

Polyelectrolyte multifaceted magnetic microcapsules for magnetic drug targeting at rheumatoid arthritic joints

Latha, S; Palanisamy, S; Chakrapani, P; Harinia, R; Babu, PS; Thimiri Govindaraj, Deepak B

Abstract:

Background: Drug delivery is a science that requires the development of tailored systems that can deliver defined quantities of a therapeutic payload at a specific target site, at a controlled release rate, with or without a specific trigger. However, several drug molecules cannot be formulated or administered by standard techniques as they exhibit poor water solubility or have limited stability in the human body. Polymeric multilayer capsules assembled using layer-by-layer technique (LbL) are promising candidates for complex tasks, such as storage, encapsulation, and release. These carriers can be readily engineered and functionalized with desired properties and are also flexible for specific changes with respect to mechanical stability, elasticity, morphology, biocompatibility, permeability, and surface characteristics. Multifunctionality and its ability to respond to various stimuli that can affect and control their properties are the most significant advantages of polyelectrolyte multilayered (PEM) capsules. Aim: The present study was aimed to develop a Fe-drug-loaded microbullets using a novel hybrid technology for magnetic targeted therapy and its comparative evaluation on rheumatoid arthritis. Methodology: Methotrexate magnetic microcapsules (MMC) and prednisolone magnetic microcapsules (PMC) were developed using the techniques detailed later. Poly(sodium 4-styrenesulfonate) (PSS)-doped porous CaCO₃ core microparticles were prepared by biomimetic mineralization method and its surface morphology was observed and analyzed using SEM, followed by which particle size distribution, zeta potential, functional group characterization, thermal stability, porosity, and crystallinity were evaluated. Drug-loaded PSS-doped CaCO₃ core microparticles were developed using solvent evaporation technique, and the resulting complex was assessed for drug loading and entrapment efficiency. Anionic poly(sodium 4-styrenesulfonate) and cationic poly(allylamine hydrochloride) in a suitable concentration were added alternatively up to 5 cycles to the drug incorporated PSS-doped CaCO₃ microparticles by layer-by-layer procedure. Previously, iron oxide nanoparticles as ferrofluid prepared by coprecipitation technique were added in between the polyelectrolyte layers during the cycle. The CaCO₃ core was preferentially removed to yield drug-loaded magnetic microcapsules. The formulated MMC and PMC were evaluated for its morphology by SEM and TEM, particle size distribution, and zeta potential with zeta sizer, functional group characterization with FT-IR spectrometer, static magnetic properties with vibrating sample magnetometer, dynamic magnetic susceptibility with AC susceptometer, and stability studies. Adjuvant-induced arthritis rat model was used to evaluate the therapeutic efficacy of optimized MMC and PMC. Paw volume, hematological, biochemical parameters, radiological, and histopathological studies showed better therapeutic activity than standard drug.