

Mesoporous Silica Nanoparticle: A Targeted Drug Delivery System

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ABSTRACT: Mesoporous silica-nanoparticles (MSNs) have gotten a lot of attention in the last decade because of their possible biomedical applications. MSNs as drug delivery systems (DDSs) have major advantages over conventional drug nanocarriers due to their optimised mesoporous structure and high surface area. Because of their unique characteristics, these ordered porous materials have gotten a lot of attention as drug carriers. They are cost efficient since they can be synthesised using a relatively easy method. Furthermore, the morphology, pore size and volume, and particle size can all be altered by regulating the parameters during the synthesis. MSNs as drug carriers for the treatment of different diseases have seen a dramatic rise in research in recent years, suggesting their possible benefits in drug delivery. Its widespread use for the loading of small molecules as well as macromolecules like proteins, siRNA, and other similar molecules has rendered it a versatile carrier. In recent years, researchers have made numerous changes to the structure of MSNs in order to investigate their potential in drug-resistant chemotherapy and antimicrobial therapy. We addressed the synthesis of these multitalented nanoparticles as well as the factors that influence the size and morphology of this wonder carrier in this study.

Keywords- Mesoporous silica nanoparticles, nanocarriers, nanomedicine, nano biomolecule,

I. INTRODUCTION:

modern nanotechnology has evolved as the principal component of science in the current century over the years, diagnosis of disease and its therapy is constantly leaping milestones due to the application of nanotechnology in the field of biomedicine the evaluation of nanomedicine and green technology for its production have been a great boon and shifted paradigms in therapy and tissue engineering. Owing to the advantages of nanocarriers such as a high surface area to volume ratio unique features of surface modification and engineering to obtain particles of various size, shapes and different chemical characteristics. Silica nanoparticles with mesoporous referred to as mesoporous silica nanoparticles have gained wide popularity over the recent year an exhaustive set of literatures are available and research is still underway in evaluating new avenues for:

- 1) Use of MSNs in drug delivery
- 2) MSNs in improving the solubility of drug
- 3) The ultimate goal is to enable more effective and patient friendly treatment regimen by reducing drug concentration and dosing frequency by offering easier administration an improving safety delivery system have been applied to prolong the circulation time and bioavailability of certain drug molecules but addressing the drug delivery vehicle to specific tissue or cell still lies in the formulation based on liposomes are already on the market but a variety of other delivery systems are emerging mesoporous silica nanoparticles. The

interaction between nanoparticles and various cell and tissue of the human body will ultimately determine the medical applicability of the technology

The soluble molecules or drug using nanoparticulate drug carriers adds another level of complexity as these nanoparticles may dissolve aggregate and interact with biomolecule cell and tissue according to their chemical compounds the first report using MSM-41 type mesoporous silica nanoparticles as drug delivery systems in 2001 the last ten year have witnessed an exponential increase in research on biomedical applications of MSNs. It has been one the hottest areas in nanobiotechnology and nanomedicine for designing biocompatible MSNs and multifunctional counterpart in disease diagnosis and therapy as nanocarriers, mesoporous silica nanoparticles with unique mesoporous structure have been explored as effective drug delivery systems for a variety of therapeutic agents to fight against various kinds of disease including 1) Diabetes 2) inflammation 3) cancer.

Origin of mesoporous silica material:

The synthesis of mesoscopic materials dates back to 1970's mobile research and development corporation was the first to synthesize mesoporous solid from aluminosilicate gels using liquid crystal template mechanism in the year 1992 they designated it as MCM-41 as per IUPAC, mesoporous materials are defined as the one having a pore size in the range of 2-50nm and ordered arrangement of pores giving an ordered structure to its (1) Several effort are underway to utilise this technology for cancer therapy.

Generally, MCM-41 is hexagonal with a pore diameter of 2.5 to 6 nm wherein cationic surfactants were used as template. MCM-41 is one of the most widely explored materials for drug delivery. MCM-48 has a cubic arrangement whereas MCM-50 has a lamella like arrangement (2) highly order mesoporous structure of SBA-15 has also been widely used for biomedical purpose this was first synthesized by University of California Santa Barbara and hence named Santa Barbara amorphous

type of material. This is different from MSM in that they possess larger pores of 4.5-30 nm and thicker silica wall (3) FSM-16 that is folded sheet of mesoporous material are another type of mesoporous material which are synthesized using quaternary ammonium surfactant as a template and layered polyciliate Kane mite Otsuka etc demonstrated the FMS-16 could be used for pharmaceutical application other than as an adsorbent and for catalysis (4).

Properties of mesoporous silica:

MSNs present well defined and tenable physiochemical property including particle size pore size pore volume surface area volume areapore structure and surface functionality. The porous structure of MSNs provide cavities that can host and release a great variety of biomolecule an therapeutic agent in fact the versatility of MSNs in size morphology and texture has fuelled their application as a controlled drug delivery nanocarriers (4) In this sense mesoporous silica nanoparticle can be produced with different particle diameter different porosity with magnetic nanoparticle imbedded into their skeleton or even growing the mesoporous network from different metal nanoparticles cores. the pore size of MSNs is a limiting factor of the molecule that could be introduced into the mesoporous in term of size the pore diameter can be turned from 2 to 30 nanometre depending on the susurrant employ as a templatesynthesis condition employed in this sense MSNs with large pore diameter up to 50 nanometre are employed for the absorption and delivery of the protein, enzyme, antibiotic and nucleic acid (5) different porous morphologies and texture for MSNs have been reported, such as MCM-41 like hexagonal, cubic, concentric, foam like radial, or worm like porosity. in fact it has been reported that controlling the morphology of the MSNs pores permits To selectively load different molecule of various size and similarly tune the cargo release together will the Metrix dissolution kinetics

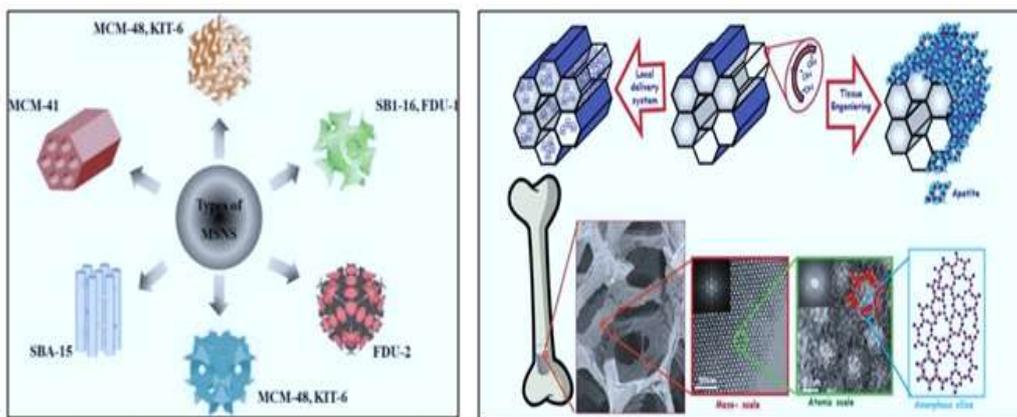


Fig.no.01: Structure of MSN's Fig.no.02: Delivery system in MSN's

A schematic representation of two main application of MSMs in biomedicine drug delivery an bone tissue engineering bottom MSMs are constituted of amorphous silica at atomic scale with an order meso structure that can be employed to many facture 3D scaffold with certain micro porosity useful for bone tissue engineering synthetic

path for synthesis of MSNs in which the surfactant molecules are initially dissolve in water to then add dropwise the silica precursor that would condensate around the surfactant template then after the sole gel process take place and the Silica nanoparticles are formed the surfactant remove lead to monodispersedspherical MSN(6).

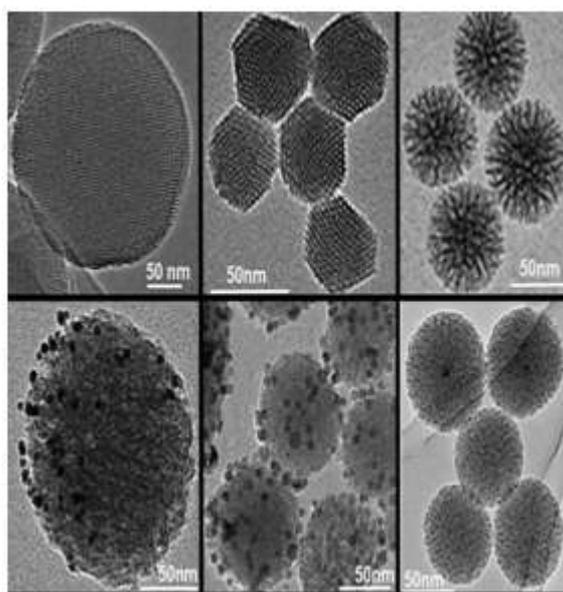
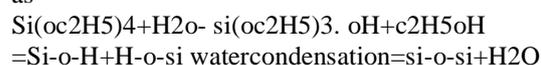


Fig.no.03: Diverse size of MSNs

Synthesis of MSNs:

Some of the Methods used to synthesise silica nanoparticle are reverse micro emulsion and flame synthesis and widely utilised sol gal method fordecay the sol gel process is widely applied to produce silica glassand ceramic material due to its ability to form pure and homogenous product at mild condition the process involves hydrolysis and condensation of metal alkoxides($Si(OH)_4$) such as

Tetra ethyl orthosilicate (TEOS), $Si(OH)_4$ or inorganic salt such as a sodium silicate in the presence of mineral acid (HCl) or base (NH_3) as a catalyst. The general reaction TEOS that lead to the formation of silica particle in the sol can be written as



Si. $\text{oc}2\text{H}5+\text{H}-\text{o}-\text{si}$ alcohol condensation $\text{si}-\text{o}-\text{si}=\text{c}2\text{H}5\text{oH}$ (7)

The hydrolysis of TEOS molecules forms silanol groups the condensation /polymerization

between the silanol groups. Or between silanol groups and ethoxy group creates siloxane bridges that form silica structure. The formation of silica particles can be divided into two stages nucleation and growth (8)

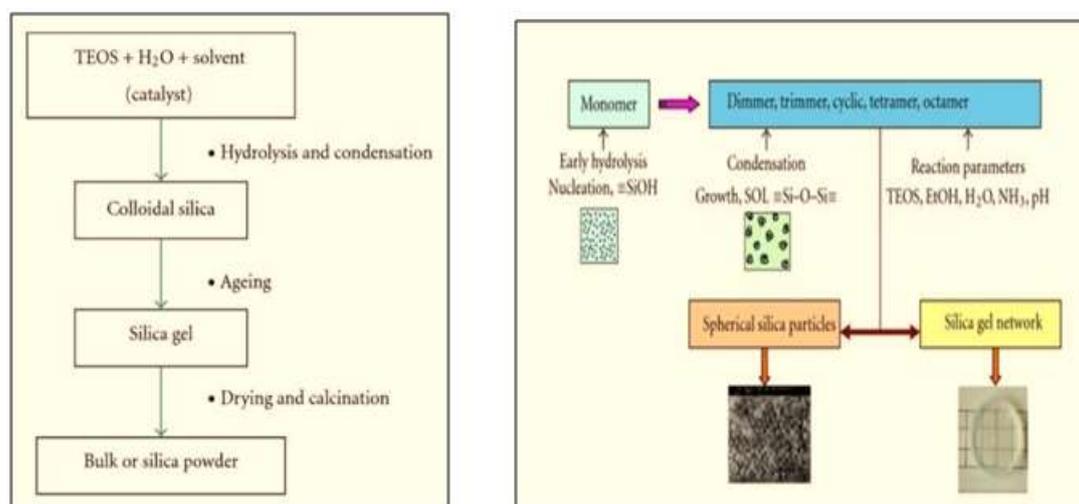


Fig.no.04: Synthesis of MSN's

Targeting therapy using MSN-based drug delivery systems:

Tremendous effects have been made using MSNs as a drug delivery system for cancer targeted therapy although it was reported that 50 and 250 nanometre silica nanoparticles have higher blood distribution and higher blood liver ratio than pegylated solid lipid nanoparticle and polycyanoacrylate nanoparticle. More results with the opposite outcome were reported when we designed pegylated silica nanoparticles with a diameter of 125 nanometres as carriers of docetaxel for liver cancer therapy with high loading capacity, passive targeting ability, and decrease of targeting distribution. The silica nanorods encapsulated docetaxel have significantly decreased liver toxicity and haematological toxicity. By bioconjugating MSNs with specific targeting ligands, active targeting to cancer cells or angiogenic endothelial cells has been realized, which has now been paid attention for MSN-based drug delivery systems and should be critically researched. First, it should select the active targeting ligands with high specificity but suitable affinity to their receptors for a given tumor type. Low affinity would result in suboptimal targeting efficiency, whereas extraordinarily ability because of the strong

tendency of ligands to be sequestered by the tumor cells near blood vessels. The grafting density of ligands on to nanoparticles should be carefully designed. Multivalent binding can increase the avidity between ligands and receptors for multiple interactions, but multivalent ligand presentation may increase the immunogenicity and recognition of nanoparticles by RES. (9)

After targeting to tumor tissue, MSNs can enter into cancer cells via energy-dependent cellular uptake. Particle size, surface properties, and surface bioconjugation with ligands specifically binding with cellular receptors after entering into cells. The nanoparticles would release the loaded chemotherapeutic drug or therapeutic macromolecules which have different mechanisms to kill cancer cells and need to be delivered into corresponding subcellular organelles. Although passive and active targeting have been designed, targeting efficiency is not as ideal as expected. No matter which targeting strategy to use, the particle size, shape, and surface property of MSNs have a profound impact on the ability of particles to overcome the *in vivo* biological barrier, reach tumor tissue, enter into tumor cells, and release loaded therapeutic agents for therapy. (10)

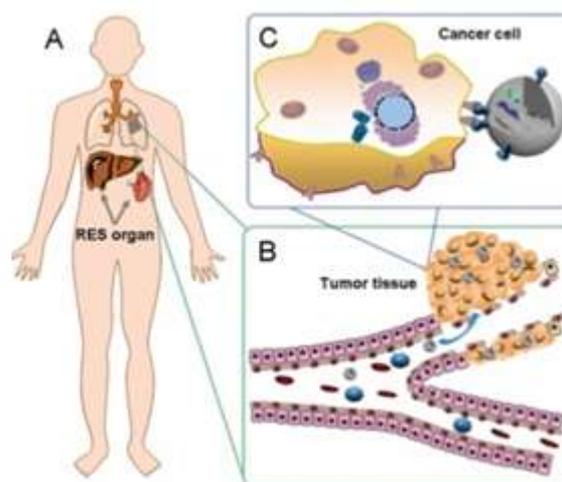


Fig.no.7: Targeting therapy using MSN's

Targeting anti-tumor therapy using MSNs

Based on the Globocan 2008 about 12.7 million cancer cases and 7.6 million cancer deaths are estimated to have occurred in 2008. Cancer has been the leading cause of death in economically developing countries. There exists an enormous challenge for preventing and curing cancer at present. Recent advances in nanotechnology have offered new opportunities for cancer prevention, detection and treatment. For nanobased cancer targeting therapy. One of the biggest challenges is to achieve sufficiently high local drug concentration in the tumor while sparing healthy tissue the final therapeutic index is determined by biodistribution, metabolism and clearance of nanoparticles drug delivery systems. (11)

- Systematically administered nanoparticles would encounter different compartmental barrier before reaching the desired location barrier are highly efficient for the removing foreign materials including nanoparticles from the body understanding of these biological barriers is necessary for designing nanoparticles with ability to by pass the barriers and reach cancer cell the nanoparticles would be adsorbed with opsonin protein in the blood, including complement protein laminin, fibronectin apolipoprotein thrombospondin subsequently, the absorbed protein can interact with specific plasma membrane receptor on phagocytic cell and the opsonized nanoparticles would be rapidly removed from the circulation by phagocytic cell especially kupffer cells in liver and splenic red pulp macrophage. This is the main

clearance pathway for nanoparticles larger than the renal threshold limit of about 10nm.

- After circulating to the desired location nanoparticles need extravasate from the vasculature into the interstitial space of solid tumor tissue the abnormal vascular structure of tumor endows substantial advantages for nanoparticulate drug delivery systems with size ranging from around 30 to 40 nm intensive tumor targeting.
- Particle size, hydrophobicity/hydrophilicity and surface chemistry of nanoparticle would greatly influence the vascular permeability of the transported nanoparticle the potential limitations of passive targeting promote the development of more advanced active targeting because of the high metabolic demands for rapid proliferation (12).
- **MSNs in bone tissue engineering:** Bone disorders are of significant concern due to increase in the median age of our population. It is in this context that tissue engineering has been emerging as a valid approach to the current therapies for bone regeneration/substitution. Tissue-engineered bone constructs have the potential to alleviate the demand arising from the shortage of suitable autograft and allograft materials for augmenting bone healing. Silica based mesostructured nanomaterial possessing pore sizes in the range 2–50 nm and surface reactive functionalities have elicited immense interest due to their exciting prospects in bone tissue engineering. In this review we describe application of silica-based mesoporous nanomaterials for bone tissue engineering. We

summarize the preparation methods, the effect of mesopore templates and composition on the mesopore-structure characteristics, and different forms of these materials, including particles, fibres, spheres, scaffolds and composites. Also, the effect of structural and textural properties of mesoporous material on development of new biomaterials for production of bone implants and bone cements was discussed. Also, application of different mesoporous materials on construction of manufacture 3-dimensional scaffolds for bone tissue engineering was discussed. It begins by giving the reader a brief background on tissue engineering, followed by a comprehensive description of all the relevant components of silica-based mesoporous biomaterials on bone tissue engineering, going from materials to scaffolds and from cells to tissue engineering strategies that will lead to “engineered” bone (13)

- MSNs for Improvement of Solubility of Drugs MSNs owing to their modifiable surface chemistry can act as carriers for poorly soluble drugs and tackle their solubility issues. Bukhara et proved this potential of MSNs by loading the poorly soluble drug fenofibrate and assessing them in healthy human volunteers. The volunteers were monitored for a period of 96 h post dosing and their plasma samples were collected and assessed for the pharmacologically active metabolite fenofibric acid. A significant increase in C_{max} with a point estimate of 177% and a reduction in t_{max} were observed for fenofibrate formulation following single oral administration. No serious adverse events were reported and none of the volunteers discontinued the study. This demonstrates that the MSNs could also be used as a possible alternative to other carriers to improve the solubility and bioavailability of drugs. Enhanced oral bioavailability of telmisartan (TEL) was achieved by loading it into MSNs. Based on the results obtained by the study on beagle. Dogs, Zhang et al. set forth a basis to use MSNs as a drug carrier for poorly soluble drugs. In microcellular uptake studies showed that TEL-MSN showed an enhanced uptake in Caco-2 cells resulting in accumulation in the cell membrane as compared to TEL-mesoporous silica microparticles.
- Biocompatibility of MSNs in Humans the biocompatibility of silica nanoparticles has

long been a topic of controversy as studies conducted by researchers have yielded variable results. Nevertheless, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval of hybrid silica nanoparticles for bioimaging marks an event of utmost importance. These particles were found to be ~7 nm in size within which fluorescent dye, Cy5 was incorporated. These particles were labelled with ^{124}I and surface functionalized with peptide cyclo-(Arg-Gly-Asp-Tyr) (cRGDY) to selectively target integrin-expressing tumours. C dots were synthesized in such a way that they had limited reticuloendothelial system (RES) uptake and promote renal excretion. Preliminary experiments on in vivo safety by Choi et al. (Cornell University) revealed that these fluorescent silica nanoparticles were safe and did not show any toxicity in mice. These particles were also found to be an effective bioimaging probe for cancer imaging. Burns et al. carried out in vivo biodistribution studies of the developed C dots in nude mice wherein nanoparticles were injected intravenously. The particles were found to show rapid renal clearance within 45 min of injection and majority of these particles accumulated in the liver. To further modify the clearance, the particles were coated with methoxy-terminated poly (ethylene glycol) chains. By careful manipulation of the surface features of C dots, they can be used for wide variety of biomedical applications including imaging and therapy. Based on the encouraging results of pre-clinical (16) studies, these nanoparticles received approval from the FDA as an Investigational New Drug (IND) to conduct the human clinical trial, phase I. The first human clinical trials suggested its safety for human use. A pilot clinical trial was conducted in five metastatic melanoma patients to assess the pharmacokinetic (PK) profile of C dots following a single injection dose. The PK profiles, renal excretion, metabolic profile assessment in patients suggested that the particles were well tolerated, preferentially accumulated in the tumour site and were found to be safe for human use. A study wherein the potential of ordered mesoporous silica nanoparticles (OMS) in enhancing the bioavailability of fenofibrate in man was conducted by Bukhara and collaborators which can be considered as another breakthrough step acting as a trigger in evoking interest among

the researchers for the use of MSNs for biomedical applications. Promising results obtained by them in their preclinical studies prompted them to complement those results with clinical studies. Fenofibrate was loaded into OMS and these were subsequently enclosed within capsules. The study was carried out with 12 volunteers who were administered a single dose of fenofibrate OMS and the marketed formulation of fenofibrate, Lipanthyl®. Safety assessment was performed by periodic monitoring of the vital signs, 12-lead electrocardiogram (ECG) and blood biochemical parameters in the subjects. The PK profile revealed an increase in the rate and extent of absorption of fenofibrate when incorporated in OMS as compared to the marketed product. In addition, the formulation was found to be well tolerated in the volunteers ensuring the safety of the developed OMS formulation (17)

II. CONCLUSION:

The mesoporous materials have shown an outstanding potential in Nanomedicines. Mesoporous silica nanoparticles have become excellent nanoplatforms to design smart drug delivery systems for biomedical applications. MSNPs with their unique mesoporous structure offer advantages that may allow clinically applicable Nano formulations for disease diagnosis and therapy. MSNPs possess easily tenable particle size, uniform pore size, high pore volume greater surface area and simple mesoporous or hollow structure. MSNPs provide excellent nanoplatforms to design smart drug delivery systems for biomedical applications. With respect to drug delivery systems, they have an extraordinarily high drug loading capacity and stimuli-responsive drug release profiles. MSNPs have relatively high in vitro and in vivo biocompatibility.

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Abbreviations:

MSNs=mesoporous silica nanoparticles
DDS = drug delivery systems

CBZ=carbamazepine

OXC=oxcarbazepine

RES=reticuloendothelial system

FDA=food and drug administration

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