About 8-Methoxypsoralen: Difference in the Efficiency of Two Delivery Forms

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One of our colleagues drew our attention to an article in your Journal, titled 'Difference in the efficiency of two delivery forms of 8-methoxypsoralen' by Polano and Schothorst [1]. With reference to several questions, asked by colleagues regarding the preparation of capsules with methoxalen and to the article mentioned above we wish to make the following side-notes at this investigation:

Originally, capsules with 8-methoxypsoralen were prepared according to the current methods, that is pulverizing the raw material and mixing it with a convenient filling material (in this case microcristalline cellulose). The capsules prepared by us were compared with the Meladinin tablets in the investigation of Polano and Schothorst.

The results of this investigation seemed to be in favour of the tablets, reason for us to start a provisional comparative pharmaceutical investigation on the tablets and the capsules as to the contents, the constant uniformity and the desintegration time. Also the particle size of the original capsules and of capsules prepared with methoxypsoralen substance after being solved in an ethanol 96%-dichloromethane mixture and triturated with Amylum oryzae were compared. It turned out that there was no difference in contents nor in uniformity and that there was a small difference in desintegration time in water between the tablets and the capsules. The particle size of the original capsules, however, appeared to be approximately the tenfold of those prepared with the substance treated as mentioned above. Moreover, we found no considerable difference in particle size of the substances from various distributors.

Though the new capsules have so far not been investigated clinically, we strongly feel that capsules prepared with psoralen that has been previously dissolved will produce a satisfactory photosensitising effect. We think that the remarks made above will clarify the problems raised by the paper of Polano and Schothorst.

Reference

1 Polano, M.K. and Schothorst, A.A.: Difference in the efficiency of two delivery forms of 8-methoxypsoralen. Dermatologica 154: 216–218 (1977).