

Topical photodynamic therapy using transferosomal Aluminum phthalocyanine tetrasulfonate: *In vitro* and *in vivo* study

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The efficacy of transferosomes (flexible liposomes) as a novel technique for topical delivery of the hydrophilic tetra-anionic photodynamic sensitizer aluminium (III) phthalocyanine tetrasulfonate (AlPcS₄) was investigated, on mammalian fibroblasts and on Balb/c mice dorsal skin. AlPcS₄ was loaded in transferosomes composed of phosphatidylcholine : sodium deoxycholate (5:1, 10:1 and 15:1 w/w, ratios), resulting in 110,160 and 200 nm mean size vesicles with encapsulation efficiencies of 16%, 25% and 30%, respectively. In vitro studies on BHK-21 fibroblasts revealed two fold enhancement of the photocytotoxicity of AlPcS₄ loaded in transferosomes (Trans-AlPcS₄), compared to free AlPcS₄ dissolved in culture medium. The photocytotoxicity of Tran-AlPcS₄ was less dependent on the incubation time with cells, compared to free-AlPcS₄. Topical application on dorsal skin of balb/c mice revealed that both free-AlPcS₄ and Trans-AlPcS₄, exhibited evident photosensitization towards mice skin, but acquiring different regions of skin.