

### Étude toxicologique de nanoparticules polymériques véhicules de S-nitrosoglutathion

Ramia Safar

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Ramia Safar. Étude toxicologique de nanoparticules polymériques véhicules de S-nitrosoglutathion. Médecine humaine et pathologie. Université de Lorraine, 2015. Français. NNT: 2015LORR0213. tel-01595791

### HAL Id: tel-01595791 https://theses.hal.science/tel-01595791

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### Ecole Doctorale BioSE (Biologie-Santé-Environnement)

<u>Thèse</u>

Présentée et soutenue publiquement pour l'obtention du titre de

DOCTEUR DE l'UNIVERSITE DE LORRAINE

Mention : « Sciences de la Vie et de la Santé »

par Ramia SAFAR

# Etude toxicologique de nanoparticules polymériques véhicules de S-nitrosoglutathion

Le 4 décembre 2015

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Je dédie ce manuscrit

Aux mânes de mon père

A ma mère

A mes sœurs et mon frère

A ma belle-famille, pour son soutien durant la réalisation de ce travail

A ma petite famille, mon mari et mes enfants pour leur soutien et leur patience

Je voudrais remercier sincèrement,

Mesdames les Professeures Françoise PONS et Armelle BAEZA pour avoir accepté de siéger dans mon jury et participé aux comités de suivi de thèse, ainsi pour leurs conseils et observations.

Monsieur le Professeur Bertrand RIHN, mon directeur de thèse, pour l'expérience enrichissante et pleine d'intérêt qu'il m'a faite vivre durant ces trois ans.

Monsieur le Docteur Olivier JOUBERT, Maître de Conférences, mon co-directeur de thèse, pour le suivi de mon travail, ses conseils, son enseignement.

Monsieur le Professeur Emérite Alain LE FAOU, pour son aide à rédiger cette thèse et son soutien dans les moments difficiles.

Monsieur le Directeur de Recherche Emérite Jean-Claude ANDRE pour avoir accepté de participer à mon jury.

Mes remerciements s'adressent aussi à mon pays et à la Faculté de Pharmacie (Université d'ALBAATH), qui m'ont donné l'opportunité et le soutien financier pour venir en France poursuivre mes études. En particulier, je tiens à remercier Madame la Professeure Laila MASSOUH pour son aide à trouver un laboratoire d'accueil pour ma thèse, et Monsieur le Professeur Houssam ALHUSAINI (Doyen de la Faculté de Pharmacie, Université d'ALBAATH), pour le suivi de mon travail et ses conseils.

*Je remercie Messieurs les Professeurs Philippe MAINCENT et Pierre LEROY, directeurs de l'EA 3452 CITHEFOR pour m'avoir accueillie au sein de leur équipe.* 

J'exprime également ma gratitude à l'égard de l'ensemble de l'équipe CITHEFOR pour leur gentillesse, leur sympathie qui ont favorisé mon intégration dans l'équipe. Je tiens à remercier tout particulièrement et à témoigner toute ma reconnaissance aux personnes suivantes :

Monsieur le Pofesseur Luc FERRARI pour avoir participé au comité de suivi de thèse, ainsi que pour ses conseils.

Dr.Anne SAPIN pour sa gentillesse et sa disponibilité.

Dr. Housam EIDI pour son aide à mon arrivée en France et dans l'équipe.

Dr.Carole RONZANI pour son aide pendant les deux premières années de ma thèse.

Nathalie et Pascale, pour leur écoute, leur aide, leurs réponses à mes nombreuses questions.

Je voudrais aussi remercier toutes les personnes qui ont participé de près ou de loin à mes travaux : Isabelle, Bouchra, Latifa, Razan, Emilie, Wen, Chloé, Laetitia, ....

De plus j'adresse mes remerciements aux personnes qui ont collaboré à mon travail :

Monsieur le Professeur Bernard Foliguet, directeur du Service de microscopie électronique, Faculté de médecine de Nancy.

Dr Stéphanie GRANDEMANGE, UMR CNRS/UL 7039 CRAN, Nancy.

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### **Travaux scientifiques**

#### **Publications**

#### <u>Acceptées</u>

Human monocyte response to S-nitrosoglutathione-loaded nanoparticles: uptake, viability, and transcriptome.

<u>R.SAFAR<sup>1</sup></u>, C.RONZANI<sup>1</sup>, R.DIAB, J.CHEVRIER, D.BENSOUSSAN, S.GRANDEMANGE, A.LE FAOU, B.H.RIHN, O.JOUBERT.

*Molecular Pharmaceutics*, 2015 Jan 14. IF = 4.79 (<sup>1</sup> co-premiers auteurs)

Comment on: S-nitrosoglutathione (GSNO) is cytotoxic to intracellular amastigotes and promotes healing of topically treated Leishmania major or Leishmania braziliensis skin lesions

C.RONZANI, <u>R.SAFAR</u>, A.LE FAOU, B.H.RIHN, O.JOUBERT. *Journal of antimicrobial chemotherapy*, 2014 Apr 28. IF = 5,33

Viability and gene expression responses to polymeric nanoparticles in human and rat cells C.RONZANI<sup>1</sup>, <u>R.SAFAR<sup>1</sup></u>, R.DIAB, J.CHEVRIER, J.PAOLI, M.A.ABDEL-WAHHAB, A.LE FAOU, B.RIHN, O.JOUBERT. *Cell Biology and Toxicology*, 2014 Apr 21. IF = 2,33 (<sup>1</sup> co-premiers auteurs)

Uptake of Eudragit<sup>®</sup> Retard L (Eudragit<sup>®</sup> RL) Nanoparticles by Human THP-1 Cell Line and Its Effects on Hematology and Erythrocyte Damage in Rats.

M.A.ABDEL-WAHHAB, K.G.ABDEL-WAHHAB, F.MANNAA, N.HASSAN, <u>R.SAFAR</u>, R.DIAB, B.FOLIGUET, L.FERRARI, B.H.RIHN. *Materials*, 2014 Fév 18. IF = 2,24 (Annexe 8)

**Role of the PLGA polymeric matrix composition on the cellular uptake and neuroprotective property of curcumin-loaded nanoparticle** G.D.PAKA, S.DOGGUI, A.ZAGMI, <u>R.SAFAR</u>, L.DAO, A.KLYMCHENKO, G.ROULLIN, O.JOUBERT, C.RAMASSAMY. *Molecular Pharmaceutics*, IF = 4,79 (Annexe 9)

#### <u>Soumises</u>

Blood Compatibility of Multilayered Polyelectrolyte Films Containing Immobilized and Stabilized Gold Nanoparticles

A.PALLOTTA, M.PARENT, M.LUO, I.CLAROT, <u>R.SAFAR</u>, O.JOUBERT, P.LEROY, A.BOUDIER.

Advanced Healthcare Materials, IF = 5,79

#### En préparation

Dose- and time- dependent responses of THP-1 cells exposed to free or encapsulated Snitrosoglutathione. A transcriptomic comparison

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**Eudragit<sup>®</sup> polymeric nanoparticles evaluation for the oral delivery of S-nitrosoglutathione** C.PUISNEY<sup>1</sup>, <u>R.SAFAR<sup>1</sup></u>, W.WU, A.SAPIN, S.GRANDEMANGE, C.NEMOS, A.LE FAOU, BH. RIHN, O.JOUBERT, L.FERRARI <sup>1</sup> co-premiers auteurs

#### Transcriptomes

Transcriptome study of THP-1 human monocytes following exposure for 4 h or 24 h to 50  $\mu$ M S-Nitrosoglutathione, 50 and 200  $\mu$ g/ml S-Nitrosoglutathione-loaded polymeric and empty Eudragit<sup>®</sup> RL nanoparticles.

C.RONZANI, <u>R.SAFAR</u>, B.RIHN, O.JOUBERT. GEO NCBI, 2013, accession number GSE51186

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C.PUISNEY, <u>R.SAFAR</u>, O.JOUBERT, L.FERRARI. GEO NCBI, 2015, accession number GSE69551

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\* Interaction cellules/nanoparticules polymériques : apport de la toxicogénomique <u>R.SAFAR</u>, C.RONZANI, A.LE FAOU, B.RIHN, L.FERRARI, O.JOUBERT 31<sup>èmes</sup> Journées Pédagogiques Et Scientifiques de l'AE2BM, 17-18 septembre 2015, Nancy

\* Cell / Polymeric Nanoparticle Interactions: Toxicogenomic Input. <u>R.SAFAR</u>, C.RONZANI, R.DIAB, A.LE FAOU, L.FERRARI, BH.RIHN, O.JOUBERT Congrès INRS "Risque chimique", 8-10 avril 2015, Nancy.

**Cells / nanoparticles interactions: Toxicogenomics approach** C.PUISNEY, <u>R.SAFAR</u>, BH.RIHN, C.NEMOS, O.JOUBERT, L.FERRARI Congrès INRS "Risque chimique", 8-10 avril 2015, Nancy.

*In vitro* study of cationized poly(caprolactone)-poly(ethylene glycol) nanoparticles C.CHAROONGCHIT, J.SUKSIRIWORAPONG, A.SAPIN, <u>R.SAFAR</u>, O.JOUBERT, B.RIHN, P.MAINCENT.

### Action of polymeric nanoparticles on cell viability, gene expression and internalization as a function of cell line

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#### \*Interaction cellules / Nanoparticules polymériques: apport de la toxicogénomique. C.RONZANI, <u>R.SAFAR</u>, R.DIAB, J.CHEVRIER, S.GRANDEMANGE, D.BENSOUSSAN, A.LE FAOU, BH.RIHN, O.JOUBERT

Communication orale et affichée au congrès conjoint ARET/SFTG, 3 et 4 juin 2014, Paris.

#### \*Etude toxicologique de nanoparticules, véhicules de principe actif

<u>R.SAFAR</u>, C.RONZANI, R.DIAB, S.GRANDEMANGE, B.FOLIGUET, A.LE FAOU, BH.RIHN, O.JOUBERT Journée scientifique de l'école doctorale BIOse, 6 novembre 2013, Nancy.

#### \*What about polymeric nanoparticles and mitochondria?

BH.RIHN, <u>R.SAFAR</u>, C.RONZANI, R.HUSSIEN, G.A.BROOKS, A.LE FAOU, O.JOUBERT 5th International Symposium "Nutrition, Oxygen Biology and Medicine", 5-7 juin 2013, Paris.

### Action of polymeric nanoparticles on cell viability, gene expression and internalization as a function of cell line

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#### Drug delivery nanoparticles are autophagic inducers in macrophages

H.EIDI, O.JOUBERT, R.SAFAR, P.MAINCENT, B.H.RIHN

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## Liste des abréviations

•NO	Oxyde nitrique
ADN	Acide désoxyribonucléique
AESA	Autorité Européenne de Sécurité des Aliments
ARNc	Acides ribonucléiques complémentaires
ARNm	Acides ribonucléiques messagers
BT	Bleu Trypan
CE	Commission Européenne
CMF	Cytométrie en Flux
CSRSE	Comité Scientifique des Risques Sanitaires et Environnementaux
CSRSEN	Comité Scientifique des Risques Sanitaires Emergents et Nouveaux
CSSC	Comité Scientifique pour la Sécurité des Consommateurs
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
DLS	Dynamic Light Scattering
EMA	Agence Européenne des Médicaments (European Medicines Agency)
ERO	Espèces Réactives de l'Oxygène
FC	Fold Change
GSNO	S-nitrosoglutathion
HSANO	S-nitrosoalbumine
ICCA	International Council of Chemical Associations
IRM	Imagerie par Résonance Magnétique
LCST	Lower Critical Solution Temperature
LDH	Lactate Déshydrogénase
MET	Microscopie Electronique à Transmission
MTT	Bromure de 3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyl tetrazolium
MβCD	Méthyl-β-cyclodextrine

NACNO	S-nitroso-N-acétylcystéine
NONOates	Diazéniumdiolates
NP	Nanoparticule(s)
NP-	Nanoparticule(s) vides
NP+	Nanoparticule(s) chargées en GSNO
PA	Principe Actif
Pathway	Voies de signalisation et voies métaboliques
PCL	PolyCaproLactone
PEG	Polyéthylène glycol
PLA	Polylactate
PLGA	Poly-(lactate-co-glycolate)
POE	Polyoxyéthylène
QD	Quantum Dots
qRT-PCR	Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction
RSNOs	S-Nitrosothiols
SNAP	S-nitroso-N-acétylpénicillamine
XTT	(2,3-Bis-(2-Methoxy-4-Nitro-5-Sulfophenyl)-2H-Tetrazolium-5-Carboxanilide)

# Introduction générale

Les nanotechnologies, dont les applications sont multiples, sont des domaines en développement. Elles assurent la conception, la caractérisation, la production et l'application de structures, dispositifs et systèmes dont la taille est à l'échelle nanométrique [1]. De multiples domaines sont concernés par ces avancées et, continuellement, de nouveaux dispositifs et de nouvelles applications voient le jour. En se limitant à la biologie, les nanostructures sont déjà présentes dans les produits cosmétiques, alimentaires et dispositifs médicaux comme les nanoparticules (NP) d'oxyde de titane, ainsi que dans les médicaments comme les liposomes [2].

Dans la nature, des structures nanométriques existent, telles celles recouvrant les feuilles de lotus qui rendent leur surface non mouillable. L'Homme les utilise depuis fort longtemps, mais de manière empirique, comme par exemple, les colorants pour les vitraux (NP d'argent apportant une coloration jaune) [3]. Les progrès technologiques ont permis de maitriser la production de nanostructures. Aussi, leur utilisation dans le domaine médical s'est-elle rapidement développée. Ces utilisations multiples amènent celles-ci au contact avec le Vivant. Cependant ce n'est que tout récemment que les études se sont intéressées à la toxicologie de ces nouveaux produits. Alors qu'en toxicologie classique, l'effet toxique d'un produit est directement lié à la dose administrée, cette notion n'est pas directement adaptable aux nanostructures. En effet, celles-ci, du fait de leur petite taille, acquièrent des propriétés nouvelles liées à l'augmentation de surface. De plus, leur rapprochement de la taille des atomes, les fait entrer dans le domaine de la physique quantique. Elles acquièrent alors des propriétés optiques, électriques, et/ou magnétiques nouvelles [1]. Par exemple : l'or, inerte chimiquement à l'échelle macroscopique, devient un catalyseur très actif pour les réactions d'oxydation du monoxyde de carbone et la synthèse du méthanol sous la forme des particules de quelques nanomètres [4]. De même, la température de fusion des NP d'or est de plus de 300 °C inférieure à celle de l'or massif [5].

Dans le domaine médical, les nanostructures sont déjà utilisées en implantologie pour améliorer les propriétés mécaniques des prothèses ou leur tolérance dans l'organisme. Le dépôt, à leur surface, de NP de silice ou de zircon améliore la reconstruction osseuse [6]. Dans le domaine du médicament les nanostructures, comme les liposomes contenant de l'Amphotéricine B (AmBisome<sup>®</sup>), permettent de diminuer la toxicité du principe actif (PA). La vaccination contre les Papillomavirus humains utilise des pseudovirus qui fournissent une meilleure antigénicité que les protéines virales isolées. Actuellement, de multiples travaux portent sur les applications potentielles des nanostructures, non seulement en tant que porteurs de principe actif pour en améliorer les propriétés pharmacologiques mais aussi en en modifiant la surface, obtenir un ciblage afin de traiter spécifiquement une lésion cancéreuse par exemple. De même en imagerie, des progrès sont attendus pour le diagnostic et éventuellement le traitement. Au laboratoire, les nanostructures sont employées pour permettre une miniaturisation et en même temps améliorer le diagnostic tant en rapidité qu'en sensibilité comme, par exemple, la technique des « puces à ADN ».

Ces nouveaux nanomatériaux peuvent présenter de nouveaux effets toxiques et poser un danger pour la santé et l'environnement. Le manque actuel de connaissance à ce niveau conduit donc au besoin urgent de développer des tests pour s'assurer de leur innocuité. Le rapport bénéfice / risque de l'utilisation des nanoparticules doit donc être évalué pour toutes les applications technologiques ou médicales<sup>\*</sup>. Plus largement, les nanotechnologies se situent dans la continuité de l'histoire du progrès industriel, mais il représente aussi un tournant : en raison des perspectives ouvertes, de la convergence marquée entre associations et syndicats autour de la notion de précaution, des problèmes nouveaux posés en termes de contrôle des risques. La thématique des risques technologiques doit être traitée, entre autres, comme un problème de communication. Il s'agit d'un révélateur de questions durables d'entente sociétale à propos de la raison d'être ou des modalités d'existence d'activités industrielles, telles que la chimie, le nucléaire et, désormais, les nanotechnologies<sup>\*\*</sup>.

Ce travail de thèse s'insère dans une des thématiques de l'unité de recherche EA 3452 CITHEFOR (Cible Thérapeutique, FORmulation et expertise préclinique du médicament). Au sein de cette unité, une activité de nanotoxicologie a porté sur l'exposition de la lignée macrophagique de rat NR8383 à des NP d'Eudragit<sup>®</sup>, déjà utilisées dans l'EA. Nous avons pousuivi ce travail en comparant l'effet de NP d'Eudragit<sup>®</sup> sur cette lignée et sur une lignée monocytaire /macrophagique humaine THP-1. Par la suite, cette dernière a été seule retenue pour des études de toxicogénomique après exposition à des NP vides ou chargées en *S*nitrosoglutathion. Ce composé est l'objet de plusieurs formulations à visée cardiovasculaires.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>\*</sup> Claude J-R, Party MoAW. Recommandations for Toxicological Evaluation of Nanoparticle Medicinal Products. In: AFSSAPAS, editor. International Pharmaceutical Product Registration. Second ed, 2009.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Chaskiel Patrick, 2014, « Des nanotechnologies au processus de précaution : vers une reformulation de la thématique des risques technologiques ? », Congrès Riodd, Bordeaux, 2-4 octobre.

# Généralités

#### 1. Définition des nanoparticules

Etant donné le développement rapide des nanotechnologies une définition internationalement reconnue des «nanomatériaux» a été rendue nécessaire. Trois comités scientifiques indépendants apportent leur expertise à la Commission Européenne (CE) : le Comité Scientifique pour la Sécurité des Consommateurs (CSSC), le Comité Scientifique des Risques Sanitaires et Environnementaux (CSRSE) et le Comité Scientifique des Risques Sanitaires Emergents et Nouveaux (CSRSEN). De ces trois, le CSRSEN a réuni un panel scientifique pour établir une définition de nanomatériaux et identifier les critères à retenir pour en évaluer la sécurité [7], [2].

A la suite de ces travaux, la CE a proposé en octobre 2011 la définition suivante pour les nanomatériaux : " On entend par «nanomatériau» un matériau naturel, formé accidentellement ou manufacturé contenant des particules libres, sous forme d'agrégat ou sous forme d'agglomérat, dont au moins 50 % des particules, dans la répartition numérique par taille, présentent une ou plusieurs dimensions externes se situant entre 1 nm et 100 nm. Dans des cas spécifiques, lorsque cela se justifie pour des raisons tenant à la protection de l'environnement, à la santé publique, à la sécurité ou à la compétitivité, le seuil de 50 % fixé pour la répartition numérique par taille peut être remplacé par un seuil compris entre 1 % et 50 %." [8]. Alternativement, les matériaux doivent être considérés comme relevant de la définition si leur surface spécifique est supérieure à 60 m<sup>2</sup> / cm<sup>3</sup>. La CE a prévu une révision de la définition en se concentrant particulièrement sur la pertinence de la limite de 50% [8], [9].

#### 1.1. Limites de la définition

Auffan et al. (2009) [10] ont proposé de diminuer la limite supérieure de la définition de nanoparticule (100 nm) parce que ils ont identifié des propriétés uniques dans un groupe de nanoparticules inorganiques (métalliques et d'oxydes métalliques) d'un diamètre inférieur à 30 nm. Cela était dû à des changements dans la structure cristalline ou l'augmentation du rapport surface-volume qui ont amélioré leur réactivité. Par contre, pour d'autres composés l'augmentation de taille des NP ne modifie pas leurs propriétés physico-chimiques. Pour cela, des limites supérieures de la taille des NP plus élevées ont-elles été proposées (200 nm par DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs) et 1000 nm par l'EMA (Agence Européenne des Médicaments) [11], [12].

En résumé et selon l'International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA), aucune des définitions des nanomatériaux actuellement disponibles n'est universellement acceptée [13] et en fin de compte seul l'usage et/ou des considérations individuelles définissent les NP. Aussi, des structures très variées en forme et en taille sont-elles assimilées à des NP sans tenir compte de la limite de 100 nm officiellement établie et des objets de 200-300 nm sont couramment considérés comme des NP.

#### 2. Caractérisation des propriétés physicochimiques des nanoparticules

#### 2.1. Taille et Forme

La taille et sa distribution sont des paramètres critiques qui doivent être défini pour pouvoir classer la particule étudiée comme un nanomatériau. Les autorités de régulation et les comités scientifiques des AESA (Autorité Européenne de Sécurité des Aliments) et CSSC (Comité Scientifique pour la Sécurité des Consommateurs) s'accordent sur le fait que différentes méthodes basées sur des principes différents doivent être combinés pour mesurer la taille des NP [14], [15]. Ils suggèrent une utilisation préférentielle des microscopies électroniques à balayage ou à transmission et de la microscopie à force atomique qui permettent également d'en déterminer la forme. Cependant, l'observation directe doit être combinée à d'autres techniques comme le DLS (dynamic light scattering) qui est une technique d'analyse spectroscopique permettant de mesurer le rayon hydrodynamique de NP en milieu liquide. Pour déterminer avec précision la taille d'un échantillon de NP et sa distribution (moyenne, écart-type), il faut, idéalement, un échantillon bien dispersé, et mesurer un nombre suffisant de particules. Dans le cas d'un système monodispersé, ce résultat est relativement facilement obtenu. Cependant, lorsque la polydispersité augmente, il devient nécessaire de mesurer un plus grand nombre de particules [16].

#### 2.2. Charge de surface

La charge de surface influence la stabilité et la dispersion des NP dans la solution aqueuse et également la réponse du système biologique (interaction avec la membrane cellulaire) [17], avec le mucus, [18] et les protéines plasmatiques [19]. La charge de surface est déterminée par la mesure du potentiel zêta par électrophorèse laser Doppler. Ce potentiel zêta est très dépendant des conditions environnementales, en particulier la force ionique et le pH du milieu [20]. Par conséquent, une procédure normalisée est nécessaire.

#### 2.3. Dispersion / agglomération

L'état de dispersion d'un système de particules décrit dans quelle mesure les particules sont agglomérées. En 2009 [21], l'AESA a défini un agglomérat et un agrégat comme : «Un agglomérat est un groupe de NP maintenus ensemble par des forces faibles, tels que les forces de van der Waals ou électrostatiques. Un agrégat est un groupe de NP maintenus ensembles par des attractions fortes comme les liaisons covalentes ou métalliques ». La mise en jeux de l'ensemble de ces forces est fonction des propriétés atomiques fondamentales des atomes de surface, de la géométrie (la forme), de la taille, de la charge des NP et de la distance qui les sépare. En général, dans le cas d'un agglomérat, la surface externe est égale à la somme des aires des composants individuels, et dans le cas d'un agrégat, cette valeur est beaucoup plus petite [22]. L'environnement où se trouve les NP (pH, présence d'agent tensio-actif) ou la présence de protéines jouent un rôle dans la formation d'agglomérats [22]. Le moyen le plus simple pour évaluer l'état de dispersion d'un échantillon, c'est de mesurer la distribution de taille. L'index de polydispersité fourni par DLS donne une idée de la polydispersité. Cependant, pour sa détermination, comme pour la taille, l'utilisation de plusieurs techniques est recommandée.

#### 3. Nanoparticules et médicaments

Si les NP sont déjà utilisées dans le diagnostic, la vaccination, la médecine régénérative, c'est surtout dans le domaine du médicament qu'elles ont déjà des applications et des progrès importants sont encore attendus [23] (**Figure 1**). Il est prévisible que les NP seront de plus en plus utilisées pour les traitements en permettant la protection d'un principe actif et éventuellement en ciblant spécifiquement le site d'action désiré (foie, lésion tumorale, ...). Actuellement, des essais *in vitro* ainsi que des essais cliniques sont régulièrement décrits.

#### 3.1. Historique

Les premiers systèmes nanoparticulaires pour la délivrance d'un PA ont été les liposomes [24]. Par la suite, d'autres biomatériaux organiques et inorganiques ont été développés. Des systèmes liposomaux plus complexes, pour lesquels un changement de pH déclenche la libération du PA ont été introduits en 1980 [25], en même temps que des liposomes à ciblage cellules-spécifique [26]. Les premiers liposomes à longue durée de circulation ont été décrits en 1987 [27]. Par la suite, l'utilisation de polyéthylène glycol (PEG) a permis d'augmenter le temps

de circulation des liposomes en 1990 [28]. Ainsi, la doxorubicine incluse dans des liposomes pégylées par PEG (Doxil<sup>®</sup>) a été approuvé en 1995 pour le traitement du Sarcome de Kaposi associée au SIDA. Concurremment, les NP polymériques sont utilisées à partir de 1994 [29].



Figure 1. Répartition des utilisations des nanotechnologies dans le domaine médical [23]

Un des buts de l'utilisation thérapeutique des NP est d'assurer la vectorisation d'un principe actif, on distingue à l'heure actuelle trois types de vecteurs nanoparticlaires (**Figure2**) :

- Les vecteurs de première génération : correspondent aux nanoparticules dont la surface n'a pas été modifiée. Ils sont en général de courte durée de vie et sont rapidement éliminés de l'organisme en particulier par les macrophages après leur opsonisation.

- Les vecteurs de deuxième génération : sont des nanoparticules recouvertes de polymères hydrophiles tels que le polyéthylène glycol (PEG) ou polyoxyethylène (POE) (nanoparticules pégylées) qui préviennent leur opsonisation et augmente ainsi la demi-vie du PA.

- Les vecteurs de troisième génération : ils associent un noyau et une enveloppe de polymère polyéthylène glycol (PEG) ou polyoxyethylène (POE) portant à leur surface une molécule de reconnaissance d'une structure ou d'un récepteur membranaire. Bien que n'étant pas pour le moment disponibles, de tels systèmes pourraient apporter des grands progrès thérapeutiques.



**Figure 2. Trois générations de nanovecteurs (Exemple des liposomes)** http://reflexions.ulg.ac.be/cms/c\_345464/fr/des-balles-magiques-contre-le-cancer?part=2 A. Première génération B. Deuxième génération C. Troisième génération (voir texte)

#### 3.2. Utilisation des nanoparticules

Les nanovecteurs permettent d'augmenter l'index thérapeutique d'un médicament en particulier en améliorant la biodisponibilité des principes actifs [30]. Ils apportent une réduction de la toxicité aiguë et des effets secondaires du PA [31], [32]. Aussi le ciblage d'un site spécifique améliore l'efficacité thérapeutique, permet également de limiter les doses administrées et peut se révéler intéressant dans le traitement de lésions cancéreuses. Ce ciblage peut se faire par plusieurs façons :

- La fonctionnalisation des NP : un ciblage spécifique peut être obtenu avec un ligand (anticorps, peptide, aptamère, petite molécule) qui reconnait spécifiquement des structures à la surface des cellules à atteindre. Par exemple, ce peut être un anticorps dirigé contre le récepteur du facteur de croissance épidermique (EGFR), surexprimé dans les cancers du côlon [33], ou de folate pour cibler les cellules cancéreuses riches en récepteurs de cette molécule [34]. Les cibles les plus étudiées comportent également les transferrines et les glycoprotéines surexprimées par les cellules tumorales [35].
- Les systèmes nanoparticulaires sensibles au pH : stable au pH physiologique (7,4), ils libèrent le PA dans l'environnement des cellules tumorales où le pH est inférieur, comme les liposomes contenant de l'homocystéine palmitoylée [36].
- Les systèmes polymériques thermosensibles : ils sont constitués d'un polymère de faible température critique de solution (LCST) qui tend à précipiter lorsque la température est

supérieure à la LCST avec libération concomitante de sa charge. Une hyperthermie localisée peut être induite dans des tumeurs par des méthodes physiques (ultrasons) ou photothermiques [37].

- Un ciblage « passif » qui utilise une caractéristique des NP, comme la charge : les cellules tumorales ont une charge de surface négative relativement plus élevée (présence de phospholipides) [38] que les cellules normales, ce qui favorise leur liaison avec des NP cationiques [39], [40].
- Des nanosystèmes (liposomes, NP polymériques) se localisent sélectivement dans des tissus dans des conditions pathologiques comme l'inflammation et les tumeurs du fait de l'augmentation de la perméabilité vasculaire [41], [42].
- Les NP peuvent être conçues pour faire pénétrer des PA à visée neurologique par le franchissement de la barrière hémato-encéphalique, comme les NP polymériques à base de cyanoacrylate [43].

#### 3.3. Marché des nanomédicaments

Actuellement 33 médicaments utilisant les NP sont disponibles dans le monde, parmi ceux-ci on trouve [44], [45] :

- Liposomes (AmBisome<sup>®</sup>: Amphotericine B); liposomes pégylés (Caelyx<sup>®</sup>: Doxorubicine)
- Nanoformulations à base de phospholipides complexés à l'Amphotericine B (Abelcet<sup>®</sup>)
- Aptamère anti-VEGF pégylées (Macugen<sup>®</sup>)
- Micelles de copolymère de poly(éthylène glycol)-poly(D.L-lactide) NP contenant du paclitaxel (Genexol<sup>®</sup>) ; non disponible en France
- Paclitaxel conjugué à de l'albumine (Abraxane<sup>®</sup>)
- Virosomes, adénovirus recombinant exprimant la P53 sauvage (Gendicine<sup>®</sup>) ; non disponible en France
- NP à base de fer, utilisées pour le diagnostic en IRM
  - NP d'oxyde de fer recouvert avec dextran (Feridex<sup>®</sup>) ; non disponible en France.
  - NP d'oxyde de fer supramagnétique (Endorem<sup>®</sup>) commercialisation interrompue.
  - NP de magnétite [N-(2-aminoéthyl)-3-aminopropyl silylée] (Lumirem<sup>®</sup>).
En juillet 2014, 169 essais cliniques étaient enregistrés auprès de la Bibliothèque nationale de médecine des États-Unis (http://clinicaltrials.gov) avec "nanoparticles" comme un seul terme de recherche alors que le même terme fournit 92639 résultats sur PubMed (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/) [13]. En utilisant le même mot clé, la recherche a fourni en octobre 2015 respectivement 206 et 109995 résultats. Ceci montre la rapide expansion de la nanomédecine. Cependant étant donné le délai entre la conception d'un médicament et son arrivée en clinique, il faudra sans doute attendre une dizaine d'année avant de voir la partie la plus intéressante des formulations actuellement proposées aboutir à des traitements commercialisables [13].

#### 4. Nanotoxicologie

#### 4.1. Introduction

De nombreux nanomatériaux sont introduits quotidiennement dans nos vies. Par exemple, les NP d'oxyde de zinc ont actuellement de multiples utilisations industrielles et commerciales, en cosmétique, dans les produits d'hygiène cutanée ou capillaire, les crèmes solaires, ainsi que dans les céramiques, les revêtements muraux, et les peintures [46], [47]. De même, les NP de dioxyde de titane sont utilisées dans les produits cosmétiques, comme additifs alimentaires mais aussi dans les peintures et les plastiques [48], [49].

La production de nanomatériaux pourrait, d'ici à 2020, augmenter plus de 25 fois [50]. Ce développement a sans doute à la fois des effets bénéfiques et néfastes sur l'environnement et la santé des êtres vivants. Par exemple les NP produites par la combustion du fuel ou du diesel sont présentes dans l'air et leur concentration est corrélée à la survenue de maladies respiratoires, cardiovasculaires et de cancers ainsi que à une surmortalité [51]. Par conséquent, avant d'utiliser ces matériaux dans les systèmes biologiques et l'environnement, il convient d'en évaluer la biocompatibilité, la distribution dans l'environnement et en ambiance de travail et partant la toxicité.

Si le nombre d'articles portant sur les nanomatériaux a augmenté de façon rapide, la plupart des travaux portent plutôt sur leur synthèse et leurs applications et moins de 1% en étudie la toxicité [52]. L'absence d'évaluation du retentissement sur l'organisme des nanomatériaux ne peut qu'en freiner le développement. Du fait des propriétés particulières des NP, les méthodes de

la toxicologie classique ne sont pas adaptées [53] et la nanotoxicologie, plus spécifiquement dédiée à l'étude du retentissement biologique des nanomatériaux, s'est donc développée. Cette nouvelle science a cependant d'ores et déjà des limites :

- Les travaux menés tant *in vitro* que chez l'animal mettent en évidence des effets cytotoxiques ou génotoxiques des NP. Mais du fait de la très grande hétérogénéité méthodologique entres les différentes études, la comparaison et la synthèse de tous les résultats est pratiquement impossible [54], [55], [56]. En effet, cette variété porte sur :
  - Les types de NP (composition), leurs paramètres physico-chimiques (taille, charge de surface, la topographie de surface, la surface spécifique) [57], et les éventuels agents de stabilisation utilisés [58].
  - Les types de cellules utilisées, animales ou humaines, cellules primaires ou lignées continues [59].
  - Les tests utilisés pour déterminer la toxicité [60].
  - Les interférences possibles des NP avec les réactifs de l'essai [61], [62], [63].
  - Les conditions d'exposition aux NP (temps et de concentration) [64].
- L'utilisation de concentrations de NP très supérieures à celles que l'on pourrait rencontrer en exposition réelle.
- Exposition aiguë, ou chez l'animal de courte durée, à des doses importantes qui ne reflète pas la situation réelle où il s'agira plutôt de contacts de longue durée à des doses faible mais susceptibles d'entraîner un effet d'accumulation et donc une toxicité au long cours [53], [55].
- Dans les travaux ne sont pas pris en compte le cycle de vie des nanomatériaux, que ce soit leur production, leur place dans le produit administré, leur distribution ou leur dégradation dans l'organisme [55].
- Les résultats des travaux tant *in vitro* que chez l'animal, quelles que soient les conditions ne sont pas représentatifs de ce qui se passe chez l'Homme et sont donc difficilement extrapolables. Ceci, d'autant plus que l'administration de NP peut entraîner un effet de dilution et éventuellement une répartition très hétérogène qui peuvent rendre l'analyse qualitative et quantitative difficile [55].

La toxicité des NP dépend de leur composition chimique mais aussi de leur taille et de leur forme. De nombreuses NP n'ont pas fait la preuve d'une toxicité comme les NP d'or fonctionnalisées avec des chaines anioniques [65], [66]. Par contre, les quantum dots (QD) de séléniure de cadmium sont toxiques par la libération de Cd<sup>2+</sup> mais elles deviennent non toxiques après enrobage [67]. Les NP d'oxyde de cérium ou d'oxyde d'yttrium ont un effet bénéfique sur la santé du fait de leur effet antioxydant puisqu'elles limitent la production des espèces réactives de l'oxygène (ERO) dans les cellules nerveuses [68].

#### 4.2. Pharmacocinétiques des nanoparticules

L'Homme est exposé aux nanomatériaux qu'ils proviennent de l'environnement ou de l'administration volontaire, médicale ou non. Ce contact peut rester superficiel (cosmétique) ou se traduire par une pénétration dans les voies respiratoires par inhalation, digestive par ingestion, transcutanée, ou directement dans le sang par injection [69], [70]. Après pénétration des NP dans le corps, leur petite taille favorise leur diffusion. Leur capacité à franchir les barrières anatomiques peut avoir de multiples conséquences du fait d'interactions avec les organes et les tissus.

Après administration *per os* les NP peuvent traverser le tractus gastro-intestinal et être excrété par les fèces mais aussi être absorbé par la muqueuse gastro-intestinale, pénétrer dans la circulation générale [71]. Du fait du transit et du renouvellement constant de l'épithélium, la présence de NP dans le tube digestif ne peut être que transitoire [72], [69]. Après translocation dans la circulation sanguine, les NP peuvent essaimer dans tout l'organisme et être retrouvées dans les ganglions lymphatiques, les reins, les poumons, le foie et le cerveau, et peuvent également être trouvées dans l'estomac et l'intestin grêle [73], [74]. Après administration orale de NP de PLGA (poly (acides D, L-lactique-co-glycolique) de 200 à 300 nm de diamètre par voie orale chez la souris, environ 40% de ces particules ont été localisées dans le foie après sept jours. Le reste était présent dans le cerveau et les reins sans toxicité apparente [75]. L'absorption intestinale est liée à la taille des NP, à la chimie de surface, à la charge, à la durée de l'administration et à la dose [72]. Par exemple, la pénétration de particules de polystyrène de 50 nm à 3 µm diminue avec l'augmentation de la taille et devient nulle pour les particules les plus grosses [74].

Après inhalation, les particules se déposent à différents étages de l'arbre pulmonaire du fait de 3 facteurs qui sont : l'anatomie des voies respiratoires, l''écoulement de l'air, les caractéristiques aérodynamiques des particules et leur taille. Les plus grosses (5- 30 µm) se

déposent dans le nasopharynx. Les particules plus petites (1-5  $\mu$ m), sont piégées par le mucus de l'arbre trachéo-bronchique, et éliminées par la clairance mucociliaire. Enfin, les particules restantes submicrométriques (<1  $\mu$ m) et des nanoparticules (<100 nm) pénètrent jusqu'au fond des alvéoles [52]. A partir de là, elles peuvent essaimer dans les poumons, le cœur, le foie, la rate et le cerveau.

Les NP peuvent gagner le système nerveux central en franchissant la barrière hématoencéphalique. La perméation de cette barrière, négativement chargée, dépend principalement de la charge des NP ; les particules cationiques pénètrent mieux que celles qui sont neutres ou anioniques [76].

Les NP peuvent également être en contact avec la cornée. A la surface de celle-ci, les NP sont éliminées par le liquide lacrymal et gagnent le rhinopharynx et la voie digestive. Cependant, elles peuvent provoquer une irritation transitoire avec érythème et production de pus [77], [78].

Une fois que les NP sont dans la circulation générale, leur élimination se fait généralement par voie urinaire, comme les nanotubes de carbones fonctionnalisés par des groupements hydroxyles ou ammonium administrées par voie intraveineuse [79]. Cependant, leur élimination peut également se faire par les glandes mammaires, la salive, et le sperme.

#### 4.3. Relations nanoparticules / cellules

A la surface de la cellule, les NP entrent en contact avec une couche d'oligosaccharides chargés négativement. Elle peut agir comme récepteur pour l'internalisation des macromolécules, ou comme répulsif, prévenant ainsi l'internalisation des NP. Les protéoglycanes des membranes cellulaires jouent aussi un rôle clé dans la liaison des lipoprotéines qui sont de taille nanométriques. L'hétérogénéité des charges électriques à la surface cellulaire ajoute à la complexité. Il est communément admis que les NP chargées positivement se lient aux zones négativement chargées tels les héparane sulfates [80]. Cette adhésion peut être non spécifique et initiée par des forces de Van der Waals, les charges électrostatiques, ou les effets de tension interfaciale, et ne conduit pas obligatoirement à une internalisation.

La pénétration cellulaire n'est pas nécessaire pour que les NP fassent preuve de cytotoxicité. Par exemple, des NP métalliques endommagent les cellules indirectement par

productions d'ERO, par réaction avec l'eau ou l'oxygène présent dans le milieu environnant. Lorsque la production d'ERO est supérieure à la capacité de détoxification cellulaire, il en résulte un stress oxydant qui peut endommager la cellule [81].

Du fait de leur petite taille, les NP ne pénètrent pas par phagocytose, mécanisme spécifique des macrophages et polynucléaires, à moins de la formation d'agrégats ou d'une opsonisation de la particule. La voie principale de pénétration des NP dans les cellules est l'endocytose qui peut jouer pour tous les types cellulaires y compris les hématies [82]. Endocytose peut être soit active (dépendant de ATP) ou passive (ne comporte pas la machinerie de la cellule). Une translocation à travers la membrane selon un mécanisme passif a été décrite pour des NP de silice [83]. L'endocytose active fait appel à 3 mécanismes principaux [80] (**Figure 3**) :

- La pinocytose est un mécanisme actif dédié essentiellement à la pénétration de liquide et de substances solubles dans une vacuole qui peut enfermer des NP de petites tailles.
- L'endocytose cavéoline dépendante, la cavéoline s'associe aux radeaux de cholestérol entraînant un courbure de la cellule aboutissant à une invagination qui par fermeture du col sous l'action de la dynamine à GTP [84] aboutit à la formation de vésicules de 60 à 80 nm [85] libérées dans le cytoplasme. Celles-ci ne fusionnent pas avec les lysozymes, protégeant son contenu d'une dégradation acide. Ce que peut protéger certains NP ou PA de la dégradation.
- L'endocytose clathrine-dépendante est caractérisée par un dépôt de clathrine à la face interne de la membrane cytoplasmique après liaison à la « adaptator protein 2 (AP2) » formant une couche dense visible en microscopie électronique. Il se produit une invagination de la membrane et formation rapide d'une vésicule de 100 à 200 nm. Ces vésicules fusionnent avec les lysosomes.

L'entrée cellulaire des NP reste un mécanisme important qui peut déclencher des effets indésirables [86]. Selon le type de cellule [87] et les propriétés physico-chimiques des NP telles que la taille et la forme [88], [89] et leur chimie de surface [90], les voies de pénétration peuvent différer bien que plusieurs voies puissent exister en parallèle [91].

Après pénétration dans une cellule, les NP peuvent persister pendant une longue période ou quitter les cellules, éventuellement se déplacer vers une autre cellule sans être modifiées, insérées par exemple dans un exosome [92]. Four main endocytosis mechanisms for cells to exchange materials with the extra cellular media, include phagocytosis, pinocytosis, caveolae endocytosis and clathrin mediated endocytosis, each producing different sized vesicles, and using different materials during vesicle formation.

Phagocytosis	Pinocytosis	Caveolae endocytosis	Clathrin mediated endocytosis (CME)	
K K	A Cin	Caveolian The Cholesterol Raft	AP-2-72 - 4-FAY KYK-4-Cluttin	
Vesicle size: ≥ 500 nm	Vesicle size: 0.5–5 µm	Vesicle size: 60–80 nm	Vesicle size: 100–120 nm	
Only occurs in specific cells (i.e. macrophages), which actively wrap their membrane around the material. Can be aided by actin microfilaments, and requires signals for activation.	Non-specific, used to transport fluids and materials. Actin filaments can help elongate the vesicle resulting in larger sizes.	Caveolin incorporates itself within cholesterol rafts in membrane inducing curvature. The vesicle is then released from the membrane by dynamin via GTP hydrolysis.	Adaptor protein 2 (AP-2) and clathrin bind together to form a cage on the exterior of the inner monolayer of the cell membrane, dragging it to form the vesicle, released by dynamin via GTP hydrolysis.	

Figure 3. Principaux mode d'internalisation des NP [80]

#### 4.4. Mécanismes de la toxicité des nanoparticules

#### 4.4.1. Mécanismes physiques

Du fait de leur taille, les plus petites NP peuvent atteindre les endroits où les plus grosses particules ne peuvent pas entrer, comme dans certains cas le noyau [54] et pourrait s'insérer dans le sillon de l'ADN et provoquer des altérations comme par exemple les NP d'or de 1,4 nm [93].

La présence des NP intracellulaire peut amener des altérations de la morphologie en particulier en affectant la structure du cytosquelette [94], [95], celle-ci étant dépendante de la concentration de particules. Cependant, le mécanisme et ses conséquences n'ont pas été étudiés en profondeur. Il est donc important pour toutes les nouvelles NP qui pénètrent dans la cellule d'en déterminer la voie d'endocytose et leur localisation intracellulaire et la concentration intracellulaire maximale admissible [54].

La lyse cellulaire, mécanisme mal connu, serait lié à une réaction électrostatique des groupements silanol à la surface des NP de silice, par exemple, avec des groupements ammonium de la membrane des hématies dont la déformation entraînerait la rupture [96].

#### 4.4.2. Mécanismes chimiques

Un des mécanismes les plus étudiés et sans doute le plus important est la production d'ERO [50]. Le lien entre les niveaux d'ERO et l'induction d'effets toxiques est toutefois dépendant du type cellulaire et le seuil de toxicité n'est donc pas clairement défini [97].

En général, les faibles augmentations transitoires d'ERO sont bien tolérées par la plupart des lignées cellulaires, alors que des niveaux plus élevés persistants sont susceptibles d'entraîner des dommages cellulaires [54]. La cellule ne peut pas maintenir un potentiel redox physiologique ce qui entraîne des lésions de l'ADN, des dérèglements des mécanismes de signalisation cellulaire avec à terme une apoptose, une nécrose, une autophagie ou un risque de cancérisation [98], [70] (**Figure 4**).



Figure 4. Conséquences du stress oxydant induit par les nanoparticules D'après [70]

#### 4.5. Facteurs influençant la cytotoxicité des nanoparticules

#### 4.5.1. Taille

La taille des NP joue un rôle essentiel dans leur entrée dans la cellule, les voies d'endocytose utilisées et la réponse physiologique des cellules [50], [88]. En général, les NP de petites tailles sont plus toxiques que les grandes. La surface spécifique peut expliquer cette relation inverse [10]. Par exemple, les NP d'argent de 10 nm sont plus toxiques que celles de 50 et 100 nm en termes de viabilité cellulaire, génération d'espèces réactives de l'oxygène et modifications morphologiques [99]. Cependant, l'inverse est également possible et des NP d'or de 1,4 nm induisent une toxicité plus sévère dans les tissus conjonctifs, les fibroblastes et les cellules épithéliales que les plus petites (0,8 nm et 1,2 nm) ou les plus grandes (1,8 nm et 15 nm). De plus, les mécanismes de la toxicité sont différents, les NP de 1,4 nm provoquent une nécrose des cellules et celles de 1,2 nm une apoptose. Cette observation a été rattachée au fait que les NP d'or de 1,4 nm s'insèreraient dans le grand sillon de l'ADN et provoqueraient sa fragmentation [93]. Le pouvoir hémolytique des NP de silice augmente avec leur taille. Ce mécanisme, mal connu, serait lié à une réaction électrostatique des groupements silanol à la surface des NP avec des groupes ammonium de la membrane des hématies : les plus grosses particules adhèreraient à

une grande surface de la membrane cellulaire et déformeraient la membrane entraînant sa rupture [96].

#### 4.5.2. Forme

Son effet est peu étudié mais les NP en forme de bâtonnet sont en général plus toxiques que celles sphériques. Par exemple, les nanofibres de carbone n'affectent pas la viabilité des kératinocytes de souris à la différence des nanotubes de carbone multi- ou simple-parois. De plus, les nanotubes à parois multiples entraînent la production de trois fois plus d'espèces réactives de l'oxygène que ceux à simple paroi [100]. De même, l'internalisation des NP d'or en forme de bâtonnet est supérieure à celles sphériques [89]. La raison pourrait être liée à une plus grande surface de contact avec les récepteurs de la membrane cellulaire [101].

#### 4.5.3. Charge et état de surface

La charge des NP, qui influe directement sur leur interaction avec la surface cellulaire, a une grande importance pour déterminer la stabilité des NP et éviter leur agrégation. En général, les particules cationiques sont considérées comme les moins stables et posséder un plus grand pouvoir cytotoxique [102]. Ceci a été montré aussi bien avec des NP polymériques [103] qu'avec des NP d'or [68]. *In vivo*, les NP polymériques chargées positivement ont été trouvées dans les macrophages après injection intraveineuse chez la souris à la différence de celles chargées négativement [104].

Il a été montré que la modification de la surface des NP a un effet sur la toxicité, comme par exemple les NP d'argent fonctionnalisées avec galactose ou mannose étaient moins toxiques que celles avec éthylène glycol ou citrate [105].

#### 4.5.4. Biodégradabilité

La plupart des nanomatériaux communs ne sont pas biodégradables et persistent ou s'accumulent dans les tissus ou les cellules. Ils peuvent ainsi demeurer des années dans l'arbre respiratoire en provoquant des atteintes chroniques voire une cancérogenèse [52]. Mais une réponse aiguë peut également être observée du fait d'une dégradation rapide comme par exemple les NP d'oxydes de zinc ou de fer qui relarguent des ions métalliques avant ou après l'internalisation dans les cellules [106].

#### 4.5.5. Agglomération

Leur effet sur la santé humaine est peu étudié. Si l'agglomération des NP dans le milieu extérieur diminue l'exposition aux NP dans l'organisme elle peut avoir un effet favorable. Dans les poumons, l'agglomération des NP réduit leur passage à travers les barrières anatomiques et de ce fait réduit l'essaimage dans l'organisme. Au niveau cellulaire, l'internalisation et la distribution intracellulaire sont affectées par l'agglomération [22]. Les NP d'argent de taille inférieure à 100 nm peuvent être trouvées dans les mitochondries ou le noyau, alors que les agglomérats restent dans le cytoplasme [107]. Les tailles des agglomérats de NP et leurs répartitions peuvent varier en fonction du milieu de culture, la concentration des NP et la durée d'incubation [108], et les taux de dissolution des NP dispersés et agglomérés diffèrent, comme il a été rapporté pour des NP d'argent [109]. En plus, la sédimentation des NP agglomérées peut augmenter l'exposition et donc la toxicité [110].

#### 4.5.6. Pureté

Comme la plupart des NP sont hydrophobes, il faut stabiliser leur suspension en milieu aqueux avec des agents tensioactifs, des revêtements de polymère ou des groupes fonctionnels. Par exemple, des NP d'or sont généralement fonctionnalisées avec du citrate. Ces stabilisants et ces groupes fonctionnels peuvent causer des effets toxiques et éventuellement des réponses immunes [111].

Donc, au cours de la préparation de NP, il est impératif que le produit final utilisé soit aussi pur que possible. Toutes les impuretés telles que des ions métalliques ou des stabilisants organiques peuvent diminuer la viabilité cellulaire, même lorsque les NP elles-mêmes sont 100% biocompatibles. Ainsi, jusqu'à 15% de métal résiduel ont été trouvés dans des échantillons purifiés [112]. Une purification supplémentaire (dialyse par exemple) peut surmonter ce problème, mais les stratégies utilisées peuvent, elles-mêmes, introduire de nouveaux contaminants ou affecter la stabilité des NP [112]. La conservation des NP peut entraîner leur dégradation et la libération d'ions métalliques entrant dans leur composition. Par exemple, le cetylmethylammonium bromide (CTAB) utilisé pour stabiliser les NP d'or induit une forte cytotoxicité quand il se détache de leur surface [113]. Donc, avant leur utilisation, une caractérisation complète des NP et des éventuels contaminants est très importante pour pouvoir interpréter correctement les effets cytotoxiques.

#### 4.5.7. Couronne protéique

Une fois les NP dans un milieu biologique, elles adopteront une identité biologique avec la formation d'une couronne de protéines et de petites molécules (telles que des acides aminés et des sucres) sur leur surface [114] [115]. Les protéines peuvent adhérer fortement (**Figure 5**) en établissant des relations physiques ou chimiques et constituent une couronne « dure » qui se forme rapidement en quelques secondes [116]. D'autres protéines ont une interaction faible avec la surface des NP et forment une couronne « molle ». Cette couronne secondaire peut prendre des heures à atteindre un équilibre avec l'environnement [117].

Les propriétés physiques des NP, y compris la taille, la forme et la chimie de surface principalement l'hydrophobie et la charge de surface affectent la composition de la couronne finale [118], [119], [120], et la toxicité qu'elle médie. La composition du milieu de culture cellulaire a des effets profonds sur la cinétique et la constitution de la couronne protéique [121]. La composition en protéines de la couronne, n'est pas le reflet de leur concentration dans le sérum. Ceci laisse à penser que cette couronne ne se constitue pas au hasard mais est directement dépendante du type de NP.



Figure 5. Constitution de la couronne protéique [117]

Les protéines interagissant avec les NP subissent des changements conformationnels [122], [123] qui pourrait modifier leur antigénicité et elles pourraient alors être reconnues comme protéines du non-soi contre lesquels l'organisme déclencherait une réaction immunitaire

qui pourrait être l'origine d'une auto-immunité. La variation de composition des protéines sériques attachées à des NP d'or et d'argent, peut affecter directement la voie d'endocytose qu'elles utilisent ainsi que leur degré de cytotoxicité [124]. Cependant, cette couronne protéique peut augmenter le degré de biocompatibilité de NP et les rendre moins toxiques. Ainsi, la cytotoxicité de nanotubes de carbone à simple paroi ou de nanofeuillets d'oxyde de graphène est réduite quand ceux-ci sont en présence de sérum de veau fœtal [125]. Cependant, pour le moment il n'a pas été montré que la toxicité était directement liée à la composition en protéines de la couronne du fait de leurs fonctions, mais il a été montré que la quantité totale de protéines liées aux NP influait sur leur temps de circulation, leur distribution dans l'organisme et l'éventuelle inflammation dans leur lieu de rétention [126].

#### 4.5.8. Concentration

A masse égale, la dose toxique des NP est inférieure à celle de particules micrométriques, pour un même matériau considéré. La toxicité des NP reste bien entendu dose dépendante. En revanche, établir une corrélation entre les concentrations utilisées *in vitro* dans les modèles cellulaires ou *in vivo* chez l'animal et la concentration admissible ou utilisable chez l'Homme est difficile [127]. Il a été proposé que pour les essais *in vitro* avec une nouvelle particule pour laquelle aucune information sur la toxicité n'est disponible, une concentration maximum de 1 mg/mL soit utilisée ce qui correspond à 80 g pour un homme de 70 kg avec un volume sanguin de 5,6 L. En fait, dans les essais cliniques, le choix de la dose de NP est directement dépendant de celle souhaitée pour le PA auxquelles il est associé et il est peu tenu compte d'une éventuelle toxicité de NP seules. En plus, dans les travaux *in vitro* et chez l'animal, des gammes de concentrations de NP sont utilisées avec un seuil maximum bien au-delà de la quantité qui pourrait être administrée. Enfin, dans les travaux, la quantité de NP utilisée est ramenée à la concentration, par exemple en  $\mu$ g/mL, sans tenir compte du nombre de particules utilisées alors que cette valeur peut varier dans de très grandes proportions selon la taille des particules [128].

#### 4.6. Méthodes d'études de toxicité des nanomatériaux

Comme pour chaque nouvelle matière susceptible d'être en contact avec le Vivant des études des effets biologiques et toxiques des NP doivent être effectuées [129]. Celles-ci peuvent être menées soit *in vitro* sur des modèles cellulaires soit *in vivo*, le plus souvent chez le rongeur.

#### Choix de la lignée

Il est d'une grande importance. Du fait du très grand choix de lignées disponibles, il est possible de travailler sur des cellules proches de celles susceptibles d'être en contact avec les NP. En effet, différentes lignées, même physiologiquement proches peuvent réagir très différemment pour le même type de nanomatériau [130]. Les lignées cellulaires peuvent être plus ou moins sensibles à l'exposition aux NP du fait de leur appartenance à deux espèces différentes (rat/homme) ou de leur origine au sein d'une même espèce (cellules d'origine cancéreuses) ou de leur provenance de tissus différents (cellules épithéliales, neuronales, macrophages, etc.). Aussi, la sensibilité ou la réaction des cellules aux NP peut différer grandement du fait de variations de voies métaboliques des récepteurs membranaires, les antioxydants et de leur capacité de réparation de l'ADN [131]. Les difficultés que représentent les lignées primaires font qu'elles ne sont que très rarement utilisées.

Les modèles de coculture peuvent apporter des informations sur les interactions entres cellules et aider à la compréhension de phénomènes *in vivo*. En général, les applications envisagées pour les NP étudiées doivent amener à choisir la lignée cellulaire. Par exemple, si une administration IV est prévue, l'étude portera sur les cellules endothéliales et les macrophages, les premiers en contact avec les NP, mais également sur les cellules de l'organe ou du tissu cible [54].

Les avantages des modèles cellulaires [129], [132], [133] :

- Révélation des effets primaires sur les cellules cibles en l'absence d'effets secondaires causés par l'inflammation.
- Absence de facteurs physiologiques présents lors d'études chez l'animal.
- Etudes de viabilité et détermination des mécanismes moléculaires de la cytotoxicité.
- Résultats obtenus rapidement et à moindre coût.
- Préparations d'études ultérieures menées in vivo.
- Manipulations faciles à contrôler permettant de limiter la variabilité entre les manipulations.

- Limitation de la quantité de déchets toxiques générés.
- Possibilité d'utiliser des lignées cellulaires transgéniques.
- Absence de problème éthique dans la mesure où le travail n'est pas fait sur des cellules primaires.

#### 4.6.2. In vivo :

Ils permettent les études sur un organisme entier, d'en contrôler l'administration et étudier la distribution du produit administré dans l'organisme, la toxicité pour les organes, et doivent être un préalable à toute administration chez l'Homme. La bio-distribution et la cinétique toxique ne peuvent être étudiées que sur un animal entier. Les travaux chez l'animal permettent d'établir des données sur les dépôts dans les voies pulmonaires après inhalation, de déterminer des toxicités dermiques ou gastro-intestinales, d'étudier la dissémination des NP à partir d'un site d'administration. Les retentissements de l'administration des NP sur l'organisme peut mettre en évidence des altérations des fonctions cardiaques, neurologiques et immunologiques [50].

#### 4.6.3. Quels modèles utiliser ? In vivo ou In vitro ?

Les premières études d'un nouveau produit sont réalisées sur cellules car elles permettent de montrer aisément un éventuel pouvoir cytotoxique, d'étudier les relations concentrations/effets et de définir un premier seuil de toxicité. Cependant, malgré les résultats importants que peuvent apporter les lignées cellulaires, les conditions sont fort éloignées de celles régnant *in vivo* où jouent des données de distribution, de concentration locale, de cinétique d'élimination, de phénomènes inflammatoires et de réponses tissulaires coordonnées au produit administré [133]. Les principaux problèmes posés par l'utilisation de cultures cellulaire sont :

- Les essais pour déterminer la viabilité cellulaire peuvent fournir des résultats erronés du fait d'interaction des nanomatériaux utilisés avec les colorants [60], [62], [63]. Par exemple, les nanotubes de carbone interagissent avec le test de rouge neutre [50].
- Lors des études de cytotoxicité, les cultures cellulaires sont influencés par les fluctuations de l'environnement externe (température, concentrations des déchets, le pH), et il faut multiplier les essais pour obtenir des résultats valables [50].
- L'utilisation de différentes lignées pose le problème du comportement vis-à-vis des NP qui peut varier grandement (réaction au contact, internalisation, localisation intracellulaire) d'une lignée à l'autre.

- L'utilisation de cellules humaines ou animales peut également se traduire par des effets différents [131].
- La plupart des lignées continues proviennent de lésions cancéreuses ou sont des lignées primaires immortalisées. Elles sont aneuploïdes, ont des voies de signalisation modifiées du fait de leur prolifération continue et peuvent être, par exemple, devenues résistantes à un produit qui est toxique pour la cellule saine, euploïde [134].

Aussi la pertinence des études *in vitro* à la situation *in vivo* en nanotoxicologie est discutée [135]. Cependant, on peut faire varier les conditions expérimentales, pour étudier les interactions cellules/cellules, en modifiant par exemple l'état de polarisation des macrophages [136], [137]. Ainsi des systèmes mettant en jeu des cocultures complexes [138], [139] sont actuellement en développement [140] et devraient apporter des résultats plus proches des conditions physiologiques *in vivo*.

Les études sur l'animal ont leurs propres limites. Les doses qui leur sont administrées n'ont souvent aucun rapport avec la situation réelle ni en quantité ni en durée d'exposition. La réponse d'un animal à un toxique peut être très différente de celle d'un humain. Les animaux de laboratoire proviennent d'élevages contrôlés et peuvent éventuellement être consanguins pour limiter les effets variations inter-individus.

Bien que les deux systèmes, cellulaires et animaux soient complémentaires et incontournables, il faut bien en connaître les limites.

#### 4.7. Techniques d'études de toxicité des nanoparticules in vitro

#### 4.7.1. Viabilité et cytotoxicité

La viabilité cellulaire après contact avec des NP peut être étudiée par des tests qui déterminent un ou plusieurs paramètres cellulaires. Ces tests mesurent une toxicité aiguë. Ils contribuent à la compréhension des mécanismes toxiques. Par exemple :

- Bleu trypan, détermine l'intégrité de la membrane cellulaire et évalue la prolifération ou la lyse cellulaire. Il est considéré comme le test le moins sensible [141].
- Rouge neutre : son accumulation dans les lysosomes est indicatrice de la viabilité cellulaire.

- Activité lactate déshydrogénase soluble (LDH), reflet des lésions cellulaires, est couramment utilisée [142].
- Sels de Tétrazolium (MTT, WST, MTS, XTT) qui déterminent l'activité succinate déshydrogénase mitochondriale (enzyme de la voie respiratoire) est la méthode la plus utilisée.
- Test au BrdU (bromodésoxyuridine) mesure la synthèse de l'ADN par incorporation de cette base.

Comme ces tests mesurent des paramètres différents, il peut être intéressant d'en pratiquer au moins deux en parallèle (par exemple Bleu trypan et MTT). Cependant, étant donné que le choix des tests est plutôt le fait de l'opérateur, une standardisation du choix et de la mise en œuvre des tests de cytotoxicité est souhaitable. Etant donné la très grande variété des NP et de leurs effets, différents temps d'exposition avant la mesure de l'effet toxique doivent pouvoir être étudiés du fait de l'existence d'effets transitoires ou retardés de plusieurs jours [54].

#### 4.7.2. Cytopathologie et l'internalisation

La microscopie électronique à transmission (MET) permet de visualiser la localisation des NP dans les cellules et de vérifier la déformation éventuelle des organites intracellulaires. Les images obtenues peuvent donner une idée *i*) du mécanisme d'internalisation par visualisation de la formation de puits recouverts de clathrine par exemple, mais aussi *ii*) du mécanisme de toxicité des NP comme l'autophagie par observation de formation de phagosomes [143].

La cytométrie en flux (CMF) permet de quantifier l'internalisation en utilisant des NP marquées par un flurochrome. L'utilisation d'inhibiteurs spécifiques permet d'identifier le ou les mécanismes d'entrée des NP. L'utilisation de ces mêmes NP fluorescentes permet d'utiliser la microscopie confocale qui permet de visualiser l'internalisation.

Exemples d'inhibiteurs spécifiques de l'endocytose:

- Energie dépendant: azide de sodium ou incubation à 4°C.
- Phagocytose: cytochalasine D.
- Voie clathrine dépendante: chlorpromazine et méthode d'épuisement du potassium
- Voie cavéoline dépendante: génistéine et la filipine III.

Les inhibiteurs peuvent également causer des effets secondaires sur d'autres processus cellulaires [144]. Par exemple, la MβCD extrait le cholestérol de la membrane, empêchant l'endocytose cholestrol dépendante et cavéoline dépendante. Cependant, l'élimination du cholestérol altère la structure et la fluidité de la membrane, ce qui à son tour affecte la pinocytose, l'endocytose clathrine-dépendante et d'autres processus comme la déformation des protéines [145].

Des expériences *in vitro* peuvent reproduire les conditions cellulaires dans le corps et peuvent utiliser une gamme de techniques analytiques pour déterminer les effets spécifiques sur les cellules, mais l'obtention d'idées mécanistes détaillées est difficile. Pour contourner cette limitation, des membranes modèles ont également été utilisés pour étudier les effets des NP. De tels modèles de systèmes de membrane sont conçus [146], [147].

4.7.3. Etude des mécanismes moléculaires de la cytotoxicité

#### 4.6.4.1. Tests de génotoxicité

Les NP peuvent induire une génotoxicité par l'interaction directe des NP avec le matériel génétique, par dommages indirects à partir d'ERO dont la production serait induite par les NP, ou par des ions toxiques libérés par les NP [148]. Les tests les plus utilisés [131] sont :

- Test de comète
- Test du micronoyau
- Test des aberrations chromosomiques
- Test de mutation bactérienne inverse

#### 4.6.4.2. Toxicogénomique

La toxicogénomique résulte de la fusion de la toxicologie classique avec la génomique fonctionnelle [129], [149].

#### Puces à ADN « microarrays »

Elles permettent l'étude globale de l'expression de l'ensemble des gènes de la cellule (identification et quantification) par hybridation des ARNm à des sondes spécifiques. Il est ainsi possible d'étudier l'action d'un composé toxique par comparaison à un témoin non exposé. Ce niveau d'étude est intermédiaire entre la génomique et la protéomique [150] (**Figure 6**) où les ARN messagers synthétisés représentent une base pour l'adaptation de la cellule à son

environnement via la synthèse des protéines. L'analyse des résultats est très complexe et fait appel à des logiciels pour en faciliter l'interprétation.



Figure 6. Différents niveaux d'étude de la fonction cellulaire [150]

L'analyse comporte essentiellement 3 étapes:

- Normalisation: pour éliminer les sources de variations des expressions
- Détection de gènes différentiellement exprimés : avec des filtres selon le choix des paramètres statistiques et biologiques.
- Interprétation biologique: permet de déterminer les conséquences métaboliques et signalétiques pour les cellules de l'expression différentielle des gènes.
  - PCR quantitative

L'expressions des gènes les plus intéressants peut être confirmée et affinée par qRT-PCR (une étape de transcription inverse suivie d'une PCR quantitative) [151]. La qRT-PCR peut aussi être utilisés directement, sans passer par l'étape de puces à ADN, pour étudier des gènes que l'on sait être essentiels. Elle permet également des études comparatives de cinétiques et des doses en faisant varier les conditions d'exposition aux NP par exemple.

#### • Autres techniques

L'analyse des gènes exprimés peut aussi se faire par northern-blot pour les ARNm ou par western-blot pour les protéines [151].

#### 4.7.4. Conclusion

Malgré la performance des outils à la disposition des laboratoires désirant investiguer le pouvoir toxique des NP, il n'existe pour le moment pas de standardisation de ces études. Les résultats fournis sont générés par des études individuelles, où quelques paramètres spécifiques ont été suivis pour un certain type de NP avec un certain type de cellule et pour cela ils sont difficilement comparables. Des protocoles précis devraient être fournis, prenant en compte la nature des NP et l'utilisation qu'il est prévu d'en faire. La **Figure 7** [54] fournit une démarche raisonnable pour l'étude de la toxicité d'une NP avant son utilisation chez l'Homme. Cependant, de telles recommandations restent à établir pour le choix des techniques utilisées, recommandations complexes puisqu'elles devront tenir compte de la nature des NP (biodégradabilité), de leur utilisation (voie externe, voie digestive...), de la durée d'exposition (ponctuelle, chronique).



Figure 7. Arbre décisionnel pour l'évaluation toxicologique d'une nouvelle nanoparticule avant toute application biomédicale [54]

### 5. Eudragit<sup>®</sup>et Nanoparticules polymériques

L'Eudragit<sup>®</sup>, est un ensemble de polymères d'acides acryliques et méthacryliques développés par la société EVONIK Industries AG (Darmstadt, Germany). Certains de ceux-ci sont utilisés pour fabriquer des nanoparticules polymériques qui se différencient des autres en particulier par leur absence de biodégradabilité.

#### 5.1. Nanoparticules polymériques

Les NP polymériques sont de compositions et de structures variées. Elles peuvent être sous forme de micelles, de dendrimères, de nanoparticules, de polymersomes, de polyplexes, de systèmes polymères hybrides et de polymères conjugués [152] (**Figure 8**). Toutes ces formes ont été proposées, et certaines utilisées, pour des études précliniques et cliniques comme le Livatag<sup>®</sup> (essai clinique de phase III) [153]. Dans ces études le PA peut être conjugué à la surface des NP, ou libre dans ce cas encapsulé.



Figure 8. Différents types de nanoparticules polymériques [152]

- <u>NP polymériques solides</u>: elles sont sous forme de nanosphères ou de nanocapsules au sein desquelles le PA est piégé ou encapsulé. Plusieurs polymères sont utilisés pour préparer ce type de NP nues ou pégylées comme les NP de PLGA chargées en paclitaxel [154]
- <u>Micelles polymériques</u>: les copolymères di- ou tri-blocs amphiphiles ont la capacité de s'auto-assembler en sphères de taille nanométrique. La partie hydrophobe formant le noyau, permet l'encapsulation d'un PA, tandis que la partie hydrophile du copolymère forme l'enveloppe et apporte des propriétés de furtivité qui permet une certaine persistance de la micelle dans la circulation sanguine, comme le NK-911<sup>®</sup> (micelles de PEG-polyaspartate avec doxorubicine) pour le traitement anticancéreux (essai clinique de phase II).
- <u>Dendrimères</u>: ce sont des macromolécules formant une arborescence à partir d'un noyau central. Le PA peut être soit encapsulé dans le noyau, soit conjugué au polymère comme, par exemple, les dendrimères de poly(glycerol-succinic acid) nanovecteur de camptothecine dans le traitement anticancéreux [155].
- <u>Polymersomes</u>: ils ont une structure semblable à celle de liposomes mais possèdent une plus grande stabilité, une plus importante capacité de stockage et un temps de circulation prolongé. Les polymersomes chargés en doxorubicine ont la capacité de retarder la croissance de tumeur comme le DOXIL<sup>®</sup> qui est déjà commercialisé [156].
- <u>Polyplexes</u>: un acide nucléique (un gène ou un siRNA) est condensé et/ ou complexés par des interactions électrostatiques avec les groupements cationiques du polymère et protégé d'une dégradation enzymatique, comme le siRNA délivré par un complexe de polymère de triméthyle-chitosan-cystéine modifié par du galactose [157].
- <u>Systèmes hybrides polymériques</u>: ce sont des combinaisons de NP polymériques avec de liposomes, ou avec des agents tensio-actifs, comme le système polymère (alginate de sodium) / agent tensioactif anionique (sulfosuccinate de dioctylsodium).
- <u>Polymères conjugués</u> qui associent des polymères solubles dans l'eau à des PA ou des protéines. Ceci modifie le profil pharmacocinétique du PA, et ces structures sont considérées comme de nouvelles entités chimiques comme IT-101 (polycyclodextrincamptothecine) utilisé dan un essai clinique de phase I.

#### 5.1.1. Nature chimique des polymères

Les polymères utilisés peuvent être d'origine naturelle (chitosan) ou synthétiques, ces derniers peuvent utiliser des monomères organiques naturels (poly acide lactique) ou synthétiques (acide acrylique). Les NP peuvent êtres composées d'un seul type de polymère, d'une combinaison avec un autre polymère ou conjugué à d'autres molécules. En général, les polymères synthétiques sont plus homogènes en composition et ont donc une plus grande pureté que les polymères naturels et leur préparation est plus reproductible [153].

<u>Polymères naturels</u> : ils doivent être biocompatibles, présenter une faible antigénicité et être peu cytotoxiques. Les plus utilisés sont :

- Gélatine dérivée de collagène animal et insoluble dans les solvants organiques. Les NP de gélatine, chargées en amoxicilline, ont été proposées pour le traitement de *H. pylori* [158].
- Chitosan, polysaccharide mucoadhésif, possède des propriétés antimicrobiennes, immunoadjuvantes et antitumorales potentielles [159].

*Polymères synthétiques* : sont plus faciles à manipuler. Polylactate (PLA), polyglycolate, poly-(lactate-co-glycolate) (PLGA), polycaprolactone (PCL) et Eudragit<sup>®</sup> sont couramment utilisés. Ils peuvent être biodégradables (polylactate) ou non (Eudragit<sup>®</sup>). Le PLGA approuvé par la FDA et l'EMA pour l'administration parentérale, car il est biocompatible, biodégradable et pratiquement dénué de toxicité d'autant plus qu'il est décomposé dans l'organisme en acides lactique et glycolique métabolites naturels. Les NP de PLGA sont fréquemment utilisés pour l'encapsulation de divers PA anticancéreux (paclitaxel, doxorubicine, 9-nitrocamptothécine, cisplatine,..) [160].

#### 5.2. Eudragit<sup>®</sup>

#### 5.2.1. Structure chimique

Eudragit<sup>®</sup> est le nom commercial d'un ensemble de polymères dont la composition de base consiste en deux monomères, les acides acrylique et méthacrylique ou leurs esters, et commercialisés par la société EVONIK (**Figure 9**). Ces Poly-(méth)acrylates sont disponibles sous différentes formes : dispersions aqueuses, solutions organiques, granulés ou poudres [161]. Les structures des poly-(méth)acrylates sont modifiées pour diverses applications

pharmaceutiques par l'introduction de groupements dans la chaine de polymère, créant ainsi plusieurs formes chimiques distinctes chacune ayant des caractéristiques qui leurs sont propres (**Tableau 1**). Par exemple, pour les Eudragit<sup>®</sup> S et L, les groupes carboxyle ne sont pas ionisés dans des environnements à pH bas, tel celui de l'estomac et le polymère reste insoluble. Dans l'intestin, le pH plus élevé (> 5) provoque l'ionisation de ce groupement ce qui permet la libération du PA. L'Eudragit<sup>®</sup> L est utilisé pour une libération de médicaments dans l'intestin, tandis que l'Eudragit<sup>®</sup> S l'est pour une libération colique [162], [163]. De même, les deux copolymères Eudragit<sup>®</sup> RL et RS ne diffèrent que par leur teneur en groupes ammonium quaternaire : le rapport molaire des acrylates d'éthyle, méthacrylate de méthyle et méthacrylate d'éthyle triméthylammonium est environ 1/2/0,2 pour l'Eudragit<sup>®</sup> RL et 1/2/0,1 pour l'Eudragit<sup>®</sup> RS. Par conséquent l'Eudragit<sup>®</sup> RL est plus perméable que l'Eudragit<sup>®</sup> RS, mais les deux sont utilisés dans les applications à libération retardée pH-indépendante [163].



Figure 9. Structure chimique de l'Eudragit® RL [162]

Les Eudragit<sup>®</sup> ne sont pas biodégradables. Ils ne sont ni absorbés par la muqueuse intestinale, ni métabolisés *in vivo* mais éliminés sans biotransformation [164]. En fait, l'absence d'absorption de l'Eudragit<sup>®</sup> est en accord avec les exigences des organismes de réglementation (FDA, AESA) qui veut que les substances utilisées dans des formulations administrées *per os* de masse moléculaire supérieurs à 1000 g/mol soient très peu absorbées par le tractus gastro-intestinal [162].

#### 5.2.2. Applications

Du fait de leurs excellentes propriétés de formation de films (liée à une grande flexibilité, les taux de transition vapeur/ eau faible et d'une forte capacité d'adsorption de pigments), les applications principales des Eudragit<sup>®</sup> dans l'industrie pharmaceutique est la libération de principe actif adaptée aux besoins ou leur protection de l'environnement en particulier l'humidité et la lumière [163].

Différentes familles d'Eudragit<sup>®</sup> sont proposées en fonction des applications (**Tableau1**):

- Formulations entériques : Les Eudragit<sup>®</sup> L et S assurent une augmentation de l'efficacité des médicaments du fait d' :
  - une libération du PA en fonction de pH, avec ciblage intestinal ou colique,
  - une protection de PA sensibles au pH acide gastrique,
  - une protection de la muqueuse gastrique contre des PA agressifs,
  - une bonne stabilité au stockage.
- Formulation protectrice : L'Eudragit<sup>®</sup> E permet :
  - une protection de PA sensible à l'humidité et la lumière,
  - un masquage de goûts ou d'odeurs indésirables,
  - une réalisation de surfaces lisses et brillantes et d'enrobages colorés de comprimés.
- Formulations à libération prolongée : Les Eudragit<sup>®</sup> RS et RL assurent une libération contrôlée du principe actif dans le temps.

Les principales indications des polymères d'Eudragit<sup>®</sup> sont des administrations de médicaments par voie buccale ou sublinguale, par voie vaginale, par voie transdermique, et la délivrance intestinale et colique de médicaments.

Formulation	Nature du polymère	Composition élémentaire			
	Formulations entériques				
Eudragit <sup>®</sup> L 30 D-55	Copolymères anioniques	Acide méthacrylique : groupe fonctionnel			
Eudragit <sup>®</sup> L 100-55		Acide méthacrylique et acrylate d'éthyle			
Eudragit <sup>®</sup> L 100		Acide méthacrylique et méthacrylate de méthyle dans un rapport molaire de 1/1 pour			
Eudragit <sup>®</sup> L 12.5		l'Eudragit <sup>®</sup> L, et de 1/2 pour l'Eudragit <sup>®</sup> S.			
Eudragit <sup>®</sup> S 100					
Eudragit <sup>®</sup> S 12.5					
Eudragit <sup>®</sup> FS 30 D		Acrylate de méthyle, méthacrylate de méthyle et acide méthacrylique			
Formulation protectrice					
Eudragit <sup>®</sup> E 100	Copolymères cationiques	Méthacrylate de diméthylaminoéthyle, de			
Eudragit <sup>®</sup> E 12.5		butyle et de memyle.			
Eudragit <sup>®</sup> E PO					
	Formulations à libé	ération prolongée			
Eudragit <sup>®</sup> RL 100	Copolymères cationiques	Acrylate d'éthyle, méthacrylate de méthyle et			
Eudragit <sup>®</sup> RL PO		méthacrylique porteur de groupements			
Eudragit <sup>®</sup> RL 30 D		ammonium quaternaire.			
Eudragit <sup>®</sup> RL 12.5		Le rapport molaire de l'acrylate d'éthyle, du méthacrylate de méthyle et du méthacrylate			
Eudragit <sup>®</sup> RS 100		d'éthyle triméthylammonium est d'environ : $1/2/0,2$ pour l'Eudragit <sup>®</sup> RL et $1/2/0,1$ pour			
Eudragit <sup>®</sup> RS PO		l'Eudragit <sup>®</sup> RS.			
Eudragit <sup>®</sup> RS 30 D					
Eudragit <sup>®</sup> RS 12.5					
Eudragit <sup>®</sup> NE 30 D	Copolymères neutres	Acrylate d'éthyle et méthacrylate de méthyle			
Eudragit <sup>®</sup> NE 40 D					
Eudragit <sup>®</sup> NM 30 D					

#### 5.2.1. Toxicité

Selon les autorités administratives (FDA, EMA), les évaluations des excipients ne sont généralement pas effectuées séparément des PA. Aucune ADI (*Acceptable Daily Intake*) n'est disponible pour les polymères d'Eudragit<sup>®</sup> en Europe ou aux Etats-Unis, mais les quantités maximum admissibles des excipients dans les formulations sont disponibles dans la base des données des ingrédients inactifs (http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cder/iig/index.cfm).

Les données toxicologiques fournies par Evonik sur l'Eudragit<sup>®</sup> RL et RS montrent une très faible toxicité aiguë tant orale que cutanée. En fait, Eudragit<sup>®</sup> RS est bien toléré lorsqu'il est administré à des chiens par gavage pendant 28 jours jusqu'à 1000 mg/kg de poids/jour, et de même à des rats pendant 26 semaines à des doses de 200, 500 et 1000 mg/kg de poids /jour (Life Science Research, England, 1986). Les polymères ne sont pas irritant pour la peau et les yeux des animaux de laboratoire (BSL Bioservice, Germany, 2001). Les résultats des tests de génotoxicité (test d'Ames, survenue de lymphome chez la souris, test du micronoyau) ne sont pas en faveur d'un pouvoir mutagène. Aucun effet cytotoxique n'a été observé (RCC-CCR, Germany, 2003).

Les études cliniques chez l'homme avec des formulations pharmaceutiques contenant de l'Eudragit<sup>®</sup> RL ou RS ont montré l'absence d'effets indésirables qui pourrait être liés à ces polymères. Ils ne sont pas dégradés dans le corps humain et sont insensibles à l'action des sucs gastriques et des enzymes digestives comme la pepsine, la trypsine, la chymotrypsine, l'amylase et la lipase. Cependant, l'administration à long terme de doses élevées d'Eudragit<sup>®</sup> RL et RS (>200 mg/kg/j) peut influencer l'absorption des aliments ainsi que l'équilibre de l'eau et des électrolytes [162].

5.2.2. Eudragit<sup>®</sup> et la nanotechnologie - Intérêt et toxicité

Du fait de ses propriétés et des différentes formes disponibles, l'Eudragit<sup>®</sup> est un bon candidat dans le domaine des NP en particulier :

- Formation de NP d'Eudragit<sup>®</sup> soit pour utilisations telles quelles soit pour les inclure dans des dispositifs médicaux comme les stents pour une libération prolongée de PA (Eudragit<sup>®</sup> S100 / [165])
- Ciblage colique de médicaments (Eudragit<sup>®</sup> FS 30/ [166]).

- Enrobage de NP pour éviter une libération brutale d'un PA.
- Protection d'un PA facile à dégrader ou insoluble ou non absorbé [167]

Les NP d'Eudragit<sup>®</sup> sont très utilisées en recherche thérapeutique, avec des applications aussi variées, et les travaux portent sur leur caractérisation, la détermination de la meilleure formulation, le mode de libération de PA, les effets biologiques de complexes NP/PA [167]. Cependant, peu d'études se sont intéressées à la toxicité des NP. Les données disponibles sur la toxicité des d'Eudragit<sup>®</sup> sont résumées dans le **Tableau 2** où sont précisées les informations sur le type d'Eudragit<sup>®</sup>, le PA utilisé, le modèle cellulaire ou animal et les tests utilisés, les doses testées et enfin les principaux résulats.

On peut remarquer en général que :

- La majorité des études ont été *in vitro*, seules 2 études *in vivo* en utilisant les souris comme modèle animal [184], [185].
- La totalité des études *in vitro* ont utilisé des lignées continues et se sont intéressées à la diminution de toxicité des molécules anticancéreuses après encapsulation.
- Le plus souvent seuls les tests de toxicité « classiques » (MTT surtout, LDH, BT) ont été utilisés pour mesurer la cytotoxicité, et seules 2 études ont étudié les mécanismes des effets cellulaires des NP d'Eudragit<sup>®</sup> [168], [143].
- La toxicité de NP vides est peu étudiée (seulement 3 études) [170], [168], [178]. La très grande majorité des études ont porté sur la comparaison des toxicités du PA seul ou encapsulé.
- Le mode d'internalisation des NP dans les cellules a été étudié mais dans le but d'en expliquer l'effet biologique et non de comprendre le mécanisme de cette internalisation.
- Deux études ont évalué la génotoxicité des NP préparées [167], [179].

En conclusion, les NP d'Eudragit<sup>®</sup> sont généralement dépourvues de cytotoxicité à des doses moyennes (jusqu'à 800-1000  $\mu$ g/mL) et la toxicité est faible à forte dose (> 1000  $\mu$ g/mL) sauf pour les NP/Eudragit<sup>®</sup> RS qui ont une forte toxicité (80%) à une dose de 400  $\mu$ g/mL *in vitro* [103] et sont considérées comme dénuées d'effet toxique *in vivo* aux doses recommandées.

Tableau 2. Etudes portant sur la toxicité des nanoparticules d'Eudragit<sup>®</sup>

Type de polymère	Principe actif	Modèle cellulaire / animal	Tests	Doses	Principaux résultats	Référence
Eudragit <sup>®</sup> RLPO	GSNO	A10	MTT	3 mg/mL	Absence de toxicité pour les NP vides et chargées en GSNO	[169]
Eudragit <sup>®</sup> RLPO	GSNO	THP-1	WST-1, BT	De 6 à 200 μg/mL	Absence de toxicité Augmentation de l'activité mitochondriale pour les NP chargées en GSNO / prolifération pour les NP vides	[91]
Eudragit <sup>®</sup> RL PO	Aucun	NR8383 THP-1	MTT, WST-1 BT	De 6 à 200 μg/mL	Faible toxicité (70% -200 µg/mL) pour NR8383 : Absence de toxicité pour THP1 (prolifération)	[170]
Eudragit <sup>®</sup> E	Silibinin	КВ	MTT ERO Apoptose Test Comet	De 5 à 50 μg/mL	Toxicité dose-dépendante (NP chargées en PA) Augmentation de ROS Teste de génotoxicité positive	[167]
Eudragit <sup>®</sup> RS100/S100	Raloxifene	MCF-7	MTT BT	Doses correspondant aux (1-5 µM) de PA	(85%) Faible toxicité à la dose correspondante 5µM de PA	[171]
Eudragit <sup>®</sup> RS100	Glycofurol	A-253	XTT	De 0.5 à 2 μM	Absence de toxicité	[172]
Eudragit <sup>®</sup> RS100	Aucun	HMEC184 MCF-7 MDA-MB-231	WST BrdU	De 3 à 100 μg/mL	Absence de toxicité prolifération avec niveau moins pour le MCF-7	[168]
Eudragit <sup>®</sup> L100-55	Oméprazole	Caco-2	MTT	De 25 à 800 μg/mL	Toxicité dose et temps dépendante (70%) pour 800 µg/mL	[173] [174]
Eudragit <sup>®</sup> S100	Ovalbumine	Caco-2	MTT	De 0.05 à 2 mg/ml	Toxicité à partir de 1mg/ml (75%)	[175]
Eudragit <sup>®</sup> L100	Diclofenac Na	Caco-2	MTT		Faible toxicité >80%	[176]

Type de polymère	Principe actif	Modèle cellulaire /	Tests	Doses	Principaux résultats	Référence
		animai				
Eudragit <sup>®</sup> RSPO	+/- Héparine	NR8383	GSH/ERO MTT/BT Apoptose	De 25 à 400 μg/mL	Diminution de GSH Augmentation d'ERO Cytotoxicité dose dépendante (20% pour 400 µg/mL)	[143] [103]
Eudragit <sup>®</sup> RL100 (seule ou mélangé avec PLGA)	CyclosporineA	L929	MTT	De 0.125 à 0.5 mg/ml	Absence de toxicité (>80%)	[177]
Eudragit <sup>®</sup> S100	Aucun	VK2/E6E7 HeLa	MTT	De 0.01 à 1 mg/ml	Absence de cytotoxicité	[178]
Eudragit <sup>®</sup> S100	Curcumine	HT-29	MTT Test comète		Absence de cytotoxicité et de génotoxicité	[36, 179]
Eudragit <sup>®</sup> RS100	Glutathion	HaCat RAW264.7	MTT	0-500µg/mL	Absence de cytotoxicité	[180]
Eudragit <sup>®</sup> S100 (mélange avec PLGA)	Ténofovir/ Ténofovir diso- proxil fumarate	VK2/E6E7 End1/E6E7	MTS, LDH	De 25 à 10000 μg/mL	Toxicité significative pour la plus forte concentration	[181]
Eudragit <sup>®</sup> S100 (enrobage de NP)	Cisplatine	HCT-116	Rouge neutre	De 0.01 à 1000 μg/mL	Toxicité dose et temps dépendante	[182]
NP d'Eudragit <sup>®</sup> RS avec une couche de Poly méthyl méthacrylate PMMA	Métronidazole	Caco-2	MTT	De 25 à 800 mg/L	Absence de toxicité 85% pour les doses 400-800 mg/L	[183]
Eudragit <sup>®</sup> L 100-55 (enrobage des NP de PMMP)	Antigène (HIV-1 Tat)	Souris		60 μg/animal	Pas de toxicité chez l'animal	[184]
Eudragit <sup>®</sup> L 100-55 (enrobage des NP de PMMP)	Lysozyme Trypsine Antigène (HIV-1 Tat)	HL3T1 HeLa MDDC Souris	MTT	De 10 à 500 μg/mL	Absence de cytotoxicité (> 80% pour 500 μg/mL) Pas de toxicité chez l'animal	[185]

## **Objectif de travail**

L'EA 3452 développe des vecteurs synthétiques par préparation de NP polymériques vecteurs de médicaments, comme l'héparine de bas poids moléculaire et les donneurs de NO. Dans ce contexte, la plate-forme de toxicologie moléculaire de l'EA cherche à mieux comprendre les interactions NP / cellules. Ceci va plus loin qu'une simple étude de cytotoxicité, puisque l'on cherche à comprendre au mieux le mécanisme d'action des nanoparticules d'intérêt dans un modèle *in vitro*.

Objets de cette étude :

- NP d'Eudragit<sup>®</sup> vides et chargées en PA, S-nitrosoglutathion (GSNO).
- Des lignées monocytaires / macrophagiques.

Objectifs :

- Etude toxicologique de la réponse cellulaire aux NP et mieux comprendre les interactions NP / cellules par analyse génomique.
- Différentiation entre l'effet nanoparticulaire et l'effet GSNO.
- Effet thérapeutique du GSNO.

Partie expérimentale

Le second chapitre de ce manuscrit est consacré à nos travaux expérimentaux. Ils sont présentés sous forme de trois articles, dans un ordre chronologique, chacun étant précédé d'une introduction et suivi d'une conclusion qui résume les principaux résultats obtenus et auxquels sont ajoutés éventuellement des données complémentaires (non publiées). Une quatrième partie est un projet d'article portant sur une analyse supplémentaire des résultats de l'article 2.

Dans un premier temps, nous avons étudié l'impact des NP vides sur deux modèles cellulaires (de rat et d'Homme) en termes de viabilité cellulaire en utilisant les tests de viabilité classique (MTT, WST, BT) et d'expressions des gènes par qRT-PCR.

Dans un second temps, nous avons étudié la viabilité cellulaire, l'internalisation de ces NP et l'expression des gènes ont été étudiées avec la seule lignée humaine après exposition à des NP vides ou chargées en PA, *S*-nitrosoglutathion (GSNO). Des NP marquées au Rouge Nil ont été utilisées pour montrer l'internalisation des NP par CMF et la microscopie de confocale. L'analyse globale d'expression des gènes a été réalisée à partir de puces à ADN d'Agilent à l'aide de plusieurs logiciels et de bases des données.

# 1. <u>Article 1.</u> Viability and gene expression responses to polymeric nanoparticles in human and rat cells

Des études antérieures pour évaluer les effets des NP de l'Eudragit<sup>®</sup> RS PO ont été menées dans notre groupe sur la lignée de macrophages alvéolaires de rat NR8383 d'une part [103] et sur les cellules épithéliales humaines HMEC de l'autre [168]. Des résultats opposés ont été obtenus : une toxicité mitochondriale et une induction de l'autophagie avec les macrophages de rat et une stimulation de l'activité mitochondriale avec les cellules épithéliales humaines. Cette différence de réponse pouvait être liée au fait que ces deux études avaient été menées dans deux laboratoires différents, avec deux protocoles expérimentaux différents. Nous avons donc décidé de reprendre ce travail et nous avons comparé l'exposition de deux lignées monocytaires / macrophagiques, une de rat (NR8383) et l'autre humaine (THP-1) à des NP d'Eudragit® RL PO en respectant les mêmes conditions (culture, concentrations utilisées et temps d'exposition). Cette dernière nanoformulation, peu différente chimiquement de la forme RS PO, a été mise au point dans l'EA 3452 pour encapsuler des principes actifs aussi différents que l'héparine et le Snitrosoglutathion (GSNO) et avec ce dernier composé, c'est le polymère Eudragit<sup>®</sup> RL PO qui a permis d'obtenir le meilleur taux d'encapsulation. Le choix des modèles de lignées monocytaires / macrophagiques était justifié du fait de l'utilisation courante de ces cellules pour l'évaluation de la cytotoxicité de NP. En effet, en raison de leur capacité à traverser les barrières physiologiques, de leur activité phagocytaire, et de leur potentiel métabolique, les macrophages jouent un rôle essentiel dans la détermination du devenir des particules étrangères au sein de l'organisme dans le cadre de la réponse immunitaire innée.

La viabilité cellulaire a été déterminée après 24 h d'exposition aux NP par la mesure de l'activité de la succinate déshydrogénase mitochondriale avec les tests au MTT et au WST-1. La croissance des cellules a été évaluée avec le test au bleu trypan. L'expression précoce (après 4 h d'exposition aux NP) de neuf gènes impliqués dans des voies de souffrance cellulaire a été évaluée par RT-qPCR : *NCF1* (stress oxydant), *NFKB, TNFA, IL6* et *IL1B* (inflammation), *ATG16L* (autophagie) et *PDCD4, BCL2*, et *CASP8* (équilibre apoptotique).
## ORIGINAL RESEARCH

## Viability and gene expression responses to polymeric nanoparticles in human and rat cells

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Received: 4 December 2013 / Accepted: 1 April 2014 / Published online: 21 April 2014 © Springer Science+Business Media Dordrecht 2014

Abstract Applications of polymeric nanoparticles (NP) in medical fields are rapidly expanding. However, the influence of polymeric NP on cell growth and functions is widely underestimated. Therefore, we have studied cell and polymeric NP interactions by addressing two cell types with two endpoints (viability and gene expressions). Rat NR8383 and human THP-1 monocytic cell lines were exposed to 6 to 200  $\mu$ g/mL of Eudragit<sup>®</sup> RL NP for 24 h, and cellular viability was estimated using MTT, WST-1, and trypan blue tests. A decrease of viability was observed with NR8383 cells (down to 70 % for 200  $\mu$ g/mL), and on the contrary, an increase with THP-1 cells (up to 140 % for 200  $\mu$ g/mL). Differential expression of genes involved in oxidative damage

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M. A. Abdel-Wahhab Food Toxicology & Contaminants, Department National Research Center, Cairo, Egypt (*NCF1*), inflammation (*NFKB*, *TNFA*, *IL6*, *IL1B*), autophagy (*ATG16L*), and apoptotic balance (*PDCD4*, *BCL2*, *CASP8*) was analyzed. *ATG16L*, *BCL2*, and *TNFA* were up-regulated in NR8383 cells, which are consistent with an induction of autophagy and inflammation. On the other hand, *NCF1*, *NFKB*, and *IL1B* were down-regulated in THP-1 cells, which may contribute to explain the increase of cellular viability. Our results show that (1) the toxic potency of NP is dependent on the cellular model used and (2) mechanistic toxicology should be the corner stone for the evaluation of NP hazard.

**Keywords** Autophagy · Inflammation · Macrophages · Oxidative stress · Polymeric nanoparticles · Toxicogenomic

### Introduction

The aim of the nano-packaging of drugs is to improve their biodistribution and to reduce their toxicity by increasing their therapeutic index (Kumari et al. 2010). Eudragit<sup>®</sup>, a non-biodegradable polycationic copolymer of acrylic and methacrylic acid esters bearing quaternary ammonium groups, is insoluble at physiologic pH and of limited swelling. It is then a good vehicle for drug dispersion. Eudragit<sup>®</sup> is available in various subtypes, including Eudragit<sup>®</sup> RS and RL, which differ slightly by their physicochemical characteristics. Eudragit<sup>®</sup> RS or Eudragit<sup>®</sup> RL nanoparticles (NP) containing lowmolecular-weight heparin (Jiao et al. 2002) or cyclosporine (Ubrich et al. 2005) have been tested per os in vivo. Due to their positive charges, Eudragit<sup>®</sup> RS and RL NP persist on the corneal surface which permit a prolonged ocular release of drugs such as ibuprofen (Pignatello et al. 2002).

Deleterious effects of NP on cells and organisms have been described (Stone and Donaldson 2006). The biological activity of nanomaterials cannot be extrapolated straightforwardly from their chemical and physical properties. The mechanism of nanomaterial toxicity is only partially elucidated, and it is possible that more than one is involved such as oxidative stress, inflammatory response, apoptosis, and autophagy (De Stefano et al. 2012). Elucidating the molecular mechanisms by which nanosized particles induce activation of cell signaling pathways is a critical issue before any clinical application to be put into practice. For this purpose, toxicogenomic and transcriptomic studies are recommended, and national and supranational regulatory agencies have proposed to conduct, as far as possible, mechanistic studies using gene expression assays (Claude 2009; National Research Council US 2007).

In this context, previous studies in our group to evaluate the effects of Eudragit<sup>®</sup> RS NP have been conducted on macrophage rat cells on one side (Eidi et al. 2010) and epithelial human cells on the other (Hussien et al. 2013). Discrepant results have been obtained with these two cell lines with autophagy on rat macrophage and a stimulatory effect on human epithelial cells. As these studies have been conducted in two different locations, differences in exposure conditions may have modified the responses (Monopoli et al. 2012).

Thus, to eliminate such a confounding factor, we have undertaken a comparison of exposition to NP of Eudragit<sup>®</sup> RL PO (ENP) on two monocytic/macrophagic cell lines, one of rat (NR8383) and the other of human (THP-1) exactly in the same conditions. This novel nanoformulation was already in use in our research team. The choice of monocytic/macrophagic cell models is justified by their current use for the evaluation of NP cytotoxicity (Lanone et al. 2009; Oberdorster et al. 2005). Indeed, because of their capacity to cross physiological barriers, phagocytic activity, and metabolic potential, macrophages play a crucial role in determining the biopersistence of foreign particles and in the innate immune response. For this study, we have evaluated cell viability using the measure of

NAD(P)H-dependent cellular oxidoreductase enzymes activity using both the MTT and WST-1 tests which may give different results and cell growth with trypan blue (Eidi et al. 2010). The early expression (at 4 h) of nine relevant genes involved in the pathways leading to toxicity was assessed: oxidative stress (*NCF1*), inflammation (*NFKB*, *TNFA*, *IL6*, *IL1B*), autophagy (*ATG16L*), and apoptotic balance (*PDCD4*, *BCL2*, *CASP8*).

## Materials and methods

### Reagents

Eudragit<sup>®</sup> RL PO (MW=150,000 Da [CAS number: 33434-24-1]) was a gift from Evonik Polymers (Darmstadt, Germany). Pluronic F68 [11104-97-5] was from Sigma Aldrich (Saint-Quentin Fallavier, France). RPMI 1640 medium was from GIBCO (Invitrogen, Cergy Pontoise, France), DMEM from PAA Laboratories (GE Healthcare, Vélizy-Villacoublay, France), and fetal bovine serum from Eurobio (Eurobio, Les Ulis, France). Penicillin [113-98-4], streptomycin [128-46-1], amphotericin B [1397-89-3], L-glutamine [78354-52-6], 3(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide (MTT) [57360-69-7], and trypan blue solution were from Sigma Aldrich. 4-[3-(4-iodophenyl)-2-(4-nitrophenyl)-2H-5-tetrazolio]-1,3-benzene disulfonate (WST-1) was from Roche Applied Sciences (Penzberg, Germany).

#### Cell culture

Human THP-1 (ATCC<sup>®</sup>, TIB-202<sup>TM</sup>, Manassas, VA, USA) non-adherent monocyte cell line was grown in RPMI 1640 medium. The NR8383 rat cell line (ATCC<sup>®</sup>, CRL 2192<sup>TM</sup>) with a 50 % adherent and 50 % floating cell phenotype was grown in DMEM supplemented with 2 mM of L-glutamine. To both culture media, 10 % of heat-inactivated fetal bovine serum, 100 U/mL of penicillin, 100 µg/mL of streptomycin, and 0.25 µg/mL of amphotericin B were added. Cells were grown at 37 °C under 5 % CO<sub>2</sub> atmosphere and split every 3 days.

## Preparation of ENP

ENP were prepared using the double emulsion/solvent evaporation technique from three phases according to

Bodmeier et al. (1991) with slight modifications. In brief, the internal aqueous phase consisted of 0.5 mL of 0.1 % aqueous solution of Pluronic<sup>®</sup> F68 (w/v). The organic phase was a 10 % solution (w/v) of Eudragit<sup>®</sup> RL PO in 5 mL of dichloromethane (Laurylab, Saint Fons, France). The external aqueous phase consisted of 20 mL of 0.1 % Pluronic<sup>®</sup> aqueous solution. The primary water/oil emulsion was prepared by sonication using a 3-mm probe (Vibracell 75022, Bioblock, Illkirch, France) at 40 % maximal amplitude for 1 min. This primary emulsion was put into the external aqueous phase, and a secondary emulsification was carried out by sonication using a 6-mm probe (Vibracell 75022, Bioblock) at 80 % maximal amplitude for 30 s leading to a double water/oil/water emulsion. The dichloromethane was eliminated using a rotary evaporator (R-144, Büchi, Flawil, Switzerland) at 100 rpm for 10 min. ENP were collected by ultracentrifugation (Beckman, Miami, FL, USA) at  $186,000 \times g$  for 30 min. The pellet was suspended by mechanical agitation in the medium used for experimentations.

### Characterization of ENP

The hydrodynamic diameter and size distribution of ENP, expressed as polydispersity index (PdI), were measured using dynamic light scattering (DLS; Zetasizer<sup>TM</sup> 3000E, Malvern Instruments Worcestershire, UK) and were calculated from the number distribution graph. Zeta potential was calculated using the *Smoluchowski's* equation (Sze et al. 2003). All measurements were performed in triplicate at 25 °C.

For transmission electron microscopy (TEM), a drop of ENP suspension was deposited onto a carbon-coated copper grid, and after drying, it was negatively stained by uranyl acetate 3 % in bidistilled water. Preparations were observed with a CM12 microscope (Philips, Eindhoven, The Netherlands) operated at 80 kV. ENP diameter was determined on 114 round objects. For scanning electron microscopy (SEM), a drop of ENP suspension was deposited on a plastic cover slip and let to dry (Thermanox<sup>®</sup> 174950, Merck Eurolab, Strasbourg, France). The cover slips were then coated under a vacuum with gold-palladium for 100 s (Polaron SC7640, Thermo VG Scientific, England). Preparations were observed with a Stereoscan 240S/N, (Léo, Rueil-Malmaison, France) at 15 kV.

### Evaluation of cell viability

Cells were seeded in 96-well plates with  $5 \times 10^3$  cells per well. After overnight incubation, plates were centrifuged ( $300 \times g$ , 20 min), and the medium was removed by aspiration. Fresh medium was added, and cells were incubated for 24 h with 0, 6.25, 12.5, 25, 50, 100, and 200 µg/mL of ENP. Six wells were used per culture condition, and experiments were repeated thrice. After 24 h, the cell viability was checked using MTT and WST-1 assays, performed according to manufacturer's protocols. Absorbance was measured at 540 and 450 nm with reference wavelengths of 690 and 620 nm, respectively. Numbers of dead and alive cells were estimated by microscopy (objective ×40) in Glasstic<sup>®</sup> Slides 10 (Kova International, Garden Grove, CA) using trypan blue.

#### Gene expression analysis by real-time PCR (qRT-PCR)

Expression of the following genes by rat cells and their counterpart by human cells was measured: neutrophil cytosolic factor 1 (NCF1), nuclear factor kappa B (NFKB), autophagy related 16-like (ATG16L), programmed cell death 4 (PDCD4), B-cell CLL/ lymphoma 2 (BCL2), caspase 8 (CASP8), tumor necrosis factor-alpha (TNFA), interleukin 1 beta (IL1B), and interleukin 6 (IL6). Total RNA was extracted from  $1.5 \times$ 10<sup>6</sup> THP-1 and NR8383 cells unexposed or exposed for 4 h to 50 and 200 µg/mL of ENP by TRIzol<sup>®</sup> Reagent (Invitrogen, La Jolla, CA). RNA purity and degradation were checked by spectrophotometry using BioSpecnano (Shimadzu Corporation, Kyoto, Japan) and capillary electrophoresis using RNA 6000 Nano<sup>®</sup> kit and the Bioanalyzer<sup>™</sup> 2100 (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, CA). The complementary DNA (cDNA) synthesis was performed with 100 ng of total RNA using the iScript<sup>™</sup> cDNA Synthesis Kit (Bio-Rad, Marnes-la-Coquette, France) following the manufacturer's protocol. Gene expressions were determined by qRT-PCR with the  $iQ^{TM}$  SYBR Green<sup>®</sup> Supermix (Bio-Rad) in a Stratagene Mx3000p system (Agilent Technologies). Briefly, 4 µL of each cDNA sample was amplified in a PCR reaction (final volume of 20 µL) containing 10 µL of PCR reagent and 300 nM of each two primers (Tables 1 and 2). For all the samples, the following conditions were used: an initial heat-denaturing step at 95 °C for 5 min followed by 40 cycles of 95 °C for 15 s. annealing at 60 °C for 40 s, and elongation and signal

Table 1Primers used for geneexpression analysis in NR8383 ratcells

Functional class	Gene	Sequence
	RPL13 (internal control)	F: 5'-CCCTCCACCCTATGACAAGA-3'
		R: 5'-GGTACTTCCACCCGACCTC-3'
Oxidative stress	NCF1	F: 5'-CTTGTAATTCCCGCATTGCT-3'
		R: 5'-GCCTCGTATGTCTTTGATGC-3'
Inflammation	NFKB	F: 5'-TTCGGAACTGGGCAAATGTT-3'
		R: 5'-ACACGTAGCGGAATCGAAAT-3'
Inflammation	TNFA	F: 5'-TAGCCCATGTTGTAGCAAACC-3'
		R: 5'-GATGGCAGAGAGGAGGTTGA-3'
Inflammation	IL1B	F: 5'-AGCAGCTTTCGACAGTGAGG-3'
		R: 5'-AAAGAAGGTGCTTGGGTCCT-3'
Inflammation	IL6	F: 5'-TAGTCCTTCCTACCCCAACTTCC-3'
		R: 5'-GGTTTGCCGAGTAGACCTCA-3'
Autophagy	ATG16L	F: 5'-CTTGTAATTCCCGCATTGCT-3'
		R: 5'-GCCTCGTATGTCTTTGATGC-3'
Apoptosis	PDCD4	F: 5'-GGTGTGCCCGTGTTGGCAGT-3'
		R: 5'-GGCCCACCAATCGTGGTGCT-3'
Apoptosis	BCL2	F: 5'-GAGGATTGTGGCCTTCTTTG-3'
		R: 5'-GCATCCCAGCCTCCGTTAT-3'
Apoptosis	CASP8	F: 5'-GGTTTCTGCCTACAGGGTTA-3'
		R: 5'-TCGTAATCGTCGATCCTTCC-3'

Table 2	Primers used for gene
expression	on analysis in THP-1 hu-
man cell	s

Functional class	Gene	Sequence
	ACTB (internal control)	F: 5'-TTGGCAATGAGCGGTTCC-3'
		R: 5'-GTACTTGCGCTCAGGAGGAG-3'
Oxidative stress	NCF1	F: 5'-AGAGTACCGCGACAGACATC-3'
		R: 5'-TAGTTGGGCTCAGGGTCTTC-3'
Inflammation	NFKB	F: 5'-CAGCCCCAGAAACAGCTGAT-3'
		R: 5'-ACCAGGTCCACCTCGATCTT-3'
Inflammation	TNFA	F: 5'-TAGCCCATGTTGTAGCAAACC-3'
		R: 5'-GATGGCAGAGAGGAGGTTGA-3'
Inflammation	IL1B	F: 5'-TGAAGTGCTCCTTCCAGGAC-3'
		R: 5'-TCGTTATCCCATGTGTCGAA-3'
Inflammation	IL6	F: 5'-CAATTCTGGTATTCTTTCCCA-3'
		R: 5'-GCAAGTCTCCTCATTGAATCC-3'
Autophagy	ATG16L	F: 5'-TTTGGGAGACGCTCTGTCTC-3'
		R: 5'-AGTAACCGGGAACCTGGACT-3'
Apoptosis	PDCD4	F: 5'-AGACCAAATGAAAAGAGGTTATGAG-3'
		R: 5'-GCCCCTTGAAGGACAAAGAT-3'
Apoptosis	BCL2	F: 5'-GAGGATTGTGGCCTTCTTTG-3'
		R: 5'-GCATCCCAGCCTCCGTTAT-3'
Apoptosis	CASP8	F: 5'-GAAAGGGTGGAGCGGATTAT-3'
		R: 5'-GCTTCCTTTGCGGAATGTAG-3'

acquisition at 72 °C for 40 s. To confirm the amplification of specific transcripts, melting curve profiles were produced at the end of each reaction, and if two or more peaks were presents, the corresponding results were excluded. Water was used for negative controls for each PCR run. For each gene, amplifications were performed from three independently prepared samples. Gene expression levels were normalized by comparison to ribosomal protein L13 (*RPL13*) and actin, beta (*ACTB*) housekeeping genes, used as references for NR8383 and THP-1, respectively. Fold changes (FC) of gene expression were calculated by  $2^{-\Delta\Delta Ct}$  method (Peirson et al. 2003).

### Statistical analysis

Particle size and cell viability data are presented as means±standard deviation or standard error of the mean (SE), respectively. For the latter, statistical differences were determined by one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) followed by Tukey-Kramer test, using the RLPlot software<sup>TM</sup>. Regarding qRT-PCR, FC were calculated by the ratio exposed/unexposed cells, and results were expressed as means±SE. Statistical differences between control and exposed cells were determined by ANOVA followed by Dunnett's test.

## Results

#### Nanoparticle characterization

The mean hydrodynamic diameter of ENP as determined by DLS from three independent preparations is  $185\pm70$  nm with a polydispersity index of  $0.190\pm$ 0.023. The zeta potential was  $+56\pm3$  mV. ENP appeared as round bodies in SEM (Fig. 1a) and TEM (Fig. 1b) with an average diameter of  $142\pm60$  nm. The difference between these two values can be explained by both the difference between hydrodynamic (with ions) and physical diameter (no water), as well as a shrinking of the particles due to desiccation by the treatment before TEM observation (Wu et al. 2005).

## Cell viability

ENP exposure for 24 h decreased the viability of NR8383 cells in a dose-dependent manner with both MTT and WST-1 tests (Fig. 2a, b) down to 70 % of the

control for 200 µg/mL. In parallel, a significant decrease in the number of NR8383 rat cells (down to 70 % of control after exposition to 200 µg/mL) was observed with the trypan blue test (Fig. 2c). In contrast, under the same conditions, a dose-dependent increase in cellular viability of THP-1 human cells up to 140 % was observed with MTT (Fig. 2a) and of 130 % with WST-1, although a plateau was reached at 12.5 µg/mL (Fig. 2b). In parallel, a dose-dependent increase in the growth of THP-1 human cells was evident with the trypan blue test reaching 160 % of the control for the highest concentration of ENP (Fig. 2c).

#### Gene expression analysis

After 4 h, pro-autophagic ATG16L and anti-apoptotic BCL2 genes were significantly up-regulated in rat cells. On the contrary, pro-apoptotic PDCD4 was significantly down-regulated, but no significant change in NCF1, NFKB, IL1B, and CASP8 expression was observed (Fig. 3a and Table 3). In human cells, NCF1, NFKB, and IL1B were down-regulated, while expression of ATG16L and CASP8 was not significantly modified, and PDCD4 and BCL2 were only moderately downregulated (Fig. 3b and Table 3). The only common results were for TNFA which was significantly upregulated in both cell lines, while IL6 was not expressed. In most cases, the expressions of genes were more pronounced whether up or down for exposition to 200 or 50  $\mu$ g/mL, respectively. The only exceptions were expressions of TNFA and BCL2 in NR8383 cells significantly higher for the low concentration.

## Discussion

When exposed to ENP, the rat and human cell lines behave differently in terms of viability, growth, and gene expression. An identical reduction of viability and growth by ENP of NR8383 has been also observed with the chemically related polymeric Eudragit<sup>®</sup> RS NP which were of a lower zeta value and of a smaller size because of preparation by nanoprecipitation (Eidi et al. 2010). However, these NP have a stimulatory effect on human mammary epithelial cells (Hussien et al. 2013) just as the one we have observed in our THP-1 model. The interactions of NP with cells involve complex phenomena as chemical composition, charge, size of NP, and the cellular model used play a role. For example, Fig. 1 Electron microscopy of ENP. a SEM, particles appear as spherical structures of dispersed diameter. b TEM, some round structure present a clear center which may correspond to a cavity В

500 nm

aluminum metal NP exhibit greater toxicity than aluminum oxide NP (Wagner et al. 2007), positive polyethylene glycol polymeric NP were more cytotoxic than the neutral and negative ones (Bhattacharjee et al. 2013), and the smaller  $TiO_2$  NP (55 versus 321 nm) were the most toxic (Scherbart et al. 2011); all these three results obtained on NR8383. As in the last study, NP size is of importance, as small gold NP (25 nm) enter HeLa cells and are cytotoxic, while large aggregates adhere to the cell surface and cause an increase in cell growth (Cui et al. 2012). However, the mechanism of the induction of cell proliferation by NP is not well known, and Hussien et al. (2013) have proposed three modes of action: (1) binding to cluster of cells and inducing an arrangement in an epithelium-like structure, (2) binding to NP of proteins of the culture medium (e.g., growth factors) which are brought to the cell surface, and (3) increase of the mitochondrial volume (Hussien et al. 2013). Targeted cells, considering either the tissue or the species they come from, react differently to contact with NP. Toxicity of polyethylene glycol polymeric NP and fullerenes C<sub>60</sub> differed as being less toxic for NR8383 rat macrophage than for phagocytic cells (coelomocytes) of Lumbricus rubellus (van der Ploeg et al. 2014). In the same way, coelomocytes from Eisenia fetida were more sensitive to silver NP than THP-1 cells (Hayashi et al. 2012). It has also been observed that mouse macrophage (RAW 264.7) and human lung epithelial (BEAS-2B) were more sensitive to cationic polystyrene nanospheres than human microvascular endothelial (HMEC), mouse hepatoma (HEPA-1), or rat pheochromocytoma (PC-12) cell lines (Xia et al. 2008).

In NR8383, ENP toxicity may be related to an induced oxidative stress (Nel et al. 2006). Interaction of reactive oxygen species (ROS) with lipids, proteins, or DNA may explain cytotoxic effects of NP. Such an oxidative stress could activate specific signaling pathways, including MAP kinases and transcription factors sensitive to the redox potential as NF-KB, leading to the synthesis of pro-inflammatory cytokines. This may explain the increase in the expression of TNFA, even if no change was found in the expression of NFKB and IL1B. However, one would have expected a change in NCF1 expression, which was not the case (Fig. 3a). Thus, the oxidative stress may not be responsible for the toxicity of ENP to NR8383. On the contrary, the downregulation of PDCD4 (pro-apoptotic gene) and the activation of BCL2 (anti-apoptotic gene) and ATG16L (autophagic gene) may indicate that the toxicity of ENP is expressed through autophagy. Indeed, an inverse relationship between an activation of the genes involved in autophagy and a repression of those involved in apoptosis may correspond to a switch from apoptosis to autophagy (Luo and Rubinsztein 2007; Shimizu et al. 2004). As Eidi et al. (2012), who used Eudragit<sup>®</sup> RS NP, we have observed an overexpression of ATG16L and a downregulation of PDCD4 in NR8383 in favor of a cytotoxicity autophagy mediated, which has been also described with manganese (Ngwa et al. 2011) or gold (Ma et al. 2011) NP.

Growth stimulation of THP-1 after ENP exposure is correlated with a different expression profile of the chosen genes. As expected, anti-apoptotic (*BCL2*), pro-apoptotic (*PDCD4*, *CASP8*), and autophagy related (*ATG16L*) genes were either poorly or moderately under-expressed. The downregulation of *NCF1* could prevent antioxidant activity in THP-1, thus permitting an increase in cellular viability and growth. The downregulation of *NFKB* and *IL1B* may also impact cell stimulation. These results are in line with those of Niu et al. (2011) who showed an inhibition or an absence of Fig. 2 Incidence of ENP exposure on NR8383 and THP-1 cell viability (a MTT test, b WST-1 test) and growth (c trypan blue assay). Data are expressed as mean $\pm$ SE of three replicates. The statistical analysis was performed on the results from NR8383 on one hand, and on the results from THP-1 on the other hand. Groups not sharing the same letter (*a* and *b* for NR8383; *c* and *d* for THP-1) are different at the 95 % level (ANOVA following Tukey-Kramer method)



activation of *NFKB* as well as *IL1B* in cardiomyocytes pretreated with cerium oxide NP after exposition to cigarette smoke extracts (Niu et al. 2011).

The TNF- $\alpha$  cytokine initiates various cellular responses through distinct signal transduction pathways (Xiong et al. 2013). The overexpression of *TNFA* is

Fig. 3 Gene expression changes in response to ENP exposure of **a** NR8383 rat cells and **b** THP-1 human cells. Cells have been exposed to 50 and 200  $\mu$ g/mL of ENP for 4 h. Results were presented as fold change as compared to control±SE using ANOVA followed by Dunnett's test



Table 3 Gene expression changes in response to ENP exposure of NR8383 and THP-1

	NR8383		THP-1	
	50 µg/mL	200 µg/mL	50 μg/mL	200 µg/mL
NCF1	1.05±0.12	0.88±0.11	$0.89{\pm}0.02^{*}$	$0.67{\pm}0.06^{***}$
NFKB	$1.07 \pm 0.14$	$0.91{\pm}0.04$	$0.89{\pm}0.05^{**}$	$0.38{\pm}0.05^{***}$
IL1B	$0.79 \pm 0.24$	0.58±0.17	$0.67{\pm}0.12^{*}$	$0.23 \pm 0.07^{***}$
ATG16L	$1.20{\pm}0.06^{*}$	1.24±0.11**	$1.14{\pm}0.07$	$1.07 {\pm} 0.07$
PDCD4	$0.73{\pm}0.07^{***}$	$0.52{\pm}0.05^{***}$	$1.02{\pm}0.05$	$0.80{\pm}0.12^{*}$
BCL2	$1.91{\pm}0.45^{**}$	$1.50 {\pm} 0.10$	0.83±0.11	$0.76{\pm}0.10^{*}$
CASP8	$1.14{\pm}0.25$	0.95±0.16	$1.16{\pm}0.15$	$0.80 \pm 0.12$
TNFA	$1.58{\pm}0.04^{***}$	$1.27{\pm}0.12^{**}$	$1.31{\pm}0.05^{**}$	1.52±0.14***
IL6	Unexpressed	Unexpressed	Unexpressed	Unexpressed

Cells have been exposed to 50 and 200  $\mu$ g/mL of ENP for 4 h. Results are presented as fold change as compared to control ± SE. Statistically significant differences at \* P < 0.05, \*\* P < 0.01, \*\*\* P < 0.001 when compared to control as determined by ANOVA followed by Dunnett's test

puzzling as it has been observed with either growth inhibition (NR8383) or activation (THP-1). However, such different expressions under different conditions have been already reported. The cytotoxicity of polyethylene glycol polymeric NP was accompanied by an increase of TNF- $\alpha$  production in NR8383 and Caco-2 human intestinal cells (Bhattacharjee et al. 2012). On the contrary, although PLGA NP did not trigger a significant toxicity in RAW 264.7 mouse macrophages, an induction of TNF- $\alpha$  was the initial response to its exposure.

Such differences in cellular and molecular responses between NR8383 and THP-1 exposed to the same ENP was not completely unexpected, as it is in accordance with previous results (Eidi et al. 2010; Hussien et al. 2013). These two cell lines, besides originating from different species, do not have the same phenotype, as THP-1 are non-adherent cells, whereas NR8383 exhibit as 50 % of adherent and 50 % of non-adherent cells whatever culture conditions and thus cannot be separated. Although NR8383 and THP-1 do have both the capacity to internalize ENP (data not shown), the mechanism of penetration of NP and if it contributes to differences in the activation of signaling pathways is not known.

## Conclusion

Marked physiological and metabolic differences were observed between the responses of rat NR8383 and human THP-1 to an exposition to ENP. For the former, ENPs are clearly cytotoxic likely by induction of autophagy, while for the latter, a cell stimulation is observed. These results point out the utmost importance of the choice of a cell model for in vitro evaluation of NP toxicity. A more complete understanding of the metabolic processes involved in response to NP is necessary if utilization in vivo is to be anticipated. For this purpose, analysis of the complete transcriptome would be very valuable.

**Acknowledgments** This work was supported by the Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR NanoSNO). Ramia Safar is the recipient of a PhD grant from the Ministry of Higher Education of Syria.

Conflicts of interest The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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## 1.1. Résultats et conclusion

Les NP utilisées dans cette étude sont des objets sphériques d'un diamètre moyen de 186  $\pm$ 70 nm tels que déterminés par microscopies électroniques à balayage (MEB) et à transmission (MET). Leur charge, mesurée par DLS, est positive (+56  $\pm$ 3 mV). En revanche, la taille des NP dans le milieu de culture complémenté par le SVF a augmenté et sont devenues micrométriques (1,5 – 2 µm), cela n'était pas observé avec le milieu de culture sans SVF.

Les NP pénètrent dans les deux types de cellules étudiées et sont présentes dans le cytoplasme aussi bien des NR8383 que des THP-1 comme le montrent les images de microscopie électronique à transmission (Figure 10) (l'image de THP-1 a été publiée dans l'article 2).



Figure 10. Localisations intracytoplasmiques des nanoparticules d'Eudragit® RL PO Cellules NR8383 et THP-1 ; Microscopie électronique à transmission En haut : contrôles ; en bas : après exposition à 200 μg/mL de NP pendant, 2 h Les NP entrainent une diminution de la viabilité des NR8383 (jusqu'à 70 % pour 200  $\mu$ g/mL) et, au contraire, une augmentation de la viabilité et de la croissance des THP-1 (jusqu'à 140 % pour 200  $\mu$ g/mL).

Dans les cellules NR8383, la surexpression de *BCL2* et la sous-expression de *PDCD4* sont en faveur d'une répression de l'apoptose. Au contraire, l'augmentation de l'expression d'*ATG16 L* est compatible avec une induction de l'autophagie. D'autre part, la sous-expression de *NCF1*, *NFKB* et *IL1B* dans les cellules THP-1 peut contribuer à expliquer l'augmentation de la viabilité et de la croissance cellulaires. Ces résultats indiquent que la toxicité et l'activation cellulaire *in vitro* en réponse à l'exposition aux NP sont dépendantes du modèle cellulaire utilisé. Du fait de la confirmation des résultats précédemment obtenus et plus précisément de l'effet toxique des NP sur les cellules NR8383, la poursuite de l'étude s'est limitée à la lignée THP-1 qui est d'origine humaine et pour lesquelles, comme pour les cellules épithéliales HMEC, les NP n'ont qu'un effet toxique limité. Afin de mieux comprendre les processus métaboliques impliqués dans la réponse aux NP, l'étude des mécanismes d'internalisation et des analyses transcriptomiques ont été entreprises.

# 2. <u>Article 2.</u> Human monocyte response to S-nitrosoglutathione-loaded nanoparticles: uptake, viability and transcriptome

Ce travail avait pour objectif de comparer les réponses des cellules THP-1 aux NP utilisées dans l'étude précédente vides ou chargées en GSNO, molécule qui est donneur d'oxyde nitrique (<sup>•</sup>NO) qui a été retenu pour les travaux au sein de l'EA 3452. Notre étude a porté sur les tests de viabilité, mais aussi sur les mécanismes de pénétration des NP dans la cellule et l'analyse des transcriptomes avec les puces à ADN « microarrays ».

## 2.1. Oxyde nitrique

L'oxyde nitrique (<sup>•</sup>NO) est un radical, molécule spontanément très réactive en particulier avec l'oxygène et l'azote. A l'état gazeux, il est utilisé en clinique pour le traitement du syndrome de détresse respiratoire et de l'hypertension pulmonaire persistante du nouveau-né [186]. Dans l'organisme, il est impliqué dans des nombreuses voies de signalisation physiologiques et physiopathologiques. Il est produit par plusieurs types cellulaires comme les macrophages, les hépatocytes, les cellules endothéliales et les neurones. Libéré par les macrophages activés, le <sup>•</sup>NO a un rôle clé dans la défense contre les cellules tumorales et les agents pathogènes, bactéries, virus et parasites [187]. Une diminution de production de <sup>•</sup>NO est observée au cours du vieillissement et de nombreuses conditions pathologiques, comme le diabète, la fibrose hépatique, les maladies cardiovasculaires, les maladies neurodégénératives et plusieurs cancers [188].

Du fait de ses propriétés, •NO a de multiples utilisations potentielles en thérapeutique (cardiaque, vasculaire...). Cependant, une administration systémique de •NO n'est pas envisageable du fait de sa très courte demi-vie (1-5 s) [188], [189]. Aussi, les travaux actuels portent-ils sur l'utilisation de molécules qui libèrent le •NO, mais celles-ci sont elles-mêmes instables. Pour les protéger et assurer une libération retardée et continue de •NO, leur encapsulation dans des nanoparticules est la principale option retenue [190], [191].

Les molécules donneuses de <sup>•</sup>NO appartiennent à différentes familles chimiques qui libèrent la molécule soit directement soit indirectement avec formation d'un composé intermédiaire qui libèrera secondairement le <sup>•</sup>NO.

## 2.1.1. Donneurs d'oxyde nitrique utilisés en thérapeutique

Les donneurs de <sup>•</sup>NO comme la nitroglycérine, ainsi que d'autres nitrates organiques comme le dinitrate d'isosorbide, sont utilisés depuis longtemps dans le traitement d'urgence de l'angine de poitrine ou de l'hypertension artérielle. Administrés par différentes voies : perlinguale, orale ou intraveineuse, leur demi-vie est courte et ils sont rapidement métabolisés. Leur utilisation au long cours est limitée par l'induction d'un stress oxydant et l'émergence d'une tolérance qui en diminue l'efficacité [192].

## 2.1.2. Donneurs d'oxyde nitrique en cours de développement

Les molécules donneuses de <sup>•</sup>NO actuellement développés sont les diazéniumdiolates (NONOates), les composés porteurs d'un groupement -C=NOH, les complexes fer-dinitrosyle et les S-nitrosothiols [193]. Ces derniers ont pour formule générale RSNO où R désigne une protéine, un peptide ou un aminoacide. Ils sont caractérisés par une liaison covalente entre le thiol réduit d'un résidu cystéinyl et l'oxyde nitrique. Leurs demi-vies vont de 45 min à 2h [194]. Ils n'induisent ni stress oxydant ou nitrosant, ni tolérance [195]. On distingue deux types de RSNO: ceux de masses moléculaires élevées comme la S-nitrosohémoglobine et la Snitrosoalbumine (HSANO) et ceux de masses moléculaires faibles comme le S-nitrosoglutathion (GSNO) (Figure 11) et la S-nitroso-N-acétylcystéine (NACNO). Le GSNO et la HSANO sont des composés physiologiques dont la concentration plasmatique est de l'ordre de quelques µM [196]. Les RSNOs sont rapidement dégradés dans les milieux biologiques. Le GSNO est l'un des premiers S-nitrosothiols à avoir été utilisé dans des essais cliniques. Peu toxique, il est facile à synthétiser, à isoler et à contrôler selon des critères pharmaceutiques [197]. Mais du fait de sa dégradation rapide, enzymatique *in vivo*, ou sous l'action de la lumière et de la température, aucun essai clinique de phase III n'a été, pour le moment, effectué. Dans le but d'améliorer la biodisponibilité de 'NO, des essais de production in situ ou d'encapsulation de GSNO ont été menés avec, entre autres, des nanoparticules polymériques (Tableau 3), des cyclodextrines et des NP d'or.



Figure 11. Structure chimique de S-nitrosoglutathion GSNO

Formulation	Objectif thérapeutique	Références						
Formulations contenant du GSNO								
NP polymérique	Cardiovasculaire	[169]						
Oligosaccharide-chitosan	Maladie de Crohn	[198]						
NP polymériques greffées avec vitamine A	Hépatique (fibrose)	[199]						
NP polymérique	Chimiotherapie	[188]						
Implant polymérique sous-cutanés	Cardiovasculaire	[200]						
Stents recouvert de NP polymériques	Cardiovasculaire	[201]						
Formulation produisa	nt du GSNO							
Hydrogel avec NP S-nitrosoNacétylcysteine + GSH	Cardiovasculaire	[202]						
NP-NO + GSH	Anti-infectieux	[203]						
NP-NO + GSH	Cardiovasculaire	[204]						

Tableau 3. Exemples d'indications médicales des formulations de GSNO utilisant des NP

## 2.2. Introduction de l'article 2

Dans ce travail, la viabilité cellulaire, l'internalisation des NP et les niveaux d'expression des gènes ont été étudiés. Après 24 h d'exposition, nous avons évalué l'activité mitochondriale des cellules par le test WST-1, la croissance cellulaire par le bleu trypan. L'internalisation des NP marquées au rouge Nil a été vérifiée par la microscopie confocale après 2 h de contact. Avec les mêmes NP marquées, nous avons étudié le mécanisme de cette internalisation en utilisant plusieurs inhibiteurs spécifiques par cytomètrie en flux. L'utilisation de la microscopie électronique à transmission a permis de bien préciser la localisation des NP. Enfin, une première analyse des transcriptomes des THP-1 exposés aux NP vides (NP-), aux NP chargées en GSNO (NP+) ainsi qu'au GSNO seul a été réalisée.

## molecular pharmaceutics

Article

## Human Monocyte Response to S-Nitrosoglutathione-Loaded Nanoparticles: Uptake, Viability, and Transcriptome

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**Supporting Information** 

**ABSTRACT:** S-Nitrosoglutathione (GSNO) is a good candidate for nitric oxide (NO<sup>•</sup>) delivery, and its nano-formulation improves NO<sup>•</sup> stability and bioavailability. We have compared the effect of empty Eudragit nanoparticles (eENP), GSNO-loaded ENP (gENP), and free GSNO on THP-1 human monocytic cell line. We investigated cellular viability and growth by WST-1 and trypan blue tests. ENP uptake was studied using transmission electron microscopy, confocal microscopy, and flow cytometry. Transcriptomic profiles were obtained using microarray. ENP entered cells by clathrin- and caveolae-mediated endocytosis. Exposure to



either free GSNO or gENP induced an activation of genes from the same clusters, in favor of intracellular delivery of GSNO by ENP. GSNO nanoformulation might be a therapeutic option for NO<sup>•</sup> delivery.

**KEYWORDS:** S-nitrosoglutathione, polymeric nanoparticles, monocytes, transcriptome, endocytosis, toxicogenomic, nitric oxide, uptake, toxicity

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Nitric oxide  $(NO^{\bullet})$  plays a pivotal role in mammalian organisms through a variety of mechanisms due to its reactivity, but it has a very short half-life of less than 1 s in blood.<sup>1</sup> If a therapeutic use is to be developed, it should be delivered as a prodrug such as organic nitrate. However, these compounds induce oxidative stress and are poorly tolerated. On the contrary, *S*-nitrosoglutathione (GSNO [CAS number: 57564-91-7]), generated by the interaction of NO<sup>•</sup> with reduced glutathione by *S*-nitrosylation, is a safe and potent *in vivo* NO<sup>•</sup> donor. It is considered one of the most effective nitrosating agents, with potential therapeutic applications in diabetes, neurodegenerative diseases, cancers, and cardiovascular illness.<sup>2</sup> Besides, GSNO may have a potent direct or indirect antimicrobial activity.<sup>3,4</sup>

However, GSNO is of limited stability in aqueous solution and degrades readily under the action of light and temperature. Thus, to improve NO $^{\circ}$  stability and increase its bioavailability, the incorporation of GSNO in nanocomposite implants<sup>5</sup> or polymeric nanocarriers<sup>6</sup> has been proposed. For this purpose, we have developed a nanoformulation of GSNO by its inclusion into Eudragit polymeric nanoparticles (ENP), a nonbiodegradable copolymer of acrylic and methacrylic acid esters that has been already used *in vivo* for the delivery of low molecular weight heparin $^7$  or cyclosporine.<sup>8</sup>

However, if such GSNO containing formulations are to be used in therapeutics, their lack of toxicity as well as an absence of undesirable effects has to be ascertained. As recommended by national and supranational regulatory agencies<sup>9,10</sup> a first hint of an absence of toxicity can be brought by transcriptomic analysis of human cell exposed to such formulation. Thus, we have studied the cellular consequences of exposure of THP-1, a human monocytic cell line, to empty (eENP) and GSNOloaded ENP (gENP). The internalization mode of ENP was determined. The effect of both eENP and gENP on molecular response was assessed by transcriptomic analysis and compared to the one after exposure to free GSNO.

## 2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

**2.1. Chemicals.** Eudragit RL PO (MW = 150 000 Da [CAS number: 33434-24-1]) was a gift from Evonik Polymers

Received:	September 22, 2014
<b>Revised:</b>	December 17, 2014
Accepted:	December 23, 2014
Published:	December 23, 2014

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(Darmstadt, Germany). Pluronic F68 [11104-97-5] was from Sigma-Aldrich (Saint-Quentin Fallavier, France), and dichloromethane (DCM) [75-09-2] was from Laurylab (Saint Fons, France). RPMI 1640 medium was from GIBCO, Hoechst 33342 [23491-52-3] (2'-[4-ethoxyphenyl]-5-[4-methyl-1-piperazinyl]-2,5'-bi-1*H*-benzimidazole trihydrochloride trihydrate) from Invitrogen (Val de Reuil, France), and fetal bovine serum from Eurobio (Les Ulis, France). Penicillin [113-98-4], streptomycin [128-46-1], amphotericin B [1397-89-3], 3(4,5dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide (MTT) [57360-69-7], Nile Red [7385-67-3], trypan blue solution [72-57-1], cytochalasin D [22144-77-0], chlorpromazine [69-09-0], genistein [446-12-0], and sodium azide (NaN<sub>3</sub>) [26628-22-8] were from Sigma-Aldrich. 4-[3-(4-Iodophenyl)-2-(4-nitrophenyl)-2H-5-tetrazolio]-1,3-benzene disulfonate (WST-1) [150849-52-8] was from Roche Applied Sciences (Penzberg, Germany). TRIzol Reagent was from Invitrogen (La Jolla, CA). S-Nitrosoglutathione (GSNO) was synthesized by W. Wu and R. Schneider in LRGP UPR-CNRS 3349 laboratories (Lorraine University, France).

**2.2. Cell Culture.** Human THP-1 monocytic cell line was obtained from American Type Culture Collection (ATCC, TIB-202, Manassas, VA, USA). Cells were grown at 37 °C under 5% CO<sub>2</sub> atmosphere in RPMI 1640 medium supplemented with 10% of heat-inactivated fetal bovine serum, 100 U/mL of penicillin, 100  $\mu$ g/mL of streptomycin, and 0.25  $\mu$ g/mL of amphotericin. They were split every 3 days.

**2.3. Preparation of Nanoparticles.** ENP were prepared using the double emulsion/solvent evaporation technique from three phases as previously described.<sup>11</sup> In brief, the internal aqueous phase consisted of 0.5 mL of 0.1% aqueous solution of Pluronic F68 (w/v), the organic phase was a 10% solution (w/v) of Eudragit RL PO in 5 mL of DCM, and the external aqueous phase consisted of 20 mL of 0.1% Pluronic F68 aqueous solution. The primary water/oil emulsion was prepared by sonication, added to the external aqueous phase, and a secondary emulsification was carried out by sonication leading to a double water/oil/water emulsion. The DCM was eliminated using a rotary evaporator (R-144, Büchi, Flawil, Switzerland). ENP were collected by ultracentrifugation at 186000g for 30 min. The pellet of ENP was suspended in the medium used for experimentations by mechanical agitation.

Using the same protocol, gENP were prepared accordingly by adding 10 mg of GSNO to the internal aqueous phase and Nile Red-labeled ENP by adding 6.25 mg of the dye to the organic phase.

**2.4. Characterization of Nanoparticles.** The hydrodynamic diameter and size distribution of ENP, expressed as polydispersity index, were measured using dynamic light scattering (DLS, Zetasizer 3000E, Malvern Instruments Worcestershire, U.K.) and were calculated from the number distribution graph. Zeta potential was calculated using the Smoluchowski equation.<sup>12</sup> All measurements were performed in triplicate at 25 °C.

GSNO encapsulation efficiency was measured by determining the amount of entrapped drug ( $E_{drug}$ ) using a liquid–liquid extraction method. Briefly, a defined volume of gENP suspension was ultracentrifuged at 186000g for 30 min. The pellet was resuspended in 1 mL of freshly prepared phosphate-buffered saline (PBS, pH = 7.4) to which 2.5 mL of DCM was added, and the volume was adjusted at 12.5 mL using PBS. After agitation for 6 min the suspension was centrifuged at 2800g for 10 min at 4 °C. GSNO was dosed in the aqueous

phase. The same procedure was applied to an equal volume of the total suspension of gENP before ultracentrifugation in order to determine the drug total amount  $(T_{\rm drug})$ . GSNO encapsulation efficiency (EE %) was expressed as

$$EE = \frac{E_{\rm drug}}{T_{\rm drug}} \times 100$$

GSNO was dosed by colorimetry using the Griess–Saville reagent<sup>1</sup> and the nitrate formed by the degradation of GSNO using the Griess reagent.

**2.5. Cell Viability and Growth.** Cells were seeded in 96well plates with  $5 \times 10^3$  cells per well. After overnight incubation, plates were centrifuged (300g, 20 min), and the medium was removed by aspiration. Fresh medium was added, and cells were incubated with 0, 6.25, 12.5, 25, 50, 100, and 200  $\mu$ g/mL of eENP or gENP for 24 h. Six wells were used per culture condition, and experiments were repeated thrice. The cell viability was checked using WST-1 assay, performed according to manufacturer's protocols, and dead and alive cells were enumerated using trypan blue test, as previously described.<sup>11</sup>

**2.6. Cellular Uptake Study.** *2.6.1. Transmission Electron Microscopy.* Briefly, THP-1 cells were seeded in 6-well plates at a density of  $3 \times 10^5$  cells/mL and exposed on the following day to 200 µg/mL of eENP for 2 h. As previously described,<sup>13</sup> cells were then immediately collected by centrifugation and fixed with ice-cold 2.5% glutaraldehyde for 2 h, postfixed in 1% OsO<sub>4</sub> for 1 h at room temperature, dehydrated by increasing concentrations of ethanol, and finally treated with propylene oxide and included in EMbed 812 resin. Ultrafine (90 nm) sections were obtained with an ultramicrotome (Reichert-Yung), deposited on a copper grid, and colored with uranyl acetate and lead citrate using the conventional techniques. Grids were examined with the electron microscope CM 12 Philips (Eindhoven, The Netherlands) operated at 80 kV.

2.6.2. Confocal Laser Scanning Microscopy. Cells were seeded on 24-well plates at a density of  $3 \times 10^5$  cells/well and incubated overnight. After exposure to  $200 \,\mu$ g/mL of Nile Red-labeled ENP for 2 h, cells were then washed thrice with PBS and treated with picric acid–formaldehyde (PAF, 4% v/v in PBS) in the dark at room temperature for 10 min. The cells were then washed three times with PBS and treated for 10 min with Hoechst 33342 in the dark at room temperature. Finally, cells were washed thrice with distilled water, allowed to dry at room temperature, and conserved in the dark at 4 °C. Observation was made at ×63 magnification by immersion using the TCS SP2 microscope (Leica, Bensheim, Germany).

2.6.3. Flow Cytometry. Cells were seeded at a density of  $3 \times 10^5$  cells/mL in 24-well plates and incubated overnight prior to the exposure to 200  $\mu$ g/mL of Nile Red-labeled ENP for 2 h. Cells were then collected by aspiration, thoroughly rinsed twice with PBS, and finally suspended in 1% bovine serum albumin containing PBS. Cell-associated fluorescence was detected by flow cytometry (FACSCalibur, Becton Dickinson, BD Bioscience). Excitation and emission wavelengths were 488 and 585 nm, respectively.<sup>14</sup> The results are reported as the mean of the fluorescence intensity distribution obtained by analyzing 10 000 cells. Energy dependent internalization was studied by preincubating the cells at 4 °C for 30 min or with 100 mM NaN<sub>3</sub> for 1.5 h prior to the addition of Nile Red-labeled ENP. For identifying the modes of internalization, cells were incubated for 1.5 h at 37 °C with 20  $\mu$ M cytochalasin D, 10

Table	1.	Characterization	of	Empty,	GSNO	-Loaded,	and	Nile	Red-Labeled EN	P"
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ENP	diam <sup>b</sup> (nm)	PdI <sup>c</sup>	zeta potential (mV)	$\mathrm{EE}^{d}$ (%)
empty ENP	$185.32 \pm 70.44$	$0.190 \pm 0.023$	$+56.49 \pm 3.95$	
GSNO-loaded ENP	$207.94 \pm 34.72$	$0.175 \pm 0.034$	$+58.25 \pm 1.70$	$49.33 \pm 1.37$
Nile Red-labeled ENP	$207.73 \pm 41.67$	$0.192 \pm 0.031$	$+55.32 \pm 2.50$	
<i>a</i>		1 .	kall la la la	

<sup>*a*</sup>All data are the mean  $\pm$  standard deviation of n = 3 to 5 independent preparations. <sup>*b*</sup>Calculated from the number distribution graph. <sup>*c*</sup>PdI = polydispersity index. <sup>*d*</sup>EE = encapsulation efficiency.

 $\mu$ g/mL chlorpromazine, or 200  $\mu$ M genistein<sup>14,15</sup> prior to the addition of Nile Red-labeled ENP. The absence of any toxicity of these three inhibitors was verified after incubation of the cells with the same concentrations of each for 3.5 h (Supporting Information S1). The negative control was eENP-exposed cells and the positive one Nile Red-labeled ENP-exposed cells. The results are expressed as percent of uptake using the positive control as reference (100%).

2.7. Microarray Study. Total RNA was extracted by TRIzol Reagent from cells exposed to 50  $\mu$ M free GSNO, 200  $\mu$ g/mL of eENP, or 200  $\mu$ g/mL of gENP for 4 h. Unexposed cells were used as control. The quality of the extracted RNA was assessed by spectrophotometry  $(A_{260nm}/A_{280nm} > 1.8)$ , BioSpec-nano, Shimadzu) and capillary electrophoresis using RNA 6000 Nano (RIN > 9, 2100 Bioanalyzer, Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, CA). cRNA synthesis from cDNA and Cy3-dye labeling and microarray hybridization were carried out with 100 ng of total RNA according to the manufacturer's protocol (One-Color Microarray-Based Gene Expression Analysis, version 6.6). Microarray slides were scanned by Agilent DNA microarray scanner (SurePrint G3 Human GE v2  $8 \times 60$ K, Agilent Technologies). Acquisition of images and quantification of fluorescence signal as well as primary data analysis were performed using the Agilent Feature Extraction Software. Data were first normalized with the LOWESS method, and stringent filtering criteria were then used to identify genes whose expression level was significantly modified as compared to control. The means of at least three determinations for each condition were compared by the modified Student's t test ( $p \leq 0.001$ ). For a given gene, FC (fold change) of expression  $\geq 2.0$  or  $\leq 0.5$  under one condition of exposure of cells in reference to the control was calculated. The analyzed genes displayed acceptable False Discovery Rate (<20%) according to Benjamini et al. (2001).<sup>16</sup> The selected genes were analyzed according to Gene Ontology (GO) terms and functions using (i) the Database for Annotation, Visualization, and Integrated Discovery (DAVID; http:// david.abcc.ncifcrf.gov) and (ii) the Genecard Database. Genes were grouped among clusters according to the functional pathways as defined in the DAVID database. The raw data of the microarrays are available on Gene Expression Omnibus database (GEO, http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/), using the GSE51186 accession number.

**2.8. Statistical Analysis.** Cell viability and cellular uptake data are presented as means  $\pm$  standard error of the mean (SE) of three replicates. Statistical differences were determined by one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) followed by Tukey–Kramer test for cell viability, and by ANOVA followed by Dunnett's test for cellular uptake, using the RLPlot software.

#### 3. RESULTS

**3.1. Nanoparticle Characterization.** The mean hydrodynamic diameters of eENP, gENP, and Nile Red-labeled ENP determined by DLS from three independent preparations were 185  $\pm$  70 nm, 207  $\pm$  34 nm, and 207  $\pm$  41 nm, respectively (Table 1). The three types of ENP were positively charged (around +56 mV). The encapsulation efficiency for the gENP was 49.33  $\pm$  1.37%.

**3.2. Cell Viability and Growth.** After exposure to 12.5, 25, 50, 100, and 200  $\mu$ g/mL of eENP for 24 h, a significant increase of 20 to 40% of cell viability compared to the control was observed by WST-1 test, as well as with 50, 100, and 200  $\mu$ g/mL of gENP (Figure 1A). The trypan blue test (Figure 1B)



**Figure 1.** Incidence of empty ENP and GSNO-loaded ENP exposure on THP-1 cell viability (A: WST-1 test) and growth (B: trypan blue assay). Data are expressed as mean  $\pm$  SE of three replicates. Groups not sharing the same letter are different on the 95% level (ANOVA following the Tukey–Kramer method).

showed a dose-dependent increase of 40 to 60% of growth after incubation of cells with 50, 100, and 200  $\mu$ g/mL of eENP. On the contrary, such a stimulation of growth was not observed with gENP.

**3.3. Cellular Uptake.** Following incubation of cells with 200  $\mu$ g/mL of Nile Red-labeled ENP for 2 h, intracellular ENP were visible as red spots in the cytoplasm (Figure 2B), whereas no such red spots were visible in the control experiment (Figure 2A). The nucleus remains free of any particles. When cells were exposed to unlabeled ENP or to Nile Red, no



**Figure 2.** Cellular uptake of ENP studies. Confocal microscopy: (A) unexposed cells and (B) cells exposed to 200  $\mu$ g/mL of Nile Redlabeled ENP for 2 h. Flow cytometry of cells incubated with 200  $\mu$ g/mL of Nile Red-labeled ENP for 2 h: (C) preincubation of cells at 4 °C for 30 min or with NaN<sub>3</sub> for 1.5 h and (D) preincubation with internalization inhibitors. Transmission electron microscopy of cells exposed to 200  $\mu$ g/mL of empty ENP for 2 h: (E) internalized ENP (arrows); (F) internalized ENP surrounded by a membrane (1), external ENP free (2), or adherent to cell surface (3).

fluorescence was observed (data not shown). TEM observations have confirmed the presence of ENP in the cytoplasm either isolated or clumped, as round clear objects embedded in electron dense material (Figure 2E). Same objects are present, free or in contact with cell surface (Figure 2F). Incubation at 4 °C or with NaN<sub>3</sub> (metabolic inhibitor) reduced the fluorescence of cells exposed to Nile Red-labeled ENP at 53% and 47% of the positive control, respectively (Figure 2C). While cytochalasin D (inhibitor of phagocytosis) did not induce any significant decrease of cell-associated fluorescence, chlorpromazine (inhibitor of clathrin-mediated endocytosis) and genistein (inhibitor of caveolae-mediated endocytosis) were responsible for a significant reduction at 60% and 53% of the positive control, respectively (Figure 2D).

**3.4. Transcriptome Analysis.** Exposure of cells to free GSNO, eENP, or gENP induces significant modifications of the expression of 266, 110, and 142 genes, respectively, the majority of which being upregulated (Table 2). The three

Table 2. Total Number of THP-1 Genes at Least Twofold Up- or Downregulated (p < 0.001) after Exposure to Free GSNO, Empty ENP, or GSNO-Loaded ENP

	free GSNO 50 µM	empty ENP, 200 $\mu$ g/mL	GSNO-loaded ENP, 200 μg/mL
all	266	110	142
upregulated	215	82	140
downregulated	51	28	2

different exposure modes gave different expression profiles (Figure 3). However, the genes belonging to the "Transcription", "Nucleus", "Cell structure", "Metabolic process", "Cell cycle", and to a variable degree "Oxidative stress" clusters were overexpressed for the three exposure modes. Only free GSNO and gENP induced an activation of genes from the three clusters "Zinc and metal ion binding", "Mitochondrion", and "Immune response and cell activation", although for the latter the number of genes overexpressed is higher with free GSNO (18 genes), and particularly CCL4, CCL3, CCL20, INHBA, VEGFA, and IL23A (Supporting Information S2). In contrast, gENP induced the most important overexpression of genes among the clusters "Metabolic process" (26 genes) and "Mitochondrion" (6 genes). Within the "Metabolic process" cluster, many of the upregulated genes encode glycoprotein or protein involved in the glycosylation process (CLEC12A, BMP8B, PIGS, GUSBP11, CSGALNACT2, PFKFB3), spliceosome pathway (SF3B2, DHX38, SRSF2), insulin signaling pathway (INSL4), and protein trafficking (CCZ1, VPS35), suggesting that a large number of metabolic processes are affected (Supporting Information S6). Within the cluster "Mitochondrion", SDHA, a subunit of succinate dehydrogenase complex, and ETFA, an electron acceptor for several dehydrogenases of the mitochondrial respiratory chain, were overexpressed (Supporting Information S6). On the contrary, eENP strongly activated genes belonging to the cluster "Chromosomal part" (13 genes), including 12 upregulated genes involved in the constitution of histones, and to the cluster "Proliferation" (5 genes; AMD1, DYRK1A, MAPK9, RPS6KB1, and FGFR1) (Supporting Information S4). Both eENP and gENP activated genes among the cluster "Catabolic process" and caused significant changes in genes involved in cell structure such as cytoskeleton organization (Supporting Information S4 and S6). Expressions of genes of the Wnt signaling pathway were also modified by eENP (DISC1) and gENP (FRAT1 and TLE1). Among the cluster "Endocytosis", most of the upregulated genes were involved in cellular trafficking, as MYOF, MYO5A, and RAB11FIP1 for eENP and NSF and OSBLP5 for gENP. The FLOT2 gene, implicated in formation of caveolae vesicles, had also its expression increased by gENP treatment (Supporting Information S4 and S6).

### 4. DISCUSSION

Physicochemical properties of nanoparticles such as size, shape, and surface (charge and coating) play a significant role in determining their uptake mechanism and their intracellular outcome.<sup>17,18</sup> In our study, both TEM and CLSM show ENP inside vacuoles in cytoplasmic compartment. The absence of any alteration of cellular structures is in favor of an absence of cytotoxicity. This is related to their mode of penetration, which occurs via endocytosis. This energy dependent process is strongly inhibited at low temperature and by NaN<sub>3</sub>. However, the inhibition of penetration is not complete, and the remaining apparent activity may be related either to an energy independent internalization<sup>14</sup> or to the presence of ENP adherent to the cell surface. The partial inhibition of ENP penetration by chlorpromazine or genistein indicates that the internalization is the consequence of endocytosis through at least two different pathways, clathrin- and caveolae-mediated pathways. Phagocytosis is not involved as the cytochalasin D has no effect on ENP penetration. This is not surprising as the size of the ENP, of about 200 nm, is too small to be taken up by phagocytosis, whereas it is compatible with a penetration by

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Figure 3. Functional classification of significantly up- and downregulated genes. Exposure to (A) 50  $\mu$ M GSNO; (B) 200  $\mu$ g/mL of empty ENP; (C) 200  $\mu$ g/mL of GSNO-loaded ENP. Black bars: upregulated genes. Gray bars: downregulated.

endocytosis.<sup>19,20</sup> The existence of simultaneously acting pathways has been reported in human embryonic kidney cell

line by Huang et al. (2013).<sup>15</sup> They described an uptake of polyplex nanoparticles (same size (80–180 nm) and zeta

potentials compared to ours) using both clathrin- and caveolaemediated endocytosis. ENP uptake studies have been made with two different nanoparticles, eENP and Nile Red-labeled ENP. As eENP, Nile Red-labeled ENP, and gENP have about the same size (180 to 200 nm) and the same surface charge, one could confidently consider that they should behave the same way and use the same mechanisms for entering cells.

An increase of metabolic activity and growth of THP-1 cells after contact with eENP has been already described in our laboratory.<sup>11</sup> This phenomenon has also been observed by Hussien et al. (2013)<sup>21</sup> using human epithelial cells and nanoparticles of the same chemical raw composition, namely, Eudragit RS. These authors have related this increase to an augmentation of mitochondrial volume and activity. In our study, this relation was not confirmed, as genes belonging to the "Mitochondrion" cluster did not have any noticeable expression modification. The increase in mitochondrial enzymatic activity may be related to cell proliferation with an increase in mitochondrion number. This increased metabolic activity is related to upregulation of genes involved in cell proliferation and metabolism belonging to clusters "Transcription", "Nucleus", "Chromosomal part", "Metabolic proc-ess", and "Proliferation". The proliferation of THP-1 after incubation with eENP is associated with an upregulation of FGFR1. In the same way, Ting et al. (2013)<sup>22</sup> have observed that heparin-nanoceria formed active ternary complexes with FGF2 and FGFR1 inducing BaF32 myeloid B cell proliferation. An activation of genes involved in histone rearrangement as observed with eENP is in favor of an alteration of the cell cycle as it has been reported for human aortic endothelial cells in which poly(amido amine) dendrimers and silica nanoparticles induce a modification of many histone gene expressions.<sup>23</sup> In breast epithelial cells, Eudragit RS nanoparticles caused significant changes among genes involved in apicolateral plasma membrane organization, cell-cell junction, cell-cell adhesion, and apical junction complex organization.<sup>21</sup> These authors suggest that this effect on cell organization may contribute to explain the increase of cell growth. In our model, ENP also caused significant changes in expression of genes involved in cell structure such as cytoskeleton organization. Thus, incubation with nanoparticles, although apparently not showing any toxic effect, may alter the development of cells that should be taken into account.

Free GSNO at 50  $\mu$ M highly modifies the gene expressions, particularly those among the cluster "Chromosomal part" which are downregulated. These effects of GSNO have been already reported in prokaryotes and eukaryotes. GSNO alters zinc metabolism in Staphylococcus aureus at 150  $\mu$ M,<sup>24</sup> methionine biosynthesis in Escherichia coli at 200  $\mu$ M,<sup>25</sup> and Rhodobacter sphaeroides at 1 mM.<sup>26</sup> Several transcriptional factor genes are upregulated in U937 human monocytes by GSNO at 400  $\mu$ M.<sup>27</sup> It has to be noted that in these studies the concentrations of GSNO are higher than the one we have used. However, a strong effect on THP-1 cells of this compound, free of loaded in ENP, has been observed. Although differences in the profiles between GSNO and gENP have been observed, exemplified by the "Chromosomal part" cluster, strong resemblances are to be noted even if the number of overexpressed genes is different. The following clusters are concerned: "Transcription", "Metabolic process", "Immune response and cell activation", and "Induction of apoptosis". This is in favor of an action of GSNO, even included in ENP. The differences of gene expression between both profiles

obtained with free GSNO and ENP-associated GSNO may be due to the different final doses of available GSNO. First, a relatively high concentration of free GSNO is necessary for an effect to be observed, as NO<sup>•</sup> donor degrades readily in solution with a short half-life of 45 min to 2 h.<sup>28</sup> Second, the concentration of GSNO in the complex with ENP is only 6  $\mu$ M, and, even if its penetration is facilitated, it may be released slowly in the cell. Third, when in contact with gENP, cells are subjected to the effect of drug and vehicle, and some of the alterations of gene profile may be due to the carrier ENP such as genes of the cluster "Catabolic process" which expression is not modified by GSNO alone. Making a comparison of transcriptomes at the same GSNO concentration is not possible. Indeed, increasing the content of GSNO into ENP to achieve the high dose of 50  $\mu$ M led to the use of too high a dose of ENP that might be toxic by itself. On the other hand a low dose of 6  $\mu$ M of free GSNO would impair any observation of effect, as GSNO is highly reactive and disappears rapidly from the medium.

In contrast to eENP, gENP did not induce an increase of cell growth, and the number of upregulated genes involved in proliferation was far lower; noticeably FGFR1 was not upregulated. The addition of GSNO to ENP modifies the expression of genes. While the growth was not stimulated, the cell viability was enhanced. This is to be related to an upregulation of genes involved in "Mitochondrion" and "Metabolic process" clusters. In particular, the upregulation of SDHA and ETFA suggests an increase of mitochondrial activity. Thus, the inclusion of GSNO into ENP may have a direct effect on mitochondria, stimulating their metabolism. Such an increase has been reported with curcumin nanoparticles in a rat model of Huntington's disease, making this compound a promising therapy for this disease.<sup>29</sup> In the same way, the use of nanoquercetin may protect mitochondrial integrity and functions by controlling succinate dehydrogenase activity in gastric inflammation induced by ethanol in rat.<sup>30</sup> In our study, as free GSNO activated the same gene cluster as gENP, one may consider that the enhancement of metabolism by gENP is related to the intracellular presence of GSNO. The absence of enhancement of growth with this compound corresponds to a small number or an absence of activated genes in the cluster "Nucleus" and "Chromosomal part", respectively.

Free GSNO activates genes among the clusters "Immune response and activation" and "Oxidative stress" as does gENP, although to a lesser extent, which may be due to a lower concentration and a delayed intracellular liberation. This activity may be related to a stimulation of innate immunity and play a role in antimicrobial defense.<sup>4</sup> Thus, this compound may act at two levels, stimulation of defenses and degradation of intracellular microorganisms by a direct activity of the liberated NO<sup>•</sup>.

## 5. CONCLUSION

GSNO, a donor of NO<sup>•</sup>, either free of encapsulated in ENP, has a strong cellular effect on monocytic cell line by activating them and stimulating their metabolism possibly related to an enhancement of an innate immune response. Even if gENP has a lower action on cell metabolism, the main properties of GSNO are retained, and consequently Eudragit nanoparticles are a good candidate for a delivery of NO<sup>•</sup> *in vivo* for local or digestive administration. Thus, encapsulated GSNO may prove a therapeutic option not only for stimulating immune defenses, although moderately in our model, but also for delivering the

active compound for the treatment of diseases with mitochondrial dysfunction such as ulcers,<sup>31</sup> and perhaps to contribute to eliminate intracellular microorganisms.

## ASSOCIATED CONTENT

## **S** Supporting Information

Figure (S1) depicting dose-dependent effects of endocytosis inhibitors on THP-1 human cell viability using WST-1 assay. Tables (S2–S7) including modified genes identified in microarray analysis in response to 4 h exposure to 50  $\mu$ M GSNO (S2, S3), 200  $\mu$ g/mL empty ENP (S4, S5), and 200  $\mu$ g/mL GSNO-loaded ENP (S6, S7). This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

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#### Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This work was supported by the Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR NanoSNO). R.S. is the recipient of a PhD grant from the Ministry of Higher Education of Syria. The authors thank Wen Wu and Raphaël Schneider for GSNO synthesis, as well as Housam Al Hussaini for its contribution.

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S1: Dose-dependent effects of endocytosis inhibitors on THP-1 human cell viability. Cells were exposed to increasing concentrations of cytochalasin-D (A), chlorpromazin (B) and genistein (C) 3.5 h and cell viability was assessed at this time, using the WST-1 assay, as described in Experimental section. Data are mean  $\pm$  SEM of three replicates.

Supplementary data S2: Confocal microscopy

Gene	Description	Function	AGILENT ID	FC	p value
Transcription (GO:0	006350)				•
NAB1	NGFI-A binding protein 1 (EGR1 binding protein 1)	transcriptional repressor for factors EGR1 and EGR2	A_23_P209805	2.19	3.46E-04
RBAK	RB-associated KRAB zinc finger	repress E2F-dependent and promote AR-dependent transcription	A_24_P72394	2.07	6.20E-04
MIER1	mesoderm induction early response 1 homolog (Xenopus laevis)	transcriptional repressor	A_24_P230916	2.07	8.52E-04
NCOA7	nuclear receptor coactivator 7	transcriptional activities of several nuclear receptors	A_24_P12435	2.75	9.79E-04
NFIX	Nuclear Factor I/X (CCAAT- Binding Transcription Factor)	activating transcription and	A_33_P3884230	3.44	1.89E-04
NXT2	Nuclear Transport Factor 2- Like Export Factor 2	trafficking of molecules between the cytoplasm and nucleus	A_33_P3366575	3.08	9.11E-04
PNRC1	proline-rich nuclear receptor coactivator 1	signal transduction	A_33_P3279831	4.11	8.00E-04
STAT4	signal transducer and activator of transcription 4	signal transduction, activation of transcription, involved in IL12 signaling	A_23_P305198	5.36	3.29E-05
PRPF4B	PRP4 Pre-MRNA Processing Factor 4 Homolog B (Yeast)	signal transduction	A_33_P3337034	2.49	7.55E-04
ZBTB37	zinc finger and BTB domain containing 37	transcriptional regulation	A_23_P137504	2.62	8.91E-04
ZNF517	zinc finger protein 517	transcriptional regulation	A_24_P944320	2.22	7.52E-04
ZNF778	zinc finger protein 778	transcriptional regulation	A_32_P78783	2.14	9.84E-05
ZBTB10	Zinc Finger And BTB Domain Containing 10	transcriptional regulation	A_33_P3613000	3.33	8.43E-05
ZNF407	Zinc Finger Protein 40	transcriptional regulation	A_33_P3414402	3.03	5.36E-04
ZNF519	Zinc Finger Protein 519	transcriptional regulation	A_19_P00320543	2.89	4.01E-04
MED1	Mediator Complex Subunit 1	transcriptional regulation	A_33_P3210423	2.41	4.62E-04
RAI1	Retinoic Acid Induced 1	transcriptional regulation	A_33_P3320499	2.84	1.78E-04
ZNF280D	Zinc Finger Protein 280D	transcription factor	A_33_P3262794	2.34	7.08E-04
RFX8	RFX Family Member 8, Lacking RFX DNA Binding Domain	transcription factor	A_19_P00319745	2.98	4.54E-05
RUNX1	Runt-Related Transcription Factor 1	transcription factor	A_33_P3211809	2.80	5.56E-04
JMJD1C	Jumonji Domain Containing 1C	central role in histone code	A_23_P427217	2.36	6.73E-04
Nucleus					
CBX1	chromobox homolog 1	association of heterochromatin with nuclear membrane	A_24_P298174	2.20	6.66E-04
HNRNPA3	Heterogeneous Nuclear Ribonucleoprotein A3	cytoplasmic trafficking of RNA	A_24_P269895	2.01	8.16E-04
HNRNPA2B1	Heterogeneous Nuclear Ribonucleoprotein A2/B1	with pre-mRNA processing, forms ribonucleosomes	A_33_P3362891	3.07	8.32E-04
SF3B1	Splicing Factor 3b, Subunit 1, 155kDa	forms small nuclear ribonucleoproteins complex	A_23_P368393	2.61	5.52E-04
ARL5B	ADP-ribosylation factor-like 5B	binds and exchanges GTP and GDP	A_24_P943997	3.62	1.19E-04

Table S3	. Up-regulated	genes	identified	in	microarray	analysis	in	response	to 4h	exposure
with 50 µ	M of GSNO									

CEP120	Centrosomal Protein 120kDa	role in centriole duplication during mitosis	A_33_P3316318	2.92	7.02E-04
Chromosomal rearro	angement				
BRWD1	bromodomain and WD Repeat	chromatin remodeling	A_33_P3395713	3.32	1.86E-04
BRD4	Bromodomain Containing 4	chromosomal dynamics during mitosis	A_33_P3373745	3.83	8.30E-04
Proto-oncogene					
AFF4	AF4/FMR2 Family, Member 4	transcription factor	A_24_P8318	2.25	9.31E-04
BCL3	B-cell CLL/lymphoma 3	transcription of NF-kappa-B target genes	A_23_P4662	4.11	4.77E-04
SET	SET nuclear oncogene; similar to SET translocation	transcription, nucleosome assembly, histone chaperoning	A_23_P217015	4.98	3.32E-04
NR4A3	nuclear receptor subfamily 4, group A, member 3	transcriptional activator	A_23_P398566	5.54	7.39E-06
Regulation of Ras pr	rotein signal transduction				
(GO:0046578)					
RABGAP1L	RAB GTPase activating protein 1-like	-	A_24_P316005	2.11	7.25E-04
RIT1	Ras-Like Without CAAX 1	Ras-related GTPases, regulating p38 MAPK- dependent signaling	A_33_P3394075	3.83	6.37E-04
Ankyrin (IPR002110,	)				
AGAP7	ArfGAP with GTPase domain, ankyrin repeat and PH domain 7	GTPase-activating protein	A_24_P729905	2.66	3.52E-04
ANKRD18B	Ankyrin Repeat Domain 18B	-	A_21_P0013674	2.64	1.14E-04
Zinc and metal ion b	inding				
Zinc ion binding (	GO:0008270)				
LONRF1	LON peptidase N-terminal domain and ring finger 1	-	A_23_P94216	4.19	4.17E-04
ZC3H12C	zinc finger CCCH-type containing 12C	function as RNase	A_23_P388993	2.46	4.26E-04
ZFC3H1	zinc finger, C3H1-type containing	-	A_23_P332908	2.38	2.63E-04
Metal ion binding	(GO:0046872)				
PDE4B	phosphodiesterase 4B, cAMP- specific (phosphodiesterase E4	many physiological processes	A_23_P74278	4.95	1.62E-04
GEM	GTP binding protein overexpressed in skeletal	regulatory protein, signal transduction at the plasma	A_23_P257043	5.50	4.38E-04
MTF1	muscle Metal-Regulatory Transcription Factor 1	membrane activates metallothionein I promoter, binds to metal responsive element (MRE)	A_33_P3294237	2.17	2.32E-04
Cell structure					
Integral to memb	rane (GO:0016021)				
CNST	Consortin, Connexin Sorting Protein	targeting of connexins to the plasma membrane	A_33_P3376379	4.00	4.34E-04
C12orf51	chromosome 12 open reading frame 51	-	A_19_P00805705	2.81	7.13E-05
Cytoskeletal part	( GO:0044430)				
CDC42EP3	CDC42 Effector Protein (Rho	organization of the actin	A_33_P3331307	4.43	1.72E-04

	GTPase Binding) 3	cytoskeleton			
MACF1	microtubule-actin crosslinking factor 1	stabilization of microtubules	A_24_P418637	3.41	2.10E-04
PDZD8	PDZ domain containing 8	regulation of cell morphology and cytoskeletal organization	A_23_P321452	3.38	5.47E-05
TJP2	Tight Junction Protein 2	tight junctions and adherens	A_33_P3282963	2.24	9.68E-05
HERC4	HECT And RLD Domain Containing E3 Ubiquitin	protein trafficking or distribution of cellular	A_33_P3216994	2.07	7.18E-04
BRWD3	Protein Ligase 4 bromodomain and WD repeat domain containing 3	structures regulation of cell morphology and cytoskeletal organization	A_32_P489130	2.03	6.45E-04
Metabolic process					
Glycosylation					
NIPAL2	NIPA-like domain containing 2	-	A_23_P146111	2.40	3.40E-04
CSGALNACT2	Chondroitin Sulfate N- Acetylgalactosaminyltransferas	addition of the first GalNAc	A_33_P3266255	2.43	1.52E-05
Regulation of cell	llar protein metabolic process				
EIF4G3	Eukaryotic Translation Initiation Factor 4 Gamma, 3	recruitment of mRNA to the ribosome	A_24_P383850	2.47	7.72E-04
RRBP1	Ribosome Binding Protein 1	interaction between the ribosome and the endoplasmic reticulum	A_33_P3220277	2.81	1.11E-04
PABPC4	Poly(A) Binding Protein, Cytoplasmic 4	regulatory processes of mRNA metabolism	A_33_P3271105	2.64	1.07E-04
LSM14B	LSM14B, SCD6 Homolog B	control of mRNA translation	A_33_P3349774	2.01	4.42E-05
Cellular metabolis	m				
PRKAA1	Protein Kinase, AMP-Activated, Alpha 1 Catalytic Subunit	activates energy-producing pathways	A_33_P3312212	3.28	1.94E-05
LRRC8C	Leucine Rich Repeat Containing 8 Family, Member C	role in adipogenesis	A_33_P3406030	2.52	6.54E-04
PPP4R1L	Protein Phosphatase 4, Regulatory Subunit 1-Like	regulatory subunit of serine/threonine-protein phosphatase 4	A_19_P00808367	2.44	2.06E-04
MTRR	Methyltetrahydrofolate- Homocysteine Methyltransforaso Poductaso	maintenance of methionine synthase	A_33_P3304377	2.43	5.78E-04
SLC35A1	Solute Carrier Family 35 (CMP- Sialic Acid Transporter), Member A1	transports CMP-sialic acid from the cytosol into Golgi vesicles	A_33_P3394710	2.02	5.91E-04
TRAPPC2	Trafficking Protein Particle	vesicular transport from endoplasmic reticulum to Golgi	A_33_P3407540	2.04	5.16E-05
CCZ1	CCZ1 Vacuolar Protein Trafficking And Biogenesis Associated Homolog	protein trafficking and biogenesis	A_33_P3333863	2.51	5.34E-04
Cell cycle (GO:00070	49)				
SESN2	sestrin 2	cell growth and survival in response to stress conditions	A_23_P35082	3.70	1.91E-04
LATS1	LATS, large tumor suppressor, homolog 1 (Drosophila)	tumor suppression by restricting proliferation and promoting apoptosis	A_23_P366230	2.05	2.46E-04
СНТОР	Chromatin Target Of PRMT1	cell cycle progression	A_33_P3243957	3.75	2.50E-04

	E2F3	E2F Transcription Factor 3	control of cell cycle and action	A_33_P3418516	3.64	1.47E-04
	SRRT	Serrate RNA Effector Molecule Homolog (Arabidopsis)	cell cycle progression at S	A_33_P3299590	3.51	6.09E-04
	WDR3	WD Repeat Domain 3	cell cycle progression, apoptosis	A_33_P3211633	3.22	4.65E-04
	PHF8	PHD Finger Protein 8	cell cycle progression	A_33_P3361925	2.17	6.45E-05
	WT1	Wilms tumor 1	cellular development and cell survival	A_23_P116280	2.06	9.91E-04
Prolif	eration					
	VEGFA	vascular endothelial growth factor A	proliferation, cell migration, inhibits apoptosis	A_23_P70398	5.23	6.39E-04
	PLAU	Plasminogen Activator, Urokinase	degradation of extracellular matrix, tumor cell migration, proliferation	A_33_P3306146	4.72	2.05E-04
	PPP1R26	Protein Phosphatase 1, Regulatory Subunit 26	positively regulate cell proliferation	A_33_P3272614	2.56	1.82E-04
	ΜΑΡΚ8	Mitogen-Activated Protein Kinase 8	proliferation, differentiation, transcription regulation and development	A_33_P3250289	2.03	9.18E-04
Induc	tion of apoptos	is (GO:0006917)				
	TRIB3	tribbles homolog 3 (Drosophila)	apoptosis, induced by NF- kappaB	A_23_P210690	2.34	1.77E-04
	BBC3	BCL2 binding component 3	pro-apoptotic	A_23_P382775	3.12	5.29E-04
	CHAC1	ChaC, Cation Transport Regulator Homolog 1	pro-apoptotic	A_33_P3376971	5.09	1.11E-04
	FAM188A	Family With Sequence Similarity 188, Member A	pro-apoptotic	A_33_P3393106	3.61	1.42E-05
	MLL	Myeloid/Lymphoid Or Mixed- Lineage Leukemia	promotes PPP1R15A-induced apoptosis	A_33_P3390576	2.10	2.85E-04
Immu	ine response (G	O:0006955) and cell activation (G	60:0001775)			
	NFKBIA	nuclear factor of kappa light polypeptide gene enhancer in	cellular stimulation by immune and proinflammatory	A_23_P106002	4.27	6.92E-04
	IRAK2	Interleukin-1 Receptor-	participate in the IL1-induced	A_33_P3352970	4.05	1.33E-04
	CCL4	chemokine (C-C motif) ligand 4	inflammatory and chemokinetic properties	A_23_P207564	15.01	3.65E-05
	CCL20	chemokine (C-C motif) ligand 20	chemotactic factor for lymphocytes and neutrophils	A_23_P17065	6.80	3.19E-04
	CCL3	chemokine (C-C Motif) Ligand 3	inflammatory and chemokinetic properties	A_33_P3316273	7.29	2.53E-04
	CCL3L3	chemokine (C-C Motif) Ligand 3-Like	chemotactic for lymphocytes and monocytes	A_33_P3296181	9.30	3.08E-04
	IL23A	interleukin 23, alpha subunit p19	functions in innate and adaptive immunity	A_23_P76078	3.83	9.11E-05
	FCAR	Fc fragment of IgA, receptor for	cytokine production	A_23_P208768	3.69	1.84E-04
	ТАРВР	TAP binding protein (tapasin)	assembly of MHC class I with peptide	A_23_P360291	2.97	1.16E-04
	LY6G5B	lymphocyte antigen 6 complex, locus G5B; casein kinase 2, beta polypeptide	located in the MHC	A_23_P59130	2.16	9.06E-04
	PTGER4	prostaglandin E receptor 4	activate T-cell factor signaling	A_23_P148047	2.58	5.58E-04

		(subtype EP4)				
PT	TPRC	protein tyrosine phosphatase,	positive regulator of T-cell	A_23_P12392	2.45	2.06E-05
		receptor type, C	coactivation			
CI	D84	CD84 molecule	signaling lymphocyte	A_24_P362193	2.83	6.06E-04
ST	ταΜ	Signal Transducing Adaptor	role in T-cell development	Δ 33 Ρ3287840	2 26	2 10F-04
51		Molecule		<u></u>	2.20	2.102 04
IN	IHBA	inhibin, beta A	hormone and insulin secretion,	A_23_P122924	6.58	4.58E-05
			germ cell development and			
н	IV/FP1	Human Immunodeficiency	maturation transcriptional regulation of	Δ 23 P19619	5.02	6 16F-04
		Virus Type I Enhancer Binding	both viral and cellular genes	A_23_113013	5.02	0.102 04
		Protein 1	C C			
PF	ROS1	Protein S (Alpha)	activate protein C in the	A_21_P0012453	2.86	5.46E-04
			degradation of coagulation			
CI	ΝΤΝΔΡ3	Contactin Associated Protein-	NCP family of cell-recognition	A 21 P0013569	2 61	7 29F-04
C	NINA J	Like 3	molecules	A_21_10013303	2.01	7.252 04
Mitocho	ondrion (GO:	0005739)				
PF	PM1K	protein phosphatase,	mitochondrial permeability	A_24_P214598	3.22	1.78E-04
		Mg2+/Mn2+ dependent, 1K	transition pore, cellular			
Δ1	104112	Aldebyde Debydrogenase 1	survival and development	V 33 D3383631	2 / 5	0 26E-05
A		Family. Member L2	formvltetrahvdrofolate to	A_33_F3282034	5.45	9.20L-05
		- ,,	tetrahydrofolate and CO2			
ZN	NF746	Zinc Finger Protein 746	repress transcription of PGC-1-	A_33_P3330546	3.08	1.50E-04
			alpha			
Endocyto	05/5			A 24 D0040070	2 70	2 625 05
F <i>F</i>	AWZIC	Similarity 21 Member C	fluid-phase endocytosis	A_21_P0010870	3.78	2.62E-05
М	1YOF	myoferlin	plasma and nuclear	A_24_P282309	3.08	8.66E-05
			membranes, involved in			
			endocytic recycling			
IT	SN2	intersectin 2	regulate formation of clathrin-	A_23_P434347	2.23	1.96E-04
A	AK1	AP2 Associated Kinase 1	regulate clathrin mediated	A 33 P3210583	2.17	6.45E-04
			endocytosis			01.02 01
FC	CHO2	FCH domain only 2	regulate clathrin mediated	A_23_P420610	2.02	9.65E-04
			endocytosis			
Oxidativ	ve stress			A 22 D2206470	2.20	0 405 04
Al	PP	Amyloid Beta (A4) Precursor	Inflammatory response,	A_33_P3296479	3.39	9.49E-04
М	1AP2K3	Mitogen-Activated Protein	activated by cytokines and	A 33 P3234571	2.58	4.80E-04
	-	Kinase Kinase 3	stress, MAP kinase-mediated			
			signaling			
	CU14	CTD Cuelebudreless 1	cascade	A 22 02211420	2 2 2	2 705 04
G	CHI	GTP Cyclonydrolase 1	synthesis	A_33_P3311439	2.23	3.70E-04
н	IF1A	Hypoxia Inducible Factor 1,	transcriptional regulator of the	A 33 P3231277	2.74	4.90E-04
		Alpha Subunit	adaptive response to hypoxia			
E2	2F7	E2F Transcription Factor 7	associates with HIF1A,	A_33_P3318661	2.58	3.13E-04
Mat air	nalina		recognizes VEGFA promoter			
vvnt sigr	nuing	Disrupted in Schizenhenie 1	What modiated avalifaration	A 21 D000047	2 55	
DI	ISCI	Disrupted in Schizophrenia 1	whit-mediated proliferation,	A_21_P0000047	2.55	0.U3E-U4

TLE1	Transducin-Like Enhancer Of Split 1	inhibits activation of AKT- mTOR signaling inhibits the transcriptional activation in Wnt signaling	A_19_P00804020	2.18	7.55E-04
Notch signaling path	hway				
NOTCH2NL	ens notch 2 N-terminal like [ENST00000344859]	function in the Notch signaling pathway	A_24_P366777	3.39	8.96E-04
USP12	Ubiquitin Specific Peptidase 12	negative regulator of Notch signaling pathway	A_24_P237613	3.15	4.59E-05

Table S4. Down-regulated genes identified in microarray analysis in response to 4h exposure with 50  $\mu$ M of GSNO

Gene	Description	Function	AGILENT_ID	FC	p value
Chromosomal part (	(GO:0044427)				
		mitotic progression and			
CENPA	Centromere Protein A	chromosome segregation	A_24_P413884	0.46	2.43E-04
HJURP	Protein	CENPA	A 33 P3807062	0.45	9.91E-04
HIST1H2AE	Histone Cluster 1. H2ae		A 23 P59045	0.32	3.06E-04
HIST1H2BE	Histone Cluster 1. H2be		A 33 P3302632	0.22	2.09E-04
HIST1H2BD	Histone Cluster 1, H2bd		A 24 P146211	0.46	7.45E-04
HIST1H2BI	Histone Cluster 1. H2bi		A 23 P111041	0.31	2.57E-05
HIST2H2BF	histone cluster 2, H2bf		A 21 P0010654	0.42	3.00E-04
HIST1H2BG	Histone Cluster 1. H2bg		A 23 P167997	0.32	9.50E-04
HIST1H2BJ	Histone Cluster 1, H2bj		 A 24 P55148	0.37	5.09E-05
HIST1H2BM	Histone Cluster 1, H2bm		 A 24 P3783	0.31	6.77E-04
HIST1H3D	Histone Cluster 1, H3d		 A 24 P217834	0.31	2.88E-04
HIST1H3H	histone cluster 1, H3h	transcription regulation,	 A 33 P3404989	0.27	1.36E-05
HIST2H4B	Histone Cluster 2, H4b	DNA repair and	 A 23 P436281	0.38	1.04E-04
HIST1H4C	Histone Cluster 1, H4c	stability			
	Excision Repair Cross-				
	Complementing Rodent Repair				
	Deficiency,Complementation	DNA repair and any classe	A 22 D1F7401	0 42	
ERCC4	PIF1 5'-To-3' DNA Helicase	helicase that negatively	A_52_P157461	0.45	0.162-05
PIF1	Homolog (S. Cerevisiae)	regulates telomerase	A_23_P416468	0.21	7.86E-06
		regulation of mitotic			
PSRC1	Proline/Serine-Rich Coiled-Coil 1	spindle dynamics	A_23_P46539	0.37	5.66E-04
FI 122184	Filipping Putative Uncharacterized Protein	-	Δ 24 Ρ147540	0 44	6 52F-04
1622104		mitotic spindle assembly,	<u>A_24_1147340</u>	0.44	0.522 04
	HAUS Augmin-Like Complex,	maintenance of			
HAUS3	Subunit 3	centrosome integrity	A_33_P3385062	0.40	6.76E-05
Microtubule cytoske	eleton organization (GO:0000226)				
	CDC28 Drotoin Kinasa Dagulatary	essential for biological			
CKS2	Subunit 2	dependent kinases	A 23 P71727	0.36	8.80F-04
Integral to membra	ne (GO:0016021)		<u> </u>	0.00	0.002 0.
integral to memoral	(00.0010021)	elongation of specific			
	UDP-GlcNAc:BetaGal Beta-1,3-N-	branch structures of			
B3GNT8	Acetylglucosaminyltransferase 8	multiantennary N-glycans	A_23_P101380	0.44	1.96E-05
C17orf78	Chromosome 17 Open Reading	_	A 72 D225288	0.24	2 155-06
C1/011/0		negative regulator of	~_23_F333300	0.24	J.1JE-00
		myoblast differentiation,			
_	Phosphatidic Acid Phosphatase	in part through effects on		_	
PPAPDC3	Type 2 Domain Containing 3	MTOR signaling	A_23_P157736	0.44	7.95E-05

Metabolic process

Cellular metabolism

EEF1A1	Eukaryotic Translation Elongation Factor 1 Alpha 1	promotes GTP-dependent binding of ribosomes during protein biosynthesis	A_19_P00809682	0.30	4.94E-06
Induction of apopto	osis (GO:0006917)				
		with VEGF, facilitate cell migration and			
ANGPT2	Angiopoietin 2	proliferation	A_23_P60079	0.39	2.11E-04
Notch signaling pat	thway				
		coactivator for NOTCH			
MAML3	Mastermind-Like 3 (Drosophila)	proteins	A_33_P3335366	0.50	6.58E-05

	Gene	Description	Function	AGILENT_ID	FC	p value
Transo	cription (GO:00	006350)				
	MXD1	MAX Dimerization Protein 1	transcriptional repressor	A_23_P408094	2.80	8.38E-04
	CHD6	Binding Protein 6	transcriptional regulation	A_33_P3401452	2.24	2.57E-04
	PBXIP1	Interacting Protein 1	transcriptional regulation	A 33 P3410011	2.69	5.95E-04
	ZNF407	Zinc Finger Protein 40	transcriptional regulation	 A_33_P3414402	2.46	9.24E-04
		Nuclear Factor I/X (CCAAT-				
	NFIX	Binding Transcription Factor)	transcription factor	A_33_P3884230	2.84	6.89E-04
	RFX8	RFX Family Member 8, Lacking	transcription factor	A 19 P00319745	3 01	1 89F-04
	ONECUT3	One Cut Homeobox 3	transcription factor	A 33 P3238969	3 35	3 44F-04
	01120013	Far Upstream Element (FUSE)		<u>, []]</u>	5.55	5.112 01
	FUBP3	Binding Protein 3	activate gene expression	A_33_P3326099	2.54	1.32E-04
Nuclei	us					
	0.150		histone lysine demethylase,		• • •	
	PHF8	PHD Finger Protein 8	cell cycle progression	A_24_P130865	2.38	5.66E-04
	CLSPN	Claspin	cycle arrest	A 23 P126212	2.68	6.07E-04
		Splicing Factor 3b, Subunit 1,	forms small nuclear			
	SF3B1	155kDa	ribonucleoproteins complex	A_23_P368393	2.16	4.28E-04
		Suppressor Of Ty 16 Homolog	roorganizo nucleocomos		2 72	ц
	3071101	Structural Maintenance Of	chromosome cohesion in	A_24_F255645	2.72	п
	SMC1A	Chromosomes 1A	DNA repair	A_33_P3290914	2.61	8.71E-04
		Heterogeneous Nuclear	with pre-mRNA processing,			
	HNRNPA2B1	Ribonucleoprotein A2/B1	forms ribonucleosomes	A_33_P3362891	2.32	2.56E-05
Chron	nosomal part (C	GO:0044427)				
		Bromodomain Containing 4	chromosomal dynamics	A 22 D22727/5	2 36	2 02E-04
	DI\D4	Bromodomain Containing 4	condensation of	A_33_F3373743	2.50	5.05L-04
	HIST1H1D	Histone Cluster 1, H1d	nucleosome chains	A_24_P260639	3.39	1.58E-04
			condensation of			
	HIST1H1E	Histone Cluster 1, H1e	nucleosome chains	A_23_P7976	2.34	4.66E-04
	HIST1H1T	Histone Cluster 1. H1t	nucleosome chains	A 23 P133842	3.16	1.37E-04
	HIST1H2AH	Histone Cluster 1, H2ah		A 23 P81859	3.05	4.71E-05
	HIST1H2AI	Histone Cluster 1. H2ai		A 33 P3393135	2.90	1.59E-04
	HIST1H2AI	Histone Cluster 1, H2ai		A 33 P3344086	3.16	5.73F-05
	HIST1H2AK	Histone Cluster 1, H2ak		A 24 P217848	3.45	7.45E-05
	HIST1H2AM	Histone Cluster 1 H2am		A 32 P221799	2 70	5 25E-05
	HIST1H2AI	Histone Cluster 1, H2al		A 23 P363174	4 11	1 00F-05
	HIST1H4K	Histone Cluster 1, H2k		Δ 23 Ρ30813	4 83	5 19F-05
		Histone Cluster 1, 114K	transcription regulation,	Δ 23 030805	7.05 2 20	3 365-05
		Histone Cluster 2 H2ha	UNA repair and replication,	~_23_F30003	2.07	2.30L-03
Oncor	iene		chi omosomai stability	A_JJ_I JZZJZ40	5.00	2.071-07
Uncog	CITE					

**Table S5.** Up-regulated genes indentified in microarray analysis in response to 4-h exposure with 200  $\mu$ g/mL of empty ENPs.

SET

SET Nuclear Oncogene

transcription, apoptosis, nucleosome assembly and

4.54 3.80E-04

A\_23\_P217015

## histone chaperoning

Cell structure					
Cytoskeletal part	: ( GO:0044430)				
	Kazrin, Periplakin Interacting	interplay between adherens			
KAZN	Protein	junctions and desmosomes	A_24_P331830	2.59	9.05E-04
		cytoskeletal reorganization,			
	StAR-Related Lipid Transfer	cell proliferation, tumor			
STARD13	(START) Domain Containing 13	suppressor	A_33_P3382143	4.30	2.03E-04
	CDC42 Effector Protein (Rho	organization of the actin			
CDC42EP3	GTPase Binding) 3	cytoskeleton	A_33_P3331307	5.04	4.40E-05
		membrane-cytoskeleton-			
ADD1	Adducin 1 (Alpha)	associated protein	A_24_P100742	2.03	1.89E-04
		in anchoring cytoskeleton			
UTRN	Utrophin	to plasma membrane	A_33_P3234864	2.95	9.80E-04
	Rho GTPase Activating Protein	organization of the actin-	A 22 D2270C00	2 00	4 265 04
AKHGAP26	20	Cytoskeleton	A_33_P3378680	3.89	4.36E-04
Metabolic process					
Glycosylation					
	Chondroitin Sulfate N-				
	Acetylgalactosaminyltransferase				
CSGALNACT2	2	addition of the first GalNAc	A_33_P3266255	2.68	9.45E-06
Regulation of cel	lular protein metabolic process (G	0:0032268)			
	Poly(A) Binding Protein,	regulatory processes of			
PABPC4	Cytoplasmic 4	mRNA metabolism	A_33_P3271105	2.12	6.24E-05
		precursor for the 18S, 5.8S			
RN5-8S1	RNA, 5.8S Ribosomal 5	and 28S rRNA	A_33_P3399064	3.28	4.18E-04
		interaction between the			
		ribosome and the			
RRBP1	Ribosome Binding Protein 1	endoplasmic reticulum	A_33_P3220277	2.31	2.85E-04
Cellular metabol	ism				
	CCZ1 Vacuolar Protein				
	Trafficking And Biogenesis	protein trafficking and			
CCZ1	Associated Homolog	biogenesis	A_33_P3333863	2.17	1.96E-04
	Protein Kinase, AMP-Activated,	activates energy-producing			
PRKAA1	Alpha 1 Catalytic Subunit	pathways	A_33_P3312212	2.50	5.13E-04
ASPH	Aspartate Beta-Hydroxylase	role in calcium homeostasis	A_23_P216094	2.42	4.50E-04
Catabolic process					
Cellular macrom	olecule catabolic process (GO:0044	4265~)			
	N-Acetylated Alpha-Linked				
NAALADL2	Acidic Dipeptidase-Like 2	-	A 21 P0002709	4.05	1.92E-04
Proteolysis (GO:	006508)				
	HECT Domain Containing E3				
HECTD4	Ubiquitin Protein Ligase 4	E3 ubiquitin-protein ligase	A 23 P309292	3.00	5.26E-04
		ubiguitination and			
		proteasomal degradation of			
KLHL15	Kelch-Like Family Member 15	proteins	A 32 P195647	2.18	6.74E-05
	-	hydrolase, remove			
		conjugated ubiquitin from			
USP10	Ubiquitin Specific Peptidase 10	proteins	A_32_P26330	3.08	4.20E-04
	Plasminogen Activator,	cleaves plasminogen to			
PLAU	Urokinase	active form plasmin	A 33 P3306146	2.47	6.07E-04

Serrate RNA Effector Molecule phasecell cycle progression at S phaseA_33_P3295502.603.19E-04ALMS1Alstrom Syndrome 1 control of cell cycle and action of tumor suppressorA_33_P33185162.143.46E-04E2F3E2F Transcription Factor 3 ProfiferationproteinsA_33_P34185162.143.46E-04CHTOPChromatin Target Of PRMT1cell cycle progressionA_33_P34185162.143.46E-04AMD1Decarboxylase 1 Due-Specificity Tyrosine-(Y)- Phosphorylation Regulatedcell uproliferation and tumor promotionA_33_P34069982.236.46E-04DYRK1AKinase 1A proliferation, differentiation, mitogen-Activated Protein cell proliferation cell cell proliferation and developmentA_23_P1676922.002.35E-04MAPK9Kinase 9 developmentgrowth and cell cycle progression cell proliferation, cell cell proliferation and cell proliferation and cell proliferation and cell proliferation progressionA_21_P00115292.167.55E-04Induction of apoptosis (GO:0006917) PleckKim Homology Domain Containing, Family M (With RUN MyoSin VA (Heavy Chain 12, MyoSin VA (Heavy Cha	Cell cycle (G	0:000704	49)				
SRRTHomolog (Arabidopsis)phaseA.33_P32995902.603.19E-04ALMS1Alstrom Syndrome 1intracellular transport action of tumor suppressorA.33_P3327242.391.76E-04E2F3E2F Transcription Factor 3proteinsA_33_P34185162.143.46E-04CHTOPChromatin Target Of PRMT1cell cycle progressionA_33_P34185162.143.46E-04ProliferationAdenosylmethionine tumor promotioncell cycle progressionA_33_P34069982.236.46E-04DVRK1AKinase 1Acell proliferation and tumor promotionA_33_P34069982.236.46E-04DYRK1AKinase 1Acell proliferation, cell growth and cell cycle progressionA_23_P1676922.002.35E-04Ribosomal Protein SG Kinase, Fibroblast Growth FactormigrationA_23_P3729232.255.36E-04Induction of apoptosis (CO.0006917) Pleckstrin Homology Domain Containing, Family M (With RUN Myosin)transcription and membranes, involved in endocytic recyclingA_24_P2823092.641.06E-04MYOFmyoferlin Myosin)masport of vesicles involved in endocosmal recycling and in phasocytosisA_33_P34058973.483.56E-05Oxidative stressAA_33_P34058972.465.05E-041.06E-04MYOFAmyoferlin Myosin)transport of vesicles involved in endocyclicA_24_P2823092.641.06E-04MYOFAMyosin)transport of vesicles involved in endosomal recycling and in phagocytosisA_33_P3205			Serrate RNA Effector Molecule	cell cycle progression at S			
ALMS1       Alstrom Syndrome 1       intracellular transport control of cell cycle and action of tumor suppressor arction of tumor suppressor proteins       A_33_P3418516       2.14       3.46E-04         E2F3       E2F Transcription Factor 3       proteins       A_33_P3418516       2.14       3.46E-04         CHTOP       Chromatin Target Of PRMT1       cell cycle progression       A_33_P343957       3.35       6.94E-05         Proliferation       Adenosylmethionine       cell cycle progression       A_33_P3406998       2.23       6.46E-04         DURLSpecificity Tyrosine-(Y)-       Phosphorylation Regulated       Droll-Specificity Tyrosine-(Y)-       Phosphorylation Regulated       A_33_P3406998       2.23       6.46E-04         DYRK1A       Kinase 1A       cell proliferation, differentiation,       A_33_P167692       2.00       2.35E-04         MAPK9       Kinase 9       development       A_23_P167692       2.00       2.35E-04         RPS6KB1       70kDa, Polypeptide 1       progression       A_21_P0011529       2.16       7.55E-04         Induction of apoptosis (G0.0006917)       Plecktrin Homology Domain       Containing, Family M (With RUN       transduction of apoptosit       S.05E-04         Endocytosis       plasma and nuclear membranes, involved in endocytic recycling       A_24_P282309       2.64       1.06E-	SRRT		Homolog (Arabidopsis)	phase	A_33_P3299590	2.60	3.19E-04
control of cell cycle and action of tumor suppressorE2F3E2F Transcription Factor 3 proteinsA_33_P34185162.143.46E-04CHTOPChromatin Target Of PRMT1cell cycle progressionA_33_P32439573.356.94E-05ProliferationAdenosylmethionine Dual-Specificity Tyrosine-(Y)- Phosphorylation Regulatedcell uror promotionA_33_P33953692.403.29E-04DYRK1AKinase 1A proliferation, ell ranscription regulation and development cell proliferation, cellA_33_P34069982.236.46E-04MAPK9Mitogen-Activated Protein Ribosomal Protein S6 Kinase, Fibroblast Growth FactorA_23_P1676922.002.35E-04RPS6KB170kDa, Polypeptide 1 progression Containing, Family M (With RUN Containing, Family M (With RUN Containing, Family M (With RUN MYOSAA_23_P3729232.255.36E-04MYOF MYOSAmyoferlin Myosin VA (Heavy Chain 12, MYOSAMyosin)ransport of vesicles involved in endosomal recycling and in phagocytosisA_23_P32327983.431.86E-05AtB11FiP1 Protein 1 (Class I)phagocytosisA_33_P32327983.431.86E-05Oxidative stress APP ProteinMyola Beta (A4) Precursor involved in endosomal recycling and in phagocytosisA_33_P32329783.431.86E-05Oxidative stress APPProteinInflamatory response, involved in endosomal recycling and in phagocytosisA_33_P32924793.084.25E-04Mitogen-Active time MyosinMyosinInflamatory response, involved in end	ALMS	51	Alstrom Syndrome 1	intracellular transport	A_33_P3332724	2.39	1.76E-04
E2F3 E2F Transcription Factor 3 Of tumor suppressor proteinsA_33_P34185162.143.46E-04CHTOPChromatin Target Of PRMT1cell cycle progressionA_33_P32439573.356.94E-05Proliferationcellular proliferation and tumor promotionA_33_P33953692.403.29E-04AMD1Decarboxylase 1 Dual-Specificity Tyrosine-(Y)- Phosphorylation Regulatedcell proliferation proliferation, differentiation, transcription regulation and development cell proliferation, addition and development cell proliferation, cell proliferation, cell growth and cell cycle progressionA_23_P1676922.002.35E-04MAPK9Kinase 9cell proliferation, cell growth and cell cycle progressionA_21_P00115292.167.55E-04Fibroblast Growth Factor Pleckstrin Homology Domain Containing, Family M (With RUN Myosin VA (Heavy Chain 12, MYO5AFibroblast Qrowth factora_33_P34058972.465.05E-04Endocytosisplesktin Homology Domain containing, Family M (With RUN Myosin VA (Heavy Chain 12, MYO5AA_33_P34058972.465.05E-04MYO5AMyosin VA (Heavy Chain 12, Myosin VA (Heavy Chain 12, APPplasma and nuclear membranes, involved in endocytic recyclingA_24_P2823092.641.06E-04MYO5AMyosin VA (Heavy Chain 12, Myosin VA (Heavy Chain 12, APPphagocytosisA_33_P32924793.084.25E-04MYO5AMyosin VA (Heavy Chain 12, Myosin VA (Heavy Chain 12, MYO5AAmyloid Beta (A4) Precursor involved in endosomal recycling and in phagocytosisA_33_P32924				control of cell cycle and			
E2F3E2F Transcription Factor 3 CHTOPproteinsA_33_P34185162.143.46E-04CHTOPChromatin Target Of PRMT1cell cycle progressionA_33_P32439573.356.94E-05ProliferationAdenosylmethionine Dual-Specificity Tyrosine-(Y)- Phosphorylation Regulatedcell uroliferation and tumor promotionA_33_P33953692.403.29E-04DYRK1AKinase 1A moliferation, Regulatedcell proliferation, differentiation, ranscription regulation and development cell proliferation, cell proliferation, ad transcription regulation and development cell proliferation, cell proliferation, cell progressionA_23_P1676922.002.35E-04RPS6KB170kDa, Polypeptide 1 Pibroblast Growth Factorgrowth and cell cycle progression differentiation and migrationA_21_P00115292.167.55E-04Induction of apoptosis EndocytosisGo:006917) Pieckstrin Homology Domain Containing, Family M (With RUN Myosin VA (Heavy Chain 12, Myosin VA (Heavy Chain 12, Myosin VA (Heavy Chain 12, Myosin VA (Heavy Chain 12, MYOFATransport of vesicles involved in endosomal recycling and in recycling and in recycling and in RAB11FiPi Protein 1Inflammatory response, involved in endosomal recycling and in recycling and in recycling and in recycling and in RAB11FiPi ProteinS.431.86E-05Oxidative stressAmyloid Beta (A4) Precursor involved in endosomal recycling and in recycling and in recycling and in RAB11FiPi ProteinInflammatory response, involved in endosomal recycling and in recycling and in recycling and in recycling and in recycling and				action of tumor suppressor			
CHTOPChromatin Target Of PRMT1cell cycle progressionA_33_P32439573.356.94E-05ProliferationAdenosylmethionine Decarboxylase 1 Dual-Specificity Tyrosine-(Y)- Phosphorylation Regulatedcelluar proliferation and tumor promotionA_33_P33953692.403.29E-04DYRK1AKinase 1A molfferation, differentiation, reanscription regulation and development cell proliferation, cell growth and cell cycle progressionA_33_P34069982.236.46E-04MAPK9Kinase 9 cell proliferation, cell growth and cell cycle progression cell proliferation, and development cell proliferation, differentiation, differentiation and development cell proliferation, differentiation and development cell proliferation, differentiation and differentiation and differentiation and differentiation and containing, Family M (With RUN PLEKHM1 Domain) Member 1Mages spase2.465.05E-04EndocytosisPlackstrin Homology Domain Containing, Family M (With RUN Myosin VA (Heavy Chain 12, Myosin VA (Heavy	E2F3		E2F Transcription Factor 3	proteins	A_33_P3418516	2.14	3.46E-04
Proliferation       Adenosylmethionine       cellular proliferation and       A_33_P3395369       2.40       3.29E-04         AMD1       Decarboxylase 1 Dual-Specificity Tyrosine-(Y)- Phosphorylation Regulated       cell proliferation       A_33_P3406998       2.23       6.46E-04         DYRK1A       Kinase 1A       cell proliferation, Mitogen-Activated Protein       cell proliferation, differentiation, transcription regulation and development       A_23_P167692       2.00       2.35E-04         RPS6KB1       70kDa, Polypeptide 1       growth and cell cycle progression       A_21_P0011529       2.16       7.55E-04         FGFR1       Receptor 1       migration       A_23_P372923       2.25       5.36E-04         Induction of apoptosis (GO:0006917)       Pleckstrin Homology Domain Containing, Family M (With RUN       transduction of apoptotic       2.46       5.05E-04         Endocytosis       Journain) Member 1       signals       A_33_P3405897       2.46       5.05E-04         MYOF       myoferlin Myosin VA (Heavy Chain 12, MYOSA       membranes, involved in endocytic recycling       A_24_P282309       2.64       1.06E-04         MYOF       myoferlin Myosin VA (Heavy Chain 12, MYOSA       transport of vesicles involved in endosomal       A_33_P3232798       3.43       1.86E-05         Oxiddtive stress       Amyloid Beta (A4) Precursor APP	СНТС	)P	Chromatin Target Of PRMT1	cell cycle progression	A_33_P3243957	3.35	6.94E-05
Adenosylmethionine Decarboxylase 1 Dual-Specificity Tyrosine-(Y)- Phosphorylation Regulatedcellular proliferation and tumor promotionA_33_P33953692.403.29E-04DYRK1AKinase 1A proliferation,differentiation, mitogen-Activated Protein cell proliferation,differentiation, transcription regulation and cell proliferation,cell growth and cell cycle progressionA_33_P34069982.236.46E-04MAPK9Kinase 9 cell proliferation,cell growth and cell cycle progressionA_23_P1676922.002.35E-04RPS6KB170kDa, Polypeptide 1 cell proliferation, add differentiation andA_21_P00115292.167.55E-04FGFR1Receptor 1migrationA_23_P3729232.255.36E-04Induction of apoptosis (G0-0006917) Pleckstrin Homology Domain Containing, Family M (With RUN Domain) Member 1transduction of apoptotic signalsA_33_P34058972.465.05E-04EndocytosisMyosin VA (Heavy Chain 12, Myosin VA (Heavy Chain 12, MYOFAmyoferlin membranes, involved in endocytic recyclingA_24_P2823092.641.06E-04MYOSAMyoxintransport of vesicles involved in endosomal recycling and in ecycling and in RAB11 Family Interacting ProteinInflammatory response, involved in oxydative stressA_33_P32964793.084.25E-04Oxidative stressAmyloid Beta (A4) Precursor ProteinInflammatory response, involved in oxydative stressA_33_P32964793.084.25E-04Wnt-mediated proliferation, inhibits activation of AKT-mTORDISC1Discupted In Schizophrenia	Proliferation	ו					
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Dual-Specificity Tyrosine-{Y}- Phosphorylation RegulatedDYRK1AKinase 1Acell proliferation proliferation,differentiation, mitogen-Activated ProteinA_33_P34069982.236.46E-04 proliferation,differentiation, A_23_P1676922.002.35E-04 cell proliferation, cellMAPK9Kinase 9development development cell proliferation, cellA_23_P1676922.002.35E-04 cell proliferation, cellRPS6KB170kDa, Polypeptide 1growth and cell cycle progression cell proliferation, differentiation and migrationA_21_P00115292.167.55E-04 cell proliferation, cell proliferation, cell proliferation, differentiation and migrationA_23_P3729232.255.36E-04Induction of apoptosis (60:0006917) Pleckstrin Homology Domain Containing, Family M (With RUN Containing, Family M (With RUN MyOFA_33_P34058972.465.05E-04Endocytosisplasma and nuclear membranes, involved in endocytic recyclingA_24_P2823092.641.06E-04MYOFMyosin VA (Heavy Chain 12, Myosin VA (Heavy Chain 12, movolved in endosomal recycling and in Protein 1 (Class I)transport of vesicles involved in endosomal recycling and in PhagocytosisA_33_P329264793.084.25E-04Oxidative stressAPPProteinInflammatory response, involved in oxydative stressA_33_P32964793.084.25E-04Wnt signalingUnt-mediated proliferation, inhibits activation of AKT-mTOR signalingA_21_P00000473.092.07E-04	AMD	1	Decarboxylase 1	tumor promotion	A_33_P3395369	2.40	3.29E-04
Phosphorylation RegulatedDYRK1AKinase 1Acell proliferation proliferation,differentiation, proliferation,differentiation, development cell proliferation cell growth and cell cycle2.236.46E-04MAPK9Kinase 9development cell proliferation cell growth and cell cycleA_23_P1676922.002.35E-04RPS6KB170kDa, Polypeptide 1growth and cell cycle progressionA_21_P00115292.167.55E-04FGFR1Receptor 1migrationA_23_P3729232.255.36E-04Induction of apoptosisGO:0006917)Pleckstrin Homology Domain Containing, Family M (With RUN transduction of apoptotic5.05E-04Endocytosismyosin VA (Heavy Chain 12, MYO5AMyosin VA (Heavy Chain 12, MYoSin VA (Heavy Chain 12, MYO5AA_24_P2823092.641.06E-04MYOFmyoing Rabil Filmily Interacting recycling and in RAB11FIP1Protein 1 (Class I) PhagocytosisA_33_P32964793.084.25E-04Oxidative stress APPAmyloid Beta (A4) Precursor involved in oxylative stressA_33_P32964793.084.25E-04Wnt signalingMytherentiat MytherentiatSignalingA_21_P00000473.092.07E-04			Dual-Specificity Tyrosine-(Y)-				
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Mitogen-Activated Proteinproliferation, differentiation, transcription regulation and developmentA_23_P1676922.002.35E-04 c.35E-04 c.823_P167692MAPK9Kinase 9development developmentA_21_P00115292.167.55E-04 c.823_P3729232.255.36E-04RPS6KB170kDa, Polypeptide 1 progression Fibroblast Growth Factorprogression differentiation and migrationA_21_P00115292.167.55E-04 c.823_P3729232.255.36E-04Induction of apoptosis(G0:0006917) Pleckstrin Homology Domain Containing, Family M (With RUN transduction of apoptotic signalsA_33_P34058972.465.05E-04Endocytosisplasma and nuclear membranes, involved in Myosin VA (Heavy Chain 12, MYO5AMyoxin)1.06E-04 molycet in endocytic recyclingA_24_P2552182.383.56E-05Oxidative stress APPAmyloid Beta (A4) Precursor involved in ord involved in ord on oxydative stressA_33_P32964793.084.25E-04Wnt signalingWnt-mediated proliferation, inhibits activation of AKT-mTORS.092.07E-04	DYRK	1A	Kinase 1A	cell proliferation	A_33_P3406998	2.23	6.46E-04
Mitogen-Activated Proteintranscription regulation and development cell proliferation, cell growth and cell cycle progression cell proliferation, cell growth and cell cycle progression cell proliferation, and A_21_P00115292.002.35E-04RPS6KB170kDa, Polypeptide 1 Fibroblast Growth Factor Receptor 1growth and cell cycle progression migration andA_21_P00115292.167.55E-04Induction of apoptosis (GO:0006917) Pleckstrin Homology Domain Containing, Family M (With RUN Containing, Family M (With RUN transduction of apoptotic PLEKHM1A_33_P34058972.465.05E-04Endocytosis5.05E-04MYOF Myosin VA (Heavy Chain 12, MY05Amyoferlin Myoxin)endocytic recycling recycling and in recycling and in recycling and in recycling and in Protein 1 (Class I)3.383.56E-05Oxidative stressAmyloid Beta (A4) Precursor involved in oxydative stressA_33_P32327983.431.86E-05Oxidative stressAmyloid Beta (A4) Precursor involved in oxydative stressA_33_P32964793.084.25E-04Wnt signalingMyosin of ALP ProteinInflammatory response, involved in oxydative stressA_33_P32964793.084.25E-04DISC1Disrupted In Schizophrenia 1signalingA_21_P00000473.092.07E-04				proliferation, differentiation,			
MAPK9Kinase 9development cell proliferation, cell growth and cell cycleA_23_P1676922.002.35E-04RPS6KB170kDa, Polypeptide 1 TOkDa, Polypeptide 1growth and cell cycle grogressionA_21_P00115292.167.55E-04Fibroblast Growth Factor of apoptosisFibroblast Growth Factor differentiation and migrationA_23_P3729232.255.36E-04Induction of apoptosisGG:0006917) Pleckstrin Homology Domain Containing, Family M (With RUN transduction of apoptoticA_33_P34058972.465.05E-04EndocytosisJeamain Member 1signalsA_33_P34058972.465.05E-04Endocytosisplasma and nuclear membranes, involved in endocytic recyclingA_24_P2823092.641.06E-04MYOFmyoferlin Myosin VA (Heavy Chain 12, MYO5AMyoxin Ntransport of vesicles involved in endosomal recycling and in phagocytosisA_23_P32327983.431.86E-05Oxidative stressAmyloid Beta (A4) Precursor involved in oxydative stressA_33_P32964793.084.25E-04Wnt signalingWnt-mediated proliferation, inhibits activation of AKT-mTOR activation of AKT-mTOR3.092.07E-04			Mitogen-Activated Protein	transcription regulation and			
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Ribosomal Protein S6 Kinase, RPS6KB1growth and cell cycle progressionA_21_P00115292.167.55E-04 (cell proliferation, and cell proliferation, and migrationFGFR1Receptor 1migrationA_23_P3729232.255.36E-04Induction of apoptosis (GO:0006917) Pleckstrin Homology Domain Containing, Family M (With RUN transduction of apoptoticA_33_P34058972.465.05E-04EndocytosisDomain) Member 1signalsA_33_P34058972.465.05E-04Endocytosisplasma and nuclear membranes, involved in endocytic recyclingA_24_P2823092.641.06E-04MYOFmyosin VA (Heavy Chain 12, MyoSAMyoxin)transport of vesicles involved in endosomal recycling and in phagocytosisA_33_P32327983.431.86E-05Oxidative stressAPPProtein 1 (Class I) ProteinphagocytosisA_33_P32964793.084.25E-04Wnt signalingMyolid Beta (A4) Precursor involved in oxydative stressA_33_P32964793.084.25E-04Wnt signalingMyotin Na there are activation of AKT-mTOR signalingS.07E-043.092.07E-04				cell proliferation, cell			
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Fibroblast Growth Factordifferentiation and migrationFGFR1Receptor 1migrationA_23_P3729232.255.36E-04Induction of apoptosis (G0:0006917) Pleckstrin Homology Domain Containing, Family M (With RUN transduction of apoptotic				cell proliferation,			
FGFR1Receptor 1migrationA_23_P3729232.255.36E-04Induction of apoptosis (GO:0006917) Pleckstrin Homology Domain Containing, Family M (With RUN Domain) Member 1transduction of apoptotic2.465.05E-04Endocytosisplasma and nuclear membranes, involved in endocytic recyclingA_23_P34058972.465.05E-04MYOFmyoferlin Myosin VA (Heavy Chain 12, MYO5Aplasma and nuclear membranes, involved in endocytic recyclingA_24_P2823092.641.06E-04MYO5AMyoxin)transport of vesicles involved in endosomal recycling and in PhagocytosisA_24_P2552182.383.56E-05Oxidative stressAmyloid Beta (A4) Precursor APPInflammatory response, involved in oxydative stressA_33_P32964793.084.25E-04Wnt signalingWnt-mediated proliferation, inhibits activation of AKT-mTORMit signalingA_21_P00000473.092.07E-04			Fibroblast Growth Factor	differentiation and			
Induction of apoptosis (GO:0006917)         Pleckstrin Homology Domain Containing, Family M (With RUN PLEKHM1 Domain) Member 1 signals A_33_P3405897 2.46 5.05E-04         Endocytosis         Plasma and nuclear membranes, involved in MYOF myoferlin MYOFA Myoxin VA (Heavy Chain 12, MYO5A Myoxin)         RAB11 Family Interacting RAB11 Family Interacting         RAB11 Firmily Interacting RAB11 Family Interacting         AB11 Family Interacting         Protein 1 (Class I)         Phagocytosis         APP         Protein         Mroleat (A4) Precursor         Mrt signaling         Wnt signaling         Wnt signaling         Mut signaling         Mut signaling         APP         DISC1       Disrupted In Schizophrenia 1	FGFR	1	Receptor 1	migration	A_23_P372923	2.25	5.36E-04
Pleckstrin Homology Domain Containing, Family M (With RUN signalstransduction of apoptoticPLEKHM1Domain) Member 1signalsA_33_P34058972.465.05E-04Endocytosisplasma and nuclear membranes, involved in endocytic recyclingA_24_P2823092.641.06E-04MYOFmyoferlin Myosin VA (Heavy Chain 12, MYO5Aendocytic recyclingA_24_P2552182.383.56E-05MYO5AMyoxin)transport of vesicles involved in endosomal recycling and in recycling and in RAB11 Family Interacting RAB11 FIP1A_33_P32327983.431.86E-05Oxidative stressAmyloid Beta (A4) Precursor involved in oxydative stressA_33_P32964793.084.25E-04Wnt signalingWnt-mediated proliferation, inhibits activation of AKT-mTORMYOF3.092.07E-04	Induction of	apoptos	is (GO:0006917)				
Containing, Family M (With RUN PLEKHM1transduction of apoptotic signalsA_33_P34058972.465.05E-04Endocytosisplasma and nuclear membranes, involved in endocytic recyclingA_24_P2823092.641.06E-04MYOFmyoferlin Myosin VA (Heavy Chain 12, MYO5Aendocytic recyclingA_24_P2552182.383.56E-05MYO5AMyoxin)transport of vesicles involved in endosomal recycling and in Protein 1 (Class I)A_33_P32327983.431.86E-05Oxidative stressAmyloid Beta (A4) Precursor involved in oxydative stressA_33_P32964793.084.25E-04Wnt signalingWnt-mediated proliferation, inhibits activation of AKT-mTORMyoundative stressA_21_P00000473.092.07E-04			Pleckstrin Homology Domain				
PLEKHM1Domain) Member 1signalsA_33_P34058972.465.05E-04Endocytosisplasma and nuclear membranes, involved in endocytic recyclingplasma and nuclear membranes, involved in endocytic recyclingA_24_P2823092.641.06E-04MYOFmyoferlin Myosin VA (Heavy Chain 12, MYO5Amyosin VA (Heavy Chain 12, Myoxin)transport of vesicles involved in endosomal recycling and in phagocytosisA_24_P2552182.383.56E-05Oxidative stressAMI Family Interacting Protein 1 (Class I)phagocytosisA_33_P32327983.431.86E-05Oxidative stressAmyloid Beta (A4) Precursor involved in oxydative stressInflammatory response, involved in oxydative stressA_33_P32964793.084.25E-04Wnt signalingWnt-mediated proliferation, inhibits activation of AKT-mTORMotomotory3.092.07E-04			Containing, Family M (With RUN	transduction of apoptotic			
EndocytosisEndocytosisplasma and nuclear membranes, involved in endocytic recyclingA_24_P2823092.641.06E-04MYOFmyoferlin Myosin VA (Heavy Chain 12, MYO5Atransport of vesicles involved in endosomal recycling and in phagocytosisA_24_P2552182.383.56E-05RAB11 Family Interacting Protein 1 (Class I)phagocytosisA_33_P32327983.431.86E-05Oxidative stressAmyloid Beta (A4) Precursor involved in oxydative stressInflammatory response, involved in oxydative stress3.084.25E-04Wnt signalingWnt-mediated proliferation, inhibits activation of AKT-mTORJ.092.07E-04	PLEKI	HM1	Domain) Member 1	signals	A_33_P3405897	2.46	5.05E-04
plasma and nuclear membranes, involved inMYOFmyoferlin Myosin VA (Heavy Chain 12, MYO5Aendocytic recyclingA_24_P2823092.641.06E-04MYO5AMyoxin)transport of vesicles involved in endosomal recycling and in Protein 1 (Class I)A_24_P2552182.383.56E-05Oxidative stressAB11 Family Interacting phagocytosisA_33_P32327983.431.86E-05Oxidative stressAmyloid Beta (A4) Precursor involved in oxydative stressA_33_P32964793.084.25E-04Wnt signalingWnt-mediated proliferation, inhibits activation of AKT-mTORWnt-mediated proliferation, inhibits activation of AKT-mTOR3.092.07E-04	Endocytosis						
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MYOFmyoferlin Myosin VA (Heavy Chain 12, MYO5Aendocytic recyclingA_24_P2823092.641.06E-04MYO5AMyoxin)transport of vesicles involved in endosomal recycling and in phagocytosisA_24_P2552182.383.56E-05RAB11 Family Interacting RAB11FIP1Protein 1 (Class I)phagocytosisA_33_P32327983.431.86E-05Oxidative stressAmyloid Beta (A4) Precursor involved in oxydative stressInflammatory response, involved in oxydative stressA_33_P32964793.084.25E-04Wnt signalingWnt-mediated proliferation, inhibits activation of AKT-mTORWnt-P00000473.092.07E-04				membranes, involved in			
Myosin VA (Heavy Chain 12, Myoxin)transport of vesicles involved in endosomal recycling and in phagocytosisA_24_P2552182.383.56E-05RAB11 Family Interacting RAB11FIP1Protein 1 (Class I)phagocytosisA_33_P32327983.431.86E-05Oxidative stressAmyloid Beta (A4) Precursor involved in oxydative stressInflammatory response, involved in oxydative stressA_33_P32964793.084.25E-04Wnt signalingWnt-mediated proliferation, inhibits activation of AKT-mTORWnt-mediated signalingJ.092.07E-04	MYO	F	myoferlin	endocytic recycling	A_24_P282309	2.64	1.06E-04
MYO5AMyoxin)transport of vesicles involved in endosomal recycling and in phagocytosisA_24_P2552182.383.56E-05RAB11 Family Interactingrecycling and in phagocytosis			Myosin VA (Heavy Chain 12,				
involved in endosomalRAB11 Family Interactingrecycling and inProtein 1 (Class I)phagocytosisA_33_P32327983.431.86E-05Oxidative stressAmyloid Beta (A4) PrecursorInflammatory response,APPProteininvolved in oxydative stressA_33_P32964793.084.25E-04Wnt signalingWnt-mediated proliferation, inhibits activation of AKT-mTORVnt-mediated proliferation, inhibits activation of AKT-mTORDISC1Disrupted In Schizophrenia 1signalingA_21_P00000473.092.07E-04	MYO!	5A	Myoxin)	transport of vesicles	A_24_P255218	2.38	3.56E-05
RAB11 Family Interacting Protein 1 (Class I)recycling and in phagocytosisOxidative stressA_33_P32327983.431.86E-05Oxidative stressAmyloid Beta (A4) Precursor involved in oxydative stressInflammatory response, involved in oxydative stressA_33_P32964793.084.25E-04Wnt signalingWnt-mediated proliferation, inhibits activation of AKT-mTORWnt-mediated signaling3.092.07E-04				involved in endosomal			
RAB11FIP1Protein 1 (Class I)phagocytosisA_33_P32327983.431.86E-05Oxidative stressAmyloid Beta (A4) PrecursorInflammatory response, involved in oxydative stressA_33_P32964793.084.25E-04Wnt signalingWnt-mediated proliferation, inhibits activation of AKT-mTORWnt-mediated proliferation, inhibits activation of AKT-mTOR3.092.07E-04			RAB11 Family Interacting	recycling and in			
Oxidative stress       Amyloid Beta (A4) Precursor       Inflammatory response, involved in oxydative stress       A_33_P3296479       3.08       4.25E-04         Wnt signaling       Wnt-mediated proliferation, inhibits activation of AKT-mTOR       Vnt-mediated       Vnt-mediated         DISC1       Disrupted In Schizophrenia 1       signaling       A_21_P0000047       3.09       2.07E-04	RAB1	1FIP1	Protein 1 (Class I)	phagocytosis	A_33_P3232798	3.43	1.86E-05
Amyloid Beta (A4) PrecursorInflammatory response, involved in oxydative stressA_33_P32964793.084.25E-04Wnt signalingWnt-mediated proliferation, inhibits activation of AKT-mTORVnt-mediated proliferation, inhibits activation of AKT-mTORDISC1Disrupted In Schizophrenia 1signalingA_21_P00000473.092.07E-04	Oxidative st	ress					
APPProteininvolved in oxydative stressA_33_P32964793.084.25E-04Wnt signalingWnt-mediated proliferation, inhibits activation of AKT-mTORVint-mediated proliferation, inhibits activation of AKT-mTORVint-mediated proliferation, inhibits activation of AKT-mTORDISC1Disrupted In Schizophrenia 1signalingA_21_P00000473.092.07E-04			Amyloid Beta (A4) Precursor	Inflammatory response,			
Wnt signaling       Wnt-mediated         Wnt-mediated       proliferation, inhibits         activation of AKT-mTOR       activation of AKT-mTOR         DISC1       Disrupted In Schizophrenia 1       signaling       A_21_P0000047       3.09       2.07E-04	APP		Protein	involved in oxydative stress	A_33_P3296479	3.08	4.25E-04
Wnt-mediated proliferation, inhibits activation of AKT-mTORDISC1Disrupted In Schizophrenia 1signalingA_21_P00000473.092.07E-04	Wnt sianalir	na					
proliferation, inhibits activation of AKT-mTOR DISC1 Disrupted In Schizophrenia 1 gignaling A_21_P0000047 3.09 2.07E-04	5	2		Wnt-mediated			
activation of AKT-mTOR DISC1 Disrupted In Schizophrenia 1 signaling A_21_P0000047 3.09 2.07E-04				proliferation, inhibits			
DISC1 Disrupted In Schizophrenia 1 signaling A_21_P0000047 3.09 2.07E-04				activation of AKT-mTOR			
	DISC	1	Disrupted In Schizophrenia 1	signaling	A_21_P0000047	3.09	2.07E-04
Gene	Description	Function	AGILENT_ID	FC	p value		
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Metabolic process							
Glycosylation							
	N-Acetylneuraminate						
	Pyruvate Lyase						
	(Dihydrodipicolinate	N-glycolylneuraminic acid					
NPL	Synthase)	degradation pathway	A_33_P3414903	0.50	1.63E-04		
		glycoprotein, inhibit the					
AMH	Anti-Mullerian Hormone	growth of tumors	A_23_P78944	0.45	3.51E-04		
Cellular metaboli	sm						
THRSP	Thyroid Hormone Responsive	regulation of lipogenesis	A_23_P363954	0.20	8.79E-04		
	ADAM Metallopeptidase With						
	Thrombospondin Type 1	metalloprotease (degradation					
ADAMTS7	Motif, 7	of COMP)	A_33_P3210762	0.30	7.39E-04		
	ATP-Binding Cassette, Sub-	in macrophage lipid					
ABCG4	Family G (WHITE), Member 4	homeostasis	A_24_P355626	0.25	6.16E-06		
		promotes GTP-dependent					
	Eukaryotic Translation	binding of ribosomes during					
EEF1A1	Elongation Factor 1 Alpha 1	protein biosynthesis	A_19_P00809682	0.31	1.32E-06		
Proliferation							
		cell apoptosis, facilitate with					
		VEGFcell migration and					
ANGPT2	Angiopoietin 2	proliferation	A_23_P60079	0.37	3.32E-04		
Cell structure							
Cytoskeletal part	( GO:0044430)						
		regulator of cytoskeletal					
SHROOM4	Shroom Family Member 4	architecture	A_33_P3310047	0.45	8.07E-05		
		component of ciliary and					
TEKT4	Tektin 4	flagellar microtubules	A_32_P231179	0.36	1.78E-04		
		formation and regulation of					
CGN	Cingulin	the tight junction	A_33_P3329974	0.27	2.42E-05		
Notch signaling path	iway						
	Strawberry Notch Homolog 2	transcriptional repression					
SBNO2	(Drosophila)	activity in macrophages	A_33_P3220152	0.49	3.80E-04		

# Table S6. Down-regulated genes indentified in microarray analysis in response to 4-h exposure with $200 \ \mu g/mL$ of empty ENPs.

	Gene	Description	Function	AGILENT_ID	FC	p value
Transcription (C	GO:0006350)					
		V-Maf Musculoaponeurotic				
		Fibrosarcoma Oncogene	transcriptional	A 22 D272509	2 02	5 00E 04
	WALK		transcriptional	A_23_P373396	2.02	5.99E-04
	ZNF521	Zinc Finger Protein 521 Cbp/P300-Interacting	activator	A_33_P3219398	2.04	6.06E-04
		Transactivator, With Glu/Asp-				
		Rich Carboxy-Terminal Domain,	transcriptional	A 22 D2212274	2 20	6 255 04
	CITED2	Z	transcriptional	A_55_F5215574	2.50	0.232-04
	EGR1	Early Growth Response 1	regulator transcriptional	A_23_P214080	3.97	2.69E-04
	PRDM8	PR Domain Containing 8	regulator transcriptional	A_33_P3342126	2.65	2.30E-04
	ZNF511	Zinc Finger Protein 511	regulator	A_33_P3384885	2.12	1.51E-04
		Wolf-Hirschhorn Syndrome	transcriptional	A 22 D220024C	2 00	4 215 06
	WHSCI		regulator	A_33_P3380346	2.08	4.31E-06
	EZFO	Hairy And Enhancer Of Split 6	transcription inhibitor transcription, promotes cell	A_32_P12610	2.18	1.07E-05
	HES6	(Drosophila)	differentiation	A_23_P131202	2.30	1.78E-04
			transcription			
	XRN2	5'-3' Exoribonuclease 2	polymerase II transcription	A_23_P166135	2.28	8.30E-04
			regulation, DNA repair			
	HIST1H2AI	Histone Cluster 1 H2al	and replication,	A 23 P363174	4 20	8 70F-04
	111011112/12		transcription	,		01702 01
			regulation, DNA repair			
		Histopo Cluster 1, H4i	and replication,	A 33 D2000E	2 00	2 045 04
	HI311H4J	nistone cluster 1, n4j	transcription	A_25_P50605	2.00	5.94E-04
	BRD9	Bromodomain Containing 9	regulation, chromatin	A 23 P19004	2.06	6.57F-04
Nucleus				<u> </u>		
i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i			chromosome			
			condensation and			
			segregation during			
	SETDB2	SET Domain, Bifurcated 2	mitosis	A_23_P341532	2.08	2.15E-04
	FRY	Furry Homolog (Drosophila)	centrosomes	A_33_P3223503	2.28	9.57E-04
			role in epigenetic			
	<b>TFT2</b>	Tet Methylcytosine	chromatin		2 6 7	4 225 04
	IEI3	Dioxygenase 3	reprogramming mediates actin nuclear	A_33_P3235177	2.67	1.23E-04
	XPO6	Exportin 6	export	A_23_P325438	2.16	9.56E-04
Oncogene						
		Pvt1 Oncogene (Non-Protein				
	PVT1	Coding)	oncogene	A_19_P00317872	2.20	5.76E-04
				14	1	

Table S7. Up-regulated genes indentified	in microarray	analysis in	response to	4-h exposure
with 200 µg/mL of GSNO-loaded ENPs.				

	RAB44	RAB44, Member RAS Oncogene Family Proteasome (Prosome,	-	A_21_P0005115	2.06	4.28E-04
	PSMD10	Macropain) 26S Subunit, Non- ATPase, 10	proto-oncoprotein	A_33_P3335621	2.34	6.98E-04
Regulation of R	as protein signa	l transduction (GO:0046578)				
		RAB GTPase Activating Protein				
	RABGAP1L	1-Like	-	A_24_P316005	2.77	5.81E-04
	RSU1	Ras Suppressor Protein 1	role in the Ras signal transduction pathway promotes the	A_33_P3422614	2.33	8.40E-04
	SOS1	son of sevenless homolog 1 (Drosophila)	exchange of Ras- bound GDP by GTP canable of binding	A_23_P343808	2.09	5.78E-04
	GTPBP2	GTP Binding Protein 2	GTP or GDP	A 24 P298013	2.40	2.79E-04
Ankyrin (IPR002110)		<u>_</u>				
		ArtGAP With GTPase Domain,	CTD			
	AGAP7	7 POTE Ankyrin Domain Family	protein	A_32_P41526	2.06	2.17E-04
	POTEF	Member F	cytoskeleton	A 24 P59220	2.07	2.23E-05
Zinc and metal	ion bindina		•			
Z	inc ion bindina (	GO:0008270)				
	51		role in			
	PHF7	PHD Finger Protein 7 solute Carrier Family 30 (Zinc	spermatogenesis zinc transport out of	A_23_P80684	2.21	4.25E-04
	SLC30A1	Transporter), Member 1	the cell	A_23_P23815	2.44	1.63E-04
N	1etal ion binding	(GO:0046872)				
		5'-Nucleotidase Domain			• • •	
	NISDC3	Containing 3	-	A_32_P76720	2.38	2.12E-04
Cell structure						
Ir	itegral to memb	rane (GO:0016021)				
	AVL9	AVL9 Homolog (S. Cerevisiase)	cell migration mucolipin cation	A_24_P272967	2.10	7.42E-05
	MCOLN3	Mucolipin 3 Regulator Of G Protein Signaling	channel proteins	A_23_P12241	2.16	8.58E-04
	RGS9BP	9 Binding Protein	phototransduction targeting of connexins	A_32_P227605	2.80	6.70E-04
	CNST	Protein	membrane	A 33 P3474467	2 37	4 79F-04
C	vtoskeletal nart	(GO:0044430)	memorane	<u>,</u> , <u></u> , <u></u> _, <u></u> , <u>_</u> , <u></u>	2.07	
Ŭ.,	ytoskeretar part	Gap Junction Protein, Delta 3,	formation of gap			
	GJD3	31.9kDa	junctions cytoskeletal reorganization, cell	A_33_P3367301	3.47	1.84E-04
	STARD13	StAR-Related Lipid Transfer (START) Domain Containing 13	proliferation, tumor suppressor cytoskeletal	A_33_P3382143	4.85	2.58E-04
	PARVG	Parvin, Gamma	organization	A_33_P3223338	2.02	3.09E-04
	PDLIM1	PDZ And LIM Domain 1 WAS/WASL Interacting Protein	cytoskeletal protein activity on the actin	A_23_P149992	2.20	6.42E-04
	WIPF1	Family, Member 1	cytoskeleton	A_33_P3339376	2.24	2.30E-04

# Metabolic process

Glycosylation

			mediates tyrosine			
		C-Type Lectin Domain Family	phosphorylation of			
	CLEC12A	12, Member A	MAP kinases	A_23_P128470	2.43	5.41E-04
			calcium regulation and			
	BMP8B	Bone Morphogenetic Protein 8b	bone homeostasis	A_32_P780862	2.45	7.79E-04
		Phosphatidylinositol Glycan	GPI-anchor			
	PIGS	Anchor Biosynthesis, Class S	biosynthesis	A_23_P66715	2.14	1.27E-05
		Glucuronidase, Beta				
	GUSBP11	Pseudogene 11	-	A 33 P3374559	2.03	2.59E-05
		Chondroitin Sulfate N-				
		Acetylgalactosaminyltransferase	addition of the first			
	CSGALNACT2	2	GalNAc	A 33 P3266255	3.00	6.03F-05
		-	synthesis and		0.00	0.001 00
		6-Phosphofructo-2-	degradation of			
		Kinase/Eructose-2.6-	fructose 2.6-			
		Rindser Fluctose-2,0-	hisphosphata		2 5 1	
0.0	PFKFB3	Bipriospriatase 3	bisphosphate	A_24_P206604	2.51	8.80E-04
Ke	guiation of cell	liar protein metabolic process				
(G	0:0032268)					
		fragile X mental retardation,				
	FXR2	autosomal homolog 2	RNA-binding protein	A_23_P4007	2.10	7.37E-04
		Ribosomal RNA Processing 12				
	RRP12	Homolog	-	A_23_P24192	2.14	1.08E-04
		Erythrocyte Membrane Protein				
	EPB41L2	Band 4.1-Like 2	-	A_23_P134109	2.18	4.19E-04
			control of mRNA			
	LSM14B	LSM14B, SCD6 Homolog B	translation	A_33_P3349774	2.24	1.85E-04
		Shwachman-Bodian-Diamond				
	SBDS	Syndrome	ribosome biogenesis	A 33 P3238866	2.02	7.78E-04
			nucleolar processing			
			of pre-18S ribosomal			
	NOP14	NOP14 Nucleolar Protein	RNA	A 32 P22622	2.07	1.61E-05
	-		in ubiquitinated		-	
		Proteasome (Prosome	proteins degradation			
		Macronain) 265 Subunit Non-	hinds to TNER1			
			intracellular domain	A 24 D42681	2.24	5 50F-05
	FSIVIDZ	$A = \frac{1}{2}$	rogulatory processos	A_24_F42001	2.24	J.JJL-0J
		Cutorilarmia 4	of m DNA motoholiom	A 22 D227110F	2 62	
	PABPC4	Cytopiasmic 4	of mRNA metabolism	A_33_P3271105	2.62	6.17E-04
			constitute part of the			
		Serine/Arginine-Rich Splicing	spliceosome (pre-			
	SRSF2	Factor 2	mRNA splicing)	A_33_P3412945	2.70	7.06E-04
		CWC25 Spliceosome-Associated				
	CWC25	Protein Homolog	pre-mRNA splicing	A_24_P48318	2.12	1.46E-04
	THOC3	THO Complex 3	pre-mRNA splicing	A_33_P3336642	2.83	6.26E-04
		Splicing Factor 3b, Subunit 2,				
	SF3B2	145kDa	pre-mRNA splicing	A 33 P3702906	2.15	6.85E-04
		DEAH (Asp-Glu-Ala-His) Box				
	DHX38	Polypeptide 38	pre-mRNA splicing	A 23 P38011	2.01	5.80E-05
6	lular motabolic		la. e			
Ce	nulur metubolis					
			anakata kuaffishina a sh			
	0074		protein trafficking and		• • •	0 705 0 5
	UU21	Associated Homolog	Diogenesis	A_33_P3333863	2.40	9.78E-04
			activates acetoacetate			
	AACS	Acetoacetyl-CoA Synthetase	to acetoacetyl-CoA	A_33_P3403392	2.13	5.65E-05
				10	5	

	Vacualar Bratain Sorting 25	proteins transport			
VPS35	Homolog	Golgi network	A_21_P0011439	2.25	5.54E-04
100554	Interaction Protein For	promotion of guanine-		2 02	E 605 04
IPCEF1	Cytohesin Exchange Factors 1 Solute Carrier Family 17	nucleotide exchange	A_33_P3397995	2.03	5.60E-04
	(Anion/Sugar Transporter),	acid out of the			
SLC17A5	Member 5	lysosome	A_33_P3416321	2.40	8.38E-04
Secreted					
		trophoblast			
		regulation of hone			
INSL4	Insulin-Like 4 (Placenta)	formation	A_23_P112220	2.98	2.92E-05
Signal					
METTL7B	Methyltransferase Like 7B	methyltransferase	A_24_P64653	2.92	4.92E-04
Catabolic process					
Cellular macromo (GO:0044265~)	olecule catabolic process				
	E Day Drotain Halicasa 19	protein ubiquitination	A 22 D12940	2 22	2 665 04
FDAU10	F-BOX Protein, Helicase, 18	protein ubiquitination.	A_25_P12649	2.27	2.00E-04
		proteasome-			
		dependent			
VPRBP	Vpr (HIV-1) Binding Protein	degradation	A_23_P212595	2.24	2.11E-06
05P31	DDB1 And CUL4 Associated	protein ubiquitination	A_23_P206612	2.15	8.95E-04
DCAF4	Factor 4	protein ubiquitination	A_33_P3419234	2.15	3.56E-04
	STE20-Related Kinase Adaptor				
STRADA	Alpha Phosphoglycerate Mutase 1	catalytic activity	A_33_P3224157	2.01	2.38E-05
PGAM1	(Brain)	glycolytic pathway	A 33 P3268334	2.95	2.03E-04
Proteolysis (GO:0	0006508)				
		exopeptidase and			
CTSC	Cathepsin C	endopeptidase	A_23_P1552	2.23	2.19E-04
PLAU	Plasminogen Activator, Urokinase	to active form plasmin	A 23 P24104	2.28	5.46F-04
Cell cycle (GO:0007049)				0	01102 01
-,,,-,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	Minichromosome Maintenance	initiation of genome			
MCM7	Complex Component 7	replication	A_33_P3258223	2.10	7.88E-05
כסצוות	Dual Specificity Phosphatase 2	regulates mitogenic	A 24 D27400	2 5 7	7 10E-05
DOBLE	NudE Nuclear Distribution E	Signal transtattion	~_ <b>2</b> <del>1</del> _F3/403	2.57	1.106-03
NDEL1	Homolog (A. Nidulans)-Like 1	required for mitosis	A_33_P3327852	2.03	2.75E-04
	CTD (Carboxy-Terminal Domain,	role in mitosis by			
	A) Phosphatase Subunit 1	dephosphorylating	A 23 P89727	2 27	5 73E-05
CIDII		nucleosome complex,	A_23_103727	2.27	5.75L-05
		chromosome			
CENT		organization, normal	A 22 B462500	4.06	
CENPI	Centromere Protein I	mitosis progress	A_23_P163580	4.06	4.75E-04
		organization, required			
		for normal progress			
SEPT7	Septin 7	through mitosis	A_24_P291973	2.02	2.41E-04
			:	17	

# Induction of apoptosis (GO:0006917)

			triggers apoptosis,			
		PH Domain And Leucine Rich	decreases cell	A 22 D2274040	2 1 4	1 645 04
	PHLPP2	Repeat Protein Phosphatase 2	proliteration	A_33_P3271810	2.14	1.64E-04
	SH3BP5	(BTK-Associated)	apoptotic cell death	A 24 P148750	2.62	7.05E-04
	CAPRIN2	Caprin Family Member 2	in apoptosis	A 24 P56281	2.10	7.64F-04
		capital analy member 2	role in MAPK cascade,		2.10	,
			proliferation,			
		V-Raf-1 Murine Leukemia Viral	differentiation,			
	RAF1	Oncogene Homolog 1	apoptosis, survival putative tumor	A_23_P40952	2.15	9.48E-04
	FRMD3	FERM domain containing 3	suppressor gene	A_23_P135132	4.44	6.18E-05
Immune respons	e (GO:0006955	) and cell activation (GO:0001775)	)			
			modulator of IL-2			
			signaling (lymphocyte			c 0== 0 -
	HS1BP3	HCLS1 Binding Protein 3	activation)	A_33_P3344277	2.04	6.87E-04
Mitochondrion (	GO:0005739)					
			transfers CoA moiety			
	ΟΧCT2	3-Ovoacid CoA Transferase 2	acetoacetate	Δ 23 P137806	2 7/	2 96F-04
	0/012	Succinate Dehvdrogenase		~_23_i 137030	2.74	2.301-04
		Complex, Subunit A,				
	SDHAP1	Flavoprotein Pseudogene 1	-	A_33_P3325280	2.29	1.29E-04
		RNA Component Of				
		Mitochondrial RNA Processing	cleaves mitochondrial			
	RMRP	Endoribonuclease	RNA	A_33_P3401284	2.36	4.72E-04
			electron acceptor for			
			several debudrogenases to			
		Electron-Transfer-Elayoprotein	mitochondrial			
	ETFA	Alpha Polypeptide	respiratory chain	A 32 P119616	2.47	6.97E-04
		. ,, ,	in complex II			
			mitochondrial			
		Succinate Dehydrogenase	electron transport			
	6011A	Complex, Subunit A,	chain, tumor	A 33 5356655		
	SDHA	Flavoprotein (Fp)	suppressor	A_23_P250035	2.23	4.43E-05
			ATP-Independent			
			mitochondrial transit			
	PITRM1	Pitrilysin Metallopeptidase 1	peptides	A 33 P3265104	2.13	2.34E-04
Endocvtosis		,			-	
			formation of caveolae			
	FLOT2	Flotillin 2	vesicles	A_24_P253818	2.12	6.48E-04
		N-Ethylmaleimide-Sensitive	vesicle-mediated			
	NSF	Factor	transport	A_21_P0000605	2.09	3.83E-04
			mediate exit of			
		Ovystoral Binding Dratain Like F	cholesterol from	<b>۲ - ۲</b> - ۲ - ۲ - ۲ - ۲ - ۲ - ۲ - ۲ - ۲ -	2 1 5	2 225 04
	U3BL2	Oxysterol binding Protein-Like 5	endosomes/lysosomes	A_33_P3394972	5.15	3.23E-04
Oxidative stress			coroproces torgeting			
			diverse transcription			
	CTBP2	C-Terminal Binding Protein 2	regulators	A 24 P103922	2.12	9.55F-04
	GEOD1	Glucose-Fructose	-	Δ 23 Ρ134058	2 71	3 36F-04
	51001	Giucose-i i uctose		R_2J_1 134030	2./1	J.JUL-04

		Oxidoreductase Domain			
		Containing 1			
Wnt signaling					
	FRAT1	frequently Rearranged In Advanced T-Cell Lymphomas	activates Wnt signaling pathway by stabilizing beta- catenin	A_33_P3261173	3.04 5.18E-04
	TLE1	Transducin-Like Enhancer Of Split 1	inhibits the transcriptional activation in Wnt signaling	A_19_P00804020	2.71 2.05E-04

Table S8. Down-regulated genes indentified in microarray analysis in response to 4-h exposure with  $200 \ \mu g/mL$  of GSNO-loaded ENPs.

Gene	Description	Function	AGILENT_ID	FC	p value
METTL11B	Methyltransferase Like 11B	methyltransferase	A_33_P3405936	0.39	6.82E-04
IQCF6	IQ Motif Containing F6	-	A_32_P13756	0.47	6.26E-04

#### 2.4. Résultats et conclusion

Nous avons observé une augmentation de l'activité métabolique mitochondriale aussi bien avec les NP vides (NP-) que chargées en GSNO (NP+). Cependant, seule l'exposition aux NP- a conduit à une augmentation de la croissance cellulaire. L'internalisation des NP a été visualisée. Elle est énergie dépendante car inhibée à + 4°C et en présence d'azide de sodium. Cette internalisation se fait par endocytose, selon deux mécanismes principaux : la voie clathrine dépendante et celle des cavéolines.

Une première analyse des transcriptomes des THP-1 exposés aux NP+, aux NP- ainsi qu'au GSNO seul, a montré, selon le traitement, une différence des profils d'expression des gènes impliqués dans la réponse cellulaire. L'analyse des données des transcriptomes s'est faite en regroupant les gènes en *clusters*. Après exposition aux NP-, une surexpression des gènes a été observée principalement dans les *clusters* « chromosomal part » et « prolifération », alors que les NP+ induisent une activation importante au sein des *clusters* « metabolic process » et « mitochondrion ». Donc l'expression des gènes varie grandement en fonction du traitement. Le GSNO encapsulé a une activité qui peut cependant différer de celle du GSNO libre peut-être du fait d'une libération ralentie par l'insertion dans les NP, mais aussi d'une induction de réponses cellulaires qui leur sont propres. Cependant, les réponses génomiques sont cohérentes avec les tests cellulaires. L'étude génomique devient un outil indispensable pour mieux comprendre les interactions entre NP et cellules et a ainsi toute sa place en toxicologie.

Les données de transcriptomes ont donné lieu à des analyses complémentaires qui font l'objet de l'article 4 qui est en préparation.

# 3. <u>Article 3.</u> Comment on: S-nitrosoglutathione (GSNO) is cytotoxic to intracellular amastigotes and promotes healing of topically treated Leishmania major or Leishmania braziliensis skin lesions

Dans le cadre de l'immunité, le <sup>•</sup>NO est un effecteur, mis en jeu dans la lutte contre les agents microbiens (parasites, bactéries et virus) et les cellules tumorales. Il est produit par les macrophages et agit contre les agents intra- et extracellulaires [205]. A titre d'exemple, les lésions cutanées à Leishmania chez l'homme ont reçu des traitements topique avec des donneurs de NO mais ceux-ci ont donné des résultats contradictoires positifs [206] ou non [207]. De même, au cours d'un essai clinique, des applications de patchs cutanés contenant des nitrites et de l'acide ascorbique et libérant du <sup>•</sup>NO n'ont pas été jugées efficace [208]. Ces résultats contradictoires pourraient éventuellement être expliqués par la mauvaise maîtrise de la libération de NO à partir de ces formulations [209]. Les RSNOs synthétiques S-nitroso-Nacétylpénicillamine (SNAP) se sont avérés toxiques pour des formes de Leishmania infantum promastigotes [210]. Plus récemment, GSNO et S-nitroso-N-acétylcystéine ont montré une puissante activité inhibitrice de la croissance des promastigotes de Leishmania amazonensis et de Leishmania major in vitro [211]. L'étude de l'activité cytotoxique de GSNO sur les amastigotes intracellulaires de Leishmania braziliensis ou major a conclu que [209] : i) le GSNO réduit la taille des lésions cutanées ulcérées de souris infectées après application topique ; et *ii*) que le nombre d'amastigotes intracellulaires de Leishmania major est réduit dans les macrophages THP-1 exposées à 300 µM de GSNO in vitro. En conclusion, ce serait la nitrosation par GSNO des protéines des parasites et de la cellule hôte qui serait responsable de son activité leishmanicide.

Dans notre étude de transcriptome (cellules THP-1 exposées à 50  $\mu$ M de GSNO libre, 4 h), au sein du *cluster* « Réponse immunitaire », les gènes *CCL4*, *CCL3*, *CCL20*, *INHBA*, *VEGFA* et *IL23A* impliqués dans la voie de signalisation « cytokine-cytokine interactions » sont surexprimés (base de données STRING). Cela nous a permis de proposer que, dans ce modèle cellulaire, le GSNO agit comme activateur de la réponse immunitaire en stimulant une voie de signalisation spécifique conduisant à la destruction du parasite.

### Sir,

We read with great interest the letter by Köser *et al.*,<sup>1</sup> responding to our article on the characterization of the *embB* gene in the area of Barcelona.<sup>2</sup> The point that Köser *et al.*<sup>1</sup> raise is very interesting and deserves further comment. Codon 378 has indeed been described by several authors as a phylogenetic polymorphism not related to resistance.<sup>3,4</sup> However, in our opinion the role of this codon remains unclear, since some studies describe the existence of ethambutol-resistant isolates with a mutation only in this codon.<sup>5,6</sup> Even one work<sup>7</sup> cited by Köser *et al.*<sup>1</sup> includes two isolates with a single Glu378Ala substitution and a decreased susceptibility to ethambutol.

The design of our microarray was based on the existing literature, taking into account all the possible *embB* codons that have been implicated in ethambutol resistance. We finally included the ones that were also found in our setting. The microarray system was not designed to determine the association of each mutation with the phenotypic resistance (allelic exchange experiments would be required for this purpose), but to reflect the variety of *embB* substitutions prevalent in our area. Moreover, the frequency of mutations in *embB*378 is low (<2% in our study), so we consider that the probability of misassigning a result of *embB*378 mutation to phenotypic resistance rather than to an epidemiological cause is negligible and does not compromise the effectiveness of the microarray.

Regarding the isolates, we included a collection of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex (MTBC) clinical isolates (not identified to the species level). Isolate 233R has now been analysed and identified as *M. tuberculosis/Mycobacterium canettii*. It contains the *embB*378Glu variant; therefore, a homoplastic event may be present (experimental error was ruled out).

Likewise, the MIRU-VNTR genotyping was performed not for epidemiological purposes (i.e. for the identification of lineages), but to establish the real frequency of *embB* mutations among circulating MTBC isolates in our geographical area.

Finally, we stress that the main objective of this study was to highlight the relevance of mutations in *embB* codons apart from *embB*306, focusing on codon 406, which represents 20% of the *embB* mutations in our area. Our results show that this target (*embB*406) should be included in any genotypic method for rapid ethambutol resistance detection.

# **Transparency declarations**

None to declare.

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J Antimicrob Chemother 2014 doi:10.1093/jac/dku122 Advance Access publication 28 April 2014

# Comment on: S-nitrosoglutathione (GSNO) is cytotoxic to intracellular amastigotes and promotes healing of topically treated Leishmania major or Leishmania braziliensis skin lesions

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**Keywords:** nitrosoglutathione, parasite, transcriptome, chemokines

#### Sir,

A previous study by Costa *et al.*<sup>1</sup> published in this journal reported the action of *S*-nitrosoglutathione (GSNO) (CAS number: 57564-91-7) on skin disease induced by *Leishmania* parasites. The major findings of this study were: (i) GSNO following topical application reduced ulcerated skin lesions of infected mice; and (ii) the number of intracellular *Leishmania major* amastigotes is reduced in THP-1 macrophages exposed to 300  $\mu$ M GSNO. The authors assume that the nitrosation by GSNO of host cell and parasite proteins could explain the *in vitro* leishmanicidal activity of GSNO in THP-1 cell culture.

We suggest a complementary mechanism of GSNO action. We have recently analysed the transcriptome of THP-1 cells exposed to 50  $\mu M$  GSNO for 4 h. Some of our results might be of high



**Figure 1.** Protein – protein interactions of 128 modified genes in THP-1 cells exposed to 50  $\mu$ M GSNO for 4 h, as retrieved from the String database. Total RNA was extracted and analysed by microarray. One hundred and three of 128 genes whose expression was significantly altered and recognized by the String database were linked at the confidence, evidence or action level. Proteins involved in the cytokine – cytokine receptor interaction KEGG pathway are shown in red. Microarray results were confirmed by real-time PCR for *CCL4* and *VEGFA* genes (up-regulated 21.9- and 3.4-fold, respectively, *P*<0.001, as determined by Student's t-test). The detailed protocol and the raw data of the microarrays are available on the GEO NCBI database using the accession number GSE51186. This figure appears in colour in the online version of *JAC* and in black and white in the print version of *JAC*.

interest with regard to those obtained by Costa *et al.*:<sup>1</sup> analysis of the protein–protein interaction of differentially expressed genes (fold change  $\leq$ 0.5 or  $\geq$ 2, *P*<0.001) in response to GSNO shows

the involvement of the Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes (KEGG) pathway called 'cytokine-cytokine receptor interaction'. This pathway links the human genes *CCL4*, *CCL3*,

CCL20, INHBA, VEGFA and IL23A, which are overexpressed 3- to 15-fold compared with control (Figure 1). Chemokines, which coordinate the recruitment of leucocytes involved in homeostasis and in innate and adaptive immune responses, play a crucial role in the regulation of immunity against *Leishmania*.<sup>2</sup> In addition, CCL3 and CCL20 have been shown to display antiparasitic activity against the promastigote form of the Leishmania mexicana parasite by acting directly on plasma membranes on Leishmania parasites, causing their lysis.<sup>3</sup> Evidence of an increase in phagocytosis and NO-mediated destruction of Leishmania by chemokines (including CCL3 and CCL4) was reported a decade ago.<sup>4</sup> Moreover, we show here that IL-23A levels are induced by GSNO. Murray et al.<sup>5</sup> showed that IL-23 displayed an antileishmanial effect, especially during late-stage parasitic infection. Thus, GSNO may be implicated in a cellular signalling pathway leading to macrophage activation and exhibiting immunostimulatory effects.

Our results indicate that GSNO not only exhibits microcidal activity but also acts as a macrophage activator. This activation was possible with the involvement of at least three chemokines (CCL4, CCL3 and CCL20) and one cytokine (IL23A). All of them are known to have antiparasitic activity, and thus could be effective against *Leishmania* infection. In conclusion, our results may be relevant to investigators working on GSNO antiparasitic activity *in vitro* and *in vivo*.

# Funding

This work was supported by the Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR NanoSNO). R. S. is the recipient of a PhD grant from the Ministry of Higher Education of Syria.

# **Transparency declarations**

None to declare.

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J Antimicrob Chemother 2014 doi:10.1093/jac/dku223 Advance Access publication 19 June 2014

# S-nitrosoglutathione (GSNO) is cytotoxic to intracellular amastigotes and promotes healing of topically treated Leishmania major or Leishmania braziliensis skin lesions—authors' response

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Keywords: antiprotozoals, leishmaniasis, mode of action

#### Sir,

Thank you to Ronzani et al.<sup>1</sup> for calling attention to our paper.<sup>2</sup> The results reported by Ronzani *et al.*<sup>1</sup> are certainly interesting as they indicate that expression of chemokines and cytokines in a human monocyte cell line (THP-1) can be up-regulated by S-nitrosoglutathione (GSNO). Although most studies have reported down-regulation of the synthesis of most proteins, up-regulation also occurs and the net result of GSNO action appears to be much dependent on the levels of nitrosoglutathione reductase expressed by each cell type.<sup>3,4</sup> In addition, NO and GSNO also act post-transcriptionally and directly inhibit the phosphorylation of transcription factors such as STAT-3.<sup>5</sup> Regarding the activities of chemokines and cytokines on Leishmania infection, these molecules are secreted by several host cells of the innate or acquired immunity systems. They are secreted to the extracellular milieu and act by recruiting and/or activating the respective cell targets, e.g. neutrophils, lymphocytes and macrophages (after interaction with target-cell membrane receptors).<sup>6</sup> Thus, chemokines and cytokines are recognized as important regulators of the immune and inflammatory responses and because of this many participate in the control of Leishmania parasitism in the vertebrate host.

Regarding a possible direct cytotoxic activity of chemokines/ cytokines against *Leishmania*, it should be recalled that the study by Söbirk *et al.*<sup>8</sup> described this cytotoxicity to occur against free promastigotes of *Leishmania*, at micromolar concentrations of these mediators in contrast to the nanomolar levels normally found in the inflammatory microenvironment.

However, in the cultures of *Leishmania*-infected THP-1 cells described in our paper,<sup>2</sup> the parasites were amastigotes lying inside parasitophorous vacuoles in the cytoplasm. Therefore,

# 3.1. Résultats complémentaires:

3.1.1. Mise à jour des résultats :

La mise à jour de la base de données STRING le 12 avril 2015, nous a amené à refaire l'analyse des interactions entre protéines. Ce sont maintenant 17 gènes de la « pathway : cytokine-cytokine interactions » qui sont significativement régulés (**Figure 12**, **Tableau 4**).

Symbole du gène	Fold Change	Nom du gène
Il6ST	+ 2.17	interleukin 6 signal transducer
IL23A	+ 4.19	interleukin 23, alpha subunit p19
CSF2RA	+ 2.01	colony stimulating factor 2 receptor, alpha
OSM	+ 4.80	oncostatin M
TNFRSF1A	- 2.09	tumor necrosis factor receptor superfamily, member 1A
FLT1	+ 2.44	fms-related tyrosine kinase 1
VEGFA	+ 5.75	vascular endothelial growth factor A
TNF	+ 6.45	tumor necrosis factor
CCL4	+ 24.53	chemokine (C-C motif) ligand 4
TGFBR2	+ 2.46	transforming growth factor, beta receptor II
CCL3	+ 5.32	chemokine (C-C motif) ligand 3
INHBA	+ 10.35	inhibin, beta A
CCR6	- 2.28	chemokine (C-C motif) receptor 6
CXCL5	- 3.44	chemokine (C-X-C motif) ligand 5
CCL20	+ 9.62	chemokine (C-C motif) ligand 20
CXCL2	+ 11.88	chemokine (C-X-C motif) ligand 2
CXCL3	+ 13.35	chemokine (C-X-C motif) ligand 3

Tableau 4. Gènes significativement impliqués dans la « pathway » "cytokine-cytokine interaction", 50 µM GSNO, 4 h

En gras, figurent les 6 gènes précédemment cités dans l'article #3. En rouge sont les gènes surexprimés et en vert les gènes réprimés.



 Figure 12. Réseau de protéines correspondantes aux gènes de THP-1 dont l'expression est significativement modifiée

 (STRING database) après exposition de GSNO à 50μM, 4 h

 En rouge : les gènes de « pathways cytokine -cytokine interactions »

3.1.2. RT-PCR :

Les résultats des puces à ADN ont été confirmés par PCR en temps réel pour les gènes surexprimés CCL4 et VEGFA (FC= + 21,9 et + 3,4, respectivement) (**Figure 13**).



Figure 13. Quantification de l'expression des gènes CCL4 et VEGFA par RT-PCR après 4 h d'exposition des THP-1 à 50 μM de GSNO

# 4. <u>Article 4 (en préparation).</u> Dose- and time- dependent responses of THP-1 cells exposed to free or encapsulated S-nitrosoglutathione. A transcriptomic comparison

#### 4.1. Introduction

Les puces à ADN « DNA microarrays » permettent l'analyse de l'expression de l'ensemble du génome cellulaire en une seule manipulation, rapidement par l'analyse quantitative des ARNm produits. Cette technique produit une grande quantité de données qui doivent respecter un niveau de qualité et être notamment normalisées afin d'en retirer une information pertinente [212]. L'analyse des données conduit à identifier les gènes différentiellement exprimés en fonction des conditions. Ainsi, chacune d'entre-elles dispose de sa propre signature génique. Ensuite, l'utilisation de bases de données « data mining » permet de situer ces gènes au sein des « pathways » [213].

La technique de mise en œuvre des puces à ADN se décompose en sept étapes : choix d'un plan expérimental, extraction des ARNm, synthèse des ADNc, synthèse et marquage des ARNc, hybridation, mesure des fluorescences et enfin l'analyse des données.

L'analyse des données se décompose en 3 parties :

• <u>Normalisation:</u>

C'est le processus d'élimination des variations expérimentales. Celles-ci sont nombreuses et se produisent dans toutes les manipulations de puces à ADN. Elles affectent les niveaux d'expression des gènes mesurés comme par exemple les biais associés aux différents fluorochromes. Il est effectivement rare d'avoir des intensités de fluorochromes égales dans tous les spots de deux mêmes échantillons. Même si ces biais systématiques n'ont souvent que peu d'impact, ils peuvent être sources de confusion lors de la recherche de différences minimes d'expression. Ces biais peuvent provenir de différents facteurs, comme les propriétés physiques des fluorochromes (sensibilité à la lumière, à la chaleur, à l'ozone, faisant varier la demi-vie), l'efficacité de leur incorporation, la variabilité expérimentale dans les procédures d'hybridation et de traitement, ou les paramètres choisis du scanner [214]. Plusieurs types de normalisation peuvent être utilisés, comme les méthodes des « lowess » ou des « quantiles ».

# • Détection de gènes différentiellement exprimés :

Les gènes exprimés de manière différentielle sont ceux dont les niveaux d'expression sont statistiquement significativement différents entre deux groupes d'expériences [215]. Ensuite, la fixation d'un facteur de variation ou Fold Change (FC) permet de déterminer la significativité biologique de l'observation (classiquement FC > |2|). Cependant, la significativité biologique peut également reposer sur des petites variations reproductibles qui peuvent être aussi informatives que les grandes [216].

Il existe plusieurs méthodes statistiques pour déterminer une variation d'expression significative d'un gène à partir des données de puces d'expression normalisées, le t-test de Student est le plus utilisé. Pour comparer plusieurs conditions, des analyses de variance (ANOVA ou MANOVA) sont utilisées [213]. Plusieurs logiciels sont disponibles pour identifier les variations d'expression en utilisant des analyses statistiques comme SOLO et Genespring<sup>®</sup>.

# • Interprétation biologique :

Le but de cette étape est de donner un sens biologique aux observations, c'est à dire de lier les variations des expressions de gènes observées à des fonctions cellulaires. Différentes approches complémentaires sont possibles :

- Approche globale : par regroupement, ou « clustering », les gènes sont regroupés par fonction et cet ensemble de gènes « cluster » est étudié à l'aide des bases de données, libres ou payantes, comme DAVID (Database for Annotation, Visualization and Integrated Discovery), PANTHER (Classification system / Geneontology; http://pantherdb.org/), Genespring<sup>®</sup>.
- Approche ciblée : en analysant les données gène par gène. Le diagramme de Venn est classiquement utilisé pour faciliter la visualisation de nombre des gènes communs entre deux ou plusieurs conditions.
- Analyse des interactions protéine-protéine : elle est utile pour déterminer les fonctions cellulaires des produits des gènes [217]. Plusieurs bases de données ont été ainsi développées pour étudier les interactions entre les protéines, telle la base de données STRING [http://string.embl.de] des interactions protéine-protéine connues et possibles. Cette base a été utilisé pour déterminer les interactions directes et indirectes entre les protéines codées par les gènes sur ou sous exprimés.

 Analyse des « pathways » : cette méthode semble la plus intéressante car elle étudie les interactions entre les gènes d'une même « pathway » et peut conduire à un niveau plus élevé de compréhension du mécanisme d'action des NP, par exemple, auxquelles les cellules ont été exposées [218]. Des bases des données ont été développées pour ce type d'analyse comme Ingenuity Pathway Analysis (IPA QIAGEN) et Genespring<sup>®</sup> (Agilent).

Il est important de noter qu'il n'existe pas une stratégie universelle pour l'analyse des données de puces à ADN, celle adoptée dépend des questions biologiques posées.

# 4.2. Objectif :

L'article 2 présente en partie l'analyse de transcriptomes des cellules THP-1 exposées à 200  $\mu$ g/mL de NP vides (NP-) ou chargées de 6  $\mu$ M de GSNO (NP+), ou à une dose de GSNO 50  $\mu$ M pendant 4 h. Des conditions complémentaires ont été étudiées, toujours avec le même modèle cellulaire :

- 50 μg/mL de (NP-) ou (NP+), 4 h d'exposition : pour identifier la réponse précoce à une concentration de NP induisant une croissance cellulaire significative par rapport au contrôle (Figure 1, Article 2)
- 50 μg/mL de (NP-) ou (NP+), 24 h d'exposition : pour identifier la réponse tardive à cette même dose.
- 1,4 μM de GSNO libre, 4 h d'exposition, concentration correspondant à la quantité de GSNO encapsulée dans 50 μg/mL de NP. Le GSNO ayant une demi-vie courte, les temps tardifs n'ont pas été étudiés.
- 6 μM de GSNO libre, 4 h d'exposition, concentration correspondant à la quantité de GSNO encapsulée dans 200 μg/mL de NP.

Dans l'article 2, nous avons fait une analyse par clusters de gènes. Dans cette partie, nous avons poursuivi ce travail afin d'identifier les gènes et les « pathways » communes entre les différentes conditions d'exposition des cellules THP-1. Le but était d'identifier des biomarqueurs invariants d'exposition aux NP. Pour ce faire, nous avons bénéficié, pour une semaine, de la version de démonstration du logiciel IPA, auquel il manque plusieurs fonctions d'analyse.

# 4.3. Résultats et discussion:

Les données ont été normalisées par Genespring<sup>®</sup> (version 13.1).

# 4.3.1. Sélection des gènes différentiellement exprimés

Après la normalisation des données, l'analyse statistique (t-test, Genespring<sup>®</sup>) a fourni un sous-ensemble de gènes dont l'expression est statistiquement significativement modifiée. La valeur de significativité statistique de t-test (*P*) choisi était 0,001, en raison d'un trop grand nombre de gènes pour *P*= 0,05 (> 9000 pour certaines conditions) (**Tableau 5**). Nous avons fixé une valeur seuil pour le Fold Change à 2 pour les gènes sur-exprimés et -2 pour les gènes sous-exprimés ce qui est classiquement utilisé.

Condition	<i>P</i> < 0.001	<i>P</i> < 0.05
GSNO 1,4 µM / 4h	937	9616
GSNO 6 µM / 4h	477	6678
GSNO 50 µM / 4h	729	6858
NP- 50 μg/mL / 4h	9	329
NP+ 50 µg/mL / 4h	76	4127
NP- 200 µg/mL / 4h	258	5476
NP+ 200 µg/mL / 4h	275	6316
NP- 50 µg/mL / 24h	14	617
NP+ 50 µg/mL / 24h	434	5772

Tableau 5. Nombre de gènes dont l'expression est modifiées pour deux valeurs de P pour chacune des conditions testées

La variation du facteur « temps d'incubation » (de 4 h à 24 h) avec les NP- induit une modification de l'expression d'un petit nombre de gènes (9 et 14 gènes, respectivement), alors qu'avec les NP+, ce nombre est beaucoup plus important (76 et 434 gènes, respectivement). La variation du facteur « dose » (de 50 à 200  $\mu$ g/mL) pour les NP- induit une augmentation de l'ordre de 28 fois du nombre de gènes différentiellement exprimés (9 et 258 gènes, respectivement). Celle-ci n'est que de 3 fois pour les NP+ (76 et 275 gènes, respectivement) (**Tableau 5**). Tout se passe comme si l'activation par GSNO n'était que peu ou pas dosedépendante.

#### 4.3.2. Gènes et « pathways » communs

En croisant les listes des gènes différentiellement exprimés des deux ou trois conditions en utilisant le logiciel Venny 2.0.2 (Oliveros, J.C. 2007-2015), nous avons obtenu les résultats suivants :

# 4.3.2.1. Effet du temps d'exposition aux NP- ou NP+

# o <u>Gènes communs</u>

Nous avons croisé les listes des gènes choisis dans l'étape précédente résultants d'une exposition des cellules à 50  $\mu$ g/mL de NP- ou de NP+ après 4 et 24h. Les résultats montrent que : un seul et même gène a une expression modifiée pour les deux conditions que les NP soient vides ou chargées. Il correspond au locus *XLOC-014512* (**Figure 14 A et B**), avec une valeur de FC de -3,24 (NP-, 4 h), de -2,46 (NP-, 24 h), de -3,29 (NP+, 4 h) et de -4,1 (NP+, 24h). Sa fonction n'est pas connue et il n'est pas lié à la présence de GSNO, mais plutôt à l'interaction NP / cellules.



Figure 14. Comparaison de l'effet du temps d'exposition (4 et 24 h) à des NP vides ou chargées en GSNO sur le nombre des gènes significativement régulés par diagramme de Venn A : NP- 50 μg/mL, B : NP+ 50 μg/mL

### • <u>Pathways communes</u>

L'étude des voies de signalisation par le logiciel IPA n'a pas permis d'identifier de « pathways » activée commune après incubation des cellules avec des NP- à 4 et 24 h. En revanche, bien qu'il n'y ait pas de gènes connus communs, il existe une « pathway » commune entre les gènes différemment régulés par l'exposition aux NP+ à 4 et 24 h : *regulation of IL-2 expression in activated and anergic T lymphocytes* qui comprend 76 gènes. Ceci serait la résultante d'une libération continue de GSNO. En fait, au sein de cette « pathway » et après 4 h d'exposition aux NP+, l'expression d'un gène : *ZAP70* est diminuée (-2,887). Après 24 h ce sont 5 autres gènes qui ont leur activité modifiée [*VAV2* (-2,984) / *TGFBR2* (+2,915) / *SOS1* (+2,139) / *MAPK9* (+2,902) / *MAPK8* (+2,473)]. Le logiciel ne nous a pas permis de conclure sur l'activation ou l'inhibition de cette « pathway ». Néanmoins, la diminution de l'expression de *ZAP70* et l'augmentation de l'expression de *TGFBR2* seraient en faveur de son inhibition et donc d'une diminution de l'activation des monocytes. Une production de <sup>•</sup>NO concomitante à une diminution de l'expression de l'*IL-2* a déjà été décrite [219].

# 4.3.2.2. Effet de la dose des NP- ou NP+

### o <u>Gènes communs</u>

Parmi les différences d'expression en réponse à l'exposition à 50 µg/mL ou 200 µg/mL de NP- pendant 4 h, seule celle de *XLOC-014512* (-3.24, -3.98 respectivement) varie selon les critères d'analyse retenus (**Figure 15 A**). Par contre, la comparaison entre les conditions 50 µg/mL et 200 µg/mL des NP+ a fourni des modifications d'expression de 26 gènes (**Figure 15 B**, liste en **Annexe 1**) parmi lesquels 15 ne sont pas caractérisés, sont non codants, ou considérés comme pseudogènes. Ces quinze gènes sont tous régulés de la même manière aux deux doses de NP+ pour 50 et 200 µg/mL. Sur les 11 gènes caractérisés, deux sont sur-exprimés *JMJD1C* (+2.22 / +2.17 respectivement), *DLX2* (+2.57 / +2.09 respectivement) et 9 gènes sous-exprimés. Parmi ces derniers, deux sont impliqués dans la formation du cytosquelette et dans la polymérisation de l'actine *KANK4* (-4.81 / -2.26 respectivement), *PTPN20B* (-3.49 / -3.14 respectivement). Un résultat similaire a été observé sur des polynucléaires neutrophiles exposés à un flux de **\***NO provoquant une *S*-nitrosylation de l'actine cytosolique et sa polymérisation [220]. On peut noter également la sous-expression de *ATG9B* (-4.10 / -2.60 respectivement) car ce gène est non seulement impliqué dans la voie de l'autophagie, mais aussi dans la régulation de *eNOS3* (*endothelial nitric oxide synthase 3*).



Figure 15. Comparaison de l'effet de deux doses des NP vides ou chargées en GSNO sur le nombre des gènes significativement régulés après 4 h d'exposition, par diagramme de Venn A : NP-, B : NP+

# • <u>"Pathways" communes</u>

Les études des « pathways » montrent qu'il n'en existe pas de communes après exposition aux NP- aux deux doses à 4 h alors que pour les NP+, à 4 h, il en existe 2 principales :

- G-as signaling, signalisation par les protéines G (108 gènes) : l'exposition à 50 μg/mL induit une diminution d'expression du gène VIPR2 (-4.93), alors qu'à la dose de 200 μg/mL, l'expression de 4 gènes ont été modifiés [VIPR2 (-4.09) / PTGR (-2.30) / GPER1 (-2.69) / CREB5 (-3.41)]. L'inhibition de cette voie plus significative à 200 μg/mL est donc liée à l'apport de <sup>•</sup>NO par les NP.
- *cAMP-mediated signaling* (216 gènes): de même, l'expression d'un seul gène a été modifiée en cas d'exposition à 50 µg/mL des NP+ VIPR2 (-4.93), alors que celle de 5 gènes a été modifiée avec 200 µg/mL [VIPR2 (-4,09) / AKAP2 (2,466) / CREB5 (-3,41) / GPER1 (-2,69) / PTGIR (-2,30)], correspondant à une inhibition de cette voie de signalisation. Trois de ces gènes sont également présents dans la voie *G-as signaling*. Ceci n'est pas étonnant puisque ces deux voies concernent la même cascade de signalisation cellulaire, G-as étant en amont de la signalisation par l'AMPc.

# 1) <u>NP 50 μg/mL, GSNO 1,4 μM</u>

## o <u>Gènes communs</u>

Le locus *XLOC-014512* est commun aux trois conditions d'exposition des cellules THP-1 pendant 4 h (**Figure 16 A**). Il existe également un autre gène commun pour les NP- et le GSNO libre, *RAD9B* (*RAD9 Homolog B* (*S. Pombe*) (-2.31 et +2.02 respectivement), impliqué dans le cycle cellulaire. En revanche, on observe 17 gènes communs avec les NP+ et la dose équivalente de GSNO libre (liste en **Annexe 2**). Parmi ces gènes, 12, qui ont des fonctions inconnues, sont tous surexprimés à l'exception de *LOC101927787* sur-exprimé avec NP+ mais sous-exprimé pour le GSNO. Parmi les cinq autres gènes, deux impliqués dans l'immunité sont sur-exprimés : *IGSF9B* (+3.41 / +3.69 respectivement), *IRGC* (+3.46 / +3.79 respectivement). Par contre, un gène de la voie de l'AMPc est sous-exprimé : *VIPR2* (-4.93 / -3.71 respectivement).



Figure 16. Comparaison de l'effet (en nombre de gènes à expression modifiée) de deux concentrations de NP chargées ou non en GSNO et de la concentration du GSNO libre corrrespondante sur les cellules THP-1 par diagrammes de Venn

A : 50  $\mu$ g/mL de NP et 1,4  $\mu$ M de GSNO, B : 200  $\mu$ g/mL de NP et 6  $\mu$ M de GSNO

### o <u>« Pathways » communes</u>

Alors qu'aucune « pathway » commune entre les NP- et NP+, ni entre le NP- et le GSNO libre n'a été identifiée, il en a été observées trois après exposition aux NP+ et au GSNO libre :

- Allograft rejection signaling (39 gènes) avec un gène FAS (+3.57) sur-exprimé après exposition aux NP+ et 4 gènes [CD80 (-2,407) / HLA-A (-3,302) / IFNG (+2,336) / IL2 (+2,327)] après exposition au GSNO.
- *Graft-versus-host disease signaling*, voie pour laquelle nous n'avons pas les informations.
- *T-cell receptor signaling* (94 gènes) dont un gène ZAP70 (-2.887) est réprimé en réponse à l'exposition aux NP+, et 3 gènes [*PPP3R2* (+5.006) / *CTLA4* (+4.466) / *CD8B* (+5.047)] sont surexprimés en réponse au GSNO libre.

Le GSNO libre ou encapsulé induit l'expression de gènes impliqués dans les réactions immunitaires corroborant nos travaux antérieurs (articles 3).

# 2) <u>NP 200 μg/mL, GSNO 6 μM</u>

#### • <u>Gènes communs</u>

Le nombre de gènes communs dont l'expression est modifiée pour les trois conditions d'exposition est de 28 (**Figure 16 B**, liste en **Annexe 3**). Douze de ces gènes sont soit non caractérisés, soit non codant, soit des pseudogènes. Pour les 16 autres, les fonctions sont variées, par exemple, *OR2A7* récepteur olfactif, *VIPR2* impliqué dans l'inhibition de la voie de l'IL-2, *RASSF6* inducteur d'apoptose, etc...

En plus des 28 précités, 52 gènes sont retrouvés dans la réponse aux NP+ et au GSNO libre (liste en **Annexe 4**). Parmi ceux-ci, 28 ont une fonction inconnue. Par contre, on observe une augmentation de l'expression de gènes, impliqués dans la régulation redox cellulaire *PRDX3* (+2.88 / +2.76 respectivement) qui est sous le contrôle de  $^{\circ}$ NO et H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, et la régulation de l'expression de la cytokine TGF- $\beta$  *TGFBR3* (+2.30 / +2.45 respectivement) qui module la réponse immunitaire notamment en inhibant la voie de l'IL-2. *HSPA1A* (-2.15 / -2.18 respectivement), sous exprimé, joue un rôle dans les mécanismes d'activation du CFTR par GSNO. On peut conclure que cette réponse cellulaire est liée au GSNO.

Les modifications d'expression de 35 gènes sont communes lors d'exposition aux NP+ et aux NP- (liste en **Annexe 5**) dont 16 gènes inconnus. Parmi les gènes sur-exprimés *i*) *CCZ1* (+2.02 / +2.57 respectivement) participe à la circulation des protéines et au transport médié par les vésicules ; *ii*) *STARD13* (+2.79 / +5.46 respectivement) et *KLHL15* (+2.22 / +2.58 respectivement) induisent la régulation de la réorganisation du cytosquelette ; et *iii*) *MYOF* (+2.49 / +3.13 respectivement) impliqué dans la fusion membranaire et la régénération / réparation de la membrane. Par contre, les gènes *CYTH1* (-2.05 / -2.53 respectivement) qui joue un rôle dans la circulation des membranes, *KANK4* (-2.26 / -3.32 respectivement) impliqué dans le contrôle de la formation de cytosquelette en régulant la polymérisation de l'actine, et *SYCN* (-2.58 / -3.28 respectivement) qui régule l'exocytose sont sous-exprimés. Ces deux types de réponse suggèrent que les produits de ces gènes participent au transport intracellulaire des NP.

L'expression de 14 gènes est modifiée après exposition aux NP- et au GSNO libre (liste en **Annexe 6**) dont 10 ne possèdent pas de fonctions connues ou sont non codants.

o <u>« Pathways » communes</u>

Cinq « pathways » sont communes aux 3 conditions du traitement (Tableau 6) :

Pathway	n <sup>*</sup>	GSNO	NP+	NP-
Gas signaling	109	CREB5 / VIPR2	CREB5 / VIPR2	VIPR2
			PTGIR/GPER1	ADD1
Chondroitin sulfate	46	NDST3	CSGALNACT2	CSGALNACT2
biosynthesis (late			SULTIC2	
stages)				
Triacylglycerol	33	GPAT2	GPAT2	GPAT2
biosynthesis			ELOVL6	
Autoimmune thyroid	34	CD80	CD80	CD86
disease signaling			TPO	
Circadian rhythm	33	CREB5/VIPR2	CREB5/VIPR2	VIPR2 /
signaling				PER3

Tableau 6. « Pathways » communes et principaux gènes mis en jeux pour les 3 conditions d'expositions (200  $\mu$ g/mL de NP- ou NP+ ou GSNO 6  $\mu$ M) 4 h

\* n : Nombre total des gènes composant les pathways

En comparant l'exposition aux NP+ et au GSNO libre (6  $\mu$ M) (**Tableau 7**), 6 « pathways » sont communes dont une est inhibée (*cAMP-mediated signaling*) (**Figure 17**), en plus des 5 communes aux 3 conditions. A la plus forte dose de NP+ et de GSNO libre, cette « pathway » est significativement réprimée. On avait déjà identifié la voie de l'AMPc pour les

NP+ à 50  $\mu$ g/mL, mais pas pour la dose correspondante de GSNO libre. Cela pourrait être un argument en faveur d'une libération prolongée du <sup>•</sup>NO encapsulé. La voie de l'IL-17F est impliquée dans l'activation de la voie de l'IL-2, du TGF- $\beta$  et de l'activation des monocytes. Deux voies (*agranulocytes adhesion and diapedesis* et *granulocytes adhesion and diapedesis*) suggèrent une activation de la réponse immunitaire par la mobilisation des éléments figurés blancs.



Figure 17. Mécanisme d'inhibition de la "cAMP-mediated signaling Pathway" Schéma fourni par IPA, après fusion des résultats obtenus après exposition des cellules THP-1 à 200 μg/mL de NP+ et à 6 μM de GSNO libre En vert : les gènes sous-exprimés, en rouge : les gènes sur-exprimés

Pathway	n*	GSNO	NP+
Agranulocytes adhesion and	173	CLDN9 / CXCL5 / IL33	CCL19/CXCL9/ITGA3/
diapedesis			PECAM1/SELP
cAMP-mediated signaling	216	AKAP12 / CREB5 / VIPR2	AKAP12/CREB5/VIPR2/
		GABBR1 / HTR1B /PDE1C	GPER1/PTGIR
Granulocytes adhesion and	163		SLEP/PECAM1/ITGA3/
diapedesis			CXCL9 / CCL19
G-protein coupled receptor	254	CREB5 / VIPR2 /	CREB5/ VIPR2 /
signaling		GABBR1 / HTR1B / PDE1C	GPER1 / PTGIR
Role of IL-17F in allergic	41	CREB5	CREB5
inflammatory airway		CXCL5	
diseases			
GABA receptor signaling	66	GABBR1 / GABRR2 / KCNQ2	GABRE

Tableau 7. « Pathways » communes et principaux gènes mis en jeux pour les conditions d'expositions (200  $\mu g/mL$  de NP+ ou GSNO 6  $\mu M$ ) 4 h

\* n : Nombre total des gènes composant les pathways

Sur les 12 « pathways » communes activées après l'exposition aux NP- ou aux NP+, 7 d'entre-elles sont pour ces deux conditions (**Tableau 8**). On peut citer la voie APRIL (qui fait partie de la superfamille du TNF) qui a un rôle proinflammatoire et d'activateur de monocytes [221] et la 4-1BB des lymphocytes T.

Tableau 8. « Pathways » communes et principaux gènes mis en jeux pour les conditions d'expositions (200 µg/mL de NP+ ou NP-) 4 h

Pathway	n <sup>*</sup>	NP+	NP-
April mediated signaling	38	TRAF1	TRAF1 / MAPK9
Chondroitin and dermatan	6	CSGALNACT2	CSGALNACT2
biosynthesis			
FGF signaling	85	CREB5/FGF1/FGF5	FGFR1
ID-myo-inositol hexakisphosphate	3	IPMK	ІРМК
biosynthesis V (from Ins (1,3,4)p3)			
Pyridoxal 5'-phosphate salvage	63	PRPF4B*	PRPF4B*
pathway			DYRK1A / MAPK9
Salvage pathways of pyrimidine	91	PRPF4B*	CMPK1 / DYRK1A / MAPK 9 /
ribonucleotides			PRPF4B*
4-1BB signaling in T lymphocytes	31	TRAF1	MAPK9 / TRAF1

\* n : Nombre total des gènes composant les pathways

Après exposition aux NP- et au GSNO libre, une seule « pathway » est modifiée : granzyme A signaling avec un gène commun HIST1H1T et deux uniquement avec les NP-HIST1H1E et SET.

# Discussion générale

L'utilisation des NP est en progression exponentielle, et ses domaines d'application touchent tous les secteurs industriels. Un des intérêts de ces objets est que, du fait de leur taille nanométrique, leurs composants acquièrent des propriétés physico-chimiques nouvelles. Pour le vivant, un matériau de taille nanométrique peut, entre autres, devenir plus toxique, passer plus facilement les barrières anatomiques, et être plus biopersistant, qu'à une taille micrométrique [53]. Ainsi, les risques posés par ces nouveaux toxiques doivent être identifiés. Pour ce faire, les tests classiques de toxicité ne sont pas forcément adaptés, notamment du fait d'interactions entre les réactifs utilisés et les NP étudiées. Dans notre laboratoire, l'évaluation de la toxicité des NP se fait en combinant des approches classiques de biologie cellulaire (tests au MTT, au WST-1 ou au Bleu trypan) et plus récentes de biologie moléculaire (qRT-PCR, puces à ADN ou « microarray »), dans le but d'identifier des marqueurs de toxicité lors d'exposition à des NP.

L'EA 3452, CITHEFOR, développe différentes outils (nano- et microparticules, implants,...) et différentes formulations (liposomes, NP polymériques ou métalliques) afin de vectoriser des donneurs de S-nitrosothiols à visées thérapeutiques cardiovasculaires. Au sein de cette unité, notre laboratoire avait développé un modèle de monocytes/macrophages de rat (NR8383) qui a permis de montrer que des NP d'Eudragit<sup>®</sup> RS de 55 nm présentaient une forte cytotoxicité à une concentration de 200 µg/mL après 24 heures d'exposition, mais, même à 50 µg/mL, elles induisaient la mort cellulaire par autophagie [143], [103]. Le mécanisme de cette toxicité était lié, après endocytose des NP, à une atteinte mitochondriale, avec déstabilisation de leur structure, et dégradation par mitophagie. Afin d'utiliser un modèle de macrophage humains pour confirmer, cette étude a été poursuivie avec des monocytes primaires CD14+ provenant de volontaires. Ceci a fait l'objet de mon master 2. La grande variabilité des résultats obtenus avec ces cellules, d'un patient à l'autre, n'a pas permis d'obtenir de conclusion. Aussi, a-t'il été décidé d'utiliser une lignée monocytaire humaine THP-1 avec laquelle des résultats préliminaires avaient montré que les NP d'Eudragit<sup>®</sup> induisaient une activation métabolique se traduisant par une augmentation de la viabilité cellulaire. En parallèle, un travail mené en collaboration avec le laboratoire du Pr Brooks à Berkeley (USA) a montré les mêmes résultats avec une lignée de cellules épithéliales mammaires humaines HMEC 184. Les NP induisent une augmentation de la

fusion de mitochondries, et donc leur activation [168]. Afin de garder le modèle macrophagique, ces cellules étant souvent les premières en contact avec les particules étrangères au sein de l'organisme, les études toxicologiques se sont poursuivies en se limitant à la lignée de THP-1.

L'objectif principal de ce travail était donc de mieux comprendre l'effet, sur ces cellules, de NP d'Eudragit<sup>®</sup> RL, chargées ou non en GSNO, choisi comme PA, et de cette molécule seule. En premier, il a été tenté de décrypter les mécanismes biologiques induits après une exposition à des NP d'Eudragit<sup>®</sup>. L'utilisation des outils de la toxicogénomique avait pour but d'étudier la réponse adaptative des cellules aux trois conditions d'exposition. Le premier article a confirmé les différences entre les deux lignées cellulaires de rat et humaine. En effet, la sur-expression des gènes *ATG16L, BCL2*, and *TNFA* dans les cellules NR8383, permet d'expliquer l'induction de l'autophagie et des voies conduisant à l'inflammation. Par contre, la sous-expression de *NCF1*, *NFKB*, et *IL1B* dans les THP-1, peut expliquer l'augmentation de la viabilité cellulaire. Ces observations ont montré l'importance du choix du modèle quand il s'agit d'étudier les réponses cellulaires à un agent toxique du fait des résultats opposés obtenus avec des cellules possédant les mêmes fonctions mais provenant l'une de rongeurs et l'autre d'Homme. Le fait que des résultats proches de ceux de THP-1 aient été obtenus avec une lignée épithéliale humaine tend à montrer que c'est principalement l'espèce animale choisie qui gouverne la réponse cellulaire.

L'internalisation des NP d'Eudragit<sup>®</sup> apparait comme la première étape menant à la réponse cellulaire. Comme déjà rapporté, cette pénétration s'effectue selon plusieurs mécanismes concomitamment : voies cavéolines et clathrine dépendantes, principalement, mais aussi d'autres voies énergie dépendante ou indépendante, peu définies. L'étude transcriptomique, désormais considérée comme une technique consensus pour l'évaluation de la réponse cellulaire aux NP, a été menée en parallèle. Ses résultats ont été ajoutés à la base des données Nanominer (http://compbio.uta.fi/estools/nanommune/index.php/) qui regroupe toutes les études utilisant cette approche. Avec cette technique, le nombre de gènes dont l'expression est modifiée est très important et pour pouvoir interpréter nos résultats, nous avons systématiquement utilisé une limite de P à 0,001. L'article 2 présente les résultats de l'étude après analyse par cluster pour une seule condition de dose et de temps. Il nous a paru intéressant de reprendre ce travail en étudiants, dans les mêmes conditions expérimentales, plusieurs doses et plusieurs temps. Pour l'analyse nous avons utilisé un logiciel plus performant (IPA) mais dans une configuration de démonstration et donc limité en possibilité. Il a été ainsi possible d'étudier les relations entre les

gènes et l'analyse des « pathways » dans lesquelles un ou plusieurs gènes on leur expression modifiée. Ces résultats complémentaires sont exposés dans la 4<sup>ème</sup> partie. Du fait de conditions d'analyse adoptées, seuls quelques gènes impliqués dans les voies d'endocytose et le trafic intracellulaire ont été identifiés. Le logiciel en démonstration n'était pas complet et il ne nous a pas été possible d'étudier spécifiquement certaines « pathways » qui n'ont pas été mises en évidence dans cette étude. Cependant elle a été intéressante puisqu'elle a montré, en comparant deux à deux les trois conditions d'exposition, qu'il existait des « pathways » spécifiquement liées au GSNO ainsi que d'autres liées aux NP. L'acquisition de ce logiciel nous permettra de compléter et d'affiner ces résultats en vue d'une publication.

L'article 3 est une application directe de notre étude transcriptomique. L'organisme animal met en jeu le <sup>•</sup>NO pour lutter contre les agents infectieux, et en particulier les parasites comme les *Leishmania*. Cette molécule, effectrice de la réponse immunitaire mais pourrait aussi être utilisée en thérapeutique. Nous avons proposé un mécanisme d'activation de la réponse du macrophage au <sup>•</sup>NO par une mise en jeu de cytokines pro-inflammatoires. La réponse au GSNO libre a également montré que 29 gènes de la famille des récepteurs olfactifs étaient activés (**Annexe 7**). L'expression des protéines de cette famille, qui seraient impliquée dans l'induction du chimiotactisme des monocytes [222] n'est pas restreinte aux cellules spécialisées dans l'olfaction mais survient également dans d'autres tissus, notamment intestinal [223]. Dans cette hypothèse, l'activation des gènes correspondant, participerait au processus inflammatoire. Ainsi l'étude transcriptomique apporte beaucoup d'informations, parfois difficile à décrypter mais permet d'expliquer les phénomènes observées lors de contact entre NP et cellule et si elle confirme certaines données, elle permet également de mettre en évidence des « pathways » jusque-là ignorés.
# Conclusions générales et perspectives

Malgré l'intérêt de la transcriptomique pour l'élucidation des réponses cellulaires aux NP, celui-ci reste limité par le fait que seule une analyse globale de l'expression des gènes est réalisée et elle ne dépasse pas l'étape pré traductionnelle. Cependant pour les gènes intéressants une étude complémentaire spécifique peut être menée par qRT-PCR. L'étude de l'expression des protéines, sans doute plus précise, peut venir en complément en utilisant la protéomique qui prend en charge l'étape post traductionnelle ainsi que les modifications qui peuvent en découler (glycosylation par exemple).

Pour mieux comprendre la réponse cellulaire aux NP, il est envisagé d'utiliser une deuxième modèle qui s'appliquerait aux NP d'Eudragit<sup>®</sup> qui sont destinées à des voies orales. La mise en œuvre d'un modèle de cellules intestinales (Caco-2) exposées aux mêmes traitements que THP-1 est déjà faite. Il permettra tout d'abord de comparer les réponses cellulaires obtenues avec les deux modèles afin d'identifier des invariants qui serviront de biomarqueurs d'exposition. Par la suite des cocultures seront développées avec des Caco-2, des HT29-MTX cellules sécrétrices de mucus, et des THP-1. Il sera alors possible de se rapprocher des conditions physiologiques, dans le cadre d'une administration orale, tout en s'affranchissant de l'expérimentation animale. Ce type d'approche est actuellement en plein développement et représente, pour l'étude de la toxicologie des NP, une voie d'avenir.

Liste des 26 gènes communs dont l'expression est modifiée après exposition aux NP+ 50 et 200 µg/mL pendant 4 h avec les fold change (FC) correspondants et les fonctions (GeneCards, Pubmed, ..). En vert : gènes sousexprimés, en rouge : gènes surexprimés

Symbole du	FC / NP+	FC / NP+	Nom et fonction du gène			
gène	50 μg/mL	200 μg/mL				
			Gènes connus			
OR2A7	- 4.06	- 3.45	Olfactory Receptor, Family 2, Subfamily A, Member 7. Odorant receptor.			
VIPR2	- 4.93	- 4.09	<b>Vasoactive Intestinal Peptide Receptor 2</b> . This gene encodes a receptor for vasoactive intestinal peptide, a small neuropeptide. Vasoactive intestinal peptide is involved in smooth muscle relaxation, exocrine and endocrine secretion, and water and ion flux in lung and intestinal epithelia. Its actions are effected through integral membrane receptors associated with a guanine nucleotide binding protein which activates adenylate cyclase.			
MAATS1	- 2.66	- 2.59	<b>MYCBP-Associated</b> . Testis Expressed 1, may play a role in spermatogenesis.			
ANKDD1B	- 2.86	- 2.88	Ankyrin Repeat And Death Domain Containing 1B. An important paralog of this gene is MIB2			
JMJD1C	+ 2.22	+ 2.17	<b>Jumonji Domain Containing 1C</b> . Probable histone demethylase that specifically demethylates Lys-9 of histone H3, thereby playing a central role in histone code. Demethylation of Lys residue generates formaldehyde and succinate. May be involved in hormone-dependent transcriptional activation, by participating in recruitment to androgen-receptor target genes			
HOXB2	- 4.86	- 3.97	<b>Homeobox B2</b> . Sequence-specific transcription factor which is part of a developmental regulatory system that provides cells with specific positional identities on the anterior-posterior axis.			
DLX2	+ 2.57	+ 2.09	<b>Distal-Less Homeobox 2</b> . Likely to play a regulatory role in the development of the ventral forebrain. May play a role in craniofacial patterning and morphogenesis.			
ATG9B	- 4.10	- 2.60	<b>Autophagy Related 9B.</b> This gene functions in the regulation of autophagy, a lysosomal degradation pathway. This gene also functions as an antisense transcript in the posttranscriptional regulation of the endothelial nitric oxide synthase 3 gene, which has 3' overlap with this gene on the opposite strand. Mutations in this gene and disruption of the autophagy process have been associated with multiple cancers. Alternative splicing results in multiple transcript variants.			
CD164L2	- 3.07	- 2.85	<b>CD164 Sialomucin-Like 2</b> . An important paralog of this gene is CD164.			
PTPN20B	- 3.49	- 3.14	<b>Protein Tyrosine Phosphatase, Non-Receptor Type 20B</b> . Tyrosine-protein phosphatase targeted to sites of actin polymerization in response of varied extracellular stimuli. Has tyrosine phosphatase activity towards various tyrosyl phosphorylated substrates			
KANK4	- 4.81	- 2.26	<b>KN Motif And Ankyrin Repeat Domains 4</b> . May be involved in the control of cytoskeleton formation by regulating actin polymerization.			

Symbole du	FC / NP+	FC / NP+	Nom et fonction du gène
gène	50 μg/mL	200 μg/mL	
		Gènes inconnus	s, pseudogènes ou non codants
	r		1
FAM83E	- 3.18	- 2.10	Family With Sequence Similarity 83, Member E.
C3orf36	+ 2.72	+ 2.69	Chromosome 3 Open Reading Frame 36. Uncharacterized
			protein C3orf36
TMEM52B	- 6.58	- 5.41	Transmembrane Protein 52B.
XLOC_007808	+ 2.32	+ 2.46	No data available
XLOC_002176	- 2.46	- 2.25	No data available
LOC285638	- 2.30	- 2.20	No data available
XLOC_011507	- 3.54	- 3.30	No data available
XLOC_010915	- 2.57	- 2.24	No data available
XLOC_007305	- 3.43	- 2.69	No data available
LOC102723617	- 3.31	- 4.14	No data available
XLOC_012572	- 2.58	- 2.92	No data available
XLOC_009927	- 4.32	- 5.55	No data available
XLOC_012733	- 2.72	- 2.48	No data available
XLOC_013612	- 4.25	- 4.13	No data available
XLOC_014512	- 3.29	- 2.98	No data available

Liste des 17 gènes communs dont l'expression est modifiée après exposition aux NP+ 50 µg/mL ou GSNO 1,4 µM pendant 4 h avec les fold change (FC) correspondants et les fonctions (GeneCards, Pubmed, ..) En vert : gènes sousexprimés, en rouge : gènes surexprimés

Symbole du	FC / NP+	FC / GSNO	Nom et fonction du gène						
gène	50 μg/mL	1,4 μM							
	Gènes connus								
VIPR2	- 4.93	- 3.71	Vasoactive Intestinal Peptide Receptor 2. This gene encodes a						
			receptor for vasoactive intestinal peptide, a small neuropeptide.						
			This peptide is involved in smooth muscle relaxation, exocrine						
			and endocrine secretion, and water and ion flux in lung and						
			intestinal epithelia. Its actions are effected through integral						
			memorane receptors associated with a guanine nucleotide binding						
EARD1	+2.50	+ 2.80	<b>FERM BhoCEF</b> (ARHGEF) And Pleckstrin Domain Protein 1						
	12.50	+ 2.09	(Chondrocyte-Derived). Functions as guanine nucleotide						
			exchange factor for RAC1. May play a role in semaphorin						
			signaling. Plays a role in the assembly and disassembly of						
			dendritic filopodia, the formation of dendritic spines, regulation of						
			dendrite length and ultimately the formation of synapses						
NUGGC	+ 2.41	+ 4.93	Nuclear GTPase, Germinal Center Associated. Plays a role as						
			replication-related GTPase protein in germinal center B-cell						
IRGC	+ 3.46	+ 5.79	Immunity-Related GTPase Family Cinema.						
IGSF9B	+ 3.41	+3.69	Immunoglobulin Superfamily, Member 9B.						
		Gènes inconn	us, pseudogènes ou non codants						
FAM83E	- 3.18	- 3.02	Family With Sequence Similarity 83, Member E.						
TMEM52B	- 6.58	- 3.53	Transmembrane Protein 52B						
HOXA-AS3	+ 3.02	+ 2.38	HOXA Cluster Antisense RNA 3. Non-Protein Coding.						
GAS6-AS1	+ 2.61	+ 3.56	GAS6 Antisense RNA 1. Non-Protein Coding						
C3orf36	+2.72	+ 4.2	Chromosome 3 Open Reading Frame 36. Uncharacterized						
			protein C3orf36						
LINC00993	+ 2.96	+ 7.00	Long Intergenic. Non-Protein Coding RNA 993						
XLOC_011971	+ 4.01	+ 4.28	No data available						
LOC100128164	+ 2.76	+ 2.31	No data available						
XLOC_003721	+ 7.17	+ 4.95	No data available						
XLOC_011382	+ 3.08	+ 4.85	No data available						
XLOC_002732	+ 2.43	+ 2.77	No data available						
LOC101927787	+2.63	- 4.50	No data available						

Liste des 28 gènes communs dont l'expression est modifiée après exposition aux NP+ ou NP- 200 µg/mL ou GSNO 6 µM pendant 4 h avec les fold change (FC) correspondants et les fonctions (GeneCards, Pubmed, ..) En vert : gènes sousexprimés, en rouge : gènes surexprimés

Symbole du	FC / NP-	FC / NP+	FC /	Nom et fonction du gène				
gène	200	200	GSNO					
	μg/mL	μg/mL	6 µM					
			Gènes	connus				
KRT3	-2.71	-2.70	-2.21	<b>Keratin 3</b> . differentiation of simple and stratified epithelial tissues.				
GPAT2	-2.50	-2.57	-2.37	Glycerol-3-phosphateacyltransferase2.Mitochondrial, Play an essential step in glycerolipidbiosynthesis.				
ELFN1	-3.38	-2.82	-3.79	<b>Extracellular leucine-rich repeat and fibronectin</b> . Aregulator of presynaptic release probability to direct the formation of highly facilitating pyramidal-OLM synapses (By similarity). Inhibits phosphatase activity of protein phosphatase 1 (PP1) complexes.				
HOXB2	-3.86	-3.97	-5.83	<b>Homeobox B2</b> . A sequence-specific transcription factor that is involved in development				
MIR221	+3.57	+3.78	+3.02	<b>MicroRNA 221 (MIR221), microRNA</b> . Involved in post-transcriptional regulation of gene expression by affecting both the stability and translation of mRNAs.				
ETV2	-2.70	-2.43	-2.87	<b>Ets variant 2</b> . Binds to DNA sequences containing the consensus pentanucleotide, regulation of transcription.				
PTPN20B	-3.41	-3.14	-7.72	<b>Protein tyrosine phosphatase, non-receptor type 20B.</b> Tyrosine-protein phosphatase targeted to sites of actin polymerization in response of varied extracellular stimuliation.				
SCTR	-2.67	-2.86	-3.41	<b>Secretin receptor</b> . A member of the glucagon receptor family. They are classically localized to the epithelial cells within the pancreatic and biliary ducts, where they stimulate the release of alkaline bicarbonate-rich fluid to neutralize acidic chyme from the stomach. This protects the duodenal mucosa and provides an optimal intraluminal environment for digestion to take place. Secretin receptors are also found in the CNS, where they are thought to play a role in the regulation of the hypothalamic-pituitary-axis (				
SELP	-3.10	-2.64	-2.55	Selectin P (granule membrane protein antigen CD62). A calcium-dependent receptor that binds to sialylated forms of Lewis blood group carbohydrate antigens on neutrophils and monocytes, platelet activation.				
GPR52	+2.89	+2.91	+2.42	<b>G protein-coupled receptor 52</b> . Signal transduction from the external to inside of the cell				
TUSC1	-3.55	-2.94	-4.03	Tumor suppressor candidate 1. Tumor suppressor gene				
HIST1H2AL	+4.91	+3.49	+3.44	<b>Histone cluster 1</b> . Chromatin organization, transcription regulation, DNA repairs, DNA replication and chromosomal stability.				
RASSF6	-2.42	-2.08	-2.65	<b>Ras association (RalGDS/AF-6) domain family</b> . Induction of apoptosis, through both caspase-dependent and caspase-independent pathways				

Symbole du	FC / NP-	FC / NP+	FC /	Nom et fonction du gène				
gène	200	200	GSNO					
	μg/mL	μg/mL	6 µM					
ZNF551	-3.78	-3.95	+2.09	Zinc finger protein 551. Transcriptional regulation.				
VIPR2	-4.57	-4.09	-3.22	Vasoactive intestinal peptide receptor 2				
OR2A7	-4.55	-3.45	-4.36	Olfactory receptor, family 2, subfamily A, member 7.				
				A odorant receptor.				
		Gènes inco	nnus, pseud	dogènes ou non codants				
TMEM151B	- 5.60	- 5.07	- 4.89	Transmembrane protein 151B				
TMEM52B	- 4.87	- 5.41	- 4.82	Transmembrane protein 52B				
GOLGA2P7	- 3.85	- 3.45	- 4.07	Golgin A2 Pseudogene 7. A Pseudogene.				
AOX2P	-4.01	-4.01	-3.08	Aldehyde oxidase 2. A pseudogene.				
LOC100130430	- 4.69	- 3.72	- 5.22	No data available				
LOC100507547	- 7.21	- 4.00	- 13.39	No data available				
LOC102723617	- 3.36	- 4.14	- 3.66	No data available				
XLOC_014512				No data available				
XLOC_005203	- 3.29	- 4.28	- 2.95	No data available				
XLOC_012572	- 2.43	- 2.92	- 3.17	No data available				
XLOC_011429	- 2.60	- 2.47	- 2.34	No data available				
XLOC 013612	- 4.48	- 4.13	- 4.22	No data available				

Liste des 52 gènes communs dont l'expression est modifiée après exposition aux NP+ 200 µg/mL ou GSNO 6 µM pendant 4 h avec les fold change (FC) correspondants et les fonctions (GeneCards, Pubmed, ..) En vert : gènes sousexprimés, en rouge : gènes surexprimés

Symbole du gène	FC / NP+ 200 µg/mL	FC / GSNO 6 µM	Nom et fonction du gène				
gene	200 µg/III2	υμπ	Cànas compus				
			Genes connus				
HSPA1A	-2.15	-2.18	Heat shock 70kDa protein 1A. Stabilize preexistent proteins against aggregation and mediate the folding of newly translated polypeptides in the cytosol as well as within organelles. (Mechanisms of CFTR activation by s-nitroglutathione)				
HYDIN	-3.80	-4.05	Axonemal central pair apparatus protein. Involved in cilia motility				
MAL	-4.62	-4.03	Mal, T-cell differentiation protein. Could be an important component in vesicular trafficking cycling between the Golgi complex and the apical plasma membrane				
SLC5A1	-5.02	-4.01	<b>Solute carrier family 5 (sodium/glucose cotransporter).</b> Sodi dependent glucose transporter, primary mediator of dietary gluc and galactose uptake from the intestinal lumen. Actively transp glucose into cells by Na(+) cotransport with a Na(+) to gluc coupling ratio of 2:1.				
PRDX3	+2.88	+2.76	6 Peroxiredoxin 3. A mitochondrial protein with antioxidant fun Involved in redox regulation of the cell. Protects radical-ser enzymes from oxidative damage by a radical-generating sy Acts synergistically with MAP3K13 to regulate the activati NF-kappa-B in the cytosol.				
TGFBR3	+2.30	+2.45	<b>Transforming growth factor, beta receptor II.</b> Binds to TGF-beta, involved in capturing and retaining TGF-beta for presentation to the signaling receptors. (La cytokine <b>TGF-</b> $\beta$ joue un rôle intégral dans la régulation des réponses immunitaires. Le TGF- $\beta$ a des effets pléiotropiques sur l'immunité adaptative)				
PNMA1	+2.09	+2.05	<b>Paraneoplastic Ma antigen 1.</b> This gene encodes a neuron- and testis-specific protein that is also expressed in some paraneoplastic syndromes affecting the nervous system.				
ANKRD44	-2.90	-3.54	Ankyrin repeat domain 44. Putative regulatory subunit of protein phosphatase 6 (PP6) that may be involved in the recognition of phosphoprotein substrates.				
KRT85	-3.44	-3.68	Keratin 85. A member of the keratin gene family				
ARHGAP40	-2.84	-6.70	<b>Rho GTPase activating protein.</b> GTPase activator for the Rho-type GTPases by converting them to an inactive GDP-bound state.				
FPGT-TNNI3K	-2.73	-2.77	<b>FPGT-TNNI3K readthrough (FPGT-TNNI3K).</b> This locus represents naturally occurring read-through transcription from the neighboring fucose-1-phosphate guanylyltransferase (FPGT) and TNNI3 interacting kinase (TNNI3K) genes. (protein kinase activity, protein tyrosine kinase activity, protein binding, ATP binding, transferase activity, transferring phosphorus-containing groups).				

Symbole du	FC / NP+	FC / GSNO	D Nom et fonction du gène			
gène	200 μg/mL	6 µM				
CD80	-2.21	-2.61	<b>CD80 molecule.</b> A membrane receptor that is activated by the binding of CD28 or CTLA-4. The activated protein induces T-cell proliferation and cytokine production. (Involved in the costimulatory signal essential for T-lymphocyte activation. T-cell proliferation and cytokine production is induced by the binding of CD28, binding to CTLA-4 has opposite effects and inhibits T-cell activation)			
DCAF13	+2.41	+2.38	<b>DDB1 and CUL4 associated factor 13.</b> Possible role in ribosomal RNA processing (By similarity). May function as a substrate receptor for CUL4-DDB1 E3 ubiquitin-protein ligase complex.			
ASIC5	-2.50	-2.41	Acid-sensing (proton-gated) ion channel family. Cation channel that gives rise to very low constitutive currents in the absence of activation. The activated channel exhibits selectivity for sodium, and is inhibited by amiloride. The amiloride-sensitive Na(+) channel encoded by this gene is primarily expressed in the small intestine, however, its exact function is not known.			
KRTAP20-3	-3.30	-3.28	<b>Keratin associated protein 20-3.</b> In the hair cortex, hair keratin intermediate filaments are embedded in an interfilamentous matrix, consisting of hair keratin-associated proteins (KRTAP), which are essential for the formation of a rigid and resistant hair shaft through their extensive disulfide bond cross-linking with abundant cysteine residues of hair keratins. The matrix proteins include the high-sulfur and high-glycine-tyrosine keratins.			
ETFA	+2.10	+2.42	<b>Electron-transfer-flavoprotein, alpha polypeptide.</b> The electron transfer flavoprotein serves as a specific electron acceptor for several dehydrogenases, including five acyl-CoA dehydrogenases, glutaryl-CoA and sarcosine dehydrogenase. It transfers the electrons to the main mitochondrial respiratory chain via ETF-ubiquinone oxidoreductase (ETF dehydrogenase). ETFA participates in catalyzing the initial step of the mitochondrial fatty acid beta-oxidation			
CREB5	-3.41	-3.17	<b>cAMP responsive element binding protein 5.</b> It binds to the cAMP response element and activates transcription. specifically binds to CRE (cAMP response element) as a homodimer or a heterodimer and functions as a CRE-dependent trans-activator			
CACNA1B	-5.30	-6.05	<b>Calcium channel, voltage-dependent, N type, alpha 1B subunit.</b> Voltage-gated calcium channels (CaV) are present in the membrane of most excitable cells and mediate calcium influx in response to depolarisation. They regulate intracellular processes such as contraction, secretion, neurotransmission and gene expression. Voltage-gated calcium channels are formed from four or five distinct subunits; the alpha-subunit is the largest subunit and incorporates the voltage sensor, conduction pore and gating apparatus.			
LAPTM4B	+2.08	+2.09	<b>Lysosomal protein transmembrane 4 beta.</b> A potential protooncogene, whose overexpression is involved in carcinogenesis and progression of HCC. In normal cells, it may also play important roles such as regulation of cell proliferation and survival			
GJA9	-4.57	-4.39	Gap junction protein, alpha 9. Connexins, such as GJA9, are involved in the formation of gap junctions, intercellular conduits that directly connect the cytoplasms of contacting cells.			

Symbole du	FC / NP+	FC / GSNO	Nom et fonction du gène
gène	200 μg/mL	6 µM	
SLC9A2	-2.50	-2.33	Solute carrier family 9, subfamily A (NHE2, cation proton
			antiporter 2). Involved in pH regulation to eliminate acids
			generated by active metabolism or to counter adverse environmental
			conditions
PANX2	-5.91	-5.61	Pannexin 2 (PANX2). Structural component of the gap junctions
			and the hemichannels
PSMD10	+2.02	+2.07	Proteasome (prosome, macropain) 26S subunit, non-ATPase.
			This gene encodes a subunit of the PA700/19S complex, which is
			the regulatory component of the 268 proteasome. The 268
			degradation. This protein is a non ATPase subunit that may be
			involved in protein-protein interactions
HOXC5	-4 31	-3.27	Homeobox C5 Sequence-specific transcription factor which is part
nones	1.51	5.27	of a developmental regulatory system
		Gènes incon	nus, pseudogènes ou non codants
FAM83E	-2.10	-2.38	Family With Sequence Similarity 83, Member E. No data
			available
FAM45A	+2.31	+2.32	Family With Sequence Similarity 45, Member A. No data
			available
FAM230B	+2.26	+2.06	Family With Sequence Similarity 230, Member B, Non-Protein
	105		Coding.
FAM74A1	-4.85	-5.12	Family With Sequence Similarity 74, Member A1. IncRNA
SNORD16	-2.14	-2.20	Small Nucleolar RNA, C/D Box 16, snoRNA.
SNORD37	-2.09	-2.43	Small Nucleolar RNA, C/D Box 37, snoRNA.
MIR7-3HG	-3.63	-5.90	MIR7-3 Host Gene, lncRNA.
LINC00162	-4.31	-3.27	No data available
XLOC_005147	-4.49	-3.15	No data available
LOC101929542	-2.15	-2.91	No data available
XLOC_011179	-5.55	-4.09	No data available
LOC387810	-5.47	-4.96	No data available
XLOC_007305	-2.69	-2.52	No data available
LINC01204	-2.69	-2.52	No data available
XLOC_007585	-2.62	-2.07	No data available
XLOC_002597	+10.25	+3.16	No data available
LUC/29159	-2.00	+2.89	No data available
<u>XLOC_012733</u>	-2.48	-2.42	No data available
LUC221814	-5.08	-2.51	No data available
LOC10006201	-3.48	-4.04	No data available
LOC100990291	-2.19	-3.32	No data available
XI OC 000027	-2.40	-5.90	No data available
<u>IOC102725453</u>	+2 27	+2.03	No data available
XI OC 001801	-3.12	-2.05	No data available
XLOC_001091 XLOC_000086	-3.12	-2.07	No data available
LOC101929514	-3.46	-3.61	No data available
XLOC 011339	+3.80	+3.36	No data available

Liste des 35 gènes communs dont l'expression est modifiée après exposition aux NP+ ou NP- 200 µg/mL pendant 4 h avec les fold change (FC) correspondants et les fonctions (GeneCards, Pubmed, ..) En vert : gènes sousexprimés, en rouge : gènes surexprimés

Symbole du	FC / NP+	FC / NP-	Nom et fonction du gène				
gène	200 μg/mL	200 μg/mL					
			Gènes connus				
LRRC10	-2.54	-3.02	Leucine rich repeat containing 10. A cardiac-specific factor that				
			is crucial for proper cardiac development and deletion of Lrrc10				
			in mice results in dilated cardiomyopathy.				
CCZ1	+2.02	+2.57	CCZ1 vacuolar protein trafficking and biogenesis associated				
			homolog (S. cerevisiae). vacuolar protein trafficking				
			vesicle-mediated transport				
MAGEB5	-3.78	-5.98	Melanoma antigen family B 5. The four MAGE genes (MAGE-				
			B5, MAGE-B6, MAGE-C2, MAGE-C3 are not expressed in				
			normal tissues, except for testis, and are expressed in tumors of				
			different histological origins.				
ACKR3	-2.44	-2.80	Atypical chemokine receptor 3 (ACKR3). It controls				
			chemokine levels and localization via high-affinity chemokine				
			binding that is uncoupled from classic ligand-driven signal				
			transduction cascades, resulting instead in chemokine				
CTADD10	10.70	15.46	StAP related linid transfer (STAPT) domain containing 12				
STARD13	+2.79	+5.46	StAR-related lipid transfer (START) domain containing 13.				
			G Pase-activating protein for RhoA, and perhaps for Cdc42. May				
			be involved in regulation of cytoskeletal reorganization, cell				
			proliteration and cell motility. Acts a tumor suppressor in				
CVTI1	2.05	2.52	nepatocentular carcinoma cens.				
CYIHI	-2.05	-2.55	<b>Cytonesin 1.</b> It mediate the regulation of protein sorting and				
			killer and paripheral T calls and regulates the adhesiveness of				
			integring at the plasme membrane of lumphoeutos				
SVCN	2.85	2.78	Sympallin European in executoris in pancreatic acinar cells				
SICN	-2.03	-3.20	regulating the fusion of zymogen granules with each other May				
			have a pore-forming activity on membranes and regulate				
			exocytosis in other exocrine tissues				
KLHL15	+2 22	+2 58	Kelch-like family member 15 Involved in protein ubiquitination				
REFIELD	. 2.22	12.50	and cytoskeletal organization				
TNFRSF14	-2.72	-2.77	Tumor necrosis factor recentor superfamily. The encoded				
			protein functions in signal transduction pathways that activate				
			inflammatory and inhibitory T-cell immune response				
CSGALNACT2	+2.54	+3.19	Chondroitin sulfate N-acetylgalactosaminyltransferase 2. The				
			encoded protein is involved in elongation during chondroitin				
			sulfate synthesis.				
KANK4	-2.26	-3.32	KN motif and ankyrin repeat domains 4. May be involved in				
			the control of cytoskeleton formation by regulating actin				
			polymerization				
MECOM	-4.43	-3.53	MDS1 and EVI1 complex locus (MECOM). Functions as a				
			transcriptional regulator binding to DNA sequences in the				
			promoter region of target genes and regulating positively or				
			negatively their expression. Oncogene which plays a role in				
			development, cell proliferation and differentiation. May also play				

Symbole du	FC / NP+	FC / NP-	Nom et fonction du gène			
gène	200 μg/mL	200 μg/mL				
			a role in apoptosis through regulation of the JNK and TGF-beta			
			signaling. Involved in hematopoiesis.			
ATG9B	-2.60	-2.99	Autophagy related 9B. Involved in autophagy and cytoplasm to			
			vacuole transport (Cvt) vesicle formation. This gene also			
			functions as an antisense transcript in the posttranscriptional			
			regulation of the endothelial nitric oxide synthase 3 gene, which			
			has 3' overlap with this gene on the opposite strand.			
IPMK	+2.81	+3.31	Inositol polyphosphate multikinase. Plays an important role in			
			the biosynthesis of inositol 1,3,4,5,6-pentakisphosphate, and has a			
			preferred 5-kinase activity. This gene may play a role in nuclear			
	2.20	2.25	mRNA export.			
ANGP14	-3.29	-3.25	Angiopoietin 4. Binds to TEK/TIE2, modulating ANGPT1			
			signaling. Can induce tyrosine phosphorylation of IEK/IIE2.			
	2.72	2.10	Promotes endothelial cell survival, migration and angiogenesis.			
	-2.72	-3.19	t-complex-associated-testis-expressed 1.			
AFF4	+2.02	+2.38	AF4/FMR2 family, member 4. Key component of the super			
			elongation complex (SEC), a complex required to increase the			
	2.41	0.55	catalytic rate of RNA polymerase II transcription			
IKAFI	-2.41	-2.77	<b>INF receptor-associated factor 1.</b> Associate with, and mediate			
			the signal transduction from various receptors of the INFR			
			supertamily. Regulates the activation of NF-kappa-B and JNK.			
NULOF	10.40	12.12	Plays a role in the regulation of cell survival and apoptosis			
MYOF	+2.49	+3.13	Myoferlin. Play a role in calcium-mediated membrane fusion			
			events, suggesting that it may be involved in memorane			
			regeneration and repair.			
		Genes incom	lus, pseudogenes ou non codants			
EIF1B-AS1	-3.10	-2.13	EIF1B Antisense RNA 1. lncRNA. No data available			
FAM83A	-3.58	-3.61	Family With Sequence Similarity 83, Member A. No data			
			available			
FAM107A	-2.80	-3.92	Family With Sequence Similarity 107, Member A. No data			
			available			
MIR4458HG	-2.36	-3.12	MIR4458 Host Gene. Non-Protein Coding.			
MT1IP	-3.11	-6.12	Metallothionein 1I. A Pseudogene, lncRNA.			
DUX4L2	-2.71	-3.44	Double Homeobox 4 Like 2. No data available			
XLOC_000099	-7.30	-5.36	No data available			
XLOC_009926	-2.67	-2.69	No data available			
XLOC_005621	-2.08	-3.51	No data available			
LOC345051	-2.41	-3.96	No data available			
XLOC_011507	-3.30	-4.80	No data available			
XLOC_009604	-4.01	-3.59	No data available			
XLOC_007011	-2.58	-3.02	No data available			
LOC101927354	-3.45	-3.82	No data available			
XLOC_000294	-2.62	-2.88	No data available			
XLOC 002616	-3 13	-3 23	No data available			

Liste des 14 gènes communs dont l'expression est modifiée après exposition aux NP- 200 µg/mL ou au GSNO 6 µM pendant 4 h avec les fold change (FC) correspondants et les fonctions (GeneCards, Pubmed, ..) En vert : gènes sousexprimés, en rouge : gènes surexprimés

Symbole du	FC / NP-	FC / GSNO	Nom et fonction du gène
gène	200 μg/mL	6 µM	
			Gènes connus
HIST1H1T	+3.76	+4.13	Histone cluster 1, H1t. Histones H1 is necessary for the
			condensation of nucleosome chains into higher-order structures.
LHX3	-4.17	-4.86	LIM homeobox 3. This gene encodes a member a large protein
			family which carry the LIM domain, a unique cysteine-rich
			zinc-binding domain. The encoded protein is a transcription
			factor that is required for pituitary development and motor
			neuron specification.
LAT2	-2.80	-2.52	Linker for activation of T cells family, member 2. Involved
			in FCER1 (high affinity immunoglobulin epsilon receptor)-
			mediated signaling in mast cells. May also be involved in BCR
			(B-cell antigen receptor)-mediated signaling in B-cells and
			FCGR1 (high affinity immunoglobulin gamma Fc receptor I)-
			mediated signaling in myeloid cells
ZNF763	-2.87	-2.31	Zinc finger protein 763. May be involved in transcriptional
			regulation
		Genes inconnus	s, pseudogenes ou non codants
FAM177B	-16.18	-33.41	Family With Sequence Similarity 177, Member B. No data
			available
LKAAEAR1	-3.73	-3.73	LKAAEAR Motif Containing 1. No data available
GAS6-AS1	+2.76	+3.53	GAS6 Antisense RNA 1. Non-Protein Coding.
RNA5-8S5	+3.86	+2.13	RNA, 5.8S Ribosomal 5.
XLOC_006625	-3.06	-2.48	No data available
LOC440157	+2.38	+4.56	No data available
XLOC_006291	-3.70	-3.61	No data available
XLOC_002588	-2.56	-2.38	No data available
LOC101927637	-3.06	-2.48	No data available
XLOC_000918	-2.34	-2.05	No data available





Figure 18. Réseau de protéines correspondantes aux gènes de THP-1 dont l'expression est significativement modifiée (STRING database) après exposition à 1,4 μM de GSNO, 4 h (29 gènes de la famille des récepteurs olfactifs)

# Uptake of Eudragit Retard L (Eudragit<sup>®</sup> RL) Nanoparticles by Human THP-1 Cell Line and Its Effects on Hematology and Erythrocyte Damage in Rats

#### Résumé :

Le but de cette étude était de préparer les NP d'Eudragit<sup>®</sup> RL et de déterminer leurs propriétés, leur internalisation dans les THP-1 *in vitro* et leur effet sur les paramètres hématologiques chez le rat. Les NP ont été de taille moyenne de  $329,0 \pm 18,5$  nm, et portent une charge positive  $57,5 \pm 5,47$  mV. Ces NP ont été internalisées dans les THP-1 après 2 h d'incubation. Dans l'étude *in vivo*, des rats mâles Sprague-Dawley ont été exposés par voie orale ou par voie intrapéritonéale (IP) à une dose unique de NP (50 mg / kg de masse corporelle). Des échantillons de sang ont été prélevés au bout de 4 h, 48 h, une semaine et trois semaines pour l'analyse hématologique. Les NP induisent des perturbations hématologiques significatives dans les plaquettes, les globules rouges (RBC) totales et les numérations différentielles de globules blancs (WBC) après 4 h, 48 h et une semaine. Les NP augmentent les activités de dérivés des Met-Hb et Hb et diminuent l'activité de met-Hb réductase. Ces paramètres étaient comparables au contrôle après trois semaines après administration par voie orale. Il pourrait être conclu que la voie d'administration a un effet majeur sur l'induction de troubles hématologiques et doit être envisagée lorsque les NP sont utilisées comme systèmes de délivrance de médicaments.

OPEN ACCESS materials ISSN 1996-1944 www.mdpi.com/journal/materials

Article

# Uptake of Eudragit Retard L (Eudragit<sup>®</sup> RL) Nanoparticles by Human THP-1 Cell Line and Its Effects on Hematology and Erythrocyte Damage in Rats

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Received: 18 October 2013; in revised form: 18 November 2013 / Accepted: 18 February 2014 / Published: 28 February 2014

**Abstract:** The aim of this study was to prepare Eudragit Retard L (Eudragit RL) nanoparticles (ENPs) and to determine their properties, their uptake by the human THP-1 cell line *in vitro* and their effect on the hematological parameters and erythrocyte damage in rats. ENPs showed an average size of  $329.0 \pm 18.5$  nm, a positive zeta potential value of  $+57.5 \pm 5.47$  mV and nearly spherical shape with a smooth surface. THP-1 cell lines could phagocyte ENPs after 2 h of incubation. In the *in vivo* study, male Sprague-Dawley rats were exposed orally or intraperitoneally (IP) with a single dose of ENP (50 mg/kg body weight). Blood samples were collected after 4 h, 48 h, one week and three weeks for hematological and erythrocytes analysis. ENPs induced significant hematological disturbances in platelets, red blood cell (RBC) total and differential counts of white blood

cells (WBCs) after 4 h, 48 h and one week. ENP increased met-Hb and Co-Hb derivatives and decreased met-Hb reductase activity. These parameters were comparable to the control after three weeks when administrated orally. It could be concluded that the route of administration has a major effect on the induction of hematological disturbances and should be considered when ENPs are applied for drug delivery systems.

**Keywords:** Eudragit; nanoparticles; nanotoxicity; hematology; erythrocytes damage; oxidative stress

#### 1. Introduction

The quantity of nanoparticles (NPs) produced annually is rapidly increasing [1], fueled by growing markets for products that incorporate these materials. This trend will likely lead to the appearance of human-made NPs in air, water, soils and organisms [2]. The unique physicochemical properties of NPs that have given rise to applications in many fields, including drug delivery [3], cancer therapy [4], biosensors [5], food additives and cosmetics [6]. Possible toxicological risks associated with NP exposure may arise during material fabrication, handling, usage and waste disposal [7,8]. Consequently, the risk of toxicity to humans or the environment will increase [9,10].

Because of their small size, NPs have many physicochemical properties that differ from those of their bulk forms. Recent studies have indicated that the physicochemical characteristics of NPs mainly, the size, shape, surface area, solubility, chemical composition and dispersion factor, play critical roles in determining their biological responses [9,11,12]. For example, NPs of a smaller size can enter the mitochondria of cells through various pathways, subsequently inducing oxidative stress and cell death via apoptosis [13] or autolysis [14].

Polymeric NPs have been used as a preferred nanoscale drug delivery vehicle, especially for their excellent endocytosis efficiency, passive tumor-targeting, high encapsulation efficiency and delivery of a wide range of therapeutic agents [15]. Eudragit is a model polymeric NP, and it is a copolymer that has been widely used to improve the solubility of poorly water soluble drugs [16]. Eudragit RS (ERS), a non-biodegradable, positively-charged copolymer, has been licensed for clinical use by the major health authorities of Europe, Japan and the USA [17] as an efficient nano-drug delivery system (NDDS). ERS NPs prepared by nanoprecipitation (NP) or by double emulsion (DE) techniques containing ibuprofen and cyclosporin [18], indomethacin [19], melatonin [20], DNA plasmid [21] or low-molecular weight heparin [22] (LMWH) have been obtained and been suggested for therapeutic usage. On the other hand, Eudragit Retard L (Eudragit RL) polymer NPs have been investigated as carrier systems for the ophthalmic release of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, such as ibuprofen or flurbiprofen [18,23]. Moreover, Eudragit L 100-55 (EL 100-55 methacrylic acid-ethyl acrylate copolymer type A, 1:1) has been commonly used for the preparation of enteric solid dosage forms as a good coating and skeleton material [24,25]. The aim of the current study was to develop Eudragit RL NPs as a delivery for several drugs and to evaluate their properties, uptake by the human THP-1 cell line in vitro and effect on the hematological parameters in vivo using an animal model. In a previous study, Eudragit RL nanoparticles (ENPs) were used to encapsulate heparin for oral administration and

were tested *in vivo* on rabbit [22]. Subsequently, it was necessary to assess their short-term toxicity and to evaluate the intraperitoneal route, because it is widely used for chemotherapy in patients with gastrointestinal and gynecological cancers [26], compared to the oral route.

#### 2. Results

We first established that the characteristics of the prepared ENPs were an average size of  $329.0 \pm 18.5$  nm and positive zeta potential values of  $57.5 \pm 5.47$  mV. The prepared ENPs did not show any changes in their size in neutral or acidic conditions, indicating that no aggregation had occurred, except when serum was added to the media. The transmission electron microscope (TEM) images showed that the ENPs were nearly spherical in shape with a smooth surface (Figure 1). Moreover, in the *in vitro* study, the TEM observations revealed that the uptake of ENPs by THP-1 cell lines occurred after 2 h of incubation with a concentration of 200 µg ENP/mL (Figure 2a,b). The ENPs were observed in the cells after 24 h without inducing any changes in the cell structure (Figure 2c).

**Figure 1.** Transmission electron microscopy (TEM) image of the prepared Eudragit Retard L (Eudragit RL) nanoparticles (ENPs).



**Figure 2.** TEM of ENP uptake by the human THP-1 cell line. Monocytes were exposed to 200  $\mu$ g/mL for 2 h; the arrows indicate (**a**) internal; (**b**) external nanoparticles; and (**c**) that no changes were observed in the cell structure after 24 h.



Figure 2. Cont.



(c)

The results presented in Table 1 illustrated the effect of the route (oral and intraperitoneally; i.p) of administration on animals' total and differential count of white blood cells (WBCs), as well as the platelet count at different time intervals as compared to the control group. These results revealed that after 4 h of ENP treatment, the platelet count recorded a significant decrease regarding IP injection and still close to normal in the case of oral administration. The total WBC count was not affected, while its differential count was changed, as the granulocyte percentage was significantly elevated after IP injection. This elevation could be on the expanse of the lymphocyte percentage, which was insignificantly decreased. The percentage of monocytes did not significantly change by comparison of the routes of treatment to each other, as well as with the control group.

After 48 h of IP injection of ENPs, the platelet count significantly increased compared to its count after 4 h and became close to that of the normal group or its corresponding value of those treated orally. The total WBC count of both the IP and oral groups was significantly increased. Their differential count was changed, as the granulocyte percentage was significantly elevated in both the IP and oral cases. This elevation could be on the expanse of the lymphocyte percentage, which decreased insignificantly. On the other hand, the percentage of monocytes did not significantly change, either by comparing the routes of treatment to each other or with the control group.

One and three weeks after either oral or IP treatment with ENPs, the obtained data showed that the platelet count was slightly elevated over the control, while the total count of WBCs decreased gradually towards the control range. However, the decline was slower regarding IP injection. In addition, the WBC differential count showed a reduction in the percentage of granulocytes accompanied with an elevation in lymphocyte percentage; however, monocytes were again more or less unaffected significantly.

The results of blood values presented in Table 2 revealed that both oral administration and IP showed time-dependent injection with ENPs a gradual change. but not an administration-route-dependent change. The data illustrated that animals either orally administrated or IP injected with ENPs showed a marked decrease in red blood cell (RBC) count and HCt percentage after four or 48 h and returned to the control range by the other intervals. No sharp difference was observed between both routes at the matched time intervals. Similarly, Hb, mean corpuscular hemoglobin (MCH) and mean corpuscular hemoglobin concentration (MCHC) levels recorded a time-dependent gradual decrease at all tested intervals, although this decrease was slightly pronounced after 4 h and significant after seven days for Hb concentration only. Instead, no significant differences were found in MCHC between the control and the ENP-treated groups. In contrast, the mean corpuscular volume (MCV) level showed a time-transit elevation in all groups, either orally administrated or IP injected with ENPs. This increase was markedly pronounced after one week for both treatments with ENPs. At the end of the third week, all blood values were carried up or down, more or less, towards the control values.

The data of both functional ( $O_2$ -Hb) and nonfunctional (Met-Hb, S-Hb and Co-Hb) hemoglobin derivatives of different ligands are illustrated in Table 3. The current results showed that after IP or oral administration of ENPs, the functional derivative (oxy-Hb) or the nonfunctional one (S-Hb) were not affected over all the tested time intervals, while the nonfunctional fraction Co-Hb was found to be elevated significantly after 4 h, 48 h and one week, whatever the exposure route, and to fall down near the control range. Furthermore, the nonfunctional met-Hb derivative showed a time/route gradual elevation, which was significant after three weeks of IP injection (Table 3).

In contrast, the obtained data illustrated that the activity of met-HbR was comparable to that of the control after four and 48 h, while a significant decrease was pronounced after the first and third weeks in both routes of treatments (Figure 3).





Parameter	PLT (10 <sup>3</sup> /cc)		WBCs $(10^3/cc)$		Lymph (%)		Mono (%)		Gran (%)	
Group	Oral	IP	Oral	IP	Oral	IP	Oral	IP	Oral	IP
Control	$341\pm28^{aA}$	$389\pm16^{abA}$	$5.8\pm0.55^{bA}$	$5.77\pm0.26^{aA}$	$85.8\pm1.66^{aA}$	$85.3\pm1.81^{aA}$	$6.73\pm0.32^{aA}$	$6.40\pm0.41^{aA}$	$8.10\pm0.95^{aA}$	$8.30\pm1.5^{aA}$
4 h	$408\pm19^{aA}$	$222\pm7.4^{bB}$	$4.8\pm1.12^{bA}$	$5.76\pm0.45^{aA}$	$84.2\pm4.1^{aA}$	$76.46\pm6.62^{aA}$	$6.73\pm0.55^{aA}$	$6.37\pm0.70^{aA}$	$9.06\pm1.19^{aA}$	$17.16\pm2.63^{aB}$
48 h	$492\pm 39^{aA}$	$437\pm67^{aA}$	$7.27\pm1.11^{aA}$	$8.76\pm0.64^{aB}$	$78.10\pm3.0^{aA}$	$82.26\pm4.0^{aA}$	$6.07\pm0.81^{aA}$	$6.30\pm1.05^{aA}$	$15.83 \pm 1.19^{aA}$	$11.43\pm3.04^{aB}$
One week	$473\pm42^{aA}$	$451\pm56^{abA}$	$6.80\pm0.31^{aA}$	$7.46\pm0.75^{aB}$	$80.40\pm2.95^{aA}$	$82.66\pm1.61^{aA}$	$6.57\pm0.27^{aA}$	$7.06\pm0.36^{aA}$	$13.03\pm2.69^{aA}$	$10.27\pm1.97^{aB}$
Three weeks	$457\pm55^{aA}$	$455\pm56^{aA}$	$5.17\pm0.51^{bA}$	$6.63 \pm 1.66^{aB}$	$81.83 \pm 2.57^{aA}$	$83.20 \pm 2.65^{aA}$	$7.37\pm0.53^{aA}$	$6.97\pm1.07^{aA}$	$10.80 \pm 0.15^{aA}$	$9.83 \pm 1.60^{aA}$

**Table 1.** The effect of oral administration and intraperitoneally (i.p.) injection of ENPs on white blood cells (WBCs) and deferential counts in rats. PLT, platelet.

All data are expressed as the mean  $\pm$  standard error; means with different superscript letters (a, b) are significantly different ( $p \le 0.05$ ); lowercase letters are for groups within the same column, while uppercase

letters (A, B) to compare oral treatment with IP treatment within the same row.

**Table 2.** The effect of oral administration and i.p. injection of ENPs on red blood cells (RBCs) and hematological parameters in rats. Hct, hematocrite; MCV, mean corpuscular volume; MCH, mean corpuscular hemoglobin; MCHC, mean corpuscular hemoglobin concentration.

Parameter	<b>RBCs</b> (10 <sup>6)</sup>		Hb (g/dL)		HCt (%)		MCV (fL)		MCH (pg)		MCHC (g/dL)	
group	Oral	IP	Oral	IP	Oral	IP	Oral	IP	Oral	IP	Oral	IP
Control	$5.42\pm0.46^{aA}$	$5.77\pm0.55^{aA}$	$14.60\pm0.58^{aA}$	$13.01\pm1.58^{aA}$	$42.4\pm1.3^{\mathrm{aA}}$	$36.7\pm3.13^{aA}$	$47.73\pm3.13^{b\mathrm{A}}$	$51.3\pm1.52^{bA}$	$29.6\pm1.17^{aA}$	$28.3\pm3.98^{\mathrm{aA}}$	$34.4\pm1.96^{\mathrm{aA}}$	$31.7\pm4.40^{b\mathrm{A}}$
4 h	$5.41\pm0.26^{aA}$	$4.43\pm0.90^{bA}$	$14.93\pm0.88^{aA}$	$13.73\pm1.45^{\mathrm{aA}}$	$42.37\pm1.25^{\mathrm{aA}}$	$30.4\pm4.43^{b\mathrm{A}}$	$45.33\pm1.88^{\text{cA}}$	$51.0\pm3.85^{bA}$	$27.4\pm0.56^{aA}$	$31.60\pm3.30^{aA}$	$33.4\pm1.56^{aA}$	$32.3\pm1.69^{abA}$
48 h	$4.50\pm0.26^{bA}$	$4.95\pm0.33^{aA}$	$13.46\pm1.21^{abA}$	$13.8\pm0.87^{aA}$	$34.66\pm1.23^{\mathrm{aA}}$	$324\pm3.83^{bA}$	$57.66\pm4.84^{b\mathrm{A}}$	$62.33 \pm 6.99^{bA}$	$31.03\pm1.84^{aA}$	$34.83\pm2.45^{aA}$	$36.13\pm3.08^{aA}$	$41.2\pm3.71^{abA}$
One week	$6.18\pm0.72^{aA}$	$5.48\pm0.26^{aA}$	$10.80\pm1.50^{bA}$	$9.47\pm0.41^{aA}$	$41.20\pm2.37^{aA}$	$35.33 \pm 1.56^{aA}$	$133.6\pm2.02^{aA}$	$129.0\pm1.73^{aA}$	$24.60\pm1.10^{aA}$	$24.53\pm1.41^{aA}$	$51.9\pm2.36^{aA}$	$35.5\pm1.27^{aA}$
Three weeks	$5.75\pm0.88^{aA}$	$6.41\pm0.49^{aA}$	$11.86\pm0.87^{bA}$	$11.40 \pm 1.51^{aA}$	$38.13 \pm 1.98^{aA}$	$35.2\pm2.11^{aA}$	$56.33 \pm 1.33^{bA}$	$57.3\pm1.53^{bA}$	$18.9\pm1.14^{bA}$	$28.46\pm1.57^{aA}$	$33.7\pm1.32^{aA}$	$32.3\pm1.95^{bA}$

All data are expressed as the mean  $\pm$  standard error; means with different superscript letters are significantly different ( $p \le 0.05$ ); lowercase letters (a, b) are for groups within the same column, while uppercase letter (A) to compare oral treatment with IP treatment within the same row.

<b>Table 3.</b> The effect of oral administration and	.p. iı	njection of ENPs or	Hb de	erivatives (e	expressed as	percent of total he	emoglobin	) in rats
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parameter	parameter Oxy-Hb			tHb	S-1	Hb	Со-НЬ		
group	Oral	IP	Oral	IP	Oral	IP	Oral	IP	
Control	$95.94\pm0.87^{aA}$	$96.24\pm1.05^{\mathrm{aA}}$	$3.56\pm0.74^{\mathrm{aA}}$	$3.22\pm0.74^{\mathrm{aA}}$	$0.120\pm0.01^{\mathrm{aA}}$	$0.118\pm0.03^{\mathrm{aA}}$	$0.36\pm0.18^{aA}$	$0.432\pm0.14^{\text{aA}}$	
4 h	$95.83 \pm 1.75^{aA}$	$95.17 \pm 0.74^{aA}$	$3.47\pm0.80^{aA}$	$3.43\pm0.79^{\mathrm{aA}}$	$0.114\pm0.03^{aA}$	$0.115\pm0.04^{aA}$	$0.624 \pm 0.20^{bA}$	$0.688\pm0.19^{bA}$	
48 h	$95.39\pm1.13^{\mathrm{aA}}$	$95.65 \pm 1.11^{aA}$	$3.83\pm0.67^{aA}$	$3.64\pm0.69^{\mathrm{aA}}$	$0.099 \pm 0.02^{\mathrm{aA}}$	$0.120\pm0.03^{\mathrm{aA}}$	$0.678 \pm 0.19^{bA}$	$0.639\pm0.21^{bA}$	
One week	$95.72 \pm 1.75^{\mathrm{aA}}$	$95.42\pm2.78^{aA}$	$3.88\pm0.80^{aA}$	$3.82\pm0.83^{\mathrm{aA}}$	$0.117\pm0.04^{\mathrm{aA}}$	$0.122\pm0.04^{\mathrm{aA}}$	$0.682\pm0.22^{bA}$	$0.709\pm0.23^{bA}$	
Three weeks	$95.49\pm1.32^{\mathrm{aA}}$	$95.05 \pm 1.27^{aA}$	$3.99\pm0.83^{aA}$	$4.41\pm0.79^{bA}$	$0.156\pm0.02^{aA}$	$0.128\pm0.01^{aA}$	$0.400 \pm 0.11^{aA}$	$0.404\pm0.12^{\mathrm{aA}}$	

All data are expressed as the mean  $\pm$  standard error; means with different superscript letters are significantly different ( $p \le 0.05$ ); lowercase letters (a, b) are for groups within the same column, while uppercase letter (A) to compare oral treatment with IP treatment within the same row.

#### 3. Discussion

NPs (nanoparticles) can be transported around the body and be taken up by organ tissues and cell cultures, resulting in increased oxidative stress, inflammatory cytokine production or cell death. Unlike larger particles, NPs may be taken up by cell mitochondria, and cell studies demonstrated the potency of NPs to induce: (i) DNA mutation; (ii) major structural damage to mitochondria; and even (iii) cell death [27,28]. From this point of view, NPs used for medical applications should be evaluated *in vivo*, as well as *in vitro*. Polymeric NPs are biocompatible, surface-modifiable and capable of sustained drug release. They show potential applications in the treatment of various pulmonary conditions, such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), tuberculosis (TB) and lung cancer, as well as in diabetes [29–33].

In the current study, the average size of the developed Eudragit RL NP (ENP) was  $329.0 \pm 18.5$  nm and the zeta potential was  $+57.5 \pm 5.7$  mV. From a pharmaceutical point of view, what is most important is the increase in saturation solubility and the adhesiveness to surfaces/membranes. According to the Kelvin equation, there is an increase in saturation solubility (Cs) below  $\sim 1 \mu m$  [34], this being more pronounced for poorly soluble than for soluble drugs [35]. The smaller the material is, the more adhesive it is. It is well known that the particle sizes of Eudragit RL and others polymers is affected by the preparation method. The double emulsion method was applied in the current study for the preparation of ENPs, which cannot produce a smaller size of NP (*i.e.*, 30 nm). However, Eidi *et al.* [14] used the nanoprecipitation method to produce a smaller size of Eudragit RS NPs, which have reached 55 nm. On the other hand, particle size can be affected by the different pH and ionic strength used during administration. However, in the current study, the size of the nanoparticles was investigated in neutral (pH 7) and acidic (pH 3) solutions. The results showed that the preparation of ENPs with a size of 330 nm did not show any aggregation in the neutral or acidic conditions, except when the serum was added to the media.

Both pharmaceutically positive effects justify the definition of NPs with a size below 100 nm, and this size limit should be considered when defining a classification system. Although 100 nm is the second important size limit, the larger particles can enter the cell only by phagocytosis. Consequently, these particles can be taken up only by monocytes, a limited cell population in the body. In addition, many of them are difficult to access, e.g., to be taken up by liver and spleen monocytes, the particles need to enter the blood stream. Therefore, the developed ENPs possess a lower toxicity risk. However, particles below 100 nm can be internalized by certain cells by endocytosis or clathrin-dependent mechanism. Thus, these particles have a higher toxicity risk, and the 100 nm limit also has to be considered in the classification system [36].

Zeta potentials provide quantitative information on the stability of the particles. In the current study, ENPs had an absolute value of zeta potential higher than 30 mV (+  $57.5 \pm 50.7$  mV). It is well documented that the particles are more likely to remain dispersed if the absolute value of zeta potential is higher than 30 mV [37]. The current results demonstrated that ENPs possessed a uniform shape along with relatively favorable dispersibility. The uptake was performed within the concentration range and time period, when no damage to cell viability confirmed the low cytotoxicity of the assayed polymeric ENPs to THP-1 cells (data not shown). This could lead to a true understanding of the relationship between particle size, as well as surface charge and cellular uptake. The THP-1 cells

succeeded in inducing the uptake of ENPs (Figure 2). However, no difference was observed between the cells treated with a low or high dose of ENPs. On this concern, He *et al.* [38] reported that positively charged NPs showed a higher phagocytic uptake compared to negatively charged nanoparticles. However, Zauner *et al.* [39] suggested that the penetration of NPs into the cells might be attributed to the impairment of the cell membrane structure. It is well documented that the toxic effect of NPs is highly dependent on the organs and, more specifically, the type of cell encountered. This is due to the variation in cell physiology (e.g., epithelial or lymphoid), proliferation state (tumor or resting cells), membrane characteristics and phagocyte characteristics among different cell types [40]. The choice of the THP-1 cell line in the current study was based on the fact that these monocytes are the first line of innate immunity and, therefore, represent the first "barrier" or "target" of nanoparticulate delivery systems. On the other hand, the major objective of the current study was to investigate the effect of NPs on the hematological parameters, to assess the effect of the physical properties of ENPs on their toxicity and the possibility of NPs to penetrate the THP-1, as an example of blood cells.

The effect of ENPs on vascular connective tissue and hematological parameters was evaluated *in vivo*. NPs can translocate to both circulatory and lymphatic systems and, ultimately, to other body tissues and organs. However, translocation differs according to the route of exposure to nanoparticles [41]. In this study, both total and differential counts of WBCs were significantly changed at most tested time intervals. A significant elevation in both WBC count and granulocyte percentage was noticed after 48 h of oral or IP exposures. The elevation of the later was probably on the detriment of lymphocyte percentage, which decreased non-significantly. By the third week, the WBC of the oral group declined close to control values, while that of the IP group still elevated significantly compared to the PO exposed group.

Several reports suggested that high concentrations of NP can enter into the lymphatic system, inducing enlargement and inflammation in lymph nodes, which helps to increase the number of WBCs. However, after a given period, the activity of these glands decreased, and lymph node atrophy has been noted [42]. This finding is also supported by Choi *et al.* [43]. Some nanoparticles, depending on their composition and size, can produce irreversible damage to cells by oxidative stress or/and organelle injury [41]. ENPs can be taken up by various cell types, resulting in increased oxidative stress and inflammatory cytokine production. Regarding this concern, do Carmo *et al.* [44] reported that these effects trigger a chronic inflammatory condition that is associated with a high white blood cell count. Moreover, neutrophils, through NCF-1 and NADPH oxidase activation, increase phagocytosis and the formation of reactive oxygen compounds, as well as their own stimulation and migration to inflammatory sites.

Platelet count was decreased significantly after 4 h of ENP IP injection and returned to the control range by the other time intervals. As is known, NP charge plays an essential role in their uptake by platelets and their influence on blood clot formation [45]. Negatively charged NPs significantly inhibit thrombus formation, while positively charged NPs enhance platelet aggregation [46]. The interaction between platelets and positively charged particles seems to be due to the net negative charge that platelets carry on their surface [47]. In addition, the positively charged NPs interact with negatively charged platelets and reduce their surface charge, making them more prone to aggregation. This could be the possible reason for the thrombocytopenia occurring after 4 h of ENP injection. Until now, it was

thought that blood clots can be formed due to three main causes: when the blood flow is obstructed or slowed down, when the vascular endothelial cells are damaged or due to the blood biochemistry. Moreover, due to the large ENPs used in the current study, they failed to produce a thrombotic effect, suggesting that these NPs are insufficient for causing peripheral thrombosis [48].

In the current study, animals exposed to either oral or the IP treatment showed a marked decrease in RBC count and HCt percentage after four and 48 h, which returned to the control range by the other intervals with no valuable difference between both routes at the same time interval. Similarly, Hb, MCH and MCHC levels recorded a time-dependent gradual decreases at all tested times, although this decrease was slightly pronounced after 4 h (reflecting hypochromia) after seven days for Hb. In contrast, the MCV level showed a time-transit elevation (resulting in macrocytosis), especially after one week for both routes of treatment. These results suggested that the exposure route of ENPs is important and should be considered in the application of ENPs. Generally, the disturbances in erythrocytes and hemoglobin reported herein suggested that both bone marrow and erythrocytes may undergo a transient oxidative stress, as this damage was overcome by the third week. A high concentration of cerium oxide NPs reduced the number of blood cells due to: (i) inhibition of cell activity; (ii) antimitotic properties; (iii) stimulation of oxidative stress in cells; (iv) reduction of cellular antioxidants; and (v) activation of immune cell processes. Those effects may result in erythrocytopenia (low RBCs) and hypochromia via either a reduction of bone marrow activity, reducing, consequently, the RBC production rate, or the impairment of RBC membranes by making them more fragile and increasing their hemolytic rate. On this concern, Machiedo et al. [49] demonstrated that free radicals that were produced by NPs can be the main cause for the destruction of red blood cells by lipid peroxidation. Susan et al. [50] showed that their distribution in tissues and their effect change with respect to the diameter of the nanoparticles; if diameters are smaller, the influence of NPs on molecular mechanisms increases [45,51].

Both functional anemia (an elevation in nonfunctional Hb derivatives) and physiological anemia may evidence a weakness (erythrocytopenia, hypochromic-macrocytosis) in the oxygen supply of tissues (tissue hypoxia) at the intervals between the first and third week. Moreover, the current results showed that IP or PO administration did not affect either the functional derivative (O<sub>2</sub>-Hb) or the nonfunctional derivative (S-Hb), while the nonfunctional derivative, Co-Hb, was found to be elevated significantly 4 h, 48 h and one week after the treatment through both routes, then falling down near the control range. Unfortunately, the nonfunctional met-Hb derivative recorded a time/route gradual elevation, which was significant after three weeks of IP injection with ENPs. Moreover, the data illustrated in Figure 3 revealed that the activity of met-HbR was comparable to the control after four and 48 h, while a significant inhibition was pronounced after the first and third weeks in both routes of treatment, as compared to the control values. It is well documented that in most cells, mitochondria are a major source of ROS [46]. Despite their lack of mitochondria, ROS are continuously produced in the erythrocytes, due to the high O<sub>2</sub> tension in arterial blood and their abundant heme iron content, inducing Fenton chemistry reactions [52]. The source of ROS in erythrocytes is the oxygen carrier protein hemoglobin, oxyhemoglobin (Oxy-Hb), which undergoes autoxidation to produce  $O_2^{\bullet,}$  which yields hydrogen peroxide [53]. Exposure of Hb to  $H_2O_2$  leads to oxidative modifications that have been proposed as selective signals for proteolysis in erythrocytes [54]. The occasional reduction of  $O_2$  to  $O_2^{\bullet}$  is accompanied by the oxidation of the

functional ferrous-oxyhemoglobin ( $O_2$ -Hb) to the nonfunctional ferric-methemoglobin (Met-Hb), a "rust" brown-colored protein that cannot bind and transport  $O_2$  [46]. This process is reversed by the presence of an efficient met-Hb reductase system in erythrocytes, comprising various enzymatic and non-enzymatic mechanisms. Moreover, the accumulation of a substantial amount of met-Hb in erythrocytes causes methemoglobinemia, clinically manifested by dyspnea and cyanosis [55]. Eventually, oxidative stress can lead to organelle injury and the formation of Hienz bodies, a form of methemoglobinemia, that precipitate on the inner side of the RBC membrane, triggering cell hemolysis [48]. Additionally, met-Hb can then react with the peroxides formed during the autoxidation process itself or elsewhere, resulting in hematological disorders [56–58].

Met-Hb is formed when the ferrous porphyrin complex of Hb is oxidized into the ferric form [59]. In vivo, Met-Hb is predominately reduced mainly by the NADH cytochrome b5-Met-Hb reductase system and to a lesser extent by the NADPH-dependent Met-Hb reductase enzyme [53]. It was suggested that intracellular NADPH concentration may be important in preventing Met-Hb generation. Loss of NADPH and glutathione (GSH) is thought to account for the enhanced rates of Met-Hb generation, as well as lipid peroxidation [52,60]. The free radicals may also induce configuration changes in the Hb molecule and make it susceptible to binding unfavorable ligands other than oxygen, such as carbon monoxide (CO) and sulfur (S). In addition to its inhibition of Met-Hb reductase activity, oxidative stress induced by NPs may also reduce GST, CAT and GPx, as well as GSH level in erythrocytes. Damodara and Venkaiah [55] suggested that the oxidative stress is normally challenged in erythrocytes by cellular defenses, including these antioxidant agents, which are important for dealing with the endogenous H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> produced by Hb autoxidation. The increased oxidative stress in erythrocytes could lead to the exhaustion of the antioxidant battery, which becomes insufficient to counteract the excessive production of ROS [61]. ROS was previously shown to inhibit RNA synthesis in liver and, therefore, affecting enzyme content [62]. In addition, metal interactions with hydrogen peroxide have been frequently implicated in catalyzing free-radical-mediated damage. Redox-active transition metals, such as iron, containing unpaired electrons in their d-orbitals are able to generate reactive species by Fenton Haber Weiss chemistry. In particular, free ferrous iron has been suggested to catalyze tissue damage by reacting with hydrogen peroxide to generate the highly reactive hydroxyl radical [63]. Taken together, these results revealed that ENPs could induce slight oxidative stress. However, the body succeeded in counteracting it after three weeks of treatment. The current study indicated that all blood cells of rats treated with ENPs showed slight changes in their physiological parameters. Consequently, we hope these studies can introduce a way to prevent and are aware of the toxicity effects of NPs in human health.

#### 4. Experimental Section

#### 4.1. Chemicals

Eudragit<sup>®</sup> RL PO ( $M_W = 150,000$  Da (CAS number: 33434-24-1)), an acrylic polycationic copolymer of acrylic and methacrylic acid esters with a proportion of quaternary ammonium groups (0.5%–0.8%), was a generous gift from Evonik polymers (Darmstadt, Germany). Pluronic F68 (CAS

number: 11104-97-5) was used as a surfactant and was obtained from Sigma Aldrich (Saint-Quentin Fallavier, France). RPMI medium was purchased from GIBCO (Invitrogen, Cergy Pontoise, France).

# 4.2. Preparation of Eudragit<sup>®</sup> RL Nanoparticles

Eudragit<sup>®</sup> RL NPs (ENP) were prepared using the double emulsion/solvent evaporation technique, as described by Bodmeier *et al.* [64]. Briefly, 500 mg of Eudragit<sup>®</sup> RL were dissolved in 5 mL of an organic solution, dichloromethane (DCM, Laurylab, Saint Fons, France). One half milliliter of a surfactant aqueous solution at 0.1% w/v pluronic<sup>®</sup> F68 was emulsified into this organic phase by sonication (40 W for 1 min) using an ultrasonic homogenizer (Vibracell 75022, Bioblock, Illkirch, France) for the preparation of the primary w/o emulsion. This primary w/o emulsion was then dispersed by sonication (80 W for 30 s) into 20 mL of an aqueous solution of pluronic<sup>®</sup> F68 (0.1%, w/v), thus producing a secondary w/o/w emulsion. The resulting ENPs were obtained by the evaporation of the organic phase. The formed nanoparticles were separated by ultracentrifugation (Beckman, Miami, FL, USA) at 55,000 rpm for 30 min. The obtained nanoparticles were then re-suspended in an appropriate medium for further investigations. For the *in vitro* and *in vivo* studies, the weight of ENPs has been calculated based on the polymer concentration in the prepared NP suspension considering the density of the Eudragit polymer: 1 µg Eudragit polymer corresponds to  $8.23 \times 10^7$  of ENPs.

#### 4.3. Characterization of ENPs

#### 4.3.1. Particle Size and Zeta Potential Analysis

Particle sizes were determined by photon correlation spectroscopy (PCS) using a Zetasizer<sup>™</sup> 3000E (Malvern Instruments Worcestershire, UK). To avoid multi-scattering events, each sample was diluted with double distilled water until the appropriate concentration of particles; the concentration and dilution were kept constant for all samples. The particle size (z-average) and size distribution of equivalent hydrodynamic spheres were calculated using the Malvern associated software and an exponential sampling method. The size of the prepared ENPs was tested at neutral (pH 7) and acidic (pH 3) conditions, and each measurement was performed in triplicate. Zeta potential measurement was based on nanoparticle electrophoretic mobility and calculated from Smoluchowski's equation [65]. All measurements were performed in triplicate at 25 °C.

#### 4.3.2. Morphological Determination

The morphological determination of ENPs was analyzed by transmission electron microscopy (Stereoscan 240 S/N Léo, Rueil-Malmaison, France). Briefly, a drop of the fresh ENP sample was placed onto a carbon-coated copper grid, forming a thin liquid film, which was negatively stained by the addition of a drop of uranyl acetate. The excess of the staining solution was removed with filter paper and then air-dried before the observation. Image acquisition was done with an Orius 1000 CCD camera (GATAN, Pleasanton, CA, USA).

#### 4.4. In Vitro Study

#### 4.4.1. Cell Culture

The human THP-1 cell line was obtained from American Type Culture Collection (ATCC, Manassas, VA, USA). Cells were grown in RPMI 1640 medium (GIBCO, Invitrogen, Cergy Pontoise, France) supplemented with 10% of heat-inactivated fetal bovine serum (Eurobio, Les Ullis, France), as well as 100 U/mL of penicillin, 100  $\mu$ g/mL of streptomycin and 0.25  $\mu$ g/mL of amphotericin B (all from Sigma, Saint Quentin Fallavier, France). Cells were incubated at 37 °C under 5% CO<sub>2</sub> atmosphere and split every 3 days.

#### 4.4.2. Cellular Uptake Visualization by Transmission Electronic Microscopy (TEM)

Briefly, THP-1 cells were seeded in 6-well plates at a density of  $3 \times 10^5$  cell/well and treated on the following day with 200 µg/mL of ENPs for 2 h or 24 h. Then, they were immediately fixed with ice-cold 2.5% glutaraldehyde for 2 h. Cells were then post-fixed in 1% OsO<sub>4</sub> for 1 h at room temperature, progressively dehydrated by increasing concentrations of ethanol and, finally, treated with propylene oxide and included in resin. Semi-fine (2.0 µm) and ultra-fine (90 nm) sections were prepared with an ultra-microtome (Reichert-Yung) and examined with the electron microscope, Philips CM 12, operated at 80 kV.

#### 4.5. In Vivo Study

#### 4.5.1. Experimental Animals

Three-month-old male Sprague-Dawley rats (150–180 g, purchased from Animal House Colony, Giza, Egypt) were maintained on standard lab diet (protein: 160.4; fat: 36.3; fiber: 41 g/kg; and metabolizable energy: 12.08 MJ) purchased from Meladco Feed Co. (Aubor City, Cairo, Egypt). Animals were housed in filter-top polycarbonate cages in a room free from any source of chemical contamination, artificially illuminated and thermally controlled, at the Animal House Lab., National Research Center, Dokki, Cairo, Egypt. All animals received humane care in compliance with the guidelines of the Animal Care and Use Committee of the National Research Center, Dokki, Cairo, Egypt.

After an acclimatization period of one week, the animals were divided into two main groups (50 rats/group), and each group was divided into 5 subgroups (10 rats/subgroup). Ten rats from the first main group were injected intraperitoneally (i.p.) with saline solution and used as the control group, and the remaining rats were injected intraperitoneally (i.p.) with a single dose of ENPs (50 mg/kg body weight; b.w) suspended in saline. Ten rats from the second main group received a single oral dose of ENPs (50 mg/kg b.w) using a stomach tube. Blood samples were collected from the two control groups after 4 h of saline treatment and after 4 h, 48 h, 1 wk and 3 wk of exposure from all ENP treated animals (10 rats/each time period) under diethyl ether anesthesia in two clean heparinized tubes; the first was used immediately for performing complete blood count (CBC), and the second part was used in the preparation of hemoglobin solution for the

determination of hemoglobin derivatives of different ligands, as well as methemoglobin reductase (Met-HbR) assessment.

A fully automatic blood cell counter with a double capillary instrument (Model PCE-210N, ERMA INC, Tokyo, Japan) was used for measuring complete blood count [red blood cell (RBC) count, total hemoglobin (Hb) concentration, hematocrite (Hct) percentage, platelet (PLT) count and white blood cells (WBCs) total and deferential counts (lymphocytes, monocytes and granulocytes)] as well as blood indexes [mean corpuscular volume (MCV), mean corpuscular hemoglobin (MCH) and mean corpuscular hemoglobin concentration (MCHC)].

#### 4.5.2. Hemolysate Preparation and Determination of Hb Derivatives of Different Ligands

Hemolysate was prepared according to the method described by Silva *et al.* [66]. Briefly, whole blood was centrifuged at 3000 rpm for 15 min, and the buffy coat was removed. The packed red cells were washed three times with physiological saline, and the washed cells were lysed by suspending in hypotonic phosphate buffer and centrifuged at 7000 rpm for 30 min. The resulting pellet is the erythrocyte membrane, and the supernatant represents the hemolysate. The hemolysate obtained was further used for the assessment of both functional and nonfunctional hemoglobin derivatives of different ligands.

#### 4.5.3. Hemoglobin Derivatives of Different Ligands Determination

Hemoglobin derivatives of different ligands were determined as a percent of total hemoglobin. The methemoglobin (Met-Hb) level was determined in the blood sample using the method described by Evelyn and Malloy [67]. Oxyhemoglobin (O<sub>2</sub>-Hb), sulfhemoglobin (S-Hb) and carboxyhemoglobin (Co-Hb) levels in the blood sample were determined spectrophotometrically according to the method described by Van Kampen and Julstra [61].

#### 4.5.4. Met-Hemoglobin (Met-Hb) Reductase Activity

Met-hemoglobin reductase (Met-HbR) activity was assayed in the washed packed erythrocytes according to the method of Hegesh *et al.* [62].

#### 4.6. Statistical Analysis

All data were subjected to statistical analysis using the general linear model procedure of the statistical analysis system. Comparisons between means were carried out using a multiple one-way (Duncan) ANOVA test at the level of  $p \le 0.05$  [63] using the statistical analysis system (SAS) program software; copyright© 1998 by SAS Institute Inc., Cary, NC, USA.

#### 5. Conclusions

It could be concluded from the current study that the ENPs are internalized by the THP-1 cell line. ENPs induced moderate hematological disturbances, represented in platelet, total and differential counts of WBCs, as well as RBC counts and parameters. These resulted in some degree of physiological and functional anemia, likely through oxidative stress. However, most of these

disturbances were normalized after three weeks of treatment. More importantly, the route of administration has a major effect on the induction of hematological disturbances, and consequently, it should be considered when ENPs are applied as drug delivery systems.

#### Acknowledgments

This work was supported by the National Research Centre, Dokki, Cairo, Egypt project # S90402 and ANR "NanoSNO", Faculty of Pharmacy, Lorraine University, Nancy Cedex, France. The authors especially thank Geoffroy Bontemps (IMCD France SAS) for its generous gift of Eudragit<sup>®</sup> RL polymer.

#### **Author Contributions**

Authors Khaled G. Abdel-Wahhab, Fathia A. Mannaa and Nabila S. Hassan carried out the *in vivo* experiment and the hematological analysis. Authors Ramia Safar, Roudayna Diab, Bernard Foliguet carried out the preparation and characterization of ENPs as well as the *in vitro* studies. Author Luc Ferrari performed the statistical analysis and shared in writing the first draft of the manuscript. Authors Mosaad A. Abdel-Wahhab and Bertrand H. Rihn wrote the protocol, managed the project, managed the analyses of the study and wrote the final draft of the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

#### **Conflict of Interest**

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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#### Annexe 9

### Neuronal Uptake and Neuroprotective Properties of Curcumin-Loaded Nanoparticles on SK-N-SH Cell Line: Role of Poly(lactide-co-glycolide) Polymeric Matrix Composition

#### Résumé :

La curcumine, un agent neuroprotecteur d'approche thérapeutique prometteuse, a une faible biodisponibilité au niveau cérébral. Ici, nous avons montré que la curcumine encapsulée dans des NP de poly (lactide-co-glycolide) (PLGA) 50:50 (NPs-cur 50/50) sont en mesure d'empêcher la phosphorylation des protéines Akt et Tau induite par H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> dans les cellules SK-N-SH et de présenter des activités anti-inflammatoires et antioxydantes par rapport à la curcumine libre. Il existe différentes formulation de PLGA, avec différents ratio d'acide glycolique/polyglycolique. Ces différentes matrices présentent des caractéristiques physico-chimiques et de stabilité différentes. Nous avons montré que la libération de la curcumine piégée dans une matrice PLGA 50:50 (NPs-Cur 50:50) est plus rapide que dans la matrice PLGA 65:35. Nous avons étudié les effets de la matrice PLGA sur l'expression de certains gènes antioxidants et neuroprotecteurs tels que l'APOE, APOJ, TRX, GLRX et REST. NPs-Cur induisent une augmentation de l'expression de GLRX et TRX avec une diminution de l'expression d'APOJ, aucun effet sur l'expression d'APOE et REST. En présence de H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, les deux matrices NPs-Cur ont été plus efficaces que la curcumine libre pour empêcher l'induction de ces gènes. Une internalisation plus élevée a été trouvée avec les NPs-Cur 50:50 que NPs-Cur 65:35. En utilisant des nanoparticules de PLGA chargées avec le colorant fluorescent rouge Lumogen, nous avons montré que les NP de PLGA sont internalisées par les cellules neuronales. Ces données soulignent l'importance de la composition en polymère dans les propriétés thérapeutiques des nanosystèmes. Notre étude a montré que les NPs-Cur améliorent l'action de la curcumine sur plusieurs voies impliquées dans la physiopathologie de la maladie d'Alzheimer. Dans l'ensemble, ces résultats suggèrent que les nanoparticules PLGA sont une stratégie prometteuse pour la livraison de médicaments du cerveau pour le traitement de la maladie d'Alzheimer.

# molecular pharmaceutics

## Neuronal Uptake and Neuroprotective Properties of Curcumin-Loaded Nanoparticles on SK-N-SH Cell Line: Role of Poly(lactide-*co*glycolide) Polymeric Matrix Composition

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**ABSTRACT:** Curcumin, a neuroprotective agent with promising therapeutic approach has poor brain bioavailability. Herein, we demonstrate that curcumin-encapsulated poly(lactide-*co*-glycolide) (PLGA) 50:50 nanoparticles (NPs-Cur 50:50) are able to prevent the phosphorylation of Akt and Tau proteins in SK-N-SH cells induced by  $H_2O_2$  and display higher anti-inflammatory and antioxidant activities than free curcumin. PLGA can display various physicochemical and degradation characteristics for controlled drug release applications according to the matrix used. We demonstrate that the release of curcumin entrapped into a PLGA 50:50 matrix (NPs-Cur 50:50) is faster than into PLGA 65:35. We have studied the effects of the PLGA matrix on the expression of some key antioxidant- and neuroprotective-related genes such as APOE, APOJ, TRX, GLRX, and REST. NPs-Cur induced the elevation of GLRX and TRX while



decreasing APOJ mRNA levels and had no effect on APOE and REST expressions. In the presence of  $H_2O_2$ , both NPs-Cur matrices are more efficient than free curcumin to prevent the induction of these genes. Higher uptake was found with NPs-Cur 50:50 than NPs-Cur 65:35 or free curcumin. By using PLGA nanoparticles loaded with the fluorescent dye Lumogen Red, we demonstrated that PLGA nanoparticles are indeed taken up by neuronal cells. These data highlight the importance of polymer composition in the therapeutic properties of the nanodrug delivery systems. Our study demonstrated that NPs-Cur enhance the action of curcumin on several pathways implicated in the pathophysiology of Alzheimer's disease (AD). Overall, these results suggest that PLGA nanoparticles are a promising strategy for the brain delivery of drugs for the treatment of AD.

KEYWORDS: nanoformulation, curcumin, oxidative stress, tau hyperphosphorylation, neuroprotective genes

#### INTRODUCTION

Alzheimer's disease (AD) is one of the most common forms of dementia.<sup>1</sup> Because of the aging of the population, AD has become one of the most severe, progressive, socio-economical and medical burden all over the world.<sup>2</sup> The current treatment can cause severe side effects, which often cause the discontinuation of these pharmacotherapies.<sup>3</sup> Moreover, only 25-50% of patients respond to these therapies.<sup>4</sup> Therefore, the development of novel strategies to treat AD remains a great challenge.

The physiopathology of AD is multifactorial and implicates the deregulation of numerous molecular pathways such as the  $\beta$ -amyloid cascade, tau-phosphorylation, inflammation, and oxidative stress in the brain.<sup>5</sup> Indeed, it is well established that oxidative stress can induce neuronal cell death and neurodegeneration.<sup>6-8</sup> Interestingly, data obtained from patients with mild cognitive impairment (MCI), a preclinical stage of AD, strongly suggest that oxidative stress represents a major determinant of the pathogenesis and progression of AD.<sup>9-11</sup> This notion is strengthened by data obtained from transgenic mice models of AD.<sup>12</sup>

Curcumin is a hydrophobic polyphenolic compound widely considered as an effective therapy for several pathological conditions including asthma, epilepsy, gall stone, diabetic wound healing, and cancer.<sup>13</sup> The hypothesis of a potential

Received: August 7, 2015 Revised: October 27, 2015 Accepted: November 30, 2015

therapeutic application of curcumin in dementia originates from epidemiological data and thereafter experimental data that point out its antioxidant, antiinflammatory, and neuroprotective properties. Synoptically, because of pleiotropic actions of curcumin, several actual and ongoing clinical trials deal with the overall action of curcumin or derivatives for numerous applications including neuroprotection. Accumulating data have demonstrated its neuroprotective property through antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, antiamyloid, antitau hyperphosphorylation, and metal chelation activities  $^{14-17}$  (also see review in ref 18). We have recently demonstrated that curcumin protects neuronal cells against acrolein-induced toxicity by reducing the intracellular levels of reactive oxygen species (ROS) and modulating some redox-sensitive proteins and survival pathways.<sup>19–21</sup> Therefore, curcumin has the potential for the treatment of AD. In clinical trial, in respect to AD, it appears to be safe and tolerable with no adverse chronic effect until the high dose of 4 g/day during 6 months.<sup>22</sup> In spite of its *in vitro* and in vivo efficacy and its safety, curcumin has not yet been approved as a therapeutic agent due to its poor oral bioavailability caused by the high hydrophobicity of the molecule. Thus, to enhance its solubility and stability, we have encapsulated this compound into biodegradable poly-(lactide-co-glycolide) (PLGA 65:35) nanoparticles with a ratio of 65% of lactic acid (LA) and 35% of glycolic acid (GA) (NPs-Cur 65:35).<sup>23</sup>

PLGA has been extensively studied for the development of drug carriers and delivery systems.<sup>24</sup> Moreover, it has currently been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for human use (see review in ref 25).

We found that NPs-Cur 65:35 displayed suitable delivery properties, for example, small size, high encapsulation efficiency, prolonged release features in our physicochemical conditions, prolonged antioxidant activity, no toxicity, and high neuronal uptake of curcumin with a wide intracellular distribution.<sup>23</sup> More interestingly, curcumin activities were preserved after at least 6 months of storage.<sup>23</sup>

The architecture of nanocarriers not only depends on the nature of compounds to be encapsulated, but also depends on the properties of the polymer and on targeted cells. The ideal matrix should allow low polymeric accumulation and an adequate in vivo release profile enabling a minimal drug concentration to be maintained for sustainable effect. Therefore, the choice of a polymeric matrix is indeed of great importance when encapsulating and delivering a drug. For instance, the hydrophilicity is known to influence the kinetic of the degradation of the polymeric matrix. In the case of PLGA, its hydrophilicity decreased when the LA:GA ratio increased. Thus, the kinetic of the PLGA degradation followed this order PLGA 65:35 > 75:25 > 85:15.<sup>26</sup> Another important parameter to consider when formulating nanoparticles is the intrinsic physicochemical nature of the compound to be encapsulated. Previously, we had chosen PLGA 65:35 based on its high entrapment efficiency of curcumin, a highly hydrophobic drug. However, another important parameter to investigate is the ability of the matrix to control the kinetic of the drug release in regard to sink condition and better improve the overall efficiency of our nanosystem. The aim of this study was to get further insight into the property of NPs-Cur to better understand the effect of intrinsic polymer modifications on the activity of entrapped drug. By using PLGA 50:50, we found that NPs-Cur also preserved and enhanced the neuroprotective activity of curcumin by modulating survival networks such as

NF- $\kappa$ B, Nrf2, and synaptic activity with Akt and Tau phosphorylation, all of which are implicated in the pathogenesis of AD. Moreover, we found that NPs-Cur can upregulate the expression of some stress-related genes affected during neurodegenerative diseases such as apolipoprotein E (*APOE*), apolipoprotein J (*APOJ*), thioredoxine (*TRX*), glutaredoxine (*GLRX*), and Repressor Element-1/Neuron-Restrictive Silencing Element (*RE-1/NRSE*) REST. We found that NPs-Cur 50:50 were better than free curcumin and NPs-Cur 65:35 in counteracting the increase of *REST* and *GLX* expressions.

Overall, these results provide a new insight into the neuroprotective activity of NPs-Cur and its development as an effective nanomedicine strategy for the treatment of AD. This confirms and opens a new insight in the development of more sophisticated formulations, such as ligands decorated nanocarriers for the active targeting of the brain.

#### MATERIALS AND METHODS

**Materials.** Curcumin, PLGA 50:50 (MW = 30-60 kDa) and 65:35 (MW = 40–60 kDa), dimethylammonium bromide (DMAB), dialysis bag (12 kDa), bovine serum albumin (BSA), hydrogen peroxide  $(H_2O_2)$ , minimal essential medium Eagle (MEM), fetal bovine serum (FBS), penicillin, streptomycin, sodium pyruvate, and antirabbit were obtained from Sigma-Aldrich (Oakville, ON, Canada). PLGA (50:50) nanoparticles loaded with 1 wt % of the fluorescent dye Lumogen Red (NPs-Lumogen) were prepared as described previously<sup>27</sup> and stabilized by 0.1 mg/mL of BSA. Ethyl acetate was purchased from Fisher (Ottawa, ON, Canada). 2',7'- Dichlorofluoresceindiacetate (DCFDA) was from Invitrogen (Burlington, ON, Canada). Nuclear protein extraction kit was from Active Motif (California, USA). The bicinchoninic acid (BCA) protein estimation kit was from Pierce Biotechnology (Rockford, USA). All chemicals were of analytical grade and used without further purification. Milli-Q water was used for all the experiments. Rabbit polyclonal antiphospho-Akt (pAkt-Ser473) was purchased from Cell Signaling Technology. Polyclonal rabbit polyclonal Keap 1 and anti-Nrf2 antibodies were from Abcam (Cambridge, MA, USA). Rabbit polyclonal anti-NFkB p50 antibody was from Delta Biolabs (Gilroy, CA, USA). Rabbit polyclonal anti-pTau (ser 214) antibody was from Santa Cruz Biotechnology (Dallas, Texas, USA). Mouse monoclonal anti-GAPDH antibody was from Chemicon (Millipore, Mississauga, ON, Canada). Rabbit and mice horseradish peroxydase (HRP) were obtained from Sigma-Aldrich, Inc. Fluorescence emission with different probes was recorded using Synergy HT Multi-Detection Microplate Reader.

**Methods.** Preparation of NPs and NPs-Cur. NPs-Cur formulations were prepared by an emulsion-diffusion-evaporation method, as previously reported.<sup>23</sup> Briefly, curcumin and polymer were dissolved in ethyl acetate (9 mL). Then this organic phase was added to an aqueous phase (17.5 mL) containing DMAB stabilizer (1% w/v) to form an emulsion. This emulsion was stirred and homogenized (Polytron PT4000; Polytron Kinematica, Switzerlandchange) to reduce droplet size. Then the emulsion was further diluted with ultrapure water (132 mL) for solvent diffusion and then subsequently evaporated to remove the organic phase under reduced pressure. NPs-Cur were prepared at a 15% (curcumin/ polymer) weight ratio. For the formulation of blank NPs, the same procedure was followed without curcumin.

Nanoparticles were thereafter purified by three cycles of centrifugation (20 000g)/resuspension in ultrapure water.

Physicochemical Characterization of Nanoformulations. Particle Size and Zeta Potential. Dynamic light scattering (DLS) was used for the measurement of average hydrodynamic diameters and the polydispersity index (PDI) of NPs and NPs-Cur. Measurements were performed using a Zetasizer from Malvern Zetasizer Nano-ZS, Malvern Instruments, UK. Effective mean diameter of the nanoparticles was obtained from three runs for three different samples. Zeta potential data were measured through electrophoretic light scattering (ELS, 20 °C, 150 V) in triplicate for each sample (Malvern Zetasizer Nano-ZS, Malvern Instruments, UK). For both DLS and ELS measurements, water was taken as the dispersant medium.

Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM). The morphology and the size of NPs and NPs-Cur were observed using TEM (Hitachi H-7100) at 40 000× magnification. Briefly, a drop (100  $\mu$ L) of NPs or NPs-Cur was placed on a copper grid and air-dried. The grid was then immerged in water, air-dried, and then stained by adding one drop of 3% (w/v) phosphotungstic acid (PTA). Then the grid was air-dried before loading in the microscope and photographed.

Entrapment and Drug Loading Efficiency of NPs-Cur. The percentage of drug incorporated during NPs-Cur preparation was determined using a UV-vis spectrophotometer at the wavelength of 420 nm. After centrifugation of NPs-Cur resuspended with acetonitrile, analyses were performed on supernatants. The efficiencies were calculated using the following equations:

Entrapment Efficiency (%)

= (Weight of drug into nanoparticles

/initial weight of drug)  $\times$  100

Drug Loading Efficiency (%)

= (Weight of drug into nanoparticles/Weight of

produced formulation)  $\times$  100

Mean values were reported from three individual experiments. In Vitro Release Studies. For in vitro release study, purified NPs-Cur were freely dispersed in sodium phosphate buffer (pH 7.4, 30 mL). The release medium was supplemented with 3% w/v BSA as a natural solubility enhancer to maintain sink conditions for the lipophilic curcumin.<sup>28</sup> All samples were kept at 37 °C under magnetic stirring and away from light. At various predetermined end points, 1 mL aliquots were collected and centrifuged immediately (20 000g for 30 min at 4 °C) to quantify the exact amount of curcumin in the supernatant at each time. The samples were then analyzed by using a UV-vis spectrophotometer at the wavelength of 436 nm in the presence of BSA, which induces a shift of the absorbance from 420-436 nm.<sup>29</sup> The concentration of curcumin released from the NPs-Cur was expressed as a percentage of the total curcumin loaded into the NPs-Cur and was plotted as a function of time.

Antioxidant Activity Assays. 2,2-Diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH) Radical Scavenging Activities. The DPPH scavenging activity of free curcumin, NPs, and NPs-Cur was measured by a colorimetric method.<sup>30</sup> Twenty microliters of samples ( $0.5 \mu$ M) were mixed with 200  $\mu$ L of DPPH solution (0.2 mM in 80% ethanol). The reaction mixture was incubated for 30 min in the darkness at room temperature. The absorbance of the resulting solution was measured at 517 nm. A solution containing 80% ethanol was used as a control. The radical scavenging capacity of the tested samples was measured using the following equation: Radical scavenging activity (%) =  $[(A_{\text{control}} - A_{\text{sample}})/A_{\text{control}}] \times 100$ . Assays were carried out at least in triplicate, and at least three independent experiments were performed.

Oxygen Radical Absorbance Capacity (ORAC) Assay. ORAC assay was conducted using fluorescein as a fluorescent probe according to previous reports<sup>31,32</sup> with slight modifications. Twenty-five microliters of antioxidant [Trolox  $(1-8 \mu M)$ ] or sample (Cur, NPs and NPs-cur at 0.5  $\mu$ M)] was mixed with 150  $\mu$ L of fluorescein and incubated at 37 °C for 15 min. Then 25  $\mu$ L of AAPH was added to the mixture. The whole assay lasted for 90 min. The fluorescence was determined with the excitation/emission filters at 485/535 nm using a Synergy HT multidetection microplate reader. Trolox and 2,2'-azobis (2amidinopropane) dihydrochloride (AAPH) solutions were freshly prepared, and fluorescein was diluted from a stock solution (1.17 mM) in 75 mM phosphate buffer. Final ORAC values were expressed as  $\mu$ mol of trolox equivalent / $\mu$ mol of curcumim. Assays were carried out in triplicate for a minimum of three independent experiments.

Culture Assay. Cell Line. SK-N-SH cells, a human neuroblastoma cell line from ATCC (Manassas, VA, USA), were maintained in EMEM, supplemented with 10% (v/v) FBS, 1% penicillin/streptomycin, and sodium pyruvate (1 mM) in a humidified incubator at 37 °C with 5% CO<sub>2</sub>. Cells were grown to 80% confluence and then seeded into multiwell cell culture plates for the experimental procedures.

Intracellular ROS. Intracellular ROS accumulation was measured by following the oxidation of 2',7 dichlorofluoresceindiacetate (DCF-DA). Briefly, SK-N-SH cells (2 × 10<sup>4</sup> cells/well) were plated into 96-well plates and allowed to attach for 24 h. After 24 h, cells were starved and cotreated with free curcumin, NPs, or NPs-Cur and 1.0 mM of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> for 1 h. DCFDA was added to a final concentration of 10  $\mu$ M for 20 min. The fluorescence was then determined with the excitation/emission filters at 485/535 nm using a Synergy HT multidetection microplate reader.

Curcumin Uptake in SK-N-SH Cells by Fluorescence Microscopy. Curcumin is naturally fluorescent in the visible green spectrum. To study the qualitative cellular uptake of the NPs-Cur, SK-N-SH cells were cultured on coverslips coated with poly-D-lysine at a density of  $1.5 \times 10^4$  cells/well in 24-well plates. Cells were incubated for 24 h at 37 °C and then treated with 0.5  $\mu$ M free curcumin (used as positive control) or NPs-Cur for 1 h. Cells were then fixed with methanol and the nuclei stained with 1  $\mu$ g/mL of DAPI for 15 min.

In another experiment, cells were incubated with fluorescent polymer nanoparticles, NPs-Lumogen, for 4 h at 37 °C. The glass slides were mounted with prolong gold antifade reagent, protected from light, and air-dried. For fluorescence microscopy (Leica ECB, Germany), images were captured using a camera (SensiCam high performance) under the DAPI filter for DAPI detection and the FITC filter for curcumin signal detection. The mean of the intensity of fluorescence per surface unit in each condition was then quantified using the Image-Pro plus 5.0 software (Media Cybernetics, USA), and Log2 change over nontreated cells was calculated.

Protein Extraction. SK-N-SH cells were treated with 1 mM  $H_2O_2$  and 0.5  $\mu$ M free curcumin, NPs, or NPs-Cur for 30 min (Nrf2 and P50) or for 1 h (pAkt, pTau, and Keap1). Total proteins of SK-N-SH cells were extracted with a lysis buffer containing a cocktail of protease inhibitors, and nuclear

proteins were extracted using a kit from Active Motif. Total and nuclear proteins were quantified using the BCA test.

Western Blot Analysis. Equal amounts of protein cell lysates (30  $\mu$ g) were separated on 10% sodium dodecyl sulfate polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE) gels and transferred into PVDF membranes. Membranes were blocked for 1 h in TBS with 5% skim milk and incubated with primary antibodies: anti-Keap 1 (1/700), pAkt (1/1000), anti-Nrf2 (1/ 1000), anti-NF-kB p50 (1/500), anti-pTau (1/500), and anti-GAPDH (1/1000). Amido black 1X was used for rapid staining of total protein bands. Blots are stained for 1 min and then destained for 30 min in 25% (v/v) isopropanol, acetic acid 10% (v/v). Then membrane was incubated with the secondary antibody HRP-conjugated antirabbit or antimouse (1/10 000) for 1 h. Detection was realized with Immobilion Western Chemiluminescent HRP Substrate, and the bands were visualized and quantified by densitometric analysis using luminescent imaging system FluorChem.

Gelatin Zymography. SK-N-SH cells were cotreated with 0.5  $\mu$ M curcumin, NPs, or NPs-Cur and with 1 mM H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> for 1 h. The supernatants (30  $\mu$ L corresponding to 1 × 10<sup>6</sup> cells) were mixed with a 4× nonreducing LaemmLi's sample buffer (40% glycerol, Tris-HCl 1 M pH 6.8, SDS 8%) and run on 7.5% acrylamide gels containing 2 mg/mL of gelatin. Gels were washed for 30 min twice with 2.5% Triton X-100 and incubated overnight in digestion buffer (Tris-HCl 50 mM pH 7.4, NaCl 150 mM and CaCl<sub>2</sub> 5 mM). Gels were stained with Coomassie blue 0.1% and destained.

Gene Expression Analysis by Real-Time PCR (gRT-PCR). Expression of APOE, APOJ, TRX, GLRX, and REST genes by human SK-N-SH neuroblastoma cells was assessed. TRIzol Reagent (Invitrogen, La Jolla, CA) was used to extract total RNA from 1.5  $\times$  10<sup>6</sup> cells unexposed or exposed to 500  $\mu$ M  $H_2O_2$  for 4 h. Cells were cotreated with (curcumin, NPs, or NPs-Cur). After extraction, RNA purity and degradation were checked by spectrophotometry using BioSpecnano (Shimadzu Corporation, Kyoto, Japan) and capillary electrophoresis using RNA 6000 Nanokit and the Bioanalyzer2100 (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, CA). The complementary DNA (cDNA) synthesis was performed with 100 ng of total RNA using the iScriptcDNA synthesis Kit (Bio-Rad, Marnes-la Coquette, France) following the manufacturer's protocol. Gene expressions were determined by qRT-PCR with the iQ SYBR Green Supermix (Bio-Rad) in a Stratagene Mx3000p system (Agilent Technologies).

Briefly, 4  $\mu$ L of each cDNA sample was amplified in a PCR reaction (final volume of 20  $\mu$ L) containing 10  $\mu$ L of PCR reagent and 300 nM of each of the two primers (Table 1). For all samples, the following conditions were used: an initial heatdenaturing step at 95 °C for 5 min followed by 40 cycles of 95 °C for 15 s, annealing at 60 °C for 40 s, and elongation and signal acquisition at 72 °C for 40 s. To confirm the amplification of specific transcripts, melting curve profiles were produced at the end of each reaction, and if two or more peaks were present, the corresponding results were excluded. Water was used as negative control for each PCR run. For each gene, amplifications were performed from three independently prepared samples. Gene expression levels were normalized by comparison to beta-actin (ACTB), used as reference gene. Fold change (FC) of gene expression was calculated by  $2^{-\Delta\Delta Ct}$ method.<sup>3</sup>

Statistical Analysis. All data were expressed as means  $\pm$  SEM from at least three independent experiments performed at

Table 1. Primers Used for Gene Expression Analysis

primers
F: 5'-GGT-CGC-TTT-TGG-GAT-TAC-CT-3'
R: 5'-TCC-AGT-TCC-GAT-TTG-TAG-GC-3'
F: 5'-ACA-ATG-AGC-TCC-AGG-AAA-TG-3'
R: 5'-TCA-GGC-AGG-GCT-TAC-ACT-CT-3'
F: 5'-TCA-GTC-AAT-TGC-CCA-TCA-AA-3'
R: 5'-GCA-GAG-CTC-CAA-TCT-GCT-TT-3'
F: 5'-CAG-ATC-GAG-AGC-AAG-ACT-GC-3'
R: 5'-TTG-GCT-CCA-GAA-AAT-TCA-CC-3'
F: 5'-TGC-GTA-CTC-ATT-CAG-GTG-AG-3'
R: 5'-CGT-GGG-TTC-ACA-TGT-AGC-TCT-3'
F: 5'-TTG-GCA-ATG-AGC-GGT-TCC-3'
R: 5'-GTA-CTT-GCG-CTC-AGG-AGG-AG-3'

least in triplicate. Statistical analysis was performed by a Dunnett's test. For Western-blot analysis, one-way ANOVA followed by Tukey test were used. The level of significance was considered when p < 0.05.

#### RESULTS

Characterization of NPs 50:50 and NPs-Cur 50:50. Figure 1, panels A and B show that the mean particle sizes, as determined by DLS, were  $131 \pm 11$  nm and  $101 \pm 4$  nm for NPs 50:50 and NPs-Cur 50:50, respectively (Figure 1C,D). TEM was used to confirm the nanoparticles size and determine the spherical morphology of both nanoparticles. The morphology of NPs 50:50 and NPs-cur 50:50 did not differ from that of NPs 65:35 and NPs-Cur 65:35. A smaller size was observed by TEM than by DLS due to the state of the polymeric matrices, which were hydrated in the case of DLS (hydrodynamic diameters) and dried in the case of TEM. Samples prepared from PLGA 65:35 were more polydisperse than those obtained from PLGA 50:50 (Table 2). Zeta potential values were all positive, irrespective of the drug loading in opposite to what is generally observed with PLGA matrices. This phenomenon was linked to the residual tensioactive at the NP surface and was exacerbated when drug was actually present in the formulation (Table 2). This also suggests that a portion of the drug was associated with the NP surface. The amount of drug loading in the nanoparticles plays an important role with respect to the rate and duration of drug release as well as its efficacy. The initial drug loading represents 15% (15 mg of curcumim/100 mg polymer) for both formulations. The entrapment efficiency of curcumin in Nps-Cur 50:50 was determined to be  $27 \pm 2\%$ , which is lower than Nps-Cur obtained from PLGA 65:35, which was  $31 \pm 6\%$ . Similarly, the final drug loading efficiency tended to be lower with PLGA 50:50  $(5.1 \pm 2)$  than with PLGA 65:35  $(6.9 \pm 3)$ .

**Release Kinetics of Curcumin from NPs-Cur.** The *in vitro* release profiles of curcumin from NPs-Cur 50:50 and NPs-Cur 65:35 were studied in phosphate buffer containing 3% BSA at pH 7.4 (Figure 2A). For both formulations, a moderate burst release was noted for the first 5 h, followed by a slower release over 24 h. The release of curcumin from NPs-Cur 65:35 was lower than from NPs-Cur 50:50 reaching 20% and 27%, respectively, after 24 h (Figure 2A).

**NPs-Cur Uptake by SK-N-SH Cells.** To compare the uptake of curcumin, NPs-Cur 50:50, and NPs-Cur 65:35 by cultured neurons, SK-N-SH cells were incubated with 0.5  $\mu$ M of free curcumin (control), NPs-Cur 50:50, or NPs-Cur 65:35 for 1 h at 37 °C. Control cells did not display any significant



Figure 1. Size distribution and morphological characterization of NPs 50:50 and NPs-Cur 50:50 using dynamic laser light scattering (DLS) and transmission electron micrograph (TEM). DLS analysis of polymeric NPs 50:50 (A) and NPs-Cur 50:50 (B) and TEM photographs of NPs 50:50 (C) and NPs-Cur 50:50 (D).

Table 2. Data on the Particle Size, Drug-to-Polymer Weight Ratio, Entrapment Efficacy, Drug Loading Efficiency, PDI, and Zeta Potential for NPs 50:50, NPs-Cur 50:50, NPs 65:35, and NPs-Cur 65:35 Analyzed by DLS

formulation ( $n = 3$ batches per tested condition)	drug-to-polymer weight ratio (%)	entrapment efficiency (%)	drug loading efficiency (%)	size (d nm)	polydispersity index	zeta potential (mV)
Nps 50:50				$131 \pm 11$	$0.30\pm0.01$	$6.4 \pm 0.3$
Nps-Cur 50:50	15	$27 \pm 2$	$5.1 \pm 2$	$101 \pm 4$	$0.12 \pm 0.03$	$54.0 \pm 2.9$
Nps 65:35				$148\pm14$	$0.25 \pm 0.02$	16.0 ± 8.2
Nps-Cur 65:35	15	$31 \pm 6$	6.9 ± 3	$131 \pm 7$	$0.27\pm0.02$	$57.0 \pm 3.0$

fluorescence, while in the presence of NPs-Cur formulations, cells displayed a clear green fluorescence due to the rapid internalization and accumulation of curcumin inside the cells (Figure 2D,E). The internalization of NPs-Cur formulations was seen primarily in the cytoplasm surrounding the nucleus (Figure 2D,E). Quantitative analysis indicated that the uptake of NPs-Cur 50:50 by SK-N-SH cells was higher than with NPs-Cur 65:35 or free curcumin (Figure 2H). The intracellular green fluorescence corresponds to the fluorescence of curcumin, but it is not clear whether the matrix PLGA is taken up by neuronal cells or not. To analyze whether the PLGA nanoparticles were taken up by neuronal cells, we used PLGA 50:50 NPs loaded with 1 wt % Lumogen Red (NPs-Lumogen). These nanoparticles were demonstrated to be photostable, 10-fold brighter than quantum dots, stable in cell

culture media, and are taken up by HeLa cells via endocytosis process without any cytotoxicity.<sup>27</sup> For this purpose, SK-N-SH cells were incubated with NPs-Lumogen for 4 h, and the fluorescence intensity corresponding to the localization of NPs-Lumogen was assessed with the Rhodamine filter (in red). Figure 2, panel F shows the red fluorescence in the vicinity of the nucleus; some fluorescence was observed in the nucleus, but it cannot be excluded that it comes from regions above or below the nucleus. Fluorescence was also observed in the dendrites. Furthermore, the red signal was concentrationdependent, the intensity with 0.3 nM NPs-Lumogen being higher than with 0.2 nM (Figure 2F,G). These results demonstrated that the PLGA NPs could be taken up by neuronal cells and supported the hypothesis that NPs-Cur

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**Figure 2.** Comparison of *in vitro* release kinetics of curcumin from NPs-Cur 65:35 and NPs-Cur 50:50 in phosphate buffer (pH 7.4, BSA 3%) (A). Fluorescence microscopy imaging of curcumin uptake by SK-N-SH cells. SK-N-SH cells were treated for 1 h at 37 °C with PBS (control, B), free curcumin (C), NPs-Cur 65:35 (D), and NPs-Cur 50:50 (E). Fluorescence of curcumin is observed in green. Lumogen loaded NPs (PLGA 50:50), NPs-Lumogen were used to specify if PLGA nanoparticles are taken up by cells. NPs-Lumogen uptake using fluorescence microscopy is observed in red after an exposure period of 4 h. PLGA internalization is concentration-dependent as observed in panels F and G with, respectively, 0.2 and 0.3 nM of Lumogen. Quantification of the green fluorescence (H) with data representing mean  $\pm$  SEM from at least three independent experiments with \*\*,  $p \le 0.01$  and \*\*\*,  $p \le 0.001$  indicating a statistical difference versus curcumin treated group.

formulations were effectively taken up by neuronal cells with higher cellular uptake than free curcumin.

Antioxidant Activity of the NPs-Cur 50:50 and Their Effects on the Nrf2 Pathway. The DPPH test was assessed to study the free-radical scavenging capacity of NPs-Cur 50:50 in comparison to free curcumin. Blank NPs 50:50 did not show any free-radical scavenging activity, while free curcumin and NPs-Cur 50:50, at 0.5  $\mu$ M, displayed the same antioxidant capacity (25% of DPPH inhibition) (Figure 3A). This property was then confirmed by the ORAC assay, which measures the antioxidant scavenging activity against the peroxyl radical produced after the thermolysis of AAPH at 37 °C.<sup>36</sup> As shown in Figure 3, panel B, 0.5  $\mu$ M NPs-Cur 50:50 displayed 1.5- and 2.2-fold higher antioxidant capacity against peroxyl radical than free curcumin and blank NPs, respectively.

The antioxidant effect of NPs-Cur 50:50 was then determined on SK-N-SH cells by DCFDA assay. For that purpose, SK-N-SH cells were treated with curcumin or NPs-Cur 50:50 at three different concentrations (0.07  $\mu$ M, 0.25  $\mu$ M, and 0.5  $\mu$ M) and equivalent concentrations of NPs 50:50. After 1 h of treatment, the intensity of the fluorescence of DCF was significantly reduced for the three different concentrations of free curcumin, NPs-Cur 50:50, and with the highest tested volume of blank NPs 50:50 (Figure 3C). Interestingly, the three tested concentrations significantly reduced the ROS-level

induced by  $H_2O_2$  (Figure 3D). These data strengthened the results obtained on DPPH and ORAC assays and demonstrated that curcumin loaded into NPs-Cur 50:50 retained its antioxidant activity. On the basis of the effect of NPs-Cur 50:50 on DPPH, ORAC, and ROS levels, we investigated the effect of NPs-Cur 50:50 on the antioxidant pathway Nrf2/ Keap1. To determine the expression level of Nrf2 in the nucleus, SK-N-SH cells were cotreated with 1 mM  $H_2O_2$  for 30 min and with 0.5  $\mu$ M free curcumin or with an equivalent concentration of NPs-Cur 50:50 or NPs 50:50. In SK-N-SH cells, the activation of Nrf2 by H2O2 was prevented in the presence of curcumin, NPs-Cur, and even blank NPs (Figure 4A). Since the activity of Nrf2 is regulated by the inhibitory protein Keap1, we also evaluated the cytoplasmic level of Keap1 in the presence of 1 mM H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> for 1 h. Accordingly, NPs-Cur 50:50 as well as curcumin also prevented the elevation of the expression of Keap1 induced by  $H_2O_2$  (Figure 4B).

Effects of Free Curcumin, NPs 50:50, and NPs-Cur 50:50 on Inflammatory Pathways. MMP-9 is the major MMP expressed and released by neurons. It contributes to neuroinflammation response in AD.<sup>37</sup> We have thus analyzed the effect of free curcumin at 0.5  $\mu$ M, NPs-Cur 50:50 at 0.5  $\mu$ M, and NPs 50:50 with equivalent quantities of curcumin on the levels of gelatinolytic MMPs induced by H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> in SK-N-SH cells (Figure 5A).

DPPH

Α.

DPPH Scavenging (%)

120

80

40

0





**Figure 3.** Antioxidant capacity of free curcumin, NPs 50:50, and NPs-Cur 50:50. DPPH radical scavenging activity of 0.5  $\mu$ M of free curcumin or an equivalent volume of NPs-Cur 50:50 or NPs 50:50 (A); ORAC value performed in the presence of 0.5  $\mu$ M of free curcumin or an equivalent volume of NPs-Cur 50:50 or NPs 50:50 (B); intensity of DCF-DA analyzed 1h after the treatment of SK-N-SH cells with PBS, different concentrations of free curcumin (0.07  $\mu$ M, 0.25  $\mu$ M, and 0.5  $\mu$ M), or an equivalent volume of NPs-Cur 50:50 or NPs 50:50 in the presence of 1 mM of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (D). Results are expressed as percentage of control (considered as 100%). Data represent mean ± SEM from at least three separate experiments performed in triplicate with \*, p < 0.05 and \*\*, p < 0.01 indicating a statistical difference versus control.

Gelatin zymography of the culture media of SK-N-SH cells showed that the release of MMP-9 was inhibited by NPs-Cur 50:50, whereas no effect of curcumin or blank NPs 50:50 was observed. Hence, these results demonstrated that NPs-Cur 50:50 were more efficient than curcumin on MMP-9 activity. We have thus investigated the effect of NPs-Cur 50:50 on the NF- $\kappa$ B pathway by analyzing the cytoplasmic and nuclear expression of the subunit p50 subunit of NF- $\kappa$ B (Figure 5B,C). For this, SK-N-SH cells were cotreated for 30 min with 1 mM H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and with 0.5  $\mu$ M of curcumin or NPs-Cur 50:50 or with an equivalent concentration of NPs 50:50. Curcumin and NPs-Cur reduced the level of the subunit p50 in the cytoplasm and its nuclear translocation induced by H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>.

Effects of Free Curcumin, NPs, and NPs-Cur on pAkt/ pTau Pathways. To determine whether Akt pathway is implicated or not in the neuroprotective effect of NPs-Cur, we have examined the phosphorylation of Akt at the serine 473 by Western blot. The results showed that curcumin, NPs 50:50, and NPs-Cur 50:50 decreased Akt phosphorylation induced by  $H_2O_2$  (Figure 6A). Our results also demonstrated that oxidative stress induced the phosphorylation of Tau at the Ser 214. Interestingly, both curcumin and NPs-Cur 50:50 treatments suppressed this phosphorylation (Figure 6B).

+H,O,

Effects of NPs-Cur on Gene Expression Analysis. The effects of PLGA nanoparticles on the expression of key genes involved in neuroprotection and antioxidant pathways have been poorly studied. We have therefore evaluated the effects of PLGA nanoparticles (50:50 and 65:35) on the expression of GLRX, TRX, REST, APOJ/Clusterin, and APOE. Our results showed that these genes were constitutively expressed in SK-N-SH cells and not modified by blank NPs after 4 h of treatment. The effect of  $H_2O_2$  on the expression of some of these genes is well-known. For example, both thioredoxin and glutaradoxin were overexpressed after exposure to H2O2 and remained elevated for 24 h.38 However, in the presence of curcumin or NPs-Cur, we observed an induction of GLRX and TRX levels, a decrease of APOJ mRNA levels, while the levels of APOE and REST remain at the initial control expressions (Figure 7). In the presence of  $H_2O_2$ , both NPs-Cur (50:50 and 65:35) were more efficient than free curcumin to prevent the induction of the five analyzed genes (Figure 8).

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**Figure 4.** Effects of free curcumin, NPs 50:50, and NPs-Cur 50:50 on the Nrf2 activity. After 1 h of treatment, the level of Keap1 was analyzed on total proteins (A), and Nrf2 levels were also determined on nuclear fraction (B). Blot represents one of the three independent experiments, and bar graph represents quantitative results of the ratio between Keap1 and GAPDH, Nrf2, and amido black. Densitometry analyses were performed on all three experiments, and results are expressed as percentage of control (considered as 100%) with \*\*, p < 0.1 versus H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> treated group.

#### DISCUSSION

Effective drug delivery to the CNS for the treatment of neurodegenerative diseases such as AD remains a great challenge. Over the past few years, significant breakthroughs have been made in developing suitable PLGA NPs to protect drugs from enzymatic degradation, to increase their bioavailability,<sup>39,40</sup> and eventually for their delivery across the blood–brain barrier (BBB). Curcumin is one of the most extensively investigated natural compounds for the treatment of AD.<sup>18</sup> Previously, we had successfully encapsulated curcumin in polymeric PLGA nanoparticles with a LA/GA ratio of 65:35 (NPs-Cur 65:35).<sup>23</sup>

Nevertheless, the characteristics of the biodegradable polymer strongly impact the degradation and hence the erosion of the matrix. PLGA is a copolymer of D,L-lactic acid (LA) and glycolic acid (GA) with a wide range of LA/GA ratios and molecular weights and therefore can display various physicochemical and degradation properties for controlled drug release applications. Since GA is slightly more hydrophilic than LA, the higher the GA content, the faster the hydrolysis rate. Thus, the LA/GA ratio can modulate the hydrophobicity and crystallinity of the system and therefore the erosion of the matrix, the burst release, and the rate of matrix degradation in cells.

To get further insight into the properties of NPs-Cur, in this study, we have investigated the effect of the polymer PLGA 50:50 on the preservation of the neuroprotective and antioxidant activities of curcumin. We found that both PLGA polymers (50:50 and 65:35) led to nanocarriers with an acceptable size distribution and the similar entrapment and drug loading efficiency. In fact, in this study, we found that the size of curcumin-encapsulated PLGA nanoparticles (50:50) was smaller than that of bare PLGA nanoparticles. This phenomenon was previously reported by several studies where hydrophobic drugs are loaded into PLGA 50:50 matrices.<sup>23,34,35</sup> In our point of view, blank PLGA nanoparticles display a higher volume due to their higher hydratation state, while in the presence of encapsulated curcumin, this hydrated state is decreased due to the presence of a more hydrophobic

core. Moreover, the strong hydrophobic interactions between the PLGA matrix and curcumin could lead to a more structured nanoparticle core, also resulting in smaller nanoparticles. However, NPs-Cur 65:35 was found to be bigger than 50:50 indicating that the polymer ratio of lactic acid/glycolic acid interferes on this parameter. This latter point can be related to the more numerous microcrystalline domains in the case of the 65:35 matrix, leading to a lower aptitude to chain folding during the NP formation and thus to bigger nancarriers.<sup>25</sup>

In both cases, the zeta potential was lower in blank NPs than in NPs-Cur indicating the presence of curcumin at the NP surface could be implicated in the nanosuspension stability. We found that the release of curcumin entrapped in the PLGA 50:50 matrix was significantly faster than in PLGA 65:35. This phenomenon could be explained by two parameters: (i) the higher affinity of curcumin for the more hydrophobic PLGA 65:35 matrix could reduce the drug release rate; (ii) the more hydrophilic nature of PLGA 50:50 could lead to a faster and more important diffusion of water molecules inside the nanocarrier matrix and therefore lead to a faster drug release. This could also explain why blank NPs were found bigger, for example, more hydrated than NPs-Curc. Taken together, these results suggest that the composition of the polymer influences NPs formation and drug release through hydrophobic interactions and nanocarrier hydratation.

The release kinetics of curcumin was found to be biphasic with a moderated burst effect noted between 0 to 6 h, reaching a maximum release of 15% and 20% for NPs-Cur 50:50 and NPs-Cur 65:35, respectively. This rapid phase corresponds to the surface release of curcumin, as usually observed for this type of PLGA nanocarriers.<sup>23,25</sup> However, because of the hydrophobic nature of curcumin and despite the presence of a solubility enhancer, this phase was lesser in intensity compared to what is observed for more hydrophilic drug compounds.<sup>41</sup> The second slope depicted a quasilinear behavior after 5 h, which may represent a combination of water diffusion and very slow and gradual erosion of PLGA-matrix. Other studies have reported a release of less than 40% curcumin in 24 h with copolymeric micellar aggregates of NIPAAM and VP.<sup>42</sup> The



**Figure 5.** Effects of free curcumin, NPs 50:50, and NPs-Cur 50:50 on the enzymatically active gelatinase induced by  $H_2O_2$ . Extracellular release of MMP-9 (gelatinase) was evaluated using gelatin zymography experiments, and densitometry analysis of gelatinase activity is presented (A). Data represent mean  $\pm$  SEM from at least three separate experiments with \*, p < 0.05 indicating a statistical difference versus  $H_2O_2$ . Level of the p50 subunit of NF- $\kappa$ B was also analyzed after 30 min of treatment in the cytoplasmic (B) and nuclear fraction (C). Blot represents one of the three independent experiments, and bar graph represents quantitative results of the ratio with amido black. Densitometry analyses were performed on all three experiments. Results are expressed as percentage of control (considered as 100%) with \*\*, p < 0.01 and \*\*\*, p < 0.001 versus  $H_2O_2$  treated group.



**Figure 6.** Effects of free curcumin, NPs 50:50, and NPs-Cur 50:50 on Akt and pTau pathways. After 1 h of treatment, the levels of pAkt (A) and pTau (B) were measured on total proteins. Blots represent one of the three independent experiments, and bar graph represents quantitative results of the ratio between pAkt/GAPDH and pTau/amido black. Densitometry analyses were performed on three experiments. Results are expressed as percentage of control (considered as 100%) with \*\*, p < 0.01 and \*\*\*, p < 0.001 indicating a statistical differences versus H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> treated groups.



**Figure 7.** Effect of void nanoparticles on gene expression changes in neuronal cells. SK-N-SH cells were exposed to either PLGA void nanoparticles (50–50 and 65–35) or NPs-Cur. The equivalent volume of formulation required to have 0.5  $\mu$ M of curcumin for each formulation was used to have the same range of polymer concentration. Results were presented as fold change. Data represent mean  $\pm$  SEM from at least three separate experiments with \*, *p* < 0.05 and \*\*, *p* < 0.01 versus control group.

fact that just 20–25% of drug was released after 24 h was very interesting since more than 70% of curcumin was therefore still available for a sustainable effect. Encapsulation of curcumin not only protected it from rapid degradation, but also enabled its slow and sustained release as evidenced in our subsequent experiments through its biological activities. This enabled the formulation to exhibit a much higher protection found after 24 h through counteracting Akt/Tau hyperphosphorylation, oxidative stress, and expression of some related genes than with free curcumin.

Studying the physical drug release, we have previously demonstrated that curcumin release kinetics fits a Higuchi model using ethanol–water. Here, on a system mimicking the physiological *in vivo* conditions, the difference in the release rate observed between NPs-Cur 50:50 and NPs-Cur 65:35 suggested that polymer composition also represents an important factor in the control of the drug release by the nanoparticles. Indeed, it has recently been demonstrated by Fourier transform infrared (FTIR) and X-ray diffraction (XRD) studies that interactions might occur between the encapsulated curcumin and PLGA polymer matrix by a possible formation of intermolecular hydrogen bonds between the curcumin O–H and PLGA C=O.<sup>43,44</sup>

Our results on DPPH and ORAC assays demonstrated that the antioxidant properties of curcumin are preserved in PLGA NPs-Cur. Moreover, in ORAC assay, NPs-Cur displayed a



**Figure 8.** Effect of curcumin encapsulation on gene expression changes in neuronal cells. SK-N-SH cells were exposed to either free curcumin or curcumin loaded NPs (50–50, 65–35) in the presence of 500  $\mu$ M of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>. The concentration of curcumin was 0.5  $\mu$ M for each treatment. Results were presented as fold change with \*, *p* < 0.05 and \*\*, *p* < 0.01 versus free curcumin in the presence of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, while #, *p* < 0.05 and ##, *p* < 0.01 indicate statistical significant values with respect to control samples.

higher peroxyl radical scavenging activity as compared to free curcumin. It is interesting to note that blank PLGA NPs displayed an antioxidant activity. The recombination between peroxyl free radicals and PLGA chains could reduce ROS level.<sup>45</sup>

To validate the biological activity of NPs-Cur, we have analyzed their effects on three signaling pathways (Nrf2, NFkB, and Akt/pTau) involved in the regulation of oxidative stress, inflammation, neuronal survival, and on the phosphorylation of tau protein, which are all relevant in the pathophysiology of AD.<sup>46</sup> Our results also demonstrated that the property of curcumin on Nrf2 activity is maintained for PLGA 50:50 NPs-Cur and it is similar to PLGA 65:35 NPs-Cur.<sup>23</sup> NF- $\kappa$ B is a well-known transcription factor involved in the regulation of inflammatory responses, which triggers the activity of MMP-9. We found that NPs-Cur 50:50 treatment resulted in reduced expression of MMP-9 with higher efficiency than free curcumin. This can be attributed to the gradual release of curcumin from PLGA nanoparticles and the enhancement of cellular uptake of NPs-Cur. These data are in accordance with the anti-inflammatory activity of curcumin, which is mediated through the inhibition of NF-kB.<sup>47</sup> Indeed, these data demonstrated that curcumin encapsulated in PLGA

NPs is more potent than free curcumin to inhibit NF-*k*B expression.

Akt is a downstream effector of phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase (PI3–K) signaling pathway. It is directly activated by oxidative stress and is altered in AD brains.<sup>48</sup> We found that Akt phosphorylation induced by  $H_2O_2$  was observed in parallel with tau phosphorylation likely due to the activation of GSK3ß and its dephosphorylation at the serine 9.<sup>49</sup> NPs-Cur 50:50, as curcumin, treatments efficiently prevented Akt activity and Tau phosphorylation. These data demonstrated that NPs-Cur preserve the ability to regulate the Akt/GSK3ß pathway and Tau phosphorylation.<sup>50</sup>

Tiwari et al.<sup>51</sup> have recently demonstrated that PLGA NPs-Cur induced the expression of genes involved in cell proliferation, neuronal differentiation by activating the Wnt/ ß-catenin pathway. The effects of NPs-Cur on the expression of genes sensitive to cellular redox remain to be analyzed. Therefore, we have studied the effects of PLGA polymers (50:50 and 65:35) NPs-Cur on the expression of APOE, APOJ, TRX, GLRX, and REST. These genes are known to be extremely sensitive to ROS.<sup>52</sup> For instance, the sequence of APOJ gene contains several putative binding sites for redoxresponsive transcription factor including AP1 and Sp1.<sup>53</sup> ApoE displays antioxidant,<sup>54</sup> and ApoE/HDL is well-known to play a crucial role in cholesterol homeostasis in the brain CNS and is involved in neurite outgrowth and synapse formation.<sup>55</sup> The Trx and the Grx systems are among the key components of the thiol redox buffering system, which is essential for maintaining the balance of the cellular redox status. They play an important role in protecting thiol groups from oxidation and to repair those that may have become oxidized. Grx plays important role in glutathionylation/deglutathionylation reactions. Both systems play an important role in neuroprotection and in AD.<sup>56,57</sup> REST was found to potently protect neurons from oxidative stress and is lost in AD.58 Blank NPs had no effect on the expression of these genes indicating that the antioxidant activity of blank NPs, on ORAC and DCF-DA assays, is mainly through the direct interaction between peroxyl free radicals and PLGA chains, which inhibit ROS production. The same observation was reported with blank particles on the expression of some genes known to regulate neurogenesis.<sup>51</sup> Interestingly, in normal condition, NPs-Cur can increase the expression of GLRX, TRX, and decrease APOJ genes. In the presence of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, NPs-Cur were more efficient than free curcumin to prevent the induction of these genes likely due to higher uptake of NPs-Cur by neuronal cells than free curcumin. This was confirmed with fluorescence microscopy as previously reported.<sup>23</sup> The normalization of the expression of these genes in the presence of PLGA NPs-Cur is in line with their effects on antioxidant pathways. 59,60

These results are of great interest because the inductions of these genes are well-known to be representative of cellular damages. Indeed, they are upregulated in neuropathological conditions such as in AD.<sup>61</sup> ApoJ, Trx, and Grx levels increased significantly in MCI and AD patients and are correlated with the levels of phosphorylated tau (p-tau),<sup>56,62</sup> while the deletion of REST in the brain is associated with age-related neuro-degeneration.<sup>58</sup>

We and others have previously demonstrated that curcumin was taken up by neuronal cells following the treatment of SK-N-SH cells with NPs-Cur.<sup>23</sup> However, the demonstration of the uptake of PLGA NPs by neuronal cells is challenging. By using fluorescence microscopy, we demonstrated that the photostable PLGA-Lumogen NPs were highly taken up by neuronal cells. These results indicate that NPs-Cur are taken up in a concentration-dependent manner by neuronal cells and could release curcumin inside cells, while PLGA is degraded into lactide and glycolide acid and eliminated via the Krebs cycle. NPs uptake could be caveole- or clathrin-mediated endocytosis.<sup>63–65</sup>

In conclusion, our study demonstrated that curcumin-loaded nanoparticles prolonged and enhanced the antioxidant, antiinflammatory activity of curcumin while suppressing the Akt and Tau phosphorylation and gene upregulation under oxidative stress conditions. We have also demonstrated the role of the choice of the polymer composition in drug-loaded formulation. Indeed, the ratio of lactic/glycolic acid influences the physicochemical properties of the nanoparticles that will consequently impact on the *in vivo* properties by modulating the entrapment efficiency and the *in vitro* drug release. To summarize, curcumin-loaded PLGA 50:50 formulations are likely to have a greater potential for pharmacological applications and seem to be the best compromise in being used to treat neurodegenerative disorders such as AD.

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#### Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Financial support was obtained from Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (to C.R., NSERC), from Louise and André Charron Chair in Alzheimer's disease, and Foundation Universitaire Armand-Frappier-INRS (C.R.) and Conseil Régional de Lorraine (O.J.).

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Webographie (sites accédés tout au long du travail)

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