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BENZOCAINE: A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF FORMULATION DEVELOPMENT AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

***Shilpa Shyam M., Ayishath Zakiyya**

Malik Deenar College of Pharmacy, Seethangoli, Bela, Kasaragod.

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***Corresponding Author: Shilpa Shyam M.**
Malik Deenar College of Pharmacy, Seethangoli, Bela, Kasaragod.

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1.ABSTRACT

Benzocaine is an ester-type local anesthetic widely used for topical pain relief because of its rapid action and low systemic toxicity. The present work focuses on the formulation and evaluation of benzocaine gel intended for local anesthetic activity on the skin and mucous membranes. The study includes the classification, mechanism of action, pharmacokinetics, therapeutic uses, adverse effects, and regulatory requirements of benzocaine. Preformulation studies such as organoleptic properties, solubility, melting point, partition coefficient, pH, pKa, hygroscopicity, micromeritic properties, compatibility studies, and stability studies were carried out to determine the suitability of the drug for gel formulation. Benzocaine gel was prepared using Carbopol 940 as the gelling agent along with suitable solvents, preservatives, and neutralizing agents. The prepared gel was evaluated for various parameters including appearance, pH, viscosity, spreadability, extrudability, homogeneity, washability, swelling index, drug content, in vitro diffusion studies, skin irritation test, and stability studies. The formulation showed satisfactory physicochemical properties, good spreadability, acceptable stability, and effective drug release characteristics. Thus, benzocaine gel can be considered an effective topical anesthetic preparation for temporary relief of pain and irritation.

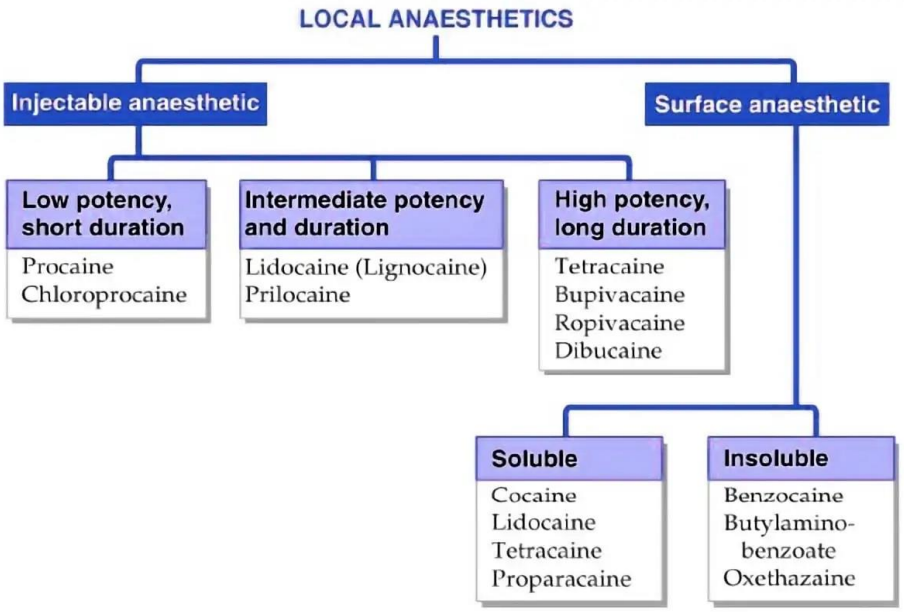
2.KEYWORDS: Local anesthetic, Topical gel, Carbopol 940, Stability studies, In vitro diffusion, Spreadability,

3.INTRODUCTION

Local anesthetics (LAs) are drugs which upon topical application or local injection cause reversible loss of sensory perception, especially of pain, in a restricted area of the body. They block generation and conduction of nerve impulse at all parts of the neuron where they come

in contact, without causing any structural damage. Thus, not only sensory but also motor impulses are interrupted when a LA is applied to a mixed nerve, resulting in muscular paralysis and loss of autonomic control as well.

CLASSIFICATION OF LOCAL ANAESTHETIC DRUG



SURFACE ANESTHETICS

BENZOCAINE

Benzocaine, a para-aminobenzoic acid ester, is a local anesthetic used for surface anesthesia. It has low potency and systemic toxicity. It is used, often in combination with other drugs such as analgesics, antiseptics, antibacterial, antifungal and antipruritic for the temporary local relief of pain associated with dental conditions, oropharyngeal disorders, hemorrhoids, anal pruritus and ear pain.

DRUG PROFILE

Chemical Name: Ethyl p-aminobenzoate

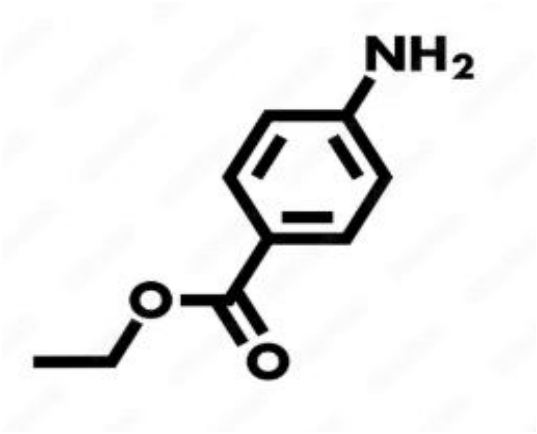
Cate**gory:** Ester-type local anesthetic

Molecular Formula: $C_9H_{11}NO_2$

Molecular Weight: 165.19 g/mol

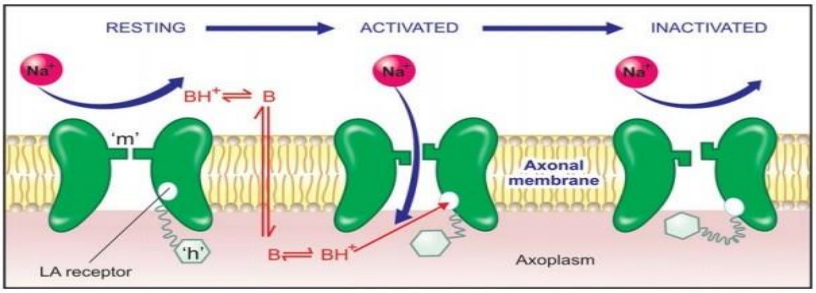
Structure: Para-aminobenzoic acid ester

Official in: Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP), USP



MECHANISM OF ACTION

- Local anesthetics block nerve conduction.
- They decrease the entry of sodium ions into the nerve cells.
- This occurs during the upstroke phase of the action potential.
- As the concentration of local anesthetic increases, the rise of action potential decrease.
- The maximum depolarization is reduced.
- This leads to slowing of nerve conduction.
- Finally, depolarization does not reach the threshold potential.
- As a result, nerve conduction is completely blocked



ADR

- Bluish colored lips, fingernails, palms
- Dark urine
- Difficulty in breathing
- High fever
- Dizziness or lightheadedness.

PHARMACOKINETICS

Poor systemic absorption mainly local action.Rate of absorption depends on the blood flow to the area of application or injection Benzocaine is rapidly distributed into the highly perfused tissues, Benzocaine is metabolized into at least three compounds by acetylation and hydrolysis and Elimination through urine as metabolites

USES

- **Topical local anesthetic**

Benzocaine is widely used to relieve pain by blocking nerve conduction when applied to the skin or mucous membranes.

- **Relief of oral and dental pain**

Used in gels, lozenges, and ointments for conditions like toothache, mouth ulcers, sore gums, and irritation from dentures or braces.

- **Sore throat treatment**

Present in lozenges and sprays to reduce throat pain and irritation.

- **Minor skin irritations**

Helps relieve pain and itching caused by burns, cuts, insect bites, and sunburn.

- **Hemorrhoid treatment**

Included in rectal ointments and suppositories to reduce pain and discomfort.

- **Pre-procedural anesthesia**

Used before minor medical procedures such as endoscopy, catheter insertion, or nasogastric tube placement.

- **Ear pain relief**

Used in otic preparations for temporary relief of earache.

FORMULATIONS

1.Topical Skin Preparations (Ointment / Cream / Gel)

Concentration: 5% – 20% w/w

Common Dose: Apply a thin layer 2–4 times daily on affected area

Brand Names: Lanacane, Americaine

2. Oral Gel (Mucosal Use / Teething / Ulcers)

Concentration: 7.5% – 20%

Dose: Apply small amount up to 4 times daily

Brand Names: Orajel ,Anbesol ,Mucopain

3. Throat Lozenges / Troches

Concentration: 5 mg – 15 mg per lozenge

Dose: 1 lozenge every 2–4 hours (as needed)

Brand Names: Cepacol.

4. Otic (Ear Drops) – often in combination

Concentration: ~1% – 2% (with antipyrine)

Dose: 2–4 drops in ear 2–3 times daily

Brand Name: Auralgan

PREFORMULATION STUDIES OF BENZOCAINE

Preformulation studies are a crucial step in the pharmaceutical and drug development process. These studies provide a comprehensive understanding of the physicochemical properties of a drug candidate, guiding subsequent formulation and optimization efforts. This overview highlights the significance of preformulation studies in drug development, their key components, and their role in ensuring the success of pharmaceutical products. Preformulation studies encompass a range of investigations, including drug characterization, stability assessment, and formulation compatibility evaluation. Characterization involves determining the drug's physical and chemical properties, such as solubility, partition coefficient, and crystallinity. Stability studies assess the drug's degradation kinetics under various conditions, aiding in the establishment of appropriate storage conditions and shelf life predictions. Compatibility studies examine the drug's interaction with excipients, ensuring that the chosen formulation components do not adversely affect the drug's stability or efficacy.outcomes of preformulation studies enable formulation scientists to design efficient drug delivery systems, select appropriate excipients, and optimize drug formulations. By addressing potential challenges and risks early in the development process, preformulation studies contribute to reducing development costs and time-to-market.

* Various preformulation parameters are evaluated by:

1. PHYSICOCHEMICAL PROPERTIES
2. MICROMERITIC STUDY
3. COMBATABILITY STUDY
4. STABILITY STUDIES

1.PHYSICOCHEMICAL PROPERTIES

a) Organoleptic properties

Purpose: To assess physical appearance and detect impurities.

Color: White

Nature: Crystalline powder

Odor: Odorless

Taste: Slightly bitter

b) Solubility

Ability to dissolve in a solvent, critical for drug absorption and chemical reactions.

Procedure:

Take different solvents such as **distilled water, ethanol, chloroform, and ether** in separate test tubes or flasks.

- Add a small known quantity of benzocaine (about **10–50 mg**) into each solvent.
- Shake the mixture using a **mechanical shaker** or stir with a glass rod for about **30–60 minutes** to allow the drug to dissolve.
- Observe whether the drug**completely dissolves, partially dissolves, or remains undissolved.**
- Add excess benzocaine to the solvent and shake for **24 hours at room temperature**toobtain a saturated solution.
- Filter the solution using **filter paper** to remove undissolved drug.
- Measure the concentration of dissolved drug using **UV spectrophotometer**or other analytical methods.
- Express the solubility as **mg/mL or g/100 mL of solvent.**

c) Melting point

Temperature at which a solid becomes a liquid, indicating purity and stability

Objective: To check purity

Method: Capillary method

Procedure

A small quantity of finely powdered benzocaine was filled into a capillary tube to a height of 2–3 mm. The capillary tube was placed in a melting point apparatus. The temperature was increased gradually at a rate of **1–2 °C/min** near the expected melting point. The temperature at which the sample **began to melt** and the temperature at which it was **completely liquefied** were recorded.

d)Partition coefficient

Partition coefficient tells how much drug dissolves in oil (octanol) compared to water.

If value is high → drug is lipophilic (oil loving).

Procedure:

- Add small amount of benzocaine (about 50 mg).
- Take equal amounts (25 ml each) of **n-octanol** and **water** in separating funnel.
- Shake for 30 minutes.
- Keep it undisturbed until two layers separate.
- Collect both layers separately.
- Measure drug concentration in each layer using UV at 285 nm.

e) pH

Measures acidity or basicity, crucial in biological and chemical systems

Procedure:

*Prepare 1% dispersion in distilled water.

*Measure using digital pH meter.

f) pKa determination

The **pKa** of a compound is a measure of the acidity of the compound in solution. pKa is used to compare the strengths of acids; a lower pKa indicates a stronger acid.

Procedure:

- Preparethesolution: Weigh accurately about 100 mg of the sample. Dissolve the compound in water (or any other appropriate solvent) and measure its concentration
- Prepare 0.1N NaOH volumetric solution
- Titrate the solution drop by drop with 0.1N NaOH
- Note the pH of the solution after each addition of 0.1N NaOH and the volume of 0.1N NaOH consumed
- In the beginning, the pH will increase slowly after each addition

- But there will come a point where the pH of the solution will increase after adding 0.1N NaOH. This is called the equivalence point. Note the volume of 0.1N NaOH consumed along with the pH
- Plot the graph between pH and 0.1N NaOH volumetric solution
- Identify the half-equivalence point**:** Find the volume of 0.1N NaOH consumed at half of the equivalence point and note down the corresponding pH
- The pH at half the volume of 0.1N NaOH consumed at the equivalence point will be the pKa of the molecule

g) Hygroscopicity

Hygroscopicity of a material can be regarded as a physicochemical property that represents the ability of absorbing moisture from the surrounding environment.

Procedure:

- Weigh 1–2 g of sample (initial weight).
- Place in a petri dish.
- Keep in desiccator with fixed RH (e.g., NaCl → 75% RH).
- Maintain at ~25°C.
- Weigh at intervals (24, 48, 72 hours).
- Note final weight

2.MICROMERITIC PROPERTY

a) Particle size observation

In order to test the stability of the formulated semi-solid preparations, the particle size of benzocaine in the collected samples was measured at the following time intervals: immediately after preparation and after 1, 2, 3 and 4 weeks of storage. samples were applied to a slide and spread evenly with a coverslip. All microscopic images were observed with an MT4300H microscope at a magnification of 500×. The particle size was measured using Motic Image Plus 2 software intended for capturing images from the microscope. Then, 100 particles. from different fields of view were measured in each sample. At the end of each week, the samples were examined for any changes in physical state, appearance, and particle size.

3.COMBATIBILITY STUDIES

Compatibility study is an investigation conducted to assess the chemical, physical, and microbiological compatibility of a drug (or active pharmaceutical ingredient, API) with

excipients (inactive ingredients such as binders, fillers, stabilizers, solvents) and other components in a formulation, including packaging materials.

This study aims to identify any potential interactions, such as degradation, precipitation, color changes, or incompatibilities that could affect the safety, efficacy, or stability of the drug product. Compatibility studies are crucial to ensure that the final formulation remains effective, safe, and stable throughout its shelf life.

1. Preparation of Drug–Excipient Mixture

Physical mixtures of benzocaine and individual excipients were prepared in 1:1 ratio and stored in airtight glass containers at room temperature and accelerated conditions (40°C ± 2°C / 75% RH ± 5%) for 1–3 months.

a) Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR)

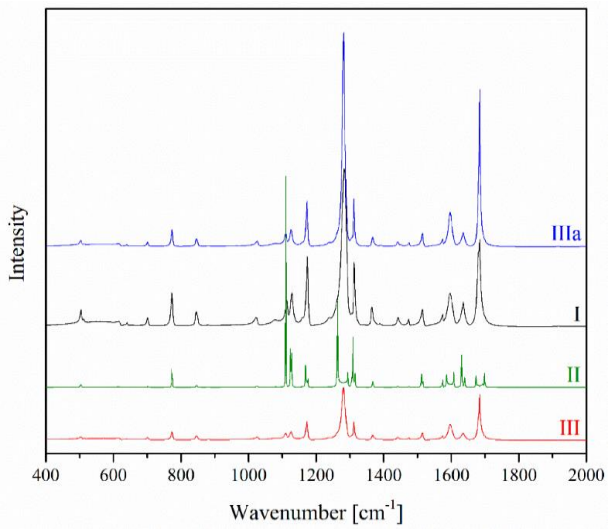
FTIR spectra of pure drug and physical mixtures were recorded. Characteristic peaks of benzocaine include:

Ester carbonyl (C=O) stretch

Aromatic amine ($–NH_2$)

Shifting or disappearance of peaks indicates possible interaction.

Procedure: The polymorphs of benzocaine were obtained separately with IR grade KBr at the ratio 1:100, and corresponding pellets were prepared by applying 8 metric ton of pressure in a hydraulic press. The vibrational infrared spectra were recorded between 400 and 2000 cm^{-1} with an FT-IR Bruker Equinox 55 spectrometer (Bruker, Bremen, Germany) equipped with a Bruker Hyperion 1000 microscope (Bruker, Bremen, Germany). In order to analyze changes in positions and intensity in experimental FT-IR spectra for the polymorphs of benzocaine.



b) Differential Scanning Calorimetry (DSC)

purpose: to evaluate thermal properties and drug excipient interaction.

Procedure:

- ❖ Accurately weigh 2–5 mg of sample (drug or formulation).
- ❖ Place in a sealed aluminum pan; use an empty pan as reference.
- ❖ Calibrate the instrument using standards (e.g., indium).
- ❖ Set conditions:
  - o Temperature range: 30–300°C
  - o Heating rate: 10°C/min
  - o Atmosphere: Nitrogen gas
- ❖ Run the sample in DSC instrument.
- ❖ Record thermogram (heat flow vs temperature).

Interpretation:

Thermograms were recorded to observe changes in melting endotherm. Disappearance or broadening of peak suggests incompatibility.

c) Thin Layer Chromatography (TLC)

Purpose: to determine identity,purity,compatibility of benzocaine.

Procedure:

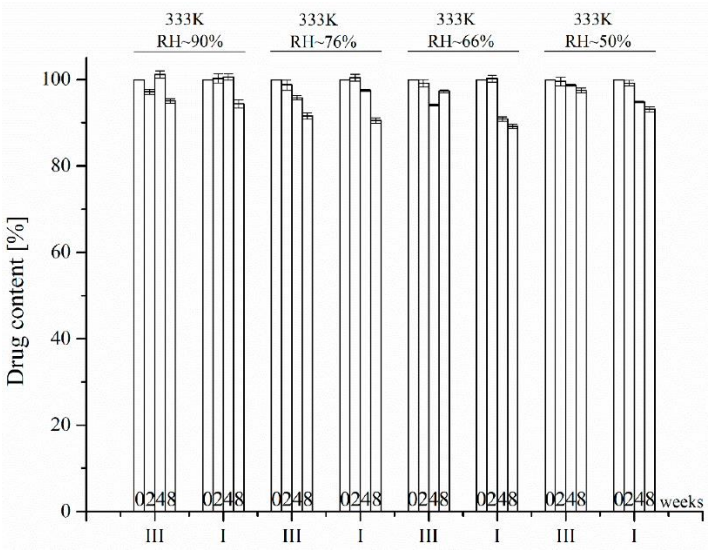
- ❖ Accurately weigh 2–5 mg of sample (drug or formulation).
- ❖ Place in a sealed aluminum pan; use an empty pan as reference.
- ❖ Calibrate the instrument using standards (e.g., indium).
- ❖ Set conditions:
  - o Temperature range: 30–300°C
  - o Heating rate: 10°C/min
  - o Atmosphere**:** Nitrogengas
- ❖ Run the sample in DSC instrument.
- ❖ Record thermogram (heat flow vs temperature).

Rf values of stored samples were compared with pure drug to detect degradation products.

4) STABILITY STUDIES

The last stage of research into the effect of polymorphism on the physicochemical properties of APIs involved investigation of the chemical stability of the previously mentioned polymorphic forms of benzocaine. The presence of an ester bond in benzocaine puts it in a

class of chemically labile APIs characterized by a potential susceptibility to degradation, especially under the influence of water molecules. Previous studies have not indicated any degradation of benzocaine in the solid state when stored for 6 months at 298 K and RH = 60%, or under accelerated aging conditions at 313 K and RH = 75%. However, in the presence of certain excipients, benzocaine was prone to degradation, which was linked to their humidifying effect. It was therefore decided that the present study would investigate accelerated degradation of the polymorphic forms of benzocaine exposed to stronger affecting factors, such as the RH range 50–90% at T = 333 K, in order to assess differences in their chemical stability resulting from increased humidity. Particular attention was directed to the degradation path to determine whether it was oriented toward the formation of *p*-aminobenzoic acid as the main degradation product of a probable hydrolysis of the ester bond in benzocaine. Accelerated degradation experiments did not indicate any degradation of the polymorphic forms of benzocaine. Similarly, an increase in the temperature (T = 383 K) in dry air did not cause any degradation related to the polymorphicforms I,II,III,IIIa of benzocaine.



FORMULATION OFGEL

Gels are semisolid preparations intended for application on the skin or the accessible mucous membranes like oral cavity. Gels are composed of two interpenetrating systems where the colloidal particles, also known as the gelator or gallant, are uniformly distributed a gelling agent (gelator) which could be natural, synthetic or semi-synthetic polymer or low molecular weight small molecules, into an organic, inorganic or aqueous solvent or solvent systems. The polymer in gels acts as the backbone of the gel matrix. The polymeric meshwork gives

gel its structural strength, increased adherence to the surface throughout a dispersion medium or solvent forming a three-dimensional matrix known as the gel.

Gels may be either reversible or irreversible based on the type of bonding. The reversible gels are generally hydrogen bonded systems whereas irreversible gels are usually covalently bonded.

ADVANTAGES

i) Gels are easy to formulate as compared to other semisolid dosage forms.

ii) A gel is an elegant non-greasy formulation.

iii) It can be used as controlled release formulation by entwining the polymer more than once.

iv) Gels have good adherence property to the site of application.

LIMITATIONS

i) The effect of gels is comparatively slower and sustained.

ii) The additives or the gelators may induce irritation.

iii) The water content may increase the chances of microbial or fungal attack in gels

APPLICATIONS OF GELS

Gel applications include the pharmaceutical and cosmetic sectors.

- Gels are administered directly to the skin, mucous membrane, or eye to provide local action.
- They serve as long-acting drug implants or intramuscular injections.
- Cosmetic gels are found in a variety of goods such as shampoos, deodorants, dentifrices, and skin and hair care products.

METHOD OF PREPARATION OF GELS

There are three methods for the preparation of gels:

- Fusion Method: - In this method, vehicles, gelling agents, additives, and the drug are blended at high temperatures until a semi-solid texture is formed.
- Cold Method: - In this approach, all components except the drug or active pharmaceutical ingredient are heated and blended simultaneously. The temperature of the formulation is then lowered, the drug is added, and blending continues until the gel is formed.

• Dispersion Method: - In this approach, the gelling agent is stirred with water until it swells up. The drug is then dissolved in the medium and incorporated into the swollen gelling agent. If necessary, a buffer solution is added to adjust the pH of the gel.

FORMULATION OF BENZOCAINE GEL

Table.no;2 formulation chart.

INGREDIENT	QUANTITY	FUNCTION
Benzocaine	5g	Anesthetic
Carbopol 934	q.s.	Gelling agent
Triethanolamine	q.s.	Neutralizing agent
Propylene glycol	10g	Penetration enhancer
Methyl paraben	0.1g	Absorption enhancer, Solubiliser
Propyl paraben	0.01g	Preservative
Purified water	q.s.	Vehicle

METHOD OF PREPARATION

* Preparation of Gel Base

Disperse Carbopol in purified water with continuous stirring.

Allow it to hydrate and swell for 1–2 hours to form a uniform dispersion.

* Preparation of Drug Solution

Dissolve Benzocaine in a mixture of ethanol and propylene glycol (due to poor water solubility).

* Addition of Preservatives

Dissolve methyl paraben and propyl paraben in a small amount of warm ethanol or propylene glycol.

Add this solution to the drug mixture.

* Mixing

Slowly add the drug solution into the hydrated Carbopol gel base with continuous stirring to ensure uniform distribution.

* Neutralization

Add triethanolamine dropwise while stirring until the gel becomes clear and achieves desired consistency (pH ~6–7).

* Final Adjustment

Make up the final weight with purified water.

Mix thoroughly to obtain a homogeneous gel.

* Packaging

Transfer the gel into collapsible tubes or suitable containers and store in a cool place.

EVALUATION OF GEL

1. Appearance
2. pH of gel
3. Viscosity
4. Spreadability
5. Extrudability
6. Skin irritation test
7. Homogeneity
8. Gritiness
9. Washability
10. Swelling index
11. Stability study
12. In vitro diffusion studies
13. Drug content

❖ Appearance and homogeneity

Physical appearance and homogeneity were evaluated by visual inspection.

❖ pH of the Gel

The pH of the gel was measured by digital pH meter. 1 gm gel is dissolved in medium and inspect with pH meter.

❖ Viscosity:

liquids, semisolids, gases, and even solids are made. Brookfield deals with liquids and semisolids. Brookfield viscosity usually refers to a viscosity measurement performed with a Brookfield Viscometer, sometimes referred to as a Brookfield viscosimeter. There are several models of viscometer available from Brookfield, but the majority operates in the same manner. The viscometer motor rotates the spindle at a defined speed (measured in rpm) or shear rate and the viscometer measure the resistance to rotation and reports a viscosity value. Various spindle designs can be employed, depending on the nature of the sample and the requirements. The Brookfield digital viscometer was used to measure the viscosity of the prepared Gel formulation. The spindle no.62 was rotated at 50rpm. The reading was noted.

❖ Extrudability

Extrudability was based upon the quantity of gel extruding from a lacquered aluminium collapsible tube on the application of weight. The measurement of the extrudability of each formulation was in triplicate and the average values were presented.

❖ Spreadability

It indicates the extent of the area to which gel readily spreads on application to the skin or affected part. The therapeutic potency also depends upon spreading value. The time in sec taken by two slides to slip off from gel which is placed in between the slides under the direction of certain load is expressed as spreadability. Lesser the time taken for the separation of two slides, better the spreadability. The following formula is used to calculate the spreadability:

Spreadability (S) = M × L / T

Where,

M=weight tied to upper slide

L =length of glass slides

T =time taken to separate the slides

❖ Homogeneity

Set the gel in container and then it was tested for homogeneity by visual inspection. They were tested for their appearance and presence of any aggregates.

❖ Grittiness

Gel was evaluated for gritty particles by the application on skin.

❖ Washability

The product was applied on glass slide and was observed under running water.

❖ Swelling index

1 g gel was wrapped in a porous aluminium foil and record weight which is then put it in 50 ml beaker Containing 10 ml of 6.4 phosphate buffer. After 24 hours reweight and record the weight.

❖ Skin Irritation test

The animal model swiss albino mouse strain was utilized for skin irritation test and Guniea pig (400-500gm) of either sex was also used. The hairs are removed by the skin removal cream and then clean the skin with spirit, 3 mice are employed in which normal saline, blank gel and formulation were administered and check the irritation in animals.

❖ Stability Studies

The stability study of the gel was done as per ICH recommendations the gel was store at 30º C± 2º C/ 60% ± 5% RH and 40º C± 2º C/ 75% ± 5% RH. The formulation were examined in the change in physical appearance, pH, spread ability and Viscosity.

❖ In vitro Diffusion studies

Franz diffusion cell are used for the research of dissolution release of topical gel. 0.5g of gel sample was collected in membrane and the dissolution release were carried out at 37 ± 1º by utilizing phosphate buffer with pH 7.4(250ml) as the dissolving medium. Withdrawn the 5ml sample regularly at 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 h and each sample is replaced by new buffer solution in equal quantity and then analyze the sample in spectrophotometer and take phosphate buffer as blank reagent.

❖ Drug Content

To assess the drug content in gel, take 1gm of gel dissolve in 100ml appropriate solution and filter it. Then the filtrate is analyzed under spectrophotometer, absorbance was determined and the drug content is carried out by regression linear analysis of calibration curve.

STABILITY STUDIES

Stability studies of pharmaceutical products may be expressed as the time during which the pharmaceutical products retain its physical, chemical, microbiological, pharmacokinetic properties and characteristics throughout the shelf life from the time of manufacture. Shelf life of the product can be defined as the substance reduces to 90% of its original concentration. Shelf life is a technical term used to denote the stability of the product and it is expressed as expiry date. Expiration varies for each pharmaceutical preparation.

TYPES OF STABILITY STUDIES ON DRUG SUBSTANCES

A comprehensive pharmacopoeial protocol (USP) prescribes the criteria for acceptable levels of physical, chemical, microbiological, therapeutic and toxicological stability studies.

✓ Physical stability

The original physical properties such as appearance, colour, dissolution, palatability, suspendability are retained. The physical stability may affect the uniformity and release rate, hence it is important for the efficacy and safety of the product.

✓ Chemical stability

It is the tendency to resist its change or decomposition due to the reactions that occur due to air, atmosphere, temperature, etc.

- ✓ Microbiological stability

The microbiological stability of the drugs is the tendency to resistance to the sterility and microbial growth. The antimicrobial agents used in the preparation retain the effectiveness within specified limits. This microbiological instability could be hazardous to the sterile drug product.

- ✓ Therapeutic stability

The therapeutic effect (Drug Action) remains unchanged.

- ✓ Toxicological stability

Toxicological stability has no significant increase in the toxicity occurs.

STABILITY TESTING METHODS

Stability testing is a procedure performed for all the pharmaceutical products at various stages of the product development. In the early stages, the stability testing is performed by the accelerated stability studies which mainly are performed at high temperature\ humidity.

TYPES OF STABILITY TESTING

- Long-Time stability testing - 25°C/60% RH or 30°C/65%RH for 12 months
- Intermediate stability Testing – 30±2°C and 65±5% RH for 6 months
- Accelerated Stability Testing - 40°C/75% RH for 6 months.

REGULATORY REQUIRMENTS OF BENZOCAINE GEL

➢ REGULATORY CLASSIFICATION:

Benzocaine regulated as drug product, not as a cosmetic.

In USA: it may be marketed as OTC under the OTC Monograph, prescription drug through NDA, depending on strength and use.

In EU: requires marketing authorization from competent authority.

In India: regulated under D&C Act,1940 and rules 1945.

➢ APPROVED STRENGTH AND INDICATION

Common strength: **5-20% w/w** benzocaine in gel.

Uses: relief of pain, minor cuts, sore gums, burns etc.

Use only Directed as physician,not for prolonged or excessive use.

➢ FORMULATION AND QUALITY REQUIRMENTS

Must comply GMP regulations

Must meet pharmacopeial standards (IP, BP, USP)

Batch to batch consistency.

- **LABELLING REQUIRMENTS**

Label must comply regulatory authority requirements.

Name of product, dose strength

Active ingredients

Dosage forms and net content

Batch no, mfg. date, exp date,

Warning & precautions

direction to use

Storage conditions

- **SAFETY WARNING AND PRECAUTIONS**

Risk of methemoglobinemia (rare)

Use only as directed

Don't use in the children below 2 years.

- **ADVERSE EFFECTS AND PHARMACOVIGILANCE**

manufacturer must monitor adverse effects to regulatory authority

Periodic safety reports must be required.

- **PACKAGING REQUIRMENTS& COMPLIANCE AND MARKETING**

Usesuitable, safe, non-reactive packaging

Must ensure product stability and protect from contamination

Product must be registered before marketing

Post marketing surveillance and recall procedures.

PACKAGING, LABELLING AND STORAGE

Packaging Container: 2 oz. metal ointment tube with telescope box. Storage Requirements: Benzocaine is stable in air.

- Packed in collapsible aluminum tubes or laminated tubes
- Usually 5 g / 10 g / 15 g tubes

20% benzocaine gel is supplied in multiple use containers

Label Information:

- Name of product, dose strength, Active ingredients
- Dosage forms and net content
- Indications
- Batch no, Mfg. date, Exp date
- Warning & precautions

- Direction to use etc.

Store between 59°-86°F (15°-30°C).

Protect from freezing.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The present study focused on the formulation and evaluation of Benzocaine gel as a topical local anesthetic preparation. Preformulation studies confirmed that Benzocaine possesses suitable physicochemical properties for topical gel formulation. The drug was found to be a white crystalline powder, odorless, and slightly bitter in taste. Solubility studies indicated that Benzocaine is poorly soluble in water but soluble in organic solvents such as ethanol and chloroform, supporting the use of propylene glycol and ethanol as solubilizing agents in the formulation.

Compatibility studies using FTIR and DSC revealed no significant interaction between Benzocaine and the selected excipients. Characteristic peaks of Benzocaine remained unchanged in the spectra, indicating compatibility and stability of the formulation components. The melting point determination confirmed the purity of the drug sample.

The prepared Benzocaine gel showed good homogeneity, smooth texture, and acceptable appearance without any phase separation or grittiness. The pH of the gel was found within the acceptable range for topical application, indicating minimal risk of skin irritation. Viscosity and spreadability studies demonstrated that the gel possessed suitable consistency and ease of application over the skin surface. Extrudability results indicated that the gel could be easily removed from the tube with uniform flow.

In vitro diffusion studies showed satisfactory drug release from the gel formulation, suggesting effective availability of Benzocaine for topical anesthetic action. Stability studies carried out under accelerated conditions showed no significant changes in color, pH,

viscosity, spreadability, or drug content, indicating that the formulation remained stable throughout the study period.

Overall, the formulated Benzocaine gel exhibited satisfactory pharmaceutical properties and can be considered a stable and effective topical anesthetic preparation for local pain relief.

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CONCLUSION

Benzocaine gel was successfully formulated using Carbopol 934 as the gelling agent. The prepared gel showed satisfactory physicochemical characteristics, good spreadability, acceptable viscosity, and suitable pH for topical application. Compatibility studies confirmed the absence of interaction between the drug and excipients. Stability studies indicated that the formulation remained stable under different storage conditions.

The formulated gel demonstrated effective drug release and possesses the potential to provide rapid local anesthetic action with improved patient compliance. Therefore, Benzocaine gel can be considered an effective and convenient topical drug delivery system for the management of pain and irritation associated with minor skin and mucosal conditions.

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