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Review Article

An Extensive Review on Hydrogels in Pharmaceutical Drug Delivery Applications

Subashini Rajaram*, Senthil Rajan Dharmalingam, Vignesh Natarajan, Kaveena Ravi, Nivetha Shanmugam, Subbhashini Maruthamuthu Somasundaram

Department of Pharmaceutics and Research, Swamy Vivekanandha College of Pharmacy, Tiruchengode, Namakkal, Tamilnadu, INDIA.
The Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R Medical University, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, INDIA.

ABSTRACT

In recent years pharmaceutical companies are directing towards designing new pharmaceutical dosage forms of existing medications. Recent breakthroughs have been the inclusion of pharmaco-therapeutic characteristics of drug substances. Hydrogels have grown in popularity as a result of their distinct characteristics, such as structures and properties, and have demonstrated a great potential for medicinal, therapeutic, and diagnostic applications. They are semisolid gel-like preparation constitute with two or multi component system consisting of a three-dimensional network structures and hydrogels have unique property able to pick up copious amounts of water or biological fluid. Hydrogels are classified as soft materials by material scientist being prepared from natural materials such as polysaccharides and polypeptides, along with different types of synthetic hydrogels. They offer a wide range of biomedical uses due to their resemblance to biological tissue. Because of their biocompatibility and biodegradability, as well as their regulated release profile, hydrogels can be employed as a drug delivery vehicle. It has been used in many branches of medicine, including cardiology, oncology, immunology, wound healing and pain management. Other than as drug delivery system currently hydrogels are used for manufacturing contact lenses, hygiene products and tissue engineering scaffolds. It reviews various hydrogel drug delivery like oral, ocular, topical, transdermal, subcutaneous, orthotopic, rectal and intraperitonial. The principles of hydrogels, as well as current breakthroughs in the design, synthesis, functionalisation, and application of hydrogels in pharmaceutical drug delivery systems, were covered in this review. This study provides a comprehensive overview of the subject as well as a prognosis of future trends to the reader.

Keywords: Hydrogels, Drug delivery, Pharmaceutical, Medical applications, Categorisation.

Correspondence

Dr. Subashini Rajaram

Department of Pharmaceutics and Research, Swamy Vivekanandha College of Pharmacy, Tiruchengode, Namakkal, The Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R Medical University, Chennai- 637205, Tamil Nadu, INDIA.

Email id: subababu.r@gmail.com

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INTRODUCTION

Hydrogels are a class of polymers having a three-dimensional organization structure shaped through physical and synthetic cross-connecting of monomers with a hydrophilic gathering. Hydrogels swell when they assimilate enormous volumes of water yet keep up with their unique designs without being disintegrated.[1] Apart from high water ingestion ability, it has different properties like adaptability, porosity, improvements responsive, delicate construction and its similarity to living tissue.[2]

Their one of a kind properties, including dependable biocompatibility, tunable mechanical and corruption highlights, affectability to different improvements and the capacity to be effectively formed with hydrophilic and hydrophobic helpful accumulates Toh, 2014[3] has made them significant competitors in biomedical applications including drug conveyance,[4] tissue designing,[5-7] 3D cell societies,[8] *in vitro* diagnostics and undifferentiated organism research[9] Nowadays, researchers have an additional interest in utilizing a colloidal gel for medicine applications due to its biodegradability, a biocompatibility, low immunogenicity and ease of use. By a standardisation their chemical science properties and crosslinking a response, the colloidal gel is often ready as robust, semi-strong and fluid.[10] During this survey, we have a tendency to chiefly specialize in the assorted varieties of hydrogels and its applications in a drug delivery.

CLASSIFICATION OF HYDROGELS

Hydrogels are grouped dependent on its source, organization, cross-linking, configuration.[2]

In perspective of the source, it may be classified as natural, semisynthetic and synthetic. Hydrogels got from normal sources are a decent applicant in view of its high biocompatibility yet is normal restricted for its poor mechanical properties and strength. Collagen, gelatin, alginate, chitosan, and so forth are instances of natural polymers. Chitosan is a biopolymer made out of N-acetyl D-glucosamine and D-glucosamine units. Chitosan is framed by the deacetylation of chitin, which is found in scavanger shells and it is a polycationic polymer. Natural polymers are likewise utilized for making bioink because of their biocompatibility and simple gelation component. Literature revealed that a cell embodied biolink was manufactured with sodium alginate and collagen or agarose showed great bioactivity and mechanical strength.[11] These three polymers have an extraordinary fascination for making bioink in view of its low cytotoxicity and high-water content separated from its biocompatibility. Collagen is the normal extracellular framework protein that gives cell grip ligands. Synthetic hydrogels are likewise a decent possibility for biomedical applications in light of the fact that their chemical science or mechanical properties are tunable and duplicatable. Poly (ethylene glycol), poly (acrylic corrosive), poly (ethylene oxide), poly (vinyl liquor), so forth are a number of the artificial polymers used as hydrogels.[2]

Insight of organization

In view of the organization of the chemical compound, the gel may be partitioned off into homo polymers, copolymer, semi-interpenetrating network, and interpenetrating network. Homo-polymer hydrogels are created out of comparable chemical compound units, wherever it would have a cross-connected or uncross linked network structure dependent supported chemical compound nature and chemical action strategy. Copolymeric gel created out of a minimum of 2 numerous chemical compound units with a minimum of one hydrophilic half. It had been reported by Qiao *et al.*, 2005[12] that the dissolvability of the non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug is expanded once stacked within with PLGA-PEG-PLGA as polymer micelles.

Semi-interpenetrating network gels are framed by the infiltration of one direct chemical compound chain into another cross-linked chemical compound these two mixtures from the semi Interpenetrating network gel (IPN) hydrogel. The flexibility of medication discharges from the gel incontestable its utilization in tissue planning and different medical specialty applications. IPN is that the main one, wherever it's the combo of cross-linked polymers in network structure. In IPN, one chemical compound is formed or cross-linked inside the sight of another chemical compound organization. Numerous analysis reveals that IPN in light-weight of its mechanical properties, the mix of covalently and ionically cross-linked chemical compound network provides the durability of hydrogels.[2]

Insight of configuration

In light of the configuration it can be classified as amorphous, semicrystalline and crystalline hydrogel. Semi crystalline hydrogels were created by chemical cross-linking strategy, and it contains both crystalline and amorphous phase.[2]

The actually cross-linked semicrystalline hydrogel was obtained by micellar and bulk polymerization procedures. Contrasted with chemically crosslinked semicrystalline hydrogels, semicrystalline physical hydrogel have the novel property of changing from strong state to a fluid state what's more, the other way around. In this way, it tends to be utilized as injectable hydrogel sand shape-memory hydrogel.[13]

Insight of crosslinking

It is by and large grouped into two sorts: physical gel and chemical gel dependent on the kind of crosslinking. Physical cross-linking is the most favored technique for the readiness of hydrogels. It is otherwise called reversible gel and it is again partitioned as strong physical gel and weak physical gel. Occurrence of physical cross linking happens through hydrogen bonding, polyelectrolytic interaction and molecular entanglement. Though it is utilized in various drug delivery application, it needs sufficient mechanical strength and stability. To beat this downside, researchers basically centered around chemical crosslinking.[2]

The chemical gel is additionally called perpetual gel and it essentially happens through synthetic specialists that cross-connect the polymers by covalent collaboration. The swelling capacity of chemical gel chiefly relies upon the convergence of the cross-linking agent. An acrylic corrosive gelatin polymer hydrogel was built by free extreme polymerization which is artificially cross-connected with ethylene glycol dimethacrylate with the assistance of initiator ammonium persulphate. The capacity of growing conduct relies upon the centralization of polymer, monomer and the cross-connecting specialist. As the grouping of polymer and crosslinker builds, the pace of the growing proportion is diminished. As of late, specialists have zeroed in on creating in situ framed hydrogels for biomedical applications like injectable gels, drug conveyance, careful paste, and so on the substance cycle behind the *in-situ* arrangement of hydrogel incorporates Schiff base cross-connecting, enzymatic cross-linking, Michael addition, click chemistry and photograph cross-linking.[2]

DRUG DELIVERY

A large number and scholarly papers about potential utilizations of hydrogels in drug delivery have been published, in any case, a couple have brought about commercial applications. Hydrogels have drawn in recognizable interest for their utilization in drug delivery because of their unique physical properties. The high porosity that portrays hydrogels can undoubtedly be changed by controlling the thickness of cross-links in their grid and the proclivity to water. Their permeable design likewise permits medications to be stacked and sustained delivered. The benefits offered by hydrogels for drug delivery applications incorporate the opportunities for supported delivery, which brings about keeping a high nearby convergence of a functioning drug fixing over an extensive stretch.[14]

A viable drug delivery framework has three basic prerequisites of the design: An area for drug storage, a controlled delivery rate, and a delivery drive.[15] Hydrogels display these three capacities. Additionally, hydrogels can veil the unpleasant taste and scent of drugs. Accordingly, hydrogels have an incredible potential for application by means of oral, nasal, buccal, rectal, vaginal, eye, infusion, and other organization courses. At the point when the hydrogel is infused or relocated into a living being, it can keep up with the viable and controlled arrival of an implanted drug into body liquids.[16]

The medication can be stacked into a hydrogel and afterward its delivery may continue through a few systems: diffusion controlled, swelling controlled, chemically controlled and environmentally-responsive release. The diffusion-controlled delivery frameworks can be addressed by reservoir or matrix devices. Both permit the medication discharge by dissemination through the hydrogel network or the pores loaded up with water. A reservoir conveyance framework (Figure 1) incorporates a drug containing center covered with a hydrogel layer, normally accessible as cases, chambers, circles or pieces. The convergence of the drug is higher in the focal point of the framework to permit a consistent delivery rate.[14]

In swelling controlled frameworks, the drug is scattered or broken down consistently all through the three-dimensional design of the hydrogel (Figure 2). Drug discharge is accomplished through the macromolecular cross section or the pores, and the underlying delivery rate for this situation is relative to the square base of time, instead of being consistent and time autonomous as occurs in repository frameworks. In expanding controlled delivery gadgets, the medication is scattered inside a polished polymer as in a grid gadget, and when the polymer is in touch with a bio-liquid it begins growing. The material then, at that point grows past its limit permitting the dissemination of medication with the unwinding of polymer chains. This cycle is additionally called Case II transport and it shows consistent, time-dependent kinetics of delivery. It is known as

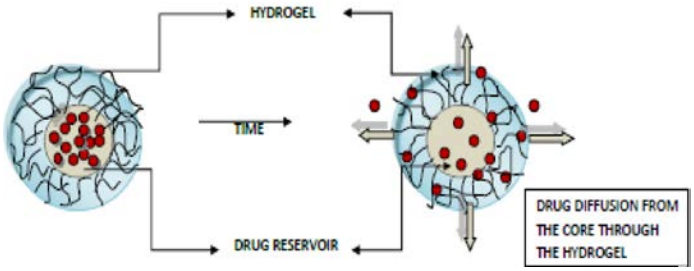

Figure 1: Hydrogel membrane as drug reservoir system.

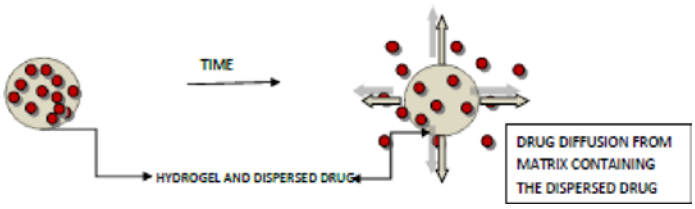

Figure 2: Drug linkage from matrix system.

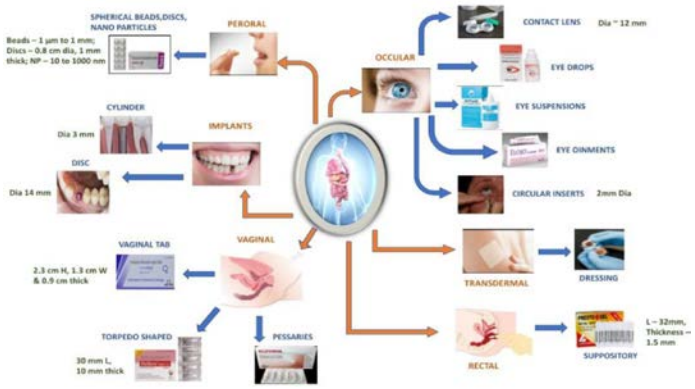

Figure 3: Numerous routes of drug administration of hydrogel-based products.

'anomalous transport', one that consolidates growing controlled delivery with dissemination.[14]

The inclination existing between the scattered medication in the hydrogel and the general climate allows the dispersion of the dynamic fixing stacked from the high fixation through the hydrogel, to the lower one. The molar motion of the medication for this situation, J (mol/cm^2 s), is corresponding to the focus inclination (Δc) as the main impetus for this interaction:[14]

where D is the dispersion coefficient in the polymer (cm2/s), and c is the centralization of the medication inside the polymer (mol/cm^3). The delivery rate regularly relies upon the time so the delivery energy is resolved from:

This condition depicts the vehicle of medication out of the hydrogel when the limit is (static medication conveyance. The hydrogel-based measurements structures can have various plans and shapes relying upon the course of medication organization (Figure 3).

HYDROGELS BASED SITE EXPLICIT DRUG DELIVERY

Oral Delivery

The oral conveyance course addresses by a long shot the most advantageous arrangement under movable boundaries and patient consistence. Orally regulated hydrogels ought to give bioavailability relying upon medium particularities, for example, pH varieties along the intestinal tract. While thinking about oral ingestion, the metabolic impact that monomers have on the life form is extremely huge. Poly-glycolic and poly-lactic-co-glycolic corrosive hydrogel corruption have been displayed to influence sound metabolism, prompting a few impediments as far as hydrogel treatment like presence of digestive enzymes could prompt denaturation, low porousness through the epithelial layer into the circulatory system and predominant and substandard digestive systems frameworks can address potential therapeutic targets.[17]

Ocular Delivery

Because physiological barriers and clearance mechanisms reduce ocular bioavailability, traditional ophthalmic dose forms such as eye drops represent a considerable barrier. Because of their great biocompatibility and capacity to retain and release therapeutic chemicals, hydrogels are attractive therapeutic materials for ocular drug delivery. Due to the fact that hydrogels are commonly used to deliver hydrophilic medications, numerous methods for incorporating hydrophobic ophthalmic pharmaceuticals into hydrogels have been established. Because traditional topical eye drop administration of hydrophobic medicines has limits, hydrogel-based methods offer a feasible option for controlled ocular drug delivery. Hydrogels have been used in ophthalmic applications to deliver hydrophobic medicines to the anterior part of the eye. Prostaglandin analogues, corticosteroids, and immunosuppressive medicines are among the most widely utilised hydrophobic medications in ocular drug delivery. Under physiological circumstances, these hydrophobic drugs have an aqueous solubility of less than 1 mg/mL. The present limits of topical administration of hydrophobic medicines, which accounts for the great majority of conventionally authorised therapies, here are highlighted.[18]

Topical and Transdermal Delivery

Drug delivery to the skin has traditionally been done for the topical use of dermatological medications to treat skin conditions or for skin disinfection. A transdermal route has been studied as a prospective site for systemic medication delivery in recent years. The benefits of transdermal drug delivery include the ability to give medications for a long time at a consistent rate, the ability to terminate drug administration on demand by simply removing the devices, and the ability to avoid hepatic first-pass metabolism. Furthermore, compared to traditional ointments and patches, swelling hydrogels might provide a better feeling for the skin due to their high-water content. Electrically-assisted distribution, such as iontophoresis and electroporation, is a recent research trend in transdermal applications. Several hydrogel-based formulations are being tested as transdermal iontophoresis vehicles to improve luteinizing hormone releasing hormone, sodium nonivamide acetate, nicotine, and enoxacin permeability.[19]

Subcutaneous Delivery System

Due to their physical similarities to real soft tissues, hydrogels show potential for drug delivery and tissue engineering applications, as well as in physical models used in drug and biomolecule release and transport investigations *in vitro*. As a result, they're appealing models for studying drug release and transport in connection to drug delivery systems administered subcutaneously. The extracellular matrix (a gel-like matrix) is primarily responsible for directing interstitial movement of molecules in subcutaneous tissues. Among the different suggested hydrogels, agarose-based hydrogels have been employed as physical models for brain, tumour, and connective tissue because of their porosity resemblance to soft biological tissues.[20]

Orthotopic Injections

Orthotopic injections is a common approach for the administration of hydrogels-based drug delivery and it requires the arrival of the nanostructure framework stacked in a hydrogel matrix. These hydrogel structures are purported "macroscopic gels" that are accompanying the basic need to diminish possible harms of related tissues during an injection. Qinjie Wu *et al.*, 2015 incorporated a smart hydrogel receptive to temperature, which forestalled the development of peritoneal adhesion on a harmed abdominal wall.[21] Where orthotopic treatment utilizing hydrogels appears to show guarantee is in the post-resection

hole where it can go about as a lethargic delivery to further develop long haul endurance.[22-23]

Intraperitoneal Delivery

Intraperitoneal organization of hydrogel frameworks shows promising outcomes and is viewed as a non-invasive alternative, just as an ideal plan for different drug specialists. One of these designs was ready by Chih-Hao Chen *et al*., in 2018 and was effectively consolidated in the mouse peritoneum accomplishing double activity: drug conveyance and postoperative enemy of adhesiveness.[24] Essentially to orthotopic injection hydrogels, intraperitoneal hydrogels (generally gelatin based gels) without anyone else show no cytotoxicity and high levels of biocompatibility.[25] It is worth focusing on that the limit of the gels to ingest high measures of water could be adverse on account of any injectable plans.[26]

Rectal Delivery

Rectal organization offers a lot of benefits like quick ingestion of the compound, retreat of the gastrointestinal tract, restricted unfriendly responses of the therapeutics, and gives controlled arrival of the compound with regards to the stable natural conditions experienced in the rectum. In light-weight of a previous examination that showed fantastic biocompatibility on the abdomen connected parcel, rectally administrated catechol-chitosan-based hydrogels with mucoadhesive properties are tried in murine models and show no toxic impacts following ten days.[17] With relevance issue, Afaf A. *et al*., fostered a hydrogel-based item and created an association between's *in vitro* and *in vivo* profile with promising outcomes.[27]

Gastro recollective drug delivery

Gastro recollective drug delivery formulations (GRDDFs) area unit particularly appealing for medication that area unit trapped within the proximal piece of gastroinstestinal parcel. Upgrading the upkeep season of the medications within the GI heap is important to Figure on their bioavailability and improve their restorative impacts. These dose structures can be victimised for his or her muco-adhesion to the viscus membrane, altered to buoy or sink to forestall departure the abdomen or increment their growing conduct and build them as huge to forestall entry through orifice for delayed periods. In sight of those thoughts, polyionic complicated hydrogels of chitosan with ring-opened PVP are created for pathology treatment. The definition was used to deliver medicinal drug within the higher GI plot. Upgraded muco-attachment, delayed freedom from increasing, insignificant restricted disturbance, more developed bioavailability and a lot of slow arrival of the dynamic fixing's area unit the fascinating components of the readiness. Likewise, *in vivo* experimentation showed that these hydrogels might offer improved PK properties that well-kept with the medication within the restorative levels for a supported timeframe, limiting variances in useful levels, afterward in addition the conceivable incidental effects.[28]

Inflammatory sicknesses, for instance, irritable internal organ syndrome are as recently treated utilizing hydrogels. These gave safer choices in distinction to delivery techniques that will cause foundational toxicity. Zhang *et al*. full-grown adversely charged hydrogels that specially collected within the by all odds charged enkindled colon and went concerning as transporters of the corticoid drug adrenal cortical steroid (Dex). The colloidal gel was prepared from ascorbyl palmitate that had labile bonds receptive to provocative conditions and was usually thought to be Safe (GRAS) for organization. Administration of irrigation to the colon inflammation targeting (IT) colloidal gel microfibers found out the target website in addition as remained there inferable from charge association. The definition was remedially exceptionally solid and uncovered lesser basic medication openness than with free Dex within the IBS mice model *in vivo*.[29]

Complexation gel organized from poly (methacrylic corrosive g-ethylene glycol) [P (MAA-g-EG) has been delineated. The specializing in matter used is that the octarginine cell-entering amide that creates specific conveyance of internal secretion the system. This strategy worked with ideal specializing in, assimilation at target and allowable prompt arrival of internal secretion from bodily function website. Unbelievable hypoglycaemic reactions were approachable and expanded internal secretion assimilation was noted from diabetic eutherian models used for testing. Eighteen aldohexose decrease was noticed promptly on organization of the gel containing internal secretion.[29]

CONCLUSION AND FUTURE PERSPECTIVE

Later on, hydrogel-based items could address a critical extent of medication conveyance frameworks, to effectively manage drugs at the ideal rate and site in the body. Explicit delivery rates and disintegration profiles could be accomplished with the improvement of new hydrogels with various hydrophobicity/hydrophilicity and primary qualities. These frameworks could work on the conveyance of more delicate atoms and be utilized in the therapy of pathologic conditions like diabetes or even disease. In particular, more improvements are normal in the utilization of hydrogels for conveyance of remedial proteins and peptides.

What is clear is the way that hydrogels have been and are proceeding to be pertinent "platforms" in biomedicine and biomedical exploration. With regards to these develops we have entered a period of adjusting previously existing designs and innovation, where novel hydrogels rush to arrive at useful applications in reality (contact focal points, wound dressing, 3D culture frameworks) and more colorful ones hold potential in an assortment of fields like mechanical technology, advanced plane design, sun powered cells and photoreactors, natural examination and sports science.

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