



# Formulation of Newer Mini-tablets for Pediatric drug delivery

Dr Mukkamalla Suresh\* Dr Zakir Hussain^ Dr Jessy Roja Hapsebah<sup>1</sup> Shaik Shireen<sup>2</sup>

Department of Pharmaceutics\* Professor Vijaya College of Pharmacy-Hyderabad

Department of Pharmaceutics^ Associate Professor Vijaya College of Pharmacy-Hyderabad

Department of Pharmaceutical Analysis<sup>1</sup> Associate Professor Vijaya College of Pharmacy-Hyderabad

Department of Pharmaceutics<sup>2</sup> Assistant Professor Vijaya College of Pharmacy-Hyderabad

Main Author\*

Dr Mukkamalla Suresh

Associate Professor

Department of Pharmaceutics

Vijaya college of Pharmacy

Hayathnagar Mandal-Hyderabad- Telangana state.India.

Correspondence author^: Dr.Zakir Hussain

Associate Professor

Department of Pharmaceutics

Vijaya college of Pharmacy

Hayathnagar Mandal-Hyderabad- Telangana state.India.

Zakirhussains765@gmail.com

9182734502

## Abstract

Mini-tablets are among the pharmaceutical formulations that have been identified as suitable for usage in pediatric population. Dosage forms are well-known for being appropriate drug administration devices, particularly for pediatric population due to their quick dissolution, water-free usage, and lack of ingesting issues. A fresh compounding strategy has also been created recently. The most recent drug delivery technologies for paediatrics are mini-tablets. The ability to create the mini-tablets featuring tastes that are suitable for kids improves overall significance of such targeted delivery in the therapy.

**Key words:** Mini-tablets, water-free usage, ODMTs, Targeted delivery.

**DOI Number:**10.14704/nq.2022.20.8.NQ44652

**NeuroQuantology**2022;20(8):6285-6296

## Introduction:

Paediatric dosage form or PDF is a part of advanced medical & health science & an area of highly research oriented health discipline which meant for curing the body systems, its diseases and treatment & alters to stable the haemodynamic condition of paediatric patients in a convenient but rational way. Medicine is considered as a drug enriched chemical composition to treat any pathophysiological condition of body function

or which alters the pathophysiological condition to retain the homeostasis. It is the branch of health science that deals with the diseases & deficiencies as well as helps in maintaining human health & responsible for restoring it through its scientific application for the disease and injuries. The right dosing for paediatric sufferers represents a selected test to drug manufacturers, prescribers, and frequently to a teenager's guardians. It's far definitely quite simple to assume that making



an inexpensive medicine for a kid is largely as honest as downsizing a grown-up element, comparative with the youngster's decrease body weight. Be that as it may, this is seldom a fruitful technique, as whilst considering the impact of medicinal drugs, a kid ought not be taken into consideration a little grown-up, and further intricacy is delivered by way of the more physiological qualifications among babies, little kids and teenagers.

The distinctions in physiologies and improvement among subgroups within the paediatrics populace add to the take a look at in creating a solitary right measurements shape for every single youthful patient. At the same time as extra established youngsters and teens might be both prepared to do and happy to swallow a pill or box, this is really no longer generally the situation for extra younger children. A solitary item might require a few special dose systems and extraordinary excipients, in addition to a scope of portion sizes to provide meals for everyone. As the paediatric populace is more modest than for grown-ups, there are confined financial returns of any promoted item; broadening and adjusting information for numerous paediatric gatherings can boost modern paintings expenses for in which it can now not be a conservative preference for the logo proprietor. This is extra articulated when an illness isn't specifically pervasive, making it a whole lot more difficult to make a valid economic case for the improvement of a specific paediatric measurements structure.

The expression "mini tablets" by and large alludes to packs tablets with a greater modest length than common drugs. Those are plain or mixed pills which can be having a breadth going somewhere inside the range of 3 to 6 mm and less than that. Mini tablets additionally referred to as oral smaller granules due to its little size that is underneath 2.1 to 2.5 mm but the readiness and creation of smaller than everyday tablets essentially engaged at their length reach to take benefits of the in all likelihood adaptability in measurement shape agency. Mini tablets had been added with numerous punches utilizing curious or revolving tablet

press machines. Mini tablets are brilliant substitutes for granules and pellets considering the fact that they are able to without a great deal of a stretch produce and changed over into a controlled DDS. Controlling remedy discharge is a large mark of examination in instance of oral managed drug discharge framework. Mini tablets can surely isolate and administrated without lack of action. As a result of traditional pill, paediatric and old sufferers conventional drug delivery of any medicines at the same time & can trigger poisonousness, but, if there need to be an occurrence of smaller than regular pills, it is able to defeat as it tends to be exciting as right here element unloading might not appear given that each smaller than anticipated prevent within the plan acts independently. For close by tense medications, smaller than common pill plan diminishes the aggravation influences than that of single unit plans. Paediatric medicines are usually categorized into many dosage forms based on its application like tablet, capsules, syrups, suspensions, granules, inhalers, patches, injectable, suppositories & many more. Among those based on both the stability & administration friendly in nature is the cutting edge mini tablet concept, it is considered that this breakthrough mini tablet will be one of the best option for paediatric medication. Due to its easy drug release upon ingestion & faster distribution in the body the mini tablet production has been taken in frontier step in all the pharmaceutical manufacturer. Although most of the child medications come in fluid in nature but now for paediatric drug delivery mini tablets are replacing those conventional concept based on many benefits like swallow friendly, carry friendly & higher in acceptance due to its miniature form. Mini tablet prescriptions are simpler for youngsters to swallow than other dosage form, but in case of liquid dosage form, it has been found due to stability & other pharmaceutical drug standard issues- not every medicine can be manufactured in liquid form so in this regard mini tablets were introduced specially for children which are



composed of drugs & excipients and small in size.

Nonetheless, try to utilize them the correct way so a child gets the sum they need. Orally disintegrated mini tablets or ODMTs or disintegrated mini tablets DMT are most normally utilized by patients who experience issues gulping tablets and cases like kids and adolescent. A drug incorporated into mini tablet form can come in many structures which incorporates arrangements like drug molecules in granular form or in powder form. Most normally endorsed drugs are accessible in a tablet arrangement which can make taking prescription simpler. Mini tablets can be the most suitable option in contrast to tablets or containers for child patients who experience issues gulping. A medicine for child in the form of mini tablet in a prescription is intended to be both adequate to the patient and palatable. Child patients are ordinarily still endorsed medication as tablets and cases, in spite of troubles gulping these sorts of medicines being normal. Gulping issues are more normal in specific gatherings of individuals. A trouble gulping could result from harm to the sensory system because of a stroke or Parkinson's illness. Mini tablets deal with a recent fad in robust dose shape plan, with the primary objective of thrashing a few restorative obstructions. Mini tablets comes in various uniform size frames & very favourable than other paediatric dosage forms or some different OD forms structures as those are now not tough to supply and dependability issues are much less. Offering some remedial advantages, as an example, portion adaptability and joined discharge designs. They require no dissolvable for their introduction and moreover nearby disturbance can be stayed far from with the aid of the utilization of scaled down tablet or miniature form of tablet offer some benefits where those can be produced usually efficaciously, those are no longer need less covering materials and moreover there's an notable adaptability throughout their plan development. Mini tablets may be the best in kids and antique individuals as they may be now not tough to engulf. The purpose of

prolonged drug conveyance frameworks is to decrease the recurrence of the concerned dose administration expand its viability of that medication through using dilemma. Administrative professionals are worried approximately paediatric remedy protection, and their requirements provide essential path to the commercial enterprise whilst investigating paediatric definitions. Their proposals and policies have gotten numerous corrections during the long term, each to explain path and to boost agencies to do explicit innovative paintings of medications for kids. The executive stipulations are meant to assure that gadgets are on hand for infants and children in diverse age bunches that have a good enough gamble benefit profile, in place of medical doctors and drug professionals being surpassed directly to consider how they could downsize an object meant for grown-ups. Covered, a hit and age-suitable meds stay a tremendous goal for the drug business, alongside the association of clear facts approximately their utilization. Ventures like the European Union paediatric method initiative, a cooperation among enterprise, the scholarly international and scientific drug shop, assume a vast element in bringing issues to mild of the issues, and giving pointers with appreciate to detailing improvement plans. The improvement of paediatric definitions calls for brilliant contemplations to assure consistence. Mini tablets are a wealthy approach to conveying APIs to paediatric populaces, but further other affected patient group (e.g. geriatric) that could make the most of their benefits, for example, age-fitting and exact dosing and better quiet agreeableness. This conveyance framework, be that as it may, requires excellent mastery as a long way as fostering a reasonable tableting technique and adjusting insightful techniques to take a look at those little tablets. Ultimately, running with an accomplice this is informed approximately developing small tablet info will help trailblazers hoping to provide this affected person-accommodating dose shape in their portfolio. Dosing of mini tablets definitions as indicated by way of the youngster's age and



weight is largely more adaptable than with fixed frameworks. This simple gradual dosing of scaled down capsules is worthwhile for a few programs, inclusive of restorative applications supposed for extra modest patient populaces. This is mainly the situation while coping with more energizing profoundly strong combos that require advanced control arrangements in the course of assembling.

#### **Literature review:**

Appropriate doses and dosing schedules are frequently unavailable in the diagnosis and management of paediatric issues have been discussed by Krause et al., in 2021. The utilisation of novel additive manufacturing technology enables the production of paediatric dose forms. The fabrication of mini tablets utilising fused deposition modelling (FDM)-based 3D printing was examined in this work. Caffeine as well as propranolol hydrochloride, both paediatric medications, were effectively converted into filaments utilising hypromellose as well as hypromellose as polymers after that, mini tablets ranging from 1.5 to 4.0 mm were manufactured and then analysed employing optical and thermal analytical techniques. This helped produce diverse discharge behaviours by altering the number of mini-tablets being used and the width. This study demonstrated the benefit of FDM 3D printing in the fabrication of patient-individualized, limited quantities of paediatric dosage forms (Krause et al., 2021).

Mini-tablets are appropriate for both paediatric and adult usage because these allow flexibilities as well as precise dosage and administration (Hellberg et al., 2021). Because of the tiny size of the tablets, a unifying framework for quality assessment processes is required, while traditional approaches might be used. The authors of the study's primary goal were to compare alternative dissolving strategies for developing orally administered mini-tablets. The influence of paddling speed of rotation was studied in dissolution tests utilising mini-paddle equipment against conventional size paddle apparatus. The filtering selections, as well as its influence on disintegration, were also taken into account.

As a prototype drug product, sodium salicylate was combined using varied particle sizes of mannitol. The powdered combinations subsequently were crushed into flat-faced capsules with a thickness of 2 mm. Density, as well as composition homogeneity, structural rigidity, deformability, fragmentation, and dispersion, were all measured for the mini-tablets. The micro, as well as conventional apparatus, produced similar dissolving characteristics. The samples were impacted by the rotational speeds of the paddle; a lower paddle speed produced slower disintegration. Additionally, using unreactive filtration enhances the likelihood of receiving dependable and correct information. Prior to further application in quality control processes, a carefully constructed dissolving experiment employing a mini-paddle device seems to be necessary (Hellberg et al., 2021).

Child-friendly dose formulations are integral to modern pharmacy and thus are required for effective paediatric medication therapy (Wiedey et al., 2021). Professionals have long advocated for a fundamental change away from liquid medication forms and toward innovative oral drug delivery forms. The purpose of this study is to shine some light upon current advancements regarding Orodispersible tablets (ODTs) as well as mini-tablets (ODMTs). The findings regarding acceptance by children, for example, in contrast to certain other pharmaceutical formulations, the restrictions imposed by pill size at varied ages, and also improvements in specific ODT compositions, are emphasized (masking of taste, changed discharge, facilitating formulations). The researchers assume that ODMTs offer tremendous promise as dose forms in paediatric treatment which has yet to be explored. Its explanations though are numerous. Firstly, the amount of new terms for tasks is quite low, culminating in anecdotal information. Given the tremendous significance, there appears to be hesitation including both therapeutic usages as well as the implementation of relevant studies in children. Nevertheless, when the information



from limited known studies, evaluations, and authorized devices is combined, it then becomes clear that there has been currently no data on the restrictions on the utilisation of ODTs in paediatric patients. ODT acceptability was found to be robust across all paediatric age categories. Superiority/inferiority toward other dose forms was shown to be reliable upon age, with ODTs advancing in ranking across newborns to teenagers (Wiedey et al., 2021).

To fix the underlying issues of dosage adaptability as well as treatment compliance in paediatric medication research, especially in cancer, many approaches are required. Mini-tablets with a diameter of 2 mm were produced using a rotating tablet press at a predetermined mass and tensile stress level. The physical properties of mini-tablets remained similar between samples. To boost the dissolution and availability of lapatinib, polymeric amorphous solid dispersion (ASD) has been utilised as a dissolution-increasing method. The polymeric absorbent, as well as disintegrant, were studied for their influence on drug dissolution parameters. Despite having a smaller perceived dissolution as well as poorer processibility than hydroxypropyl methylcellulose phthalate, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose E3 (HPMCE3) composition produced a better proportion of release of the drug (HPMCP) (Lavan et al., 2021). The amount of perceived dissolution, physical stability, and proportion of free medication accessible in aquatic media are all affected by intermolecular interactions inside the ASD structure (Lavan et al., 2021). The pharmacokinetic characteristics of lapatinib were determined using juvenile porcine models within two separate weight groupings (10 and 20 kg). Whilst drug dosages administration was discovered to be reduced in the pig research, the dosage adjustability of mini-tablets allowed for a consistent dose level to be delivered obtaining similar concentration - time patterns of the plasma in the two categories. This proportional scalability of medication dosage has also been documented in human clinical investigations in paediatric and adult populations.

Mini-tablets, perhaps as single mini-tablets or as combined dose components, are an age-effective dosage form for oral ingestion to paediatric and geriatric individuals (Mitra et al., 2020). Mini-tablets of a smaller volume than that of the usually used 2 mm or bigger diameter would provide better targeted micro-dose distribution of experimental medications. This study revealed pharmaceutical material size distribution, encapsulation efficiency, as well as mini-tablet dimensions limits for achieving satisfactory mini-tablet desirable properties. A dissolve technique was designed and effectively applied to the compositions described herein. Small mini-tablets, tiny ibuprofen particle density, as well as low dosage improved dissolving. Additionally, prospective dosage adaptability, dosage spectrum, dosage scaling, as well as disintegrant load possibilities were examined. The findings of this research may be used to help design smaller-sized mini-tablets that can be dosed as a solitary or combination capsule, minimise disintegrant load, and harness dispensation ability to give greater dosage versatility including micro-dosing.

The juvenile demographic is sometimes referred to as "miniature adults," yet it differs from grownups because of anatomical differences and system development phases, which change important biopharmaceutical characteristics (Kaur et al., 2020). The physiological variations between the juvenile and adult populations change the fundamental kinetics as well as the dynamism of the same medicine given at the same dose. For the paediatric population, the medication dose is usually determined utilizing various formulae depending on age, body composition, or mass, or it is merely half of the grownup dosage. This, meanwhile, is not the proper procedure. Novel methods for producing personalised compositions as well as diagnostic implants for the juvenile community have evolved. Personalized compositions include "mini-tablets" and "oro-dispersible films," that aim to make substantial orally administered dosage varieties easier to administer. This carefully



built medical equipment has demonstrated the capacity to surmount several problems in paediatric dosage distribution. The "oral solid dosage pen" is one such medical gadget that enables allowing medication customization through slicing a tablet-like drug transporter at a predetermined elevation and allows for flexibility and simplicity for co-administration in the paediatric population. Other medical gadgets, including the Nipple Shield Delivery System (NSDS) and Medibottle, help in the effective delivery of drugs to children. This study outlined the issues in formulation development as well as advancements in relevant treatment devices for effective governance of the juvenile demographic in order to avoid mishaps resulting from medical mistakes, inadequate absorption, as well as intoxication (Kaur et al., 2020).

Mini tablets are available as tablets with more than one standard administration; these are better than pellets and perhaps another consumable route of administration and are better whenever given to youngsters and the aged since they are easier to swallow (Bhuvaneshwari et al., 2020). Mini tablets have various advantages over other MUDFs, including the feature that they do not need additional solutions to manufacture, can always be covered robustly, and require considerably reduced coating material. Furthermore, there is tremendous versatility during the concoction creation process. Dosage spillage, as well as local contamination, may be minimised with the assistance of the usage of tiny pills. In pharmacotherapy, children vary unlike adults in terms of drug delivery ability, medicine toxicities, as well as choice set. Furthermore, it is observed that different solid oral dosage aspects can be personally preferred. Because of their compact size, they may be easily disseminated throughout the digestive process, increasing bioavailability while minimising area drug focus, the danger of toxic effects, as well as adverse events (Bhuvaneshwari et al., 2020).

Child-appropriate medication compositions are required for effective pharmacological treatment in children.

Efficacies should be provided for the main pharmacological substance, but also the excipients, major packaging materials, and equipment employed. This article reviewed and evaluated the most significant breakthroughs in paediatric medication dosage forms. Child-appropriate medication compositions are necessary for effective and effective treatment of paediatric illnesses. A child's demands or needs vary from those of adults. Pediatric subpopulations are a nonuniform aggregate given the volatile properties of the juvenile body throughout physical and intellectual maturity. Many approved and widely used medications do not fully address the requirements of children thus signifying the importance of mini tablets. The influence of the major traits may alter based on a child's development stages, living circumstances, illnesses, and personal preferences. In most circumstances, the children's age would be taken into account while categorising and selecting a dosage (Thabet et al., 2018).

The research work discussed that given its huge relevance as a paediatric composition and also in altered operations; the attractiveness of mini-tablets is restricted leading to a shortage of manufacturing and operating understanding in generating similar drugs (Zhao et al., 2018). Standard varieties of microcrystalline cellulose, as well as rollers, compressed granulated particles with a variety of powdered qualities were utilised in this work to analyse the important material parameters necessary for the effective manufacture of 1.7-mm mini-tablets. Combinations with tiny crystallite size were discovered to have poor flow qualities, which did not enable continuous die filling and were inclined to create equipment jams or degradation. Whereas the granulated procedure improved mix flowing qualities by raising the size of the particles, it is critical to prevent excessively big particulates, which can potentially create insufficient circulation by obstructing the area inside the die. Mini-tablet compaction might be accomplished by eliminating particulates bigger than about one-third of the die width or grinding the



granulated particles using a screening smaller than one-third of the die width.

This study revolved around the aspect that youngsters who require cortisol substitution treatment are thought to be more effective and thus administered 2.5mg hydrocortisone dosages, however, because this is generally unavailable, 10mg tablets having structural break lines are frequently cut in an endeavour to supply the necessary amount (Madathilethu et al., 2018). The purpose of this study was to investigate the dosage variance achieved through quartered hydrocortisone tablets while various operations conducted the dividing technique and then see if mini-tablets as an alternate composition may improve overall consistency. This investigation revealed that quartering 10mg hydrocortisone tablets results in undesirable dosage fluctuations and also that 3mm mini tablets providing better precise dosages for young patients seem to be viable.

Mini-tablets, in contrast to their commonly understood function as multi-particulates, offer prospective uses as a versatile delivery of drugs technique (Mitra et al., 2017). Mini-tablets, in other words, can also provide additional agility in dose-finding research and/or permit combination treatment in the practice. Furthermore, mini-tablets with well-controlled production qualities may be a smart move for providing useful dose formulations as a single entity or even as a compound of many mini-tablets in patients with chewing issues (e.g., paediatric and adult populations). This research established pharmaceutical material size of the particles and concentration ranges that meet appropriate mini-tablet desirable properties for usage as a solitary or compound tablet or capsule. Instant discharge and orally dissolving mini-tablet preparations of 30  $\mu$ m to 350  $\mu$ m (particle size  $d_{90}$ ) acetaminophen and Compap<sup>TM</sup> L (90% acetaminophen) were examined at dosages comparable to 6.7% and 26.7% acetaminophen. For each composition, mini-tablets demonstrated greater weight variation, compressive strength, deformability, and dissolution rate at a

satisfactory solid percentage. Mini-tablets of 6 % preparations with 170  $\mu$ m drug material, mini-tablets of all 26.7% compositions, and compound dose units including five or more mini-tablets of any composition had satisfactory stability. The findings validated the production capability of high-quality mini-tablets as potential use as a versatile medication conveyance strategy (Mitra et al., 2017).

Mini-tablets are appropriate for youngsters because the tablets are not difficult to consume and provide dosage versatility by adjusting the number of units (Hagen et al., 2016). The primary goal was to examine the use of interaction mixes to achieve high dosage uniformity in mini-tablets. Regarding uniformity, the influence of transport material characteristics, combining the duration, combining apparatus, and the sample were investigated. Micronized sodium salicylate was combined with spray-dried and granulated mannitol portions of varying sizes. The relative standard deviation was used to represent the degree of homogeneity (RSD). Mini-tablets were made from either the participatory mixes and tested for weight and contents homogeneity, dosage consistency, pill firmness, soaking duration, and friability. Prolonged combining durations seemed necessary to achieve excellent uniformity in the relatively small sample size; hence the tumbling blender was preferred over the planetary mixing. To be acceptable as orally dissolving mini-tablets for kids, mini-tablets exhibited superior dosage uniformity and also sufficient compressive strength and dissolution rate (Hagen et al., 2016).

The size distribution of HPMC is an important component that can impact the release profile of drugs from hydrophilic matrix systems. Percolation theory is a mathematical method for studying the instability of components in a sample's grid. The infiltration boundary is the location in a group where an element becomes dominant, leading to major variations in the release of drugs. Mini-tablets are tiny dosage forms with a dimension of 1.5-4 mm which can



boost medication administration to certain patient populations such as kids. The influence of HPMC particle diameter on hydrocortisone production and its related infiltration limit for mini-tablets as well as tablets was investigated in this work. Multiple characteristics particles lowered tensile strength while increasing the release of drug rate and filtration limit in both mini-tablets and tablets. A higher drug dissolution rate was observed when 125-355 m HPMC granules were employed, owing to larger pore diameters, which helped in the emergence of a softer gel. This study highlighted the significance of HPMC particle size in ER matrices, with the impacts being significantly highly pronounced for mini-tablets (Mohamed et al., 2015).

The viability of creating ER mini-tablets to preserve medication release rate, and provide dosage adjustability for paediatric patients, has been proven in this study. The drug release rate may be customised by varying the size of the mini-tablets or quantity of HPMC, without reducing tablet strength. It is evident that by altering the polymer composition and mini-tablet dimension, alternative drug dissolution patterns and dosages may be achieved, giving dosage flexibility and agility to paediatric needs (Mohamed et al., 2013).

For a long time, healthcare practitioners have struggled to achieve optimum therapeutic efficacy in paediatric patients, and the absence of child-specific dose forms, as well as the accompanying events, has been identified as a key contributor to unsatisfactory results (Kalra et al.,2014). Despite advances in improving existing dosage forms for children, reduced restorative consequences in paediatric patients persist as an issue that needs addressing due to the adverse impact of factors like parents' comprehension of manufacturer guidelines or the intricacies associated with conducting paediatric research trials has been assessed in this research. Therefore, necessitates a cooperative process from drug manufacturers, research scientists, parents,

and health professionals to collaborate for improved results(Kalra et al.,2014).

### **Research Methodology:**

#### **Formulations**

Mini tablets, which have a diameter of 2 to 4 mm, have recently attracted attention as a kind of formulation that offers superior stability with potent antimicrobial effects. In addition to their more common use as multi-particulates, mini tablets may be considered a versatile drug delivery technique. In addition, the use of mini tablets will allow independent control of each dosage in combination treatments when numerous active components are dosed concurrently. Also, covering their surface with a coating helps hide their noxious odour and flavour.

In this research, the sodium salicylate mini tablets were made using a tablet machine. The disintegration tests were carried out using a micro paddle device, and the dissolution experiments were carried out in a petri dish containing phosphate saline buffer. These assessments were compared to the regulatory standards outlined in the European pharmacopoeia monograph and the USP monograph. We bought some sodium salicylate from Sigma-Aldrich which has passed all the required USP tests. Nylon-Millex®-HN 0.45m, PVDF-Millex®-HV 0.45m, and PTFEMillex®-LH 0.45m membrane filters were obtained from Millipore.

#### **The process of making powder blends**

Sodium salicylate, Prosolv ODT, and magnesium stearate made up the rest of the ingredients in the mini tablets. Salicylate sodium was used as a representative example of a drug molecule. Mannitol, crospovidone, microcrystalline cellulose, colloidal silicon dioxide, and fructose are all included in the ready-to-use tableting excipient known as Prosolv ODT. mini tablets that dissolve in the mouth were made using Prosolv ODT. In addition, the powder mixtures were lubricated with magnesium stearate. Each substance was measured using a DeltaRange scale. Two powder mix batches were created by altering the quantity of the model medication ingredient. Each combination weighed 50 grams and included either 1 per





cent or 10 per cent sodium salicylate by weight. Magnesium stearate was present at a weight-to-volume ratio of 0.5% in both lots. First, for 24 hours at 72 rpm in a Turbula mixer, we combined sodium salicylate with Prosolv ODT. The model medication was milled using a mortar and pestle before being mixed. Magnesium stearate was added, and the mixture was mixed for another minute at 72 revolutions per minute.

#### **The manufacturing process of mini tablet**

The tablets were made using a Korsch XP1 tablet press. Powder mixtures were loaded by hand into hopper shoes that were then utilized to automatically fill the dies. Each compaction resulted in the formation of nine mini-tablets with a smooth surface and a diameter of only 2 mm. All batches were kept at room temperature for at least 24 hours after production ended and before tablet characterization tests were conducted. Each stroke had a slightly different level of compaction pressure. To determine the average compaction pressure for each batch, the pressure was recorded during each compaction. This method might potentially be used to identify regions of extreme pressure.

#### **Physical properties**

Mini tablets created in this research had consistent weight, size, tensile strength, and friability percentages in all batches. This research shows that the manufacturing process can be used for any variation in the formulation factors. The dissolving tests showed that the medication release profile between 5 and 30 minutes was impacted by the quantity of disintegrant used. After 30 minutes, there was no longer a statistically significant difference in the total quantity of medication released. Since the quantity of medicine administered in the mini tablets was adjusted depending on body weight in the animal trial, the dosage level remained constant for both rounds. Possible causes for the C<sub>max</sub> and AUC discrepancies between children include differences in dosage scaling methodologies, physical features of the state, and a more diverse patient population in the pediatric experiment. It would be possible to tailor the C<sub>max</sub> and AUC in pediatric patients

by adjusting the dose of the mini-tabs since they are a variable-dosing formulation.

#### **Statistical analysis**

All analyses with at least three replicates included the computation of means standard deviations (SD) and 95% confidence intervals (CI). Further, the student's t-test (two-tailed) was used to determine significance levels in Microsoft Excel. If the p-value was less than 0.05, it was regarded to be significant. The purpose of this research was, in part, to determine how the three independent variables affected the final mini tablets' performance. The analytical programs Modeling and Design-Modde were used to plan the experiment. At the outset of the experimentation process, three powder mixes were created, one with sodium salicylate at 1% w/w, another at 5% w/w, and a third at 10% w/w. Eleven batches in which eight unique batches and three with the same centre point were generated by assigning three values to each of the eleven parameters, producing a complete factorial 2 level design. There were technical difficulties with the tablet press that prevented the production of enough batches to meet demand. As a result, we were unable to run MODDE's multivariate analysis.

#### **Drug release**

A single tablet or capsule makes up a single-unit formulation, whereas a MultiP dosage form consists of several particles. As compared to single-unit systems, MultiP's numerous benefits originate from their tiny size and wide surface area, which enable them to exit the stomach in a short time, hence facilitating improved dispersion and bioavailability. Since MultiP is more evenly distributed throughout the gastrointestinal system, there is less of a chance of dosage dumping owing to damaged or fractured coating, and there is less local discomfort. Physicochemical stability is increased, and retention in the throat is decreased, when using pellets instead of capsules or powders. Some multiP dosage forms may be able to accommodate a wide variety of dosing schedules for use by patients of varying ages.



The pharmaceutical industry has embraced Multi-Unit Pellet System (MUPS) technology to replace the need for immediate or MR tablets. The pellets in a MUPS ensure a dose that may be divided without compromising the medication release rate. Drugs with a narrow therapeutic index may be safely administered using MUPS formulations because of their reduced potential for irritation and toxicity, as well as their stable dosage and little changes in plasma drug concentration. The availability of several methods for hiding odd flavours is another perk. Losec MUPS with omeprazole for children is the most popular formulation being made with this technology now. It was previously attempted to acquire omeprazole in liquid form; but, for its instability, no such formulation could be created and released to the market.

#### **Results and Discussion:**

The first and foremost discovery was made for the mini tablets, that the designing process is suitable to adapt with different requirements of the particular drug formulation that is being worked upon. It was really a discovery made in the correct direction. The preliminary tests have shown positive results in terms of the constancy that the mini tablet is maintaining its value for the profile check done for size, shape, flexibility, durability, tensile strength and finally the friability percentages were all reported to flair over the threshold values expected. Thus, the modulation of this drug type is a necessary to carry forward with further specification of the dosage type and for different drugs as required.

Another concern was related to the time-period which is being consumed by the mini tablets in order to dissolve into the blood stream. Finally, it was found that within initial 5-10 minutes the medicine started to dissolve and a maximum frame of 30 minutes was observed. So, on an average, within the time-period of 30 minutes, the entire dissolution was completed. This result is an important and eminent discussion parameter for establishing the statistical role mini-tablets will play overall. The fact that it reduces the

time-period of drug dissolution is a potent marker to the cause of the further development that should be done in order to manufacture them particularly for the pediatric population.

The conceptualization and materialization dispute amongst the AUC and Cmax is a reason of concern at the moment, however, some of the theoretical changes in the overall preparation of the mini tablets which will appropriately suit the requirement for pediatric patients. The drug specificity and sensitivity should not be overpowered by the methodical changes or any other modulations that are done in the due process of the mini tablet formulation and also during batch production times.

Since, evaluating on the accurate dosage for pediatric medicines is a difficult task, the MUPS which is the Multi-Unit Pellet System is a promising method for particularly pediatric cases, when the cases each consist of multiple disorders requiring high dose of drugs, this particular system comes as handy as it does not interfere with the rate of medicine dissolution, thus, letting physicians decide on a combination drug therapy which can help reach effective results in a faster and efficient way. This technology comes with a series of added benefits, like that of flavor change or modulating it to what kids will like. Thus, the intake of medicine in itself becomes easier to process.

#### **Conclusion:**

Pediatric dosage forms remain a fundamentally difficult task despite several breakthroughs and mini-tablets are one of them. Among the latest developments in paediatric preparations were first made possible by visionary official policy initiatives that supported the creation of paediatric preparations. Nowadays, it is usual procedure to begin developing paediatric dosages while the novel drug entity is still undergoing randomized trial studies. The Orally disintegrating preparations' main benefit is that it combines the benefits of both solutions and traditional tablets dosage forms. Despite the fact that numerous commercial products medications, including dosage form of



acetaminophen, acetylcysteine, and cetirizine dihydrochloride, are being used in adolescents, but the only quarter of such medications has received FDA approval for use in paediatric sufferers. Due to their considerable benefits over traditional dosage form as well as alternative medication preparations, several novel ODT and ODMT dosage forms have recently been accessible in pharma markets across the globe.

A number of pharmaceutical dosage forms are required for paediatric medication due to the variable dose needs varies according to age, acceptability issues, and flavor issues with the medication preparations. Through this perspective, paediatric treatment with mini-tablets seems great promise.

Mini-tablets can therefore be suggested of as a good choice for children who have trouble taking regularly utilized dose forms including liquid and traditional solid preparations.

#### Reference:

1. Bhuvaneshwari, S., Umashankar, M.S., Damodharan, N. Mini tablets: Pediatric drug delivery system (2020) Research Journal of Pharmacy and Technology, 13 (6), pp. 2985-2991, DOI: 10.5958/0974-360X.2020.00528.4
2. Hagen, E., Løding, F.S., Mattsson, S., Tho, I. Use of interactive mixtures to obtain mini-tablets with high dose homogeneity for paediatric drug delivery (2016) Journal of Drug Delivery Science and Technology, 34, pp. 51-59, DOI: 10.1016/j.jddst.2016.03.006
3. Hellberg, E., Westberg, A., Appelblad, P., Mattsson, S. Evaluation of dissolution techniques for orally disintegrating mini-tablets (2021) Journal of Drug Delivery Science and Technology, 61, art. no. 102191, DOI: 10.1016/j.jddst.2020.102191
4. Kalra, A., Goindi, S. Issues impacting therapeutic outcomes in pediatric patients: An overview (2014) Current Pediatric Reviews, 10 (3), pp. 184-193, DOI: 10.2174/1573396309666131209211017
5. Kaur, G., Nagpal, D., Nagpal, K. Critical reviews on pediatric dosage form developments and medical devices (2020) Critical Reviews in Therapeutic Drug Carrier Systems, 37 (6), pp. 553-590, DOI: 10.1615/CritRevTherDrugCarrierSyst.2020.034405
6. Krause, J., Müller, L., Sarwinska, D., Seidlitz, A., Sznitowska, M., Weitschies, W. 3D printing of mini tablets for pediatric use (2021) Pharmaceuticals, 14 (2), art. no. 143, pp. 1-16, DOI: 10.3390/ph14020143
7. Lavan, M., Wang, X., McCain, R., Jannasch, A., Cooper, B., Hostetler, S., Byrn, S., Knipp, G. Development of a Pediatric Mini-Tablet Formulation for Expedited Preclinical Studies (2021) AAPS PharmSciTech, 22 (1), art. no. 40, DOI: 10.1208/s12249-020-01891-x
8. Madathilethu, J., Roberts, M., Peak, M., Blair, J., Prescott, R., Ford, J.L. Content uniformity of quartered hydrocortisone tablets in comparison with mini-tablets for paediatric dosing (2018) BMJ Paediatrics Open, 2 (1), art. no. e000198, DOI: 10.1136/bmjpo-2017-000198
9. Mitra, B., Chang, J., Wu, S.-J., Wolfe, C.N., Ternik, R.L., Gunter, T.Z., Victor, M.C. Feasibility of mini-tablets as a flexible drug delivery tool (2017) International Journal of Pharmaceutics, 525 (1), pp. 149-159, DOI: 10.1016/j.ijpharm.2017.04.037
10. Mitra, B., Thool, P., Meruva, S., Aycinena, J.A., Li, J., Patel, J., Patel, K., Agarwal, A., Karki, S., Bowen, W. Decoding the small size challenges of mini-tablets for enhanced dose flexibility and micro-dosing (2020) International Journal of Pharmaceutics, 574, art. no. 118905, DOI: 10.1016/j.ijpharm.2019.118905
11. Mohamed, F.A.A., Roberts, M., Seton, L., Ford, J.L., Levina, M., Rajabi-Siahboomi, A.R. The effect of HPMC particle size on the drug release rate and the percolation threshold in extended-release mini-tablets (2015) Drug Development and Industrial Pharmacy, 41 (1), pp. 70-78, DOI: 10.3109/03639045.2013.845843



12. Mohamed, F.A.A., Roberts, M., Seton, L., Ford, J.L., Levina, M., Rajabi-Siahboomi, A.R. The influence of HPMC concentration on release of theophylline or hydrocortisone from extended release mini-tablets (2013) *Drug Development and Industrial Pharmacy*, 39 (8), pp. 1167-1174, DOI: 10.3109/03639045.2012.681053
13. Thabet, Y., Klingmann, V., Breitzkreutz, J. Drug Formulations: Standards and Novel Strategies for Drug Administration in Pediatrics (2018) *Journal of Clinical Pharmacology*, 58, pp. S26-S35, DOI: 10.1002/jcph.1138
14. Wiedey, R., Kokott, M., Breitzkreutz, J. Orodispersible tablets for pediatric drug delivery: current challenges and recent advances (2021) *Expert Opinion on Drug Delivery*, 18 (12), pp. 1873-1890, DOI: 10.1080/17425247.2021.2011856
15. Zhao, J., Yin, D., Rowe, J., Badawy, S., Nikfar, F., Pandey, P. Understanding the Factors That Control the Quality of Mini-Tablet Compression: Flow, Particle Size, and Tooling Dimension (2018) *Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences*, 107 (4), pp. 1204-1208, DOI: 10.1016/j.xphs.2017.12.002

