

Mirtazapine Loaded Solid and Liquid Self-Emulsifying Delivery System and Characterization with Neural Network Start (NNS) Modelling

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Abstract: Background: Mirtazapine (MTZ) is delivered via a self-emulsifying system (SEDDS) to treat depression by acting as an antagonist at multiple serotonin and adrenergic receptors. **Aim:** The goal of SEDDS formulation preparation is a 2-level factorial design using a selected combination of three components such as X1- surfactant and co-solvent (Smix) (Tween80&PEG400) at upper level 1:5 and lower level 1:1 ratio, X2- stirrer speed (rpm), X3- stirring time (min), and to evaluate the produced SEDDS. **Materials and methods:** The two-level factorial design with a Design Expert used in formulation assessed physicochemical features such as pseudo-ternary phase design, emulsification, phase separation, pH, percent transmittance, permeability studies, ex vivo drug release, liquid (LSEDDS) to solid SEDDS conversion, flow properties, entrapment efficiency, cloud point, drug excipient compatibility studies, stability studies, and optimization. **Results:** The Neural Network Start (NNS) was used in the optimization, feed-forward back propagation Levenberg-Marquardt Algorithm, and performance was measured using the mean square error (MSE). NNS with ten units of layer size provided a better fit for all responses ($R^2 = 0.99996, 0.999, \text{ and } 0.98$ for T100, T50, and PD 20) than multiple linear regression (MLR) ($0.9517, 0.9998, \text{ and } 0.7942$ for T100 (time required for 100% drug release), T50 (time required for 50% drug release), and PD 20 (percentage drug release 20 minutes), respectively). **Conclusion:** The dissolution of drug release in LSEDDS and SSEDSS is substantially better than in pure MTZ. LSEDDS and SSEDSS formulations demonstrated appropriate stability for 90 days according to ICH stability quality requirements, including emulsification time, phase separation, angle of repose, and drug content. The SEDDS were successfully designed to increase the oral bioavailability of MTZ, allowing for larger therapeutic applications.

Keywords: Mirtazapine, Surface adsorption, Stability, Flow properties, in vitro.

Introduction

Mirtazapine (MTZ), a BCS Class II medication, increases the release of norepinephrine and serotonin in the brain, as seen in Figure 1. It has also been shown to be an antagonist at various serotonin and adrenergic receptors [1, 4]. The recent literature review on various designs of MRT was significantly boosted in formulated aquasomes[5], co-processed excipients have considerable promise in increasing release[6], increased solubility of MTZ with improved percentage relative bioavailability to 153%[7], embedded in-gel demonstrated successful transdermal drug permeation[8], and floating sustained are reported[9]. SEDDS technology increased the solubility and the bioavailability of many weakly water-soluble medications. However, SEDDS as liquid formulations has various limitations, including low drug loading capacity, drug leakage, low stability, and a limited range of dose forms. To circumvent these restrictions, liquid SEDDS (L-SEDDS) can be changed to solid dosage forms using diverse procedures such as filling capsules with liquid or semi-solid SEDDS and adsorbing them to a solid carrier. A current literature study on various SEDDS is used to solve low bioavailability issues in poorly soluble and highly permeable compounds, according to in silico formulations,

increase cannabidiol bioavailability, atorvastatin adsorbed on solid carriers, hydrophobic drugs, ciprofloxacin, silymarin, cromolyn sodium, benznidazole, and hydrophobic drugs, allowing them to enter formulations by oral administration[10, 18]. The SEDDS formulation is administered in the GIT, where it comes into contact with GI fluid and forms a self-emulsion, resulting in drug solubilization. The current study's objective was to perform SEDDS formulation of MTZ and design statistically using a 2-level factorial design with a selected combination of three factors such as X1- concentration of surfactant and co-solvent (Smix) (Tween80&PEG400) at higher levels 1:5 and lower levels 1:1 ratio, X2- Stirrer speed (rpm) at higher levels 200rpm and lower levels 150rpm, and X3- Stirring Time (min) at higher levels (+) of 25 min. Furthermore, lower levels (-) of 15 min. (+) represent a higher level, (-) indicates a lower level, and Central (0) is shown in (Table 1). The individual and combination elements that significantly increase formulation performance are described [19, 24].

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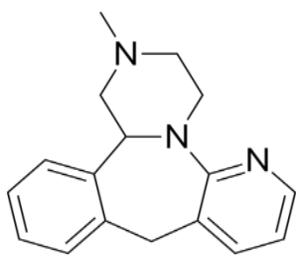


Figure (1): Structure Of MTZ.

Methods

Materials: Mirtazapine, A complimentary from Newland Pvt. Ltd. in Hyderabad, Tween 80 & PEG 400 was acquired from Merck Specialties Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai, and castor oil from Swastika Jaya Products, Bhimavaram.

Pseudo-Ternary Phase Design: The varied proportions of surfactants co-surfactant (Smix) (1:1, 1:2, 1:3, 1:4, and 1:5w/w) [45]. In brief, Smix and oil were mixed at varied volumes such as 1:9, 2:8, 3:7, 4:6, 5:5, 6:4, 7:3, 8:2, and 9:1 in the pre-weighed conical flask, oil- surfactant- co-surfactant with water under moderate stirring, equilibrated, observed visually and determined as being microemulsions and design by Ternaryplot.com [25].

Design of Experiments (DOE.): The SEDDS formulation has 3 factors and 2-levels factorial designs to find the individual combined response of additives on drug release. The concentrations of Smix (X1), Stirrer speed (X2), Stirring time (min) (X3). The effect of 3 factors on dependent variables (Y1: T100 (time required 100% drug release), (Y2: T50 (time required 50% drug release), and (Y3: PD20 (% drug release 20 min.) were studied using DOE, which was reported previously. The experiments are shown in (Table 1) [19, 24].

Table (1): Coded formulation for Mirtazapine as per Factorial design.

| Independent Variable | High Level(+) | Medium Level(0) | Low Level(-) |
|---------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|
| (X1) Smix(Tween80:PEG400) ratio | 1:5 | 1:3 | 1:1 |
| (X2) Stirrer Speed (Rpm) | 200 | 175 | 150 |
| (X3) Stirring Time (Min) | 25 | 20 | 15 |

Formulation of Liquid SEDDS (LSEDDS).

The required amounts of castor oil, tween80, and PEG400 were used. The PEG was in a beaker, slightly heated by a magnetic stirrer; castor oil was blended with tween 80, mixed thoroughly, and drug added (specified time & rpm). The total mixture was properly homogeneous [30, 33, 44].

Emulsification: A USP Type II was employed to investigate emulsification. 1 milliliter was added to 900 milliliters of distilled water at $37 \pm 0.50^\circ\text{C}$ and 100 rpm for agitation [34]. The visual performance of formulations was assessed, as shown in (Table 2).

Table (2): Emulsification Grading.

| Grade | Characteristic | Time(min) |
|-------|------------------------------------|-----------|
| A | Rapid Clear Appearance | 1 |
| B | slightly less clear emulsion | 1 |
| C | milky emulsion | 2 |
| D | slightly oily appearance | >2 |
| E | poor emulsification on the Surface | >2 |

Phase Separation Study: Formulations were diluted 100 times with distilled water. The tested formulations were maintained at 25°C for 24 hours and visually evaluated for phase separation.

pH: The pH was measured by accurately weighing 0.5 milliliter of a sample and 10 milliliters of water to dissolve the sample; the pH was determined at room temperature using a digital pHmeter. The performance friendliness and biological compatibility of this application are confirmed.

UVA analysis: To obtain 10-70 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ (microgram/milliliter), 10 milliliters (1 milliliter/ml) were transferred to a 100-milliliter volumetric flask and diluted with 0.1N hydrochloric acid buffer. The absorbance of these solutions was measured at 232nm with a UV (ELICO Double Beam SL 210) (n = 6).

Determination of Transmittance (%): It was diluted 100 times with water, and the % transmittance at 232 nm was measured with a UV spectrophotometer.

Ex-vivo drug release: A portion of female sheep skin was cut and inserted in the area between the donor and receptor compartments of the diffusion cell introducing M4 formulation, with the dorsal side up, 0.1 N Hydrochloric acid buffers were used as a dissolution media, with the temperature fixed at 32°C and the sample retrieved at appropriate time intervals (n=4). A UV at 232nm was used to analyze the sample.

Permeability studies: The chick's duodenum was isolated, and the tissue was extensively cleaned with Ringer's solution [46]. A syringe was used to inject the sample into the duodenum, and the two ends of the intestine were firmly connected before being placed in an organ bath with constant aeration and filled with 0.1N hydrochloric acid buffer, absorbance estimate by UV at 232 nm.

Conversion of LSEDDS to Solid SEDDS (SSEDDS): The SSEDDS was prepared by the Surface adsorption method by using solid carriers such as magnesium stearate, lactose, and talc for solidification. The solidification is performed using the surface adsorption method. An accurate quantity of lactose, approximately 5-5.5 gm, was mixed with LSEDDS volume 1 milliliter, with lactose acting as adsorbing agent in a vessel. The final formulation was uniformly homogenized; the mass was passed through sieve 12 and dried in the oven (Temp. $60-70^\circ\text{C}$).

Flow properties: The Flow properties were assessed by using an angle of repose (AR), Carr's index (CI), Bulk density (BD), true density (TD), and Hausner's ratio (HR), which were reported earlier [36-37].

Entrapment Efficiency (EE.): The formulation with 250 milliliters of water stirred for 10 minutes, and 2 milliliters of the sample was removed, centrifuged, and estimated using a UV. The EE was determined by

$$= \frac{\text{drug in formulation} \times 100}{\text{Drug added}}$$

Cloud Point: The formulations were diluted one-to-100 with distilled water, placed in a water bath at 37°C , and the temperature was gradually increased until cloudiness appeared [37].

Effect of Robustness: The LSEDDS were diluted in 0.1N hydrochloric acid 50, 100, 500, and 1000 times, and the mixtures were held for one day to observe phase separation. The LSEDDS was used to simulate the physiological dilution process following oral delivery.

FTIR: The FTIR samples were collected using the Kbr disc method on a Bruker ALPHA -, with a resolution of 1 cm^{-1} and a scanning range of $4000-600\text{ cm}^{-1}$.

In Vitro dissolution: The USP type II (LAB INDIA DS-8000) was utilized, and the SSEDDS were placed in hard gelatine capsules (size 00) and dissolved. As a dissolution media, 900 milliliter of 0.1N hydrochloric acid was kept at $37 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ and agitated at 50 rpm. The samples (5 milliliters) were taken at 10,

20, 30, 40, 50, and 60-minute intervals and replaced with an equivalent volume of 0.1N hydrochloric acid buffer and MTZ. Concentrations were measured by UV spectroscopy.

In Vitro/ Ex Vivo Correlation: Calculate between in vitro and ex vivo drug release profiles with M2 formulation release 100% within 40 min.

Globule size and Zeta potential determination Optimized formulae: In a glass beaker with constant stirring, 5 milliliters of each LSEDSS formulation were diluted with 250 milliliters of distilled water, and the globules formed and polydispersity index was assessed using a Zetasizer (Nano ZS).

Stability studies: The samples were stored for 90 days under accelerated circumstances (40 ± 2 °C, $75 \pm 5\%$ RH), and stability tests were performed on the emulsification, phase separation, angle of repose, and drug contents up to 90 days at the time of manufacturing and after processing [38].

Neural network start (NNS) modeling: Train a neural network with the backpropagation method Levenberg-Marquardt Algorithm used for the MATLAB Neural Network Toolbox learning process. The (X1) surfactant and co-solvent (Smix) (Tween80&PEG400), X2- Stirrer speed (rpm), X3- Stirring Time, three inputs, 3 output units T100 (Y1), T50 (Y2) and PD 20(Y3) were used in the developed networks. The optimum network model was explored with several trials, and training was considered to Mean square error; R^2 values were reached, and the appropriate network structure was determined [50, 52].

Statistical Analysis: The release kinetics were evaluated by using first & zero-order kinetic models reported [39, 43]. The Dissolution parameters were subjected to analysis of variance (ANOVA) by using DOE.

Table (13): Entrapment Efficiency & CPof formulations.

| Formulation | M1 | M2 | M3 | M4 | M5 | M6 | M7 | M8 | MCP |
|-------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| EE(%) | 81.22 | 83.44 | 84.11 | 85.15 | 85.336 | 87.12 | 88.54 | 87.10 | 81.90 |
| CP(°C) | 61.2 | 63.8 | 69.11 | 68.90 | 66.23 | 65.18 | 69.10 | 68.98 | 67.12 |

UV Analysis: Figure3 depicts the standard curve of 10 to 70 µg/milliliter, yielding the equation $y = 0.0128x + 0.005$ and an R^2 value of 0.9985 (Figure 3).

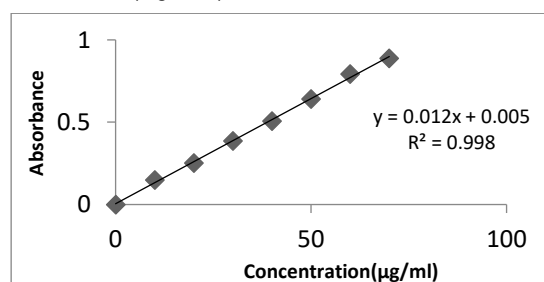


Figure (3): Calibration curve for the Estimation of Mirtazapine by using 0.1N Hydrochloric acid Buffer

%Transmittance: If the transmittance M1 to Mcp is greater than 90%, formulations have a transparent; the findings of a percentage transmittance value more than 90% indicate their clarity; this could be owing to the smaller globule size, which increases the emulsion's transparency, the high capacity with led to increased bioavailability.

EX -VIVO drug release: The Ex -vivo drug release LSEDSS were studied (M4) 100% of drug release within 40 min (Figure7).

Results

SEDSS, when introduced into aqueous media from an o/w emulsion, because of good agitation of the surfactant and co-solvent absorbed at the interface, reducing interfacial tension. The ternary phase diagrams were created in order to locate the self-emulsifying zone.

Emulsification studies (ES.): The formulation M3 (35sec), M4 (25sec), and M7 (23sec) rapidly formed an emulsion with a clear appearance assessed as grade-A. The formulations M1 (50 sec), M2 (55 sec), and M5 (56sec) rapidly form a slightly less clear emulsion with a white appearance exhibiting grade -B. The M6 (1.12min) and M8 (1.40 min) form a fine milky emulsion that exhibits grade -C.

pH: The pH of all prepared LSEDSS was 5.0 – 6.3, as shown in (Table 4).

Table (4): pH of various LSEDSS formulations.

| FORMULATION | pH |
|-------------|-----|
| M1 | 5.0 |
| M2 | 6.1 |
| M3 | 5.4 |
| M4 | 6.2 |
| M5 | 6.3 |
| M6 | 5.4 |
| M7 | 5.3 |
| M8 | 5.5 |
| MCP | 6.2 |

Cloud Point Measurement (CP.): Non-ionic surfactants, Smix ratios, and drug hydrophobicity influence the CP in SEDSS formulations. The CP reach, a further increase in temperature can cause phase separation (PS) in formulations containing non-ionic surfactants, dehydration of polyethylene oxide, and can affect the drug absorption. The CP of formulations 61.2 to 69.11°C is shown in (Table13).

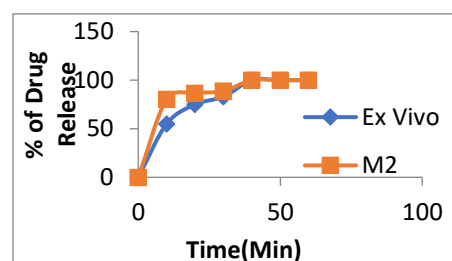


Figure (7): Comparison of Dissolution Profile of Ex Vivo (LSEDSS (M4) and SEDSS (M2).

Flow properties

AR: The AR for all the formulations was 14.3 – 30.0, showing excellent flow properties.

b) **BD.:** The BD of all the formulations was found to be 0.45 – 0.55 (gm/cc). c) **TD.:** The TD of all the formulations was found to be in the range of 0.59 – 0.95 (gm/cc) d) **CI:** The CI of all the formulations was found to be in the range of 10.16 – 26.2% are shown in good to fair to passable, e) **HR:** The HR of all the formulations was found to be in the range of 1.11 – 1.43 respectively are shown in good to fair to passable.

EE.: The EE of all formulations of SEDSS was greater than 80%, so the drug content fulfillable claims shown in (Table13).

In Vitro Dissolution: The drug release from different formulation M1 100% drug release until 30mins, M2 100% drug release until 40mins, M3 100% drug release until 60mins, M4

100% drug release until 40mins, M5 100% drug release until 50mins, M6 100% drug release until 60mins, M7 100% drug release until 60mins, M8 100% drug release until 30mins, Mcp 100% drug release until 50mins. The results collected from in-vitro drug release investigations are applied to the mechanism of

Table (6): Dissolution Parameters of prepared SSEDSS.

| Formulation | T100 (min) | T50 (min) | r'(Correlation Coefficient) | | K _i | PD20 |
|-------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------------------|-------------|----------------|-------|
| | | | Zero order | First order | | |
| M1 | 30 | 8 | 0.7553 | 0.8777 | 0.221 | 96.57 |
| M2 | 40 | 6.5 | 0.7592 | 0.9450 | 0.039 | 86.6 |
| M3 | 60 | 13 | 0.7076 | 0.7476 | 0.027 | 75.8 |
| M4 | 40 | 5.5 | 0.6695 | 0.8639 | 0.147 | 97.9 |
| M5 | 40 | 25.5 | 0.8702 | 0.8739 | 0.00012 | 20.8 |
| M6 | 60 | 12.5 | 0.7306 | 0.8730 | 0.009 | 80.64 |
| M7 | 60 | 6 | 0.7076 | 0.8534 | 0.078 | 92.02 |
| M8 | 30 | 20 | 0.6624 | 0.8348 | 0.064 | 97.80 |
| MCP | 50 | 11.5 | 0.7815 | 0.9349 | 0.020 | 81.99 |

Design of Experiments: The impact of important factors on the T100 (Time for 100% release), T50 (Time for 50% release), and PD 20 (% release 20 min) SSEDSS was investigated using the 2-level factorial design. The responses T100, T50, and PD20 were found to be in the ranges of 30.0 to 60.0 min, 6.0 to 25.5, and 20.8 to 97.9% due to factors of variables. The contour plots and 3D surface plots are shown in (Figure8), (Figure 9) & (Figure10).

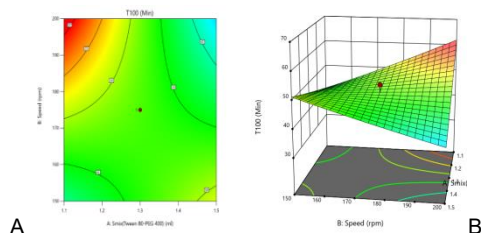


Figure (8): A. Counter plots of T100 B. 3D Surface Plots.

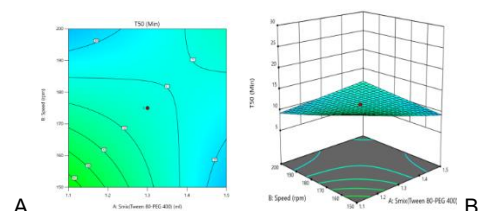


Table (8): Analysis of Variance of T100

| Source | SS | df | MSS | F | p | Remarks |
|--------------------------|--------|----|--------|--------|--------|-------------|
| Model | 6.68 | 7 | 0.9543 | 14.07 | 0.0051 | Significant |
| A-Smix(Tween 80-PEG 400) | 0.5875 | 1 | 0.5875 | 8.66 | 0.0321 | |
| B-Speed | 0.0569 | 1 | 0.0569 | 0.8394 | 0.4016 | |
| C-Time | 0.5875 | 1 | 0.5875 | 8.66 | 0.0321 | |
| AB | 3.40 | 1 | 3.40 | 50.07 | 0.0009 | |
| AC | 0.1300 | 1 | 0.1300 | 1.92 | 0.2249 | |
| BC | 1.86 | 1 | 1.86 | 27.49 | 0.0033 | |
| ABC | 0.0569 | 1 | 0.0569 | 0.8394 | 0.4016 | |
| Residual | 0.3392 | 5 | 0.0678 | | | |
| Lack of Fit | 0.3392 | 1 | 0.3392 | | | |
| Pure Error | 0.0000 | 4 | 0.0000 | | | |
| Cor Total | 7.02 | 12 | | | | |

Table (9): Analysis of Variance of T50

| Source | Sum of Squares | df | Mean Square | F-value | p | Remark |
|--------------------------|----------------|----|-------------|---------|----------|-------------|
| Model | 6.98 | 7 | 0.9973 | 3367.53 | < 0.0001 | Significant |
| A-Smix(Tween 80-PEG 400) | 0.1328 | 1 | 0.1328 | 448.50 | < 0.0001 | |
| B-Speed | 0.1487 | 1 | 0.1487 | 502.23 | < 0.0001 | |
| C-Time | 2.18 | 1 | 2.18 | 7368.30 | < 0.0001 | |
| AB | 0.8163 | 1 | 0.8163 | 2756.24 | < 0.0001 | |
| AC | 0.5241 | 1 | 0.5241 | 1769.76 | < 0.0001 | |
| BC | 0.6252 | 1 | 0.6252 | 2111.14 | < 0.0001 | |
| ABC | 2.55 | 1 | 2.55 | 8616.56 | < 0.0001 | |

drug release from SSEDSS, such as the zero-order, first-order kinetic model (Table 6). The formulations' correlation coefficient was larger when fitted to the first-order equation, indicating that the first-order release occurs in all formulations.

Figure (9): A. Counter plots of T50 B. 3D Surface Plots of T50

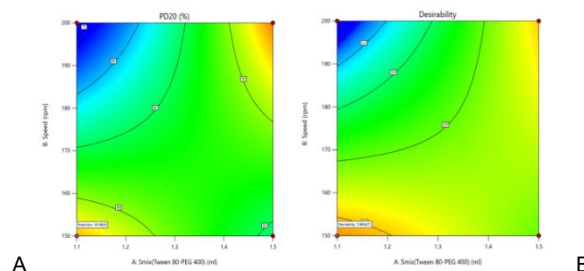


Figure (10): A. Counter Plot of Optimized PD20 B. Desirability Plot

The adequacy of the replies was validated by the ANOVA and statistical parameters ($p < 0.05$) significant displayed in (Table 8), (Table 9), Table (10) and (Table12), which also highlights the major variables on the development of the SEDDS responses T100, T50, and PD20.

| Source | Sum of Squares | df | Mean Square | F-value | p | Remark |
|-------------|----------------|----|-------------|---------|---|--------|
| Residual | 0.0015 | 5 | 0.0003 | | | |
| Lack of Fit | 0.0015 | 1 | 0.0015 | | | |
| Pure Error | 0.0000 | 4 | 0.0000 | | | |
| Cor Total | 6.98 | 12 | | | | |

Table (12): Analysis of Variance of PD2O.

| Source | Sum of Squares | df | Mean Square | F-value | p-value | Remark |
|--------------------------|----------------|----|-------------|---------|---------|-------------|
| Model | 0.0126 | 7 | 0.0018 | 2.76 | <0.1410 | Significant |
| A-Smix(Tween 80-PEG 400) | 0.0008 | 1 | 0.0008 | 1.20 | 0.3233 | |
| B-Speed | 0.0008 | 1 | 0.0008 | 1.17 | 0.3290 | |
| C-Time | 0.0000 | 1 | 0.0000 | 0.0403 | 0.8488 | |
| AB | 0.0048 | 1 | 0.0048 | 7.32 | 0.0425 | |
| AC | 0.0003 | 1 | 0.0003 | 0.4450 | 0.5343 | |
| BC | 0.0041 | 1 | 0.0041 | 6.33 | 0.0535 | |
| ABC | 0.0018 | 1 | 0.0018 | 2.80 | 0.1554 | |
| Residual | 0.0033 | 5 | 0.0007 | | | |
| Lack of Fit | 0.0033 | 1 | 0.0033 | | | |
| Pure Error | 0.0000 | 4 | 0.0000 | | | |
| Cor Total | 0.0159 | 12 | | | | |

The mathematical equations for the replies were calculated in terms of coded factors and are given in Equations (1)-(III). The positive sign indicates a synergistic; a negative sign indicates an opposed effect.

$$(Y1) \text{ Sqrt}(T100) = +6.86676 - 0.27099 X1 + 0.0843624 X2 + 0.27099 X3 - 0.651548 X1X2 - 0.12747 X1X3 - 0.482823 X2X3 - 0.0843624 X1X2X2 \text{-----I}$$

$$(Y2) \text{ Sqrt}(T50) = +3.36289 - 0.128854 X1 - 0.136355 X2 + 0.522277 X3 + 0.31943 X1X2 + 0.255961 X1X3 - 0.27956 X2X3 + 0.564786 X1X2X3 \text{-----II}$$

$$(Y3) \text{ Log}_{10}(\text{PD}20) = +1.93384 + 0.00991135 X1 + 0.0097821 X2 - 0.00181686 X3 + 0.0244812 X1X2 + 0.00603594 X1X3 + 0.0227592 X2X3 - 0.0151283 X1X2X3 \text{----III}$$

Above coded equation shown, Equation –I, In the instance of Y1, X1 demonstrated an opposite effect and X2, X3 demonstrated an enhanced effect; Equation –II- in the case of Y2, X1, and X2 demonstrated the opposite, and X3 demonstrated an enhance; and equation –III- in the case of Y3, X1, X2, and X3 demonstrated opposites. The Y1 stirrer speed (rpm) and stirring time play an important role; however, Y2 stirring time plays a significant role, and Y3, Smix(Tween80:PEG400) concentrations and stirrer speed plays an important role, in the case of Y1, as the concentration of Smix(Tween80:PEG400) reduced, stirrer speed and stirring time increased. In the case of T50, as the concentration of Smix(Tween80:PEG400) was reduced, the stirrer speed was reduced, and the stirring time increased [49]. In the case of PD 20, as the concentration of Smix(Tween80:PEG400) increases, the stirrer speed increases, and the stirring time decreases. The summary (Table 11) Correlation coefficient (R^2), Coefficient variance (CV %), Standard deviation, and Adeq. Precision relative to its obtained from the best fitting MLR models.

Table (11): R^2 , Coefficient variance (CV %), Standard deviation and Adeq. Precision.

| Response | R^2 | CV % | Std. Dev. | Adeq Precision |
|----------|--------|--------|-----------|----------------|
| T100 | 0.9517 | 3.79 | 0.2604 | 11.1045 |
| T50 | 0.9998 | 0.5117 | 0.0172 | 200.3358 |
| PD20 | 0.7942 | 1.32 | 0.0256 | 5.5343 |

Permeability studies: The total percentage release was substantially higher for the SEDDS; within one hour, 90.5% of the medication was dispersed from the LSEDDS.

Drug excipient compatibilities: The FTIR spectrum of Mirtazapine is shown in (Figure 4), with characteristic peaks observed at 3615 cm^{-1} (N-H stretch), 3218 cm^{-1} , 2935 cm^{-1} (C-H stretch), 2362 cm^{-1} (C-C stretch), 1572 cm^{-1} (N-H bending), 1427 cm^{-1} (C-H bend plane), 1270 cm^{-1} , 951 cm^{-1} (C-O stretch), 822 cm^{-1} , 756 cm^{-1} (Due to N-H rocking), 699 cm^{-1} , 655 cm^{-1} (Due to C-H rocking), confirming the drug structure.

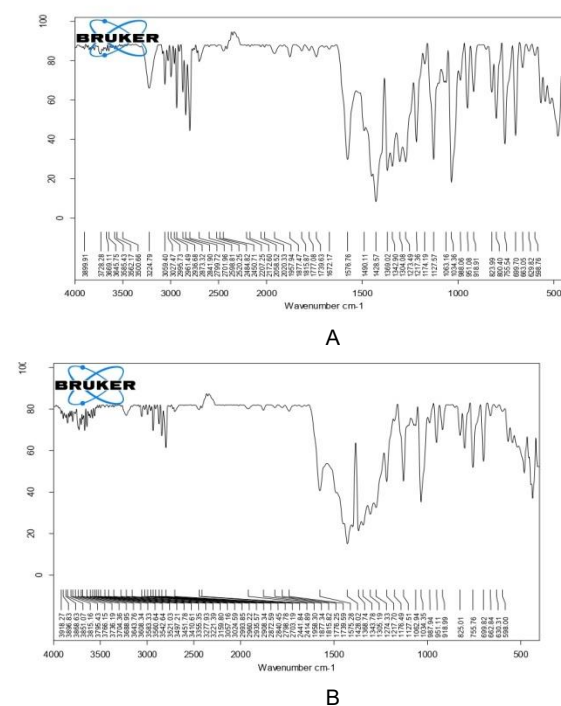


Figure (4): FTIR Spectrum of A. Pure drug B. Pure drug with Excipients.

In Vitro/ Ex Vivo Correlation: Ex Vivo (M2) and M2 SSEDs were $R^2 = 0.9250$ and $R^2 = 0.9316$, respectively. The model showed higher data fitting for the curved form (Figure 7).

Globule size and zeta potential: SEDDS were distinguished by droplet sizes less than 400 nm, and globule size and polydispersity index (PDI) were determined to be 329.1 nm and 0.283, respectively. After dilution with water, a PDI of less than 0.3 indicates good consistency in the globule size distribution.

Stability: Furthermore, the self-emulsification was proven to have maintained its initial state when the LSEDDS formulation was dispersed in distilled water for 90 days; the angle of repose

exhibited excellent flow, and drug content was $97 \pm 5\%$, but the dispersion remained stable (Table 7).

Table (7): Stability studies of LSEDDS and SSEDSS for Emulsification, Phase separation, angle of repose and drug content after 3 Months (n=3).

| Formulation | LSEDDS | | SSEDSS | |
|-------------|---------------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| | Emulsification Time (Min) | Phase Separation | Angle of repose(0) | Drug Content (%) |
| M1 | <1 | No | 26 | 98.1 |
| M2 | <1 | No | 27.1 | 99.10 |
| M3 | <1 | No | 28.2 | 98.11 |
| M4 | <1 | No | 29.0 | 97.17 |
| M5 | <1 | No | 28.1 | 99.10 |
| M6 | <1 | No | 26.8 | 98.13 |
| M7 | <1 | No | 28.9 | 99.38 |
| M8 | <1 | No | 29.1 | 98.88 |
| MCP | <1 | No | 29.9 | 99.10 |

Discussion

The phase diagram increase in the self-emulsifying zone is shown in (Figure 2).

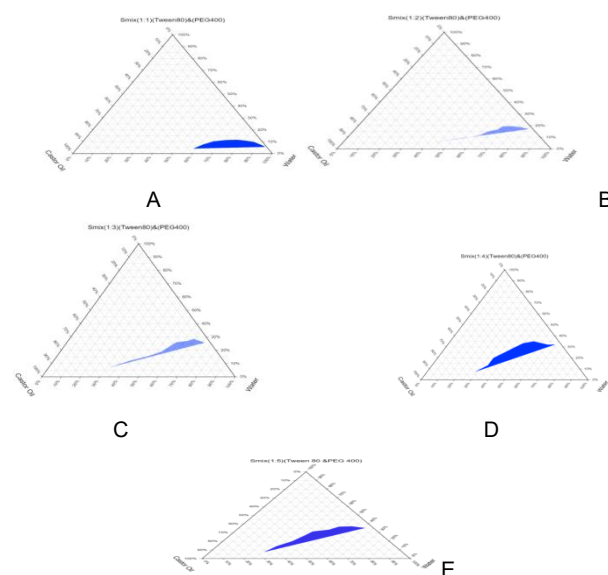
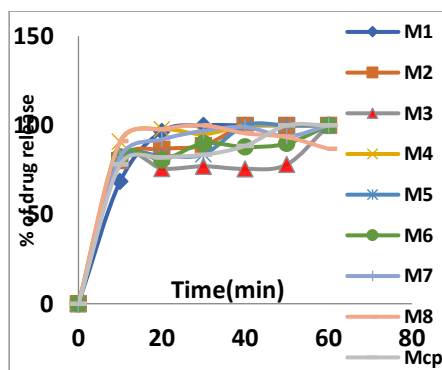


Figure (2): Construction of Ternary Phase diagram with Castor oil, Smix and water system A. 1:1(Oil: Smix), B. 1:2(Oil: Smix) C. 1:3(Oil: Smix) D. 1:4 (Oil: Smix) E. 1:5(Oil: Smix) ratio's.

Table (5): Flow properties various formulations of SSEDSS (M1-Mcp).

| Property | M1 | M2 | M3 | M4 | M5 | M6 | M7 | M8 | Mcp |
|------------------|-------|-------|------|------|--------|-------|------|------|--------|
| AR | 30 | 27.3 | 26.3 | 22.1 | 18.2 | 19.1 | 14.3 | 16.1 | 25.64 |
| BD (gr/cc) | 0.494 | 0.55 | 0.54 | 0.54 | 0.53 | 0.45 | 0.46 | 0.6 | 0.5 |
| TD (gr/cc) | 0.63 | 0.70 | 0.75 | 0.75 | 0.59 | 0.61 | 0.62 | 0.8 | 0.64 |
| Carr's index (%) | 22% | 21.4% | 28% | 28% | 10.16% | 26.2% | 25% | 25% | 21.87% |
| HR | 1.28 | 1.27 | 1.43 | 1.38 | 1.11 | 1.35 | 1.33 | 1.33 | 1.28 |
| LF | 0.18 | 0.16 | 0.16 | 0.15 | 0.13 | 0.12 | 0.14 | 0.15 | 0.12 |

The release of MTZ from optimized SSEDSS is illustrated in (Figure 5) & (Figure 6) drug release was greatly increased in formulation SEDDS compared to pure drugs.



The diagrams were concentration of castor oil, Tween 80 & PEG 400 to identify pseudo ternary phase diagram was marked in blue color, best self-emulsifying of 1:5 castor oil, tween 80 & PEG 400 were selected for future studies. The surfactant reduces the interfacial tension between the oil and aqueous phase and facilitates the dispersion and formulation of the o/w system; ESis shown in (Table 3).

Table (3): Emulsification study of different LSEDDS

| Formulation | Grade | Emulsification time (Min. Sec) |
|-------------|-------|--------------------------------|
| M1 | B | 0.50 |
| M2 | B | 0.55 |
| M3 | A | 0.35 |
| M4 | A | 0.25 |
| M5 | B | 0.56 |
| M6 | C | 1.12 |
| M7 | A | 0.23 |
| M8 | C | 1.40 |
| MCP | B | 0.53 |

The CP of all formulations was greater than 37°C , indicating that they will be stable in vivo. The results of a percentage transmittance value greater than 90% suggest their clarity; this might be due to the smaller globule size, raising the transparency of the emulsion. The Ex -vivo drug release LSEDDS were studied (M4) 100% of drug release within 50 min shown in (Figure 7). The flow properties are shown in (Table 5).

Figure (5): Mean Dissolution Profile of SSEDSS (\pm SD).

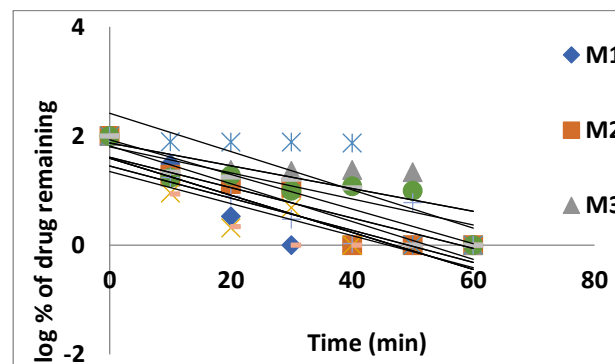


Figure (6): First orders Dissolution Profile of SSEDSS.

The other kinetic parameters, such as T100, T50, and PD20 were shown in (Table 6). The desirability value was 0.8634,

as shown in Figure10, and independent variables such as X1, X2, and X3 were found in 1:3 ratios Smix,175rpm, and 20 min, and Y1, Y2, and Y3 were 31.48 min, 8.04 min, and 93.9828%, respectively, SEDDSs were formulation achieved biopharmaceutical consideration was reported [42, 45].The optimized product is shown in (Figure11). The zeta potentials may be regarded as stable if their negative zeta potential was more than -25 mV; SSEDDS had a zeta potential of -26.1 mV, indicating a stable formulation of produced SMEDDS.

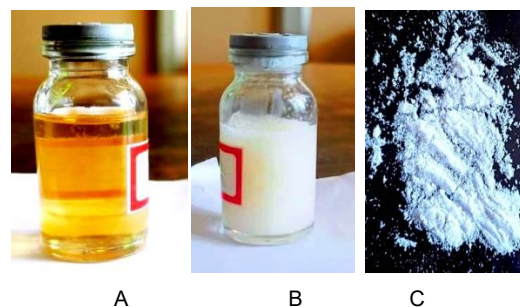


Figure (11): Optimized A. LSEDDS B. After dilution C. Solid state.

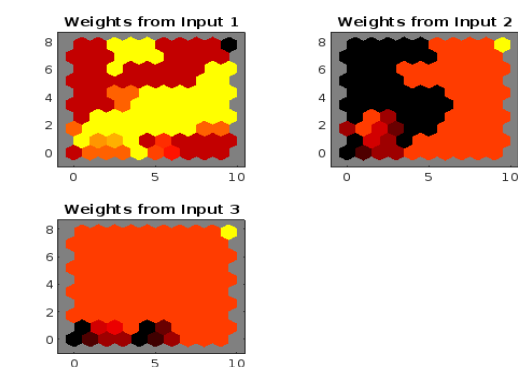
Confirmation of the Results

The results were confirmed with a 95% confidence level, as shown in Table 10, which displays the results. Using a factorial design, the researchers created MTZ-loaded SEDDS with low values of all formulation factors T100, T50, and PD20.

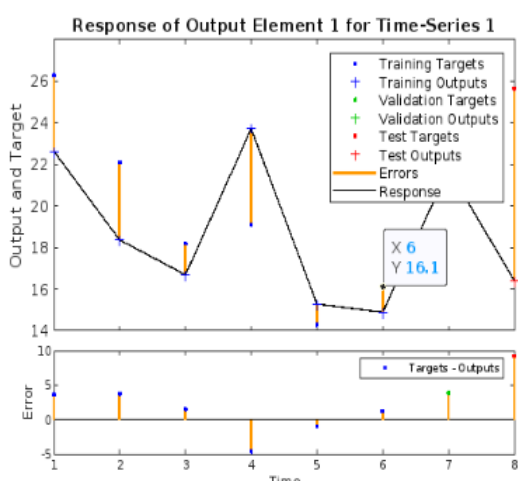
Table (10): Confirmation of the Results.

| Solution 1 of 59 Response | Predicted Mean | Predicted Median* | Std Dev | 95% CI low for Mean | 95% CI high for Mean | 95% TI low for 99% Pop | 95% TI high for 99% Pop |
|---------------------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------|---------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| T100† | 31.4829 | 31.4151 | 2.9211 | 24.5874 | 39.2319 | 13.6256 | 56.5286 |
| T50† | 8.0481 | 8.0478 | 0.0976416 | 7.80507 | 8.29485 | 7.34637 | 8.78121 |
| PD20† | 93.9828 | 93.8197 | 5.5433 | 81.0698 | 108.952 | 60.8478 | 144.658 |

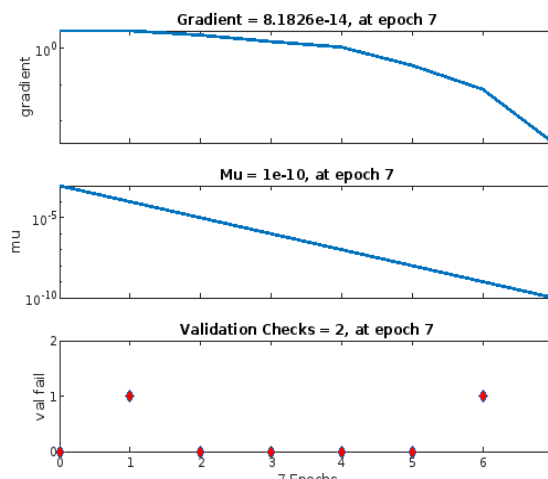
Artificial Neural Network applications: Levenberg-Marquardt Algorithm Learning method neural network fitting results are given in (Figure 12).



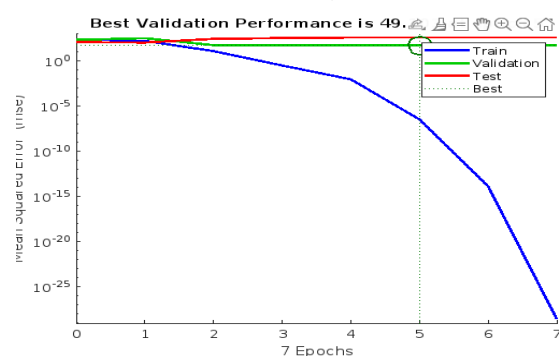
A. Weight planes plot



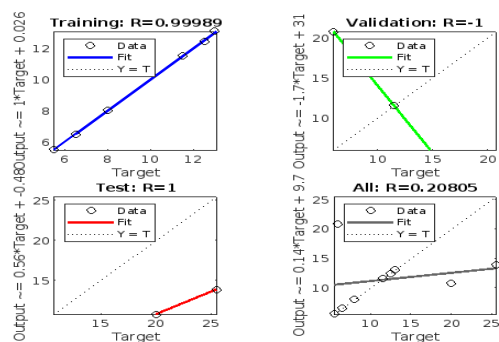
B. Response plot



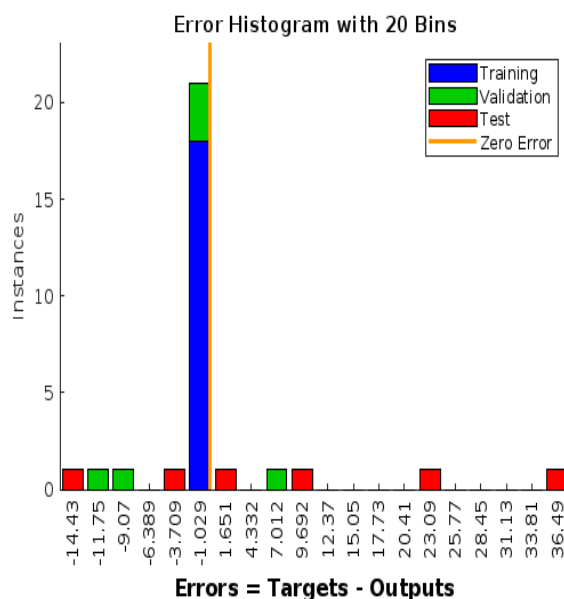
C. Training state plot



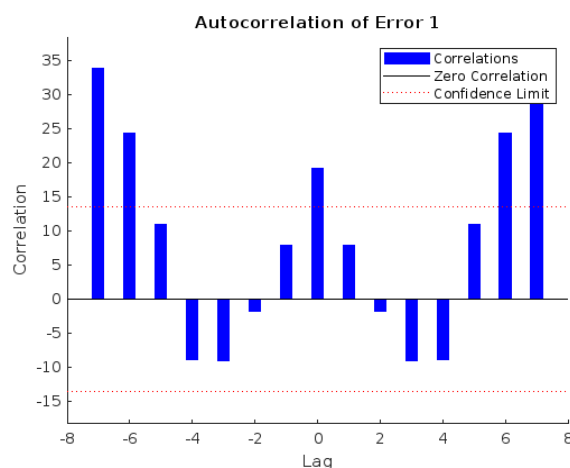
D. Performance Plot



E. Regression Plot



F. Error histogram Plot



G. Error Auto Correction Plot

Figure (12): Results of NNS modeling Levenberg-Marquardt learning method.

A. Weight planes plot B. Response plot C. Training state plot D. Performance Plot E. Regression Plot F. Error histogram Plot G. Error Auto correction Plot

Comparison of NNS and MLR Models: To compare examined models, results indicated a better predictive ability than the MLR model with R^2 of 0.99996, 0.999, and 0.98 for T100, T50, and PD 20, respectively, compared to the multiple linear regression MLR models 0.9517, 0.9998, 0.7942 for T100, T50 and PD 20 respectively.

Conclusion

The LSEDDS with castor oil as the oil phase, tween80 as the surfactant, and PEG400 as co-surfactant were developed; an attempt has been made to develop lactose as an effective carrier for SSEDSS, lactose to be an effective carrier for SSEDSS exhibit excellent EE& micrometric properties. Based on emulsification, drug release from Ex-vivo and in vitro studies was finally successfully performed using factorial design. The SEDDS system has promising potential in enhancing the oral bioavailability of BCS Class II drugs. The NNS modeling with good prediction capability has been developed.

Disclosure Statement

- **Ethics approval and consent to participate:** Not applicable
- **Consent for publication:** The authors give the Publisher the Author's Permission to publish the Work
- **Availability of data and materials:** All data generated for this study is included in the article.
- **Author's contribution:** Taraka Ramarao Challa.; conceptualization, writing-original draft, data curation, formal analysis, investigation, methodology, project administration, resources, visualization, and writing review & editing, Krishnaveni Akula.; writing review & editing, Kiranmai; methodology, Manisha; visualization, Jayasri; formal analysis, Narendra; project administration, resources, Manikantha; visualization, Tulasi; visualization, Raghunadha; Gupta software, supervision and validation.
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