

# Advances & Innovations in Controlled Release

CRS Annual Meeting  
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## **Improving Patient Adherence and Safety**

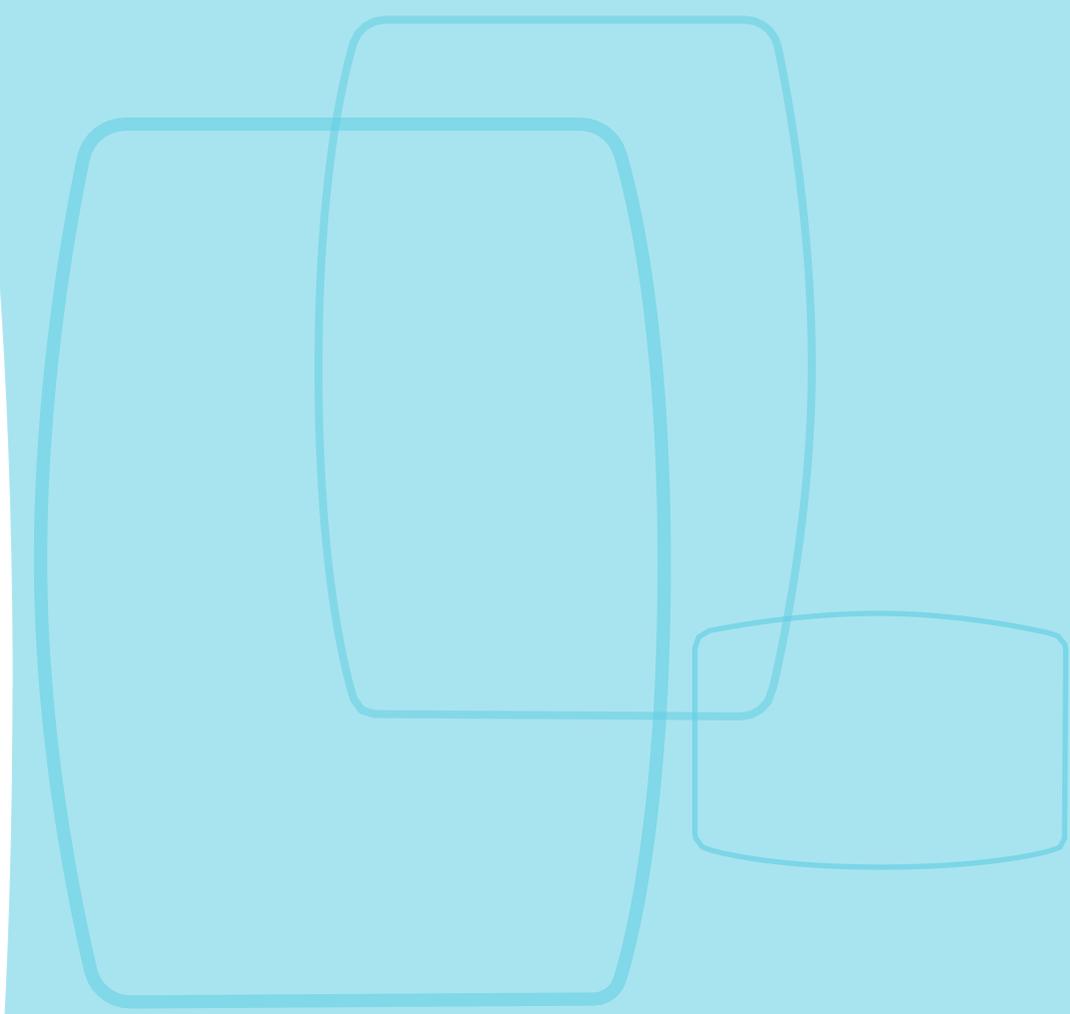
- Improved Metformin ER Tablets

## **Complexity Reduction in Pharmaceutical Technical Development**

- MUPS to Matrix Tablet Conversion

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## **Conclusion and Takeaways**



# Challenges in Oral Controlled Release

## API



Dose



Solubility



Bioavailability (colonic absorption, permeability)



Drug combinations

## Population



Pediatric / geriatric dosing



Chronic diseases



Self-treatment & prevention



Prevention of accidental overdose / intentional abuse

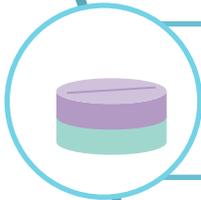
**Goal:** develop robust, patient-friendly dosage forms



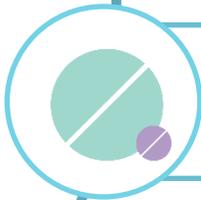
# Advances in Oral Controlled Release



Bioavailability enhancing technologies coupled with extended-release technologies: **gastroretentive**, mucoadhesive, **amorphous dispersions**



Fixed-dose combinations: coated MPs, **bi/tri layered** tablets, capsule-in-capsule technology



Formulations techniques to improve patient adherence and **product quality**: **tablet size reduction**, 3D-printing for personalized medicine



Complexity reduction in pharmaceutical technical development: **formulation complexity reduction**, co-processed excipients, continuous manufacturing

Advanced technologies can **improve therapeutic outcomes** and **provide competitive differentiation**

*“Nonadherence can account for up to 50% of treatment failures, around 125,000 deaths, and up to 25% of hospitalizations each year in the United States.”*

*- U.S. Pharmacist, 2018*



## Compliance versus Adherence

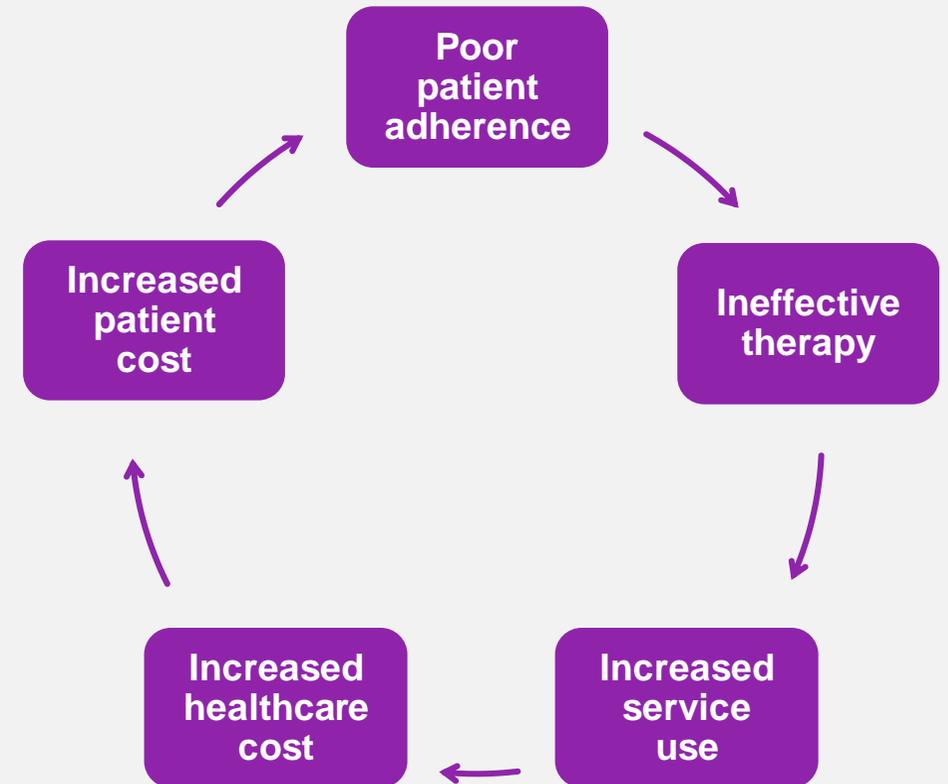
- Compliance implies patient passivity in following the prescriber's recommendations
- Adherence is actively taking prescribed medicine
  - Correct doses
  - Appropriate time intervals
  - Based on health care provider recommendation and agreed to by the patient
    - Requires doctor/patient dialogue
- As the health care community adopts the concepts of patient centeredness and activation, it is moving away from the term “compliance”
- Both are reliant on patient cooperation

# Non-Adherence Causes

- 20% - 30% of patients do not fill prescriptions
- 50% of patients do not take prescriptions as directed
  - Self-medicate
  - Fill prescription but do not use
  - Modify the dosage form
    - Break tablets to extend prescription & save money
    - Crush tablets due to size/ease of administration
  - Do not understand the impact of non-adherence
- Varies widely by disease state
  - Cardiovascular
  - Pulmonary
    - COPD
    - Asthma
  - Diabetes
  - HIV/Aids
  - Mental illness
    - Depression
    - Schizophrenia
    - Bipolar disorder
  - Many other examples
- Factors related to non-adherence
  - Patient related
    - Age
      - Geriatric
        - Memory/cognitive function
        - Poor hearing/eyesight
      - Pediatric
        - Behavioral
        - Taste
    - Education
    - Socioeconomic
      - Employment/income
      - Social network
    - Marital status
  - Environmental/external
    - Disease duration/response to treatment
    - Dosing regimen
    - Accessibility

## Non-Adherence Impact

- Poor therapeutic outcomes
- Disease progression
- Hospitalizations
  - Includes readmittance
  - Estimated billions per year in avoidable direct health care costs (\$100 - \$300 billion annually)
    - 3% - 10% of healthcare cost.
- Lost productivity (working patients)
  - Output at work
  - Absenteeism
  - Estimated at 2.3 times direct healthcare cost
- Disability
- Fatality
  - Roughly 125,000 patients annually



# The Solution: Patient-Centric Drug Delivery

**Easier to Use /  
More Convenient**

**Smaller  
Tablets**



**Rapid  
Disintegration**



**Oral  
Liquids**



**Reduced Dosing  
Frequency**

**Extended  
Release**

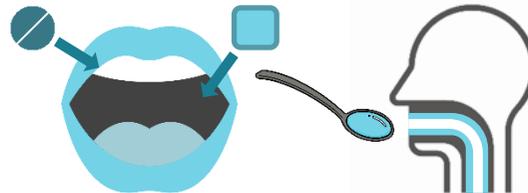


**Gastro-  
retention**



**Improved Efficacy**

**Mucoadhesion**



# Patient-Centric Drug Delivery Approaches

**Easier to Use /  
More Convenient**

**Smaller  
Tablets**



**Rapid  
Disintegration**



**Oral  
Liquids**



**Reduced Dosing  
Frequency**

**Extended  
Release**

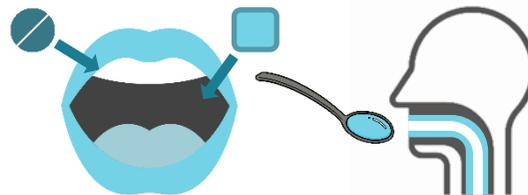


**Gastro-  
retention**



**Improved Efficacy**

**Mucoadhesion**





# **Bioavailability Enhancing Technologies**

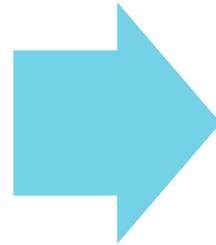
Gastroretention

## Problem

### APIs with oral delivery challenges:

- Narrow absorption window in upper GI tract
- Short half-life

**Inefficient drug products with limited therapeutic effect and poor patient adherence**



## Solution

### Gastroretentive Drug Delivery Systems (GRDDS)

- Extend drug retention & release
- Increased therapeutic efficacy
  - Improved absorption
  - Minimized side effects
- Enable local treatment of upper GI disorders
- Improved patient adherence

Gastroretention leverages the **convenience of oral drug delivery** while improving drug absorption and effect

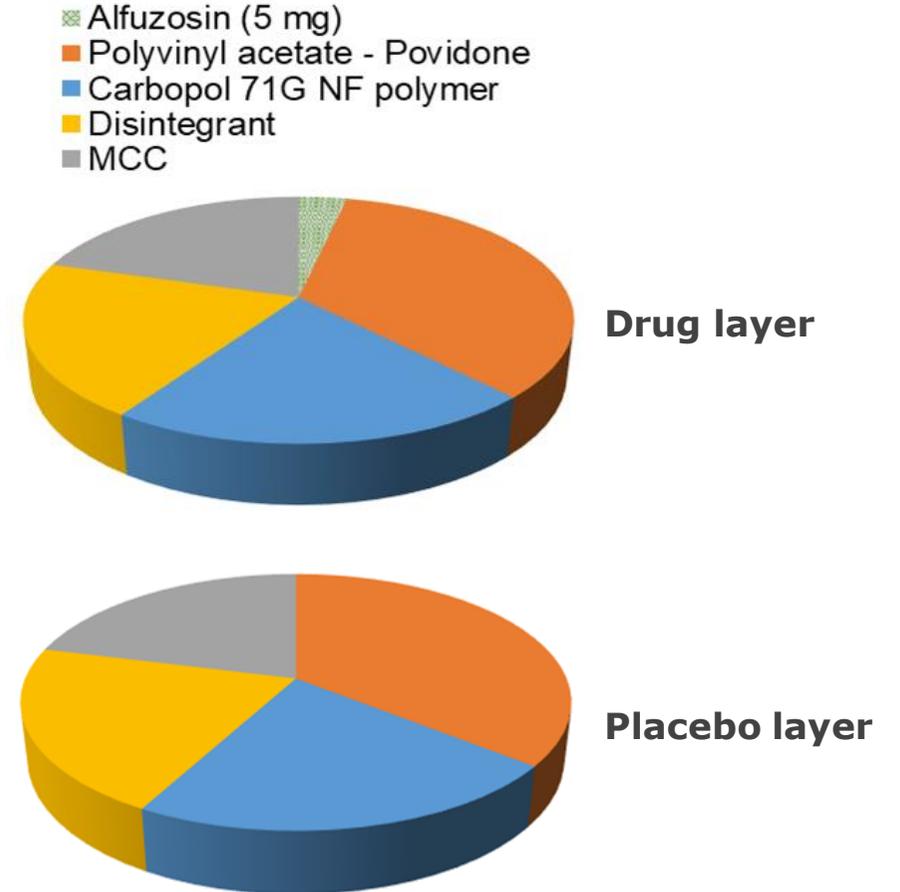
# Alfuzosin Extended Release Gastroretentive Tablets

## Formulation Details

- **Dose:** 5 or 10 mg
- **Design:** Bi-layer or tri-layer design
  - Drug layer & placebo layer(s)
- **Manufacturing Technique:** Direct compression

## Key Properties

- Excipients selected for **fast swelling in gastric fluid** (>200% in 15 min)
- Drug release 12 – 20 hours

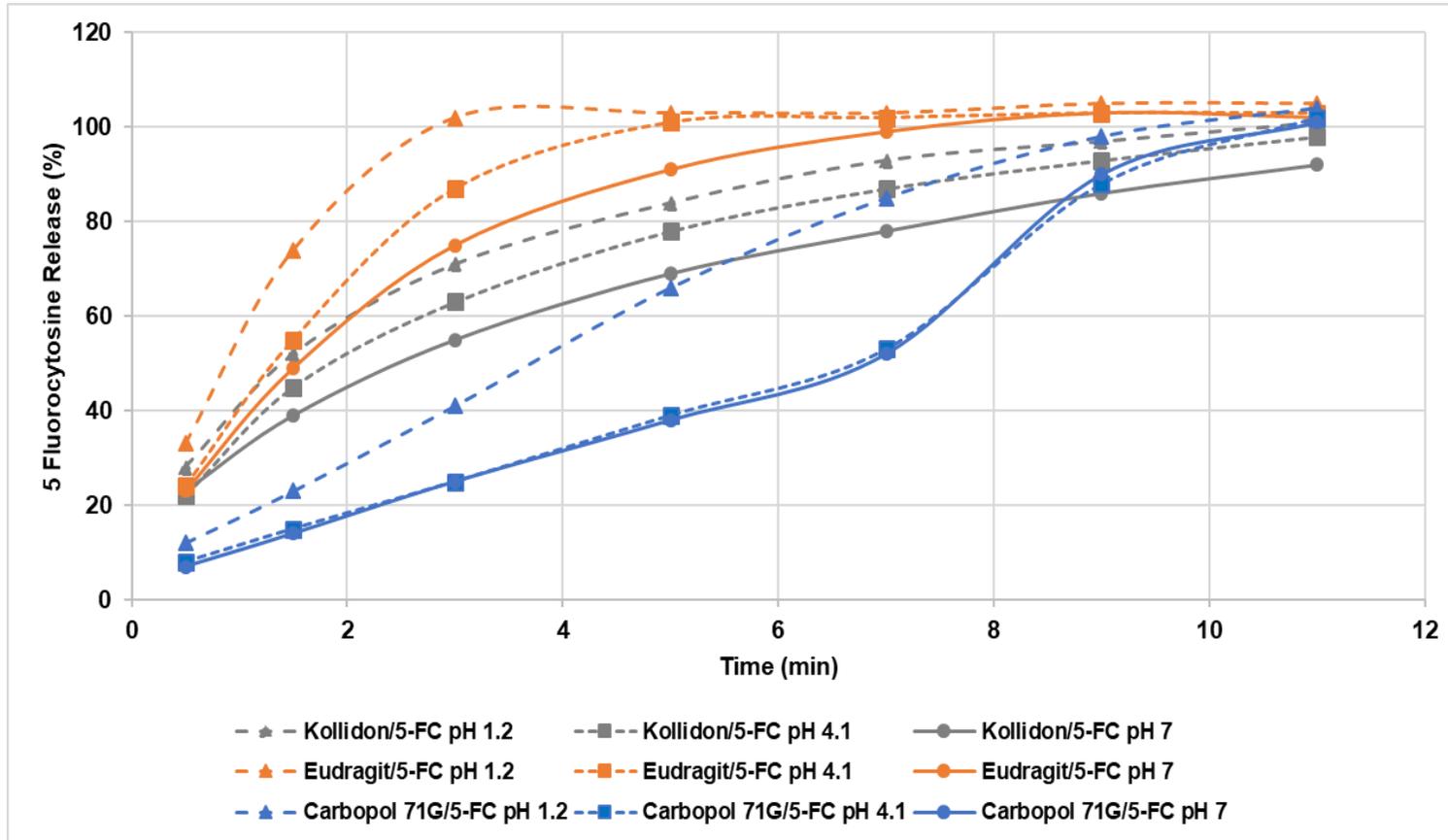


# 5-Fluorocytosine Extended Release Gastroretentive Tablets

- Various matrix forming polymers
  - Carbopol® 71G NF polymer
  - Kollidon® SR – Polyvinyl acetate & povidone
  - Eudragit® RLPO – poly(meth)acrylate polymer
- Evaluation
  - Drug release: pH 1.2, pH 4.1, pH 7
  - Swelling and erosion rate: SGF pH 4.1
- Single-dose bioavailability of two extended release formulations under fasting and fed conditions **compared to immediate release capsules (Ancobon® 500 mg)**

Ingredient	Kollidon SR/ 5-FC	Eudragit-Ethocel/ 5-FC	Carbopol 71G/ 5-FC
5 Fluorocytosine (5-FC)	44.1	50.1	55.31
Carbopol 71G NF Polymer	-	-	12.17
Eudragit RLPO	-	7.7	-
Kollidon SR	16.3	-	-
HPC	6.0	6.0	6.08
Ethocel 100 cP	-	7.7	-
Microcrystalline cellulose	-	-	11.06
Maltodextrin	10.6	13.8	-
Dicalcium phosphate NF	22.1	13.8	14.38
Magnesium stearate NF	1	0.9	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Tablet weight (mg)	1133	999	904

# 5-Fluorocytosine Extended Release Gastroretentive Tablets



- Dissolution rate: Eudragit/5-FC > Kollidon/5-FC > Carbopol 71G-5-FC.
- All formulations showed increased drug release in more acidic media.
- Hydration: Carbopol 71G-5-FC 50% @30 min; 250% @8h) >> Eudragit/5-FC ~ Kollidon/5-FC (50% @8 h)
- Erosion rate: Carbopol 71G-5-FC (30% @ 8h) << Eudragit/5-FC ~ Kollidon/5-FC

# 5-Fluorocytosine Extended Release Gastroretentive Tablets

	Ancobon® Fasted	Kollidon/ 5-FC fasted	Kollidon/ 5-FC fed	Carbopol 71G/5-FC fasted	Carbopol 71G/5-FC fed
Cmax (mg/ml)	7.30	1.98	3.63	2.56	6.14
Tmax (h)	1.63	3.58 ↑	7.86 ↑	3.88 ↑	5.62 ↑
AUC (0-inf) (mg h/ml)	<b>57.3</b>	20.8	<b>47.7</b>	28.1	<b>54.3</b>
T1/2 (h)	4.80	5.93	5.55	6.55	5.61

## Key Properties

T max shifted from Ancobon fasted individuals to Carbopol and Kollidon formulations for fed individuals

AUC for Ancobon fasted is comparable to Carbopol and Kollidon formulations for fed

Carbopol 71G NF polymer based tablets provided the **best gastroretention, fast hydration/swelling, & slow erosion / dissolution rate**, while also enabling **bioadhesion**.



## **Bioavailability Enhancing Technologies**

Drug Amorphous  
Solid Dispersions

# Technologies for Drug Amorphous Solid Dispersions (ASD)

Technique	Spray Drying	Hot Melt Extrusion	KinetiSol® Technology
<b>Mechanism</b>	Solvent evaporation	Thermal fusion (heat provided externally)	Thermal fusion (thermokinetic mixing – converts friction to heat)
<b>API constraints</b>	Solubility in organic solvents	API sensitivity to prolonged exposure to heat High melting point APIs	API sensitivity to shear
<b>Polymer</b>	Mostly hydrophilic	Mostly hydrophilic	Mostly hydrophilic
<b>Polymer limitations</b>	High viscosity/high molecular weight Solubility in organic solvents	High viscosity/high molecular weight	Minimal
<b>Processing aids</b>	N/A	Need of plasticizer in case of high melting point API	Need lubricant to improve processability
<b>Processing time</b>	Hours	Minutes to hours	Seconds

**Spray Drying** and **Hot Melt Extrusion** – most common technologies for ASD  
**KinetiSol®** - emerging technology that mitigates some limitations of traditional technologies

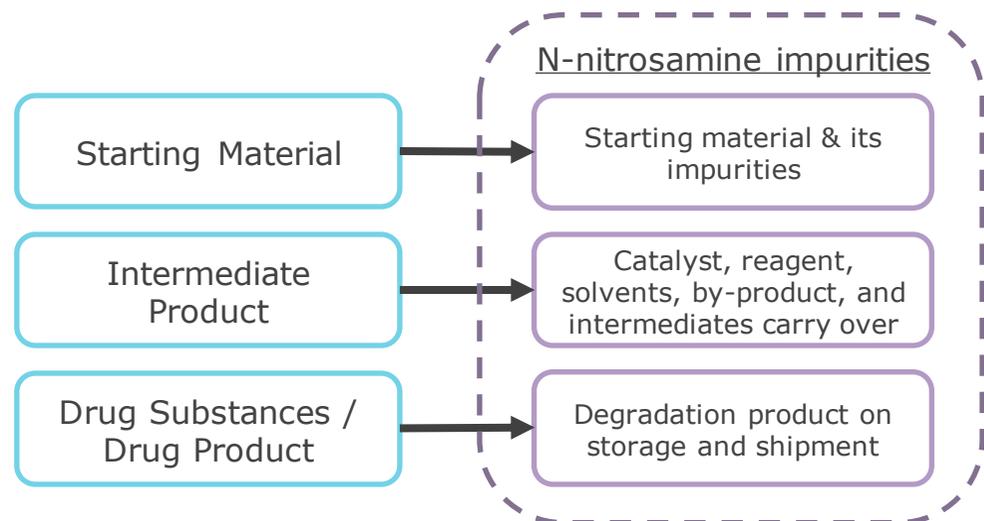
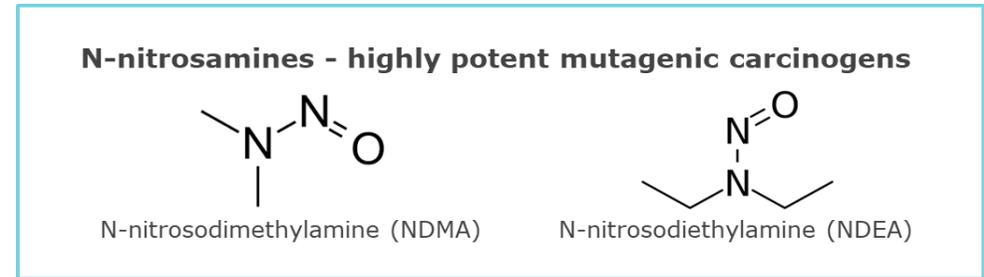
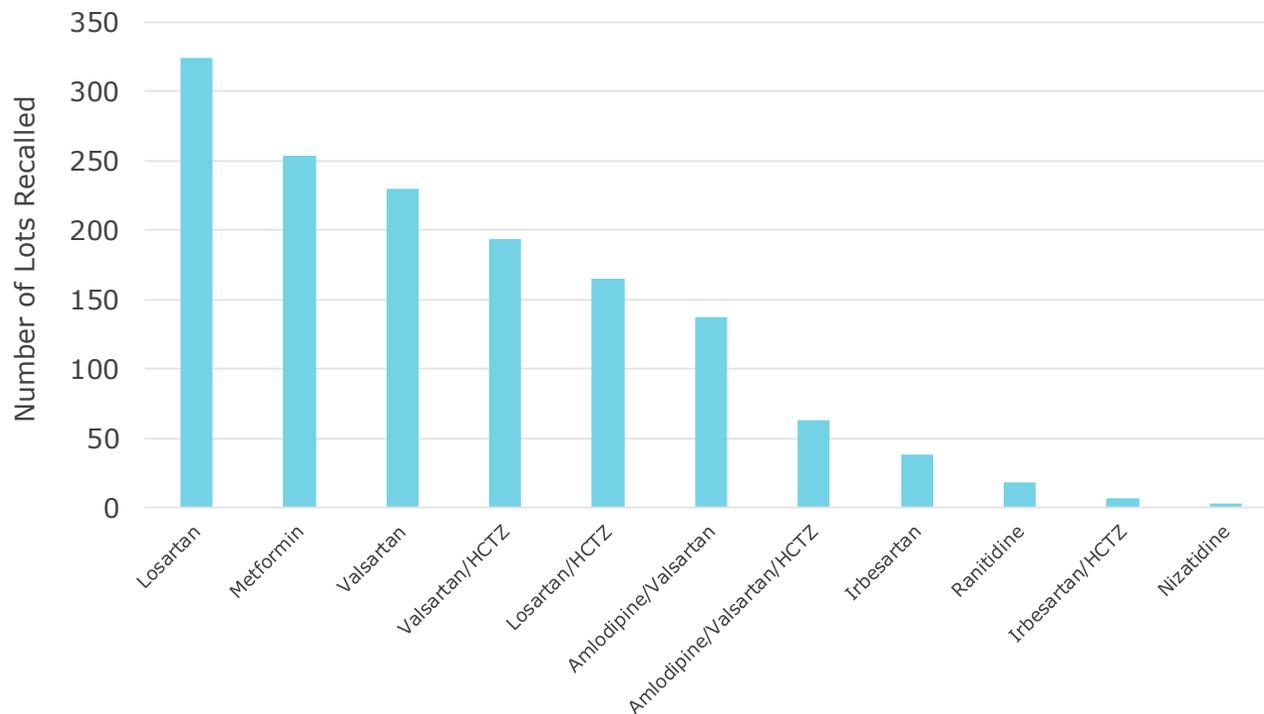


## **Patient Adherence & Product Quality**

Small, Nitrosamine Compliant  
Metformin HCl ER Tablets

In recent years, Global Drug Regulatory Agencies signaled the presence of **nitrosamine impurities in drug products and initiated recalls**

**Nitrosamine-Related Recalls**



# Carbopol-Based Metformin HCl ER Tablets

Carbopol polymers offer a single solution for safety and improved patient adherence:



**Small, Easy-to-Swallow  
Tablets**



**Reliable Extended  
Release**



**Reduced Nitrosamine  
Impurities**

**Big Efficiency Comes  
in Small Dosages**



# Development of Metformin HCl ER Tablets US FDA Nitrosamine Compliant

## Ingredient

*Intra-granular\**

Metformin HCl<sup>1</sup>

Hypromellose K100M

Carbopol 971P NF polymer

Magnesium hydroxide<sup>2</sup>

*Extra-granular*

Hypromellose K100M

Carbopol 971P NF polymer

Carbopol 71G NF polymer

Anhydrous colloidal silica

Magnesium stearate

\* Granulation with 2% aq Carbopol polymer dispersion

<sup>1</sup>Particle size NLT 95% passing through 100#

<sup>2</sup>Within FDA IID limits

## Target attributes

Compendial compliance – USP test IV

- Dose – 500 mg and 1000 mg
- Tablet weight: LZ 800 mg vs. Commercial product ~1030 mg  
LZ 1250 mg vs. Commercial product ~1380 mg
- Aqueous high shear wet granulation
- Stable under ICH conditions (Intermediate - 30°C/75% RH and ACC - 40°C/75% RH)
- Packaging - HDPE bottles/Alu-Alu blister pack
- Easy processing and scale-up

Assay and RS including nitrosamine impurities comply with monograph and US-FDA recommendations

- USP test IV dissolution requirements
  - 1 h 20 - 40%
  - 3 h 45 - 65%
  - 6 h 65 - 85%
  - 10 h NLT 85%

*USP apparatus 2 (Paddle), 100 rpm, 1000 ml pH 6.8 phosphate buffer*

# Metformin HCl ER Tablets USP Physical Properties

20-30% reduction  
in tablet size!



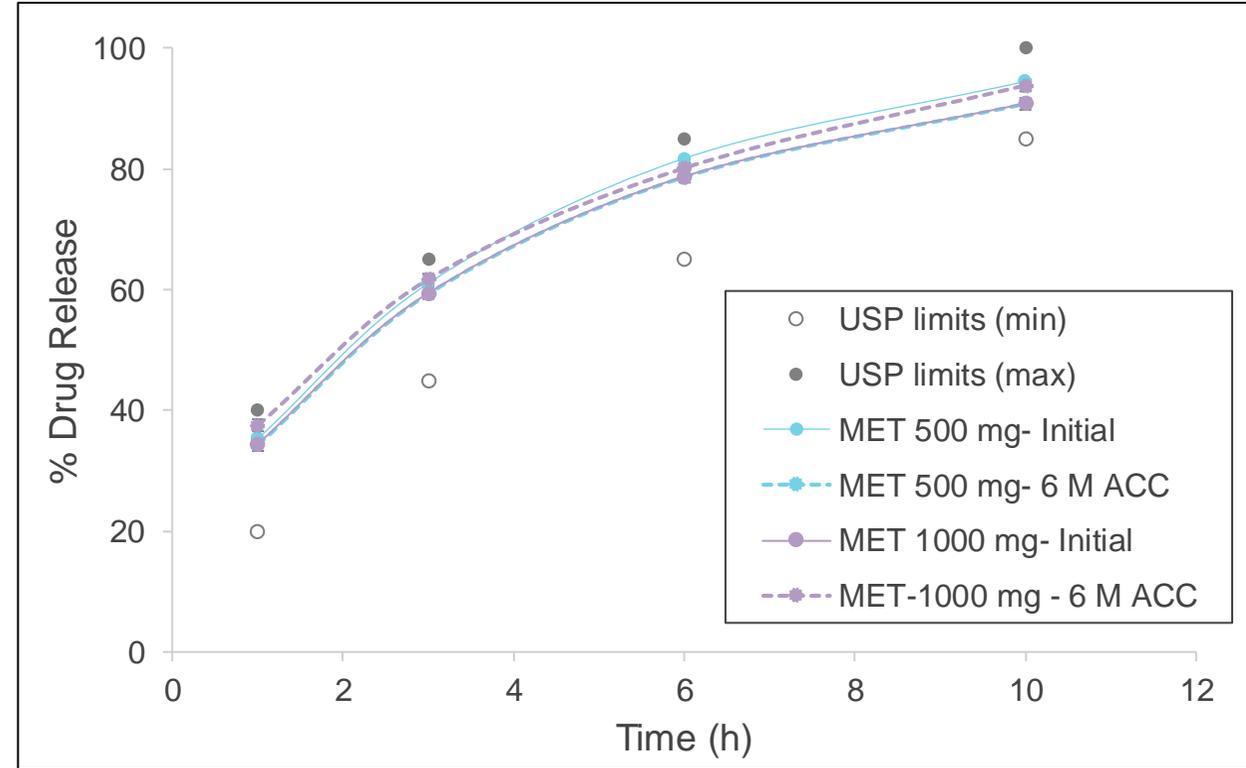
Lubrizol vs. commercial tablets  
(both 500 mg dose)

Physical Properties	500 mg USP	1000 mg USP
<b>Lubrizol Formulations</b>		
Tablet weight (mg) average ±SD	800.4 ± 7.8	1250.2 ± 10.2
Mechanical strength (kP) average ±SD	20.6 ± 0.96	21.6 ± 0.16
Friability @ 100(%)	0.20	0.18
Punch dimensions	17.1 X 8.2 mm, Capsule	20.15 X 9.7 mm, Oval biconvex
<b>Commercial product weight</b>	1030 mg	1450 mg

Both 500 mg and 1000 mg strength tablets were **successfully formulated at smaller sizes** (20-30% smaller than most commercial formulations of respective strengths)

# Metformin HCl ER Tablets USP Accelerated Stability Study

Tests	USP Specs	500 mg strength at 6 M ACC	1000 mg strength at 6 M ACC
Assay (%)	90-110	99.9	97.13
Single max impurity (%)	0.1	0.04	0.06
Total impurity (%)	0.6	0.10	0.16



Metformin HCl ER tablets were **stable under accelerated conditions (40 °C/75% RH)** when packed in HDPE bottles

# Metformin HCl ER Tablets USP Nitrosamine Impurity Testing

Results of nitrosamine impurity testing for Lubrizol Metformin HCl tablets

	Sample Name	Conditions	Results										
			Limits NMT 0.048 ppm		Limit NMT 0.013 ppm						Compliance		
			NDMA	NMBA	NDBA	NDEA	NDIPA	NEIPA	NDPA	NMPA	Scenario 1	Scenario 2	
Lubrizol Formulation	F – USP 500 mg	Fresh Lot	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	Complies	N/A
	F – USP 500 mg	6 Months Ambient	ND	BLOQ (0.006)	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	Complies	N/A
	F – USP 500 mg	40C/75%RH 6M PVDC	ND	0.010	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	Complies	N/A
	F – USP 500 mg	40C/75%RH 6M ALU/ALU	ND	BLOQ (0.005)	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	Complies	N/A
	F- USP 1000 mg	Fresh Lot	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	Complies	N/A

Total impurities should not be more than 0.013ppm – Scenario 2; LOQ: for NDMA & NMBA 0.015 ppm; for all other impurities 0.01 ppm; BLOQ: Below limit of quantification.; ND: Not detected according to non validated method; N/A: Not Applicable

Selected lots of the tablets tested at FDA approved testing laboratory as per US FDA guidelines were found to be **compliant for all eight nitrosamine impurities.**

# Carbopol® Polymers for Nitrosamines (NDMA) Compliant Metformin Extended-Release Tablets

## Small tablets



- High drug loading (62-80%)
- Patient adherence
- Aqueous granulation and manufacturing versatility
- Increased productivity and overall formulation cost saving

## Compliance

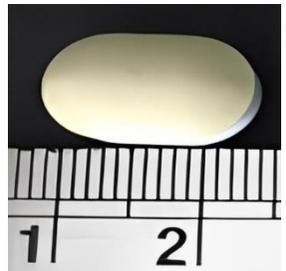


- Compendial monographs
- Multimedia dissolution
- Proven stability
- Nitrosamine impurities in compliance with recent guidance

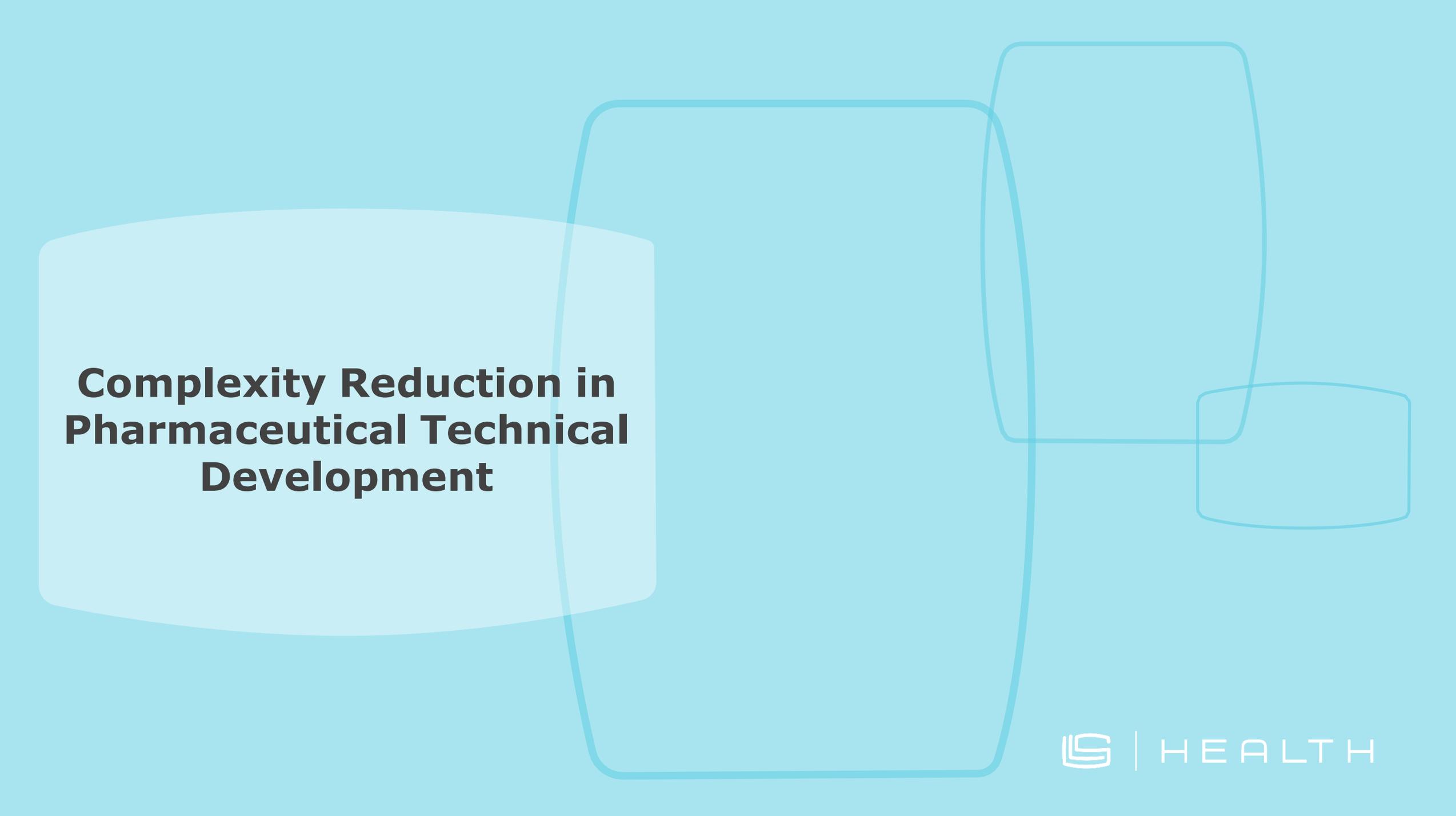
## Differentiation



- Proprietary formulations
- Extrapolation to higher strength
- Starting formula for bilayer tablets
- Scalable for shorter go to market



Metformin 500 mg ER  
Glimepiride 1 mg IR



# **Complexity Reduction in Pharmaceutical Technical Development**

# Pharmaceutical Technical Development (Chemistry, Manufacturing, & Controls – CMC)

CMC – multidisciplinary function ensuring development of **consistently high-quality safe drug products**



## CMC drives technological advances:

- Streamline drug development
- Advance cutting-edge pharmaceutical technologies
- Devise new forms of drug delivery that make conditions “druggable”
- Optimize development cost
- Increase patient adherence
- Broaden access for undertreated populations

# Complexity Reduction in Pharmaceutical Manufacturing

**Reduce cost,  
energy, and time**



**Enable  
innovation**



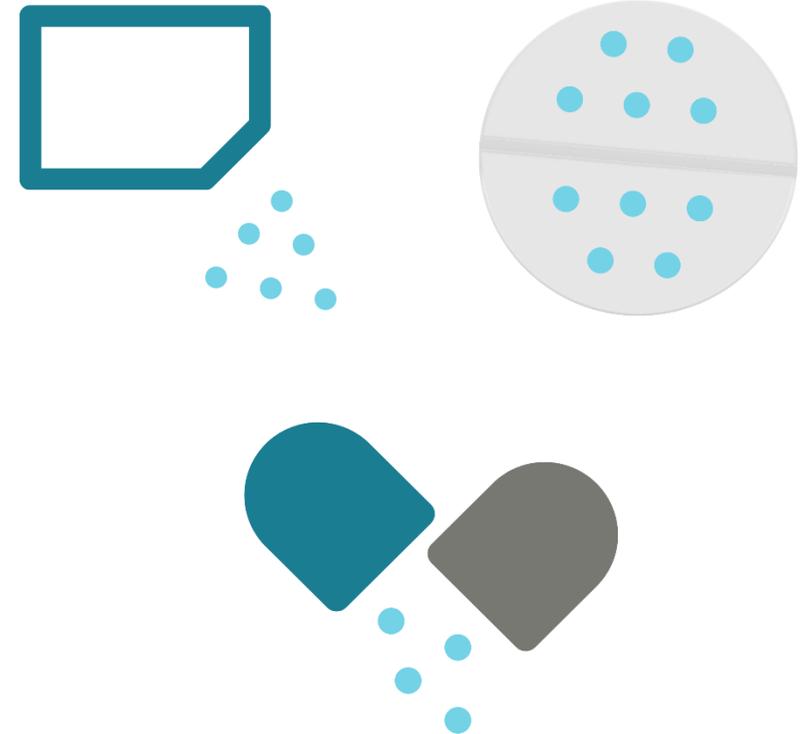
**Direct  
Compression**

**Continuous  
Manufacturing**

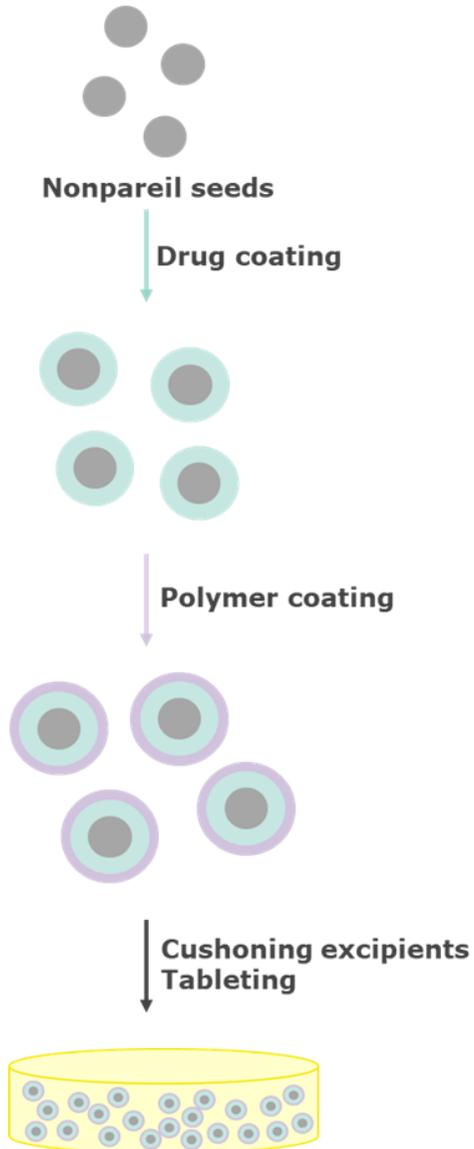
**Co-Processed  
APIs/Excipients**

# Multiparticulate Drug Delivery Systems

- Multiparticulate formulations provide **enhanced dosing flexibility for several formats**
- **Wide range of drug-release profiles** for single or multiple drug combinations:
  - Modified release
  - Immediate release
- Enable key formulation benefits, including:
  - **Bioavailability enhancement**
  - **Taste-masking**
  - **Ease-of swallowing**
- Various formats for finished dosage form: **capsule, tablet, or sachet**
- The selection of a specific MP technology is typically **dependent on the API and target product profile**



# Multi-Unit Pellet System (MUPS) Technology



MUPS Component	Factors Impacting Robustness of MUPS Tablet
Pellet core	Composition Porosity Size
Coating	Coating polymers Coating level Plasticizer
Tableting excipients	Type of excipients Ratio of pellets to excipients Size of cushioning excipients
Equipment	Tablet shape (tooling design) Compaction pressure

MUPS – complex technology involving intricate manufacturing steps

- MUPS integrity must be maintained throughout tableting process
- Very difficult to scale up
- Manufacturing can take several days to a week

Metoprolol Succinate  
MUPS-to-Matrix  
Tablet Formulation

Complex Technology,  
Simplified



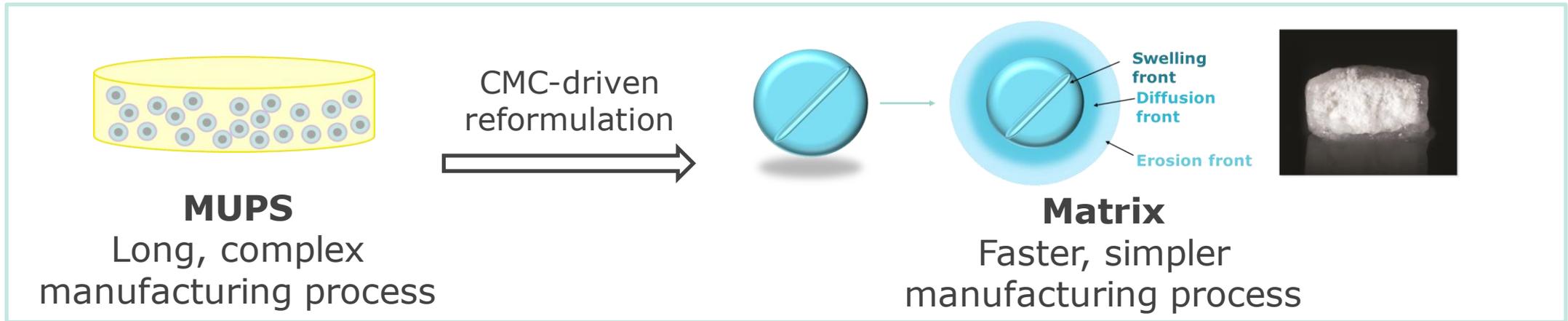
# Metoprolol Succinate ER

## From MUPS to Matrix Tablets

- **Metoprolol succinate** is a beta1-selective (cardio selective) adrenoceptor blocking agent, for oral administration, available as extended-release tablets.
- Metoprolol succinate extended-release tablets comprise a multiple unit system containing metoprolol succinate in a multitude of controlled-release pellets. Each pellet acts as a separate drug delivery unit and is designed to deliver metoprolol continuously over the dosage interval.

<p><b>U.S. Rank</b> 6<sup>th</sup> most prescribed</p>	<p><b>U.S. Prescriptions</b> 66 million in 2020</p>	<p><b>Indication</b> Heart Failure</p>	<p><b>2022 Sales</b> \$965M</p>
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# Metoprolol Succinate ER From MUPS to Matrix Tablets



**Objective:** reformulate a high-value product with a simpler manufacturing process and full compendial compliance

# Metoprolol Succinate Matrix Formulation 50 mg dose

## Formulation

Ingredients	Process
Metoprolol Succinate	HSWG with purified water
Carbopol® 971P NF polymer	
Microcrystalline cellulose PH 101	
Lactose monohydrate (agglomerated)	Extra-Granular
Dibasic calcium phosphate	
Hypromellose 2208 100000 cP	
Carbopol® 71G NF polymer	
Silica	
Magnesium stearate	Lubrication Tableting
HPMC based coating solution	Tablet coating

## Physical properties of uncoated tablet

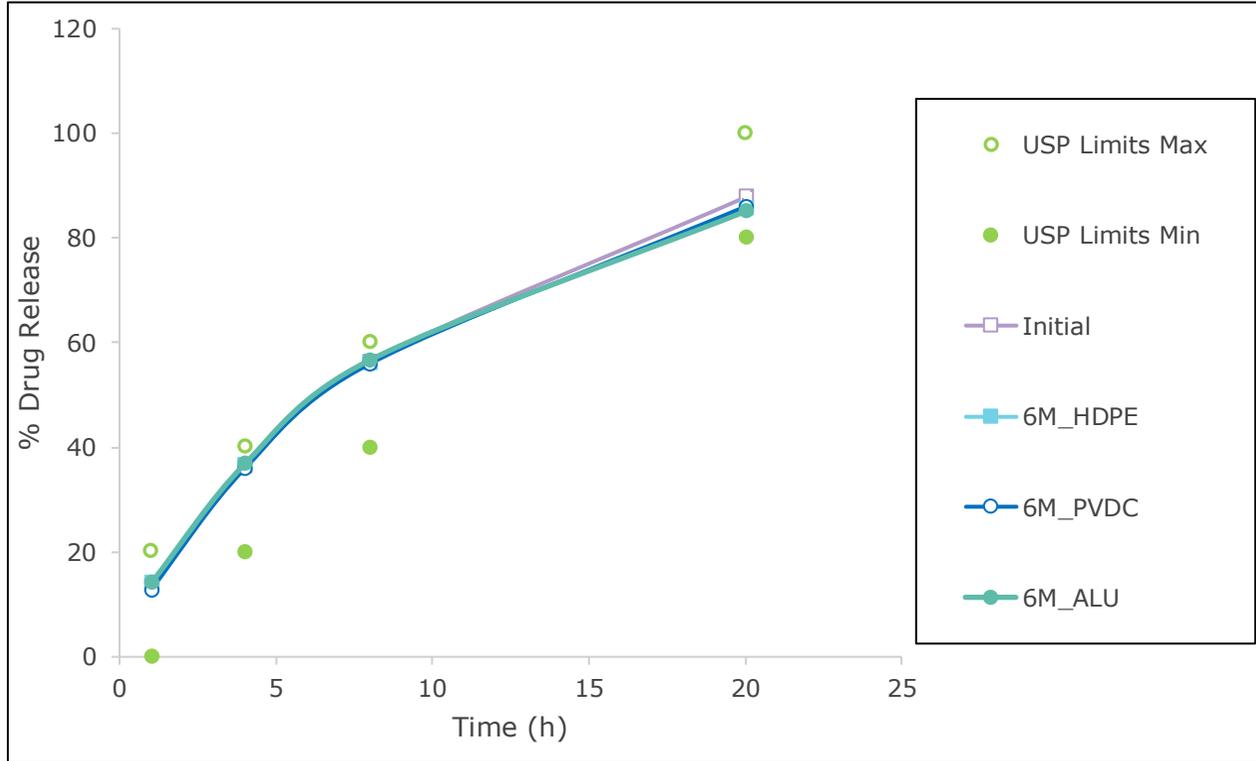
Weight (mg)	Thickness (mm)	Hardness (N)	% Friability 300 revolutions
~ 310	5.36 – 5.45	75 - 105	0.21

## Dissolution profile for coated tablets

Time (h)	USP limits	Metoprolol Succinate (50 mg)
1	NMT 20%	13.7
4	20-40%	36.4
8	40-60%	56.3
20	NLT 80%	87.8

*USP Apparatus 2 (Paddle), 50 rpm, 37 °C, 500 ml pH 6.8 phosphate buffer*

# Metoprolol Succinate Matrix Formulation 50 mg dose



USP Apparatus 2 (Paddle), 50 rpm, 37 °C, 500 ml pH 6.8 phosphate buffer

## Accelerated stability results (6 months)

	USP specs	ALU/ALU	PVDC Blister	HDPE Bottle
Assay (%)	90-110	99.1	102.1	97.2
Single max impurity (%)	0.2	0.07	0.08	0.08
Total impurity (%)	0.75	0.20	0.34	0.23

**Good stability of 50 mg metoprolol succinate matrix tablet formulation was achieved using various packaging**

# Metoprolol Succinate Matrix Formulation 100 mg dose

## Formulation

Ingredients	Process
Metoprolol Succinate	HSWG with purified water
Carbopol® 971P NF polymer	
Microcrystalline cellulose PH 101	
Lactose monohydrate (agglomerated)	Extra-Granular
Hypromellose 2208 100000 cP	
Carbopol® 71G NF polymer	
Silica	
Magnesium stearate	Lubrication Tableting
HPMC based coating solution	Tablet coating

## Physical properties of uncoated tablet

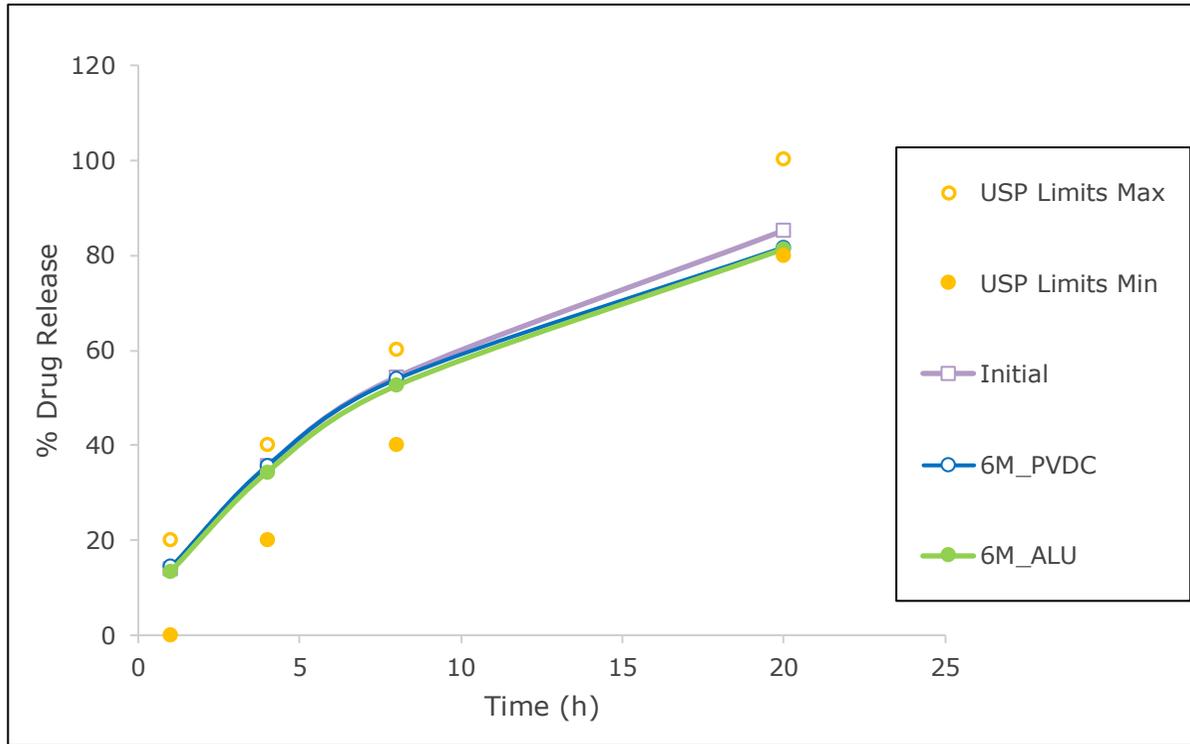
Weight (mg)	Thickness (mm)	Hardness (N)	% Friability 300 revolutions
430 ± 9	5.30 – 5.40	90 – 110	0.10

## Dissolution profile for coated tablets

Time (h)	USP limits	Metoprolol Succinate (50 mg)
1	NMT 20%	14.2
4	20-40%	36.2
8	40-60%	55.3
20	NLT 80%	84.8

*USP Apparatus 2 (Paddle), 50 rpm, 37 °C, 500 ml pH 6.8 phosphate buffer*

# Metoprolol Succinate Matrix Formulation 100 mg dose



USP Apparatus 2 (Paddle), 50 rpm, 37 °C, 500 ml pH 6.8 phosphate buffer

## Accelerated stability results (6 months)

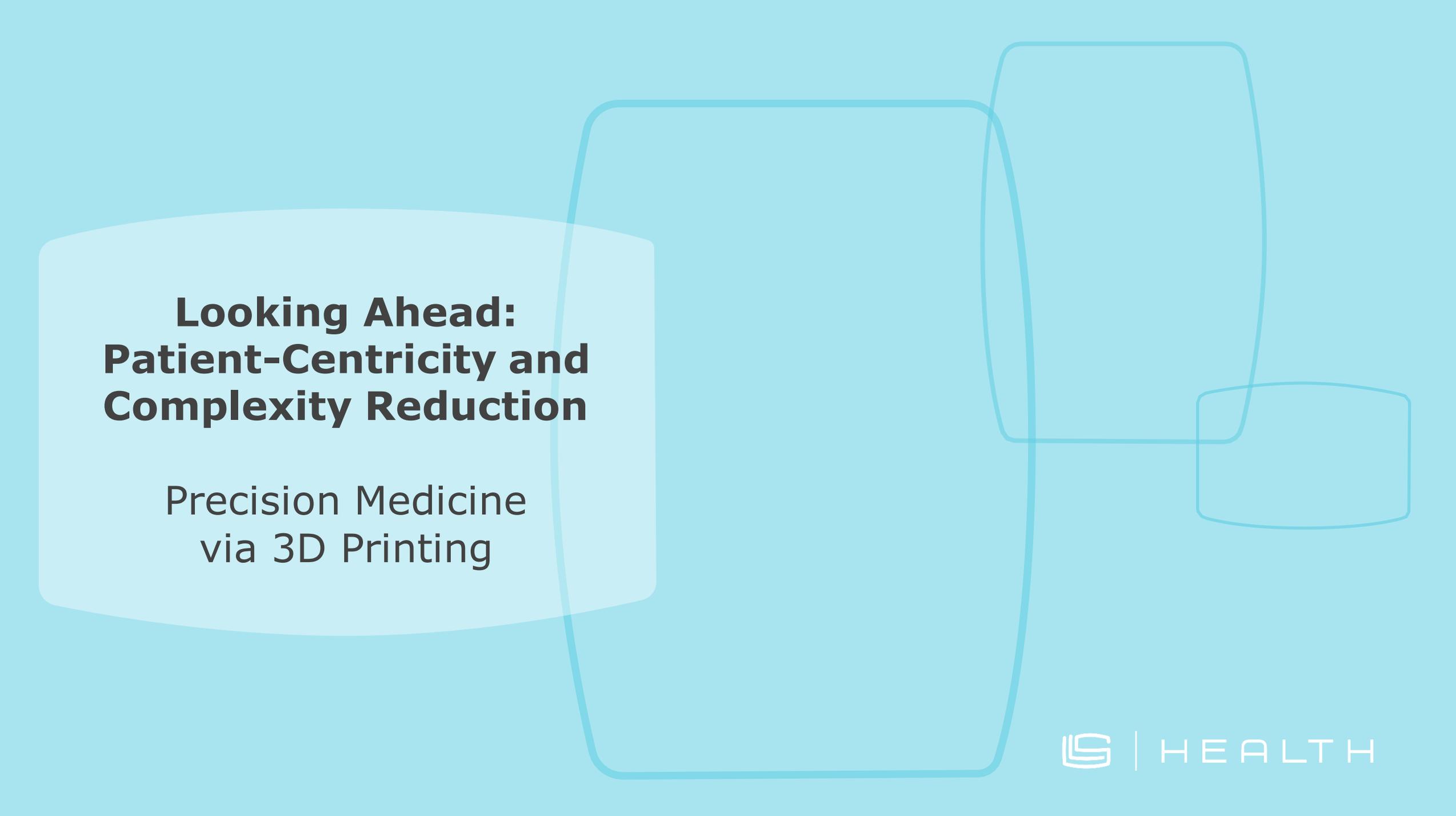
	USP specs	ALU/ALU	PVDC Blister
Assay (%)	90-110	97.9	97.0
Single max impurity (%)	0.2	0.07	0.08
Total impurity (%)	0.75	0.18	0.26

**Good stability of 100 mg metoprolol succinate matrix tablet formulation was achieved using various packaging**

# Metoprolol Succinate ER

## From MUPS to Matrix Tablets

- Carbopol® polymers at low inclusion levels enabled formulation of metoprolol succinate ER tablet allowing:
  - Decrease of manufacturing complexity
  - Matrix tablet (aqueous granulation) vs. MUPS
- Compliance with:
  - USFDA requirements for tablet size/shape
  - USP for assay, dissolution and RS specifications
- Formulation can be extrapolated to other dose strengths and fixed dose combinations



# **Looking Ahead: Patient-Centricity and Complexity Reduction**

Precision Medicine  
via 3D Printing

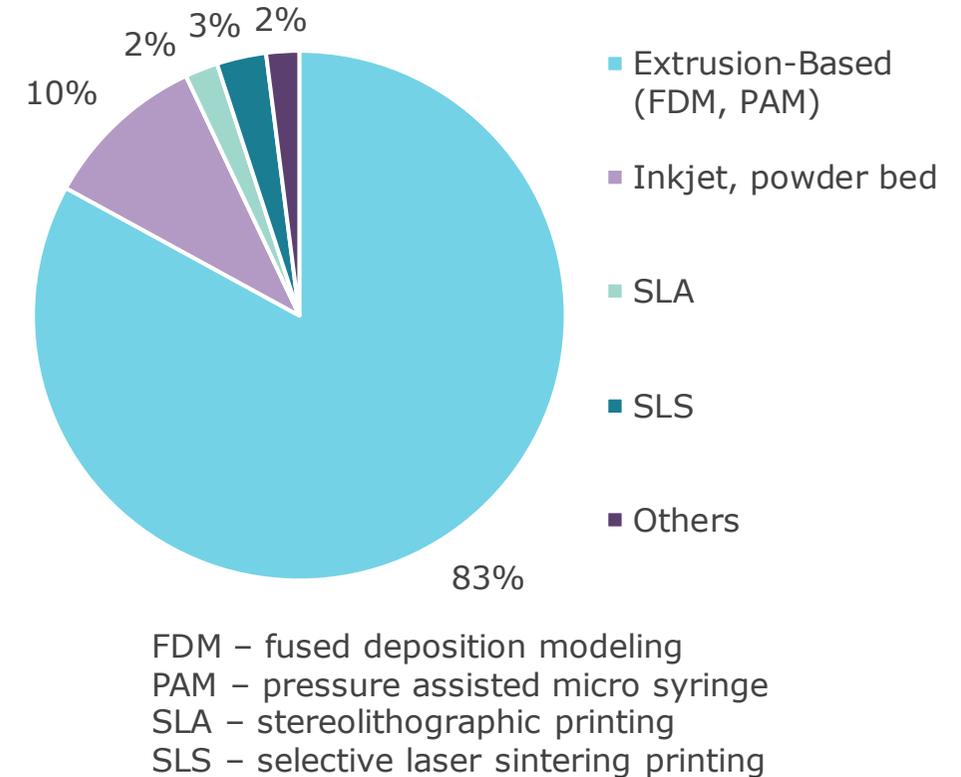
## Precision Medicine

- Medicine **created/optimized for an individual** based on analysis of their molecular profile
  - 2015: implementation of the “*Precision Medicine Initiative*” USA initiative focused on individualized care

## 3D Printing

- **2015 - FDA approval of the first 3D printed medicine, SPRITAM®** (levetiracetam) manufactured by Aprelia Pharmaceuticals Company (USA) for the treatment of seizures
- Current pharmaceutical manufacturing practices are not cost-effective for personalized medicine
- 3D printing is more suited to tailored solid dosage forms

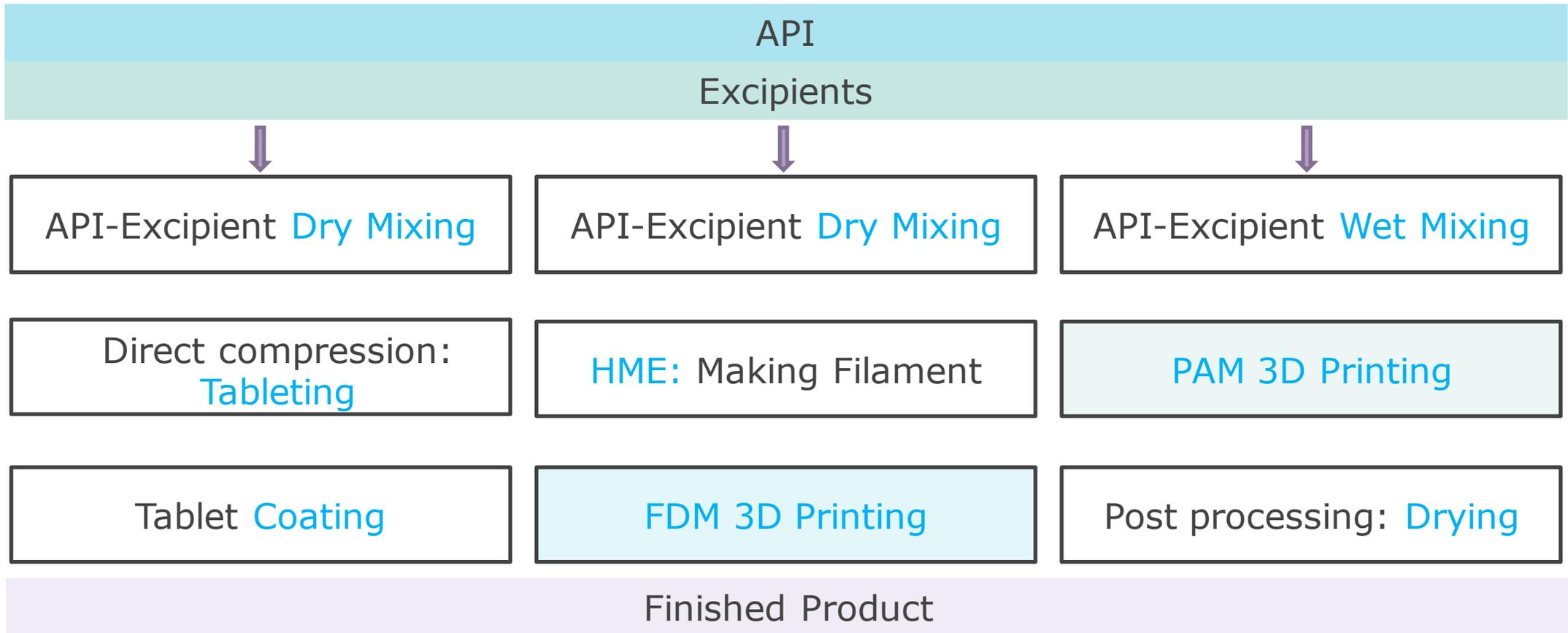
**3D Printing Techniques in Research (2015-2020)**



3D Printing is an enabling technology of **patient-centric, precision medicines**



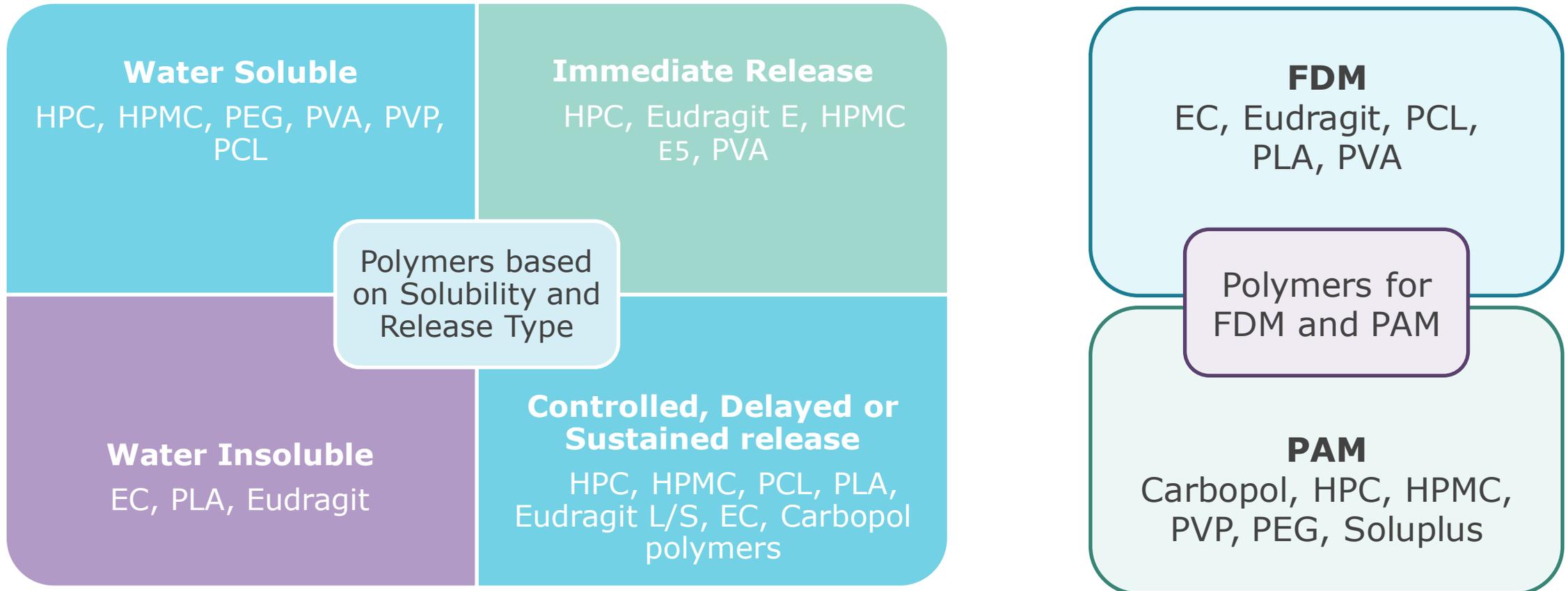
# 3D Printing vs Direct Compression Tableting



Processing steps: direct compression vs. 3D printing (FDM or PAM)

3D printing technologies (FDM; PAM) require same number of steps as DC tableting with the advantage of **lower footprint; individual tablet or small batch manufacturing; and remote control**

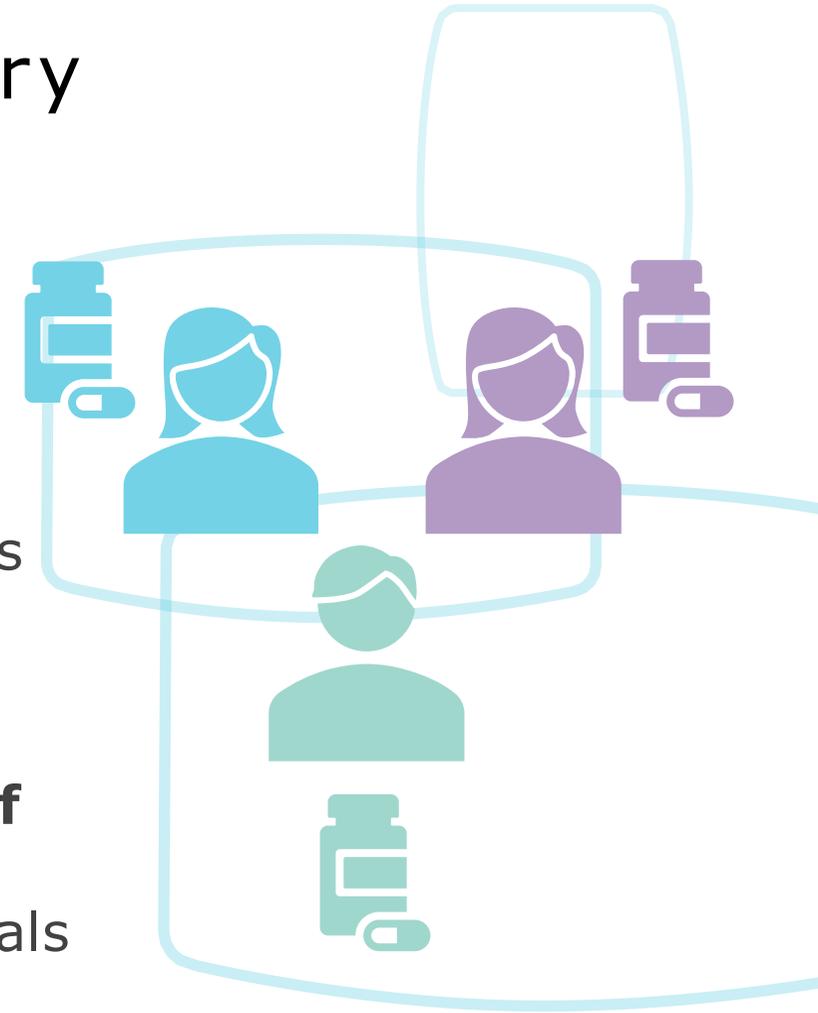
# Excipients for 3D Printing



**Rheological properties of the polymers and polymer-API mixture** play a vital role in predicting the processability of FDM and PAM 3D printing and the properties of the final pharmaceutical products (solid dosages)

# 3D Printing in the Pharmaceutical Industry

- 3D printing of pharmaceuticals is still in its infancy and its **potential yet to be fully explored**
- Regulatory challenges need to be overcome, but agencies are **encouraging the growth of precision medicine**
- A better understanding of the **rheological properties of API-polymer mixtures** and their measurement is necessary for the successful 3D printing of pharmaceuticals



3D Printing is an early-stage technology that can **enable the future of tailored, precision medicines**

## Conclusions and Takeaways

- There are various **technical and population-related challenges** to oral controlled release
- **Excipients enable** advanced drug delivery technologies through:
  - Improved absorption
  - Solubility enhancement
  - Targeted drug release
- Advanced drug delivery can also **improve the patient experience via:**
  - Improved medication adherence
  - Tailored, precision medicines



# Thank you!

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[Connect with me on LinkedIn!](#)



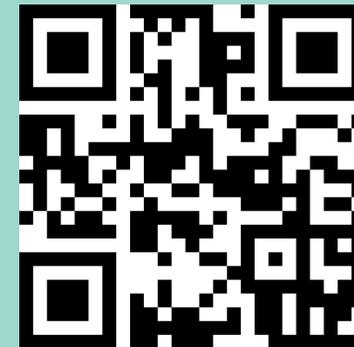
## **Joe Zeleznik**

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IMCD North America  
[Joseph.Zeleznik@imcdus.com](mailto:Joseph.Zeleznik@imcdus.com)  
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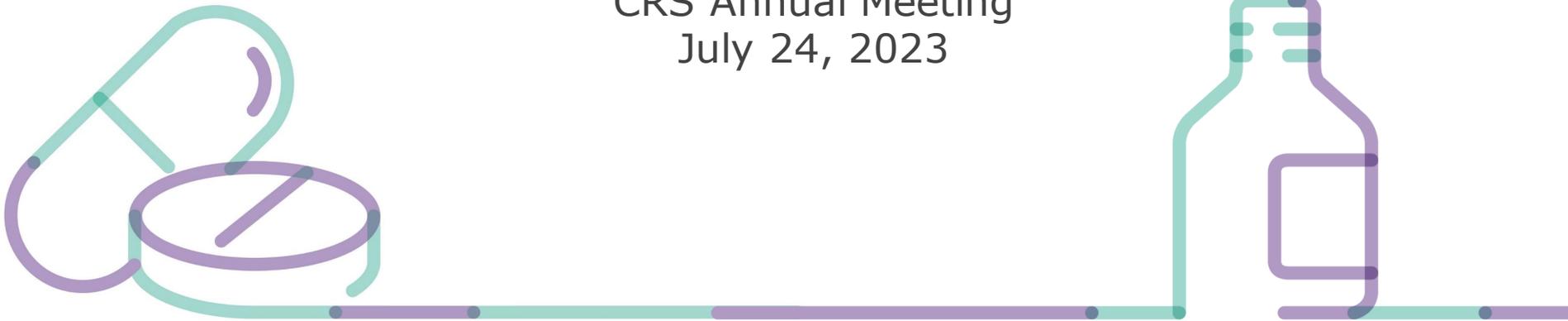
**Scan to Download this Presentation**



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# Mucoadhesion & Modern Drug Delivery Systems

CRS Annual Meeting  
July 24, 2023



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## **Patient-Centric Drug Delivery**

### **Mucoadhesion for Drug Delivery**

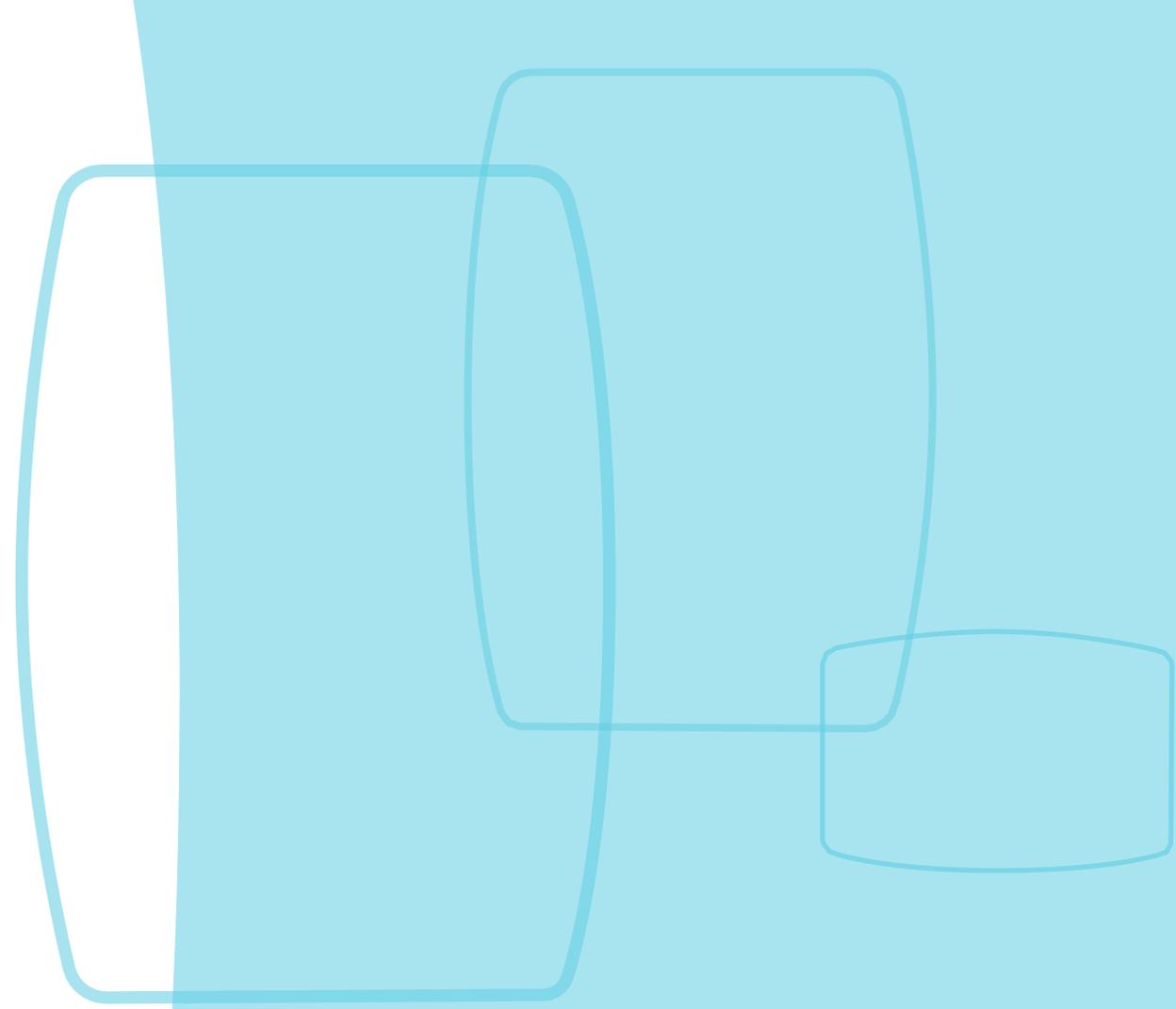
- [Carbopol® Polymers for Mucoadhesion](#)
- [\*In Vitro\* Evaluation of Mucoadhesion](#)

### **Mucoadhesion Case Studies**

### **Gastroretentive, Mucoadhesive Mini-Tablets**

### **Commercial Mucoadhesive Products**

### **Conclusion and Takeaways**



# The Challenge: Patient Adherence

**60%**

of adults in the US  
have a chronic disease



HEART  
DISEASE



CANCER



CHRONIC LUNG  
DISEASE

**50%**

of patients are non-  
adherent to their therapy



STROKE



ALZHEIMER'S  
DISEASE



DIABETES



CHRONIC  
KIDNEY DISEASE

The cost in reduced sales for drug manufacturers attributed to non-adherence is  
**\$250 billion annually for the U.S. market and  
\$637 billion annually globally**

# The Solution: Patient-Centric Drug Delivery

**Easier to Use /  
More Convenient**

**Smaller  
Tablets**



**Rapid  
Disintegration**



**Oral  
Liquids**



**Reduced Dosing  
Frequency**

**Extended  
Release**

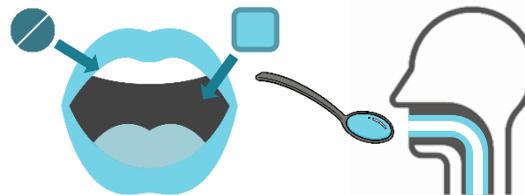


**Gastro-  
retention**



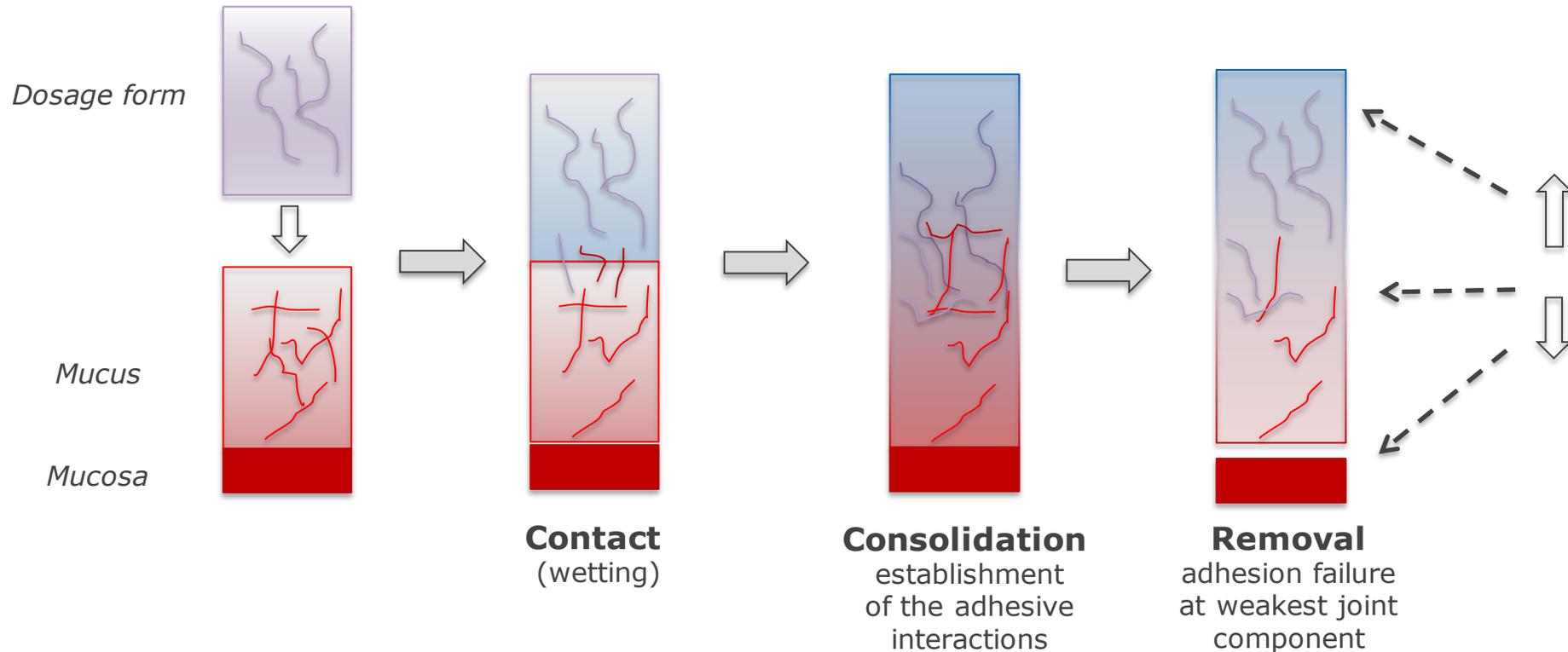
**Improved  
Efficacy**

**Mucoadhesion**



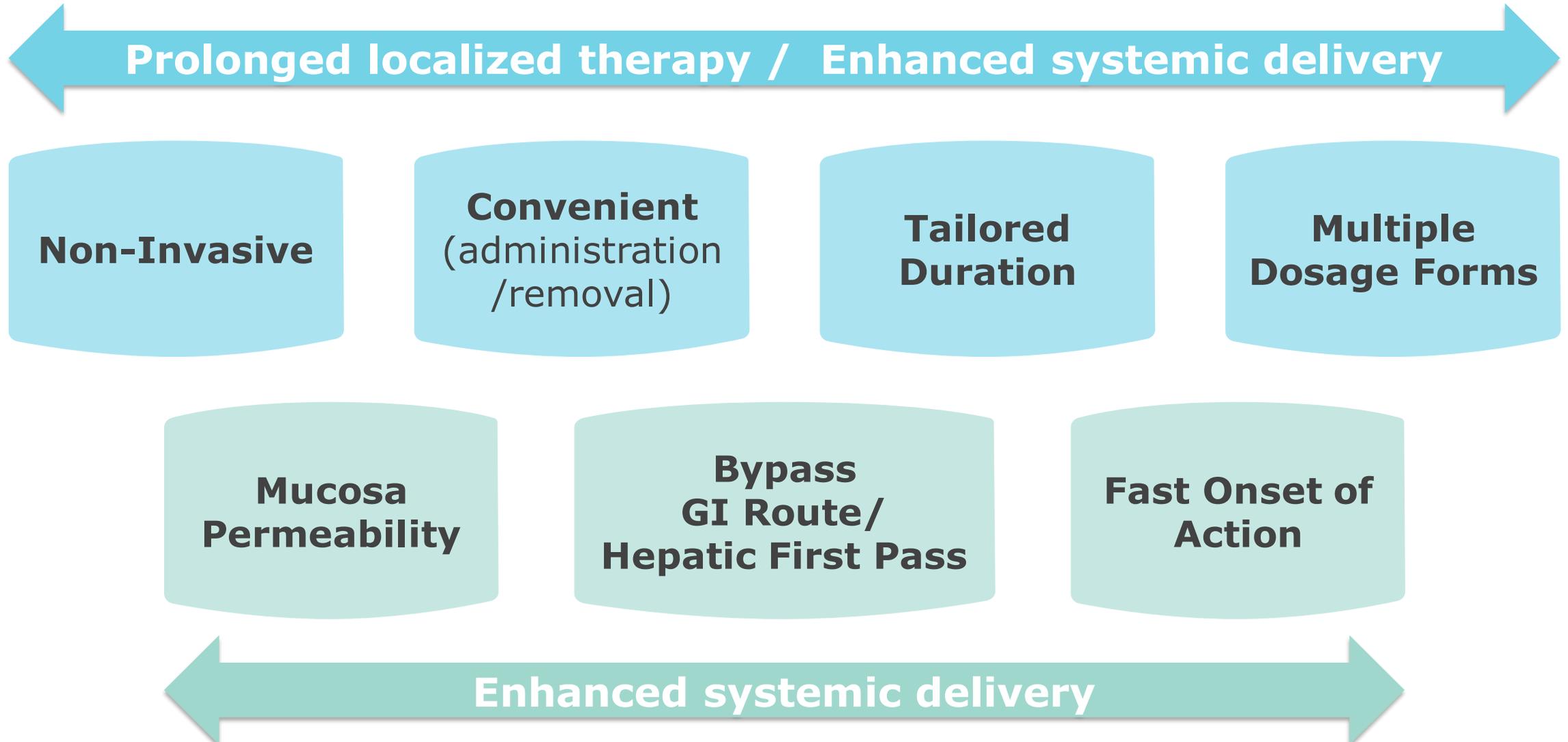
# Bioadhesion/Mucoadhesion Mechanism

**Mucoadhesion:** two surfaces, one of which is mucus or a mucous membrane, adhere to each other



Mucoadhesion is a **complex scenario and mechanism**

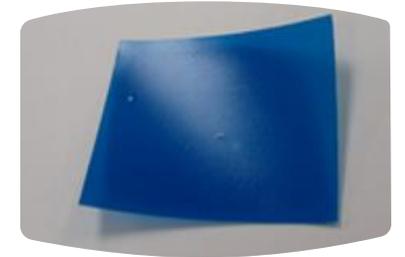
# Mucoadhesion Benefits for Drug Delivery



Indication/Uses	Drug
Cardiovascular	Nitroglycerin; Propafenone; Captopril; Verapamil
Analgesic	Fentanyl; Sumatriptan
Sedative	Midazolam; Triazolam; Etomidate
Insomnia	Zolpidem
Antiemetic	Prochlorperazine
Hormone	Testosterone; Estrogen
Erectile dysfunction	Sildenafil citrate
Opioid dependence	Buprenorphine; Naloxone

## Mucosal Routes for Systemic Administration:

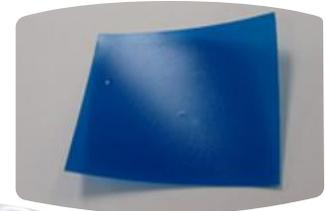
- Oral
- Nasal
- Rectal



Indication/Uses	Drug
Oral mucositis	Granulocyte colony stimulating factor (G-CSF); Keratinocyte growth factor; Polymyxin/Tobramycin/Amphotericin (PTA); Sucralfate
Recurrent aphthous stomatitis	Chlorhexidine; Corticosteroids; Amlexanox
Oral cancer (early stages)/ prevention and treatment	Acitretin; Isotretinoin; Bleomycin; Tolonium chloride
Pain	Lidocaine
Infections	Chlorhexidine; Tetracycline; Doxycycline; Metronidazole; Nystatin; Clotrimazole; Miconazole; Itraconazole; Acyclovir
Xerostomia	Pilocarpine; Cevimeline; Bethanechol
Immunological mediated diseases	Betamethasone; Fluticasone; Fluocinolone; Dexamethasone; Clobetasol propionate; Azathioprine; Methotrexate; Ciclosporin

**Mucosal Routes for Local Administration:**

- Oral
- Nasal
- Vaginal
- Ophthalmic
- Rectal



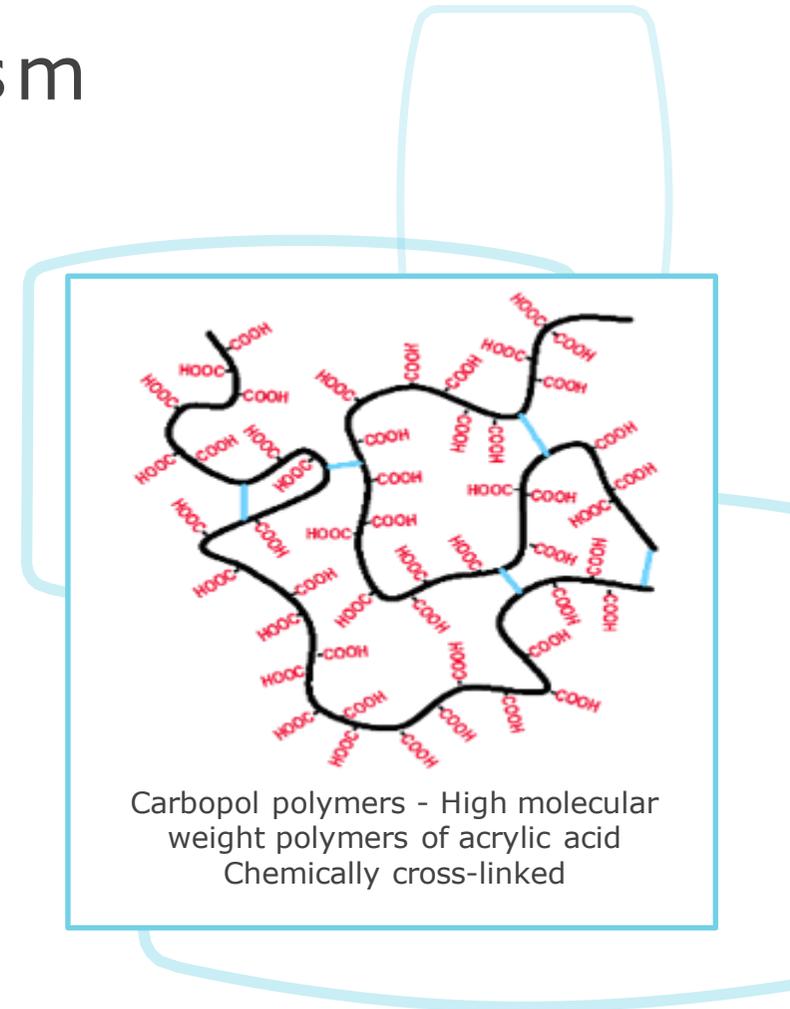
# Mucoadhesive Excipients

Synthetic or natural hydrophilic polymers containing functional groups that could **interact with the mucin glycoproteins** via non-covalent bonds such as hydrogen bonding, van der Waals forces and ionic interactions

Polymer Type	Functional groups	Examples
Synthetic	- COOH	Carbomers (Carbopol® polymers, Noveon® AA1 polycarbophil); PVM/MA (free acid form of the copolymer of methyl vinyl ether and maleic anhydride)
Semi-synthetic	- OH; - COOH	Sodium carboxymethyl cellulose
Natural	- OH; - COOH; -OSO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	Carrageenan; Xanthan gum; Alginates

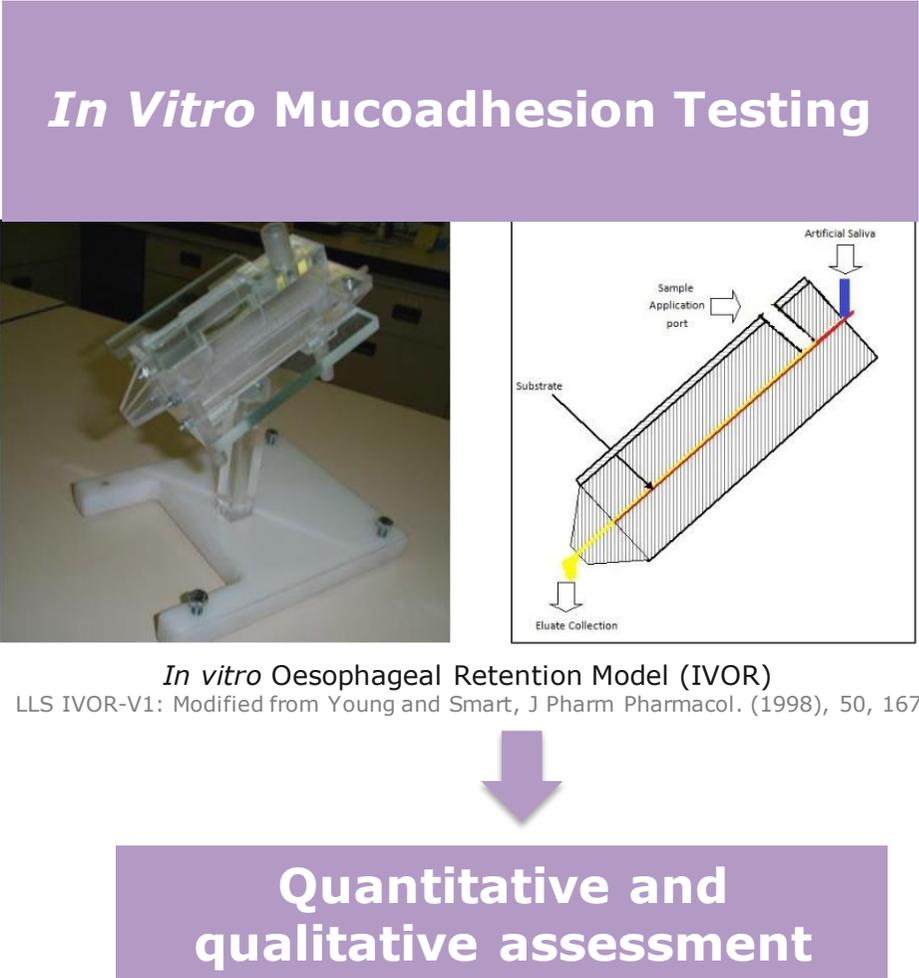
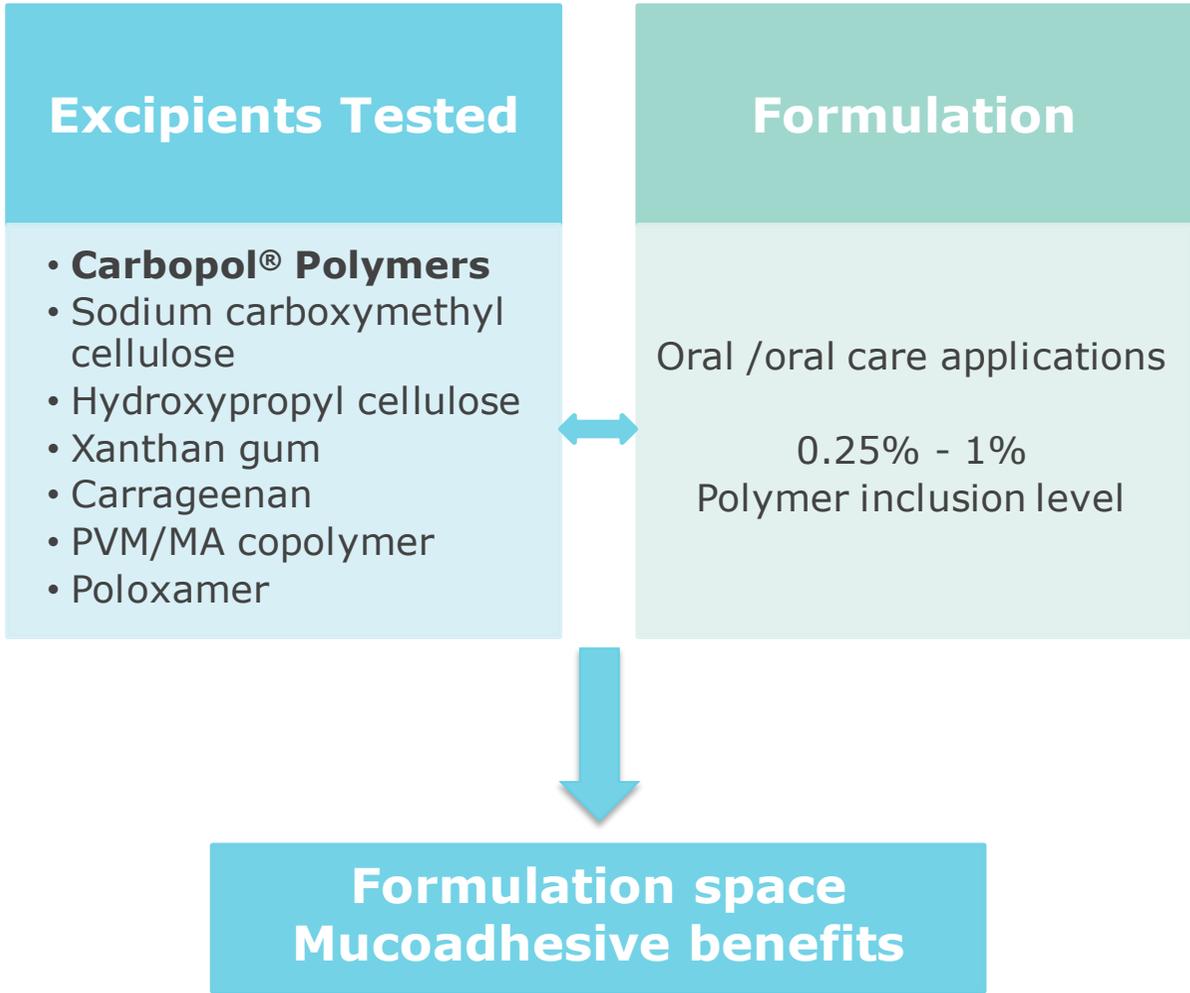
# Carbopol® Polymers Mucoadhesion Mechanism

- **Wetting** - fast hydration of Carbopol polymers allows the dosage forms to quickly establish the contact with the mucus upon administration
- Consolidation of the adhesion:
  - **Hydrogen Bonding** - Carbopol polymers, having large amount of carboxylic groups, can establish hydrogen bonding with the mucus. This occurs when the polymer is used "as is", without neutralization - solid dosage forms (granules, tablets), anhydrous systems, etc.
  - **Macromolecular Penetration** - Carbopol polymers in neutralized form are swollen to the largest extent and can interpenetrate with the glycoprotein chains from mucus, to form a network. This occurs when the polymer is neutralized - liquid or semisolid dosage forms containing buffers or bases.



*In vitro* evaluation of  
mucoadhesive properties of  
pharmaceutical excipients

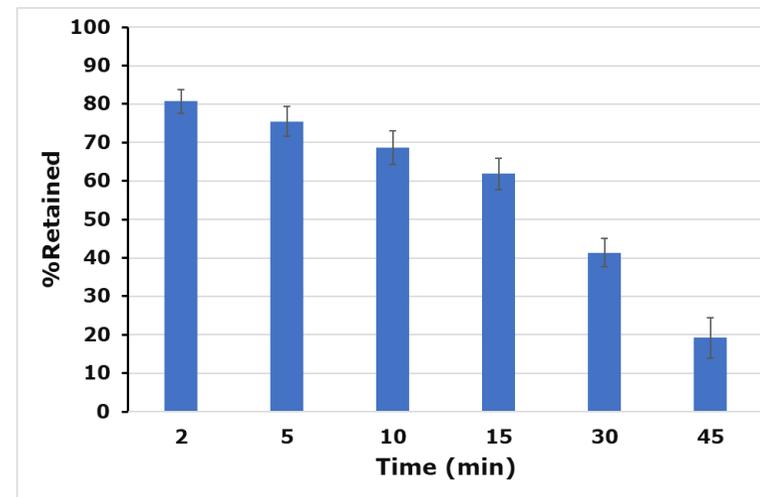
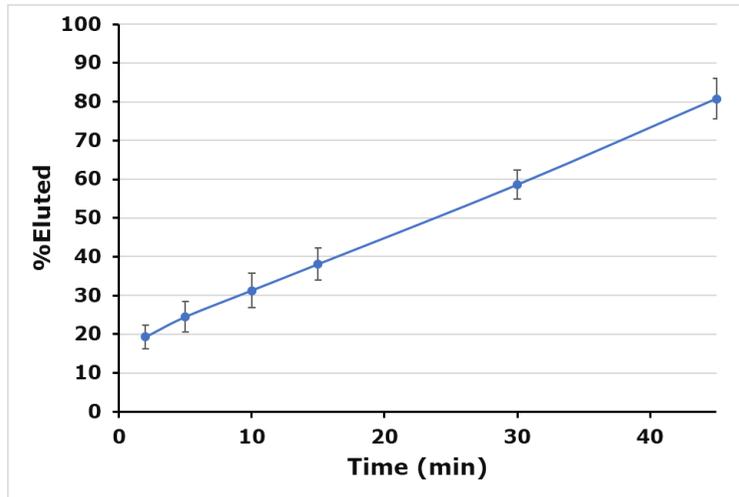
# In vitro Mucoadhesive Properties of Pharmaceutical Excipients



# In vitro Oesophageal Retention Model (IVOR) Data Analysis

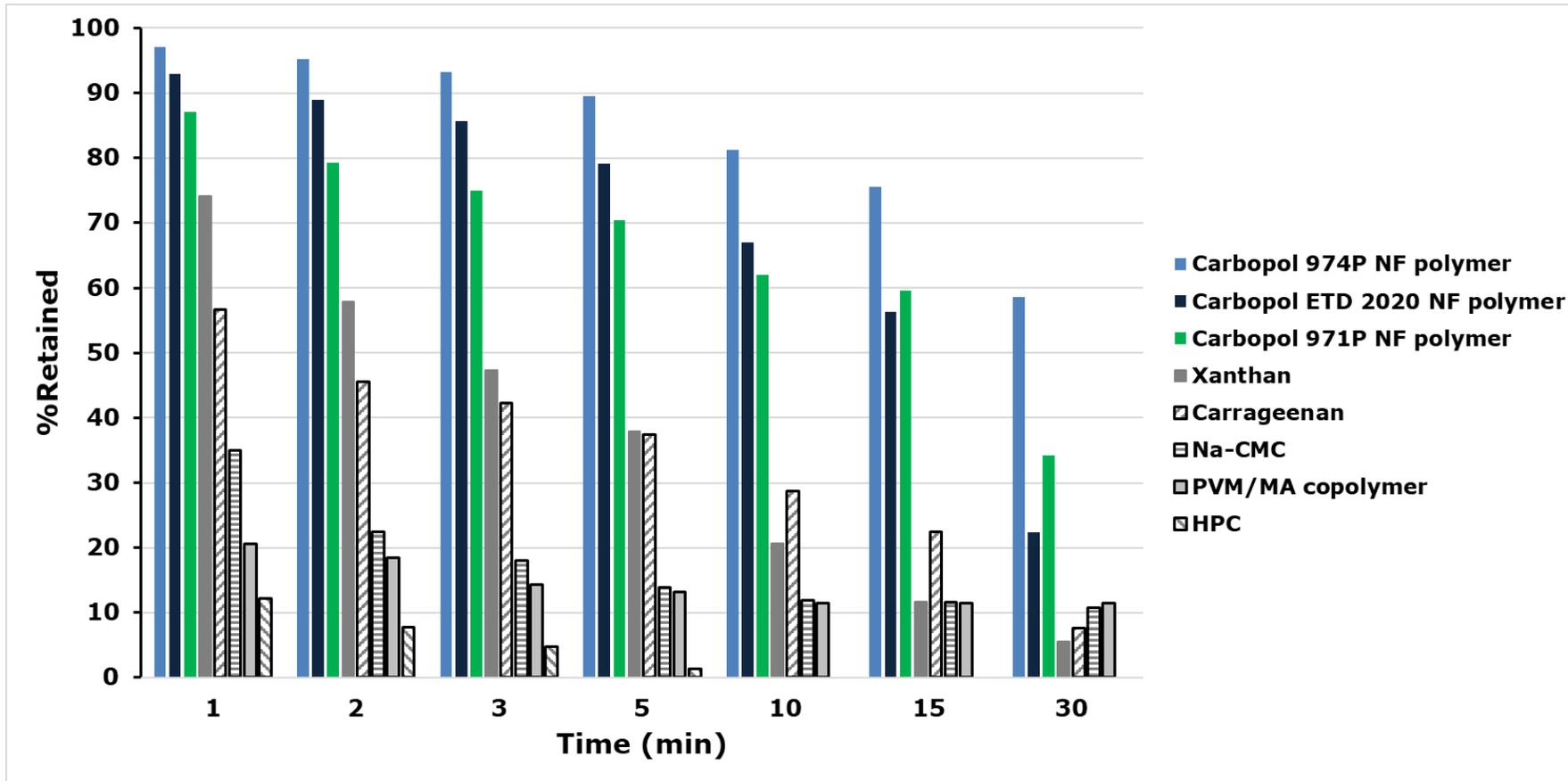
- Analysis of the eluted fractions is done by quantifying the active/marker in the eluate (fluorescence; UV- Vis or HPLC)
- The percentage of active/marker eluted is calculated with reference to total amount of marker in the formulation

**Retained (%) = 100% - Eluted (%)**



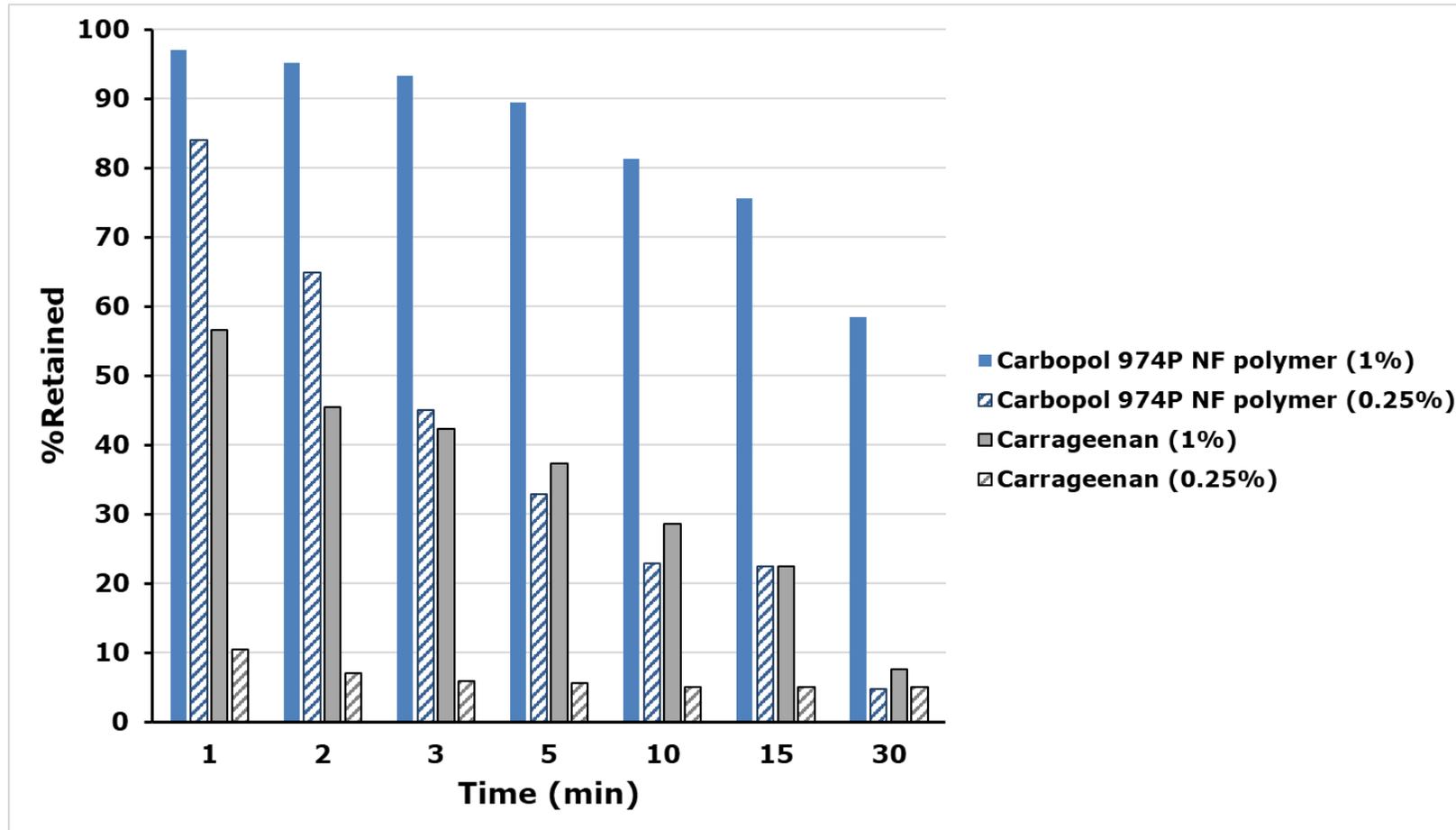
Number of runs: n = 6

# 1% Polymer Aqueous Dispersions



**Carbopol® polymers provided the longest retention, followed by xanthan and carrageenan**

# Impact of Polymer Concentration on Mucoadhesion

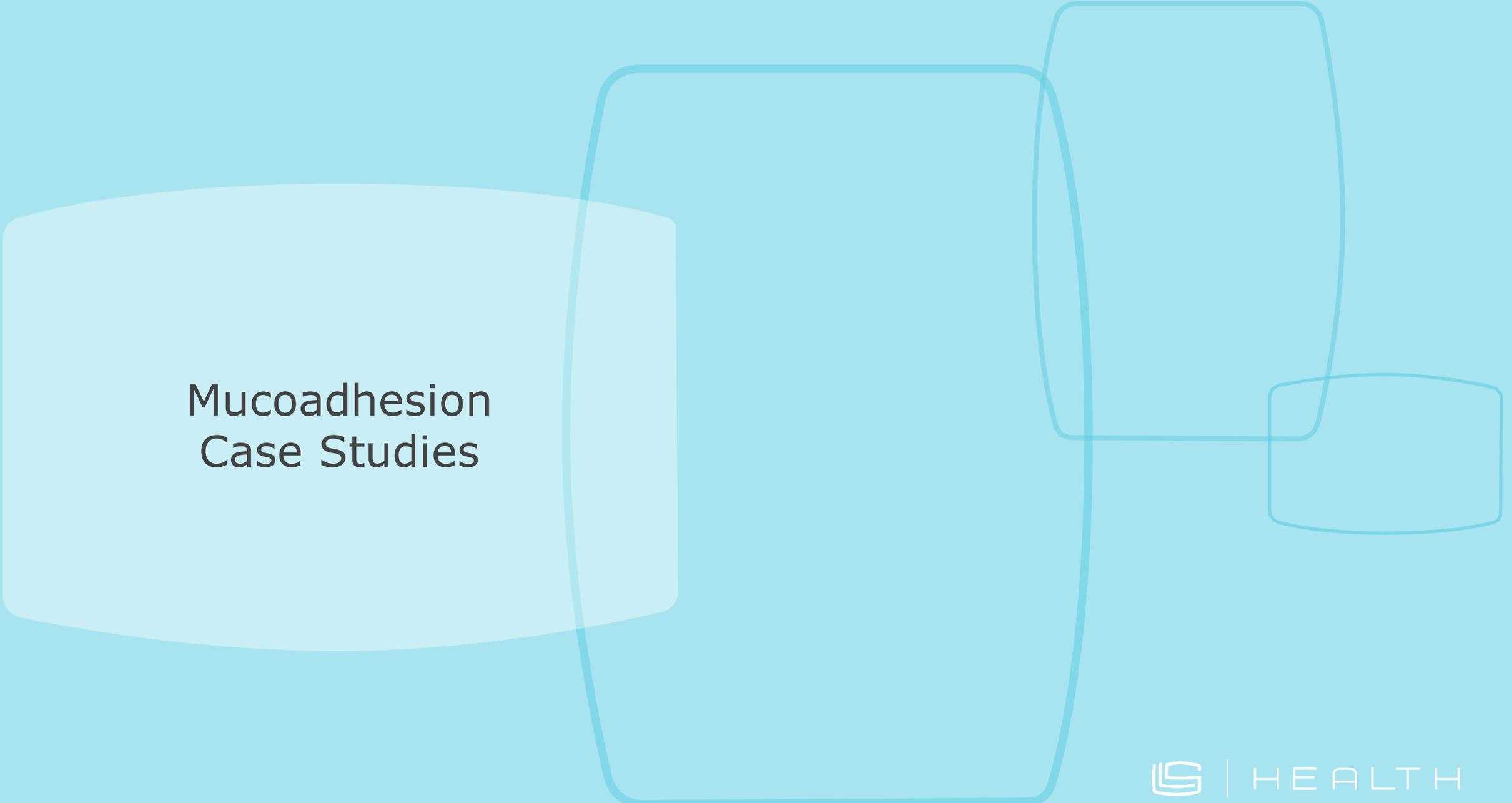


**Longer retention was achieved for the more concentrated dispersions**

# *In vitro* Mucoadhesive Properties of Pharmaceutical Excipients

In vitro evaluation of mucoadhesive properties indicated longer retention for Carbopol polymers compared to other materials evaluated:

- The advantage was observed both at 0.25 and 1% concentrations
- At 0.25% inclusion level, only Carbopol polymers were retained, all other materials were washed off after 1 minute
- Longer retention was achieved for the more concentrated dispersions
- At 1% concentration, Carbopol polymers provided the longest retention (lower amount eluted), followed by carrageenan and xanthan. Results indicated retention for more than 30 min for Carbopol polymers



# Mucoadhesion Case Studies

# Mucoadhesion Case Studies



Cough/Cold Liquid Formulation



No-Spill Oral Suspension



Buccal Films



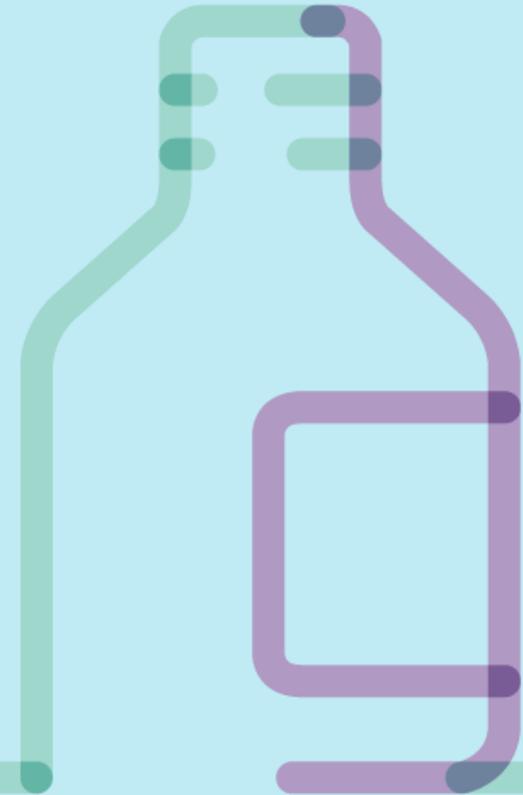
Lozenges



Buccal Tablets

# Mucoadhesion Case Study

Cough/Cold Liquid  
Formulation with  
Mucoadhesive Properties



# Experimental Design

Study parameter	
Formulation	Reference formulation: commercially available cold/cough product with no mucoadhesive properties  Experimental formulation: commercial formulation + <b>Carbopol<sup>®</sup> polymer</b>
Variables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carbopol polymer grade: 971P NF and 974P NF</li> <li>• Carbopol polymer inclusion level: 0.3%; 0.5% and 1%</li> </ul>

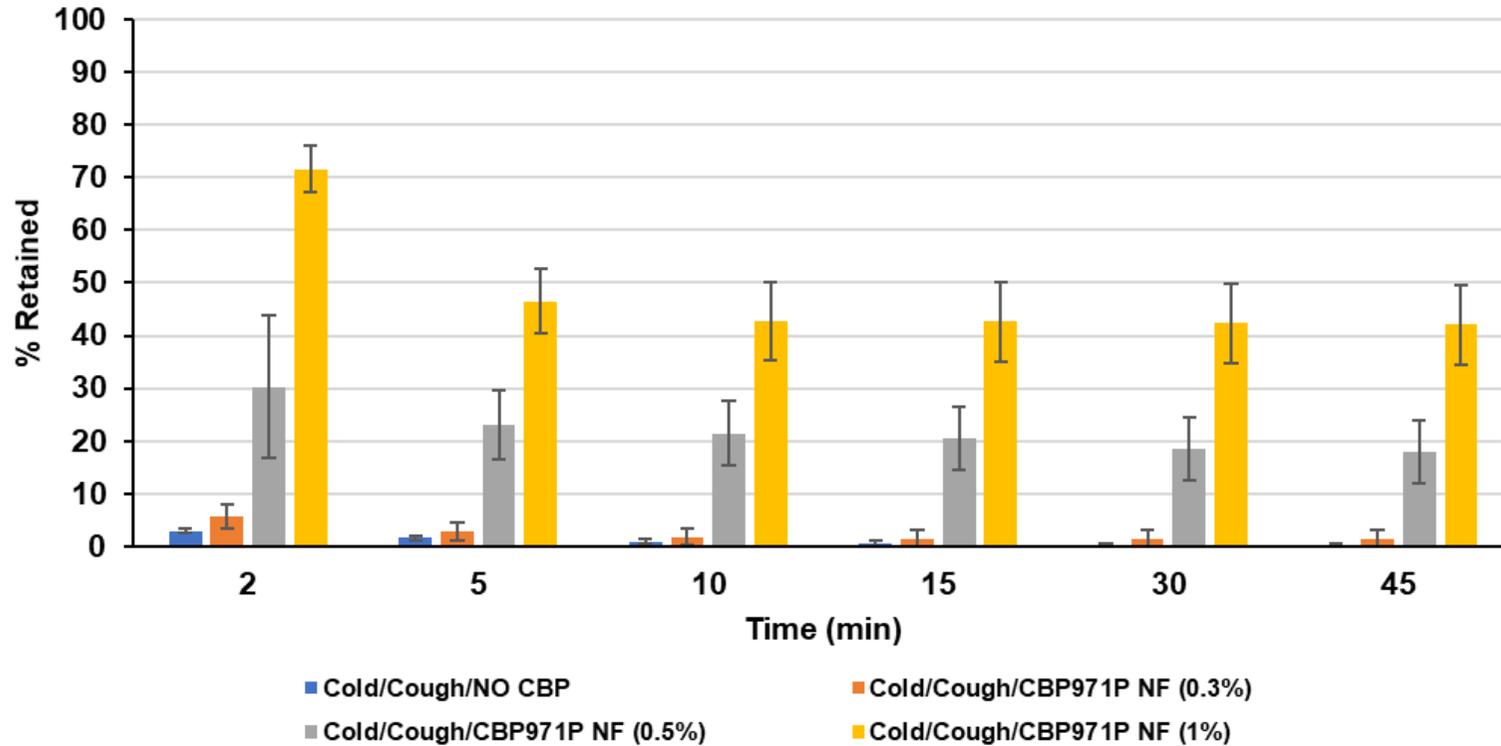


**OUTPUT**

Formulation:

- viscosity
- mucoadhesion

# Impact of Carbopol® 971P NF Polymer Concentration on Mucoadhesion of Cold/Cough Formulations



**Retention of formulation when using Carbopol 971P NF polymer increases with polymer level**

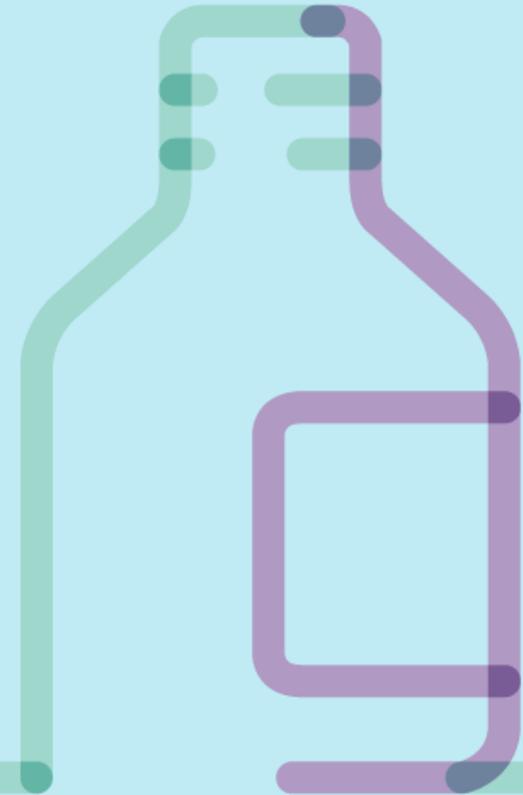
# Cold/Cough Oral Liquid Formulation with Mucoadhesive Properties

- **Carbopol® polymers imparted mucoadhesive properties** to cold/cough liquid formulations when compared to reference formulation without Carbopol polymers:
  - **Longer retention was achieved** with higher inclusion level of Carbopol polymer
  - Formulations containing **Carbopol 971P NF polymer show higher retention** when compared to similar formulations of Carbopol 974P NF polymer
- Mucoadhesion may also impart a **protective coating to inflamed tissue**

The mucoadhesive properties of Carbopol polymers enable **prolonged retention of actives and potential for enhanced therapeutic effects**

# Mucoadhesion Case Study

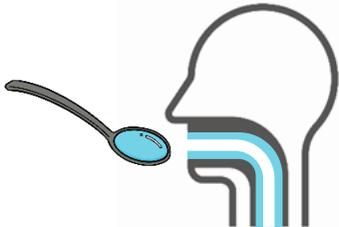
No-Spill Mucoadhesive  
Oral Suspension Platform



# No-Spill Oral Suspension Platform

## Best for Patients

No spill format  
Soothing, protective coating  
Ideal for pediatric/geriatric



## Formulator Friendly

Simplified formulations  
Cold processing  
Lower usage levels



## Platform for Innovation

Universal concept  
Broad API compatibility



# Proof of Concept: Acetaminophen Suspension

- Sugar-free formulation
- Improved sensorial experience via:
  - Mucoadhesive performance
  - Unique flavors (chocolate, coffee)
- Reduced spill
- Cold processed formulation to allows ease of scalability and manufacturing



Easy-to-administer

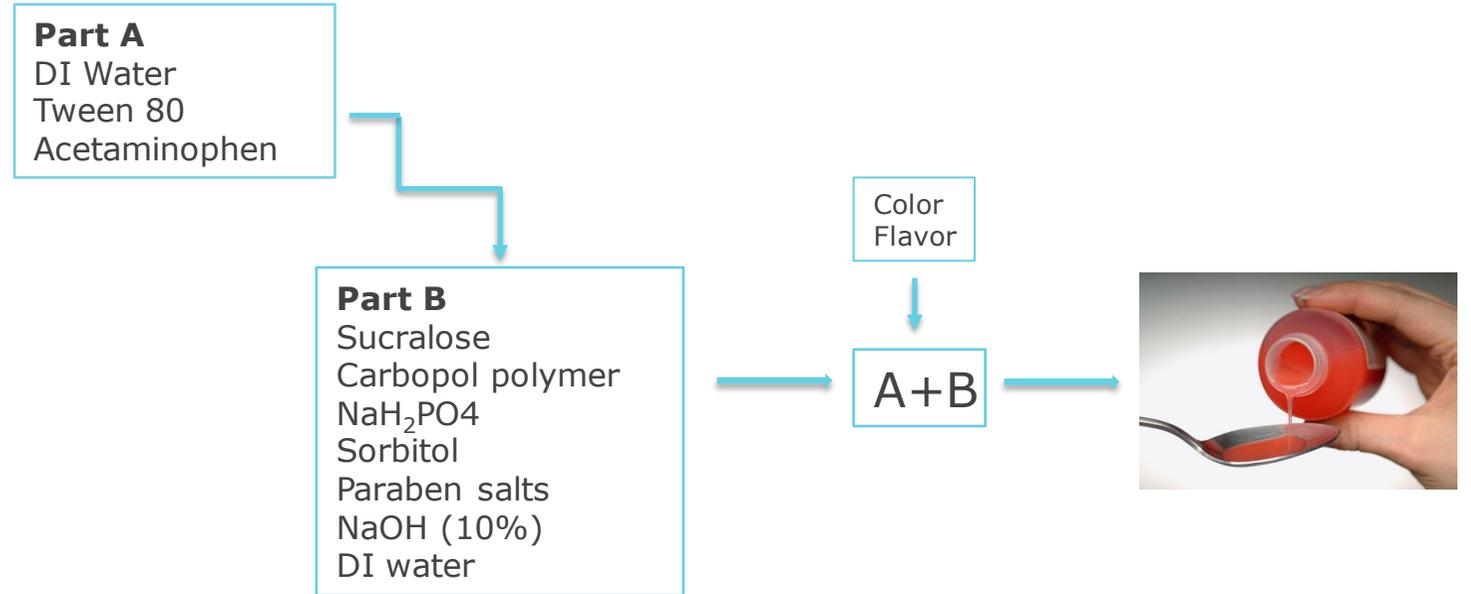
 = soothing, protective coating



# Proposed Concept Formulation and Processing

Formulation Ingredients
Acetaminophen
<b>Carbopol polymer</b>
Sorbitol 70%
Sucralose
Flavor
Methyl paraben sodium
Propylparaben sodium
Tween 80
NaOH (10%)/Na <sub>2</sub> HPO <sub>4</sub>
Purified water

## Cold process – time and energy savings

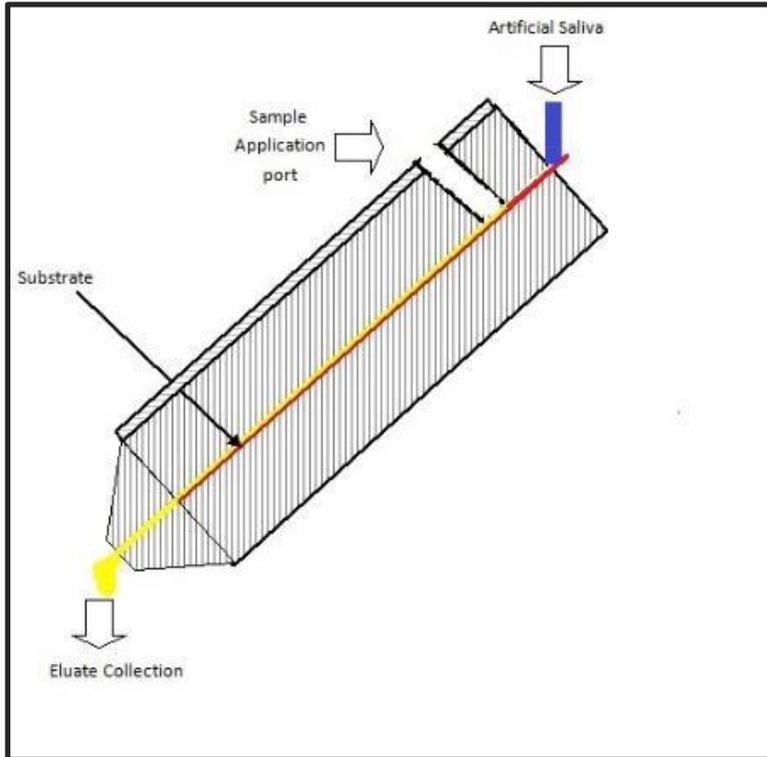


Formulation development focused on:

- Spill resistance properties and/or
- Soothing/protective coating

# Mucoadhesive Properties

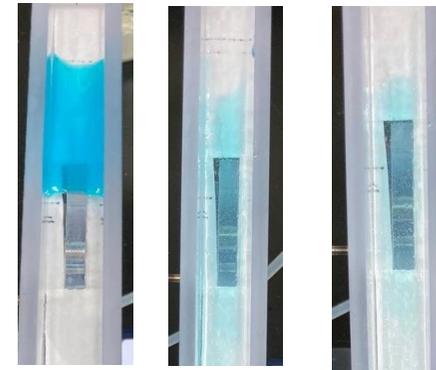
## Preliminary Formulations vs. Commercial Benchmarks



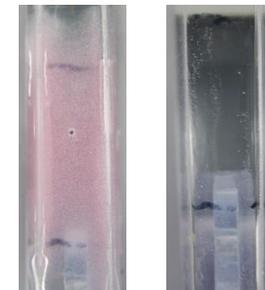
0 min    2 min    5 min    10 min    15 min    30 min



**PH001**  
(1% CBP 971P NF polymer)



**PH009**  
*Benchmark 1*

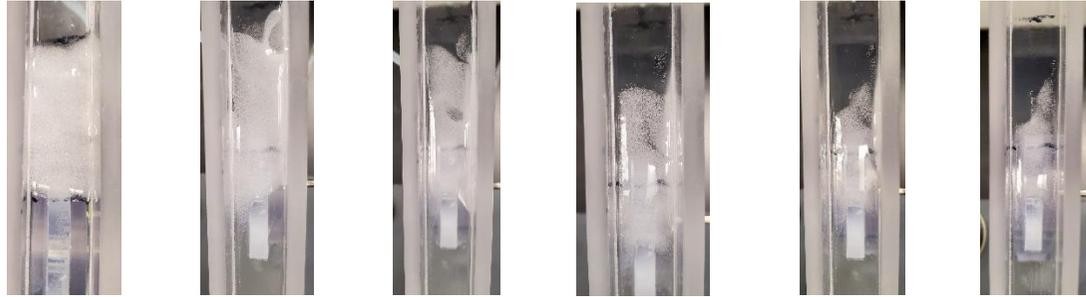


**PH010**  
*Benchmark 2*

# Mucoadhesive Properties

## Preliminary Formulations vs. Commercial Benchmarks

0 min    2 min    5 min    10 min    15 min    30 min



**PH001**  
(1% CBP 971P NF polymer)

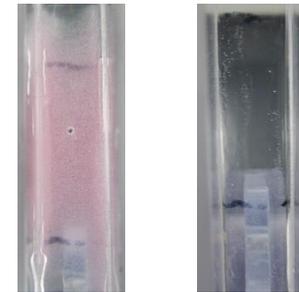
0 min    2 min    5 min



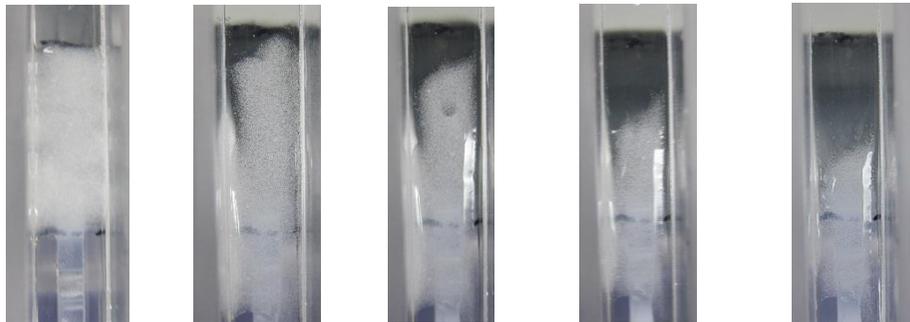
**PH009**  
*Benchmark 1*



**PH004**  
(0.5 % CBP 971P NF polymer)



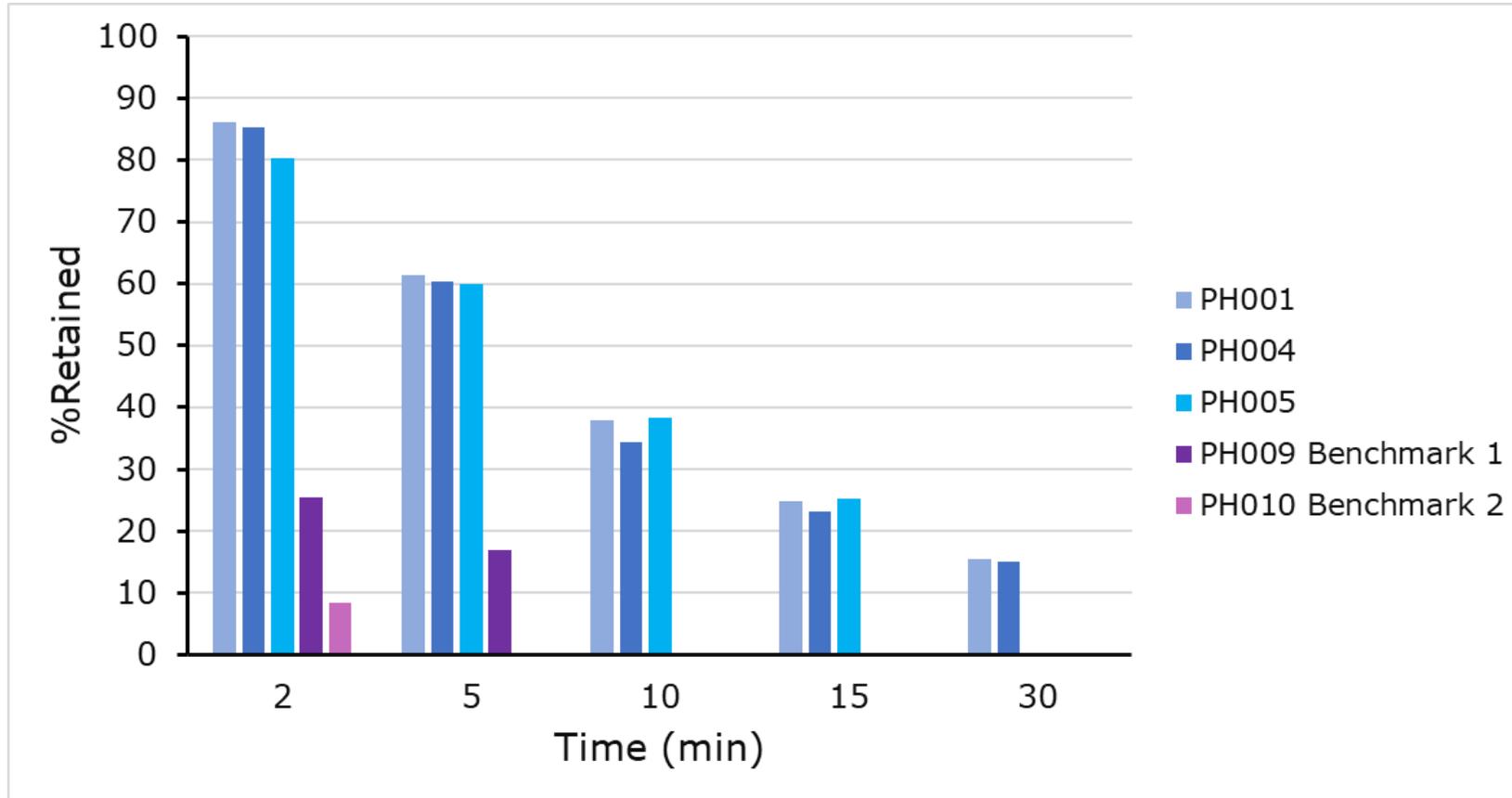
**PH010**  
*Benchmark 2*



**PH005**  
(0.75% CBP 971P NF polymer)

# Mucoadhesive Properties

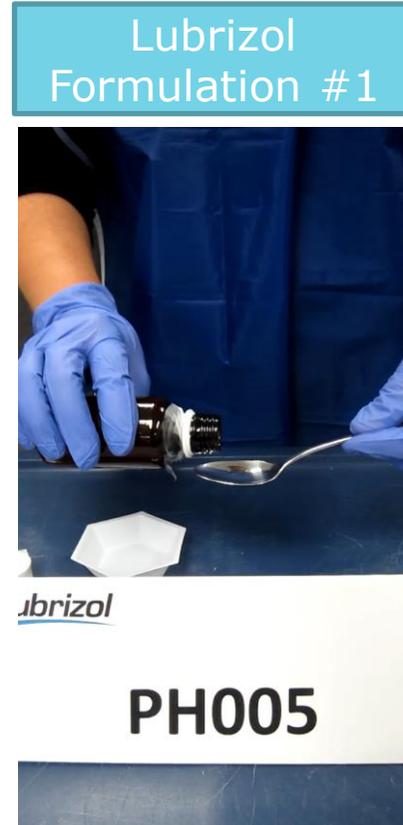
## Preliminary Formulations vs. Commercial Benchmarks



Mucoadhesion with Carbopol® polymers offers a **new opportunity for differentiation in oral liquid formulations by providing coating and protection** of irritated or damaged mucosal tissue.

# Mucoadhesive Properties

## Preliminary Formulations vs. Commercial Benchmarks



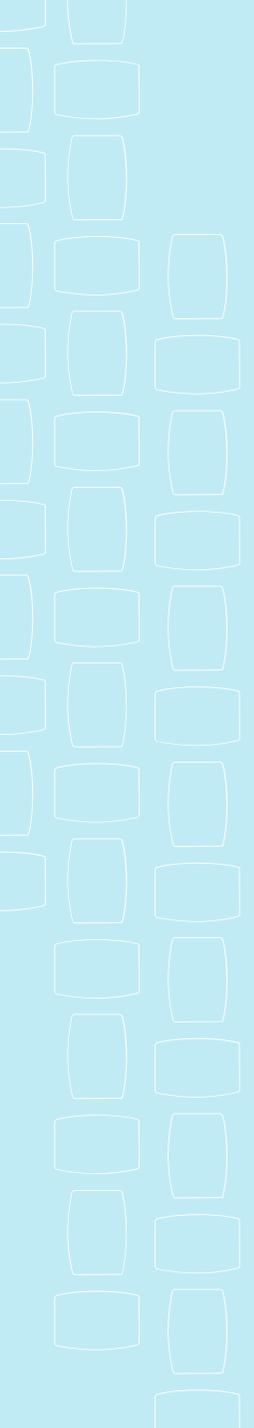
Improved Spill Resistance →

**Lubrizon formulations provide better spill resistance when compared to benchmark formulations. Carbopol® polymers allow flexibility in formulation to achieve desired spill resistance properties.**

# No-Spill Mucoadhesive Oral Suspension Platform

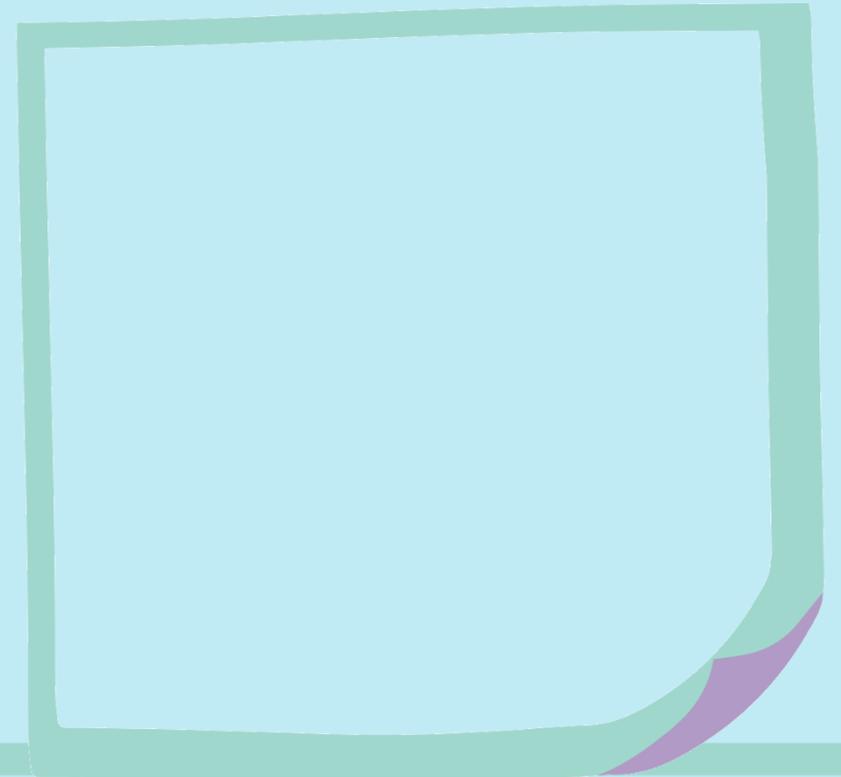
- **Carbopol® polymers imparted no-spill properties** to oral suspension formulations when compared to reference formulation without Carbopol polymers:
  - **No-spill effect** - with higher inclusion level of Carbopol polymer
- **Carbopol® polymers imparted protective coating – via mucoadhesion mechanism**
  - Formulations containing **Carbopol 971P NF polymer show higher retention** when compared to benchmark formulations without Carbopol polymers
- Cold processed formulation to allows ease of scalability and manufacturing

Carbopol polymers properties enable  
**no-spill suspension formulations with prolonged retention of actives  
and potential for enhanced therapeutic effects**

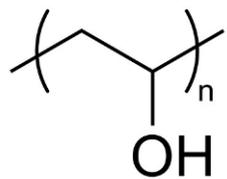


# **Mucoadhesion Case Study**

Enhancement of Films  
Using Carbopol<sup>®</sup> Polymers



# Mucoadhesion Enhancement of Films Using Carbopol® Polymers



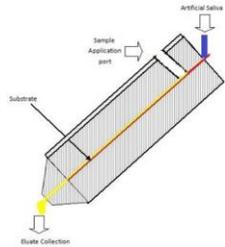
Film former excipient  
Polyvinyl alcohol  
PVA

Mucoadhesive excipient  
Carbopol polymer  
CBP

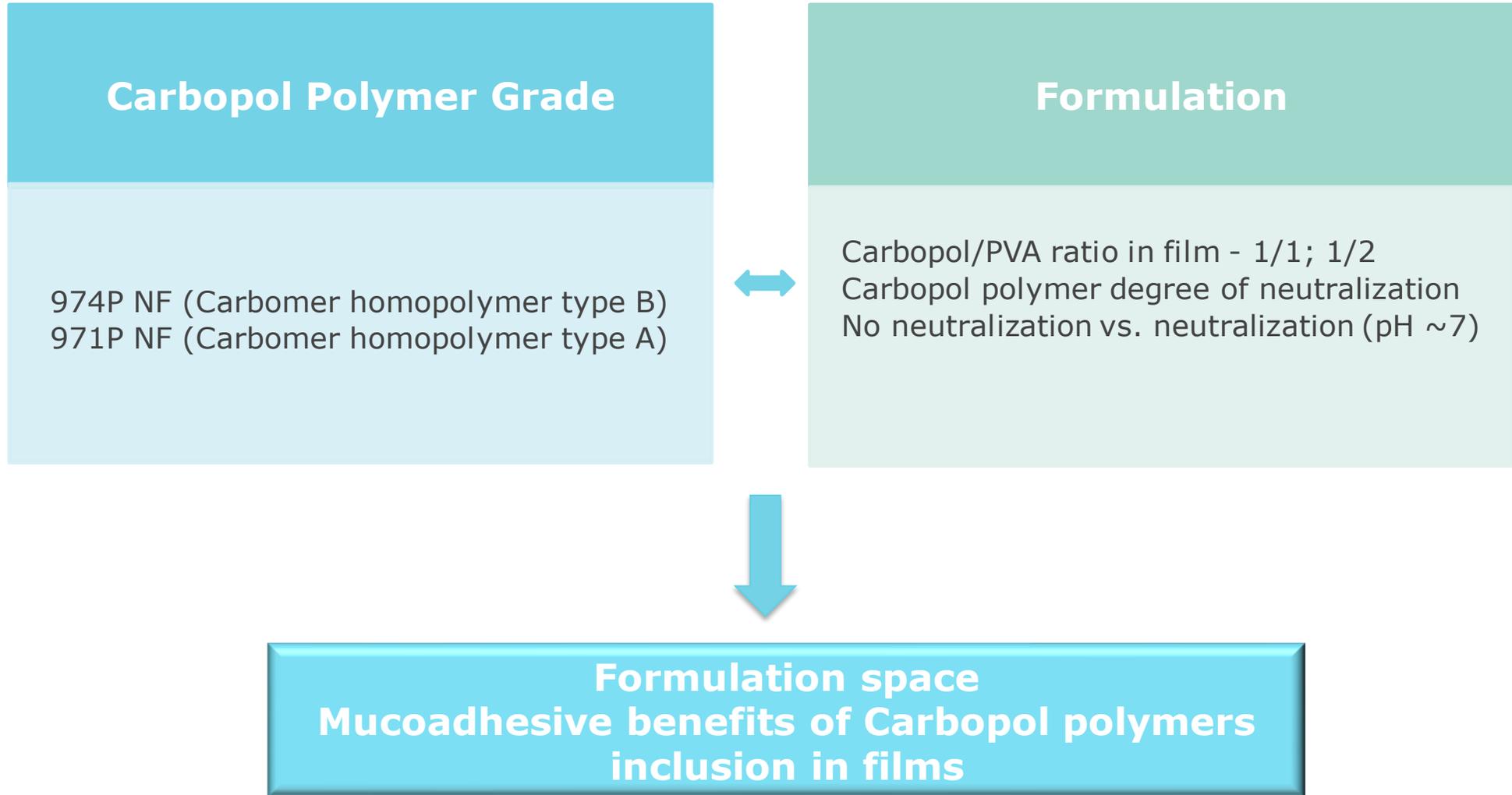


Mucoadhesive Film  
CBP/PVA

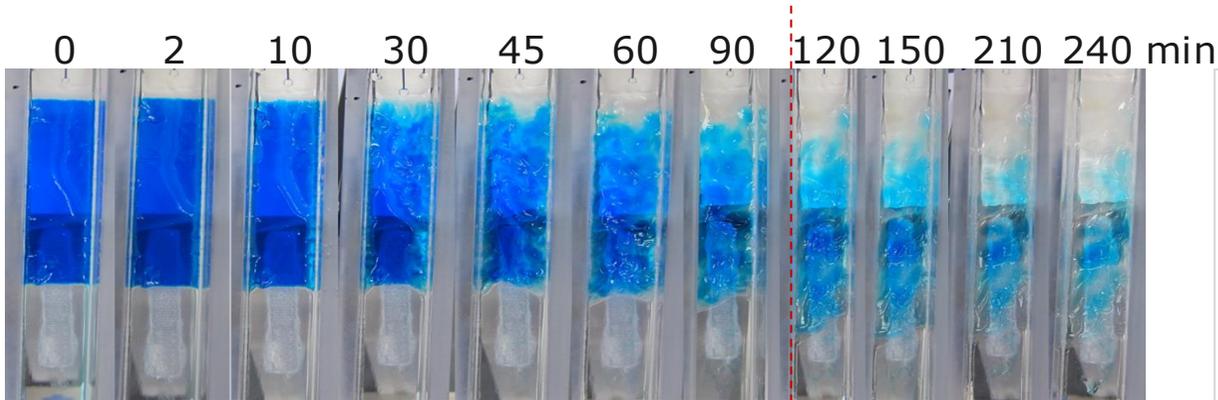
*In vitro* mucoadhesive properties tested using  
LLS IVOR-V2: Modified from Young and Smart J Pharm Pharmacol. (1998), 50, 167



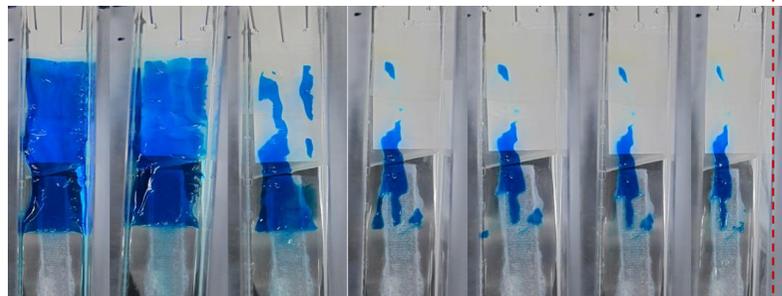
# Mucoadhesion Enhancement of Films Containing Carbopol® Polymers



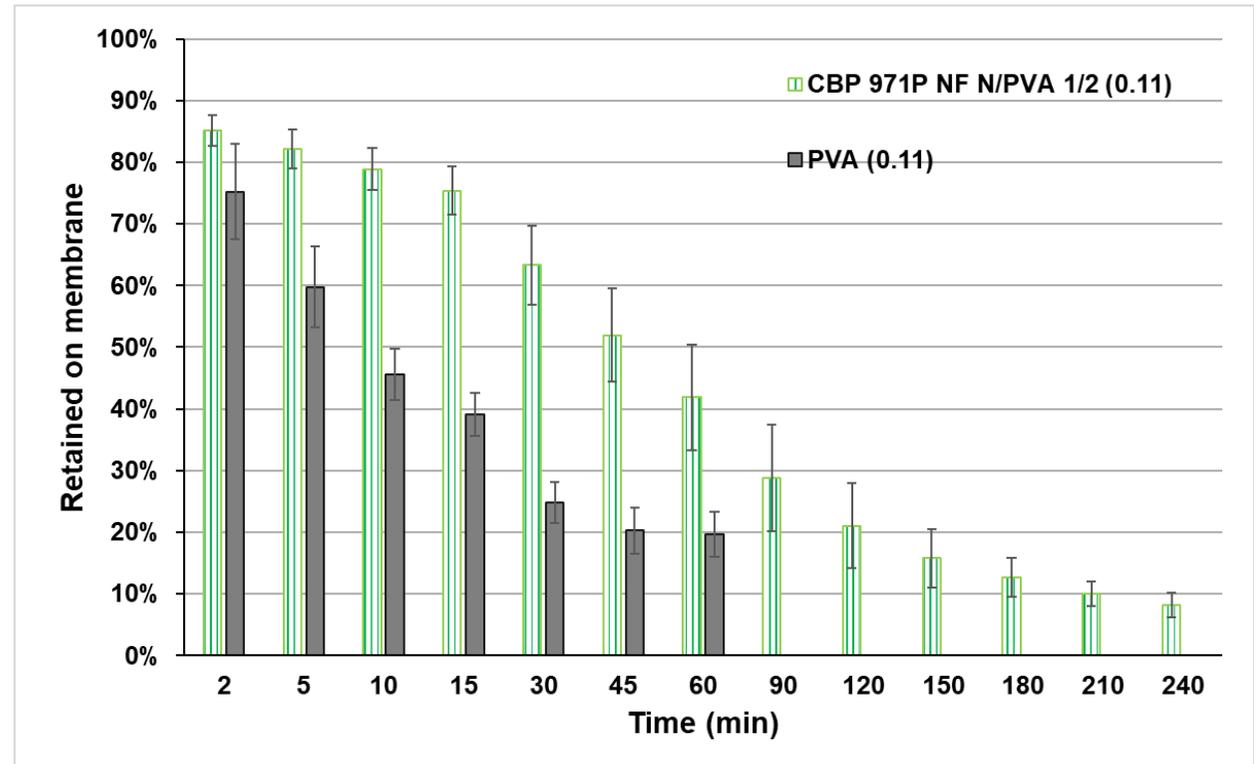
# In vitro Mucoadhesion of Carbopol-PVA Films



CBP 971P NF N/PVA 1/2 (0.11 mm)



PVA (0.11 mm)



For similar film thickness: CBP 971P NF N/PVA 1/2 films showed longer retention when compared with PVA

# Mucoadhesion Enhancement of Films Containing Carbopol® Polymers

- Successful placebo film formulations containing Carbopol polymers and PVA have been demonstrated
- The addition of Carbopol polymers in CBP/PVA films enhanced mucoadhesive properties of the films, offering flexibility of formulation
- Mucoadhesion strength of films was influenced by:
  - Carbopol polymer degree of crosslinking  
*Carbopol 971P NF > Carbopol 974P NF*
  - Film thickness - thicker films showing better retention

**Longer retention ensured by films containing Carbopol 971P NF polymer**

# Case Study: Mucoadhesive Lozenge



## Objectives

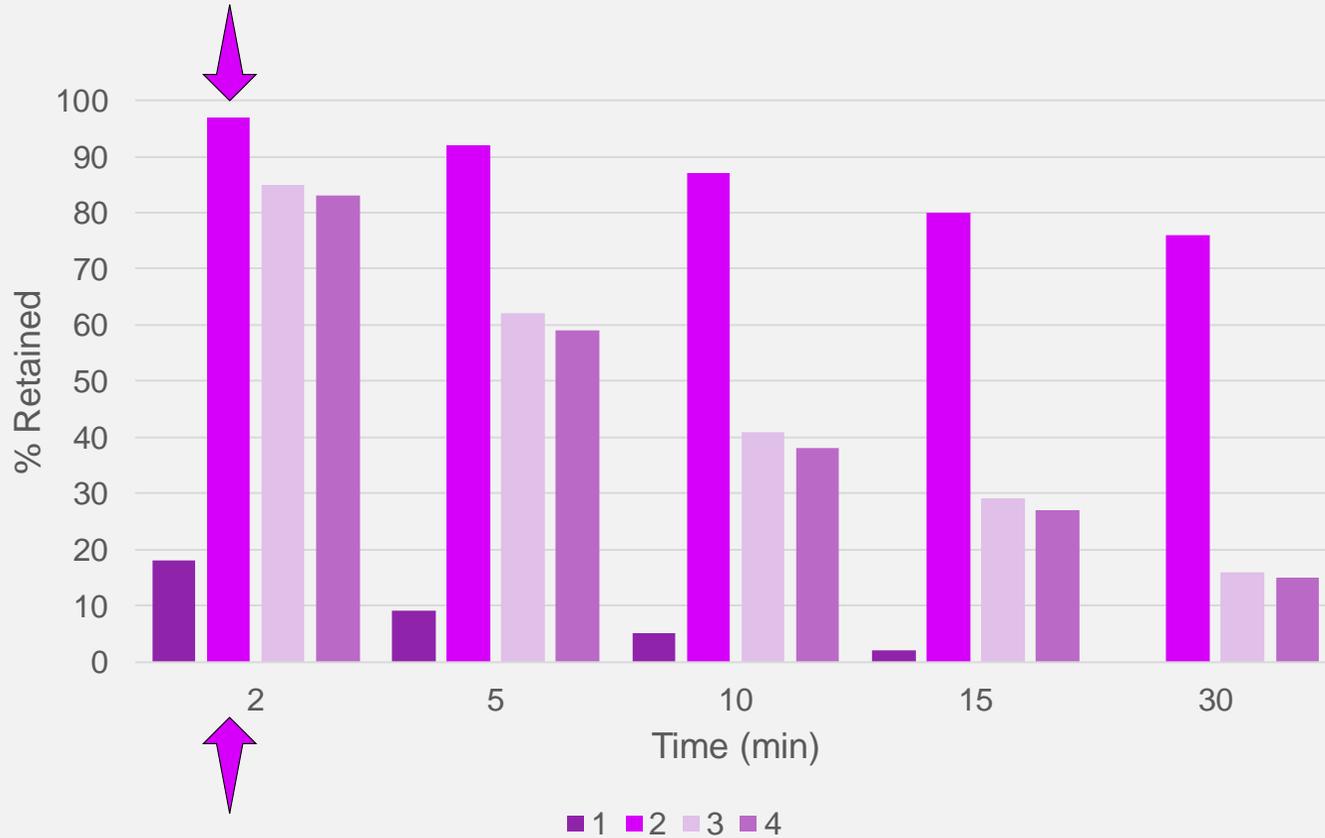
- Providing a mucoadhesive, protective and soothing layer for the oral cavity
- Combining mucoadhesive ingredients for optimal effect
- Creating a robust DC formulation (powder flow, compactability)
- Giving a pleasant taste

## Main challenge:

**Which ingredients/combination of ingredients are appropriate for a better mucoadhesion when formulating a lozenge?**

# Case Study: Mucoadhesive Lozenge

## Influence of polymers, nature and physical properties



Tablet weight: 800 mg

Diameter: 16 mm

Hardness: 185 N

Thickness : 4 mm



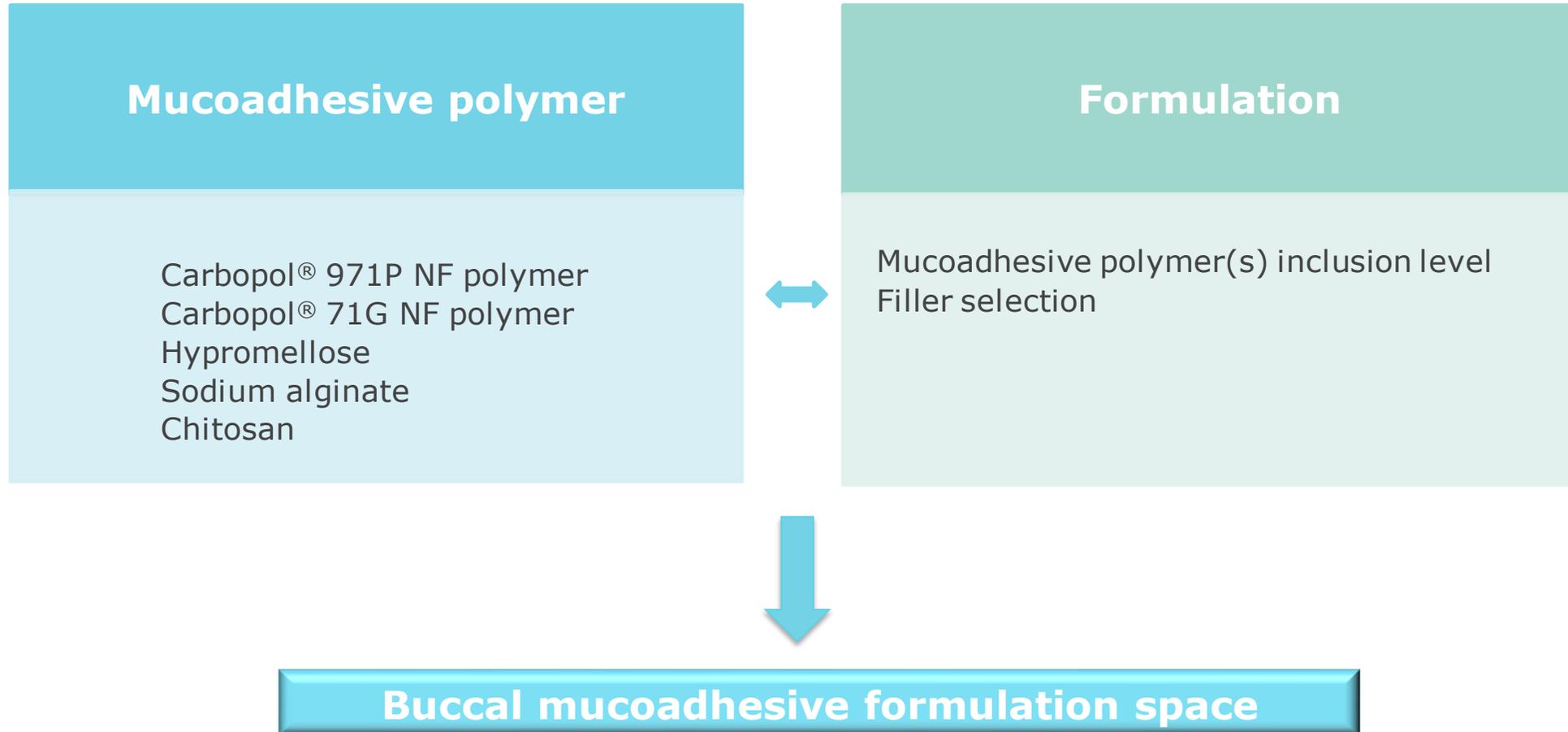
Formulation	1	2	3	4
Na Hyaluronate	0.2	0.2	-	0.2
Carbopol® 71G NF	10	10	10	10
Carbopol® 971P NF	-	5	5	3
Manucol LKX	3	3	3	3

# Case Study

## Buccal Mucoadhesive Tablets



# Buccal Mucoadhesive Tablets Design



# Experimental Design

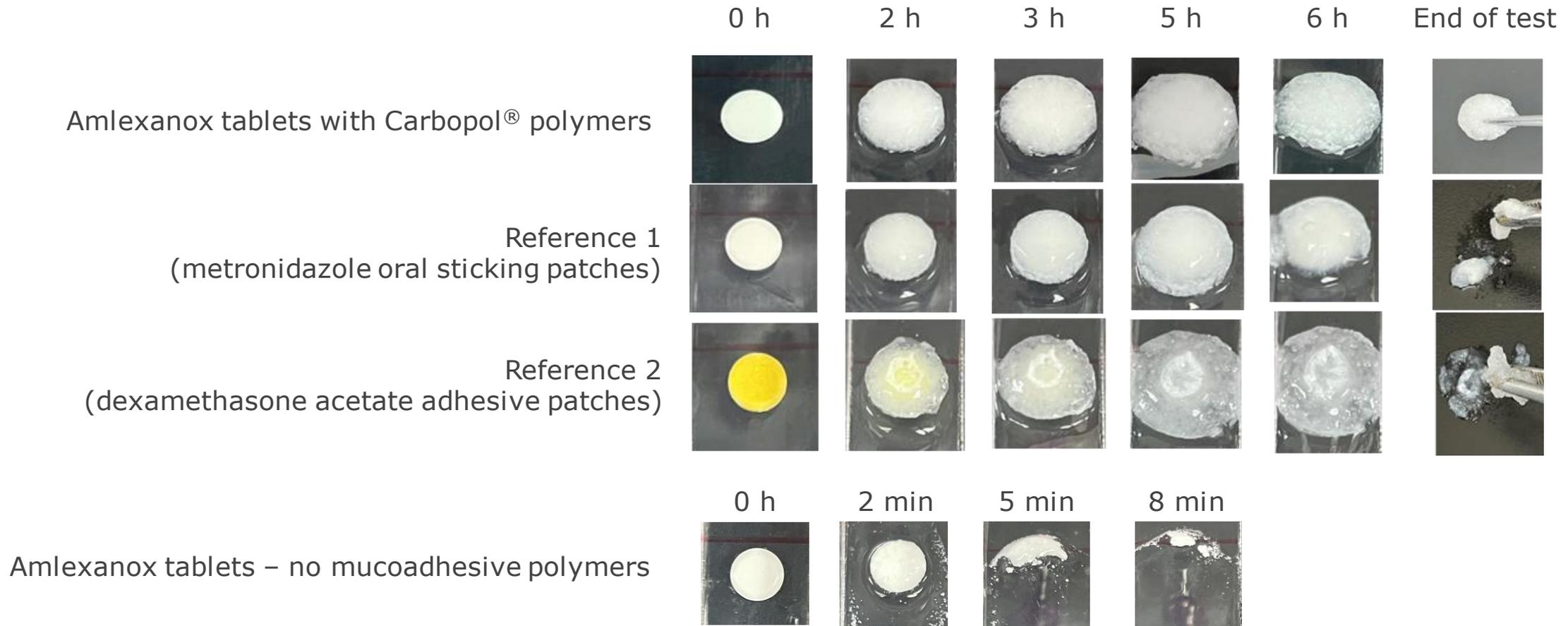
	Ingredient	Function
Formula	Amlexanox	API
	CBP 71G NF	Mucoadhesive agent
	CBP 971P NF	Mucoadhesive agent
	Sorbitol	Filler
	Starch	Filler
	Silica	Glidant
	Magnesium stearate	Lubricant
Process	Direct Compression, 75 mg, flat round punch	
Physical Property	Tablet weight / mg	
	Tablet hardness / N	
	Friability	
	Tablet disintegration time	
Assay Test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analytical method: HPLC method.</li> <li>Assay: 95%~105%</li> </ul>	
Mucoadhesion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Modified IVOR test – <b>not less than 6 h</b></li> </ul>	
Dissolution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>USP method – <b>not less than 80% drug release in 6 h</b></li> </ul>	

## Commercial benchmarks

**Reference 1: metronidazole oral sticking patches**

**Reference 2: dexamethasone acetate adhesive tablets**

# Mucoadhesive Properties of Buccal Tablets



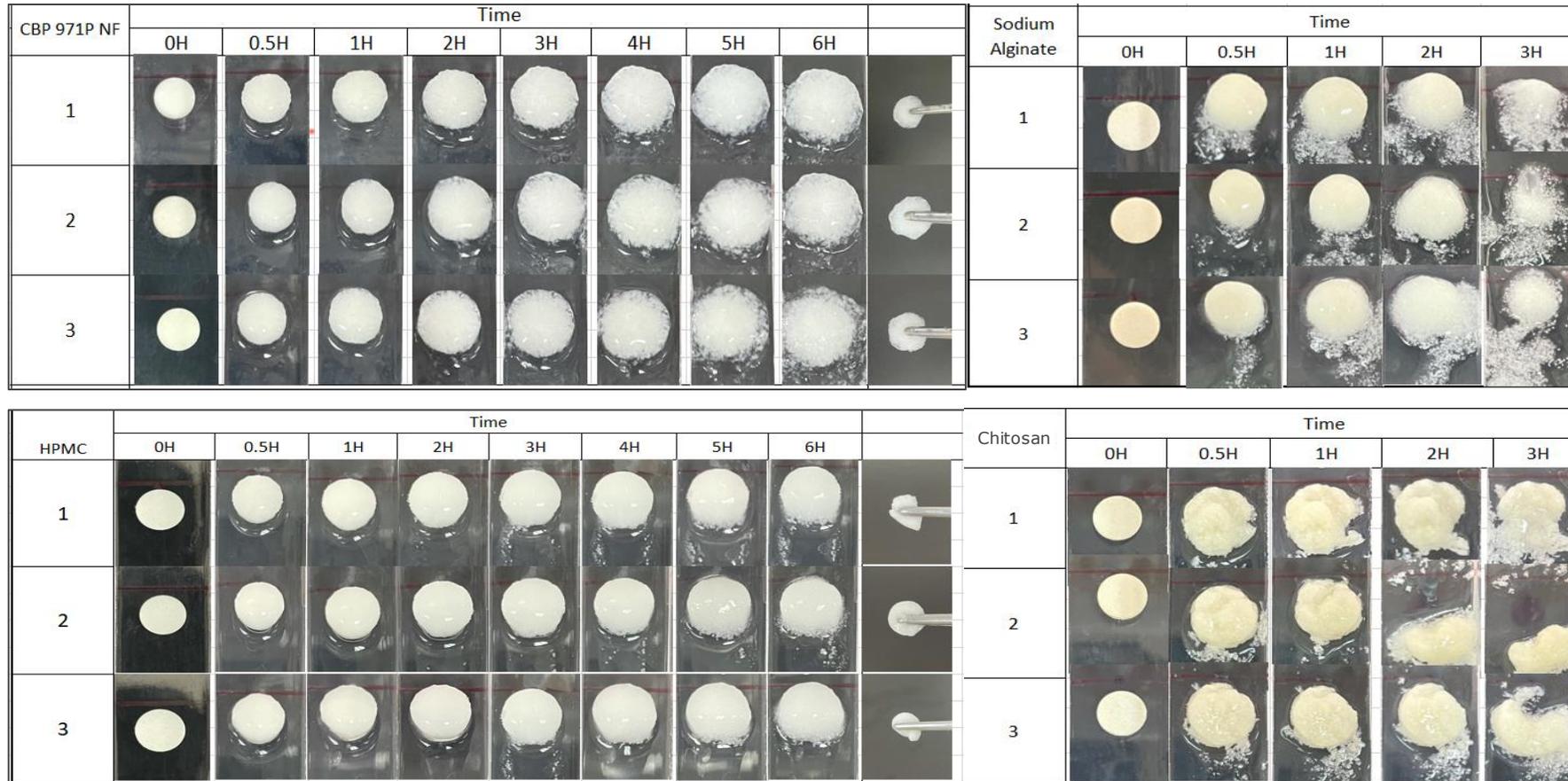
**Very good retention and integrity** of amlexanox tablets containing Carbopol® 971P NF polymer

# Impact of Mucoadhesive Polymer on Buccal Tablet Performance

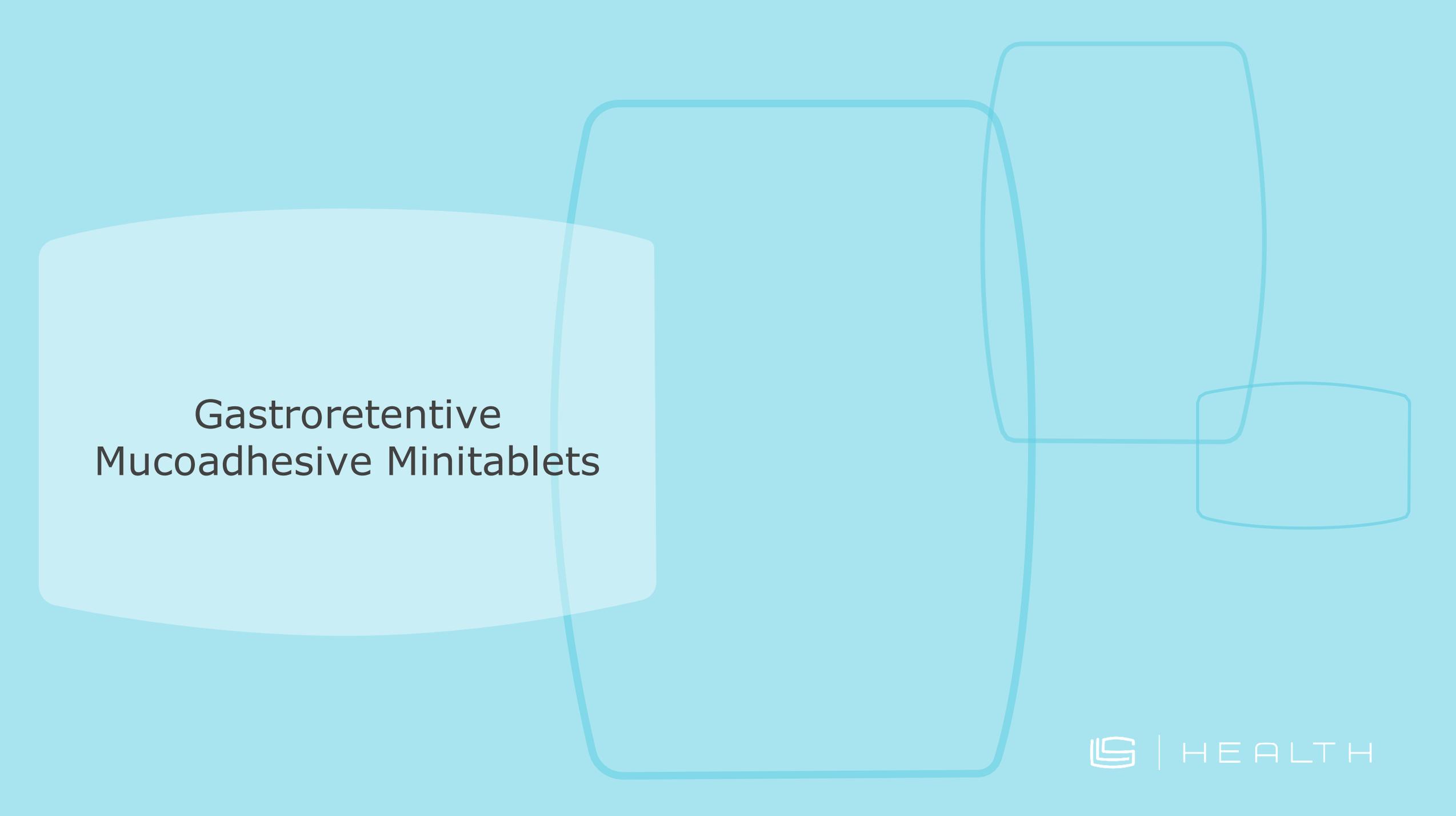
Ingredient/Tablet properties		F - HPMC	F- NaAlg	F-Chit	F-CBP
Mucoadhesive agent 1		HPMC DC	/	/	CBP 71G polymer
Mucoadhesive agent 2		HPMC	Sodium Alginate	Chitosan	CBP 971P polymer
Hardness/N (n=10)		38.04	52.07	62.91	139.1
Friability (%)		0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1
Mucoadhesion (IVOR; h)		6	2	2	6
Dissolution (%)	1h	7.18	7.88	/	3.02
	3h	20.31	37.89	/	27.06
	6h	39.35	89.07	/	83.79

At same inclusion levels Carbopol® polymers lead to **more robust tablets that meet retention and dissolution targets**

# Impact of Mucoadhesive Polymer on Buccal Tablet Performance



Sodium alginate and chitosan impart poor mucoadhesion performance  
**Tablets containing Carbopol polymers or hypromellose were retained for 6 h,**  
 however, hypromellose tablets did not meet dissolution requirements despite higher erosion



# Gastroretentive Mucoadhesive Minitablets

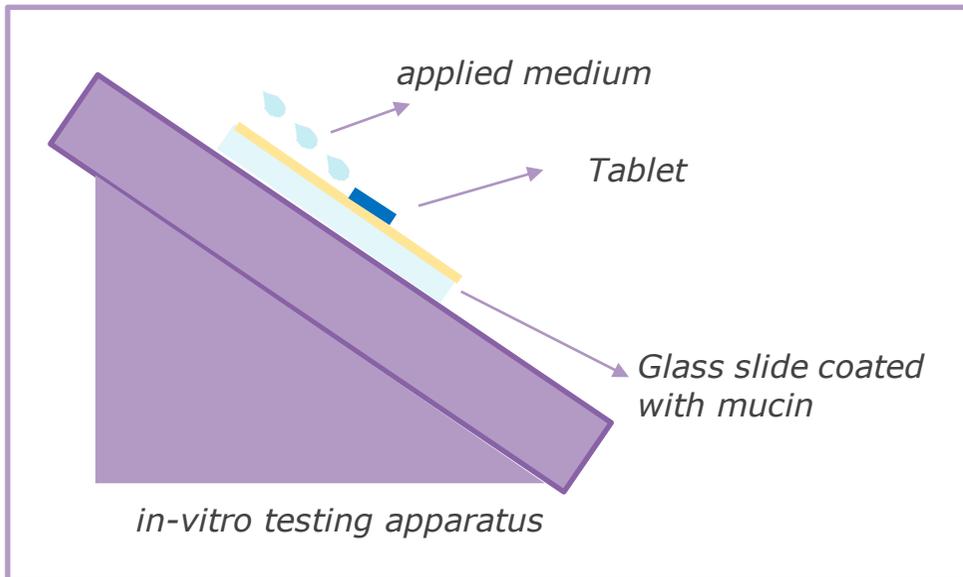
# Mucoadhesive Gastroretentive Minitablets: *in vitro* study

## Composition of adhesive minitables

Ingredients	Amount (%)
Black iron oxide E172	5.0
Acrylic acid polymer (Carbopol® 71G polymer)	47.5
Calcium phosphate (Emcompress Premium)	47.5

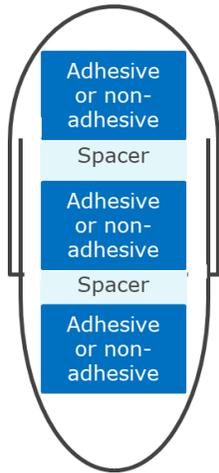
## Composition of non-adhesive minitables

Ingredients	Amount (%)
Black iron oxide E172	5.0
Glyceryl behenate (Compritol 888 ATO)	45.0
Calcium phosphate (Emcompress Premium)	45.0
Silicon dioxide	1.0
Magnesium stearate	0.5



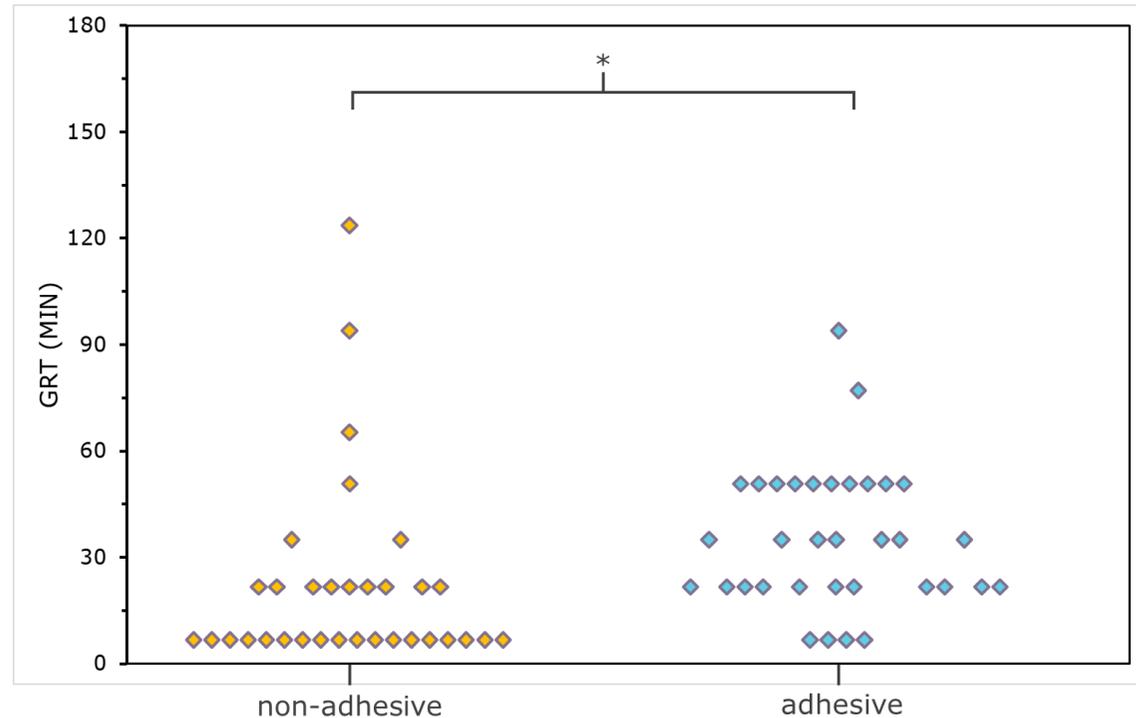
- The non-adhesive minitables slipped off and were washed away in 30 min
- The adhesive minitables remained adherent to the mucin layer for 240 min

# Mucoadhesive Gastroretentive Minitablets: Human *in vivo* study



Schematics of Vcaps plus size 3 as administered to 12 healthy volunteers (5 males/7 females) in the double-blind, single center, two-way crossover study. Mucoadhesion in stomach estimated via MRI

Gastric residence time (GRT) of minitablets



The median GRT was 7.5 min for the non-adhesive minitablets and 37.5 min for the adhesive minitablets

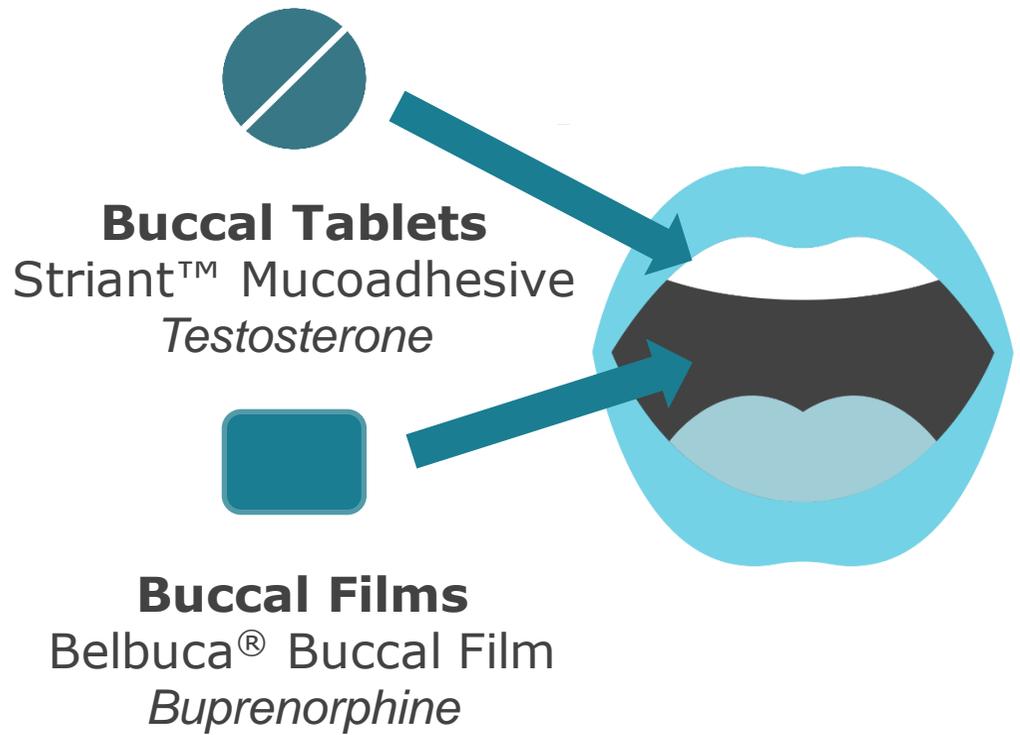
The mucoadhesive properties of Carbopol® 71G NF polymer are also **effective in the human stomach**



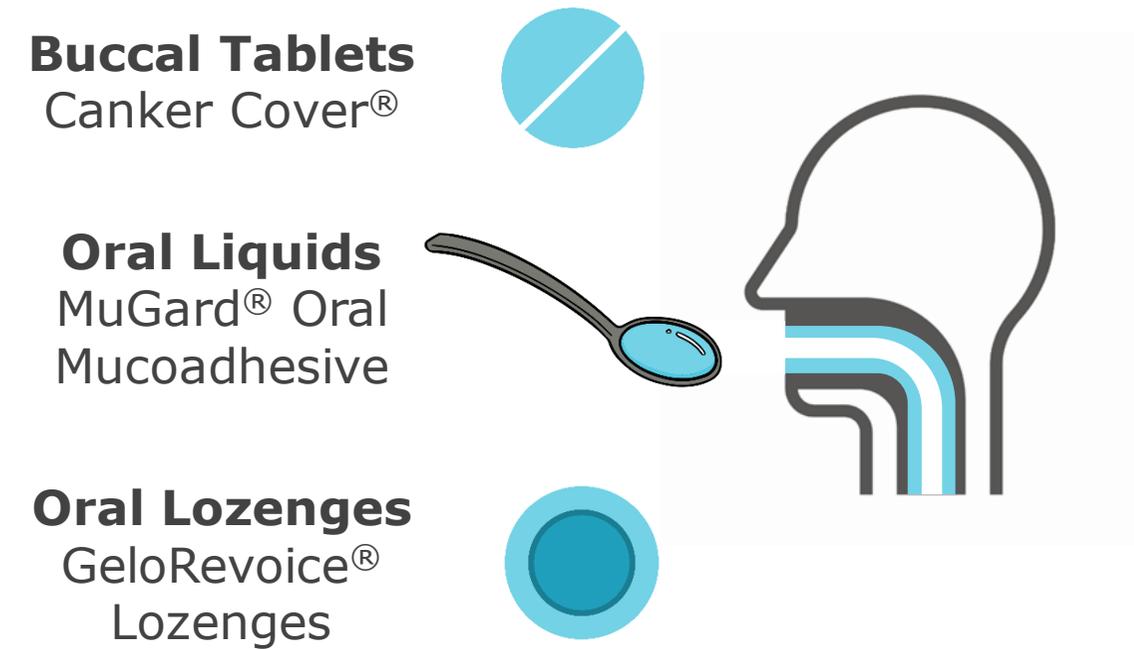
# Commercial Pharmaceutical Drug Products with Mucoadhesive Properties

# Examples of Mucoadhesive Oral Commercial Products

## Enhanced Delivery of Actives



## Protective Barrier/Coating



**Carbopol® polymers enable a wide range of oral mucoadhesive dosage forms**

# Mucosal Drug Delivery

## Efficacy



- Enhanced systemic delivery
  - Mucosa permeability
  - By-pass GI-route/first hepatic pass
- Localized – dosage form at site of action
- Tailored duration



## Patient Adherence



- Noninvasive
- Convenient (administration/removal)
- Reduced drug side-effects



## Differentiation



- Mucoadhesion can be used to provide **product innovation and new label claim opportunities**



# Thank you!

## **Liliana Miinea**

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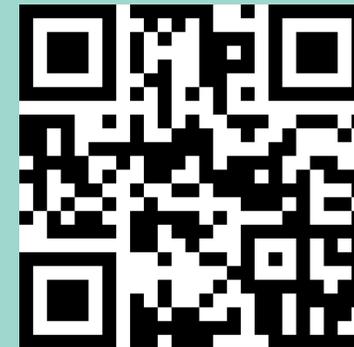
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# Apinovex™ Polymer for Oral Solubility Enhancement

January 29, 2026



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[Pharma Segment Overview](#)

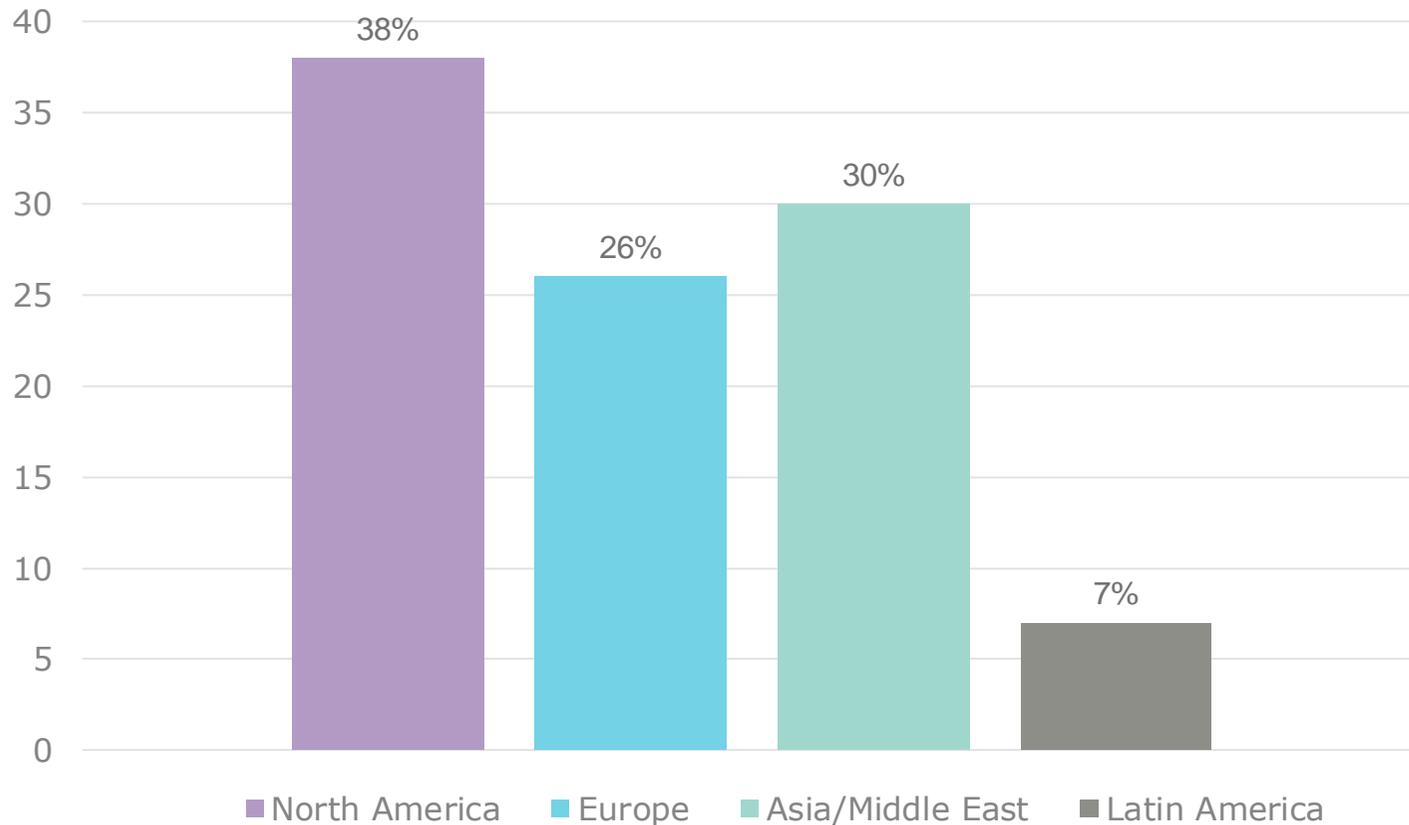
[Apinovex™ Polymers for Solubility Enhancement](#)

- [Case Studies](#)
- [Mfg, Quality, Safety Data](#)

[Questions?](#)

# Lubrizol Life Science Health (LLS Health)

The Health business of Lubrizol Life Science serves the medical device and pharmaceutical industries.



# LLS Health Global Footprint





## Excipients

## CDMO

## Nutraceuticals

Multifunctional excipients which enable differentiated, patient-centric products

- Extended-release
- Solubility enhancement
- Permanent suspension
- Muco-adhesion
- Taste-masking

A leading pharmaceutical contract development & manufacturing organization

- Insoluble APIs
- Sterile/aseptic products
- Long-acting implants & intravaginal rings

Development & production of value-added nutraceutical ingredients

- Functional foods
- Dietary supplements
- Microencapsulation



Service offerings along the value chain provides simplification of supply chain  
Built for sustainability - A Berkshire Hathaway Company



# Why Choose Lubrizol Life Science Health?

- Safe and effective excipient supply for **over 40 years**
  - Carbopol® polymers
  - Noveon® AA-1 polycarbophil
  - Pemulen™ TR-2 emulsifiers
  - Pathway™ TPU excipients
- Trusted CDMO services for **over 20 years**
  - Decades of collective experience in **nanomilling**

## Novel Solubility-Enhancing Polymers



# Apinovex™ Polymers for Solubility Enhancement

# Apinovex™ Polymer Value Proposition

- **Improved solubility and release** for BCS Class II and IV APIs
- **High, stable drug loading** (up to 80%)
- **Easy to process** via spray-drying
- **Offers IP protection** for 505(b)(2) and NCE products



# Apinovex Polymer Properties

High molecular weight polyacrylic acid chemistry  
**designed for spray-drying**

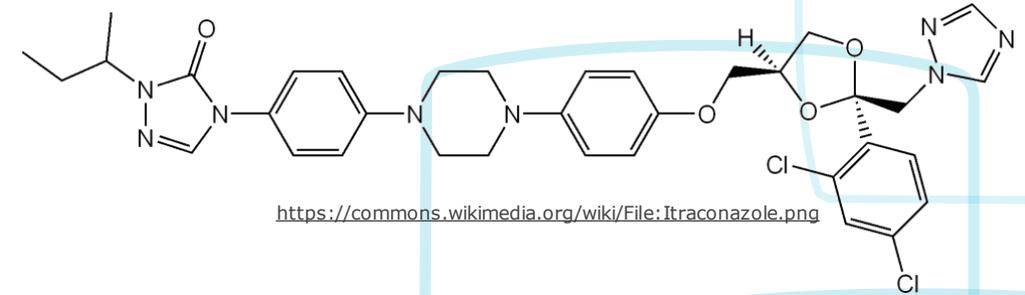


Property		Apinovex™ LV Polymer
Tg (°C) – first heat cycle		128
Tg (°C) – second heat cycle		130
<b>Solubility*</b>	Methanol (10% w/w)	Soluble
	Ethanol (15% w/w)	Soluble
	Isopropanol (10% w/w)	Soluble
	Ethanol/Dichloromethane 1/1 (10% w/w)	Soluble
	Ethanol/Acetone 1/1 (10% w/w)	Soluble
	Ethanol/THF 1/1 (10% w/w)	Soluble
	Methanol/Dichloromethane 1/1 (10% w/w)	Soluble

**High Tg** for stabilizing amorphous solid dispersions  
 Compatible with **common pharmaceutical solvents**

# Apinovex Polymer Case Study: Spray-Dried Itraconazole ASD

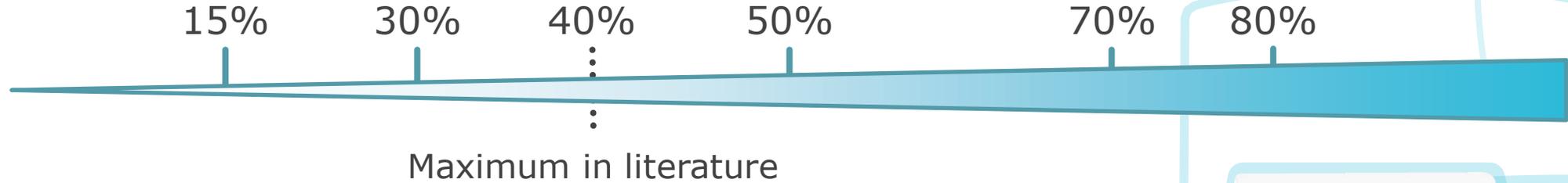
- API: Itraconazole**
  - Poorly solubility, low bioavailability
  - Difficult to formulate
  - First approval: 1992 (Sporanox®)
- Excipients Evaluated**
  - Apinovex™ Polymer (Lubrizol)
  - Soluplus® (BASF)
  - Affinisol® HPMC HME 15LV (Dow)
  - Aqoat® HPMCAS-LG (Shin-Etsu)
- Formulations Evaluated**
  - Physical mixtures (PMs)
  - Spray-dried amorphous solid dispersions (ASDs)



Parameter	Itraconazole
Water Solubility (g/L)	0.0096
BCS Classification	2
LogP	5.66
Reported concentration in ASD (literature)	40%

# Apinovex Polymer Case Study: Spray-Dried Itraconazole ASD

- **Itraconazole Loading**



- **Spray Drying Process**

- Equipment: Buchi B-290
- Solvents: ethanol, ethanol/dichloromethane

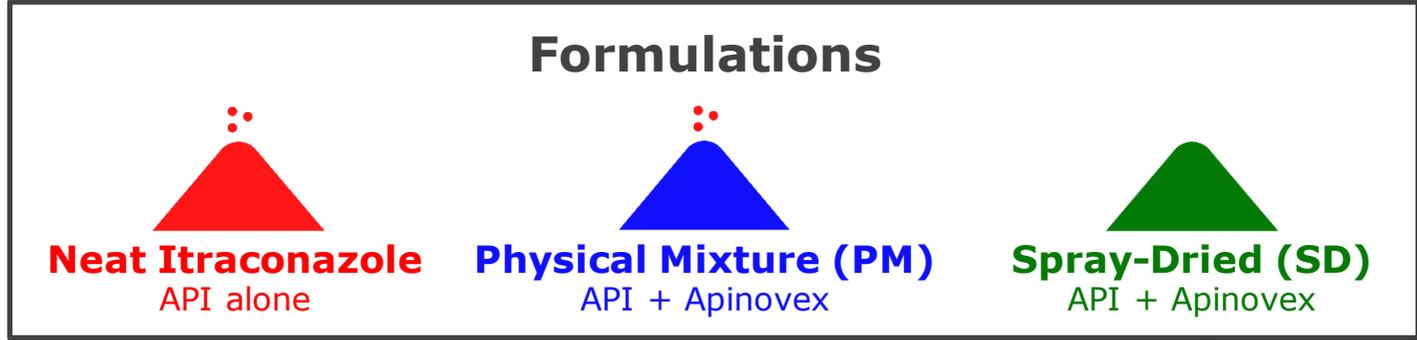
- **Characterization**

- Appearance
- Phase identification/transitions
  - X-ray powder diffraction (XRPD)
  - Differential Scanning Calorimetry (DSC)
- Assay & dissolution (powder, non-sink conditions)
- Accelerated stability (selected formulations; 6 MO 40°C/75% RH)

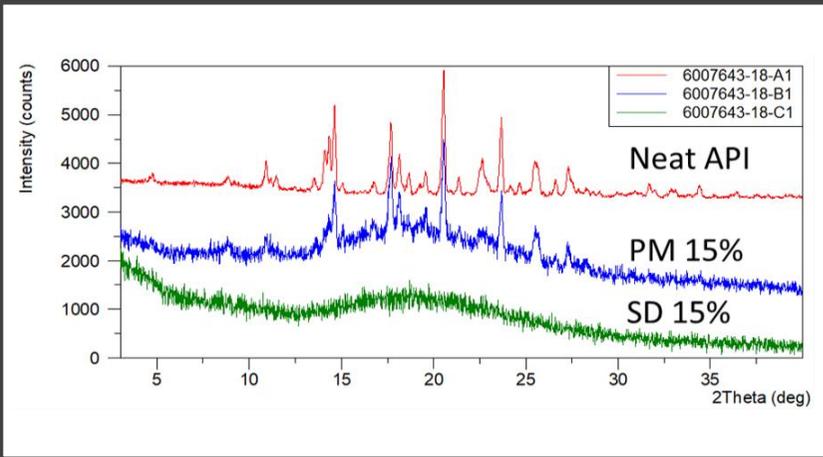


# Apinovex Polymer Case Study: XRPD Results

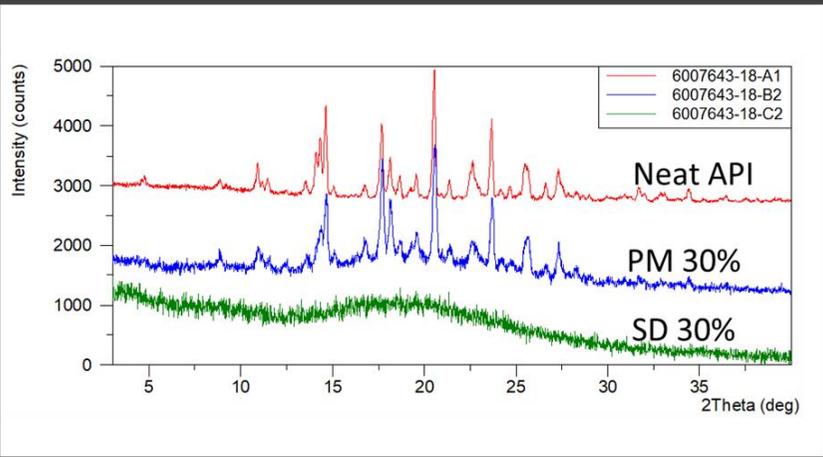
Back to Start



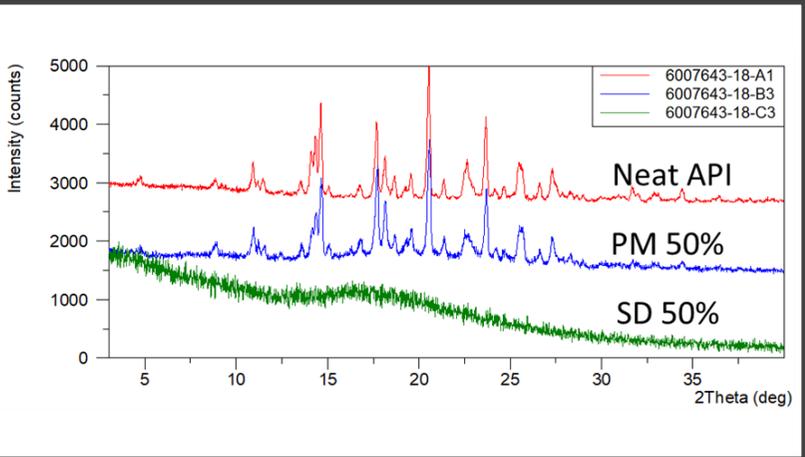
## 15% API Loading



## 30% API Loading



## 50% API Loading



**Amorphous character was successfully achieved via spray drying API/Apinovex™ polymer**

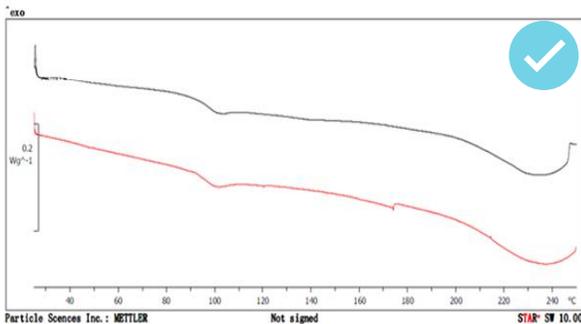
# Apinovex Polymer Case Study: DSC Results

**Apinovex**  
Uniform, stable ASD

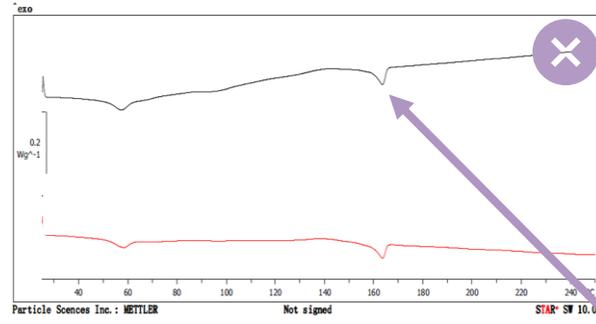
**Soluplus, Affinisol, & HPMCAS**

Non-uniform ASDs with amorphous-amorphous phase separation

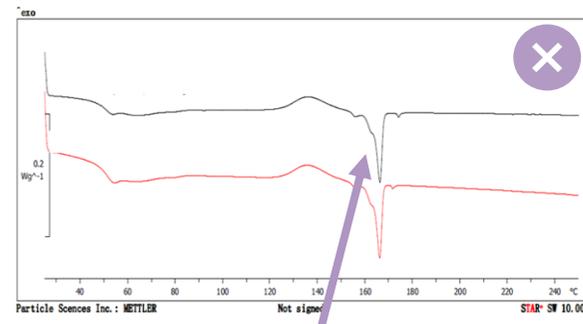
80% API / Apinovex



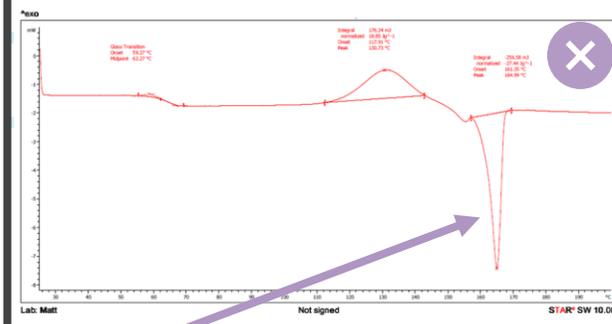
80% API / Soluplus



80% API / Affinisol



80% API / HPMCAS LG

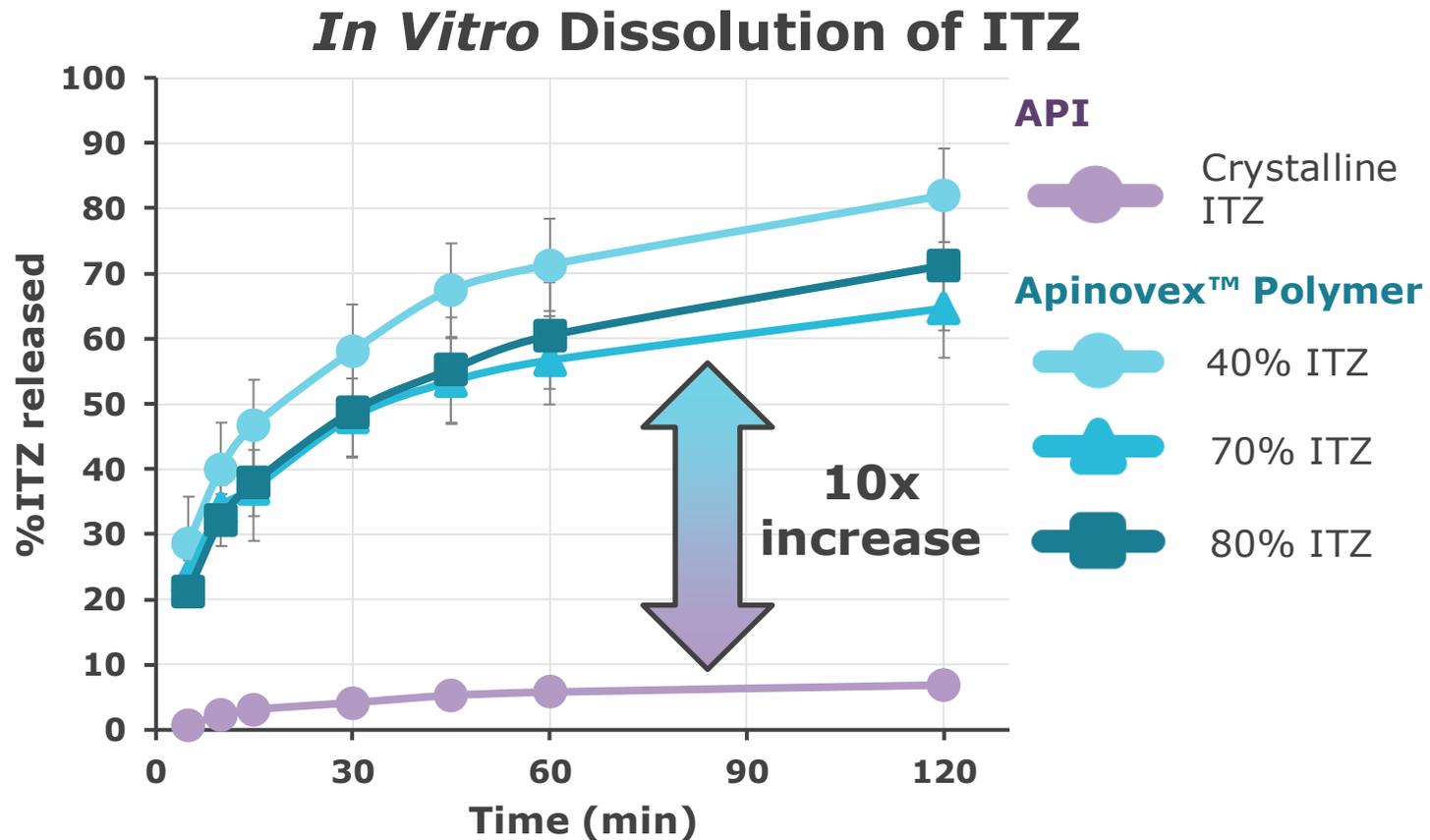


API Melting Peak

**Apinovex™ enabled a homogenous amorphous dispersion, even at 80% drug loading**

# Apinovex Polymer Case Study: Drug Dissolution

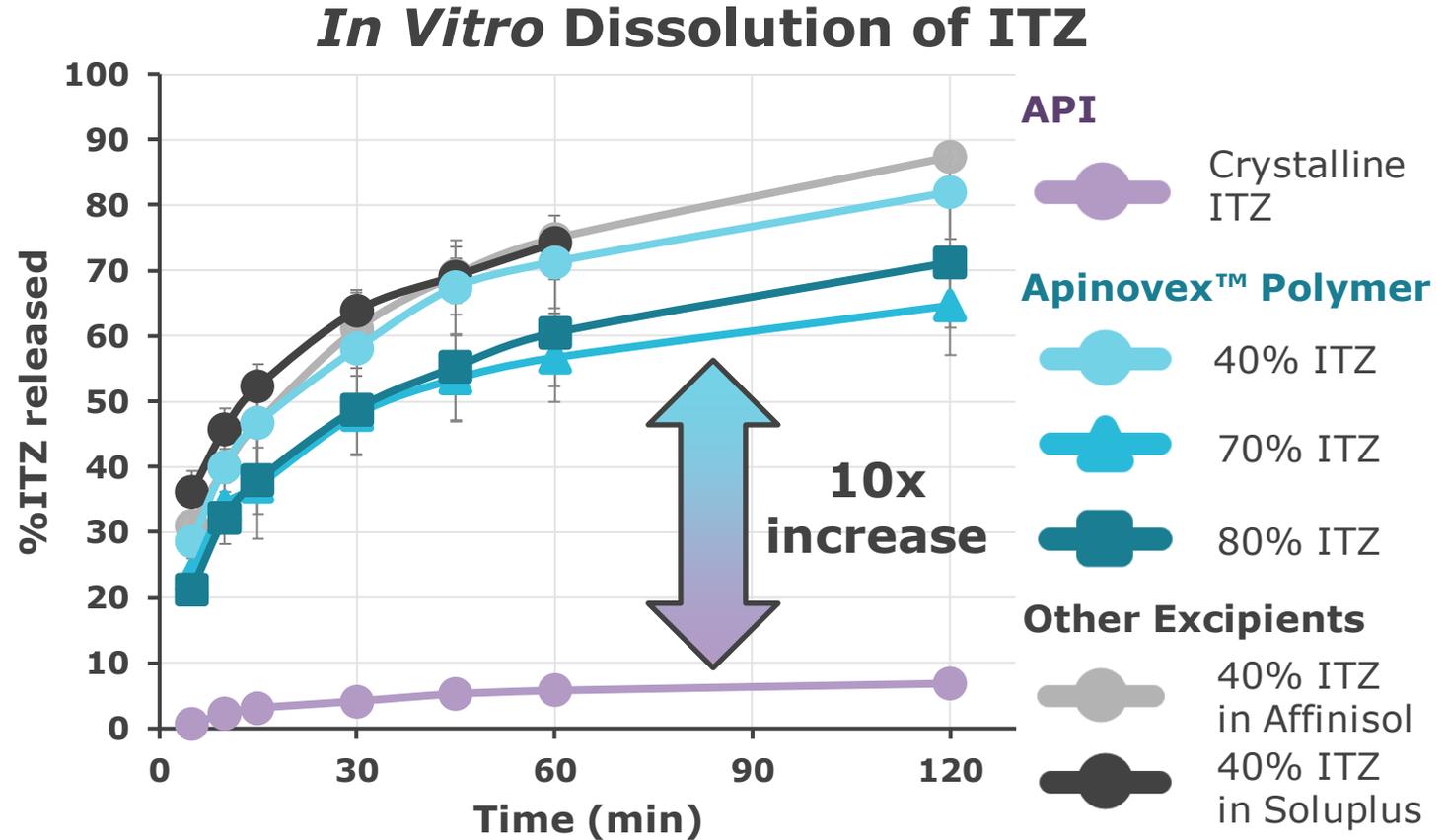
- **Increased drug release 10x** relative to crystalline API



Apinovex™ enabled both **higher drug loading** (up to 80%) and **improved drug dissolution**

# Apinovex Polymer Case Study: Drug Dissolution

- **Increased drug release 10x** relative to crystalline API
- Achieved **2x drug loading** of commercial excipients
- **Maintained drug release**, even at higher loadings than commercial benchmarks

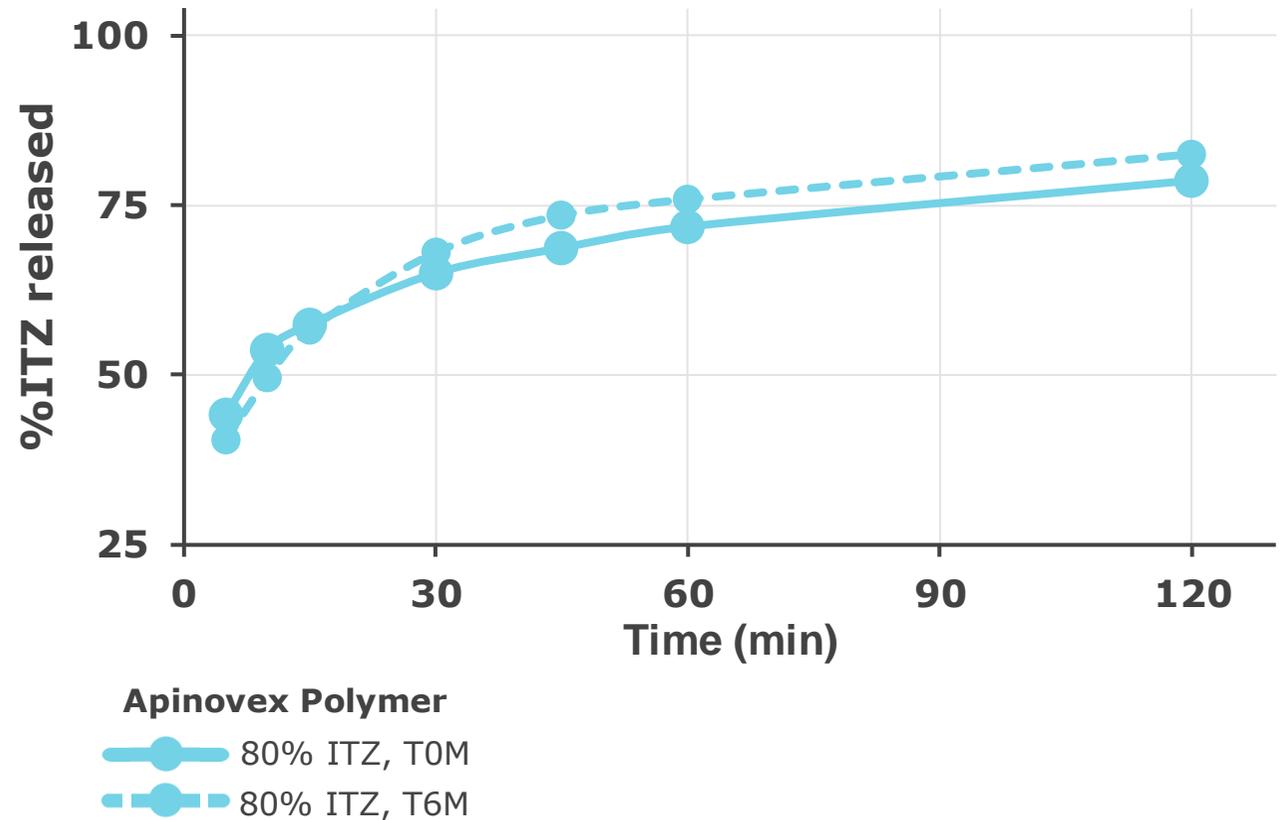


Apinovex™ enabled both **higher drug loading** (up to 80%) and **improved drug dissolution**

# HEALTH | Apinovex Polymer Case Study: Accelerated Stability

- ASDs stored at accelerated conditions: **40°C/75%RH; 6 months**
- 80% ITZ in Apinovex**
  - ✓ Amorphous character confirmed with DSC & XRPD
  - ✓ No significant change in dissolution rate

**In Vitro Dissolution of ITZ**

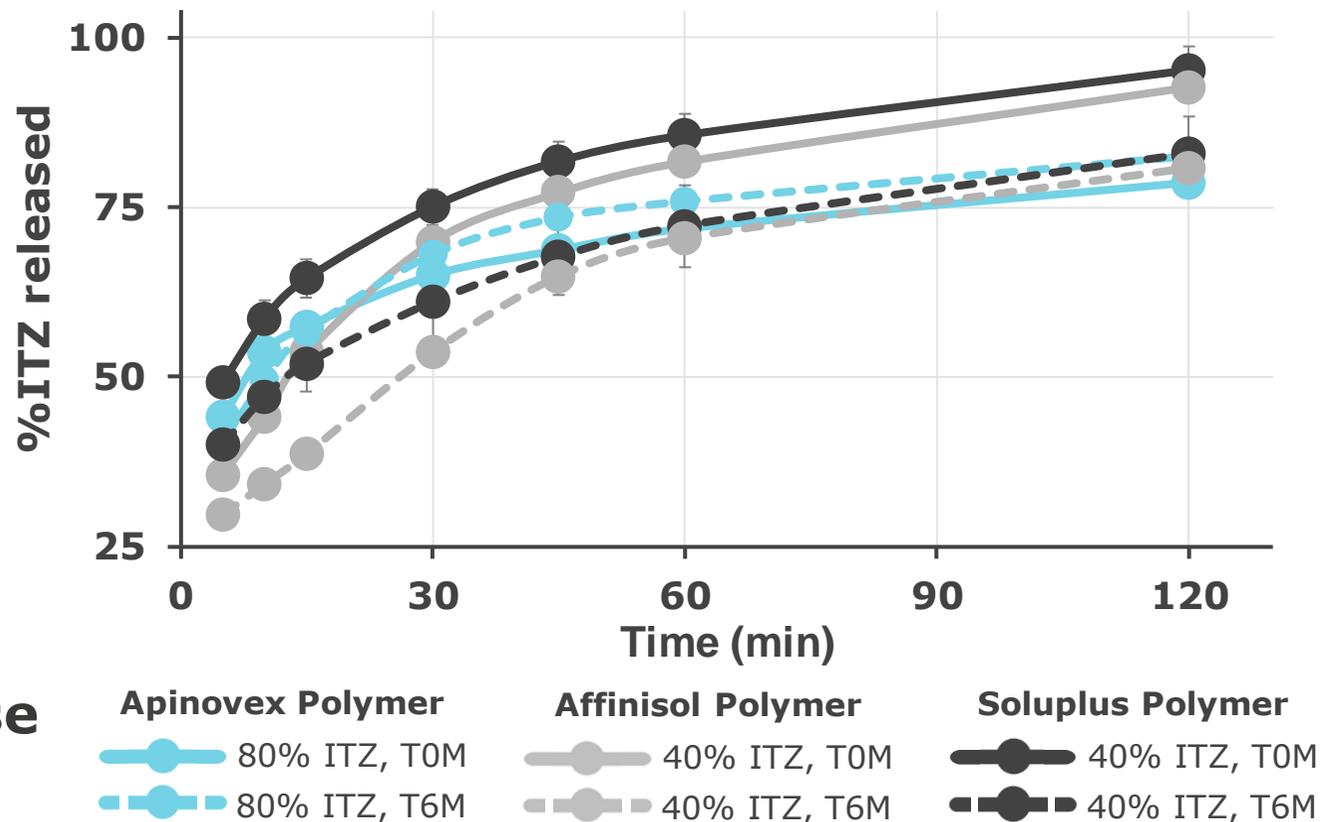


Apinovex™ ASD **maintained properties** after 6 months in accelerated stability

# Apinovex Polymer Case Study: Accelerated Stability

- ASDs stored at accelerated conditions: **40°C/75%RH; 6 months**
- 80% ITZ in Apinovex**
  - ✓ Amorphous character confirmed with DSC & XRPD
  - ✓ No significant change in dissolution rate
- 40% ITZ in Affinisol/Soluplus**
  - ✓ Amorphous character confirmed with DSC & XRPD
  - ✗ Dissolution data show a **decrease** of drug release at 6 months

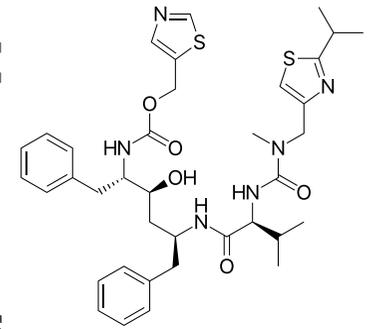
### In Vitro Dissolution of ITZ



Apinovex™ ASD **maintained properties** after 6 months in accelerated stability

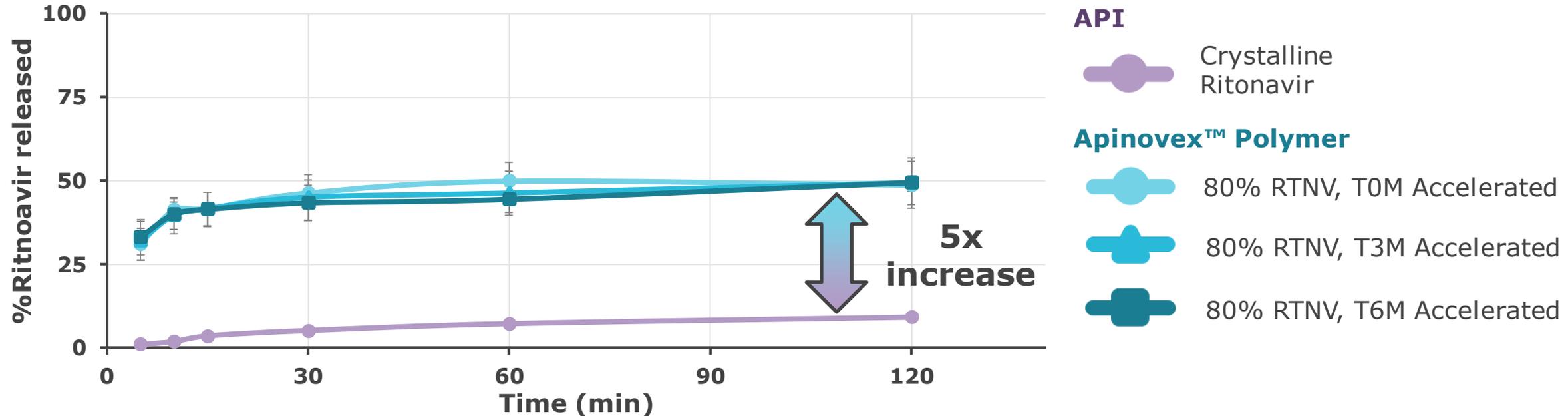
# HEALTH Apinovex Polymer Case Study 2: Spray-Dried Ritonavir ASD

Back to Start



- Prepared ASDs of **80% Ritonavir in Apinovex**
- ASDs stored at accelerated conditions: **40°C/75%RH; 6 months**
- Amorphous character confirmed at **T0, 3, and 6 months** with DSC & XRPD

## In Vitro Dissolution of Ritonavir



Apinovex™ polymers enabled **stable, high drug loading (80%) of Ritonavir** with **improved drug dissolution** when compared to crystalline API

# Apinovex Polymers

## Manufacturing, Quality, and Safety

- Polyacrylic acid chemistry similar to well-established **Carbopol® polymers**
  - Consistent residual monomer and impurity levels
  - Low residual Class 3 solvent levels **meeting USP <467> limits**
- Precedence of Use
  - Expected to have **limited absorption from gut** based on *in vivo* study in rats \*
  - Similar chemistry has precedence in long term human ophthalmic exposure
- Manufacturing Status
  - Large scale **IPEC-GMP** manufacturing conducted successfully
  - **Long term stability study** underway and **Type IV Drug Master File** planned

Apinovex™ polymers are **GMP validated** and expected to be **safe for oral use**

# Apinovex Polymers Safety & Toxicology Testing

	Test	Results
Oral systemic	Oral Systemic Toxicity Acute Oral Toxicity, 14-day observation (rats) (OECD Test Guideline 425)	<b>Not acutely toxic</b> (100% survival – LD <sub>50</sub> >5000 mg/kg BW)
	7-Day Oral Toxicity (rats)	<b>Well tolerated</b> at doses as high as 2,000 mg/kg/day
	28-Day Oral Toxicity, 14-day recovery (rats) (OECD Test Guideline 407)	<b>Well tolerated</b> with no adverse effect level of 2,000 mg/kg/day
Pharmacokinetics	Bioanalytical method not able to measure parent/metabolites in rat plasma by LC-MS/MS	Polymers with MW >1,000 Da unlikely to be absorbed by GI tract and not considered a toxicological risk
Genotox	Mutagenicity AMES “Bacterial Reverse Mutation Test” (OECD Test Guideline 471)	<b>Non-mutagenic</b> at doses up to 5,000 µg/plate with and without liver metabolizing system S9
	Chromosome Aberrations <i>In Vitro</i> Micronucleus Test (human lymphocytes) (OECD Test Guideline 487)	<b>Non-clastogenic / Non-aneugenic</b> at 2500 µg/mL
Skin/Eye	Skin Irritation / Corrosion Acute Dermal Irritation/Corrosion (rabbits) (OECD Test Guideline 404)	<b>Non-irritating to skin</b> according to GHS criteria very slight, temporary erythema / edema
	Eye Damage / Irritation Ocular observations/scans for 21 days (rabbits) (EPA OCSPS Series 870.2400)	<b>Non-irritating to eye</b> according to GHS criteria
	Skin Sensitization Buehler Method (guinea pigs) (OECD Test Guideline 406; OCSPS 870.2600)	<b>Non-sensitizing</b> according to GHS criteria very slight erythema

# 28-Day Oral Toxicity Study in Rats with 2-Week Recovery Phase

## *Study Design*

Group	Dose Level	Dose Concentration	Number of Animals	
	(mg/kg/day)	(mg/mL)	Males	Females
<b>1 (Control)</b>	0	0	15	15
<b>2 (Low)</b>	500	40	10	10
<b>3 (Intermediate)</b>	1000	80	10	10
<b>4 (High)</b>	2000	160	15	15

- Robust study design conducted according to OECD Test Guideline 407 and GLPs
- Main phase (10 rats/sex/group), Recovery phase (5 rats/sex, control + high)
- Limit dose of 2,000 mg/kg/day - highest possible margin of safety, near solubility limit in water

# 28-Day Oral Toxicity Study in Rats with 2-Week Recovery Phase

Endpoint	Results
Mortality, Clinical Condition & Detailed Physical Exams	No adverse effects
Sensory Reactivity, Grip Strength & Motor Activity	No adverse effects
Absolute Body Weight & Food Consumption	No adverse effects
Ophthalmic exams	No adverse effects
Macropathology	No adverse effects
Clinical Pathology, Organ Weights, Histopathology	No adverse effects

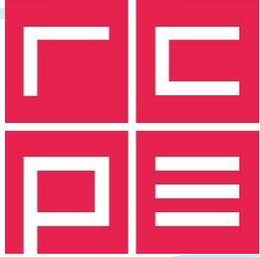
Apinovex™ polymers are **well tolerated in rats at 2000 mg/kg/day for 28 days and safe for oral use**

For a detailed report of toxicity testing, please **contact [Nick.DiFranco@lubrizol.com](mailto:Nick.DiFranco@lubrizol.com)**

## Where We Are Today

- **Samples are readily available**, dedicated inventory set up for NA and EU
- Actively **seeking partnerships/ collaborations** with industry and academia
- Examples of molecules currently being tested:
  - Kinase inhibitors
  - PROTACs
  - Blood thinners
  - Antifungals
  - NSAIDs

## Ongoing Partnerships



**ST. JOHN'S  
UNIVERSITY**



**AUSTINPx™**  
PHARMACEUTICS / MANUFACTURING

Results to be shared at  
2023 CRS Annual Meeting

## Next Steps in 2023

- **New Case Study Data**
  - Additional APIs with varied physicochemical properties
  - Comparisons with additional excipients for ASDs
  - Multimedia and biorelevant dissolution testing
- **Additional Safety/Tox Data**
  - Initiate a chronic *in vivo* study
- **Accelerated and Long-Term Stability Data**
  - Testing on GMP batches is ongoing





# Apinovex™ Polymers for Oral Drug Delivery

Back to Start

**Stable, high drug loading for spray-dried amorphous solid dispersions**



- Drug Formulation Benefits
  - **High loading** (up to 80%)
  - **Significantly improved release profile** relative to crystalline API
  - **Stable** formulations
  - **IP protection\*** and 505(b)(2) potential
- Processing Benefits
  - Designed for **spray-drying and solvent-based processes**
  - Soluble in water and **common pharmaceutical solvents**
  - Produces **low viscosity solutions** for ease of processing

Visit [Apinovex.com](https://www.apinovex.com) to request a sample

# Thank you!

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# NOVEL APPROACHES FOR AMORPHOUS SOLID DISPERSION (ASD) MANUFACTURING

Daniel Davis, AustinPx

CRS 2023

# Overview

## Introduction

- **AustinPx**
- **KinetiSol<sup>®</sup> Processing**

## Case Study 1 - Mucoadhesion

- **Carbopol 71G Polymer + Itraconazole**

## Case Study 2 – Apinovex<sup>™</sup> ASDs

- **Studies with Rivaroxaban, Vemurafenib, and Deferasirox**



**AUSTINPx™**

PHARMACEUTICS / MANUFACTURING

## CLIENT-CENTRIC CDMO

Helping developers realize the full potential of drug candidates.

# CLIENT-CENTRIC CDMO

Complexity Simplified: Effective communication and flexible processes simplify your development path



## Flexible & Responsive

Client-centric culture  
Systems to support  
challenging and  
shifting timelines and  
requirements



## Solutions Driven

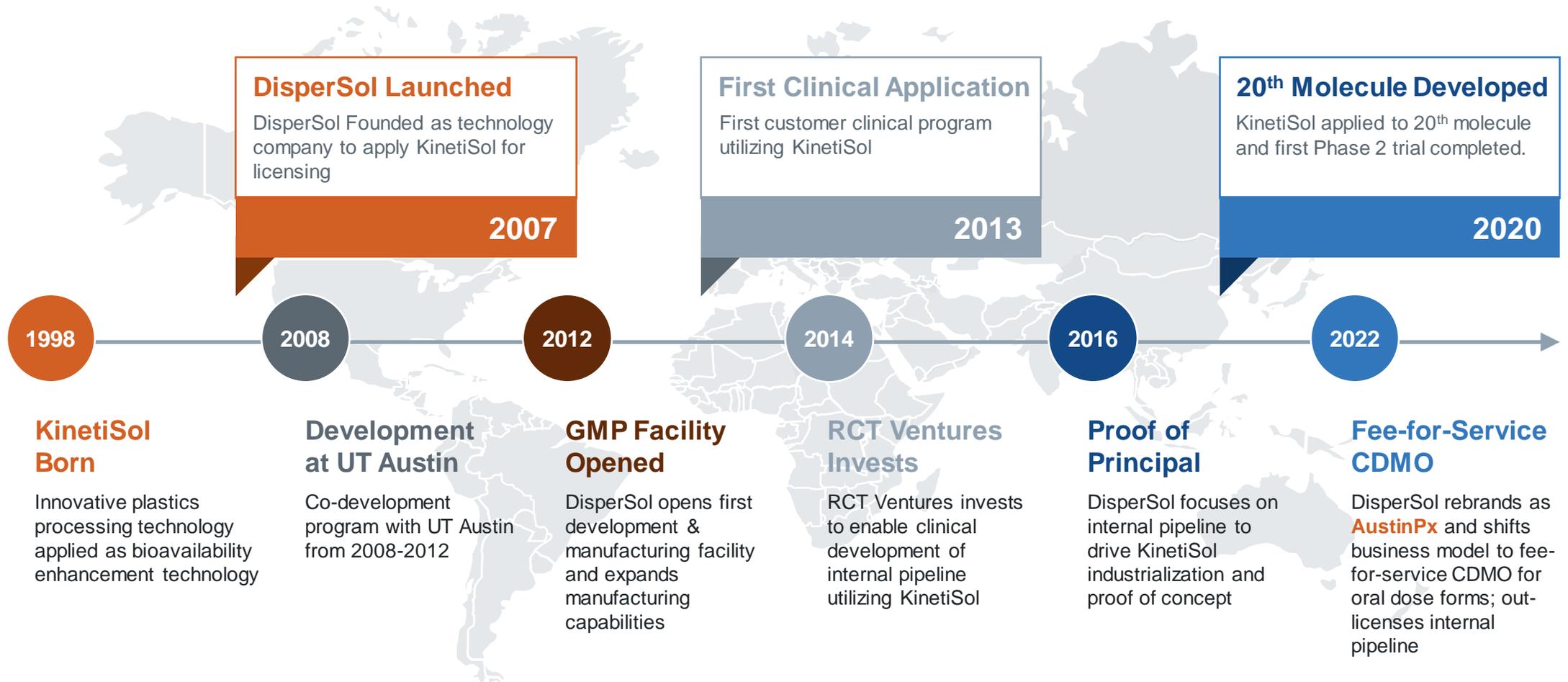
Data-driven recommendations  
and decisions  
Solutions oriented team  
Open and forthright  
communications



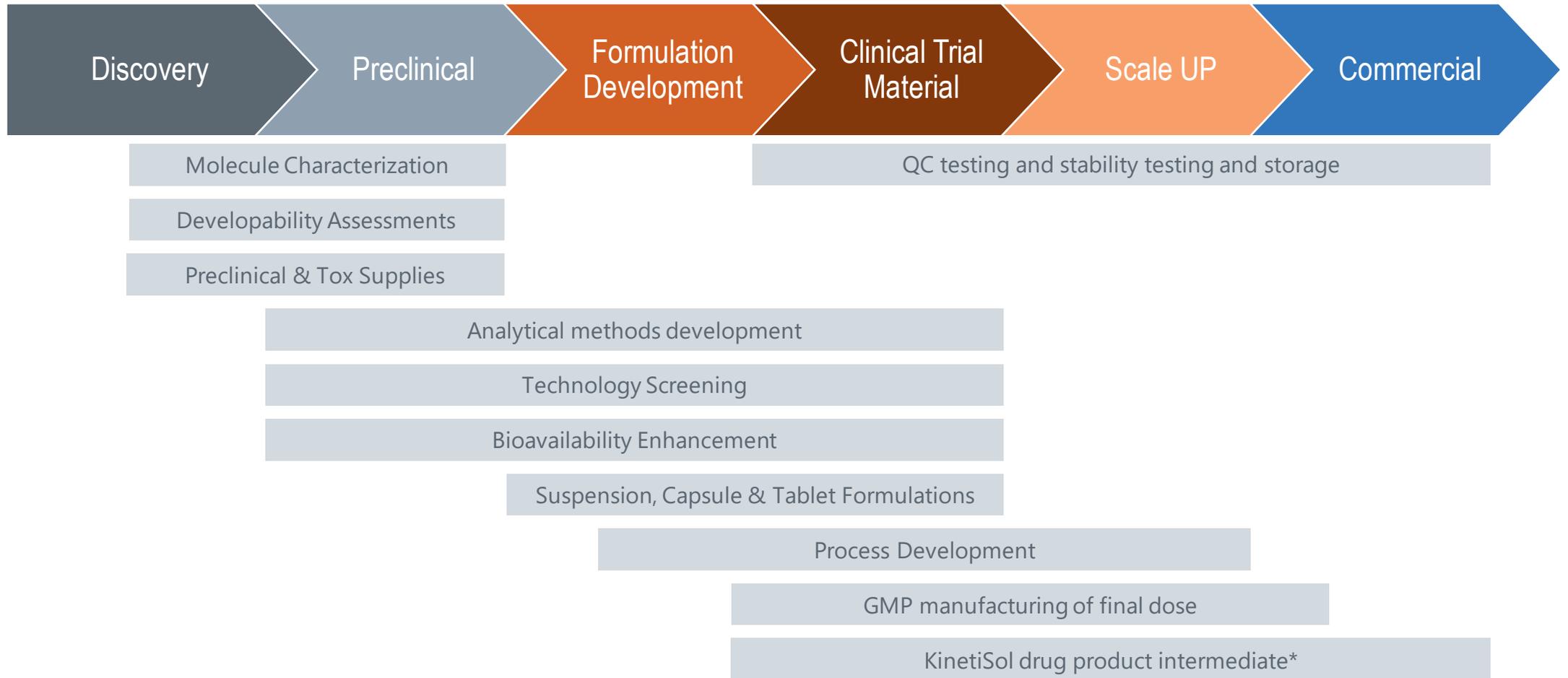
## Consultative & Unbiased

Partners in development  
Customized and tailored  
project plans  
Platform independent

# Proven bioavailability enhancement technology company, with more than 20 years of development expertise



# Development & Manufacturing Capabilities

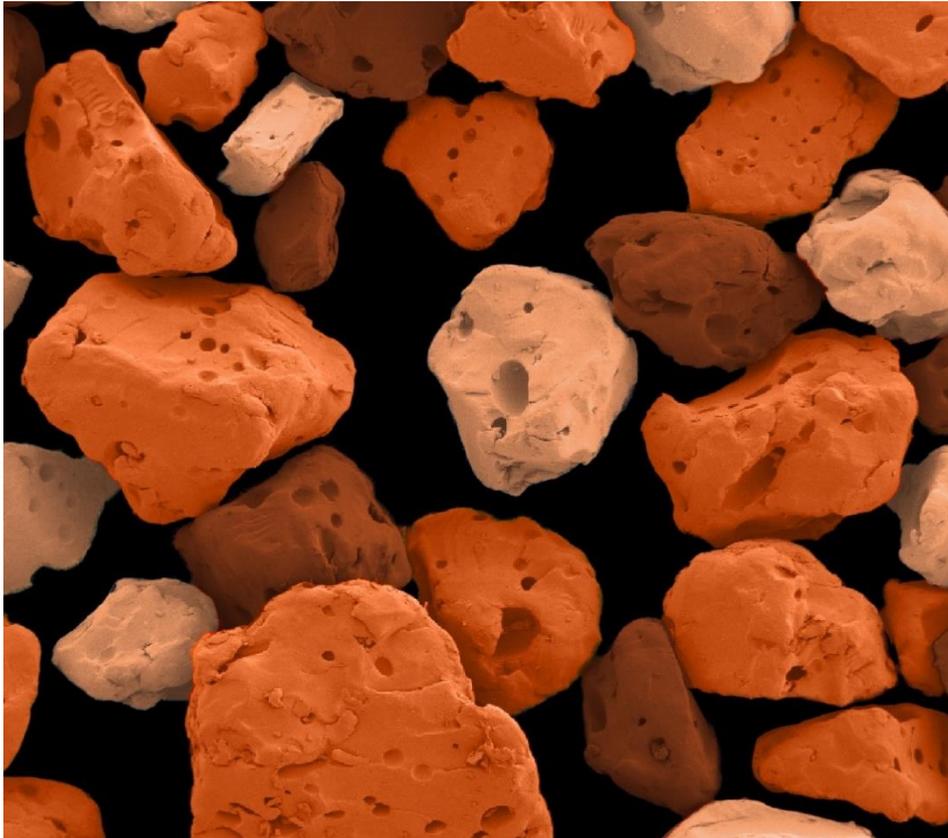


\*Commercial manufacturing through partnership with Catalent Pharma Solutions

# KinetiSol Technology: Next Generation Amorphous Dispersion

## Technology

### Overcomes Challenges of Existing Amorphous Dispersion Technologies



**Novel process with strong patent landscape:** IP generation (product by process, composition patents)

**Opens ASD space to more APIs:** Applicable to thermally labile, organic insoluble and high melting point APIs

**Faster Development:** Rapid processing and change over for faster throughput of prototypes

**Lower total cost of ownership:** Streamlined scale up (batch mode or continuous processing) and dosage form processing and testing

**Environmentally Friendly:** Non solvent process and small physical footprint

**Superior ASD performance:** Complete molecular mixing, improved ASD performance with improved stability, processability, and increased exposure leading to optimized dosage forms

**Broader Formulation design space:** ASDs using wider range of excipients, including thermally labile, highly viscous, non-thermoplastic and innovative mixtures

[clideo.com](https://clideo.com)

# KinetiSol Equipment: Research to Commercial Scale

Small Footprint Translates to Lower Operational Cost



**Lab-scale KinetiSol Processing Equipment**

**High throughput formulation screening: Enables rapid and exhaustive ASD screening**  
**Preclinical to small scale GMP (10g - 200g/hr)**



**Batch or semi-continuous output**

**Clinical to Commercial GMP: Up to 40kg/hr**  
**PAT integration**

## CASE STUDY 1

Mucoadhesive Amorphous Solid Dispersions for Sustained Release of Poorly Water Soluble Drugs – **Carbopol® 71G Polymer**

# Innovative Application of Carbopol 71G Polymer

## PROBLEM

Expansion of the Druggable Space has led to the emergence of heterobifunctional, macrocyclic, peptidomimetic, and brickdust compounds that commonly exhibit low oral bioavailability due to their low permeability, low solubility, and enzymatic degradation.

## HYPOTHESIS

Cross-linked poly(acrylic) acids have widely been reported to adhere to mucosal membranes. Creating an amorphous solid dispersion (ASD) utilizing Carbopol 71G will promote mucoadhesion and sustained release of a supersaturated system containing a "brick dust" API to improve bioavailability.

## STUDY OBJECTIVES

1. Demonstrate that ASDs are manufacturable containing binary mixtures of Carbopol 71G and the hydrophobic drug itraconazole
2. Demonstrate these ASDs exhibit adhesion *in vitro* to the intestinal mucosa at various drug loadings
3. Demonstrate mucoadhesion and sustained drug delivery *in vivo*.

# Study Objective 1

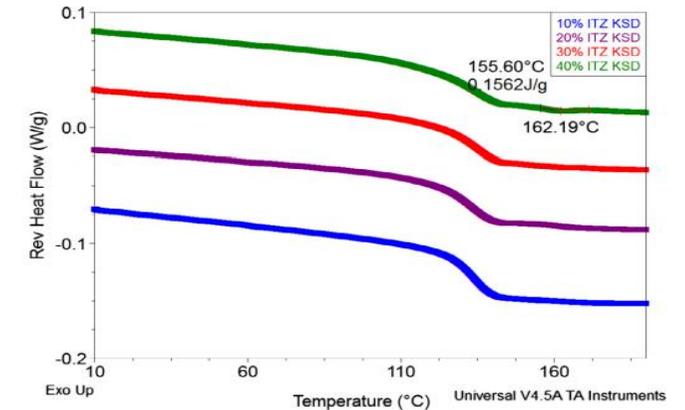
## Manufacturability of Binary Carbopol 71G Itraconazole ASDs

- Typical Carbomer Concentrations are in the range of 5-30% and have not been extensively studied as a binary carrier in hot-melt extrusion or spray drying
- KinetiSol processing, which is not practically limited by viscosity, successfully processed Carbopol 71G: itraconazole formulations at 105 °C, ~60 °C below its melting point.

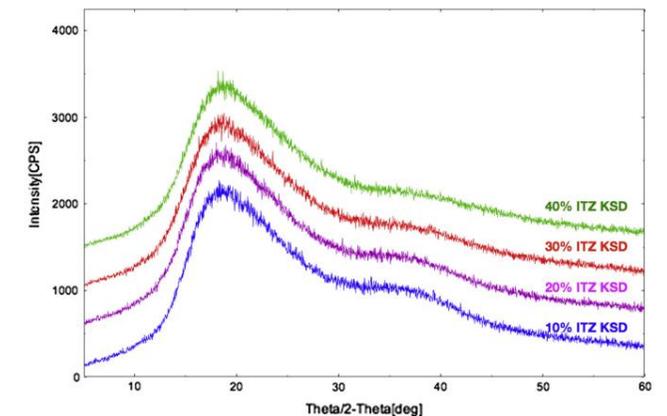
**Table 1**  
Batch compositions of itraconazole and carbomer.

Batch	Itraconazole (% w/w)	Carbomer (% w/w)
1	10	90
2	20	80
3	30	70
4	40	60

\* Potency of all batches averaged between 90% and 100% theoretical label claim (<3% RSD), with no observed process degradation to the API.



**Fig. 3.** Modulated differential scanning calorimetry thermograms of processed dispersions with itraconazole:carbomer ratios of 1:9, 1:4, 3:7, and 2:3. In the 40% ITZ KSD sample, the melt endotherm corresponding to itraconazole at ~162 °C is shown, demonstrating residual crystallinity at this higher drug load.



**Fig. 2.** Powder X-ray diffractograms of processed dispersions with itraconazole:carbomer ratios of 1:9, 1:4, 3:7, and 2:3.

# Study Objective 2

Carbopol ASDs exhibit adhesion *in vitro* to intestinal mucosa

- Mucoadhesion between carbomer and a mucus membrane is primarily driven by interpenetration of polymer chains via diffusion with supplementary non-covalent interactions.
- Hydration of the polymer chains within a dosage form is a prerequisite for chain mobility and entanglement. Thus the incorporation of a high drug-load hydrophobic drug was of initial concern, as observed in the contact angle studies that showed poor wettability of the compacts
- The *in vitro* mucoadhesion demonstrated that adhesion is preserved relative to pure carbomer, and hydration occurs rapidly relative to biorelevant transport times.

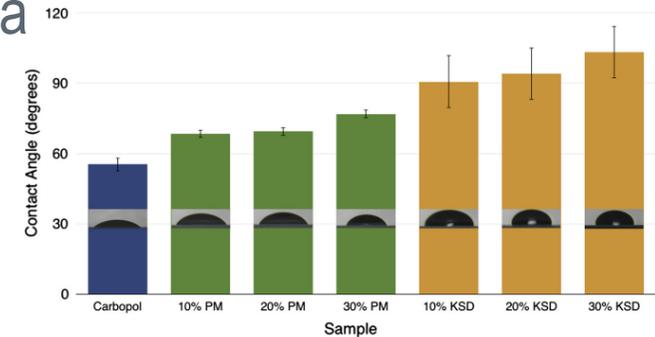


Fig. 4. Contact angle measurements of pure carbomer, physical mixtures of itraconazole and carbomer (10, 20, and 30% drug load), and processed dispersions of itraconazole and carbomer (10, 20, and 30% drug load). A representative contact angle image for each sample is inset to the corresponding sample bar. Bars are mean  $\pm$  SD (n = 3).

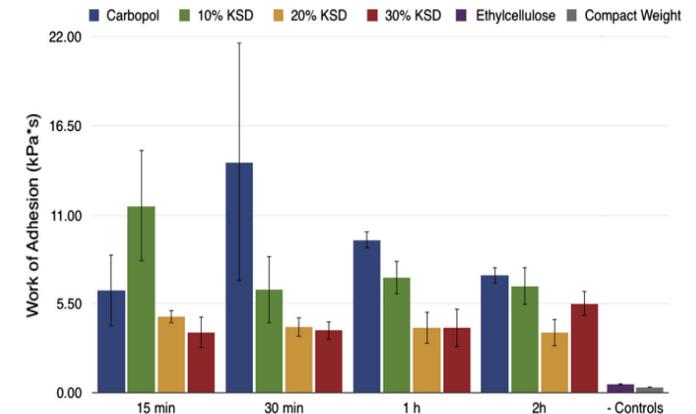


Fig. 5. Work of adhesion between compacts and excised porcine intestinal mucosa for carbomer and processed dispersions (10–30% drug load). Compacts were incubated with intestines in simulated intestinal fluid at 37 °C from 15 min to 2 h. An ethylcellulose compact was incubated for 30 min under similar conditions as a negative control, and a dry compact was lifted from a flat base as a baseline for weight. Bars are mean  $\pm$  SD (n = 3).

# Study Objective 3

Carbopol ASDs exhibited sustained release *in vivo*

- In Previous studies evaluating mucoadhesive dosage forms, poor adhesion was observed due to the large mass of the dosage form and the effect of shear stresses and mucous turnover; therefore, *minitablets were developed*.
- Supersaturation maintenance of the carbomer dosage form was not the primary object, and 30% drug loading was selected for minitablet development.
- In addition to uncoated minitablets, ethylcellulose (an insoluble, impermeable polymer) coatings were applied to all but one face of minitablets to promote unidirectionally transport and decrease overall hydration.

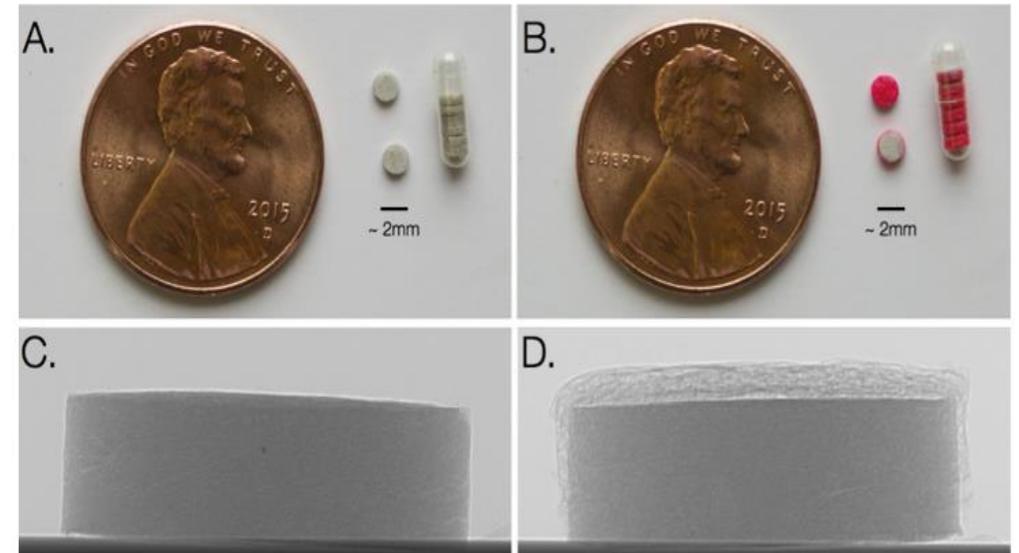
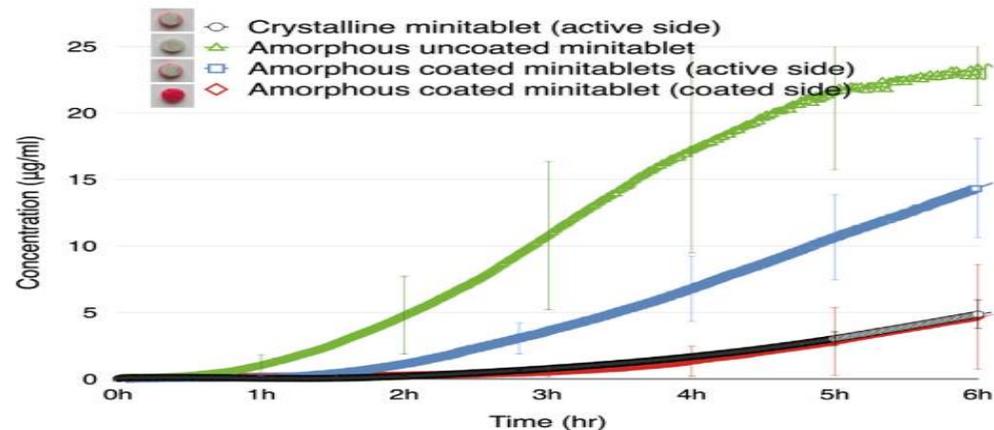


Fig. 7. Digital images of (A) uncoated tablets and (B) coated tablets in reference to a penny and filled (n = 6) into a size 9 capsule. X-ray Computed Tomography cross-section images of (C) uncoated and (D) coated tablets.

# Study Objective 3

## Carbopol ASDs exhibited sustained release *in vivo*

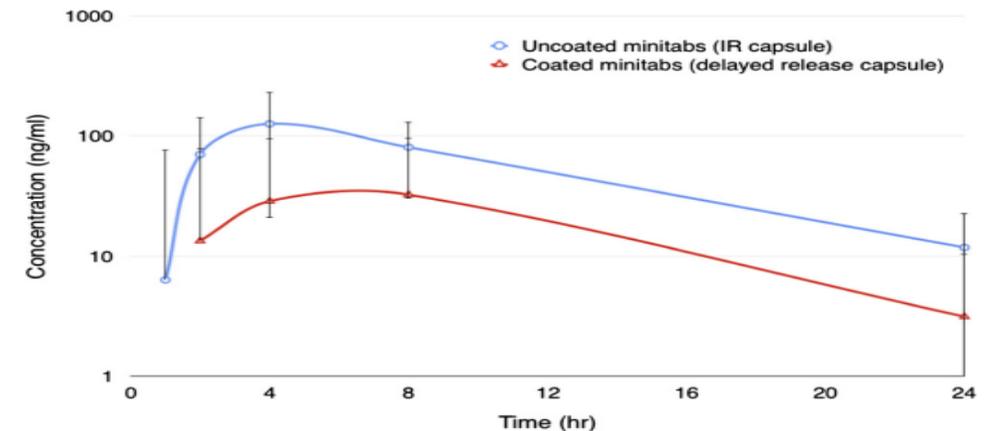
- *In vitro* concentration-time profiles for the uncoated and ethylcellulose (EC)-coated minitables demonstrated a sustained release profile over 6 hours. The rate and extent of release were greater for the uncoated minitab, which could swell and hydrate more rapidly.
- *In vivo* studies demonstrated the ability of Carbopol ASDs to achieve sustained release; additionally, the rank order between the uncoated and coated minitables was consistent with the *in vitro* study.



**Fig. 8.** Single tablet face dissolution profiles of crystalline EC-coated minitables (n = 3), amorphous uncoated minitables (n = 2), amorphous EC-coated minitables, active side (n = 3), and amorphous EC-coated minitables coated side, (n = 3). Error bars are  $\pm$ SD and shown only every hour for clarity. Representative photos of test side of tablet shown for illustrative purposes.

**Table 4**  
*In vitro* minitab dissolution study results.

	Dissolution rate ( $10^{-6}$ g $\text{cm}^{-2}$ $\text{min}^{-1}$ )	AUC <sub>0-360m</sub> ( $10^{-6}$ g h mL <sup>-1</sup> )
Uncoated amorphous minitables	23.00 $\pm$ 9.7 (120-240 min)	4001 $\pm$ 1447
EC-coated amorphous minitables (active side)	21.99 $\pm$ 7.36 (200-300 min)	2324 $\pm$ 439
EC-coated amorphous minitables (EC-coated side)	6.04 $\pm$ 5.18 (200-300 min)	708 $\pm$ 603
EC-coated crystalline minitables (active side)	4.22 $\pm$ 1.18 (200-300 min)	482 $\pm$ 61



**Fig. 9.** Plasma concentration time profiles in rats (n = 6 per test article) of uncoated minitables and EC-coated minitables, delivered in size 9 capsules. Capsules containing EC-coated minitables were enteric coated for delayed release in the small intestine.

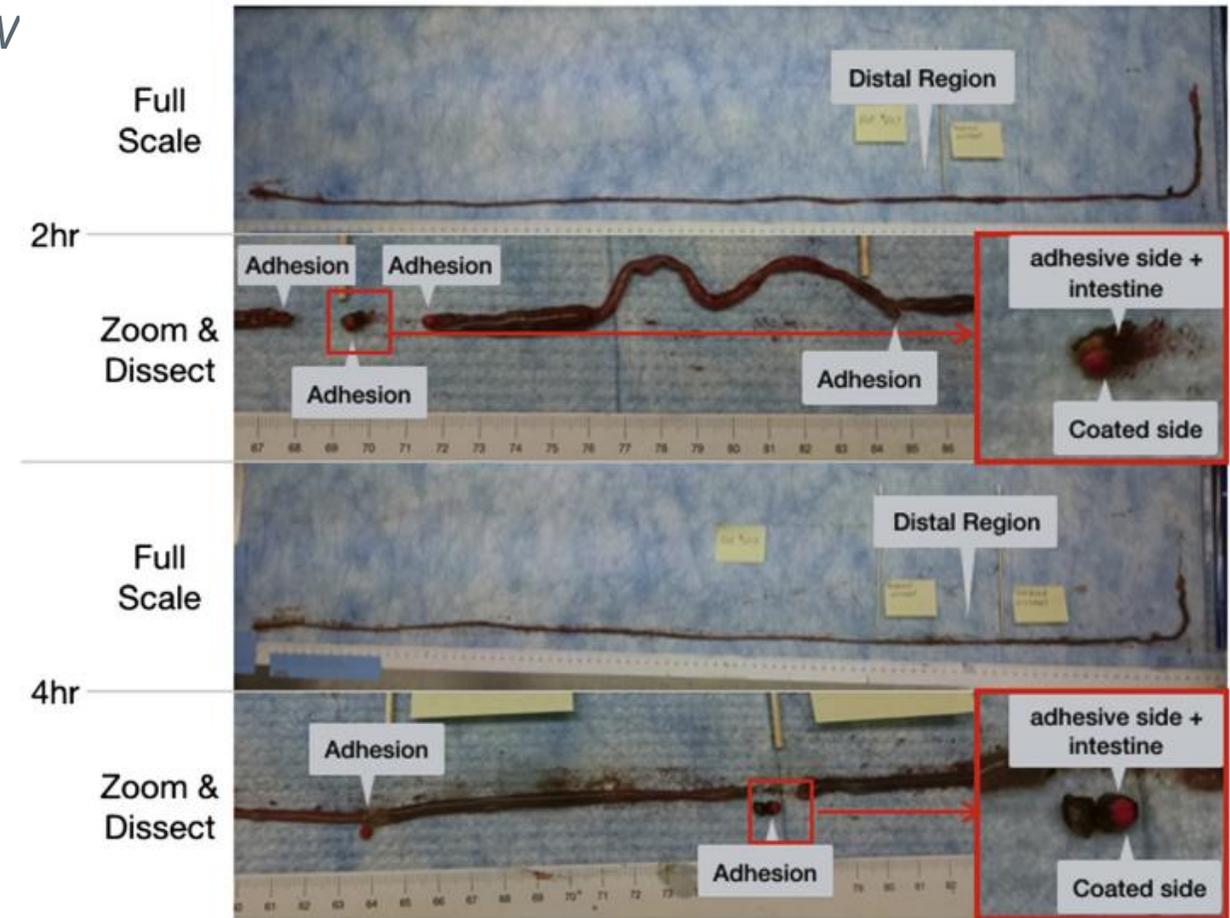
**Table 5**  
Pharmacokinetic parameters.

Dosage form	Dosing vehicle	C <sub>max</sub> ( $10^{-9}$ g mL <sup>-1</sup> )	T <sub>max</sub> (h)	AUC <sub>0-24</sub> ( $10^{-9}$ h kg g mL <sup>-1</sup> mg <sup>-1</sup> )
Uncoated minitables	IR capsule	148.0 $\pm$ 68.9	4.00 $\pm$ 2.19	90.4 $\pm$ 48.7
EC-coated minitables	Delayed release capsule	48.1 $\pm$ 44.4	4.67 $\pm$ 2.73	28.4 $\pm$ 30.9

# Study Objective 3

## Carbopol ASDs Exhibited Mucoadhesion *in v*

- For the EC-coated minitables delivered in an enteric-coated capsule, satellite groups of rats were utilized to investigate mucoadhesion
- At 30 minutes and 1 hour post-dose, rats were sacrificed, and minitables were found contained in intact enteric-coated capsules within the stomach of each rat.
- At 2-hour and 4-hour post-dose, minitables were found released from the capsule in the more distal region of the small intestines.
- Additionally, for all minitables identified, the tablet's mucoadhesive face (non-EC-coated face) was adhered to intestinal mucosa.



**Fig. 11.** Representative necropsy images 2-h and 4-h post-dosing of enteric coated capsules containing coated EC-coated minitables. The minitables were released from the capsule in the more distal region of the small intestine of the rat and adhered to the intestine.

# Innovative Application of Carbopol 71G Polymer

## Study Summary

### KINETISOL ENABLES A BINARY ASD WITH CARBOPOL 71G

KinetiSol processing enabled the formation of binary ASD compositions of itraconazole and Carbopol 71G from 10-30% drug loadings.

### ASD DEMONSTRATES ADHESION *IN VITRO* AND *IN VIVO*

*In Vitro* testing demonstrated adhesion to excised porcine intestinal mucosa, which was predictive of the mucoadhesion observed *in vivo* at the 30% drug loading.

### CARBOPOL 71G ASD EXHIBITS SUSTAINED RELEASE *IN VIVO*

The mucoadhesive properties, in combination with the formulation's release properties, resulted in sustained delivery of itraconazole *in vivo*.

## **CASE STUDY 2**

Apinovex Amorphous Solid Dispersions Generated by KinetiSol Processing – Examples with Vemurafenib, Deferasirox, Rivaroxaban

# Evaluating Apinovex and KinetiSol Processing

A Series of Case Studies with Apinovex and KinetiSol

## STUDY 1

### RIVAROXABAN

Commercialized crystalline tablet marketed as XARELTO<sup>®</sup>, dosed once daily with variable absorption, leading to adverse side effects. High melting point, low solubility with large food effect, neutral compound.

## STUDY 2

### VEMURAFENIB

Commercialized ASD marketed as ZELBORAF<sup>®</sup> manufactured by micro-precipitated bulk powder (MBP) developed by Roche to overcome high melting point and poor organic solubility

## STUDY 3

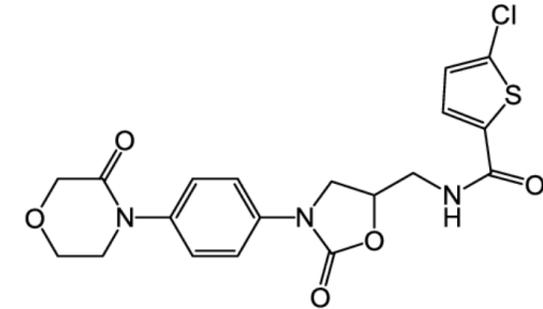
### DEFERASIROX

Commercialized crystalline tablet, marketed as EXJADE<sup>®</sup> and JADENU<sup>®</sup>, that suffers from inadequate response in ~30% of patients. Weakly acidic API that is challenging to manufacture as an ASD due to high melting point and poor organic solubility

# Study 1: Rivaroxaban

## Product Introduction

- **Rivaroxaban doses of 15 and 20mg are taken with food as they are incompletely absorbed.**
  - Taking the 20mg dose with food leads to a significant increase in mean AUC by 39% and Cmax by 76%
- **Potential to decrease gastrointestinal bleeding by decreasing the amount of unabsorbed drug**
- **An enabling formulation (e.g., ASD) may eliminate the food effect and decrease the maximum dose, minimizing gastric side effects.**
- **Challenging product to formulate due to high melting point of 230 °C.**



Property	Value
Molecular Weight (MW)	435.88 g/mol
BCS	Class II
Acid/Base	Neutral
LogP	1.5
Dose	10-20mg QD
Water Solubility	~ 5 ug/mL
FaSSIF	~10 ug/mL
Melting Point	230 °C
Chiral	S-Enantiomer Active

# Apinovex Rivaroxaban ASD

## KSD comparison in various polymers

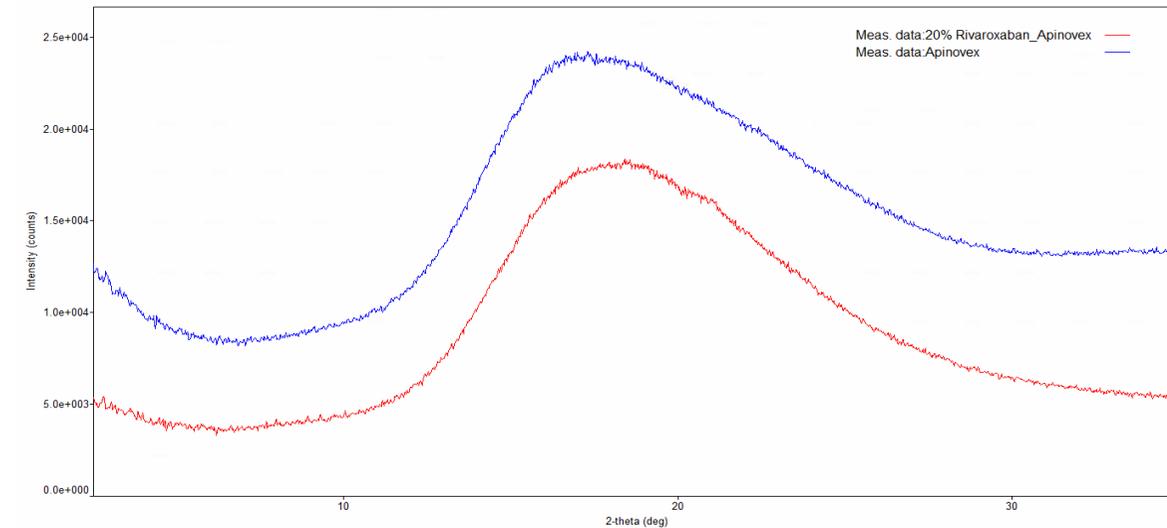
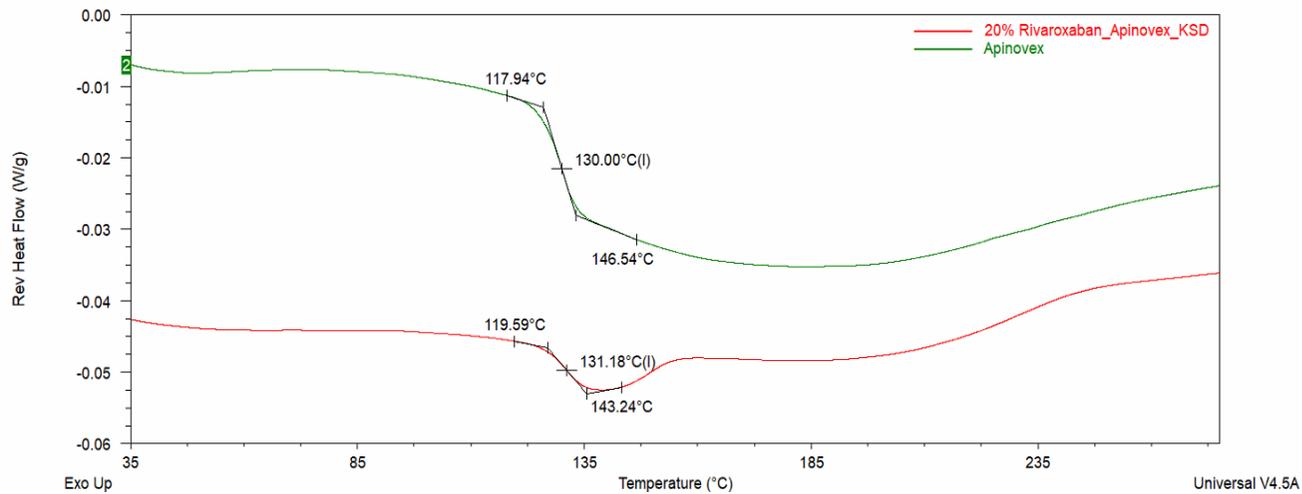
- **KinetiSol attempts were performed in 7 different polymers, including Apinovex, at a 10gram scale and all ejected at the same conditions.**
- **Apinovex demonstrated it's amendable to the KinetiSol process and produced an acceptable level of impurities for this phase of development and can be further mitigated with process optimization**

Lot No	API	Drug Loading (%)	Polymer	Ejection Temperature (C)	Impurities >0.05 (%)	Major Impurity / RRT (%/RRT)	Amorphous (pXRD)	Potency	API Melting Point (C)
22-003-43-1-1	Rivaroxaban	20	HPMCAS-LMP	160	0.56	0.32%/RRT 0.64	Amorphous	97.8	230
22-003-43-3-3	Rivaroxaban	20	MAE 100-55	160	2.05	0.83%/RRT 0.60	Amorphous	92.4	230
22-003-44-2-1	Rivaroxaban	20	PVP-K30	160	1.47	0.58%/RRT 0.64	Amorphous	98.4	230
22-003-44-3-1	Rivaroxaban	20	HPMC E3	160	0.16	0.13%RRT/0.64	Amorphous	N/A	230
22-003-43-4-3	Rivaroxaban	20	Copovidone	160	0.35	0.07%/RRT 0.54	Amorphous	106%	230
22-003-44-1-3	Rivaroxaban	20	Soluplus	160	0.21	0.09%/RRT 0.64	Amorphous	100%	230
<b>22-003-85-1-1</b>	<b>Rivaroxaban</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>Apinovex</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>1.65</b>	<b>0.83%/RRT 0.60</b>	<b>Amorphous</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>230</b>

# Apinovex Rivaroxaban ASD

## mDSC and pXRD Characterization

- Apinovex successfully formed an amorphous solid dispersion by KinetiSol Processing with Apixaban
- Reported Tg of Apinovex is 128-130C, mDSC analysis of the neat polymer agrees.
- PXRD and mDSC both demonstrate the KinetiSol processed Rivaroxaban-Apinovex formulation is amorphous.



# Apinovex Rivaroxaban ASD

## Dissolution Characterization

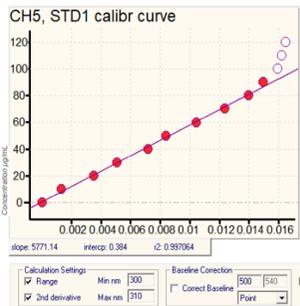
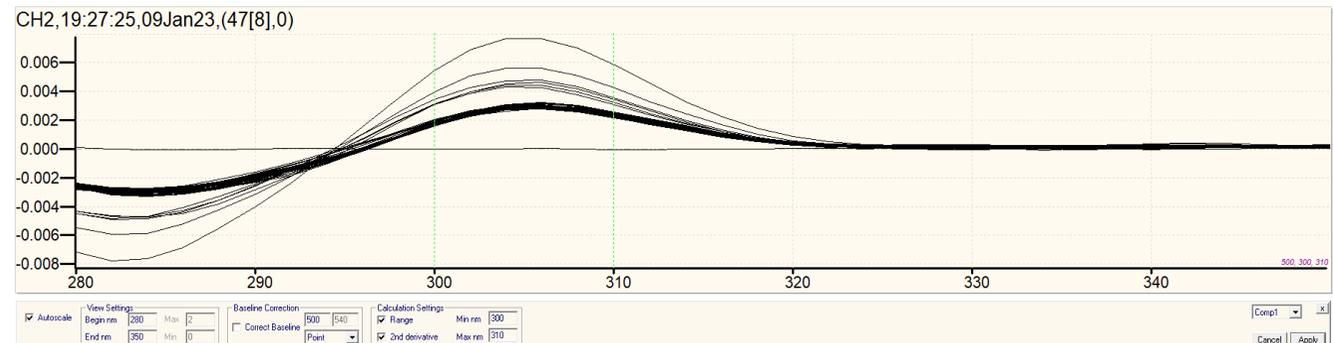
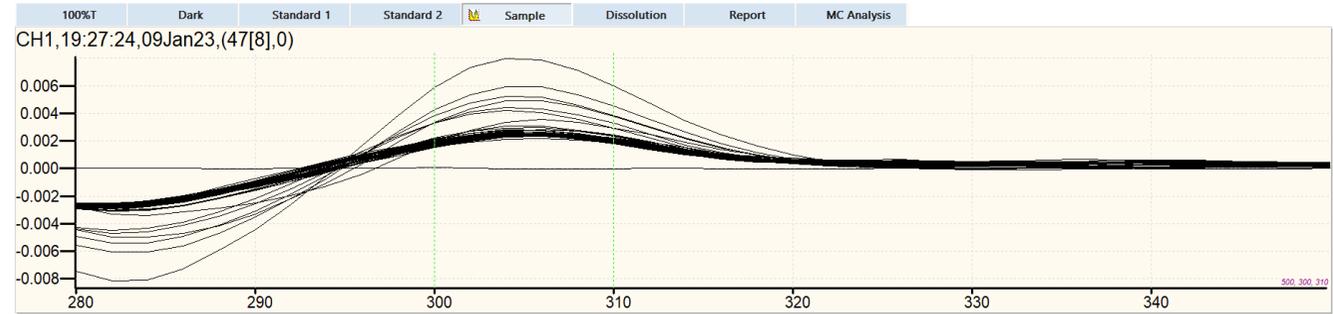
Apinovex immediately springs the API into solution; the polymer is cloudy in the acidic phase and after the pH transition in the neutral phase.

Despite the turbidity, Rivaroxaban measurements did not undergo shifting, and the analysis was uncomplicated.

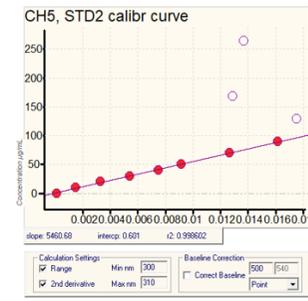
- Analysis Range:
  - pH 2.0 acid: 2<sup>nd</sup> Derivative from 300-310nm, linear from 0-100ug/mL
  - pH 6.8 FaSSIF: 2<sup>nd</sup> Derivative 300-310 for pH 6.8 FaSSIF, linear from 0-100 ug/mL

### USP Type II Dissolution

- 240mL pH 2.0 Acid transitioned at 30 minutes with 160mL of pH 7.25 concentrated FaSSIF, to create 400mL of pH 6.8 FaSSIF. Samples are stirred at 100 RPM. Duration of 4 hours.
- 2.5% DL Sample mass: 4 grams
- 20% DL Sample Mass: 500mg



pH 2.0 Cal Curve

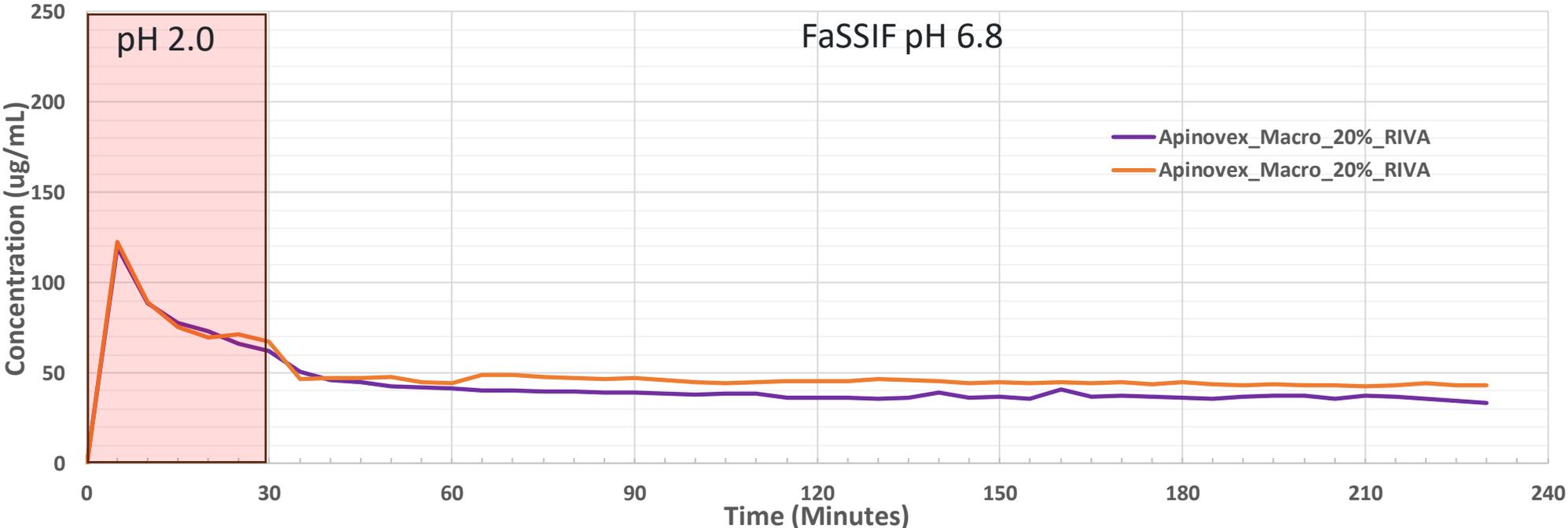


pH 6.8 FaSSIF Cal Curve

# Apinovex Rivaroxaban ASD

## Dissolution Characterization

Apinovex allowed for maximum release of rivaroxaban within the first 5 minutes of dissolution, followed by a decrease and stabilization after the pH-transition



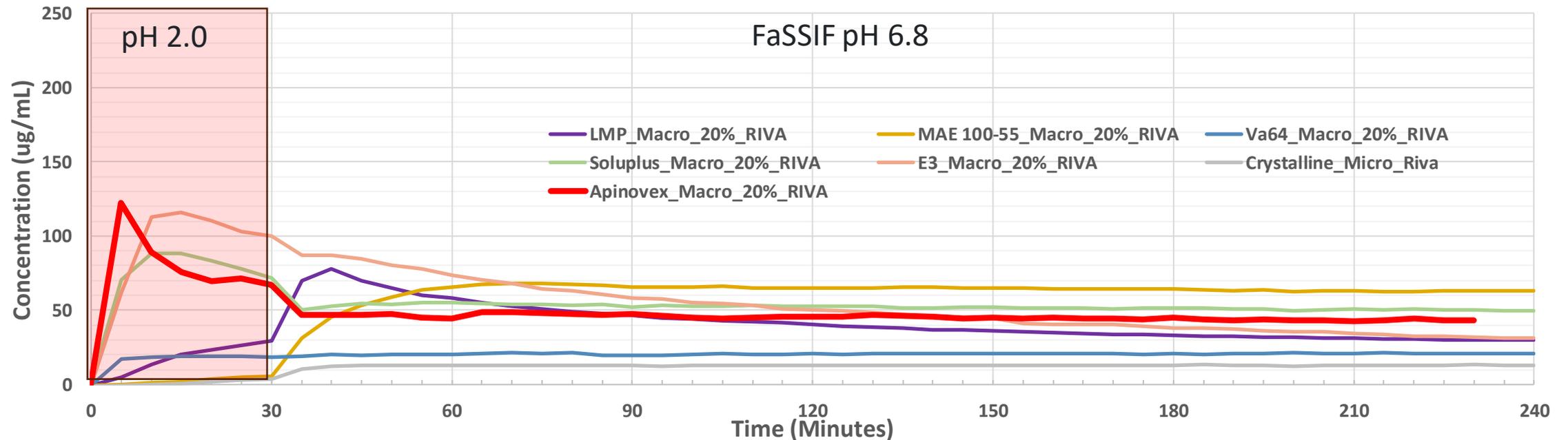
Conditions: 1mm tips, 5-minute sampling interval for 4 hours, pH shift 2.0 at 30 min to pH 6.8 FaSSIF, stir-speed 100 RPM  
Analysis Range: 300-310nm, 2<sup>nd</sup> Derivative, identical for both media

# Apinovex Rivaroxaban ASD

## Dissolution Comparison

To benchmark Apinovex's performance, the formulation was compared against other commonly used polymers used to formulate ASDs and the crystalline API.

Apinovex performed similarly to other neutral polymers in acidic media and FaSSIF conditions.



Conditions: 1mm tips, 5-minute sampling interval for 4 hours, pH shift 2.0 at 30 min to pH 6.8 FaSSIF, stir-speed 100 RPM  
Analysis Range: 300-310nm, 2<sup>nd</sup> Derivative, identical for both media

# Study 2: Vemurafenib

## Vemurafenib Limited Polymer Selection with MBP

Treatment for malignant melanoma (B-Raf inhibitor)

Vemurafenib is water insoluble, high melt (>270 °C), not soluble in volatile organics

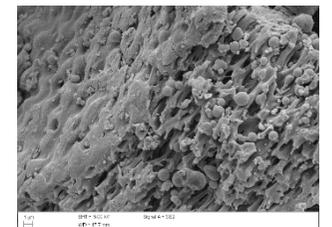
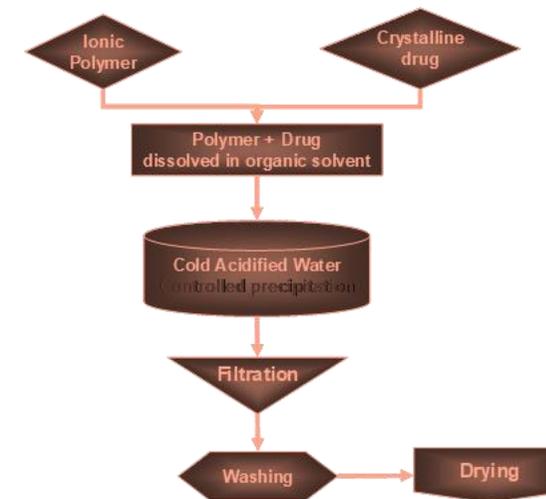
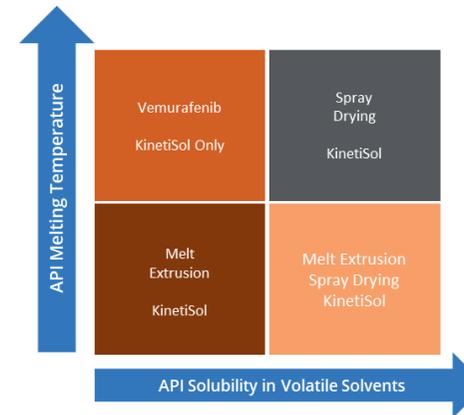
Undevelopable without ASD enablement

Can't spray dry or melt extrude

Solvent/antisolvent precipitation was a last-resort option.

A complicated process with substantial water/DMA waste stream

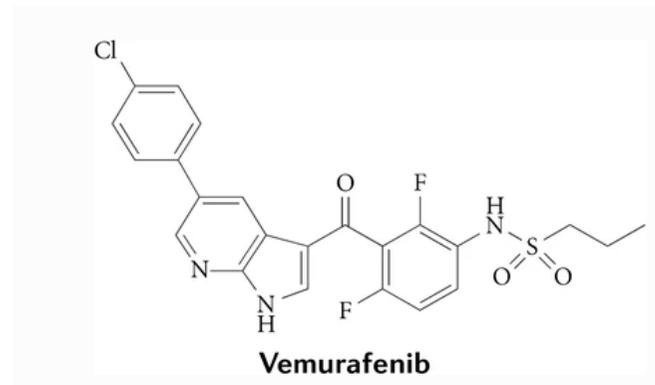
Downstream processing involves secondary drying and roller compaction before tableting



# Apinovex and Vemurafenib are Compatible

## KinetiSol Processing Summary

- KinetiSol Processing was employed to process vemurafenib with Apinovex, using a 10-gram batch size at a 20% Drug Load.
- KinetiSol processing Vemurafenib generated 0.81% Impurities and achieved an assay of 93%
- Further optimization of processing parameters is planned to further reduce impurities and increase drug loading.

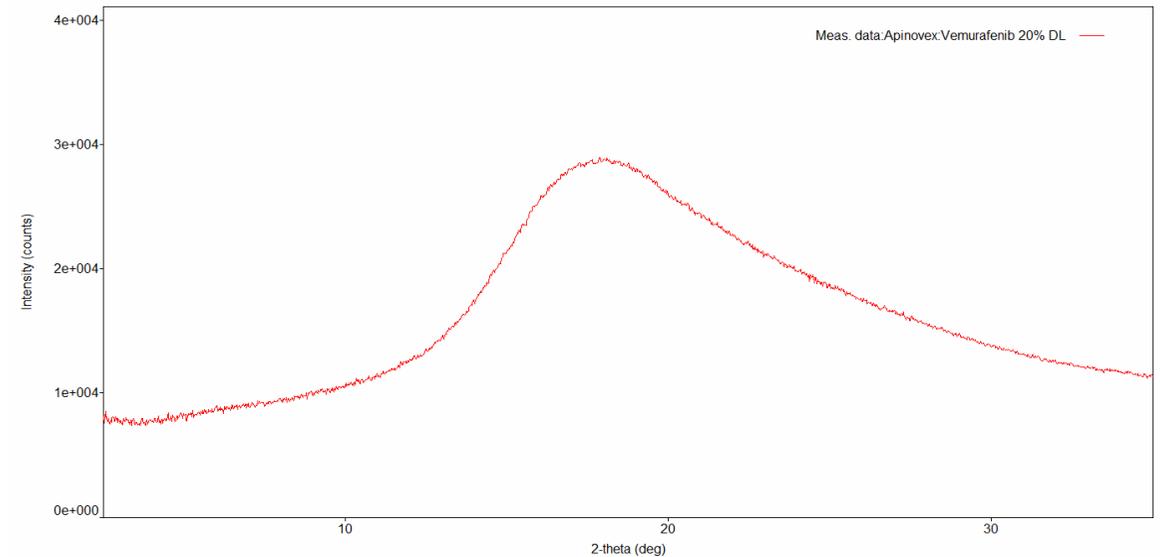
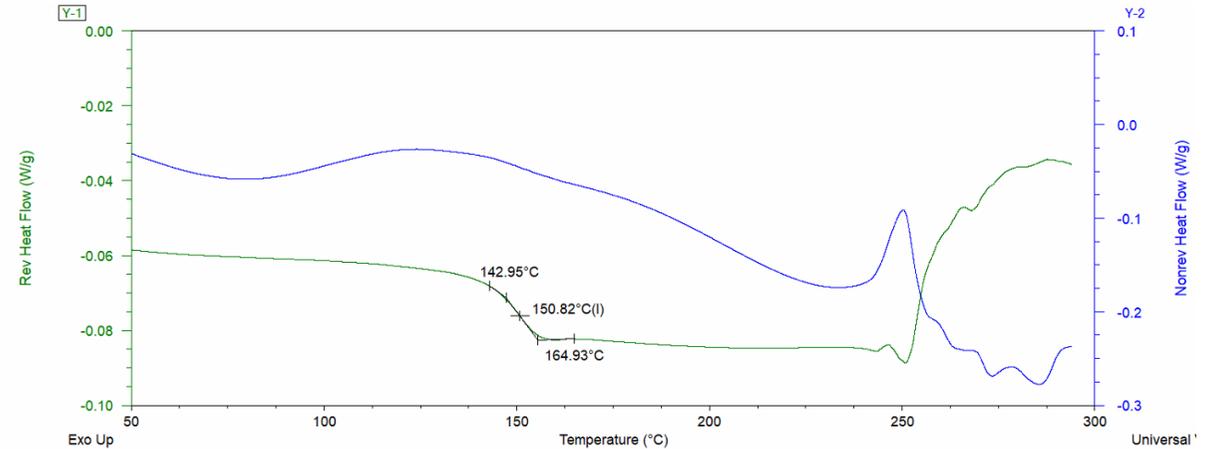


Property	Value
Molecular Weight (MW)	489.33 g/mol
Acid/Base	Neutral
pKa	Not Detected
LogP	3.0
Dose	960mg BID
Aqueous buffers (pH 3 & 5)	< 0.1 ug/mL
FaSSIF	< 2 ug/mL
Melting Point	272 °C

# Study 2: Vemurafenib

## Amorphous Characterization

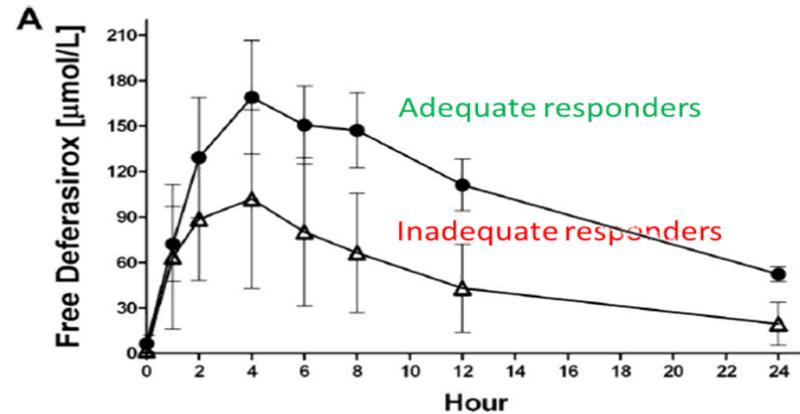
- Apinovex demonstrated it was miscible with vemurafenib at a 20% drug loading, despite the API having a melting point of 272 °C
- The 20% DL formulation produced a single-phase ASD with a high glass transition temperature of 151 °C
- pXRD confirms the formulation's amorphous nature; mDSC data is convoluted above 250 °C
- Additional development is being performed similarly to the rivaroxaban study to assess Apinovex performance relative to other commonly used polymers in ASDs



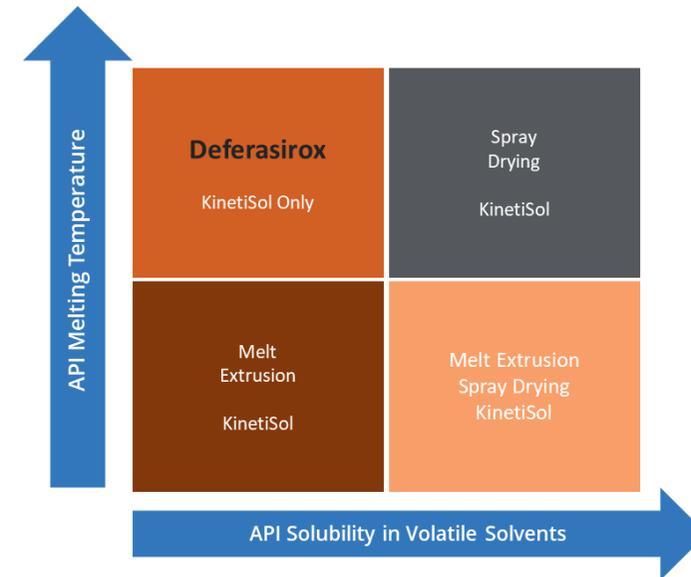
# Study 3: Deferasirox

## Suboptimal Formulation Limits Efficacy

### Deferasirox PK Analysis in Patients



From: Chirnomas et al. Blood, 5 Nov. 2009, Vol. 114, No. 19



30% of patients are inadequate responders due to low bioavailability from conventional crystalline tablet

Poor BA due to:

- pH dependence and poor solubility
- High oral doses, up to 40mg/kg

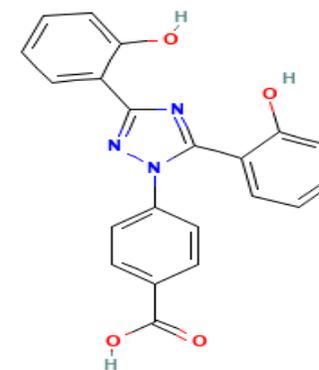
Improved formulation is needed to extend DFX therapy to inadequate responders

ASD required, but HME and SD are not applicable due to high melting point (265°C) and poor organic solvent solubility

# Apinovex and Deferasirox are Compatible

## KinetiSol Processing Summary

- KinetiSol Processing was employed to process deferasirox with Apinovex, using a 10-gram batch size at a 20% Drug Load.
- KinetiSol processing of Vemurafenib resulted in 0.80% Impurities, with the highest individual impurity measured at 0.35% at a Relative Retention Time (RRT) of 1.30.
- Further optimization of processing parameters is planned to further reduce impurities and increase drug loading.

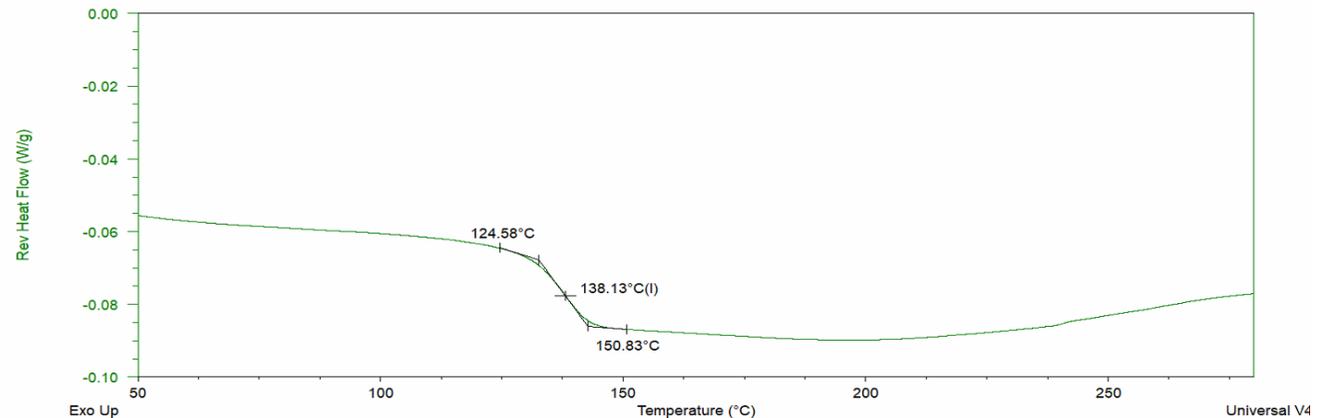
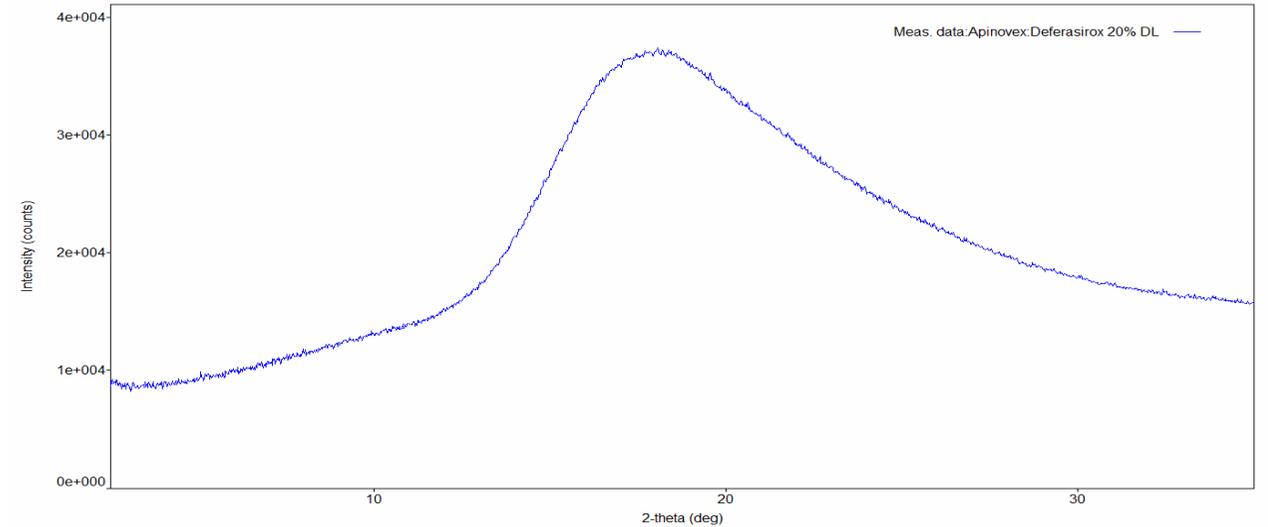


Property	Value
Molecular Weight (MW)	373.36 g/mol
Acid/Base	Weakly Acidic
pKa	4.57
LogP	3.52
Dose	10-20 mg/kg QD
Bioavailability of 375mg Dose	70%
0.2 M HCL	0.9 ug/mL
Aqueous (pH 7.5)	400 ug/mL
Melting Point	261 °C

# Study 3: Deferasirox

## Amorphous Characterization

- Despite the high melting point of deferasirox (261 °C), Apinovex demonstrated miscibility at a 20% drug loading.
- This 20% DL formulation resulted in a single-phase ASD with a high glass transition temperature of 138 °C.
- Both pXRD and mDSC confirm the amorphous nature of the formulation
- Additional development, akin to the rivaroxaban study, is ongoing to assess Apinovex's performance compared to other commonly used polymers in ASDs.



# Evaluating Apinovex and KinetiSol Processing

## Study Summary

### APINOVEX IS COMPATIBLE WITH A VARIETY OF APIs

KinetiSol Processing Apinovex with various APIs demonstrated the polymer's ability to solubilize some of the most challenging to formulate APIs at a 20% drug load with low impurity levels and high glass transition values.

### APINOVEX ASDs RAPIDLY ACHIEVE SUPERSATURATION

Rivaroxaban ASDs formulated with Apinovex reached peak concentrations within 5 minutes in acidic media and performed similarly to commonly used polymers for ASD development.

### FUTURE STUDIES

Ongoing studies are benchmarking the deferasirox and vemurafenib ASDs against commonly used polymers, similar to the rivaroxaban study.

# Download the Full Presentation Deck



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PHARMACEUTICS / MANUFACTURING

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Sandra Kucera

**THANK YOU!**

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[www.austinpdx.com](http://www.austinpdx.com)

# Benefits of Direct Compression

Joseph Zeleznik  
Technical Director, North America



# Critical Factors in Tableting & Dosage Form Performance

- Powder flow
  - Powders can possess inherently good flow properties
  - Powders can be manipulated (processed) to create good flow properties
- Compression/Compaction
  - Compression: the ability to rearrange/consolidate in the die cavity
  - Compaction: bonding through deformation under pressure to form a compact (tablet)
- Hydration
  - Hydrophilicity/hydrophobicity
  - Hydrophilic: diffusion and erosion
  - Hydrophobic: erosion

# Direct Compression – A Quick Review of Processes

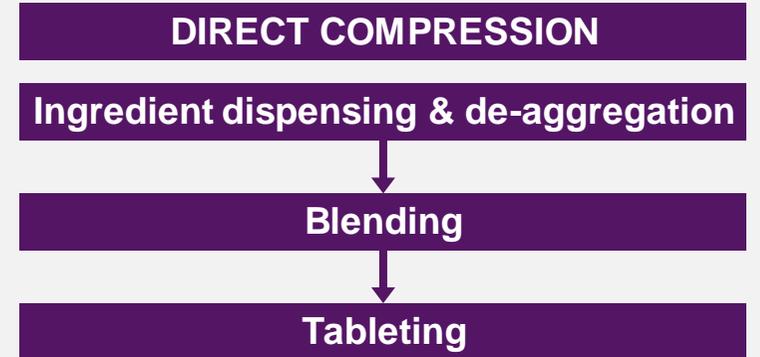
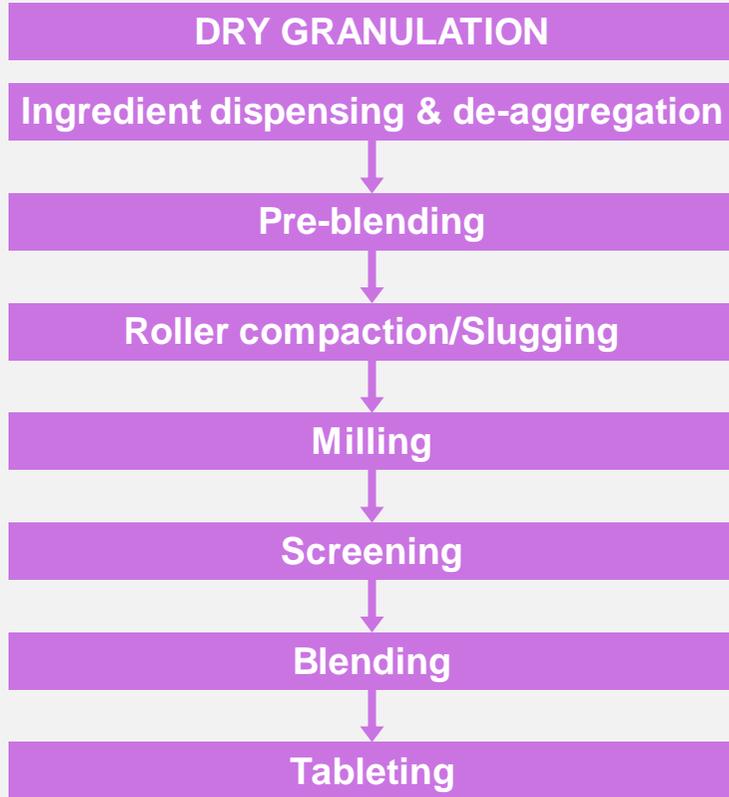
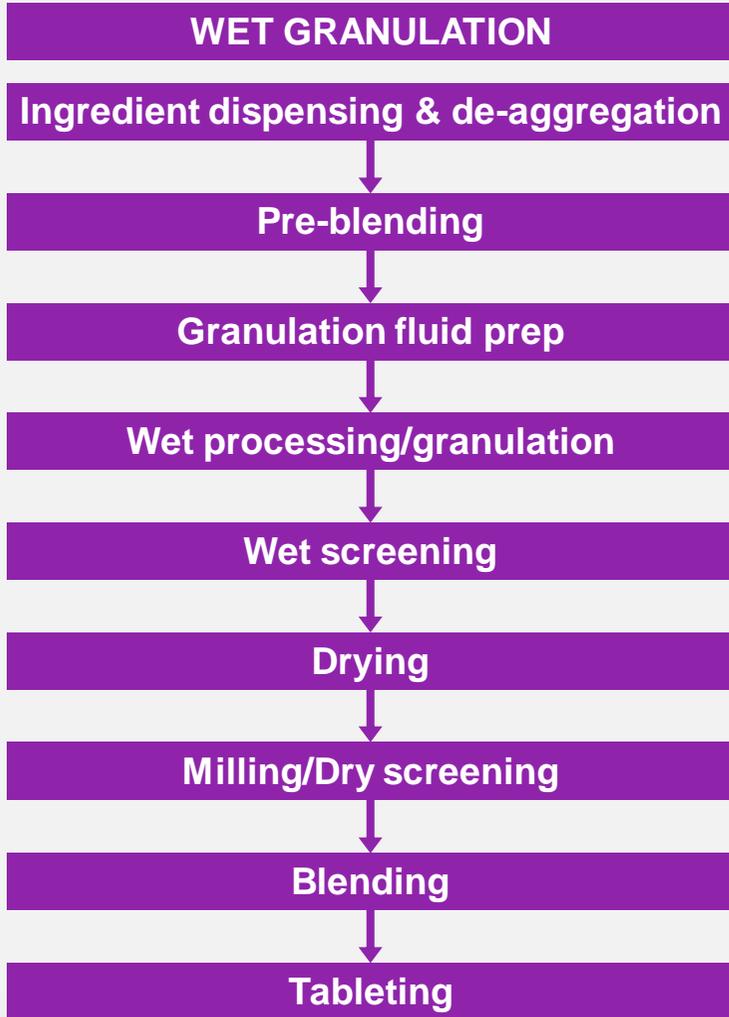
## Granulation

- Advantages
  - Densification
  - Tailored particle size
  - Minimize segregation
  - Improve powder flow
  - Improved handling
- Disadvantages
  - Excipient performance reduced
  - Multi-step process
  - Labor intensive
  - Energy intensive
  - Equipment intensive
  - Variability
  - Stability
  - Physical
  - Chemical

## Direct Compression

- Advantages
  - Stability
  - Minimizes process steps
  - Fewer ingredients
  - Reduced energy
  - Decreased labor
  - Reduced capital equipment
  - Frees existing equipment
- Disadvantages
  - Segregation
  - Micronized APIs
  - Flow
  - Medium to high loading
  - Carrying capacity
  - High loading

# Unit Operations – DC / DG / WG

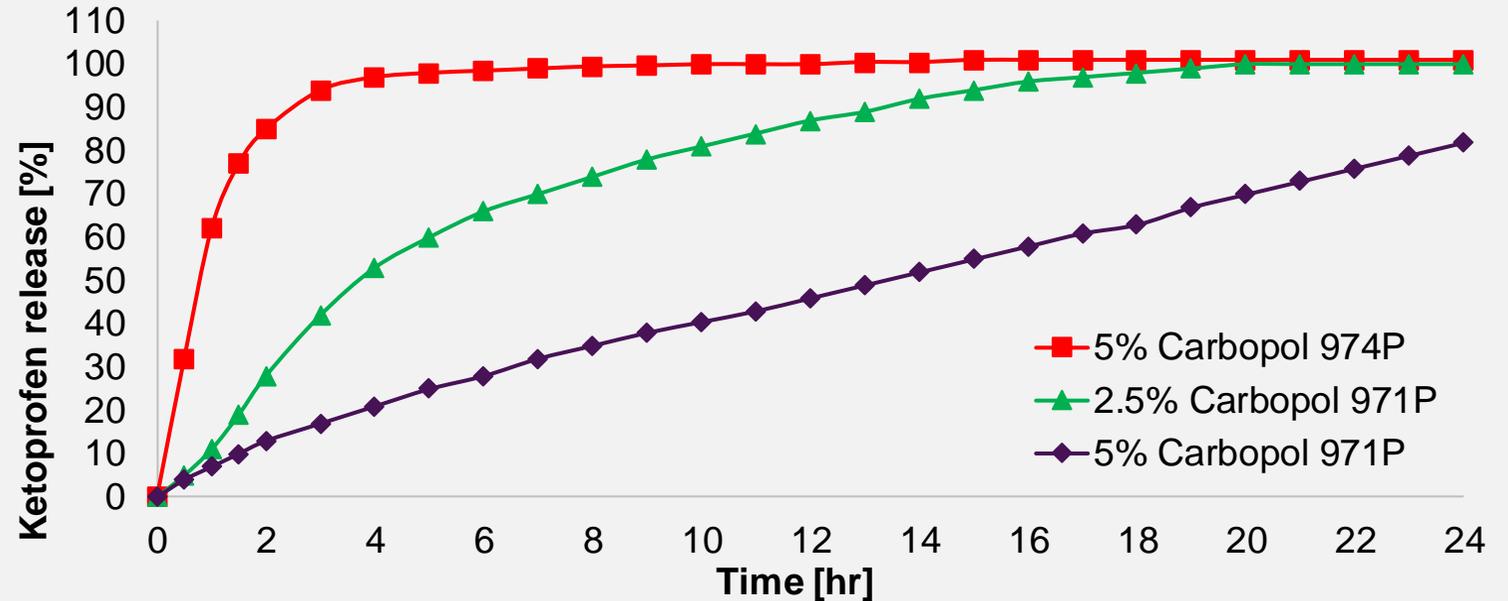


Carbopol 71G Polymer

# Carbopols for MR - Effect of Carbopol Type

## The effect of crosslinking on the release rate

- Lightly crosslinked Carbopol polymers tend to be more efficient in controlling the drug release than highly crosslinked Carbopol polymers
- Intermediate drug release can be achieved by combining both (Carbopol 971P NF and 974P NF polymers).



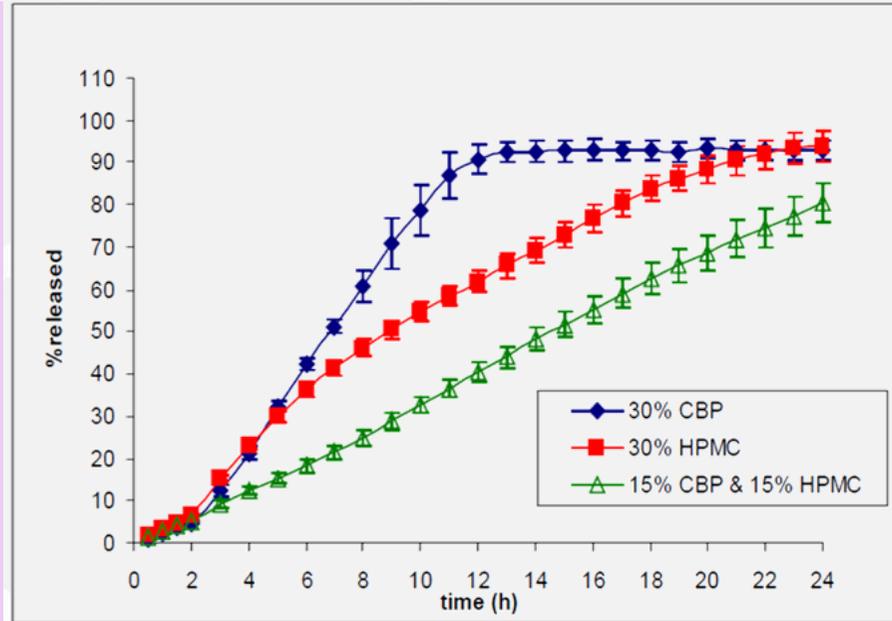
*Ketoprofen 200 mg release (USP apparatus 2, pH=6.8 buffer) from wet granulated tablets*

		Solubility	
		High	Low
Permeability	High	I	II
	Low	III	IV

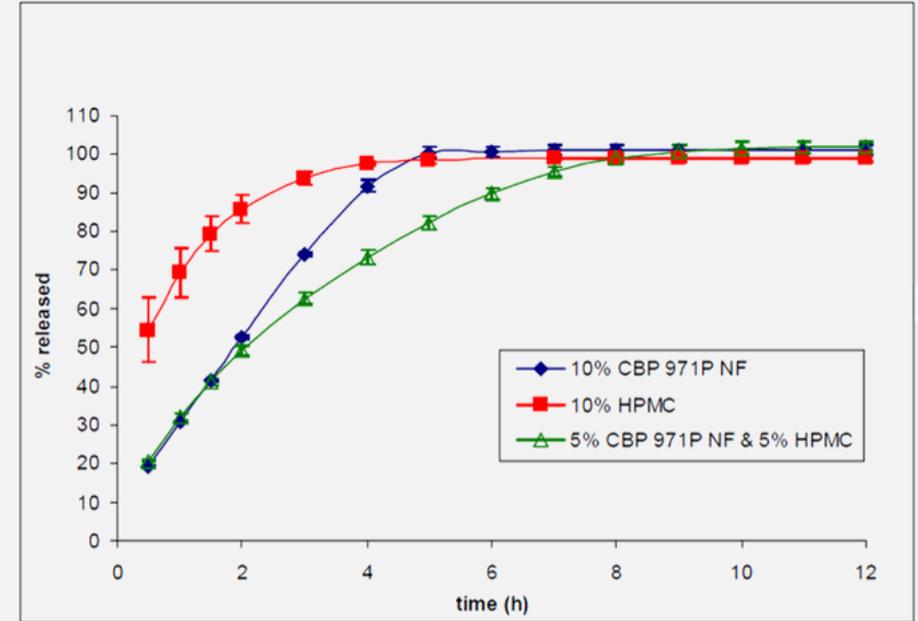
# Carbomers for MR - Combination with other Polymers

## The benefits of combining Carbopol + HPMC

- Improved flowability by using Carbopol® 71G NF in combination with low flowability polymers
- High flexibility for modifying the release profile by varying the ratio



Ketoprofen release (USP method for modified release) from tablets (50 mg) with 30% polymer (direct compression)



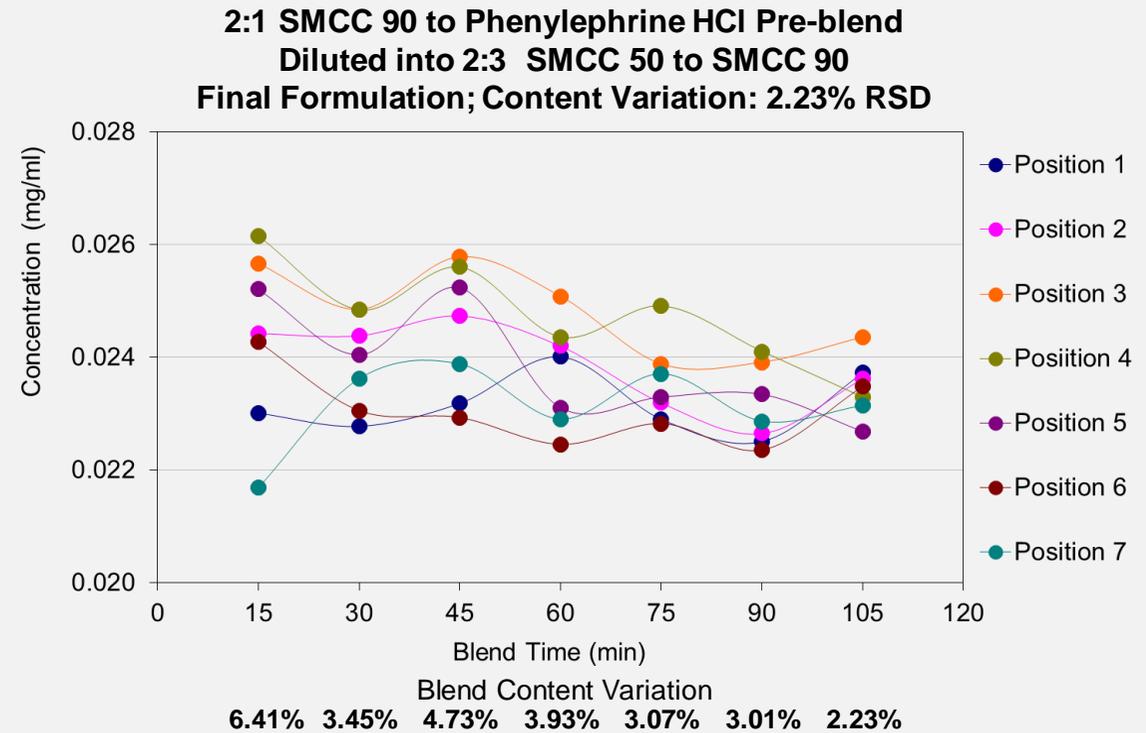
Guaifenesin release in pH=6.8 buffer from tablets (100 mg) with 10% polymer (wet granulation)

		Solubility	
		High	Low
Permeability	High	● I	● II
	Low	III	IV

- API solubility: 0.051 mg/ml
- API solubility: 50.00 mg/ml

# Support Ingredients and Advantages - Blending

- Bench scale blending
  - Blend strategy
    - Disperse API in SMCC 90
      - Pre-blend 5 minutes
    - Add pre-blend to additional SMCC 90 with SMCC 50
      - Blend to specified time
      - Sample blender using predefined map
      - Assay each mapped position
    - Blend to homogeneity
  - Blend configuration
    - Mass: 500 g
    - Blender size: 2 quart
    - Blend times: 15 to 105 min. in 15 min. intervals
  - Uniformity target
    - Blend variation: NMT 3.0%
- Increasing batch size
  - 3 kg blend
    - Blender size: 16 quart
    - Blend time to achieve homogeneity: 45 min.
  - 20 kg blend
    - Blender size: 2 cubic foot
    - Blend time to achieve homogeneity: 15 min.



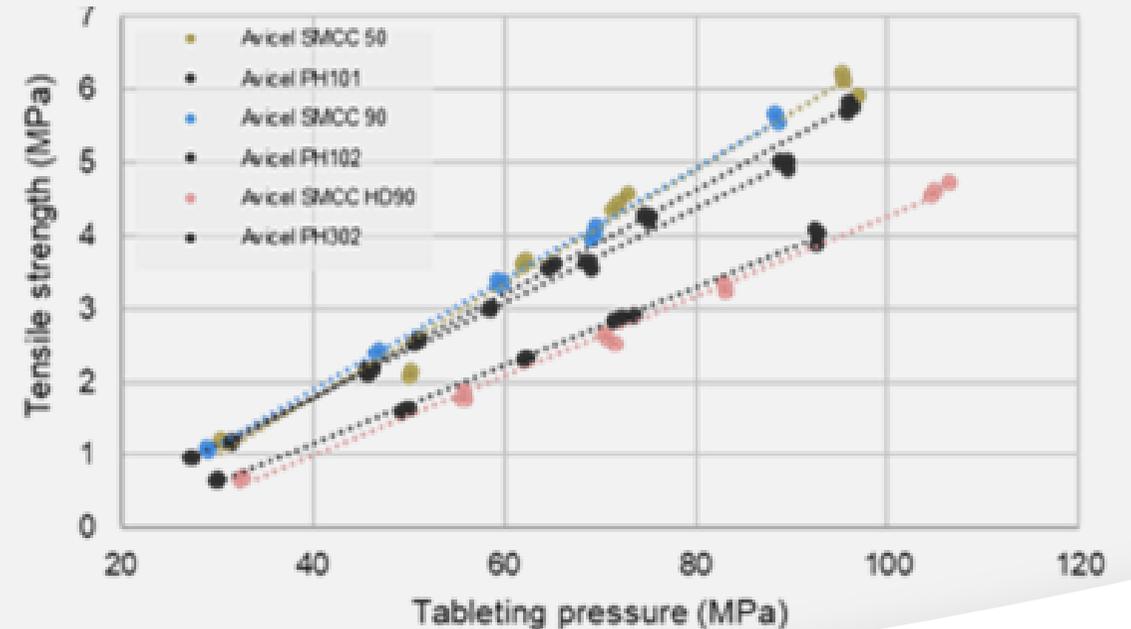
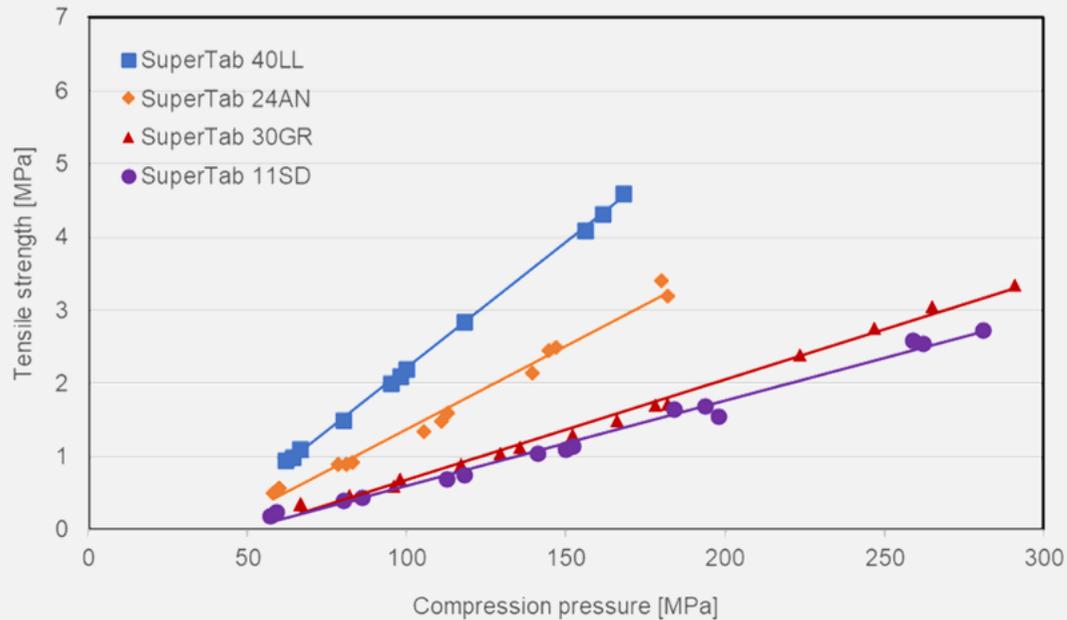
# Support Ingredients and Advantages - Compaction

- Lactose

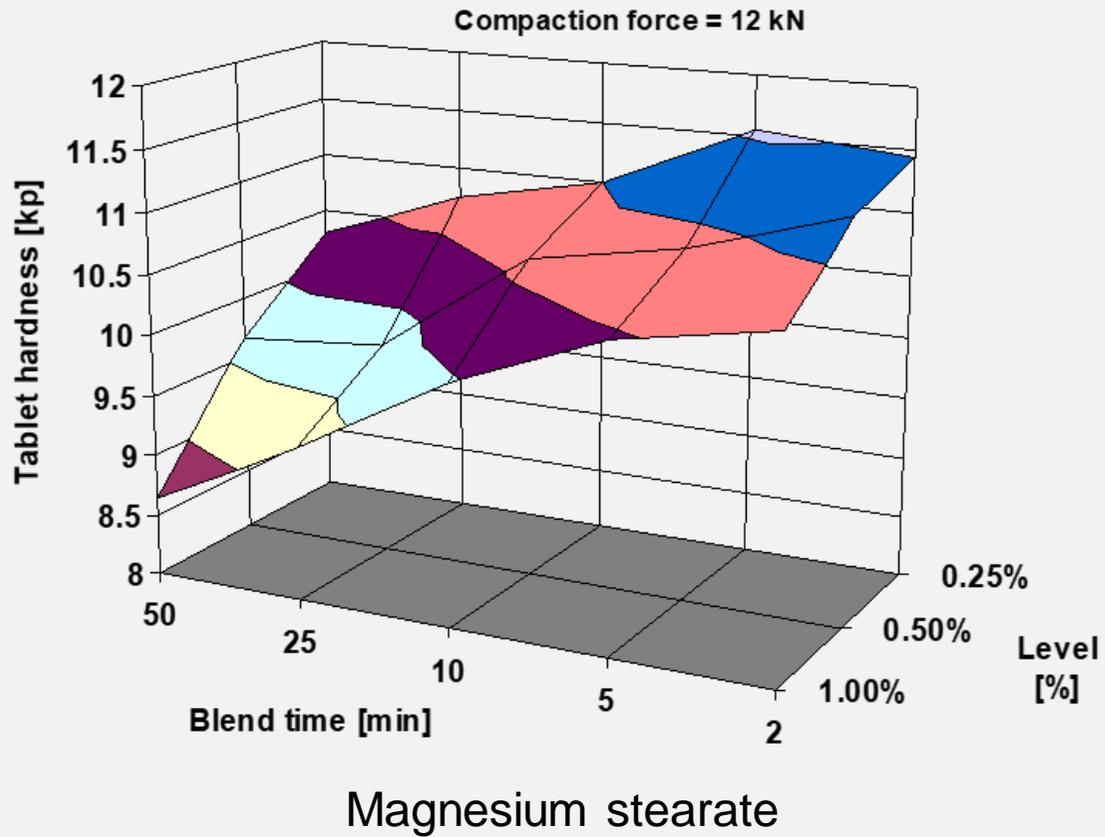
- Grade selection based on performance requirements
  - Powder flow
  - Compactibility
- All are freely water soluble

- (S)MCC

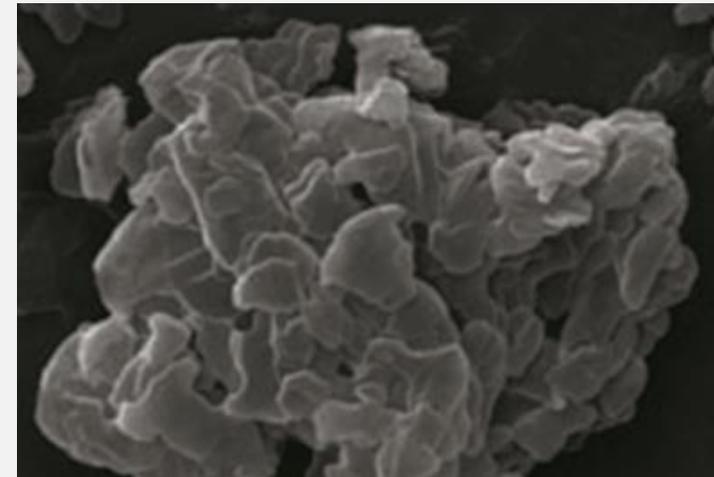
- Grade selection based on performance requirements
  - Powder flow
  - Compactibility
- Water insoluble



# Lubricant Impact on Tablet Breaking Force

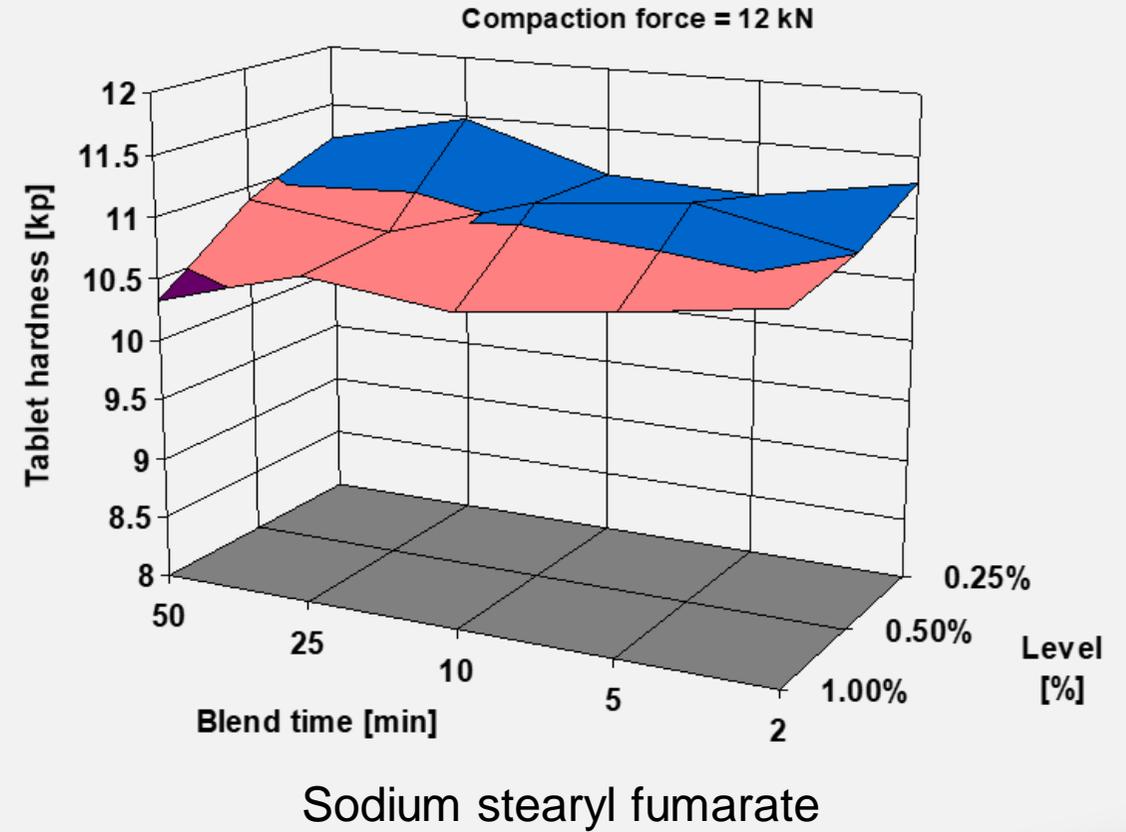
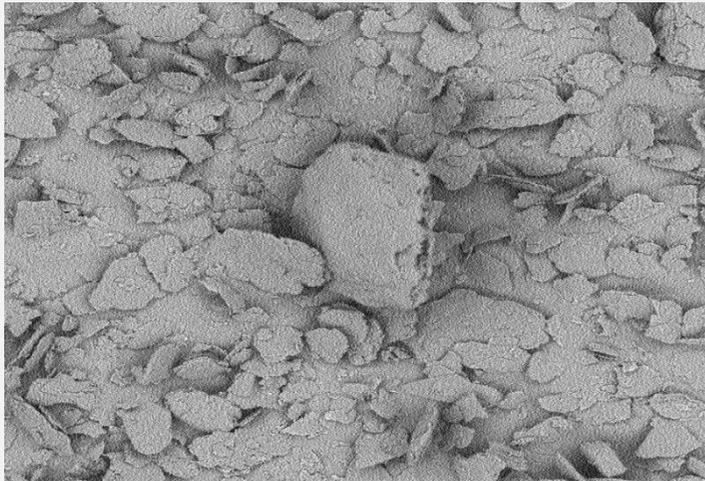


- Increasing lubricant level decreases tablet breaking force
- Increasing lubricant blend time decreases tablet breaking force
- Blend time contributes more to compaction loss than use level

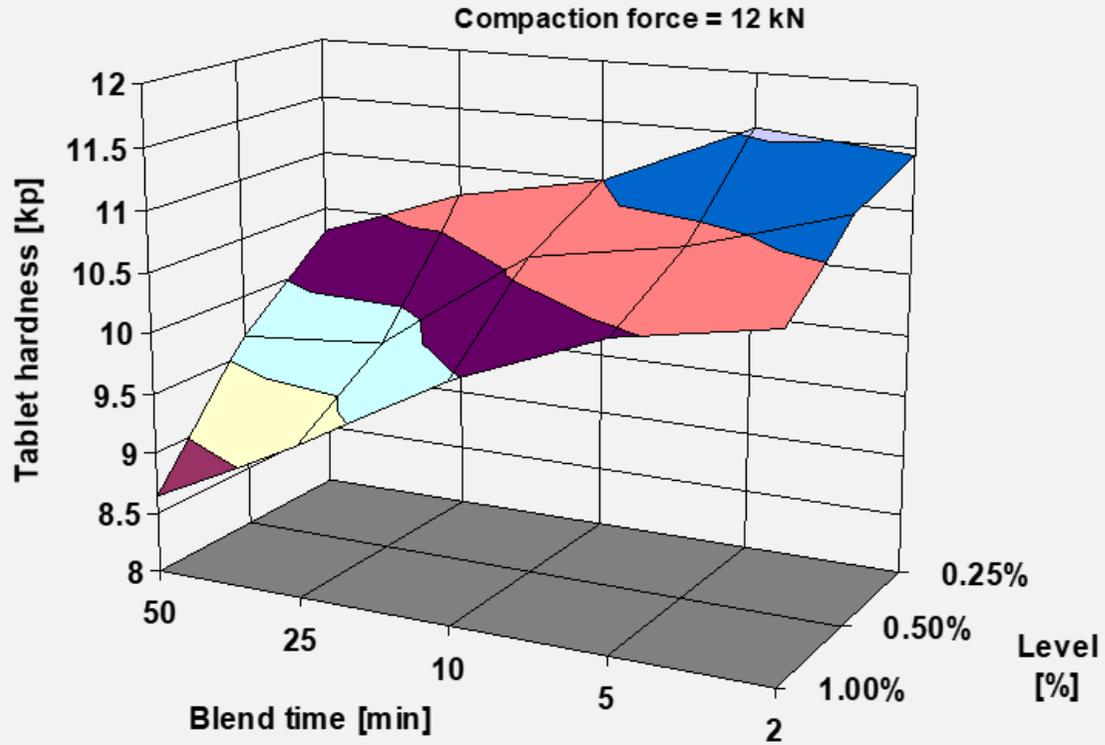


# Lubricant Impact on Tablet Breaking Force

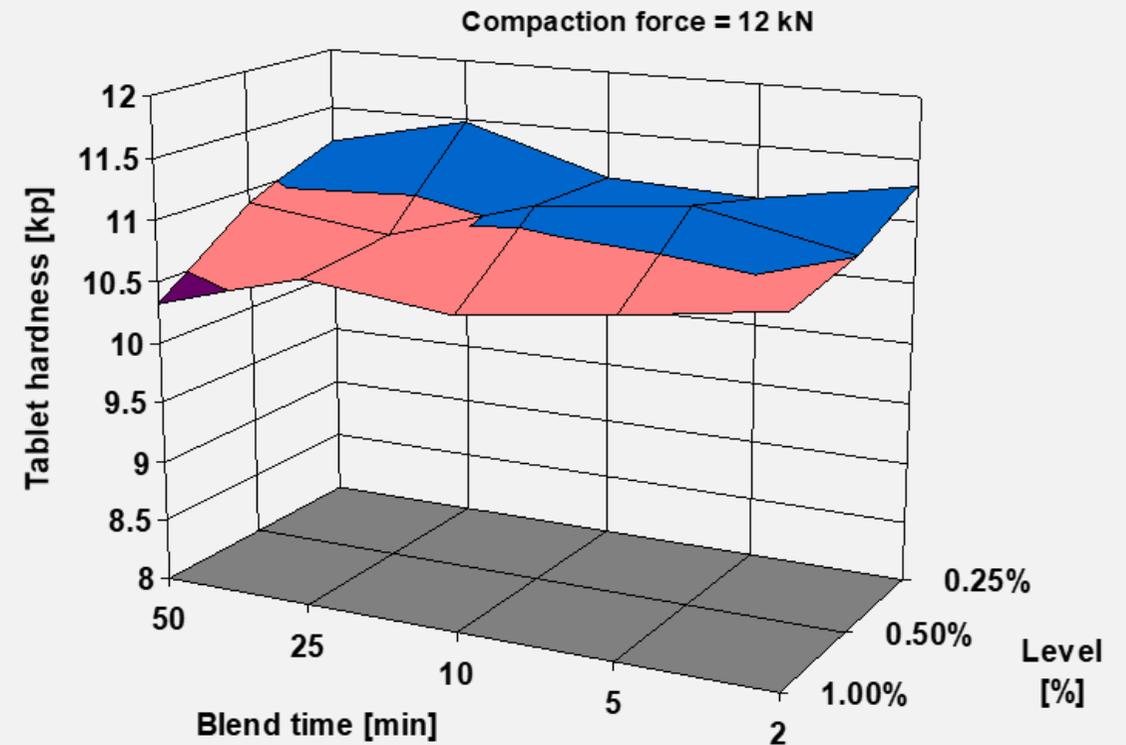
- Lubricant level has little impact on tablet breaking force
- Blend time impact to tablet breaking force mitigated
- SSF more forgiving related to tablet robustness



# Lubricant Impact on Tablet Breaking Force



Magnesium stearate

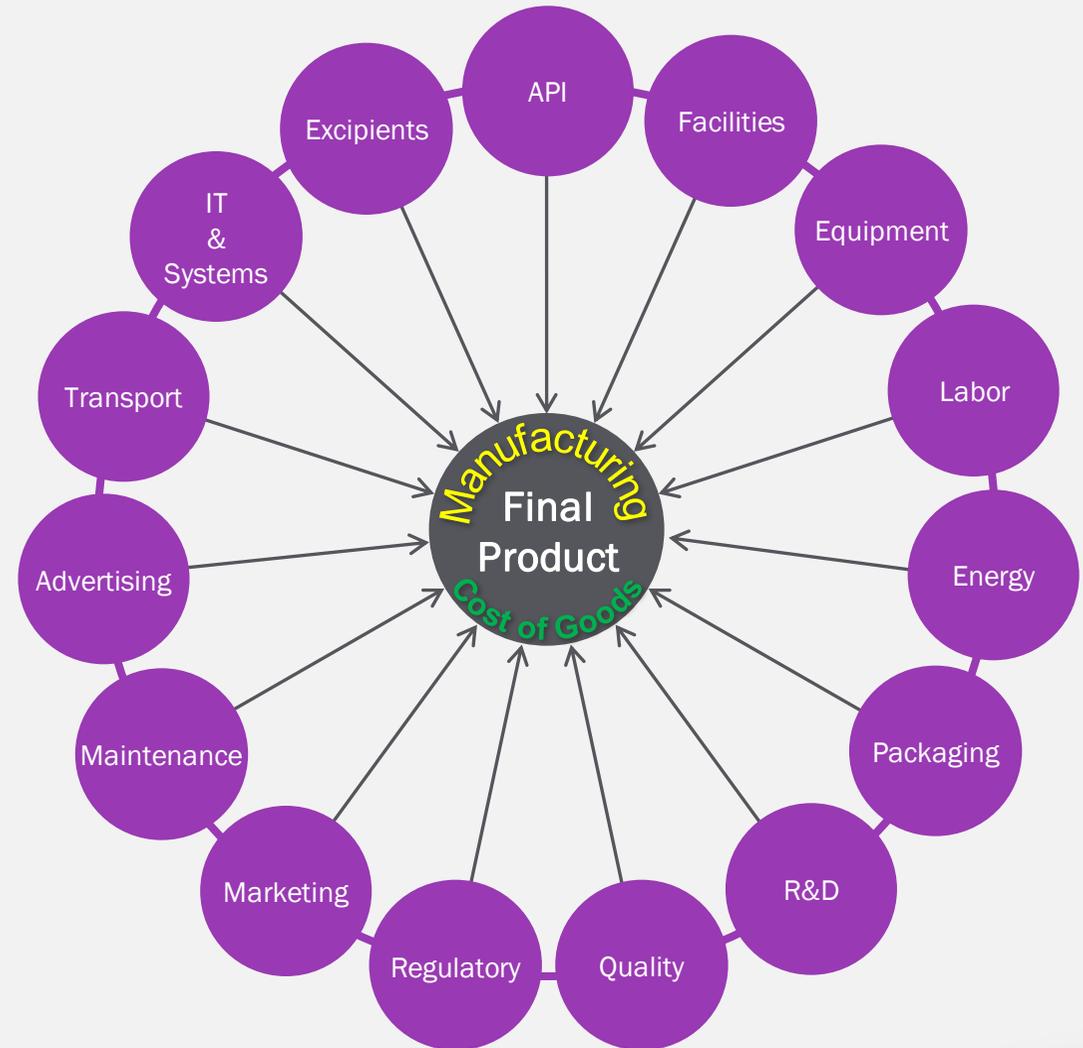


Sodium stearyl fumarate

# Formulation Economics

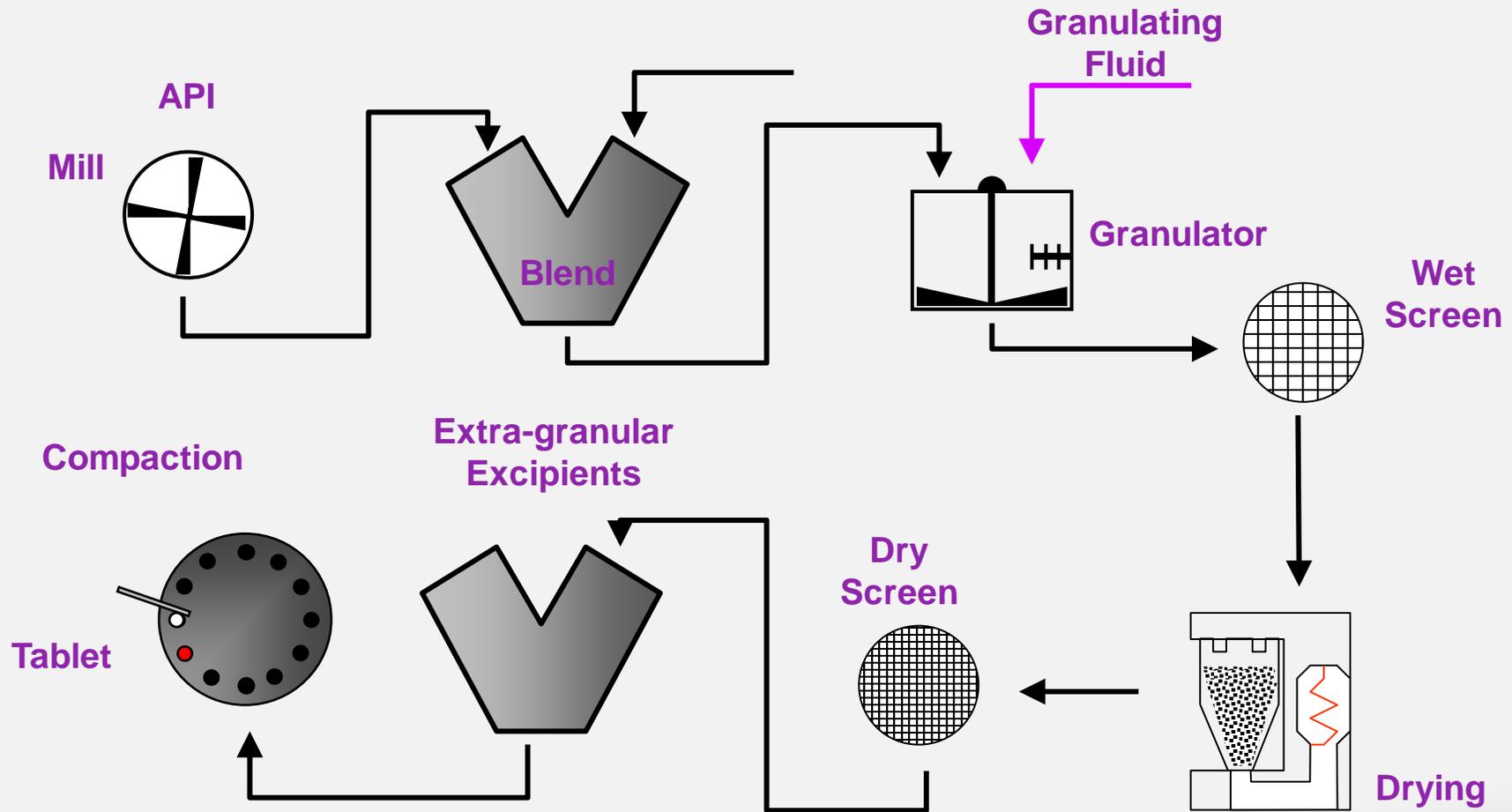
## What drives cost?

- Cost is driven by much more than an ingredient in a formulation/product
- Overall cost contribution of an excipient could be small, but the right excipients can have a large impact on final cost
  - Manufacturing savings
  - Time savings



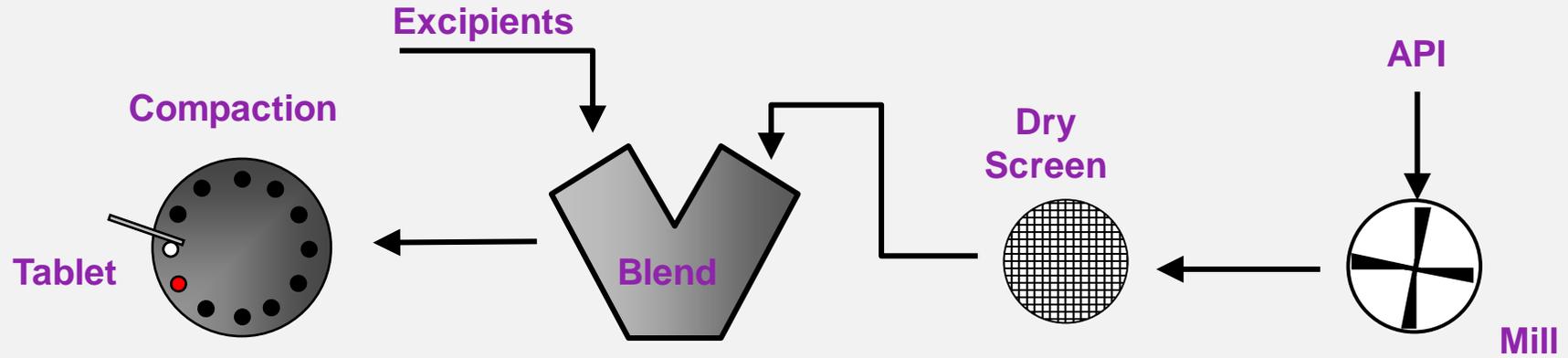
# Impact of Unit Operations

## Wet Granulation Tablet Manufacture



# Impact of Unit Operations

## Direct Compression Tablet Manufacture



Minimize processing steps and reduce cost

# Formulation Economics

## Tablet Process Comparison – WG to DC

- Man hours
  - Approximately 72 – 100 FTEs dedicated to wet granulation
  - Approximately 36 – 40 FTEs dedicated to direct compression process
    - Direct compression reduced FTE requirements by 50%.
- Energy Costs
  - Significant energy cost associated with granulation processes
  - “Exotic” processes further increase manufacturing costs

Manufacturing Process	Relative Production Cost/Batch
Direct Compression	1
Fluidized Bed Granulation	1.5
High Shear Granulation	2.2
Melt Granulation/Extrusion	2.4+

Manufacturing Cost	
Personnel/Staff	24%
Operations	24%
Raw materials (APIs/Packaging components)	48%
Excipients	~4%

# Our ambition is to exceed your expectations

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