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KANOKPORN BURAPAPADH : ABSORPTION ENHANCEMENT OF ITRACONAZOLE  
IN GASTROINTESTINAL TRACT USING NANOTECHNOLOGY. THESIS ADVISORS : ASSOC.  
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Itraconazole (ITZ) is an effective antifungal for opportunistic infectious microorganisms in Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infected patients. ITZ is a poorly water-soluble drug, which oral absorption depends on drug dissolution. Therefore, in this study, the dissolution of ITZ was enhanced in order to improve the oral absorption by two approaches, which are recrystallization and nanoparticle formation. ITZ crystals recrystallized by cooling crystallization and antisolvent addition showed the different crystal habits from the untreated ITZ but no change in drug polymorphism was observed. The dissolution of ITZ crystals was improved upon the increasing of the crystal surface area. However, the increasing of drug dissolution is relatively small. The amorphous ITZ could be prepared by evaporative crystallization using lyophilizer and rotary evaporator. The dissolution of ITZ was 14-fold increased after recrystallization, in chloroform, by vacuum evaporation using lyophilizer. However, the amorphous ITZ was changed to crystalline after long-term storage. The pectin-based nanoparticles prepared from nanoemulsion templates were also used for improving the dissolution of ITZ. Simple homogenization and high-pressure homogenization were used to prepare nanoemulsions. Both techniques provided satisfactory nanoemulsions but, with high-pressure homogenization, nanoemulsions can be formed even using a lower pectin amount. An addition of cryoprotectant was not necessary in lyophilization process due to the ability of pectin to maintain nanoparticles structure during the process. The presence of ITZ, type and concentration of pectin highly influenced the size and properties of nanoparticles. High methoxyl pectin (HMP) provided preferable nanoparticles for oral absorption because of the good redispersibility, dissolution properties and stability. *In-vivo* absorption of ITZ from the amorphous ITZ and ITZ-loaded nanoparticles was studied. Amorphous ITZ did not provide a good result on ITZ absorption while the ITZ-loaded nanoparticles showed an excellence result. HMP-based nanoparticles demonstrated the greatest oral absorption enhancement which was also better than the ITZ commercial product. Therefore, the HMP-based nanoparticles is a promising formulation for absorption enhancement of ITZ.

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