

# Genotoxic and cytotoxic of biosynthesized titanium dioxide nanoparticles against CaCO<sub>2</sub> and MDA-MB-231 cell lines

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**Abstract:** Till now there is a general lack of information concerning the genotoxic and cytotoxic effects of nanoparticles. Titanium dioxide nanoparticles (TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs) were synthesized using *Trichoderma harzianum* and characterized by Fourier Transmission Infrared spectroscopy, Ultra-Violet visible spectroscopy and Transmission Electron Microscope. The 3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide assay revealed the concentration-dependent cytotoxic effects of TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs in a concentration range of 7.8 to 500 µg/ml. The reduction in proliferation of CaCO<sub>2</sub> and MDA-MB-231 cell lines was observed in a concentration dependent manner which became more clear especially at higher (500 µg/ml) concentrations of TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs. The anti-proliferative effect of TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs treatment was more potent on CaCO<sub>2</sub> than MDA-MB-231 cells, where the IC<sub>50</sub> was 124 and 107 µg/ml respectively. Exposure of CaCO<sub>2</sub> cell line to 7.80, 15.60, 31.25, 62.50, 125, 250 and 500 µg/ml of TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs showed an increase by 1.10, 1.54, 1.83, 2.64, 3.76, 4.76 and 5.21 fold respectively in SOD activity with respect to untreated control. The effect of low concentrations of TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs up to 62.5 µg/ml was weakly induced the release of LDH, while followed these concentrations become high. DNA “laddering” pattern in CaCO<sub>2</sub> cells treated with TiO<sub>2</sub>NP is one of the reasons for cell death.

**Keywords:** Biosynthesis, titanium dioxide nanoparticles, cytotoxicity, genotoxicity.

## INTRODUCTION

Biosynthesis methods of nanoparticles are a promising alternative compared to chemical methods, during the last and current years, nanoparticles biosynthesis methods including microorganisms as well as plant extracts (Abdel-Ghany *et al.*, 2013; Benakashani *et al.*, 2016; Abdel-Ghany *et al.*, 2018). There are several metals nanoparticles were synthesized such as silver, copper, gold, titanium and others, however titanium dioxide nanoparticles (TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs) are between the top five NPs utilized in consumer products, their annual production in the USA alone is evaluated at 3800-7800 tonnes and is continuously rising in production (Shi *et al.*, 2013; Boland *et al.*, 2014; Carrouel *et al.*, 2020; Ziental *et al.*, 2020). Green methods for the production of TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs have been progressed with using many sources involving yeasts such as *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (Jha *et al.*, 2009), fungi (Rajakumar *et al.*, 2012), bacteria such as *Lactobacillus sp.* and *Bacillus mycoides* (Jha *et al.*, 2009; Ordenes-Aenishanslins *et al.*, 2014) and plant extracts (Rajakumar *et al.*, 2012).

Several applications of TiO<sub>2</sub> involve air, water and surface cleaning were reported (Pan *et al.*, 2010). Titanium is selected for desalination plants due to its potent resistance to corrosion by salt water. For non-reactive nature of titanium pins when contacting bone and flesh, its recommended in surgical processes as well as other medical applications (Prasad *et al.*, 2007). Mondal *et al.* (2013) and Gao *et al.* (2014) also stated that TiO<sub>2</sub> is used

in biomaterials due to of its good stability, microbicidal and anticorrosive activities. Therefore, several scientific papers concentrated towards synthesis of nanoform of TiO<sub>2</sub>. TiO<sub>2</sub>NP is an important product in industrial field that is excessively used as an additive in cosmetics, medicinal drugs, and food colorants (Jin *et al.*, 2008; Weir *et al.*, 2012; Ordenes-Aenishanslins *et al.*, 2014; Sohal *et al.*, 2020) as well as agriculture sector (Faraz *et al.*, 2020).

Green synthesis of TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs were accomplished utilizing extract of *Aspergillus flavus* as a reducing and capping agent which evidenced to be idealistic antibacterial compound against *E. coli* (Rajakumar *et al.*, 2012), *S. aureus*, *E. coli*, *Salmonella typhimurium* and *Klebsiella pneumoniae* (Hassan *et al.*, 2012). Recently, antimicrobial properties of TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs was reported (Subhapiya and Gomathipriya 2018). Using of TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs are based on their toxic properties contra pathogens like bacteria (Rajakumar *et al.*, 2012) and mites (Marimuthu *et al.*, 2013). Furthermore, biocompatibility studies on TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs have been achieved and their biocidal/photocatalytic activity on aquatic biofilms has been evaluated *in vivo* and *in vitro* (Dhandapani *et al.*, 2013). Liu *et al.* (2013) propose that interactions of chemicals or physical factors with TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs may consequence in an elevate in toxicity or adverse effects, such as photo-catalytic activity of TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs that inhibit the fungal colonization of wood specimens for long periods when compared to untreated ones (Filpo *et al.*, 2013).

From the available demonstration mentioned by Chen *et al.* (2014), TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs stimulate genotoxicity mainly through creating oxidative stress in cells. Also, in human monoblastoid and bronchial epithelial cells, the TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs

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stimulate apoptosis mainly by destabilizing the lysosomal membrane and lipid peroxidation (Zhao *et al.*, 2009). Helinor *et al.* (2009) indicated that TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs responsible for DNA harm and induction of cell death that was due to it stimulated the oxidative stress, TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs were generated of reactive oxygen species (ROS) and decreasing cellular compounds responsible for antioxidants like vitamin E and glutathione. DNA damage and apoptosis induced by TiO<sub>2</sub> have also been elucidated in human lymphocytes, U937 human monoblastoid cells, A549 alveolar epithelial cells, NRK-52E normal rat kidney cells, and A431 human epidermal cells (Barillet *et al.*, 2010; Shukla *et al.*, 2011). Cytotoxicity and DNA damage induced by TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs have been investigated also by Saquib *et al.* (2012) using human amnion epithelial cells, as an *in vitro* model, cells exposed to TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs exhibited significant decreasing in catalase activity and glutathione concentration. And more recently, Biola-Clier *et al.* (2017) focused on the genotoxicity of TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs and their negative impact both major DNA repair mechanisms: base excision repair and nucleotide excision repair. Furthermore, Vevers and Jha (2008) have reported the correlation between TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs and enhancing DNA damage in presence of UV light in rainbow trout gonadal tissue cells. Whereas, in the goldfish skin cells, the TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs caused DNA damage in the absence of UV light. The cytotoxicity effect of TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs on human colon carcinoma cells in the existence of UVA light was dose and time-dependent (Zhang and Sun 2004). The current research aim to biosynthesis of TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs, its characterization and role in cytotoxicity against cancer cells.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### *Mycobiosynthesis of TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs using Trichoderma harzianum*

*Trichoderma harzianum* fungal strain was kindly provided by culture collection unit of the Regional Center for Mycology and Biotechnology (RCMB). *T. harzianum* was grown in 250 ml Erlenmeyer flask containing 100 mL modified malt extract-peptone (MGYP) medium adjusting at pH 6.8, the culture was grown with continuous shaking on a rotary shaker (150 rpm) at 28°C for 72 hrs. After 72 hrs, fungal balls of mycelia were separated from the culture broth by centrifugation (4000 rpm) at 4 °C for 10 mins and then fungal mycelia were washed with sterile distilled water. The harvested fungal biomass (15 g wet weight) was resuspended in 100 ml sterile Milli-Q-Water in 250 ml Erlenmeyer flask and again kept on shaker (150 rpm) at 28°C for 62 hrs. After incubation the cell free filtrate was obtained which was added to TiO<sub>2</sub> salt in concentration 500 µg/ml. The entire mixture was put into shaker (150 rpm) at 28°C and the reaction allowed for a period of 48 hrs (Abdel-Ghany 2013).

### *TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs Characterization*

The biotransformation TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs were collected periodically and monitored for characterization using UV-

visible spectrophotometer, particle size analyzing system of Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM), X-ray diffractive spectroscopy (XRD) and Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR).

### *CaCO<sub>2</sub> and MDA-MB-231 cell lines*

Colon adenocarcinoma cell line CaCO<sub>2</sub> and Mammalian cell lines MDA-MB-231 were obtained from the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC, Rockville, MD).

### *Chemicals*

Dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO), MTT and trypan blue dye were purchased from Sigma (St. Louis, Mo., USA). Fetal Bovine serum, DMEM, RPMI-1640, HEPES buffer solution, L-glutamine, gentamycin and 0.25% Trypsin-EDTA were purchased from Lonza (Belgium).

### *Cell line propagation*

The cells were grown on RPMI-1640 medium supplemented with 10% inactivated fetal calf serum and 50 µg/ml gentamycin. The cells were maintained at 37 °C in a humidified atmosphere with 5% CO<sub>2</sub> and were subcultured two to three times a week (Mosmann, 1983).

### *Cytotoxicity of TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs against CaCO<sub>2</sub> and MDA-MB-231 cell lines using viability assay*

For antitumor assays, the tumor cell lines were suspended in medium at concentration 5x10<sup>4</sup> cell/well in Corning® 96-well tissue culture plates, then incubated for 24 hrs. Six dilutions of TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs were then added into 96-well plates (three replicates). Six vehicle controls with media or 0.5% DMSO were run for each 96 well plate as a control. After incubating for 24 hrs, the numbers of viable cells were determined by the MTT test. Briefly, the media was removed from the 96 well plate and replaced with 100 µl of fresh culture RPMI 1640 medium without phenol red then 10 µl of the 12 mM MTT stock solution (5 mg of MTT in 1 ml of PBS) to each well including the untreated controls. The 96 well plates were then incubated at 37°C and 5% CO<sub>2</sub> for 4 hrs. An 85 µl aliquot of the media was removed from the wells, and 50 µl of DMSO was added to each well and mixed thoroughly with the pipette and incubated at 37°C for 10 mins. Then, the optical density was measured at 590 nm with the microplate reader (SunRise, TECAN, Inc, USA) to determine the number of viable cells and the percentage of viability was calculated as  $[1-(OD_t/OD_c)] \times 100\%$  where OD<sub>t</sub> is the mean optical density of wells treated with the TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs and OD<sub>c</sub> is the mean optical density of untreated cells. The relation between surviving cells and TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs concentration is plotted to get the survival curve of each tumor cell line after treatment with the specified compound. The 50% inhibitory concentration (IC<sub>50</sub>), the concentration required to cause toxic effects in 50% of intact cells, was estimated from graphic plots of the dose response curve for each concentration using Graphpad Prism software (San Diego, CA, USA) (Mosmann, 1983).

### DNA fragmentation protocol

Treated MDA-MB-231 cell line (*breast cancer carcinoma cells*) by different concentrations of TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs were lysed in NTE buffer (100 mM NaCl, 40 mM Tris-HCl, 20 mM EDTA, pH 7.4) containing 0.5% SDS and 0.2 mg/ml proteinase K., then the cells were vigorously, grinded, centrifuged and collected in one tube. After overnight incubation at 37°C, DNA was extracted twice with phenol-chloroform and precipitated by ethanol. Then dissolved in TE buffer and digested for 2 hrs with 0.1 mg/ml RNase A (Klaus *et al.*, 1994). DNA fragmentation was analyzed on a 1.8% Agarose gel in the presence of 0.5 µg/ml ethidium bromide using electrophoresis.

### Lactate dehydrogenase (LDH) and oxidative enzymes detection

For measuring LDH releasing, 24-well cell culture plate was inoculated with 1.5×10<sup>5</sup> cells per well and incubated for 12 hrs. The collected supernatant added to a black 96-well culture plate (200 µl per well) after cells were exposed to different levels of TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs for 48 hrs. LDH cytotoxicity assay kit as per the manufacturer's instructions was used to measure LDH release. At wavelength 450 nm, the absorbance in each well was assayed using an enzyme-linked immunoassay instrument (Nakagawa *et al.*, 2005). Oxidative enzymes catalase (CAT) and superoxide dismutase (SOD) in cell homogenates were determined by methods of Aebi (1984) and Oyanagui (1984), respectively.

### STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

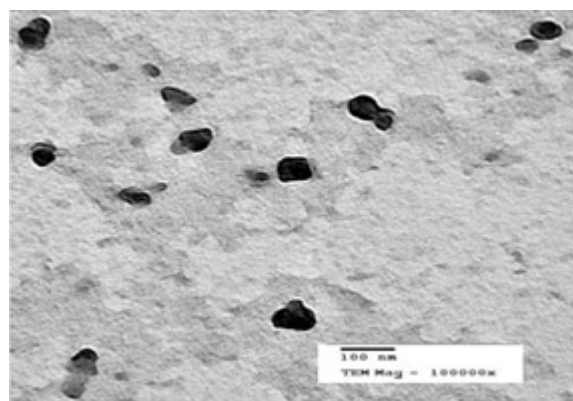
Three independent replicates of each treatment were applied to calculate the results as mean ± SD (standard deviation). Statistical analyses of data were carried out by computer using SPSS ver. 22.0 software.

### RESULTS

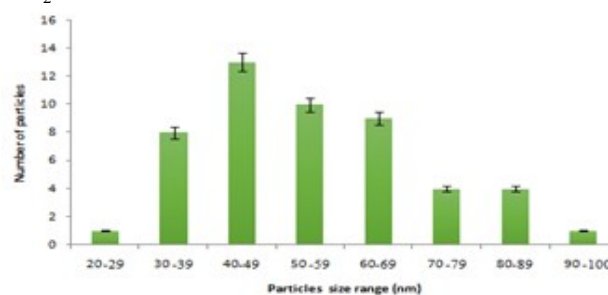
The extracellular biosynthesis TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs by *T. harzianum* was carried out in the current study. The TEM image shows that the TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs are roughly spherical with an average size 53.52 nm (fig. 1). All TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs detected by TEM were ranged in size more than 20 and less than 100 nm (Fig. 2). The observed absorption of UV-Visible spectrum for TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs produced by *T. harzianum* at about 380 nm in the broad peak (fig. 3). In the current study, FTIR spectrum was measured in a range of 400-4000/nm (fig. 4). The peaks at 555.14 nm characteristic of Ti-O bending mode of vibration which confirms the formation of metal oxygen bonding. Many peak were showed in fig. (4) including peaks at 3055.10/nm, 1312.11/nm and at 3400 to 3300/nm.

The reduction in proliferation of CaCO<sub>2</sub> and MDA-MB-231 cell line was observed in a concentration dependent manner which became more clear especially at higher (500 µg/mL) concentrations of TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs (table 1 and figs.

5a&b). An initial viability decline was observed on CaCO<sub>2</sub> and MDA-MB-231 cells upon addition of 15.6 µg/ml of TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs, followed by a consistent proliferation but slow decline at 31.25 to 62.5 µg/ml and a strong decline at 250 to 500 µg/mL. MTT assay data have revealed that TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs are effective antiproliferative agents on CaCO<sub>2</sub> and MDA-MB-231 cells. The antiproliferative effect of TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs treatment for all concentration was more potent on CaCO<sub>2</sub> than MDA-MB-231 cells, where the IC<sub>50</sub> was 124 and 107 µg/ml respectively (table 1). In the present study, TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs seem to have triggered oxidative stress in CaCO<sub>2</sub> and MDA-MB-231 cell line which is evident from the changes in SOD and CAT levels (fig. 6). There was a rise in SOD and CAT levels with respect to control. Exposure of CaCO<sub>2</sub> cell line to 7.80, 15.60, 31.25, 62.50, 125, 250 and 500 µg/ml of TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs showed an increase by 1.10, 1.54, 1.83, 2.64, 3.76, 4.76 and 5.21 fold respectively in SOD activity with respect to untreated control. The same trails were observed in the enzyme activity of MDA-MB-231 cell line.



**Fig. 1:** TEM micrograph of biological synthesized TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs at 100 nm scale bar.



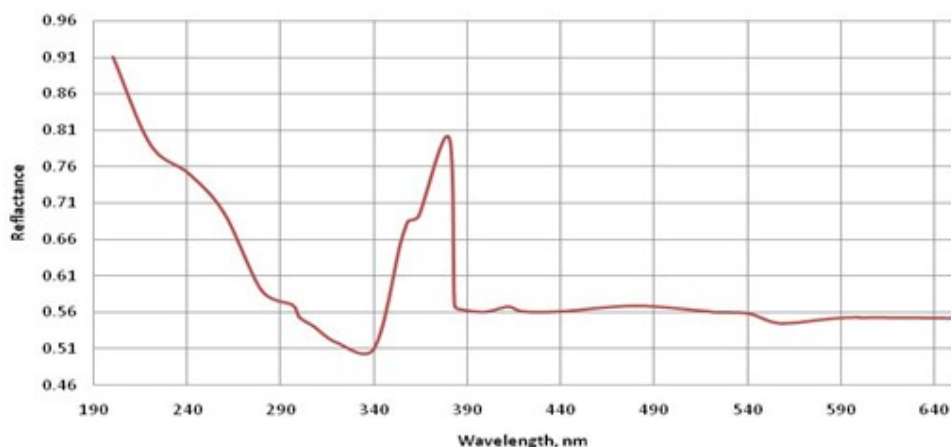
**Fig. 2:** Particle size distribution and range of biological synthesized TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs

The effect of low concentrations of TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs up to 62.5 µg/ml was weakly induced the release of LDH, while followed these concentrations the LDH releasing was high. Treatment with TiO<sub>2</sub> reduced the LDH activity in the supernatant in a dose-dependent manner (fig. 7).

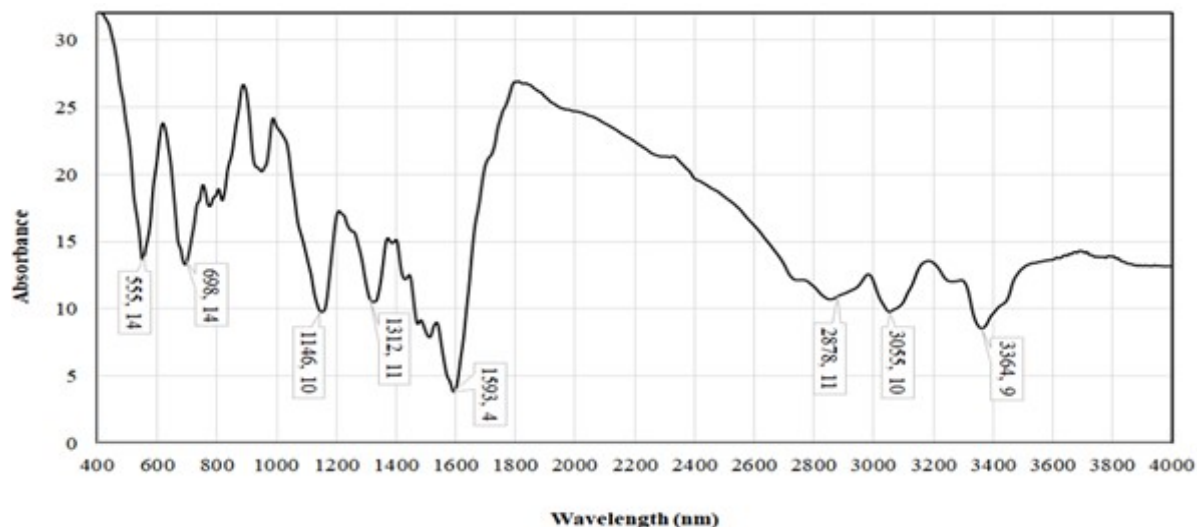
The DNA fragmentation in the present study was verified by extracting DNA from CaCO<sub>2</sub> cells treated with various

**Table 1:** Cytotoxicity of TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs against CaCO<sub>2</sub> cell line MDA-MB-231 cell line.

Sample conc. (µg/ml)	CaCO <sub>2</sub> cell line		MDA-MB-231 cell line	
	Viability %	Inhibitory %	Viability %	Inhibitory %
500	15.92±0.74	84.08	12.38±0.16	87.62
250	34.16±0.91	65.84	29.45±0.53	70.55
125	49.73±1.35	50.27	43.82±1.97	56.18
62.5	73.24±2.82	26.76	65.41±1.35	34.59
31.25	90.67±0.51	9.33	89.26±0.52	10.74
15.6	98.46±0.28	1.54	97.18±0.39	2.82
7.8	100±0.0	0.00	100±0.0	0.00
0	100±0.0	0.00	100±0.0	0.00
IC <sub>50</sub>	124 ± 4.3 µg/ml		107 ± 2.9 µg/ml	



**Fig. 3:** UV-Spectrum Peak Value of biological synthesized TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs.



**Fig. 4:** FTIR spectra of biological synthesized TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs.

concentrations of TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs followed by detection in the agarose gel. Fig. 8 clearly indicates that the DNA laddering pattern in CaCO<sub>2</sub> cells treated with TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs is one of the reasons for cell damage.

In the current study TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs exhibited good activity against *E. coli* and *B. subtilis* compared with non-nano

TiO<sub>2</sub> form at the same used concentration. However, the best activity was found against bacteria with synthetic antibiotic used (fig. 9). Furthermore the addition of TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs to antibiotic created synergistic action of antibacterial activity with fold increase 17 % and 12% against *B. subtilis* and *E. coli* respectively, although *B. subtilis* was more sensitive to TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs than *E. coli*.

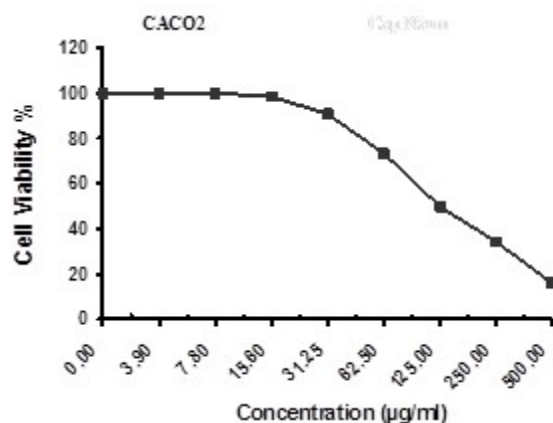


Fig. 5a: Cytotoxicity of TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs against CaCO<sub>2</sub> cell line.

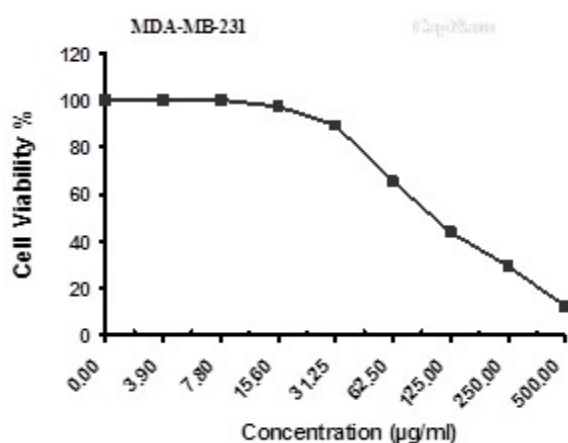


Fig. 5b: Cytotoxicity of TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs against MDA-MB-231 cell line.

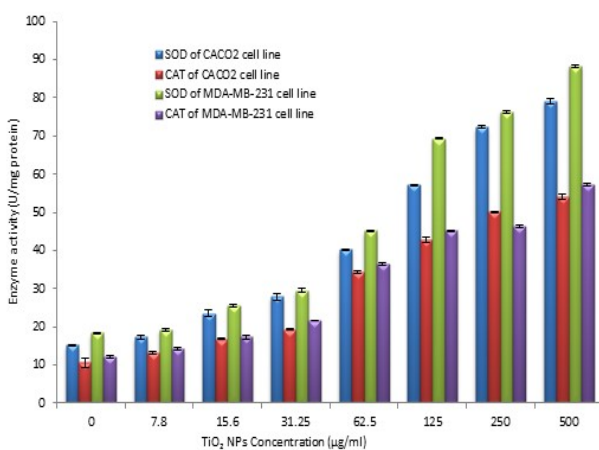


Fig. 6: Oxidative enzymes of CaCO<sub>2</sub> and MDA-MB-231 cell line under different concentration of TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs. Bars mean standard error.

## DISCUSSION

Biosynthesis of TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs by fungi as well as other microorganisms or plants considered safe methods and

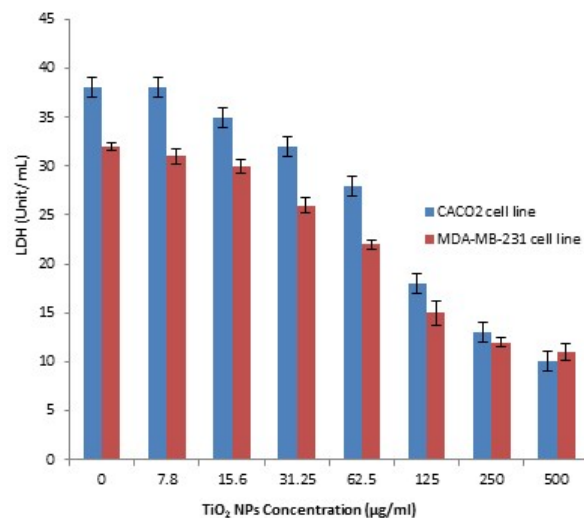


Fig. 7: Lactate dehydrogenase release from CaCO<sub>2</sub> and MDA-MB-231 cells under different concentration of TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs.

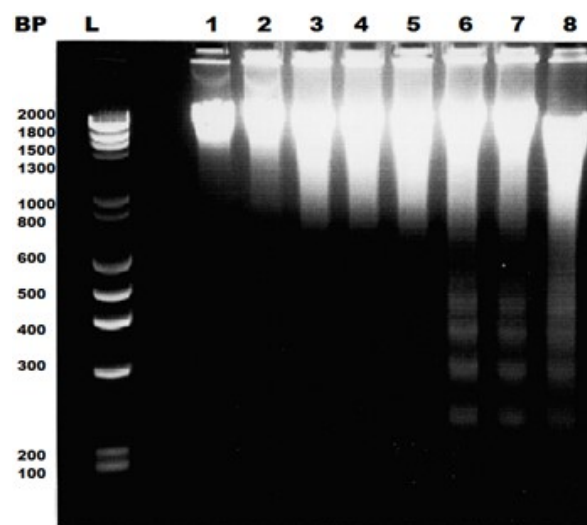
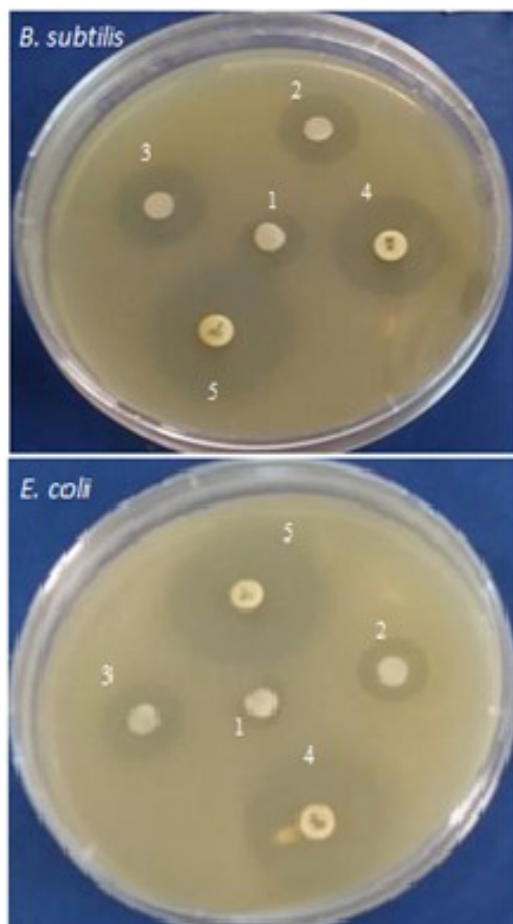


Fig. 8: Effect of TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs on DNA fragmentation of MDA-MB-231 Cells. Lane M, 1 kb ladder; lane 1, control; lanes 2-8, TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs (7.8, 15.6, 31.25, 62.5, 125, 250 and 500 µg/ml respectively).

alternative for chemical methods in the current years. In this present work, TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs were synthesized using *T. harzianum* with size less than 100nm. Similar results were also reported by others (Babitha and Korrapati 2012; Rajakumar *et al.*, 2012; Khan *et al.*, 2015; Srinivasan *et al.*, 2019). Recently, *T. harzianum* was used as a source for titanium oxide nanoparticles (TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs) synthesis (Farhat *et al.*, 2018), where its particles ranged from 2.0 to 16.0 nm. At the same time the UV-Visible spectrum for TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs was similar to result of (Órdenes-Aenishanslins *et al.*, 2014). FTIR spectrum reveals the information about the interaction between the functional groups of the biosynthesized agent and the nanoparticles formation. Several peaks positions were detected by



**Fig. 9:** Antimicrobial activity of TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs and their synergistic effect with Amoxicillin against *B. subtilis* and *E. coli* (1, TiO<sub>2</sub> 125 µg/ml; 2, TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs 125 µg/ml; 3, TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs 250 µg/ml; 4, Amoxicillin; 5, Amoxicillin + TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs).

FTIR, its indicated, presumably, some metabolites of *T. harzianum* acted as reducing and capping agents for the biological synthesis of TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs. The detected peaks that characterized the formed TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs were also discussed earlier, where Abdul *et al.* (2016) mentioned that the intense peak between 800 and 450/cm describes the Ti-O stretching bands. The peak at 2878.11/nm indicated the secondary amines. These results are in agreement with Rosi and Kalyanasundaram (2018) who stated that the peak around 2885/nm indicated the secondary amines during green synthesis of TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs. The peak at 3055.10/nm appeared due to the -OH stretching. The peak at 1312.11/nm indicated the C-O stretching represents aromatic ester, peak at 1593.40 N-H bending represent amine group. Peak at 3400 to 3300 indicated the presence of N-H stretching group, may represent aliphatic primary amine at 3364.6/nm in the current study. All these signals can be attributed to the presence of biomolecules bound to the TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs produced by *T. harzianum*. Effect of TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs on proliferation of CaCO<sub>2</sub> and MDA-MB-231

cell line reflect the dose dependent cytotoxicity of TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs. These observation was recorded by Li *et al.* (2008). Sharply decreasing of CaCO<sub>2</sub> and MDA-MB-231 cells at high concentrations 250 to 500 µg/mL TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs, but slow reduction was observed at low and moderate concentrations. This data suggests that at low concentrations, despite initially responding, the CaCO<sub>2</sub> and MDA-MB-231 cells can recover from the anti-proliferative effects of the TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs where a robust reduction is observed at higher concentrations. The major mechanism of nanoparticle toxicity is related to oxidative stress (Reeves *et al.*, 2008). In the current study, both SOD and CAT levels showed a dose dependent increase in their activity. Rise in SOD and CAT activities was also recorded in human erythrocytes exposed to TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs (Khan *et al.*, 2015) which are consistent with current results. Inducing lactate dehydrogenase (LDH) release from CaCO<sub>2</sub> and MDA-MB-231 cells elucidated the cytotoxic effects of TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs. From the obtained results, LDH releasing was sensitive to high concentration of TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs, suggesting that TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs induced damage of cells at rise concentration. Many studies reported that LDH release from cells is a marker of cell damage and death (Rose *et al.*, 1993; Lai *et al.* 2001, 2008). Zaqout *et al.* (2012) suggest that TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs bind to LDH, and consequently, TiO<sub>2</sub>NP-induced toxicity could be underestimated by the LDH activity assay. DNA fragmentation of MDA-MB-231 Cells at different concentrations of TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs was confirmed on the agarose gel. The deposition of metal particles inside the nucleus could affect the DNA and cell division. Genotoxic studies of TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs revealed dose-dependent DNA damage, chromosomal aberrations and errors in chromosome segregation and formation of sister chromatic exchanges (Lu *et al.* 1998). Recently, many studies elucidated the genotoxicity of TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs (El-Said *et al.*, 2014; Wang *et al.*, 2015; Baranowska-Wójcik *et al.*, 2020). Recently Biola-Clier *et al.* (2020) observed DNA damage A549 human pulmonary alveolar epithelial cells that exposor to TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs. Wang *et al.* (2015) TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs can induce cytotoxicity, significant DNA damage, and apoptosis of A549 cells, suggesting that exposure to TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs could cause cell injury. DNA fragmentation was induced by TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs in human lymphocytes at a concentration of 25 mg/ml (Ghosh *et al.*, 2013). Jugan *et al.* (2012) evaluated genotoxicity of varying sizes of NPs in A549 human lung carcinoma cells and found that they were genotoxic when assayed with the Comet assay. TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs induced significant oxidative DNA damage in HepG2 cells measured with the Fpg-Comet assay even at 1 mg/ml (Shukla *et al.*, 2013). The interactions of NPs with cells resulted in the generation of ROS, and the resultant oxidative stress may cause DNA fragmentation (Shukla *et al.*, 2011; Hariharan *et al.*, 2020).

Bacteriocidal of TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs against *E. coli* and *B. subtilis* was reported in the current study compared with non-nano

TiO<sub>2</sub> form. However its antifungal activity was also reported in another studies, therefore TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs may applied in medicinal field. The obtained results agree with numerous studies (Ahmad and Sardar 2013; Gupta *et al.*, 2013).

Results of Sara *et al.* (2016) and Waseem *et al.* (2020) demonstrated antifungal and antibacterial activities of TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs. Earlier the antimicrobial activity of TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs are exploited in medical devices, in order to prevent biofilm formation and sepsis (Arora *et al.*, 2010) beside, enhancing the long-term antibacterial ability and toxicity reduction of antibiotics (Yuehong *et al.*, 2019; Ziental *et al.*, 2020). The mechanisms of antimicrobial activity of TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs was elucidated by Rajakumar *et al.* (2012) who stated that TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs are capable of dissolving the outer membranes of bacteria. Synergistic action between TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs and antibiotic was observed in the obtained results. These notes were recently mentioned by Bakri *et al.* (2020), where the antimicrobial activity by plant extract or antibiotics was enhanced and reported by the addition of nanoparticles.

## CONCLUSION

The present study deals with the ecofriendly biologically synthesis of TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs using *T. harzianum*. The biosynthesized showed anticancer and antibacterial activity.

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