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Review Article

VIROSOMES: A NOVEL DRUG DELIVERY APPROACH**Jagruti K. Kale¹, Prashant L. Pingale^{2*}, Sunil V. Amrutkar³**^{1,2*}Department of Pharmaceutics,³Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry,

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Article Received: June 2021**Accepted: June 2021****Published: July 2021****Abstract:**

Virosomes seem to be peptide vesicles that encompass viral shell glycoproteins. Because of the existence of these viral peplomers as well as the binding of certain elements to their respective host cell they are a virosome on that same scale of effects are capable aspirants in the case of a focused drug and toxin release. For pharmaceutical formulation developers, designing secure and convenient traits of development with the liberation for every preventative or beneficial mediator leftovers a demanding mission. To gain pharmacological benefits, drug particles, nucleic acids, complex carbs, fats, and diversity in additament with natural element agents are working. The chief confronts, however, leftovers in transporting these agents to the precise site of operation in a timely fashion. During the middle across the numerous systems for medicines urbanized, as for nanoscale machinery of virosomes tends to nearby the well system for consigning pharmacological agents area of therapeutic effects. Immunostimulating reconstituted influenza virosomes (IRIVs) are the central focus of the virosome category as far as drug delivery is concerned. The system has been approved for human use that permits antigens to be targeted specifically with a humoral and cellular immune response. The article examined the biopharmaceutical applications of virosomes, and also their preparation method, fusion activity, and drug delivery approaches. This article addresses the administration of virosomes and their association with the immune system, in contrast to potential prospects of virosomes. Also looked at how different delivery mechanisms in virosomes can be used effectively.

Keywords: virosome, drug conveying method, cancer management, cancer vaccine, hepatocarcinoma cell line li7a.

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INTRODUCTION:

Virosomes are non-emulating "artificial viruses" that can convey vaccine antigens openly into a host cell. Viruses can penetrate cells and deliver their contents to the cytoplasm. virosomes are virus-resembling particles made up of the renovated viral case. The genetic stuff of the virus is made up of a method of detergent solubilization and reconstitution [1].

So many virosome-stationed agents with good safety contours have been accredited to be included in human beings through the US food and drug administration (FDA). In vitro and in vivo, virosomes have hand executed anti-cancer, antimalarial, anti-bacterial, and anti-fungal agents [2] virosomes are unilamellar lipid bilayer composition of viral peptides lying through the outside By and large, 'virosomes' are liposomes spiked with viral proteins extracted from the envelope of the viral virion, which imparts the liposome's viral function. 70 % of the virosomal makeup is made up of physically stirring phospholipids and phosphatidylcholine in reconstituted empty influenza virus envelopes. Virosomes are fusion-active vesicles that cannot replicate. They also contain glycoproteins from the viral envelope that are functional: hemagglutinin(HA) from the influenza virus. Within the phospholipid bilayer, hexokinase and neuraminidase (NA) are intercalated. Membrane virosomes bind to the cell's ligands and pick up the virosomes while endocytosis is mediated by receptors [3].

Clarity of virosomes

The semi-synthetic compound was obtained from viral atoms containing no nucleic acids. They're reconstituted viral coats with a different compound in place of the infectious nucleocapsid. Virosomes maintain their fusogenic activity, allowing them to convey the integrated complex (antigens, medicines, or genes) to the mark cell. They can be utilized to distribute vaccines (vaccines, virosome), drugs, conversely genes [4]. virosomes are being synthesized using a range of enveloped viruses, counting influenza virus, with the considerable particles having identical unit access attributes and phenotype to the initial virus [5].

Why virosomes are needed?

There is significant vaccine effectiveness in the elderly, with an average efficacy of about 60%. There is still space for change. Efficacy that isn't up to speed in this age range with new inactivated influenza vaccines seems to be largely due to a decline in the age-related changes in cell function [6]. These shifts in your body as you get older immunity mediated by cells places unique demands on new vaccines.

In immunologically naive people, such as infants who have never been exposed to a virus or vaccine, current inactivated vaccines have low immunogenicity [7,8]. Vaccines for immunologically ignorant people; these vaccines must be the first and foremost to be proficient in eliciting a powerful antibody reaction showing anti-haemagglutinin reaction [5].

Configuration of Virosomes

The ultrastructure and bulk of virosomes are frequently resolute by using negative-stain electron microscopy.² Virosomes are sphere-shaped unilamellar blisters of about 150 nm in diameter. The influenza virus is the mainly admired virus used to make virosomes. Virosomes are fusion-active vesicles that cannot replicate. Virosomes, unlike liposomes, have purposeful viral shroud glycoproteins: influenza virus hemagglutinin (HA) along with neuraminidase (NA) are interpolate surrounded by the phospholipid bilayer membrane. (Illustrated in figure 1) the selection of bilayer components influences the virosome's other characteristics. Modifying the material or form of membrane lipids used in virosomes may be tailored for maximum drug incorporation or the optimal physiological outcome. Virosomes, but on contrary, are not liposomes. Carriers for antisense oligonucleotides or other genetic molecules may be produced depending on whether phospholipids that are favorably or unfavorably loaded are integrated into the membrane. Virosomes may also be bound to tumor-specific monoclonal antibody fragments to guide the shipper to specific cancerous cells [9].

Fusion is a term that has a lot of common definitions. Specific components are dissolved and blended in a diluted aqueous detergent solution to make virosomes. Following the sequential removal of the detergent, depending on the exact composition and lipid: protein proportion a consistent resident of virosomal vesicles with a signify width of 100– 200 nm forms at random [10].

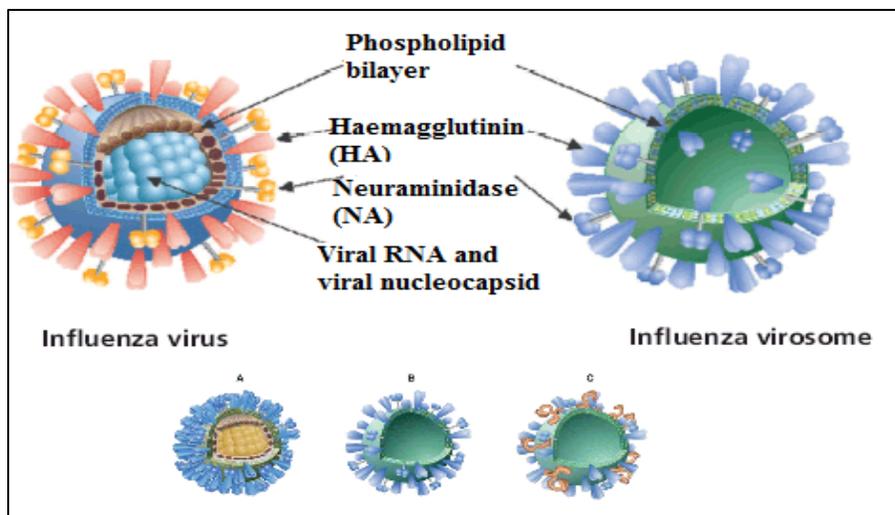


Figure 1: General Structure of Virosome showing subunits of Influenza virosome.

Commonly used virosomes

- Influenza virus virosomes reconstituted the most often used virosomes are those derived from influenza viruses. A phospholipid bilayer shapes the virosome's envelope, and viral glycoproteins such as also on the ground of its virosome, hemagglutinin (HA) as well as neuraminidase (NA) be commonly found. Influenza ha is an enzyme and plasma protein complex that can form homotrimers and alter conformational changes when exposed to acidic pH into becoming fusion-competent [11]. NA being a one-second glycoprotein, that helps in extracting terminal sialic acid via saccharide chains upon on membrane of the host cell, not only improves viral entry through its cells, however, but also promotes the pathogen genetic offspring deliver mostly during the budding model [12].
- Virosomes derived from the Japanese hemagglutinating virus (HVJ) are particularly promising because of their maximum reliability in transporting nucleotides, proteins, and bioactive molecules. (Newly added Virosome vaccines are described in table 2)

Advantages of Virosomes:

- Virosomes are non-toxic, biodegradable, and biocompatible.
- They can transport the drug keen on the cytosol of the target cell.
- Anticancer medications, proteins, peptides, nucleic acids, antibiotics, and fungicides are all examples.
- Offers anti-degradation protection for medications.
- The endolysosomal pathway facilitates fusion activity [13].

General Methods to Prepare Virosomes:

Viral membrane-blending proteins, such as HA, are commonly favored binding proteins for virosome preparation since they can be purified from the analogous virus or recombinantly generated using genetic modification. The main prerequisite for virosomes to function as a vaccine or deliverance mechanism is reestablished membrane proteins with insusceptible properties and receptor-binding and membrane-fusion actions. This entails reassembling influenza virus membranes by resolving viral membranes with detergents that have little ability to denaturize them [13].

To start making virosomes, the envelope of that same virus had first been hydrolyzed with several different detergents. The most commonly used detergents are Octaethylene glycol mono-n-dodecyl ether (C12E8) and Triton X-100, although other non-ionic detergents will be included [14]. Ultracentrifugation is used to eliminate viral nucleocapsids after solubilization. When the lipid bilayer self-assembles, virosomes are formed (figure 2). The detergent has been eliminated. To aid in the nucleic acid distribution, cationic lipids such as DOTAP (1,2-dioleoyl-3-trimethylammonium-propane), DODAC (n, n-dioleoyl-n, n-dimethylammonium chloride), along with stearyl amine may be attached concerning a membrane surface.

Not only are virosomes shaped through this process, but drugs with mutually hydrophilic and hydrophobic properties may also be integrated into the systems [15]. To ensure drug solubility, hydrophilic drugs are combined with aqueous solutions, whereas

hydrophobic drugs are mixed with a phospholipid mixture [16].

The final size of virosomes is primarily influenced mostly by viral protein's behavior and that the configuration of the phospholipid bilayer. H5N1 virosomes are 400–500 nm in diameter, whereas influenza virosomes have a width of 150–200 nm. Dodac is the cationic lipid of choice for conjugating nucleic acids to the virosome and ensuring cellular

nucleic acid supply. Dodac convergence of 25–45 percent is especially effective in ensuring the cellular distribution of nucleic acids [16].

To target virosomes to particular cell types, additional components may be added to them. For eg, mabs that bind cellular epitopes on the surface of specific cell types can be conjugated to virosomes [13].

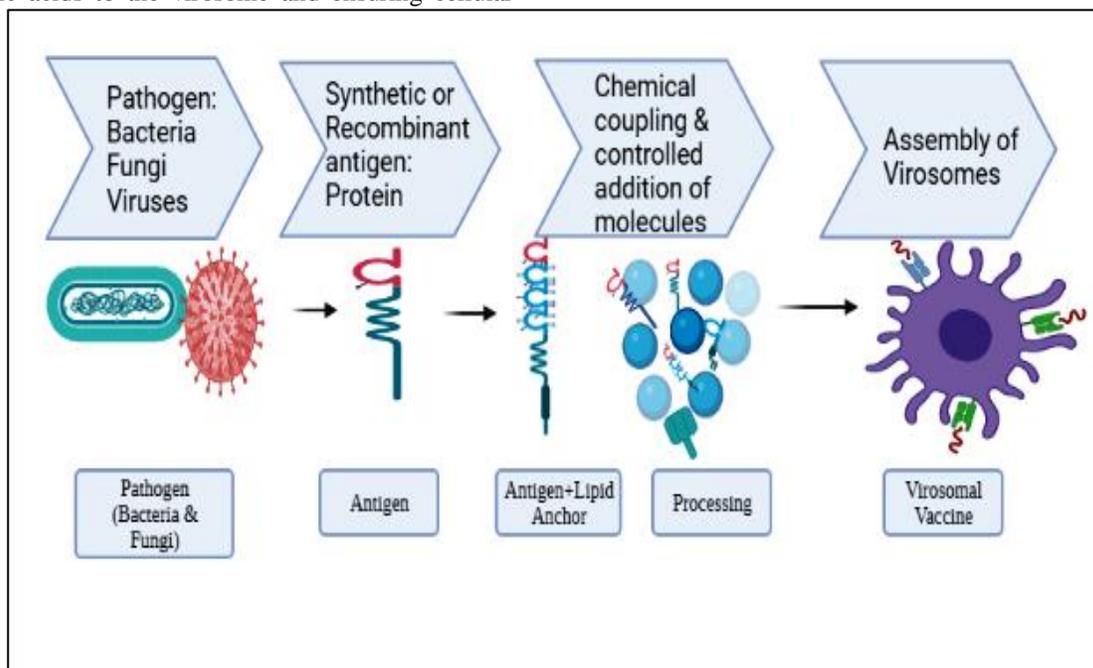


Figure 2: Assembly of Virosome in a controlled manner.

Mechanism of Action of Virosomes:

Plasma membrane fusion and acid-induced fusion are two separate fusion mechanisms inside the endosomes. The Sendai virus being another exemplar with another strain replicates itself via the cellular membranes amalgamation mechanism as described in figure 3 [17].

- **Carrier's functions:** antigen penetration into the more structured virosomes particle stabilizes antigens, preserves the primitive status of B-cell epitopes, and prevents antigens from deprivation. Thirdly, the antigen's appearance as a repeated facade pattern improves antibody-producing b cells' identification of the antigen.

- **Support with memory:** since the vast majority of people have some normal, pre-existing immunity to influenza, the charisma of derived hemagglutinin (HA) triggers a memory retort. Advance influenza-specific antibodies mark virosomes effectively for accelerated absorption and dealing out by antigen-presenting cells, which includes both humoral and cellular immunity (APC). To promote and stimulate the induction of effector immune cells, memory t helper cells flourish quickly and squirt cytokines.
- **Immune provocation:** in accumulation to the influenza-specific antigens, virosomes transmit pathogen-associated molecular patterns (PAMP) to APC, resulting in TLR-like activation [13].

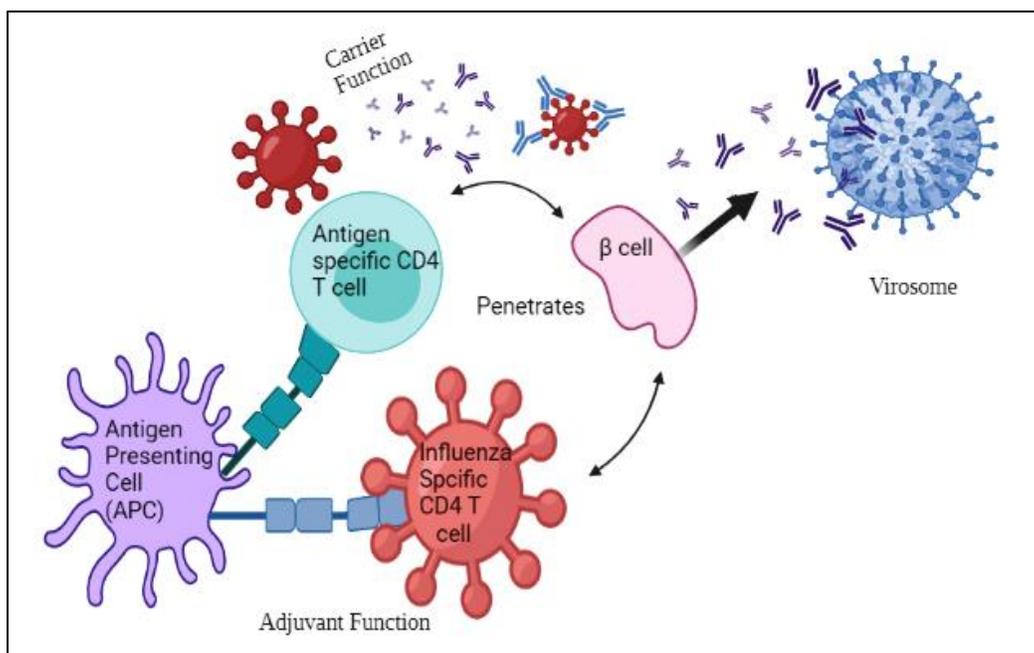


Figure 3: Mechanism of action of Virosome by carrier function and adjuvant function from APC.

The activity of virosomes membrane fusion

Virosomes, like native influenza viruses, exhibit pH-dependent membrane fusion behavior and it is plausible to envision by utilizing a fluorescent resonance energy transfer assay (RET). Fusion operation may even be concomitantly controlled by calculating hemolytic activity, which correlates to fusion activity and has a PH dependency close to conglomeration [13].

When a virus binds to a receptor, it is taken up by receptor-mediated endocytosis. Virus complexes were indeed consumed because of the cellular vesicles of the host cell during this process. The resulting vesicles then merge with endosomes, which are intracellular compartments that allow the virus to enter the endosomal lumen [18]. The interaction of that same virion intertwining with the endosomal substrate is caused by the endosomal membrane's low concentration (pH 5–6), which is kept running besides proton pumps [19].

An assay for pyrene excimer fluorescence-guided lipid merging can be used to assess the fusion activity of influenza virosomes. Under the said experiment, virosomes are co-reconstituted phosphatidylcholine branded by pyrene. During the reconstitution process, in the virosomal membrane erythrocyte phantoms are employed as goal membranes monitoring the fusion process is done

regularly. Fluorescence of pyrene excimer in a fluorometer decrease.

The fluorescence of excimers is generated through probe consolidation during the fusion of the virosome membrane and the erythrocyte membrane. The virosome preparation method described above produces virosomes worthy of combination in a completely decreased pH style, according to this assay. As a result, the virosomes retain the fusion features of the native influenza virus which they have been descended. Virosomes can be fusion-inactivated in the absence of target membranes by pre-incubating at low pH. This facilitates the development of fusion incompetence restrictions for antigen supply and immunization research [20].

Delineation of Virosomes

- **Protein recognition:** SDS-PAGE (sodium dodecyl sulfate-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis) will authenticate the existence of ha protein in virosomes [5].
- **Melding activity:** virosomes have pH-related plasma operation of membrane merging, alike to the indigenous influenza virus, and may be visualized using a fluorescent resonance energy transfer assay (RET). Fusion operation could even be implicitly controlled via calculating hemolytic commotion, which correlates toward

fusion action and has just a pH dependency close with the assemblage [21].

- **Structure and scale:** ultrastructure and size of virosomes are normally calculated using negative-stain electron microscopy. For deletion of acid-induced conformational changes of ha, the staining solution has neutral PH.

Virosome advances to drug administration

- Functionalized pharmaceutical ingredients may also entangle inside that liquefied core to virosomes or in whilst also virosomes' lipid membrane for expedite entry into cells.
- Virosomes are especially useful for transporting nucleic acids or genetic heredity. When virosomes bind to endosomes or the plasma membrane, these composite are discharged into the host cell cytoplasm [22].
- If the word cassette includes its necessary regulative factors that function in a cis-direction, nucleic acids perhaps transcription factor naturally found proteins can be inserted into host cells and demonstrated [23].
- Virosomes containing peptides founded on the ovalbumin intact and perhaps influenza nucleoprotein elicited intense lymphocytes that are cytotoxic kickback, implying how their enclosed lipids but also peptides entered a cytosol [18].

Application of virosomes as drug delivery systems:

An intangible asset from the use of virosomes as adjuvants has been demonstrated. It has been validated by two registered vaccines namely, InfluenzaBerna biotech, Bern, Switzerland (*inflexal v*) along with hepatitis A vaccines. Berna Biotech, Bern, Switzerland). Equally these vaccines do seem to be efficient in addition are conventional prophylactic vaccines, and also the demonstrative as discussed in Table 1. The analysis of their immunogenicity in humans has been centralized. Since serum antibody titers are calculated in both of them. In some cases it is believed that the cellular response will occur, to be of limited relevance on the capacity to defend against the specific viral agent [24,25].

A) Directed drug delivery vectors – Virosomes:

Among the most essential considerations for a drug, the carrier is the effective and timely delivery of a therapeutic agent to the target site. Virosomes do have the capacity to package drugs of various types. They can be an important means of transmitting hydrophilic and hydrophobic drug molecules to particular tissues [26]. During the virosome production process, polar or hydrophilic drugs are embodied in the carrier in the middle. Lipophilic drugs, however, can't be incorporated within that way and should be accumulated within a bilayer membrane as well. Inside along with the cell, virosomes slowly disintegrate and degrade which could be used to deliver drug molecules to the intended action site. Several studies have excelled in encapsulating different types of genetic material in the virosome for preventative or medical reasons. Such therapeutic agents are protected from enzymatic that deteriorate nucleotides such as RNase as well as DNase by including the virosome's lipid bilayer [27].

B) Vaccine delivery systems using Virosomes:

Virosomes are properly reconstituted, they can retain the virus-mediated fusion assets by which they are extracted [27]. A vast quantity of research has been conducted on top of virosomes that are formed by the influenza virus. Virosomes, on the other side there been mostly obtained with a variety of additament outlets [26]. The encased viruses, counting the vesicular viruses, and Sendai virus [28], sindbis virus, Epstein-Barr virus [29], stomatitis virus [30], herpes simplex virus [31], Newcastle disease virus vaccination isn't the only use for virosomes. Unlike the virus, that they were mostly originated from virosome compositions are sometimes used to transport dissimilar vaccine pathogens, nucleic acids, and medicines [32], immunopotentiating reconstituted influenza virosomes, one of the numerous virosome formulations produced and tested, has resulted in approved vaccines on the market (IRIV's).

Table 1: Exemplifications of virosomes and their implementations [9,11,33,34,35]

Polymers/carriers	Drug/bioactive	Inference/ application for molecules
The strain of virus <i>Influenza a/x-47 (h3n2)</i>	<i>Madine-darby-canine- kidney cell (MDCK) line</i>	Neutralization protocol that works as well as the reconversion of virus influenza of virosome.
<i>Virosome-RSV</i>	<i>RSV-virosome tlr2 (pam 3csk4)</i>	Protected mice against rsv infection, is done by rsv without priming for improved performance illness.
RSV reconstituted with loads of envelopes	<i>Monophosphoryl TLR4 ligand a lipid</i>	Candidate vaccine that is both safe and immunogenic that necessitates testing in a clinical setting.
RSV reconstituted membranes	<i>Monophosphoyl (TLR4) ligand a lipid. (according to the mpl)</i>	<i>Rsvmpla</i> was administered mucosally. Virosomes hold great promise for the future of rsv vaccine i.e both safe and reliable (infection with the respiratory syncytial virus)in mice [23].
<i>Influenza</i> cationic virus-like particles	Plasmid DNA	Improved cellular immunity induction and appropriate for ctl induction by vaccination with DNA.
<i>Virosome of influenza</i>	<i>PEV7-chicken recombinant interferon (rin)</i> (siRNA) Small interfering RNA	In vaccinated birds, aiv spreading was lowered, and virus-specific protective antibodies were elicited. Intravaginal immunization, pev established substantial long-term defense, most likely through antibody-mediated protection in rats. It is a promising carrier device for siRNA delivery in vitro and in vivo.
<i>Avian (bird) virosomes of influenza</i>	(3',5')- cyclic H5N1 guanylic acid dimeric	Sublingual immunization that works H5N1 elicited a physiological and pathological cell-mediated immune response.
Virosomes	GP41-subunits antigens	They were found to be protective against HIV-1 infection and can aid in the development of a human vaccine in the fight against HIV/AIDS [19].
<i>Virus maize rayadofino</i>	Proteins	It is served with a brand-new forum as in conceptual frameworks surface ligands.

C) Lipopeptide respiratory vaccine delivery:

Right now, the virosomes are produced using a transplantation form, explicitly from the RSV flap which doesn't use detergent but as a substitute for the 2 dihexanoyl-sn glycerol-3-phosphocholine (DCPC), short-chain phospholipid 1 [14]. P3CSK4, a synthetic lipopeptide adjuvant identified by TLR-2, has been used to coat the virosomes [21]. These virosomes are shown to evoke a defensive counterargument of the immune system to either a virus as a compatible TH2/TH1 pattern [24].

Administration of Virosomes:

- Virosomes are typically balanced along with saline buffered (135–150 mm NaCl) solution,

however, there are other appropriate units available. Traditional liposomal sterilization methods, such as membrane filtration, should be used to sterilize these compositions.

- Supplementary drugs, such as buffering agents and isotonicity boosters, are typically used in the formulation to simulate physiological conditions (sodium chloride, potassium chloride, sodium lactate, calcium chloride, sodium acetate). In this vehicle, virosome density ranges from 20 to 200 mg/ml.
- Virosomes are ingested through a range of parenteral routes, including intravenous, intramuscular, and subcutaneous delivery. Besides that, virosomes may be a topical

treatment, either oral dosing perhaps via the transdermal route. Each virosome is however embedded in endoscopic tools that allow for sustained delivery [36].

Interrelationship of Virosomes with Immune System:

- **Antigen Description:** Antigens attached when endosomal fusion occurs, virosomes on the exterior are degraded within that endosome then displayed in relation with the nucleus. Receptors of MHC class II trigger the immune response. It is also probable that not all virosomes exist. APCs will fuse with lysosomes virosomes can function in this manner when they've been taken up by membrane, or if "leaky" virosomes enable the virosomes to escape into embedded content that is then deteriorated inside the endosome and displayed in the MHC class II signal transduction pathway. Eliciting a universal immune response, stimulating both the immune system's humoral and cellular components.
- **Humoral Immune Response:** Immune response towards humoral pathogens. The capability from IRIV'S to successfully induce the anti-ha antibodies effect in humans and received a great deal of attention by utilizing the influenza virosomal vaccine. A few healthcare trials have shown that this vaccine causes a high level of haemagglutination. Toxic effects of reticence (HI) into the vaccines. There are IRIVs, that were proven to cause intense antibodies against unrelated compounds. Antigens encapsulated on the virosomal substrate [38].
- **Cellular Immune Response:** After two vaccinations with virosomes from influenza, comprising the peptide amplicon processed with nucleoprotein of influenza, mice developed CTL with np-particularity reactions. A recent study also showed that IRIVs boost MHC. Induction of class I CTL's via CD4+T cell enactment [38]. The stimulation of lymphocytes by IRIV resulted in a significant expansion when compared to the availability of free-antigen specific CTL. In cultures, or antigen and liposomes, it is significant to mention which CTL activation by virosomes isn't restricted towards IRIVs and even certain IRIV's; cytotoxic t lymphocyte stimulation is ultimately being noted. Fusogenic virosomes and were used to show this conclusively. According to the *virus Sendai*

adds with facts the above fusion-responsive virosomes well indeed a highly effective method in favor of promoting CTL operation [39].

Preclinical Evaluation of Virosomal Vaccines:

To test the virosomes in a procedure, simple quantitative tests specific to viral proteins are performed.

- The structure and size of the virosome can be determined using an electron microscope.
- The individual tests that are used to assess the virosome vary according to the type of substance being tested.
- Viral proteins may be classified utilizing effective methods like sodium dodecyl sulfate-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE).
- Some cellular linking assay techniques include the fluorescent resonance energy transfer assay (FRET) that can also be used to assess fusion activity [40].

Future Prospects:

Virosomes are a novel, cutting-edge drug-delivery mechanism for biologically dynamic compounds, notably for nucleic acids or genomes. virosomes will be used to deliver a wide and even revolutionary yet successful medication method, various chemicals that are pharmacologically effective are used. Several completely reliant on virosomes, prophylaxis additional pharmaceutical components, notably vaccines, were already authorized from the regulatory bodies throughout various nations which were now on a marketplace. Nevertheless, comprehensive bioactive compounds and the safety of virosomes must be widely researched to assure their lengthy dependability as a safe, reliable, and price method of drug delivery. Furthermore, the complex analytical procedures to describing virosome products systemic virosome growth. Efforts must therefore be made in this region to promote the production of virosome-based goods. Finally, biopharmaceuticals centered on virosomes get a high potential for significant clinical translation with improvements and incremental studies, particularly in the field of cancer management. To allow for drug delivery systems, the texture of virosomes is being changed. Even so, detailed pharmacokinetic profile models, bioavailability, medical results, and safety tests, as well as stability studies, are required to ensure long-term adaptability as a secure, dependable, and inexpensive method of drug targeting and deployment [13].

Table 2: Currently licensed and next-generation Virosomal vaccines. [23]

Name of vaccines	Description
IRIV registered vaccines <i>Epaxal</i> ®, berna biotech, bern, switzerland. Influenza (<i>inflexal</i> ® v, Berna biotech, Bern, Switzerland; invivac has been the creation in Solvay, Weesp, the Netherlands). <i>Irtv</i> vaccine of hepatitis a The vaccine with <i>alum adjuvant</i>	Against hepatitis A Against influenza Strengthened tolerability though being at the very least when immunogenic mostly than traditional. Anti-HA antibodies in the elderly have increased by around fourfold
Combination vaccines <i>Hepatitis A- trivalent diphtheria-tetanus</i> vaccine A tetravalent vaccine included chemically bonded <i>hepatitis B surface antigen (HBSAG)</i> , tetanus toxoids, <i>hepatitis A virus</i> , with diphtheria.	Phase 1 clinical trials were performed.
Newly added virosomes <i>Influenza virus</i> <i>Hepatitis viruses</i> <i>Vesicular stomatitis virus</i>	The surface glycoproteins of these viruses are incorporated in many vaccines.

CONCLUSION:

The versatility of antigen distribution using the virosomes mechanism allows for the emergence of new vaccine antigens. This will make it easier to produce a variety of new vaccines. Bacterial delivery of viral glycoproteins is safe and effective. Toxins, denatured pathogens, transfected lipids, and artificial protein, DNA transposons perhaps polypeptides, and also nucleotides. Vaccines using virosomal guidance systems have also been developed. There is a lot of interest here in the production of biomedical vaccines. Notably, a healthy humoral and cellular immune response is engendered by the natural immune response. Besides this, virosomes can efficiently provoke CTL amplification, and that is a key motive of oncology. And has the potential to contribute to the production of novel solitaire in future, technologies. eventually, with progress and gradual trials, virosome-based biopharmaceuticals, therefore, have great opportunities for personal and professional clinical translation studies.

Abbreviations

APCs: Antigen-presenting cells; FP: Fusion Protein; FDA: United States Food and Drug Administration; HA: Hemagglutinin; HN: Hemagglutinating protein; IGA/G/M: Immunoglobulin A/G/M; MHC: Major Histocompatibility Complex; NA: Neuraminidase Dioleyloxypropyltrimethylammonium methyl sulphate (DOTAP); Dioleyldimethylammonium

(DODAC); Cytotoxic T Lymphocyte (CTL); Dendritic Cells (DCs), Epstein-Barr Virus (EBV); IRIV: Immunopotentiating Reconstituted Influenza Virosome

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