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(54) **TRANSPARENT TRANSDERMAL NICOTINE DELIVERY DEVICES**
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continuation of application No. 10/871,458, filed on Jun. 18, 2004, now Pat. No. 7,622,136, which is a continuation of application No. 09/464,305, filed on Dec. 15, 1999, now abandoned.
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(57) **ABSTRACT**
A transparent transdermal delivery device for delivering nicotine which has an Opacity Index of less than 48.6%.

TRANSPARENT TRANSDERMAL NICOTINE DELIVERY DEVICES

CLAIM OF PRIORITY

[0001] This application is a continuation of U.S. application Ser. No. 11/841,789, filed Aug. 20, 2007, which is a continuation of U.S. application Ser. No. 10/871,458, filed Jun. 18, 2004, which is a continuation of U.S. application Ser. No. 09/464,305, filed Dec. 15, 1999, which claims the benefit of U.S. provisional patent Applications Nos. 60/112,730, filed Dec. 18, 1998; 60/124,679, filed Mar. 16, 1999; and 60/126,798, filed Mar. 30, 1999, all of which are incorporated herein by reference.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The present invention relates to transdermal delivery devices for administering nicotine for use in smoking cessation treatments. In particular, the invention is directed to transdermal nicotine delivery devices which are transparent.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0003] The transdermal route of parenteral drug delivery provides many advantages over other administration routes. Transdermal systems for delivering a wide variety of drugs or other beneficial agents are described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 3,598,122; 3,598,123; 3,731,683; 3,797,494; 4,031,894; 4,144,317; 4,201,211; 4,286,592; 4,314,557; 4,379,454; 4,435,180; 4,559,222; 4,568,343; 4,573,995; 4,588,580; 4,645,502; 4,698,062; 4,704,282; 4,725,272; 4,781,924; 4,788,062; 4,816,258; 4,849,226; 4,904,475; 4,908,027; 4,917,895; 4,938,759; 4,943,435; 5,004,610; 5,071,656; 5,122,382; 5,141,750; 5,284,660; 5,314,694; 5,342,623; 5,411,740; and 5,635,203, which are hereby incorporated in their entirety by reference.

[0004] The administration of nicotine buccally, nasally and transdermally to assist a patient desiring to quit smoking has been shown to be clinically effective in reducing the rate of recidivism. Nicotine chewing gum and transdermal nicotine are two of the most widely used forms of nicotine replacement therapy currently available. Transdermal devices for administering nicotine are disclosed in U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,597,961; 4,758,434; 4,764,382; 4,839,174; 4,908,213; 4,915,950; 4,943,435; 4,946,853; 5,004,610; 5,016,652; 5,077,104; 5,230,896; 5,411,739; 5,462,745; 5,508,038; 5,599,554; 5,603,947 and 5,726,190, for example, which are hereby incorporated in their entirety by reference.

[0005] Most of the transdermal drug delivery devices of the prior art utilize an impermeable backing on the skin distal surface of the device to protect the device from damage and to prevent loss of the active ingredient(s). In order to improve user satisfaction, these backing layers are often tinted to a color similar to skin tones. However, as can be readily appreciated, it is not commercially practical to provide pigmented backing layers for transdermal systems which approximate all skin colors.

[0006] Another approach that has been taken is to provide transparent transdermal systems in which all elements forming a device are sufficiently transparent to permit the natural skin color to be visible through the device. Marketed products which take this approach include the ALORA® and CLIMARA® estrogen replacement patches and the DURAGESIC® transdermal fentanyl delivery system. When these devices are applied to the skin, the patient's natural skin color

is visible through the patch, making the presence of the patch extremely inconspicuous. Government regulations require that these products bear identifying indicia, but the indicia can be printed on these devices in light colored or white ink which is not noticeable from a distance of several feet, but is still readable on close inspection.

[0007] Such transparent patches have been found useful with non-volatile drugs such as fentanyl and hormone replacement steroids, but no such transparent product has been developed for the delivery of nicotine.

[0008] Nicotine is a liquid alkaloid that is colorless, volatile, strongly alkaline, readily oxidized, subject to degradation on exposure to light and highly permeable through not only the human skin, but also many of the polymers conventionally used in the fabrication of backing layers and packaging materials for transdermal products (see for example U.S. Pat. No. 5,077,104). As a result, the backing layers of the transdermal nicotine delivery devices currently available utilize opaque, skin-colored multilaminar films which typically contain a metalized layer, such as aluminum.

[0009] Not only do the commercially available transdermal nicotine patches use opaque backings, but many of these devices, due to the complexities of handling and processing nicotine, have other components which are not transparent. For example, the original Prostep® transdermal nicotine product used a drug reservoir in the form of an opaque white gel, held in place by an opaque adhesive overlay. The HABITROL® and NICOTROL® nicotine patches incorporated absorbent pads in the drug reservoir in which the nicotine was absorbed.

[0010] It has also been proposed to co-administer nicotine with other substances that improve nicotine cessation therapy. See, for example, U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,908,213; 5,599,554; and 5,726,190 noted above; and WO 97/33581.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0011] The present invention relates to transparent transdermal delivery devices for the transdermal administration of nicotine, either alone or in combination with other agents.

[0012] Such devices should be sufficiently transparent so that the subject's skin can be clearly visible through the device when it is placed on the skin. Identifying indicia can be printed on the device in light colored or white ink in a manner which is not noticeable from a short distance, but is readable on close inspection.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0013] Preferred devices of this invention utilize, as the backing layer, a transparent polymeric film which has a permeability to nicotine of less than 1 µg/cm²/hr, preferably less than 0.5 µg/cm²/hr, a solubility for nicotine that is less than 1% by weight and preferably less than 0.1%. Such films are preferably less than about 6 mils thick and most preferably about 2-4 mils thick. Such films are used in combination with one or more of the conventional elements of a transdermal device (other than the removable release liner) such as the drug reservoir, adhesive and rate controlling membranes, which must also be sufficiently transparent as to permit the natural skin color to be clearly visible through the assembled device after placement on the skin. The finished product should have an Opacity Index of less than about 48.6%, preferably less than about 35.11% and more preferably less than 20%.

[0014] In addition to being transparent and being sufficiently impermeable to nicotine, the backing layer must also have sufficient mechanical strength and physical integrity to maintain the system intact throughout its intended administration period, which is typically 18-24 hours, and must provide a stable interface with adjoining layers such as the drug reservoir or adhesive layers of the transdermal device. This combination of properties is not always found in one material, and thus the transparent backing layers used on the devices of this invention can be multilaminar films. In addition to having a low permeability to nicotine, a backing layer must also have a low solubility for nicotine. This is because nicotine is toxic and it could be dangerous for a child, for example, to lick the backing layer if it contained a substantial amount of dissolved nicotine.

[0015] Suitable polymer materials possessing properties required by this invention include SCOTCHPAK® 1220 film, which is a polyethylene terephthalate/ethylene vinyl acetate (PET EVA), bilaminar film sold by the 3M Company, Minneapolis, Minn., and SARANEX® 2057 film, which is a high density polyethylene (HDPE)/ethylene acrylic acid (EAA)/nylon/EAA multilaminar available from the Dow Chemical Company, Midland, Mich. Nitrile rubber graft copolymers with acrylonitrile and methyl acrylate sold as Barex® films described in U.S. Pat. No. 5,077,104 noted above, can also be used.

[0016] These films, comprising a graft copolymer formed from about 73-77% acrylonitrile and from about 23-27% methyl acrylate copolymerized in the presence of about 8-10 parts by weight of butadiene/acrylonitrile copolymers containing approximately 70% by weight of polymer units derived from butadiene are preferred backing materials.

[0017] The transparent transdermal delivery devices of this invention can be of any of the forms described in the aforementioned patents. The preferred form, however, comprises a laminate of the backing layer, a nicotine reservoir layer which contains nicotine dissolved in a carrier at a concentration below the saturation concentration of nicotine in the carrier. If the drug reservoir component is self adhesive, a simple monolithic device could be employed. However, in many cases it is desirable to include additional components such as rate controlling membranes, and a separate adhesive layer for maintaining the devices on the skin such as is described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,004,610 and 5,342,623 listed above. It is further contemplated that in addition to nicotine, the device may also contain other drugs or other active substances which cooperate with or enhance the effect of nicotine in smoking cessation, smoking replacement or smoking substitution therapy. For all these devices, a removable release liner would normally be applied on the adhesive surface of the patch that is used to keep the device on the skin, which release liner is removed prior to use.

[0018] Various materials suited for fabrication of the various components are known in the art and are disclosed in the aforementioned patents.

[0019] The adhesive component is preferably a pressure sensitive adhesive including, but not limited to, polysiloxanes, polyacrylates, polyurethanes, acrylic adhesives including cross linked or uncross linked acrylic copolymers, vinyl acetate adhesives, ethylene vinylacetate copolymers, and natural or synthetic rubbers including polybutadienes, polyisoprenes, and polyisobutylene adhesives, and mixtures and graft copolymers thereof. The devices may also be provided with hydrophilic water absorbing polymers known in the art

such as polyvinyl alcohol and polyvinyl pyrrolidone individually or in combination. The adhesive can be used to form a monolithic delivery device in which the nicotine is dissolved in the adhesive to form a self-adhesive drug reservoir. Alternatively, the adhesive can be applied to the surface of a non-adhesive reservoir in which nicotine is dissolved, to form a multilaminar device. A rate-controlled membrane can also be interfaced between the nicotine reservoir and the adhesive, as is known to the art.

[0020] The nicotine can be administered in combination with another agent which could include anti-anxiolytics, anti-hypertensives, antidepressants, and appetite suppressants, such as fluoxetine, caffeine, buspirone, phenylpropranolamine, clonidine, paroxetine, citalopram, and sertraline.

[0021] The nicotine in the device is present in the reservoir at a subsaturated condition (i.e. less than unit activity) such that no undissolved nicotine is present in the reservoir. If other agents are present in the device, they are preferably present fully dissolved, but can be present in undissolved form so long as the end product displays the proper degree of transparency.

[0022] In the present invention, nicotine and optionally other agents to be co-administered are delivered through the skin or other body surface at a therapeutically effective rate for a predetermined time period which for nicotine is preferably 16-24 hours.

[0023] The transdermal therapeutic devices of the present invention are prepared in a manner known in the art, such as by those procedures described in the transdermal device patents listed previously herein.

[0024] The following example is offered to illustrate the practice of the present invention and is not intended to limit the invention in any manner.

Example 1

[0025] Various commercially available transdermal patches were tested to determine their transparency and compared to the transparent nicotine patches according to this invention. The nicotine patches were prepared as set forth in Example IV of U.S. Pat. No. 5,004,610 with a PET/EVA (SCOTCHPAK® 1220 film, 3M, Minneapolis, Minn.) or SARANEX® film (Dow Chemical Company, Midland, Mich.) backing substituted for the SCOTCHPAK 1006 film backing. The light transmitted through the various systems was measured by a MACBETH 1500/Plus color measurement system (Kollmorgen Instruments Corp., Newburgh, N.Y.). Table 1 shows the Opacity Index, which is the percentage of incidental light which is absorbed by passage through the device, for the various systems tested.

TABLE 1

| Patch Opacity | |
|--|---------------|
| Patch | Opacity Index |
| MINITRAN® | 48.6% |
| ALORA® | 20.21% |
| FEMPATCH® | 35.11% |
| CLIMARA® | 19.33% |
| Ex. 1 - Nicotine with SARANEX® backing | 17.04% |
| Ex. 1 - Nicotine with PET/EVA backing | 19.66% |

[0026] The MINITRAN® nitroglycerine system is clearly visible from a distance of about 5 feet, whereas the FEMPATCH® patch is significantly less noticeable. The

ALORA®, CLIMARA® and NICODERM® patches, however, are extremely inconspicuous. Accordingly, transdermal devices according to this invention should have an Opacity Index less than 48.6%, preferably less than 35.11%, more preferably less than 20%.

[0027] Having thus generally described our invention and preferred embodiments thereof, it is apparent that various modifications and substitutions will be apparent to workers skilled in the art. These modifications and substitutions can be made without departing from the scope of our invention which is limited only by the following claims.

1-9. (canceled)

10. A method for transdermal administration of nicotine, the method comprising:

applying a transdermal nicotine delivery device to a skin surface, the device comprising:

- a backing layer comprising a material selected from the group consisting of PET/EVA laminates, HDPE/EAA/nylon/EAA multilaminate, and a film comprising a graft copolymer formed from about 73-77% acrylonitrile and from about 23-27% methyl acrylate copolymerized in the presence of about 8-10 parts by weight of butadiene/acrylonitrile copolymers; and
 - a drug reservoir layer comprising nicotine,
- wherein the device is sufficiently transparent to permit the skin surface to be visible through the device.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the drug reservoir layer further comprises a self-adhesive drug reservoir.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein the drug reservoir layer further comprises one or more adhesives.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the one or more adhesives comprises one or more pressure sensitive adhesives selected from the group consisting of polysiloxanes, polyacrylates, polyurethanes, acrylic adhesives, vinyl acetate adhesives, ethylene vinyl acetate copolymers, natural or synthetic rubbers, and mixtures and graft copolymers thereof.

14. The method of claim 10, wherein the device is provided with one or more hydrophilic water absorbing polymers.

15. The method of claim 10, wherein the backing layer has a nicotine permeability of less than 1.0 µg/cm²/hr.

16. The method of claim 10, wherein the backing layer has a nicotine permeability of less than 0.5 µg/cm²/hr.

17. The method of claim 10, wherein the backing layer has a solubility for nicotine of less than 1 wt %.

18. The method of claim 10, wherein the backing layer has a solubility for nicotine of less than 0.1 wt %.

19. The method of claim 10, wherein the device has an Opacity Index of less than 48.6%.

20. The method of claim 10, wherein the device has an Opacity Index of less than 35.11%.

21. The method of claim 10, wherein the device has an Opacity Index of less than 20%.

22. The method of claim 10, wherein the backing layer comprises a PET/EVA laminate.

23. The method of claim 10, wherein the backing layer comprises a HDPE/EAA/nylon/EAA multilaminate.

24. The method of claim 10, wherein the backing layer comprises a film comprising a graft copolymer formed from about 73-77% acrylonitrile and from about 23-27% methyl acrylate copolymerized in the presence of about 8-10 parts by weight of butadiene/acrylonitrile copolymers containing approximately 70% by weight of polymer units derived from butadiene.

25. The method of claim 10, wherein the device provides delivery of nicotine for a period of 18-24 hours.

26. The method of claim 10, wherein the device further comprises an adhesive for maintaining the device on the skin surface.

27. A method for transdermal administration of nicotine, the method comprising:

administering a transdermal nicotine delivery device to a skin surface, the device comprising:

- a backing layer comprising a material selected from the group consisting of PET/EVA laminates, HDPE/EAA/nylon/EAA multilaminate, and a film comprising a graft copolymer formed from about 73-77% acrylonitrile and from about 23-27% methyl acrylate copolymerized in the presence of about 8-10 parts by weight of butadiene/acrylonitrile copolymers; and
 - a drug reservoir layer comprising nicotine,
- wherein the device has an Opacity Index of less than 48.6%.

28. A method for transdermal administration of nicotine, the method comprising:

obtaining a transdermal nicotine delivery device, the device comprising:

- a backing layer comprising a material selected from the group consisting of PET/EVA laminates, HDPE/EAA/nylon/EAA multilaminate, and a film comprising a graft copolymer formed from about 73-77% acrylonitrile and from about 23-27% methyl acrylate copolymerized in the presence of about 8-10 parts by weight of butadiene/acrylonitrile copolymers; and
 - a drug reservoir layer comprising nicotine,
- wherein the device is sufficiently transparent to permit the skin of a subject to which it is applied to be visible through the device, and applying the device to the skin of a subject.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein the device has an Opacity Index of less than 48.6%.

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