

A Review: Buccal Drug Delivery System and Method of Preparation and Evaluation of Buccal Patch.

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ABSTRACT: The oral cavity is an attractive site for drug delivery due to ease of administration and avoidance of possible drug deterioration in gastrointestinal tract and first-pass metabolism. Buccal drug delivery accurately refers to the delivery of drugs through buccal mucosa to affect systemic pharmacological actions. Buccal bioadhesive films, releasing topical drugs in the oral cavity at a slow and predetermined rate, provide clear advantages over traditional dosage forms for treatment of many diseases. Buccal patch is a non-dissolving thin matrix modified release dosage form which was developed to administer into the flattened and less co-operative patient.^[1] The buccal mucosa is very suitable for a bioadhesion system because of a smooth and relatively immobile surface and accessibility. Therefore, drugs with a short biological half life. To overcome the drawbacks of tablets flexible patches for use in the mouth have been developed. This review article aims to introduce buccal drug delivery system and information about buccal patches. Discuss on the methodology in evaluating buccal patches.

KEYWORDS: buccal drug system, buccal patch, Method of buccal patches, Evaluation of buccal patch.

I. INTRODUCTION

Buccal drug delivery: The pharmaceutical industry has caused considerable interest making it a major participant in the healthcare industry. The advances and progress made by the pharmaceutical industry have greatly contributed in terms of treatment of disease, thereby enhancing the quality of life. Transmucosal routes of drug delivery which comprise of the mucosal linings of the nasal, rectal, vaginal, ocular, and oral cavity offer excellent opportunities and potential advantages over peroral administration for systemic drug delivery.^[1]

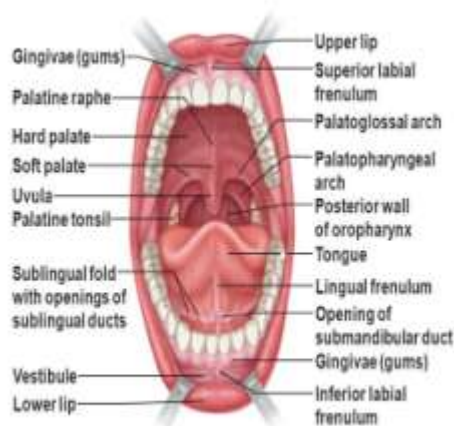


Fig : 1 oral cavity

mucoadhesive drug delivery system

Mucoadhesive drug delivery systems offer benefits over conventional delivery methods in terms of extended residence time of the drug at the site of application, a relatively large permeability of the mucus membranes that allow rapid uptake of a drug into the systemic circulation, and enhanced bioavailability of therapeutic agents resulting from the avoidance of some of the body's natural defense mechanisms.^[2] Mucoadhesion, defined as the ability to adhere to the mucus gel layer, is a key element in the design of these drug delivery systems. Buccal mucosa is an attractive route for systemic delivery of drugs since it is relatively permeable, with rich blood supply. The problems such as high first-pass metabolism and drug degradation in the harsh gastrointestinal environment can be circumvented by administering the drug via the buccal route and, buccal drug absorption can be promptly terminated in case of toxicity by removing the dosage form from the buccal cavity.

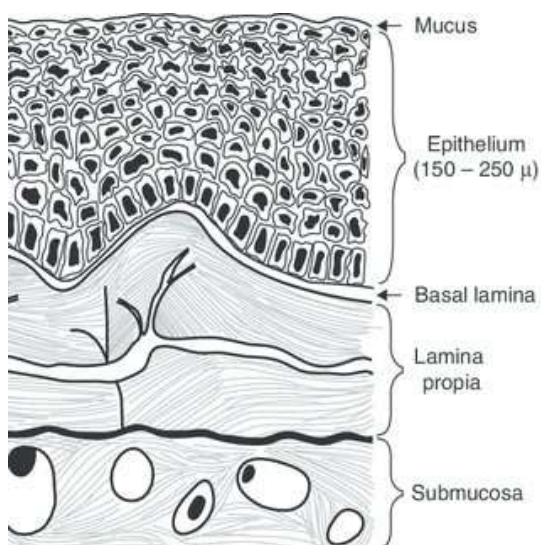


Fig:2 Oral mucosa

Structure of Oral Mucosa:

The oral mucosa is comprised of squamous stratified (layered) epithelium, basement membrane, the lamina propria and submucosa. It also contains many sensory receptors including the taste receptors of the tongue.[3]

Table 1: Thickness and surface area of oral cavity

Oral cavity membrane	Thickness (mm)	Surface area (cm ²)
Buccal mucosa	500-600	5.2
Sublingual mucosa	100-200	26.5
Gingival mucosa	200	--
Palatal	250	20.1

The mucoadhesive drug delivery system in the mucus membrane of oral cavity can be categorized into three delivery systems:[11]

- Sublingual delivery
- Buccal delivery
- Local delivery

These oral sites provide the high blood supply for the greater absorption of drug with sufficient permeability. From these three sites of oral mucoadhesive drug delivery system, the buccal delivery is the most convenient site.

ADVANTAGES OF MUCOADHESIVE BUCCAL DRUG DELIVERY SYSTEM^[10]

Mucoadhesive via buccal route offers following advantages: -

- Ease of drug administration and termination of drug action can be easily accomplished.
- Permits localization or retention of the drug to the specified area of oral cavity for extended period of time.
- Bypass hepatic first pass metabolism.
- Drugs with poor bioavailability owing to the high first pass metabolism can be administered conveniently.
- Ease of drug administration to unconscious patients.
- Water content of saliva is being capable to ensure drug dissolution.

STRUCTURE AND DESIGN OF BUCCAL DOSAGE FORM:^[3]

Matrix type: The buccal patch designed in a matrix configuration contains drug, adhesive, and additives mixed together.

Reservoir type: The buccal patch designed in a reservoir system contains a cavity for the drug and additives separate from the adhesive. An impermeable backing is applied to control the direction of drug delivery; to reduce patch deformation and disintegration while in the mouth; and to prevent drug loss.

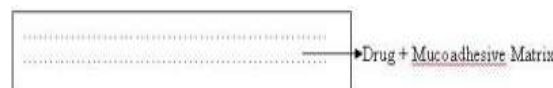


Fig. 3: Buccal patch designed for bidirectional drug



Fig. 4: Buccal patch designed for unidirectional drug

TYPES OF BUCCAL DOSAGE FORM:

1. Buccalbioadhesive tablets: Buccalbioadhesive tablets are dry dosage forms that are to be moistened prior to placing in contact with buccal mucosa. Double and multilayered tablets are already formulated using bioadhesive polymers and excipients. The two buccalbioadhesive tablets commercially available buccoadhesive tablets in UK are Bucastem (Nitroglycerine) and SuscardbucaP (Prochloroperazine).^[10]
2. Buccalbioadhesive patches and films: Buccalbioadhesive patches consists of two poly laminates or multilayered thin film round or oval as consisting of basically of bioadhesive

polymeric layer and impermeable backing layer to provide unidirectional flow of drug across buccal mucosa. Buccal bioadhesive films are formulated by incorporating the drug in alcohol solution of bioadhesive polymer.^[10]

Table 2: List of permeation enhancers^[8]

Permeation Enhancers	
Chelators	EDTA, Citric acid, Sodium salicylate, Methoxy salicylates.
Surfactants	Sodium lauryl sulphate, Polyoxyethylene, Polyoxyethylene-9-laurylether, Polyoxyethylene-20-cetylother, Benzalkonium chloride, 23-lauryl ether, Cetylpyridinium chloride, Cetyltrimethyl ammonium bromide.
Bile salts	Sodium glycocholate, Sodium deoxycholate, Sodium taurocholate, Sodium glycodeoxycholate, Sodium taurodeoxycholate

An ideal polymer for buccoadhesive drug delivery systems should have following Characteristics.^[4]

It should be inert and compatible with the environment.

- The polymer and its degradation products should be non-toxic absorbable from the mucous layer.
 - It should adhere quickly to moist tissue surface and should possess some site specificity.
 - The polymer must not decompose on storage or during the shelf life of the dosage form
- The polymer should be easily available in the market and economical.
- It should allow easy incorporation of drug in to the formulation.

Advantages of Buccal Patches:^[4]

1. The oral mucosa has a rich blood supply. Drugs are absorbed from the oral cavity through the oral mucosa, and transported through the deep lingual

or facial vein, internal jugular vein and brachiocephalic vein into the systemic circulation.

2. Buccal administration, the drug gains direct entry into the systemic circulation thereby bypassing the first pass effect. Contact with the digestive fluids of gastrointestinal tract is avoided which might be unsuitable for stability of many drugs like insulin or other proteins, peptides and steroids. In addition, the rate of drug absorption is not influenced by food or gastric emptying rate.

3. The area of buccal membrane is sufficiently large to allow a delivery system to be placed at different occasions, additionally; there are two areas of buccal membranes per mouth, which would allow buccal drug delivery systems to be placed, alternatively on the left and right buccal membranes.

4. Buccal patch has been well known for its good accessibility to the membranes that line the oral cavity, which makes application the oral cavity, which makes application painless and with comfort.

5. Patients can control the period of administration or terminate delivery in case of emergencies. The buccal drug delivery systems easily administered into the buccal cavity. The novel buccal dosage forms exhibit better patient compliance.

Limitation of buccal drug administration^[10]

There is certain limitation via drug administered through buccal route: -

- Drugs with ample dose are often difficult to be administered.
- Possibility of the patients to swallow the tablets being forgotten.
- Eating and drinking may be restricted till the end of drug release.
- This route is unacceptable for those drugs, which are unstable at pH of buccal environment.
- This route cannot administer drugs, which irritate the mucosa or have a bitter or unpleasant taste.
- Limited surface area is available for absorption

Mechanism of bioadhesion: Bioadhesion is an interfacial phenomenon in which two materials, at least one of which is biological, are held together by means of interfacial forces. The attachment could be between an artificial material and biological substrate, such as adhesion between polymer and/or copolymer and a biological membrane. In case of polymer attached to the mucin layer of the mucosal tissue, the term

“mucoadhesion” is employed. “Bioadhesive” is defined as a substance that is capable of interacting with biological material and being retained on them or holding them together for extended period of time.^[21]

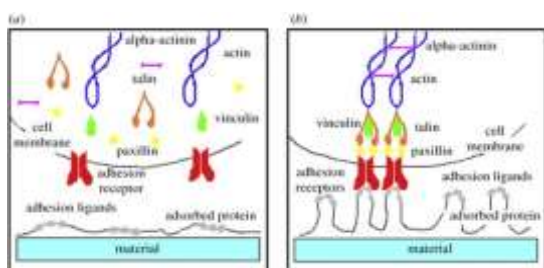


Fig. 5: bioadhesive mechanism

Characteristics of an Ideal Buccoadhesive System:^[10]

An ideal buccal adhesive system should possess the following characteristics:

1. Quick adherence to the buccal mucosa and sufficient mechanical strength.
2. Drug release in a controlled fashion.
3. Facilitates the rate and extent of drug absorption.
4. Should have good patient compliance.
5. Should not hinder normal functions such as talking, eating and drinking.
6. Should accomplish unidirectional release of drug towards the mucosa.
7. Should not aid in development of secondary infections such as dental caries.
8. Possess a wide margin of safety both locally and systemically.
9. Should have good resistance to the flushing action of saliva.

Advantages of Buccal Drug Delivery System:^[3]

Drug administration via buccal mucosa offers several distinct advantages:

1. The buccal mucosa is relatively permeable with a rich blood supply, robust in comparison to the other mucosal tissues.
2. Bypass the first-pass effect and non-exposure of the drugs to the gastrointestinal fluids.
3. Easy access to the membrane sites so that the delivery system can be applied, localized and removed easily.
4. Improve the performance of many drugs, as they are having prolonged contact time with the mucosa.
5. High patient acceptance compared to other non-oral routes of drug administration.
6. Tolerance (in comparison with the nasal mucosa and skin) to potential sensitizers.

7. Increased residence time combined with controlled API release may lead to lower administration frequency.

8. Additionally significant cost reductions may be achieved and dose-related side effects may be reduced due to API localization at the disease site.

9. As a result of adhesion and intimate contact, the formulation stays longer at the delivery site improving API bioavailability using lower API concentrations for disease treatment.

10. Harsh environmental factors that exist in oral delivery of a drug are circumvented by buccal drug delivery.

11. It offers a passive system of drug absorption and does not require any activation.

12. The presence of saliva ensures relatively large amount of water for drug dissolution unlike in case of rectal or transdermal routes.

Disadvantages of Buccal Drug Delivery System:^[7]

The main challenges of buccal administration are: 1. Limited absorption area- the total surface area of the membranes of the oral cavity available for drug absorption is 170 cm² of which ~50 cm² represents non-keratinized tissues, including buccal membrane.

2. Barrier properties of the mucosa.
3. The continuous secretion of the saliva (0.5-2/day) leads to subsequent dilution of the drug.
4. The hazard of choking by involuntarily swallowing the delivery system is a concern.
5. Swallowing of saliva can also potentially lead to the loss of dissolved or suspended drug and ultimately the involuntary removal of the dosage form.

II. METHOD OF PREPARATION

Two methods are used to prepare adhesive patches.

1. Solvent casting: In this method, all patch excipients including the drug co-dispersed in an organic solvent and coated onto a sheet of release liner. After solvent evaporation a thin layer of the protective backing material is laminated onto the sheet of coated release liner to form a laminate that is die-cut to form patches of the desired size and geometry evaluated.

2. Direct milling: In this, patches are manufactured without the use of solvents. Drug and excipients are mechanically mixed by direct milling or by kneading, usually without the presence of any liquids. After the mixing process, the resultant material is rolled on a release liner until the desired

thickness is achieved. The backing material is then laminated as previously described. While there are only minor or even no differences in patch performance between patches fabricated by the two processes, the solvent-free process is preferred because there is no possibility of residual solvents and no associated solvent-related health issues.

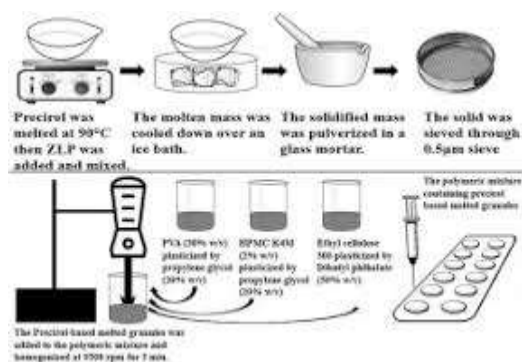


Fig:6 preparation of buccal patch

Composition of Buccal Patches:^[15]

A. Active ingredient.

B. **Polymers (adhesive layer):** Hydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, polyvinyl pyrrolidone, polyvinyl alcohol, carbopol and other mucoadhesive polymers.

C. **Diluents:** Lactose DC is selected as diluent for its high aqueous solubility, its flavouring characteristics, and its physico-mechanical properties, which make it suitable for direct compression. Other example: microcrystalline starch and starch.

D. **Sweetening agents:** Sucralose, aspartame, mannitol, etc.

E. **Flavouring agents:** Menthol, vanillin, clove oil, etc.

F. **Backing layer:** Ethyl cellulose, Poly vinyl alcohol etc.

G. **Penetration enhancer:** Cyano acrylate, etc.

H. **Plasticizers:** PEG-100, 400, propylene glycol, etc

III. EVALUATION PARAMETERS

The following tests are used to evaluate the Buccal Patches:

Drug Content Uniformity, Ex-Vivo Residence Time, Thickness Testing, In-vitro drug permeation studies, In-vitro release studies, Moisture absorption studies, Surface pH study, In-vitro bioadhesion measurement, In-vitro permeation through porcine buccal membrane, Stability in human saliva, FTIR studies etc water (15:85, v/v).

The flow rate was 2.0 ml/min and the run time 15 min. The retention time of TPL was 3.1 min. The TPL calibration curve, at concentrations varying from 5_g/ml to 100_g/ml.^[11]

1. **Surface pH:** Buccal patches are left to swell for 2 hr on the surface of an agar plate. The surface pH is measured by means of a pH paper placed on the surface of the swollen patch.^[24]

2. **Thickness measurements:** The thickness of each film is measured at five different locations (centre and four corners) using an electronic digital micrometer.^[24]

3. **Swelling study:** Buccal patches are weighed individually (designated as W1), and placed separately in 2% agar gel plates, incubated at 37°C ± 1°C, and examined for any physical changes. At regular 1-hour time intervals until 3 hours, patches are removed from the gel plates and excess surface water is removed carefully using the filter paper.

$$SI = \frac{(W_2 - W_1) \times 100}{W_1}$$

4. **Water absorption capacity test:** Circular Patches, with a surface area of 2.3 cm² are allowed to swell on the surface of agar plates prepared in simulated saliva (2.38 g Na₂HPO₄, 0.19 gKH₂PO₄, and 8 g NaCl per liter of distilled water adjusted with phosphoric acid to pH 6.7), and kept in an incubator maintained at 37°C ± 0.5°C. At various time intervals (0.25, 0.5, 1, 2, 3 and 4 hours), samples are weighed (wet weight) and then left to dry for 7 days in a desiccator over anhydrous calcium chloride at room temperature then the final constant weights are recorded. Water uptake (%) is calculated using the following equation,

$$\text{Water uptake (\%)} = \frac{(W_w - W_f) \times 100}{W_f}$$

Where, W_w is the wet weight and W_f is the final weight. The swelling of each film is measured.^[27]

5. **Ex-vivo bioadhesion test:** The fresh sheep mouth separated and washed with phosphate buffer (pH 6.8). A piece of gingival mucosa is tied in the open mouth of a glass vial, filled with phosphate buffer (pH 6.8). This glass vial is tightly fitted into a glass beaker filled with phosphate buffer (pH 6.8, 37°C ± 1°C) so it just touched the mucosal surface. The patch is stuck to the lower side of a rubber stopper with cyano acrylate adhesive. Two pans of

the balance are balanced with a 5-g weight. The 5-g weight is removed from the left hand side pan, which loaded the pan attached with the patch over the mucosa. The balance is kept in this position for 5 minutes of contact time.^[30]

The water is added slowly at 100 drops/min to the right-hand side pan until the patch detached from the mucosal surface. The weight, in grams, required to detach the patch from the mucosal surface provided the measure of mucoadhesive strength.^[30]

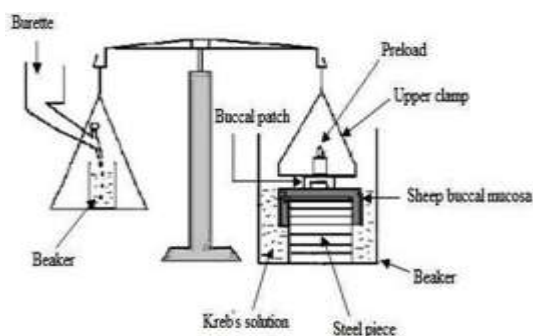


FIG.7: Measurement of mucoadhesive

6. In vitro Drug Release: The United States Pharmacopeia (USP) XXIII-B rotating paddle method is used to study the drug release from the bilayered and multilayered patches. The dissolution medium consisted of phosphate buffer pH 6.8. The release is performed at $37^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$, with a rotation speed of 50 rpm. The backing layer of buccal patch is attached to the glass disk with instant adhesive material. The disk is allocated to the bottom of the dissolution vessel. Samples (5 ml) are withdrawn at predetermined time intervals and replaced with fresh medium. The samples filtered through whatman filter paper and analyzed for drug content after appropriate dilution.^[15]

The in- vitro buccal permeation through the buccal mucosa (sheep and rabbit) is performed using Keshary-Chien/Franz type glass diffusion cell at $37^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 0.2^{\circ}\text{C}$. Fresh buccal mucosa is mounted between the donor and receptor compartments. The buccal patch is placed with the core facing the mucosa and the compartments clamped together. The donor compartment is filled with buffer^[24]

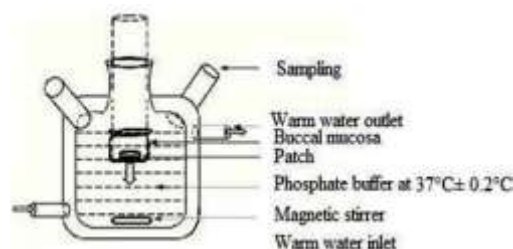


Fig.8: Schematic diagram of Franz diffusion cell for buccal patch

7. Permeation study of buccal patch: The receptor compartment is filled with phosphate buffer pH 6.8, and the hydrodynamics in the receptor compartment is maintained by stirring with a magnetic bead at 50 rpm. Samples are withdrawn at predetermined time intervals and analyzed for drug content.

8. Ex-vivo Mucoadhesion Time: The ex-vivo mucoadhesion time performed after application of the buccal patch on freshly cut buccal mucosa (sheep and rabbit). The fresh buccal mucosa is tied on the glass slide, and a mucoadhesive patch is wetted with 1 drop of phosphate buffer pH 6.8 and pasted to the buccal mucosa by applying a light force with a fingertip for 30 seconds. The glass slide is then put in the beaker, which is filled with 200 ml of the phosphate buffer pH 6.8, is kept at $37^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$. After 2 minutes, a 50-rpm stirring rate is applied to simulate the buccal cavity environment, and patch adhesion is monitored for 12 hours.^[15] The time for changes in colour, shape, collapsing of the patch and drug content is noted.

9. Measurement of mechanical properties: Mechanical properties of the films (patches) include tensile strength and elongation at break is evaluated using a tensile tester. Film strip with the dimensions of 60 x 10 mm and without any visual defects cut and positioned between two clamps separated by a distance of 3 cm. Clamps designed to secure the patch without crushing it during the test, the lower clamp held stationary and the strips are pulled apart by the upper clamp moving at a rate of 2 mm/sec until the strip break, the force and elongation of the film at the point when the trip break is recorded.^[15]

IV. CONCLUSION

The buccal mucosa offers several advantages for controlled drug delivery for extended periods of time. The mucosa is well supplied with both vascular and lymphatic drainage and first-pass metabolism in the liver and pre-

systemic elimination in the gastrointestinal tract are avoided. The area is well suited for a retentive device and appears to be acceptable to the patient. With the right dosage form design and formulation, the permeability and the local environment of the mucosa can be controlled and manipulated in order to accommodate drug permeation. Buccal drug delivery is a promising area for continued research with the aim of systemic delivery of orally inefficient drugs as well as a feasible and attractive alternative for non-invasive delivery of potent peptide and protein drug molecules. A lot of work is still going on all around the world on mucoadhesive buccal patches using various natural polymer. This review is an effort to summarize the work done till date and to show the future pathway of mucoadhesive buccal patches preparation using natural polymer. The area is well suited for a retentive device and appears to be acceptable to the patient. With the right dosage form design and formulation, the permeability and the local environment of the mucosa can be controlled and manipulated in order to accommodate drug permeation.

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