

Surfactants - Surface Active Agents

Definition

>Surface tension:

The molecules at the surface do not have other molecules on all sides of them and therefore are pulled inwards. This creates some internal pressure and forces liquid surfaces to contract to the minimal area.

Surfactants: are substances that absorb to surfaces or interfaces, causing a marked decrease in the surface tension.





Their importance in pharmaceutical technology

promotion of wetting, dissolution and dispersion

promotion of absorption, (increase the bioavailability)

development of new drug carriers

Surfactants New Drug Delivery Systems

Disperse systems	Emulsions simple or complex	Microemulsions	Vesicles micelles liposomes niosomes
Application	Controlled drug delivery systems elimination of incompatibility	nutrition	Controlled drug delivery systems targetted drug intake

Molecular structures of emulgents



Spheric structures of surfactants



Structures, what can be formed by surfactants



solubilization



The solubility (and so the bioavailability) of poorly soluble APIs can be increased by the application of the proper amount of surfactant to form micelles.

(Those systems, where the diameter of the micelles is not more than the size of the molecules from what are built up the micelles, are called solubilizated solution.)

Critical micelle concentration



Determination od critical micelle concentration



Surfactants' classification

according to their origin

- natural
- synthetic

according to their structure

- non-ionic
- ionic
 - cationoc
 - anionic
 - amphoteric

Surfactants' classification according to the structure



Surfactants with natural origin

Vegetable origin, carbohydrate polymer derivatives:

Acacia, tragacantha, agar-agar, pectin

proteins:

gelatin, casein, o / w emulsion

high molecular weight alcohols:

stearyl alcohol, cetyl alcohol, cholesterol



Hydrophile-lipophile balance (HLB)

Hydrophile-lipophile balance: surfactants contain both hydrophilic groups and lipophilic groups with one or the other being more predominant, the hydrophile-lipophile balance (HLB) number is used as a measure of the ratio of these groups. It is a value between 0-40 defining the affinity of a surfactant for water or oil. HLB value of nonionic surfactants ranges from 0–20. HLB numbers >10 have an affinity for water (hydrophilic) and number <10 have an affinity of oil (lipophilic).



Calculation of HLB value by Griffin's method (1949)



- **M**_h molecular mass inside the molecule of the hydrophylic part
- M molecular mass of the total molecule

Calculation of HLB

Emulsifier parts

$$HLB = \frac{A * HLB_{\alpha} + (100 - A) * HLB_{\beta}}{100}$$

 $\begin{array}{ccc} {}_{HLB_{\alpha}}, {}_{HLB_{\beta}} & \text{HLB value of emulsifier } \alpha \text{ and emulsifier } \beta \\ {}_{A} & \text{the ratio of emulsifier } \alpha \end{array}$

It is an arbitrary scale between 0 and 20 which expresses numerically the size and strength of the polar portion relative to the non-polar portion of the molecule.

Although originally applied to non-ionic surfactants, its use has now been extended to ionic surfactants (HLB for ionic surfactants are much higher, up to 50, based on the ionization properties.

application
nti-foaming agents
<i>ilo emulgents</i>
vetting agents
/w emulsifiers
etergents
olubilizing agents

Application of surfactants





Brij

Fatty-acid ethers of polyethylenglycols

Brij	composition	HLB
30	PEG (4) lauryl ether	9,7
35	PEG (23) lauryl ether	16,9
52	PEG (2)cethyl ether	5,3
58	PEG (20)cethyl ether	15,7
72	PEG (2) stearyl ether	4,9
78	PEG (20)cethyl ether	15,3

Span

Fatty acid aesther of sorbitans

The hydrophylcicity of the Spans can be increased by hydrophyl groups (–OH or $-CH_2$ -O-CH $_2$ -O-). (These groups can bound water molecules)



Span	Chemical name	HLB
20	sorbitan monolaurate	8,6
40	sorbitan monopalmitate	6,7
60	sorbitan monostearate	4,7
65	sorbitan tristearate	2,1
80	sorbitan monooleate	4,3
85	sorbitan trioleate	1,8

Tween

Fatty acid aesthers and polyoxethylen ethers of sorbitan

PEG derivatives of Spans

(the combination of Spans with Tweens can increase the emulsifying effect.



Tween	chemical name	HLB
20	PEG(20) sorbitan monolaurate	16,7
40	PEG(20)sorbitan monopalmitate	15,6
60	PEG(20)sorbitan monostearate	14,9
80	PEG(20)sorbitan monolaurate	15,0
85	PEG(20)sorbitan trioleate	11,0

✓ Spans are sorbitan fatty acid esters having low

HLB values ranging from 1.8 to 8.6.

✓Tweens are polyoxyethylene derivatives of spans. So, they are more hydrophilic having higher HLB values ranging from 9.6 to 16.7.

(a) Anionic $CH_3 + (CH_2)_{n-2} - CH_2 - 0 - S = 0^{\circ} Na^{\circ}$



sodium dodecyl sulfate (b) Cationic



dodecyl trimethyl ammonium chloride

anionic

- alkali metal salts of fatty acids (soaps)
- salts of sulfuric acid esters, sodium-lauryl-sulphate, sulfonates

CH₃(CH₂)₁₀CH₂OSO₃Na

sodium-lauryl-sulphate

cationic

In these molecules, the Nitrogen or nitrogen containing molecules have a huge importance.

The four hydrogen of the ammonium ion can be substituated by alkil or aril groups (radicals). These structures are called **quaternary ammonium-basis** whom salts are the quaterner ammonium-salts or invert soaps.

Their stucture:



 $R_1 = R_2 = CH_3$ $R_3 = CH_3 \text{ or } CH_2C_6H_5$ $R = \text{ carbon chain } (C_{12}-C_{18})$

cationic

- cetavlon: -alkyl trimethyl-ammonium-salts
- sapamin: trimetihy-acylamydoalkyl-ammonium -salts
- zephirol : -alkyl dimethyl-benzyl-ammonium salts
- sterogenol : the nitrogen is in aromatic ring and to this nitrogen connects a long carbon chain too (Nitrogenol).

cationic

Benzalkonium chloratum (Zephirol),







The ionic surfactants can only be applied for external use.

3. Amphoteric surfactants

(a) Natural soaps (alkylcarboxylates), Lipids

Amphoteric surfactants



HLB values of ointment's substances

Ointment	Type of emulsion	
substance	o/w	w/o
Cethyl alcohol	15	-
Stearyl alcohol	14	-
Stearic acid	15	-
Lanoline	10	8
Cottonseed Oil	10	5
Beeswax	12	4

Micellar Structure and Shape

- (a) lonics
- inner core liquid phase hydrocarbon
- Shell
- diffuse electric double layer
- (b) Nonionics
- inner core liquid phase hydrocarbon
- Shell





Pharmaceutical requirements of a proper surfactant

- promotes and helps to maintain the emulsification
- compatible
- stabile
- non-toxic
- compliant taste, smell and color

Required HLB values

Oil	O/W emulsion	W/O emulsion
Stearic acid	15	6
Cetyl alcohol	15	
Stearyl alcohol	14	
Lanolin, anhydrous	12	8
Mineral oil, light	12	4
Liquid paraffin	10.5	4
Castor oil	14	
Beeswax	9	5
Petrolatum	7-8	4
Wool fat	10	8

Calculation of the required HLB for a mixture of oils, fats or waxes

- 1. Multiply the required HLB of each ingredient by its fraction from the total oily phase.
- 2. Add the obtained values to get the total required HLB for the whole oily phase.

Example:

- Liquid paraffin 35%
- Wool fat 1%
- Cetyl alcohol 1%
- Emulsifier system 7%
- Water to 100%

Solution

The total percentage of the oily phase is 37% and the proportion of each is: Liquid paraffin $35/37 \times 100 = 94.6\%$ Wool fat $1/37 \times 100 = 2.7\%$ Cetyl alcohol $1/37 \times 100 = 2.7\%$ The total required HLB number is obtained as follows: Liquid paraffin (HLB 10.5) 94.6/100 X 10.5 = 9.93 Wool fat (HLB 10) 2.7/100 X 10 = 0.3 Cetyl alcohol (HLB 15) 2.7/100 X 15 = 0.4 Total required HLB = 10.63

Thank you for your attention!