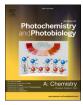
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The photodynamic antimicrobial chemotherapy of *Stapphylococcus aureus* using an asymmetrical zinc phthalocyanine conjugated to silver and iron oxide based nanoparticles

Sivuyisiwe Mapukata, Nnamdi Nwahara, Tebello Nyokong*

Institute for Nanotechnology Innovation, Department of Chemistry, Rhodes University, Makhanda, 6140, South Africa

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ABSTRACT

The synthesis and characterisation of asymmetrical zinc(H) 2(3)-mono-isophthalic acid-9(10),16(17),23 (24)-tri (*tert*-butylphenoxy) phthalocyanine (complex 4) are reported. The phthalocyanine is conjugated to cysteamine capped silver nanoparticles (Cys-Ag NPs), amine frontionalised iron oxide magnetic nanoparticles (NH₂-Fe₃O₄ NPs) and a core-shell composite of the two (Cys-Fe₃O₄@Ag) via amide bonds. The photo-physico-chemical properties of complex 4 and its respective nanoconjugates (4-Ag, 4-Fe₃O₄ NPs and 4-Fe₃O₄@Ag NPs) are also reported. The nanoconjugates showed improved triplet and singlet oxygen quantum yields compared to complex 4. The antibacterial activity of complex 4 and its nanoconjugates were also evaluated on *S. aureus* wherein their activity was found to be mainly visible ught driven with the best catalyst being 4-Fe₃O₄@Ag. The work therefore demonstrates the feasibility of puthalocyanine-nanoparticle based compounds as potential agents in real life antibacterial treatment.

1. Introduction

Photodynamic antimicrobial chemotherapy (PACT) is the method of photoinactivation of bacteria in the presence of a photosensitizer. In PACT a photosensitizer is activated by light of appropriate wavelength, and upon interaction with oxygen, the photosensitizer generates various reactive oxygen species (ROS) (including singler oxygen) which are lethal and damage bacteria [1–3]. Phthalocychines (Pcs) are amongst the photosensitisers that have been effectively applied in antimicrobial studies [4,5]. Pcs are synthetic tetrapyrrolic macrocycles containing four iminoisoindoline rings with a conjugated 18 π electron system [6]. They possess attractive properties such as excellent visible/near infrared absorption [7] and the ability to generate singlet oxygen; which is the active species in bacterial inactivation. Pcs are also used for other applications such as in nonlinear optics, dye-sensitized solar cells (DSSC) and as gas sensors amongst others [8–10].

A zinc Pc (complex 4) is synthesised in this work because diamagnetic metals such as zinc and indium have been reported to exhibit high triplet and singlet oxygen quantum yields, attributes which are attractive for photosensitised catalytic applications [11,12]. In addition, asymmetry in porphyrin type compounds has been reported to improve singlet oxygen generation [13]. The existence of different functional

groups in low symmetry Pcs allows for the coexistence of several features in a molecule, and therefore an improvement in the Pc's properties. Zinc(II) 2(3)-mono-isophthalic acid-9(10),16(17),23 (24)-tri (*tert*-butylphenoxy) phthalocyanine (complex 4) has *tert*-butylphenoxy substituents which were chosen for their bulkiness which will prevent aggregation, as well as carboxylic acid groups which aid in amide bond formation between the Pcs and nanoparticles (NPs). Various NPs including silica, gadolinium oxide and gold NPs have been conjugated to Pcs before [14–16]. In this work, complex 4 is conjugated to cysteamine capped silver NPs (Cys-Ag NPs), amine functionalised iron oxide magnetic NPs (NH₂-Fe₃O₄ MPs) as well as a composite of the two NPs; Cys-Fe₃O₄@Ag with the aim of creating and comparing a variety of antimicrobial agents.

Fe₃O₄ NPs and Ag NPs have been found to increase the singlet oxygen quantum yield of Pcs [17,18]. In addition, they have both been successfully applied for antimicrobial studies [19,20]. The composite NPs (Cys-Fe₃O₄@Ag NPs) was prepared because it has been reported that combining magnetic nanoparticles (MNPs) with Ag NPs results in enhanced magneto-optic response relative to MNPs alone [21]. Another attractive attribute about these bimetallic NPs is that improved triplet and singlet oxygen quantum yields have been reported when similar NPs were conjugated to Pcs [22,23] as well as improved PACT against *E. coli*

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^{*} Corresponding author. *E-mail address:* t.nyokong@ru.ac.za (T. Nyokong).