





Review Article

Revolutionary nanocarriers for novel drug delivery system of antipsoriatic drugs: a recent approach.

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| ARTICLE INFO | ABSTRACT |
|---|---|
| <p>Article History</p> <p>Received : 20-Mar-2023 Revised : 10-Apr-2023 Accepted : 20-Apr-2023</p> <p>Key words</p> <p>Psoriasis, Nanocarriers, Antipsoriatic drugs, Nanoparticle.</p> <p>NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License (CC BY-NC-SA)</p> | <p>Psoriasis is an unremitting, inflammatory, autoimmune disorder of the skin disease. It is characterized by excessive growth and aberrant differentiation of keratinocytes. Although psoriasis occurs worldwide is 2-5%. The study found that 35% of people have moderate to severe psoriasis. Several approaches have been explored by researchers with different anti-psoriasis drugs for their successful treatment. But psoriasis is a challenge to treat due to its chronic recurring nature and lack of a perfect carrier for safe and effective delivery of antipsoriatic drugs. Novel nanocarriers have been thoroughly investigated like liposomes, transferosomes, niosomes, ethosomes, SLN, NLC, microspheres, micelles, nanocapsules, dendrimers, etc. Presently nanocarriers have gained widespread application for the effective and safe treatment of psoriasis. The present review focuses on currently existing treatment options and recent developments in the delivery of various antipsoriatic drugs through revolutionary nano carriers categorized as lipid-based carriers and polymer-based carriers.</p> |
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INTRODUCTION

The psoriasis is a chronic inflammatory, autoimmune disorder of the dermis and epidermis. Although psoriasis occurs worldwide is 2-5% [1]. The disease is usually characterized by skin thickening, and excessive growth of red scaly patches appears on the skin. The disease involves a sequence of cellular changes in the skin like hyperplasia of epidermal keratinocytes, vascular hyperplasia, ectasia, and penetration of T-lymphocytes, neutrophils, and other types of leucocytes in affected skin [2, 3].

The classification of types of psoriasis is done based on the extent of the inflammatory process, localization of rash, the severity of the patient condition, and other clinical traits into chronic plaque, guttate, pustular, and erythroderma [4].

Amongst these, chronic plaque psoriasis (CPP) represents a major occurrence proportion with the





equivalent likelihood in both sexes and early onset before the age of 40 years. The classification of types of psoriasis is shown in Table 1 [6-9].

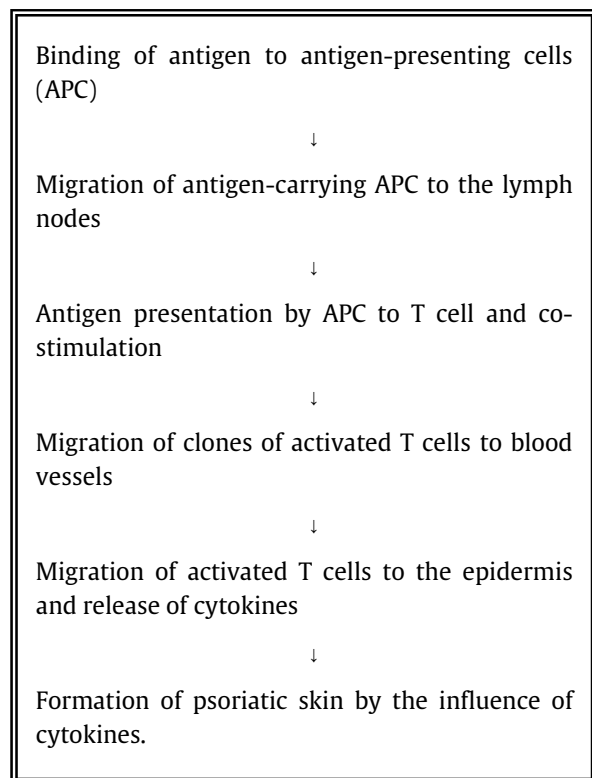
Pathophysiology of psoriasis

Difference between the standard and psoriatic epidermal skin has been shown in Fig. 1.

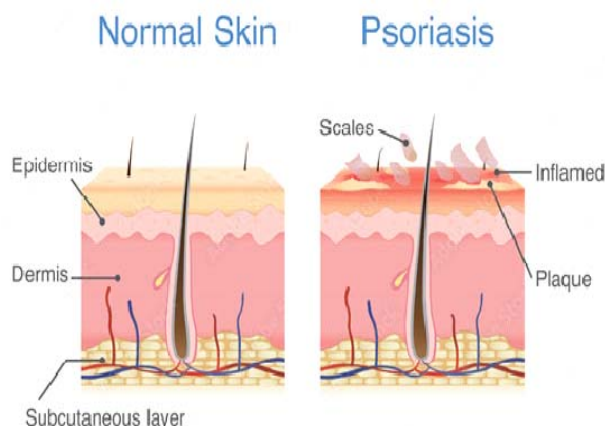
Challenges in psoriasis treatment: The major challenges in psoriasis treatment are elaborated below.

Deficiency of competent carrier for delivery of antipsoriatic drugs: The main problems are the physicochemical properties of the carrier with drug moiety and their incorporation leading to alteration in drug absorption behaviors and drug efficacy. Novel carriers could be an option to overcome the problems associated with conventional vehicles [10].

| Types | Signs and Symptoms |
|---|---|
| <p>Plaque psoriasis</p>  | <p>Most people have plaque psoriasis. It is characterized by a silvery-white scale affecting elbows, knees, lower back, and scalp. Chronic plaque psoriasis is the most common variety of psoriasis, representing about 70% to 80% of psoriatic patient.</p> |
| <p>Guttate psoriasis</p>  | <p>Guttate psoriasis is especially common in children or young. He had small red scaly patches dotted across the skin. These patches can cover quite a large area of the skin.</p> |
| <p>Pustular psoriasis</p>  | <p>It is severe type of psoriasis where lots of small bumps appear on your skin. Bumps usually appear only on the palms and soles. Soreness and pain where the bumps appear. Pus-filled bumps will dry, and leave behind brown dots and/or scale on the skin.</p> |
| <p>Flexural psoriasis</p>  | <p>Psoriasis can be more difficult to treat on some parts of the body. Flexural psoriasis happens in skin folds, armpits, under the breast, between buttocks. It can also affect the genitals. It is not usually scaly.</p> |
| <p>Erythrodermic psoriasis</p>  | <p>It is least common types of psoriasis may occur only in 1-2% of people. Skin looks like it is burned. Body cannot maintain its normal temperature of 98.6° F. Person gets very hot or very cold. Heart beats too fast. Intense itching and pain.</p> |



42 **Fig. 1.** There are different events in the pathogenesis of
43 psoriasis.



44 **Fig. 2** Difference between the standard and psoriatic
45 skin.

46 **Lack of appropriate animal model**

47 Another challenge in the development of an ideal drug
48 and delivery carrier for the psoriasis is lack of an
49 appropriate animal model. Although numerous
50 immunological and genetic animal models have been
51 developed, none of these models display all the
52 characteristics of psoriasis with limitations [11-13].

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56 **Various treatment options for psoriasis**

57 Generally, there are three main modes-

- 58 • Topical therapy
- 59 • Phototherapy
- 60 • Systemic therapy.

61 Firstly, topical therapies are considered. Phototherapy
62 is suggested when topical therapy is ineffective which
63 is followed by systemic medications [14]. Detailed
64 descriptions of antipsoriatic drugs are given in Table 2.

65 Conventional topical medication is used for mild
66 psoriasis, but the absorption rate is low. In the last
67 stages of psoriasis, systemic therapies are preferred.
68 However, in systemic therapy, drug moieties are
69 needed at high doses which maybe produce adverse
70 effects. In addition, biologics employed as an immense
71 therapeutic option for moderate-to-severe psoriasis,
72 are very costly for patients and the healthcare system.

73 Conventional topical treatments have been used in past,
74 but their chronic recurrent nature, psoriasis is a
75 challenge to treat by traditional (topical, oral, and
76 systemic) treatment. The overuse of highly potent
77 corticosteroids can cause thinning of the skin and side
78 effects, while coal tar and dithranol have low efficacy,
79 and poor aesthetic and cosmetics appeal leading to
80 poor patient compliance while systemic therapies such
81 as methotrexate, cyclosporine, and acitretin produce
82 significant side effects [15].

83 The currently available treatments based on the
84 conventional formulation for psoriasis are related to
85 problems like increased dosing frequency, increased
86 side effects, and decreased safety and efficacy. Among
87 the currently available treatments, none of the
88 treatments for psoriasis is found to be safe, effective,
89 and able to completely cure the disease. Further,
90 available treatment options are associated with both
91 inappropriate cosmetic appearance and related
92 toxicities leading to poor patient compliance in long-
93 term use [16, 17].

94 Therefore, a novel drug delivery approach came into
95 existence. Presently great and wide research is being
96 done to achieve a safe and effective therapy for
97 psoriasis using novel carriers [18].

98 A novel drug delivery approach using novel carriers
99 offers several advantages such as improved
100 encapsulation efficiency, increased biocompatibility,
101 and desired drug concentration at the targeted site.
102 Consequently, the reduction of dose & dosing frequency
103 and then side effects thereby improved effectiveness
104 and patient compliance [19, 20].

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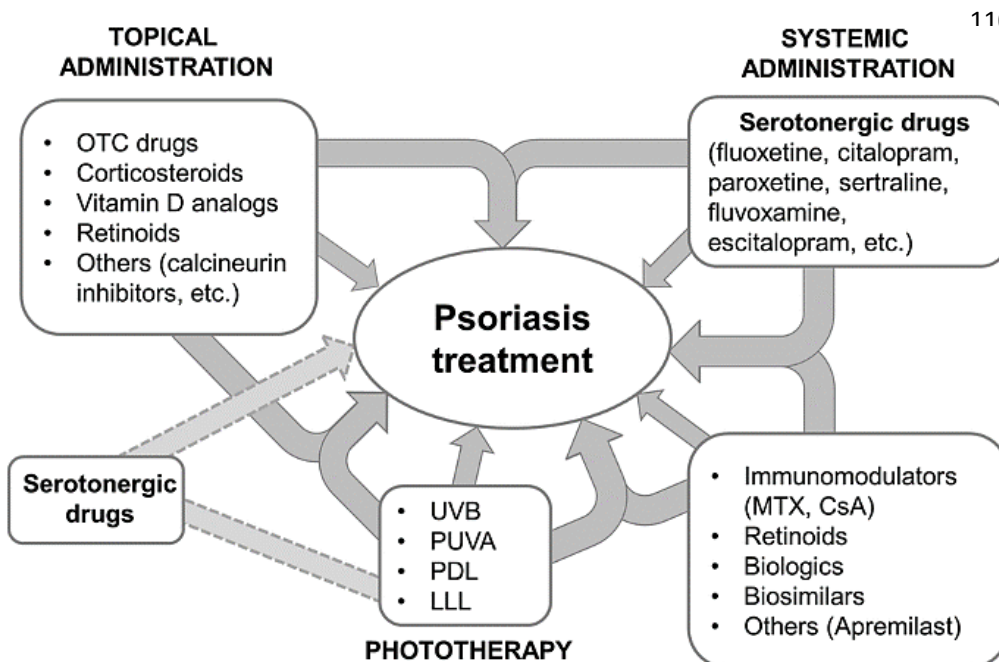


Figure 3. Various treatment options for psoriasis.

Table 2: List of some antipsoriatic drugs with their novel drug delivery systems.

| S. No. | Novel drug delivery carrier | Antipsoriatic drug | Method of preparation |
|--------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| 1. | Liposome | Tacrolimus | Self-assembly of the triblock copolymer |
| 2 | Liposomes | Capsaicin | Thin film hydration |
| 3 | Ethosomes | Methotrexate | Extrusion method |
| 4 | Liposomes | Tretinoin | Fusion method |
| 5 | Nanoemulsion | Clobetasol propionate | Aqueous phase titration method |
| 6 | Solid lipid nanoparticle | Mometasone Furoate | Solvent injection method |
| 7 | Dendrimers | 8-methoxypsoralene | Divergent method |
| 8 | Microemulsion | 8-Methoxsalen | Hot homogenization |
| 9 | Nanostructured lipid carrier | Cyclosporine | The modified hot Homogenization method |
| 10 | Polymeric nanocapsules | Dexamethasone | Interfacial deposition of preformed polymer |
| 11 | PEGylated liposomes | Calcipotriol | Thin film hydration method |
| 12 | Nanostructured lipid carriers | Fluticasone propionate | Modified microemulsion method |
| 13 | Nanostructured lipid carrier | Triamcinolone acetonide | Modified emulsification ultrasonication |

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Current and future management of psoriasis

There are several recent attempts to utilize the NDDS approach to improve the accessible topical drug formulations in psoriasis. The most widely used drug delivery systems include lipid-based nanoparticles i.e.

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nanoemulsion, solid lipid nanoparticles, lipid nanocapsules, nanosuspensions, liposomes, liquid crystalline nanoparticles, lipid-drug conjugates) or polymer-based nanocarriers (polymeric nanoparticles, polymeric micelles, polymer-drug conjugates) as shown in Table 2 [21].

140 Classification of novel nanocarriers

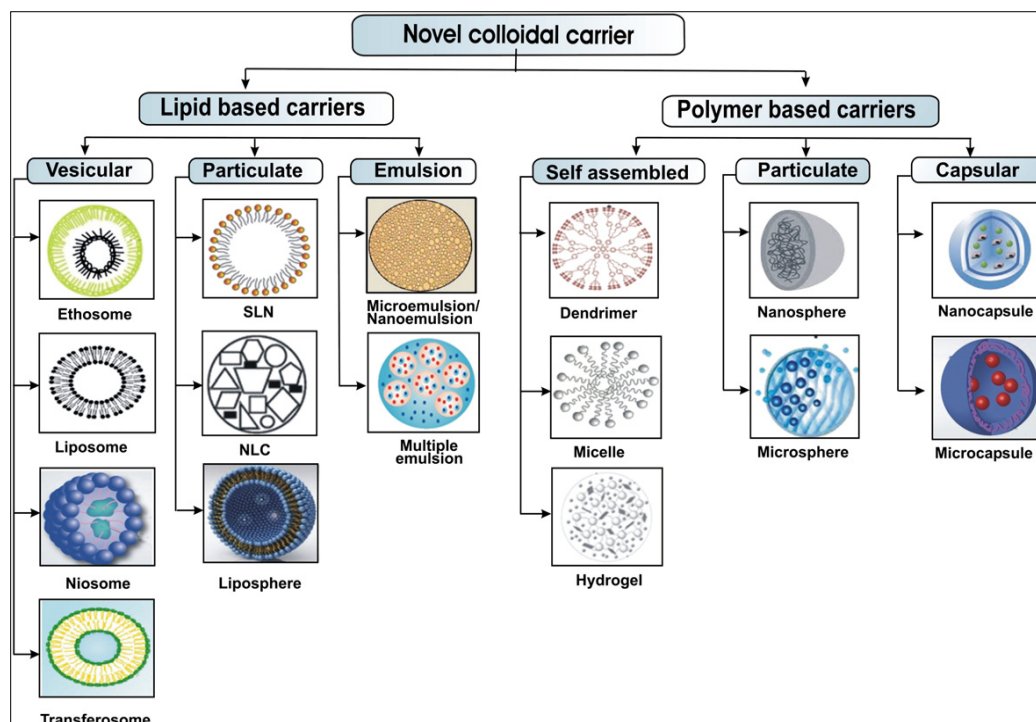
141 Numerous versatile and smart nanocarriers have been
142 developed as advanced drug delivery systems for
143 dermal application.

144 The nanocarriers included in this review fall into four
145 main classes. They are classified as follows:

146 •**Polymer-based nanocarriers:** micelles, polymeric
147 nanoparticles, dendrimers, nanosphere, and
148 nanocapsule.

149 •**Lipid-based nanocarriers:** liposomes, solid lipid
150 nanoparticles, nanostructured lipid carriers, and
151 Lipospheres.

152 Various types of nanocarriers used for the management of psoriasis have been shown in Fig. 4.



169 **Fig. 4 Various types of nanocarriers used in the treatment of psoriasis.**

170 Polymer-based nanocarriers

171 Polymers are used in the delivery of various therapeutic
172 agents such as synthetic drugs, herbal drugs, vitamins,
173 peptides, etc. Polymer-based nanocarriers are usually
174 made up of environmentally friendly polymers the size
175 range varies from 10–1000 nm [22]. Polymer-based
176 nano-formulations have emerged as tremendous
177 delivery vehicles due to ease of preparation, targeted
178 delivery, and safety concern point of view. Additionally,
179 they are structurally stable and able of preserving their
180 structure for a longer duration, when topically applied
181 to the skin [23].

182 Recent advances and applications of various nano-
183 formulations and anti-psoriatic drug delivery have been
184 discussed in the following section of the review.

185 Polymeric micelles

186 These are self-assembling nano-sized (5–100 nm)
187 colloidal particles with a hydrophobic core and
188 hydrophilic shell, used as pharmaceutical carriers for
189 water-insoluble drugs.

190 These carriers have a high degree of drug loading
191 capacity, reduced drug degradation, side effects, and
192 increased bioavailability. Drug loading in a micelle can
193 be achieved by drug-polymer covalent attachment or
194 by physical entrapment [24].

195 These micelles nanocarriers have applications in the
196 delivery of the anticancer drug, antifungal agents, gene
197 delivery, and also for the delivery of antipsoriatic
198 agents.

199 Recently polymeric micelles have also been used for
200 delivery of the therapeutic gene for the cure of
201 psoriasis. In this context, Fan et al., developed modified
202 c-Rel specific siRNA (siRel) loaded poly (ethylene
203 glycol)-b-poly(L-lysine)-b-poly(L-leucine) (PEG-PLL-
204 PLLeu) micelles [25].

205 Polymeric nanoparticle

206 Nanoparticles generally vary in size from 10 to 1000
207 nm. Polymeric nanoparticles are of two types-
208 nanospheres and nanocapsules depending on the
209 arrangement of the drug in the polymer system. In the

210 nanosphere, the drug is entrapped or dispersed in the 260 in the controlled or site-specific delivery of drugs or
 211 polymer matrix. Polymers used can be either 261 bioactive such as DNA, proteins, peptides and genes.
 212 biodegradable or non-biodegradable. Biodegradable 262 Polymeric nanoparticles delivered the drugs used in
 213 polymers are significantly used as potential drug 263 various diseases and dermatological diseases including
 214 delivery systems in the controlled or site-specific 264 psoriasis. Nanospheres (tyrospheres) have been
 215 delivery of drugs or bioactive such as DNA, proteins, 265 successfully employed for drug delivery to the skin.
 216 peptides, and genes through various routes of 266 Batheja et al. developed lipophilic drug-loaded
 217 administration [26]. 267 tyrosine-derived nanospheres for topical application.
 218 Drug release either diffusion, erosion of the matrix, or a 268 They further developed nanospheres in a gel
 219 combination of both depending on the nature of the 269 formulation and evaluated their permeation potential
 220 polymer or method of fabrication [45]. Nanocapsules, a 270 by using human cadaver skin exhibited enhanced drug
 221 characteristic class of nanoparticles, are made up of one 271 permeation from the tyrosphere as compared to
 222 or more active materials (core) and a protective matrix 272 aqueous nanosphere formulation.
 223 (shell) in which the therapeutic substance may be 273 Furthermore, hydrosphere has recently been applied for
 224 confined. 274 topical delivery of Vitamin D3, a very widely used drug
 225 **Dendrimers** 275 for the treatment of psoriasis.

226 Dendrimers are a class of well-defined hyper-branched 276 **Nanocapsules**
 227 polymers first developed under the name cascade 277 Nanocapsules are polymeric nanoparticles in which one
 228 polymers by Buhleier et al. in 1978. 278 or more active core material is surrounded by a
 229 In 1983, Tomalia et al. reported a new class of 279 polymeric matrix (shell).
 230 dendrimers based on a mixture of amines and amides, 280 Nanocapsules can provide nano drug carriers to achieve
 231 the so-called polyamidoamine dendrimers, commonly 281 controlled release as well as proficient drug targeting.
 232 known as PAMAM dendrimers. 282 Polymeric nanocapsules are a valuable means for
 233 The core of dendrimer provides a compartment for 283 dermal applications. The main advantages of
 234 housing drugs suitably and nanosize allows 284 nanocapsules include sustained release, increased drug
 235 internalization by endocytosis [27]. 285 selectivity and effectiveness, improved drug
 236 Dendrimers provide void space for drug loading as the 286 bioavailability, and reduced drug toxicity. The release
 237 drug can either reside in the central unit or interact 287 properties and degradation mostly depend on the
 238 with terminal functional groups via electrostatic or 288 polymer properties, drug used, and method of
 239 covalent bonds. Drug releases from the dendrimer 289 preparation [29].
 240 either by enzymatic degradation of drug dendrimer 290 **Lipid-based nanocarriers**
 241 conjugate or by changes in the physical environment 291 Generally, Lipid-based carriers are constituted from
 242 such as pH and temperature. 292 physiological lipids. Therefore, they are safe and free
 243 Dendrimers have great applications in the drug delivery 293 from toxicity. They release non-toxic moiety upon
 244 system. They have advantages such as increased 294 degradation and are well-accepted for therapeutic
 245 solubilization, controlled drug release, and formation of 295 purposes. Lipid-based nanocarriers are useful in many
 246 drug-polymer conjugates (pro-drugs). 296 aspects such as controlled drug release, enhanced
 247 Furthermore, the viscosity generation property of 297 stability, biodegradability, drug targeting, increased
 248 dendrimer solution permits direct and smooth 298 drug load, and cost-effectiveness.
 249 application of very concentrated dendrimer 299 Furthermore, some lipid nanocarriers such as
 250 formulations over the skin. 300 nanostructured lipid carriers and solid lipid
 251 Therefore, dendrimers have been successfully used for 301 nanoparticles can carry both lipophilic and hydrophilic
 252 the delivery of antiviral, NSAIDS, etc [52]. 302 active agents. Various classes of lipid nanocarriers
 253 antihypertensive, anticancer, and antipsoriatic drugs. 303 including liposomes, liposphere, ethosomes,
 254 **Nanosphere** 304 nanostructured lipid carriers, and solid lipid
 255 It is one type of polymeric nanoparticle in which the 305 nanoparticles have proven their potential for effective
 256 drug is entrapped or dispersed in the polymer matrix. 306 delivery of anti-psoriatic drugs.
 257 Polymers used can be either biodegradable or non- 307 **Liposomes**
 258 biodegradable. Biodegradable polymeric nanoparticles 308 Liposomes are phospholipid bilayered vesicular
 259 are significantly used as potential drug delivery systems 309 structures enclosing an aqueous compartment.

310 Liposomes are suitable for carrying both hydrophilic (in
311 aqueous core) and lipophilic drugs (in lipid bilayer) due
312 to their amphiphilic nature [30]. 363

313 Dermal delivery of drugs through liposomes is favored
314 by its small size, and lamellar, elastic, and fluid
315 properties. 364 365 366

316 Phospholipids, being the major component of liposomal
317 systems, are easily integrated with the skin lipids and
318 maintain the desired hydration conditions to improve
319 drug penetration and localization in the skin layers [31] 370

320 Liposomes are uniquely used in topical/ transdermal
321 drug delivery for a variety of dermal disorders including
322 psoriasis. They are considered unique because they play
323 the role of organic solvent for solubilizing poorly
324 soluble drugs; act as a local depot contributing to
325 sustained drug release; act as penetration enhancer due
326 to diffusion of phospholipid molecules or nonionic
327 surfactants into the lipid covering of the stratum
328 corneum; promotes localized higher drug
329 concentrations. 371 372 373 374 375 376 377 378 379

330 Calcipotriol, a vitamin D analog was successfully
331 delivered in lipopolymer poly(ethylene glycol)-
332 distearoylphosphoethanolamine (PEG-DSPE) liposomes
333 with a significant increase in drug deposition into the
334 stratum corneum. 380 381 382 383 384

335 Doppalapudi et al. developed liposomal nanocarriers
336 containing psoralen for safe and effective PUVA therapy
337 of psoriasis with better skin penetration [32]. 385 386 387

338 Wadhwa et al., prepared fusidic acid (FA) loaded
339 liposomal system for proficient management of plaque
340 psoriasis [33]. 388 389 390

341 **Solid lipid nanoparticles** 391 392 393

342 Solid lipid nanoparticles are nanoparticle systems in
343 size ranging from 50 to 1000 nm. They are composed of
344 physiological lipids and surfactants, which make to
345 form SLN on dispersion in water. SLN offers unique
346 properties such as tiny size with large surface area, high
347 drug loading capacity, and extended drug release
348 profile due to the slow degradation of lipid matrices. 394 395 396 397 398

349 SLNs have been successfully used in various cosmetic
350 and dermatological preparations. Shah and co-workers
351 developed the SLN of tretinoin for its improved
352 photostability using the simple emulsification-solvent
353 diffusion (ESD) method. 399 400 401 402 403

354 In comparison with other vehicles such as solutions,
355 creams, and emulsions, SLNs combine several
356 advantages including controlled drug release minimal
357 skin irritation and protection of active constituents. 404 405 406 407 408

358 Urban-Morlan et al. prepared and characterized solid
359 lipid nanoparticles containing cyclosporine A by
360 emulsification-diffusion method [35]. 408 409

Gambhire et al. (2011) reported the preparation and
optimization of dithranol-loaded solid lipid
nanoparticles.

Nanostructured lipid carriers

Nanostructured Lipid Carriers (NLCs) represent an
advanced form of solid lipid nanoparticles (SLNs) with
improved properties of drug loading, modulation of the
release profile, and stable drug incorporation during
storage.

NLCs are promising drug carriers for topical application
because of their improved skin retention properties
[36].

Compared with other topical vehicles like creams,
tinctures, lotions, and emulsions, the NLCs have several
advantages such as controlled drug release, negligible
skin irritation, protection of active compounds, and
targeted drug delivery [37].

NLCs are produced by mixing solid lipids (stearic acid,
palmitic acid, carnauba wax, cetyl palmitate) with
liquid lipids (oleic acid, isopropyl myristate) and form a
lipid matrix with a specific structure. Lin et al. (2010)
combined calcipotriol and methotrexate in
nanostructured lipid carriers for topical delivery and
reported efficient delivery of the drugs [38].

Liposphere

Lipospheres are a lipid-based nanoparticulate carrier
which is composed of a solid lipid core surrounded by a
single-unit phospholipid layer that may entrap the drug
or coat it with the drug. The emulsifying agent or
stabilizing agent is used to forming a uniform coating
around the core material and to facilitate the
partitioning of the drug between the lipid and aqueous
phases.

Lipospheres have been successfully used as an oral,
intravenous, and transdermal route for the treatment of
various ailments. They have also been used effectively
for the treatment of psoriasis.

Nanoemulsion

Nanoemulsions are biphasic dispersion of two
immiscible liquids having droplet size on the order of
100 nm, which is existing in either water in oil (W/O)
droplets or oil in water (O/W) droplets [39].

Nanoemulsions despite having the same droplet size
range as microemulsions differ tremendously in
structural aspects and long-term thermodynamic
stability. The small droplet size can resist the physical
destabilization caused by gravitational separation,
flocculation, and/or coalescence. It also avoids the
creaming process because the droplet's Brownian

410 motion is enough to overcome the gravitational
411 separation force. 461

412 Nanoemulsions can be rendered into several dosage
413 forms, like liquids, creams, sprays, gels, aerosols, foams
414 and can be administered by equally varying routes like
415 topical, oral, intravenous, intranasal, pulmonary and
416 ocular. Khandavilli and Panchagnula (2007) formulated
417 a nanoemulsion (NE) to achieve penetration of
418 paclitaxel into deeper skin layers while minimizing the
419 systemic escape [40]. 467-468-469

420 Rice bran oil nanoemulsions and evaluated them for
421 irritation potential and moisturizing activity on
422 volunteers with normal and diseased skin types. 470-471-472

423 **Ethosomes** 473

424 Ethosomes are soft, flexible, and noninvasive delivery
425 carriers. It is mainly composed of phospholipids,
426 ethanol, and water. The characteristic feature of those is
427 due to their high ethanol concentration which is
428 responsible for disturbing the organization of the skin
429 lipid bilayer. Thus, these vesicles based on ethanol
430 easily penetrate the stratum corneum and are reported
431 to be safe for pharmaceutical and cosmetic use. 474-475-476-477-478-479-480

432 Ethosomes are suitable for topical drug delivery as they
433 remain confined to the upper layer of the stratum
434 corneum. They have also been used for dermal,
435 transdermal delivery of numerous drugs for the
436 treatment of several dermal diseases like alopecia,
437 dermatitis, and psoriasis [41]. 481-482-483-484-485-486-487

438 **CONCLUSION** 488

439 Various topical treatments are available for psoriasis.
440 Yet, none of them are completely secure and effective
441 to treat the disease without compromising patient
442 compliance. Furthermore, already existing drugs are
443 supposed to control the disease and improve the sign
444 and symptoms with no complete cure. Therefore, there
445 is a challenge to explore new drug delivery carriers
446 which could safely and effectively manage psoriasis and
447 improve patient compliance. Novel drug delivery
448 carriers, especially nanocarriers improved the problems
449 such as minimization of dose, dosing frequency, and
450 side effects, associated with conventional drug delivery
451 systems. 489-490-491-492-493-494-495-496-497-498-499-500

452 Nanocarriers such as liposomes, ethosomes,
453 Lipospheres, SLNs, polymeric nanoparticles, NLCs,
454 nanocapsules, dendrimers, gold nanoparticles, silver
455 nanoparticles, etc. have been successfully employed for
456 antipsoriatic drug delivery. These carriers present a tool
457 to overcome the many challenges associated with
458 topical antipsoriatic drug therapy. 501-502-503-504-505-506-507

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