

An Evolving Approach to Gastro Retentive Drug Delivery System

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ABSTRACT

In recent years, many attempts have been made to enhance the drug's bioavailability and therapeutic effectiveness of oral dosage forms. Gastric retention and controlled drug delivery are advantageous to many drugs having a low absorption window and poor bioavailability for that, various gastro retentive approaches are available like floating, mucoadhesion, swelling, multi-particulate systems, super porous hydrogel, etc. have been discussed. It is known that differences in gastric physiology factors such as gastric pH and motility exhibit both intra and inter-subject variability demonstrating a significant impact on gastric retention time and drug delivery behavior. Oral delivery drugs were most the commonly used modality because of patient compliance and ease of administration. After oral administration of any drug, its bioavailability is affected by its residence time in stomach. This approach involves the development of a drug delivery system that can be delivered to the stomach. Some methods used to achieve gastric retention of drugs include the use of effervescence agents, mucoadhesive polymers and magnetic material. Our review article is in pursuit of giving detailed information about these methods and their designs, as well as factors that affect them.

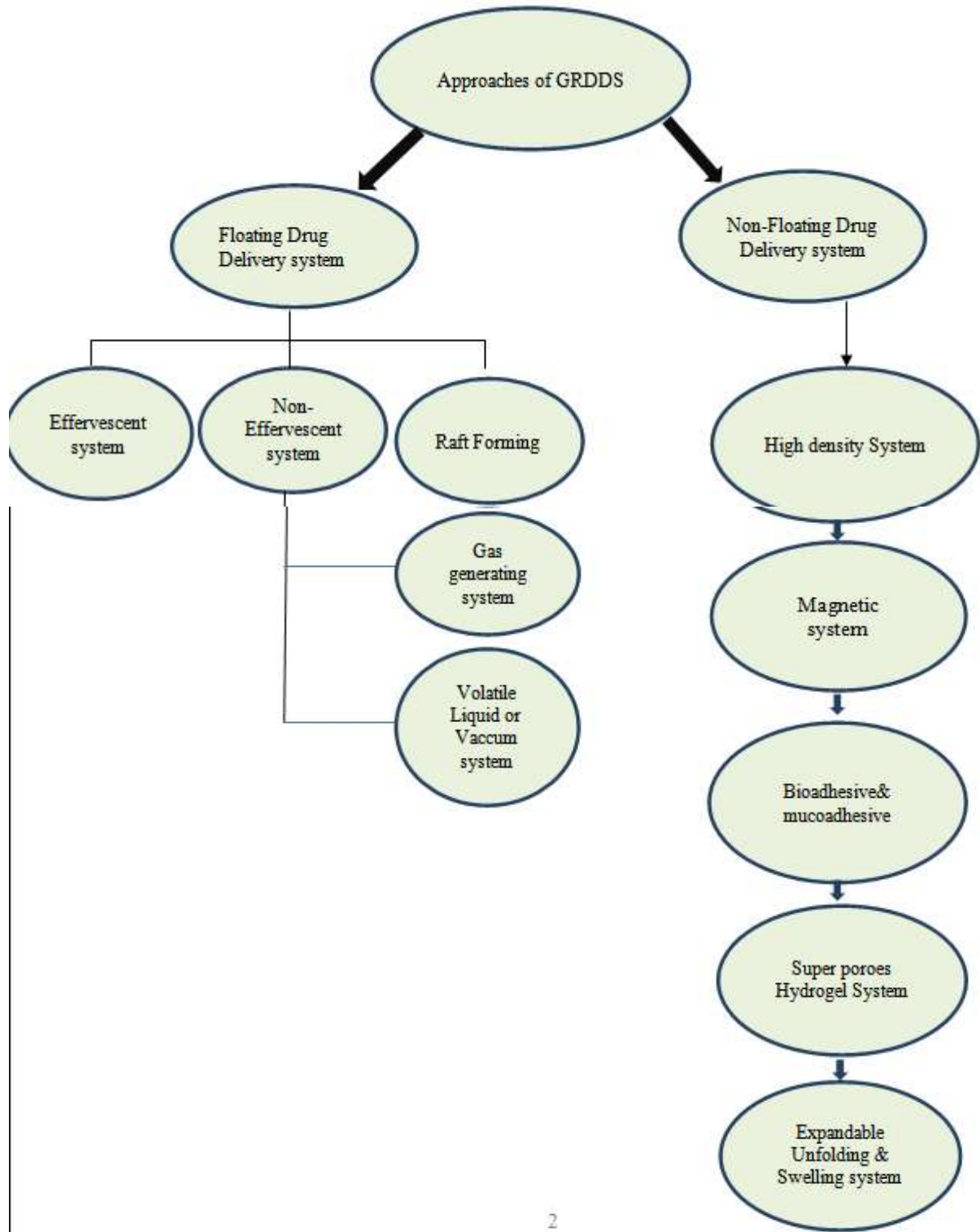
Key words: Mucoadhesion, FDDS, Polymers, Porous hydrogel.

I. INTRODUCTION

Gastro retentive drug delivery is a newly discovered drug main approach of this delivery is to prolong the drug's gastric reside specific getting

sits specific drug release in the upper GIT for local or systemic effects. Dosage forms formulated as gastroretentive drug system remain in the gastric region for prolonged periods^[1], The useful system for GRDDS is a magnetic system, mucoadhesive system, bio-adhesive system, floating drug delivery density system high-density system, drug expendable system etc., that system those system is to increase drug bioavailability prolonged period in system^[2]. GRDDS are suitable for those drugs, which are absorbed from the stomach (e.g. albuterol)^[3], labile at alkaline pH (e.g. ranitidine and metformin)^[4] poorly soluble at alkaline pH (e.g. furosemide and diazepam)^[5] and having a narrow window of absorption (e.g. riboflavin and levodopa)^[6]. Floating Drug Delivery Systems (FDDS) have a bulk density lower than gastric fluids and thus remain buoyant in the stomach for a prolonged period, without affecting the gastric emptying rate^[7]. The development of gastroretentive drug delivery systems (GRDDS) as a novel strategy for the controlled release of various medicines was pioneered^[8,9]. Such systems can remain in the GIT for a prolonged time to deliver the active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) from its dosage form into the GIT.^[10,11] These devices can release medications at the chosen pace and uptake region for a perpetuated length of time.^[12]

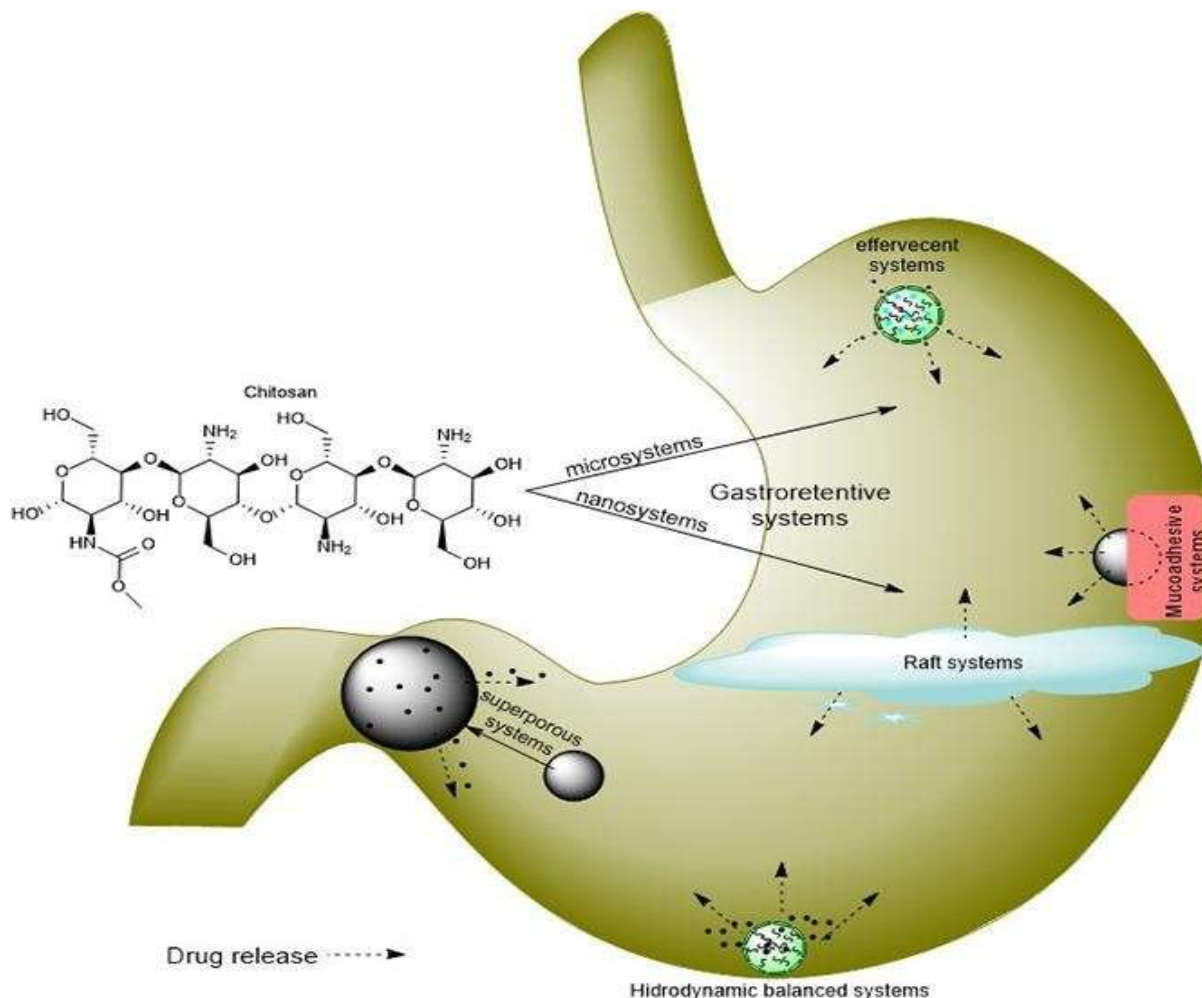
APPROACHES:



Floating Drug Delivery System ^[13]

Initially, the floating drug delivery system was introduced by sir Davis in the year 1968. These systems remain buoyant due to lower density

and provide continuous drug release. In this way, they increase the GRT of the drug and improve its bioavailability. ^[14]



Properties for FDDS

- Slow drug release
- Act as a drug reservoir
- Bulk density should be lower than gastric fluid (Approximately 1.004 – 1.0gm/cm).
- Must form a cohesive gel barrier

I. Effervescent

These types of systems are prepared by using swellable polymers, such as methylcellulose and chitosan, and effervescent compounds, such as sodium cyanate, tartaric acid, and citric acid. When they contact with acidic gastric contents, CO₂ is liberated and gets entrapped in swollen hydrocolloids that provide buoyancy to the dosage

form. ^[15]

II. Non-Effervescent

Non-effervescent dosage forms are formulated with a gel forming hydrocolloid, polysaccharides and matrix forming polymers such as polycarbonate, polyacrylate, polymethacrylate and polystyrene. The drug is thoroughly mixed together with these ingredients before being administered. After oral administration this type of dosage form swells in contact with gastric fluids and attains a bulk density of <1.

III. Raft forming system

Here, a gel forming solution (e.g. Sodium alginate solution containing carbonates or

bicarbonates) swells and forms a viscous cohesive gel containing entrapped CO₂ bubbles on contact with gastric fluid. Formulations also typically contain antacids such as aluminum hydroxide or calcium carbonate to reduce gastric acidity. [16,17]

Non-Floating Drug Delivery System

I. High Density System

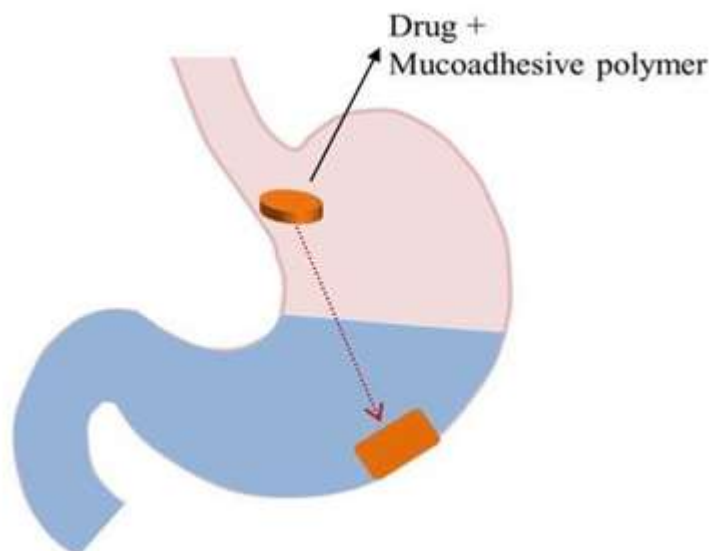
When high density dosage form (capsule, Tablet, pellets) is given to patient by oral route of administration the dosage form settles down at the bottom or sink in stomach, by entrapped in antrum and withstand the peristaltic wave of the stomach wall. In high density drug delivery system formulations are formulated by coating layer of heavy metal or by mixing inert material with pharmaceutical preparation. The inert material increases the density upto 1.5 – 2.4 gm/cm³, according to the density present in the stomach GI transit time of pellet can be extent from 6 – 24 hours (as they are small), its rate of dispersion decreases. The product of high-density system is not marketed because its ineffective in humans till, research and development are ben working on it. [18]

II. Magnetic System

In magnetic system approaches, a small magnet is inserted in dosage form as well as in abdomen over the position. The gastric residence time of dosage form can be enhanced by extra incorporated of magnet. Prolong absorption of drug is possible. Initially the technological experiment was performed on rabbit with bioadhesive granule containing ultra-fine ferrite. Granule where transfer to esophagus with an external magnet of 1700 G for the initial 2 min and (interval of 2 min) almost all the granules were retained in the region after 2 – 10 hrs. [19]

III. Bio-adhesive / Mucoadhesive System

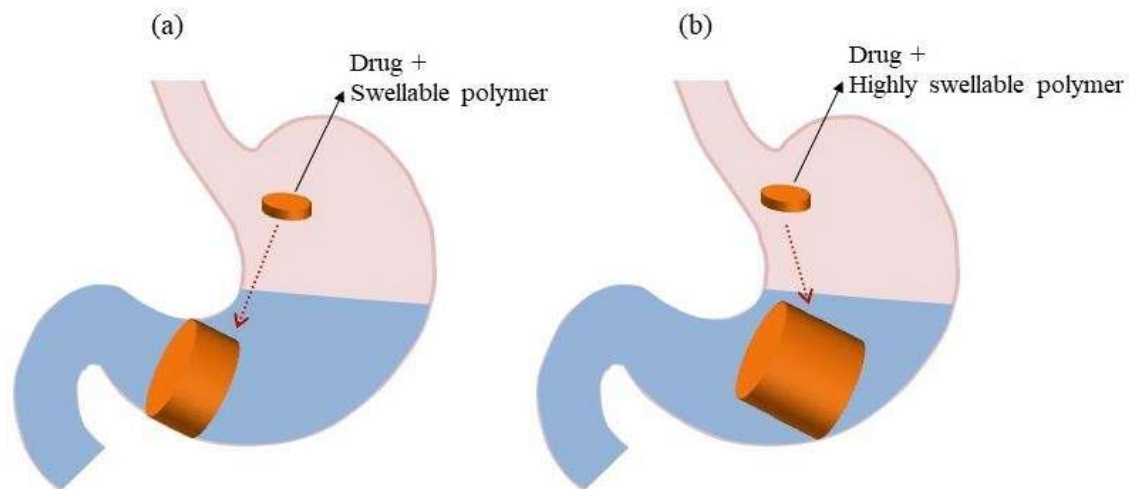
To have a complete adhere in mucosal membrane some excipients are used such as lectins, Carbopol, chitosan, gliding etc., those excipients help to increase absorption for prolonged time in stomach as well as GI track. This system is also based on target drug delivery, site specific delivery. [19]



IV. Expandable unfolding and swelling system

In this drug delivery approaches the dosage size increases as dosage form reacted to gastric fluid. The size of dosage form (tablet, capsule, pellets) gets bigger than the pyloric sphincter. The swelling is due to presence of swelling expandable agent such as gel, cellulose, HPMC etc., are responsible for swelling through

osmotic absorption of water or gastric fluid. Initially the dosage form should be in normal condition as the dosage form is ingested through oral route of administration there reaction in stomach the dosage form get swell and float on the surface. [21]



Following points are essential for the development of expendable system: -

- It should be in small (normal) dosage form for oral intake.
- Expanded Gastroretentive form
- Should not cause gastric destruction
- Finally, it should become small after releasing drug content from system.^[22]

Factors affecting the floating drug delivery system:^[23,24,25,26,27]

1. Density:

The density of a dose form determines its buoyancy and, as a result, its floating efficiency. The dose form's density should be lower than the stomachic contents (1.004 gm/ml).

2. Shape of dosage form:

Tetrahedron and ring-shaped devices have a higher floating potential than other shapes. They have a 90-98 percent higher rate of 24-hour retention.²⁰

3. Fed or unfed state:

GI motility is characterized by periods of robust motor activity, or migrating myoelectric complexes (MMC), which occur every 1.5 to 2 hours under abstinence settings.

4. Formulation of a single or multiple unit:

Multiple unit permit a larger margin of safety against dosage form failure compared with single unit dosage forms.

5. Nature of meal:

Feeding indigestible polymers or fatty acid salts to the stomach can cause it to shift its motility pattern

to a fed state, slowing gastric empty prolonging medication release.

6. Calorie content:

A high-protein, high-fat meal can extend floating time by 4-10 hours

7. Frequency of feed:

Because of the low frequency of migratory myoelectric complex, the GRT will increase by over 40 minutes when successive meals are providing instead of a single meal (MMC).

8. Posture:

The GRT will differ between the patient's supine and upright ambulant stages. In the case of the floating systems, it was rumored that when individuals were kept in an upright ambulant position, the dosage type stayed consistent on stomachic content, as opposed to when they were in a supine position. As a result, the floating drug delivery system inside the upright position of the patients is safeguarded against post-prandial evacuation

9. Age:

Elderly people, those over the age of 60, have a much longer floating time

10. Biological factor:

Floating might vary depending on a person's health or physiological status. Diabetes and Crohn's illness, for example, affect floating time

11. Concomitant drug administration:

Floating time is affected by anticholinergics like atropine, opiates like codeine, and prokinetic drugs like metoclopramide and cisapride.

Evaluation of the Floating Drug Delivery System. [28,29,30,31,32,33,34,35]

1. Bulk density:

It's the proportion of a powder's total mass(m) to its bulk volume (Vo).

$$D_b = m/V_o$$

2. Tapped density

It's the ratio of powder total mass (m) to powder tapped volume (Vi).

$$D_t = m/V_i$$

3. Compressibility index

The bulk density (ρ_o) and tapped density (ρ_t) of powder, as well as the rate at which it packs down, can be used to determine the flowability of powder. The compressibility index is obtained using

$$\frac{\rho_t - \rho_o}{\rho_t} \times 100$$

Where,

ρ_o = Bulk density g/ml,

ρ_t = Tapped density g/ml.

4. Hausner's Ratio:

It is calculated by taking the Tapped density and dividing it by the Bulk density using the formula below

Hausner's Ratio = Tapped density / Bulk density

5. Angle of repose:

In this experiment, a funnel is filled with accurately weighed mixture of powder, granules, and microparticles. The funnel's tip can be adjusting such that just touches the apex of the blended heap. The mixtures can flow freely through the funnel on a horizontal surface. The diameter of the accelerated mass will be measured, and the angle of repose will be calculated using the equation below.

$$\tan \theta = (h/r) \quad \theta = \tan^{-1} (h/r)$$

Where,

θ = angle of repose

h = height of

the heap

r = radius of the

heap

6. Tablet dimensions:

A calibrated Venire Caliper was used

to measure thickness and diameter. Three tablets of each formulation were chosen at random and measured separately for thickness.

7. Hardness:

Hardness indicates a tablet's capacity to withstand mechanical shocks while in use. A Monsanto hardness tester was used to assess the tablets' hardness. It was measured in kilograms per square meter. Three tablets were chosen at random and their hardness was determined.

8. Friability test:

The Roche Friabilator was used to assess the friability of tablets. It was given as a percentage (percent). To begin with, ten tablets were weighed (W) and placed in the friabilator. The friabilator was spun at 25 rpm for 4 minutes and returned to 100 times the tablets were weighed once again (W_o). A formula was used to compute the percent friability.

$$\%F = 100 (1 - W_o/W)$$

9. Tablet density:

For floating tablets, tablet density was an excellent criterion. When the tablet's density is substantially lower than that of gastric juice, it can float most effectively (1.04). The density was calculated using the following formula:

10. Weight variation experiment:

To test for weight variation, ten pills were chosen at random from each batch and weighed individually. The United States Pharmacopoeia allows for some variation in tablet weight.

11. Determination of buoyancy lag time:

The buoyancy lag is the time it takes for the tablet to rise to the surface and float. The buoyancy of pills was investigated in 900ml of artificial stomach fluid at 37.5°C. The buoyancy lag time was measured with a stop watch, and the entire floating time was visually observed.

12. Floating time:

Throughout the investigation, float time was monitored using a USP dissolving apparatus- II at 50 rpm with 900ml of 0.1N HCl and a temperature of 37.5°C. Visual observation is used to determine the length of time the tablet floats within the dissolution media (including floating lag time, which is the time it takes for the tablet to rise to the surface).

13. Swelling index:

The floating sustained release layer tablets were subjected to a swelling test. The tablets were placed in a USP dissolution apparatus II containing 900ml of 0.1N HCl and allowed to expand to a constant weight while being kept at 37^oC. The tablets were removed, wiped with filter paper, and the weight changes were calculated. The experiments were carried out three times. The method was then used to calculate the degree of swelling (the swelling index).

$$\text{Swelling index} = \frac{W_g - W_o}{W_o} \times 100$$

Where,

W_o is the initial weight of tablet.

W_g is the weight of tablet at equilibrium swelling in the medium.

14. Drug content:

Five tablets from a batch were picked at random, weighed, and ground in a mortar. In a standard flask, a properly weighed quantity of powdered tablet equivalent to 100 mg was placed and filled to the mark with 0.1N HCl; the solution was then filtered through a 0.45 μ m membrane paper. The spectrophotometric method was used to conduct the analysis.

15. Surface topography:

The surface topography and structures were determined using a scanning electron microscope (SEM, JEOL JSM-6701F, Japan) with a 10 k.v acceleration voltage, a contact angle meter, atomic force microscopy (AFM), and a contact profilometer (Ichikawa et al., 1991).

Advantages of GRDDS. [36,37]

- ✓ Improve the bioavailability of drug and which is metabolized in the upper part of the GIT.
- ✓ Reduces dosing frequency for the drug with a relative short duration half – life, thereby, improving patient's compliances
- ✓ Prolong and sustained release of drug facilitates local therapeutic response in the upper small intestine to stomach. Enhanced absorption of drugs which solubilize only in stomach.
- ✓ Drug releases in controlled manner for prolonged period.
- ✓ Site-specific drug delivery to stomach can be achieved.

Disadvantages of GRDDS. [38,39]

- ✓ The swelling formulation can be swelled in the system before reaching the site of the stomach
- ✓ Longer time required to swell for hydrogel based swelling system.
- ✓ The Mucoadhesive dosage contains several limitations regarding the increase rate of the mucus layer, solubility factor, and thickness of the mucus layer.
- ✓ Before achieving the stomach site, the swellable formulations can swell in the system.
- ✓ It offers lag gastric emptying time (GET).

APPLICATIONS. [40]

✓ Reduced undesirable activity at the colon:

The drug maintenance in the hydro dynamically balanced system (HBS) is affected by the present drug in the intestine and also their action is restricted.

✓ Enhanced Bioavailability:

The drug riboflavin bioavailability is enhanced by Control Release Gastro retention delivery formulation (CRGRDF) Other than non-GRDF CR dosage forms.

✓ Absorption enhancement:

For the development of a floating system, some drugs have poor bioavailability at the target site of GIT and regulate absorption.

✓ Site-specific drug delivery systems:

The site-specific drug conveyance frameworks imply that the medications are caught up in the small digestive tract and the stomach site. For the controlled way of the medication at the site of the stomach shows better therapeutic impacts.

II. CONCLUSION:

In this paper, we have concluded that gastroretentive drug delivery systems are a great mode to treat gastrointestinal disorders. Because they provide local action in the stomach and produce long-term effects. In current reality, it is quite challenging to design effective dosage forms for gastrointestinal disorders. As a result, dosing is less frequent and the treatment is more effective. It is clear from the wide range of industrial products and patents issued in this industry that gastroretentive drug delivery systems are effective for treating digestive disorders.

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