

CHARACTERIZATION AND OPTIMIZATION OF MICRO-SPHERE LOADED WITH FLURBIPROFEN FOR INTRA-ARTICULAR DELIVERY

Raj Kishore

Research Scholar

Pharmacy

Asian International University

Abstract

The characterization and optimisation of microspheres for the intra-articular administration of flurbiprofen, a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory medication used to treat ailments connected to the joints, is the focus of this work. Osteoarthritis (OA) of the knee is an incessant degenerative condition for which rehashed injections are necessary because of their short length of activity. Using a collagenase II-initiated rodent knee OA model, the counter OA properties of this flurbiprofen thermogel were inspected and contrasted with customary sodium hyaluronate and flurbiprofen injectables. Flurbiprofen was sustainedly released for over three weeks, as per in vitro drug release experiments, with similar short-term analgesic effects and upgraded long haul analgesic effectiveness. The gathering that got flurbiprofen gel treatment had a decreased provocative response, which was reflected in lower levels of IL-1, IL-6, and IL-11 in joint liquid as well as down-directed expression in specific cartilages. The findings highlight the thermosensitive copolymer PCLA-Stake PCLA's appropriateness for flurbiprofen's delayed intra-articular effects as well as its possible helpful use for further developed OA case the board.

Keywords: *Flurbiprofen, Characterization, intra-articular delivery, micro-sphere, optimization.*

1. Introduction

Intra-articular pharmaceutical delivery, which shows a great deal of promise, has the potential to be used as a local treatment for osteoarthritis and other joint-related inflammatory illnesses. Flurbiprofen is an illustration of a nonsteroidal mitigating medication that has shown viability in the treatment of the aggravation and irritation that are welcomed on by these disorders. The duration of action and drug release kinetics of standard flurbiprofen formulations, on the other hand, are often affected. Because they offer continuous pharmaceutical release into the joint area, flurbiprofen-loaded microspheres are a potential treatment option.

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In order to distribute flurbiprofen intra-articularly, this research intends to characterise and optimise microspheres with an emphasis on obtaining a desired drug-loading capacity, particle size distribution, and sustained release profile.

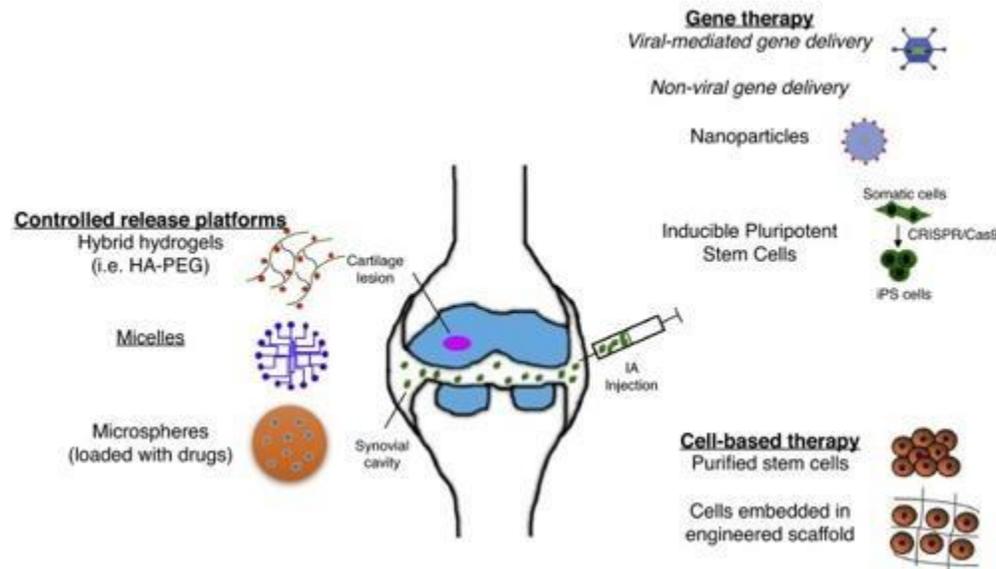


Figure 1: Intra-Articular Drug Delivery System

The goal of this study is to progress the development of an efficient and effective drug delivery system for the localized treatment of inflammatory disorders associated to joints by clarifying the characteristics and functionality of Flurbiprofen-loaded microspheres.

2. Literature Review

Adaes et al. (2015) explored the role of primary afferent neuron injury in OA-induced pain using a collagenase-induced rat model. Their findings suggest that injury to essential afferent neurons might add to OA-associated torment.

Bajpayee et al. (2017) studied the use of a cationic transporter to deliver low-dose dexamethasone intra-ligamentally over an extended period of time in order to alleviate terrible OA. Their research showed that this delivery strategy might help reduce inflammation and cartilage degradation in OA.

Bhadra et al. (2017) designed appropriate dosing protocols for hyaluronic acid for the treatment of osteoarthritis of the knee in the United States. Their criteria aim to optimize the selection of patients for hyaluronic acid therapy based on clinical evidence and patient characteristics.

Fukumoto et al. (2018), A rat model of knee arthritis was used to explore the analgesic effects of S (p)-flurbiprofen plaster. Using walk analysis and measurement of synovial liquid prostaglandin

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E2 levels, the researchers assessed the adequacy of the plaster in easing OA-associated agony and irritation. Their findings suggest that S (p)-flurbiprofen plaster demonstrates analgesic properties and may serve as a potential therapeutic intervention for OA-induced pain.

3. Materials and methods

3.1. Materials

Stake, molecular weight 1500, DL-lactide (LA), and ε-caprolactone (CL). Sulphonous octoate (Sn (Oct)₂) and all of the other chemicals were bought from Sigma-Aldrich.

3.2. Sample collection

White blood cell counts, fractionation, and analysis of inflammatory components were performed on joint fluid collected 80 hours post-treatment. Animals were put to death 80 hours after care.

3.3. Statistical analysis

The exploratory data was analysed using the statistical programme SPSS 13.0 and shown as mean ± standard deviation. Differential analysis of variance (ANOVA) or the student's t-test were used to examine differences in continuous variables. Statistical significance was determined using a p-value less than .05.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1. Characterization of PCLA-PEG-PCLA triblock copolymer

In order to create the PCLA-Stake PCLA triblock copolymer, CL and LA underwent ring-opening polymerization with Stake as the initiator and Sn (Oct)₂ as the catalyst. The chemical structure was determined using ¹H NMR and FTIR spectra.

4.2. Transition from one phase to another and drug release in vitro from thermosensitive gel

In clinical applications, the sol-to-gel phase transition of the PCLA-Stake PCLA copolymer-based thermosensitive gel enables delayed release of flurbiprofen. As the convergence of copolymer increases, the gel's gelling temperature drops, resulting in a consistent pace of medication release.

Table 1: Flurbiprofen release patterns from thermosensitive gels in vitro. The concentration of the copolymer was 15%, 20%, and 25% (weight or volume), while the drug loading was 1% (weight or volume).

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| | 0 | 5 | 10 | 15 | 20 | 25 |
|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 15% | 12 | 42 | 50 | 70 | 85 | 90 |
| 20% | 11 | 38 | 55 | 70 | 75 | 80 |
| 25% | 10 | 30 | 45 | 60 | 74 | 78 |

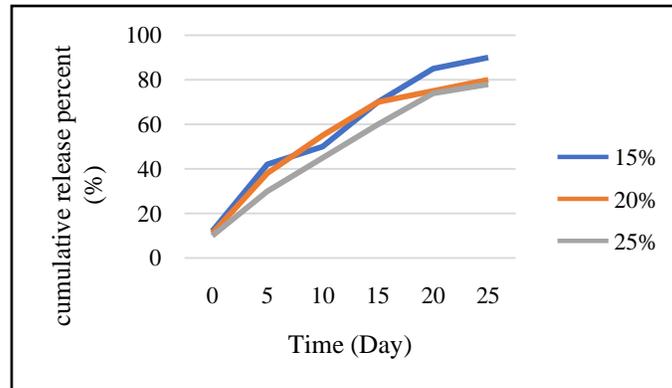


Figure 2: In vitro release properties of flurbiprofen from thermosensitive polymers. drug dosage at 1% (w/v) and copolymer concentrations of 15%, 20%, and 25% (w/v), respectively.

Subsequent experiments utilised a flurbiprofen thermosensitive gel supplemented with 25% PCLA-Stake PCLA triblock copolymer to evaluate the remedial effect.

Rats with OA symptoms were much less affected by flurbiprofen gel, as shown by higher Knee-Bend response scores and %TIPPI. Nonetheless, there were no appreciable variations in blood parameters between the flurbiprofen gel therapy and the pre-treatment period, suggesting a low risk to the rats' overall health. According to the research, flurbiprofen gel could be an effective course of therapy.

4.3. It was shown that the levels of IL-1, IL-6, and IL-11 in joint fluid were reduced by flurbiprofen gel

According to the results of the ELISA test that was performed on the joint fluids, the levels of IL-1, IL-6, and IL-11 which were found in the usual joint samples were 0.192 lg/L, 0.212 lg/L, and 0.327 lg/L respectively. These concentrations increased to 3.13 lg/L, 4.75 lg/L, and 4.06 lg/L prior to the administration of the therapies. The use of blank thermosensitive gel alone was sufficient to bring their levels down, although there was no detectable effect ($p > 0.05$). HA was shown to reduce levels of interleukin-1 (IL-1), interleukin-6 (IL-6), and interleukin-11 (IL-11) to 2.78 lg/L, 4.12 lg/L, and 3.69 lg/L, respectively. On the other hand, flurbiprofen was found to significantly decrease levels of IL-1, IL-6, and IL-11 to 2.31 lg/L, 3.15 lg/L, and 2.86 lg/L, respectively. The levels of interleukin-1 (IL-1), interleukin-6 (IL-6), and interleukin-11 (IL-11) in

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the flurbiprofen gel preparation were 0.93 lg/L, 1.27 lg/L, and 1.44 lg/L, respectively. These values were substantially different from those of the other exploratory groups ($p < .01$).

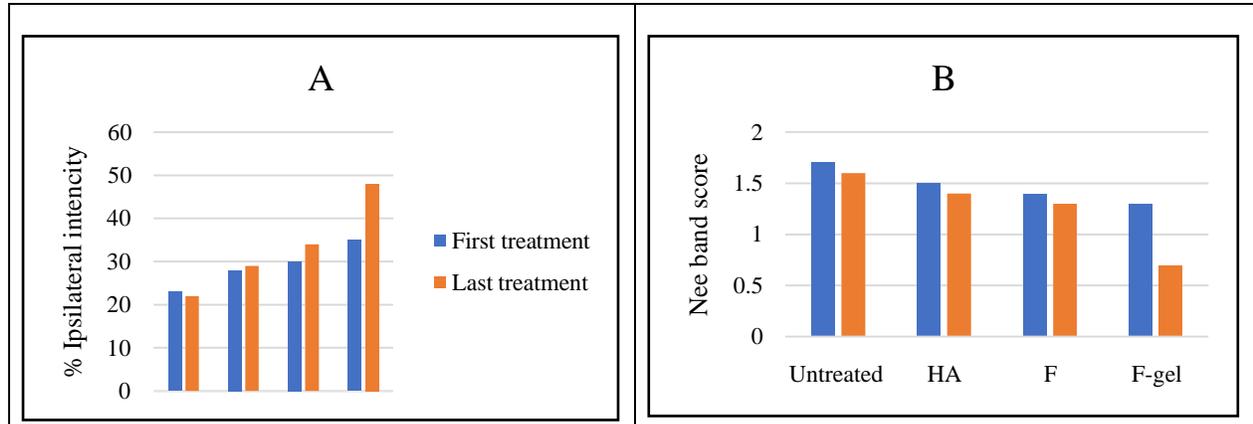


Figure 3: In rats, flurbiprofen gel dramatically reduced OA symptoms. After 80 hours of therapy, experimental groups had substantially different %TIPPI and Knee-Bend scores. The differences between groups were not significant, indicating flurbiprofen gel improved OA symptoms.

4.4.A decrease in the expression of inflammatory factors was seen with flurbiprofen gel

The expression of OA-promoting factors in specific cartilages from the experimental groups was studied. The findings revealed that the groups who received flurbiprofen and HA had lower levels, whereas the groups that did not get treatment had higher amounts.

The PCLA-Stake PCLA triblock copolymer is one example of a temperature-sensitive polymer that has been used to constantly provide medications for the treatment of osteoarthritis. Strong NSAID for OA, flurbiprofen gel, has been studied for its analgesic and anti-inflammatory properties; when compared to HA, it demonstrated superior pain remission and lower levels of inflammatory factors.

5. Conclusion

This experiment was conducted with the intention of constructing and testing a flurbiprofen thermosensitive gel that was based on a triblock copolymer made of PCLA, Stake, and PCLA. The gel was intended to be used for delayed intra-articular drug delivery. The intraarticular infusion of this sustained drug release method was able to effectively expand the analgesic time frame and dramatically lessen the inflammatory response of the mouse OA model. This was accomplished by downregulating the expression of inflammatory markers. The findings of this work offer an exploratory starting point for the possible helpful use of this flurbiprofen hydrogel to all the more likely treat osteoarthritis patients. The results of the present investigation uncover that thermosensitive copolymer PCLA-Stake PCLA is suitable for drawn out intra-articular effects of flurbiprofen.

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