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Review Article

Advancements in Hydrogel-Based Drug Delivery Systems: A Review

Chaitali Markand *,Shraddha Vaishnav, Vinit Khairnar, Sudarshan Kale

Department of pharmaceutics, K.B.H.S.S Institute Of Pharmacy, Malegaon

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ABSTRACT

A network of insoluble polymer chains is known as a hydrogel.. Cross-linked polymer networks, or hydrogels, are able to absorb large volumes of aqueous liquids. These gels more closely mimic real tissue than any other kind of synthetic biomaterial because of their high water content. Hydrogel synthesis has been achieved using a variety of methods, including co-polymerization and crosslinking of co-monomers with the use of a multifunctional co-monomer as a crosslinking agent. The polymerization reaction is started by a chemical initiator. The human body uses hydrogels in a few different ways. The body contains some environmental factors, such high temperatures and low ph. This means that for site-specific controlled drug administration, hydrogels that are sensitive to pH or temperature can be employed.

INTRODUCTION

Polymeric matrices known as hydrogels expand in water but do not dissolve (in a short amount of time). The enormous thermodynamic affinity that this magnificent chemical has for the solvent itself is the cause of the swelling dwellings. In recent years, hydrogels have been the subject of extensive research and exploitation due to their function, extreme adaptability, and extreme tunability of their habitats. For form and mechanical electricity, those networks establish equilibrium with the liquid and temperature of their surroundings. Changes in the monomer and/or move-linker utilized in these gels, in terms of its awareness, structure, and/or capabilities, can modify the structure. In fact, numerous novel gel-like materials with a wide range of applications have been developed and studied in specialized engineering domains (such as environmental, electronics, biomedical,

***Corresponding Author:** Chaitali Markand
Address: *Department of pharmaceutics, K.B.H.S.S Institute Of Pharmacy, Malegaon*
Email : chaitalimarkand@gmail.com
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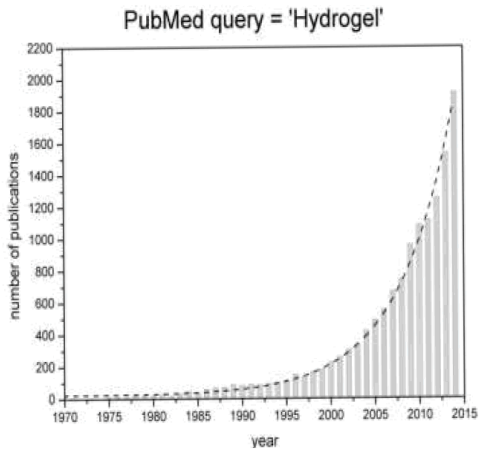


Figure 1 Histogram showing the increase in publications related to the keyword"hydrogel" during the past 45 years. A proper exponential fitting is also detectable.

This phenomenon can be liked by means of analysing the range of articles on the subject: doing a short question for the word "hydrogel" on PUMED it is straightforward to peer the clear exponential tendency in the number of articles (parent 1). This is a standard fashion shared by using any type of clinical e-book that is, moreover, underestimated because of the lack of ability of any database to seize the complete medical literature. This phenomenon is considered no longer constant by many academic personalities and, truly, generates issues about the absence of a real correlation between publishing charges and knowledge . Nonetheless, it is feasible to assert that, although this direction of activities is not proof, it is as a minimum a clue of the developing hobby of the scientific network at the hydrogel subject matter. Smart hydrogel systems with numerous chemically and structurally responsive moieties show off responsiveness to external stimuli consisting of temperature, pH, ionic awareness, light, magnetic fields, electric fields and chemical compounds. Polymers with multiple responsive properties have additionally been developed elegantly combining or greater stimuli-responsive mechanisms. Clever polymer hydrogels exchange their structural and volume segment transition as a response to outside stimuli ensuing in an extensive capability for medical observations and for numerous advanced technological packages. Hydrogels may be categorised into awesome classes, the herbal and the artificial hydrogels. Herbal hydrogels include collagen, fibrin, hyaluronic acid, matrigel, and derivatives of herbal materials which includes chitosan, alginate and skill fibers. They remain the maximum physiological hydrogels as they may be additives of the extracellular matrix (ECM) in vivo. Two foremost drawbacks of herbal hydrogels, however, make their very last microstructures and houses hard to control reproducibly between experimentsSecond, due to their natural beginning (bovine fibrinogen, rat tail collagen… their composition may range from one batch to any other. In contrast, synthetic hydrogels inclusive of poly (ethylene glycol) diacrylate, poly(acryl amide), poly(vinyl alcohol) are greater reproducible, even though their very last structure can also depend on polymerization situations in a diffused manner, so that a rigorous manage of the training protocol, together with temperature and surroundings manage, may be essential. commonly speakme, artificial hydrogels offer more flexibility for tuning chemical composition and mechanical residences; users can, as an instance range the concentration or molecular weight of the precursor, or modify the percentage of cross linkers. They can also be decided on or

tuned to be hydrolysable or biodegradable over variable periods of time. Hydrogels can be chemically stable or they will degrade and ultimately fall apart and dissolve. They may be called «reversible» or «physical» gels whilst the networks are held together via molecular entanglements, and/or secondary forces which includes ionic, H-bonding or hydrophobic forces (discern 2) . Physical hydrogels aren't homogeneous, due to the fact that clusters of molecular entanglements, or hydrophobically-or ironically-associated domains, can create in homogeneities. Free chain ends or chain loops additionally constitute transient community defects in bodily gels.

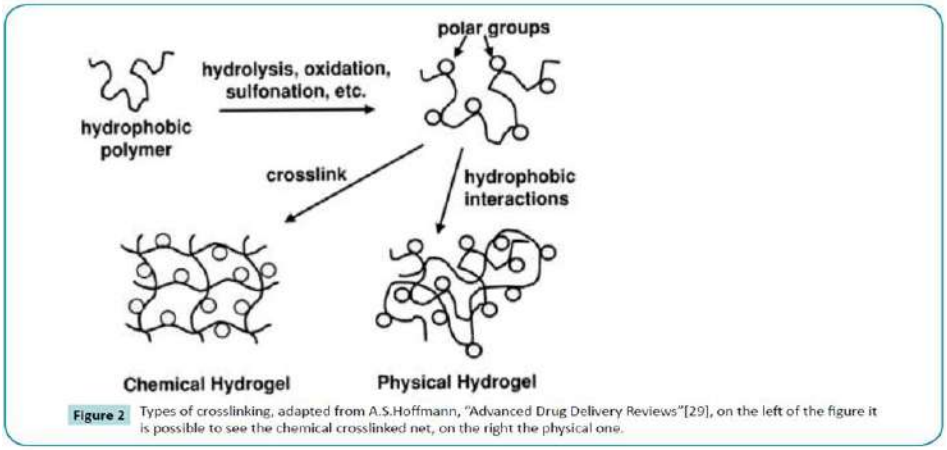


Figure 2 Types of crosslinking, adapted from A.S.Hoffmann, "Advanced Drug Delivery Reviews"[29], on the left of the figure it is possible to see the chemical crosslinked net, on the right the physical one.

While a polyelectrolyte is blended with a multivalent ion of the opposite price, it can form a bodily hydrogel known as an inotropic hydrogel, calcium alginate is an example of this type of hydrogel. Hydrogels are known as "permanent" or "chemical" gels when they may be covalently-go related networks (determine three). The artificial hydrogels of Wycherley and Lim have been based on copolymerization of HEMA with the crosslinker EGDMA. Chemical hydrogels can also be generated through crosslinking of water-soluble polymers, or with the aid of conversion of hydrophobic polymers to hydrophilic polymers plus crosslinking isn't necessary. In some instances, relying at the solvent composition, temperature and solids concentration at some stage in gel formation, segment separation can occur, and water-filled voids or macropores can form. In chemical gels, loose chains ends represent gel community "defects" which do now not contribute to the elasticity of the network. Different community defects are chain loops and entanglements, which also do not

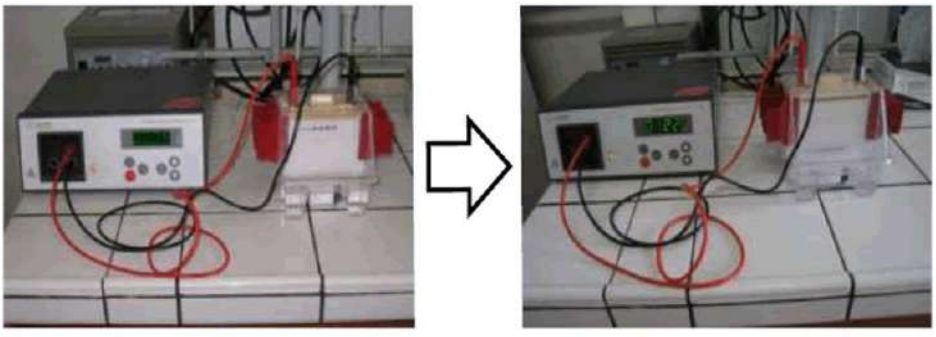


Figure 3 SDS-PAGE migration for separation of proteins mixture.

make contributions to the everlasting community elasticity.

Hydrogel [5,15]

Swollen three-dimensional networks of hydrophilic polymers, known as hydrogels, are good drug delivery vehicles because they are joined by cohesive or association forces. Hydrogel as a carrier can be used to safely make proteins, peptides, and other medications available in the colon. They are ideal for biomedical applications because of their high water content and rubbery texture, which resembles genuine tissues. Polymeric biomaterials are used in hydrogel formulations to postpone drug dissolution, contingent on drug molecule exposure to the aqueous milieu encircling the drug delivery apparatus. Their use has benefits in terms of cost, simplicity of production, and safety.

PREPARATION OF HYDROGEL [20,30,34]

How to make hydrogels Generally speaking, natural or synthetic polymers can be used to create hydrogels.. Although their mechanical strength slows down the pace of deterioration, it also contributes to their durability. The best design should achieve a balance between these two diametrically opposed qualities. It may also be used to produce hydrogels made from natural polymers, given that the polymers have been functionalized with radically polymerizable groups or contain appropriate functional groups. To put it concisely, a hydrogel is just a network of hydrophilic polymers that have been cross-linked in some way to create an elastic structure. Therefore, any method that may be applied to produce a polymer that is cross-linked Water-soluble linear polymers of both natural and synthetic origin are cross-linked to form hydrogels in many methods

1. Chemical reactions are used to link polymer strands
2. Creating main-chain free radicals with ionizing radiation that can recombine to form cross-link junctions.
3. Physical interactions, include the creation of crystallites, electrostatic forces, and entanglements. Gels can be created using any of several many polymerization methods, such as bulk, solution, and suspension polymerization. The pharmaceutical industry has been drawn to hydrogels for a number of reasons, such as the controlled release of an active pharmaceutical component, dosage form disintegration, drug substance protection, and product growth.

CLASSIFICATION OF HYDROGELS:[9,11,18,25]

1. **Based on the method of preparation, hydrogels are classified into:**
   A. Photopolymer hydrogels
   B. Co-polymer hydrogels
   C. Multi polymer hydrogels
2. **Based on the ionic charges hydrogels can be classified into:**
   A. Neutral hydrogels
   B. Anionic hydrogels
   C. Cationic hydrogels
   D. Ampholytic hydrogels
3. **Based on the structure hydrogels Can be classified into:**
   A. Amorphous hydrogels
   B. Semi-crystalline hydrogels
   C. Hydrogen bonded hydrogel
4. **Based on the mechanism**

Controlling the drug release they
Are classified into:

A. Diffusion controlled release Systems
B. Swelling controlled release Systems
C. Chemically controlled release Systems
D. Environment responsive system

ADVANTAGES [16,17,26]

1. Hydrogel has greater strength and elasticity.
2. Hydrogel is easily modifiable and has high transparency qualities.
3. Because of their high water content, they have a degree of elasticity that is comparable to organic tissue.

4. They may be injected and are both biocompatible and biodegradable.
5. Hydrogels can detect changes in pH, temperature, or metabolite concentration and release their load in response to such changes.
6. Timely release of nutrients or medications.

DISADVANTAGES [16, 17 ,24]

1. High cost.
2. Non-adherent and may need to be secured by secondary dressing and also cause sensation
3. Felt by movement of the maggot.
4. Difficult to sterilize.
5. in contact lens less deposition hypoxia, dehydration and red eye reactions.

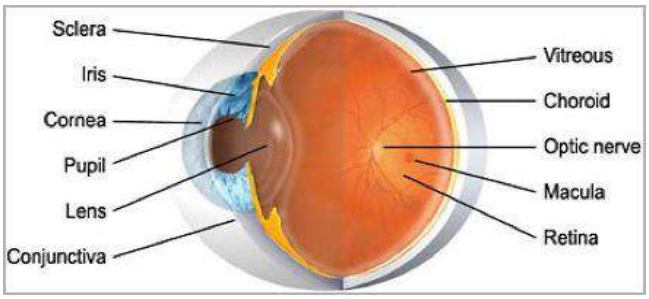
APPLICATION OF HYDROGEL [7,10,13,23]

1. Hydrogel Application for Fixing Bone Replacments
2. Orthopaedic fasteners and replacements, including pins, screws, and hip and knee replacements, are offered.
3. These are covered in hydrogels and other biocompatible and biodegradable polymers that swell when exposed to liquids.
4. Methacrylate, hyaluronic acid esters, and cross-linked hyaluronic acid esters produced by esterifying hyaluronic acid with polyhydric alcohols are useful coating materials.
5. Thus, replacements composed of metal, stainless steel, or both can be coated.
6. Alloys, surface treatment with titanium, cobalt, or chromium to enhance metal-polymer adhesion

RECENT ADVANCES IN HYDROGELS: [24,28.33]

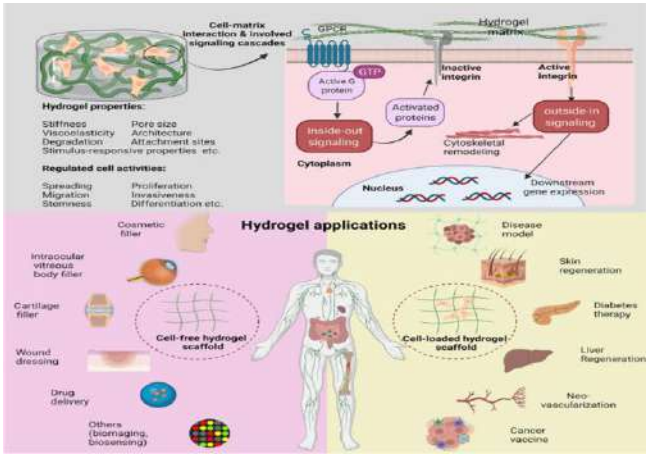
1. Ophthalmic in-situ gelling system

ANATOMY OF HUMAN EYE [12]



Because individual polymer chains have been chemically or physically cross-linked, hydrogels are networks of polymers that can absorb huge amounts of water yet are insoluble in aqueous solutions. Because of their high water content, they are more like genuine living tissue than any other class of synthetic biomaterials; also, their high water content enhances their biocompatibility. Hydrogels have a low interfacial tension, which reduces their propensity to absorb proteins from bodily fluids. These are polymers that have the capacity to straightforward viscous liquids that don't change after being administered. Preformed hydrogels nevertheless have limitations that may make them less desirable for use as tear substitutes or in the administration of ophthalmic drugs. They make it impossible to accurately and consistently administer prescribed dosages, and they frequently result in lachrymation, crusting of the eyelids, and hazy vision afterward. Thus, when in contact with the eye, in situ hydrogels can be administered as eye drops and immediately gel. When in situ-forming hydrogels are injected, they are liquid. In the ocular cul-de-sac, they go through a phase transition to become viscoelastic gel, which reacts to changes in the surrounding environment. Three techniques have been used to induce phase transition on the surface: electrolyte composition, pH, and temperature changes. Boost precorneal retention is based on the use of mucoadhesive polymers. The principle of using bioadhesive carriers is based on their ability to

interact with the mucin coating on the surface of the eye.



HYDROGEL'S TECHNICAL FEATURES [20,25,30,34]

The following is a list of the functional characteristics of the perfect hydrogel material:

1. The maximum saline absorption capability.
2. The desired absorption rate based on the needs of the application
3. The least amount of leftover monomer and soluble content.
4. The best stability and durability both during storage and in an environment that is expanding

CHARACTERISTICS OF HYDROGEL [7,8,20]

1. Swelling Properties: Hydrogel can undergo quick, reversible changes in response to even minor environmental changes. Changes in environmental factors such as electric .The presence of an enzyme or other ionic species, temperature, pH, signal, and other factors can all affect how the hydrogel feels physically.
2. Mechanical characteristics: Depending on the material's intended use, the mechanical properties can change and be adjusted. Heating the material can result in a gel with greater stiffness by raising or decreasing the degree of crosslinking

A. 3.Different analyses must be conducted depending on the material since variations in mechanical characteristics are linked to a wide variety of factors and causes.

B. 4.. Polymers used in hydrogel preparation: Both synthetic and natural polymers are employed to make hydrogels.

5. Completely non-toxic, colorless, and colorless.

HYDROGELS' CHEMICAL, PHYSICAL, AND TOXICOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS. [24 ,22,31]

1. **Factors influencing hydrogel swelling of Hydrogel**

One of the key elements influencing hydrogel swelling is the crosslinking ratio. Its definition is the proportion of crosslinking agent moles to polymer repeating unit moles. More crosslinking agent is integrated into the hydrogel structure with

higher crosslinking ratios. Higher crosslinking ratio hydrogels will swell less and have a tighter structure than hydrogels with lower crosslinking ratios. Crosslinking reduces the swelling ratio by impeding the polymer chain's ability to move freely. The swelling ratio of the hydrogels may also be influenced by the polymer's chemical makeup. Higher swelling is observed in hydrogels with hydrophilic groups than in those with hydrophobic groups. When water is present, hydrophobic groupings collapse, reducing their exposure to Variations in the swelling media's temperature can have an impact on temperature-sensitive hydrogels. The swelling of ionic strength hydrogels and pH-sensitive hydrogels is dependent on these two factors, respectively. Numerous additional distinct stimuli can also impact the swelling of various hydrogels that respond to their surroundings.

2. Dynamics of swelling

The dynamics of enlargement There are two types of swelling kinetics for hydrogels: diffusion-controlled (Fickian) swelling and relaxation-controlled (non-Fickian) swelling. Diffusion controls the swelling kinetics when water diffuses into the hydrogel considerably more quickly than the polymer chains relax.

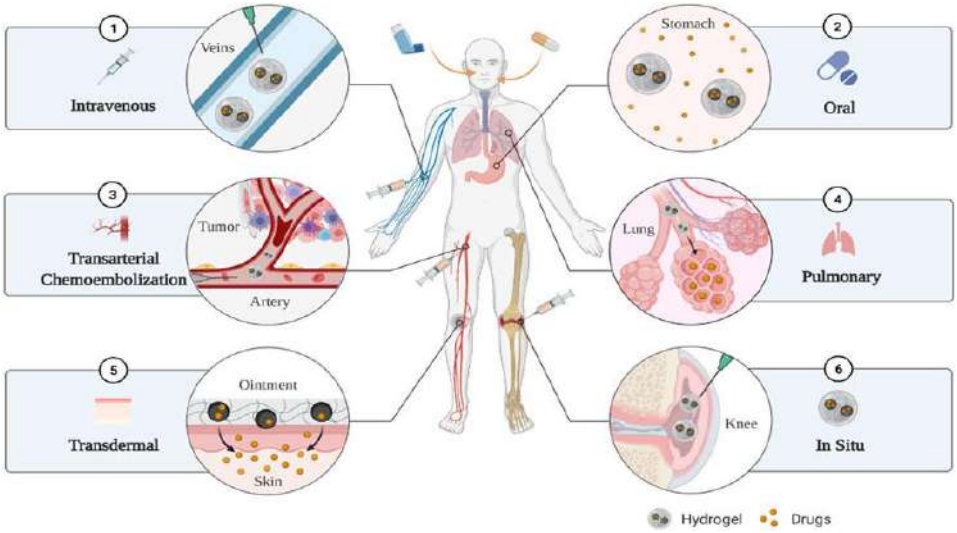
3. Mechanical properties

Mechanical homes of hydrogels are very essential for pharmaceutical packages. As an instance, the integrity of the drug delivery tool during the life of the application is very vital to reap FDA approval, except the device is designed as a biodegradable system. A drug delivery system designed to guard a touchy therapeutic agent, such as protein, have to keep its integrity to be able to protect the protein until it is launched out of the system. Converting the degree of crosslinking has been utilized to attain the preferred mechanical property of the hydrogel. Increasing the degree of crosslinking of the machine will result in a stronger gel. However, a better degree of crosslinking creates an extra brittle structure. Consequently, there is a best degree of crosslinking to acquire a particularly sturdy and but elastic hydrogel. Copolymerization has also been applied to attain the desired mechanical homes of hydrogels. Incorporating a co monomer that will make contributions to H-bonding

4. Cytotoxicity and in-vivo toxicity

Cell lifestyle strategies, also recognised as cytotoxicity assessments may be used to assess the toxicity of hydrogels. Three common assays to compare the toxicity of hydrogels include extract dilution, direct contact and agar diffusion. Most of the troubles with toxicity related with hydrogel carriers are the unreacted monomers, oligomers and initiators that leach out during application. Consequently, a knowledge the toxicity of the various monomers used because the constructing blocks of the hydrogels is very important. The relationship among chemical structures and the cytotoxicity of acrylate and methacrylate monomers has been studied significantly. Numerous measures had been taken to resolve this problem, inclusive of enhancing the kinetics of polymerization with a view to attain a better conversion, and widespread washing of the resulting hydrogel. The formation of hydrogels without any initiators has been explored to put off the hassle of the residual initiator. The maximum commonly used technique has been gamma irradiation. Hydrogels of PVA have been additionally made without the presence of initiators via using thermal cycle to induce crystallization. The crystals fashioned act as physical crosslinks. Those crystals can be able to soak up the weight carried out to the hydrogel.

HYDROGEL MATERIALS HAVE MULTIPLE SIZES AND MULTIPLE DELIVERY ROUTES



The hydrogels have multiple delivery routes such as intravenous injection, oral delivery, trans arterial chemoembolization, pulmonary delivery, transdermal delivery, in situ injection and in situ implantation.

MACRO GELS [25, 29]

Macrogels are hydrogels with dimensions larger than millimetres. Macrogels are of hobby due to their more than one blessings such as high drug-wearing ability, high stability and sensitive stimulus responsiveness. but, macrogels are extraordinarily tough to supply due to their huge size. therefore, macrogels are more therapeutically green while used for in situ shipping consisting of transdermal administration, direct injection or direct software to the floor of the surgical hollow space For malignant cancer with complicated anatomical systems (which includes mesothelioma, degree IVa thymoma, disseminated ovarian most cancers, and colorectal most cancers metastasized to the peritoneum), it's far extraordinarily tough for surgeons to absolutely take away them thru surgical operation . even though chemotherapy is administered systemically after surgery, the medication cannot smoothly input these residual most cancers sites, ensuing in bad efficacy). Macrogels with incredible overall performance is at once injected or injected and sprayed into the interior and onto the surface of the most cancers tissue during the operation, thereby appropriately killing cancer cells and reducing the damage of the drug to everyday tissues, improving the focused on and treatment efficiency said a floor-crammed hydrogel (SFH) able to encapsulating microRNA nanoparticles with anti-cancer interest. SFH shows sturdy shape adaptability. After being sprayed onto or injected into complicated anatomical elements, such as the pleural cavity, it could flawlessly fill gaps and cracks of diverse shapes to perform its characteristic. developed a macrogel based totally on poloxamer 407, poloxamer 188 and the bioadhesive excipient carbomer 974 P. The macrogel has tremendous temperature sensitivity and can be implemented without delay to the surface of the surgical hollow space after most cancers resection with out unfavourable regular tissue, that's prospective for the prevention of cancer recurrence and remote metastasis.

MICROGELS [32, 35]

Microgels are hydrogels of approximately 0.five–10 μm in length and have a bigger floor vicinity as compared to macrogels. With the potential to lessen hydrophobic drug loading and manage hydrophobic drug release, microgels have brilliant potential for the transport of hydrophobic tablets. but, microgels are typically now not used for intravascular injection as micron-sized substances

are susceptible to phagocytosis by macrophages within the blood vessels For gastrointestinal cancer, lung most cancers, and hepatocellular carcinoma, the use of microgels via oral transport, pulmonary delivery, transarterial chemoembolization (TACE), and so on., can participate within the shipping of anti-most cancers drugs. After oral management of the drug-encapsulated microgel, the energetic substance can at once and fast attain the gastrointestinal most cancers to exert its effect. because of the presence of microgels, the drug has high mucosal permeability and balance in the gastrointestinal tract, and it continues to take impact for a long time . Minhas successfully constructed an oral composite pectin hydrogel gadget with thermal stability and colon specificity that can be loaded with five-fluorouracil (5-FU) for the green treatment of colon most cancers. The composite pectin hydrogel system is shaped via go-linking polymerization of methacrylic acid (MAA), ethylene glycol dimethacrylate (EGDMA) and pectin. it could stay strong within the top a part of the gastrointestinal tract with a low pH surroundings and digestive enzymes, which effectively solves the trouble that five-FU cannot be launched to unique components of the colon after everyday oral management. while the microgel is administered to the lung to deal with lung most cancers, it confers the benefits of uniform drug distribution, sustained release, excessive solubility,degradability,no first skip metabolism, excessive efficiency, and coffee toxicity) correctly built an alginate microparticle which could efficiently encapsulate paclitaxel (encapsulation efficiency 61 ± 4%), and in vitro experiments proved that it is able to efficaciously inhibit most cancers mobile growth in a time- and concentration-structured manner. For the treatment of hepatocellular carcinoma, transarterial chemoembolization to transport microgel drugs seems to be an effective technique . Micro gels with suitable size, anti-migration effect, easy delivery and degradability seem to be very appropriate for software as embolic sellers. Pour said introduced an in situ gel recombinant silk elastin polymer (SELPs) to deal with hepatocellular carcinoma via TACE. They proved the feasibility and effectiveness of SELPs thru shear processing checks and in vivo animal experiments.

NANOGELS [15, 18, 28]

Tissue-engineered nanomaterial's and Nano medicines are able to integrating a couple of therapeutic modalities and were taken into consideration as a progressive strategy for oncology remedy but, the inefficiency of most nanomaterial's to extravasate and go the blood-brain barrier regularly ends in failure of tumour-precise drug launch . Nano gels are aqueous dispersions of Nano scale hydrophilic polymer particles that combine the advantages of nanomaterial's and three-dimensional cross-connected aqueous materials. On the one hand, nanogels are just like natural tissue components and structurally strong, presenting longer cycle lifestyles and less bio toxicity. On the other hand, nanogels with a size of less than two hundred nm have a big floor location and high drug loading efficiency and might penetrate the blood–brain barrier (BBB) through extraordinarily robust permeability and specifically bind with ligands to target cancer cells. They seem to be perfect drug carriers. Shatsberg et al. advanced a nanogel with polyglycerol as a scaffold loaded with miR-34a and verified via in vitro mobile experiments and animal experiments that it is able to efficaciously inhibit the boom of glioblastoma multiforme (GBM). S designed a poly (N-isopropylmethacrylamide) (PNIPMAm) nanogel to correctly encapsulate epidermal growth thing receptor (EGFR) siRNA and proved its inhibitory impact on ovarian most cancers thru in vitro experiments. synthesized a nanogel for the

centered remedy of Glioblastoma multiforme (GBM) via crosslinking pullulan and poly (deca-four,6-diynedioic acid) (PDDA).

CONCLUSIONS

Due to their high water content and soft softness, hydrogel-based delivery systems can be applied orally, ocularly, topically, or subcutaneously. Hydrogels more closely resemble genuine living tissue. greater than any other category of man-made biomaterials. A lot of hydrogel-based networks have been customized and built recently to fulfill the demands of various applications. These hydrogels either swell when placed in contact with an aqueous solution. The current review provides information on the various classifications of hydrogels, their physical and chemical properties, the technological viability of using them, preparation techniques, and applications. There are currently numerous techniques available for creating hydrogels. This article discusses a few of them.

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