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(57) Abstract :

Curcumin is an anti-inflammatory and wound healing agent. On oral administration it undergoes extensive first pass metabolism leading to its low bioavailability. It has short t<sub>1/2</sub> of just 3 hours, due to its short time of action it is required to be administered several times a day decreasing patient compliance. Due to its low bioavailability and low dose for administration curcumin can be considered as an ideal candidate for transdermal drug delivery. The present invention discloses a dermal patch comprising a composite film of chitosan and polyvinyl alcohol in an optimal ratio of 1:4. Percentage of curcumin in the film is 97-98%. When the patch is pasted on the skin using biocompatible adhesive means, curcumin is released directly into blood stream, over a sustained period of time.

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