



Figure 1.4 Effect of oleic acid on salicylic acid (1%) in vitro penetration across human epidermis.

sponse is related to lag time, and shorter lag times are viewed as good. For disease states, it is not clear whether a large, pulsed delivery is better, or a slow, prolonged delivery is preferred. Accurate knowledge of vehicle delivery rates correlated with clinical results could lead to new vehicles with very different delivery profiles. These systems, in turn, could be evaluated clinically to determine the best delivery rate. The methods and skill certainly exist to answer some of these key questions, which undoubtedly will be answered as the dosage forms become more controllable for delivery rate.

Topical treatment of skin cancer, warts, baldness, and so on, may be possible, not only because of new drugs, but also because better vehicles can be designed to enhance delivery. The skin is an accessible tissue of large surface area and should be a viable port of entry for drugs. Vehicles with superior delivery will undoubtedly play a substantial role in increasing the usefulness of this port of entry.