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Ars Pharmaceutica es una revista científica multidisciplinar en el ámbito de las Ciencias Farmacéuticas, abarcando su sentido más amplio. Destaca por su enfoque en áreas como Atención Farmacéutica, Tecnología y Química Farmacéutica, Farmacología y Farmacovigilancia, siendo pionera en España en estas disciplinas. Desde su fundación en 1960, la revista ha sido editada de manera ininterrumpida por la Facultad de Farmacia de la Universidad de Granada.

A lo largo de su trayectoria, Ars Pharmaceutica ha evolucionado para adaptarse a las tendencias editoriales de las revistas científicas, pasando de su publicación en formato impreso a convertirse en una revista electrónica de libre acceso. Esta transformación ha permitido una mayor accesibilidad para investigadores de todo el mundo, lo que se refleja en el incremento de visitas a su página web y en el creciente interés por publicar trabajos en ella. Además, la aceptación de manuscritos tanto en español como en inglés ha contribuido significativamente al aumento de originales recibidos durante la última década.

Ars Pharmaceutica está indexada actualmente en las siguientes bases de datos, directorios y repertorios: **EMERGING SOURCE CITATION INDEX (ESCI), EBSCO, EMBASE, DIALNET, DOAJ, GOOGLE ACADÉMICO, LATINDEX, REDIB, SCIELO, IBEXCS y MIAR**. Nuestra intención es seguir ampliando su presencia en otras bases de datos relevantes.

La revista cuenta con diversas categorías de trabajos publicables y utiliza el sistema Open Journal Systems (OJS), un programa de código abierto diseñado para gestionar y publicar revistas académicas en línea, lo que facilita y agiliza el envío de originales. Además, se han destinado recursos humanos y económicos para garantizar que la revista se ofrezca en formato electrónico y de manera gratuita a toda la comunidad científica y profesional interesada.

Ars Pharmaceutica se alinea con los principios de las revistas de acceso abierto (**Open Access Journal**) y, desde 2018, publica sus artículos bajo los términos de la licencia **Creative Commons 4.0 Internacional (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0)**. Asimismo, la revista no cobra tasas ni por el envío de manuscritos ni por la publicación de los artículos.

Desde 2012, esta revista ha sido el órgano de expresión de la “**Cátedra María José Faus Dáder de Atención Farmacéutica**”. En 2024, se incorporaron el **Aula de Farmacovigilancia** y el **Aula de Promoción de la Salud y Educación Sanitaria**, todas ellas con sede en la Facultad de Farmacia de la Universidad de Granada.

En el año 2024, la revista ha recibido la renovación del **Sello de Calidad Editorial** otorgado por la FECYT, vigente por un período de tres años. Además, continúa figurando en el nuevo índice de impacto **JCI (Journal Citation Indicator)**, lo que la sitúa entre las 357 revistas más destacadas del mundo en el campo de la Farmacología y la Farmacia incluidas en los JCR de la Web of Science.

Por todo ello, invitamos a los autores a enviar sus contribuciones a las distintas secciones de la revista, consolidando así su compromiso con la excelencia científica y académica.

Contacto de la Redacción

Editorial Office Contact Info

Ars Pharmaceutica.
Facultad de Farmacia.
Universidad de Granada.
Campus de Cartuja s/n.
18071 -Granada, España
email: ars@ugr.es

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Facultad de Farmacia de la Universidad de Granada

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Dra. Ana Isabel Torres Suárez. Farmacia y Tecnología Farmacéutica. Universidad Complutense, Madrid. España

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The International Collaboration of Pharmacy Journal Editors (ICPJE) formally constituted to foster quality around clinical and social pharmacy practice research publications

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Editorial

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The International Collaboration of Pharmacy Journal Editors (ICPJE) formally constituted to foster quality around clinical and social pharmacy practice research publications

Filipa Alves da Costa^{1,2} // Fernando Fernandez-Llimos^{3,4} // Shane Desselle^{5,6,7} // Isabelle Arnet⁸ // Zaheer Babar^{9,10,11} // Christine Bond^{12,13} // Maria Cordina¹⁴ // Victoria Garcia Cardenas^{6,15} // Maguy S. El Hajj^{7,11} // Ramune Jacobsen^{7,16} // Anandi V. Law^{6,17} // Lotte S. Nørgaard^{6,16} // Carlo Polidori^{18,19} // Natalia Shcherbakova²⁰ // Derek Stewart² // Fernanda S. Tonin^{7,21} // Anita E. Weidmann^{2,19,22}

¹Research Institute for Medicines (Med.U Lisboa), Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Lisbon, Portugal.

¹³International Journal of Pharmacy Practice.

²International Journal of Clinical Pharmacy.

¹⁴Department of Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics, WHO Collaborating Centre for Health Professionals Education and Research, University of Malta, Msida, Malta.

³Laboratory of Pharmacology, Department of Drug Sciences, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Porto, Porto, Portugal.

¹⁵University of Granada Faculty of Pharmacy, Granada, Spain.

⁴Revista Brasileira de Farmácia Hospitalar e Serviços de Saúde.

¹⁶Department of Pharmacy, University of Copenhagen, Denmark.

⁵Touro University California College of Pharmacy, Vallejo, CA, USA.

¹⁷Western University of Health Sciences, Pomona, California, USA.

⁶Research in Social and Administrative Pharmacy.

¹⁸Experimental Medicine and Public Health, University of Camerino, Camerino, Italy.

⁷Exploratory Research in Clinical and Social Pharmacy.

¹⁹European Journal of Hospital Pharmacy.

⁸Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Basel, Basel, Switzerland.

²⁰Western New England University, Springfield, Massachusetts, USA.

⁹University of Huddersfield, Huddersfield, UK.

²¹ESTeSL-Escola Superior de Tecnologia da Saúde, Instituto Politécnico de Lisboa), Lisbon, Portugal.

¹⁰Journal of Pharmaceutical Policy and Practice.

²²Faculty for Chemistry and Pharmacy, University of Innsbruck, Austria.

¹¹College of Pharmacy, QU Health, Qatar University, Doha, Qatar.

¹²University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen, UK.

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La declaración de Granada fue el resultado de la necesidad de fortalecer la farmacia práctica clínica, social y administrativa como un área de conocimiento que se materialice en la práctica, la investigación y la política. Para ello, un grupo de editores de revistas de farmacia práctica, clínica y social puso en marcha en el año 2022 en Granada una iniciativa para discutir formas de mejorar la calidad de las publicaciones en esta área, y que culminó en el documento denominado Declaración de Granada. Se desarrollaron dieciocho recomendaciones, agrupadas en seis ámbitos principales: 1) uso apropiado de la terminología; 2) elaborar resúmenes impacto 3) necesidad de las revisiones por pares; 4) limitar la dispersión de revistas; 5) uso más efectivo y adecuado de las métricas de impacto de revistas y artículos; y 6) selección por los autores de la revista de farmacia práctica más apropiada para publicar su trabajo. La declaración de Granada ha sido publicada íntegramente en 14 revistas⁽¹⁻¹⁴⁾. Este documento pionero tiene sus antecedentes en otras iniciativas similares desarrolladas por académicos de otros grupos de profesiones de la salud, fomentando el concepto de consenso interdisciplinario y avanzando en el paradigma científico^(15,16).

Varios directores de revistas, editores asociados y miembros de editoriales se reunieron de nuevo en junio de 2024, esta vez en Basilea, Suiza. Por consenso, se seleccionó un nombre que reflejara mejor el alcance, misión y visión del grupo, aprobándose International Collaboration of Pharmacy Journal Editors (ICPJE).

Durante la reunión de Basilea, el grupo debatió cuestiones actuales relacionadas con el aumento de la calidad de las publicaciones que, entre otras cosas, reflejaban la conveniencia de reducir la necesidad de que la disciplina se revalue a sí misma mediante artículos que examinen la importancia de la farmacia por otras partes. Esos artículos no fueron citados por artículos de fuera o de dentro de la farmacia, lo que ha sido demostrado por un examen holístico sobre los impulsores de citación de la investigación original⁽¹⁷⁾. Los resultados de este estudio destacan cuatro factores principales asociados con las citaciones, el número de referencias del artículo, el año de publicación, las menciones en los medios sociales y el tema de la investigación, en concreto los resultados asociados con la prestación real de servicios farmacéuticos y la adherencia a la medicación (modelos e intervenciones, más que la investigación descriptiva). En el debate, se realizó que varios estudios previos de diversas disciplinas, incluidas las especialidades médicas, enfermería y otras profesiones de la salud, han obtenido resultados diferentes. Aunque algunas publicaciones han coincidido en el impacto de las redes sociales, destacando su papel en el aumento de la visibilidad⁽¹⁸⁾, la mayoría han considerado que la naturaleza del tema y la metodología empleada son factores muy relevantes⁽¹⁹⁾. Esto corrobora las conclusiones de Shcherbakova et al. y otros, que también señalaron la importancia de la reputación de la revista^(17,20). Además, se observó que la pandemia COVID-19 impulsó las citaciones⁽²⁰⁾. Otro factor determinante es la innovación y los estudios multicéntricos o multidisciplinares. Algunos de los estudios mencionados

han identificado el número de referencias como un factor de éxito, lo que podría ser indicativo de que el artículo tiene una revisión bibliográfica y una discusión más exhaustiva^[17,18].

Además, el grupo hizo un análisis del número de Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) utilizados para la indexación de artículos de farmacia práctica clínica y social en comparación con los de medicina clínica y áreas similares, y encontró un número significativamente menor de términos. Además, con la implementación de la indexación automática de la National Library of Medicine en 2022, este problema se agravó aún más^[21]. Se ha determinado que un área esencial en la que el ICPJE debería centrar sus esfuerzos en promover la estandarización de los términos utilizados en los artículos de farmacia práctica. Esto puede lograrse, por ejemplo, promoviendo el uso de términos de referencia para describir los modelos de atención farmacéutica. Esto ayudará a orientar las búsquedas de los investigadores y maximizará la probabilidad de que se localicen artículos importantes en farmacia. Por último, los editores del ICPJE ayudarán a los futuros autores a utilizar los términos MeSH en los títulos y resúmenes de los artículos para concentrar nuestros esfuerzos en aumentar la visibilidad de la investigación en farmacia práctica y reducir la ambigüedad en los términos que no están suficientemente reconocidos por los investigadores, en particular aquellos que no pertenecen a esta disciplina.

Durante su estancia en Basilea, los asistentes reflexionaron sobre la utilidad de la Declaración de Granada cuando se leían sin la justificación incluida en el documento original. Se concluyó que cada recomendación debía ir acompañada de unas breves frases explicativas que describieran su fundamentación y estuvieran dirigidas al grupo de usuarios para el que la declaración era más relevante, es decir, editores, directores, revisores y, lo que es más importante, autores. Por tanto, se consideró fundamental incluir a un grupo más amplio de usuarios en la revisión de las recomendaciones y sus descripciones, de acuerdo con el concepto de codiseño^[22]. Para conseguir este propósito se acordó formar tres subgrupos. Al primer subgrupo se le encargó la redacción de breves frases explicativas que acompañaran a cada recomendación de la Declaración de Granada. El segundo subgrupo se encargó de proponer una metodología para crear un Comité Asesor de Investigadores Emergentes (CAIE), definiendo sus tareas y deberes. El CAIE incluirá autores y revisores de diferentes revistas de farmacia práctica y actuará como grupo de visibilidad del ICPJE, con la tarea inicial de comentar las breves frases explicativas que acompañarán a las recomendaciones de la Declaración de Granada y, eventualmente, apoyar cualquier cambio de redacción necesario. La Oficina Regional para Europa de la Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS) ha propuesto iniciativas similares, con la creación de Youth4Health, que pretende amplificar e integrar las opiniones y perspectivas de los jóvenes en todas las áreas de su trabajo (<https://www.who.int/europe/initiatives/youth4health>). El ICPJE está convencido de que este CAIE tiene un enorme potencial para contribuir a la visibilidad externa y a la promoción del modelo de investigación en farmacia práctica, clínica y social. Por último, el tercer subgrupo se centra en la integración de la Declaración en los planes de estudios universitarios, y parte de sus tareas consistirán en crear un método para involucrar a las instituciones de enseñanza superior con el objetivo final de aumentar la concienciación sobre la Declaración y su impacto y utilidad desde el ámbito universitario. Aunque las competencias del ICPJE se extienden más allá de Europa, la reciente revisión de la Directiva europea sobre los requisitos mínimos de formación de los farmacéuticos (y otros profesionales sanitarios)^[23] puede ser una excelente oportunidad para garantizar el conocimiento y las habilidades adecuadas de escritura científica en el contexto de algunos de los nuevos temas obligatorios, como la atención farmacéutica, la farmacia clínica y la salud pública, como medio para contribuir a difundir y promover el conocimiento e influir así en la política y la práctica.

En resumen, el ICPJE nació de un reducido grupo inicial que se reunió previamente en Granada para avanzar en la visibilidad y calidad de la investigación en farmacia práctica, clínica, social y administrativa. Incluso antes de su denominación formal, el grupo había realizado algunos avances en los últimos dos años, aunque reconoce la necesidad de consolidar su trabajo. El grupo se centra en el fortalecimiento de la farmacia práctica, clínica, social y administrativa, no sólo como disciplina, sino para toda la profesión, incluidos los pacientes a los que atienden sus clínicos e investigadores. El ICPJE fue fundado por un grupo selecto de revistas, pero en definitiva es un grupo abierto a cualquier otra revista del área. Cada revista está representada por un grupo dinámico de personas, incluidos los editores y las empresas editoriales. El

ICPJE se pondrá en contacto con diversos actores interesados en busca de colaboración y conocimientos de otros académicos y profesionales de todo el mundo.

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F. Alves da Costa: Conceptualization, Writing – review & editing. F. Fernandez-Llimos: Conceptualization, Writing – review & editing. S. Desselle: Conceptualization, Writing – review & editing. I. Arnet: Writing – review & editing. Z. Babar: Writing – review & editing. C. Bond: Writing – review & editing. M. Cordina: Writing – review & editing. V. Garcia Cardenas: Writing – review & editing. M.S. El Hajj: Writing – review & editing. R. Jacobsen: Writing – review & editing. A. V. Law: Writing – review & editing. L.S. Nørgaard: Writing – review & editing. C. Polidori: Writing – review & editing. N. Shcherbakova: Writing – review & editing. D. Stewart: Writing – review & editing. F. Tonin: Writing – review & editing. A.E. Weidmann: Writing – review & editing.

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Editorial

The International Collaboration of Pharmacy Journal Editors (ICPJE) formally constituted to foster quality around clinical and social pharmacy practice research publications

La International Collaboration of Pharmacy Journal Editors (ICPJE) se constituye formalmente para fomentar la calidad en torno a las publicaciones de investigación sobre farmacia práctica, clínica y social

Filipa Alves da Costa^{1,2} // Fernando Fernandez-Llimos^{3,4} // Shane Desselle^{5,6,7} // Isabelle Arnet⁸ // Zaheer Babar^{9,10,11} // Christine Bond^{12,13} // Maria Cordina¹⁴ // Victoria Garcia Cardenas^{6,15} // Maguy S. El Hajj^{7,11} // Ramune Jacobsen^{7,16} // Anandi V. Law^{6,17} // Lotte S. Nørgaard^{6,16} // Carlo Polidori^{18,19} // Natalia Shcherbakova²⁰ // Derek Stewart² // Fernanda S. Tonin^{7,21} // Anita E. Weidmann^{2,19,22}

¹Research Institute for Medicines (Med.U Lisboa), Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Lisbon, Portugal.

¹³International Journal of Pharmacy Practice.

²International Journal of Clinical Pharmacy.

¹⁴Department of Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics, WHO Collaborating Centre for Health Professionals Education and Research, University of Malta, Msida, Malta.

³Laboratory of Pharmacology, Department of Drug Sciences, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Porto, Porto, Portugal.

¹⁵University of Granada Faculty of Pharmacy, Granada, Spain.

⁴Revista Brasileira de Farmácia Hospitalar e Serviços de Saúde.

¹⁶Department of Pharmacy, University of Copenhagen, Denmark.

⁵Touro University California College of Pharmacy, Vallejo, CA, USA.

¹⁷Western University of Health Sciences, Pomona, California, USA.

⁶Research in Social and Administrative Pharmacy.

¹⁸Experimental Medicine and Public Health, University of Camerino, Camerino, Italy.

⁷Exploratory Research in Clinical and Social Pharmacy.

¹⁹European Journal of Hospital Pharmacy.

⁸Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Basel, Basel, Switzerland.

²⁰Western New England University, Springfield, Massachusetts, USA.

⁹University of Huddersfield, Huddersfield, UK.

²¹ESTeSL-Escola Superior de Tecnologia da Saúde, Instituto Politécnico de Lisboa), Lisbon, Portugal.

¹⁰Journal of Pharmaceutical Policy and Practice.

²²College of Pharmacy, QU Health, Qatar University, Doha, Qatar.

¹¹College of Pharmacy, QU Health, Qatar University, Doha, Qatar.

²²Faculty for Chemistry and Pharmacy, University of Innsbruck, Austria.

¹²University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen, UK.

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The Granada statements were a result of the need to strengthen clinical, social and administrative pharmacy practice as an area of knowledge that translates into practice, research and policy. As a response, a group of clinical and social pharmacy practice journal editors launched an initiative in Granada in 2022 to discuss ways to improve the quality of publications in this area, which culminated in the Granada statements. Eighteen statements were developed, clustered into six main domains: 1) the appropriate use of terminology; 2) developing impactful abstracts; 3) having the required peer reviews; 4) preventing journal scattering; 5) more effective and wiser use of journal and article performance metrics; and 6) authors' selection of the most appropriate pharmacy practice journal to submit their work. The full Granada statements have been published in 14 journals.^[1-14] These pioneering statements are rooted in similar endeavors undertaken by scholars in other health professions groups, fostering the concept of interdisciplinary consensus and advancing scientific paradigm.^[15,16]

Various chief editors, associated editors, and publishers met again in June 2024, this time in Basel, Switzerland. Following a consensus approach to select a name that best reflected the group scope, mission and vision, the name of the International Collaboration of Pharmacy Journal Editors (ICPJE) was selected. The ICPJE was then born.

During the meeting in Basel, the group discussed current issues relating to raising the quality of publications which among other things reflected a need to abate the discipline's need to re-evaluate itself through papers examining the importance of pharmacy by other stakeholders. These were not cited by papers outside or even within pharmacy, which has been demonstrated by a more holistic examination of drivers of citations through original research.^[17] The findings of this study highlight four main factors associated with citations, the paper's number of references, the year of publication, social media mentions and the topic area of research, namely outcomes associated with the actual provision of pharmacy services, and medication adherence (models and interventions more so than additional descriptive research). In the context of the discussion, it was emphasized that several previous studies across various disciplines including medical specialties, nursing and other allied healthcare professions have reported diverse findings. While some publications have concurred with the impact of social media highlighting its role in increasing visibility,^[18] most publications have found the nature of the topic and the methodology employed to be highly relevant factors.^[19] This corroborates with the findings of Shcherbakova et al. and others who also pointed out the relevance of the journal reputation.^[17,20] Furthermore it was highlighted that the COVID-19 pandemic was found to boost citations.^[20] Another important determinant is innovation and multicentre or multidisciplinary studies. Some of the aforementioned studies have identified the number of references as a success factor; and this might be indicative of the paper having a more comprehensive a literature review and discussion.^[17,18]

Additionally, the group did an analysis of the number of Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) used for indexation of clinical and social pharmacy practice articles compared to those in clinical medicine and

similar areas and found a significantly lower number of terms. Furthermore, with full implementation of the automatic indexation by the National Library of Medicine in 2022, this problem was further exacerbated.⁽²¹⁾ It has been determined that an essential area that the ICPJE should focus their efforts on is to promote the standardization of terms used in pharmacy practice articles. This can be achieved, for instance, by promoting use of preferred terms to describe systems of care in pharmacy. It will then help focus searches by researchers and maximize the likelihood of important papers in pharmacy being located. Finally, the ICPJE editors will help prospective authors utilize MeSH terms in article titles and abstracts to coalesce our efforts in raising the visibility of pharmacy practice research and ameliorating ambiguity around terms not fully recognized by scholars, particularly those outside the discipline. Whilst in Basel, those present reflected on the accessibility of the Granada statements if they were read without the underpinning justification included in the original paper. It was concluded that each statement needed to be accompanied by a few explanatory sentences, describing the underlying rationale and targeted at the audience for whom the statement was most relevant, i.e., publishers, editors, reviewers and most importantly authors. It was therefore considered crucial to include a wider audience in the revision of the statements and descriptions, embracing the concept of co-creation.⁽²²⁾ To achieve this, it was agreed that three subgroups should be convened. The first subgroup was tasked with composing short explanatory sentences to accompany each Granada statement. The second group was tasked with proposing a methodology to create an Early Career Researcher Advisory Board (ECRAB), defining their tasks and duties. The ECRAB will include authors and reviewers from different pharmacy practice journals and will act as a sounding board for the ICPJE, with an initial task to comment on short explanatory statements to accompany the Granada statements and eventually support any rewording needed. Similar initiatives have been proposed by the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe, with the creation of the Youth4Health special initiative, which aims to amplify and embed youth voices and perspectives into all areas of its work (<https://www.who.int/europe/initiatives/youth4health>). The ICPJE truly believes that this ECRAB has enormous potential to contribute to the external visibility and promotion of clinical and social pharmacy practice research paradigm. Finally, the third subgroup is focused on embedding the statements into university curricula and part of its duties will be creating a methodology to engage the Higher Education Institutions with the ultimate goal of increasing awareness about the statements and their influence and use starting at the undergraduate level. Even though the remit of the ICJPE expands way beyond Europe, the recent revision of the European Directive on minimum training requirements for pharmacists (and other healthcare workers)⁽²³⁾ may be an excellent opportunity to ensure adequate knowledge and skills of scientific writing within the context of some of the new compulsory topics, such as pharmaceutical care, clinical pharmacy and public health, as a means to contribute to disseminate and promote knowledge and thus influence policy and practice.

In summary, the ICPJE was born from an initial small group that met previously in Granada to advance the visibility and quality of research in clinical, social and administrative pharmacy practice. Even prior to its formal naming, the group had made some progress in the past couple of years, although it recognizes the need to consolidate its work. The group is dedicated toward strengthening clinical, social and administrative pharmacy practice, not only as a discipline, but the entire profession, including the patients served by its clinicians and researchers. The ICPJE was founded by a select group of journals; but ultimately it is a group that is open to any other journal in the field. Each journal is represented by a vibrant group of individuals, including the editors and publishing companies. The ICPJE will be reaching out to various stakeholders seeking collaboration and insights from fellow scholars and practitioners throughout the world.

CRediT authorship contribution statement

F. Alves da Costa: Conceptualization, Writing – review & editing. F. Fernandez-Llimos: Conceptualization, Writing – review & editing. S. Desselle: Conceptualization, Writing – review & editing. I. Arnet: Writing – review & editing. Z. Babar: Writing – review & editing. C. Bond: Writing – review & editing. M. Cordina: Writing – review & editing. V. Garcia Cardenas: Writing – review & editing. M.S. El Hajj: Writing – review & editing. R. Jacobsen: Writing – review & editing. A. V. Law: Writing – review & editing. L.S. Nørgaard: Writing – review & editing. C. Polidori: Writing – review & editing. N. Shcherbakova: Writing – review & editing. D. Stewart: Writing – review & editing. F. Tonin: Writing – review & editing. A.E. Weidmann: Writing – review & editing.

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Original Articles

Exploration of Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice of Pharmacovigilance Among HealthCare Professionals: A Cross-Sectional Study

Exploración del conocimiento, la actitud y la práctica de la farmacovigilancia entre profesionales de la salud: un estudio transversal

Rashmi Tripathi¹  0000-0003-0490-5264

Monika Sachdeva¹  0000-0001-5025-5122

Geetika Mehta¹  0000-0002-0881-5883

¹Department of Pharmacology, Raj Kumar Goel Institute of Technology (Pharmacy), Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, India

Correspondence

Rashmi Tripathi
rashmidwivedi12@gmail.com

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Resumen

Introducción: Para garantizar el uso seguro de los productos farmacéuticos y la detección de reacciones adversas a los medicamentos, es fundamental tener conocimientos de farmacovigilancia. Aunque la India ejecuta el Programa de Farmacovigilancia de la India, la tasa de notificación espontánea sigue siendo muy baja. Es necesario concientiar a los profesionales sanitarios sobre la importancia de la farmacovigilancia. Este estudio se realiza para evaluar el conocimiento, la actitud y la práctica de la farmacovigilancia entre los profesionales de la salud en la región norte de Uttar Pradesh.

Material y Métodos: Se conceptualizó un estudio transversal mediante un cuestionario basado en formularios de Google con 16 preguntas (08 de conocimiento, 05 de actitud y 03 de práctica), un medio adecuado para evaluar los conocimientos, actitudes y prácticas esenciales de la farmacovigilancia. . El cuestionario se distribuyó entre los profesionales sanitarios desde marzo de 2024 hasta abril de 2024.

Resultado: Se circularon 390 cuestionarios pretestados entre los profesionales de la salud, de los cuales 332 fueron respondidos por los encuestados, es decir, la tasa de respuesta fue del 85,12 %. Entre todos los encuestados, el 63,25 % eran hombres y el 36,74 % eran mujeres. Se observó en este estudio que los profesionales de la salud tienen conocimientos teóricos limitados sobre farmacovigilancia. A pesar de una actitud positiva hacia el requisito de informar las reacciones adversas a los medicamentos, los profesionales de la salud mostraron menos práctica de notificación.

Conclusión: los profesionales de la salud carecen de conocimientos y habilidades adecuados en la notificación de reacciones adversas a medicamentos, pero tienen una actitud positiva hacia los programas de farmacovigilancia. La incorporación de conceptos de notificación de reacciones adversas a medicamentos en el plan de estudios educativo, la capacitación y la participación voluntaria de los profesionales de la salud en la notificación de reacciones adversas a medicamentos es muy crucial para lograr los objetivos de seguridad y salvaguardar la salud pública.

Palabras clave: Reacciones adversas a medicamentos; Farmacovigilancia; notificación espontánea.

Abstract

Introduction: To ensure the safe use of pharmaceuticals and the detection of adverse drug reactions, it is essential to have an understanding of pharmacovigilance. Although India is running the Pharmacovigilance Program of India, still the spontaneous reporting rate is very low. There is a requirement to be aware healthcare professionals about the importance of pharmacovigilance. This study is conducted to assess the knowledge, attitude, and practice of pharmacovigilance among healthcare professionals in the Northern region of Uttar Pradesh.

Material and Methods: A cross-sectional study was conceptualized by a Google forms-based questionnaire with 16 questions (08 of knowledge, 05 of attitude, and 03 of practice) a suitable means of assessing the essential knowledge, attitude, and practice of pharmacovigilance. The questionnaire was distributed among the healthcare professionals from March 2024 to April 2024.

Result: 390 pretested questionnaires were circulated among healthcare professionals, and 332 of them were answered by the respondents i.e., the response rate was 85.12 %. Among all the respondents 63.25 % were males and 36.74 % were females. It was observed in this study that healthcare professionals have limited theoretical knowledge about pharmacovigilance. Despite a positive attitude toward the requirement of reporting adverse drug reactions, healthcare professionals showed less reporting practice.

Conclusion: Healthcare professionals lack adequate knowledge and skill in reporting adverse drug reactions but have a positive attitude toward pharmacovigilance programs. Incorporation of adverse drug reaction reporting concepts in education curriculum, training, and voluntary participation of healthcare professionals in adverse drug reaction reporting is very crucial in achieving safety goals and safeguarding public health.

Keywords: Adverse drug reactions; Pharmacovigilance; spontaneous reporting

Highlights

Underreporting is the main issue facing India's pharmacovigilance program.

Lack of understanding of pharmacovigilance and a careless approach to ADR reporting are found the main causes of underreporting.

There is a critical necessity to implement regular awareness programs to enhance their understanding and improve the practice of ADR reporting.

Introduction

An adverse drug reaction (ADR) is defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) as any harmful, unexpected, and undesirable outcome that occurs as a consequence of administering a medication at doses typically used in preventive, diagnostic, or therapeutic settings for human subjects^[1]. Adverse drug reactions (ADRs) present a significant challenge to the safety of the patient and the quality of life, while also resulting in a substantial increase in healthcare costs. ADRs are a crucial contributor to morbidity and mortality on a global scale. The main thing is to ensure the safety and effectiveness of drugs throughout their lifecycle^[2].

After the Thalidomide tragedy, in 1968 WHO with the cooperation of other countries started the International Drug Monitoring System (IDM)^[3]. The National Drug Monitoring Centers of these involved countries collected and analyzed the ADR reports from the healthcare system and sent them to the IDM center located in Uppsala, Sweden. Currently, more than 150 countries are the members of WHO program for IDM (PIDM)^[4,5].

In 1998, India also joined the PIDM, but due to a lack of financial and manpower support, it was not successful. Pharmacovigilance in India was restarted in 2005 with the name National Pharmacovigilance Program^[6]. In 2010 it was renamed Pharmacovigilance Program of India (PvPI) with AIIMS, New Delhi as the National Coordination Center (NCC). In 2011, NCC shifted to the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) Ghaziabad^[7,8].

When compared to other nations like the USA and Europe, which have well-established Pharmacovigilance systems in place due to technological advancement and other resources, India's PV initiatives are still in their infancy. As India is the world's largest manufacturer of pharmaceuticals and a significant center for clinical research, a more rigorous PV infrastructure is necessary^[9].

Currently, 250 pharmacovigilance centers under the PvPI are established to strengthen the pharmacovigilance program and create a culture of reporting all over India. One of the most noteworthy concerns in India is related to the underreporting of Adverse Drug Reactions (ADRs). It is the primary responsibility of healthcare professionals to promptly and effectively report any adverse drug reactions (ADRs)^[10].

Uppsala Monitoring Centre (UMC, WHO) estimated that only 6-10 % of all ADRs are reported^[11], hence it is crucial to develop a tendency for ad-hoc reporting among healthcare practitioners as a strategic objective to enhance the Pharmacovigilance Programme of India (PvPI). The Knowledge, attitude, and practice (KAP) approach is an efficient tool for assessing the reporting of adverse drug reactions and the comprehension of healthcare professionals on the critical domains of patient safety and pharmacovigilance^[12,13]. The present study was carried out to evaluate the knowledge, attitude, and practice among healthcare professionals (HCPs).

Methods

Study setting

It was a cross-sectional questionnaire-based study conducted on resident doctors, intern doctors, nurses, and pharmacists in the various hospitals located in the satellite cities of the northern region of Uttar Pradesh from March 2024 to April 2024. This study aimed to evaluate the level of adequate knowledge, positive attitude, and sound practice of pharmacovigilance and ADR reporting among them.

Study Design

A questionnaire was created using Google Forms after a comprehensive literature review of past studies. Before the initiation of the survey, informed consent was received from the participants. The questionnaire was subjected to scrutiny by an expert committee to assess the clarity and relevance of the inquiries concerning the subject matter of the research. The pilot study was conducted to pre-test and review the questionnaire^[14].

The questionnaire is designed with multiple-choice questions with only one right answer. The questionnaire utilized in the study was structured into four distinct sections. The initial segment was designed to gather demographic information of each participant (age, sex, occupation, etc)⁽¹⁵⁾. In the second section, eight questions were designed to assess each participant's level of knowledge about pharmacovigilance. The questions were multiple-choice, and the accuracy of the answers determined whether the response was correct or incorrect⁽¹⁶⁾.

The third segment of the study was comprised of five inquiries that were intended to elicit the attitudes of each participant toward pharmacovigilance. Responses were gathered in the form of binary options, either 'agree' or 'disagree'. The fourth and final section, in its entirety, is comprised of three distinct inquiries that were specifically designed to furnish a comprehensive and detailed account of how each of the participants executed the practice of pharmacovigilance. The responses to these inquiries were collected and recorded in the form of a two-choice either 'yes' or 'no'.

In the present study, questionnaires were distributed among 390 HCPs. Out of which, 332 were collected successfully.

Ethical Approval: The study was approved by the Institutional Ethical Committee before its initiation.

Statistical analysis: The statistical analysis was conducted using Microsoft Excel, for data collection and computation. To determine the correlation between two attributes, the Chi-square test was employed at a level of significance of $P < 0.05$.

Results

Demographic Data:

During the investigation, the researchers were able to obtain 332 responses out of a total of 390, resulting in a response rate of 85.12 %. Analysis of the compiled dataset reveals that male subjects account for 63.25 % (n=210), while female subjects account for only 36.74 % (n=122). The study was primarily conducted with input from professionals in the field, with pharmacists representing the majority of contributors at 61.74 % (n=205). In addition, 24.09 % (n=80) of the contributors were doctors, while nurses constituted 14.15 % (n=47) of the sample. The study revealed that the age bracket of 18-25 had the largest pool of participants, constituting 69.27 % (n=230). In contrast, a smaller proportion of 20.78 % (n=69) of participants belonged to the age range of 25-45. Finally, only (n=33) of the population was classed as older than 45. Demographic detail is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Demographic Study of HCPs

| Category | Frequency (%) |
|-------------|---------------|
| Gender | |
| Male | 210 (63.25) |
| Female | 122 (36.74) |
| Age | |
| 18 to 25 | 230 (69.27) |
| 25 to 45 | 69 (20.78) |
| above 45 | 33 (9.93) |
| Occupation | |
| Doctors | 80 (24.09) |
| Nurses | 47 (14.15) |
| Pharmacists | 205 (61.74) |

Assessment of knowledge of HCPs of Pharmacovigilance

In the present study, it has been observed that among the HCPs, pharmacists 70.73 % (n=145) possess more knowledge about the theoretical aspects, specifically the definition, of Pharmacovigilance in comparison to doctors 17.50 % (n=14), and nurses 21.28 % (n=10). The objectives of pharmacovigilance are not well understood by healthcare professionals as per the observations. The accuracy of responses provided by pharmacists was found to be the highest, with approximately 58.54 % (n=120) of correct answers coming from their profession. The level of understanding of the international drug monitoring center is higher among physicians 97.50 % (n=78) and nurses 95.74 % (n=45), whereas pharmacists 72.68 % (n=149) have a relatively limited comprehension of the same. (Table 2).

Table 2: Assessment of Knowledge of HCPs of Pharmacovigilance

| Knowledge about Pharmacovigilance and ADR reporting Centre | Participants | | | | p value |
|---|------------------|---------------------|------------------|------------------------|---------|
| | | Doctors (N=80) n(%) | Nurses (47) n(%) | Pharmacists (205) n(%) | |
| Definition of Pharmacovigilance. | Correct Answer | 14 (17.5) | 10 (21.28) | 145 (70.73) | 0.00 |
| | Incorrect Answer | 66 (82.50) | 37 (78.72) | 60(29.26) | |
| Objective of Pharmacovigilance. | Correct Answer | 12 (9.6) | 12 (25.53) | 120 (58.54) | 0.00 |
| | Incorrect Answer | 68 (85.00) | 35(74.46) | 85(41.46) | |
| Is there an official document available for communicating Adverse Drug Reactions (ADRs)? | Correct Answer | 42 (52.5) | 24 (51.06) | 156 (76.10) | 0.00 |
| | Incorrect Answer | 38 (47.50) | 23(48.93) | 49(23.90) | |
| Do you have knowledge about the ADR reporting and monitoring system that exists in India? | Correct Answer | 13 (16.25) | 14 (29.79) | 146 (71.22) | 0.00 |
| | Incorrect Answer | 67(83.75) | 33(70.21) | 59(28.78) | |
| Is there any International Drug Monitoring System? | Correct Answer | 78 (97.5) | 45 (95.74) | 149 (72.68) | 0.00 |
| | Incorrect Answer | 2(2.5) | 2(4.25) | 56(26.92) | |
| Where National Centre of Pharmacovigilance is located? | Correct Answer | 25 (31.25) | 22 (46.81) | 94 (45.85) | 0.07 |
| | Incorrect Answer | 55(68.75) | 25(53.19) | 111(54.14) | |
| Which types of Adverse Drug Reactions (ADRs) are required to be reported? | Correct Answer | 77 (96.25) | 41 (87.23) | 188 (91.71) | 0.17 |
| | Incorrect Answer | 3(3.75) | 6(12.76) | 17(8.29) | |
| There is any regulatory body for monitoring of ADR in India. | Correct Answer | 11 (13.75) | 15 (31.91) | 143 (69.76) | 0.00 |
| | Incorrect Answer | 69(86.25) | 32(68.08) | 62(30.24) | |

Attitude of HCPs towards reporting of ADR

The study comprised a total of five questions that sought to test the attitude of HCPs toward the reporting of Adverse Drug Reactions (ADRs). The study results demonstrate that HCPs are in agreement regarding the importance of reporting Adverse Drug Reactions (ADRs) to the healthcare system. The findings of the study indicate that there is a consensus among the participants especially 79.00 % (n=63) physicians, 59.57 % (n=29) nurses, and 83.90 % (n=172) pharmacists, that the submission of ADR forms has the potential to enhance patient safety. The inclusion of a collection box in the clinical setting was evaluated by HCPs to obtain their expert opinion. The results of the survey showed that nurses, 85.11 % (n=40), and pharmacists, 85.85 % (n=176) were predominantly in favor of the proposal, while physicians exhibited a relatively modest inclination towards the idea, with only 58.75 % (n=47) showing support. Pharmacists 72.68 % (n=149), nurses 74.47 % (n=35), and physicians 43.75 % (n=35) hold the view that the involvement of healthcare students is of utmost importance in disseminating awareness about adverse drug reaction (ADR) reporting (Table 3).

Table 3: Attitude of HCPs toward ADR reporting

| Attitude related to ADR reporting | | Doctors (N=80) n(%) | Nurses (47) n(%) | Pharmacists (205) n(%) | p value |
|--|----------|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------|
| Do you believe that the reporting of adverse drug reactions (ADRs) is an essential requirement for the healthcare system? | Agree | 49(61.25) | 31(65.96) | 175(85.37) | 0.00 |
| | Disagree | 35(44.00) | 16(34) | 30(15) | |
| Is it your view that the submission of reports on Adverse Drug Reactions would contribute to enhancing patient safety? | Agree | 63(79.00) | 28(59.57) | 172(83.90) | 0.001 |
| | Disagree | 17(21.25) | 19(40) | 33(16) | |
| Is it essential to consult with healthcare experts and colleagues before reporting an Adverse Drug Reaction (ADR) to any medication? | Agree | 37(46.25) | 27(57.45) | 159(77.56) | 0.00 |
| | Disagree | 43(54) | 20(43) | 46(22) | |
| Do you believe that the implementation of a collection receptacle in every clinical sector would have a favorable impact on the facilitation of appropriate reporting? | Agree | 47(58.75) | 40(85.11) | 176(85.85) | 0.00 |
| | Disagree | 33(41) | 7(15) | 29(14) | |
| Do you believe that the participation of students in healthcare could potentially enhance their awareness of adverse drug reaction (ADR) reporting? | Agree | 35(43.75) | 35(74.47) | 149(72.68) | 0.00 |
| | Disagree | 45(56) | 12(26) | 56(27) | |

Practice related to ADR reporting-

The study has revealed that a substantial proportion of HCPs, including physicians 62.5 % (n=50), nurses 57.44 % (n=27), and pharmacists, 51.70 % (n=106), did not report any ADR. However, it is noteworthy that only a relatively smaller fraction, namely 31.25 % (n=25) of physicians, 40.43 % (n=19) of nurses, and 40.48 % (n=83) of pharmacists, maintain the records about the reported ADRs. It is of particular significance to observe that a minute proportion of medical doctors 18.75% (n=15), registered nurses 25.53 % (n=12), and pharmacists 38.53 % (n=79) communicate the reported adverse drug reactions (ADRs) to the relevant regulatory authorities (Table 4).

Table 4: Assessment of Practice of HCPs for ADR reporting

| Practice towards Pharmacovigilance and Reporting | | Doctors (N=80) n (%) | Nurses (47) n (%) | Pharmacists (205) n (%) | p Value |
|---|-----|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Have you reported any observed adverse drug reactions (ADRs) in the past? | Yes | 30(37.5) | 20(42.55) | 99(48.29) | 0.243 |
| | No | 50(62.5) | 27(57.44) | 106(51.70) | |
| Do you follow the documentation regarding adverse drug events? | Yes | 25(31.25) | 19(40.43) | 83(40.48) | 0.493 |
| | No | 51(63.75) | 28(59.57) | 122(59.51) | |
| Have you ever reported the occurrence of an adverse drug reaction suspected to be caused by a pharmaceutical agent to any relevant regulatory agency? | Yes | 15(18.75) | 12(25.53) | 79(38.53) | 0.016 |
| | No | 57(71.25) | 32(68.08) | 126(61.46) | |

Discussion

Worldwide, ADRs are regarded as significant causes of illness and mortality. Drug-related issues account for about 6 % of hospital admissions, while major adverse drug reactions (ADRs) affect 6–15 % of inpatients^[17]. Therefore the present study was designed to explore the knowledge, attitude, and practice of pharmacovigilance among HCPs. In this study, an 85.12 % response rate was observed which is higher than in a similar study conducted by Srinivasan et.al^[18]. 50.90 % of participants understood the definition of pharmacovigilance, and 43.37 % were able to know the objectives of pharmacovigilance which reflects the lack of knowledge in HCPs that may be a major contributing factor of underreporting which was reflected in our study and coinciding findings have been previously reported^[19]. Empirical data suggest that HCPs show a notable lack of awareness concerning the National Center for pharmacovigilance, with merely 42.46 % supplying accurate answers that closely parallel observations reported by researchers in Turkey^[20]. It can be improved and overcome by educational intervention programs and workshops on pharmacovigilance.

An interesting observation emerged indicating that 76.80 % of participants exhibit a positive attitude, contrary to research done in Brazil^[21] that reporting ADR is the prime requirement for a robust health-care system which is higher than the published study^[22]. Such findings of the study recommend an improvement in the awareness among HCPs^[23].

65.96 % of the participants agreed that students associated with the healthcare profession may inculcate awareness of ADR reporting in contrast to the study conducted by Behara et al.

Despite a positive attitude, HCPs demonstrate inadequate adherence to ADR reporting protocol as evidenced by data indicating only 45 % of HCPs have even reported ADR that other research endeavors have also corroborated^[24], which is the biggest challenge

There may be several potential determinants of underreporting, including insufficient time to accurately complete the ADR documentation and the lack of proactive engagement in following up on ADRs due to professional obligations, apprehension regarding the perception of incompetence, which may be the patient's trust, and inadequate knowledge about the reporting process, including the appropriate channels for submitting the complete ADR forms, even within the framework of the national pharmacovigilance program. According to some research, there is a need for assurance among HCPs that ADR reporting has no legal issues^[25]. The practice of ADR reporting is the moral responsibility of HCPs that can be inculcated by conducting workshops and awareness programs.

Conclusion

The finding showed that HCPs do not have adequate knowledge about pharmacovigilance which is the crucial reason for underreporting. All HCPs showed a positive attitude toward ADR reporting and agreed that it is essential for enhancing patient safety but the outcome has shown that having a positive attitude did not significantly improve HCPs practice of reporting ADR. Reporting of ADR is the core part of the system that must be strengthened. It is recommended that HCPs receive frequent educational training in pharmacovigilance to enhance their practice of reporting ADRs.

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Artículos originales

Contribución de los Farmacéuticos Comunitarios en la detección y notificación de reacciones adversas en Andalucía

Contribution of Community Pharmacists to the detection and reporting of adverse reactions in Andalusia

Miguel Romero-Pérez^{1,2}  0000-0003-0578-1099

Manuel Sánchez-Polo^{2,3}  0000-0002-7802-6505

José Alberto Ayala-Ortiz²  0009-0004-6970-5196

Blanca Contreras-Aguilar²  0009-0007-1570-4026

María José Zarzuelo-Romero^{2,4}  0000-0001-8635-8094

¹Universidad de Granada, Facultad de Farmacia, Departamento de Farmacología, Granada, España.

²Universidad de Granada, Facultad de Farmacia, Aula de Farmacovigilancia PVpharm, Granada, España.

³Universidad de Granada, Facultad de Farmacia, Departamento de Química Inorgánica, Granada, España.

⁴Universidad de Granada, Facultad de Farmacia, Departamento de Farmacia y Tecnología Farmacéutica, Granada, España.

Correspondencia

Miguel Romero Pérez.

E-mail: miguelr@ugr.es.

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Los autores declaran no tener ningún conflicto de interés. Los datos para la realización de este estudio proceden de la base de datos FEDRA del SEFV-H, gestionada por la Agencia Española de Medicamentos y Productos Sanitarios (AEMPS). Los resultados, discusión y conclusiones de este estudio son únicamente los considerados por los autores; y no representan en ningún modo la posición del SEFV-H ni de la AEMPS respecto a este tema.

Resumen

Introducción: La evaluación del perfil de seguridad de un medicamento es crucial tras su comercialización, especialmente en relación con las reacciones adversas a medicamentos (RAM), durante los primeros años. En España, el Sistema Español de Farmacovigilancia de Medicamentos de Uso Humano recoge, analiza y procesa las sospechas de RAM notificadas por profesionales sanitarios, la industria y pacientes, contribuyendo a la salud pública. Los farmacéuticos comunitarios, debido a su contacto directo con los pacientes, son claves para identificar y reportar RAM, mejorando la calidad asistencial. Sin embargo, existen pocos estudios sobre la eficacia de la farmacovigilancia en la farmacia comunitaria. Este estudio analiza las sospechas de RAM notificadas por farmacéuticos comunitarios al Centro Andaluz de Farmacovigilancia en los últimos 20 años, enfocándose en las características de los pacientes y los subgrupos terapéuticos involucrados.

Método: Se realizó un estudio observacional longitudinal de las sospechas de RAM detectadas y notificadas por farmacéuticos comunitarios mediante tarjeta amarilla entre 2003 y 2023.

Resultados: La tasa de notificación de RAM por farmacéuticos comunitarios fue baja (8,3 %) comparada con otros profesionales. Esto parece relacionado con factores como complacencia, falta de conciencia o subestimación de la gravedad de las RAM. Los adultos (18–65 años) presentaron la mayor tasa de notificaciones, siendo la mayoría “no graves”. Los principales grupos terapéuticos involucrados fueron antihipertensivos, antibacterianos, agentes modificadores de lípidos y analgésicos.

Conclusiones: Integrar mejor la notificación de RAM en la práctica farmacéutica y ampliar el acceso a actividades de farmacovigilancia podría aumentar la participación de los farmacéuticos, mejorando la seguridad tras la comercialización.

Palabras clave: Reacciones adversas a medicamentos; Farmacovigilancia; Farmacia comunitaria; Seguridad del medicamento; FEDRA.

Abstract

Introduction: Monitoring the safety profile of a drug is crucial after its commercialization, particularly regarding adverse drug reactions (ADRs) during the first years on the market. In Spain, the Spanish Pharmacovigilance System for Medicinal Products for Human Use collects, analyzes, and processes ADR reports from healthcare professionals, the pharmaceutical industry, and patients, contributing to public health. Community pharmacists, due to their direct contact with patients, play a key role in identifying and reporting ADRs, improving care quality. However, few studies address the effectiveness of pharmacovigilance in community pharmacies. This study analyzes ADR reports submitted by community pharmacists to the Andalusian Pharmacovigilance Center over the past 20 years, focusing on patient characteristics and the therapeutic subgroups involved.

Method: A longitudinal observational study was conducted on ADR reports detected and submitted by community pharmacists using the yellow card system between 2003 and 2023.

Results: The ADR reporting rate by community pharmacists was low (8.3 %) compared to other healthcare professionals. This appears to be related to factors such as complacency, lack of awareness, or underestimation of ADR severity. Adults (18–65 years) had the highest reporting rate, with most reactions classified as “non-serious.” The main therapeutic groups involved were antihypertensives, antibacterials, lipid-modifying agents, and analgesics.

Conclusions: Improving the integration of ADR reporting into pharmacy practice and expanding access to pharmacovigilance activities could enhance pharmacists’ contributions, ensuring greater safety post-marketing.

Keywords: Adverse drug reactions; Pharmacovigilance; Community pharmacy; Drug safety; FEDRA.

Puntos clave

El estudio del perfil de seguridad de los medicamentos tras su comercialización es crucial para detectar reacciones adversas poco frecuentes. La farmacovigilancia, vital en salud pública, identifica y previene RAM. Los farmacéuticos comunitarios juegan un papel crucial en esta labor, aunque faltan estudios sobre su eficacia en este ámbito.

Este estudio resalta la necesidad de mejorar el acceso de las farmacias comunitarias a la farmacovigilancia, destacando su rol clave en la notificación y seguridad de medicamentos.

Los resultados obtenidos implican que mejorar el acceso de las farmacias comunitarias a las actividades de farmacovigilancia optimizaría la notificación de reacciones adversas y fortalecería la seguridad de los medicamentos en la población, lo que podría influir en políticas de salud pública y en el diseño de programas de formación y tecnología para farmacéuticos.

Introducción

La seguridad de los medicamentos no concluye con su aprobación y comercialización, sino que debe ser objeto de un seguimiento continuo durante su uso en la práctica clínica. Resulta crucial monitorear y analizar las reacciones adversas a medicamentos (RAM) durante los primeros años de su comercialización, para definir un perfil de seguridad más completo del medicamento, ya que muchos efectos secundarios, especialmente aquellos poco frecuentes, solo se detectan cuando un nuevo medicamento ha sido utilizado por un número significativo de pacientes⁽¹⁻³⁾. Aunque los estudios previos a la comercialización permiten conocer la eficacia y calidad de un medicamento, existen limitaciones inherentes para predecir todas las posibles RAM en la población general. Factores como la polimedición, las patologías múltiples y el comportamiento individual de los pacientes pueden influir en la aparición de estas RAM⁽⁴⁻⁶⁾. En este contexto, la farmacovigilancia, como actividad de salud pública, desempeña una función clave en la identificación, cuantificación, evaluación y prevención de RAM, para la mejora continua del uso seguro de los medicamentos. En España, el Sistema Español de Farmacovigilancia de Medicamentos de Uso Humano (SEFV-H) es el encargado de registrar, analizar y procesar las notificaciones espontáneas de sospechas de RAM recogidas por los centros autonómicos de farmacovigilancia y notificadas por parte de los profesionales sanitarios, los pacientes y la industria farmacéutica^(7,8). La notificación espontánea de sospechas de RAM puede realizarse directamente con el formulario conocido como “tarjeta amarilla”, o bien, a través de un formulario electrónico disponible en el portal www.notificaRAM.es⁽⁹⁾. Esta información es registrada en la base de datos denominada Farmacovigilancia Española Datos de Reacciones Adversas (FEDRA), siendo este sistema de notificación fundamental para identificar riesgos previamente desconocidos o modificar el perfil de seguridad de medicamentos ya en el mercado. Además, permite realizar estudios adicionales que cuantifiquen o confirmen estos riesgos.⁽¹⁰⁻¹²⁾.

El farmacéutico comunitario, como profesional sanitario que está en contacto permanente con los pacientes, realiza una importante labor en la identificación y notificación de sospechas de RAM, así como en el seguimiento y la promoción de la salud, mejorando la calidad de la asistencia sanitaria al paciente. Su participación en el sistema de farmacovigilancia está regulada por varias normas, como la Ley 44/2003 de ordenación de las profesiones sanitarias⁽¹³⁾, la Ley 29/2006 de garantías y uso racional de los medicamentos y productos sanitarios⁽¹⁴⁾ y el Real Decreto 577/2013, que regula la farmacovigilancia de medicamentos de uso humano⁽⁸⁾. Sin embargo, hay pocos estudios que demuestren la eficacia del servicio de farmacovigilancia en la farmacia comunitaria y extrahospitalaria⁽¹⁵⁻¹⁷⁾. El objetivo de este trabajo es describir y analizar los datos de notificación espontánea de sospechas de RAM, enviados por los farmacéuticos comunitarios al Centro Andaluz de Farmacovigilancia (CAFV) durante los últimos 20 años, centrándonos en las características de los pacientes e identificar los principales subgrupos terapéuticos involucrados en las RAM notificadas.

Métodos

Se ha realizado un estudio observacional longitudinal mediante solicitud al Centro Andaluz de Farmacovigilancia (CAFV) de las sospechas de RAM notificadas en el periodo comprendido entre enero de 2003 a diciembre de 2023. A continuación, de las notificaciones espontáneas de profesionales sanitarios, se seleccionaron las enviadas por profesionales sanitarios de origen extrahospitalario. Para cada año, las notificaciones obtenidas se subdividieron según los siguientes criterios: 1) Los grupos de edad y el sexo de los pacientes; 2) La reacción adversa había sido evaluada como grave, de acuerdo con los criterios de clasificación de la Unión Europea⁽¹⁸⁾; 3) Los principales órganos y sistemas implicados en las sospechas de RAM; 4) Los principales grupos terapéuticos implicados en las sospechas de RAM.

El manejo de los datos y los cálculos estadísticos se realizaron con el programa estadístico GraphPad Prism 7 (RRID: SCR_000306). Los datos cualitativos son expresados como porcentajes y los datos cuantitativos como número de casos notificados, o bien, como la media y su desviación estándar.

Para cualquier notificación de sospecha de RAM considerada en el análisis de datos de este trabajo, no hay certeza de que el fármaco sospechoso sea el responsable de dicha reacción adversa. Esto es debido a que desde el CAFV se incentiva a los profesionales sanitarios a que notifiquen todas las posibles sospechas de RAM, y no sólo aquellas en las que se conozca con certeza que el fármaco las ha causado. Por tanto, la sospecha de RAM puede estar relacionada bien con la enfermedad subyacente para la que se ha administrado el medicamento, o con otros fármacos que se administran simultáneamente, o bien puede haber ocurrido al azar durante el tiempo de utilización del medicamento. Además, la acumulación de los casos notificados no puede ser utilizada para calcular la incidencia o para estimar el riesgo del medicamento. Estos datos, deben ser interpretados cuidadosamente como tasa de notificación y no como tasa de ocurrencia o incidencia; por tanto, a partir de estos datos NO pueden hacerse comparaciones de la seguridad de distintos fármacos.

Resultados

El número total de sospechas de RAM comunicadas al CAFV durante el periodo de años de 2003 a 2023 ha sido de 27.299 casos notificados procedentes tanto de profesionales sanitarios (médicos, enfermeros y farmacéuticos) del ámbito hospitalario y extrahospitalario (atención primaria y farmacia comunitaria), como de ciudadanos. De todos los casos notificados, sólo 2.266 casos fueron notificados por farmacéuticos comunitarios (oficina de farmacia), lo que supone un 8,30 % de los casos notificados al CAFV. La evolución por años de los casos notificados de sospechas de RAM procedentes de farmacéuticos comunitarios aparece reflejada en la Figura 1:

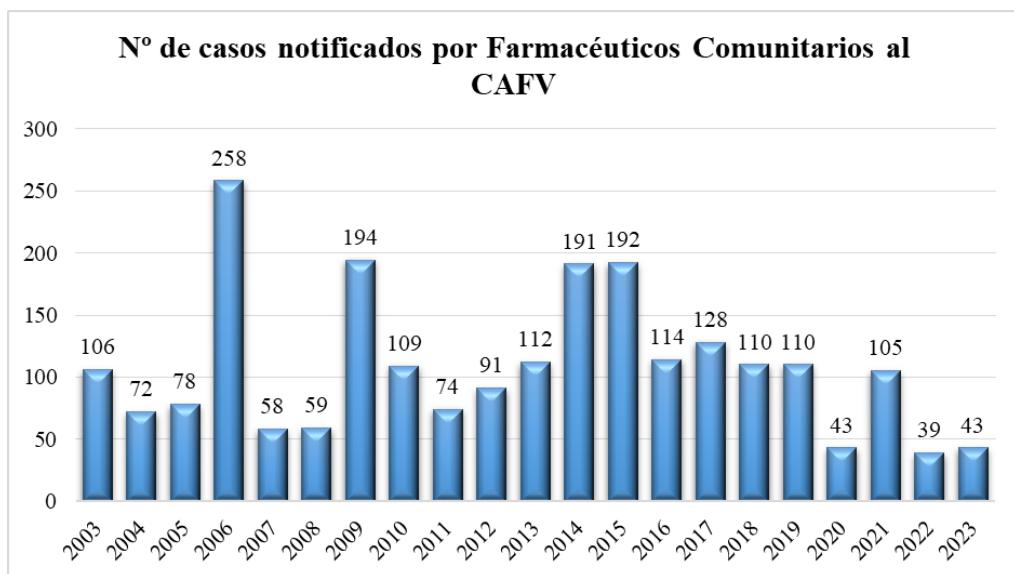


Figura 2. Evolución temporal de los casos notificados de sospechas de RAM procedentes de farmacéuticos comunitarios al CAFV.

En la Tabla 1 se muestra la representatividad del número de notificaciones de sospechas de RAM procedentes de farmacéuticos comunitarios con respecto al número de notificaciones procedentes de pro-

fesionales sanitarios extrahospitalarios y el número total de notificaciones recibidas y validadas por el CAFV. En este caso, sólo disponemos de los datos de notificaciones realizadas durante los últimos 10 años, que han sido obtenidos a partir de las memorias del resumen de actividades por años disponibles en la página web del CAFV^[19].

Tabla 1. Representatividad de las notificaciones de sospechas de RAM procedentes de farmacéuticos comunitarios respecto al número total de notificaciones recibidas y validadas por el CAFV.

| Año | Nº Total de Notificaciones al CAFV | Nº Notificaciones Extrahospitalarias | Nº Notificaciones Farmacéutico Comunitario | Representatividad de notificaciones del Farmacéutico comunitario vs total de notificaciones | Representatividad de notificaciones del Farmacéutico comunitario vs Notificaciones Extrahospitalarias |
|------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| 2014 | 2894 | 541 | 191 | 6,60 % | 35,30 % |
| 2015 | 3131 | 554 | 192 | 6,13 % | 34,66 % |
| 2016 | 3102 | 422 | 114 | 3,68 % | 27,01 % |
| 2017 | 3223 | 466 | 128 | 3,97 % | 27,47 % |
| 2018 | 5469 | 344 | 110 | 2,01 % | 31,98 % |
| 2019 | 4205 | 119 | 110 | 2,62 % | 92,44 % |
| 2020 | 3293 | 118 | 43 | 1,31 % | 36,44 % |
| 2021 | 8281 | 1088 | 105 | 1,27 % | 9,65 % |
| 2022 | 4260 | 279 | 39 | 0,92 % | 13,98 % |
| 2023 | ND | ND | 43 | - | - |

ND: Datos no disponibles

La representatividad más alta de notificaciones realizadas por los farmacéuticos comunitarios al CAFV ha sido en los años 2014 (6,60 %) y 2015 (6,13 %), mientras que esta representatividad ha ido descendiendo hasta situarse por debajo del 1 % en el año 2022 (0,92 %).

En relación al sexo de los pacientes en los que se ha detectado las sospechas de RAM, se observa que un 32,04 % (726 casos) han sido detectadas en hombres, un 66,86 % (1515 casos) han sido detectadas en mujeres y un 1,10 % (25 casos) no ha sido indicado el sexo al ser desconocido. En cuanto a la edad de los pacientes, se observa que el grupo de edad que con mayor frecuencia da lugar a notificaciones de sospechas de RAM es el de adultos con un 56,44 % (1279 casos), seguido por el de mayores de 65 años con un 35,30 % (800 casos), mientras que el grupo de edad de menor frecuencia han sido los adolescentes con un 1,28 % (29 casos) de las notificaciones (Tabla 2).

Tabla 2. Número de notificaciones de sospechas de RAM procedentes de farmacéuticos comunitarios por grupos de edad.

| Grupo de edad | Nº Notificaciones Farmacéutico Comunitario | Representatividad de notificaciones del Farmacéutico comunitario vs total de notificaciones |
|---------------|--|---|
| Niños | 71 | 3,13 % |
| Adolescentes | 29 | 1,28 % |
| Adultos | 1279 | 56,44 % |
| Ancianos | 800 | 35,30 % |
| Desconocido | 87 | 3,84 % |

Basándonos en el criterio de gravedad de las sospechas de RAM, que viene definido por el RD577/2013, por el que se regula la farmacovigilancia de medicamentos de uso humano (8), el 81,23 % (1840 casos) de las notificaciones se han considerado “No graves”, mientras que el 18,77 % (426 casos) han sido considerados “Graves”.

Las sospechas de RAM más frecuentes según los órganos y sistemas afectados han correspondido a los trastornos gastrointestinales (929 casos), seguidos por los trastornos en el lugar de administración (754 casos) y del sistema nervioso (715 casos) (Tabla 3).

Tabla 3. Tipos de sospechas de RAM procedentes de farmacéuticos comunitarios notificadas al CAFV por órganos y sistemas afectados.

| Tipo de RAM | Nº Notificaciones Farmacéutico Comunitario | Representatividad de notificaciones del Farmacéutico comunitario vs total de notificaciones |
|---|--|---|
| Trastornos gastrointestinales | 929 | 22,23 % |
| Trastornos generales y alteraciones en el lugar de administración | 754 | 18,04 % |
| Trastornos del sistema nervioso | 715 | 17,11 % |
| Trastornos de la piel y del tejido subcutáneo | 596 | 14,26 % |
| Trastornos psiquiátricos | 319 | 7,63 % |
| Trastornos musculoesqueléticos y del tejido conjuntivo | 261 | 6,25 % |
| Trastornos respiratorios, torácicos y mediastínicos | 202 | 4,83 % |
| Trastornos vasculares | 154 | 3,69 % |
| Trastornos oculares | 146 | 3,49 % |
| Trastornos cardíacos | 103 | 2,46 % |

Finalmente, el grupo de fármacos implicados con mayor frecuencia en las sospechas de RAM notificadas al CAFV procedentes de farmacéuticos comunitarios han sido los agentes que actúan sobre el sistema renina-angiotensina (C09), antibacterianos (J01), agentes modificadores de lípidos (C10) y analgésicos (N02) (Tabla 4).

Tabla 4. Principales grupos farmacológicos relacionados con las sospechas de RAM notificadas al CAFV procedentes de farmacéuticos comunitarios.

| Grupo Terapéutico | Nº Notificaciones Farmacéutico Comunitario | Representatividad de notificaciones del Farmacéutico comunitario vs total de notificaciones |
|---|--|---|
| C09 - Agentes que actúan sobre el sistema renina-angiotensina | 176 | 12,59 % |
| J01 - Antibacterianos para uso sistémico | 166 | 11,87 % |
| C10 - Agentes modificadores de los lípidos | 159 | 11,37 % |
| N02 - Analgésicos | 159 | 11,37 % |
| J07 - Vacunas | 154 | 11,02 % |
| N06 - Psicoanalépticos | 143 | 10,23 % |
| A02 - Agentes para el tratamiento de alteraciones causadas por ácidos | 138 | 9,87 % |
| M01 - Productos antiinflamatorios y antirreumáticos | 127 | 9,08 % |
| A10 - Fármacos usados en diabetes | 89 | 6,37 % |
| N05 - Psicolépticos | 87 | 6,22 % |

Discusión

Nuestro estudio demuestra que las notificaciones de sospechas de RAM realizadas por farmacéuticos comunitarios durante los últimos 20 años (2003-2023) han supuesto el 8,30 % del total de notificaciones efectuadas por los profesionales sanitarios, según los datos proporcionados por el CAFV. Este dato muestra que el grado de participación de la farmacia comunitaria en el sistema de notificación espontánea de sospecha de RAM en Andalucía no es elevado, sobre todo si se compara con los porcentajes alcanzados por los profesionales sanitarios (médicos, farmacéuticos y enfermeros) hospitalarios ($54,29 \pm 11,30\%$)^[19]. Se han identificado ciertas actitudes en los farmacéuticos comunitarios que podrían justificar el bajo grado de notificación de sospechas de RAM al CAFV. Estas actitudes incluyen la complacencia, entendida como la creencia de que todos los fármacos comercializados son totalmente eficaces y seguros, la ignorancia o desconocimiento en la identificación de RAM y la infravaloración de la gravedad de las RAM en el transcurso de la dispensación de los medicamentos^[20-22]. La integración de la notificación de sospechas de RAM como actividad asistencial de la farmacia comunitaria y la mejora en el acceso a las actividades de farmacovigilancia podrían ser esenciales para aumentar la contribución del farmacéutico comunitario al sistema de farmacovigilancia, sobre todo, teniendo en cuenta que la mayoría de los medicamentos son dispensados en las farmacias comunitarias y que el farmacéutico comunitario, debido a su formación y proximidad, está en una posición privilegiada^[23,24].

La tasa de notificación de sospecha de RAM al CAFV en los últimos 20 años es significativamente mayor en mujeres que en hombres (1515 casos vs 726 casos, respectivamente), lo cual sugiere la existencia de diferencias de género en la aparición de RAM^[25]. No obstante, en este estudio no se han podido identificar las causas o factores que determinan estas diferencias entre géneros. Por otro lado, más de la mitad de las sospechas de RAM notificadas al CAFV procedentes de farmacéuticos comunitarios han sido registradas en personas con edad comprendida entre los 18-65 años (Adultos), superando a las registradas en personas mayores de 65 años. Estos resultados contrastan con la mayor prevalencia de RAM en personas ancianas descrita previamente^[26-28]. Esta mayor prevalencia de RAM en personas mayores de 65 años está asociada a diversos factores como cambios fisiológicos propios del envejecimiento, que afectan al comportamiento farmacodinámico y farmacocinético de los medicamentos, la polifarmacia y/o la falta de adherencia al tratamiento farmacológico como consecuencia de su complejidad y de la existencia de factores funcionales y sociales que afectan a los ancianos. La revisión del tratamiento farmacológico por parte del farmacéutico comunitario podría ser una intervención viable para reducir las tasas de notificación de sospecha de RAM tanto en personas adultas como mayores de 65 años, y de esta forma mejorar la adherencia a la medicación y la calidad de vida de los pacientes^[29-31]. Especialmente deben ser revisados y controlados aquellos medicamentos de nueva comercialización, ya que, son los que menor evidencias de seguridad presentan en la población en general.

Aunque la mayoría de las sospechas de RAM notificadas al CAFV incluidas en nuestro estudio son consideradas como “no graves”^[8], la labor de los farmacéuticos comunitarios en la detección de las sospechas de RAM es esencial para poder notificarlas y, cuando sea posible, evitarlas utilizando protocolos específicos de seguimiento farmacoterapéutico^[24]. La farmacovigilancia, entendida como una actividad de salud pública, debe estar dirigida a evaluar y mejorar los resultados de los tratamientos farmacológicos para garantizar la seguridad de los medicamentos después de su comercialización, siendo fundamental en el inicio del proceso de seguimiento farmacoterapéutico^[32]. El diseño e incorporación de programas específicos de farmacovigilancia en todos los ámbitos de la salud pública puede ser de gran importancia para reducir las notificaciones de sospechas de RAM procedentes de los profesionales sanitarios y los ciudadanos, con especial interés en la farmacia comunitaria, dónde la dispensación de medicamentos publicitarios, la mayoría de los cuales no necesitan prescripción médica para su dispensación y en los que la automedicación por parte del paciente es elevada, juega un papel importante en la aparición de RAM^[33,34]. Así, el farmacéutico comunitario podría mejorar el uso racional de medicamentos y los resultados de salud de los pacientes al revisar la medicación y realizar un seguimiento farmacoterapéutico en aquellos pacientes con mayor riesgo de sufrir reacciones adversas^[24,35].

Los principales grupos terapéuticos implicados en la detección de sospechas de RAM notificadas al CAFV procedentes de farmacéuticos comunitarios han sido los fármacos antihipertensivos útiles en la terapia cardiovascular, los antibacterianos, los agentes modificadores de lípidos y los analgésicos. Estos resultados están en concordancia con los grupos farmacológicos descritos en estudios previos^[16,36,37]. Entre los principales trastornos o síndromes relacionados con las sospechas de RAM notificadas destacan los trastornos gastrointestinales, las alteraciones en el lugar de administración y los trastornos del sistema nervioso. Se ha descrito que la hepatotoxicidad, como trastorno gastrointestinal, es el efecto adverso más frecuente de notificación de RAM, que puede llevar a la interrupción del tratamiento e incluso a la retirada del medicamento del mercado^[38,39]. Sin embargo, en nuestro estudio no hemos analizado la atribución de causalidad entre el efecto adverso sufrido y los trastornos o alteraciones descritas.

Conclusión

Es necesario mejorar el acceso de la farmacia comunitaria a las actividades de farmacovigilancia, ya que la mayoría de los medicamentos se dispensan en las farmacias y los farmacéuticos comunitarios, por su formación y proximidad, se encuentran bien posicionados para participar activamente en la red de farmacovigilancia. Estrategias como el diseño de programas específicos de farmacovigilancia y la promoción de iniciativas para un control más riguroso de los medicamentos dispensados, así como el aumento en el uso del sistema de notificación espontánea de sospechas de RAM desde las farmacias

comunitarias, podrían ser útiles para reducir la prevalencia de dichas RAM y aumentar su notificación por parte de los farmacéuticos comunitarios. El futuro de la farmacovigilancia y la notificación de sospechas de reacciones adversas dependen de una mayor implicación de los pacientes, profesionales sanitarios y empresas farmacéuticas, así como del uso de nuevas tecnologías. Esto garantizaría la seguridad de los medicamentos utilizados por la población después de su comercialización.

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Artículos originales

Efectos adversos a la vacuna Pfizer-BioNTech en personal de un hospital de tercer nivel

Adverse effects to the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine in staff of a tertiary hospital

Mario Alberto Ramírez-Camacho¹  0000-0003-4152-3118

Abraham Arcos-Díaz²  0000-0001-6094-620X

Darwin Stalin Torres-Erazo³  0000-0001-9049-9199

Kyra Angélica Argáez-Ojeda⁴  0009-0006-8800-2159

Patricia del Carmen Marín-Alvarado²  0000-0001-7541-0934

Julio César Lara-Riegos⁵  0000-0002-5642-8255

¹Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán, Facultad de Química, Centro de Información de Medicamentos y Farmacia Clínica, Mérida, México.

²Hospital Regional de Alta Especialidad, Centro Institucional de Farmacovigilancia, Mérida, México.

³Hospital Regional de Alta Especialidad, Unidad de enfermedades infecciosas y vigilancia epidemiológica, Mérida, México.

⁴Hospital Regional de Alta Especialidad, Departamento de Medicina Interna, Mérida, México.

⁵Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán, Facultad de Química, Laboratorio de Bioquímica y Genética Molecular, Mérida, México.

Correspondencia

Abraham Arcos-Díaz

investigacionhospitaluady@gmail.com

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Efectos adversos a la vacuna Pfizer-BioNTech en personal de un hospital de tercer nivel.

Resumen

Introducción: Una de las vacunas para combatir la pandemia por el coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19), fue la de tipo ARN-mensajero desarrollada por Pfizer-BioNTech. A inicios de 2021 los trabajadores de hospitales en México recibieron dos dosis de esta vacuna. El objetivo de este estudio fue determinar la frecuencia de eventos adversos (EA) a la vacuna de Pfizer-BioNTech en una cohorte de personal de un hospital de tercer nivel en el sureste de México e identificar los factores asociados con el desarrollo de EA.

Método: Estudio transversal, observacional y descriptivo, realizado en personal de un hospital de tercer nivel. Los EA fueron identificados mediante vigilancia activa y seguimiento vía telefónica entre el segundo y quinceavo día posterior a la primera y segunda inmunización. Los datos demográficos y clínicos fueron capturados en una base de datos electrónica.

Resultados: Se encuestaron a 1033 sujetos, con una edad promedio de 39.04 ± 9.20 años y 53.4% mujeres. El 94.5% de los sujetos experimentaron al menos un EA después de administrárselos la vacuna Pfizer-BioNTech. Se detectaron un total de 2805 EA (1360 primera dosis y 1445 segunda dosis). Los EA notificados con mayor frecuencia en ambas dosis fueron dolor en la zona de aplicación, cefalea, fatiga y pirexia.

Conclusiones: La frecuencia de los EA en el presente estudio fue consistente con reportes previos para la vacuna Pfizer-BioNTech. Los EA fueron leves y transitorios mostrando buena tolerancia. El sexo femenino, tener algunas enfermedades crónico-degenerativas y antecedentes de alergia se asociaron significativamente con la presencia de algún EA.

Palabras clave: Vacunas; COVID-19; Reacciones adversas y eventos colaterales relacionados con medicamentos; Farmacovigilancia.

Abstract

Introduction: One of the vaccines to combat the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic was the RNA-messenger vaccine developed by Pfizer-BioNTech. In early 2021, hospital workers in Mexico received two doses of this vaccine. The objective of this study was to determine the frequency of adverse events (AE) to the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine in a cohort of staff at a tertiary hospital in southeastern Mexico and to identify factors associated with the development of AE.

Method: Cross-sectional, observational and descriptive study carried out in the staff of a tertiary hospital. AE's were identified through active surveillance and telephone follow-up between the second and fifteenth day after the first and second immunization. Demographic and clinical data were captured in an electronic database.

Results: A total of 1033 subjects were surveyed, with a mean age of 39.04 ± 9.20 years and 53.4% female. 94.5% of subjects experienced at least one AE after administration of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. A total of 2805 AEs were detected (1360 first dose and 1445 second dose). The most frequently reported AEs at both doses were application site pain, headache, fatigue and pyrexia.

Conclusions: The frequency of AEs in the present study was consistent with previous reports for the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. AEs were mild and transient showing good tolerability. Female sex, having a chronic-degenerative disease and a history of allergy were significantly associated with the presence of any AE.

Keywords: Vaccines; COVID-19; Adverse reactions and side events related to drugs; Pharmacovigilance.

Puntos clave

La vacuna desarrollada por Pfizer-BioNTech fue una de las primeras en autorizarse para combatir a la COVID-19. El perfil de seguridad de esta vacuna en los ensayos clínicos fue aceptable, sin embargo, en condiciones de la vida real la información es aún limitada.

El presente estudio muestra la frecuencia y características de los eventos adversos que se presentaron posterior a la administración de la vacuna Pfizer-BioNTech, así como los factores asociados.

Los resultados obtenidos muestran los EA a la vacuna en un escenario de la vida real, contribuyendo a la evidencia científica actual sobre el perfil de seguridad de la vacuna. Estos datos son útiles para los profesionales de la salud en la práctica clínica para identificar, prevenir o monitorear EA.

Introducción

En noviembre de 2020, a nueve meses de que la Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS) declarara la pandemia por coronavirus (COVID-19), la farmacéutica Pfizer-BioNTech anuncio los primeros resultados de una vacuna contra la COVID-19, con alta tasa de inmunogenicidad, una eficacia del 95% y un perfil de seguridad aceptable aplicada en dos dosis, en personas de 16 años en adelante. La nueva vacuna conocida como BNT162b2 fue desarrollada con una técnica novedosa basada en ácido ribonucleico mensajero (ARNm), encapsulada en nanopartículas lipídicas, que codifica la proteína viral S “Spike” del agente causal de la COVID-19^[1].

Esta nueva vacuna fue una de las primeras en autorizarse en el mundo y en México se autorizó para su uso emergente a mediados de diciembre 2020, acción que lo convirtió en el primer país de América Latina en otorgar su aprobación, en este mismo mes se inició la primera fase de vacunación al personal de salud de primera línea de atención a COVID-19, conforme a las recomendaciones de la OMS y a la política nacional de vacunación mexicana contra el virus SARS-CoV-2^[2,3].

Los datos de seguridad provenientes de ensayos clínicos controlados y de la información contenida en la ficha técnica del fabricante de la vacuna Pfizer-BioNTech referían EA esperados leves como: dolor en el sitio de aplicación, fatiga, cefalea, entre otros^[1,4]. Sin embargo, persistía la preocupación acerca de la presencia de EA aún no conocidos o de mayor gravedad en escenarios de la vida real^[5,6]. Por ende, el monitoreo permanente de los EA de esta vacuna mediante farmacovigilancia activa es crucial para recabar información adicional sobre los efectos ya conocidos, así como para comprender la evolución, incidencia y la gravedad de estos, incluyendo otros efectos poco frecuentes o raros^[7,8].

El objetivo de nuestro estudio fue determinar la frecuencia de EA a la vacuna de Pfizer-BioNTech en una cohorte de personal de un hospital de tercer nivel en el sureste de México e identificar los factores asociados con el desarrollo de EA, contribuyendo a la evidencia científica actual sobre el perfil de seguridad de la vacuna.

Métodos

Se llevó a cabo un estudio transversal, observacional y descriptivo. La población de estudio consistió en los trabajadores adscritos al Hospital Regional de Alta Especialidad de la Península de Yucatán (HRAEPY). Se incluyeron los individuos mayores de 18 años que fueron inmunizados entre enero y febrero de 2021 con la primera y segunda dosis de la vacuna Pfizer-BioNTech (BNT162b2) y que aceptaron participar voluntariamente.

Previo a la aplicación de la primera dosis, se recabaron datos de edad, sexo, antecedentes de alergia a fármacos u otras vacunas y enfermedades crónicas degenerativas. Todos los participantes fueron contactados por vía telefónica, entre el segundo y quinceavo día posterior a las inmunizaciones (1^a y 2^a dosis) por personal de farmacovigilancia del hospital, donde se solicitó información sobre la ocurrencia y duración de algún EA atribuido a la vacuna.

Los signos y síntomas fueron registrados y codificados utilizando el término preferente del Diccionario Médico para Actividades Regulatorios (MedDRA por sus siglas en inglés) en una base de datos electrónica en Microsoft Excel. Los datos de los participantes se manejaron de forma anónima en todo momento.

Los datos recolectados en la base electrónica se exportaron al programa SPSS v.27 para su análisis. Se emplearon frecuencias absolutas y relativas para las variables categóricas, así como medias y desviaciones estándar para las variables cuantitativas. Además, se utilizó la prueba de McNemar para examinar las diferencias en la incidencia de los EA entre ambas dosis, y se aplicó la prueba de χ^2 de Pearson para evaluar posibles relaciones entre variables como sexo, edad, antecedentes de alergia y grupos de edad, con la presencia de EA en cada dosis de la vacuna. El valor de $p<0.05$ fue considerado estadísticamente significativo para todas las pruebas.

Este estudio recibió la aprobación del comité de ética e investigación del HRAEPY con registro 2022-017 y se obtuvo el consentimiento informado de cada participante.

Resultados

Caracterización de la muestra de estudio

Se incluyeron 1033 trabajadores de la salud que recibieron ambas dosis de la vacuna, con una edad promedio de $39,04 \pm 9,20$ años y el 53,44 % fueron mujeres. Además, la mayoría (78,32 %) afirmó no tener antecedentes alérgicos, mientras que el 70,67 % no reportó alguna enfermedad crónico-degenerativa. Las variables demográficas y clínicas de los participantes se muestran en la Tabla 1.

Tabla 1. Características demográficas y clínicas de los trabajadores de la salud incluidos en el estudio.

| Variables | | Frecuencia n (%) |
|--|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Sexo | Hombre | 481 (46,56) |
| | Mujer | 552 (53,44) |
| Edad | | Promedio general $39,04 \pm 9,20$ |
| | Grupo I (20 - 29 años) | 175 (16,94) |
| | Grupo II (30 - 39 años) | 374 (36,21) |
| | Grupo III (40 - 49 años) | 352 (34,08) |
| | Grupo IV (50 - 59 años) | 107 (10,36) |
| | Grupo V (≥ 60 años) | 25 (2,42) |
| Antecedentes alérgicos | Sin antecedentes | 809 (78,32) |
| | A algún medicamento | 161 (15,59) |
| | A algún alimento | 26 (2,52) |
| | Ambiental | 19 (1,84) |
| | A algún animal | 6 (0,58) |
| | Otras alergias | 12 (1,16) |
| Presencia de enfermedad crónico-degenerativa | Sin enfermedad crónico-degenerativa | 730 (70,67) |
| | Hipertensión arterial | 130 (12,58) |
| | Diabetes Mellitus tipo 2 | 68 (6,58) |
| | Obesidad | 39 (3,78) |
| | Asma | 37 (3,58) |
| | Hipotiroidismo | 29 (2,81) |

Eventos adversos a la vacuna

De los 1033 participantes, el 94,48 % (n=976) indicaron haber experimentado algún signo o síntoma después de recibir la vacuna. En la primera dosis, el 84,31 % (n=871) del personal vacunado señalo haber experimentado uno o más EA, con un promedio de $1,99 \pm 1,26$ (IC95 %; 1,90-2,07), mientras que después de la segunda dosis, el 85,76 % (n=886) del personal vacunado reportó uno o más EA, con un promedio de $1,91 \pm 1,19$ (IC95 %; 1,84-1,99). Los EA más frecuentes en ambas dosis fueron el dolor en la zona de aplicación, cefalea, fatiga y pirexia, sin embargo, se obtuvo diferencia significativa entre la primera y segunda dosis en la frecuencia de EA de malestar general, diarrea y mialgia. La Tabla 2 muestra la frecuencia de EA en cada dosis.

Tabla 2. Descripción de los eventos adversos a la vacuna Pfizer-BioNTech en la primera y segunda dosis aplicada.

| Evento adverso | Primera dosis n (%) | Segunda dosis n (%) | Valor de p |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Dolor en la zona de aplicación | 744 (72,02) | 735 (71,15) | 0,659 |
| Cefalea | 211 (20,43) | 208 (20,14) | 0,889 |
| Fatiga | 131 (12,68) | 142 (13,75) | 0,483 |
| Pirexia | 86 (8,33) | 104 (10,07) | 0,139 |
| Malestar general | 39 (3,78) | 77 (7,45) | <0,001 ^a |
| Artralgia | 38 (3,68) | 54 (5,23) | 0,094 |
| Diarrea | 35 (3,39) | 12 (1,16) | <0,001 ^a |
| Mialgia | 28 (2,71) | 63 (6,10) | <0,001 ^a |
| Dolor generalizado | 25 (2,42) | 29 (2,81) | 0,652 |
| Escalofríos | 23 (2,23) | 21 (2,03) | 0,872 |

^a: diferencia estadísticamente significativa aplicando el estadístico de McNemar ($p<0,05$).

Los EA fueron más frecuentes en mujeres (87,86% primera dosis / 87,13% segunda dosis) en comparación con hombres (80,24% primera dosis / 84,19% segunda dosis). Respecto a la edad, se observaron más EA en el grupo de 30-39 años (36,51% primera dosis / 36,46% segunda dosis).

Además, se identificaron EA aislados no incluidos en el prospecto de la vacuna tales como hipoestesia, dolor de espalda, rinorrea, taquicardia, dolor orofaríngeo entre otros.

El análisis de asociación entre las variables clínico-demográficas y el desarrollo de los EA a la vacuna se realizó utilizando el valor del *Odds Ratio* (OR) con un intervalo de confianza del 95% [IC 95 %], enfocándose en las variables que presentaron diferencia significativa entre la primera y segunda dosis (malestar general, mialgia y diarrea), lo cual mostró que la característica de ser mujer se asoció significativamente con una mayor la probabilidad de experimentar malestar general como EA después de la primera dosis (OR 2,01, [IC 95 %: 1,01-4,01], $p=0,044$). Por otro lado, se observó en ambas dosis de la vacuna, que pertenecer al grupo etario III (40-49 años) disminuye la probabilidad de presentar malestar general (OR 0,34, [IC 95 %: 0,14-0,82], $p=0,012$) y (OR 0,48 [IC 95 %: 0,27-0,85], $p=0,010$) respectivamente. Para el EA diarrea, se obtuvo que las personas con alguna enfermedad crónico-degenerativa después de la primera dosis tienen menor probabilidad de experimentar este EA (OR 0,30 [IC 95%: 0,11-0,86], $p=0,018$), y finalmente, para el caso de mialgia como EA después de la segunda dosis, se observó que las personas con antecedentes alérgicos (OR 0,43 [IC 95%: 0,19-0,97], $p=0,036$) y con alguna enfermedad crónica (OR 0,33 [IC 95%: 0,16-0,71], $p=0,003$) tienen menor probabilidad de experimentar este EA. La Tabla 3 presenta los resultados a detalle.

Tabla 3. Análisis de los EA que presentaron diferencia entre la primera y segunda dosis y los factores asociados.

| | | Primera dosis | | Segunda dosis | |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| | | OR [IC 95 %] | Valor de p | OR [IC 95 %] | Valor de p |
| Evento adverso | Variable | | | | |
| Malestar general | Sexo femenino | 2,01 [1,01-4,01] | 0,044 ^a | 0,88 [0,56-1,41] | 0,610 |
| | Con antecedentes alérgicos | 1,09 [0,51-2,32] | 0,830 | 1,03 [0,58-1,79] | 0,931 |
| | Con enfermedad crónico-degenerativa | 1,07 [0,54-2,15] | 0,841 | 1,41 [0,87-2,30] | 0,159 |
| | Grupo etario I (20-29 años) | 1,99 [0,97-4,07] | 0,056 | 1,20 [0,67-2,17] | 0,537 |
| | Grupo etario II (30-39 años) | 1,10 [0,57-2,13] | 0,765 | 1,20 [0,75-1,93] | 0,442 |
| | Grupo etario III (40-49 años) | 0,34 [0,14-0,82] | 0,012 ^a | 0,48 [0,27-0,85] | 0,010 ^a |
| | Grupo etario IV (50-59 años) | 1,61 [0,66-3,93] | 0,294 | 1,49 [0,76-2,92] | 0,240 |
| | Grupo etario V (\geq 60 años) | 1,23 [0,16-9,38] | 0,841 | 2,44 [0,82-7,30] | 0,099 |
| Diarrea | Sexo femenino | 0,92 [0,47-1,81] | 0,808 | 0,87 [0,28-2,71] | 0,810 |
| | Con antecedentes alérgicos | 0,90 [0,39-2,09] | 0,806 | 0,33 [0,04-2,53] | 0,259 |
| | Con enfermedad crónico-degenerativa | 0,30 [0,11-0,86] | 0,018 ^a | 1,21 [0,36-4,04] | 0,759 |
| | Grupo etario I (20-29 años) | 1,47 [0,66-3,30] | 0,342 | 0,44 [0,06-3,45] | 0,424 |
| | Grupo etario II (30-39 años) | 0,92 [0,45-1,86] | 0,810 | 1,77 [0,57-5,54] | 0,317 |
| | Grupo etario III (40-49 años) | 0,88 [0,43-1,82] | 0,737 | 1,39 [0,44-4,40] | 0,577 |
| | Grupo etario IV (50-59 años) | 1,12 [0,39-3,24] | 0,832 | 0,78 [0,10-6,14] | 0,817 |
| | Grupo etario V (\geq 60 años) | SR | SR | SR | SR |
| Mialgia | Sexo femenino | 0,65 [0,30-1,38] | 0,255 | 0,73 [0,44-1,22] | 0,224 |
| | Con antecedentes alérgicos | 0,78 [0,29-2,08] | 0,618 | 0,43 [0,19-0,97] | 0,036 ^a |
| | Con enfermedad crónico-degenerativa | 1,15 [0,51-2,56] | 0,740 | 0,33 [0,16-0,71] | 0,003 ^a |
| | Grupo etario I (20-29 años) | 0,18 [0,02-1,31] | 0,056 | 1,74 [0,96-3,14] | 0,065 |
| | Grupo etario II (30-39 años) | 1,55 [0,73-3,29] | 0,254 | 0,75 [0,43-1,30] | 0,303 |
| | Grupo etario III (40-49 años) | 0,91 [0,41-2,04] | 0,827 | 1,20 [0,71-2,04] | 0,487 |
| | Grupo etario IV (50-59 años) | 1,92 [0,72-5,17] | 0,187 | 0,42 [0,13-1,35] | 0,132 |
| | Grupo etario V (\geq 60 años) | SR | SR | 0,64 [0,08-4,78] | 0,657 |

OR: valor del Odds Ratio, [IC 95 %]: intervalo de confianza del 95 %, SR: sin registro de datos, ^a: diferencia estadísticamente significativa aplicando el estadístico de prueba de χ^2 de Pearson ($p < 0,05$).

Discusión

Con los hallazgos de la presente investigación, se busca contribuir de forma significativa al conocimiento actual sobre el perfil de seguridad de las vacunas contra la COVID-19, específicamente en este caso de la vacuna Pfizer-BioNTech y en especial en relación con los EA que se presentaron después de cada una de las dosis. A nuestro mejor conocimiento, este es el primer estudio realizado en una cohorte de personal adscrito a un hospital público de tercer nivel en el Sureste de México, donde se analizaron la frecuencia y características de los EA después de la primera y segunda inmunización con la vacuna Pfizer-BioNTech, así como los factores asociados.

En nuestro estudio, el 84,31% de los vacunados refirieron uno o más EA después de la primera dosis y el 85,76% después de la segunda dosis. Estos resultados son similares a los reportados en un estudio realizado por Palomo et al.⁽⁵⁾ en Huelva, España, con 291 trabajadores de la salud (TS), donde el 81,8% y el 84,0% de los TS refirieron al menos un EA tras la primera y segunda dosis de la vacuna, respectivamente. En contraste, un estudio realizado en Guanajuato, México, que incluyó a 101 médicos residentes, reportó que el 55,4% y el 54,5% presentaron EA en las 24 horas posteriores a la aplicación de la primera y segunda dosis de la vacuna⁽⁹⁾. De manera similar, Pérez-Nieto et al.⁽¹⁰⁾, reportaron en un estudio realizado en Querétaro, México, que entre 545 TS inmunizados con una dosis de la vacuna, el 4.77% (26 casos) presentó un EA y 0,92% (5 casos) requirieron hospitalización debido a los EA. Estas diferencias podrían explicarse por el método de vigilancia empleado para detectar los EA. Se ha demostrado que la vigilancia pasiva o los informes espontáneos pueden subestimar la presencia de EA. En contraste la vigilancia activa, que fue el método empleado en este estudio mediante entrevistas telefónicas, permitió corroborar e identificar de manera más efectiva los EA, disminuyendo la omisión de estos⁽¹¹⁾.

Las frecuencias de los principales EA observados después de la aplicación de la vacuna Pfizer-BioNTech BNT162b2 (dolor en la zona de aplicación, fatiga y pirexia) son consistentes con la información disponible hasta la fecha para la vacuna con variaciones en el orden de aparición, dependiendo de la región donde se realizó el estudio^(12,13,14).

En cuanto al porcentaje de dolor en la zona de aplicación como EA en este trabajo, los resultados fueron similares para la primera (72,0%) y segunda dosis (71,2%). Resultados comparables fueron reportados en un estudio realizado en México, donde se observó una mayor frecuencia de dolor local en la primera dosis (85% primera dosis vs 75% segunda dosis)⁽¹⁵⁾, de manera similar un estudio realizado en Huelva, España, reportó mayor frecuencia de dolor en la primera dosis (74,6% primera dosis vs 64,8% segunda dosis)⁽⁵⁾.

Respecto a las reacciones sistémicas, la cefalea mostró una proporción similar después de ambas dosis de la vacuna (20,43 % primera dosis vs 20,14 % segunda dosis). En cambio, los EA de fatiga, pirexia, malestar general, artralgia y mialgia aumentaron después de la segunda dosis. Datos similares fueron reportados por Hernández et al.⁽¹⁵⁾, quienes encontraron una mayor frecuencia de efectos sistémicos después de la segunda dosis. La mayor frecuencia de EA sistémicos en la segunda dosis puede atribuirse a los niveles elevados de anticuerpos generados por los linfocitos B de memoria, lo cual genera una respuesta efectora en la periferia, así como la presentación de EA de origen inmunológico de mayor intensidad y precipitación^(16,17).

Además, otros estudios han reportado que la reactogenicidad a la vacuna Pfizer es mayor en pacientes que han tenido una infección previa por COVID-19 y posteriormente reciben la primera dosis, lo cual corresponde con el hecho de que estos pacientes desarrollan una respuesta más fuerte a los anticuerpos IgG contra el SARS-CoV-2 y la inducción de una respuesta inmune de células T. En nuestro estudio algunos pacientes reportaron haber tenido una infección previa por COVID-19 antes de la vacunación^(18,19).

El malestar general, diarrea y mialgia, mostraron diferencia significativa entre la primera y segunda dosis ($p<0,001$) (Tabla 2). El malestar general y la mialgia fueron más frecuentes después de la segunda dosis, mientras que la diarrea tuvo una mayor incidencia después de la primera dosis. Lo anterior coincide con lo reportado por otros autores respecto a las diferencias de EA después de la aplicación de la primera y segunda dosis de la vacuna de Pfizer^(15,20,21).

En el análisis de asociación (Tabla 3), mostró que la característica de ser mujer se asoció significativamente con una mayor probabilidad de experimentar malestar general después de la primera dosis. Además, nuestros resultados mostraron una mayor frecuencia de EA en mujeres después de la primera y segunda dosis (87,86% vs 87,13% respectivamente), lo cual concuerda con los hallazgos de otros estudios, en lo que atribuyen estas diferencias asociadas al sexo, por factores como las diferencias hormonales y composición corporal, entre otros^[14,22].

Por otro lado, en nuestro estudio el pertenecer al grupo etario de 40 a 49 años disminuye la probabilidad de presentar malestar general, esto ha sido descrito previamente en el estudio clínico realizado por Pfizer durante la fase I de desarrollo de la vacuna, en el cual, se observó que la neutralización del virus y la respuesta inmune fueron menos eficaces entre los 65 a 85 años y que los EA fueron menos frecuentes y más leves en adultos jóvenes y adultos mayores^[1].

En este estudio se observó una menor probabilidad de presentar diarrea y/o mialgia como EA en aquellas personas con alguna enfermedad crónico-degenerativa (Tabla 3). La presencia de alguna enfermedad crónico-degenerativa puede suponer una respuesta reducida a inmunógenos, por lo que se esperaría una respuesta reducida a la vacuna, lo cual podría explicar la menor incidencia de este EA en el presente estudio^[23]. No obstante, otros estudios han encontrado una relación positiva entre las enfermedades crónico-degenerativas y los EA posteriores a la vacunación, aunque dicha asociación no está aun claramente establecida. Por lo que se recomienda realizar estudios adicionales que permitan aclarar esta probable asociación^[24].

El antecedente de alergias de cualquier tipo antes de la vacunación, en teoría, aumenta el riesgo de presentar síntomas de tipo alérgico. Un estudio realizado por Suehiro et al.^[25] mostró una mayor probabilidad de desarrollar EA en las personas con antecedentes alérgicos. Sin embargo, en este estudio encontramos que disminuye la probabilidad de que se presente mialgia como EA después de la aplicación de la segunda dosis de la vacuna. Es importante mencionar que los antecedentes de alergia fueron referidos por los participantes de manera verbal, sin una evidencia que pudiera confirmarlos, lo que podría haber llevado a inexactitudes en la información recopilada.

Como limitación del presente estudio, se puede mencionar que algunos EA requieren de una evaluación y valoración médica para ser identificados adecuadamente, lo cual no se realizó en todos los casos, posiblemente llevando a una subestimación de ciertos EA. Además, al ser un estudio unicéntrico, los resultados describen únicamente a la población estudiada, lo que limita la generalización de los hallazgos. Sin embargo, consideramos que la fortaleza de este estudio fue el método empleado para obtener los signos y síntomas, ya que la entrevista telefónica realizada a cada participante vacunado permitió corroborar o identificar de manera más efectiva los EA, reduciendo la omisión que podría haber ocurrido con un método de autoreporte.

Conclusión

En conclusión, la vacuna Pfizer-BioNTech BNT162b2 tuvo buena tolerancia en ambas dosis y los EA referidos por la mayoría de los TS fueron leves y transitorios. La frecuencia de los EA en el presente estudio fue consistente con reportes previos para la vacuna, siendo el dolor en la zona de aplicación, cefalea, fatiga y pirexia los más frecuentes. El sexo femenino, tener alguna enfermedad crónico-degenerativa y antecedente de alergia se asoció significativamente con la frecuencia de EA. Los resultados presentados brindan evidencia sobre los EA a la vacuna en un escenario de la vida real, contribuyendo a la evidencia científica actual sobre el perfil de seguridad.

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Original Articles

Design and development of quetiapine fumarate nanosuspension by media milling method

Diseño y desarrollo de nanosuspensión de fumarato de quetiapina mediante el método de fresado de medios

Komal Parmar¹  0009-0009-9678-5044

Mehul Patel^{*1}  0000-0002-5823-9706

Kishorkumar Sorathia¹  0000-0003-3328-1091

Tejal Soni¹  0000-0002-9159-4400

¹Dharmsinh Desai University, Faculty of Pharmacy, Nadiad, Gujarat, India

Correspondence

Mehul Patel
mehul1982@gmail.com

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Resumen

Introducción: Las propiedades críticas y complejas de las moléculas de ingredientes farmacéuticos activos de fumarato de quetiapina Clase II del Sistema de Clasificación Biofarmacéutica que complican la administración oral eficaz de estos ingredientes farmacéuticos activos incluyen una baja solubilidad acuosa y una biodisponibilidad reducida.

Objetivo: El objetivo de esta investigación es desarrollar una formulación de nanosuspensión de fumarato de quetiapina utilizando técnicas de molienda de medios para reducir eficazmente el tamaño de las partículas y mejorar la velocidad de disolución.

Método: Se prepararon nanosuspensiones de fumarato de quetiapina mediante el método de molienda en medios. El proceso de molienda se optimizó mediante el estudio de los efectos de los parámetros críticos del proceso sobre el tamaño de la nanosuspensión mediante un enfoque de diseño factorial. La nanosuspensión preparada se somete a diversas técnicas de caracterización, como tamaño de partícula, potencial Zeta, calorimetría diferencial de barrido, difracción de rayos X en polvo, microscopía electrónica de barrido y evaluación de la tasa de disolución in vitro.

Resultados: Los resultados obtenidos demuestran que el tamaño promedio de partícula de las nanosuspensiones preparadas es de 225 nm con un índice de polidispersidad de 0,530, mientras que el potencial Zeta promedio es de -38,2 mv. La estructura cristalina de la nanosuspensión de fumarato de quetiapina es evidente a partir de calorimetría diferencial de barrido y rayos X en polvo

Conclusión: La velocidad de disolución de la nanosuspensión es significativamente más rápida que la del fármaco fumarato de quetiapina puro, y la liberación acumulada del fármaco de la nanosuspensión es mayor que la del fármaco puro, lo que indica que el uso de la nanotecnología puede mejorar considerablemente la velocidad de disolución.

Palabras clave: Fumarato de quetiapine; Nano suspensión; Molienda de medios; Potencial Zeta; Tamaño de partícula.

Abstract

Introduction: The critical and complex properties of Biopharmaceutics Classification System Class II quetiapine fumarate active pharmaceutical ingredient molecules that complicate effective oral delivery of these active pharmaceutical ingredients include low aqueous solubility and reduced bioavailability.

Objective: The objective of this investigation is to develop a nanosuspension formulation of quetiapine fumarate using media milling techniques to effectively reduce particle size and enhance dissolution rate.

Method: Quetiapine fumarate Nano suspensions were prepared by the media milling method. The milling process was optimized by studying the effects of critical process parameters on the size of nanosuspension using a factorial design approach. The prepared nanosuspension is subjected to various characterization techniques such as Particle size, Zeta Potential, differential scanning calorimetry, X-ray powder diffraction, scanning electron microscopy, and in vitro dissolution rate assessment.

Results: The obtained results demonstrate that the average particle size of the prepared nanosuspensions is 225 nm with a Polydispersity index of 0.530, while the average Zeta potential is -38.2 mv. The crystalline structure of quetiapine fumarate nano-suspension is evident from differential scanning calorimetry and X-ray powder diffraction.

Conclusion: The dissolution rate of the nanosuspension is significantly faster than that of pure Quetiapine Fumarate, and the Cumulative drug release (%) of nanosuspension is higher than that of pure Quetiapine Fumarate , indicating that the use of nanotechnology can considerably enhance the dissolution rate.

Keywords: Quetiapine fumarate; Nano suspension; Media milling; Zeta potential; Particle size.

Highlights

Quetiapine Fumarate (QF) is a lipophilic drug with limited bioavailability (5–15 %) and low water solubility. It is extensively metabolised by the liver. The poor dissolution of relatively water insoluble drug cause problem in the formulation of the same dosage forms. The use of nanosuspensions is proposed as a strategy to improve the solubility of such drugs. The findings further indicate that a particle size of 235.36 nm, a % Cumulative Drug Release (CDR) of 94.59, and a zeta potential of -38.2, offering additional support for the ability to regulate particle size and enhance dissolution rate. The findings of this

research have important implications for improving the oral delivery of poorly water-soluble drugs, especially for medications used in the treatment of psychiatric conditions like schizophrenia.

Introduction

The critical and complex properties of BCS Class II drug molecules that complicate effective oral drug delivery include low aqueous solubility, less bioavailability, first pass metabolism, and the unsuitability of a drug in a gastrointestinal tract (GIT) environment.⁽¹⁾ Due to limited bioavailability, low water solubility of therapeutic molecules restricts medication delivery by oral or cutaneous modes of application.⁽²⁾ It is discovered that more than 40 % of commercially available medications and many more drug candidates exhibit highly lipophilic characteristic.⁽³⁻⁴⁾ When a drug's moiety is poorly soluble, it is difficult to achieve an effective blood plasma concentration during gastrointestinal (GI) transit due to its high lipophilicity and slow dissolving rate.⁽⁵⁾

A potential strategy that can be applied to medications that dissolve slowly is the approach of size reduction to increase the dissolving rate. This approach is universal since size reduction is feasible for every drug class.⁽⁶⁾

The solubility of brick dust pharmaceuticals and lipophilic substances can be improved with the use of nanosuspension. They can be characterised as carrier-free, nano-sized, 100 % drug particles with a particle size of less than 1 nm, manufactured with the least amount of appropriate surfactants, polymers, or combinations of them.⁽⁷⁾ Compared to other nanosuspension manufacturing procedures, wet media milling is a better option since it is easy to perform, inexpensive, highly reproducible, efficient, free of organic solvents, and simple to scale up.⁽⁸⁾ Additionally, achieving these benefits is a priority while producing nanosuspensions.⁽⁹⁾ On the other side, the key issue is the potential for contamination brought on by milling bead erosion. Additionally, controlling batch size may be complicated by the milling device's substantial weight caused by excessively loaded milling media, and additional issues may arise from prolonged milling times.⁽¹⁰⁾ For wet media milling, the most important process variables are the temperature, milling time, milling speed, media volume, and milling size. Stabiliser type, viscosity, concentration, and medication concentration are typical formulation characteristics that impact final product quality.⁽¹¹⁾ Process optimization is becoming more vital because the development of pharmaceutical formulations frequently focuses on producing the best final medicine while using less energy and increasing production capacity.⁽¹²⁾

Quetiapine a 2-[2-(4-benzo[b] [1,4] benzothiazepine-6-yl piperazin-1-4) ethoxy] is an atypical antipsychotic drug that is believed to be more effective than several other atypical antipsychotic drugs and standard antipsychotics. After oral administration, Quetiapine Fumarate QF is a lipophilic drug with limited bioavailability (5–15 %) and low water solubility.⁽¹³⁾ It is extensively metabolised by the liver. It is considered as suitable poorly soluble drug to improve the dissolution characteristics. The simple technique of kneading method has been found to be highly successful in enhancing the dissolution rate of poorly water-soluble drugs.⁽¹⁵⁾ The poor dissolution of relatively water insoluble drug cause problem in the formulation of the same dosage forms.⁽¹⁶⁾

The objective of the research work was to design and evaluate a nanosuspension of the antipsychotic quetiapine fumarate using the media milling technique to enhance solubility, dissolution rate. Nanosuspension can overcome the challenges associated with solubility and dissolution rate. Quetiapine fumarate nanosuspensions were prepared by the media milling method. The objective of the article is to demonstrate the effectiveness of nanosuspension in improving the solubility, dissolution rate, and bioavailability of quetiapine fumarate.

Controlled-release formulations of quetiapine fumarate are designed to gradually release the drug over an extended period. This allows for less frequent dosing, which can improve patient compliance. However, these formulations have some drawbacks that dose cannot be adjusted by splitting or crushing the tablet, as this would disrupt the controlled-release mechanism. The rate and extent of drug absorption can vary depending on factors such as food intake and gastrointestinal transit time. Some patients may experience side effects such as dizziness, dry mouth, and weight gain.

The proposed immediate-release nanosuspension of quetiapine fumarate is prepared by a wet media milling method. This method reduces the drug particle size to the nanometer range, which can significantly increase the surface area and potentially enhance the dissolution rate. The nanosuspension form can significantly improve the solubility of quetiapine fumarate, which is a poorly water-soluble drug. As an immediate-release formulation, it could provide a faster onset of action compared to controlled-release formulations. The enhanced solubility and dissolution rate could potentially allow for a reduction in the dose required to achieve therapeutic effects.⁽¹⁷⁻¹⁸⁾

Materials and Methods

Materials

The sample of Quetiapine Fumarate [$(C_{21}H_{25}N_3O_2S)_2 \cdot C_4H_4O_4$] employed in this study was sourced from Astron Research Ltd., Ahmedabad. The non-ionic surfactants Poloxamer 407 and Brij 35 utilized in the experiments were purchased from Merck Pvt. Ltd. Mumbai. All additional chemicals, reagents, and solvents used were of analytical grade.

Methods

Drug -excipient Compatibility Studies

The Fourier-transform infrared (FT-IR) spectrum of the drug sample under investigation was subjected to comparative analysis with the FT-IR spectra of the QF API. The range of scanning was set between 500 and 4000 cm^{-1} for the purpose of the aforementioned analysis. The FT-IR spectra of quetiapine fumarate, excipients, and lyophilized samples were obtained using Shimadzu Fourier Transform Infra-Red spectrometer on the samples prepared in potassium bromide (KBr) disks. The spectra were scanned over a frequency range of 4000-500 cm^{-1} .⁽¹⁹⁾

Preparation of Nano suspension

Quetiapine fumarate was dispersed in an aqueous medium, followed by the addition of varying ratios of poloxamer 407 to the mixture. The resulting coarse pre-dispersion was subjected to comminution using zirconium oxide beads (milling media of size 0.4-0.7 mm) on a magnetic stirrer.⁽²⁰⁾ An initial evaluation of formulation parameters was conducted in the development of a nano-suspension formulation. Specifically, various stabilizers were utilized and their impact on particle size and zeta potential was assessed.⁽²¹⁾ The process parameters of stirring time and poloxamer 407 concentration were systematically optimized using 3^2 factorial designs to achieve a minimum particle size.⁽²²⁾ The optimized formulation was subsequently subjected to lyophilization, with mannitol serving as the cryoprotectant in a final concentration (25mg/5ml).

Table 1: Preliminary trials for selection of stabilizer

| Batch Code | Stabilizer (200 mg) | QF API (200 mg) | Particle size (nm) |
|------------|---|---------------------|--------------------|
| A1 | Polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVPK30) | Quetiapine Fumarate | 387.5 |
| A2 | Hydroxypropyl methylcellulose (HPMC E5) | Quetiapine Fumarate | 781.2 |
| A3 | Tween 80 | Quetiapine Fumarate | 514.2 |
| A4 | Poloxamer 407 | Quetiapine Fumarate | 235.3 |

Note: Polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVPK30), Hydroxypropyl methylcellulose (HPMC E5)

Formulation of nano-suspension by using 3² factorial designs

3² Factorial designs were used for the development of quetiapine fumarate nanosuspension by media milling method using Design Expert Version 13 software. Poloxamer 407 concentration, and milling duration were chosen as the independent variables, and the response to the above factors was selected to be % CDR and particle size

Table 2: Independent Factors and levels

| Independent variable | Levels | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|------------|----------|
| | Low (-1) | Middle (0) | High (1) |
| Milling time (hr) (X1) | 6 | 12 | 18 |
| Amount of Poloxamer 407 (mg) (X2) | 100 | 200 | 300 |

Statistical Analysis and validation of the design model

For investigating quadratic response surfaces and creating second-order polynomial models, factorial design is a suitable technique. This design consists of a set of duplicated centre points and the set of points located at the midpoint of the multidimensional cube, which define the region and turn it into a non-linear quadratic model that the design generates as a mathematical expression.⁽²³⁾

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_{11} X_{12} + \beta_{22} X_{22} + \beta_{12} X_1 X_2$$

Where; Y = a response,

β_0 = an intercept,

X_1 & X_2 = independent factors,

β_1 & β_2 = coefficients of independent factors.

Table 3: Composition of 3² factorial design batches of nano-suspension

| Batches | QF API (mg) | Brij35 (mg) | Coded value | | Actual value | |
|---------|-------------|-------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | | | Milling time (hr) (X1) | Amount of Poloxamer 407 (mg) (X2) | Milling time (hr) (X1) | Amount of Poloxamer 407 (mg) (X2) |
| M1 | 200 | 20 | -1 | -1 | 6 | 100 |
| M2 | 200 | 20 | -1 | 0 | 6 | 200 |
| M3 | 200 | 20 | -1 | 1 | 6 | 300 |
| M4 | 200 | 20 | 0 | -1 | 12 | 100 |
| M5 | 200 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 200 |
| M6 | 200 | 20 | 0 | 1 | 12 | 300 |
| M7 | 200 | 20 | 1 | -1 | 18 | 100 |
| M8 | 200 | 20 | 1 | 0 | 18 | 200 |
| M9 | 200 | 20 | 1 | 1 | 18 | 300 |

Differential Scanning Calorimetry Study

The differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) thermograms of the QF API, excipients, and selected nano-suspension samples were obtained using a DSC instrument (Mettler Instruments). The samples

were weighed and sealed in aluminium pans, and the DSC temperature and enthalpy scales were calibrated using the Indium standard. Nitrogen gas was purged through the system at a flow rate of 80 ml/min.⁽²⁴⁾ The samples were held at 50°C for 1 minute and then heated from 50°C to 300°C at a rate of 10°C/min. These procedures were carried out to perform the characterization of the nano-suspension. Using a Mettler Toledo Star SW 7.01, the DSC thermograms of bulk quetiapine fumarate powder and lyophilized nano-suspension were analysed.⁽²⁵⁾

Particle size determination

The determination of the mean particle size and size distribution of the prepared nano-suspension was conducted through the utilization of Malvern zeta sizer nano-ZS. Specifically, the diluted nano-suspension was introduced into the sample cell made of quartz and inserted into the sample holder unit. The measurement was subsequently performed through the utilization of software. The Z-average size and polydispersity index were measured by dynamic light scattering using a Zetasizer nano ZS instrument. QF particle size was monitored during milling at predetermined time points (3, 6, 9, 15, 30 and 60 min) in order to assess the particle size reduction kinetics with the progression of milling process. Each sample was measured at least three times. Measurements were repeated after 7 days of storage of the nanosuspensions in a refrigerator ($5\pm3^{\circ}\text{C}$), in order to assess product stability.⁽²⁶⁾

Zeta potential

The zeta potential of the suspension was evaluated using a Malvern zeta sizer prior to, during, and post-milling. To determine the surface charge, zeta potential measurements were performed in distilled water with conductivity maintained at 50 ms/cm² by adding sodium chloride. Zeta potential was also evaluated in the first dispersion medium to estimate the properties of long-term stability. Using a Malvern Zetasizer 4 large bore capillary cell with a 20 V/cm field strength, the analysis was carried out. Using the Helmholtz-Smoluchowski equation, the electrophoretic mobility was changed into the zeta potential.⁽²⁷⁾

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

The powder of Quetiapine Fumarate was affixed onto an Aluminium SEM stub with Carbon tape, and then imaged in the SEM under low vacuum conditions. Moreover, the surface properties of the nano-suspension of Quetiapine Fumarate before lyophilisation were also examined through scanning electron microscopy.⁽²⁸⁾

Powder X-ray diffractometer analysis

The X-ray diffraction (XRD) analysis was performed on the bulk quetiapine fumarate powder and lyophilized nanosuspension. Polymorphic or morphological changes of nanosized particles can be checked by assessing the crystalline state and particle morphology. As nanosuspension formation experiences high attrition during bead milling, change in crystalline structure of formulation occurs which may be converted to either amorphous or other polymorphic forms.⁽²⁹⁾

In Vitro Dissolution Study

The equipment used for the dissolution study was Electrolab India Pvt. Ltd. Dissolution studies were performed using the paddle method. The dissolution medium was 900 ml 0.1 N HCl and pH 6.8 phosphate buffer kept at 37 °C Nano-suspension containing 25 mg/5 ml of quetiapine fumarate was taken and put into the paddle apparatus.⁽³⁰⁾ The paddle was rotated at 50 rpm. The dissolution study was conducted for all the prepared Nano formulation and with the QF API. A sample of 10 ml was withdrawn at the specific time interval and analysed by UV-visible spectrophotometer at 250 nm.⁽³⁰⁾ Sampling intervals were 10, 20, 30, 45, 60, 75, 90, 120 min. 4 mL of samples were withdrawn and same number of fresh media was replaced. The dissolution profiles were evaluated by cumulative drug dissolved (%) to time.

Results

QF API-excipient Compatibility Studies

The O-H stretching caused the QF peak's IR spectra to be observed at 3312 cm^{-1} , 3084 cm^{-1} for Ar-H stretching, 1602 cm^{-1} for C-N, 1458 cm^{-1} for N-H bending, 1340 cm^{-1} for C-H bending, 1070 cm^{-1} for C-C stretching, and 1030 cm^{-1} for the C-O-C group observed into the peak. The results show the QF API with poloxamer 407 and formulation had a distinctive peak of all the group present in the compound, it shows that a physical change in the QF API and poloxamer 407. To formulate Quetiapine fumarate Nano suspension, Poloxamer 407 can be utilised.

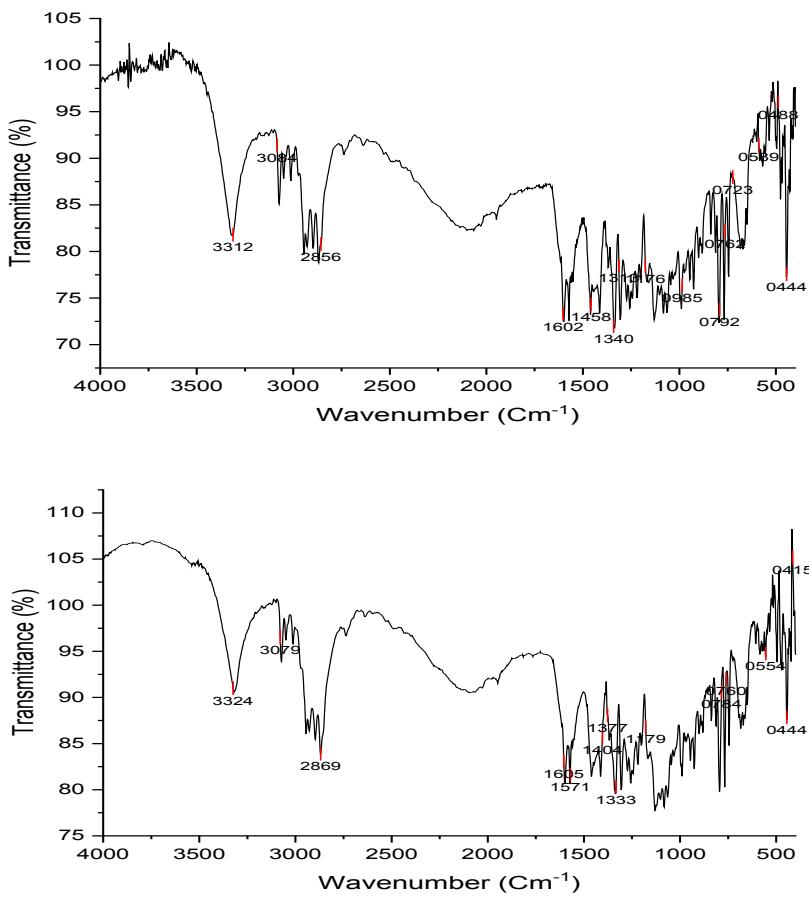


Figure 1: Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR) spectra of (A) Quetiapine fumarate; (B) Formulation M9

Differential Scanning Calorimetry Study

The thermal behaviour of the QF API and nanosuspension was investigated using DSC. The QF API shows a sharp endothermic peak, which is nearby to its melting point, which was observed at $176.81\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ shown in Figure 2(A). The Formulation of the QF shows a peak at the $164.63\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ shown in Figure 2(B). Physical mixture of QF API and polymer exhibits characteristic peaks of both QF API and polymer. This indicated the change in the crystalline nature of QF during the preparation of nanosuspension. The only difference observed was a slight shift in the fusion temperature. The shift also may be due to the

presence of stabilizers in the formulation when compared with the QF API. This suggests the crystalline state of the QF API with the nano-suspension formulation.

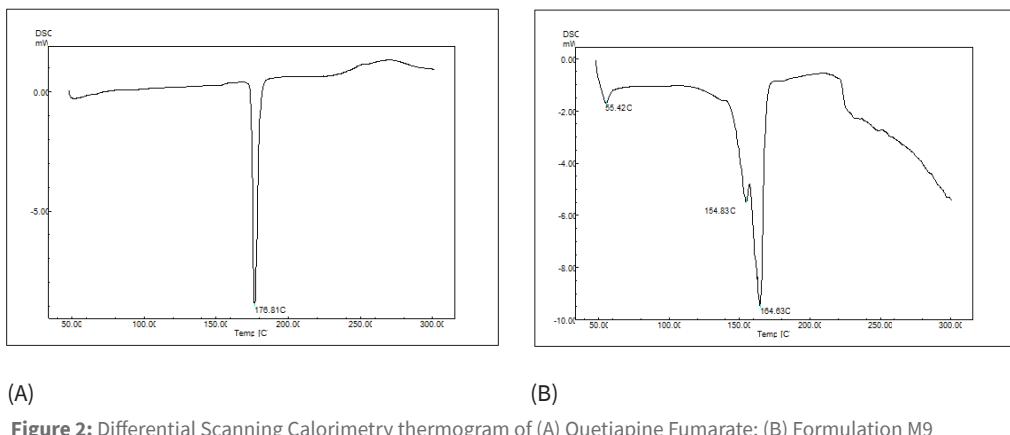


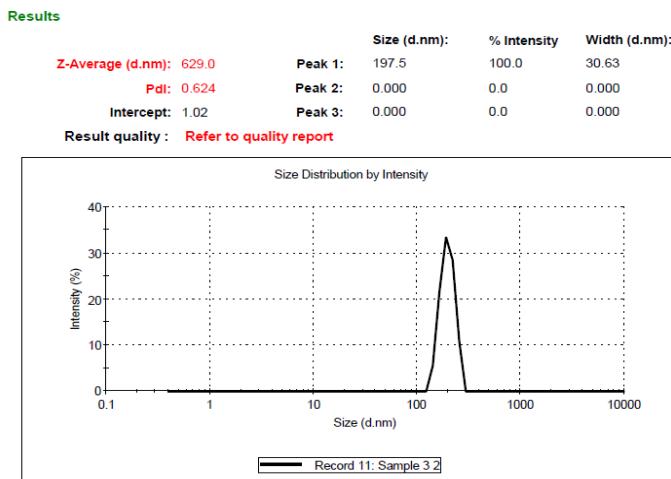
Figure 2: Differential Scanning Calorimetry thermogram of (A) Quetiapine Fumarate; (B) Formulation M9

Particle size

After dilution with water, the particle size of all samples at various milling times was evaluated. In the media milling technique particle size was observed in nano size. QF particle size was monitored during milling at predetermined time points (3, 6, 9, 15, 30 and 60 min) in order to assess the particle size reduction kinetics with the progression of milling process. Each sample was measured at least three times. Measurements were repeated after 7 days of storage of the nanosuspensions in a refrigerator ($5\pm 3^{\circ}\text{C}$), in order to assess product stability.^[26]

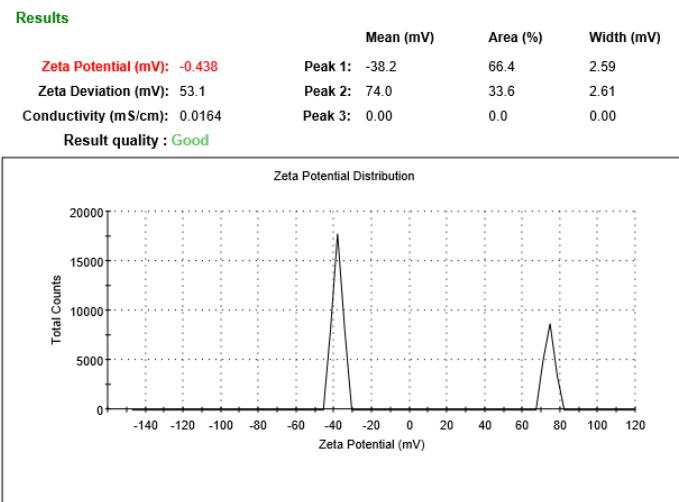
Table 4 : Particle Size and Polydispersity Index, Zeta Potential of Nano-suspension Formulations.

| Sr no | Particle size (nm) | PDI | Zeta potential (mv) |
|-------|--------------------|-------|---------------------|
| M1 | 153.3 | 0.780 | 1.09 |
| M2 | 281.0 | 0.866 | 1.36 |
| M3 | 252.8 | 0.678 | -0.80 |
| M4 | 235.3 | 0.693 | -3.67 |
| M5 | 200.9 | 0.621 | -1.11 |
| M6 | 251.6 | 0.651 | -1.89 |
| M7 | 130.9 | 0.661 | -5.30 |
| M8 | 221.0 | 0.591 | -6.81 |
| M9 | 197.5 | 0.624 | -38.20 |

**Figure 3:** Particle size of formulation M9

Zeta Potential

Zeta Potential is a measurement of the electric charge on the particle's surface that shows if colloidal systems are physically stable. It is an indication for the long-term stability of particulate systems. For a physically stable suspension stabilized by electrostatic repulsion, a zeta potential of approximately ± 30 to ± 40 mV is required as minimum. In a combined electrostatic and steric stabilization, as a rough guideline ± 20 mV is sufficient. As the Zeta potential of all the batches were within the range, they have good physical stability but zeta potential of batch M9 is -38.20 which is highly negative indicating higher physical stability of formulation.^[31] Batch M9's Zeta potential was found to be -38.2 mV. Poloxamer 407, a non-ionic surfactant, is used as a stabilizer that provides steric stabilization. However, medication nanocrystals, despite this stabilization, are often associated with poor Zeta Potential.^[32]

**Figure 4:** Zeta Potential of formulation M9

PDI (Polydispersity Index)

International standards organizations (ISOs) have established that PI values < 0.05 are more common to monodisperse samples, while values > 0.7 are common to a broad size (e.g., polydisperse) distribution of particles. M9 batch PDI has observed 0.439 which is less than 0.5.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

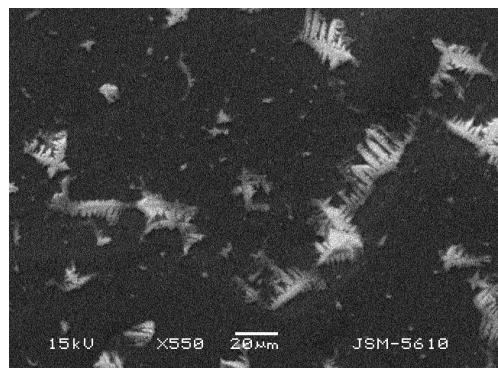
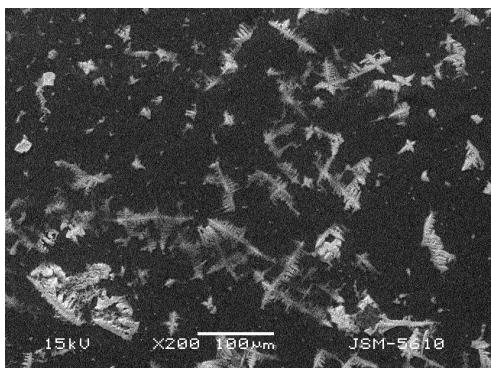
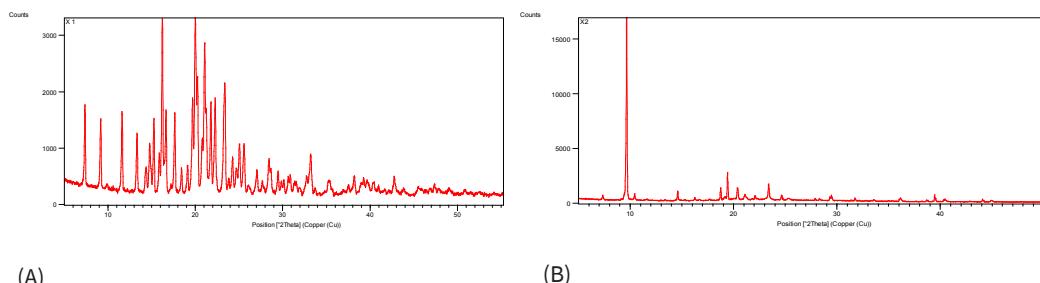


Figure 5: SEM Photographs of formulation M9

Here, many Nano-sized particles were seen in the image shown in Figure 5. The morphology of QF altered from crystalline irregularly shaped particles to spherical particles. When analysed by SEM, it confirmed the formation of nano particles of QF particle size less than 1000 nm (ranging from 128.4 nm to 781.2 nm).

X-ray diffraction

Quetiapine Fumarate powder showed Figure 6 a sharp peak or more peaks indicating the crystalline nature of these compound. Peaks disappeared in Nano-suspension formulation which indicates conversion of amorphous nature of QF powder from the crystalline nature.



(A)

(B)

Figure 6: X-Ray diffraction (XRD) spectra of (A) Quetiapine Fumarate powder; (B) Formulation M9.

In Vitro Dissolution Study

In Vitro QF API release Study in 0.1N HCl

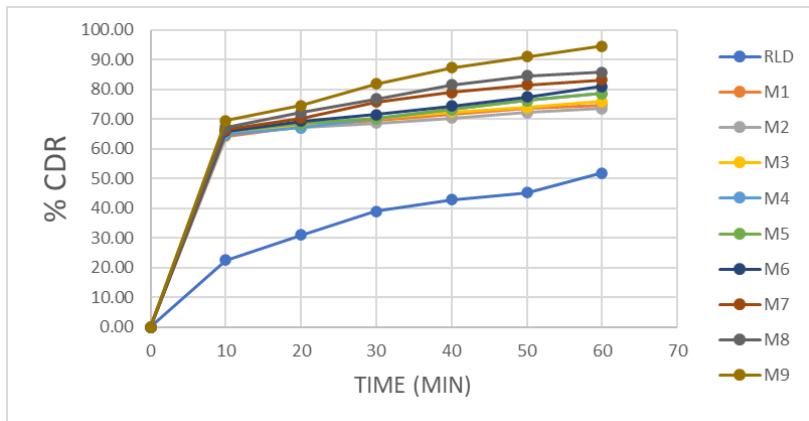


Figure 7: In vitro drug release study in 0.1 N HCl medium [*RLD: Reference Listed Drug]

The formulation M9 had the drug release of 94.59 % within 60 min compared to the amount of the RLD 48.92 % within 60 min. The increase in dissolution rate may be caused by the increased accessible surface area to the dissolution liquid and the hydrophilic surfactant coating on the particle surfaces. Based on the data given, we can see that the % CDR for M1 is 72.33 and for M9 is 94.59. This indicates that the dissolution of M9 is higher than that of M1, suggesting a faster release of the QF API from formulation M9 compared to M1.

In vitro drug release study in Phosphate buffer solution 6.8

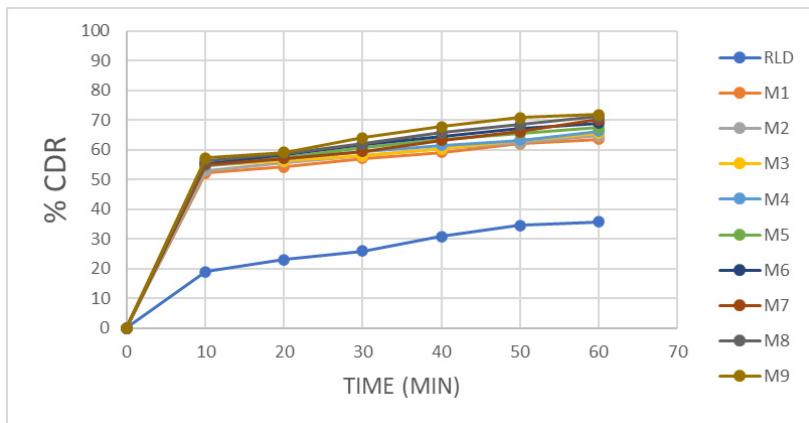


Figure 8: In vitro dissolution study in PBS 6.8 (*RLD: Reference Listed Drug)

Dissolution studies were performed for the RLD & nano-suspension formulation. Formulation M9 had higher amount of QF API release of 71.87 % within 60 min compared to amount of drug release (32.47 %) from RLD within 60 min. The 60-minute time frame is often chosen for comparing QF API formu-

lations because it is a standard time point in dissolution studies. This time frame is significant as it approximates the gastric emptying time, providing an indication of how much of the QF API would be available for absorption in the small intestine after oral administration.⁽³³⁾

Table 5: Dissolution profile comparison of nanosuspension with RSD

| Factor | M1 | M2 | M3 | M4 | M5 | M6 | M7 | M8 | M9 |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| F1 | 52.92 | 53.69 | 54.18 | 54.69 | 55.65 | 56.33 | 55.81 | 57.12 | 58.04 |
| F2 | 30.00 | 29.32 | 28.90 | 28.45 | 27.60 | 26.99 | 27.44 | 26.28 | 24.45 |

As shown in table 5, the dissolution profiles of the prepared nanosuspensions were not similar to that of RSD. The values of difference factors F1 are almost more than 50 [≤ 15 postulates similarity] while values of similarity factors F2 are less than 30 [≥ 50 postulates similarity] indicates that the dissolution profiles of nanosuspensions were very different compared to RSD. This was due to enhanced dissolution of the nanosuspension formulation. Further, values for F1 and F2 while comparing M1 and M9 were 10.89 and 60.98 respectively indicating that their dissolution profiles were similar. Thus, the dissolution profiles of nanosuspensions were different from that of RSD while comparable to each other.

Quetiapine fumarate is a weakly basic drug with a pKa value of 7.06. The solubility behavior of quetiapine fumarate, especially in its nanosuspension form, can vary in different media such as HCl and phosphate buffer. In an acidic environment like HCl ($\text{pH} < 7$), a weak base like quetiapine fumarate will primarily exist in its ionized form, which is more hydrophilic and could potentially lead to a faster dissolution rate in HCl compared to a phosphate buffer. On the other hand, in a phosphate buffer ($\text{pH} > 7$), quetiapine fumarate will primarily exist in its unionized form, which is more lipophilic and less likely to dissolve in aqueous media. This could potentially lead to a slower dissolution rate in phosphate buffer compared to HCl.

Optimizing nano-suspension formulation using design of experiments (DoE)

To analyse the effects of independent variables (X_1 and X_2), a 3^2 response surface methodology was utilized on the dependent variables (Y_1 and Y_2). The 2D counter plots was used for examining the impacts of independent variables. The three-dimensional (3D) response surface graph was helpful in determining the main and interaction effects of independent variables. Particle size (nm) and % CDR were chosen as independent variables for this investigation, whereas Milling Time (X_1 hrs) and Amount of poloxamer 407 (X_2 mg) were chosen as dependent variables. The particle size ranged from 130.9 to 281 nm, and the % CDR ranged from 72.33 to 94.59 % in all 09 experimental runs, as shown in Table 6.

Table 6: Experimental runs and the measured response of Nano-suspension

| Batch | Actual value | | | |
|--------------|---------------------|-----------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | X1 | X2 | Particle size (nm) (Y1) | (0.1 N HCl) %CDR (Y2) |
| M1 | 6 | 100 | 153.3 | 72.33 |
| M2 | 6 | 200 | 281.0 | 75.89 |
| M3 | 6 | 300 | 252.8 | 74.72 |
| M4 | 12 | 100 | 235.3 | 79.81 |
| M5 | 12 | 200 | 200.9 | 81.08 |
| M6 | 12 | 300 | 251.6 | 78.73 |
| M7 | 18 | 100 | 130.9 | 83.21 |
| M8 | 18 | 200 | 221.0 | 85.86 |
| M9 | 18 | 300 | 197.5 | 94.59 |

Particle size

Table 7: ANOVA data of particle size

| Source | Sum of Squares | df | Mean Square | F-value | p-value | |
|----------------------------|----------------|----|-------------|---------|---------|-------------|
| Model | 15490.60 | 2 | 7745.30 | 12.52 | 0.0072 | significant |
| X1-milling time | 3475.23 | 1 | 3475.23 | 5.62 | 0.0555 | |
| X2-amount of poloxamer 407 | 12015.38 | 1 | 12015.38 | 19.42 | 0.0045 | |
| Residual | 3712.40 | 6 | 618.73 | | | |
| Cor Total | 19203.00 | 8 | | | | |

The model is suggested to be significant by the model's F-value of 15.81. Only 2.30 % of the time is it possible for noise to cause an F-value this large.

Model terms are considered significant when the p-value is less than 0.0500. X_1 and X_2 are important model terms in this instance. Model terms are not significant if the value is higher than 0.1000. Model reduction may enhance your model if it has a lot of unnecessary terms (except those needed to maintain hierarchy).

$$Y_1 \text{ (Particle size)} = 248.63 + 52.75 X_1 - 3.1X_2 - 7.33X_1X_2 - 65.15X_1^2 + 11.75X_2^2$$

In the above equation X_1 and X_2 indicate the average result of changing one variable at a time from its low level to a high level. The negative values of these coefficients represent the factors that were inversely proportional to the particle size, while the positive value was directly proportional to the particle size. Here, increasing the poloxamer 407 concentration shows a reduction in the particle size while as the milling time is increased, the effect observed much more prominent with milling time than amount of poloxamer 407. The interaction terms X_1^2 have exhibited a negative relationship with the particle size of nanosuspension, whereas X_2^2 has a positive impact.

% CDR

Table 8: ANOVA data of %CDR

| Source | Sum of Squares | df | Mean Square | F-value | p-value | |
|----------------------------|----------------|----|-------------|---------|----------|-------------|
| Model | 349.39 | 3 | 116.46 | 56.89 | 0.0003 | significant |
| X1-milling time | 276.35 | 1 | 276.35 | 134.99 | < 0.0001 | |
| X2-amount of poloxamer 407 | 17.24 | 1 | 17.24 | 8.42 | 0.0337 | |
| X1 X2 | 55.80 | 1 | 55.80 | 27.26 | 0.0034 | |
| Residual | 10.24 | 5 | 2.05 | | | |
| Cor Total | 359.63 | 8 | | | | |

Model significance is indicated by the model's F-value, which is 30.87. An F-value this large might be caused by noise only 0.12% of the time.

Model terms are significant when their P-values are lower than 0.0500. X_1 , X_2 and X_1X_2 are important model terms in this instance. The variables in the model are not significant if the value is higher than 0.1000. Model reduction may enhance your model if it has a lot of unnecessary terms (except those needed to maintain hierarchy).

$$Y_2 \text{ (% CDR)} = 80.83 + 6.58 X_1 + 2.48X_2 + 2.55X_1X_2$$

In the above equation X_1 and X_2 indicate the average result of changing one variable at a time from its low level to a high level. The negative values of these coefficients represent the factors that were inversely proportional to the particle size, while the positive value was directly proportional to the particle size.

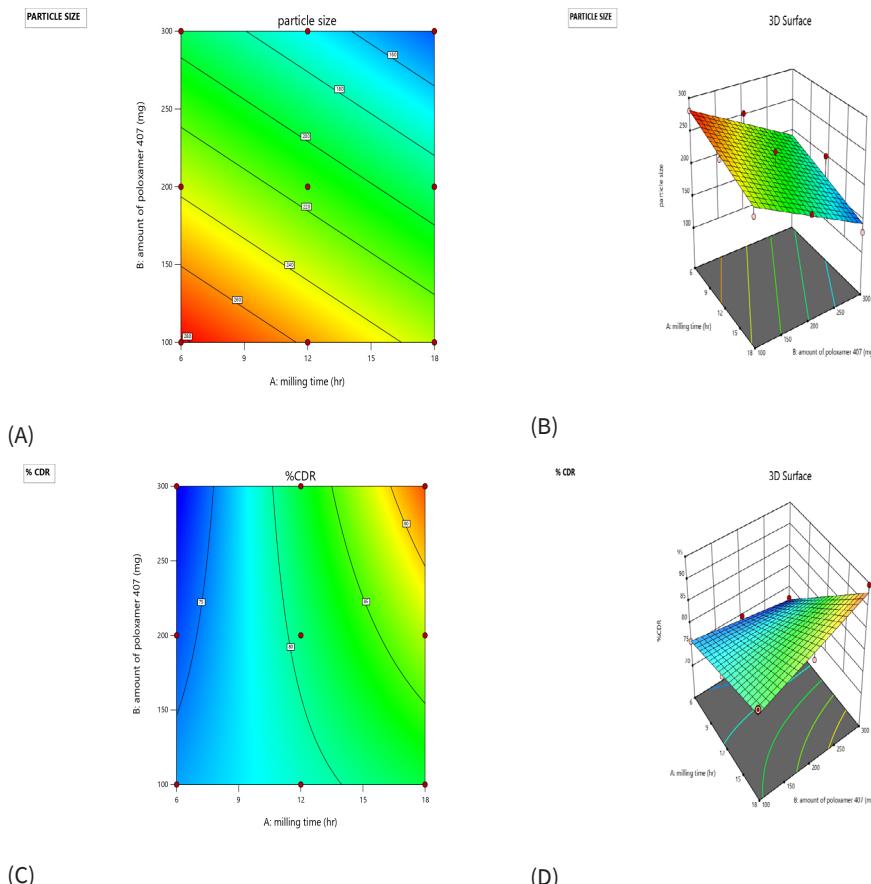


Figure 9: Contour plot and 3D Surface plot of milling time & Poloxamer 407 concentration effect on % CDR of Quetiapine fumarate nano-suspension [For particle size (A, B) % CDR (C, D)].

Discussion

The wet media milling technique is increasingly utilized for scaled-up manufacturing to improve the bioavailability of poorly soluble substances, while ensuring the absence of organic residues. According to research it shows that Stabilizer type, milling time, and milling speed had a significant effect on particle size of the nanosuspensions. Nanosuspensions effectively improved the dissolution rate and bioavailability of the water-insoluble drug by reducing the compound particle size to the nanoscale and employing a proper formulation. In this research it is confirmed the formation prepared by considering milling time and stabilizer type of nanoparticles of QF particle size less than 1000 nm (ranging from 128.4 nm to 781.2 nm). On addition of poloxamer as stabilizer it shows effect on the particle size reduction. During the in vitro dissolution study, it was observed that the QF API alone exhibited limited absorption or release on its own, but when formulated into a nanosuspension, it demonstrated improved drug release. Nanosuspensions can significantly improve the bioavailability of poorly soluble drugs, leading to increased therapeutic effectiveness. The nanoscale particle size in the suspension promotes faster dissolution, ensuring quicker onset of action and improved QF API performance. The scalability of nanosuspension technology allows for efficient and reproducible large-scale manufacturing, facilitating the transition from laboratory development to industrial production.

Conclusion

The research successfully developed a Quetiapine Fumarate nanosuspension by the media milling method, which is expected to improve the solubility and dissolution rate of the drug. Further studies are needed to confirm the impact on bioavailability. This acknowledges the work done while also indicating the need for further research. The nanosuspension exhibited smaller particle size and enhanced drug release compared to the RLD. The formulation was optimized using DoE, indicating that milling time and Poloxamer 407 concentration were critical factors in controlling particle size and drug release. The optimal outcome was found to be achieved at a 1:3 ratio. The characterization procedures that include DSC, SEM, XRD, FT-IR, solubility, and dissolution studies validate the formation of the Nano-suspension. The findings further indicate that Formulation M9 demonstrates a particle size of 190.08 nm, a % CDR of 94.59, and a zeta potential of -38.2, offering additional support for the ability to regulate particle size and enhance dissolution rate. The findings of this research have important implications for improving the oral delivery of poorly water-soluble drugs, especially for medications used in the treatment of psychiatric conditions like schizophrenia.

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Artículos originales

Compresión y caracterización de partículas granulares de *Ipomoea batatas* y *Artocarpus altilis* en tabletas

Compression and Characterization of Granular *Ipomoea batatas* and *Artocarpus altilis* Particles into Tablets

Luis F. Torrens-Sotomayor¹  0000-0003-2016-6414

Carlos Velázquez-Figueroa¹  0000-0003-2016-8508

¹University of Puerto Rico: Mayagüez Campus, Center for Pharmaceutical Engineering Development and Learning, Department of Chemical Engineering, Mayagüez, Puerto Rico.

Correspondencia

Carlos Velázquez-Figueroa
carlos.velazquez9@upr.edu

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Resumen

Introducción: Los comprimidos son formas farmacéuticas sólidas de administración por vía oral, constituidas por un granulado sometido a compresión. Estos, se pueden formar a partir de partículas (excipientes e ingredientes activos) que se deforman bajo presión. Existen una serie de partículas de origen natural provenientes de productos agrícolas que son maleables y se podrían utilizar en como excipientes para la obtención de comprimidos. Sin embargo, existe una brecha de investigación en cuanto al uso de estos productos agrícolas en comprimidos. Este estudio exploró el potencial de utilizar como excipientes granulados químicamente no modificados de *Ipomoea batatas* y *Artocarpus altilis* en la obtención de comprimidos.

Método: La investigación evaluó las propiedades físicas y la solubilidad bajo diferentes condiciones, incluyendo métodos de corte, adición de aglutinantes y fuerzas de compresión. El proceso experimental incluyó secado, molienda, mezcla con aglutinante (Polivinilpirrolidona) y compactación. La caracterización de las partículas incluyó distribución de tamaño, densidad, morfología y porosidad, mientras que el análisis del material compactado se centró en la dureza, friabilidad, tiempo de desintegración y tiempo de solubilidad.

Resultados: Las partículas de *I. batatas* eran esféricas con un D50 de 420 µm y una porosidad del 50%-60%. Las partículas de *A. altilis* eran de forma irregular con un D50 de 120-200 µm y una porosidad del 75%-80%. El material compactado de *I. batatas* tenía una dureza >4 kgf, friabilidad <1%, desintegración de 8-15 min y solubilidad de 14-18 min. *A. altilis* tenía una dureza >4 kgf, friabilidad <2%, desintegración de 2,5-5 min y solubilidad de 5-9 min.

Conclusiones: La adición de aglutinante y las fuerzas de compresión redujeron la pérdida de peso y aumentaron la dureza, el tiempo de desintegración y el tiempo de solubilidad. La composición de carbohidratos (principalmente almidones) afectó significativamente el tiempo de solubilidad, mientras que la técnica de corte influyó en el tiempo de secado, pero no en el comportamiento final del producto. Este estudio demuestra la viabilidad de utilizar materiales granulares obtenidos de productos agrícolas naturales para formar productos comprimidos.

Palabras clave: *Ipomoea batatas*; *Artocarpus altilis*; Caracterización de Tabletas; Excipientes; Comprimidos

Abstract

Introduction: Tablets are solid pharmaceutical dosage forms administered orally, composed of granules subjected to compression. They can be formed from particles (excipients and active ingredients) that deform under pressure. There are several naturally derived particles from agricultural products that are malleable and could potentially be used as excipients in tablet formulation. However, there is a research gap regarding the use of these agricultural products in tablets. This study explored the potential of using chemically unmodified *Ipomoea batatas* and *Artocarpus altilis* granules as excipients in tablet formulation.

Method: The research evaluated physical properties and solubility under varying conditions, including cutting methods, binder addition, and compression forces. The experimental process involved drying, milling, binder mixing (Polyvinylpyrrolidone), and tablet compaction. Particle characterization included size distribution, density, morphology, and porosity, while compacted material analysis focused on hardness, friability, disintegration time, and solubility times.

Results: *I. batatas* particles were spherical with a D50 of 420 µm and 50%-60% porosity. *A. altilis* particles were irregularly shaped with a D50 of 120–200 µm and 75%-80% porosity. Compacted *I. batatas* had hardness >4 kgf, friability <1%, disintegration 8-15 min, and solubility 14-18 min. *A. altilis* had hardness >4 kgf, friability <2%, disintegration 2.5-5 min, and solubility 5-9 min.

Conclusions: Binder addition and compression forces reduced weight loss and increased hardness, disintegration, and solubility times. The carbohydrate (mainly starches) composition significantly affected solubility time, while cutting technique influenced drying time, but not the final product behavior. This study demonstrates the feasibility of using granular materials obtained from natural agricultural products to form compressed products.

Keywords: *Ipomoea batatas*; *Artocarpus altilis*; Tablet Characterization; Excipients; Tablets

Highlight

Current scientific knowledge highlights that *Ipomoea batatas* and *Artocarpus altilis* are potential sources of granular materials for pharmaceutical applications, but their specific compaction and solubility behaviors are less well-understood.

This study shows that unmodified *Ipomoea batatas* and *Artocarpus altilis* can be compacted without extraction or chemical changes, meeting pharmaceutical industry standards for drug formulations.

The findings suggest that using unmodified *Ipomoea batatas* and *Artocarpus altilis* for compaction could lower production costs and offer viable options for drug formulations, supplements, and hypoallergenic products.

Introduction

The blends of different formulations used in compacted oral based drugs (i.e. tablets) often includes a combination of organic and inorganic elements⁽¹⁾. Organic materials, such as cellulose, lactose, and starch, are widely used due to their benefits including providing a matrix for controlled release of selected ingredients, biocompatibility, renewability, easy availability, and potential nutritional value⁽²⁻⁴⁾. Among these materials, starch is particularly significant in food and industrial production, commonly used for disintegration, filling, and binding. Starch is typically extracted from food sources using wet milling and drying techniques^(5,6). While both techniques have been widely used, some industrial applications may find the extracted starch unsuitable, leading to the use of alternative methods or requiring chemical modifications to its inherent properties⁽⁷⁾.

There is a vast quantity of ongoing studies related to the use of food-derived starch in tablet formulations, particularly as disintegrants or binders. For example, recent studies have focused on using starch as a disintegrant in the formulation development, evaluating the effects of various formulations and pretreatments to the material^(8,9). These studies have yielded insights on the improved strength and disintegration made with modified *Ipomoea batatas* starch and the effective application of *Artocarpus altilis* starch as a binder and exo-disintegrant for paracetamol tablets^(10,11). However, studies considering the use of these two agricultural products in their original chemical state for the formation of tablets are scarce or unavailable. This approach has the potential to not only reduce manufacturing steps and costs, but also increase the concentration of nutritional components in the formulation with a material that has been widely used in the food industry.

Recent studies have begun exploring the compaction of chemically unmodified food components. One example is the study where *Manihot esculenta* flours were used to produce tablets at high compression forces and found similar physicochemical characteristics to those obtained with the commercial starch, thus recommending these particles as future disintegrants⁽¹²⁾. Research by Sun, et al.⁽¹³⁾ aimed to optimize the formulation of effervescent tablets using mango, Chlorella, and cactus fruit powders as functional ingredients, where their findings indicate that specific ingredient ratios greatly influence the tablet properties, such as disintegration time, tensile strength, and moisture content. Other examples of food-based tablets are using the cactus flour and microalgae biomass for natural supplement tablets⁽¹⁴⁾, preparing fruit powder tablets by direct compaction method using dragon fruit, pineapple, mango, and guava powders⁽¹⁵⁾, developing instant pumpkin soup tablets⁽¹⁶⁾, and using a mixture of guava and dragon fruit powders to create tablets as drinking alternatives⁽¹⁷⁾. Despite all this, further research is needed to explore and expand the literature on the creation of tablets using a wider variety of food sources.

The goal of this study was to investigate whether chemically unmodified granular material of local *Ipomoea batatas* and *Artocarpus altilis* can be used for the compaction of tablets, and to evaluate its performance using standard characterization techniques. The findings of this research can lay the foundations for the creation of different compacted products, such as tablets, pasta, capsules, energy bars, beauty products, compacted agricultural products, among others.

Materials and methods

Materials

Ipomoea batatas (L), canol cultivar, was provided by the Empresa Agricola Torres Company in Vega Baja, Puerto Rico, while *Artocarpus altilis* (Parkinson) Fosberg, white cultivar, was sourced from the “Plaza del Mercado de Mayagüez” and multiple sectors of Mayagüez, Puerto Rico. Both materials would

classify as natural source excipients (disintegrant purpose only) since both are obtained from food sources.

Polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP) (Plasdone™ K29/32) from ISP Technology was used as the binder agent to enhance the cohesion and adhesion properties of the tablets and improve their mechanical strength and integrity.

For the reference values, a mixture of Lactose Granulac 140 (Meggle) with Magnesium Stearate (Janssen Ortho) and starch extracted from *Ipomoea batatas* was used. For starch extraction, the tuber was cleaned and peeled, then cut into small pieces for triturating with distilled water, followed by three filtrations with rinses. The filtered suspension was left to settle overnight at 4°C to allow starch sedimentation at the bottom of the container. After decanting the excess water, the sedimented starch was dried in an oven at 55°C for 16 hours and sieved using a 125 µm opening sieve.

Methodology

The process flowchart shown in Figure 1 was followed to produce the tablets either from *I. batatas* or *A. ailtis*; from the moment of receiving the material until the final blend compaction. Raw material pre-processing included all the steps required before drying the material, including the cleaning, peeling, and cutting of the raw food. Particle production includes the drying and milling steps of the material for further experiments. This granular material was compacted and characterized during the materials compaction stage.

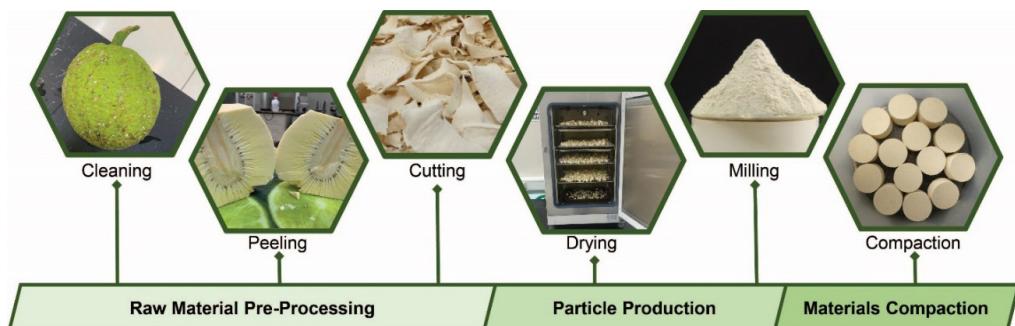


Figure 1. Process flowchart for the tablet compaction of the granular material.

Raw material pre-processing

Upon the arrival of the food, the material was inspected to look for irregularities and cleaned with soap and water to remove outside materials and reduce the microbial load on the surface. The food was then rinsed with distilled water and allowed to fully drain. For peeling the material, an Orangemast Masterfruit Vibrating Peeler was used at medium to high-speed intervals and with blade 7, which has an approximately 6 mm aperture. This equipment was also used for slicing the material with blade 3 of approximately 2.5 mm aperture. The Brunner Anliker GSM5 with a square sieve of approximately 18 mm was used for the cube cut configuration.

Particle Production

Raw cut food samples were dried at 55 °C in a Thermo Fisher Heratherm Oven until the material moisture of the sample was $10 \pm 2\%$. The dried material was milled on a FitzMill Comminutor Model L1A at a 3000 RPM and 685.8 µm round hole perforated screens and then sieved using a sieve diameter of 297 µm and classified into large ($\geq 297 \mu\text{m}$) and small ($< 297 \mu\text{m}$) particles. The distribution ratio for *A. ailtis* particles was 75% small particles and 25% big particles (similar to its original particle size distribution), while for *I. batatas* was 30% small particles and 70% big particles. For the binder blends, PVP was added at 2% w/w.

To determine the particle size distribution (PSD), samples of 20 to 30 g were analysed using the RTSizer V7.20 software integrated with the Insitec from Malvern Inc. With the histogram plot obtained, we determined de D10, D50, and D90 of the runs and calculated the Span (**Equation 1**) and D90/D10 ratio to have a numerical representation of the uniformity and size consistency of the formulation. Span closer to 0 can be related to samples with a uniform distribution and size consistency while D90/D10 ratios bigger than 5 tend to be indicative of possible segregation.

$$\text{Span} = \frac{\text{D}90 - \text{D}10}{\text{D}50} \quad (1)$$

Tapped and bulk density was calculated by the procedures established by the USP <616> Bulk Density and Tapped Density of Powders using a Dual Autotap Tapped Density Analyzer from Quantachrome Instruments. As for particle density, a pycnometer of 25 mL was used with O-xylene from Alfa Aesar based in previous publications with *I. batatas* particles⁽¹⁸⁾. Particle density was determined using **Equation 2**, where W_1 is the pycnometer weight, W_2 was the added sample weight, W_3 was the pycnometer weight with the sample and the xylene, ρ_{liquid} was the density of xylene, and $V_{\text{pycnometer}}$ is the volume of the pycnometer.

$$\text{Particle density} = \frac{\frac{W_2 - W_1}{V_{\text{pycnometer}}}}{\frac{W_3 - W_2}{\rho_{\text{liquid}}}} \quad (2)$$

Knowing these densities, we can calculate the Hausner ratio and Carr's index using **Equation 3** and **Equation 4**, respectively, which can be found in *USP <616> Bulk Density and Tapped Density of Powders* and classify its powder flow behavior using *USP <1174> Powder Flow*. To determine the particle porosity, we can use **Equation 5**, which uses the bulk and particle density.

$$\text{Hausner ratio} = \frac{\text{Tapped density}}{\text{Bulk density}} \quad (3)$$

$$\text{Carr's index (\%)} = \frac{\text{Tapped density} - \text{Bulk density}}{\text{Tapped density}} * 100 \quad (4)$$

A Scanning Electron Microscope JSM-6390 by Jeol USA Inc was used to visualize the morphology of the particles at x50, x200, and x1500 magnifications at different positions of the sample. To determine the moisture content, a Sartorius Moisture Analyzer MA35M-V equipment was used to determine the moisture content at 100°C using a sample weight of 1.5 to 2 g.

$$\varepsilon = 1 - \left(\frac{\text{Bulk density}}{\text{Particle density}} \right) \quad (5)$$

Material Compaction

The blends of granular material were manually compressed to flat-faced tablets with a diameter of 13 mm and a weight of 1 g using a Carver Hydraulic Press Model 3912 at different compression forces (4, 6 and 8 kgf).

Characterization test included the evaluation of their physical properties (hardness and weight loss percentage) and the evaluation of the material solubility (disintegration time and material solubility time). All compacted products tested followed the acceptance criteria for the weight and thickness variation following the USP <2091> Weight Variation of Dietary Supplements.

Hardness of the compacted material was done using a Varian Benchsaver VK200 Tablet Hardness Tester in kilogram-force (kgf) force unit following the USP <1217> Tablet Breaking Force protocol. For the weight loss percentage, a friability tester Vanderkamp 10809 Model was used following the USP <1216> Tablet Friability protocol.

The behavior of the solubility of the material was analyzed measuring its disintegration time and its solubility time. The disintegration time measurements were performed at 37 °C to satisfy all the requirements established by the USP <701> Disintegration protocol for uncoated tablets using water as a test medium.

The solubility time was defined as the time it took the sample to reach its maximum solubility over a period of time. For this test, we followed USP <711> Dissolution with minor modifications using the SR8 Plus Dissolution Test Station, Auto Plus Maximizer, and Auto Plus MultiFill from Hanson Research. The apparatus configuration has paddles as the method of agitation and was run at a speed of 50 RPM and a distance of 25 ± 2 mm from the bottom of the flask. Dissolution baths were maintained at a temperature of $37 \pm 0.5^\circ\text{C}$, and the media consisted of 900 mL of distilled water ($\text{pH} = 6.28 \pm 0.39$). Samples were filtered using a Filter Tip of 70 μm , polyethylene, 1/8 in of Hanson Research.

First, a calibration curve was performed to measure its absorbance (425 - 475 μm) of different dilutions taken from a stock solution of 1.33 g/L. For the general test, a 7 mL sample was taken for 30 minutes (0, 1, 3, 5, 7, 11, 15, 21, and 30 minutes) in triplicate. For each sample, we measured its absorbance using a Genesys 10S UV-Vis Spectrophotometer from ThermoScientific and determined the solubility at the given time using the calibration curve. The relative solubility was calculated using Equation 6 and the final solubility time was reported by the time it took the solution to reach the maximum material relative solubility. The standard value and criteria used for these compacted materials will be discussed in detail in the subsequent sections.

Design of experiment

The study focused on the effect of the raw material type (*Ipomoea batatas* and *Artocarpus altilis*), binder addition (0% and 2% PVP), compression force (4, 6, and 8 kgf), and cutting method (cubes and slices) to establish a range of acceptable options to obtain a compressed product. It was adopted a One-Factor-At-A-Time (OFAT) approach rather than seeking a single optimal response. The experimental design employed a $2^3 \times 3^1$ factorial with 3 to 4 replicates for the compacted material analysis. The measurements taken were split between physical properties (hardness and weight loss percentage) and material solubility (disintegration time and solubility time), resulting in a total of 288 samples. To assess the statistical difference among the variables, a one-way ANOVA was conducted followed by a Tukey's test to specifically identify significant distinctions, both at a 95% confidence level, using Minitab 21 statistical software version 21.1.

Results

Granular material characterization

Figure 2 depicts the particle size distribution for the blends including PVP as reference. From this, we can see that there is a wide particle size distribution behavior between particles, which can lead to more contact points between the particles and thus increase the hardness of the material when compacted. When analyzing the *A. altilis* granular material, it had a narrower particle size distribution compared to *I. batatas*, hence the particles tend to have more comparable sizes and smaller number of contact points between particles and had a direct influence on the solubility behavior.

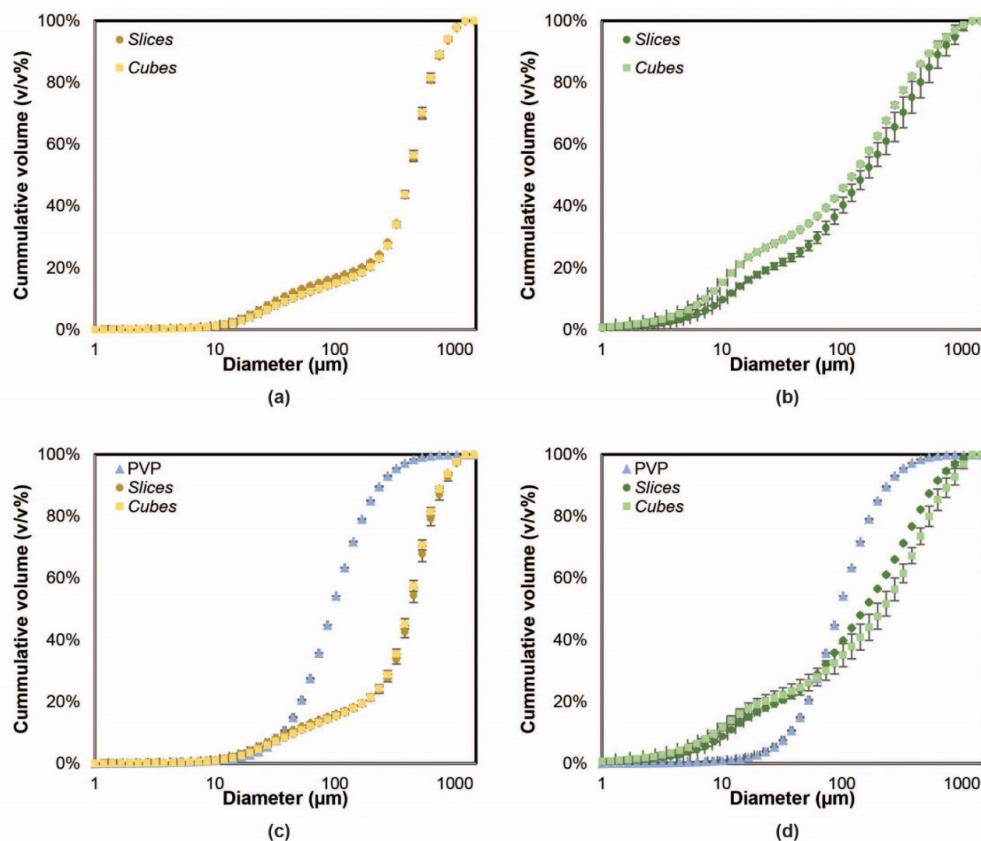


Figure 2. Process flowchart for the compaction of the granular material. Comparison of volumetric particle size distribution of *Ipomoea batatas* and *Artocarpus altilis*. The particle size distribution was examined for different samples comparing the cutting method: (a) *Ipomoea batatas*, (b) *Artocarpus altilis*, (c) *Ipomoea batatas* with 2% PVP, and (d) *Artocarpus altilis* with 2% PVP. Plots which include binder addition also show the PVP particle size distribution. (n=3)

Table 1 shows the D90/D10 and the Span of the blends, where we can see that *A. altilis* mixtures had a wider Span value in comparison to the *I. batatas*. This is related to the higher content of starch in *A. altilis* relative to *I. batatas* based on the values reported by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)^(19,20). Also, the D90/D10 ratio corroborates the large difference in size difference, which can lead to a material that tends to segregate.

Table 1. Granular material particle characterizations for *Ipomoea* and *Artocarpus altilis* particles with different binder concentrations and raw material cutting. (n=3-5)

| Material | I. batatas | | | | A. altilis | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| | 0 | | 2 | | 0 | | 2 | |
| Binder (%) | Slices | Cubes | Slices | Cubes | Slices | Cubes | Slices | Cubes |
| Cut | Slices | Cubes | Slices | Cubes | Slices | Cubes | Slices | Cubes |
| D50 (μm) | 420 \pm 30 | 430 \pm 30 | 420 \pm 30 | 410 \pm 20 | 130 \pm 30 | 150 \pm 10 | 120 \pm 40 | 220 \pm 30 |
| D90/D10 (-) | 22.3 \pm 0.8 | 17.6 \pm 0.5 | 19.79 \pm 0.05 | 16.6 \pm 0.6 | 64 \pm 1 | 76 \pm 3 | 52.97 \pm 0.07 | 87 \pm 5 |
| Span (-) | 1.780 \pm 0.003 | 1.73 \pm 0.03 | 1.80 \pm 0.03 | 1.770 \pm 0.005 | 4.3 \pm 0.3 | 4.450 \pm 0.004 | 3.76 \pm 0.05 | 3.5 \pm 0.1 |
| Moisture content (%) | 9.5 \pm 0.5 | 11.6 \pm 0.5 | 8.89 \pm 0.08 | 12.6 \pm 0.2 | 12.8 \pm 0.2 | 13.0 \pm 0.3 | 12.2 \pm 0.4 | 13.2 \pm 0.2 |
| Bulk Density (g/mL) | 0.788 \pm 0.002 | 0.754 \pm 0.003 | 0.820 \pm 0.002 | 0.751 \pm 0.030 | 0.540 \pm 0.025 | 0.440 \pm 0.002 | 0.514 \pm 0.005 | 0.43 \pm 0.04 |
| Tapped Density (g/mL) | 0.65 \pm 0.01 | 0.616 \pm 0.007 | 0.677 \pm 0.009 | 0.62 \pm 0.03 | 0.397 \pm 0.005 | 0.317 \pm 0.009 | 0.400 \pm 0.008 | 0.32 \pm 0.03 |
| Particle Density (g/mL) | 1.34 \pm 0.02 | 1.424 \pm 0.006 | 1.480 \pm 0.001 | 1.56 \pm 0.05 | 1.59 \pm 0.09 | 1.6 \pm 0.1 | 1.6 \pm 0.1 | 1.63 \pm 0.07 |
| Hausner Ratio (-) | 1.22 \pm 0.03 | 1.22 \pm 0.01 | 1.21 \pm 0.02 | 1.21 \pm 0.01 | 1.36 \pm 0.08 | 1.39 \pm 0.04 | 1.29 \pm 0.01 | 1.32 \pm 0.01 |
| Compressibility index (%) | 18 \pm 2 | 18 \pm 1 | 17 \pm 1 | 17.6 \pm 0.7 | 26 \pm 4 | 27 \pm 2 | 22.4 \pm 0.8 | 24.4 \pm 0.7 |
| Porosity (-) | 0.52 \pm 0.01 | 0.570 \pm 0.002 | 0.540 \pm 0.002 | 0.60 \pm 0.01 | 0.75 \pm 0.01 | 0.80 \pm 0.01 | 0.75 \pm 0.01 | 0.80 \pm 0.01 |

Densities of the materials can be seen in Table 1, where statistical analysis only showed a significant difference between cuts for bulk and tapped density, where slices have a higher density when compared to cubes. Experimental values obtained for both materials go in accordance with the previous values reported^[21-25].

Analyzing the Hausner Ratio and the Carr's Index, we see that *I. batatas* particles have a fair flow behavior, while *A. altilis* particles flowed variedly when added to the binder. In this case, it goes from having poor flow behavior to passable flow behavior. This can be attributed to the particle size distribution of the *A. altilis* in comparison to *I. batatas* and the higher particle-particle contact.

The porosity of these granular materials was more than 50% in all cases and can be corroborated by analyzing the morphology of the particles seen in Figure 3. This image shows that the granules are made by a conglomerate of small particles. Also, *I. batatas* particles are more spherical shaped while the *A. altilis* particles are more cubes shaped, thus leading *I. batatas* particles to have a better flow behavior when compared to *A. altilis*.

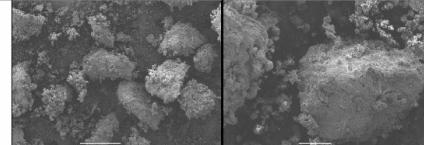
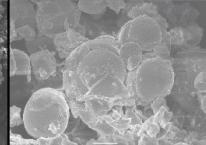
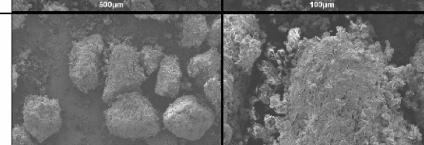
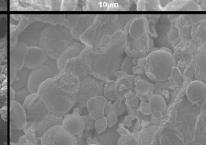
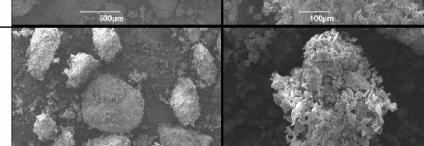
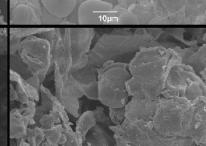
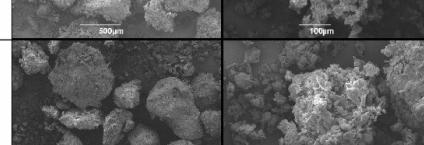
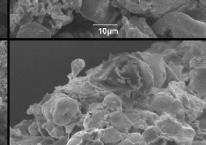
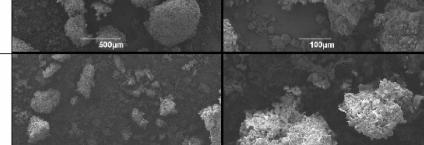
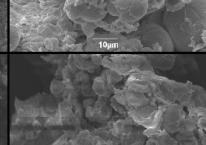
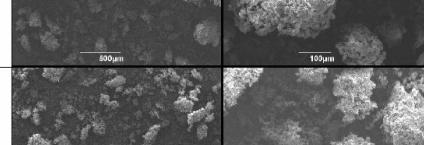
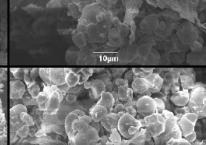
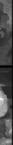
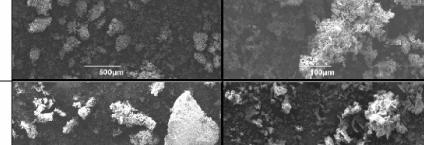
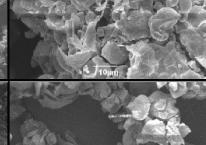
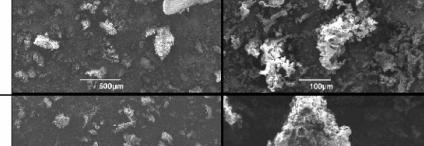
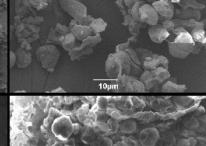
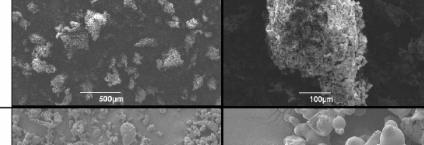
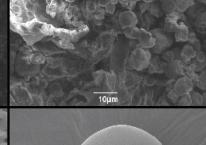
| Food | Cut | PVP | x50 | x200 | x1500 |
|---------------------------|--------|-----|---|--|---|
| <i>Ipomoea batatas</i> | Slices | 0% |  |  |  |
| | | 2% |  |  |  |
| | Cubes | 0% |  |  |  |
| | | 2% |  |  |  |
| <i>Artocarpus altilis</i> | Slices | 0% |  |  |  |
| | | 2% |  |  |  |
| | | 0% |  |  |  |
| | Cubes | 2% |  |  |  |
| | | 0% |  |  |  |

Figure 3. SEM images for the *Ipomoea batatas* and *Artocarpus altilis* formulations at different magnifications.

Physical integrity: Hardness and Friability

This section presents the results, Figure 4, of hardness and friability of the produced tablets as a function of materials composition, binder agent, compression force, and the cutting method of the raw food.

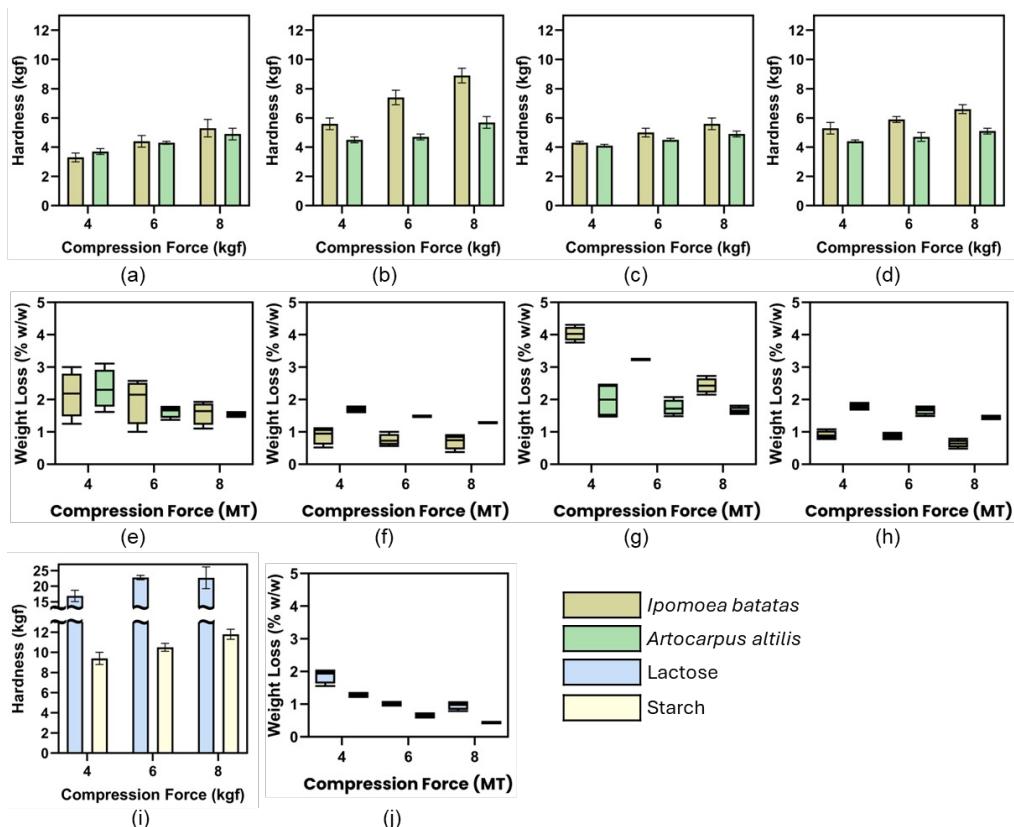


Figure 4. Analysis of the physical integrity of *Ipomoea batatas* and the *Artocarpus altilis*. Hardness was examined for the (a) slice cutting, 0% PVP, (b) slice cutting, 2% PVP, (c) cube cutting, 0% PVP, (d) cube cutting, 2% PVP, and (i) lactose and starch, all at different compression forces. Weight loss percentage of the material was examined for the (e) slice cutting, 0% PVP, (f) slice cutting, 2% PVP, (g) cube cutting, 0% PVP, (h) cube cutting, 2% PVP, and (j) lactose and starch, all at different compression forces. Data represents the average of n= 3-4 runs.

Materials effects

The hardness of the *I. batatas* compacted material was between 0.9 to 1.1 times than those of *A. altilis*. Based on the USDA database as reference, the difference in this behavior can be attributed to the carbohydrate components (i.e., starch, fiber, and sugars) of the materials. *I. batatas* has more than 1.5 times fiber, more than 2.5 times sugar, and less than 0.85 times starch contents when compared to the *A. altilis*^[19,20]. As described in multiple studies^[26-28], these components have a direct impact on the cohesion and properties of the compacted structures. Sugar components can conceivably make the *I. batatas* more malleable and hence more compressible and the fiber ones would increase the cohesion, which in combination will make stronger particle-particle bonds.

Binder addition

The binder increased the hardness of the *I. batatas* tablet between 1.2 and 1.7 times, while for *A. ailtoris* increased up to 1.2 times when compared to the behavior without binder. When comparing with the values without the binder, the addition of the binder lowered the loss percentage of *I. batatas* between 60 and 80%, while for *A. ailtoris*, the reduction was between 10 to 30%. The binder agent significantly increased the compacted material hardness when compared with the materials without binder, demonstrating the role of binders in increasing proportionately the mechanical strength. As for weight loss percentage, *I. batatas* with binder were below 1% weight loss percentage, achieving the target physical properties. *A. ailtoris* with binder, while slightly above this limit, remained below 2%, confirming their suitability for pharmaceutical applications. This highlights the effectiveness of the binder in minimizing material loss during the compaction of the material.

Compression force

The effect of the compression forces on the hardness of the material followed the expected behavior in all runs. However, the results for weight loss percentage indicate that there was no significant difference with the compression force, except for the *I. batatas* that were cut into cubes with 0% of binding material. Although results were not statistically different, these depict that an increase in compression force leads to a decrease in weight loss percentage. Both behaviors can be influenced by the size distribution of particles in the sample impacting the capacity of the material to be compacted and its overall hardness. This suggests that higher compression forces contribute to more compacted structures with reduced porosity, resulting in decreased material loss during compaction.

Cutting method

Analyzing the cutting method (surface area change) of the raw foods before the drying process, it did not have a significant difference in either the hardness or the friability values. Even though particle morphology may have an impact on the final properties of the compacted material and the particle arrangement, all underwent a milling process before compression, which resulted in them having similar geometries and thus reducing the impact of particle morphology on the final properties.

Comparison with typical material

Comparing the overall experimental hardness values with the control values, as seen in Figure 4 (e), lactose showed 4.1-fold greater hardness, while the starch showed 2.1-fold greater hardness under these experimental conditions. The higher hardness of lactose could be attributed to the crystalline structure of lactose, which typically results in stronger formations while the hardness of starch can be attributed to the higher presence of amylose and amylopectin molecules that could cause the hydration and swelling behavior upon compression thus forming a more cohesive and rigid matrix. The hardness value of this experimental starch is similar to ranges reported in the literature using starch extracted from cassava^[29].

When comparing the weight loss percentage values in Figure 4 (j), we see that the experimental values exhibit 1.3-fold and 2.2-fold greater losses than the lactose and starch, respectively, under these experimental conditions. This indicates that unmodified food compacted materials are affected by mechanical stress compared to the commercially available lactose and starch. The starch values at a compression force of 8 kgf are similar to those reported in the literature using starch extracted from cassava^[29].

Material solubility: Disintegration and Solubility time

The material solubility or availability in solution is represented by the disintegration time and the solubility time tests. These are two of the standard tests that can be done to understand how fast a desired ingredient of the overall blend is available in solution. In this study, the interest is the starches of the *I. batatas* and *A. ailtoris*. The results are presented as a function of material composition, binder agent, compression force, and the cutting method of the raw food. As shown in Figures 5 (a) – (d), there was a significant difference in the disintegration time between the *I. batatas* and *A. ailtoris*, ranging from 8 to 15 minutes and 2.5 to 5 minutes, respectively.

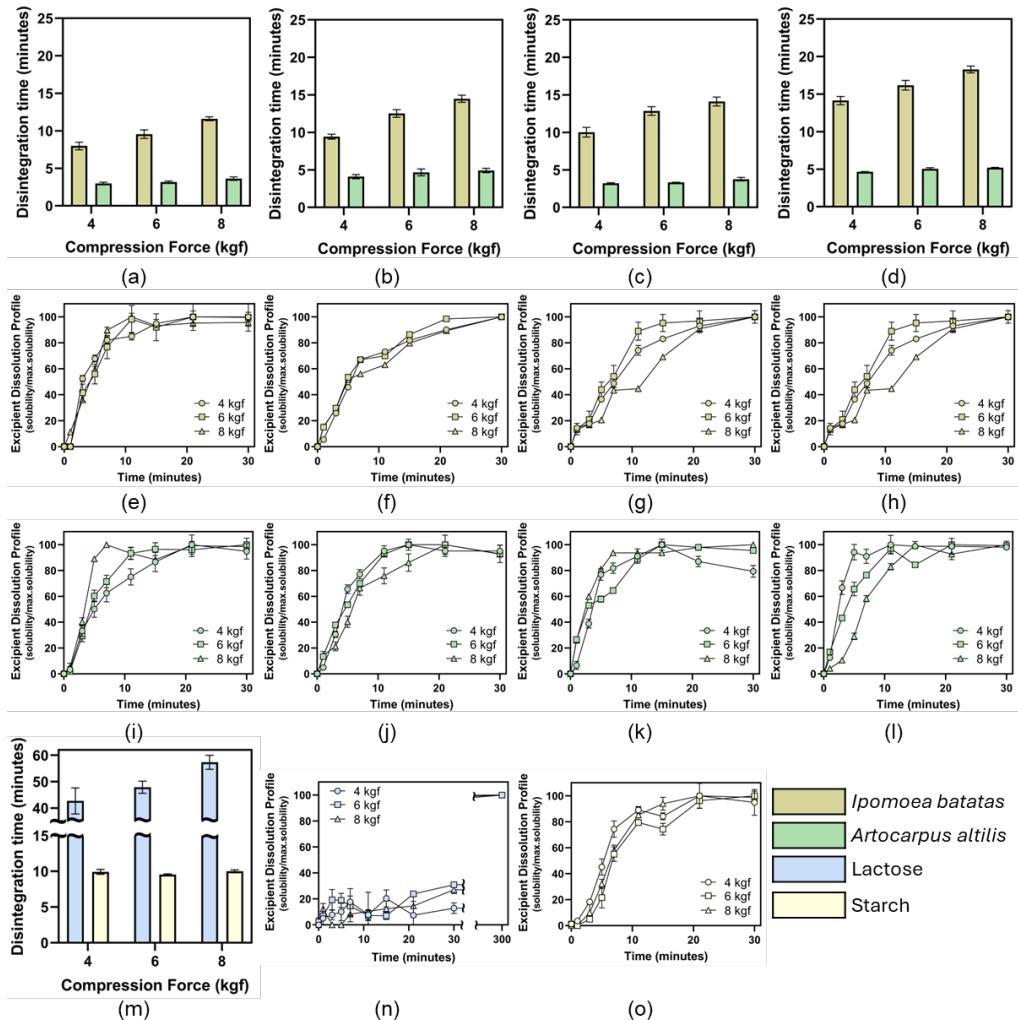


Figure 5. Analysis of the solubility performance of *Ipomoea batatas* and the *Artocarpus altilis*. The disintegration time was examined for the (a) slice cutting, 0% PVP, (b) slice cutting, 2% PVP, (c) cube cutting, 0% PVP, (d) cube cutting, 2% PVP, and (m) lactose and starch, all at different compression forces. Solubility time was examined by measuring the time for reaching the maximum excipient relative solubility for the *Ipomoea batatas* at (e) slice cutting, 0% PVP, (f) slice cutting, 2% PVP, (g) cube cutting, 0% PVP, and (h) cube cutting, 2% PVP, the *Artocarpus altilis* at (i) slice cutting, 0% PVP, (j) slice cutting, 2% PVP, (k) cube cutting, 0% PVP, and (l) cube cutting, 2% PVP, (n) lactose, and (o) starch, all at different compression forces. Data represents the average of n=3-4 runs.

Materials effect

The significant effect of material composition on disintegration time seen in Figure 5 (a)-(d) is attributed to the higher starch content in *A. altilis* compared to *I. batatas*, which promotes faster breakdown and disintegration of the tablets, as reported in previous studies^[19,20,30,31]. Also, physical properties are reported to play a role in the observed differences, since *A. altilis* had less hardness values and greater weight loss percentage in comparison to *I. batatas*^[32,33]. As for the materials solubility time, *I. batatas* exhibited a range of 14 to 18 minutes while *A. altilis* exhibited a range of 5 to 9 minutes. This difference

can be related to the fiber content and, since *I. batatas* has a 1.5 times higher reported content in comparison with *A. altilis*, this may slow the material release.

The narrowed PSD of *A. altilis* caused a more porous granule due to the particle-particle interaction, which allowed a faster disintegration and solubility time compared to *I. batatas*, which resulted in a more rigid, stable granule that resulted in a higher resistance to disintegration and a slower material solubility rate.

Binder addition

Adding a binder to the materials presented a significant difference between *I. batatas* and *A. altilis*, increasing the disintegration time for all the runs. As for the materials solubility time, there was only a significant difference for compacted materials made from the slice cut at 6 and 8 kgf. This is in accordance with what was expected, where adding a binder increased the solubility time at those compression forces. Even though PVP is freely soluble in an aqueous solution and does not directly influence the disintegration or solubility time, it aids the material performance with an adhesive bond between particles, which results in a slower disintegration times as reported on previous researches^[34].

Compression force

The compression forces applied during the granular material compaction exhibited a significant effect on the disintegration time of all the *I. batatas* runs, whereas it only showed a significant effect on the 4 and 8 kgf for the *A. altilis* runs. Overall, it was observed that higher compression forces led to longer disintegration times. In terms of material solubility time, there was a notable difference between the results when varying between 6 and 8 kgf, where an increase in compression force resulted in a longer solubility time.

Cutting method

The two methods of cutting the raw material did show a statistically significant difference in the disintegration time of *I. batatas* and the material solubility time of *A. altilis*. Regarding disintegration times, the use of cube cuts of *I. batatas* resulted in longer disintegration times when compared with slice cuts. For the material solubility time, *A. altilis* slice cuts were seen to increase the solubility time when compared with the cubed cut. Despite the different cutting techniques employed, the moisture content of the compressed mixtures was roughly the same since the materials were extracted from the drying oven upon reaching the desired final moisture level. Hence, the actual effect of the cut should not relate to the behavior of the final product, but rather to the drying time of the materials to be milled afterward. In fact, slices cuts were 1.57 times faster than cubes cuts during the drying of the material, which incurs operational costs.

Comparison with typical materials

Comparing the disintegration times with lactose and starch compacted products in Figure 5 (e), lactose had a disintegration time 5.9-fold higher than our experimental values, while the disintegration time for the starch was 1.2-fold higher than our experimental runs under our conditions. The higher disintegration time of lactose compared to ours can be attributed to differences in material composition, particularly the crystalline structure of lactose, its lower solubility, and its brittle nature, which results in slower disintegration when subjected to high compression forces^[35-37]. The starch value is similar to values reported in the literature, falling within these ranges using starch extracted from cassava^[29].

When comparing the material's solubility time values of starch in Figure 5 (o), we observe that these times are similar to the results obtained under these experimental conditions. This may indicate that despite being chemically unmodified, the starch from *I. batatas* and *A. altilis* still predominates the overall behavior. Since the lactose material solubility time values exceeded the 30-minute reading time, these were not considered for this analysis.

Comparison with typical acceptance ranges of uncoated compressed materials

To validate the experimental values, we considered the industry-standard ranges of one of the most highly regulated sectors, the pharmaceutical industry, which serves as a benchmark for quality assurance. This comparison not only aids credibility to the gathered data, but also facilitates the assessment of product performance against established norms. In this context, we focused on evaluating the typical acceptance ranges of uncoated tablets, particularly emphasizing guidelines from the US Pharmacopeia (USP) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Typical hardness for oral tablets ranges from 3 to 10 kgf, according to referenced literature⁽³⁸⁻⁴¹⁾. When comparing our findings with this range, it was observed that the hardness values of both *I. batatas* and *A. altilis* exceeded the lower acceptance limit by 1.1 to 3.0 and 1.2 to 1.9 times, respectively. As for weight loss percentage, these value should not exceed 1.0% to be considered as acceptable, as indicated in USP guidelines⁽⁴²⁾. Our results demonstrated the *I. batatas* blended with binder were below the 1% weight loss percentage acceptance value, while the *A. altilis* with binder were over, but below 2%.

Considering disintegration time, it is desired that tablets disintegrate completely within a maximum of 30 minutes, according to USP guidelines⁽⁴³⁾. All compacted material tested in this study met this requirement and had a constant dissolution time. Regarding material solubility time, compliance with FDA recommendations for immediate-release mentions that 80% of the material should dissolve within 30 minutes⁽⁴⁴⁾. In addition, immediate-release tablets have been reported to fully dissolve upon exposure within 2.5 to 10 minutes⁽⁴⁵⁾. When comparing our experimental material solubility time, all the *A. altilis* were between this acceptance range while the *I. batatas* were 1.3 to 1.9 times higher than the above reported value, but still are below the 30 minutes range. These comparative analyses underscore the suitability of chemically unmodified granular materials from *I. batatas* and *A. altilis* for compaction, highlighting their suitability to establish a highly regulated industry standard.

Conclusions

This study demonstrates the suitability of using granular material of chemically unmodified local *I. batatas* and *A. altilis* to create tablets. *Ipomoea batatas* were spherical with a D50 of 420 µm and a porosity ranging from 50% to 60%, exhibiting fair flow behavior and average compressibility. *Artocarpus altilis* particles, irregular in shape with a D50 of 120–200 µm and porosity of 75% to 80%, displayed passable flow and high compressibility, forming agglomerates of small particles.

The addition of a binder agent and different tablet compression forces influenced the physical properties and materials solubility of the tablets. The addition of a binder was a key factor impacting all the tablet measured properties, where it lowered the weight loss percentage, and increased the hardness, disintegration time, and solubility time as expected. Also, the effects of the compression forces were consistent with expectations, as increased forces correlated with enhanced physical properties and material solubility of the tablets. Upon examining the food materials, it was seen that the carbohydrate composition of the material was one of the main causes for this difference in results, especially for the material solubility time values. The cutting technique for the raw food did not affect the final behavior of the product, rather in the manufacturing drying time of the material.

This work confirms that these food products can be employed to form tablets without the need for special treatments, such as extractions, making the tablets more affordable material. By understanding the behavior of the untreated material in these tests, we can better predict tablet interactions when adding APIs in future formulations. Since the food products were dried, milled and compacted into tablets without intermediate extraction of ingredients, this strategy would represent an additional savings to the overall process. Additionally, this product could be an alternative in various applications, such as new drug formulations, supplements, and hypoallergenic alternatives, providing a new option for those who have a gastrointestinal disease or are diabetic.

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Artículos originales

The Cohen Kappa of the Liverpool and the Naranjo Adverse Drug Reaction Causality Assessment Tool on Nervous System Drugs

La Kappa de Cohen de la Herramienta de Evaluación de la Causalidad de Reacciones Adversas a Medicamentos de Liverpool y Naranjo en medicamentos para el sistema nervioso

Bangunawati Rahajeng¹  0000-0001-8420-5182

Irma Risdiana²

Odilia Danti Nugrahaningtyas³

¹Departement of Pharmacology ang Clinical Pharmacy, School of Pharmacy, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

²Master of Health, Department of Pharmacy PKU Muhammadiyah Gamping Hospital, Yogyakarta Special Region, Indonesia

³School of Pharmacy, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta, Indonesia

Correspondence

Bangunawati Rahajeng
bangunawati.r@umy.ac.id

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Resumen

Objetivo: Un método para identificar la causalidad de los efectos secundarios es el algoritmo de Naranjo. Actualmente, existe un algoritmo de Liverpool, que es un refinamiento del algoritmo Naranjo. Este estudio pretende comparar de Naranjo y de Liverpool en la identificación de la causalidad de los efectos secundarios de los fármacos que actúan sobre el sistema nervioso.

Métodos: Esta investigación es un estudio observacional con un método longitudinal. La recogida de datos se realizó de forma prospectiva en pacientes a los que se les prescribieron anticonvulsivantes, antidepresivos o antipsicóticos. Cuatro investigadores observaron a los pacientes durante tres meses. Los eventos adversos se reportaron y evaluaron utilizando de Naranjo por dos investigadores y de Liverpool por otros dos. Los resultados de las mediciones de los dos algoritmos se comprobaron con la fiabilidad entre evaluadores (IRR) mediante el valor del coeficiente de concordancia Kappa (K) de Cohen.

Resultados: En el estudio participaron 133 pacientes, 74 (55,64 %) experimentaron efectos secundarios con probabilidad de causalidad probable y posible. El valor kappa para Naranjo es de 0,465 («moderado» IRR). Para Liverpool, el valor K es de 0,352 (TIR «regular»), lo que indica que el acuerdo de los investigadores fue mejor en el algoritmo de Naranjo que en el de Liverpool.

Conclusiones: Este estudio concluye que de Naranjo ofrece un valor kappa más alto que de Liverpool. Es necesario que otros investigadores de Indonesia lleven a cabo investigaciones con de Liverpool para determinar su viabilidad en la práctica clínica.

Palabras clave: Algoritmo de Naranjo; algoritmo de Liverpool; efecto secundario; Kappa de Cohen; inter-fiabilidad; fármacos del sistema nervioso.

Abstract

Objective: Monitoring of side effects is essential to prevent and overcome the occurrence of drug side effects. Drugs that act on the nervous system have many similar side effects. One method of identifying side effect causality is using the Naranjo algorithm. Currently, there is a Liverpool algorithm, a refinement of Naranjo. This study aims to compare the Naranjo algorithm and the Liverpool algorithm in identifying the causality of side effects of drugs that act on the nervous system.

Methods: This research is an observational study with a longitudinal method. Data collection was carried out prospectively in patients who were prescribed anticonvulsants, antidepressants, or antipsychotics. Four researchers will observe patients for three months. Adverse events were reported and tested using the Naranjo algorithm by two researchers and the Liverpool algorithm by two researchers. The measurement results of the two algorithms were tested with the Inter-Rater Reliability (IRR) by looking at the Cohen Kappa (K) agreement coefficient value.

Result: The study involved 133 patients. Of the 133 patients, 74 (55.64%) experienced side effects with probable and possible causality. The kappa value for Naranjo is 0.465 (“moderate” IRR). It is 0.352 (“fair” IRR) for Liverpool, indicating that the researchers’ agreement was better on the Naranjo algorithm than the Liverpool algorithm.

Conclusion: This study concludes that the Naranjo algorithm gives a higher kappa value than the Liverpool algorithm. Research using the Liverpool algorithm needs to be carried out by other researchers in Indonesia to find out the possibility of its use in clinical practice.

Keywords: Naranjo algorithm; Liverpool algorithm; side-effect; Cohen Kappa; inter-reliability; nervous system drugs

Introduction

Drug side effects often result in therapy failure and increased morbidity and mortality. Side effects increase with long-term drug therapy, especially for drugs that act on the nervous system. Drugs that act on the nervous system affect neurotransmitters, leading to many side effects. In a study in New Delhi of 224 psychotic patients, 38 side effects occurred. The most significant cause of side effects is risperidone, followed by olanzapine. The causality relationship using Naranjo obtained the results of 34 “probable” events⁽¹⁾. In a study conducted by Marasine et al., it was reported that 174 patients received antidepressants, 74.13 % experiencing side effects. The most common side effects experienced were insomnia and anxiety (using the Naranjo algorithm). These side effects affect patient adherence, where 52.29 % of patients were found to be non-adherent (using Morisky Green Levine Adherence)⁽²⁾.

Another study in Ethiopia obtained results: out of 300 patients using first-generation antipsychotics, 97.7 % experienced side effects. These side effects are cardiovascular 56.3 %; sedation and effects on CNS 49.6 %; and extrapyramidal 38.0 %^[3].

Based on the explanation above, side-effect monitoring is needed to prevent, overcome, and minimize side effects. Monitoring is necessary so that the patient can achieve therapeutic goals. The side effect reporting system that has been widely used in Indonesia is using the Naranjo algorithm. The Indonesian Food and Drug Authority currently has an MESO form in the form of an e-form (<https://e-meso.pom.go.id>). This MESO form uses the Naranjo algorithm as the Naranjo algorithm already exists in Indonesian.

The Liverpool algorithm is a simplified form of the Naranjo algorithm. One of Naranjo's weaknesses is that there are several "don't know" answers as it is difficult or impossible to do, affecting the sensitivity of the assessment. Gallagher et al. modified the Naranjo algorithm to produce the Liverpool algorithm^[4]. The Liverpool algorithm has yet to be widely used in Indonesia. Several hospitals in Indonesia are currently using Liverpool's algorithm to identify side effect causality. Theoretically, the Liverpool algorithm is more straightforward than the Naranjo algorithm, so it is expected to be easier to use. This study compares the Naranjo and Liverpool algorithms in Indonesia.

Methods

This research is an observational study with a longitudinal method. Researchers collected data prospectively. The population in this study were outpatients who received a prescription for anticonvulsants, antidepressants, or antipsychotics for three months. Inclusion criteria were outpatients who received prescriptions for anticonvulsants, antidepressants, or antipsychotics. The patient experienced side effects and was willing to become a respondent. Samples were taken using purposive sampling; then, patients were followed for three months to determine any side effects that occurred. The exclusion criteria in this study were patients whose data was incomplete and could not be analyzed using Naranjo or Liverpool. Demographic data, patient clinics, and side effects were obtained from medical records. Side effect data were also obtained from interviews with patients and their families. The samples obtained were 138 patients. Adverse events were reported and tested with the Naranjo algorithm by two different researchers (researcher A and researcher B). Two other investigators (researchers C and D) reported and tested adverse events in the same patient using the Liverpool algorithm. The evaluator is a pharmacist who works in a hospital where the patient is an outpatient. These pharmacists have undergone training in using the Naranjo and the Liverpool algorithms because they have a license to practice pharmacy. These pharmacists are also accustomed to identifying side effects using the Naranjo algorithm in daily practice. The researcher tested the measurement results of the two algorithms with the Inter-Rater Reliability (IRR) by looking at the Cohen Kappa (K) agreement coefficient value.

Results and Discussion

Patient characteristics

Table 1. Patient characteristics

| characteristics | | n | % |
|-----------------|--------|----|-------|
| Gender | Male | 36 | 48.65 |
| | Female | 38 | 51.35 |
| Age (y) | 17-25 | 18 | 24.32 |
| | 26-35 | 7 | 9.46 |
| | 36-45 | 15 | 20.27 |

| characteristics | | n | % |
|-----------------|--|----|-------|
| | 46-55 | 12 | 16.22 |
| | 56-65 | 10 | 13.51 |
| | 66-74 | 8 | 10.81 |
| | 75-90 | 4 | 5.41 |
| Diagnosis | | | |
| | Residual Schizophrenia | 15 | 20.27 |
| | Anxiety disorder | 5 | 6.76 |
| | Episodes of Major Depression without psychological symptoms | 4 | 5.41 |
| | Mixed Anxiety and Depressive Disorder | 4 | 5.41 |
| | Lir-Schizophrenia organic delusional disorder | 4 | 5.41 |
| | Delusional disorder | 3 | 4.05 |
| | Depressive-type schizoaffective disorder | 3 | 4.05 |
| | Somatic symptom depression | 2 | 2.70 |
| | Moderate Recurrent Depressive Disorder Current Episode without Somatic Symptoms | 2 | 2.70 |
| | Mental and behavioral disorders due to multiple substance use SEP | 2 | 2.70 |
| | Moderate depressive episode with somatic symptoms | 2 | 2.70 |
| | myalgia | 2 | 2.70 |
| | Major Depressive Disorder | 1 | 1.35 |
| | Hypochondriasis | 1 | 1.35 |
| | Bipolar Affective Disorder Current Episode Western Depression without Psychotic Symptoms | 1 | 1.35 |
| | Bipolar Affective Disorder Current Episode Major Depression with psychotic symptoms | 1 | 1.35 |
| | Recurrent Depressive Disorder Severe Current Episode without Psychotic Symptoms | 1 | 1.35 |
| | Bipolar current episode of depression | 1 | 1.35 |
| | Manic-type schizoaffective disorder | 1 | 1.35 |
| | Generalized Anxiety Disorder | 1 | 1.35 |
| | Adjustment disorder with depressive reactions | 1 | 1.35 |
| | Insomnia | 1 | 1.35 |
| | Stroke Parkinsonism | 1 | 1.35 |
| | Trigeminal neuralgia post extraction of molar teeth dyspepsia | 1 | 1.35 |
| | Acute transmural myocardial infarction of the anterior wall | 1 | 1.35 |
| | lbp ec hnp vl 4-5 post ckb dyspepsia | 1 | 1.35 |
| | epilepsy | 1 | 1.35 |
| | Ischalgia Neuropathy Vertigo | 1 | 1.35 |
| | Chronic Cephalgia Myofascial Pain | 1 | 1.35 |
| | Stroke ICHTT Sinister Hemiparesis Aphasia | 1 | 1.35 |
| | Parkinsonism. Stroke Infarction Hypertension Polyarthralgia | 1 | 1.35 |
| | Post Stroke Neuropathy Epilepsy | 1 | 1.35 |

| characteristics | | n | % |
|------------------------|--|----------|----------|
| | LBP infarct stroke with cephalgia hypertensive neuropathy | 1 | 1.35 |
| | Parkinson's Dementia Cervical Syndrome ec HNP VC 5-6-7 DM Neuropathy | 1 | 1.35 |
| | Psychological and behavioral factors | 1 | 1.35 |
| | Psychosomatic | 1 | 1.35 |
| | Low back pain Radiculopathy | 1 | 1.35 |
| | Hypertension Dyslipidemia Myalgia | 1 | 1.35 |
| Total | | 74 | 100 |

In this study 138 patients met the inclusion criteria. and 74 experienced side effects. The number of female patients was more than that of male patients. although not significantly different. According to Patton and Borshoff, women are at a 2x more significant risk of experiencing side effects than men influenced by differences in pharmacokinetic profiles related to body mass. hormones and hepatic clearance⁽⁵⁾. Patient characteristic data can be seen in Table 1.

Patients involved in this study were dominated by productive age, 17-25 years (25.56 %). The results of this study differed from the theory that children and older people were the age group at risk for side effects. Age is sometimes a risk factor for side effects^(5,6). In this study, the productive age affected more side effects related to the most common diagnosis, namely schizophrenia. Schizophrenia is currently suspected to appear at an earlier age, as in Chan's review⁽⁷⁾.

The incidence of side effect

Table 2. The incidence of side effects

| No | Side-effects | number (n) | Percentage (%) |
|-----------|---------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | Somnolence | 22 | 16.54 |
| 2 | Nauseous | 11 | 8.27 |
| 3 | Insomnia | 8 | 6.01 |
| 4 | Dizziness | 6 | 4.51 |
| 5 | Weight gain | 6 | 4.51 |
| 6 | Increased appetite | 6 | 4.51 |
| 7 | Appetite Down | 4 | 3.00 |
| 8 | Heartbeat | 4 | 3.00 |
| 9 | Hypersomnia | 4 | 3.00 |
| 10 | Hypotension | 3 | 2.25 |
| 11 | Weight loss | 3 | 2.25 |
| 12 | Hypertension | 3 | 2.25 |
| 13 | Disturbed menstrual cycle | 3 | 2.25 |
| 14 | Aches | 2 | 1.50 |
| 15 | Frequency | 2 | 1.50 |
| 16 | Nervous | 2 | 1.50 |
| 17 | Confused | 2 | 1.50 |
| 18 | Numb | 1 | 0.75 |
| 19 | Lactation non puerperal | 1 | 0.75 |
| 20 | Shiver | 1 | 0.75 |
| 21 | Hard to breathe | 1 | 0.75 |
| 22 | Weak | 1 | 0.75 |

| No | Side-effects | number (n) | Percentage (%) |
|-------|-------------------------------------|------------|----------------|
| 23 | Abdominal pain when taking medicine | 1 | 0.75 |
| 24 | Dry mouth | 1 | 0.75 |
| 25 | Seizures | 1 | 0.75 |
| 26 | Constipation | 1 | 0.75 |
| 27 | Rigidity | 1 | 0.75 |
| 28 | Allergic reaction | 1 | 0.75 |
| 29 | Cough | 1 | 0.75 |
| 30 | Easily tired | 1 | 0.75 |
| 31 | Stomach acid | 1 | 0.75 |
| 32 | Easy to forget | 1 | 0.75 |
| 33 | Swollen foot | 1 | 0.75 |
| Total | | 107 | 100 |

Of the 74 respondents who experienced side effects, the number of side effect events was 107, as seen in Table 2.

One patient may experience more than one side effect. The side effects are drowsiness, nausea, and insomnia. Many of these side effects occur due to drugs that act on the nervous system. Some of the drugs in this study with drowsy side effects included clozapine, risperidone, trihexyphenidyl, chlorpromazine, alprazolam, carbamazepine, haloperidol clobazam and others. One drug can also cause multiple side effects, such as clobazam causing drowsiness and dizziness.^[2,8] medication adherence (MA). Meanwhile, a patient involved in the study may be prescribed drugs that act on the nervous system more than one drug. This condition is the reason for the importance of looking for the causality of side effects to ensure that the drug is suspected of causing the side effects. In this study, the researcher only carried out inter-rater reliability on probable and possible causality as it is the most causal relationship and is closer to the certainty of the cause of side effects. The result of Naranjo is in line with Harichandran et al. research. where out of 53 ADR events, almost all were in the probable category and only one was possible when analyzed using Naranjo^[9]. Meanwhile, according to Gupta and Kumar, causality analysis using Naranjo and Liverpool to obtain the most probable results^[10].

Table 3. Kappa values from side effect causality analysis using Naranjo

| Naranjo Researcher A | Naranjo Researcher B | | | | Kappa | P | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|------|----------|------|-------|-------|--|--|
| | Probable | | Possible | | | | | |
| | N | % | N | % | | | | |
| Probable | 86 | 80.4 | 21 | 19.6 | 0.465 | 0.000 | | |
| Possible | 3 | 15.8 | 16 | 84.2 | | | | |

Table 4. Kappa value from side effect causality analysis using Liverpool

| Liverpool Researcher C | Liverpool Researcher D | | | | Kappa | P | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|------|----------|-------|-------|-------|--|--|
| | Probable | | Possible | | | | | |
| | N | % | N | % | | | | |
| Probable | 78 | 72.9 | 29 | 27.1 | 0.352 | 0.000 | | |
| Possible | 0 | 0.0 | 12 | 100.0 | | | | |

The results of Naranjo's analysis from researchers A and B and the Liverpool algorithm analysis results from researchers C and D sought agreement through inter-rater reliability analysis. The results of the kappa values are presented in Tables 3 and 4.

Based on the results of causality using Naranjo, it was found that of the 107 adverse events considered probable by rater A, there were 86 adverse effects (80.4 %), also rated as probable by rater B. In contrast, rater B rated the remaining 21 side effects (19.6 %) as possible.

Meanwhile, of the 19 adverse events assessed as Possible by Rater A, three side effects (15.8 %) were considered Probable by Rater B, and 16 adverse events (84.2%) were also assessed as Possible by Rater B. A Kappa value of 0.465 indicated no agreement among raters in assessing using the Naranjo algorithm. This condition was also reinforced by a P value of 0.000, indicating a difference in assessment between rater A and B. The Naranjo algorithm has been widely used in Indonesia; the Indonesian National Agency for Drug and Food Control (NADFC), an official agency owned by the Indonesian government, utilized the Naranjo algorithm to report side effects. The moderate Kappa Cohen value could be influenced by the researcher's subjectivity and the assessment's inaccuracy^[11]. Furthermore, low agreement among researchers could also be influenced by the Naranjo algorithm developed for side effect causality assessment in randomized controlled trials^[12] that is, the World Health Organization-Uppsala Monitoring Center (WHO-UMC). A study by Théophile et al., in testing the sensitivity and specificity of the tools used for causality analysis, stated that the Naranjo algorithm has heterogeneous sensitivity and specificity. Sensitivity values range from 0.5 to 1, while specificity values range from 0 to 1^[13].

The results of the causality analysis using the Liverpool algorithm showed that of the 107 adverse events that were assessed as probable by Rater C, there were 78 adverse events (72.9 %) that were also considered probable by Rater D and 29 adverse events (27.1 %) which were assessed as Possible by Rater D. Meanwhile, of the 12 side effects assessed as Possible by Rater C, 100 % were approved by Rater D. A Kappa value of 0.352 indicated no agreement between raters in assessing Liverpool. A p-value of 0.000 indicated a difference in rating between rater C and rater D. The Liverpool algorithm is a simplified form of the Naranjo algorithm. Some omitted items make it easier for users to report adverse events but also eliminate some of the possibilities of causality. The Liverpool algorithm does not require an assessment from a health professional but can be carried out independently or even by patients. On the one hand, it causes the tool's subjectivity to become large, leading to low reliability^[14].

The Liverpool algorithm had never been employed in this study, which was conducted at a private hospital in the Yogyakarta area, Indonesia. This situation could also factor in the low agreement between raters, especially since Liverpool's algorithm is still in English.

Comparison of Naranjo and Liverpool

Several studies have examined the inter-rater reliability of Naranjo and Liverpool, with varying results. Varallo et al. revealed the kappa scores for Naranjo consecutively from the three judges to be 0.29 (0.03–0.55), 0.39 (0.13–0.65), 0.41 (0.16–0.69) (fair-moderate). In terms of the Liverpool algorithm, the kappa value of the same three judges is 0.21 (0.01–0.42), 0.41 (0.21–0.60) and 0.26 (0.04–0.50) (slight-moderate)^[14]. The results differed significantly from this study, where Naranjo's kappa scores were generally slightly better than Liverpool's. Meanwhile, Behera et al. compared three tools: Naranjo-WHO UMC (World Health Organization-Uppsala Monitoring Centre) -Logistic method, where the highest kappa value was obtained in the Naranjo agreement and Logistic method^[15]. In the study of Théophile et al. comparing Naranjo and Liverpool with the Probabilistic Logistics method as a routine case report on pharmacovigilance using consensual expert judgment as a reference, the results of the probabilistic logistic method were closer to consensual expert judgment^[13]. Based on various studies with different methods, assessing causality in hospitals required tools fitting the new pharmacovigilance definition. Meanwhile, Naranjo is still an easy-to-use tool in Indonesia, although some points cannot be answered due to the RCT background. Further research is still needed to identify tools to minimize confounding variables in causality analysis^[16]. The Liverpool algorithm can be an alternative, especially when it can be translated into a native language, as it is more appropriate than the English version^[17] hospitals need a system to support them in monitoring ADE occurrence routinely, rapidly, and at scale. Natural language processing (NLP). Furthermore, the limitation of this study is precisely the assessment of side

effects, as the recording is only conducted through interviews with patients and medical records. There is no record of side effects when the patient does not complain about anything (even if side effects occur).

Conclusion

The Naranjo algorithm showed a higher kappa value (moderate agreement) than the Liverpool algorithm (sufficient). The Liverpool algorithm has been used for a short time in Indonesia. so, research using the Liverpool algorithm needs to be conducted by other researchers in Indonesia to determine the possibility of its use in clinical practice. The selection of tools to analyze side effect causality depends on clinical needs.

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Artículos originales

Formulation, Development and Evaluation of Herbal Pediatric Edible Jelly for Cough

Formulación, desarrollo y evaluación de jalea comestible pediátrica a base de hierbas para la tos

Khemchand R. Surana¹  0000-0001-8918-1159

Vaishali N. Sonawane¹  0009-0002-9696-8480

Chaitali A. Yeola¹  0009-0002-6422-1526

Jayesh V. Musale²  0009-0008-9699-4383

Sunil K. Mahajan¹  0009-0004-2148-5948

Deepak D. Sonawane³  0009-0004-1908-5750

Vijayraj N. Sonawane¹  0009-0008-9034-9287

Raj K. Keservani⁴  0000-0003-2604-7440

¹Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, SSS's Divine College of Pharmacy, Nampur Road, Satana, Nashik, Maharashtra, India.

²Department of Pharmaceutics, Mahatma Gandhi Vidyamandir's SPH College of Pharmacy, Malegaon, Nashik, Maharashtra, India.

³Department of Pharmaceutics, SSS's Divine College of Pharmacy, Nampur Road, Satana, Nashik, Maharashtra, India.

⁴Faculty of B. Pharmacy, CSM Group of Institutions, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, 212111, India.

Correspondence

Dr. Khemchand R. Surana
khemchandsurana411@gmail.com

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Conflict of interests

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Resumen

Introducción: La resistencia de los niños a los regímenes de dosificación es uno de los retos de la terapia pediátrica. Los pacientes pediátricos presentan dos problemas importantes: la falta de habilidades para autoadministrarlos los fármacos y el cumplimiento terapéutico por parte del paciente. Las características médicas de las hierbas son cada vez más importantes debido a su falta de efectos secundarios, bajo coste y biocompatibilidad.

Método: Las hierbas utilizadas son *Ocimum sanctum* (Tulsi), *Adhatoda vasika* (Adulsa), *Elettaria cardamomum* (Cardamomo), *Zingiber officinale* (Jengibre), *Mentha piperita* (Menta piperita), *Glycyrrhiza glabra* (Regaliz), *Eugenia caryophyllus* (Clavo), *Cinnamomum zeylanicum* (Canela) y Miel. La formulación se preparó por el método de decocación y se evaluó.

Resultados: Los extractos de estas hierbas muestran una buena actividad antimicrobiana contra *E. coli*. La gelatina formulada muestra buen aspecto, pH, desintegración y untabilidad. Realizamos un estudio de estabilidad de 6 meses de la gelatina formulada. Tiene buen aspecto y no cambia el pH. Por lo tanto, la gelatina formulada puede ser estable hasta 6 meses.

Conclusiones: Los datos revelaron que la formulación optimizada no había mostrado ningún cambio en su aspecto ni en su pH. Así pues, la jalea formulada puede ser estable hasta 6 meses. Las formulaciones mostraron una excelente actividad antimicrobiana, que es adecuada para administrar a los niños como una forma de dosificación sólida oral alternativa.

Palabras clave: Pediatría; Jaleas comestibles; *Ocimum sanctum*; *Glycyrrhiza glabra*; *Adhatoda vasika*; *Elettaria cardamomum*; *Zingiber officinale*; *Mentha piperita*; *Eugenia caryophyllus*; *Cinnamomum zeylanicum*; Miel.

Abstract

Introduction: The children's resistance to dosage regimens is one of the challenging issues in pediatric therapy. There are two significant issues with pediatric patients: a lack of self-drug administration skills and patient compliance. The medical characteristics of herbs have become increasingly important due to their lack of side effects, low cost, and biocompatibility.

Method: The herbs that will be used are *Ocimum sanctum* (Tulsi), *Adhatoda vasika* (Adulsa), *Elettaria cardamomum* (Cardamom), *Zingiber officinale* (Ginger), *Mentha piperita* (Peppermint), *Glycyrrhiza glabra* (Liquorice), *Eugenia caryophyllus* (Clove), *Cinnamomum zeylanicum* (Cinnamon), and Honey. The formulation were prepared by decoction method and evaluated.

Results: These herbs' extracts show good antimicrobial activity against *E. coli*. The formulated jelly shows good appearance, pH, disintegration, and spreadability. We conduct a 6-month stability study on the formulated jelly. It has a good appearance and does not change pH. So, the formulated jelly can be stable for up to 6 months.

Conclusions: The data revealed that the optimized formulation had not shown any change in their appearance or pH. So, the formulated jelly can be stable for up to 6 months. The formulations exhibited excellent antimicrobial activity, which is suitable to administer to children as an alternative oral solid dosage form.

Keywords: Pediatrics; Edible jellies; *Ocimum sanctum*; *Glycyrrhiza glabra*; *Adhatoda vasika*; *Elettaria cardamomum*; *Zingiber officinale*; *Mentha piperita*; *Eugenia caryophyllus*; *Cinnamomum zeylanicum*; Honey.

Introduction

When it occurs suddenly and frequently, a cough aids in clearing the big breathing passages of fluids, irritants, foreign objects, and bacteria. Coughing is typically completely natural. Coughing may aid in the removal of mucus and other irritants from the throat. However, persistent coughing can also be a sign of a variety of diseases. The cough reflex typically involves three phases: an inhale, a forced exhalation against a closed glottis, and a sudden expulsion of air from the lungs once the glottis opens up. There are two types of coughing: forced and unforced^[4]. Coughing is one of the most common health issues. Additionally, respiratory tract infections like the common cold, acute bronchitis, pneumonia, pertussis, flu, and smoking, as well as medical conditions like asthma, TB, and lung cancer, can cause coughing. Chest pain, congestion, and an itchy throat are a few signs of a cough. Repeated coughing causes irritation and discomfort, both of which lead to additional coughing. In addition to suppressing the cough, cough suppressants also help to ease the discomfort brought on by frequent coughing. Back discomfort, headaches, fever, and malaise are examples of extra thoracic symptoms that may need symptomatic therapy. Expectorants and antitussive medicines are the mainstays of cough treatment^[2, 3].

Jellies are semi-solid preparations that are clear or translucent, non-greasy, and intended for both internal and external use. With or without water, you can chew or swallow them^[3, 4]. Nowadays, jelly candies are particularly popular among kids because they like to chew them and because they offer an option to solid and liquid dose forms for delivering medications^[5, 6]. Medicated jelly can treat both systemic and local conditions, including those affecting the oral cavity. Medicated jellies can absorb medication into the pre-gastric, gastric, and post-gastric parts of the gastrointestinal tract, as well as local Oro mucosal tissues^[7, 8].

Today, people frequently use herbal therapies to treat coughs. Additionally, herbal medications and herbal preparations are crucial in treating a variety of coughs. Today, we employ medications like cough suppressants as therapy. The antitussive medication only alleviates symptoms. Herbal jelly, a product of concentrated extracts of medicinal plants, uses agar, pectin, or gelatin as its substrate. Honey is added to the base of jelly before adding the extracts of various herbs, including *Ocimum sanctum* (Tulsi), *Adhatoda vasika* (Adulsa), *Elettaria cardamom* (Cardamom), *Zingiber officinale* (Ginger), *Mentha piperita* (Peppermint), *Glycyrrhiza glabra* (Liquorice), *Eugenia caryophyllus* (Clove), and *Cinnamomum zeylanicum* (Cinnamon) to the base of jelly with the addition of honey^[9].

Méthodes

Materials⁽¹⁰⁻¹⁵⁾

Table 1 describes the list of ingredients used in formulation of herbal pediatrics jelly.

Table 1. List of ingredients used in formulation of herbal pediatrics jelly.

| Sr. No. | Ingredients | Botanical Name | Active constituents | Uses |
|---------|-------------|---------------------------|--|--|
| 1 | Tulsi | <i>Ocimum sanctum</i> | Eugenol, Carvacrol | Antimicrobial, Antitussive, Antidepressant, Insecticidal, Spasmolytic, Immunomodulatory agent. |
| 2 | Liquorice | <i>Glycyrrhiza glabra</i> | Glycyrrhizin, Glycetrhinicacid, Glycyrrhizic acid. | Demulcent, Expectorant, Anti-inflammatory, Laxative, Sweetening agent. |
| 3 | Adulsa | <i>Adhatoda vasika</i> | Vasicine, Vasinonone | Antitussive, Antimicrobial, Anti-inflammatory. |

| Sr. No. | Ingredients | Botanical Name | Active constituents | Uses |
|---------|-------------|------------------------------|---|---|
| 4 | Ginger | <i>Zingiber officinale</i> | Zingiberin, gingerols, Cineole, sesquiterpene hydrocarbon | Anti-inflammatory, Antihistaminic, Antiemetic, Spasmolytic, Aromatic stimulant. |
| 5 | Peppermint | <i>Mentha piperita</i> | Menthone, Menthol, Cineole, limonene, Methyl acetate | Sinus infections, Common cold, Bronchitis, Aromatic stimulant. |
| 6 | Cardamom | <i>Elettaria Cardamomum</i> | Cineole, Eugenol, Limonene, Borneol | Antimicrobial, Antioxidant, Flavouring agent, Aromatic carminative. |
| 7 | Clove | <i>Eugenia caryophyllus</i> | Eugenol, Acetyl eugenol, Gallotannic acid | Antiseptic, Stimulant, Carminative, Flavouring agent, Expectorant. |
| 8 | Cinnamon | <i>Cinnamomum zeylanicum</i> | Cinnamaldehyde, Eugenol, Terpene hydrocarbon | Analgesic, Antiseptic, Expectorant, Antibacterial, Antifungal. |
| 9 | Honey | <i>Apis mellifera</i> | Eugenol, Ferulic acid, Caffeic acid, Gallic acid | Anti-inflammatory, Antioxidant, Antibacterial, Natural sweetener, Preservative. |
| 10 | Sucrose | - | - | Sweetening agent, Preservative. |
| 11 | Gelatin | - | - | Gelling agent |
| 12 | Agar | - | - | Gelling agent |
| 13 | Water | - | - | Vehicle |



Figure 1: Herbal ingredients used for the formulation of jellies.

Formulae for preparation of Herbal Jellies

Table 2. Formulae of herbal edible jellies

| Sr. No | Ingredients | F1 | F2 | F3 | F4 | F5 | F6 | F7 | F8 | F9 |
|--------|-------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1 | Tulsi | 2 g | 2 g | 2 g | 2 g | 2 g | 2 g | 2 g | 2 g | 2 g |
| 2 | Liquorice | 2 g | 2 g | 2 g | 2 g | 2 g | 2 g | 2 g | 2 g | 2 g |
| 3 | Vasaka | 2 g | 2 g | 2 g | 2 g | 2 g | 2 g | 2 g | 2 g | 2 g |
| 4 | Peppermint | 0.5 g |
| 5 | Ginger | 0.5 g |
| 6 | Cardamom | 0.5 g |
| 7 | Clove | 0.2 g |
| 8 | Cinnamon | 0.2 g |
| 9 | Honey | 5 ml |
| 10 | Agar | - | 2.5 g | 1.5 g | 1.5 g | 2 g | 1g | 2 g | 1.5 g | 1.7 g |
| 11 | Gelatin | 3g | - | 1g | 2 g | 0.5 g | 2.5 g | 1 g | 1.5 g | 0.8 g |
| 12 | Sucrose | 33.35 g |
| 13 | Colour | q.s. |
| 14 | Flavour | 1ml |
| 15 | Water | 200ml |

Formulation and optimization of herbal jellies describe in Table 2 representing formulation F1 to F9 with various concentration of ingredients.

Preparation of Decoction of herbal ingredients

All herbal ingredients (*Ocimum sanctum*, *Glycyrrhiza glabra*, *Adhatoda vasika*, *Zingiber officinale*, *Mentha piperita*, *Elettaria cardamomum*, *Eugenia caryophyllus*, and *Cinnamomum zeylanicum*) were weighed accurately. Figure 1 shows Herbal ingredients used for the formulation of jellies. All herbs were transferred into 250 ml of RBF, and 200 ml of water was added to it. The mixture was refluxed at 60°C for 1 hour by using a heating mantle. The above mixture was filtered. The filtrate was boiled until the total volume became one fourth of the previous. Figure 2 shows the pictorial representation of preparation of decoction^[16-18].



Figure 2: Preparation of Decoction

Preparation of Herbal Jelly

All herbal ingredients (*Ocimum sanctum*, *Glycyrrhiza glabra*, *Adhatoda vasika*, *Zingiber officinale*, *Mentha piperita*, *Elettaria cardamomum*, *Eugenia caryophyllus*, and *Cinnamomum zeylanicum*) were weighed accurately. Figure 1 shows Herbal ingredients used for the formulation of jellies. All herbs were transferred into 250 ml of RBF, and 200 ml of water was added to it. The mixture was refluxed at 60°C for 1 hour by using a heating mantle. The above mixture was filtered. The filtrate was boiled until the total volume became one fourth of the previous. Figure 2 shows the pictorial representation of preparation of decoction^[19,20].

Evaluation of herbal jellies⁽²¹⁻²⁴⁾

Characterization of herbal jellies includes the following parameters:

Physical appearance:

Physical appearance of the herbal jellies' appearance, including colour, clarity, texture, transparency, consistency, and scent, is possible.

Determination of pH:

A digital pH meter can be used to determine the jelly's pH. The pH was measured after 0.5 g of the weighted formulation was dissolved in 50 ml of water.

Viscosity:

A Brookefield viscometer can be used to measure viscosity. Spindle number 4 can be used because the system is not Newtonian.

Content uniformity:

The jellies can be chosen and crushed in a mortar, and the final volume can be adjusted to the required amount by dissolving a mixture equal to that of the drug in 100 ml of volumetric flask containing 6.8 PH buffer. The solution can then be properly filtered, diluted, and subjected to spectrophotometric analysis using a UV spectrophotometer.

It becomes challenging to maintain polyherbal jellies' consistent content. A combination of various herbal elements is frequently included in the ingredients of polyherbal medical medicines.

In vitro dissolution study:

The dissolving media (900ml) and USP paddle device used in in-vitro dissolution studies can be maintained at 37°C +/- 0.5°C and 50 rpm. After 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 90, or 120 minutes, 5 ml of the sample can be removed, and the sink condition can be preserved by substituting fresh medium. Using a UV spectrophotometer, the sample's drug content can be determined. % drug release can then be computed.

Due to the extremely diverse ingredients, polyherbal medication dissolving testing becomes challenging. Dissolution technique development is significantly more difficult than it is for a defined single constituent since the contents of polyherbal medicinal goods sometimes include a mixture of several herbal constituents.

Disintegration test:

Disintegration tests can be utilised as an alternative to in vitro dissolving studies for polyherbal jellies. Six polyherbal jellies were chosen at random from various recipes to determine the disintegration time. The disintegration medium was 0.1N HCl, and the temperature was held constant at 37.0.5 °C. The duration of jellies' disintegration was recorded.



Figure 3: Disintegration test

Stability study:

According to ICH recommendations, a stability study of prepared herbal jellies was conducted by keeping the jellies at room temperature ($25^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 5^{\circ}\text{C}$ and RH $65\% \pm 5\%$). Every 30 days during the six-month stability trial, the formulations were examined for changes in their physical characteristics, such as appearance, pH, sugar crystallisation, and stiffness.

Syneresis:

The contraction and separation of water from jellies after storage is known as syneresis. Use of a lower concentration of the gelling agent is one of the main contributors to it.

Stickiness and Grittiness:

By lightly rubbing the herbal jellies between your fingertips, you may assess their stickiness and grittiness.

Antimicrobial assay:

Using the well diffusion method, an in vitro antibacterial research of the herbal extract against the pathogenic bacterial strain *E. coli* was conducted. *E. coli* initially multiplied in the agar plate while it was being grown. After striking the plate with inoculum, 5 mm diameter bores were made into the medium using a sterile cork borer. After that, produced extract was placed in the bores on the cultured plate, and the plate was incubated for 24 hours at 37°C . The plate was evaluated 24 hours after beginning the incubation process. Using a ruler and the zone of inhibition diameter, millimetres were recorded. A 4 mm zone of inhibition was discovered [\(25, 26\)](#).

Spreadability:

Between two glass slides, 2.5g of jelly was placed and then crushed to the appropriate thickness by holding a weight of 1000g for five minutes. The amount of time, measured in seconds, required to separate two slides. A shorter time span to reach the 7.5 cm distance revealed higher spreadability [\(27\)](#).

$$S = W L/T$$

Where,

S= Spreadability

W = Weight tide to upper slide

L = Length of glass slide

T = Time required to separate two slides

Results

The jellies were prepared by using herbal decoction with gelatin and agar as gelling agent. The prepared jellies were inspected visually and the results are shown in Table 3. The jellies were evaluated for their pH, Stickiness and Grittiness, and results are given in Table 4.

Table 3. Physical properties of oral edible jellies

| Sr. No. | Formulation | Colour | Odour | Texture | Taste | Clarity |
|---------|-------------|--------|----------|---------|-------|-------------|
| 1 | F1 | Yellow | Pleasant | Smooth | Sweet | Transparent |
| 2 | F2 | Green | Pleasant | Tough | Sweet | Transparent |
| 3 | F3 | Red | Pleasant | Smooth | Sweet | Transparent |
| 4 | F4 | Yellow | Pleasant | Smooth | Sweet | Transparent |
| 5 | F5 | Red | Pleasant | Smooth | Sweet | Transparent |
| 6 | F6 | Green | Pleasant | Smooth | Sweet | Transparent |
| 7 | F7 | Red | Pleasant | Smooth | Sweet | Transparent |
| 8 | F8 | Orange | Pleasant | Smooth | Sweet | Transparent |
| 9 | F9 | Orange | Pleasant | Smooth | Sweet | Transparent |

Above Table 3 describes the physical properties like colour, odour, texture, taste and clarity of formulated herbal jellies.

Table 4. pH, stickiness and grittiness of jellies

| Sr. No. | Formulation | pH | Stickiness | Grittiness |
|---------|-------------|------|------------|------------|
| 1 | F1 | 5.98 | Sticky | Nongritty |
| 2 | F2 | 5.76 | Non-sticky | Gritty |
| 3 | F3 | 5.38 | Non-sticky | Nongritty |
| 4 | F4 | 5.67 | Non-sticky | Nongritty |
| 5 | F5 | 5.65 | Non-sticky | Nongritty |
| 6 | F6 | 5.31 | Sticky | Nongritty |
| 7 | F7 | 5.47 | Non-sticky | Nongritty |
| 8 | F8 | 5.24 | Sticky | Nongritty |
| 9 | F9 | 5.51 | Non-sticky | Nongritty |

Table 4 representing the formulations F1 to F9 with pH, Stickiness and Grittiness.

Table 5. Disintegration, spreadability, and syneresis study of herbal edible jellies.

| Sr. No. | Formulation | Disintegration Time (Min.) | Spreadability (gcm/s) | Syneresis |
|---------|-------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| 1 | F4 | 23.34 | 9.67 | No syneresis |
| 2 | F5 | 26.00 | 8.80 | No syneresis |
| 3 | F7 | 25.12 | 9.31 | No syneresis |
| 4 | F9 | 24.09 | 9.43 | No syneresis |

Disintegration, spreadability, and syneresis study of herbal edible jellies for cough has shown in table 5. It becomes challenging to maintain polyherbal jellies' consistent content. A combination of various herbal elements is frequently included in the ingredients of polyherbal medical medicines. Due to the extremely diverse ingredients, polyherbal medication dissolving testing becomes challenging. Dissolution technique development is significantly more difficult than it is for a defined single constituent since the contents of polyherbal medicinal goods sometimes include a mixture of several herbal constituents.

Table 6. Stability study of herbal edible jellies.

| Formulations | Characteristics | After 1 month | After 2 months | After 3 months | After 4 months | After 5 months | After 6 months |
|--------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| F4 | Appearance | Smooth | Smooth | Smooth | Smooth | Smooth | Smooth |
| | pH | 5.64 | 5.66 | 5.61 | 5.59 | 5.64 | 5.62 |
| F5 | Appearance | Smooth | Smooth | Smooth | Smooth | Smooth | Smooth |
| | pH | 5.63 | 5.67 | 5.65 | 5.70 | 5.67 | 5.66 |
| F7 | Appearance | Smooth | Smooth | Smooth | Smooth | Smooth | Smooth |
| | pH | 5.49 | 5.44 | 5.48 | 5.51 | 5.47 | 5.50 |
| F9 | Appearance | Smooth | Smooth | Smooth | Smooth | Smooth | Smooth |
| | pH | 5.53 | 5.49 | 5.50 | 5.54 | 5.48 | 5.52 |

Stability study of selected formulations F4, F5 and F7 from 1 to 6 month with their pH and appearance were studied and shown in table 6.

Antimicrobial Assay

The antimicrobial activity of the formulation was evaluated using the Disc diffusion method in relation to the standard streptomycin against *Escherichia coli*. The formulation exhibited exceptionally strong antibacterial activity against *Escherichia coli*, out performing the zone of inhibition seen with conventional streptomycin. This implies a greater effectiveness in preventing *Escherichia coli* from growing. Using a ruler and the zone of inhibition diameter, millimeters were recorded. A 4 mm zone of inhibition was discovered.

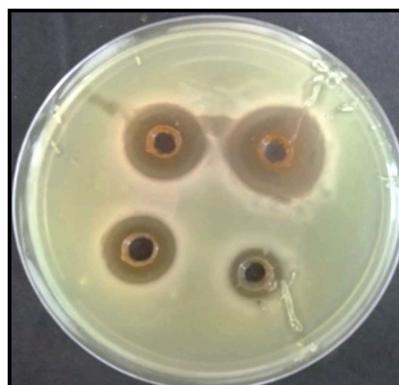


Figure 4: Zone of inhibition of herbal jellies in Antimicrobial assay

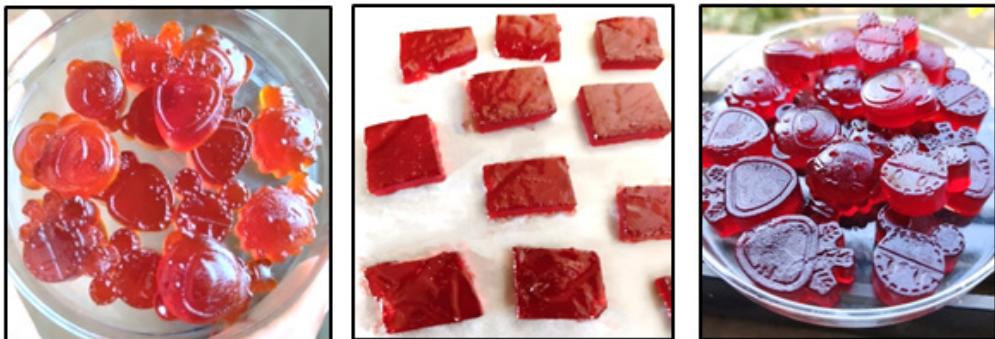


Figure 5: Images of formulated herbal edible jellies.

Discussion

The jellies were prepared by using herbal decoction with gelatin and agar as gelling agent. The prepared jellies were inspected visually and the results are shown in Table 3. The gelling agent jellies formulated with agar are non-sticky and gritty (F2). The jellies formulated using gelatin as a gelling agent is very smooth and sticky (F1). Combining agar and gelatin resulted in jellies that were non-sticky, non-gritty, transparent, and exhibited a good appearance (F4, F5, F7 and F9). We measured the pH of all formulations using a digital pH meter, and found that all formulations fell within the pH 5–6 range.

We further evaluated the formulations F4, F5, F7, and F9 for disintegration time, stability study, spreadability, and synthesis. Table 5 presents the results of disintegration, syneresis, and spreadability.

We found that the disintegration times for formulae F4, F5, F7, and F9 were 23.34, 26.00, 25.12, and 24.09 minutes, respectively, indicating good jelly disintegration. We found the spreadability of formulae F4, F5, F7, and F9 to be 9.67, 8.80, 9.31, and 9.43 g/s, respectively, indicating their good spreadability. These formulae do not exhibit syneresis upon storage.

We carried out the stability study of the formulated jellies by storing them at room temperature (25°C–5°C and RH 65%–5%) in accordance with ICH guidelines. We periodically checked the jellyfish every 30 days for 6 months for changes in their appearance, sugar crystallization, stiffness, and pH. Table 6 summarizes the information. The findings showed that the pH and appearance of the optimized formulation remained unchanged. The formulated jelly undergoes a 6-month stability study. So, the formulated jelly can be stable up to 6 months. Figure 4 shows the Zone of inhibition of herbal jellies in Antimicrobial assay, indicates the antimicrobial activity of formulated jellies. The formulation exhibited exceptionally strong antibacterial activity against *Escherichia coli*, outperforming the zone of inhibition seen with conventional streptomycin. Figure 5 pictorials of formulated herbal edible jellies for cough.

Conclusion

The present study successfully formulated edible jelly loaded with extracts from various herbs. Agar and gelatin were used as jelling agents. The optimized formulations F4, F5, F7, and F9 showed excellent appearance, texture, and no grittiness. The pH of the optimized formulations was between 5 and 6. We found that the optimized formulations had a disintegration time of 23 to 27 minutes and a spreadability of 8.5 to 10 gcm/s respectively. Optimized formulations did not show syneresis. The jellies showed excellent stability up to 6 months. The data revealed that the optimized formulation had not shown any change in their appearance or pH. So, the formulated jelly can be stable for up to 6 months. The formulations exhibited excellent antimicrobial activity, which is suitable to administer to children as an alternative oral solid dosage form.

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Notas metodológicas

Desde la necesidad de información a la estrategia de búsqueda, pasando por el formato PICO

From the need for information to the search strategy to the PICO format

Antonio Olry de Labry-Lima^{1,2,3}  0000-0001-5448-1370

Silvia Tortosa-La Osa^{4,5}  0000-0002-4559-3095

Eva Martín-Ruiz^{6,7}  0000-0003-1509-1198

¹Centro Andaluz de Información del Medicamento (CADIME), Escuela Andaluza de Salud Pública (EASP), Campus Universitario de Cartuja, Granada, España.

²CIBER de Epidemiología y Salud Pública, Instituto de Salud Carlos III, Madrid, España.

³Instituto de Investigación Biosanitaria Ibs. Granada. Hospitales Universitarios de Granada/Universidad de Granada, Granada, España.

⁴Improving Economies for Stronger Communities (IESC), Santo Domingo, República Dominicana.

⁵Doctoranda. Programa Interuniversitario de Doctorado en Ciencias de la Salud, Universidad de Sevilla, España.

⁶Escuela Andaluza de Salud Pública (EASP), Campus Universitario de Cartuja, Granada, España.

⁷Universidad de Sevilla, Facultad de Enfermería, Fisioterapia y Podología, Departamento de Enfermería, Sevilla, España.

Correspondencia

Eva Martín Ruiz

emruiz@us.es

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Conflicto de intereses

Los autores del presente artículo declaran que no están sujetos a ningún conflicto de interés relacionado con el tema tratado que pueda afectar al diseño, el análisis o la presentación de resultados.

Contribución de los autores

Todos los autores han contribuido en la elaboración del manuscrito y han aprobado la versión final.

Resumen

Dado el crecimiento exponencial de la producción científica, resulta imprescindible que profesionales y la comunidad universitaria dispongan de herramientas y competencias para hacer eficiente la búsqueda de información relevante. Las necesidades de información requieren ser trabajadas y transformadas en preguntas susceptibles de ser contestadas, para lo que resulta de gran utilidad la adaptación al formato PICO: acrónimo de Paciente, Intervención, Comparación y Resultados (*outcomes* en inglés). La utilización de esta fórmula servirá para la identificación de los elementos fundamentales de dicha pregunta, así como guía durante todo el proceso búsqueda de información, ayudando en la definición y construcción de la estrategia de búsqueda. Este trabajo presenta las claves para la formulación de preguntas en formato PICO con el objetivo de avanzar en nuestras búsquedas bibliográficas.

Palabras clave: Metodología; Investigación Interdisciplinaria; Almacenamiento y Recuperación de la Información / métodos; Práctica Clínica Basada en la Evidencia

Abstract

Scientific production is experiencing exponential growth, making it essential for professionals and the academic community to possess tools and skills for efficiently retrieving relevant information. To address this need, information must be reformulated into answerable questions, with the PICO format (an acronym for Patient, Intervention, Comparison, and Outcome) proving particularly useful. Utilizing this framework will facilitate the identification of critical elements within our question and serve as a guide throughout the information retrieval process, aiding in the development and structuring of search strategies. This paper outlines the principles for formulating questions using the PICO format to enhance the efficacy of literature searches.

Keywords: Methodology; Interdisciplinary Research; Information Storage and Retrieval / methods; Evidence-Based Practice

Como profesionales de la salud, en nuestro día a día nos enfrentamos a necesidades o actualización de información para la toma de decisiones, proceso en el que la mejor alternativa vendrá determinada por el acceso a las mejores evidencias disponibles.⁽¹⁾ Las principales fuentes de información a las que acudir son: las consultas a otros profesionales, conferencias o seminarios, publicidad, representantes de la industria farmacéutica, guías de práctica clínica (GPC), documentos de consenso, editoriales, artículos originales y revisiones.⁽²⁾ Las GPC, artículos originales y revisiones son las fuentes de información más recomendadas.

En los últimos años ha aumentado vertiginosamente el número de artículos publicados. Diariamente a nivel mundial se publican unos 142 ensayos clínicos⁽³⁾ y 80 revisiones sistemáticas.⁽⁴⁾ Se estima que un profesional necesitaría aproximadamente entre 17 a 20 horas diarias para estar al día en su área de conocimiento. Para poder hacer una lectura crítica que evite publicaciones innecesarias, sesgadas y con posibles conflictos de interés, es de suma importancia realizar búsquedas en la literatura científica manejando ciertas herramientas y conceptos que permitan afrontarla adecuadamente.

La búsqueda bibliográfica se define como el proceso de identificar qué se sabe sobre un tema: qué se ha investigado, cómo se ha investigado, cuáles son las brechas.⁽⁵⁾ El primer paso en dicho proceso consiste en la transformación de la necesidad de información en una pregunta susceptible de ser respondida. Así, la formulación de dicha pregunta es un aspecto crucial para el logro de nuestras respuestas y debe ser cuidadosamente realizada ya que guiará el proceso y lo hará más eficiente. El acrónimo *FINER* subraya diferentes aspectos a tener en cuenta,⁽⁵⁾ así la pregunta debe ser:

- *Factible*: en términos de viabilidad, de suficientes recursos para dar respuesta a la pregunta, adecuados conocimientos, medios disponibles, etc.
- *Interesante*: tanto desde el punto de vista clínico como de investigación.
- *Novedosa*: que los resultados esperados aporten aspectos nuevos o sean una extensión de resultados previos.
- *Ética*: que tenga en consideración principios éticos de la investigación y deontología profesional.
- *Relevante*: posible influencia sobre la práctica clínica, futuras investigaciones y/o las políticas sanitarias.

Cuanto más concreta sea la pregunta, más posibilidades tendremos de obtener unos resultados satisfactorios y más fácil será de escribir y leer.⁽⁵⁾

Posteriormente, hay que desglosar esa pregunta según el formato *PICO*.⁽⁶⁾ Este formato ayuda a convertir la necesidad de información en una pregunta susceptible a ser contestada y guiar la estrategia de búsqueda.⁽⁷⁾ Contribuye a una correcta organización y estructuración del proceso de búsqueda evitando problemas en fases más avanzadas de la búsqueda bibliográfica.⁽⁶⁾

Los diferentes componentes del formato *PICO*⁽⁷⁾ son:

- *P (pacientes)*: características de los participantes, tipo de pacientes a estudiar o patología de la que surge o se refiere la pregunta.
- *I (intervenciones)*: datos respecto de la tecnología o intervención que se quiere analizar.
- *C (comparaciones)*: otras técnicas u opciones de tratamiento, cuidados habituales, placebo...
- *O (outcomes; resultados)*: medida de eficacia o efectividad de las intervenciones o de la calidad de vida de los pacientes.

Según la pregunta existen variantes del formato PICO:

- Formato *PICOS* y *PICOT*: en PICOS la “S” hace referencia al tipo de diseño; en PICOT, la “T” se refiere a la temporalidad.
- Formato *PEO*: P (pacientes), E (exposición) y O (resultados), donde se quiere evaluar la exposición.

Otros formatos más específicos del ámbito de las intervenciones en salud pública son:⁽⁷⁾

- **SPICE:** (S) enclave, entorno (setting), (P) perspectiva, (I) intervención, (C) comparación, (E) evaluación.
- **ECLIPSE:** (E) expectativas (mejora, innovación o información), (C) clientes (destinatarios del servicio), (L) localización (dónde seemplaza el servicio), (I) impacto (¿cuál es el cambio en el servicio que se busca?, ¿cómo se mide?), (P) profesionales implicados y servicio.
- **SPIDER** (para estudios cualitativos): (S) muestra (sample), (P) fenómeno de interés (phenomenon of interest), (D) diseño, (E) evaluación, (R) tipo de investigación (research type).

La naturaleza de la pregunta determinará el tipo de estudio más adecuado para ofrecer respuestas. Así, para preguntas de intervención, el diseño más adecuado será el ensayo clínico aleatorizado, para las preguntas sobre etiología, serán los diseños de casos y controles o cohortes, para las preguntas relacionadas con pronóstico será el estudio de cohortes y para las preguntas de diagnóstico, serán los estudios de evaluación de pruebas diagnósticas trasversales o cohorte.

En la Tabla 1 se muestra una plantilla para ayudar a la identificación de los elementos del formato PICO⁽⁸⁾ según la naturaleza de la pregunta de investigación.

Tabla 1. Los elementos del formato PICO según tipo de pregunta. Ejemplos:

| Tipo de pregunta | Definición | Plantillas | Ejemplo |
|-------------------------|---|---|---|
| Intervención o terapia | Determinar cuál es el mejor tratamiento para obtener el mejor resultado | In_____ (P), How does_____ (I), Compared with_____ (C), Affect_____ (O), Within_____ (T) | En personas con elevado Riesgo Cardio-vascular (P), el tratamiento hipolipemiante (I) comparado con no indicar tratamiento farmacológico (C), afecta a la reducción del riesgo estimado por SCORE (O), en un plazo de 6 meses (T) |
| Etiología | Determinar el mayor factor de riesgo que causa una condición | Are_____ (P), Who have_____ (I), Compared with those without_____ (C), At risk for _____ (O), Over_____ (T) | Las mujeres mayores de 60 años (P), que realizan actividad física regular al menos 3 veces a la semana (I), frente a mujeres sedentarias (C), presentan mejor calidad de vida relacionada con la salud (O) |
| Diagnóstica | Determinar qué prueba diagnóstica presenta mejores parámetros o precisión para diagnosticar una determinada condición | In_____ (P), Are/is_____ (I), Compared with_____ (C), More accurate in diagnosis_____ (O) | En personas con sospecha de enfermedad celíaca (P), las pruebas serológicas mediante tTG (IgA) (I) comparadas con la biopsia intestinal (C) ofrece mayor precisión en el diagnóstico de la enfermedad (O) |
| Pronóstico o predicción | Determinar el curso clínico en un determinado tiempo y complicaciones más probables de una condición | In_____ (P), How does_____ (I), Compared with_____ (C), Influence_____ (O), Over _____ (T) | En personas mayores de 70 años (P), es la presencia de depresión (I), comparado con la ausencia de depresión (C), un factor predictivo de la aparición de demencia (O), durante los últimos 2 años (T) |
| Significado | Comprender el significado de una experiencia para un individuo, grupo o comunidad | How do_____ (P), With _____ (I), Perceive_____ (O), During_____ (T) | Como las personas supervivientes de suicidio (P), que participan en grupos de ayuda mutua (I), perciben beneficios y mejora en su calidad de vida relacionada con la salud (O) |

Adaptado de Stillwell SB, et al. (2010)⁽⁸⁾ y elaboración propia

El paso siguiente consiste en la selección de los términos de búsqueda relacionados con cada componente de la pregunta, y determinar así la estrategia de búsqueda. La estrategia de búsqueda se define como el conjunto de términos que, tras la consulta con la/s base/s de datos, dará acceso a los recursos de información pertinentes para responder la pregunta. Dicha estrategia debe basarse en los principales conceptos que se analizan y se requiere la búsqueda de los términos correspondientes:

- Términos controlados: conocidos como “descriptores”, son términos utilizados para la indexación de artículos en las bases de datos. Las principales bases de datos para identificar estos términos son *Medical Subject Headings* (MeSH) y EMTREE para las bases de datos PubMed (MedLine) y Embase, respectivamente.
- Términos libres: representan las palabras textuales y sus sinónimos, variaciones de grafía, siglas y correlatos.

Un ejemplo entre los términos libres y controlados (tesauros) es “cancer”, término ampliamente conocido, que no es el utilizado para indexar artículos. Así, el término controlado relacionado con “cancer” es “neoplasm”. Al realizar una búsqueda en PubMed con el término libre “cancer”, se recuperan 5.121.124 resultados de publicaciones, mientras que, si aplicamos en la búsqueda el término “neoplasm”, los resultados son 4.072.050.

La construcción de la estrategia de búsqueda con términos controlados proporcionará resultados precisos, mientras que al usar términos libres se gana exhaustividad. Lo recomendable es, por tanto, utilizar una combinación de ambos⁽⁹⁾ según la naturaleza de la pregunta así como lo conocido o estudiado sobre el tema.

Los términos se combinan mediante operadores lógicos o booleanos, siendo los más importantes:

- **AND** (intersección): sirve para restringir, buscar documentos con ambos términos.
- **OR** (suma o unión): cuando unimos dos términos con este operador obtendremos uno u otro o ambos.
- **NOT** (exclusión): el término que sigue al operador no debe encontrarse.

La Figura 1 muestra la recomendación para combinar los elementos que componen la pregunta en formato PICO aplicando los operadores booleanos en la construcción de la estrategia de búsqueda.

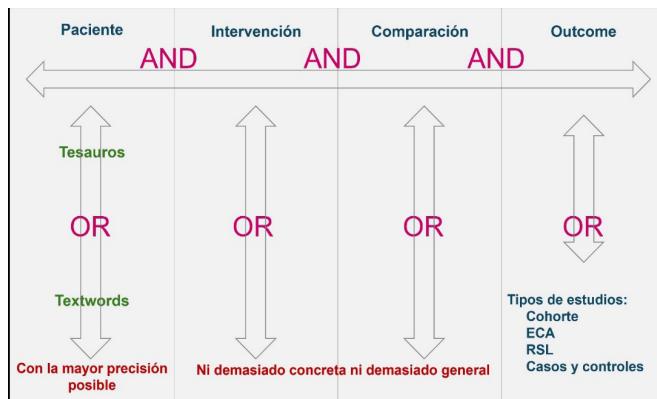


Figura 1. Construcción de una estrategia de búsqueda aplicando el formato PICO y los operadores booleanos.
Fuente: elaboración propia.

El proceso descrito en este trabajo sirve de guía para convertir y transformar una necesidad de información, en una búsqueda de literatura eficaz que permita a un conjunto de profesionales de la salud responder a sus preguntas y actualizar así sus conocimientos de manera eficiente y eficaz.

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Artículos de revisión

Estrategias Audiovisuales aplicadas en el desarrollo de clases prácticas en estudiantes universitarios

Audiovisual strategies applied in the development of practical classes for university students

Jenny Huerta León¹  0000-0003-4744-7830

Herbert Robles Mori¹  0000-0002-5937-5937

¹Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, Facultad de Educación, Lima, Perú.

Correspondencia

Jenny Huerta León
jenny.huerta@uma.edu.pe

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Resumen

Introducción: Las clases prácticas son fundamentales en la formación universitaria, pero su efectividad se ve obstaculizada por factores coyunturales. Las estrategias audiovisuales surgen como herramientas valiosas que fortalecen el aprendizaje y promueven competencias para la autonomía educativa. El objetivo de la investigación es comprender el valor de las estrategias audiovisuales en la enseñanza durante las clases prácticas universitarias.

Método: Se revisaron documentos científicos sobre el uso de estrategias audiovisuales en educación, y su aplicación durante la pandemia de la COVID-19. Se analizó el empleo de YouTube, simulaciones y aula invertida, se centró en su integración en la enseñanza universitaria.

Resultados: La revisión documental destacó el poder de las estrategias audiovisuales, como el aula invertida y las simulaciones virtuales, para facilitar el aprendizaje activo y profundo, especialmente a través del uso de imágenes visuales.

Conclusiones: Las ventajas de utilizar estrategias audiovisuales en las clases prácticas son evidentes. La evidencia sugiere que su uso no solo mejora la retención y comprensión de los contenidos, sino que también promueve un aprendizaje más interactivo y participativo. Para maximizar estos beneficios, es importante abordar los desafíos identificados y realizar más investigaciones en una variedad de disciplinas y contextos educativos. Además, se recomienda desarrollar políticas y programas educativos que promuevan la integración de recursos audiovisuales en el currículum universitario.

Palabras clave: clases; enseñanza; recursos audiovisuales.

Abstract

Introduction: Practical classes are fundamental in university education, but their effectiveness is hindered by circumstantial factors. Audiovisual strategies emerge as valuable tools that strengthen learning and promote competencies for educational autonomy. The objective of this research is to understand the value of audiovisual strategies in teaching during university practical classes.

Method: Scientific papers on the use of audiovisual strategies in education and their application during the COVID-19 pandemic were reviewed. The use of YouTube, simulations and inverted classroom was analyzed, focusing on their integration in university teaching.

Results: The documentary review highlighted the power of audiovisual strategies, such as the flipped classroom and virtual simulations, to facilitate active and deep learning, especially through the use of visual images.

Conclusions: The advantages of using audiovisual strategies in practical classes are evident. Evidence suggests that their use not only improves retention and comprehension of content, but also promotes more interactive and participatory learning. To maximize these benefits, it is important to address the identified challenges and conduct further research in a variety of disciplines and educational contexts. In addition, it is recommended to develop educational policies and programs that promote the integration of audiovisual resources into the university curriculum.

Keywords: classes; teaching; audio-visual resources.

Puntos clave

En un entorno educativo cada vez más dinámico y tecnológicamente avanzado, el uso de recursos audiovisuales se presenta como una herramienta fundamental para enriquecer el proceso de enseñanza-aprendizaje y mejorar la experiencia educativa de los estudiantes. Este estudio aborda específicamente la implementación de estrategias audiovisuales en el contexto de las clases prácticas universitarias⁽¹⁾.

Introducción

La necesidad de esta investigación surge de la importancia reconocida de las clases prácticas en la formación académica de los estudiantes universitarios⁽²⁾, así como de los desafíos y limitaciones que enfrentan en su implementación. Aspectos como la falta de tiempo, la complejidad de los conceptos y la necesidad de adaptación a nuevos entornos educativos, especialmente en el contexto de la pande-

mia de la COVID-19⁽³⁾, resaltan la importancia de explorar nuevas estrategias pedagógicas que puedan superar estas barreras y mejorar la efectividad de las clases prácticas.

En este sentido, el uso de estrategias audiovisuales se presenta como una opción prometedora. La combinación de elementos visuales y auditivos no solo facilita la comprensión y retención de información, sino que también estimula la participación activa de los estudiantes y fomenta un ambiente de aprendizaje interactivo y dinámico⁽⁴⁾. Las tecnologías audiovisuales ofrecen la posibilidad de adaptarse a diferentes estilos de aprendizaje y necesidades individuales, lo que las convierte en una herramienta versátil y accesible para estudiantes de diversas disciplinas y niveles de habilidad⁽⁵⁾.

El objetivo principal es comprender el valor de las estrategias audiovisuales en la enseñanza durante las clases prácticas universitaria. Para ello, se explora diferentes enfoques y metodologías de implementación, así como sus impactos en el proceso de enseñanza-aprendizaje y el desempeño académico de los estudiantes⁽⁶⁾. Asimismo, se analiza las percepciones y experiencias de docentes y estudiantes con respecto al uso de recursos audiovisuales en el aula, con el fin de identificar buenas prácticas y áreas de mejora⁽⁷⁾.

A través de esta investigación, se espera contribuir al cuerpo de conocimientos existente sobre el uso de estrategias audiovisuales en la educación superior, proporcionando evidencia empírica y recomendaciones prácticas para mejorar la calidad y eficacia de las clases prácticas universitarias⁽⁸⁾. Además, se espera que los hallazgos de este estudio puedan servir de base para futuras investigaciones en este campo y para el desarrollo de políticas y programas educativos orientados a promover la integración de recursos audiovisuales en el currículo universitario⁽⁹⁾.

Métodos

La estrategia de búsqueda se diseñó para identificar documentos científicos pertinentes que tratan sobre el uso de enfoques audiovisuales en la educación, incluyendo lo sucedido durante la pandemia de la COVID-19. Se realizaron búsquedas exhaustivas en varias bases de datos, Scopus, Scielo y Latindex. Se utilizaron una combinación de palabras clave relacionadas con el tema de estudio, como “enfoques audiovisuales”, “educación en línea”, “YouTube”, “simulaciones”, “laboratorios virtuales” y “aula invertida”, entre otras. No se impuso ninguna restricción en cuanto al idioma de los documentos, sin embargo, se priorizó la inclusión de estudios en inglés y español debido a su relevancia en el contexto de la investigación. Durante el proceso de búsqueda, se utilizaron operadores booleanos como “and” y “or” para refinar los resultados y garantizar la relevancia de los documentos seleccionados.

Se aplicaron criterios de inclusión y exclusión para seleccionar los estudios pertinentes. Los criterios de inclusión se centraron en investigaciones publicadas en los últimos 8 años, con el fin de mantenerse actualizado con el contexto de la pandemia de la COVID-19. Además, se priorizaron los estudios que abordaban el uso de estrategias audiovisuales en entornos virtuales de aprendizaje, así como la integración de recursos audiovisuales en la enseñanza universitaria. Los criterios de exclusión incluyeron estudios que no cumplían con estos requisitos o que no estaban disponibles en idioma accesible para el equipo investigador.

Tras aplicar los criterios de inclusión y exclusión, se seleccionaron un total de 15 artículos que cumplían con los objetivos y alcances de la investigación. Estos 15 artículos fueron revisados detalladamente para su análisis.

Desarrollo

Ante la interrupción educativa causada por la COVID-19, las instituciones han tenido que adaptarse rápidamente, utilizando plataformas en línea para el empleo de recursos audiovisuales, especialmente a través de Internet. Esto ha provocado un cambio significativo en las metodologías de enseñanza y aprendizaje, superando limitaciones temporales y espaciales⁽⁵⁾.

Resaltando el valor de los videos en la educación para desarrollar habilidades lingüísticas y digitales en los estudiantes⁽¹⁰⁾, con la llegada de YouTube en 2005 se democratizó el acceso a estos recursos, ampliando así las posibilidades de enriquecer el aprendizaje en el aula. Esta disponibilidad ha fomentado el autoaprendizaje mediante la visualización de contenido temático⁽¹¹⁾.

Tabla 1. Resumen de los Estudios Revisados sobre Estrategias Audiovisuales en la Educación Universitaria

| Nº | Autor y Año | Enfoque Audiovisual Utilizado | Contexto de Aplicación | Resultados Clave | Aspectos Comunes |
|----|------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | Marino-Jiménez et al., 2020 | Videos Educativos | Educación Primaria | Mejora de la comprensión y retención | Uso de recursos audiovisuales |
| 2 | Del Valle-Ramón et al., 2020 | YouTube | Educación Secundaria | Fomento del autoaprendizaje | Enfoque en plataformas de video |
| 3 | Calvo et al., 2022 | Videos de Ejercicio | Personas Mayores | Promoción de ejercicio físico | Aplicación en diferentes edades |
| 4 | Barredo et al., 2021 | Formación Audiovisual | Adolescentes | Difusión de contenidos audiovisuales | Implementación en diversos contextos |
| 5 | Chávez et al., 2021 | Recursos Audiovisuales | Docentes y Estudiantes | Importancia durante la pandemia | Relevancia durante COVID-19 |
| 6 | França et al., 2023 | Videos Educativos | Estudiantes de Enfermería | Mejora de la comunicación | Videos educativos |
| 7 | Collado et al., 2021 | Aula Invertida | Educación Superior | Aprendizaje sostenible | Metodología de aula invertida |
| 8 | Betancur et al., 2023 | Microaprendizaje | Diversos Escenarios | Diseño de estrategias educativas | Microaprendizaje |
| 9 | Goián et al., 2021 | Proyectos Audiovisuales | Estudiantes Universitarios | Gestión durante la crisis COVID-19 | Gestión de proyectos durante crisis |
| 10 | Climent et al., 2021 | Videos Educativos | Enseñanza de Gramática | Mejora en la enseñanza de gramática | Enfoque en habilidades específicas |
| 11 | Temban et al., 2021 | YouTube Kids | Niños | Oportunidades de aprendizaje informal | Uso de YouTube |
| 12 | Torrado et al., 2000 | Competencias | Educación General | Reflexión sobre el desarrollo de competencias | Desarrollo de competencias |
| 13 | Tobón et al., 2010 | Pensamiento Complejo | Educación General | Formación integral y competencias | Formación integral |
| 14 | Zabalza et al., 2003 | Competencias Docentes | Profesores Universitarios | Desarrollo profesional | Desarrollo de competencias |
| 15 | Marroquin et al., 2022 | Constructivismo | Educación Digital | Construcción del conocimiento | Constructivismo |

La tabla presenta un resumen de los 15 estudios revisados sobre el uso de estrategias audiovisuales en la educación universitaria. Los estudios muestran consistentemente que las estrategias audiovisuales, como el uso de videos educativos, simulaciones virtuales y el aula invertida, tienen un impacto positivo en la comprensión, retención y participación de los estudiantes. Además, estas estrategias son especialmente efectivas en contextos de aprendizaje en línea y durante situaciones de crisis, como la pandemia de COVID-19. La implementación de estos recursos audiovisuales no solo mejora la calidad del proceso de enseñanza-aprendizaje, sino que también promueve la autonomía y el autoaprendizaje entre los estudiantes.

Formación basada en Competencias

La formación basada en competencias se enfoca en desarrollar habilidades prácticas y conocimientos aplicables en situaciones reales. La integración del video como herramienta educativa ha ganado importancia para el desarrollo lingüístico y las habilidades digitales de los estudiantes^[10]. Esto ha ampliado las oportunidades de aprendizaje en línea y ha fomentado el autoaprendizaje a través de la visualización de contenido temático^[11]. Los videos ofrecen múltiples beneficios como una presentación más efectiva de información, flexibilidad en el aprendizaje y una mayor participación de los estudiantes.

Además, se destaca la importancia de la eficacia, rentabilidad y efectividad en la implementación de estos principios para garantizar una educación equitativa y ciudadana^[12]. Estos principios implican la gestión adecuada de recursos y la obtención de resultados significativos en el desarrollo personal, social y económico.

Se define la competencia como los logros exhibidos en situaciones específicas, mientras que se relaciona con las habilidades y aptitudes necesarias para desempeñarse eficazmente en un área particular^[13]. La competencia va más allá del conocimiento teórico e implica la capacidad de aplicar esos conocimientos en contextos reales, junto con habilidades sociales, emocionales y éticas, lo que se puede desarrollar con la formación, la práctica y la experiencia continua^[14].

Constructivismo

El constructivismo postula que el individuo se desarrolla constantemente a través de sus interacciones con el entorno y con otros, construyendo activamente su conocimiento^[15]. Este proceso se ve influenciado por diversos factores, como los conocimientos previos y la actividad interna y externa relacionada con el conocimiento. Según esta perspectiva, el conocimiento no es una mera representación de la realidad, sino una construcción continua y significativa realizada por el propio individuo^[16]. Esta idea se complementa con la noción de que el desarrollo cognitivo implica la construcción de nuevas formas de conocimiento a lo largo del tiempo. También se destaca la importancia de las interacciones sociales y las herramientas culturales en la construcción del conocimiento situado. En resumen, el constructivismo enfatiza el papel activo del individuo en la edificación de su propio entendimiento del mundo, destacando la interacción constante con el entorno como un factor fundamental en este proceso.

Aplicaciones Educativas de los Recursos Audiovisuales

En su investigación se analiza el uso de elementos audiovisuales como herramientas para mejorar la adquisición de conocimientos^[17]. Se destaca la capacidad de las imágenes visuales para facilitar la comprensión de conceptos complejos, actuando como un puente entre la teoría y su representación visual. Además, se argumenta que la integración de tácticas audiovisuales en la educación se fundamenta en la adopción de tecnologías innovadoras y métodos pedagógicos efectivos, enriqueciendo así la experiencia de enseñanza-aprendizaje^[18].

Se resalta que los videos son recursos ampliamente utilizados en la educación, ofreciendo una presentación visual y auditiva de la información, flexibilidad en el acceso y la capacidad de fomentar la participación y colaboración de los estudiantes^[19].

Finalmente, se menciona que la aplicación de estrategias audiovisuales, como el desarrollo de micro videos, mejora el rendimiento académico, especialmente en entornos presenciales, al ser recursos atractivos y de fácil comprensión, permitiendo a los estudiantes establecer su propio ritmo de aprendizaje y seguimiento de los conocimientos^[20].

Aula invertida o Flipped Classroom

La implementación del Aula Invertida tiene un impacto significativo en el aprendizaje interactivo y la autonomía del estudiante. Esta metodología combina elementos presenciales y virtuales, permitiendo que los alumnos realicen actividades fuera del aula con herramientas multimedia, lo que profundiza en la comprensión de conceptos y facilita la colaboración en equipo^[21].

El enfoque del Aula Invertida involucra preparar y abordar los contenidos antes de la clase, lo que promueve una comprensión más activa y profunda por parte de los estudiantes. Además, fomenta el desarrollo de habilidades digitales al utilizar recursos multimedia^[22,23].

El Aula Invertida redefine la dinámica tradicional del proceso educativo al cambiar el orden de las actividades clave. Los profesores preparan material didáctico, que puede incluir videos, para que los estudiantes lo revisen antes de la clase. Durante las sesiones presenciales, se fomenta la participación activa de los estudiantes mediante el intercambio de ideas y la resolución de dudas, transformando el papel del docente en el de un guía^[24,25].

Estrategias Educativas Potenciadas por Simulaciones Virtuales

Los laboratorios virtuales desempeñan un papel fundamental en el aprendizaje interactivo y la independencia del estudiante al proporcionar un entorno didáctico estructurado que permite explorar conceptos básicos de manera accesible y flexible^[26]. Los docentes deben actualizarse constantemente para aprovechar al máximo las ventajas de estos laboratorios, cuya aceptación depende del diseño y la interactividad.

Estos recursos son esenciales en diversas asignaturas, desde biología hasta ingeniería, ya que facilitan la comunicación y la colaboración a través de diversas herramientas digitales. Además, se pueden utilizar para simular experimentos en entornos virtuales, proporcionando flexibilidad y autonomía al estudiante.

Los laboratorios virtuales y remotos no reemplazan a los convencionales, sino que los complementan al ofrecer una amplia gama de beneficios. Permiten a los estudiantes acceder a prácticas de laboratorio de manera segura y colaborativa, además de simular situaciones complejas que serían difíciles de abordar de otra manera. En resumen, estos laboratorios amplían las posibilidades de aprendizaje al proporcionar un entorno interactivo y accesible para estudiantes de diferentes ubicaciones geográficas^[27,28,29,30].

Laboratorios Virtuales Herramientas Esenciales para el Aprendizaje Activo

Los laboratorios virtuales han adquirido una importancia crucial en la educación en ciencias, tecnología e ingeniería, proporcionando una variedad de beneficios tanto para estudiantes como para educadores. Investigaciones recientes se han centrado en la creación de diseños multimedia adaptados a cursos prácticos específicos, como el de máquinas eléctricas, empleando métodos de análisis de necesidades y análisis front-end. Estos diseños, basados en modelos de laboratorio virtual, buscan ilustrar de manera virtual los principios y conceptos fundamentales relacionados con el funcionamiento de las máquinas eléctricas^[31].

A pesar de las ventajas que ofrecen los laboratorios virtuales, ha surgido el debate sobre su eficacia en comparación con los laboratorios físicos tradicionales. Los 15 estudios revisados han destacado la necesidad de mejorar continuamente el diseño de software para optimizar la efectividad de los laboratorios virtuales. Además, se ha observado que combinar tanto laboratorios virtuales como físicos puede ser más efectivo que utilizar uno solo, sobre todo en disciplinas como la medicina^[32].

Los laboratorios virtuales son una alternativa rentable y accesible en comparación con los laboratorios físicos tradicionales, sobre todo en entornos de educación técnica superior. Estos entornos virtuales permiten a los estudiantes realizar experimentos similares a los reales a través del acceso remoto, lo que facilita el intercambio de recursos entre instituciones y reduce los costos operativos. Aunque los laboratorios físicos siguen siendo satisfactorios para muchos estudiantes, especialmente aquellos en programas de ingeniería, la preferencia por los laboratorios virtuales está en aumento, especialmente entre aquellos que no residen cerca de sus instituciones educativas^[33].

La pandemia de la Covid-19 ha resaltado aún más la importancia de los laboratorios virtuales, especialmente en disciplinas como la ingeniería mecánica. Durante el confinamiento, los laboratorios virtuales surgieron como una alternativa crucial para que los estudiantes continuaran realizando experimentos y entendiendo conceptos de ingeniería sin la necesidad de instalaciones físicas. Los resultados

de programas de desarrollo docente y retroalimentación de estudiantes indican una recepción positiva hacia los laboratorios virtuales, con mejoras en el aprendizaje y la comprensión de conceptos⁽³⁴⁾.

La investigación ha confirmado la efectividad considerable de utilizar estrategias audiovisuales en las clases prácticas universitarias. Estas estrategias no solo mejoran la comprensión de los contenidos, sino que también estimulan la participación y motivación de los estudiantes, promoviendo así un aprendizaje más activo y profundo.

Resultados

Los 15 estudios revisados muestran un impacto notable de las estrategias audiovisuales en la retención y comprensión a largo plazo de los contenidos por parte de los estudiantes. La incorporación de recursos audiovisuales, como videos educativos, simulaciones virtuales y aulas invertidas, facilita la retención de información y mejora la comprensión de conceptos complejos.

Por ejemplo, el estudio de Marino-Jiménez et al. (2020) encontró que los estudiantes que utilizaron videos educativos en clases de matemáticas mostraron una mejora del 20% en sus calificaciones finales en comparación con aquellos que no utilizaron estos recursos. Del Valle-Ramón et al. (2020) reportó que las simulaciones virtuales en clases de ciencias permitieron a los estudiantes comprender mejor los procesos biológicos complejos, resultando en una retención de información un 25% superior a la de los métodos tradicionales.

Asimismo, Chávez et al. (2021) demostró que el uso de la metodología de aula invertida en clases de historia aumentó la participación activa de los estudiantes y mejoró su capacidad para aplicar conceptos históricos en contextos nuevos. Los estudiantes también informaron sentirse más motivados y comprometidos con el material de estudio.

Estos estudios destacan que los recursos audiovisuales no solo presentan la información de manera atractiva y accesible, sino que también fomentan un aprendizaje más interactivo y participativo. Los estudiantes tienen una mayor capacidad para recordar y entender los contenidos presentados visual y auditivamente en comparación con métodos de enseñanza tradicionales.

Discusión

Los resultados de esta revisión documental resaltan el impacto positivo de las estrategias audiovisuales en la educación universitaria, especialmente en la retención y comprensión de contenidos por parte de los estudiantes. Estos hallazgos están en consonancia con estudios previos, como los de Marino-Jiménez et al. (2020) y Del Valle-Ramón et al. (2020), que también señalaron mejoras significativas en el rendimiento académico y la participación de los estudiantes al utilizar recursos audiovisuales.

La inclusión de videos educativos, simulaciones virtuales y la metodología de aula invertida ha demostrado ser eficaz para facilitar el aprendizaje activo y profundo. En particular, los estudios revisados indican que los estudiantes no solo retienen mejor la información, sino que también son capaces de aplicar los conceptos aprendidos en contextos nuevos, lo que es esencial para el desarrollo de competencias críticas en la educación superior.

Los hallazgos de esta revisión tienen varias implicaciones prácticas. En primer lugar, sugieren que las instituciones de educación superior deberían considerar la integración de recursos audiovisuales en sus currículos para mejorar la calidad de la enseñanza y el aprendizaje. En segundo lugar, los docentes deben recibir capacitación adecuada para utilizar estas herramientas de manera efectiva, asegurando que las estrategias audiovisuales se implementen de manera coherente y alineada con los objetivos educativos.

A pesar de los beneficios observados, es importante reconocer las limitaciones de esta revisión. La mayoría de los estudios revisados se centraron en contextos específicos y disciplinas particulares, lo que puede limitar la generalización de los resultados. Además, algunos estudios no proporcionaron

datos detallados sobre la metodología utilizada, lo que dificulta la replicación y comparación directa de los hallazgos.

Para futuras investigaciones, sería valioso explorar el impacto de las estrategias audiovisuales en una variedad más amplia de disciplinas y contextos educativos. Además, se recomienda realizar estudios longitudinales para evaluar los efectos a largo plazo de estas estrategias en el rendimiento académico y el desarrollo de competencias de los estudiantes. Finalmente, investigar la percepción de los docentes y estudiantes sobre la eficacia de los recursos audiovisuales puede proporcionar información valiosa para mejorar su implementación y uso en la educación universitaria.

Conclusiones

Las ventajas de utilizar estrategias audiovisuales en las clases prácticas son evidentes. Se destacan el aumento del interés y la motivación de los estudiantes, la capacidad de visualizar conceptos abstractos de manera tangible, y el fomento de la participación, el pensamiento crítico y la creatividad. Los estudios revisados indican que los recursos audiovisuales, como los videos educativos, las simulaciones virtuales y el aula invertida, mejoran significativamente la retención y comprensión de los contenidos por parte de los estudiantes.

Formación Basada en Competencias: La integración de videos educativos ha demostrado ser eficaz en el desarrollo de competencias prácticas y habilidades digitales, facilitando un aprendizaje más interactivo y personalizado.

Constructivismo: El uso de estrategias constructivistas en combinación con recursos audiovisuales permite a los estudiantes construir su propio conocimiento de manera activa, mejorando su capacidad para aplicar conceptos en contextos reales.

Aula Invertida: La metodología de aula invertida fomenta una mayor participación y autonomía de los estudiantes, promoviendo un aprendizaje profundo y colaborativo mediante el uso de recursos multimedia.

Simulaciones Virtuales: Las simulaciones virtuales y los laboratorios en línea proporcionan un entorno seguro y flexible para que los estudiantes practiquen y exploren conceptos complejos, resultando en una comprensión más sólida y duradera.

Líneas de Trabajo Futuras:

Ampliar la Investigación: Realizar estudios en una variedad más amplia de disciplinas y contextos educativos para evaluar la efectividad de las estrategias audiovisuales en diferentes escenarios.

Estudios Longitudinales: Llevar a cabo estudios longitudinales para investigar los efectos a largo plazo de las estrategias audiovisuales en el rendimiento académico y el desarrollo de competencias.

Percepción de Docentes y Estudiantes: Investigar las percepciones de docentes y estudiantes sobre la eficacia de los recursos audiovisuales para mejorar su implementación y adaptación a las necesidades educativas.

Desarrollo de Políticas Educativas: Formular políticas y programas educativos que promuevan la integración de recursos audiovisuales en el currículo universitario, asegurando el acceso equitativo a la tecnología necesaria.

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