

Overview of Nanocosmetics with Emphasis on those Incorporating Natural Extracts

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Cite This: *ACS Omega* 2024, 9, 36001–36022



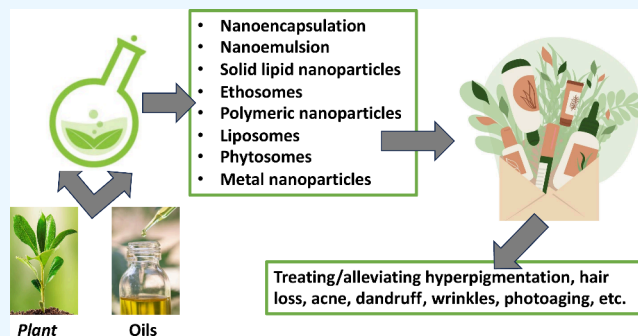
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ABSTRACT: The cosmetic industry is rapidly rising worldwide. To overcome certain deficiencies of conventional cosmetics, nanomaterials have been introduced to formulations of nails, lips, hair, and skin for treating/alleviating hyperpigmentation, hair loss, acne, dandruff, wrinkles, photoaging, etc. Innovative nano-carrier materials applied in the cosmetic sector for carrying the active ingredients include niosomes, fullerenes, liposomes, carbon nanotubes, and nanoemulsions. These exhibit several advantages, such as elevated stability, augmented skin penetration, specific site targeting, and sustained release of active contents. Nevertheless, continuous exposure to nanomaterials in cosmetics may pose some health hazards. This review features the different new nanocarriers applied for delivering cosmetics, their positive impacts and shortcomings, currently marketed nanocosmetic formulations, and their possible toxic effects. The role of natural ingredients, including vegetable oils, seed oils, essential oils, fats, and plant extracts, in the formulation of nanocosmetics is also reviewed. This review also discusses the current trend of green cosmetics and cosmetic regulations in selected countries.



1. INTRODUCTION

Cosmetics are formulations applied to the body and face to improve the overall appearance and promote beauty.¹ Besides the beautifying purposes, cosmetics products have long been used to improve diverse conditions/ailments, e.g., dark spots, wrinkles, skin dryness, dandruff, hair loss, hyperpigmentation, acne, photoaging, uneven complexion, etc.² Accordingly to International Regulation (CE) 1223/2009, a cosmetic product is defined as “any substance or mixture intended to be placed in contact with the external parts of the human body (epidermis, hair system, nails, lips and external genital organs) or with the teeth and the mucous membranes of the oral cavity with a view exclusively or mainly to cleaning them, perfuming them, changing their appearance, protecting them, keeping them in good condition or correcting body odors.”³ The usage of cosmetic products is credited to the late Egyptians, which dates back to 4000 BC; then after that cosmetics were used by the Romans, Greeks, Chinese, and Japanese. By the beginning of the 21st century, the cosmetic products started to be immensely applied in different countries and, via the technological advancements, novel cosmetics were being manufactured.¹

Currently, nanosized particles are widely used in diverse applications.⁴ These are extensively added to the cosmetic formulations of whitening lotions, antiwrinkle creams, moisturizers, shampoos/conditioners, etc.⁵ Diverse types of nanocarriers, e.g., niosomes, fullerenes, liposomes, ethosomes,

carbon nanotubes, solid lipid nanoparticles, and nanoemulsions, are applied for delivering useful active ingredients.⁵ “Nanocosmetics” is used to define cosmetics incorporating nanosized particles.⁶ The main advantages of incorporating nanomaterials in cosmetic products are presented in Figure 1. They enable a sustained release of the active materials, possess an increased chemical reactivity, enhance the optical/magnetic properties, and improve solubility of the active ingredients.⁶ Nanocosmetics can be added to hair care formulations for treating hair loss, besides averting hair from getting white/gray. Nanocosmetics have the ability to make fragrances last for longer durations, render skin care products superior in many angles, and augment the effectiveness of sunscreens via increasing the protection against UV rays.⁷ Moreover, very small sized particles have an increased surface area; accordingly nanocosmetics enable a facile transportation of the loaded active constituents deep into the skin. Also, the attraction of nanoemulsions for usage in cosmetics is due to their kinetic stability. The nanoemulsions’ prolonged physical stability (i.e.,

Received: January 3, 2024

Revised: May 30, 2024

Accepted: July 18, 2024

Published: August 16, 2024



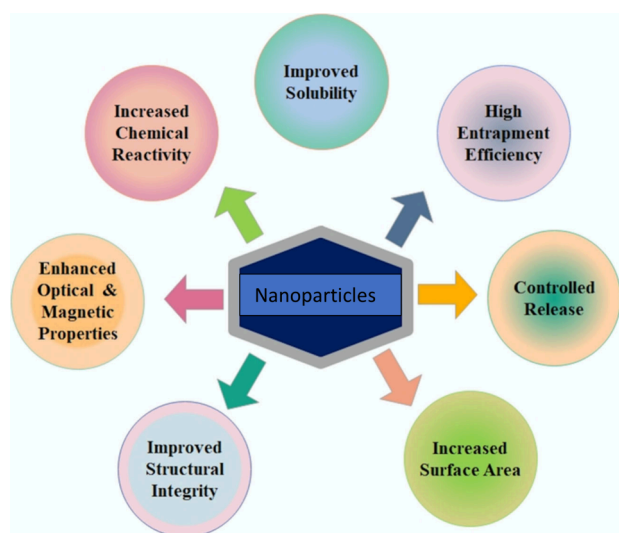


Figure 1. Advantages of nanomaterials. Adapted with permission from ref 9. Copyright 2020 Scientific Research Publishing.

without flocculation and coalescence) makes them distinctive. However, unless effectively stabilized against Ostwald ripening (i.e., the process of disappearance of small particles by deposition on larger particles), nanoemulsions may show an increase in droplet size and an initially transparent system may become turbid.⁸

Despite the benefits of nanoparticles, additional research is required to clearly understand their short- and long-term health consequences besides any adverse environmental impact that they might possess.¹ For instance, certain ultrafine nanosized particles (e.g., carbon nanotubes, silver nanoparticles, fullerenes, and titanium dioxide nanoparticles) were proven to possess certain levels of toxicity to humans.⁵ For instance, titanium dioxide nanoparticles, added to all types of sunscreens, was proven to trigger minimal damages to RNA and DNA in rats.⁸ In addition, nanocosmetics might possess harm to the environment too; i.e., their production might cause air pollution and some of their ingredients might be nondegradable, causing harm to the aquatic environment.¹

This review presents an update on the incorporation of natural extracts in nanocosmetics. Various nanoformulations, like ethosomes, nanoemulsions, nanostructured lipid carriers, niosomes, and silver/gold nanoparticles, and liposomes are reviewed. Also, the major classes of nanocosmetics, such as moisturizing creams, lip care products, and sunscreens are presented. In addition, the environmental impact and toxicity of certain nanoparticles are briefly presented. This review also discusses the current trend of developing sustainable green cosmetics. Lastly, the ongoing regulatory guidelines for producing nanocosmetics are summarized.

2. BRIEF HISTORY OF COSMETICS

Cosmetic products' history dates back to about 7000 years. The cosmetics' art is believed to be the oldest form of all rituals in most cultures worldwide.¹ Even though during ancient eras, medicine, cosmetics, and religious practices were all related to each other, yet Hippocrates and Henri de Mondeville aided in meticulously differentiating the three forms of art.¹ Early Egyptians used oils, perfumes, and creams, besides several kinds of ointments and lotions, for hygiene purposes and for protecting their skins from the harmful sunrays. The story-

telling art on their tombs, monuments, and walls indicates that applying cosmetics was extensive among women and all people during Egypt's ancient times.¹ Actually, almond painted eyes, which are obvious on most Egyptian ladies' paintings, besides the uncovering of Tutankhamen's tomb, exposed widespread cosmetics' usage during ancient times and also inspired a universal recognition of the black/heavily worn eyeliners.¹⁰ On another note, during the era of 3000 BCE, Chinese people applied brightly cheerful colors of nail polishes as a way of social class distinction. To elaborate, the elite and noble classes of people used to wear colored nails to distinguish themselves. On the other hand, the middle class and poor people were not permitted to put nail polish on.¹ Besides the makeup products, perfumes also were abundantly used. Heang was the term used to describe perfumes, oud oils, and fragrances and was fundamental to the Chinese noble class. Emperors, monarchs, and lords applied perfumes excessively; whether they were staying home or going to their temples.¹⁰ Actually, makeup usage was also an Eastern tradition that was passed to the Grecians later on by means of travelers and tradesmen. Ancient Greek women used to indulge in applying fake eyebrows and facial creams/powders. During the fifth century BCE, Athenian women added lead specifically to their creams for skin and face whitening, while, making their lips red using lipsticks composed simply from plants' roots and red seaweeds.¹⁰ Athenians also emphasized their eyebrows with coal, darkened their eyelids with kohl made from antimony sulfide, and magnified their eyelashes with mascara which was composed from a mixture of egg whites and gum or from the dung of cows.¹ Certain archeological discoveries in the ancient Greek temples and cemeteries have exposed various items associated with the beautification of Greek women, such as combs, creams, mirrors, brushes, powders, shavers, fragrances, etc.¹⁰ Unfortunately, throughout history humans have apparently sacrificed their safety and health for their beauty by applying toxic homemade cosmetics. For example, in the early 1800s, women used to apply toxic constituents, e.g., arsenic, lead, and mercury to have a pale face which was regarded as attractive and beautiful in that time. Fortunately, the centuries of ignorance in applying unsafe and toxic materials to augment one's self-appearance are over; still, there is always the need to be good-looking/youthful, but through the usage of verifiable science to attain that target.¹⁰

3. NANOMATERIALS APPLIED IN COSMETICS

Nanomaterials are substances that have at least one of their dimensions in the nanoscale (i.e., 100 nm) and show considerably distinct physicochemical characteristics.¹¹ Nanomaterials have been applied in the cosmetics' sector for several years.¹¹ Micromaterials have slightly bigger dimensions, starting at 100 nm up to 1000 nm. Under the condition that their physicochemical behavior and dermal delivery capabilities is superior to that of macromolecules, these are also being applied in the cosmetics industry as well in certain applications. Cosmetics incorporating microscale materials are abundant and useful, yet those incorporating nanosized materials have many more advantages.⁹ Nanoparticles have large surface areas possessing high bioavailability, good transparency, and proficient absorption; besides that, they possess a sustained release of the bioactive ingredients.¹² Presently, cosmetics integrating nanomaterials are considerably promoted and marketed due to their diverse advantages in comparison to the traditional cosmetic products. Various nanomaterials, e.g.,

Table 1. Nanomaterials and Nanoformulations Used in Cosmetics

Nanomaterial	Advantages	Drawbacks	Distinctiveness	Kind of Cosmetic	Commercial Products	Ref
Dendrimers	Controlled release and high solubility of lipophilic ingredients	Cellular toxicity, elevated manufacturing costs, and not suitable for hydrophilic drugs	High shelf-lives of cosmetics	Sunscreens	Topical Resveratrol Formulation	8
Solid-lipid nanoparticles	High biodegradability/bioavailability and easiness of manufacturing	Low encapsulation of active ingredient and short shelf-lives	High drug loading and crystallinity in nature	Perfumes and creams	Chanel—Allur	8, 13
Cubosomes	Sustained release and nontoxic	Low entrapment	Thermodynamically stable	Topical creams	ND	14
Nanocrystals	Adhesiveness, uniform particle distribution, and high skin penetration	Not highly stable and aggregates easily	Very high percentage of active ingredients' loading	Toothpastes and moisturizers	Nano whitening toothpaste—Whitewash	15
Silica nanomaterials	Highly hydrophilic and has low production costs	Mild toxicity to the respiratory tract	Applied as fillers to increase the cosmetics' bulkiness	Lip balms and lipsticks	Blushers Sticks	8
Ethosomes	Premium penetration into the skin with high efficiency	Risk of coalescence and low yields	Comprises high ethanol concentrations	Moisturizers	Supravir cream	16
Nanosphere	High bioavailability and biodegradability	Possibility of aggregation	Long shelf-lives of cosmetics	Skin whitening and antiaging creams	Hosokawa Micron Prime Serum	17
Inorganic nanoparticles	Highly stable and biocompatible	Mild toxicity to the respiratory tract	High efficiency in reflecting UV rays	Sunscreens	Lotus and Phytorx UV	8
Carbon black nanoparticles	Low weight, elevated thermal/chemical stabilities, and minimal production costs	Cytotoxicity and amends the macrophages' phagocytosis	Unique color for pigmentation	Facemasks	Mascara—Lakme	8
Micellar nanoparticles	High bioavailability and biodegradability	Low entrapment	High skin penetration	Skin cleansing products	ND	18
Tris-biphenyl triazine nanoparticles	Photostable and robust filters	Not environment friendly; i.e., harmful to aquatic life	High efficiency for usage as UVB/UVA 2 filters	Sunscreens	Extra UV Gel-Allie	8
Nanohydroxyapatite	Desensitizer and polish for teeth	Fragile and brittle	Safe for pediatric toothpastes	Toothpastes	Kinder Karex	8, 19
Niosomes	High stability/efficiency and good penetration	High manufacturing costs	Surface alteration easy because of the existence of certain functional group	Antiaging creams	Lancome and L'Oréal	20
Silver/gold nanomaterials	Antibacterial/antifungal activities, high chemical stability, and modified biodistribution	Mild respiratory toxicity	Surface augmented Raman scattering	Antiwrinkle creams and facemask	Gold Nano Treatments—Chantecaille	8, 21
Buckyballs nanoparticles	Reduces skin ailments, photostability, and antioxidant potency	Extremely hydrophobic and harms tissues of brain	Acts as a scavenger for harmful free radicals	Face and body creams	Brightening Essence—Juva	22, 23
Nanocapsules	Masking bad odors	Supplementary purification step needed after the nanoformulation	Formation of micelles	Antiwrinkle creams and hair products	Primordiale Intense—L'Oréal	8
Nanoemulsions	Amphiphilicity and transparency	Possesses sensitivity to acids and low durations of action	Creams do not reveal complications of coalescence and flocculation	Face creams, body lotions, ointments, gels, and moisturizers	Vitalipid N	8
Nanoliposomes	Amphiphilic, high skin penetration, biocompatible, and biodegradable	Activates immune responses and physicochemical weakness	Capability of solubilizing lipophilic and hydrophilic ingredients	Moisturizers and antiwrinkle creams	Capture Totale	8
Nanostructured lipid carriers	Easiness of manufacturing and long shelf-life	Short action durations	Mixture consisting of liquid and solid lipids	Body and facial creams	Dr. Rimpler—Cutanova	8

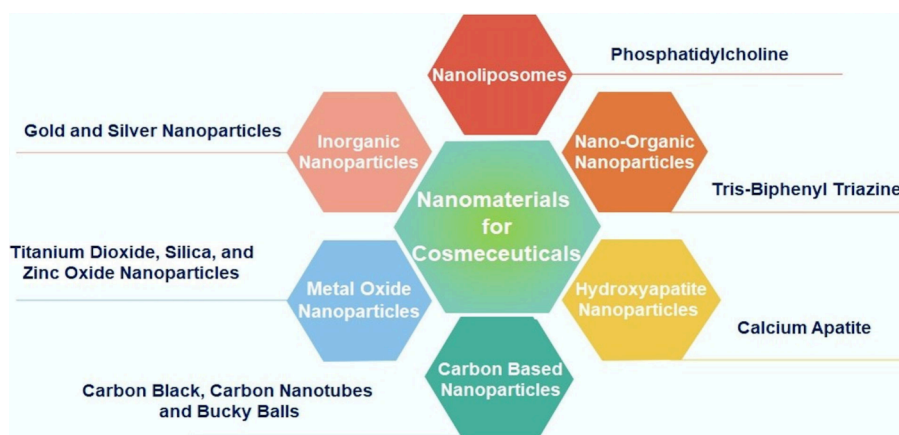


Figure 2. Nanomaterials applied in the cosmetics sector.

nanocapsules, liposomes, dendrimers, carbon black nanoparticles, cubosomes, nanoemulsions, ethosomes, gold nanoparticles, buckyballs, and nanocrystals, are extensively applied in the cosmetics' sector.⁹ Table 1 and Figure 2 compile the different nanomaterials applied in the cosmetics industry. The next sections assemble the various nanomaterials' systems applied in the cosmetics' sectors to efficiently deliver active ingredients.

3.1. Titanium Dioxide and Zinc Oxide Nanoparticles.

Sunscreens are photoprotective creams applied topically on the skin. These mainly absorb/reflect some of the sun's UV radiation, consequently aid in protecting against sunburns, and most crucially avoid skin diseases, e.g., skin cancer.²⁴ Sunscreens exist nowadays in many forms, such as sprays, creams, foams, lotions, roll-ons, etc.²⁴ Applying sunscreen helps in protecting the skin against many dangerous impacts of solar radiations, e.g., UVA-1, UVA-2, and UVB. Sunscreens typically include inorganic radiation filters, like titanium dioxide and zinc oxide. The latter is more efficient in UVA sun ray's blockage, and titanium dioxide is better for UVB rays. Therefore, a mixture of these inorganic materials would impart a wide range of protection against a broad spectrum of UV rays.²⁴ When formulated in their nanoscale, zinc oxide and titanium dioxide possess even higher sun protection factor.²⁵ These nanoparticles have premium effects because of their transparency, almost translucent color and reduced opacity contrary to their original color, which is white to opaque.²⁵ Lastly, both metal oxide nanoparticles applied as UV rays reflectors reveal advanced UV filtering activity, reduced scattering, and reflection. Due to increased filtering activity, these possess improved photoprotective activity.²⁵

3.2. Silver and Gold Nanoparticles. Gold and silver nanoparticles are broadly applied in cosmetics' formulations, e.g., antiaging creams, antiperspirants, deodorants, body lotions, face masks, etc.¹⁵ Silver and gold nanoparticles show antibacterial and antifungal characteristics. Thus, formulations that are silver-/gold-based could be used for controlling bacterial contamination and applied as inhibitors against many microorganisms.²⁶ The direct addition of silver inorganic material to cosmetics might possess some obstacles, especially because silver usually quickly precipitates. This obstacle could be resolved by means of rendering the silver inorganic material to their nanoscale.²⁶ Usage of silver nanoparticles in cosmetics' formulations makes the end product stable, with no sedimentation for up to 1 year of shelf-life.⁵ In Egypt, gold

has a long been added into beauty care products. Late Egyptians trusted that the gold enhanced the skin brightness, flexibility, texture, and composition, besides other benefits. These days, gold is being incorporated into diverse skincare formulations, like ointments, oils, creams, face masks, lotions, skincare healings, etc. Normally, colloidal gold (5–400 nm) is used in skincare products where its color ranges depending upon its size from red to lilac.²⁷ Gold nanoparticles have the ability of alleviating damages of the skin and improving the overall skin's smoothness, beauty, surface, brightness, flexibility, etc. Additionally, gold aids in healing skin sunburns, hypersensitivities, inflammations, etc. Gold and silver nanoparticles have the ability to be prepared in several forms, e.g., nanospheres, nanostars, nanorods, nanoclusters, nanoshells, nanotriangles, and nanocubes; besides that, their exact state controls their optical performance and cellular uptake.²⁷ These nanoparticles have superior properties (e.g., biocompatibility and stability) which makes them very useful and suitable for cosmetics and skincare.⁵ Besides being added to cosmetics formulation, gold and silver nanosized materials are added to wound healing preparations owing to their antibacterial and antifungal properties.²⁷

3.3. Silica Nanoparticles. Interest in using silica nanoparticles has been lately increasing in the cosmetics industry due to their highly hydrophilic surfaces and low production costs.⁵ Silica nanoparticles are added to cosmetics' formulations to improve the efficiency and increase the shelf-lives of cosmetics.²⁸ Silica nanoparticles exist in nanodispersions' forms with sizes varying between 3 and 110 nm. These possess a distinct advantage of delivering both lipophilic and hydrophilic active compounds. Silica nanoparticles are generally added to cosmetics especially designed for face, skin, hands, lips, hair, nails, etc. Silica nanoformulations develop the appearance of different colors/shades of lipsticks and maintain the colors for long durations after application, like in the case of long-lasting lipsticks.²⁸

3.4. Carbon Black. Carbon black has long been recognized as an important ingredient in many cosmetics' formulations. It is a black pigment that is used in many cosmetic products, like eyeliners, eye shadows, mascara, etc. Carbon black is fabricated through an inadequate combustion of carbon materials, e.g., activated carbon and coal tar.²⁹ Carbon black nanoparticles possess many advantages, such as making the black color more stable and stay for longer durations after application. However, carbon black nanoparticles showed a tendency for producing

aggravation, cytotoxicity, and alterations in phagocytosis of human monocytes. Accordingly, carbon black has been approved for usage in the nanostructure forms as a pigment but only at a maximum percentage of 10% Reference to EU regulatory agency.²⁹

3.5. Ethosomes. The movement of active ingredients to human skin and then to the systemic circulation is restricted due to a very thick physiological barrier (i.e., stratum corneum).³⁰ Ethosomes are vesicles, in the nanoscale, applied in the form carriers for augmenting the transdermal transport of a range of cosmetic materials.¹⁶ Ethosomes could be specially tailored for a safe and highly efficient skin penetration of cosmetics integrating antibacterial/antioxidants agents, vitamins, minerals, salicylic acid, antiwrinkle agents, etc. Ethosomes, being in the nanorange, are more effective than standard liposomes specifically in delivering cosmetics that are topically applied to the skin.³¹

3.6. Carbon Nanotubes. Carbon nanotubes are typically portrayed as a rolled sheet of graphene having sp² hybridization. Carbon nanotubes are continuous hollow fibers having a cylindrical shape. These are encompassed of walls produced by graphene in the form of hexagonal lattices of carbon that are rolled in discrete chiral angles.³² Carbon nanotubes are extremely light in weight. Discrete carbon nanotubes get aligned naturally in rope forms which are typically strongly held through π -stacking.³² The diameters of carbon nanotubes cylinders range from 0.6 to 55 nm with their lengths ranging in tens of micrometers.⁷ The main fabrication techniques of carbon nanotubes include arc discharge technique, silane solution technique, chemical-vapor deposition method, physical laser ablation, flame production method, etc. The main usage of these nanoparticles in cosmetic formulations is their addition in hair coloring products.³³ Combing many biopolymers (e.g., graphene and chitosan) was proven to produce distinct colors. Moreover, carbon nanotube formulations revealed elevated resistance to numerous shampoo formulations and are remarkable with their heat endurance capabilities.³³

3.7. Nanohydroxyapatite. Nanohydroxyapatite formulations are added to oral products. These are mainly applied for the treatment of sensitivity of teeth. Nanohydroxyapatite are also used for the remineralization of teeth.³⁴ Nanohydroxyapatite is a safe preference for use in mouth as mentioned by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.³⁵ Nanohydroxyapatite is added to several oral products (e.g., mouthwashes, toothpastes, and dentifrices) owing to their desensitization and remineralization characteristics. Additionally, these formulations can provide an alternative to fluoride-based toothpastes.⁵

3.8. Nano Tris-biphenyl Triazine. Tris-biphenyl triazines are strong and highly photostable filters added to several sunscreen products.³⁶ Tris-biphenyl triazine functions in a broader spectrum as a powerful UV protectant and offers more photostability when used in its nanoform. It is an accepted protectant for UV rays that is added broadly in many creams and lotions in Europe. Nano methylene bis-benzo triazolyl tetramethyl butylphenol is also widely used for UV protection in the European market. It is approved to be applied at percentages of 10% (w/w) to dermal formulations.³⁶ Nano methylene bis-benzo triazolyl tetramethyl butylphenol does not represent any toxicity or danger to people. Nevertheless, certain concerns were raised lately related to probable

detrimental side effects after applying these formulations, being that these can bioaccumulate in some human tissues.⁵

3.9. Fullerene. Fullerene is a spherical and 3-D chemical compound which encompasses carbon rings, entailing odd numbers of carbon atoms. Due to its special structure, it is termed as buckyballs.³⁷ Fullerenes possess restricted usages due to their hydrophobicity; nevertheless, the application of surface-active agents on fullerenes in their nanoscale can enhance their aqueous solubility and thus can productively augment their usage in cosmetics and pharmaceutical applications.⁵ Carbon fullerenes, in their nanoscales, are also broadly used in cosmetics formulations owing to their antioxidative properties. These are also extensively applied in skin-revitalizing creams/lotions due to their effective scavenging abilities of free radicals, therefore aiding in decreasing the adverse outcomes of UV rays, like wrinkles, dryness, hyperpigmentation, etc.³⁸

3.10. Nanoliposomes. Nanoliposomes are vesicles containing circular bilayers of phospholipids that range in sizes from 20 nm up to hundreds of micrometers. Nanoliposomes are broadly applied for controlled release systems in pharmaceutical, cosmetics, and medicinal sectors.³⁹ They are useful materials when added to cosmetics due to their biodegradability/biocompatibility and because of their high stability/endurance on the skin.⁴⁰ Movement of substances to the human skin and to the systemic circulation is usually restricted due to the very thick physiological barrier, i.e., stratum corneum. The drawback is alleviated by mean of reducing the materials' sizes to the nanoscale and thus cosmetics incorporating nanoliposomes augment the skin's hydration, rendering the skin smoother. Nanoliposomes have the capability of transporting active ingredients inside the deep skin layers all the way to the systemic circulation; thus, these are applied as transdermal drug delivery.⁴¹ Nanoliposomes are used for transporting pleasant odors through antiperspirants, shampoos, lipsticks, lip balms, deodorants, body/hand wash, etc. Nanoliposomes are likewise applied for moisturizing and antiaging purposes.⁴⁰ Phosphatidylcholine is a significant ingredient of nanoliposome that are applied to skin products (e.g., creams, lotions, and moisturizer), in addition to hair products (e.g., shampoos and conditioners) because of their high softening properties.⁴⁰

3.11. Nanostructured Lipid Carriers and Solid Lipid Nanoparticles. Nanostructured lipid carriers and solid-lipid nanoparticles are innovative delivery systems produced from a single shell layer with a lipoidal center. These are described as solid-state lipid matrices having their sizes in the nanoscale. Both types of nanoparticles are broadly used in manufacturing pharmaceutical and cosmetics formulations.⁴² Their very tiny sizes permit easy entry into the corneum layer, improving the penetration of beneficial components to the skin.⁴² Nanostructured lipid carriers and solid-lipid nanoparticles possess an extreme biocompatibility and high safety.⁴³ These are also applied in film formation that aid in repairing the skin barriers, rendering them suitable for cosmetics that are applied for treating irritated skin and dermatitis.⁴⁴ Solid lipid nanoparticles are added to sunscreen formulations as carriers of tocopherol acetate, where these have shown an improved UV rays blocking ability.⁴⁵ The crystalline nature of solid-lipid nanoparticles leads to a lower encapsulation when compared with nanostructured lipid carriers that possess better encapsulation efficiency. Furthermore, solid-lipid nanoparticles have short

shelf-lives and slower drug release rates when compared with nanostructured lipid carriers.⁴⁶

3.12. Nanocapsules. Nanocapsules are vesicular systems composed of polymer membranes with an internal liquid core (e.g., water or oily phase) being encapsulated at a nanoscale level. Nanocapsules are used in cosmetics for masking bad odors, protecting active components, and easing incompatibility among the various ingredients in the prepared formulations. Polymeric nanocapsules are directly applied as suspensions to human skin or alternately could be formulated with semisolid systems to be used as nanocarriers.¹⁵ Penetration degrees to the skin are easily monitored by changing the ratios of surfactants and polymers during the manufacturing steps.⁴⁷ Polymeric nanocapsules were produced for encapsulating natural plant extracts and vitamins, which were then incorporated into semisolid formulations, e.g., lotions, moisturizers, creams, etc. After application, the formulation was stimulated by the injured skin (e.g., occurrence of enzymes and pH alterations) and then induced the capsules to release the active constituents at specific parts of the skin.⁴⁷ In addition, a sustained release of fragrances is efficiently established by means of encapsulating fragrance molecules in polymeric nanocarriers.⁴⁷

3.13. Dendrimers. Dendrimers are 3-D organic nanostructured entities which are comprehensively branched with their diameters ranging between 1 and 10 nm. This excessive branching accounts for their excessive adaptability as the branches' terminals deliver a huge source of nanosized particles with diverse surface functionalities.¹⁵ Dendrimer originates from Greek terms, viz., "Dendron", which simply means a tree, and "Meros", which means a part.⁷ Dendrimers are ordered branches of polymers with high stability; thus, these are beneficial in delivering active ingredients to the skin via creams and lotions. For instance, dendrimers of resveratrol, with antiaging/antioxidant properties, amended the solubility and enhanced the skin infiltration of antiaging creams.¹⁵ Likewise, dendrimers' monodispersion and polyvalence make them efficient carriers for drug, remedies, and cosmetic formulations. Dendrimers can be added to shampoos, conditioners, and antiperspirants with an elevated efficiency of cleaning and high ability of reducing bad smells.¹⁵

3.14. Cubosomes. Cubosomes are nanosized materials with surfactants comprising sufficient quantities of water. Monoglyceride glycerol monoolein is commonly applied as a surfactant for producing cubosomes fluid crystalline nanosized particles.¹⁴ These nanosized particles are added in cosmetics, especially in creams for skincare and hair care and also in antiperspirant formulations.¹⁴ A study reported that cubosomes integrating α -lipoic acid was effective for alleviating skin aging.⁴⁸ Additionally, cubosomes containing erythromycin showed better activities in preventing acne, working in a sustained-release manner.¹⁴ Cosmetic sectors are also investigating the use of cubosomes as absorbents of pollutants during the preparation steps of cosmetics.¹⁵

3.15. Nanoemulsions. Nanoemulsions are usually either oil-in-water or water-in-oil colloids whose sizes range between 2 and 150 nm.⁴⁹ The droplets' tiny sizes make nanoemulsions alluring optically, besides possessing an improved drug delivery ability. Additionally, the nanoemulsions' high solubilization capability, low viscosity, and high kinetic consistency make them efficient for cleansing purposes. They are added to hand washes, shampoos, hand creams, body lotions, moisturizers, and sunscreen formulations. These nanoparticles are likewise

applied in the design process of innovative delivery systems of lipophilic drugs, essential oils, fatty acids, flavors, and colors/pigments.⁵⁰ Oil-in-water nanoemulsions especially enhance the penetration capabilities of polar components when compared to conventional emulsions.⁵¹ Additionally, antioxidants suffer from various limitations when added to cosmetics formulations (e.g., instability and insolubility), and accordingly, researchers have formulated antioxidants as nanoemulsions having an improved efficiency.⁵²

3.16. Niosomes. Niosomes are nanoparticles having their centers in aqueous cavities enclosed by non-ionic surfactant layers in a lamellar phase system. Niosomes' diameters typically range from 100 nm to 2 μ m.¹⁵ Niosomes are used as efficient vesicular carriers for both cosmetics' and drugs' active ingredients. Niosomes have a high stability, possess a high entrapment efficiency, reveal an enhanced skin penetration ability, and have low production costs. Niosomes are especially useful in delivery of topical products due to their ability of elongating the residence durations of the transported active contents inside the stratum corneum and in the epidermis too.²⁰

3.17. Micellar Nanoparticles. Micellar nanoparticle-based emulsions offer a multipurpose and useful platform for incorporating a varied range of lipophilic ingredients, showing varied beneficial physicochemical characteristics in cosmetic products. Micellar nanoparticles have premium encapsulation efficiencies and low manufacturing costs, which makes them superior to other nanocarriers.¹⁸ Typically, these are added to cleansers for efficient removal of oily dirt from the surface of the skin with no harm to the barrier integrities. Besides being effective cleansers, micellar nanosized particles are mandatory in the transdermal drug delivery sector. These nanoemulsions are successfully used for systemic drug delivery by means of topical application. Large amounts of the drug are allowable to permeate through the skin obtaining similar outcomes as those attained from transdermal drug delivery routes, thus making micellar nanoparticle formulations highly acceptable to consumers.⁵

4. MAJOR CLASSES OF NANOCOSMETICS

4.1. Moisturizing Creams. Nanosized particles are being lately added to many cosmetics' products to satisfy several needs and perform certain functions. Stratum corneum is the major barrier of human skin and leads water to evaporate easily from the skin causing dryness and dehydration. Skin dehydration could be avoided by means of applying moisturizers. Moisturizers produce a fine film of humectant that maintains moisture to the skin and gives it a better appearance, making it look fresh, supple, and smooth.¹⁵ In addition to aiding for a better look, moisturizers have medicinal benefits as well, for instance, ailments of atopic pruritus and dermatitis are controlled and sometimes even stopped when the skin is hydrated well using moisturizers.¹⁵ Cosmetics' sectors have lately been using nanoliposomes for delivering cosmetics' active constituents (e.g., vitamin E, retinol, calcium, etc.) to enhance their solubility besides adding beauty/shimmer to the skin.⁵ Nevertheless, nanostructured lipid carriers/solid lipid nanoparticles are more innovative nanosized materials having proven enhanced deliveries and higher stabilities than nanosized liposomes that have been previously solely used. When these are added to moisturizers, they provide a more controlled occlusion and higher bioavailability of the enclosed active ingredient, thus providing a superior

hydration to the skin.⁵ Last, but not least, gold nanoparticles are also added to some types of moisturizers. These formulations were reported to provide antioxidant, healing, and antibacterial properties.¹⁵

4.2. UV Filters and Sunscreens. Sunscreen formulations are universally used as a protection means of the human skin against the adverse consequences of UV rays.²⁴ Titanium oxide and zinc oxide are the major UV filters that are being added in their nanoforms to sunscreen formulations. These are the most efficient mineral-based active ingredient that are approved worldwide and were proven to effectively protect the skin from damage due to the sun's rays.²⁴ While some organic chemicals substitutes are being lately experimented with to be used for the same regard, titanium oxide and zinc oxide are still the best to protect against the UV harmful rays. Both minerals form barriers on the outer layer of the skin which reflect the UVA/UVB detrimental rays and also avoid their permeation to the skin layers.²⁴ Another advantage of using sunscreens containing titanium oxide and zinc oxide nanoparticles is avoiding some of the drawbacks of traditional sunscreen formulations, e.g., leaving a chalky white layer on the skin.¹⁵ Conversely, sunscreens entailing titanium oxide and zinc oxide nanomaterials are less greasy, translucent, and not smelly and possess an augmented beautifying effect.¹⁵

4.3. Antiaging Products. Skin aging is a normal process and occurs in several ways, like dryness, wrinkles, thinning, decrease of elasticity, existence of dark acnes, alteration of the surface line isotropy, etc. Besides the normal aging process, air pollution, stress, UV rays, drinking/washing with contaminated water, and illness/ailments cause early aging of the skin.⁵³ Collagen is a protein that serves as the lead building blocks of the skin and is vital for the skin's rejuvenation/wrinkle reversal effects. Collagen is what gives our skin a youthful look and its quantity drops with aging.¹⁵ Cosmetics were developed to satisfy the skin's need for the lost collagen. These are aimed for antiwrinkle, lifting, and whitening purposes.⁵³ Antiaging creams are the chief class of cosmetics in the market presently incorporating the use of nanotechnology. To be specific, addition of retinol to creams can elevate the epidermal water content, cell renewal, and epidermal hyperplasia, besides augmenting collagen's production.⁵³ An antiwrinkle cream was developed containing retinol nanosomes which was proven to reduce wrinkles to a great extent.¹⁵ Additionally, retinol encapsulated in nanosomes was proven to interfere with melanogenesis and prevent matrices' metalloproteinases, which were responsible for collagen's reduction. Last, but not least, clinical benefits of retinol encapsulated in nanosomes include the lightening of lentigines.¹⁵

4.4. Hair Care. Nanocosmetics have been lately added to several hair products, such as hair growth repair products, shampoos, conditioners, hair leave-in products, styling sprays/gels, dyes, etc. A big quantity of the active ingredients can reach the hair follicles efficiently due to the intrinsic properties and small sizes of nanoparticles.⁵⁴ Innovative nanocarriers (e.g., nanospheres, niosomes, liposomes, etc.), being added to diverse hair products have the ability of renovating impaired cuticles and fixing the texture/gloss of damaged hair.⁵⁴ Considering shampoos specifically, nanoparticles added to shampoo formulations have the ability to seal moisture on the cuticles through enhancing the contact duration with the scalp and hair follicles. In addition, conditioners containing nanocosmetics provide shine, softness, and gloss to the hair; besides that, they enhance hair anti-tangling.⁵⁴

4.5. Skin Cleansers, Disinfectants, Soaps, and Antiseptics. Human skin is naturally protected by a hydrolipid coat which contains discharges from the sebaceous glands and from the apocrine sweat glands as well. Besides providing a natural protection against microbial/pathogenic organisms, this thin film unfortunately attracts dust, dirt, and impurities.¹⁵ Continuous cleaning of the skin is mandatory to remove dirt to maintain the skin as healthy and bright. Cleansing is also needed for bacterial removal from the skin's surface, the pathogenic organism being naturally attained by the application of medications, makeup, and other cosmetic products.¹⁵ Certain nanoparticles are being integrated into cleansers, disinfectants, and antiseptics for a better cleansing performance. For instance, silver nanoparticles have a broad-range of antibactericidal activities and accordingly are extensively applied as a skin disinfectant. Precisely, Evolut hand sanitizers include silver nanoparticles in their formulations. This product has been proven to be a highly effective disinfectant. It is also recognized to be hypoallergenic and produces immunity against airborne germs.⁵

4.6. Lip Products. Lipsticks, lip balms, and lip glosses are applied as coatings mainly for beautifying reasons. Lip care and beautifying products may nowadays include nanosized materials for many purposes.¹⁵ For instance, nanoparticles are added to lip care products to achieve soft and sooth lips by means of preventing trans-epidermal water loss from the surface of lips.¹⁵ Besides, maintaining the smoothness of lips, lipstick products entailing nanoparticles provide excessive luster/shine to the lips' appearance owing to their very trivial sizes, thus improving the aesthetic appearance.⁵ Lip sticks, prepared using gold or silver nanoparticles specifically, exhibit a wide range of colors, and the color is maintained for long durations after application. Lastly, silica nanoparticles added to lipsticks advance the homogeneous distribution of pigments throughout the formulation and avoid the pigments from moving to the lips' fine line.¹⁵

4.7. Nail Polish. Nail polishes entailing nanoparticles in their formulations possess several advantages over the conventional nail polishes. For instance, nail polishes consisting of nanoparticles have the ability to dry to a very hard state, besides that those develop firmness, durability, damage resistance, and stability to the applied polishes.¹⁵ A novel approach, which possesses a huge potential in the cosmetics sector, is the integration of nanosized inorganic materials displaying antifungal activities in nail polish formulations for treating fungal toe nail infections. The types of nanoparticles that were proven successful for this regard are silver and metal oxide nanoparticles.¹⁵ Last, but not least, nail polishes having nanoparticles resist scratching as their elasticity gives an ease of application without cracking.¹⁵

5. SUSTAINABILITY AND GREEN COSMETICS

There is currently an increasing awareness toward alleviating pollution. The globe is shifting toward adapting green ecological ideologies that are grounded to three pillars, namely, recycle, reduce, and reuse.⁵⁵ Currently, several cosmetic companies are striving toward developing products that are entirely composed of environmentally friendly, biocompatible, and biodegradable raw materials.⁵⁶ The advantages of novel nanosized particles are many, including their highly porous structure, augmented drug loading, and high mechanical strength, along with showing biocompatibility that makes them appropriate candidates of the novel trend of green

Table 2. Natural Ingredients Used for Preparing Nanocosmetics

Natural Source	Delivery System	Nanoformulation Benefits or Functions	Ref
Vegetable/Seed Oils and Fats			
Almond oil	Nanostructured lipid carriers	Sun screen formulations	79
Castor oil	Nanoencapsulation	Development of beneficial topical products	80
Cocoa butter	Solid-lipid nanoparticles	β -Carotene delivery	68
	Solid-lipid nanoparticles	Efficient antiaging effects	81
	Solid-lipid/liquid–liquid nanoparticles	Stability of β -carotene	82
Coconut oil	Nanoemulsion	Production of haircare treatment products	83
Coffee oil	Pickering emulsions	Sun screen formulations	84
Grape seed oil	Nanoencapsulation	Effective antioxidant	85
	Microemulsion	Topical cosmetic products	86
Jojoba oil	Nanolipidgels	Emollients and moisturizers	87
	Microemulsion	Solubilization of lycopene	88
Linseed oil	Nanoemulsion	Transdermal application	89
Olive oil	Lipid nanoparticles	Antioxidant agent	90
	Nanoemulsion	Lipstick base	91
	Nanoemulsion	Analgesic and anti-inflammatory effects	92
	Nanoencapsulation	Cutaneous applications for skin protection	93
	Microemulsion	Antioxidant and skin moisturizer	94
	Liposomes, ethosomes, and transferosomes	Boosting skin hydration level and sebum content	95
Palm oil	Nanoemulsion	Vitamin E encapsulation	96
	Nanoemulsion	Efficient antiaging effects	97
Pomegranate seed oil	Nanostructured lipid carriers	Efficient antioxidant effects	98
	Nanostructured lipid carriers	Photoprotection activity against UV rays	99
	Nanostructured lipid carriers	Sun screen formulations	100
Pumpkin oil	Nanostructured lipid carriers	Development of biocosmetic products	101
Rapeseed oil	Nanoemulsion	Development of cosmetic matrix with multiple ingredients	102
Rice bran oil	Nanostructured lipid carriers	Photoprotective cosmetics/minimal synthetic UV filters	103
	Nanoemulsion	Antiaging skin care	104
Rosehip oil	Nanostructured lipid carriers	Development of antiacne topical products	78
Sesame oil	Nanostructured lipid carriers	Photoprotection with antioxidant activity	105, 106
Shea butter	Solid-lipid nanoparticle	Curcumin delivery	107, 108
Soybean oil	Nanoemulsion	Mouth freshener	109
	Nanostructured lipid carriers	Increasing the bioavailability of bioactive compounds	110
	Microemulsion	Microencapsulation of antioxidant extracts	111
Sunflower oil	Nanoemulsion	Nanoencapsulation of antibacterial compounds	112
	Nanostructured lipid carriers	Production of safe biocosmetics	113
	Essential Oils		
Bergamot	Nanoencapsulation	Antibacterial and antimicrobial properties	114
Carvacrol	Microemulsion	Antimicrobial agent for moisturizing creams	115
Citral	Nanoencapsulation	Antimicrobial agent in several cosmetic formulations	116
Clove	Microemulsion	Antimicrobial agent	117
	Solid-lipid nanoparticles	Antibacterial and antioxidant agent	118
Coriander	Nanoemulsion	Antiwrinkle activities	119
Cumin	Nanoemulsion	Antioxidant agent	120
Green tea	Nanoencapsulation	Antioxidant and antimicrobial properties	121
Holey basil	Nanoemulsion	Efficient antiacne agent	122
Lemongrass	Nanoemulsion	Antioxidant agent	123
Lemon myrtle oil	Nanoemulsion	Antimicrobial agent	124
Marijuana	Nanoencapsulation	Antioxidant agent	125
Nam nam	Nanoencapsulation	Antioxidant and antimicrobial properties	126
Oregano	Nanoencapsulation	Antibacterial agent	127
	Nanoemulsion	Antimicrobial agent	128
	Nanoemulsion	Antiacne agent	129
Peppermint	Nanoemulsion	Antimicrobial wound healing	130
Preciosa	Nanoemulsion	Healing of infected wounds	131
Tea tree	Nanoencapsulation	Antifungal agent for nails	132
	Nanoencapsulation	Beneficial face creams	77
Thyme	Nanoemulsion	Antibacterial agent	133
	Nanoemulsion	Antifungal agent for infected areas	134
Thymol	Solid-lipid nanoparticles	Antimicrobial agent in cosmetics lotions	135

Table 2. continued

Natural Source	Delivery System	Nanoformulation Benefits or Functions	Ref
		Plants	
<i>Abutilon indicum</i>	Metal nanoparticles	Photocatalytic properties	136
<i>Achyrocline satureioides</i>	Nanoemulsion	Boosting of active ingredients' absorption on skin	137
<i>Adhatoda vasica</i>	Nanoemulsion	Cold cream formulations	138
<i>Aloe vera</i>	Nanoencapsulation	Enhancement of proliferation and collagen synthesis	139
	Microemulsion	Optimizing hair growth	140
	Liposomes	Antiaging and regeneration of skin creams	141
	Solid-lipid nanoparticles	Highly photoprotective sunscreen creams	142
<i>Ananas comosus</i>	Nanoemulsion	Topical creams	143
<i>Apium graviolens</i>	Microemulsion	Optimizing hair growth	140
<i>Armoracia rusticana</i>	Liposomes	Antioxidant agent	144
<i>Bixa orellana</i>	Polymeric nanoparticles	Sun screen formulations	145
<i>Brassica nigra</i>	Phytosomes	Wound healing formulations	146
<i>Brassica oleraceae</i>	Nanoencapsulation	Gels that protect against UV radiations	147
<i>Calendula officinalis</i>	Nanostructured lipid carriers	Remission of inflammatory acne lesion	148
<i>Camellia sinensis</i>	Polymeric nanoparticles	Enhancing the bioactivity of ingredients	149
	Ethosomes	Antioxidant agent	150
<i>Carthamus tinctorius</i>	Nanostructured lipid carriers	Diverse cosmetic formulations	151
<i>Centella asiatica</i>	Nanoencapsulation	Enhance skin protection activity	152
	Nanoemulsion	Cellulite reduction	153
<i>Centaurea pumilio</i>	Solid-lipid nanoparticles	Combating dark spots	154
<i>Citrus auranticum</i>	Nanoencapsulation	Antioxidant and antiaging creams	155
<i>Citrus sinensis</i>	Nanoemulsion	Antiaging cream/increasing elastin and collagen in skin	156
<i>Coleus forskohlii</i>	Solid-lipid nanoparticles	Wound healing and collagen deposition	157
	Solid-lipid nanoparticles	Antibacterial agent	158
<i>Curcuma longa</i>	Nanoemulsion	Improvement in skin hydration and sebum content	159
	Nanoencapsulation	Gels for elevation of skin hydration	160
	Transfersomes	Facial antiwrinkle cream	161
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Nanostructured lipid carriers	Antiacne cream	162
<i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i>	Nanoencapsulation	Healing of infected wounds	163
<i>Garcinia mangostana</i>	Polymeric nanoparticles	Antiacne agent	164
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Solid-lipid nanoparticles	Sun screen fillers	165
<i>Hibiscus sabdariffa</i>	Liposomes	Improving dermal penetration	166
<i>Iresine herbstii</i>	Solid-lipid nanoparticles	Antibacterial and antioxidant agent	167
<i>Labisia pumila</i>	Liposomes	Antiaging creams	168
<i>Lavandula</i>	Nanoencapsulation	Creams with antiaging properties	169
<i>Matricaria recutita</i>	Nanofibers	Skin-protective activities	170
<i>Mirabilis jalapa</i>	Bimetallic nanoparticles	Antibacterial agent	171
<i>Morinda lucida</i>	Solid-lipid nanoparticles	Transdermal transporter for plastic surgeries	172
<i>Nerium oleander</i>	Niosomes	Antioxidant agent	173
<i>Ocimum sanctum</i>	Nanostructured lipid carriers	Topical antiaging cream	174
<i>Olea europaea</i>	Nanoencapsulation	Diverse cosmetic formulations	175
<i>Opuntia ficus-indica</i>	Nanoemulsion	Moisturizers and emollients	176
<i>Orthosiphon stamineus</i>	Solid-lipid nanoparticles	Antioxidant agent	177
<i>Oryza sativa</i>	Niosomes	Antiaging creams	178
<i>Oxytropis falcata Bunge</i>	Liposomes	Gels with wound healing and anti-inflammatory properties	179
<i>Panax ginseng</i>	Metal nanoparticles	Moisture retention capabilities and whitening effects	180
	Metal nanoparticles	Protective skin formulation	181
<i>Phyllanthus urinaria</i>	Nanoemulsion	Topical antiaging cream	182
<i>Phragmites communis</i>	Solid-lipid nanoparticles	Moisturizing agent	183
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	Solid-lipid nanoparticles	Transdermal delivery of antiaging therapeutics	184
<i>Poria cocos</i>	Cubosomes	Hair-growth promoting properties	185
<i>Prosopis juliflora</i>	Solid-lipid nanoparticles	Wound healing potential	186
<i>Pueraria mirifica</i>	Niosomes	Expands the lobules and alveoli of the breasts	187
	Solid-lipid nanoparticles	Hair growth promotion	188
<i>Punica granatum</i>	Solid-lipid nanoparticles	Improving sun protection factor in sunscreen creams	189
<i>Tamarindus indica</i>	Polymeric nanoparticles	Improvement of skin properties	190
<i>Theobroma cacao</i>	Nanoencapsulation	Face serum with antioxidant properties	191
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Solid-lipid nanoparticles	Strengthens hair follicles/improves scalp circulation	187
<i>Vellozia squamata</i>	Nanoemulsion	Antioxidant agent	192
<i>Woodfordia fruticosa</i>	Solid-lipid nanoparticles	Wound healing potential	193

cosmetics.⁵⁶ Along the trend of “going organic” in most industrial sectors these days, e.g., organic fruits and organic clothes; the same is being mirrored in the cosmetics sector. The rising awareness of consumers in using organic sustainable products has urged the cosmetics industry to make products formed from natural sources, while ensuring that the industrial steps used pose no/or minimal harm to the environment.⁵⁶ Marketing trends are presently shifting toward natural cosmetics that contribute to a healthier lifestyle. Researchers are investigating novel ways and routes for sustainable nanosized particles production, aiming for reducing the environmental risks which might be correlated to the traditional physicochemical production techniques.⁵⁶

Novel oligosaccharide-based nanosized materials are currently being investigated as green nanocarriers that could be used for producing innovative smart cosmetics. Some of these biocompatible and eco-friendly natural materials are chitin, nanofibrils, nanolignin, nanocellulose, pullulan, and chitosan.⁵⁷ Bilal et al.³³ have developed a novel eco-friendly hair dye consisting of nanoparticles. They joined chitosan and graphene nanoparticles for the preparation of the colored nanoformulations which showed no environmental hazards. Further development in this area was performed by utilizing silica halloysite clay nanotubes which were integrated via eco-friendly peptide molecules. This nanoformulation has also shown a huge potential in the development of a novel biodegradable and biocompatible hair products.⁵⁷ Likewise, various environmentally friendly bridgeable biopolyesters, e.g., polyhydroxyalkanoates and polylactic acid, are currently under investigation for being used in certain cosmetics in their nanoforms. These might be potentially marketed as green cosmetic product.⁵⁸ Additionally, nanocosmetics incorporating ingredients extracted from natural resources, including plants and others, are likewise in need for the production of sustainable cosmetics and are elaborately discussed in the subsequent section.⁵⁹ Essential oils, for instance, are volatile oils consisting of low molecular weight compounds. Fragrances of essential oils impact the overall value of cosmetics. In that context essential oils are being exploited as eco-friendly and biodegradable nanoformulations in cosmetics.⁵⁹ Sugumar et al.⁶⁰ formulated essential oils into nanoparticles. They developed a nanoemulgel via preparing oil-in-water nanoemulsions comprising mangosteen extract aiming to deliver its antibacterial, antioxidant, antiviral, and antitumoral bioactivities. Mangosteen essential oil also has regenerative and emollient characteristics which makes it optimum for formulations to treat damaged skin. The nanoemulgel with mangosteen micelles was reported to penetrate the skin layer efficiently, delivering 95% of the mangosteen content, besides possessing no harm to the environment. Additionally, CeO₂ nanosized crystals were biosynthesized by utilizing *Hoodia gordonii* natural extracts to be added as additives to sunscreen formulation. The nanocrystals revealed an extraordinary UV selectivity and a remarkable photostability; in addition to being biosynthesized thus posing no harm to the eco-system.⁶¹ Furthermore, an extract of Namibian red ochre was used as a natural ingredient in a nanoformulation that was added to skin beauty and protective creams. The natural-based biocompatible nanocosmetics product exhibited an extraordinary UV filtration, besides having substantial IR reflectivity abilities.⁶² Lignin is the second most abundant organic compound found in plants and is known for its antioxidant potency and UV protection capabilities. In one of the research works,

environmentally friendly sunscreens were prepared after changing modified kraft lignin to nanosized particles to enhance its properties. The nanoformulation significantly enhanced the UV absorption capabilities of sunscreens. To be precise, sunscreens consisting of the modified nanosized kraft lignin showed lower UV transmittance (0.5–3.8%) when compared with the commercial sunscreen formulations.⁶³

6. NATURAL INGREDIENTS IN NANOCOSMETICS

Being inspired by the global sustainability move and the urge to reduce the carbon footprint, consumers are nowadays demanding natural healthy products prepared by environmentally friendly manufacturing processes. Many botanical products can be used as cosmetics ingredients, and these are abundant in polyphenols, vitamins, antioxidants, essential oils, minerals, proteins, and terpenoids.² Botanicals support the health and integrity of the skin, hair, and nails. These are the largest group of cosmetics additives found in the market these days because of the rising consumer interest in natural products. Many plants that formed the base of medicinal treatments of ancient civilizations are still used nowadays in cleansers/moisturizers and in many other skin care products. The cosmetics industry is investigating these compounds' biological effects in order to develop eco-friendly cosmetic products. Indeed, a rising number and types of cosmetic formulations constitute plant and vegetable extracts which are typically used in regular human nutrition as nutritious food. Novel botanical skin care treatments are emerging, giving dermatologists the challenge of understanding the science behind these cosmetics. Thus, dermatologists should have a working knowledge of these botanicals to provide optimal medical care.⁶⁴

6.1. Vegetable Oils and Fats. Vegetable oils and fats are a class of the most significant natural ingredients applied in the production of cosmetics (Table 2). Both have different physical states at room temperature where oils are in a liquid state whereas fats are in a solid state.⁶⁵ Vegetable oils are usually constituted mainly by triacylglycerols and smaller amounts of monoacyl- and diacylglycerols. They also contain phytosterols, fat-soluble vitamins, alcohols, free fatty acids, polyphenols, terpenes, etc.⁶⁶

Fatty acids, specifically, are useful for the maintenance of stratum corneum integrity. This is particularly relevant for some inflammatory/skin ailments such as dermatitis, psoriasis, and eczema where the chief resolution is replenishing the intracellular lipids to restore the stratum corneum using lotions and creams. Vegetable oils, containing fatty acids, increase the moisturization and softness of the skin; besides, it is useful for the epidermis structure recovery.⁶⁵ Linoleic and α -linolenic acids are the most beneficial fatty acids for maintaining the structure of the skin. Linoleic acid is also essential for the integrity of the cutaneous barrier as it prevents the loss of water. Additionally, it forms a part of the ceramide-1 structure, which is principal for stratum corneum organization and also for producing arachidonic acid (i.e., a significant mediator that is involved in synthesizing proinflammatory eicosanoids). Moreover, α -linolenic acid is important for immune response in the epidermis and also for producing docosahexaenoic/eicosapentaenoic acids (i.e., these produce anti-inflammatory eicosanoids).⁶⁵

Vegetable oils are abundant in polyphenols which possess antioxidant activities. According to the different chemical compositions, polyphenols are classified into four major

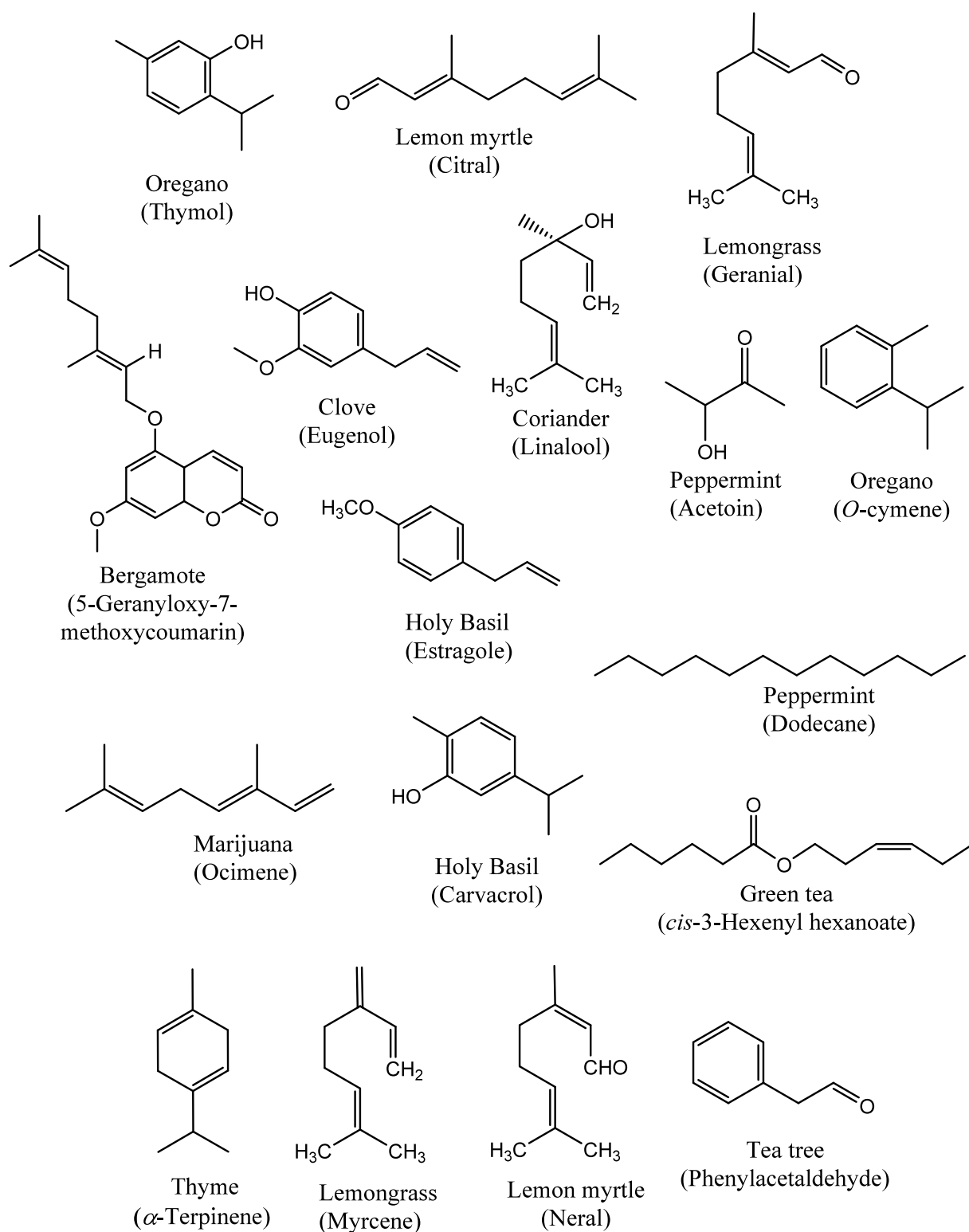


Figure 3. Chemical structures of selected main ingredients of essential oils used in nanocosmetics.

groups, i.e., phenolic acids, flavonoids, stilbenes, and lignans. Polyphenols chelate metal ions, which are key in generating reactive oxygen species, and by scavenging the free radicals, therefore counteracting lipid peroxidation, cell death, oxidative stresses, DNA damages, etc.¹² Another benefit of polyphenols is its photoprotection activity for the skin, and it is also capable of preventing photocarcinogenesis. Besides, polyphenols are anti-allergy agents having the ability of influencing multiple

biological pathways and immune cell functions involved in allergic immune response. Polyphenols also possess anti-immunomodulatory and anti-inflammatory properties. Last but not least, these are capable of promoting DNA repair and can also act as chemopreventive agents.⁶⁵

Vegetable oils are applied as vehicles for dispersing active ingredients which are used for preparing emulsions. These are also applied as the liquid lipid for the formulation of

nanostructured lipid carrier matrices. The inner phase of those nanocarriers comprises a combination of both solid lipids and liquid composing a formulation having low-ordered internal assembly if compared with the solid-lipid nanoparticles.⁶⁷

Fats, on the other hand, have high quantities of saturated fatty acids when compared to vegetable oils. Although most fats are derived from animals, yet some are extracted from plants, e.g., shea butter, cocoa butter, palm oil, etc.⁶⁸ Shea butter is derived from kernels of *Vitellaria paradoxa*, and it mainly comprises triglycerides of palmitic, stearic, oleic, and linolenic fatty acids. Shea butter also has phenols, tocopherol, sterols, and triterpenes, which possess antioxidant and anti-inflammatory characteristics.⁶⁹ Also, it has refatting properties and water-binding activities, which enable water retention on skin for prolonged durations. Shea butter is also a great ingredient for skin/hair formulations owing to its emollient properties. Last but not least, it promotes the inactivation of proteases which is important in the degradation of collagen/elastases and can absorb UV radiation; thus, it is highly beneficial for both sunscreen and antiaging creams.⁶⁹

Cocoa butter is a raw fat extracted from cocoa beans of *Theobroma cacao*. Cocoa butter is a good source of antioxidants because it is rich in phenols (e.g., epigallocatechin, epicatechin, anthocyanins, flavanones, etc.) whose beneficial effects on skin's tonus and elasticity is scientifically proven. It consists of the beneficial vitamin E, sterols, triglycerides, and many fatty acids (for example, oleic, linoleic, stearic, and palmitic acids). It has emollient characteristics conferring firmness to the skin. Accordingly, cocoa butter is used in several cosmetic products, for instance, softening feet and hand lotions, lip glosses and balms, moisturizer creams for diverse skin types, etc.⁷⁰ Palm oil is also a natural raw material which is derived from the mesocarp of palm tree, namely, *Elais guineensis*. Palm oil is composed of around 40–60% saturated fatty acids, palmitic acid being the most significant fatty acids (36–56%). It also has a high content of oleic acid (29–44%), sterols, carotenoids, tocopherols, and aliphatic alcohols.⁷¹

Fats are applied for preparing nanostructured lipid carriers and solid-lipid nanoparticles. Both types of nanoparticle carriers have a nanosize. When these are applied on the skin, the systems get directly in contact with stratum corneum, permitting a release of active ingredients efficiently to the epidermis. Furthermore, the lipid content of these colloidal systems permits the composition of films having an occlusive effect on the surface of the skin, consequently lessening the trans-epidermal loss of water.⁷¹

6.2. Essential Oils. Essential oils are volatile/aromatic liquids derived from a variety of plants' parts, including barks, leaves, flowers, buds, stems, twigs, fruits, seeds, roots, etc.⁷² Examples of essential oils include tea tree, lemongrass, clove, preciosa, holy basil, coriander, ylang ylang, thyme, peppermint, rosemary, nam nam, marijuana, oregano, frankincense, patchouli, geranium, tangerine, cedarwood, rosemary, lavender, etc. (Table 2). Figure 3 represents the chemical structures of some of the previously used essential oils in cosmetics through applying nanotechnology. These natural oils are employed extensively in the cosmetics sector worldwide, and these are primarily applied for their pleasant and distinctive aroma. They have broad medicinal values as antioxidant, antibacterial, anti-inflammatory, and antifungal agents. Essential oils have the ability to heal damaged skin and provide deep nourishment. For instance, lavender and tea tree essential oils have anti-inflammatory properties that reduce irritation and inflamma-

tion linked to certain skin conditions, e.g., acne, eczema, and psoriasis. In addition, frankincense and patchouli essential oils alleviate wrinkles, hence improving skin's appearance.⁷² Essential oils cannot be applied topically due to their high volatility and also there is a big probability that some of their ingredients can react allergically with the skin; accordingly they should be diluted with carrier oils such as olive, neem, avocado, castor, coconut, and sunflowers oils. Furthermore, stability problems also emerge when using these oils in their raw forms.⁷³ Also, the unsaturated carbon chains of certain ingredients of essential oils are prone to oxidation after exposure to light and heat. Besides, terpenoids and sesquiterpenes found in many essential oils have demonstrated a strong allergenic potency upon oxidation.⁷⁴ Moreover, the low solubility of essential oils in water restricts their miscibility in biological fluids, resulting in low bioavailability of their useful/natural chemical compounds.⁷³ While emulsion systems, such as lotions, ointments, and creams, have been used in the past to deliver essential oils, formulation scientists are now concentrating on utilizing cutting-edge nanotechnologies that can improve the product's functionality. The ideal solution would be to encapsulate essential oils in nanodelivery systems, which would help preserve an oil's integrity. The oil can then be released gradually in small amounts, allowing the essential oils to stay on skin for prolonged durations of time while promoting an improved biological activity of its beneficial ingredients.⁷³

6.3. Plants. Throughout human evolution, people have been using plants as herbal medicines.¹⁵ It started when people first learned to select certain natural plants as food sources aiming to treat illnesses. For instance, over 800 medicinal plants, including aloe vera, garlic, juniper, retem, cannabis, castor bean, and mandrake root were widely used in ancient Egyptian civilization. Various cultures within Europe, comprising the Celts, Greeks, Romans, and Nordic communities, likewise applied herbal medicine as a major constituent of their therapeutic traditions.⁷⁵ Throughout the centuries, scientists have been impressed by the vast diversity of physicochemical and biological properties found in natural plant species. Plants are rich in vitamins, antioxidants, proteins, etc. These elements can work synergistically, providing several health benefits for skin. Most plant extracts exhibit antioxidant activity which fight free radicals. These free radicals can damage cells and contribute to signs of aging. Other plant species can help treat skin discoloration issues by inhibiting tyrosinase enzyme. Another advantage of plants is their antimicrobial properties which makes them fight off harmful microorganisms, including certain bacteria that can cause skin infections.⁷⁵ Accordingly, understanding the plants' chemical structures and their widely used applications is becoming a priority for the scientific communities across all scientific domains.⁷⁶ Numerous research teams have examined the biological activity of plants with an emphasis on how these plants could aid in the cosmetics industry.⁶⁴ Plant extracts possess poor solubility and low stability when used in their raw forms. Vehicles are therefore important to control the proper absorption and the biological response while simultaneously increasing the solubility of the active ingredient. Also, vesicles can minimize the degradation procedure, reduce any toxicity, and mask any unpleasant flavor.¹¹ The majority of biologically active ingredients found in plant extracts, including tannins, terpenoids, and flavonoids, have high molecular sizes, making them unable to cross lipid membranes, which reduces their

Table 3. Environmental Impact of Nanoparticles

Nanomaterial	Environmental Risks	Reasons/Effects	Ref
Carbon nanoparticles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cytotoxicity in humans' cells and other mammals as well 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Altering the biogeochemical cycles of many nutrients • Ruining the nutrient's natural balance • Disturbing the microbes' metabolic activities 	194
Silver nanoparticles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toxicity risks in the aquatic environment • Absorbed by soil 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Causing oxidative stress • Increasing the activities of antioxidant enzymes • Ruining cell membranes 	200, 201
Titanium dioxide nanoparticles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Releasing the toxic titanium dioxide in water • Damaging the aquatic life with a chronic exposure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Influencing of either water bodies composition or UV rays 	5, 202
Zinc oxide nanoparticles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toxic to plants and seaweeds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impeding metabolic pathways disturbing growth/functions of cells 	203
Carbon black	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support seed germination • Toxic to animals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Showing oxidative stress • Harming organ development and body weight 	204
Polystyrene and fullerene nanoparticles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toxic effect under biotic conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inducing oxidative stress • Harming plants following their absorption and translocation 	203

bioavailability and effectiveness. This barrier has been attempted to be avoided by a number of nanotechnological techniques, including liposomes, solid-lipid nanoparticles, polymeric nanoparticles, nanoencapsulation, and nanoemulsions. These techniques enable the use of ingredients with unlike characteristics in the same formulation and can also alter an ingredient's behavior and properties in a biological environment.⁷⁷ Not only can the new delivery systems boost the potency of active ingredients but they can also bring back in other ingredients that were eliminated from the formulation because they were not useful. This approach is made even more appealing by the possibility of improving new substances before they are put on the market. Examples of these improvements include reducing side effects, improving efficacy and selectivity, guarding against thermal or photodegradation, and controlling the release of active constituents.⁷⁸ The utilization of nanotechnology in conjunction with plant extracts to produce cosmetics has been extensively documented (Table 2). This is due to the potential for nanostructured systems to augment the beneficial effects of raw plant extracts, facilitate the prolonged release of active ingredients, minimize certain adverse effects, and enhance their activity.¹¹

7. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF NANOPARTICLES

Being vital in several biological/chemical procedures, nanoparticles can unfavorably possess harmful environmental influences.¹⁹⁴ The influences of nanomaterials on the environment rely on their isolation/segregation procedures in air, water, and soil and on how they are handled and used in the laboratory/factory.¹⁹⁵ The influences of nanoparticles also rely on their mobility and stability. Nanomaterials can trigger cell impairments by various mechanisms, including oxidative stress, autophagy, bioaccumulation, reactive oxygen species development, or lysosomal disfunctions, etc.¹⁹⁵ Due to the distinctive physical/chemical characteristics of nanosized particles, these may effortlessly pass into extremely minute spaces and can accordingly interfere with biochemical reactions in biological systems in an adverse way.¹⁹⁶ Table 3 compiles some environmental impacts of nanoparticles.

Throughout any manufacturing steps that incorporate the usage of nanoparticles, the nanomaterials may intentionally or

accidentally be discharged into the air, causing pollution and health hazards. For instance, titanium dioxide nanoparticles that are applied for pollutants decomposition and for disinfection reasons, may possess a harmful impact on the photochemical reactions of the atmosphere.¹⁹⁷ Nanoparticles may also be discarded in water bodies (e.g., rivers and streams) and in the soil, producing adverse environmental hazards. Nanoparticles with antibacterial characteristics may hinder the beneficial activities of microorganisms in water treatment plants causing malfunctions in water recycling systems.¹⁹⁴ Also, titanium dioxide nanoparticles diminish the usefulness of microbes with minimal exposure durations; thus, if these nanoparticles end up in sewage treatment plants, they might interfere with the organisms which deliver essential roles to the environment.⁵ Likewise, titanium dioxide nanoparticles, a chief ingredient in sunscreens, are discharged in huge amounts in water bodies, producing harm to aquatic life.¹⁹⁷ Additionally, nanomaterials entailing carbon display cytotoxic effects in humans through accumulating in certain organs (e.g., lungs, kidneys, liver, etc.). At elevated concentrations, these interfere with the metabolic activities of certain microbes through disturbing the nutrients' biogeochemical cycle and by disturbing the nutrients' natural balance.¹⁹⁷

Metal nanosized particles can stimulate detrimental cellular reactions and generate toxicity to human cells.¹⁹⁴ Titanium, polystyrene, and fullerene nanoparticles were found to induce oxidative stress as these possess extra toxicity under biotic compared to abiotic conditions.¹⁹⁸ Carbon containing nanoparticles, e.g., carbon fullerenes, also affect all plant species adversely following their absorption and translocation, generating adverse effects on the botanical environment. In addition, silica, silver, and zinc oxide nanoparticles, absorbed by plants, trees, and seaweeds, cause toxicity to the soil and aquatic enjoyment besides these also hinder seed germination.¹⁹⁸ It is imperative to know the main causes/sources and the environmental pathways of the nanomaterials for an accurate environmental risk assessment. However, there have been no precise guidelines accessible until nowadays to accurately measure these effects.¹⁹⁹ A lot of research work is required to estimate the interactions between nanomaterials with the ecosystem and the biological systems. Furthermore, extensive research must be done to understand the absorption,

Table 4. Impact of Nanoparticles on Human Health

Nanomaterial	Dosage	Exposure Time	Observed Effect(s)	Ref
Silver nanoparticles	125–200 mg/mL	24 days	○ Oxidative damage ○ Upregulated stress	210
	125–500 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$	1–28 days	○ Pulmonary inflammation, granuloma formation	211
Zinc oxide nanoparticles	600 mg/kg, 1 g/kg	5 days	○ Increased serum inflammatory cytokines	212
	0.2–0.4 mg/mL	1, 24, and 72 h and 7 days	○ Damaged DNA ○ Increased calcium concentrations in heart ○ Increased reactive oxygen species levels	213
	133.3, 200, and 300 mg/kg	10 days	○ Increased oxidative stress in lungs ○ Elevated maternal fetal transfer for pollutants and aggravated embryotoxicity	214
Gold nanoparticles	3 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mouse}$	1–60 days	○ Major harms on the genes of cell cycle, lipid metabolism, defense response, circadian rhythm, detoxification	215
	20 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	90 days	○ Accumulation of gold in kidneys and lungs	216
Titanium oxide nanoparticles	106, 108, and 1010 s/cm^2	4 h and 5 days	○ Damage intestinal epithelial cells	217
	0, 10, 50, and 200 mg/kg	30 days	○ Reduced surface area for nutrient absorption ○ Damaged cardiac muscle	218
	62, 125, and 255 mg/kg	30 days	○ Impaired liver function	219
	0.1 and 50 mg/kg	30 and 90 days	○ Lowered body weight ○ Augmented coefficients of kidney, liver, spleen, thymus ○ Elevated diastolic blood pressure ○ Reduced heart rate	220
	1, 5, and 10 $\mu\text{M}/\text{well}$ 200 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	8 and 24 h 21–23 days	○ Injured cardiac function ○ Elevated Bradykinin and ATP ○ Elevated ATP in bronchoalveolar lavage fluid	221
Silicon dioxide nanoparticles	8 mg/kg	60 days	○ Deposition in hippocampus and in medial prefrontal cortex	222
			○ Elevated phosphorylation and neuroinflammation	
Carbon-based nanomaterials	0.5 and 2.5 mg/m ³	90 days	○ Multifocal granulomatous	223
	20 mg/kg	10 days	○ Intra-alveolar lipoproteinosis ○ Inflammation of lungs ○ Increased neutrophilic and histiocytic inflammations ○ Stimulated maternal weight gain ○ Induced abortion	
Carbon black	0.018, 0.054, and 0.162 mg	28 days	○ DNA strand break down in lung epithelial cells and bronchoalveolar lavage	204
			○ Elevated plasma low density lipoprotein	
			○ Elevated hepatic cholesterol	

distribution, and secretion of nanosized particles in living organisms.¹⁹⁹

8. HEALTH RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH NANOCOSMETICS

Some types of nanoparticles cause severe health impacts on humans because of their possible toxicities. The level of harm that the nanoparticles may cause depends on their quantity, shape, method of administration, surface structure, solubility surface charge, chemical composition, duration of contact, etc.¹¹ Table 4 compiles several studies talking about the influences of nanoparticles on human health and wellbeing. Owing to their minute sizes and unique shapes, nanosized

particles can easily move around inside the human body. Nanoparticles could also easily cross membranes, entering cells, tissues, and organs and causing cell damage.²⁰⁵ Nanoparticles have large surface-area-to-volume proportions; accordingly, the chemical reactivities and biological activities are usually greater at the nanoscale as compared to the larger particles. Experiencing higher chemical reactivities, nanomaterials produce elevated amounts of detrimental reactive oxygen species, i.e., free radicals.¹¹

Nanoparticles may induce an endocrine disruption and immunological effects. These may also stimulate toxicities in different human organs and systems, e.g., pulmonary, musculoskeletal, cardiovascular, neurological, respiratory,

reticuloendothelial, and circulatory systems.²⁰⁶ Nanosized particles pass to the body mainly through three routes, viz., by ingestion, via inhalation, and through topical application. Inhalation is the major way of exposure to nanomaterials. For example, during the production of nanocosmetics, workers and chemists may get exposed to nanoparticles and breathe them in, influencing their health adversely. Furthermore, people may inhale nanoparticles by applying cosmetic products containing those. For instance, applying sunscreen sprays containing titanium dioxide nanoparticles may cause their inhalation followed by entering the nasal nerves, reaching the cerebrum, and then entering the bloodstream, thus triggering possible adverse health effects.²⁰⁶ Moreover, the ingestion of nanoparticles may accidentally occur through their transfer from hands to mouth. These nanomaterials might get absorbed by the human body after ingestion and enter the tissues/organs, initiating adverse health hazards.²⁰⁶ Topical application might also cause detrimental health effects. Sunscreens' nanoparticles can enter the bloodstream via injured skin, producing severe harm.²⁰⁶ Figure 4 shows several diseases associated with the

might enter the fetus resulting in bad growth of the brain of the fetus.²⁰⁸

9. COSMETICS REGULATIONS

Cosmetics in the United States of America are accepted by the United States Food and Drug Administration; besides, these are monitored by the Food Drug and Cosmetic Act. Cosmetics do not require premarket approval, excluding those containing dyes.³ However, the manufacturers and distributors of a cosmetic product have to follow a Voluntary Cosmetic Registration Program which provides information to the United States Food and Drug Administration about the cosmetics and their production, dispersal, and activity. Manufacturers must prepare a Cosmetic's Product Ingredient Statement that is specific to each cosmetic product prepared for commercialization.²²⁵ The Personal Product Act 2013 enables the United States Food and Drug Administration to ensure that the cosmetic products are totally safe, containing no toxic ingredients.⁵ The United States Food and Drug Administration founded a nanotechnology department responsible for managing all nanoparticle-based cosmetics in 2006 to monitor and even advance the safety and efficiency of nanosized particles.²²⁵ During 2014, the United States Food and Drug Administration acknowledged three main rules regarding the nanoparticles' safety, two of which are related to the cosmetics' products.²²⁵ The first rule elucidates the assurance of the formulations integrating nanomaterials, while the second rule focuses specifically on the safety of nanoparticles in the cosmetic products.²²⁵ Moreover, the Food and Drug Administration is not obliged to reveal the exact list of nanosized particles added in the cosmetic formulations on the labels and frequently update the producers about nanoparticles associated risks for a continual enhancement of the safety of cosmetics.²²⁵

The European Medicines Evaluation Agency is a regulatory agency responsible for cosmetic products in Europe. This regulatory agency lies under the control of the Council Directive 76/768/EEC, and it mainly covers the associated safety with the usage of cosmetics besides recording the allowable colorants. The safety of cosmetic products is managed by European Regulation 1223/2009.⁵ These regulations provide a robust, globally accepted system that establishes the product's safety by bearing in mind the most novel scientific data, comprising the possible application of nanoparticles. A product safety report must be prepared before being released in the market. Frank unwanted effects must be conveyed to public government agencies that will then collect interrelated data from the health experts/clients and should be informing the other European Union Member States.²²⁵ Dyes, preservatives, and UV protectants entailing nanoparticles must be accepted. The formulations comprising nanoparticles should go through an intricate examination under the supervision of European Union authorities. European Commission Regulation No. 1907/2006 controls the nanosized particles in the European Union. According to the European Union guidelines, the safety outline, the data of the item describing the adverse effects, and the toxicity must be provided a half-year before the market approval of the nanomaterial-based product. It necessitates a premarket approval for the nanoparticles-based cosmetics, dyes, antiaging creams, and sunscreen products.⁵

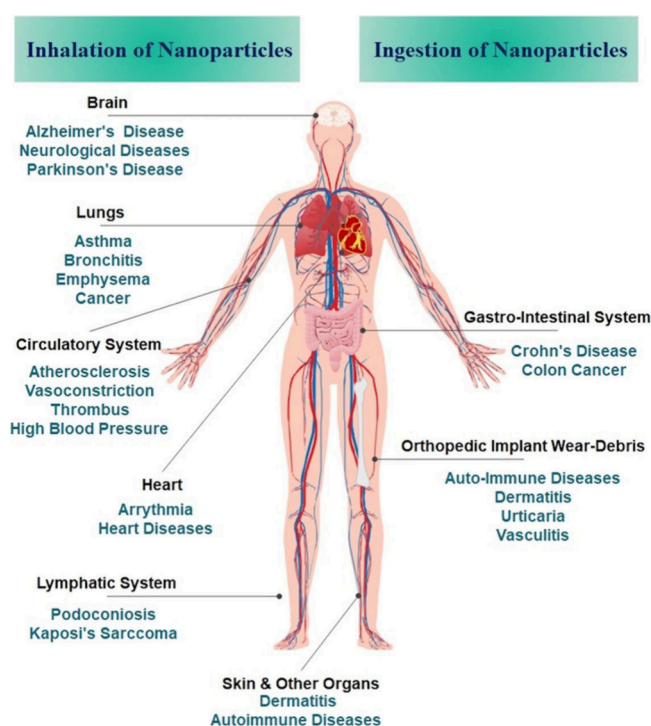


Figure 4. Health risks associated with certain types of nanocosmetics. Adapted with permission from ref 209. Copyright 2021 MDPI.

exposure of nanoparticles. Nanosized particles could harm the DNA leading to initiation of malignant tumors. Also, nanomaterials are minute and can penetrate inside cells, but these are adequately big enough to modify the normal functions of cells. Owing to their small sizes, these can be hardly separated via conventional separation methods and can come by the malignant cells causing substantial damage.²⁰⁷ Nanomaterials can enter the placenta, endometrium, and yolk sac of pregnant women, causing irritation and oxidative stress. This might lead to fetal deformities, placental damage, neurotoxicity, delayed neonatal development, reproductive dysfunction in infants, etc. Lastly, nanosized particles can stimulate the production of cytokine in pregnant females that

10. CONCLUSIONS

The cosmetics sector is growing rapidly with products developed by both major and local companies worldwide. Currently, nanotechnology symbolizes the central technology of the 21st century, proposing exceptional novelties in research works and businesses. Nanotechnology is a revolutionizing field that is being widely applied in the fields of cosmetics, biomedical/medicinal applications, dermatology, etc. Introducing novel developments and new active ingredients delivery systems lead the cosmetics sector to be more prevalent with an elevated market share. Nowadays, cosmetics are key to our daily routines and the application of nanotechnology in cosmetics sectors has further improved its acceptance among consumers universally. Currently, novel biodegradable nanocarriers, like ethosomes, niosomes, cubosomes, solid lipid nanoparticles, and liposomes, are applied to formulate diverse cosmetics with superior properties. Nanocosmetics can deliver nanoformulations through the human skin via different routes imparting many applications/uses, e.g., moisturization, sun protection, wrinkle lessening, etc. While these nanomaterials are attaining extraordinary market value and consumer interest, there is great concern regarding their toxicity and safety in humans, calling for more careful research and investigations.

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The work presented here was a collaboration of all authors.

Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This work was funded by a grant from the American University in Cairo to H.M.E.-S.A.

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