



## Recent advancement of Polymeric transdermal drug delivery system for emetic drug therapy

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### Abstract

This work describes the formulation and characterization of Ondansetron HCL transdermal patches to manage and deliver drug content in an appropriate manner. The purpose of this research study focused on the development of polymer base transdermal films containing Ondansetron HCL by solvent evaporation technique and analysis of dissolution kinetics. Auxiliary substances represented an important role in pharmaceutical forms, in first stage, drug content and excipients compatibility were performed and verified between TDS1  $9.80 \pm 0.125 \mu\text{g}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$ , TDS3  $20.12 \pm 0.125 \mu\text{g}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$  and TDS8  $22.11 \pm 0.125 \mu\text{g}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$ . Release studies were done at  $36^\circ\text{C}$  transdermal drug delivery system ex-vivo drug permeation study was found optimized results. In-vitro drug release kinetics were done at  $32 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$  with a Franz diffusion cell. The results obtained were analysed and confirms the active substances with two matrix-forming polymers of FT-IR. At pH 5.5 to 7.4, flux values were between  $15.22 \pm 0.125 \mu\text{g}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$ ,  $20.12 \pm 0.380 \mu\text{g}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$ ;  $30.12 \pm 0.380 \mu\text{g}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$ ;  $40.2 \pm 0.380 \mu\text{g}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$ ;  $22.11 \pm 0.380 \mu\text{g}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$ ;  $30.14 \pm 0.380 \mu\text{g}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$ ;  $50.11 \pm 0.380 \mu\text{g}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$ . This study confirmed the rate of penetration and creating novel approaches of Ondansetron HCL delivery with polymer solution. This novel approach of Ondansetron HCL loaded transdermal patches has increased the application of antiemetic drug of their conventional routes of drug administration via skin delivery.

**Keywords:** Drug delivery system, Anti-emetics, Polymeric patch, Skin penetration.

### 1. Introduction

Ondansetron HCl is a highly selective 5-HT<sub>3</sub> receptor-antagonist.

Ondansetron HCl is widely prescribed as therapy for anti-emetics and nausea. This Ondansetron HCl blocks initiation of the vomiting reflex. During chemotherapy and radiation therapy, the agents produce the activation of vagal afferents by 5-HT<sub>3</sub> receptors and caused the release of 5HT (serotonin) in the small intestine and these signals activate the vomiting reflex or cause nausea [1,2]. In addition, administration of Ondansetron HCl initiates vomiting reflex blockage in peripheral nerves.

Ondansetron HCl is also related to associated,

the chemotherapy or radiation therapy agents also cause the activation of 5-HT (serotonin) release in the area of postrema, it is situated on the floor of the fourth ventricle, it is responsible for the production of vomiting reflex centrally CTZ mechanism [2, 3]. However, Ondansetron HCl is efficient to manage the emesis central mechanism. The chemotherapy and radiation therapy agents cause the emesis because the 5-HT<sub>3</sub> receptors are situated both in peripheral nerves and also central CTZ, thus Ondansetron HCl is a candidate to manage these both mechanisms. According to the studies, Ondansetron does not alter the normal function of the CNS and does not produce sedation or any impairment of performance. Ondansetron is not affected from the acidic medium, the efficacy of the drug reduces due to the bioavailability decreases.

Several studies concluded the efficacy of Ondansetron alter on conventional dosage form. One of the well-known techniques to avoid problems associated with these effects of Ondansetron HCl is minimized by involving transdermal drug delivery system. This system provided the controlled delivery of the drug into the circulatory system and bypasses the drug from GIT degradation [4,5,6].

Human skin is accessible and prominent surface for Ondansetron HCl delivery. Skin holds of an average adult body covers approximately 2 m<sup>2</sup> and skin receives about one-third of blood circulation through the body. In addition, skin on an average holds 10-75 hair follicles and 200-300 sweat ducts on every square centimeter (cm<sup>2</sup>). However, skin is a choice of routes of drug delivery, for various drugs safe and by-pass route from GIT degradation and flexible administration, ease to terminate the application. In particular, stratum corneum, layer of the skin produces the main barriers for drug to reach the circulatory system and produces systemic responses. In addition, current studies designed to enhance the topical application, and enhance the skin permeation and improve bioavailability for Ondansetron HCl [7,8]. From the past decades, several transdermal drug delivery systems were redesigned and impacted little change in the delivery of drug.

Present study is the modification of the composition and several biodegradable polymers incorporated which lead to novel drug delivery system.

Due to excellent barrier of the skin, stratum corneum (SC), the need for safe and effective mechanism to improve the rate of drug permeation and transdermal absorption recognized. Linseed oil, herbal oils safe and least side effect has been shown to increase the skin absorption by altering the transdermal formulation enhanced permeation rate to cross over SC. This study prepared anti-emetic drug group 5HT-3 antagonist Ondansetron HCl, for ease and controlled drug delivery system using linseed oil, polymer PVP/PVA (10:5) and plasticizer PEG. Moreover, the drug release, skin penetration and transdermal physically, chemical and mechanically were evaluated [9,10,11].

## 2. Material and methods

### 2.1. Materials

Ondansetron hydrochloride was purchased from Yaro Chemicals, Bangalore, India. Hydroxypropylmethylcellulose (HPMC), Eudragit L100, Polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP), and Polyvinylalcohol (PVA: MW125,000) were obtained from Yaro Chemicals, Bangalore, India. Chloroform, Polyethyleneglycol 400, sodium chloride, and Dibutylsebacate (DBS) were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich Chemical, India. Linseed oil, castor oil (pharmaceutical grade), Eugenol was purchased from Spectrum Chemicals, New Delhi, India. All other chemicals were used of analytical grade.

### 2.2. Method

#### 2.2.1. Formulation of drug loaded transdermal patches

Ondansetron hydrochloric acid transdermal patch were prepared using the solvent casting evaporation method. In the preparation of transdermal patch, HPMC k4, Polyvinylpyrrolidone, Eudragit L100 about 420mg and Polyvinylalcohol were mixed in 3ml of phosphate buffer solution of 5.4pH and formed polymeric solution in different ratios by using magnetic stirrer at room temperature. The pure drug Ondansetron HCl about 16mg mixed in prepared polymeric solution approximately 1.2mg/square centimeter patch mixed by magnetic stirrer for 30 minutes. Then poured the total mass slowly at center of the glass ring with backing layer of aluminum foil already hold it. The solution were dried under room temperature approximately 36-40°C and dried for 48 hours under inverted conical funnel with cotton plugging of

the glass plate mould for slow room temperature evaporation for completed drying. After 48 hours obtained the resultant dried patch and kept under sealed plastic pouches and store under desiccators for further assay and application [12,13].



Fig. 1 2x2 cm<sup>2</sup> drug loaded transdermal patches

### 2.3. Characterization of drug loaded transdermal patches

Ondansetron HCl prepared transdermal patches were characterized different parameters to evaluate the quantitatively and qualitatively stability of its physical, chemical, and therapeutic efficacy.

#### 2.3.1. Physical appearance

Ondansetron HCl evaluated of its physical state before treated with different polymers and plasticiser. The physical evaluation included, physical appearance, purity, melting point, assay solubility determination [14].

#### 2.3.2. Compatibility studies

Compatibility of drug Ondansetron HCl with different ratio of polymers and plasticiser were evaluated by using UV-Spectrophotometer (model: Elico SL. 164). The prepared polymeric solution with Ondansetron is poured out 5ml diluted in 5.2-7 pH Phosphate buffer examined at 310 nm wavelength. The linearity range (ug/ml) and coefficient of correlation and accuracy were determined.

#### 2.3.3. Determination of patch thickness

Transdermal patch thickness were determined by using micrometer (model: Mitutoyo) and screw-gauge and measured any five different locations of the patches. An average of these six reading was measured and recorded.

#### 2.3.4. Determination of drug content

Drug content evaluated by measuring five transdermal patches individually at 249 nm by using UV/Vis Spectrophotometer (Model: Lambda 25, PerkinElmer), and recorded the reading obtained. About 1 cm of patch cutoff and dissolved in 2 ml of polymeric casting solution and further diluted with 5 ml of purified water and filtered.

The drug content is measured by correlating the percentage obtained.

This diluted solution is analysed by using UV/vis Spectrophotometer at 249 nm, and obtained result is compared with the five patch reading with respect to the average reading recorded [14,15,16].

### 2.3.5. Determination of moisture content

Transdermal patch is weighed individually about five samples withdrawn and noted the initial weight of each. These patches were placed under the desiccator at 40-45°C temperature maintained and treated with Calcium Chloride for 24 hours. The transdermal patch individually recorded the weight after constant weight achieved [17].

The difference in between initial weight and final weight is calculated with respect to the average four weight is taken for analysis. Presence of excess moisture could alter the rate of penetration, qualitatively alter the physical and chemical stability of patch.

$$\% \text{Moisture content} = \frac{\text{Initial weight} - \text{Final weight}}{\text{Initial weight}} \times 100$$

### 2.3.6. In-vitro drug release studies

The in-vitro drug release profile evaluated using modified Franz diffusion cell (model, PermeGear).

The transdermal patch is carefully placed in between the donor and receptor compartment.

The patch was placed such that the backing membrane open to atmosphere.

The Phosphate buffer solution of pH range 5.4 to 7.4 is prepared and fill with temperature maintaining 34 °C -36 °C in surrounding jacket.

The receptor medium is started to rotate with the help of magnetic stirrer at 50-65 RPM. Transdermal patch again rechecked it should touch the liquid surface horizontally for molecules to pass away.

In time interval of 1 hour to 8 hours, sample from the compartment is withdrawn for UV spectroscopy analysis of percentage in-vitro permeation rate determination.

Selected any four patches should be treated such way and record an average reading [18,19].

### 2.3.7. Ex-vivo drug permeation studies

Ex-vivo penetration study was done by determination of the content permeation through the dermal skin of albino mouse. A fresh excised SC section of albino mouse abdominal skin is treated in isotonic solution. Prepared transdermal patch (without any interspace) placed over the SC excised skin of albino mouse into the compartment. Dermal side of the skin touched the receptor liquid side in horizontal position. The compartment liquid temperature, concentration, rate of stirring and time of treatment is designed as per the in-vitro analysed report. After treatment under the compartment the Ex-vivo permeation report is generated and reported the procedure of average five reading noted down [20,21,22].

### 3. Results and discussion

**Table 1.** Composition of (ODH TDDS) Ondansetron HCL Transdermal Patches.

S. No.	Patch number	Composition polymer 100: PVP/PVA (mg)	Percentage of plasticiser (%)	Texture
1	TDDS1	400:000	10 %	smooth, flex
2	TDDS2	400:000	20 %	smooth, flex
3	TDDS3	400:050	30 %	smooth, flex
4	TDDS4	400:100	20 %	smooth, flex, thick
5	TDDS5	400:150	10 %	Smooth
6	TDDS6	400:200	20 %	smooth, flex, thick
7	TDDS7	400:250	10 %	smooth, flex, thick
8	TDDS8	400:300	10 %	smooth, flex, thick
9	TDDS9	400:350	20 %	flex, thick
10	TDDS10	400:400	20 %	Thick

#### 3.1.1. Physio-chemical evaluation

The physical evaluation leads to show the melting point ranges 176.0 to 180 °C by using digital melting point tester (model: Qlab Rd-1), Solubility showed with aqueous phase 0.240 mg/mL (room temperature). Assay performed by using UV/Vs Spectrophotometer and HPLC at 314 nm 98.02 % purity, white crystalline powder.

**Table 2:** Physical characteristics of TDDS

S. No.	Patch number	Moisture content (wt%)	Drug content ( $\mu\text{gcm}^{-2}$ )	Water absorption (wt%)	
				75 % RH	93 % RH
1	TDDS1	1.3	426.5	1.32	1.81
2	TDDS2	1.5	429.4	1.36	1.85
3	TDDS3	1.8	430.1	1.38	1.89
4	TDDS4	1.11	435.5	1.41	1.92
5	TDDS5	1.16	438.5	1.45	1.93
6	TDDS6	1.19	441.8	1.46	1.94
7	TDDS7	1.21	448.3	1.48	1.95
8	TDDS8	1.23	450.1	1.51	1.99
9	TDDS9	1.45	452.8	1.53	2.12
10	TDDS10	1.49	455.7	1.56	2.16

### 3.2. Compatibility studies

Compatibility of drug Ondansetron HCl with different ratios of polymers and plasticiser were evaluated by using UV-Spectrophotometer. Drug penetrate and fixed in the long chain of PVP and HPMC about 98 % to 99%. The holding capacity of water content revealed PVP increased uptake of water content and provided mechanical strength for strain and stretch.

The linearity range ( $\mu\text{g/ml}$ ) 100/500 mg/ml concentration of 100(910.0)-200(2008.09)-300(3000.00), coefficient of correlation is obtained as (0.99) and accuracy percentage were obtained 99.79%. Ondansetron were physically and chemically stable with both polymer PVP/PVA and HPLC equally distributed.

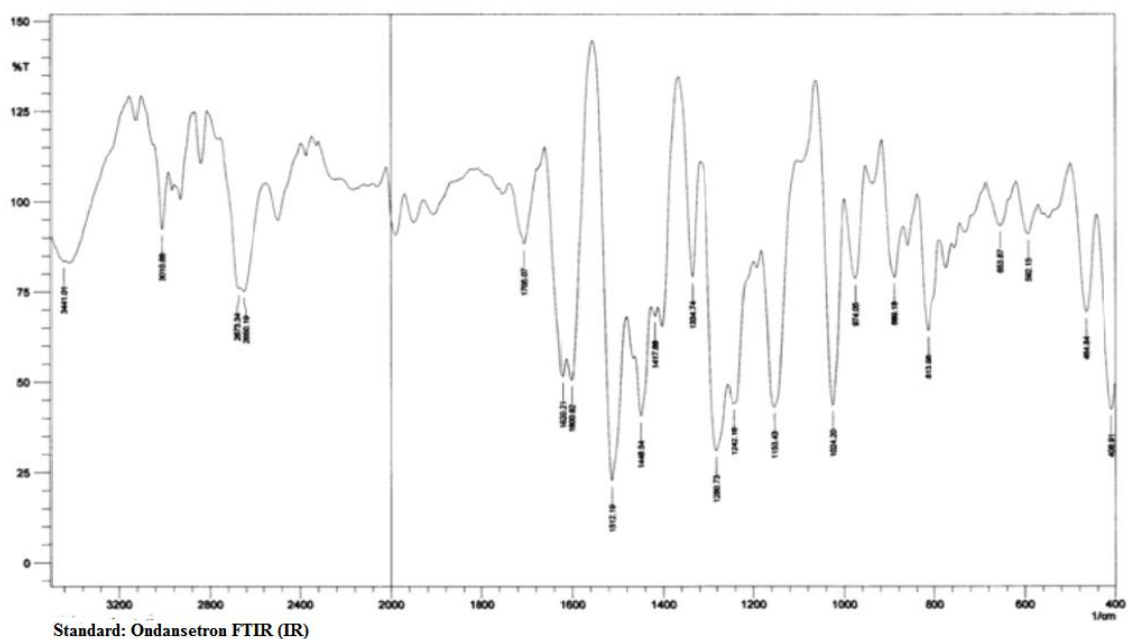


Fig. 2 FTIR (IR) standard deviation of OndansetronHCl

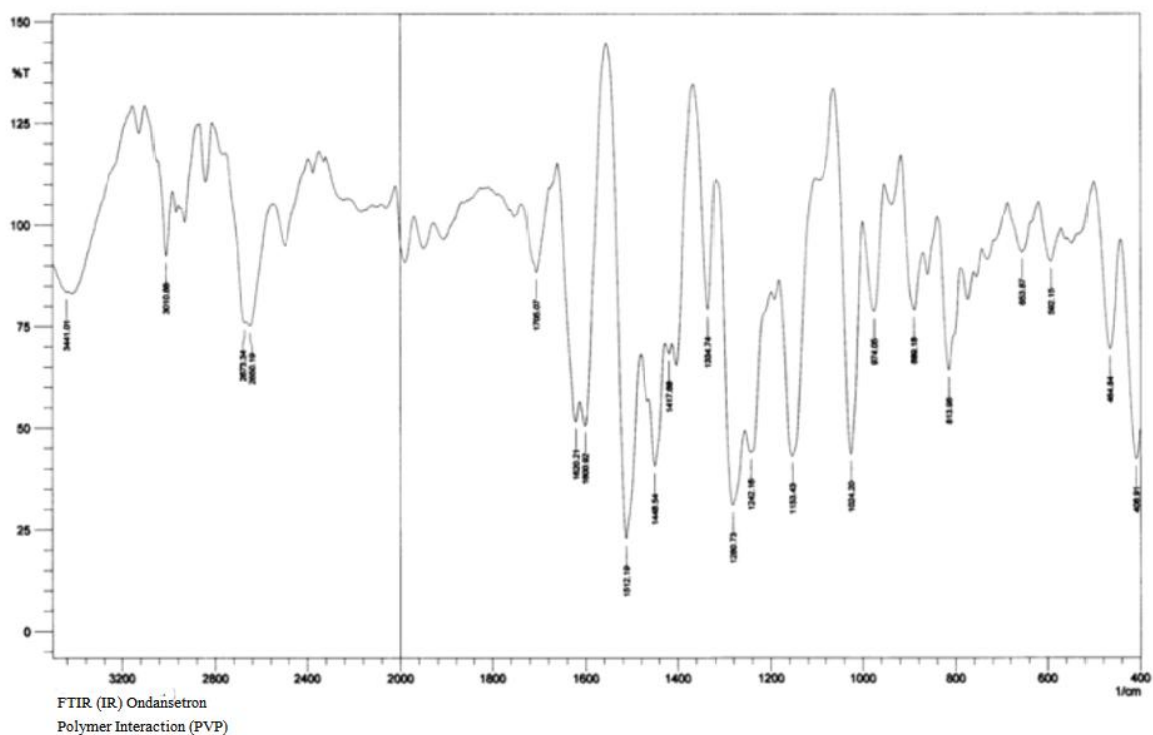


Fig. 3 FTIR (IR) Deviation of OndansetronHClwithPolymerinteraction (PVP)

### 3.3. Determination of patch thickness

The transdermal patch thickness was varied from 0.121 mm to 0.184 mm of PVP/PVA and 0.105 mm to 0.149 mm of HPLC plasticiser patch. The difference of the thickness due to the



PVP/PVA provided mechanically stable and flexible patch comparatively to HPLC patch more than due to the polymer chain linkage of close atoms. Tensile strength is important for the transdermal patch it provides the strain and stress. Additionally stable patch provides ease of removal from the site of application on peel-off force. PVP/PVA has lower molecular weight than HPLC patch, resulting greater plasticising efficacy than HPLC patches.

**Table 3.** Patch tensile strength and patch thickness.

S. No.	Patch	Tensile strength (mpa)	Patch thickness (mm)
1	TDDS1	6.5	0.118
2	TDDS2	7.54	0.166
3	TDDS3	5.23	0.124
4	TDDS4	4.12	0.184
5	TDDS5	5.1	0.162
6	TDDS6	4.51	0.148
7	TDDS7	5.12	0.154
8	TDDS8	4.22	0.156
9	TDDS9	4.19	0.157
10	TDDS10	5.17	0.167

### 3.4. Determination of drug content

Drug content evaluation revealed drug were equally distributed throughout the transdermal patch it varies from 425.15 ug/cm<sup>2</sup> to 430.85 ug/cm<sup>2</sup> average of these is above 99% of intended quantity. Determination of drug content also revealed the data of uniformly distributed of drug throughout the patch and provided the water absorption rate were higher in PVP patch than HPLC patch about 75% and 63% respectively. This phenomenon is due to the PVP it allowed hydrophilic diffusion easily.

### 3.5. Determination of moisture content

Moisture content studied showed water absorption and moisture content rate in patch. Low moisture content prevent the transdermal patch to completely dried and brittle. According to the results low water absorption rate provides the stability of patch. The higher in water absorption rate more thicker the patches. Low moisture content prevent the microbial growth, provide mechanical support.

### 3.6. In-vitro drug release studies

The in-vitro release study showed the drug permeation rate with the polymer interaction according to transdermal chemical, physical and mechanical strength.

The evaluation revealed after analysis under UV Spectroscopy cumulative percentage release and release rate ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2/\text{h}$ ) after 4 to 8 hours analysis of transdermal patch. It showed patch number OT2, OT4 and OT9 of linseed oil penetration enhancer formulation about (46.21%) and Olive oil (30.09%) exhibits PVP/PVA combination linseed oil shown highest cumulative percentage of drug release than, olive oil and Eudragit and elastomer formulations.

It was observed the percentage of drug release is increased with increase in the concentration of the PVP/PVA combination. This result is because of the leaching of hydrophilic capability of PVP/PVA polymers and formation of more pores on transdermal patch. The more pores, the more open pathway to penetrate the drug from the polymer into the medium, this phenomenon is controlled by the level of plasticizers. According to the mobility behaviour of polymer and plasticiser, the higher in the concentration of plasticiser, the intermolecular attractive forces decrease and result in higher in the diffusion rate.

The reading is withdrawn and noted in table below, about the percentage cumulative release of patch number OT6 and OT9 were followed the desired range of permeabilities of drug correlation coefficient ranges from 0.9804 to 0.9987 for linseed oil and PVP/PVA transdermal patch. This analysis revealed higher in the concentration of the PVP/PVA may also lead to rapid dissolution of drug from diffusion from patch.

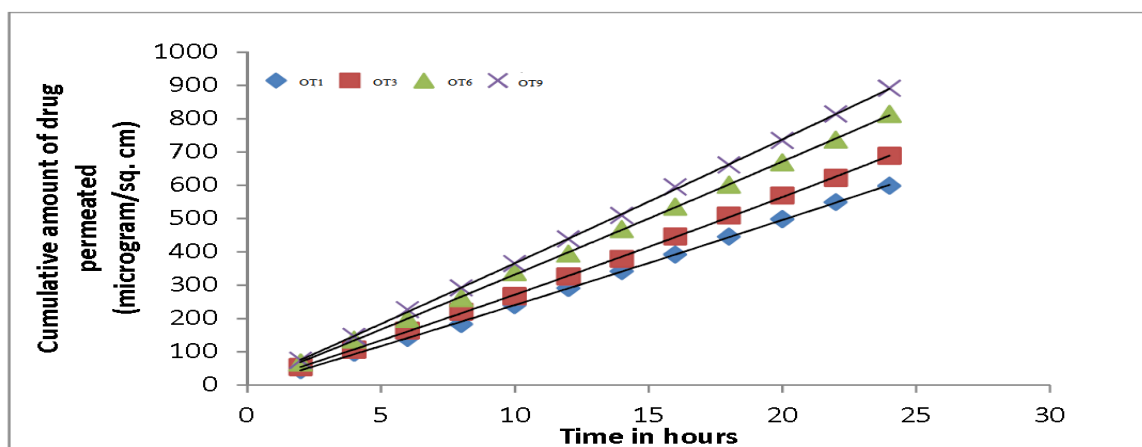


Fig. 4 Percentage drug release profile of In-vitro evaluation of PVP/PVA ratio.

### 3.7. Ex-vivo drug permeation studies

Ex-vivo permeation studies revealed the mechanical, physical and chemical efficacy of the drug-polymer compatibility and transdermal potency. The cumulative percentage, release rate and percentage release rate of two permeation enhancers showed qualitative results.

The obtained data is given in table below. However, linseed oil composition of OT6, OT7 and OT9 selected, given significant percentage mentioned. It is concluded linseed oil, it is long fatty acid chain with consist of linolenic acid about 68% and stearic acid about 9-10%. It is more suitable for transdermal patch as per the Ex-vivo compartment analysis, it is also stable with Ondansetron and all other polymers.

**Table 4.** Cumulative (%) percentage release, permeation rate, and release rate 6-8 hours. Different penetration enhancer incorporated, L: linseed oil, C: Castor oil.

S. No.	Patch number	(%) percentage release	Percentage rate (ug/cm <sup>2</sup> /h)	(%) percentage release		Release rate (ug/cm <sup>2</sup> /h)	
				L	C	L	C
1	TDDS2	15.22	9.80	20.1	15.11	8.02	8.20
2	TDDS3	20.12	7.33	26.23	25.20	5.08	5.12
3	TDDS4	30.12	8.54	24.88	24.22	35.05	40.21
4	TDDS6	40.2	2.10	51.18	43.45	50.22	18.21
5	TDDS8	22.11	21.2	9.12	6.4	20.12	13.22
6	TDDS9	30.14	10.11	16.12	15.23	22.65	16.45
7	TDDS10	50.11	15.55	26.21	16.54	15.25	8.05

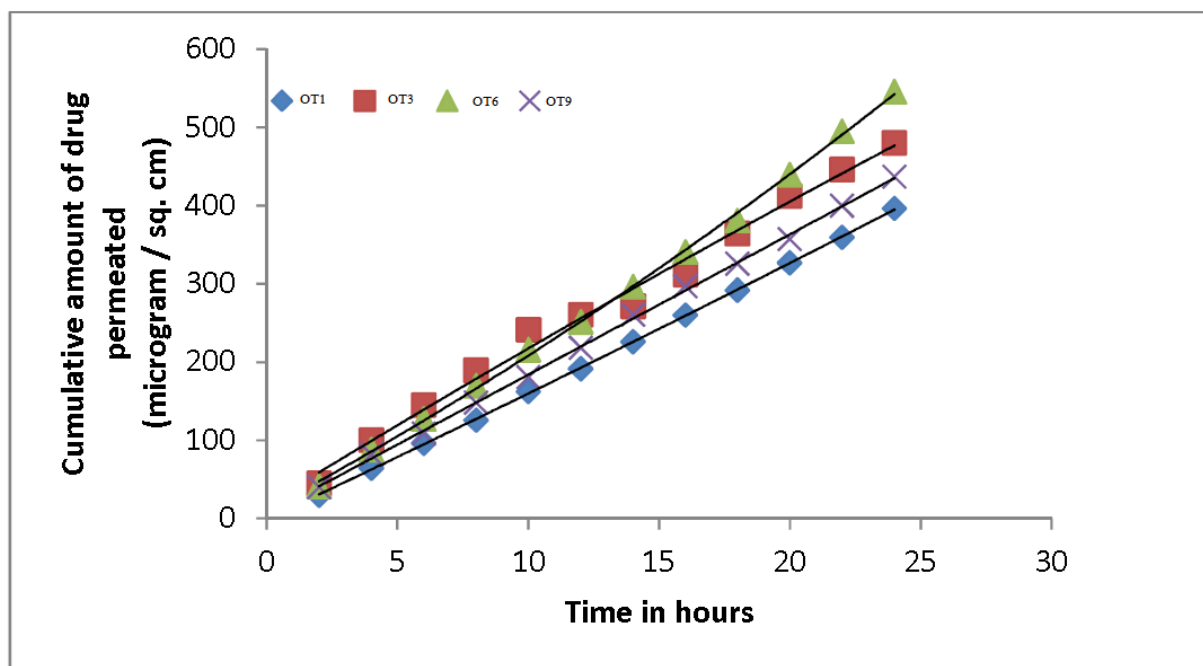


Fig. 5 Ex-vivo cumulative permeation evaluation profile of OD transdermal patch of different ratio and patches.

## Conclusion

The controlled drug release of the drug Ondansetron HCL has been investigated, prepared and characterized showed efficient results. According to the characterization drug release profile concluded that the formulation TDDS1, TDDS3 and TDDS8 using PVP/PVA, showed sustained and prolonged release profile as compared to the other patch formulations. It is reasonable to conclude PVP/PVA polymers are better suited with permeation enhancer linseed oil for the development of Ondansetron HCL transdermal drug delivery system.

Compatibility studied revealed better stability of Ondansetron HCL with the polymer used, physically and chemically stable. In-vitro and Ex-vivo evaluation studied showed the cumulative percentage release of drug. For further studies, including pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic investigations, are however suitable to confirm findings from this study in suitable animal models.

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