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## Chitosan nanoparticles: Current aspects

Prasad R Deshmukh <sup>1,\*</sup>, Dipti Bonde <sup>1</sup>, Dipti Ruikar <sup>1</sup> and Somashekhar Khadabadi <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Pharmaceutics, P. R. Pote Patil College of Pharmacy, Amravati, Maharashtra, India.

<sup>2</sup> Government College of Pharmacy, Amravati, Maharashtra, India.

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### Abstract

Nanoparticles are currently becoming one of the important parts for various segments. Much more process/application becomes effective or more economical and time-saving because of nanoparticles. Polymers with distinct characteristics are widely used but nature-origin polymer has important properties that make a polymeric material for nanoparticles. Many methods were successfully evaluated to prepare chitosan nanoparticles for loading various compounds including ionotropic gelation, micelles, and emulsification methods. In this article, we have reviewed the current aspects made-up of chitosan nanoparticles. Chitosan nanoparticles have an application to improve bioavailability, controlled release of the loaded drug also increases cellular uptake and targeting to cancer cells, stabilization of proteins, and enhanced the effectivity of anti-microbial agents. In agriculture, chitosan nanoparticles are used for herbicides, insecticides, and pesticide loading to improve the cultivation of crops and are used in food packaging. Chitosan nanoparticles also have wide applications as implant and therapeutic agent.

**Keywords:** Chitosan; Nanoparticles; Pharmaceutical application; Agriculture; Implants

### 1 Introduction

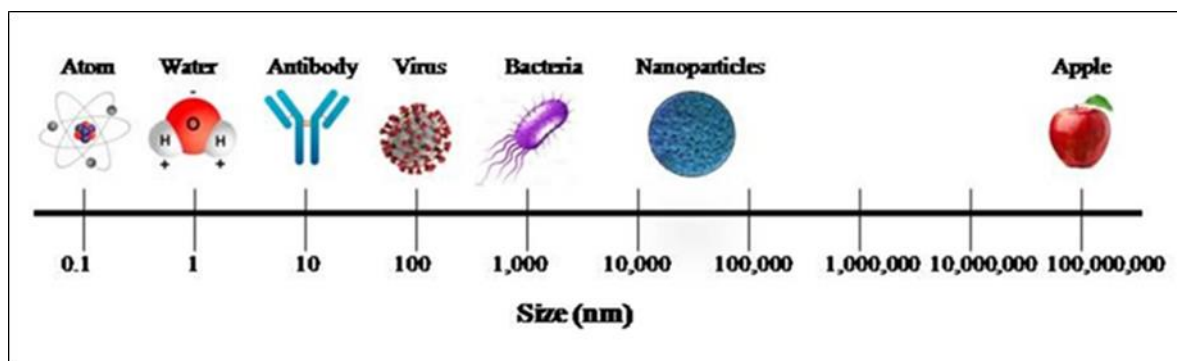
Design, production, and application of material molding at the scale of atomic, molecular, and macromolecular to convert into nano size were defined as nanotechnology. In large, used full application of nanotechnology makes its best acceptable systems in multiple material developments. Nanoparticles are a type of colloidal system comprising particles with a size range from 10 to 1000 nm in diameter (Fig 1). Nanoparticles exhibit size-related physiochemical properties that make significantly differ from those observed in fine particles or bulk materials [1]. Nanoparticles are used for many more purposes including improvement of physical and chemical stability, improvement in enhanced efficiency, improvement of shelf life of the food products, in packaging materials, the bioavailability of the drug by improving aqueous solubility, increasing resistance time in the biological system, increasing half-life, increasing specificity and targeting drug to a specific location in the body also in agriculture to improve and increased nutrients levels, productivity and protection against several insect pest and microbial diseases.

Polysaccharide material chitosan was obtained by extensive deacetylation by hydrolysis under alkali conditions at a high temperature of chitin, originated from crustacean shells, the cell walls of fungi, in the exoskeletons of anthropods mostly in crustaceans (e.g. crabs, lobsters, and shrimps), insects, radulae of molluscs, in beaks, and internal shells of cephalopods (e.g. octopus and squid). Chitosan is a cationic linear copolymer made up of a random distribution of  $\beta$  (1 $\rightarrow$ 4) linked 2- amino- 2- deoxy- D- glucose (D-glucosamine) and 2- acetamido- 2- deoxy- D- glucose (N- acetyl-D-glucosamine) units (Fig. 2). Chitosan is insoluble in water, organic solvents, and aqueous bases and it is soluble in acids such as acetic, nitric, hydrochloric, perchloric and phosphoric [2]. Chemical properties of linear polyamines, reactive amino groups, reactive hydroxyl group available, chelates transitional metal ions. Biological properties of

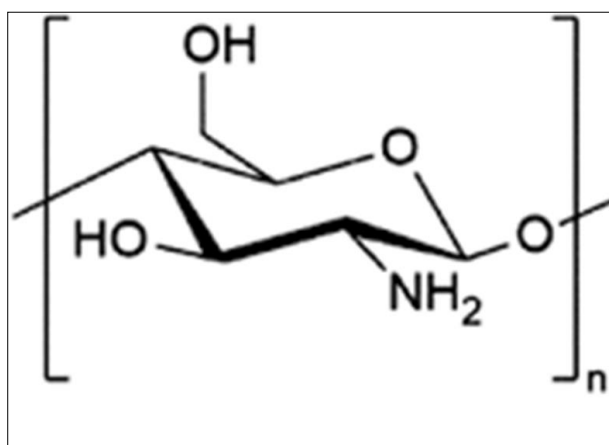
\* Corresponding author: Prasad R Deshmukh

Department of Pharmaceutics, P. R. Pote Patil College of Pharmacy, Amravati Maharashtra, India.

biocompatible, binding to mammalian and microbial cells aggressively, regeneration effect on connective gum tissue, accelerates the formation of osteoblasts responsible for bone formation, hemostatic, fungistatic, spermicidal, antitumor, anticholesteremic, accelerates bone formation [3]. Chitosan is considered one of the most valuable polymers for biomedical and pharmaceutical applications and can be used in the development of nanoparticles, microspheres, hydrogels, films, and fibers [4].



**Figure 1** Nanosize substances with scale



**Figure 2** Structure of chitosan

Chitosan is widely used as a material for the nanotechnology of encapsulated material because of its natural availability and its physiochemical properties. Various methods were adopted to prepare nanosize material from chitosan including ionic gelation/polyelectrolyte complexation, emulsion droplet coalescence, emulsion solvent diffusion, reverse micellization, desolvation, modified ionic gelation with radical polymerization, emulsification cross-linking, nanoprecipitation, spray-drying, cross linkers by aldehyde, tripolyphosphate, genipin, carboxylic groups [5]. Chitosan nanoparticles are successfully applied for various purposes in chemicals, pharmaceuticals, antimicrobials, food, agriculture, and therapy. A significant difference in the activity of encapsulated material in chitosan nanoparticles was observed as compared to the same non-encapsulated material. This review covers recent application of nanotechnology using chitosan as a polymeric material for encapsulation and improvement of efficiency in pharmaceutical drugs, antimicrobial agents, anti-cancer agents, biological materials like antigen, proteins, RNA loading, pesticides, herbicides, and nutrition used in agriculture also for the improvement of efficiency of food packaging materials, therapeutics purposed and as implanting materials (Fig. 3).

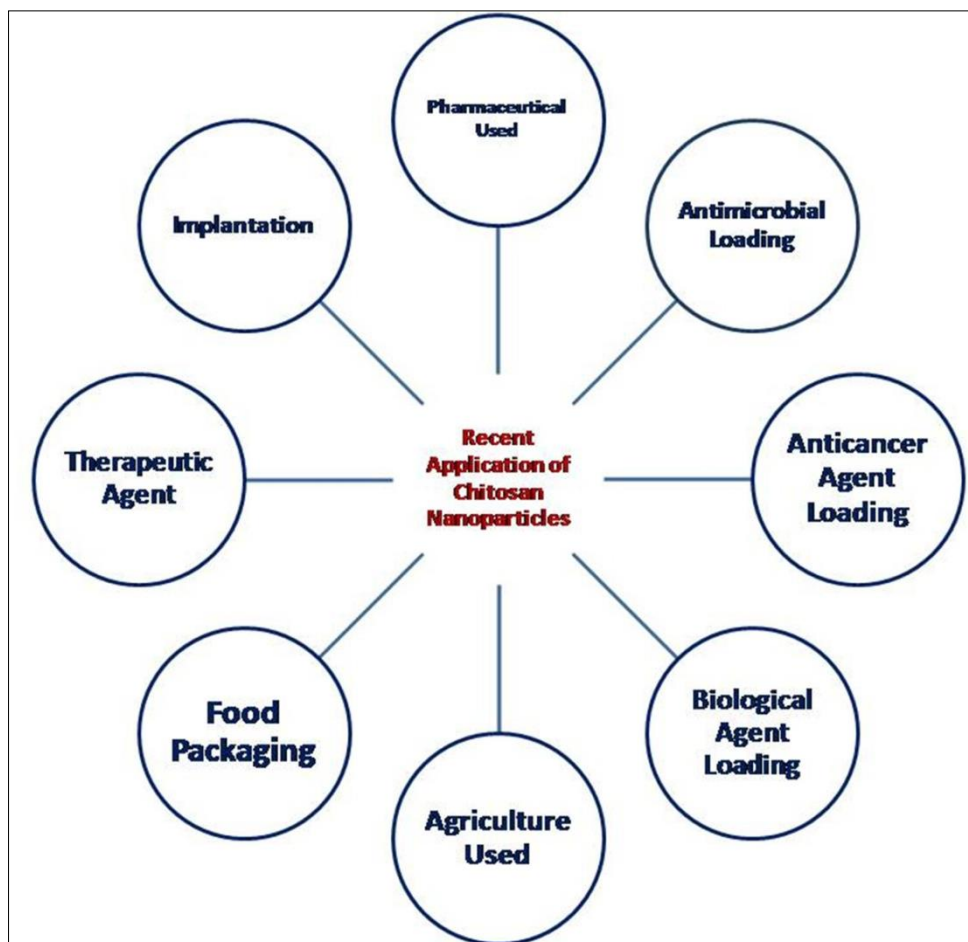


Figure 3 Recent application of chitosan nanoparticles

## 2 Current application of chitosan nanoparticles

Nanoparticles can improve the effectiveness of loaded particles which makes them important in various applications. Nature-origin materials like chitosan used as polymeric material for nanoparticles resulted in a synergetic effect. Following is the discussion on the current research work carried out on chitosan nanoparticles in various areas.

### 2.1 Pharmaceutical Used

Polymeric materials used for nanoparticles play an important role in drug loading, release, bioavailability, and ultimately therapeutic effect of loaded drugs. Chitosan, because of its unique properties was evaluated as the most compatible and acceptable material for nanoparticles. Chitosan nanoparticles help to improve the therapeutic properties of a loaded drug like the release, permeability, and stability. Antihistaminic agent Olopatadine hydrochloride was incorporated into chitosan nanoparticles using the spray drying method. Particle size analyses showed that the nanoparticles were within the nanometer range ( $119 \pm 9$  nm to  $227 \pm 18$  nm) with a relatively homogenous size distribution ( $0.453 \pm 0.078$  to  $0.643 \pm 0.124$  PDI data) with zeta potentials within the range of  $+27.8 \pm 0.3$  mV to  $+35.5 \pm 1.2$  mV. High encapsulation efficacies up to  $73.33 \pm 0.25\%$  were detected by the ultra-high performance liquid chromatography (U-HPLC) method. *In vivo* corneal residence time of nanoparticles studies on sheep revealed that the ocular residence time was enhanced up to 24 h with single instillation [6]. Epinephrine-entrapped in chitosan nanoparticles were electro sprayed on a base pad and covered by a gelatin nanofiber layer was provided an ultimate interface to induce red blood cell absorption and aggregation, resulting in augmented blood coagulation. Nanoparticles were proved for safe and effective hemostatic agents and provide a new approach for fast and safe hemorrhage control [7]. Propranolol-loaded chitosan nanoparticles were prepared by double emulsion technique, as an effective alternative for the treatment of infantile hemangioma. The *in vivo* skin deposition in rats showed an accumulation of propranolol on the lecithin/chitosan nanocarrier by 1.56–1.91-fold compared to the drug solution. Fluorescence across the skin by confocal laser scanning microscopy also proved the permeation by nanoparticles [8].

Chitosan along with alginate complex was used for the coating to improve the photostability, sustained releases, and bio-accessibility of resveratrol. Chitosan was used to coat zein nanoparticles of resveratrol obtained by the liquid-liquid dispersion method. In the *in vitro* release assay evaluated chitosan coating improved the nanoparticle's protection against premature resveratrol release in simulated gastrointestinal fluids and gave biphasic and prolonged resveratrol release. Chitosan played an essential role in the adsorption of mucin on the surface of the nanoparticles, demonstrating its mucoadhesive properties [9]. Lithium-loaded nanoparticles prepared by ionic gelation technique using chitosan improved therapeutic efficacy for the treatment of bipolar disorders. Moreover controlled lithium release from nanoparticles overcomes pulmonary toxicity due to the direct use of lithium carbonate. 1.3 times increase in cell proliferation by lithium carbonate loaded chitosan nanoparticles was observed in PC12 cells [10].

## 2.2 Antimicrobial loading

Used of antimicrobials was restricted due to various parameters including resistance, cellular uptake by microorganisms, and the physiochemical nature of the antimicrobial agent. Chitosan nanoparticles have proven to enhance the therapeutic efficiency of loaded antimicrobial agents due to the promotion of permeability, high surface area-to-volume ratio, and alternation of physiochemical properties. Chitosan with poly (D, L-lactide-co-glycolide) nanoparticle were used for enhanced antimicrobial activity of natural antimicrobial Trans-cinnamaldehyde and generated a delivery system with pH-sensitivity for controlled release [11]. Chitosan nanoparticles were used for loading the antifungal miconazole nitrate to treat vulvovaginal candidiasis. Nanoparticles had an increase in miconazole nitrate's therapeutic efficacy than commercial cream formulation [12]. Chitosan was evaluated as a carrier for betamethasone and tetracycline with sodium citrate as the cross-linking agent [13]. Higher encapsulation efficiency and particle stability were achieved in antifungal *Origanum vulgare* essential oil loaded in chitosan nanoparticles using the electrospraying technique. The dynamic light scattering technique evaluated the stability of nanoparticles, the spectrophotometry study evaluated the encapsulation efficiency in the range of 70.1 and 79.6%. The Agar dilution method was carried out for fungistatic activity [14]. Controlled release ciprofloxacin-loaded chitosan-based nanoparticles were synthesized by ionic crosslinking method showing the highest antibacterial activity against *Escherichia coli*, *Bacillus thuringiensis*, Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* with MIC varying from 0.0043 to 0.01 µg/ml and from 0.07 to 0.14 µg/ml [15]. Nanoparticles of tetrazole derivatives of chitosan by ionic gelation with cross-linking sodium tripolyphosphate showed improved catalytic properties and antibacterial activity against *S. aureus* and *E. coli* than tetrazole-chitosan polymers [16]. Quaternary pyridinium compounds attached to chitosan nanoparticles showed significant effect on the Gram-positive bacteria. DPPH-radical scavenging assay shows mild improvement in antioxidant activity [17]. Spiramycin-loaded chitosan nanoparticles were prepared for the treatment of human toxoplasmosis. Nanoparticles showed a maximum survival time of more than 200 days with no mortality on the sacrifice day (8th) observed in mice. Spiramycin-loaded nanoparticles showed the highest significant percent reduction of tachyzoites (about 90% reduction) in the liver, spleen, and brain compared to the other used drugs denoting successful bypass of BBB. Light microscopy of the treated peritoneal tachyzoites showed sluggish tachyzoite movement while the nanoparticles caused a loss of their movement. SEM of the treated tachyzoites was more mutilated and some of them appeared to rupture [18]. Chitosan nanoparticles were prepared by ionic gelation method using cross-linking agent sodium tripolyphosphate, used in the treatment of ocular infection by encapsulating the antibacterial agent levofloxacin. Reduction of corneal clearance, nasolacrimal drainage as well as higher retention of levofloxacin with higher antibacterial activity against *P. aeruginosa*, and *S. aureus* was achieved by chitosan nanoparticles [19]. In dentistry, chitosan nanoparticles showed an inhibitory effect on the growth of bacteria and pathogenic fungi analyzed by cultured in suspensions [20].

## 2.3 Anticancer agent loading

Drug solubility and permeability decide the therapeutic value by bioavailability. Nanosize polymeric material succeeds to overcome low bioavailability by improving the solubility and permeability of the loaded drug. Chitosan nanoparticles can able to cross the tight junctions between cells and promote permeation and hydrophilic properties help for solubility. Moreover adverse effects on normal cell restricted the use of anti-cancer drugs, loading in chitosan nanoparticles selectively achieved targeted delivery to specific organs that improvement in therapeutics efficiency. Cytarabine loaded chitosan nanoparticles were used for targeted delivery in breast. Folates conjugated to chitosan using carbodiimide helps to target adeno carcinoma cell lines by making use of the over-expressed folate receptors on the surface of MCF-7 [21]. Essential oils of greater celandine were loaded in chitosan nanoparticles using the emulsion-ionic gelation method with 69.1% encapsulation efficiency. Implying that encapsulation chitosan become an efficient technique for improving their anticancer activity against MCF-7 cell line [22]. Enhancement of therapeutic efficacy and reduced side effects of doxorubicin was gained by chitosan nanoparticles prepared by using supercritical-fluid assisted atomization introduced by a hydrodynamic cavitation mixer (SAA-HCM) from aqueous solution. Nanoparticles showed strongly pH-responsive drug release behavior by nanoparticles in the media with pH of 4.5, 6.5 and 7.4 respectively [23]. For treatment with DOX-resistant cancer cells Lecithin/Chitosan nanoparticles were used to load doxorubicin and

piperine P-gp inhibitors. Nanoparticle was showed prolonged drug release by Fickian-diffusion mechanism [24]. Chitosan –tripolyphosphate nanoparticles using ionotropic gelation method with decorated chlorin e6 chromophores were used to prepare photocontrolled doxorubicin delivery system for cancer treatment. High photo stability, singlet oxygen generation and pH controlled release nanoparticles show significant antiproliferative activity against MCF-7 breast cancer cells after irradiation at near infra-red ranges [25]. Carboxymethyl Chitosan was used to prepare nanoparticles by pre-grafted N-(3-Aminopropyl)-imidazole then surface-modified with perfluorobutyric anhydride. Nanoparticles showing pH-triggered drug release, higher bioavailability and superior antitumor efficiency by enhancing cellular uptake and improving cytotoxicity in different tumor cells without targeting recognition between host and ligands [26]. Chitosan was used with fucoidan nanoparticles to load methotrexate for topical delivery. Nanoparticles had lower cytotoxicity than free methotrexate, in fibroblasts and human keratinocytes. Safe, exerts an anti-inflammatory effect and increase skin permeation thus can potentially be used for methotrexate nanoparticles for topical delivery [27]. Chitosan along with N-deoxycholic acid glycol nanoparticles were used as a carrier for docetaxel, GX1-PEG-deoxycholic acid conjugate was used for targete ligand for gastric cancer. Angiogenesis marker peptide GX1 efficiently enhanced the cellular uptake of nanoparticles. Nanoparticles showed stronger cytotoxicity against co-cultured gastric cancer cells and human umbilical vein endothelial cells [28]. Chitosan with alginate with doxorubicin loaded nanoparticles by electrostatic complexation in water-in-oil (w/o) emulsion process. The uptake and efficacy was successfully evaluated by a murine breast cancer cell line, 4T1, with comparable 72 h IC50 values of the nanoparticle solution (0.15 µg/mL) and free DOX (0.13 µg/mL), spherical morphology and uniformity [29]. Chitosan with alginate nanoparticles were also used to encapsulate curcumin diethyl diglutarate for oral delivery was prepared by o/w emulsification and ionotropic gelation method. Nanoparticle of curcumin diethyl diglutarate in Chitosan/alginate showed better stability under UV irradiation and thermal exposure, storage stability, digestive stability, in vitro digestibility, bioaccessibility and in vitro uptake in Caco-2 cells than also *in-vitro* release profile showed sustained-release manner and best fit with the Korsmeyer-Peppas kinetic model, indicating the Fickian diffusion mechanism compare to free curcumin diethyl diglutarate [30].

Cell-biotinylated curcumin loaded chitosan nanoparticles hybrid vector was constructed using mesenchymal stem cells. Nanoparticles showed no effect on their viability and homing properties. Biotin-avidin binding lasted over 48 h, which could be sufficient for cell-directed tumor tropic delivery. Cell-nanoparticle hybrid vector could prove beneficial in pulmonary melanoma metastasis therapy by in vitro and in vivo anti-tumor [31]. Succinate conjugated chitosan with D- $\alpha$ -tocopherol polyethylene glycol 1000 was used to load Docetaxel. To enhanced cellular uptake and cytotoxicity with a promising bioadhesion property. In-vivo pharmacokinetic studies showed 2.33, and 2.82-fold enhancement in relative bioavailability [32].

Casiopains, a group of anticancer agents, form coordination complexes with copper as the metallic center Casiopein III-ia loaded chitosan nanoparticles. Nanoparticles were prepared by a coacervation process using both sodium hydroxide and sodium citrate as neutralizing agents. Chitosan nanoparticles increased life span in CB6F1/Hsd mice transplanted with B16 melanoma tumors six times compared to the free drug. It's reduced chemotherapy side effects and enhanced therapeutic efficacy by targeting tumors [33]. Chitosan crosslinked with sodium tripolyphosphate were used to prepare controlled released biocompatibility and hemocompatible nanoparticles for anticancer drug letrozole [34].

## 2.4 Biological agent loading

Encapsulation of protein contained in polymeric nano size devices raised instability problems. Colloidal characteristics like particle size, PDI, and zeta potential are mainly concerned with the stability of nanoparticles. Natural origin along with compatibility and degradation in biological systems and providing excellent stability to nano systems, chitosan has become choice for encapsulation of pretentious compounds like amino acid, albumin, enzymes, antigen, mRNA, and hormones. Chitosan and ascorbate chitosan nanoparticles with load enzymes were produced by dissolution in acetic acid, formed spherical with average particle sizes of  $44 \pm 8.4$  nm and  $87 \pm 13.6$  nm, respectively. Were taken up by the cells and showed dose-dependent cytotoxicity. Chitosan-glucoamylase nanoparticles were synthesized by dripping granulation method followed by ionic cross-linking with sodium tripolyphosphate. Nanosize optimized the reaction conditions, pH durance, loading capacity and storage stability of the immobilized enzyme [35]. siRNA-containing chitosan nanoparticles were improved colloidal stability and exhibited low toxicity with efficient cell uptake, explored by confocal microscopy of rhodamine labeled vectors [36]. Bovine serum albumin in chitosan tripolyphosphate nanoparticles were effectively internalized by the cells. Fluorescence microscopy and gel electrophoresis showed that the highest cellular uptake takes place of protein [37]. LSC chimeric proteins encapsulated in chitosan nanoparticles were evaluated as a protective effect against the toxins produced by ETEC, EHEC, and Vibrio cholera bacteria. Moreover was able to induce systemic and mucosal immune responses by generating a useful titer of IgG and IgA by antibody titer by ELISA and test of the toxins on the immunized mouse [38]. Ionotropic gelification was used for entrapment of TistH, a peptide identified in the venom gland of the Tityus stigmurus scorpion in chitosan nanoparticles for improved

antifungal efficacy against vulvovaginal candidiasis of *C. albicans*. Nanoparticles showed peptide loading greater than 96.5%, stable for 8 weeks and were able to induce the desired slow in vitro peptide release. Cytotoxicity assay proved biocompatibility of nanoparticles [39]. Antigens loaded on the nanoparticles of curdlan sulfate/O-(2-hydroxyl) propyl-3-trimethyl ammonium chitosan chloride was evaluated for immuno stimulatory activity. It observed that nanoparticles were improving the activation of antigen-presenting cells, up-regulating the production of inflammatory factors and cytokines, induce cross-presentation, simultaneously activating type I interferon-related genes and also activated the PI3K/AKT and MAPK pathways and significantly promoted IL-2 transcription to induce the proliferation of lymphocytes. Amine functionalized chitosan was derived to synthesize using N-(2-hydroxyethyl) ethylenediamine used for loaded green fluorescent protein circular plasmid DNA in nanoparticles, which were prepared by ionic gelation method. Resulted nanoparticles were nontoxic, had high transfection efficiency in human embryonic kidney and primary ovine fibroblast cell lines, and would be used as an efficient gene carrier system [41]. Chitosan nanoparticles were successfully evaluated for entrapment of egg white derived peptides for improvement of its bioavailability. Peptides influenced the zeta potential as the peptide charged groups were in different locations relative to the nanoparticles surfaces. FTIR study showed that peptides interacted with chitosan through strong hydrogen bonds and electrostatic interactions [42].

Chitosan nanoparticles were used to introduce anti-HIV siRNA into two mammalian cell lines, macrophage RAW 264.7 and HEK293 for gene therapy. Nanoparticles with the combination of chitosan with both carboxymethyl dextran and polyethylenimine significantly improved cell viability and siRNA delivery. Nanoparticles noticeably increased siRNA delivery efficiency with no significant cytotoxicity or apoptosis-inducing effects compared to the control cells and significantly reduced the RNA and protein expression of HIV-1 tat in both stable cells [43].

Nanoparticles using chitosan derivatives: thiolated trimethyl chitosan, methylated 4-N,N dimethyl aminobenzyl N,O carboxymethyl chitosan and thiolated trimethyl aminobenzyl chitosan were prepared for in vitro DNA transfection efficiency. All nanoparticles showed DNA condensing ability, negligible cytotoxicity, and methylated 4-N,N dimethyl aminobenzyl N,O carboxymethyl chitosan was the most effective vehicle for gene delivery in HEK-293T cells and thiolated trimethyl aminobenzyl chitosan exhibited the highest transfection efficiency by cell line study [44]. For improving the properties of chitosan gelatin scaffolds in tissue engineering applications of fibroblast growth factor and bovine serum albumin loaded chitosan nanoparticles by the ionic gelation method introduced into chitosan gelatin scaffolds. Structural characterization and biological assays showed that nanoparticles significantly affected the physical properties of the scaffold and could provide a sustained release of growth factors to enhance the proliferation of fibroblast cells significantly and enhance their biological properties [45]. Ovalbumin as a model antigen was firstly encapsulated by cyclodextrin, either  $\beta$ -cyclodextrin or carboxymethyl-hydroxypropyl- $\beta$ -cyclodextrin and formed inclusion complexes by a precipitation/coacervation method and then loaded in chitosan nanoparticles. Nanoparticles were improved ovalbumin loading efficiency and showed low initial release at pH 1.2 for 2 h less than 3.0% and delayed release which was below to 30% at pH 6.8 for further 72 h. Ovalbumin nanoparticles increasesing the ovalbumin-specific sIgA levels in the jejunum by 3.6-fold and 1.9-fold that of ovalbumin solution and also enhance the efficacy for inducing intestinal mucosal immune response [46]. Chitosan nanoparticles containing B subunit of Chlora toxin immunogen of *V. cholera*, evaluated for used to improve the immune response and it may be used as a carrier for vaccine delivery. Nanoparticles were studied on BALB/c mice in three groups, including oral, oral-injection, and injection groups. Serum and fecal IgA and IgG were evaluated by ELISA test. 17.5 kDa recombinant CtxB was confirmed by SDS-PAGE and western blotting. Nanoparticles prescription showed 1/102400 IgG endpoint titers for injection group and 1/1600, 1/6400 for oral, oral-injection groups, respectively, and Serum and fecal IgA endpoint titers showed above 1/160 in all groups. Immunized mice were able to neutralize Ctx toxin by ileal loop test [47]. Chitosan nanoparticles are evaluated in vitro by using multiple spectroscopic methods, thermodynamic analysis, TEM images, and modeling for transporting testosterone. The loading efficacy of testosterone nanocarrier was 40–55% and increased as chitosan size increased [48].

## 2.5 Agriculture Used

Used of chemicals in agriculture is common practice for improving growth by preventing the crop from external microbial attack, enhancing metabolism. Nutrients, insecticides, pesticides, and herbicides were successfully delivered by encapsulating in chitosan nanoparticles. Encapsulation results were as controlled released with stability, biocompatibility that enhanced the crop quality and efficiency. Compatibility with encapsulated materials and easy encapsulation methods, nontoxicity character of chitosan make it the best material for agriculture. Chitosan nanoparticles loaded with clove oil showed the controlled release for 56 days with superior performance against *Aspergillus niger*, isolated from spoiled pomegranate, compared with free oil [49]. Used of Cuminum cyminum essential oil loaded chitosan nanoparticles on the shelf life of button mushroom showed effective in maintaining color, firmness, and overall acceptability and inhibiting the investigated bacteria and mold and yeast growth, which resulted significantly higher SOD and APX activity, antioxidant capacity and total phenolic content and lower PPO activity

throughout the storage period [50]. Spinosad and permethrin loaded chitosan nanoparticles showed to be more effective with a lasting residual effect compared to the free agrochemicals in toxicity study on *Drosophila melanogaster* at several concentrations (10, 50, 100 µg/mL). Evaluated by survivability, climbing, and larval crawling assays [51]. Chitosan nanoparticles induced upregulation of PR-protein and antioxidant genes which play a significant role for successful biocontrol of wilt disease caused by *Fusarium andiyazi*. The expression pattern of pathogenesis-related (PR) proteins genes such as PR-1, PR-2 ( $\beta$ -1,3-glucanase), PR-8 (chitinase), and PR-10 showed that 5.0 mg/ml concentration of chitosan nanoparticles produced maximum inhibition of radial mycelial growth also recorded upregulating the expression of  $\beta$ -1,3-glucanase, chitinase, PR-1 and PR-10 genes and transcript profile of SOD [52]. S-nitrosoglutathione encapsulated into chitosan nanoparticles would be more effective in attenuating the effects of water deficit on sugarcane plants compared to the supplying of S-nitrosoglutathione in its free form. Results showed higher photosynthetic rates under water, the deficit root/shoot ratio was also increased; delayed release of NO improves the drought tolerance of sugarcane plants that useful for plant metabolism and increasing biomass allocation to root system [53]. Zinc loaded chitosan nanoparticles (NPs) were evaluated via seed priming and foliar application in maize plants in zinc deficient and/or alkaline soil conditions. Used of nanoparticles resulted strong in vitro antifungal and seedling growth promotory activities, exhibited significant disease control through strengthening of plant innate immunity by elevating antioxidant and defense enzymes, balancing of reactive oxygen species and enhancing lignin accumulation, significantly controlled *Curvularia* leaf spot disease, increased grain yield from 20.5 to 39.8% and enriched the grain with zinc micronutrient from 41.27 to 62.21 µg/g dw [54]. Nanoparticles of chitosan showed positive effect on seed germination and seedling growth of wheat at a lower concentration than chitosan due to higher adsorption on the surface of wheat seeds showed by studies of energy-dispersive spectroscopy and confocal laser scanning microscopy. Chitosan nanoparticles had a growth promoting effect at a lower concentration (5 µg/mL) compared with Chitosan (50 µg/mL). Moreover induced the auxin-related gene expression, accelerated indole-3-acetic acid (IAA) biosynthesis and transport, and reduced IAA oxidase activity, resulting in the increase of IAA concentration in wheat shoots and roots [55]. It also evaluated as a germination elicitor of *Oryza sativa* L. Treatment of chitosan nanoparticles in the concentration of 1 mg/ml for 120 min gave the highest growth rates. No toxicity was found by EPA guidelines [56]. Chitosan thymol nanoparticles prepared by ionic gelation was added in quinoa protein/chitosan edible films that improve the performance on the extension of postharvest life of blueberries and tomato cherries. Film with chitosan nanoparticle was more effective in reducing water vapour permeability, and also potential application as an antimicrobial [57]. Fabricated chitosan-based silver nanoparticles onto linen fabric. Colouring, antibacterial, and radical scavenging activity of chitosan-silver nanoparticles could be transferred to the linen fabric surface. Chitosan favours coating and stabilization of silver ions also synergistically with silver nanoparticles and also exhibited strong antibacterial against *E. coli* and *S. aureus* and antioxidant effects investigated photometrically by DPPH assay onto linen surface [58]. Chitosan was used to prepare nanoparticles with botanical pesticide PONNEEM® using cross-linking agents glutaraldehyde (GLA) and tripolyphosphate (TPP) were observed as a great promise in *H. armigera* management. Both types of nanoparticles showed antifeedant activity and larvicidal activity against *H. armigera* resulted in significantly lowering the weights of *H. armigera* pupae [59].

## 2.6 Food Packaging

Polymeric chitosan can become an important alternative for food packaging because of acting as a mechanical barrier and reduces water evaporation, prevented from microbial contamination, compatible with packed material, and easily degradable in eco systems. In addition, chitosan nanoparticles may be used as a filler materials for biodegradable plastic matrixes which are in need of improvement in terms of mechanical and barrier properties. To deal with the serious environmental pollution resulting from plastic packaging materials, biodegradable films using chitosan are gaining considerable increase gradually. Bio-based multilayer films incorporated with carboxymethyl chitosan-ZnO nanoparticles synthesized by direct precipitation method and multilayer films with chitosan film as the outer layer and sodium alginate film as the inner layer were prepared by solution casting method. Films overcome the weakness and showing enhanced tensile strength, and to better water vapor resistance, exhibited distinctive antibacterial activity against *S. aureus* and *E. coli* and evaluated as a promising material for food packaging [60]. Chitosan/silver nanoparticles was prepared with controllable size by cross-linking agent concentration and evaluated that the small size chitosan/silver nanoparticles are promising candidate in the field of antibacterial and fruit preservation applications because of strong bacteriostasis and fresh-keeping function of specific surface area and more encapsulated silver content [61]. Films with nanoparticles were applied as an internal coating to a polyethylene terephthalate (PET) lowering the weight loss store foods [62].

Self-assembled monodisperse chitosan nanoparticles with a particle size of 90 nm and zeta potential of 30.15 mV in solutions of 0.1% low molecular weight chitosan at pH 4.6 and 3:1 (chitosan:TPP) mass ratio was evaluated as a packaging materials with antimicrobial property [63]. The film was a composite of ZnO-chitosan nanoparticles and incorporated them into the modified starch matrix. Films showed suppression in Gram-positive *S. aureus* than Gram-

negative *E. coli*. chitosan nanoparticles in the film help to improve a substantial reduction of water vapor permeability from 51.0% to 43.7% accompanied with an increase of tensile strength from 4.11 to 12.79 MPa ( $p < 0.05$ ) [64].

## 2.7 Therapeutic Used

Chitosan chemically was a sugar and fibrous compound. That is also widely used for the treatment of high pressure, high cholesterol, with reduce fat and as a blood clotting in wound healing. Nanosize, molecular weight and chemical derivatization of chitosan was able to improve the therapeutic activity of chitosan.

Chitosan nanoparticles were prepared using ball-milling technique and were evaluated as natural compounds in human breast cancer treatment. 3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyl-2H-tetrazolium bromide assay asserts the significant inhibitory action of both chitosan and its nanoparticles on the proliferation of human breast cancer cell in vitro. Chitosan nanoparticles had more antiproliferative effects on MDA-MB-231 and SK-BR-3 cell lines than its corresponding chitosan [65]. Nanoparticles were made from poly (lactid-co-glycolide) acid and chitosan for targeted delivery. Receptor-mediated endocytosis showed monocyte-derived DC internalized chitosan -poly (lactid-co-glycolide) acid nanoparticles more efficiently than poly (lactid-co-glycolide) acid nanoparticles, presumably because of receptor-mediated endocytosis. Chitosan nanoparticles were delivered mostly to endosomal compartments, whereas poly (lactid-co-glycolide) acid nanoparticles primarily ended up in lysosomes resulting enhanced delivery to the endosomal compartments of antigen presenting cells [66]. Chitosan nanoparticles were used as a supplement to Nile tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) resulting favorable growth promoting and feed utilization effects by enhancing the activities of digestive enzymes, inhibition of the growth of intestinal microbial populations and improving certain indicators of innate immunity [67]. Chitosan nanoparticles were synthesized by the ionic gelation process, using tripolyphosphate as a crosslinking agent for the treatment of oral candidiasis. Nanoparticles was evaluated by *C. albicans* time-kill assay showed 25–50% inhibition of *C. albicans* which resulted lower *C. albicans* viability over 24 h in comparison with nystatin and chitosan [68]. Chitosan nanoparticles were evaluated a promising candidate for in vitro cytotoxicity against HeLa cells in chitosan–quinoline nanoparticles prepared by oil–in–water nanoemulsion technique. Nanoparticles were nanorod shape, monolithic structure, drug loading capacity, encapsulation efficiency, and great pH-sensitive release behavior [69]. Chitosan nanoparticles embedded with diclofenac sodium was prepared by ionic gelation method showed antibacterial activity against gram-positive *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Bacillus subtilis* by agar diffusion and broth dilution methods [70]

## 2.8 Implant

Chitosan had limited function for bone regeneration due to its low mechanical robustness and non-osteogenic inductivity. Hybridized chitosan with TiO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles sponges were used for bone tissue engineering by improving its bone regeneration capability. Degradation test showed a significant effect of TiO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles addition in retaining its integrity. DMP1 and OCN gene upregulation in TiO<sub>2</sub> treated group indicated bone regeneration. cytotoxicity analysis showed the biocompatible of sponge [71]. Chitosan nanoparticles loaded with sinapic acid which is a plant-derived phenolic compound known for its multiple biological properties, incorporated into polycaprolactone fibers via an electrospinning method. A critical-sized rat calvarial bone defect model system identified that the inclusion of sinapic acid into polycaprolactone /chitosan nanoparticles fibers, accelerated bone formation by activating the TGF- $\beta$ 1/BMP/Smads/Runx2 signaling pathway, might have therapeutic benefits in bone regeneration [72]. Two-step coating process i.e. anodizing and consequently coating with chitosan-heparin nanoparticles with nitinol could promote both endothelial cell compatibility and blood compatibility to the nitinol surface which might be appropriate for coronary stent application. This resulted in a significant reduction in nickel release, while promoting human umbilical vein endothelial cells attachment, spreading, and proliferation. Furthermore, this two-step coating could significantly contribute to the reduction of blood coagulation by releasing heparin in a controlled manner. A biodegr [73]adable dressing containing chitosan nanoparticles were prepared by ionic gelation method and then assembled into the porous chitosan dressing by lyophilization. Evaluated as efficient for removing necrotic tissues and accelerating the hemostasis activity and become useful for efficient and rapid wound healing by in vitro cellular investigations with Human Dermal Fibroblasts and Human Thrombin-Antithrombin based in vitro ELISA assay [74].

## 3 Conclusion

Chitosan emerged as a potential polymeric materials for various applications because of their remarkable properties. Chitosan not only loads a delivered compound but also provides physiochemical stability which results in improvement in effectively. Pharmaceutical drug delivery especially for anticancer, anti-microbial and protein need special requirements to get therapeutics response. Moreover for the application of herbs and plants with enhance cultivation chitosan nanoparticles were raised as a major tool for loading herbicides, pesticides, and insecticides. Same observations of nanoparticles were also found in food packaging, and implants. Chitosan has it self therapeutics



property and converted to nano sized, definitely assist to improve property. Thus, chitosan becomes a choice of polymeric material for nanoparticles that overcome many problems and improved the effectivity of loaded compounds.

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## Compliance with ethical standards

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### *Disclosure of conflict of interest*

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

### *Authors' contributions*

All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

### *Availability of data and materials*

All data generated or analyzed during this study are included in this published article and available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

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