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EXPLORING THE ROLE OF POLYMERS IN PHARMACEUTICAL EXCIPIENTS

Numan Ansari[1], Nandini Chautrvedi[2*], Nidhi Chaudhary[2], Ashok Kumar[3], Dr. Amandeep Singh[4]

[1]Student, School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Jigyasa University (formerly Himgiri zee University), Dehradun.
[2]Assistant Professor, School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Jigyasa University (formerly Himgiri zee University), Dehradun.
[3]Associate Professor, School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Jigyasa University (formerly Himgiri zee University), Dehradun.
[4]Principal & Professor, School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Jigyasa University (formerly Himgiri zee University), Dehradun.

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***Corresponding Author: Nandini Chautrvedi**
Assistant Professor, School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Jigyasa University (formerly Himgiri zee University), Dehradun.
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ABSTRACT

The current review article focuses on polymers in the pharmaceutical drug delivery of therapeutic agents. These dosage forms include tablets, patches, tapes, films, semisolids and powders. Polymers are the backbone of a pharmaceutical drug delivery system as they control the release of the drug from the device. Biodegradable polymers attract attention because they can be degraded to non-toxic monomers. Most importantly, a constant rate of drug release can be achieved from a biodegradable polymer-based controlled-release device. Natural polymers can be used as the means of achieving predetermined rates of drug delivery and their physico-chemical characteristics with the ease of availability provide a platform to use it as a polymer for drug delivery systems. Biodegradable polymers have been widely used in biomedical applications because of their known biocompatibility and biodegradability. In the biomedical area, polymers are generally used as implants and are expected to perform long-term service. These improvements contribute to making medical treatment more efficient and to minimize side effects and other types of inconveniences for patients. The main role of the polymer is to protect the drug from the physiological environment and prolong the release of the drug to improve its stability. The drug is released from the polymer by diffusion, degradation and swelling. In addition to this review presents characteristics and behaviours of plant-derived and mucoadhesive polymers, which are currently used in drug delivery. This paper aims to comprehensively explore the structural characteristics, functional applications, and future prospects of polymers as pharmaceutical excipients, highlighting their crucial role in modern drug delivery technologies.

KEYWORDS: Polymers, Macromolecules, Monomers, Drug delivery systems, Pharmacokinetic properties.

INTRODUCTION

Polymers have come to be a vital part of drug transport structures due to their advanced pharmacokinetic residences. They have got better stream time than conventional small drug molecules and, as a consequence, target tissue greater specifically. Splendid use of polymers has been witnessed inside the region of polymer therapeutics and Nano drug treatments. Polymers in reservoir-based, totally drug-shipping systems have shown sizeable development in the shape of hydrogels and liposomes. Diffusion-based drug transport structures and solvent-activated drug delivery systems are the opposite regions being explored for utilizing the polymers. In diffusion-based drug transport systems drug is dissolved in a non-swollen position device or a swollen matrix, which no longer decomposes for the duration of their activation time. Solvent-activated structures like hydrogels swell and release the drug while exposed to an aqueous environment; this mechanism is depicted.[1,2] They're hydrophilic . Biocompatible polymers offer a safe passage for drug transport due to their properly-engineered molecular architecture, in step with the transitions within the underlying mechanisms of the organic manner. Biodegradable polymers smash due to cleavage of covalent bonds between them, and bioerodible polymers bring about erosion of the polymer because of dissolution of linking chains without bringing approximately any change in chemical structure of the molecule. Various drug release mechanisms may be studied relatively. Polymers serving as drug vendors must be water soluble, reliable and non-immunogenic. They paintings passively in minimizing drug degradation and enhancing flow time. Another crucial problem is the secure excretion of the drug. If the polymer is non-degradable, it must be ensured that it isn't accumulated in the body, and if it is degradable, the damaged components must be such that they lie below renal threshold level, are non-poisonous and have to now not produce any immune reaction. Polymers mimicking organic structures reply to outside stimuli together with trade in pH or temperature, and as a result, their properties, which include solubility, hydrophobic/ hydrophilic balance, release of biomolecule (drug molecule) and conformation, are altered.[3,4,31]

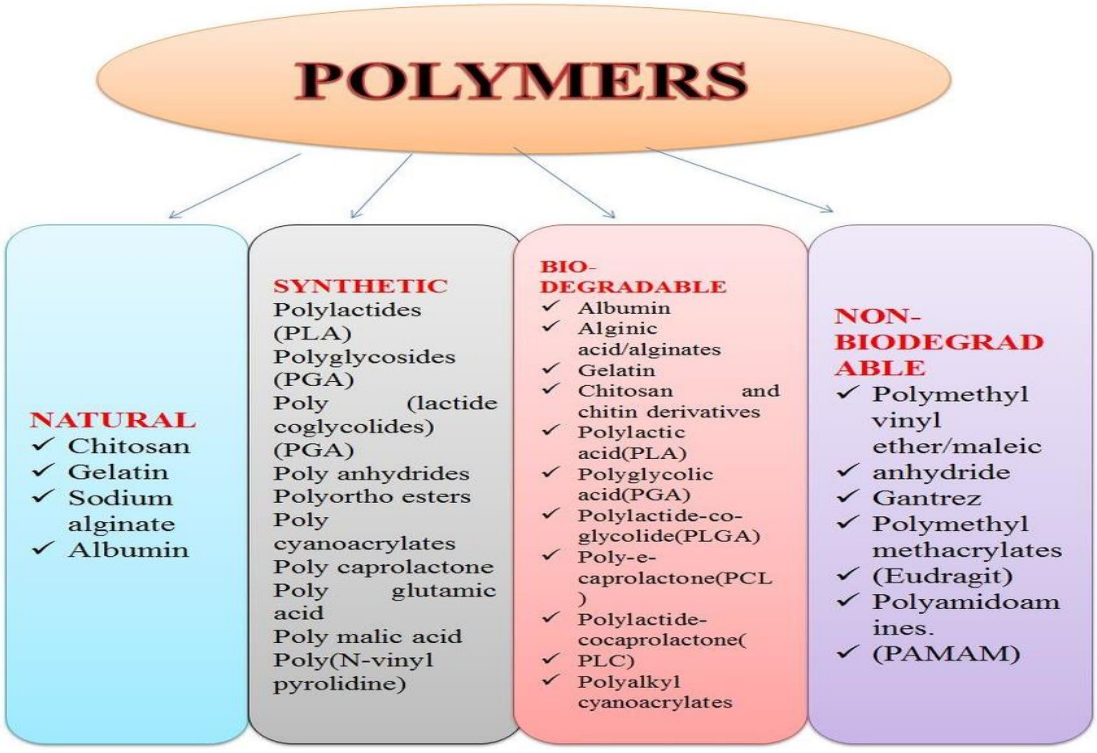

Figure 1: Classification of polymers.

Classification of Polymers

Polymers can have different chemical structures, physical properties, mechanical behaviours, and thermal characteristics and can be classified in different ways. Below are,

Based on the origin

1. Natural Polymers

In conclusion, a promising direction in the direction of managed release, expanded stability, and higher affected person results is furnished with the aid of the use of natural and biodegradable polymers in pharmaceutical drug delivery systems. This can increase the effectiveness and safety of medical remedies. Their biocompatibility and sort of characteristics[5] make them critical for tackling drug shipping problems whilst decreasing damaging results and, in the end, advancing healthcare.

Derived from renewable herbal assets such as plant life, animals, or microorganisms.[32,33,34]

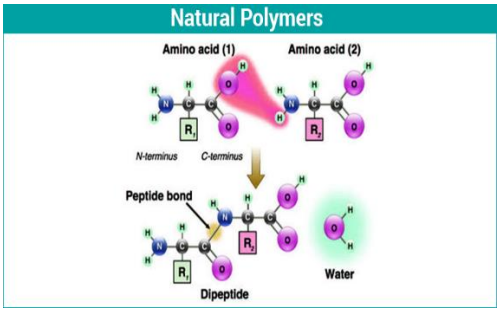

Figure 2: Natural Polymers.

2. Synthetic Polymers

Artificial polymers are the ones which might be human-made polymers. Polymers are those which include repeated structural devices known as monomers. Polyethylene is considered to be one of the simplest polymers; it has ethene or ethylene as the monomer unit, while the linear polymer is referred to as the high-density polyethene. Some of the polymeric materials have chain-like structures which resemble polyethylene.[3] Chemically synthesized via polymerization reactions from monomers derived from petrochemicals or other resources.[6,7,36,37]

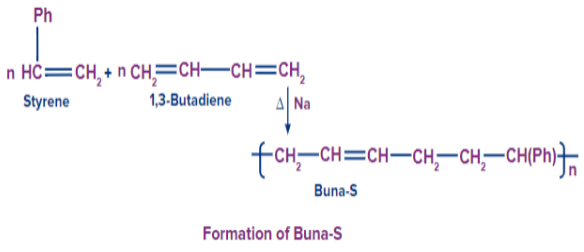

Figure 3: Synthetic Polymers.

3. Semi-synthetic Polymer

Semi-synthetic polymers are those that occur clearly, but they are extracted in their precious bureaucracy through chemical approaches. Therefore, semi-artificial polymers are the ones that are certainly taking place and additionally synthetically made. Semi-artificial polymers are normally derived from the taking place polymer, cellulose.[4] Semi-

synthetic polymers are also called thermoplastic polymers. Cellulose is made to go through a process called acetylation; that is, acetic anhydride is used at the side of sulphuric acid, which bureaucracy a polymer called cellulose diacetate. This material is generally used to make film glasses that are thread-like. A number of the semi-synthetic polymer examples include vulcanized rubber that's utilized in making tyres, and additionally gun cotton, that's cellulose nitrate that can be used in the making of explosives. Hydrogenated herbal rubber, Cellulose nitrate, methyl cellulose and so on are chemically modified polymers.[8,38,39,40]

4. Based on Backbone Polymers with carbon chain backbone

Polymers with hetero chain backbone: Poly (ethylene oxide), poly (propylene oxide), cellulose (poly –glucoside, β →1,4), amylase (poly-glucoside, alpha → 1,4) (factor of starch), pectinic acid polydimethylsiloxane and so forth. (polygalacturonoside), Polyethylene glycol terephthalate.[9,41,42,43]

5. Based on the presence of carbon (organic and inorganic), Organic Polymers

A polymer whose backbone chain is essentially made of carbon atoms is termed an organic polymer. The molecules of inorganic polymers, on the other hand, generally contain no carbon atom in their chain backbone. Glass and silicone rubber are examples of inorganic polymers.[10,44,45,46]

Properties of Polymers

1. Crystallinity

The partial alignment of molecular chains is related to the process of crystallization of polymers. Lamellae are those which might be having chain folds collectively and shape ordered areas, which compose spherulities. The dyeing of polymers is affected by crystallinity. The amorphous shape is tons greater liable to dyeing in comparison to the crystalline form because the dye molecules penetrate an awful lot less complicated through amorphous areas. These are being categorized as crystalline Polymers: light scattering between crystalline and amorphous areas commonly reasons polymers to be opaque and known as crystalline polymers. For both regulation (amorphous polymer) or excessive (crystalline) degree of crystallinity, the transparency is higher because the density of such barriers is lower. For instance, atactic polypropylene is generally amorphous and obvious, while syndiotactic polypropylene, which has crystallinity ~50%, is opaque.[11,12,47,48]

Semi-crystalline Polymers: Quite ordered molecular systems with sharp melting factors are possessed via semi-crystalline materials. Semi-crystalline fabric unexpectedly modifications to a low viscosity fluid whilst a given quantity of heat is absorbed, and they stay in solid form. Softening does now not range with temperature will increase. Of course, go with the flow. Us transverse to flow causes less shrinking, and as a consequence, fabric is anisotropic in waft. Chemical resistance is superb. Beyond their glass transition temperature. Semi-crystalline showcases sizeable improvement in HDT's, which bolstered and held beneficial tiers of power and stiffness.[13,49,50,51]

2. Amorphous Polymers

During x-ray or electron scattering experiments, polymers do not exhibit any crystalline structure, and those polymers are called amorphous polymers. E.g. – using straining-induced contrast enhancement in TEM. Formation of localised deformation zones, such as crazes, deformation bands, or shear bands, which are characterised by representative HVTEM micrographs, shows micromechanical behaviour of amorphous polymer.[52,53,54,14]

3. Polymer complexes

Polymers offer ample opportunity for the formation of complexes in answer, e.g, whilst an aqueous solution of excessive molecular weight polyacid is blended with polyglycol. The viscosity and pH of the solution of the equimolar combination of polyacid and glycol remains the same with a boom increase inside the oligomer chain length up to a critical point. This happens simplest when the poly(ethylene glycol) molecules reach a positive length. Such macromolecular reactions are especially selective and strongly established and molecular size, conformation warmth, etc. organic macromolecules go through complicated reactions, which might be often important to their hobby. The studies have mounted a specific interaction between hyaluronic acid and the proteoglycans inside the intracellular matrix in cartilage. Calcium is coordinated between certain uranic acid- containing polysaccharides, which may explain the tight binding of calcium and different multivalent ions in polysaccharide systems, and additionally how bivalent ions can set off gel formation in acidic polysaccharides, including alginic acid answers. It's been determined that such interactions have dietary importance.[15,16,55,56]

4. Syneresis

The separation of liquid from a swollen gel is called syneresis, which is a shape of instability in aqueous and non-aqueous gels. The separation of a solvent section is idea to arise because of the elastic contraction of the polymeric molecules. In the swelling method, at some stage in gel formation, the macromolecules come to be stretched, and the elastic forces grow as swelling proceeds. At equilibrium, the restoring pressure of the macromolecules is balanced through the swelling forces, determined with the aid of the osmotic strain.[17,18,57,58]

5. Adsorption of macromolecules

The capability of a few macromolecules to soak up at interfaces is being exploited in suspension and emulsion stabilization. Gelatine, acacia and proteins take in on the interface. Now and then, such adsorption is undesirable, e.g. insulin adsorption onto glass infusion bottles. The addition of albumin to prevent adsorption is now a not unusual exercise. The albumin adsorbs at the glass or plastic surface and presents a more polar surface to the solution, hence decreasing, however not continually stopping, adsorption of the protein (e.g. insulin). The binding is taken into consideration to be a non-specific phenomenon, which may also occur on other inert substances, inclusive of polythene and glass. The adsorption of macromolecules at interfaces may be the cause of why molecules, which include those of hyaluronic acid, can act as biological lubricants in joint fluids.[19,59,60,61]

6. Bio adhesivity of water- soluble polymers

Adhesion between an organic floor and a biological surface and a surface of hydrophilic polymers or a surface to which a hydrophilic polymer has been grafted or adsorbed arises from interactions among the polymer chains and the macromolecules at the mucosal floor. To achieve the most adhesion, there needs to be the most interaction among the polymer chains of the bioadhesive and the mucus. The fee at the molecules might be crucial, and for 2 anionic polymers, maximum interaction will occur whilst they may be not charged. Penetration and affiliation pH must be balanced. The adhesive performance of polymers may be super (e.g. carboxymethylcellulose), properly (Carbopal), truthful (gelatin) or terrible (povidone). Anionic poly(acrylic acid) (carbophil) derivatives and the cationic chitosans had been accredited using the FDA. Polycarbophil and carbomer (carbopol 934P) have pKa values of approximately 4.5 and display maximum mucoadheivity at pH where they're undissociated.[20,21,62.63]

7. Polymer dissolution

Polymer dissolution in solvents is a crucial region of interest in polymer technological know-how and engineering due to its many programs in enterprise consisting of microlithography, membrane technological know-how, plastics recycling and drug shipping. Not like non-polymeric substances, polymers do not dissolve straight away, and the dissolution is managed through both the disentanglement of the polymer chains or by way of the diffusion of the chains via a boundary layer adjacent to the polymer-solvent interface.[22,23,64,65]

Mechanism of Drug Release by Polymers

1. Dissolution

While pills are released by way of the dissolving of polymer by the penetration of dissolution fluid. In a sustained or controlled drug delivery machine, the drug is dispersed (matrix system) or encapsulated (character drug particles) with slowly dissolving polymers. The fee of penetration of the dissolution fluid into the matrix determines the drug dissolution and subsequent release. The penetration of dissolution fluid is, however, dictated by way of the matrix, porosity, presence of hydrophobic additives and the wettability of the machine and floor of the particle. In an encapsulated system, the coat thickness and its aqueous solubility determine the time required for the dissolution of the coat. One could formulate a repeat motion or sustained release product via using a narrow or an extensive spectrum of covered debris of varying thickness, respectively.[24,66,67,68]

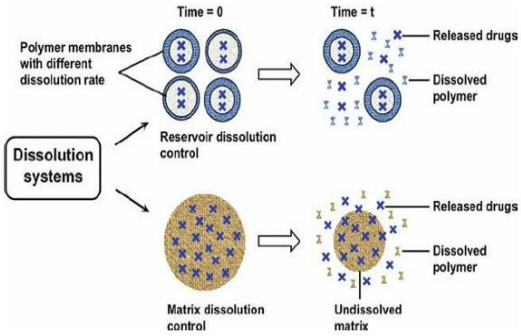

Figure 4: Drug release by dissolution-controlled mechanism of polymer.

2. Diffusion

Diffusion occurs when the drug passes from the polymer matrix into the external environment. In a controlled drug delivery system, the drug is homogenously dispersed in a polymer matrix (monolithic matrix system) or drug (solid, dilute solution or highly concentrated solution) within a polymer matrix and surrounded by a thin film (reservoir system). Diffusion occurs when the drug passes from the polymer matrix into the external environment. With the passage of time and continuous drug release, the delivery rate normally decreases in these types of systems since the bioactive agent has to traverse a long distance progressively and thereby requires a longer diffusion time for the ultimate delivery of drug(s). In a swelling controlled drug delivery system, drug release is by the swelling of the polymer followed by diffusion of the drug with or without dissolution.[25,26,69,70]

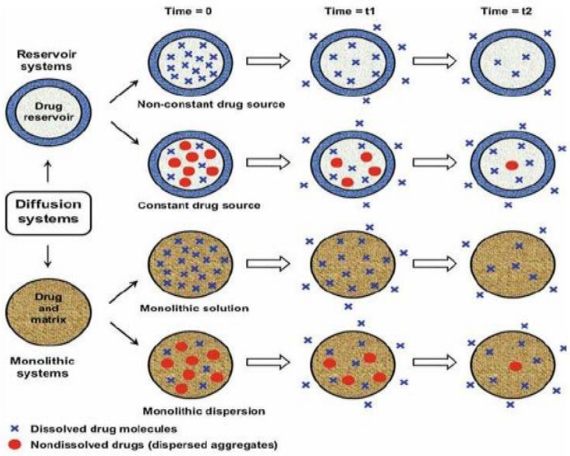

Figure 5: Drug release by diffusion-controlled mechanism of polymer.

3. Dissolution and Diffusion

The drug was launched with the aid of the dissolution of the polymer followed by using diffusion of the drug. In controlled drug delivery gadget includes the drug core enclosed in a partially soluble membrane. Dissolution of part of the outer membrane ends in facilitated diffusion of the contained drug through pores within the coating through dissolution and diffusion-controlled release mechanism of polymer.

4. Erosion

The lively agent is covalently connected to the polymer spine and is released as its attachment to the backbone cleaves by using hydrolysis of bond A. as it is not applicable to launch active agent molecules with polymer fragments nevertheless attached, the reactivity of bond A should be substantially higher than the reactivity of bond B.[27]

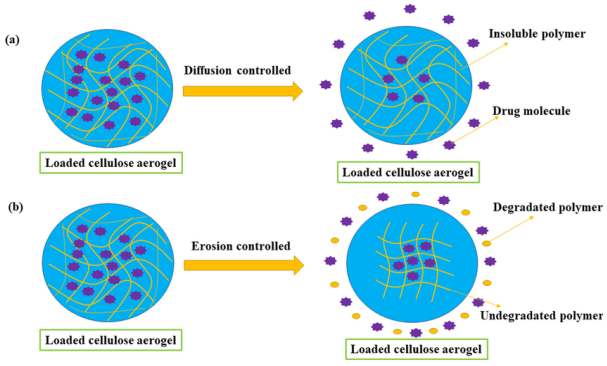

Figure 6: Drug release mechanism by erosion.

5. Ion exchange

Drug release using reversible change of ions (in drug-ion exchange resin complex). Ion trade resins are used to preserve the outcomes of drugs based totally on the concept that negatively charged drug moieties integrate with suitable resins, generating insoluble polysalt resonates. R-SO3-H+ and R-NH3+OH- represent cationic and anionic resins, respectively, whereas H2N-A and HOOC-B depict primary and acidic pills, respectively. Where administered orally, resins are available in contact with HCl with pH 1.2 following reaction take location.[28,71]

ROLE OF POLYMER IN PHARMACEUTICAL DRUG DELIVERY

1. Tablets

Polymers have been used for many years as excipients in conventional immediately-release oral dosage forms, either to resource in the production manner or to protect the drug from degradation upon storage. Microcrystalline cellulose is regularly used as an opportunity to carbohydrates as diluents in pill formulations of enormously robust low-dose capsules. Starch and cellulose are used as disintegrants in tablet formulations, which swell on contact with water, resulting in the pill "bursting," growing the uncovered surface region of the drug and enhancing the dissolution characteristics of a system. Polymers, consisting of polyvinyl pyrrolidone and hydroxypropyl methylcellulose (HPMC), also make use of binders that useful resource the formation of granules that enhance the drift and compaction properties of pill formulations earlier than tableting. Once in a while, dosage paperwork has to be lined with a "non-useful" polymeric movie coating to defend a drug from degradation, mask the taste of an unpalatable drug or excipients, or improve the visual beauty of the formula without affecting the drug release fee.[72,73]

2. Capsules

Tablets are used as an opportunity to drugs for poorly compressible substances, to mask the bitter taste of certain pills, or from time to time to boom bioavailability. A number of the polymeric excipients used to "bulk out" tablet fills are similar to those utilized in immediately-launch capsules. Gelatine has been used nearly completely as a shell fabric for tough (-piece) and tender (one-piece) drugs. HPMC has recently been evolved and time-honored as an alternative fabric for the manufacture of tough (-piece) capsules.

3. Modified-release dosage forms

It is now generally established that for many therapeutic sellers, drug delivery via the usage of immediately-launch dosage paperwork effects in suboptimal remedy and/or systemic side results. Pharmaceutical scientists have attempted to conquer the constraints of conventional oral dosage bureaucracy using growing modified-release dosage forms.

4. Extended-release dosage forms

The therapeutic impact of medication that have a quick organic 1/2-lifestyles may be improved by way of formulating them as prolonged or sustained launch dosage forms. Extended and sustained release dosage forms prolong the time that systemic drug levels are within the healing range and thus lessen the number of doses the affected person ought to take to maintain a therapeutic impact, thereby increasing compliance. The maximum commonly used water-insoluble polymers for extended-release programs are the ammonium ethacrylate copolymers (Eudragit RS and RL), cellulose derivatives ethylcellulose, cellulose acetate, and polyvinyl by-product, polyvinyl acetate. Eudragit RS and RL differ in the share of quaternary ammonium businesses, rendering Eudragit RS much less permeable to water, while ethyl cellulose is available in several different grades of various viscosities, with better-viscosity grades forming more potent and more long-lasting movies.[29,30]

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, a promising course in the direction of managed launch, accelerated stability, and better-affected person results is furnished via the usage of herbal and biodegradable polymers in pharmaceutical drug shipping systems. This may strengthen the effectiveness and safety of scientific remedies. Their biocompatibility and form of qualities cause them to be essential for tackling drug delivery troubles while reducing adverse results and sooner or later advancing healthcare.[74]

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