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Niosome Technology



What is Niosome...

ingredient is encapsulated in vesicles structurally similar to liposomes but with a bilayer composed of non-ionic surface active agents rather than phospholipids



Why use Niosome....

to localize and concentrate the active ingredients in a skin compartment of interest providing maximum efficacy of the cosmetic treatment



ABSORPTION OF ACTIVE INGREDIENTS

ACTIVE INGREDIENTS

I.A. + DELIVERY SYSTEM

Stratum corneum No Metabolic Activity

THE STRATUM CORNEUM LIMITS THE

ABSORPTION OF ACTIVE INGREDIENTS

Epidermis Cells with Active Metabolism ACTIVE INGREDIENTS MUST REACH THE LIVING CELLS TO BE EFFECTIVE

Why use a Delivery System?

Skin care formulations should incorporate specific elements that improve the ability of active ingredients to overcome the stratum corneum

in order to partially disrupt and weaken the intercellular lipid lamellae in a reversible manner

DELIVERY SYSTEM or PENETRATION ENHANCER

Tarscellular rosat Tarscellular rosat Plasma Plasma

Vesicle as Tool for Transdermal and Dermal Delivery

One approach is the use of vesicle as an active delivery system

Ø 150-250 nm

Composed of amphiphilic molecules



Their center consists of an aqueous cavity, which is surrounded by one or more bimolecular sheets of amphiphilic molecules

Hydrophilic actives can be entrapped into the aqueous cavity Lipophilic actives can be associated with the bilayer

Vesicle as Tool for Transdermal and Dermal Delivery

A wide variety of amphiphilic molecules can be used to prepare vesicles



Colloidal aggregate:



Vesicle as Tool for Transdermal and Dermal Delivery

In the last thirty years, many delivery systems have been developed

Liposomes - Phospholipid bilayer years) Conventional Niosome - Non-Ethosomes - Phospholipid bilayer + ethanol) Elastic Trasferosomes - Hybrid

Ultra-deformable Niosomes - *Polyglycerol esters bilayer* (2008)



Liposome Delivery System



Advantages

Reduce toxicity or irritation

Increase active stability

Increase deposition of active in Stratum Corneum

Disadvantages

Instability to **hydrolysis** of phospholipid molecules Instability to **oxidation** of phospholipid molecules Instability to **enzymatic degradation**

Liposomes don't penetrate skin, but they may kick-start active ingredient delivery

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By Andrew MCDOUGALL

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RELATED TAGS: Chemistry

Researchers in Denmark say that the way liposomes are perceived in beauty needs to change after showing that the vesicles, often praised by cosmetics companies for their alleged ability to transport active ingredients into the skin, cannot actually penetrate; but rather help the process get underway.

From this study, published in the journal PLOS One, they add that liposomes cannot penetrate the skin's barrier without breaking.

Liposome Delivery System

PLOS ONE

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Superresolution and Fluorescence Dynamics Evidence Reveal That Intact Liposomes Do Not Cross the Human Skin Barrier

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Bilayer Elasticity: Deformable Vesicles

At the end of the 90s, Gregor Cevc demonstrated:

- 1) Bilayer elasticity represents a crucial factor in determining its ability to penetrate the skin
- 2) The liposome does not penetrate the skin as it has a bilayer too rigid and not deformable



Bilayer ELASTICITY is the most important factor for a vesicular delivery system

If the vesicles are elastic, they can squeeze through the pores (**20nm**) in Stratum Corneum (these pores are less than one-tenth of the diameter of vesicles **200 nm**)



Old Generation Delivery Systems based on phospholipids



Two Limitations

Instability into the Stratum corneum

Phospholipids are sensible to enzymatic degradation and oxidation

Liposome are rigid vesicles

High number of alkyl chains inside the membrane bilayer of the Stratum corneum made vesicles rigid

Bilayer Elasticity: Deformable Vesicles

Why do phospholipids form very rigid liposome vesicles?



Liposome

Double Chain Surfactants

Single Chain Surfactants

Evolution of Vesicular Delivery Systems



DELIVERY SYSTEM FOR A BETTER SKIN PENETRATION







Bilayer composition:

Polyglycerol Esters

Ø Diameter ~ 150 250 nm

Core of the Vesicles Hydrophilic Molecules

Membrane Bilayer Lipophilic Molecules

The Bilayer Composition of Single Alkyl Chains Guarantees the **Elastic Properties of the Vesicles**



Image by courtesy of Prof. Honeywell-Nguyen PL

Figure 23: The skin: freeze fracture electron micrograph of ultradeformable vesicles in hydrophilic skin pores of the stratum corneum. (by courtesy of Prof. Dr. J. Bouwstra)

Deformability Index

Evaluations of elasticity of deformable vesicles can be carried out by **extrusion measurement**.

The vesicles are extruded through a polycarbonate membrane filter with a specific pore size at costant pressure.

More rigid the vesicles smaller the size after the extrusion when compared to the starting point.

This phenomenon is caused by the breaking of the more rigid vesicles during the passage through the membrane pores.

NIOSOME: Mechanism of skin penetration

The deformability of the vesicle is a necessary but not sufficient condition to ensure optimal penetration through the skin

The polarity and the ability of the vesicle to be solvated by a shell of water molecules is another important condition.

NIOSOME: Mechanism of skin penetration

TEWL creates a decreasing gradient of water as we reach the superficial layers of the skin

NIOSOME: The Osmotic Gradient

As Niosome vesicle always seek to avoid dehydration...

Vesicles applied on skin loses part of the water shell and for that tends to penetrate skin squeezing through minute pores and **migrate into the water-rich deeper strata to secure its adequate hydration.**

Skin Penetration is driven by the water concentration gradient.

From the horny layer surface (relatively dry) to the wet viable tissues

The transport of these elastic vesicles is thus independent of concentration

NIOSOME: The Osmotic Gradient

Skin Penetration Study by Franz Diffusion Cell

Both Liposome and Niosome permeate Stratum Corneum

Formulation with Niosome demonstrated a higher skin permeation and stability after 48 h incubation compared to Liposomes

Skin Penetration Study by Tape Stripping Technique

Experimental procedure

(Tesafilm 2 x 3,0cm Beiersdorf, Germany)

Skin Penetration Study by Tape Stripping Technique

Genistein (µg)

- Nio-Genistein (0,5%)Lipo-Genistein (0,5%)
- Genistein alone (0,5%)

Results

Niosomal formulation markedly enhanced, when compared with Liposomal formulation, the delivery of the entrapped active agent: Genistein

