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Research Article

Formulation and Evaluation of Floating and Mucoadhesive Tablets Containing Rosiglitazone

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ABSTRACT

In this present study, floating mucoadhesive tablets of Rosiglitazone were formulated to improve the gastric retention time and overall bioavailability. Different mucoadhesive polymers like HPMC K200 M, Na CMC, Carbopol 974P, Karaya gum, Chitosan and Xanthan gum were selected to formulate the tablets. Various formulations were prepared by using these polymers in different concentration. The pre-compression blend of Rosiglitazone mucoadhesive tablets were characterized with respect to angle of repose, bulk density, tapped density, carr's index and hausner's ratio and all the results indicated that the blend was having good flow property and hence better compression properties. The swelling studies were performed for the formulations and the results depicted that all the formulations have a good swelling index. The drug release studies depicted that the formulations release the drug in first order. So based on the results, formulation RF13 was found to be an optimized formulation.

Keywords: Mucoadhesive tablets, Rosiglitazone, Bioadhesive polymers.

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INTRODUCTION:

Oral route is considered to be the most safest and convenient route of drug delivery. 90% of the drug available is designed to be given through the oral route due to patient acceptance. In conventional oral drug delivery, the drug resides for a shorter period time in absorption window, so bioavailability is less. Oral controlled drug delivery systems represent the most popular form of controlled drug delivery. This type of drug delivery systems releases the drug with constant or variable release rates to meet the drug regime. [1-3]

The most preferable approach of oral controlled drug delivery is gastroretentive drug delivery systems (GRDDS), in which the dosage form retains in stomach for prolonged period increasing the Gastric residence time (GRT). GRDDS can be defined as a system which retains in the stomach for a sufficient period of time and releasing the active moiety in a controlled manner. [4] Over the last two decades, numbers of GRDDS have been designed to prolong GRT. The main aim of preparing GRDDS is to minimize the problem associated with

existing oral sustained release dosage form and to develop patient benefited drug delivery. [5-7]

So the present work is designed with antidiabetic drug, Rosiglitazone with different type of controlled release and mucoadhesive polymers with different concentration to optimize a formulation which will help to overcome the above problem.

MATERIAL AND METHODS:

The antidiabetic drug Rosiglitazone is obtained from the authorized supplier with the certification of purity. Apart from the drug remaining polymers like Hydroxy Propyl Methyl Cellulose K 200M, sodium carboxy methyl cellulose, Carbopol 974P, Karaya gum, Chitosan, Xanthan gum and other remaining excipients like sodium bicarbonate, magnesium stearate, talc, lactose too were obtained from authorized supplier. All the excipients and reagents used were of laboratory grade.

Pre-compressional evaluations [6-8]**Solubility Studies**

The solubility of Rosiglitazone, in 0.1 N HCl at pH 1.2 was determined by phase equilibrium method. An excess amount of drug was taken into 20 mL vials containing 10 mL of 0.1 N HCL (pH 1.2). Vials were closed with rubber caps and constantly agitated at room temperature for 24 hrs using rotary shaker. After 24 hrs, the solution was filtered through 0.2 μm Whatmann's filter paper. The amount of drug solubilized was then estimated by measuring the absorbance at 248 nm using a UV spectrophotometer.

The standard curves for Rosiglitazone was established in 0.1 N HCl and from the slope of the straight line the solubility of Rosiglitazone was calculated. The studies were repeated in triplicate (n = 3), and mean was calculated.

Drug-excipient compatibility studies**Fourier transform infra-red spectroscopic studies:**

A Fourier transform – infra red spectrophotometer was used to study the non-thermal analysis of drug-excipient (binary mixture of drug: excipient 1:1 ratio) compatibility. The spectrum of each sample was recorded over the 450-4000 cm^{-1} . Pure drug of Rosiglitazone with physical mixture (excipients) compatibility studies were performed.

Pre-compression Evaluation:

Before formulating the drug substances into a dosage form, it is essential that drug polymer should be chemically and physically characterized. Preformulation studies gives the information needed to design the dosage form and provide a framework for the drug combination with pharmaceutical excipients in the manufacture of a dosage form.

Powder flow properties**Angle of repose**

Angle of repose was determined by using funnel method. The frictional forces in the loose powder can be measured by Angle of repose. The tangent of Angle of repose is equal to the coefficient friction between the particles.

$$\theta = \tan^{-1} (h / r)$$

Where, θ is the angle of repose, h is the height in cm and r is the radius in cm.

Compressibility index

It is an important measure that can be obtained from the bulk and tapped densities. A material having values less than 20 to 30% is defined as the free flowing material, based on the apparent bulk density and tapped density, the percentage compressibility of the bulk drug was determined by using the following formula.

$$I = (D_T - D_b / D_T) 100$$

Where, I is the Compressibility index, D_t is the tapped density of the powder and D_b is the bulk density of the powder.

Hausner's ratio

It indicates the flow properties of the powder and is measured by the ratio of tapped density to the bulk density

$$H = D_t / D_b$$

Where, H is the Hausner's ratio D_t is the tapped density of the powder and D_b is the bulk density of the powder.

Preparation of Floating mucoadhesive tablets: [9]

Floating mucoadhesive tablets containing Rosiglitazone were prepared by direct compression method. Various batches were prepared by changing the ratio of HPMC K200 M, NaCMC, Carbopol 974P, Karaya gum, Chitosan, Xanthan gum, NaHCO_3 , Talc, Magnesium stearate, Lactose. The drug and polymer mixture was prepared by homogeneously mixing the drug with HPMC K200 M, NaCMC, Carbopol 974P, Karaya gum, Chitosan, Xanthan gum, (Floating mucoadhesive polymers), Lactose in a glass mortar for 15 minutes. The Direct compressible powder is lubricated with talc and Magnesium Stearate for 2 minutes in Poly ethylene bag. The mixture (100 mg) was then compressed using a 6 mm diameter die in a 9-station rotary punching machine (Lab Press, India). The details of the formulation are mentioned in table no. 1. The different formulations were evaluated further for various post compression parameters.

Table No. 1: The Composition of Floating Mucoadhesive Tablets Of Rosiglitazone

Ingredients	RF1	RF2	RF3	RF4	RF5	RF6	RF7	RF8	RF9	RF10	RF11	RF12	RF13	RF14	RF15	RF16	RF17	RF18
Rosiglitazone	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
HPMC K200 M	4	8	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Na CMC	-	-	-	4	8	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carbopol 974P	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	8	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Karaya gum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	8	12	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chitosan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	8	12	-	-	-
Xanthan gum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	8	12
NaHCO ₃	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Magnesium stearate	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Talc	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Lactose	75	71	67	75	71	67	75	71	67	75	71	67	75	71	67	75	71	67
Total Weight	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Post- compression Evaluation: [10-12]

Physicochemical characterization of tablets:

The prepared Rosiglitazone Floating mucoadhesive tablets were studied for their physicochemical properties like weight variation, hardness, thickness, friability and drug content.

A. Weight variation:

The weight variation test is done by taking 20 tablets randomly and weighed accurately. Not more than two of the individual weight deviates from the average weight by $\pm 10\%$ and none should deviate by more than twice that percentage. The percent deviation was calculated using the following formula:

$$\% \text{ Deviation} = \left(\frac{\text{Individual weight} - \text{Average weight}}{\text{Average weight}} \right) \times 100$$

The average weight of tablets in each formulation was calculated and presented with standard deviation.

Table No. 2: Pharmacopoeia specifications for tablet weight variation

Average weight of tablets (mg)	Maximum % of difference allowed
80 or less	± 10
More than 80 but less than 250	± 7.5
250 or more	± 5

B. Tablet Thickness:

The Thickness and diameter of the tablets from production run is carefully controlled. Thickness can vary with no change in weight due to difference in the density of granulation and the pressure applied to the tablets, as well as the speed of the tablet compression machine. Hence this parameter is essential for consumer acceptance, tablet uniformity and packaging. The thickness and diameter of the tablets was determined using a Digital Vernier caliper. Ten tablets from each formulation were used and average values were calculated. The average thickness for tablet is calculated and presented with standard deviation.

C. Tablet Hardness:

Tablet hardness is measured as the force required to break a tablet in a diametric compression test. Tablets require a certain amount of strength, or hardness and resistance to friability, to withstand the mechanical shocks during handling, manufacturing, packaging and shipping. The resistance of the tablet to chipping, abrasion or breakage under condition of storage transformation and handling before usage depends on its hardness. Six tablets were taken from each formulation and hardness was determined using Monsanto hardness tester and the average was calculated. It is expressed in Kg/cm².

D. Friability:

Tablet hardness is not an absolute indicator of the strength because some formulations when compressed into very hard tablets lose their crown positions. Therefore another measure of the tablet strength, its friability, is often measured. Tablet strength is measured by using Roche friabilator. Test subjects to number of tablets to the combined effect of shock, abrasion by utilizing a plastic

chamber which revolves at a speed of 25 rpm for 4 minutes, dropping the tablets to a distance of 6 inches in each revolution.

A sample of pre weighed tablets was placed in Roche friabilator which was then operated for 100 revolutions. The tablets were then de-dusted and reweighed. Percent friability (% F) was calculated as

$$\text{Friability (\%)} = \frac{\text{Initial weight of 10 tablets} - \text{final weight of 10 tablets}}{\text{Initial weight of 10 tablets}} \times 100$$

Where, W_0 is the initial weight of the tablets before the test and W is the final weight of the tablets after test.

E. Assay:

Six tablets of each formulation were taken and amount of drug present in each tablet was determined. Powder equivalent to one tablet was taken and added in 100 mL of pH 6.8 phosphate buffer followed by stirring for 10 minutes. The solution was filtered through a 0.45 μ membrane filter, diluted suitably and the absorbance of resultant solution was measured by using UV-Visible spectrophotometer at 248 nm using pH 6.8 phosphate buffer.

In vitro Buoyancy studies:

The *in vitro* buoyancy was determined by floating lag time and total floating time. The tablets were placed in a 100ml beaker containing 0.1N HCL. The time required for the tablet to rise to the surface and float was determined as floating lag time (FLT) and duration of time the tablet constantly floats on the dissolution medium was noted as Total Floating Time respectively (TFT).

In vitro release studies: [13-14]

The drug release rate from Floating mucoadhesive tablets was studied using the USP type II dissolution test apparatus. Tablets were supposed to release the drug from one side only therefore an impermeable backing membrane was placed on the other side of the tablet. The tablet was further fixed to a 2x2 cm glass slide with a solution of cyanoacrylate adhesive. Then it was placed in the dissolution apparatus. The dissolution medium was 900 ml of 0.1N HCl at 50 rpm at a temperature of 37 ± 0.5 °C. Samples of 5 mL were collected at different time intervals up to 12 hrs and analyzed after appropriate dilution by using UV Spectrophotometer at 237, 248, 227 nm.

In vitro bioadhesion strength:

Bioadhesion strength of tablets were evaluated using a microprocessor based on advanced force gauge equipped with a motorized test stand (Ultra Test Tensile strength tester, Mecmesin, West Sussex, UK) according to method describe as it is fitted with 25 kg load cell, in this test porcine membrane was secured tightly to a circular stainless steel adaptor and the Floating mucoadhesive tablet to be tested was adhered to another cylindrical stainless steel adaptor similar in diameter using a cyanoacrylate bioadhesive. Mucin 100 μ L of 1% w/v solution was spread over the surface of the mucosa and the tablet immediately brought in contact with the mucosa. At the end of the contact time, upper support was withdrawn at 0.5 mm/sec until the tablet was completely detached from the mucosa. The work of adhesion was determined from the area under the force distance curve.

The peak detachment force was maximum force to detach the tablet from the mucosa.

$$\text{Force of adhesion} = \frac{\text{Bioadhesion strength} \times 9.8}{1000}$$

$$\text{Bond strength} = \frac{\text{Force of adhesion}}{\text{Surface area}}$$

Moisture absorption:

Agar (5% m/V) was dissolved in hot water. It was transferred into petridishes and allowed to solidify. Six Floating mucoadhesive tablets from each formulation were placed in a vacuum oven overnight prior to the study to remove moisture, if any, and laminated on one side with a water impermeable backing membrane. They were then placed on the surface of the agar and incubated at 37°C for one hour. Then the tablets were removed and weighed and the percentage of moisture absorption was calculated by using following formula:

$$\% \text{Moisture Absorption} = \frac{\text{Final weight} - \text{Initial weight}}{\text{Initial weight}} \times 100$$

Kinetic analysis of dissolution data: [15-21]

To analyze the *in vitro* release data various kinetic models were used to describe the release kinetics.

1. Zero - order kinetic model - Cumulative % drug released versus time.
2. First - order kinetic model - Log cumulative percent drug remaining versus time.
3. Higuchi's model - Cumulative percent drug released versus square root of time.
4. Korsmeyer equation / Peppas's model - Log cumulative % drug released versus log time.

In vivo studies - pharmacokinetic studies:

To investigate the peak plasma concentration pharmacokinetic studies were carried out. The *In vivo* studies were conducted on Wistar male rats weighing 250-300 gm. They were housed in polypropylene cages and had free access to food and water. The dose of rosiglitazone was calculated as per the body weight of animals and developed tablets were formulated considering the calculated dose. The animal protocol was approved by the Animals Ethical Committee. The optimised Floating mucoadhesive matrix tablets were administered orally. Blood samples were collected for over 24 hrs according to a predetermined sample collection schedule. Various pharmacokinetic parameters like C_{max} , T_{max} , AUC were determined. [22]

RESULT AND DISCUSSION:

Solubility Studies:

Table No. 3: Solubility studies

S.No	Medium	Amount present (µg/mL)
1	Water	30.67
2	Methanol	100.98
3	0.1 N HCL	48.82

Drug –Polymer Compatibility Studies by FTIR

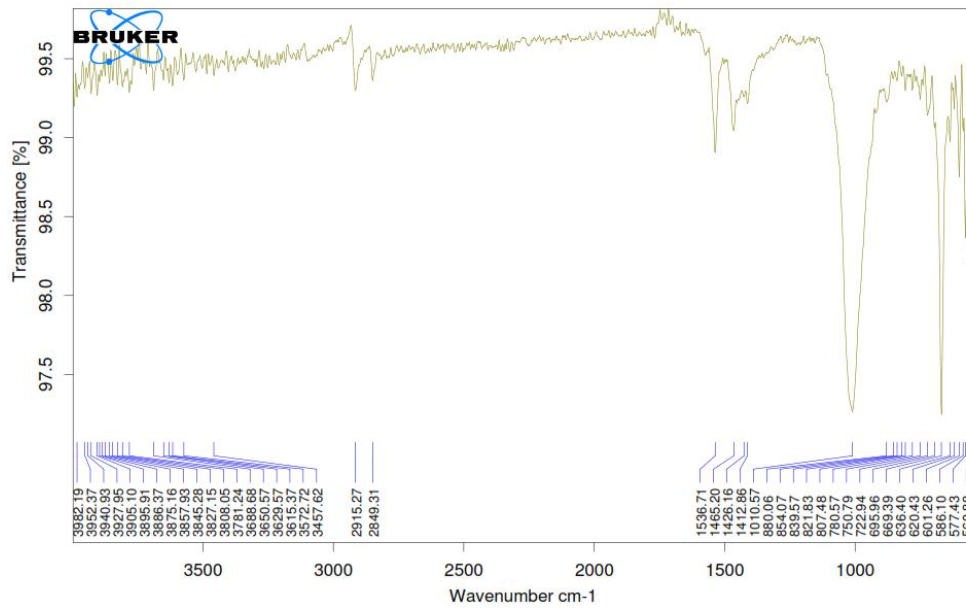


Figure No.1: FTIR of Rosiglitazone pure drug.

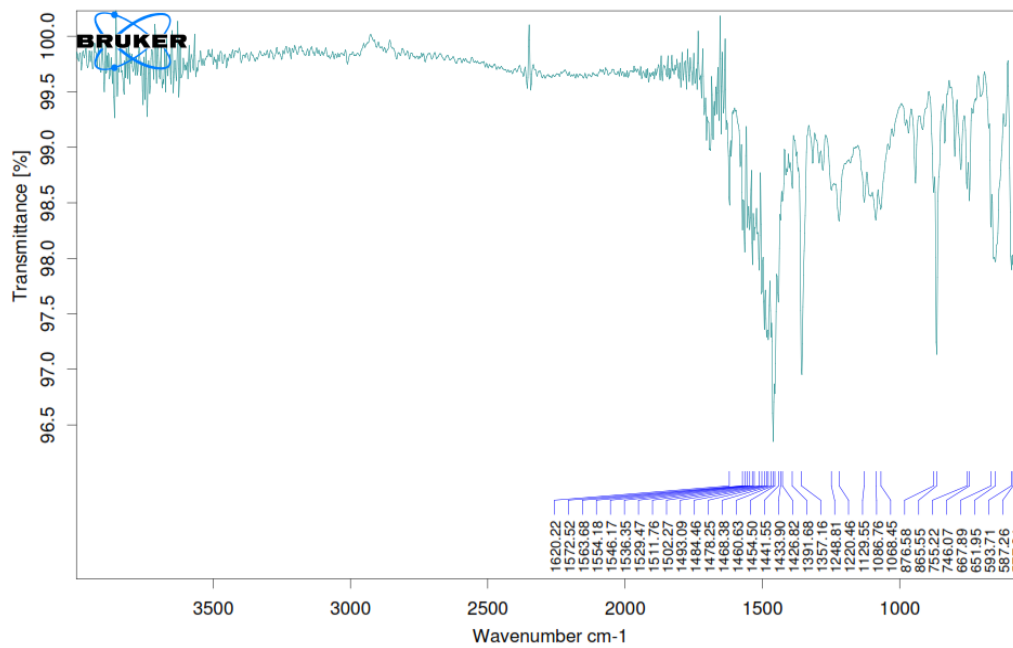


Figure No.2: FTIR Spectra of Optimised Formulation

Pre-compression Evaluation:

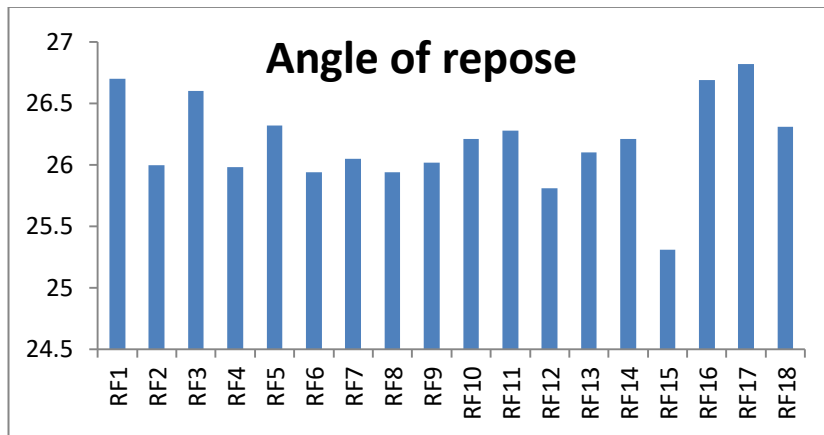


Figure No.3: Angle of Repose for the obtained formulations

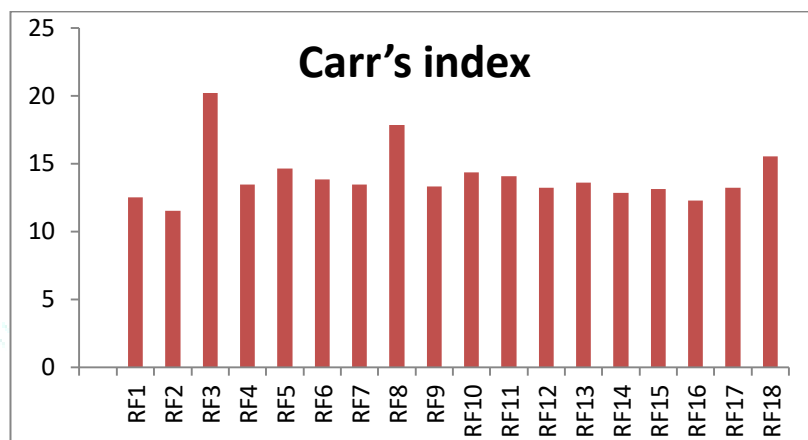


Figure No.4: Carr's Index for the obtained formulations

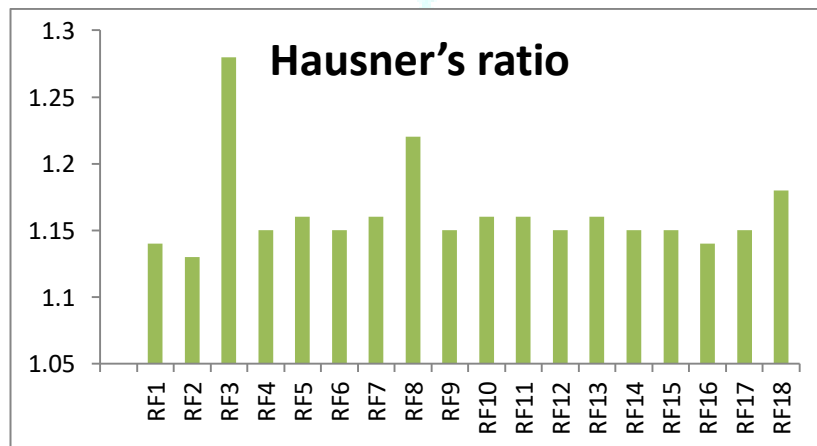


Figure No.5: Hausner's Ratio Index for the obtained formulations

Post-compression Evaluation:

Table No.4: Evaluation of floating mucoadhesive tablets of Rosiglitazone

Formulation Code	Thickness (mm)	Average Weight (mg)	Hardness (Kg/cm ²)	Friability (%)	Content uniformity	Total Floating time (Hours)	Floating Lag time (Sec)
RF1	4.59±0.09	98.25±0.28	5.2±0.15	0.35±0.04	95.36±0.27	>12	35.3±0.37
RF2	4.91±0.08	99.35±0.24	5.6±0.13	0.29±0.02	99.25±0.24	>12	43.0±0.34
RF3	4.87±0.04	95.61±0.19	5.9±0.19	0.51±0.06	98.14±0.21	>12	48.1±0.36
RF4	4.39±0.06	99.39±0.24	5.4±0.09	0.48±0.02	100.2±0.19	>12	39.2±0.31
RF5	4.99±0.10	99.48±0.17	5.8±0.13	0.63±0.04	97.45±0.24	>12	32.9±0.30
RF6	4.89±0.08	98.67±0.39	5.9±0.17	0.81±0.09	98.61±0.30	>12	25.6±0.29
RF7	4.68±0.04	97.52±0.25	5.0±0.20	0.23±0.08	99.75±0.29	>12	12.0±0.28
RF8	4.90±0.11	98.15±0.20	5.3±0.17	0.28±0.05	99.87±0.34	>12	15.7±0.24
RF9	4.19±0.06	99.45±0.26	5.7±0.18	0.61±0.10	96.10±0.18	>12	17.0±0.23
RF10	4.72±0.02	100.0±0.17	5.9±0.16	0.38±0.05	99.38±0.24	>12	39.2±0.18
RF11	4.68±0.08	98.31±0.16	5.4±0.15	0.47±0.07	97.82±0.18	>12	45.6±0.25
RF12	4.39±0.03	97.45±0.31	5.1±0.24	0.59±0.11	99.34±0.19	>12	110.0±0.17
RF13	4.57±0.15	99.12±0.19	5.3±0.17	0.67±0.08	96.92±0.35	>12	45.0±0.19
RF14	4.38±0.06	97.35±0.24	5.8±0.24	0.15±0.04	97.24±0.27	>12	55.2±0.25
RF15	4.29±0.01	98.46±0.21	5.1±0.26	0.43±0.09	95.89±0.26	>12	51.0±0.26
RF16	4.35±0.08	99.14±0.23	5.0±0.28	0.57±0.12	99.75±0.29	>12	70.8±0.19
RF17	4.62±0.10	97.32±0.21	5.9±0.21	0.43±0.05	97.19±0.30	>12	74.6±0.30
RF18	4.64±0.15	99.47±0.20	5.7±0.15	0.37±0.09	98.69±0.21	>12	130±0.38

In vitro release studies:

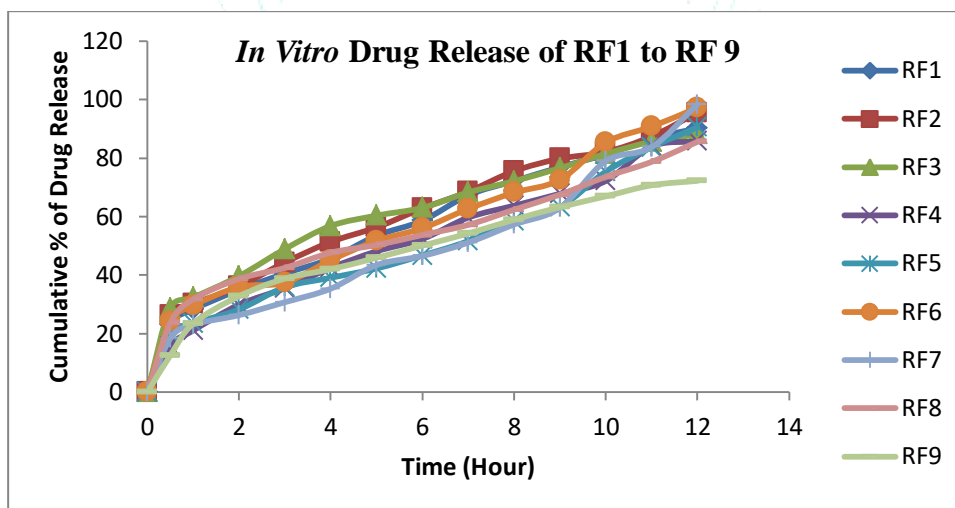


Figure No.6: In vitro Dissolution study of RF 1 to RF 9

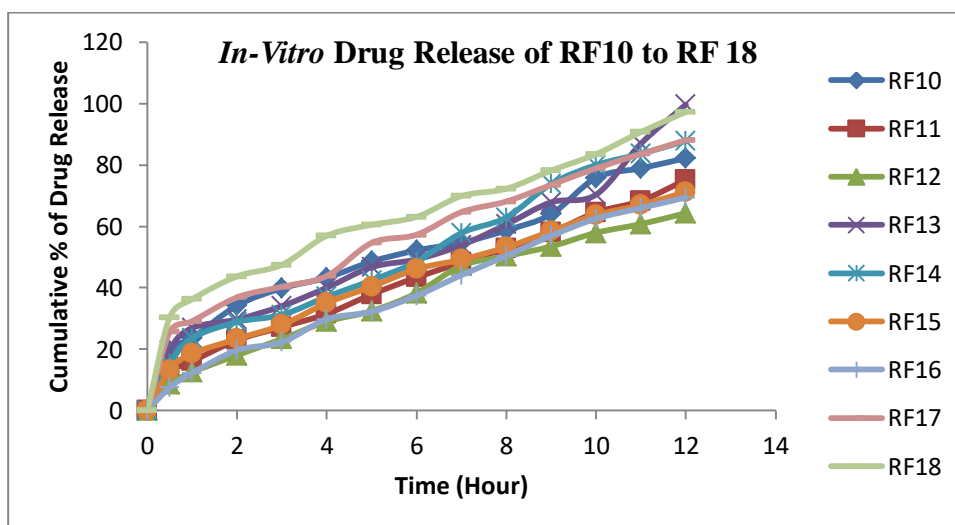


Figure No.7: In vitro Dissolution study of RF 10 to RF 18

Moisture absorption, bioadhesion strength values of selected formulations

Table No. 5: Moisture absorption, bioadhesion strength values of selected formulations.

Formulation Code	Moisture absorption	Bioadhesion strength	
		Peak detachment force (N)	Work of adhesion (mJ)
RF13	66±0.33	4.8±0.12	23.41±6.18

Each value represents the mean±SD (n=3)

Release kinetics:

Data of *in vitro* release studies of formulations which were showing better drug release were fit into different equations to explain the release kinetics of Rosiglitazone release from

mucoadhesive tablets. The data was fitted into various kinetic models such as zero, first order kinetics, Higuchi and Korsmeyer Peppas mechanisms and the results were shown in below table.

Table No 6: Table of release kinetics and correlation factors

CUMULATIVE RELEASE Q (%)	TIME (T)	ROOT (T)	LOG(%) RELEASE	LOG (T)	LOG(%) REMAIN	RELEASE RATE (CUMULATIVE % RELEASE /)	1/CUM% RELEASE	PEPPAS log Q/100	% Drug Remaining	Q01/3	Qt1/3	Q01/3-Qt1/3
0	0	0			2.000				100	4.642	4.642	0.000
19.7	0.5	0.707	1.294	-0.301	1.905	39.400	0.0508	-0.706	80.3	4.642	4.314	0.327
26.92	1	1.000	1.430	0.000	1.864	26.920	0.0371	-0.570	73.08	4.642	4.181	0.461
29.7	2	1.414	1.473	0.301	1.847	14.850	0.0337	-0.527	70.3	4.642	4.127	0.514
34.06	3	1.732	1.532	0.477	1.819	11.353	0.0294	-0.468	65.94	4.642	4.040	0.602
40.04	4	2.000	1.602	0.602	1.778	10.010	0.0250	-0.398	59.96	4.642	3.914	0.728
46.72	5	2.236	1.670	0.699	1.727	9.344	0.0214	-0.330	53.28	4.642	3.763	0.879
49.25	6	2.449	1.692	0.778	1.705	8.208	0.0203	-0.308	50.75	4.642	3.702	0.939
53.86	7	2.646	1.731	0.845	1.664	7.694	0.0186	-0.269	46.14	4.642	3.587	1.055
60.64	8	2.828	1.783	0.903	1.595	7.580	0.0165	-0.217	39.36	4.642	3.402	1.240
67.85	9	3.000	1.832	0.954	1.507	7.539	0.0147	-0.168	32.15	4.642	3.180	1.462
70.34	10	3.162	1.847	1.000	1.472	7.034	0.0142	-0.153	29.66	4.642	3.095	1.546
86.95	11	3.317	1.939	1.041	1.116	7.905	0.0115	-0.061	13.05	4.642	2.354	2.287
99.64	12	3.464	1.998	1.079	-0.444	8.303	0.0100	-0.002	0.36	4.642	0.711	3.930

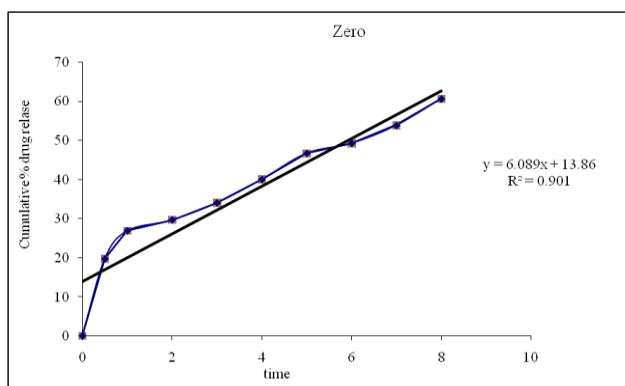


Figure No.8: Zero order plot of optimized formulation

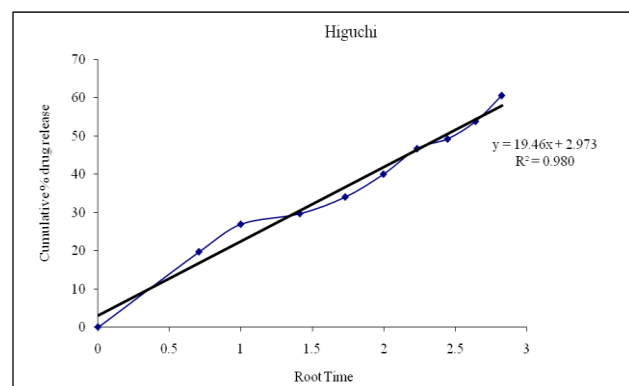


Figure No.9: Higuchi plot of optimized formulation

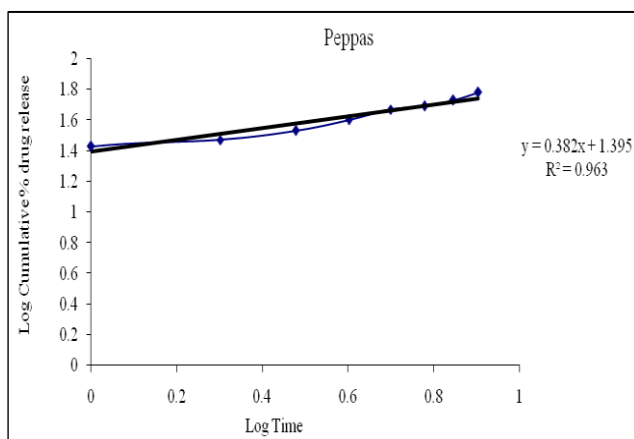


Figure No.10: Koresmeyer-peppas plot of optimized formulation

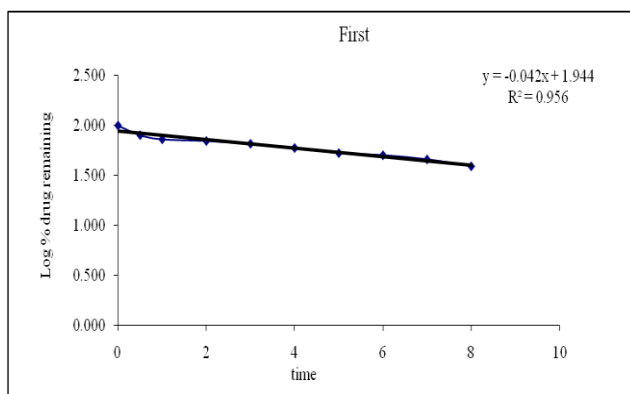


Figure No.11: First order plot of optimized formulation

Based on the all studies RF13 formulation was found to be better when compared with all other formulations. This formulation was following Higuchi mechanism with regression value of 0.980.

In vivo Studies - Pharmacokinetic Studies:

All the pharmacokinetics parameters displayed in Table. Mean time to reach peak drug concentration (T_{max}) was 1.75 hours, while mean maximum drug concentration (C_{max}) was 640 mg/mL. The values for C_{max} , T_{max} , AUC were found to be comparable indicating that their sustained release patterns were similar.

Table No 7: Pharmacokinetic parameters of optimized formulation

S.No	Parameter	Rosiglitazone
1	C_{max}	640 mg/mL (± 0.22)
2	T_{max} (hr)	1.75 hours (± 0.56)
3	AUC	3.62 mg/L · h (± 1.24)

The solubility studies indicated that the drug is having less solubility in water as compared to methanol and 0.1N HCl. The solubility data confirms that rosiglitazone is one of the best model drug to be formulated as GRDDS. The FTIR studies indicated that the drug and polymers have no interaction. There was no change in the basic drug peaks. The angle of repose of all the formulations is under 30 degree. Hence we can say that the powder blend has a good flow property. The Carr's Index and Hausner ratio results also predict that the powder blend has a good flow property. So direct compression technique can be used to formulate the tablets. The mean thickness of all the formulations ranges

between 4.19 to 4.99 mm. It can be concluded that all the tablets have uniform size and shape. The weight of the tablets ranged between 95.61mg to 100mg. The maximum weight variation limit is ± 7.5 for tablets ranging 80mg to 250mg. So the prepared tablets were within the prescribed range. The hardness of the tablets ranged from 5-6 Kg/cm². The friability test shows that all the tablets have friability below 1. This suggests that the tablets prepared had a good mechanical strength and resistance. All the formulations have good drug content. The floating lag time of the tablets was lowest for RF7 12 sec and highest for RF18 130sec. The in-vitro drug release was performed using 0.1N HCl at pH 1.2 for 12hrs. The results indicate that the lowest drug release was for formulation RF12 which contains high concentration of Karaya Gum. The highest drug release is found in formulation RF13 which contains chitosan. There is a significant decrease in the drug release rate with increase proportion of karaya gum. The formulations containing carbopol and chitosan showed a uniformity in drug release. The bioadhesion strength of RF13 was found to be optimum to satisfy the need of mucoadhesion for prolonged period of time. Various kinetics study were performed and it was found that RF13 formulation was found to be better when compared with all other formulations. This formulation was following Higuchi mechanism with regression value of 0.980. The in-vivo pharmacokinetics studies showed that the drug reaches the maximum concentration in 1.75hr. The C_{max} and AUC data predicts that the drug has a good oral bioavailability.

CONCLUSION

From the obtained results, it can be concluded that the drugs can be easily formulated as GRDDS using different ratios of rate controlling polymers like chitosan, NaCMC, HPMC K200 and Carbopol 934. Chitosan is found to be promising polymer in controlling the rate and extent of drug release from the dosage form. Further work can be carried out to design more GRDDS.

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AUTHORS CONTRIBUTION

All the authors have equal contribution in making this research a success.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Declared None.

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