

Dermatopharmacokinetic Studies in India: A Review

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Abstract

The purpose of this study involves research to assess the bioavailability studies in India by Dermatopharmacokinetic method. The studies were conducted following many of the Indian pharmacy markets performance. A washout period of two days was kept between the two periods of the study. It was mainly focused on the amount of research specifically oriented towards the Dermatopharmacokinetic research in India.

Keywords: Dermatopharmacokinetic studies; Dermal Microdialysis; FDA

Introduction

Bioequivalence studies in India, though the major break-through, in the Indian Pharma- growth and about a decade old, has not yet penetrated equally as far as the dermal products are concerned. Like many other dosage forms, those getting absorbed through various routes, the dermal preparations which are absorbed from skin, also contributes the respectable market performance [1]. But unlike for other dosage forms the bioavailability or bioequivalence studies, for dermal preparations are very less studied.

Many regulatory bodies including US FDA are feeling it necessary to set up the guidelines for the BA BE studies of the dermal preparations. Accordingly, FDA had already published the draft guideline for this purpose. Though these guidelines are still not for the commercial purpose, but hold the greatest interest for academic research, where in, the use and importance of Dermatopharmacokinetic studies, could be verified [2].

Skin Stripping and Skin Microdialysis and two well verified methods for the dermatopharmacokinetic studies so far [3]. But the number of drugs verified by these methods is still very few. Large number of classes of drugs is available under the title Topical Preparations [4]. The scientists working on Novel Drug Delivery System research are also concentrating on the Drug patches or Under-skin Depot drug delivery system. With considerable amount of research going on to engineer the new drug delivery systems through skins, even for the potent drugs like hormones, the amount of research specifically oriented towards the Dermatopharmacokinetic research of sadly less.

Many research trials in this area have proved that the dermal penetration of any drug is governed mainly by the formulation contents and the skin barrier [5]. Thus it could be easily predicted that rate and the extent of the absorption and elimination of a drug in different people with much different skin type will be different. Thus the dermatopharmacokinetic studies could predict more efficiently which type of vehicle or the formulation ingredients are needed for a particular geographical area depending upon the skin type of the population in that particular area.

The research leading to dermal-way of drug delivery is one of the potent areas of interest of many scientists of Pharmaceutical industries, for the major reasons like safety promised and the patient acceptability. Dermal dosage forms are one of the safest drug delivery devices with minimal side effects [6]. Any untoward incidence if observed the patient or recipient could be almost immediately cut-off from receiving the further dosage by simply removing the drug dosage form

applied, which in case of other dosage forms is more difficult or even impossible. Few though not all dosage forms need the expert personnel to administer the drug in patient's body, dermal products could be applied with ease by the patient him or herself [7].

ICH E6 guidelines for the bioequivalence studies are very elaborate as far as methodologies expected to be adopted for conducting these studies. The conventional bioequivalence studies are conducted by measuring the drug concentrations in biological fluids like blood or urine. The dermal products deliver the drug in the body through the skin as barrier and it is the main matrix that governs the rate and extends of absorption of the drug [8]. This is the need of the day to research upon and construct the solid scientific foundation of methodologies, which in turn will be acceptable by all the regulatory authorities to verify the formulation effect, therapeutic and Pharmacokinetic equivalence for the new upcoming dermal dosage forms.

The need of Dermatopharmacokinetic studies is needed to be cross-verified. The widely used skin stripping method and or Dermal Microdialysis should be tested on various population samples, to cross verify its race/location dependency [9]. These studies are needed to be part of the regulatory requirements for getting the marketing authorization for the dermal products.

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