

Semisolid dosage form Ointment ,  
gel

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# Semisolid dosage form

- **INTRODUCTION**

- Pharmaceutical semisolid dosage preparations consist of ointments, pastes, creams, plasters, gels, and rigid foams. These preparations contain active ingredients that are dissolved or uniformly dispersed in a suitable base. In addition, they may also contain excipients, such as emulsifiers, viscosity increasing agents, anti-microbial agents, antioxidants, and stabilizing agents.

# DEFINITION

- Semi-solid formulations are a type of topical medication used for therapeutic, protective, or cosmetic purposes. These can be administered topically or via other routes such as nasal, vaginal, or rectal application.

## Advantage of semi-solid dosage form:

- The drug is applied externally.
- The likelihood of side effects can be minimized.
- It bypasses initial digestion in the gut and liver.
- The drug acts directly on the affected area, targeting a specific site.
- It is a viable option for patients who cannot take medication orally.
- It is a preferred dosage form for bitter-tasting drugs.
- It is more stable than liquid formulations.

## Disadvantages of semi-solid dosage form:

1. This type of dosage form lacks dosage accuracy.
2. The semi-solid dosage form's base is prone to oxidation.
3. They have a tendency to cause staining and are difficult to handle due to their bulkiness.
4. Finger application may lead to contamination.
5. Compared to solid dosage forms, they are physico-chemically less stable.
6. Certain patients may experience irritation or allergies.

# IDEAL PROPERTIES OF SEMISOLIDS

- **PHYSICAL PROPERTIES:**
- Texture is smooth.
- Appearance is elegant
- Does not cause dehydration
- Not gritty
- Not greasy or staining Does
- not absorb moisture
- (non-hygroscopic)

# IDEAL PROPERTIES OF SEMISOLIDS

- **PHYSIOLOGICAL PROPERTIES**

- Non-irritating: Does not cause irritation Non-altering:  
Does not affect membrane or skin function
- Skin secretions are miscible
- have a low sensitization index

- **APPLICATION PROPERTIES**

This product is characterized by its ease of application, efficient drug release, and high ability to be washed in aqueous solutions.

# PREPARATION OF SEMISOLIDS DOSAGE FORMS

## INGREDIENTS USED IN PREPARATION:

- Bases
- Preservative
- Humectants
- Antioxidants
- Emulsifier
- Gelling agent
- Permeation enhancer
- Buffers





# 1. BASES:

- One of the most vital ingredients in the development of semisolid dosage forms is ointment bases. These bases not only serve as carriers for medications, but they also regulate the absorption levels of the medications they contain.

# 1. BASES:

## IDEAL PROPERTIES OF A BASE:

They should be:

1. Inert, non-irritating, and non-sensitizing
2. Compatible with skin pH and medication
3. Functions as a good solvent and/or emulsifying agent
4. Provides emollient and protective effects, without being greasy or difficult to remove
5. Allows for quick release of medication at the intended site of application
6. Has a pharmaceutical elegance and maintains good stability.

# CLASSIFICATION OF

## **BASES :**

The USP categorizes Ointment bases into four broad groups: hydrocarbon bases (also known as oleaginous bases) which include Petrolatum, Paraffin, Lanolin, and others; absorption bases, such as cold cream and anhydrous lanolin; water-removable bases that consist of oil in water; and water-soluble bases which are made up of polyethylene glycol.

# ANTIOXIDANTS :

Oxygen is an atom that is extremely reactive and can easily become a part of harmful molecules known as "free radicals". These free radicals are capable of damaging healthy cells, resulting in the loss of their structure and function. To avoid this, antioxidants like Butylated hydroxy anisole and Butylated hydroxy toluene are used.

## PERMEATION ENHANCERS :

- The skin has the ability to act as a barrier, but the use of different penetration enhancers can enhance drug penetration through the skin.
- **Oleic acid**

## EMULSIFIER :

- An emulsifier (emulgent) is a substance that stabilizes an emulsion by increasing its kinetic stability.
  - Must reduce surface tension for proper emulsification.
  - Prevents coalescence.
  - Ability to increase the viscosity at low concentration.

- Emulsifying agents

- Sodium lauryl sulfate :O/W emulsion

- Sodium stearate and calcium stearate.

- Glyceryl monostearate: weak W/O emulsifying agents and used as stabilization agents and emollient in the O/W emulsion.

## HUMECTANT:

A humectant is a hygroscopic substance, Humectants are used to :

- increase the solubility of the active ingredient to elevate its
- skin penetration.
- elevate the hydration of the skin.

## BUFFERS:

Buffers are added for various purpose such as :

- Compatibility with skin.
  - Drug solubility.
  - Drug stability.
  - Influence ionization of drug. Skin, due to its weak acidic nature, tolerates weak acidic preparations.
- 
- E.g. sodium acetate, sodium citrate, potassium



- Antimicrobial preservatives

-To inhibit the growth of contaminating microorganisms, So require the addition of chemical antimicrobial preservatives to the formulation

-E.G. para-hydroxybenzoates (parabens), phenols, benzoic acid, sorbic acid, quaternary ammonium salts and other compounds.

# 1- Ointments

- Ointments are homogenous, translucent, viscous semi-solid preparations, most commonly a greasy, thick oil (oil 80% - water 20%) intended for external application to the skin or mucous membrane. They are used as:
  - Emollients
  - Protective
  - Therapeutic
  - Prophylactic purpose

# *Classification of ointments*

## A- Epidermic ointments

- These ointments are intended to produce their action **on the surface of the skin** and produce local effect, they are not absorbed.
- They act as protectives, antiseptics and parasiticides.

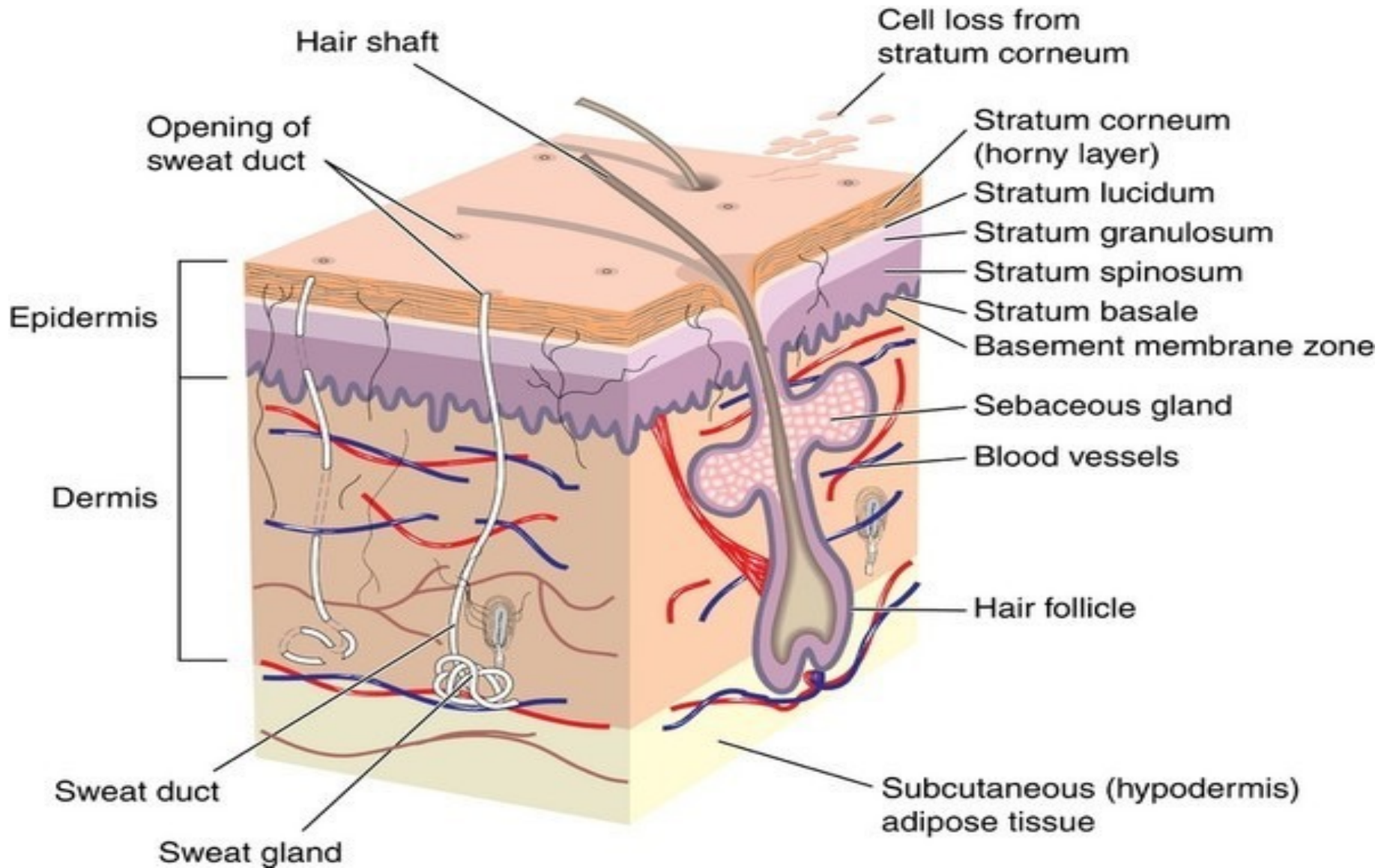
## B- Endodermic ointments

- These ointments are intended to release the medicaments that **penetrate into the skin**. They are partially absorbed and act as emollients, stimulants and local irritants.

## C- Diadermic ointments

- These ointments are intended to release the medicaments that pass through the skin and produce **systemic effects**.

# Anatomy of skin



## Preparation of Ointments

- Both on a large and a small scale, ointments are prepared by three

general methods:

(1) incorporation method

(2) fusion method

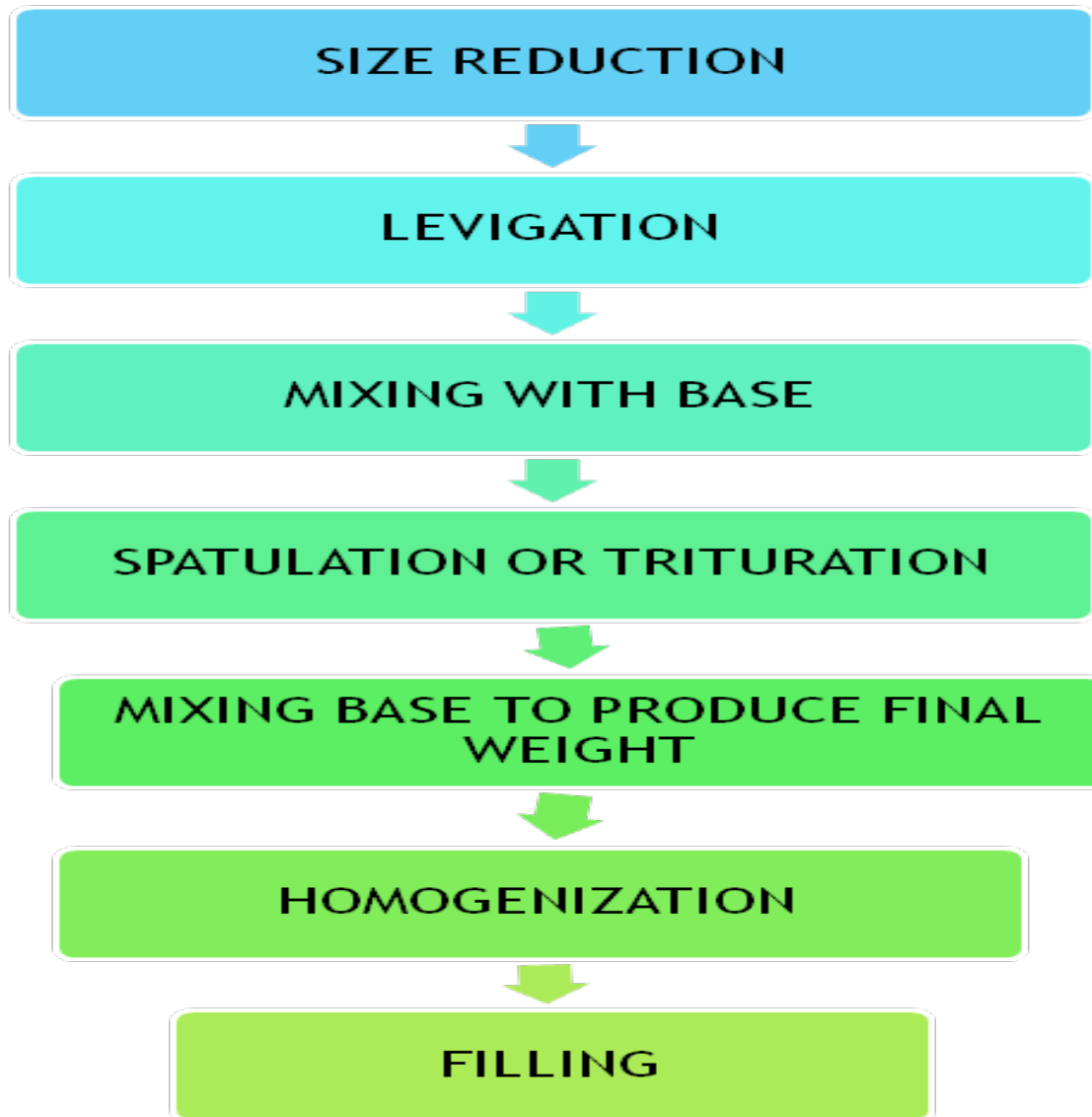
(3) emulsification method

- The method for a particular preparation depends primarily upon the nature of the ingredients

## (1) incorporation

- The components of the ointment are mixed together by various means until a uniform preparation has been attained.
- On a small scale, the pharmacist may mix the components of an ointment in a mortar with a pestle, or a spatula and an ointment slab may be used to rub the ingredients together.

# TRITURATION METHOD



## (2) fusion

- By the fusion method, **all or some** of the components of an ointment are combined by being **melted together** and cooled with constant stirring until congealed.
- Those components not melted are generally added to the congealing mixture as it is being cooled and stirred.
- Naturally, heat-labile substances and any volatile components are added last when the temperature of the mixture is low enough not to cause decomposition or volatilization of the components.



# FUSION METHOD



### (3) emulsification

- In the preparation of ointments having an emulsion type of formula, the general method of manufacture involves a melting process as well as an emulsification process.

# Evaluation Of Topical Dosage Form

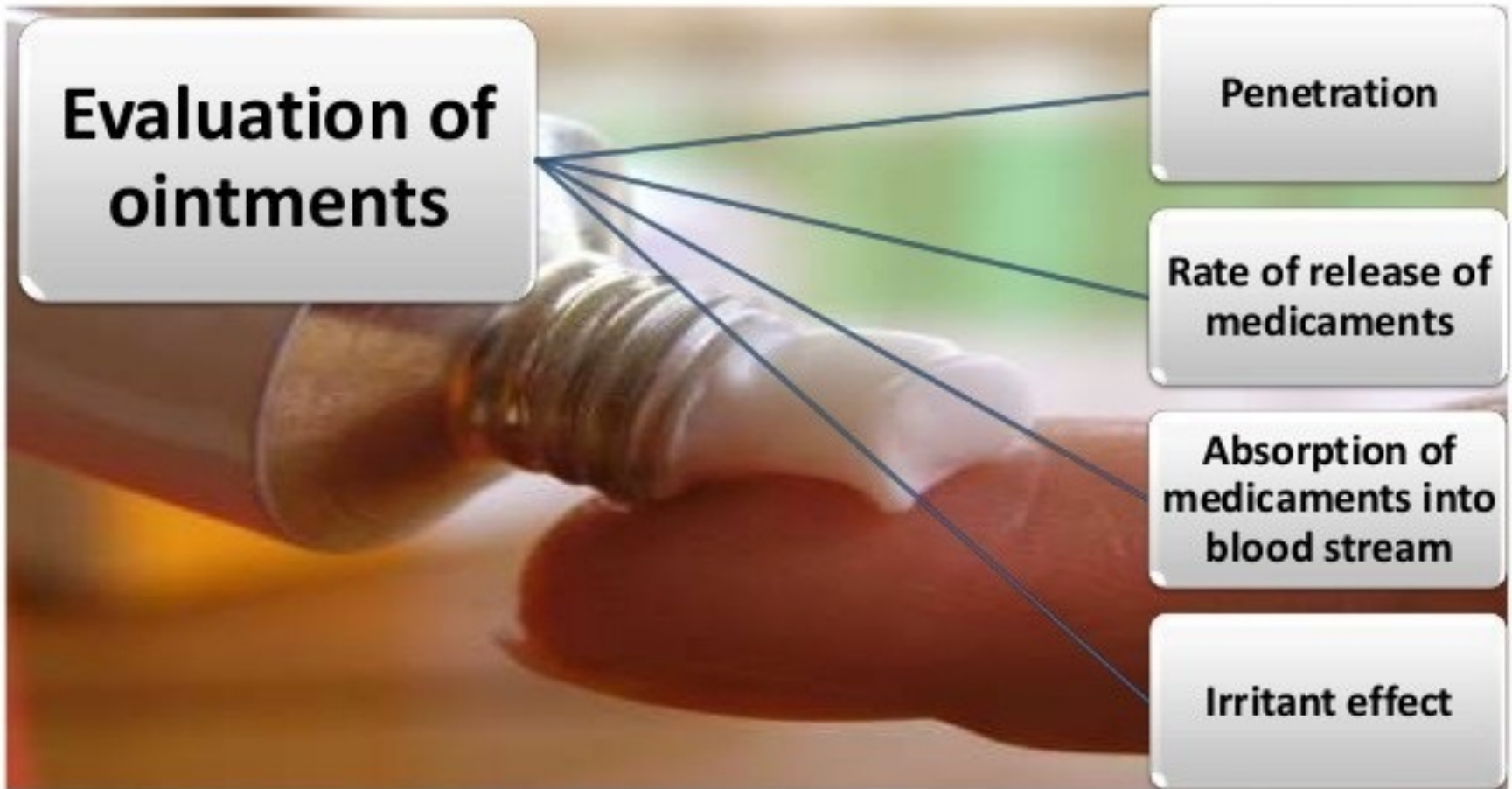
**Evaluation of ointments**

**Penetration**

**Rate of release of medicaments**

**Absorption of medicaments into blood stream**

**Irritant effect**



# Evaluation of ointments

## A- Penetration

- Weighed quantities of the ointments are rubbed over definite areas of the skin for a given length of time. Thereafter the unabsorbed ointment is collected from the skin and weighed. The difference between the two weights roughly represents the amount absorbed.

# Evaluation of ointments

## B- RATE OF RELEASE OF MEDICAMENT:

- To assess rate of release of medicament, small amount of the ointment can be placed on the surface of nutrient agar contained in a Petri dish.
- If the medicament is bactericidal the agar plate is previously seeded with a suitable organism like *S.aureus*. After a suitable period of incubation, the zone of inhibition is measured and correlated with the rate of release.

## RATE OF RELEASE OF MEDICAMENT

- smear internal surface of test tubes with thin layers of ointment, fill the tubes with saline/serum and after a gap of time estimating the amount of drug present in the serum/saline.

# Evaluation of ointments

## C- ABSORPTION OF MEDICAMENT INTO BLOOD STREAM:

- Definite amount of ointments should be rubbed through the skin. Under standard conditions and medicaments are estimated in the blood plasma or urine

# Evaluation of ointments

## D- IRRITANT EFFECT:

- The irritant effect can also be judged to a certain extent by injecting the ointment into thigh muscles and under the abdominal skin of rats. Reaction are noted at intervals of 24,48,72 and 96 hours. Presence of patches on the skin within 2 weeks indicate irritancy to pressing skin



## 2- creams:

Creams are homogeneous, semi-solid preparations consisting of **opaque emulsion**, contains lipophilic emulsifying agent. Their consistency depend on the type of emulsion, either water-in-oil (w/o) or oil-in – water (o/w), and on the nature of the solids in the internal phase. Creams are intended for the application to the skin or certain mucous membranes for:

- Protective
- Therapeutic
- prophylactic purposes

# Classification of creams

- Creams containing microspheres  
( VIT. A CREAM ... 200-250 micron)
- Lamellar faced creams  
( liquid paraffin in water emulsion )
- Cream containing liquid nanoparticles  
(a w/o cream , more occlusive )

# Preparation of creams

## Steps

- Preparation of oil phase :flack/powder ingredient are dispersed in mineral oil or silicone oil ) heating may required for melting
- Hydration of aqueous phase: emulsifiers, stabilizer, thickener are dispersed in water heating may required for hydrating
- Forming the emulsion: two phases are blended under vigorous agitation
- Dispersion of active ingredient

# Evaluation of creams

## A- Rheology:

- . The rheology or viscosity should remain constant.  
Rheologic measurements are utilized to characterize the ease of pouring from a bottle, squeezing from a tube or container
  - maintaining product shape in ajar or after extrusion, rubbing the product onto the skin
- The viscosity can be measured using **viscometers** used for such liquids.

# Evaluation of creams

## B- Sensitivity:

As various types of ingredients are used with occasional use of antiseptic, hormones. etc., there is a possibility of sensitization or photosensitization of the skin. This should be tested before hand. This test is normally done by patch test on skin and can be either open or occlusive. The test sample is applied along with a standard market product at different places and effect is compared after a period of time.

# Evaluation of creams

## C- Effect of thermal stresses:

It is usual to evaluate the stability of an emulsion by subjecting it to high and low temperatures in alternating cycles. The samples are first exposed to 60<sup>0</sup> C for a few hours and then to 0 to 40<sup>0</sup> C. Such exposures are repeated a number of times and emulsion stability assessed after each cycle.

# Evaluation of creams

## D- phase separation:

The rate and degree of phase separation in an emulsion can be easily determined by keeping a certain amount in a graduated cylinder and measuring the volume of separated phase after definite time intervals. The phase separation may result from creaming or coalescence of globules. The phase separation test can be accelerated by centrifugation at low/moderate speeds.

### 3- Gels:

- Gels are homogeneous, clear, semisolid systems consisting of dispersions of small or large molecules in an aqueous liquid vehicle rendered jellylike by the addition of a gelling agent.

Gels are aqueous **colloidal suspensions** of the hydrated forms of insoluble medicament, used for medication and lubrication.



# gelling agents

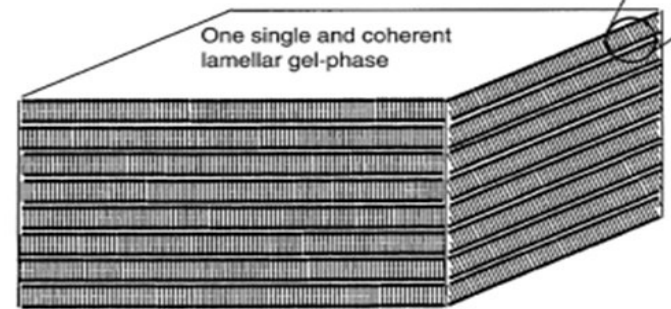
- Among the gelling agents used
  - Synthetic macromolecules, such as carbomer 934
  - Cellulose derivatives, such as carboxymethylcellulose or hydroxypropyl methylcellulose
  - Natural gums, such as tragacanth

# TYPES OF GEL-PHASE

## Single Phase

Gels in which the macromolecules are uniformly distributed throughout a liquid with no apparent boundaries between the dispersed macromolecules and the liquid. Usually involve organics.

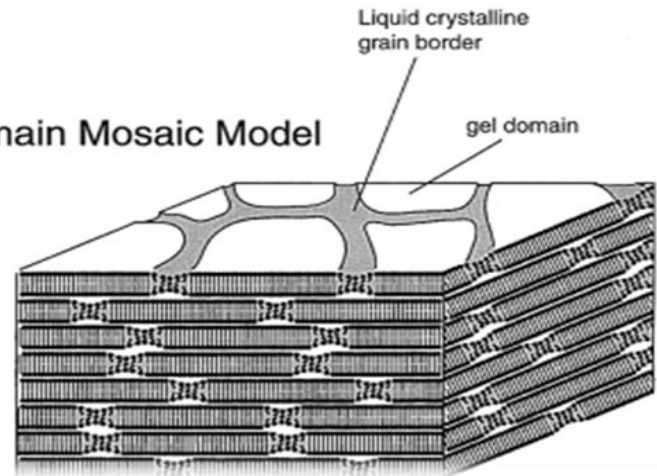
a) Single Gel-phase Model



## Two Phase(Domain)

When the gel mass consists of floccules of small distinct particles. Usually involve inorganics.

b) Domain Mosaic Model



# Kind of gels

- Controlled release gels
- Bioadhesive gels
- Organogels
- Extended release gel
- Amphiphilic gels
- Hydrophilic gel
- Complexation gels
- Thermosensitive sol-gel reversible hydrogel

# Evaluation of gels

- **Drug content** -1gm of gel was accurately weighed in a 50ml of volumetric flask to which 20ml purified water was added with continuous shaking. Volume was adjusted with a mixture of 10% methanol in water. Absorbance of the solution with the blank was measured at 360nm using [UV-spectrophotometer](#).
- **Measurement of pH** -The pH of gels were determined by [digital pH meter](#). One gram of gel was dissolved in 100ml of distilled water and stored at 4°C for two hours.

# Evaluation of gels

- **Viscosity** -Brookfield viscometer is used for determination of viscosity. Gels were filled in jar and spindle was lowered perpendicularly taking care that spindle do not touch bottom of the jar.

The spindle was rotated in the gel at increasing shear rates 0.5, 1, 2.5 and 5rpm. At each speed, the corresponding dial reading was noted.

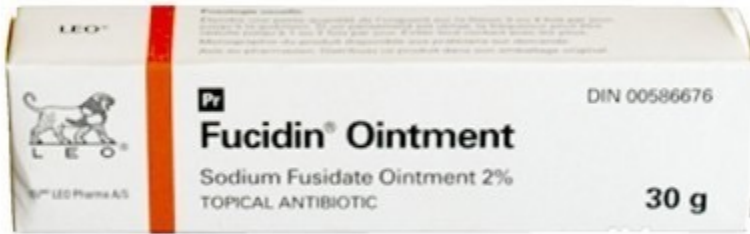


# Evaluation of gels

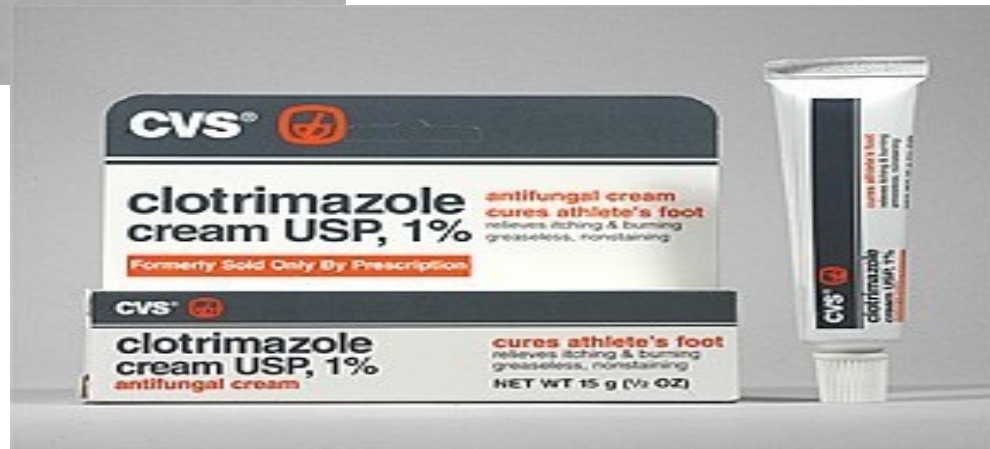
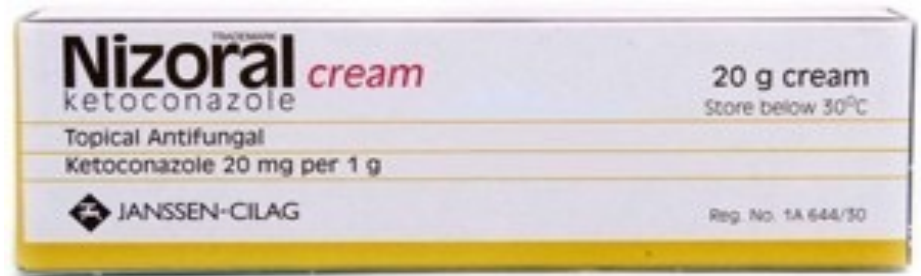
- **Spreadability**- A modified apparatus consisting of two glass slides containing gel in between with the lower slide fixed to a wooden plate and the upper one attached to a balance by a hook was used to determine spreadability.
- **Extrudability** - A simple method was adopted for determination of extrudability in terms of weight in grams required to extrude a 0.5cm ribbon of gel in 10 seconds from the collapsible tube.



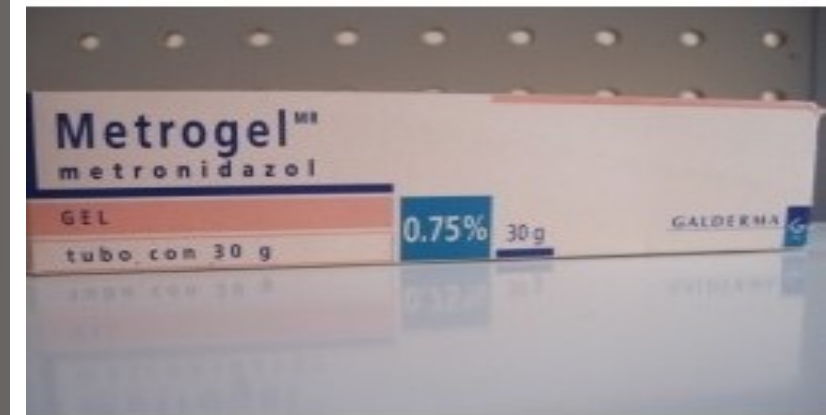
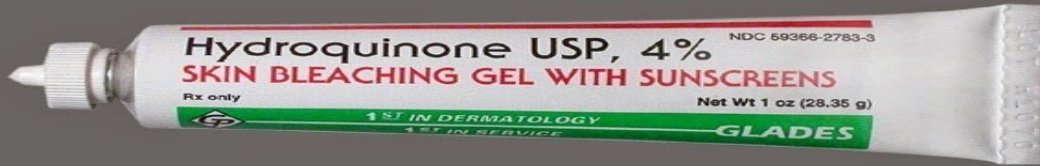
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## Topical Retinoids For Psoriasis



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# THANK YOU

