

DIPEPTIDYL PEPTIDASE-4 INHIBITORS: POTENTIAL FOR TREATMENT OF METABOLIC SYNDROME AND DEVELOPED FORMULATION APPROACHESRAKESH MISHRA^{1*}, SHASHIKANT DHOLE²

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*Received: 30 May 2017, Revised and Accepted: 29 July 2017***ABSTRACT**

This review article deals with the pre-clinical and clinical findings reviewed or investigated by the researchers on dipeptidyl peptidase-4 (DPP4) inhibitors as a potential in the treatment of metabolic syndrome. Most of the researchers reported the activity of DPP4 inhibitors in the management of obesity, hyperlipidemia, hypertension, atherosclerosis, and in cardiometabolic risk which are summarized in the article. This article also focuses on the formulation approaches in which the formulators have reported and used in the designing or development of DPP4 inhibitors as dosage form. The formulation approaches which are commonly employed on DPP4 inhibitors are immediate release, sustain release, and combination therapy.

Keywords: Dipeptidyl peptidase 4, Metabolic syndrome, Obesity, Hyperlipidemia, Hypertension, Atherosclerosis, Immediate release, Sustain release.

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INTRODUCTION

The lives of far too many in the world are being blighted due to urbanization, sedentary lifestyles, and changing diets. These characteristic factors of 21st century leads to risk for developing a number of chronic diseases such as insulin resistance, obesity, dyslipidemia, hypertension, and cardiometabolic risk. This has led to the concept of "The Metabolic Syndrome" which includes clusters of these chronic diseases observed in patients [1]. As defined by the American Heart Association, metabolic syndrome includes the presence of at least three of the following five conditions: (1) Abdominal obesity (waist circumference $\geq 40''$ if male or $\geq 35''$ if female), (2) high blood pressure (systolic ≥ 130 mm/Hg or diastolic ≥ 85 mm/Hg), (3) low- and high-density lipoprotein cholesterol (< 40 mg/dL if male or < 50 mg/dL if female), (4) high triglycerides (≥ 150 mg/dL), and/or (5) high blood glucose (≥ 100 mg/dL) [2]. The prevalence of metabolic syndrome increases at an alarming rate and is becoming a major public health concern. Individuals with metabolic syndrome have a high risk of morbidity and mortality due to cardiovascular disease (CVD) and type 2 diabetes [3]. In view of this, to manage and treat metabolic syndrome various efforts have been made from raising awareness about lifestyle changes to the discovery and development of safe and effective medications. However, patient compliance becomes an issue in the management of metabolic syndrome when multiple drugs need to be taken on a long-term basis in the treatment of multifactorial diseases. In addition, there is the risk of enhanced drug-drug interactions when multiple drugs are prescribed. Identifying drug candidates exhibiting polypharmacology could be one of the strategies beneficial to address multifactorial diseases as indicated in Table 1. As a consequence, availability of a single therapeutic agent which would simultaneously ameliorate the pharmacological processes contributing to multifactorial diseases could be a significant step forward in the treatment of metabolic syndrome [4].

Dipeptidyl peptidase 4 (DPP4) enzymatic inhibitors a widely accepted oral therapy for the management of type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM), were first developed as antidiabetic agents which preserve incretin hormones and promote post-prandial insulin secretion [5]. In the past few years, numerous pre-clinical and clinical trials have demonstrated

that DPP4 inhibitors besides their glucose-lowering activity could be used in the management of multifactorial diseases constituting metabolic syndrome (Fig. 1).

DPP4 is a serine protease that is widely distributed throughout the body, expressed as an enzyme on endothelial cells, the surface of T-lymphocytes, and in a circulating form [6,7]. As a membrane-spanning, cell-on surface aminopeptidase, it is ubiquitously expressed in many tissues, such as the gut, lymphocyte, liver, kidney, and lung. DPP4 inhibitors competitively inhibit the enzyme DPP4, this enzyme breaks down the incretin glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) and glucose-dependent insulinotropic peptide, which are released in response to a meal [8]. DPP4 inhibitors may be classified into peptidomimetic (i.e., sitagliptin, teneligliptin, vildagliptin, saxagliptin, and anagliptin) and non-peptidomimetic (i.e., alogliptin and linagliptin) subtypes. Sitagliptin was the first gliptin approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of the United States in October 2006 and is now available worldwide. Vildagliptin and saxagliptin were approved by the FDA in between February 2008 and July 2009, respectively. Alogliptin was approved by the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency (PMDA) of Japan in April 2010 and by the FDA in January 2013. Anagliptin is available only in Japan since it was approved by the PMDA in September 2012, and linagliptin was authorized by the FDA in May 2011. Gemigliptin was codeveloped by LG Life Science and Double-Crane Pharmaceutical Co. and gained approval from the Korea Food and Drug Administration in June 2012 [9]. The review focuses on the potential of DPP4 inhibitors in the management of metabolic syndrome as well as the formulation approaches employed on DPP4 inhibitors in the development of dosage form. The review provides further light on the potential benefits of DPP4 inhibitors beyond those based on glycemic control.

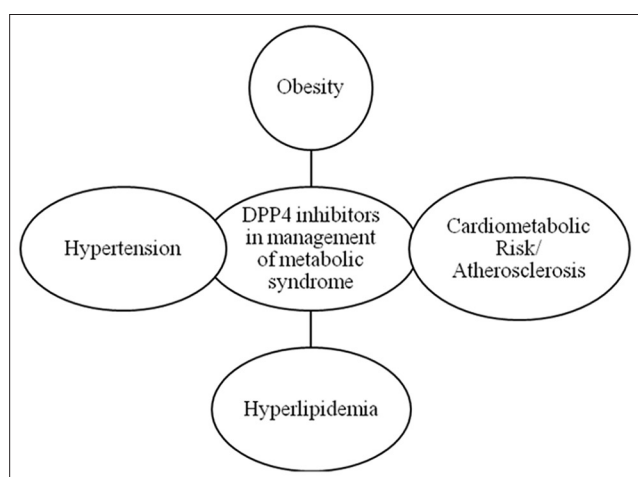
DPP4 inhibitors in the treatment of metabolic syndrome

This section covers the discussion on the pre-clinical and clinical findings reviewed or investigated by the researchers on DPP4 inhibitors as a potential in the treatment of metabolic syndrome. As most of the researchers reported the activity of DPP4 inhibitors in management of obesity, hyperlipidemia, hypertension, atherosclerosis, and in cardiometabolic risk which are summarized as follows.

Table 1: DPP4 substrates and probable inhibitory effects for the management of metabolic syndrome

DPP4 substrates	Biological function of substrates	Impact of DPP4 inhibition on multifactorial diseases
Incretin hormones Glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) Glucose-dependent insulinotropic peptide (GIP)	GLP-1: Stimulate insulin secretion and suppress glucagon release Regulator of satiety and appetite GIP: Stimulates insulin secretion and promotes fatty acid metabolism	Type-II diabetes mellitus, hyperlipidemia/obesity
Neuropeptides NPY Peptide YY Brain natriuretic peptide (BNP)	NPY: Regulates energy balance, memory, learning, and lipid metabolism Peptide YY: Reduces appetite, inhibits gastric motility, and increases water and electrolyte absorption in the colon BNP: Responsible for vasodilation, natriuresis and suppresses rennin secretion	Hyperlipidemia/obesity Cardiometabolic risk/hypertension
Chemokines Stromal cell-derived factor-1 (SDF-1)	SDF-1: Promotes angiogenesis	Cardioprotective

DPP4: Dipeptidyl peptidase 4, NPY: Neuropeptide Y

**Fig. 1: Dipeptidyl peptidase 4 inhibitors in multifactorial diseases**

DPP4 inhibitors in the management of obesity

Overweight and obesity are serious problems, especially in industrialized countries, since they have impact on disease development and quality as well as expectancy of life [10]. Understanding the complex mechanisms regulating energy homeostasis is a keystone for developing novel strategies for obesity therapy [11,12]. Interestingly, several neuropeptides involved in controlling energy homeostasis such as GLP-1, peptide YY, and neuropeptide Y (NPY) are substrates of DPP4 [13,14]. Stephan *et al.* reported the possible influence of adenosine deaminase-complexing protein 2 (CD26), exerting a dipeptidyl peptidase activity (DPP4) cleaving several energy homeostasis-relevant peptides, by investigating wild type, and DPP4-deficient dark agouti rats in a model of diet-induced obesity and found a reduced weight gain in DPP4-deficient rats. They investigated the number of cells immune positive for the leptin receptor (OB-R), the orexigenic leptin antagonist NPY, as well as of the NPY receptors Y1, Y2, and Y5 within hypothalamic nuclei. Independent from the body weight, higher levels of NPY, and all receptors were expressed in DPP4-deficient rats. Under obese conditions, hypothalamic Y2-levels were reduced in both strains. This study suggested that DPP4 exerts its effects on intra-abdominal fat also through peripheral actions [15]. Matthias reviewed novel pharmacological treatment strategies, which target mechanisms underlying positive energy balance, excessive fat accumulation, and adverse fat distribution. Adipokines may have potential for the future pharmacological treatment strategies of obesity and metabolic diseases, because they are involved in the regulation of appetite and satiety, energy expenditure, endothelial function, blood pressure,

insulin sensitivity, adipogenesis, fat distribution, and insulin secretion [16].

DPP4 is a novel adipokine oversecreted in obesity, and thus potentially linking obesity to the metabolic syndrome. DPP4 is a ubiquitously expressed cell surface protease which is also released to the circulation as soluble DPP4. Furthermore, sDPP4 impairs insulin signaling in an autocrine and paracrine fashion in different cell types [17]. Röhrborn *et al.* investigated the effects where human adipocytes were treated with the DPP4 inhibitors sitagliptin and saxagliptin. Interestingly, DPP4 reduction increase protein kinase B leading to improved insulin responsiveness of adipocytes at the level of insulin receptor [18].

GLP-1, secreted by intestinal L-cells, stimulates glucose-dependent insulin secretion after food ingestion [19,20]. GLP-1 enhances satiety, whereas it inhibits glucagon secretion, food intake, and gastric emptying [21]. However, the therapeutic potential of GLP-1 has been demonstrated to be limited due to its rapid degradation and inactivation *in vivo* by DPP4 [22]. Ben-Shlomo *et al.* investigated the effects of GLP-1, a gut-derived peptide degraded by DPP4 on hepatic fat and glucose metabolism. Normal- and high-fat diet-fed DPP4 rats displayed reduced hepatic triglycerides, accompanied by downregulation of lipogenesis enzymes, and parallel upregulation of carnitine palmitoyltransferase 1, a key enzyme in fatty acid β -oxidation. *In vitro* studies demonstrated that GLP-1 suppresses hepatic lipogenesis through activation of the AMPK pathway [23]. Lee *et al.* investigated KR-66195, a new synthetic DPP4 inhibitor, could prevent weight gain, as well as improving glycemic control in diet-induced obese (DIO) and ob/ob mice. In DIO mice, KR-66195 treatment increased the plasma GLP-1 levels and improved glucose tolerance. This treatment also reduced body weight gain (5.38 ± 0.94 vs. 12.08 ± 0.55 g, $p < 0.01$) and food intake (2.41 ± 0.09 vs. 2.79 ± 0.11 g, $p < 0.05$). Results suggested that KR-66195 prevented weight gain in DIO mice by decreasing food intake, as well as increasing energy expenditure by 16% [24]. Fukuda-Tsuru *et al.* investigated the impact of the novel DPP4 inhibitor teneligliptin on body weight, energy expenditure, and obesity-related manifestations in DIO mice. The administration of teneligliptin reduced body weight to 88% and 71% at dose of 30 mg/kg/day and 60 mg/kg/day, respectively. Adipocyte hypertrophy and hepatic steatosis induced by a high-fat diet were suppressed by teneligliptin. The findings suggested the potential utility of teneligliptin for the treatment of a broad spectrum of metabolic disorders related to obesity beyond glycemic control [25].

A decrease in serum estrogen levels in menopause is closely associated with the development of visceral obesity and the onset of type 2 diabetes in women [26]. Sameshima *et al.* demonstrated the therapeutic effects of the novel DPP4 inhibitor, teneligliptin, on the features of post-

menopausal obesity in mice. The metabolic phenotypes body weight, fat accumulation, and glucose intolerance were analyzed and suggested that teneligliptin effectively ameliorates the characteristics of metabolic abnormalities associated with post-menopausal obesity [27].

DPP4 inhibitors in the management of hyperlipidemia

Clinical trials with DPP4 inhibitors have shown that these agents also show lipid-lowering effects. Meta-analyses showed lipid-lowering effects of several DPP4 inhibitors [28,29]. Aoki *et al.*, evaluated the effect of anagliptin on serum lipid profiles, including cholesterol synthesis and absorption markers, in Japanese patients with type 2 diabetes. Anagliptin therapy decreased the cholesterol synthesis marker lathosterol without changing cholesterol absorption markers [30]. Yano *et al.* examined the lipid-lowering efficacy of anagliptin in a hyperlipidemic animal model and examined the mechanism of action. Anagliptin treatment significantly decreased the plasma total cholesterol (14% reduction, $p < 0.01$) and triglyceride levels (27% reduction, $p < 0.01$). The results indicated that the DPP4 inhibitor, anagliptin, exhibited a lipid-lowering effect in a hyperlipidemic animal model, and suggested that the down regulation of hepatic lipid synthesis was involved in the effect [31].

DPP4 inhibitors in the management of hypertension

DPP4 inhibitors was reported to enhance the phosphorylation of endothelium-derived nitric oxide synthase through the cyclic adenosine monophosphate/protein kinase, a pathway in human coronary artery endothelial cells by possibly augmenting the activity of GLP-1 on the endothelium [32]. Nakagami *et al.* examined the effects of DPP4 inhibitor teneligliptin on spontaneous hypertensive rat/NDmcr-cp (cp/cp) rats as a model for metabolic syndrome and hypertension, glucose metabolism, and endothelial dysfunction were analyzed. The results demonstrated that long-term treatment with teneligliptin significantly improved endothelial dysfunction and glucose metabolism in a rat model of metabolic syndrome suggesting that teneligliptin treatment might be beneficial for patients with hypertension and/or diabetes [33]. Recently Sattigeri *et al.* developed chimeric DPP4/angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors for treating metabolic syndrome by rational *de novo* synthesis exhibiting polypharmacology to address multifactorial diseases (hyperglycemia, hypertension, and dyslipidemia) [4].

DPP4 inhibitors in the management of atherosclerosis

Jixin *et al.* focused the importance of DPP4 and its potential role in cardiovascular physiology and pathology. They indicated that in addition to regulation of post-prandial glycemia, DPP4 may have pleiotropic effects and its inhibition may have a role in the treatment of inflammatory diseases such as atherosclerosis and provides evidence for a robust effect of DPP4 inhibitors in attenuating inflammation and plaque development [34].

Atherosclerosis is one of the major pathological manifestations of diabetic vascular complications, which causes narrowing of arterial walls due to chronic inflammation and endothelial injury. In clinical practice, numerous DPP4 inhibitors are present but no studies have been conducted to compare their antiatherosclerotic effects despite growing evidence of their usefulness in the high-risk population. In view of this, Singh *et al.* reviewed the antiatherothrombotic effects of DPP4 inhibitors in individuals with atherosclerosis using protective score (PS). Sixty-two published studies collected and were assessed, as per the PS sitagliptin (PS=5) was deduced to have the most prominent influence in protecting against atherosclerosis progression. Linagliptin and saxagliptin had the lowest score (PS=1) [35]. Okuda *et al.* assessed effects of teneligliptin on soluble P-selectin (sP-selectin), platelet-derived microparticles (PDMs), plasminogen activator inhibitor 1 (PAI-1), soluble E-selectin (sE-selectin), soluble vascular adhesion molecule 1 (sVCAM-1), and adiponectin plasma levels in patients with T2DM. Teneligliptin therapy significantly reduced plasma levels of sP-selectin, PDMs, and PAI-1 while significantly increasing adiponectin levels. sE-selectin and sVCAM-1 levels were significantly decreased

only at 6 months. By modulating PDMs or PAI-1, teneligliptin shows an antiatherothrombotic effect that may be beneficial in the primary prevention of CVD in patients with T2DM [36]. Hirano *et al.* examined the effect of anagliptin, a DPP4 inhibitor, on atherosclerosis development in the aorta and coronary arteries in a high-cholesterol diet-fed rabbits. Japanese white rabbits were fed either normal chow (n=8) or a diet containing 0.5% cholesterol (n=34) for 14 weeks. Cholesterol-fed rabbits were given 0.3% anagliptin or not in drinking water (each n=16 and 18) for 12 weeks. This study suggests that DPP4 inhibitors can exert antiatherogenic actions, especially in early stages of atherosclerosis [37].

DPP4 inhibitors in the management of cardiometabolic risk

The five widely used groups of oral antihyperglycemic agents – biguanides, sulfonyleureas, meglitinides, glitazones, and alpha-glucosidase inhibitors – are associated with variable degrees of undesirable or even severe cardiovascular events [38]. The FDA recommended that to establish the safety of a new antidiabetic therapy for T2DM, the manufacturers or sponsors should demonstrate that the new drug will not result in an unacceptable increase in cardiovascular risk [39]. In this context, Fisman and Tenenbaum, reviewed DPP4 inhibitors with emphasis on their capabilities to positively or negatively affect the cardiovascular system. The favorable changes in experimental models include improved endothelial function, reduction of inflammatory markers, oxidative stress ischemia/reperfusion injury, and atherogenesis. In addition, increased adiponectin levels and decreases in lipidemia and blood pressure were reported. Moreover, only with saxagliptin, the rate of hospitalization for heart failure was significantly increased [40].

DPP4 enzymatic inhibitors preserve incretin hormones and promote post-prandial insulin secretion. It has been shown in animal studies that incretin-based therapy has a beneficial effect on cardiovascular disease. Gong *et al.* studied DPP4 enzymatic inhibitors and summarize the catalytic-dependent and -independent effects of DPP4 inhibition on cardiometabolic disease. The review demonstrated novel non-catalytic functions of DPP4 that may play a role in cardiometabolic disease [5]. Tahara *et al.* studied the effects of anagliptin, an inhibitor of DPP4 on arterial stiffness evaluated by cardio-ankle vascular index with those of an equipotent glucose-lowering agent, glimepiride in patients with T2DM. This study suggested that anagliptin may exert a beneficial effect on arterial stiffness in patients with T2DM, which is independent of its blood glucose-lowering property. Anagliptin may ameliorate arterial stiffness partly through the reduction of RLP cholesterol and improvement of liver function [41].

Developed formulation approaches on DPP4 inhibitors

In this section, we have discussed only those formulation approaches which formulators have reported and used in the designing or development of DPP4 inhibitors as dosage form. The formulation approaches which are commonly employed on DPP4 inhibitors are immediate release, sustained release, and combination therapy (Fig. 2) as reported.

Immediate release approach

Oral route of drug administration is perhaps the most widely accepted route for the delivery of drugs. In oral dosage forms, tablet is the most popular dosage form due to convenience of self-administration, compactness, and easy manufacturing. In many cases, immediate onset of action is required, which is not possible with conventional therapy. To overcome these drawbacks, immediate release dosage form has emerged as alternative oral dosage forms. Immediate drug release dosage forms disintegrate rapidly after administration with enhanced rate of dissolution [42].

Orodispersible and immediate release tablets

In more recent years, increasing attention has been paid to formulating not only fast dissolving and/or disintegrating tablets that are swallowed but also orally disintegrating tablets that are intended to dissolve

Immediate Release Approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oro dispersive tablet Immediate release tablet
Sustained Release Approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matrix tablet Gastroretentive tablets/Microspheres Multiparticulate microspheres
Combination Therapy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi layer tablets Multi unit particulate system (MUPS)

Fig. 2: Developed formulation approaches on dipeptidyl peptidase-4 inhibitors

and/or disintegrate rapidly in the mouth [43,44]. Iswariya *et al.* developed orodispersive tablets of saxagliptin using various individual concentrations of super disintegrating agents (crosscarmellose sodium, sodium starch glycolate (SSG), and crospovidone XL 10). This study suggested that the formulation containing 4% of crospovidone XL 10 was found to be better formulation in terms of rapid disintegration and maximum percentage drug release [45]. Debnath *et al.* formulated linagliptin immediate release tablets using various superdisintegrants. Based on the dissolution studies, optimized formulation contains 6% crospovidone produced rapid and highest dissolution rate and dissolution efficiency among all the formulations [46]. The dissolution of linagliptin from the tablets obeyed first-order kinetics. Shakya designed and evaluated sitagliptin phosphate immediate release 50 mg tablet using response surface methodology employing Minitab16. Different formulations of immediate release were prepared by applying 2-factor 2-level central composite design. The amount of SSG and croscarmellose sodium (CCS) in IR layer was used as independent variables, and the percent drug release at 15 minutes were selected as dependent (response) variables for optimization. The optimized sitagliptin phosphate IR tablet disintegrated in 14 seconds and showed an initial release of sitagliptin 99.072% within 15 minutes [47]. Wale *et al.* formulated immediate release tablet of sitagliptin phosphate monohydrate by wet granulation method using microcrystalline cellulose, lactose as diluents, crospovidone, and SSG as superdisintegrant. This study concluded that combination of high concentration of crospovidone and low concentration of SSG provides optimum disintegration of sitagliptin phosphate tablet [48].

Sustained release approach

Sustained release dosage forms are designed to achieve prolonged therapeutic effect by continuously releasing medication over an extended period after administration of single dose. The goal in designing oral sustained delivery system is to reduce the frequency of the dosing or to increase effectiveness of the drug by localizing at the site of action, reducing the dose required or provide uniform drug delivery, thereby also improving patient compliance [49].

Matrix approach for sustained release

Matrix tablets are the promising approach for the development of sustained and controlled-release solid dosage forms in lowest cost. Matrix tablets may be defined as the "oral solid dosage forms in which the drug or active ingredient is homogeneously dispersed throughout the hydrophilic or hydrophobic matrices which serves as release rate retardants." These systems release drug in continuous manner by dissolution-controlled and diffusion-controlled mechanisms [50,51]. Kolli *et al.* formulated and evaluated vildagliptin sustained release matrix tablets by wet granulation method using hydrophilic polymers such as HPMC (K15M, K100M) and Carbopol. Drug release follows zero-order release kinetics, and release rate was controlled by non-Fickian diffusion. The maximum drug release was found to be 98.78% over 24 hrs in HPMC K100M and Carbopol-based tablets [52]. Kumar *et al.* designed and developed the sustained release matrix tablets of vildagliptin by wet granulation technique, using HPMC-K15M, HPMC-K100, sodium alginate, chitosan, xanthan gum, and guar gum. The drug to polymer ratio 1:1 (vildagliptin:xanthan gum) reported optimized shown maximum drug release 97.56±0.72% in 12 hr of

dissolution [53]. Martha *et al.* developed sustained release matrix tablets of gemigliptin using HPMC K4M and Carbopol as rate controlling polymers in different concentrations. The optimized formulation prepared with drug:polymer (Carbopol) ratio 1:1 showed 89% drug release in 24 hr. The release kinetics shows that the release of drug followed zero order release in all the formulation [54].

Gastroretentive approach for sustained release

One of the most feasible approaches for achieving a prolonged and predictable drug delivery profile in the gastrointestinal tract is to control the gastric residence time (GRT) [55]. Dosage form with a prolonged GRT, that is, gastroretentive dosage forms, provides advantages for drugs having narrow absorption window in the small intestinal region. Furthermore, improve bioavailability is observed for drugs that are absorbed readily on release in the gastrointestinal tract (GIT). These drugs can be delivered ideally by slow release from the stomach [56]. Vadaliya *et al.* developed gastroretentive drug delivery system of sitagliptin phosphate as the floating microspheres using hydroxypropyl methylcellulose (HPMC) and eudragit RS100 polymers by emulsion solvent evaporation technique. The percentage buoyancy for different formulation was found in the range of 90.5-60.23%. The drug release was found to be 95.26% at end of 8 hrs [57]. Gunjal *et al.* prepared floating tablets of sitagliptin employing different polymers such as guar gum, Carbopol 940, HPMC, and magnesium stearate by effervescent technique. Sodium bicarbonate and citric acid were incorporated as gas generating agent. Tablets containing guar gum along with HPMC and citric acid showed more floating time and shown 90% drug release at the end of 18 hr [58]. Mohammed Gulzar *et al.* designed gastroretentive floating tablets of sitagliptin by direct compression employing polymers such as HPMC K100, polyvinylpyrrolidone and polyacrylic acid, respectively, in various concentrations. *In vitro* dissolution study was carried out in pH 1.2 buffers. The cumulative percentage drug release of all formulations ranged from 92.96% to 99.28% at the end of 12 hrs [59]. Kumari *et al.* developed gastroretentive floating matrix tablets of sitagliptin by wet granulation method using various polymers, namely, HPMC (K4M, K15 M, and K100M), xanthan gum, and combination of polymers and sodium bicarbonate. The developed formulations had floating lag times below 3 minutes and constantly floated on dissolution medium for more than 12 hrs. The optimized formulation remained buoyant and showed a sustained drug release (98%) for 12 hrs [60].

Multiparticulate microsphere approach for sustained release

Multiparticulate drug delivery leads to wide and uniform distribution throughout GIT which overcomes localized high concentration of drugs at a specific point. This results in more reproducible drug absorption and reduces local irritation when compared to single-unit dosage form such as non-disintegrating polymeric matrix tablets [61,62]. Microsphere carrier systems as a have attracted considerable attention for several years in multiparticulate sustained drug delivery [63,64]. Naresh and Pratyusha, prepared saxagliptin microspheres sustain release by ionotropic gelation technique using sodium alginate (0.5% to 2% w/v) as drug release modifier. Increase in the concentration of sodium alginate dispersions increased sphericity, size distribution, flow properties, and mean diameter of the microspheres. The *in vitro* dissolution data showed sustained release up to 10 hrs [65]. Navaneetha *et al.* formulated a sustain release microspheres for sitagliptin by employing polymers such as albumin and chitosan. The *in vitro* drug release studies showed that albumin and chitosan in the ratio of 3:1 and drug:polymer ratio of 1:2 has shown maximum drug release of 83.91% at the end of 12 hrs [66].

DPP4 inhibitors in combination with other therapeutic agents

Combination drug therapy allows medications of different mechanism of action to produce therapeutic effect at lower than maximum doses of each. When smaller doses of medication with different mechanisms of action are combined, synergistic, or additive pharmacological effects can be achieved and dose-dependent side effects can also be minimized [67-69]. Most of the DPP4 inhibitors were combined with metformin (biguanide antihyperglycemic agent) or sitagliptin

with simvastatin (HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor) to develop formulations [70].

Multilayer tablet approach in combination therapy

Multilayer tablets have gained much attention in the development of oral sustained drug delivery. They consist of an active matrix core and one or more layers applied during tableting to achieve modified drug release [71]. These tablets are suitable for sequential release of two drugs in combination, separate two incompatible substances and when the release profiles of the two drugs are different from one another [72]. Srinivas and Chaitanya developed a trilayered tablet of immediate release sitagliptin phosphate layer and sustained release metformin hydrochloride layer. Different formulations of sustained release metformin HCl tablets were prepared using a combination of hydrophilic polymers such as HPMC K100, HPMC K4M, HPMC K15 M, pH-sensitive polymer Carbopol 971P, retarding polymer ethyl cellulose, and low substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose. Sitagliptin immediate release formulations were prepared using crospovidone, CCS, and SSG as superdisintegrants. The optimized batch showed cumulative percentage drug release of sitagliptin phosphate 99.65% at 30 minutes and metformin HCl 98.72% at 12 hrs [71]. Margret *et al.* formulated saxagliptin immediate release 2.5 mg and metformin hydrochloride sustained release 500 mg tablets employing hydroxypropyl methylcellulose polymer and carmellose sodium polymer. The results of the dissolution study showed maximum release of metformin up to 10 hrs and saxagliptin release within 30 minutes [73]. Prasanthi *et al.* developed a novel bilayered tablet of sitagliptin and simvastatin used pre-gelatinized starch, potato starch, and SSG. The optimized formulation showed 97.23% for sitagliptin and 98.32% for simvastatin drug release at the end of 45 minutes [74]. Vidyadhar *et al.* developed metformin SR 500 mg and linagliptin 2.5 mg bi-layered tablets. The tablets were prepared using hydroxypropyl methylcellulose (HPMC K100M), sodium alginate, gatti gum as sustained release polymer, and Ludiflash, croscarmellose sodium, SSG, crospovidone as immediate release polymer. The *in vitro* release of drug from the prepared tablets was able to sustain the release of the drug up to 12 hrs [75].

Multiuinit particulate system (MUPS) in combination therapy

Single-unit formulations contain the active ingredient within the single tablet or capsule, whereas multiple-unit dosage forms comprise of number of discrete particles with different release rate that are combined into one dosage unit [76]. Agrawal *et al.* developed MUPS for metformin and sitagliptin. Enteric-coated sustained release matrix pellets were formulated for metformin while immediate release pellets were formulated for sitagliptin by extrusion spherization process. The 8-10% of coating with eudragit S 100 and L 100-55 was considered optimum for coating of the pellets. The optimized batch showed release of 96.4% of sitagliptin in 1 hr while 97.3% of metformin in 12 hrs [77].

CONCLUSION

Although pre-clinical and clinical studies have been suggesting that DPP4 inhibitors have potential in the management of multifactorial diseases beyond glycemic control, the developed formulation approaches on DPP4 inhibitors are mainly in context with treatment of T2DM. In future there is need of employing newer formulation strategies to develop DPP4 inhibitors formulations, which would all together ameliorate the pharmacological processes to deal with the metabolic syndrome. While designing of formulation approaches, the correlation between mechanism and clinical benefits of DPP4 inhibitors should be properly considered. The multifactorial diseases observed in metabolic syndrome characterized by circadian rhythms could be one of the areas to focus. In recent years, chronotherapy approach gaining attention intended to release the drugs according to the circadian cycle of the diseases. In the future, chronotherapy could be employed and interesting approach to be study in the development of DPP4 inhibitors formulations for the management of metabolic syndrome.

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