REVIEW ARTICLE

Organogel as Drug Delivery System: Review

ANAM ASGHAR¹, SADIA RAFIQUE², MUHAMMAD NAEEM AAMIR³, SANA JAVED^{4,2}, AAMNA HABIB⁴

¹Government College University Faisalabad, & Department of Pharmacy, Riphah International University, Faisalabad

²Department of Pharmacy, The University of Faisalabad, Faisalabad, Pakistan.

³Department of Pharmaceutics, Faculty of Pharmacy, TheIslamia University of Bahawalpur, Pakistan.

⁴Principal, The MadinaCollege of Pharmacy, The University of Faisalabad, Pakistan.

Correspondence to Dr. AnamAsghar, Email: anam.asghar@riphahfsd.edu.pk

ABSTRACT

Background: Gels are employed as a carrier medium/network for the delivery of topical medicines. Due to number of benefits gels are gaining attention day by day as a drug delivery system. Among gels Organogelare preferably active for incorporating lipophilic and hydrophilic drugs within the same gel network.

Aim: To emphasize about the basics of Organogel. Their introduction types, composition, properties, methods of preparation and advantages and applications and most importantly as topical drug delivery system.

Definition: The Organogel comes under the semi solid preparations with a definition of having two phases, one of which is organic liquid which gets immobilized by the other, that is an organogelators.

Composition: Organogel are, "mixture of lipophilic liquid and solid lipid, in which solid lipid having concentrations (<10%) can entangle bulk liquid oil by formingthreedimensionalnetwork by the physical interaction of self-assembled organogelators in the bulk oil"².

Properties: Generally Organogel are thermodynamically stable system, viscoelastic, biphasic system, no irritating, have low degree of hydration in comparison to hydrogels. Exhibit morphological and rheological properties

Method of Preparation: Solid fiber Matrix and fluid filled matrix are most common methods adopted for Organogel preparations. **Characterization**: viscoelasticity, pH, Firmness, In vitro drug, release, stability, phase transition, and structural features, *Invitro* release, skin permeability were discussed along with different factors that affectOrganogel.

Applications: Organogel are used for both oral and topical delivery of number of drugs. They are used for local as well as are capable of systemic percutaneous absorption due to their lipophilic nature and penetration potentiates by the presence of penetration enhancer³.

Keywords: Organogels, Organogelator, Solvents, Drug delivery system

INTRODUCTION

The word "gel" and jelly is devised from Latin word- "gelatin." Which means,frost/ freeze/or congeal. Thus, term, "gel" gives an idea of liquid setting to a solid or semisolid form which do not flow⁴.

According to United State Pharmacopeia (USP), "a gel is a preparation in water soluble base and isconsidered as greaseless ointment". This is referred as gelator system 5 .OR

"The United State Pharmacopoeia (USP) defines gels as semisolids preparations that can be either suspensions of small inorganic particles or large organic molecules interpenetrating withthe liquid". It is a biphasic system in which in-organic molecules are not soluble but are dispersed throughout the external phase(continuous phase)³.

In the last few decades' interest in Organogel has been increased due to, discovery, development and synthesis of new molecules that cause gelling at less concentration of various organic solvents. These organogelators cause the immobilization of the liquid following their self-assembly into various networks likes rode, tubules platelets and fibers⁶.

The composition of gels involve two interpenetrating systems: (a) colloidal particles which act as gelator or gallant are uniformly distributed throughout the (b)otherliquid known as solvent. The gallant may be natural, synthetic or semi synthetic and is dispersed in the solvent system which may be organic, inorganic or aqueous⁷. Gels are categorized under two classes based upon solvent nature, its affinity, physical state and type of bonding present between the gel networks. The one with reversible properties are hydrogels (polar solvent) and are bounded by hydrogen bonding or weak Vander Waals forces of attraction and the irreversible with covalent bonding are Organogel⁸.

During gel formation the polymeric network expands due to swelling in order to hold the drug molecules and maintains the shape of network. Viscosity is very important parameter for gel formation. Concentration of gelling agent imparts a major role in increasing or decreasing in gel viscosity⁹.

Received on 15-08-2023 Accepted on 05-12-2023 The gels are characterized by evaluating the parameters like pH, drug content, viscosity(Brookfield viscometer), spread ability, conductivity, exturdability, skin irritation studies, in-vitro drug release, and stability studies. From the clinical indications it is proved that topical application of gel is considered to be safe and effectivefor treating differentskin related diseases. Different approaches can be used to enhance the permeability and bioavailability of topical gels for producing unique drug delivery system. The different dosage forms like emulgel, solid dispersion,hydrogel, solid lipid nanoparticles liposome and niosomes can be incorporated into the organogels¹⁰. The gel interrelatedformulationsoffers better application and stability as compare to cream and ointment¹¹.

Organogel: "Organogel are bi continuous system with apolarsolvent and a gelator molecule. The organogelcan or cannot not shield water molecules arrested between the self-assembled spaces of three dimensional structure of gelator, which prevent the flow of apolar phase via surface tension¹²". An Organogel may be defined as a non-glassy thermoreversible semi-solid system composed of an organic liquid entrapped within a 3-D network¹³.

The Organogel served as another type of carrier system for the delivery of small and macromolecules for oral, topical, rectal, percutaneous and ophthalmic routes. The Organogel are thermodynamically stable that is attributed to the fibrous nature due to which they remain in low energy state. Organogel exhibit sol to gel transition above room temperature which means energy is required to disrupt the gelling network of the Organogel and transforming it into sol state¹⁴.

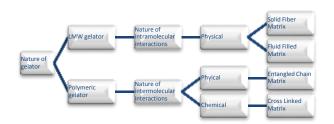
Additionally, the growing trend towards the use oforganogels is their thermos-reversibilityproperty. This occurs on heating above and cooling below the transition temperature. This transition temperaturechanges according to physicochemical properties of the gelling agent and the continuous phase¹⁵. The gelator has great impact on Organogel properties. The gelling ability of gelator is related to establish a balance between solvent and the gelator being used¹⁶. The process of gelation is possible through the formation of a helical structure. The helix is formed by the conformational changes sterically between polymer and organic solvent. The different examples of Organogel include sorbiton

mono stearate, Lecithin, Cholesterylanthraqunone derivatives and sterol. The Organogel have been fabricated in different shapes like films, micro particles, rods, and disk depending upon the site of administration¹⁷. The other health benefit related to Organogel is that they are used as an alternate in foods having saturated and trans fatty acids.

Merits and DemeritsofOrganogel	
Merits	Demerits
The gels are easy to prepare and handle	Not easily washable
They have good/increased mechanical strength due to presence of organogelators.	More favorable towards lipophilic drugs
Less expensive	Oily consistencyis not considered as pleasant feature for the cosmetics
Organogel can't form semisolid preparation on standing	Heat can be an issue unless lecithin can be added in the preparation(18).
Resistant to microbial contamination	When outlook for certain time organogelsnaturally shrinks & small amount ofoil syneresis out.
Thermoreversible	If impurity present gelling will not occur
Organogelshave high permeability through the skin	
Organogelsreduce the diffusion rate of drug because dug is dissolvedin polymer and transported between the chains. Thermodynamically stable	Raw material (lecithin) is not accessible for large scale production(17).

Classification of Organogel: The Organogel are characterized on differentbasis like organogelators type, the solvent used andthe intermolecular interaction present between them. There is a great change in the gelation properties of polymer. The parameters which effect the gelation includes: (i) The chemical structure ofgelator with less molecular weight, (ii) the polymer backbones, (iii) and linking type between gelator and the polymer¹⁵. The flow chat is represented below in Fig 1.

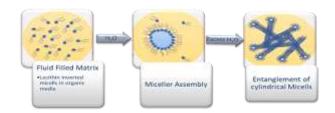
Fig.1 Schematic representation of Organogel classification (12)

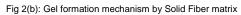


Mechanism of gel formation: The Organogelare formulated by different methods. Most commonly, bycrosslinking of polymer with theorganogelators. In most of the cases, supramolecular polymers are connected either by hydrogen-bonding, van der Waals, p-stacking, and electrostatic interactions(19). They are physically intertwined by a polymerization/ curing reaction. Themonomersor theirprecursors grow into long molecular chains. The constituentswithmultiple functional groups (crosslinking points) tend to form covalent bonds resulting in formation of 3-D polymeric network. At the gel point when the polymeric network loses the mobilityitbecomes large enough toformsorganogelwith the

solvents. The unreacted small molecules are trapped inside the gel network(4) as shown in fig 2(a&b).

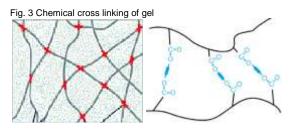
Fig 2 (a): Gel formation mechanism by Fluid Filled method





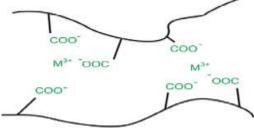


Chemical cross linking: It is reported that sometimes double or multifunctional monomerarepresent in the polymer. These polymers then cause chemical cross linking with massive molecular massmolecules as shown in Fig.3. There are some polymersthat are insoluble in solvent but when incorporated in the solvent may result in the swelling. Example is poly acrylamide gel. These gel exhibit covalent bonding and are irreversible in nature and are therefore robust and resistant to physical deformation.Examples are acrylic acid copolymers and polymeric organogel based on sodium allylsulphonate.



Ionic cross linking: Cross linking occurs by the interaction of charges on polymer or other solvent molecule is called ionic cross linking. Charges attract each other and as a result of this ionic interaction gel is formed. The example of formation of gel in the presence of calcium ions is polysaccharide alginate. The gelation can also take place when pHof the solvent is changed. For example pectin forms gel when subjected to acidic pH. The cross linking by ionic interaction is shown in Fig 4.

Fig.4. Ionic cross linking of gel



Physical cross linking: The physical cross linking of the gel involves choosing the most appropriate polymer. Which dependsupon two main parameters: (i) there should be strong interaction among the chains toform a semi-permanent linkage and(ii) the gel network should have the ability to hold large amount of water²⁰. The physical nature of the gels is often thermoreversible. It is noted that below critical temperature they behave as gel and above this pointbehave like sol. In some cases cross linking takes place by physical interaction that is by formation of hydrogen bonds, concentration and temperature variation, crystalline components solublization and hydrophobic interactions. Among all low molecular weight Organogel and majority of Organogel of POGs class comes under physical Organogelgels.Certain example includes, cellulose gel, dextran gels, poly (N-isopropyl acrylamide) gel⁸.

Types of organogelators used in Organogel: Number of organogelators can be used for Organogelformulation. The low molecular weight organogelators are classified in two types. One forms hydrogen bond e.g. amino acid, amide, urea and carbohydrate moieties. The second one is those which do not form hydrogen bonds these are anthracene, anthraquinonoid derivatives, tropane derivatives, and steroids²¹. The hydrogen bond is responsible for gelling as in case of amide and urea where as in aromatic ring π - π stacking and hydrophobic interaction is the cause of gelling. The alkyl chains work for hydrophobic interaction and in amino acid chiral center provide the center for gelation building block²².The n-alkanes having number of carbon 24,28,32 and 36 are the simplest type of organogelator. The most commonly used are sorbitan mono stearate, sorbitan derivatives, 12 hydroxyoctadecanoic acid, steroids and their derivatives and urea compound and carbohydrates and their derivatives. Some common gelator will be discussed here²³.

Table 1:Different types of organogelators

Table 1:Different types of organogelators	
Organogelator types	Application of Organogel
Derivative Organogelators 4 -tert-Butyl-1-Aryl Cyclohexanol. Thesecome under arylcyclohexanol derivatives and are helpful in the formation of thermoreversible gels. At room temperature they are solid andexhibit less solubility in apolar solvent. Gels formed by these organogelator may be turbid or transparent depending upon apolar solvent ¹⁷ . Examples: Benzene, cyclohexane, carbon tetrachloride.	For the topical delivery
Polymeric organogelator Thesegelator have low <i>sol-gel</i> temperature and good mechanical strength. These form gels at very low concentrations ²⁶ . Examples: The most common example of polymeric organogelatorsis L-lysine derivatives: Theseinclude (polycarbonates, polyester, polyethylene glycol, and poly (alkylene) ⁵ .	For the prepration of organogel and for sustain release rectal formulations
Gemini gelators The gemini is a Latin word, having meaning twin. This type of organogelatorshastwo L-lysine derivatives joined by alkaline chains with different chain lengths ²⁶ . N-lauroyl-L-lysine ethyl ester): These have high ability of immobilizing apolar solvents. When two N-lauroyl-L-lysine segments linked by an oxalyl amide functioned as good organogelators.	Used in topical formulations
Synthetic tripeptideorganogelator Boc-Ala(1)-Alb(2)-ß-Ala(3)-OMe: These are Capable of self-assembling,thermoreversible; transparent gelsin the presence of various apolar solvents, viz.,1,2- dichlorobenzene (DCB), monochlorobenzene and benzene.	In drug delivery and optelectronics
Low molecular weight gelator These gelatorscontain < 2%wt. in an organic liquid and fulfil two roughly defined criteria: (1) When stress is applied (below acertain limit) distortion in shape take place but this is reversible asthese gels return to their original shape whenstress is removed (2). Although they are composed of liquid and being fluid when observed under microscope, they must appear solid-like. They usually self-assemble via one-dimensional growth methods to form fibers, strands, or tapes which are frequentlycrystalline. Fatty acids and n-alkanes have ability to immobilize, only a few LMOG gels are reported to appear as thixotropic ¹³ , at a polar solvents Concentrationsof (< 2%) ²⁷ . <i>Example:</i> Aminoacid-based LMW tris (bis-amido) organogelators,bile acid alkylamide derivatives,peptide- based LMOGs, tetradecylammoniumbromide, N-acyl-1,u- amino acid compounds, 2,3-di-n-decyloxyanthracene (57),	In food industry (Alsaab, Bonam et al. 2016)

N-alkyl perfluoroalkanamides, long-chain benzoic acid hydrazides and long-chain carbomates Table 2: Types of the solvents used for Organogel Polar solvents Non polar solvents Alcohols Benzene Methanol, Chlorobenzene Ethanol, O-dichlorobenzene Propanol Toluene Isopropanol O-xylene Isopentanol Dichloromethane 2-methoxyethanol. 1,1,2-trichlorotrifluoroethane Ketones Pentane Cvclopentane Acetone Methylethyl ketone Hexane Cyclohexane Methyl n-propyl ketone Methyl isopropyl ketone Heptane Methyl isoamyl ketone, Iso octane Ethers Dethylether Ethylene glycol Petroleum ether

Monobutyl ether Pvridine Carbon tetrachloride Propylene glycol Monomethyl ether Methyl acetate Ethyl acetate Propyl acetate n-butyl acetate Chloroform Acetonitrile Glycerol Dimethyl sulfoxide N,N-dimethyl formamide Tetrahydrofuran Pyridine 1.4-dioxane, dimethyl acetamide N-methylpyrrolidone propylene carbonate

Types of organogelators: Natural molecules presenting gelling properties are sugars, sugar derivatives, Vitamins, gelatin, bile salts, lipid derivatives, carbohydrate derivatives, phytosterols, peptide derivatives and waxes²⁴. The low molecular weight compounds, such as monoglycerides, sorbiton tri-stearate, 12-hydroxystearic acid, fatty alcohols, fatty acids and polymers, such as ethyl cellulosehave also been studied as organogelators²⁵.

Solvents for Organogel: In the recent years solvents reported for Organogel formulation were mostly alkanes with carbon no.>5.hexane, cyclohexane, squalene, vegetable and mineral oils. Mostly used in formulations are soybean and sunflower oil. Isopropyl myristate and medium chain triglycerides considered more biocompatible²⁴.

Table 3: Properties of Organogel

Physicochemical Properties of Organogel	Detail about physicochemical properties
Viscoelasticity	Organogel tends to follow Maxwell model of viscoelasticity, they remain solid at low shear rates and begins to flow under high shear rates due to weak point of physical interaction of fiber matrix ³³ .
Thermoreversibility	Organogel when heated above critical temperature they start flowing. This is due to the disruption of physical interaction present between gelator molecules. On cooling the physical interactions reverts back into more stable structure ³⁴ .
Thermostability	Organogel are stable due to the self-assembly of organogelators which leads to decrease in the energy of system making Organogel more stable ³⁵ .
Non birefringence	Organogel appears dark when viewed under light microscope because they do not allow light to pass through them. This property is called non- birefringence ³⁶ .
Chirality	The presence of chiral center in low molecular weight gelator effects the growth and permanency of solid fiber matrix. This property is not present in fluid filled fibers, chirality helps in compact structure. The example is crown ether phthaloncyanine (Jha and Maurya 2013).
Opacity	Depending upon nature Lecithin Organogelistransparent and sorbitanmonostearate are opaque in nature.
Biocompatibility	Use of biocompatible components in Organogel has led to the delivery of more bioactive components to be deliver by Organogel ¹⁷ .

Organogel are set by organogelators having a less molecularweight, which self-assemble in organic solvents, triggering the formation of 3-D network. There in situ biodegradable features also permit them to transport proteins, medicines, and vaccines. These Organogel have been used to develop drug depot system. These are biodegradable, non-immunogenic system can lessenthe patient discomfort by reducing the frequency of application²⁹.

As far as gelator is important component of Organogel, organic solvent is equally important. So at room temperature gelator remain insoluble in solvent. They dissolve on heating and form gel on cooling. So in the gelation process a balance exists between dissolute and precipitant³⁰. The different solvents can be used for Organogel formation³¹. Table 2 shows the type of different solvents used. The solvents show following order to form organogel: glycerol >water>formamide>ethyleneglycol. The organogel formation is sensitive to solvent structure as well as solvent physiochemical properties³².

Fig. 5: Schematic representation of organogel formation by fluid filled mechanism.

Method of Organogel preparation: Different methods are used for Organogel formulation these are as follows:

Fluid filled fiber mechanism

Solid fiber method

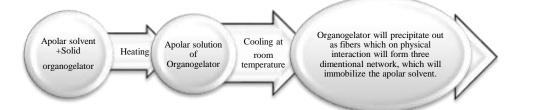
Mechanical homogenization and micro irradiation

Fluid filled fiber mechanism: The gelation process takes place by the addition of small amount water into apolar solvent and surfactant. Before the addition of water surfactant is mixed with the apolar solvent than water is added slowly as e.g. is lecithin³⁶.

Solid fiber mechanism: In this method dispersion of solid organogelators is added into the apolar solvent by hot emulsification process and solution of apolar solvent and gelator is obtained. This is allowed to cool at room temperature as a result organogelators molecules precipitates out as fibers which undergo non covalent physical interaction causing the formation of 3-Dnetworks due to assembly of organogelators molecules resulting in the development of semisolid gel by immobilization of liquid phase³⁷.

 Organic solvent Surfactant/Cosurfactant
Vortex mixing
Vortex mixing
Gel Formation
Addition of Distilled water
• Formation of Reverse Micells
Micells
Addition of Distilled Water
Addition of Distilled Water

Fig.6: Schematic representation of solid fiber mechanism of Organogel formation.



Mechanical homogenization and micro irradiation: This innovative technique involves high speed homogenization using Ultra Turrex for 5min at 24000rpm before micro irradiation in microwave. Or way of mechanical homogenization can also be carried out by heating the solution in water bath at 80°Cand mechanical stirring at 200rpm until homogeneous and transparent dispersion is formed³⁸.

The other method for homogenous dispersion is by using microwave. Pour the dispersion in petri dish and expose it to micro irradiation until homogenous or transparent system is formed(39). The microwave assisted heating method is economical, efficient and require less energy for Organogel formation.

Table 4: Types of Organogel	
Types of Organogel	Applications
Lecithin Organogel	Lecithin gel bears isotropic structure and
Extracted from various plants and	are thermodynamically stable,
animals tissue apart from Egg yolk.	thermoreversible (sol-gel transition
Experimental results indicate if lecithin	40°Cnonirritant, biocompatible, viscoelastic
contains >95% phospholipids than	and transparent ⁴⁰ . These system are often
lecithin will not cause gellification of	called as living, equilibrium polymers
aplolar solvent.	worm like and thread like micelles ⁴¹ .
Pluronic Lecithin Organogels	These are thermostable, biocompatible,
These are Soy lecithin Organogel	and viscoelastic. PLO causes skin
having isopropylmyristate and	irritation. The PLO are yellow color and
isopropylpalmitate and poloxamer 407	opaque in nature. The PLO are used for
and water. The apolarphase consist of	the delivery of both hydrophilic and
22-30%v/v of water and therefore are	hydrophobic drugs both for topical and
referred as emulgel ⁴¹ .	transdermal applications ⁵ .
Premium Lecithin Organogel	This PrLO is has improved skin penetration
PrLO is the second common Organogel	and bioavailability and is used to deliver
having higher thermos-stability apart	number of drug like ibuprofen, diclofenac,
from its non-greasy nature and non-	progesterone and ketoprofen has been
tackiness behavior. This gel does not	successfully used for intra dermal drug
cause skin irritation as it do not contain	delivery.
pluronic derivative41	
Limonene GPI /PG/ Organogel.	Limonene is excellent penetration
These gels are prepared by adding	enhancer property there is used in number

appropriate quantity of PG, PGI and limonene at 120°C on cooling it form white gel. Presence of limonene changes the rheological properties of Organogel but there is no effect on stability of gel(Alsaab, Bonam et al 2016).	of transdermal formulations for incorporation of bioactive molecules. Therefore improve the bioavailability in dermal tissues. Apart from limonene linalool, cineol and farnesol has also been incorporated in GPI/PG Organogel to increase penetration across the dermal tissues ¹⁷ .
Gelatin Stabilized microemulsion based OrganogelGelatin is a protein it form gel by forming concentrated solution at 40°C and then cooling below 35°C Addition of gelatin in water in oil micro emulsion results in gelation of whole micellar solution and form transparent gel.	Because of ease in preparation and thermostable nature these are used for gelatin stabilized micro emulsion preparation. MBGs are used for topical /transdermal controlled delivery of hydrophobic drugs ²⁷ .
Fatty acid derived Sorbitanorganogel: This gelator is hydrophobic, non-ionicmolecule with surface active properties, it tends to immobilize various solvents like isopropyl myristate and herbal oil. These gel form solid fiber matrix when heated with apolar solvent and then cooling down to low temperature and toroidal micelles are formed. These toroidal reverse micelles form tubular structure by reorganizing themselves. Which form three dimensional networkby physical interaction occurring in them ¹⁷ .	These are thermostable, thermoreversible and opaque when stored for weeks in room temperature. These gels can also be prepared by forming oil in water micro emulsion and then dissolving the gelator sat high temperature. Decreasing the temperature result in precipitation of the gelator due to the self-assembly of gelator molecules into tubular structure ³⁴ .
Sorbitan mono stearate Organogel Sorbitan mono-stearate (span60) sorbiton mono-palmitate (span40) form gel with various solvent's at low concentration ²⁷ .	They are effective for delivering hydrophilic vaccines.
EudragitOrganogel: These are formed by mixing the high concentration of Eudragit with poly hydric alcohols like glycerol, polyethylene glycol& propylene glycol	They shows high gel rigidity and stability when the concentration is low ⁶ .
Poly (ethylene) Organogel These gels are formed when low molecular weight poly ethylene is mixed with mineral oil at temperature > 130°Cand then shocked cooled.	These are used as ointment base. Gelled structure is formed by the precipitation of polyethylene molecules due to physical interaction resulting in solid fibrous structure.
L- alanine derivative Organogel N lauroyl L alanine methyl ester which gels in organic solvents like soybean and triglyceride. These system exist in gel form at room temperature ⁴² .	These gels act as sustain release implants and are used for delivery of rivastigmine and leuprolide.

Table 5: F	actors affec	ting organogel	
Factors	affecting	How they effect	

Factors affecting Organogel	How they effect
Organic solvent Polar solvents Non aqueous solvents Organogelators Concentration	The effect of polar solvent introduced into the spherical lecithin increases the cross sectional area in which the solvent is arranged. The non-aqueous solvent is not restricted as long as it replaces water of cellulose hydrogel without distorting its shape. The examples include polyethylene glycol and dimethyl ether. They influence Morphology and 3-D confirmation. They effects stability, mechanical and rheological properties ³⁶ .
Phase transition temperature (PTT)	PTT gives an insight about the microstructure present between the gels by cross linking. Narrow PTT indicate homogeneous microstructure. The PTT can be determined by DSC and hot stage microscopy which are sensitive technique for determining PTT.
Salt addition	On adding salt, it attracts water of hydration of polymer and allow formation of inter molecular secondary bond. This is known as salting out.
Temperature	The effect of temperature depends upon the polymer chemistry and mechanism of interaction with the medium. When the gel is in solution on reducing temperature gelling occurs due to reduction in degree of hydration. The gel form by chemical cross linking cannot be liquefied and diluted upon temperature change ¹² .
Molecular weight	Low molecular weight polymers require high concentration to meet up viscosity possibly and to set a gel.
Surfactant	Characteristics of gel can be varied depending upon the concentration and proportion of ingredients. The example is Poloxamer 407 which is polyoxyethylene and act as surfactant ⁴³ .
Physiochemical properties Charge Solubility Molecular weight/ spatial configuration	Presence of charge on polymer facilitates mucoadhesion. Poly-anions particularly polycarboxylate are preferred to poly- cations And effect mechanical and rheological properties. Mucoadhesive polymer swell on coming in contact with moisture and increase the mobility at interface of polymer this reveals more sites for bonding. It favors the entanglement and interaction after polymer and mucin have interpenetrated ⁴⁴

Table 6: Characterization of Organo	pael
Characterization parameters	Details for characterization parameters
Physiochemical parameters Isotropic nature and optical clarity is checked.Hydrogen bonding between the gelling networks.Molecular packing between gelling structures.	By FTIR and NMR is used. By FTIR By scanning and dynamic electron microscopy. Small angle neutron scattering ⁴⁵
Firmness of Organogel	Firmness of Organogel is checked by Texture Analyzer by using 12.3mm cylindrical probe ⁴⁶ .
Rheological behavior Viscoelasticity Swelling Water contents	A controlled stress rheometer will be used for measuring the rheological properties (shear viscosity and dynamic viscoelasticity) as a function of temperature ⁴⁷ .
pH measurement	The pH of organogel samples will be detected by using digital pH meter. The pH of the organogels was determined by dropping the bulb of the glass electrode of the pH meter into the samples. The pH of topical drug delivery preparations must falls within the range of 4.5– 6.0 (skin pH), to avoid irritation to the skin ⁴⁶ .
Phase transition temperature PTT is used to have an insight into the micro structure that forms a gelling network.	Hot stage microscopy and dynamic scattering microscopy is used for phase transition temperature ⁴⁹ .
Gel kinetics Gel –sol and sol-gel transition Gel kinetics	ByTurbidity determining method By using inverted tube method ⁵⁰ .
In vitro drug release Safety and skin compatibility studies	By Franz diffusion cell /dialysis bag ⁵¹ Is checked by human or animal skin irritation testing on applying the gel ⁵⁰ .
Stability studies	By storing Organogel at normal and accelerated condition and noticing the syneresis of oil ⁵² for confirming the stability or destability of Organogel (Huri, Ng et al. 2013). By optimization through ternary phase Diagram.By using Stability Chamber
Structural features Molecular structure Hydrogen bonding	By NMR By FTIR ⁵³

Table 7: Therapeutic categories

Drug delivery system	Drugs used	Reference
Ocular drug delivery system	FlunarizineHCl	(54)
Topical drug delivery	Candesartan cilexetil	(38)
Topical delivery	Testosterone	(55)
	Risperidone	(56)
Oral	Acyclovir, clotrimazole	(57)
	Efavirenz	(58)
Intravaginal	voriconazole	(59)
Nasal	Ketamine	(60)
Ocular		
Buccal	Norfloxacin	(61)
Rectal	Salicylates, Procaine, and	(62)
	ketoprofen	
Transdermal	Alfuzosin	(63)
Subcutaneous injection	Docetaxel	(14)
Subcutaneous implants	RivastigmineGranisteron	(64)
Subcutaneous	Caffine	(65)

Limitations: Despite of their convenience, Organogel also offer some limitations which need to be explored.

- Instability is the main issue which needs to be addressed. As change in temperature and humidity may lead to phase separation, degradation, and decrease in gel opacity to this formulation.
- 2. They demand purity as any impurity may lead to effect the gelation.
- 3. Solvent contamination may lead to instability of gel network through impaired physicochemical interactions.
- 4. Solvent polarity also effects mainly Organogel leading to aggregation, swelling, structural instability and integrity ofOrganogel. Aggregation may lead to fibers and bundles formation in Organogel structure and change the desired structure. These aggregations may weaken the solvent and organogelators interaction weak, leading to oozing out of the fluid from organic phase.
- 5. Methods like micro irradiations and high speed homogenization may be adopted for large scale production.

CONCLUSION

The Organogel are most effectively used in number of drug delivery system and has been proven safe and effective. Physiochemical properties of Organogel there, viscoelasticity, thermodynamic behavior and there versatility make them unique drug delivery system. But their use in cosmetic products still need further research studies. Infuture studies regarding stability, biocompatibility studies, using biocompatible solvents needs to be under consideration. Further studies regarding degradation, elimination of byproducts and electrolyte diffusion still need to be studied in depth.

Authorship and contribution declaration: Each author of this article fulfilled following Criteria of Authorship:

- Conception and design of or acquisition of data or analysis 1. and interpretation of data.
- Drafting the manuscript or revising it critically for important 2. intellectual content.
- 3. Final approval of the version for publication.

All authors agree to be responsible for all aspects of their research work.

Acknowledgement: First of all I would like to thank Allah Almighty for His blessings for completion of my research work. I would like to express my deep sense of gratitude to my Supervisor Dr. NaeemAamir. Associate professor Islamia University of Bahawalpur Pakistan for His courtesy, support and continuous guidance.

Conflict of Interest: There is no conflict of interest. Funding: Nil

REFERENCES

- 1. Martinez R, Rosado C, Velasco MVR, Lannes SCdS, Baby AR. Main features and applications of organogels in cosmetics. International journal of cosmetic science. 2019;41(2):109-17.
- Vintiloiu A, Leroux J-C. Organogels and their use in drug delivery—a review. Journal of controlled release. 2008;125(3):179-92. 2
- Pawar SA, Patil MP, Sadgir PS, Wankhede NB. Review On Organogel As Topical Delivery System. World Journal Of Pharmacy And Pharmaceutical 3. Sciences. 2014;3(10):393-409.
- Pal K, Banerjee I. Polymeric gels: characterization, properties and biomedical applications: Woodhead Publishing; 2018. Alsaab H, Bonam SP, Bahl D, Chowdhury P, Alexander K, Boddu SH. 4.
- 5. Organogels in drug delivery: a special emphasis on pluronic lecithin organogels. Journal of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences. 2016;19(2):252-73.
- Murdan S. Organogels in drug delivery. Expert opinion on drug delivery. 2005;2(3):489-505. 6.
- 7. Almoazen H. Felton L.: Remington: Essentials of Pharmaceutics. American
- Journal of Pharmaceutical Education. 2013;77(10). un Nabi SAA, Sheraz MA, Ahmed S, Mustaan N, Ahmad I. Pharmaceutical Gels: A Review. RADS Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. 2016;4(1):40-8. 8.
- 9. Florence AT, Attwood D. FASTtrack: Physical Pharmacy: Pharmaceutical Press; 2012
- Mahajan S, Chaudhari R. Transdermal Gel: As a Novel Drug Delivery Sysytem. 10. Int J Pharm Life Scie. 2016;7(1):4864-487.
- Patil P, Datir S, Saudagar R. A Review on Topical Gels as Drug Delivery System. 11 Journal of Drug Delivery and Therapeutics. 2019;9(3-s):989-94. Mujawar NK, Ghatage SL, Yeligar VC. Organogel: Factors and its importance.
- 12. International Journal of Pharmaceutical, Chemical and Biological Sciences 2014:4(3):758-73
- Abdallah DJ, Weiss RG. The quest for the simplest possible organogelators and 13. some properties of their organogels. Journal of the Brazilian Chemical Society. 2000;11(3):209-18
- Chang C-E, Hsieh C-M, Chen L-C, Su C-Y, Liu D-Z, Jhan H-J, et al. Novel application of pluronic lecithin organogels (PLOs) for local delivery of synergistic 14. combination of docetaxel and cisplatin to improve therapeutic efficacy against ovarian cancer. Drug delivery. 2018;25(1):632-43.
- Suzuki M, Hanabusa K. Polymer organogelators that make supramolecular 15. organogels through physical cross-linking and self-assembly. Chemical Society Reviews. 2010;39(2):455-63.
- 16. Jeganath S, Jeevitha E. Pharmaceutical Gels and Recent Trends-A Review.
- Research Journal of Pharmacy and Technology. 2019;12(12):6181-6. Garg T, Bilandi A, Kapoor B, Kumar S, Joshi R. Organogels: advanced and novel 17. drug delivery system. International research journal of pharmacy. 2011;2(12):15-21.
- 18. Rehman K, Zulfakar MH. Recent advances in gel technologies for topical and transdermal drug delivery. Drug development and industrial pharmacy. 2014;40(4):433-40.
- Nyayachavadi A, Mason GT, Nazir Tahir M, Ocheje MU, Rondeau-Gagné S. Covalent Cross-Linking of Diketopyrrolopyrrole-Based Organogels with Polydiacetylenes. Langmuir. 2018;34(40):12126-36. 19.

- Parhi R. Cross-Linked Hydrogel for Pharmaceutical Applications: A Review. Advanced pharmaceutical bulletin. 2017;7(4):515-30. 20.
- Wang C, Li Z, Wang X, Wei W, Chen S, Sui Z. Gelation mechanism and microstructure of organogels formed with L-Valine dihydrazide derivatives. Colloids and Surfaces A: Physicochemical and Engineering Aspects. 21. 2011;384(1-3):490-5. Mass G-BFL-M. Compounds: Creation of Simple and Versatile Supramolecular
- 22. Gelators Yan, Ni; He, Gang; Zhang, Helan; Ding, Liping; Fang, Yu. Langmuir. 2010.26(8).5909-17
- 23. O'Sullivan CM, Barbut S, Marangoni AG. Edible oleogels for the oral delivery of lipid soluble molecules: Composition and structural design considerations. Trends in Food Science & Technology. 2016;57:59-73.
- Esposito CL, Kirilov P, Roullin VG. Organogels, promising drug delivery systems: 24. an update of state-of-the-art and recent applications. Journal of controlled release. 2017.
- 25. Valoppi F, Calligaris S, Barba L, Šegatin N, Poklar Ulrih N, Nicoli MC. Influence of oil type on formation, structure, thermal, and physical properties of monoglyceride-based organogel. European Journal of Lipid Science and Technology. 2017;119(2):1500549.
- Roopan SM, Devipriya D. Emerging Trends of Organogels in Drug Chemistry. Polymer Gels: Springer; 2018. p. 285-310. 26.
- Sahoo S, Kumar N, Bhattacharya C, Sagiri S, Jain K, Pal K, et al. Organogels: properties and applications in drug delivery. Designed monomers and polymers. 27. 2011;14(2):95-108.
- Sagiri S. Behera B. Rafanan R. Bhattacharva C. Pal K. Baneriee I. et al. 28. Organogels as matrices for controlled drug delivery: a review on the current state. Soft Materials. 2014;12(1):47-72. Uzan S, Barış D, Çolak M, Aydın H, Hoşgören H. Organogels as novel carriers
- 29.
- for dermal and topical drug delivery vehicles. Tetrahedron. 2016;72(47):7517-25. Hu B, Sun W, Yang B, Li H, Zhou L, Li S. Application of Solvent Parameters for Predicting Organogel Formation. AAPS PharmSciTech. 2018:1-13. 30.
- 31. Hauser Č, Mishra A. Organogels and emulsions for biological and non-biological applications. Google Patents; 2018.
- Mehta C, Bhatt G, Kothiyal P. A Review on organogel for skin aging. Indian 32. Journal of Pharmaceutical and Biological Research. 2016;4(3):28. Jha S, Maurya SD. Organogels as A Potential Topical Drug Delivery System.
- 33. International Journal of Drug Regulatory Affairs. 2013;1(2):49-58. Jadhav N, Patil K, Patil J, Patil P, Pawar S. A REVIEW ON ORGANOGELS:
- 34. LIPID BASED CARRIER SYSTEMS. Pharma Science Monitor. 2012;3(4).
- Chen Z, Li F, Yang H, Yi T, Huang C. A thermostable and long-term-stable ionic-liquid-based gel electrolyte for efficient dye-sensitized solar cells. 35. ChemPhysChem. 2007;8(9):1293-7.
- Kamble S, Udapurkar P, Nakhat P, Yeole P, Biyani K. Development and evaluation of sorbitan monostearate organogels as a topical delivery system for 36 aceclofenac. Indian Journal of Pharmaceutical Education and Research 2011:45(1):65-70.
- KIRILOV P, LE CONG AK, DENIS A, RABEHI H, RUM S, VILLA C, et al. 37. Organogels for cosmetic and dermo-cosmetic applications Classification, preparation and characterization of organogel formulations-PART 2. Chemistry. 2015;10:4.
- Esposito CL, Kirilov P, Roullin VG. Organogels, promising drug delivery systems: an update of state-of-the-art and recent applications. Journal of controlled 38. release. 2018;271:1-20.
- Gökçe EH, Yurdasiper A, Korkmaz E, Özer Ö. A novel preparation method for organogels: high-speed homogenization and micro-irradiation. AAPS 39. organogels: high-speed homo PharmSciTech. 2013;14(1):391-7. AAPS
- Raut S, Bhadoriya SS, Uplanchiwar V, Mishra V, Gahane A, Jain SK. Lecithin 40. organogel: A unique micellar system for the delivery of bioactive agents in the treatment of skin aging. Acta Pharmaceutica Sinica B. 2012;2(1):8-15. Kumar R, Katare OP. Lecithin organogels as a potential phospholipid-structured
- 41. system for topical drug delivery: a review. AAPS PharmSciTech. 2005;6(2):E298-E310.
- 42. Debnath S, Vanitha G, Bindu HP, Babu NM. Applications of organogels in drug delivery. Indian journal of research in pharmacy and biotechnology. 2014;2(1):976.
- Davidovich-Pinhas M, Barbut S, Marangoni A. The role of surfactants on ethylcellulose oleogel structure and mechanical properties. Carbohydrate 43.
- polymers. 2015;127:355-62. Gupta S, Singh RP, Sarkar A, Panchal H, Pandey D. Organogel: a viable alternative for existing carrier system. system. 2011;4:5. Yang DX, Chen XW, Yang XQ. Phytosterol-based oleogels self-assembled with 44.
- 45. monoglyceride for controlled volatile release. Journal of the Science of Food and Agriculture. 2018;98(2):582-9.
- 46. Yang S, Li G, Saleh AS, Yang H, Wang N, Wang P, et al. Functional Characteristics of Oleogel Prepared from Sunflower Oil with β -Sitosterol and Stearic Acid. Journal of the American Oil Chemists' Society. 2017;94(9):1153-64.
- Lim J, Hwang H-S, Lee S. Oil-structuring characterization of natural waxes in canola oil oleogels: Rheological, thermal, and oxidative properties. Applied 47.
- Biological Chemistry. 2017;60(1):17-22. Behera B, Patil V, Sagiri S, Pal K, Ray S. Span-60-based organogels as probable matrices for transdermal/topical delivery systems. Journal of applied 48. polymer science. 2012;125(2):852-63. Martins AJ, Cerqueira MA, Fasolin LH, Cunha RL, Vicente AA. Beeswax
- 49. organogels: Influence of gelator concentration and oil type in the gelation process. Food Research International. 2016;84:170-9. Vigato AA, De Faria NC, Bolela Bovo Candido AC, Caldas LGM, Maria Saia
- 50. Cereda C, Radomille Tofoli G, et al. Physico-Chemical Characterization and Biopharmaceutical Evaluation of Lipid-Poloxamer-Based Organogels for Curcumin Skin Delivery. Frontiers in Pharmacology. 2019;10:1006.
- Paul SR, Qureshi D, Yogalakshmi Y, Nayak SK, Singh VK, Syed I, et al. Development of Bigels Based on Stearic Acid–Rice Bran Oil Oleogels and Tamarind Gum Hydrogels for Controlled Delivery Applications. Journal of 51. Surfactants and Detergents. 2018;21(1):17-29.

- Huri MD, Ng S-F, Zulfakar MH. Fish oil-based Oleogels: Physiochemicals characterisation and in vitro release of betamethasone dipropionate. Int J Pharm 52. Pharmaceut Sci. 2013;5:458-67.
- Li X, Saleh AS, Wang P, Wang Q, Yang S, Zhu M, et al. Characterization of Organogel Prepared from Rice Bran Oil with Cinnamic Acid. Food Biophysics. 53. 2017;12(3):356-64.
- Dai M, Bai L, Zhang H, Ma Q, Luo R, Lei F, et al. A novel flunarizine 54. hydrochloride-loaded organogel for intracoular drug delivery in situ: Design, physicochemical characteristics and inspection. International Journal of Pharmaceutics. 2020:119027.
- Charoensuman P, Ajiro H. Controlled release of testosterone by polymer-polymer interaction enriched organogel as a novel transdermal drug delivery system: Effect of limonene/PG and carbon-chain length on drug permeability. 55.
- Reactive and Functional Polymers. 2020;148:104461. Hu B, Yan H, Sun Y, Chen X, Sun Y, Li S, et al. Organogels based on amino acid 56. derivatives and their optimization for drug release using response surface methodology. Artificial Cells, Nanomedicine, and Biotechnology. 2020;48(1):266-
- Esposito CL, Tardif V, Sarrazin M, Kirilov P, Roullin VG. Preparation and characterization of 12-HSA-based organogels as injectable implants for the 57 controlled delivery of hydrophilic and lipophilic therapeutic agents. Materials Science and Engineering: C. 2020:110999.
- Pereira Camelo SR, Franceschi S, Perez E, Girod Fullana S, Ré MI. Factors 58. influencing the erosion rate and the drug release kinetics from organogels

designed as matrices for oral controlled release of a hydrophobic drug. Drug Development and Industrial Pharmacy. 2016;42(6):985-97.

- Querobino SM, de Faria NC, Vigato AA, da Silva BG, Machado IP, Costa MS, et 59. al. Sodium alginate in oil-poloxamer organogels for intravaginal drug delivery: Influence on structural parameters, drug release mechanisms, cytotoxicity and in
- vitro antifungal activity. Materials Science and Engineering: C. 2019;99:1350-61. Xia Y, Li L, Huang X, Wang Z, Zhang H, Gao J, et al. Performance and toxicity of different absorption enhancers used in the preparation of poloxamer 60. thermosensitive in situ gels for ketamine nasal administration. Drug Development and Industrial Pharmacy. 2020(just-accepted):1-32.
- 61.
- Liu D-E, Chen Q, Long Y-B, Ma J, Gao H. A thermo-responsive polyurethane organogel for norfloxacin delivery. Polymer Chemistry. 2018;9(2):228-35. Jose J, Gopalan K. Organogels: A Versatile Drug Delivery Tool in Pharmaceuticals. Research Journal of Pharmacy and Technology. 62. 2018;11(3):1242-6.
- 63. Prasanthi D, Jyothirmai K, Lakshmi P. Optimisation of Alfuzosin Hydrochloride Organogels for Transdermal Delivery. Journal of Pharmaceutical Research International. 2016:1-16.
- EI-Nassan HB, EIMeshad AN, Wadie W, Sayed RH. Synthesis, Characterization and Biocompatibility of N-palmitoyl L-alanine-based Organogels as Sustained 64. Implants of Granisetron and Evaluation of their Antiemetic Effect. Pharmaceutical research, 2018:35(8):149.
- Simsolo EE, Eroğlu İ, Tanrıverdi ST, Özer Ö. Formulation and evaluation of 65. organogels containing hyaluronan microparticles for topical delivery of caffeine. AAPS PharmSciTech. 2018;19(3):1367-76.

This article may be cited as: Asghar A, Rafique S, Aamir NM, Javed S, Habib A: Organogel as Drug Delivery System: Review. Pak J Med Health Sci, 2023; 17 (12) 8-14
