

## A Review On liposomes

Ms-Pooj Madan Awaghad

Student, Dr Vedprakash Patil Pharmacy College Aurangabad Mah-431001

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### ABSTRACT:-

Liposome's are artificially prepared vesicles that have become important tools for improving delivery of a large number of drugs: antimicrobial agents, drugs against cancer, antifungal drugs, peptide hormones, enzymes, vaccines and genetic materials. Due to the differences in preparation methods and lipid compositions, liposomes can be classified according to their lamellarity, size, charge and application. The flexibility of their behavior can be exploited for the drug delivery through various routes of administration irrespective of their solubility properties. Encapsulation of drugs in liposomes has provided an opportunity to enhance the therapeutic indices of many drugs mainly through alteration in their biodistribution, targeting the drug to particular tissues. The role of liposomes as a drug delivery system is to deliver drug in a controlled manner, reducing undesirable side effects, improving its in vitro and in vivo activity, as well as reducing the toxicity of the drug and enhancing the efficacy of the encapsulated drug. This article provides an overview of methods for preparation of liposomes, as well as analytical methods for control physical, chemical and biological parameters for different types of drugs. Liposomal drug delivery represents a highly adaptable therapeutic platform for treating a wide range of diseases. Natural and synthetic lipids, as well as surfactants, are commonly utilized in the synthesis of liposomal drug delivery vehicles. The molecular diversity in the composition of liposomes enables drug delivery with unique physiological functions, such as pH response, prolonged blood circulation, and reduced systemic toxicity. Herein, we discuss the impact of composition on liposome synthesis, function, and clinical utility. [3.2.1]

Liposome's, sphere-shaped vesicles consisting of one or more phospholipid bilayers, were first described in the mid-60s. Today, they are a very useful reproduction, reagent, and tool in various scientific disciplines, including mathematics and theoretical physics, biophysics,

Keywords: liposomes, Drug, delivery, Encapsulation, Application, Solubility

### I. INTRODUCTION TO LIPOSOME

#### 1.1. Introduction:-

Liposome's have been considered to be excellent models of cell membranes. They show effective drug delivery which are commonly used in dermal applications. Liposome's are microscopic spherical vesicles composed of one or more lipid bilayers with an aqueous core. They are formed when the lipids are dispersed in an aqueous medium by stirring, in turn giving rise to population vesicles which may reach a size range of 200-2000 nm. The major structural components of liposomes are phospholipids and cholesterol. The lipid bilayer is composed of phospholipids which have a hydrophilic head group and a hydrophobic tail group. Since Alec D. Bangham's discovery of liposomes in 1965, the lipid vesicle has become a widely utilized vehicle to encapsulate and deliver molecules to treat a variety of diseases. The primary component of liposomes are lipids and fatty acids that, due to their natural occurrence in cell membranes, are considered inherently biocompatible and biodegradable. Liposomal encapsulation of drugs reduces systemic toxicity and improves tolerable dose regimens for anti-cancer, antibacterial, and antifungal therapies. The lipid chemistry is critical for optimizing drug encapsulation, stability, and release, and liposome pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics. Herein, we present a review of the literature focused on the rational design of liposomes based on chemical, mechanical, and physiological properties.

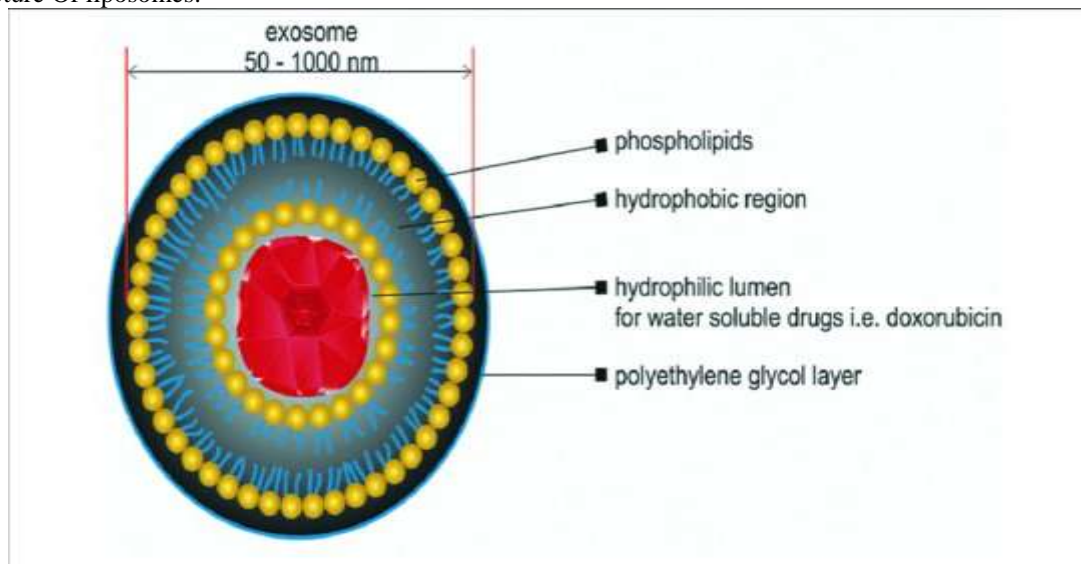
Liposome's are extensively used as carriers for numerous molecules in cosmetic and pharmaceutical industries. Additionally, food and farming industries have extensively studied the use of liposome encapsulation to grow delivery systems that can entrap unstable compounds (for example, antimicrobials, antioxidants, flavors and bioactive elements) and shield their functionality. Liposome's can trap both hydrophobic and hydrophilic compounds, avoid decomposition of the

entrapped combinations, and release the entrapped at designated targets.

Because of their biocompatibility, biodegradability, low toxicity, and aptitude to trap both hydrophilic and lipophilic drugs and simplify site-specific drug delivery to tumor tissues, liposomes have increased

rate both as an investigational system and commercially as a drug-delivery system. Many studies have been conducted on liposomes with the goal of decreasing drug toxicity and/or targeting specific cells [1]

Structure Of liposomes:



## 2.2 Application Of Liposomes [16]

1. Liposomes as drug delivery vehicle
2. Liposome as vaccine carrier
3. Liposome in gene delivery
4. Liposome as artificial blood surrogate
5. Liposome as radio pharmaceutical & radio diagnostic carrier
6. Liposome in tumor therapy
7. Lysosomal storage disease
8. Metal storage disease
9. Cell biological application
10. Liposomes for pulmonary delivery
11. Liposome for topical application
12. Liposome as carrier of drug in oral treatment
13. Metal storage disease
14. Ophthalmic delivery of drug
15. Against Leishmaniasis

## 2.3 Main components of liposomes [55]

1. Glycerol phospholipid
2. Cholesterol
3. Hydrophobic fatty acids chain
4. Fatty acids
5. Lauric acids
6. Decanic acids
7. Saturated fatty acids

## Structural components of liposome

1. Phospholipid
2. Spingolipid
3. Synthetic phospholipid
4. Polymeric material
5. Polymers bearing lipid

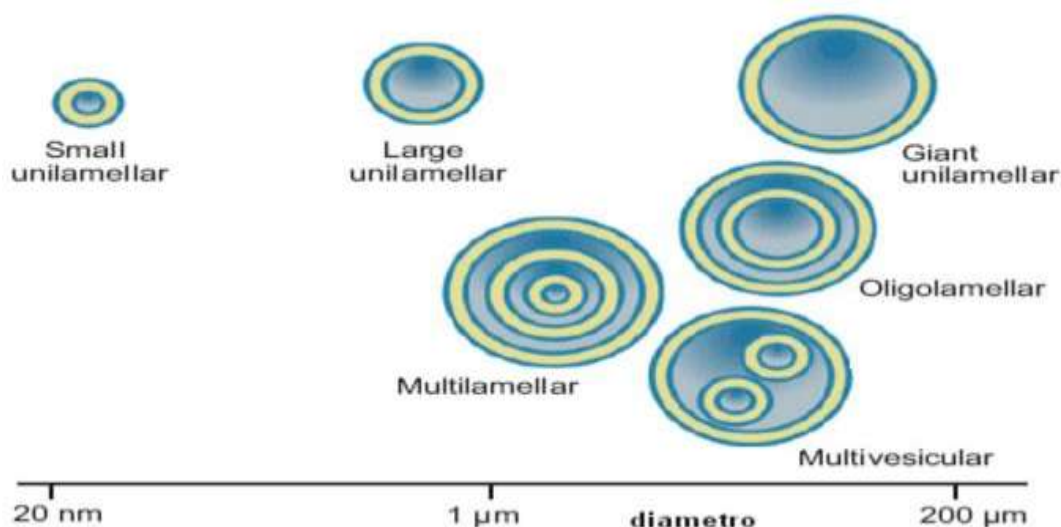
## 2.4 Advantages of liposomes [31]

1. Liposomes increased efficacy and therapeutic index of drug
2. Liposomes increased stability via encapsulation
3. Liposomes reduced the toxicity of the encapsulated agent
4. Liposomes help reduce the exposure of sensitive tissue to toxic drug
5. Flexibility to couple with site specific ligand to achieve active targeting
6. Site avoidance effect

## Disadvantages of liposomes

1. Solubility
2. Half Life
3. Leakage And Fusion Of Encapsulated Drug
4. Cost Is High
5. Fever Stable

## II. CLASSIFICATION OF LIPOSOME [14]

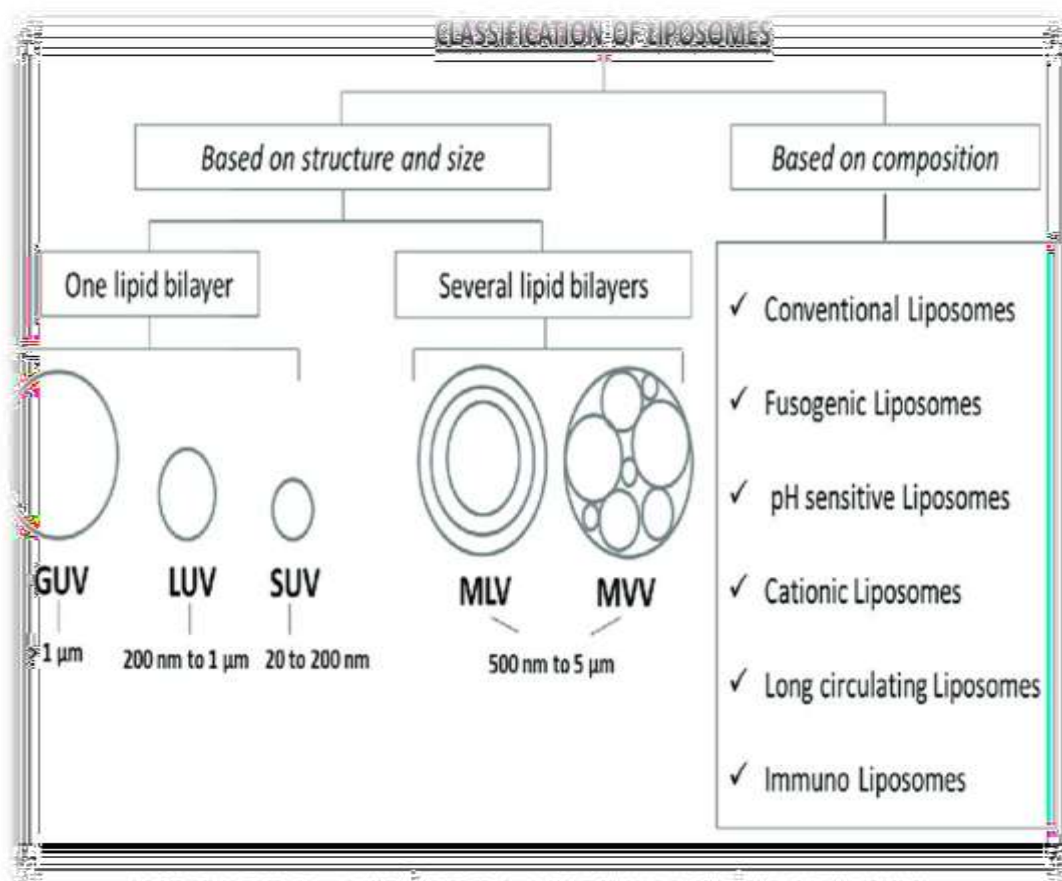


Two important characteristics of liposomal vesicles that influence drug encapsulation efficiency and circulation time are size and membrane lamellarity. The method of synthesis determines the type of liposomes produced.

**Liposomes are classified as** unilamellar vesicles (ULVs) with one bilayer membrane, oligolamellar vesicles (OLVs) with 2–5 bilayer membranes, multilamellar vesicles (MLVs) with five or more bilayer membranes.

**ULVs are further categorized into** small unilamellar vesicles (20–100 nm diameter, SUVs), large unilamellar vesicles (100 nm–1 μm, LUVs), and giant unilamellar vesicles (>1 μm, GUVs).

SUVs exhibit uniform drug encapsulation and release kinetics along with longer circulation times; therefore, they are the most commonly used as drug delivery vehicles.



### III. DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT OF LIPOSOMES[3]

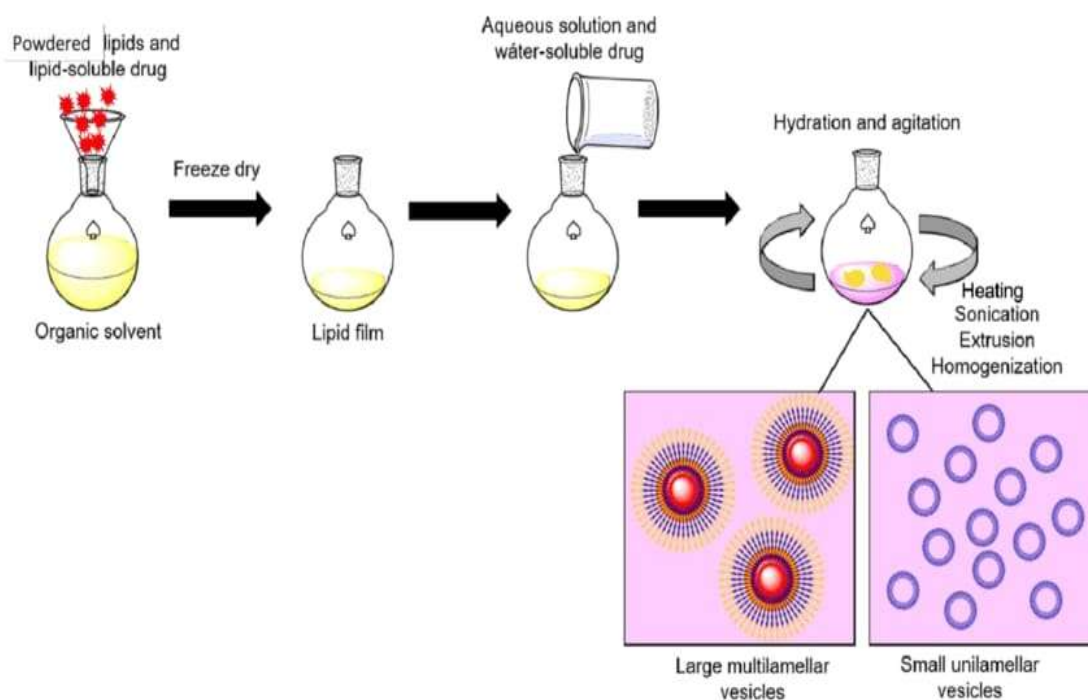
Liposome synthesis is a heavily investigated area of research with many recent and modified techniques, including: heating, curvature tuning, localized IR heating, osmotic shock, dual asymmetric centrifugation, spray-drying, lyophilization, gel-assisted hydration, hydration on glass beads, hydration in microfluidics, electroformation in microfluidics, pulsed microfluidic jetting, transient membrane ejection, continuous droplet interface crossing encapsulation and stationary phase interdiffusion method. Herein, we discuss the most common methods for bench scale preparation of liposomes.

#### 3.1. Thin film hydration:[3]

The most common method employed for liposome synthesis is thin film hydration. In this method, lipids and amphiphilic molecules are solubilized and mixed in an organic solvent. The mixture is then transferred into a round-bottom flask and the solvent is evaporated using a rotary evaporator under vacuum, leaving a thin film of

lipids. The thin film is then hydrated in a solution that may contain one or more hydrophilic drugs that are desired to be encapsulated. The temperature of the hydration buffer must be above the gel-liquid phase transition temperature ( $T_m$ ) of the lipid. The volume of the aqueous solution used to hydrate the lipid film affects the characteristics of the formed liposomes; large volumes lead to the formation of MLVs while the rate of hydration determines the efficiency of drug encapsulation.

The size and lamellarity of the vesicles may be controlled by either extrusion through membranes of specific porosity or the use of sonicators, where the frequency of the



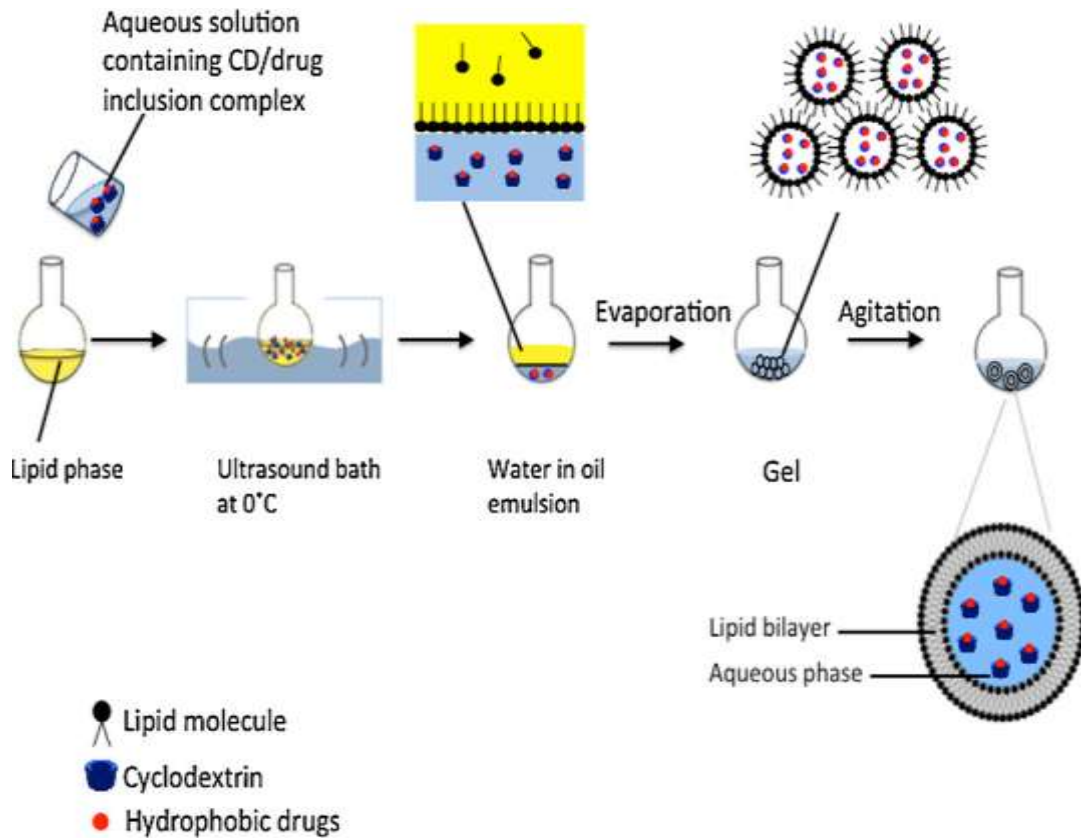
ultrasonic waves and the duration of the process determine the size distribution of the fabricated liposomes. A jacketed extruder or water bath may be used to maintain the solution temperature above the  $T_m$  of the lipid if necessary. Although sonication is easier and more convenient for post-synthesis processing to produce SUVs, especially when large volumes are needed, it results in less uniform liposomes with lower drug encapsulation efficiency compared to those produced by extrusion.

### 3.2 Reverse-phase evaporation [13] [8]

Reverse-phase evaporation produces a mixture of LUVs and MLVs entrapping large aqueous volumes, which allows for encapsulation of large molecules, such as proteins and nucleic

acids. In this method, lipids and amphiphilic molecules are first mixed in an organic solvent, then an aqueous buffer, which may contain a solubilized drug, is added to the mixture. Afterwards, the organic solvent is evaporated using a rotary evaporator under low pressure, leaving the lipid vesicles dispersed in the aqueous solution. If an application requires smaller, more uniform particles, the size of liposomes may be reduced by extrusion. In this case, the pore size of the polycarbonate filter and the number of extrusion cycles will determine the size and polydispersity of the synthesized liposomes.

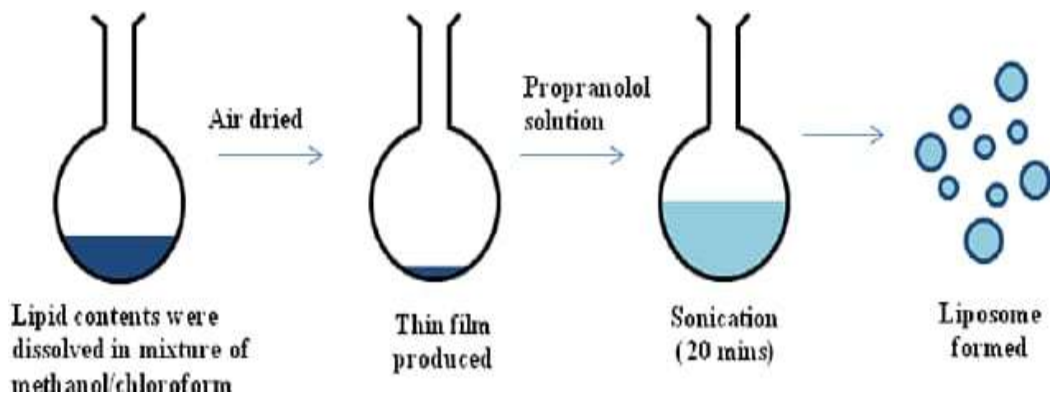




### 3.3. Sonication Method [3]

The sonication method is based on size transformation and involves the subsequent sonication of MLVs prepared by thin-film hydration method, using sonic energy usually under an inert atmosphere including nitrogen or argon. The sonication method enables homogenous dispersion of small vesicles using bath type or probe

type sonicator with a potential for greater tissue penetration. The probe tip sonicator delivers high energy to the lipid suspension. The possibility of overheating of the lipid suspension causes degradation [12, 22, 49]. Sonication tips tend to release titanium particles into the lipid suspension which must be removed by centrifugation prior to use.



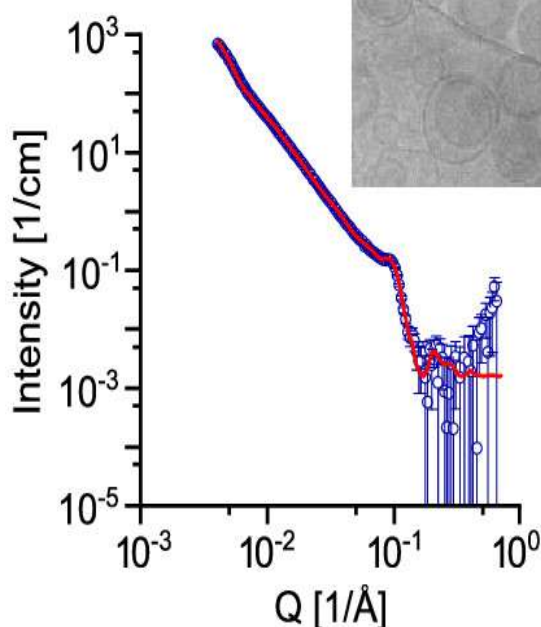
### 3.4. High-Pressure Extrusion Method [13,8]

MLVs prepared by thin-film hydration method are repeatedly passed through filters polycarbonate membranes reducing the liposome size in high-pressure extrusion method [9,10]. The liposomes are prepared using thin-

film hydration method. MLVs prepared by thin-film hydration method are repeatedly passed through filters polycarbonate membranes reducing the liposome size in high-pressure extrusion method [9,10]. The liposomes are prepared using thin-film hydration method.



Extrusion  
→



### 3.5 Calcium-Induced Fusion Method

The calcium-induced method is based on adding of calcium to SUV. The formation of multilamellar vesicles is a result of fusion. The addition of ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA) to the preparations results in the formation of LUV liposomes [15]. The preparation of LUV liposomes can be obtained only from acidic phospholipids. Fluid from an affected joint is drawn by expert using a needle. The fluid is then tested for inflammation and to determine whether the pain is caused by gout or an infection rather than osteoarthritis.

### 3.6 Dehydration-Rehydration Method:-

The method of dehydration-rehydration is used as a method for the preparation of liposomes, also [44,51]. The small unilamellar vesicles which are composed of phosphatidylcholine, 1,2-dioleoyl-3-(trimethylammonium)propane, cholesterol and plasmid DNA are prepared by sonication method [51]. The obtained formulation is frozen and left freeze-dried overnight. The formation of multilamellar dehydration-rehydration vesicles containing DNA

in their structure due to the bound of the cationic charges of the inner bilayers is as a result of a controlled rehydration of the dry powder

### 3.7 Freeze-Thaw Method:- [13][16]

The method

of freezing and thawing is introduced for increasing the trapped volume of liposomal preparations. The freeze-thaw method is dependent on the ionic strength of the medium and the phospholipid concentration. It influences to a physical disruption of lamellar structure leading to formation of unilamellar vesicles. The unilamellar vesicles are rapidly frozen followed by slow thawing, while the freeze and thawing cycles are repeated. The preparation of MLV propranolol liposomes by freeze-thaw method is described in the literature. The liposomal propranolol formulation is prepared by using distearoyl phosphatidylcholine and dimyristoyl phosphatidylcholine as phospholipids in phosphate buffered saline buffer, followed by six freeze-thaw cycles.

### 3.8 Microfluidization: [50]

A method based on microfluidization i.e. microemulsification is used for the large scale manufacture of liposomes. The preparation of antibiotic liposomes by thin-layer hydration method followed by sonication with a bath-type sonicator and microfluidization in order to achieve partial homogenization was described by. The process of microfluidization is reproducible and yields liposomes with good aqueous phase encapsulation.

### 3.9 Supercritical Fluids (SCF) in the Preparation of Liposomes: [13]-

Supercritical fluids are introduced in the preparation of liposomes to overcome existing problems with conventional methods such as requiring a high amount of toxic organic solvents and limited laboratory scale production. The most common used supercritical fluid in the preparation of liposomes in pharmaceutical field is supercritical carbon dioxide. It has several advantages: non-toxicity, non-flammability, recyclable and easy removal from the solvent, operation at moderate temperatures and avoiding degradation of the product in an inert atmosphere. The use of SCF allows controlling of extraction conditions by variation of temperature, pressure or adding modifier solvents as cosolvents: acetone, ethanol, methanol, dichloromethane and ethyl acetate. A comparison between thin-film hydration method and SCF method is reported by Karnetal.,. A mixture of phosphatidylcholine, cholesterol and cyclosporin A is dissolved in ethanol followed by pumping supercritical carbon dioxide to the reaction vesicle in SCF method. Distilled water in hydration step in thin-film hydration method is used.

## IV. METHODS OF LIPOSOME CHARACTERIZATION [31,19,55]

The key aspects that define the efficacy of a liposome formulation include size, zeta potential, encapsulation efficiency, release, stability, and pharmacokinetics. Size and zeta potential are properties defined by the liposome preparation method and composition, respectively. Drug encapsulation efficiency and stability are critical to protect and deliver the drug payload. Inefficient encapsulation can lead to significant waste of expensive drugs. Drug release is desired in the site of interest; premature drug release may cause undesirable "off-target" effects. The pharmacokinetics of the liposome are described by the circulation time and biodistribution of

the drug delivery vehicle. Together, encapsulation, stability, release, circulation time, and biodistribution characterize the ability of a drug delivery vehicle to achieve the goal of delivering the active drug to the diseased site.

### 4.1 Drug encapsulation efficiency and release: [55,54,46,3]

The encapsulation efficiency is a measure of the amount of drug incorporated into the liposome during formulation. It is defined by subtracting the free non-incorporated drug from the total drug and dividing by the total drug initially added. This can be determined using different methods, depending on the chemistry of the drug. The concentration of drug in solution may be determined spectrophotometrically, fluorometrically, or using radiologic methods. Characterization of drug release is often performed in vitro using a dialysis method. Liposomes are placed inside pre-wetted dialysis bags with a selected molecular weight cut-off to entrap the liposomes but allow the drug to permeate across the membrane. The concentration of drug released is measured at different time points. This provides a measure of the rate the drug will be released from liposome formulations.

### 4.2 Size, zeta potential, and stability [17]

Liposomal stability is an important indicator of its potential efficacy and utility in clinical use. Often, the stability of a formulation is evaluated by performing physical assessments of the liposomes at multiple time points (e.g., days, week, or months) and assessing drug leakage and nanoparticle size. Undesirable changes in the physical characteristics of a liposome formulation include aggregation of the particles and physical degradation of the lipid membrane over time. Liposomal diameter and surface charge can be determined using dynamic light scattering (DLS) and phase analysis light scattering (PALS), respectively. Liposomes with neutral surface charge aggregate and are unstable for drug delivery applications.

### 4.3 Electron microscopy [7]

Electron microscopy is the central technique for size, morphology, and lamellarity characterization of liposomes. While environmental scanning electron microscopy (SEM) is good enough to visualize large vesicles, transmission electron microscopy (TEM) is



normally required to resolve the lamellar structure of small vesicles less than 100nm.

However, the use of a negative stain such as uranyl acetate or osmium tetroxide in the conventional TEM To avoid the above problems and to achieve a better differentiation of the layered structure of liposomes, cryo-transmission electron microscopy (cryo-TEM) and freeze-fracture TEM (FF-TEM) which keep the sample at cryogenic temperatures without staining are the two most frequently used techniques for liposome analysis. By limiting ice crystal formation with rapid freezing in liquid nitrogen, protein and biological materials in the inner compartments of liposomes can be preserved.

Cryo-TEM has long been used for liposome analysis since 1980s. There are several review articles illustrating how to use this technology to insight into the size, morphology, and structure of lipid vesicles. Recently, liposomes labeled with paramagnetic lipids are considered as effective magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) contrast agents.

#### 4.4 Atomic force microscopy [7]

As a member of scanning probe microscopy, atomic force microscopy (AFM) has been used in many research fields since it was developed in 1980s. AFM is a powerful tool to examine several parameters such as size, morphology, and surface property of liposomes with different compositions. Ruiz et al. used tapping mode AFM to study the surface properties of conventional and PEGylated liposomes. In the

phase images, PEGylated liposomes showed a bright frame in sharp contrast to the dark frame of conventional liposomes which can be attributed to the PEG chain on the liposome surface. Thus liposomes with PEG-grafted or even other surface modification can be investigated and distinguished through this approach. The rigidity of liposomes, another important property which is hardly analyzed by other techniques, can also be measured using AFM. Nakano et al.<sup>38</sup> investigated several factors that may influence the rigidity of liposomes.

#### 4.5 Fluorescence microscopy [7,6]

Fluorescence microscopy, including confocal fluorescence microscopy, has been widely used in the analysis of fluorescently labeled liposomes. Kunding et al.<sup>47</sup> immobilized C18-DiO labeled lipid vesicles on a glass slide through biotin-streptavidin interactions. Liposomes were observed under a confocal laser scanning microscope (CLSM) and the integrated fluorescence intensity of each individual vesicle was recorded.

The fluorescence intensity can be converted to size by using fluorescent colloidal beads of known dimension as calibration standards. In contrast to the ensemble average measured with DLS, CLSM enables a faithful reconstruction of size-distribution histograms by analyzing liposomes at single-vesicle level. This method is capable of revealing the size distribution of polydisperse liposome population.

### V. EXAMPLE OF LIPOSOMES:[17]

S.R No	Name of Drug	Name of drug	current status
1	Doxorubicin	Lipodox	Marketed
2	Doxorubicin	Myocet	Marketed
3	Doxorubicin	Doxil	Marketed
4	Mitoxantrone	LEM ETU	Phase I
5	Doxorubicin	MM 302	Phase I

6	Docetaxel	Doxorubicin	Phase1
7	Anamycin	Liposome Anamycin	Phase2

sr no.	Peptide/Peptide	Preparation Method
1	Admantyltrypepetidase	Dry lipid Hydration
2	Antioalbumin antibodies	Dry lipid hydration
3	Calcitinine	Dry lipid Hydration
4	Enkephalin	Double Emulsification
5	Hemoglobin	Dry lipid Hydration
6	Insulin	Rever phase evaporation
7	Leridistine	Double Emulsification
8	Leoprolide	Dry lipid Hydration
9	octreotide	Double emulsification
10	Progenipoietin	Double Emulsification

7 Marketed formulation of liposome: [55]

sr no.	Product	Drug	company
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1	Atragen	Tretinoin	Aronex Pharmaceutical Inc
2	Amphotec	Amphotericin B	sequence pharmaceutical inc
3	Ambisome	AmfotericineB	Nexasar pharmaceutical nc
4	Amphocil	Amphotericin B	sequence pharmaceutical inc
5	Abelcer	Dry protein free	Britayniyapharmauk
	Avian	powered of DPPC PG	-
6	Retroviruses.	killed avian retroviruses	vinland lab usk
	Vaccine	-	-
	Depocyte	-	-
7	Doxil	cytrabine	Pacira pharmaceutical inc
8	Topex	Doxorubicin	sequence pharmaceutical Inc
9	Ventus	Terbutalinesulphate	ozone pharmaceutical ltd
10	vinaca zone	Prostaglandin E1	The liposome company
11	Vincristine	-	Nexassarpharmaceutical Inc

sr no.	year of Approval	liposome Product	conduct of liposome product
1	1993	Epaxal	inactivated hepatitis a viruses
2	1995	Abelcet	Amphoteric B

3	1995	Doxil	Doxorubicin
4	1996	Amphotec	Amphotericin B
5	1996	Ambisome	Amphotericin B
6	1997	InFlecaxal	inactivated influenza virus
7	1999	Depocyte	cytarabine
8	2000	Myocet	Doxorubicin
9	2000	visudyne	veryeporphine
10	2004	Mepact	Mifamurtide
11	2004	Depodur	Morphine sulfate
12	2012	onivyde	Vincristine
13	2015	onivyde	Irinotecan

**Examples Of Liposomal Based Protein And Peptide Drug [55]**

sr no.	Peptide/Protein	Preparation Method
1	Admantyltrypsin	Dry lipid Hydration
2	Antiovalbumin antibodies	Dry lipid hydration
3	Calcitonin	Dry lipid Hydration
4	Enkephalin	Double Emulsification
5	Hemoglobin	Dry lipid Hydration
6	Insulin	Rever phase evaporation
7	Leridistine	Double Emulsification
8	Leoprolide	Dry lipid Hydration
9	octreotide	Double emulsification
10	Progenipointin	Double Emulsification

**VI. CONCLUSION:**

Long circulating liposomes of Capecitabine were successfully formulated, characterized and evaluated in vitro. The DPPC-DSPE sodium (30:25) liposomes were of optimum particle size, Zeta potential, Entrapment efficiency and satisfactory cumulative percent drug release.

The average targeting efficiency of drug loaded liposomes was found to be in liver followed by spleen, heart, lungs and kidneys respectively. Stability studies indicated that 4°C is the most suitable temperature for storage of long circulating liposomes of Capecitabine. This drug delivery is endowed with several exclusive advantages and

hence holds potential for further research and clinical application.

Liposomes are highly heterogeneous nanoparticles which exhibit different size, composition, charge, encapsulation amount even when prepared under the same condition. Individual characterization of liposomes to generate physicochemical distribution of nanoparticle preparations is essential to ensure their wide applications in drug development and membrane modeling. In general, any single nanoparticle techniques can be used for the individual analysis of liposomes. However, the fragile structure could cause damage and morphology alteration to liposomes during the immobilization and vacuuming processes required for electron microscopic studies.

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