



**COMPOSITE ALGINATE HYDROGEL MICROPARTICLE DELIVERY SYSTEM FOR ZIDOVUDINE BASED ON COUNTERION-INDUCED AGGREGATION: INFLUENCE OF VARIOUS GRADES OF POLYACRYLATE AND HYPROMELLOSE POLYMERS**

**Beebireddy Vidhya<sup>1\*</sup>, Aenugu Jyothi<sup>1</sup>, Gandrathi Srujana<sup>1</sup>, Jestadi Ragaswetha<sup>2</sup>, Vadladi Nikhila<sup>2</sup> and Nelluri Swarna<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmaceutics, Chilkur Balaji College of Pharmacy, Aziznagar, Telangana 500075.

<sup>2</sup>Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Analysis, Chilkur Balaji College of Pharmacy, Aziznagar, Telangana 500075.

**\*Corresponding Author: Beebireddy Vidhya**

Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmaceutics, Chilkur Balaji College of Pharmacy, Aziznagar, Telangana 500075.

Article Received on 28/02/2023

Article Revised on 19/03/2023

Article Accepted on 09/04/2023

**ABSTRACT**

In the present research endeavor, Zidovudine Microparticles were attempted to reduce the frequency of dosing and to attain steady-state drug levels. Zidovudine an anti-retroviral drug was selected as a novel drug for the experiment. Different batches of zidovudine microsphere formulation F1 to F16 were developed using different polymers like eudragit RS-100, eudragit RL-100, and hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose (HPMC K4m premium) propyl methyl cellulose (HPMCK 15M), swelling agent like sodium alginate and crosslinking agents like calcium chloride ( $\text{CaCl}_2$ ), barium chloride ( $\text{BaCl}_2$ ) at various ratios. All the batches of the formulated zidovudine microparticles from F1 to F16 were evaluated for various physico-chemical parameters like mean particle size distribution, percentage yield, and drug entrapment efficiency. The entrapment efficiency of the formulations F1 to F16 ranges from 52.43% to 62.35%. In vitro release studies were carried out on all the formulations using pH 7.4 phosphate buffer as the dissolution medium. The duration of the drug release was 12 hours. Based on the results of the physico-chemical characterization and in vitro drug release studies of all the batches of the formulated microspheres from F1 to F16 formulation F11 was chosen as the most satisfactory formulation as it possessed all the required physico-chemical characters and prolonged duration of the drug release up to 8 hours.

**KEYWORDS:** Zidovudine, Microparticles, Ionotropic gelation technique, Polymer, FTIR Studies, In vitro drug release studies.

**INTRODUCTION**

Microparticulate drug delivery systems are most promising strategy based system for controlled drug delivery. They are the most reliable controlled drug delivery system and could be employed as oral drug delivery system or implantable devices. A basic objective of dosage form design is to optimize the delivery of medication so as to achieve a measure of control of the therapeutic effect in the face of uncertain fluctuation in the in vivo environment in which drug release takes place. This is usually accomplished by maximizing drug availability, i.e., by attempting to attain a maximum rate and extent of drug absorption, however the control of drug action through formulation also implies controlling bio-availability to reduce drug absorption rates. Microparticulate drug delivery systems are most promising strategy based system for controlled drug delivery. They are the most reliable controlled drug delivery system and could be employed as oral drug delivery system or implantable devices. Zidovudine, a

nucleoside analogue of thymidine. Zidovudine triphosphate inhibits the activity of HIV reverse transcriptase both by competing with the natural substrate deoxythymidine triphosphate, and by its incorporation into viral DNA causing a termination of DNA chain elongation because zidovudine lacks the essential 3'-OH group. Researches have been carried on the use of sodium alginate as network forming or gelling agent because of lesser cost, naturally occurring polysaccharide, biodegradability, non-toxicity, provides protection against mucous from irritation and high swelling capacity on contact with gastric fluid. In order to provide stability and protection against the external environment several researchers reported concomitant use of hypromellose or hydroxypropyl methylcellulose (HPMC) and pH independent polymers like polyacrylates (Eudragit RS and RL [ERS and ERL]). Recently, biocompatible polysaccharides-based microparticles for intranasal protein delivery were successfully developed. Lyophilized polysaccharide

based lysozyme microparticles were also prepared and tested for stability. Hence, in the present study an attempt has been made to zidovudine sustained release microspheres by using various polymer like sodium alginate and ethyl cellulose by using ionotropic gelation technique. To characterize different evaluation parameters.

## MATERIALS

Zidovudine was obtained from Ranbaxy fine chemicals, Sodium alginate, Hydroxyl propyl methyl cellulose, Eudragit RS 100, Eudragit RL100 were purchased from from Ranbaxy fine chemicals and other chemicals, and the reagents used were of analytical grade.

## METHODOLOGY

### FTIR analysis

The IR spectra were recorded for pure drug sample zidovudine, and physical mixture of the drug Zidovudine

and polymers Eudragit RS100, Eudragit RL100, HPMCK 4m, HPMCK 15m, Sodium alginate and Barium chloride. Samples were prepared in KBr disks (2mg sample in 200mg KBr) with hydrostatic pressure of 5.2cm<sup>2</sup> for 3min.

### Differential Scanning Calorimetry

Physical mixture of the drug Zidovudine and the polymers Eudragit RL100, HPMC K4m, HPMC K15M, BaCl<sub>2</sub> were prepared. After powder sieving, the mixture was analysed by DSC. The thermogram obtained was compared with the thermogram of the pure drug. The instrument was calibrated using indium standards. Accurately weighed samples (10mg) were hermetically sealed in flat bottom aluminium pans. The scanning was carried out at a temperature ranging from 40°C to 300°C at a rate of 20°C/min under an atmosphere of nitrogen.

## FORMULATION DEVELOPMENT

Table 1: Formulation development.

| F.No. | Drug (mg) | INGREDIENTS         |               |                |                     |                    |        |        |
|-------|-----------|---------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------|--------|
|       |           | Sodium Alginate (%) | HPMCK 4M (mg) | HPMCK1 5M (mg) | Eudragit RS 100 (%) | Eudragit RL100 (%) | BaCl 2 | CaCl 2 |
| F1    | 300mg     | 1.5%                | 100mg         | -              | 3%                  | -                  | 10%    | -      |
| F2    | 300mg     | 2.5%                | 75mg          | 25mg           | 3%                  | -                  | 10%    | -      |
| F3    | 300mg     | 3.5%                | 25mg          | 75mg           | 3%                  | -                  | 10%    | -      |
| F4    | 300mg     | 3.5%                | 50mg          | 50mg           | 3%                  | -                  | 10%    | -      |
| F5    | 300mg     | 1.5%                | 100mg         | -              | 3%                  | -                  | -      | 10%    |
| F6    | 300mg     | 2.5%                | 25mg          | 75mg           | 3%                  | -                  | -      | 10%    |
| F7    | 300mg     | 3.5%                | 75mg          | 25mg           | 3%                  | -                  | -      | 10%    |
| F8    | 300mg     | 3.5%                | 50mg          | 50mg           | 3%                  | -                  | -      | 10%    |
| F9    | 300mg     | 1.5%                | 100mg         | -              | -                   | 3%                 | 10%    | -      |
| F10   | 300mg     | 2.5%                | 75mg          | 25mg           | -                   | 3%                 | 10%    | -      |

### Preparation of Zidovudine Microparticles using Eudragit RS100

Microparticles containing zidovudine were prepared employing sodium alginate by ionic gelation method. Sodium alginate were dissolved in sufficient quantity of distilled water to form homogenous polymer solution. When sodium alginate was uniformly mixed then specified quantity of HPMC K4 and HPMC K15 was added and sonicate it for short period of time. Another beaker was taken in that Zidovudine were dissolved in little amount of methanol add Eudragit RS 100. Finally, core material zidovudine was added to the polymer solution and mixed thoroughly to form a smooth viscous dispersion. The dispersion were taken into syringe then added drop wise by using needle in 100ml of 10% barium chloride and calcium chloride filtrate the microspheres and product was dried at 40 in hot air oven.

### Characterization of Formulated Microparticles

#### Particle Size Analysis

The particle size of all the batches of the formulated microparticles in a sample was measured with an optical micrometer fitted with a calibrated eye piece. Calibration of the microscope was done prior to particle size measurement of the microparticles. They can of 100

particles was noted as particle size. All the readings of the three  $\pm$  SD.

### Encapsulation efficiency

50 mg Equivalent weight of microparticles were accurately weighed. They were taken in to motor and pestle triturate until it get powder dissolved in 10 ml of methanol for one hour and aliquot from the filtrate was analyzed spectro photo metrically, after suitable dilution, they were analyzed using SHIMADZU UV-VIS at 266 nm. Reliability of method was judge by conducting recovery analysis using known amount of drug with or with out polymer. Encapsulation efficiency was calculated using following formula:

$$\text{Encapsulation efficiency (\%)} = \frac{\text{Actual drug content}}{\text{Theoretical drug content}} \times 100$$

### Particle Size and Surface Morphology

The shape and surface topography of the microparticles were studied by scanning electron microscopy (SEM). Scanning electron microscopy (SEM, Philips- XL-20) was performed to characterize the surface of formed microparticles. Microparticles were mounted directly on to the samples tub and coated with gold film (200nm) under reduced pressure.

### In-Vitro Drug Release Studies

The *In - Vitro* release of drug from microparticles were carried out for 9 hours using paddle type containing 900ml of dissolution medium maintained at  $37 \pm 0.5^\circ\text{C}$  and speed of agitation at 75rpm. An accurately weighed sample was responded in solution media consisting 900ml of pH 0.1 HCl buffer solution and dissolution was done for 2 hours then the dissolution medium was changed to pH 7.4 phosphate buffer solution and dissolution was studied for further 7 hours. At prefixed time (every 1 hour); 5 ml of solution were withdrawn. After suitable dilution, samples were assayed spectrophotometrically for the drug content at 266nm using UV-Visible spectrophotometer. The volume of the dissolution medium was adjusted to 900 ml at every sampling time by replacing 5 ml with same dissolution medium. The released data obtained were fitted into various mathematical models

like zero order, Higuchi, Korsmeyer-Peppas to know which mathematical model is best fitting the obtained release profile.

### Stability Study

The purpose of stability is to provide evidence on how the quality of a drug substance or drug product varies with time under the influence of a variety of environmental factors such as temperature and humidity and to formulations of Zidovudine loaded microparticles was carried out by storing 1gm of microparticles in an amber colored screw capped bottle for a period of 1 month at  $40 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$  temperature and 75% RH using stability chamber (Thermolab, Mumbai). Sampling was carried out at 1 month interval and examined for percent entrapment.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

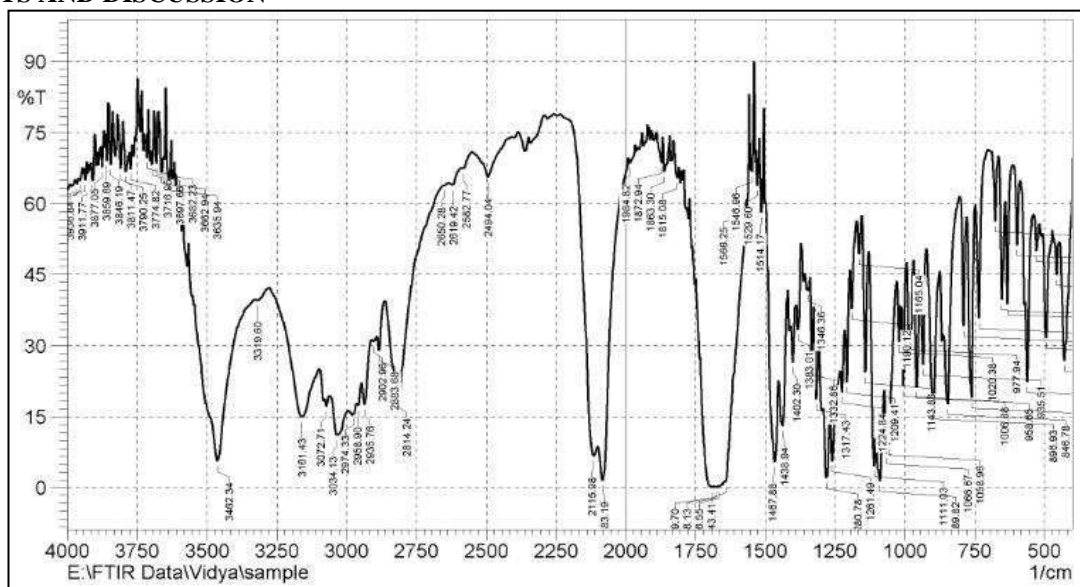


Fig. 1: FTIR Spectra of Zidovudine Pure Drug.

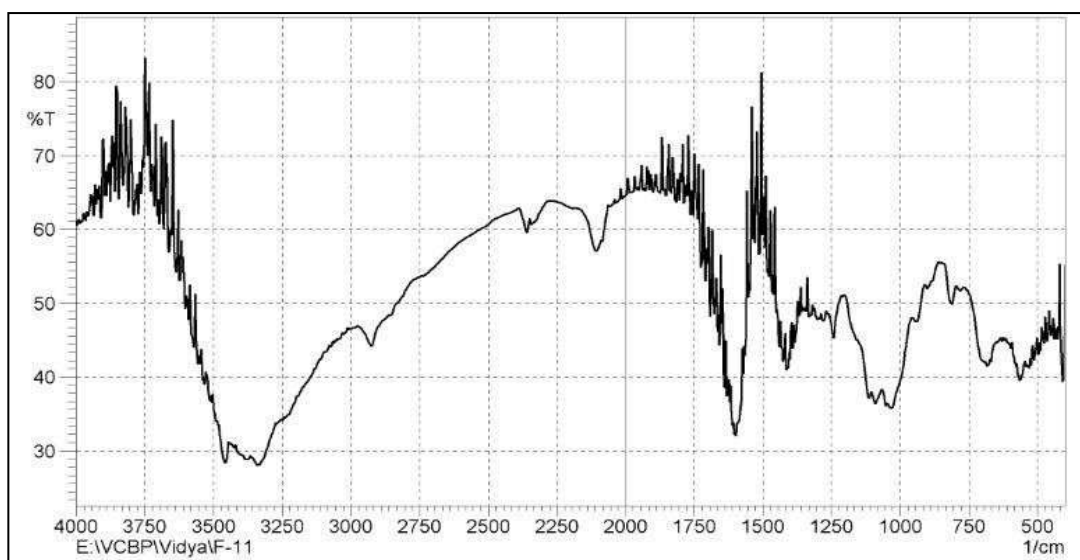


Fig. 2: FTIR Spectra of F-11.

Differential Scanning Calorimetry

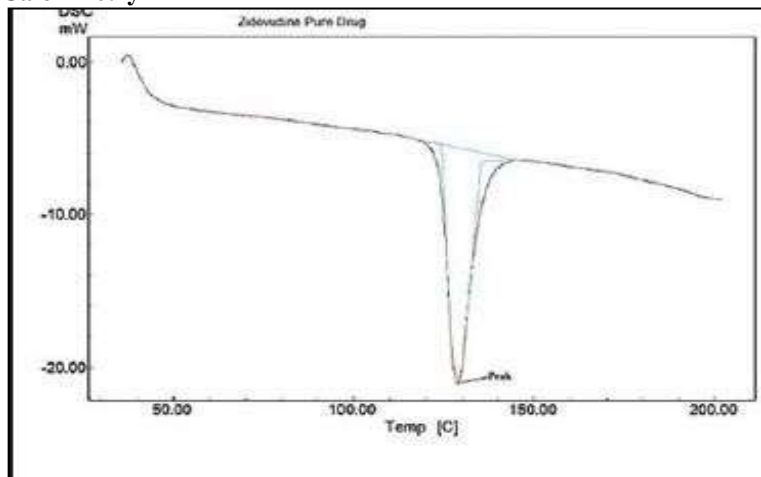


Fig-3: DSC Analysis of Pure drug.

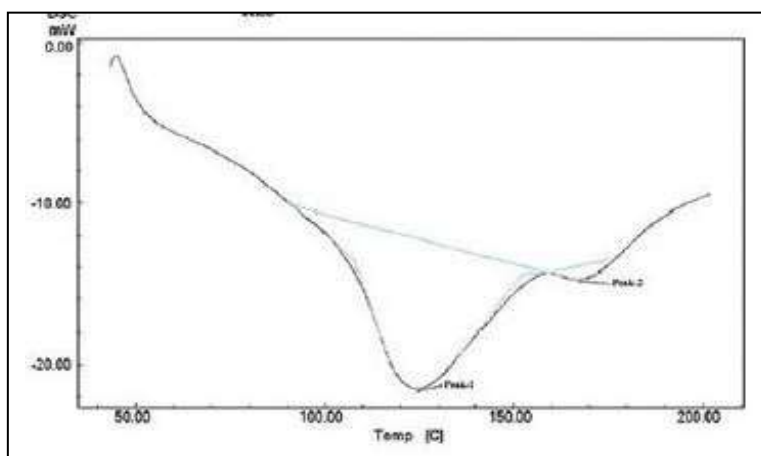


Fig-4: DSC Analysis of Optimized formulation.

SEM Analysis

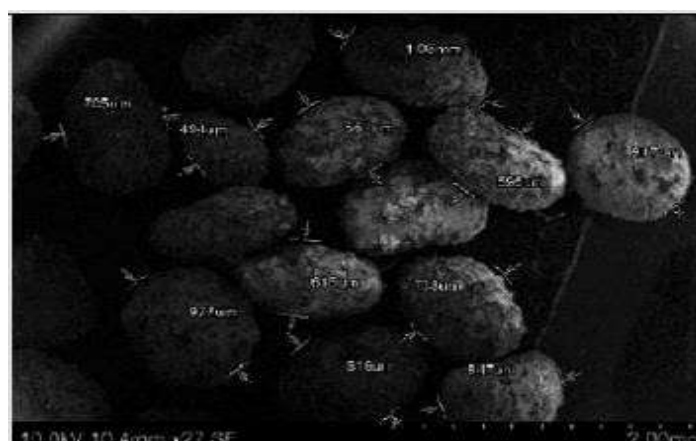


Fig. 5: SEM Analysis of optimized formulation.

Table 2: Drug entrapment efficiency and particle size containing microparticles of zidovudine(F1-F16).

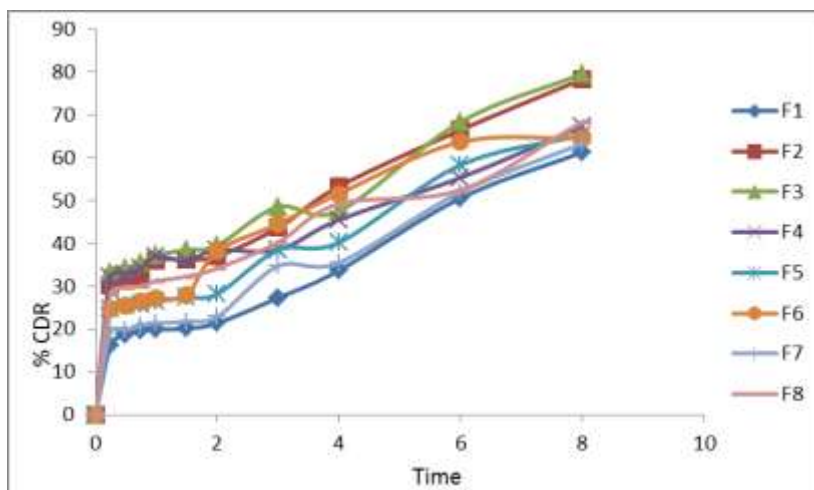
| Formulationcode | %drugentrapmentefficiency | Particlename±SD |
|-----------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| F1              | 44.1±0.24                 | 531±09.21       |
| F2              | 30.52±0.54                | 632±14.61       |
| F3              | 21.05±0.56                | 734±20.48       |
| F4              | 34.47±0.45                | 842±16.21       |
| F5              | 23.68±0.47                | 736±13.21       |

|     |            |           |
|-----|------------|-----------|
| F6  | 21.93±0.40 | 633±10.21 |
| F7  | 35±0.46    | 542±10.65 |
| F8  | 51.84±0.57 | 645±09.54 |
| F9  | 49.47±0.57 | 739±08.21 |
| F10 | 72.10±0.88 | 789±11.21 |
| F11 | 79.21±0.87 | 836±14.23 |
| F12 | 47.2±0.81  | 884±12.32 |
| F13 | 47.2±0.81  | 936±11.32 |
| F14 | 72.3±0.68  | 996±21.32 |
| F15 | 75±0.59    | 852±18.91 |
| F16 | 46.84±0.90 | 996±13.56 |

**In-Vitro Drug Release Profile**

**Table 3: Vitro Drug Release Profile Containing Microparticles of Zidovudine(F1-F8).**

| Time | F1         | F2         | F3         | F4         | F5         | F6         | F7         | F8         |
|------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 0    | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          |
| 0.25 | 16.25±2.12 | 30.27±1.56 | 33.34±3.24 | 32.17±2.46 | 24.6±3.23  | 24.61±3.18 | 19.42±2.45 | 28.24±1.34 |
| 0.5  | 18.65±4.12 | 31.26±4.12 | 34.29±4.17 | 32.84±3.25 | 25.46±4.68 | 25.57±2.11 | 19.71±3.59 | 29.68±2.57 |
| 0.75 | 19.59±2.38 | 32.11±3.59 | 35.56±4.36 | 34.27±1.05 | 25.77±3.84 | 26.36±4.29 | 20.81±2.41 | 29.98±4.28 |
| 1    | 19.87±1.92 | 35.97±4.98 | 37.28±3.85 | 36.98±2.94 | 26.4±2.58  | 27.14±3.45 | 21.32±3.26 | 31.2±3.49  |
| 1.5  | 20.12±3.67 | 36.28±3.28 | 38.49±4.04 | 36.03±1.76 | 27.4±3.56  | 28.01±4.28 | 21.81±3.4  | 32.27±2.84 |
| 2    | 21.37±4.38 | 36.97±4.37 | 39.45±3.27 | 38.45±3.32 | 28.15±4.38 | 38.12±3.85 | 22.84±4.19 | 34.18±2.97 |
| 3    | 27.26±3.59 | 43.65±3.56 | 48.58±3.75 | 38.49±3.47 | 38.46±3.28 | 44.53±4.05 | 34.69±3.27 | 40.23±3.58 |
| 4    | 33.67±2.57 | 53.27±3.67 | 47.49±4.25 | 45.49±2.74 | 40.21±4.23 | 51.58±3.67 | 35.48±4.28 | 49.24±4.19 |
| 6    | 50.56±4.12 | 66.48±4.16 | 68.38±3.57 | 55.36±2.76 | 58.29±3.67 | 63.67±4.10 | 51.97±3.28 | 52.48±3.27 |
| 8    | 61.29±3.4  | 78.34±3.72 | 79.56±4.1  | 67.38±4.64 | 65.35±4.36 | 64.58±3.67 | 63.28±2.17 | 68.35±4.65 |



**Fig-6: Vitro Drug Release Profile Containing Microparticles of Zidovudine (F1-F8).**

**Table 4: Vitro Drug Release Profile Containing Microparticles of Zidovudine(F9-F16).**

| Time | F9         | F10        | F11        | F12        | F13        | F14        | F15        | F16        |
|------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 0    | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          |
| 0.25 | 21.64±4.23 | 30.11±2.64 | 30.15±2.36 | 27.66±2.35 | 19.95±2.56 | 32.14±3.25 | 32.34±2.34 | 38.56±2.85 |
| 0.5  | 22.66±4.12 | 32.44±5.12 | 40.21±4.24 | 37.63±3.18 | 22.12±3.73 | 34.07±2.56 | 35.75±3.57 | 42.83±3.57 |
| 0.75 | 24.56±2.36 | 33.95±3.68 | 47.46±2.56 | 41.46±4.29 | 23.69±3.82 | 36.42±4.06 | 38.01±3.87 | 44.35±3.45 |
| 1    | 25.05±3.45 | 35.34±4.27 | 52.19±3.17 | 43.92±3.78 | 24.32±4.05 | 40.65±3.84 | 40.39±4.03 | 48.65±4.13 |
| 1.5  | 26.87±2.56 | 38.37±2.67 | 56.38±4.12 | 43.99±4.32 | 23.39±2.46 | 47.31±3.12 | 42.51±3.59 | 52.35±3.29 |
| 2    | 27.77±4.38 | 39.07±4.18 | 63.4±3.72  | 49.19±3.56 | 26.37±3.57 | 57.15±3.17 | 50.23±3.37 | 57.06±2.79 |
| 3    | 35.68±4.21 | 47.62±3.27 | 72.17±3.71 | 52.62±3.14 | 32.56±1.97 | 63.58±4.05 | 65.12±4.22 | 68.12±4.04 |
| 4    | 49.35±3.56 | 62.33±8.49 | 78.63±2.35 | 63.76±2.28 | 44.45±4.1  | 71.77±2.48 | 77.58±3.37 | 72.42±3.76 |
| 6    | 65.27±3.64 | 72.98±3.35 | 85.12±3.68 | 67.52±2.17 | 58.48±3.58 | 87.36±3.58 | 79.23±2.56 | 79.57±3.57 |
| 8    | 68.95±2.68 | 85.32±2.45 | 98.82±3.87 | 78.75±3.63 | 63.59±4.35 | 92.35±2.95 | 86.35±2.58 | 86.39±4.02 |

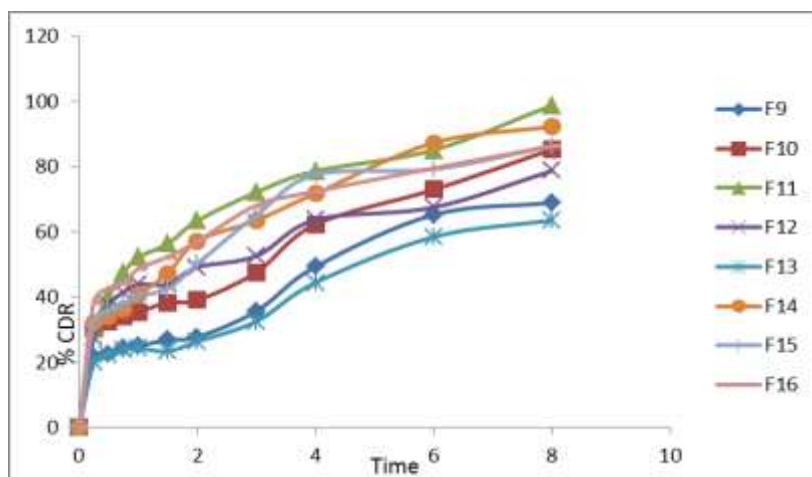


Fig. 7: Vitro Drug Release Profile Containing Microparticles of Zidovudine (F8-F16).

### Stability Studies

Table 5: Stability data of zidovudine microparticles.

| Sampling time (months) | Entrapment efficiency |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 0                      | 79.21±0.87            |
| 1                      | 78.25±0.85            |
| 2                      | 77.21±0.82            |
| 3                      | 75.21±0.80            |

### CONCLUSION

FTIR studies and therm analysis can be used to investigate and predict physicochemical interactions between compounds in a physical mixture and therefore can be applied to the selection of suitable chemically compatible excipients. pure drug zidovudine exhibited an endothermic peak at about 130°C, which started to melt at 128.8°C, which corresponds to the melting point of the drug. F11 exhibited an endothermic peak at about 124.4°C, which corresponds to the melting point of the drug. Microparticles containing the drug it may indicate that the drug was uniformly dispersed at the molecular level in the microparticles. F-11 showed maximum drug entrapment (79%) and F-11 showed maximum drug release (98.82±3.87). From the scanning electron microscopy, it was observed that particles were spherical. The surface of the drug loaded all the microparticles manifested the presence of drug particles. All the microparticles had small pores on their surface, which is responsible for the release. Among all the F-11 formulation showed maximum drug release in 8 hours. The stability study was performed for these selected formulations for 3 months suggested that all the formulations were stable, with no physical change and also the drug content was unchanged.

### REFERENCES

1. Wentao, k, xln, ll, Eurpolym, 2013; 49: 4167.
2. Graham, N.B Cameron, A. Pure Applchem, 1998; 70: 1271.
3. Ying, L, Micheal, S, Kinam, P. Int j pharm., 2014; 258: 461.
4. Pandey A, Kumar G, Kothiyal P, Barshiliya Y.

Formulation and evaluation of gastro retentive microspheres of verapamil. *Asian J Pharm Med Sci.*, 2012; 2: 48–54.

5. Nath B, Nath LK, Kumar P. Preparation and *in vitro* dissolution profile of zidovudine loaded microspheres made of Eudragit RS 100, RL 100 and their combinations. *Acta Pol Pharm.*, 2011; 68: 409–15.
6. Gibaud S, Jabir Al Awwadi N, Ducki C, Astier A. Poly (epsilon-caprolactone) and Eudragit microparticles containing fludrocortisone acetate. *Int J Pharm.*, 2004; 269: 491–508.
7. Hyun-Jong C, Dahlkyun O, Dae-Duk K. Polysaccharides-based spray-dried microspheres for maintained stability and controlled release of protein. *J Pharm Invest*, 2012; 42: 83.
8. Cho HJ, Balakrishnan P, Chung SJ, Shim CK, Kim DD. Evaluation of protein stability and *in vitro* permeation of lyophilized polysaccharides-based microparticles for intranasal protein delivery. *Int J Pharm.*, 2011; 416: 77–84.
9. Bhalekar MR, Patil KP, Kshirsagar SJ, Mohapatra S. Formulation optimization and *in vivo* evaluation of mucoadhesive xyloglucan microspheres. *Pharm Chem J.*, 2011; 45: 503.