Protein-Bound Uremic Toxins Quantification by a Colorimetric Sensor **Based on the Oxidation of Silver Nanoparticles**

Publisher: IEEE Cite This PDF

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80 Full Text Views

Keywords

Metrics











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Abstract:

This work shows a colorimetric sensor based on albumin bound to citrate-capped silver nanoparticles. The sensor capability of detecting protein-bound uremic toxins, such as indoxyl sulfate and p-cresylsulfate, is demonstrated. These uremic toxins enhance the oxidation of citrate-capped silver nanoparticles by hydrogen peroxide, affecting the localized surface plasmon resonance and allowing the proposed colorimetric sensing method. The method exhibits a linear response for indoxyl sulfate and p-cresylsulfate concentrations ranging from 15 to 100 mg/L with resolutions of 0.56 mg/L and 0.41 mg/L and expanded uncertainties for a confidence level of 95% of 17.23 mg/L and 12.55 mg/L, respectively. Limits of detection and quantification of 5.7 mg/L and $19 \ mg/L \ for \ indoxyl \ sulfate \ and \ of \ 3.2 \ mg/L \ and \ 10.7 \ mg/L \ for \ p-cresyl sulfate \ were \ obtained \ for \ p < 0.05. \ These$ characteristics of the colorimetric method allow for a distinction between total normal and total uremic blood concentrations, which reported levels are (0.54 \pm 4.00) mg/L and (37.07 \pm 26.50) mg/L for indoxyl sulfate and (1.87 \pm 2.31) mg/L and (23.00 \pm 16.90) mg/L for p-cresylsulfate. Besides, this novel sensor significantly reduces costs of analysis and facilitates the quantification of those toxins. The interaction between albumin and citrate-capped silver nanoparticles was also investigated by Raman spectroscopy.

Published in: IEEE Sensors Journal (Volume: 21 , Issue: 20, Oct.15, 15 2021)

Page(s): 22651 - 22660 INSPEC Accession Number: 21226483

Date of Publication: 01 September 2021 3 DOI: 10.1109/JSEN.2021.3109567

Publisher: IEEE ISSN Information:

Funding Agency:

