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## Spherical crystals of celecoxib to improve solubility, dissolution rate and micromeritic properties

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Celecoxib spherical agglomerates were prepared with polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP) using acetone, water and chloroform as solvent, non-solvent and bridging liquid, respectively. The agglomerates were characterized by differential scanning calorimetry (DSC), X-ray diffraction (XRD), IR spectroscopic studies and scanning electron microscopy (SEM). The IR spectroscopy and DSC results indicated the absence of any interactions between drug and additives. XRD studies showed a decrease in crystallinity in agglomerates. The crystals exhibited significantly improved micromeritic properties compared to pure drug. The loading efficiency (% or mg drug per 100 mg crystals) was in the range of  $93.9 \pm 2.3$  and  $97.3 \pm 1.3$  (n=3) with all formulations. The aqueous solubility and dissolution rate of the drug from crystals was significantly ( $p < 0.05$ ) increased (nearly two times). The solubility and *in vitro* drug release rates increased with an increase in PVP concentration (from 2.5 to 10%). The SEM studies showed that the crystal possesses a good spherical shape with smooth and regular surface.

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