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EVALUATION OF FLOATING PRESS-COATED PULSATILE RELEASE OF ACECLOFENAC TABLETS BY USING VARIOUS PROPORTION OF POLYMERS SUCH HYDROXYPROPYL METHYLCELLULOSE (HPMC K 4 M)

Shinde PV*¹, Mayee RV¹

¹Department of pharmaceutical sciences, Shri Jagdish Prasad Jhabarmal Tibrewala University, Vidyanagari, Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan – 333001

ABSTRACT

The objective of this study was to develop and evaluate of a floating press-coated pulsatile drug delivery system intended for treatment of early morning stiffness and symptomatic relief from pain in patients with rheumatoid arthritis with a distinct predetermined lag time of 8 h. Cores containing Aceclofenac as model drug were prepared by direct compression of different Sodium starch glycolate level (CT-1 to CT-4) 8 %, 4%, 2% & without disintegrant and Aceclofenac as a model drug by using various proportion of polymers such Hydroxypropyl methylcellulose and Sodium bicarbonate floating layer is prepared. Fifteen formulations were prepared and formulation F15 possessed good lag time 8 hr and showed pulsatile drug delivery pattern the tablets In- vitro evaluation tests. Results of this study indicated that by using floating-pulsatile release formulations are suitable to optimize pulsatile drug release formulation of Aceclofenac.

KEYWORDS : Floating-pulsatile release formulations, Aceclofenac.

INTRODUCTION

Pulsatile drug delivery systems are gaining a lot of interest now days. These systems are designed according to the circadian rhythm of the body. These systems deliver the drug at specific time as per the pathophysiological need of the disease, resulting in improved patient compliance and therapeutic efficacy. Which is meant as the liberation of drugs following programmed lag phases, has drawn increasing interest, especially in view of emerging chronotherapeutic approaches.

Pulsatile drug delivery shows rhythms like rheumatoid arthritis, cardiovascular diseases, asthma, peptic ulcer, allergic rhinitis.

The concept of chronotherapeutics originates from the finding of the major disease conditions such as asthma, cardiac disorders, allergic rhinitis, and arthritis following circadian example of symptom outburst. Chronotherapeutics delivery system have been developed to provide the best treatment regimens which revolve around the objective of assuring maximum concentration of the drug at the

Correspondence to Author



Shinde PV

Department of pharmaceutical sciences, Shri Jagdish Prasad Jhabarmal Tibrewala University, Vidyanagari, Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan – 333001

Email: prashantvs99@yahoo.com

time of symptom onset.^[2,3,4,5,6] Nowadays, concept of chronopharmaceutics has emerged, wherein, research is devoted to the design and evaluation of drug delivery systems that release a therapeutic agent at a rhythm that ideally matches the biological requirement of a given disease therapy. Future of drug delivery must meet the challenge of future medicine^[7]

Aceclofenac, a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug, is used for the symptomatic relief of pain and joint stiffness in patients suffering from rheumatoid arthritis, which is characterized by diurnal variation in circulating levels of proinflammatory cytokines, interleukin-6 and/or tumor necrosis factor- α . Due to this diurnal variation, many symptoms and signs of active rheumatoid arthritis are manifested in the morning^[8] on oral administration at bed-time, releases aceclofenac after a desired lag time of

Table 1 : Effect of Sodium starch glycolate level on drug release profile from uncoated Tablet (CT-1-CT-4) 8 %,4%,2% & without disintegrant.

| Sr No | Formulation | CT 1 | CT 2 | CT 3 | CT 4 |
|-------|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | Ingredients | mg/tablet | mg/tablet | mg/tablet | mg/tablet |
| 1. | Aceclofenac | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 2. | MCC (Avicel pH102) | 40.00 | 44.00 | 46.00 | 48.00 |
| 3. | Dicalcium phosphate (DCP) | 40.00 | 44.00 | 46.00 | 48.00 |
| 4. | Sodium starch glycolate | 16.00 | 8.00 | 4.00 | - |
| 5. | Sunset yellow iron oxide | 2.00 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 2.00 |
| 6. | Magnesium stearate | 2.00 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 2.00 |

F= Formulation code, CT1= Core tablet 1 with Sodium starch glycolate 8%, CT2= Core tablet 2 with Sodium starch glycolate 4%, CT3= Core tablet 3 with Sodium starch glycolate 2%, CT4= Core tablet 4 with Sodium starch glycolate without disintegrant

B. Preparation of Press coated floating-pulsatile release formulation (F 1-F 15)

Formulation compositions of coating layer are shown in **Error! Reference source not found.No 2**, containing varying percentage of polymers were weighed and passed through 30 mesh standard sieve. The ingredients of coating layer were mixed in a mortar and lubricated with magnesium

about 8 hr which corresponds with peak levels of proinflammatory mediators. The current study illustrates the formulation, characterization and optimization of a Aceclofenac tablets with Press coated floating-pulsatile release.

Method

Cores containing Aceclofenac as model drug were prepared by direct compression of different Sodium starch glycolate level CT-1 to CT-4) 8 %, 4%, 2% & without disintegrant.

A. Preparation of core tablets (CT):

All ingredients of core tablet given in **Error! Reference source not found.No 1** were weighed and passed through 30 mesh standard sieve. Resultant powder was mixed thoroughly in mortar and lubricated with magnesium stearate (1 % w/w). A 200 mg powder was weighed and transferred manually in to die and compressed by using 8 mm diameter SC punch tooling.

stearate (1% w/w). Required weight of coating powder was weighed and used in two steps: first half coating powder was filled into the die and CT was placed in the center of die. CT was slightly pressed to fix the coating around and under the CT. Then rest of half coating powder was filled and compressed by using 10/12 mm flat faced punch tooling.

Table No.2. Press coated floating-pulsatile release formulation. (F 1-F15)

| F | HPMC K4 M | HPMC K15 M | HPMC K100 M | MCC pH102 | DCP | SBC | Citric Acid | Magnesium stearate | Core tablet |
|-----|-----------|------------|-------------|-----------|-----|-----|-------------|--------------------|-------------|
| F1 | 50 | 0 | 0 | 60 | 115 | 60 | 12 | 3 | CT 4 |
| F2 | 75 | 0 | 0 | 60 | 90 | 60 | 12 | 3 | CT 4 |
| F3 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 60 | 65 | 60 | 12 | 3 | CT 4 |
| F4 | 225 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 60 | 12 | 3 | CT 4 |
| F5 | 133 | 0 | 0 | 80 | 87 | 80 | 16 | 4 | CT 4 |
| F6 | 200 | 0 | 0 | 80 | 20 | 80 | 16 | 4 | CT 4 |
| F7 | 300 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 80 | 16 | 4 | CT 4 |
| F8 | 133 | 0 | 0 | 80 | 87 | 80 | 16 | 4 | CT 2 |
| F9 | 200 | 0 | 0 | 80 | 20 | 80 | 16 | 4 | CT 2 |
| F10 | 300 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 80 | 16 | 4 | CT 2 |
| F11 | 60 | 0 | 0 | 80 | 160 | 80 | 16 | 4 | CT 4 |
| F12 | 80 | 0 | 0 | 80 | 140 | 80 | 16 | 4 | CT 4 |
| F13 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 80 | 120 | 80 | 16 | 4 | CT 4 |
| F14 | 120 | 0 | 0 | 80 | 100 | 80 | 16 | 4 | CT 4 |
| F15 | 110 | 0 | 0 | 80 | 110 | 80 | 16 | 4 | CT 4 |

Evaluation of Tablet Characteristics:**Physicochemical properties of tablets****Weight variation:**

Twenty tablets were selected at random and weighed individually. The average weight of 20 tablets was calculated. Individual weights of the tablets were compared with the average weight.

Hardness:

Tablet hardness has been defined as the force required breaking a tablet in a diametric compression test. A tablet was placed between two anvils of hardness tester, force was applied to the anvils, and the crushing strength that causes the tablet to break was recorded in N.

Friability:

Tablets require certain amount of strength or hardness and resistance to withstand mechanical shock of handling in manufacturing, packaging, and shipping. A pre-weighed sample (20 tablets) were placed in the friabilator, and operated for 100 revolutions, then again weighed the tablets and % friability was calculated using the formula.

$$F = \left(1 - \frac{W_0}{W}\right) \times 100$$

Where

W_0 – Weight of tablet before test

W – Weight of tablet after test

Drugs content:

To evaluate a tablet potential for efficacy, the amount of drug per tablet needs to be monitored from tablet to tablet, and batch to batch. To perform the test, 10 tablets were crushed using mortar pestle. Quantity equivalent to 100 mg of drug was dissolved in 100 ml phosphate buffer pH 6.8, filtered and diluted up to 50 μ g/ml, and analyzed spectrophotometrically at 274.2nm. The concentration of drug was determined using standard calibration curve.

Buoyancy determination:

The buoyancy test of floating tablets (F 1-F 15) was studied by placing them in 500 ml beaker containing 6.8 phosphate buffer then tablet from same batches were placed in dissolution test. The floating onset time (time period between placing tablet in the medium and buoyancy beginning) and

floating duration of tablet was determined by visual observation.

In vitro Dissolution Study:

The in vitro dissolution test was performed using USP type II dissolution test apparatus. The drug release study was carried out in phosphate buffer pH 6.8 900 ml of dissolution media, maintained at $37 \pm 0.5^\circ\text{C}$ and agitated at 50 rpm. Periodically 5 ml samples were withdrawn and filtered through whatman filter paper and samples were replaced by its equivalent volume of dissolution media. The

Table 3: Physicochemical evaluation of core tablets (CT)

| F | Weight Variation (mg) $n=20$ | Thickness (mm) $n=10$ | Hardness (N) $n=10$ | Friability (%) | Drug Content (%) $n=3$ |
|------|------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| CT 1 | 200.10 \pm 1.24 | 3.20 \pm 0.1 | 80 N \pm 10N | 0.21 | 99.58 \pm 1.65 |
| CT 2 | 200.15 \pm 1.11 | 3.20 \pm 0.1 | 80N \pm 12N | 0.11 | 100.25 \pm 1.98 |
| CT 3 | 200.24 \pm 1.27 | 3.20 \pm 0.1 | 80N \pm 9 N | 0.25 | 99.98 \pm 1.56 |
| CT 4 | 200.24 \pm 1.19 | 3.20 \pm 0.1 | 80 N \pm 11N | 0.15 | 100.58 \pm 2.15 |

B. Press coated floating-pulsatile release formulation.

The final developed Press coated floating tablet F15 were found uniform with respect to thickness (3.25 ± 0.1 mm), diameter (12 mm) and hardness ($5.7 - 6.9$ kg/cm²). The friability (0.72 – 0.84%) and weight variation test complies as per I. P. limits.

concentration of Aceclofenac was measured by spectrophotometrically at 274.2 nm for 6.8 media.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

Evaluation of Tablet characteristics

Physicochemical properties of tablet:

Tables are evaluated for Weight variation, thickness, hardness, friability and drug content A. Results of physicochemical evaluation of core tablets (CT) are given in **Error! Reference source not found.3.**

Good and uniform drug content (>100%) was observed within the batches.

Characterization of coating level

To characterize the effect of coating level on floating ability, using HPMC K4M as a coating polymer F1 to F4 batches were prepared, obtained results shown in

Figure 5.

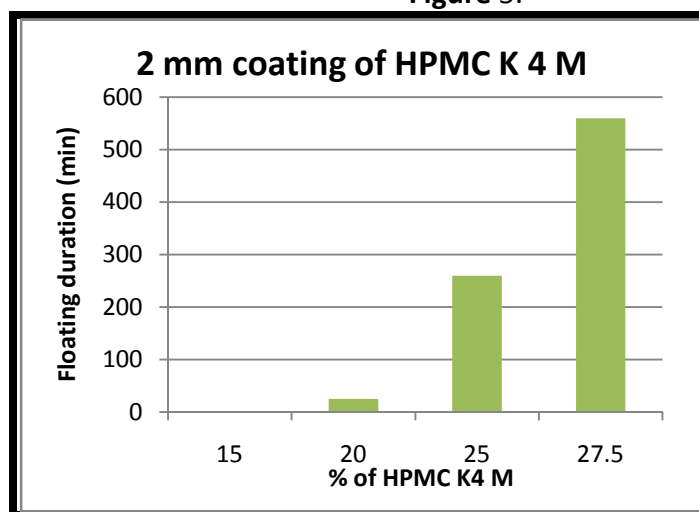


Figure 5. Effect of polymer concentration and coating level on floating duration.(2 mm coating HPMC K 4 M)

Initially F1 and F2 batches were formulated by taking 16 % and 25 % HPMC K4M and compressed

using 10 mm flat faced punch tooling. Here core tablet having mean diameter of 8 mm and final dry

coated tablet having diameter of 10 mm means coating of 2 mm thickness. Then buoyancy test was carried out, tablet get float with floating lag time 8 second and all tablets get dispersed within 5 - 10 minutes. Hence F1 and F2 formulations unable to float for required period, reason behind this was lower % of polymer that unable to form swollen gel.

Then F3 batch was formulated by increasing the amount of HPMC K4M from 25 % to 33 % using 10 mm flat faced punch tooling. In buoyancy test tablet get separated into layers after 70 min. Here it concluded that, the amount of MCC and DCP in coating mixture was responsible for early separation of layers.

Then F4 was formulated by replacing the concentration of MCC and DCP by HPMC K4M, i.e. 75 % HPMC K4M. Buoyancy test was performed,

again tablet float for 100 min and separated into layer.

From Buoyancy study of F1 to F4 batches, it was concluded that core tablet of 8 mm and intact tablet of 10 mm diameter unable to float up to 480 min. It indicates coating thickness of 2 mm get erodes earlier and core tablet get dropped early, hence it need to increase the coating thickness.

Then F5.F6 and F7 was formulated by increasing the coating thickness from 2 mm to 4 mm, observed results shown in

Figure No 6. Here final dry coated tablet was compressed on 12 mm flat faced punch tooling, by using polymer concentration 33%, 50%, 75 % respectively. Buoyancy test was performed on F5.F6 and F7, tablet float without separating into layers, but tablet of F5 float for 750 min, F6 for 1100 min and F7 remains float till 1500 min.

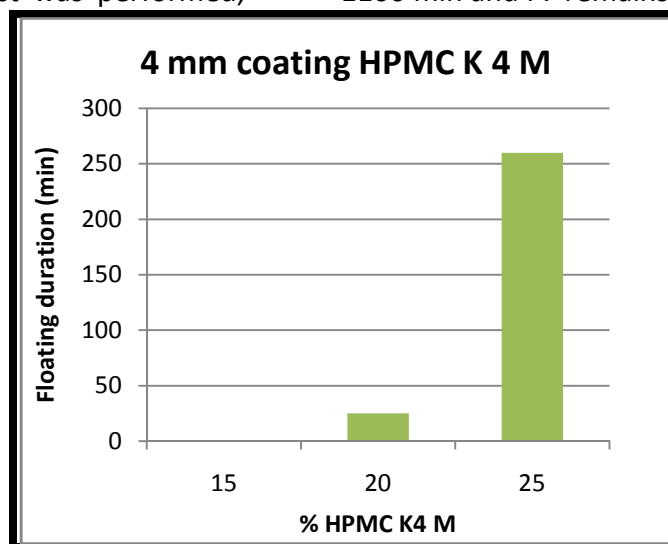


Figure No 6. Effect of polymer concentration 16 %, 33 %, 50 % and coating level on floating duration. (4 mm coating of HPMC K 4 M)

Here 4 mm coating level kept the tablet intact, but floating duration was increased beyond limit. Our aim was tablet float for 480 min only, so further study was done by adjusting polymer percentage.

Adjustment of floating duration with HPMC K4M

Here main objective is tablet should have 480 min gastroretention without drug release followed by pulsatile release. To achieve this objective CT1 (containing super disintegrate SSG) was taken as a core, and F8, F9, and F10 was formulated with 33

%, 50 % and 75 % polymer concentration respectively. Observed results shown in

Figure 7. Buoyancy test was carried out for all three formulations, F8 tablet get burst after 90 min, F9 tablet burst at 160 min and F10 tablet remain float till 340 min. This bursting effect was observed because of super disintegrate added to core. Hence further study was done by excluding SSG from core tablet to avoid bursting effect.

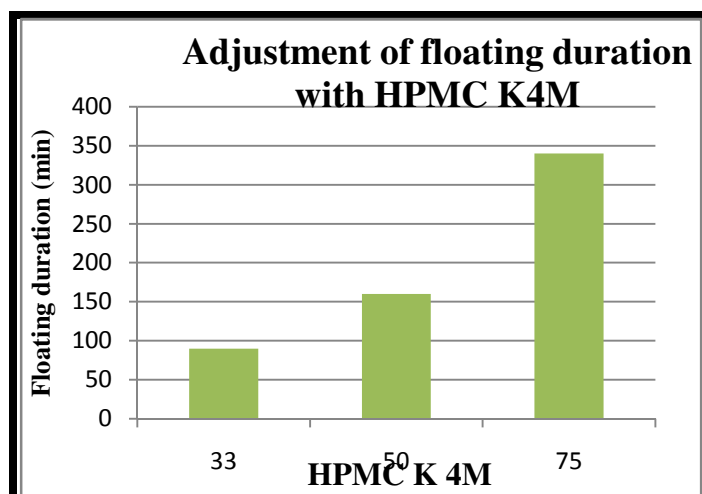


Figure No 7. Effect of polymer concentration 33 %, 50%,75%and coating level on floating duration. (4 mm coating of HPMC K 4 M)

Then F11, F12, F13, F14 batches were formulated, by using CT4 as a core tablet, with 15 %, 20%, 25%, 30% HPMC K4M as a coating polymer respectively.

Observed effect of polymer concentration on floating duration shown in Figure No 8.

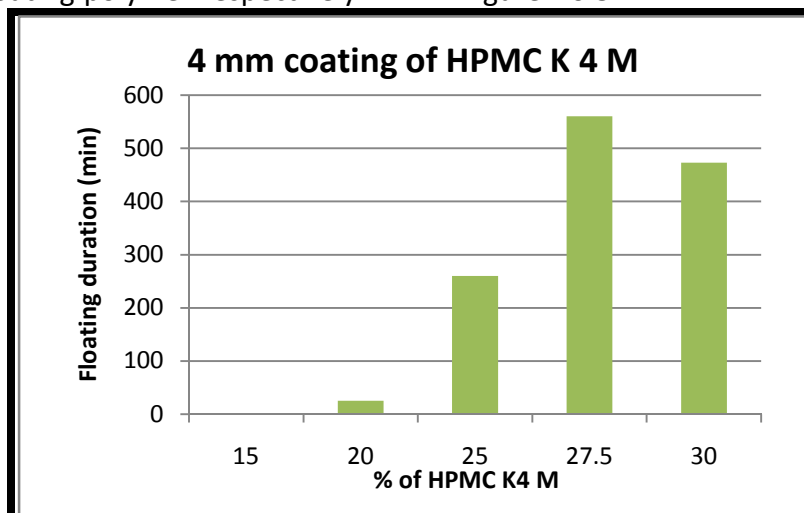


Figure No 8. Effect of polymer concentration 15%, 20%, 25%, 27.5 %, and 30 %, coating level of on floating duration.

Buoyancy test was performed on F11 to F14 batches, tablet of F11 batch dispersed within 5 min in dissolution medium. It indicates to increase the HPMC K4M concentration.

Then F12 was formulated by adding 20 % HPMC K4M. Buoyancy test indicates tablet float for 25 min after that get disintegrate. Hence again need to increase the concentration of HPMC K4M.

Further F13 was formulated by using 25 % of HPMC K4M, tablet get float till 260 min after that core tablet get dropped. Then F14 was formulated by

adding 30 % of HPMC K4M, tablet get float till 560 min, after that core tablet get dropped in dissolution media. From this buoyancy pattern of F13 and F14, it concludes that required HPMC K4M concentration should be in between 25 % to 30 %. Hence F15 was formulated using 27.5 % HPMC K4M, this formulation float till 473 min and maintains its shape without dropping the inner core tablet. At 480 min all coating get erode and inner core tablet get dropped, here this formulation shows required pulsatile release pattern which is

required for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis. Hence F15 formulation considered optimized formulation for HPMC K4M polymer.

In vitro Dissolution Study:

Table No 4. In order to perform different release kinetics; depending upon different release mechanism involved, effect of Sodium starch glycolate level on drug release profile from uncoated tablet (Formulations CT1 to CT4) were determined. As amount of Sodium starch glycolate level decrease from formulations CT-1 to CT-4; the formulation containing highest amount of Sodium starch glycolate (CT-1) showed fast disintegration

A. Dissolution of core tablets (CT)

In vitro dissolution test was carried out in phosphate buffer pH 6.8 for 60 min. Results of in vitro dissolution test presented in

and fast release because of swellable disintegrant present in it. As amount of swellable disintegrant decrease amount of drug release decreased. Without disintegrate Sodium starch glycolate level in formulation CT-4 showing decrease in disintegrant property. As shown in figure1 significant change in release profile CT1 shows drug release initially faster compare to CT -4 which without disintegrant.

Table 4: Effect of Sodium starch glycolate level on Drug Release Profile from Uncoated Tablet (CT-1-CT-4) 8%, 4%, 2% & without disintegrant. in phosphate buffer pH6.8 of different core tablets formulations.

| Time (min) | % Cumulative Drug Release | | | |
|------------|---------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| | CT-1 | CT-2 | CT-3 | CT-4 |
| 5 | 72.4 | 46.5 | 20.2 | 5.25 |
| 10 | 99.5 | 62.7 | 44.2 | 17.58 |
| 15 | 101.2 | 84.1 | 80.5 | 30.22 |
| 30 | 100.1 | 100.5 | 100.1 | 79.0 |
| 45 | 99.6 | 99.3 | 98.7 | 100.7 |
| 60 | 98.4 | 98.6 | 98.2 | 99.1 |

B. Press coated floating-pulsatile release formulation.

In vitro dissolution test was carried out in Table No 5.

phosphate buffer pH 6.8. Results of in vitro dissolution test presented in

Table No 5. % Cumulative release of aceclofenac for in phosphate buffer pH6.8 of different formulations.

| Time (min) | % Cumulative Drug Release | | | | | |
|------------|---------------------------|-------|------|------|------|-------|
| | F5 | F6 | F7 | F13 | F14 | F15 |
| 60 | 2.14 | 2.15 | 0.10 | 2.35 | 3.25 | 2.58 |
| 120 | 3.59 | 2.78 | 0.20 | 3.56 | 4.52 | 3.67 |
| 180 | 4.0 | 3.55 | 0.56 | 3.98 | 4.88 | 4.12 |
| 240 | 4.52 | 4.76 | 1.00 | 6.0 | 5.12 | 4.69 |
| 300 | 4.88 | 5.32 | 1.78 | 6.58 | 5.45 | 4.98 |
| 360 | 4.90 | 5.98 | 2.14 | | 5.98 | 5.55 |
| 420 | 5.26 | 6.12 | 2.58 | | 6.23 | 5.96 |
| 480 | 6.59 | 6.98 | 2.88 | | 7.11 | 6.89 |
| 495 | 7.78 | 7.52 | 3.00 | | | 68.12 |
| 510 | 8.90 | 7.98 | 3.25 | | | 80.50 |
| 540 | 9.85 | 8.40 | 3.88 | | | 85.76 |
| 570 | 10.58 | 8.89 | 4.20 | | | 92.15 |
| 600 | 11.55 | 9.30 | 4.70 | | | 99.87 |
| 630 | 13.88 | 9.95 | 5.00 | | | |
| 660 | 14.8 | 10.50 | 5.23 | | | |

| | | | | | | |
|------|-------|------|------|--|--|--|
| 1440 | 15.38 | 11.0 | 5.59 | | | |
|------|-------|------|------|--|--|--|

Then in vitro dissolution test was carried out on F 5, F 6, F 7 formulations. Here tablet float until 1440 min and at the end of 1440 min 15.38%, 11.0%, 5.59% drug release was observed respectively (shown in 34). Hence this formulation did not follow the principle of pulsatile release. Drug release profile of F13, F14 shown in figure No 3. In this F8 shows 6.58 % drug release at the end of 300 min and F15 float for 480 min and at the end of 480 min 7.11 % drug release was observed. Here both formulations did not follow the principle of pulsatile release. Then F15 shows 6.89 % drug release at the end of 480 min, drug release profile of F15 provided in **Error! Reference source not found.** Which shows optimum drug release profile i.e. initial lag phase of 480 min with 6.89 %,drug

release followed by 99.87 % , release. F15 formulations follows the principle of pulsatile release, i.e. initial lag phase followed by instant release Figure No 4 shows the drug release profile of F 15 shows formulation, which follows the pulsatile release pattern.

CONCLUSION:

The objective of this work was to develop and evaluate a floating-pulsatile drug delivery system using hydrophilic polymer for Aceclofenac and to evaluate buoyancy and drug release pattern. Floating pulsatile concept was applied to increase the gastric residence of the dosage form having the lag phase followed by a burst release.

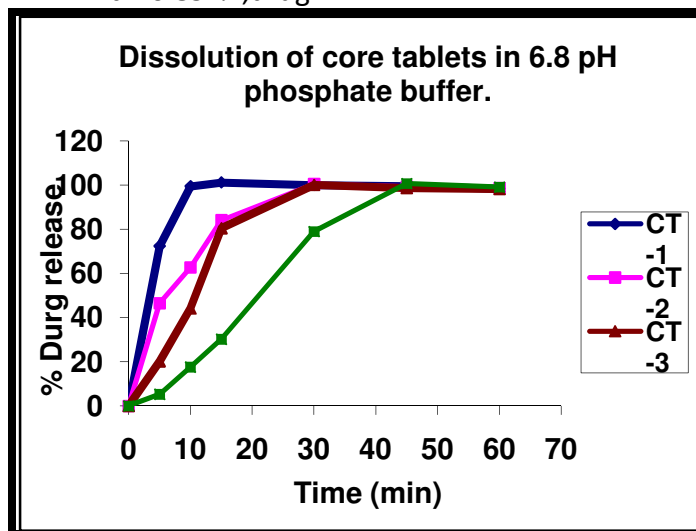


Figure 1: Dissolution of aceclofenac core tablet formulation with various concentration of disintegrant Sodium starch glycolate 8 % (CT-1), 4% (CT-2), 2% (CT-3) & without disintegrant (CT-4)

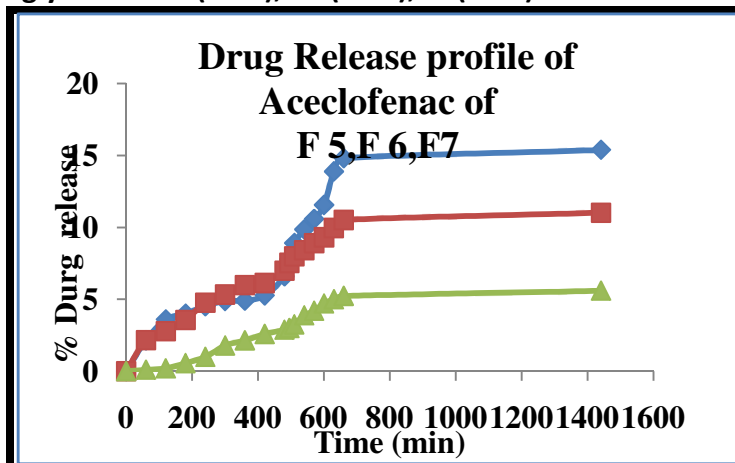


Figure 2: Drug release profile of Aceclofenac of F 5, F 6, F 7 formulations

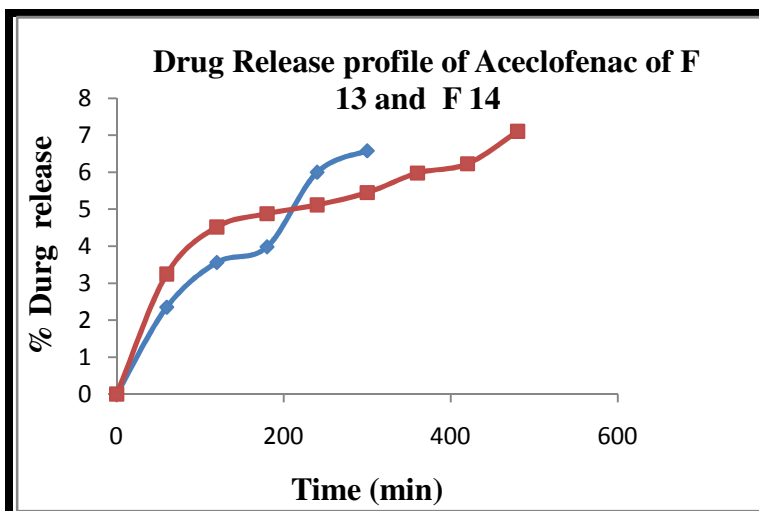


Figure No.3: Drug release profile of Aceclofenac of F 13 and F 14 formulations.

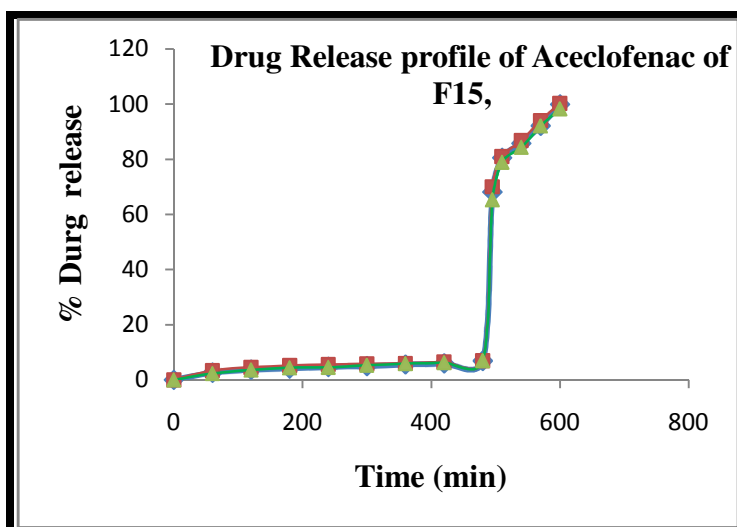


Figure No 4: Drug release profile of Aceclofenac of F 15

Different batches of dry coated were prepared by varying concentration of HPMC K4M, All the formulations of dry coated tablets were evaluated for buoyancy and drug release pattern. Formulations from F1 to F4 containing 2 mm coating of HPMC K4M unable to provide floating ability. Formulations from F5 to F7 containing 4 mm coating of HPMC K4M provide floating for >12 h. Formulations F8 to F15 were formulated by 4 mm coating with HPMC K4M, in which F15 (27.5%) formulation provide floating duration of 8 h with pulsatile release pattern.

Tablet of F15 formulation is best formulation gives pulsatile release pattern with initial 6hr lag time and then burst release.

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