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Comparison of toxicity of Fe/Ni and starch-stabilized Fe/Ni nanoparticles toward Escherichia coli

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Abstract:

This study examined the toxicities of Fe/Ni and starch-stabilized Fe/Ni (S-Fe/Ni) nanoparticles (NPs) toward *Escherichia coli*. The inactivation of *E. coli* by Fe/Ni NPs was concentration- and time-dependent. Fe/Ni NPs exhibited a stronger toxicity than the bare Fe⁰ NPs (i.e., Ni=0 wt%), revealing that the loading of Ni increased the toxicity of Fe⁰ NPs. However, there was no positive correlation between Ni content and the toxicity of Fe/Ni NPs when Ni content increased from 1 wt% to 5 wt%. The starch coating could alleviate the toxicity of Fe/Ni NPs, depending on starch concentration. Transmission Electron Microscopy analysis demonstrates that membrane disruption and cellular internalization of NPs occurred for *E. coli* after exposure to the Fe/Ni NPs. The NPs might have reacted with the carboxyl, ester and amine groups on the cell surface, as indicated by the Fourier Transform Infrared

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