

Polymeric Nanoparticles for Drug Delivery: Design and Functionalization Strategies

Shabana Zaffar ¹, Supriya Awasthi ², Nishant Kulkarni ³, Dr. Shirish Inamdar ⁴, Ms. S. S. Patil ⁵

¹Assistant Professor Department of Pharmaceutics Arya College of Pharmacy Jaipur, Rajasthan, India
Email: shabana.zaffar@aryajaipur.com

²Professor School of Allied Health Sciences Noida International University Uttar Pradesh – 203201, India
Email: supriya.awasthi@niu.edu.in

³Associate Professor Department of Mechanical Engineering Vishwakarma Institute of Technology Pune, Maharashtra – 411037, India

Email: nishant.kulkarni@vit.edu

⁴Assistant Professor Department of Pharmacy Practice Krishna Institute of Pharmacy Krishna Vishwa Vidyapeeth (Deemed to be University) Taluka-Karad, Dist-Satara – 415539 Maharashtra, India

Email: shirish2124@yahoo.co.in

⁵Assistant Professor Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry Krishna Institute of Pharmacy Krishna Vishwa Vidyapeeth (Deemed to be University) Taluka-Karad, Dist-Satara – 415539 Maharashtra, India

Email: patilsnehal5121@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Polymeric nanoparticles (PNPs) are a potential way to send drugs to specific areas because they are biocompatible, biodegradable, and can be designed in a lot of different ways. These nanoparticles can improve the absorption of healing agents, control the release of drugs, and make them more stable. To make PNPs, the right polymers must be chosen. These can be natural or man-made organic materials that can hold a wide range of drugs, including those that don't like water or those that do. Size, form, surface charge, and pores of nanoparticles have a big effect on how much drug they can hold, how fast they release the drug, and how cells take it up. Functionalization of PNPs is important for tailored drug transport because it changes their surface so that it can interact more specifically with receptors that are overexpressed on targeted cells. Researchers are looking into ways to improve the targeting efficiency, such as treating the surface with ligands, antibodies, or peptides and adding elements that respond to inputs. The study also talks about how the properties of nanoparticles affect how they behave in living things, such as how they interact with the immune system, how they move through the body, and how harmful they are. It stresses how important it is to use a combination of polymer chemistry, nanotechnology, and biological engineering to get the most out of drug-loaded PNPs as medicinal tools.

Keywords: Polymeric nanoparticles, Drug delivery, Targeted therapy, Functionalization, Biocompatibility.

How to cite this article: Zaffar S, Awasthi S, Kulkarni N, Inamdar S, Patil SS, Polymeric Nanoparticles for Drug Delivery: Design and Functionalization Strategies. *Int J Drug Deliv Technol.* 2026;16(1s): 42-49; DOI: 10.25258/ijddt.16. 42-49

Source of support: Nil.

Conflict of interest: None

INTRODUCTION

Within the field of drug delivery, polymeric nanoparticles (PNPs) have emerged as a novel technology providing a flexible and efficient means to circumvent some of the issues related to conventional drug treatment approaches. This is particularly true of substances that do not dissolve readily in water. Designed at the nanoscale level, PNPs also provide particular advantages regarding controlled drug release, targeted distribution, and activity at certain places. Modern therapies include gene therapy, immunomodulation, and cancer treatment as well as conventional ones might find a basis in polymeric nanoparticles. Because it alters both the structure and purpose of the nanoparticle, the polymer used greatly affects the synthesis of PNPs. Drug transport systems make two primary kinds of polymers: synthetic and natural ones. Natural polymers like chitosan, alginate, and dextran are safe and soluble, which means they are less likely to be harmful or cause side effects. Synthetic polymers, like poly (lactic-co-glycolic acid) (PLGA) and polycaprolactone

(PCL), let have more control over particle size, drug release rates, and functionalization. This means they can be used for a lot of different drug distribution tasks. Also, the fact that natural and manufactured plastics can be mixed has led to the creation of blend materials that have the best qualities of both. One important thing about PNP design is that they can hold many different types of healing agents, such as small-molecule drugs, proteins, nucleic acids, and even imaging agents. The capsule method can be fine-tuned to control how much the drugs are loaded and how they are released, which is important for getting the best treatment results. PNPs are very flexible, so they can give both drugs that don't like water and drugs that do. That is frequently very hard for other shipping methods. due to the fact PNPs can load and release tablets in a dissimulation of methods, they are perfect for personalised medicine, which means that capsules can be given more correctly based totally on the wishes of every patient. Every other essential way to improve the drug delivery competencies of polymeric nanoparticles is to add features to them.

*Author for Correspondence: Shabana Zaffar

By using including positive chemical businesses, ligands, or targeting molecules that simplify the targeting of unique cells or tissues, functionalization alters the floor of the nanoparticles. Floor functionalization no longer solely enables the careful drug carrying capability of the nanoparticle but additionally allows to encompass structures capable of freeing pharmaceuticals in response to positive physiological or environmental stimuli [1]. As an instance, stimuli-responsive nanoparticles may also release their contents in response to pH, temperature, or enzyme presence adjustments. This ensures extra exact launch of therapeutic substances in the right location. Moreover, the interaction with dwelling entities depends much at the surface price, hydrophobicity, and structure of the nanoparticles. By adjusting these features, researchers can also make the nanoparticles extra solid, help positive cells or tissues take them up, and enable prolonged move. For cancer therapy, for instance, functionalized PNPs may be designed to identify overexpressed cell surface markers on tumour cells [2].

II. Related Work

Polymeric nanoparticles (PNPs) have attracted lots of hobby recently as a method of medication transport as they could triumph over troubles with more traditional methods. Designing, production, and adding features to polymeric nanoparticles to make medicinal drugs handier, strong, and efficacious at their objectives has been a whole lot studied upon. One of the first studies analyzing PNP use in drug shipping used to be performed by way of Jain et al. (2005). They produced biodegradable PNPs for controlled release of anticancer medicinal drugs. The work confirmed the advantages of encapsulating hydrophobic prescribed drugs utilizing recyclable and secure polymer, PLGA [3]. It

revealed how PLGA might also stabilize medicines and growth their healing efficacy. In exquisite part to these works, nanoparticle-based totally drug shipping structures have advanced over years to encompass more and more complicated strategies like energetic focused on and drug launch activated with the aid of triggers. Many researches have examined approaches to alter the surface of nanoparticles to increase their goal-specificity. Concentrated on ligands like antibodies, peptides, and aptamers can be bonded to the floor of nanoparticles to allow them flow to certain cells or places, which includes most cancers cells, in accordance a 2014 Torchilin research. Adding these ligands to nanoparticles may boost their ability to penetrate cells and reduce the amount of damaging outcomes they generated; therefore improving the therapeutic index of the medicines they carried [4]. This approach has additionally been used to provide many nanoparticles capable of delivering medications or supporting medical practitioner in seeing into people for medicinal purposes. Also very promising are clean advancements in medicinal drug delivery that reacts to stimuli. Liu et al. investigated how pH-touchy nanoparticles can be used to modify medicinal drug launch into tumours, which frequently have a decrease pH than normal tissues. Using pH-touchy polymers including poly (ethylene glycol)-block-poly (acrylic acid) greater medicinal drug launch at the tumour web page, in accordance the studies [5]. This made the remedy paintings higher and had fewer aspect effects. Researchers have also used temperature and enzyme pastime as triggers to create nanoparticles that release their payloads in response to positive environmental cues. This makes drug management greater particular and managed

Table 1: Summary of Drug Delivery Work

Method	Future Trend	Limitation	Impact
Solvent Evaporation	Improved scalability and solvent-free methods	Solvent residues and process sensitivity to environmental factors	Widely used in academic and industrial research, adaptable to various drugs
Emulsion-Diffusion	Development of green solvents and more efficient surfactants	Emulsion stability issues and surfactant toxicity concerns	Offers high encapsulation efficiency, but surfactant choices remain critical
Emulsion Polymerization [6]	Integration with multifunctional nanoparticles for theranostics	Complicated process and limited monomer choices	Critical in producing nanoparticles with controlled size and functionality
Nanoparticle Surface Functionalization	Personalized surface modification for specific diseases	Possible immune response due to surface modifications	Significant for targeted therapies, such as cancer and gene therapy
PEGylation	Use of PEG alternatives for reducing immunogenicity	PEGylation can reduce nanoparticle cellular uptake	Improves nanoparticle circulation time, but may reduce therapeutic outcomes
Targeted Drug Delivery [7]	Combination of targeting ligands and imaging agents for real-time tracking	Difficulty in achieving selective targeting without off-target effects	Increases therapeutic index by reducing systemic toxicity and enhancing tissue-specific drug delivery

Stimuli-Responsive Nanoparticles	Incorporation of multi-stimuli-responsive systems for precise drug release	Challenges in precise control of drug release triggered by multiple stimuli	Promotes precise control over drug release in specific pathological environments
Polymer Selection (PLGA, PCL, Chitosan)	Exploring novel biodegradable polymers for better biocompatibility	Limited clinical translation due to toxicity and variability in polymer properties	Pivotal in designing more effective and biocompatible drug delivery systems
Controlled Drug Release [8]	Advances in smart polymer systems for on-demand release	Difficulty in balancing drug release rates and stability over time	Key to the successful treatment of chronic diseases and high-loading therapies
Drug Encapsulation Efficiency	Focus on high-efficiency drug encapsulation with minimal waste	Low encapsulation efficiency for hydrophobic drugs	Improves bioavailability and stability of drugs, making them more effective

DESIGN STRATEGIES FOR POLYMERIC NANOPARTICLES

A. Selection of Polymers

The material choice affects not only the nanoparticles' physical and chemical features, but also how well they work as drugs, how quickly they release drugs, and how well they target cells. Most of the time, there are two types of polymers used in PNP design: natural and manufactured. Natural polymers like chitosan, alginate, and dextran are becoming more common because they are biocompatible, biodegradable, and not too harmful. These polymers come from natural sources that can be used again and again. They are also usually well accepted by the body, which is important for minimizing side effects in drug transport uses [9]. For example, chitosan is often used because it has mucoadhesive qualities that help drugs stay in place at specific spots, like in the nose or the digestive system. Design methods for polymeric nanoparticles are shown in Figure 1. These include changing the surface, aiming, and controlling the release of the particles

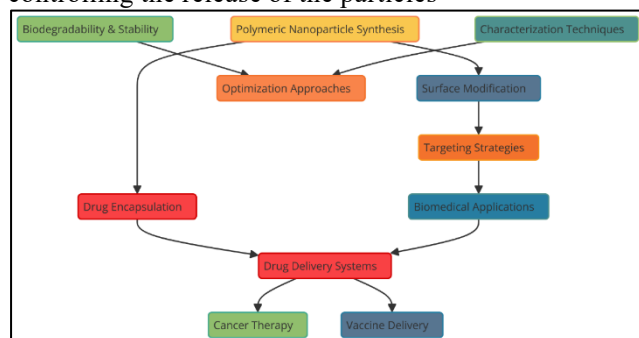


Figure 1: Illustrating Design Strategies for Polymeric Nanoparticles

Moreover, these natural polymers can be changed chemically to make them better at carrying drugs and releasing those drugs more quickly. If it use synthetic plastics, it can better control how big, round, and smooth the nanoparticles are. Certain polymers, like poly(lactic-co-glycolic acid) (PLGA), polycaprolactone (PCL), and poly(ethylene glycol) (PEG), are often used in PNP design because they are safe and easy to change. Biodegradable

copolymer PLGA is very famous in controlled-release systems because it breaks down over time into harmless leftovers [10]. PEG is often used to change the surface of things because it makes nanoparticles more stable and increases their circulation time by stopping proteins from sticking to them and stopping the immune system from recognizing them.

B. Preparation Techniques

1. Solvent Evaporation Method

Because it is easy to use, flexible, and can hold a lot of different medicinal agents, the liquid evaporation method is one of the most popular ways to make polymeric nanoparticles (PNPs). To use this method, the polymer is first mixed with a volatile organic liquid to make a uniform polymer solution. The drug that needs to be enclosed is either destroyed or spread out in the polymer solution. The liquid is then drained, usually at a lower pressure. This makes the polymer separate into nanoparticles that surround the drug. The method can also be used to encapsulate drugs that are hydrophobic or hydrophilic, which makes it very flexible [11]. This has a direct effect on the nanoparticles' surface properties, drug release profiles, and longevity. The solvent evaporation method does have some problems, though. For example, organic fluid residues may remain in the end product, which could make it less safe. In addition, the process may be affected by things like temperature and humidity in the air [12].

2. Emulsion-Diffusion Method

The emulsion-diffusion approach is another often used technique to produce polymeric nanoparticles. This is particularly helpful for encasing medications that dissolve poorly in water. This approach generates an oil-in-water (O/W) emulsion. The medication either dissolves or spreads out in the same fluid whereas the polymer is broken down in an organic liquid. The emulsion is then gradually added to a water phase including a stabilizer. This results in scattered droplets of the organic phase inside the water. The solvent extends out into the outer water phase once the emulsion develops, which causes the polymer to crystallize and become nanoparticles [13]. The medicine becomes encapsulated in the nanoparticle matrix when the liquid gradually mixes with the polymer in the water phase. The fact that this approach can produce highly excellent drug

delivering nanoparticles with a defined size distribution is among its finest features.

Maintaining the stability of the emulsion and preventing the nanoparticles from aggregating depend critically on adding stabilizers or detergents during the emulsion process. Drugs both water-repelling and water-attracting may be packaged using the emulsion-diffusion technique. Changing the kind of polymer, the amount, and the emulsifier employed can help one to tailor the drug release profiles. This approach is particularly effective for medications sensitive to organic solvents as the solvent gradually distributes out, therefore exposing the drug to less of the possible harmful solvents [14]. Although the emulsion-diffusion technique has some advantages, it might be difficult to apply stabilizers or detergents as they affect the biocompatibility of the produced nanoparticles. The surfactant should be carefully selected so that it does not compromise the efficacy or safety of the medication transport mechanism. Generally speaking, the emulsion-diffusion technique is a solid and efficient approach to produce polymeric nanoparticles, particularly for applications involving drug administration that need particles non-soluble in water.

C. Size and Shape Control

The way well polymeric nanoparticles (PNPs) transport pharmaceuticals, how cells absorb them, how they are disseminated throughout the body, and how effectively they function as medications depends much on their structure and size. Control of the size and form of nanoparticles is essential for obtaining the optimum outcomes as these parameters directly influence their interaction with biological systems. Should nanoparticles be too large, the mononucleated phagocyte system (MPS) might rapidly eliminate them from the circulation. Should they be too tiny, the kidneys may eliminate them fast or fail to release enough medication. Various techniques are used to manage the size of PNPs [15] during preparation. In solvent evaporation and emulsion diffusion, for instance, it may adjust the polymer's amount, the kind of solvent, and the rate of evaporative loss. While slower evaporation rates enable nanoparticles grow more slowly, this makes them smaller, higher polymer ratios often produce larger nanoparticles. Using stabilizers or detergents in emulsion-based ways can also help manage how nanoparticles are spread out and stop them from sticking together, which makes sure that the sizes are spread out evenly. Shape control is another important part of nanoparticle design because it affects how well the particles can connect with cell walls, pass through tissues, and gather at target places.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A. Materials Used

1. Polymers (e.g., PLGA, PCL, Chitosan, etc.)

Choosing the right polymers is an important part of making polymeric nanoparticles (PNPs) for drug delivery systems because they have a direct effect on how stable, biocompatible, and how they release drugs. Many different types of polymers, both natural and man-made, have been studied for their potential use in drug delivery. Some of the most popular ones are chitosan, poly(lactic-co-glycolic

acid) (PLGA), and polycaprolactone (PCL). Safe and manufactured, PLGA is a polymer. Because it breaks down into benign leftovers like lactic acid and glycolic acid, it is being employed in medication delivery systems. Controlled drug release is made possible by PLGA nanoparticles; lactic acid to glycolic acid concentration alters the rate of PLGA breakdown. PLGA is ideal for applications like cancer therapy and gene transfer that calls for long-term drug release as it is so adaptable. Because PLGA is also well tolerated by the body, it is a common option for encapsulating medications that either do not like water or else do.

Another man-made component utilized often in nanoparticles is PCL. For long-term medication transportation, the gradual breakdown of it might be advantageous. Particularly so that they may be released gradually over extended periods of time, PCL nanoparticles have been employed to safeguard tiny molecules and therapeutic compounds. Often used for medical applications like tissue engineering and wound healing, this polymer is biocompatible and has excellent mechanical properties. Chitosan is a natural material that comes from chitin and has many benefits for drug delivery. Chitosan is harmless, non-toxic, and safe. It also has natural antibacterial qualities that make it good for drug delivery, especially in the digestive system or on the skin. Chitosan can also be changed to make it more stable, dissolve drugs better, and encapsulate them better. It is often mixed with other polymers to make blend systems that make drug release and targeting more effective.

2. Drugs or Bioactive Compounds

It is just as important to choose the drugs or bioactive substances that will be enclosed in polymeric nanoparticles because they affect how well the system works, how quickly the drugs are released, and how safe it is. Polymeric nanoparticles can hold many biological substances, like small-molecule medicines, proteins, nucleic acids, peptides, and even imaging agents. This makes them useful for many medicinal purposes. Nanoparticles made of polymeric materials are often used to protect small molecules like anticancer drugs (doxorubicin, paclitaxel), antibiotics (rifampicin), and pain relievers (ibuprofen). This allows for controlled release and better absorption. Many small molecules are hydrophobic, which can make them hard to dissolve and make less available to the body when they are taken the usual way. By putting these drugs inside nanoparticles, they become easier to dissolve and their release patterns can be managed, which lowers side effects and boosts treatment effectiveness.

Nanoparticle containment is also good for proteins and peptides, which are being used more and more in focused treatments. When given by themselves, these biomolecules are often fragile and easily broken down, which means they are not bioavailable. Polymeric nanoparticles keep these chemicals from breaking down by enzymes and make it easier to release them slowly at the right place. For example, insulin, growth factors, and monoclonal antibodies have been safely put inside PNPs so that they can be delivered slowly and precisely where they are needed.

For gene therapy and RNA-based treatments, nucleic acids like DNA, RNA, and siRNA are being looked into. Putting nucleic acids inside polymeric nanoparticles protects them from nucleases and makes it easier to send them to target cells. Figure 2 shows drugs or bioactive molecules, showing how they work, what shapes they have, and how they can help with healing

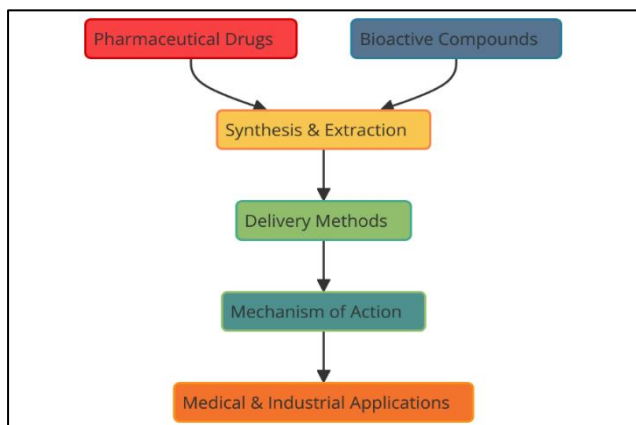


Figure 2: Illustrating Drugs or Bioactive Compounds

This is especially important for gene editing and gene silencing, where effective transport and uptake by cells are key to treatment success. Besides these, imaging agents like quantum dots and visible colours can be added to polymeric nanoparticles to help with diagnosis.

B. Synthesis of Polymeric Nanoparticles

1. Method 1: Solvent Evaporation/Extraction

For making polymeric nanoparticles (PNPs), the liquid evaporation/extraction method is one of the most important ones. In this method, a polymeric nanoparticle solution is made by soaking the polymer in a volatile organic solvent first, and then a drug or bioactive substance that needs to be enclosed is added. Once the polymer-drug solution is ready, it is combined with a watery phase including surfactants or stabilizers to create a combination of microscopic droplets. These droplets then pass through circumstances designed to either remove or assist the organic liquid to evaporate. This shapes polymeric nanoparticles containing the medication. Dissolving the polymer in an organic liquid such as dichloromethane (DCM), acetone, or chloroform comes first in the solvent evaporation/extraction process.

Usually featuring polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) or cetyltrimethylammonium bromide (CTAB), the drug-polymer solution is then combined with water. The solvent evaporation/extraction technique is fantastic in that it allows varying everything such the kind of solvent, the polymers and surfactant concentration, and the rate of solvent evaporating. This enables to regulate the nanoparticle size and medication load. Often used for cleaning any organic liquid and ensuring the nanoparticles are suitable for biological use is ultrafiltration or dialysis.

2. Method 2: Emulsion Polymerization

A common way to make polymeric Emulsion polymerization forms nanoparticles. When exact control of particle size, drug packing efficiency, and surface

characteristics is required, this is extremely helpful. Usually a watery phase, this process involves polymerizing monomers in an emulsion environment to produce nanoparticles. Liquid absorption is the principal method used in the synthesis of nanoparticles. Conversely, emulsion polymerization employs chemicals to directly link monomers in an emulsion to produce consistently dispersed and under control sized polymeric nanoparticles. The monomers, initiators, and stabilizers are combined in a watery phase to create an emulsion starting the emulsion polymerization process. Typically, detergents or emulsifiers hold the emulsion droplets together. Adding a radical activator then transforms the monomers of the emulsion into polymers. This generates the required polymeric nanoparticles and helps the polymers to bind together. Usually circular, the morphology of these made-this-way nanoparticles varies depending on the emulsification method and the applied circumstances. Making very regular and repeatable plastic nanoparticles that are easily produced again and again calls for this technique particularly well. Changing the quantity of detergent used, the polymerization conditions, and the monomers utilized will affect the size, form, and surface characteristics of the nanoparticles. Emulsion polymerization may also be used to contain a broad spectrum of pharmaceuticals, including those that both dislike water and those that do, by varying the kind of monomer and liquid employed. The ability of emulsion polymerization to produce highly drug-holding, tightly sealed nanoparticles is among its finest features. It may additionally manipulate the surface homes of the nanoparticles so that medicines can be administered precisely. But the emulsion system should be carefully tuned to accumulate desired nanoparticle traits, and the creation of detergents or stabilizers may generate biocompatibility problems.

FUNCTIONALIZATION OF POLYMERIC NANOPARTICLES

A. Surface Modification Techniques

Improving the surfaces of polymeric nanoparticles (PNPs) will assist to boom their software, stability, and target ability. Modifications to the surface traits may additionally improve the interactions between nanoparticles and stay entities like cells, organs, and molecules. Chemical and physical modifications are two generally separate categories for strategies of surface modification of anything. Generally, to adjust their bodily characteristics, beneficial molecules like proteins, peptides, or chemicals are coupled to the surface of nanoparticles. One can also try this via van der Waals forces, hydrophobic forces, or electrostatic forces. Bodily amendment has the advantage of being a rapid and simple method that would stabilize nanoparticles or amplify their circulation periods.

For instance, adding polyethylene glycol (PEG) to the floor of nanoparticles a system called PEGylation might also make it tons harder for the immune system to rule out the nanoparticles, consequently extending their lifetime and reducing their likelihood of triggering immunological responses. One might also make those adjustments to

consist of certain centered ligands inclusive of peptides or antibodies into the nanoparticles. Chemical modification lets in its greater manage over the range and place of molecules connected, therefore influencing the interactions with goal cells and their predictable nature. Attaching tumor-targeting ligands along with folic acid or transferrin to the surface of nanoparticles, as an instance, approves them to be brought only to cancer cells with immoderate numbers of the perfect receptors. This concentrated method lowers the damage to precious organs and increases the efficacy of the remedy.

B. Targeting Strategies

Making drug shipping structures greater selective and green relies upon a whole lot on the targeting techniques for polymeric nanoparticles (PNPs). These strategies intention to minimize adverse effects at some point of the body by way of getting nanoparticles to a selected area in which they are able to carry out their feature, this type of diseased organ or tissue. Reaching objectives may be accomplished with either passive or active targeting techniques; both have advantages. Passive targeting relies on the particulars of the illness area, such as how tumours have an influence known as enhanced permeability and retention (EPR). Weak blood arteries and inadequate venous clearance in tumour tissues induce the EPR effect. This allows nanoparticles silently collect in the tumour region. To use this effect, nanoparticles may be produced with the ideal size, shape, and surface properties. For example, the EPR effect increases the likelihood of nanoparticles ranging in size between 10 and 200 nm gathering in malignancies. Particularly ligands or chemicals that can bind to receptors or antigens overexpressed on the target cells or organs help nanoparticles bind. We call this active aiming.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

When polymeric nanoparticles (PNPs) are used to carry drugs, they make the drugs much more bioavailable, stable, and effective. Surface modification methods like PEGylation and combination with targeting proteins make it possible for drugs to be delivered only to the areas they need to reach, with fewer side effects. Choosing the right polymers, such as PLGA, PCL, and chitosan, is very important for controlling how drugs are released. Methods like liquid evaporation and emulsion polymerisation are very good at encasing drugs. When pH, temperature, or enzymes trigger stimuli-responsive PNPs, they release drugs in a controlled and site-specific way, which improves the effectiveness of therapy

Table 2: Evaluation of Polymeric Nanoparticles Based on Drug Encapsulation Efficiency and Particle Size

Polymer Type	Drug Encapsulation Efficiency (%)	Particle Size (nm)	Zeta Potential (mV)
PLGA	85	120	-25
PCL	75	150	-18
Chitosan	90	100	30

PLGA-PCL Hybrid	88	125	-22
-----------------	----	-----	-----

Table 2 shows how polymeric nanoparticles were judged based on how well they encapsulated drugs, their particle size, and their zeta potential for different types of polymers. Poly(lactic-co-glycolic acid) (PLGA) nanoparticles have a high drug packing rate of 85%, which means they can load a lot of different drugs. The particles are 120 nm in size, and the zeta potential is -25 mV, which means they are stable in water because the negative charge keeps them from sticking together. Figure 3 shows how well different types of polymers encapsulate drugs, showing how performance can vary.

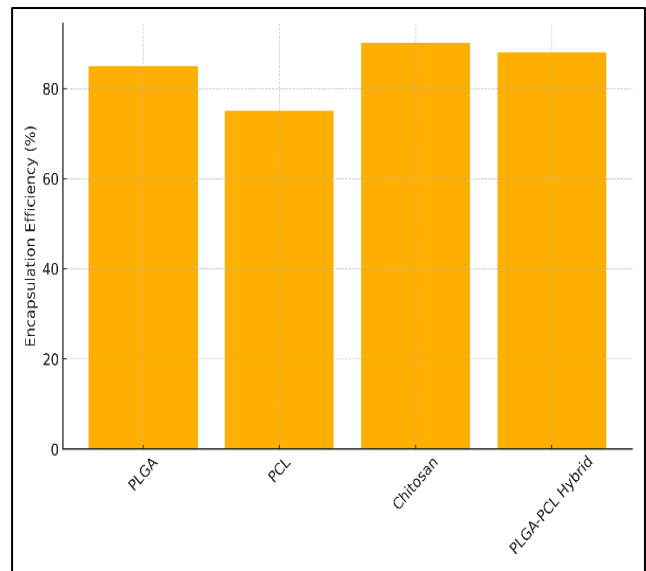


Figure 3: Drug Encapsulation Efficiency by Polymer Type

The drug packing effectiveness of PCL (Polycaprolactone) nanoparticles is only 75%, and the particles are 150 nm in size. Its negative zeta potential of -18 mV shows that it is moderately stable, but it may need to be stabilised even more for better drug delivery. Figure 4 shows how the particle size and zeta potential change for different types of polymers

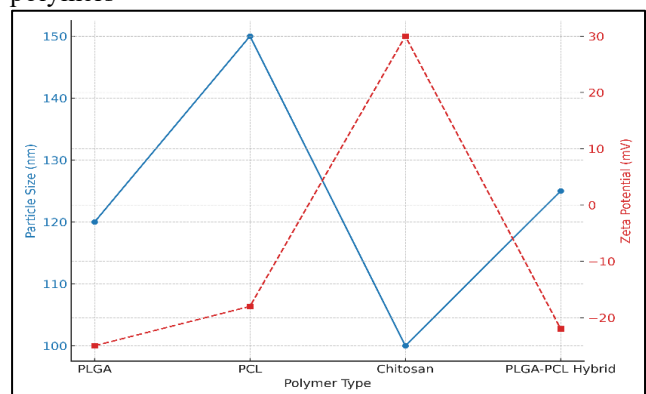


Figure 4: Particle Size and Zeta Potential Across Polymer Types

The best drug loading capacity is seen in chitosan nanoparticles, which have a packing rate of 90%. The particles are 100 nm smaller, and their positive zeta potential of +30 mV suggests that they stick well to mucosa. This means that they can be used for specific delivery, especially in gastrointestinal uses. PLGA-PCL Hybrid nanoparticles have traits of both PLGA and PCL

Table 3: Evaluation of Polymeric Nanoparticles Based on Drug Release Profile at Specific Time Intervals

Time (hrs)	PLGA Release (%)	PCL Release (%)	Chitosan Release (%)	PLGA-PCL Hybrid Release (%)
0	0	0	0	0
1	15	12	10	18
3	40	30	35	42
6	60	50	55	62
12	75	70	72	78
24	90	85	85	92

Table 3 shows how drugs are released from different types of polymeric nanoparticles at different times. It shows how PLGA, PCL, Chitosan, and PLGA-PCL Hybrid nanoparticles release drugs. As time goes on, PLGA nanoparticles steadily release more drugs, until they release 90% of the drugs after 24 hours. This shows a continuous release profile, which is common for PLGA, a material that is known for being biodegradable and having controlled release qualities. Figure 5 shows the total release of drugs over time, showing how they are released in different forms

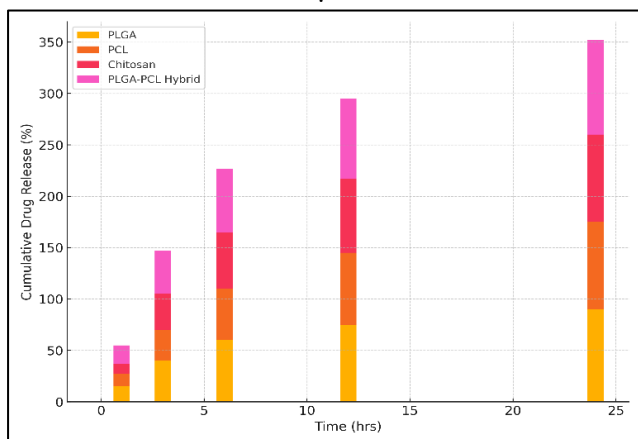


Figure 5: Cumulative Drug Release Over Time

After the first few hours, the release speeds up. A 15% release at one hour and a 75% release at 12 hours. PCL nanoparticles also release drugs slowly; after 24 hours, 85% of the drug has been released. Even though it releases a little more slowly than PLGA, it still has good steady

release behaviour. Figure 6 shows the drug's release curve over time, showing trends of steady and controlled release.

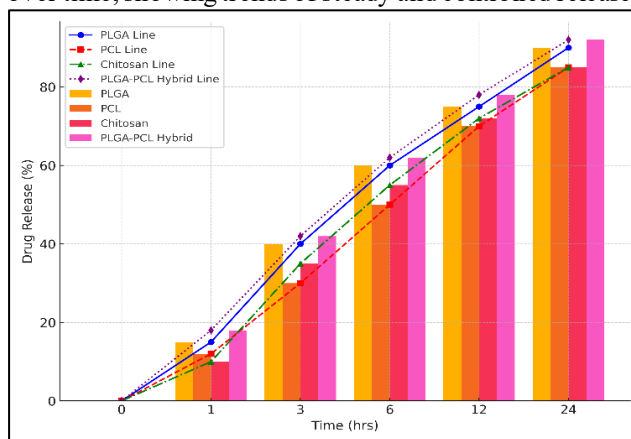


Figure 6: Drug Release Profile Over Time

The flow goes up from 12% in one hour to 70% after 12 hours. Chitosan nanoparticles release in a way that is similar to PCL. After 24 hours, 85% of them have been released. Chitosan has a higher initial release (10% at 1 hour and 35% at 3 hours). This is probably because it sticks to mucus, which makes it easier for the drug to get to the target spot faster. The PLGA-PCL Hybrid nanoparticles show the fastest release profile, hitting 92% after 24 hours.

CONCLUSION

Polymeric nanoparticles (PNPs) have become a game-changing tool in drug delivery systems, providing better treatment effectiveness, fewer side effects, and better control over how drugs are released. How these nanoparticles are designed and how they are functionalized is very important for getting the drug transport results that are wanted. Choosing the right polymers, like PLGA, PCL, and chitin, has a big effect on how stable, biocompatible, and quickly broken down nanoparticles are. It is possible to fine-tune release patterns for different medicinal uses by changing the polymer qualities, drug dose, and particle size. Surface modification methods, such as PEGylation and binding with certain ligands or antibodies, make it easier for PNPs to find their target. This lets drugs be delivered more precisely, making sure that bigger amounts of the healing agent reach the right place while minimizing effects that aren't intended. Stimuli-responsive nanoparticles are a great step forward in the delivery of drugs. By adding responsive parts like pH-sensitive polymers, temperature-sensitive materials, or enzyme-sensitive linkers, drug release can be managed in reaction to changes in the environment, like those found in sick tissues. This responsiveness improves the accuracy of drug delivery even more, lowering systemic exposure and raising treatment effectiveness

REFERENCE

1. De Souza, G.M.; Gervasoni, L.F.; da Silva Rosa, R.; de Souza Iacia, M.V.M.; Nai, G.A.; Pereira, V.C.; Winkelströter, L.K. Quercetin-loaded chitosan nanoparticles as an alternative for controlling bacterial

- adhesion to urethral catheter. *Int. J. Urol.* 2022, 29, 1228–1234.
2. Jardim, K.V.; Siqueira, J.L.N.; B ao, S.N.; Parize, A.L. In vitro cytotoxic and antioxidant evaluation of quercetin loaded in ionic cross-linked chitosan nanoparticles. *J. Drug Deliv. Sci. Technol.* 2022, 74, 103561.
 3. Choudhary, A.; Kant, V.; Jangir, B.L.; Joshi, V. Quercetin loaded chitosan tripolyphosphate nanoparticles accelerated cutaneous wound healing in Wistar rats. *Eur. J. Pharmacol.* 2020, 880, 173172.
 4. Kabiriyel, J.; Jeyanthi, R.; Jayakumar, K.; Amalraj, A.; Arjun, P.; Shanmugarathinam, A.; Vignesh, G.; Mohan, C.R. Green synthesis of carboxy methyl chitosan based curcumin nanoparticles and its biological activity: Influence of size and conductivity. *Carbohydr. Polym. Technol. Appl.* 2023, 5, 100260.
 5. Prasad, M.; Salar, A.; Salar, R.K. In vitro anticancer activity of curcumin loaded chitosan nanoparticles (CLCNPs) against Vero cells. *Pharmacol. Res. Mod. Chin. Med.* 2022, 3, 100116.
 6. Ali, K.A.; El-Naa, M.M.; Bakr, A.F.; Mahmoud, M.Y.; Abdelgawad, E.M.; Matoock, M.Y. The dual gastro- and neuroprotective effects of curcumin loaded chitosan nanoparticles against cold restraint stress in rats. *Biomed. Pharmacother.* 2022, 148, 112778.
 7. Sorasitthyanukarn, F.N.; Muangnoi, C.; Thaweeseest, W.; Rojsitthisak, P.; Rojsitthisak, P. Enhanced cytotoxic, antioxidant and anti-inflammatory activities of curcumin diethyl disuccinate using chitosan-tripolyphosphate nanoparticles. *J. Drug Deliv. Sci. Technol.* 2019, 53, 101118.
 8. Hadidi, M.; Pouramin, S.; Adinepour, F.; Haghani, S.; Jafari, S.M. Chitosan nanoparticles loaded with clove essential oil: Characterization, antioxidant and antibacterial activities. *Carbohydr. Polym.* 2020, 236, 116075.
 9. Shete, A. S. , Bhutada, Sunil, Patil, M. B. , Sen, Praveen H. , Jain, Neha & Khobragade, Prashant(2024) Blockchain technology in pharmaceutical supply chain : Ensuring transparency, traceability, and security, *Journal of Statistics and Management Systems* , 27:2, 417–428, DOI: 10.47974/JSMS-1266
 10. Zakerikhoob, M.; Abbasi, S.; Yousefi, G.; Mokhtari, M.; Noorbakhsh, M.S. Curcumin-incorporated crosslinked sodium alginate-g-poly (N-isopropyl acrylamide) thermo-responsive hydrogel as an in-situ forming injectable dressing for wound healing: In vitro characterization and in vivo evaluation. *Carbohydr. Polym.* 2021, 271, 118434.
 11. Wang, Y.; Li, Y.; He, L.; Mao, B.; Chen, S.; Martinez, V.; Guo, X.; Shen, X.; Liu, B.; Li, C. Commensal flora triggered target anti-inflammation of alginate-curcumin micelle for ulcerative colitis treatment. *Colloids Surf. B Biointerfaces* 2021, 203, 111756.
 12. Ding, Y.; Zhang, S.; Sun, Z.; Tong, Z.; Ge, Y.; Zhou, L.; Xu, Q.; Zhou, H.; Wang, W. Preclinical validation of silibinin/albumin nanoparticles as an applicable system against acute liver injury. *Acta Biomater.* 2022, 146, 385–395.
 13. Egil, A.C.; Kesim, H.; Ustunkaya, B.; Kutlu,  .; Ince, G.O. Self-assembled albumin nanoparticles for redox responsive release of curcumin. *J. Drug Deliv. Sci. Technol.* 2022, 76, 103831.
 14. Zamboni, F.; Ren, G.; Culebras, M.; O’Driscoll, J.; O’Dwyer, J.; Ryan, E.J.; Collins, M.N. Curcumin encapsulated polylactic acid nanoparticles embedded in alginate/gelatin bioinks for in situ immunoregulation: Characterization and biological assessment. *Int. J. Biol. Macromol.* 2022, 221, 1218–1227.
 15. Niza, E.; Bo ik, M.; Bravo, I.; Clemente-Casares, P.; S anchez, A.L.; Juan, A.; Klou ek, P.; Alonso-Moreno, C. PEI-coated PLA nanoparticles to enhance the antimicrobial activity of carvacrol. *Food Chem.* 2020, 328, 127131.
 16. Aijaz, S.; Patil, A.S.; Marwaha, L. (2025). Nutraceuical and pharmaceutical properties of royal jelly from *Apis mellifera*. *Journal of Entomological Research*, 49(1), 100–105. <https://doi.org/10.5958/0974-4576.2025.00019.7>