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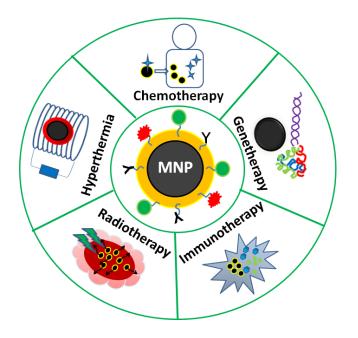
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Magnetic nanoparticles: Multifunctional tool for cancer therapy

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8 Graphical Abstract:



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10 ABSTRACT

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Introduction: Cancer is among the most diseases resulting in massive deaths globally. Traditional therapies used to treat cancer possess harmful adverse effects. Taking these facts into consideration, researchers explored new-fangled therapeutic possibilities with enhanced benefits. Nanoparticle development used in cancer detection in addition to therapy showed substantial progress over the past few years.

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Area covered: Herein, the latest research regarding cancer treatment employing MNPs in chemo-, immuno-, gene-, and radio- therapy along with hyperthermia is summarized in addition to their physio-chemical feature, advantages, and limitations for clinical translation have also been discussed.

22

Experts opinion: MNPs are being extensively investigated and get developed into effective therapeutic modules in cancer therapies. MNPs are extremely functionalizable tools aimed at cancer therapy owing excellent superparamagnetic, chemical, biocompatible, physical, and

- 26 biodegradable properties. 27 28 **Keywords:** Cancer, chemotherapy, gene therapy, hyperthermia, immunotherapy, magnetic 29 nanoparticles, radiotherapy 30 31 **Article highlights** 32 Among various nanoparticles, magnetic nanoparticles (MNPs) emerged as innovative 33 • treatment agents modernizing therapeutic usages in cancer therapy. 34 35 36 MNPs modified with various coatings are developed to improve physico-chemical • features. 37 38 Commonly, SPIONs (superparamagnetic iron oxide nanoparticles) are engaged in 39 40 tailored medicine intended for cancer theranostics. 41 42 MNPs are being incorporated with immunotherapy, radiotherapy, chemotherapy, • 43 hyperthermia, and gene therapy to treat cancer effectively. 44 45 Despite the benefits of consuming MNPs in cancer therapy, there is still space for improvement in engineering MNPs for targeting tumor cells more effectively. 46 47 48 **1. Introduction** 49 Anti-cancerous drugs delivered to targeted sites are one of the effective treatment methods used to treat cancer along with fewer adverse effects. For targeted therapeutics, nanoparticles emerged 50 as a new generation of multi-functional control tools at the micro-nano level. A more effective 51 method is recognized with the functionalization of nano-vehicles with target molecules. These 52 53 functional moieties assist in which interaction of these nanoparticles with particular receptors 54 present in specific tumors, permitting their attachment to the tumor [1,2]. Another encouraging approach is magnetic cancer therapy intended for improvement regarding imaging-guided 55 56 delivery along with therapeutic action [3]. Magnetic cancer therapy possibly is employed to treat 57 various kinds of tumors; in which magnetic drug delivery vehicles are manipulated by applying a 58 strong magnetic field [4]. Magnetic nanoparticles (MNPs) possess exceptional characteristics, for instance, small 59 60 dimensions, high surface area, and superparamagnetic nature, and are therefore useful for a 61 variety of applications [5]. Nanoparticles of iron oxide are the most commonly consumed 62 nanostructured materials used for targeted therapeutic applications. They comprise nanoparticles of Fe₃O₄ (magnetite) and γ -Fe₂O₃ (maghemite), which perform a vital part in cancer diagnosis, 63 64 delivery of a drug, plus hyperthermia [6]. Furthermore, the superparamagnetic behavior of MNPs
- 65 can efficiently extravasate and target diseased and infected tissue (lesions) or cancerous sites [7].
 - 2

All these MNPs properties are entirely employed in cancer therapy, where drugs encapsulated with them or attached to their surface possibly are directed to preferred particular *in vivo* locate by applying a magnetic field externally [8].

Various shapes have been synthesized for improving magnetization by reducing surface 69 70 anisotropy and increasing exchange anisotropy [9]. Different methodologies are accessible for fabricating MNPs in various forms like nanowires, nanorods, and nanocubes. These techniques 71 include wet chemistry or "bottom-up" methods namely solvothermal, hydrothermal, co-72 precipitation, sol-gel, electrochemical, flow injection synthesis, and laser pyrolysis procedures 73 [10]. In the last era, the core/shell morphology of MNPs containing a core of iron has been 74 75 extensively used from the perspective of magnetic influence and loading/release of particular drugs [11]. MNPs attain controllable as well as precise release of the drugs by bonding drug 76 moieties through linkers having the ability to be cleaved or to shell of polymer enclosing them 77 78 having capability regarding releasing of drugs [12].

- There are different approaches for improving some features for instance bad biodegradability, biocompatibility as well as chemical inconstancy in biological environments. All this depends on the functionalization of the MNPs surface. MNPs can be modified covalently by biocompatible and biodegradable polymers [13]. MNPs can be combined with additional functional nanomaterials by coating or successive growth particularly antibodies, ligands, or receptors to create them interacting with biomolecules with considerable affinity, consequently giving
- controlled "tagging" that deliberate high sensitivity for various biomedical applications [14]. Or
 MNPs can be integrated with other metallic nanoparticles that give distinctive properties
 permitting dissimilar functional molecules to get bonded to definite parts of particles and act as
 diagnostic and therapeutic agents [15].
- Researchers have been investigating the usage of MNPs for targeted cancer therapy since late 89 1970s due to improvement of behavior in therapeutic agents as well as their delivery to targeted 90 sites without any adverse effects [16,17]. Frequently, chemotherapeutic drugs, antibodies, and 91 92 drugs related to other diseases are attached to MNPs and are delivered to targeted areas inside human body [18]. The employment of MNPs in drug delivery systems enhances their safety, 93 biocompatibility, targeting ability regarding other particular drugs, and less toxicity [19]. Large 94 surface area/volume is mainly beneficial and because of that large number of therapeutic 95 96 molecules can be attached to them easily, in addition to their manipulation by magnetic field aid imaging of delivery of drugs to the targeted sites [20]. Consequently, MNPs have been coupled 97 for therapy along with diagnosis, mainly in cancer [21]. MNPs in drug delivery systems increase 98 the drug accumulation at the desired sites through magnetic manipulation or hyperthermia can be 99 100 induced in them by a magnetic field, causing cell death or triggering drug release from thermo-101 responsive magnetic carriers [22].
- Recently, MNPs are comprehensively employed in experimental investigations for treating cancer and consequently different magnetic formulations have been developed, presenting optimistic therapeutic impacts on various cancer types [23]. Different magnetic nanoparticles with different coatings have been synthesized to improve their non-toxicity, biocompatibility,

safety, bio-distribution, stability, etc. Therefore, here we focused on MNPs and deliver an
 inclusive review, considering detailed aspects of cancer treatment by integrating immunotherapy,
 radiotherapy, chemotherapy, hyperthermia, and gene therapy with MNPs.

109

110 2. Physio-chemical features and mechanism of magnetic nanoparticles (MNPs)

MNPs have been synthesized consuming cobalt, nickel, and gadolinium, however iron oxide 111 (typically γ -Fe₂O₃ or Fe₃O₄) nanoparticles (IONPs) are most broadly investigated nanoparticles 112 in cancer therapeutics because of their less systemic toxicity and intense contrast features. 113 Generally MNPs consist of a magnetic core with and a polymer shell [24]. The surface coating 114 and modification of MNPs improves colloidal stability that permits electrostatic or covalent 115 binding of therapeutic payload, targeting constituents, in addition to imaging probes. It plays a 116 vital role in modifying properties of MNPs for instance general toxicity, pharmacokinetics, and 117 rate of clearance, non-specific adsorption of protein or interactions with cells, and persistent 118 119 release of drugs [25]. MNPs incorporation with polymer coating prevents their agglomeration, and subsequently, offers a prolonged half-life, well-regulated drug release and, concurrently, 120 provides functional groups for conjugation of biomolecules [26]. 121

- Traditionally MNPs are synthesized by co-precipitation, hydrothermal, solvothermal, 122 123 sonochemistry, reverse microemulsion, and thermal decomposition techniques [10]. In recent times, microfluidic and biogenic synthetic methods have been developed as novel approaches for 124 MNPs. Microfluidic systems offer a large number of benefits namely automation, process 125 screening, and constant synthesis. It provides control over reaction time, temperature, and 126 concentration, in addition to the final size, shape, and uniformity of MNPs [27]. However, 127 128 biogenic methods provide control over nanoparticle's size and shape through biological routes of the organism, or biomineralization. Though, biogenic synthesis still suffers from low yields [28]. 129 Dimensions, morphology, and charge on the MNPs surface could be tuned according to 130 numerous cancer therapeutic applications [29]. Ultimate charges on the surface of synthesized 131 132 MNPs are utilized used to attach nucleic acids to them electrostatically or increase circulation 133 times [30]. Mostly MNPs with spherical morphology is used in cancer treatment, but few investigations have been conducted using different morphologies such as nanocubes or hollow 134 rods. During the last few years, MNPs especially IONPs gained incredible importance in cancer 135 136 therapeutics through drug/gene delivery, hyperthermia, radio- and immune- therapy. MNPs are excellent nanomaterials owing to their high magnetic moments, superparamagnetism, magnetic 137 anisotropy, irreversibility regarding high-field magnetization, large surface area, magnetothermal 138 effect, and idyllic biocompatibility [31]. Furthermore, MNPs are present in different constructs: 139 140 single-phase particle form, core-shell comprising core with polymer coating, multicore, or
- 141 leaning chain arrangements [32]. A high aspect ratio concerning MNPs is favorable for cellular
- 142 internalization and surface functionalization, that permits high deformability and prolonged
- 143 bloodstream circulation time [33].

Among various magnetic configurations accessible for multipurpose cancer therapy, MNPs are mainly designed with core shell morphology that sustains therapeutic and targeting and moieties.

Cancer therapeutic through MNPs also depends on shell functionality that not only protects the 146 core but also overcome limitations regarding immunogenicity and biocompatibility. Delivery of 147 drugs through MNPs systems have been an effective approach for cancer therapeutics due to the 148 tunable physicochemical characteristics of MNPs [26]. They can be fabricated to instruct 149 150 functionality for therapy for instance conjugation of bio/chemotherapeutics non-covalently or covalently enhances biocompatibility and systemic circulation, employing active and passive 151 targeting mechanisms to the therapeutic site [34]. Immunotherapy to treat cancer utilizes the 152 patient's immunity system for identifying cancer cells, constraining their proliferation, and 153 attacking solid tumors even directly. Combining it with MNPs provides advantages such as 154 targeted delivery that can be tuned to have the required shape, size, charge, and modifications for 155 maximum delivery efficiency [35]. In addition, MNPs generate heat by thermal fluctuations of 156 spins in an AC magnetic field (hyperthermia), by irradiation with light (photothermal therapy), 157 158 or by conjugating it with photosensitizing agents (photodynamic therapy), which is used for 159 thermal ablation of cancer cells [36]. This heat is transferred to the cells and raises the temperature of cancerous cells more than normal cells and causes death of cancerous cells [37]. 160 The same heat can be used to control the release of drugs encapsulated in magnetic 161 nanocomposites with light or temperature responsive polymer coatings. Magnetic based cancer 162 theranostics is the integration of numerous moieties in single platform that could provide 163 influential paradigm designed for effectual treatment of cancers [38]. MNPs provide a way to 164 track the location of therapeutic agents or target the site by applying external magnetic field, to 165 control therapy process continuously, and ultimately evaluate efficacy of treatment [39]. 166

167

168 **3.** Applications of magnetic nanoparticles (MNPs) in cancer therapeutics

MNPs are been permitted by FDA (Food and Drug Administration) as contrast agent (CA) in 169 MRI, to treat iron deficiency, bio-therapeutic transport, as transporter for drug regarding 170 magnetic targeted therapy in various parts of body, in hyperthermia, and photo-dynamic and -171 172 thermal therapy [26]. Cancer therapy through diagnosis and monitoring depends on imaging or using chemo/bio therapeutic agents for instance drugs, proteins, and nucleic acids. A tumor with 173 a clear image is beneficial to know the response of the patient when it is removed surgically and 174 further treatment is suggested. For imaging, CT scans (computerized tomography), magnetic 175 176 resonance imaging (MRI), echography, X-ray radiography, and PET (positron emission tomography) are employed [7]. Amongst them, MRI possesses a strong effect in timely cancer 177 diagnosis, and SPIONs are the most effective contrast agent for MRI in comparison to other 178 179 contrast agents (for instance gadolinium-based contrast agents) because of their facile and 180 controlled synthesis regarding size and shape, easy surface decoration, low toxicity, good biodegradability, reduced risk of accumulation, and tissue damage during MRI [40]. Presently 181 gadolinium-based contrast agents (GBCAs) are mostly used in clinical trials. However, 182 gadolinium is toxic to humans in its free form (Gd^{3+}) . Free gadolinium is excreted very slowly 183 184 owing to its insolubility at physiological pH, and has an ionic radius close to calcium allowing it 185 to compete with it various physiological processes [41]. As a result, GBCAs remain in the body

186 for a long time, increasing their probability to dissociate and deposit in the body. IONPs based 187 contrast agents were chosen over gadolinium-based contrast agents due to their low toxicity and researchers have found that they can produce similar MRI contrast with SPIONs [42]. The 188 literature results show clinical research on SPIONs remains robust, particularly fuelled by the 189 190 approval of ferumoxytol for intravenously administration. SPIONs have been tested on MR angiography, sentinel lymph node detection, lymph node metastasis evaluation; inflammation 191 evaluation; blood volume measurement; as well as liver imaging. The risk of accumulation and 192 tissue damage is reduced when compared to GBCAs. Therefore in comparison to GBCAs, 193 SPIONs are the most effective contrast agents for MRI [43]. MNPs for drug delivery 194 applications are impossible to be unobserved. They are employed to carry drug carriers via 195 attaching chemotherapeutic drugs or antibodies. Usually, MNPs are loaded with 196 chemotherapeutic drugs for cancer therapy. MNPs for cancer therapy are typically employed in 197 198 numerous ways to attain an enhanced therapeutic efficiency, integrated with chemotherapy, 199 radiotherapy, magnetic hyperthermia, photothermal therapy (PTT), and photodynamic therapy [44]. An immediate treatment observation is possible by specific integration of various drugs 200 with SPIONs that have revealed encouraging potential providing adaptable and sensitive 201 platform for point-of-care (POC) therapeutic applications. SPIONs can be injected immediately 202 into infected tissue, controlled by magnetic field, externally applied for generating heat with aid 203 of Néel and Brownian relaxation processes [45,46]. The section discusses the MNPs employment 204 for cancer therapeutics. Table 1 summarizes some of the information about magnetic 205 nanocomposites in cancer treatment. 206

Type of MNP	Size	Therapeutic applications	Ref
Iron oxide nanoparticles	10-100 nm	Breast, epithelial colorectal cancers	[47-49]
SPIONs	10-50 nm	Breast, brain, prostate, and lung cancers	[50,51]
Bismuth-iron oxide nanoparticles	55- 150 nm	Breast cancer	[52-54]
Silica-coated iron oxide nanoparticles	150-170 nm	Liver and breast cancers	[55,56]
Iron oxide/gold nanocomposites	50-70 nm	Breast cancer	[57-59]
Zinc oxide/iron oxide nanocomposites	20-80 nm	Breast cancer	[60,61]

Table 1. Different magnetic nanocomposites for cancer treatment

Graphene oxide/iron oxide 100-300 nm nanocomposites

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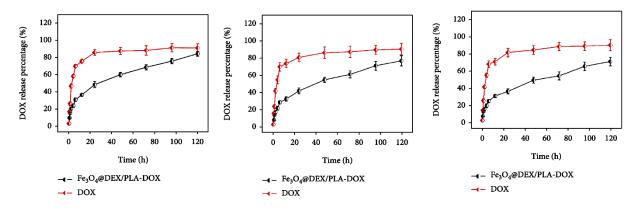
209 **3.1. Chemotherapy**

210 MNPs conjugation with chemotherapeutic drugs for obtaining nanosystems for delivery possesses numerous benefits counting magnetic targeting, magnetic thermotherapy, in 211 vivo imaging, and collective delivery regarding chemotherapeutic agents. To increase drug 212 213 targeting efficiency further for chemotherapy via MNPs, particularly SPIONs [66], other targeting molecules comprising antibodies, transferrin, aptamers, folate, hyaluronic acid, and 214 targeting peptides can be coated on SPIONs surface [67]. Magnetic nanoparticles have been 215 widely studied and gradually emerged as another method of tumor treatment, having great 216 potential to assist in the treatment of cancers, especially liver, breast, prostate, and pancreatic 217 cancers [68]. There is no continuous optimization in the treatment process. Magnetic carriers 218 219 possessing therapeutic doses regarding adsorbed Tc99, doxorubicin, and paclitaxel, have been investigated for cancer treatment [69]. 220

221 Polydopamine (PDA)-coated MNPs modified by SH- β CD (mono-6-thio- β -cyclodextrin) were prepared and loaded with doxorubicin. Cellular internalization of the prepared particles in liver 222 cancer was imaged by confocal microscopy. The developed nanomaterials with 223 chemotherapeutical drug and PDA layer could absorb NIR (near-infrared) light. They showed 224 significant effectiveness in a combined photo, chemo, and thermal treatment of liver cancer. 225 226 Furthermore, they also exhibit enhanced T2 contrast, verified by MRI of these nanoparticles. 227 Consequently, the prepared nanomaterial is an effective nanosystem having significant 228 theranostic potential [70]. A multimodal nanoplatform to treat hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) 229 in vitro was developed. The nanoplatforms were based on polydopamine (PDA)-coated Fe_3O_4 230 nanoparticles and spheres (sMAG) with PAMAM dendrimers and functionalized with NHS-PEG-Mal (N-hydroxysuccinimide-polyethylene glycol-maleimide) linker that permits their 231 functionalization with a folic acid derivative. The nanomaterials with folic acid-targeting moiety 232 displayed high efficiency in killing cancer cells in the dual chemo- and photothermal therapy 233 (CT-PTT) of the liver cancer cells as compared to modalities implemented separately. Materials 234 235 have activity comparable to free doxorubicin (DOX) with a concentration above 10 µg/mL. It is worth mentioning that a functionalized magnetic sphere with DOX more intensely affected the 236 HepG2 cells than smaller functionalized nanoparticles with DOX in the performed chemotherapy 237 [71]. In another work multifunctional nanocarriers based on PAMAM dendrimers generation (G) 238 239 4.0, 5.0 and 6.0 fixed to polydopamine (PDA) coated Fe_3O_4 nanoparticles were synthesized and applied in combined chemo- and photothermal therapy (CT-PTT) of liver cancer cells. The 240 combined effect of the above-mentioned modalities results in higher mortality of cancer cells in 241 contrast to their individual performance. Additionally, in vitro studies exposed that dual therapy 242 243 was more effective in triggering desired cell death mechanism apoptosis. The integration of MNPs with dendrimers increases the functionality of dendrimers leading to hybrid 244

245 multifunctional nanostructures that are promising smart drug delivery systems to treat cancer [72]. Nanocarrier dextran/polylactic acid (DEX/PLA) and Fe₃O₄ (magnetite) nanoparticles 246 carrying the drug were prepared for improving DOX targeting in the treatment of liver cancer 247 and decreasing its possible toxicity to organs. Drug release from prepared nanoparticles inside 248 249 the body was carried in different pH solutions. The drug is released rapidly in first 24 hours and successive release was slow (Figure 1). At the same time, release of the drug in acidic medium is 250 better from nanoparticles compared with free drug. As cancerous tissues have acidic 251 surroundings, drug can precisely reach cancerous site and inhibit its growth. The ex vivo besides 252 in vivo results found prepared nanocarriers have intense targeting regarding liver cancerous 253 254 tissue and could be applied in targeted therapy providing a novel approach for clinical therapy regarding liver cancer [73]. 255

256



257

Figure 1. Releasing ability of drug from magnetite nanoparticles loaded with drug (DOX) at (a)
pH of 4 (b) pH of 6.28, and (c) pH of 7.4. Reprinted with permission from the reference [73].

260

Magnetite (Fe₃O₄) nanoparticles covered by HPG (hyperbranched polyglycerol) along with FA 261 262 (folic acids) loaded with curcumin were prepared to treat cervical cancer. Functionalized nanoparticles (FA@HPG@Fe₃O₄) aggregates less compared with non-functionalized 263 (HPG@Fe₃O₄) nanoparticles. These nanoparticles showed maximum loading capacity for drug 264 found to be equal to 82 and 88%, respectively. Functionalized nanocarriers were captivated by 265 266 L929 mouse fibroblasts as well as HeLa cells more as compared to HPG@Fe₃O₄ nanoparticles. Thus they have potential to be engaged within systems regarding delivery of drugs for cancer 267 treatment. For diagnosis, HeLa cells incubation with prepared nanoparticles reduces MRI signal 268 intensity and biggest variation was perceived after their incubation with functionalized 269 nanoparticles [74]. Paclitaxel (PTX) is a strong chemotherapeutic drug to treat solid advanced 270 carcinomas. Yet, its limited medical consumption is due to its poor solubility in water. A 271 formulation (NP-PTX-FA) involving core of SPIONs coated with polyethylene glycol to 272 conjugate hydrophobic PTX and folic acid (FA). This formulation targets breast cancerous cells 273 274 and permits controllable PTX release. NP-PTX-FA holds high capacity regarding drug loading 275 equals to 22.8 wt%. Drug is released in acidic conditions similar to intracellular pH concerning

276 breast cancerous cells. FA bonding results in higher uptake by target sites, increasing cytotoxicity, compared with free drug, to target cells. This formulation possesses significant 277 perspective for improving therapy regarding breast cancer as well as potential for delivering 278 hydrophobic drugs to treat different types of cancer [75]. A versatile nanocomposite was 279 280 designed to target breast cancer. It comprised of docetaxel (DXL), polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) network intended for controllable release, and silica-coated MNPs for targeted delivery. The 281 developed nanocomposite is directed magnetically for cancer therapy. 10% DXL loaded into 282 pH/thermal PVA responsive gel. 96 % DXL is selectively released through interaction of green 283 and near-infrared (NIR) light and caused 75% of cell death in in vitro studies. 70% growth 284 inhibition regarding tumor was displayed by *in vivo* experiments with biosafety investigations 285 verifying less adverse side effects to other organs [76]. 286

An innovative thermal/pH responsive amphiphilic copolymer comprising 287 magnetite nanoparticles with biodegradable and hydrophobic block of PLA and hydrophilic P(NIPAAm-288 289 co-HEMA-co-MAA-co-TMSPMA) section had been developed for combined chemotherapy. Cationic (doxorubicin) and anionic (methotrexate) anti-cancerous drugs were loaded 290 instantaneously to nanoparticles for combined cancer therapy. Efficiency of encapsulation 291 regarding DOX was 95.04% and for MTX was 97.29%. Double profile related to release of 292 293 drugs exposed tumor aided release behavior. They are non-toxic to MCF-7 cell lines shown by cytotoxicity studies. Antitumor characteristics concerning DOX/MTX-loaded nanoparticles were 294 considerably greater than free drugs verified via MTT analysis and immediate analysis by PCR 295 consuming cell MCF7 lines. Consequences showed that such engineered particles possibly are 296 efficiently consumed in directed DOX as well as MTX delivery to cancerous sites besides for 297 298 more usages in in vivo applications [77].

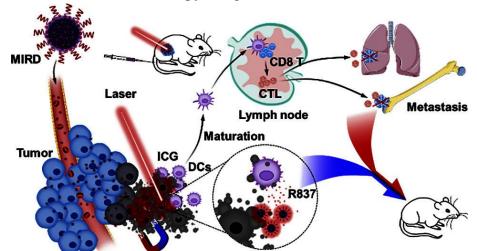
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300 **3.2. Immunotherapy**

301 Cancer immunotherapy is leading-edge approach eliminating cancerous cells via increasing 302 immunity of host. Conversely, low rate of response along with risks of persuading toxicity 303 elevated improbability in therapy. MNPs are multipurpose theranostic device used for targeted 304 delivery concerning numerous immunotherapeutics in addition to observe cell/tissue reactions.

- 305 Immunotherapy inhibits tumor resistant elusion demonstrates noteworthy clinical realization.
- 306 Though, therapeutic reaction is inadequate to definite number of patients, and immunotoxicity in
- addition to autoimmunity are bargained therapeutic advantages [78].
- Immunotherapy for cancer has appeared as extremely hopeful therapeutic technique for a number 308 of cancers. Fucoidan and dextran based MNPs (IO@FuDex₃) were linked with anti-PD-L1 309 310 (checkpoint inhibitor) and anti-CD3 also anti-CD28 (T-cell activators). They possess ability to repair immunosuppressive cancer microenvironment via reviving tumor sensitive lymphocytes. 311 Off targets impacts can be minimalized via magnetic navigation regarding tumor. Therapy that 312 integrates IO@FuDex₃ with magnetic navigation decreases adverse happenings as well as 313 prolongs average survival from 32 days to 63 days with less than 1% dosage in comparison to 314 soluble anti-PD-L1. Therefore, incorporating T-cell activators and anti-PD-L1 with MNPs in 315

nanomedicine form enhance therapy index of immunotherapy [79]. A MNP delivery system was 316 developed loaded with ICG (indocyanine green) and R837 (immunostimulator hydrochloride) 317 aimed at spatial and temporal immunotherapy/PTT combination in cancer (Figure 2). It 318 comprises core of magnetite nanoparticles to load ICG coated with layer of DPA-PEG 319 320 (polyethylene glycol polyphenols) for loading R837, forming MIRDs. The developed MIRDs lead to prolong circulation, guiding agents for MRI, as well as magnetic targeting. MIRDs 321 targeted towards tumors, on irradiation with near-infrared (NIR) triggered ablation of tumor and 322 give rise to release of antigens related to tumor inducing immunological reaction. Here, 323 combined PTT and immunotherapy repressed growth of tumors, metastasis, as well as recurrence 324 that lead to effective anticancerous therapy along fewer adverse effects [80]. 325



326

Figure 2. MNPs functionalized by polyphenols aimed at spatial- sequential controllable immunothermal/phototherapy regarding cancer. Reprinted with permission from the reference [80].

330

A biomimetic Fe_3O_4 (magnetite)-SAS (sulfasalazine)@PLT (platelet) are established as 331 different method for sensitizing active ferroptosis and produce slight immunogenicity, improving 332 333 rate of response regarding non-inflamed cancer aimed at immunotherapy. They activated ferroptotic cell death by preventing glutamate-cystine antiporter method Xc-path. It considerably 334 increases effectiveness of planned cell death 1 immune checkpoint blockade treatment in 335 addition to attaining constant elimination of tumor in model of mouse having metastatic 4T1 336 tumors. Investigations performed in proteomics also exposed induction of immune reaction 337 338 specific to tumor and efficient repolarization of macrophages from M2 immuno-suppressive phenotype into M1 antitumor phenotype. Accordingly, ferroptosis facilitated by Fe₃O₄-339 SAS @ PLT related to immunotherapy possess pronounced prospective for medical handling 340 regarding tumor metastasis [81]. 341

A simple system founded on combined stimulation of immunity and killing of cancerous cells 342 directly via integrated TLR (Toll like receptor) ligation consuming R837 (imiquimod) as 343 TLR7 agonist and polyIC as TLR3. (ovalbumin) and micelles with OVA of 344

phospholipids enclosing MNPs doped with zinc. TLR agonists activated immune reaction in LNs 345 (lymph nodes) with no pro-inflammatory cytokines release. It presented exceptional 346 effectiveness against violent melanoma B16-F10 cells testifying OVA had been enhanced by 347 immunity checkpoint abolition concerning immune-oppressive automated death-ligand 1 (PD-348 349 L1) on cancerous cells. This vaccine can be tracked with magnetic field along with nuclear imaging from injection site of injection to tumor and LNs. Generally, collective TLR agonists 350 with MNPs and immune obstruction have substantial probability aimed at preclinical as well as 351 clinical vaccines formulation for cancer treatment by immunotherapy [82]. Hollow magnetite 352 nanoparticles have also been employed for reprogramming M2 TAMs to M1 TAMs, intended for 353 354 releasing proinflammatory cytokines in addition to employee T cells for killing cancer cells. MNPs were enclosed by poly (acrylic acid) (PAA) after being loaded by l-arginine (l-Arg). Then 355 they were modified as LPMNPs that has ability of releasing l-Arg depending on pH of PAA. In 356 357 vivo as well as in vitro investigations validate that the develop MNPs efficiently do the reprogramming of M2 into M1 macrophages, triggering T cells, discharging TNF-a, besides 358 generating extraordinary NO, resulting in immunotherapy [83]. 359

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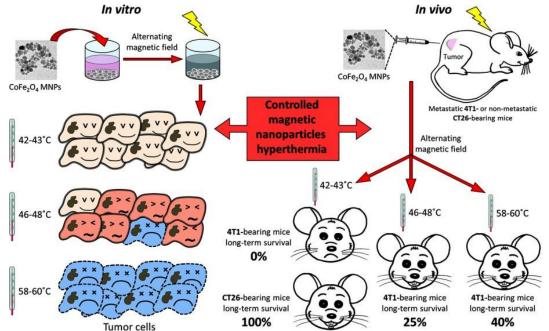
361 **3.3. Hyperthermia**

Hyperthermia is encouraging method to treat cancer. The usage of MNPs as heating mediators delivers an innovative approach to improve treatment regarding tumor and, subsequently, quality of patient's life [84,85]. In current clinical trials of hyperthermia using MNPs to treat tumors, AC (alternating current) magnetic field of 100 kHz is safe to be applied on patient. Though, systematic magnetic hyperthermia as temperature function on therapeutic efficacy is scarcely examined [86].

MNPs coated by biocompatible poly-L-lysine had been developed aimed at magnetic 368 hyperthermia to determine their therapeutic efficacy. They were verified for hyperthermia 369 appropriateness via calorimetric estimations and SAR (specific absorption rate) was also 370 measured. SAR value at 8 kAm⁻¹ field and 190 kHz frequency were 14 to15 Wg⁻¹. These 371 particles were also tested in MRI. The heating characteristics along with parameters of MRI 372 possess pronounced ability for advancement of targeted cancer therapy in future [87]. A 373 magnetic guanidinylated chitosan (MGC) nanobiocomposite was designed and evaluated by in-374 375 vitro hyperthermia for the cancer therapy. Size distribution of prepared composite was found to be in between 30-34 nm during synthesis process with a core-shell structure. By using AC 376 magnetic field SAR and saturation magnetization value were 70.59 w/g and 43.66 emu/g 377 respectively [88]. 378

In vivo as well as *in vitro* comparative analysis reliant upon temperature regarding effectiveness concerning nanoparticles of cobalt ferrites was done in two models of murine tumors that is 4T1 (breast) and CT26 (colon) cancer. *In vitro* killing capacity by using these nanoparticles gets increased with increase in temperature (Figure 3). CT26 cancer cells have more sensitivity than 4T1 on heating to 43 °C. Similarly *in vivo* data also revealed curing of non-metastatic CT26 cells, whereas only preventing growth of metastatic 4T1 tumor with no improvement of complete 385 survival. Higher temperature that is greater than 47 °C lead to whole clearance of 4T1 primary tumor, 25 to 40% prolong rates of survival, in addition to active inhibition concerning metastasis 386 compared with surgical abstraction. Therefore, particular temperature should be well-defined for 387 ensuring positive antitumor therapy [89]. 388

389



390 391 Figure 3. MNPs prevent primary growth of tumor in addition to metastases propagation through temperature-controllable hyperthermia. Reprinted with permission from the reference [89]. 392

393

Cancer cells possess distinctive metabolic feature that had been explored for biosynthesizing 394 MNPs for possible hyperthermia uses. Cancerous cells were mixed mixture of zinc gluconate and 395 396 FeCl₂ that significantly increase intracellular iron and zinc measure inside cells. There is rise in 397 temperature after thirty minutes exposure to alternating magnetic field. Nanoparticles of iron and 398 zinc oxide were formed. MNPs are SPIONs with magnetite and maghemite mixture. Optimizing conditions for treatment lead to a rise in temperature of about 5 to 6 °C on applying magnetic 399 400 field to treated cells. The simple treatment procedure, cell specificity able to synthesize SPIONs, and hyperthermia perceived in cancerous cells specified a hopeful approach towards achieving 401 operative hyperthermia aimed at cancer therapy [90]. Ultrasmall SPIONs (USPIONs) are 402 prepared via single-step method. Discrete nanoparticles were separated from unstable 403 404 agglomerated nanoparticles by post-synthetic purification, resulting in USPIONs preserving colloidal and chemical stability for long time. The improved nanoparticles displayed higher 405 saturation magnetization along with better heating efficacy for hyperthermia measurements. 406 407 Unusually, these nanoparticles showed notable double T1/T2 signal improvement, therefore 408 could be employed as MRI contrast agents. Such encouraging results established that these nanoparticles are outstanding candidates to develop theranostic nanosystems having potential in 409 hyperthermia and imaging applications [91]. A three dimensional cross-linked chitosan hydrogel 410

411 fabricated consuming chitosan polymeric chains and synthetic terephthaloyl was diisothiocyanate. It had high stability and uniformity in aqueous solution and high porosity was 412 applied as new substrate to generate novel nanocomposite comprising magnetic terephthaloyl 413 thiourea cross-linked chitosan and evaluated for hyperthermia process. The size distribution of 414 415 nanocomposites was estimated in between 30 to 40 nm. Under AC magnetic field, the SAR was found to be 66.92 w/g with saturation magnetization of 78.43 emu/g [92]. A novel magnetic 416 nanocomposite made of aromatic polyamide was investigated in hyperthermia aimed at cancer 417 therapy. The magnetite nanoparticles were modified by phenylenediamine derivatives and 418 terephthaloyl chloride via polymerization reaction. Exceptional morphologies of rose flower and 419 420 spheres were observed of the developed nanocomposites. On exposure to external AC magnetic field, SAR was measured was 191.97 w/g for 0.5 mg/mL of a sample, with saturation 421 magnetization of 4.3 emu/g [93]. 422

423 Hydrophilic surface modified SPIONs were prepared to treat liver cancer by hyperthermia. 424 Short-chain molecules, for instance 4-aminobenzoic acid (4ABA), 1,4-diaminobenzene (14DAB), plus 3,4-diaminobenzoic acid (34DABA) along molecules of terephthalic acid 425 (TA)/2-aminoterephthalic acid (ATA)/trimesic acid (TMA)/pyromellitic acid (PMA) were used 426 to functionalize SPIONs. Heating abilities of SPIONs were evaluated by calorimeter regarding 427 their surface coatings, concentrations, medium for dispersion, besides applied alternating 428 magnetic fields. All SPIONs were superparamagnetic in behavior, but SPIONs coated 429 with14DAB- 4ABA-, 4ABA-TA-, and 34DABA- displayed greater magnetization (Ms = 55 to 430 71 emu/g) with good dispersibility in water. 34DABA-coated SPIONs exposed rapid thermal 431 reaction on applying magnetic field and extended therapy temperature to low concentration 432 equals to 0.5 mg (mL)⁻¹ in comparison to 4ABA-, 14DAB-, and 4ABA-TA-coated SPIONs. 433 Furthermore, 34DABA-coated SPIONs showed great heating efficiencies with SAR of 432.1 434 W/g and killing efficacy of about 61 to 88% in liver HepG2 cancer cells in comparison to 435 water/magnetic field based thermotherapy. Thus, 34DABA-coated SPIONs are favorable heating 436 437 mediators for hyperthermia and could be utilized as operative nanomedicines aimed at treatments of cancer [94]. The thermal reaction of tumor tissue to hyperthermia depends on the MNPs 438 configuration setup along with its different parameters. Injection approach effects mass transfer 439 during treatment, which is related to the success of hyperthermia cancer treatment. In one of the 440 441 study mechanical response of tumor tissue to single and three site injections was compared. The results indicated that increasing injection sites enhances heat and mass transfer fluxes slightly; 442 443 but more expressively influenced by rate of injection. The three-point injection improved 444 distribution of nanoparticles and heat uniformly, which increased tissue damage and reduced the 445 risk of tissue necrosis [95].

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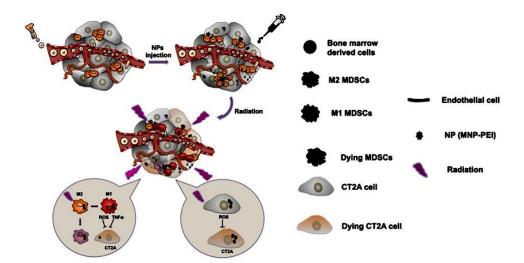
447 **3.4. Radiotherapy**

448 Tumor radio-sensitization could possibly get improved by integrating classical radiotherapy with 449 various drugs or MNPs. Currently, MNPs are being investigated to be applied in radionuclides

450 delivery, α - or β - emitters, as well as radiosensitizers for inducing damage to DNA of cancerous

451 cells by generating ionic radiation or free radicals [96]. They propose distinctive benefits over 452 existing radiotherapy practices via decreasing damage to off-target tissues because of nonparticular treatment nature via active and passive targeting [97]. Additionally, MNPs holds high 453 atomic number (Z) as well as display significant absorption of X-ray photons, resulting in 454 increase in production of secondary electrons for DNA destruction on increasing dose of 455 radiations. SPIONs enhance radiotherapy effectiveness and specificity regarding DNA 456 destruction via catalyzing production of ROS through ionizing rays causing considerably strong 457 oxidative pressure, particularly hydroxyl radicals which destroy DNA of cells [98,99]. 458

Currently, MNPs coated with gold (Au@IONPs) gained significant consideration towards cancer 459 460 therapeutics. In vitro studies were carried out to find out anti-cancerous impact regarding Au@IONPs nanoparticles with core-shell morphology in thermo-radiotherapy. Furthermore, 461 apoptosis level stimulated in glioma U87-MG human cells was examined after getting combined 462 463 therapy (hyperthermia + Au@IONPs + radiotherapy). After incubating nanoparticles with cells, 464 hyperthermia was done for one hour (43 °C) and after that they were instantaneously exposed to 6 megavolts of X-ray. The MTT results showed no substantial cytotoxicity regarding 465 nanoparticles at below concentration of 10 µg/mL and also enhanced cytotoxic effect concerning 466 radiation and hyperthermia was observed. Reason of cell death had been apoptosis due to 467 combined effect of nanoparticles, radiation, and hyperthermia on cancerous cells. Thus, prepared 468 nanoparticles are good radio- thermo-sensitizer that activates noteworthy apoptosis levels for 469 cancer treatment [100]. A novel platform based on MNPs modified with cationic polymer for 470 promoting radiotherapy to treat glioma. Modified MNPs induced cytotoxicity to in glioma cells 471 on radiations besides encouraging substantial survival advantages in aythmic and 472 473 immunocompetent mice having glioma. Taking advantage of magnetic features of MNPs, it was discovered that nanoparticles were taken up by MDSC (myeloid derived suppressor cells) inside 474 tumor of brain. Efficiency of nanoparticles was estimated by glioma cells destructions in addition 475 to repolarization of MDSCs from immuno-suppressive to pro-inflammatory phenotype that 476 helped antitumor impact as well as radio-therapeutic impacts synergistically (Figure 4). These 477 nanoparticles offers fast targeting dual platform aimed at radiotherapy of glioma through 478 immediate tumor abolition and management of myeloid phenotypes in central nervous system 479 480 [101].



481

Figure 4. MNPs resulting in extreme cytotoxicity specific to cancer. MDSCs, incompletely
exposed in addition to repolarized in M1-like phenotype producing anti-cancerous impact after
radiation therapy along with MNPs. The combined influence showed positive efficacy. Reprinted
with permission from the reference [101].

486

Magnetite nanoparticles coated with PEG are favorable candidate as radiation sensitizer for 487 radiotherapy. They improved cancer therapy and decreases adverse impacts regarding radiations. 488 489 On exposition to radiations surface coating of PEG possibly be fully or partially destroyed. This makes iron ions more accessible and perform as a catalyst to produce ROS species that improves 490 the cancer radiation therapy. Cytotoxicity studies revealed percentage killing of cells employing 491 Fe₃O₄ coated with PEG is greater for MCF-7 in comparison with L929. However, percentage 492 with bare MNPs is greater for both when compared with PEG coated MNPs. Thus, PEG coating 493 enhanced biocompatibility of MNPs that makes them appropriate for radiotherapy and also 494 upholds innovative opportunities in field of cancer radiotherapy for improving clinical 495 effectiveness in dissimilar cancer types [102]. MNPs conjugated with quercetin (QMNPs) were 496 prepared to investigate their sensitivity towards breast cancer in radiotherapy treatment. In vitro 497 results presented that HePG-2, MCF-7, and A459 cancerous cells incubation along these 498 nanoparticles effectively for twenty-four hours prevented cancerous cell growth depending on 499 concentration with values of IC50 equal to 77.5, 11, and $104 \text{ nmol}(\text{mL})^{-1}$, correspondingly. 500 Irradiation (IR) coupling with OMNPs powerfully blocked proliferation of MCF-7 cancerous 501 502 cells. QMNPs had no toxicity assessed by renal, hepatic, and hematological markers. In addition, in white albino female rats, they prevented cancer growth and persuasively improved adjacent 503 504 radiotherapy inside MNU (N-methyl-N-nitrosourea) prompted breast cancer. Such radiosensitizing along anti-cancerous happenings had been because of immunomodulation, cell cycle 505 506 detention, cytotoxicity, in addition to effectiveness by apoptosis generation. Conclusively, MNPs with radiotherapy possess prospective targeted therapy for treating breast cancer [103]. 507

508 SPIONs have demonstrated fascinating characteristics beneficial for diagnostic and therapeutic 509 application. Radio-sensitizing properties regarding SPIONs in brachytherapy and electron beam 510 radiotherapy had been investigated. In vitro investigations were performed consuming HeLa cells with SPIONs. Irradiations doses ranged from 0 to 10 Gy were done by 0.38 MeV 192Ir 511 brachytherapy as well as electron beams of 6 and 12 MeV energy. Radio-sensitization 512 classification was done through evaluating improvement in ratio of sensitization (SER), gained 513 514 from survival loops. Results showed SPIONs encourage radio-sensitization in electron beams 515 particularly at low energy having value of SER of 1.5. It is further noticeable in brachytherapy having SER of 2. High concentration of SPIONs is increases radio-sensitization impacts more. In 516 summary, radio-sensitization is influenced by energy of radiation as well as SPIONs 517 concentration. Additional categorization concerning radio-sensitization persuaded by SPIONs 518 519 might permit medical translation regarding SPIONs as per radio-sensitizer for radiotherapy 520 [104].

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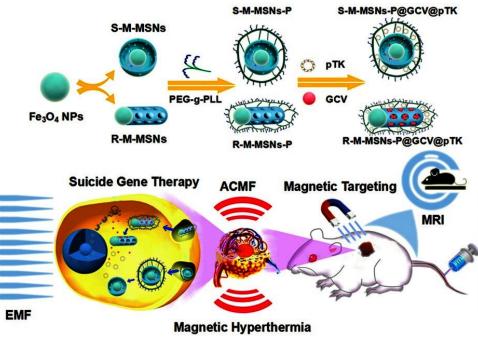
522 **3.5. Gene therapy**

523 Gene therapy signifies a different substitute to manage diseases with no adequate cure. Gene therapy to treat cancer made good progress in the last three decades. Comparatively gene therapy 524 has better safety with tolerable adverse effects than chemotherapy for the treatment of cancer 525 [105]. The major dissimilarity between gene therapy and chemotherapy is that in chemotherapy 526 drugs are being delivered, whereas in gene therapy targeted biological moieties for instance 527 RNA, DNA, or else siRNA, peptides, and proteins are been delivered to cancer site, and by this 528 manner death of the cells possibly is induced. When one part of the body has cancer, human 529 damaged DNA is categorized by presence of atypical proteins. This could be treated by replacing 530 defected gene in cancer cells [106]. On the other hand, siRNA suppressed protein activities, 531 532 occurring because of cancer cells. siRNA integrated with nanoparticles could be carried and delivered to cells, since medicinal RNA are very degradable when injected directly in 533 bloodstream. siRNA-MNP complex becomes practically unidentifiable for human body. Their 534 cellular uptake gets improved with longer circulation time. Because of vascular nature of tumor, 535 536 MNPs enter and accumulates in tumor [107].

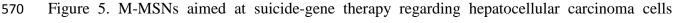
Magnetite nanoparticles coated with polydiacetylenes (Fe₃O₄@PDA) possess better 537 photothermal ability and could be applied for efficient loading and delivery of siRNA. They are 538 further coated with mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs), forming membrane. Fe₃O₄@PDA-539 540 siRNA@MSCs (MSCs membrane with nanoparticles of Fe₃O₄@PDA-siRNA) conserved photothermal effectiveness besides MRI ability received from nanoparticles of Fe₃O₄@PDA. 541 Prepared nanocomposites displayed unique capabilities to deliver siRNA to cells (DU145). 542 Additionally, they deliver siRNA opposing gene Plk1 restricts endogenous gene Plk1 expression 543 544 in addition apoptosis in cells DU145. Combined photothermal therapy with gene silencing presented clear antitumor efficiency in xenograft DU145 mice model. Primary in vivo and in 545 vitro examinations revealed that the developed nanocomposites have substantial potential as 546 carrier aimed at photothermal and gene therapy [108]. Suicide-gene therapy is hopeful method to 547 548 treat uterine leiomyoma (UL), tumor occurring in women categorized via specific localization. 549 The competence regarding $\alpha\nu\beta3$ integrin-targeted arginine-rich peptide carrier R6p-cRGD

attached electrostatically to MNPs aimed at targeted delivery of DNA to UL cells. MNPs addition caused decrease in required time for fruitful transfection by immediate escalation in efficacy. After plasmid delivery, therapeutic impact onto prime UL cells was evaluated. It encodes simple herpes virus 1 (HSV-1) thymidine kinase gene. Treating by ganciclovir, increases efficiency to twenty percent in suicide-gene treatment inside UL cells introduced by pPTK-1 plasmid. Finally, consumption of MNPs with cationic peptides are promising carriers to develop non-viral modular carriers aimed at suicide-gene delivery in UL cells [109].

Magnetically mediated suicide-gene therapy is favorable for suicide gene therapy. M-MSNs 557 comprising MNPs with nanoparticles of mesoporous silica were synthesized. Then carboxyl-558 modified M-MSNs had been loaded with PEG-g-PLL and GCV. After that they were attached to 559 M-MSNs surface that offered positively charged surface for absorption of TK plasmid (Figure 560 5). They were evaluated for their role in MRI, magnetically targeted as well as hyperthermia-561 562 assisted suicide gene therapy of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). Rod-shaped MSNs showed 563 greater capacity for loading, rapid release of pro-drug, improved magnetic gene delivery, in addition to enhanced hyperthermia in comparison with spherical MSNs. M-MSNs showed 564 extremely active double magnetic improved in vivo suicide-gene therapy along reduced 565 methodical toxicity. It also has capability for monitoring therapy outcome via MRI. Attributed to 566 567 magnetic targeting and hyperthermia, developed M-MSNs are possibly better candidate aimed at HCC suicide gene therapy [110]. 568



569



571 mediated magnetically. Reprinted with permission from the reference [110].

572

573 SPIONs functionalized with galactose (Gal) and polyethylenimine (PEI) bonded siRNA tightly,

defend siRNA from nuclease decomposition in system. Encapsulation of siRNA with SPIONs

prolongs its half-life and its transfection in cancerous cells with no *in vitro* cytotoxicity. Also,

576 encapsulated siRNA can be accumulated instantaneously, precisely target siRNA to targeted 577 cells, prolonging time of siRNA in tumor in addition to inhibition of growth of tumor. Consequently, it provides a newfangled targeting approach to liver cancer therapy. 578 The developed nanoparticles hold pronounced potential for gene therapy of tumor [111]. In another 579 580 work, MNPs (magnetite) functionalized with polyethyleneimine (PEI) were synthesized for delivering siRNAs targeting BCL2 (B-cell lymphoma-2) and BIRC5 (Baculoviral IAP repeat-581 containing 5) to oral Ca9-22 cancerous cells aimed at therapeutics. Nanoparticles blocked siRNA 582 depending on concentration analyzed via gel retardation. Higher gene silencing efficacies were 583 observed through measurable immediate western blotting and PCR. Additionally, the developed 584 nanocomplex delivering siRNAs to target BIRC5 and BCL2 inhibit considerably Ca9-22 cells 585 migration and viability. Thus developed siRNA-based approach was novel and promising 586 therapy to target BIRC5 and BCL2 regarding oral cancer [112]. A new approach was developed 587 towards RNA interference therapy of glioblastoma multiforme based on MNPs delivery of 588 589 double-stranded RNA (dsRNA) with homological sequences to mRNA of tenascin-C (TN-C), named ATN-RNA. Polyethyleneimine (PEI) coated MNPs conjugated to dsRNA were 590 synthesized that showed high efficiency in ATN-RNA delivery. These nanocomposites results in 591 significant suppressession of TN-C expression level and weakened migration of the tumor cells. 592 593 Furthermore, developed nanocomposites possess high contrast characteristics in magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and less cytotoxicity combining with lack of induction of interferon 594 response. This work is an effective combination of functional and non-immunostimulatory 595 dsRNA delivery system based on MNPs with high prospective for further application in 596 Glioblastoma multiforme (GBM) therapy [113]. 597

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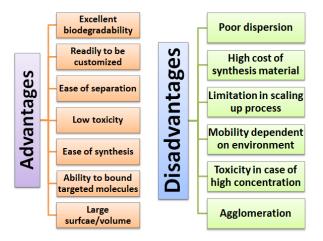
599 4. Advantages and limitations of magnetic nanoparticles for cancer therapy

MNPs are amongst widely investigated nanostructured material, by reason of their possible usages in different research fields wavering from data storing to catalyzing applications, including cancer detection and therapy [114,115]. MNPs have many benefits, particularly high ratio to surface area to volume, size of pores, modified surfaces, more than one interaction or binding sites, making them greatly appropriate to be utilized for treatments of diverse diseases [116].

606 Moreover, MNPs holds benefit over substitute metallic nanoparticles due to their control in size, definite interaction as well as dispersion, prevention of accumulation via coating, in addition to 607 permeation of tissue and cell barriers [66]. Generally, MNPs attained substantial consideration 608 attributed to their exclusive behavior, configuration, and differentiated applications. In particular, 609 their separate magnetic characteristics and variable size, ease of functionalizing surface by 610 different molecules, compatibility with various cell and biomolecules, inductive magnetic 611 moment, chemical constancy holding enlarged surface area, large magnetic susceptibility, 612 besides superparamagnetism [117]. 613

614 One of the major limitations in employing MNPs in therapeutic applications is impossibility to 615 concentrate them in 3-D (three-dimensional) area. Since by applying magnetic field externally, 616 MNPs organizes in 2-D (two-dimensional) space [118]. Furthermore, to retain MNPs in the targeted region is difficult after the removal of magnetic field. Another problem is related is time 617 of exposure to applied magnetic field, it is not possible to expose patients for unlimitedly 618 external magnetic field. This all reduced therapeutic effectiveness and limits it to intensity, 619 620 frequency, as well as exposure time of applied field [24]. Toxicity of MNPs depends mainly on administration method, surface chemistry, biodegradability, etc. Normally shape, composition, 621 surface area, coating, and dimensions MNPs are considered to determine cytotoxicity. MNPs 622 functionalization is vital for confirming minimum toxic impacts [119]. In some cases, controlled 623 release of ions for instance, cobalt ions from MNPs surface is helpful and can be consumed as 624 toxic agents for cells, like chemotherapeutic drugs [120]. Therefore a comprehensive valuation 625 regarding therapeutic and safety efficiency concerning MNPs must be executed before any 626 treatment for clinical usage [121]. Another issue is lasting effects of MNPs inside the body. 627 Commercially available MNPs are not biodegradable and their prolonged accumulation in tissues 628 629 can be dangerous for healthy cells. It is important to know how MNPs interacts with cancerous and healthy cells in human body as well as their excretion [115,122]. 630

SPIONs (superparamagnetic iron oxide nanoparticles) accumulation becomes unstable inside biological medium or solutions that are same as body fluids [123]. They possess diverse adverse effects, for instance deterioration in functioning of brain, liver, skin, stomach that might persist for ten years [124]. MNPs faced different physiological barriers lessening therapeutics localization at targeted site, which limit their use in cancer theranostics. Another limitation is particular targeting to cancer bearing site that reduces dosage and effectiveness regarding MNPs [125]. Few of the advantages along with disadvantages are illustrated in Figure 6.



638 639

Figure 6. Some of the advantages and disadvantages regarding MNPs.

640

641 **5. Conclusions**

Magnetic nanoparticles are being extensively explored for cancer therapeutics in combination
 with various therapies. Different MNPs are synthesized and functionalized with various coatings
 to enhance non-toxicity, biocompatibility, safety, bio-distribution, stability, etc. Massive
 consideration to MNPs was had been given because of their utilization in primary cancer

recognition and, hence, offer novel prospects for medicating cancer along with other diseases. 646 MNPs bonding to drugs, genes, antibodies, enzymes, and proteins assist in direct targeting of 647 definite cancerous site employing magnetic field that is externally applied. Current advancement 648 has focused to increase three-dimensional accuracy in activated release of drug, in addition to 649 650 improvement in magnetic targeting regarding drug to deeper tissues. In this review, we highlight recent development in cancer therapy by integrating MNPs with chemo-, immune-, gene-, radio-651 therapy in addition to hyperthermia. Since together they lead forward in a better way to amend or 652 treat cancer. Noteworthy progress was made utilizing with MNP platforms for pre-clinical cancer 653 therapy. Additionally, MNPs display pronounced potential to be used for monitoring cancer 654 treatment and providing critical evidence to doctors permitting them for adapting treatment 655 approaches to deliver optimum care. 656

657 In future work critical information is still needed to develop better MNPs properties in addition 658 to technologies aimed at economical magnetic systems. Moreover, researchers tried to overcome 659 difficulties particularly knowing bio-nano interactions inside humans, crossing biological as well as methodological barriers particular to cancer kind, evading late lysosome/endosome system in 660 cytosol inside cells, besides prolong toxicity. MNPs synthesis along their functionalization with 661 biotherapeutic as well as chemotherapeutic agents are being under progress to develop multi-662 663 module therapeutic tactics by unifying MNPs with different therapies in addition to consuming numerous drugs in different formulation aimed at cancer therapy. Fusion of immunomodulatory 664 and other targeting ligands assisted in cancer targeting and ultimately its therapy. Better 665 laboratory practices need to be industrialized to overcome industrial barriers. For scaling up 666 magnetic systems for cancer therapy, advancement in coil technology is mandatory for making 667 668 resource-effectual system.

In spite of many positive results gained from consuming MNPs as theranostic agent, there are 669 still some features to be improved for instance capacity to load drug and enhancing affinity for 670 targeting tumor cells. MNPs might be suitable for medical usage through integrated multimodal 671 672 treatment in future and vividly influence treatment regarding cancer. Numbers of pre-clinical tests with MNPs have been perceived, though, no single formulation comprising MNPs being 673 accepted aimed at cancer therapeutic till date. However, it's been anticipated that it would 674 evolve into medical investigations, on account of their pronounced potential to treat cancer. We 675 676 have confidence that delay in fruitful consumption of MNPs for clinics are motivated by making new formulations for cancer therapy. 677

678

679 **6. Experts opinion**

680 MNPs are explored broadly during last few years but still it is a great challenge to engineer them 681 to improve diagnosis and treatment of diseases. With respect to MNPs, central idea has been to 682 attach conventional anti-cancerous drugs to magnetic small spheres superficially, before 683 directing them inside human body. After getting inside to the body, drug loaded MNPs 684 accumulated in tumor by means of externally applied strong magnetic fields. By employing 685 MNPs, drug payload would be significantly reduced. Hence, unwanted and adverse effects related to systematic chemotherapeutics delivery, particularly nausea, loss of hair, in addition to
destabilized immunity, was prohibited. In spite of these facts, drug loaded MNPs are not in
medical use, and is in developing stage at extraordinary speed.

Cancer therapeutic approaches consuming MNPs depends upon transmitting energy to MNPs, 689 690 being introduced to body, from magnetic field. MNPs are favorable in medical sciences due to their stability in aqueous solutions, biocompatibility, low toxicity, over and above exceptional 691 chemical as well as physical features particularly superparamagnetism. Among MNPs, SPIONs 692 are commonly employed in tailored medicine aimed at cancer diagnosis and therapy. A list of 693 SPIONs in clinical trials and already in the market is presented in Table 2. Moreover, predicting 694 the best formulation of MNPs for humans is achieved with the help of better theoretical animal 695 models. For "in vivo" application, hydrodynamic size of MNPs is important factor, being 696 constrained by anatomical feature of human body. Due to this fact, they are mostly carried in 697 698 solutions of water. Nanoparticles having size lesser than one-fifty nanometers are able to cross 699 endothelial barrier, however MNPs with reduced size can penetrate blood-brain barrier [126]. 700 Additionally, MNPs except with size smaller than 10 nm, don't have fast renal clearance and would not be internalized by the reticuloendothelial system (RES) [127]. MNPs have tendency of 701 forming aggregates that is significant in magnetic resonance examinations. 702

702	Torning	aggrega	es that I	is sigm	incant i	in magneu	ic resonance	examination

Product	Size (nm)	Morphology	Coating agent	Application	Targeting moiety	Ref
SPIONs	40-50	Roughly spherical	Poly(ethylene glycol)/Dextran	Breast/Brain cancer	Folic acid	[128]
SPIONs	9-20	Polygonal and roughly spherical	Poly(ethylene glycol)	Prostate cancer	A10 RNA aptamer	[129]
SPIONs	8-13	Spherical	3-(aminopropyl) trimethoxysilane	Brain tumors	Methotrexate	[50,130]
SPIONs	10-30	Spherical	Dextran	Liver tumors	-	[131]
Ultrasmall SPIONs	5-15	Spherical	3-(aminopropyl) trimethoxysilane	Lung cancer	Arginine- glycine- aspartic acid	[132]

Table 2. A list of SPIONs in clinical trials regarding cancer therapy.

704

705 MNPs toxicity is one of the serious causes regarding their biomedical applications. It reduces therapeutic efficiency along with immunity or inflammatory activation because of their 706 707 agglomeration in organs. On entrance in cells, the toxicity can upset nuclear activities, leakage of 708 cell membranes that results in adversative metabolic action, proliferation of cells, and viability 709 consequences. Even though MNPs and SPIONs are FDA approved, but their usage in treating cancer should be wisely directed and organized, since their large amount might be 710 unsafe. Excessive use of MNPs can cause changes in living cells because of ROS production 711 712 cytoskeletal destruction, mitochondrial impairment, as well as DNA configuration alteration. One challenge is scaling up of the magnetic system. Prototypes devices for small-sized animals 713 could be built exploiting stable magnets with benchtop amplifiers, whereas establishing large 714

715 systems need high-powered electromagnets.

716 MNPs display substantial promise for theranostic applications as contrast enhancers and therapeutic agents for cancers. MNPs indicate the potential to be engaged in treating 717 cancer treatments because of their specific characteristics that deliver acute data to physicians 718 719 offering ultimate care. MNPs have been investigated extensively attributed to their ease of synthesis and functionalization; still, inadequate formulations get permitted for clinical uses. 720 However, there is room to translate MNPs from lab to clinic that requires complete 721 understanding concerning MNPs effects on human physiological reactions. Research showed 722 numerous formulations consisting MNPs have unsuccessful results to produce satisfactory 723 724 treatment levels in large animals and humans; similar to results that were perceived in small animals. For MNPs translation to clinics, ability to load drug, improving their specificity and 725 affinity to target cells, in addition to obtain required release of drug depending on tumor 726 727 microenvironment must be considered with the help of superior animal theoretical models. Table 728 3 summarizes some features of the reported magnetic nanoparticles intended for cancer therapy. Taking account of countless advantages, we are confident that combine diagnostic and 729 multimodal therapy consuming MNPs would propel forward their clinical employment and 730 731 considerably influence cancer therapy in near future.

Table 3. Some features regarding the reported magnetic nanoparticles intended for cancertherapy.

Material	Target	Specific feature	Type of treatment	Advantages	Ref
Polycaprolactone- SPIONs	Liver cancer	Polymer (PCL)	Hyperthermia	Better dispersibility, structural stability, and cytocompatability	[133]
Polyaspatamide- SPIONs	Cancer cells	Biotin	Hyperthermia	Better heating capability and enhanced cellular uptake	[134]
Polyacrylic acid- SPIONs	Breast cancer	Anti-HER2 antibody	Hyperthermia	Ultra-small size, High stability, and resistance to accumulation	[135]
GdPO ₄ -CS-Fe ₃ O ₄	Breast cancer	-	Photothermal therapy	Increased apoptosis and prevent cancer recurrence	[136]
SPIONs/Cur/Ver loaded PLGA nanoparticle	HepG2Liv er cancer	Poly lactic co glycolic acid (PLGA)	Chemotherapy/th ermotherapy	Minimum toxicity, enhanced stability and maximum treatment efficacy	[137]
Cetyltrimethyl ammonium bromide encapsulated IONPs	HeLa cells	-	Chemotherapy	Large-scale simple production, modifiable uniform size of pore size, high surface area, and pore volumes	[138]
Trastuzumab	MCF-7	Conjugated	Photothermal	Minimum cytotoxicity	[139]

22

conjugated porphyrin-SPIONs		antibodies	therapy	and water-solubility	
Poly-L-lysine-coated MNPs	Colorectal cancer cells	Conjugate specific antibodies	Immunotherapy	Selective targeting	[140]
Iron oxide nanparticles FeONPs	MCF-7	-	Radiotherapy (X- ray irradiation)	Additional oxidative stress	[141]
SPIONs	Colon cancer	-	Radiotherapy (150 MeV proton beams)	Enhanced oxidative stress to damage DNA of cells	[142,143]
Cationic coated	Brain	-		High efficiency, non-	[106]
MNPs	cancer			viral vehicles, and survival rate	

734

Among all these therapeutic methods, chemotherapeutic and hyperthermia are most promising 735 736 strategies and holds a pronounced potential to become a first line treatment for cancers. Other 737 approaches are still in progress and could become a safe option to treat various cancers. In vivo 738 or in vitro analysis verifies that SPIONs could modify living cells due to deterioration of 739 cytoskeleton, generation of ROS, mitochondrial damage, and structural changes in DNA [144]. MNPs toxicity is also due to their agglomerations that become unstable in physiological media. 740 For effective use of SPIONs, their shape, the dimensions, coating shell are vital parameters that 741 742 must be considered. Some research work claims that adverse effects regarding MNPs used in chemotherapy, radiotherapy, gene therapy, immunotherapy, and hyperthermia might be 743 effectively addressed by the body's self-defense system [145]. MNPs as a therapeutic tool is a 744 new and important research domain, which is still in the phase of continuous development and 745 should be, investigated more. 746

747

750

748 **Disclosure statement**

749 Authors have no competing interest to disclose.

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