

**INVITRO WASH- OFF COMPARISSION STUDIES OF METRONIDAZOLE  
MUCOADHESIVE MICROSPHERES USING DIFFERENT POLYMERS****Sujatha Banavath<sup>1\*</sup>, Samreen Unnisa, Pidugu Nandhini Mudhiraj<sup>1</sup>, Marla Mahesh<sup>1</sup>, Ragya Eslavath<sup>2</sup>,  
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**ABSTRACT**

The present work is to prolong the gastric residence time of Metronidazole by formulating in to muco adhesive control release microspheres. The muco adhesive microspheres were prepared by ionotropic gelation method of polyelectrolyte complexation technique using sodium alginate as control release polymer and cabopo -1934 as muco adhesive polymers in different proportions and calcium chloride as agent of multivalent cations. The prepared microspheres were characterized by micromeritic properties, mean particle size, in vitro wash-off test, in vitro drug release and compatibility studies. The data obtained in this study suggests that a micro particulate muco adhesive dosage form of Metronidazole can be successfully formulated to give prolonged residence time.

**KEYWORDS:** Metronidazole, gastric residence time, sodium alginate, Cabopo-1934, ionotropic gelation method.**INTRODUCTION**

Metronidazole is used for the treatment of amoebiasis, and other parasitic diseases. is an antibiotic and antiprotozoal medication.<sup>[1]</sup> It is used either alone or with other antibiotics to treat pelvic inflammatory disease, endocarditis, and bacterial vaginosis.<sup>[3]</sup> It is effective for dracunculiasis, giardiasis, trichomoniasis, and amebiasis.<sup>[3]</sup> It is an option for a first episode of mild-to-moderate Clostridium difficile colitis if vancomycin or fidaxomicin is unavailable.<sup>[1,2,3,4,5,6]</sup> Metronidazole is available by mouth, as a cream, and intravenously.<sup>[7]</sup> Common side effects include nausea, a metallic taste, loss of appetite, and headaches.<sup>[8]</sup> Occasionally seizures or allergies to the medication may occur.<sup>[9]</sup> Some state that metronidazole should not be used in early pregnancy while others state doses for trichomoniasis are safe.<sup>[10]</sup> It should not be used when breastfeeding.<sup>[5]</sup>

**MATERIALS AND METHODS****Materials**

Metronidazole obtained from the Natco pharma ltd kothur telangana India *Sodium alginate*, carbopol-934, calcium chloride were purchased from SD fine chemical private Ltd, Mumbai, Maharastra.

**Method****Ionotropic gelation method**

Metronidazole muco adhesive microspheres were prepared by ionotropic gelation method using polyelectrolyte complexation technique. In this method the required amount of metronidazole, sodium alginate,

carbopol 934 and calcium chloride were weighed and passed through sieve no  $\neq$  60. Sodium alginate and Carbopol were dissolved in water to form a homogenous polymer solution by continuous stirring to which metronidazole was added. The resultant drug dispersion was loaded into dry disposable syringe with needle size no 20 and added drop wise into 2% w/v solution of calcium chloride under constant stirring. The added droplets were retained in the calcium chloride solution for 15 min to complete the curing reaction and to produce the spherical rigid microspheres. The microspheres were collected by decantation, and the product thus separated was washed repeatedly with water and dried at room temperature for 24 hours. Total 6 formulations were prepared by using different drug and polymer ratios.

SL.NO	FORMULATION CODE	DRUG: POLYMERS	RATIO
1.	F1	Metronidazole: Sodium alginate	1 : 2
2.	F2	Metronidazole:Sodiumalginate: Cabopol 934	1 : 1.8 : 0.2
3.	F3	Metronidazole : Sodium alginate	1 : 4
4.	F4	Metronidazole:Sodiumalginate: cabopol 934	1 : 3 : 1
5.	F5	Metronidazole:Sodiumalginate: cabopol 934	1 : 2 : 2
6.	F6	Metronidazole:Sodiumalginate: cabopol 934	1 : 1 : 3

### Evaluation of Mucoadhesive Microspheres

**Micromeritic properties:** The mucoadhesive microspheres were characterized by their micromeritic properties such as particle size, bulk density, tapped density, compressibility index Hausner's ratio and angle of repose.

**A) Tapped density:** The prepared mucoadhesive were transferred to a measuring cylinder and tapped for 100 times. After tapping volume of microspheres was visually examined. The ratio of microspheres to volume of microspheres after tapping gives tapped density.  
Tapped density = Mass of microspheres in grams / Volume of microspheres after tapping.

**B) Bulk density:** The prepared mucoadhesive were transferred to a measuring cylinder and the volume occupied by the microspheres was noted. This volume is bulk volume and it includes true volume of the powder and the void space among the microspheres.  
Bulk density = Weight of microspheres in grams / Bulk volume of microspheres in cm<sup>3</sup>

**C) Carr's compressibility index:** The compressibility index is a measure of flow of a powder to be compressed. It was determined from the bulk and tapped densities.

Carr's compressibility index = Tapped density - Bulk density x 100 / Tapped density

**D) Hausner's ratio:** Tapped density and bulk density were measured and the Hausner's ratio was calculated using the following formula:

Hausner's Ratio = Tapped density / Bulk density

The values less than 1.25 indicate good flow where as greater than 1.25 indicates poor flow.

**Angle of repose:** Angle of repose is defined as the maximum angle possible between the surface of the pile and the horizontal plane.

Formula

$$\theta = \tan^{-1} h/r$$

BATCH CODE	ANGLE OF REPOSE (°)	BULK DENSITY (g/cm <sup>2</sup> )	TAPPED DENSITY (g/cm <sup>2</sup> )	HAUSNERS RATIO	Carr's index
F1	16	0.71	0.81	1.14	12.34
F2	12	0.79	0.85	1.07	7.05
F3	14	0.68	0.81	1.19	16.04
F4	11	0.80	0.87	1.09	8.04
F5	13	0.70	0.76	1.08	7.89
F6	15	0.61	0.68	1.09	10.29

**Particle size:** The particle size was measured by microscopic technique with the help of ocular and stage micrometre. A drop of suspension was mounted on a slide and observed under optical microscope about 100 particles were measured and their average size was determined.

**Entrapment Efficiency:** The capture efficiency of the microspheres or the percent entrapment can be determined by allowing washed microspheres to lyse. The lysate is then subjected to the determination of active constituents as per monograph requirement. The percent encapsulation efficiency of all formulations were shown in table no 9 and is calculated using following equation,  
% Entrapment = Actual content / Theoretical content x 100.

BATCH CODE	PARTICLE SIZE μm	ENTRAPMENT EFFICIENCY
F1	170	70%
F2	140	78%
F3	190	75%
F4	285	82%
F5	200	91%
F6	225	87%

### In vitro wash off test

The mucoadhesive properties of the microspheres were evaluated by the in vitro wash off test. A 2 X 3 cm piece of goat intestine mucosa was tied on to a glass slide using thread. Microspheres were spread (~50) onto the wet, rinsed, tissue specimen and the prepared slide was hung onto to the one of the grooves of the USP tablet disintegrating test apparatus. The disintegrating test apparatus was operated such that the tissue specimen was

given regular up and down movements in the beaker containing the simulated gastric fluid USP pH 1.2 and pH 6.8 buffer. At the end of 30 minutes, 1hr and at hourly intervals up to 8 hrs the number of microspheres still adhering onto the tissue was counted. The results of in vitro wash off test of batches B1 to B7 were shown in table no 10 and 11.

**Entrapment Efficiency:** The capture efficiency of the microspheres or the percent entrapment can be determined by allowing washed microspheres to lyse. The lysate is then subjected to the determination of active constituents as per monograph requirement. The percent encapsulation efficiency of all formulations were shown in table no 9 and is calculated using following equation,  

$$\% \text{ Entrapment} = \frac{\text{Actual content}}{\text{Theoretical content}} \times 100.$$

#### In Vitro drug release

To carry out In Vitro drug release, accurately weighed 50 mg of loaded microspheres were dispersed in dissolution fluid in a beaker and maintained at  $37 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$  under continuous stirring at 100 rpm. At selected time intervals 5 ml samples were withdrawn through a hypodermic syringe fitted with a  $0.4 \mu\text{m}$  Millipore filter and replaced with the same volume of pre-warmed fresh buffer solution to maintain a constant volume of the receptor compartment. The samples were analyzed spectrophotometrically. The released drug content was determined from the standard calibration curve of given drug.

#### percent mucoadhesive property of all formulations in pH 1.2 buffer

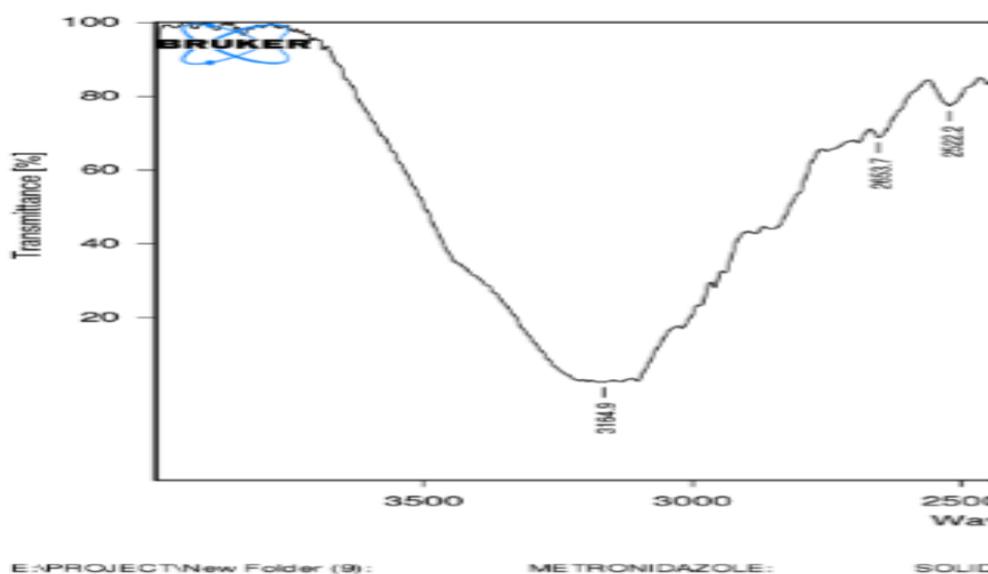
Time (hr)	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
0.5	35%	70%	45%	78%	82%	75%
1	20%	65%	27%	78%	78%	69%
2	02%	53%	05%	71%	78%	67%
3	---	40%	---	71%	72%	65%
4	---	30%	---	68%	72%	65%
5	---	25%	---	68%	72%	60%
6	---	17%	---	68%	70%	58%
7	---	05%	---	65%	70%	50%
8	---	---	---	60%	68%	40%

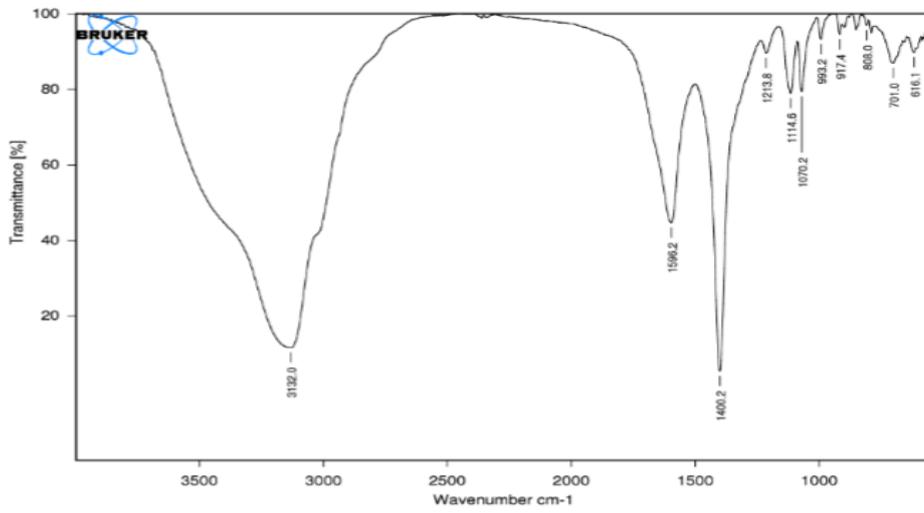
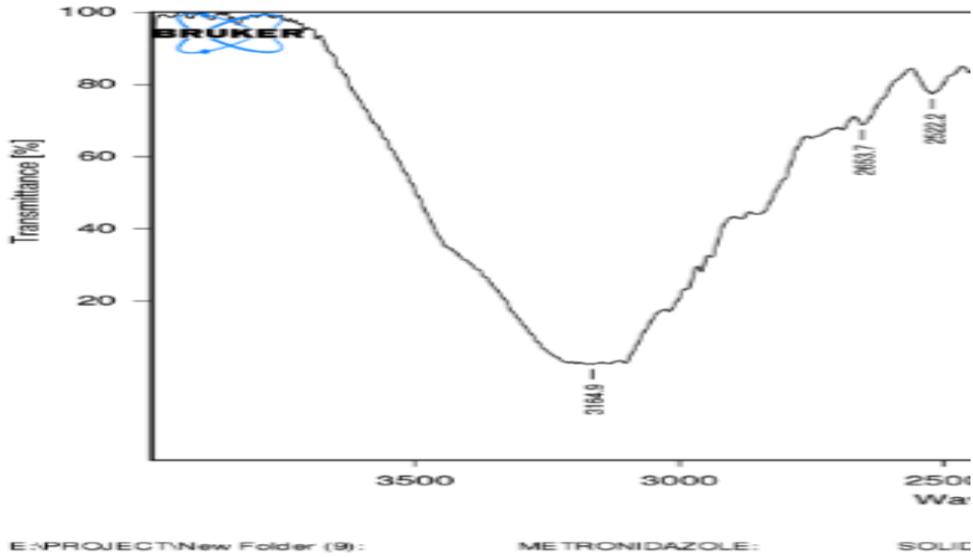
#### Percent mucoadhesive property of all formulations in pH 6.8 buffer.

Time (hr)	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
0.5	30%	65%	45%	78%	88%	71%
1	15%	58%	37%	72%	81%	69%
2	---	55%	08%	70%	81%	62%
3	---	45%	---	68%	81%	62%
4	---	41%	---	68%	78%	62%
5	---	38%	---	68%	78%	55%
6	---	31%	---	60%	72%	55%
7	---	24%	---	58%	68%	51%
8	---	08%	---	55%	65%	40%

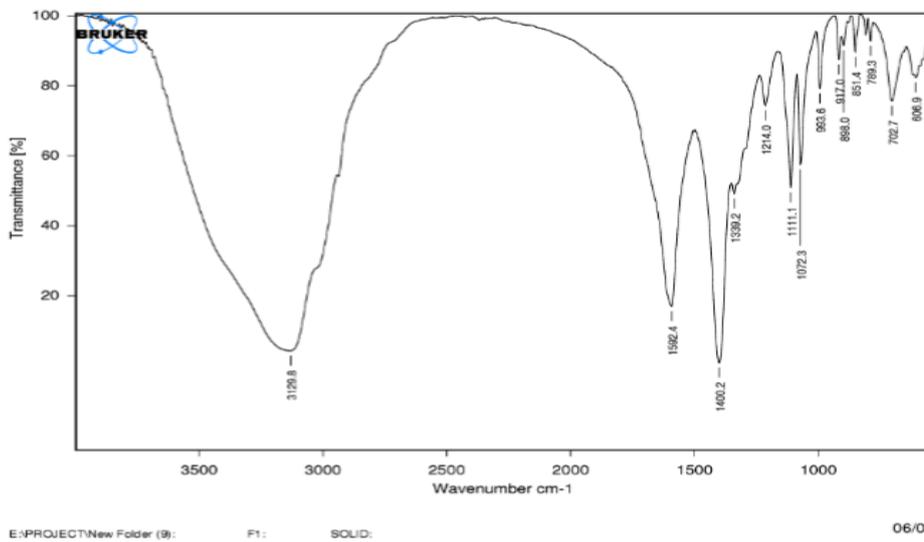
#### Drug polymer interaction (FTIR) study

IR spectroscopy can be performed by Fourier transformed infrared spectrophotometer. The pellets of drug and potassium bromide were prepared by compressing the powders at 20 psi for 10 min on KBr-press and the spectra were scanned in the wave number range of  $4000 - 600 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ . FTIR study was carried on pure drug, physical mixture, formulations and empty microspheres.





FTIR of metronidazole,



FTIR of metronidazole, sodium alginate and carbopol.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The muco adhesive microspheres were prepared by ionotropic gelation method of polyelectrolyte complexation technique using sodium alginate as control release polymer and carbopo -1934 as muco adhesive polymers in different proportions and calcium chloride as agent of multivalent cations. The prepared microspheres were characterized by micromeritic properties, mean particle size, in vitro wash-off test, in vitro drug release and compatibility studies. The data obtained in this study suggests that a micro particulate muco adhesive dosage form of Metronidazole can be successfully formulated to give prolonged residence time. From all the six formulations predict some values which are ratios were successfully formulated by ionotropic gelation method. All the formulations have shown good flow properties and good particle size. The in vitro washoff comparison test, in vitro drug release were carried out in 1.2pH and 6.8 pH buffers and F5 formulation has shown good muco adhesion Property and in vitro release amongst all the 6 formulations. Formulation F5 has shown good drug and excipient compatibility.

## CONCLUSION

The muco adhesive microspheres of Metronidazole using carbopo 1934 and sodium alginate in different Ratios were successfully formulated by ionotropic gelation method. All the formulations have shown good flow properties and good particle size. The in vitro washoff comparison test, in vitro drug release were carried out in 1.2 pH and 6.8pH buffers and F5 formulation has shown good muco adhesion Property and in vitro release amongst All the 6 for mulations Formulation F5 has shown good drugs all the 6 formulations. Formulation and excipient compatibility.

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