



## Green Synthesis and Characterization of Silver Nanoparticles from *Aerva lanata* Leaf Extract: A Medicinal Plant for Bone Fracture Healing in Tribal Communities of Chhattisgarh

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### ABSTRACT

Medicinal plants are the most common biosource of medications in traditional medical systems. The current study used aqueous leaf extracts of the Amaranthaceae plant *Aerva lanata* to synthesize silver nanoparticles (AgNPs) via green synthesis. The crystalline nature, size, shape, and elemental composition of the biosynthesized AgNPs are analyzed using FTIR, EDAX, Zeta Potentials, FESEM, XRD, and UV-Visible spectroscopy. FESEM and EDAX examination confirmed the green-synthesized AgNPs, which were spherical in shape, having a size range of  $66.70 \pm 0.15$  to  $98.40 \pm 0.05$  nm. A prominent absorbance peak confirmed the presence of AgNPs at 344 nm in UV-Visible spectra. XRD spectra evaluate the AgNPs were of FCC crystal having 111, 200, 220, and 311 planes. AgNPs' moderate stability is confirmed by a  $-22.0 \pm 0.01$  mV zeta potential value.

**Keywords:** *Aerva lanata*, FESEM, FTIR, Nanoparticles, UV-Visible spectroscopy.

### INTRODUCTION

With its potential applications in material engineering, environmental research, and health, nanotechnology has become a ground-breaking area of contemporary science<sup>1</sup>. One

kind of nanomaterial that has created a lot of interest is AgNPs, which have broad-spectrum antibacterial, anti-inflammatory, and wound-healing properties<sup>2</sup>. Traditional techniques for creating silver nanoparticles frequently use high-energy procedures and hazardous chemicals, endangering



both human health and the environment<sup>3</sup>. On the other hand, environmentally benign, economical, and sustainable alternatives are provided by green synthesis methods that use plant extracts<sup>4</sup>.

*Aerva lanata* (Linn.), a medicinal herb commonly found in India, particularly in the tribal regions of Chhattisgarh, is traditionally used for treating various ailments<sup>5</sup>. Phytochemicals, including flavonoids, alkaloids, and phenolic compounds, which are abundant in plants, are essential for decreasing and stabilizing metal ions during NPs synthesis<sup>6</sup>.

This plant has been widely researched for its medicinal properties through pharmacological and phytochemical studies<sup>7,8</sup>. *Aerva lanata* exhibits many therapeutic pharmacological properties, such as Antioxidant properties<sup>9</sup>, Anticancer<sup>10</sup>, Anti-inflammatory<sup>11</sup>, Hepatoprotective effect<sup>12</sup>, Diuretic<sup>13</sup>, Anturolithic activity<sup>14</sup>, and Anti-diabetic property<sup>11</sup> due to the presence of many polyphenols and Flavonoids. Even though *Aerva lanata* contains a variety of natural compounds with potential health benefits, its medicinal potential for the Bone Healing process is still not well understood. More thorough and organized studies are needed to explore and make the most of its Bone healing properties. These studies could help discover new Nanomedicine and lead to the development of a drug for Bone Fracture Healing.

*Aerva lanata* leaf extract is used in AgNPs green synthesis for this research<sup>15,16</sup>, which is followed by physicochemical characterization<sup>17</sup>. Using a nanobiotechnological approach, this study seeks to support the plant's traditional use in bone healing while also investigating its bio-reductive potential for nanoparticle production<sup>18</sup>. Understanding the synthesis mechanism and properties of these nanoparticles may contribute to the development of novel therapeutic agents that align with traditional knowledge systems and modern biomedical science<sup>19</sup>.

## MATERIALS & METHODOLOGY

### Green synthesis of Silver Nanoparticles:

The Medicinal plant *Aerva lanata* had been gathered from the village Bicharpur, Block

Lormi, Dist.-Mungeli, Chhattisgarh, in the month of November-December 2023 and identified by the Botanical Survey of India, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh. The plant was rinsed with distilled water after being cleaned with tap water, then allowed to dry for 30 days in the shade. The leaves were ground using a mixture grinder into a coarse powder, stored in an airtight container, and used in subsequent extractions.

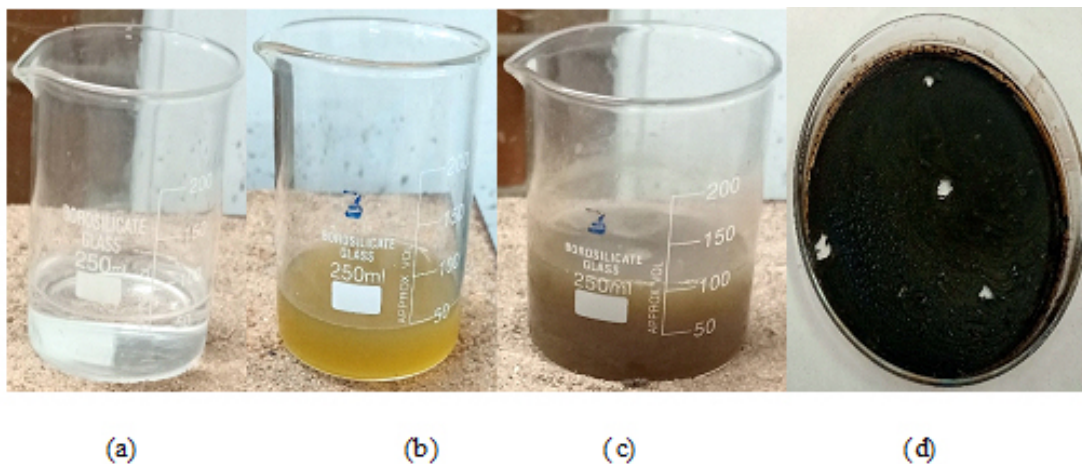
*Aerva lanata* leaf aqueous extracts were prepared by adding 100 ml of deionized water to 10 g of air-dried leaf powder in a 150 ml conical flask, covering the flask with cotton wool, and shaking the flask on a mechanical shaker for six hours at 150 rpm at room temperature. It was macerated for a further 48 hours at room temperature. The Solvent was filtered, collected, and stored at 4 °C in an air-tight bottle.

In order to prepare AgNPs, the above filtrated solution served as an extract source. Ten milliliters of 25 mM AgNO<sub>3</sub> were added to the ten milliliters of filtrate at pH 8.9. The mixture had been left at room temperature (27-30 °C) for 5-10 minutes, and it turned from pale light green and finally dark brown. The color change demonstrated the presence of biosynthesized AgNPs [20].

The solution had been centrifuged for 15 minutes at 10,000 rpm, the pellets were separated, cleaned with deionized water, and left to dry in the air. So, in the present study, the biosynthesis of AgNPs using the leaf aqueous extract of *Aerva lanata* was prepared without using any toxic chemicals by the "Green Synthesis" method.

### UV-Visible Spectrophotometry

Because of surface plasmon resonance, noble metal NPs absorb heavily in the visible spectrum. As a result, UV-visible absorption spectroscopy serves as the main characterization instrument for investigating metal NPs formation, hence it has shown itself as a very practical method for nanoparticle analysis. UV-Visible absorbance spectra had been recorded and observed on the Systronic 2203 Double Beam UV-Vis spectrophotometer in the 200-800 nm wavelength range in order to track AgNP bio-reduction utilizing plant leaf aqueous extract of *Aerva lanata*.



**Fig 1: (a) Silver nitrate solution, (b) Aqueous leaf extract of *Aerva lanata*, (c) Silver nanoparticle solution, (d) AgNPs of leaf extract of *Aerva lanata*.**

#### Fourier transform infrared

FTIR spectral examination of biosynthesized AgNPs demonstrates crystalline NP growth alongside functional group presence in the sample. With the peaks indicating higher concentration components that show the existence of various bond types and functional groups (that involve amines, halides, ketones, and alkanes) that absorb infrared light at different wavelengths, this profile resembles an absorption spectrum. The apparatus IR Affinity-1, Shimadzu, Japan, was used in the Department of Physics and Astrophysics at Pt. Ravi Shankar University in Raipur, Chhattisgarh, to monitor and record potential biomolecules identification that was accountable for the stability of biosynthesized AgNP reduction in the range  $400\text{-}4000\text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

#### Zeta potential

Zeta potential analysis of biosynthesized AgNPs was additionally conducted to learn more about the negative potential value, which contributes to stability as well as reduction of biosynthesized AgNPs because of the electrostatic repulsive force that prevents AgNP agglomeration from developing. The "National Institute of Technology Raipur", "Chhattisgarh's Department of Chemical Engineering" used a Zeta potential analyzer using the Anton Paar Litesizer 500 to conduct a zeta potential investigation in the voltage range  $-200$  to  $+200$  mV of the AgNPs.

#### X-ray Diffractometry:

AgNPs crystalline structure was investigated using their XRD patterns. Bio-reduced silver colloidal solution (AgNPs) was drop-coated onto a glass substrate at Pt. Ravi Shankar University's Department of Physics and Astrophysics in Raipur, Chhattisgarh. A Bruker equipment called the D2 Phaser Model: 08 Discover was employed to record the XRD pattern computation of the solution. The measurements were conducted over a wide range  $0$  to  $95$  Bragg angles  $2\theta$ , at scanning rate of  $2\text{ min}^{-1}$ .

#### Energy Dispersive X-ray Spectroscopy:

EDAX, a chemical microanalysis approach, uses the X-rays released by the sample when it is struck by an electron beam for determining the elemental composition of the AgNPs volume under inquiry. The "CARL ZEISS UHR FESEM GEMINI SEM 500 KMAT" was employed to do EDAX analysis at  $20$  KeV voltage at the Central Instrument facility of the Indian Institute of Technology in Bhilai, Chhattisgarh.

#### Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscopy studies

FESEM was used to examine the biosynthesized AgNPs' dimensions, form, and surface morphology. In the Central Instrument facility of the Indian Institute of Technology, Bhilai, Chhattisgarh, the CARL ZEISS UHR FESEM GEMINI SEM 500 KMAT was used in a resolution

range of 1 nm to 500 nm at 5 KV, in combination with a FESEM that was connected to EDAX.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

### Green synthesis of Silver Nanoparticles from Aqueous Leaf Extract of *Aerva lanata*:

*Aerva lanata* plant leaf extracts are used as a reducing moreover capping agent in the straightforward green process of biosynthesizing AgNPs using AgNO<sub>3</sub> solution. After adding 25 mM AgNO<sub>3</sub> solution, the solution containing the pale green leaf extract of *Aerva lanata* turned dark brown in a matter of minutes. Thus, without the introduction of any hazardous chemicals, it was verified that AgNO<sub>3</sub> was reduced and that *Aerva lanata* produced silver nanoparticles (AgNPs). The decrease in time was between 5 to 10 minutes<sup>21, 22</sup>.

### UV-Vis spectroscopy

The synthesis of AgNPs was confirmed by "UV-Vis spectra of sample solution (AgNPs)", which displayed a prominent and sharp absorbance peak at 344nm (Figure 1). This peak has been a typical silver nanoparticle "surface plasmon resonance (SPR)" peak. The appearance of brownish colour observed is characteristic of surface plasmon vibrations, which clearly indicates that the reducing and stabilizing agents are present in the leaf extract of *Aerva lanata*, which is involved in the bioreduction and capping of the generated AgNPs. Particles under the SPR range 320-450 nm had obviously been caused by AgNPs with sizes that range from 2 to 100 nm,

according to an earlier study<sup>23</sup>. An absorbance peak peculiar to silver nanoparticles was discovered at around 345 nm<sup>24</sup>.

### Fourier Transform Infrared:

In the AgNPs FTIR spectrum study (Figure 2) [25], the prominent peaks at 3849cm<sup>-1</sup>, 3624cm<sup>-1</sup>, 3645cm<sup>-1</sup>, and 3643cm<sup>-1</sup> indicate the polyphenolic (Aromatic) O-H "stretching vibrations. Peaks seen at 2351cm<sup>-1</sup> and 2331cm<sup>-1</sup> represent -CH Aromatic stretching vibrations. Peaks at 1751cm<sup>-1</sup> and 1539cm<sup>-1</sup>, respectively, represent C=O stretching vibrations and C=C aromatic stretching vibrations. Trans-CH out-of-plane bending vibrations are represented by 920cm<sup>-1</sup>, cis-CH in-plane bending vibrations by 743cm<sup>-1</sup>, -CN stretching vibrations by 1382 cm<sup>-1</sup>, and -CH stretching vibrations by 2831cm<sup>-1</sup>. These results suggested that the biological molecules are possibly responsible for the dual function of reduction and stabilization of AgNPs<sup>15</sup>.

### Zeta Potential

One of the crucial characterization criteria that demonstrates the existence of charge on AgNPs in a given medium is the Zeta potential analysis. Because the nanoparticles (NPs) generally have a charge on their surface, a repulsive force can be generated among them, preventing agglomeration and ensuring the NPs' stability. The biosynthesized AgNPs' zeta potential analysis results, which were -22.0 ± 0.01 mV (Figure 3), showed that they had a negative charge on their surface, which prevented agglomeration in the medium moreover produced

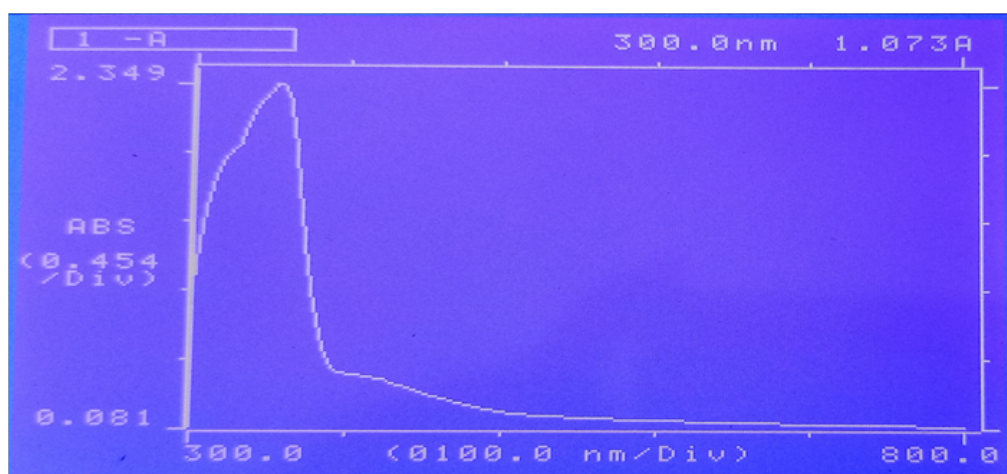
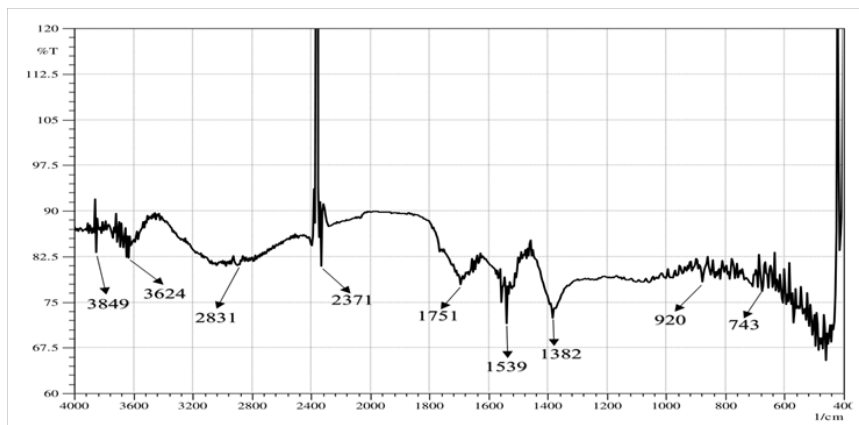
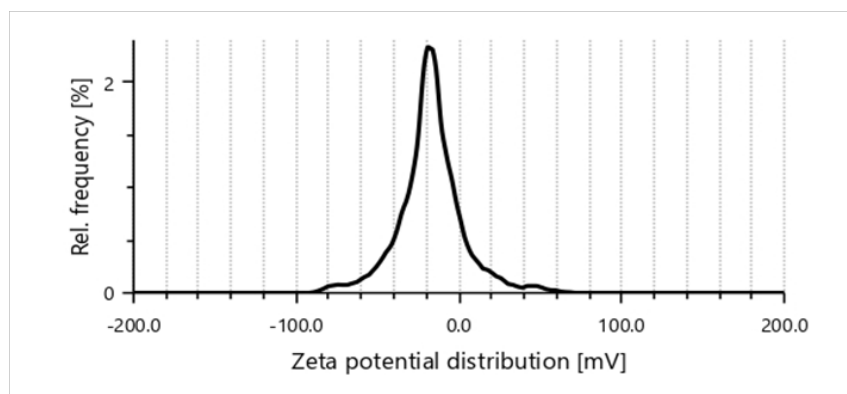


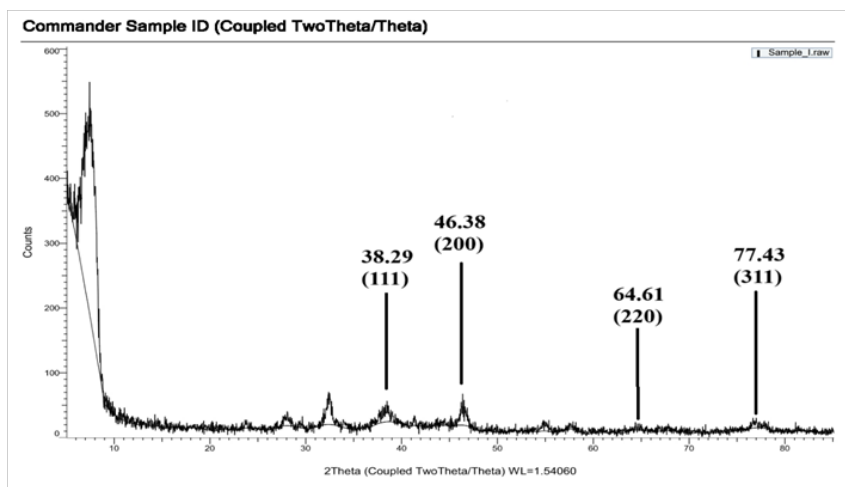
Fig 1: UV-Visible graph of AgNPs of Aqueous leaf extract of "*Aerva lanata*"



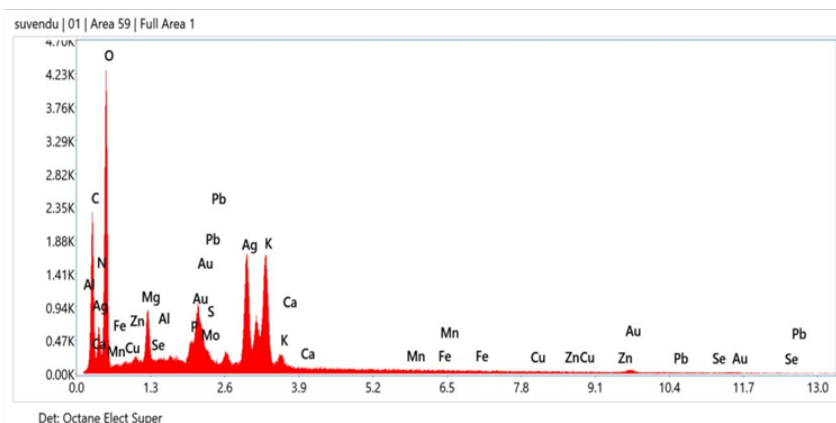
**Fig. 2:** FTIR of AgNP's of Aqueous extract of *Aerva lanata*



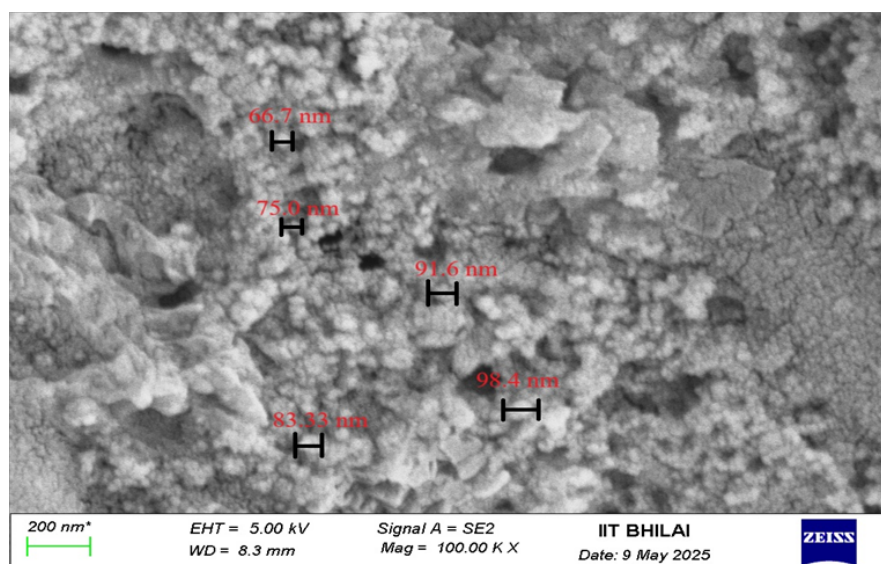
**Fig 3:** Zeta potential of AgNP's of Aqueous leaf extract of *Aerva lanata*



**Fig 4:** XRD of AgNP's of Aqueous leaf extract of *Aerva lanata*



**Fig 5: EDX of AgNP's of Aqueous leaf extract of *Aerva lanata***



**Fig 6: FESEM of AgNP's of Aqueous leaf extract of *Aerva lanata***

moderate long-term stability. According to previous reports, NPs with charges between  $\pm 15$  and  $\pm 25$  mV were moderately stable, while those with charges between  $\pm 30$  mV were very stable [26-28].

#### X-ray Diffraction Analysis

The Advanced characterization spectroscopic technique that was employed to assess the crystalline state of biosynthesized AgNPs was XRD examination. The elemental absorption peak was recorded at 3KeV in the EDAX analysis. The XRD pattern (Fig. 4) shows 4 distinctive peaks in the XRD spectra corresponding to their respective planes at 38.29 (111), 46.38 (200), 64.61 (220), and 77.43 (311), which suggests the crystalline nature of

the NPs is the FCC structure, which identified that elemental silver is present in the sample. The XRD patterns matched the previous results [29, 30].

#### Energy-Dispersive X-ray Spectroscopy:

The "results of the EDAX study, which revealed a very strong signal in the silver region, validated the formation of AgNPs that might have been caused by the presence of biomolecules that are bound to the surface of" *Aerva lanata* AgNPs. The EDAX analysis demonstrated the presence of several elements, which are depicted in Table 1. Because of surface plasmon resonance (SPR), metallic AgNPs frequently displayed an absorption peak at around 20 keV<sup>31</sup>.

**Table 1: EDAX Characterization of Silver Nanoparticles**

S. No	Element	Weight %
1	C	20.2
2	O	28.2
3	Mg	2.1
4	Al	0.2
5	K	9.8
6	Ca	0.1
7	Mn	0.3
8	Fe	0.2
9	Cu	0.4
10	Zn	0.2
11	Ag	21.7
12	Au	6.9

The shape of green-synthesized AgNPs had been observed in FESEM. As depicted As seen in Fig. 6, the FESEM image demonstrated that the AgNPs generated were spherically shaped and well distributed, with diameters that range from 66.70  $\pm$  0.15 to 98.40  $\pm$  0.05 nm [32].

### CONCLUSIONS

In this work, aqueous leaf extract from *Aerva lanata* was used for the green synthesis of AgNPs. This method for the synthesis of AgNPs offers an efficient, economic, and eco-friendly approach that does not need any special conditions such as vacuum, catalyst, hazardous chemicals, or sophisticated instruments. UV-Vis spectroscopy validated AgNPs synthesis and displayed characteristic optical absorption spectra in the UV-Vis region. The average particle size of biosynthesized crystalline, spherically shaped AgNPs was 83.06  $\pm$  0.05 nm. The FTIR analysis identified many active biocompounds that serve as

capping and stabilizing agents during the AgNPs formation process. FESEM is used to evaluate the size and size distribution of AgNPs. AgNPs' FCC crystal structure is confirmed by XRD. EDAX confirms that the various metals are present in the NPs. The zeta potential validates modest AgNPs stability.

Among *Aerva lanata*'s diverse ethnomedicinal applications, its use in bone fracture healing by indigenous communities is particularly notable. *Aerva lanata* leaf contains phytochemicals such as Quercetin and Kaempferol, which have the potential to enhance the Bone Healing process. The Prepared AgNPs from the plant *Aerva lanata* can serve as Nanomedicine for the Bone Healing process. After *in vivo* studies, AgNPs may proceed to clinical trials.

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#### Conflict of Interest

None.

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