These tablets contain loratadine 10 mg in a vehicle of artificial and natural flavor, aspartame, citric acid, colloidal silicon dioxide, corn syrup solids, crospovidone, magnesium stearate, mannitol, microcrystalline cellulose, modified food starch, and sodium bicarbonate (3).

One product using the DuraSolv and OraSolv technologies by Cima Labs is Tempra Quicklets containing acetaminophen 80 mg. These tablets also contain aspartame, citric acid, D&C Red No. 27 Lake, FD&C Blue No. 1 Lake, flavor, magnesium stearate, mannitol, potassium carbonate, silicon dioxide, and sodium bicarbonate. They are somewhat slower than the Zydis tablet, taking about 30 to 45 seconds, unless some tongue pressure is used. These tablets come in a firm molded plastic package to prevent breakage (4). Other commercial products using the same technology include the Alavert (Wyeth), NuLev FasTabs (Schwarz Pharma), Symax FasTabs (Capellon), Remeron SolTabs (Organon), Triaminic Softchews (Novartis Consumer Health), Abilify Discmelt (Otsuka America), Tylenol Meltaways (McNeil Consumer), and the Zomig ZMT (AstraZeneca).

The Flashtab technology by Ethypharm is used in Excedrin QuickTabs and an example of the Wowtab technology by Yamanouchi Pharma is the Benadryl Fastmelt.

Example Chewable Dispersible Tablets

Lamictal chewable dispersible tablets for oral administration contain 2, 5, or 25 mg of lamotrigine and the following inactive ingredients: black currant flavor, calcium carbonate, low-substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose, magnesium aluminum silicate, magnesium stearate, povidone, saccharin sodium, and sodium starch glycolate (5).

Lamotrigine is also available as standard swallow tablets for oral administration in strengths of 25, 100, 150, and 200 mg, also containing lactose, magnesium stearate, microcrystalline cellulose, povidone, sodium starch glycolate, and various coloring agents for the different strengths. Lamotrigine is an antiepileptic drug chemically unrelated to existing drugs in this therapeutic class. The swallow tablets should be swallowed whole, as chewing may leave a bitter taste. The chewable tablets may be swallowed whole, chewed, or mixed in water or diluted fruit juice. If they are chewed, a small amount of water or diluted fruit juice will aid in swallowing. If the tablet is to be dispersed before it is taken, it can be added to a small amount of liquid (1 teaspoonful or sufficient to cover the medication in a glass or spoon), and approximately 1 minute later when the tablet is completely dispersed, it is mixed and administered immediately.

Didanosine (Videx) is available in three dosage forms: a chewable dispersible buffered tablet, buffered powder for oral solution, and a pediatric powder for oral solution (6). Videx is a synthetic purine nucleoside analog active against HIV. The chewable dispersible buffered tablets are for oral administration in strengths of 25, 50, 100, 150, and 200 mg. Each tablet is buffered with calcium carbonate and magnesium hydroxide. Also contained in the tablet matrix are aspartame, sorbitol, microcrystalline cellulose, Polyplasdone, mandarin orange flavor, and magnesium stearate.

Didanosine (2′,3′-dideoxyinosine) is unstable in acidic solutions; at a pH less than 3 at body temperature, 10% of didanosine decomposes to hypoxanthine in less than 2 minutes. This is the reason for the buffering agents in the chewable tablets and in one of the oral solutions. It is also available as an enteric-coated formulation (Videx EC delayed-release capsules) to protect it from the acidic contents of the stomach.

Since these tablets tend to be more fragile than standard compressed tablets, they are generally packaged in more sturdy materials to prevent damage.

Extended-Release Tablets

Extended-release tablets (sometimes called controlled-release tablets) are designed to release their medication in a predetermined manner over an extended period. They are discussed in Chapter 9.

Vaginal Tablets

Vaginal tablets, also called *vaginal inserts*, are uncoated, bullet-shaped, or ovoid tablets