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Editorial

NANOTHERANONOSTIC INTERVENTION OF BIOMARKERS IN TREATMENT OF OVARIAN CANCER

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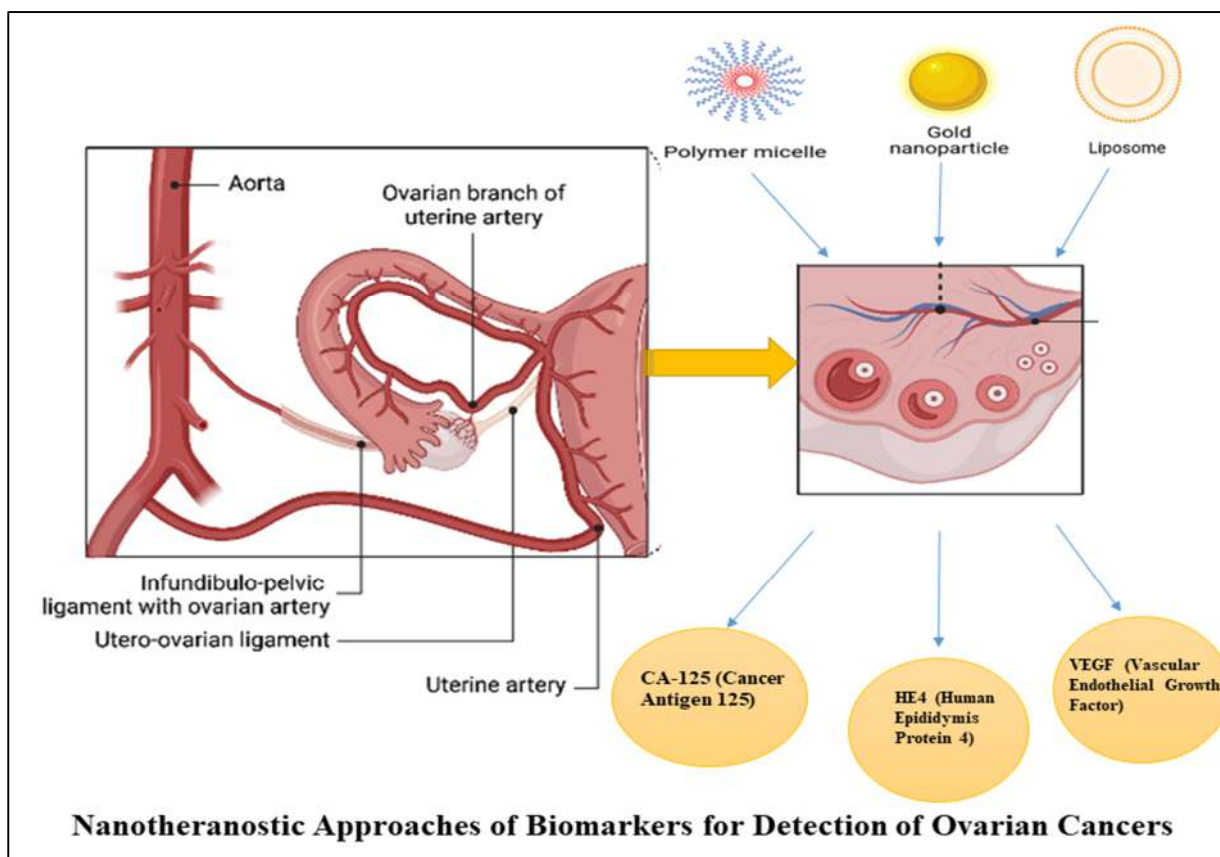
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Graphical Abstract



Nanotheranostics combines nanotechnology with theragnostic to create advanced platforms for both the diagnosis and treatment of diseases, including cancer. In the context of ovarian cancer, which is often diagnosed at a late stage and has a high rate of recurrence, nanotheranostics holds great promise for improving patient outcomes by enabling more precise and effective treatments^{1,2}. **Nanotheranostics: A Dual Approach** Diagnostic Component: Nanoparticles can be engineered to carry imaging agents that target specific biomarkers associated with ovarian cancer. These agents allow for the precise localization and visualization of tumors, even at early stages. Therapeutic Component: The same nanoparticles can be loaded with therapeutic agents, such as chemotherapy drugs, that are released directly at the tumor site, minimizing systemic toxicity and enhancing the treatment's effectiveness^{3,4}.

Nanotheranostic Platforms

Several types of nanomaterials are used in nanotheranostics for ovarian cancer:

Gold Nanoparticles (AuNPs): AuNPs are widely used in nanotheranostics due to their unique optical properties and ease of functionalization. They can be used for both photothermal therapy (PTT) and as contrast agents for imaging techniques like CT and MRI. Application: AuNPs functionalized with targeting ligands (e.g.,

antibodies against CA-125) can be used to selectively accumulate in ovarian tumors, allowing for precise imaging and localized heating to destroy cancer cells⁵.

Liposomal Nanoparticles: Liposomal Nanoparticles: These are vesicles made from lipid bilayers that can encapsulate both hydrophilic and hydrophobic drugs. They are often used to deliver chemotherapeutic agents with reduced toxicity. Application: Liposomes can be functionalized with targeting molecules that recognize ovarian cancer biomarkers, enhancing the delivery of drugs like doxorubicin directly to the tumor site^{6,7}.

Polymeric Nanoparticles: Polymeric Nanoparticles: Made from biodegradable polymers, these nanoparticles can be designed to release their payload in a controlled manner over time. Application: Polymeric nanoparticles loaded with both imaging agents and drugs can be engineered to target ovarian cancer cells, allowing for sustained drug delivery and continuous monitoring of the tumor's response⁸.

Quantum Dots (QDs): Quantum Dots: QDs are semiconductor nanoparticles that exhibit unique optical properties, such as size-tunable fluorescence, making them ideal for imaging applications. Application: QDs can be conjugated with biomolecules targeting ovarian cancer biomarkers, enabling highly sensitive detection of

tumors and real-time monitoring of treatment efficacy⁹.

Biomarkers in Ovarian Cancer:

Nanotheranostics can be tailored to target specific biomarkers associated with ovarian cancer. Some key biomarkers include:

CA-125 (Cancer Antigen 125): CA-125: A protein that is often elevated in the blood of women with ovarian cancer. It is the most commonly used biomarker for monitoring disease progression and response to therapy. Nanotheranostic Application: Nanoparticles can be functionalized with antibodies against CA-125, enabling targeted imaging and therapy for ovarian tumors expressing this antigen¹⁰.

HE4 (Human Epididymis Protein 4): HE4: Another protein marker that is used in conjunction with CA-125 to improve the specificity of ovarian cancer diagnosis. Nanotheranostic Application: Nanoparticles targeting HE4 can enhance the detection and treatment of ovarian cancer, particularly in distinguishing malignant from benign ovarian masses¹¹.

Folate Receptor Alpha (FR α): FR α : This receptor is overexpressed in many ovarian cancers, making it a valuable target for nanotheranostic approaches.

Nanotheranostic Application:

Nanoparticles can be conjugated with folic acid or antibodies against FR α to deliver imaging agents or drugs directly to cancer cells¹².

VEGF (Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor): VEGF a key protein involved in angiogenesis (the formation of new blood vessels) that is often upregulated in ovarian cancer.

Nanotheranostic Application: Targeting VEGF with nanoparticles can inhibit tumor growth by disrupting its blood supply, while simultaneously providing imaging capabilities to monitor treatment effects^{13, 14, 15}.

Nanotheranostics offers a highly promising approach for the treatment of ovarian cancer, providing the potential for more accurate diagnosis, targeted therapy, and real-time monitoring of treatment response. By integrating nanotechnology with biomarker-targeted strategies, nanotheranostics could significantly improve the management and outcomes of ovarian cancer, particularly in cases where early detection and personalized treatment are crucial. As research progresses, the clinical adoption of nanotheranostic platforms may revolutionize the way ovarian cancer is diagnosed and treated, offering new hope to patients with this challenging disease.

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