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Commentary

Revolution of Nanoemlusions in Drug Delivery and Biological Activity

Laura Salvia*

Department of Microbiology and Science, University of Lleida, Lleida, Spain

DESCRIPTION

Nanoemulsions represent a ground-breaking advancement in the field of pharmaceuticals and biotechnology, offering a versatile and efficient means of delivering various active compounds, such as drugs and nutrients, to targeted biological systems. These colloidal dispersions consist of nanoscale droplets of one immiscible liquid (the dispersed phase) stabilized in another immiscible liquid (the continuous phase) by a surfactant.

Nanoemulsion formation

The formation of nanoemulsions involves reducing droplet size to the nanometre scale, typically below 100 nm, which imparts various advantages. This is achieved by vigorous mechanical forces or through controlled phase transitions. High-pressure homogenization, ultra-sonication, and micro fluidization are commonly used methods for Nanoemulsion generation.

Advantages of nanoemulsions

Their ability to increase the bioavailability of poorly water-soluble compounds. This is particularly crucial in the pharmaceutical industry, where many drugs suffer from limited solubility, resulting in poor absorption and reduced efficacy. Nano emulsions can solubilize hydrophobic drugs within their oil phase, improving their transport through biological barriers, such as the gastrointestinal tract or the blood-brain barrier.

Biological activity: Nanoemulsions have demonstrated significant potential in enhancing the biological activity of various compounds, including drugs, vitamins, and phytochemicals. Their ability to increase solubility and bioavailability directly impacts the pharmacokinetics of these compounds.

Improved stability: Nanoemulsions exhibit remarkable stability, which is a crucial factor in preserving the biological activity of encapsulated compounds. The small droplet size and effective surfactant coverage prevent coalescence and creaming, ensuring the long-term stability of the formulation.

Application of nanoemulsions in pharmaceuticals

Drug delivery: Nanoemulsions are used as drug delivery systems to enhance the solubility and bio availability of poorly water-soluble drugs. They improve the therapeutic efficacy and reduce side effects.

Cancer therapy: Nanoemulsions can be designed to target specific cancer cells, delivering chemotherapeutic drugs more effectively while minimizing damage to healthy tissues.

Vaccine delivery: Nanoemulsions have been explored for vaccine formulations, enhancing the immunogenicity and antigen stability, leading to improved vaccine efficacy.

Application of nanoemulsions in nutraceuticals

Vitamins and antioxidants: Nanoemulsions are used to encapsulate vitamins (e.g., vitamin A, D, E, and K) and antioxidants, improving their stability and bioavailability, making them more effective in promoting health.

Omega-3 fatty acids: Nanoemulsions enhance the delivery of omega-3 fatty acids, which are essential for cardiovascular and brain health.

Phytochemicals: Nutraceutical compounds like curcumin, resveratrol, and quercetin, known for their poor solubility, can be encapsulated in nanoemulsions, increasing their absorption and biological activity.

Application of nanoemulsions in cosmetics

Skin care: Nanoemulsions are used in the formulation of skincare products to improve the delivery of active ingredients, such as vitamins, peptides, and hyaluronic acid, to the skin, enhancing their efficacy.

Sunscreen: Nanoemulsions are used to improve the dispersion of UV filters in sunscreen products, ensuring better UV protection and a more comfortable texture.

Application of nanoemulsions in food industry

Flavor and nutrient delivery: Nanoemulsions enable the encapsulation of flavors, colors, and nutrients, improving their dispersion in food products and enhancing their taste and nutritional value.

Correspondence to: Dr. Laura Salvia, Department of Microbiology and Science, University of Lleida, Lleida, Spain, E-mail: laura.salvia11@udl.cat

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Fat reduction: Nanoemulsions can be used to reduce the fat content in food products while maintaining texture and flavor.

Bioactive compounds: Bioactive ingredients like probiotics, vitamins, and phytosterols can be encapsulated in nanoemulsions for better delivery in functional foods.

Application of nanoemulsions in agrochemicals

Pesticides and herbicides: Nanoemulsions are used to formulate agrochemicals, improving their dispersion and adhesion to plant surfaces, leading to increased efficiency and reduced environmental impact.

Fertilizers: Nanoemulsions can be used for controlled-release fertilizers, providing a more efficient nutrient supply to crops.

CONCLUSION

Nanoemulsions represent a remarkable breakthrough in drug delivery and biotechnology, offering enhanced bioavailability, targeted delivery, and improved stability for various active compounds. Their potential to increase the biological activity of drugs, nutrients, and other bioactive agents holds immense potential for the pharmaceutical and nutraceutical industries. As research in this field continues to advance, we can anticipate the development of innovative nanoemulsion-based solutions that will significantly impact healthcare and biotechnology, entering in a new era of precision medicine and improved patient outcomes.