

## FORMULATION DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION OF ALLOPURINOL SOLID DISPERSIONS BY SOLVENT EVAPORATION TECHNIQUE

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### ABSTRACT

**Objective:** The main objective of the research work is to develop and characterize allopurinol (ALPN) solid dispersions with different polymers to enhance solubility, enrich dissolution profile and improve patient compliance.

**Methods:** ALPN solid dispersions were prepared by solvent evaporation technique using various grades of polyethylene glycol (PEG) such as PEG 4000 and PEG 6000 with different ratios like 1:0.5, 1:1, 1:1.5 and 1:2 and after formation of solid dispersions all physicochemical properties were examined.

**Results:** All the formulations were found within the permissible pharmacopoeial limits for various physicochemical parameters. The pre-formulation studies, like Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR) showed the absence of drug-excipient interactions. The solubility and dissolution profiles of the sample were increased with increasing the concentration of ALPN solid dispersions. Solvent evaporation was proved to be a successful technique for the development of stable solid dispersion of ALPN. The dissolution amount percentage of ALPN formulations was found between 39.58±2.5 to 94.95±1.8 % within 60 min.

**Conclusion:** Hence, from the all evaluation studies, it was evident that F1 formulation was the better formulation. F1 formulation (ALPN: PEG 4000 in the ratio of 1:0.5), 94.95±1.8 % drug released within 50 min.

**Keywords:** Solid dispersions, Polyplasdone XL, Compressibility, Flowability

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### INTRODUCTION

From the several previous years, the pharmaceutical scientists were working to increase patient compliance and secure dosage forms due to the improved requirement in the market for them. As a result, developing the novel technologies has been growing annually because the growth of novel drug molecules requires higher cost rather than novel technology. So the current trend in the greater part of pharmaceutical industries is a development of dosage form with new formulation technology using old drug molecules to improve safety, efficacy and patient compliance [1, 2]. It is active for the treatment of both major hyperuricemias of gout and minor hyperuricemia related to haematological complaints or anti-neoplastic therapy [3]. It is a very weak acid with a dissociation constant (pKa) of 9.4 and is consequently principally unionized at all functional pH values [4]. The aforementioned lipid solubility is relatively low as is specified by its octanol: water partition coefficient of 0.28 [5]. ALPN is a polar composite thru tough intermolecular hydrogen relationship and narrow solubility in both polar and non-polar media [6]. Solid dispersion procedures used far and wide, to progress the dissolution possessions and bioavailability of poorly water-soluble drugs [7]. Solid dispersion means for a set of solid products comprising of at least two different components, usually a hydrophobic drug and a hydrophilic matrix. The matrix can be any crystalline or amorphous and drugs can be dispersed molecularly. The molecular dispersion can depend on the degree of supersaturation and rate of cooling in the process. The important limitation of this method is the thermal stability of the drug and the carrier. If temperature requires too high, the drug may decompose or evaporate. It is furthermore definite as being an origination made by fluctuating a fluid drug-carrier amalgamation to the compacted state [8]. The intention of the current revision was to prepare ALPN solid dispersions by a solvent evaporation method and the process for the enhancement of solubility of the drug.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

#### Materials

ALPN was kindly provided by Sura labs, Hyderabad, Telangana, India. PEG 4000, PEG 6000, polyplasdone XL and microcrystalline cellulose were purchased from Nihal trader's Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad, Telangana. Aerosol and magnesium stearate were procured from SD Fine-Chemicals limited, Mumbai. Hydrochloric acid (HCl) was supplied from Merck Specialities Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai.

#### Methods

##### Drug-excipient compatibility studies

Drug-excipient interaction studies carried out by using FTIR, mixing the drug and excipients in various proportions.

##### Pre-compression studies

The powder mixtures of all ALPN formulations were evaluated for angle of repose, bulk density, tapped density, compressibility index and Hausner's ratio [9].

##### Preparation of solid dispersions by solvent evaporation method

Methanol was used as a solvent. ALPN dose was taken as 100 mg. Water-soluble polymers such as PEG 4000 and PEG 6000 were selected as carriers. Drug and polymers were taken in different ratios such as 1:0.5, 1:1, 1:1.5, 1:2 stated in the formulation chart (table 1). The prepared solid dispersions were passed through the # 20 sieve number to get uniform sized particles [10-16]. Add required quantities of diluent, lubricant and glidant to the above mixer. The prepared complex samples were stored at ambient conditions for further studies [17-18].

##### Preparation of tablets by the direct compression method

The tablets were prepared by 8 station compression machine using 10 mm flat surfaced punch. The hardness of the tablets was maintained at 4.0-5.0 kg/cm<sup>2</sup> [19].

### Post-compression studies

The prepared formulations were categorized with their uniformity of weight, thickness, hardness, friability, disintegration time and drug content uniformity [20].

### In vitro drug release studies

The drug release rate was deliberate using the USP type II dissolution test device. The dissolution medium was 900 ml of 0.1N HCl (pH 1.2) at 50 rpm at a temperature of  $37 \pm 0.5^\circ\text{C}$ . Samples of 5 ml were taken at from time to time up to 60 min. and analyzed later proper dilution by using UV visible spectrophotometer at 250 nm [21].

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

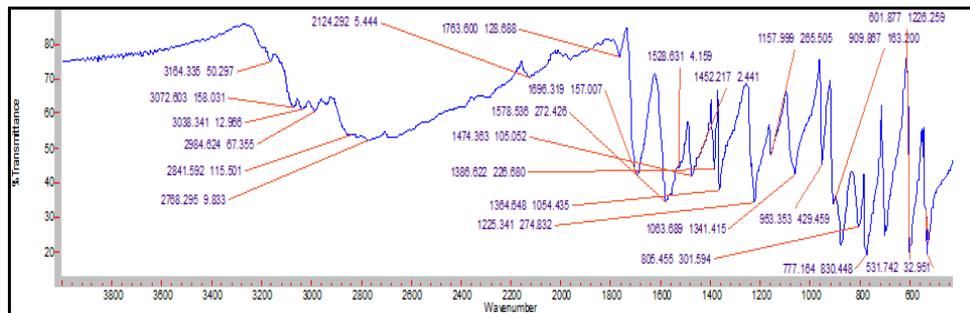
### Drug-excipient compatibility studies

The drug excipient compatibility study was supported by using Fourier transmission infrared spectroscopy (FTIR) and it is shown in fig. 1 and fig. 2. They were showing the principal peaks at similar wavenumbers. And in the optimized formulation (F1) some different wave numbers observed. However, these additional peaks were observed with physical mixtures, which could be due to the presence of polymers. These results suggest that there is no interaction between the drug and polymers used in the present study. Hence the excipients are used in this study are inert with drug and are suitable for the formulation development.

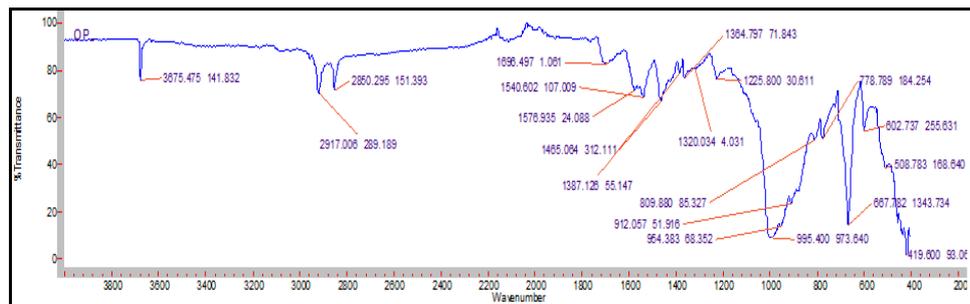
**Table 1: Formulation table showing various compositions**

Ingredients (mg/tab)	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6	F7	F8	F9
Drug	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
PEG 4000	50	100	150	200	-	-	-	-	100
PEG 6000	-	-	-	-	50	100	150	200	100
Polyplasdone XL	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
Aerosil	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Mg, stearate	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
MCC	q. s								

Total weight of tablets = 500 mg



**Fig. 1: FTIR spectra of pure drug (ALPN)**



**Fig. 2: FTIR spectra of optimized formulation (F1)**

**Table 2: Physical properties of the pre-compression blend**

Formulation code	Angle of repose* (θ)	Bulk density* (gm/cm <sup>3</sup> )	Tapped density* (gm/cm <sup>3</sup> )	Carr's index* (%)	Hausner's ratio*
F1	28.61±1.202	0.61±0.424	0.61±0.963	10.135±1.12	1.03±0.024
F2	27.48±0.981	0.48±0.378	0.63±0.896	10.623±0.18	0.99±0.015
F3	24.01±0.674	0.69±0.912	0.58±0.003	8.977±2.48	1.13±0.028
F4	24.36±0.267	0.63±1.065	0.61±0.458	9.183±1.06	1.18±0.019
F5	26.01±0.938	0.66±1.125	0.63±0.955	10.967±0.39	1.17±0.056
F6	23.80±0.816	0.62±0.089	0.64±0.123	9.825±0.82	1.21±0.029
F7	24.09±1.045	0.49±0.016	0.69±0.896	8.150±0.91	1.13±0.614
F8	29.18±0.183	0.66±0.925	0.58±0.912	9.638±1.67	1.22±0.926
F9	24.47±1.027	0.60±0.141	0.61±0.018	10.901±1.96	1.19±0.034

Each value represents mean±SD (n=3).

### Pre-compression studies

The angle of repose of ALPN was determined by funnel method and it was found in the ranges of  $24.01 \pm 0.674$  to  $29.18 \pm 0.183$ . Bulk density and tapped density was found between  $0.66 \pm 1.125$  to  $0.60 \pm 0.141$  and  $0.61 \pm 0.963$  to  $0.69 \pm 0.896$  respectively. Carr's index and hausner's ratios were found to be  $<11$  and  $<1.25$  respectively. Pre-compression blends studies representing fair to good flow properties and it was shown in table 2.

### Preparation of standard graph

ALPN standard graph was achieved by various concentrations (10 to 59  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ ) of drug and correlation coefficient ( $R^2$ ) was

attained at 0.999. The  $R^2$  shows that limit of detection (LOD), limit of quantification (LOQ), dynamic range, and limit of linearity (LOL).

### Post-compression studies

The weight variation was found in the ranges from  $497 \pm 4.24$  to  $504 \pm 0.23$  mg. The hardness (n=6) of the tablets ranged from  $3.9 \pm 0.81$  to  $4.8 \pm 1.06$   $\text{kg/cm}^2$  and the friability (n=10) ranged from  $0.298 \pm 0.497$  %. The thickness (n=20) of the tablets stretched from  $4.92 \pm 0.05$  to  $4.99 \pm 0.02$  mm and the content of the drug (n=6) is  $98.84 \pm 0.76$  to  $100.35 \pm 0.50$  %. Consequently, all the physical aspects of all formulations were imitated to in the official limits and it was shown in table 3.

Table 3: Physical evaluation of ALPN prepared tablets

Formulation code	Weight variation <sup>a</sup> (mg)	Thickness <sup>b</sup> (mm)	Hardness <sup>c</sup> (Kg/cm <sup>2</sup> )	Friability <sup>b</sup> (%)	Content uniformity <sup>c</sup> (%)
F1	$500 \pm 2.02$	$4.99 \pm 0.84$	$4.5 \pm 0.52$	$0.492 \pm 0.03$	$102.12 \pm 1.43$
F2	$498 \pm 5.49$	$4.88 \pm 0.06$	$4.6 \pm 0.67$	$0.499 \pm 0.06$	$98.36 \pm 0.78$
F3	$497 \pm 4.24$	$4.93 \pm 0.01$	$4.7 \pm 0.46$	$0.496 \pm 0.19$	$99.27 \pm 0.47$
F4	$502 \pm 0.92$	$4.99 \pm 0.06$	$4.8 \pm 0.81$	$0.501 \pm 0.80$	$102.69 \pm 0.36$
F5	$498 \pm 2.19$	$4.98 \pm 0.07$	$4.8 \pm 0.49$	$0.499 \pm 0.61$	$96.76 \pm 0.91$
F6	$503 \pm 0.93$	$4.92 \pm 0.05$	$4.7 \pm 0.12$	$0.492 \pm 0.82$	$98.81 \pm 0.46$
F7	$504 \pm 0.23$	$4.99 \pm 0.02$	$4.8 \pm 0.62$	$0.502 \pm 0.64$	$99.19 \pm 0.66$
F8	$498 \pm 0.98$	$4.93 \pm 0.02$	$5.0 \pm 0.71$	$0.498 \pm 0.54$	$100.98 \pm 1.09$
F9	$502 \pm 0.12$	$4.98 \pm 0.06$	$4.9 \pm 0.63$	$0.499 \pm 0.22$	$98.99 \pm 0.09$

<sup>a</sup> Each value represents mean  $\pm$  S. D (n=20); <sup>b</sup> Each value represents mean  $\pm$  S. D (n=10); <sup>c</sup> Each value represents mean  $\pm$  S. D (n=6).

### In vitro drug release studies

The cumulative percentage (%) drug releases (n=3) was shown in fig. 3. Based on measurement drug release profiles and other physical properties F1 was optimized. As a result F1, initiation

containing both PEG 4000 and 6000, preferred proportion drug release and it follows zero order release kinetics. While the preparations comprising PEG 6000 revealed less release and perceived that the concentration of polymer rises the drug release was declined.

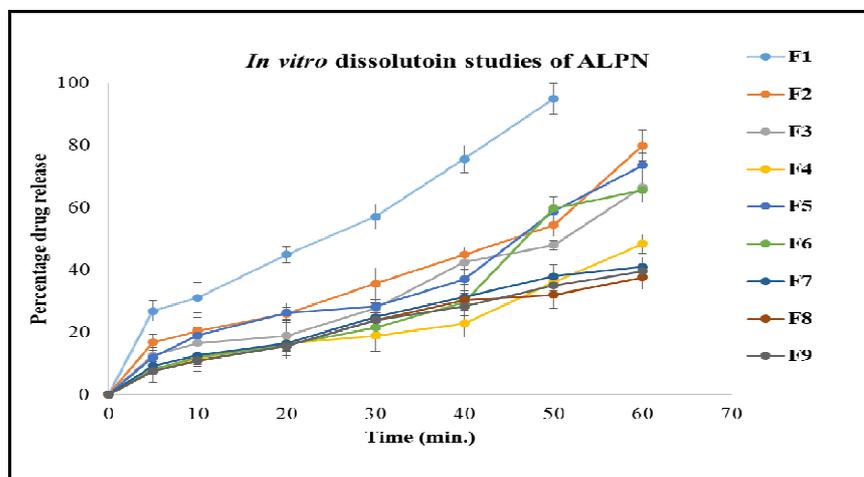


Fig. 3: In vitro dissolution data for formulations F1-F9; (n=3)

### CONCLUSION

The dissolution rate can be extensively enhanced by formulating ALPN solid dispersion as a compressed tablet and with amplification, in the carrier content, there is a rise in the solubility also. It could be the best choice of treatment and accomplish good patient compliance. To conclude, it was revealed to be a successful methodology for illuminating the dissolution rate and thereby enhancing its systemic convenience.

### AUTHORS CONTRIBUTIONS

All the author have contributed equally

### CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest

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