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Nanoprecipitation for nanomedicine: formation and stability of the nanoparticles.

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Dispersed nanostructured liquid crystalline materials are promising candidates for drug delivery and other pharmaceutical applications¹. They can be easily formed from nanoprecipitation or solvent shifting methods with amphiphiles, however the mechanism of their formation and their stability with time are still under debate.²

A particular case of such nanostructures was introduced in 2006 by Couvreur et al.³ They take benefit of the amphiphilic properties of conjugates formed by the covalent link between a squalene moiety and a drug (or a nucleosides) to form such dispersions. The high loading capacity of these nanoparticles and their specific structure induces a large improvement of their therapeutic efficacy in comparison to the single drug. To improve the use of these nanoparticles in drug delivery, a deeper understanding of the mechanism of formation could provide the keys for a better control over size distribution and stability. After a short summary on nanoprecipitation and solvent shifting methods, this presentation will focus on the Squalenoyl based nanoparticles formation. Size and structural analysis by Small Angle Neutron Scattering revealed the paramount role of the solvent on the control of size³ and the effect of the formulation parameters.⁴

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