

# **Taste-Masking: Impact of Substrate Morphology**

Surelease<sup>®</sup> aqueous ethylcellulose dispersion is a pH-independent barrier membrane traditionally used in sustained release formulations.

For taste-masking applications, Surelease and Opadry<sup>®</sup> work together to create a release profile with slight delay in the initial release, while maintaining the criteria for an immediate release dosage form<sup>1</sup>. This combination has been proven to provide effective taste-masking of marketed products for more than two decades<sup>2</sup>.

**Substrate Properties Directly Impact Coating** 



- Morphology and particle size distribution (PSD) of the drug particle affect the coating quality, process efficiency, and taste-masking efficacy.
- Spherical shape is optimal to allow uniform coating of substrate surface<sup>3</sup>
- Irregularly shaped particles require greater overall coating, and result in thicker and thinner areas on the surface
- Average particle size should not exceed 400  $\mu m$  to provide a smooth mouth feel  $^4$
- Fine particles (<100 μm) are prone to agglomeration and pose process challenges, produce lower yield and require higher coating weight gains
- Broad PSD and presence of excess fines leads to some granulation & coating, with overall non-uniformity of the coating

## **Coating a Model Drug for Taste-Masking**

Two different grades of acetaminophen (APAP) were used, as supplied, and coated in a Glatt GPCG-2 top spray fluid bed using Surelease:Opadry (85:15) to 10% and 30% weight gain (WG).







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Granules coated with Surelease:Opadry (85:15) were incorporated into chewable tablet formulations. Tablet hardness and friability were comparable to marketed product.



- Matched marketed product dissolution by coating Grade A granules with 10% WG Surelease:Opadry (85:15)
- Suppressed early drug release while meeting monograph requirements for immediate release (NLT 75% released in 45 min)
- Even at 30% WG, the coated Grade B granules did not match the release profile of the marketed product

## Surelease: The Confident Choice for Taste-Masking

- Proven market success in various applications, utilized in >20 NDAs and >30 ANDAs
- Precedence of use (in certain markets) in taste-masked products for children 2 years and older
- Approved for use in Pharmaceutical and Dietary Supplement markets
- Formulation development and application expertise with Colorcon Technical Services

#### REFERENCES

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2. C. Diimmler, et al., "Taste Masked Formulations of Raltegravir," US Patent WO2012145446 A1, October 25, 2012

3. A. Mehta. "Taste Masked Pharmaceutical Compositions." Patent 5,084,278. 2 June 1989.

4. J. Lai, K. Qian, and G. Venkatesh. "Taste-Masked Pharmaceutical Compositions Prepared by Coacervation." U.S. Patent 20060105038 A1, May 18, 2006.

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