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# **ORIGINAL ARTICLE**

# Green synthesis and characterization of terbium orthoferrite nanoparticles decorated with g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> for antiproliferative activity against human cancer cell lines (Glioblastoma, and Neuroblastoma)



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## KEYWORDS

Cancer Cell Lines; Cytotoxicity; Green Synthesis; TbFeO<sub>3</sub>/g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> Nanocomposite; Nanostructures Abstract Accordingly, employing plant extracts for the green synthesis of different nanoparticles (NPs) has caught the interest of scientists, and researchers due to the ease of accessibility, wide-spread distribution, and safety of plants. In the current study, a TbFeO<sub>3</sub>/g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> nanocomposite was made using a green chemistry technique that utilized grape juice, which acts as an active capping, and reducing agent to create NPs with well-organized biological characteristics. Several methods, including HRTEM, TEM, SEM, XRD, BET-BJH, and VSM, were employed to characterize the produced NPs. The XRD results indicated that the produced NPs had particles with an average size of 38.74  $\pm$  2 nm, which the TEM examination verified. Additionally, the cytotoxicity of the NPs was examined to assess their anti-proliferative effects on the cancer cell lines T98, and

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SH-SY5. In the case of T98 cells, viability was about 60, 70 and 90% in concentration C1 to C4 respectively after 24 h of drug administration. And viability decreasing by pass the time. Also, viability reduce bout 65% in all concentration about SH-SY5Y cells, surprisingly only the first three concentrations, C1 to C3 caused cell death after 48 h of drug administration and in lower concentrations, the death rate should decrease with the passage of time, viability was about 80 and85% in C4 and C5 respectively.

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#### 1. Introduction

In developed nations today, cancer is the leading cause of mortality due to its prevalence as an extremely hazardous disease (Lokapur et al., 2022). So researchers are looking for ways to improve, and treat this disease. Meanwhile, chemotherapy, and other conventional cancer treatment approaches, such as radiation, have substantial disadvantages. High-energy radiation used in radiotherapy inhibits cancer cells, but it is difficult to manage how deeply the radiation penetrates the body (Qi et al., 2015; Yu et al., 2019). Chemotherapy uses chemicals to kill cancer cells, although doing so can have negative side effects, be poisonous, or even harm healthy cells (Grossman and McNeil, 2012). Despite the extensive research efforts, 25% of all fatalities in developed nations are still caused by cancer (Torre et al., 2012; Goudarzi et al., 2019). Therefore, there is a critical need for more accurate, efficient, and sensitive techniques of cancer detection, and treatment. For this reason the use of nanostructures to fight cancer has received much attention.

Nanotechnology is the widespread scientific phenomenon that has spread throughout the scientific community, that is currently advancing as possible (Narducci, 2007). Many changes in the chemical characteristics, morphological, structural, magnetic, and electrical of nanoparticles will occur when their size is optimized (Amiri and Mahmoudi-Moghaddam, 2021). Nanoparticles can be used in a variety of biological, and biomedical applications because of their variable shape, size, structure, and chemical surface characteristics (Ling et al., 2014; Yang et al., 2019). Therefore, nanomaterials as nanocarriers for drugs have represented a unique impact on the treatment of cancer due to their unique interactions with biological systems, such as long circulation times, greater solubility in water, which lowers the rate of cytotoxicity, ease of penetration into the membrane, and their similarity in size to biological structures (Shamim et al., 2021).

Additionally, pharmacokinetic modifications improve therapeutic outcomes by increasing the concentration of the therapeutic agent in cancerous cells (Ordás et al., 2012; Kudarha and Sawant, 2017). Contrary to previous researches, today the effect of the drug in a specific place is of particular interest (Rezaeifar et al., 2016), targeting the drug to a specific site, and maintaining the drug's concentration at that site for the necessary amount of time to produce better effects (Abdulhusain et al., 2022; Mahde et al., 2022).

With their remarkable electromagnetic thermal, and optical capabilities, inorganic nanoparticles, and nanoparticle-biomaterial composites have shown significant promise in innovative approaches for detection, characterization, and cancer treatment (Montaseri et al., 2020). Targeting cancer cells is one of the most crucial aspects of nanoscale-designed materials. A variety of nanomaterials have been created for the detection, and therapy of illnesses, including cancer. Because of their high surface-to-volume ratio, some inorganic nanoparticles exhibit antibacterial qualities, are tiny, and have strong penetration into microorganisms (Huang et al., 2012). Also, their ability to photocatalyze, ionize, and catalyze led to their widespread usage in the fight against human disease microbes, including viruses, bacteria, and fungus. (Wang, 2004; Ashrafuzzaman and Tuszynski, 2012). Magnetite nanoparticles (MNPs) are potential targeted materials in the biomedical area, and have uses in magnetic hyperthermia, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), and drug delivery systems (Amiri et al., 2021).

Numerous researchers have examined perovskite nanostructures with the formula  $ABO_3$  because to their distinctive properties, which include superior electrical insulation, low thermal expansion, high chemical stability, high thermal conductivity, and high melting point (Goel et al., 2021).

Due to their inertness, low toxicity, excellent stability, low density, and ease of production, perovskite-type ferrite oxides, like  $LnFeO_3$  (Ln = Nd, Gd, Dy, Y, Sm, La, etc.), are frequently used as optical switches, isolators, gas sensors, and for enhancing lithium-ion batteries, and magnetic materials (Li et al., 2021; Andrei et al., 2020). Perovskite compounds are created using a variety of conditions, and processes, including pechini, hydrothermal, solid state, ball mil procedure, combustion method, Co-precipitation (Al Alwany, 2022; Majid et al., 2005; Liu et al., 2022; Abdtawfeeq et al., 2022; Maurya et al., 2009; Bobinov et al., 2021; Varandili et al., 2018).

Although LnFeO<sub>3</sub> materials are employed in many different sectors, including sensors, photocatalysts, and antibacterials, there hasn't been much antibacterial research on these nanostructures. For example, LaCoO<sub>3</sub>, LaFeO<sub>3</sub>, and LaNiO<sub>3</sub> nanoparticles have been used as catalysts to kill bacteria (Ye et al., 2020; Guo et al., 2020; Chen et al., 2022).

Also carbon-based nanomaterials, as a drug carrier, due to their specific surface functionalization for diagnostic imaging, minimal cyto-toxicity, and capacity to target cancer cells, have recently demonstrated effective promise in the treatment of cancer (Zhang et al., 2006; Yadav and Mohite, 2020).

Recently, among all carbon-nitrideallotropes, including the,  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ phase, and structures resembling graphite, researchers have focused on g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> (graphitic carbon-nitride), two-dimensional conjugated polymer, metal-free, earth-abundant, a low-cost (Wang et al., 2017), because of its improved efficiency in semi-conductivity, degradation, and sensing applications. It also has a 2.7 eV (bandgap), and higher stability even at room temperature (Zhang et al., 2018; Fei et al., 2018; Liu et al., 2020; Zheng et al., 2021; Chen et al., 2017) ompared to the bulk form of  $g-C_3N_4$ , the ultrathin nanosheets of this compound showed reduced toxicity, improved water solubility, higher biocompatibility, and much higher photoluminescence yields (Farooq et al., 2021). Therefore, it is readily metabolized in biological systems (Zhao et al., 2015; Zhang et al., 2013). The g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> is a preferred material for biomedical applications, particularly in the field of cancer therapy, due to its high biocompatibility, and low biotoxicity (Dai et al., 2019). Additionally,  $g-C_3N_4$  shares structural similarities with graphene, but because of its better characteristics, it has drawn a lot of interest (Wang et al., 2012).

In general, there are different physical, chemical and biological methods for preparing nanoparticles, but the methods that require lower temperature (in the range of ambient temperature), less covering materials, less organic solvent, require simpler and more economical facilities., are environmentally friendly methods and receive more attention. Among these, green chemistry methods or biological methods are of particular importance. In these methods, one or more natural agents in nature are usually used for the synthesis of nanoparticles.grape (Vitis vinifera), one of the most widely consumed fruit worldwide; contains many bioactive constituents including flavonoids, polyphenols, anthocyanins and stibene derivatives resveratrol. The components present in grape juices have been reported for anticarcinogenic, antimutagenic, antiangiogenics, antioxidant, antibacterial and antiviral properties and also have broad-range of applications in pharmaceuticals, medical, cosmetic and food industry. Also, due to the presence of significant amounts of sugars and organic acids, it can be used as a natural and available fuel for the synthesis of nanoparticles (Zia et al., 2017; Hussein and Mohammed, 2021).

In the current study, TbFeO<sub>3</sub> nanoparticles were synthesized using green chemistry method in the presence of grape extract. the fabrication of TbFeO<sub>3</sub>/g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> using mechanical mixing, and ultrasonic techniques was described. Throughout the fabrication process, TbFeO<sub>3</sub> nanoparticles made using the sol–gel technique, and then loaded onto g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> layered nanosheets to produce a variety of products with a range of doping ratios. Lastly, the anti-cancer activity of synthesized nanocomposite on two different cell lines (T98 and SH-SY5Y) investigated. Based on our research, it is the first time that anticancer ability of TbFeO<sub>3</sub>/g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> nanocomposite presented.

#### 2. Experimental

#### 2.1. Materials and characterization

With the exception of grape extract, all the materials used in this project were readily accessible commercially, and utilized without additional purification.  $Fe(NO_3)_2 \cdot 9H_2O$ , and Tb  $(NO_3)_3 \cdot 6H_2O$  with a molecular weight of 251.01, and 453.03 g/mol, respectively, and Melamine with a purity of above 99% were obtained from Merck Co.

### 2.2. Preparation of grape extract

To prepare grape extract, first, the grapes were washed 2–3 times to be completely clean, then the grape seeds were poured into the blender until the grapes were completely crushed. Then the grape juice was poured into a strainer and the extra skins were removed. At this stage, put a clean cotton cloth on a suitable container and put the grape juice inside the cloth, then



Scheme 1 The formation process of the  $tbfeo_3/g-C_3N_4$  nanocrystalline powders by sol-gel auto-combustion method using the Grape Juice as combustion agent.

press until the grape juice is completely smooth and uniform. Then, filtered100 ml of the prepared fruit juice with Whatman No. 1 and heat it for 2 h at a temperature of 60° and the obtained thick liquid was kept in the refrigerator.

## 2.3. Synthesis of pure $TbFeO_3$ and $g-C_3N_4$

In this experiment, TbFeO<sub>3</sub> nanostructures were synthesized by sol–gel combustion process (Valian et al., 2022), as follows: (A) 10 mL of water were used to individually dissolve 1 mmol of Fe(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>·9H<sub>2</sub>O, and 1 mmol of Fe(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>·9H<sub>2</sub>O (B) The solution was then mixed with 3 mL of grape juice, and heated for 30 min at 60 °C, and after that, at 120 °C, the viscous solution evaporated, and ultimately changed into a gel. (C) The resultant gel was incubated in the oven for 24 h at 75 °C to finish drying, and the finished powder underwent a 5 h calcination process at 800  $^{\circ}\mathrm{C}.$ 

In order to synthesize  $g-C_3N_4$  powder, a given amount of Melamine calcined for 4 h at 550 °C.

The synthesis of  $TbFeO_3/g-C_3N_4$  nanocrystalline powders using the sol-gel auto-combustion technique with grape juice as the combustion agent is shown in Scheme 1.

#### 2.4. Synthesis of $TbFeO_3/g-C_3N_4$ nanocomposites

A certain quantity of nanoparticles, and 1:1 ratios of  $g-C_3N_4$ were first dissolved in water separately, then combined, and put through 5 min of ultrasound (10 s on, 3 s off. With a power of 40 W). It was played on the stereo for 24 h to better homogenize. The finished product was then dried in the oven.



Fig. 1 XRD (a) patterns of the TbFeO<sub>3</sub> nanoparticles provided in the presence of Grape Juice at 800 °C, and (b) g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> at 550 °C for 4 h.

X-ray diffraction of samples were recorded using XRD-Phillips X pert PRO with monochromatized Cu-K $\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda = 1.54$  Å). Fourier transform infrared (FTIR) spectroscopy were carried out using Shimadzu IR-460 spectrometer. The surface morphological features of the products were recorded using a Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscopy (FE-SEM Mira3 Tescan). Energy-dispersive spectroscopy (EDS) analysis was investigated using XL30, Philips microscope. A HT-7700 transmission electron microscope (TEM) operating was used to explore the morphological properties of samples. Vibrating sample magnetometers (VSMs) were used to measure magnetic characteristics (Meghnatis. Daghigh Kavir



Fig. 2 XRD patterns of the TbFeO<sub>3</sub>/g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> nanocomposites.



Fig. 3 FTIR spectrum of (a) g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>,(b) TbFeO<sub>3</sub>, and (c) TbFeO<sub>3</sub>/g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> nanocomposites.

Co.; Kashan Kavir; Iran). Using an automated gas adsorption analyzer, the  $N_2$  adsorption/desorption analysis (BET) was carried out at -196 °C (Tristar 3000, Micromeritics).A.

# 2.6. Cell culture and treatment of cells by $TbFeO_3/g-C_3N_4$ nanocomposites

According to earlier reports (Gondo, 2022; Fatahi et al., 2021), the SH-SY5Y, and T98 cell lines were cultured. Glioblastoma cell line T98 is employed in the study of brain cancer, and the

creation of pharmaceuticals. SK-N-SH, a bone marrow biopsy derived line from which SH-SY5Y was cloned, was initially described in 1973 (Biedler et al., 1973). The SH-SY5Y line, which was initially described in 1978, was created from a neuroblast-like subclone of SK-N-SH known as SH-SY. SH-SY5 was then subcloned three times (Biedler et al., 1978). Cloning is simply a form of artificial selection that involves the multiplication of individual cells or a small group of cells that show a certain phenotypic of interest, in this case a feature that is neuron-like. The SH-SY5Y line has two X, and no Y



Fig. 4 SEM (a, b) images of the TbFeO<sub>3</sub> nanoparticles provided in the presence of Grape Juice as fuel at 800 °C for 5 h.



Fig. 5 SEM images of  $TbFeO_3/g-C_3N_4$  nanocomposites.

chromosomes, making it genetically female. In a nutshell, Dulbecco's modified Eagle's media (DMEM; Invitrogen Inc. Gibco BRL, Gaithersburg, MD, USA) was used to cultivate human cells from the SH-SY5Y, and T98 lines (Pasteur Institute, Tehran, Iran) in 25 cm<sup>2</sup> flasks (Iwaki, Tokyo, Japan) at a cell density of  $4 \times 104$  cells/ml. The cultures were maintained at  $37 \pm 0.5$  °C in a humidified environment with 5% CO<sub>2</sub> and supplemented with 1% (v/v) penicillin/streptomycin, and 10% (v/v) fetal calf inactivated serum. Every day, a different media was used. For 24 and 48 h, groups of  $4 \times 104$  cells (for each cell line) were exposed to TbFeO<sub>3</sub>/g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> nanocomposites at varying concentrations (0.05-0.8 m/mL). It should be noted that NPs were suspended in DMEM medium, and that, in order to prevent agglomeration before treatment of cells, nanocrystal suspensions were sonicated for 10 min at 40 W. Following each treatment, biochemical, and morphological analyses were carried out.

#### 2.7. Cell viability (MTT Assay)

On the SH-SYY, and T98 cell lines, a cytotoxicity analysis using MTT was performed to evaluate the nanoparticles' biocompatibility. The plates were incubated for 24 h at 37 °C in a CO<sub>2</sub> incubator. Cell lines were planted in 96-well plates at a density of 10 × 103 cells per well. The plates incubated in a CO<sub>2</sub> incubator at 37 °C/24 h. Following that, various TbFeO<sub>3</sub>/ g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> nanocomposites suspension concentrations were applied to each well, and they were then incubated for 24, and 48 h. The concentration range shown as 0.05, 0.1, 0.2, 0.4, and 0.8 mg/mL. After adding 10 µL of 5% MTT filtered solution, the medium was replaced with new media, and incubated for 2 h. This equation determines the percentage of viable cells (Amiri et al., 2020); Cell viability (%) = (Atest / Actrl) × 100; where Actrl, and Atest are the control wells, and absorbance values of the test, respectively.

#### 2.8. Statistical analysis

The findings are shown as a mean  $\pm$  SD; all tests were performed in triplicate. P values under 0.05 are regarded as significant.

#### 3. Results and discussions

### 3.1. Characterization of the $TbFeO_3/g-C_3N_4$ nanocomposite

The XRD patterns of (a) g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>, and (b) TbFeO<sub>3</sub> nanoparticles obtained at 800 °C for 4 h in the presence of grape juice are shown in Fig. 1. At  $2\theta = 27.2^{\circ}$ , it was observed that g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> exhibited a notable diffraction peak that may be attributed to its (002) facet.

The high crystallinity of TbFeO<sub>3</sub> produced by the sol-gel process was demonstrated by Several pure TbFeO<sub>3</sub> diffraction peaks were seen at 23.2°, 26.06°, 32.14°, 32.18°, 33.8°, 58.6°, and 59.4°. These peaks corresponded closely to the (110), (111), (112), (202), (200), (021), (220), and (004) crystal planes of perovskite-type TbFeO<sub>3</sub> (JCPDS Card No. 47–0068), respectively. The XRD pattern of TbFeO<sub>3</sub>/g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> heterojunction nanocomposites samples were shown in Fig. 2, and the diffraction peaks still exhibited the properties of pure TbFeO<sub>3</sub>, and g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>. Additionally, when the doping ratio of g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> in the samples rose, the peaks about 27.2° progressively grew larger.

The Scherrer's formula can be used to determine the crystallite size as follows:  $Dp = 0.9\lambda/\beta \cos\theta$ , Where 0.90 is a constant value known as the shape factor,  $\beta$  is the full width at half maximum (FWHM),  $\lambda$  is the wavelength of the X-rays,  $\theta$  is Bragg's angle, and Dp is the crystallite size. In comparison to pure TbFeO<sub>3</sub> (Dp = 36.44 nm), the size of the TFCN nanocomposite was marginally smaller (38.74 nm) from the



Fig. 6 HR-TEM images of TbFeO<sub>3</sub>/g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> nanocomposites.

(112) plane's greatest intensity peak (with Orthorhombic Crystal system), that it could be because of how widely scattered the aggregated TbFeO<sub>3</sub> particles were on the surface of  $g-C_3N_4$  nanosheets. All of the aforementioned findings supported the development of the connection between  $g-C_3N_4$ , and TbFeO<sub>3</sub>.

Fig. 3(a-c) shows the FTIR spectra of  $g-C_3N_4$ , TbFeO<sub>3</sub>, and a series of TbFeO<sub>3</sub>/ $g-C_3N_4$  as obtained. Fig. 3b displays the FTIR spectra for the constructed TbFeO<sub>3</sub> nanostructure. The O–H stretching vibrational mode may be the source of the peaks at 3442, and 1621 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Furthermore, the peaks at 438, and 566 cm<sup>-1</sup> might be the result of Fe-O stretching vibrations (Yang et al., 2013). Also, when the TbFeO<sub>3</sub> nanostructure was calcined at 800 °C, a faint peak that occurred at 1112 cm<sup>-1</sup> was attributed to the ambient carbon dioxide.

The conspicuous absorption peak about  $3200 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  in the spectra of g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>, and TbFeO<sub>3</sub>/g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> was thought to be caused by the bending, and stretching vibrations of N–H that are caused by the uncondensed terminal amino groups. This

shows that even after heating the urea directly, the products still included amino functionalities. Several prominent peaks in the range of 1200–1650 cm<sup>-1</sup> were attributed to characteristic g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>'s aromatic heterocycle expansions (Wang et al., 2017; Tian et al., 2018). The distinctive peaks for pure g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> were compatible with the stretching modes of the CN framework structure of the conjugated aromatic ring at 1294.5, 1435.6, and 1597.2 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Furthermore, the distinctive absorption peak at 810 cm<sup>-1</sup> is produced by the breathing vibration of s-triazine for g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> (Liu et al., 2018).

SEM, and TEM studies were used to evaluate the surface microscopic morphologies of the  $g-C_3N_4$ , TbFeO<sub>3</sub>, and TFCN samples. SEM pictures of the TbFeO<sub>3</sub> nanoparticles are shown in Fig. 4(a, b), which were heated to 800 °C for 5 h while using grape juice as fuel. Images demonstrate that the pure TbFeO<sub>3</sub> was made up of a large number of grouped spherical nanoparticles. The TbFeO<sub>3</sub> particles were well disseminated and deposited on the surface of  $g-C_3N_4$  according to the SEM images of Fig. 5(a, b), which also showed that  $g-C_3N_4$  was stacked by a



Fig. 7 EDS patterns of, (a) TbFeO<sub>3</sub> and (b) TbFeO<sub>3</sub>/g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> nanocomposites.

number of irregularly layered nanosheets, and had a significantly larger smooth surface, making it better as a substrate. The nanoparticle size, and internal microstructure of the catalysts as produced were also verified using the HRTEM analysis. The HRTEM of pure TbFeO<sub>3</sub> is shown in Fig. 6. From the images, we could deduce that the TbFeO<sub>3</sub> aggregated particles had sphere-like shapes with a mean diameter of around 30 nm, which was essentially compatible with the calculation result of crystallite size obtained from XRD. Additionally, the TbFeO<sub>3</sub> nanostructure's elemental composition was analyzed using EDS. The EDX of (a) TbFeO<sub>3</sub>, and (b)  $g-C_3N_4$  nanoplates are shown in Fig. 7. These findings support the inclusion of the elements Fe, O, C, N, and Tb, hence validating the synthesis of the  $TbFeO_3/g-C_3N_4$  nanocomposite without the presence of any additional components. Fig. 8 shows the magnetic hysteresis loops of TbFeO<sub>3</sub> when Grape Juice employed for 4 h at a calcination temperature of 800 °C. As a result, we recorded changes in magnetization against field up to 10,000 Oe at ambient temperature, and the saturation magnetization (Ms) values of the collected samples were around 2.42 emu/g. In reality, the larger cation variations between the two sublattices, and smaller particle sizes in this synthesis method are what primarily contribute to the higher MS. Then, we discovered fewer coercivity values and a particular magnetic response that could be easily gathered, and changed using an outside magnetic field.

**Table 1**Porosity features of synthesized nanomaterials fromBET-BJH analyses.

Product	Vm (cm <sup>3</sup> g <sup>-1</sup> )	$a_{s} (m^{2} g^{-1})$	Average pore diameter (nm)
TbFeO <sub>3</sub>	0.4228	1.8401	23.247
TbFeO <sub>3</sub> /g-C <sub>3</sub> N <sub>4</sub>	1.6138	7.0241	32.161



Fig. 8 M- H hysteresis at 300 K for SEM images of the TbFeO<sub>3</sub> nanoparticles provided in the presence of Grape Juice as fuel at 800  $^{\circ}$ C for 5 h.



Fig. 9 N<sub>2</sub> adsorption/desorption isotherms and inset image of pore size distribution of TbFeO<sub>3</sub>/g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> nanocomposites.

Using nitrogen adsorption–desorption tests at 77 K, the specific surface areas, and porous structures of the samples as produced were identified, and the associated curves, and data are displayed in Fig. 9. The N<sub>2</sub> adsorption/desorption isotherms of TbFeO<sub>3</sub>, and TbFeO<sub>3</sub>/g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> are illustrated in Fig. 9. This isotherms were categorized as type III according to the IUPAC, the international union of pure and applied chemistry. The compounds that graded for two samples' micropore, and mesopore sizes were given H3-type hysteresis labels. Due to the particular comparative pressure, samples have a wide pore size dispersion from mesopore to micropore (Fig. 9). Table 1 displayed the average pore diameter, total volume, and mediocrity diameter of the nanomaterials.

# 3.2. Anticancer evaluation of the $TbFeO_3/g-C_3N_4$ nanocomposite

The study and investigation on two cell lines T98 and SH-SY5Y by perovskite nanostructures had not been done until now, except in other works of our team, that in 2023, using nanoparticles  $ErFeO_3$ , we investigated the survival of cells T98 and SH-SY5Y (Baladi et al., 2023). Also, in 2020, Salawati et al. used molybdenum trioxide nanoparticles to investigate their effect on the survival of glioma and A172 cells.Both T98 and A172 cell lines indicated dose-dependent manner in the presence of increasing concentration of  $MoO_3$  nanostructures, but T98 cells were less sensitive to  $MoO_3$  in comparison



Fig. 10 In vitro cell viability assay, Cell viability of T98 cell lines incubated with  $TbFeO_3/g-C_3N_4$  nanocomposites at different concentrations for 24 h (a), and 48 h (b) (SD  $\pm$  2%). Stars indicated significance in compare to control(\* p < 0.05, \*\* p < 0.01,\*\*\* p < 0.005).

with A172. Anti-glioma role of MoO<sub>3</sub> nanostructures excited with the aid of UVC illumination studied in vitro. By studying the UV exposure lonely, it was evident that UV effects on cell viability about 50% in both cell lines after 24 h (Masjedi-Arani et al., 2020). in another work also Investigatied of toxicity of TiO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles on glioblastoma and neuroblastoma. The results showed, different concentrations of TiO<sub>2</sub> can be used for different purposes. After administration of 10, 50, 100 and 500 µg/mL TiO<sub>2</sub>, 0.043 and 1.4 mW/cm<sup>2</sup> UVA irradiation, cell viability was investigated after 4, 24 and 48 h by MTT assay (Kazemi et al., 2022).

The anti-cancer effect of TbFeO<sub>3</sub>/g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> nanocomposite against T98, and SH-SY5Y cell lines by exposure to NPs at the concentrations of 0.0, 0.05, 0.1, 0.2, 0.4, and 0.8 mg/ml for 24, and 48 h, was determined using MTT assay. The survivability of T98 cell lines exposed to TbFeO<sub>3</sub>/g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> nanocomposite at various doses for 24 h (A), and 48 h (B) is shown in Fig. 9 in vitro cell viability experiment.

Viability was noticeably decreased in cultivated cells in the presence of NPs at various doses, suggesting a dose-dependent process. According to Fig. 9, the TbFeO<sub>3</sub>/g- $C_3N_4$  nanocomposite demonstrated a strong index of cyto-toxicity impact on malignant cell lines.

The features of glioblastoma may be the cause of the inhibitory effects of NPs on this illness, since these cancer cells have a speedy cell division, greater rate of metabolism, and consequently show improved internalization of NPs, which leads to a higher rate of cell death (Kazemi et al., 2022). With the passage of time, the level of toxicity in different concentrations increases, but the level of toxicity in different doses becomes similar to each other. In total, all the nanoparticles showed similar levels of toxicity to this cell in 24, and 48 h.

The in vitro cell survival experiment was performed on SH-SY5Y cell lines using  $TbFeO_3/g-C_3N_4$  nanocomposite at various doses for 24 h (A), and 48 h (B), and the results are shown



Fig. 11 In vitro cell viability assay, Cell viability of SH-SY5Y cell lines incubated with  $TbFeO_3/g-C_3N_4$  nanocomposites at different concentrations for 24 h (a), and 48 h (b) (SD  $\pm$  2%). Stars indicated significance in compare to control(\* p < 0.05, \*\* p < 0.01,\*\*\* p < 0.005).

in Fig. 10. In addition to the production of reactive oxygen species,  $TbFeO_3/g-C_3N_4$  nanocomposite also causes a reduction in cellular ATP content and dehydrogenase activity, which causes harm to the mitochondrial respiratory chain and other cellular components and ultimately leads to cell death. Therefore, rather than causing a general disruption in cell membrane functions, phytogenic NPs' cytotoxicity is reliant on the kind of cell that exhibits an unique intracellular mechanism for growth suppression (Fig. 11). Furthermore, the only factors that determine an NP's cytotoxicity are its aggregation state, interaction duration, surface chemistry, shape, and size (Kazemi et al., 2022). Consequently, the toxicity level of all nanoparticles was higher in glioblastoma cells than in neuroblastoma cells.

#### 4. Conclusion

In this study, for the first time a unique, original biosynthetic technique is described in the presence of grape juice, as an environmentally friendly and green precursor, reducing agent, and green capping, using a sol-gel process for the production of uniform, sub-40 nm TbFeO<sub>3</sub>/g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> nanocomposites. Since the synthesis of NPs only requires one step, and is non-toxic, simple, affordable, and environmentally benign, it looks to be appropriate for mass manufacturing. The NPs showed a substantial cytotoxic, and dose-dependent impact on the cancer cell lines T98, and SH-SY5Y. In the case of T98 cells, viability was about 60%, 70% and 90% in concentration C1 to C4 respectively after 24 h of drug administration. And viability decreasing by pass the time. Also, viability reduce bout 65% in all concentration about SH-SY5Y cells, surprisingly only the first three concentrations, C1 to C3 caused cell death after 48 h of drug administration and in lower concentrations, the death rate should decrease with the passage of time, viability was about 80% and85% in C4 and C5 respectively. Therefore, In the case of T98 cells, although the concentration of C1 is the most effective. But all concentrations are applicable, according to chemotherapy strategies. Because over time the death rate increases in all concentrations. But in the case of SH-SY5Y cells, only the first three concentrations,C1 to C3 are suitable, because in lower concentrations, the death rate should decrease with the passage of time, and the cell is becoming resistant to the drug. More pharmacological research is undoubtedly required, however the in vitro results showed that TbFeO<sub>3</sub>/g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> nanocomposites are promising chemotherapeutic agents against invasive cancer cells, and exhibited high potential for anticancer actions.

#### **CRediT** authorship contribution statement

Mahin Baladi: Software, Investigation, Methodology, Writing – original draft, Formal analysis. Mahnaz Amiri: Data curation, Software, Writing – review & editing, Writing – original draft. Maryam Amirinezhad: Software, Investigation. Waleed K. Abdulsahib: Data curation, Software, Writing – review & editing. Fatemeh Pishgouii: Formal analysis. Zahra Golshani: Formal analysis. Masoud Salavati-Niasari: Software, Formal analysis, Methodology, Writing – review & editing, Writing – original draft, Conceptualization, Supervision, Project administration, Investigation, Data curation, Validation, Resources, Visualization.

## **Declaration of Competing Interest**

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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