

## Supplementary Material

# Polyester-based dendrimer nanoparticles combined with Etoposide have an improved cytotoxic and pro-oxidant effect on human neuroblastoma cells

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Figure S1. Structure of dendron intermediates achieved to synthetize 4: D4BnA, D4BnOH, D5BnA and D5ACOOH

#### Characterization data of dendrimer 4

### FT-IR, NMR spectra data and Elemental analysis results of compound 4 [1]

*Dendrimer* **4**. FTIR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3433 (OH), 2933, 1733 (C=OO). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>),  $\delta$  (ppm): 1.01, 1.16, 1.18, 1.23, 1.34 (five s signals, 186H, CH<sub>3</sub> of generations), 1.70 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub> propandiol), 3.52 (dd, 128H, CH<sub>2</sub>OH), 3.56 (partially overlapped signal, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>O propandiol), 3.98 (partially overlapped signal, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>O propandiol), 4.08-4.18 (m, 120H, CH<sub>2</sub>O of four generations), 4.37 (br s, 64H, OH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75.5 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 173.94, 171.73 (C=O), 64.27, 63.55 (CH<sub>2</sub>O), 50.13 (quaternary C of fifth generation), 46.12 (other generation detectable quaternary C), 17.05, 16.61 (CH<sub>3</sub> of generations). Found: C, 51.71; H, 7.01. C<sub>313</sub>H<sub>504</sub>O<sub>188</sub> requires C, 51.67; H, 6.98%.

 Table S1. Elemental Analysis and other physicochemical data of dendrimer 4 [1].

Compound	Formula	MW	Required (%)	Found (%)	Error (%)	Physical state
4	$C_{313}H_{504}O_{188}{}^1$	7275.24 <sup>1</sup>	C 51.67 H 6.98	C 51.71 H 7.01	C 0.04 H 0.03	Fluffy white hygroscopic solid

<sup>1</sup> Formula and MW of dendrimer **4** were estimated by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra and were confirmed by Elemental Analysis.



**Figure S2.** FTIR spectrum (KBr) (**a**), <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (DMSO-*d6*, 300 MHz) (**b**) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR and DEPT 135 spectra (DMSO-*d6*, 75.5 MHz) (**c**) of dendrimer **4**.

## FTIR and NMR spectra of etoposide (ETO)



**Figure S3.** FTIR spectrum (KBr) (**a**), <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (DMSO-*d6*, 400 MHz) (**b**) [2] and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum (DMSO-*d6*, 100 MHz) (**c**) of ETO [2].

## FTIR and NMR spectra of CPX 5



Figure S4. FTIR spectrum (KBr) (a) and <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (DMSO-*d6*, 300 MHz) (b) of CPX 5.



## Comparison between FTIR and NMR spectra of ETO, 4 and CPX 5

Figure S5. FTIR spectra of ETO (a), dendrimer 4 (b) and CPX 5 (c) with in evidence peaks of 4 (1), peaks of ETO (2) and peaks of 5 (3).



Figure S6. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra (DMSO-*d6*) of (a) ETO (400 MHz) [2], (b) dendrimer 4 (300MHz) and (c) CPX 5 (300 MHz).

## **Principal Component Analysis results**

PCA is a chemometric tool extensively used to process FTIR spectral data obtained from very numerous samples population to put in comparison. In PCA, multi-dimensional data are reduced to a small number of new variables – principal components (PCs) – which are orthogonal linear combinations of the original ones that efficiently represent data variability in low dimensions [3]. Information carried out by PCs is expressed in terms of percentage of explained variance. By definition, PC1 has the largest % explained variance, followed by PC2, PC3 and so on [4]. Briefly, PCA is able to put in evidence similarities or differences among the samples under study by clustering or separating them within a square of two Components identified for being Principal Components (PC).

## PCA with all wavenumbers



Variance explained by 5 components: 100%. % Variance explained by each component: 92.71, 6.26, 1.03, 0.00, 0.00

Figure S7. Bi-plot and score plot on Components PC1 and PC2.

## Section S6

## UV Spectrophotometric Analysis results

Table S2. Data of the calibration curve: $A_{average}$ and ETO standards $\mu g/mL$ concentrations. ET	ТО
predicted concentrations (Cetop), residuals and ETO $\mu M$ concentrations	

Сето (µg/mL)	A average $\pm$ SD	С <sub>етор</sub> (µg/mL)	Residuals	Сето (µМ)
5.0	$0.035 \pm 0.020$	4.8	-0.2	8.49
10.0	$0.079 \pm 0.013$	10.1	+0.1	16.99
20.0	$0.159\pm0.018$	19.9	-0.1	33.98
30.0	$0.242 \pm 0.024$	30.0	0	50.97
40.0	$0.321 \pm 0.020$	39.6	-0.4	67.96



**Figure S8.** UV spectra of ETO dissolved in ACN/TDW 50:50 at the different concentrations used to build up the standard ETO calibration curve (**a**), standard ETO calibration curve (**b**), real ETO concentrations *versus* predicted ones (**c**), Absorbance (A) at  $\lambda$  = 286 nm *versus* standards ETO concentrations (µM) (**d**).

## **Dynamic Light Scattering Analysis**



Figure S9. Dynamic Light Scattering Analysis of CPX 5

#### References

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- [4] Alfei, S.; Oliveri, P.; Malegori, C. Assessment of the Efficiency of a Nanospherical Gallic Acid Dendrimer for Long-Term Preservation of Essential Oils: An Integrated Chemometric-Assisted FTIR Study. *ChemistrySelect* 2019, 4, 8891 - 8901.