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A REVIEW ON MAGNETIC MICRO/NANOPARTICLES

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ABSTRACT

This review focuses on the recent advances in the preparation and application of magnetic micro/nanoparticles specially it covers (a) methods of preparation (such as by co precipitation, pyrolysis, hydrothermal, solvent thermal, sol-gel, micro-emulsion, sonochemical methods, and (b) application such as hyperthermic therapy, magnetic gene therapy, magnetic hyperthermia, diagnosis of cancer cells, magnetic separation, magnetorelaxometry, test of prothrombin time for leukemia, solid phase extraction, atherosclerosis imaging,

nanomagnetic molecular sensing.

KEYWORDS: This review focuses on the recent advances in the preparation.

INTRODUCTION

Magnetic micro/nanoparticles are generally ferromagnetic elemental, alloy, oxide, or composite structures of Fe-, Co-, and Ni. Based on the different properties, materials are divided into three types: paramagnetic, antimagnetic and ferromagnetic materials. Paramagnetic materials, which magnetization intensity is directly proportional to exterior field and their susceptibility are positive value. Antimagnetic materials, which magnetization intensity also is proportional to exterior magnetic field, but its susceptibility is negative value. The saturation phenomenon is the magnetization intensity of ferromagnetic materials increases with the strengthening of exterior magnetic field observably at the beginning, but when the exterior magnetic field intensity increases to a value, their magnetization intensity will not continue to increase. To provide magnetism in magnetic micro particles various inorganic materials included they are Fe₃O₄, γ -Fe₂O₃, CoFe₂O₄, MnFe₂O₄, CoPt₃ and FePt among which Fe₃O₄ nanoparticles are most commonly selected because of their easy availability and superparamagnetism. Ideal micro

particles can be easily trapped by an external magnet but appear individually dispersed when the magnetic field is removed.

Magnetic micro particles have good affinity.^[1,2] and easy surface modification. by adsorption or covalent bonding micro particles can combine with the different functional groups and bioactive substances, such as enzymes, cells, antibodies, DNA and so on. It is easy for them to separate from medium under external magnetic field due to their good magnetic conductivity, so they are widely used in the area of cell separation.^[3-6] biological detection.^[7-12] enzyme immobilisation.^[13,14] solid- phase extraction and targeted drug delivery.^[15-19] magnetic micro particles have good chemical stability, biocompatibility and biodegradability, which makes them safe in the clinical applications, so they also are used for MRI.^[20,22] and targeting drug delivery. Micro particles have broad application prospect for serious diseases, especially the premenstrual syndrome and effective treatment for cancer.

Advantages of Magnetic Microspheres^[23]

- 1. Increased duration of action.
- 2. First pass effect can be avoided.
- 3. Protein and peptide drug delivery can be improved
- 4. They enable controlled release of drug. Ex: narcotic, antagonist, steroid hormones.
- 5. Increase the therapeutic effect and decrease the side effects.
- 6. 6. Toxicity is reduced.
- 7. Ability to bind and release high concentration of drugs.
- 8. Patient compliance is good.
- 9. Method of preparations is easy.
- 10. Can be injected into the body using hypodermic needle.
- 11. Microsphere morphology allows a controllable variability in degradation and drug release. [24]
- 12. Dosing frequency is reduced. [24]
- 13. Incorporation of magnetically responsive materials into microspheres makes them susceptible to applied magnetic field, so that they are concentrated to the target site by application of magnetic field externally to that site. Due to this, rapid clearance of these microspheres by RES is prevented.^[25]
- 14. Difference occurs maximally in capillary network so efficient delivery of drug to diseased tissue is achieved. [25]

15. Microspheres can transit into extra vascular space creating an extra vascular depot of drug for sustained release of drug within the targeted areas. [25]

Disadvantages of Magnetic Microspheres^[23]

- 1. Removal once injected is difficult.
- 2. Non-uniformity to drug content may result while preparation.
- 3. Unknown toxicity of beads.
- 4. It is an expensive technical approach and requires specialized manufacture and quality control system.
- 5. It needs specialized magnet for targeting, for monitoring, and trained personnel to perform procedures.
- ⁶. By the use of magnetic microspheres in the delivery system, the drug cannot be targeted to deep seated organs in the body.

Methods for the preparation of magnetic micro/nano particles

Pyrolysis method

In pyrolysis method magnetic micro/nanoparticles are prepared by the thermal decomposition of precursors such as metal compounds (Fe(acac)₃, Fe(CO)₅, Co₂(CO)₈ and Fe(Cup)₃ (acac and Cup are acetyl acetone and cup ferrate respectively) at high temperature and high pressure. Then they are further oxidized to magnetic metal oxide nanoparticles. The method has advantages of high nanoparticle crystallinity, tunable size and narrow diameter distribution. [26] Under high temperature, Murray, Sun et al. [27] prepared ferromagnetic nanoparticles, whose size ranged from few nanometres to tens of nanometres, by refluxing ferric acetylacetonate, long chain alcohol, oleic acid, lauryl amine and so on, with diphenyl oxide as medium.

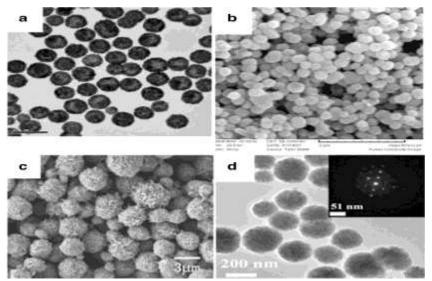


Fig. 1: Small magnetic nanoparticles prepared by. (a) in situ solvothermal synthesis, (b) sol-gel method, (c) thermaldecomposition and (d) microemulsion progress.

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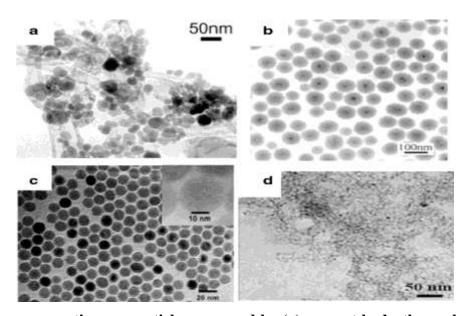


Fig. 2: Large magnetic nanoparticles prepared by (a) one-pot hydrothermal process,(b) sol-gel method, (c) solvothermal method and subsequent calcining process and (d) self-assembly of nanocrystal in mixed solvents of ethylene glycol and water.

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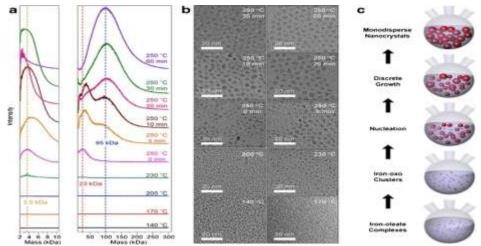


Fig. 3a: Mass spectra of sample aliquots drawn from the reaction solution during heating. For clarity, the spectra in the mass ranges of <10.5 kDa (left) and >11kDa (right) have been plotted using different scales. b. TEM images of the NCs in the sample aliquots. C. Schematics describing the formation mechanism proposed on the basis of the ex situ MS measurements.

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Co precipitation method

Co precipitation is a widely used simple and efficient method for the preparation of iron oxide (Fe3O4, Fe 2O3, etc.) and ferrite (Zn-Mn ferrite, NiZn ferrite, Co-Zn ferrite). In this method, to precipitate metal ions alkaline solution (ammonia, sodium, hydroxide solution) is added into metallic salt solution as precipitant. This method has the advantages of shorter process, simple reaction conditions and higher product purity. During washing, filtering and drying agglomeration phenomenon of product will happen easily. The co precipitation method is most widely used to prepare ferroferric oxide magnetic micro particles: Fe2bb2Fe3bb8OH−→Fe3O4 b4H2O Fe2+ with Fe3+ were mixed up according to certain proportion, and then excess ammonia water or sodium hydroxide solution was added as precipitant, as a result Fe3O4 magnetic micro particles were made. Kim et al. [35] added sodium oleate as surfactant to disperse precipitates in the process of preparingFe3O4 magnetic micro particles by co precipitation method, thus getting monodisperse Fe3O4 magnetic micro particles. Thapa et al. [36] prepared Fe 3O4 magnetic micro particles by co precipitation method, and they found out that when the particle size was 10 nm, the magnetic micro particles had best magnetism. When preparing ferromagnetic micro particles, precursor powder was first prepared by co precipitation method, and then the final product was fabricated after high temperature solid state reaction.

Hydro-thermal method

The hydrothermal method is done under high temperature and pressure condition of autoclave, with water as reaction medium, those substances, which are usually sparingly soluble and insoluble, are dissolved and react, then recrystallize, thus getting ideal product. High temperature is used to improve magnetism, and high pressure is good to improve product purity. Hydrothermal method can control the size and shape of particles effectively, and particles seldom agglomerate. Besides, the particles have a good dispensability. ^[39] and uniform size distribution. ^[37] The hydrothermal method can make substances react in static or dynamic closed environment, and the latter can speed up synthetic rate greatly due to the magnetic stirrer in autoclave. Chen et al. ^[40] prepared Fe 3O4 magnetic micro particles with different diameters in hydrothermal reaction vessel. By two-step hydrothermal reactions Yao. ^[38] et al. prepared magnetic carbonaceous (MC) microparticles,

Fe3O4 micro particles assembled at low temperature by specific nanoparticles. [39] which are obtained via hydrothermal method and the products still have good dispersibility. Combined with other synthetic processes, core—shell structured magnetic composite micro particles with ordered hexagonal mesopores, bright luminescence, and high magnetization saturation value are prepared. [15] This multifunctional system shows positive sustained properties by the surface modification, which can be potentially used as targeted drug delivery system. More recently, Liu et al. [31] prepared Water-dispersible monodisperse hollow Fe3O4 micro particles via a one-pot hydrothermal process which exhibited superparamagnetic properties with high saturation magnetization value of about 76.7 emu·g—1 at room temperature, and whose bet surface area was 50.04 m 2·g—1. The microwave hydrothermal synthesis method combines traditional hydrothermal method with microwave field. With microwave field as heat source, the reaction makes place in special reactor, through which microwave field can pass.

Solvent-thermal method

The process of solvent-thermal method is similar to hydro-thermal method, except the solvent of the former is non-aqueous solution. By the solve thermal method and subsequent calcining process Liang. [33] et al. firstly prepared a kind of magnetite micro particles with such high surface area of 82.7 m²·g⁻¹. Recently, Lu et al. [34] synthesized sodium poly acrylate modified Fe3O4 magnetic microspheres (SPMFMs) with quasi-superparamagnetic behaviour and high saturation magnetization by a solvethermal method. The loading capacity of the SPMFMs for bovine haemoglobin was 95mg·g⁻¹ and 33% of the loaded bovine haemoglobin was released

in a period of 75 h. The SPMFMs after the adsorption of the organic pollutants can be recycled and reused effectively with a slightly reduced adsorption capacity. Jiang et al. fabricated magnetically separable BiOBr/CoFe2O4 micro particles assembled from nanoparticles by a facile solvothermal method at 160 °C for 12 h. [41] Zhu et al. reported an immobilization of Candida rugosa lipase (CRL) onto PAMAM- dendrimer grafted magnetic nanoparticles synthesized by a modified solvothermal reduction method. And this immobilized lipase exhibited excellent reusability. [42]

Sol-gel method

For the preparation of sol with metal organic compound solution or metal inorganic compound the sol-gel method is frequently performed, and then the sol is dehydrated under certain conditions s(heating) to get gel, at last nano-scale product is prepared with the gel after drying and roasting. This method has the advantages of mild reaction conditions, high product purity, accurate stoichiometry, simple process and a short reaction period, and usually used to prepare the core-shell SiO2 magnetic composites. $^{[43,44,45]}$ Liu $^{[28]}$ etal .prepared a new kind of magnetic luminescent nano composite (MLNC) particles by a combination of sol-gel process and electrostatic self-assembly techniques. Xu et al. [48] prepared Fe3O4 magnetic micro particles with different size after annealing treatment under the vacuum condition of 200 to 400 degrees Celsius. Shao. [45] et al. first made a study on the separation of protein by submicron-size micro particles grafted with flexible polymer chains. Liu et al. successfully prepared Silica encapsulated core-shell structured carbonyl iron (CI) magnetic particles (CI@SiO2) via a facile sol-gel method based on the silane grafted CI particles, which shows enhanced property of heat-induced oxidation resistance with decreased particle density. [46] Xu et al. Successfully fabricated novel core—shell structured magnetic Fe3O4/silica nano composite with gridlock-copolymer grafted on their surface (Fe3O4@SiO2@MDN) by sol-gel method and a seeded aqueous-phase radical copolymerization approach.^[47] It has the excellent characteristics of the strong magnetic responsivity, outstanding hydrophilicity and abundant π electron system.

Micro-emulsion method

For the preparation of magnetic micro particles the micro-emulsion method has been developed into an effective method. The micro-emulsions are transparent, isotropic and low viscosity thermodynamic stability system, which is made from oil (hydrocarbon), water (electrolyte aqueous solution) and surfactant (sometimes with alcohols as co surfactant.).

They are classified into water in oil type (W/O)and oil in water type (O/W). The droplet size of them is nanometre and the droplet separates from each other. The reaction space is limited to this micro-reactor – droplet. As an example, surfactant succinic acid-1-ethyl hexyl sodium sulfonate (AOT) dissolving in n hexane can become water in oil type reversed-phase micro emulsion system. [50] This method can make particles avoid agglomerating effectively, so it is easy to prepare magnetic micro particles with narrow particle size distribution, regular shape and good dispersion property.

Zhou et al. [49] prepared Fe₃O₄ magnetic micro particles with particle size of smaller than 10nm, which have high correctivity, in the O/W micro emulsion system with cyclohexyl amine as oil phase, Fe₂SO₄ and Fe(NO₃)₃ as aqueous solution. Chen et al. [51] prepared chitosan /montmorrillonite Fe₃O₄(CTS/MMT-Fe₃O₄) microparticles, a magnetically separable adsorbent, by micro emulsion process.

7. Sonochemical method

The ultrasonic vaporization bubble produced by ultrasonic wave. [52] can make local high temperature and high pressure environment come into being and has micro-jet with strong impulsive force, which promotes oxidation reaction, reduction reaction, decomposition reaction, hydrolysis reaction and so on for preparing micro/nanoparticles. Compared with conventional stirring technology, ultrasonic cavitational effect produces shear action on agglomeration, which is beneficial to form small particles, and it makes the uniform mixing of medium easier to be realized, avoiding inhomogeneous local concentration, improving reaction rate.

Vijayakumar et al. [53] prepared super paramagnetic Fe₃O₄ magnetic micro particles which is having particle size of 10 nm from acetic acid ferric salt solution at Atmosphere of 0.15M Pa in the high-intensity ultrasonic wave environment. In the presence of hydrophobic Fe₃O₄ nanoparticles and tetracycline Gedanken etal. [55] prepared Fe-Fe 3C magnetic micro particles with stability in air and controllable particle size by this method . Most recently, Wu et al. [54] prepared magnetic targeted antibiotic microspheres (MTAMs) with ultrafine size, high biocompatibility, biodegradability, controlled-release, and antibiotic effect by a sonochemical method.

Applications of magnetic micro/nanoparticles

Diagnostic Application

Diagnosis of cancer cells

Cancer is a difficult disease to treat and identify. There are many ways to treat cancer such as surgery, chemotherapy, radiation and many others. These methods are effective if the cancer tumour is caught soon enough. However, these methods are not effective enough because they are not only target the affected cells, but also affect healthy cells. For detecting cancer cells 'Nanotechnology' has found many new ways and how far the disease has spread throughout the body. A couple of these new cancer detecting nanoparticles are gold nanoparticles and magnetic iron oxide nanoparticles encased in a biocompatible material. Magnetic iron oxide nanoparticles encased in a biocompatible material can make detecting cancer cells easier, even if the cancer cells are small and clearer so there is less mistakes in the detecting process. The particles stick to the tumour cells turning them into little magnets which are then attracted to the tip of a biopsy needles. [56] MRI's can be used to distinguish malignant lymph nodes (which can help in telling how far cancer has spread) instead of using biopsies.

Magnetic separation

This includes techniques and devices for using SPIONs for use in targeting and magnetic extraction of cellular compounds and their chemical, optical, and physical analysis including proteomics. To separate cell from blood samples, bone marrow, tissue grinds or culture media this is a very convenient way. Magnetic separation involves no interference of iron or charged solvents in the sample under the static magnetic field. Advantage of magnetic separation is less damage to the separated cells. One way of separation of targeted cells is by normal phase separation. From the mixed solution the cells are separated directly. Another way is by negative phase separation. The unrelated cells from the mixed solutions are separated using an external magnetic field resulting in purified and concentrated targeted cells. For cell separation, a suspension of magnetic nanoparticles with specific antibody is added directly to a biological fluid sample. After 10-20 minutes of incubation the solution is placed in a magnetic separator, where the desired magnetically labelled cells are retained on the magnet while the supernatant is removed. Magnetic separation of cells finds application in clinical diagnosis. These magnetic methods have reached high efficiency levels for cell separation, as compared with electric and centrifugal, and also standard methods based on fluid-fluid interface separation. Magnetic separation has been successfully tested for precise

separation of specific cells in blood.^[57] gram positive pathogens.^[58] and protein purification.^[59]

Magnetorelaxometry

For the evaluation of immunoassay Magnetorelaxometry was introduced.^[60] It measures the magnetic viscosity, i.e., the relaxation of the magnetic moment of a system of magnetic nanoparticles after removal of a magnetic field. There are two different relaxation mechanisms.

- 1. Neel relaxation
- 2. Brownian relaxation

Neel relaxation is called the internal magnetisation vector of a nanoparticle relaxes in the direction of the easy axis inside the core.

Brownian relaxation is the particles accomplish rotational diffusion in a carrier liquid. Neel and Brownian relaxation can be distinguished by their different relaxation times.^[61] Furthermore, Brownian relaxation can take place only in liquids, whereas Neel relaxation does not depend on the dispersion of the nanoparticles. Magnetorelaxometry depends on the core size, hydrodynamic size and anisot ropy allows this technique to distinguish between free and bound conjugates by their different magnetic behaviour, therefore can be used as an analytical tool for the evaluation of immunoassays.

Solid-phase extraction

Solid phase extraction (SPE) is a way to isolate and pre concentrate desired components from a sample matrix. SPE offers an excellent alternative to the conventional sample concentration methods, such as liquid –liquid extraction. The separation and pre concentration of the substance from large volumes of solution can highly time consuming when using standard column SPE, and is in this field where the use of magnetic or magnetisable adsorbents called magnetic solid phase extraction (MSPE) gains importance. In this procedure, the magnetic adsorbent is added to a solution or suspension containing the target. This is adsorbed onto the magnetic adsorbent and then the adsorbent with the adsorbed target is recovered from the suspension using an appropriate magnetic separator. for separation and selection the advantage of using magnetic nanoparticles instead magnetic microparticles is that we can prepare suspension that are stable against sedimentation in absence of applied magnetic field.

Atherosclerosis imaging

Macrophages such as monocytes are in highly active state of phagocytosis, promote atherosclerosis by secreting mediators and secretion of cytokines and chemokines. Atherosclerosis lesions show accumulation of macrophages. Research on the use of SPIONs for the detection of atherosclerosis plaques by MRI showed as a potential marker of inflammation for plaque imaging. In this study, MAC-1 expressing Chinese Hamster Ovary (CHO) cells, expressing MAC-1 either in native, low affinity state (wild type, WT) or a high affinity state (GFFKR-deleted cells, DEL) were used to simulate the type of activated macrophages found in atherosclerotic plaques. CHO-cells not expressing MAC-1 (CD11b/CD18) as a mediator for the super paramagnetic iron oxide nanoparticles to endocytose into monocytes/ macrophages and showed that MAC-1 is also a central mediator of inflammation. Dextran –coated particles, which are mostly used as a contrast agents, are commonly attached to cells but not taken up by them, while SPIONs coated with amino functionalized polyvinyl alcohols interact with different cells. [63] and therefore underline a receptor based uptake of SPIONs by cells.

Nanomagnetic molecular sensing

Highly sensitive detection and accurate analysis of biomarker molecules in human samples are essential for the early detection, treatment, and management of diseases. [64] Biosensors are widely used in medicine to monitor or detect biological molecules for applications ranging from diabetes to cancer. In a bioisomer, a ligand and a receptor bind together in a reaction that is collected as a signal to a transductor using different methods, including electrochemical, radioactive, optical, magnetic, piezoelectric, mechanical, spectrometric, and so forth. Like any sensor, a biosensor should be cheap, compact, selective, portable, reusable, and have a fast readout. The introduction of nano particles in the molecular diagnosis field has represented an advantage in many cases to well established detection techniques based on fluorophores, such as Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) and Enzyme - Linked Immuno Sorbent Assay (ELISA). Nanopaticles offer their physical properties to the biosensor. In some cases, nanoparticles are used simply as carriers of antibodies to recognize them by association in biosensors. The absence of magnetic material in biological samples allows a controlled application of magnetic paramagnetic particles are therefore powerful because they can be easily manipulated and reliably detected inside complex biological fluids.

Test of prothrombin time for leukemia

The time of prothrombine (TP), and the values the derive from it, the International Normalilized Ratio (INR) are used for determining the tendency of the blood to coagulate in the presence of possible biological disorders like hepatic failure or K vitamin deficiency. A sensor, based on a magnetoelastic material, can be used to determine the TP and the INR in patients under anticoagulation treatment, without the need for specialized staff or installations. The method is based on the variation in the magnetic permeability of a magneto elastic microwire induced by change on the blood viscosity when it coagulates. When the blood coagulates, the viscosity force applied to the immersed wire dissipates, as heat, a portion of the magnetic energy supplied by the magnetic field. Therefore the apparent magnetic permeability of the microwire decreases due to magnetoelastic coupling. The sensor consists of two identical microwires, with an iron base, that are placed into two capillaries with tenths of mm. inner diameter and around 5cm in length. These capillaries are surrounded by one coil each, which are fed by two power amplifiers driven by a signal generator. The capillaries are filled with a fluid of reference, respectively. The difference between both signals increases when the blood coagulation process begins and its absolute value tends to a maximum when the blood coagulation process begins and its absolute value tends to a maximum when the blood is fully clotted. The experimental setup compares this permeability with that of a reference wire immersed in an inalterable fluid. [65] The absolute value of the measured signal tends to a maximum when the blood coagulates. The time to raise this maximum enables the TP and the INR to be calculated.

Therapeutic Applications

Hyperthermic therapy

Magnetic induced therapy also called as Magnetic Fluid Hyperthermia (MEH) was first reported by Gilchrist in 1957. The heat induced cell death with magnetic nanoparticles (MNPs) generates numerous cellular changes, leading to morphological changes, cell detachment, and death. Cellular alterations include changes in the membrane, nuclear and cytoskeletal structures, cellular metabolism, macromolecular synthesis etc. Its use is based on the fact that tumour cells are more sensitive to temperature in the range of 42-45°C which yields necrosis, coagulation, or carbonisation than normal tissue cells. This temperature range has become critical for cancer treatment due to damaging the cancerous cells without altering the healthy cells by selective heating (up to 45°C) and controlling heating rate and time. This process not only enhances the effectiveness of other cancer treatments, but it also kills tumor

cells that are resistant to other forms of cancer. Increased tumor tissue perfusion facilitates the absorption of chemotherapeutic drugs through cell membrane without being more toxic. [66,67] As a result, the action of combination of hyperthermia with radiotherapy becomes more efficient. Consequently, hyperthermia allows reducing of tumours resistant to various chemotherapeutic drugs such as doxorubicin, cisplatin, bleomycin, nitrosoureas, and cyclophosphamide. It has been demonstrated that hyperthermia also has an anti-angiogenic action and immunotherapeutic role, due to thermal shock proteins, which are produced by stressed tumour cells. [68,69] Thus, the magnetic materials with cutie temperature ~45°C, having sufficient compatibility are the best candidates for effective cancer hyperthermia treatment to avoid overheating. Because of unique capability of turning on and off the magnetic properties depending on temperature, the tumours will be continuously heated at a self-controlled temperature equal to the curie temperature of the magnetic nanoparticles. This approach will allow to heat the tumour cell and vasculature selectively and to prevent overheating with subsequent damage to neighbouring healthy tissues. Tumour cells have shown a greater sensitivity to heat treatments compared to healthy cells.^[70] This has led to the use of thermo ablation and hyperthermic therapies in the clinic, often in combination with other treatments.

Magnetic hyperthermia

There are four different mechanisms by which magnetic materials can generate heat in an alternating field:^[71]

- a. Generation of eddy currents in magnetic particles with size >1 μ .
- b. Hysteresis losses in magnetic particles >1 μ and multidomain magnetic particles.
- c. Relaxation losses in 'superparamagnetic' single-domain magnetic particles.
- d. Frictional losses in viscous suspensions.

Hyperthermia is classified into two categories; thermo- ablation and mild hyperthermia. In thermo-ablation cell necrosis is occurred when temperature rise exceeds 46°C.^[72] Mild hyperthermia is where the temperature increases is between 41-46°C.^[73] this temperature rise is high enough to cause partial cell kill and to damage and sensitize cancer cells to chemotherapy and radiotherapy.^[74] Studies have shown to cause increase blood flow into radio-resistant, hypoxic, low pH areas, causing oxygenation of the tissues, in turn increasing the cells radio-sensitivity.^[75] Furthermore, thermal treatment can enhance the toxicity of chemotherapy. By exposing magnetic nanoparticles to an Altering Magnetic Field (AMF),

energy is created in the form of heat, this thermal energy dissipates into the surroundings tissues and if the temperature is high enough can destroy or weaken cancerous cells. Using MNPs to generate heat can specific tissue heating, as the application of the alternating magnetic field can be localised to the area of the body where the MNPs have collected. Through varying the frequency, current parameter of the AMF and the size and composition of the MNPs, the temperature generated from the MNPs can be controlled. MNPs are thought to generate heat through Neel relaxation and Brownian motion. In the case of Neel relaxation, the AMF causes the magnetic moments within the MNPs to rotate, generating internal friction. When the field is off the moments return to equilibrium, this is where energy is released in the form of heat. [76,77] Brownian motion requires the rotation of the MNPs as a whole therefore; the heat is generated through frictional movements in its surroundings. However, MNPs can become trapped within biological tissues, this in-turn blocks free rotation of the particles, preventing the generation of frictional heat. [78]

Magnetic Gene Therapy

Gene therapy is technique that uses genes to treat or prevent diseases. The most common form of gene therapy involves inserting a normal gene to replace an abnormal gene. Other approaches including swapping an abnormal gene for a normal one, repairing an abnormal gene or altering the degree to which a gene is turned on or off.

There are two types of gene therapy:

- 1. Somatic gene therapy and
- 2. Germ line gene therapy

In somatic gene therapy, the therapeutic genes are transferred into the somatic cells, or body of a patient. Any modifications will not be inherited by the off springs of patients or later generation.

In germ line gene therapy, germ cells are sperm or eggs modified by the introduction of functional genes. This are inherited and passed on to later generation. There are three primary gene delivery systems that employ viral vectors (retroviruses and adenovir uses), nucleic acid electroporation, and snucleic acid transfection. Gene delivery by viral vectors can be highly efficient (80-90%) but may insert viral vector nucleic acid sequences into the host genome, causing inappropriate expression of deleterious genes. Electroporation is also a highly efficient technique for introducing foreign genes into a host (50-70%); however, half of the recipient cells die due to the electrical stimulation. Transfection reagents do not

efficiently deliver nucleic acids into cells (20-30%); however, cell viability is largely preserved and the method is safe enough for clinical use. Therefore, this method holds relatively more promise for medical applications, provided that its efficiency can be improved. MNPs are already in use by basic researchers to increase transfection efficiencies of cultured cells.^[80]

$\textbf{Characterization Properties of Microspheres}^{[81\text{-}91]}$

- 1] Particle size analysis
- 2] Scanning electron microscopy (SEM) study
- 3] Flow properties
- 4] Thermal analysis
- 5] Determination of percentage yield
- 6] Drug content
- 7] Determination of drug loading
- 8] Incorporation efficiency of microspheres
- 9] Determination of solubility
- 10] Dissolution studies of microspheres

1] Particle size analysis

Microscopic method is used for detecting particle size of recrystallized sample, pure samples, spays dried microspheres A microscopically image analysis technique for determination of particle size was applied. The morphology and particle sizes were determined in a Digital microscope equipped with a 1/3"CCD camera imaging accessory. The microspheres were dispersed on a microscope slide. A microscopically field was scanned by video camera. The images of the scanned field are analyzed by the software.

2] Scanning electron microscopy (SEM) study

Using scanning election microscopy the morphology of microspheres was examined. A small amount of powder was spread on an aluminium stub, which was placed latter gold sputtering in san SEM chamber. Photographs are taken at an acceleration voltages of 20 KV electron beam. Obtained photograph to identify and confirm spherical nature and Surface topography of the crystals.

3] Flow properties

Flow properties of the microspheres were evaluated by determining the angle of repose and the compressibility index.

Angle of repose of microsphere

fixed funnel method is used for measuring angle of repose of microspheres and commercial crystals. Static angle of repose was measured according to the fixed funnel and free standing cone method of Banker and Anderson.

A funnel with the end of the stem cut perpendicular to the axis of symmetry is secured with its tip at a given height (1 cm), H, above graph paper placed on a flat horizontal surface. The microspheres were carefully poured through the funnel until the apex of the conical pile so formed just reached the tip of the funnel. Thus, the R being the radius of the base of the microspheres conical pile:

 $\tan \theta = H/R$

or

 $\theta = \tan - 1$ (H/R) Where

 θ = angle of repose

Compressibility index (I)

Carr's index was determined from powder volumes at the initial stage and after 1250 tapings to constant volume. Compressibility index (I) values of the microspheres are determined by measuring the initial volume (V0) and the final volume (V) after subjecting to 100 stapping in a graduated measuring cylinder using the equation.

$$I = [1 - (V/V0)] \times 100$$

A Pycnometer is used for measuring apparent particle densities of microsphere

4] Thermal analysis

During the crystallization process Differential scanning calorimeter (DSC) study was carried out to detect possible polymorphic transition. DSC measurements were performed on differential scanning calorimeter (DSC DuPont 9900) with a thermal analyzer. Differential scanning calorimeter (DSC) was performed on ketoprofen and ketoprofen loaded microspheres. DSC measurement were done on a Mettle Toledo DSC 822c C/ min over a

temperature range of 30 to 30000 C under an inert atmosphere flushed with nitrogen at a rate of 20 ml/min.

5] Determination of percentage yield

The percentage yield of microspheres was determined by the following formula,

The percentage yield of each formulation was determined according to the total recoverable final weight of microsphere and the total original weight of Indomethacin.

6] Drug content

Microspheres in a particular quantity were dissolving in a solvent and at specified λ max of drug the drugcontent of microspheres is estimated. 10 ml of water is added to microspheres (50 mg) and triturate. Allowed to stand for 10 min with occasional swirling and methanol was added to produce 100 ml. After suitable dilution, samples are measured at particular λ max value of drug. Plot a standard graph. And drug content was determined from standard plot.

7] Determination of drug loading

UV-Visible spectrophotometer is used to determine the drug loading. The microspheres were stirred with 100 ml particular solution as dissolution media (pH 7.40 phosphate buffer) for 2hr. The drug concentration will be determined at particular λ max value of drug after suitable dilution. The readings were taken in triplicate.

8] Incorporation efficiency of microspheres

Where,

M actual is the actual drug content in weighed quantity of powder of microspheres & M theoretical is the theoretical amount of drug in microspheres calculated from the quantity added in the fabrication process.

9] Determination of solubility

The solubility of particular drug microspheres in specific solution as microspheres or microcapsule to be soluble in that particular environment (water and pH 7.4 phosphate buffers) is determined by taking excess quantity of microspheres in 50 ml to screw-capped glass vials filled with water. The vials were shaken for two hours on mechanical shaker. The solution is filtered through Whatman filter paper No.1 and drug concentration is determined at particular λ max value of drug.

10]. Dissolution studies of microspheres

USP dissolution apparatus XXIV Type II is used for the dissolution of microspheres. 900 ml 7.4 Phosphate buffer is used as dissolution medium. The amount of dissolved drug was determined using UV spectrophotometric method at specified λ max of particular drug. The readings were taken in triplicate.

Summery and conclusion

This paper has provided an overview of the synthetic approaches and highlighted applications of micro/nanoparticles.

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