

Gold Nanoparticles Conjugated with Folic Acid using Mercaptohexanol as the Linker

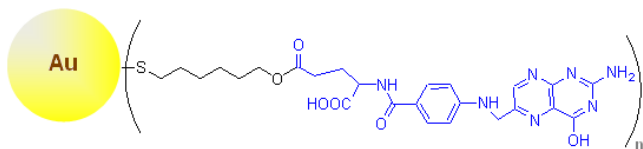
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Abstract

Nano-conjugation (also known as nano-coupling) is one of the important procedures to build nanotechnology platforms. We have designed a new nano-conjugate made of folic acid and gold nanoparticle (AuNP). This nano-conjugate has application for selective targeting of the folate receptor that is overexpressed on the surface of tumor cells. For this purpose, we conjugated 6-mercapto-1-hexanol, as a bifunctional linker, to folic acid through its (-OH) group with a (-O-CO-) linkage formation. Then, we made new (-SH) terminated product to react with H_{Au}Cl₄ in the presence of sodium borohydride and it was bound to the AuNP surface through its thiol group.



Finally, we evaluated the specific interaction between the folic acid and AuNP by the corresponding observed characteristic bands in the ultraviolet-visible (UV-vis) and Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR) spectra. Transmission electron microscopic (TEM) images reveal the spherical AuNPs formation induced by the bifunctional linker. For such a new synthesized nanoconjugate, metallic pseudo-cubic structure ($\alpha=\beta=\gamma=90^\circ$) with lattice constants of $a=1.348$ nm, $b=1.348$ nm, and $c=0.725$ nm and (110), (011), (221), (321), (060), and (004) crystal planes were confirmed through powder X-ray diffraction. We estimated the average size of the conjugated nanoparticles to be about 3 nm by TEM. The Elemental analysis and atomic absorption showed around 70 % organic molecules on the surface of AuNPs. The procedure presented in this report may be applied to a variety of conjugations of interest in nanoscience and nanotechnology.

Keywords: 6-mercapto-1-hexano, Cancer Cell Targeting, Conjugated Nanoparticle, Folate, Folate Receptor, Folic Acid, Gold Nanoparticle, Nano-Conjugation, Nanotechnology

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