

# PROSPECTS OF USING THE SUNFLOWER EXTRACT IN THE TREATMENT OF DERMATOLOGICAL DISEASES

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**Introduction.** Drug products topically administered via the skin fall into two general categories, those applied for local action and those for systemic effects. Local actions include those at or on the surface of the skin, those that exert their actions on the stratum corneum, and those that modulate the function of the epidermis and/or the dermis. Common products in the former category include creams, gels, ointments, pastes, suspensions, lotions, foams, sprays, aerosols, and solutions. Creams, ointments, and gels generally are referred to as semisolid dosage forms.

**Aim.** The aim of our work was to develop a sunflower extract ointment for topical use.

**Materials and methods.** The objects of the study were examples of ointments with sunflower extract.

**Results and discussion.** Pharmaceutical preparations for treatment of conditions such as rashes, skin irritation, stings, fungal infections etc. are normally supplied in the form of a cream or ointment as this provides an effective means of delivering the active ingredient directly to the required area. Products can be either a water in oil (w/o) or oil in water (o/w) emulsion, consisting of waxes, emollients and lubricants dispersed in an oil phase, and a water phase containing emulsifying, stabilizing and thickening agents, preservatives and in some cases, colorant. Active ingredients are dispersed in either phase or added when the emulsion has been formed and allowed to cool.

Sunflower is very rich in medicinal properties. Sunflower seeds in their composition contain a large amount of vitamin D, A, B, F, amino acids, tannins, minerals. In the flowers of sunflower there is alcohol, acid, glycosides, bitterness, choline and betaine.

**Conclusions.** The delivery of drug through the skin has long been a promising concept because of the ease of access, large surface area, vast exposure to the circulatory and lymphatic networks, and noninvasive nature of the treatment. Among the three formulations (oil, cream and gel) prepared, on the basis of pharmaceutical parameters creams formulation loaded with herbal extracts give the considerable results. Hence this herbal cream formulation was utilized for further pharmacological studies.