

# The development of a dental drug in the form of medicated chewing gum

OLEKSII YAKOVENKO, JULIA MASLIY  
National University of Pharmacy, Kharkiv, Ukraine

## Introduction

Every year the number of people with diseases of the mouth cavity is growing rapidly. Therefore, the necessity for dosage forms which would effectively contribute to the treatment of these diseases is an urgent problem today. The medicated chewing gum (MCG), which carries out the role of oral drug delivery, is the optimal formulation for the prevention and treatment of dental diseases due to its advantages – fast local effect, no need to swallow, the possibility of applying in any convenient place for the patient, as it does not need water, reduced the first-pass metabolism, as well as a better perception of the patient and a more pleasant mode of administration. Besides that, MCGs increase of secretion of saliva, which helps digestion, cleaning and remineralization of teeth, effective in the prevention and treatment of xerostomia, the process of mastication has a massaging effect on the gingiva, which leads to greater blood flow and microcirculation of periodontal tissues. Moreover, properly selected active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) in the composition of the dosage form provide the appropriate comprehensive treatment and preventive effect on hard tissues of teeth, periodontal tissues and mucous. That is why the aim of our work was to develop a dental drug of comprehensive action in the form of the medicated chewing gum.

## Experimental methods

The objects of research were a mixture of proteolytic enzymes, the composition of *Health in gum* (HIG)-01 and the auxiliary substances that are necessary for the development of the drug in the form of medicated chewing gums. The investigations of technological parameters developed composition and MCG; fluidity, angle of repose, abrasion and crushing resistance were carried out.

## Results and discussion

Taking into account the etiology and pathogenesis of dental diseases, as active pharmaceutical ingredients we chose the proteolytic enzymes of animal and plant origin – lysozyme and papain that are used in dental practice

widely and effectively because of antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory, immunostimulating, whitening, anti-viral and reparative properties. A wide range of pharmacological properties of enzymes explains their complex action on the dental hard and periodontal tissues.

For our research as the base for the chewing gum the composition HIG-01 (Spain, Cafosa) was taken, which allows to receive MCGs by the method of direct compression. Chemically, composition of *Health in gum* is a mixture of polyols with gumbase (elastomers), plasticizers and anticaking agents.

In order to select a method of administration of APIs in the base and a method for obtaining MCGs, we have studied pharmaco-technological parameters of lysozyme, papain and their mixture, the results of which are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Pharmaco-technological properties of APIs and their mixtures

Sample	Fluidity (sec/100 g)	Angle of repose (degree)
Papain	15.3 ± 0.5	29 ± 1
Lysozyme	27.0 ± 0.4	35 ± 2
Mixture of APIs	23.4 ± 0.7	30 ± 1

n = 5, P = 95%

The data from Table 1 indicated that all test samples have satisfactory fluidity.

For an improvement of this indicator, we investigated the influence of the lubricant on the fluidity of APIs. With this aim, we introduced Aerosil, which is also linked to its ability to absorb moisture (because into the composition a flavouring «Melon» in the liquid form is introduced) and added it in various concentrations. The data are represented in Table 2.

Table 2. Influence of Aerosil amount on the fluidity of APIs

Amount of Aerosil (%)	Fluidity (sec/100 g)	Angle of repose (degree)
0.5	22.4 ± 0.9	29 ± 1
1.0	22.0 ± 1.0	28 ± 1
1.5	18.0 ± 0.6	26 ± 2
2.0	18.5 ± 0.7	27 ± 1

n = 5, P = 95%

According to the results, we found that all samples have good fluidity and a satisfactory angle of repose. As we can see from the results, the optimal amount of Aerosil in composition of MCG is 1.5%.

As the glidant, preventing sticking mass to a press tool, we have taken calcium stearate in an amount of 1%. As an

dr. Oleksii Yakovenko (✉)  
National University of Pharmacy  
pr. Traktorostroitelei 85V, kv. 101, 66123, Kharkiv, Ukraine  
e-mail: realmanutd.ua@gmail.com

intense sweetener and at the same time a filler we have chosen sorbitol – sugar substitute, which has pleasant sweet taste, freshness and anticaries properties. As the flavouring agent, «Melon».

We also investigated the fluidity of the developed tableting mass in comparison with the composition *Health in gum*. The results of these tests are given in Table 3.

Table 3. *Pharmaco-technological properties of HIG and tableting mass*

Sample	Fluidity (sec/100 g)	Angle of repose (degree)
HIG-01	7.45 ± 1.1	26 ± 2
Tableting mass	11.9 ± 1.5	26 ± 1

n = 5, P = 95%

After obtaining chewing gum on a conventional tableting machine, we investigated crushing and abrasion resistance of MCGs, the results of which are shown in Table 4.

Table 4. *Crushing and abrasion resistance of MCGs*

Sample	Crushing resistance (N)	Abrasion (%)
MCG	13	0.1

As we can see from the results, the developed MCGs comply with the requirements of SPhU for these indicators.

## Conclusions

All things considered, we have developed a composition and proved the technology of obtaining

MCGs with proteolytic enzymes for use in dental practice. Using the composition *Health in gum* will provide easy and quick production of medicated chewing gums by the method of direct compression without the purchase and installation of a complex technological equipment, which, in turn, will make this dosage form more perspective for implementation into industrial production in Ukraine.

The future aim of our work will be continuing research of a drug in the form of MCG, which we developed.

**Conflicts of interest:** none.

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