Preliminary formulation and characterization of solid lipid nanoparticles containing chloroquine and a P-glycoprotein inhibitor: Influences of lipid-surfactant ratios


aDepartment of Pharmaceutics and Pharmaceutical Technology, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Anambra State, Nigeria
bDepartment of Pharmaceutical Technology and Industrial Pharmacy, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Enugu State, Nigeria
cPolymers and Composites, Materials Science and Manufacturing, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Pretoria, South Africa
dDepartment of Pharmaceutics, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Enugu State, Nigeria
eDepartment of Pharmaceutical Microbiology and Biotechnology, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Anambra State, Nigeria

Abstract

Chloroquine, a once useful therapy, currently faces problems of plasmodial resistance mediated through a number of mechanisms, such as P-glycoprotein (P-gp) mediated drug efflux, which makes attainment of adequate drug levels impossible. In this work, the inclusion of a P-gp inhibitor, chlorpheniramine, and chloroquine in a lipid-based nanoparticle carrier is proposed, with the aim of ensuring that adequate drug levels are attained, so as to overcome drug resistance. Methods: The nanoparticles were prepared by a simple method based on hot pre-emulsion. Physicochemical characterization involved determination of particle size and zeta potential, drug loading, entrapment efficiency and in vitro drug release. Results: The particle sizes varied with ratio of surfactant to lipid and also total excipients concentration. Drug encapsulation was higher than 50% in all cases. Equal lipidsurfactant systems achieved higher loading than unequal ratios. The nanoparticle dispersion exhibited biphasic drug release in buffer. Conclusions: We conclude that, pending the outcome of in vivo trials and toxicological tests, co-formulation of chloroquine and chlorpheniramine in lipid-based nanoparticles is feasible using a simple hot emulsion-dilution method.