NANOPARTICLES OF METALS AND THEIR INORGANIC COMPOUNDS OBTAINED THROUGH INTERPHASE AND REDOX-TRANSMETALATION INTERACTION: APPLICATION IN MEDICINE AND PHARMACOLOGY

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Synthesis of nanoparticles of metals and their compounds with given morphology and dispersity for use in medicine, pharmacology, microbiology, as well as subsequent research of their properties, is one of the current problems in the field of preparative inorganic chemistry. Interphase synthesis and redox-transmetalation interaction are as promising as the traditional precipitation from aqueous solutions, but not as researched. This study presents the results of a physicochemical analysis of nanoparticles of metals and their compounds obtained through chemical precipitation from aqueous solutions, interphase and redox-transmetalation interactions. Data describing the influence of phase composition and dispersity of copper and copper oxide (II) nanoparticles on their antimicrobial properties, as well as the results of researching the possibility to use magnetite magnetic fluids for mesenchymal stem cells marking, illustrate the application options synthesized nanoparticles find in pharmacology and medicine.

Keywords: nanomedicine, pharmacology, nanometsals, oxides, sulfides, magnetic fluids, stem cells, antimicrobial agents

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The problem of synthesizing nanoparticles of metals and their inorganic compounds with defined morphology and dispersity, which largely determine properties and quality of the developed advanced materials, is interesting from the scientific point of view and important from the standpoint of practicality. Therefore, the search for the new and improvement of the already known methods for obtaining nanoparticles of metals and their compounds with required properties is a standing scientific and technological challenge.

To obtain nanoscale metals and their inorganic compounds, chemists often select the traditional and thoroughly researched precipitation technique. However, interphase synthesis...
and redox-transmetalation interaction are as promising as precipitation from aqueous solutions, but not as researched. We applied the latter techniques to obtain hydro- and organosols of some metals, oxides and salts.

Data describing the influence of phase composition and dispersity of copper and copper oxide (II) nanoparticles on their antimicrobial properties, as well as the results of researching the possibility to use magnetite magnetic fluids for mesenchymal stem cells labeling, illustrate the application options synthesized nanoparticles find in pharmacology and medicine. These data and results are given below.

**Interphase synthesis of nanoscale metals and their inorganic compounds**

Interphase synthesis allows obtaining nanoscale metals and their compounds through interaction of reagents dissolved in different phases of aqueous-organic media; as opposed to reactions in microemulsions, the phases are not allowed to mix. These reactions can take place in one of the phases or at the interface between them; the conditions in each phase differ from each other significantly, which allows obtaining inorganic substances with properties different from those received when such substances precipitate in homogeneous media, aqueous solutions in particular [1–8].

The table below and reports [2–8] present the physicochemical properties of the organo- and hydrosols of metals and their compounds we obtained in the context of our study.

Having analyzed the routine and the results of the interphase synthesis, we found that state (sediment, film, colloidal solution) and localization (organic or aqueous phase, their interface) of the reaction products depend on many factors (composition, concentration and ratio of reagents, reaction temperature, volumes of phases, interface area); therefore, it is currently impossible to formulate the patterns of interphase synthesis common to compounds of different classes.

At the same time, the data obtained highlight some features of interphase synthesis. Firstly, it eliminates the need for additional surfactants and stabilizing additives in the composition of colloidal solutions obtained. In the context of interphase synthesis, particles of the dispersed phase of colloidal solutions appear simultaneously with surfactants (oleic acid or sodium oleate) and stabilizing additives (quaternary ammonium compounds); from this viewpoint, the process of obtaining a colloidal solution through interphase interaction can be called self-organizing, with the surfactant’s concentration sufficient to synthesize a colloidal solution achieved during the synthesis process and not determined empirically, as is the case for ferromagnetic fluids synthesis.

Secondly, interphase synthesis allows obtaining inorganic substances under conditions that are significantly milder than those seen in chemical precipitation of the same substances from their aqueous solutions. As a result, a change in the composition of a two-phase system — replacing aqueous phase with alcohol phase, for example, and keeping all the other parameters unaltered, — allows synthesizing nanoparticles with different morphology and dispersity, a phenomenon we have demonstrated using zinc oxide as the subject substance [5].

In addition, introduction of a polymeric substance into one of the phases effects a virtually single-stage synthesis of nanocomposites containing nanoscale particles formed directly in the polymer matrix, which prevents their aggregation and, consequently, allows having the obtained nanoparticles highly dispersed.

Interphase synthesis also offers the opportunity to synthesize Fe₃O₄/Au and Fe₃O₄/CdS bifunctional magnetic nanoparticles that feature properties of both a magnetic core (Fe₃O₄) and optically active shells (Au, CdS) [6–8]. Thus, we managed to obtain the Fe₃O₄/Au “core-shell” nanocomposite systems through reduction of the chloroauric acid in a two-phase system with one phase being formed of a magnetite colloidal solution [8].

**Synthesis of bi- and trimetallic nanoparticles by redox-transmetalation**

We have also applied the redox-transmetalation process to obtain bi- and trimetallic nanoparticles (including those with “core-shell” structure); this method implies reduction of metal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Colloidal dispersity</th>
<th>Reaction products localization phase</th>
<th>Average particle size, nm</th>
<th>UV-vis adsorption maximum ( \lambda_{max} ), nm</th>
<th>Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Au</td>
<td>Organic, water or interface (determined by synthesis conditions)</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>514</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ag</td>
<td>Organic</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>440</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pd</td>
<td>Organic</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>440</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ag/Pd</td>
<td>Organic</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ag/Au</td>
<td>Organic, water or interface (determined by synthesis conditions)</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>470</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cu</td>
<td>Organic or water (determined by synthesis conditions)</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>575</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CuO</td>
<td>Organic</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZnO</td>
<td>Organic or water (determined by synthesis conditions)</td>
<td>Particle size and shape depend on the conditions of the synthesis</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CdS</td>
<td>Organic</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>311</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CuS</td>
<td>Organic</td>
<td>Particle size and shape depend on the conditions of the synthesis</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZnS</td>
<td>Organic</td>
<td>Particle size and shape depend on the conditions of the synthesis</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fe₃O₄/Au</td>
<td>Organic</td>
<td>12.8</td>
<td>590</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fe₃O₄/CdS</td>
<td>Organic</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>311</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Candida albicans, in vivo, spore-forming (Escherichia coli, Bacillus subtilis) OPINION | NANOMEDICINE
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2. Lesnikovich AI, Vorobyova SA, Sobal NS. Preparation of silver salts with metal nanoparticles that form the core [9]. Compared to the “core-shell” composite synthesis methods that involve linkers, redox-transmetalation is relatively simple to apply in the context of experiments and does not require the use of expensive reagents for surface functionalization.

Making use of the redox-transmetalation method, we have obtained and thoroughly researched bi- and trimetallic nanoparticles with metallic copper and magnetic Fe and FeCo nanoparticles as core (reducing agent). According to our findings contact reduction of gold and silver compounds with FeCo nanoparticles produces FeCoAu and FeCoAg magnetic nanoparticles with a “core-shell” structure [10]. The precious metal nanoparticles disperse on the surface of the initially oxidized magnetic nuclei prevent or reduce the degree of their oxidation; in addition, it makes the resulting nanocomposites more diverse in terms of directed functionalization, thus extending their applicability to cover biomedicine, among other fields.

Effect of dispersity and phase composition on antimicrobial properties of cupriferous antimicrobial agents

In the field of the new antimicrobial drugs, a promising trend is enriching them with low-toxic metal nanoparticles that cause no resistance response and offer pronounced bactericidal, antiviral, fungicidal and immunomodulatory potency.

As a rule, when using nanometals as a pharmaceutical substance, the designers seek to have the particles as disperse as possible and neglect the costs of development and technological adaptation of the superfine particles synthesis methods, which can be considerably greater than the effect form application of those particles. In this connection, we investigated the effect phase composition has on the antimicrobial potency, morphology and dispersity of magnetic FeCoAu nanoparticles obtained through chemical precipitation from aqueous solutions with polyethylene glycol [11].

The study revealed that copper nanoparticles can suppress a wide range of gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria, but their antimicrobial effect is less pronounced than that of magnetic nanoparticles containing chloramphenicol, chlorohexidine and the combination of choline salicylate and cetaconium chloride.

The sample preparation technique and the results of the study of antimicrobial potency and range of the nanoparticles obtained were described in detail earlier [12]. Gram-negative (Escherichia coli), gram-positive (Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Staphylococcus aureus), spore-forming (Bacillus subtilis) bacteria and microscopic fungi (Candida albicans) were used as test cultures. The control treatments were ointments containing chloramphenicol, chlorohexidine and the combination of choline salicylate and cetaconium chloride.

Using magnetic nanoparticles for MSC labeling

The options of application of magnetic nanoparticles for mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs) labeling is one of the projects part of the magnetite magnetic fluids research effort undertaken at the Research Institute for Physical Chemical Problems of the Belarusian State University, where such fluids were synthesized. Follows from the Belarusian State Medical University (Minsk, Belarus) participated in the project. For nanomedicine, the most promising magnetic nanoparticles are nanosized iron (II, III) oxides. They are simple to synthesize and their cytotoxicity level is low [13]. It is known that magnetic nanoparticles can be used for labeling both mesenchymal and neural stem cells with the aim to isolate them in cell suspension [14–16], as well as to concentrate [17] and to enable MRI visualization [18], which is especially valuable when stem cell are transplanted [19].

The synthesis of magnetic nanoparticles, MSC labeling and corresponding research results are detailed in the reports [20, 21]. MSC cultures isolated from the bone marrow of sexually mature white outbred rats were used for the purposes of MSC labeling. Magnetic iron (II, III) oxide nanoparticles were obtained through chemical precipitation from aqueous solutions followed by stabilization by surfactants.

The results of the study prove that the synthesized magnetic nanoparticles, after 24 hours of incubation and at 0.0069% wt., are lowly cytotoxic and can effectively mark MSCs. The findings suggest that magnetic nanoparticles localize in vesicles of the cells cytoplasm and remain there when reploquence; they do not hinder the cells’ ability to adhere, spread and proliferate. When the cells divide, magnetic nanoparticles get distributed between daughter cells. It was experimentally confirmed that stem cells labeled with magnetic nanoparticles can be detected in vivo by MRI.

It should also be noted that the obtained magnetic nanoparticles, stabilized by oleic acid and triethanolamine, have several advantages over the known materials based on nanoscale iron oxides, which require prolonged incubation with stem cells or additional transporters (e.g., protamine sulfate) and negatively affect the ability of stem cells to differentiate.

CONCLUSION

Despite the significant progress in the development and research of nanoscale metals, oxides and salts synthesis, their application as part of nanocomposite materials designed for various purposes requires joint effort of scientists from various research fields. With regard to nanomedicine and pharmacology, it is crucial to learn to define the morphology, dispersity and phase composition of the nanoparticles used in order to meet the requirements for the developed medical materials and to assess the risks of their practical use.

References


Литература