



Hemocompatibility of nanocarriers designed to transport biopharmaceutical drugs



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Introduction

The optimization of nanoparticles (NP) for drug delivery, in particular to target the BBB, imposes to verify their hemocompatibility both for toxicological and efficiency of targeting perspectives. Indeed the large surface they are able to expose to the biological environment promotes their interaction with various biochemicals, in particular proteins which can after adsorption elicit the activation of biological cascades either responsible for NP clearance or/and harmful body reaction (inflammatory / coagulation).

In the frame of the European Integrated Project : "Nanobiopharmaceutics", we have the opportunity to compare the hemoreactivity of about 145 different NP samples differing in core and surface chemistry and classified according to their expected difference in hydrophobicity based on the nature of their core materials. According to this classification, PLGA nanoparticles, polyglycidol-polyethylene oxide nanoparticles, polyglycidol thylated or polyacrylamide nanogels, and polyelectrolyte complexes either based on polyamidoamine or poly(N,N-dimethylamino-2-ethylmethacrylate) have been evaluated within a concentration ranging from 0.3 to 1000 µg/mL. These in vitro tests have been realized for screening purpose adopting normal human bloods and according to [ISO 10993](#).

The main features of the elements involved in hemoreactivity

Hemoreactivity

Hemoreactivity : 2 families of factors

1. Soluble factors : humoral reaction

2. Cellular factors

Blood : complex medium
High concentration of reactive cells and proteins

1 µL Blood
Red blood cells: 4,000,000-5,500,000
Platelets: 250,000-400,000
White cells: 4,000-10,000
Fibrinogen: 70 µg

Importance of the total surface exposed by nanoparticles

10 mg of NP of a diameter of 100 nm
Equivalent to 0.6 m²

Protein adsorption : a spontaneous process, typically at the basis of cell adhesion and the activation of the biological cascades involved in blood reactivity

The main possible hemoreactions of the blood components

Erythrocytes

Platelets (aggregation - activation)

Coagulation

Complement activation

Factor XII - key element to initiate the activation of the 4 components of the inflammatory biological cascade.

Cell reactivity

Cell reactivity : blood cells

Particle type	Concentration (µg/mL)	Treated (10)	No. (10)	Slight	Moderate	Strong
Polystyrene (PS) NP	100 - 1000	12	12			
Polyethylene glycol (PEG) NP	50 - 500	8	8			
Polyglycidol-polyethylene oxide (PGPEO) NP	100 - 1000	3	3			
Polyglycidol-PLGA nanogels	1.25 - 800	30	18			
Polyacrylamide based NP	35 - 500	8	6			
PLGA	100 - 1000	1	1			
Chitosan-coated hyperbranched polyesters	40 - 400	6	6			
Self-assembled polyesters	8 - 80	1	1			
Polyamidoamine based NP	60 - 600	8	2	1	2	
Poly(2-dimethylaminoethyl methacrylate) based NP	0.3 - 30	64	7	12	60	
Total		139	84	0	0	18

Cell reactivity : platelets

Particle type	Concentration (µg/mL)	Treated (10)	No. (10)	Slight	Moderate	Strong
Polystyrene (PS) NP	100 - 1000	8	8			
Polyethylene glycol (PEG) NP	100 - 1000	3	3			
Polyglycidol-PLGA nanogels	1.25 - 800	30	23		2	
Polyacrylamide based NP	35 - 500	8	8			
PLGA	100 - 1000	1	1			
Chitosan-coated hyperbranched polyesters	40 - 400	6	6			
Self-assembled polyesters	8 - 80	1	1			
Polyamidoamine based NP	60 - 600	8	2	1	2	
Poly(2-dimethylaminoethyl methacrylate) based NP	0.3 - 30	64	7	12	60	
Total		139	84	0	13	4

Humoral reaction

Coagulation : intrinsic pathway (TCA)

Particle type	Concentration (µg/mL)	Treated (10)	Not Measured	No. (10)	Slight	Moderate	Strong
Polystyrene (PS) NP	100 - 1000	10					
Polyethylene glycol (PEG) NP	100 - 1000	3					
Polyglycidol-polyethylene oxide (PGPEO) NP	100 - 1000	3					
Polyglycidol-PLGA nanogels	1.25 - 800	30	24				
Polyacrylamide based NP	35 - 500	8	2	4	2		
PLGA	100 - 1000	1					
Chitosan-coated hyperbranched polyesters	40 - 400	6				1	
Self-assembled polyesters	8 - 80	1					
Polyamidoamine based NP	60 - 600	8	2	2			
Poly(2-dimethylaminoethyl methacrylate) based NP	0.3 - 30	64	48	13	4		
Total		139	52	14	10	4	

Coagulation : extrinsic pathway (Quick)

Particle type	Concentration (µg/mL)	Treated (10)	Not Measured	No. (10)	Slight	Moderate	Strong
Polystyrene (PS) NP	100 - 1000	10					
Polyethylene glycol (PEG) NP	100 - 1000	3					
Polyglycidol-polyethylene oxide (PGPEO) NP	100 - 1000	3					
Polyglycidol-PLGA nanogels	1.25 - 800	30	24				
Polyacrylamide based NP	35 - 500	8	2	6			
PLGA	100 - 1000	1					
Chitosan-coated hyperbranched polyesters	40 - 400	6					
Self-assembled polyesters	8 - 80	1					
Polyamidoamine based NP	60 - 600	8	2	4			
Poly(2-dimethylaminoethyl methacrylate) based NP	0.3 - 30	64	48	13	4		
Total		139	52	14	10	4	

Complement activation (C3a)

Concentration (µg/mL)	Concentration (µg/mL)	Treated	Not Measured	No.	Slight	Moderate	Strong
100 - 1000	10						
50 - 500	8						
100 - 1000	3						
1.25 - 800	30	2	13				
35 - 500	8						
100 - 1000	1						
40 - 400	6						
8 - 80	1						
60 - 600	8						
0.3 - 30	64	7	12	60			
Total		139	52	30	20	14	21

Conclusions

- Blood components : sensitive medium to the presence of NP's ; crucial parameter to take into consideration in the design of NP's for the future, in particular for BBB applications
- Some of the biological parameters (platelets, intrinsic pathway of coagulation and C3a) are typically more reactive
- Useful correlations between NP's properties and blood reactivity can already be extracted from these data (additional information should be implemented to better understand these differences in hemoreactivity). A KEY result of Nanobiopharmaceutics regarding Nanotoxicological aspects.

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