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RESEARCH ARTICLE

FORMULATION AND EVALUATION OF ORAL FLOATABLE *IN-SITU* GEL OF RANITIDINE HYDROCHLORIDE

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ABSTRACT:

Objective: The present investigation deals with the formulation, optimization and evaluation of sodium alginate based floating oral *In situ* gel of Ranitidine Hydrochloride. Sodium alginate used as a polymer and CaCO₃ was used as a cross-linking agent. *In-situ* forming polymeric formulation drug delivery systems is in sol form before administration in the body, but once administered, undergoes gelation *in-situ* to form a gel. The formulation of gel depends upon factors like temperature modulation, pH changes, presence of ions and ultraviolet irradiation from which drug gets released in sustained and controlled manner.

Methods: The objective of this study was to develop a novel *in-situ* gel system for sustained drug delivery using natural biodegradable polymers. The system utilizes polymers that exhibit sol-to-gel phase transition due to change in specific physicochemical parameters.

Results: *In-situ* gel was formed at a gastric pH from designed set of experiments, it was evident that formulation containing 2 % of sodium alginate control the release of drug for longer duration. The *in-situ* gel exhibited the expected, viscosity, drug content, pH, *in vitro* gelling capacity, *in vitro* floating ability and sustained drug release.

Conclusion: The formulated *in situ* gel for Ranitidine Hydrochloride was found to be stable *in situ* gel. It was found to have better floating efficacy and *in vitro* release profile characteristics. Better efficiency and results of batch F-6 gives newer alternative use of natural biodegradable polymers *in situ* gel formulation.

Key Words: Oral *In-situ* gel, Sustained Release, Sodium alginate, Calcium Carbonate, Ranitidine Hydrochloride.

INTRODUCTION:

The present investigation deals with the formulation, optimization and evaluation of sodium alginate based floating oral *In situ* gel of Ranitidine Hydrochloride. Sodium alginate used as a polymer and CaCO₃ was used as a cross- 3 linking agent. Oral administration is most convenient and preferred means of any drug delivery to the systemic circulation. Oral sustained release drug delivery recently have been increasing interest in pharmaceutical field to achieve improved therapeutic advantages, such as ease of dosing administration, patient compliance and flexibility in formulation. *In-situ* forming polymeric formulations drug delivery systems is in solution form before administration in the body, but once administered, undergoes gelation *in-situ* to form a gel. The formulation of gel depends upon factors like temperature modulation, pH changes, presence of ions and ultraviolet irradiation, from which drug gets released in sustained and controlled manner. The objective of this study was to develop a novel *in-situ* gel system for sustained drug delivery using natural biodegradable polymers. The system utilizes polymers that exhibit solution-to-gel phase transition due to change in specific physicochemical parameters. *In-situ* gel was formed at a biological pH from designed set of experiments, it was evident that formulation containing 2 % of sodium alginate control the release of drug for longer duration. The *in-situ* gel exhibited the expected, viscosity, drug content, pH, *in vitro* gelling capacity, *in vitro* floating ability and sustained drug release. Ranitidine hydrochloride is a H₂-antagonist competitively inhibits histamine actions at all H₂-receptors, but are mainly used clinically as inhibitors of gastric acid secretion. Local availability of H₂-antagonists in stomach has a greater clinical significance in treatment of peptic ulcer. Ranitidine hydrochloride is a H₂ antagonist, is widely

prescribed in active duodenal ulcers, gastric ulcers and gastroesophageal reflux disease. In the present study, an attempt was made to develop a gastro-retentive *in situ* gelling liquid formulation using ranitidine for local release in the stomach. Gastro-retentive *in situ* gelling liquid formulations were formulated using different grades and concentrations of sodium alginate.

Sustained release forms: The goal of any drug delivery system is to provide a therapeutic amount of drug to the proper site in the body to achieve promptly, and then maintain, the desired drug concentration. That Spatial placement relates to targeting a drug to a specific organ or tissue, while temporal delivery refers to controlling the rate of drug delivery to the target tissue. An approximately designed sustained release drug delivery system can be a major advance toward solving these two problems. Most sustained-release forms are designed so that the administration of a single dosage unit provides the immediate release of an amount of drug that promptly produces the desired therapeutic effect and gradual and continual release of additional amounts of drug to maintain this level of effect over an extended period, usually 8 to 12hrs. In general, the drugs best suited for incorporation into a sustained release product have following characteristics.

1. They exhibit neither very slow nor very fast rates of absorption and excretion.
2. They are uniformly absorbed from the gastro intestinal tract.
3. They possess a good margin of safety¹.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Materials

Ranitidine Hydrochloride (RHCL) Was Received As a Gift Sample From Ranbaxy Pharmaceuticals Ltd (India). Sodium Alginate (SA) Were Purchased From Loba chemie (P) Ltd. Mumbai, Calcium Carbonate, Sodium Citrate, D-sorbitol, Potassium chloride And Sodium chloride Were Purchased From Central Drug House (P) Ltd. New delhi (India). All Other Chemicals Used In The Study Were of Analytical Grade.

Methods

Preparation of Ranitidine *in situ* gelling solution – SA (sodium alginate) Solution was prepared in distilled water by heating to 60°C under continuous stirring. After cooling

below 40 °C. Ingredients including drug, gelling agent and other excipients were weighed accurately on butter paper with the help of a stainless steel then Sodium alginate solution of difference concentrations (1, 1.5 and 2gm) were prepared by adding the sodium alginate to distilled water containing difference concentration (0.25gm, 0.5gm) calcium carbonate, and difference concentration (0.25gm, 0.5gm) sodium citrate and heating to 60°C and after cooling below 40°C and continuous stirring. Appropriate amounts of Ranitidine hydrochloride 0.30 (gm) and flavouring agent (the optimized concentrations 1, 2, 3 gm of D-sorbitol) were then dissolved in the resulting solution and formulation were prepared. The resulting formulations were finally stored in amber coloured bottles until further use².

Table 1: Composition of Floating *in situ* gel

Ingredients	Formulation code & Quantities					
	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
Ranitidine Hydrochloride	300 mg	300 mg	300 mg	300 mg	300 mg	300 mg
Sodium Alginate	1 gm	1.5 gm	2 gm	1 gm	1.5 gm	2 gm
Sodium Citrate	250 mg	250 mg	250 mg	500 mg	500 mg	500 mg
CaCO ₃	250 mg	250 mg	250 mg	500mg	500mg	500mg
D. sorbitol	1gm	2gm	3gm	1gm	2gm	3gm
Distil Water	q.s.	q.s.	q.s.	q.s.	q.s.	q.s.
Total weight (ml)	100ml	100ml	100ml	100ml	100ml	100ml

Determination of UV Absorbance Maxima of Ranitidine Hydrochloride- The standard stock solution was used to determination the λ max of (0.1 N HCl, pH 1.2) was used as blank for the study. The spectrum was taken between the UV range of 200-400nm. The highest peak obtained from the spectrum analysis was taken as λ max for Ranitidine Hydrochloride.

Preparation of standard calibration curve of Ranitidine Hydrochloride- Ranitidine Hydrochloride (10 mg) was dissolved in (0.1 N HCl, pH 1.2) and volume was made up to 100 ml in 100 ml volumetric flask. This solution (100 mcg/ml) was further diluted with (0.1 N HCl, pH 1.2) to obtain solution of 10 to 100 mcg/ml. The absorbance of each solution was measured at 314 nm using UV spectrophotometer. The standard curve was obtained by plotting absorbance v/s. concentration ($\mu\text{g/ml}$)³.

Identification of Drug by FTIR- Compatibility of the ranitidine hydrochloride with gelling agent and other excipients was established by infrared spectral analysis IR Spectral analysis of samples (Ranitidine hydrochloride, Sodium Citrate, Sodium alginate, calcium carbonate, sorbitol) was carried out to investigate the changes in chemical composition of the drug⁴.

Physical Appearance and pH:- All the prepare sodium alginate based *in situ* solution were checked for their clarity and the type of the solution. After administration of the prepared solution in (0.1N HCL, pH 1.2) also checked the time required for gel formation and type of gel formed. The pH was measured in each of the solution of sodium alginate based *in situ* solution using a calibrated digital pH

meter at 27°C. the measurement of pH of each data were in triplicate⁵.

Viscosity of *in situ* gelling solutions – The viscosity of formulations was determined by a Brookfield viscometer DV-III (Brookfield, USA) using spindle number 21 with cup and bob setting at 50 rpm⁶.

Floating behaviour – The floating ability of the prepared formulations was evaluated in (0.1N HCl, pH 1.2) Solution. The floating time of the prepared formulation took to emerge on the medium surface (floating lag time) was found to be 60sec. The time the formulation constantly floated on the dissolution medium surface (duration of floating) was evaluated to be 12hrs resulting the formation of thick gel with good floating tendency⁷.

***In-vitro* gelling capacity -** To evaluate the formulations for their *in-vitro* gelling capacity by visual method, solutions of *in situ* gel forming drug delivery system were prepared. The *in-vitro* gelling capacity of prepare formulations was measured by placing 5 ml of the gelation solution (0.1N HCL, pH 1.2) in a 15 ml borosilicate glass test tube and maintained at 37±1°C temperature. One ml of formulation solution was added with the help of pipette. The formulation was transferred in such a way that places the pipette at surface of fluid in test tube and formulation was slowly released from the pipette. As the solution comes in contact with gelation solution, it was immediately converted into stiff gel like structure. The gelling capacity of solution was evaluated on the basis of stiffness of formed gel and time period for which the formed gel remains as such. The *in-vitro* gelling capacity

was graded in three categories on the basis of gelation time and time period for which the formed gel remains.

(+) Gels after few minutes, dispersed rapidly

(++) Gelation immediate remains for 12 hours

(+++ Gelation immediate remains for more than 12 hours⁸.

Drug content:

Ten ml of the solution was added to 900 ml (0.1N HCl, pH 1.2) Solution and stirred for 1 hr. on a magnetic stirrer. The solution was filtered, suitably diluted with (0.1N HCl, pH 1.2) and the drug concentration was determined by using a UV-visible spectrophotometer a (Shimadzu UV 1700 Pharmaspec) at 314 nm against a suitable blank solution².

In vitro release studies:

An *in vitro* release study was carried out using dissolution test apparatus USP Type II (Paddle Method). The following procedure was followed throughout the study that is shown in (table 2) to determine the *in vitro* dissolution rate for the formulations. The release of ranitidine from the formulations was determined using dissolution test apparatus USP Type II with a paddle stirrer at 50 rpm. The dissolution medium used 900 ml of (0.1N HCL, pH 1.2) solution and temperature was maintained at 37 ± 0.2 °C. Ten ml of the formulation were placed into a Petri dish (4.5 cm i.d.) which was kept in the dissolution vessel and 0.1N HCL solution was carefully added to the vessel avoiding any disturbance of the Petri dish. At each time interval, a precisely measured sample of the dissolution medium was pipetted out and replenished with fresh medium. Ranitidine hydrochloride concentration in the aliquot was determined spectrophotometrically⁹.

Table: 2 Dissolution of Floating In Situ Gel

Dissolution medium	900 ml of (0.1N HCL,1.2 pH) solution
Temperature	37 ± 0.2 °C
RPM	50
Volume withdrawn	10 ml every 1 hrs.
λ_{\max}	314 nm
Sol. taken	Ten ml sol. (Known drug content)

Drug release kinetic studies:

The drug release kinetic studies were done by various mathematical models (zero order, first order, Higuchi's square root, Hixson-Crowell cube root law and Pappas

equation). The model that best fits the release data is selected based on the correlation coefficient (r) value in various models. The model that gives high 'r' value is considered as the best fit of the release data. The release constant was calculated from the slope of the appropriate plots, and the regression coefficient (r^2) was determined¹⁰.

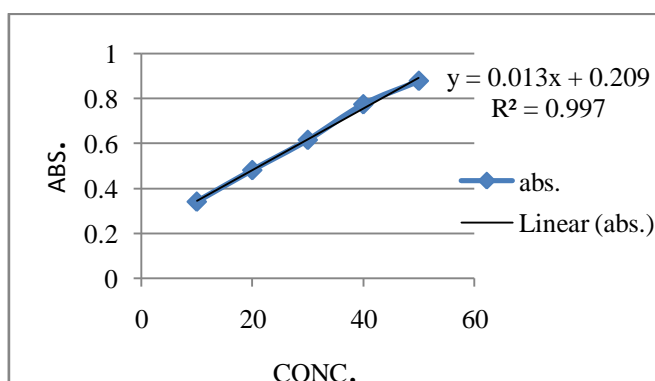
Stability testing:

preparation of sodium alginate based *in situ* gel of Ranitidine hydrochloride was stored in glass container(well stoppered) for 1, 2 & 3 month and the stability of the aqueous solution of the sodium alginate based *in situ* gel of Ranitidine hydrochloride was monitored up to three month at accelerated stability condition (45°C temp. And 75% RH) periodically sample were removed and characterized by pH, viscosity and drug content¹¹.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Determination of UV Absorbance Maxima of Ranitidine Hydrochloride- The standard stock solution was used to determination the λ_{\max} of (0.1 N HCl, pH 1.2) was used as blank for the study. The spectrum was taken between the UV range of 200-400nm. The highest peak obtained from the spectrum analysis was taken as λ_{\max} for Ranitidine Hydrochloride that used was found to be 314 nm.

Figure 1: Standard Calibration Curve of Ranitidine HCl



Identification of Drug by FTIR

Identification study was performed using FTIR spectrophotometer. The characteristic absorption peaks of Ranitidine hydrochloride were obtained at different wave numbers. The peaks obtained in the spectra of pure drug correlates with the peaks of official spectrum of British Pharmacopeia which confirms the purity of drug.

Figure 2 IR spectra of Ranitidine hydrochloride

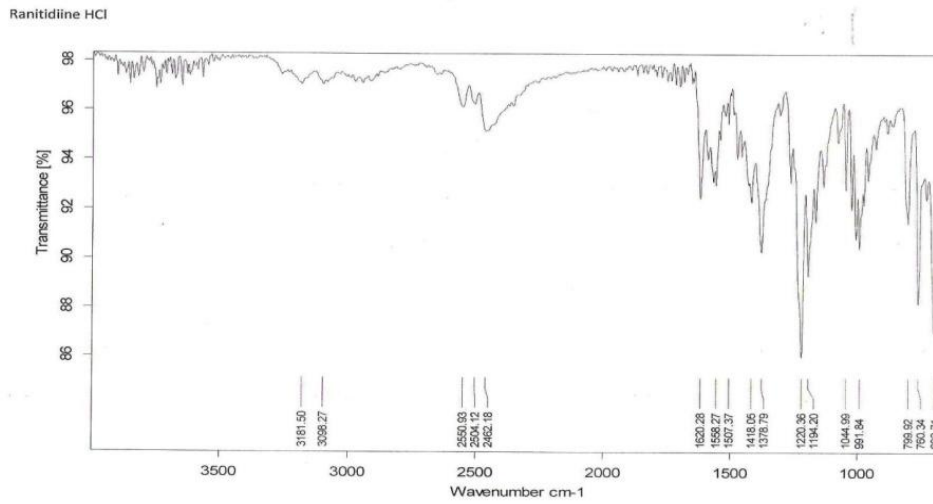


Figure 3 IR spectra of Ranitidine hydrochloride with sodium alginate

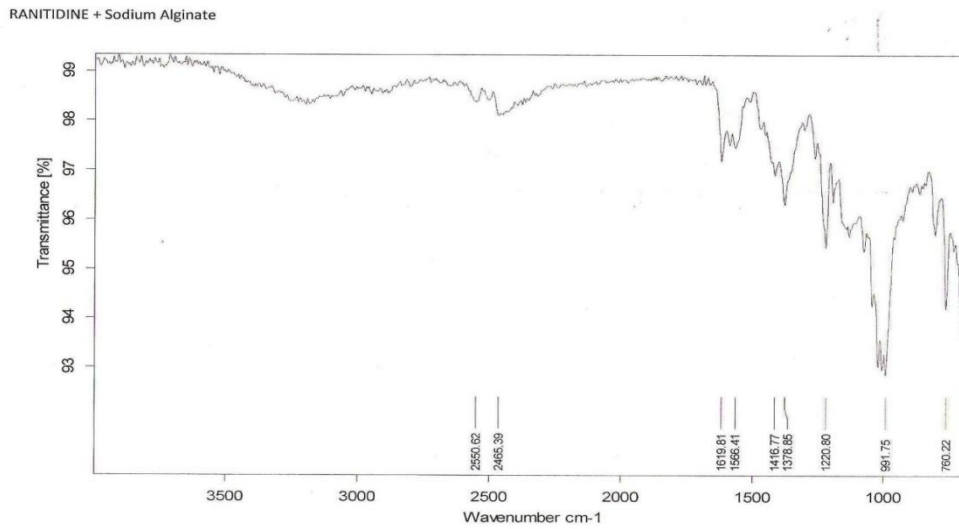


Figure 4: IR spectra of Ranitidine hydrochloride+ sodium citrate

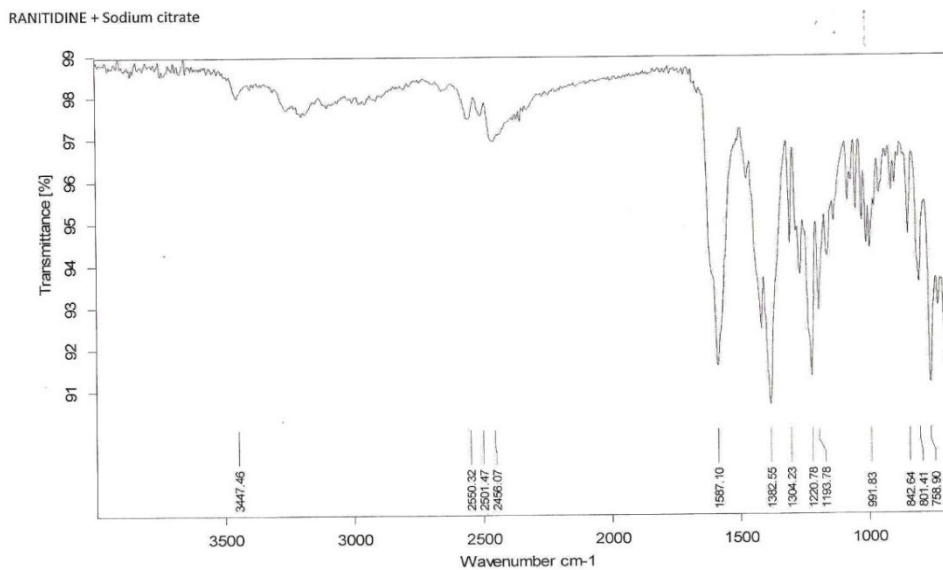


Figure 5: IR spectra of Ranitidine hydrochloride with Excipients

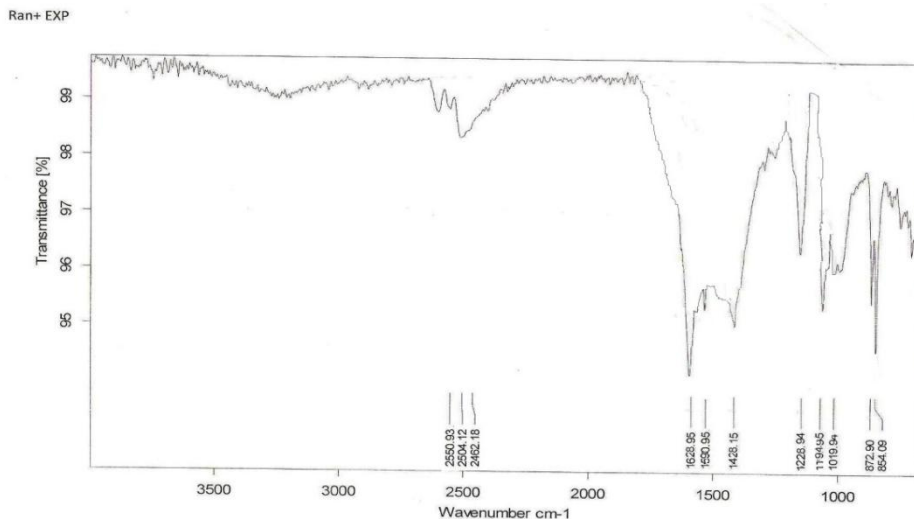
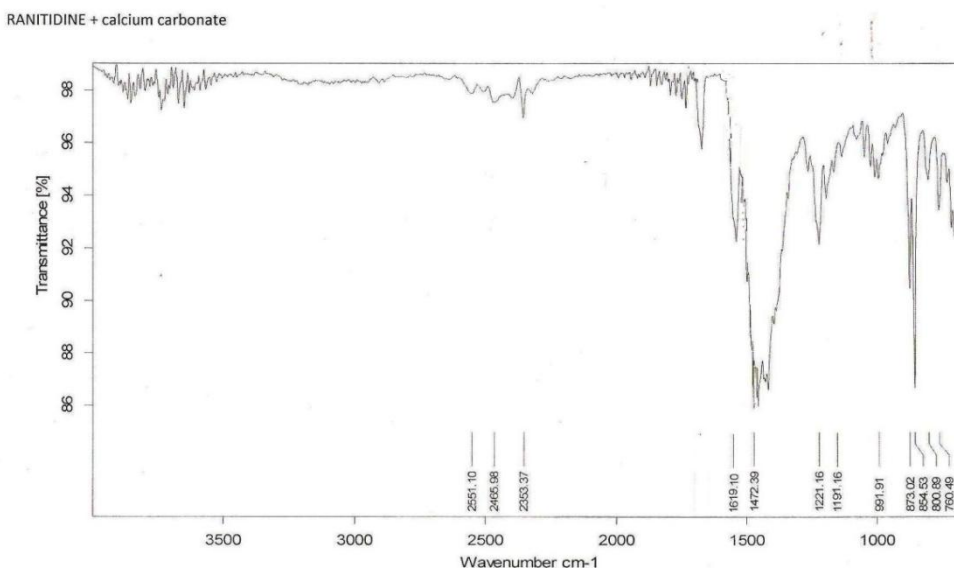


Figure 6: IR spectra of Ranitidine hydrochloride+ calcium carbonate



Physical Appearance and pH

All the prepared sodium alginate based *in situ* solution of Ranitidine hydrochloride were checked for their clarity and the type of the solution. After administration of the prepared solution in (0.1N HCL, ph 1.2) also checked the time required for gel formation and type of gel formed.

The pH was measured in each of the solution of sodium alginate based *in situ* solution of Ranitidine hydrochloride, using a calibrated digital pH meter. The measurement of pH of data were in triplicate and the Average values given in **Table 3**

Table 3: pH of prepared *In situ* gel formulation

Formulation code	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
pH	7.4	7.4	7.1	7.1	6.9	7.0

Viscosity

The viscosity of the formulations increased with an increase in sodium alginate concentration. This phenomenon is a consequence of increasing chain

interaction with an increase in polymer concentration. Calcium carbonate, which is the source of cations, increased the viscosity of the formulation. This change in viscosity is due to the proportional increase in the amount of dispersed calcium carbonate.

Table 4: Viscosity of prepared *In situ* gel formulation

Formulation code	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
Viscosity(cp)	97	132	154	191	234	264

Floating Behaviour

The buoyancy lag time varied with the formulation variables. Formulation F6 exhibited the least buoyancy lag time (41 s) while formulation F2 exhibited the highest lag time (59 s). The decrease in the buoyancy lag time of a

formulation F6 can be attributed to the availability of an increased the concentration of calcium carbonate was increased, being entrapped in the formed gel to give rapid buoyancy. Irrespective of formulation variables, buoyancy duration was > 12 hours.

Table 5: Floating behaviour of prepared *In situ* gel formulation

Formulation code	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
Floating lag time(sec)	50	59	50	40	43	41
Floating time(hr)	>12	>12	>12	>12	>12	>12

Figure 7: Floating behaviour of *In situ* gel formulation**Gelling Capacity**

In vitro gelling capacity of various formulation of *in situ* floating gel is reported in table

**Figure 8: Gelling capacity of *in situ* floating gel formulation****Table 6: Gelling capacity of prepared *In situ* gel formulation**

Formulation code	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
Gelling capacity	++	++	++	+++	+++	+++

Drug Content

The Drug content of all (F1-F6) formulations is given in table no 7, It ranges in between 97.08% - 98.62%. The values are acceptable as per united state pharmacopeia standards.

Table 7: Results of Drug Content of all formulation of Ranitidine HCL

Formulation code	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
Content uniformity (%)*	98.03 ±0.38	98.09 ±0.38	98.54 ±0.40	97.08 ±0.40	98.03 ±0.42	98.62 ±0.42

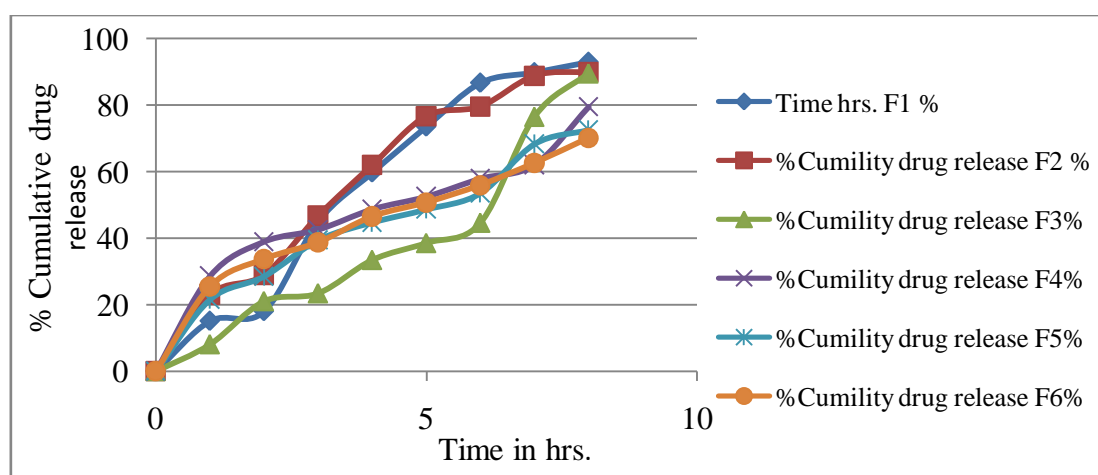
In-Vitro Drug Release:

The *in-vitro* drug releases of the in situ floating gel were carried in (0.1N HCl, 1.2 pH) solution from 0 to 8 hrs by using dissolution test apparatus USP Type II (Paddle Method). The samples were withdrawn at different time intervals and analyzed at 314 nm. Percentage Cumulative drug release was calculated on the basis of mean amount of Ranitidine hydrochloride present in the respective solution. The results obtained in the *in vitro* drug release

for the formulations F1 to F6 in (Table 8). The plots are shown in (Figure no. 5) for % cumulative drug release VS time. Formulation F1, F2, F3, F4, F5 and F6 released about 93.01 %, 90.03 %, 89.60%, 79.58%, 72.59% ,70.16 of drug after 8 hrs. Respectively. The results are shown in figure 5 indicate that the formulation, F₆ which was prepared by the Sodium alginate (2%) with Ranitidine showed minimum drug release after 8 hrs. Thus, the formulation (F₆) has better result as comparison to others formulations as sustained release.

Table 8: In-Vitro Drug release of Ranitidine HCL *in situ* gel Formulations (F₁- F₆)

Time (Hrs.)	% cumulative drug release from various batches					
	F ₁	F ₂	F ₃	F ₄	F ₅	F ₆
0	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
1	15.10	23.04	8.09	28.63	21.56	25.45
2	18.03	29.00	21.05	39.00	28.53	33.76
3	45.06	46.76	23.43	42.64	39.46	38.76
4	59.76	62.02	33.45	48.76	44.76	46.56
5	73.56	76.78	38.54	52.56	48.67	50.76
6	86.75	79.65	44.65	57.98	53.56	55.98
7	89.87	88.91	76.54	62.15	68.35	62.64
8	90.03	93.01	89.60	72.59	79.58	70.16

Figure 9: In-vitro Release Profile of Ranitidine HCL (F₁ To F₆)**Drug Release Kinetics Studies:**

The drug release data of Ranitidine were fitted to models representing Higuchi's, zero order, first order, Hixson-crowell and Korsmeyer's equation kinetics to know the release mechanisms. The data were processed for regression analysis using Ms Excel statistical function. The results are shown in (Table 9).

It was found that the *in vitro* drug release of optimize batch F₆ was best explained by zero order as the plots showed

the highest linearity ($R^2 = 0.9954$). The formulation code F₆ followed the zero order.

Table 9: Kinetic Models Studies of F₆ batch.

Formulation code	Zero order	First order	Higuchi
	R^2	R^2	R^2
F ₆	0.995	0.952	0.980

Stability Studies:

Stability studies carried out at $40 \pm 2^\circ\text{C} / 75 \pm 5\% \text{ RH}$ and at room temperature for 90 days showed no significant change in the content of Ranitidine hydrochloride. Typical

properties of the significant change in physical appearance, viscosity, drug content, *in vitro* drug release and Floating

behaviour to stability studies.

Table 10: stability Studies of F6 Batch.

Stability study for pectin based <i>in situ</i> formulation batch F6				
Time period for sampling	pH	Viscosity (cp)	Drug content (%)	Drug release (%)
Initial	7.0	264	98.62	70.16
After 1 month	7.0	264	98.60	69.56
After 2 month	7.03	268	98.55	70.16
After 3 month	7.09	268	98.00	70.16

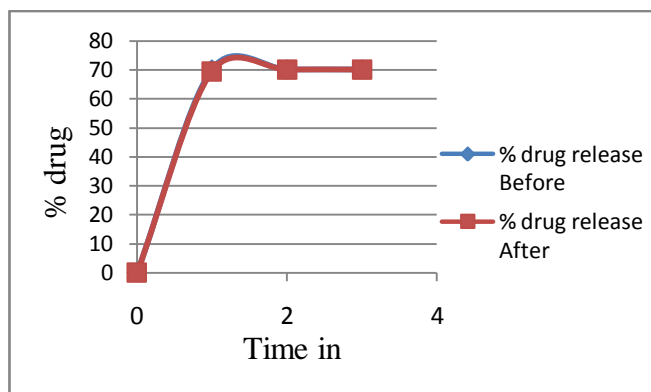


Figure 10: Comparison of % drug release before and after stability

SUMMARY & CONCLUSION:

The present investigation dealt with the formulation, optimization and evaluation of sodium alginate based *in situ* gel of ranitidine hydrochloride. Sodium alginate and calcium carbonate used as a polymer and cross-linking agent respectively. The *in situ* formulations were exhibited well, viscosity, drug content and sustained drug release. This study reports that oral administration of aqueous solution containing sodium alginate result in formation of *in situ* gel. Such formulation are homogenous liquid when administration orally and become gel at the contact site. The evaluation of the formulation is dependent upon

accurate results obtained by analytical method used during the study. Accurate results require the use of standard and a calibration procedure. Hence, standard plots of Ranitidine hydrochloride were prepared in (0.1N HCL, pH 1.2) solutions. Ranitidine hydrochloride was analyzed using UV spectrophotometer. Two different were sodium alginate and calcium carbonate used as a polymer and cross-linking agent respectively in the formulation of *in situ* gel. Among different excipients used, sodium citrate, sorbitol etc. From the IR studies it may be concluded that the drug and carriers used undergo physical interaction there is no chemical change, and thus the gelling agent, cross-linking agent and other excipients are suitable for formulation of *in situ* gel of ranitidine hydrochloride. Formulation F1, F2, F3, F4, F5 and F6 released about 90.03 %, 93.01 %, 89.60 %, 72.59%, 79.58% and 70.16 % of drug after 8 hrs respectively. Indicate that the formulation, F₆ which was prepared by the Sodium alginate (2 gm) with Ranitidine Hydrochloride showed minimum drug release (sustained drug release) after 8 hrs. Thus, the formulation (F6) has better result as comparison to others formulations. The optimized formulation was found to be stable at room temperature for 90 days showed no significant change in the content of Ranitidine hydrochloride. no significant change was observed in the content uniformity, Viscosity and drug release of the *In situ* gel. All other parameters were also observed to be comparable. It could be concluded from study that optimized formulation was stable at room temperature.

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