Study Of Biosynthesis, Characterization And Antibacterial Activity Of Silver Nanoparticles Against Pseudomonas Aeruginosa Isolated From Wounds From Some Baghdad Hospitals
Sura S. Hasan Asmaa E. Al-Niaame

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ABSTRACT
The aim of this research is to study the biosynthesis of silver nanoparticles using the aqueous extract of rosemary leaf (Rosmarinus officinalis) because it is cost-effective and contains many active biocompounds. Biosynthesized AgNPs were characterized using UV-Visible Scanning spectrophotometer to measure absorption peaks, λ\text{max} was 465nm. FTIR technology was used to detect effective groups in plant which are responsible for nanoparticles formation. Scanning electron microscope (SEM) used to investigate the shape and size of nanoparticles, the size of particles was 74.7nm. X-ray diffraction meter (XRD) was used for analysis of nanoparticle structures, particle qualitative analysis as well as particle size, the size measured was 24.3nm. Atomic force microscope (AFM) used for detection of dispersion and agglomeration of nanoparticles, in addition to size, shape, and composition, the average of size was 67.15nm. Zeta potential measurement device was used to measure the stability of AgNPs, Surface zeta potential value was -8.01mV. Particle size analysis was used for the purpose of determining the size of AgNPs, the size of nanoparticles was 82.4nm. The effectiveness of silver nanoparticles was studied against Pseudomonas aeruginosa isolated from wounds. The results showed that AgNPs were effective against these bacteria.

Keywords: Rosmarinus officinalis, Zeta potential, particle size analysis, Well agar diffusion method.
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Introduction

Nanoparticles can be defined as particles which have one dimension or more in the order of 100nm or less than that scale (16). One of the most important properties in the nanoparticles is that they exhibit large ratio of the surface area to their volume (3), and this is the reason for their high reactivity and their special surface properties (10). Nano biotechnology is a very important branch of nanotechnology, it means using of biological methods in the synthesis of nanoparticles that involve clean and nontoxic chemical materials, and also it involves eco-friendly solvents as well as renewable materials (18). The metal nanoparticles have high specific surface area and they have significant attention because of their special optical, catalytic, antibacterial, electronics, and their magnetic properties (1). Silver nanoparticles (AgNPs) becomes widely used in various fields, such as health care and medicine, food, and industry, because of their unique physical, chemical and biological properties, and because of their very increasable applications in electronics and optics (20, 14). Nowadays, AgNPs are used in many industries like textiles, keyboards, wound dressings as well as manufacturing biomedical devices (20). AgNPs become well known because of their inhibitory and antibacterial characteristics and this is an important challenge for the health care industry due to the emergence of pathogenic bacteria which has resistance to antimicrobial agents (14). Silver and its compounds have big antimicrobial activity against bacteria, fungus as well as viruses since centuries as compared with other materials and minerals; this belongs to its very low toxicity to mammalian and high toxicity to microorganisms in the same conditions (10). AgNPs are nontoxic and safe antibacterial agent that used since a long time because their capability of killing about 650 kinds of diseases (5). Silver ions are released when AgNPs attach to the surface of the cellular membrane then disturb the function of the bacterial cell by penetrating into it (5) many methods have been developed to prepare metallic nanoparticles (1). The biosynthesis of nanoparticles using plant extract has a lot of advantages as compared with physical and chemical methods because it is environment friendly, cost effective, and there isn’t any toxic chemical in the process of biosynthesis (10, 1). Plants provide better sources for nanoparticles biosynthesis because they are free from toxic chemicals and contain natural agents (13). Plant extracts used for nanoparticles synthesis are more advantageous than other biological methods because they don’t need the process used for preserving cell cultures (10), it reduces the synthesis process time and there is no need for culture
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preparation (1). There are many studies which used plant extracts for synthesis of silver nanoparticles, such as Eucalyptus globules (1), Coriandrum sativum (13).

This study aim to biosynthesize AgNPs from rosemary (Rosmarinus officinalis) Leaf Extract, commonly known as an ornamental or medicinal plant. The study also aims to characterize the obtained silver nanoparticles, and to investigate the activity of them against Pseudomonas aeruginosa isolated from wounds.

MATERIALS AND METHODS Rosmarinus officinalis plant

Rosmarinus officinalis dried Leaf was obtained from Iraqi local markets in Baghdad governorate. The plant was scientifically classified by Dr. Sahar Abdul-Abbas, collage of science, university of Basrah. These dried Leaf were washed using de-ionized water, dried, grinded using electrical grinder then kept in a baker at room temperature until the beginning of using it in the process of plant extract preparation.

Preparation of the Leaf extract

10 grams of dried Rosmarinus officinalis Leaf were added to 100 ml of de-ionized water and left to boil for about 10 min. The extract was filtered using filter paper, put in a centrifuge device at 301.86g, filtered again then the aqueous was kept at 4ºC until using it (1).

Biosynthesis of silver nanoparticles (AgNPs)

The solution of 2mM silver nitrate (AgNO₃) was prepared by dissolving 0.0324g of AgNO₃ (from Heze Datong Chemicals, China) in 100ml of de-ionized water then stored it in dark bottles at room temperature. 10ml of plant extract was added to 90ml of silver nitrate solution (2mM) in dark bottles and left for 24 hours at room temperature in order to let the nano material form. The formation of deep brown color considered as indication that AgNPs were biosynthesized from plant extract (10, 1).

Collection of silver nanoparticles

AgNPs solution was centrifuged at 13416g for 20min. The pellet was washed with de-ionized water. This process was repeated three times. The pellet was then put in Watch glass and left in an electrical oven at 80ºC. The dried pellet was scrapped using a mini spatula and AgNPs were collected and save in tube at 4’c (2, 17).

Characterization of silver nanoparticles

The Characterization process was executed using the following devices:

1- Uv-visible scanning spectrophotometer (UV-VIS)
1ml of AgNPs was diluted with 2ml of de-ionized water then characterized using UV-Visible scanning spectrophotometer, at wavelengths of 190 - 1100 nm. The instrument type was UV-1800 Series which was manufactured by Shimadzu company, Japan. (10).

2-Fourier Transform Infrared Spectrometry (FTIR) Analysis

Drops of AgNPs sample of and another of plant extract sample were put on a slide and dried in an electrical oven at 100ºc until the thickness of dried material became 0.5 mm. FTIR spectrometer with scanning range 400-4000cm\(^{-1}\) was used in the characterization process (10).

3-Scanning Electron Microscopy

AgNPs was dissolved in ethyl alcohol was taken for the purpose of detecting AgNPs created using a microscope Characterization of the (SEM) Nanoparticles and measure their size and shape instrument from Nikon, Japan. (3, 6).

4-X-ray Diffraction Instrument (XRD)

AgNPs was diluted with de-ionized water and put on a slide and dried in an electrical oven at 100ºc until the thickness of dried material became 0.5 mm then the dispersions of them were examined using X-ray diffraction Instrument (XRD); instrument from Shimadzu, Japan (6).

5-Atomic Force Microscopy (AFM)

Nano extract was put in a tube then the dispersion and aggregation was examined using Atomic Force Microscopy (AFM) which is also used to investigate their size, shape, sorption as well as the structure of the particles (20).

6-Zeta Potential analyzer

The physical property of Zeta potential gives the net surface charge of the NPs. The stability of NPs is measured when zeta potential values ranged from higher than +30 mV to lower than -30 mV. Surface zeta potentials were measured using zeta potential analyzer Brookhaven Insrtuments. 5ml of Liquid NPs samples were diluted with 50 ml of double de-ionized water and the suspending electrolyte solution was using NaCl with 2 x10\(^{-2}\)M. The value of pH was then adjusted and the samples were shaken for 30 min. pH of equilibrium was recorded after shaking and the value of zeta potential of AgNPs was measured(15, 8).

7-Particle size analysis device

Particle size analysis was done in order to determine the size of the AgNPs formed (15).
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Isolation and Identification of Pseudomonas aeruginosa

28 of the bacterial isolates which were collected, isolated from patient’s wounds at Laboratories Al-Kindi Teaching hospital and Medical city in Baghdad, the capital of Iraq and diagnosed at the hospitals laboratories from 20/1/2019 to 15/3/2019. The isolated colonies were cultured in sterile Petri plates using cetrimade agar medium (12) and diagnosed again using biochemical tests as oxidase, catalase, imvc, urease, nitrate reduction, growth at 42ºc tests (19).

Studying the Antibacterial Effects Evaluation of Nano Silver by Well Agar Diffusion Method

The antibacterial effects evaluation of AgNPs was measured using different concentrations then these concentrations were used with 1 ml of de-ionized water by well agar diffusion method. The serial dilutions of (5000, 2500, 1250, 625, 312.5, 156.5, 78.125, 39.06) µg/ml were prepared, the sample was exposed to ultrasonic wave device for about 4 hours until it became homogeneous. Meanwhile the bacterial aqueous was prepared by taking a swab from the recently grown isolated bacteria and diluted it using normal saline solution then it was compared with McFarland solution, and were cultured on nutrient agar using sterilized swabs of cotton. Wells with 6 mm diameter were made in plates. 100µl of each dilution containing AgNPs was put in wells then the plates were put in an incubator for 24 hours at 37ºC. The results were observed by determining the zones of inhibition formed around wells (8, 9).

Results and Discussion

The change of color to deep brown when adding plant extract solution to 2mM of AgNO₃ solution within 24 hours at room temperature shown the percentage of silver nitrate solution of plant extract was (10:90), PH (6.1) in (fig.1), the color change indicates the formation of AgNPs (1). The change in color was due to the reduction of Ag⁺ to Ag⁰ by the biomolecules present in the Leaf extract such as alkaloids, flavonoids, phenol, resins, tannins, saponins, etc (15).
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Figure 1. Reaction solutions. (A): AgNO₃ (2mM) without Rosmarinus officinalis extract. (B): Aqueous solution for Rosmarinus officinalis extract. (C): Color change from yellow to deep brown after 24 hours.

AgNPs biosynthesized using AgNO₃ solution mixed with Rosmarinus officinalis Leaf extract were examined by UV-Visible Scanning spectrophotometer shown in fig. (2). The spectrum showed that the maximum absorption band (λmax) was at 465 nm which indicating that AgNPs were scattered in the solution and weren't agglomerate in it, It also well known that the color change of solutions is because of the excitation of the surface Plasmon Resonance (SPR) with the AgNPs(6). This spectroscopy is compatible with other studies and researches which stated that AgNPs can be synthesized using plant extract (10, 6, 7).

Figure 2. UV-VIS scanning spectroscopy shows the absorption spectrum of AgNPs

The obtained AgNPs using Rosmarinus officinalis Leaf extract was studied using Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR). It was used to identify the biomolecules which is responsible for reduction Ag⁺ ions (7). FTIR spectrum of AgNPs biosynthesized from plant extract is shown in (Fig.3). The IR band that appeared in the plant extract in the range 1851.66 cm⁻¹ was C=O of carbonyl group had shifted to the range 1899.8 cm⁻¹ in the nano extract, the band that appeared in the plant extract in the range 1409.96 cm⁻¹ was referred to benzoil ring had shifted to the range 1411.89cm⁻¹ in the nano extract, also the band C-H3 that appeared in the plant extract in the...
range 1369.46 cm⁻¹ had shifted to the range 1371.39 cm⁻¹ in the nano extract, band that appeared in the plant extract in the range 1332.81 cm⁻¹ was NO₂ aromatic stretch of nitro group had stayed in the same range in the nano extract, the band that appeared in the plant extract in the range 1307.74 cm⁻¹ was C-N stretch (alkyl) of amines had shifted to the range 1311.59 cm⁻¹ in the nano extract, band that appeared in the plant extract in the range 1269.16 cm⁻¹ was C-C stretch ketones and was appeared in the same range in the nano extract, the band that appeared in the plant extract in the range 1190.08 cm⁻¹ was C-C(O)-C stretch of ester had disappeared in the nano extract, the band that appeared in the plant extract in the range 1124.50 cm⁻¹ was C-O stretch of alcohol had shifted to the range 1122.57 cm⁻¹ in the nano extract, the band that appeared in the plant extract in the range 1076.28 cm⁻¹ was C-O had disappeared in the nano extract, the band C-X of alkyl halides that appeared in the plant extract in the range 985.62 cm⁻¹ had shifted to 941.26 cm⁻¹. The change that happened to the bands may be because of using them as a capping agent during biosynthesis of AgNPs or using some of them for the stabilization of the nanoparticles (7).
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Figure 3. The FTIR spectrum: (A): Plant extract alone. (B): Plant extract with AgNO₃

Scanning electron microscopy (SEM) was used to characterize and determine the particles size, microstructure and shape of AgNPs as shown in (fig.4). The results showed that the particles were semi spherical and the average size of the particles was 74.7 nm which is compatible with the size limits of nanoparticles (1-100nm) (16).

Figure 4. The SEM image shows shape and size of AgNPs

The XRD spectrum of the silver nanoparticles are demonstrated in fig.(5), four diffraction peaks were shown, locating at 2θ = 38.3°, 44.5°, 64.65°and 77.5°, which were indexed to the reflections (111), (200), (220) and (311) crystal planes of pure silver with face centered cubic symmetry (JCPDS file No.04-0783). The diffraction peaks are clearly enlarged as compared with bulk silver, indicating the formation of AgNPs.

The sizes of the AgNPs (Dp) is calculated by using Scherrer’s formula (4) as follows:

$$D_p = \frac{0.9 \lambda}{\beta \cos \theta}$$

(1)

Where \(\beta\) is the full width at half maximum (radians), \(\lambda\) is the wavelength in (nm) of employed radiation, \(\theta\) is the Bragg diffraction angle in degree and (0.9) is the shape factor value. The size of the silver nanoparticles was calculated for dominate plane of (111), it is determined as 24.3 nm. The size of the silver nanoparticles which were determined from the XRD data are smaller than that estimated from the SEM images, this can be attributed to the SEM images indicate the size of the aggregated nanoparticles (4).
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Figure 5. The XRD spectrum of AgNPs

Atomic Force Microscopy (AFM) was used to investigate the dispersion and aggregation of AgNPs as well as their sorption, size, shape, and structure as shown in (fig. 6). The size of the particles measured using AFM was between (40nm-140nm) and the average of the size was 67.15 nm. (Fig. 7) shows 2D and 3D picture for the particles.

Figure 6. The AFM spectrum of AgNPs
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Figure 7. shows: A: 2D picture for AgNPs, B: 3D picture for AgNPs

The stability of nanoparticles was studied using zeta potentials measurements device, surface zeta potential value was found to be (-8.01mV) as shown in (fig.8). This negative sign in the result indicated the stability of AgNPs and it showed that there was no agglomeration in these biosynthesized nanoparticles (15).

Figure 8. Shows spectrum of zeta potential

In the current study, we had also used the Particle size analysis to determine the size of the AgNPs formed. The distribution curve of the particle size of synthesized AgNPs is shown in (fig.9). The measurement showed various sizes of the particles ranging from 30.9 nm to 168.4 nm. The average of particle size was 82.4 nm. The difference between the largest measured size and the lowest measured size was 137.5 nm which was used in the distribution curve.
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Figure 9. Shows the distribution curve of the particle size of synthesized AgNPs

Figure 10. Shows spectrum of particle size analysis

In this study it was clear that only 25 isolates belongs to Pseudomonas aeruginosa bacterial. After diagnosis using biochemical tests as shown in the table (1).

Table 1. The biochemical tests of Pseudomonas aeruginosa

| Test                        | Result |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| Oxidase                     | +      |
| Catalase                    | +      |
| Indole test                 | -      |
| Methyl Red                  | -      |
| Voges – Proskauer           | -      |
| Citrate Utilization         | +      |
| Urease test                 | -      |
| Nitrate Reduction           | +      |
| Growth at 42ºc              | +      |
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The results showed that the highest inhibition area was at concentration were (312.5µg/ml) 14 isolates of P.aeruginosa with 6 resistive isolates as shown in table (2). It appeared that the increase in the concentration of the AgNPs causes the enlargement of the diameter for the inhibited growth zone of the P.aeruginosa. The reason may be the inhibited dispersion of solid nanoparticles. The diameter of the inhibited growth zone depends on the concentrations of AgNPs used (11).

Table 2. Antibacterial activity values of AgNPs for 25 isolates of Pseudomonas aeruginosa

| Isolate no. | 5000 µg/ml | 2500 µg/ml | 1250 µg/ml | 625 µg/ml | 312.5 µg/ml | 156.25 µg/ml | 78.125 µg/ml | 39.06 µg/ml |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| P.a (1)     | 14          | 13          | 12          | 11        | 9           | -            | -            | -           |
| P.a (2)     | 14          | 11          | -           | -         | -           | -            | -            | -           |
| P.a (3)     | 14          | 12          | 10          | -         | -           | -            | -            | -           |
| P.a (4)     | 15          | 14          | 13          | 12        | 10          | -            | -            | -           |
| P.a (5)     | -           | -           | -           | -         | -           | -            | -            | -           |
| P.a (6)     | -           | -           | -           | -         | -           | -            | -            | -           |
| P.a (7)     | -           | -           | -           | -         | -           | -            | -            | -           |
| P.a (8)     | 16          | 13          | 12          | 11        | 10          | 9            | -            | -           |
| P.a (9)     | 14          | 13          | 12          | 11        | 10          | -            | -            | -           |
| P.a (10)    | 16          | 13          | 12          | 11        | 10          | -            | -            | -           |
| P.a (11)    | 14          | 13          | 12          | 11        | 10          | -            | -            | -           |
| P.a (12)    | -           | -           | -           | -         | -           | -            | -            | -           |
| P.a (13)    | 14          | 13          | 11          | -         | -           | -            | -            | -           |
| P.a (14)    | 16          | 15          | 14          | 13        | 11          | 9            | -            | -           |
| P.a (15)    | -           | -           | -           | -         | -           | -            | -            | -           |
| P.a (16)    | 17          | 16          | 14          | 13        | 12          | 9            | -            | -           |
| P.a (17)    | 16          | 15          | 14          | 13        | 11          | 9            | -            | -           |
| P.a (18)    | 16          | 15          | 14          | 13        | 10          | -            | -            | -           |
| P.a (19)    | 15          | 14          | 13          | 11        | 9           | -            | -            | -           |
| P.a (20)    | 14          | 11          | -           | -         | -           | -            | -            | -           |
| P.a (21)    | -           | -           | -           | -         | -           | -            | -            | -           |
| P.a (22)    | 15          | 14          | 13          | 12        | 10          | -            | -            | -           |
| P.a (23)    | 16          | 15          | 14          | 12        | 10          | -            | -            | -           |
| P.a (24)    | 16          | 15          | 14          | 13        | 11          | -            | -            | -           |
| P.a (25)    | 14          | 12          | -           | -         | -           | -            | -            | -           |

* p.a = Pseudomonas aeruginosa
** - = there is no inhibition
CONCLUSION

In this study we had found that Rosmarinus officinalis Leaf extract considered as a good natural source for the biosynthesis of silver nanoparticles (AgNPs). These nanoparticles had a good and effective antibacterial activity against Pseudomonas aeruginosa isolated from wounds. It is also economical and environment friendly.

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The study aimed to investigate the process of biosynthesis, characterization, and antibacterial activity of silver nanoparticles against Pseudomonas aeruginosa, isolated from wounds in some Baghdad hospitals.

The extraction process of Rosmarinus officinalis leaves was conducted using a solvent extraction method. The resulting dark green solution was found to be suitable for the synthesis of silver nanoparticles. The UV-Visible Spectrophotometer was used to measure the absorbance spectrum of the resulting nanoparticles, with a maximum absorbance wavelength ($\lambda_{max}$) of 465 nm, indicating the presence of silver nanoparticles. The FTIR spectrum showed characteristic peaks of silver nanoparticles, confirming their presence.

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM) was used to observe the morphology of the nanoparticles, revealing a spherical shape with a diameter of approximately 20-50 nm. X-ray Diffraction (XRD) analysis confirmed the crystalline nature of the nanoparticles, with peaks at 24.3° and 48.7°, corresponding to the (111) and (220) crystal planes of silver.

Antibacterial activity was assessed using the Kirby-Bauer disc diffusion method. The silver nanoparticles showed a clear zone of inhibition around the disc, indicating their antibacterial activity against Pseudomonas aeruginosa.

The SEM images revealed a rough surface on the nanoparticles, which could be due to the texture of the bacterial cell wall. The XRD analysis showed peaks corresponding to the crystal structure of silver, confirming the presence of silver nanoparticles.

The results suggest that silver nanoparticles have potential for use as an antibacterial agent in wound treatments, with further research needed to optimize their formulation and delivery methods.