RESEARCH ARTICLE



Preparation, Optimization and in vitro Evaluation of Glipizide Nanoparticles Integrated with Eudragit RS-100



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> Abstract: Background: Solubility is an important criterion for drug efficacy, independent of the route of administration. It also poses a major challenge for pharmaceutical industries, which are developing new pharmaceutical products, since 40% of the active substances being identified are either insoluble or poorly soluble in aqueous media.

> **Objective:** The objective of this study was to develop nanoformulation of glipizide drugloaded nanoparticles providing controlled release formulation.

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Method: Nanoparticles were prepared by the solvent evaporation method. Eudragit RS100, a nonbiodegradable polymer with varying ratios was used for making the formulation. The effect of key formulation variables on the particle size and entrapment efficiency and drug loading of nanoparticles were studied by using factorial design.

Results: DSC thermograms indicate that glipizide was dispersed in an amorphous state in the polymer. TEM study indicates that the nanoparticles were in spherical shape. The mean diameter was dependent on the presence of the amount of Eudragit RS100 and viscosity of the organic phase. The *in vitro* study showed that the cumulative drug release was from 69.52-81.44 % in 10 hrs at pH 6.8 in phosphate buffer respectively.

Conclusion: The developed NPs could reduce dose frequency, decrease side effects, and improve patient compliance. Using factorial design, maximum entrapment efficiency with minimum particle size could be achieved with a few experiments.

Keywords: Characterization, Eudragit RS-100, glipizide, optimization, solvent evaporation, nanoparticles.

1. INTRODUCTION

Solubility is an important criterion for drug efficacy, independent of the route of administration. It also poses a major challenge for pharmaceutical industries, which are developing new pharmaceutical products, since 40% of the active substances being identified are either insoluble or poorly soluble in aqueous media. Over the last 10 years, nanoparticle (NP) engineering processes have been developed and reported for the enhancement of solubility of poorly aqueous soluble drugs [1].

Diabetes mellitus (DM) is one of the major incapacitating disorders spread worldwide, contributing to huge financial and health loses. Studies conducted in India highlighted that the prevalence of this metabolic dysfunction is high and increasing rapidly in the urban population due to sedentary lifestyle, aging, nutrition, stress, and obesity. The primary cause of Diabetes Mellitus Type 2 is that the pancreas may produce enough insulin to transport sugar into the cells, but the body may refuse to use the insulin [2]. Insulin helps unlock the cells of the body to allow the sugar to enter them so that glucose is transformed into energy. In Diabetes Type 2, the body refuses to use the insulin produced so insulin is unable to let the sugar enter the cells and transform into energy. The sec-

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Indonesia den 4 Maria blas	Levels				
Independent variables	Low (-1)	Medium (0)	High (+1)		
X1	50	100	150		
X2	0.15	0.30	0.45		

Table 1. Process variables and their levels for full factorial design.

ondary reason is insufficient for the production of insulin by the pancreas. The second generation hypoglycemic agents are used for Non-Insulin Dependent Diabetes Mellitus (NIDDM) [3, 4].

glipizide is an oral hypoglycemic agent, which is a commonly prescribed drug for the treatment of patients with type II diabetes. It is used as an adjunct to diet to the management of type II (noninsulin dependent) diabetes mellitus in patients whose hyperglycemia cannot be controlled by diet and exercise alone. glipizide is a weak acid (pKa = 5.9) practically insoluble in water and acidic environment and highly permeable (class II) drugs according to the Biopharmaceutical Classification System (BCS) [5].

Biodegradable and non-biodegradable polymers are ideal carriers for the formulation of nanoparticles. Most biodegradable polymers consist of synthetic polyesters like polycyanoacrylate or ploy (D, L-lactide) and related polymers like poly (lactic acid) PLA or poly (lactide-co-glycolide) to give a few examples. The solvent evaporation method is one of the most preferred methods used for the preparation of nanoparticles [6, 7].

Eudragit polymers can be used to produce formulations which allow custom-tailored release profiles and are released over a specific period of time. Drug delivery can be controlled throughout the entire GI tract (GIT) to increase the therapeutic effect and patient compliance. Different polymer combinations of Eudragit RS 100 allow customtailored release profiles to achieve the desired drug delivery performance [8].

The aim of the present work is to formulate nanoparticles using Eudragit RS100 polymer using the solvent evaporation method and optimize and evaluate sustained release nanoparticles to improve its bioavailability [9, 10].

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1. Materials

Glipizide was purchased from Sigma-Aldrich. Eudragit RS100 polymer was a gift sample from Evonik Degussa India Private Limited, Mumbai. Dichloromethane, Polyvinyl alcohol and PLA polymer were also purchased from Sigma-Aldrich.

2.2. Factorial Design and Optimization

In this study, the first step was to screen using 3^2 factorial design. The second step was to optimize using 3^2 factorial designs to investigate the physicochemical properties of glipizide nanoparticles. Design-Expert (version 7.0.0; stat-Ease, Inc., Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA) was used for mathematical modeling and assessment of the response. A preliminary study was carried out based on prior knowledge from a literature survey [11, 12]. Based on the results obtained from preliminary experiments, the amount of Eudragit RS-100 (X1) and concentration of PVA (X2) was in the range of low, medium and high for independent variables which are presented in Table 1. Entrapment Efficiency (EE), Particle Size (nm) and drug loading were the response variables.

In developing the regression equation, the test factors were coded according to equation 1.

$$\boldsymbol{X}\boldsymbol{i} = (\mathrm{X}\mathbf{i} - \boldsymbol{X}_{\boldsymbol{i}}^{\boldsymbol{X}}) / \Delta \boldsymbol{X}\boldsymbol{i}$$
(1)

where xi is the coded value of i^{th} independent variable, Xi is the natural value of the i^{th} independent variable, X_i^X is the natural value of the i^{th} independent variable at the center points and ΔXi is the step change value. The multiple regressions according to the quadratic model were carried out using equation 2.

$$Y = b_0 + \sum_{i} biXi + \sum_{i} \sum_{j} y bij Xi Xj + \sum_{j} biiXi$$
(2)

Run	Amount of Polymer Eudragit RS-100 (mg) X1	Amount of Surfactant PVA (% w/v) X2	Particle Size (nm) Y1	Entrapment Efficiency (%) Y2	% Drug Loading Y3
1	150	0.3	857	62.56	16.87
2	100	0.3	423.8	77.97	37.94
3	100	0.3	465.3	77.29	38.12
4	50	0.15	377.8	64.49	32.56
5	100	0.3	510.6	77	38.51
6	100	0.45	257.7	81.23	40.12
7	100	0.3	354.8	77.81	37.12
8	100	0.15	532.5	75.12	36.1
9	150	0.45	720.9	65.18	18.23
10	100	0.3	585.5	69.75	33.12
11	50	0.45	243	77.81	37.12
12	50	0.3	336.2	71.73	35.54
13	150	0.15	864.5	58.43	15.43

 Table 2. Results of 3² factorial design of glipizide loaded nanoparticles.

where Y is the measured response, bo is the intercept term, bi, bij and bii are the measures of the variables Xi, XiXij and Xi.² The variable XiXj represents the first-order interactions between Xi and Xj (i<j). Multiple regression was applied using Microsoft Excel in order to reduce the factors having a significant effect on the properties of formulations and then the best fitted mathematical model was selected on the basis of the results. The 3-D response surface plots and 2-D contour plots were studied using Design-Expert [11-13]. The results of full factorial design and observational data are given in Table **2**.

2.3. Preparations of Glipizide Nanoparticles

Solvent evaporation method was used for the preparation of glipizide nanoparticles. Firstly, the emulsification of polymeric solution was done in an aqueous solution containing a surfactant. Then the evaporation of polymeric solution was done by precipitation of the polymer. In the solution of dichloromethane (DCM), acetone drug was dissolved. With constant stirring using a magnetic stirrer, the organic solution was added into an aqueous phase containing polyvinyl alcohol. The emulsion was sonicated using probe sonicator for 6 min to get nanosize of the emulsion. The organic solvent was then evaporated using constant stirring on a magnetic stirrer for about 4-5 hrs. After centrifugation (30 min, 10000 rpm), the nanoparticles were collected. The prepared emulsion was then kept for lyophilization for 48 hrs [14-16].

2.4. Size Measurement

Nanoparticles after freeze-drying were reconstituted in distilled water. Zeta potential of nanoparticles was determined by particle size analyzer (Zeta Sizer Ver System, UK). The measurement was done in triplicate [17, 18].

2.5. Drug Loading and Entrapment Efficiency

The entrapment efficiency and drug loading of nanoparticles containing glipizide were determined by spectrophotometric determination of nanoparticles at 276 nm in a supernatant centrifuged for 30 min at 10000 rpm [19, 20].

The entrapment efficiency and drug loading was determined from following equations:

Entrapment Efficiency =

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\frac{\text{Total amont of drug - amont of free drug} \times 100}{\text{total amount of drug added}}
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Drug Loading =

2.6. Drug Release Studies

A modified dialysis method was used to evaluate the *in vitro* release of nanoparticles. 2 ml. of nanoparticles suspension was placed in a dialysis bag (cellophane membrane) which was tied and placed into 900 ml. of phosphate buffer with pH 6.8, at temperature 37° C and at 100rpm in USPXXV Type II (Paddle) dissolution apparatus [21]. At selected time intervals, 5 ml aliquots were withdrawn from the medium and replaced with the same amount of buffer. The data obtained from *in vitro* drug release were fitted to kinetic models to understand the mechanism of drug release from the nanoparticles. The study was performed in triplicate [22].

2.7. Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR)

The FTIR study was done using Fourier Transform Infrared spectrophotometer (Shimadzu, 8400S, Japan). The test samples were mixed with KBr, pressed into a disk and scanned from 400-4000 cm⁻¹ [23].

2.8. Differential Scanning Calorimetry

The physical state characteristics of glipizide entrapped nanoparticles were characterized by Differential Scanning Calorimetry (DSC-60, Shimadzu, Japan). Each sample was selected in standard aluminum pans with lids and purged with air at a flow rate of 40 ml/min. The heat flows were recorded in the range of 30-300°C under inert nitrogen atmosphere [24].

2.9. Transmission Electron Microscopy

TEM analysis of the prepared nanoparticles was carried out to study the morphology of nanoparticles. For the study, a drop of nanoparticles suspension containing 0.01% of phosphotungstic acid was placed on a carbon film coated on a copper grid. The study was performed using Philips Technai-20, Japan. The copper grid was fixed into a sample holder and placed in a vacuum chamber of the transmission electron microscope and observed under low vacuum and the TEM images were recorded [25].

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Optimization and the Experiment

The 3^2 factorial design was used to study the responses for all formulations on the basis of variables. The responses observed for all formulations were Particle size (Y1), Entrapment Efficiency (Y2) and Drug Loading (Y3). Table 2 shows the experimental design of Eudragit RS-100 nanoparticles and the results of measured responses. The effect of the combination of polymer and surfactant (PVA) on entrapment efficiency and drug loading was studied using the response surface plot and the results of the response surface plot and the results of the response surface plot are given in Figs. (1-3).

Based on the results obtained in preliminary experiments, the amount of Eudragit RS-100 (X1) and concentration of PVA (X2) were found to be major variables affecting the Particle size (Y1), Entrapment efficiency (Y2) and % Drug loading (Y3) of the nanoparticles. In case of particle size, the results showed that an increase in PS due to an increase in the polymer concentration and a decrease in the volume of organic phase. In case of drug entrapment efficiency, the results indicate that an increase in drug entrapment due to an increase in polymer concentration and a decrease in the solvent.

3.2. Response Surface Plots

Three-dimensional response surface plots generated by the Design Expert are presented in Fig. (1) for glipizide nanoparticles. Fig. (1) depicts the response surface plots for the particle size of glipizide nanoparticle which show an increase in PS due to an increase in the polymer concentration and a decrease in the volume of the organic phase [26-28]. Fig. (2) depicts the response surface plot for Drug entrapment efficiency which indicates an increase in drug entrapment due to an increase in polymer concentration and a decrease in the solvent. Fig. (3) shows the effect of concentration of polymer and PVA on drug loading.

Quadratic model was found to be significant for particle size, entrapment efficiency and drug loading

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Fig. (1). Response surface plot showing combined effects of Eudragit rs-100 and pva on particle size of nanoparticles.



Fig. (2). Response surface plot showing combined effect of Eudragit rs-100 and pva on % entrapment efficiency of nanoparticles.



Fig. (3). Response surface plot showing combined effect of Eudragit rs-100 and pva on percent drug loading of nanoparticles.

variables. Table 3 shows the model summary statistics of responses.

The relationship between the formulation variables and the responses in terms of coded factors is represented by the following equations [29, 30].

Particle Size (Y1) = +464.16+247.57* A -92.20* B -2.20* AB +142.04* A² -59.46* B²

Entrapment Efficiency (Y2) = +76.36-4.64* A $+4.36*B - 1.64*AB - 10.21*A^2 + 0.82*B^2$

Drug Loading (Y3) = +37.17-9.11* A +1.90* B - 0.44^* AB -11.49* A² +0.42* B²

where

A = Amount of polymer

B = Amount of surfactant (PVA)

AB = Amount of polymer (Eudragit RS100) * surfactant (PVA)

3.3. Solution of Numerical Optimization

On the basis of desirability approach, the numerical optimization technique was used to develop a new formulation with the desired responses of minimum particle size, maximum entrapment efficiency and maximum drug loading [31, 32]. The desirability function combines all responses in one measurement, in order to achieve the desired goal. After obtaining the desired goal, the lower limit and upper limits were set for different points as shown in Table 4.

By the numerical optimization and after confirmation of report, the formulation compositions are shown in the Table 5. The desirability approach provides a possibility to predict the optimum levels of the independent variables.

3.4. Determination of Particle Size and Percent **Drug Entrapment**

The freeze-dried nanoparticles were reconstituted in distilled water and their particle size was determined using a particle size analyzer (Zetasizer Ver System, UK). The particle size was increased by increasing the amount of polymer and this was due to the viscous nature of the polymer. The increase in the concentration of the surfactant

Response	Model	Adjusted R- Squared	Predicted R- Squared	Press	Significance
	Linear	0.7812	0.6957	1.559E+005	-
Y1	2FI	0.7569	0.5611	2.248E+005	-
	Quadratic	0.8743	0.7745	1.155E+005	Suggested
	Linear	0.2623	-0.2019	760.01	-
Y2	2FI	0.2030	-1.2967	1452.34	-
	Quadratic	0.8381	0.7427	162.70	Suggested
	Linear	0.4518	0.1018	859.93	-
Y3	2FI	0.3920	-0.8333	1755.27	-
	Quadratic	0.9619	0.9570	41.14	Suggested

Table 3. Model summary statistics of Eudragit rs100 nanoparticles formulation response to select suitable model.

Table 4. Constraints of numerical optimization (Eudragit rs100 nanoparticles).

Name	Goal	Lower Limit	Upper Limit	Lower Weight	Upper Weight	Importance
A:Amount of polymer (Eudragit RS100)	is in range	50	150	1	1	3
B:Surfactant	is in range	0.15	0.45	1	1	3
Particle Size (PS)	minimize	243	864.5	1	1	4
% Entrapment Efficiency (EE)	maximize	58.43	81.23	1	1	3
%Drug Loading (DL)	is in range	15.43	40.12	1	1	4

Table 5. Solution of numerical optimization (Eudragit RS100 Nanoparticles).

Sr. No.	Amount of Polymer (EuRS100)	Surfactant	Particle Size (PS)	%Entrapment Efficiency (EE)	%Drug Loading (DL)	Desirability	Selection
1	62.073	0.450	208.114	80.440	40.120	0.985	Selected
2	60.578	0.450	207.349	80.156	39.874	0.980	-
3	54.429	0.450	206.866	78.795	38.647	0.953	-
4	96.347	0.450	295.335	81.951	40.120	0.951	-
5	94.214	0.433	309.557	81.432	40.120	0.937	-

led to a decrease in the particle size of nanoparticles (Fig. 4) [31, 32].

Entrapment efficiency and drug loading were increased with an increase in the polymer ratio (1:2). The decrease in entrapment efficiency and drug loading was studied after due to saturation capacity of polymer and formation of the more compact polymeric coat. However, drug loading and entrapment efficiency were increased with an increase in the amount of PVA. Due to large free surface, the smaller particle released the incorporated drug in faster rate which can lead to a faster



Fig. (4). Particle size of glipizide loaded Eudragit rs100 nanoparticles of different formulations.



Fig. (5). Entrapment efficiency of glipizide loaded Eudragit rs100 nanoparticles of different formulations.

release of the drug incorporated. Nanoparticles had an average particle size of 257.7 ± 5.6 nm [33, 34].

3.5. Percentage Entrapment Efficiency and Drug Loading

The entrapment efficiency and drug loading were found to be in the range of 58.43% to 81.23% and 15.43% to 40.12% respectively. Entrapment efficiency and drug loading increased with an increase in the polymer ratio, up to a particular concentration (1:2). A decrease in entrapment efficiency and drug loading was observed after that due to the saturation capacity of the polymer and formation of the more compact polymeric coat which is shown in Figs. (5 and 6). However, the entrapment efficiency and drug loading were increased with increase in PVA concentration [35].

3.6. Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR)

The spectrum of glipizide and physical mixture of glipizide and Eudragit RS-100 is shown in Fig. (7). The FTIR spectra of Eudragit RS100 confirmed the peaks at 2981cm⁻¹ because of CH aliphatic stretching and1723 cm⁻¹ due to -C=O stretching. Matching of FT-IR spectrum of glipizide and Eudragit was not involved in intermolecular



Fig. (6). Drug loading of glipizide loaded Eudragit rs100 nanoparticles different formulations.



Fig. (7). FTIR spectra of glipizide.

interaction with the drug. The reduction in the intensity of peaks of nanoparticles formulation is probably due to weak electrostatic interaction between drug and ammonium group of polymer due to solvent evaporation. Results are shown in Table 7 [34, 35].

3.7. Differential Scanning Calorimetry (DSC)

Differential Scanning Calorimetry (DSC) is one of the general methods to study the physicochemical interaction between the drug and excipients. DSC thermograph of Eudragit RS-100 is shown in Fig. (8).

Sr. No.	Interpretation	Peaks (cm ⁻¹) Observed	
1	N-H bending	1528.89	
2	S=O stretching	1333.43	
3	N-H stretching	3325.90, 3251.71	
4	C=O stretching	1689.83	
5	CONH- stretching	1651.50	
6	C=O stretching of ester group	1714.68	

 Table 7. FTIR interpretation of glipizide loaded rs100 optimized batch.



Fig. (8). DSC thermogram of glipizide loaded rs 100 optimized batch.

The optimized batch showed two endothermic peaks at 174.44°C due to the presence of Eudragit RS100 and 200.71°C due to the presence of glipizide. The endothermic peak of pure glipizide was found at 207.04°C [33, 34]. There was a slightl shift in the endothermic peak of glipizide in drugloaded nanoparticles as compared to that of pure glipizide. This may be due to the drug being in an amorphous form rather than crystalline form. DSC studies show that there was compatibility between the drug and the polymers. The thermogram of optimized batch is shown in Fig. (8).

3.8. Dissolution Study

The drug release profile of the drug-loaded nanoparticles is shown in Figs. (9 and 10). Drug release studies of nanoparticles show the biphasic release profile. The release was associated with





Fig. (9). Drug release profile of F1-F16.



Fig. (10). Drug release profile of formulations (F7-F13).

diffusion release with an initial fast release due to the smaller size of nanoparticles and the drug was able to reach the interface of dissolution medium easily [35, 36]. The release profiles showed the cumulative drug release from 69.52-81.44 % in 10 hrs at pH 6.8. The increase in percent cumulative drug release with an increase in surfactant concentration could be attributed to a decrease in the particle size and increase in the surface area available for dissolution. The percent drug release was increased due an increase in the surfactant concentration and this can be attributed to a decrease in the particle size and an increase in the surface area. The release rate reduces as there is an increase in the molecular weight of polymers [37, 38].

3.9. Drug Release Kinetics

The drug release data of optimized batch of glipizide loaded Eudragit RS100 nanoparticles were fit to zero order, first order, and Higuchi and Korsmeyer-Peppas models. The value of correlation

 Table 7. Values of correlation coefficients (R²) calculated after fitting the release profile of optimized batch obtained using different mathematical models.

S. No.	Model	Value of R ²
1	Zero-order	0.962
2	First order	0.987
3	Higuchi order	0.988
4	Korsmeyer-Peppas model	0.993



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Fig. (11). TEM image of glipizide loaded rs 100 optimized batch.

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coefficient (\mathbb{R}^2) is shown in Table 7. The result of the highest \mathbb{R}^2 value of the optimized batch of Eudragit RS100 nanoparticles followed the Korsmeyer-Peppas model. Korsmeyer-Peppas model indicated that drug release followed a combination of diffusion as well as erosion mechanisms [36, 37].

3.10. Transmission Electron Microscopy

The particle size of the optimized batch was determined by TEM analysis and the patterns were found to be uniform in size and spherical in shape. The image of particles is shown in Fig. (11).

CONCLUSION

Glipizide loaded Eudragit RS100 NPs were prepared using the solvent evaporation method. 3^2 factorial design was employed for the design of formulation. As indicated by the study formulation of glipizide, Eudragit RS100 has the ability to modify the physicochemical characteristics of the drug. Using factorial design maximum entrapment efficiency with minimum particle size could be achieved with few experiments. The response surface plots and contour plots were studied to confirm the same. In vitro release was found to follow the first order Fickian diffusion kinetics. There was an increase in drug encapsulation efficiency. The DSC confirms there is a decrease in crystallinity in the nanoparticles formulations. The intermolecular interaction between drug and Eudragit RS100 was detected in the FT-IR spectrum of the prepared formulation.

ETHICS APPROVAL AND CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE

Not applicable.

HUMAN AND ANIMAL RIGHTS

No Animals/Humans were used for studies that are the basis of this research.

CONSENT FOR PUBLICATION

Not applicable.

AVAILABILITY OF DATA AND MATERIALS

The authors confirm that the data supporting the findings of this research are available within the article.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare no conflict of interest, financial or otherwise.

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