

## Chitosan-based interpolymeric pH-responsive hydrogels for in vitro drug release

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### Abstract

Two series of pH-responsive biodegradable interpolymeric (IPN) hydrogels based on chitosan (Ch) and poly(vinyl alcohol) (PVA) were prepared for controlled drug release investigations. The first series was chemically crosslinked with different concentrations of glutaraldehyde and the second was crosslinked upon gamma-irradiation by different doses. The equilibrium swelling characteristics were investigated for the gels at 37 degrees C in buffer solutions of pH 2.1 and 7.4 as simulated gastric and intestinal fluids, respectively. 5-Fluorouracil (FU) was entrapped in the hydrogels, as a model therapeutic agent, and the in vitro release profiles of the drug were established at 37 degrees C in pH 2.1 and 7.4. FTIR, SEM, and X-ray diffraction analyses were used to characterize and investigate the structural changes of the gels with the variation of the blend composition and crosslinker content before and after the drug loading. (c) 2006 Wiley Periodicals, Inc.

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