

State of Art on Bioimaging by Nanoparticles in Hyperthermia and Thermometry: Visualization of Tissue Protein Targeting

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Abstract: Heating tumors by nanoparticles and resistance in tumor cells to a high temperature is emerging as an effective tool as nanomedicine tool in cancer therapy. The art of thermal mapping in a tumor at various locations is emerging as the selective approach of hyperthermia to monitor temperature and treat the tumor. However, thermometry and tumor cell interaction with nanoparticles may monitor and evaluate the tumor cell survival after exposure to high physiological temperatures but show cytotoxicity. The design and application of 10-100 nano meter sized nanoparticles in tumor hyperthermia has emerged as an effective technology in hyperthermia imaging and treatment. The temperature and nanoparticle magnetic moment relationship is specific. Furthermore, there are two main issues that are unsolved as of yet. First issue is the relationship of tumor energy changes due to tumor magnetization by different nanoparticles. The second issue is the heat transfer behavior of the nanoparticle inside the tumor combined with hyperthermia and efficacy of combined modality on the tumor tissue temperature rise. In present study, we highlight that *in vivo* imaging such as MR thermometry, photoacoustic mapping of different tumor locations solve these issues to some extent. The art of combined use of hyperthermia by nanoparticles with hypoxia sensitive nitroimidazole radiosensitizers with chemotherapeutic drugs is highlighted to have a great impact on public health as alternative therapeutic oncology and monitoring therapy.

Keywords: Tumor, oncology, hypoxia, hyperthermia, nanoparticles, thermal therapy.

INTRODUCTION

Heating of organs and the destruction of cancer by thermal therapy and chemotherapy is an present art of radiation therapy [1]. Several technical reviews reference the tissue heating by nanoparticle based hyperthermia to tumors [2-10]. These studies paved the way to a rapid development in therapeutic applicator design and sophistication of hyperthermia equipment [11-13]. The tumor cells behave both as radiation resistant as well as hypoxic and oxygen deficient. It makes tumor cells sensitive to radio-sensitization and nanoparticle therapy as tumor cells show toxicity to nanoparticles [14, 15]. In this direction, recently, the role of gadolinium, iron oxide, zinc inorganic elements has emerged where these nanoparticles can target proteins of tissues including heart, kidneys, skin, brain [16-28]. A new terminology was proposed as “paramagnetic nanoparticle targeted hyperthermia and thermometry”. These nanoparticles enhance the diagnosis and localization of specific tissue characteristics by multimodal imaging techniques including optical, magnetic resonance, positron emission tomography, computed tomography and X-ray techniques [29-38]. However, tumor heating by placing multifunctional nanoparticles at tumor sites (hyperthermia) is emerging as an art of tumor treatment by “multimodal nanothermal therapy” [39-41]. In general, two

main considerations have emerged: 1. longer stay time of the nanoparticles closer to tissue cell proteins such as basement membrane proteins, is the main key of an effective agent as a hyperthermia agent; 2. to use the nanoparticles to monitor temperature sensitive physical and proteomic metabolomic changes in tissue at different locations. In this direction, colloidal gold-thiol preparations were first reported as effective staining agents to label proteins in both diagnostics such as imaging, blotting, flow cytometry, hybridization assays and gold-thiol hyperthermia agents [42-45]. Other potential hyperthermic particles are silver, iron, zinc and lanthanum nanoparticles [46]. Presently, colloidal gold particles are used in monitoring metabolic changes as bound with antibodies, lipids during cellular uptake and endocytosis [47, 48]. Carbon nanotubes were reported in thermal ablation of malignant tissue with DNA encaged carbon nanotubes [49].

Techniques of Tumor Targeting and Therapy

Recently, the focus is diverted to molecular targeting by introducing peptide or polynucleotide bound nanoparticles [44]. Another approach is direct injection of antibody bound nanoparticles at the tumor site with a high degree of specificity with minimum effect on healthy tissues [50, 51]. The *in vivo* therapeutic utility of nanoparticles is growing based on energy utilization from different sources of magnetic fields, microwaves, lasers and ultrasound to the tumor tissue [52-54]. These external energy sources have an additional advantage to display hyperthermia effects if applied at various strengths to the nanoparticle concentrations [55].

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To understand the energy deposition to tumor and hyperthermia effect can be explained as a multifactorial physical process.

Energy Deposition to the Tumor by Hyperthermia

Adjunctive therapy: The primary hyperthermia approach was limited due to two reasons: 1. Nanoparticle induced collateral damage, and 2. Limited tumor penetrance. These limitations are further complicated due to tumor type and location. Therapeutic hyperthermia is in practice by using laser-induced hyperthermia [56], microwave induced [57, 58], hysteretic magnetic heating [59, 60] and localized nanoparticle delivery [61, 62]. However, hyperthermia has limitations. Most of available hyperthermia therapy, both systemic and targeted, has been reported as adjunctive therapy to support radiotherapy or chemotherapy [63]. Several reasons of tissue damage are reported as to the limited success of hyperthermia [64-66]; a few have been mentioned in this review and shown in Table 1.

Use of an external microwave antenna induced energy deposition by diffusion in a broader effective field including healthy tissue and resulted in poor localized focused energy deposition [12]. The use of antenna and emitters in hyperthermia equipment may produce limited but undesirable necrosis. However, the energy transfer by magnetic materials either injected or implanted into the tissue results with deposition was insufficient to cause tumor necrosis. Recently a multifunctional approach has been suggested for the use of thermal energy deposition from magnetic nanoparticles along with dendritic cell therapy in melanoma with 60% regression of tumors [67]. Now, ample evidence exists to demonstrate the progressive apoptosis in cells exposed to elevated temperature in the range of 5-10 °C [68]. In this direction, major success of magnetic mediated hyperthermia (MMH) has addressed the diffusion coefficient, cell volume, and the buoyancy ratio to play significant roles on the characterization of the mass and heat transfer mechanisms within the cell targeting and desired heat distribution across the tumor areas [69].

Magnetic Hyperthermia

In principle, coupling of the external RF magnetic field to the magnetic particles result in energy transferred to the tissue by a local magnetic fields interaction with the tissue to induce tissue protons from lower energy to higher energy

states. However, the efficiency depends on balance between the rate of thermal energy deposition and the thermal dissipation in tissue. The nanoparticle induced shift to a higher energy in tissue causes change in moments and paramagnetic behavior imparting the magnetic hyperthermia effect due to Neel relaxation and hysteretic heating in the tissue [70]. The nanoparticle paramagnetic property is valuable in both diagnostic magnetic resonance effect and particle induced tissue killing by membrane and nuclear damage [71]. In a recent report, an external RF field was shown to cause global heating in a particle infused tissue by a resistive heating mechanism of energy transfer by 100 nm iron oxide particles in a tumor located in rabbit liver [72].

Let us consider how magnetic nanoparticle-induced energy transfer may cause oxygen starved tumor cells to undergo necrosis while minimizing same time collateral damage to healthy tissue due to thermal diffusion. Mainly three mechanisms are known for variable magnetic field induced hyperthermia in nanoparticle impregnated tumor tissue: 1. electromagnetic induced ohmic currents flowing in conducting media; 2. hysteretic effect by traversed magnetic hysteresis loop of magnetic materials; 3. viscosity induced resistance due to slow movement of nanoparticles in viscous medium [73]. However, other possibilities are dielectric heating, spin torsion effects, etc.

Physical Basis of Hyperthermia

From physics point of view, resistance, (R) containing magnetic nanoparticles with average magnetization (M) subjected to a specifically uniform dipolar magnetic field with strength, (B₀) rotating with frequency (ω). The rate of deposition for hyperthermia (dQ_{hyperthermia}/dt) may be written as:

$$\frac{dQ_{\text{hyperthermia}}}{dt} \sim R(wB_0)_2, \quad \text{Eq. 1}$$

where dQ_{hyperthermia} may be due to ohmic or hysteresis or viscosity effects.

In magnetic fields, the heating effect due to hysteresis may be generated by switching an external magnetic field back and forth or external magnetic field angular rotation of field. In contrast, the magnetic field may be varied by angular rotation to get maximum energy transfer by viscous mechanism at critical rotation frequency:

$$\omega_{\text{critical}} = MB_0/6\eta, \quad \text{Eq. 2}$$

Table 1. Emerging Thermal Mapping Applications in Hyperthermia Monitoring

Modality of thermal mapping and hyperthermia	Physical property	Energy deposited
Alternating Current	Dielectric	Heating
Laser/Microwave	Diffusion	Thermal
Ultrasound	Echo	Ultrasound
X-ray/CT	Attenuation	Photon
MRI	Phase/moment	Hysteresis
Optical/Molecular imaging	Fluorescence/Luminescence/Chemiluminescence	Molecular-interaction
Nanoparticle	Magnetic	Thermal

where η is the viscosity of the fluid in which nanoparticles are prepared. The maximum viscous energy transfer rate is given by:

$$\frac{dQ_{\text{viscous}}}{dt} (\text{max}) \sim 4/3 \pi a^3 B_0 M \omega_{\text{critical}}, \quad \text{Eq. 3}$$

The critical frequency, (ω_{critical}) represents the maximum rotational frequency attainable for given nanoparticles magnetization, external field and fluid viscosity. This occurs when drag on rotating particle is equal to the coupling force between the external magnetic field and the nanoparticle. The two major tissue heating effects including hysteretic and viscous effects of hyperthermia are highlighted.

The main difference between hysteretic and viscous heating rates is the nanoparticle induced magnetization and nanoparticle moment magnitude. If moment is more than the external drive field will result in viscous heating. In general, B_0 is $\sim 10^{-2}$ to 10^{-1} T while nanoparticles it can reach up to 1 T and favors M and B_0 attained quick or viscous heating > hysteretic heating for heat absorption in tissue. However, other minor factors are remnant magnetization (B_r) due to no external field and coercivity factor (H_c) due to locked magnetization vector. Superparamagnetic property is crucial due to its minimum H_c to cause hysteretic heating as a result of flipping or rotation of particle alignment.

The nonparamagnetic viscous energy deposition is property due to maximum H_c pinned to the lattice of the nanoparticle in a rotating external magnetic field and torque in the direction of rotation. The torque and friction between the nanoparticle and the viscous fluid will result with energy transfer from external magnetic field to the fluid mediated by the nanoparticle. Another issue of viscosity is also important related with nanoparticle interaction with tumor tissue. Several mechanisms of nanoparticle-tumor tissue interaction are reported such as cell receptor, bonding energy ~ 6 keV to make free the nanoparticle to rotate as given by,

$$E_{\text{rot}} = 8/3 \pi a^3 B_0 M, \quad \text{Eq. 4}$$

Where B_0 is external field and M is moment.

Ohmic heating and local viscous heating ‘simulation model’ was reported by simulated temperature rise in tissue induced by viscous energy upto $T_{\text{global}} = 3$ °C causing tumor temperature $T_{\text{tumor}} = 25$ °C. The tumor of 1 cm² size was injected with 10^6 spherical nanoparticles of 500 nm size with remnant magnetization of 0.9 T for molecular targeting. The tumor tissue with nanoparticles centered inside large volume as construct inside global rotating magnetic field. The applied rotation frequency and magnetic field applied displaced significant temperature distribution generated by viscous energy to cause necrosis [74]. In this magnetic hyperthermia process, focused and self controlled hyperthermia may also cause the spot overheating and local necrosis. However, the self control of overheating behavior depends on magnetic materials and their Curie temperature.

At our lab, we achieved AC magnetic field application with radiofrequency 100 kHz-1MHz in hyperthermia [75]. The hyperthermia application methods such as radiofrequency (RF, 10-100 MHz), microwave (>300 MHz), ultrasound applicators, or infra-red (superficial and whole body hyperthermia) are useful for non-invasive heating. However, these methods suffer from boundary effects in regions of

large perfusion such as brain tumors. Another factor is the specific absorption rate (SAR) that reduces the effective hyperthermia dose in the tumors of the liver, kidney, and the lung. Today, multimodal treatment schemes of radiation and/or chemotherapy are available with great potentials of therapeutic advantages in several clinical studies.

The rotating nanoparticles deposit enough energy in the tumor to raise temperature to a level to cause necrosis. This effect may prevent thermal diffusion and minimize damage to healthy tissue. However, nanoparticle concentrations in healthy tissue also cause intracellular heating. Nanoparticle targeting is reported *in vivo* as nanoparticle specificity of 10:1 could cause global heating 10% of localized heating of tumor. The global heating can be minimized in rotated external magnetic field at the tumor site. The present trend is to develop and design variable global/localized magnetic field patterns and rotating field distribution over the nanoparticle impregnated tissue. The possibility of this rotating field distribution seems to enhance and localize energy deposition in the desired tumor area [76]. However, this approach has some presumptions: 1. Spherical shape of nanoparticles in uniform viscous medium; 2. Particle motion in Rf drive conditions; 3. Generated heating rates; 4. Motion polarization, applied bias, magnetic fields, dipole coupling of particles, finite particle inertia, random external forces [77]. A radio-frequency coil set combined with a modest bias field is an ideally effective rf drive technique better than circular rotation [78].

Molecular Mechanisms of Magnetic Nanoparticle Heating

Magnetic nanoparticles (MNP) generate cellular changes mainly at membrane, nuclear, cytoskeletal structures to result apoptosis [68]. Cytokines, inflammatory molecules and protein synthesis play a role in heating mechanism based on four physical interactions: 1. generation of eddy currents in magnetic particles with size $>1\mu$, 2. hysteresis losses in magnetic particles $>1\mu$ and multidomain magnetic particles, 3. Brownian and Neel relaxation losses in ‘superparamagnetic’ single-domain magnetic particles, 4. frictional losses in viscous suspensions. The relaxation in interacting nanoparticle systems was described [79].

The relaxation losses can be written as effective relaxation:

$$\tau^{-1} = \tau_N^{-1} + \tau_B^{-1} \quad \text{Eq. 5}$$

Where τ_N is Neel relaxation and τ_B is Brownian relaxation time. These can be written as:

$$\tau_N = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2} \tau_0 \frac{\exp(T)}{\sqrt{\Gamma}} \quad \text{Eq. 6}$$

$$\tau_B = \frac{3\eta V_H}{kT}$$

Where τ_0 is average relaxation time in response to a thermal fluctuation, η is the viscosity of medium; V_H is the hydrodynamic volume of MNP; k is the Boltzmann constant, 1.38×10^{-23} J/K; T is the temperature. Here, $\Gamma = KVM/kT$ and VM is the volume of MNP.

Total dissipated energy of MNPs in alternating magnet can be written as:

$$P = \pi\mu_0\chi_0H_0^2f \frac{2\pi f\tau}{1+(2\pi f\tau)^2} \quad \text{Eq. 7}$$

where μ_0 is the permeability of free space, $4\pi \cdot 10^{-7}$ T m/A; χ_0 is the equilibrium susceptibility; H and f are the amplitude and the frequency of alternating magnetic field.

The net temperature rise can be written as

$$\Delta T = P\Delta t / \rho c_p \quad \text{Eq. 8}$$

Where ρ and C_p are the effective density and the effective specific heat calculated as $\rho = \phi\rho_1 + (1 - \phi)\rho_2$ and $C_p = \phi C_{p1} + (1 - \phi)C_{p2}$, where subscripts 1 and 2 represent the MNPs and the medium, respectively.

Tissue Temperature Mapping and Measurement Techniques

Initially proton MRI phase thermometry was reported *in vivo* [80]. The temperature distribution in the treated tissue is crucial to the therapy control, treatment outcome and minimizing damage to healthy tissue and organs [81]. The inserted temperature probe at the tissue site still remains as the method of choice; such as use of magnetic insensitive fiberoptic probe at a variable magnetic field [82]. Still these methods give information of only a single point measurement in the tissue without temperature distribution. Thermochromic fluorescent films and optical films are other available options [83]. Still challenge of thermal imaging remains at large for the range of milli kelvins within millisecond

temporal resolution [84]. Recently several magnetic resonance image characteristics have come into light such as pH, phase contrast, spin relaxivities, etc. for MRI thermometry up to 0.5 °C of varying temperature resolution [85]. A new temperature-sensitive contrast mechanism was proposed for Curie temperature transition-based imaging using 6-fold iron (II) complexes as paramagnetic contrast agents above Curie temperature as shown in Fig. (1) [86]. Using molecular diffusion, temperature mapping was used to monitor hyperthermia effect by magnetic resonance imaging. Due to compatible RF fields, thermometry and hyperthermia both may be an ideal multimodal application of MRI during tumor monitoring and treatment [52].

Application of Magnetic Nanoparticles for the Hyperthermia Application

The enhanced hyperthermia efficiency by nanomagnetic particles at Curie temperature 42-43°C was reported as selective heat source at the tumor site exposed to an alternating field [86]. Recently, Zn Ferrite nanoparticles have gained a lot of consideration mainly because of their ability to vary their properties at different proportions of the constituent metals in nanoparticle complex [87, 88]. Other issue was their non-biocompatibility. These particles are easily recognized by the phagocytic cells located in reticuloendothelial system (RES) as foreign products and are quickly removed from blood circulation [68, 89]. To solve this problem, these magnetic nanoparticles were encapsulated in a polymeric bound protein shell to ensure longer sustenance of the particles within the body such as polyethylene glycol (PEG), polyvinyl alcohol, PLA-PEG (poly lactic acid – polyethylene

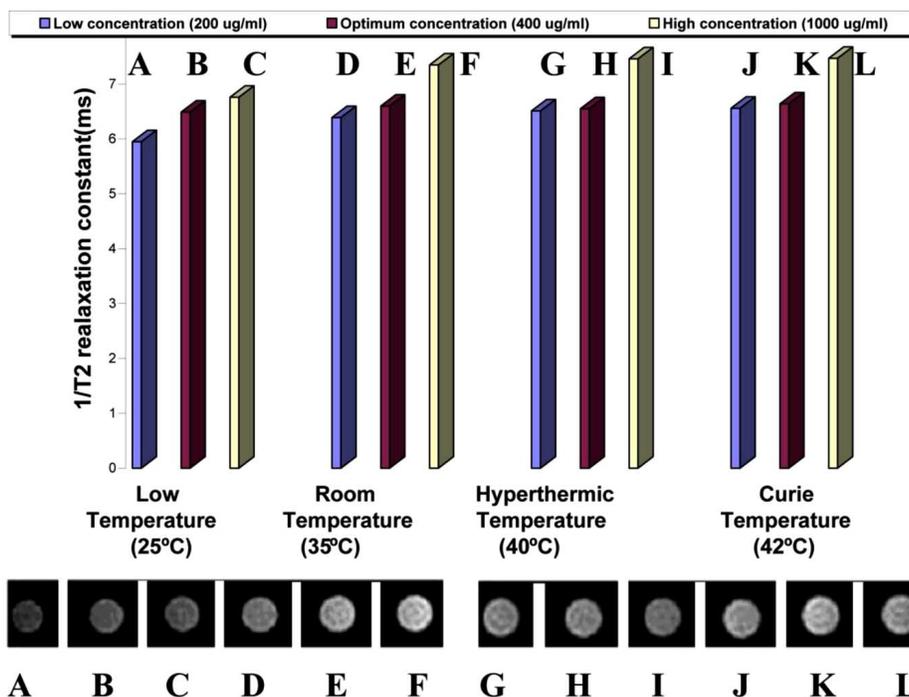


Fig. (1). On top: The relaxation constants $1/T_1$ at different temperatures are shown for different concentrations of nanoparticles in tubes as shown in Table 2. Notice the increased concentrations at Curie temperature show distinct MRI signal intensity. At bottom: The MRI images (a-c) at 25°C; (d-f) at 35°C; (g-i) at 40°C; (j-l) at 42°C of nanoparticle concentrations 200,400,1,000 microgm/mL are shown to establish the MRI signal intensities can visualize hyperthermia condition in tissue. Reproduced from Ref [9].

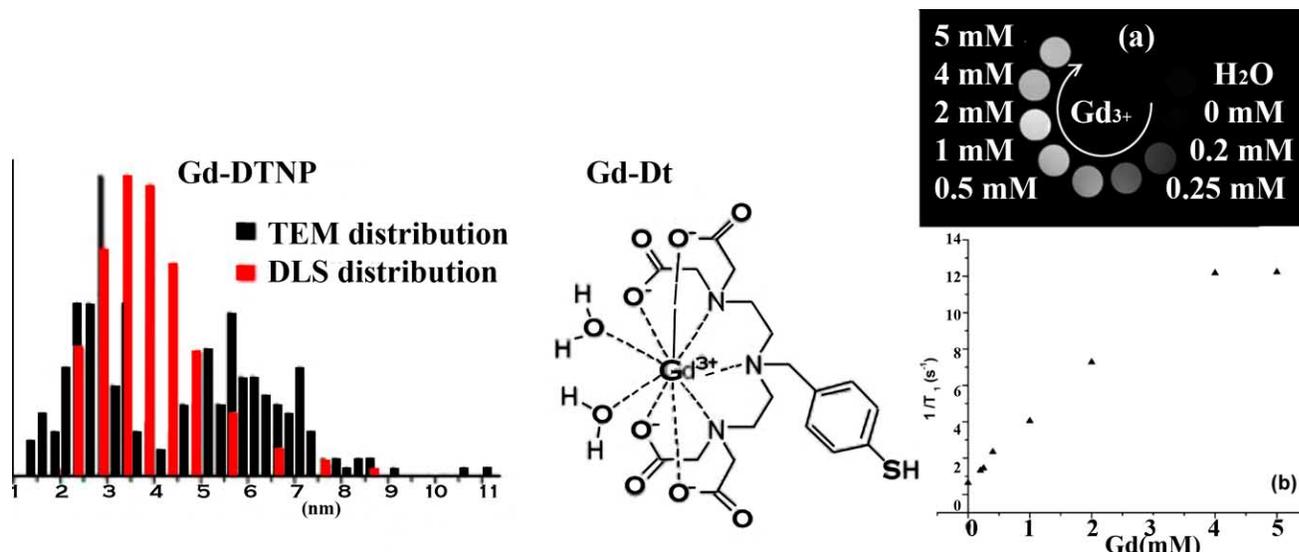


Fig. (2). (left) Diameter size distributions obtained from (black) TEM images and (red) DLS. (right) Chelating unit Dt complexed with gadolinium (Gd-Dt).

(a) T1-weighted magnetic resonance images of water as negative control (H₂O) and of aqueous colloids of Au-DTDTPA-Gdx with increasing amount of Gd (from 0 (x) 0) to 5.00 mM (x ≈ 50 per particle), [Au] 50.7 mM. (b) Water proton longitudinal relaxation rate (1/T₁) of Au-DTDTPA-Gdx as a function of increasing gadolinium concentration Reproduced with permission from reference [134].

glycol) and PLAPEG-PLA, PLGA (poly lactic glycolide) as a coating polymeric material [90].

Temperature Dependence of Magnetization

The temperature dependence of nanoparticle magnetization exhibited the superimposed plots for all the samples at Curie temperature calculated by extrapolation of the linear sections of the temperature dependence plots [91]. However, the higher Gd proportion showed bell shape with tempera-

ture variation in range of Curie temperature as shown in Fig. (2). The magnetic moments of nanoparticles served as a function of T₂ relaxation time as shown in Table 2.

In present paper, our emphasis is limited to Mn-Zn-Gd ferrite particles and their magnetic moments at different temperatures as shown in Fig. (2). The relationship of magnetic moments with temperature provides a tool of thermal mapping by MRI imaging. Moreover, MRI image intensity of these particles was dependent on their concentration as

Table 2. Specific T₂ Relaxivities of these Mn-Zn-Gd Ferrite Particle Samples at Different Concentrations at Different Temperatures in the Range of 25°, 35°, 40°, 42° and 45 °C Specifically Near to the Curie Temperature. The Temperature ΔT Changes the NMR Phase Shift Φ by Following Relationship for 500 MHz: $\Delta\phi = \alpha \cdot \gamma \cdot B_0 \cdot (360^\circ/\text{cycle}) \cdot TE \cdot DT$

Concentration (in μg/ml)	Temperature (°C)	FWHM (ppm)	T2 Relaxivity* (ms)
200	25	0.2640	1680
400		0.2830	1540
1000		0.3246	1480
200	35	0.2745	1565
400		0.2984	1515
1000		0.3626	1360
200	40	0.2840	1535
400		0.2930	1525
1000		0.3755	1340
200	42	0.2865	1524
400		0.3045	1505
1000		0.3760	1339

*The T₂ relaxivity was measured by the relationship between FWHM and T₂ by expression $FWHM = 3.14 X / T_2$ in units of rad sec⁻¹ where X is dilution factor to prepare different concentrations of nanoparticles in tubes.

shown in Fig. (3). The relationship of MRI signal intensity and nanoparticle concentration can be used as measurement of image contrast property as shown in Fig. (4).

Mn-Zn-ferrite particles and Gd substituted Mn-Zn- Ferrite particles were reported *via* chemical co-precipitation and ferritization [92]. These were characterized for hysteresis curves and temperature dependence of magnetization. On an average, their size was measured in the range of 20 – 200 nm by using TEM. The TEM clearly showed the inner parts of nanoparticle spheres containing metal contents. These particles were characterized for hysteresis curves and temperature dependence of magnetization.

The encapsulated magnetic nanoparticles showed effectiveness of nanoparticle thermal heating at elevated temperatures. However, nanoparticles as a polymer/protein complex showed selective breakage at elevated temperatures. As an example, the nanoparticle thermal heating is shown with distinct temperature responses at different duration of two types of particles (Mn-Gd-Ce) and (Fe-Co-Fe) at 1076 kHz and 595 kHz, respectively.

The Gd substituted Mn-Zn ferrites with various Zn and Gd proportions showed their effect on their magnetic properties and Curie temperature suitable for hyperthermia application. However, saturation magnetization of the particles was decreased with increased Gd proportion. The initial increase in the saturation magnetization can be speculated that the

Gd³⁺ ions have a large spin magnetic moment per atom (7 μ B) as compared to that of Fe³⁺ ion (5 μ B) [93-95].

Localizing Nanoparticle Concentrations and Hyperthermia Imaging

Nanoparticle based imaging is emerging as a multifunctional imaging technique to visualize tumor malignancies. Present time, optical fluorescence using Near-Infrared-Fluorochrome (NIRF) iron oxide-NIRF complexes have a unique place in multifunctional and multimodal probes [96-107]. Recently, fluorescent labeled complexes of iron-oxide has opened the window of MRI imaging with near IR-fluorescence and optical imaging as future clinical utility in intraoperative tumor discrimination from brain tissue [108, 109]. Gold, iodine and barium particles have been proven as potential X-ray absorbent CT contrast agents [110]. However, still their use as selective molecular or cell imaging CT contrast agents is a major challenge due to their nonspecificity [111]. There is a growing interest in development of gold particle as a site-specific, sensitive, tumor protein specific, easily concentrated or deposited locally in leaky tumor vasculature for optical coherence tomography (OCT), photoacoustic tomography and CT contrast imaging [112]. The pharmacokinetic and toxicity data suggested gold particles get cleared through hepatic pathway and remain harmless (LD₅₀ = 3.2 g Au per Kg body weight) as potential molecular imaging CT contrast agents [113]. Other applications are MRI and superconducting quantum

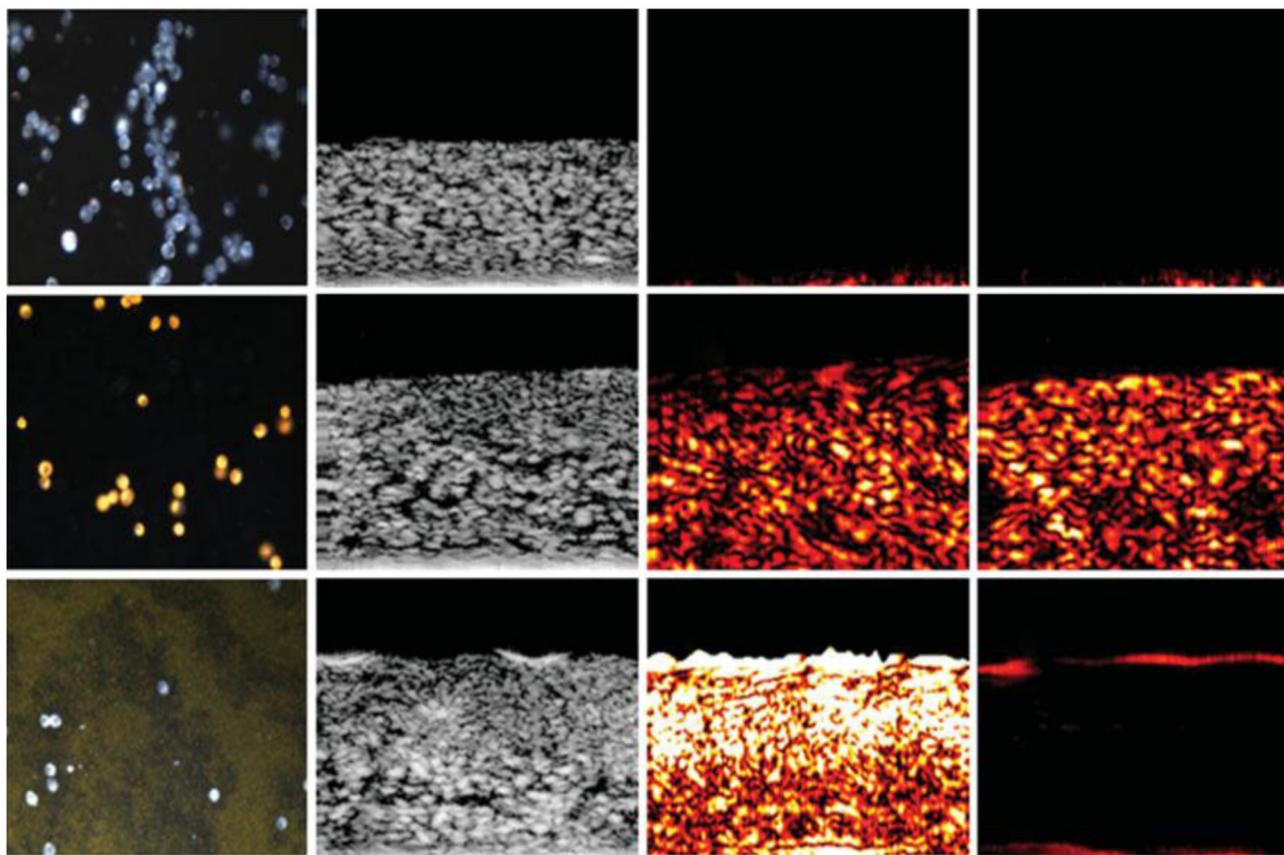


Fig. (3). Darkfield, ultrasound and photoacoustic images ($\lambda = 532$ nm and 680 nm) of control, targeted and non-targeted tissue phantoms by using DTTA thiol-functionalized gold NPs complexed with paramagnetic gadolinium or diamagnetic yttrium rare-earth ions. The darkfield images measure 440 μ m by 340 μ m field of view. The ultrasound and optoacoustic images measure 2 mm by 1.67 mm. Reproduced with permission from reference [135].

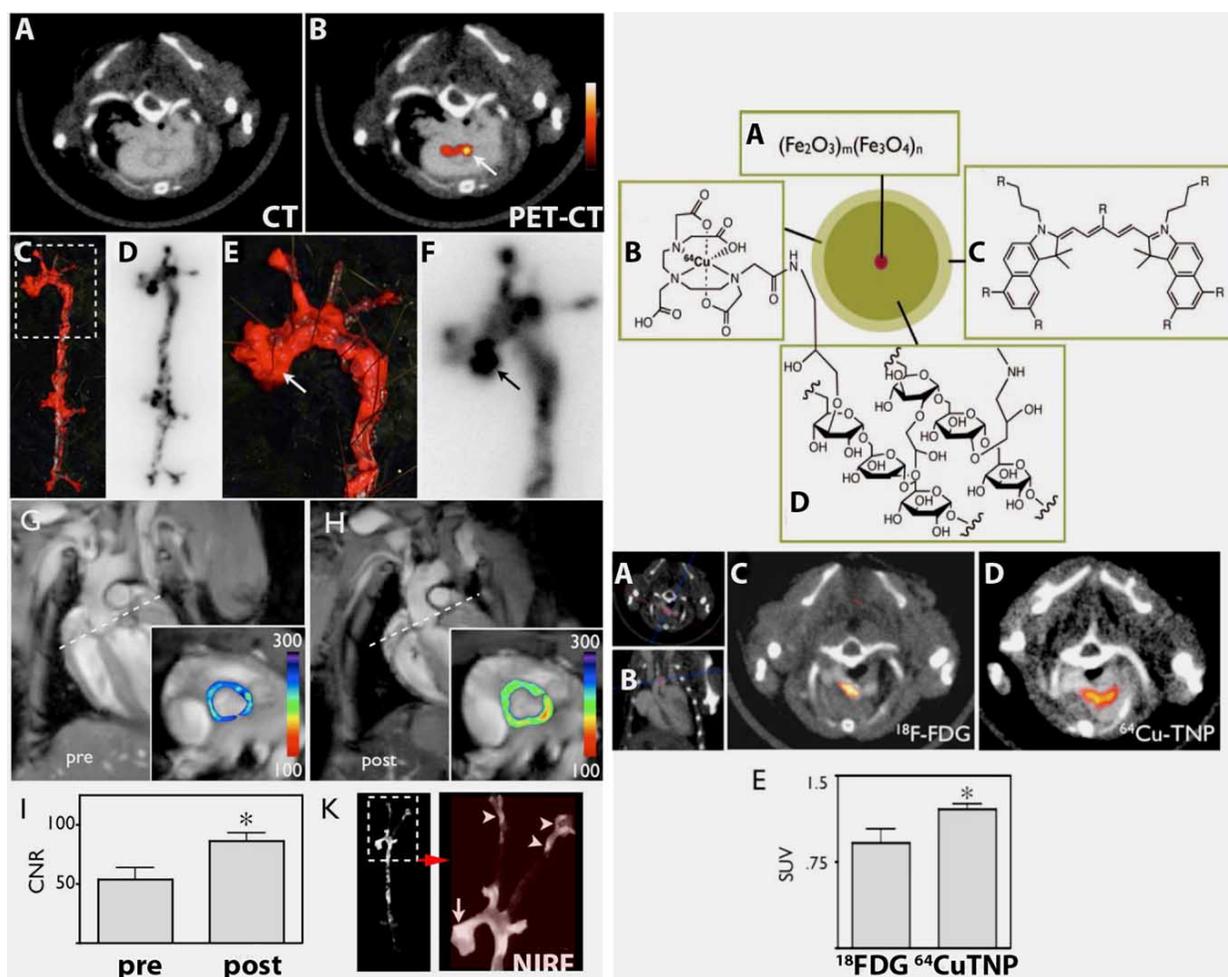


Fig. (4). ^{64}Cu -trimodal nanoparticles distribute to atherosclerotic lesions. **A** and **B**, PET-CT shows enhancement of the posterior aortic root (arrow). **C** through **F**, Enface Oil Red O staining of the excised aorta depicts plaque-loaded vessel segments, which colocalize with areas of high ^{64}Cu -TNP uptake on autoradiography. **E** and **F**, Zoomed image of the root and arch. Arrows depict a plaque-laden segment of the root with high activity, which corresponds to the *in vivo* signal seen in **B**. **G** through **I**, Preinjection and postinjection MRIs of the aortic root (inset). The dotted line in the long-axis views demonstrates slice orientation for short-axis root imaging. **I**, Signal intensity (pseudocolored with identical scaling for preinjection and postinjection image) decreased significantly after injection of ^{64}Cu -TNP, which was quantified by calculation of the contrast-to-noise ratio (CNR). **K**, Near-infrared fluorescence reflectance imaging (NIRF) of excised aortas shows accumulation of the probe in plaques residing in the root (arrow), thoracic aorta, and carotid bifurcation (arrowheads), further corroborating the PET signal observed in these vascular territories. * $P < 0.01$.

(Top on right) Cu-64 trimodal nanoparticle structure. Schematic view of the trimodality reporter Cu-64 TNP. **A**, Derivatization with the chelator DTPA allows attachment of radiotracer ^{64}Cu . **B**, Iron oxide core provides contrast in MRI (T2, T2*, or steady-state free-precession) sequences). **C**, Fluorochrome for fluorescence imaging, including fluorescence microscopy, flow cytometry, and fluorescence-mediated tomography. **D**, Crosslinked aminated polysaccharide coating provides biocompatibility, determines blood half-life, and provides linker for attachment of tracers and potentially affinity ligands. Reproduced with permission from reference [150].

MRI and superconducting quantum interference device (SQUID) to visualize the localized nanoparticles depending on their susceptibility and quantum interference characteristics [114-116].

Temperature Imaging by MRI in Hyperthermia

MRI is still the choice of both anatomical and quantitative thermometric information due to its advantage of non-invasive, non-radioactive and reliable temperature dependent MR phase behavior. The changes in local magnetic field (B_0) and Larmor frequency cause a phase difference $\Delta\phi$ and temperature difference (ΔT) in acquired MR phase image. The phase shift thermometry can be represented as:

$$\Delta\phi = \gamma \cdot \alpha \cdot B_0 \cdot \Delta T \cdot TE \quad \text{Eq. 9}$$

Where γ is gyromagnetic ratio, α the temperature coefficient, TE is echo time.

From a physics standpoint, the application of magnetic gradients $G(x, y, z)$ superimposed over B_0 following three space coordinates (x, y, z) displays 3 dimensional sets of coordinates (x, y, z) of protons after each proton's oscillation at a different frequency due to release of different B_1 induced magnetic field strengths at different locations. This distribution also causes a phase difference in induced B_1 magnetic fields that is displayed as temperature map. The overall MRI signal with temperature weighting can be given as:

$$S(t) = \int M_{(x, y, z)} e^{i\gamma(G_x + G_y + G_z)t} \cdot d_x \cdot d_y \cdot d_z \quad \text{Eq. 10}$$

Where $S(t)$ is MRI signal collected at an MRI antenna, $M_{(x, y, z)}$ is the magnetization intensity at a specific point including magnitude i and phase ϕ , at that point. The term $\gamma(G_x + G_y + G_z)t$ is phase ϕ .

The temperature change will be phase difference as:

$$T1 - T2 \approx \Delta\phi_{2-1} = k \cdot \Delta T (t_{e2} - t_{e1}) \quad \text{Eq. 11}$$

Where the ΔT is temperature difference and $(t_{e2} - t_{e1})$ is difference in first and second echoes.

Under well controlled conditions, the phase can represent the temperature variation. Using this application, phase maps at different tissue temperatures can generate phase difference MRI maps as temperature distribution map as shown in Equations 6 and 7. Antibodies, peptides and other target molecules bound with magnetic contrast agents interact the target and generate local magnetic perturbation with enhanced proton relaxation. The increased proton relaxation offers an excellent detectable Magnetic Resonance Imaging signal. So, nanoparticles act as an MRI contrast. Reports are now available on various types of molecular and nanoparticle iron-oxide in a broad range of MRI applications to enhance image contrast [117, 118]. The nanoparticle concentration, quantity, and form of the nanoparticle as molecular, oxide or naked particle in tissue play a role as target conjugated contrast in both *in vivo* and *in vitro* imaging [119]. In this, image subtraction approach is suitable to increase detection sensitivity as a result of a perturbed local field by nanoparticles in the optimized range 2 μg Fe/gm tissue [108]. Another approach of saturation magnetization of a contrast agent in the applied field is also crucial to enhance sensitivity threshold [120]. A concept is emerging of measuring neuronal currents by nanoparticle enhanced phase-shift MRI using variable magnetic field distribution at nano scale. Recent reports suggested the possibility of a nanoparticle enhanced detection limit of 1.7 nanoTesla to local field inhomogeneities in 8 mm^3 voxel, using gradient-recalled echo planar imaging (EPI) and a better detection limit of up to 200 picoTesla using single-shot spin-echo (SE) echo planar sequence [121]. Another group of researchers showed the detection threshold of 1.1×10^{-10} T in 2 mm x 3 mm x 3 mm (18 mm^3) voxel [122]. The sensitivity of the spin echo-echo planar (SE-EPI) technique was reported to generate a detection limit up to 36 picoGrams Fe_2O_3 magnetic nanoparticles deposited in 100 nm size within tissue voxel size 2 mm x 2 mm x 2 mm (8 mm^3) with a conservative sensitivity limit of 3×10^{-10} T [123]. Recently progress is reported using an ultra-low field MRI may provide greater sensitivity using ferromagnetic nanoparticles to generate sensitivity to changes of less than 50 pT in voxel [124]. However, it requires the consideration of imaging localized nanoparticle concentrations independent of tissue depth and limited to the proton spins within the tissue area with distributed nanoparticles. The MRI measures the dephasing effect of nanoparticle fields on spin population [125-127]. An additional limit is that a MRI cannot measure the nanoparticle induced fields as a distance.

New Approaches of Nanoparticles in Tumor Hyperthermia Killing

Magnetic nanoparticles have found utility in many biological applications, including imaging, cancer therapy, drug

delivery, sensing and hyperthermia for tumor therapy. In general, hyperthermia raises the tissue temperature between 41.5 - 46 degrees Celsius to kill cancerous cells while preserving the normal cells. Several nanoparticles such as gold, zinc, gadolinium, lanthanum, and calcium have emerged as potential hyperthermia agents. Recently, new composite materials such as Mn-Zn-Fe, Co-Gd-Zn and Zn-Gd-Fe nanoparticles with stable magnetic behavior have replaced magnetic oxides for use in hyperthermia at our lab. These composites generated sufficient heat at room temperature and stop heating at the Curie temperature T_c of the respective nanoparticle system.

Gold Nanoparticles

Gold nanoparticles (AuNP) killing the cancer cells was first reported [45]. However, after injecting gold particles in animals and irradiation them by 250 kV, X-rays caused tumor shrinkage and enhanced survival rate by four fold [128]. Gold nanoparticles are easily functionalized by thiol derivatives and open multimodal imaging perspectives. To design a potential MRI contrast agent, nanocrystals coated with Gd^{3+} chelates present the advantage of a generating a rigid core that minimizes internal degrees of freedom. Another interesting aspect is the high electron density of these heavy-metal objects, promising gold NPs as agents for X-ray heating and CT imaging shown in Fig. (2). Multimodal imaging techniques have emerged using MRI-CT hybrid imaging and gold nanoparticles have unique role to answer for this multimodal art. The technique depends on the fact that gold NPs show intrinsic magnetization of Au in thiol-capped gold NPs with a permanent magnetism at room temperature. The major challenge was localization of gold particles because of vascular leakage in the tumor but maximized particles entry in the tumor. Still, there are ample potential evidences in favor of gold enhanced x-ray hyperthermia in tumor treatment by killing [129]. Other reported application of gold particles in nanomedicine is its promise in radiotherapy of cancer [130]. The Au-198 ($\beta_{\text{max}} = 0.96$ MeV; $t/2 = 2.7$ days) and Au-199 ($\beta_{\text{max}} = 0.46$ MeV; $t/2 = 3.14$ days) make them suitable in radiotherapy. In addition, gold particles display gamma emissions for dosimetry and pharmacokinetic studies. Therapeutic agents derived from gold particles provide a higher radioactivity dose to tumor sites. Furthermore, tumor-specific nanotherapeutic agents as a nanoparticle while tagged with peptides selective to receptors and over-expressed by tumor concentration offer another advantage. Recently, gold nanoradioisotopes encapsulated within a nanocomposite device were reported as vehicles to transport radioactive particles to tumor sites [131]. In this approach, particle size and number play a significant role such as nanocomposites made of monodisperse hybrid radioactive gold nanoparticles immobilized by dendritic polyamidoamine matrix prepared by reaction of polymer and tetrachloroaurate HAuCl_4 solution. The salt formation between these solutions ensured the effective encapsulation of gold within the matrix using neutron irradiation in mice B 16 melanoma, prostate DU 145, human KB squamous cell carcinoma xenograft models. The property of polymer with β emitting Au-198 enriched nano-device proved useful in tumor therapy [132]. Moreover, the polymer enhances the stealthiness of magnetic nanoparticles by preventing macrophage recognition of particles as less toxic and resisting oxidation to make them

valuable in multifunctional hyperthermia and imaging modalities [133]. Another issue in tumor treatment is delivery of chemo-, gene-, radiotherapeutic agents within gold nanoparticles. It becomes effective as a tumor killing and targeted delivery tool. Authors reported the possible use of thiol derivative DTTA13 chelate (called Dt) as the protective agent for the Au NPs. Gold Dt-coated NPs (DtNP) are synthesized using different HAuCl₄/Dt ratios. DtNPs can be complexed with gadolinium(III) and yttrium(III) by mixing solutions of DtNPs with a slight excess of aqueous solutions of LnCl₃, (Ln)Gd, Y. AuDTDTPA-Gd can be applied as a radiosensitizer for radiotherapy using injection of gold nanoparticles (with a diameter of 1.9 nm with surface composition)

Au-DTDTPA-Gd nanoparticles are based on DTDTPA ligand 3COOH moieties as anchoring sites. Gold nanostructures induce the destruction of cancerous cells after activation with an external physical stimulus (electromagnetic radiation in X-ray and near-infrared spectral domains, the development of nanoparticles for targeted diagnosis and therapy can be envisaged with Au-DTDTPA-Gd nanoparticles. New developments are expected in gold particles in NIR-PAI, OCT, US imaging as illustrated in Fig. (3).

Zinc-Gd Composites

These multicomponent particles are made of Zn_xMn_(1-x)Fe₃O₄ and Mn_xZn_(1-x)Gd_xFe_(2-x)O₄ composites synthesized by physical and chemical co-precipitation methods. These particles displayed the increased tissue temperature and hyperthermia nature [134]. Additionally particles in the form of Ni_(1-x)Cr_x were also formed [135]. These particles may be encapsulated in thermo-sensitive polymer that dissolves when melted. The magnetic Mn-Zn ferrite and Gd substituted Mn-Zn ferrite particles synthesized by the chemical coprecipitation method exhibited a specific behavior applicable in hyperthermia.

Gadolinium Complex

Paramagnetic gadolinium offers the excellent detection limit using contrast injection of 15 gm/gm tissue in clinical MR imaging but causes renal toxicity and skin changes [136]. In our lab, gadolinium toxicity was tested on excised skin using 500 MHz MR microscopy. We proposed that two Gadolinium binding properties are responsible for imaging tissue contrast: 1. Gadolinium binding with tissue proteins (protein conformation) such as collagen targeted or albumin targeted gadolinium contrast agents; 2. Gadolinium coordination ligand DOTA complexes [137]. These two factors enhance MR relaxivity rate linearly with gadolinium ion (M) as:

$$r_1 = \frac{\Delta(1/T_1)}{[M]} \quad \text{Eq. 12}$$

where $r_1 = 1/T_1$, and gadolinium concentration is [M]. The relaxivity also depends on physical factors related with protein conformation, gadolinium-water interactions in hyperthermia such as inner sphere relaxivity, rotational diffusion, electronic relaxation and water exchange [137, 138]. Nanosized Gd substituted Mn-Zn ferrite particles have been synthesized by a chemical coprecipitation method. These particles were mostly soft-magnetic Gd substituted Mn-Zn Ferrite nanoparticles using chemical co-precipitation [139].

Investigators observed an increase in the pyromagnetic coefficient (HTM)/($\partial\partial$) of the resultant particles. The increase in the pyromagnetic coefficient is desirable because it results in a steeper slope of the magnetization v/s temperature plot which in turn ensures that the magnetization decreases rapidly as the temperature approaches the Curie temperature.

Lanthanum Complex

The Silica-Coated Lanthanum-Strontium Manganite Particles were prepared suited for hyperthermia. The core-comprising LaSr-manganites with different stoichiometries, ranging from La_{0.5}Sr_{0.5}MnO_{3+ δ} to LaMnO_{3+ δ} , were synthesized as silica-coated magnetic particles with designable Curie temperature, offering a wide range of possibilities of adapting the material to practical instrumental setups in drug delivery and hyperthermia treatments [140]. The relationship was based on temperature dependence of the proton chemical shift of water ≤ 0.01 ppm/°C at ≤ 0.7 Hz at 1.5T for 1 °C temperature change using lanthanide complexes [141].

Calcium Complexes

Malignant Hyperthermia (MH) is a hypermetabolic syndrome that results from the altered control of sarcoplasmic reticulum (SR) Ca²⁺ release. Recent study established the imaging of cytosolic [Ca²⁺] ([Ca²⁺]_c) in single cells grown from human skeletal muscle biopsies and in H9c2 myotubes in response to a low dose of halothane on the cells derived from MH susceptible patients. The Ca²⁺ imaging in single cells is a promising candidate for the development of a new diagnostic and hyperthermia procedure of MH [142-145].

Copper Complexes

The sensitivity, diagnostic accuracy, absolute concentration measurement, specificity of molecular label to the tissue disease entity will remain an open issue to more investigations and explorations. Safety of using nanoparticles, optimal dose administration within safe limits with risk free hyperthermia mapping applications is still an open controversy. It will require extensive research to make these nanoparticles useful as hyperthermia modality.

Nanoparticles in Hyperthermia Monitoring by Protein Targeted Imaging: New Development

Use of nanoparticles has emerged for hyperthermia bioimaging by multimodal and multifunctional molecular complexes based on protein targeting. Several proteins such as albumin, ferritin, collagen, integrins, fibrins, heat shock proteins, enzymes and antibodies act as imaging targets. The targeted locations generate biophysical signal measured by different imaging modalities. We have focused on MR thermometry, photoacoustic mapping of different tumor locations. Recent improvements in optical imaging techniques now allow these microdomains to be visualized such as single channel calcium fluorescence transients (SCCaFTs), providing information about channel properties to monitor the activity and localization of microdomain calcium complexes [146]. Other emerging possibilities are MR thermal mapping by gadolinium-ferrite complexed with Zn or Co or perfluorocarbons, integrins, fibrins, and monoclonal antibody labeled nanoparticles [147, 148]. Recently remarkable progress was reported in real-time monitoring of thermal ther-

apy and ablation using multimodal imaging techniques [149].

⁶⁴Cu-polymer encaged iron oxide nanoparticle hybrid synthesis seems future of different nanoelement applications such as copper, gold, silver, iron, cadmium, manganese, zinc, iodine, fluorine, phosphorus etc. Paramagnetic rare earth elements such as lanthanum, gadolinium have potential in making nanocomposites encaged with polymer coats and further can be tagged with specific antibodies. Recently ⁶⁴Cu-TNP nanoparticle MION with dextran coating was crosslinked in first step with epichlorin hydrin, aminated and labeled with near infrared fluorochrome Vivotag-680 (VT680, VisEn Medical, Woburn, MA) in ratio of VT680 per nanoparticle (5 dye moieties/NP) for bioimaging applications [150].

In second step, nanocomplex gets mixed with excess di-anhydride DTPA (Sigma, St. Louis, MO) for 2 hours in 0.15M borate buffer, pH 9.4 at room temperature in phosphate buffer (pH 7.4) for the preparation of ⁶⁴Cu-DTPA-NP or ⁶⁴Cu-TNP, non-radioactive copper salts [150].

Using same strategy, we modified synthesis of nanoparticles further as following:

1. One hundred µg DTPA-NP labeling with ⁶⁴CuCl₂ (IsoTrace, Toronto, Canada) or 190 MBq ⁶⁴Cu, in ammonium acetate buffer (180 µL, 0.45 M, pH 5.5);
2. After 25 min of incubation at 96°C, content centrifugation and washing three times to get pure ⁶⁴Cu-TNP to re-dissolve in 400 µL PBS;
3. Routine analysis of aliquots by HPLC with a C₁₈ column, multi-wavelength detector and a flow-through gamma-detector. The specific activity of ⁶⁴Cu-TNP was 1 mCi per 0.1 mg Fe of NP (corresponding to approximately 300 µCi/mouse or 1.5 mg Fe/kg body-weight);
4. The average diameter measurement of the NP was 20 nm by laser light scattering.

Such ⁶⁴Cu-TNP hybrid approach can give opportunity to visualize the odd numbered nuclei (MRI), radiotags (PET,

SPECT), photons(CT), acoustic waves(US, PTI), bioluminescence or photophosphorescence (FTI, OCT, NIRF) as trimodal imaging of tumor.

The emergence of a newer class of nanoparticles as contrast agents have offered the localized tumor molecular imaging based monitoring of tumor hyperthermia and molecular mapping responsible for thermal heating of a tumor as represented in Table 3. However, multimodal and multifunctional approaches of hyperthermia monitoring and thermal mapping are still in their infancy to use them in routine [151]. The present growing interest of thermal mapping and hyperthermia monitoring is to achieve a rapid thermotherapy heating effect over focused tumor areas accurately by molecular imaging techniques.

Effective Hyperthermia and Radiosensitizers Combined with Hypoxia Chemotherapy

Radiosensitizers such as radiolabeled nitroimidazoles were reported with chemotherapy to kill tumor and monitor the effect of hyperthermia and hypoxia by MRI, PET, CT, SPECT [152-158]. Recently, technical advances in the field of multimodal multifunctional use of nanoparticles, now radiolabeled [¹⁸F] MISO, [¹⁸F] FETNIM, EB3, EF5 complexes were reported sensitive to hypoxia and measuring the response of hyperthermia [159, 160]. The art of nanoparticles in hyperthermia is growing technical development focused on thermal behavior and particle chemical characteristics such as magnetic polymersomes, nickel ferrite [161-167]. Real time adaptive control algorithms are reported as robust tools of hyperthermia treatment in cancer [168-176].

CONCLUSION

The hyperthermia with use of magnetoparticle nanotechnology is state of the art in multimodal hyperthermia imaging and treatment of tumors. New techniques are emerging for synthesis, targeting tumor and energy deposition characteristics of nanoparticles in tissue. The physical principles of hybrid thermal mapping of tumors by MRI, CT, optical methods and imaging the nanoparticle concentrations in tissue may provide better understanding of hyperthermia and tissue temperature distribution. Recently, emerging biomed-

Table 3. Potential Newer Nanoparticles Used in Thermal Mapping and Hyperthermia Monitoring. Different Nanoparticle Composites are Shown with their Use in Thermal Mapping Technique and Possible Use in Hyperthermia Monitoring. The Potential Nanoparticles in Hyperthermia Use are Shown with + Plus Sign for Routine Use +++, Research Use ++, Infancy State + or not Established – at Present

Nanoparticles	Thermal mapping	Hyperthermia
Zinc-Gadolinium-Ferrite	MRI, CT	+
Gold-Ferrite	MRI, CT	++
Gadolinium-Ferrite	MRI, CT	+++
Lanthanum-Ferrite	MRI	+
Calcium	Optical, Molecular	+
Gd-Mn-Zn-Ferrite	MRI, CT	+++
Mn-Gd-Ce	MRI	--
La-Sr-Mn	MRI	--
Nanoparticulate agents	MRI	--

cal applications of a newer class of composite nanoparticles in hyperthermia paved the way of multimodal imaging such as nanoparticle based MRI and CT. The behavior of Mn-Zn ferrite, gold, copper and Gd substituted Mn-Zn ferrite nanoparticles is highlighted as dependent on Gd^{3+} ion proportions in nanoparticles with an increase in the net moment at Curie temperature. The $Mn_{0.5}Zn_{0.5}$ ferrite, gold, copper nanomagnetic particles behavior of ferromagnetic to paramagnetic transition at a specific temperature range may be significant in various hyperthermia or hypoxia mapping applications. Newer applications of gold, zinc, lanthanum and calcium in both hyperthermia and temperature mapping are in their infancy or growing in the research stage. More effective methods of combined nanoparticles with radiosensitizers and chemotherapeutic drugs are emerging in oncotheradiagnosis.

DISCLOSURE

Major portion of this manuscript included in this article has been previously published in JOURNAL OF NANOPARTICLE RESEARCH Volume 11, Number 3, 671-689, DOI: 10.1007/s11051-008-9548-z. Here it is presented extended version of the work done on nanoparticles in hyperthermia mapping and cancer therapy applications.

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