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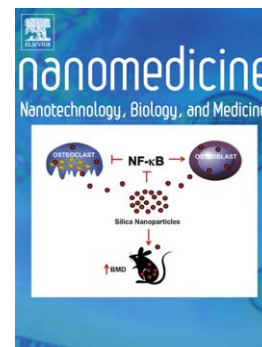
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PII: S1549-9634(15)00601-2  
DOI: doi: [10.1016/j.nano.2015.11.017](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nano.2015.11.017)  
Reference: NANO 1236

To appear in: *Nanomedicine: Nanotechnology, Biology, and Medicine*

Received date: 3 December 2014  
Revised date: 17 November 2015  
Accepted date: 19 November 2015



Please cite this article as: Omwoyo Wesley N., Melariri Paula, Gathirwa Jeremiah W., Oloo Florence, Mahanga Geoffrey M., Kalombo Lonji, Ogutu Bernhards, Swai Hulda, Development, characterization and antimalarial efficacy of dihydroartemisinin loaded solid lipid nanoparticles, *Nanomedicine: Nanotechnology, Biology, and Medicine* (2015), doi: [10.1016/j.nano.2015.11.017](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nano.2015.11.017)

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## Development, characterization and antimalarial efficacy of dihydroartemisinin loaded solid lipid nanoparticles

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### Abstract

Effective use of dihydroartemisinin (DHA) is limited by poor water-solubility, poor pharmacokinetic profile and unsatisfactory clinical outcome especially in monotherapy. To reduce such limitations, we reformulated DHA into solid lipid nanoparticles (SLNs) as a nanomedicine drug delivery system. DHA-SLNs were characterized for physical parameters and evaluated for *in vitro* and *in vivo* antimalarial efficacy. DHA-SLNs showed desirable particle characteristics including particle size (240.7 nm), particle surface charge (+17.0 mV), drug loadings (13.9 wt %), encapsulation efficacy (62.3%), polydispersity index (0.16) and a spherical appearance. Storage stability up to 90 days and sustained release of drug over 20 h was achieved. Enhanced *in vitro* (IC<sub>50</sub> 0.25 ng/ml) and *in vivo* (97.24% chemosuppression at 2 mg/kg/day) antimalarial activity was observed. Enhancement in efficacy was 24% when compared to free DHA. These encouraging results show potential of using the described formulation for DHA drug delivery for clinical application.

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