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Non-staining Iodine Ointment with Methyl Salicylate

Experiment 14 - Practical Notes

Name: _____ Roll no.: _____ Date: _____

Aim

To prepare the assigned iodine-containing ointment and explain the roles of the iodine system, methyl salicylate and base.

Principle

A non-staining iodine formulation uses a specified iodine system and vehicle to reduce the staining associated with free iodine. The composition and sequence are essential: adding ordinary iodine solution to an arbitrary ointment does not reproduce the formulation. Methyl salicylate must be compatible with the selected base.

Formula Basis

The exact BPC composition is edition-dependent and is not supplied in the syllabus. The practical must use the college-issued master formula; retain its ingredient strengths and tests rather than substituting a different iodine ointment.

Requirements

- Prescribed BPC master formula, specified iodine ingredients, methyl salicylate and base ingredients.
- Balance, glass mortar or slab, spatula, controlled water bath if required and compatible container.

Procedure

1. Check composition

Enter each ingredient, grade and quantity from the prescribed BPC formula. Identify which stage forms or incorporates the iodine system.

2. Prepare the iodine phase

Use the order and conditions stated in the formula. Keep iodine-containing vessels closed when practical and avoid uncontrolled heating.

3. Prepare the base

Prepare or soften the prescribed base as directed. Cool to the specified incorporation condition before adding volatile or heat-sensitive ingredients.

4. Combine

Incorporate the iodine phase uniformly, then add methyl salicylate at the prescribed stage. Mix by gradual incorporation without adding unlisted vehicle.

5. Evaluate

Record colour, consistency, separation and the specified non-staining assessment on the assigned test surface. Fill, weigh and label using the formulation instructions.

Observations and Record

Stage	Required record	Observation
Iodine system	Ingredient strengths and preparation stage	_____
Finished ointment	Uniformity, colour and separation	_____
Test / yield	Assigned staining assessment and net mass	_____

Worked Example

The numbers below are illustrative; enter your own observations in the record.

- Formula-scaling exercise: for a master formula of 100 g and an assigned 20 g batch, multiply each quantity by 0.20.
- If methyl salicylate is 5 g in that illustrative master formula, the scaled quantity is 1 g; the remaining ingredients are also scaled together.
- This example explains arithmetic only. It does not assign the BPC methyl salicylate concentration.

Result

Record the observed outcome and calculated value, with units. State whether the stated laboratory specification was met; do not copy the worked example as your result.

Precautions

- Do not replace the prescribed iodine system with Lugols solution or tincture without a validated formula.
- Control warming to avoid loss of iodine or volatile ingredients.
- Use the assigned external-use wording; do not test the formulation on a person.

Viva Questions and Answers

1. Why must the iodine system be specified?

The chemical form and vehicle influence staining, stability and iodine availability.

2. Why add volatile components at an appropriate temperature?

Excess heat can cause ingredient loss and alter the composition.

3. Can appearance alone confirm a non-staining formulation?

No; the prescribed assessment must be performed.

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