Nanodelivery of cerebrolysin reduces functionalized Gold Nanoparticles induced Blood-brain barrier disruption, brain edema formation and brain pathology

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ABSTRACT

Recently, gold nanoparticles (AuNPs) are used for drug delivery in treating several neurological disorders e.g., Alzheimer’s disease (AD), Parkinson’s disease, Stroke and trauma. In addition, use of AuNPs for diagnostic purposes in various diseases are also common in clinical medicine. However, the neurotoxic effects of AuNPs in vivo studies are not well explored. In this innovation we present evidences that functionalized AuNPs induced brain pathology that depends on size, dose and route of administration. These AuNPs induce breakdown of the blood-brain barrier (BBB) permeability to protein tracers causing brain edema formation and neuronal and glial cell injuries. The magnitude and intensity of brain pathology caused by AuNPs is inversely related to the size of the NPs. Interestingly, co-administration of cerebrolysin, a balanced composition of various neurotrophic factors and active peptide fragments reduces AuNPs induced brain pathology. This effect was much more pronounced when the cerebrolysin was administered using TiO2 nanowired delivery, not reported earlier. Thus, use of cerebrolysin with or without nanowired as adjunct therapy could be used where AuNPs are used either for drug delivery or for diagnostic purposes in clinics.

Keywords: Functionalized gold nanoparticles, brain pathology, blood-brain barrier, brain edema, Cerebrolysin, nanodelivery

1 INTRODUCTION

Recently, gold nanoparticles (AuNPs) are used for drug delivery in treating several neurological disorders e.g., Alzheimer’s disease (AD), Parkinson’s disease, Stroke and trauma [1,2]. In addition, use of AuNPs for diagnostic purposes in various diseases are also common in clinical medicine [2]. However, the neurotoxic effects of AuNPs in vivo studies are not well explored [3]. Thus, it would be interesting to examine AuNPs neurotoxicity in vivo models in relation to size related effects on brain pathology. Furthermore, we also examined the effects one potent multimodal neuroprotective agent cerebrolysin that is a balanced composition of several neurotrophic factors and active peptide fragments on the AuNPs induced brain pathology with or without nanodelivery in a rat model.

2 MATERIALS & METHODS

Experiments were carried out on Male Wistar rats (200-250 g body weight) housed at controlled room temperature (21±1°C) with 12 h light and 12 h dark schedule. Food and tap water were supplied ad libitum before the experiment. All the experiments were carried out according to the Guidelines & Care for Laboratory Animals as described by National Institute of Health and approved by Local Institutional Ethics Committee.
2.1 Administration of AuNPs in vivo

We examined the effects of moderate doses of AuNPs of 3 different sizes (5 nm, 10 nm and 40 nm) administered either through intraperitoneally (10 mg/kg, i.p.), intravenously (5 mg/kg, i.v.), intracarotidly (2 mg/kg, i.c.a.) or intracerebroventricularly (20 µg in 20 µl, i.c.v.) in rats (Age 20 to 25 weeks).

2.2 Blood-brain barrier function

Blood-brain barrier (BBB) breakdown to Evans blue albumin (EBA 3 ml/kg, i.v.) and [131]Iodine (100 µCi/kg, i.v.) was examined 24 h after AuNPs administration in the brain using standard procedures. In brief, the BBB breakdown was examined using Evans blue (EB) and [131]Iodine leakage across the brain microvessels after intravenous administration of these tracers (EBA 2% solution 3 ml/kg, and radioiodine 100 µCi/kg) 5 min before the end of the experiment [4,5]. At the end of the experiment, the intravascular tracer was washed out with 0.9% saline and the brains were removed dissected weighted and radioactivity was determined in a Gamma counter. Before perfusion with saline, about one ml whole blood was obtained from cardiac puncture to analyze whole blood radioactivity. EBA dye entered into the brain was measured colorimetrically as described earlier.

2.3 Brain Edema formation

Brain edema was determined using regional water content by wet and dry weights of the brain samples [5,6]. For this purpose, brains were removed and dissected immediately and weighed to record wet weight of the sample. After that tissue samples were placed in an oven at 90°C for 72 h to record dry weight of the sample. Brain water content was calculated from the differences between wet and dry weight. Volume swelling was calculated from the differences in water content between control and experimental group.

2.4 Neural and Glial cell injury

In separate groups, neuronal changes were studied using histopathological examination of Nissl or Haematoxylin & Eosin (HE) staining [5-7]. Immunohistochemistry of glial fibrillary acidic protein (GFAP) was used to detect astrocytic dysfunction according to standard procedures.

2.5 TiO2-nanowired delivery of Cerebrolysin

Cerebrolysin (CBL, Ever NeuroPharma, Austria) was tagged with TiO2 nanowires according to standard protocol [4,6,7]. The TiO2 nanowired Cerebrolysin (2.5 ml/kg, i.v., NWBCBL) was co-administered with AuNPs.

2.6 Normal Cerebrolysin Delivery

For comparison, we used normal delivery of cerebrolysin in identical condition to evaluate neuroprotective effects of cerebrolysin in AuNPs induced brain pathology [6].

2.7 Statistical Analyses

ANOVA followed by Dunnett’s test for multiple group comparison with one control was used to analyze statistical significance of the data obtained. A p-value less than 0.05 was considered significant.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Brain Pathology of AuNPs

Marked BBB breakdown in several brain areas e.g., cerebral cortex, hippocampus, cerebellum, thalamus, hypothalamus and brain stem was seen following administration of 5 to 10 nm AuNPs irrespective of the routes of administration after 24 h [Fig. 1].

However, intracarotid administration exhibited more profound leakage of these tracers in the ipsilateral side whereas i.c.v. administration showed leakage of tracers on the dorsal surface of the ipsilateral hemisphere. Brain edema and neuronal injuries were tightly correlated with BBB breakdown. Activation of astrocytes and neuronal damages were also evident in the areas showing BBB leakage. Interestingly, there was an inverse relationship between AuNPs size and brain damage.
3.2 Neuroprotective effects of TiO2 Cerebrolysin (NWCBL)

Interestingly, co-administration of cerebrolysin (2.5 ml/kg, i.v.) using TiO2 nanowired delivery significantly reduced the BBB breakdown, edema formation and brain damage following AuNPs administration to any route after 24 h.

Thus, treatment with NWCBL resulted in profound reductions in the BBB breakdown to EBA and radioiodine in several brain regions. Also the neuronal and glial cell damages were markedly reduced.

3.3 Neuroprotective effects of normal Cerebrolysin

Normal cerebrolysin infusion required higher doses (5 ml/kg, i.v.) to reduce BBB breakdown, brain edema formation and cell injuries following AuNPs administration under identical conditions.
injections. Intraperitoneal (i.p.) injection showed the least damage although the damage was significantly higher than the saline control group. These observations indicate that AuNPs depending on their dose and route of administration could induce brain pathology.

It appears that AuNPs induced breakdown of the BBB plays important roles in brain edema formation and brain pathology [4-6]. This idea is further supported by the fact that neuronal and glial cell damages were most prominent in the areas exhibiting EBA leakage. Leakage of EBA and radioiodine indicates extravasation of proteins into the brain microfluid environment. Since EBA and radioiodine when administered into the systemic circulation they bind with serum proteins, largely albumin. Thus, leakage of these tracers across the BBB represents serum protein extravasation. Obviously, serum protein leakage into the brain extracellular environment leads to vasogenic edema formation and subsequent neuronal and glial cell injuries.

This is further apparent from the findings that cerebrolysin either alone or co-administered with TiO2 nanowires is able to thwart BBB breakdown to proetin tracers caused by AuNPs injection. In cerebrolysin treated group brainedema and cell injuries were also much less evident.

The basic mechanisms by which cerebrolysin is able to thwart brain pathology following AuNPs administration could be due to strengthening of the BBB function and thereby reducing vasogenic brain edema formation [5-7]. Restoration of BBB function and reduction in brain edema are instrumental for neuronal survival [4,5]. Enhancement of neuroprotection by NWCBL may either be due to an enhanced penetration of the drug within the brain or to a slow degradation or metabolism of cerebrolysin within the brain [5,6]. Thus, co-administration of NWCBL has the superior neuroprotective activity as compared to the drug alone following AuNPs neurotoxicity, not reported earlier.

5 CONCLUSION

In conclusion, our observations are the first to show that AuNPs induced neurotoxicity is related to the size and route of administration. Furthermore our investigation showed that co-administration of nanowired cerebrolysin is far more effective in reducing AuNPs induced brain pathology. This suggests cerebrolysin could be used as adjunct therapy in clinics where AuNPs is used either for diagnostic or drug delivery for better therapeutic strategies, not reported earlier.

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7 REFERENCES


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