A Comprehensive Review on Tablet Coating

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Abstract

Tablet coating is a not unusual pharmaceutical technique of applying a thin polymer-based film to a tablet or a granule containing Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs). Stable dosage paperwork are lined for some of reasons, the maximum crucial of that’s controlling the discharge profiles. The amount of coating at the surface of a tablet is vital to the effectiveness of the oral dosage shape. Capsules are typically coated in horizontal rotating pans with the coating answer sprayed onto the unfastened surface of the tablet mattress. The blessings of tablet coating are flavor covering, smell overlaying, bodily and chemical protection, protects the drug from the gastric surroundings and so on. There are various strategies for tablet coating which include sugar coating, film coating, and enteric coating. Latest trends in pharmaceutical technology are the development of coating techniques which overcomes the various risks associated with solvent based coatings. In those ultra-modern technologies coating substances are at once lined onto the surface of stable dosage bureaucracy without the use of any solvent. Numerous solvent less coatings are available inclusive of electrostatic dry coating, magnetically assisted impaction coating, compression coating, warm softening coating, powder coating, and supercritical fluid coating. Supercell Coating generation is an innovative tablet coating that appropriately deposits managed quantities of coating substances on capsules despite the fact that they may be extraordinarily hygroscopic or friable. Magnetically assisted impaction coating, electrostatic dry coating in solvent less coatings, aqueous film coating and Supercell coating technology also are available latest technique of coating. An ideal tablet ought to be free from any visual illness or functional defect. The improvements and innovations in tablet manufacture have now not reduced the issues, often encountered in the production, instead have accelerated the troubles, in particular due to the complexities of tablet presses; and/or the extra needs of high-quality. This review deal in detail approximately records, recent tablet coating technique and remedies associated with the tablet coating.

Keywords: Coating; History of coating; Supercell Coating; Magnetically Assisted Impaction Coating

Introduction

Tablet is a pharmaceutical solid dosage form, comprising a mixture of active substances and excipients, commonly in powder form, pressed or compacted right into a stable. Capsules Dosage form is one of a most desired dosage form everywhere in the world. Almost all drug molecules may be formulated in a tablet and procedure of producing of drugs is very simple, and may be very bendy. Coating is a manner by using which a basically dry, outer layer of coating material is implemented to the surface of a dosage shape to achieve precise benefits. Coating may be implemented to a wide range of oral solid dosage shape, along with capsules, capsules, multi particulates and drug crystals [1-3]. While coating composition is carried out to a batch of capsules in a coating pan, the tablet surfaces grow to be protected with a tacky polymeric film. Before the tablet floor dries, the carried out coating adjustments from a sticky liquid to tacky semisolid and sooner or later to a non-sticky dry surface pans. Many stable pharmaceutical dosage forms are produced with coatings, both on the external surface of the tablet, or on substances dispensed inside gelatin tablets. The tablet ought to launch the medicament steadily and the drug should be to be had for digestion. The coating procedure can be in particular formulated to adjust how speedy the tablet dissolves and in which the lively tablets are to be absorbed into the body after ingestion. The complete coating system is conducted in a chain of routinely operated acorn-formed coating pans of galvanized iron stainless-steel or copper [4-6]. The smaller pans are used for experimental, developmental, and pilot plant operations, the larger pan for industrial production.

Basic percepts involved in tablet coating

Tablet coating is the application of coating composition to moving bed of tablets with concurrent use of heated air to facilitate evaporation of solvent.

a) Solution wherein affects the release pattern as little as feasible and does not markedly exchanges the advent.

b) Modified release with specific requirement and release mechanism tailored to frame characteristic within the digestive tract.

c) Modified release with particular requirement and release mechanism tailored to body characteristic in the digestive tract.

d) Insulation is being provided by the Color coating.
Coating process, design & control

In maximum coating methods, the coating solutions are sprayed onto the capsules because the tablets are being agitated in a pan, fluid mattress, and so forth. As the solution is being sprayed, a thin film is formed that adheres directly to every tablet. The coating may be shaped with the aid of an unmatched application or can be constructed up in layers through the use of more than one spraying cycles. Rotating coating pans are regularly used within the pharmaceutical industry. Uncoated tablets are located inside the pan and the liquid coating answer is brought into the pan even as the tablets are tumbling. The liquid part of the coating answer is then evaporated by using passing air over the surface of the tumbling drugs. In assessment, a fluid bed coater operates via passing air through a bed of tablets at a velocity sufficient to assist and separate the drugs as person gadgets. As soon as separated, the drugs are sprayed with the coating composition. The coating method is normally such as the subsequent steps:

a) Batch identification and Recipe selection
b) Loading/Dispensing
c) Warming
d) Spraying
e) Drying
f) Cooling
g) Unloading

History of Coating Technique

“Panning” turned into the unique word for the manner of adding a coating to a tablet. The word panning remains a commonplace time period that’s used in the confectionary enterprise. In past years coating carries out essentially using a rotating drum on a stand. A coating answer turned into brought, while the rotation of the pan allotted the solution during the mattress of tablets. The primary drawback of this technology was gradual looking ahead to the coating technique to dry; and the trick turned into to get it to dry evenly. With the advent of movie coating a movie or skinny membrane, normally representing 1-3 % of the whole tablet weight, became sprayed on the use of a perforated pan. To lower the overall manner time, holes had been made through the pan in order that handled air warm or cold will be pulled via the pan, just like a garments dryer, permitting the tablets to dry speedier. With this advent of stepped forward drying came the potential to replace the movie coating solution from a solvent primarily based option to a water primarily based solution [7-10].

Traditional Coating Techniques

Generally three methods are used for tablet coating:

a) Sugar Coating
b) Film Coating

Sugar coating

Steps in sugar coating:

- Seal coating
- Sub coating
- Syrup coating/Smoothing
- Color coating
- Polishing

Sealing (Waterproofing):

- This involved the application of one or more coats of a water proofing substance in the form of alcoholic spray, such as pharmaceutical Shellac or synthetic polymers, such as CAP.

- Sugar-coatings are aqueous formulations which allow water to penetrate directly into the tablet core and thus potentially affecting product stability and possibly causing premature tablet disintegration.

Sub coating:

- Large quantities of sugar-coatings are usually applied to the tablet core, typically increasing the tablet weight by 50-100%.

Smoothing/syrup coating:

- To cover and fill in the imperfections in tablet surface caused by sub coating.
- To impart desired color
- The first syrup coat contains some suspended powders and are called “grossing syrups”
- Dilute colorants can be added to provide tinted base that facilitates uniform coating in later steps.

- Syrup solutions containing the dye are applied until final size and color are achieved.

Finishing:

- Final syrup coating step
- Few clear coats of syrup may be applied.

Polishing:

- Desired luster is obtained in this final step
- Clean standard coating pan, canvas-lined coating pans
- Application of powdered wax or warm solution of waxes in suitable volatile solvent.

The above characteristics of Sugar Coating are depicted in Table 1.

Film coating

Film coating and sugar coating shares the same equipments and process parameters.

Two methods,
Pan-Pour method:
- Same as that of pan-pour sugar coating
- Method is relatively slow and relies heavily on skill and technique of operator
- Aqueous based film coating is not suitable due to localized over-wetting.

Pan-Spray method:
- Use of automated spraying system

Types of film coating:
- Immediate release
- Modified release

Film coating formulation (Composition of the coating liquid)

Polymer/Film Former: A film former capable of producing smooth thin films reproducible under the prescribed coating conditions.

Classified as

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No</th>
<th>Material</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Uses</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Film Former</td>
<td>Enteric, Non Enteric</td>
<td>To Control the release of drug</td>
<td>HPMC, MHEC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Solvents</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>To dissolve the polymers</td>
<td>IPA and Methylene chloride</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Plasticizer</td>
<td>Internal plasticizing</td>
<td>Basic polymer that alters the physical properties</td>
<td>Glycerol, PEG 2000-6000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>External plasticizing</td>
<td>It incorporates with the primary polymeric film former, changes the flexibility, tensile strength of the film</td>
<td>Diethyl Phthalate (DEP), Diibutyl Phthalate (DBP) and Tributyl citrate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Colorants</td>
<td>In organic materials</td>
<td>For light shade: concentration of less than 0.01% may be used</td>
<td>Iron Oxides</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 5    | Opaquant extenders | ------- | Formulations to provide more pastel colours and increase film coverage | Titanium dioxide, silicate (talc & aluminium silicates),
The optimized dry powder coating method produces capsules with smooth surface, correct coating uniformity and release profile that are corresponding to that of the tablet cores. This novel electrostatic dry powder coating technique is an opportunity to aqueous or solvent based coating technique for pharmaceutical products is represented in Figure 2.

The electrostatic coating method is extensively useful in paint technology, food technology, coating of residing cells, metal coatings and coating of capsules in addition to drugs. This novel electrostatic dry powder coating technique is an opportunity to aqueous or solvent based coating technique for pharmaceutical products is represented in Figure 2.

According to the charging mechanism, there are two types of spraying units:

a. Mechanism of corona charging: On this mechanism, the electrical breakdown and ionization of air with the aid of enforcing high voltage on a sharp pointed needle like electrode at the hole of the gun. The powder debris picks up the negative ions on their manner from the gun to the substrate. The movement of particles between the substrate and the charging gun is performed by way of the aggregate of electrical and mechanical forces. The mechanical forces generated by using the air blow the powder closer to the substrate from the spray gun. The electrical forces are derived from the electrical subject between the earthen substance and the charging tip of the spray gun, and from the repulsive forces between the charged particles. The electrical discipline may be adjusted to direct the control sample size, shape, powder’s drift, and powder density as it is released from the gun.

b. Mechanism of tribo charging: In the tribo charging, it makes using the principle of friction charging associated with the dielectric properties of solid substances and so that no loose ions and electric area might be present between the spray gun and level-headed substance. For tribo charging guns, the electric forces are only regarded to the repulsive forces among the charged particles. After spraying, charged particles come into the distance adjoining to the substrate and the attractive forces among the grounded substrate and the charged particles makes the particle to deposit on the substrate. 

**Magnetically assisted impaction coating (MAIC)**

A method is advanced for estimating the coating time in a magnetically assisted impaction coating tool. The combination of the host, guest and magnetic particles is assumed to stay in a fluidized state in which the distribution of velocities is Maxwell-Boltzmann kind. It is assumed that the collisions happens among the particles are critical for impinging the guest debris onto the host debris, and for that reason forming a semi-permanent coating on the surface of host debris. The coating time is depend upon several parameters, consisting of the quantity density of host substances, the diameter ratio of the host and visitor debris, the height of the fluidized particle bed and the properties of materials of the host and guest particles Figure 3 represents the MAIC [14-16].

Mechanism of coating in the MAIC process:

Stage-I: Excitation of magnetic particles.
Stage-II: De-agglomeration of guest particles.

Stage-III: Shearing and spreading of guest particles on the surface of the host particles.

Stage-V: Magnetic-host-host particle interaction.

Stage-VI: Magnetic-host-wall interaction and

Stage-VI: Formation of coated products

**Aqueous film coating technology**

The sugar coating procedure could be very consuming and its miles depending at the abilities of coating operator, this approach has been replaced through advancement in film coating technology. This approach was begun with use of organic solvents like methylene.

**Super cell coating technology**

Supercell coating technology is an innovative tablet coating that accurately deposits controlled quantity of coating materials on drugs even supposing they’re extremely hygroscopic or friable. Due to the fact the tablets are loaded in huge rotating pans and vented for decent air drying, edges of tablets can get grounded off, intagulations can get filled in via coating material, and edges and corners may not be covered with identical thickness as the tablet faces in Figure 4 represents the super cell coating technology equipment.

Unique functions of super cell coating technology

1. Continuous coating
2. Short processing time
3. Flexible modular design
4. No scale-up to parameters
5. Production capacity of 6 cells coats 200K tph of 120 mg tablets
6. R&D batch size (Minimum batch size of 30 grams)
7. Enhancing technology
8. Multi-layer coating
9. Difficult-to-coat shapes
10. Friable tablets
11. “Low humidity process” suitable for moisture sensitive materials
12. Enabling technology
13. Accuracy of coating

**Dip coating**

Dip coating is a famous way of creating thin films for research functions. Uniform films may be implemented onto flat or cylindrical substrates. For commercial strategies, spin coating is used greater often in Figure 5 represents the dip coating [17].

The dip coating process can be separated into five stages:
Blends of GIT-insoluble and enteric polymers: Blends of GIT-insoluble and enteric polymers are specifically exciting for the coating of solid dosage bureaucracy, because they could offer drug release profiles which might be triggered by using the pH of the surrounding surroundings alongside the GIT. Inside the stomach, each polymer is insoluble, while within the gut, the enteric polymer is soluble and can leach out from the coatings. This could result in large, dynamic changes in the physicochemical houses of the films at some point of the GIT transit and, as a result, to altered drug release kinetics.

Thrilling application of this kind of pH-sensitive coating substances is the possibility to render the discharge of weakly simple pills showing strongly pH-structured solubility pH-unbiased. The concept is on the way to compensate the decrease in drug solubility along the GIT by a simultaneous boom in drug permeability.

A novel method of manufacturing One-Step Dry-Coated (OSDrC) tablets

Diverse studies concerning controlled release shipping systems were performed for oral dosage forms. A dry-coated tablet is one of the most useful strong dosage paperwork that can be used for such managed launch transport systems with a sustained release pattern or a time programmed pulsatile release sample in OSDrC making manner.

Dry-coated tablets encompass a core and an outer layer. The outer layer absolutely surrounds the center tablet and, consequently, the choice of the materials for the outer layer significantly impacts the release pattern, since it relies upon on the discharge charge of the drug and the physical properties of the dry-coated tablets. Cellulose derivatives such as Hydroxypropyl Cellulose (HPC), Hydroxypropyl Methylcellulose (HPMC), Carboxymethyl Cellulose (CMC) or Hydroxyethyl Cellulose (hec) are frequently used as outer layer materials because they’ve water soluble, gel forming and swelling traits for behind schedule drug launch pattern tablets.

This difficult to produce tablets that have a steady fixed outer layer thickness the use of industrial scale manufacturing. The conventional manufacturing approach is as follows

1. Fill the inside of the die with the powder for the outer layer,
2. Place the core tablet on the powder for the outer layer,
3. Surround the core tablet with the powder for the outer layer and
4. Compress the powder which has the core tablet inside.

This conventional manufacturing method, however, has a problem stemming from the setting of the core tablet supply system, i.e. the core tablet is not always located in the center of the tablet, to giving various thicknesses of the outer layer.

Vacuum film coating: (Fluid Bed Coating)

Spray coating can be used for all fluid bed systems, be it in batch or
continuous operation or if the film is applied from a sprayed solution, suspension or hot melt. For this processing option the parameters have to be chosen to avoid agglomeration, i.e. liquid bridges between the air suspended particles. If spraying a solution or suspension the liquid only serves as a vehicle to deliver the coating material to the surface of the substrate. For hot melt coating the droplets must be small enough not to form solid bridges in Figure 7 represents vacuum film coating process.

**Top spray coating process**

Despite the fact that the top spray fluid mattress system is extensively used for granulation its use for coating is restrained. Top spraying is the most effective method and gives the best capability and lowest capital cost. It could be used for numerous manipulations of taste covering and many others. This method alternative is often used in the food, feed and chemical industries as the characteristic of the film mainly serves to enhance the general managing situations. An ideal film is typically no longer required for this function, however care should be taken that the droplets do not emerge as too viscous before touching the substrate, so that you can hold accurate spread ability.

**Bottom spray coating process**

The maximum normally recognized fluid-bed system for coating inside the pharmaceutical industry is bottom-spray technique. The precise functions of bottom-spraying are an air distributes plate and a partition that arrange fluidization of particles of debris via the partition. The nozzle is installed at the bottom of the product box and is focused in the coating zone. The quick distance between the coating materials and particles at some point of the coating technique minimizes spray drying and contributes to excessive uniformity and coating performance may be seen in Figure 9 represents bottom spray coating process.

**Tagential spray coating process**

This processing approach is with its physical concepts pretty much like bottom-spray coating handiest that the production motion is supplied by a motor driven rotor disc. Otherwise, the quality producing parameters are the same:

1. Uniform statistical residence time is warranted by defined rotor revolution speed.
2. The coating material is sprayed simultaneously within the rotating product.
3. The rolling movement of the particles affords an even higher separation force, as such preventing agglomeration.

The benefits of this processing option are mainly for the layering and subsequent film coating of pellets in Figure 10 represents spray coating process.

**Time dependent and pH dependent polymer for colon targeted**

The pH-dependent systems exploit the generally accepted view
that pH of the human gastrointestinal increases progressively from the stomach pH 2-3, small intestine pH 6.5-7 to the colon 7.0-8.0. Taking the advantage of highest pH value of the colon content, the dosage form containing the active drug in a core is coated with pH-dependent material which dissolves at the pH of the colon in Figure 11.

**Tablet Coating Defects**

An ideal tablet should be free from any visual defect/functional defect. The improvements and innovations in tablet manufacture have now not reduced the troubles, often encountered inside the production, rather have elevated the issues, in particular due to the complexities of tablet presses. During manufacturing an industrial pharmacist usually encounters number of problems. Majority of visual defects are due to inadequate fines, inadequate moisture in the granules ready for compression and due to faulty machine setting. Due to faulty formulation there are functional defects. Solving many of the manufacturing problems requires an in-depth knowledge of granulation processing and tablet presses, and is acquired only through an exhaustive study and a rich experience. Here, we will discuss the imperfections found in tablets along-with their causes and related remedies are depicted in table 4. The imperfections are known as: ‘VISUAL DEFECTS’ and they are either related to imperfections in anyone or more of the following factors.

**Conclusion**

In latest decades, coating of pharmaceutical dosage bureaucracy has been concern of superb developmental efforts aiming to make certain and enhance the nice of tablet dosage form. Magnetically assisted impaction coating and electrostatic dry coating avoids most important hazards of solvents primarily based coating. Techniques produce uniform coating however simplest with specialized instrumentation. Electrostatic dry coating calls for special type of powder coating composition. Electrostatic dry coating enables coating of tablet with different colors on either facet alongside-with printing on tablet on pharmaceutical dosage shape. Protection factors of those coatings in people remains to be unveiled for that reasons similarly in anyone or more of the following factors.

**References**


