



**ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER**

**Pharmacy**

**REVIEW ON DRY POWDER INHALERS:  
CURRENT ADVANCES AND LIMITATIONS**

**KEY WORDS:** Asthma, Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, Drug delivery, Dry powder inhalers, Technology assessment

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**ABSTRACT**  
Inhalers are the focal point of quickened innovative work as a result of the possibility to deliver greatest medication to the site of pathology in the lungs. Among the accessible conveyance choices, the dry powder inhaler (DPI) is the favoured gadget for the treatment of an undeniably different scope of ailments. Advancement of DPI frameworks that focus on the conveyance of fine medication particles to the more profound aviation routes in the lungs utilizing a mix of improved medication definitions and upgraded conveyance gadget advances implies that every one of these variables adds to in general execution of the vaporized framework. There are enormous scopes of gadgets for clinical use, anyway no individual gadget shows prevalent clinical viability. A significant worry that is pertinent in everyday clinical practice is the between and intra-understanding fluctuation of the medication measurements conveyed to the profound lungs from the inward breath gadgets, where the degree of changeability relies upon the medication definition, the gadget plan, and patient's breath profile. This fluctuation may result in under-dosing of medication to the patient and expected loss of pharmacological viability. This article audits ongoing advances in container based DPI innovation and the presentation of the 'dispensable' DPI gadget.

**Introduction**

The advantages of breathed in treatment for the treatment of asthma and constant obstructive pneumonic infection (COPD) have been perceived for a long time. In examination with oral or parenteral definitions, minute yet remedial portions of medication are conveyed topically into the aviation routes where the dynamic medication applies its gainful impacts locally inside the lungs. Undesirable foundational impacts are limited on the grounds that the medicine demonstrations with most extreme pneumonic particularity along with a fast beginning of activity. Thus, vaporized details of bronchodilators and corticosteroids are the pillar of present day treatment for asthma and COPD [1, 2]. Key to the accomplishment of breathed in treatment has been the accessibility of effective vaporized conveyance frameworks or inhalers.

Pressurized metered-portion inhalers (pMDIs) and dry powder inhalers (DPIs) are the gadgets most normally utilized for medicate conveyance in the treatment of asthma and COPD. The pMDIs, which originally opened up in the mid-1950s, are all around the most broadly endorsed inhaler gadgets since they are modest and utilize reliable innovation to convey an assortment of drugs. Notwithstanding, pMDIs do have a few disservices as far as viability and convenience. Most patients can't utilize pMDIs accurately, much after rehashed educational cost [3], in light of the fact that pMDIs require great coordination between inhaler incitation and patient motivation to guarantee right inward breath and statement of medication in the lungs [4]. Abuse of pMDIs is visit and connected with more unfortunate asthma control in breathed in corticosteroid-rewarded asthma patients [5]. Conversely, in light of the fact that DPIs are activated and driven by a patient's inspiratory stream, they don't expect fuels to create the vaporized, nor coordination of inhaler incitation with inward breath [6]. In any case, a strong and profound inward breath through the DPI is expected to de-total the powder detailing into respirable particles as proficiently as conceivable so as to guarantee that medication is conveyed to the lungs [7, 8]. Albeit most patients are equipped for producing enough stream to work a DPI proficiently [9, 10], the need to breathe in strongly, and in this

manner create an adequate inspiratory stream, stays an issue for small kids and patients with extreme wind current impediment. Therefore, DPIs are not ecommended for use in kids younger than 5 years. Less notable is that DPIs ought to likewise not be utilized in patients with bargained respiratory capacity who regularly don't have the inspiratory exertion expected to guarantee viable medication conveyance from DPIs. While DPIs were presented, there was an ecological worry that the chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) fuels utilized in pMDIs were adding to unsalvageable harm to the ozone layer in the air. The pharmaceutical business was, consequently, dedicated to the improvement of non-CFC fuels for use in pMDIs, and furthermore to the advancement of DPIs that didn't require any force whatsoever [6-8].

Reformulation of pMDIs to change to hydrofluoroalkane charges was testing however brought about medication definitions with ideal security and decency profiles, despite the fact that the need to reformulate breathed in corticosteroids (ICS) and long-acting betaadrenergic bronchodilators (LABA) for use in pMDIs introduced specific specialized challenges, particularly in regards to the accomplishment of portion content consistency. Another significant qualification among DPIs and pMDIs, especially those conveying standard coarse (>2 [m] airborne particles, is that with the last inhalers close to 20% of the discharged portion arrives at the lungs [6-8]. Then again, DPIs have been related with an aspiratory tranquilize statement rate that can be as high as 40% of the controlled portion, if patients use optimally controlled inward breath moves through the gadget, in any case lung affidavit can be as low as ~15%. The fast of the airborne beads leaving from a pMDI, or the high inward breath streams required from some DPIs may bring about checked bead affidavit in the oropharynx (somewhere in the range of half and 80% of the regulated portion), with resulting potential for nearby antagonistic medication impacts, for example, oral candidiasis and dysphonia, and foundational sedate retention in the wake of gulping [11]. These issues might be settled fairly using spacer gadgets related to the pMDI or the utilization of DPIs that require more slow inward breath streams [12]. Bronchoconstriction is an unprecedented antagonistic response following utilization of pMDIs, and is

believed to be brought about by excipients, for example, oleic corrosive, conceivably in blend with the fuel [13], though DPIs contain no forces or additives [14]. The fundamental kinds of DPI frameworks are appeared in Fig. 1. The single-unit portion inhaler requires the patient to stack a solitary hard gelatine container containing the powder definition into the gadget before each utilization (Fig. 1a). This is a typical sort of DPI gadget right now accessible. Figure 1b shows a gadget containing a pre-metered measure of a solitary portion that is disposed of after use. Multiunit gadgets convey singular portions from pre-metered replaceable rankles, circles, dimples or cylinders (Fig. 1c). Different portion store inhalers (Fig. 1d) contain a mass measure of medication powder in the gadget with an inherent component to meter a solitary portion and individual dosages are conveyed with every activation. The multi-unit inhalers (Fig. 1c) are probably going to guarantee more prominent dose control and synthetic security of the detailing than various portion types (Fig. 1d); be that as it may, the previous are more costly than the last mentioned. This concise audit centers around late enhancements in case put together DPI innovation and with respect to the ongoing presentation of container based expendable inhalers.

### Capsule-based DPI technology

Albeit restorative use of container based DPIs started in a century ago with the presentation of the AeroHaler® for the conveyance of antibiotics, [15] the Spinhaler®, presented toward the finish of the 1960s, was the first DPI containing a powder definition of bronchoactive medications in a gelatine case, which the patient stacked into the gadget before use. From that point forward, DPI frameworks have continually developed in innovation and execution, a pattern that despite everything proceeds [16]. DPI details may either be fine powder sedate (molecule size  $<5 \mu\text{m}$ ) mixed with bigger bearer particles (for the most part lactose) to forestall accumulation and increment powder stream before aerosolization, or it might comprise of medication alone (Fig. 2). In all cases, the powder definitions venture out along the aviation routes to store in the focused on regions of the lung, and afterward break down to apply their pharmacodynamic impact or are retained to arrive at fundamental targets. A medication molecule size somewhere in the range of 1 and  $5 \mu\text{m}$  is required for section into the profound lung by inward breath and particles of 1–2  $\mu\text{m}$  are generally appropriate for arriving at the little aviation routes (a significant anatomical objective for the treatment of asthma and COPD) and alveolar epithelium (a significant objective for foundational conveyance/ingestion of orally breathed in items) [17]. The job of the innovation in DPI gadgets is to scatter the powder blends into a respirable fine medication molecule portion by streamlined methods. The streamlined conduct of a DPI is influenced by its plan, measurement, and geometry of the utilitarian designed gadget parts, for example, the air-bay/air-outlet, inhaler opposition, systems of disaggregating powder blends (helicoids, strainers, tornado channel) and discharging the portion (Venturi-impact, divergent powers, turning/bending). For example, the airinlet size has been appeared to significantly affect powder scattering at various inward breath stream rates by shifting the channel fly stream turbulences and molecule communication speed [18, 19]. The exhibition of the gadget can likewise be altered by the protection from wind current, which directly affects the pinnacle inspiratory stream (PIF), speeding up rate, breathed in volume to reach PIF, and absolute inward breath time [20]. Moreover, the state of the medication molecule influences DPI execution. For example, stretched particles have been found to accomplish higher fine molecule portions discharged because of the shaky molecule associations [21]. At long last, and presumably in particular, cooperations among medication and bearer particles are vital as for the detailing execution [22].

Sporadic surface structures keep the particles from close association and facilitate the partition from one another upon streamlined pressure. Molecule building utilizing extra excipients, for example, amino acids or sugar subsidiaries, in the medication bearer details is another field of exploration to plan the molecule and surface qualities for use in carrierbased and transporter free DPI frameworks [23]. A case of this is an as of late propelled DPI detailing conveying tobramycin for the treatment of cystic fibrosis. This DPI definition is described by microspheres of a submicron oil-in-water emulsion of tobramycin, distearoyl phosphatidylcholine and calcium chloride that is produced by splash drying to shape permeable particles of indistinct tobramycin. This tale case based DPI plan has been appeared to accomplish lung testimony of 34.2% of the conveyed portion [24]. The exhibition of DPI definitions is likewise identified with the qualities of the essential bundling, from which the detailing is discharged upon initiation in the gadget. Because of the simplicity and accessibility of container filling, DPIs utilize hard gelatin or hypromellose cases as premetered monodose unit frameworks [25]. Case actuation is accomplished by shear-power opening, needle-piercing, or cutting of the cases. Key attributes of the container are the dampness substance and water movement, puncturing execution in the gadget and powder maintenance [25]. The dampness substance of the container relies upon the natural dampness level to which it equilibrates. Hypromellose cases have bring down the all out water content than gelatin containers (about 6% versus 14% water at half relative mugginess [RH]); all things being equal, the water movement between the shells stays comparative when equilibrated to a similar RH stockpiling conditions. Puncturing by needles is the most incessant instrument utilized by DPI frameworks to discharge tranquilize powder from the cases [25]. For the most part, the quantity of needles utilized for puncturing ranges from 1 to 8 and puncturing can happen from the head of the case or from the side. In spite of the fact that the puncturing conduct under ordinary stockpiling conditions has been seen as useful for the two sorts of containers, hypromellose cases display elite after puncturing significantly under extremely dry conditions with no portions or particles from the shell [25]. The amount of medication powder maintenance in the case relies upon the transaction between the surface properties of the case shell, the qualities of the intuitive powder blend, and the working of the gadget. With a given detailing and gadget, powder maintenance can be adjusted by changing the surface qualities of the case to accomplish the ideal execution target [25]. This presentation target likely could be the produced fine molecule portion, which is additionally founded on the de-agglomeration impact of the case on the powder blend [25].

All as of now accessible aloof DPI frameworks depend entirely on the inspiratory power of the patient to scatter medicate powders. At the point when the patient enacts the DPI and breathes in, wind current through the gadget makes shear and disturbance; air is brought into the powder bed which is fluidized and enters the patient's aviation routes. In this way, the medication particles, isolated from the bearer particles, are conveyed profound into the lungs, while the bigger transporter particles sway in the oropharynx and are cleared. Thus, testimony into the lungs is controlled by the patient's variable inspiratory wind stream [8]. Nonetheless, each DPI framework has a particular wind current obstruction that is because of the physical structure of the gadget; this implies an edge inspiratory power is required to accomplish the right stream rate to aerosolize, deagglomerate, and scatter the powder plan so as to accomplish a successful restorative reaction. It is the physical structure of the DPI that sets up its particular protection from wind stream (estimated as the square foundation of the weight drop over the gadget partitioned by the stream rate through the gadget), with current plans having explicit obstruction esteems running

from about 0.05 to 0.3 cmH<sub>2</sub>O/L/min [26]. To create a fine powder vaporized with expanded conveyance to the lung, a DPI portrayed as having a low obstruction requires an inspiratory progression of >90 L/min, a medium-opposition DPI requires 50-60 L/min, and a high-opposition DPI requires <50 L/min [26]. Of note, DPIs with high inherent opposition, and henceforth expanded weight drop over the gadget, will in general produce a more noteworthy lung statement than those with low characteristic resistance; [26] be that as it may, the clinical importance of this is obscure.

**Breezhaler®: an example of recent capsule-based DPI**

The Breezhaler gadget (Fig. 3) is a solitary portion DPI dependent on the Aerolizer innovation with configuration changes planned to improve gadget taking care of and appearance. The Breezhaler is utilized to convey medicate from cases containing the long-acting beta-adrenergic bronchodilator indacaterol maleate and the long-acting muscarinic opponent glycopyrronium. The gadget has been intended to have lower interior wind current obstruction (0.15cmH<sub>2</sub>O/L/min) than that of other case based DPIs, for example, the HandiHaler gadget (0.22 cmH<sub>2</sub>O/L/min). Because of its low characteristic inner opposition it requires high inspiratory stream rates (100 and 117 L/min) to acquire a mean weight drop of 4 kPa inside the gadget [27]. Be that as it may, Pavkov et al. [28] and Singh et al. [29] have indicated that COPD patients can produce a pinnacle inspiratory wind stream of roughly 90 L/min through the Breezhaler gadget, conquering a weight drop of around 3 kPa. In spite of the fact that presentation of DPIs are generally thought about at 4 kPa pressure drop [26], concentrates in COPD patients exhibited predictable portion conveyance from Breezhaler utilizing stream rates somewhere in the range of 50 and 100 L/min [28, 30] comparing to a weight drop under 4 kPa. DPIs with low obstruction will in general be more acknowledged by patients than those with high opposition [31]. In older patients, the capacity to produce adequate inspiratory move through a DPI is undermined, independent of the nearness of aviation route impediment, as appeared by Janssens et al. [32] who showed that 30, 20 and 12.5% of an old populace couldn't arrive at the base pinnacle inspiratory progression of 45 L/min when utilizing the Turbuhaler, Diskus and Aerolizer DPIs, individually. Remembering this, the decision of a lower obstruction DPI, which is moderately inhumane toward changes in top inspiratory stream at lower stream levels, would profit the patients.

The ongoing ERS/ISAM taskforce on inhalers [33] suggests patients "to breathe in strongly from the earliest starting point of motivation, as profoundly as could reasonably be expected, and to keep on breathing in for as far as might be feasible". This is on the grounds that, with a DPI, inward breath should be sufficiently intense to scatter the micronized sedate from the lactose-based transporter into a fine molecule portion. In any case, it isn't without a doubt the inspiratory stream that decides the fine molecule portion from an inhaler, rather it is the violent vitality acquired from the connection between patient's inward breath and inhaler gadget obstruction. High air speeds inside the inhaler are required for compelling scattering instead of high wind stream through the inhaler. The higher the wind current, the higher the powder scattering creating a fine particulate, regardless of whether such a high wind current prompts a higher impaction misfortunes in the proximal aviation routes and, subsequently, to a lower portion arriving at fringe aviation routes [27, 34]. Then again, a lower wind current adds to more profound lung statement of the powdered medication, regardless of whether a too low wind stream, (for example, that happening in patients with the most exceedingly awful illness seriousness) can restrain testimony by influencing powder disaggregation and scattering [27, 34]. Besides, when utilizing a solitary portion DPI, for example, the Breezhaler, it is likewise prescribed that patients are told to perform two separate inward breaths for each

portion [35]. Usability and the nearness of solid input is considered by most of patients as the most significant highlights of an inhaler. Patients are when all is said in done not guaranteed that they have taken the full portion effectively with most inward breath gadgets and need simplicity of gadget use to build their acknowledgment of the gadget. Medicinal services experts stress an expansion in understanding fulfillment since this conceivably builds adherence. To appropriately work the Breezhaler gadget, patients must load the gadget by embeddings the container of powder into a chamber [35].

In the wake of shutting the cover, the container is punctured with needles fixed to pressure fastens; the patient at that point breathes in through the gadget, which makes the case pivot inside the gadget chamber, and this makes a particular 'humming' clamor as the case turns. Besides, patients can see that they have breathed in all the powder in light of the fact that the container is clear. It is clear when the gadget is vacant and should be topped off. Therefore, the Breezhaler gadget has three potential input instruments that give patients a sign that the full prescription portion has been conveyed: (a) the gadget radiates a 'humming clamor' as the container turns each time a patient breathes in (giving positive sound-related criticism that the medicine is being discharged from the case); (b) the medicine definition contains lactose, a modest quantity of which remains in the patient's mouth during inward breath and most patients can taste it; (c) the straightforward case will be obviously void or have just leftover hints of powder after fruitful inward breath, giving visual criticism to the patient that the medication has been discharged [35].

**Limitations of capsule-based DPI**

Dealing with related restrictions Capsule-based DPI necessitates that solitary portions are exclusively stacked into the inhaler preceding use: this is badly designed for certain patients and doesn't permit direct portion tallying. The gadget then should be prepared by breaking the case, and afterward, contingent upon the patient's breathing profile, the inward breath process must be proceeded or rehashed until the container is discharged: this may result in under-dosing and high portion changeability. What's more, the arrangement of steps required to appropriately stack the gadget may not be simple for youngsters or old patients with decreased skill. It has been demonstrated that patients were increasingly certain of the medicine being taken effectively when utilizing the Breezhaler, and thought that it was progressively agreeable and easier to utilize contrasted and the HandiHaler [36]; be that as it may, the strategy used to research inclination for and fulfillment with a specific inhaler was not approved, and inclination was evaluated over a restricted time span.

**Technical limitations**

It has been demonstrated that the air delta size and framework structure of the Aerolizer case based DPI were found to affect essentially on aerosolization of the bearer based powder [37]. All the more explicitly, the powder contained in the case should be discharged through the penetrated openings at each finish of the case during aerosolization. The outward power created by the turning case will discharge the powder through the container openings. At the point when the wind stream builds, the case revolution speed will increment significantly, [37] which expands the divergent power thus encouraging the powder exit. As appeared with the Aerolizer, case maintenance affects the fine molecule division (FPF) and, all the more critically, influences the portion conveyed to patients. Also, the FPF is higher when the wind current rate is expanded [26]. Hence, at a stream rate <30 L/min, more prominent varieties in sedate held in the cases can be watched contrasted and higher stream rates.

**Disposable capsule-based DPI**

In inward breath medication, from a monetary point of view,



the pattern of the previous two decades undeniably has been the presentation of countless conventional gadgets for organization of ICS and beta2-agonists for the treatment of asthma and COPD [38]. In numerous nations, this turn of events and the weight on human services financial plans have brought about a critical change from marked to conventional drugs and gadgets. The ceaseless idea of these asthma and COPD requires a lifetime of treatment, with a high recurrence of medication organization and, in this manner, significant expenses. Furthermore, numerous new utilizations of breathed in treatment (for example inoculation, salvage medicine, proteins, peptides) may require inhaler details that can't be accomplished utilizing exemplary inhaler innovation and for a few of these applications, dispensable inhaler forms perhaps liked. By structure, container based DPIs appear to be generally reasonable as disposables and can likewise be created as single-use gadgets. Pharmaceutical organizations utilizing these gadgets need to change their plan to the exhibition of the inhaler, which regularly incorporates the fuse of new excipients, up to considerable sums, and the utilization of complex arrangement procedures. A model is the PulmoSphere® detailing for the anti-toxin tobramycin in the previous Turbospin container based inhaler, presently alluded to as Podhaler for tobramycin. Nonetheless, expendable DPIs utilized in these settings despite everything should be straightforward and modest, yet additionally profoundly viable and reproducible. Numerous beneficiaries in, for example, immunization projects will be inhaler-credulous and suppliers may not generally be all around prepared. Straightforward structure will along these lines encourage right use, ideally nearly by instinct.

**Conclusions**

In the most recent decade, we have watched an expanding enthusiasm for DPI innovation because of the requirement for options in contrast to ozone-exhausting and ozone harming substance pushed inhaler gadgets, and new ways to deal with the conveyance of intense medications of organic starting point. The attributes and dynamic cooperation between fine medication particles and transporter particles, just as the association among particles and inhaler qualities, have now been explained [39,40]. The future improvement of DPI gadgets should concentrate on straightforwardness of utilization, unwavering quality, consistency, appropriateness for an enormous scope of items and dosages, criticism instruments to the patients, and to wrap things up, cost adequacy. For aspiratory tranquilize conveyance, the gadget tolerant interface has been demonstrated to be of basic significance since patients fluctuate in their capacity to utilize inward breath items, yet additionally they contrast in the degree of training required for proper use. Albeit existing DPIs are proficient gadgets for conveying medications to the lung, there is generous space for upgrades without losing the cost-viability points of interest. As a more noteworthy comprehension of powdered medication properties and their impact on execution is gotten, it will be conceivable to receive complex mechanical ways to deal with take care of the issues related with productive medication conveyance to accomplish neighborhood and foundational pharmacologic impact.

**Abbreviations**

- CFC: Chlorofluorocarbon;
- COPD: Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease;
- DPI: Dry powder inhaler;
- FPF: Fine particle fraction;
- ICS: Inhaled corticosteroids;
- LABA: Long-acting beta-adrenergic bronchodilators;
- PIF: Peak inspiratory flow;
- pMDIs: Pressurised metered-dose inhalers;
- RH: Relative humidity

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**Consent for publication**

Not applicable since the paper does not contain any individual person's data in any form.

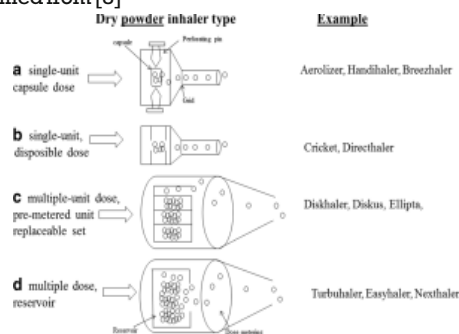
**Ethics approval and consent to participate**

Not applicable since it is a review paper.

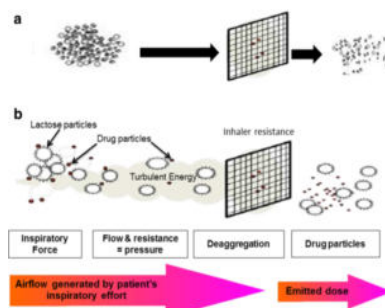
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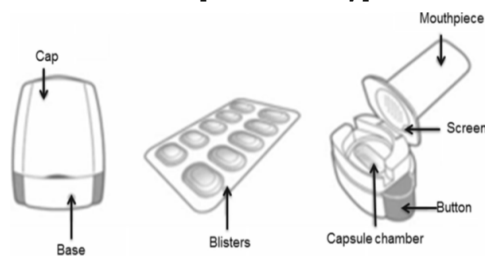
**Fig. 1** a-d types of dry powder inhalers and corresponding mechanisms for drug deagglomeration and dispersion. Modified from [8]



**Fig. 2** Schematic diagram of dry powder inhaler formulations and dispensing powder mechanisms. a Drug-only formulation (drug agglomerates); b Carrier-based formulation. See text for further details. Modified from [7,8]



**Fig. 3** The Breezhaler capsule-based dry powder inhaler



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