2.7.1. Mechanism of action 58
2.7.2. Pharmacokinetics 61
2.7.3. Approved ITR products 61
2.7.4. Previous studies for enhancement of ITR solubility and absorption 62
2.7.5. Drawbacks associated with available oral and parenteral dosage forms 69
2.8. TOPICAL DRUG DELIVERY POTENTIAL OF ITR 71
2.8.1. Reported conventional topical delivery systems of ITR 71
2.8.2. ITR topical systems based on colloidal carriers 72
2.8.3. Topical drug delivery potential of ITR using novel colloidal drug carriers 72
2.9. TOPICAL DELIVERY OF STATISTICALLY OPTIMIZED ITR LOADED COLLOIDAL CARRIERS 73

3. RESEARCH ENVISAGED AND PLAN OF WORK 74
3.1. RESEARCH ENVISAGED 74
3.2. PLAN OF WORK 76
3.2.1. Literature survey 76
3.2.2. Preformulation studies 76
3.2.3. Development of ITR loaded colloidal carriers 77
3.2.4. Characterization studies 77
3.2.5. Evaluation studies 78

4. EXPERIMENTAL 79
4.1. MATERIALS AND METHODS 79
4.1.1. Animals 84
4.1.2. Preparation of buffer solutions 84
4.2. METHODS 85
4.2.1. Preformulation studies 85
4.2.2. Formulation of vesicular systems 95
4.2.3. Development of non-vesicular carriers 112
4.2.4. Ex vivo, in vitro and in vivo evaluation of optimized colloidal carriers 124
4.2.5. Stability studies 131
5. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

5.1. PREFORMULATION STUDIES 132
  5.1.1. Drug characterization 132
  5.1.2. HPTLC method development and validation 141
  5.1.3. HPLC method development and validation 146
  5.1.4. UV spectrophotometric method development and validation 150
  5.1.5. Optimization of ex vivo release medium 152
  5.1.6. Excipient interaction studies 155

5.2. FORMULATION OF VESICULAR SYSTEMS 175
  5.2.1. Development of ITR loaded liposomes 175
  5.2.2. Development of ITR niosomes 199

5.3. FORMULATION OF NON-VESICULAR SYSTEMS 220
  5.3.1. Microemulsions (w/o) 220
  5.3.2. Development of solid lipid nanoparticles (SLNs) 241

5.4. COMPARATIVE EX VIVO AND IN VIVO EVALUATION OF ITR LOADED COLLOIDAL CARRIER BASED FORMULATIONS 260
  5.4.1. Skin sensitivity and histopathology 260
  5.4.2. Comparative ex vivo permeation and skin retention profiles of optimized colloidal carrier hydrogels with conventional carriers 266
  5.4.3. Comparative in vitro antifungal efficacy of optimized colloidal carrier hydrogels 269
  5.4.4. Skin penetration study using fluorescent microscopy 277
  5.4.5. Dermatokinetics 284
  5.4.5. Pharmacodynamic evaluation using Trichophyton rubrum induced Tinea pedis infection 287

5.5. Stability studies 308

6. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS 312

7. BIBLIOGRAPHY 322