

Designing Oral Films Based on Beeswax: Comparative Assessment of 3D Printing and Solvent Casting

Pegah Torabi¹, Shahab Bohlooli¹, Shadab Shahsavari², Leila Rezaei Shirmard^{1*}

¹Department of Pharmaceutics, School of Pharmacy, Ardabil University of Medical Sciences, Ardabil, Iran; ²Chemical Engineering Department, Varamin-Pishva Branch, Islamic Azad University, Varamin, Iran

ABSTRACT

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Background: From the perspective of DDSs, OFs have received increased attention, mainly for pediatric and geriatric applications. Beeswax, a naturally derived and FDA-approved material, is often mixed with other polymers to enhance its mechanical properties. This study presented the first use of precisely controlled, solvent-free pressure-assisted micro-syringe printing to produce OFs.

Methods: Solvent casting and pressure-assisted micro-syringe printing were employed to produce hybrid film structures composed of beeswax, PVA, borax, and HPMC, loaded with betamethasone as a model drug. The films were characterized based on their physical appearance, mechanical attributes, surface structure, and ultrastructure morphology via SEM, drug content, and in vitro drug release.

Results: Films without the drug showed greater irregularities and roughness compared to the drug-loaded films. The physical properties of the formulations improved through 3D printing.

Conclusion: By using 3D printing methods in pharmaceuticals, the treatment procedure would be very acceptable to the patient and increases the patient's adherence to treatment and is useful for personal drug delivery. **DOI: 10.61186/ibj.5055**

Keywords: Flagellin, Urinary tract infections, Uropathogenic *Escherichia coli*, Vaccines

Corresponding Author: Hossein Rezvan
Department of Pathobiology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine Bu-Ali University, Hamedan
ORCID ID: 0000-0002-9328-0245

INTRODUCTION

Chronic oral ulcerative lesions are characterized by discomfort and pain, which lead to significant nutritional deficiencies. These lesions can occur in various diseases, including immunobullous disorders^[2]. Currently, common therapies for oral ulcers involve mouthwashes, creams, or ointments. However, these methods often show limited effectiveness due to insufficient contact with the lesion. Moreover, existing buccal DDS allow for simultaneous food and drink consumption.

List of Abbreviations:

3D: three-dimensional; **DDS:** drug delivery system; **FDA:** Food and Drug Administration; **HPLC:** high-performance liquid chromatography; **HPMC:** hydroxypropyl methylcellulose; **OF:** oral film; **PVA:** polyvinyl alcohol; **PVP:** polyvinylpyrrolidone; **SEM:** scanning electron microscopy; **SSE:** semi-solid extrusion; **SSF:** simulated saliva fluid; **USP:** United States Pharmacopeia

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