

Review Article

Nano-Enhanced Antibiotic Delivery for Skin Cancer Treatment: A Breakthrough in Nanomedicine

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Abstract

Skin cancer is a major global health concern for which there is a lack of efficacy in conventional treatment approaches because of systemic toxicity and low pharmaceutical efficacy, among other reasons. By enabling customized medicine delivery to cancer cells with minimal negative effects on healthy elements, nanotechnology has emerged as an effective solution to these issues. The tutorial provides an overview of current breakthroughs in nanotechnology-based medication delivery methods for treating skin cancer. Diverse kinds of nanocarriers, among them liposomes, nanoparticles, and micelles, have unique advantages such as extended circulation and the capacity to encapsulate medications that are both impermeable and hydrophilic in character. These characteristics enable the exact delivery of therapeutic medications to lesions of skin cancer. Graphene, silica, and polymers are just a few of the several nanomaterials that have been utilized to construct carriers with various characteristics. Surface functionalization of nanocarriers also allows targeted distribution to cancer cells via ligand-receptor interactions or reaction to environmental stimuli. Reducing adverse effects and improving treatment effectiveness, smart nanosystems precisely boost medicine release at the tumour location. Temperature, light, and pH are just a few of the factors that affect them. Nanotechnology allows for the delivery of both conventional chemotherapeutic medications and novel treatment modalities including gene therapy, Skin radiation therapy for cancer may now be approached in a more comprehensive way thanks to immunotherapeutics and small interfering RNA (siRNA). By presenting the most recent advancements in preclinical and clinical research, this talk emphasises the potential of nanotechnology in resolving the challenges associated with skin cancer treatment. Due to its enhanced therapeutic outcomes, less systemic toxicity, and higher drug delivery efficiency, nanotechnology presents a promising approach for developing new and effective treatments for skin cancer. The ongoing research in this field has led to optimistic expectations for the future of tailored and targeted therapy for patients with skin cancer.

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INTRODUCTION

A major health risk that might have a major influence on the global economy and labour force is skin cancer, which is becoming more common^{1, 2}. Melanoma and nonmelanoma (NMSC) are one of the two main kinds of skin cancer that can be clearly distinguished from one another. The skin's outermost



layer, the epidermis, is home to NMSC cells. Roughly 95% of all incidences of skin cancer are related to this group.

Consisting of 99 percent of cases, The two leading types of NMSC are basal cell carcinoma (BCC) and cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma (CSCC). The aetiology of CSCC is present in around 20% of all instances of skin cancer that have been discovered. Eighty-five percent of skin cancer diagnoses are not melanoma, despite melanoma being a more dangerous and deadly form of the disease. notably, an enormous percentage of scenarios of skin cancer have basal cell carcinoma as their primary aetiology. Among the numerous things that might lead to skin cancer is exposure to ultraviolet (UV) rays from the sun. Preventive precautions against excessive sun exposure and routine skin checks are essential for the early detection and effective treatment of skin cancer³. The prevalence of squamous cell carcinoma (CSCC) on the exterior of the body increased significantly between 1976 and 1984 and between 2000 and 2010. The data shows an incredible 263% rise in the total number of events that have been reported throughout this time frame. This noteworthy increase points to the increasing incidence of CSCC and emphasises the need for more study, public awareness efforts, and preventative strategies to address and lessen the effects of this type of skin cancer. These patterns must be recognised in order to put into practice efficient methods for the early identification, The evaluation as well as treatment of cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma⁴. Frequent exposure to UVR, especially from the sun, might weaken immunity owing to the skin is the body's first line of defence. Skin cells damaged by UVR can have altered DNA, leading to the risk of skin cancer. The skin's immune system can be weakened by prolonged UV radiation exposure, making it less able to recognise and destroy abnormal cells. As our skin is our initial line of mitigation versus UV radiation, wearing protective clothing and sunscreen can help optimise the harm that UV radiation does to it, still maintaining the health of our skin and immune system⁵.

Topical drug absorption via the skin allows one to avoid the first-pass metabolism that follows oral administration by localising the medications to the skin for focussed treatment⁶. With its great size, the skin is an essential organ for controlling many physiological functions. In addition to protecting us from UV rays, dangerous chemicals, and other dangers, it serves as a barrier. Skin cancer can nonetheless result from aberrant skin cell development. There are many more varieties of skin cancer, but the two most frequent forms that have been identified thus far are basal cell carcinoma (BCC) and squamous cell carcinoma (SCC). Pollution and extended exposure to UV radiation, mostly from the sun, have been connected to a wide variety of skin cancer types. In tandem, these environmental variables could trigger aberrant skin cell proliferation, which may then facilitate the progression of squamous and basal cell carcinomas. It's critical to reduce exposure to pollutants and shield the skin from excessive sun exposure in order to stay away from quite a few of skin cancers⁷. Of the almost 19 million new instances of cancer identified in 2020, an estimated 10 million individuals perished from the disease⁸. Melanoma and nonmelanoma are a pair of foremost forms of skin cancer that

are commonly separated⁹. Melanoma is a kind of skin cancer that has been defined by a higher risk, a lower prevalence, and a higher mortality rate. Melanoma is especially dangerous because of its high risk of death, even though it accounts for only 1% of all instances of skin cancer that are identified. Melanoma has a far greater death statistic than numerous other types of skin cancer, according to the American Cancer Society's observations. To mitigate the severity and consequences of melanoma, this underscores the need of prompt diagnosis, prompt medical attention, and vigilant sun protection practices¹⁰. Basal cell carcinoma (BCC) represents 99% of instances of nonmelanoma skin cancer (NMSC). Nevertheless, cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma (CSCC) accounts for 20% of all skin cancer cases. BCC is the primary cause or barrier against skin cancer¹¹. The average frequency of NMSC in American and African American women is 2%. A study published in China found that Asian males had a BCC prevalence of 5.8 and women 6.4 (per 100,000), but research done by Filipino-Hawaiians in Hawaii found that Asian women and men had a BCC incidence of 7.3 and 16.7 (per 100,000)².

The implementation of nanotechnology-based drug delivery systems (NDDSs) has been demonstrated to have a beneficial impact in combating against cancer. By protecting therapeutic medications from deterioration during intrabody passage, these devices boost targeted accuracy. They also provide regulated medication release at certain areas or cells upon signal activation. Using a focused strategy increases treatment efficacy and reduces side effects. To summarise, NDDSs improve the overall safety and efficacy of cancer therapy by accurately distributing medications to the targeted locations¹². Treatments for several forms of cancer might be improved with the use of nanotechnology-based techniques¹³. Because Nano medicine has a stronger permeability and retention impact than current methods, it can deliver specialized drugs to cancer cells, enhancing the selectivity in targeting these aberrant cells (Figure 1). The knock drugs have to precisely stick to certain targets inside the microenvironment of tumours or cancer cells also improves the potency of cancer cell treatment while preventing harm to healthy cells. Nanomedicine has enormous potential for the creation of more precise and potent cancer medications due to its ability to enhance treatment outcomes while lowering the possibility of negative effects on non-cancerous cells¹³.

When it was about increasing tumour intracellular drug release, receptor-targeting nanoparticles exceeded unmodified nanoparticle treatments by an extensive amount. Due to the reversal of tiny particles charge conversion, it is also shown that treating cells with tiny particles increases cellular absorption and anti-cancerous effectiveness^{14, 15}. Reducing the size and bulk of tumours is most effectively accomplished by using a combination of active particles transmitted via nanoparticles (NPs). By reducing the dosage required for every possible chemotherapeutic option, combination treatment may be able to reduce the side effects of the medications. The use of nanocarriers in combination with physical techniques and drug therapy may be a safer and better technique to treat skin cancer in the years to come, as nanomedicine's effects



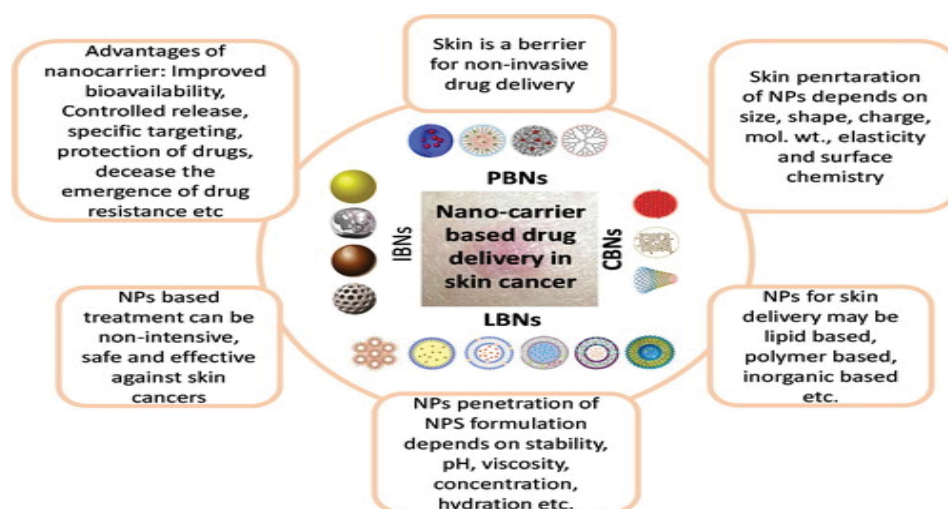


Figure 1. Drug delivery strategies using nanotechnology for skin cancer¹³.

keep improving^{16, 17}. Originally associated with chemotherapy drugs, drug delivery systems (DDS) have evolved to showcase their versatility by accommodating a range of therapeutic approaches. DDS is now skilled at mixing several medications for targeted therapy, immunotherapy, gene therapy, and photoassisted therapy, among other uses, in addition to chemotherapy. Using silica-based nanoparticles as DDS to treat skin cancer using various therapy approaches is the main topic of this section. Here, research findings on the efficacy and potential of silica-based nanoparticles in advancing different skin cancer treatment methods are categorised according to the particular type of therapy used and shown in Figure 2¹⁸.

Types of skin cancer

Skin cancer may be loosely categorised into two basic types: melanoma and nonmelanoma. Melanocytes, the cells that create pigment and give skin its colour, are the first to develop in the more serious of the two diseases, melanoma. In contrast, a variety of skin cell types are the source of nonmelanoma skin malignancies. Squamous cells, basal cells, and merkel cells are a few instances of this. These nonmelanomas nonetheless require monitoring and proper treatment, even though they are frequently less hazardous than melanoma. For a timely diagnosis alongside effective treatment of skin cancer, it is pivotal to comprehend the disparities between these all sorts (Figure 3)¹³.

Melanoma skin cancer (MSC)

MSC arises from melanocyte cells, which are the ones responsible for manufacturing melanin. The rapid cell division of these entities encourages the spread of metastases. There may be many alterations to the basal layer throughout this pathogenic phase, particularly to the epidermis¹⁹. Although it affects barely four percent of the population, malignant melanoma is to blame for 75% of skin cancer-related fatalities. It is one of the most aggressive and fatal sorts of cancer (Figure 4)²⁰. Melanocytes undergo uncontrollable cell division when UV radiation causes changes in genes in them²¹. Therefore,

the highly metastatic malignant cancer that started from melanocytes is called malignant melanoma (MM)²². With about 325,000 new cases worldwide in 2020, cutaneous melanoma ranks 18th out of 35 various types of cancer in terms of occurrence²³. It is responsible for 60% of skin cancer deaths²⁴. Age, the number of unusual or naïve relatives, skin type (light skin), and family history in first-degree relatives are additional risk factors. Men are more vulnerable than women. Dermoscopy is the most efficient non-invasive technique for melanoma and NMSC early detection and diagnosis²⁵. Dermal and non-cutaneous melanoma are the two fundamental types of melanoma (Figure 5)²⁶.

Cutaneous Melanoma

A very aggressive and famously severe form of skin cancer is called cutaneous melanoma. Though it makes up a relatively small portion of all forms of skin cancer, circular melanoma is the leading cause of skin cancer-related fatalities globally. This underscores the gravity of this particular kind of skin cancer and emphasises the need for prompt diagnosis, prompt action, and effective treatment strategies to mitigate its potentially lethal consequences²⁸. An estimated 232,100 (1.7%) new instances of cutaneous melanoma are detected globally each year, with the disease accounting for 55,500 yearly fatalities (0.7% of all cancer-related deaths). Non-melanoma skin cancers are excluded from this estimate (Figure 6)²⁹. The tumour known as cutaneous melanoma (cM) is malignant and has the potential to be fatal. It arises from the alteration of melanocytes, which are typically found in the skin's basal layer and constitute the epidermal melanin unit together with keratinocytes³⁰. With death rates varying from 3.5/100,000 in Australia to 1.7/100,000 in Europe, cutaneous melanoma is also the most deadly cutaneous tumour (Figure 7)¹⁰.

Non-Cutaneous Melanoma

Non-cutaneous melanocytes are present in several bodily locations, including the conjunctiva and the anterior and posterior segments of the uvea³¹. The ocular, sinonasal,

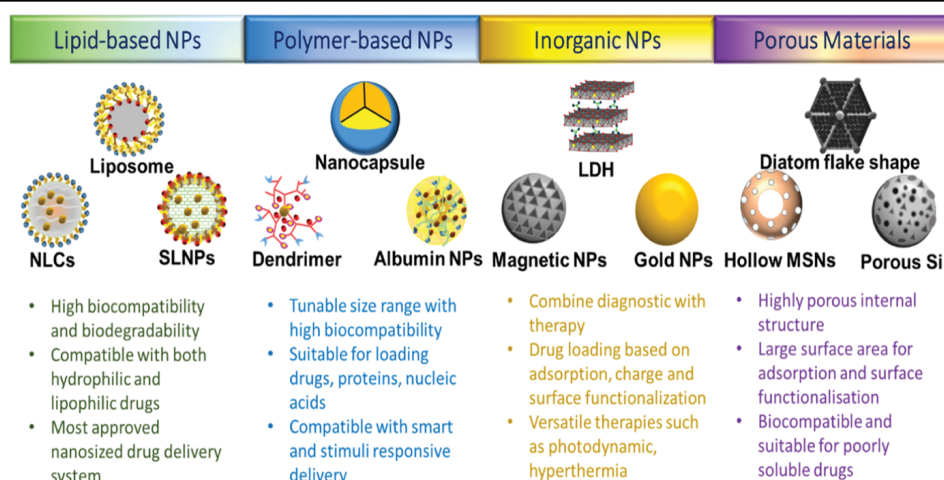


Figure 2. Numerous flavours of nanostructures are used in drug delivery systems. The terms *NLH (layered-double hydroxide), *SLNP (solid-lipid nanoparticles), MSNs (mesoporous silica nanoparticles), and Nanostructure Lipid Carriers refer to many types of nanoparticles¹⁸.

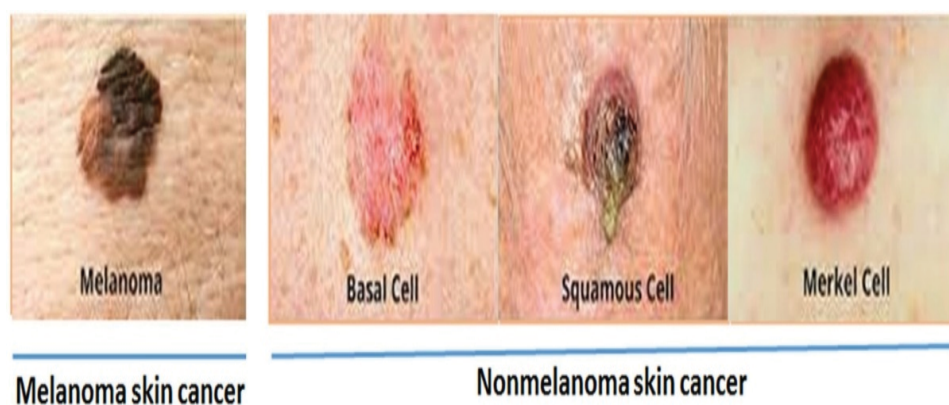


Figure 3. Skin cancer categories encompass melanoma and non-melanoma¹³.

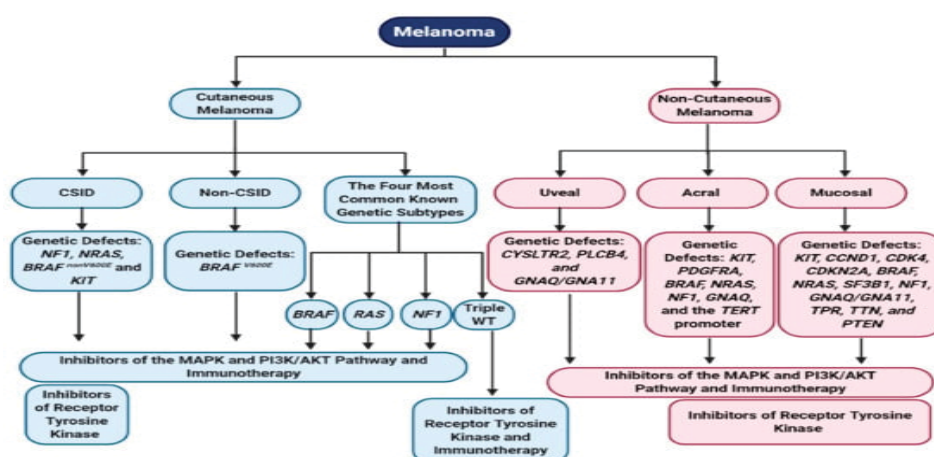


Figure 4. Receptor tyrosine kinase inhibitors, immunotherapies, PI3K/AKT, anatomical location, and genetic profiles that can distinguish between different melanoma subtypes all influence how well a patient responds to treatment. Additionally, Triple WT, or Triple Wild-Type melanoma, and CSID, or Chronically Sun Induced Melanoma, can be used. Non-CSID melanoma is also an option²⁷.

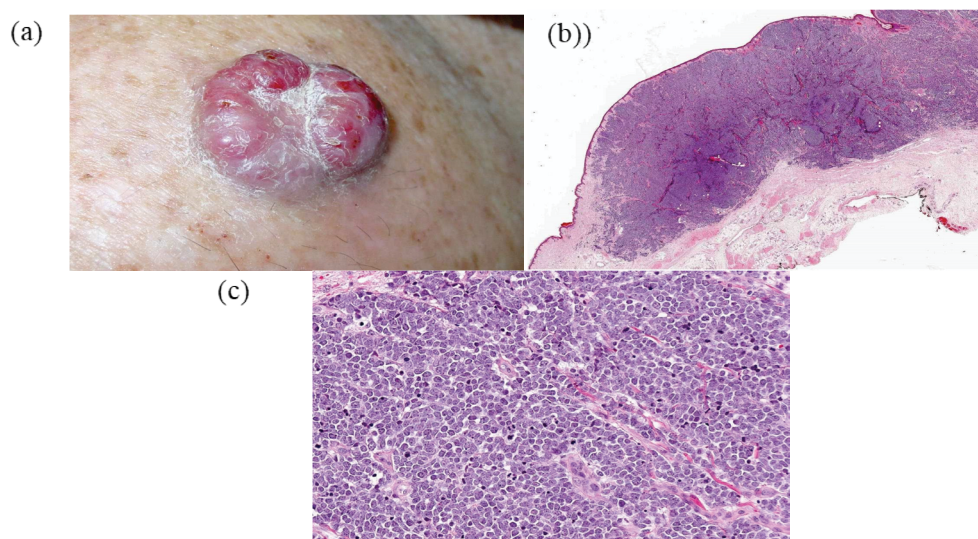
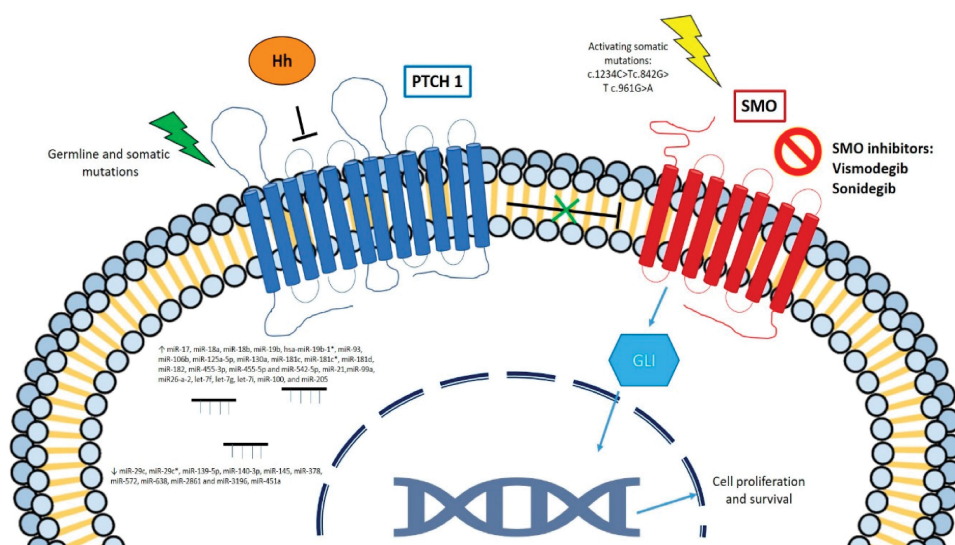


Figure 6. (A) The skin lesion's clinical appearance displaying Merkel cell carcinoma. (b) The histology of carcinoma with Merkel cell. A low power histology image shows a dermal Merkel cell carcinoma that is poorly differentiated and has sheet-like development patterns. (c) Hyperchromatic nuclei, a consistently raised nuclear chromatin pattern, and finely granular salt and pepper chromatin patterns are visible in the cancer cells in this higher magnification histology picture of a Merkel cell carcinoma. the cytoplasmic ratio⁴²



pharyngeal, anorectal, and genitourethral mucosa of the head and neck can develop rare cancers known as noncutaneous melanomas (NCMs)³². Uveal melanoma, which mostly affects Caucasians in 98% of cases, is the most prevalent form of non-cutaneous melanoma and the most frequent ocular cancer among adults. Its incidence rate is minimal, however in recent years, we have observed tendencies towards an increased occurrence (Figure 8)³³.

Skin cancer that lacks the hallmark of melanoma

The most common type of skin cancer in Caucasian people is called non-melanoma skin cancer (NMSC). 99% of all cases of NMSCs may be divided into four major categories. Sclerous cell carcinoma (SCC), basal cell carcinoma (BCC), Merkel cell carcinoma (MCC), and cutaneous adnexal carcinomas (CAC) are a few types of these. Despite being less dangerous than melanoma, these skin malignancies in the Caucasian population highlight the importance of awareness, early detection, and appropriate therapeutic approaches^{34, 35}. Even though they are rare, CAC and MCC cases are increasing as well³⁵. The rise in proliferation in NMSCs is most likely corresponding to immunological senescence in a mature population caused by cumulative lifetime UV exposure³⁶. In the United States, an estimated 1 million instances of SCC and 5 million BCCs are detected annually³⁷.

NMSCs with advanced stages: immunotherapy

MCC

MCC is an extremely unusual and fierce neuroendocrine cutaneous cancer with a high percentage of casualties and a recurrence rate of around 31%^{38, 39}. Males and elderly fair-skinned human beings who have been exposed to the sun for a long time are more likely to develop MCC. Additionally, those who are immunocompromised due to medical treatment for

autoimmune disorders, HIV/AIDS, solid organ transplantation, chronic lymphocytic leukaemia, or other malignancies have an increased chance of acquiring MCC⁴⁰⁻⁴². Although their aetiologies are distinct, the two types of MCC have comparable presentations and prognoses. A single variant is triggered by the integration of the Merkel cell polyomavirus (MCPyV) into the patient's DNA, which results in the viral proteins being expressed continuously. Widespread DNA mutations brought on by UV light cause the other kind. Given that both types exhibit immunogenic traits, immunotherapy targets for them seem promising⁴³. Immunotherapy inhibitors (ICI) have recently been used to treat advanced MCC, and their effectiveness has been impressive^{44, 45}. In order to offer a thorough assessment of the many pathogenetic and clinical features of MCC, we employed the same multidisciplinary approach that is necessary for the efficient diagnosis and treatment of tumours in this study. We go into great detail about the emerging diagnostic, prognostic, and therapeutic characteristics of MCC. Lastly, suggestions are made on future directions for MCC research.

CSCC

Basal cell carcinoma (BCC) is subsequently followed by crude squamous cell carcinoma (cSCC), whose is the major cause of nonmelanoma skin cancer. While cSCC is less prevalent than BCC, it is significant since it accounts for 20% of all cutaneous malignancies (excluding melanoma) and roughly seventy-five percent of skin cancer-related mortality.

A geriatric population and heightened emphasis on skin cancer screening initiatives are the two main causes of the rising prevalence of cSCC. This demonstrates how crucial it is to maintain monitoring in order to discover cutaneous squamous cell carcinomas early and make wise treatment decisions in the battle against their rising incidence⁴⁶.

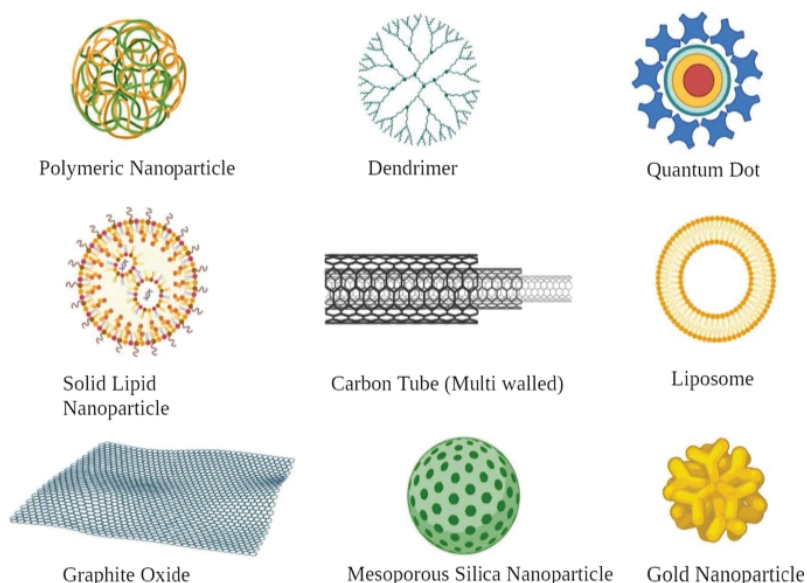


Figure 8. NPs include organic and inorganic NPs that often end up implemented in treatment drug delivery strategies. Nanomaterial's of numerous types are used in chemotherapy for cancer⁶⁸.

it was €10,281, as per a database study. The study estimated healthcare expenses within the Italian National Health Service. Reimbursed medications accounted for 33.7% of the cost of unresectable/advanced cSCC, hospital admissions for 42%, and outpatient treatments for 24.3% of the total⁴⁹. Therefore, the percentage of nodal metastasis and local recurrence in cSCCs overall are around 3%–5% and 3%–5%, respectively. On the other hand, local recurrence frequency might rise by up to 30% in cSCCs with high-risk characteristics as well as a potential 35% rise in metastatic frequency⁵⁰.

BCC

The most frequently encountered kind of skin cancer worldwide is called basal cell carcinoma (BCC). Since BCC is not very deadly, information on the illness is frequently absent from cancer registries in these countries. However, an examination of official US statistics and data from insurance registries suggests that 4.3 million cases of BCC happen each year. BCC prevalence is much greater in the Caucasian population. In actual fact, there is a disparity between the prevalence of BCC, a country's topographical latitude and the pigment status of its citizens⁵¹. A family history of skin cancer, age, skin phototype, gender, exposure to UV light (both at work and play), Risk factors for basal cell carcinoma (BCC) embody immunosuppression, prolonged exposure to arsenic, and certain genetic abnormalities. Given that cumulative sun exposure and other environmental harm are associated with BCCs, they are common in the older population. The biggest increase in BCC incidence rates are seen in white people who are elderly (65–79 years) to extremely old (>80 years)⁵². Men were more likely than women to develop BCC, most likely as a result of increased sun exposure at work and during leisure. However, if lifestyle choices like smoking and using tanning beds increase, these disparities become less notable. The age-specific BCC risk is significantly altered by gender. Males over 60 and younger women under 40 are the age groups most commonly affected by BCC. Remarkably, women tend to be more conscious of their appearance and health, so when they develop lesions in these regions, they visit the dermatologist early and might exhibit BCCs earlier (mostly on the face and neck)⁵³.

CACs

One type of malignant skin tumour that can develop into one or more appendageal structures is called a cutaneous adnexal carcinoma (CAC). These structures include the follicle, apocrine and eccrine sweat glands, as well as the sebaceous gland. Categorised as skin malignancies, CACs can originate from many structures inside or connected to the skin, exhibiting a range of potential differentiation scenarios. Recognizing the potential involvement of various skin appendages in the development of CACs is crucial for accurate diagnosis and the effective management of these malignancies⁵⁴. Skin adnexal carcinoma (SAC) is a term executed to describe solo cutaneous adnexal carcinoma with apocrine differentiation, a subtype of seldom encountered benign tumours which originate within epithelial adnexa⁵⁵. Skin adnexal carcinomas (SAC) are a class of neoplasms arising from the epithelial

adnexa, which are skin-related structures including sweat glands and hair follicles. Apocrine-differentiated cutaneous adnexal carcinoma is an uncommon kind of these neoplasms that suggests shared underlying physiological mechanisms. Notably, these two types of cancers often have similar locations within the skin. In essence, cutaneous adnexal carcinomas with apocrine differentiation represent a specific subtype within the broader category of skin adnexal carcinomas, with distinctive characteristics and potential pathophysiological commonalities. Understanding these distinctions is crucial for accurate diagnosis and appropriate management⁵⁶.

NANOPARTICLE-BASED DRUG DELIVERY FOR SKIN CANCERS

Researchers have looked on topical treatments for skin tumours that are both in situ and in vitro based on nanotechnology over the years. The biggest benefit associated with employing nanoparticles (NPs) in these applications is that they boost the penetration of bioactive substances into the skin and tumours. Better medication absorption in the skin and the tumour is made possible by this improvement, which lowers dose needs, reduces toxicity, and increases patient compliance.

Topical therapies based on nanoparticles are still not commercially authorised, despite encouraging preclinical test findings. In this regard, a number of methods have been researched for the topical management of skin cancers. Finding potential influencing elements for the creation of the best topical formulation is the aim. The advancement of topical therapies for skin tumours based on nanoparticles is essential for enhancing safety and efficacy and, eventually, increasing the likelihood of clinical implementation in the future.

Although 5-fluorouracil (5-FU) has substantial and frequently deadly side effects, patients find it difficult to take this medication for the treatment of superficial nonmelanoma skin malignancies (NMSCs). Patients find it challenging to adhere to the prescribed treatment plan because of these adverse effects. Despite its hydrophilicity, which hinders its ability to efficiently penetrate the skin, 5-FU is one of the most frequently leveraged therapy for superficial NMSCs. 5-FU's unpleasant side effects and limited skin penetration mean that it must be used carefully to enhance its positive benefits and minimise its unfavourable ones on patients. The relatively small log octanol-water partition value of -0.89 indicates that it has poor skin permeability. This calls for more investigation²¹. Safwat et al. exploited 5-FU-loaded gold nanoparticles in combination with Pluronic F127 gel or vanishing cream bases to topically treat SCC cancer xenografts. The particles comprised 16.02 ± 0.22 nm in size and revealed a positive zeta potential of $(+47.81 \pm 0.43$ mV)⁵⁷. Recently, 5-FU has also been delivered and skin tumours have been topically treated using nanoparticles made from plant-based extracts, such as orange juice⁵⁸.

An amphiphilic poly (D,L-lactic acid)-hyperbranched polyglycerol (PLA-HPG) block-co-polymer was used to create contemporary self-assembled nanoparticles that measured 216 nm and had a zeta potential of -53.3 mV. The application of nanoparticles to improve their properties as skin-residents—especially in the prevention of UV-induced skin cancers—has advanced



significantly with this work. The UV filters, avobenzone, and octocrylene in the nanoparticles protect skin from UV ray damage. These bioadhesive particles' aldehyde-end groups are surface-functionalized, resulting in a covalent interacting with the amines on extracellular proteins at the skin's surface, permitting the particles to stay on the skin for prolonged times of time. By meticulously employing chemistry to increase the topical retention of nanoparticles on living tissues, this innovative approach demonstrates a promising advancement in the development of effective preventative measures⁵⁹. Nanoparticles (NPs) are used in nanotechnology to deliver drugs to cancer cells with the least amount of side effects⁶⁰. Furthermore, it is used in targeted therapy, imaging, developing diagnostic tools, gene therapy, and cancer diagnostics. NPs' biological properties allow them to specifically target cancer cells with the least amount of damage to healthy organs⁶¹. Nanocarriers leveraged in cancer treatment comprise liposomes, carbon nanotubes, polymeric micelles, dendrimers, and quantum dots. Liposomes are a type of nanocarrier that occur when lipid bilayers surround an aqueous core. The hollow spherical, ellipsoid, or tube structure of carbon nanotube. Amphiphilic block copolymers are the source of the nanoscale core structures known as polymeric micelles. A tiny atom or collection of atoms encircled by dendrons—which are symmetrical, nanoscale molecules—forms a dendrimer. Humans have created tiny crystals known as quantum dots that carry electrons. They are all used in many industries and aid in the administration of medications. Certain nanoparticles (NPs), such as MoS₂ nanomaterials, are utilized as a platform material in the detection of bladder cancer⁶².

NANOPARTICLES OF ORGANIC MATTER

Polymeric Nanoparticles

Because of their unique structural design made up of several monomers, polymeric nanoparticles, or PNPs, are appropriately referred to as "colloidal macromolecules". In simpler terms, these nanoparticles are like microscopic structures suspended in a colloid, and they possess a unique and well-defined arrangement, formed by linking together different building blocks or monomers. This characteristic structure makes polymeric nanoparticles a precise and specialized term in the realm of nanotechnology, highlighting their specific composition and organized architecture⁶⁸. The drug is bound or encapsulated on the outside of NPs to produce a nanocapsule or an anosphere, which allows for regulated drug release in the target⁶⁹. Polyacrylamide, polymethylmethacrylate (PMMA), and polystyrene were the various non-biodegradable polymers that first composed PNPs⁷⁰. Research experiments have demonstrated the surfactant effect of polysorbates when applied to PNPs. The blood-brain barrier's (BBB) endothelial cell membrane is better interacted with by NPs when coated on the outside⁷¹.

In the rapidly expanding field of polymeric nanoparticles (NPs) for anticancer drug delivery, there are more than 10 formulations currently undergoing clinical development. Some

notable examples include:

- 1. HPMA copolymer-DACH-platinite (AP5346):** This formulation involves a copolymer of N-(2-hydroxypropyl) methacrylamide (HPMA) carrying a platinum-based anticancer agent with diaminocyclohexane (DACH) ligands.
- 2. HPMA copolymer-platinite (AP 5280):** Another HPMA copolymer, this one carries a platinum-based anticancer agent, showing promise in clinical development.
- 3. HPMA copolymer-paclitaxel (PNU166945):** Paclitaxel, a widely used anticancer drug, is incorporated into HPMA copolymer nanoparticles in this formulation, enhancing its delivery and efficacy.
- 4. PEG-camptothecin (Prothecan):** Polyethylene glycol (PEG) is employed in this formulation to deliver camptothecin, a topoisomerase inhibitor with anticancer properties.
- 5. Modified dextran-camptothecin (DE 310):** Camptothecin is also delivered using a modified dextran-based nanoparticle system in this clinical development candidate.
- 6. HPMA copolymer-paclitaxel (PNU166945):** A different formulation of HPMA copolymer carrying paclitaxel, emphasizing the versatility of this delivery system for different anticancer agents.

In an effort to increase medicine efficacy and decrease adverse effects, these examples demonstrate the variety and inventiveness through the creation of polymeric nanoparticle-based prescription drugs methods of delivery for anticancer pharmaceuticals.⁷².

Dendrimers

A new class of nanoparticles called dendrimers is employed in systems for targeted medication delivery. These are homogenous, monodisperse molecules with highly defined radial symmetry. They are more bioavailable because of their easy passage across cellular membranes due to their nanosize⁷³. Highly branching structures are a defining feature of dendrimers⁷⁴. Dendrimers generally gauge between one and ten nm. Still, the size may be as high as 15 nm⁶⁸. Dendrimers are used for targeting nucleic acids owing to its distinctive structure, which includes precise molecular weight, adjustable branching, bioavailability, and charge. Among the commonly used dendrimers are Polyamidoamine (PAMAM), poly(ethylene glycol), polypropylenimine (PPI), and triethanolamine (TEA). These dendrimers serve as effective carriers for nucleic acids, offering a versatile and customizable platform for various biomedical applications⁷⁵. Initially designed to regulate multidrug resistance (MDR), Polyamidoamine (PAMAM) dendrimers have been extensively explored, particularly those based on DNA. Detailed descriptions of DNA-based PAMAM dendrimers have been provided. When these synthesized dendrimers were compared to animals treated with a single drug, a significant slowdown in the growth of epithelial carcinoma xenografts was observed. This suggests that PAMAM dendrimers, especially those incorporating DNA, hold potential for effectively addressing multidrug resistance and slowing



down the progression of epithelial carcinoma⁷¹.

mAb Nanoparticles

It has just recently emerged as one of the primary cancer treatment modalities: monoclonal antibody therapy⁷⁶. Currently, these mAb have been paired with NPs to manufacture antibody-drug conjugates. Better evidence and more specificity than cytotoxic drugs or mAb on their own have been shown for them. For example, an antibody-drug NP including a surface modified with trastuzumab and a paclitaxel core demonstrated decreased toxicity and superior antitumor activity in HER2 positive breast epithelial cell control compared to single-agent paclitaxel or trastuzumab alone⁷⁷.

Liposomes

Phospholipids, either uni- or multi-lamellar, are frequently used to encapsulate pharmacological substances in these spherical vesicles⁷⁸. As far as targeted drug delivery methods go, liposomes are the most studied nanocarrier. By emulsifying natural or synthetic lipids in an aqueous solution, lipids can form spherical vesicles called liposomes, which have a diameter of 50–500 nm and a particle size of one or more lipid bilayers⁷⁹. After first initially identified by Bengham in the 1960s, liposomes have since grown to as being one of the most heavily implemented drug transportation methods⁸⁰. Since they are stable, easy to synthesis, biocompatible, and have a high drug loading efficiency, liposome nanoemulsions are often utilised nanoparticles in nanomedicine⁸¹. Because of their improved bioavailability and increased anti-tumor activity, liposomes are a great vehicle for delivering drugs including doxorubicin, paclitaxel, and nucleic acid⁸².

NANOPARTICLES AS WELL AS SOLID LIPID (SLN)

Solid lipid nanoparticles, or SLNs, were initially identified in 1991 with the stated objectives of biocompatibility, storage durability, and medication degradation mitigation⁸³. It has been demonstrated to carry both hydrophilic and hydrophobic medications in solid lipid nanoparticles (SLNs), which are solid core lipid nanocarriers. They are among the favoured options for medication distribution as they can be composed of biocompatible substances. The capacity to target or be mucoadhesive are two other distinctive qualities that surface alterations of SLNs may confer⁸⁴. It has been shown possible to create solid lipid nanoparticles (SLNs) as possible devices for drug delivery⁸⁵. Due to issues with toxicity, poor bioavailability, and a lack of target specificity, despite the fact that several drug delivery strategies exist, the treatment of neuronal diseases has sadly not yet produced the desired results. They are far from complete at the moment, and most of them rely on trial and error. In terms of nutrient absorption and the identification of certain ligands that modulate endocytosis, recent research has examined the effectiveness and the relative safety of receptor-mediated delivery of drugs. Drug molecules mixed with carrier molecules, such as liposomes and nanoparticles, can be supervised by an innovative method called as “tricking,” in which ligands connect to target cells in brain tissue and receptors govern internalisation⁸⁶. SLNs are lipid-based,

biocompatible nanocarrier systems made consisting of lipid or modified lipid nanostructures (triglycerides, fatty acids, or waxes) with diameters ranging from 10 to one millimetre. The solid hydrophobic lipid core of SLN helps in dissipating hydrophilic or lipophilic medicinal products⁸⁷.

INORGANIC NANOPARTICLES

Carbon Nanoparticles

Carbon nanotubes (CNTs) are an intriguing class of nanomaterials distinguished by their cylindrical tube shape. Among the various carbon allotropes, CNTs stand out as particularly appealing. These nanotubes are essentially rolled-up graphene sheets, where each layer is composed of hexagonally arranged carbon rings with sp² hybridized atoms. Carbon nanotubes' distinctive attributes and structure make them very adaptable and appealing for an extensive selection of applications in a multitude of domains⁸⁸. In 1991, Japanese scientist Sumio Iijima made the discovery of CNT. First of all, fullerenes were synthesised using the arc discharge technique. CNT seemed to be prolonged fullerenes, measuring up to several micrometres in length and 0.7 nanometers in diameter⁸⁹. In order to cure cancer, advanced nanotechnology has been applied widely. Carbon nanotubes (CNTs) have been utilised as versatile and inventive carriers for cancer treatment, owing to their distinct physiochemical characteristics⁹⁰.

Quantum Dots

In recognition of their superior photostability, narrow emission bands, and broad absorption spectrum, quantum dots—basically, tiny semiconductors—are frequently utilised in biological imaging. They fall into the following categories based on carbon: Graphene, carbon, and nanodiamonds are the first three forms of quantum dots. Along with biological imaging, research is still being done on the use of quantum dots in cancer treatment. Because of its quick removal and innate biocompatibility, graphene quantum dots are the most often employed kind. For instance, prostate cancer cells are targeted by a quantum dots aptamer—doxorubicin conjugate⁶⁸. These entities are also referred to as semiconductor nanocrystals, clusters, objects of zero dimension (0D), and colloidal nanostructures. These formations consist of tens or even hundreds of atoms in each crystal. All three quantization techniques are applicable to electrons⁹¹. To help with their water solubility, drug delivery systems use biocompatible quantum dots, such as those made of carbon, graphene, or zinc oxide. Carbon quantum dots, for illustration, are advised when administering mitomycin, an anti-cancer medication. Applications for semiconductor quantum dots, such as ZnCuInS/ZnS and CdTe quantum dots, are frequently imaging and sensing-related. QDs coated with organic acid are used to label cells in vitro and visualize tumors in vivo. Owing to their rigid structure, drugs can be conjugated on a significant percentage of their surface, implying they can either be adsorbed on the surface or stuck to the quantum dot's pre-existing connection. The two pursue degrees functional groups accessible to drug binding on quantum dots are the free carboxylic acid group



(free-COOH) and the free amine group (free-NH₂)⁹².

Metallic Nanoparticles

Gold nanoparticles (Au NPs) have proven to be effective radiosensitizers in various medical applications, including medication administration and cancer treatment. In the biomedical and oncology fields, Au NPs function as simultaneously contrast agents and administration enhancers. Leveraging kilovoltage cone-beam computed tomography, streamlined radiotherapy has been achieved through the guidance of these small particles. This highlights the versatility of gold nanoparticles in improving the precision and efficacy of radiotherapeutic interventions⁹³. Because of their unique optical characteristics, flexibility in synthesis, and chemical stability, Au NPs have attracted enormous technological attention. Chemical sensing, biological imaging, cancer therapy, and medication administration are just a few of the biomedical uses for the particles⁹⁴. Nanomedicine has demonstrated remarkable clinical performance, offering excellent therapeutic efficacy with minimized harm to healthy tissues. Gold nanoparticle (Au NP) based drug delivery, in particular, has garnered significant interest due to its outstanding performance. Despite lacking pharmacological approval for formal transfer as nanomedicines, numerous studies are underway in this area. Researchers are looking at the possibility of nanodrugs based on gold nanoparticles, particularly when combined with other biological uses. Among these is the creation of drug-conjugated Au NPs intended for tumour targeting and efficient cancer therapy. These applications show promise for developing focused and effective therapeutic interventions, even if research on them is still ongoing⁹⁵. Au NPs have proven to be a highly effective nanocarrier for a variety of medications, comprising peptides, proteins, plasmid deoxy nucleic acids (pDNAs), small interfering ribonucleic acids (siRNAs), and chemotherapeutic agents.

To optimise the surface area or surface-to-volume ratio of Au NPs for the delivery of medications, cationic polymers or functional groups, for instance amine, carboxyl, or thiol groups, are typically added to the surface. The targeted surface area of the Au NPs efficiently stabilises and immobilises the medicine. Because blood incorporates serum proteins, the prescription embedded in Au NP complexes is resistant to enzyme breakdown. Drug-Au NP complexes can integrate cell-

specific targeting agents to target certain cells⁹⁶.

NANOPARTICLE TECHNOLOGIES FOR DERMAL DELIVER

The process of creating biologically inspired polymers for better cutaneous distribution has been demonstrated by nature via design.

For example, it is known that the Human papillomavirus (HPV) may infect skin and rapidly proliferate cells on the skin's outer layer, leading to the development of warts. For use in dermatology, nanoparticle (NP) technologies have been researched, evaluated, and developed. These include among other things, metallic nanoparticles, vesicular systems, lipid and polymeric nanoparticles, and nanoemulsions (Figure. 9). Here, we give a quick rundown of some of the methods that are tested the most frequently in topical delivery.

Vesicular carriers

Among the most researched vesicles for topical treatments are liposomes, niosomes, ethosomes, and transfersomes.

• Liposomes

Liposomes are lipid bilayer-based closed spherical vesicles. They have strong affinity for the skin cell membrane, biocompatibility, and degradability. By modifying their lipid content, they can regulate their physical characteristics and encapsulate any medicine. Under physiological circumstances the properties of liposomes are influenced by their hydrophobic fatty acid tails and hydrophilic heads. Liposome charge and shape are influenced by lipid hydrophilic groups. Owing to differences in the proportion of double bonds, the hydrocarbon chain's duration, and the kind of fatty acid, lipid hydrophobic groups control the size and flexibility of liposome particles. A smaller hydrophilic group exists in phosphatidyl ethanolamine (PE) than in phosphatidyl choline (PC)⁹⁷. In 1980, Mezei and Gulasekharam made the initial proposal to treat skin disorders with liposomes (Table 1)⁹⁸.

• Niosomes

A unique medicine delivery method called niosomes uses vesicles to encapsulate the medicament. A bilayer of non-ionic surfactants makes up the vesicle. Since niosomes are more

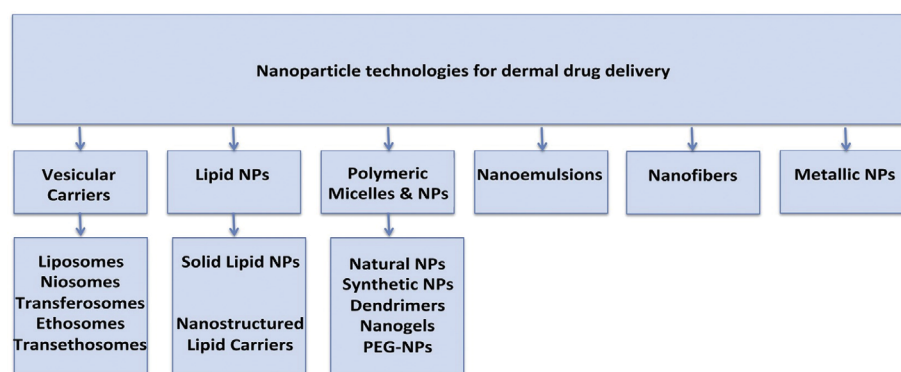


Figure 9. Employing nanostructures to deliver drugs topically²¹

Table 1: A physical approach coupled with an investigation of the crucial Nano carriers for the treatment of skin cancer

Physical methods	Nanocarierrs	Anti-cancer Agent	Core conclusions	References
Laser irradiation -PDT	Mesoopous	Vertoporphyrin	NP therapy following 120 minutes and 180 seconds of red light exposure The rate at which cells grew decreased.	63
	Firm nanoparticles of lipids	Aluminum chloride Phthalocyanine	A twice-fold increase in laser light radiation of two times at 1.0J/cm-2 results in enhanced phototoxicity of NPs.didn't support.But, the cells' vitality exposes them to the free photosensitizer, which might modify the photosensitizer's effectiveness.	(Goto, Siqueira-Moura, & Tedesco, 2017
	Transethosomes	Iron-containing chlorophyllin	When mice were given PDT in vivo therapy for a bigger tumour volume (252.6 mm3), the tumour volume significantly decreased after 7 days, and the cancer completely disappeared after that. In excess of 50% of the treated mice were seen within two months of treatment.	64
	Polymeric NPs And polymeric- Lipid hybrid NP	Ferrous chlorophyllin and cicloRGDyk peptide	likewise, melanoma cells treated with polymeric-lipid hybrid nanoparticles revealed a time-dependent impact in terms of PDT cytotoxicity, with increased PDT cell death happening after 1 and 3 hours of treatment, whereas polymeric NP achieved equivalent findings after 24	65
Laser Irradiation – PTT	PEGylated carbon nanotubes	-	When juxtaposed with the control group, the average tumour size decreased from 406 mm3 to 745.31 mm3 prior to NP treatment and to 174.69 mm3 three days later. This was seen during an 808 nm continuous-wave NIR laser diode 808-2 W treatment for in vivo photothermal therapy at an intensity of 8 W/cm2 for 10 minutes.	(Rossetti, Fantini, Carollo, Tedesco, & Bentley, 2011)
	Gold NP coated Liposome	Cantharidin	A NP-derived medicine caused cell death in cancer cells treated with PPT.The radiation-exposed cells that did not get NP treatment exhibited somewhat reduced viability than the non-irrigated control group. The viability of NP-treated cells reduced from 40% to 13% when irrigation was switched from 200 mW/cm2 to W/cm2.	66
Iontophoresis	Polymers-Coated Gold NPs	Imatinib mesylate and STAT-3 siRNA	The examiners compared intramoral oversight with noninvasive topical iontophoresis at 0.5 mA/cm2 for 2 hours. When comparing combination nucleic acid and chemotherapeutic medicines in NP to solo therapy, acid levels rose. Tumour weight and volume have shrunk, as has protein expression.	Witte, Karunakaran, Zuniga, Schmitz, & Arif, 2018
	Liposome .	STAT-siRNA and Curcumin	a standard non-iontophoretic drug administration, a current density of 0.47 mA / square combined with multifunctional NP over 4 hours produced in five times greater drug deposition in viable skin. When NP and iontophoresis were used in combination, cancer cell growth was greatly inhibited and apoptotic events enhanced.	(Zang, Wei, Shi, Chen, & Xing, 2016
	Nanoemulsions	Zinc phthalocyanine	After 30 minutes of treatment with anodic iontophoresis at 0.5mA/cm2, NPs formed. Statistics indicate that electric current will last for extended periods of time. To pass the cancer barrier and reach tumour cells, a greater concentration of NP is required.	67
	Immuneliposomes (tailored with cetuximab)	5-fluorouracil	A combination of subcutaneous NP treatments aside from anadol iontophoresis at 0.5 mA/cm2 was implemented to shrink the tumour size. Similarly, cetuximab-functionalized nanoparticles decreased tumour volume following iontophoresis and subcutaneous the executive branch.	(Byrne, Yeh, & DeSimone, 2018)

affordable and stable than liposomes, they are often used. Because niosomes shield pharmaceuticals from biological environments, delay drug clearance from circulation, and limit the drug's effects to specific target cells, they enhance the pharmacological activity of pharmaceutical compounds⁹⁹.

• Transferosomes

Transethosomes represent an innovative category of ethosomal systems, combining features of both transferosomes and ethosomes within a single formulation, as identified by Song et al. This system not only incorporates the fundamental elements of traditional ethosomes but also includes an edge activator or

penetration enhancer, such as surfactants. Numerous studies indicate that transethosomes exhibit superior attributes compared to standard ethosomes. The inclusion of an edge activator enhances their performance, making transethosomes a more advanced and effective formulation for various applications¹⁰⁰.

• Ethosomes

Ethanollic vesicles are ethosomes. Since ethanol is present in the vesicular structure, Touitou created a novel vesicular system that he called ethosomes.Nowadays, the most studied method for transdermal medication administration is the



vesicular system. Drugs can be delivered non-invasively using ethosomes to deeply penetrate the skin's layers or the bloodstream. To administer a medication transdermally, ethosomes have been produced. Because human skin is so elastic, this system can pass right through it¹⁰¹. For to enable the ethosome to operate, vesicles, ethanol, and skin lipids work in concert. The dispersion of active substances is improved by ethosomes compared to liposomes because of their superior interaction with skin lipids. The polar head group region's lipid molecules' transition temperature is lowered in the stratum corneum when ethanol interacts with them. Ethanol delivers vesicles a smoother, more flexible texture, allowing them to enter the epidermal layer more deeply. Additionally, because they improve fluidity and decrease lipid multilayer density, they facilitate the administration of medication into the The previously skin's deep layers¹⁰².

• Transethosomes

Song et al. became aware transethosomes, a new type of ethosomal system that combines transferosome and ethosome characteristics in one formulation. In addition to the essential parts found on conventional ethosomes, this system features an edge activator or penetration enhancer, such as surfactants. Several studies indicate that transethosomes outperform regular ethosomes in terms of characteristics¹⁰³.

LIPID NANOPARTICLE

A steady release of medication over an extended length of time is ensured by lipid nanoparticles, which are also highly tasty and stable. Lipid nanoparticles fall into two categories in this family: nanostructured lipid carriers (NLC) and solid lipid nanoparticles (SLNs)⁸³.

• Solid Lipid Nanoparticles (SLN)

Lipid nanoparticles (SLNs) are colloidal edifice extending 500 nm to less than 50 nm¹⁰⁴. It was made up of solid lipids and a fat matrix that melted quickly (Figure 10). It is intended to solve the imperfections as compared to Liposomes and polymeric nanoparticles are illustrations of typical colloidal carriers such as the inadequate availability of an effective large-scale manufacturing process, phospholipid degradation, high production costs, sterilisation issues, poor stability, and drug fusion and leakage⁸³.

Much like polymeric nanoparticles, these drug delivery devices act as a matrix for controlled release. They use the benefits of polymeric nanoparticles, liposomes, and micronized emulsions to confine drug mobility and enhance stability when using a solid matrix. Solid lipid nanoparticles (SLNs) are often composed of pure solid lipids, which can include waxes, which are widely known as physiological lipids, highly purified triglycerides, complex glyceride blends, free fatty acids, and free fatty alcohols. Furthermore, SLNs may accommodate the integration of more intricate structures such as glycolipids, phospholipids, and sphingophospholipids. Customised medication delivery systems with improved stability and controlled release capabilities are made possible by this adaptability¹⁰⁵.

• NLCs, or Nanostructured Lipid Carriers

The emergence of lipid carriers entails the use of nanostructured lipid nanocarriers. They can be applied to a number of therapeutic scenarios and were devised to overcome the pitfalls of solid lipid nanoparticles. NLCs have shown to be adaptable and efficient in delivering hydrophilic drugs as well, despite being first thought to be most suited for lipophilic drug delivery. This flexibility highlights the usefulness of nanostructured lipid nanocarriers in a variety of therapeutic situations¹⁰⁶. Because lipids are versatile and biocompatible, lipid-based nanoparticles have become attractive options for treating a range of skin disorders. Treatment of skin diseases has shown great interest in nanostructured lipid carriers (NLCs) in particular. What makes them so attractive is their capacity to increase therapeutic efficacy, lengthen retention, improve skin penetration, and enhance pharmaceutical stability (Figure 11). NLCs have great potential for effectively delivering medications to treat skin cancer, dermatitis, psoriasis, and bacterial infections. This highlights their potential to serve as cutting-edge and efficient means of treating a wide range of disorders connected to the skin¹⁰⁷.

MICELLES AND NANOPARTICLES MADE OF POLYMERS

Polymeric micelles have brought about a lot curiosity as improved ways to deliver medicines for cancer prevention and treatment and detection because of their numerous advantages over traditional prescription drugs. These micelles excel in targeting medications specifically to the tumor tissue,

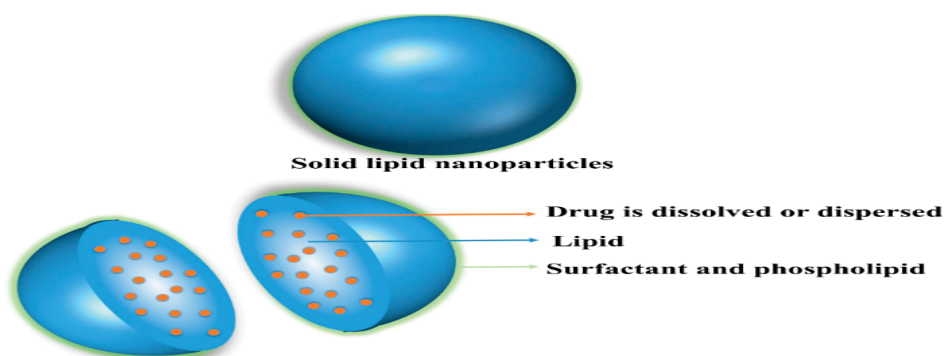


Figure 10. Generic structure of a drug-loaded solid lipid nanoparticle (SLN) ⁸³

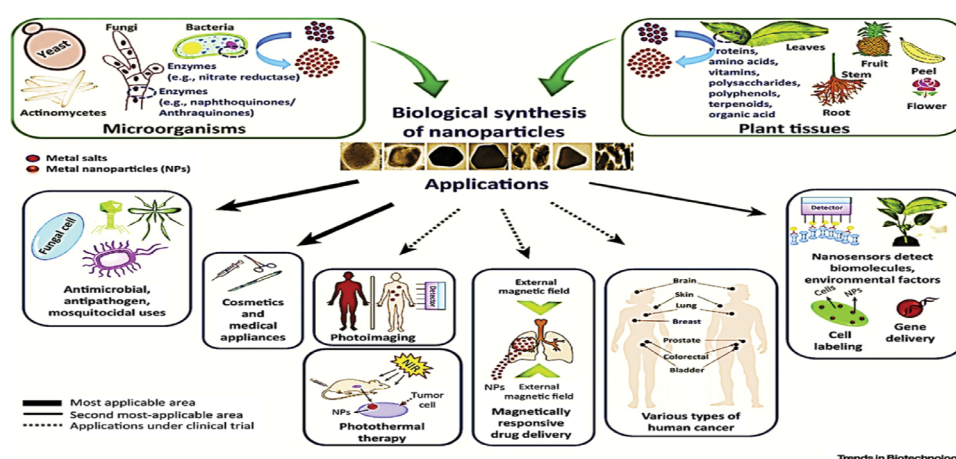


Figure 11. A scenario demonstrating the many uses for metal nanoparticles and their biological creation from plant or microorganism tissue¹²⁶. Metal nanoparticles hold multiple perks, notably their ease of elimination from the body and compatibility with biological systems. Their capacity to be tailored to precisely target cancer cells makes them special. Because these pharmaceuticals adhere to or enclose the surface of the nanoparticle, they become effective carriers for therapeutic therapeutics. Multiple imaging approaches can be applied by using different substances, such as optical imaging agents, radioisotopes, and fluorescent dyes, to improve their functioning. This novel method using metal nanoparticles works well for accurately identifying and displaying cancerous cells for both therapeutic and diagnostic purposes shown in Figure 12¹²⁷.

improving drug accumulation, prolonging the presence of drug-loaded micelles within the tumor, extending circulation times in the bloodstream, and reducing potential side effects. In essence, polymeric micelles serve as a promising and new strategy to increasing the effectiveness of cancer treatment while avoiding undesired influences on healthy tissues¹⁰⁸. It is known that polymeric nanoparticles enter the skin via aggregating inside hair follicles through a funnel-shaped route¹⁰⁹.

• Natural Polymeric Nanoparticle

Chitosan-based nanoparticles (NPs) have been thoroughly investigated as a prominent category of natural polymers for delivering medications to the skin¹¹⁰. Chitosan, a naturally occurring polymer, is both cationic and biodegradable. It is derived from the N-deacetylation of chitin. The positive charge of chitosan allows it to effectively alter the skin barrier, facilitating the distribution of medications. Beyond that, its positive charge facilitates robust interactions with the skin's negatively charged surface. This unique property makes chitosan a valuable component for various applications in delivering medications to the skin¹¹¹. Chitosan-based nanoparticles have been perceived as boosting the solubility and scattering of retinol in the treatment of acne and wrinkles¹¹¹.

• Synthetic Polymeric Nanoparticle

Researchers are testing three synthetic biodegradable polymers—poly (ϵ -caprolactone) (PCL), polylactic acid (PLA), and poly (lactide-co-glycolide) copolymers (PLGA)—for cosmetic applications. In a study by Sun et al., the focus was on using curcumin-loaded PLGA nanoparticles ranging from 50 nm to 150 nm in an animal model with psoriasis-like symptoms induced by imiquimod. The findings indicated that the therapeutic impact of curcumin-loaded PLGA nanoparticles surpassed that of curcumin hydrogel (Figure 12). This suggests

that the controlled release and targeted delivery achieved through PLGA nanoparticles may offer superior therapeutic benefits in managing psoriasis-like skin conditions compared to conventional hydrogel formulations¹¹². Hydrophobic medications, such as cholecalciferol or Paclitaxel, are easily incorporated into TyroSpheres may be employed to treat ailments encompassing psoriasis and skin cancer, or to retain prescription drugs from photodegradation¹¹³.

• Dendrimers

Dendrimers, intricate hyperbranched polymeric structures with diverse chemical compositions, hold a distinctive role in pharmaceutical sciences. They're designed to serve as an appealing substratum for the topical infusion of an assortment of chemical effects and diagnostic hazardous substances. Particularly, dendrimers have proven to be effective delivery systems, showcasing their versatility in skin-related applications. One notable application involves intradermal administration of antigens for efficient vaccination.

There are several reasons why cutaneous medication delivery works so well with these dendrimers. Acting as a multivalent scaffold, they facilitate the delivery of several bioactive chemicals at the same time. Furthermore, dendrimers are essential for improving the stability and solubility of medications, which leads to better pharmacokinetic characteristics. Optimising the transport of drugs to the skin requires this improvement. Dendrimers further aid in the delivery of sustained release, guaranteeing a regulated and extended release of the medication. According to Tabarzad and Ghorbani-Bidkorbeh (2021), this prolongs the drug's half-life and improves its efficacy in skin-related applications. This maximises the drug's therapeutic effects. Some examples of dendrimers that are often used in drug administration are polyamidoamines (PAMAM), polyesters (PGLSA-OH), poly(L-lysine) (PLL) scaffold dendrimers, and polypropylimines (PPI)¹¹⁴.

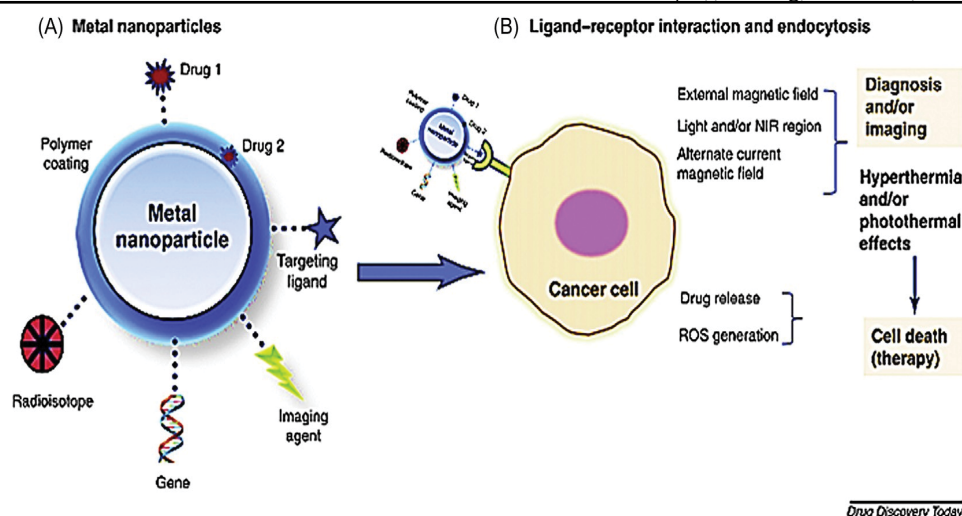


Figure 12. When designing metal nanoparticles with many functions for cancer therapy, there are several crucial strategies to consider. First, drug conjugation occurs either via conjugation on a coated polymeric matrix or by taking use of the surface's functional assemblages of the nanoparticles (NPs). Alternatively, the polymeric matrix can be directly implanted with medicines and/or DNA. This strategy makes the medication delivery system adaptable¹²⁷.

NANOEMULSIONS

Drug delivery technologies utilising nanoemulsion hold great potential for administering hydrophobic medications and augmenting the bioavailability of bioactive food ingredients in the bloodstream. Because most medications are hydrophobic (lipophilic) by nature, there are issues with limited solubility and bioavailability¹¹⁵. Lipid-based nanoemulsion drug delivery devices boost hydrophobic drugs' solubility and bioavailability as well as the bioactivity of food ingredients¹¹⁶. Each droplet in a nanoemulsion contains a protective covering of emulsifier molecules. Their widths range from 10 to 200 nanometers in thickness¹¹⁷.

NANOFIBERS

Nanofibers are an intriguing loved ones of nanomaterials that have lately received interest owing to their broad variety of biological applications. In the context of nanostructured carriers, a fibre having a diameter less than 100 nm is commonly referred to as a nanofiber. Nonetheless, nanofibers can also refer to fibres made using certain ultra-fine fibre manufacturing techniques, including electrospinning, sub-micrometer extends (those with a diameter under 1000 nm)¹¹⁸.

Nanofibers are becoming increasingly prevalent in drug delivery systems in biomedicine due to their unique features. These structures have several advantages, including reduced pharmacological side effects, enhanced encapsulation efficiency, enhanced therapeutic index, localised delivery, and high drug loading. The porosity structure of nanofibers allows for controlled and sustained dispersion throughout time, as well as tailored drug release. Furthermore, because they may be used to modify solution conditions and manufacturing methods, nanofibers are very adaptable for a range of drug delivery applications in the biomedical industry¹¹⁹.

METALLIC NANOPARTICLES

Metallic nanoparticles, including metallic oxides, silver, and gold, are frequently utilized in various skincare products. These particles serve diverse functions, with medications either adhering to the surface of the nanoparticles or being embedded within their cores. Niu et al. modified gold nanoparticles with peptides designed to penetrate skin tissue, aiming to disrupt the barrier between the skin and underlying tissues. The current approach illustrates the prospect of leveraging functionalized gold nanoparticles with particular skin-related applications¹²⁰. Metals in the 10- to 100-nm size range are known as metallic nanoparticles. Surface Plasmon resonance and optical qualities are two distinctive features of metallic nanoparticles. Mie produced the quantitative explanation for the colour of metallic nanoparticles, which Faraday (1908) initially identified as being present in solution¹²¹. A major contribution was made to this sector by metal nanoparticles (NPs); for instance, methotrexate, paclitaxel, and doxorubicin (DOX) are delivered using Au NPs¹²². In addition, they have been applied to photothermal treatment, tumour detection, angiogenesis, genetic illness. Sometimes referred to as photoimaging. Iron oxide nanoparticles (NPs) have been hired to tissue regeneration via MRI wellness delivery, cancer, cell labelling, hyperthermia, targeting, and immunoassays¹²³. As well, polymers, optical limiting devices, batteries, plasmonic waveguides, and plastics utilize palladium (Pd) and copper nanoparticles (Cu NPs)¹²⁴. Additionally, antibacterial, anti-inflammatory, and anticancer uses of Ag NPs have included wound therapy¹²⁵.

Furthermore, by including various imaging agents including fluorescent dyes, radioisotopes, and near-infrared dyes on their surface, these nanoparticles can act as multipurpose theranostic agents. Its versatility makes it possible to use it for both therapeutic and diagnostic purposes. The nanoparticles

can be coupled with antibodies and ligands that target certain receptors in order to increase their selectivity. The functionalized particles become more precise as a result of this focused strategy, increasing their ability to interact with cancer cells. Following ligand-receptor contact, these nanoparticles are internalised by cancer cells via endocytosis and display a range of therapeutic actions. By applying a magnetic field or light and creating photothermal and hyperthermia effects, tumour imaging can be accomplished. Furthermore, Metal nanoparticles' inherent activity yields reactive oxygen species (ROS) which aid in apoptosis. Chemotherapeutics and other loaded medications increase the therapeutic effect even further.

CONCLUSION

Nanoparticle-based dermal medicine delivery has significant promise as a non-invasive approach to treat or prevent localised cutaneous cancers in circumstances where surgery or intense systemic therapy may not be suitable. Without meticulous planning, nanoparticles may be able to navigate deep into tissue without compromising the skin's layers.

Extensive research efforts have been made to understand the internal environment and barrier properties of the skin, leading to the development of several skin penetrants and vehicles to promote compound penetration. Innovative medications that can face challenges during clinical development have a special chance to be transformed because of the versatility of

nanoparticles.

Nanoparticle absorption is hindered in cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma (cSCC) lesions due to intratumoral barriers and hyperkeratotic nature, resulting in decreased drug concentrations inside the tumour core. Variations in the development of lesions and the degree to which patients respond to personalised therapy make treatment more challenging.

The paper underscores the importance of physicochemical properties in overcoming the robust skin barrier by focusing on instances when nanoparticles exhibit improved penetration, retention, and sustained release in the skin. Even if there are still problems to be resolved in the areas of large-scale production, batch-to-batch variation, stability in commercial goods, and clinical performance, advancements in formulation science provide a basis for new improvements in these areas.

For effective cutaneous administration of proteins and peptides utilising nanoparticles, even with challenging formulations, the proper drug, nanoparticle carrier, and formulation must be chosen for the desired purpose. Utilising nanoparticles' ability to collect in skin and hair follicles is one possible treatment strategy for skin cancer.

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