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## LIDOCAINE NaCMC:GEL HYDROGEL DELIVERY USING COMBINED MICRONEEDLE AND SONOPHORESIS

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Lidocaine hydrochloride (HCI) is a water soluble weak acidic, local anaesthetic, usually administered by injection into the dermis layer of skin causes pain<sup>1,2</sup>. Alternatively an eutectic mixture of local anaesthetics (ÉMLA) may be unsuitable in emergency situations because a 1 hour time duration of permeation is necessary<sup>3,4</sup>. Low frequency sonophoresis (LFS) within a range of 20-100 kHz allows for the mechanism of inertial cavitation as the accepted theory for enhancing skin permeability<sup>5,6</sup>. Additionally a minimally invasive mechanism of microneedle assisted delivery of topical drugs produces microconduits to bypass the stratum corneum (SC) layer of skin<sup>7</sup>. Jacketed Franz diffusion cells (FDC) were implemented for exvivo skin permeation studies of lidocaine NaCMC/GEL hydrogels post treatment by combined microneedle insertion followed by sonophoresis<sup>8</sup>. A lidocaine GEL to NaCMC mass ratio of 2.66 hydrogel treated with 18W LFS for a 10 minute duration combined with microneedle treatment of 5 minute duration resulted in a 4.8 fold average increase over 30 minutes when compared with LFS or passive diffusion alone. Minimum therapeutic levels of lidocaine HCl at 1.5 µg/ml were crossed after a period of 7 minutes post microneedle insertion of 5 mins and 18 W LFS for GEL to NaCMC mass ratio 2.66. A fairly significant and steady decline in the percentage of lidocaine HCI contained in skin from mass balance determination revealed lidocaine GEL to NaCMC mass ratio of 2.66 to possess 99.7% lidocaine HCl within 3 hours. This is likely caused by lidocaine HCI molecules diffusing faster through cavity formed cellular features in skin before systemic clearance in hypodermis or capillaries. The dispersion trends from zeta potential analysis favour lidocaine HCI GEL to NaCMC mass ratios from 1.6 to 2.3 compared with 2.66 of a lot more agglomeration. Increased GEL to NaCMC mass ratios resulted in fairly significant increases in mean particle size diameters despite polydispersity observed with all GEL to NaCMC mass ratios of lidocaine. 25 100

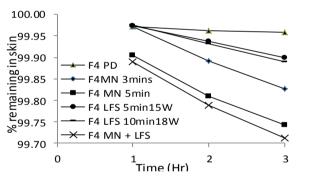


Fig. 1 Example of lidocaine HCl contained in skin from (F4) NaCMC/GEL 1:2.66 (▲ Passive diffusion), (◆ Microneedles, 3 min), (■ Microneedles, 5 min), (● LFS 5 min 15 W), (■ LFS 10 min 18 W), ( × Microneedles + LFS)

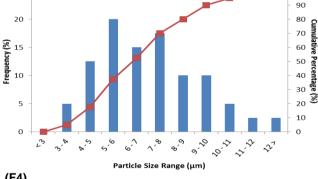


Fig. 2 Example of Particle size distribution of lidocaine NaCMC/gel hydrogels

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