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Magnetic Hyperthermia Potential of Colloidal Zinc-substituted Iron Oxide Nanoparticles and TiO₂@Zinc Ferrite Hybrids

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Iron oxide based magnetic nanoparticles (Fe₃O₄, *gamma*-Fe₂O₃), are widely investigated in biomedicine, especially as diagnostic and therapeutic agents. They can be used as imaging contrast agent, drug-delivery nanocarriers, intracellular hyperthermia mediators, etc. If their size is in the range of 4-28 nm, they show *superparamagnetic* behavior, with magnetic saturation comparable to that of a ferromagnet but with zero coercivity and remanence.

A suspension of superparamagnetic nanoparticles (SPIONs) has ability to generate heat when they are exposed to an externally applied alternating (AC) magnetic field, what has been explored for *magnetic fluid hyperthermia* treatment of a malignant tissue [1]. Local increase of tissue temperature (previously loaded with SPIONs) can cause irreversible damage of a pathologic object. There are several physical processes which govern the transformation of magnetic to thermal energy. For SPIONs losses are mainly induced by Brownian and Néel processes. The amount of generated heat power, expressed by the *specific absorption rate* (SAR) value [1], depends on the chemical composition, size, shape anisotropy in nanoparticles, as well as on aggregation and coating of SPIONs.

In this work we studied magnetic hyperthermia potential of two samples consisting of nanosized, oleic acid (OA)-coated zinc ferrite particles with pronounced shape anisotropy [2]. The samples were synthesized by thermal decomposition method. The heating ability of octahedral 18nm-sized Zn_{0.13}Fe_{2.87}O₄ NPs and pebbles-like in shape Zn_{0.6}Fe_{2.4}O₄ NPs with size ranging from 7 to 30 nm, were studied in a medium with low viscosity. The SAR values were evaluated for frequency, *f*-range (252-808) kHz and the AC magnetic field amplitude, H₀-range (100-300) Oe. Hydrophobic Zn_{0.6}Fe_{2.4}O₄ nanoparticles underwent a double-treated procedure with titania dioxide, when hybrid structures composed of magnetic nanoparticles homogeneously dispersed inside photocatalytic TiO₂ phase (amorphous or crystalline), were obtained. TEM, XRD, ATR-FTIR and Mössbauer spectroscopy, as well as magnetic measurements by SQUID, were used to characterize samples.

References

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