

Preparation~~Synthesis and Characterization~~ and characterization of PEG-PEI/Fe₃O₄ nano-magnetic fluid~~Modified with PEG-PEI~~ by co-precipitation method

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Abstract: PEG-PEI/Fe₃O₄ nano-magnetic fluids with different mass fractions ~~mass ratio~~ of reactant were prepared by co-precipitation method. ~~Besides The particle size analyzer, the~~ methods of XRD, IR, VSM, and AFM were adopted to characterize the synthesized samples. Covalent bonding of PEG, PEI and Fe₃O₄ exhibits superparamagnetism. The TEM photograph shows that the particles are of stable dispersion and little aggregation, with smooth surface, spherical shape and a diameter of about 80 nm, which meets the requirements of nano-materials. When the mass fraction of PEI ~~in~~ in reactant is 25%, the particle size, Zeta-potential and PEGFP-C1 DNA loading efficiency~~adsorption rate of DNA plasmid pEGFP-C1~~ are all satisfactory. In this case, PEG-PEI/ Fe₃O₄ nano-magnetic fluids can be used as gene vectors or targeted drug carriers.

Key words: Fe₃O₄; PEG; PEI; co-precipitation; nano-materials; magnetic fluids

1 Introduction

In the recent years, gene therapy gets a rapid development, and it's mainly focused on obtaining target genes and achieving high gene transfection efficiency. The type of vector used is a key to success in gene delivery[1]. Two ~~broad~~ approaches ~~have commonly used~~ been used to deliver DNA to cells in gene transfection, namely are viral vectors and non-viral vectors. ~~The former which has different some disadvantages, such as inducing the immune response of organism, potential viral replication, expensive production cost, not being applied repeatedly, and without targeting. regards efficiency, ease of production & safety.~~ Though the non-viral vectors are easier to be produced ~~and without immunogenicity and~~ much safer, the efficiency of them ~~are is not satisfacted~~ satisfied, particularly with the

presence of serum protein[2]. An ideal gene delivery carrier would be a system that can safely transport the genetic materials without exhibiting any toxicity or immune responses, and can be produced on a large scale easily. According to MERDAN et al[3] and other scientists' researches, cationic polymer as the nanometric gene vector in gene therapy is one of the best non-viral vectors.

PEG-PEI/Fe₃O₄ nano-magnetic fluids ~~prepared in this study~~ show the advantages of good magnetic drug targeting, prolonged circulation and low toxicity. There have been lots of reports on PEG/Fe₃O₄ magnetic fluids as drug ~~carriers~~ carriers[4]. PEI/Fe₃O₄ or PEI-PEG as gene vector has also been reported[5–6]. In this study, we creatively combine the advantages of PEG and PEI to prepare PEG-PEI/Fe₃O₄ nano-magnetic fluids as a new gene carriers. This can dramatically prevent non-specific uptake by the reticular- endothelial system[7] and reduce

the cytotoxicity of PEG-PEI/Fe₃O₄ magnetic fluids[8]. Up to now, there is no report on such topic. Research evidence showed that the transfection efficiency of PEG-PEI was much higher than that of PEI [9]. No matter how the drug was administrated, intravenous injection or intratracheal medication, the gene expression of PEI was better than cationic

liposomes [10], which enhanced the gene expression in extra-pulmonary tissues and liver[11]. Coupled the PEG-PEI polymer with Fe₃O₄ could increase its transfection ability under By applying magnetic field, and we can control the concentration of PEG-PEI/Fe₃O₄ in targeted tissues or cells. This would

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further decrease the harm to normal cells and minimize dosage of ~~drugs~~^{drugs} and obtain the standard of targeted drug carriers[9]^{[9][12]}.

2 Experimental

2.1 Preparation of PEG-PEI/Fe₃O₄ nano-magnetic fluids and DNA adsorption on nanoparticles^[13]

2.1.1 Materials and instruments

Experimental reagents: FeCl₃, FeCl₂, NH₃·H₂O, PEI (MW25000 Da, Sigma) PEG(MW 2000, Sigma), and other reagents were of analytical grade (purchased from Sinopharm Chemical Reagent Co., Ltd.), redistilled water (self-prepared).

Experimental instruments: Malvern Zetasizer 3000E (Malvern, UK); Asylum Research MFP-3D AFM Systems; LABCONCO; Ultraviolet-visible Spectrophotometer (Japan, Shimadzu); XRD (Philips X'Pert PRO, XL 30); NICOL ET 200SXV FT-IR; VSM (Quantum Design, JDM-13);

2.1.2 Experimental methods:

Main reagents, FeCl₃, FeCl₂, NH₃·H₂O, polyethyleneimine (PEI, (MW25000 Da), monomethoxy poly(ethylene glycol) (PEG, MW 2000) were used in this experiment, and other reagents.

Main instruments included Malvern Zetasizer 3000E (Malvern, UK), Asylum Research MFP-3D AFM Systems, Freeze dryer (LABCONCO), Ultraviolet-visible spectrophotometer (Japan, Shimadzu), Supercentrifuge (BECKMAN ZK401), High speed refrigerated centrifuge (Heraeus Company) and Thermostatic circulator water bath oven.

In a typical procedure, 2.7 g FeCl₃, 4.0 g PEG and a portion of PEI (5%~35% of the total mass of reactant) were thoroughly dissolved in 50 ml redistilled water respectively; then the three kinds of solution were poured into the triangular flask(three-necked flask in the order. After they were shaken well, 2.0 g FeCl₂ and 50 ml ammonia water (0.3 mol/L) was added into the mixed liquor and which was agitated in three-necked flask with a high speed at 55°C for 2-3 hours. Their whole procedure required nitrogen protection.

Added 10 ml NH₃·H₂O (1.5 mol/L) was added into 40 ml redistilled water to prepare 50 ml ammonia water, then the ammonia water was dropped into the three-necked flask drop by drop by through separating funnel within 15 min. The mixed liquor suspension had to be agitated at high temperature for 2-3 h to react. Then the resulting suspension was centrifugalized at 5,000 rpm for 15 min by a centrifuge, supernatant was removed, and the sediment was suspended in redistilled water. Repeated This procedure was repeated for one more

time. Right after this, irradiation processes were conducted with an ultrasonic bath (30% of ultrasonic power rate, 30 s interval) for 6 min, then the well distributed PEG-PEI/Fe₃O₄ nano-magnetic fluids were obtained.

15 µl pEGFP-C1 plasmid was added to 0.5 mg PEG-PEI/Fe₃O₄ nano-magnetic fluids, and they were mixed well by slight stirring with a uniform speed for 2 min at room temperature. Then placed it in a 37°C water bath for 30 minutes to obtain the complex formation of PEG-PEI/Fe₃O₄ nano-magnetic fluid and DNA plasmid.

The experimental sequence flowchart is shown in Fig.1.

2.2 Characterization of PEG-PEI/Fe₃O₄ nano-magnetic fluid

Malvern Zetasizer 3000E (Malvern, UK) was used to detect the Zeta potential and particle size of the complex formation; and Asylum Research MFP-3D AFM System was used to observe the distribution and appearance structure of the nano-particles.

After the complex was changed into fine powder by cryodesiccation, XRD (Philips X'Pert PRO, XL-30) and FT-IR were used to analyze the functional group of PEG-PEI/Fe₃O₄ magnetic nano-particles. And the paramagnetism of the sample under certain condition was measured by VSM (Quantum Design, JDM-13).

2.3 Statistical analysis

The data were described as $\bar{x} \pm S$ (\bar{x} is the mean value; S is the standard deviation). The measurement data were analyzed with the variance analysis and the group comparison was treated with the T-test or least significant difference (LSD).

Experimental data was described by $\bar{X} \pm S$ method; Measurement data were compared with analysis of variance and Measurement data were compared with t-test or LSD among groups.

3 Results and discussion

3.1 Particle size, Zeta potential of PEG-PEI/Fe₃O₄ nano-magnetic fluid and pEGFP-C1 DNA loading efficiency of PEG-PEI/Fe₃O₄ nano-magnetic fluid DNA adsorption on nanoparticles

The particle size of PEG-PEI/Fe₃O₄ nano-magnetic fluid was measured by Malvern Zetasizer 3000E (Malvern, UK). Almost all the particles are about 400~800 nm, as shown in Fig.1(a). This means the PEG-PEI/Fe₃O₄ nano-magnetic fluid has typical nano-material characteristics and can be efficiently taken up by cells.

The result observed with the atomic force

microscope (Asylum Research MFP-3D AFM Systems) shows that, the particles in PEG-PEI/Fe₃O₄ nano-magnetic fluid are spheroid, the surface of them is smooth, and they are dispersed evenly without adhesion. The morphology of nanoparticles observed by AFM was almost spherical and smooth, and the surface was homogeneous in the nano-sized range, as shown in Fig. 2 Fig. 13.

Through analyzing the result of superficial potential test of nanoparticle, on one hand, the stability of nano-suspension can be judged; on the other hand,

because the charge of cell membrane is negative, the transfection system must be positive to make the transfection proceed smoothly. Zeta potential testing results could be used to determine the stability of the suspension. As the surface charge of the DNA delivery system was one of the critical factors affecting the transfection efficiency. So the positive zeta potential of nanoparticles was required [14,10]. The adsorption rate of plasmid DNA on nano-particles is one of the most direct indicators demonstrating whether nanoparticle could carry and transfect gene with high efficiency. The

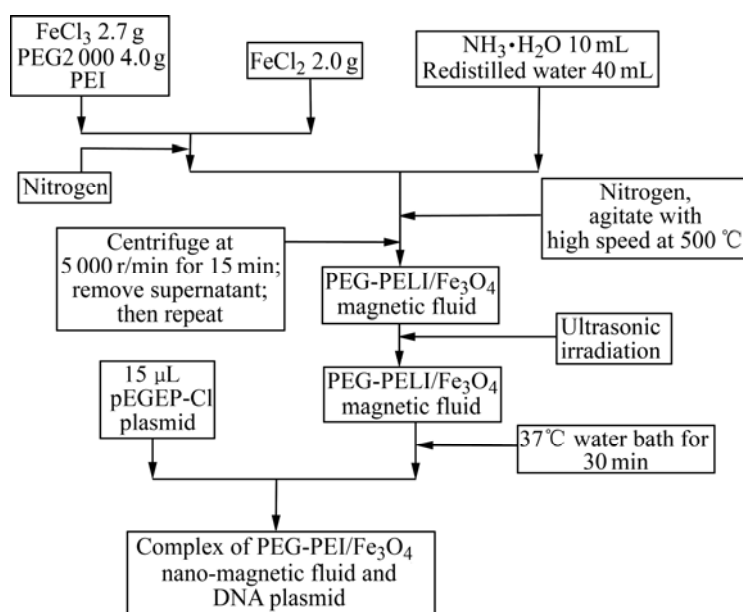


Fig.1 Experimental flowchart for preparation of PEG-PEI/Fe₃O₄ nano-magnetic fluids and DNA adsorption on nanoparticles

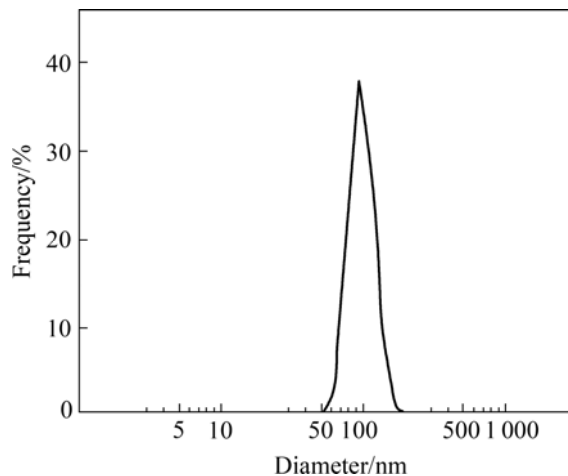


Fig.1a-2 Particle size distribution measured by Malvern Zetasizer

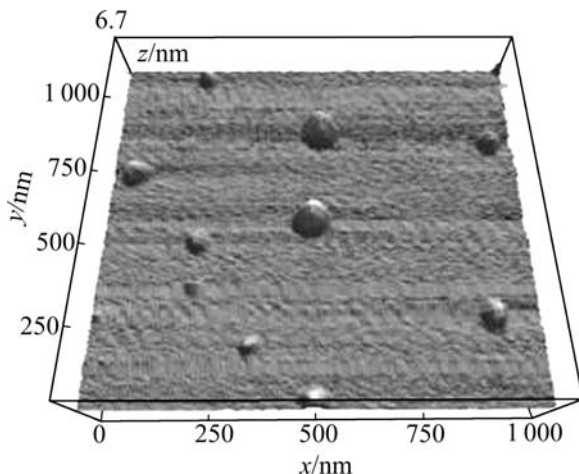


Fig.213 -AFM photograph of nanoparticles

of gene transfection efficiency.
high DNA loading efficiency is helpful to enhancing the gene transfection efficiency of nanoparticle.

Table 1 proves the effects of PEI with different mass fractions of reactant with different weight percent on nanoparticle size, surface Zeta potential-zeta potential and plasmid pEGFP-C1 DNA loading efficiencythe adsorption rate of nanoparticleDNA plasmid pEGFP-C1. As shown in Table 1, the size of nanoparticles was influenced by the amounts of PEI. The size of nanoparticles decreased as the amount of PEI in the nanoparticles was decreased. However, when the mass fraction of PEI was beyond 30%, the particle size dramatically increased into 100–200 nm. When the mass fraction of PEI was between 5% and 20%, the Zeta-potential of the resulting nanoparticles increased when the PEI concentration was increased. The surface potential was about 20 mV; and the pEGFP-C1 DNA loading efficiencyadsorption rate of DNA plasmid

pEGFP-C1 was 40%–70%, which was not good for gene transfection. When the mass fraction of PEI was more than 25%, the surface potential would be more than 30 mV, and the pEGFP-C1 DNA loading efficiencyadsorption rate of DNA plasmid pEGFP-C1 could reach 90% or more, which could promote the efficiency of gene transfection.

Table 1—Effects of PEI on nanoparticle size, Zeta-potential and the pEGFP-C1 DNA loading efficiencyadsorption rate of DNA plasmid pEGFP-C1

Mass fraction of PEI/%	Particle size/nm	Zeta-potential/mV	DNA loading efficiency/%
5	37.22±3.2	19.07±1.12	41.22±1.4
10	23.14±6.5	21.22±1.32	33.41±1.7
15	42.05±11.2	23.13±1.15	51.08±2.3
20	92.47±13.4	22.54±2.12	74.05±2.4
25	79.99±7.3	34.13±2.03	94.13±1.8
30	167.23±6.9	33.65±2.83	92.32±1.9
35	189.43±7.8	32.34±3.04	93.21±2.2

As shown in Table 1, the optimum reaction condition was obtained: mass fraction of PEI=25%, then the nano-particle size was (79.99±7.3) nm, surface potential was (34.13±2.03) mV, and the adsorption rate of DNA plasmid pEGFP-C1 was (94.13±1.8)%.

As shown in this table, The the optimum reaction condition was obtained as: weight percent of PEI=25%, then the nano-particle size was 79.99±7.3nm, surface potential was 34.13±2.03 m V, and the the adsorption rate of DNA plasmid pEGFP-C1 was 94.13±1.8%.

3.2 X-ray diffraction pattern of PEG-PEI/Fe₃O₄ nano-magnetic fluids

Fig.3-24 shows the X-ray diffraction pattern of PEG-PEI/Fe₃O₄ nano-magnetic fluid. The parameters of PEG-PEI/Fe₃O₄ nano-magnetic fluid, such as the position and value of peak were closed by to that the standard data of Fe₃O₄ alone in powder diffraction PDF card (JCPDS No.82-1533). The appearance of sample diffraction peaks at $2\theta=30.16^\circ$, 35.70° , 43.33° , 53.60° , 57.10° , 62.9° corresponded to (220), (311), (400), (422), (511) and (440) crystal plane of Fe₃O₄ respectively, which indicated that the resulting particles were Fe₃O₄, with structures of cubic crystal.

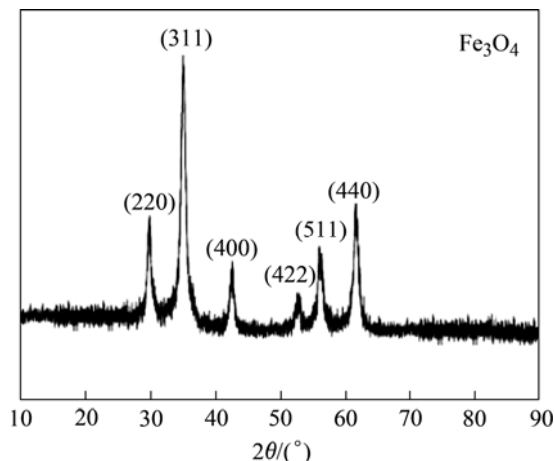


Fig.3—24 X-ray diffraction pattern of PEG-PEI/Fe₃O₄ nano-magnetic fluid

Up to now, magnetic fluids have been used in medicine as magnetic target~~ingable~~ carriers for anti-cancer drug delivery systems. For application in biological organisms, these particles have good biocompatibility and low toxicity. The use of magnetic fluid as drug carriers aims to target drugs to a specific site through the application of a magnetic field to achieve prolonged release of high ~~localised~~—localized concentrations of the drug via the retention of magnetic particles in the region of interest. This can reduce the harm to healthy organs by limiting the circulation of the drug th~~rough~~out the body. The magnetic particles, loaded with drug or gene, are attracted and held in the tumour region by a strong external magnetic field, which avoids non-specific uptake by the reticular-endothelial system[4511].

PEG-PEI/Fe₃O₄ magnetic fluid mainly consists of nano sized Fe₃O₄ particles. The surface charge of Fe₃O₄ is neutralized by PEG. Effects of PEG on the resulting magnetic fluid also includes increasing dissolubility, which allows the resulting suspension to place for a long time without more agglomeration.

3.3 IR spectra of PEG-PEI/Fe₃O₄ nano-magnetic fluid

By comparing the absorption peaks of Fe₃O₄, PEG, PEI and PEG-PEI/Fe₃O₄ nano-magnetic fluid, the bond is identified among PEG, PEI and Fe₃O₄. Figs.5(a–d) show the FT-IR spectra in the region of 400–4 000 cm⁻¹ of the PEG-PEI/Fe₃O₄ magnetic fluid by using infrared spectrometer (NICOL ET 200SXV FT—IR) and the KBr ~~tabletingpellet~~ technique.

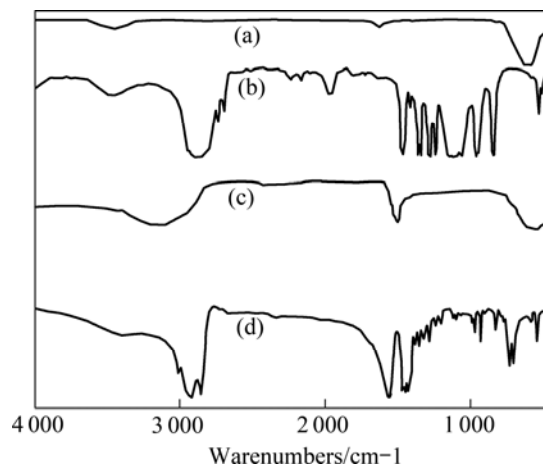


Fig.4—35 IR spectra of Fe₃O₄, PEG, PEI and PEG-PEI/Fe₃O₄: (a) Fe₃O₄; (b) PEG; (c) PEI; (d) PEG-PEI/Fe₃O₄

Fig.4—35(a) shows the characteristic absorption peak of Fe₃O₄ at 576 cm⁻¹. Fig.5(b) shows the characteristic absorption peaks of PEG at 1111 cm⁻¹ (C—O—C), 3 450 cm⁻¹ (OH), 844 cm⁻¹ (CH₂CH₂O), 2 875 cm⁻¹, 1 465 cm⁻¹, 1 349 cm⁻¹ and 1 249 cm⁻¹. Fig.5(c)43 shows the IR-spectra of PEI. The characteristic bands at 688 cm⁻¹ (—NH wagging vibration), 1 637.5 cm⁻¹ (NH²⁺ scissoring vibration and C—H stretching vibration), 2 357.5 cm⁻¹ and 2 110 cm⁻¹ (NH⁺ asymmetrical stretching vibration) can be seen.

Fig.—4—35(d) shows the IR-spectra of PEG-PEI/Fe₃O₄ magnetic fluid. It had the character~~istic~~ ~~absorption-absorption~~ peaks of PEG and PEI at 1 225.5 cm⁻¹ (C—O—C), 3 470 cm⁻¹ (OH), 870 cm⁻¹ (CH₂CH₂O) and 1 629 cm⁻¹, 2 851.4 cm⁻¹, 1 446.2 cm⁻¹, 1 425.5 cm⁻¹—~~and~~ 1 252 cm⁻¹, respectively. We could also observe an absorption peak at 1 384 cm⁻¹, which was a PEI characteristic ~~absorption-absorption~~ peak. A weaker intensity of —OH stretching band appeared at 2 921.7 cm⁻¹, which showed an obvious ~~red~~ shift, indicating that the —OH radicals might interact with cationic [—CH₂—CH₂—NH₂⁺—]_n radicals in absorption process. This meant that a small quantity of PEI was presented-absorbed on the surface of Fe₃O₄. Fig.—4(d) Compared the wide and multiplet absorption peak of hydroxyl group in PEG-PEI/Fe₃O₄ shown in Fig.—435(d) with singlet absorption peak of hydroxyl group in PEG-PEG—showed in Fig.—4(c), the different properties were due to the hydrogen bonds ^[46]formed by the hydroxyl atoms in hydroxyl groups[12]. Therefore, both physical adsorption and hydrogen bonds could be found in magnetic colloid particles. Surface modification of Fe₃O₄ with PEG and PEI would prevent the aggregation of nano-par~~it~~icles and ensure a good stability.

PEI has been investigated extensively for use as a nonviral gene delivery vector, due to its higher transfection efficiency in polycation non-viral gene delivery vector“proton sponge” mechanism. There is one

nitrogen atom protonated in two carbon atoms of PEI molecule. Due to the different pK_a values of the primary amino groups, secondary amino groups and tertiary amino groups consist of these nitrogen atoms. PEI has the ability to capture the protons which were transferred into endosomes during their acidification at any Differing different pHs of PEI solutions do not make any significant difference in transfection efficiency conditions, namely "proton sponge" mechanism[4713].

Coupling Bonding PEI of the hydrophilic PEG with the hydrophilic PEG molecule chains resulted in an could increase the solubility of PEG-PEI/Fe₃O₄, neutralize surface potential, decrease interaction with proteins in blood, prolong circulation in vivo and decrease toxicity[4814–2016].

In vivo distribution of the resulting magnetic fluid could be affected by different amount of PEG. As reported, with the increase of modification after systemic administration degree of with PEGylated nanoparticles, the decrease of rapid accumulation in the lung of composite injected by vein in the lung was observed. However, with increasing amounts of PEG, the lung uptake was markedly reduced[17]. The degree of modification with PEG amount of PEGylation could also affect gene transfection efficiency. With proper degree of modification with PEG (when the number of PEG segment connected to each PEI molecule is less than 2) amount of PEGylation, the gene transfection efficiency could be enhanced. While too much higher degree of modification with PEG (when the number of PEG segment connected to each PEI molecule is more than 10) PEGylation would reduce the transfection efficiency in vitro[2218]. PEG could also change the nano structure and shape of PEG-PEI/Fe₃O₄ magnetic fluid[2193], and weaken non-specific interaction between the composite particles and cellular membrane to reduce the internalization uptake by cells.

3.4 Magnetism of PEG-PEI/Fe₃O₄ nano-magnetic fluid

As a magnetic targeting materials, the paramagnetism magnetic properties—property of PEG-PEI/Fe₃O₄ nano-magnetic fluid is considered as a key performance parameter. In this work, the magnetic properties of resulting magnetic fluid with different Fe₃O₄/PEI mass ratios were measured by using the VSM (Quantum Design, JDM-13). Normally, when $M_s \geq 40$ A·m²·kg⁻¹, the materials could be classified as qualified ferrimagnetic materials, which could be controlled by external magnetic field.

Fig. 546—(a) displays the magnetization curve of pure Fe₃O₄ nanoparticles, and the magnetization of Fe₃O₄ changed according to different external field strength. Fig. 546—(a) showed a typical curve for ferrimagnetic material. The initial increase of external

magnetic field intensity led to rapid increase in magnetization intensity strength of Fe₃O₄. After the field intensity increased to a certain level, the increase in magnetization intensity strength of Fe₃O₄ gradually slowed down until the saturation-saturated magnetization intensity strength (M_s) was reached (approximately when $H = 6\ 000 \times 79.528$ A/m, $M_s = 60.22$ A·m²·kg⁻¹). When the external magnetic field intensity decreased, the magnetization intensity strength of Fe₃O₄ would decrease accordingly. When the external magnetic field intensity changed to 0, the magnetization intensity of Fe₃O₄ would change to 0 either.

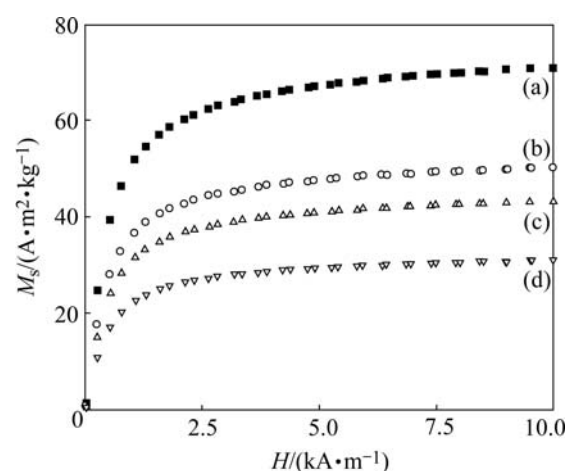
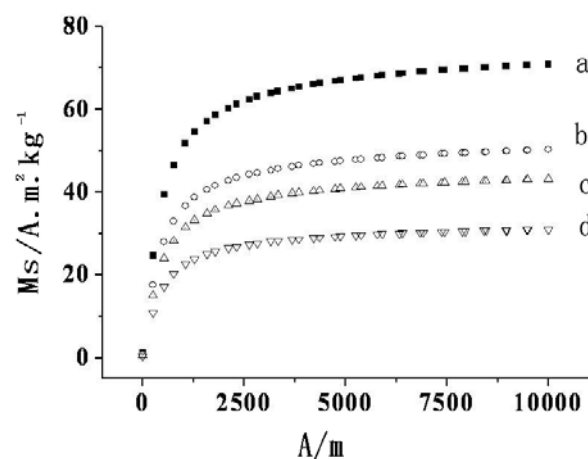


Fig. 46 Magnetization curves for pure Fe₃O₄ and PEG-PEI/Fe₃O₄ nano-magnetic fluid with different mass fraction of PEI: (a) Pure Fe₃O₄; (b) 25%; (c) 30%; (d) 35%

Ferrimagnetism was observed in PEG-PEI/Fe₃O₄ nano-magnetic fluid. Fig. 5 (b–d) also displayed a typical curve for of ferrimagnetic material, indicated that the PEG-PEI/Fe₃O₄ nano-magnetic fluid retained ferrimagnetism. When the weight percent of PEI was



a) pure Fe₃O₄ b) 25% c) 30% d) 35%

Fig. 5 Magnetization curves for pure Fe₃O₄ and

PEG-PEI/Fe₃O₄ nano-magnetic fluid with different weight percent of PEI

Nanotechnology is the science and technology that study creating movement rule and interaction of functional materials, devices and systems through control composed of matter on the nanometer length scale (1–100 nm)[2420], and performing intelligent functions and portending particular use. Ferrimagnetism was observed in PEG-PEI/Fe₃O₄ nano-magnetic fluid. Figs.6(b–d) also display typical curves of ferrimagnetic material, and indicated that the PEG-PEI/Fe₃O₄ nano-magnetic fluid retained ferrimagnetism. When the mass fraction of PEI was 25%, the saturated magnetization intensity can be obtained in $H=6\ 000 \times 79.528\ \text{A/m}$, and $M_s=60.22\ \text{A}\cdot\text{m}^2\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$. By further increasing the amount of PEI, the saturated magnetization intensity would be decreased. PEG-PEI/Fe₃O₄ nano-magnetic fluid is a kind of stable colloidal solution, in which ferric oxide nanoparticles are well-distributed to hydrofacies, even the gravitational force, centrifugal force or magnetic force can not separate those elements. It has the magnetism of solid magnetic material and fluidity of liquid material with small particle size and strong magnetic response.

Nanomaterials refer to those which have structured components with at least one dimension less than 100nm. They are a new class of materials composed by Nanoscale nanoscale objects particles^[25]. Numerous applications exist in the medical and pharmaceutical field for nanomaterials. The therapeutic drug molecules have been either dissolved into or encapsulated into a magnetic nanosphere or conjugated on the surface of the nanosphere which made by high polymer material usually and directed to a specific target tissue. This is a novel drug delivery system^[26]. Nanomaterials are notably different from that of the same material in macro materials^[27–28]. The special structure of nanomaterials are is contributed to the unique effects of nanobiomaterials, as small-dimension effect and surface (interface) effect.

PEG-PEI/Fe₃O₄ nano-magnetic fluid are able to condense or package DNA into small sizes so that it can be taken up by cells, across the natural biological barriers bypass or escape the cell's endocytotic pathways, deliver the DNA to the cell's nucleus, and unpackage unpacked DNA for optimal integration with chromosome of host cell.

So this polymer as gene vector offers advantages of small particle size, non-biomaterial, low toxicity, no immune response, long term gene expression, large specific surface area and high transfection efficiency^[29]. The special structure of PEG-PEI/Fe₃O₄ nano-magnetic fluid as gene vector can protect the gene from being degraded or destructed by enzymes or alexin in blood plasmer or cells^[30]. PEG-PEI/Fe₃O₄ nano-magnetic fluid is a kind of organic polymer, which can be produced on a large scale at a comparatively low price without the risk of recombinant virus or exhibiting any toxicity and immune responses.^[31]

4 Conclusions

1) With ferric chloride, ferrous chloride, ammonia water, PEG and PEI as raw materials, the co-precipitation method was adopted to prepare colloid particles with size of about 80 nm and strong magnetism response. The experiment indicated that, through experimental condition optimization, when the PEG mass fraction is 25%, and ripening at 55 °C for 2 h, magnetic colloid particles obtained have the most superior synthesis characteristics, such as small size, positive Zeta potential and strong magnetism response. The morphology of magnetic fluid modified by PEG-PEI is spherical and smooth.In this study, PEG-PEI/Fe₃O₄ nano-magnetic fluids with different mass ratio are prepared by co-precipitation method. The diameter of the nano-particles are about 80 nm, with supermagnetism. When the weight percent of PEI is 25%, the results of particle size, zeta potential and adsorption rate of DNA plasmid pEGFP-C1 are all satisfactory.

2) The methods of XRD, IR, VSM, and AFM are adopted to characterize the synthesized samples. The morphology of nanoparticles observed is almost spherical and smooth, with strong magnetism responsivenesssupermagnetism and positive zeta potential.

3) High plasmid pEGFP-C1 DNA loading efficiency indicates that PEG-PEI/Fe₃O₄ nano magnetic fluid could interact strongly with phosphate framework of DNAphosphate framework with negative charge, promote DNA concentration and combination with itself, compaction and cellular can also be easily absorbed by cellular membrane with negative charge. Therefore, the PEG/PEI/Fe₃O₄ nano-magnetic fluid is now opening up a wide field of possible applications in medicine as targeted drug delivery systems or gene carriers.

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~~NH₃•H₂O 10ml~~
~~Redistilled water 40ml~~

~~FeCl₂ 2.0g~~

~~15 μL pEGFP-C1 plasmid~~

~~complex~~ Complex formation of PEG-PEI/Fe₃O₄ nano-magnetic fluid and DNA plasmid

~~PEG-PEI/Fe₃O₄ magnetic fluid~~

~~37°C water bath for 30 minutes~~

~~PEG-PEI/Fe₃O₄ magnetic fluid~~

~~Ultrasonic irradiation~~

~~Centrifuge at 5,000 rpm/min, 15 min~~
~~Remove supernatant then repeat~~

~~Nitrogen~~

~~FeCl₃ 2.7g~~
~~PEG2000 4.0g~~
~~PEI~~

~~Nitrogen, agitated with high speed at 55°C~~