

## **Piramal present on Oral Dispersible Technologies at the World Drug Delivery Conference**

**Mumbai, April 2011:** Vipin Dhall, Head of R&D for Piramal Pharma Solutions recently spoke at the World Drug Delivery Conference in Singapore. Vipin discussed the unique advantages of Orodispersible Tablets (ODT) over traditional dosage formulations. They are preferred due to the ease of swallowing without the use of water in paediatrics and geriatrics patient populations. Besides, this technology also offers advantages to patients suffering from dysphagia and in situations, like mouth or oro-pharyngeal cancer, where the swallowing of medication is a challenge

In spite of the simplicity of the dosage form, the technology itself has several challenges related to fast dispersion time, taste, mouth feel, and robust tablets with appropriate hardness to handle. With so many drugs having bitter taste, masking the taste of the APIs is another critical parameter in the success of the ODT. There are several different techniques that can be utilized to achieve the taste-masking, like the use of flavours and sweeteners; barrier coatings; hydrophobic materials and use of complexation techniques.

The success of the ODT as technology is evident by over a dozen drugs that have been formulated and launched successfully. The different technologies utilized for development of ODT include lyophilisation, which is the most commonly used; compressed tablets; molded tablets and floss. The lyophilisation offers the fastest dispersion time of around 5 seconds, but tablets are weak to handle and the process long and expensive. Realizing these challenges, Piramal Pharma Solutions have developed compressed tablets that can offer fast dissolution / dispersion time of less than 30 seconds while maintaining the strength of the tablets

### About Piramal Healthcare

Piramal Healthcare is a part of the Piramal Enterprises Ltd. Led by Ajay G. Piramal, the Piramal Group is one of India's foremost business conglomerates. Emerging from a rich textile industry lineage, the Piramal Group has exemplified diversification by foraying into a myriad of industries that encompass healthcare, drug discovery and research, glass, real estate and financial services.

Piramal Enterprises, Piramal Life Sciences, Piramal Glass and Piramal Realty are the flagship companies that operate within these sectors. The Piramal Group truly demonstrates a global footprint with its products and services being exported to over 100 countries, its international income contributing to greater than 70% of the Group's revenues and more than 15 nationalities being represented amongst its employees.