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Development of casein-fucoidan nanocomposites as a potential drug delivery system for daunorubicin

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The aim of this study was to develop casein/fucoidan nanocomposites via polyelectrolyte complexation and subsequent nano spray drying and to evaluate their potential for daunorubicin delivery. 3 (k-p) fractional factorial design was applied to estimate the effect of the independent variables (casein-fucoidan ratio, crosslinker concentration and spray intensity) over the dependent variables (production yield, particle size and zeta potential). Furthermore, the optimal production parameters for the preparation of blank nanocomposites were estimated. Based on an optimized "placebo" model of casein-fucoidan nanocomposites, three batches of daunorubicin-loaded particles were synthesized at varied crosslinker concentration and spray intensity. The obtained structures have average particle size within the range 355 ± 9 nm to 407 ± 8 nm, zeta potential from $-30,61 \pm 1,05$ mV to $-32,9 \pm 1,35$ mV and production yield between $77,39 \pm 4,24$ % and $92,51 \pm 4,89$ %. Drug loading was between $3,25 \pm 1,04$ % and $4,85 \pm 0,82$ % and encapsulation efficacy was in the range from $44,02 \pm 1,80$ % to $61,07 \pm 2,24$ %. Delayed drug release was observed in all three batches, being more prominent in the batch that was crosslinked with 3% glutaraldehyde solution.

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