The Photodynamic Activity of Ag @ ZrO₂ Core – Shell Nanoparticles in Human Erythrocytes

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ABSTRACT

Core-shell type Ag @ZrO₂ nanoparticles were prepared by one pot simultaneous reduction of AgNO₃ and hydrolysis of Zr(IV) isopropoxide. They were characterized by absorption spectroscopy, XRD and HR-TEM techniques. XRD patterns show the presence of ZrO₂ and the noble metal (Ag). High resolution transmission electron microscopic measurements revealed that their size is below 40 nm. Ag@ZrO₂-NPs are showing photodynamic activity in human erythrocytes. The photohemolysis induced by Ag@ZrO₂ core-shell type nanoparticles reveal that the percent hemolysis increased with the increase in concentration and light dose. The study of effect of scavengers, GSH and NaN₃ showed the formation of considerable amount of superoxide anion and singlet oxygen that caused cell death. The detailed mechanism has been discussed. Ag@ZrO₂ nano-photosensitizer being non-toxic, serves as proper substitute for the classical photosensitizers (organic dyes).