





SEMINAIRE ISMO

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Molecular basis of TiO₂ nanoparticles toxicity on human cells: effect of various morphologies on cell proliferation, calcium homeostasis and reticulum stress

The explosive growth in nanotechnology has led to the nanoparticles (NPs) utilization in a wide range of applications such as therapeutics, antimicrobial agents and multimodal imaging labeling. However, the risks for adverse health effects have not been clearly established. Detecting and tracking NPs in biological systems is challenging and essential to understand the possible interactions with the living. Indeed, assessing in situ NPs internalization at the level of a single cell is a difficult but critical task due to their potential use in nanomedicine. Moreover, a better understanding of the in vitro/in vivo interactions of NPs with biological systems is mandatory and requires a multidisciplinary approach covering all these aspects. Here, we tested the behavior of TiO₂ NPs with 4 different shapes/morphologies: P25 (classical shape), nanosheets (NTs), nanoneedles (NNs) and Isotropic NPs (INPs). In our approach we combine a (i) well-controlled chemical synthesis and characterization of TiO₂ NPs, (ii) physicochemical analytical and imaging studies providing the subcellular localization of the NPs, (iii) quantification of intracellular TiO₂ NPs, (iv) studies of biological responses induced after NPs-exposition (cell proliferation, ion homeostasis, ER stress). Moreover, our experiments were realized using different cell types i.e. immortalized cell line (HeLa) versus primary endothelial and keratinocyte cell lines (HUVECs, HEKn).

Our results revealed that TiO_2 exposure highly altered the intracellular calcium homeostasis correlated with a decrease in cell proliferation and ER stress induction for all the NPs expect the NNs. Interestingly, the behavior of these NPs is different according to cell line and/or the associate culture medium. The differences observed will be discussed.

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