L1: Introduction to Nanomedicines

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Intended Learning Outcomes

- To be aware of the wide range nanomedicines and to understand the principles underlying their different behaviours in the body, which are developed in more detail:
- L2 as diagnostic contrast agents
- L3-4 at epithelial barriers (gut, skin & lung RoAs)
- L5-6 as reasons for success of biologics & nanoparticles
- L7-8 for overcoming membrane barriers & targeting
- L9-10 for overcoming drug-resistant infections

(Moscow: RNA targeting for different diseases)



Nano size scales & Nanomedicines

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Nanomedicines: targeted therapeutics



Why size is important – PK & biodistribution: particle sizes and delivery barriers



Fate of nanoparticles in the body: size, charge, hydrophobicity



Smaller scale nanomedicines



Larger scale nanomedicine



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Liposome for Drug Delivery



Lipid self-assembly structures

Critical packing parameter: P = V / (a.l) [V = tail volume, I = tail length, a = area at interface]



Increasing amphiphile concentration/temperature/hydration

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Ionizable cationic lipid liposome NPs (LNP)



Ionizable cationic lipids

- Less toxic ionizable lipids
 Cationic lipids interact with endosome anionic lipids
- Endosome acidification increases ionization & interaction
- Endosomal escape



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Amphiphile shape, assembly & curvature



Liposome: packing & stabilisation



Vesicle physical stability also increased by

- high phase transition temperature lipids
- polymer-supported lipids (lipid membrane-coated particles)
- lipid-like polymer vesicles (polymersomes)

Liposome stabilisation against disruption by serum proteins

Serum high density lipoproteins (HDL) bind lipids, particularly from less rigid or unstable liposomes, leading to their disintegration, releasing drugs too soon.

Lipid compositions increasing physical rigidity and stability:

high gel-liquid transition temperature (T_c) lipids



high cholesterol, high saturation, longer alkyl chains dipalmityl phosphatidylcholine (DPPC): gel <33°C – fluid >42°C sphingomyelin, ceramide perfluoroalkylated phospholipids (*eg* lung aerosol delivery)



Hydrophilic fraction (f) \rightarrow morphology, whereas MW \rightarrow thickness. Stability increases with membrane thickness to limit set by elasticity (γ). Water permeation through polymerosome membranes considerably reduced compared with phospholipid liposome membranes.



Natural vesicles made from cells

L2: Near patient diagnostics & imaging

Intended Learning Outcomes

- To be aware of how nanotechnology is advancing near patient or point of care (POC) diagnostics (Dx) and body imaging technologies
- To understand how different types of nanoparticles & related nanostructures on surfaces make very small signals bright enough to see

Scope

The science, technology & practice of diagnostics and imaging are considerable – much greater than pharmaceuticals.

In vitro diagnostics:

- Consumer Dx
- Point of care Dx
- Drug monitoring
- Biomarkers
- Bioimaging
- Laboratory analysers

In vivo diagnostics:

- Implanted sensors
- Worn sensors
- Portable imaging
- Whole body imaging

What does Nano do for diagnostics?

- Diagnostics (Dx) often face challenges much greater than 'finding a needle in a hay stack'
- Few analytes in the body are at sufficient levels to see directly, when lost in the large range of similar compounds or high levels of materials in the body

Nanoscience used to make capture and contrast agents, often using nanoparticle assemblies:

- Capture agents grab the analyte, so sufficient to see or recover from a sample to measure
- Contrast agents light up the analyte, so that remote measurements (*eg* imaging scanners) can see it

Dx NPs similar or more advanced than pharmaceutical NPs

IVD: consumer, point of care Dx – some examples

- Magnetic nanoparticles
- Miniaturized NMR
- Gold nanoparticles
- Semiconductor nanoparticles quantum dots
- Biosensors
- Surface plasmon resonance
- Nanosight
- Photoacoustic

Example: (para)magnetic particles



Magnetism







Weak repulsion with paired electron spins

Alignment & attraction with unpaired electron spins

Strong attraction with well-ordered unpaired electron spins

Miniaturised NMR using rare earth magnets with paramagnetic NPs





Semiconductor Nanaoparticles "quantum dots / QD"





Example: surface plasmon resonance (SPR) sensor and NP sensors



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Nanosight (making nano visible to a simple camera)





Diagnostic imaging & NPs

Imaging using nanoparticles as selective and highly-visible contrast agents:

- Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)
- Positron emission tomography (PET)
- Photoacoustic
- Raman
- Fluorescence
- Multi-modal imaging (combining above)
- Theranostic : $Dx \rightarrow Rx$ targeted therapy

MRI scanner



Water dominates the relatively-low B magnetic field of the NMR in MRI unless paramagnetic image contrast NPs used, which change the relaxation time (T)



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Photoacoustic scanning imaging







Surface enhanced Raman scattering (SERS)

Raman scattering signals are weak but increased by orders of magnitude for molecules in plasmon resonance field between nanoparticles or on roughened surfaces or at probe tips

NPs in multimodal laser scanning imaging





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NP imaging / therapy modalities

