

Available online on 15.12.2018 at <http://jddtonline.info>

Journal of Drug Delivery and Therapeutics

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Research Article

Formulation and evaluation of transdermal drug delivery system of verapamil hydrochloride

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this research was to develop and evaluate a matrix type of transdermal drug delivery system containing Verapamil Hydrochloride. The series of formulations containing Verapamil Hydrochloride were formulated by using different polymers like HPMC (hydrophilic), CAP (hydrophobic) and EC (hydrophobic) in different ratios by solvent evaporation technique. Propylene glycol and Dibutyl phthalate were used as plasticizers. The 20% and 40% of DMSO is used as the penetration enhancer. Formulated transdermal patches were physically evaluated for thickness, weight variation, drug content, flatness, tensile strength, folding endurance, and water vapour transmission rate. The in-vitro drug release study was carried out by using Franz diffusion cell. The data obtained from release study shows increased percentage of drug permeated in 20% of DMSO containing formulation than 40% of DMSO containing formulation. Drug permeation is enhanced in the formulation containing high concentration of HPMC (VH1). The VH2 and VH6 helped in maintaining the rate of release at a constant level (20% DMSO). But in case of 40% DMSO is used as the concentration of CAP increases the rate of permeation increases. Skin irritation study does not show any irritation on the skin of rabbit. There is no possible interaction between drug and polymers in FTIR as well as DSC. XRD of selected formulation shows that drug present in the formulation is in crystalline form.

Keywords: Verapamil HCl, HPMC, EC, CAP, DMSO, TDDS, Solvent evaporation

Article Info: Received 14 Oct 2018; Review Completed 26 Nov 2018; Accepted 28 Nov 2018; Available online 15 Dec 2018



Cite this article as:

Marapur SC, Wali DS, Hunasagi BS, Chetankumar M, Patil RG, Formulation and evaluation of transdermal drug delivery system of verapamil hydrochloride, Journal of Drug Delivery and Therapeutics. 2018; 8(6-s):70-77

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.22270/jddt.v8i6-s.2081>

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INTRODUCTION

The most preferred route of administration is oral route but oral route have some disadvantages like hepatic first pass metabolism, poor bioavailability and tendency to produce rapid blood level spikes and this leads to frequent dosing so to overcome these drawbacks there is a need for the development of new drug delivery system.¹

TDDS are topically administered medicaments. Patches that deliver drugs for systemic effects at a predetermined and controlled rate. Transdermal patches are flexible pharmaceutical preparation of changeable sizes, containing, one or more active ingredients. Patches are intended to be applied to the unbroken skin in order to convey the active components to the systemic circulation after passing through the skin barriers.

Transdermal delivery not just provides controlled, continuous administration of the drug, but also allows constant input of drugs with short biological $\frac{1}{2}$ life and eliminates pulsed entry into systemic circulation, which often causes adverse side effects. Thus, a variety of forms of Novel drug delivery system such as TDDS, CRS, Transmucosal delivery systems etc. emerged². Which improves the physiological and pharmacological response, avoiding the fluctuation in drug levels, inter and intra patient variations¹.

The main goal of transdermal drug delivery system is to maximize the flux through the skin into the systemic circulation and simultaneously minimize the retention and metabolism of the drug in the skin³.

Verapamil hydrochloride is an L-type calcium channel blocker of the phenylalkylamine class. Given orally, 90 to 100% of verapamil is absorbed, but due to high first-pass

metabolism, bioavailability is much poorer (10 to 35%). It is 90% bound to plasma proteins and it has a volume of distribution of 3 to 5 l/kg. It gets metabolized in the liver into 12 inactive metabolites. 70% of metabolites get excreted in the urine and 16% in feces; 3 to 4% is excreted unaffected in urine. Metabolism is a nonlinear dependence between plasma concentration and dosage. Onset of action is 1 to 2 hours after oral dosage. $t_{1/2}$ is 2.8 to 7.4 hours.⁴

Hence, the proposed work involves the formulation and evaluation of transdermal drug delivery systems containing verapamil hydrochloride for the treatment of patients during hypertension and angina pectoris.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Materials: Verapamil HCl is received as gift sample from Micro labs Bangalore, Karnataka. Hydroxy propyl methyl cellulose (HPMC), Cellulose acetate phthalate and ethyl cellulose were purchased from Central drug house (p) ltd, Yarrow chem. Products, and Loba Chemicals pvt. Ltd. Mumbai, India. Di-butyl phthalate, propylene glycol, chloroform, dimethyl sulfoxide are purchased from Loba Chemicals pvt. Ltd. Mumbai, Finar chemical ltd and Central drug house (p) ltd. All other solvents and reagents were used as analytical grade.

Table 1: Formulation table for Verapamil HCl

Ingredients	VH1	VH2	VH3	VH4	VH5	VH6	VH7	VH8	VH9	VH10	VH11	VH12
Verapamil HCl mg	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
HPMC mg	500	-	-	200	200	-	500	-	-	200	200	-
CAP mg	-	500	-	300	-	200	-	500	-	300	-	200
EC mg	-	-	500	-	300	300	-	-	500	-	300	300
DBP/PG (w/v)	40% PG	60% DBP	40% DBP	50%D BP	40%DB P	40%DB P	40%PG	60%D BP	40% DBP	50% DBP	40% DBP	40% DBP
Alcohol/CHCl ₃ ml	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
DMSO	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	40%	40%	40%	40%	40%	40%

Preparation of transdermal patch

Transdermal patches containing Verapamil HCl was prepared by using mercury substrate method using different grade of polymers. The polymers used were Ethyl cellulose, Cellulose acetate phthalate and Hydroxy propyl methyl cellulose were taken in required quantity as shown in the table. About 10ml of chloroform or ethanol is added to solubilization of polymers and kept it aside for few minutes for swelling of polymers. And after complete solubilization of the polymers in mixture of solvent, weighed quantity of Verapamil HCl was further added to the polymeric solution and mixed well. Finally required quantity of dibutyl phthalate or propylene glycol is added to the mixture, and vortexed. It was set aside cleaned petridish containing mercury and kept it aside for solvent evaporation. The rate of solvent evaporation is controlled by inverting a glass funnel over the petridish. After overnight, the dried films were taken out and stored in a desiccators.

Evaluation of transdermal patches

Physical Appearance: All the formulated transdermal patches were visually examined for colour, flexibility, homogeneity and smoothness⁵.

Thickness: Thickness of the patches were calculated at 5 different randomly selected spots on films using a screw gauge (micrometer). Such determination was performed for each formulation⁵.

Weight Uniformity: Each patch was weighed separately and average weight of three films was determined⁶.

Folding endurance: A strip of specific area is to be cut evenly and repeatedly folded at the same place till it broke. The number of times the film could be folded at the same place without breaking gave the value of the folding endurance⁷.

Determination of Drug content: A sample of 1 sq.cm of the patch was cut and weighed precisely. Each sample was

subjected to dissolve in 100 ml of 7.4 phosphate buffer solution and magnetically stirred for 24 hrs. The absorbance of the solution is determined by using UV-VIS spectrophotometer at respective nm. The total drug present in the patch of Verapamil HCl was determined⁸.

Fourier transform infrared spectrometry: The pure drug and a mixture of drug with the selected polymers were taken for the interaction study. For that pure drug and mixture of drug with the selected polymers were mixed separately with IR grade KBr/NaCl in the ratio of 1:100. The base line correction was done by using dried KBr/NaCl. IR spectra of the mixture were taken over a wave number range of 4000 to 400 cm⁻¹. The IR spectra of the pure drug and mixture of drug and polymers were carried out separately. Then obtained IR spectra were investigated for possible interaction between polymer and drug⁹.

Scanning electron microscopic studies: The films were mounted in the SEM instrument by using double sided adhesive tape. The coated films were observed under SEM (JEOL/EO, JSM- 6390, Kyoto, Japan) at the required magnification at room temperature. The specific acceleration voltage was used along with the secondary electron image as a detector to get images of the formulation by which surface morphology of the patches were determined.

X-Ray diffraction studies: The spectra of the sample was recorded by using Rigaku Miniflex II, X-ray diffractometer with Cu-NF filtered CuK radiation. Quartz was used as an internal standard for calibration. The powder x-ray diffractometer was to a digital graphical assembly and computer with Cu-NF 25KV/20 mA tube as CuK radiation source in the 2θ range 0-50°C.

Differential scanning calorimetric analysis: The samples were heated from 0-300°C at a heating rate of 10°C/min under argon or nitrogen atmosphere using a micro calorimeter (DuPont-9900, USA) and then thermo grams were obtained.

Water vapour transmission: For these study vials of equal diameter was used as permeation cell. These cells were thoroughly washed and dried, about one gram of calcium chloride was taken in vials and the films were tightly attached over the brim with the help of adhesive. Then the vials were subjected to weighing. The accurately weighed vials are placed in the desiccators containing saturated solution of potassium chloride (200ml). The vials were taken out and weighed after every 24 hrs up to 7 days of storage. From the increased in the weights, the rate of water vapour transmission was calculated.

Permeation Studies: Thermostatically controlled Franz diffusion cell assembly was used for carrying out the permeation studies. Excised rat epidermis was placed over the receptor compartment with dermis facing towards donor compartment. Samples were withdrawn from the sampling port at predetermined intervals and the same quantity of fresh buffer was replaced at the same time to maintain sink conditions. Phosphate buffer pH 7.4 was filled in receptor compartment. The temperature was maintained at 37 ± 2 °C and stirring rate was 100 rpm. The diffusion studies were carried out for 24 hrs. Samples were analyzed spectro photometrically at absorption maxima of 278 nm

Skin Irritation study: Skin irritation test is carried out on healthy rabbits (average weight 1.2 to 1.5 kg). The dorsal surface (50cm²) of the rabbit is to be cleaned by removing the hair from the dorsal surface by shaving. The prepared formulations can be applied over the skin. The patch is to be detached after 24 hr and the skin is to be observed for irritation and oedema.

Stability studies: The stability studies of the formulations were carried out as per ICH guidelines. The samples were observed for physical changes like color, flexibility, etc.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The compatibility between Verapamil Hydrochloride and the selected polymers were found out by using FTIR spectroscopy.

The spectra of pure Verapamil Hydrochloride shows a distinctive peaks at 2990 cm⁻¹ C-H stretching of methyl and methylene group, 2840 cm⁻¹ C-H stretching of methoxy group, 2642.54 cm⁻¹ N-H stretching of protonated amine, 2236 C=N cm⁻¹ gr. Alkyl nitrile, 1591.90 cm⁻¹ stretching of benzene ring and 1261.25 C=O stretching. Similar peaks are observed in the combinations of pure drug and mixture of selected polymers with slight variations in cm⁻¹. That implies there is no interaction between drug and polymers.

The physiochemical properties of the prepared formulations of Verapamil hydrochloride patches are tabulated. were thin, flexible, elastic, smooth and transparent/ translucent. The drug content uniformity of prepared formulations is in the following order: VH11> VH6> VH12> VH5> VH8> VH7> VH2> VH1> VH3> VH9> VH4> VH10. The values of drug content indicate that Verapamil Hydrochloride is uniformly distributed in the formulations.

Scanning electron microscopic study was performed to know the surface characteristics of the prepared

formulations (patches). The SEM photomicrographs suggest that the membranes VH4, VH5 and VH6 have shown plain, uniform and smooth surface, while, VH6 formulation has shown relatively rough and dense surface than VH4 and VH5.

Differential scanning calorimetry: Pure powder of Verapamil Hydrochloride showed a melting endotherm at 148.24°C. DSC test of VH5 showed a broad endotherm due to the existence of residual moisture in polymers. DSC thermogram of Verapamil Hydrochloride VH5 exhibits endothermic peaks at near to the pure drug temperature. This indicates that there is an absence of any interaction taking place between drug and polymers.

The X-ray diffractograms of pure drug Verapamil Hydrochloride shows sharp peaks between the 50 to 280, VH5 dummy patch doesn't show such peaks and VH5 patch containing drug shows peaks from 150 to 280. This indicates that the selected formulation having a drug in slight crystalline form.

Water vapor transmission (WVT) through the rate controlling matrix patches determines the permeability characteristics. All the prepared matrix type of transdermal patches were permeable to water vapours. The WVT rates for VH1, VH2, VH3, VH4, VH5, VH6, VH7, VH8, VH9, VH10, VH11, VH12, were 0.081, 0.042, 0.016, 0.031, 0.028, 0.091, 0.062, 0.018, 0.020, 0.022, 0.016 and 0.059 respectively.

The drug release studies from different patches were performed through the exercised rat abdominal skin and the results are listed. The cumulative amount of drug permeated per unit of surface area of the skin was plotted versus time, and the slope of the linear portion of the plot was calculated as the steady-state flux (JSS). The permeability coefficient (Kp), was then calculated with the following equation:

$$Kp = JSS / CV$$

Where CV is the total concentration of the drug in the donor compartment.

In-vitro drug release studies were calculated for all the formulations and the percentage of drug permeations were calculated. VH1, VH2, VH3, VH4, VH5, VH6, VH7, VH8, VH9, VH10, VH11 and VH12 was 99.41, 96.65, 84.75, 90.71, 83.25, 94.79, 70.96, 75.99, 66.41, 73.79, 63.14 and 60.98 at the end of 24th hour respectively. As the concentration of HPMC increases the rate of permeation increases in the case of 20% DMSO used, but in case of 40% DMSO is used as the concentration of CAP increases the rate of permeation increases. The drug permeation study shows that the % of drug permeation is more in formulations containing 20% of DMSO than 40% of DMSO.

When primary skin irritation study is carried out on albino rabbits for the selected formulation VH6 indicates that there is no sign of erythema or edema when compared with control patch. That indicates skin acceptability of these formulations for topical application.

The prepared formulations are stable in nature. There is no effectiveness in color, plasticity and drug content.

Table 2: Physicochemical properties of Verapamil HCl patches

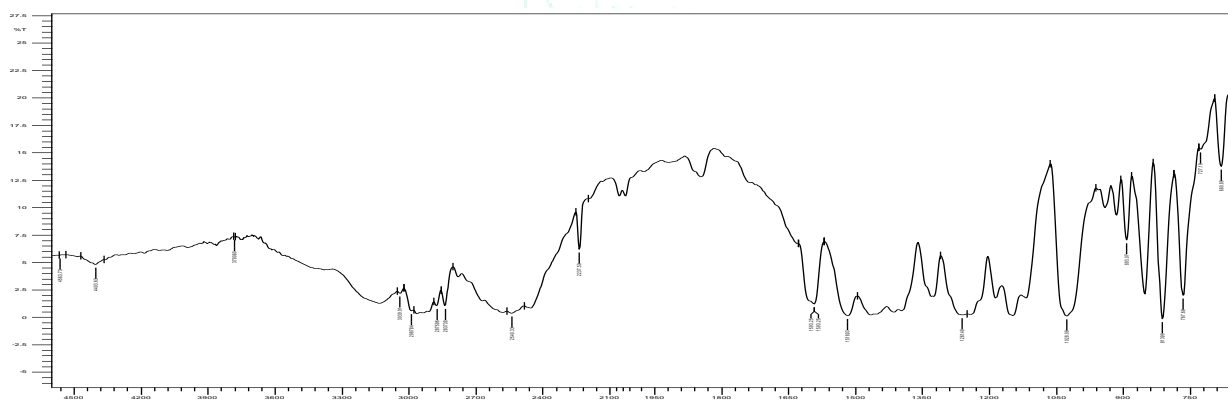
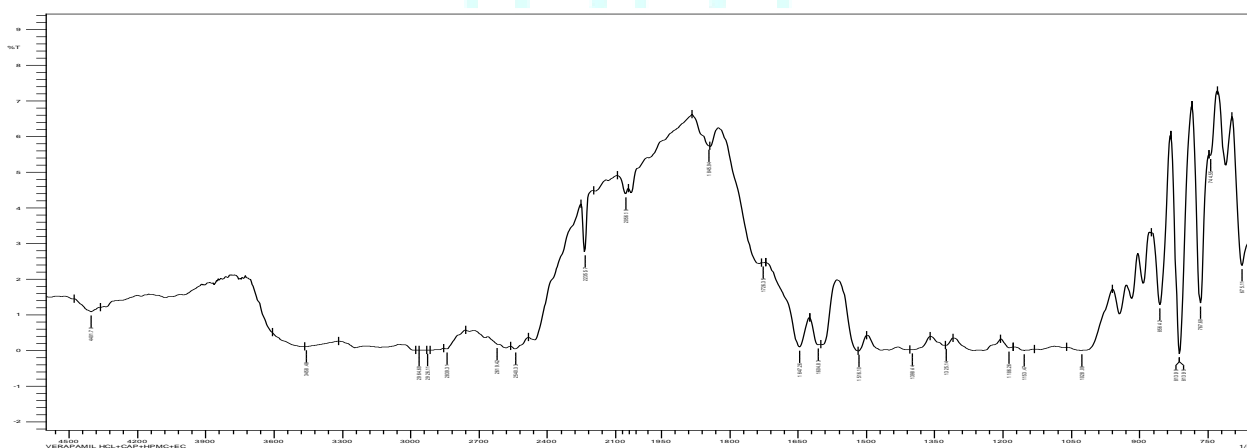
Formulation	Physical appearance	*Weight SD in + or -	**Thickness	*Drug content	*Folding endurance
VH1	++	0.62(0.01)	0.147(0.00)15]	94.51	>295
VH2	++	0.75(0.01)	0.203(0.00)2)	95.15	>225
VH3	++	0.77(0.03)	0.217(0.00)41]	93.86	>15
VH4	++	0.76(0.02)	0.173(0.00)5)	91.93	>250
VH5	++	0.80(0.03)	0.25(0.003)	96.22	>270
VH6	++	0.73(0.01)	0.217(0.00)34]	96.65	>240
VH7	++	0.68(0.04)	0.147(0.00)1)	95.58	>295
VH8	++	0.77(0.02)	0.219(0.00)14]	95.79	>225
VH9	++	0.83(0.03)	0.240(0.00)23]	93.22	>15
VH10	++	0.80(0.01)	0.186(0.01)	91.28	>250
VH11	++	0.84(0.01)	0.249(0.00)24]	96.65	>270
VH12	++	0.78(0.02)	0.235(0.00)4]	96.44	>240

The figure inside the parenthesis denotes the SD values

*Average of three observations.

**Average of five observations.

++ indicates satisfactory, + - indicates not satisfactory.

**Figure 1: FTIR of Verapamil HCl****Figure 2: FTIR of mixture of Verapamil HCl , HPMC, CAP and EC**

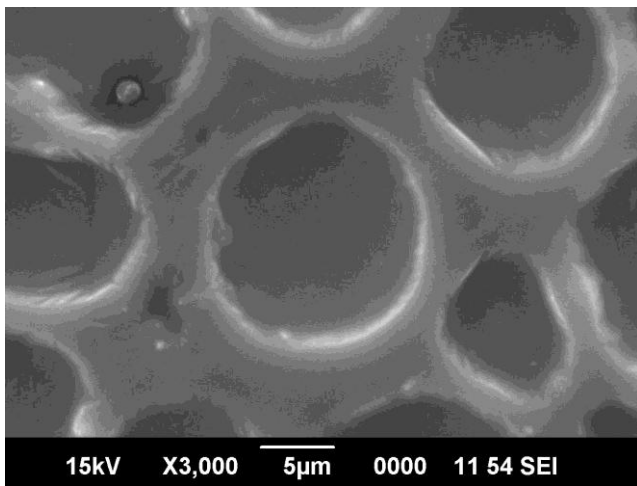


Figure 3: SEM Photograph of VH4 patch

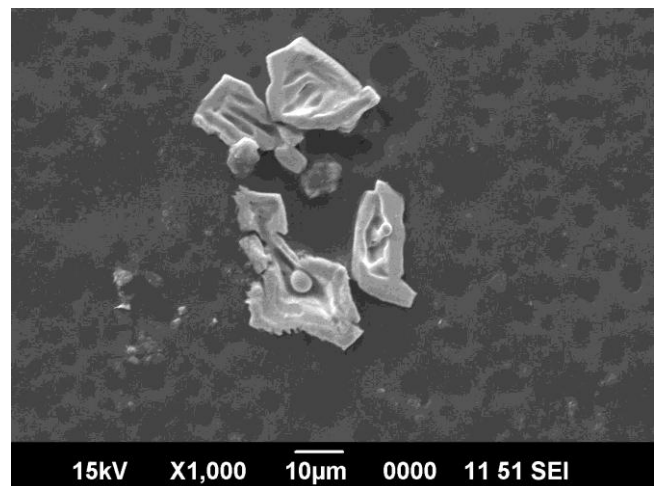


Figure 5: SEM photograph of VH6 patch

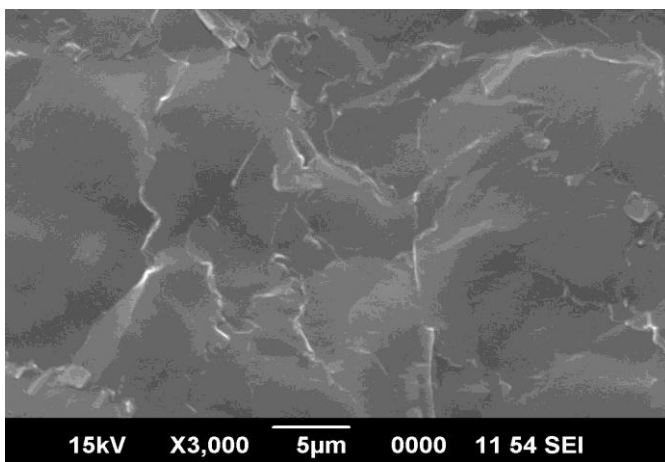


Figure 4: SEM photograph of VH5 patch

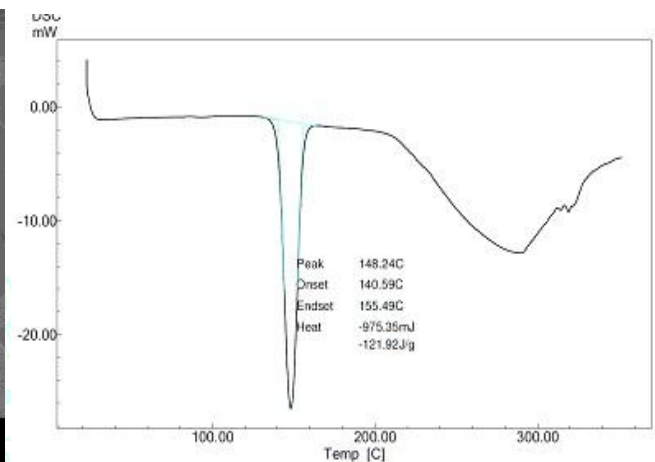


Fig.6 DSC thermogram of Verapamil HCl

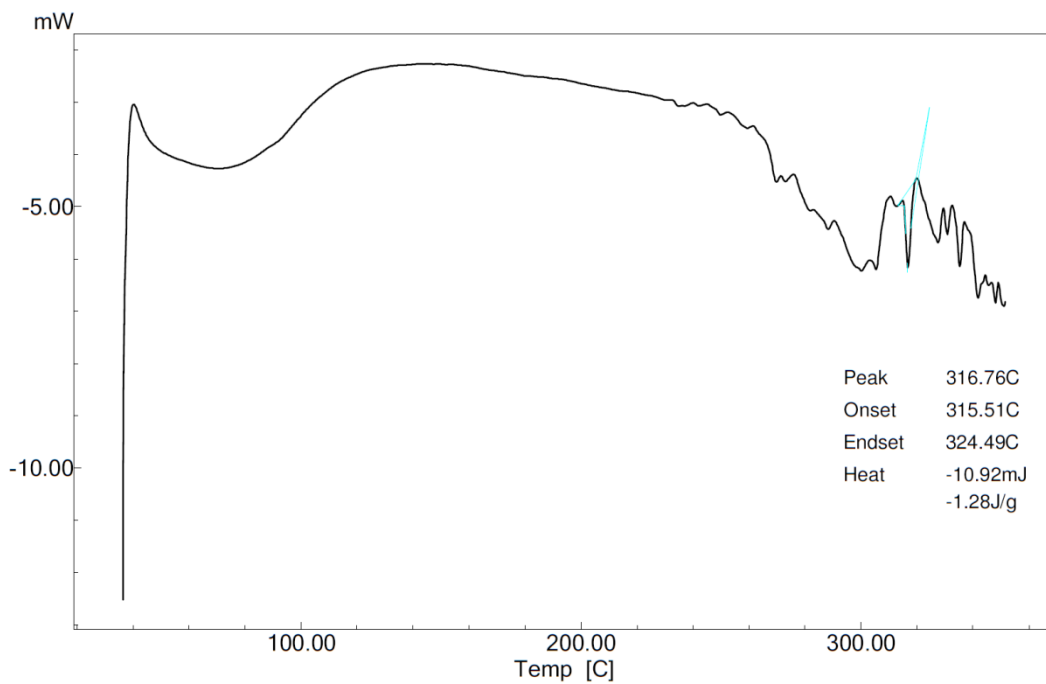


Figure 7: DSC thermogram of dummy patch VH5

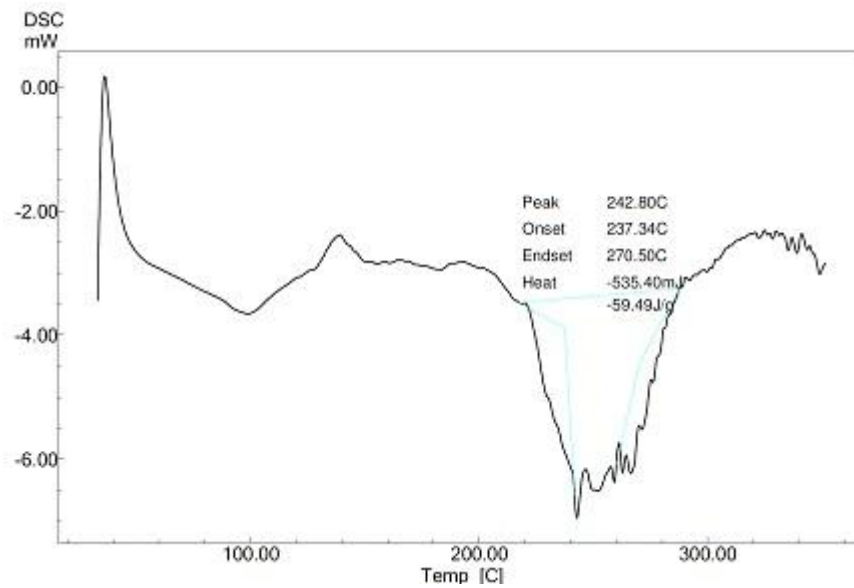


Figure 8: DSC thermogram of drug loaded patch of VH5

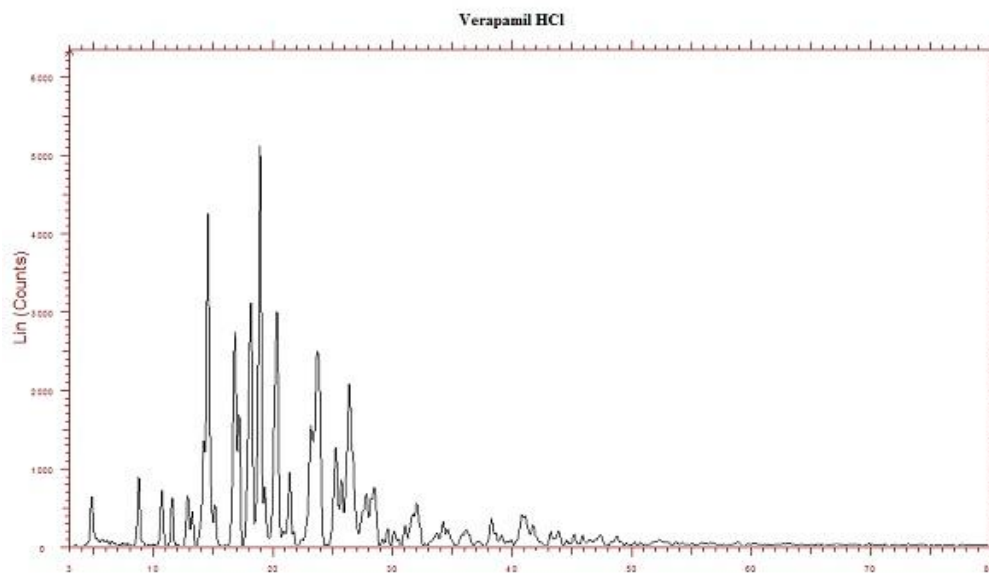


Figure 9: XRD diffraction of Verapamil HCl

XRD diffraction of dummy patch VH5

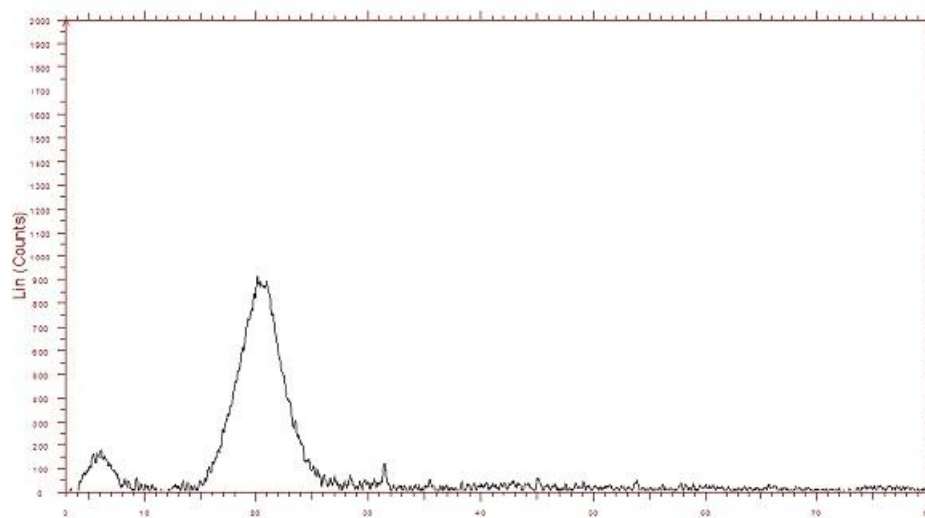


Figure 10: XRD diffraction of Verapamil HCl Patch without drug

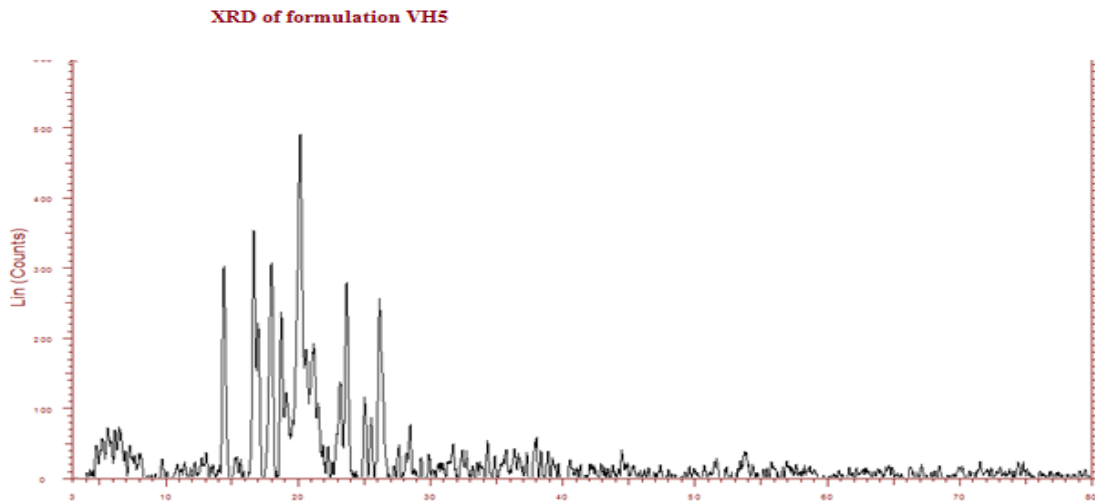


Figure 11: XRD diffraction of Formulation VH 5

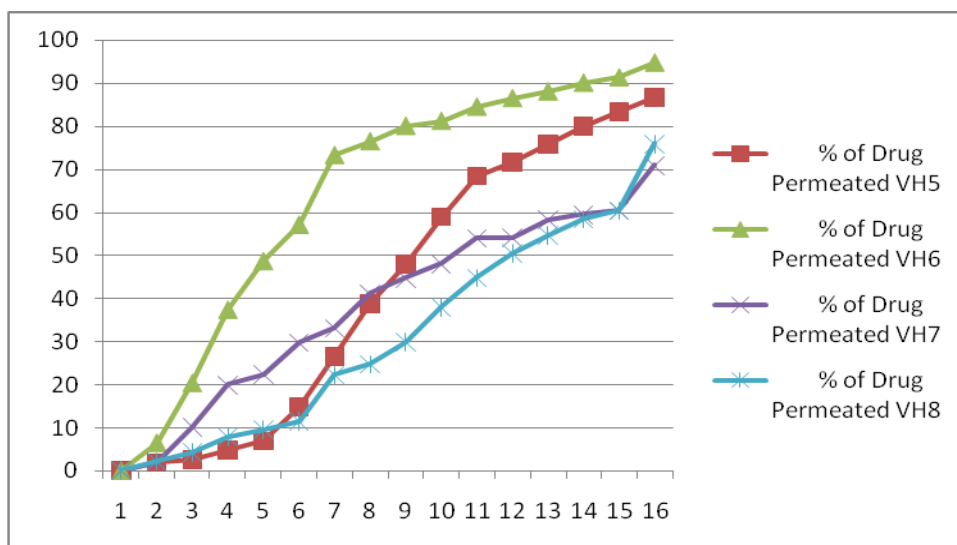


Figure 12: In-vitro permeation of verapamil hydrochloride of all formulated patches through the rat skin of formulation V5 to V8

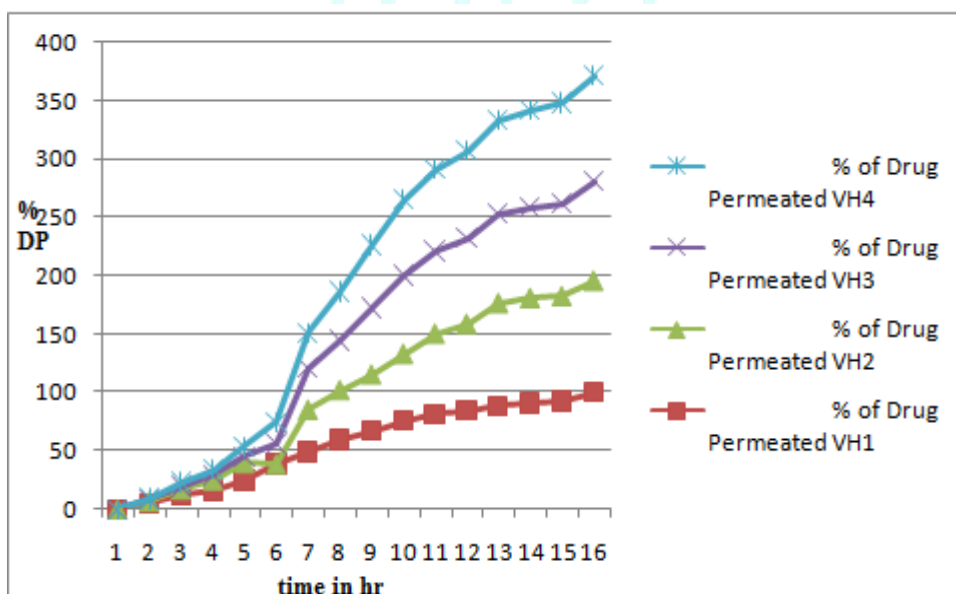


Figure 13: In-vitro permeation of verapamil hydrochloride of all formulated patches through the rat skin of formulation V1 to V4

Table 3: Skin irritation test of selected verapamil hydrochloride patch on rabbit

Formulations	Erythema	Edema
VH6	--	--

--: Nil, +: Mild, ++: Severe and +++: Very severe

CONCLUSION

In this research, attempts were made to formulate Verapamil Hydrochloride patches has been developed for the sustain transport of the drug action. This is done by using HPMC, CAP and EC as the rate retarding polymers using DMSO as the penetration enhancer. When those are subjected to evaluation, all the prepared transdermal patches were thin, elastic, smooth, flexible and transparent/ translucent. Uniformity and thickness were observed with the low SD values.

In-vitro drug permeation study is performed using Franz diffusion cells where drug is permeated through rat skin. The data obtained was plotted to know the mechanism of drug release. The drug release study was extended for 24 hrs. The incorporation of DMSO helped to enhance the penetration by detanglement of the lipid layer. Drug permeation is enhanced in the formulation containing high concentration of HPMC (VH1). The VH2 and VH6 helped in maintaining the rate of release at a constant level. Hence, a sustain release polymeric transdermal patch of verapamil hydrochloride was prepared which was able to deliver the drug at constant rate through the dermal barrier. Formulation containing 20% DMSO shows increased permeation than formulation containing 40% DMSO. Thus this study has shows potential results.

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