FORMULATION AND EVALUATION OF pH INDUCED IN-SITU NASAL GEL FOR BRAIN TARGETING OF LEVODOPA

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ABSTRACT

Background: Levodopa is used in the treatment of Parkinson. It get absorbed from small intestine, but levodopa get metabolized in peripheral tissues by L-aromatic amino acid decarboxylase (AAAD) enzyme, which degrades levodopa and thus serves as a significant barrier to the absorption of intact levodopa; only 30% of an orally administered dose reaches the circulation.

Methods: In situ nasal gel of levodopa was prepared to increase its bioavailability as well as rapid onset of action. Carbapol 934 was used as the gelling agent to form the gel in the nasal pH. To overcome the problem of mucociliary clearance we used here HPMC K4M as the mucoadhesive polymer. Thus different formulations were prepared by using different combination of the polymers judicially and evaluated them in respect of pH, gelation temperature, mucoadhesive force and permeation of levodopa.

Results: From the above study, we observed that the pH sensitive polymer and mucoadhesive polymer used here had distinct effects.

Keywords: Formulation, Development, Evaluation, Levodopa, Parkinson drugs, In situ nasal gel, Brain targeting treatment.

INTRODUCTION

The Delivery of especially CNS acting drugs through oral route is possible but the bioavailability of the drug through this route is very less as compared to nasal route. This is due to the First pass metabolism in the GIT. Nasal drug delivery system is the most effective way of drug delivery of Brain targeting therapies. The high permeability, high vasculature and low enzymatic environment of nasal cavity are well suitable for systemic delivery of drug molecules via nose increases its specificity and efficiency of the CNS acting drugs. Due to the CNS acting drugs used for the treatment of Brain diseases are not easily able to cross these barriers due to their physicochemical properties. There are various drug delivery and targeting strategies are currently being developed to enhance the transport and distribution of drugs into the brain which are highly specific to their target. Nasal drug delivery is an emerging technique and even better option to transport the drug directly to brain bypassing the metabolism.

Advantages of In Situ Gel

- Increased residence time of drug in nasal cavity.
- Decreased frequency of drug administration.
- Results in rapid absorption and onset of effect.
- Avoids degradation of drug in gastrointestinal tract resulting from acidic or Enzymatic degradation.
- Low dose required.
- Minimized local and systemic side effects.
- Improved bioavailability of drug.
- Direct transport into systemic circulation and CNS is possible.
• Offers lower risk of overdose of CNS acting drug.
• Improved patient compliance.

Properties of Nasal In-Situ Gel
• It should be low viscous.
• It should be free flowing to allow for reproducible administration to the nasal cavity, as droplet mist or as a spray.
• Nasal in-situ gel should have long residence time.
• The nasal in-situ gel follows phase transition mechanism and to stand with the shear forces in the nasal cavity wall.

MATERIALS AND METHODS
Levodopa was received as a gift sample from Lupin Pharma Pune. Carbapol 934 and HPMC K4M were purchased from Sigma Drug Laboratory Pvt. Ltd, Sodium metabisulphite, and Sodium chloride of analytical grade was purchased from Vishal Chemicals, Mumbai. Compatibility study was carried out with drug and the excipients in standard manner.

Selection of Polymers Concentration
The concentration of Carbopol 934 was selected so as to obtain gel at minimum possible concentration below 34°C and pH of 4.5. HPMC K4M was used as mucoadhesive polymer to increase the gel strength.

Selection of Excipients
Excipients such as 0.9% w/v NaCl was added as to maintain the isotonicity of the formulation, benzalkonium chloride was added as preservative and sodium metabisulphide was used as antioxidant to protect the formulation from microorganisms and oxidation. Distilled water was used as vehicle.

Formulation of In-Situ Gel
The Formulation of in situ gel consists of pH sensitive polymers such as Carbapol 934 was slowly added to distilled water with continuous dispersion was kept on magnetic stirrer until clear solution was formed (12hrs). After clear solution is formed drug of yield 0.25% were then dissolve to this clear solution and stirred on magnetic stirrer. Then mucosalhesive polymer HPMC K4M was slowly added to this solution with continuous agitation. The remaining excipients i.e. Benzalkonium chloride, sodium chloride, sodium metabisulphite was added with continues stirring on magnetic stirrer to form a clear solution. Adjust the pH of formulation to 4.5 by 0.5 M sodium hydroxide.

Standard Calibration Curve of Levodopa
A simple and sensitive UV spectrophotometric method was developed and validated for the determination of levodopa in bulk & pharmaceutical formulations. A stock solution of PGB (50 µg/ml) was prepared by dissolving 5 mg PGB in 100 ml volumetric flasks with double distilled water. The stock solution (50 µg/ml) was used to prepare the working solutions by suitable dilutions with distilled water. The solutions were stable at least 10 days in room temperature.

Evaluation Parameters of In-Situ Nasal Gel
Clarity
It is one of the most important characteristics features of gel formulation. All developed formulations were evaluated for clarity by visual observation against black and white background.

pH
The pH of each batch was measured using digital pH meter which was calibrated using buffers of pH 4 and pH 7 before the measurements.

Drug Content
Uniform distribution of active ingredient is important to get dose uniformity. 1.0 ml was transferred into a 100-ml volumetric flask and 50 ml of simulated nasal fluid was added. The formed gel was completely crushed with the help of a glass rod, followed by vigorous shaking until the formed gel got completely dispersed to give a clear solution. The volume was adjusted to 100 ml with simulated tear fluid. The solution was filtered through a 0.45-mm filter membrane and the drug concentration was determined with a UV-Visible spectrophotometer at 280 nm.

Viscosity Determination
Viscosity of formulation is an important factor in determining the intactness and residence time of formulation in nasal cavity. The rheological
studies were carried using the Brookfield’s DV – II + model viscometer. The gel formulations under study were placed in the sample holder and the suitable spindle selected was lowered perpendicular into the sample. The Viscosity was measured at 10 rpm for 30 sec for solution as well as gel. The apparent single viscosity values of formulation were measured at constant temperature 37±1°C. Viscosity is determined for all 6 formulations.

**Gelation Study**

These formulation are solution at pH 4.5 and when exposed to pH above 5.5 it undergoes gelation which is at nasal pH. Take a test tube fill it with formulation in solution form to it add 2 ml of 0.5 M sodium hydroxide whose pH is endogenous to nasal pH which forms gel upon the visual examination we can observe the gelation.

**Gel Strength Measurement**

A sample of 50 gm of formulation was placed in 100 ml graduated cylinder and gelled by neutralizing by 0.5 M NaOH. A weight of 35 gm was placed onto gel, The gel strength which is the indication for viscosity of nasal in-situ gel at physiological condition was determined by time in seconds the weight took to penetrate 5 cm down through the gel.

**In-Vitro Diffusion Study**

Tissue samples are inserted in Franz diffusion cells displaying a permeation area of 0.785 cm², 2. 20 ml phosphate buffer saline (PBS) pH 6.8 at 34°C was added in the acceptor chamber. The temperature within the chambers is maintained at 34°C. Formulation equivalent to 25 mg was placed in the donor chamber. At predetermined time points, 1ml sample was withdrawn from the acceptor compartment, replacing the sampled volume with PBS pH 6.8 after each sampling for four hours. Samples withdrawn were filtered and analyzed spectrophotometrically. Blank samples can be run simultaneously throughout the experiment to check for any interference. The amount of permeated drug was determined using UV visible spectrophotometer at 2.

**DISCUSSION**

The absorbance of levodopa in distilled water at 281 nm. The standard calibration curve of levodopa is shown in table below. The formulation can be formulated along with carbolpol 934 and HPMC k4m where carbolpol 934 is a pH sensitive polymer and HPMC k4m gives mucoadhesive strength to the formulation. All the formulations are clear solutions in appearance having Ph in the range of 5.78 to 6.48. The viscosities of the formulations are shown in table below. All formulations have drug content in between Table. The gelation studies shows in Table below. The gel strength is between 25-50 seconds which shows that the gel formed is having sufficient mucoadhesive strength and the greater gel strength may cause choking or incompliance to the patient it can be adjusted with the concentration of HPMC k4m with the carbolpol 934.The cumulative drug release shown in table below.

**CONCLUSION**

From the results we conclude that the In-situ nasal liquid formulation was successfully formulated and it converts into gel when administered into nasal tract due to change in pH as it contains carbolpol 934 and HPMC k4m which are the pH sensitive polymers which increases the drug residence time prevents draining of drug and also release of the drug for extended period of time. Hence it increases bioavailability with less dose and prevents first pass effect and acts as the targeted drug delivery system which targets drug to the brain through nasal mucosa and bypasses blood brain barrier which are its superiority over the conventional dosage forms.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

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Table 1: Formulation table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ingredients</th>
<th>F1</th>
<th>F2</th>
<th>F3</th>
<th>F4</th>
<th>F5</th>
<th>F6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Levodopa</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>0.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carbapol 934(%w/v)</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HPMC K4M(%w/v)</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nacl (%w/v)</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benzalkonium chloride (%w/v)</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sodium metabisuphate(%w/v)</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distilled water (ml)</td>
<td>q.s</td>
<td>q.s</td>
<td>q.s</td>
<td>q.s</td>
<td>q.s</td>
<td>q.s</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1: UV spectrum of levodopa

Figure 2: Calibration curve of levodopa (Wavelength maxima at 210 nm of Levodopa)
Table 2: pH and gelling capacities of Formulations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Formulation</th>
<th>Appearance</th>
<th>Fragrance efficiency</th>
<th>pH</th>
<th>Gelling capacity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F1</td>
<td>Colourless</td>
<td>Pleasant Odour</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>++ + + +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F2</td>
<td>Colourless</td>
<td>Pleasant Odour</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>++ +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F3</td>
<td>Colourless</td>
<td>Pleasant Odour</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>+++</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F4</td>
<td>Colourless</td>
<td>Pleasant Odour</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>++</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F5</td>
<td>Colourless</td>
<td>Pleasant Odour</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>+++</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3: Drug content, Viscosity and Gel strength of prepared formulations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Formulation</th>
<th>Drug content (%w/w)</th>
<th>Viscosity of liquid Formulation (Pa.S)</th>
<th>Viscosity of Gel (Pa.S)</th>
<th>Gel strength (Seconds)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F1</td>
<td>94.00%</td>
<td>1.440</td>
<td>36.120</td>
<td>28.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F2</td>
<td>92.93%</td>
<td>1.500</td>
<td>33.600</td>
<td>25.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F3</td>
<td>96.83%</td>
<td>1.560</td>
<td>34.080</td>
<td>27.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F4</td>
<td>93.21%</td>
<td>3.708</td>
<td>36.380</td>
<td>29.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F5</td>
<td>95.75%</td>
<td>3.812</td>
<td>38.230</td>
<td>39.66</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4: Cumulative % release and levodopa through goat nasal membrane for all formulations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time (min)</th>
<th>F1</th>
<th>F2</th>
<th>F3</th>
<th>F4</th>
<th>F5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>8.72</td>
<td>9.70</td>
<td>10.14</td>
<td>11.24</td>
<td>12.48</td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>14.56</td>
<td>14.72</td>
<td>24.36</td>
<td>26.36</td>
<td>28.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>25.29</td>
<td>34.76</td>
<td>36.24</td>
<td>38.45</td>
<td>39.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>36.92</td>
<td>34.76</td>
<td>48.24</td>
<td>49.95</td>
<td>50.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90</td>
<td>46.62</td>
<td>48.62</td>
<td>56.26</td>
<td>57.83</td>
<td>59.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>54.25</td>
<td>58.12</td>
<td>68.46</td>
<td>69.47</td>
<td>70.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>150</td>
<td>62.68</td>
<td>68.84</td>
<td>72.48</td>
<td>73.48</td>
<td>75.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>180</td>
<td>65.57</td>
<td>72.34</td>
<td>78.36</td>
<td>79.57</td>
<td>80.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>210</td>
<td>72.67</td>
<td>80.76</td>
<td>80.46</td>
<td>81.25</td>
<td>84.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>240</td>
<td>80.34</td>
<td>86.24</td>
<td>96.75</td>
<td>98.48</td>
<td>99.45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 3: Comparative effect on drug release of various formulation

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REFERENCES

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