

Original article:**The result of modified hydrothermal nanotitania extract to the Escherichia coli growth.**

Ahmad Mukifza Harun¹, Nor Farid Mohd Noor², Mohamad Ezany Yusoff², Razif Abas³,
 Mohammad Khursheed Alam⁴

Abstract:

Background: This research was planned to search for a potential of modified hydrothermal nanotitania extract in inhibiting the growth of bacteria commonly known in medical field. It is also aims to test this substance against common medical bacteria, *Escherichia coli*. **Materials and methods:** In this test, suspension of modified hydrothermal nanotitania extract (together with 0.01%, 0.03% and 0.05% silver) and undoping (positive control contains TiO₂ and no silver) were prepared by mixing of TiO₂ in Mueller Hinton Broth (MH) agar. The plate containing the bacteria and TiO₂ were observed after 24 hour, 48 hours and 72 hours incubation at 37°C for any growth of bacteria. **Results:** There was no growth of *Escherichia coli* in the plates containing the bacteria and modified hydrothermal nanotitania extract except in the control media. **Conclusions:** The finding suggested the modified hydrothermal nanotitania extraction interfered the growth of *Escherichia coli*.

Keywords: nano titanium dioxide, bacterial growth, silver, nanoparticles

Bangladesh Journal of Medical Science Vol. 19 No. 04 October '20. Page : 705-709
 DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3329/bjms.v19i4.46629>

Introduction

Escherichia coli (*E. coli*) is one the main bacteria causing bacterial infection in the hospital and community. It is frequently found in internal organ of human which at a time pathogenic to the human. The bacteria can be transferred from mother to neonate transmission¹. The *E. coli* outbreak usually occurs and spreading inside the water stream, where the infected patient present with symptoms such as bloody diarrhea². Interestingly the outbreak of *E. coli* is not only involve the human but it also infects other animal such as pig³. In addition, the mode of transmission of *E. coli* may occur from animal to human⁴. One of its common source of infection activity is within the human blood itself⁵. Despite of *E. coli* frequent treatment with antibiotics, the resistant to the treatment is increasingly in trend, for example third generation cephalosporin resistance⁶. In addition to antibiotics, silver ion was reported

to have bactericidal action toward *E. coli*⁷. The mechanism of how the silver ion is speculated by the loss of DNA replication and protein deactivation [8]. Furthermore, zero-valent iron nanoparticles was shown deactivated the bacteria⁹. In another study, gold nanoparticles was shown to have antibacterial activity toward *E. coli*¹⁰. In human, defensins which is cysteine-rich peptides is proposed to be natural antibody for *E. coli* bactericidal activity referring to defensins activities against *E. coli* outer membrane¹¹. Titanium dioxide (TiO₂) is a special substance that is currently being used against multiple bacteria. The increasing concentration of TiO₂ nanoparticles has been found to resist the *E. coli* growth¹². In addition, Martinez-Gutierrez et al. investigated the potential combination of TiO₂ with silver which enhance its antimicrobial activity¹³. Naturally produced synthesized TiO₂ nanoparticles from the extraction of *Psidium guajava* aqueous

1. Engineering Faculty, Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Jalan UMS, 88400 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia.
2. School of Dental Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Health Campus, 16150 Kubang Kerian, Kelantan, Malaysia.
3. Department of Human Anatomy, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Universiti Putra Malaysia, 43400 Serdang, Selangor, Malaysia.
4. Orthodontic Unit, College of Dentistry, Jof University, Sakaka, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Correspondence to: Ahmad Mukifza Engineering Faculty, Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Jalan UMS, 88400 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia. (mukifza@ums.edu.my) These authors contributed equally to this work.

leaf were shown inhibited various organism growth such as *Escherichia coli*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, and *P. mirabilis*¹⁴.

To strengthening the TiO₂ study, *E. coli* and *S. aureus* were shown reduced within 48 hours of applied TiO₂ combination with the silver nitrate in the research using nanoparticle-coated surgical facemask¹⁵.

The mechanism of how the titanium dioxide prevents the bacterial growth is possibly by an observation in which TiO₂ reduced of 24-hour lactate production of oral *Streptococcus mutans*¹⁶. In contrast, the TiO₂-based nanocomposite photocatalyzed the action on *P. aeruginosa* PAO1 cells that reduced the expression of specific genes and proteins in regulatory, signaling and growth function of the PAO1 cells¹⁷.

Here in this study, the modified hydrothermal nanotitania extract in combination with the multiple percentage of silver is shown inhibited the *Escherichia coli* growth. This study will enhance our modified hydrothermal nanotitania extraction of the inhibition of *Staphylococcus aureus* growth in the previous experiment¹⁸. This study was done in Universiti Sains Malaysia on 1st – 30th September 2018.

Methodology

The modified hydrothermal nanotitania extract is combined with multiple concentrations of silver, (0.01%, 0.03% and 0.05%). In addition, a control the modified hydrothermal nanotitania extract was also used without any silver mixing (undoped). One of the limitation aspects of this substance is its inability to be diluted in the water, dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) and sulphuric acid.

The source of bacteria, *Escherichia coli* was reserved from hospitalized patient of Hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia which then developed in the microbiology lab of School of Medical Sciences Universiti Sains Malaysia.

The test was done to check whether modified hydrothermal nanotitania extract prevent the growth of the bacteria by adding and mixing the substances to the agar media during processed of making agar media before addition of bacteria-which is similar to the method used by Ahmad et al., 2013¹². Some media is used as control where the nanotitania extract was not added to the media preparation but only the organisms were allowed to growth.

Preparation of the modified hydrothermal nanotitania extract

Suspensions of 1g/ml TiO₂ (together with 0.01%, 0.03% and 0.05% silver) and undoping (positive control contains TiO₂ and no silver) were prepared by mixing 1g of TiO₂ in 1ml of Mueller Hinton Broth

(MH) before additional of 1 ml of equivalent 0.5 McFarland. For control, the agar containing only bacteria without TiO₂ was used as a negative control. Incubation of these suspensions was done in incubator with shaker for 24 hour in temperature of 37°C. Amount of 100 µl of suspension were inoculated on MH agar, spreading the bacterial inoculation was done using hockey stick. The plated were observed after 24 hour, 48 hours and 72 hours incubation at 37°C for any growth of bacteria on agar plate.

Results

1. The modified hydrothermal nanotitania extract containing Titanium dioxide (TiO₂) combination with 0.01%, 0.03% and 0.05% silver nanoparticle and ‘titanium dioxide only’ are able to inhibit the growth *Escherichia coli* compared to the control media.

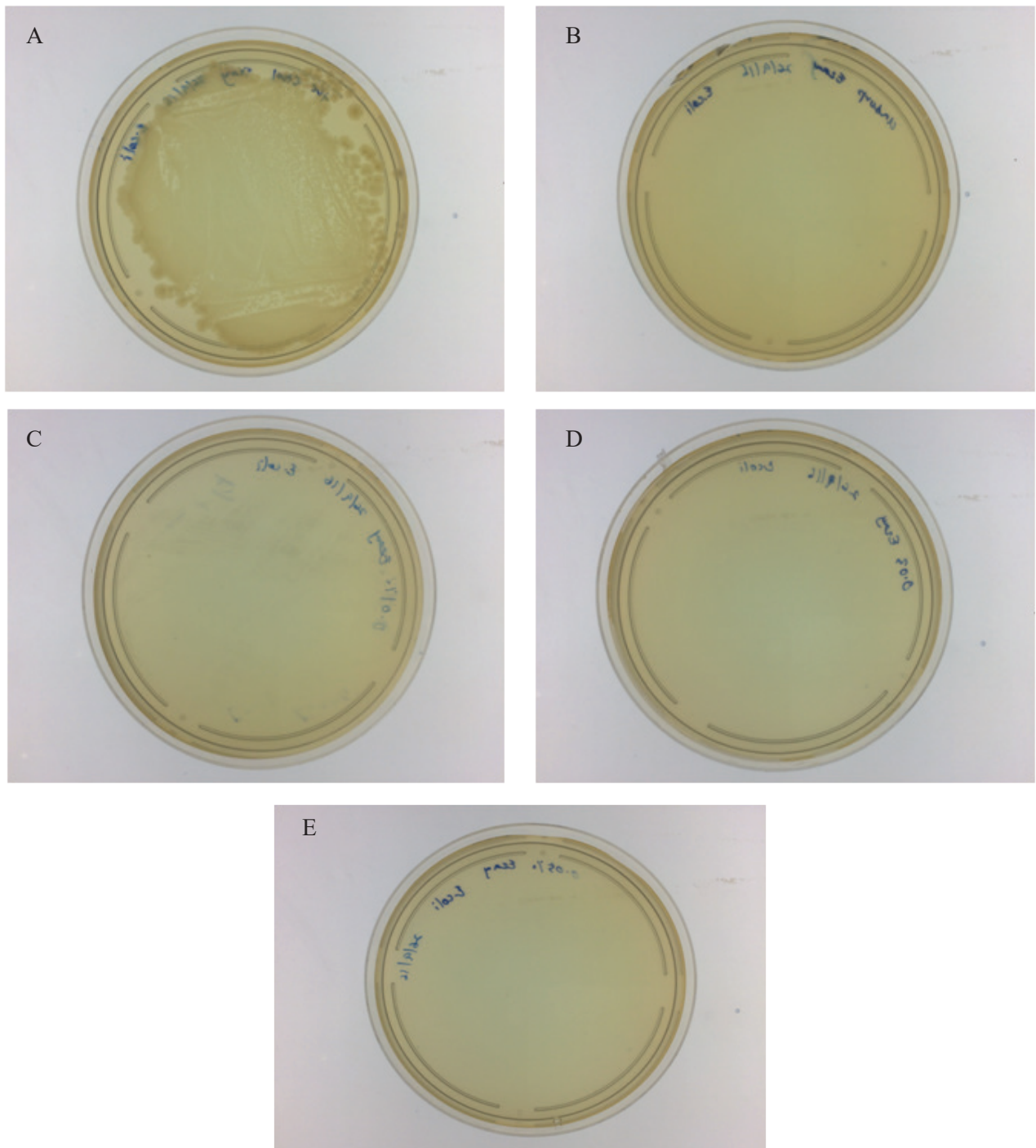
The modified hydrothermal nanotitania extract containing silver with multiple percentage (0.01%, 0.03% and 0.05%) and TiO₂ only are able to inhibit growth of *Escherichia coli* on the agar plate compared to control (no nanoparticles). In various agars containing the nanotitania extract consists of TiO₂ and mixing with silver (0.01%, 0.03% and 0.05%) no *Escherichia coli* was noted growth for a period of 24 hours, 48 hours and 72 hours. In the negative control agar where the nanotitania extract was not added, the organisms were seen growth successfully. The result is summarized in Table 1.

Table 1: The *Escherichia coli* growth on tested agar for 24 hours up to 72 hours.

Test/hours incubation	24 hours	48 hours	72 hours
<i>Bacteria only (negative control)</i>	Growth	Growth	Growth
<i>Undoping (positive control)+bacteria</i>	No growth	No growth	No growth
<i>TiO₂ with 0.01% silver+bacteria</i>	No growth	No growth	No growth
<i>TiO₂ with 0.03% silver +bacteria</i>	No growth	No growth	No growth
<i>TiO₂ with 0.05% silver +bacteria</i>	No growth	No growth	No growth

Discussion

In our experiment, the modified hydrothermal nanotitania extract containing TiO₂ together with multiple percentage of silver compound (0.01%, 0.03% and 0.05%) and the undoping containing TiO₂ only were tested against the bacteria *Escherichia coli*. The objective of our study is to observe whether the modified hydrothermal nanotitania extract has capacity to constrain the growth of the bacteria so that it can be used against various activity of *E. coli*



Picture: Testing the modified hydrothermal nanotitania extract with *Escherichia coli*. Control media contain bacteria only (A). TiO₂ only (B). TiO₂ containing 0.01% silver with bacteria (C). TiO₂ containing 0.03% silver with bacteria (D). TiO₂ containing 0.05% silver with bacteria (E).

Note there was no bacterial growth in (B),(C),(D) and (E) agar plate.

such as outbreak.

The characteristic of our modified hydrothermal nanotitania extract was its powerlessness to be diluted in water, dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) and sulphuric

acid. In our experiment, the method is used to identify the ability of these substances in preventing the growth of *Escherichia coli* where an identical method was used by Ahmad et al., 2013 (mentioned as above).

The results showed the modified hydrothermal nanotitania extract was capable to be mentioned as having antibacterial properties up to 72 hours of post addition in the agar containing nanotitania extract. These results explain the potential of the modified hydrothermal nanotitania extract to be used for as antibacterial based on its chemical properties.

This study support other finding using nanotitania such as silver modified nanotitania and titanium dioxide- anatase nanoparticles¹⁹⁻²¹.

The shape of a substance may influence the bactericidal activity which was shown by shape of silver nanoparticle study²². In the future, the further experiment should be done to assess whether the shape of this modified hydrothermal nanotitania influences the bactericidal activity.

The limitation of our study is our the modified hydrothermal nanotitania extract is not dissolved in the water so it limits various other test for antibacteria.

Conclusion:

The modified hydrothermal nanotitania extract inhibits the growth of *Escherichia coli*.

Acknowledgements: Mr Zawdy Badruddin (staff of School of Dental Sciences, USM Health Campus) for the photos taken. This study was supported by grant Universiti Malaysia Sabah research grant. Grant number: SBK0256-ST-2016

Ethical approval: Not required

Conflict of interest statement: None declared
Competing, financial interests:

The author declares no competing financial interests.

Author's contribution:

Data gathering and idea owner of this study: AMH, NFN, MEY, RA and MKA

Study design: AMH, NFN

Data gathering: AMH, NFN, MEY, RA

Writing and submitting manuscript: AMH, NFN, MEY, RA and MKA

Editing and approval of final draft: AMH, NFN, MEY, RA and MKA

References:

1. O'Connor, C., et al., *The first occurrence of a CTX-M ESBL-producing Escherichia coli outbreak mediated by mother to neonate transmission in an Irish neonatal intensive care unit.* BMC infectious diseases, 2017. **17**(1): p. 16.
2. Probert, W.S., G.M. Miller, and K.E. Ledin, *Contaminated stream water as source for Escherichia coli O157 illness in children.* Emerging infectious diseases, 2017. **23**(7): p. 1216.
3. Kanengoni, A.T., et al., *Epidemiology and characterization of Escherichia coli outbreak on a pig farm in South Africa.* FEMS microbiology letters, 2017. **364**(3).
4. Zhang, X.-F., et al., *Possible transmission of mcr-1-harboring Escherichia coli between companion animals and human.* Emerging infectious diseases, 2016. **22**(9): p. 1679.
5. De Kraker, M.E., et al., *Mortality and hospital stay associated with resistant Staphylococcus aureus and Escherichia coli bacteremia: estimating the burden of antibiotic resistance in Europe.* PLoS Med, 2011. **8**(10): p. e1001104.
6. Meyer, E., et al., *Dramatic increase of third-generation cephalosporin-resistant E. coli in German intensive care units: secular trends in antibiotic drug use and bacterial resistance, 2001 to 2008.* Critical care, 2010. **14**(3): p. 1.
7. Yamanaka, M., K. Hara, and J. Kudo, *Bactericidal actions of a silver ion solution on Escherichia coli, studied by energy-filtering transmission electron microscopy and proteomic analysis.* Applied and environmental microbiology, 2005. **71**(11): p. 7589-7593.
8. Feng, Q.L., et al., *A mechanistic study of the antibacterial effect of silver ions on Escherichia coli and Staphylococcus aureus.* Journal of biomedical materials research, 2000. **52**(4): p. 662-668.
9. Lee, C., et al., *Bactericidal effect of zero-valent iron nanoparticles on Escherichia coli.* Environmental science & technology, 2008. **42**(13): p. 4927-4933.
10. Cui, Y., et al., *The molecular mechanism of action of bactericidal gold nanoparticles on Escherichia coli.* Biomaterials, 2012. **33**(7): p. 2327-2333.
11. Lehrer, R., et al., *Interaction of human defensins with Escherichia coli. Mechanism of bactericidal activity.* The Journal of clinical investigation, 1989. **84**(2): p. 553-561.
12. Ahmad, R. and M. Sardar, *TiO₂ nanoparticles as an antibacterial agents against E. coli.* Int J Innovative Res Sci Eng Technol, 2013. **2**: p. 3569-74.
13. Martinez-Gutierrez, F., et al., *Synthesis, characterization, and evaluation of antimicrobial and cytotoxic effect of silver and titanium nanoparticles.* Nanomedicine, 2010. **6**(5): p. 681-8.
14. Santhoshkumar, T., et al., *Green synthesis of titanium dioxide nanoparticles using Psidium guajava extract and its antibacterial and antioxidant properties.* Asian Pac J Trop Med, 2014. **7**(12): p. 968-76.
15. Li, Y., et al., *Antimicrobial effect of surgical masks coated with nanoparticles.* Journal of Hospital Infection, 2006. **62**(1): p. 58-63.
16. Besinis, A., T. De Peralta, and R.D. Handy, *The antibacterial effects of silver, titanium dioxide and silica dioxide nanoparticles compared to the dental disinfectant chlorhexidine on Streptococcus mutans using a suite of bioassays.* Nanotoxicology, 2014. **8**(1): p. 1-16.
17. Kubacka, A., et al., *Understanding the antimicrobial mechanism of TiO₂-based nanocomposite films in a pathogenic bacterium.* Sci Rep, 2014. **4**: p. 4134.
18. Noor, N.F.M., et al., *Effects of modified hydrothermal nanotitania on the viability of Staphylococcus aureus.* Archives of Orofacial Science, 2018. **13**(1): p. 1-5.
19. Tobaldi, D., et al., *Silver-modified nano-titania as an antibacterial agent and photocatalyst.* The Journal of Physical Chemistry C, 2014. **118**(9): p. 4751-4766.
20. Charpentier, P., et al., *Nano-TiO₂/polyurethane composites for antibacterial and self-cleaning coatings.* Nanotechnology, 2012. **23**(42): p. 425606.
21. Joost, U., et al., *Photocatalytic antibacterial activity of nano-TiO₂ (anatase)-based thin films: effects on Escherichia coli cells and fatty acids.* Journal of Photochemistry and Photobiology B: Biology, 2015. **142**: p. 178-185.
22. Pal, S., Y.K. Tak, and J.M. Song, *Does the antibacterial activity of silver nanoparticles depend on the shape of the nanoparticle? A study of the gram-negative bacterium Escherichia coli.* Applied and environmental microbiology, 2007. **73**(6): p. 1712-1720.