

Evaluation of amylase-resistant Gellan Gum (E418) as a rheology and texture modifier for oral preparations

Jenzer H^{1*}, Müller S¹, Rotunno F¹, Maurer N D¹, Rufener A¹, Marty I¹, Martins S¹, Sadeghi L¹
¹Bern University of Applied Sciences, Health Division, a R&D Nutrition & Dietetics, CH-3008 Bern, Switzerland

Background

Gellan gum (E418, CAS 71010-52-1) is a polysaccharide from brown algae (*Sphingomonas* [formerly *Pseudomonas*] *elodea*) with β 1→4 type tetrasaccharide repeats cross-linked by α 1→3 glycosidic bonds. Due to these non α 1→4 type linkages, E418 is suitable for gel preparations which bear low aspiration risks for special patient groups, notably dysphagia patients.

Objectives

The aim of this work was:

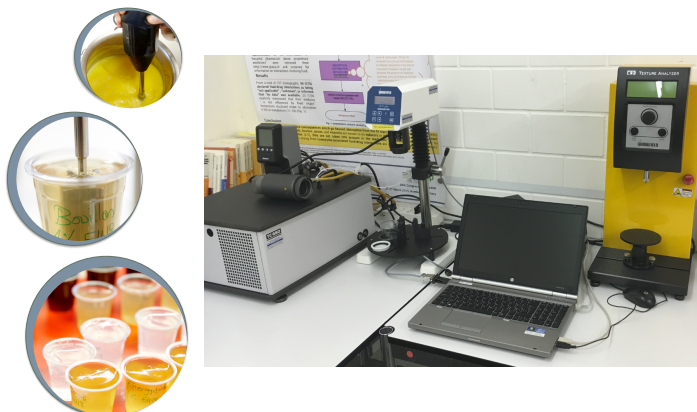
- ❖ To quantify the rheological and texture modification of E418 as a function of concentration, pH, conductivity, and temperature.
- ❖ To elucidate the complex material behaviour of E418 semisolids in view of their application for the dysphagia patients.

Material and methods

Aqueous semisolids of E418 (Gelzan® Sigma Aldrich G1910) were prepared at concentrations between 0.1 - 2.0% (m/m) and at temperatures between 50 - 90°C. Viscosities were measured at the yield point using a Brookfield R/S+® Rheometer equipped with a Vane spindle 30/15. Textures were measured on a Brookfield CT3 TexturePro® Analyzer using the TA15/1000 30 mm D, 45 cone at a penetration depth of 20 mm.

Results

- ❖ E418 remains tasteless below 2% (m/m) concentration. Excessive heat, extreme pH and low ionic strength have a negative impact on gelification.
- ❖ Tap water is suitable for E418 preparations.
- ❖ Temperature of no more than 70°C is a compromise between hydration (solubilisation) and degradation of E418. pH<3 is incompatible with E418.
- ❖ Using tap water of 0.512 mS/cm and 18 °fH, gel viscosity increases linearly with raising E418 concentration from 220 mPa*s at 0.1% (m/m) to 6044 mPa*s at 2% (m/m) with least square line $y = 2905x - 289$ ($r = 0.98$). (Fig.1)
- ❖ Hard tap water of 0.519 mS/cm and 27 °fH yields a calibration line of $y = 11129x - 206$ ($r = 0.995$). (Fig.1) Its texture increases polynomially from 149 g at 0.5% to 430 g at 1.5 % with $y = 89x^2 + 124x$ ($r = 0.93$) respectively. (Fig.2)



Pict.1: Equipment used for the rheological profiling of semi-solid preparation for dysphagia patients.

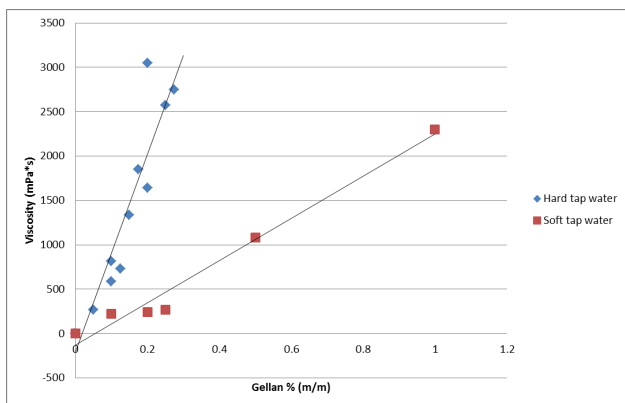


Fig.1: Viscosity of Gellan semi-solids depends linearly on the water hardness and gellan concentration

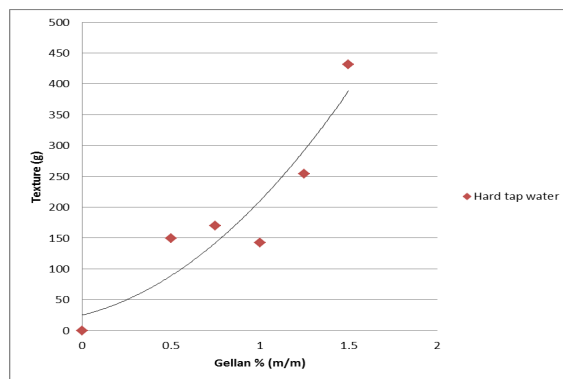


Fig.2: Texture depends polynomially on the gellan concentration

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Conclusion

E418 semisolids need a standardized preparation method to bring viscosity in a predefined range. A correlation line specific for the tap water source helps to find an individually optimised E418 concentration for special patients such as those suffering from swallowing diseases.



Berner Fachhochschule
 Haute école spécialisée bernoise
 Bern University of Applied Sciences

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Conflict of Interest: Nothing to declare

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