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Automated storage and retrieval systems (ASRS) in India: Application outlook on chemicals/ pharmaceutical industries

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The rapid advance in today's technology requires innovative solutions especially in the area of storage and retrieval processes. Material handling includes all the stages of material transit starting from entry of raw material in the factory, inter process and intra process movement of materials or components during various operations and then finally the exit of finished products from the factory. It has been estimated that the average material handling cost is roughly 40%-50% of total production cost and hence it is the major factor which governs the final price of the product. Hence, any modern approach that focusses on or includes reduction in this cost is appreciated. Automated Storage and Retrieval System (AS/RS) plays a vital role in optimising material handling process. It employs computerized robotic system that automates storage and retrieval processes, thus, improving the efficiency of material handling and sorting. As compared to conventional material handling systems, it improves storage capacity, space utilization, etc., and reduces cost of material handling, handling time in factories or warehouses. This paper focuses on the detailed study of AS/RS and its comparison with conventional material handling system.

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Challenges in implementing good clinical practice (GCP) guidelines and their mitigations

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Good Clinical Practice (GCP) is a set of guidelines for biomedical research, which encompasses the design, conduct, termination, audit, analysis, reporting and documentation of the studies involving human subjects. It primarily establishes the two main principles, i.e., Protection of rights of human subjects and authenticity of biomedical data generated. After the breach of subject rights during human experiments such as Nazi war crime, human radiation experiments and thalidomide tragedy, these guidelines came into existence in 1996, which are ubiquitously implemented in clinical research. Though the regulatory bodies maintain stringent norms to implement these guidelines, there are many discrepancies associated with it such as lack of professional training, safety reporting, Informed Consent Document (ICD) administration and record keeping, which thereby depletes the standards of clinical trials and authenticity of data generated. Hence, to overcome such limitations, certain measures have to be taken for the proper conduct of clinical trials.

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