Method Development Technologies for Clopidogrel Bisulphate by Improving Solubility and Bioavailability

Deevan Paul A*, Avilala Neelima, Chitra Prasanthi, Navyaja Kota

Department of Pharmaceutics, SVU College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, SV University, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh, India - 517502.

ABSTRACT

Clopidogrel bisulphate (CB) is a crystalline, poorly water-soluble drug of bioavailability less than 50%. The drug is an irreversible inhibitor of the P2Y12 adenosine diphosphate receptor found on the membranes of platelet cells. The present work was performed using different polymers such as Polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP) K-30 and polyvinyl alcohol with varied surfactants such as Tween 80 in comparison by using superdisintegrants like Sodium Starch Glycolate (SSG) and Micro-crystalline Cellulose (MCC). By performing the particle size distribution, the size ranges from 232.6 nm to 995.6 nm and the polydispersity index ranges from 0.11 to 0.96, these ranges indicating the good physical nature of nanoparticles. The drug entrapment efficiency (DEE) of clopidogrel bisulphate nanoparticles was found to be in the range of 30.10% to 94.4%. From the study, it was found that F2 formulation containing PVP K-30 and L-arginine has given the best release in 80mins and the maximum cumulative drug release was 96.8% in comparison with other formulation, and the dissolution studies were performed for the seven formulations of prepared clopidogrel bisulphate granules among which F5 formulation containing release of 91.6% within 80mins. Here we state that the method development technologies improve the solubility and bioavailability studies by producing the nanoparticles.

Keywords: Bioavailability; Clopidogrel bisulphate; Drug Entrapment Efficiency; Polydispersity Index; Superdisintegrants.

1. INTRODUCTION

The rate and degree of drug absorption, as well as its bioavailability, are regulated by solubility, dissolution, and gastrointestinal permeability. A drug's water solubility is a critical property that affects its absorption after oral administration. It also decides whether a drug can be administrated parenterally and is useful in manipulating and testing drug properties during the drug design and development process. The drug solubility is an equilibrium measure but also the dissolution rate at which the solid drug or drug from the dosage form passes into solution is critically important when the dissolution time is rate limited.¹

The parameters including dissolution rate, first-pass metabolism are susceptibility to efflux mechanisms and these are important factors in oral bioavailability.² Clopidogrel bisulphate, an antiplatelet agent which is structurally and pharmacologically similar to ticlopidine, is used to inhibit blood clots in a variety of conditions such as peripheral vascular disease, coronary artery disease, and cerebrovascular disease. The drug inhibits the P2Y12 adenosine diphosphate receptor on platelet cell membranes in an irreversible manner. Clopidogrel use is linked to several serious side effects, including extreme neutropenia, different types of hemorrhage and cardiovascular edema. A compound solubility is determined by its composition and solution conditions. Lipophilicity is determined by structure, hydrogen bonding, molecular volume, crystal energy which determine solubility. Solution conditions are affected by pH, co-solvents, additives, ionic strength, time, and temperature.³ Poorly soluble compounds can dramatically reduce productivity in drug discovery and development.

2. MATERIAL AND METHODS

2.1. Chemicals and reagents

Clopidogrel bisulphate is obtained as a generous gift sample from Pharmazel Pvt, Ltd, Vizag. L-Arginine (SD Fine chem Limited, Gujarat), PVPK-30 and Tween 80 (SR Scientifics Labs, Tirupati), MCC, and Cross

Corresponding author

Dr. A. Deevan Paul Email : deevan4@gmail.com

Received: 24-01-2021

Accepted: 13-02-2021

Available Online: 01-04-2021

povidone (CP) (SR Scientifics Labs, Tirupati), PEG 6000 (Himedia).

2.2. Preparation of clopidogrel bisulphate nanoparticles

Clopidogrel nanoparticles were prepared by the precipitation technique in separate entities, which is also called the anti-solvent precipitation method. Drugs were dissolved in methanol (3ml) at room temperature, this was poured into 10 ml of water containing different types of surfactants (alone and in combination) maintained at a temperature of 50°C and subsequently stirred at an agitation speed of 250 revolutions per minute (rpm) on a magnetic stirrer for 1 hour to allow the volatile solvent to evaporate. Addition of organic solvents using a syringe drop by drop positioned with the needle directly into the surfactant-containing water. The ratio of drug to the surfactant used was 1:2. Formulation undergoes 10 formulas (F1-F10) which were demonstrated in Table 1 with their composition.

2.3. Post formulation studies for nanoparticles (particle size analysis, polydispersity index (PDI), zeta potential and drug entrapment efficiency)

Particle size determination of the prepared formulas (F1-F15) was done by using the ABT-9000 Nano-laser particle size analyzer at scattering angle 90⁰. The average particle size analyzer which is also called volume moment mean reflects the size of those particles which constitute the bulk of the sample volume, was measured after experimenting with triplicates. The PDI of each formula was also determined as a measurement for the width of the size distribution, it is a parameter to define the particle size distribution of nanoparticles obtained from a particle analyzer. PDI is an index of width or spread or variation within the particle size distribution. The analyzer also determines the specific surface area for each sample. The freshly prepared liquid nanoparticles were centrifuged at 20,000 rpm for 20 minutes using an ultracentrifuge. The amount of unincorporated drug was measured by taking the absorbance of the appropriately diluted 25 ml of the supernatant solution at 268 nm using a UV spectrophotometer. DEE was calculated by subtracting the amount of free drug in the supernatant from the initial amount of drug taken. The experiment was performed in triplicate.⁴ Drug entrapment efficiency (DEE%) could be achieved by the following equation:

Entrapment Efficiency (%) = $\frac{W(Initial Drug) - W(Free Drug)}{W(Initial Drug)} \times 10$

2.4. Percentage cumulative drug release of clopidogrel bisulphate nanoparticles

In-vitro dissolution study of nanoparticles was performed using USP dissolution test apparatus-II (paddle assembly). The dissolution was performed using dialysis membrane-60 in 900 ml of phosphate buffer solution (PBS) of pH 6.8 as dissolution mediums containing 1% Sodium lauryl sulphate (SLS) maintained at 37 ± 0.5°C and 50 rpm for clopidogrel nanoparticles formulations. The freshly prepared clopidogrel nanoparticles (10 ml) were added to a dialysis bag and fitted to the paddle, samples (5ml) were withdrawn at regular intervals of 10 minutes for 80mins and replaced with a fresh dissolution medium to maintain sink condition. Samples were filtered through filter paper and assayed spectrophotometrically on UV-Visible spectrophotometer at 268 nm wavelength.⁵ The release of the selected formulation was compared with the pure drug in both the media of 0.1N HCl and phosphate buffer pH 6.8. The release of the drug by using 0.1 N HCl was performed for about 12hrs.⁶

2.5. Preparation of clopidogrel bisulphate tablets using superdisintegrants

Clopidogrel bisulfate tablets were prepared by direct compression method after freeze-drying of the ideal formulation that gave the best *in vitro* dissolution profile in 10 minutes in comparison with other nanoparticle formulations and pure drug. The amount of powder was taken and prepared using microcrystalline cellulose MCC, PVPK30, Polyethylene glycol PEG 6000, and SSG as a diluent, binder, lubricant, and disintegrants at different concentration and tested to obtain the optimum formulation that shows the accepted hardness and the best *in-vitro* dissolution profile.⁷ The composition of nanoparticle tablets is indicated in Table 2.

Materials (mg)	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6	F7	F8	F9	F10
Clopidogrel Bisulphate	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75
L- arginine	95	95	95	95	-	-	-	-	-	-
PVPK-30	-	95	-	-	95	-	-	95	95	-
Polyvinyl Alcohol	-	-	95	-	-	95	-	95	-	95
Tween 80	-	-	-	0.1	-	-	0.1	-	0.1	0.1
Methanol	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Water	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10

Table 1: Formulation of clopidogrel nanosuspensions using different stabilizers

Table 2: Composition	of Clopidogrel	Nanoparticle	Tablets	Using Differen	nt Superdisintegrants
----------------------	----------------	--------------	---------	----------------	-----------------------

10010 2.										
Materials (mg)	Fi	F2	F3	F4	ι F	5	F6	F7		
Clopidogrel bisulphate	75	75	75	75	7	5	75	75		
MCC	95	100	08 0	50	-		-	-		
PVPK 30	-	-	20	50	-		-	-		
Cross Povidone	-	-	-	-	1	00	-	50		
SSG	5	-	-	-	-		-	-		
Cross Carmellose	-	-	-	-	-		100	50		
PEG 6000	6	6	6	6	6	i	6	6		
Flavour	1	1	1	1	1		1	1		

2.6. Precompression parameters

The flowability of powder is of critical importance in the production of pharmaceutical dosage forms to get a uniform feed, as well as the reproducible filling of the tablet in dies otherwise high dose variations, will occur. The powder flowability of prepared clopidogrel tablets was characterized by an angle of repose and Carr's index.

2.6.1. Angle of repose

The angle of repose is defined as the maximum angle that varies between the surface of a pile and horizontal aircraft of powder.⁸ The frictional pressure in an unfastened powder or granules can be measured by using the angle of repose.

$$\emptyset = \tan^{-1}\frac{h}{r}$$

where, Ø is the angle of repose his height of pile,

r is the radius of the base of the pile.

Different ranges of flowability in terms of angle of repose are given in Table 3.

2.6.2. Bulk density

2.6.2.1. Loose bulk density (LBD) (g/cm³)

Loose bulk density (LBD) was measured using the formula:

$$LBD = \frac{\text{weight of the powder}}{\text{volume of the packing}}$$

2.6.2.2. Tapped bulk density (TBD) (g/cm³)

Tapped bulk density (TBD) were measured using the formula

$$TBD = \frac{\text{weight of the powder}}{\text{tapped volume of the packing}}$$

2.6.3. True density

The true density of granules is carried out by using a specific gravity bottle and calculated by using the formula,

True density =
$$(W_2 - W_4) (W_1 - W_3) / Q$$

where, $W_1 = Empty$ bottle weight

 Table 3: The relationship between the angles of repose and flow properties

Angle of Repose	Flow
<25	Excellent
25-30	Good
30-40	passable
>40	Very poor

 W_2 = weight of bottle with $3/4^{th}$ of liquid

 W_3 = weight of bottle with 1/4th quantity of powder

 W_4 = Final weight of the bottle with powder and liquid

2.6.4. Carr's index

It is a simple test to evaluate the bulk density and true density of a powder and the rate at which it was packed down. The formula for Carr's index is as below:

$$Carr's index = \frac{Tapped Density - Bulk Density}{Tapped Density} \times 100$$

2.6.5. Haussner's ratio

Haussner's Ratio is a number that is correlated to the flowability of a powder.

Haussner's Ratio =
$$\frac{\text{Tapped Density}}{\text{Bulk Density}}$$

2.7. Percentage cumulative drug release of clopidogrel bisulphate granules using super disintegrants

In-vitro dissolution studies for granules were performed by using USP dissolution test apparatus-II (paddle assembly). The dissolution was performed using 900 ml of 0.1 N HCl and phosphate buffer solution of pH 6.8 as dissolution mediums maintained at 37 ± 0.5 °C and 50 rpm for ideal tablet formulation formula in comparison with marketed clopidogrel tablet. Samples (5ml) were withdrawn at regular intervals of 10 minutes for 80 minutes in 0.1N HCl and replaced with a fresh dissolution medium to keep sink condition.⁹ Samples were filtered through filter paper and assayed spectrophotometrically on UV-VISIBLE spectrophotometer at 230 nm wavelength for 0.1 N HCl and 260 nm for PBS pH 6.8.¹⁰

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Fourier transform infra-red spectroscopy

The FT-IR spectra of the pure drug clopidogrel bisulphate, polyvinyl pyrrolidone, polyvinyl alcohol, SSG, MCC and L-arginine. The drug-polymer mixture was recorded to check the interaction between drug and polymers. The characteristic peaks of clopidogrel bisulphate appeared in all the spectra and values were shifted due to the formation of the complex. The results showed that the characteristic peak of clopidogrel bisulphate was 3120 cm⁻¹ which is due to the C-H stretching of the functional group present in the entire spectrum. This indicated that there was no chemical interaction between clopidogrel bisulphate and other excipients (Fig. 1-6).

3.2. Evaluation studies for nanoparticles

3.2.1. Determination of particle size (nm) and PDI

Particle size analysis of the prepared clopidogrel bisulphate nanoparticles was measured by using ABT-9000 nanolaser particle size ranges from 232.6 to 995.6 nm among all the formulations, F_2 showing the best result.



Fig. 3: FT-IR spectrum of drug and L-arginine

The effect of the release of the drug from the matrix at different time intervals on dissolution shows that pores are formed for the release of the drug. The effect of stirring rate on the particle size of the clopidogrel bisulphate nanoparticle is shown in Table 4. Here the particle size is increased and the number of particles is decreased.

3.2.2. Determination of zeta potential

Zeta potential values range from -2.4 to -11.63 provide an indirect measurement of the net charge on the nanopar-



Fig. 4: FT-IR spectrum of drug and micro crystalline cellulose



Fig. 5: FT-IR spectrum of drug and SSG



Fig 6: FT-IR of drug and CP

S. No.	Formulations	Particle size (nm)	Polydispersity Index (PI)
1.	F ₁	843.4	0.673
2.	F ₂	995.6	0.965
3.	F ₃	539.8	0.324
4.	F ₄	452.0	0.113
5.	F ₅	367.4	0.452
6.	F ₆	245.8	0.453
7.	F ₇	325.4	0.325
8.	F ₈	232.6	0.452
9.	F ₉	528.5	0.124
10	F ₁₀	321.4	0.323

ticle (NP) surface. Among all the formulations F2 is the best (-11.63) to characterize the superficial properties of NPs in a liquid state, zeta potential measurement is one of the most accessible. For this reason, the measurement of zeta potential can be routinely used as a pre-screening technique to control batch-to-batch consistency (Table 5).

3.2.3. Determination of drug entrapment efficiency

The DEE efficiency of Clopidogrel bisulphate nanoparticles from the formulas was found to be in the range of 30.10% to 94.4%. By comparing with all the formulations, F2 determines the highest value in DEE. The increase in the viscosity of the drug and polymer solution also

S. No.	Formulations	Zeta Potential (-mv)
1.	F ₁	-4.5
2.	F ₂	-11.63
3.	F ₃	-8.54
4.	F ₄	-5.5
5.	F ₅	-12.4
6.	F ₆	-8.6
7.	F ₇	-2.4
8.	F ₈	-3.7
9.	F ₉	-6.4
10.	F ₁₀	-8.6

Table 6: Determination of drug entrapment efficiency for the
nanoparticles

S. No.	Formulations	DEE%
1	F ₁	75.15
2	F ₂	94.4
3	F ₃	30.10
4	F ₄	32.52
5	F ₅	54.67
6	F ₆	42.43
7	F ₇	46.72
8	F ₈	67.42
9	F ₉	82.61
10	F ₁₀	88.45

resulted in increased entrapment efficiency. Again, the entrapment efficiency of the Clopidogrel bisulphate nanoparticles of different polymers indicated that it is improved upon the increase in the molecular weight of the polymer as represented in Table 6.

3.2.4. Percentage cumulative drug release studies for clopidogrel bisulphate nanoparticles

The dissolution studies were performed for the five formulations (F1-F5) of prepared clopidogrel bisulphate nanoparticles in comparison with the formulas. According to the Table 7 and Fig. 7 & 8, the results show that the formula F2 that contains PVP K-30 and L-arginine given the best release in 80 minutes in comparison with another formula, and the F2 formula determines the maximum drug release of 96.8%.

The dissolution studies were performed for the remaining formulations F6-F10. Present study results show that the formulation F7 which contains tween-80









Table 7: Cumulative drug release for clopidogrel nanoparticles (F ₁ -F ₅)											
Time Interval (Mins)	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6	F7	F8	F9	F10	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
10	22.3	46.8	25.8	21.8	30.8	20.3	20.6	22.7	29.4	30.2	
20	30.8	52.7	34.3	34.9	36.1	24.7	25.3	30.2	33.5	37.4	
30	35.3	60.3	40.1	40.4	47.9	30.3	30.7	35.5	38.1	41.5	
40	46.8	65.1	45.0	48.1	53.8	35.8	39.6	47.7	43.8	49.6	
50	58.9	78.4	53.1	57.3	61.5	48.3	43.	53.2	52.4	55.7	
60	65.8	86.9	61.9	63.1	73.7	60.1	56.2	68.8	60.7	63.5	
70	70.2	94.2	72.8	80.4	85.8	73.8	69.9	71.3	68.3	75.9	
80	78.1	96.8	79.3	83.7	87.3	81.5	84.8	79.8	80.6	82.1	

	Table 8: Precompression parameters for superdisintegrants granules								
Formulation code	Bulk density (g/cc)	Tapped density (g/cc)	Angle of repose	Cars index (%)	Hauser's ratio				
F1	0.53 ± 0.02	0.67 ± 0.01	21.25 ± 1.56	13 ± 1	1.1 ± 0.03				
F2	0.58 ± 0.05	0.68 ± 0.01	34.02 ± 1.20	13 ± 1.51	1.61 ± 0.03				
F3	0.49 ± 0.09	0.60 ± 0.02	37.01 ± 1.70	18 ± 1.20	1.30 ± 0.03				
F4	0.51 ± 0.08	0.64 ± 0.01	33.20 ± 0.88	18 ± 2.51	1.3 ± 0.03				
F5	0.55 ± 0.04	0.68 ± 0.01	29.4 ± 1.48	25 ± 1.58	1.3 ± 0.03				
F6	0.56 ± 0.13	0.62 ± 0.02	32.72 ± 1.22	12 ± 1.55	1.7 ± 0.04				
F7	0.58 ± 0.24	0.61 ± 0.38	24.87 ± 1.32	15 ± 39	1.2 ± 0.04				

Table 9: % Cumulative drug release studies for clopidogrel bisulphate granules using superdisintegrants

Time interval	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6	F7
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	23.5	22.5	23.8	24.9	34.6	20.5	21.8
20	28.4	30.8	34.5	30.1	42.8	29.8	33.9
30	35.9	39.5	38.8	38.5	51.6	38.9	40.8
40	40.1	45.3	41.8	45.8	58.9	44.7	47.9
50	49.8	57.8	52.6	51.9	64.6	58.9	58.5
60	53.2	63.1	68.9	62.9	72.1	63.1	61.9
70	68.7	70.8	71.8	69.8	86.6	69.8	67.5
80	72.3	78.5	78.4	72.5	91.6	78.9	83.9

has given the best release in 80 minutes in comparison with other formulations, whereas the F7 formulation has shown the maximum drug release of 84.8%. Among the F2 and F7 formulations, F2 has shown the best release i.e., 96.8% in 80 mins.

3.2.5. *Precompression parameters for superdisintegrants granules*

All the formulations were evaluated for various micrometric properties. The Carr's Index value is from 12 ± 1.55 to 25 ± 1.58 , bulk density ranges from 0.49 ± 0.09 to 0.58 ± 0.05 , angle of repose ranges from 21.25 ± 1.56 to 37.01 ± 1.70 , and Haussner's ratio ranges from 1.1 ± 0.03 to 1.7 ± 0.04 . These values showed that the granules possess good flow properties (Table 8).

3.2.6. Percentage cumulative drug release studies for clopidogrel bisulphate granules using superdisintegrants

The dissolution studies were performed for the seven formulations of prepared clopidogrel bisulphate granules. According to the Table 9 and the results show that the formula F5 that contains the crospovidone gave the best release in 80minutes in comparison with other formula and that formulation has shown the maximum drug release of 91.6% within 80minutes (Table 9 & Fig. 9).

3.2.7. Comparison dissolution studies for drug loaded nano particles with tablets

The comparative results of dissolution studies were performed for the F_2 formulation of clopidogrel bisulphate nanoparticles and F_5 formulation of clopidogrel

 Table 10: Comparison studies for drug-loaded nanoparticles

 with tablets

Time interval (mins)	F ₂ of Nanoparticles	F₅ of Super Disintegrants					
0	0	0					
10	46.8	34.6					
20	57.2	42.8					
30	62.8	51.6					
40	78.4	58.9					
50	85.4	64.6					
60	89.8	72.1					
70	94.2	86.6					
80	96.8	91.1					



Fig. 9: % cumulative drug release studies of clopidogrel tablets using superdisintegrants (F_1-F_7)

bisulphate granules using superdisintegrants (Table 10 & Fig. 10). In comparison with the ideal formulations of nanoparticles and superdisintegrants technologies, the F_2 of clopidogrel nanoparticles Shows the maximum drug release of 96.8%, when compared with clopidogrel granules of F_5 that is 91.1%. By determining the method



Fig. 10: Comparison dissolution studies for drug-loaded nanoparticles with granules

development technologies, we conclude that the dissolution nanoparticles have high solubility and bioavailability when compared with the superdisintegrants.

4. CONCLUSION

The present work involves method development technologies for improving the solubility and bioavailability studies by using the anti-solvent evaporation method and superdisintegrants technology. Preformulation studies of API characterization and drug excipient compatibilities were carried out by FT-IR spectroscopic methods. The results of F₂ containing Clopidogrel bisulphate nanoparticles using surfactants as the optimized formulation showing the result of 96.8% of the drug in 80minutes and formulation F₅ of Clopidogrel bisulphate granules using superdisintegrants it releases 91.6% of the drug in 80minutes by different polymers. The comparison studies showing the result of F₂ formulation of Clopidogrel bisulphate nanoparticles having the higher cumulative drug release than the F₅ formulation of Clopidogrel bisulphate granules using Superdisintegrants technology. This enables the active drug to convert into drug-loaded nanoparticles which enhances the solubility and bioavailability by improving method development technologies.

5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowlede the Principal of SVU College of Phar-

maceutical Sciences, SV University, Tirupati, India for allowing us to fulfill our research work.

6. REFERENCES

- 1. Chougule D, Ghodke D, Shahar, Ghaste R. Fast Dissolving Tablets: An Overview. 2010.
- 2. Zhang L, Wang S, Zhang M, Sun J. Nanocarriers for oral drug delivery. *J Drug Targ.* 2013;2:515-527.
- Salama NN, Eddington ND, Fasano A. Tight junction modulation and its relationship to drug delivery. *Adv Drug Deliv Rev.* 2006;58:15-28.
- Lennemas H. Modeling gastrointestinal drug absorption requires more in vivo biopharmaceutical data: Experience from in vivo dissolution and permeability studies in humans. *Curr Drug Metab.* 2007;8:645-657.
- Delmar K, Bianco-Peled H. Composite chitosan hydrogels for extended-release of hydrophobic drugs. *Carbohydrate Polymers*. 2016;136:570–580.
- Gupta H, Bandari D, Sharma A. Recent trends in oral drug delivery: a review. Recent Patents on Drug Delivery and Formulation. 2009;3:162-173.
- Jain N, Jain R, Thakur N et al. Nanotechnology: a safe and effective drug delivery system. *Asian J Pharm Clin Res.* 2010;3:159-165.
- 8. Michelson AD. Antiplatelet therapies for the treatment of cardiovascular disease. *Nat Rev Drug Discovery*. 9;2010:154-169.
- 9. Stratton MR. Exploring the genomes of cancer cells: progress and promise. *Science*. 2011;331:1553-1558.
- Balasubramaniam J, Bindu K, Rao VU, Ray D, Haldar R, Brzeczko AW. Effect of superdisintegrants on the dissolution of cationic drugs. *Dissolution Technologies*. 2008;15: 18-25.

How to cite this article: Paul AD, Neelima A, Prasanthi C, Kota N. Method Development Technologies for Clopidogrel Bisulphate by Improving Solubility and Bioavailability. Int. J. Appl. Pharm. Sci. Res. (2021);6(2): 15-21. doi: https://doi.org/10.21477/ijapsr.6.2.1

Source of Support: Nil.

Conflict of Support: None declared.