

Nanotechnology for the treatment of coronary in stent restenosis: a clinical perspective

Garry McDowell, 1, a, @ Mark Slevin, 2, 3 Jerzy Krupinski, 4

@ corresponding author, & equal contributor

Vascular Cell. 2011; 3(1):8 | © McDowell et al

Received: 19 July 2010 | Accepted: 18 April 2011 | Published: 18 April 2011

Vascular Cell ISSN: 2045-824X

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1186/2045-824X-3-8>

Author information

1. Faculty of Health - Edge Hill University; Ormskirk, UK
2. School of Biology, Chemistry and Health Science, John Dalton Building - Manchester Metropolitan University; Manchester, M1 5GD, USA
3. Cardiovascular Research Centre - CSIC-ICCC, Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau; Barcelona, Spain
4. Division of Cerebrovascular Diseases, Department of Neurology - Hospital Universitari Mútua de Terrassa; Barcelona, Spain

[a] garry.mcdowell@edgehill.ac.uk

Abstract

Coronary in stent restenosis remains a significant limitation to the long term efficacy of coronary artery stent placement. In this review the authors review the pathophysiology of coronary in stent restenosis, together with an overview of the current treatment modalities. The potential clinical utility of nanotechnology is also reviewed.

The first human safety trial of systemic nanoparticle paclitaxel (nab-paclitaxel) for in stent restenosis (SNAPIST-I) is discussed. The results showed no significant adverse events attributable to the nab-paclitaxel at 10 or 30 mg/m², although moderate neutropenia, sensory neuropathy and mild to moderate reversible alopecia occurred at higher doses. No major adverse cardiac events were recorded at 2 months, whilst at 6 months, 4 target lesions required revascularisation. The investigators concluded therefore that systemic nab-paclitaxel was well tolerated at a dose of <70 mg/m². To date however, no formal clinical evaluation has been reported as to the clinical utility of nab-paclitaxel, or any of the nano preparations discussed, for the suppression of coronary in stent restenosis.

1. Introduction: Overview of Nanomedicine Applications in Cardiology

Cardiovascular disease, including acute coronary syndromes and cerebrovascular events continue to be a major source of mortality and morbidity. Current medical screening and diagnosis is limited and many of the symptoms and signs of cardiovascular and cerebrovascular disease are non-specific.

Nanomedicine provides a unique opportunity to explore at a cellular or organ level the various pathophysiologies of the cardiovascular system. Nanomolecules have been used in:

Assessing and treating atherosclerosis in asymptomatic patients Coronary revascularisation Thrombolytic therapy Treatment of coronary in stent restenosis.

2. The use of Nanotechnology for the Treatment of Coronary In Stent Restenosis

There is still a significant requirement for a novel drug delivery mechanism for the treatment of coronary in stent restenosis, due to the limitations of the current modalities including late stent

thrombosis.

A nanoparticle based approach is ideal for the treatment of restenosis since targeted delivery of nanoparticles is feasible and much lower concentrations of the active drug can be used hence reducing systemic toxicity.

The size of particle however is critical in the

distribution of nanoparticles in the blood vessel wall. Westedt *et al* [1], in experiments conducted using the aorta abdominalis of New Zealand White Rabbits as a model system, report that nanoparticles of 100 and 200 nm are able to penetrate to the inner layers of the vessel wall, while 514 nm particles accumulate predominantly at the luminal surface.

Some examples of nanoparticles used in the treatment of in stent restenosis are reviewed below.

3.1 Lipid Based Nanoparticles

Liposomes are small and have a spherical shape and are formed from natural and non-toxic phospholipids and cholesterol. As liposomes are small and posses hydrophobic and hydrophilic characteristics there are ideally suited to the development of novel drug delivery systems [2]. Liposome surfaces can be modified to increase circulating half-life and conjugated to antibodies or ligands for enhanced tissue specificity.

Lipid based nanoparticles have been utilised to deliver a number of different classes of drug to the arterial endothelium.

Clodronate, a bisphosphonate, has been delivered using liposome nanoparticle of 1:3 distearoyl phosphatidylglycerol, 1, 2 distearoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine [3]. Lysosomal choldronate inhibited neointimal growth in the balloon injured rabbit carotid artery after systemic administration. Other members of the bisphosphonate class of drugs including pamidronate and alendronate have been utilised as antirestenotic agents in balloon injured rat carotid artery model [4]. It is noteworthy, however, that these experiments were performed in a carotid artery model and whether the results are relevant to coronary restenosis after PCI remains unknown.

TRM 484 consists of nanoparticles of prednisolone with high affinity to chondroitin sulphate proteoglycans and at a dose of 1 mg/kg significantly reduced neo intimal growth in atherosclerotic New Zealand White Rabbits implanted with bare metal stents [5].

3.2 Polymeric based nanoparticles

These are solid, colloidal particles of macromolecules that range in size from 10-1000 nm [6]. They are idea drug delivery systems [7], where the compound of interest may be dissolved, entrapped, adsorbed, attached or encapsulated into the nanoparticle matrix [8, 9].

Early work on polymeric nanoparticles began with a comparison of probucol delivery by polymeric and liposomal nanoparticles. Probucol has been shown to reduce restenosis after angioplasty provided oral administration is commenced one month before the procedure [10]. Klughertz and colleagues prepared ³⁵S-probucol encapsulated in either liposomal or polylactic-coglycolic acid (PLGA) nanoparticles, which were delivered using an infusion catheter

after balloon angioplasty of rabbit iliac arteries. Iliac arteries, perivascular fat and downstream tissues were harvested and the radioactivity measured from animals euthanized on day 0,3 and 7 after dosing. The results showed after delivery efficiency was superior with PLGA [10]. It should be noted however that these experiments were conducted outside the coronary circulation.

Cohen Sela *et al* reported that PLGA nanoparticles containing alendronate reduced neointimal formation and restenosis by systemic transient depletion of monocytes in hypercholesterolaemic rabbit model [11]. Further work by the same group reported incorporation of the bisphosphonates, 2-(2-Aminopyrimidino) ethyldiene-1, 1-bisphosphonic acid betaine (ISA) into PLGA based nanoparticles (ISA - NP) [12]. Intravenously administered ISA-NP resulted in a significant attenuation of restenosis by 45%, 14-days after carotid artery injury in comparison to a control group of animals treated with free ISA, buffer or blank nanoparticles. However, the effect was not preserved long-term (30-days post injury) and no significant reduction in neointimal reduction was observed. Surprisingly, significant neointimal suppression was observed following subcutaneous injection of ISA-NP [12].

Paclitaxel is a member of the taxane family of drugs. Paclitaxel loaded nanoparticles have been prepared from oil-water emulsion using biodegradable PLGA and surface modified with the cationic surfactant diocteoylmethylammonium bromide (DMAB) to enhance arterial retention. *In vivo* investigations have been performed in balloon injured rabbit carotid arteries treated with a single infusion of paclitaxel loaded nanoparticles and observed for 28 days. The results demonstrated that the inhibitory effect on intimal proliferation was dose dependant, and at 30 mg/ml nanoparticle concentration, completely inhibited intimal proliferation, leading the group to speculate that the surface modified paclitaxel loaded nanoparticles provide an effective means of inhibiting the proliferative response to vascular injury [13]. Further results by Westedt *et al* [14] substantiated these findings utilising paclitaxel-loaded nanoparticles administered locally to the wall of balloon injured rabbit iliac arteries using a porous balloon catheter. The results demonstrated a 50% reduction in neointimal area compared to the control vessels treated with blank nanoparticles.

Work from another group has demonstrated that the antiproliferative effects of paclitaxel can be significantly improved by co-administration of other agents [15]. C6-ceramide is an apoptotic signalling molecule and has been combined with paclitaxel in polymeric nanoparticles consisting of poly(ethylene oxide) - modified poly (epsilon caprolactone). Combination of paclitaxel with cereamide when administered in nanoparticle formulation significantly augmented the antiproliferative effect of either agent alone [15].

The angiotensin-converting-enzyme inhibitor,

lisinopril, has also been encapsulated in nanoparticles of PLGA for site specific delivery by catheters for the prevention of coronary in stent restenosis [16], although to date *in-vivo* studies to examine the anti-restenotic effect have not been reported.

Further work from Cohen-Sela's group [17] incorporated the antiproliferative agent mitramycin into PLGA nanoparticles using a nanoparticipation technique. Unfortunately *in-vivo* testing using a rat carotid artery model showed no inhibition of restenosis. The authors suggest that this is probably due to the short depletion period of circulating monocytes and the lack of arterial targeting.

Work to increase the bioadhesive properties of nanoparticles has been suggested to improve retention and arterial uptake of nanoparticles into the arterial wall [18]. Zou *et al* [18] prepared bioadhesive PLGA nanoparticles, encapsulating rapamycin, using different concentration of carbopol 940, however *in-vivo* results are awaited.

Recent research has focused on the administration of drugs using biodegradable polymer nanoparticles capable of prolonged drug release. Sustained drug release of dexamethasone or rapamycin from nanoparticles based on poly (ethylene oxide) and poly (d,L-lactic-co-glycolic acid) block copolymers has been investigated [19]. The investigators found that treating the nanoparticles with gelatine or albumin after drug loading resulted in a linear drug release, the rate of release being related to the amount of protein associated with the nanoparticles [19]. Release of dexamethasone and rapamycin was sustained for 17 and 50 days respectively [19].

Luderer *et al* [20] report the use of sirolimus loaded biodegradable poly (D,L lactide) nanoparticles as drug carriers to prevent restenosis following coronary angioplasty [20]. The particles showed a biphasic release pattern consisting of a short burst release of 50% w/w sirolimus followed by a longer slower release.

Moreover, Nakano *et al* [21] have succeeded in formulating a nanoparticle eluting stent. In a porcine coronary artery model, the magnitude of stent induced injury, inflammation, endothelial recovery and neointimal formation were comparable between bare metal stent and nanoparticle eluting stent. It is worthy of note, however, that the study neither presents data on restenosis rate nor the incorporation of any pharmaceutical preparations within the nanoparticles.

The tryphostins are a class of platelet derived growth factor (PDGF) receptor β tyrosine kinase blockers [22, 23]. Preclinical investigations have reported results with the experimental compound AG-1295 incorporated in polylactide nanoparticles. PLA AG-1295 nanoparticles were delivered via an infusion catheter in a balloon injured swine model, resulting in inhibition of smooth muscle cell (SMC) growth. Further, another tryphostin AGL-2043

encapsulated in PLA nanoparticles inhibited restenosis in both balloon injured rat carotid artery and stented porcine artery models [24].

3.3 Gel like Nanoparticles

Previous research [25] has demonstrated that nanosized (100 nm) hydrogel spheres made of poly (N-isopropylacrylamide) are internalised by endothelial cells and VSMC more than microspheres (1 μm), although cellular uptake was dependant on the incubation time, sphere concentration and introduced shear stress levels of the medium. In contrast, microspheres were rapidly taken up by phagocytes, especially at high concentration [25]. These findings lead the authors to suggest that hydrogel nanospheres are more effective as an intravascular delivery system in terms of vascular uptake and biocompatibility [25].

Since significant number of VSMC undergo rapid apoptosis following balloon angioplasty Reddy and colleagues [26] tested the hypothesis that preventing VSMC from apoptosis could prevent intimal hyperplasia. They used rapamycin (which has anti-apoptotic and antiproliferative actions) loaded gel nanoparticles of mean diameter 54 nm. When infused into a rat carotid artery model of vascular injury the authors report significant inhibition of hyperplasia and re-endothelialisation of the injured artery. Further, the group report inhibition of activation of caspase 3/7 enzyme systems in the treated artery, preventing VSMC from undergoing apoptosis [26].

3.4 Miscellaneous Studies

Kolodgie *et al* [27] report the preparation of paclitaxel loaded albumin based nanoparticles for the reduction of in stent neointimal growth. The research conducted in New Zealand White Rabbits receiving bilateral iliac artery stents yielded significant results. Systemic administration of albumin nanoparticles containing paclitaxel reduced neointimal growth at 28 days. A further single repeated dose was required for sustained neointimal suppression at 90 days post procedure [27].

Moreover, further preclinical work has demonstrated the utility of tissue factor targeted nanoparticles containing doxorubicin or paclitaxel to inhibit VSMC proliferation in culture [28].

In addition, intra mural delivery of $\alpha\text{V}\beta 3$ -targeted rapamycin loaded nanoparticles inhibited stenosis without delaying endothelial healing after balloon injury [29].

Chorney *et al* [30] report the use of uniform magnetic fields to control the release of paclitaxel from biocompatible magnetic nanoparticles. The research showed that magnetic treatment of cultured arterial SMC with paclitaxel loaded magnetic nanoparticles caused significant inhibition of cell growth, which was not observed under non-magnetic conditions. The authors postulate that the results demonstrate the feasibility of site specific

drug delivery by uniform field controlled targeting of magnetic nanoparticles [30].

3.5 Clinical Study

To date only one human study has been reported in the literature. In 2007, Margolis *et al* [31] presented the first human safety trial of systemic nanoparticle paclitaxel (nab-paclitaxel) for in stent restenosis I (SNAPIST-I). In this study the investigators administered systemic treatment with a 130 nm albumin nanoparticle encapsulating paclitaxel in 10, 30, 70 and 100 mg/m² intravenously after stenting of a single lesions of

≥ 3 mm in 23 patients. The results showed no significant adverse events attributable to the nab-paclitaxel at 10 or 30 mg/m², although moderate neutropenia, sensory neuropathy and mild to moderate reversible alopecia occurred at higher doses. No major adverse cardiac events were recorded at 2 months, whilst at 6 months 4 target lesions required revascularisation. The investigators concluded therefore that systemic nab-paclitaxel was well tolerated at a dose of <70 mg/m² [31]. To date however no formal clinical evaluation has been reported as to the clinical utility of nab-paclitaxel for the suppression of coronary in stent restenosis.

4. Conclusion

Much work therefore has been undertaken to evaluate the potential clinical utility of nanoparticles for the targeted and non-targeted delivery of various agents with antiproliferative and anti-restenotic actions. To date most of these investigations have been conducted either *in-vitro* or *in-vivo* utilising animal models. Many studies have also been conducted outside the coronary circulation and hence the relevance of the result to

coronary in stent restenosis can only be postulated. To date only one human study has been reported. This was a dose ranging study demonstrating that systemic nab-paclitaxel was well tolerated at a dose of <70 mg/m² [23]. No formal clinical evaluation has been reported as to the clinical utility of nab-paclitaxel for the suppression of coronary in stent restenosis.

References

1. Westedt U, Barbu-Tudoran L, Schaper AK, Kalinowski M, Alfke H, Kissel T. Deposition of nanoparticles in the arterial vessel by porous balloon catheters: localisation by confocal laser scanning microscopy and transmission electron microscopy. AAPS Pharm Sc. 2002;4:E41-.
2. Torchilin VP. Recent advances with liposomes as pharmaceutical carriers. Nat Rev Drug Discov. 2005;4:145-160.
3. Danenberg HD, Fishbein I, Gao J, Monkkonen J, Reich R, Gati I, Moerman E, Golomb G. Macrophage depletion by clodronate containing liposomes reduces neointimal formation after balloon injury in rats and rabbits. Circulation. 2002;106:599-605.
4. Danenberg HD, Fishbein I, Epstein H, Waltenberger J, Moerman E, Monkkonen J, Gao J, Gathi I, Reich R, Golomb G. Systemic depletion of macrophages by liposomal bisphosphonate reduces neointimal formation following balloon injury in rat carotid artery. J Cardiovasc Pharmacology. 2003;42:671-9.
5. Joner M, Morimoto K, Kasukawa H, Steigerwald K, Men S, Natazawa G, John MC, Finn AV, Acampado E, Kolodgie FD, Gold HK, Virman R. Site specific targeting of nanoparticle prednisolone reduces in stent restenosis in a rabbit model of established atheroma. Arterioscler Thromb Vasc Biol. 2008;28:1960-6.
6. Patel D, Bailey SR. Nanotechnology in cardiovascular medicine. Cath Cardiovasc Interv. 2007;69:643-54.
7. Nakanishi T, Fukushima S, Okamoto K, Suzuki M, Matsumura Y, Yokoyama M, Okano T, Sakurai Y, Kataoka K. Development of the polymer micelle carrier system for doxorubicin. J Control Release. 2001;74:295-302.
8. Torchilin VP. Targeted polymeric micelles for delivery of poorly soluble drugs. Cell Mol Life Sci. 2004;61:2549-59.
9. Torchilin VP. Structure and design of polymeric surfactant based drug delivery systems. J Control Release. 2001;73:137-72.
10. Klugherz BD, Meneveau N, Chen W, Wade-Whittaker F, Papandreou G, Levy R, Wilensky RL. Sustained intramural retention and regional redistribution following local vascular delivery of polylactic-coglycolic acid and liposomal nanoparticle formulations containing probucol. J Cardiovasc Pharmacol Ther. 1999;4:167-174.
11. Cohen-Sela E, Rosenzweig O, Gao J, Epstein H, Gati I, Reich R, Danenberg HD, Golomb G. Alendronate loaded nanoparticles deplete monocytes and attenuate restenosis. J Control Release. 2006;113:23-30.
12. Cohen-Sela E, Dangoor D, Epstein H, Gati I, Danenberg HD, Golomb G, Gao J. Nanospheres of a bisphosphonate attenuate intimal hyperplasia. J Nanosci Nanotechnol. 2006;6:3226-34.
13. Mei L, Song CX, Jin X, Che YZ, Jin Z, Sun HF. Surface modified paclitaxel loaded nanoparticles as local delivery system for the prevention of vessel restenosis. Yao Xue Xue Bao. 2007;42:81-6.
14. Westedt U, Kalinowski M, Wittmer M, Merdan T, Unger F, Fuchs J, Schaller S, Bakowsky U, Kissel T.

- Poly (vinyl alcohol)-graft-poly (lactide-co-glycolide) nanoparticles for local delivery of paclitaxel for restenosis treatment. *J Control Release.* 2007;119:41-51.
15. Deshpande D, Devalapally H, Amiji M. Enhancement in anti-proliferative effects of paclitaxel in aortic smooth muscle cells upon co-administration with ceramide using biodegradable polymeric nanoparticles. *Pharm Res.* 2008;25:1936-47.
16. Varshosaz J, Soheili M. Production and in vitro characterization of lisinopril loaded nanoparticles for the treatment of restenosis in stented coronary arteries. *J Microencapsul.* 2008;25:478-86.
17. Cohen-Sela E, Teitelboim S, Chorny M, Koroukhov N, Danenberg HD, Gao J, Golomb G. Single and double emulsion manufacturing techniques of an amphiphilic drug in PLGA nanoparticles: formulations of mithramycin and bioactivity. *J Pharm Sci.* 2009;98:452-62.
18. Zou W, Cao G, Xi Y, Zhang N. New approach for local delivery of rapamycin by bioadhesive PLGA-carbopol nanoparticles. *Drug Deliv.* 2009;16:15-23.
19. Zweers ML, Engbers GH, Grijpma DW, Feijen J. Release of anti-restenosis drugs from poly(ethylene oxide)-poly(DL-lactic-co-glycolic acid) nanoparticles. *J Control Release.* 2006;114:317-24.
20. Luderer F, Lobler M, Rohm HW, Gocke C, Kunna K, Kock K, Kroemer HK, Westschies W, Shmitz KP, Sternberg K. Biodegradable sirolimus loaded poly(lactide) nanoparticles as drug delivery systems for the prevention of in-stent restenosis in coronary stent application. *J Biomater Appl.* 2010.
21. Nakano K, Egashira K, Masuda S, Funakoshi K, Zhao G, Kimura S, Matoba T, Sueishi K, Endo Y, Kawashima Y, Hara K, Tsujimoto H, Tominaga R, Sunagawa K. Formulation of nanoparticle eluting stents by a cationic electrodeposition coating technology: efficient nano-drug delivery via bioabsorbable polymeric nanoparticle eluting stents in porcine coronary arteries. *JACC Cardiovasc Interv.* 2009;2:277-83.
22. Fishbein I, Chorny M, Robinovich L, Banai S, Gati I, Golomb G. Nanoparticulate delivery system of a tyrophostin for the treatment of restenosis. *J Control Release.* 2000;65:221-9.
23. Banai S, Wolf Y, Golomb G, Pearla A, Waltenberger J, Fishbein I, Schneider A, Gazit A, Perez L, Huber R, Lazarouchi G, Rabinovich L, Levitzki A, Gertz SD. PDGF receptor tyrosine kinase blocker AG1295 selectively attenuates smooth muscle cell growth in vitro and reduced neointimal formation after balloon angioplasty in swine. *Circulation.* 1998;97:1960-9.
24. Banai S, Chorney M, Gertz SD, Fishbein I, Gao J, Perez L, Lazarouchi G, Gazit A, Levitzki A, Golomb G. Locally delivered nanoencapsulated tyrophostin (AGL2043) reduces neointimal formation in balloon injured rat carotid and stented porcine coronary arteries. *Biomaterials.* 2005;26:451-61.
25. Nguyen KT, Shukla KP, Moctezuma M, Braden AR, Zhou J, Hu Z, Tang L. Studies of the cellular uptake of hydrogel nanospheres and microspheres by phagocytes, vascular endothelial cells and smooth muscle cells. *J Biomed Mater Res A.* 2009;88:1022-30.
26. Reddy MK, Vasir JK, Sahoo SK, Jain TK, Yallapu MM, Labhasetwar V. Inhibition of apoptosis through localised delivery of rapamycin loaded nanoparticles prevented neointimal hyperplasia and reendothelialized injured artery. *Circ Cardiovasc Interv.* 2008;1:209-16.
27. Kolodgie FD, John M, Khurana C, Farb A, Wilson PS, Acampado E, Desai N, Soon-Shiong P, Virmani R. Sustained reduction of in stent neointimal growth with the use of a novel systemic nanoparticle paclitaxel. *Circulation.* 2002;106:1195-8.
28. Lanza GM, Yu X, Winter PM, Abendschein DR, Karukstis KK, Scott MJ, Chinen LK, Fahrhop RW, Scherrer DE, Wickline SA. Targeted antiproliferative drug delivery to vascular smooth muscle cells with magnetic resonance imaging nanoparticle contrast agent: implications for rational therapy of restenosis. *Circulation.* 2002;106:2842-7.
29. Cyrus T, Zhang H, Allen JS, Williams TA, Hu G, Carruthers SD, Wickline SA, Lanza GM. Intramural delivery of rapamycin with α V β 3-targeted paramagnetic nanoparticles inhibits stenosis after balloon injury. *Arteriosler Thromb Vasc Biol.* 2008;28:820-6.
30. Chorny M, Fishbein I, Yellen BB, Alferier IS, Backay M, Ganta S, Adamo R, Amiji M, Friedman G, Levy RJ. Targeting stents with local delivery of paclitaxel loaded magnetic nanoparticles using uniform fields. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA.* 2010;107:8346-51.
- Margolis J, McDonald J, Heuser R, Klkinke P, Waksman R, Virmani R, Desai N, Hilton D. Systemic nanoparticle paclitaxel (nab-paclitaxel) for in-stent restenosis-I (SNAPIST-I): a first in human safety and dose finding study. *Clin Cardiol.* 2007;30:165-70.

Copyright & License

Statement: Copyright © 2011, McDowell et al.
Holder: McDowell et al

Licensee: Publiverse Online S.R.L.

License: **Open Access** This article is distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided you give appropriate credit to the original author(s) and the source, provide a link to the Creative Commons license, and indicate if changes were made. The Creative Commons Public Domain Dedication waiver (<http://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/>) applies to the data made available in this article, unless otherwise stated.



The present article has been published in Vascular Cell journal by Publiverse Online S.R.L.