is conducted in three layers: epidermis, dermis and hypodermis. Within these, the stratum corneum - the outer layer of the epidermis - represents the most important barrier to the drug transport. This layer follows the famous "brick-and-mortar" architecture, in which cornocytes act as bricks and intercellular lipids that serve as mortars. The densely packed and ordered lipid domains make it specifically resistant to the entry of compounds with hydrophilic molecules, charged drugs and high molecular loads.

The drug permit occurs through three major routes: with the intercellular route, the transcellular passage, and the pre-transportation, through the structures such as the sweat glands and the hair of the hair, being the intercellular passage. Despite these routes, there is a major challenge, including limited permeability in transdarmal delivery, restricted drug loading, skin physiology, including inter-individual variability and risk of irritation or sensitization. To remove these obstacles, novel building strategies have been investigated. Among them, lipid-based carriers are particularly promising, as they are similar to endogenous skin lipids, inhibiting rigid stratum corneum composition, and the skin across the skin significantly increases penetration and transportation.

LIPID-BASED CARRIERS: AN OVERVIEW:

Lipid-based carriers represent a novel class of drug delivery systems designed to enhance the solubility, stability, and skin transit of therapeutic agents. Mainly made up of physiological lipids, surfactants and stabilizers, these systems are biochamptable and usually display low toxicity. Their importance in transdermal drug delivery lies in their ability to interact with the lipid domain of the stratum corneum, which provides its compact structure and drug transport.

Various types of lipid-based carriers have been developed, including liposomes, niosomes, transfer, atosomes, solid lipid nanopinges (SLNs), and nanostructured lipid carriers (NLCs). Each system consists of separate structural features and mechanisms: vesicular carriers such as liposomes and niosomes can surround both hydrophilic and lipophilic molecules; Transfer and ethos show high deformity and increased permeability; While SLN and NLC provide more stability and controlled release due to their solid lipid matriasis.

These carriers are integrated into transdarmal patch, with TDD facility, with the advantages of nanocarier system, continuous release, better bioavailability and low dosage frequency. Their adaptability makes them a versatile platform for the distribution of diverse medical agents including small molecules, peptides and hormones.

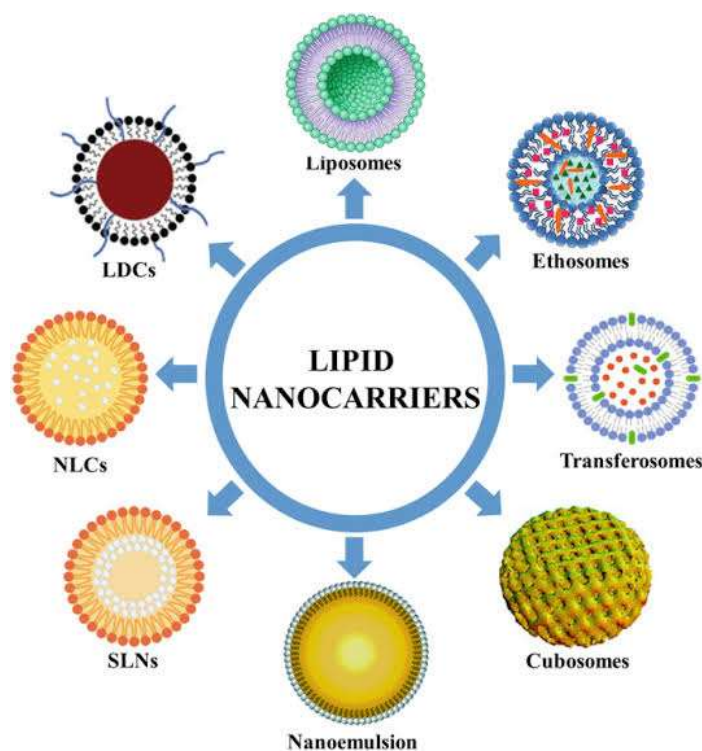


FIG.NO:01

TYPES OF LIPIDS BASED CARRIERS IN TRANSDERMAL PATCHES:

1. LIPOSOME:

Liposomes are spherical vesicles, which contain one or more phospholipid bilayers that surround an aquatic compartment. Their amphiphilic nature enables the encapsulation of both hydrophilic and lipophilic molecules. In transdermal delivery, liposomes interact with lipids of the skin, increasing drug diffusion and permits. Due to their flexibility, they can merge with epidermal layers and release the direct release of drugs into deep tissues. Liposomal patches have been examined for both local and systemic distribution of agents such as Lidocaine, Diclofenac and various hormones. Major benefits include biocompatibility, biodegradability and low systemic side effects. However, barriers such as phospholipid oxidation, hydrolytic instability, and drug leakage obstruct large-scale clinical application.

2. NEOSOMES:

Niosomes are vesicular carriers that correspond to liposomes, but are designed using non-ionic surfactants and cholesterol. Compared to liposomes, they provide greater stability, cost-effectiveness and chemical flexibility. They improve the penetration of the drug by changing the lipid structure of the skin and increasing the solubility of poor water-soluble drugs, while also increasing drug retention in the skin layers, making them suitable for controlled-release formulations. They have been detected for the distribution of anti-inflammatory, antifungal and anticancer agents. Benefits include simple preparation, high entry efficiency and better storage stability, although deficiencies such as aggregation, vesicle fusion, and excessive hydrophilic drugs remain deficiencies.

FORMULATION AND PREPARATION OF LIPID BASED TRANSDERMAL PATCHES:

The development of lipid-based transdermal patch includes stability, controlled drug release, and efficient skin transit involving drug-loaded lipid nanocarriers in a suitable patch design to ensure efficient skin transit. Carriers like liposomes, niosomes, transferosomes, ethosomes, solid lipid nanoparticles (SLNs), and nanostructured lipid carriers (NLCs) usually, including thin-film hydration, ethanol injection, high-pressure homogenization, ultrasonication, and solvent evaporation are produced by using. These carriers increase solubility, protect labile drugs, and improve their permeability in skin obstruction.

After the preparation, nanocarriers are embedded in various patch configurations, such as matrix, reservoir, or micro-needle system. In the matrix-type patch, the carriers are scattered within a polymer matrix, while the reservoir patch limits them between a backing layer and a rate-control membrane. Polymer choice (eg, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose, Eudragit, polyvinyl alcohol), plasticizers (eg, glycerol, polyethylene glycol), and adhesive patches play an important role in determining flexibility, adhesion, and uniform drug release.

Patch fabrication methods include solvent casting, hot-melt extrusion and pressure lamination. Major Formulation Parameters - such as nanocarrier stability, adhesion to the drug, mechanical strength, and compatibility between lipids, drugs and polymers - should be carefully adapted. Properly designed systems offer better skin transit, prolonged release and extended patient compliance.

EVALUATION OF LIPID-BASED TRANSDERMAL PATCHES:

The intensive evaluation of lipid-based transdermal patch is important to confirm their safety, efficacy and overall quality. Many physical chemical, mechanical and biological parameters are assessed in the entire formulation process.

1. Physical chemical characteristic characterization- Parameters such as thickness, weight variation, folding, moisture, and surface pH are examined to ensure patch uniformity and stability. The drug material analysis confirms the precise and consistent dose.
2. Mechanical properties- Tensile strength, flexibility and burst capacity is measured to confirm that patch can withstand handling and application without loss of integrity or adhesion
3. In the study of in vitro drug release-using proliferation systems such as Franz diffusion cells with synthetic or biological membrane, these test releases provide insight into the release kinetics and continuous-release profiles.
4. Skin transit studies - stimulated animal or human cadaver conducted with skin, these experiments evaluate transit parameters including flux, interval time and overall penetration efficiency. Lipid-based carriers usually display extended transit compared to traditional yogas.
5. In vivo assessment - animal models or human volunteers performed to assess pharmacokinetic behavior, systemic bioavailability and therapeutic effectiveness of the patch.
6. Stability studies are performed for physical integrity, chemical stability, and drug retention during the entire storage period, quick and real-time studies.

The comprehensive evaluation in these parameters ensures that lipid-based transdermal patch achieve the desired medical performance while maintaining safety and patient acceptance.

APPLICATIONS OF LIPID BASED TRANSDERMAL PATCHES:

Lipid-based transdermal patch has been largely discovered to give a wide range of medical agents, which due to their ability to increase skin transit, maintain drug release and improve the patient's ability to improve the patient. They are particularly beneficial in older remedies that require prolonged and persistent drug levels.

In pain management, providing long-lasting analgesia, reducing the gastrointestinal side effects associated with oral administration, involving NSAIDs such as diclofenac and catapropfen, as well as involving opioid-based yogas.

Hormone replacement therapy is another important application, where estrogen, progesterone, or testosterone distributed patch maintains stable plasma concentrations and improves systemic bioavailability.

The point of view also benefited neurological disorders, which shows better efficacy when distributed via lipid-based carriers with drugs such as donepezil (for Alzheimer's disease) and Selegiline (for Parkinson's disease). Similarly, antihypertensive agents (eg, clonidine, nifedipine) and cardiovascular drugs have been successfully included in the patch for long-term medicine.

Beyond these, antifungal, antiviral and anticancer agents have enhanced local or systemic activity through lipid-based transdermal delivery. Recently, research has expanded into macromolecules such as peptides, insulin and vaccines, which traditionally face challenges in crossing the skin barrier.

Overall, lipid-based transdermal patch serve as a versatile drug delivery platform, offering increased therapeutic results in diverse clinical applications.

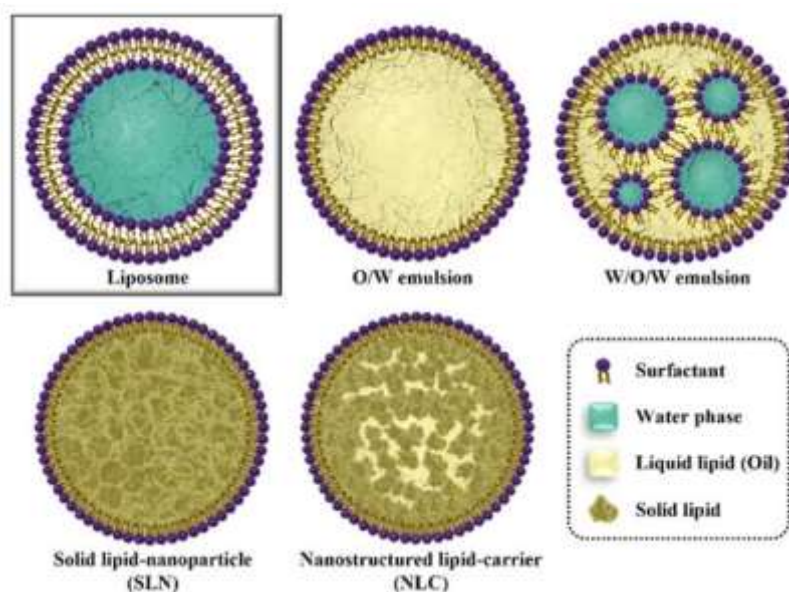
ADVANTAGE OVER CONVENTIONAL TRANSDERMAL SYSTEM:

Traditional transdermal patch offers continuous drug release and better patients compared to oral and injected routes; However, their effectiveness is often restricted by limited skin permeability, especially for hydrophilic, ionized or high-oriented compounds. Integration of lipid-based carriers in the transdermal system has improved their efficiency and makes them wider

Carriers such as liposomes, niosomes, transfers, ethos, solid lipid nanoparticles (sLN), and nanostructures lipid carriers (NLCs) meet with the lipid environment of the skin. By interacting and fluctuating with stratum corneum lipids, they enhance drug permits and enable the distribution of molecules that fail to transport traditional patches effectively.

Another major benefit is his ability to surround both hydrophilic and lipophilic drugs, providing versatility for a wide range of medical agents. These systems also support controlled and prolonged drug release, ensuring stable plasma levels with low dosage frequency. In addition, they improve the stability of the drug, reduce systemic poisoning, and reduce local irritation.

A remarkable benefit is the ability of lipid-based carriers to distribute macromolecules such as peptides, proteins and vaccines-one application is not obtained with traditional patches. Collectively, extended transit, greater bioavailability, and better patient facilities install lipid-based carriers as a better option for traditional transdermal drug delivery systems.



Conventional lipid-based colloidal carriers

FIG.NO:02

LIMITATIONS AND CHALLENGES:

Despite their significant potential in improving transdermal drug delivery, lipid-based carriers face several shortcomings that limit their clinical translation and mass commercialization. One of the primary concerns is the formulation stability, as the vesicles are susceptible to aggregation, fusion and premature drug leakage during storage. In addition, lipid falls through oxidation or hydrolysis may compromise on structural integrity and medical performance.

Manufacturing complexity and cost also create major obstacles. Advanced carriers such as transforous, ethosomes, and nanostructured lipid carriers require refined tools, accurate processing status and strict quality control, which makes large -scale production and fertility difficult. In addition, some carriers demonstrate limited drug-loading efficiency, especially for hydrophilic molecules or large biomaccromolecules, restricting their suitability for high dosage treatments.

Another challenge lies in safety and tolerance. Components such as surfactants and ethanol are used to increase penetration, can cause skin irritation or sensitization. Variability in skin physiology - productive, hydropower levels and disease conditions - further individuals may be inconsistent absorption.

From a regulatory point of view, the absence of well-defined guidelines for characterization, evaluation, and approval of lipid-based transdermal systems disrupts their passage for commercialization. Nevertheless, the progression in the formulation strategies, the development of the hybrid delivery system, and the discovery of the novel lipid exempies promise to address these challenges and enable comprehensive medical applications.

FUTURE PROSPECTIVES:

Lipid-based transdermal patch drug distribution is emerging as a dynamic area in the research, which has great ability to reopen therapeutic practices. The future progress is expected to address the current deficiencies, making the scope of their clinical applications comprehensive. Nanotechnology is

expected to get carriers with better stability in progress in technology and lipid engineering, increased biocompatibility, greater drug-loading efficiency and more accurate release profiles.

A combination of lipid-based systems with penetrated approaches such as microneedles, iontophoresis, electroporation and ultrasound can significantly improve transdermal delivery of macromolecule, including peptides, proteins and vaccines. In addition, the development of stimulation-response systems capable of releasing drugs in response to physiological or external triggers (eg, pH, temperature, or electrical signals) may enable individual, on-demand therapy.

Integration of patch with smart wearable technologies equipped with biosensor provides opportunities for drug release and real-time monitoring of the patient's response, supporting the advancement of accurate therapy. Equally important regulator will progress in strong diagnostic verification to facilitate coordination, scalable manufacturing, and translation of laboratory innovations in commercial products.

In summary, lipid-based transdermal patches make significant promises as the next generation distribution platforms, offering better efficacy, patient compliance and therapeutic versatility in a wide range of medical conditions.

CONCLUSION:

Lipid-based carriers have emerged as an effective approach to address the underlying deficiencies of the traditional transdermal drug delivery systems. They clearly improve transit and systemic bioavailability, meeting lipids of skin and increasing stratum corneum fluidity. Advanced systems such as liposomes, niosomes, transfers, ethosomes, solid lipid nanoparticles (SLNs), and nanostructured lipid carriers (NLCs) have demonstrated successful distribution of diverse medical agents in transdermal patch. While these systems provide different advantages, their comprehensive application is still limited by challenges such as stability concerns, scalability issues and regulatory complications. However, continuous progress in integration with nanotechnology, lipid formulation design and smart wearable techniques is expected to remove these obstacles. With further refinement and clinical verification, lipid-based transdermal patch has the ability to develop in reliable, patient-centered drug delivery platforms, which contributes significantly to the next generation of medical and individual therapy.

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