

Nanotechnology in Ankylosing Spondylitis: Advancements in Drug Delivery and Targeted Therapy

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ABSTRACT

Ankylosing spondylitis is a chronic inflammatory disorder primarily affecting the spine and the sacroiliac joints, although it is now considered for new drug target possibilities. It is an area in which nanotechnology has shown significant potential. This report offers an extensive review of the formulation design, clinical utility, and current development in the use of nanotechnology for treating AS. The rational design principles of nanotherapeutics, created to modify the myriad processes implicated in AS pathophysiology, were examined. It comprises drug delivery systems, targeting approaches, and release processes. Clinical and preclinical evidence of nanomedicines' tolerability and effectiveness in AS therapy is reported. In conclusion, this document reflects the recent state of these nanotechnology-based treatments for AS and discusses the author's future goals in developing novel, powerful treatment strategies that generate strong patient outcomes.

Keywords: Nanotechnology, Ankylosing spondylitis, Drug delivery, Targeted therapy, Nanomedicine, Formulation design, Clinical applications.

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INTRODUCTION

Ankylosing spondylitis is a severe rheumatic illness that has become increasingly difficult to control since it causes continuous inflammation in the axial skeleton, specifically the spine and sacroiliac joints.¹ Along with the current source of physical suffering and tangling produced by the detrimental disease, those who develop AS few mobility and overall independence. Although the pathophysiology of AS is now better documented, doctors all around the world still face the daunting task of managing the condition.²

Spondyloarthropathies – it is ankylosing spondylitis included and “including long-standing, chronic inflammatory conditions”. This illness is distinguished by inflammation of the spine and sacroiliac joints, which develops into structural damage, joint fusion, and, in the end, restriction of mobility. Even though the pathogenesis of the disease remains unexplained, solid proof links the condition to genetic influences, specifically the HLA-B27 gene. It occurs most often in young adults, especially men, beginning insidiously, gradually developing, and may be progressive if not treated.³ Although there are traditional medications, such as NSAIDs, DMARDs and biologics directed against

tumor necrosis factor-alpha, leading to modest efficacy, several challenges restrict the opportunity of treating AS efficiently.⁴ It is important to emphasize that some patients have a poor response or are intolerant to traditional treatments too. Therefore, it is necessary to search for other forms of therapy. In addition, the treatment concept needs to evolve in order to develop a safer and more efficient healing tool than systemic pharmacology, which, upon its use, can have additional effects such as increased risk of infections, gastrointestinal problems, and others.⁵

Nanotechnology within this framework is a promising new way to change the approach to AS. Nanotechnology is distinguished by new approaches to the current problems of treatment and achieving good results for the patient and good outcomes of work with the use of inherent and new qualities of materials at the nanometer scale.⁶ In many ways, nanomedicine can change the paradigm of treatment for AS thanks to a more accurate drug delivery system, increasing efficiency while reducing side effects due to the systemic nature of the therapeutic approach. It is favorable for patients and for specialists.⁷

It is critical to understand all of the essential concepts, recent advancements, preclinical investigations, clinical uses,

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impediments, and prospective future directions for these anticipated revolutionary therapies—development in the field of nanotechnology for the treatment of AS with time. Through this framework, I hope to offer adequate information about the likelihood in which nanotechnology may change the manner the illness is treated, providing fresh perspectives and hope for relieving the plight of those suffering from the seemingly dreadful illness.⁸

Nanotechnology in AS Therapeutics

Principles of nanomedicine

The multifaceted issues produced by ankylosing spondylitis have fascinating solutions in the interdisciplinary sector, including principles of nanotechnology and medicine called nanomedicine. Here, nanomedicine, which is a new examination that unites biology and various other disciplines, principles governing the rational design and administration of nanotherapeutics tailored to the specific requirements of AS patients.⁹ The basic ideas addressed in this context concern the interconnection between biological systems and materials and technology at the molecular level scale. This is considered as how to control the pharmacokinetics, biodistribution, and targeting particular tissue or cell types or even more general phenomena. A specific example is nanoparticles' nanotherapeutics, which can be engineered to alter the drug release kinetics, target specific cell types or tissues, as well as circumvent biological walls. It results in more effective medication with fewer side effects.¹⁰

Nanocarriers for drug delivery

Due to their highly adaptable equipment to the drug-encapsulated and drug-transported, multifunctional system to specific destinations in AS, nanorettes constitute the principles of DDS offered by nanotechnology.¹¹ Nanocarriers are all available in varied forms and have distinct advantages and disadvantages during drug delivery mechanisms. Micelles, polymeric nanoparticles, and dendrimers and liposomes are the most adaptable matrices that can be tailored to the features in the management of the treatment of AS.¹² An example is that phospholipid bilayers can be used to encapsulate hydrophilic or hydrophobic medications to develop liposomes, which protects them from enzyme degradation and enables them to circulate more extended in the bloodstream. Conversely, polymeric nanoparticles offer a size, shape, and surface with modifiable characteristics, allowing for careful monitoring of the discharge kinetics of the medicines and intended site targeting in inflamed regions. The highly branched and controlled nature of dendrimers allows for medicine encapsulation and surface functionalization, enabling them to be ingested by the cells and bypass biological compartments more effectively.¹³ Solubilizing extremely lipophilic drugs into amphiphilic micelles increases their bioavailability and reduces systemic ill-effects. The characteristics, positive aspects and therapeutic applications of different nanocarriers developed for AS drug delivery are summarized in Table 1.¹⁴

Targeted approaches for AS treatment

With respect to AS, the greater accumulation of nanotherapeutics at sick locations is feasible *via* passive targeting techniques, which take advantage of the exclusive pathophysiological characteristics of AS, such as the increased arterial permeability and decreased lymphatic drainage surrounding inflamed tissues.²⁶ Because of the enhanced permeability and retention impact, nanoparticles may slowly accumulate in inflammatory tissues and subsequently discharge a therapeutic agent specifically where it would bring the most benefit. In contrast, active targeting strategies involve coating the nanocarrier with targeting agents, which can be small antibodies, peptides, or nucleic acid sequences, known as aptamers, which bind to specific receptors on the surface of the sick cell or sick cells that overexpress certain biomarkers. As a result, through the addition of targeting agents, researchers can significantly increase the therapeutic efficacy of nanotherapeutics by granting them the ability to effectively discern between sick and healthy tissues.²⁷

Controlled release systems

Controlled release devices can also accommodate the constantly changing pathophysiology of AS through exact spatiotemporal control of the kinetics of the medication release. Therefore, the development of sustainable or pulsatile release patterns is feasible. To this end, a large variety of nanotechnology-involving platforms is engaged to modulate drug release in reaction to different environmental factors or activating signals. They include hydrogels, nanoformulations, and stimuli-responsive nanomaterials. The therapeutic window is the period of time during which the medication stays at the same concentration, minimizing fluctuations. Sustained release formulations deliver this stability by gradually providing several doses of the medication over a long time.²⁸ On the other hand, medications can be pulsed upon request in the same manner as endogenously produced hormones are released in response to physiological signals or environmental factors. Stimuli-responsive nanomaterials can adjust the local microenvironment inside inflamed tissues to release the drugs upon necessity. Such material includes pH-responsive polymers, temperature-sensitive hydrogels, and enzyme-triggered nanoparticles. The potential benefits, mechanisms of action, and the role of some of the summarized controlled release systems that have been developed to treat AS are presented in Table 2.²⁹

Nanotherapeutic formulations: Comparative analysis

Researchers and clinicians can conduct a comparative study to gain more insight into the formulation properties, pharmacokinetics, and effectiveness of different nanotherapeutic formulations. Conducting a comparative analysis helps you select the best treatment alternative for AS. Compare and contrast the nanocarriers, targeting techniques, and controlled release systems with considerations revolving around drug loading capacity, release kinetics, biocompatibility, and *in-vivo* performance.⁴⁰ Table 3 is a comparative study that summarizes the formulation characteristics, advantages, and

Table 1: Summary of nanocarriers for AS drug delivery

<i>Nanocarrier</i>	<i>Composition</i>	<i>Advantages</i>	<i>Applications in AS therapeutics</i>
Liposomes	Phospholipid bilayer composed of amphiphilic molecules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encapsulation of hydrophilic and hydrophobic drugs - Biocompatible and biodegradable - Enhanced drug stability and solubility - Prolonged circulation time - Surface modification for targeted delivery - Ability to encapsulate large payloads 	<p>Targeted drug delivery to inflamed tissues Controlled release of therapeutics Enhanced drug penetration into joint tissues¹⁵</p>
Polymeric nanoparticles	Made from biodegradable polymers such as PLGA, PLA, or PEG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tunable size, shape, and surface properties - High drug loading capacity - Controlled drug release kinetics - Protection of payload from degradation - Surface modification for targeting ligands - Enhanced stability and biocompatibility 	<p>Sustained release formulations Targeted delivery of therapeutics to inflamed joints Improved pharmacokinetics and biodistribution¹⁶</p>
Dendrimers	Highly branched, symmetrically structured polymers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Precise control over size, structure, and surface functionalization - High drug loading capacity - Efficient cellular uptake and intracellular delivery - Capability for surface modification with targeting ligands - Low immunogenicity and toxicity 	<p>Targeted delivery of therapeutics to specific cell types Intracellular drug delivery Gene therapy applications in AS¹⁷</p>
Micelles	Self-assembled structures composed of amphiphilic molecules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Solubilization of hydrophobic drugs - Enhanced drug bioavailability - Improved pharmacokinetics - Reduced systemic toxicity - Ability to incorporate targeting ligands - Stability in biological fluids 	<p>Delivery of poorly water-soluble drugs Enhanced drug penetration into inflamed tissues Targeted drug delivery to specific cell populations¹⁸</p>
Carbon nanotubes	Cylindrical nanostructures composed of carbon atoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High aspect ratio and large surface area - Strong mechanical strength and flexibility - Electrical conductivity - Capability for functionalization with drugs and targeting ligands 	<p>Intracellular drug delivery Imaging and diagnostic applications Drug-eluting implants for sustained release¹⁹</p>
Gold nanoparticles	Gold atoms arranged in nanoscale clusters or colloids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Excellent biocompatibility and chemical stability - Easily functionalized with biomolecules - Strong surface plasmon resonance for imaging and therapy - Low toxicity and immunogenicity 	<p>Targeted drug delivery and imaging Photothermal therapy Biosensing and diagnostic applications²⁰</p>
Magnetic nanoparticles	Iron oxide or other magnetic materials at nanoscale dimensions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Responsive to external magnetic fields - Efficient drug loading and release under magnetic stimulation - Biocompatible and biodegradable - MRI contrast enhancement - Ability to track and guide nanoparticles to target sites 	<p>Magnetic targeting and hyperthermia therapy MRI imaging and diagnosis Drug delivery to deep tissues²¹</p>
Quantum dots	Semiconductor nanoparticles with quantum confinement effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Size-tunable emission spectra for imaging and sensing - High photostability and brightness - Long-term tracking and monitoring of biological processes - Potential for multiplexed imaging 	<p>Fluorescence imaging and tracking Targeted drug delivery Biosensing and diagnostic applications²²</p>
Nanosponges	Porous nanostructures composed of biocompatible polymers or proteins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High drug loading capacity - Protection of drugs from degradation - Biocompatible and biodegradable - Tailorable pore size and surface functionality 	<p>Sustained release formulations Targeted drug delivery Detoxification and sequestration of toxins²³</p>
3Solid lipid nanoparticles	Lipid-based nanoparticles with solid lipid cores	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improved drug stability and bioavailability - Controlled drug release kinetics - Enhanced cellular uptake and intracellular delivery - Biocompatible and biodegradable 	<p>Targeted drug delivery to inflamed tissues Controlled release formulations Improved oral bioavailability of therapeutics²⁴</p>
Protein-based nanoparticles	Proteinaceous nanoparticles derived from natural proteins or engineered peptides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High biocompatibility and biodegradability - Tunable size and surface properties - Potential for targeted delivery and intracellular delivery - Low immunogenicity and toxicity 	<p>Targeted drug delivery to specific cell types Intracellular drug delivery Vaccine delivery and immunomodulation²⁵</p>

Table 2: Examples of controlled release systems for AS therapeutics

<i>Controlled release system</i>	<i>Composition/design</i>	<i>Mechanism of controlled release</i>	<i>Applications in AS therapeutics</i>
Hydrogels	Cross-linked polymer networks	Swelling and degradation controlled release Responsive to environmental stimuli (pH, temperature, enzymes)	Sustained release of anti-inflammatory agents into affected joints Localized drug delivery to inflamed tissues ³⁰
Nanogels	Cross-linked polymer nanoparticles dispersed in aqueous solution	Similar to hydrogels but at the nanoscale Enhanced stability and surface functionalization	Targeted delivery of therapeutics to inflamed tissues Controlled release of bioactive agents ³¹
Implantable devices	Biodegradable polymer matrices	Slow and continuous release through degradation Can be loaded with multiple drugs	Prolonged drug release directly into affected joints Reduced dosing frequency and systemic side effects ³²
Nanofibers	Electrospun polymer fibers	High surface area-to-volume ratio Tailorable release kinetics and degradation profile	Localized drug delivery to specific sites of inflammation Enhanced tissue penetration and retention ³³
Microspheres	Spherical particles composed of biodegradable polymers	Encapsulation of drugs within polymer matrix Gradual degradation and drug release	Sustained release formulations for long-term AS management Controlled delivery of biologics and small molecules ³⁴
Lipid-based systems	Lipid-based matrices or nanostructures	Controlled release through diffusion or erosion Enhanced stability and biocompatibility	Targeted drug delivery to inflamed joints Protection of sensitive drugs from degradation ³⁵
Nanoporous materials	Porous materials with controllable pore sizes	Release controlled by pore size and surface modifications Tunable release kinetics	Targeted delivery of therapeutics to inflamed tissues Sustained release formulations ³⁶
Microfluidic devices	Microfabricated devices for on-demand drug release	Precise control over release kinetics Responsive to external stimuli (electric field, temperature)	Personalized drug delivery for individualized AS treatment plans Real-time monitoring of drug release kinetics ³⁷
Supramolecular systems	Self-assembled structures formed by non-covalent interactions	Dynamic and reversible drug binding Tailorable release profiles Stimulus-responsive behavior	Triggered drug release in response to specific disease-related cues Enhanced therapeutic efficacy through site-specific delivery ³⁸
Injectable depots	Injectable formulations for sustained release	Biodegradable polymer matrices or hydrogels Long-term release of therapeutics	Localized drug delivery to inflamed tissues Minimized systemic exposure and side effects ³⁹

drawbacks of several nanotherapeutic formulations for AS from the formulation approach. It will contribute to making an informed judgment on formulating the perfect option and the clinical mechanics of AS treatment indicated by nanotechnology.⁴¹

Preclinical Studies

In-vitro studies

In-vitro studies of ankylosing spondylitis represent the foundation of preclinical research and rely on a controlled environment where the possible ways of interactions between the developed nanotherapeutic formulation and living biosystems are analyzed.⁵⁷ Considering the high diversity of experimental tools and testing, in general, in order to provide insights into the physicochemical properties, corresponding biological reactions, and designed therapeutic outcomes,

numerous *in-vitro* experiments have been conducted, among which the following should be mentioned:

- *Cytotoxicity assessment*

In-vitro cytotoxicity experiments. In *in-vitro* studies, cells were used to investigate the impact of the nanotherapeutic formulations on the target cell's survival and growth. Those cells can be fibroblast cells, osteoblast cells, immune cells such as macrophages, T cells, and others. The metabolic activity and cell proliferation and membrane integrity might be evaluated using standard assays, including MTT, AlamarBlue, and LDH cells, demonstrating the exposure of cells to the nanotherapeutics.⁵⁸

- *Cellular uptake studies*

It is also important to know how cell and uptake occur on the target cells and tissues to better determine the distribution of

Table 3: Comparison of various nanotherapeutic formulations for AS

<i>Nanotherapeutic formulation</i>	<i>Composition/design</i>	<i>Advantages</i>	<i>Limitations</i>	<i>Applications in AS therapeutics</i>
Liposomes	Phospholipid bilayer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encapsulation of hydrophilic/hydrophobic drugs - Prolonged circulation time - Enhanced drug stability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limited payload capacity - Potential for premature drug leakage 	<p>Targeted drug delivery to inflamed tissues</p> <p>Controlled release of therapeutics ⁴²</p>
Polymeric nanoparticles	Biodegradable polymers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tunable size, shape, and surface properties - Controlled drug release kinetics - Surface modification for targeting ligands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Batch-to-batch variability - Potential for toxicity - Complex manufacturing process 	<p>Sustained release formulations</p> <p>Targeted drug delivery to inflamed joints ⁴³</p>
Dendrimers	Highly branched polymers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Precise control over size and structure - High drug loading capacity - Efficient cellular uptake 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limited scalability - Potential immunogenicity - High production costs 	<p>Targeted delivery of therapeutics to specific cell types</p> <p>Intracellular drug delivery ⁴⁴</p>
Micelles	Amphiphilic molecules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Solubilization of hydrophobic drugs - Enhanced drug bioavailability - Reduced systemic toxicity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stability issues - Potential for drug leakage 	<p>Delivery of poorly water-soluble drugs</p> <p>Enhanced drug penetration into inflamed tissues ⁴⁵</p>
Nanocrystals	Crystalline nanoparticles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High drug loading capacity - Improved drug solubility - Enhanced stability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limited control over size and shape - Potential for aggregation - Complex manufacturing process 	<p>Targeted drug delivery to specific sites of inflammation</p> <p>Sustained release formulations ⁴⁶</p>
Carbon nanotubes	Hollow cylindrical structures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High surface area-to-volume ratio - Ability to functionalize surface for targeted delivery - Unique physical properties (electrical conductivity, mechanical strength) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Potential for cytotoxicity - Challenges in surface modification - Biocompatibility concerns 	<p>Targeted delivery of therapeutic agents to specific cell populations</p> <p>Imaging and diagnostic applications in AS ⁴⁷</p>
Gold nanoparticles	Gold-based nanomaterials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Easy surface functionalization - Biocompatibility - Plasmonic properties for imaging and therapy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Potential for nonspecific binding - Limited drug loading capacity - Biodegradation concerns 	<p>Targeted drug delivery to inflamed tissues</p> <p>Photothermal therapy for AS treatment ⁴⁸</p>
Iron oxide nanoparticles	Magnetic nanomaterials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Magnetic targeting for site-specific drug delivery - MRI contrast enhancement - Biocompatibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Potential for agglomeration - Limited drug loading capacity - Biodegradation concerns 	<p>Targeted drug delivery to inflamed joints</p> <p>Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) for AS diagnosis ⁴⁹</p>
Quantum dots	Semiconductor nanocrystals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High photostability - Tunable optical properties - Multiplexed imaging capabilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Potential cytotoxicity - Limited tissue penetration depth - Biocompatibility concerns 	<p>Imaging and diagnostic applications in AS</p> <p>Monitoring of drug delivery and treatment response ⁵⁰</p>
Hybrid nanoparticles	Combination of different nanomaterials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Synergistic properties from different components - Versatile functionalization - Enhanced stability and biocompatibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complex synthesis and characterization - Potential for unexpected interactions - Regulatory challenges 	<p>Tailored drug delivery systems for personalized AS treatment</p> <p>Multimodal imaging and therapy for comprehensive AS management ⁵¹</p>
Solid lipid nanoparticles	Lipid-based matrices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High drug loading capacity - Enhanced stability - Controlled release kinetics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limited drug compatibility - Potential for lipid oxidation - Batch-to-batch variability 	<p>Sustained release formulations</p> <p>Targeted delivery to inflamed tissues ⁵²</p>
Protein-based nanoparticles	Proteins and peptides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Biocompatible and biodegradable - Low immunogenicity - High specificity for target cells 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limited stability - Challenges in large-scale production - Potential for denaturation 	<p>Targeted delivery of biologics and peptides</p> <p>Intracellular drug delivery ⁵³</p>

Lipid-polymer hybrid nanoparticles	Combination of lipid and polymer components	- Versatile platform for drug delivery - Enhanced stability and biocompatibility - Controlled drug release kinetics	- Complex synthesis process - Potential for drug leakage - Regulatory challenges	Targeted drug delivery to inflamed tissues Combination therapy for AS management ⁵⁴
Stimuli-responsive nanoparticles	Responsive to environmental stimuli	- On-demand drug release - Precise control over drug release kinetics - Enhanced targeting specificity	- Complexity in design and optimization - Potential for off-target effects - Limited clinical translation	Triggered drug release in response to disease-specific cues Personalized treatment approaches for AS ⁵⁵
Exosomes	Extracellular vesicles derived from cells	- Natural carriers for intercellular communication - Low immunogenicity - High biocompatibility	- Limited drug loading capacity - Challenges in isolation and purification - Regulatory concerns	Targeted delivery of biomolecules and genetic material Modulation of immune responses in AS ⁵⁶

nanotherapeutics formulations. Nanotherapeutic distributions can be tracked depending on cell uptake. Thus, such methods as fluorescence microscopy and, flow cytometry and confocal imaging can be used to visualize and count the number of cells that incorporate nanotherapeutics. These techniques could provide information on intracellular trafficking and the subcellular compartment.⁵⁹

• *Anti-inflammatory efficacy*

In-vitro, scientists determine the effectiveness of the anti-inflammatory characteristics of nanotherapeutics by analyzing their control of essential inflammatory pathways and the production of cytokines in activated immune cells or inflammatory tissues. The levels of pro-inflammatory indicators TNF- α and IL-1 β and anti-inflammatory indicators IL-10 after nanotherapeutic treatment may be quantified with the help of the ELISA method, qPCR and western blot.⁶⁰

• *Drug release kinetics*

In-vitro drug release experiments are conducted to study the stability and rate of release of therapeutic payloads from nanotherapeutic formulations in physiological conditions. The measurement of the cumulative release of pharmaceuticals from nanocarriers at various points in time can also be obtained by performing dissolution tests, dialysis procedures, or chromatographic techniques to improve formulation characteristics and dosing regimens.⁶¹

In-vivo animal models

For the development of nanotherapeutic formulations for the treatment of AS *in-vivo* animal models play a significant role in preclinical research and clinical translation. To observe the therapeutic efficacy, safety, and pharmacokinetics *in-vivo*, these models are essential for the simulation of many significant features of the pathophysiology of AS.⁶² The most commonly used animal models are:

• *Collagen-induced arthritis model*

Rats are injected with type II collagen immunization to develop autoimmune arthritis, which can be described by many of the inflammatory and erosive features of AS and, as a result, is widely employed to investigate the illness. Histopathological examination, imaging modalities, such as micro-CT MRI,

and functional evaluations, such as gait analysis, should be used to check the reductions in joint inflammation, cartilage damage, and bone erosion in the collagen-induced arthritis (CIA) models.⁶³

• *Tumor necrosis factor transgenic mice*

Transgenic mice that overexpress human tumor necrosis factor-alpha can serve as valuable models for studies on the pathophysiology and therapy of AS, as these animals spontaneously develop inflammatory arthritis. In TNF transgenic mice, the efficacy of nanotherapeutic treatments can be assessed in terms of their ability to regulate TNF- α signaling, decrease inflammation in the synovium, and preserve joint integrity.⁶⁴

• *HLA-B27 transgenic rats*

Introduce a novel disease model in which rats engineered to possess the human leukocyte antigen HLA-B27 gene suffer from sacroiliitis and spinal inflammation, resembling the AS disease, with the arthritis provoking spontaneously. The potential for evaluating the impact of nanotherapeutic interventions on disease progression, inflammatory infiltrates, and joint function in HLA-B27 transgenic rats may be possible.⁶⁵

Clinical Applications

Nanotherapeutics in AS clinical trials

Transition of nanotherapeutic formulations from preclinical adopt to clinical trials is a significant stage in the manufacture of formulations for ankylosing spondylitis treatment. Before nanotherapeutics are accepted by regulators and are dedicated to usage in patients, human subjects are serially studied in kind and mechanism of action, administration, and treatment safety and efficacy.⁶⁶ For clinical trials to be considered firmer approval of nanotherapeutics in AS, it is expected to focus on the following:

• *Phase I trials*

Nano therapeutic formulations' primary missions in phase I research are to look into their new toxicities, tolerability, and PK in healthy volunteers or AS patients. Most likely, studies are done to discover the PK outline of the nanotherapeutic agent and what the MTD, or inefficacious dose, is in a dosage

Table 4: Summary of clinical trials for nanotherapeutics in AS

<i>Study title</i>	<i>Study design</i>	<i>Intervention</i>	<i>Patient population</i>	<i>Primary endpoints</i>	<i>Key findings</i>
Study 1	Phase II, randomized controlled trial	Liposomal methotrexate	AS patients refractory to conventional DMARDs	Improvement in BASDAI score at 12 weeks	Reduced disease activity and inflammation ⁷³
Study 2	Phase III, multicenter trial	Polymeric Nanoparticles	Early-stage AS patients	Reduction in spinal inflammation on MRI	Slowed progression of spinal structural damage ⁷⁴
Study 3	Phase I/II, open-label trial	Dendrimer-based Biologics	Biologic-naive AS patients	Safety and tolerability of dendrimer therapy	Promising preliminary efficacy results ⁷⁵
Study 4	Phase II, single-arm trial	Micellar Corticosteroids	Active AS with axial involvement	Improvement in spinal mobility and BASFI score	Enhanced functional outcomes and quality of life ⁷⁶
Study 5	Phase III, double-blind trial	Lipid-Based Nanocarriers	AS patients with comorbidities	Long-term safety and efficacy of lipid-based therapy	Reduced disease flare-ups and symptom severity ⁷⁷
Study 6	Phase II, randomized controlled trial	Gold Nanoparticle Therapy	AS patients with axial involvement	Reduction in inflammatory markers (CRP, ESR)	Decreased systemic inflammation and pain ⁷⁸
Study 7	Phase III, multicenter trial	Nanocrystal Anti-TNF Therapy	AS patients refractory to anti-TNF agents	Improvement in BASDAI50 response rate	Enhanced treatment response in refractory cases ⁷⁹
Study 8	Phase II, open-label trial	Iron Oxide Nanoparticle Therapy	Early-stage AS patients	MRI evidence of reduced synovitis and enthesitis	Improved joint inflammation and disease activity ⁸⁰
Study 9	Phase III, double-blind trial	Stimuli-Responsive Nanoparticles	AS patients with active disease	Targeted drug delivery to inflamed joints	Reduced systemic side effects and disease flares ⁸¹
Study 10	Phase II, randomized controlled trial	Hybrid Lipid-Polymer Nanoparticles	Biologic-naive AS patients	Improvement in spinal mobility and function	Enhanced drug delivery and sustained efficacy ⁸²
Study 11	Phase III, multicenter trial	Nanogel Anti-IL-17 Therapy	AS patients with IL-17-driven disease	Reduction in BASDAI and ASDAS scores	Suppression of IL-17-mediated inflammation ⁸³
Study 12	Phase II, open-label trial	Exosome-based Therapy	AS patients with refractory disease	Safety and tolerability of exosome therapy	Potential for disease-modifying effects ⁸⁴
Study 13	Phase III, double-blind trial	Quantum Dot Imaging Agent	AS patients undergoing MRI	Visualization of synovial inflammation	Improved imaging and diagnostic accuracy ⁸⁵
Study 14	Phase II, randomized controlled trial	Protein-Based Nanoparticles	Biologic-naive AS patients	Reduction in CRP levels and joint swelling	Enhanced drug targeting and tolerability ⁸⁶
Study 15	Phase III, multicenter trial	Liposomal NSAIDs	AS patients with active disease	Improvement in patient-reported pain scores	Effective pain relief and symptom management ⁸⁷
Study 16	Phase II, open-label trial	Carbon Nanotube Therapy	AS patients with refractory disease	Reduction in spinal inflammation and pain	Potential for targeted drug delivery and anti-inflammatory effects ⁸⁸

escalation study. Vital signals, negative effects, and lab tests are consistent with a complete safety examination. ⁶⁷

- *Phase II trials*

‘At phase II, the dose-response, as well as the safety and efficacy of the nanotherapeutic treatment, will be assessed in AS individuals. In this phase, a large cohort of AS patients is assigned randomly to a placebo and a different dose of the nanotherapeutic formulation groups. Functional assessment, patient-reported outcomes, imaging evaluation, disease

activity, and other standardized measurement tools may be used to quantify outcomes. ⁶⁸

- *Phase III trials*

Phase III trials aim to confirm, through additional large-scale randomized controlled trials in a larger group of patients with AS, the safety and performance of nanotherapeutic formulations. The primary purpose is to demonstrate treatment effectiveness and achieve regulatory clearance for clinical application. Possible termination would be the remission of the

disease for a prolonged period, safeguarding of life structures, and improvement of functional handicaps.⁶⁹

Efficacy and safety profiles

Safety and effectiveness in AS patients must be established prior to broad acceptance and initiation of clinical trials of pharmaceutical formulations. Once data from clinical studies become available, more may be learned regarding the beneficial effects, side reactions, and long-term implications of nanotherapeutic pharmaceutical remedies.⁷⁰ I consider the following assessments of safety and effectiveness:

- *Efficacy assessments*

These considerations may be characterized in clinical studies for AS ranging from inflammation to disease activity, functional impairment, and structural damage endpoints, such as efficacy. Moreover, it includes:

- Improvements in sickness activity rankings,
- Rationalization of inflammation-level signs for instance, C-reactive protein and enhanced serum resistance;
- Illness progression indicators as shown via radiographs. It includes sacroiliitis and signs of spinal fusion;
- Athletic performance and power of the spine and
- Uneasiness and vulnerability are minimized as described by patients.⁷¹

- *Safety profiles*

Clinical studies focus safety evaluations mainly on the identification and monitoring of side effects related to nanotherapeutics. All of these frequent side effects are found in nano-therapeutical cases:

- Response at the injection site, systemic and infusion overproduction, and acute reactions.
- The safety endpoints include considering how common and how severe side effects are, the difficulties with laboratory testing of the virus, cardiovascular problems, and doubt anxiety over allergens and immunogenicity.
- Others include the nanoparticle drug's tolerability and how stable it is proven to be over some time.⁷²

Table 4 summarizes clinical studies of nanotherapeutics with AS. This table reports the study design, intervention, patient population, main endpoints, and important findings in each trial. This table will help the clinicians and researchers and insights into clinical data on nanotherapeutic treatments in clinical practice and regulatory evaluation.⁸⁹

Challenges and future directions

There are still several obstacles to achieving the full potential of clinical translation of nanotherapeutic formulations for ankylosing spondylitis therapy. The most concerning issue is the biocompatibility and safety of nanomaterials in human beings. Even though preclinical research findings offer vital information about nanotherapeutics' toxicity and effectiveness, it would be best if pharmacokinetics, biodistribution, and long-term consequences among many patient categories are thoroughly investigated prior to their translation into clinical practice. Regulatory obstacles such as safety requirement compliance and in fact, mining must be attended to in addition

to the mentioned logistical difficulties. Nanomanufacturing processes are highly scalable and reproducible, and quality control and standardized techniques to ensure consistency are critical to regular product performance. To overcome these challenges and speed up the clinical development of nanotherapeutics for AS, researchers, doctors, regulatory agencies, and business partners must work together.⁹⁰

Nanotechnology has sparked hope in recent years with advances that enhance therapy outcomes and eliminate the disadvantages of current treatments. They might totally alter the method AS is treated because they immediately target medications, offer controlled release kinetics, and are biocompatible with the body. Several nanocarriers, including dendrimers, polymeric nanoparticles, and liposomes, among several others, may pack, load, and direct the medication to joints where the tissue is inflamed, drastically boosting medication effectiveness and lowering side effects or off-target vulnerabilities. The level of individualization of treatment and precision medicine is accomplished with the nanotechnological incorporation of diagnoses and therapy, such as imaging and gene therapy at AS. As a result, it is clear that additional creative and academic study will cause relevant breakthroughs and advancements that are favorable to those people with AS.⁹¹

Finally, personalized medicine applications of nanomedicine can effectively address the individual variability of AS patients and individual heterogeneity, which results in more specific and efficient therapies. With the help of nanotechnologies, biomarker discovery, as well as data analytics various types of AS patients could be distinguished, based on the illness phenotype, genetic predisposition, and drug response profiles. Therefore, personalized nanotherapeutic treatments can be generated to improve the efficiency of treatment with a reduction in adverse effects. Furthermore, non-invasive imaging technologies and wearable sensors could be employed to follow the disease evolution and response to the treatment in real time. As a result, therapy adjustment could be promptly developed. Moreover, patient-reported outcomes and shared decision-making approaches involve patients more actively; thus, the patient-centered approach to AS-related treatment is possible.⁹²

CONCLUSION

AS treatment with nanotechnology is a fascinating and novel domain for therapeutics. This review has studied the development of the evolution of nanotherapeutic formulations, from their origination to preclinical deployment and clinical translation. Due to their targeted medication administration, controlled release kinetics, and superior biocompatibility, nanotechnology appears to be a superior solution to standard therapies for the complex pathophysiology of AS. Using tailored delivery systems and nanocarriers of anti-inflammatory drug presents novel and promising options, as the ti ha le s developed within nanotherapeutics could slow down the course of AS, alleviate symptoms, and improve patients' quality of life.

However, the way from the laboratories to the patient's bedside is far from easy. To bring the nanotherapeutics to the patients, it will be necessary to address regulatory issues,

ensure the drug's safety and biocompatibility, and solve scaling issues. Besides, it is always necessary to prove the clinical effectiveness of new nanotechnologies, how they work, how safe they are, and what happens in the long term for various types of patients. The combined forces of researchers, doctors, regulators, and industry partners should work currently to accelerate the development of nanoproducts in the case of AS. Personalized nanomedicine approaches hope to meet AS patients' distinctive therapeutic requirements in the future. By clustering patients based on sickness phenotype, genetic determinants, and treatment response profiles, they can combine therapeutic effectiveness with decreased side effects. Furthermore, real-time tracking of disease development and therapeutic response is essential to boost therapy effectiveness and patient satisfaction.

In conclusion, combining nanotechnology with AS treatment symbolizes a brand-new chance for precision therapies and improved patient outcomes. The potential of nanotherapeutics within the context of the battle against AS may be completely exploited through innovation, collaboration, and individualized medicine methods, providing a better future for people who are suffering from this devastating condition.

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