



A STORY OF A 3D PRINTING FILAMENT

From a single component to a pharmaceutical 3D printing Filament
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NEW Potentials ¹

Challenges ²

Filament / ink ³



1 Binary system
Drug-Polymer
Mefenamic acid - Eudragit EPO
MFA - EPO

Phase diagram

2 Multicomponent systems
Drug-Polymer-Plasticizer-Filler

A) Plasticizer Screening
Molecular interaction
B) Filler Screening

3 Ratio optimisation
Design of Experiment (DoE)

3D printing test => Limits

$\epsilon(B)$, E/η , $\sigma(M)$

(wt%)
MFA (10-20%)
Stearic acid (StA) (5-10%)
Silica (10-30%)

Prediction
Printable?



1

Mechanical properties
Good Acceptable Bad

All MFA-EPO binary formulae

Brittle and not feedable into the printer

2 A) Plasticizers:

MFA ↑ brittleness
TEC and TWN ↓ MFA solubility
StA ↑ flexibility
Yet not printable

3 Contour plots

3DP test

| | |
|------------|------------|
| T at 150°C | Extrudable |
| DoE1 | Yes |
| DoE2 | Yes |
| DoE3 | No |
| DoE4 | Yes |
| DoE5 | Yes |
| DoE6 | Yes |
| DoE7 | No |
| DoE8 | Yes |
| DoE9 | No |
| DoE10 | No |

All graphs at 14.5% Silica (wt%)

(MFA-EPO-StA)-Silica (13.2%-EPO-5.1%)-14.5%

B) Fillers:

Improving mechanical properties of the plasticized formula

Ductile matrix
Brittle matrix to improve mechanical properties

EPO-StA-Any Filler (20%)
MFA(20%-EPO-StA)-Silica

Break and buckle in the 3D printer



Polymer mechanical properties and drug-polymer miscibility.

Drug load and Drug-Polymer Process space consideration:
Dispersed on molecular level (transmission or separation plasticization effect) or heterogenous solid dispersion (Particle size, shape, concentration, and)

Additives: Plasticizer (improve ductility), Filler (improve toughness).

Ingredients Ratio Optimisation:
DoE of the ingredients to find the optimum formula for 3D printing

Specifications

Limits

Rapid formulation

Filament Quality Attributes

Prediction

Material properties & Process parameters

PhD Thesis



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