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## Nanoparticles Containing Oxaliplatin and the Treatment of Colorectal Cancer

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## **Abstract**

**Background:** Colorectal cancer (CRC) is a highly widespread malignancy and ranks as the second most common cause of cancer-related mortality. **Objective:** Cancer patients, including those with CRC, who undergo chemotherapy, are often treated with platinum-based anticancer drugs such as oxaliplatin (OXA). Nevertheless, the administration of OXA is associated with a range of gastrointestinal problems, neuropathy, and respiratory tract infections. Hence, it is necessary to devise a potential strategy that can effectively tackle these aforementioned challenges. The use of nanocarriers has shown great potential in cancer treatment due to their ability to minimize side effects, target drugs directly to cancer cells, and improve drug efficacy. Furthermore, numerous studies have been published regarding the therapeutic efficacy of nanoparticles in the management of colorectal cancer. **Methods:** In this review, we present the most relevant nanostructures used for OXA encapsulation in recent years, such as solid lipid nanoparticles, liposomes, polysaccharides, proteins, silica nanoparticles, metal nanoparticles, and synthetic polymer-carriers. Additionally, the paper provides a summary of the disadvantages and limits associated with nanoparticles. **Results:** The use of different carriers for the delivery of oxaliplatin increased the efficiency and reduced the side effects of the drug. It has been observed that the majority of research investigations have focused on liposomes and polysaccharides. **Conclusion:** This potentially auspicious method has the potential to enhance results and enhance the quality of life for cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy. However, additional investigation is required to ascertain the most suitable medium for the transportation of oxaliplatin and to assess its efficacy through clinical trials.

**Keywords:** Oxaliplatin; Nanotechnology; Nanocarriers; Colorectal cancer; Neoplasm

## **1. Introduction**

### **1.1. Colorectal cancer**

A neoplasm refers to an anomalous proliferation of tissue, which can manifest as either a benign or malignant condition. Benign neoplasms typically exhibit a sluggish growth pattern and lack the ability to metastasize. Nevertheless, malignant neoplasms typically exhibit accelerated growth and infiltrate adjacent anatomical regions [1]. In developed nations, cancer is an important contributor to mortality, while in developing nations; it ranks as the second leading cause of death. According to a projection, the United States is expected to witness a total of 1,958,310 individuals diagnosed with cancer by the year 2023, out of whom 609,820 fatalities are anticipated [2]. The prevalence of cancer is anticipated to rise, with an estimated 1.1 million cases worldwide by 2030 [3]. The third most frequently diagnosed cancer overall and the third greatest cause of cancer death for both men and women in the United States is colorectal cancer (CRC). In the year 2020, the incidence of colorectal cancer surpassed 1.9 million new cases. According to data from the World Cancer Research Fund, the countries exhibiting the highest rates of colorectal cancer are Hungary, Slovakia, Norway, Netherlands, Denmark, Slovenia, Portugal, Japan, Latvia, and Croatia. In the year 2020, these countries reported 9793, 4821, 4976, 17015, 5769, 2018, 10501, 148505, 1745, and 3706 new cases of colorectal cancer, respectively (World Cancer Research Fund, 2020). A projected 153,020 new instances of CRC, comprising 106,970 colon tumors and 46,050 rectum tumors, will be diagnosed in the United States in 2023. This will result in 52,550 CRC fatalities, including 3,750 deaths (7%) in people under the age of 50 [4](Fig. 1).

### **1.2. CRC pathogenesis**

In addition to environmental, nutritional, genetic, and epigenetic risk factors, CRC pathogenesis is also influenced by various other risk variables, such as sporadic (85%), familial (25%), and hereditary (5–10%) factors [5]. The onset of neoplastic transformation of

healthy epithelium, which subsequently proceeds towards malignant phases, is influenced by genetic and epigenetic modifications [6, 7]. The genomic instability of colorectal cancer (CRC) and its pathogenesis may be attributed to three primary routes: chromosomal instability (CIN), microsatellite instability (MSI), and CpG island methylator phenotype (CIMP) pathways [8, 9]. Colorectal intraepithelial neoplasia (CIN) is observed in approximately 85% of adenocarcinoma transitions. This condition is distinguished by several key features, including the inactivation of the tumor suppressor gene APC, the activation of the oncogene KRAS, a loss of heterozygosity for the long arm of chromosome 18 (18q LOH) involving SMAD4, and the inactivation of TP53. These molecular alterations collectively contribute to the promotion of colorectal cancer (CRC) tumorigenesis [6, 8, 10, 11]. MSI accounts for just 15-20% of all colorectal cancer (CRC) cases. (MSI) is a distinctive characteristic of Hereditary Nonpolyposis Colorectal Cancer (HNPCC), often known as Lynch syndrome, and is observed in more than 95% of HNPCC patients. [12]. The most frequently mutated loci are TGF- $\beta$ R2 and Bax. Moreover, it is common for individuals diagnosed with Lynch syndrome to exhibit microsatellite instability colorectal cancers (MSI CRCs) as a result of inherited mutations in any of the four mismatch repair (MMR) genes, namely MLH1, MSH2, MSH6, and PMS2 [13-15]. The presence of epigenetic instability in colorectal cancer (CRC) is evidenced by the occurrence of hypermethylation at specific loci that encompass CpG islands, sometimes accompanied by a concurrent reduction in overall DNA methylation levels. Changes in DNA methylation patterns have the potential to impact a wide range of signaling pathways, including as TP53, TGF $\beta$ /SMAD, Wnt, NOTCH, and receptor tyrosine kinases. These pathways are involved in several cellular processes, including cell cycle regulation, transcription regulation, DNA stability, apoptosis, cell-cell adhesion, angiogenesis, cell invasion, and metastasis [16-18]. Numerous genes have been recognized as being subject to methylation and subsequent silencing in colorectal cancer

(CRC). Notable examples of frequently methylated genes in this context are APC, MLH1, MGMT, SFRP1, SFRP2, CDKN2A, TIMP3, VIM, SEPT, CDH1, and HLTF [19].

### **1.3. Stages of CRC**

Colorectal cancer is characterized by a progression through five distinct stages, denoted by numerical values ranging from zero to four. During the first stage of colorectal cancer (CRC), the development of polyps occurs within the epithelial lining of the colon's mucous membrane. Subsequently, during stage I, the polyps undergo a process of deterioration, transforming into tumors and initiating migration into the mucosa. The therapeutic efficacy of local tumor excision with surgical intervention throughout the aforementioned times can be achieved without the need for supplementary therapy. Various surgical techniques can be employed to address different conditions inside the gastrointestinal tract. These techniques include the removal of polyps from the intestinal wall, excision of tumor-affected portions of the intestine, standardized excision procedures, and subsequent reconnection of intestinal segments to establish ileostomy or colostomy. During the second stage of cancer, the potential for metastasis exists beyond the confines of the colon; nevertheless, lymph node metastasis does not occur at this particular time. During the third stage of cancer progression, the malignant cells disseminate to the colon wall and adjacent lymph nodes, while abstaining from invading neighboring organs. During these time intervals, it is imperative to administer a combination of radiotherapy and chemotherapy to the patients. Fluoropyrimidine, either as a standalone treatment or in combination with other chemotherapeutic agents, is commonly employed in the management of colorectal cancer (CRC). Furthermore, the determination of patients' survival time with localized malignancies may be facilitated by assessing their microsatellite instability status. Notably, individuals exhibiting significant microsatellite instability are expected to experience a prolonged survival period. Nevertheless, the administration of fluorouracil-based chemotherapy is deemed unsuitable for this particular

group of individuals and may potentially elicit detrimental consequences. During the fourth stage of cancer, there is a notable increase in the rate at which the disease disseminates to other organs inside the body. Currently, it is imperative to employ surgical intervention for tumor removal, in addition to implementing systemic chemotherapy or a combination of chemotherapy and targeted biological treatment to eradicate tumor cells. The application of biological targeted therapy in the treatment of colorectal cancer (CRC) involves the utilization of specific drugs such as bevacizumab, cetuximab, and panitumumab. Bevacizumab functions by inhibiting tumor angiogenesis through its ability to bind to the vascular endothelial growth factor produced by CRC cells. Cetuximab and panitumumab, on the other hand, target the overexpression of the epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) in CRC, thereby impeding the proliferation of tumor cells [20-23].

#### **1.4. Oxaliplatin (OXA) and CRC**

Chemotherapy is a treatment modality that may be employed throughout all stages of cancer, ranging from stage IA/IB to stage IV. Chemotherapeutic drugs or medicines have played a significant role in medical practice in recent decades and have consistently been the preferred treatment option for advanced-stage malignancies in cases where surgery or radiation therapy is contraindicated for particular reasons. Around half of cancer patients who undergo chemotherapy are administered platinum-based anticancer medications (**Scheme 1**) [24]. At present, there exist six platinum-based medications that have obtained marketing authorisation in different locations around the globe. These drugs include cisplatin, carboplatin, oxaliplatin, nedaplatin, lobaplatin, and heptaplatin. Cisplatin, carboplatin, and oxaliplatin are widely recognized and extensively studied platinum-based chemotherapeutic agents. The US Food and Drug Administration granted approval for the use of cisplatin in the 1970s. Carboplatin was formulated as a less cytotoxic variant of cisplatin and has been employed for the treatment of similar malignancies as cisplatin (licensed in the late 1980s).

However, carboplatin has emerged as the preferred platinum-based therapeutic agent for the management of ovarian carcinomas. Oxaliplatin (OXA), a representative of the third generation of platinum-based antineoplastic agents, received regulatory clearance in Europe during the 1990s and in the United States over the last decade. Presently, its authorized indications are limited to the management of colorectal malignancies [25]. This pharmaceutical compound has distinct benefits in comparison to alternative platinum-based medications. OXA is commonly given as an anticancer medication owing to its extensive spectrum of anticancer effects and comparatively lower toxicities in comparison to cisplatin and carboplatin [26]. The *in vitro* system demonstrates that the cytotoxic activity of OXA is considerably more effective than that of carboplatin. As the duration of exposure rises, the action of the substance becomes more similar to that of cisplatin [27]. The diaminocyclohexane platinum coordination complex known as OXA is the initial instance of such a compound that has been made accessible for therapeutic use. The medicine exhibits non-cross-resistance with cisplatin or carboplatin, rendering it one of the limited number of efficacious drugs for the treatment of human colorectal cancer [28]. Furthermore, it has comparable anti-cancer efficacy to cisplatin when utilized for the management of esophageal and gastric malignancies. This compound is classified as an alkylating agent and a cytostatic medication, commonly employed in the chemotherapeutic treatment of malignant tumors, particularly those affecting the colorectal region. Additionally, it has efficacy against a wide range of cancers, including certain cell lines that have demonstrated resistance to cisplatin and carboplatin [29]. The pharmacokinetics of OXA are elucidated by the utilization of a 3-compartment model. Due to its lipophilic nature, this pharmaceutical agent exhibits rapid transmembrane permeability. The platinum-based medication hinders the mechanism of DNA replication. The literature has documented the presence of platinum compounds in several copper transporters, including the uptake transporter hCtr1 and the multispecific organic



cation transporter hOCT1. The efflux transporters ATP7A and ATP7B are responsible for the extrusion of Pt compounds, thereby suggesting their involvement in modulating cellular resistance or sensitivity. Nevertheless, the most often described mechanism of resistance is the reduction in platinum buildup [30]. Similar to other chemotherapeutic agents, OXA elicits numerous adverse effects in individuals undergoing treatment. Some of these adverse effects include anemia, chest discomfort, a persistent cough, abdominal pain, shortness of breath, back pain, anorexia, dizziness, constipation, fever, indigestion, headache, lethargy, nausea, sleeplessness, chills, and infections of the respiratory system [24]. However, peripheral neurotoxicity, myelosuppression, and gastrointestinal responses (diarrhea) are the most common adverse effects of OXA [31].

### **1.5. Nanotechnology**

In the present day, systems rooted in nanotechnology have several diagnostic and therapeutic potentials. One potential approach to decreasing the negative effects of OXA toxicity is through the utilization of nanostructures as an encapsulation strategy [32]. The field of nanotechnology has had consistent growth in its application to cancer chemotherapy, radiation, diagnostics, and imaging. These advancements have shown promising potential in enhancing these areas and improving patient care [33]. Nanotechnology-based methodologies have demonstrated superior efficacy in delivering drugs to specific tissues compared to unbound formulations. Over time, various systems and technological approaches have been investigated for the purpose of encapsulating OXA, as encapsulating OXA induces drug accumulation in the tumor environment through passive targeting based upon the enhanced permeation and retention (EPR) effect [34]. It can be said about EPR; tumors often have leaky vasculature compared to healthy vasculature in normal tissues. Nano-drugs, when administered intravenously, can have prolonged circulation if they are not small enough (less than 50 nm) to be excreted by the kidney or large enough (more than 800 nm) to be rapidly

recognized and trapped by the reticuloendothelial system (RES), leak into the tumor tissue through leaky tumor vasculature, accumulates there, and then releases their therapeutic cargo [35]. The RES, which stands for reticuloendothelial system, is sometimes referred to as the mononuclear phagocyte system. The system is comprised of both cellular and noncellular components. The reticuloendothelial system [RES] plays a crucial role in the elimination of nanoparticles from the biological system, resulting in the achievement of subtherapeutic levels of therapeutic agents at the specific tissue site. Macrophages are a prominent constituent inside the reticuloendothelial system (RES) [36]. A number of chemotherapeutic nanomedicines, including Doxil/Caelyx, DaunoXome, Myocet, Abraxane, Lipusu, Nanoxel, Oncaspar, DepoCyt, Genexol-PM, Mepact, NanoTherm, Marqibo, ONIVYDE, DHP107, Vyxeos, Apealea, and Hensify, have been granted FDA approval and are presently available on the market for the treatment of diverse types of cancer. Consequently, a majority of nanomedicines utilized in the field of cancer treatment are formulated using liposomes [33]. In the case of OXA, Cheng, and Liu reported that only three nano-OXA Aroplatin, Lipoxal, and MBP-426 entered the clinical sector, but they were stopped in phases 2, 1, and 2, respectively [32]. Therefore, researchers aim to prepare a suitable nano-OXA, and have used different carriers and evaluated their efficiency.

## **2. Nanoparticles Containing Oxaliplatin**

In this study, we review the nano-OXA delivery systems that were introduced in colorectal cancer treatment. These drug delivery systems were categorized into seven sections including; solid lipid nanoparticles, liposomes, polysaccharides, proteins, silica nanoparticles, metal nanoparticles, and synthetic polymer carriers.

### **2.1. Solid Lipid nanoparticles**

Lipid-based nanoplatforms have emerged as very promising drug delivery systems (DDSs) with potential for successful translation into clinical trials for the treatment of colorectal

cancer (CRC). The liposome-based carrier is considered to be one of the safest drug delivery systems (DDSs) due to its exceptional biocompatibility and biodegradability. In fact, it was among the first nanoplateforms to get approval for clinical usage by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) [37]. They have a lipid matrix that can be easily modified for controlled drug release. Their highly hydrophobic core enables drugs to efficiently incorporate into the core, resulting in excellent colloidal stability in the body. Surface modification with polyethylene glycol (PEG) can increase their blood circulation properties. Additionally, SLNs can be designed to target specific tissues or cells, which can improve the efficacy of the drug and reduce side effects [38]. SLNs are composed of solid lipids, surfactants, and water. The selection of solid lipids can have an impact on the characteristics of solid lipid nanoparticles (SLNs). For instance, several solid lipids exhibit varying degrees of hydrophobicity, hence influencing the drug's solubility. These particles can be formulated using various methods, including ultrasonication, microemulsion, and high-pressure homogenization. Nevertheless, it is crucial to acknowledge that the approach employed in the development of the SLNs might also exert an influence on their characteristics. One potential effect of ultrasonication is the reduction in size of solid lipid nanoparticles (SLNs), but high-pressure homogenization has the potential to increase their size [39].

Triglycerides, beeswax, cetyl alcohol, carnauba wax, cholesterol, emulsifying wax, and cholesterol butyrate are a few typical solid lipids used to create SLNs [40]. Solid lipid nanoparticles (SLN) and nanostructured lipid carriers (NLC) were developed as highly secure colloidal carriers for the transportation of pharmaceuticals with low solubility. SLN/NLC possess the distinctive characteristic of being comprised of excipients that have already obtained approval for usage in pharmaceuticals intended for human consumption. This confers a significant advantage over other nanoparticulate systems that are produced using unique materials [41]. Nevertheless, certain solid lipid nanoparticles (SLNs) have the

potential to induce hepatotoxicity or nephrotoxicity. In order to evaluate the *in vivo* toxicity of solid lipid nanoparticles (SLN), it is necessary to conduct a comprehensive assessment. In their study, Weyhers et al. (2006) examined the effects of two different doses, specifically 200 µl and 400 µl, of solid lipid nanoparticle (SLN) dispersion on mice. The outcomes seen *in vivo* were contingent upon both the lipid matrix employed and the dosage delivered. No deleterious findings were seen in the case of cetyl palmitate-containing solid lipid nanoparticles (SLN). However, formulations including large doses of Compritol resulted in the buildup of the lipid in the liver and spleen, later leading to pathological changes [42].

About solid lipid nanoparticles, an *in vitro* drug release study of OXA loaded SLNs (OPSLNs) and OPSLNs and coupled folic acid (OPSLNFs) formulation revealed sustained drug release pattern for up to 6 days the highest anticancer potency activity and sensitivity of HT-29 cells to the drug entrapped, was OPSLNFs in comparison with OPSLNs and OXA solution. In contrast, OPSLNFs had considerably higher cytotoxicity than OPSLNs and free OXA solution [43].

In order to increase the uptake and efficacy of OXA chemotherapy in colon cancer cells (HCT116 and HT-29), Sundaramoorthy et al., (2016) prepared proapoptotic nanoparticles (NPs) with self-micellar anticancer lipid (SMAL). They demonstrated that, in contrast to free OXA that enters cells by passive diffusion across the cell membrane, the cytotoxic effects of SMAL-NPs and SMAL-OL are mostly attributable to enhanced caveolae-mediated endocytosis uptake, which results in high intracellular accumulation and increased cell death. The study suggests that the inhibitory effect of SMAL-OL on cyclin A and cyclin B, which are crucial regulatory proteins, may be a determining factor in the antiapoptotic activity of these nanoformulations [44].

Rajpoot and Jain (2020) prepared unconjugated and folic acid conjugated SLNs (SLN-OXA and FA-SLN-OXA, respectively) for their potential against CRC. Outcomes for FA-SLN-OXA revealed more cytotoxicity against COLO-205 cells than free OXA and SLN-OXA. *In-vivo* investigation using Gamma

scintigraphy showed that the level of drug in the colonic tumor by  $^{99m}\text{Tc}$ -EuB-FA-SLN-OP was significantly ( $p < 0.0001$ ) higher than that of  $^{99m}\text{Tc}$ -EuB-SLN-OP [45]. In another study OXA loaded D- $\alpha$ -tocopherol polyethylene glycol 1000 succinate (TPGS)-based lipid nanoparticles (OXA/TLNP) were prepared by Wang et al., (2018) to enhance the anticancer effect in HT-29 colon cancer cells. TPGS has the potential to function as an emulsifying agent and a solubility enhancer in lipid nanoparticles. Additionally, it has been observed to exhibit inhibitory effects on P-glycoprotein (p-gp) efflux pumps, thereby circumventing the resistance to multidrug use in cancer cells, one crucial determinant associated with the lack of success in treatment outcomes [46]. The utilization of lipid nanoparticles based on TPGS and loaded with OXA has been shown to result in a noteworthy uptake of said nanoparticles. The IC<sub>50</sub> value of free OXA was 4.25  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$  whereas the IC<sub>50</sub> value of OXA/TLNP was 1.12  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$  (about 3-fold lower). Additionally, OXA/TLNP remarkably enhanced the apoptosis of cancer cells. About 52% of the cells were in the early stages of apoptosis, while 13% were in the late stages. In this case, early and late apoptosis phases for free OXA were 19.2 and 3.4%, respectively, indicating the potent anticancer effect of the lipid nanoparticles [38]. In a study conducted by Duan et al. (2019), it was demonstrated that the encapsulation of dihydroartemisinin (DHA) and OXA prodrugs effectively mitigates their disintegration and degradation. The researchers conducted a study with OXA/DHA core-shell particles that were coated with a lipid bilayer containing a cholesterol-DHA conjugate (chol-DHA). This coating allowed for precise control over the release of drugs in tumors, while also minimizing the exposure of drugs to the systemic circulation [47] (Table 1).

## **2.2. Liposomes**

In the area of nanomedicine, liposomes have become potentially useful tools for drug and gene delivery. They have proven to lessen the toxicity of medications while increasing their efficacy. We recently demonstrated that the severity of neuropathy induced by oxaliplatin

encapsulated in PEGylated nanoliposomes was less than that of the free drug group [48]. Liposomes, consisting of bilayered phospholipids, serve as a partition between the intracellular and extracellular environments [49]. The amphipathic nature of phospholipids results in the formation of a stable structure where the hydrophilic heads orient towards the aqueous environment and the hydrophobic tails aggregate together. These carriers can encapsulate both hydrophilic and hydrophobic medications, making it possible to distribute a greater variety of medications this way [50, 51]. The initial generation of liposomes, known as conventional liposomes, is comprised of a phospholipid bilayer including anionic, cationic, or neutral phospholipids and cholesterol. These liposomes enclose a space filled with aqueous solution. The initial iteration of liposomes has a limited duration of existence while undergoing intravenous circulation, mostly as a result of their absorption by the reticuloendothelial system (RES). The initial advancement in liposome technology (referred to as second-generation) was the attachment of polyethylene glycol (PEG) to a lipid anchor. This change resulted in the development of long-circulating liposomes that exhibited enhanced stability in the plasma, prolonged circulation duration, and reduced toxicity. Nevertheless, it is crucial to acknowledge that the dimensions of PEG-liposomes might potentially exert an influence on their stability and duration of circulation. As an illustration, it may be observed that cells have a higher propensity to internalize smaller PEG-liposomes, but bigger PEG-liposomes tend to undergo clearance by the immune system within the body [52]. The initial long-circulating liposomes that were thoroughly studied were liposomal doxorubicin that had been modified with polyethylene glycol (dox/PEG-L). The dox/PEG-L vesicles, with a diameter ranging from 80 to 90 nm, exhibited an extended blood circulation half-life of 2-3 days, surpassing that of the free drug by several hundred-fold. Additionally, the concentration of the administered medication in the tumor tissue was about six times greater compared to the unencapsulated drug [53]. In the present era, the field of

nanotechnology has made significant progress, leading to the emergence of the third generation of liposomes. This advancement involves the surface modification of liposomes through the incorporation of suitable ligands, including small molecules, vitamins, carbohydrates, polysaccharides, peptides, aptamers, antibodies, and enzymes [54]. The selection of phospholipids can exert an influence on the characteristics of liposomes. The inclusion of cholesterol in liposomes is essential due to its capacity to regulate membrane permeability, alter fluidity, and enhance the stability of bilayer membranes when exposed to biological fluids like blood and plasma [54]. The incorporation of dipalmitoylphosphatidylcholine (DPPC) and distearoylphosphatidylcholine (DSPC) into formulations gives rise to liposomes that exhibit temperature-dependent behavior. Liposomes possessing a transition temperature exceeding that of the average body temperature (42–44 °C) are very suitable for hyperthermia applications. DOPE is frequently utilized as a fundamental constituent in pH-sensitive liposomes. In an acidic environment, the liposomes containing DOPE along with weakly acidic amphiphiles such as phosphatidylserine (Ps), cholesteryl hemisuccinate (CHEMS), and phosphatidylglycerol (PG) undergo destabilization. This leads to the release of their cargo through an intensified process of liposomal fusion with the endosomal membrane [55]. Because OXA is a hydrophilic medicine and liposomes have a hydrophilic core that may enclose hydrophilic pharmaceuticals, they can be thought of as effective delivery systems for OXA. Prior research findings suggest that the use of liposomal encapsulation of OXA exhibits greater antitumor activity compared to the free drug because it is crucial to consider the mitigation of drug toxicity towards healthy tissues [56]. The thin film approach, reverse phase evaporation method, and modified heating method are the most used techniques for creating liposomes. According to the study, making stable and effective liposomes for OXA *in vivo* is easier with the thin film approach [57]. In contrast to PEG-liposomes, bare liposomes, and free OXA, Suzuki et al. (2008) discovered that intravenously

delivered OXA contained within transferrin-conjugated polyethylene glycol liposomes significantly inhibited tumor growth. [58]. Empty PEG-liposomes, free OXA, or PEG-liposomal OXA were all employed by Yang et al. (2011) to treat SW480 human colorectal cancer cells. They found that PEG-liposomal OXA induced a higher apoptotic response than free OXA or empty PEG-liposomes. Additionally, Cyclin D1 expression was increased whereas Cyclin A expression was decreased by PEG-liposomal OXA treatment. The results presented here demonstrate that entrapping OXA in PEG-liposomes boosts the anticancer activity of the chemotherapeutic drug. PEG-liposomal OXA may control the production of Cyclin A or Cyclin D1, as well as pro- and anti-apoptotic proteins, which affects apoptosis in SW480 human colorectal cancer cells [50]. Accordingly, it can be said that increased apoptosis caused by OXA is another aspect of the cellular response to PEG-liposomal OXA treatment, which manifests as a synergistic growth inhibitory effect in colorectal cancer cells [51]. In another study, the liposomes were co-loaded with OXA and irinotecan hydrochloride, one of the standard combination regimens for the treatment of colorectal cancer in clinics. According to an *in vitro* cytotoxicity analysis Co-loaded liposomes were found to be more harmful to CT-26 and HCT-116 cells than a combination of single loaded liposomes. Additionally, in CT-26 carrying BALB/c mice, co-loaded liposomes also demonstrated superior anti-tumor activity. Liposomes displayed lower toxicities than their free forms, based on *in vivo* safety evaluation [59]. Regarding the inadequate therapeutic concentration of free OXA *in vivo*, a profitable delivery system is needed, which can transfer OXA directly to tumor cells to take advantage of its anti-tumor effect. Therefore, transferrin (TF)–PEG-liposomes encapsulating OXA was able to perform well in satisfying these requirements. Since tumor cells have a far higher concentration of TF receptors than normal cells do, TF-PEG-liposomes would integrate into mouse Colon 26 tumors by TF receptor-mediated endocytosis and transport OXA into the cytoplasm. The literature examined the anti-tumor



activities of TF-PEG-liposomes encapsulating OXA by comparing and contrasting OXA encapsulated within Bare-, PEG-, and TF-PEG liposomes. A sort of tumor growth suppression by free OXA in and encapsulated within Bare- or PEG-liposomes, but the highest suppression was seen in OXA encapsulated within TF-PEG-liposomes. Additionally, in the animal model, liposomal OXA did not significantly affect liver, heart, or kidney function, and serum albumin, total protein, GOT, GPT, and BUN levels did not significantly differ from those of the non-treated and saline-injected animal models [58] (Table 2).

### **2.3. Polysaccharides**

Polysaccharides are macromolecules made up of multiple monosaccharide repeats linked by glycosidic links. Based on their monosaccharide units, they can be categorized into homopolymers like glycogen, and starch, or heteropolymers such as chondroitin sulfate, chitosan [60], hyaluronic acid, and pectin. They have a large number of multi-functional groups that give them the ability to be a vesicle of different pharmaceutical agents. Due to the advantages of polysaccharides including abundance in nature, biocompatibility, water solubility, biodegradability, non-toxicity, low-cost processing, and bioactivity, they are a promising biomaterials in nanomedicine [61]. Chondroitin sulfate (CS), a cross-linked and readily water-soluble polysaccharide, is presented as a developing colon targeting carrier system for delivery of OXA to treat colorectal cancer. In this way, a cross-linked chondroitin sulfate-co-poly(methacrylic acid) (CSMA) hydrogels for colon targeting of OXA to treat colorectal cancer was prepared by Barkat et al., (2017). To assess the toxicity of the drug-carrier system to the biological system, a rabbit toxicity assessment of the produced formulations was also carried out. They reported that the formulations were nontoxic to the biological system [62]. The cellular affinity of hyaluronic acid (HA) is improved when it is treated with methacrylic acid. According to the study conducted by Magalhaes et al. (2014), it was shown that chondrocytes exhibit adhesion and display a spherical shape when included

into HA hydrogels that have undergone methacrylic acid alteration. Furthermore, with the modification of hydrogel using methacrylic acid, alterations to the molecular weight of HA enable the formation of a dense network with high cross-linking density in precursor solutions, facilitated by macromonomers such as polyethylene glycolic (PEGDM). Animal models are employed to sustain cellular viability and facilitate the generation of fresh cartilage tissue [63].

In another study, chemical cross-linking using various doses of CS and acrylic acid (AA) was used to create oral hydrogels. The manufactured hydrogels consequently displayed pH-sensitive swelling dynamics and drug release that was greater at pH "7.4". Additionally, no indications of lesions, disruptions, deformations, or any other pathological changes were seen in the vital organs [64]. Hydrogels, first identified in 1968, represent a category of network polymers characterized by their hydrophilic properties, enabling them to exhibit significant water absorption capabilities. These materials possess distinctive characteristics that provide moderate to high levels of physical, chemical, and mechanical stability when they are in their swelled form, depending on the individual application [65].

By physically incorporating OXA and tannic acid (TA) polymeric nanoparticles (OXA/TA NPs) into a thermosensitive hydrogel, OXA/TA NPs-hydrogel (OXA/TA NPs-H), Ren et al. (2019) created an injectable drug delivery method. The formulation utilizing the hydrogel limited the growth of CT26 peritoneal colon cancer *in vivo*, enhanced survival time, and improved quality of life in model mice. As a result, they hypothesized that OXA/TA NPs-H would be useful in the treatment of colorectal cancer. [66]. Hyaluronic acid (HA) is presented for designing a drug delivery system bearing OXA for colon tumor targeting. Although chitosan nanoparticles (CTNPs) are an effective delivery system for anticancer drugs by oral administration, compared with HA-coupled chitosan nanoparticles (HACTNPs), HACTNPs are reported to be more specific for delivery of drugs to colon tumors and more effective.

Chitosan, being a prominent polysaccharide in the field of drug administration, has limited solubility in water while demonstrating solubility in aqueous solutions with an acidic pH. Furthermore, as a result of the existence of active amino groups, chitosan has the potential to undergo chemical modifications in order to enhance its physical characteristics. Chitosan and its modified derivative-based nanoparticles has the ability to selectively accumulate at specific cancer locations through both active and passive processes [67]. Jain et al., (2010) reported that the entrapment efficiency of HACTNPs was less and they also had a decrease in drug release that could be due to the structural integrity of HA coupling [68]. In another study, HA-coated AL nanogels functionalized with folic acid (F/HA/AL nanogels), were designed for targeted drug delivery of OXA. The advantages of using nanogels for drug delivery systems are their ability to control delivery and improve the stability of drugs. According to the results; F/HA/AL/OXA nanogels could penetrate HT29 cells and inhibit cancer cell proliferation compared to free OXA. They were also able to regulate the expression of the apoptosis-related gene in HT29 cells [69]. Farmanbar et al., (2022) designed superparamagnetic (Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>) nanoparticles using the water extract of chia seeds. The nanoparticles were subsequently covered in chitosan (CS), Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>@CS core-shell, and used to transport the drugs irinotecan (IRI) and OXA, which were designated as Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>-OXA@CS core-shell and Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>-IRI@CS core-shell, respectively. The IC<sub>50</sub> values of nano-drugs against colorectal cancer cells CT-26 showed that the lowest amounts were related to nano drugs containing OXA (79.6 ppm) and IRI (61.1 ppm) compared with Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>@CS (246.6 ppm) [70]. The study conducted by Alavi et al. (2023) aimed to assess the efficacy of core-shell ZnO nanoparticles (ZnO-NPs@polymer shell) loaded with OXA by polymerization. This evaluation was carried out using *in vitro* experiments and *in vivo* mice models specifically designed for colorectal cancer. The biological findings revealed that the ZnO-Gd-OXA compound effectively suppressed tumor development through the stimulation of

reactive oxygen species and the inhibition of fibrosis. These results highlight the potential of ZnO-Gd-OXA as a promising therapeutic agent for the treatment of colorectal cancer, emphasizing the need for more investigations in this area [71]. In a separate investigation, ion crosslinking and emulsification crosslinking techniques were employed to fabricate nanoparticles of N,O-carboxymethyl chitosan OXA (CMCS-OXE NPs) and N,O-carboxymethyl chitosan resveratrol (CMCS-Res NPs), respectively. The results of *in vivo* investigations conducted on BALB/c mice shown that the combined administration of both types of nanoparticles has considerably more efficacy in suppressing colon cancer compared to the use of free medication or a single type of nanoparticle. The combination treatment including both types of nanoparticles has a more pronounced anti-colon cancer effect compared to the administration of free medicines or the use of either type of nanoparticle in isolation [72].

According to the findings of Kaur et al. (2021), the incorporation of OXA and vanillic into polysaccharide-based functionalized polymeric micelles (FPMs) has the potential to enable targeted delivery specifically to the colon. This targeted approach may result in improved therapeutic effectiveness, since lower medication dosages might be administered. Furthermore, the incorporation of vanillic acid alongside oxaliplatin in functionalized polymer micelles (FPMs) may confer colon-targeting capabilities, hence enhancing efficacy and safety. This approach has the potential to target numerous pathways, beyond the limitations of existing adjuvant chemotherapies now available in the market for colon cancer therapy [26].

OXA was encapsulated into chitosan-graft-poly-N-isopropylacrylamide (CS-g-PNIPAAm) co-polymeric nanoparticles in order to create a tumor-targeting drug delivery system. The MTT assay and fluorescence microscopy examination revealed that the tumor microenvironment dramatically increased drug release and cell uptake. The authors claim that

the OXA tumor-targeted medication delivery using the generated nanoparticles showed remarkable promise [73].

For the purpose of colonic distribution of OXA, cross-linked pectin-based LA-co-MAA hydrogels were synthesised in one study using the free radical polymerization approach. A dose-dependent effect was seen against Vero, MCF-7, and HCT-116 cell lines when free OXA and OXA-loaded hydrogels were tested using the MTT assay. The blank hydrogels were shown to be cytocompatible. The oral tolerance study performed on rabbits confirmed that the hydrogel dispersion was well-tolerable up to 3650 mg/kg of body weight without inducing any histopathological or haematological abnormalities as compared with the group that served as the control [74]. Dutta and Sahu (2012) encapsulated superparamagnetic iron oxide nanoparticles (SPIONs) and OXA within pectin cross-linked with  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  to produce magnetically functionalized pectin nanocarriers. The nanocarriers demonstrated a protracted discharge of OHP in a phosphate buffer solution that was upheld at pH 5.5 and 7.4. The profile of drug release complied with a mechanism that was controlled by both swelling and diffusion [75]. Using a hot-melt extrusion technique and an FDM printer, Mirdamadian et al. (2022) sensitized eudragit L100-55 filament with OXA loaded alginate nanoparticles (OXA-NPs) to create 3D printed tablets with good drug homogeneity and selective OXA release in the colonic environment. Compressed tablets did not exhibit any significant antitumor effect, most likely due to non-selective drug release in the stomach and upper intestine environments; whereas 3D printed tablets containing OXA-NPs demonstrated an impressive antitumor effect that was comparable with intravenous OXA solution (p 0.05) with a better safety profile [76]. Another polysaccharide is cyclodextrins (CDs), which are notable for their capacity to combine with a variety of guest molecules to generate inclusion compounds in aqueous solutions. Three water-soluble OXA complexes were created in one work by inclusion complexation with b-cyclodextrin (b-CD), c-cyclodextrin (c-CD), and HP-b-

cyclodextrin [77]. It was discovered that the complex with CDs in 1:1 stoichiometry inclusion modes enhanced the water solubility of OXA. Against HCT116 and MCF-7 cells, the inclusion complexes showed about two times as much cytotoxicity as free oxaliplatin. The oxaliplatin/CD complexes' acceptable water solubility and enhanced cytotoxic activity may be helpful for their usage in anti-tumor therapy [77]. Bentonite/cellulose nanocomposite as another polysaccharide was synthesized for capsulation of OXA. The composite shows continuous and slow release of the drug, with 94.3% cell viability for the normal cells (CCD-18Co), and 23% for the colorectal cancer cells (HCT116) [78]. These authors in another work (2020) functionalized cellulosic fibers with kaolinite (EXK/CF) to prepare a carrier for OXA against HCT116. With maximum release percentages of 86.4 and 95.2% for about 100 hours, the EXK/CF composite demonstrated a promising loading capacity. Compared to free OXA, the nano-composite showed a better safety impact on CCD-18Co cells and a larger harmful impact on HCT116 cells [79] (Table 3).

#### **2.4. Proteins**

One of the other nanoparticles for delivering drugs are protein nanoparticles [80]. Cisplatin, carboplatin, and OXA's *in vitro* protein binding rates (PBR) were found to be 98%, 25-50%, and 98%, respectively, whereas the three medications' *in vivo* plasma protein binding rate concentrations were 96%, 15%, and 80%, respectively. According to research by Kato et al. (2019), cisplatin and OXA bind to human serum albumin (HSA) irreversibly and may also interact with tissue protein and/or DNA irreversibly. Their therapeutic drug monitoring is hindered by the challenges associated with forecasting the tissue concentrations of cisplatin and OXA from their plasma concentration [81]. The most important blood serum protein, HSA, has the ability to transport a significant number of molecules containing ions, medications, and other ligands to the target area [82-84]. In the study by Ziaaddini et al.,

(2020), bovine serum albumin (BSA) was used as biocompatible nanocarrier (BSANPs) to synthesize a nanoparticles formulation.

The BSANPs were loaded with OXA, and FTIR, AFM, and FESEM methods were used to verify the loading. When compared to OXA alone, the MTT assay for the OXA@BSANPs showed an increase in normal cell viability and an increase in cancer cell mortality [85]. Maleimide-modified, mono-functionalized platinum (IV) and OXA complexes enable preferential binding to HSA in the circulation. By preventing quick renal clearance, this not only prolongs the plasma half-life but also increases the drug's preferred accumulation in tumor tissue due to the EPR effect. Pichler et al. in 2013 reported the first maleimide-functionalized OXA (IV) prodrug KP2156, which was able to bind to Cys34 of albumin and enables to release OXA in a highly tumor-specific manner [86]. They demonstrated in their subsequent work (2021) that KP2156 creates extremely stable albumin adducts in the blood that have a superior pharmacological profile, including noticeably delayed terminal excretion half-life and increased effective platinum dose (measured by ICP-MS) [87]. The albumin-bound medication builds up in the cancerous tissue, where it is activated by reduction to release OXA after entering the cancer cells by clathrin and caveolin-dependent endocytosis. In contrast to free OXA and a non-albumin-binding succinimide analogue, KP2156 exhibits substantial, sustained anticancer action against CT26 colon cancer tumors *in vivo* based on cell cycle arrest and apoptotic cell death [88]. In the study by Mayr et al. (2017), *in vivo* anticancer tests using mice bearing the CT26 gene revealed that, in contrast to cisplatin derivatives, the OXA-based complexes had outstanding greater activity than the free drug, leading to the cure of the majority of treated mice [88]. In addition to HSA,  $\beta$ -lactoglobulin can also be a suitable protein for the preparation of pharmaceutical and nutritional nanoparticles, due to their high-water solubility, stability at an acidic pH, and stability against gastric pepsin, abundance, and gel-forming ability [89]. In addition, nanoparticles utilized in

oral medication delivery systems designed for targeting the colon must effectively address challenges related to pH sensitivity and transit duration inside the gastric environment. In the context of oral delivery, it is imperative to safeguard the formulation to mitigate the risks of degradation, untimely drug release, and early absorption prior to reaching the colon. The aforementioned challenges can be effectively addressed with the implementation of enteric coating on the nanoparticle delivery method. The enteric coating serves as a protective barrier that shields the encapsulated medicine from the acidic conditions of the stomach, while also regulating its release in order to target specific locations within the lower gastrointestinal tract [90]. Therefore, these features enable them to bind to OXA for the treatment of colorectal cancer [89, 91, 92]. Monti et al. (2022) conducted a study examining the possible application of the OXA/ $\beta$ -lactoglobulin complex as drugs with anticancer properties. Significantly, the cytotoxicity findings indicate that the complex resulting from the interaction between the anticancer agent and the protein exhibits more cytotoxicity compared to the unbound medicines, since it elicits the same cellular death mechanism. The authors propose that the reversible binding of Pt to the Met side chain indicates the potential use of  $\beta$ -lactoglobulin as a medication delivery mechanism for Pt-based compounds [91]. Reduced nanographene oxide (rNGO) and  $\beta$ -lactoglobulin protein were employed in 2023 by Almajidi et al. for better and more efficient encapsulation, loading, and release of OXA medicine (rNGO/-Lg@OXP) in colon carcinoma cells. According to the predicted charge transfer value for rNGO/-Lg@OXP ( $\Delta N_{\max} = 0.16$ ), electrons from the drug were transferred to the nanocomposite, resulting in stereo electronic resonance, hardening, and stabilizing their geometric structure. Due to of the drug's electrical stereo resonance with the nanocomposite, rNGO/-Lg@OXP is more toxic to colon cancer cells than free OXA but less hazardous to healthy tissues [93]. In a different study,  $\beta$ -lactoglobulin nanocapsules containing OXA were created in three different pHs (3, 4.5, and 7) and tested for their efficacy in treating colon



cancer both with and without low methoxyl pectin. According to research, OXA complexed  $\beta$ -LG nanocapsules with low methoxyl pectin can be a highly attractive choice for use in oral medication administration for the treatment of colon cancer [94] (Table 4).

## **2.5. Silica Nanoparticles**

Mesoporous silica nanoparticles (MSN), have gained much attention as a delivery system due to their outstanding properties including: non toxicity, physicochemical stability, easy modification, high loading capacity, tunable pore structures, and size, and high specific surface area. Their high surface areas and straight narrow channels give them the ability to facilitate adsorption of drugs into their structures and being decorated with some molecules that help them with the delivery process [95-97]. In order to mitigate the systemic harmful impact, mesoporous silica nanoparticles (MSNs) can be modified with cell-targeting ligands, enabling the localization of nanocarriers to specific cells or tissues through their affinity for cell-specific receptors. The TAT-peptide, which encompasses the YGRKKRRQRRR sequence, exhibits the ability to interact with importin  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  receptors present on cancer cells. As a result, it may effectively target the nuclear pore complexes of these cells, facilitating their entry into the nucleus [98]. By immobilizing the AS141-aptamer onto the surface of core@shell AuNP@MSNs that are functionalized with DNA and capped with AgNPs, the resulting nanocarriers exhibit cancer cell targeting capabilities, as well as redox and light responsiveness [99]. Additionally, it has been shown that folic acid (FA) may directly functionalize the surface of mesoporous silica nanoparticles (MSNs) or act as capping agents. This functionalization enhances the process of FA receptor-mediated endocytosis in cancer cells, hence facilitating targeted administration of chemotherapeutic agents. Consequently, this approach helps reduce systemic damage to healthy cells [100, 101]. According to Moghadam et al. [2023], the utilization of a secure and biocompatible silica substrate, specifically mesoporous silica nanoparticles, for stabilizing Pt-drugs has the

potential to yield several benefits. These advantages include the reduction of dosage and associated side effects, improved drug solubility and stability, and enhanced control over drug release during the chemotherapy process [102]. In this way, an article designed MSN–OXA conjugates for the first time as a drug delivery system and resulted in improved cytotoxicity against cancer cells in comparison with free OXA. Thus, it can be regarded as a possible application in cancer therapy with decreased side effects and enhanced therapeutic efficacy [96]. OXA and miRNA-204-5p loaded polyethyleneimine-hyaluronic acid (PEI-HA) assembled mesoporous silica nanoparticles (OXmi-HSMN) were designed in another formulation for the administration of OXA to increase the therapeutic efficacy of the loaded therapies. The HA-conjugated NP system will increase selectivity with better delivery efficiency to colorectal cancer cells compared to non-targeted nanoparticles. It also exhibited a noticeable inhibition of tumor growth which was higher than both free OXA and OXA-MSN [97]. The utilization of nanostructured carriers for the encapsulation of miRNAs enables the precise targeting of cancer cells, while minimizing any potential harm to healthy tissues. The utilization of nanoparticles (NPs) in cancer treatment shows promise due to their tiny size and the favorable surface-to-size ratio, which allows for the encapsulation, protection, and controlled release of miRNAs [103]. OXA/HCE6-MSNs, demonstrated also a greater inhibitory effect on cancer cells in comparison with free OXA. Additionally, it can boost the apoptosis of cancer cells along with the inhibition of their growth [104]. To introduce targeting receptors against colon cancer cells HCT-116, through co-precipitation and the sol-gel technique, Tabasi et al. (2021) created OXA superparamagnetic Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/Mesoporous Silica Nanoparticles (MSNs). It was then functionalized using NH<sub>2</sub>-bonding. According to MTT assay data, NH<sub>2</sub> was able to express a higher OXA intracellular uptake and more CD44-binding than free OXA, which resulted in a drop in the IC<sub>50</sub> of free OXA and NCs-drug loaded, from 7.5 g/mL to 3.2 g/mL [105]. In a different (2015) work,

mesoporous silica nanoparticles (MSNs) encapsulating OXA were decorated with the cancer-targeting ligand Arg-Gly-Asp peptide (RGD). Polyethylene glycol (PEG) and polyethyleneimine (PEI) were used to modify the nanoparticles. They considerably increased OXA's anticancer effectiveness, which was far more than chitosan's (CTS) [106] (Table 5).

## **2.6. Metallic Nanoparticles**

Metal nanoparticles have attracted significant attention, especially in the field of cancer therapy [107]. They for drug delivery can offer several advantages over traditional drug delivery methods. These nanoparticles can also be designed to specifically target certain cells or tissues by some ligands (Aptamer, peptides, antibody and more) increasing the effectiveness of the drug and reducing side effects. Additionally, they can improve the bioavailability and stability of the drug. The production of metal nanoparticles may be categorized into two distinct methods: the physical process and the chemical process. The physical process, also known as the top-down process, involves the division of nanoparticles from their equivalent bulk material. The chemical process, also known as the bottom-up process, involves the controlled aggregation of atoms to produce them. The chemical process may be further classified into two distinct groups, namely the dry process and the wet process. The dry procedure encompasses both vapor deposition and sputtering techniques. Chemical operations often start with the reduction of metal ions or the thermal disintegration of metal complexes, resulting in the formation of 0-valent metal atoms. Subsequently, these atoms undergo controlled aggregation in a carefully regulated manner. Chemical reduction is predominantly employed as a preparatory technique for the synthesis of metal nanoparticles. The aforementioned methodology is regarded as a very promising preparative method for the creation of nanoparticles. It is well recognized for its reproducibility, ease of implementation, and cost-effectiveness. The process of alcohol reduction has been identified as an effective method for the synthesis of metal nanoparticles, with a particular emphasis on the production

of polymer-stabilized nanoparticles belonging to the platinum group metals. In addition, the sputtering process is classified as a dry process and is widely recognized as a distinctive preparative technique for producing metal nanoparticles. Magnetron sputtering devices are cost-effective tools often employed for the fabrication of inorganic thin films [108].

Among other metallic nanoparticles as drug delivery systems, gold nanoparticles (AuNPs) have many advantages including higher uptake by cells, hydrophilicity, and non-immunogenicity [109]. Also, they proved to be biocompatible and less toxic due to a core containing gold which is encircled by a protecting outer layer of organic ligands [109, 110]. Although AuNPs are non-toxic, their functionalization with substances that are linked to cancer, such as folate, aptamers, peptides, or antibodies, may make them toxic [110]. AuNPs penetrated cells via different ways like passive uptake, phagocytosis, pinocytosis, non-specific receptor-independent endocytosis, or receptor-mediated endocytosis [110]. They are a useful drug delivery system because they are suitable for conjugating various drugs, peptides, proteins, and antibodies [111]. By improving drug delivery, platinum-based chemotherapy can greatly reduce the side effects of OXA which occur from nonspecific attacks on rapidly dividing cells [112]. Based on the high surface areas of AuNPs, they can attach to a large number of available platinum drug molecules potentially, make a good delivery system for other nonplatinum-based drugs and a platinum (IV) complex by considering the ability of platinum drugs to be actively targeted to both solid tumors and leukemias [112]. An article demonstrated that OXA was successfully encapsulated inside AuNPs with significant particle size, drug-loading, and entrapment efficiency. The results suggested that the synergy and site-specific approach of immuno- AuNPs, decreased the side effects on healthy cells, which is the reason for the improved anti-cancer activity of the nanoparticles. The safety of the nanoparticles was also confirmed by performing different serum and blood tests. Comparing Oxaliplatin conjugated gold nanoparticles (Co-Ox-AuNPs)

by antibody DR5 with unconjugated nanoparticles, a similar uptake, and internalization as in the case of HCT-116 cells were observed. Nevertheless, Co-Ox-AuNPs showed a synergistic activity of antibodies that resulted in a reduction in xenograft tumor models [111]. For better medication distribution, Brown et al. (2010) prepared OXA within to a gold nanoparticle. Thiolated poly(ethylene glycol) (PEG) monolayers containing carboxylate groups were used to functionalize bare gold nanoparticles [Pt(1R,2R-diaminocyclohexane)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>]. In order to create a supramolecular combination with  $280 \pm 20$  drug molecules per nanoparticle, 2NO<sub>3</sub> was added to the PEG surface. In the colon cancer cell lines HCT116, HCT15, HT29, and RKO as well as the A549 lung epithelial cancer cell line, the platinum-tethered nanoparticles were tested for cytotoxicity, drug uptake, and localisation. The cytotoxicity of the platinum-tethered nanoparticles was comparable to or superior to free OXA all cell lines [112]. Copper sulfide (CuS) nanoparticles were created in one work by Gholami et al. (2022) to improve the anticancer effects of OXA against the colorectal cancer cell line CT26. The internal surface area in UiO-66-NH<sub>2</sub> was the cause of the OXA. The MTT findings showed that UiO-66-NH<sub>2</sub> did not significantly cause any cytotoxicity. Compared to OXA-UiO-66-NH<sub>2</sub>, which has an IC<sub>50</sub> of 37.58 ppm, OXA-CuS@UiO-66-NH<sub>2</sub> has a reported IC<sub>50</sub> of 7.97 ppm. Additionally, OXA-CuS@UiO-66-NH<sub>2</sub> can promote the apoptosis process in cells, indicating that the presence of CuS increased the proportion of apoptosis and cellular death [113]. Investigated in human colorectal cancer (HT-29) cells are the synthesis and production of OXA-loaded iodine nanoparticles (INPs), their characterisation, cell toxicity, radiosensitivity, cell apoptosis, and cell cycle test. INPs by themselves had no effect on cell cycle progression or apoptosis, but OXA-loaded INPs combined with radiation doses of 2 and 6 MV increased apoptosis. INPs' ability to increase radiation dose absorption makes them potential radio-sensitization nanoprobe agents for the treatment of HT-29 cells [114]. A metal-organic framework by UiO-66-NH<sub>2</sub> (U) and its magnetic UiO-66-NH<sub>2</sub> form (MU)

were used to enhance OXA efficacy. In 2- and 3-dimensional models of colorectal cancer, it was demonstrated that the developed medicines had increased anticancer activity and efficacy when compared to OXA by evaluating cell viability, proliferation and migration, and morphology. In terms of drug release, the IC<sub>50</sub> values for OXA, MU(OXA), and U(OXA) were determined to be 6.10, 18.47, and 47.02 ppm, respectively. U(OXA) and MU(OXA) were therefore more effective than OXA [115]. Gogineni et al. (2020) created hybrid liposome-magnetic nanoparticles that were loaded with Cy5.5 dye and oxaliplatin, referred to as L-NIR-Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/OX. The findings of the study indicate that the application of an alternating magnetic field effectively induces site-specific delivery of oxaliplatin at elevated concentrations. This intervention demonstrates enhanced survival outcomes in rats with colorectal liver metastatic tumors [116]. The use of Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> in magnetically decorated nanocarriers in the delivery of anticancer OXA was satisfactorily investigated, as they can have many advantages of a nanodrug along with the fact that they show low to no toxicity in humans. A few studies have already reported on magnetic nanoparticles created for OXA delivery. Jabalera et al., investigated a biomimetic magnetic nanoparticles (BMNPs) mediated by MamC connected to OXA in 2019. In order to support the development of targeted chemotherapy against CRC in the future, the potential of OXA-BMNP nanocomposites for local drug delivery was presented. Because tumor cells quickly internalize the nanoassembly by endocytosis, these authors showed that combining the OXA with the BMNPs increases its toxicity to much greater levels than the free medication [117]. The biological activities of OXA-BMNPs nano-assemblies that were encapsulated in phosphatidylcholine unilamellar liposomes [both pegylated and non-pegylated] were examined in the following study (2020). Their findings show that the OXA-BMNPs nanoassemblies' biocompatibility and cellular absorption are enhanced by the addition of a lipid cover and further pegylation, without appreciably lowering their cytotoxic effect against

colon cancer cells [118] (Table 6). The HDAPPs (Hybrid Donor-Acceptor Polymer Particles) utilize photothermal nanoparticles that consist of electrically conductive donor-acceptor polymers. These nanoparticles are designed to function as theranostic agents, enabling both fluorescence imaging and thermal ablation of cancer. Additionally, the nanoparticles are coated with the amphiphilic surfactant DSPE-PEG-OH to enhance their stability and biocompatibility. The formulation was developed with the objective of advancing next-generation thermal treatments, with a specific focus on the utilization of photothermal nanoparticles. The study showcased the efficacy of hyperthermia in enhancing the effects of oxaliplatin by the utilization of photothermal nanoparticles, which exhibited a positive correlation with the cellular thermal dosage [119].

## **2.7. Synthetic polymeric carriers**

Synthetic polymeric carriers have shown great potential in the field of cancer drug delivery due to their ability to target specific cells and tissues. These advanced drug delivery systems have the potential to improve the efficacy and safety of cancer treatments, while reducing side effects for patients [120]. Two major synthetic polymers that can be used as drug carriers are poly lactic-co-glycolic acid (PLGA) and dendrimers. PLGA is a biodegradable polymer that can be used to encapsulate drugs and target cancer cells [121]. Dendrimers are highly branched, nanoscale polymers that can be designed to specifically target cancer cells [122]. Both of these carriers have demonstrated promise for enhancing drug delivery and lowering toxicity in the treatment of cancer. Polyamidoamine dendrimers (PAMAM), the first dendritic platform that has been systematically studied among a variety of dendritic platforms including poly (propylene imine), poly-L-lysine, melamine, poly (etherhydroxyamine), poly (esteramine), and polyglycerol. It demonstrated great ability in drug and gene transfection [123, 124]. Nazlı and Gedik (2021) created several formulations of OXA using dendrimers, specifically PAMAM G3.5 and PAMAM G4.5. The researchers demonstrated that the

solubility of oxaliplatin exhibited a mostly linear rise in response to varying concentrations of dendrimers. PAMAM G4.5 dendrimers have the capability to form complexes with a higher loading capacity of oxaliplatin compared to PAMAM G3.5 dendrimers, ranging from 2 to 5 times greater. Additionally, the IC<sub>50</sub> value of the PAMAM G3.5 conjugate was determined to be 0.72 μM, whereas the IC<sub>50</sub> value for unmodified oxaliplatin was measured to be 14.03 μM. The researchers successfully built a dendrimer-based medication delivery system that had promising potential for further enhancement [125].

The pegylated PAMAM G3.5 (which is equivalent to generation 4.0.) can be used to protect dendrimer from immunological detection. Despite emphasizing the 75.69% drug loading efficiency (DLE), Oxaliplatin encapsulated in pegylated PAMAM G3.5 dendrimer (G3.5-PEG@OXA) would also be more beneficial in comparison with free OXA. First, G3.5-PEG@OXA could kill cancer cells effectively but with a reduced toxicity on normal cells in transportation within the human body. Second, G3.5-PEG@OXA can prevent the release of OXA into the blood stream and without a burst within first few hours [124]. In the following, the studies that have so far increased the efficiency of OXA in the treatment of CRC have been discussed. In one study, OXA was added to three polymeric matrices, including PLGA, polyethylene glycol (PEG), and a copolymer of PLGA conjugated with PEG (PLGA-PEG), to investigate how this medicine interacts with these materials and how well it diffuses into the environment. It was discovered that PEG did not control the release of OXA. In turn, the drug release characteristics of PLGA and PLGA-PEG are relatively comparable. Through a relaxing mechanism, the medication was fully released from PLGA and PLGA-PEG in 5 hours. Additionally, as PEG enhances biocompatibility and biomasking, acquired results demonstrate the development of a drug release mechanism, enabling full utilization of the drug to improve the treatment of cancer and even the welfare of the patients [125-126]. Electrospun polylactide (PLA) nanofibers loaded with 5-fluorouracil (5-Flu) and OXA were



created to test their anticancer effects on HCT8 cells both *in vitro* and *in vivo*. Drug-loaded fiber mats had *in vitro* cytotoxicity that was comparable to the combination of free 5-Flu and OXA, but they outperformed intravenous injection of free drugs *in vivo* anticancer activity, showing decreased tumor growth rate and prolonged mouse life [127]. For pH-responsive colon target delivery of OXA, Barkat et al. (2016) developed chemically cross-linked polyethylene glycol-co-poly(methacrylic acid) oral hydrogels (PEGMA 4000). The created hydrogels were verified to be non-toxic and biocompatible for biological systems by a toxicology research on rabbits. They stated that hydrogels could be a great option for colon-targeting OXA therapy for colorectal cancer with no side effects [128].

As prospective delivery systems for the anticancer drug OXA, nanoparticles based on biocompatible methoxy poly(ethylene glycol)-b-poly(D,L-lactide) (mPEG113-b-P(D,L)LAN) copolymers were created and the highest loading content of the drug (76%) in the carrier was showed [129]. In a work published in 2022 by Zumaya et al. produced and assessed anti-CD133 monoclonal antibody (Ab)-conjugated PLGA nanocarriers for the targeted delivery of OXA and superparamagnetic nanoparticles (IOOA) to colorectal cancer cells [130]. They reported that in contrast to the PLGA\_IO-OA\_OXA, which released the drug more gradually and steadily, the concentration of the released OXA from the PEGylated PLGA\_IO-OA\_OXA grew very quickly, reaching 100% release after just 2 hours. In that study, a viability assay was used to investigate the affinity of Ab-coated nanoparticles for CD133-positive cells in CaCo-2 cells using fluorescence microscopy [130]. In hyaluronic acid (HA) and carboxymethyl cellulose sodium (CMCNa)-based cross-linked (HC) hydrogels, OXA-loaded PLGA microparticles were added. These hydrogels demonstrated enhanced bioavailability and mean residence duration in rats following intraperitoneal treatment [131]. In one study, PLGA-OXA microspheres dramatically inhibited tumor growth in the tumor-bearing mice, which was associated with lower expression of proliferating cell nuclear

antigen and higher expression of terminal deoxynucleotidyl transferase dUTP nick end labeling in tumor cells [132]. A biodegradable nanoparticle was developed to encapsulation of 5-fluorouracil (5-FU) and OXA using PHBV/PLGA, and by HPLC determined the values of both drugs in the nanoparticle [133]. Another study used cholesterol-coated PLGA nanoparticles to effectively encapsulate and transport retinoic acid and OXA for anticancer efficacy in colorectal cancer. In vitro cell viability and proliferation of tumor cell lines (CT-26 and SW-480) were reduced after nanoparticle therapy as compared to controls. Furthermore, pro-apoptotic protein expression was increased whereas anti-apoptotic protein expression was decreased in vitro and *in vivo* [134] (Table 7).

### **3. Tumor targeting strategies:**

The utilization of nanoparticles has been shown to effectively mitigate the systemic toxicity associated with therapeutic administration by facilitating drug accumulation specifically at tumor sites [135]. Solid tumors have a heightened density of blood vessels in order to fulfill the nutritional and oxygen demands necessary for the proliferation of tumor cells. Moreover, it is worth noting that the tumor exhibits a deficiency of operational lymphatic arteries, and there exists a considerable distance between the endothelial cells of the tumor. This structural characteristic allows for the potential extravasation or retention of macromolecular medications [136]. The process responsible for the accumulation of nanoparticles into tumor cells is commonly referred to as the increased permeability and retention (EPR) effect [136]. Nevertheless, previous studies have demonstrated that the level of vascularization in colorectal cancer (CRC) is very limited. There exist debates about the Enhanced Permeability and Retention (EPR) effect in colorectal cancer (CRC). In recent years, researchers have increasingly recognized the heterogeneity of tumor-targeting facilitated by the enhanced permeability and retention (EPR) effect [137]. Therefore, it is imperative to augment the

targeting efficacy of nanoparticles relying on enhanced permeability and retention (EPR) effect by integrating them with additional targeting mechanisms [138, 139](Fig. 2).

Ligand-functionalized nanoparticles have the ability to selectively aggregate within the tumor site via a ligand-receptor interaction, hence facilitating the targeted delivery of therapeutic agents. The nanoparticles in question are referred to as active targeting nanoparticles [140]. Hence, the utilization of nanoparticle systems including active targeting mechanisms has promise in facilitating the targeted delivery of medications to tumor sites, hence contributing to a reduction in systemic drug toxicity [141]. In recent years, there has been a prevalent utilization of the receptor-ligand binding strategy in the active targeting design of nano-drug targeted delivery systems for colorectal cancer (CRC). This approach involves the utilization of various receptors that are highly expressed in CRC, including but not limited to the folate receptor, epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR), CD44, epithelial cell adhesion molecule (EpCAM), CD133,  $\alpha\beta3$  integrin receptor, carcinoembryonic antigen, nucleolin, mannose receptor, hyaluronic acid receptor, N-acetyl-d-glucosamine, transferrin receptor, checkpoint kinase 2, CXCR4+, lipoprotein receptor-related protein-1, MUC1, neuropilin-1 (NRP-1), P-selectin, sigma-2 receptors, somatostatin receptors (SSTRs), and glucocorticoid receptor. A greater emphasis was placed on the investigation of nanoparticles that specifically target EpCAM, folate receptor, epidermal growth factor, and CD44 [20].

In conjunction with the ligand-receptor binding approach, nanoparticles can also employ bionic technology to actively target tumors. This technology primarily involves the utilization of biofilms for nanoparticle coating. This approach not only hinders the recognition of nanoparticles by the immune system but also leverages membrane proteins, glycoproteins, and homologous adhesion to facilitate targeted accumulation of nanoparticles within the tumor. The nanoparticles under investigation primarily employ erythrocyte membrane as the predominant material for their bionic cell membranes [142], cancer cell membrane [143],

leukocyte membrane [144], and so on. In addition, in order to enhance the characteristics of nanoparticles, it is advantageous to employ a strategy of camouflaging the nanoparticles using hybrid cell membranes [20].

It is certain that nanomaterials will be acknowledged and engulfed by the immune system subsequent to intravenous administration, hence resulting in unfavorable side effects and diminished effectiveness. Furthermore, the inadequate vascularization of colorectal cancer (CRC) results in a diminished quantity of nanoparticles delivered by intravenous injection to the affected site, thus restricting the effectiveness of these nanoparticles [145]. Consequently, an increasing number of scientists are dedicated to the development of orally delivered nano formulations that retain the ability to target colorectal cancer (CRC). In addition, the utilization of oral administration has the potential to enhance patient adherence to prescribed treatment regimens [20]. In order to accomplish this objective, it is imperative for colon-targeted drug delivery systems to effectively inhibit gastrointestinal degradation of the medication prior to its arrival in the colon. This mechanism ultimately leads to an elevation in drug concentration inside the tumor. In many reports about colon-targeted therapy, pH [146], time [147], or enzyme-responsive [148] nanoplatforms are designed for CRC.

#### **4. Disadvantages and limitations of nanoparticles**

So far, the effects and capabilities of nanoparticles have been discussed. But it should be mentioned that although the studied nanoparticles have good capabilities in the treatment of cancer, some limitations and possible side effects have made their use more attentive and cautious [149-155]. Solid lipid nanoparticles (SLNs) are subject to several constraints in drug administration, mostly stemming from their restricted loading capacity and stability concerns. These limits have the potential to diminish the efficacy of treatments and compromise the shelf life of the products. Notwithstanding these challenges, drug delivery systems of this

nature continue to exhibit promise, offering significant potential for continued advancement and enhancement [149].

The instability and destruction of liposomes can have a detrimental impact on the effectiveness of drugs, while the production process of liposomes is both expensive and time-consuming, which presents obstacles for achieving commercial scalability [150].

Although polysaccharides have demonstrated promise in the field of drug administration, they are accompanied by several drawbacks such as inadequate stability, restricted bioavailability, and challenges in regulating release rates [151].

The use of protein nanoparticles for medication administration is confronted with several challenges, including production expenses, possible immunological reactions in certain individuals, and concerns regarding stability during the processes of storage and transportation [152].

Silica nanoparticles provide health hazards as a consequence of their possible toxicity, inflammatory properties, and challenges associated with precise control and localization, hence leading to undesired adverse outcomes [153]. Metal nanoparticles have the potential to present health hazards and can accumulate in many organs and tissues. Consequently, the process of synthesizing and purifying these nanoparticles becomes both expensive and time-consuming, thereby reducing their accessibility for medication delivery purposes [154]. The utilization of synthetic polymer carriers in drug administration has been associated with several adverse effects, including toxicity, immunological responses, and environmental harm. These negative outcomes can be attributed to the non-biodegradable properties of these carriers, which can lead to their buildup in the environment. Hence, it is important to exercise careful consideration before employing them [155]. Furthermore, the distinct characteristics that come from the diminutive dimensions of nanoparticles have significant prospects for medical applications. However, it is imperative to acknowledge the concurrent emergence of safety issues due to the physicochemical attributes of nanoparticles, which may induce

modifications in pharmacokinetics and enable their traversal beyond biological barriers. Furthermore, the intrinsic toxicity of certain minerals, such as heavy metals, and their capacity to collect and last inside the human body have posed a significant obstacle in their application and implementation. The achievement of effective clinical use of these nanoparticles is heavily contingent upon their stability, duration of circulation within the body, capacity to reach disease locations, availability for interaction, and safety characteristics. Hence, it is imperative to employ rational design strategies in order to tailor these structures for particular applications, enhance their pharmacokinetic properties, and mitigate off-target toxicity, hence facilitating their successful translation to clinical settings [156]. For instance, some nanoparticles have been found to exert detrimental effects on several organs, including the reproductive system [157]. The potential consequences of being exposed to Superparamagnetic iron oxide nanoparticles (SPION) include various toxic side effects. These include the leakage of lactate dehydrogenase from cellular membranes, impaired function of mitochondria, inflammation, the formation of apoptotic bodies, chromosome condensation, the generation of reactive oxygen species (ROS), and DNA damage [157, 158]. Table 8 is prepared in this case.

## **5. Perspective**

This review of various articles identified that most of the synthesized OXA nanomedicines were prepared based on the EPR effect, which is not enough, and it seems necessary to use specific ligands that have the ability to target cancer. Certain ligands have a higher degree of specificity in targeting cancer cells compared to others; nonetheless, it is important to note that the total eradication of systemic toxicity cannot be guaranteed. The reason for this phenomenon is because nanoparticles have the potential to be internalized by non-malignant cells, despite their intended targeting towards cancerous cells. The mitigation of systemic toxicity can be achieved by the utilization of nanoparticles of sufficiently tiny dimensions,

facilitating their rapid clearance from the body. However, it is important to acknowledge that this approach may not always be feasible. However, the literature has observed that the application of surface decoration on nanoparticles using specific ligands, such as proteins (including antibodies, antibody fragments, growth factors, and transferrin), peptides (such as cyclic RGD, octreotide, AP peptide, and tLyp-1 peptide), aptamers (such as A10 and AS1411) [159-160], and polysaccharides (such as hyaluronic acid), as well as small biomolecules (including folic acid, galactose, bisphosphonates, and biotin), can result in enhanced retention and accumulation of nanoparticles within tumour tissues. These ligands boost the selectivity and efficiency of nanoparticles, in addition to improving their stability. As a result, the future of nanomedicine is extremely bright with regards to the development of technologies. However, it is abundantly obvious that early detection procedures are one of the most important components in improving the prognosis for cancer patients. Early-stage malignancies are often lot simpler to treat, and early identification greatly increases 5-year survival rates while also lowering patient expenses.

## **6. Conclusion**

Chemotherapy is a frequently employed therapeutic approach for cancer management, which encompasses the utilization of platinum-derived medications such as oxaliplatin, cisplatin, and carboplatin. Oxaliplatin, a third-generation platinum-derived antineoplastic agent, has demonstrated efficacy in the treatment of colorectal cancer. Individuals diagnosed with colon cancer necessitate extended periods of therapy and are obligated to adhere to a regimen of frequent medication administration spanning many months, and in some cases, even years. Due to this circumstance, it is imperative that the pharmaceutical substance is supplied using nanocarriers that facilitate a sustained release of the therapeutic agent. The drug delivery methods were categorized into seven groups, including solid lipid nanoparticles, liposomes, polysaccharides, proteins, silica nanoparticles, metal nanoparticles, and synthetic polymer

carriers. Multiple studies have demonstrated that the utilization of different carriers for the administration of oxaliplatin can enhance its efficacy and mitigate adverse effects. However, more investigation is required to ascertain the most suitable carrier and assess its effectiveness in clinical trials. Consequently, the utilization of nanocarrier systems in the administration of oxaliplatin for the management of colon cancer holds the potential to enhance therapeutic efficacy and enhance the overall well-being of patients.

### **Consent for publication**

Not applicable.

### **Availability of data and materials**

This study is a review article that was prepared after collecting the data available in the published articles.

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### **Conflict of interest**

The authors declare no conflict of interest financial or otherwise.

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**Table 1.** OXA loaded solid lipid nanoparticles and colorectal cancer.

Carrier	Formulation	Functionalization and targeted cells	Characterizes Size (mean±SD) PDI (mean±SD) Zeta (mean±SD) Shape	Cell line/ animal model	Ref.
Solid lipid OXA nanoparticles	Tristearin, DSPE, Lipoid S75, Tween 80	Folic acid Folate receptors expressing cells	146.2 ± 4.4 nm	In cell culture (HT-29)	[43]
			158.8 ± 5.6 nm		
			0.211 ± 0.02		
			0.241 ± 0.03		
		Not	110 ± 3.25 nm	In cell culture (HCT116 and HT-29)	[44]
			96 ± 2.71		
			0.264		
			0.125		
	Suppocire NB, Lipoid s75, Soybean oil, Vitamin E TPGS, Myrj s40	Not	-22.6 ± 1.1 mV	In cell culture (HT-29)	[38]
			-28.4 ± 1.6 mV		
			Spherical shape and smooth surface		
			126 ± 2.35 nm		
	Tristearin, DSPE, Eudragit S100	Folic acid Folate receptors expressing cells	158 ± 3.15 nm	In cell culture (COLO-205) & Orally in Balb/c mice (n = 6) <sup>1</sup>	[45]
			Not		
			-11.5 ± 2.3 mV		
			Spherical shape		
	Folic acid Folate receptors expressing cells	146.9 ± 2.1 nm	In cell culture (COLO-205) & Orally in Balb/c mice (n = 6) <sup>1</sup>	[45]	
		158.2 ± 2.5 nm			
		0.209 ± 0.02			
		0.247 ± 0.03			
	Folic acid Folate receptors expressing cells	-22.4 ± 1.3 mV	In cell culture (COLO-205) & Orally in Balb/c mice (n = 6) <sup>1</sup>	[45]	
		-28.5 ± 1.9 mV			
		Spherical shape			
		Spherical shape			

<sup>1</sup> Data were compared with Two-way ANOVA using GraphPad Prism version 7.03 software.

**Table 2.** OXA loaded liposome nanoparticles and colorectal cancer.

Carrier	Formulation	Functionalization and targeted cells	Characterizations Size (mean±SD) PDI (mean±SD) Zeta (mean±SD) Shape	Cell line/ animal model	Ref.
<b>Liposome</b>	Lecithin, cholesterol, DSPEPEG2000	PEG	151.56 ± 15.57	In cell culture (SW480) & intravenously in Balb/c nude mice (n = 6) <sup>1</sup>	[160]
			-23.68 ± 2.35		
			Not		
			Not		
	Lecithin, cholesterol, DSPEPEG2000	PEG	Not	In cell culture (SW480)	[50]
			Not		
			Not		
			Not		
	DSPC, Cholesterol, DSPEPEG(2000)	PEG, Transferrin (TF) expressing cells	Not	In cell culture (Colon 26) & intravenously in BALB/c mice (n = 4) <sup>2</sup>	[58]
			Not		
			Not		
			Not		
	Egg phosphatidylcholine, cholesterol	Not	184.83 ± 2.82	In cell culture (CT26 and HCT-116) & Subcutaneously In BALB/c mice (n = 5) <sup>3</sup>	[59]
			175.03 ± 36.13		
			0.090 ± 0.015		
			0.150 ± 0.097		
-3.40 ± 0.51					
-8.82 ± 2.84					
			Spherical shape		

<sup>1</sup> Data were compared using One-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) and student's t-test using spss 17.0.

<sup>2</sup> Data were compared using unpaired Student's t-test.

<sup>3</sup> Data were compared using t-Test (Excel 2007, Microsoft).

**Table 3.** OXA loaded polysaccharides nanoparticles and colorectal cancer.

Carrier	Formulation	Functionalization and targeted cells	Characterizations Size (mean±SD) PDI (mean±SD) Zeta (mean±SD) Shape	Cell line and animal model	Ref.
Polysaccharides	Chondroitin sulfate, Acrylic acid, ammonium peroxodisulfate, EGDMA	Not	Not	Oral in rabbit (n = 3)	[64]
			Not		
			Not		
			Pores and rough surface		
	Tannic acid, PLAR, polyvinyl alcohol	Not	163.50 ± 6.98 nm	In cell culture (CT26) & Intraperitoneal in BALB/c mice (n = 6) <sup>1</sup>	[66]
			0.144 ± 0.027		
			Spherical		
	Chitosan, Hyaluronic acid, Sodium tripolyphosphate,	hyaluronic acid expressing cells	136 ± 6.0 nm	In cell culture (HT-29) & C57 Balb/c mice (n = 18) <sup>2</sup>	[68]
			152 ± 5.2 nm		
			0.155		
			0.110		
	Alginate, Hyaluronic acid,	Folate Folate receptors expressing cells	+40.3 ± 1.4 mV	In cell culture (HT29)	[69]
			+10.0 ± 0.5 mV		
			Spherical		
186 nm					
Water extract of chia seeds, Chitosan, Fe3O4@CS core-shell,	SPIONs	200 nm	In cell culture (CT-26)	[70]	
		0.217			
		0.112			
		-2.20 mV			
Carboxymethyl chitosan, Tween-80, CaCl2,	Not	-22.0 mV	In cell culture (SW480 and CT26), & tail vein injection in BALB/c mice (n = 5) <sup>3</sup>	[72]	
		Spherical			
		92.5 nm			
		0.24			
Chitosan, N, N-methylenebisacrylamide, Nisopropylacrylamide	Not	-16.72 mV	In cell culture (HT29 and human fibroblast)	[73]	
		spherical and uniformed shape			
		190.0 nm			
		0.23 ± 0.06			
Pectin, lactic acid, N,N'-methylenebisacrylamide	Not	-17.3 ± 0.5	In cell culture (MCF-7, HCT-116, and Vero) & Orally in	[74]	
		Not			
		Not			
		circular pit			

				Rabbits (n = 4) <sup>4</sup>	
Eudragit L100-55, alginate	Not	271.3 to 550 nm	In cell culture (CT26) & Intravenous and oral in mice (n = 5) <sup>5</sup>	[76]	
		Not			
		- 11.2 to - 25.6 Porosity			
β-cyclodextrin, γ- cyclodextrin, and 2-hydroxypropyl-β- cyclodextrin	Not	Not	In cell culture (HCT116 and MCF- 7)	[77]	
		Not			
		Not			
Cellulose fibers and Bentonite composed chemically of SiO <sub>2</sub> , Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> , Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> , Na <sub>2</sub> O, MgO, TiO <sub>2</sub> , CaO, and LOI	Not	Irregularly shaped crystals	In cell culture (CCD-18Co and HCT116)	[78]	
		12.9 nm			
		Not			
Kaolinite, Cellulose Fiber	Not	Not	In cell culture (CCD-18Co HCT116)	[79]	
		Not			
		Not			
		Pseudo-hexagonal			

<sup>1</sup> Data were compared using one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) using SPSS 20.0.

<sup>2</sup> Data were compared using an analysis of variance.

<sup>3</sup> Data were compared using Student's *t*-test.

<sup>4</sup> Data were compared using ANOVA.

<sup>5</sup> Data were compared using either one-way or two-way ANOVA with a Tukey post hoc test by the GraphPad Prism Software.

**Table 4.** OXA loaded protein nanoparticles and colorectal cancer.

Carrier	Formulation	Functionalization and targeted cells	Characterizations Size (mean±SD) PDI (mean±SD) Zeta (mean±SD) Shape	Cell line/ animal model	Ref.
Protein	Maleimide, albumin	Cys34 of albumin	Not	In cell culture (CT26) & intravenously in Balb/c mice (n = 4) <sup>1</sup>	[87]
			Not		
			Not		
			Spherical		
	Human serum albumin	Cys34 of albumin	Not	In cell culture (CT26) & intravenously in Balb/c mice (n = 4) <sup>2</sup>	[88]
			Not		
			Not		
			Not		
	β-lactoglobulin	Not	Not	In cell culture (HT29, Caco2, and A431)	[91]
			Not		
			Not		
			Not		
	β-lactoglobulin, Nanographene oxide	Not	182 nm	In cell culture (HT29)	[93]
			Not		
-22 mV -25 mV					
spherical					
β-lactoglobulin, low methoxyl pectin	Not	164 nm	Not	[94]	
		0.10			
		- 8.88			
		spherical			

<sup>1</sup> Data were compared using one-way ANOVA and Dunnett's multiple comparison tests.

<sup>2</sup> Data were compared using One-way ANOVA and Dunnett posttest

**Table 5.** OXA loaded silica nanoparticles and colorectal cancer.

Carrier	Formulation	Functionalization and targeted cells	Characterizations Size (mean±SD) PDI (mean±SD) Zeta (mean±SD) Shape	Cell line/ animal model	Ref.
Silica nanoparticles	Mesoporous silica nanoparticles, polyethyleneimine, hyaluronic acid	Polyethyleneimine CD44-overexpressed cells	76.2 ± 1.25 nm	In cell culture (HT-29) & injection in Balb/c mice (n = 8) <sup>1</sup>	[97]
			138.4 ± 1.69 nm		
			0.165		
			-22.3 ± 1.86 mV -10.3 ± 1.42 mV		
	FeCl <sub>2</sub> ·4H <sub>2</sub> O, FeCl <sub>3</sub> ·6H <sub>2</sub> O, Cetyl trimethylammonium bromide, and 3-Aminopropyltriethoxysilane	Not CD44-overexpressed cells	80 nm	In cell culture (HCT-116)	[105]
			0.065		
			19 mV		
			Agglomerated		
	OXA@MSNs (Hexadecyl trimethyl ammonium chloride, tetraethyl orthosilicate, tetraethyl orthosilicate), Chitosan, Polyethyleneimine poly(ethylene glycol)	RGD peptide	136 nm, 137 nm, 117 nm	In cell culture (SW480)	[106]
			Not		
			35 mV 22 mV - 22 mV		
			Spherical		

<sup>1</sup> Data were compared using Student's t-test or one way analysis of variance (ANOVA) followed by Tukey's test for multiple comparisons, using the software GraphPad Prism.

**Table 6.** OXA loaded metallic nanoparticles and colorectal cancer.

Carrier	Formulation	Functionalization and targeted cells	Characterizations Size (mean±SD) PDI (mean±SD) Zeta (mean±SD) Shape	Cell line/ animal model	Ref.
Metallic nanoparticles	NaAuCl <sub>4</sub> · 2H <sub>2</sub> O, Sodium citrate	Anti-DR5 antibody DR5 expressing cells	17 ± 1.01 nm	In cell culture (HCT 116 and MCF-7 ) & tail vein injection in Nude mice (n = 6) <sup>1</sup>	[111]
			0.13		
			-18 + 0.18 mV		
			spherical		
	NaAuCl <sub>4</sub> · 2H <sub>2</sub> O, Sodium citrate, PEG linker	Thiolated poly(ethylene glycol)	176 ± 25	In cell culture (A549 HCT116, HCT15, HT29, and RKO)	[112]
			Not		
			+14 ± 7.0		
			Not		
	UiO-66-NH <sub>2</sub> , CuS@UiO-66-NH <sub>2</sub> , and OXA- CuS@UiO-66-NH <sub>2</sub>	CuS	122.5 ± 48.94 nm	In cell culture (CT26)	[113]
			Not		
			Not		
			N spherical		
	Iohexol, carbonylhydrazide, amino PEG, chitosan	Not	104 nm	In cell culture (HT29)	[114]
			123 nm		
			0.587		
			1		
-14 mV -12 mV					
DMF, ZrCl <sub>4</sub> , 2- aminoterephthalic acid	NH <sub>2</sub>	160.3 ± 81.2 nm	In cell culture (CT26)	[115]	
		312.0 ± 51.4 nm			
		Not			
		- 38 mV - 41.4 mV			
		Spherical			

<sup>1</sup> Data was presented as mean ± S.D without Statistical analysis.



**Table 7.** OXA loaded synthetic polymeric carriers and colorectal cancer.

Carrier	Formulation	Functionalization and targeted cells	Characterizations Size (mean±SD) PDI (mean±SD) Zeta (mean±SD) Shape	Cell line/ animal model	Ref.
Synthetic polymeric	Poly(L-lactide)	Not	300 nm	In cell culture (HCT8, CT26) & implanted into Balb/c mice (n = 8)	(127)
			Not		
			Not		
			Rode		
	PLGA and poly(lactide-co-glycolide)-poly(ethylene glycol)	Anti-CD133 monoclonal antibody	190 ± 59 nm	In cell culture (CaCo-2)	(130)
			285 ± 74 nm		
			130 ± 51 nm		
			0.06 ± 0.003		
			0.191 ± 0.026		
			0.2 ± 0.009		
	Poly-(d,l-lactide-co-glycolide) (PLGA)	Not	-5 ± 6 mV	Introduced intraperitoneal in rats (n = 5) <sup>1</sup>	[131]
			-3 ± 4 mV		
			5 ± 4 mV		
			Spherical		
	Poly-(d,l-lactide-co-glycolide) (PLGA)	Not	1100.4 ± 257.7 nm	Introduced intraperitoneal in rats (n = 5) <sup>1</sup>	[131]
			Not		
Not					
Uniform size and spherical					
Poly-lactic-coglycolic acid	Not	< 100 nm	In cell culture (HCT116) & intratumorally in Balb/c nude mice (n = 10) <sup>2</sup>	[132]	
		Not			
		Not			
		spherical			
Poly (d,l-lactic-co-glycolic acid)	Not	801.7 ± 165.4 nm	In cell culture (CT-26 and SW-480) & Intratumorally in Balb/c mice (n = 8) <sup>3</sup>	[134]	
		678.3 ± 118.5 nm			
		505.6 ± 64.30 nm			
		0.598			
		0.694			
		0.199			
Poly (d,l-lactic-co-glycolic acid)	Not	-21.4 ± 8.4 mV	In cell culture (CT-26 and SW-480) & Intratumorally in Balb/c mice (n = 8) <sup>3</sup>	[134]	
		-25.8 ± 15.9 mV			
		-27.6 ± 42.1 mV			
		Spherical			

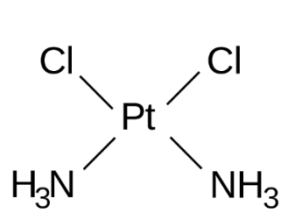
<sup>1</sup> Data were compared using t-test or two-sided RM ANOVA and Bonferroni test.

<sup>2</sup> Data were compared using Student's t-test.

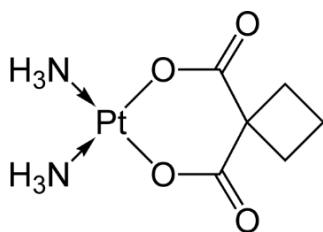
<sup>3</sup> Data were compared using one-way ANOVA followed by Bonferroni's post hoc test, Kruskal-Wallis test followed by a Dunn's multiple comparison tests.

**Table 8.** Disadvantages of nanoparticles in drug delivery.

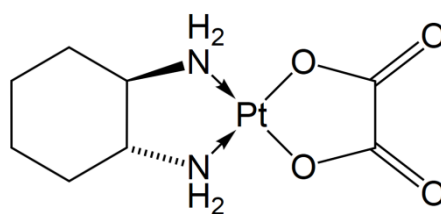
<b>Nanoparticles</b>	<b>Disadvantages</b>	<b>Ref.</b>
<b>Solid lipid</b>	Limited drug loading capacity, low stability	[149]
<b>Liposome</b>	Instability and degradation, costly and time-intensive	[150]
<b>Polysaccharide</b>	Poor stability, limited bioavailability, and difficulty in controlling release rates	[151]
<b>Protein</b>	Expensive to produce and causing immune responses, stability during storage and transportation.	[152]
<b>Silica</b>	Toxicity and inflammation in the body, difficult to prepare nanoscale, and control their size.	[153]
<b>Metal</b>	Accumulate in organs and tissues, leading to potential toxicity and long-term health effects. synthesis and purification of metal nanoparticles can be expensive and time-consuming	[154]
<b>Synthetic polymeric</b>	Some toxic and immune reactions in the body; may also be non-biodegradable and accumulate in the environment and damage ecosystems.	[155]



**Cisplatin**

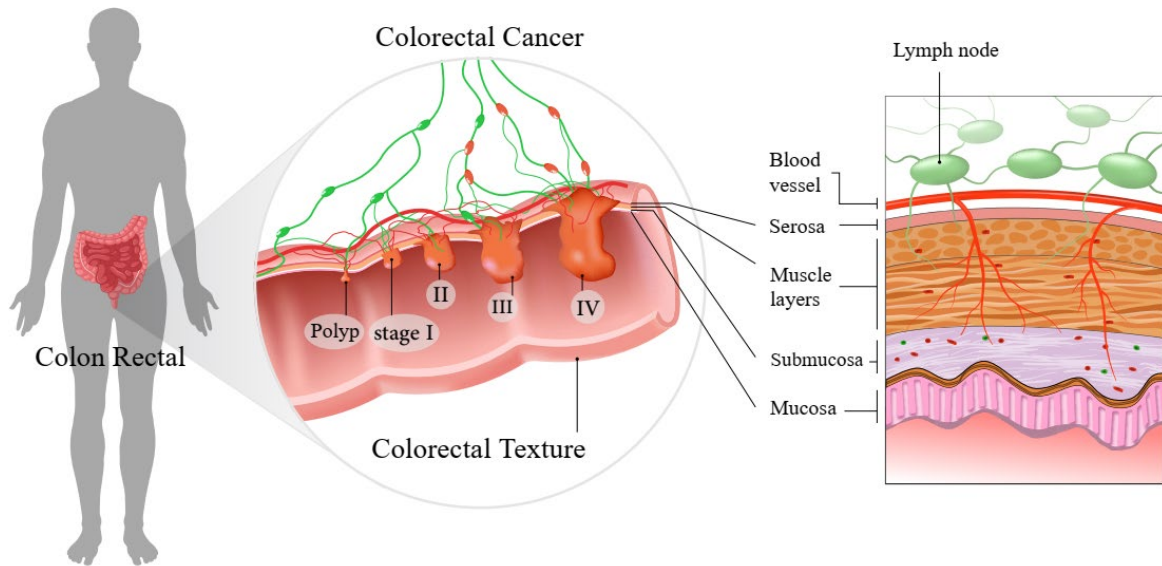


**Carboplatin**

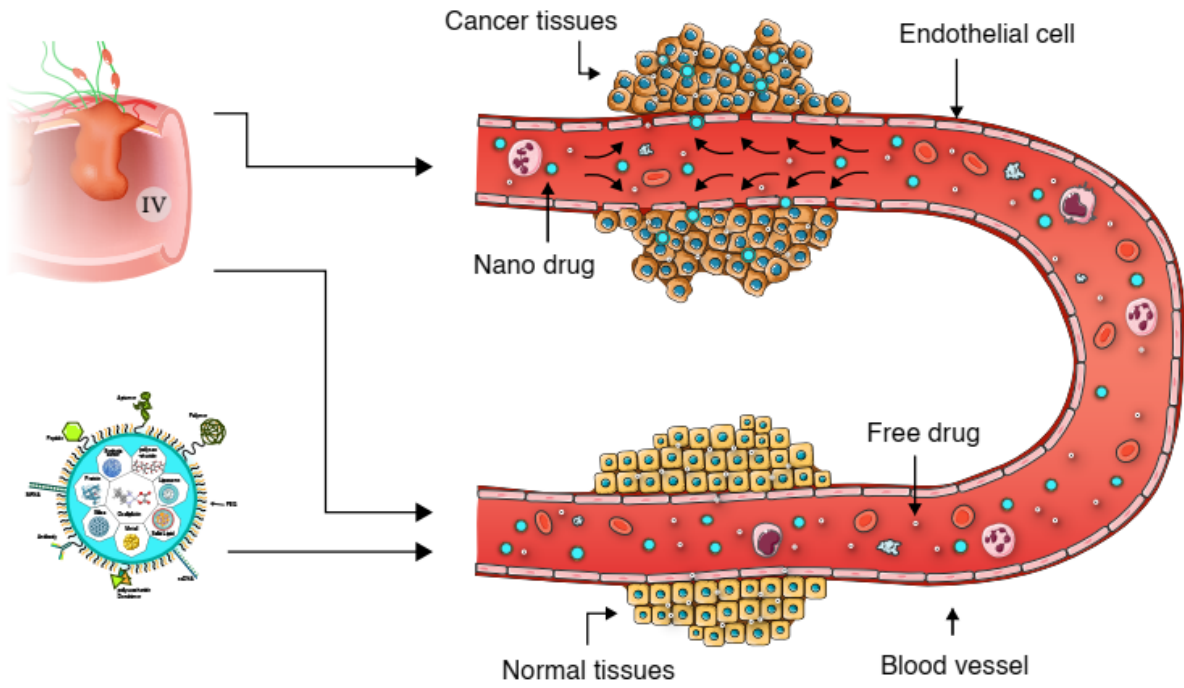


**Oxaliplatin**

**Scheme 1:** Chemical structures of three clinically approved platinum drugs.



**Figure 1.** Colorectal cancer stages. Colorectal cancer progresses through a series of five major distinct stages, commencing at stage zero, often known as polyp, and advancing sequentially to stage four. In Stage 0 of colorectal cancer (CRC), the tumour is confined to the mucosal layer. In Stage I, the tumour has extended beyond the inner lining of the CRC but has not yet metastasized to the lymph nodes. Lymph nodes are diminutive organs that constitute an integral component of the immune system, functioning as filters. Stage II colorectal cancer (CRC) refers to a condition when the cancerous growth has penetrated the outer muscular layer of the colon or rectum, but has not metastasized to the nearby lymph nodes. Stage III colorectal cancer (CRC) is characterized by the presence of metastasis in one or several lymph nodes, indicating that the cancer has extended beyond the primary site of the colorectal tumour. Colorectal cancer at stage IV has metastasized to distant sites, including the liver or lungs, and is accompanied by lymph node involvement.



**Figure 2.** The enhanced permeability and retention (EPR) effect and its role in passive drug targeting to colorectal cancer.

## Graphical abstract

### Nanoparticles Containing Oxaliplatin

