

# ROLE OF CHITIN NANOGELS IN THE TREATMENT OF SKIN DISEASE

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## **Abstract:**

Nanogels are nano-particles made up of hydrophilic polymer networks which are cross-connected. Not only in topical administration but also in other routes, Nanogels are very promising drug delivery carriers, exhibiting high loading strength, injecting nanoparticles into the gel matrix provide increased contact time and ultimately prolonged therapeutic effect in topical administration, Strong tolerance and stability to environmental factors such as PH, temperature and ionic strength (1). It was found that skin-targeted topical distribution by nanosystem, in order to promote and produce sustained release and maintain a localization effect, A beneficial result is the efficient treatment of various life-threatening dermatological conditions, such as skin cancer. With their distinct ability to achieve a strong therapeutic spectrum, there are various forms of skin infections There are different types of skin infections with their distinct potential to achieve a broad therapeutic spectrum (2). Chitin nanogels (CNGs) are a relatively recent class of natural polymeric nanomaterials and have wide potential in the field of drug delivery and nanotherapeutics. These nanogels are very biocompatible and are non-toxic when internalized by cells. In this report, different properties, preparation techniques and applications of CNGs were stated. CNGs have many distinctive properties because of their nano-size, allowing them to be used in a number of biomedical applications. CNGs are prepared by fundamental regeneration techniques without using any cross-linkers. Various polymers, drugs and fluorescent dyes may be mixed or applied or numbered with the chitin hydrogel network.

**Keywords:** nanogels, skin infections, topical drug delivery, chitin nanoparticles, molecule delivery.

## **Introduction:**

The treatment of skin infection is a conventional biochemical technique, since the skin itself plays a vital role in the body's physiology, consisting of dermis, epidermis and finishing with the stratum corneum that acts as an external barrier. However, various foreign agents, including microorganisms, rapidly penetrate the skin or are not resistant to external skin layers or, under certain conditions, have an effect on internal anomalies of the skin layers (3). Nanogel technology has also been taken into account for the treatment of various skin infections. Nanogels are highly biocompatible with a high loading potential for guest molecules, and their unique physical properties provide them with distinct advantages over other types of biomedical nano-materials(4) (5).

Antibacterial agents administered at the wound site are, in practice, an alternative to the use of systemic antibiotics in wound infection control. In the current scenario, nanogels play promising roles in the transmission of drugs such as anti-cancer, autoimmune, ophthalmic, antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory, protein and peptide drugs (6). Several nanogel-based formulations have been developed, such as the present study involving the development of a nanoemulsion-based nanogel Vitamin E TPGS formula for amphotericin B (AmB 923 Da), a high molecular weight medication intended for the effective treatment of fungal skin infections. (10) . Similarly, in a miniemulsion process, flexible polysaccharide nanogels were loaded with zinc ions as antibacterial agents to target methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) strains and this studied nanogel system shows potential for addressing bacterial infections locally The platform is extremely flexible and can be customized to the application as other polysaccharides can replace dextran and  $Zn(NO_3)_2$ . The platform is highly scalable and can be optimized for use, as dextran and  $Zn(NO_3)_2$  can be substituted by other polysaccharides (e.g. hyaluronic acid) and antibacterial agents, respectively.. (13) Furthermore, a groundbreaking feature in the formulation of a central calcium phosphate nanocarrier system called aquasome, capable of covering a mono or bi lamella of sugars such as trehalose or cellobiose on its surface, forms a sugar-coated nanocore capable of adsorbing the cephalosporin drug, an outstanding drug carrying technique. This is developed into suitable topical nanogelantibacterials.

The antibacterial feature of drug-loaded aqua nanogel was checked for the bacterial load of diabetic foot ulcer infection by agar well-diffusion against Gram-negative and Gram-positive organisms. The complete eradication of pathogens was shown by the inhibition region.

The results of this study showed that aqua nanogel can be a potential carrier for the treatment of diabetic foot ulcers with cephalosporin drugs targeting Gram-negative, Gram-positive multidrug-resistant microorganisms. The prepared NPs were considered stable as holding more than +50

mV positive zeta and showed size and shape homogeneity (15). Curcumin loaded chitin nanogels (CCNGs) were formulated using biocompatible and biodegradable chitin with a curcumin anticancer drug. Chitin is insoluble in water, as is curcumin. However, the formed CCNGs generate a very strong and stable dispersion in water. The CCNGs were analyzed by DLS, SEM and FTIR and showed spherical particles in the 70-80 nm size range. The CCNGs showed greater release at acidic pH compared to neutral pH. These findings indicate that the formulated CCNGs provide a specific benefit for the treatment of melanoma, the most common and dangerous type of skin cancer, through effective transdermal penetration (14). Because of their nano-size, CCNGs have certain unique properties that allow them to be used in a variety of biomedical applications. CCNGs are prepared by fundamental regeneration techniques without using any cross-linkers. Various polymers, drugs and fluorescent dyes can be mixed or incorporated or labelled by the chitin hydrogel network. Therefore, nanogels are now playing a major role for a few days in the treatment of various skin infections caused by different diseases. Curcumin loaded chitin nanogels (CCNGs) were developed using biocompatible and biodegradable chitin with an anti-cancer curcumin compound. In water, chitin is insoluble, as is curcumin. However, the formed CCNGs generate a very strong and stable dispersion in the water. The CCNGs were analyzed by DLS, SEM and FTIR, showing spherical particles in the 70-80 nm size range. The CCNGs showed greater release at acidic pH relative to neutral pH. The cytotoxicity of the nanogels was tested on human dermal fibroblast cells (HDF) cell lines and A375 (human melanoma) and the results indicate that in the 0.1-1.0 mg mL<sup>-1</sup> concentration range, CCNGs have clear melanoma toxicity, but less HDF cell toxicity. Confocal analysis confirmed the acceptance of CCNGs by A375. The apoptotic effect of CCNGs was examined by a flow cytometric assay and the results indicate that CCNGs showed similar apoptosis to that of control curcumin at higher cytotoxic range concentrations in which negligible apoptosis induced by control chitin nanogels was observed. The CCNGs showed a 4-fold increase in steady-state transdermal curcumin flux, in comparison with the control curcumin solution. Histopathological analyses have shown that the horny layer of the epidermis is loosened in porcine skin samples treated with prepared materials, allowing penetration without detecting any signs of inflammation. These results suggest that formulated CCNGs have a clear advantage for the treatment of melanoma, the most prevalent and dangerous type of skin cancer, through effective transdermal penetration.

## **PREPARATION**

Chitosan was degraded into low-molecular-weight chitosan using different quantities of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (LWCS). Then, different concentrations of tripolyphosphate (TPP) were applied to create nanochitosan. It addresses the impact of LWCS on the particle size of nanochitosan and zeta potential. The cross-linking was best when the LWCS/TPP mass ratio was approximately 5:2, at which nanochitosan particles formed and the zeta potential measured at this moment was minimal. The smaller molecular weight was equal to the nanoparticle's smaller size.

## **PROPERTIES OF CNGs**

A variety of naturally occurring polymers, synthetic polymers or a mixture thereof can be composed of nanogels. By varying the chemical composition of the nanogels, their features such as scale, charge, porosity, amphiphilicity, softness, and degradability can be fine-tuned. They are mainly spherical particles, but the recent development in synthetic strategies makes it possible to produce nanogels of various shapes[1,2]. In the presence of either bifunctional or multifunctional crosslinkers, they can also be built to have either a core-shell or a core-shell-reaction[21,22]. Conventional and controlled radical polymerization techniques allow nanogels with different compositions, dimensions and architectures to be prepared, including core-shell and hollow nanogel particles[23,24]. Furthermore, the use of functional initiators and macroinitiators enables functionalities to be integrated within or on the surface of nanogels, allowing multivalent bio-conjugation[25]. For the synthesis of nanogels from polymer precursors, a number of other crosslinking approaches have been developed, including click chemistry, Schiff-base reactions, thiol-disulfide exchange, amide crosslinking, photo-induced crosslinking, enzyme-mediated crosslinking, etc. In addition, the cross-linking reactions carried out on preformed self-assemblies of the core-shell, such as polymer micelles, allow a high degree of spatial organization to be incorporated into the nanogels[26,27]. The reader is led to an outstanding analysis written by Haag and colleagues for a detailed look at cross-linking strategies[28]. Recent developments in nanoscale manufacturing techniques have created more unique opportunities for high-throughput manufacturing of well-defined nanogels with precise control over size, shape, deformability and surface chemistry [29-31]. While physically interlinked systems are formed under mild conditions, they appear to be more fragile than their covalently interlinked counterparts because they are stabilized by relatively weak polymer chain interactions such as hydrogen bonding, hydrophobic interactions, or ionic interactions. Sasaki and Akiyoshi[32] have recently studied the use of hydrophobically modified polymers and other related polymers to prepare functional nanogels. Control over the particle size, which requires fine-tuning of polymer concentrations or environmental parameters such as temperature, pH and ionic strength, is one of the challenges in the formulation of nanogels by these polymers. A research by Nielsen and co-workers has shown that using a microfluidics-based approach[33] can overcome these challenges. Overall, advances in polymer chemistry have resulted in exceptional diversity and composition regulation. Crosslinked nanogels' design and functionality, which in turn offer more flexibility to tune their properties in order to comply with targeted biomedical applications. (2) prevent rapid degradation or metabolism, which is more applicable to biomolecules, particularly in the case of small molecules. Opsonization of the nanogels followed by their clearance through MPS organs such as the liver and the spleen, where they are taken up by resident monocytes and macrophages, is one of the most significant obstacles to achieving sustained circulation.

## **APPLICATIONS OF CNGs**

### **As a therapeutic drug carrier**

Nanogels are strongly swollen and 30 per cent wt can be added. Via electrostatic, van der Waals and/or hydrophobic interactions or covalent bonding with the polymer chains of biological molecules and drugs or more. The loading potential is unusually high and is higher than that of liposomes and polymer micelles[22,23].The nanogels collapse as a result of drug loading, creating stable nanoparticles in which the biological agent becomes trapped. In a nanogelstructure, the introduction of dispersing hydrophilic polymerwill prevent their aggregation. Hydrophilic polymer chains become exposed to the surface during the collapse of the drug-nanogel complex and form a protective layer around the nanogel.The control and flexibility of polymer chemistry enables a wide variety of drug formulations to be designed and multiple therapeutic loads to be used within the same nanogelcarrier[24,25]. For medication delivery applications, stimuli-responsive drug release via temperature or pH-induced volume collapse can also be very attractive.Furthermore, nanogel surface functionalization may promote their selective accumulation in the target tissue or cells[26-27]. The creation of nanogels that can hold, secure, target and release therapeutic agents in a spatially and temporally controlled manner is actively ongoing and can provide a forum for multiple applications through their logical nature.

### **Nanogels for small therapeutic molecule delivery**

Important progress has been made in applying nanogels as a delivery carrier for small biologically active molecules over the last few years. Via the combination of electrostatic and hydrophobic interactions as well as hydrogen-bond formation, nanogels can be a flexible medium for integrating different small drug molecules[28]In an aqueous environment, the swelling of nanogels allows for fast permeation of the loads. The logical design of nanogels may be an effective tool for modifying drug release speeds, influencing interactions between carrier cells, and achieving the drug's desirable therapeutic effect.The ability to integrate molecules with the opposite charge is one of the most significant features of weakly-crosslinked polyelectrolyte nanogels.

Due to the capacity of nanogels to encapsulate high quantities of biomacromolecules and prevent them from degradation, the delivery of proteins and peptides has also been widely explored.Akiyoshi et al. stated in their pioneering work that the nanogel of self-assembled cholesterol-modified pullulan (CHP) spontaneously forms a complex with different kinds of proteins, primarily through hydrophobic interactions [29,30]. The amount of protein compounded by these nanogels depends on the protein's molecular weight and hydrophobicity.The thermal denaturation and subsequent aggregation of proteins has been significantly suppressed by complexation and shielded from enzymatic degradation.

## **Nanogels for combination drug delivery**

Simultaneously targeting several pharmacological targets, drug formulations have the ability to significantly enhance patient response and are now routine clinical procedure in the treatment of cancer and infectious diseases. The difference in pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic profiles between diverse drug molecules, however, makes optimization of dosing and scheduling quite difficult. The combination of drugs in one delivery carrier is a well-suited technique for pharmacokinetics regulation and co-delivery in vivo of the desired drug ratio, and a number of nanoscale carriers, like nanogels, have been investigated in terms of their ability to deliver multiple drugs [31,32,33,34].

## **Nanogels as MR contrast agents**

Gadolinium (Gd) and manganese (Mn) dependent small molecule MR contrast agents are both quickly eliminated from the body and suffer from toxicity problems. [About 35,36]. Soleimani et al. prepared a nanogel to solve these challenges by copolymerizing, under free radical conditions, PEGMA, N-(2-aminoethyl)methacrylamide hydrochloride, and the crosslinker ethylene glycol dimethacrylate[37]. To obtain nanogels with a size on the order of 10 nm, the reaction conditions were optimized. For Gd insertion, an isothiocyanate derivative of the chelator DTPA was then conjugated to nanogel (III). Compared to clinically used Gd(III)-DTPA, the nanogel contrast agent reported a 5-fold improvement in relaxivity compared to clinically used Gd(III)-DTPA (Magnevist).

## **Nanogels for multimodal imaging agents**

Although it is possible to use a variety of imaging techniques to obtain comprehensive information about different body organs and tissues, each imaging modality has sensitivity or resolution limitations. Therefore, by synergetic multimodal imaging, the incorporation of multiple imaging agents with different properties into multifunctional nanoparticles may provide detailed information about existing pathological conditions. Nanogels are able to load more than one imaging/contrast agent inside the same carrier because of their specific multifunctionality, broad surface area and structural diversity, which can help realize this objective.[38]

## **STUDIES AND FINDINGS FOR OTHER NGs**

### **❖ Nanogels for bacterial skin infections:**



- In the treatment of infections caused by *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* bacteria, copper and silver nanoparticles have been shown to be used as a revolutionary process. The 10% benzalkonium chloride antibacterial ability would also enhance the antimicrobial function of silver and copper nanoparticles (7)
- To fight *Staphylococcus aureus* infections, advanced dextran-based nanogels have retained zinc release. Therefore, nanogels of polyacrylamide linked to dextran-cross have been successfully transferred into a nano-carrier device. Zinc nitrate has been incorporated into nanogels to serve as an anti-microbial agent (9)
- Synthesis of ZnO nanogels to treat superficial skin microbial(bacterial)infection. This study examines the choice of particles in the nanometer range & the consideration of dose plays in the nanometer range & the consideration of dose plays an important role in the effectiveness of the gel. The presence of nanoparticles has also been suggested to increase the UV action needed to kill biofilms on infected skin (13)

❖ **Nanogels for fungal skin infection:**

- Topical nanogel-filled miconazole has been successfully prepared using the modified emulsification-diffusion technique. In this preparation, DSC tests have shown that in the final nanogel formulation there was no crystalline drug structure, while FTIR experiments have shown that both the drug and the polymer have been incorporated into the prepared nanogel (8)
- Vitamin E TPGS based skin nanogel targeting a high molecular weight antifungal agent. The antifungal efficacy of the optimized nanogel formulation was tested using the micro dilution method in comparison to the marketed formulation and found to be 2.0 fold higher against *Aspergillus niger* and *Candida albicans*.
- The effect indicates the selling of the formulation. The result shows that the formulated nanogel formulation improves the distribution of AMB (10)  
One study aimed to investigate the value of nano-sized lecithin-based liquid crystalline nanogel to boost its physiochronic characteristics in applying its dermal applications in candidiasis (11)

❖ **Nanogels for diabetic related skin infection:**

- Cu/TiO<sub>2</sub>-SiO<sub>2</sub> nanogel treatment enhanced reepithelization and healing of diabetic foot ulcers. The positive outcome made it possible for the patients to avoid the suggested amputation.  
Production of second-generation nanogels filled with cephalosporin for topical applications for the treatment of diabetic foot ulcer to investigate its significance via sustained drug release against diabetic foot ulcer bacterial load, providing long periods of activity to improve wound healing (15)

❖ **Nanogel for skin infection caused by virus:**

In vitro release and anti-herpetic actions of cymbopogon citratus volatile oil-loaded nanogels. And it was measured that the antiviral activity of nanogels, at a concentration

of non-cytotoxic oil lower than that present in free volatile hydrogel oil, was able to suppress all viral strains (12)

### **Summary :**

Nanogels can be considered as suitable nano-medicine carriers compared to other nanoparticles, especially in terms of drug loading. Drug loading spontaneously occurs in nanogels. Compared to other conventional nanoparticles, nanogels allow much greater drug loading ( upto 50 percent of weight).When other medications do not scientifically display an impact in the treatment of Due to their adverse side effects, skin diseases nanogels yeild more powerful therapies as nano-medicine. Nanogels exhibit promising features such as high biodegradability, biocompatibility, drug loading capacity and good penetration power.

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