

Ganglioside-magnetosome complex formation enhances uptake of gangliosides by cells

Feng Guan¹Xiang Li¹Jia Guo¹Ganglong Yang¹Xiang Li²

¹The Key Laboratory of Carbohydrate Chemistry and Biotechnology, Ministry of Education, School of Biotechnology, ²Wuxi Medical School, Jiangnan University, Wuxi, People's Republic of China

Abstract: Bacterial magnetosomes, because of their nano-scale size, have a large surface-to-volume ratio and are able to carry large quantities of bioactive substances such as enzymes, antibodies, and genes. Gangliosides, a family of sialic acid-containing glycosphingolipids, function as distinctive cell surface markers and as specific determinants in cellular recognition and cell-to-cell communication. Exogenously added gangliosides are often used to study biological functions, transport mechanisms, and metabolism of their endogenous counterparts. Absorption of gangliosides into cells is typically limited by their tendency to aggregate into micelles in aqueous media. We describe here a simple strategy to remove proteins from the magnetosome membrane by sodium dodecyl sulfate treatment, and efficiently immobilize a ganglioside (GM₁ or GM₃) on the magnetosome by mild ultrasonic treatment. The maximum of 11.7±1.2 µg GM₁ and 11.6±1.5 µg GM₃ was loaded onto 1 mg magnetosome, respectively. Complexes of ganglioside-magnetosomes stored at 4°C for certain days presented the consistent stability. The use of GM₁-magnetosome complex resulted in the greatest enhancement of ganglioside incorporation by cells. GM₃-magnetosome complex significantly inhibited EGF-induced phosphorylation of the epidermal growth factor receptor. Both of these effects were further enhanced by the presence of a magnetic field.

Keywords: bacterial magnetosome, nanoparticle, cellular uptake, ganglioside, inhibition

Introduction

Magnetic Fe₃O₄ nanoparticles, termed magnetosomes, are synthesized by *Magneto-spirillum magneticum* and related bacteria.¹ Magnetosome chains are enclosed by a lipid bilayer membrane with high content of transmembrane proteins.² Because of their high magnetization, monodispersity, and range of size (~35–120 nm), magnetosomes have many potential applications in biomedical diagnostics and nanoscience fields, notably the delivery of targeted drugs and genes and detection of pathogens.^{3,4} Their degradability and biocompatibility with a variety of cell types and structures make magnetosomes useful in many in vitro and in vivo applications.^{5,6}

Glycosphingolipids, characteristic components of mammalian cell membranes, are involved in cell growth, adhesion, migration, and many other processes.^{7,8} Gangliosides, a family of glycosphingolipids that contain one or more sialic acids, are distinctive surface markers and often function as specific determinants in cellular recognition and cell-to-cell communication. Ganglioside GM₃ affects receptor-associated tyrosine kinases of many cellular factors, including epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR), platelet-derived growth factor, fibroblast growth factor, neuronal growth factor, and insulin.^{9–11} Ganglioside GM₁, a major component of total ganglioside mixtures from mammalian brains, has been applied for therapy of a variety of neurological disorders.¹² Exogenously applied GM₁ promotes neurite outgrowth following neural injury in several animal models.^{13,14} Nanocapsulized, chemically modified gangliosides have

Correspondence: Xiang Li
Wuxi Medical School, Jiangnan University,
1800 Lihu Avenue, Wuxi, Jiangsu 214122,
People's Republic of China
Tel +86 510 8591 8126
Fax +86 510 8591 8126
Email xiangli@jiangnan.edu.cn

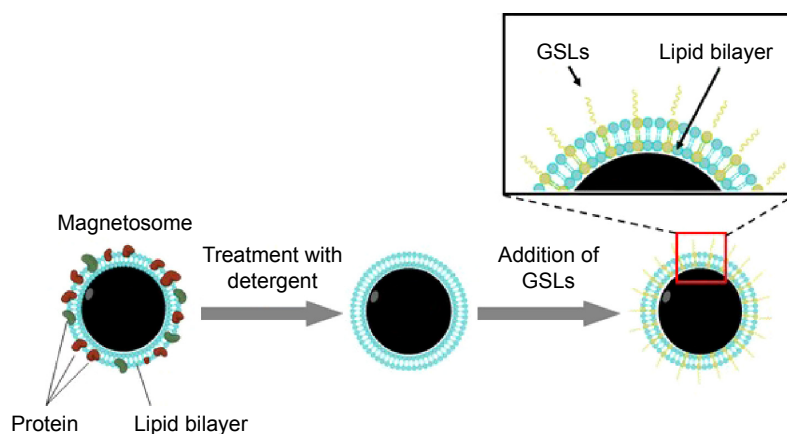


Figure 1 Technique (schematic) for synthesis of ganglioside-magnetosome complex.

Abbreviation: GSLs, Glycosphingolipids.

been developed and incorporated into various polymers or liposomes to improve delivery efficiency, increase blood circulation time, or stimulate immune responses.^{15–17} The primary obstacle to the administration of gangliosides to cells is their tendency to aggregate into micelles in aqueous media. In studies by Orlando et al¹⁸ and Ghidoni et al¹⁹, only 1%–3% of administered GM₁ actually entered brain cells in mouse and rat models.^{18,19}

We developed a novel strategy using bacterial magnetosomes to enhance cellular uptake of gangliosides. Magnetosomes were isolated and purified from *Magnetospirillum gryphiswaldense*,²⁰ proteins and lipopolysaccharides were removed from their membranes by sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS) treatment, and specific gangliosides were grafted onto the modified magnetosome by mild ultrasonic treatment (Figure 1).

Materials and methods

Cell lines and culture

Human epidermoid carcinoma cell line A431 and human mammary epithelial cell line MCF-10A were obtained from Cell Bank of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (Shanghai, People's Republic of China). A431 and MCF-10A cells were cultured in Dulbecco's Modified Eagle's Medium containing 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS), 100 IU/mL penicillin, and 100 µg/mL streptomycin at 37°C in a 5% CO₂ atmosphere. Human highly malignant, invasive bladder cancer cell line YTS-1 was a kind gift from Dr Sen-itiroh Hakomori (The Biomembrane Institute, Seattle, WA, USA). YTS-1 cells were cultured in RPMI 1640 medium supplemented with 10% FBS (Hyclone, Logan, UT, USA) and 1% penicillin/streptomycin at 37°C in a 5% CO₂ atmosphere. As only cell lines were used in this study, no ethics approval was required.

Bacterial strain, gangliosides

Magnetospirillum gryphiswaldense strain MSR-1 (DSM6361) was a kind gift from Prof Ying Li (China Agricultural University, Beijing, People's Republic of China). Gangliosides GM₁ and GM₃ were from Matreya LLC (Pleasant Gap, PA, USA).

Preparation of magnetosomes

MSR-1 cells were cultured as described previously²⁰ and collected by centrifugation at 8,000× g for 10 minutes at room temperature (RT). An aliquot (~1 g wet weight) was resuspended in 10 mL of 10 mM phosphate-buffered saline (PBS; pH 7.4) and disrupted by two passes through a French press (ATS Engineering Inc., Brampton, ON, Canada) at 1,000 psi. Magnetosomes were collected using neodymium-iron-boron (Nd-Fe-B) magnets and washed 8–10× with PBS in a mild ultrasonic bath (50 W; TY92-II; Xinyi, Ningbo, People's Republic of China). Purified magnetosomes were lyophilized for 20 hours and stored at –20°C.

Preparation of ganglioside-magnetosomes

A 1 mg magnetosome sample was boiled with 1% SDS for 5 minutes to remove membrane proteins. The modified magnetosomes were isolated using a Nd-Fe-B magnet, washed 3× with 1 mL of 10 mM PBS (pH 7.4), and resuspended in 1 mL of 20 µg/mL GM₃ solution in 10 mM PBS. The mixture was washed in an ultrasonic bath (100 W) for 10 minutes at 4°C and then incubated for 2 hours at RT. Resulting GM₃-magnetosomes were washed with 10 mM PBS. GM₃ concentration before and after reaction with magnetosomes was determined by high-performance thin layer chromatography (HPTLC). GM₁-magnetosomes and control phosphatidylethanolamine-magnetosomes were prepared in a

similar manner. Ganglioside-magnetosome complex was stored at 4°C, and sterilized by UV irradiation prior to experiments.

High-performance thin layer chromatography

Lipids were extracted from magnetosomes as described previously.²¹ In brief, a 2 mg magnetosome sample was suspended in 950 mL chloroform-methanol solution (chloroform/methanol/distilled water 1:2:0.8), incubated for 2 hours, and lipid and non-lipid fractions were separated using a Nd-Fe-B magnet. The same volume of chloroform-methanol solution was used to extract equivalent amounts SDS-treated magnetosomes, GM₁-magnetosomes, and GM₃-magnetosomes. Purified lipid fractions were subjected to HPTLC (silica gel 60 plates; Merck, Whitehouse Station, NJ, USA) with chloroform/methanol/water (65:35:4, v/v/v) as developing solvent, and visualized using iodine.

Transmission electron microscopy

Magnetosome samples were applied to carbon-coated 150-mesh copper grids (Nisshin EM Co., Tokyo, Japan) and dried at RT. Transmission electron microscopy (TEM) samples were prepared by drying a drop of solution in a dark room on amorphous carbon-coated nickel grids. Magnetosome size and morphology were observed by TEM (model H700-H; Hitachi, Tokyo, Japan).

Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy

Samples were dispersed in distilled water. Dry particles were mixed with ground KBr crystals, and samples were pressed as pellets. Spectra were acquired using a Nicolet Nexus670 iS10 Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy (Thermo Fisher Scientific, San Jose, CA, USA).

Protein capture by GM₃-magnetosomes

GM₃-magnetosomes (1 mg) were mixed with 1 mL A431 cell protein lysate (1 mg/mL), incubated overnight at 4°C, and washed 3× with Tris-buffered saline (+) (130 mM NaCl/10 mM Tris-HCl (pH 8.0) containing 0.9 mM CaCl₂, 0.5 mM MgSO₄, and 0.1 mM MnCl₂). Protein bound to GM₃-magnetosomes was solubilized by boiling in 50 µL SDS/polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (PAGE) sample buffer for 5 minutes, and analyzed by Western blotting.

Western blotting

GM₃-magnetosomes were incubated with A431 cell lysate as above, mixed with boiling 1% SDS solution, and proteins interacting with the magnetosomes were extracted. Each

extracted protein sample (30 mL) was mixed with SDS sample buffer (final concentration: 62.5 mM Tris-HCl, pH 6.8, 5% 2-mercaptoethanol, 2% SDS, 5% sucrose, 0.002% bromophenol blue), denatured, and subjected SDS-PAGE on 7.5% (w/v) polyacrylamide gel. Protein was transferred onto a polyvinylidene fluoride membrane and blotted with anti-EGFR antibody (dilution 1:1,000; Cell Signaling Technology, Beverly, MA, USA) and goat anti-rabbit antibody (dilution 1:5,000; Cell Signaling Technology). Signals were detected with a ChemiDoc XRS + system (Bio-Rad, Hercules, CA, USA).

Effect of GM₃ on EGF-induced tyrosine phosphorylation of EGFR

A431 cells (1×10⁵ per well) were cultured in 12-well plates in Dulbecco's Modified Eagle's Medium containing 10% FBS at 37°C until ~80% confluence. Cells were starved for 12 hours, incubated with GM₃ or GM₃-magnetosomes with/without magnetic field for 2 hours, stimulated with EGF for 5 minutes, washed in ice-cold PBS, and lysed in 100 µL lysis buffer. Protein in the supernatant (equal amount for each sample) was subjected to SDS-PAGE (7% gel) and Western blotting with primary anti-phosphorylated EGFR (pEGFR; dilution 1:1,000; Cell Signaling Technology) or anti-EGFR (dilution 1:1,000) antibody and horseradish peroxidase-conjugated anti-rabbit secondary antibody. Immunoreactive proteins were visualized using an ECL Kit (PA112-02; Tiangen, Beijing, People's Republic of China).

Confocal laser scanning microscopy

YTS-1 cells (1×10⁴ per well in 24-well plates) were cultured on sterilized coverslips (diameter 12 mm; Fisherbrand, San Jose, CA, USA) in RPMI 1640 until ~70% confluence, then cultured for 24 hours with PBS, GM₁ plus magnetosomes (10 µg/mL), GM₁-magnetosome complex (10 µg/mL), or GM₁-magnetosome complex (10 µg/mL) under magnetic field, fixed with 4% fresh paraformaldehyde for 20 minutes, washed 3× with PBS, blocked with 5% bovine serum albumin in PBS (w/v) at RT for 2 hours, incubated with 0.4 µg/mL Fluorescein isothiocyanate (FITC)-labeled cholera toxin B subunit (CTB; specifically recognizes GM₁; Sigma-Aldrich Co., St Louis, MO, USA), rinsed with PBS to remove excess dye, and stained with DAPI (5 µg/mL) in PBS for 30 minutes. Coverslips were mounted with Glycergel (DakoCytomation, Carpinteria, CA, USA) and observed by laser confocal fluorescence microscopy (model Eclipse Ti-U; Nikon, Tokyo, Japan).

Flow cytometry

YTS-1 cells (1×10^5 per well) were cultured in 12-well plates in RPMI 1640 until ~70% confluence, then cultured for 24 hours in fresh medium supplemented with PBS, GM₁ (1 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$) plus magnetosomes (10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$), GM₁-magnetosome complex (concentration of total complex added to medium = 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$; amount of GM₁ per 1 mg magnetosome = 0.104 μg), or GM₁-magnetosome complex under magnetic field, digested with trypsin, washed with PBS, blocked with 5% bovine serum albumin/PBS for 1 hour, stained with FITC-labeled CTB for 1 hour at RT, and analyzed by flow cytometry (model Accuri C6; Becton Dickinson, Franklin Lakes, NJ, USA).

Statistical analysis

The data were analyzed by *t*-test using Prism 5 program. Differences in results were considered significant when *P*-value was ≤ 0.05 .

Results

Characterization of ganglioside-magnetosome complexes

Removal of the proteins from the magnetosome membrane by SDS treatment is the first step to generate the ganglioside-magnetosome complexes. The released protein from magnetosome after SDS treatment was examined by the bicinchoninic acid method (Figure 2A). The highest concentration of released protein in the supernatant was reached in 5 minutes after SDS treatment. The membranes of SDS-treated and -untreated magnetosomes were then characterized by Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy. SDS-treated magnetosomes showed lower signals of amide I at $1,656\text{ cm}^{-1}$ (from C=O stretching vibration), amide II at $1,537\text{ cm}^{-1}$ (from N-H bending vibration and C-N stretching vibration), and NH bending vibration at $3,282\text{ cm}^{-1}$ (Figure 2B).²² These findings indicate that most proteins on the magnetosomes were removed successfully.

Protein removal by SDS treatment created more space on the magnetosome lipid membrane. The lipids were partially disrupted by SDS treatment (Figure 2Ci, lanes 1, 2). Incubation of gangliosides with magnetosomes in an ultrasonic bath resulted in insertion of ceramides (the hydrophobic portion of gangliosides) into the lipidic core of the membrane. Gangliosides inserted into the membrane were clearly detectable by HPTLC (Figure 2Ci, lanes 3, 4). After storage at 4°C for 2, 4, 6, or 8 days, gangliosides on the ganglioside-magnetosome complexes were extracted and clearly shown on a thin layer chromatography plate by HPTLC analysis (Figure 2Cii and Ciii). TEM micrographs revealed that the

membranes were made thinner or partially eliminated by the SDS treatment, but were restored by incubation with GM₁ or GM₃ (Figure 2D). The zeta potential of GM₁-magnetosome complexes and GM₃-magnetosome complexes were -17.84 and -14.84 , respectively, and that obtained from magnetosomes was -42.18 (Table S1). Typical particle sizes of magnetosomes are ~30 nm, whilst the size of ganglioside-magnetosome reached at 150–200 nm (Figure S1). These findings suggest that gangliosides were stably inserted into the outer membrane layer through lipid–lipid interaction.

We next investigated the binding capacity of gangliosides on magnetosomes. The binding capacity of coupled GM₁ or GM₃ on magnetosomes was maximal at 30 minutes incubation in an ultrasonic bath, whereas incubation for longer periods induced GM₁ or GM₃ degradation (Table S2), consistent with a previous report.²³ Maximal loading capacity of gangliosides was $11.7 \pm 1.2\text{ }\mu\text{g}$ per 1 mg magnetosome for GM₁, and $11.6 \pm 1.5\text{ }\mu\text{g}$ per 1 mg magnetosome for GM₃. The same ganglioside load was observed in both 50 and 100 μg gangliosides, indicating that the magnetosome loading capacity was saturated. We therefore used 50 μg gangliosides and 1 mg magnetosomes for reparation of ganglioside-magnetosome complexes in subsequent experiments. The magnetosomes and ganglioside-magnetosome complex were sterilized by ultrafiltration for following toxicity assay. Magnetosomes and the sterilized ganglioside-magnetosome complex showed no obvious toxic effect on cell growth (Figure S2A–C), consistent with previous studies.⁴

Uptake of GM₁-magnetosome complex by YTS-1 cells

Our working hypothesis was that the uptake of ganglioside into cells is promoted by the use of ganglioside-magnetosome complex to enhance ganglioside solubility and distribution. With bladder cancer cell line YTS-1 (low GM₁ expressor)²⁴ as a model, we measured the cell surface expression of GM₁ based on binding to CTB.²⁵ The incubation of YTS-1 cells with GM₁-magnetosome complex significantly enhanced the fluorescence signal of FITC-labeled CTB for GM₁ (Figure 3B), observed under laser confocal fluorescence microscopy. Cellular uptake of GM₁-magnetosome complex was much higher under magnetic field (Figure 3A, B). The lower level of FITC signal for GM₁ in YTS-1 cells was determined by flow cytometric analysis, whereas cellular uptake of GM₁ contributed by GM₁-magnetosome complex was significantly increased. And the magnetic field was able to further promote the uptake of GM₁-magnetosome complex (Figure 3C). Notably, the fluorescence signal showed that a portion of GM

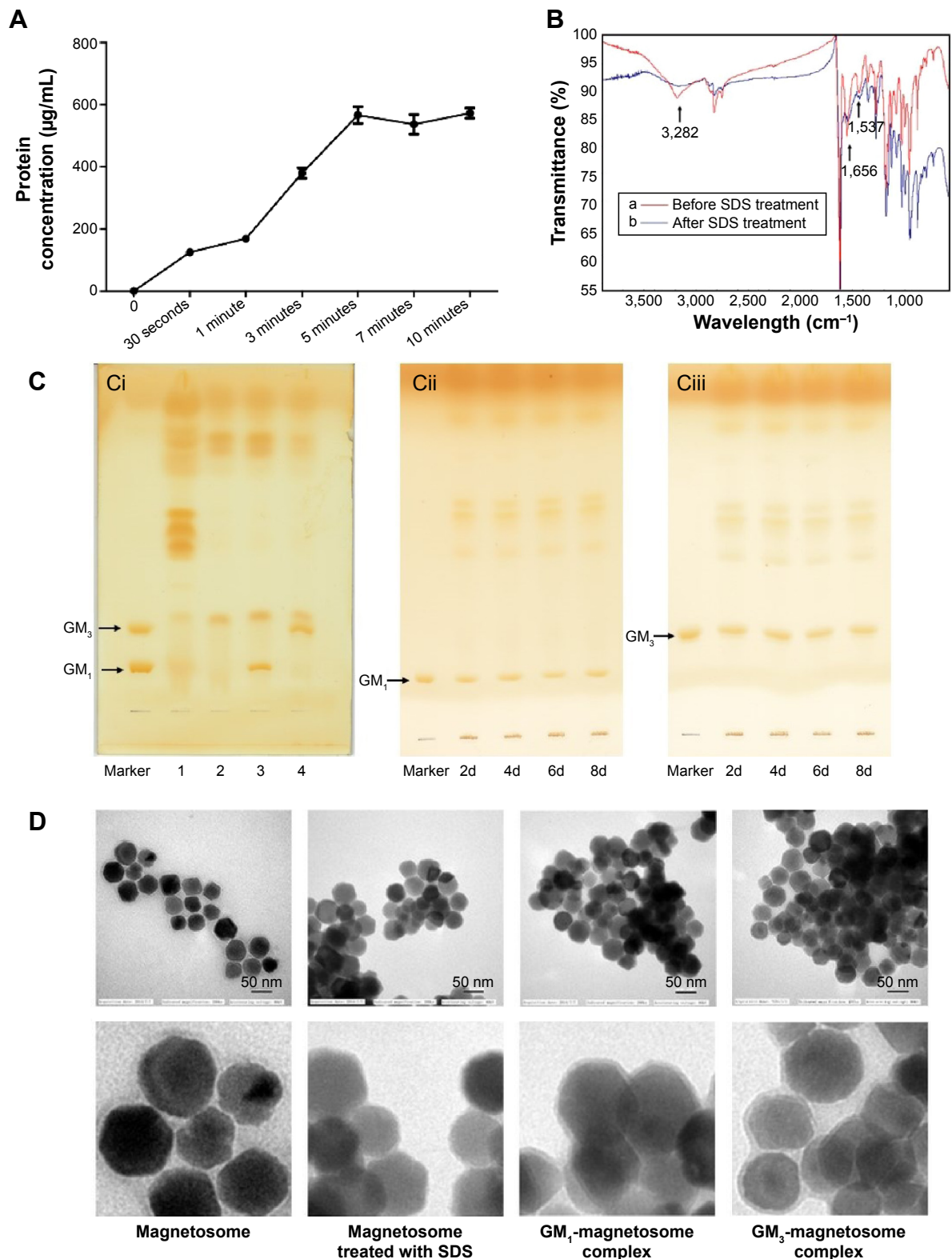


Figure 2 Characteristics of ganglioside-magnetosome complex.

Notes: (A) The protein released from magnetosome with SDS treatment for 30 seconds, 1, 3, 5, 7 and 10 minutes was determined by BCA assay. (B) FT-IR spectra of magnetosomes before and after SDS treatment. (Ci) Equivalent amounts of control magnetosomes (lane 1), SDS-treated magnetosomes (lane 2), GM₁-magnetosomes (lane 3), and GM₃-magnetosomes (lane 4) were extracted, subjected to HPTLC, and visualized as described in M&M/"high-performance thin layer chromatography". Equivalent amounts of GM₁-magnetosomes (Cii) or GM₃-magnetosomes (Ciii) stored at 4°C for 2 (shown as 2d), 4 (4d), 6 (6d), and 8 (8d) days were extracted, subjected to HPTLC, and visualized as described in M&M/"high-performance thin layer chromatography". (D) TEM imaging of four types of magnetosomes as in (B). Upper row: 200,000× magnification. Scale bar =50 nm. Lower row: close-ups of images in upper row.

Abbreviations: BCA, bicinchoninic acid; FT-IR, Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy; HPTLC, high-performance thin layer chromatography; M&M, materials and methods; SDS, sodium dodecyl sulfate; TEM, transmission electron microscopy.

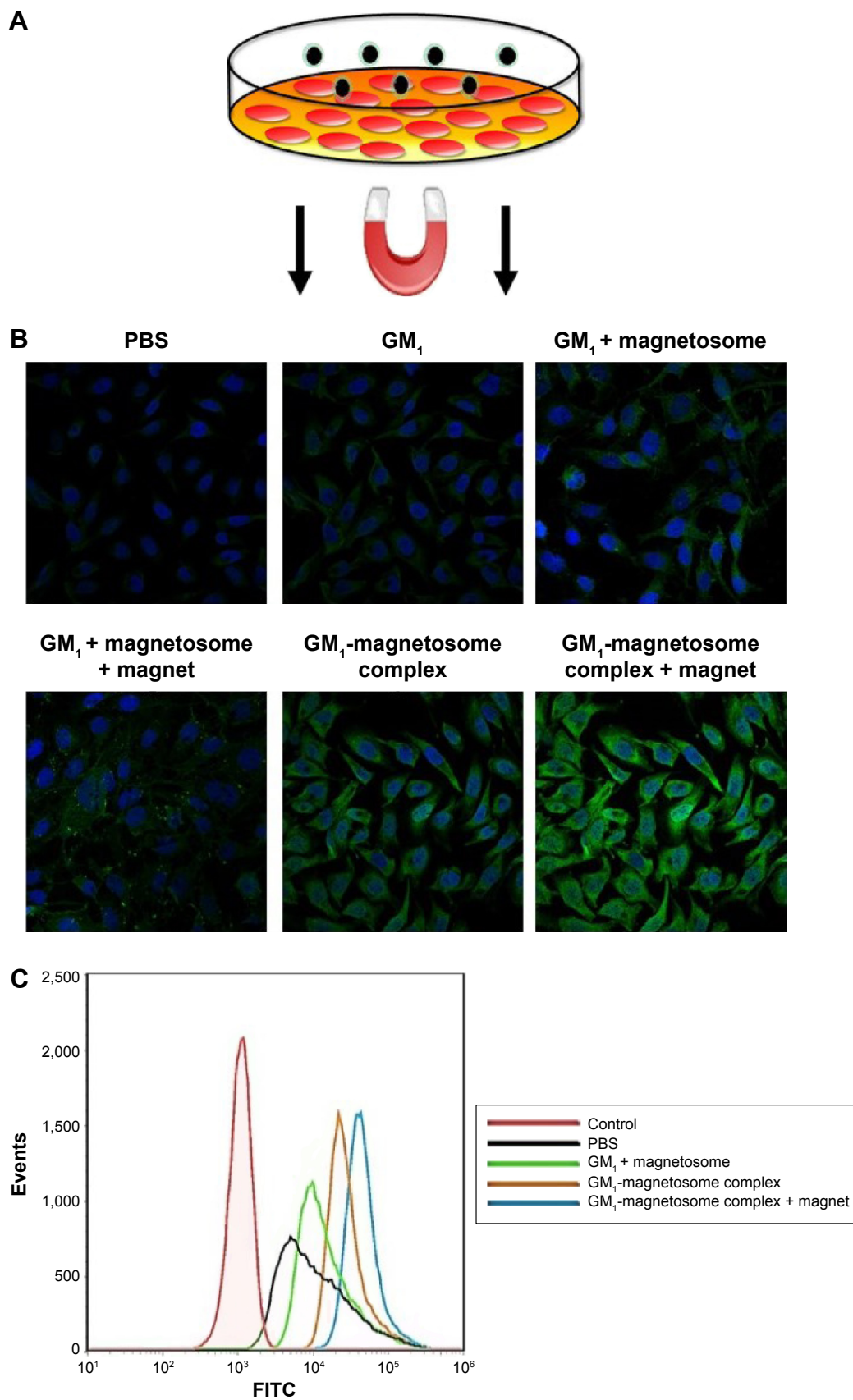


Figure 3 Uptake of GM_1 -magnetosome complex by YTS-1 cells.

Notes: YTS-1 cells were treated with PBS, GM_1 plus magnetosomes, GM_1 -magnetosome complex, or GM_1 -magnetosome complex under magnetic field (**A**), as described in M&M. Expression of GM_1 on the cell surface was determined by confocal laser scanning microscopy (**B**) and flow cytometric analysis (**C**).

Abbreviations: FITC, fluorescein isothiocyanate; PBS, phosphate-buffered saline; M&M, materials and methods.

was internalized inside the cells, it was resulted from that GM₁ were ingested into YTS-1 cells together with magnetosomes, but not finalizing the transportation of GM₁ to the outer of the plasma membranes. These findings indicate that the uptake of GM₁-magnetosome complex by YTS-1 cells was enhanced by biocompatibility of the magnetosome membrane, and further enhanced by the presence of a magnetic field.

Inhibition of pEGFR by GM₃-magnetosome complex

Exogenous addition of gangliosides is a technique often used to elucidate the function of specific gangliosides as second messenger molecules or receptor modulators in cultured cells.^{7,26,27} For example, exogenous GM₃ blocks

tyrosine phosphorylation of EGFR in human epidermoid carcinoma A431 and other cell lines.^{28,29} The absorption of gangliosides into cells is typically limited by their tendency to aggregate into micelles in aqueous media.³⁰ We examined the inhibitory effect of magnetosomes grafted with GM₃ (GM₃-magnetosome complex) on EGFR activation. A431 cells (high EGFR expressors) are often used for studying mechanisms whereby the EGFR signal pathway is turned on or off.²⁸ We confirmed the interaction of GM₃ with EGFR using GM₃-magnetosome complex. A431 cell lysate was incubated with the complex, and specific proteins binding to the complex were separated by magnetic field (Figure 4A). The EGFR protein in A431 cell lysate was clearly pulled down by GM₃-magnetosome complex and confirmed by Western

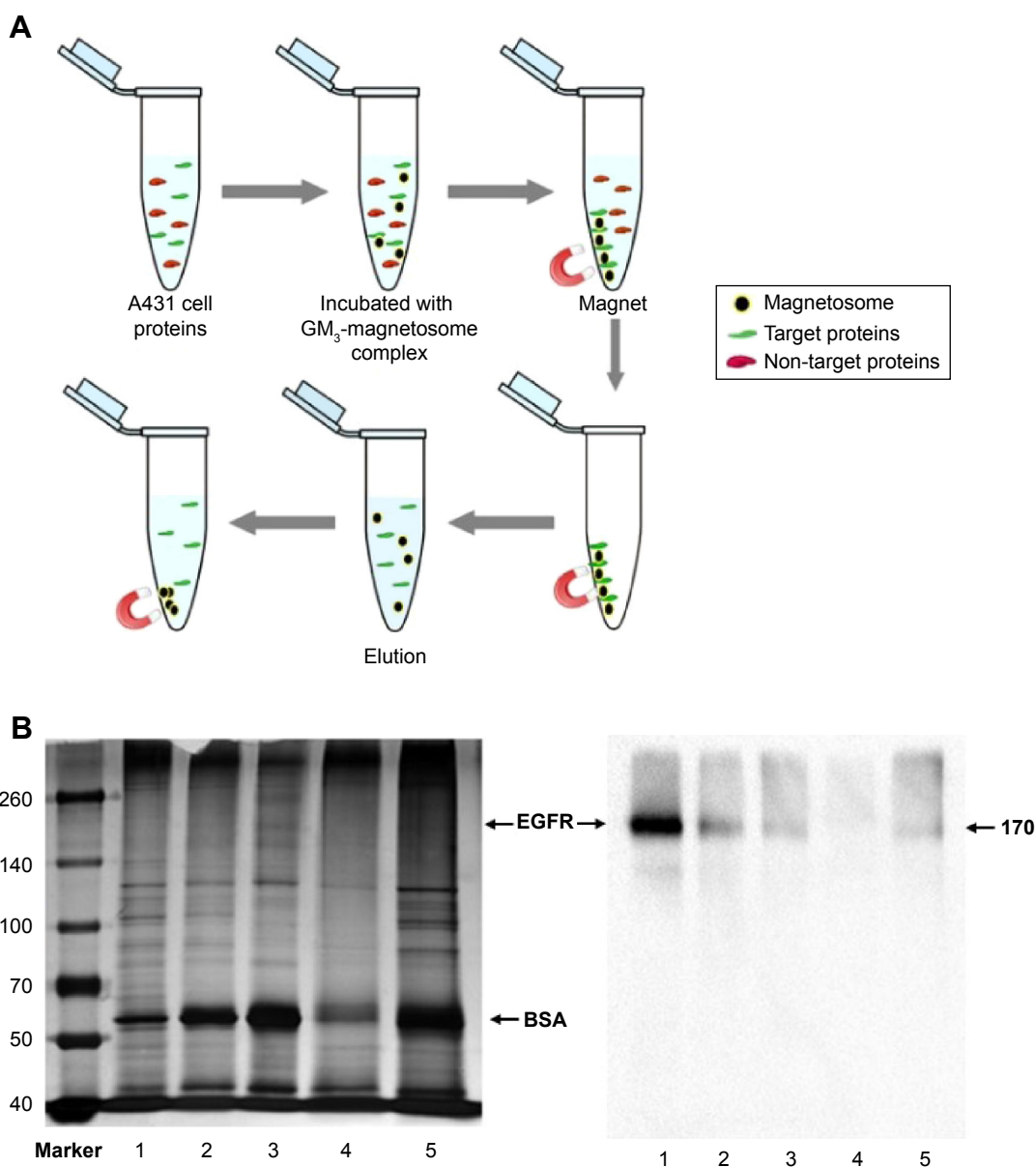


Figure 4 (Continued)

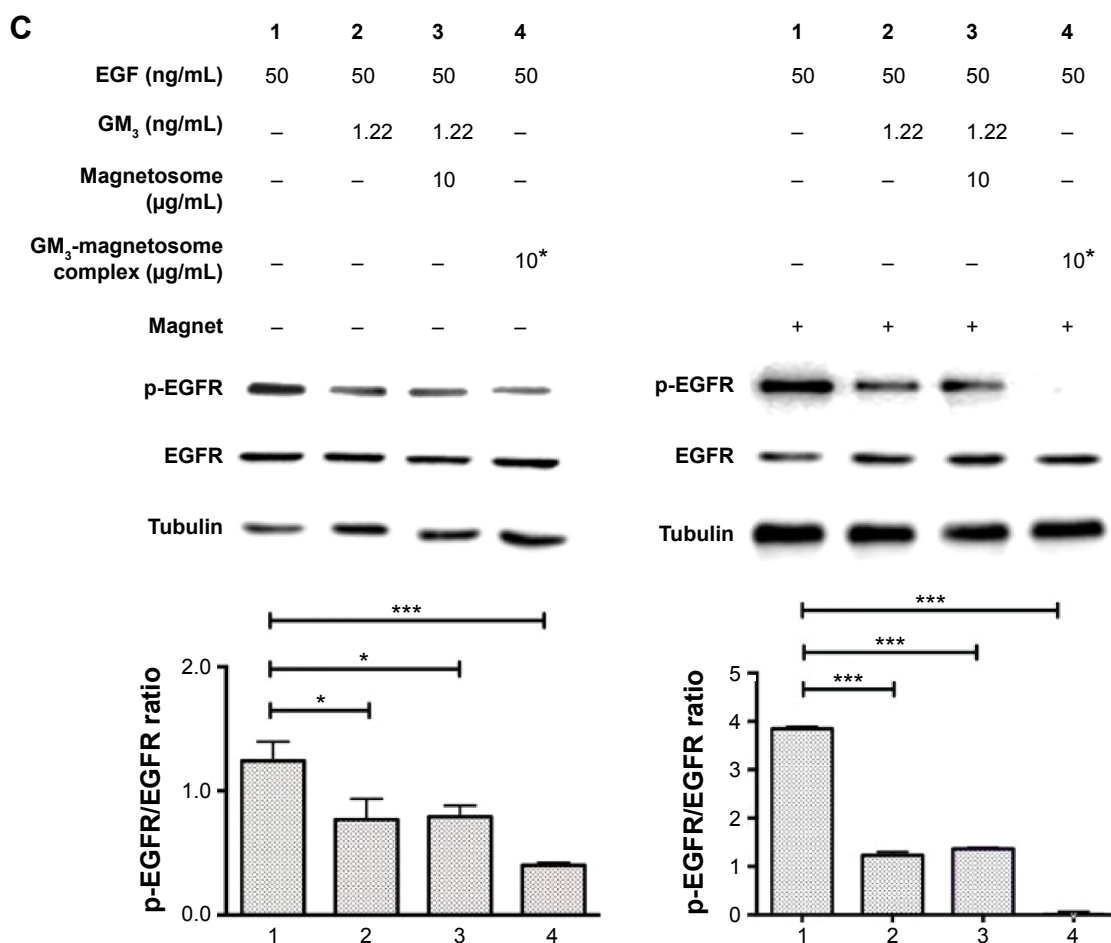


Figure 4 Effect of GM3 on EGF-induced tyrosine phosphorylation of EGFR.

Notes: (A) Technique (schematic) for evaluating interaction of GM₃-magnetosomes with EGFR. (B) A431 cell lysate was incubated with PE-magnetosomes or GM₃-magnetosomes, separated by a magnetic field, boiled in 50 μL sample buffer, subjected to SDS-PAGE, visualized by silver staining (left), or analyzed by Western blotting (right). Lane 1: A431 cell lysate. Lane 2: lysate incubated with PE-magnetosomes. Lane 3: lysate incubated with GM₃-magnetosomes. Lane 4: protein bound to PE-magnetosomes. Lane 5: protein bound to GM₃-magnetosomes. (C) Inhibitory effect of GM₃ and GM₃-magnetosomes on EGFR kinase activity in A431 cells. Amount of GM₃ per 1 mg magnetosome = 0.104 μg. 10*: concentration of total GM₃-magnetosome complex added to medium = 10 μg/mL. EGF-induced phosphorylation of EGFR was quantified as density of phospho-EGFR divided by that of EGFR, by densitometry using Image J. Experiments were performed in triplicate, and representative Western blot results are shown (left). Data are shown as mean ± SD (right). *P<0.05; ***P<0.001.

Abbreviations: EGF, epidermal growth factor; EGFR, epidermal growth factor receptor; p-EGFR, phosphorylated epidermal growth factor receptor; SDS-PAGE, sodium dodecyl sulfate-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis.

blotting, whereas phosphatidylethanolamine-magnetosomes complex had no such effect (Figure 4B). EGF stimulation activated pEGFR expression as expected, and such activation was inhibited by GM₃. The inhibitory effect of GM₃ on pEGFR activation was significantly enhanced by complexing with magnetosomes, especially together with the presence of a magnetic field (Figure 4C).

Discussion

The potential of liposomes as biodegradable or biocompatible drug carriers for enhancing the potency of therapeutics is well established. Magnetite nanoparticles are essential components for the development of many novel biotechnological and nanotechnological applications. Among

various types, bacterial magnetosomes (synthesized by magnetotactic bacteria) are of particular interest because of their paramagnetism, nano-scale size, and unique biomembrane. The natural origin and magnetic characteristics of bacterial magnetosomes have proved to be useful in a variety of biotechnological applications, including enzyme immobilization, drug delivery, and target cell separation.^{4,21}

Glycoconjugates, located primarily in cell membranes, play essential roles in protein modification, cell-cell interaction, cell adhesion, and many other biological processes.³¹ In gangliosides, an important glycoconjugate family, one or more monosaccharides are glycosidically linked to a lipid moiety (ceramide). Gangliosides are usually synthesized on the membranes in the endoplasmic reticulum-Golgi pathway and delivered primarily

to the outer leaflet of the plasma membranes. The lipid moiety is typically embedded in the cell membrane. The oligosaccharide moiety is extended (exposed) outside the bilayer membrane, and may interact simultaneously with one or more proteins or receptors. Various methods have been developed for studying protein-carbohydrate interactions, including 2-D glycoconjugate arrays on gold surfaces³² and spherical arrays of carbohydrates as represented by glycodendrimers and liposomes.³³ Gangliosides (eg, GM₁) can be incorporated in the liposome membrane, and the tendency to aggregate can be reduced by conjugation to hydrophilic polymers such as polyethylene glycol.³⁴

We describe here a simple strategy to remove proteins from the magnetosome membrane by SDS treatment, and immobilize a ganglioside (GM₁ or GM₃) on the magnetosome by mild ultrasonic treatment. Many evidence have shown that complexes that use magnetosomes as carriers can be easily ingested into cells through endocytosis process.^{4,35} In our study, gangliosides immobilized on magnetosomes was easily ingested into cells. GM₁ immobilized on magnetosomes was easily taken up by cells. GM₃-magnetosomes had a strong inhibitory effect on EGFR activation, also indicating increased absorption of GM₃ by cells. In addition, because magnetosomes are comprised of Fe₃O₄, the magnetic field could accelerate the process that the particles entering into cells.^{35,36} Therefore, the effects described above were further enhanced by the presence of a magnetic field, because of the magnetic characteristics of magnetosomes. Our findings provide a basis for the application of magnetosomes in the delivery of specific gangliosides into cells, and the new strategy will be useful in studies of carbohydrate-protein interactions in vitro and in vivo.

Acknowledgments

This study was supported by Jiangsu Province Recruiting Plan for High-level, Innovative and Entrepreneurial Talents, the Fundamental Research Funds for the Central Universities (No JUSRP51319B), Jiangsu Province "Six Summit Talent" Foundation (2013-SWYY-019) and the 111 Project (No 111-2-06). The authors are grateful to Dr S Anderson for English editing of the paper.

Disclosure

The authors report no conflicts of interest in this work.

References

1. Arakaki A, Nakazawa H, Nemoto M, Mori T, Matsunaga T. Formation of magnetite by bacteria and its application. *J R Soc Interface*. 2008; 5(26):977–999.
2. Tanaka M, Okamura Y, Arakaki A, Tanaka T, Takeyama H, Matsunaga T. Origin of magnetosome membrane: proteomic analysis of magnetosome membrane and comparison with cytoplasmic membrane. *Proteomics*. 2006;6(19):5234–5247.
3. Dunnill P, Lilly MD. Letter: purification of enzymes using magnetic bio-affinity materials. *Biotechnol Bioeng*. 1974;16(7):987–990.
4. Xiang L, Bin W, Huali J, et al. Bacterial magnetic particles (BMPs)-PEI as a novel and efficient non-viral gene delivery system. *J Gene Med*. 2007; 9(8):679–690.
5. Nakamura N, Hashimoto K, Matsunaga T. Immunoassay method for the determination of immunoglobulin G using bacterial magnetic particles. *Anal Chem*. 1991;63(3):268–272.
6. Sarikaya M. An introduction to biomimetics: a structural viewpoint. *Microsc Res Techn*. 1994;27(5):360–375.
7. van Echten G, Sandhoff K. Ganglioside metabolism. Enzymology, Topology, and regulation. *J Biol Chem*. 1993;268(8):5341–5344.
8. Suk K, Kim S, Kim YH, et al. Identification of a novel human member of the DEAD box protein family. *Biochim Biophys Acta*. 2000; 1501(1):63–69.
9. Bremer EG, Hakomori S, Bowen-Pope DF, Raines E, Ross R. Ganglioside-mediated modulation of cell growth, growth factor binding, and receptor phosphorylation. *J Biol Chem*. 1984;259(11):6818–6825.
10. Mutoh T, Tokuda A, Miyadai T, Hamaguchi M, Fujiki N. Ganglioside GM₁ binds to the Trk protein and regulates receptor function. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*. 1995;92(11):5087–5091.
11. Nojiri H, Stroud M, Hakomori S. A specific type of ganglioside as a modulator of insulin-dependent cell growth and insulin receptor tyrosine kinase activity. Possible association of ganglioside-induced inhibition of insulin receptor function and monocytic differentiation induction in HL-60 cells. *J Biol Chem*. 1991;266(7):4531–4537.
12. Aureli M, Mauri L, Ciampa MG, et al. GM₁ ganglioside: past studies and future potential. *Mol Neurobiol*. Epub 2015 Mar 12.
13. Cuello AC. Glycosphingolipids that can regulate nerve growth and repair. *Adv Pharmacol*. 1990;21:1–50.
14. Tettamanti G, Riboni L. Gangliosides and modulation of the function of neural cells. *Adv Lipid Res*. 1993;25:235–267.
15. Polato L, Benedetti LM, Callegaro L, Couvreur P. In vitro evaluation of nanoparticle formulations containing gangliosides. *J Drug Target*. 1994;2(1):53–59.
16. Puryear WB, Yu X, Ramirez NP, Reinhard BM, Gummuluru S. HIV-1 incorporation of host-cell-derived glycosphingolipid GM₃ allows for capture by mature dendritic cells. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*. 2012; 109(19):7475–7480.
17. Hoshino T, Mahmood MI, Mori K, Matsuzaki K. Binding and aggregation mechanism of amyloid beta-peptides onto the GM₁ ganglioside-containing lipid membrane. *J Phys Chem B*. 2013;117(27):8085–8094.
18. Orlando P, Cocciant G, Ippolito G, Massari P, Roberti S, Tettamanti G. The fate of tritium labeled GM₁ ganglioside injected in mice. *Pharmacol Res Commun*. 1979;11(9):759–773.
19. Ghidoni R, Fiorilli A, Trinchera M, Venerando B, Chigorno V, Tettamanti G. Uptake, cell penetration and metabolic processing of exogenously administered GM₁ ganglioside in rat brain. *Neurochem Int*. 1989;15(4):455–465.
20. Xiang L, Wei J, Jianbo S, Guili W, Feng G, Ying L. Purified and sterilized magnetosomes from *Magnetospirillum gryphiswaldense* MSR-1 were not toxic to mouse fibroblasts in vitro. *Lett Appl Microbiol*. 2007; 45(1):75–81.
21. Yoshino T, Hirabe H, Takahashi M, Kuhara M, Takeyama H, Matsunaga T. Magnetic cell separation using nano-sized bacterial magnetic particles with reconstructed magnetosome membrane. *Biotechnol Bioeng*. 2008; 101(3):470–477.
22. Wi S, Pancoska P, Keiderling TA. Predictions of protein secondary structures using factor analysis on Fourier transform infrared spectra: effect of Fourier self-deconvolution of the amide I and amide II bands. *Biospectroscopy*. 1998;4(2):93–106.
23. Lawrence MB, Springer TA. Leukocytes roll on a selectin at physiologic flow rates: distinction from and prerequisite for adhesion through integrins. *Cell*. 1991;65:859–873.
24. Satoh M, Ito A, Nojiri H, et al. Enhanced GM₃ expression, associated with decreased invasiveness, is induced by brefeldin A in bladder cancer cells. *Int J Oncol*. 2001;19(4):723–731.

25. Carton I, Malinina L, Richter RP. Dynamic modulation of the glycosphingolipid content in supported lipid bilayers by glycolipid transfer protein. *Biophys J*. 2010;99(9):2947–2956.
26. Bremer EG, Schlessinger J, Hakomori S. Ganglioside-mediated modulation of cell growth. Specific effects of GM₃ on tyrosine phosphorylation of the epidermal growth factor receptor. *J Biol Chem*. 1986; 261(5):2434–2440.
27. Kawamura S, Ohyama C, Watanabe R, et al. Glycolipid composition in bladder tumor: a crucial role of GM₃ ganglioside in tumor invasion. *Int J Cancer*. 2001;94(3):343–347.
28. Yoon SJ, Nakayama K, Hikita T, Handa K, Hakomori SI. Epidermal growth factor receptor tyrosine kinase is modulated by GM₃ interaction with N-linked GlcNAc termini of the receptor. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*. 2006;103(50):18987–18991.
29. Hakomori SI, Handa K. GM3 and cancer. *Glycoconj J*. 2015;32(1–2): 1–8.
30. Cantu L, Del Favero E, Brocca P, Corti M. Multilevel structuring of ganglioside-containing aggregates: from simple micelles to complex biomimetic membranes. *Adv Colloid Interface Sci*. 2014;205:177–186.
31. Crocker PR, Feizi T. Carbohydrate recognition systems: functional triads in cell-cell interactions. *Curr Opin Struct Biol*. 1996;6(5):679–691.
32. Horan N, Yan L, Isobe H, Whitesides GM, Kahne D. Nonstatistical binding of a protein to clustered carbohydrates. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*. 1999; 96(21):11782–11786.
33. de La Fuente JM, Barrientos AG, Rojas TC, et al. Gold glyconanoparticles as water-soluble polyvalent models to study carbohydrate interactions. *Angew Chem Int Ed Engl*. 2001;40(12):2257–2261.
34. Lian T, Ho RJ. Trends and developments in liposome drug delivery systems. *J Pharm Sci*. 2001;90(6):667–680.
35. Lei H, Li SY, Yong Y, Zhao FM, Jie H, Jin C. Research on the structure and performance of bacterial magnetic nanoparticles. *J Biomater Appl*. 2008;22(5): 433–448.
36. Alphandery, Edouard, et al. Chains of magnetosomes extracted from AMB-1 magnetotactic bacteria for application in alternative magnetic field cancer therapy. *ACS Nano*. 2011;5(8):6279–6296.

Supplementary materials

Methods

Zeta potential and size distribution measurements.

Zeta potential of magnetosomes and ganglioside-magnetosome complexes were performed on a Zetasizer Nano ZS system

(Malvern, UK) equipped with a standard laser at 633 nm. The size distribution of the formed complexes was analyzed using the above Zetasizer Nano ZS system.

Table S1 Zeta potential of magnetosomes and ganglioside-magnetosome complexes

	Magnetosomes	GM ₁ -magnetosomes complex	GM ₃ -magnetosomes complex
Zeta potential	-42.18	-17.84	-14.84

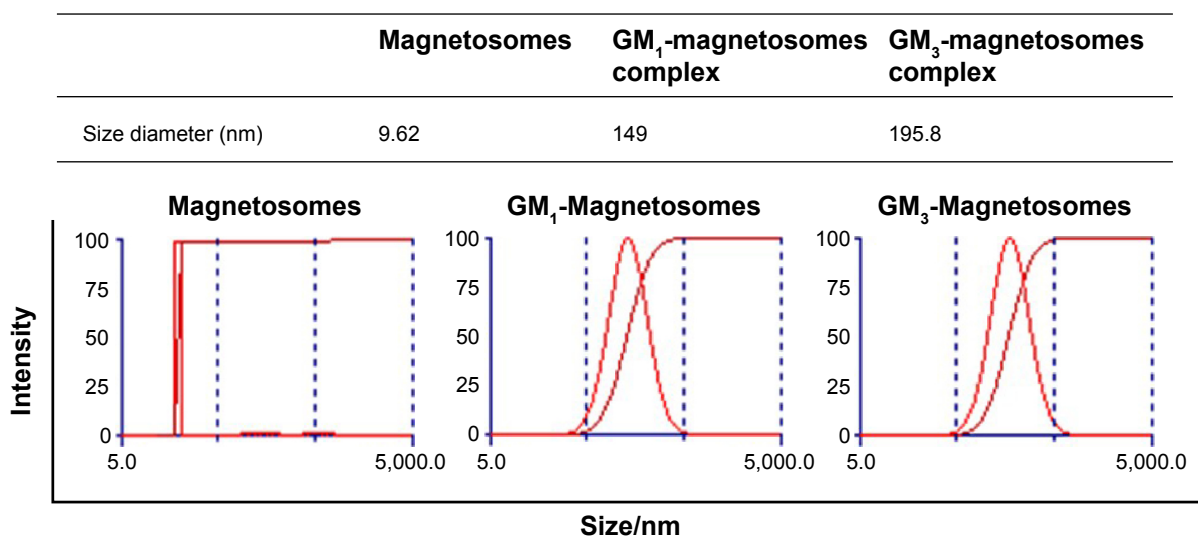


Figure S1 Size distribution of magnetosomes and ganglioside-magnetosome complexes.

Table S2 Grafting efficiency of gangliosides onto magnetosomes

Ultrasonic bath time (minutes)	GM ₁ or GM ₃ added initially, Wt (μg)	GSLs grafted, Wg (μg) (mean ± SD)		Grafting efficiency (%)	
		GM ₁	GM ₃	GM ₁	GM ₃
10	50	6.2±0.4	7.4±0.6	12.4	14.8
30	50	10.4±0.7	11.2±0.6	20.8	22.4
60	50	10.2±0.8	10.5±0.8	20.4	21.0
30	20	8.4±1.1	9.4±0.4	42	47.0
30	100	11.7±1.2	11.6±1.5	11.7	11.6

Notes: Grafting efficiency (%) = $Wg/Wt \times 100$. Reaction system: a defined amount of ganglioside was added to 1 mL PBS (pH 7.5) buffer containing 1 mg/mL magnetosomes.

Abbreviations: PBS, phosphate-buffered saline; GSLs, Glycosphingolipids; SD, standard deviation.

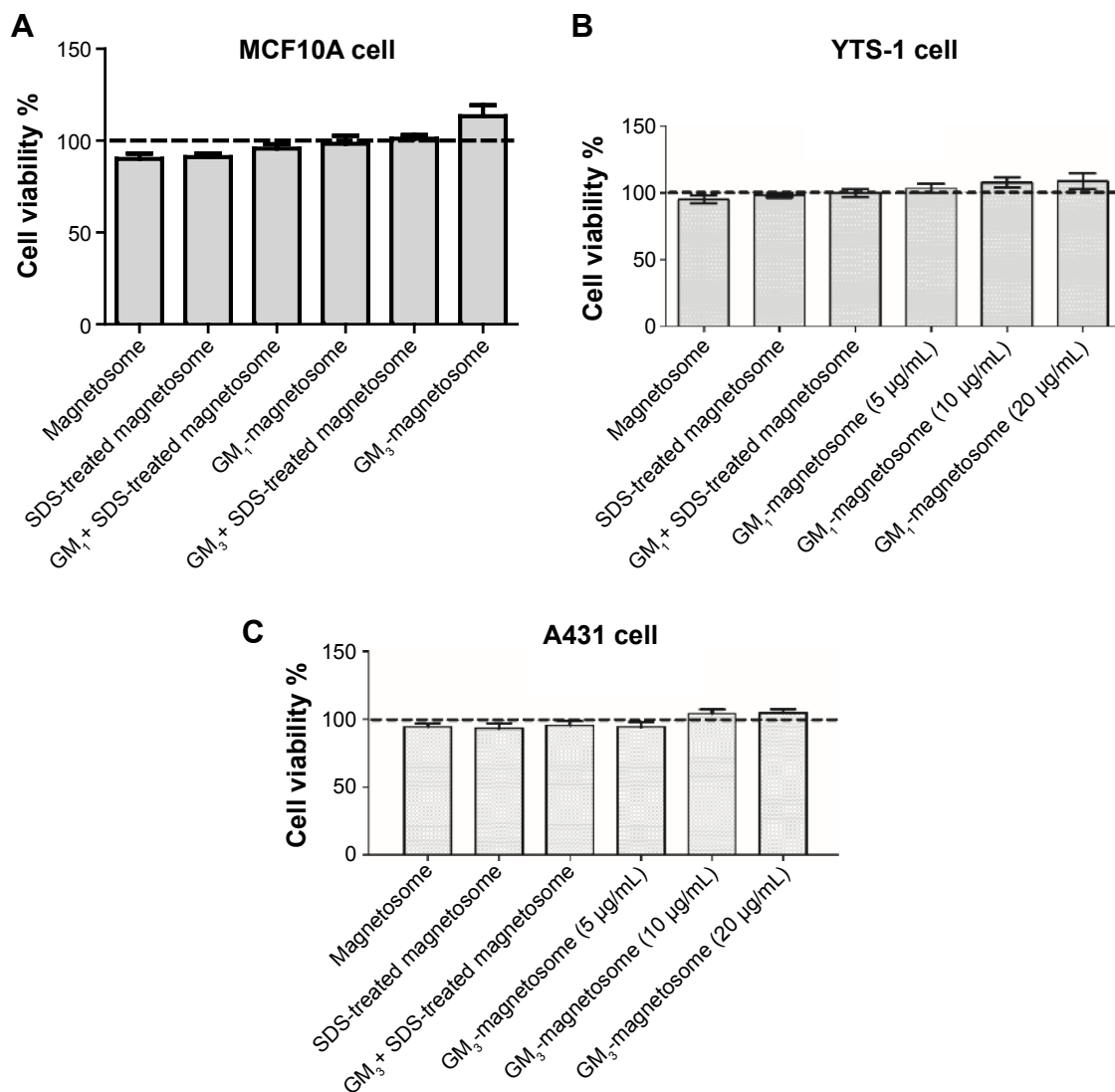


Figure S2 MTT assay of ganglioside-magnetosome complexes.

Notes: (A) Human mammary epithelial MCF10A cells (1×10^3 per well in 96-well plates) were cultured in DMEM for 48 hours. Aliquots (10 µg/mL) of control magnetosomes, SDS-treated magnetosomes, GM₁ + SDS-treated magnetosome mixture, GM₁-magnetosome complex, GM₃ + SDS-treated magnetosome mixture, and GM₃-magnetosome complex were added to the culture medium, and culture was continued for 24 hours. Each well was added with 20 µL MTT solution and incubated 4 hours at 37°C. The reaction was stopped by addition of 700 µL DMSO, and absorption at OD₅₉₅ was recorded immediately. Experiments were performed in triplicate, and data are shown as mean ± SD. (B) Magnetosomes, SDS-treated magnetosomes and 5, 10, and 20 µg/mL GM₁-magnetosomes complex were added to YTS-1 cells, respectively, and cell viability assay was performed as described above. Experiments were performed in triplicate, and data are shown as mean ± SD. (C) Magnetosomes, SDS-treated magnetosomes and 5, 10, and 20 µg/mL GM₃-magnetosomes complex were added to A431 cells, respectively, and cell viability assay was performed as described above. Experiments were performed in triplicate, and data are shown as mean ± SD.

Abbreviations: DMEM, Dulbecco's Modified Eagle's Medium; DMSO, dimethyl sulfoxide; MTT, 3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide; SDS, sodium dodecyl sulfate; SD, standard deviation.

International Journal of Nanomedicine

Dovepress

Publish your work in this journal

The International Journal of Nanomedicine is an international, peer-reviewed journal focusing on the application of nanotechnology in diagnostics, therapeutics, and drug delivery systems throughout the biomedical field. This journal is indexed on PubMed Central, MedLine, CAS, SciSearch®, Current Contents®/Clinical Medicine,

Journal Citation Reports/Science Edition, EMBase, Scopus and the Elsevier Bibliographic databases. The manuscript management system is completely online and includes a very quick and fair peer-review system, which is all easy to use. Visit <http://www.dovepress.com/testimonials.php> to read real quotes from published authors.

Submit your manuscript here: <http://www.dovepress.com/international-journal-of-nanomedicine-journal>