Lactose, inhalation is a specific grade of lactose used as a carrier, diluent and flow aid in dry powder inhalation formulations.

See Functional Categories of Pharmaceutical Excipients for how different grades can influence performance.

Benzalkonium chloride is one of the most widely used antimicrobial preservatives in eye preparations, at concentrations of 0.01-0.02% w/v.

See the Benzalkonium chloride monograph in Pharmaceutical Excipients for more information.

Cyclodextrins are used for taste-masking, and to improve drug stability and bioavailability. Each type of cyclodextrin will have a different excipient performance.

See The Selection of Excipients for Oral Solid Dosage Forms to find out more.

Gastric pH is in the neutral range at birth, between pH 6 and 8, but falls to between pH 1.5 and 3 within a day. Following this, up to 10 days from birth, gastric pH increases again to between 6 and 7, and remains in the neutral range for approximately 28 days.

See Pharmaceutical Excipients in Pediatric Formulations for considerations for paediatric formulations.

Dimeticone is added to the oil phase of oil-in-water emulsions as an antifoaming agent; its hydrophobic properties make it useful in topical barrier preparations.

See Dimeticone monograph in Pharmaceutical Excipients for more information.

Carrageenan can be used in transdermal gel patches. There are three commercially relevant fractions of carrageenan, with different chemical and excipient properties.

See the Carrageenan monograph in Pharmaceutical Excipients for more information.

Polysorbate 80 is a commonly used nonionic surfactant in injections and infusions. However, the oxidative degradation of polysorbate 80 produces formaldehyde, which can degrade formulations.

See Reactive Components in Pharmaceutical Excipients for more information.

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