

POWDERS

- Historically powders represent one of the "oldest dosage forms"
- A pharmaceutical powder is solid dosage form which contains mixture of finely divided drugs or chemicals in a dry form meant for internal or external use.
- It is a preparation in which drug is blended with other powdered substances used for internal or external purpose.
- powder as a dosage form permits drugs to be reduced to a very fine state of division, which often enhances their therapeutic activity or efficacy by an increase of dissolution rate and absorption rate.
- powdered drugs are frequently added to other ingredients to make ointments, pastes, and suppositories.
- powders are available in crystalline or Amorphous form

Advantages:

- powders are more physically and chemically stable when compared to the liquid dosage form.
- easier to carry than liquids
- used internally and externally
- convenient for the physician to prescribe a specific amount of powder
- Onset of action is faster as compared to tablet, capsules because it is easily dissolved in body fluids.
- Easy to administration to the patient orally by dissolving in suitable liquids
- drug product in powder dosage form is less prone to microbial contamination.

Disadvantages:

- Drugs that have bitter taste, nausea and unpleasant taste cannot be administered in powder form
- Deliquescent and hygroscopic drugs cannot be dispensed in powder form

- Drugs which get affected by atmospheric conditions are not suitable for dispense.
- Quantity less than 100mg cannot be weighed conveniently.
- powders are bulky dosage forms and cause difficulty in handling and transport.
- Cannot transfer powders easily from a container because powders may spill.
- Method of preparation & packaging is time consuming.

classification of powders

classified in to 3 types:-

- ① powders for internal use
 - ② powders for external use
 - ③ special powders.
- ① powders for internal use
- Divided powders
 - Bulk powders

- 1) Divided powders :-
- i) Simple powders
 - ii) Compound powders
 - iii) powders Enclosed in Cochet
 - iv) Tablet triturates

- b) Bulk powders :-
- Antacids
 - Laxatives

- 2) powders for external use :-

- a) Dusting powders / medicated Dusting powders
- Surgical Dusting powders

- b) Insufflations

- c) Douche powders

- a) Dentifrices

- 3) special powders :-

- a) Eutectic mixtures

- b) Effervescent powders

Simple powders :-

Simple powders contain only one ingredient

Either in crystalline or amorphous forms.

→ These powders should preferably be reduced to fine powders, weighed properly and supplied