

# The Challenges Ahead for Exosomes Treatment for Diabetes Mellitus [Letter]

Zihang Feng<sup>1,\*</sup>, Wenxia Lu<sup>2,\*</sup>, Yu Xie<sup>3</sup> 

<sup>1</sup>Southern Medical University, Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, People's Republic of China; <sup>2</sup>Nanjing Medical University, Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, People's Republic of China; <sup>3</sup>Obstetrics and Gynecology Hospital of Fudan University, Shanghai, People's Republic of China

\*These authors contributed equally to this work

Correspondence: Yu Xie, Obstetrics and Gynecology Hospital of Fudan University, 419 Fangxie Road, Shanghai 200011, People's Republic of China, Tel +86-021-33189900, Fax +86-021-63450900, Email yuxie18@fudan.edu.cn

## Dear editor

We read with great interest of this study<sup>1</sup> titled "Exosomes as Promising Nanostructures in Diabetes Mellitus: From Insulin Sensitivity to Ameliorating Diabetic Complications". This narrative review made an integrated scoping view of current advances and perspectives of exosomes in Diabetes Mellitus which will benefit researchers in future studies.

We agree with the authors of the prospective mentioned in the article. In the treatment of diabetes and its complications, several advantages are listed below:

1. Exosome delivery system has the advantages of high stability, easy storage, convenient for quantitative use, and tissue specificity aggregation.<sup>2</sup>
2. Compared with cytokine injection, exosomes have higher safety and greater tissue regeneration potential due to the multiple proteins and RNA content.
3. Exosomes can avoid some of the pitfalls of targeted cell therapy, such as immune rejection, ethical issues, etc.<sup>3</sup>

Additional to the authors' reviews, I would like to make few amendments regarding the application and challenges lying ahead before we put this into real clinical practice.

1. Regarding the manufacturing stage of exosomes, the extraction method of exosomes and its complex classification system hinder its application. Efficient extraction and storage technology of exosomes has become an important problem to be solved before clinical application.<sup>4</sup>
2. Regarding the heterogeneous nature of exosomes,<sup>5</sup> differences may be discovered in exosomes secreted by different cells or different physiological states of the same cell. The consistent content and mechanism of production needs further exploration.
3. Regarding the targeted functional stage, since exosomes transport a variety of biomolecules, the specific mechanism of cell receptor regulation and in vivo cell control has yet to be elucidated with further in-depth exploration.

While the concentration of effective exosomes at local injection site is unknown, the optimal concentration and half-life of exosomes for promoting pancreatic or other tissue regeneration or immune regulation requires more research.<sup>6</sup>

After all, to conclude the letter, the incidence of diabetes is rising, and the complications of diabetes are increasing year by year. Exosomes are involved in the occurrence and development of diabetes and its related complications. It can not only be used as a biological marker for early diagnosis and staging of diabetes, but also as a target for diabetes treatment. More importantly, it can monitor the response of diabetic patients to treatment and provide a basis for the implementation of individualized treatment of diabetes. It is believed that with the continuous deepening of research and

the continuous maturity of clinical technology, the role of exosomes in the treatment of diabetic complications will be more widely confirmed in the future, becoming another weapon for the treatment of diabetic complications.

## Disclosure

The authors report no conflicts of interest in this communication.

## References

1. Ashrafizadeh MKA, Aref AR, Zarrabi A, Mostafavi E, Mostafavi E. Exosomes as promising nanostructures in diabetes mellitus: from insulin sensitivity to ameliorating diabetic complications. *Int J Nanomedicine*. 2022;17:1229–1253. doi:10.2147/IJN.S350250
2. Marbán E. The secret life of exosomes: what bees can teach us about next-generation therapeutics. *J Am Coll Cardiol*. 2018;71:193–200. doi:10.1016/j.jacc.2017.11.013
3. Main H, Munsie M, O'Connor MD. Managing the potential and pitfalls during clinical translation of emerging stem cell therapies. *Clin Transl Med*. 2014;3:10. doi:10.1186/2001-1326-3-10
4. Chen J, Li P, Zhang T, et al. Review on strategies and technologies for exosome isolation and purification. *Front Bioeng Biotechnol*. 2021;9:811971. doi:10.3389/fbioe.2021.811971
5. Willms E, Cabañas C, Mäger I, Wood MJA, Vader P. Extracellular vesicle heterogeneity: subpopulations, isolation techniques, and diverse functions in cancer progression. *Front Immunol*. 2018;9:738. doi:10.3389/fimmu.2018.00738
6. Gupta D, Zickler AM, El Andaloussi S. Dosing extracellular vesicles. *Adv Drug Deliv Rev*. 2021;178:113961. doi:10.1016/j.addr.2021.113961

Dove Medical Press encourages responsible, free and frank academic debate. The content of the International Journal of Nanomedicine 'letters to the editor' section does not necessarily represent the views of Dove Medical Press, its officers, agents, employees, related entities or the International Journal of Nanomedicine editors. While all reasonable steps have been taken to confirm the content of each letter, Dove Medical Press accepts no liability in respect of the content of any letter, nor is it responsible for the content and accuracy of any letter to the editor.

International Journal of Nanomedicine

Dovepress

**Publish your work in this journal**

The International Journal of Nanomedicine is an international, peer-reviewed journal focusing on the application of nanotechnology in diagnostics, therapeutics, and drug delivery systems throughout the biomedical field. This journal is indexed on PubMed Central, MedLine, CAS, SciSearch®, Current Contents®/Clinical Medicine, Journal Citation Reports/Science Edition, EMBase, Scopus and the Elsevier Bibliographic databases. The manuscript management system is completely online and includes a very quick and fair peer-review system, which is all easy to use. Visit <http://www.dovepress.com/testimonials.php> to read real quotes from published authors.

Submit your manuscript here: <https://www.dovepress.com/international-journal-of-nanomedicine-journal>

<https://doi.org/10.2147/IJN.S367238>