

# Managing Excipients And Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients In The Process Formulation: An Exploratory Study

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**Abstract-** Pharmaceutical excipients are chemicals that are included in a pharmaceutical dosage form for reasons other than direct therapeutic action, such as to facilitate the manufacturing process, to preserve, maintain, or increase stability, or to improve bioavailability or patient acceptability. APIs and inactive molecules are known as excipients are both classified as pharmaceutical raw materials. Pharmaceutical active ingredients (APIs) are the active elements of medication that allow it to have the desired pharmacological effect, whereas excipients are inert chemicals used to transport the API. Because of safety concerns, regulatory agencies throughout the world have devoted special attention to the excipients, food components, and active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) used in paediatric formulations in recent years. Surprisingly few excipients have undergone a randomised controlled study in a juvenile subpopulation, despite the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act of 1938 requiring such testing before incorporation into formulations. Present research work aims at analyzing excipients and active pharmaceutical ingredients and their incorporation into the formulation. Based on an evaluation of previous studies undertaken by research, some of the conclusions and recommendations are presented in this study.

**Keywords-** Food products, population, co-processed excipients, randomized clinical trial, pharmaceutical ingredients

## INTRODUCTION

Global regulatory authorities have paid special attention to excipients, food additives, and active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) in pediatric formulations owing to safety concerns. Certain excipients have been linked to potential growth and development problems in children because they contain pharmacological activity. Although the

Federal Food, Medicinal, and Cosmetic Act of 1938 mandates stringent safety testing of raw ingredients used in drug products before they may be integrated into formulations, relatively few excipients have passed randomized clinical trials (RCT) in the pediatric subpopulation. Newborns and babies, for example, maybe more susceptible to an excipient than a toddler because of differences in their absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion (ADME) profile as a result of normal growth and development. As a result, there aren't many excipients regarded as "safe for eating" among children. Using their chemical structure, chemical reactivity, and safe daily dose for pediatric usage, this chapter will introduce a selection of excipients and APIs that are often used in pediatric products.

By 2022, the worldwide market for APIs (Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients) is projected to be worth \$198.8 billion, representing a CAGR of 6.4%. Some of the things that are pushing the industry forward include the expiry of patents on well-known pharmaceuticals, government efforts, regional penetration, and the rising elderly population. The World Health Organization's (WHO's) stringent validation and safety criteria, as well as a fragmented market, are restraining factors for the API industry. Due to increasing healthcare expenses, government emphasis on generics for lowering healthcare costs, and shrinking pipelines of global pharmaceutical goods, the generic/non-branded sector of the business saw the biggest market share over the projection period. Due to favourable factors such as cheap operational costs and substantial expenditures in medical research, Asia Pacific is predicted to have the largest market share over the projection period. In

addition, the European market was obliged to relocate its headquarters to emerging nations like India due to the high cost of trained labour and energy.

Excipients are additives used in medicine formulations to increase the volume, improve drug absorption, increase stability, and avoid denaturation. Pharmaceutical excipients are nontoxic, inexpensive, stable, and manageable. Excipients may be found in many different types of pharmaceuticals, including capsules, tablets, oral liquids, inhalers, implants, and injections. Demand for oral medications is rising, and this is boosting the pharmaceutical excipients industry worldwide, as reported by ASD Reports. Pharmaceutical companies are under growing pressure to provide oral solid dose medicines with highly particular qualities, such as increased patient compliance and ease of administration. **ABSTRACT** Pharmaceutical excipients are chemicals that are included in a pharmaceutical dosage form for reasons other than direct therapeutic action, such as to facilitate the manufacturing process, to preserve, maintain, or increase stability, or to improve bioavailability or patient acceptability. APIs and inactive molecules are known as excipients are both classified as pharmaceutical raw materials. The introduction of functional excipients has greatly benefited the development of treatments for APIs with limited solubility, as well as the development of an extended-release dosage formulation of an existing drug, which will extend the shelf-life and revenue of an existing product. An excipient is derived from the Latin word *excipere*, which means "to accept" or "other than" in a more literal translation. The term "pharmaceutical excipients" is used to describe all of the ingredients in a drug that not the active component. Although excipients are expected to be harmless, reports of side effects indicate otherwise.

#### LITERATURE REVIEW

Shilpa P Chaudhari (2012) Dosage forms are crucially reliant on excipients. Together with the active pharmaceutical substances, they are the components of the dosage forms. The following overview addresses the many kinds and sources of excipients along with their purposes, and this may be used for diverse activities, as they function as protective agents, and bulking agents, and can also be used to increase the bioavailability of medications in certain cases. This

review explores the selection criteria for excipients and the numerous interactions that an excipient might experience throughout the length of its stay in formulation, explaining why some excipients are better suited to a certain dosage form. It is important to prevent excipient interactions that might be harmful to the drug. The section on interactions elaborates on this more. The following review provides basic information on the standardization and stabilization procedure, as well as the safety assessment criteria of the excipients, which are necessary for their use in pharmaceuticals just like any other active pharmaceutical component.

Rounak Chourasia et.al. (2022) The purpose of this article was to propose a bio-based economic framework based on the efficient use of agricultural biomass in the creation of novel bio-based products (e.g., pharmaceuticals, active pharmaceutical ingredients). In addition to focusing on the creation of bio-based goods and biofuels, we also examine more speculative approaches to bioenergy. The underlying concepts for making these byproducts were highlighted in further detail in this review paper. Therefore, it is important to develop these goods so that small-scale farmers may use them to effectively meet local demands for bio-based materials and energy. Concurrently, the development of smaller markets will provide the channels and connections necessary for larger ones to emerge. The overarching goal of this analysis is to examine the potential of biotechnological technologies to unite less privileged farmers and undeveloped regions, hence easing the strain on biomass production systems.

Liyu Liu, et.al. (2022) When it comes to fixing the stability issues of APIs, cocrystallization has shown to be one of the most effective methods in recent decades. However, the molecular mechanism of the improved stability has received little study, partly because of the complexities of the degradation process and a lack of structural analysis. The goal of this paper is to show that stable cocrystals don't just happen, but rather can be traced back to careful planning, precise adjustment, and inventive building. To reduce the negative effects on the environment, a proposal of an individual cocrystal plan is not only conceivable but also important (heat, moisture, light, and oxygen). By adjusting the interaction strength, molecule conformation, packing patterns, and electronic effect, a more stable structure may be achieved, as explained

here. Notable instances of cocrystals that have overcome similar stability challenges are presented individually, elucidating the crucial structural aspects in various settings and opening up new avenues for designing stable cocrystals in the future.

Goyal, Prateek et.al. (2022) Excipients are defined as compounds used in the formulation of a pharmaceutical product that is not the Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) needed to provide long-term stability. Excipients are ingredients included in a formulation for the express purpose of serving some other function. They're crucial to making a reliable drug and administering it to patients. An ideal excipient would have no discernible therapeutic effects but would nonetheless aid in the drug's absorption. It is crucial to choose the appropriate excipients (or a mix of excipients) for the targeted medicine throughout the drug development process.

Saito, J.; (2022) The absence of safety and toxicity data on several regularly used excipients is a significant challenge in pediatric formulation development. While it is known what the maximum oral safe dosage is for several many several different excipients in adults, the same cannot be said for pediatric patients or premature neonates owing to a lack of evidence. There are four sections to this study. To assure the use of safe excipients, this review will focus on four main areas: (1) present situation, (2) comparing and contrasting country-specific viewpoints, (3) historical and continuing collaborative efforts, and (4) future perspectives on excipients for pediatric formulation. As a result of this effort, a system of regulation for pharmaceutical excipients has been established. However, there are voids in coverage between the places where poor regulation and a lack of data were discovered. There is a dearth of evidence-based information on safety for children, despite ongoing attempts to raise problems on excipient exposure, establish a region-specific database, and improve excipient regulation. More work is needed to establish unambiguous safety limits, collect quantitative data on excipients of concern in the pediatric population, and bring regulatory systems for excipients into worldwide harmony.

#### Excipients

Excipients are "inactive" chemicals that are licensed for use in the pharmaceutical industry and are regarded as GRAS (generally recognized as safe) for human

consumption. To increase patient compliance, bioavailability, and effectiveness, and minimize the toxicity of the API, excipients are incorporated to impart stability, assure accuracy and precision, homogeneous blending, mask the harsh taste, enhance flowability, add bulk density, and regulate the release of API. The FDC Act mandates that excipients be mentioned on ophthalmic, topical, and parenteral medication products even though they are "inactive" and hence not needed to be reported on other drug products. Therefore, before being included in medicinal products for the adult population, excipients go through extensive short-term and long-term toxicity research but are not studied in the pediatric subpopulation. Ethical considerations, the availability of blood samples, and the physiological changes that occur from infancy to maturity all provide obstacles for studies including a pediatric population. Furthermore, owing to the fast growth and developmental changes happening in children, information from clinical trials proving effectiveness and dose regimens for the adult population cannot be extended to the pediatric population. Drops, elixirs, syrups, suspensions, sprinkles, capsules, orally disintegrating pills, chewable tablets, injectables, etc. are all forms now accessible for pediatric pharmaceuticals. Many excipients, such as lactose and sorbitol, may cause diarrhoea in children when used in pediatric formulations. Benzyl alcohol can cause toxicity in neonates, while aspartame-based sweeteners can cause seizures and migraines in children. Thus, this part will focus on the excipients often used in children's medicines, the chemical reactivity of the functional groups contained in the molecules, the impurities, and the amounts at which the excipients exert their toxicity.

#### Classification of Excipients

Classifications of excipients include (1) the type of source material used (e.g., plant, animal, mineral, or synthetic), (2) the role they play in the formulation (e.g., binders, diluents, disintegrants, fillers or bulking agents, glidants, lubricants, colouring agents, preservatives, sugars, surfactants, solvents, coating agents, etc.), and (3) the type of chemical substituents used (e Table-1 lists some common excipients used in children's medications).

Table-1 Classification of pharmaceutical excipients

1. Classification of pharmaceutical excipients based on function

Binders

Example: PVP, HPMC

Coloring agents

Example: E number colorants

Coating agents

Example: Phthalates

Diluents

Example: Lactose, microcrystalline cellulose

Disintegrants

Example: Sodium starch glycolate, croscarmellose sodium

Fillers/bulking agents

Example: Lactose

Glidants

Example: Colloidal SiO<sub>2</sub>,

Lubricants

Example: Magnesium stearate, sodium stearate fumarate, sodium behenate

Preservatives

Example: Sodium benzoate, thiomersal

Sweeteners

Example: Sorbitol, mannitol, dextrose, aspartame, saccharin, sucralose

Surfactants

Example: Tweens, spans, polysorbates, poloxamers, lecithins

Solvents

Example: Ethyl alcohol, benzyl alcohol, propylene glycol, sorbitol, PEGs

2. Classification of pharmaceutical excipients based on origin of source

Animal source

Example: Lactose, gelatin, stearic acid

Mineral origin

Example: Silica, calcium phosphate

Plant source

Example: Alginates, starches, sugars, cellulose

Synthetic excipients

Example: Polyethylene glycol, polysorbates, polyvinylpyrrolidone

3. Classification of pharmaceutical excipients based on chemical substituents

Alcohols

Example: Ethyl alcohol, benzyl alcohol, propylene glycol

Carboxylic acids

Example: Benzoic acid

Carbohydrates

Example: Mono-, di- and polysaccharides, sucrose, lactose, mannitol

Dyes

Example: Tartrazine, amaranth

Esters/ethers

Example: Fatty acid esters or ethers

Glycerides and waxes

Example: Peanut oil, bees wax

Halogenated hydrocarbon derivatives

Example: Freons, chlorbutol, halothane

Organic mercurial salts

Example: Thiomersal

Phenolic compounds

Example: BHA, BHT

Proteins

Example: Albumin, gelatin

Polymers

Example: HPMC, Eudragits

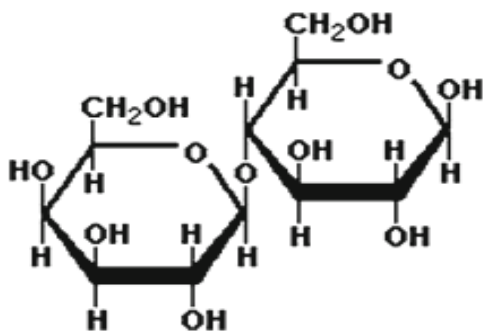
Properties of Selected Excipients

Above a certain concentration, any excipient might cause harmful effects in children. Excipients for pediatric formulations should be selected in light of the ADME profile of the intended patient group, the duration of treatment, and the dosage interval, as recommended by the FDA Guidance paper from 2005. Furthermore, vaccinations and other medication products given to children less than 6 years old may have their widely used excipients modified, such as the quantity or absence of preservatives like thimerosal, benzyl alcohol, and propylene glycol. Methyl and propylparaben (0.1–0.3%), benzalkonium chloride, bronopol (2-Bromo-2-nitropropane-1,3-diol), sodium azide, and 2-phenoxyethanol are some of the alternatives to thimerosal, benzyl alcohol, and propylene glycol used in various vaccinations and formulations.

Fillers/Binders

Lactose

Lactobiose; Milk sugar



Synonyms: Lactin; Lactose; D-Lactose; Galactinum; Aletobiose; Osmolactan;

General appearance: White powder, either in the crystalline or amorphous state

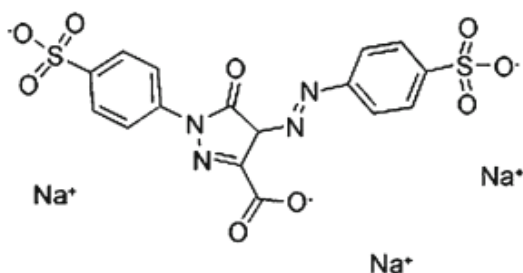
Molecular formula:  $C_{12}H_{22}O_{11}$

Formula weight: 342.3 g/mole

Water solubility: Very soluble in water (5–10 g/100 mL)

Colouring Agents

Tartrazine



Synonyms: CI NO 19140; CI acid yellow 23; CI 19140; E102; Lake tartrazine; Kiton Yellow T; Hydrazine yellow; Food Yellow No. 4

General appearance: Deep yellow powder

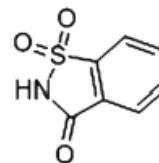
Molecular formula:  $C_{16}H_9N_4Na_3O_9S_2$

Molecular weight: 534.36 g/mole

Water solubility: Very soluble

Sweeteners

Saccharin



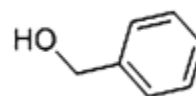
Synonyms: Saccharin; Saccharin 550X; Syncal®, o-benzoic acid sulfimide

General appearance: White crystals, odourless or faintly aromatic odour, sweet.

Molecular formula:  $C_7H_5NO_3S$  Molecular weight: 183.18 g/mole

Alcohols

Benzyl Alcohol



Synonyms: (Hydroxymethyl) benzene; Bentalol; Benzalalcohol; Benzalcohol; Benzenemethanol;

General appearance: A clear colourless liquid with a pleasant odour, slightly denser than water, flash point 194 °F, boiling point 401 °F, contact may irritate skin, eyes, and mucous membranes.

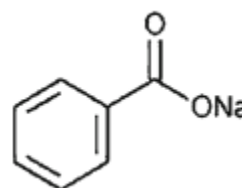
Molecular formula:  $C_7H_8O$

Molecular weight: 108.14 g/mole

Water solubility: Very soluble

Preservatives

Sodium Benzoate



Synonyms: Benzotron(r); benzoic acid sodium salt; Fema 3025

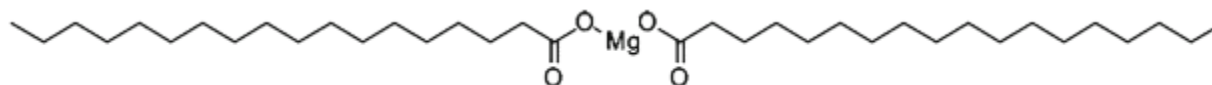
Molecular formula:  $C_7H_5NaO_2$

Molecular weight: 144.1 g/mole

Water solubility: Soluble

Lubricants

Magnesium Stearate



Synonyms: dibasic magnesium stearate; Dolomol; magnesium di-stearate; Magnesium stearate medicinal; stearate de magnesium: magnesium octadecanoic  
 General appearance: White powder  
 Molecular formula:  $C_{36}H_{70}MgO_4$   
 Molecular weight: 591.24 g/mole  
 Water solubility: Insoluble

Adverse drug responses to goods will continue to be a significant problem in the continuously developing biopharmaceutical business. More research into harmful effects beyond case reports is needed. While excipients are necessary components of the formulation, they may also impact the product's safety profile and be the cause of some adverse events in patients.

## DISCUSSION

## CONCLUSION

To expand the knowledge of the complexity of excipients and active pharmaceutical ingredients formulations, as defined in the Methods section, and improve understanding of the extent of reported adverse events due to the inactive ingredients in biologics, we first performed databases analyses quantifying the frequency of excipient occurrence and their concentrations, and then a literature search to identify case studies of excipient-related adverse events. We found high variability in excipient selection and concentration and identified several case reports of adverse events to a variety of classes of excipients in biologic formulations. the Gini coefficient is a well-known economic measure used to quantify income inequalities by looking at the distribution of income in a population. Surfactants are frequently employed as raw materials in the purification, filtration, transportation, lyophilization, and storage processes. Polysorbates function as photo enhancers, causing photooxidation. According to research, the quality and type of surfactant used in the formulation have a substantial impact on the photostability of antibodies. [Singh SR, Zhang J, O'Dell C, Hsieh MC, Goldstein J, Liu J, et al(2012 Mahjoubi N, Fazeli A, Dinarvand R, Khoshayand MR, Shekarchi M, Fazeli MR. (2017)].  
 In building the adverse effect profiles, we also examined the role and safety of preservatives added in the process of formulations. many preservative agents are added to formulations to minimize oxidation reactions and maintain stability and safety as well as microbial contamination. However, it may have adverse effects like generalized allergy Exposure to phenolic excipients induces proinflammatory response and cell death, thus stimulating additional inflammatory processes. this calls for extensive research on side effects in the process of adding excipients and active pharmaceutical ingredients.

RCTs to test the safety of excipients in the paediatric population are hampered not only by the scarcity of paediatric patients, but also by the difficulty of extrapolating the findings to the paediatric subpopulation. There will also most likely be no list of "selected excipients" that can only be used in paediatric populations because it is exceedingly unlikely that all excipients would be subjected to RCT in paediatric populations in order to determine the recommended daily intake. As a result, assessing the safety profiles of excipients in the juvenile population as part of the drug development process will benefit the scientific community. It is highly unlikely that all excipients would be subjected to RCT in pediatric population such that the recommended daily intake could be determined, nor will there be a list of "selected excipients" that could be exclusively used in pediatric population. It would therefore be in the best interest of the scientific community to evaluate the safety profile of the excipients included in the drug products during the course of the drug development process in the pediatric population.

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