

THIS 2025, CHOOSE

# SOFTGELS

YOUR TRUSTED SOLUTION

Discover the **endless opportunities** this technology can offer to your Brand.



 **Sofgen**  
PHARMACEUTICALS

# SOFTGEL

## Consumer Preference

FACTS & INSIGHTS



## OVERVIEW:

The softgel capsule has been in the market **since the 19th century evolving to the present day.** Because of this, consumers feel familiar with the technology, trusting its **efficiency, quality and convenience.**

The softgel capsule has a strong recognition in the **supplement and the prescription market,** facilitating patient adherence to the drug by offering easiness of swallowing, plus many other thanks to the texture of its shell, among other benefits.

Straus, Mike. Advances in softgels, capsules, and tablets are keeping these formats at the forefront of the Industry. Nutritional Outlook. Nov 2018.

Lisa Schofield. Softgels' Clear Advantages. Natural Products Insider. 2019





# THE SOFTGEL CAPSULE:

## *A superior Delivery System*

### System with wide-ranging applications

The Softgel Capsule is a solid dosage form composed **of two gelatin films** that contain semisolid or liquid **APIs protected by an external, hermetically sealed cover.**

Softgels ensure **high precision dosage** by achieving homogeneity of ingredients.

**An effective delivery system** for oral drugs, especially those with low solubility and/or permeability (BCS class II, III and IV(1))



# SOFTGEL CAPSULE:

## Technical Overview



1 BCS Class II – low solubility / high permeability.

BCS Class III – high solubility / low permeability.

BCS Class IV – low solubility / low permeability. Mattson Jack

## Key Benefits



**Enhanced bioavailability** of active ingredients



**Attractive** physical appearance



**Greater** Stability



**Extended** Shelf Life



**Masks** unpleasant odors and flavors



**Solves** a broad range of challenges



**Variety** of Shapes, Colors and Sizes



**Impossible to** Counterfeit



## Main applications



**Pharmaceutical:** Products for any type of indication (OTC and Rx)



**Nutritional:** Supplements, vitamins, concentrates and other natural products



**Cosmeceuticals:** Cosmetic products that have medicinal properties



## SOFTGELS, Addressing the Challenges of Treatment Adherence

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Treatment compliance improves when the number of doses is reduced. Softgel technology combines multiple active ingredients in a **fixed-dose capsule**, simplifying routines and enhancing patient compliance.



Swallowing difficulties are a common reason for non-adherence to treatments. Softgel capsules address this challenge by **offering easy-to-swallow and chewable options**, making them a more accessible and convenient choice for consumers.



Softgels deliver the benefits of the formulation without unpleasant experience due to the **enteric coats reducing lingering aftertaste and reflux** caused by some active ingredients.



# SOFTGEL

Manufacturing Safety



## Product Security



Tamper-evident design ensures integrity; any breach makes the capsule visibly damaged.

## Customized Coloring and Shape



Capsules can be tailored with specific colors, sizes, or logos that are challenging for counterfeiters to replicate.

## Indivisibility



Unlike tablets, softgels cannot be easily split, preventing the consumption of incomplete or incorrect doses.

## Precise Dosage



Each capsule contains an exact amount of the active ingredient, reducing the risk of dosing errors or overdoses.



# CONSUMER

## Perceptions & Market Impact

RELATIVE TO OTHER ORAL DOSAGE FORMS







# CONSUMER

## Preferences



### Improved Palatability

SGCs were developed to mask unpleasant tastes and odors of medications.



### Enhanced Swallowing Comfort

SGCs are easier to swallow than other oral solids due to their self-lubricating nature.<sup>1, 2</sup>



### Enhanced Aesthetic

SGCs offer greater visual appeal with a wide range of shapes, sizes, and colors.



### Variety of Delivery Systems

SGCs offer diverse delivery options, including chewable formulations<sup>3</sup>, catering to different consumer preferences.

<sup>1</sup> Augsburger, L.L. Hard and Soft Shell Capsules. In Modern Pharmaceuticals; Banker, G.S., Rhodes, C.T., Eds.; Marcel Dekker, Inc.: New York, NY, USA, 2002; pp. 512–575. 2. Reich, G. Formulation and physical properties of soft capsules. In Pharmaceutical Capsules; Podczek, F., Jones, B.E., Eds.; Pharmaceutical Press: London, UK, 2004; pp. 201–212 Cited by: Damian F, Harati M, Schwartzenhauer J, Van Cauwenberghe O, Wettig SD. Challenges of Dissolution Methods Development for Soft Gelatin Capsules. *Pharmaceutics*. 2021 Feb 4;13(2):214. doi: 10.3390/pharmaceutics13020214. PMID: 33557167; PMCID: PMC7913951.

# SOFTGELS

Sensory Elements



## Is **Size** a determining factor when choosing a medicine?

The FDA issued recommendations for generic manufacturers establishing **guidelines for improving the intake of oral solids.**



Of those who have difficulty swallowing: **-15% speak to to their doctors;** 8% admits skipping a dose; **4% quits therapy.**



Those who have difficulty swallowing blame the **overall size of the tablet.**



The use of **outer gelatin layers** help when swallowing the tablet.



Light softgels / tablets transit faster than those of the same size but heavier.

# SOFTGEL

Advanced Technologies



## UNIGEL™: SIMPLIFYING TREATMENTS THROUGH INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS



Unigel™ a **first-to-market Technology** Is Ideal for those who want to have **simplicity and effectiveness** backed by **technology and expertise when taking their meds and supplements**, providing **different configurations for fixed-dose combinations**.

### UNIGEL™: The sustainable Softgel

By consuming Unigel™ products, **patients avoided the production and disposition of 27.5 million Million blister packs in 2022**, according to our estimations. Besides plastic demand reduction, Unigel™ also deploys different environmental benefits across the supply chain.

#### Other **ADVANTAGES INCLUDE:**



**Clear look inside** the capsule/  
**Physically Appealing**



Improves Patient/consumers  
**convenience and Compliance**



**Different Release  
Profiles** available



Impossible to  
**counterfeit**



**Combines Multiple  
Purpose Ingredients** in one  
form



Exact Dosage  
**Form**



**Different Gelatin  
formulations/Suitable for**  
Vegetarians and/or vegan  
diets



**Diversifies  
Portfolio/Enables Brand  
Differentiation**

unigel™

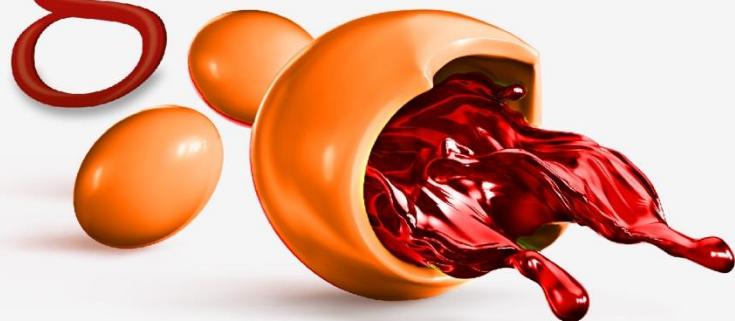




# Chew gels



Expand your portfolio with new dosage forms that are **convenient and filled with great flavor.**



Discover our Chewable Softgel Platform Chewgels™, **chewable soft capsules** as a solution and line extension to existing or new products. With new ingredients, special shapes and flavors, we can offer our customers a range of formulations for different therapeutic lines.

## Key CHEWGELS™ ADVANTAGES

✓ **Soft and easy chewable flavored gelatin shell**, that does not leave residues or sticks to the teeth, rapidly dissolved, leaving a good mouth feel.

● **No sugar added**

📄 **Shell solubility** and stability assurance

● **Portable exact dose form:** within our chewable burstelts the fill content may contain solutions, suspensions, pastes and emulsions.

## Key CHEWGELS™ CONSUMER BENEFITS

😊 **No water needed:** Taken easily on the run without water or food.

● **Easy to swallow:** Suitable for children or senior adults who often reject traditional dosage forms.

📄 **Fast effect:** Immediate release and absorption in the mouth and stomach.





✓ **Great taste & Experience: Our Chewgels™** Once a Chewgel enters the mouth, it is chewed, and a burst effect of the sweet, creamy and tasty liquid inside kicks in. This explosion of flavor is accompanied by the activation of the ingredients.






# ReducedGels

With Reducedgels, receive full strength and **power in a smaller softgel size.**





## Key REDUCEDGELS **ADVANTAGES:**

-  Enables **higher API concentrations** in **smaller softgel**
-  A solution for **complex API formulations**
-  Capable of delivering **single and combination API formulations**
-  **Tamper-evident**





## Key REDUCEDGELS **Consumer Benefits:**

-  Ideal for **Seniors and Children**
-  Available in a variety of **Colors, Shapes and Sizes**
-  Suitable for **Vegetarians**

## Key TWISTGELS **ADVANTAGES:**

-  Better **Dosage Accuracy**
-  **Eliminates Contamination** by repeat use
-  **Improves Compliance**
-  **Improved Stability**

## Key TWISTGELS **CONSUMER BENEFITS:**

-  Portable **On-The-Go**
-  Easy to twist- **Ideal for geriatric, pediatric and veterinary use**
-  Available in variety of **Colors, Shapes and Sizes**
-  No water **needed**

# TwistGels



A soft gelatin capsule with **twist-o cap** allows access to a **measured dose for topical and/or oral applications.**

# Enteric Coated SoftGels



Enteric Coated softgels are the **best way to stabilize acid-sensitive drug products**. This is because the API is not delivered in the stomach and instead **targets drug delivery in the small intestine**, which is preferred for treating intestinal diseases, improving tolerance and reducing aftertaste.

## Key ENTERIC COATED SOFTGELS CHARACTERISTICS:



**Resists absorption** in the stomach.



**Improves Patient acceptance** – Avoiding reflux in pregnant women.



**Masks unpleasant** odors and flavors.



**Chemical Stability:** Oxygen and moisture protection barrier that prevents Omega acid oxidation and Oxidation/Hydrolysis of the vitamins.

**Double coated** for Better appearance.



# Enteric Clear SoftGels



Enteric-Clear Softgels use the Enteric-Coated Softgel method of stabilizing acid-sensitive drugs, but it has a **patient-appealing aesthetic**.

Consumers **often prefer clear capsules** over opaque and this design also means fewer steps in the development process, as **no coating is necessary**.

## Key ENTERIC CLEAR SOFTGELS CHARACTERISTICS:



**Greater Bioavailability**



**Rapid Absorption**



**No fish aftertaste**



**Less irritation of digestive or gastric mucosa**, due to its absorption at the intestinal level



**Exact Dosing**



Physically **Appealing**



**Impossible** to Counterfeit



Life-Cycle Management **Extension**

As a leading Manufacturer of Softgel-Related technologies, Sofgen offers unparalleled custom capsule services. **Design your very own Stripgels.**



StripeGels

#### KEY STRIPGELS **ADVANTAGES:**



Physically **Appealing**



Completely **Customizable**



Brand **Identification**



New Customer **Experience**

# Vaogels



A The softgel vaginal ovule or insert, **Vaogels**, was designed **mucoadhesive properties** to facilitate retention of the product in the vagina and availability of the active ingredient in a site-specific manner.

## KEY VAOGELS ADVANTAGES:


 **Conical** shape for easy application

 Softgel **hydrophilic** outer layer

 **Improves** treatment efficiency

 **Greater Dissolution/**  
Faster disintegration

 **Exact** Dosage

 **Lipophilic** Excipients for better vaginal adherence and efficacy

 **Gentle** and **Non-Irritating**

 **Stable** until Inserted

About  
**SOFGEN**  
Pharmaceuticas







We are an integrated CDMO/CMO that offers end-to-end solutions, from development throughout delivery, in innovative **Softgel technologies for pharma and healthcare** companies interested in launching novel products within North America and other highly regulated markets.

Our extensive Softgel portfolio, backed by **cutting-edge expertise**, ensures we deliver **customized solutions that meet your unique needs and help you succeed in competitive markets**



For more information on our diverse  
technology portfolio visit:

**WWW.SOFGENPHARMA.COM**

Or email us at: [communications@sofgenpharma.com](mailto:communications@sofgenpharma.com)

