

Formulation and evaluation of orally disintegrating clopidogrel tablets

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Recent advances in drug delivery systems have aimed to achieve better patient compliance. One of these advances is the formulation of orally disintegrating tablets (ODTs) that dissolve instantaneously, releasing drugs within a few seconds without the need of water. The main objective of this paper was to prepare and develop ODTs of clopidogrel. The ODTs were prepared by direct compression. The effect of three superdisintegrants, namely croscopovidone, croscarmellose sodium, and sodium starch glycolate, using three different disintegration times on the dissolution rate was investigated. The prepared tablets were evaluated for hardness, friability, disintegration time and *in vitro* drug release. Furthermore, the interaction of clopidogrel with the formulation excipients was studied using differential scanning calorimetry (DSC). DSC studies revealed that there were no interactions between the drug and the excipients used. All tablets had hardness values in the range 4.0–5.2 kp and friability lower than 1%. The weight and drug content uniformity of all formulations was within official limits according to BP. *In vitro* drug release studies of the ODTs showed that more than 90% of the drug was released within ten minutes. A palatability test in human volunteers showed acceptable taste and mouth feel. Thus, the obtained results conclusively demonstrated successful rapid disintegration of the formulated tablets and acceptable palatability.

Uniterms: Clopidogrel/orally disintegrating tablets. Superdisintegrants. Orally disintegrating tablets/formulation. Orally disintegrating tablets/evaluation.

Recentes avanços em sistemas de liberação de fármacos novos visam à obtenção de melhor adesão do paciente. Um destes avanços é a formulação de comprimidos de desintegração oral (ODTs), que se dissolvem instantaneamente, liberando o fármaco, em alguns segundos, sem a necessidade de água. O principal objetivo deste trabalho foi preparar e desenvolver ODTs de clopidogrel. Os ODTs foram preparados pelo método de compressão direta. Estudou-se o efeito de várias concentrações de diferentes agentes de desintegração, tais como super-croscopovidona, croscarmelose de sódio, glicolato de amido de sódio no tempo de desintegração e velocidade de dissolução. Os comprimidos preparados foram avaliados quanto à dureza, à friabilidade, ao tempo de desintegração e à liberação do fármaco *in vitro*. Além disso, estudou-se a interação de clopidogrel com os excipientes de formulação, utilizando calorimetria de varredura diferencial (DSC). Estudos de DSC revelaram não haver interação entre o fármaco e os excipientes utilizados. Todos os comprimidos possuíam dureza na faixa de 4,0-5,2 kp e a friabilidade inferior a 1%. A variação de peso e o teor de fármaco de todas as formulações mostraram-se dentro do limite oficial, de acordo com a BP. O estudo de liberação do fármaco *in vitro* de comprimidos ODTs mostrou que mais de 90% do fármaco foram liberados em 10 minutos. O teste de palatabilidade em voluntários humanos mostrou sabor e sensação na boca aceitáveis. Assim, os resultados obtidos demonstraram, conclusivamente, a rápida e bem-sucedida desintegração dos comprimidos formulados e a palatabilidade aceitável.

Unitermos: Clopidogrel/comprimidos de desintegração oral. Superdesintegrantes. Comprimidos/de desintegração oral/formulação. Comprimidos/de desintegração oral/avaliação.

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INTRODUCTION

Formulations administered via the oral route represent 50–60% of the total pharmaceutical dosage forms in the market (Bandelin, 1989). The oral administration route is considered to be the most widely accepted route because of its convenience, ease of administration, avoidance of pain and patient compliance (Bandelin, 1989). However, many paediatric and geriatric patients are unwilling to take solid preparations due to a fear of choking or because of difficulty in swallowing (dysphagia). Also, the swallowing of oral dosage forms requires water, which might be not available in some cases (Kuccherkar, Badhan, Mahajan, 2003; Suresh *et al.*, 2008). For these reasons, tablets that can rapidly dissolve or disintegrate in the oral cavity have attracted a great deal of attention (Porter, 2001; Mostafa, Ibrahim, Sakr, 2013). These tablets are called fast dissolving tablets, orally disintegrating tablets (ODTs) or mouth-dissolving tablets. Fast dissolving tablets are those which, when put onto the tongue, disintegrate instantaneously releasing the drug, which dissolves or disperses in the saliva (Venkateswara, Nyshadham, Joseph, 2003). Orally disintegrating tablets are defined as solid oral preparations that disintegrate rapidly in the oral cavity with an *in vitro* disintegration time of less than 30 seconds, according to FDA guidelines (DHHS, 2008).

The use of superdisintegrants is essential in development of orally disintegrating tablets. Examples of these are: cross-linked carboxymethyl cellulose (croscarmellose[®]), sodium starch glycolate (primogel[®], explode[®]) and crospovidone (polyplasdone[®]). These superdisintegrants provide instantaneous disintegration of the tablet when it is placed on the tongue. The bioavailability of some drugs may be increased due to absorption of some of the drug in the oral cavity, and also due to pregastric absorption of saliva containing dispersed drug that passes down into the stomach. Moreover, the amount of drug that is subjected to first pass metabolism is reduced compared with conventional tablets (Biradar, Bhagavati, Kuppsad, 2006).

Clopidogrel hydrogen sulphate (named hereafter clopidogrel) was discovered by Sanofi. It is now marketed by Sanofi–Synthelabo worldwide under the brand name PLAVIX[®]. Clopidogrel is an antiplatelet agent, which selectively inhibits the binding of adenosine diphosphate (ADP) to its platelet receptor and blocks the subsequent GPIIb/IIIa complex, thereby inhibiting platelet aggregation (Jarvis, Simpson, 2000). The clinical benefits of clopidogrel have been demonstrated and it is used worldwide for the long-term prevention of atherothrombotic events such as myocardial infarction,

stroke, peripheral arterial disease and acute coronary syndrome (Jarvis, Simpson, 2000).

In a previous study, Sahitya *et al.* (2014) formulated a solid dispersion of clopidogrel into fast dissolving tablets. However, such formulations have reduced palatability due to the rapid dissolution in the mouth.

The aim of the present work was to prepare fast disintegrating clopidogrel tablets by direct compression and to study the effect of the type and concentration of the superdisintegrant used on the physical properties of the prepared tablets, as well as on drug dissolution and disintegration. The direct compression technique was selected rather than wet granulation because the porous nature of tablets prepared by direct compression results in faster disintegration.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Clopidogrel hydrogen sulphate (CL) was kindly donated by Tabuk Pharmaceutical manuf. Co, Tabuk, Saudi Arabia. Microcrystalline cellulose (Avicel[®] PH101) was purchased from Serva Feinbiochemica (Heidelberg, Germany). Spray dried mannitol (Mannogem[™] EZ), used as a filler for the orally disintegrating tablets, was kindly supplied by SPI, Grand Haven, USA. Croscarmellose sodium (CCS), sodium starch glycolate (SSG) and crospovidone (CPV) were kindly supplied by Riyadh Pharma, Riyadh, KSA. Magnesium stearate was purchased from Riedel-de Haën, Seelze, Germany. Potassium dihydrogen orthophosphate and Sodium hydroxide were purchased from Merck, Darmstadt, Germany.

METHODOLOGY

Differential scanning calorimetry (DSC)

The thermal behaviour of CL alone and in physical mixtures with tablet excipients was studied using DSC. Samples (3–5 mg) were weighed and hermetically sealed in aluminium pans and heated at a constant rate of 10 °C/min, in a temperature range from 25 °C to 250 °C. Thermograms of the samples were obtained using differential scanning calorimetry (DSC-60, Shimadzu, Japan). Thermal analysis data were recorded using a TA 50I PC system with Shimadzu software programs. An indium standard was used to calibrate the DSC temperature and enthalpy scale. N₂ was used as the purging gas at a rate of 30 mL/min.

Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR)

The FTIR spectra of TNX, KL and their binary

systems were recorded using a Perkin Elmer FTIR spectrophotometer (Spectrum BX). Samples were mixed with potassium bromide (spectroscopic grade) and compressed into disks using a hydraulic press before scanning from 4000 to 600 cm^{-1} . The data were analysed using Perkin Elmer software (Spectrum V5.3.1).

Pre-compression evaluation

The flow properties of the powder mixtures of different compositions were evaluated in terms of their bulk density, tapped density, angle of repose, Carr's index and Hausner ratio.

Preparation of clopidogrel hydrogen sulphate (CL) tablets by direct compression

The calculated amounts of CL, superdisintegrant and microcrystalline cellulose (MCC 101) shown in Table 1 were accurately weighed and blended in a Turbula mixer (Erweka, S2Y, Heusenstamm, Germany) for five minutes. Thereafter, the formula weight of mannitol was mixed with the MCC-superdisintegrant mixture for 10 min. Finally, the correct amount of magnesium stearate was mixed with the powder blend for a further 2 minutes. After mixing, the powder blend was compressed into shallow concave tablets weighing 300 mg using a Korsh single punch machine with 9 mm punches (Erweka, EKO, Germany).

Evaluation of the prepared tablets

Weight variation

Twenty tablets from each batch were individually

weighed (Analytical balance, Shimadzu, EB-3200D, Tyoto, Japan) and the average weight \pm SD was calculated.

Hardness

The tablet crushing strength (hardness) was investigated using a hardness tester (Pharma test GmbH, Hainburg, Germany) for samples of 10 compressed tablets for each tablet formula. The average values of weight \pm SD were recorded.

Friability

The percentage loss in weight of tablets (friability) was calculated based on the pharmacopeial test (USP, 2011, 34-NF29). Twenty accurately weighed tablets (W_1) were placed in the friability tester (Erweka, TA3R, Heusenstamm, Germany), and allowed to rotate for 4 min at 25 rpm. After removal of fines, tablets were reweighed (W_2), and the percentage weight loss was calculated from the following equation:

$$100 \times (W_1 - W_2)/W_1.$$

Clopidogrel content

An orally disintegrating clopidogrel tablet weighing 300 mg and equivalent to 75 mg clopidogrel was accurately weighed, finely powdered, and transferred into a volumetric flask. About 60 mL of 0.1 N HCl was added and the flask was sonicated for 10 min, then shaken mechanically for 30 min and the volume made up to 100 mL with the same solvent, followed by sonication and filtration. The drug content was determined spectrophotometrically at 240 nm (Ashraf Z. *et al.*; 2015). The test was repeated for ten individual tablets and the

TABLE I - Composition of various clopidogrel hydrogen sulphate (CL) orally disintegrating tablet formulations

Formula	Ingredients (%w/w)						
	CL	MCC	Mannitol	CCS	SSG	CPV	Aspartame & mag-stearate
F1	25	36	36	-	-	-	2,1
F2	25	35.0	35.0	2.0	-	-	2,1
F3	25	33.5	33.5	5.0	-	-	2,1
F4	25	31.0	31.0	10.0	-	-	2,1
F5	25	35.0	35.0	-	2.0	-	2,1
F6	25	33.5	33.5	-	5.0	-	2,1
F7	25	31.0	31.0	-	10.0	-	2,1
F8	25	35.0	35.0	-	-	2.0	2,1
F9	25	33.5	33.5	-	-	5.0	2,1
F10	25	31.0	31.0	-	-	10.0	2,1

The total tablet weight was 300 mg. CL: Clopidogrel, MCC: Microcrystalline cellulose (Avicel PH 101), CCS: Crosscarmellose sodium, SSG: Sodium starch glycolate, CPV: Crospovidone

average drug content \pm SD was presented.

In vitro disintegration

The disintegration times of the manufactured tablets were evaluated *in vitro* using a USP disintegration apparatus operated at $37 \pm 2 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, using phosphate buffer (pH 6.8) as the disintegration medium (USP 34-NF29; 2011). One tablet was introduced into each of the six tubes of the basket (Electrolab, ED-21, Pumbai, India). The time required for complete tablet disintegration was recorded and the mean \pm SD of six tablets was calculated.

In vitro dissolution studies

The release measurements were performed using a USP dissolution apparatus 2 (Caleva Ltd., Model 85T), using the paddle method at 50 rpm. Each flask contained 500 mL 0.1N HCl, adjusted to pH 2.0 or phosphate buffer at pH 6.8 maintained at $37 \pm 0.5 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$. At predetermined time points (5, 10, 15, 20 and 30 minutes), a 5 mL sample was withdrawn and replaced with fresh dissolution medium. The absorbances of the withdrawn samples were measured spectrophotometrically at 240 nm and the percentage of drug dissolved was calculated. The test was performed on CL containing tablets in triplicate.

In vivo disintegration and palatability studies

Ten healthy male volunteers (18-55 years old) were administered the selected formula (F9). The tested formula was allowed to disintegrate in the mouth and then disgorged. The taste, its extent, the after taste and other effects such as numbness (if any) were recorded as displayed in Table II. The study was approved by the King Saud University Ethics committee, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) and Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR)

Differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) was used to evaluate the melting point, crystallinity, decomposition and drug-excipient interaction by studying the thermal behaviour of the preparations (El Badry, 2008). DSC scans

were performed on the drug, the tested excipients and their corresponding physical mixtures. The DSC scan of untreated clopidogrel showed a characteristic endothermic peak at $184 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ (Figure 1), which corresponds to its melting point. None of the tested additives had characteristic peaks in the temperature range studied, except for mannitol, which showed a sharp peak at $168 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ (Figure 2). For the corresponding physical mixtures of the drug with all of the additives except mannitol, the characteristic endothermic peak of the drug was seen in its melting range ($184 \pm 3 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$), but with lower intensity (Figure 2). This indicates that there is no interaction between clopidogrel and these excipients. Upon scanning the DSC thermogram of the drug-mannitol physical mixture, the drug fusion peak appeared at about $154 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ suggesting an interaction between the drug and mannitol.

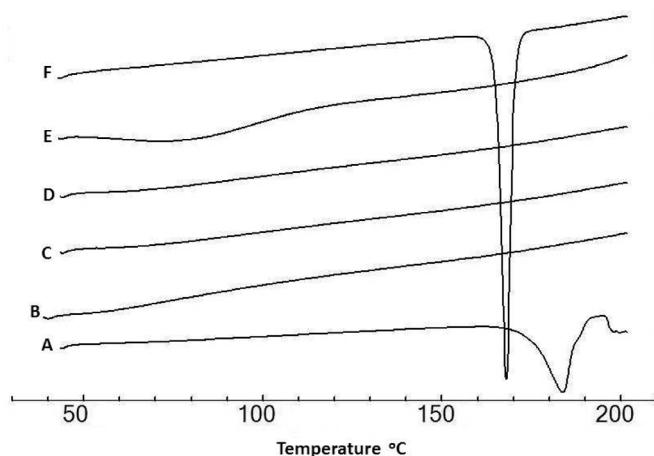


FIGURE 1 - Differential scanning calorimetric (DSC) thermograms of the drug and the tested excipients: (A) Clopidogrel; (B) Microcrystalline cellulose; (C) Crospovidone; (D) Starch sodium glycolate; (E) Croscarmellose; (F) Mannitol.

IR spectra (Figure 3) of clopidogrel, mannitol and their physical mixture were recorded in order to determine whether there was a chemical interaction between them. The IR spectrum of clopidogrel is characterised by principal absorption peaks at 3107.16 cm^{-1} (C-H aromatic), 1752 cm^{-1} (C=O stretching), and 1178 cm^{-1} (C-O stretching) (Shailendra, Soukarya, Upender, 2011).

TABLE II - Palatability evaluation

Effect	Scale				After Effects
	1	2	3	4	
Taste	Bad	Acceptable	Good	Excellent	After taste
Mouth feel	Gritty	Acceptable	Good	Excellent	Numbness

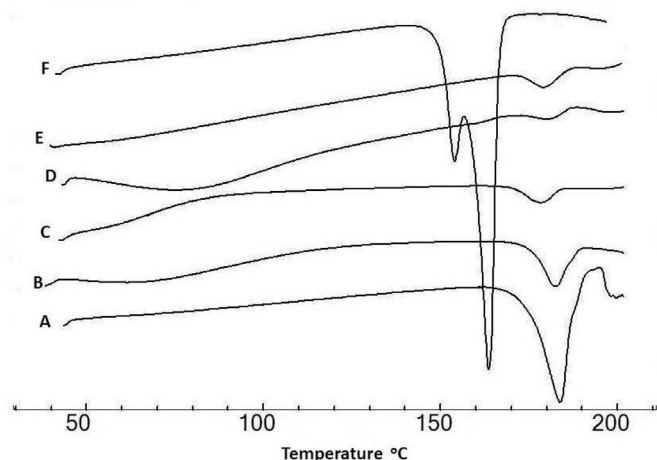


FIGURE 2 - Differential scanning calorimetric (DSC) thermograms of clopidogrel and its physical mixtures with the tested excipients: (A) Clopidogrel; (B) drug:microcrystalline cellulose; (C) drug:croscopovidone; (D) drug:starch sodium glycolate; (E) drug:croscarmellose; (F) drug:mannitol.

All of the principal absorption peaks of clopidogrel appeared in the physical mixture at the same positions. No additional peaks were observed in case of the physical mixture. These results indicate that there is no chemical interaction between clopidogrel and mannitol.

Pre-compression evaluation

The blends of the drug and various tablet excipients were evaluated for their micromeritic characteristics as shown in Table III. The calculated bulk density was between 0.39-0.44 g/cc and the tapped density was between 0.398 ± 0.007 and $0.43-0.50$ gm/cc for all tested

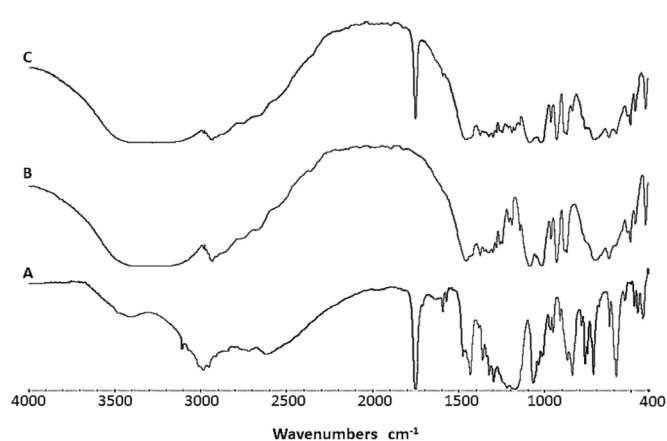


FIGURE 3 - FTIR spectra of: A) clopidogrel, B) mannitol, C) clopidogrel:mannitol physical mixture.

powder blends. The angle of repose and Carrs indices were found to be in the ranges 31.0-34.5 and 10-12.5%, respectively. The Hausner ratio was found to be below 1.15. All of the formulations showed the good blend properties required for direct compression and hence tablets were prepared using direct compression.

Tablet Evaluation

The manufactured ODTs containing 75 mg CL were successfully prepared using the direct compression method. The manufactured ODTs were evaluated for their weight uniformity, hardness, friability, and CL content as well as for their disintegration time, and the obtained data are summarised in Table 4. The measured tablet weights ranged from 0.295-0.304 g and the average tablet hardness was found to be 4.2-5.2 kp. Moreover, the tablets exhibited

TABLE III - The precompression parameters of the powder blends

Formulation code	Angle of repose(θ)	Bulk density (g/cc)	Tapped density (g/cc)	Carr's index (%)	Hausner Ratio
F1	32.4 ± 0.48	0.44 ± 0.005	0.50 ± 0.006	12.28	1.14
F2	33.3 ± 0.58	0.42 ± 0.004	0.46 ± 0.004	10	1.1
F3	34 ± 0.68	0.41 ± 0.005	0.46 ± 0.005	11.48	1.13
F4	34.5 ± 0.66	0.4 ± 0.004	0.45 ± 0.004	11.29	1.13
F5	33 ± 0.61	0.4 ± 0.003	0.45 ± 0.004	11.29	1.13
F6	33.5 ± 0.60	0.39 ± 0.003	0.43 ± 0.005	9.57	1.04
F7	33.6 ± 0.58	0.39 ± 0.004	0.45 ± 0.006	12.5	1.14
F8	30.4 ± 0.35	0.42 ± 0.003	0.46 ± 0.003	10	1.13
F9	31 ± 0.40	0.41 ± 0.004	0.46 ± 0.004	11.48	1.13
F10	31.8 ± 0.49	0.39 ± 0.004	0.43 ± 0.004	9.4	1.1

Mean of three experiments (mean \pm SD).

TABLE IV - Physical properties of orally disintegrating clopidogrel tablets (Mean \pm SD)

	Weight (mg)	Disintegration time* (sec.)	CL Content (%)+/-SD	Hardness (Kp)	Friability (%)
F1	299 \pm 0.39	236 \pm 5.0	101.30 \pm 0.51	4.0 \pm 0.50	0.86 \pm 0.10
F2	301 \pm 0.54	29 \pm 0.87	99.50 \pm 0.42	4.8 \pm 0.28	0.81 \pm 0.15
F3	300 \pm 0.72	24 \pm 0.58	98.80 \pm 0.50	4.8 \pm 0.16	0.87 \pm 0.14
F4	304 \pm 0.63	24 \pm 0.60	100.10 \pm 0.66	4.8 \pm 0.19	0.74 \pm 0.24
F5	298 \pm 0.61	58 \pm 1.0	101.00 \pm 0.72	5.1 \pm 0.21	0.79 \pm 0.16
F6	302 \pm 0.37	53 \pm 1.00	98.77 \pm 0.53	5.1 \pm 0.23	0.70 \pm 0.31
F7	299 \pm 0.49	53 \pm 1.00	101.30 \pm 0.60	4.6 \pm 0.34	0.75 \pm 0.21
F8	301 \pm 0.73	22 \pm 1.53	102.10 \pm 0.80	4.6 \pm 0.28	0.76 \pm 0.20
F9	299 \pm 0.68	17 \pm 0.58	103.20 \pm 0.63	5.2 \pm 0.49	0.79 \pm 0.21
F10	302 \pm 0.38	17 \pm 1.00	101.30 \pm 0.66	4.2 \pm 0.30	0.88 \pm 0.11

* Experiments were carried out in phosphate buffer (pH 6.8).

acceptable friability that was less than 1% in all ODT formulations.

Tablet Disintegration

The impact of the use of different disintegrants on the time required for disintegration of the ODTs containing 75 mg CL is displayed in Table IV.

It is clearly evident from the data that the superdisintegrants used caused a pronounced decrease in the disintegration time of the prepared ODTs, especially CCS and CPV. Tablets formulated without superdisintegrants exhibited a disintegration time of about 236 seconds.

Using CCS and CPV as superdisintegrants, when the concentration of the superdisintegrant was increased from 2% to 5%, enhanced tablet disintegration was observed. Increasing the concentration of CCS or CPV from 5% to 10% in the tablets did not show any further significant increase in the disintegration rate. Also, increasing the concentration of SSG from 2% to 5% resulted in a reduction of the disintegration time from 58 seconds to 53 seconds, while increasing the concentration of the superdisintegrant from 5% to 10% did not show any further significant change. It can be concluded that the optimum concentration of superdisintegrant is 5%, which gave rapid disintegration of CL tablets. These results are in agreement with those found by Ferrero *et al.*, who studied the disintegration efficiency of croscarmellose sodium and reported that at high concentrations (> 8%), the disintegration time was found to be longer (Ferrero *et al.*, 1997). Moreover, Jagdale *et al.* (2010) mentioned that CCS gave a short disintegration time at low concentrations with a sudden rise when the concentration was increased

from 4% to 6%. The authors interpreted these results on the basis of that the fibrous nature of CCS at low concentrations is responsible for its disintegrating action, which results from the wicking of water into tablet matrices. The fibrous nature of CCS is more pronounced at lower concentrations and smoothens gradually with time. There is a probability that wicking and swelling occur simultaneously, thus, at high concentrations smoothing of the particles and decrease in the width of the pores may prevail (Jagdale *et al.*, 2010).

The tablet formulation containing 5% CPV (F9) could be considered as optimum as it had shortest disintegration time. These results are in accordance with an earlier study by Balasubramaniam *et al.* (2008), where the disintegration time of clopidogrel tablets containing Polyplasdone XL showed the fastest release in compendial medium (pH 2.0), compared with SSG and croscarmellose sodium. The authors explained their results on the basis that of the commonly used superdisintegrants, crospovidone is nonionic, while SSG and croscarmellose sodium are anionic. It has been proposed that any weakly basic (cationic) drug, when present in an environment where the pH is >2 and near or below the pKa of the cationic drug, should be expected to interact with ionised polymers like croscarmellose sodium and SSG (Balasubramaniam *et al.*, 2008).

In vitro dissolution

The in vitro dissolution profiles of CL from the prepared orally disintegrating tablets in the compendial medium (pH 2.0) are displayed in Figures 4-6. The drug exhibited only 5 % dissolution from the tablet formula without superdisintegrant after the first 5 minutes, and

completed dissolution after 20 minutes. This observation was in agreement with the higher disintegration times expected with such formulas. However, the presence of superdisintegrants in the tablet formulations caused an enhanced initial dissolution rate of CL, especially at the 5% superdisintegrant level. For example, more than 95% of the loaded CL dissolved from ODTs containing a 5% concentration of CCS, CPV or SSG after 5 minutes.

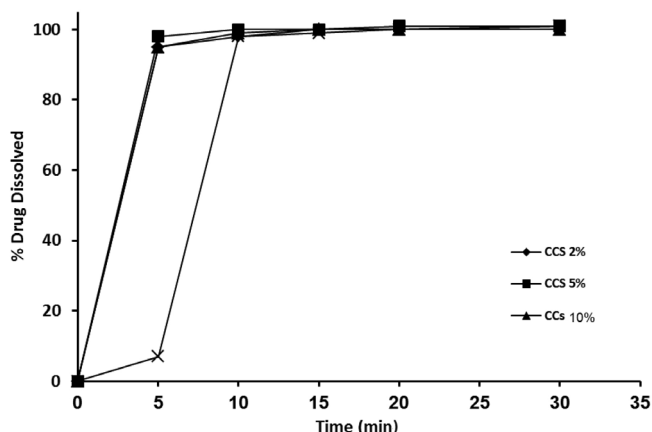


FIGURE 4 - Effect of CCS concentration on the percentage of Clopidogrel dissolved in an acidic medium, pH 2.0.

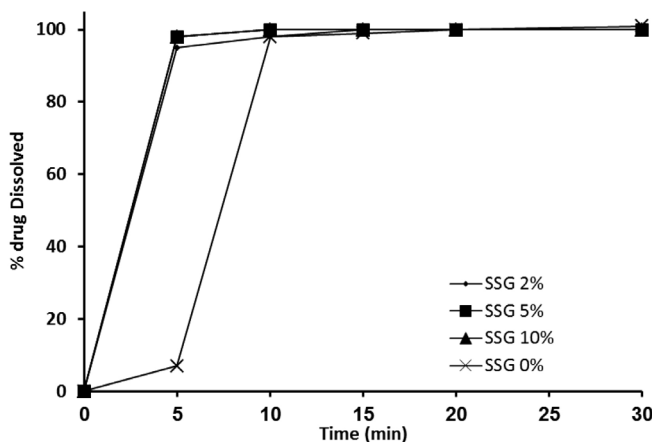


FIGURE 5 - Effect of SSG concentration on the percentage of Clopidogrel dissolved in an acidic medium, pH 2.0.

The dissolution CL from ODT formulations F3, F6 and F9 (containing 5% each of CCS, SSG, and CPV, respectively) was studied in two different dissolution media, at pH 2.0 and pH 6.8 and the results are displayed in Figure 7.

Clopidogrel exhibited very slow dissolution rates from the formulas at the higher pH value (no more than 30% was released after 30 minutes), while complete drug dissolution from both formulas was observed after 15 minutes at the lower pH (pH 2.0). This phenomenon is due

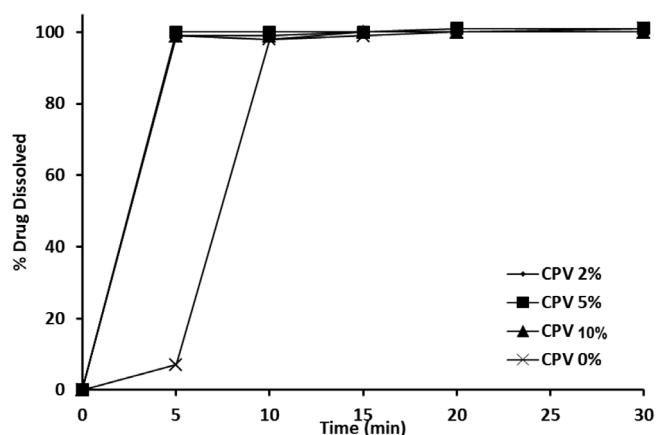


FIGURE 6 - Effect of CPV concentration on the percentage of Clopidogrel dissolved in an acidic medium, pH 2.0.

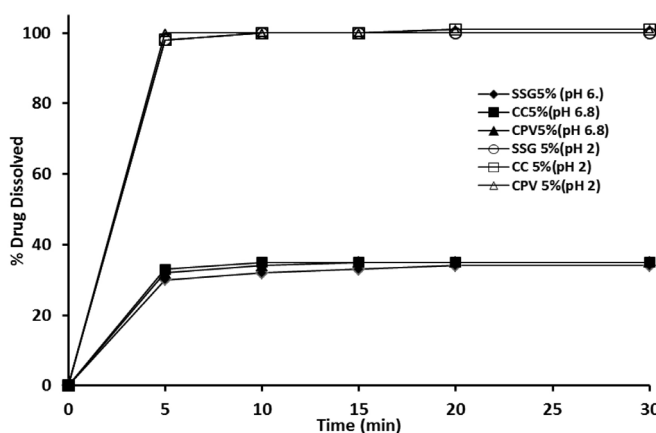


FIGURE 7 - Effect of the pH of the dissolution medium on the percentage of Clopidogrel dissolved.

to the lower solubility of CL at higher pH values because of its basic nature (Sahitya *et al.*, 2014). This might be advantageous during the formulation of CL ODTs, since the manufactured ODTs formulations containing the drug exhibited rapid disintegration at the higher pH value (pH 6.8), which simulates saliva fluid, while the drug dissolves slowly, which may mask its undesirable taste.

Evaluation of palatability

The results of palatability test were illustrated in Tables V and VI. Half of the volunteers reported that the palatability was acceptable while the other half reported good palatability. Only two volunteers out of ten complained of a mild bitter after taste. In evaluation of mouth feel, eight of the volunteers reported that it was acceptable while the other two exhibited taste responses with no complaints of numbness. These results indicate the acceptable palatability of the formulated tablets. The mean *in vivo* disintegration time for the ten volunteers was

TABLE V - Taste evaluation results for the selected formula (F9)

Volunteer No.	Scale				Aftertaste	In vivo disintegration time (Sec.)
	1	2	3	4		
1			X		-	11
2			X		-	9
3			X		+	12
4			X		-	9
5			X		-	10
6		X			-	10
7		X			-	14
8		X			+	12
9		X			-	8
10		X			-	8

TABLE VI - Mouth feel evaluation results for the selected formula (F9)

Volunteer No.	Scale				Numbness
	1	2	3	4	
1		X			-
2			X		-
3			X		-
4		X			-
5		X			-
6					-
7		X			-
8		X			-
9		X			-
10		X			-

about ten seconds, which is in accordance with the in vitro disintegration time for F9.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, ODTs of CL were developed that had sufficient mechanical integrity, and uniformity of content with acceptable palatability to allow easy administration to patients of any age group. The ODTs were prepared by direct compression. All tablets had hardness in the range 4.2–5.2 kp and friability less than 1%. Weight variation and drug content of all formulations were within official limits. In vitro disintegration tests and in vitro drug release studies of ODTs tablets showed a fast disintegration within seconds at pH 6.8 and more than 90% of the drug was released within 5 minutes in acidic medium.

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