

蛋白及多肽类药物长效化制剂学技术研究进展

丁源¹, 陈新², 涂家生^{1*}, 孙春萌^{1**}

(¹中国药科大学药用辅料及仿创药物研发评价中心, 南京 210009; ²国家药品监督管理局药品审评中心, 北京 100022)

摘要 蛋白及多肽类药物近年来越来越多地应用到疾病的预防、诊断和治疗之中, 然而, 蛋白及多肽类药物通常需要注射给药且缺乏长效剂型, 给需要长期用药的慢性病患者带来困扰。本文综述了通过制剂学手段对蛋白及多肽类药物进行长效化改造的策略, 包括缓释注射剂、植入剂、口服制剂以及经皮给药系统, 并总结其缓释机制、研究进展和优缺点, 以期为此类药物的剂型改良提供研究思路及理论参考。

关键词 蛋白及多肽类药物; 长效化; 缓控释; 剂型改良; 进展

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Progress in technology of long-acting preparations of protein and peptide drugs

DING Yuan¹, CHEN Xin², TU Jiasheng^{1*}, SUN Chunmeng^{1**}

¹Center for Research, Development and Evaluation for Pharmaceutical Excipients and Generic Drugs, China Pharmaceutical University, Nanjing 210009; ²Center for Drug Evaluation, National Medical Products Administration, Beijing 100022, China

Abstract As one of the most important biological drugs, protein and peptide drugs have been increasingly used in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases in recent years. However, most of them need to be injected and lack of long-acting formulations, which brings many troubles to patients suffering from chronic diseases. In this review, we summarized the strategies for engineering long-acting formulations for proteins and peptides via preparation means, including extended-release injection, implant, oral preparations and transdermal drug delivery systems, and analyzed their release mechanisms, research advances, advantages and shortcomings, thereby providing potential approaches for promoting the formulation improvement of these drugs.

Key words protein and peptide drugs; long-acting performance; extended- and controlled-release; formulation improvement; advances

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蛋白及多肽类药物通常具有特定的三维结构和作用位点, 从而能够在体内发挥特异性的治疗作用, 与传统药物相比有更好的临床有效性和安全性。然而, 此类药物大多存在稳定性差、给药剂

收稿日期 2019-11-09 通信作者 *Tel: 025-83271305 E-mail: jiashengtu@aliyun.com

**Tel: 025-83271305 E-mail: suncm_cpu@hotmail.com

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量小、体内半衰期短、生物利用度低等问题,尤其是治疗慢性疾病的蛋白及多肽类药物往往需要长期、频繁注射,不仅顺应性低,还可能导致其他不良反应的产生^[1]。例如,采用贝伐珠单抗(bevacizumab)治疗年龄相关性黄斑病变需要频繁进行玻璃体内注射,易于诱发白内障、视网膜出血和脱离等并发症^[2]。为延长蛋白及多肽药物的体内半衰期,研究人员通常采用融合长效化片段(与Fc融合^[3-4]、与人血清白蛋白融合^[5])、PEG修饰、缀合脂

肪酸链^[6]、环化或氨基酸替代^[7]等策略,并已有多款药物成功上市。除对蛋白质及多肽进行分子改造外,还可通过制剂学手段改善蛋白及多肽类药物的吸收并使其长效化,能够有效缩短药品研发周期、降低药品研发成本。通过制剂学手段对蛋白及多肽类药物进行长效化改造的策略将被着重介绍,以期为促进此类药物的剂型改良提供研究思路。

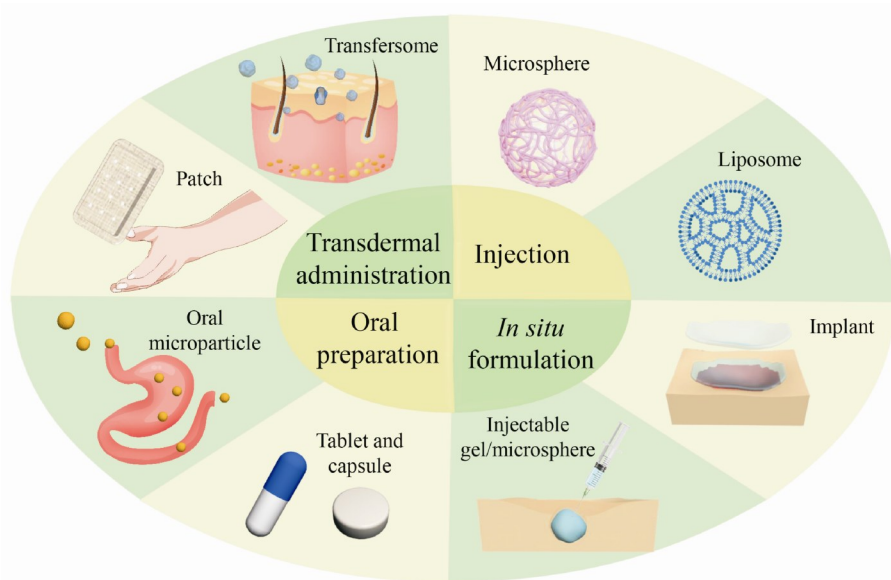


Figure 1 Graphical tablet of major strategies for preparation of long-acting formulations containing proteins and peptides

1 注射剂

1.1 注射用微球

微球一般通过皮下或肌肉注射给药,并随着载体的缓慢溶蚀而持续释放药物。艾塞那肽是由美国FDA批准的第1个胰高血糖素样肽-1(GLP-1)受体激动剂类多肽药物,用于改善2型糖尿病患者的血糖控制,其普通剂型(商品名Byetta[®])需每天两次进行皮下注射;随后,Amylin制药公司以聚乳酸-羟基乙酸共聚物[Poly(D, L-lactic-co-glycolic acid), PLGA]为载体,成功开发了每周仅需注射1次的艾塞那肽缓释微球(商品名Bydureon[®]),并于2011年和2012年先后获得欧盟和美国FDA批准^[8]。注射用微球的上市制剂还包括:注射用醋酸奥曲肽微球(商品名Sandostatin[®] LAR)、注射用帕瑞肽微球(商品名Signifor[®] LAR)、醋酸亮丙瑞林缓释微球(商品名Lupron Depot[®])等。

随着PLGA的广泛应用,研究人员已可以采用多种手段调控PLGA微球释放速率。首先,可在微球中加入致孔剂,主要包括无机盐类(如 NaHCO_3 、 NH_4HCO_3 ^[9]、 MgCO_3 ^[10])、非离子表面活性剂类(如Poloxamer188、Tween20^[11])以及其他致孔剂(如 H_2O_2 ^[12])。例如,以 NaHCO_3 为致孔剂制备载有神经调节蛋白-1(neuregulin-1, Nrg-1)的PLGA微球,可通过调节 NaHCO_3 浓度实现不同的药物释放速率^[9]。而对于非离子表面活性剂,其亲水-疏水平衡(hydrophile-lipophile balance, HLB)值越高,药物释放越快,例如,以等量Poloxamer188(HLB值29)、Tween20(HLB值16.7)或Span80(HLB值4.3)为致孔剂制备胰岛素PLGA微球,释药速率依次降低^[11]。PLGA微球的粒径对药物的释放速率有多方面的影响^[13],随着粒径增大,PLGA微球的自催化降解常数增大,将加速药物释放;但大尺寸也意

味着总表面积减小、药物扩散路径变长,将减缓药物释放,因此应综合考虑选择最佳的微球粒径。再者,PLGA的性质也影响药物释放,例如相对分子质量更小^[14]、丙交酯比例更低^[15]的PLGA降解速度和释药速度更快;又例如亲水的PLGA RG 502 H相比于疏水的PLGA RG 503,可以加速药物释放^[10]。

然而,PLGA微球常常会在给药初期产生显著的突释现象,这可能是由于微球表面存在吸附药物或药物在微球中分布不均^[16]。研究人员尝试将聚乙烯醇(polyvinyl alcohol, PVA)和葡萄糖敏感的高分子材料p(AAPBA-co-NVCL)交替涂覆在胰岛素PLGA微球表面,不仅解决了突释问题,还实现了葡萄糖浓度响应性释放^[17]。

除PLGA,其他常见的缓释微球用材料还包括聚乳酸(PLA)、壳聚糖(chitosan, CS)等。例如,采用PLA制备的Lupron Depot[®]可用于治疗晚期前列腺癌^[18]。CS具有正电性和组织黏附性,并且是

一种天然免疫佐剂,因此用壳聚糖微球包载抗原肽^[19]可以诱导机体产生长时间有效的免疫反应。

1.2 缓释脂质体

在蛋白及多肽类药物缓释脂质体的开发中,采用DepoFoam[®]技术制备的药物递送系统可用于腔内注射(包括鞘内、心室内、玻璃体和硬膜外注射),并帮助药物在近30 d的时间内缓慢释放,这一技术促成了Depocyt[®]、DepoDur[®]及Exparel[®]等长效缓释注射剂的上市^[20-21]。如图2所示,不同于单层脂质体(unilamellar vesicles, ULVs)和多层脂质体(multilamellar vesicles, MLVs),DepoFoam[®]技术通过双乳化工艺制备的脂质体为多室脂质体(multivesicular liposome, MVLs),呈现紧密堆积的非同心圆囊泡结构,其缓释机制主要是内部囊泡的聚集融合和药物从紧密堆积结构中缓慢渗透^[21]。同时,通过调整MVLs处方或制备工艺(如甘油三酯类型、内外溶液渗透压),可实现对药物释放速率的调节。

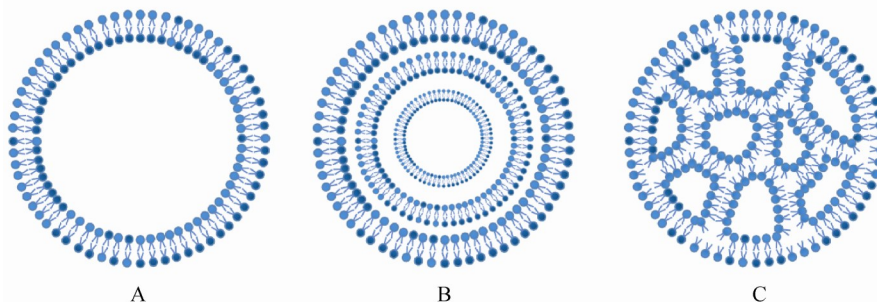


Figure 2 Structures of different kinds of liposomes

A: Unilamellar vesicle (ULV); B: Multilamellar vesicle (MLV); C: Multivesicular liposome (MVL) or DepoFoam[®] particle

2 原位制剂

2.1 植入剂

植入剂临床使用时需要通过手术将其埋入组织或非手术形式塞入腔道内,相比于微粒形式的储库往往具有更长的释放周期。已上市的蛋白及多肽药物的植入剂包括:组胺瑞林长效植入剂(商品名Vantas[®])、醋酸戈舍瑞林缓释植入剂(商品名Zoladex[®])等。临床试验表明,在中枢性早熟儿童体内植入50 mg剂量的Vantas[®],可在两年内发挥有效治疗作用^[22]。用于肿瘤治疗的Zoladex[®]是以PLGA为基质的乳白色植入棒,药效持续时间可达1个月^[23]。

在植入剂的研究中,如何提高载药量、减少药物突释、延长药物作用是研究人员关注的重点。多数植入剂具有先快后慢的释药特点,导致植入早期存在发生不良反应的风险,而末期难以维持有效治疗剂量。针对这一问题,有研究人员通过氢键作用交替涂覆PEG化的鲑鱼降钙素和单宁酸形成植入膜,这种夹心膜结构能够在多种条件下实现零级释放^[24]。

植入剂与人工智能的结合可实现更加精准的药物控释能力。为研究不同药物对动物行为能力的影响,研究人员通过电路设计和材料筛选开发了四通道、光流控、可编程的脑部植入型探针,可在不限制动物行为的情况下,通过遥控精确控制

不同药物的脑部泵注^[25]。2012年,此类无线遥控的药物智能储库首次用于人体,研究表明,通过编程无线控制人甲状旁腺素(1-34)在体内的脉冲释放,可以维持长达20 d的有效剂量^[26]。

2.2 可相变供注射用缓释制剂

此类制剂可通过液体或半固体形式注射,并在注射处发生相转变形成固态植入物^[1],相转变可通过物理因素触发(如溶剂和温度变化等),也可通过化学交联形成固体。供注射用缓释制剂具有创口小、不易感染、患者顺应性好、缓释时间长等优点。

2.2.1 溶剂变化触发的制剂固化

此类制剂注射前通常应为具有良好通针性的前体溶液(即将蛋白/多肽、水不溶型载体材料和处方中的其他辅料溶解于可与水混溶的有机溶剂中),原位注射后,有机溶剂扩散和/或被水替代,导致载体材料聚集/固化将蛋白或多肽包裹其中^[27]。常使用的溶剂包括N-甲基吡咯烷酮(NMP)、二甲基亚砜(DMSO)、乙醇、乙酸乙酯、三乙酸甘油酯等;常使用的高分子包括PLGA、PLA、聚乙醇酸(PGA)、聚己内酯(PCL)、磷脂/甘油酯组合物等^[1]。溶剂极性、聚合物的亲水亲油性及其相对分子质量均显著影响蛋白或多肽的释放。例如,高极性溶剂形成的植入物孔隙多,可能造成突释;而极性较低的溶剂则相反,易于实现药物的长期平稳释放^[28]。但由于此类制剂前体溶液中使用的有机溶剂(其中DMSO与NMP最为常见)往往具有一定毒性,因此

在制剂开发时应充分考虑安全性和收益风险比。研究人员以LR12肽为药物、PLGA和PLA为载体、三乙酸甘油酯为溶剂制备了前体溶液,该缓释体系不仅可在体内维持一周以上的持续释放,还可以避免LR12因二硫键交联而产生无活性二聚体^[27]。

本课题组以乙醇为溶剂、二油酸甘油酯和磷脂为基质制备了可相变脂质凝胶,实现抗PD-L1抗体(α PD-L1)和近红外光热剂IR820的肿瘤原位共递送^[29],通过人工光热干预和自然溶蚀,实现长达1个月的药物持续释放,并在多种动物模型表现出良好的抗肿瘤活性^[29]。

2.2.2 温度变化触发的制剂固化

此类制剂的开发基于聚合物溶解度的温敏特性,即一定浓度的聚合物达到特定温度后可发生“溶胶-凝胶(sol-gel)”相转变,而相变温度受聚合物HLB值和混合自由能影响^[30]。此类制剂的“sol-gel”相转变通常具有可逆性,原理如图3所示,经典的温敏型聚合物具有亲疏水相间的三嵌段结构,当环境温度升高至下临界胶凝温度(lower critical gelation temperature, LCGT),水-聚合物间的相互作用逐渐弱于聚合物-聚合物间的相互作用,从而导致聚合物自发形成混合胶束,发生胶凝化。当温度继续升高到达上临界胶凝温度(upper critical gelation temperature, UCGT)时,聚合物链具有很高的动能,从而变为随机运动,恢复为溶胶态^[31]。

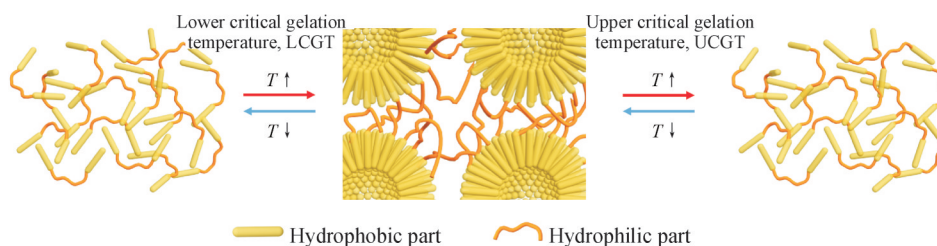


Figure 3 Typical mechanism of thermo-sensitive gelation

泊洛沙姆(poloxamer)是最经典的温敏聚合物,其具有聚氧乙烯-聚氧丙烯-聚氧乙烯(PEO-PPO-PEO)三嵌段结构。然而,泊洛沙姆亲水性强且机械强度较低,在给药初期易发生突释,并且生物相容性较差,易导致蓄积毒性^[32]。为解决以上问题,研究人员设计了一种可生物降解的新型温敏聚合物PLGA-PEG-PLGA,并通过筛选合适的相

对分子质量和嵌段比使制剂具有理想缓释行为,例如,使用PLGA-PEG1500-PLGA(相对分子质量:5 200)为载体可使鲑鱼降钙素在体内持续稳定释放约30 d^[33]。

此外,PBLA-PEG-PBLA^[34]、PEG-PCL-PEG^[35]、PEG-PLGA-PEG^[36]、PEG-PCL-PLA-PCL-PEG^[37]等聚合物在制备温敏缓释制剂中均有应用。

2.2.3 化学交联触发的制剂固化 此类制剂通过化学键合使聚合物交联,从而在注射部位固化。由于化学键合方式灵活多样,因而可根据需求设计响应特定环境的制剂。例如,Wang等^[38]将ROS敏感链TSPBA与混有抗PD-L1抗体和吉西他滨的PVA溶液同时注射,利用TSPBA将PVA交联形成ROS敏感的凝胶系统,在肿瘤部位可持续3 d释放抗体。此外,利用不同化学键形成混合交联网络^[39]、形成席夫碱^[40]、光触发反应^[41]等技术进行可相变凝胶的制备均有相关研究报道。

3 口服长效制剂

蛋白及多肽类药物的口服吸收需要克服低pH环境、酶水解、肠黏膜屏障、首过效应等诸多不利因素,因此,开发蛋白及多肽类药物的口服剂型(尤其是长效缓释剂型)存在较大困难,但长期

以来科研人员仍持续努力,口服长效制剂一直是热点研究方向。

3.1 口服长效片剂/胶囊剂

口服制剂实现长效缓释作用,需要延长其在消化道中的停留时间并避免药物被降解。受到皮肤贴剂的启发,研究人员开发了一类肠黏附药物储库,其作用机制见图4^[42]。首先制备含药的肠黏附片,并在其一侧进行水不溶性包衣,其到达肠道后,未包衣处的黏附层吸水并通过氢键等作用力与肠黏膜结合,而水不溶的包衣层对肠道中多种蛋白酶有物理隔离作用,防止药物降解。例如,采用卡波普、果胶、羧甲基纤维素钠物理混合物为肠黏附片基质,在单侧包裹乙基纤维素背衬层,可使鲑鱼降钙素的口服吸收显著提高^[43]。类似的结构还被用来口服递送胰岛素和艾塞那肽^[43-44],均能有效增加药物的口服生物利用度。

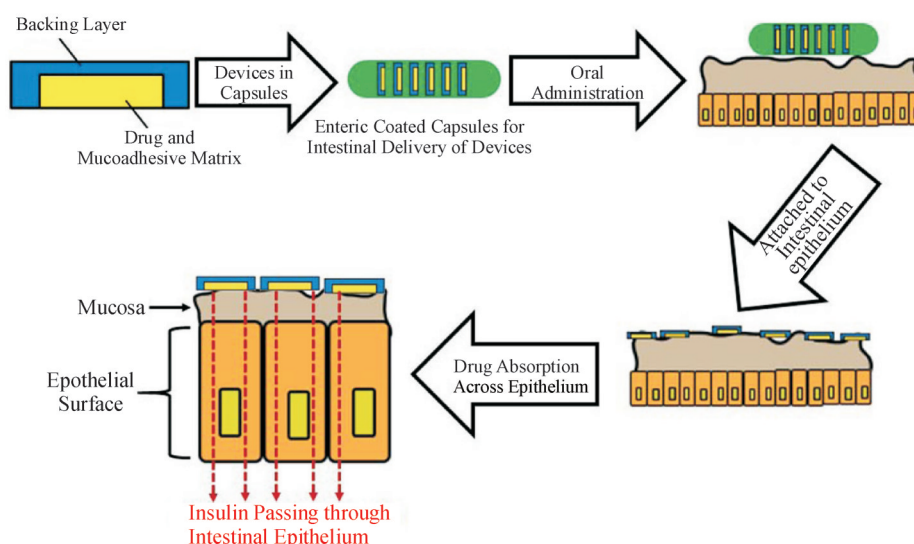


Figure 4 Schematic representation of mechanism of adhesion, drug release and absorption across intestinal epithelium from mucoadhesive devices^[42]

3.2 口服微粒

口服小粒径、正电荷且具有粗糙表面的微粒更易于在胃肠道滞留和被肠道吸收^[45];而对小颗粒进行肠溶包衣则可有效避免酸影响。基于此,研究人员采用聚乙烯亚胺混合胰岛素制备纳米粒,并依次涂覆水溶性聚合物羟丙甲纤维素(hydroxypropyl methylcellulose, HPMC)、混有崩解剂羧甲基淀粉钠的聚甲基丙烯酸酯Eudragit® NE和Aquat®,达作用时间48 h以上^[45];Zhao等^[46]采用SiO₂作为胰岛素的口服缓释载体并在外包被肠溶材料,能够在27 h内有效控制血糖水平。此外,研

究人员还通过肠内生成气泡、加入蛋白酶抑制剂^[47]、形成自乳化系统^[48]等方法提高蛋白及肽类药物的口服生物利用度、延长作用时间。

4 经皮给药

4.1 微针贴剂

蛋白和多肽类药物往往具有较高的相对分子质量,难以实现有效的皮肤渗透,而微针的出现有效解决了这一问题。微针贴剂系由微米级的小针组成阵列,并附着在背衬材料上制成的一种透皮制剂。微针的长度可以刺穿角质层,却不

会达到神经末梢,因此不会引起疼痛。微针贴片已应用于多种蛋白及多肽类药物的递送,包括干扰素 α ^[49]、胰岛素^[50]、肽类疫苗^[51]等。Qiu等^[52]制备了交联水合基质微针并载入胰岛素,与皮下注射相比,使胰岛素作用时间延长了3倍以上。

为提高微针在皮肤上固定的稳定性,研究人员开发了可自膨胀微针。Seong等^[53]利用聚苯乙烯-聚丙烯酸嵌段共聚物吸水膨胀的特性,将其包裹在微针前端,刺入皮肤后尖端膨胀,与皮肤机械嵌合,可延长微针在皮肤中停留时间和模型蛋白的释放时间。

此外,为使微针在体内滞留时间更长,研究人员开发了一类前端可脱落的生物可降解微针。Chen等^[54]以PLA作为微针基质,使其刺入皮肤后脱落并停留在皮肤中,实现卵清蛋白疫苗持续释放14 d。但这类微针不能够保证针体完全扎入体内,因此也有研究人员制备了刺入皮肤后可自发破碎成小颗粒微球的微针来解决这一问题^[55]。

4.2 经皮微粒给药系统

脂质体、传递体、固体脂质纳米粒、醇质体等微粒系统也常被应用于护肤品及治疗皮肤疾病药物的开发^[56-57]。其中,具有脂质双分子层结构的传递体不同于大尺寸、弹性低的传统脂质体,其脂质

膜中掺入单链表面活性剂,具有高弹性可变形的优点,有利于表皮屏障的穿透^[58]。微粒穿透皮肤主要经历的途径有细胞间脂质途径、跨细胞途径与毛囊途径,有研究表明,虽然毛囊在皮肤组织中占比较小,但微粒可在毛囊中存储10 d以上^[59]。

5 总结与展望

通过缓释注射剂、植入剂、口服制剂、经皮给药等制剂手段可以实现蛋白和多肽药物的长效化,而不同技术手段具有不同的优缺点(表1),研究人员在对此类药物进行剂型改良时除应考虑剂型特点外,应综合考虑药物特性、生物因素、临床需求、生产成本等各方面因素。

经过几十年的发展,目前此类制剂研究仍主要集中于植入剂和注射用微球的开发,制剂开发的难点仍是筛选合适载体、提高药物稳定性、减少突释和实现药物平稳释放。而未来,随着更多新材料、制剂新技术和微型芯片技术在生物医药领域的应用,响应体内生理指标变化的智能释放药物将成为下一代缓控释制剂的主要研究方向,为通过制剂手段实现蛋白及多肽药物的长效化提供更多可选方案。总之,蛋白及多肽类药物的长效递送具有重要临床意义和广阔的市场前景。

Table 1 Advantages and shortcomings of the current strategies on prolonging the action of protein and peptide therapeutics

Formulation	Advantage	Disadvantage
Microsphere	Long-term release when compared with other microparticles	Burst release
Liposome	Suitable for Intraluminal injection	Shorter release when applied to protein and peptide drugs
Implant	Long-term release, easy to adjust release rate, able to be combined with artificial intelligence	Creating wounds, some are non-degradable and need to be removed
Sustained-release injectable product	Minimally invasive, easy operation, no easy accompanying infection, small pain for patients	Toxic potential for some of the organic solvents
Tablet and capsule	Good patient compliance	Shorter release
Oral microparticle	Good patient compliance	Shorter release
Patch	Minimally invasive, avoiding first-pass effects	Incomplete drug release, short retention time on body
Transfersome	Convenience, high potential in skincare products	Low drug-loading rate, low absorption

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