IN-VITRO AND IN-VIVO EVALUATION OF MICROPROCESSOR CONTROLLED IONTOPHORETIC TRANSDERMAL DRUG DELIVERY OF ANTI-CANCER DRUGS

Chandrashekar, N.S
Associate Manager, Customer Education and Training, Thomson Reuters, Bangalore, India-560025.

Microprocessor controlled iontophoretic transdermal delivery of anticancer drugs 5-Fluorouracil (5-FU) and 6-Mercaptopurine (6-MP) was developed and in-vitro evaluation and bioavailability studies was done. The patches were evaluated physiochemical properties and in-vitro permeation studies through human cadaver skin showed, passive delivery (0.0mA/cm²) of 6-MP was low. As the current density was progressively increased, the flux also increased. The flux also increased with 0.1 mA/cm² for 15-20 minutes, but it was less than desired flux, 0.2 mA/cm² for 30 minutes showed better flux than 0.1mA/cm² current, but lag time was more than 4 hours. 0.5mA/cm² current for more than 1 hour, flux was > 159g/cm² h which was desired flux for 6-MP. 5-FU flux reached the MEC (minimum effective concentration) of 54 μg/cm² h with 0.5 mA/cm² current for 30-45 minutes, drug concentration were within the therapeutic window in post current phase. We concluded from Ohm’s Law as the resistance decreases, current increases. Interestingly, for all investigated current densities, as soon as the current was switched off, 5-FU and 6-MP flux decreased fairly, but the controlled drug delivery was achieved by switching the current for particular period of time. Pharmacokinetic studies in rabbits for 0.25mA/cm² for 30 min in 6-Mercaptopurine patches Tmax (min) 45 ± 13.2, Cmax (ng/ml) 194.6± 47, t1/2 (min) 225 ±16.8, AUC0-- (ng/ml/h) 340.18±16, AUC0-t (ng/ml/h) 299.14±43 and 0.5mA/cm² for 30 min in 5-Fluorouracil patches Tmax (min) 30 ± 6.3, Cmax (ng/ml) 863.25 ± 32, t1/2 (min), 95 ± 0.5, AUC0-- (ng/ml/h) 1567± 36, AUC0-t (ng/ml/h) 1198.76± 24. The Pharmacokinetic studies carried out in rabbits resulted in a plasma concentration profile in the therapeutic range. The elimination half-life of drugs was prolonged to very significant extent compared to conventional route of administration oral and intravenous.