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Preparation and characterization of a PVA/PSf thin film composite membrane after incorporation of PSSMA into a selective layer and its application for pharmaceutical removal

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Abstract

A thin film composite (TFC) membrane was synthesized by coating a layer of poly (vinyl alcohol) (PVA) cross-linked with Glutaraldehyde on a polysulfone (PSf) ultrafiltration support membrane. The effect of the incorporation of polyelectrolyte poly (4-styrenesulfonic acid-comaleic acid) (PSSMA) into the PVA matrix at concentrations of 0% to 3% was investigated. The TFC membranes were characterized by field emission scanning electron microscopy (FESEM), atomic force microscopy (AFM), attenuated total reflection Fourier transform infrared (ATR-IR) spectroscopy, contact angle and zeta potential measurements. The rejection rates were measured for Na₂SO₄, MgSO₄ and NaCl salts and cephalexin, amoxicillin, ibuprofen and povidone iodine (PVP-I) pharmaceuticals. The effect of molecular weight and size, hydrophobicity, and electrical charge of the pharmaceuticals on the rejection of the TFC membranes was also investigated. It was found that incorporation of PSSMA into the PVA layer could increase membrane pure water flux (PWF). The results revealed that the addition of 1% PSSMA (TFC1) increased PWF from 6.8 to 14 l/m²h and showed comparable rejection rates for all membranes. For this sample, rejections of 99%, 97.7%, 93.8% and 74% were obtained for cephalexin, amoxicillin, PVP-I and

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