Structural damage of chicken red blood cells exposed to platinum nanoparticles and cisplatin

Kutwin, Marta; Sawosz, Ewa; Jaworski, Sawomir; Kurantowicz, Natalia; Strojny, Barbara; Chwalibog, André

Published in: Nanoscale Research Letters

DOI: 10.1186/1556-276X-9-257

Publication date: 2014

Document version Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Citation for published version (APA): Kutwin, M., Sawosz, E., Jaworski, S., Kurantowicz, N., Strojny, B., & Chwalibog, A. (2014). Structural damage of chicken red blood cells exposed to platinum nanoparticles and cisplatin. Nanoscale Research Letters, 9, [257]. https://doi.org/10.1186/1556-276X-9-257
Structural damage of chicken red blood cells exposed to platinum nanoparticles and cisplatin

Marta Kutwin¹, Ewa Sawosz¹, Sławomir Jaworski¹, Natalia Kurantowicz¹, Barbara Strojny¹ and André Chwalibog²*

Abstract

Side effects and resistance of cancer cells to cisplatin are major drawbacks to its application, and recently, the possibility of replacing cisplatin with nanocompounds has been considered. Most chemotherapeutic agents are administered intravenously, and comparisons between the interactions of platinum nanoparticles (NP-Pt) and cisplatin with blood compartments are important for future applications. This study investigated structural damage, cell membrane deformation and haemolysis of chicken embryo red blood cells (RBC) after treatment with cisplatin and NP-Pt. Cisplatin (4 μg/ml) and NP-Pt (2,6 μg/ml), when incubated with chicken embryo RBC, were detrimental to cell structure and induced haemolysis. The level of haemolytic injury was increased after cisplatin and NP-Pt treatments compared to the control group. Treatment with cisplatin caused structural damage to cell membranes and the appearance of keratocytes, while NP-Pt caused cell membrane deformations (discoid shape of cells was lost) and the formation of knizocytes and echinocytes. This work demonstrated that NP-Pt have potential applications in anticancer therapy, but potential toxic side effects must be explored in future preclinical research.

Keywords: Platinum nanoparticles; Cisplatin; Haemolysis; Red blood cells; Cancer therapy

Background

Cisplatin (cis-diamineplatinum(II) dichloride) is a chemotherapeutic drug widely used against various solid tumours and testicular cancer, which has dose-dependent side effects like nephrotoxicity, emetogenesis, ototoxicity, neurotoxicity and haemolysis [1-3]. Repeated intravenous administration of platinum salts may induce haemolytic anaemia by interfering with iron metabolism, decreasing the level of red blood cell precursors and creating an immune-complex between red blood cells (RBC) and cisplatin [4,5]. Moreover, side effects, including haemolytic properties, and resistance of cancer cells to cisplatin are major drawbacks to its application in cancer therapy, and recently, the possibility of replacing platinum salts with nanocompounds has been considered [6-8]. Due to their size (<25 nm), large surface to mass ratio, quantum properties, catalytic activity and high reactivity, platinum nanoparticles (NP-Pt) have unique physicochemical properties and can exert specific effects on a living organism. The bioavailability of NP-Pt colloids depends on particle size, and small NP-Pt (<4 nm) were more barcetio-toxic [9], induced the human cell genotoxic stress (5 to 8 nm) [10] and activated the cell death by apoptosis [11] compared to the bigger nanoparticles (>100 nm) [12,13]. NP-Pt can cause cell cycle arrest and activate apoptosis through the release of Pt²⁺ ions during H₂O₂ generation due to the low pH in endosomes [14], and DNA double-strand breaks are caused by Pt²⁺ ions when NP-Pt are incubated with human colon carcinoma cells (HT29) [15]. However, the consequences of in vivo NP-Pt administration are not well documented and must be elucidated in future research [9].

Haemolytic properties and interactions with RBC are main parameters for the biocompatibility of nanoparticles [5,16]. The bloodstream is the main translocation path for glucose, oxygen and carbon dioxide, as well as nanoparticles. Incubation of silver (Ag), gold (Au) and Pt nanoparticles with human RBC demonstrated that Au and Pt nanoparticles are non-haemolytic but cause haemagglutination, while Ag nanoparticles are haemolytic [14]. In vitro haemocompatibility studies indicated that biosynthesised Pt nanoparticles had negligible haemolytic effects [17], while Ashranani et al. reported that Pt and Au nanoparticles (compared to Ag) were more haemocompatible and
did not show the agglutination of erythrocyte and also no precipitation properties [14]. On the other hand, Ag nanoparticles did not cause significant changes in micronucleated polychromic erythrocytes, and no dose-dependent differences in haemolysis were observed [3]. Recent studies have demonstrated the haemolytic properties of other nanoparticles like polystyrene [18], PLGA [4], TiO$_2$ [19] and mesoporous silica [20].

This study evaluated the hypothesis that NP-Pt may affect the morphology of chicken embryo RBC, causing haemolysis and structural damage comparable to Pt salt. The objective of this preliminary work was to compare the biocompatibility of NP-Pt and cisplatin with chicken embryo RBC.

**Methods**

**Hydrocolloids**

NP-Pt hydrocolloid was obtained from Nano-koloid (Warsaw, Poland), which was produced by a patented electric non-explosive method (Polish patent 380649) from high-purity metal (99.9999%) and high-purity deionized water, and diluted to 2.6 µg/ml in phosphate buffered saline (PBS: pH 7.2; P4417, Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO, USA).

The morphology of NP-Pt was inspected using a JEOL JEM-1220 transmission electron microscope (TEM, JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan) at 80 KeV equipped with a Morada 11 megapixel camera (Olympus Corporation, Tokyo, Japan) (Figure 1). Triplicate samples of NP-Pt were prepared for TEM by placing droplets of the hydrocolloid onto Formvar-coated copper grids (Agar Scientific Ltd., Stansted, UK) and air drying before TEM imaging (Figure 1). The zeta potential of the NP-Pt hydrocolloid was measured by the electrophoretic light-scattering method using a Zetasizer Nano-ZS90 (Malvern, Worcestershire, UK).

**Cisplatin**

Cisplatin (cis-diammineplatinum(II) dichloride) was obtained from Sigma (479306; Sigma, St. Louis, MO, USA) and diluted to 4 µg/ml in PBS immediately before use. The final concentration of cisplatin hydrocolloid was 4 µg/ml of cisplatin, because of the potential and the best efficiency (67% of mice tumour free after 4 µg/ml cisplatin treatment) for intratumoural injection [1]. The concentration of NP-Pt (2.6 µg/ml) was equal to the atomic mass of Pt atoms in cisplatin.

**Embryo model**

Fertilized eggs ($n = 20$; 56 ± 2.2 g) from Ross Line hens were obtained from a commercial hatchery, stored at 12°C for 4 days and incubated under standard conditions for an additional 19 days (temperature 37.5°C, 60% humidity, turning once per hour). On day 20, the embryos were sacrificed by decapitation and blood samples (one sample from each embryo) collected from the jugular vein. Blood samples were divided into four groups: control untreated (0% haemolysis), positive control treated with 3% hydrogen peroxide (100% haemolysis), 4 µg/ml cisplatin [1] and 2.6 µg/ml NP-Pt hydrocolloid diluted in PBS. The samples were placed in Vacutainer tubes (BD Inc., Franklin Lakes, NJ, USA) containing ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA), gently mixed on a rotary shaker and incubated for 3 h at 37°C. The incubation time was based on the research publications [14,21] and an adjustment of the standard ASTM F-756-00 [22].

All measurements were performed in three repetitions (each experimental group in triplicate).

**Blood cell morphology**

**Light microscopy**

 Peripheral blood smears were made using 5 µl of blood, air-dried and stained by May-Grünwald-Giemsa. Peripheral blood smears were examined at ×1,000 magnification (Leica DM750, Leica Microsystems, Nussloch, Germany).

**Scanning electron microscopy**

Scanning electron microscopy (SEM) analysis of RBC was performed by means of an FEI Quanta 200 electron microscope (FEI Co., Hillsboro, OR, USA). The blood samples were rinsed in PBS (0.01 M, pH 7.2; P4417, Sigma) then fixed in 2.5% glutaraldehyde (GS5882, Sigma) for 1 h, washed twice in 0.1 M PBS (0.01 M, pH 7.2; P4417, Sigma) and placed on aluminium SEM stubs. The SEM stubs were kept in a moist atmosphere for 1 h, washed in PBS (0.01 M, pH 7.2; P4417, Sigma), post-fixed in 1% osmium tetroxide (75632, Sigma) for 1 h, rinsed in distilled water and dehydrated in graded ethanols. After critical point drying with liquid CO$_2$ in a
vacuum apparatus (Polaron CPD 7501, Quorum Technologies, Newhaven, East Sussex, UK) and coating with gold-palladium (JEE-4C, JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan), the samples were inspected by SEM at 1 KeV (FEI Quanta 200).

**Haemolytic assay**
The haemolysis assay was performed with chicken whole blood. After incubation, the tubes containing blood samples from the groups - control untreated (0% haemolysis), positive control treated with 3% hydrogen peroxide (100% haemolysis), 4 μg/ml cisplatin [1] and 2.6 μg/ml NP-Pt hydrocolloid - were centrifuged at 1,200 rpm (Sorvall ST 16, Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, USA) for 10 min to collect the plasma. The supernatant was analysed for the presence of the haemoglobin at 540 nm (Infinite M200, Tecan, Durham, NC, USA) and percent haemolysis calculated according to Shiny et al. [17].

**Statistical analysis**
The data was evaluated by mono-factorial analysis of variance (ANOVA). The differences between groups were tested by the multiple-range Tukey test using Statgraphic Centurion ver. XV (Statpoint Technologies, Warrenton, VO, USA). Differences with $P < 0.05$ were considered significant.

**Results**

**Nanoparticles**
TEM observation of NP-Pt did show that NP-Pt had regular spherical shape ranging from 2 to 19 nm, and also the aggregation of nanoparticles was not observed (Figure 1). The mean zeta potential of the NP-Pt was $-9.6$ mV.

**Evaluation of morphological changes by microscopy**
Evaluation of RBC by light microscopy demonstrated that NP-Pt and cisplatin had harmful effects on morphology. The cell membranes were damaged, the shape of cells was deformed and cells lost their biconcavity. Observation also showed an increasing level of swollen cells as a result of membrane damage after osmotic pressure on red blood cells (Figure 2). Exposure of RBC to NP-Pt and cisplatin caused haemagglutination. Scanning electron microscopy revealed ruffled cells, membrane deformations and loss of the discoid shape of RBC treated with NP-Pt. After cisplatin treatment, keratocytes were seen (Figure 3B), indicating that cisplatin had haemolytic properties. After NP-Pt treatment (Figure 3C), there were structural changes in the RBC, and knizocytes were also seen. SEM analysis of RBC treated with NP-Pt also showed early echinocytes with blebs and protuberances on their surfaces.

**Haemolysis**
NP-Pt and cisplatin were haemolytic compared to the control group (Figure 4), and the percent haemolysis was higher for NP-Pt (23%) than for cisplatin (14%). The lack of haemolysis in the control group and almost 100% haemolysis in the positive control group (treated with 3% hydrogen peroxide) confirmed the accuracy of the assay.

**Discussion**
Chicken embryo RBC were exposed to NP-Pt and the antineoplastic drug cisplatin, which allowed haemocompatibility to be evaluated in a short time, as well as serving as a fast, precise model for evaluating toxicity [11,23,24]. It has been demonstrated that NP-Pt had harmful effects on *in vivo* mice model, causing kidney injury after intravenous administration [25] and inflammatory responses after intratracheal instillation [26]. Furthermore, NP-Pt had harmful effect on *in ovo* model, causing mitochondria degradation at chicken embryo brain tissue ultrastructure, activation of apoptosis and reduced proliferation rate of the brain cells [11]. In the present research, NP-Pt at 2.6 μg/ml incubated with whole chicken blood affected RBC morphology and haemocompatibility status.
Comparing the effects of NP-Pt and cisplatin on RBC structures, there were substantial differences between NP-Pt and cisplatin. The RBC treated with NP-Pt lost their biconcavity and showed corrugations and damage to cell membranes. The analysis of peripheral blood smears from the NP-Pt group revealed the presence of ghost cells, which are the result of cell lysis and release of haemoglobin from RBC [27]. On the other hand, other studies did not show any harmful effect on human RBC structure [21].

The haemolytic properties of Pt drugs during chemotherapy are also responsible for higher risks of blood diseases like anaemia [28]. Comparing the results of this study with previous reports on the haemocompatibility of cisplatin confirmed the haemolytic activity of Pt-based drugs as one of the main side effects causing haemolytic anaemia and also bone marrow diseases and haemolysis [2,29]. The present results demonstrated that both cisplatin and NP-Pt induced haemolysis compared to the control group. Evaluation of haemocompatibility of nanoparticles should be considered as one of the factors of assessing systemic toxicity. Haemolytic properties of the nanoparticles can be determined by spectrophotometric measurement (540 nm) and based on adjustments of the ASTM F-756-00 standard [22]. Human RBC have different morphology than chicken RBC, with the primary difference being that chicken RBC have a nucleus containing genetic material. The mechanism of action for platinum-containing anticancer drug utilizes the presence of DNA to induce cancer cell death by apoptosis [30,31]. Regarding the antineoplastic properties of cisplatin, it is important to emphasize that the intravenous administration of cisplatin has severe side effect on blood compartments. The present results confirmed that cisplatin and NP-Pt not only induced haemolysis but also caused the structural damage of RBC. Haemolytic as well as toxic properties of nanoparticles can be reduced by increasing the particle size [12] or by excluding intravenous administration.

Haemocompatibility studies of Pt, Au and Ag nanoparticles demonstrated that only Ag has harmful effects on the structure of human RBC and significantly affected haemolytic status [14]. On the other hand, NP-Pt were described as haemocompatible materials [21]. Furthermore,

![Figure 3 Visualization of RBC morphology by scanning electron microscopy. (A) Control (without treatment), (B) cisplatin and (C) NP-Pt. Asterisk, keratocyte; k, knizocyte; e, echinocyte. Scale bar, 10 μm.](image1)

![Figure 4 Haemolysis of RBC. Bars with different superscripts denote a statistically significant difference between the control group (untreated) and groups treated with the following: 3% hydrogen peroxide (positive control), cisplatin (4 μg/ml) or NP-Pt (2.6 μg/ml). Error bars are standard error of the mean. The bars with different letters indicate significant differences, P < 0.05.](image2)
interactions between NP-Pt and human RBC indicate that NP-Pt have minor effects on cell membrane structure but still cause haemolysis [17]. The present results revealed that cisplatin treatment led to formation of keratocytes, indicating that cisplatin was haemolytic, which may be due to mechanical fragility or oxidant injury to RBC [32]. The results also showed that NP-Pt treatment caused the damage of RBC and also appearance of knizocytes. Knizocytes are RBC with multiple concavities due to indentations of the cell membrane, observed in newborn mammals as a young type of RBC with cell membrane deformations, and also their appearance indicates an impaired microcirculation or impaired oxygen-carrying capacity [33] SEM analysis revealed that after NP-Pt treatment, early echinocytes were observed which may indicate harmful effects to RBC and a side effect often associated with haemolytic anaemia [32,33]. The present results indicated that the percent haemolysis after NP-Pt treatment was higher compared to cisplatin treatment. These finding may indicate that NP-Pt were toxic to RBC by direct interactions with 2.4 pg of genetic material in chicken RBC [34]. Furthermore, chicken nuclear DNA has a 42% to 43% guanine and cytosine base-pair content [35] which is acted upon by cisplatin, where guanine bases (especially the N7 sites) are preferred sites for Pt binding to DNA [36]. Damage of RBC under the influence of NP-Pt probably was related to the ability to arrest the cell cycle and also the cytotoxicity of NP-Pt [6,10,37]. These mechanisms may be responsible for the pathomorphological changes in chicken RBC and also for a high occurrence of haemolysis.

Conclusions
NP-Pt and cisplatin incubated with chicken embryo RBC caused damage to the structure of RBC and induced haemolysis. Treatment with cisplatin caused structural damage to cell membranes and the appearance of keratocytes, while NP-Pt caused cell membrane deformation, loss of the discoid shape and the formation of knizocytes and echinocytes. These preliminary results indicated that NP-Pt could be utilized for cancer therapy instead of cisplatin, but potential side effects must be evaluated in future research.

Abbreviations
ANOVA: analysis of variance; cisplatin: cis-dichlorodiammineplatinum(II); EDTA: ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid; NP-Pt: nanoparticles of platinum; PBS: phosphate buffered saline; RBC: Red blood cells; SEM: scanning electron microscope; TEM: transmission electron microscope.

Competing interests
The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Authors’ contributions
MK carried out RBC studies and drafted the manuscript. ES conceived the study and helped draft the manuscript. SJ participated in the design of the experiment. NK participated in the statistical analysis. BS participated in the SEM analysis. AC participated in the design and coordination and helped draft the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Authors’ information
MK, SJ, NK and BS are PhD students at the Warsaw University of Life Sciences (WULS). ES is a PhD, DSc, professor and head of department at WULS. AC is a DSc, professor and head of division at the University of Copenhagen (UC).

Acknowledgements
This work was supported by grant NCN 2013/09/N/NZ9/01895. This report is part of Marta Kutwin’s PhD thesis.

Author details
1Division of Biotechnology and Biochemistry of Nutrition, Faculty of Animal Science, Warsaw University of Life Science, Warsaw 02-786, Poland.
2Department of Veterinary Clinical and Animal Sciences, University of Copenhagen, Groenegaardsvej 3, Frederiksberg, Copenhagen 1870, Denmark.

Received: 24 March 2014 Accepted: 10 May 2014
Published: 23 May 2014

References
1. Cernazar M, Milacic R, Mklavcic D, Dolzan V, Sersa G. Intratumoral cisplatin administration in electrochemotherapy: antitumor effectiveness, sequence dependence and platinum content. Anticancer Drugs 1998, 9:525–530.
2. Getaz EP, Beckley S, Fitzpatrick J, Dozier A. Cisplatin-induced hemolysis. N Engl J Med 1980, 302:334–335.
3. Kim YS, Kim JS, Cho HS, Rha DS, Kim JM, Park JD, Choi BS, Lim R, Chang HK, Chung YH, Kwon IH, Jeong J, Han BS, Yu U. Twenty-eight-day oral toxicity, genotoxicity, and gender-related tissue distribution of silver nanoparticles in Sprague-Dawley rats. Inhal Toxicol 2008, 20(6):575–583.
4. Kim D, El-Shall H, Dennis O, Money T. Interaction of PLGA nanoparticles with human blood constituents. Colloids Surf B Biointerfaces 2005, 40:83–91.
5. Mocan T. Hemolysis as expression of nanoparticles-induced cytotoxicity in red blood cells. Biomaterials 2013, 1:7–12.
6. Mironova T, Simon M, Rafalovich MH, Rigas B. Platinum folate nanoparticles toxicity: cancer vs normal cells. Toxicol In Vitro 2013, 27:882–889.
7. Mohammad H, Abedi A, Alkarakheh A, Mokhtari MI, Shahrarmadi HE, Mehrabi MR, Javadian S, Chiani M: Evaluation of synthesized platinum nanoparticles on the MCF-7 and Hepg-2 cancer cell lines. International Nano Letters 2013, 3:28.
8. Palmiisio I, Agraharkar M, Kaplan AA: Successful treatment of cisplatin-induced hemolytic uremic syndrome with therapeutic plasma exchange. Am J Kidney Dis 1998, 32:314–317.
9. Gopal J, Hasan N, Manikandan M, Wu HF: Bacterial toxicity/compatibility of platinum nanospheres, nanocuboids and nanoflowers. Sci Rep 2013, 3:1260.
10. Asharani PV, Xinyi N, Hande MP, Vallyaveettil S. DNA damage and p33-mediated growth arrest in human cells treated with platinum nanoparticles. Nanomedicine 2010, 5:51–64.
11. Prasek M, Sawosz E, Jaworski S, Grodzik M, Ostażewska T, Karnaszewski M, Wierzbicki M, Chwałboń A: Influence of nanoparticles of platinum on chicken embryo development and brain morphology. Nanoscale Res Lett 2013, 8:251.
12. Artelt S, Creutzenberg O, Kock H, Levens K, Nachtigall D, Heinrich U, Ruhle T, Schögl R. Bioavailability of fine dispersed platinum as emitted from automotive catalytic converters: a model study. Sci Total Environ 1999, 228:219–242.
13. Xia XR, Monteiro-Riviere NA, Riviere JE: An index for characterization of nanomaterials in biological systems. Nat Nanotechnol 2010, 5:671–675.
14. Asharani PV, Sethu S, Vadukumpully S, Zhong S, Lim CT, Hande MP, Vallyaveettil S: Investigations on the structural damage in human erythrocytes exposed to silver, gold, and platinum nanoparticles. Adv Funct Mater 2010, 20:1233–1242.
15. Gehrke H, Pelka J, Hartinger CG, Blank H, Beimund F, Schneider R, Genthens D, Bistse S, Crone M, Tiark M, Marko D. Platinum nanoparticles and their
cellular uptake and DNA platination at non-cytotoxic concentrations. Arch Toxicol 2011, 85:799–812.

16. Dobrovolskaia MA, Clogston JD, Neun BW, Hall JB, Patri AK, McNeil SE: Method for analysis of nanoparticle hemolytic properties in vitro. Nano Lett 2008, 8:2180–2187.

17. Shiny PJ, Mukherjee A, Chandrasekaran N: Haemocompatibility assessment of synthesised platinum nanoparticles and its implication in biology. BioProcess Bioeng 2014, 37:9911–9997.

18. Barshein G, Arbell D, Yedgar S: Hemolytic effect of polymeric nanoparticles: role of albumin. IEEE Trans Nanobioscience 2011, 10:259–261.

19. Ghosh M, Chakraborty A, Mukherjee A: Cytotoxic, genotoxic and the hemolytic effect of titanium dioxide (TiO2) nanoparticles on human erythrocyte and lymphocyte cell in vitro. J Agri Toxicol 2013, 33:1097–1110.

20. Yildirim A, Ozgur E, Bayindir M: Impact of mesoporous silica nanoparticle surface functionality on hemolytic activity, thrombogenicity and non-specific protein adsorption. J Mater Chem B 2013, 1(4):1909–1920.

21. Clark A, Zhu A, Sun K, Petty HR: Cerium oxide and platinum nanoparticles protect cells from oxidant-mediated apoptosis. J Nanopart Res 2011, 13(10):5547–5555.

22. Standard practice for assessment of hemolytic properties of materials. [http://www.astm.org].

23. Ribatti D: Chicken chorioallantoic membrane angiogenesis model. Methods Mol Biol 2012, 843:47–57.

24. Rashidi H, Sottile V: The chick embryo: hatching a model for contemporary biomedical research. Bioessays 2009, 31:459–465.

25. Yamagishi Y, Watari A, Hayata Y, Li X, Kondoh M, Yoshioka Y, Tsutsumi Y, Yagi K: Acute and chronic nephrotoxicity of platinum nanoparticles in mice. Nanoscale Res Lett 2013, 8:395.

26. Park EJ, Kim H, Kim Y, Park K: Intratracheal instillation of platinum nanoparticles may induce inflammatory responses in mice. Arch Pharm Res 2010, 33:727–735.

27. Dodge JT, Mitchell C, Hanahan DI: The preparation and chemical characteristics of hemoglobin-free ghosts of human erythrocytes. Arch Biochem Biophys 1963, 100(1):119–130.

28. Rajeswaran A, Trojan A, Burnand B, Giannelli M: Efficacy and side effects of cisplatin- and carboplatin-based doublet chemotherapeutic regimens versus non-platinum-based doublet chemotherapeutic regimens as first line treatment of metastatic non-small cell lung carcinoma: a systematic review of randomized controlled trials. Lung Cancer 2008, 59:1–11.

29. Maloisel F, Kurtz JE, Andres E, Gorodetsky C, Dufour P, Oberling F: Platin salts-induced hemolytic anemia: cisplatin- and the first case of carboplatin-induced hemolysis. Anticancer Drugs 1995, 6:324–326.

30. McWhirney SR, Goldberg RM, McLeod HL: Platinum neurotoxicity pharmacogenomics. Mol Cancer Ther 2009, 8:10–16.

31. Meek H, Tounkiet O, Spätz A, Cemazar M, Kebir F, Mir L: In vivo evolution of tumour cells after the generation of double-strand DNA breaks. Br J Cancer 2003, 88:1763–1771.

32. Weiss DJ, Kristensen A, Papenfuss N: Quantitative evaluation of irregularly spiculated red blood cells in the dog. Vet Clin Pathol 1993, 22:117–121.

33. Swanepoel AC, Pretorius E: Scanning electron microscopy analysis of erythrocytes in thromboembolic ischemic stroke. Int J Lab Hematol 2012, 34:185–191.

34. Clowes AW, Reidy MA, Clowes MM: Kinetics of cellular proliferation after arterial injury. I. Smooth muscle growth in absence of endothelium. Lab Invest 1983, 49:257–273.

35. Marmur J, Doby P: Determination of the base composition of deoxyribonucleic acid from its thermal denaturation temperature. J Mol Biol 1962, 61:109–118.

36. Jung Y, Lippard SJ: Direct cellular responses to platinum-induced DNA damage. Chem Rev 2007, 107:1587–1607.

37. Porcel E, Liehn S, Remita H, Usami N, Kobayashi K, Furusawa Y, Le Sech C, Lacombe S: Platinum nanoparticles: a promising material for future cancer therapy? Nanotechnology 2010, 21:085103.