



# LIPOSOME-BASED DRUG DELIVERY SYSTEM FOR CANCER CHEMOTHERAPEUTICS

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## Abstract

Liposome-based drug delivery system has emerged as revolutionizing less toxic, biodegradable and biocompatible nano-medicine to overcome adverse side effects produced by conventional cancer treatment approaches. Liposomes are closed spherical bilayer phospholipids vesicles characterised by lipid region incorporating hydrophobic drugs and internal aqueous cavity for entrapment of hydrophilic drugs. Numerous advantages of liposomes over conventional medicines includes increased efficacy, therapeutic index, stability and pharmacokinetic effects; drug targeting to tumour tissue, reduced systemic toxicity, prolonged residence time in blood circulation, modified *i.e.* targeted, controlled and sustained drug delivery to tumour which seize liposome-based drug delivery as blooming field of research. This review briefly summarizes widespread research of liposome-based drug delivery for different cancer chemotherapeutics *i.e.* breast, lung, hepatocellular carcinoma, cervical, pancreatic, gastric, skin, brain, head and neck cancer.

**Key words:** Liposome, Drug delivery, Cancer, Hepatocellular carcinoma, Chemotherapeutics.

## Introduction

Cancer is the uncontrolled development of body cells that are abnormal. The cells that cause cancer are referred to as malignant cells. There are so many ways to treat cancer such as chemotherapy, treatment with radiation, operation and so on (Bardania *et al.*, 2017; Ding *et al.*, 2006; Bulbake *et al.*, 2017). Liposomal drugs have a high capacity for encapsulation, thereby showing significant anticancer activity with preferentially cytotoxicity reduced toxicity. Liposomes are tiny artificial spherical shaped vesicles that can be formed from cholesterol as well as natural non-toxic phospholipids (Zahednezhad *et al.*, 2019; Marsh, 2012; Koning and Storm, 2003; Daraee *et al.*, 2016). Liposomes are attractive drug delivery mechanisms due to their size, biocompatibility and hydrophobic as well as hydrophilic nature. Advantages of liposomes include biocompatibility, self-assembly capability, the capacity to bear significant drug payloads and a wide range of physicochemical and biophysical properties that can be changed to monitor their biological characteristics. Moreover, in recent years, a thorough investigation into the liposomal drug delivery system has been established which contributes to the advancement

of several liposome-based drug compositions for therapeutic use in cancer treatment (Alavi *et al.*, 2017; Sercombe *et al.*, 2015; Valizadeh *et al.*, 2015). This review summarizes extensive studies into the delivery of liposome-based drugs for various cancer treatments, *i.e.* breast, lung, hepatic, cervical, pancreatic, gastric, skin, brain, head and neck cancer. Liposomes has been classified into several types on the basis of size and intracellular drug delivery mechanism (Daraee *et al.*, 2016) (Fig. 1).

## Applications of liposomes in different cancers

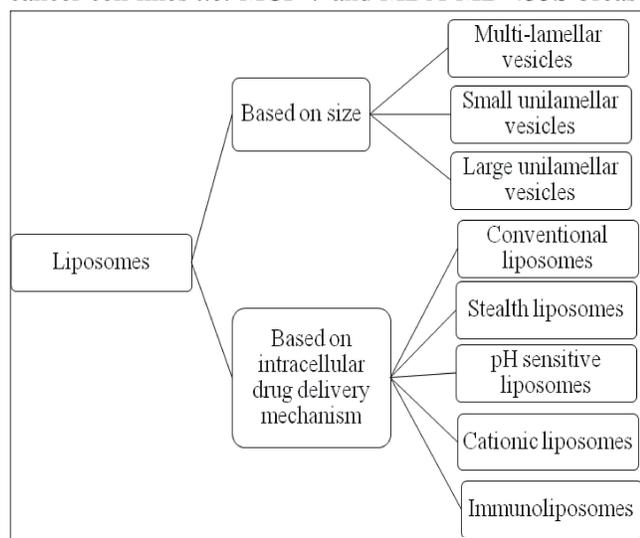
Cancer is one of the major reasons of death globally which can affect any body organ *i.e.* breast, lung, liver, cervical spine, pancreases, stomach, skin, brain, head and neck. Liposome-based drug delivery system has found wide application in several types of cancer therapeutics owing to attainment of tumour targeting, reduced systemic toxicity and prolonged residence time in blood circulation (Fig. 2).

## Liposomes in breast cancer

Yang *et al.*, investigated antitumor effect of herceptin conjugated paclitaxel-loaded PEGylated immune liposomes to exclusively distribute paclitaxel to the human epidermal growth factor receptor-2 (HER2)-over

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expressing cancer cells and potential approach for tumor-specific therapy (Yang *et al.*, 2007). Cosco *et al.* investigated effects of synthetic phospholipids of a liposomal multidrug carrier gemcitabine and tamoxifen and *in-vitro* antitumoral activity on diverse breast cancer cell lines and showed a massive degree of cell interaction of liposomal multidrug carrier after just 6 h. (Cosco *et al.*, 2012). Rastakhiz *et al.*, synthesized nanoliposomes vaccine composed of HER2/neu derived peptide to persuade efficient antigen specific tumor immunity against breast cancer (Rastakhiz *et al.*, 2018). Samson *et al.*, developed glucose-regulated protein 78/clusterin targeted DOTAP liposome for co-delivery of camptothecin and GRP78 siRNA/ CLU siRNA for chemosensitivity augmentation in breast cancer stem cells and offers offers extensive prospective for synergistic anti-cancer therapy (Samson *et al.*, 2018). Farzad *et al.*, developed P435 HER2/neu-derived peptide conjugated to maleimide-PEG2000-DSPE liposomes containing synthetic phospholipids as successful prophylactic vaccine against HER2-positive breast cancers (Farzad *et al.*, 2019). Sun *et al.*, investigated novel TN-modified liposome co-loading with curcumin and celecoxib coating with CD44 targeting moiety hyaluronic acid which exhibited prospective for inhibiting tumor development and metastasis in the course of improving inflammatory infiltration of tumor tissue (Sun *et al.*, 2019). Xia *et al.*, studied anticancer effect of combined therapy using losartan loaded liposomes and paclitaxel pH sensitive TH peptides modified liposomes which could effectively penetrate into solid collagen network in breast tumors without causing hypotension at dosage of 10 mg/kg/d (Xia *et al.*, 2016). Ju *et al.*, prepared hyaluronic acid customized daunorubicin and honokiol cationic liposomes and evaluated on breast cancer cell lines *i.e.* MCF-7 and MDA-MB-435S breast

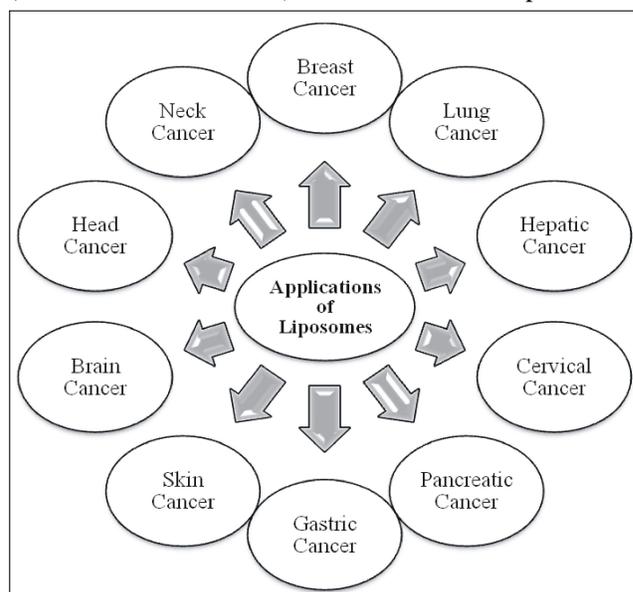


**Fig 1:** Classification of liposomes.

cancer cells which improved cellular uptake and damaged vasculogenic mimicry channels and shows potential therapeutic strategy for breast cancer treatment (Ju *et al.*, 2018). Cao *et al.*, synthesized doxorubicin liposomes loaded with thermogel for sustained delivery of doxorubicin for locally breast cancer treatment and better antitumor effectiveness as well as lower side effects (Cao *et al.*, 2019). Vaidya *et al.*, developed novel tri-functional immunoliposomes of doxorubicin conjugated with trastuzumab and OKT-3 antibodies that target human epidermal growth factor receptor-2 on breast cancer cells and CD3-receptors on T-lymphocytes, respectively which could have prospective to get better clinical outcomes (Vaidya *et al.*, 2018). Liposomes that have been successfully employed for treatment of breast cancer have been presented in table 1.

### Liposomes in lung cancer

Cheng *et al.*, synthesized Doxorubicin-loaded liposomes containing novel peptide GE11 for targeted deliverance of chemotherapeutic agent to epidermal growth factor receptor-positive non-small cell lung cancer which showed better accumulation and extended retention in tumor tissue (Cheng *et al.*, 2014). Cao *et al.*, synthesized  $\beta$ -elemene and cisplatin co-loaded liposome to successfully treat lung cancer and exhibited enviable therapeutic outcome in both cell-derived and patient-derived xenografts for successful lung cancer therapy (Cao *et al.*, 2016). Gaballua *et al.*, prepared liposome and nanostructured lipid carriers of erlotinib to explore anticancer activities and concluded that nanostructured lipid carriers had better anti-cancer activity than liposome (Gaballua *et al.*, 2019). Ma *et al.*, developed novel



**Fig. 2:** Application of liposomes into various types of cancer therapeutics.

**Table 1:** Recent studies in development of liposome-based formulation for breast cancer.

Drug (Technique)	Lipids	Solvents	Reference
Paclitaxel (Thin film hydration)	Soybean phosphatidylcholine, 1,2-distearoyl-sn-glycero-3-phospho-ethanolamine [methoxy (polyethylene-glycol)-2000]	Chloroform	Yang <i>et al.</i> , 2007
Gemcitabine and Tamoxifen (Thin layer evaporation)	Dipalmitoyl phosphatidylcholine, Dimyristoyl phosphatidylglycerol, N-(carbonyl methoxy-polyethylene glycol-2000)-1,2-distearoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphoethanolamine, Dioleoyl trimethylammonium propane, Cholesterol	Chloroform Methanol	Cosco <i>et al.</i> , 2012
HER2/neu derived peptide (Lipid film hydration)	Distearoyl phosphatidylcholine, Distearoyl phosphoglycerol, Cholesterol, Monophosphoryl lipid A, Dioleoyl phosphatidyl-ethanolamine	Chloroform	Rastakhiz <i>et al.</i> , 2018
Camptothecin and glucose-regulated protein 78 (GRP78)/clusterin (CLU) (Thin film hydration)	Dioleoyl trimethylammonium propane	Chloroform	Samson <i>et al.</i> , 2018
P435 HER2/neu-derived peptide (lipid film hydration)	Distearoyl phosphatidylcholine, Distearoyl phosphoglycerol, Dioleoyl phosphatidyl-ethanolamine, Distearoyl phosphoethanolamine-N-[maleimide (polyethyleneglycol)-2000]	Chloroform Dimethyl sulfoxide	Farzad <i>et al.</i> , 2019
Curcumin and celcoxib (Film hydration)	Dioleoyl trimethylammonium propane, Distearoyl phospho-ethanolamine-N-[carboxy (polyethylene glycol)-2000], Distearoyl phosphoethanolamine-N-[maleimide (polyethyleneglycol)-2000], Cholesterol	Chloroform Methanol	Sun <i>et al.</i> , 2019
Losartan (Thin layer hydration)	Distearoyl phosphoethalamine-N-[methoxy (polyethylene glycol)-2000, Distearoyl phosphoethanolamine-N-[maleimide (polyethyleneglycol)-2000]	Methanol, Chloroform	Xia <i>et al.</i> , 2016
Daunorubicin hydrochloride (Film dispersion)	Cholesterol, 3 $\beta$ -[N-(N2 ,N2 -dimethyl aminoethane)-carbamoyl] cholesterol, Egg phosphatidylcholine	Chloroform	Ju <i>et al.</i> , 2018
Doxorubicin (Simple mixing)	Cholesterol, Soybean Phosphatidylcholine	Deuterated Chloroform	Cao <i>et al.</i> , 2019
Trastuzumab and Doxorubicin (Thin film hydration)	Distearoyl phosphatidylcholine, Distearoyl phosphoethanolamine-N-[methoxy (polyethylene glycol)-2000] (ammonium salt), Distearoyl phospho-ethanolamine-N-[maleimide (poly-ethyleneglycol)-2000], Cholesterol	Chloroform	Vaidya <i>et al.</i> , 2018

CD133 aptamer modified docetaxel liposome for lung cancer and showed considerable antitumor activity in A549 tumor mice with low systemic toxicity (Ma *et al.*, 2017). Xin *et al.*, found mitochondria mediated lung cancer apoptosis induced by long circulating targeted liposomes of parthenolide and ginsenoside CK attached with tLyp-1 ligand which exhibits reduced toxicity and superior antitumor effect (Jin *et al.*, 2018). Jiang *et al.*, developed sustained-release liposomes loaded with paclitaxel and curcumin and modified by arginine, glycine and aspartic acid peptide which exhibited greater anti-proliferative effect on A549 cells for lung cancer therapy (Jiang *et al.*, 2018). Poy *et al.*, developed carboplatin loaded liposomal nanoparticle with enhanced cytotoxicity on lung cancer (Poy *et al.*, 2017). Yanga *et al.*, developed

tocopheryl polyethylene glycol succinate (TPGS)-modified liposomes loaded with ginsenoside compound K which resulted in enhanced solubility of compound and exhibited targeted drug delivery in A549 cells in lung cancer (Yang *et al.*, 2016). Hamzawy *et al.*, developed liposome-embedded gold nanoparticle of temozolomide which exhibited enhanced drug distribution and penetration after intra-tracheal inhalation for cancer therapy. Superior synergistic antitumor activity was observed in urethane induced lung cancer in BALB/c mice (Hamzawy *et al.*, 2017). Song *et al.*, synthesized epirubicin liposomes for safe and proficient treatment of non-small-cell lung cancer and octreotide was modified on liposomal surface and honokiol was integrated into lipid bilayer for inhibiting tumor metastasis and eliminating

**Table 2:** Recent studies in development of liposome-based formulation for lung cancer.

Drug (Technique)	Lipids	Solvents	Reference
Doxorubicin (Thin film hydration)	Cholesterol, Distearoyl phospho-ethanolamine-N-[carboxy (poly-ethyleneglycol)-2000], Distearoyl-phosphoethanolamine-N-[maleimide (polyethylene glycol)-2000]	Ethanol	Chang <i>et al.</i> , 2014
$\beta$ -elemene and cisplatin (Thin film evaporation and ultrasonic hydration)	Phosphatidylcholine, Cholesterol, Distearoyl phospho-ethanolamine-N-[carboxy (polyethyleneglycol)-2000]	Chloroform	Cao <i>et al.</i> , 2016
Erlotinib (Thin layer film and hydration-sonication)	Soybean lecithin, Cholesterol	Ethanol	Gaballua <i>et al.</i> , 2019
Docetaxel (Thin-film hydration)	Soybean phosphatidylcholine, Distearoyl phospho-ethanolamine-N-[carboxy (poly-ethyleneglycol)-2000], Cholesterol	Chloroform	Ma <i>et al.</i> , 2017
Ginsenoside CK and parthenolide (Thin-film hydration)	Egg yolk lecithin, Cholesterol, Distearoyl phosphoethanolamine-N-[carboxy (polyethyleneglycol)-2000], Distearoyl phosphoethanolamine-N-[carboxy (polyethyleneglycol)-2000]-tLyp-1	Methanol	Jin <i>et al.</i> , 2018
Paclitaxel and Curcumin (Solvent evaporation)	Cholesterol, Hydrogenated Soybean phosphatidylcholine, Distearoyl phospho-ethanolamine-N-[carboxy (poly-ethyleneglycol)-2000]	Chloroform <i>et al.</i> , 2018	Jiang
Carboplatin (Reverse phase evaporation)	Lecithin, Cholesterol, Polyethylene glycol 3350	Ethanol	Poy <i>et al.</i> , 2017
Ginsenoside (Thin-film hydration)	D- $\alpha$ -tocopheryl polyethylene glycol 11000 succinate	Dimethyl sulfoxide	Yang <i>et al.</i> , 2016
Temozolomide (Thin-film hydration)	Phosphatidylcholine, Cholesterol	Chloroform, Ethanol	Hamzawy <i>et al.</i> , 2017
Epirubicin hydrochloride (Thin-film hydration)	Egg yolk phosphatidylcholine, Cholesterol, Distearoyl phospho-ethanolamine-N-[carboxy (poly-ethyleneglycol)-2000], Distearoyl phospho-ethanolamine-N-[carboxy (polyethyleneglycol)-2000]-NHS,	Chloroform	Song <i>et al.</i> , 2017
Erlotinib (Single step sonication)	Hydrogenated Soybean phosphatidylcholine, Distearoyl phospho-ethanolamine-N-[carboxy (polyethyleneglycol)-2000]	Ethanol Acetone	Mandal <i>et al.</i> , 2016
Vinblastine (Film dispersion)	Egg yolk phosphatidylcholine, Cholesterol, Distearoyl phospho-ethanolamine-N-[carboxy (poly-ethyleneglycol)-2000], Distearoyl phospho-ethanolamine-N-[carboxy (polyethyleneglycol)-2000]-NHS	Chloroform	Li <i>et al.</i> , 2015

vasculogenic mimicry channels (Song *et al.*, 2017). Mandal *et al.*, developed erlotinib loaded lipid-polymer hybrid nanoparticles for deliverance of erlotinib clinically used for treatment non-small cell lung cancer (Mandal *et al.*, 2016). Li *et al.*, prepared peanut agglutinin modified vinblastine cationic nanostructured liposome for treating non-small cell lung cancer (Li *et al.*, 2015). Table 2 depicts various liposomes that have been effectively utilized for treatment of lung cancer.

### Liposomes in hepatic cancer

Wei *et al.*, developed potential-targeting ligand lactoferrin-modified PEGylated liposomes loaded with

doxorubicin for targeting hepatocellular carcinoma (Wei *et al.*, 2015). Cheng *et al.*, developed cisplatin and curcumin co-loaded nano-liposomes to accomplish synergistic effect for 3-hepatocellular carcinoma (Cheng *et al.*, 2018). Jiang *et al.*, studied glycyrrhetic acid-modified curcumin and combretastatin A4 phosphate loaded liver-targeted liposomes which exhibited higher cytotoxicity in BEL-7402 human hepatic carcinoma cells (Jiang *et al.*, 2019). Yin *et al.*, fabricated sorafenib and ceramide loaded liposomes for achieving synergistic antitumor effect which showed superior cytotoxicity on human liver cancer cell line *i.e.* HepG2 cells (Yin *et al.*, 2018). Sarfraz *et al.*, studied combination therapy of

**Table 3:** Recent studies in development of liposome-based formulation for hepatic cancer.

Drug/Technique	Lipids	Solvent	Reference
Doxorubicin (Thin film hydration)	Soybean phosphatidylcholine, Distearoyl phospho-ethanolamine-N-[carboxy (polyethyleneglycol)-2000]	Dichloro-methane, Ethanol	Wei <i>et al.</i> , 2015
Cisplatin and Curcumin (Rotary evaporation)	Cholesterol, Dimyristoyl phosphatidyl choline, Distearoyl phospho-ethanolamine-N-[carboxy (poly-ethyleneglycol)-2000], 1,2-dioleoyl-sn-glycerol-3-phosphate	Chloroform	Cheng <i>et al.</i> , 2018
Curcumin and Combretastatin A4 phosphate (Thin film hydration)	1- $\alpha$ -phosphatidylcholine, Cholesterol	Chloroform	Jiang <i>et al.</i> , 2019
Sorafenib (Thin-film hydration)	Cholesterol, Lipoid E80, Distearoyl phospho-ethanolamine-N-[carboxy (poly-ethyleneglycol)-2000]	Chloroform Methanol	Yin <i>et al.</i> , 2018
Doxorubicin and oleanolic acid (Re-engineered ethanolic injection)	Hydrogenated Soybean Phosphatidylcholine, Cholesterol, Distearoyl phospho-ethanolamine-N-[carboxy (poly-ethyleneglycol)-2000]	Ethanol	Sarfraz <i>et al.</i> , 2017
Paclitaxel (Thin-film dispersion)	Soybean phosphatidylcholine, Cholesterol	Chloroform	Zhang <i>et al.</i> , 2016
Silibinin and Glycyrrhizic acid (Thin layer film hydration)	DPPE, Distearoyl phosphoethanol-amine-N-[carboxy (polyethyleneglycol)-2000]	Absolute ethanol	Ochi <i>et al.</i> , 2016

doxorubicin and oleanolic acid loaded liposomes to reduce doxorubicin-induced cardiotoxicity attenuated (Sarfraz *et al.*, 2017). Zhang *et al.*, investigated hybrid structure comprising of gold nano-particles and liposomes of paclitaxel with unique time-release approach and improved anti-neoplastic activity in hepatic cancer which was studied on xenograft Heps tumor-bearing mice (Zhang *et al.*, 2016). Ochi *et al.*, studied pegylated nano-

liposomes of silibinin and glycyrrhizic acid and assessed cytotoxicity on hepatocellular carcinoma HepG2 and fibroblast cell lines using MTT technique which indicated higher biological activity, stability and synergistic therapeutic effect of herbal therapy (Ochi *et al.*, 2016). Table 3, describes several liposomes that have been successfully used for treatment of hepatocellular carcinoma.

**Table 4:** Recent studies in development of liposome-based formulation for cervical cancer.

Drug/Technique	Lipids	Solvent	Reference
Curcumin (Thin film hydration)	Cholesterol, Soybean lecithin	Chloroform Diethyl ether	Saengkrit <i>et al.</i> , 2014
Curcumin (Thin film hydration)	DSPE-PEG(2000) Folate, Distearoyl phospho-ethanolamine-N-[carboxy (polyethyleneglycol)-2000], Cholesterol	Chloroform	Wang <i>et al.</i> , 2019
Arsenic trioxide (Thin film hydration)	Soy phosphatidylcholine, Cholesterol, Methoxy (polyethyleneglycol)-2000-distearoyl-phosphatidylethanolamine, Distearoyl phosphoethanolamine-N-[folate (polyethyleneglycol)-2000], Distearoyl phosphoethanolamine-N-(folate (polyethylene glycol)-5000]	Methanol, Dichloro-methane	Akhtar <i>et al.</i> , 2019
Survivin T34A (Thin film hydration)	1,2-dioleoyloxy-3-(trimethylammonio) propane, Cholesterol	Chloroform	Qiu <i>et al.</i> , 2018
Cisplatin	Dipalmitoyl phosphatidylcholine, Dipalmitoyl phosphatidyl glycerol (sodium salt), N-(carbonyl-methoxy polyethylene-glycol 2000)-1,2- distearoyl-sn-glycero-3-phospho-ethanolamine (sodium salt), 1-myristoyl-2-stearoyl-sn-glycero-3-phospho-choline or L- $\alpha$ -lysophosphatidylcholine	Chloroform	Dou <i>et al.</i> , 2017
Epirubicin (Thin film hydration and sonication)	1,2-dioleoyloxy-3-(trimethylammonio) propane, Dioleoylphosphatidyl ethanolamine	Chloroform	Juang <i>et al.</i> , 2016
Cisplatin and Quaternized N,O-oleoyl chitosan (QCS) (Thin film hydration)	Lecithin, Distearoyl phosphoethanolamine-N-[carboxy (poly-ethyleneglycol)-2000]	Chloroform Diethyl ether	Saesoo <i>et al.</i> , 2016

**Table 5:** Recent studies in development of liposome-based formulation for pancreatic cancer.

Drug/Technique	Lipids	Solvent	Reference
Cromolyn (Reverse phase evaporation vesicle)	Dipalmitoylphosphatidylcholine, Dimyristoylphosphatidylcholine, Distearoylphosphatidylcholine, 1,2-distearoyl-sn-glycero-3-phospho-ethanolamine-N-[methoxy (polyethyleneglycol)-2000]	Chloroform	Kim <i>et al.</i> , 2012
Curcumin	Dimyristoylphosphatidylcholine, Dimyristoylphosphatidylglycerol		Ranjan <i>et al.</i> , 2013
Curcumin (Thin film hydration)	1-Palmitoyl-2-oleoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine, Distearoyl phospho-ethanolamine-N-[carboxy (poly-ethyleneglycol)-2000]	Chloroform	Bisht <i>et al.</i> , 2016
Curcumin	Dimyristoylphosphatidylcholine, Dimyristoylphosphatidylglycerol		Mach <i>et al.</i> , 2009
Paclitaxel (Thin film hydration)	Egg yolk Phosphatidylcholine, Cholesterol, Distearoyl phospho-ethanolamine-N-[carboxy (poly-ethyleneglycol)-2000]	Ethanol	Okamoto <i>et al.</i> , 2014
Hyaluronic acid (Thin lipid film-hydration)	Distearoylphosphatidylcholine, Cholesterol, 1,2-distearoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphoethanolamine-N-[amino (polyethyleneglycol)-2000]	Chloroform	Marengo <i>et al.</i> , 2019
Mcl-1 siRNA and gemcitabine (Thin lipid film-hydration)	Cholesterol, Dimyristoylphosphatidylglycerol	Dichloro-methane	Wang <i>et al.</i> , 2019
Gemcitabine (Thin film hydration extrusion)	Cholesterylhemisuccinate, 1,2-dioleoyl-snglycero-3-phospho-ethanolamine, N-(carbonyl methoxypolyethylene-glycol-2000)-1,2-distearoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphoethanolamine	Phosphate buffer	Hongtao <i>et al.</i> , 2016
Paclitaxel and Ellagic acid (Thin film hydration)	Dipalmitoylphosphatidylcholine	Ethanol, Chloroform, Methanol	Wei <i>et al.</i> , 2017
Curcumin (Thin film hydration with subsequent freeze-thaw, sonication and extrusion)	Cholesterol, Dimyristoylphosphatidyl-choline, Distearoyl phospho- ethanolamine-N-[carboxy (poly-ethyleneglycol)-2000], Distearoyl phospho-ethanolamine-N-[carboxy (poly-ethyleneglycol)-2000]-Maleimide	Chloroform	Le <i>et al.</i> , 2018

### Liposome in cervical cancer

Casagrande *et al.*, developed lipoplatin, novel cisplatin liposomal to diminish cisplatin toxicity and enhanced accretion at tumour site. Antitumoral activity of lipoplatin was analyzed on HeLa and ME-180 cell lines and discovered cisplatin-resistant clone R-ME-180 for potential treatment of cisplatin-resistant cervical cancer (Casagrande *et al.*, 2013). Saengkrit *et al.*, investigated curcumin-loaded cationic liposomal nanoparticles for enhanced cell uptake against cell lines *i.e.* HeLa and SiHa (Saengkrit *et al.*, 2014). Wang *et al.* found greater anti-proliferative effect of folic acid customized curcumin liposomes on HeLa cells for targeted cervical carcinoma therapy (Wang *et al.*, 2019). Akhtar *et al.*, synthesized folate optimised liposomal encapsulated arsenic trioxide conjugated to polyethylene glycol 2000 and polyethylene glycol 5000 to advance their therapeutic profile for treating high-risk human papilloma virus-positive cervical cancer cells (Akhtar *et al.*, 2019). Qiu *et al.*, investigated liposome plasmid encoding mutant survivin T34A which inhibited tumor growth of cervical cancer along with

reduction in angiogenesis and increase in tumor cells apoptosis rate (Qiu *et al.*, 2018). Doua *et al.*, developed thermosensitive liposome of cisplatin for cervical cancer patients for implementation of custom-made medicine in clinical setting (Dou *et al.*, 2017). Juang *et al.*, fabricated PEGylated liposomes encapsulating epirubicin as an antineoplastic agent and tilapia hepcidin 2-3, antimicrobial peptides which caused programmed cell death in cervical cancer cells (Jaung *et al.*, 2016). Saesoo *et al.*, developed surface modified nanoliposome and assessed therapeutic effectiveness using 3-dimensional spheroid cervical cancer model which highlighted apoptosis against cervical cancer (Saesoo *et al.*, 2016). Liposomes that have been generously developed for management of cervical cancer have been illustrated in table 4.

### Liposomes in pancreatic cancer

Kim *et al.*, developed PEGylated liposome of cromolyn to advance antitumor activity for management of pancreatic cancer (Kim *et al.*, 2012). Ranjan *et al.*, fabricated liposomal formulation loaded with curcumin in human pancreatic tumor xenograft model to perk up

**Table 6:** Recent studies in development of liposome-based formulation for gastric, skin, brain, head and neck cancer.

Drug/Technique	Lipids	Solvent	Reference
<b>Gastric cancer</b>			
CD44-SATB1-ILs (Lipid film hydration)	1,2-dioleoyloxy-3-(trimethylammonio) propane, Cholesterol, Distearoyl phospho-ethanolamine [methoxy (polyethylene glycol)-2000], Distearoyl phospho-ethanolamine-N-[carboxy (poly-ethyleneglycol)-2000]-Maleimide	Chloroform	Yang <i>et al.</i> , 2018
Peptide GX1 (Thin film hydration and sonication dispersion)	Soybean lecithin, Cholesterol, Cholesteryl hemisuccinate	Chloroform	Xiong <i>et al.</i> , 2015
<b>Skin cancer</b>			
Epigallocatechin gallatein (Film hydration)	Phosphatidylcholine, Cholesterol	Chloroform, Methanol	Marwah <i>et al.</i> , 2019
Avicelquinone-B liposomal formulations (Thin film hydration)	Phosphatidylcholine, Cholesterol	Chloroform, Methanol	Hu <i>et al.</i> , 2019
Curcumin and STAT3 siRNA (Thin film hydration)	1,2-dioleoyloxy-3-(tri-methylammonio) propane, Dioleoylphosphatidyl ethanolamine	Methanol	Jose <i>et al.</i> , 2018
Cetuximab and 5-fluorouracil (Thin lipid film hydration)	Distearoyl phosphatidyl-choline, Cholesterol, Distearoyl phospho-ethanolamine-N-[carboxy (poly-ethyleneglycol)-2000]-Maleimide	Chloroform	Petrilli <i>et al.</i> , 2018
<b>Brain cancer</b>			
Carboplatin (Reverse phase evaporation)	Cholesterol, Lecithin, 1,2-distearoyl-sn-glycero-3-phospho-ethanolamine-N-[methoxy (polyethyleneglycol)-2000]	Ethanol	Hassanzadeganroudsari <i>et al.</i> , 2019
Cetuximab and Camptosar (Thin-film hydration)	Dipalmitoylphosphatidyl-choline, Cholesterol, Distearoyl phospho-ethanolamine-N-[carboxy (poly-ethyleneglycol)-2000]-NH <sub>2</sub>	Chloroform, Methanol	Lu <i>et al.</i> , 2019
<b>Head and neck cancer</b>			
Dihydroartemisinin (Film dispersion-ultrasonication)	Phosphatidylcholine, Cholesterol	Chloroform	Li <i>et al.</i> , 2019
Paclitaxel and Ursolic acid (Thin-film dispersion hydration)	Hydrogenated soybean phosphatidyl-choline, Cholesterol and Distearoyl phospho-ethanolamine-N-[carboxy (polyethylene-glycol)-2000]-NH <sub>2</sub>	Chloroform	Lv <i>et al.</i> , 2017

bioavailability and poor aqueous solubility of curcumin (Ranjan *et al.*, 2013). Bisht *et al.*, developed curcumin analog EF24 liposomal formulation which decreases phosphorylation of I-kappa-B-alpha in xenograft tumor tissues and inhibits pancreatic cancer development (Bisht *et al.*, 2016). Mach *et al.*, designed curcumin liposomal formulation and concluded that minimum effective dose for liposomal curcumin is 20 mg/kg once daily three times/week to attain optimal tumor growth inhibition in xenograft human pancreatic cancer model (Mach *et al.*, 2009). Okamoto *et al.*, prepared paclitaxel-loaded bovine serum albumin encapsulated liposomes using noncovalent binding to albumin for pancreatic cancer (Okamoto *et al.*, 2014). Marengo *et al.*, prepared hyaluronic acid liposomes comprising diethyl-dithiocarbamate copper to target specific cancer stem cells marker CD44 receptor by ion gradient technique for anti-proliferative action on

pancreatic cancer stem cells (Marengo *et al.*, 2019). Wang *et al.*, developed liposome to co-deliver Mcl-1 siRNA and gemcitabine for pancreatic LP-Gem-siMcl-1 cancer treatment to overcome resistance of gemcitabine (Wang *et al.*, 2019). Xu *et al.*, fabricated high content gemcitabine pH-sensitive liposomes beneficial over non pH-sensitive liposomes (Hongtao *et al.*, 2016). Wei *et al.*, prepared paclitaxel and ellagic acid loaded human serum albumin complexes co-encapsulated into thermosensitive liposomes to promote matrix penetration and tumor accumulation (Wei *et al.*, 2017). Le *et al.*, investigated effect of epidermal growth factor (EGF) conjugated liposomes comprising curcumin on human pancreatic cancer cell lines *i.e.* BxPC-3, Panc-1, Mia Paca-2 and showed targeting of liposomes against human pancreatic cancer cells (Le *et al.*, 2018). Table 5, elucidate numerous liposomes that have been effectively applied for curing pancreatic cancer.

## Liposomes in gastric cancer

Yhang *et al.*, developed CD44-SATB1-ILs antibodies conjugated immune liposomes an imminent approach to enhance therapeutic effect of binding protein-1 against gastric cancer-initiating cells (Yang *et al.*, 2018). Xiong *et al.*, developed GX1-mediated anionic liposomes carrying adenoviral vectors GX1-Ad5-AL for escalating inhibition effect and suppressing migration of gastric cancer vascular endothelial cells (Xiong *et al.*, 2015). Liposomes that have been successfully synthesized for management of gastric cancer have been exemplified in table 6.

## Liposome in skin cancer

Marwah *et al.*, fabricated tween-20 dependent deformable liposome for dermal cellular delivery of epigallocatechin gallatein which showed superior drug penetration into dermal cells (Marwah *et al.*, 2019). Hu *et al.*, synthesized avicelquinone-B liposomes which induced apoptosis in cutaneous squamous carcinoma cells (Hu *et al.*, 2019). Jose *et al.*, synthesized curcumin-loaded cationic liposomes of STAT3 siRNA for iontophoretic administration which showed effectiveness in reducing tumor progression in skin cancer treatment (Jose *et al.*, 2018). Petrilli *et al.*, developed epidermal growth factor receptors-targeted immunoliposome loaded with 5-fluorouracil for squamous carcinoma cells (Petrilli *et al.*, 2018). Recent works in liposome-based formulation for skin cancer has been represented in table 6.

## Liposomes in brain cancer

Hassanzadeganroudsari *et al.*, investigated cytotoxic efficacy of PEGylated carboplatin loaded liposomes which hold elevated therapeutic potential for brain cancer therapy (Hassanzadeganroudsari *et al.*, 2019). Lu *et al.*, developed dual-responsive thermosensitive magnetic liposomes encapsulated with camptosar and magnetic Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> nanoparticles coated with citric acid and conjugated with cetuximab for recognition of over-expressed epidermal growth factor receptors on cancer cell surface (Lu *et al.*, 2019). Liposomes that have been effectively manufactured for management of brain cancer have been illustrated in table 6.

## Liposomes in head and neck cancer

Hui *et al.*, formulated magnetic dihydroartemisinin nanoliposomes to get enhanced targeted delivery for inhibiting head and neck squamous cell carcinomas proliferation (Li *et al.*, 2019). Lv *et al.*, fabricated paclitaxel and ursolic acid loaded liposome and found increased therapeutic effectiveness in head-and-neck squamous cell carcinoma (Lv *et al.*, 2017). Table 6 revealed various liposomes that have been synthesized for management of head and neck cancer.

## Conclusion

Liposome-based medications are less toxic, biodegradable and biocompatible nanomedicine having capability of loading hydrophilic as well as hydrophobic drug molecules. Liposome-based drug carriers have been reported to augment drug's efficacy, therapeutic index, stability and pharmacokinetic effects; drug targeting to tumour tissue, reduced systemic toxicity, prolonged residence time in blood circulation, improved safety, therapeutic effectiveness and patient compliance over conventional medicines. The widespread research of liposome-based drug delivery for different cancer chemotherapeutics *i.e.* breast, lung, hepatic, cervical, pancreatic, gastric, skin, brain, head and neck cancers illustrated that liposomes can be explored as blooming field of investigation.

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## Conflict of interests

Conflict of interest declared none.

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