



A REVIEW ON NANOPARTICLES COMBINED ANTIBIOTICS IN SUPPRESSING BACTERIAL RESISTANCE

Rita N. N. Rammo

Biology Department, College of Science, University of Kirkuk, Kirkuk, Iraq.

Corresponding E-mail: rita.rammo@uokirkuk.edu.iq

Article history:	Abstract:
<p>Received: October 20th 2021 Accepted: November 20th 2021 Published: December 30th 2021</p>	<p>Recent World Health Organization reports put much emphasis on the issue of bacterial resistance to antibiotic therapy. Multi-drug resistance (MDR) has prompted researchers for alternative to monotherapeutic approach by introducing nanotechnology that involves their diverse sense – materials (metals / metal oxides), synthesis (organic / phyto-genic) and synergistic dynamical interaction. Toxicity in host cells emerged as a limitation to this approach. Green nanotechnology with the ease of employment is hoped to be less toxic but needs to be researched further with emphasis on <i>in-vivo</i> arena to gain acceptability. This review is intended to shed light on MDR organisms and elimination strategies and current approaches of nanotechnologies that can be utilized in the path to eradicate MDR especially the combinational therapy of synthetic or green NPs with antibiotics.</p>

Keywords: Antibiotic-resistance mechanisms, Combination therapy, Nanoparticles, Synergism, Green nanotechnology

INTRODUCTION

The problem of multi-drug resistant organisms has become an immense issue of concern to human health that recent reports of WHO are concerned with [1]. Scientific laboratories have dealt with this issue in versatile approaches. The main concern is tailored toward eradication of bacterial resistance by the assumption of basic principles in conjunction with current emerging technologies such as nanotechnology [2]. One major field of research is adapting plant natural antibacterial substances since medicinal plants are known for their ability in strengthening of immune system with prophylaxis potential in fighting infectious diseases [3]. A rational perspective needs to be realized for the design of metal and plant based antimicrobials. With the expectation of green nanotechnology and relevant combinational therapy adjuvant to antibiotics be explored as alternate modern procedure in the combat against MDR organisms [4].

Other gigantic field of research is applying nanoparticulate systems as therapeutic option for treating MDR bacteria [5,6]. Bulk of the work over the last two decades is dedicated in its major theme to *in-vitro* utilization of nanoparticles and their technology regarding synthesis, physicochemical properties etc. as feed input data and exploring issues such as toxicity, bio-film, stability, etc. as knowhow output reality [7,8]. Synergistic interaction between co-antibiotic regimes [9,10] and synergism efficacy of adjuvant nanoparticles with antibiotic regimes are both targeted toward lessening the danger in the confrontation to bacterial multidrug resistance [11, 12, 13]. Recent field of interest in MDR and biofilm is focused on the use of plasmid-carrying bacteria as evolutionary adaptation to antibiotic treatment [14].

The aim of this review was to look at the very recent outline of the conduct of nanoparticles when combined with antibiotic as vehicle to counteract bacterial resistance and to draw some characteristic features that shape the forthcoming research work in the mandate of living well.

MULTI-DRUG RESISTANT ORGANISMS

Mechanism:

Resistance of bacteria to antibiotic are basically divided into two types intrinsic and /or acquired resistances. The intrinsic type has to do with the morphology of a particular bacterium and depends on its biological properties for example *E. coli* bacteria shows intrinsic resistance to vancomycin [15]. The acquired type occur as a result of the acquisition by the bacteria to the resistance genes, mutant chromosomal DNA and combined mechanism of both. Bacterial biofilm formation also contribute to antimicrobial activity. These mechanisms are illustrated in Figure 1.

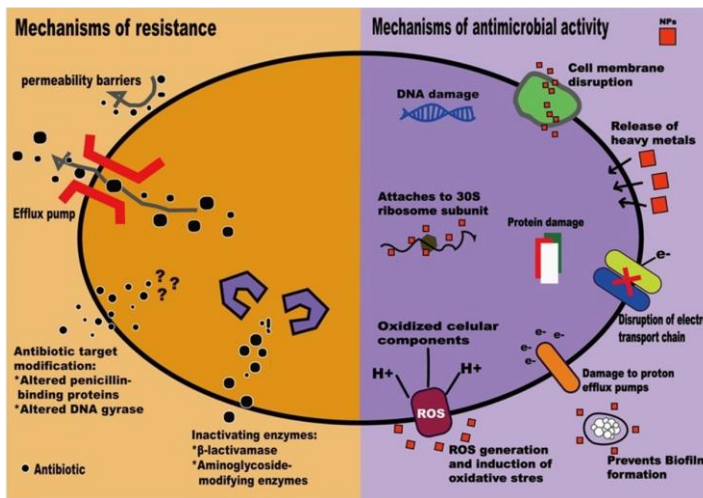


Figure 1. Multiple mechanisms of resistance(left) and antimicrobial activity(right) in bacteria.

Details of mechanism of resistance involve (a) activation of efflux pumps that remove antibiotics from bacteria and (b) inactivation enzymes which degrade the antibiotics. As to the mechanism of antimicrobial activity which include biofilms resulted from bacterial invasion are composed of complex polymeric matrixes synthesized by polysaccharides that are able to shield the embedded organism against antimicrobial agents[16]. Biofilm formation also contribute in delaying the penetration of antibiotics, genetic material exchange between biofilms and the alteration in the metabolism of bacterial cells [17].

Elimination strategies:

Many approaches are being involved in the quest for combating bacterial resistance and essentially along the following lines:

- I. Traditional antibiotic combination therapy.
- II. Nanoparticulate systems.
- III. Natural phyto (green) compounds NPs.

The activity of antibiotic combined therapy to counteract microbial resistance has been widely used for treating infections of high mortality rates. This strategy is used when mono therapy show limitations: in potency ; in toxicity ; and in weak penetration and in turn hinder efficacy [18]. Reasons for the combinational therapy include the increase of antibiotic activity by the utilization of synergistic effect, the prevention of emerging resistance, the facilitation of antibacterial activity against microorganisms forming biofilms, the penetrational efflux of antibacterial agents into cell membrane and the inhibition of toxin and enzyme production [19]. Details of the other strategies in the following sections.

Paradigm of adjuvant nanoparticles

Recent advances in nanotechnology particularly in the field of engineering nanoparticles with suitable physicochemical properties as models for drug enhanced delivery are considered as promising solution for targeting resistant organisms [20]. Mechanisms of increased drug delivering capacity of antibacterial agents by encapsulation in nanoparticulates are: alteration in the efflux pump activity of the bacteria (Fig.1 left side) ; nanoparticles anti-biofilm formation activity (Fig.1 right side) ; and increased penetration of NPs through biofilm structure [21].

The organic route of drug delivery system of NPs include liposome, polymeric micelle, polymeric nanoparticles and solid lipid nanoparticles. These exhibit the advantage of handling either hydrophobic or hydrophilic drugs, biodegradability and low toxicity ; but lack long shelf life, poor stability at unconditioned temperatures and less effective encapsulation [22].

The metal or metal oxide NPs route of drug delivery system include the release of metal ions ready to be absorbed by cell membrane ; each type of metal ion possess different sensitivity to microorganisms depending on their oxidation states. This dependency however dose not play a key role in bacterial inhibition which implies that other factors need to explored such as the pH of lipid vesicles that could be the reason in low antimicrobial activity [23]. Therefore the contribution of metal ion release may not possibly be the prevailing mechanism of bacterial inhibition and standardized testing conditions are needed for each type of nanoparticles for absolute evaluation. The WHO guidelines define adult daily acceptable concentration for each metal ion [24]. When the consumption of metal ions is more than therapeutic dose, it may lead to adverse effect on normal cells. Therefore evaluation of toxic effect of NPs are needed in regard of slowing metal ion release by the introduction of nanocomposites with inorganic / organic doping compounds for controlled release of metal ions thereby reducing toxicity [25]. Wang *et al.* (2017) [26] attributed toxicity of NPs to the production of creative oxygen species (ROS) (see Fig.1 right side) which inhibits bacterial growth through lipid peroxidation, restricted amino acid synthesis and DNA replication.

Synergism versus toxicity

Synthesized nanoparticles are known to induce bacterial inhibition by their resistance mechanisms such as influx and biofilm. The use of NPs as an adjuvant to antibiotics in synergistic mode of interaction is to minimize the high dose effect that can carry more threat to host cells rather than the original infection caused by the bacteria itself. In this respect the procedures of chemically and biologically synthesized nanoparticles and their dosage levels together with antibiotic contribute to the rise of

toxicological effects [27]. Thus mastering the function and mechanism of synthesized NPs with antibiotics bring about new strategies in the whelm of nano field technology in the endeavor to suppress resistance at lower dose and least toxicity. Many reviews and articles notably [28],

[29], [30] and [31] are presented on synthesized nanoparticles combined with antibiotics in the synergistic interaction against biofilm formation. Excerpts of such data are given in Table 1.

Table 1. Synergy of metal / metal oxide NPs and antibiotics against biofilm formation in different bacterial species

Nanoparticle	Antibiotic	Species		Referenes
		G+	G-	
ZnO	Ceftriaxone	Enterococcus faecalis	P. areuginosa	[26]
	Ceftazidime	S. aureus	E. coli	
	Gentamicine		Shigella	
Ag	Amikacin	S. aureus	P. areuginosa	[27]
	Kanamycin		E. coli	
	oxytetracycline			
	Streptomycin			
MgO , CaO	Rifampicin	S. aureus	P. areuginosa	[28]
	Neomycin			
CeO2	Ciprofloxacin	S. aureus	P. mirabilis	[29]
	Levofloxacin		E. coli	
	Rifampicin			

Green nanotechnology

Recent research work is directed on microbial and plant mixed nanoparticles in combination with antibiotics as least toxic carriers to host cells. Phyto-nanotechnologies are marked for their eco-friendly, non-toxic and single step synthetic process without the need to use toxic chemicals or sophisticated physical appliances. Basically, in plant assisted synthesis, the extract is mixed with metal solution for certain time at convenient temperature and specific pH. The features of the plant extract play the role of a stabilizing, capping, and reducing agent in the synthesis of metal nanoparticles owing to the presence of carbonyl and hydroxyl groups [3]. Parts of plant eg. root, stem, latex, leaves are used in the process as they contain components like phenols, flavinoids, proteins, vitamins which are supposed to act as a reducing agent. The ease of extraction of these biomolecules can further be benefited as capping and stabilized agent in preventing agglomeration. Moreover, the use of metabolites in the reduction process are supposed to bind to the surface of NPs thereby increase their activity [32]. The process of achieving stabilized nanoparticles from green synthesis depicted from [3] is given in Figure2.

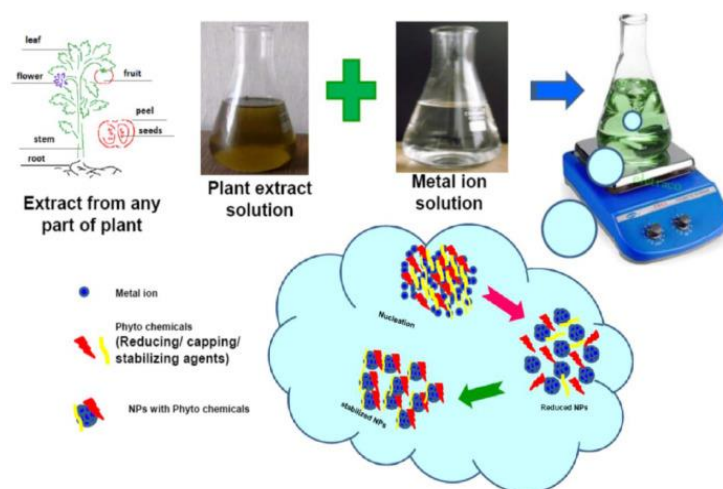


Figure 2. Green synthesis of metal and metal oxide NPs with markers of synthetic mechanism.

Bulk of research work and reviews are focused on the synthesis, inter- action mechanism and handling techniques of green synthesized metal and metal oxide nanoparticles [33, 34, 35, 36, 37].



CONCLUSION

It is legitimate to claim that antibiotics since their discovery saved humanity from serious infectious diseases but not for long as being hindered with resistance even with new classes of antibiotics became of common practice in treatment. Monotherapeutic approach thus become of limited value to confine MDR pathogens. Attention is being focused on the resistance of bacteria by the use of adjuvant therapy with antibiotics. The combinational antibiotic therapy due to their broad spectrum activity showed negative effect on natural micro-biome. Therefore researchers turned their efforts on nanotechnology to counteract MDR bacteria.

Nanoparticles with the novel physicochemical properties as bactericidal active compounds when used as adjuvant with antibiotics extended excellent *in-vitro* activity against MDR pathogens but hindered with toxicity issue to living cells. Green nanotechnological approach can be taken for further intensive investigations at the least of being toxic free and more biocompatible.

Recent *in-vivo* approach of confining MDR and biofilm issues may be dealt with adaptive antibiotic treatment facilitated by plasmid-carrying bacteria.

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