

Full Paper

Synthesis of Pt-SWCNTs Conductive Nanocomposite by Microwave Heated Polyol Strategy; Application for Amplification of 5-Fluorouracil Anticancer Drug Electrochemical Sensor

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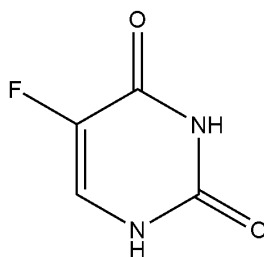
Abstract- In this study, a simple strategy was described for the synthesis of Pt-SWCNTs conductive nanocomposite by microwave heated polyol method and nanocomposite characterized by EDS, FESEM, and XRD method. The Pt nanoparticles were decorated at the surface of SWCNTs with a diameter of 22.3 nm. The synthesized nanocomposite was used for modification of the carbon paste electrode (CPE) in the presence of n-hexyl-3-methylimidazolium hexafluorophosphate (nH3MHP) and paraffin oil as binders. The Pt-SWCNTs/nH3MHP/CPE was showed a good catalytic effect for electro-oxidation of the 5-fluorouracil anticancer drug in aqueous solution. In comparison to CPE, the Pt-SWCNTs/nH3MHP/CPE increased oxidation current of 5-fluorouracil (~4.47 times) and reduce oxidation potential of this anticancer drug ~125 mV. On the other hand, Pt-SWCNTs/nH3MHP/CPE was successfully used for the determination of 5-fluorouracil anticancer drugs in injection samples with acceptable recovery data (96.13%-103.5%). According to recorded results, the sensor has a powerful tool for determination of 5-fluorouracil anticancer drug in real samples.

Keywords- 5-Fluorouracil; Anticancer drug; Microwave heated polyol method; Pt-SWCNTs conductive nanocomposite

1. INTRODUCTION

Attention to new nanostructures for use in various industries has grown significantly in recent years [1-10]. Meanwhile, conductive nanomaterials have received more attention than other nanostructures due to their widespread use in various applications such as fuel cells, batteries, electrical chips, and electrochemical sensors [11-15]. According to scientific reports, carbon nanotubes and metal compounds, especially platinum nanoparticles, have very high electrical conductivity and have played a decisive role in industrial applications [16-20]. For example, platinum nanoparticles are well used in the preparation of fuel cells [21], and carbon nanotubes are one of the most widely used nanomaterials in the preparation of electron exchange sensors [22-30]. Based on this, it can be predicted that nanocomposites based on a combination of carbon nanotubes and platinum nanoparticles can provide high electrical conductivity for the design of electrochemical sensors [31].

5-Fluorouracil (Aduvicol) (Scheme 1) is anticancer that is prescribed to treat pancreatic cancer, colon cancer, cervical cancer, breast cancer, esophageal cancer, and stomach cancer over the past 20 years [32]. Due to the high side effects of this drug in the chemotherapy process, dose control used in the treatment of patients is very important and necessary [33].



Scheme 1. Structure of 5-Fluorouracil

Therefore, fast and sensitive analysis of 5-fluorouracil in a biological sample that is a major problem in the chemotherapy process [33-35]. Many analytical sensors were used for the determination of 5-fluorouracil in biological samples [36-38]. In between, electrochemical methods showed more advantages due to fast response and portable ability [39-47]. However, high over-voltage and weak redox signals of 5-fluorouracil are the most important problems in the design of electrochemical sensors for electro-analysis of 5-fluorouracil [48]. Therefore, using conductive mediators for the fabrication of a 5-fluorouracil electroanalytical sensor is very important. In between, attention to ionic liquids and carbon-metal based nanocomposite could help to create highly sensitive electro-analytical sensors [49-55]. Nanomaterials with incredible properties have been used as widely used materials in many chemical techniques [56-64]. High conductivity is main advantages of nanomaterials for using in electrochemical sensors [65]. Therefore, the present study described fabrication of Pt-SWCNTs/nH3MHP/CPE as a highly sensitive electrochemical sensor for determination of 5-

fluorouracil. Two-fold amplification of CPE with Pt-SWCNTs nanocomposite and nH3MHP created a highly sensitive condition for trace level analysis of 5-fluorouracil and improved ability of sensor for determination of this anticancer drug in real samples.

2. EXPERIMENTAL

2.1. Materials and instrument

5-Fluorouracil $\geq 99\%$, chloroplatinic acid hydrate $\geq 99.9\%$, n-hexyl-3-methylimidazolium hexafluorophosphate, SWCNTs were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich. Sodium hydroxide, graphite powder 99.9%, ammonia anhydrous $\geq 99.98\%$, and paraffin oil were purchased from Across Company. A μ -Autolab PGSTAT was used for electrochemical investigation using Ag/AgCl/KCl sat as a reference electrode. X' Pert Pro and Mira-3-XMU instruments were used for XRD and FESEM investigations.

2.2. Synthesis of Pt-SWCNTs/nH3MHP/CPE

The ethylene glycol solutions and H_2PtCl_6 were used as precursors for the synthesis of Pt/SWCNTs by microwave heating strategy. The 50 mL ethylene glycol + 0.8 mL potassium hydroxide (0.4 M) was mixed in an erlenmeyer flask under stirring for 10 min and 2.0 mL H_2PtCl_6 solution (0.05 M) was added into erlenmeyer flask and stirring was continued for 10 min. In the next step, 0.1 g of SWCNTs was added into the erlenmeyer flask and dispersed using an ultrasonic strategy for 30 min in distilled water. The erlenmeyer flask was placed in the center of a household microwave oven and heated for 3 min under microwave power of 600 W. The obtained powder was dried at 120 °C for 12 h. 2.3. Preparation of Pt-SWCNTs/nH3MHP/CPE

The Pt-SWCNTs/nH3MHP/CPE was prepared by mixing 920 mg graphite powder + 80 mg Pt-SWCNTs in the presence of 10 cc ethanol as a solvent into mortar and pestle. After evaporation of ethanol, paraffin + nH3MHP (80:20 v:v) was added as a binder and the resulting paste was added end of the glass tube.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Characterization of Pt-SWCNTs nanocomposite

The Pt-SWCNTs were characterized by XRD, EDS, and FESEM methods. The XRD pattern of Pt-SWCNTs showed five planes with miller indexes [002] relative to the carbon nanotubes phase and [111]; [200]; [220] and [311] relative to Pt nanoparticles with JCPDS Card 04-0802 (Fig. 1). The diameter of Pt nanoparticle was calculated 22.3 nm using the Debye-Scherrer equation.

FESEM images of Pt-SWCNTs nanocomposite clearly showed the presence of single-wall carbon nanotubes decorated by Pt nanoparticles (Fig. 2A). According to the FESEM image, Pt

nanoparticle is a presence at the surface of SWCNTs. On the other hand, EDS analysis data show the presence of C, Pt elements that confirms the purity of synthesized Pt-SWCNTs nanocomposite (Fig. 2B).

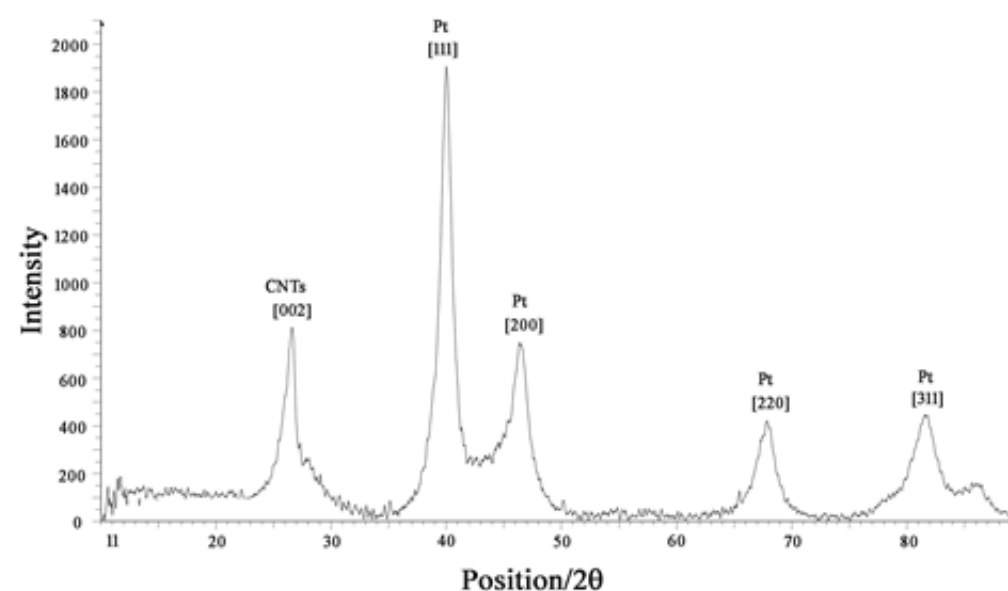


Fig. 1. XRD pattern of Pt-SWCNTs nanocomposite

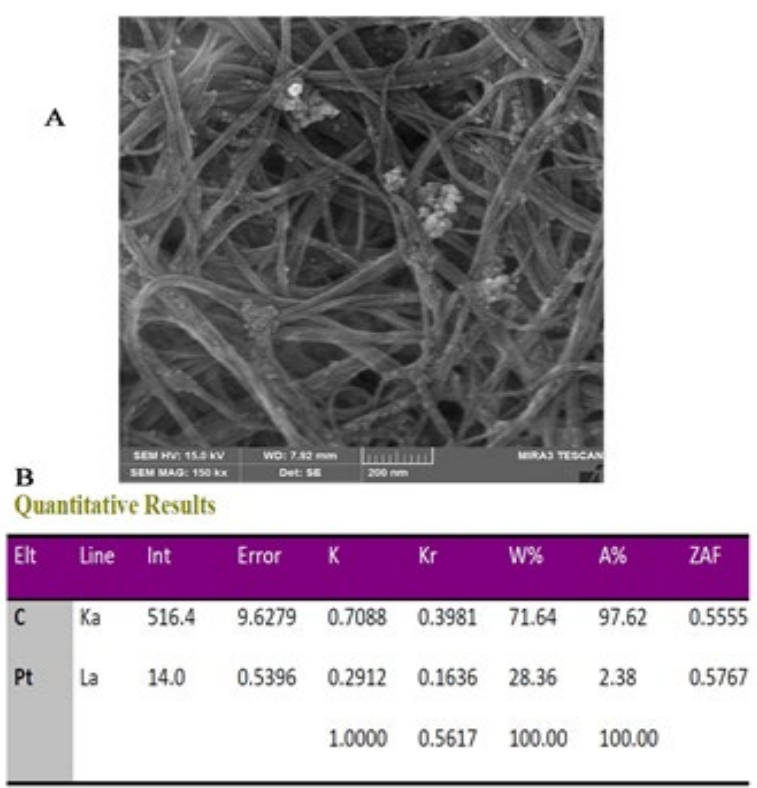


Fig. 2. A) FESEM image and B) EDS analysis data of Pt-SWCNTs nanocomposite

3.2. Electrochemical investigation

Due to the uracil structure and reported papers, the oxidation behavior of 5-fluorouracil is dependent on pH changes [36]. Therefore, the factor of pH was optimized in the first step. Fig. 3 inset showed a square wave voltammograms of 80 μM 5-fluorouracil in the pH range of 7.5-9.5. As can be seen in fig. 3, with moving pH=7.5 to pH=9.5 the oxidation potential of 5-fluorouracil shifted to a negative value with equation $E = -0.0588 \text{ pH} + 1.3012$ ($R^2 = 0.9982$) that confirm the value of electron and H^+ in redox mechanism of this anticancer drug is equal. On the other hand, maximum oxidation current for 5-fluorouracil was detected at pH=8.5 and this condition was selected for the next steps.

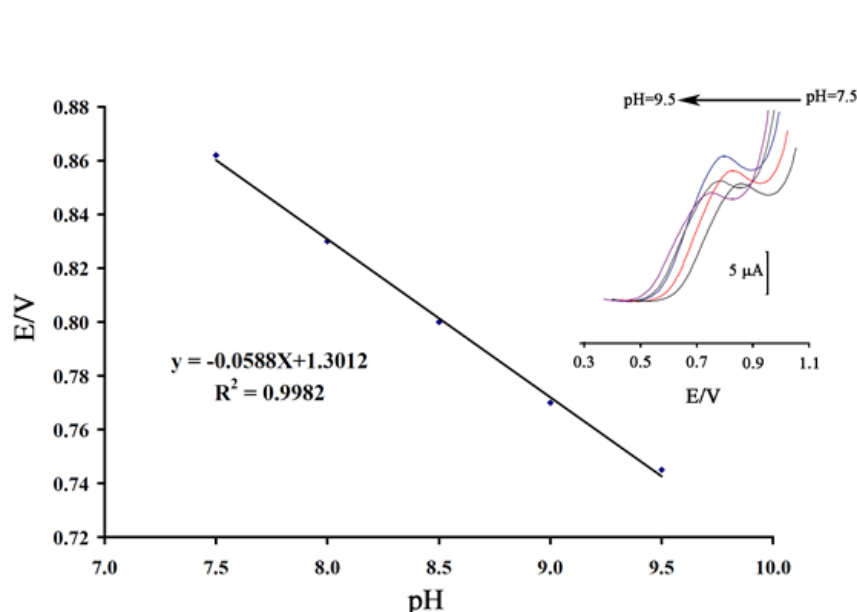


Fig. 3. E-pH curve for electro-oxidation of 80 μM 5-fluorouracil at a surface of Pt-SWCNTs/nH3MHP/CPE. Inset) Relative Square wave voltammograms for electro-oxidation of 80 μM 5-fluorouracil

For study role Pt-SWCNTs and nH3MHP on modification of CPE at the surface of Pt-SWCNTs/nH3MHP/CPE, square wave voltammograms of 80 μM 5-fluorouracil was recorded at the surface of CPE (fig. 4 curve a), Pt-SWCNTs/CPE (Fig. 4 curve b), nH3MHP/CPE (Fig. 4 curve c) and Pt-SWCNTs/nH3MHP/CPE (Fig. 4 curved).

Oxidation currents 3.78 μA , 9.44 μA , 13.5 μA , and 16.9 μA were recorded for curves a-d, respectively. As can be seen, with the modification of CPE with Pt-SWCNTs or nH3MHP, the oxidation signal of 5-fluorouracil was improved. In addition, the best oxidation signal was recorded at the surface of Pt-SWCNTs/nH3MHP/CPE that confirm the modification of CPE with Pt-SWCNTs and nH3MHP could be improved oxidation current of 5-fluorouracil ~ 4.47 times. Fig. 4 inset shows current density data relative to recorded square wave voltammograms

of 80 μM 5-fluorouracil at the surface of different electrodes that confirm good electrical conductivity of Pt-SWCNTs and nH3MHP as mediators.

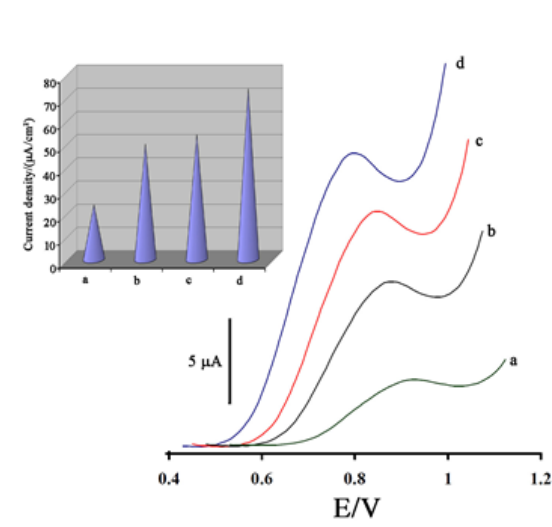


Fig. 4. SWVs of 80 μM 5-fluorouracil at surface of a) CPE, b) Pt-SWCNTs/CPE, c) nH3MHP/CPE and d) Pt-SWCNTs/nH3MHP/CPE. Inset) relative Square wave voltammograms recorded at the surface of different electrodes.

The CVs of 700 μM 5-fluorouracil at scan rate ranges 50-200 mV/s was recorded at surface of sensor (Fig. 5 inset).

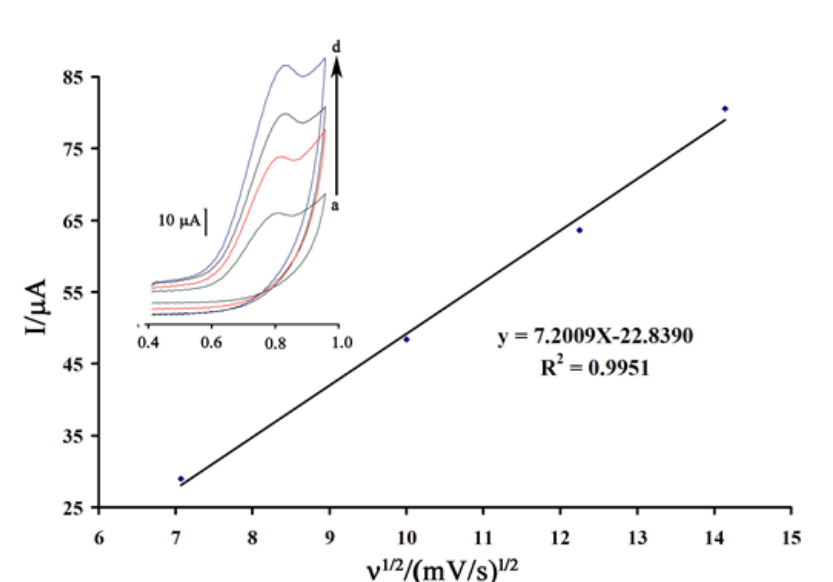


Fig. 5. Current- $v^{1/2}$ curve for electro-oxidation of 700 μM 5-fluorouracil at surface Pt-SWCNTs/nH3MHP/CPE. Inset) CVs of 700 μM 5-fluorouracil recorded at scan rates a) 50, b) 100, c) 150 and d) 200 mV/s.

A linear relation between oxidation current of 5-fluorouracil and $v^{1/2}$ with the equation of $I = 7.2009 v^{1/2} - 22.8390$ ($R^2 = 9951$) was observed that confirm diffusion process [66-70] for the electro-oxidation reaction of 5-fluorouracil at surface of sensor (Fig. 5).

SWV method was used for study linear dynamic range and limit of detection 5-fluorouracil at the surface of Pt-SWCNTs/nH3MHP/CPE and results showed a linear relation between current and 5-fluorouracil concentration in the range 1.0 nM-520 μ M (Fig. 6). The detection limits of 5-fluorouracil were calculated 0.4 nM using 3Sb/m equation.

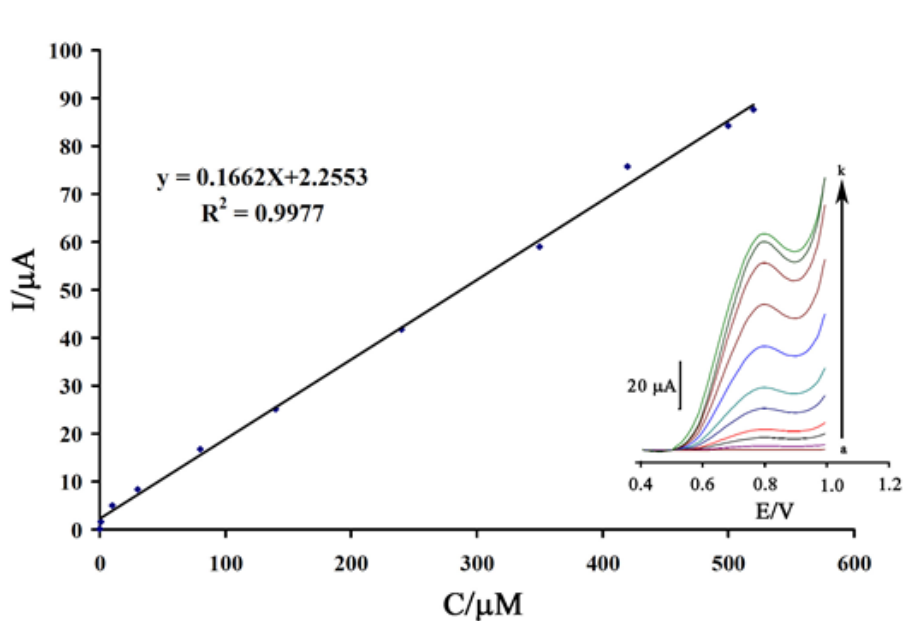


Fig. 6. Current-concentration diagram for electro-oxidation of 5-fluorouracil at surface Pt-SWCNTs/nH3MHP/CPE. Inset) Square wave voltammograms a) 0.001; b) 1.0; c) 10; d) 30; e) 80; f) 140; g) 240; h) 350; i) 420; j) 500 and k) 520 μ M recorded at surface of Pt-SWCNTs/nH3MHP/CPE.

The stability of Pt-SWCNTs/nH3MHP/CPE as a new electrochemical sensor was investigated for a determination of 10.0 μ M 5-fluorouracil in period time 30 days. According to recording results, a 90% initial oxidation signal of 5-fluorouracil remains after 30 days that confirm the good stability of Pt-SWCNTs/nH3MHP/CPE as a new electrochemical sensor for determination of 5-fluorouracil.

The selectivity of Pt-SWCNTs/nH3MHP/CPE as a new electrochemical sensor for determination of 10 μ M 5-fluorouracil was check in the presence of some organic and inorganic interference with acceptable error 5%. Results showed nor 1000-fold of Na^+ , Cl^- , K^+ , and Br^- , 750-fold of vitamin B2, and glucose and 300-fold ascorbic acid did not affect the selectivity.

Table 1. Real sample analysis data for determination of 5-fluorouracil using Pt-SWCNTs/nH3MHP/CPE

Sample	Added (μM)	Expected (μM)	Founded (μM)	Recovery%
Injection	---	---	2.51 ± 0.21	---
	5.00	7.51	7.22 ± 0.46	96.13
Pharmaceutical serum (dextrose saline)	---	---	<LOD	---
	10.00	10.00	10.35 ± 0.76	103.5

The ability of Pt-SWCNTs/nH3MHP/CPE as a new electroanalytical sensor was a check for the determination of 5-fluorouracil in injection and pharmaceutical samples without any pre-preparation. The real sample analysis data are a presence in table 1 and confirm the high-performance ability of Pt-SWCNTs/nH3MHP/CPE for the determination of 5-fluorouracil in real samples.

4. CONCLUSION

In this research, a highly sensitive voltammetric sensor was fabricated for the determination of 5-fluorouracil. For this goal, CPE was amplified with Pt-SWCNTs and nH3MHP. The Pt-SWCNTs/nH3MHP/CPE was showed catalytic activity for the determination of 5-fluorouracil and increased oxidation current of 5-fluorouracil ~ 4.47 times. In addition, the Pt-SWCNTs/nH3MHP/CPE was effectively used for the determination of 5-fluorouracil in injection samples.

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