BCS Class II Drug & Its Solubility Enhancement: A Review

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ABSTRACT

The objective of this review article is to summarize literature data pertinent to potential excipient effects on intestinal drug permeability and transit. Despite the use of excipients in drug products for decades, considerable research efforts have been directed towards evaluating their potential effects on drug bioavailability. Potential excipient concerns stem from drug formulation changes (e.g., scale-up and post-approval changes, development of a new generic product). Regulatory agencies have established in vivo bioequivalence standards and, as a result, may waive the in vivo requirement, known as a biowaiver, for some oral products. Biowaiver acceptance criteria are based on the in vitro characterization of the drug substance and drug product using the Biopharmaceutics Classification System (BCS). Various regulatory guidance documents have been issued regarding BCS-based biowaivers, such that the current FDA guidance is more restrictive than prior guidance, specifically about excipient risk. In particular, sugar alcohols have been identified as potential absorption-modifying excipients. These biowaivers and excipient risks are discussed here.

Keywords- API, Excipients, Bioavailability, BCS Class drug II.

I. INTRODUCTION

The active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) are combined with hydrophilic carriers. It is possible to construct SD using amorphous carriers like polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP), crystalline carriers like sugar, or semicrystalline carriers like polyethylene glycol (PEG). Hydrophilic carriers may contain crystalline and amorphous domains, just as the APIs themselves may be crystalline, amorphous, or partially crystalline [1]. [3]. The results of the solid-state characterisation [4] show that the structure of the resultant solid dispersion is profoundly affected by the characteristics of the medication that was incorporated. The following are some examples of these: Recrystallization of CBZ into a novel polymorphic form was seen, as was a significant decrease in TBM crystallinity as a result of targeted interactions with the carrier, and the detection of smaller crystals in CIN. This is because spray congealing changes the solid state of the active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) in the MPs, which in turn changes the drug's solubility in in vitro experiments [5]. [6] [7]. The solubility, intrinsic dissolution rate, ionisation (pKa), lipophilicity (log P),

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stability, surface area, crystallinity, polymorphism, salt form, and molecular size of a medication are all crucial physiochemical properties [8]. The ability of a medicine to crystallise into diverse shapes is referred to as its "crystallinity." Several physiological parameters affect the effectiveness of oral medication absorption [9]. The stomach's acidity, the rate at which it empties, the time it takes for food to pass through the small intestine, the presence of bile salts, and the permeability of the intestinal and biliary membranes are all factors (10). (11) (12). (13). There are three ways in which excipients might affect drug absorption: (1) by affecting the disintegration, stability, or stability of the dose formulation; (2) by affecting the physiological processes that occur in the gastrointestinal tract; or (3) by affecting all three (13). Drug development, post-approval manufacturing changes, and the creation of generic versions of existing drugs all necessitate in vivo bioequivalence tests, or BE tests for short. The goal of these analyses is to show that a formulation change did not significantly alter a drug's bioavailability. Clinical BE studies can be foregone for specific IR solid oral dose formulations if they meet the criteria laid out by the Biopharmaceutics Classification System (BCS), a regulatory system created to allow regulatory relief based on in vitro characterization of the drug substance and drug product. It will be cheaper to create new medications without having to pay for expensive animal testing or conduct unnecessary human trials, as neither of these is necessary if BE testing is waived. In my opinion, these are the two most significant benefits. However, there are situations in which in vitro experiments are preferable to the more common human pharmacokinetic in vivo studies for determining bioequivalence of IR solid oral dose formulations.

1.1. Classification of BCS Class Drugs

According to the paper, "in vivo bioequivalence studies may be skipped" if "appropriate in vitro data" (such as Dissolution) can be used to "justify an assumption of equivalent in vivo performance." Dissolution is an example of "acceptable in vitro data" (19). The BCS is a scientific method that analyses pharmaceutical substances based on their capacity to dissolve in water and pass through the intestinal lining (20). The BCS categorises the chemicals that are utilised in the production of pharmaceuticals into one of four groups.

- **Class I:** high solubility, high permeability
- **Class II:** low solubility, high permeability
- **Class III:** high solubility, low permeability
- **Class IV:** low solubility, low permeability

As long as the active ingredients in the test product and the reference product are the same, the BCS allows for a biowaiver to be used. This applies to substances in BCS Classes I and III. Though both the test product and the reference product are designated as BCS Class I, then a biowaiver can be granted even if the two products contain different salts (22). However, if the test product contains an unapproved drug substance or an unapproved drug substance ester, ether, isomer, mixture of isomers, complex, or derivative, the biowaiver cannot be used. Biowaivers based on BCS can be considered for pro-drugs that are absorbed in their pro-drug form (23).
may not be necessary to meet the requirements of regulatory agencies, making it a valuable tool in the development of both original and generic drugs. This article's goals are to provide a summary of the current state of the BCS biowaiver implementation in many jurisdictions across the world and to explain the BCS-based biowaiver procedure and its role in drug development. In particular, the biowaiver procedure based on the BCS is meant to speed up the approval of new drugs.

The BCS also recognises that a drug's intestinal permeability and water solubility are two of the most important criteria in determining the extent to which a medicine will be absorbed (33). By considering a drug's solubility in water and its permeability through the intestinal wall, the BCS provides a scientific basis for classifying drugs (34). Medications in Class I are those with high solubility and high permeability; drugs in Class II are those with low solubility and low permeability; drugs in Class III are those with low solubility and low permeability; and drugs in Class IV are those with low solubility and low permeability (35).

Bioequivalence, or BE, is used to bridge the gap between the commercially and successfully marketed formulation and the clinical-scale formulation used in Phase III of testing for safety and efficacy of newly developed drugs (39). No matter if the medicine is brand-name or generic, BE evidence is needed for specific types of manufacturing scale-up and post-approval alterations (40). Therefore, if all the requirements for BCS designation are met, a biowaiver based on BCS status can be obtained in any of these regulatory situations where BE studies are necessary for an IR solid oral dosage form (41). Currently, the BCS biowaiver technique has been implemented by a number of countries whose economies are still developing in order to conform to guidelines issued by the World Health Organization (52). For this reason, immediate-release (IR) solid oral dosage forms containing BCS Class I and Class III medications are no longer required to undergo comparative bioavailability studies to demonstrate in vivo bioavailability and bioequivalence (BA/BE).

1.4. Management and Genetic Evaluation

Dopaminergic pathways in the mesolimbic and mesocortical regions have been linked to the disease of addiction [26]. Multiple areas of the brain, including the amygdala, hippocampus, and nucleus accumbens, cooperate in complex circuits that also include the mesolimbic and ventral tegmental pathways (Fig. 4). The mesocorticolicmbic route culminates in the prefrontal cortex as its terminal destination. Dopaminergic neuron activity is essential in order for rats to acquire the ability to learn how to pull a lever in order to transmit an electric pulse to the route. Some rats may purposefully starve themselves in order to stimulate their VTAs. The mesocorticolicmbic dopamine (DA) circuitry contributes, in conjunction with other parts of the brain, to the pleasurable effects of a stimuli. Dopaminergic transmission in this system can be triggered by both incentives and cues that indicate when those rewards will take place [27,28].
A major public health concern is the widespread misuse of prescription medications. To a greater extent than any other age group, teenagers and young adults are heavy users of illegal substances. Some commonly prescribed medications can really be abused, misused, or diverted for nefarious ends. In order to alleviate tension, worry, or boost academic performance, some young people turn to prescription medicines for entertainment purposes (e.g., getting "high"). Drugs can be gotten from a variety of sources including close friends and family, doctors, drug traffickers, and even the web. Studies show a rise in prescription drug usage among young people in the UK, although the issue is rarely investigated on a national level.

### 2.1. Higher Drug Consumption During Pandemic

Drug users, along with everyone else, must band together to combat this crisis. The ability to thrive in isolation may depend in part on one's character. Substance abusers may experience severe discomfort during a period of quarantine[32]. Restrictions on drug users' mobility and access to drugs have the potential to alter their behaviour. Those in Italy who are desperate to get their hands on medications have apparently been breaking out of quarantine. Some people's mental health problems may have been exacerbated by the stress of quarantine. Mental and bodily health are both at risk from addiction. The greatest dangers to community mental health come from anxiety and stress. However, many people's lifestyles and well-being will be affected by the new and stricter regulations, which is expected to increase alcohol and drug abuse[33]. Depression, self-injury, and suicidal ideation or attempts were to be expected. Subsequent addicts will have a more difficult time obtaining drugs as a result. Due to the current situation, illegal drug trafficking can only be conducted online through dedicated websites and individual couriers. This contributed to a rise in online cannabis sales during the first quarter of 2020. The authors recommend increasing the powers of the postal police to stop the spread of the problem. Many researchers predict that opioids, new synthetic opioids[34,35], and new benzodiazepines, all of which can be used recreationally in private and produce a calming effect, will rise in popularity. Some people worry that there aren't enough legal options, such as methadone and buprenorphine, to help with opiate withdrawal, craving reduction, and overdose prevention[36]. Potentially fatal consequences include an increase in the frequency of unattended overdoses and a decrease in the use of naloxone to reverse them. Face-to-face gatherings may be cancelled or scaled back as a result of the pandemic. Replacement therapies and other essential pharmaceuticals, as well as backup measures in case of shortages. [37,38], are examples of medication treatment services that should be readily available without interruption, in our opinion.
management strategies have been tried and tried again without success, and when it is necessary to take an opioid prescription 24 hours a day, seven days a week [43]. When taken exactly as directed, OxyContin causes the gradual release of oxycodone over the course of a full day. The oxycodone contained in the extended-release matrix of the original OxyContin could be released by breaking or chewing the pill. Crushing it and then dissolving it in a solvent were the first steps in the process of getting it ready for intravenous administration. The use of the original OxyContin formulation for purposes other than oral consumption has been frequently documented in epidemiological studies [44]. According to the NAVIPPRO Treatment Centers PMR, the most common methods of abusing OxyContin in 2010 were injecting the drug (55.7% of cases) and snorting it (54.9% of cases). After a delay of two years, a revised formulation of the medication was finally developed. Patients and caregivers were concerned about unintended exposure to the drug as well as the potential for adverse effects when the medication was ingested or administered via gastrointestinal tubes.

2.2. BCS Class IIa medicines; pKa ≤ 5 (weak acid drugs; ibuprofen and ketoprofen)

Etoprofen is a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory medication (NSAID) of the ibuprofen type, and it possesses analgesic and antipyretic characteristics (70). A biowaiver monograph is presented here. This monograph is based on previous research as well as some additional experimental data in regards to its Biopharmaceutics Classification System (BCS) classification, biopharmaceutical properties, and the risks associated with waiving in vivo bioequivalence (BE) testing in the approval of new immediate-release (IR) solid oral dosage forms containing ketoprofen (also known as "biowaiving"). This includes both reformulated (71). This assessment is only applicable to pharmaceutical goods in which ketoprofen functions as the only active pharmaceutical ingredient (API), and not to combination products (72). Previous conversations have covered both the intended use and anticipated reach of this collection of monographs (73). 1 According to what was stated in the previous article, "These monographs do not intend to simply apply the World Health Organization (WHO),2 United States Food and Drug Administration (US FDA),3 and/or European Medicine Agency (EMA) Guidance," but instead aim to provide "a critical evaluation of these and other countries' regulatory documents" (73). The biowaiver monographs for a number of APIs have already been published and may be found online at www.fip.org/bcs. 5 METHODS The literature was searched for relevant information on the Web of Science, PubMed, Drugs.com, and DrugBank databases up until May 2011. (74). Ketoprofen, absorption, bioavailability, bioequivalence, log P, solubility, permeability, and dissolution were some of the keywords that were utilised during the research process (75). In addition to this, information was acquired from regulatory documents that were released by WHO, the US FDA, and EMA. 4 GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS Ketoprofen is the generic term that is used internationally (76). (RS)-2-[3-(benzoyl)phenyl]propanoic acid is the name given to this compound by the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (77). Fig 6 demonstrates its organisational makeup. Polymorphs, Stereoisomers, and Salts of a Compound One of the carbon atoms in ketoprofen is asymmetric, which results in the formation of two enantiomers. Both of these enantiomers are biologically active (78,79). The racemate can be found in the vast majority of ketoprofen pharmaceutical medicines. (80,81) Preparations con Figure 4. Ketoprofen structural formula. containing a salt of the (S)-(+)

enantiomer, which is known as dexketoprofen, are also available.(82,83) These products promise to relieve inflammation and pain,(84) whilst the (R)-enantiomer is used as an ingredient in toothpaste to prevent periodontal disease (85). Ketoprofen can also be found in its lysine salt and sodium salt forms, both of which are well-known (86). These salts are utilised in dosage forms apart from IR solid oral dosage forms. Some examples of these dosage forms are suppositories and nonsystemic solutions. (87,88) There are two different forms, or polymorphs, of the drug ketoprofen. (89) There was no evidence identified in the research that suggested the polymorphic form of ketoprofen free acid had an effect on either the performance of the dissolving or the bioavailability (BA) (90). Investigations into biowaivers rely heavily on the BCS classification of drugs as its basic base (Hofsass and Dressman, 2019). According to this categorization, the rate at which medications are absorbed is dependent not only on the drugs' solubility but also on how easily they can pass through cell membranes (56). Therefore, active pharmaceutical compounds that have a high permeability and a high solubility (BCS Class I) have a stronger probability of getting authorised as a successful biowaiver candidate. This is because these properties make it easier for the drug to pass through biological barriers. This is something that can be done with a fair amount of ease (57). In order for a drug to be evaluated for biowaiver status, it is not necessary to do in-vivo bioavailability or bioequivalence testing on the drug. To determine whether or not two pharmaceutical items are equivalent to one another, the in-vitro dissolution profile is all that is required (58). Only for instant release solid oral dosage forms did the FDA issue guidelines for the industry in December 2017 on waiver of in-vivo bioavailability based on BCS categorization. This was done only for immediate release solid oral dosage forms (FDA, 2017). 58 This instruction was distributed (FDA, 2017). 59 The International Council for Harmonization (ICH) made the draught of M9 guidelines on the BCS-based biowaivers available later in the month of June in 2018. (ICH, 2018). 60 Both sides have had discussions over the BCS class I or III fast
release dose formulations that incorporate API. These formulations incorporate active pharmaceutical ingredients. The World Health Organization (WHO), on the other hand, has broadened the application of the biowaiver to include other categories of pharmaceuticals (BCS classes II and III drugs), provided that the dose-to-solubility ratio of those drugs is 6.8 or lower and that the volume of the product does not exceed 250 millilitres (61). If biowaivers are extended to BCS class II in support of sufficient scientific basis and evidences, then the process of creating generic products and subsequently gaining approval from regulatory authorities in economically developing countries will be simplified. This will be the case whether or not biowaivers are granted (WHO, 2006). At the moment, biowaivers are only applicable to items classified as BCS class I. (62). If a multisource product dissolves rapidly (more than 85% of drug release in 30 minutes) in phosphate buffer (pH 6.8), acetate buffer (pH 4.5), and 0.1N HCl (pH 1.2) (WHO, 2006), then the biowaiver classes can be interchangeable. This is in accordance with the WHO's proposed guiding principle, which establishes the interchangeability of BCS class I, II, and III biowaivers (63). In addition, regulatory organisations like the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the European Medicine Agency (EMA) permitted only BCS class I and III as biowaiver following 85% of the drug release in 30 minutes at pH values described above (FDA, 2017; EMA, 2010). This was the case for biowaiver following 85% of the drug release in 30 minutes at pH values described above (FDA, 2017; EMA, 2010). (64). Despite the fact that, to the best of our knowledge, there is no guideline available to consider film-coated tablets as potential biowaivers, we will continue to do so in this study (65). Ibuprofen is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medication (NSAID) that originates from the chemical formula C3H18O2 (WOhrl, 2018). It is prescribed to patients suffering from primary dysmenorrhea, rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, fever, and inflammation reduction to alleviate discomfort associated with these conditions. Ibuprofen is a derivative of the organic acid propionic (66). Ibuprofen can be obtained in tablet form for oral use, with dosages ranging from 200 mg to 600 mg, as stated by Irvine et al. (2017). (67). It falls under the BCS class II category, which is distinguished by its poor solubility and high permeability. This category is assigned to it by the biopharmaceutical classification system (68). Ibuprofen is a drug that demonstrates quick absorption shortly after its dissolution, making it a highly permeable substance (Rinaki et al., 2004). Despite the fact that ibuprofen is a medication in the class II category and has a low solubility at lower pH values, this is nonetheless the case (69). It was suggested that ibuprofen had the lowest solubility at a pH of 1.2; however, this hypothesis was not supported by the findings of additional researchers. When they compared the solubility of the isomers to that of the racemates of ibuprofen at a pH of 1.5, they discovered that the isomers had an acceptable level of solubility.

Figure 6: Absorption rates of BCS Class II drugs at different GI tract stages. Data on the proportion of an IR dose absorbed at different GI stages after oral dosing are presented. Amount absorbed divided by typical transit time yields these percentages. Bars in blue represent neutrals, bars in red represent weak acids, and bars in red represent weak bases, all according to the BCS. (The colour references in this figure legend are explained in greater detail in the online version of this article.)

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these salt variations (86). In addition to IR solid oral dosage forms, these salts can also be used in other types of dosage forms. Suppositories and nonsystemic solutions are two examples of dosage forms. Excipients or dosage forms are not permitted by BCS Class III, excipients may affect small intestine transit, passive permeability, or active transport. The majority of excipients used now should not have any effect on BCS Class I medications. Common excipients in solid oral IR dose formulations do not appear to alter drug permeability or transit in vivo, according to available data. Excipients that can affect intestinal transit are among the few that have been found in sufficient concentrations to have an effect on absorption, both in vitro and in preclinical studies. However, there are strict limitations on excipient modifications in the current FDA M9 guideline. These limitations warrant regulatory relief, particularly for BCS Class III medicines. It may be possible to determine which modifications to excipients or dosage forms are not permitted by reviewing the databases of failed BE clinical trials caused by excipient alterations.

III. CONCLUSION

The approval of biowaivers based on BCS is constrained by the fact that some excipients reduce the body's ability to absorb the medicine. For medications in BCS Class III, excipients may affect small intestine transit, passive permeability, or active transport. The majority of excipients used now should not have any effect on BCS Class I medications. Common excipients in solid oral IR dose formulations do not appear to alter drug permeability or transit in vivo, according to available data. Excipients that can affect intestinal transit are among the few that have been found in sufficient concentrations to have an effect on absorption, both in vitro and in preclinical studies. However, there are strict limitations on excipient modifications in the current FDA M9 guideline. These limitations warrant regulatory relief, particularly for BCS Class III medicines. It may be possible to determine which modifications to excipients or dosage forms are not permitted by reviewing the databases of failed BE clinical trials caused by excipient alterations.

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2.3. In Silico Simulations to Predict the Pharmacokinetic (PK) Profiles of ETO

Plasma profiles can be predicted using a two-compartment pharmacokinetic (PK) model after ETO products have been administered to a patient. The structure of the model is very similar to that which was described by Matsui et al., with the exception of some minor adjustments to the PK parameters (92). The model depicts a central body as well as several appendages (93). To accurately simulate the distribution and elimination of ETO, crucial values, such as distribution/elimination rate constants, were extracted from IV data (25 mg single-dose iv administration to six


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