

**FORMULATION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF MOUTH DISSOLVING FILM OF  
LICORICE FOR THE TREATMENT OF MOUTH ULCER**

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**ABSTRACT**

Herbal medicine are important and good for action. Oral mouth dissolving drug delivery system is considered to be an important alternative to the peroral route for the systemic administration of drugs, as it considered the most convenient, easy, safest route of administration. Mouth dissolving film may be preferred over the mouth dissolving tablets in terms of flexibility and comfort. The aim of this study is to formulate and characterize oral mouth dissolving film of licorice. Oral films were prepared by Solvent casting method using HPMC-E 15, Propylene glycol, and other recipients. Films were evaluated for mechanical properties, disintegration time, and in-vitro drug release.

**KEYWORDS:** Mouth dissolving film, licorice, Solvent evaporation method, mouth ulcer.

**INTRODUCTION**

Fast dissolving drug delivery is rapidly gaining interest in the pharmaceutical industry because they are easy to administer and lead to better patient compliance. These systems either dissolve or disintegrate generally within a minute, without water or chewing. This system has emerged as a convenient way of taking unit dose of medication to normal as well as pediatric and geriatric patients who may face difficulty in swallowing conventional tablets or capsules and liquid orals or syrup. Fast dissolving dosage forms include tablets, films/strips and microspheres (Aggarwal J et. al 2011). It is also called as oral wafers or strips. Mouth dissolving film may be preferred over the mouth dissolving tablets in terms of flexibility and comfort. MDF are typically designed for oral administration, with the user placing the strip on or under the tongue (sublingual) or along the inside of the cheek (Buccal). These drug delivery options allow the medication to bypass the first pass metabolism, thereby increasing its bioavailability (Kulkarni PK, 2011; GavaskarB, 2010).

Glycyrrhiza glabra belonging to family Leguminosae is well known for its expectorant and demulcent activity. Licorice is also effective in the reduction of pain and inflammation of stomatitis mouth ulcers. Applying of licorice root extract to stomatitis mouth ulcers can reduce ulcer size and speed healing.

Licorice is a hardy herb or under shrub, erect grows to about 2m height. The roots are long, cylindrical, thick and multibranching. The used part of the plant is the root and rhizomes. A number of components have been isolated from licorice, including a water soluble,

biologically active complex that accounts for 40-50 percent of total dry material weight. This complex is composed of triterpene saponins, flavonoids, polysaccharides, pectin, simple sugars, amino acids, mineral salts, and various other substances. Glycyrrhizin, a triterpenoid compound, accounts for the sweet taste of licorice root. Among the natural saponins, glycyrrhizic acid is a molecule composed of a hydrophilic part, two molecules of glucuronic acid, and a hydrophobic fragment, glycyrrhetic acid. The yellow colour of Licorice is due to the flavonoids content of the plant, which includes liquiritin, iso liquiritin (a chalcone), and other compounds. The isoflavones glabridin and hispaglabridins A and B have significant antioxidant activity, and both glabridin and glabrene possess estrogens-like activity. Glycyrrhiza has the following, clinically proved Pharmacological activities such as anti ulcer activity, anti-asthmatic activity, anti-diuretic activity and anti hepato toxic activity (Geetha R.V 2011).

**AIM AND OBJECTIVE**

Aim of the present investigation is to prepare and characterize oral mouth dissolving film. The objective is to extraction of active constituent from licorice root, prepare a mouth dissolving film and study the effect of herbal drug licorice use for mouth ulcer anti bacterial activity.

**Experimental Work****Formulation of Fast Dissolving Films by Solvent casting method**

In this method, firstly at the speed of 1,000 rpm the water soluble polymers are dissolved in water and heated up to 60°C. All the other excipients like colors, flavouring

agent, sweetening agent, etc. are dissolved separately. Finally, both the solutions obtained are mixed thoroughly with stirring at the speed of 1000 rpm. The API dissolved in suitable solvent is incorporated in the above obtained solution. By using vacuum the entrapped air is removed. The resulting solution is cast as a film and allowed to dry and then it is cut into pieces of the desired size. (Rajni Bala, 2013).

## METHODOLOGY

### Extraction of drug

50 g Powder of licorice roots is used for the isolation of glycyrrhizin by the hydroalcoholic meseration in ratio of 70:30 (alcohol: water) for 7 days alcoholic content are removed by evaporation on water bath. It contains about 7% of glycyrrhizin a sweet principle.

### Preparation of film

The solvent casting method is used for the preparation of fast dissolving strip formulation. The oral fast dissolving strips were prepared by taking ingredients in different

concentration of drug (licorice) and HPMC E15 and propylene glycol. HPMC was dispersed in distilled water followed by continuous stirring up to 1 hr on magnetic stirrer and kept for 30 min to remove all the air bubbles entrapped. To this plasticizer (propylene glycol) was added. Solution of aspartame was prepared in separate container.

Both the solutions were mixed together followed by keeping the solution mixture standing for 15-30 min to let the foams settle down. Then this solution was kept in sonicator for at least 15 min. The resulting solution was casted in specific amount(calculated according to the batch size) on a suitable inert platform of film former and the temperature of the film former was set to 40°C. After drying the film was scraped from the film former. Then the film was checked for any imperfections and cut according to the size required for testing(1×1 inches). The samples were a glass container coated with aluminium foil maintained at appropriate temperature.

### Composition of formulation of films

Formulation code	Ingredients				
	HPMC E15 (mg)	Propylene glycol (ml)	Glycyrrhiza (mg)	Aspartame (mg)	Distilled water in ml
F1	150	0.2	20	5	5
F2	150	0.2	50	5	5
F3	150	0.2	100	5	5
F4	150	0.2	150	5	5
F5	150	0.5	200	5	5

### Drug characterization

#### A. Identification of glycyrrhizin

Glycyrrizin is basically triterpenoids and saponin glycoside which are conformed by foam test and hemolytic test.

#### B. TLC of glycyrrhizin

Silica gel G Plate activated in oven 105 degree for 20min  
Solvent system-  
Toluene: Ethyl acetate: Glacial acetic acid  
12.5ml: 7.5ml: 0.5ml Detected by spraying anisaldehyde  
–sulphuric acid

#### C. % Practical Yield

%Practical yield=Practical yield/Theroretical yield\*100

#### D. Solubility Studies

Solubility Studies A solubility study was carried out to find out the solubility of drug in different solvents. According to this method, the pure drug was added to the solvent medium and shaken. The saturation was confirmed by observation of presence of un-dissolved material.

#### E. UV-Visible Spectrophotometric Analysis

##### Standard calibration curve of glycyrrhizin

10mg of glycyrrhizin was dissolved in 10 ml of distilled water and volume was made up to 100ml in a volumetric flask. And then pipette out this solution to prepared the

serial dilution, solutions with concentration 10µg/ML, 20µg/ml, 30µg/ml, 40µg/ml and 50µg/ml were prepared as shown in table 2. was measured on a Shimadzu Double Beam Spectrophotometer(UV1601) at 254nm.

#### F. Antibacterial activity

##### Antimicrobial assay

Agar well-diffusion method: the agar diffusion method was to screen the antibacterial activity of all extracts of roots of Glycyrrhiza glabra used. Seeded broth containing test organism was inoculated on solidified agar and spread uniformly. The 3 wells were cut in the agar layer of each plate with an aluminum bore of 6 mm diameter. One for control and remaining two for test sample. In every plate extract of concentration 10mg/ml in ether. Then all plates were incubated at 37°C ± 1 for 24 hours. After the incubation period the mean diameter of the zone of inhibition in mm obtained around the well was measured.

#### Evaluation of Mouth Dissolving Film (khatoon et al, 2014)

Mouth dissolving film was evaluated for Visual appearance, weight variation, thickness of the film, folding endurance disintegration time as given in table.

#### Visual appearance

The fast dissolving films were evaluated by visual observation such as transparent and semi transparent nature of film.

**Weight variation of the film**

2.5×2.5 cm film was cut from different locations in the caste film. The weight of each film strip was taken and the weight variation was calculated.

**Thickness**

The thickness of the film was measured by the micrometer and the average thickness was calculated and shown in table 3.

**Folding endurance**

The folding endurance is expressed as the number of folds required for breaking the specimen or developing visible cracks. This gives an indication of brittleness of the film. A small strip of 2.5×2.5 cm was subjected to this test by folding the film at the same point repeatedly several times until a visible crack was observed.

**Disintegration time**

Disintegration time study was slightly modified to mimic the in-vitro and in-vivo conditions. For the study, film as per the dimension (2.5×2.5cm) required for dose delivery was placed in a basket containing 900 mL distilled water. Time required for the film to break and disintegrate was noted as in-vitro disintegration time.

**Drug content**

A film of 1.5×1.5cm was cut and dissolved in 100ml of 0.5% SLS and filtered. From this solution 1mL of solution was pipette out and the volume was made upto 10mL. The drug is determined spectroscopically at 254nm.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION****Test for glycerri hizin.**

Test	Observation	Inference
Saponin glycoside		
Foam test	foam was produced	Saponin glycoside confirmed
Heomolytic test	break down of rbc observed.	Saponin glycoside confirmed

❖ %Practical yield=Practical yield/Theoretical yield\*100

❖ % practical yeild =6.3/7\*100 = 90%

Rf = distance travelled by solute from origin/ Distance travelled by solvent from origin

=2.5/6

Rf =0.41



**Fig. 1: TLC of Glycyrrhizin.**

Rf value	0.40cm
%Practical yield	90%

Concentration(µg/mL)	Absorbance
0	0
10	0.2099
20	0.5470
30	0.9258
40	1.1047
50	1.2858

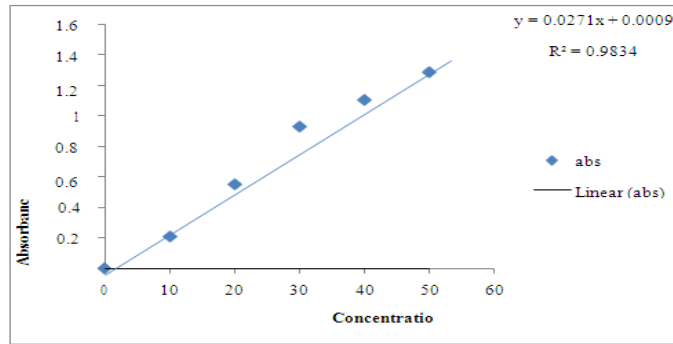
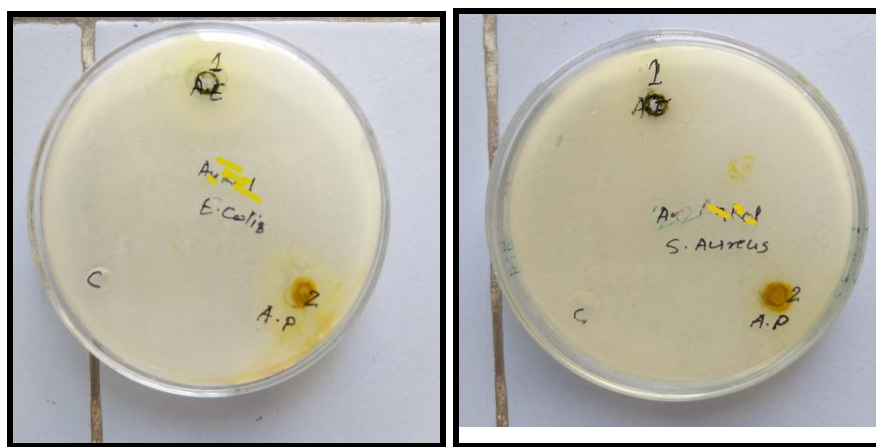


Fig. 2: Standard Calibration Curv.

**Antibacterial activity**

Zone of inhibition shows antibacterial action against micro organism.



Zone of inhibition against E.coli

Zone of inhibition against S.aureu

Fig. 3: Biological Activity of Glycyrrizin.

**Evaluation of Mouth Dissolving Film**

The evaluation of mouth dissolving film was carried out by using following parameters given follows

**A. Visual Appearance**

On visual appearance it was observed that all the film formed by using propylene glycol was transparent in appearance as given in figure no 1.

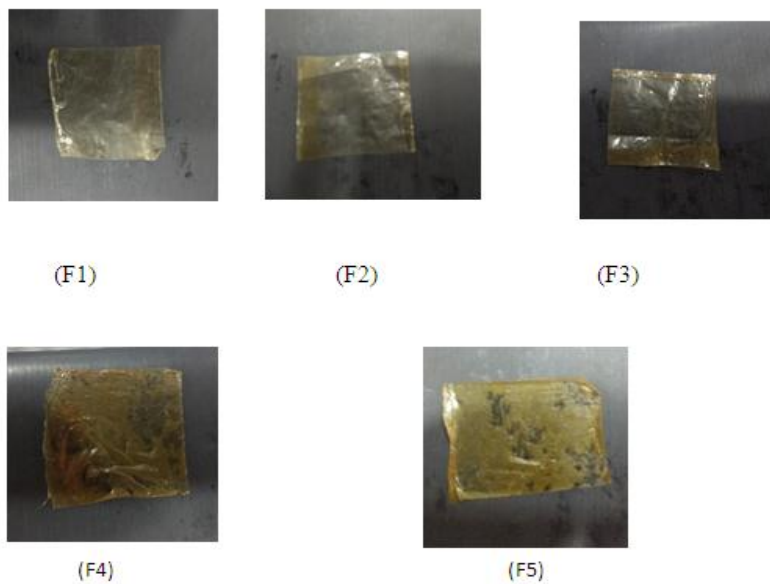


Fig. 4: Visual Appearance of Flims.

**B. Weight variation of the film**

The weight of the prepared films was determined by using digital balance. The films showed weight variation ranging from 12 to  $32.66 \pm 1.33$  mg for the films.

**C. Thickness of the film**

The thickness of the film was measured by Vernier Callipers and the average thickness was calculated. All the films have uniform thickness throughout. The thickness of all the formulations ranged between  $0.15 \pm 0.05$  to  $0.26 \pm 0.05$ mm.

**D. Folding endurance**

The film formed by using 0.1ml (F3) of PEG-400 have least value of folding endurance while film of 0.1ml (F4) show height value of folding endurance.

**E. Disintegration time**

The In-vitro disintegration time of films prepared with HPMC was in the range of  $35 \pm 1.18$  to  $41 \pm 1.14$  sec. Based on the *in-vitro* disintegration time, formulation F7, F8 and F9 were found to be promising and showed a disintegration time of 39, 34 and 30 sec respectively.

**F. Drug content**

The drug content of all the films was in the range of 96.27 to 99.68 % suggesting that drug was uniformly dispersed throughout all films.

**Table 1:**

F. Code	Visual Appearance	Weight of films in mg $\pm$ SD	Thickness in $\mu$ m $\pm$ SD
F1	Transparent Pale yellow colour	12 $\pm$ 0.57	0.20 $\pm$ 0.05
F2	Transparent Pale yellow colour	15.33 $\pm$ 0.33	0.15 $\pm$ 0.05
F3	Transparent Pale yellow colour	13.33 $\pm$ 0.88	0.21 $\pm$ 0.02
F4	Transparent Pale yellow colour	31.33 $\pm$ 0.88	0.26 $\pm$ 0.06
F5	Transparent Pale yellow colour	32.66 $\pm$ 1.33	0.25 $\pm$ 0.05

**Table 2:**

F.Code	Folding endurance	Disintegration time in sec $\pm$ SD	Drug content in%
F1	71 $\pm$ 0.23	39 $\pm$ 0.10	96.27
F2	78 $\pm$ 0.15	41 $\pm$ 0.21	97.11
F3	85.5 $\pm$ 0.25	41 $\pm$ 0.15	96.85
F4	92 $\pm$ 0.12	35 $\pm$ 0.20	99.68
F5	84 $\pm$ 0.18	38 $\pm$ 1.25	98.46

**SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION****Summary**

Glycyrrhizin used for the treatment of expectorant and demulsant and to relieve symptoms of mouth ulcer In present research work an attempt has been made to prepare mouth dissolving films of glycyrrhizin were prepared using different concentration of glycyrrhizin. The fast dissolving oral film evaluated for folding endurance, Thickness surface pH, in-vitro disintegration time, drug content,. The physical appearance and folding endurance properties were found to be good.

In the present study, each mouth dissolving film was 2.5 $\times$ 2.5 cm in size and contained 20, 50, 100, 150, 200 mg respectively. The thickness of the films was approximately 0.02-0.04 mm. The film disintegrated completely within 1 minutes.

**CONCLUSION**

According to the results of this study, liquorice is effective in the reduction of pain and inflammation of stomatitis mouth ulcers. The results of this study confirmed that applying of liquorice root extract to stomatitis mouth ulcers can reduce ulcer size and speed healing

Antimicrobial study shows effective zone of inhibition against the *Glycyrrhiza glabra* belonging to family Leguminosae is well known for its expectorant and demulcent activity. From the above study we can also conclude that it also exhibits good antimicrobial activity against various bacterial strains microorganism.

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