

A Considerable Analysis of Nanostructured Lipid Transporters

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Abstract: All of the main types of drug delivery systems used in nanoscience have well-established pharmaceutical manufacturing processes, and lipid-containing drug delivery systems, like NLC, are one of them. The many NLC issues and product-related specifications that are crucial for lipid formulations are thoroughly covered in this chapter. Currently, there are many DDS that improve the medications' solubility in a range of media and increase their bioavailability in a variety of settings and situations. NLCs are a unique kind of DDS that may produce concentrated dispersions and are stable in a range of environments. In this chapter, we covered a variety of process factors, NLC manufacturing methods, and responses and their results. NLCs has the ability to modify the pharmacokinetic properties of drug carriers, therefore augmenting therapeutic efficacy, mitigating unfavorable side effects, and improving medication distribution to the intended organ.

Keywords: Nanostructures, Lipid, Examination, Nanotechnology

I. INTRODUCTION

The commercially viable Lipid-based Drug Delivery System may be used to create pharmaceuticals in a range of dosage formats. Many ingredients must be added to lipid formulations, such Nano Lipid Carriers. The bioavailability and solubility of insoluble drugs are two critical factors that may be enhanced using formulations such as Nano Lipid Carriers. In order to produce nanostructured lipid carriers in large quantities, several pharmaceutical firms have created reliable industrial procedures. All significant categories of factors, including lipid selection, surfactants, additional necessary excipients, and production techniques, differ, nevertheless. Particle size and shape, phase transition, solubility, medication bioavailability, and other factors are altered as a result.

The unique properties of lipid nanoparticles are essential to their therapeutic impact. Because of their special qualities, which include their surface to mass ratio, additional colloidal particles, and ability to bind and transport chemicals, nanoparticles are a more sensible choice for pharmaceutical goods.

medications classified as class II in the Biopharmaceutics Classification System are somewhat water-soluble. Lipid nanoformulations may make these medications more dispersible and less prone to the delayed and incomplete disintegration of these pharmaceuticals. Additionally, they may facilitate the formation of solubilized phases, which facilitate easy drug absorption. When it comes to the delivery system's mobility in vivo, the degree and mode of drug release from any other vehicle-mediated delivery system—like an emulsion or liposome—are critical.

Muller produced a lipid matrix with an extremely distinctive nanostructure for the just formed NLCs. Additionally, this specific kind of NLC nanostructure improves the drug's solubility, drug loading, and bioavailability in a variety of contexts. High-pressure homogenization is one among the many techniques and technologies that may be used to manufacture or construct these sorts of NLCs. Following the optimization of different settings and circumstances, these methods may deliver almost 30–80% of the final product yield, based on the literature.

A novel DDS formulation called NLCs may provide concentrated dispersions with improved loading and stability. Industrial procedures that are well-established have been developed by several pharmaceutical firms to produce huge quantities of nanostructured lipid carriers. The selection of lipid, surfactants, other necessary excipients, and preparation techniques are just a few examples of the many primary parameter types that still change. These variations have an

impact on a number of different characteristics, including particle size, shape, phase transition, solubility, and drug bioavailability.

NLCs are hybrid carriers with an average size of 10–500 nm that are made up of a binary mixture of solid and liquid lipids. A long chain of liquid and lipid with a ratio of 99.9:0.1 and a small chain of solid and lipid with a ratio of 70:30 make up the combination of NLCs.

In the 1990s, NLCs were first made available as an alternative carrier system. Solid lipid carrier systems, such as solid lipid nanoparticles, that are accessible at the nanoscale, have been suggested as an alternative to liposomes. SLN does have several disadvantages, however, such as inadequate medication loading capacity and drug ejection during storage. More modern solid lipid DDS, such NLCs, may readily minimize or do away with these disadvantages. There are updated and new varieties of NLCs accessible with a precise nanostructure. It is these exact nanostructures that are responsible for improving drug loading, bioavailability, and formulation stability. The range of problems associated with the SLN for many drugs, such as its restricted payload, drug ejection during storage, and SLN dispersions due to its high water content, has also been reduced by NLCs.

Structure of NLC's

NLCs have three extremely distinct traits in addition to having a structure that is quite similar to that of SLNs. Three alternative procedures were employed for the creation and formulation of nanostructure NLCs, and their features depend on the site the medicine would be incorporated.

- NLC type I is also known as flawed crystal.
- Multiple type is another name for NLC type II.

Figure 3 depicts NLC type III, often known as the amorphous kind.

The solid matrix of NLC type I, also known as imperfect crystal types, is poorly organized. Glycerides are one kind of fatty acid that may be utilized to enhance and alter the structure. The feature of a good medicine that may be readily enhanced is caused by and also benefited from the total number of structural flaws. The preparation of type I NLCs might involve combining lipids that are spatially dissimilar, which can result in flaws in the crystal lattice. The drug molecules form amorphous clusters and extra-disorderly crystals in their molecular form. To prevent this, a little amount of extra liquid lipid might be added to boost the drug loading. To get out of this problem, employ the glycerides' tiny quality.

It has been well established in the literature that changes in lipid structure may cause issues such drug clusters and an uneven, chaotic lipid matrix. All of these issues are brought on by the crystallization process.

NLC type II

The oil-in-lipid-in-water kind of NLC is also known as the numerous type II type of NLCs. When compared to the solubility of solid lipids, oil is more soluble in type II NLCs. Because oil molecules may easily diffuse into the lipid matrix at low oil concentrations, type II NLCs have high oil content mixtures with solid lipids. If more oil is injected than is necessary for it to dissolve, this may cause the separation of distinct phases, which leads to the creation of tiny oily nano compartments that are enclosed by a solid lipid matrix. This kind of formulation allows for both regulated drug release and lipid matrix drug leakage. In this situation, it is possible to first make lipophilic medicines soluble in oil before using the type II approach and cooling a heated homogenization process.

NLC type III

The amorphous kind of NLCs is also known as the III type. The lipids are combined in this method of NLC preparation so that crystallization may be avoided via the mixing process. The lipid matrix is still solid but amorphous in the type III procedure. Drug ejection is often caused by the crystallization process and methodology. To lessen this, NLCs may also be made by carefully combining solid lipids with unique lipids such isopropyl palmitate, hydroxy octacosanyl hydroxystearate, or MCT. NLC are solid but not crystalline as they develop.

Drug release

In the case of NLCs, the rate of diffusion and degradation determines how quickly pharmaceuticals are released from a matrix. It is widely established in the literature that precise and regulated release that goes beyond diffusion and degradation is necessary. When a particle is provided for the release, an impulse should cause the particle to be activated.

Due to the disordered and disorganized lipid nature of NLCs, the medication must be contained inside them. The structure of the lipid may be changed by using various methods and procedures, which results in a change in the structure of the lipid molecule and, as shown in Figure 4, the beginning of continuing drug release. It was shown that this procedure is crucial when NLCs are added to creams for topical application to the skin as well as for the treatment of various dermatological conditions including psoriasis and eczema. The creation of cyclosporine-lipid particles to treat psoriasis is based on the fact that these kinds of NLCs are beneficial and have extremely favourable features when applied topically. This procedure raises the temperature and causes water to evaporate from the formulation. It was shown that during long-term storage of dispersions in SLNs, particle aggregation may take place. The particle must be in a fixed location to prevent a collision and perikinetic flocculation, since the collision of the particle might lead to perikinetic flocculation in the highly concentrated NLC dispersions where the particles form a pearl-like network.

Advantages of NLC's

- NLCs may be more readily verified and approved by regulatory organizations.
- NLC has outstanding biocompatibility.
- Since the techniques are based on water, organic solvents may be avoided.
- NLCs are less costly and easier to scale up than polymeric or surfactant-based carriers.
- NLCs provide control and/or targeted medication release to enhance pharmaceutical stability.
- Compared to other market-available carriers, NLCs provide excellent and increased medication content.
- NLCs have the ability to simultaneously transport medicines that are hydrophilic and lipophilic.

Most lipids being biodegradable

Component of the NLC Lipids

The primary component of NLC that affects the formulations' sustained release behavior, stability, and drug loading capability is the lipid itself. Fatty acids, glycerides, and waxes are just a few of the lipid components that are used to create lipid nanoparticle dispersions. With the significant exception of cetyl palmitate, the majority of these lipids have received approval as widely recognized as safe and are physiologically well-tolerated. Prior to using them to create lipid nanoparticle dispersions, it is crucial to choose the proper lipids.

Although there are no set rules, empirical values have been suggested as relevant criteria for choosing an appropriate lipid, such as the solubility of the medicine in the lipid. Crystallization in lipids with longer chains of fatty acids is slower than that in those with shorter chains. Wax-based NLC are physically more stable, but because of their more crystalline structure, they demonstrate substantial drug ejection. A binary mixing of two spatially distinct solid lipid matrices, i.e., a solid lipid and a liquid lipid, was employed to construct lipid nanoparticle dispersions, also known as nanostructured lipid carriers, to avoid such issues with lipid crystallinity and polymorphism.

Lipidic solids

a mixture of many chemical substances with melting points above 40 °C.

- The well-tolerance of these solid lipids.
- Accepted for use by people.

Also biodegradable in vivo.

Beeswax, carnauba wax, dynasan, precifac, stearic acid, ppifil, cutina CP 8, and others are examples.

Liquid lipids

These liquid lipids are safe to use on humans and are widely accepted. As stated in Table 1, such examples are Cetiol V, miglyol, castor oil, oleic acid, davana oil, palm oil, and olive oil.

Table 1: Lipids used in the preparation of nanostructured lipid carriers

Fatty acids	Dodecanoic acid, Myristic acid, Palmitic acid and Stearic acid.
Monoglycerides	Glyceryl monostearate, and Glyceryl behenate.
Diglycerides	Glyceryl palmitostearate and Glyceryl dibehenate.
Triglycerides	Caprylate triglyceride, Caprate triglyceride, Glyceryl and tribehenate/Tribehenin.
Waxes	Cetyl Palmitate, Carnauba, and wax Beeswax.
Liquid lipids	Soya bean oil, Oleic acid, Medium chain triglycerides (MCT)/caprylic- and capric triglycerides, α -tocopherol/Vitamin E, Squalene Hydroxyoctacosanyl hydroxystearate and Isopropyl myristate.
Cationic lipids	Cetyl pyridinium chloride (hexadecyl pyridinium chloride, CPC), Cetrimide (tetradecyl trimethyl ammonium bromide, CTAB).

Emulsifying agents – surfactants

The substances known as surfactants are adsorbable at surfaces and lower interfacial tension. Smaller concentrations of a surfactant, often known as a surface-active agent, increase stability by reducing the concentration of other surfactants. Surfactants adhere to the surface of a system or contact at low concentrations. The surface or interfacial free energy and surface or interfacial tension between the two phases are both reduced by surfactant.

Table 2 lists the types and varieties of surfactants. The choice of surfactants for NLCs depends on a variety of variables, including the way the NLCs are administered and the surfactant's HLB value. Table 2 lists the surfactants and co-surfactants.

Table 2: Classification of surfactants and co-surfactants for the preparation of NLC's Surfactants

Ionic surfactants	Non-ionic surfactants
Sodium taurodeoxycholate, Sodium oleate, Sodium dodecyl sulphure	Span 20, 80, 85, Tween 20, 80, Tyloxapol, Poloxamer 188 Poloxamer 407, Solutol HS15
Amphoteric surfactants	Co-surfactants
Egg phospholipid (Lipoid E 80, Lipoid E 80 S) Soy	Butanol, Butyric acid
Hydrogenated soy phosphatidylcholine (Lipoid S PC-3,	
Hydrogenated egg phosphatidylcholine (Lipoid E PC-3)	
Phospholipon 80 H, Phospholipon 90 H)	

In the case of the formulation of NLC's, the combination of solid and liquid-lipid mixes will not aid much for the accomplishing the proper crystallization. lowering the likelihood that the medicine in its encapsulation will be ejected during storage is the solution to this issue. Perhaps greater interfacial area than polysorbate 20 was given by the addition of polysorbate 80. As a consequence, NLC's 80 had a lower average size than NLC's 20. The kind of surfactant used in the formulation may affect the characteristics of NLCs. The average size and charge of the NLCs were greatly impacted by the stabilizer type, but not their size dispersion

Excellent characteristics and qualities of NLCs may enhance the presentation of a variety of integrated medication forms. The kind of surfactant utilized has a significant impact on the NLCs' characteristics.

The impact of surfactant concentration on NLC's particle size and size distribution. By causing steric and electrostatic repulsion among the particles, NLC may be made stable. Several steric and electrostatic repulsion characteristics are given. The extent of the compression of the adsorbed surfactant molecules is determined by the steric interaction, which also depends on the separation distance between the internal and external aqueous phases, the thicknesses of the two adsorbed surfactant layers, the sizes of the internal and external aqueous droplets, and the size of the oil globules. Stronger steric interaction may be obtained with thicker adsorbed layers, which can effectively inhibit coalescence between the interior aqueous droplets and the exterior aqueous phase. The thickness of each of the two surfactant layers has the same impact on steric repulsion. Smaller oil globules and larger internal aqueous droplets can be used to create

a more stable double-emulsion system. Growing the internal aqueous droplet size can result in stronger steric repulsion, but growing the size of the oil globules will weaken the steric repulsion. Because of their non-ionic nature, polyhydroxy surfactants stabilize systems by causing spatial exclusion, leading to low and zero zeta potential. said that the ionic strength of the continuous phase and the charge density on the surface of the water and fat have an impact on the stability of nano lipid carriers against aggregation. In addition to non-electrostatic factors like steric stresses, high zeta potential also has a significant effect on stability.

Excipients for NLCs

Glyceryl behenate (Compritol® 888 ATO), glyceryl palmitostearate (Precirol® ATO 5), fatty acids, steroids, and waxes are among the solid lipids often utilized for NLCs. At normal temperature, these lipids are solid. When they are prepared, they melt at greater temperatures. Typically, digestible oils sourced from natural sources are employed as liquid oils in NLCs. Table 3 lists the excipients used in the creation of NLCs.

Table 3: Excipients used for the preparation of NLC’s

Ingredient	Material
Solid lipids	Gelot® 64, Emulcire® 61, Tristearin, stearic acid, Softisan® 154, Cutina® CP, Imwitor® 900 P, Geleol®, cetyl palmitate
Liquid lipids	Lauroglycol® FCC, Capryol® 90, Medium chain triglycerides, paraffin oil, 2-octyl dodecanol, Miglyol® 812, Transcutol® HP, Labrafil Lipofile® WL 1349, Labrafac® PG
Hydrophilic emulsifiers	Polyvinyl alcohol, Solutol® HS15, polyglycerol methyl glucose distearate Pluronic® F68 (poloxamer 188), Pluronic® F127, Tween 20, Tween 40, Tween 80
Lipophilic emulsifiers	Span 40, Span 60, Myverol® 18-04K, Span 20.
Amphiphilic emulsifiers	Egg lecithin, soya lecithin, phosphatidylcholines, phosphatidylethanolamines, Gelucire® 50/13

Methods of preparation of NLS’s

There are several methods are developed for the preparation of NLS’s [62]. The most command methods are as follows:

- High-pressure homogenization.
- Microemulsion technique.
- Emulsification-solvent diffusion.
- Emulsification-solvent.
- Evaporation solvent injection. Multiple emulsion techniques.
- Phase inversion.
- Ultrasonication.
- Membrane contractor technique .

Methods of preparation lipid screening

High-pressure homogenization

This procedure includes dividing the particles into nanosize in order to create a stable emulsion. There are two different kinds of homogenizers on the market: piston-gap homogenizers and jet-stream homogenizers. Figure 7 illustrates the three ways that are most often used to create NLCs by high-pressure homogenization.

- Hot homogenization
- Cold homogenization
- Microemulsion.

The temperature at which the hot homogenization procedure is carried out is consistently higher than the melting point of the lipids utilized in the formulation.

While in the cold homogenization procedure, the solid lipid is crushed into tiny lipid particles and the lipid melt is cooled.

Advantages

- Used carefully in the dairy, food, and cosmetic sectors.
- It enhances a product's stability, digestion, and shelf life.
- It enhances the formulation's flavor.
- It drastically lowers the amount of additives.
- Important for the stability and quality of the goods in the cosmetics sector.
- The bioavailability of the formulation may be improved by homogenization.
- Economical.

Microbiological contamination is clearly less.

Increasing the drug's solubility and rate of dissolution in gastrointestinal fluids may increase bioavailability. According to this analysis, the main ways to enhance dissolution are to increase the surface area available for dissolution by reducing the solid compound's particle size and/or optimizing the wetting properties of the compound surface, to reduce the thickness of the boundary layer to create sink conditions for dissolution, and, last but certainly not least, to enhance the drug's apparent solubility under physiologically relevant conditions.

Melt dispersion ultrasonication method

The concentration, particle size, preparation-process parameters, crystallinity, and dispersion stability of the surfactant have the greatest impact on the quality and efficacy of lipid nanoparticles.

Tables 4 and 5 provide a detailed discussion of the key material properties, important process features, and critical process variables of NLC.

Table 4: Excipient and their specifications for nanostructured lipid carriers (NLCs)

Excipients Attribute	
Excipient	Specification
Selection of solid lipid	Based on high solubility lipid were selected for preparation of NLC. This is done by dissolving increasing quantities of the ingredient in melted solid lipids and determining the highest amount of the action that could be dissolved in each lipid. Drug solubility should be evaluated in Compritol 888 to and Precirol ATO, stearic acid, glyceryl monostearate.
Selection of liquid lipid	For the selection of liquid lipid, the trial batches should be prepared with fixed ratio of liquid lipid to solid lipid. The example of liquid lipid such as (oleic acid, caprylic/capric triglyceride and propylene glycol dicaprylate/caprate).
Selection of surfactants	The structure of the lipid nanoparticles is affected during formulation so surfactant is used to stabilize the particles in the dispersion media. Based on the HLB and molecular weight surfactant and the of the surfactant molecules, the affinity of the surfactant to the lipid differs. Based upon the HLB value of the surfactant and the molecular weight of the surfactant molecules suitable surfactants should be chosen.
Process Parameter	
Parameter	Specifications
Melting	Melting should be done at 85°C to ensure a complete melting and 5-10°C above the melting point of the solid lipid
Mixing by Stirring	Stirring should be done at 85°C and stirrer should be at 8000 rpm for 20-30 second to confirm mixing of active ingredients with lipids.

cooling	Should be performed at room temperature for solidification The samples were cooled down at room temperature in a thermostatic water bath at 15°C.
Solidification test (oil in the solid lipid matrix) Smearing	This can be done by smearing a piece of the solid mixture on a filter paper and observing if there are any oil spots on the filter paper.
Calorimetric analysis	Can be done on the solid solutions obtained using differential scanning calorimeter. These analyses will detect any presence of crystalline active and also can show if there is an unincorporated part of an active ingredient in the lipid matrix
Temperature	The lipid (oil) phase and the aqueous surfactant solution were heated up to about 80°C. Temperature also affects the zeta potential. NLC can be stored in temperature between 5°C to 25°C. Depending on the temperature, in which NLC stored particle size differs
Particle size	Very important for the stability of the NLC. Techniques were direct measurements (microscopy) and indirect measurements (laser diffractometry and photon correlation spectroscopy)
Homogenization Speed: 8000-16000 rpm	The homogenization speed ranges were selected based on instrument limitation and trial batches. The homogenization speed less than 8000 rpm leads to large particle size and polydisperse colloidal system. However, the upper range should be selected e.g., 16000 rpm. Homogenization pressure of 800 bar and two homogenization cycles
Pressure: 800 bar	
Homogenization Temperature	Homogenization should be performed at higher temperatures (80-90°C)
Sonication time: 5-15 min	The time duration for sonication was selected based on the literature and trial batches. Moreover, longer duration of sonication was avoided due to leaching of the drug from the matrix and possible metal contamination
Physical stability	Physical stability can be evaluated by measuring the zeta potential.
	Zeta potential- 30 mV - colloidal system is in stable state
	Zeta potential- 60 mV - super high stability
	Zeta potential- 15 mV - severe aggregation
Polydispersity index (PI)	Is the measure of the equal distribution of nanoparticle population? PI is carried out by dynamic light scattering (DLS) using Malvern Zetasizer 2000MU (Malvern, UK, detection limit 0.01–1,000 µm).

Table 5: Process variables and their role in the preparation of NLCs

Process Variables	Step involved	Process Responses
Speed and Time	Mixing	Particle shape, Particle size
Temperature	Melting	Phase transition, Solubility
Speed and Time	Stirring	Particle shape, Particle size
Speed, Temperature, Pressure	Homogenization	Particle size, Particle shape

II. CONCLUSION

The carrier systems having the best chances of being effectively sold are the NLCs. The NLCs are a new generation of formulations that work better when manufacturing final dosage forms such injectables, creams, tablets, and capsules, as well as offering considerably more flexibility in drug loading and modulating of release. NLC dispersions are very consistent and may be employed in a variety of compositions. These carriers can increase drug distribution to the target organ, change the pharmacokinetic characteristics of drug carriers to enhance the therapeutic effect, and lessen negative

side effects. They also help to increase bioavailability, drug loading, and solubility of the drug in various conditions and environments

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