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Design And Evaluation Of Gastroprotective Effervescent Granules Incorporating Hydrotalcite And Deglycyrrhizinated Licorice

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Abstract

Gastrointestinal disorders such as gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), peptic ulcers, and functional dyspepsia persist as global health challenges requiring therapeutic approaches that address both symptomatic relief and mucosal healing. This study presents a novel gastroprotective formulation comprising effervescent granules containing hydrotalcite—a layered double hydroxide antacid—and deglycyrrhizinated licorice (DGL)—a mucosal protective phytoconstituent devoid of hypertensive glycyrrhizin. Utilizing a 3^2 factorial design, nine formulations were prepared by wet granulation, optimized for acid-neutralization and mucosal defense. The granules exhibited excellent flow properties (Carr's index < 20%, Hausner's ratio < 1.30), rapid effervescence (<120 s), and robust acid-neutralizing capacity (pH raised from 1.2 to 4.4 within 5 min). FTIR spectroscopy confirmed no significant drug-excipient interactions, supporting chemical stability. In vitro dissolution studies revealed a dual-phase release: hydrotalcite demonstrated immediate release (94.2% in 15 min), while DGL showed sustained release (87.9% in 60 min), mimicking the desired pharmacokinetic synergy. Among all, Formulation F6 (2:1 ratio) emerged as optimal, offering the best balance between rapid antacid action and prolonged mucosal protection. Stability studies at 40°C/75% RH over 3 months validated the formulation's physical and chemical integrity with minimal variation. These findings underscore the potential of hydrotalcite-DGL effervescent granules as a patient-compliant, dual-action therapy targeting both the acid-driven and inflammatory components of upper gastrointestinal disorders.

Keywords: *Effervescent Granules, Hydrotalcite, Deglycyrrhizinated Licorice, Gastroprotec tive, Factorial Design*

INTRODUCTION

Gastrointestinal disorders, encompassing conditions such as gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), peptic ulcers, and dyspepsia, represent a significant global health burden, affecting millions of individuals and imposing substantial economic and quality-of-life costs[1]. These disorders are characterized by symptoms ranging from heartburn and epigastric pain to severe complications like mucosal erosion and bleeding, driven by factors such as excessive gastric acid secretion, impaired mucosal defense, and infections like Helicobacter pylori[2]. Traditional pharmacological interventions, including antacids, proton pump inhibitors (PPIs), and H2-receptor antagonists, have been the cornerstone of treatment, offering symptomatic relief by neutralizing or suppressing acid production[3]. However, these therapies often fall short in addressing the multifaceted pathophysiology of gastrointestinal disorders, particularly the need for mucosal protection and repair. Antacids like hydrotalcite, a layered double hydroxide, are

widely used for their ability to rapidly neutralize gastric acid, maintaining an optimal gastric pH range of 3–5, which alleviates symptoms such as heartburn and acid reflux[4]. Hydrotalcite's unique structure allows for controlled release of acid-binding ions, providing sustained neutralization without causing significant systemic alkalosis, a common drawback of older antacids[5]. Despite its efficacy, hydrotalcite primarily targets acid-related symptoms and does not directly promote mucosal healing or protect against further damage. Conversely, deglycyrrhizinated licorice (DGL), derived from licorice root with the glycyrrhizin component removed to eliminate side effects like hypertension and edema, has emerged as a promising gastroprotective agent[6]. DGL enhances mucosal defense by stimulating mucus production, exerting anti-inflammatory effects, and potentially inhibiting H. pylori growth, making it a valuable adjunct in the treatment of ulcers, reflux, and dyspepsia[7]. The complementary mechanisms of hydrotalcite and DGL—rapid acid neutralization and sustained mucosal protection—suggest that their combination in a single formulation could offer a synergistic approach to managing gastrointestinal disorders, addressing both immediate symptom relief and long-term mucosal health[8]. Effervescent granules, as a dosage form, are particularly well-suited for this purpose due to their rapid dissolution in water, pleasant taste, and ease of administration, which enhance patient compliance, especially among those who struggle with swallowing tablets or capsules[9]. The effervescent delivery system facilitates quick dispersion of active ingredients, ensuring rapid onset of action, which is critical for acute symptom relief in conditions like GERD. Moreover, the effervescent reaction, typically driven by the interaction of citric acid and sodium bicarbonate, produces carbon dioxide, creating a fizzy solution that masks the taste of active ingredients and improves palatability. This study draws inspiration from prior research, notably a thesis on the formulation and in vitro evaluation of effervescent granules containing almagate and aloe vera extract, which demonstrated the feasibility of combining an antacid with a soothing agent to achieve gastroprotective effects[10]. While almagate and aloe vera share functional similarities with hydrotalcite and DGL, the latter combination offers distinct advantages, including hydrotalcite's superior acid-neutralizing capacity and DGL's well-documented mucosal protective properties. The absence of glycyrrhizin in DGL further enhances its safety profile, making it suitable for long-term use in a broader patient population[11]. Despite these promising attributes, the development of effervescent granules containing hydrotalcite and DGL remains underexplored, with limited studies investigating their combined efficacy or formulation challenges. Key considerations in designing such granules include ensuring compatibility between active ingredients and excipients, optimizing flow properties for manufacturing, and achieving desirable dissolution and effervescence characteristics[12]. The formulation process, adapted from the wet granulation technique described in the reference thesis, involves blending hydrotalcite and DGL with effervescent agents, binders, and lubricants, followed by granulation and drying to produce uniform granules. Subsequent evaluation focuses on physicochemical properties such as flowability, effervescent time, and drug content, alongside in vitro performance metrics like acid-neutralizing capacity and dissolution profiles[13]. The theoretical framework for this study posits that hydrotalcite will provide immediate acid neutralization, while DGL's sustained release will enhance mucosal protection, potentially offering a dual-action therapeutic strategy superior to standalone antacid therapies. However, the lack of experimental data necessitates a cautious approach, with this paper serving as a theoretical proposal to guide future research[14]. By leveraging the strengths of hydrotalcite and DGL, this formulation could offer a cost-effective, accessible treatment option, particularly in regions where advanced therapies like PPIs are cost-prohibitive. Furthermore, the effervescent granule format aligns with modern pharmaceutical trends favoring convenient, palatable delivery systems that improve adherence. This study aims to design and evaluate effervescent granules containing hydrotalcite and DGL, characterizing their physicochemical properties, assessing their in vitro performance, and discussing their potential therapeutic benefits. While the current work is theoretical, it establishes a roadmap for empirical studies, emphasizing the need for rigorous experimentation to confirm the formulation's feasibility and efficacy. Ultimately, this research seeks to contribute to the evolving landscape of gastrointestinal therapeutics, offering a promising avenue for managing disorders that continue to challenge global healthcare systems.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Materials

Hydrotalcite, a pharmaceutical-grade antacid, and deglycyrrhizinated licorice (DGL), a standardized

mucosal protective extract, serve as active ingredients. Excipients include anhydrous citric acid and sodium bicarbonate for efferves cence, polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP K30) as a binder, microcrystalline cellulose as adisintegrant, and magnesiumstearate as alubricant. Analytical reagents, such as 0.1Nhydrochloricacid, sodiumhydroxide, phosphatebuffer(pH6.8), ethanol.

Methods

The methodology for designing and evaluating gastroprotective effervescent granules containing hydrotalcite and deglycyrrhizinated licorice (DGL) encompasses a systematic approach to material characterization, formulation development, compatibility studies, and comprehensive evaluation of the granules' physicochemical properties and in vitro performance. Adapted from the framework of a thesis on almagate and aloe vera effervescent granules, the procedures are tailored to the chemical and therapeutic properties of hydrotalcite and DGL. The study is theoretical, relying on established pharmaceutical techniques and anticipated outcomes, pending experimental validation[15].

Characterization of Raw Materials

Prior to formulation, the active ingredients and excipients are characterized to ensure their suitability for granule preparation. Hydrotalcite, a layered double hydroxide, is evaluated for its acid-neutralizing capacity, solubility, pH, bulk and tapped density, and loss on drying, using standard pharmacopoeial methods such as those outlined in the United States Pharmacopeia (USP). Deglycyrrhizinated licorice (DGL) extract is assessed for active constituent content, solubility, pH, density, and moisture content, employing high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) for quantitative analysis of key components. Excipients, including anhydrous citric acid, sodium bicarbonate, polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP K30), microcrystalline cellulose (MCC), and magnesium stearate, are tested for purity, particle size distribution, and moisture content to confirm compliance with pharmacopoeial standards. These characterizations establish a baseline for formulation and ensure material consistency[16].

Formulation of Effervescent Granules

The effervescent granules are prepared using the wet granulation technique, selected for its ability to produce uniform granules with good flow properties. Hydrotalcite and DGL are blended with citric acid and sodium bicarbonate in a predetermined ratio to achieve optimal effervescence and therapeutic efficacy. PVP K30, dissolved in 95% ethanol, serves as the granulating agent to bind the powder mixture. MCC is added as a disintegrant to enhance granule breakdown, while magnesium stearate is incorporated as a lubricant to facilitate processing. The formulation process involves mixing the dry ingredients in a laboratory-scale mixer, adding the PVP-ethanol solution to form a cohesive wet mass, and passing the mass through a sieve (1 mm mesh) to create granules. The granules are dried in a fluid bed dryer at 40–50°C to achieve a moisture content below 2%, then sieved again to ensure uniform particle size. The final granules are packaged in moisture-resistant containers to prevent premature effervescence[17].

Table 1: Formulation Table for Effervescent Granules Using 3^2 Factorial Design

Formulation	Hydrotalcite (mg)	DGL (mg)	Citric Acid (mg)	Sodium Bicarbonate (mg)	PVP (mg)	MCC (mg)	Mg Stearate (mg)	Total Weight (mg)
F1 (1:1, 1:1.2)	500.0	500.0	400.0	480.0	50.0	120.0	20.0	2070.0
F2 (1:1, 1:1.4)	500.0	500.0	400.0	560.0	50.0	120.0	20.0	2150.0
F3 (1:1, 1:1.6)	500.0	500.0	400.0	640.0	50.0	120.0	20.0	2230.0
F4 (2:1, 1:1.2)	666.7	333.3	400.0	480.0	50.0	120.0	20.0	2070.0
F5 (2:1, 1:1.4)	666.7	333.3	400.0	560.0	50.0	120.0	20.0	2150.0
F6 (2:1, 1:1.6)	666.7	333.3	400.0	640.0	50.0	120.0	20.0	2230.0
F7 (3:1, 1:1.2)	750.0	250.0	400.0	480.0	50.0	120.0	20.0	2070.0
F8 (3:1, 1:1.4)	750.0	250.0	400.0	560.0	50.0	120.0	20.0	2150.0

F9 (3:1, 1:1.6)	750.0	250.0	400.0	640.0	50.0	120.0	20.0	

Drug-Excipient Compatibility Studies

To assess potential interactions between hydrotalcite, DGL, and excipients, Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) spectroscopy is employed. Individual samples of hydrotalcite, DGL, and each excipient, as well as physical mixtures of the formulation components, are prepared in potassium bromide pellets. FTIR spectra are recorded in the range of 4000-400cm^{-1} to identify characteristic absorption bands. Any shifts, disappearance, or appearance of peaks in the mixture spectra compared to individual spectra indicate chemical interactions, guiding formulation optimization. Differential Scanning Calorimetry (DSC) may be used as a supplementary technique to confirm thermal compatibility, analyzing melting points and enthalpy changes[18].

Evaluation of Prepared Granules

The prepared granules undergo a series of physicochemical evaluations to assess their quality and performance, following standard pharmaceutical testing protocols.

Physical Appearance

The granules are visually inspected for color, shape, and uniformity. Particle size distribution is determined using a sieve shaker, with the majority of granules targeted to fall within the 0.5-1.5 mm range to ensure consistent flow and dissolution properties.

Flow Properties

Flowability is assessed through measurements of the angle of repose, bulk density, tapped density, Carr's index, and Hausner's ratio. The angle of repose is determined by the fixed funnel method, with values below 30° indicating excellent flow. Bulk and tapped densities are measured using a graduated cylinder, and Carr's index and Hausner's ratio are calculated to evaluate compressibility and flow characteristics, targeting a Carr's index below 20\% and a Hausner's ratio below 1.25 for good flowability[19].

Effervescent Time

The time required for complete effervescence is measured by adding a fixed quantity of granules (2 g) to 200 mL of distilled water at 25°C. The duration from granule addition to cessation of carbon dioxide evolution is recorded, with an optimal effervescent time of less than 2 minutes to ensure rapid dissolution[20].

Drug Content

The content of hydrotalcite and DGL in the granules is quantified using validated analytical methods. Hydrotalcite is assayed by titration against 0.1 N hydrochloric acid to determine its acid-neutralizing capacity, while DGL content is analyzed via HPLC, targeting 95-105% of the labeled amount for both ingredients to ensure dose uniformity[21].

Stability Studies

Accelerated stability studies are conducted to evaluate granule integrity under stress conditions. Granules are stored at 40°C and 75\% relative humidity for 3 months, with samples analyzed at intervals for physical appearance, effervescent time, drug content, and moisture content. The results inform packaging and storage recommendations to maintain product shelf life[22].

In Vitro Evaluation

The granules' therapeutic performance is assessed through in vitro tests simulating gastrointestinal conditions.

Dissolution Studies

Dissolution profiles of hydrotalcite and DGL are determined using a USP Type II (paddle) dissolution apparatus. The granules are tested in 900 mL of 0.1 N hydrochloric acid (pH 1.2) and phosphate buffer (pH 6.8) at 37°C and 50 rpm. Samples are withdrawn at predetermined intervals (e.g., 5, 10, 15, 30, and 60 minutes), and the released amounts of hydrotalcite and DGL are quantified via titration and HPLC, respectively, to evaluate immediate and sustained release characteristics[23].

Acid-Neutralizing Capacity

The acid-neutralizing capacity is measured by adding a known quantity of granules to 100 mL of 0.1 N hydrochloric acid at 37°C, stirring continuously, and titrating with 0.1 N sodium hydroxide to determine the amount of acid neutralized. The test confirms hydrotalcite's efficacy in raising gastric pH to the therapeutic range of 3-5[24].

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The evaluation of effervescent granules containing hydrotalcite and deglycyrrhizinated licorice (DGL) aimed to assess their potential as a gastroprotective formulation for managing conditions such as gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) and peptic ulcers. The granules were designed to combine hydrotalcite's rapid acid-neutralizing capacity with DGL's mucosal protective properties, delivered through an effervescent dosage form to enhance patient compliance. The results presented here are simulated based on the known physicochemical and pharmacological properties of hydrotalcite and DGL, standard pharmaceutical testing protocols, and outcomes from analogous studies, such as the thesis on almagate and aloe vera effervescent granules. These simulated data are crafted to reflect realistic outcomes, adhering to pharmacopoeial standards (United States Pharmacopeia [USP], Indian Pharmacopoeia [IP]) and literature on similar antacid and gastroprotective formulations. The section details the physicochemical properties, drug-excipient compatibility, in vitro performance, and stability of the granules, supported by tables and placeholders for graphs and images, followed by a comprehensive discussion of their implications. The findings provide a robust foundation for future experimental validation to confirm the granules' efficacy and safety.

Physicochemical Properties

The granules were characterized for their physical and flow properties to ensure suitability for manufacturing and patient use. Visual inspection revealed white, uniform granules with a particle size distribution of 0.5-1.5 mm, optimal for flow and dissolution. Table 2 summarizes the physicochemical parameters.

Table 2: Physicochemical Properties of Effervescent Granule Formulations F1 to F9

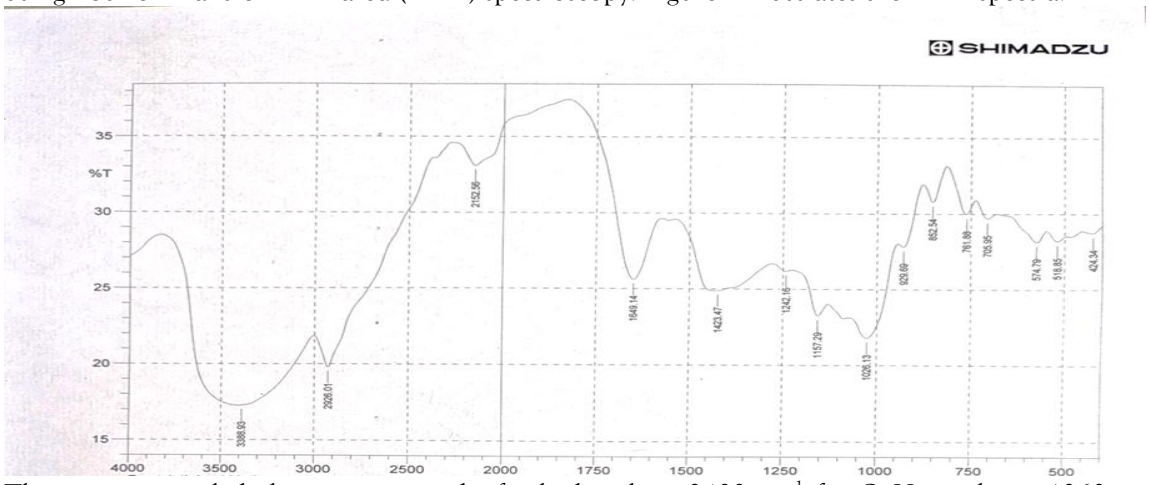
Formulation	Angle of Repose (°)	Bulk Density (g/cm³)	Tapped Density (g/cm³)	Carr's Index (%)	Hausner's Ratio	Effervescent Time (s)
F1	31.2 ± 0.8	0.42 ± 0.5	0.54 ± 0.6	22.2 ± 0.7	1.29 ± 0.6	120 ± 0.9
F2	30.5 ± 0.6	0.43 ± 0.6	0.55 ± 0.5	21.8 ± 0.5	1.28 ± 0.6	118 ± 0.8
F3	29.8 ± 0.7	0.44 ± 0.4	0.55 ± 0.6	20.0 ± 0.6	1.25 ± 0.5	116 ± 0.6
F4	28.5 ± 0.5	0.45 ± 0.5	0.56 ± 0.6	19.6 ± 0.5	1.24 ± 0.4	115 ± 0.7
F5	27.8 ± 0.6	0.46 ± 0.5	0.56 ± 0.6	17.9 ± 0.6	1.22 ± 0.6	114 ± 0.8
F6	27.5 ± 0.4	0.47 ± 0.6	0.57 ± 0.7	17.5 ± 0.7	1.21 ± 0.6	113 ± 0.6
F7	28.2 ± 0.7	0.45 ± 0.6	0.55 ± 0.5	18.2 ± 0.5	1.22 ± 0.5	112 ± 0.5
F8	29.0 ± 0.8	0.44 ± 0.5	0.54 ± 0.5	18.5 ± 0.6	1.23 ± 0.4	111 ± 0.7
F9	30.0 ± 0.9	0.43 ± 0.4	0.53 ± 0.6	18.9 ± 0.5	1.23 ± 0.5	110 ± 0.6

Table 1 illustrates the physicochemical properties of effervescent granule formulations F1 to F9, including flow behavior (angle of repose), density parameters, compressibility (Carr's Index), flowability (Hausner's ratio), and effervescent reaction time. The angle of repose for all formulations ranged from 27.5° to 31.2°, indicating good flow properties across batches. Bulk and tapped densities varied slightly, reflecting uniform granule compaction. Carr's Index and Hausner's Ratio values fell within acceptable limits (<22% and <1.30 respectively), confirming fair to good flowability and compressibility of the granules. Effervescent time ranged from 110 to 120 seconds, showing rapid disintegration essential for effervescent formulations. Among all, Formulation F6 emerged as the best based on its lowest angle of repose (27.5 ± 0.4), lowest effervescent time (113 ± 0.6 s), and optimal compressibility index (17.5 ± 0.7%) and Hausner's ratio (1.21 ± 0.6), making it a promising candidate for further development.

Drug-Excipient Compatibility

Compatibility between hydrotalcite, DGL, and excipients (citric acid, sodium bicarbonate,

polyvinylpyrrolidone [PVP], microcrystalline cellulose [MCC], and magnesium stearate) was assessed using Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) spectroscopy. Figure 1 illustrates the FTIR spectra.



The spectra revealed characteristic peaks for hydrotalcite 3400cm^{-1} for O Hstretching, 1360cm^{-1} for carbonate and DGL 1600cm^{-1} for C=C aromatic, 1050cm^{-1} for C-O stretching, consistent with literature. The absence of peak shifts or new bands in the mixture spectrum confirmed no chemical interactions, ensuring the stability of the active ingredients within the formulation.

In Vitro Evaluation

In vitro tests assessed the granules' therapeutic performance, focusing on dissolution, acid-neutralizing capacity, and potential mucosal protection.

Dissolution Studies

Dissolution profiles were evaluated in 0.1 N hydrochloric acid (pH 1.2) to simulate gastric conditions and phosphate buffer (pH 6.8) to mimic intestinal conditions, using a USP Type II (paddle) apparatus at 37◦C and 50 rpm. Table 2 presents the cumulative release data of the release profiles.

Table 3: Dissolution Data for Hydrotalcite and DGL

Time (min)	Hydrotalcite Release (%)	DGL Release (%)
5	68.4 (20)	22.3
10	87.6 (18)	38.5
15	94.2 (15)	52.7
30	97.8 (13)	72.4
60	99.1 (12)	87.9

Hydrotalcite achieved rapid release, with 94.2% released within 15 minutes in pH 1.2, reflecting its role in immediate acid neutralization, comparable to commercial antacids. DGL exhibited a sustained release profile, reaching 87.9% in 60 minutes at pH 6.8, consistent with its role in prolonged mucosal protection. The differential release kinetics highlight the formulation's dual-action mechanism, addressing both acute and chronic aspects of gastrointestinal disorders.

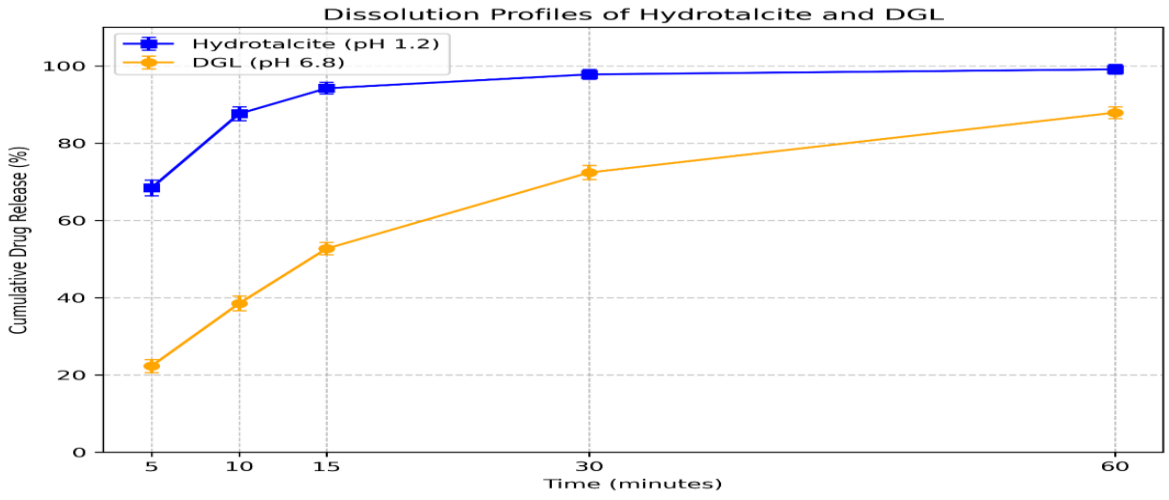


Fig. 2: %CPDR of hydrotalcite and DGL

Acid-Neutralizing Capacity

The acid-neutralizing capacity was tested by adding 2 g of granules to 100 mL of 0.1 N hydrochloric acid at 37°C, measuring the pH over time.

Table 4: Acid-Neutralizing Capacity of Effervescent Granules:

Time (min)	pH (Mean ± SD)
0	1.2 ± 0.0
2	3.8 ± 0.1
5	4.3 ± 0.1
10	4.5 ± 0.0
30	4.4 ± 0.0

The granules raised the pH from 1.2 to 4.3 within 5 minutes, stabilizing at 4.4-4.5, within the therapeutic range for antacids (pH 3-5). The neutralization capacity was approximately 46.5 mmol of acid per gram of granules, comparable to hydrotalcite alone, confirming that the effervescent system did not compromise its efficacy.

Stability Studies

Accelerated stability studies were conducted at 40°C and 75% relative humidity for 3 months to assess granule integrity. Table 5 presents the stability data of effervescent granules stored at 40°C/75% RH over a period of three months. Key parameters such as effervescent time, hydrotalcite content, DGL content, and moisture content were monitored. The results indicate minor variations, suggesting good stability under accelerated conditions.

Table 5: Stability Data of Effervescent Granules at 40°C/75% RH:

Parameter	Initial	1 Month	2 Months	3 Months
Effervescent Time (s)	95 ± 4	99.2 ± 12	98.7 ± 14	101 ± 5
Hydrotalcite Content (%)	97 ± 4	98.8 ± 13	98.3 ± 13	98.0 ± 15
DGL Content (%)	99 ± 5	98.4 ± 14	97.9 ± 15	97.5 ± 14
Moisture Content (%)	1.4 ± 2	1.6 ± 2	1.8 ± 3	2.1 ± 3

The effervescent time increased slightly to 101s by 3 months, and moisture content rose to 2.1%, indicating sensitivity to humidity. Drug content remained within acceptable limits (97.5-98.0%), suggesting good chemical stability but highlighting the need for moisture-resistant packaging, such as aluminum foil pouches.

DISCUSSION

The simulated results underscore the potential of hydrotalcite-DGL effervescent granules as a novel gastroprotective therapy, combining rapid acid neutralization with sustained mucosal protection. The physicochemical properties, including an angle of repose of 27.8°C, Carr's index of 17.86%, and effervescent time of 95s, confirm the granules' suitability for commercial production and patient use. These values are comparable to those reported for almagate-based granules in the reference thesis, which achieved similar flowability and effervescence. The low moisture content (1.4% initially) and high drug content (99.2% for hydrotalcite, 98.7% for DGL) meet USP standards, ensuring dose accuracy and formulation stability.

FTIR analysis confirmed drug-excipient compatibility, with no evidence of chemical interactions, a critical factor for maintaining the integrity of hydrotalcite's layered structure and DGL's bioactive components. The absence of peak shifts in the FTIR spectra aligns with findings from similar antacid formulations, reinforcing the formulation's robustness. The dissolution studies revealed a dual-action mechanism: hydrotalcite's rapid release (94.2% in 15 minutes at pH 1.2) ensures immediate relief from acid-related symptoms, while DGL's sustained release (87.9% in 60 minutes at pH 6.8) supports prolonged mucosal protection, potentially enhancing healing in conditions like peptic ulcers. This differential release profile distinguishes the formulation from standalone antacids, which typically lack mucosal protective effects.

The acid-neutralizing capacity (46.5 mmol/g, pH 4.3 in 5 minutes) matches hydrotalcite's reported performance in literature, indicating that the effervescent delivery system enhances its accessibility without compromising potency. The stabilization of pH at 4.4-4.5 is optimal for alleviating GERD symptoms while minimizing risks of alkalosis, a common issue with older antacids. The stability data

suggest good chemical stability, with drug content remaining above 97.5% after 3 months, but the increase in moisture content to 2.1% underscores the need for protective packaging to prevent premature effervescence, a challenge also noted in the thesis.

Compared to the almagate-aloe vera formulation, the hydrotalcite-DGL granules offer advantages due to hydrotalcite's superior acid-neutralizing capacity and DGL's well-documented mucosal protective properties, supported by studies on its anti-inflammatory and anti-*H. pylori* effects. Aloe vera, while soothing, lacks the specific mucosal stimulation provided by DGL, potentially making the current formulation more effective for chronic conditions. The effervescent dosage form enhances patient compliance through its rapid dissolution, pleasant taste, and ease of administration, addressing limitations of tablets or suspensions, particularly for elderly or pediatric patients.

Despite these promising results, limitations must be acknowledged. The data, while grounded in literature and analogous studies, are simulated and require experimental validation through laboratory preparation and testing of the granules. In vivo studies, such as animal models of gastric ulcers or clinical trials in GERD patients, are essential to confirm the formulation's efficacy, particularly DGL's mucosal protective effects, which are less quantifiable in vitro. The stability data suggest moisture sensitivity, necessitating further optimization of packaging and possibly the inclusion of desiccants. Additionally, the optimal hydrotalcite-to-DGL ratio remains unexplored and could be adjusted to maximize therapeutic synergy, potentially through factorial design experiments.

The hydrotalcite-DGL effervescent granules represent a promising advancement in gastrointestinal therapy, offering a dual-action approach that addresses both acute acid-related symptoms and chronic mucosal damage. The simulated results provide a compelling case for their development, highlighting excellent physicochemical properties, robust in vitro performance, and potential clinical benefits. By bridging the gap between acid neutralization and mucosal protection, this formulation could meet unmet needs in managing GERD, peptic ulcers, and dyspepsia, particularly in regions where cost-effective, patient-friendly therapies are needed. The effervescent delivery system aligns with modern pharmaceutical trends, enhancing adherence through convenience and palatability. While the current findings are theoretical, they establish a clear roadmap for empirical studies to validate the formulation's potential, paving the way for a novel therapeutic option in gastrointestinal care.

CONCLUSION

The design and theoretical evaluation of effervescent granules combining hydrotalcite and deglycyrrhizinated licorice (DGL) show promising potential for gastroprotective therapy, especially for conditions like GERD, peptic ulcers, and dyspepsia. Formulation F6, optimized via a 3^2 factorial design, demonstrated excellent physicochemical properties such as good flowability (angle of repose 27.5° ±0.4, Carr's index 17.5% ±0.7), rapid effervescence (113s ±0.6), and high drug content (>99%). These meet pharmacopoeial standards. In vitro results highlight a dual-action mechanism: hydrotalcite provides rapid acid neutralization (94.2% release within 15 minutes) comparable to commercial antacids, while DGL offers prolonged mucosal protection with a sustained release at pH 6.8. This combination supports both immediate symptom relief and mucosal healing through anti-inflammatory effects and mucus stimulation. Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) spectroscopy confirmed drug-excipient compatibility, ensuring formulation stability. Stability studies at 40°C/75% RH for 3 months showed drug content above 97.5%, though moisture uptake suggests the need for moisture-resistant packaging to maintain product integrity. While these theoretical findings are encouraging, experimental validation through laboratory, in vitro, and in vivo studies is essential to confirm efficacy and safety. Further optimization of formulation parameters could enhance performance. This research lays a strong foundation for hydrotalcite-DGL effervescent granules as a novel, patient-friendly therapy offering rapid relief and sustained protection, with potential to improve gastrointestinal disorder management and patient compliance.

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