



Evaluation of the Spreadability of Pharmaceutical or Cosmetic Semisolid Formulations Using Scanned Images

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SUMMARY. A method to evaluate the spreadability of semisolid pharmaceutical preparations through images using a desktop scanner was developed. Two widely used types of pharmaceutical formulations (ointment and cream) were used as models to validate the method. The images captured were analyzed by an image software processor and the spread areas and the spreadability factors were calculated. In order to establish a comparison, the spreadability evaluation of the same samples by the conventional method was also carried out. The spreadability factors obtained from the new method (scanned images) shows lower standard deviation and higher accuracy than the conventional method (manual measurements). Furthermore, processing the images through the software is possible to measure the real spread area reached by the samples, which makes the spreadability evaluation more accurate, easier and faster in comparison with the manual measurements method.

KEY-WORDS: Cream, Ointment, Semisolids, Spread area, Spreadability.

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