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ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Saussurea costus for sustainable and eco-friendly synthesis of palladium nanoparticles and their biological activities



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KEYWORDS

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Anti- Alzheimer

Abstract Palladium nanoparticles have been evaluated as a viable candidate in the realm of biological applications due to their unique features. *Saussurea costus* extract was used as a stabilizing and reducing agent for the synthesis of palladium nanoparticles with average grain size of 17.6 ± 1.2 nm. The synthesized PdNPs were evaluated for their antioxidant activity, anti Alzheimer's activity, antibacterial and anticancer activities. The nanocharacterization was carried out using different spectroscopic techniques, including UV-visible spectroscopy, Transmission Electron Microscopy, Fourier Transformed Infrared spectroscopy, X-ray Diffraction analysis, X-ray Photoelectron spectroscopy, Energy Dispersive X-ray Spectroscopy, Size distribution, and Zeta potential. The characterization data explained the PdNPs mediated by *S.costus* extract have spherical form and are disseminated without agglomeration. FTIR and XPS supported the hypothesis that the biomolecules of *S.costus* are acting as a reducing and stabilizing agents. The antioxidant activity of PdNPs was assessed using a free radical scavenging assay (DPPH) which exhibited similar results to the ABTS assay *i.e.* $90 \mu\text{g/mL}$ IC_{50} value. Moreover Alzheimer's disease can easily be inhibited by *S.costus*@PdNPs at 400 mg/mL , with 79.23 ± 1.11 % of inhibition rate against AChE and 76.13 ± 0.43 % towards BChE. *S.costus*@PdNPs showed comparatively greater antibacterial activity against all four *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Bacillus subtilis* *Escherichia coli* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* microorganisms. Supplementary research carried out on the anti-tumor effects of the generated PdNPs using the colon cancer (HCT-116), hepatocellular carcinoma (HepG2), and breast

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adenocarcinoma (MCF-7) cell lines. PdNPs showed potent anticancerous activity against all the cell lines. Thus we recommend *S.costus*@PdNPs as a therapeutic agent after successful clinical trials in future.

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1. Introduction

Nanoscience is a new interdisciplinary science that has risen as one of the fastest growing fields of science (Al-Radadi, 2022). Since nanoparticles successfully revolutionized life sciences, material sciences, and human health, nanotechnology is currently gaining a lot of attention from scientists and researchers all over the world (Abd El-Aziz et al., 2021; Al-Radadi, 2021a). Nanoparticles bear unique properties related to nanoscaled size and large surface area (Ng and Lim, 2022; Gioria et al., 2019; Fan et al., 2022), it can control the average grain size and morphology of nanoparticles including their physiochemical properties (Dash et al., 2022; Srinoi et al., 2018). Due to development in nanotechnology, there is an intense need for efficient and cost-effective, eco-friendly metallic nanoparticles (Al-Radadi and Al-Youbi, 2018a). Metallic nanoparticles have been synthesized with ease and efficiency by green routes previously by many researchers (Abdullah et al., 2022; Faisal et al., 2021; Deokar and Ingale, 2017). Due to stability and cost-effectiveness, the metallic nanoparticles biosynthesis is an emerging field in green chemistry (Hano and Abbasi, 2022; Tran et al., 2022; Deokar and Ingale, 2018). Metallic nanoparticles have efficiency in targeting the site of infection and are therefore widely used for drug delivery (Bendre et al., 2022; Chandrakala et al., 2022). As far as toxicity concerns, NPs exhibit less toxicity because of targeted action at the infection site. The delivery method is also very simple, like by orally, by injecting, and by inhalation (Yaqoob et al., 2020), resulting in a versatile medical application (Al-Radadi, 2021b). Out of the metal nanoparticles, nano-configured noble metals have sparked interest and have tremendous potential applications in different fields including biochemistry, chemistry, physics, biology, and engineering (Al-Radadi and Al-Youbi, 2018b; Deokar and Ingale, 2016). Amongst noble metals, PdNPs gained remarkable attention for biological applications (Zhang et al., 2022) due to their efficient surface energy and area. These characteristics make them inexhaustible in therapeutic sectors. Palladium nanoparticles are also utilized to improve biomedical diagnosis because they are active in the infrared range for bioimaging (Sonbol et al., 2021). PdNPs are also active catalysts for numerous chemical reactions (Gálvez-Martínez et al., 2021). NPs tend to aggregate and are inherently unstable (Anand et al., 2022; Veisi et al., 2021). Therefore, plant extracts can also be used to make nanoparticles without requiring sophisticated physical or chemical conditions (Al-Radadi, 2022a). Plant biomolecules are regarded as the best reducing agent of Pd to PdNPs (Iftikhar et al., 2020; Sarkar et al., 2022), because they allow eco-friendly and green synthesis (Al-Radadi et al., 2022). Additionally, it is more successful and efficient in regulating the size, shape, and dispersion of nanoparticles (Al-Radadi, 2019) and it contains biologically active compounds. It also works as a capping agent, and coat-

ing nanoparticles to reduce their size (El Marghani et al., 2021; Info, 2019). The interaction of NPs at cellular and sub-cellular levels makes them prominent agents to be used in the prevention of chronic diseases (Al-Radadi and Adam, 2020). *Saussurea costus*, a synonym of (*Saussurea lappa*), is a potent antibiotic and a plant of the asteraceae family that is extensively dispersed around the world (Park, 2021), particularly in India and the Himalayas (Abdullah et al., 2021). Because of its broad use, it is the most commonly used medicinal plant in ancient medicine (Binti Mohamad and Ahmad, 2021; Shahista, 2019). It is well-known in Islamic medicine and the hadiths of the Prophet Muhammad (may God bless him and grant him peace) (Chloride, 2022). It is one of the most extensively utilized plants in medicinal systems because of the variety of therapeutic components it contains, which makes it chemically free (Sohrab et al., 2021). A lot of compounds have been discovered in the extract of *S. costus* including alkaloids, flavonoids, sesquiterpenes, terpenes, anthraquinones, and tannins, as well as components such as lactone, saussureamine, etc (Sunil Kumar et al., 2021; Vijayalakshmi et al., 2022). *S. costus* has anticancer, anti-diabetic, anti-fungal, anti-inflammatory, anti-ulcer, anti-microbial, and antiseptic properties, and it also heals the thyroid gland and COVID-19 (Tousson et al., 2020; Debes et al., 2021; Al-Obaidy and Esmael, 2021). *S. costus* contains sesquiterpene lactones, such as dehydrocostus lactone and costunolide and alantolactone, cynaropicrin, and saussureamine, which contribute to future medication research (Ali and Venkatesalu, 2022; Ellam, 2012; Nadda et al., 2020). For example, isodihydrocostunolide, cynaropicrin, costunolide, and dehydrocostus lactone, and lappadilactone, these all compounds can be utilized to treat cancer, one of the most important health issues in the world (El-Bolkiny et al., 2021). Because it contains D-galactose, *S. costus* has shown to be useful in reducing inflammation, oxidation, and Alzheimer's disease by forming tangles of the neurofibrillary (Mohamed et al., 2022). Since it contains costunolide, dehydrocostus lactone, and dihydrocostunolide, *S. costus* is also regarded as antibacterial, anti-inflammatory, and anticancer (Rathore et al., 2021; Saif-Al-Islam, 2020). Healthcare systems in both developed and underdeveloped countries are impacted by multidrug resistance pathogens, which has been linked to the development of deadly pathogens and chronic illnesses, in order to tackle the emerging diseases, there is an intense need for novel drugs, the nanomaterials have been widely used in this aspect and found efficient (Al-Radadi, 2022b; Al-Jahdaly et al., 2021). As a result, this work demonstrated a perfect result for the green, eco-friendly synthesis of *S. costus*@PdNPs, which are nonaggregated, spherical, homogeneous, nano-sized, and active against Gram's positive and negative bacteria, also active against antioxidants and Alzheimer's disease and active against HCT-116, HepG-2, and MCF-7 cell lines, and whether it is a workable cancer therapeutic approach.

Table 1 Anti-bacterial Potential of the *S.costus*-@PdNPs.

Microorganisms	Concentration µg/mL	<i>S.costus</i>	<i>S.costus</i> -@PdNPs
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	15 µg/mL	3 ± 0.7	9 ± 0.1
	25 µg/mL	7 ± 0.6	13 ± 0.5
	50 µg/mL	12 ± 0.9	18 ± 0.0
	100 µg/mL	16 ± 0.1	22 ± 0.5
	Standard	24 ± 0.6	25 ± 0.6
	Control	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0
<i>Bacillus subtilis</i>	15 µg/mL	4 ± 0.6	9 ± 0.5
	25 µg/mL	10 ± 0.4	14 ± 0.3
	50 µg/mL	14 ± 0.8	19 ± 0.1
	100 µg/mL	18 ± 0.0	23 ± 0.1
	Standard	25 ± 0.3	24 ± 0.2
	Control	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	15 µg/mL	2 ± 0.8	8 ± 0.9
	25 µg/mL	9 ± 0.6	13 ± 0.0
	50 µg/mL	14 ± 0.5	19 ± 0.0
	100 µg/mL	17 ± 0.0	22 ± 0.3
	Standard	23 ± 0.6	25 ± 0.6
	Control	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	15 µg/mL	1 ± 0.9	6 ± 0.8
	25 µg/mL	7 ± 0.6	12 ± 0.1
	50 µg/mL	10 ± 0.8	14 ± 0.9
	100 µg/mL	15 ± 0.0	19 ± 0.4
	Standard	25 ± 0.6	24 ± 0.6
	Control	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0

Table 2 In vitro AChE and BChE inhibition of the *S.costus*-@PdNPs.

Enzymes	NPs	25 µg/mL	50 µg/mL	100 µg/mL	200 µg/mL	400 µg/mL
AChE	Pd-NPs	30.77 ± 0.25	47.93 ± 0.19	59.00 ± 0.13	68.11 ± 1.41	79.23 ± 1.11
BChE	Pd-NPs	29.87 ± 0.21	44.46 ± 0.11	55.21 ± 0.11	65.21 ± 1.22	76.13 ± 0.43

2. Experimental details

2.1. *S.costus* preparation and *S.costus*-mediated *S.costus*-@PdNPs biosynthesis

Saussurea costus of good quality was purchased from a local spice shop, while PdCl₂ was purchased from Sigma Aldrich. *Saussurea costus* extract was prepared by heating *Saussurea costus* in 50 mL of distilled water for 5 min at 25 °C. For the preparation of *S.costus*-@PdNPs 40 mL of plant extract 60 mL of PdCl₂ (2 × 10⁻³ M) PdCl₂ at 100 °C in reflux condenser for 2 h. The color change was observed for synthesis of Pd⁰.

2.2. Characterization of Pd nanoparticles

The physio chemical properties of the bisynthesized *S.costus*-@PdNPs were investigated utilizing various advanced spectroscopic procedures and instruments including, UV–vis Spectrometer between wavelengths 800–200 nm using quartz cuvettes later transmission electron microscopy was used to identify the average grain diameter and properties of *S.costus*-@PdNPs. FTIR spectroscopy in the spectral angle of 400–

4000 cm⁻¹ was used for the detection of phytochemicals and the active groups associated with *S.costus*-@PdNPs. The X-ray diffraction study was used to determine the crystalline structure of PdNPs. The X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy was used to determine and investigate the surface components of synthesized nanoparticles. EDX was used to further characterise the elements of PdNPs, size distribution and zeta potential was also determined.

2.3. Anti-bacterial assay

Four previously identified bacterial strains *Escherichia coli*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Bacillus subtilis*, and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* were taken from the Regional Center for Mycology and Biotechnology (RCMB), Al- Azhar University, Saudi Arabia. The strains were cultivated and used for antibacterial activity against *S.costus* extract and *S.costus*-@PdNPs. The antibacterial assay was performed according to Agar well diffusion method. Five millimeters wells were bored in the culture media and plant extract, PdNPs were applied against the bacterial strains in a concentration of 15 µg, 25 µg, 50 µg and 100 µg for overnight and the inhibition zones were calculated accordingly. The assay was repeated three times.

2.4. Anti-inflammatory assay

For anti-inflammatory assay murine macrophages RAW264.7 cells (ATCC®) were cultured in Dulbecco's Modified Eagle's Medium (DMEM, Corning, USA) supplemented with 10 % FBS, 100 U/mL of Penicillin, 100 µg/mL of streptomycin sulphate, and 2 mM of L-glutamine in a humidified 5 % CO₂ incubator. The cells were rinsed in phosphate buffered saline and scraped off the flasks with sterile scrappers for passaging and treatment (SPL, Spain). RAW 264.7 cell stock (0.5 × 10⁶ cells/mL) was planted into 96-well micro well plates overnight. The non-induced triplicate wells received media containing the nanoparticle sample the next day. The inducer of inflammation [lipopolysaccharide (LPS) at 100 ng/mL in full culture media] was given to the inflammatory group of triplicate wells. In Triplicate wells, the increasing volumes of the extract (6.25–100 µg/ml) was dissolved in culture media and diluted into culture media containing LPS. The anti-inflammatory positive control was caffeic acid phenacyl ester (CAPE, 5 µM). Griess test was used to measure NO in all wells after 24 h of incubation. To make the colored diazonium salt, equal amounts of culture supernatants and Griess reagent were combined and incubated at 25°C for 10 min, absorbance were recorded at 540 nm by a Tecan Sunrise™ microplate reader (Austria). The Inhibition percent of the sample was computed in comparison to the LPS-induced inflammation group, and was normalized to cell viability as determined by the Alamar Blue™ decrease assay.

2.5. Anti-cancer assay

The cell lines MCF-7, HCT-116, and HepG-2 were collected from VACSERA Tissue Culture Unit. HCT-116, HepG-2, and MCF-7 cells were cultured in McCoy's 5A medium, Eagle's inimum essential medium, and low glucose Dulbecco's modified Eagle medium respectively. All the culture medias were supplemented by Penicillin, Streptomycin, and 10 % foetal bovine serum.

For MTT assay the HCT-116, HepG-2, and MCF-7 cells were introduced to 12-well plates at seeding density of 3 × 10⁴ per well, followed by incubation at 37 °C for a complete day in a humidified 5 % CO₂ incubator. To determine the IC₅₀ with reference to standard 0–200 µM of DMSO, 0–400 µg/ml *S.costus* extract, and *S.costus*-@PdNPs of 0–400 µg/ml were applied in to specified wells followed by incubation for 24 h. Just after incubation MTT reagent of 1.25 mg/ml were added in to the wells followed by incubation for two hours. The activity was monitored by microplate reader at 570 nm and was analyzed by using GraphPad Prism longevity software (San Diego, CA, USA).

2.6. Anti-Alzheimer assay

Acetylcholinesterase (Sigma "101292679") and Butyrylcholinesterase (Sigma "101292679") enzymes were purchased and used in th assay. These enzymes are the key contributors to Alzheimer diseases and the suppression of these enzymes by compound is regarded as their anti-alzheimer activity. By using Elman's technique nanoparticles of different concentrations from 25 mg/mL to 400 mg/mL were appied against

0.03U/mL AChE and 0.01U/mL of BChE. The methanolic galantamine hydrobromide (Sigma; G1660) were used as a positive control and waited for a color change.

2.7. Antioxidants assay

The free radical and antioxidant activity of *S.costus*-@PdNPs and *S.costus* extract was examined by using the DPPH and ABTS assays. DPPH was dissolved in methanol and different concentrations of plant exattract and PdNPs were applied against the free radicals of DPPH in a 96-well microtiter plate followed by incubation for 30 min at room temperature in dark. Ascobic acid was used as positive aand reference control. The reaction was exposed to absorbance of 517 nm and the antioxidant activity was calculated.

$$DPPH\text{freeradicalscavenging}(\%) = \left[\frac{\text{control} - \text{Test}}{\text{control}} \right] \times 100$$

The IC₅₀ value was determined as the least amount of antioxidant required to scavenge 50 % of the DPPH radicals.

2.8. Analysis of cytotoxicity of *S.costus*-@PdNPs with extract

The cancer cells were grown cultured in M199 medium supplemented with 20 % FBS, 100 U/mL of Penicillin, 100 µg/mL of Streptomycin Sulphate, and 20 mg/ml bFGF in a humidified 5 % CO₂ incubator. at 37 °C and varying concentration of *S.costus* extract and PdNPs in a 24 well microplate. After incubation 5 mg/ml of aqueos MTT were added to each well to asses the cell viability by MTT assay. The dehydrogenase enzyme of surviving cells convert (4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl) (2,5-diphenyl tetrazolium bromide) to insoluble MTT formazan. To dissolve the insoulibe formazan 0.3 mL DMSO were added to wells. The assay was performed three times and exposed to 570 nm to check the cell viability. Fig. 1.

$$\text{CellViabilityPercentage}(\%) = \left[\frac{\text{SampleAbsorbance}}{\text{ControlAbsorbance}} \right] \times 100$$

3. Results and discussion

3.1. UV-Visible analysis

The purpose of this analysis was to observe the formation of PdNPs. At 100 °C for 2 h, reactions were carried out with 40 mL of costus root extract and 60 mL of 2 × 10⁻³ M PdCl₂. The surface plasmon resonance (SPR) band of PdNPs (Osonga et al., 2020) was characterised by a colour change in reaction solution from pale yellow to dark brown (Kadam et al., 2020). Fig. 2 shows the UV- visible spectra of PdNPs, which showed absorption peaks at λ_{max} = 350 nm, indicating that Pd²⁺ has been reduced to Pd⁰ (Wong et al., 2019).

3.2. TEM and HR-TEM and Zeta-potential analysis

Fig. 3 A shows an HR-TEM image of PdNPs, Palladium nanoparticles have a spherical form and are homogeneous, highly distributed and non-aggregated, ultrafine (Lu et al., 2020; Shokouhimehr et al., 2019; Olajire and Mohammed., 2019), with a size range of 1.9 nm to 17.6 ± 1.2 nm on the

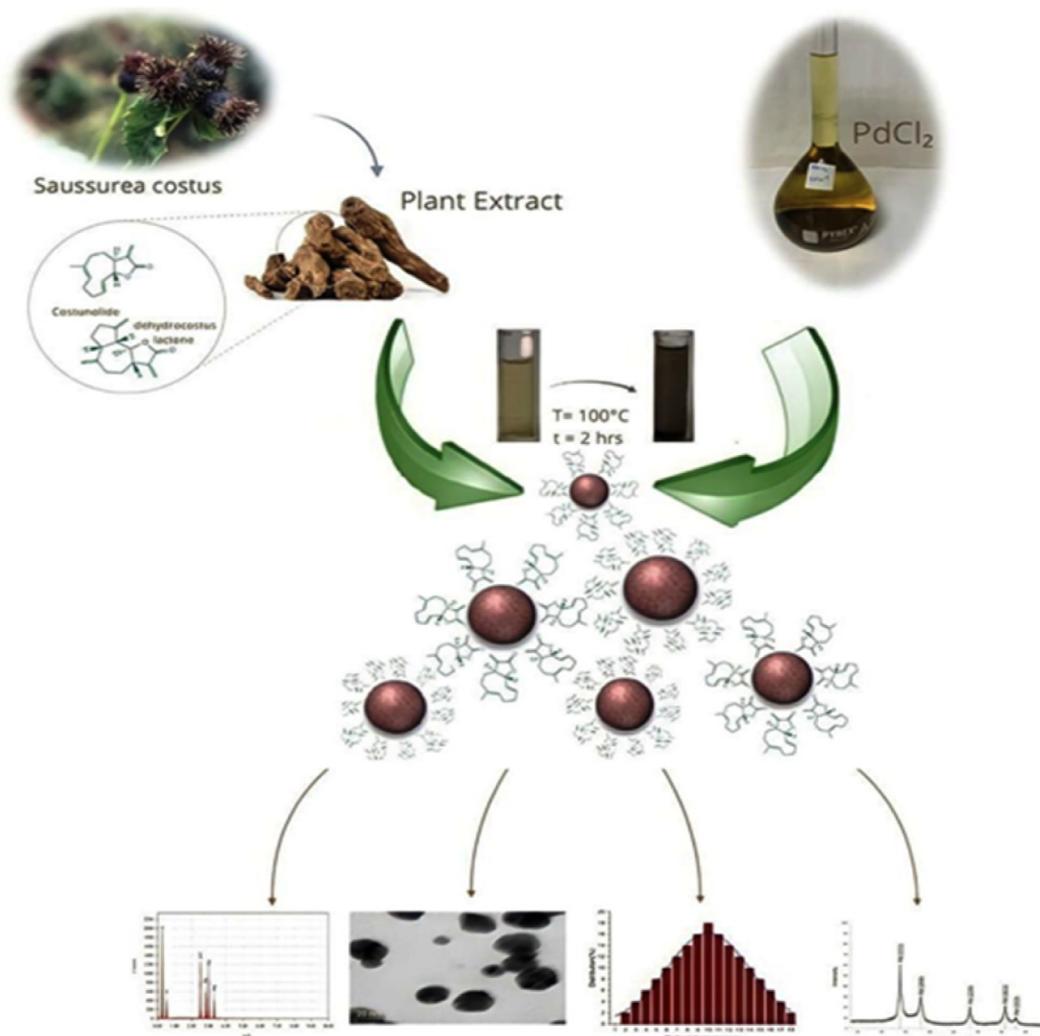


Fig. 1 Schematic diagram for synthesis of *S.costus*-@PdNPs using *S.costus* extract. *S.costus* extract was combined with palladium chloride and the nanoparticles were synthesized. The obtained nanoparticles were characterized by advance spectroscopic techniques.

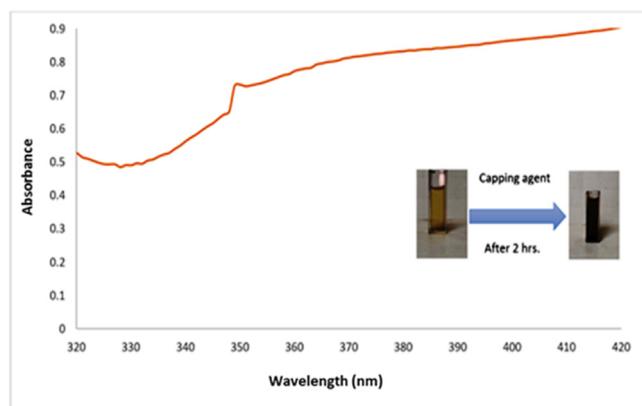


Fig. 2 UV-vis. spectra for *S.costus*-@PdNPs at 100°C , after 2hrs with 40 mL of *S.costus* root extract and 60 mL (PdCl_2) (2×10^{-3} M).

10 and 20 nm scale. The reason for uniformity in size was the maintainnace of specific reaction conditions such as pH, temperature, time, salt and extract concentration. **Fig. 3 B** shows spherical nanoparticles in a TEM picture at 100 nm. **Fig. 3 C** showing the average particle size distribution histogram investigation, and our results are according with previously published study ([Rashidi et al., 2019](#)). The zeta-potential analysis of Pd NPs was found to be (-10.6) mV in **Fig. 3 D**, describes that the PdNPs found more stable at 25°C and the negative surface charge of the particle prevented aggregation ([Fahmy et al., 2021](#)). Previous report said that 2.5 to 5 nm sized Pd nanoparticles synthesized *Anacardium occidentale* leaf extract with FCC crystallinity ([Sheny et al., \(2012\)](#).. Another group of researcher reported the *Chlorella* species of algae has potential to reduce PdCl_2 , where they reported that amide and polyol group contributed spherical nanoparticle synthesis having 5–20 nm size and FCC structure ([Arsiya et al., 2017](#)).

Recently S. Vinodhini et. al. ([Vinodhini et al., 2022](#)) reported the palladium nanoparticles from *A.fistulosum*, *B.*

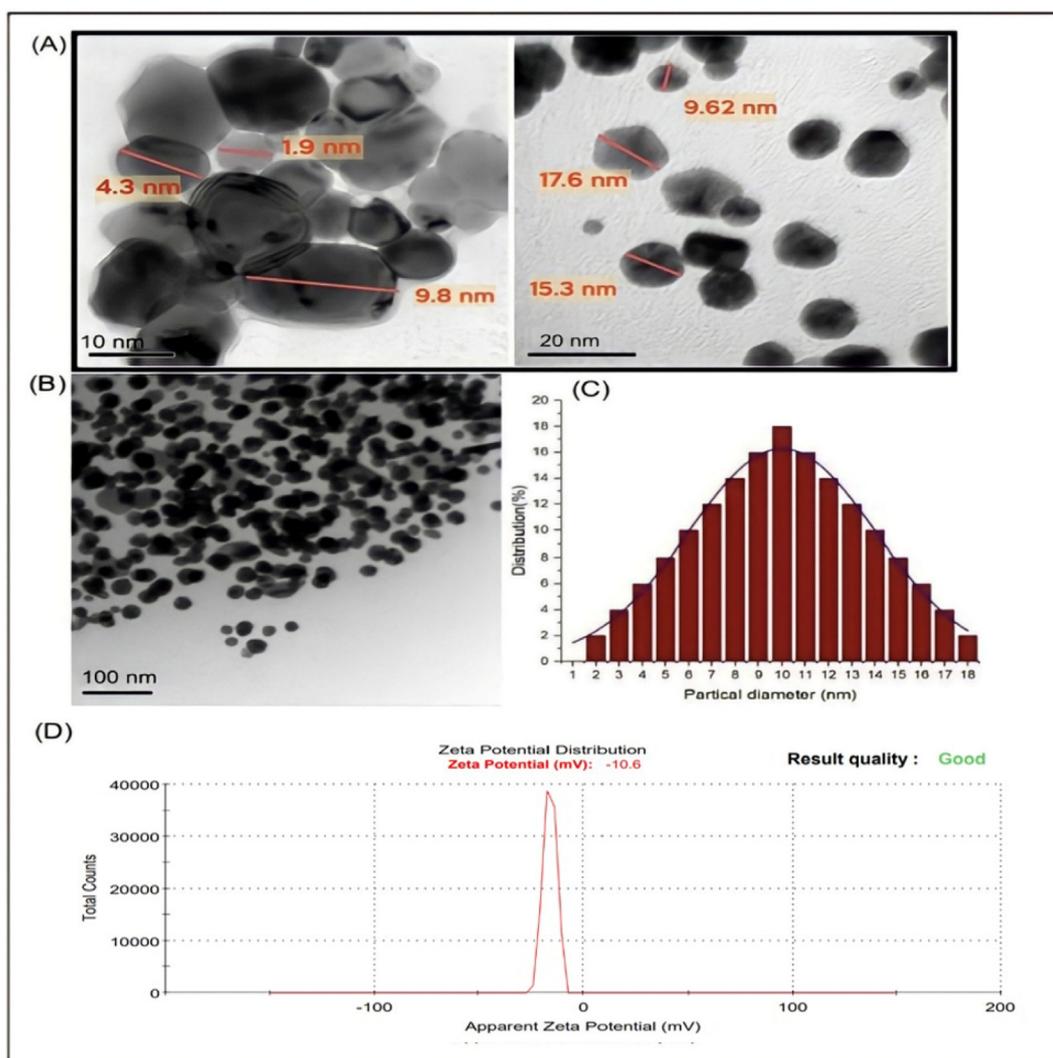


Fig. 3 (A) HRTEM image, (B) TEM image of *S.costus*-@PdNPs at *S.costus* root extract 40 mL with 60 mL (PdCl₂)(2 × 10⁻³ M) at 100 °C until 2 hrs. (C) corresponding size distribution graph (D) and Zeta potential of *Scostus*-@PdNPs.

alba and *T. divaricate* aqueous extract. Through SEM size calculated was observed 500 nm, 2 μm and 2 μm respectively.

3.3. FTIR analysis

FTIR spectroscopy of *S.costus* extract and *S.costus*@PdNPs was used to find out specific functional group associated with PdNPs. The FTIR spectra of *S.costus* revealed absorption peaks at 3408, 2359, 1602, and 896 cm⁻¹. The broad peak at 3408 cm⁻¹ stands for O – H of phenolic or alcoholic functional groups, the peak at 2359 cm⁻¹ occurs due to the presence of C ≡ C, the peak at 1602 cm⁻¹ occurs (C=O)NH, and several sharp suggestive peaks were found at 896 cm⁻¹ aromatic stretching. Fig. 4 showed FTIR peaks at 3442.27 cm⁻¹, 2083.84 cm⁻¹, and 1635.26 cm⁻¹ respectively, that corresponds to (O – H), C ≡ C, and (C=O) NH stretching frequencies of the *S.costus* bio-molecules, and a sharp peak at 554.30 cm⁻¹ corresponds to a standard peak of (PdO) due to the stretching frequency of metal binding to oxygen. The literature

(Lee, 2018; Al-Saggaf et al., 2020; Kolahalam et al., 2021; Narasaiah and Mandal, 2020) reported similar findings. Another researcher reported that amide, hydroxyl and glycoside were responsible for the reduction of Pd(II) (Sheny et al., (2012)). Recent study on PdNp synthesis by brown alga *Padina boryana* suggested that the polyols including saponins, tannins and terpenoids are responsible for reduction (Sonbol et al., 2021).

3.4. X-ray diffraction analysis of PdNPs

Purity and crystallinity of *S.costus*-@PdNPs were determined by XRD. In Fig. 5 The five peaks at diffraction angles of 39.79°, 46°, 67.5°, 81°, 86° corresponds to the interlayer planes of (111), (200), (220), (311), (222). The planes were found consistent with the face-centered cubic crystallinity of PdNPs according to reference JCPDS file no. 87-0641 (Gholipour et al., 2022; Sriramulu and Sumathi, 2018; Jeevanantham et al., 2022). PdNPs average crystalline size was calculated

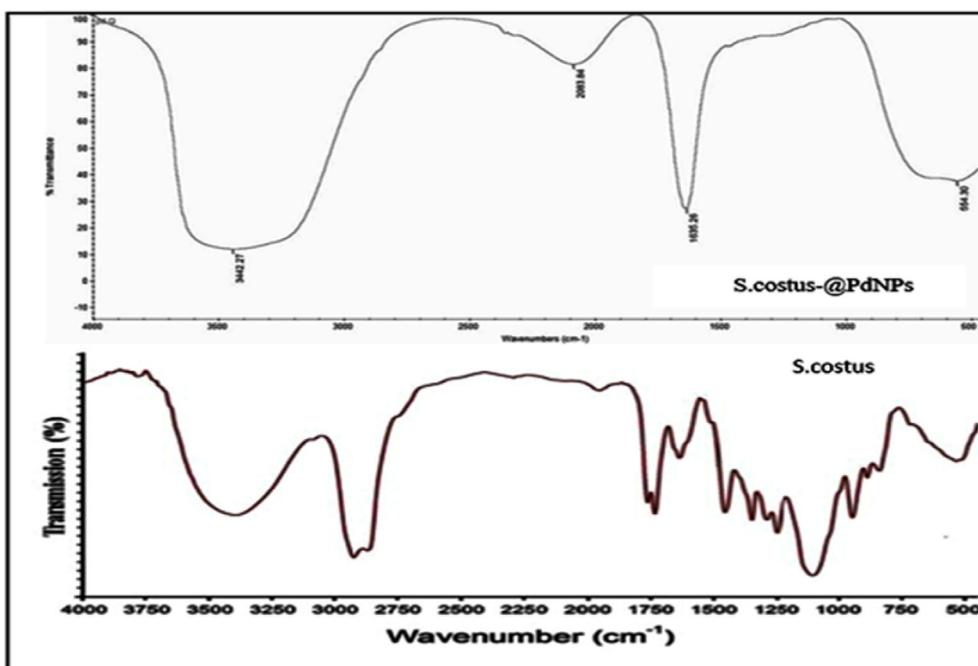


Fig. 4 FTIR spectrum of *S.costus*-@PdNPs and *S.costus*.

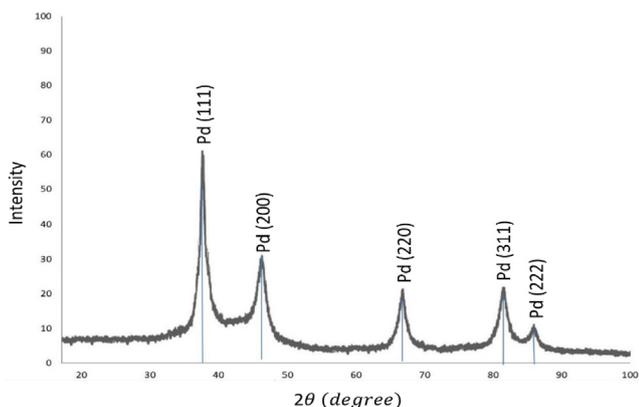


Fig. 5 X-ray diffraction pattern of *S.costus*-@PdNPs.

using the Debye-Scherrer equation $D = k\gamma/\beta \cos \theta$ and was found 2.88 nm.

3.5. X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) analysis

The X-ray Photon Spectroscopy were performed to know about the topology of PdNPs. Fig. 6 A demonstrates XPS peaks at Cl_{1s}, O_{1s}, and N_{1s} and vanish the peaks of the Pd. The Fig. 6 B describes the signals of Pd 3d_{5/2} at 340.89 eV and Pd 3d_{3/2} at 335.63 eV with a band gap of 5.26 eV that corresponds to these energies refer to Pd²⁺ reduced to Pd⁰. However, the O_{1s} peaks at 532.54 eV and 532.85 eV in Fig. 6 C indicate the (C = O), (O in the sample. Fig. 6 D revealed the additional peaks of Cl_{1s} at 284.92 eV, 286.69 eV, and 288.84 eV corresponding to (Cat 284.92e), and in Fig. 6 E by the N_{1s} peak at 399.99 eV, which corresponds to (NH₂) (Veisi et al., 2019a; Mallikarjuna et al., 2021; Miao et al., 2022; Bolhasani et al., 2022; Liang et al., 2022; Hemmati

et al., 2018). FTIR analysis revealed the bond of Pd with carbon and oxygen is clearly visible in the XPS scan, indicating that the PdNPs has biomolecules on the surface.

3.6. Energy dispersive X-ray analysis of PdNPs

EDX was used to further characterize the elemental composition of PdNPs. Fig. 7 shows the *S.costus*-@PdNPs sample used in the EDX analysis. The EDX spectrum peaks at 2.83 keV, indicating that PdNPs have been formed. Metallic nanoparticles, as well as signals of the surface Plasmon resonance (SPR) band, are commonly detected at 3KeV. The presence of carbon, nitrogen, and oxygen were also confirmed using EDX analysis, suggesting the occurrence of *S.costus* extract biomolecules on the surface of palladium nanoparticles (Veisi et al., 2019b; Sriramulu and Sumathi, 2018; Jeevanantham et al., 2022).

3.7. Anti-bacterial activity

Antibacterial activity of PdNPs against bacterial strains were determined by agar well diffusion assay. The largest inhibition zone was obtained in *S.costus*-@PdNPs with a maximum inhibition at 100 g/mL, 23 ± 0.1 mm against *Bacillus subtilis* in Fig. 8 A and 22 ± 0.5 mm against *Staphylococcus aureus* in Fig. 8 B and 22 ± 0.3 mm against *Escherichia coli* in Fig. 8 C and 19 ± 0.4 mm against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* in Fig. 8 D, Whereas *S.costus* extract showed 18 ± 0.0 mm against *Bacillus subtilis* in as shown in Fig. 8 A, and 16 ± 0.1 mm of inhibition zone against *Staphylococcus aureus* as shown in Fig. 8 B, exact 17 ± 0.0 mm against *Escherichia coli* in Fig. 8 C and 15 ± 0.0 mm against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* in Fig. 8 D (see Table 1). The nanoparticles can swiftly breach the cell membrane and enter the cell, bacterial cells may easily assimilate them, and thus PdNPs had greater antibacterial

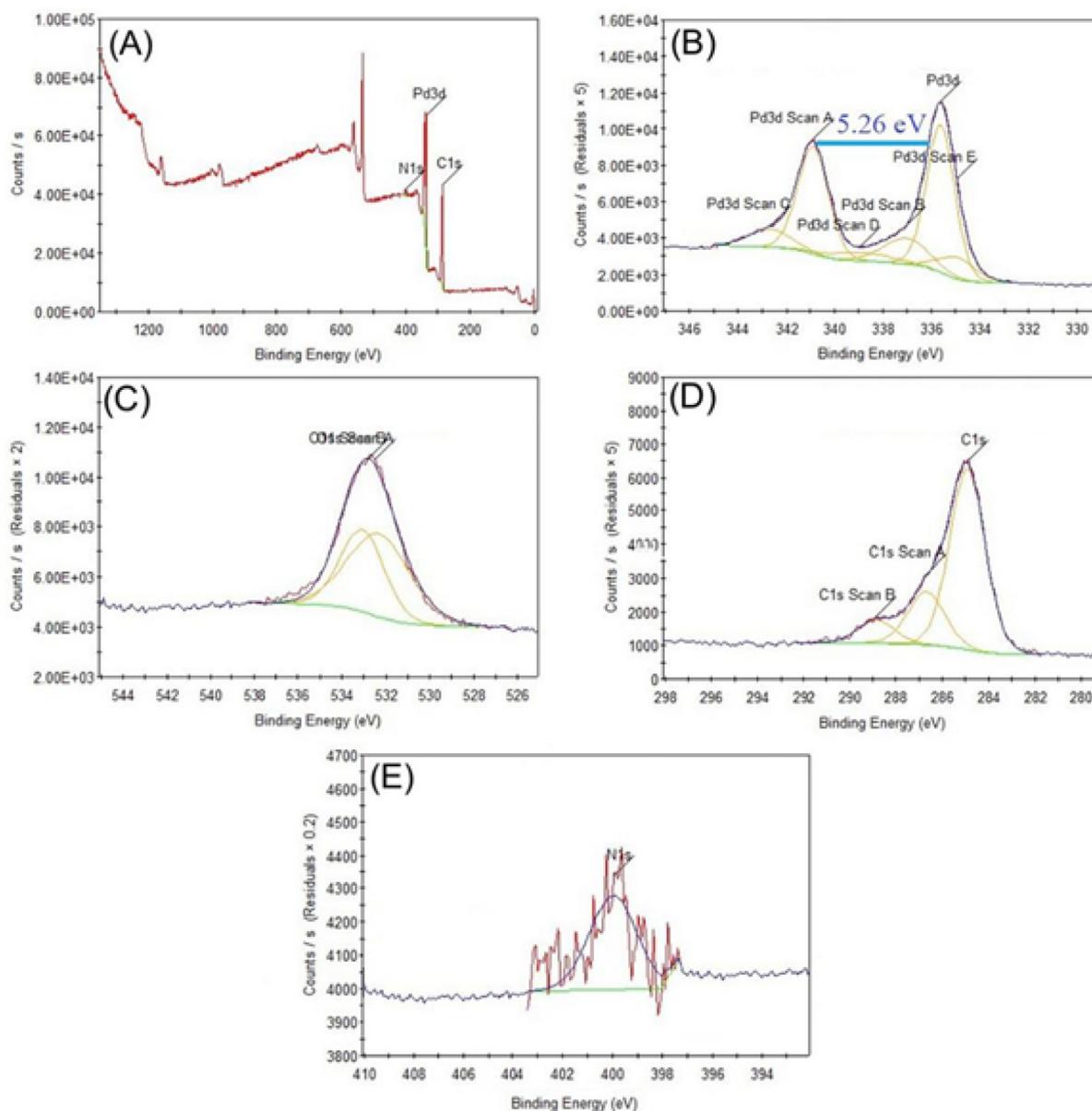


Fig. 6 XPS analysis showing survey scan (a), (b) Pd, (c) oxygen and carbon (d),nitrogen (e).

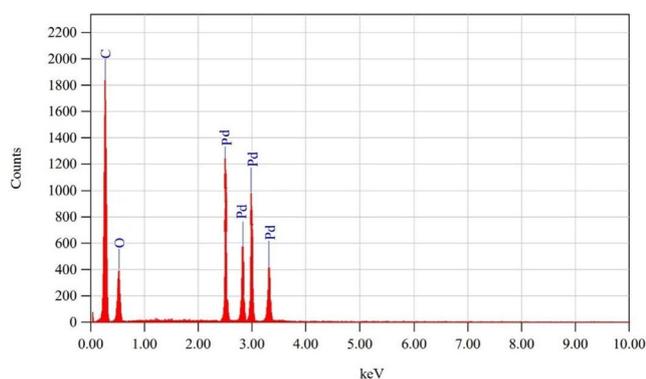


Fig. 7 EDX image of *S.costus* root extract mediated PdNPs synthesized.

activity and can be very effective in other biological assays also (Abdelsalam and Samer, 2019; Vinodhini et al., 2022; Anjana et al., 2019; Aljohny et al., 2021; Seku, 2022) reported carboxymethylated mediated palladium nanoparticles with potent antibacterial and dye degradation activities. Graphene oxide coated palladium nanoparticles were found effective against *E. coli* and other bacterial strains, thus these study endorsed our findings (Mallikarjuna et al., 2021; Govindasamy, 2017) Recently S. Vinodhini et. al. reported the antibacterial activity of the leaf extract of *A. fistulosum*, *B. alba* and *T. divaricate* Pd nanoparticles for *S. aureus* showed 11, 12, 9 mm zone respectively, while for *B. subtilis* 14, 17, 18 mm and *E. coli* 18, 16, 13 mm zone respectively. Here comparatively the *S. costus*-@PdNPs have superior antibacterial activity while antioxidant activity is less than that of S. Vinodhini et. al.-work. (Vinodhini et al., 2022). It is believed that PdNPs can easily target the bacterial cell membrane and produce ROS

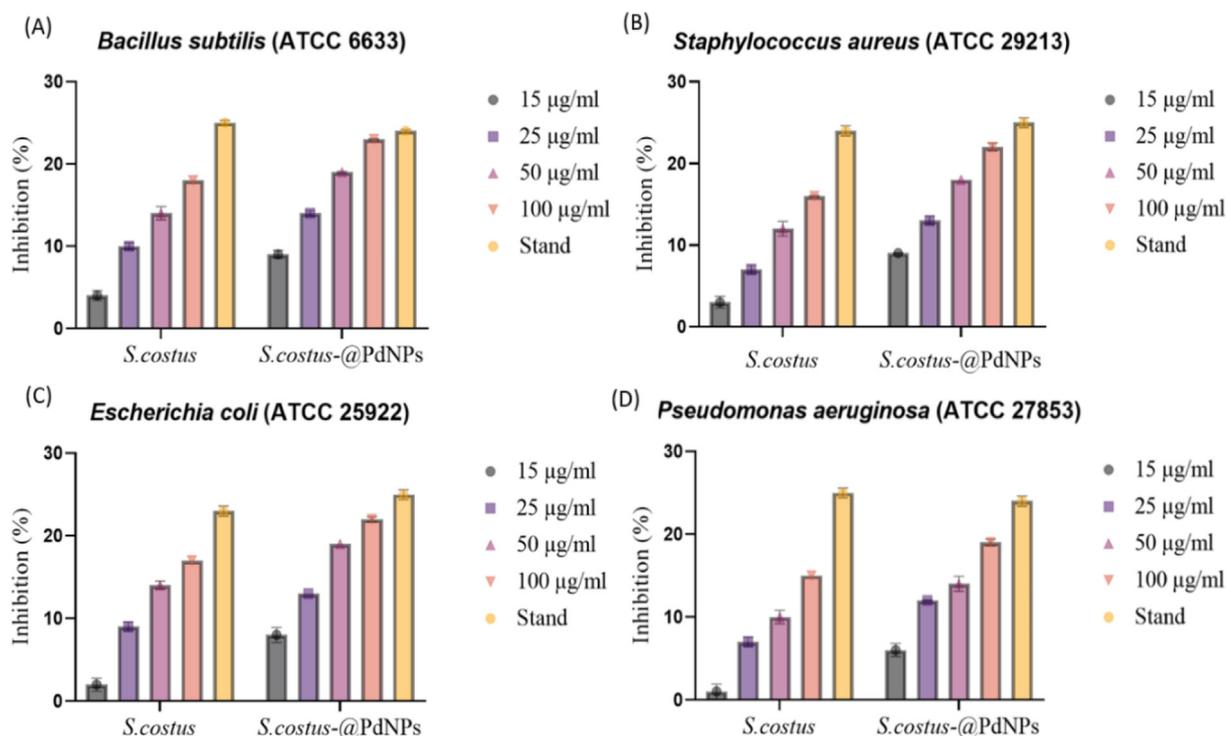


Fig. 8 Anti-bacterial potential of *S.costus*-@PdNP.

to damage the bacterial cells, nanoparticles such as Zinc oxide penetrate deep in to the membrane of bacterial cells and the production of free radicals can harm the nucleic acid and contents in cell membrane which leads to bacterial death.

3.8. Anti-cancer activity

Cancer treatment is regarded as one of the most difficult tasks in medicine. “Cancer is the second biggest cause of mortality globally (Ahmed et al., 2022), according to the World Health Organization.” One possible answer to this problem and to improve the efficiency of chemotherapeutic agents is to use nanotechnology (Alshaman et al., 2022). Nanoparticles have a wide range of applications in cancer treatment that do not require surgery, such as drug administration and release (Al-Radadi, 2022c). The ability of nanoparticles to target cancer cells with great selectivity, sensitivity, and efficiency (Navya et al., 2019) is due to their high surface area, which allows them to easily infiltrate living cells. This qualifies NPs as a therapeutic agent (Hamida et al., 2020). Pd may also be a promising cancer treatment (Nguyen et al., 2019). Previous research suggested that *S. costus* includes biomaterials that could be used as a therapeutic treatment. Treatment against HCT-116, HepG-2 and MCF-7 (Shati et al., 2020). Overall, our findings give strong support for previous research. On the colon carcinoma HCT-116, and hepatocellular carcinoma HepG-2, breast cancer MCF-7 cell lines, the cell viability of standard, *S.costus* and *S.costus*-@PdNPs were examined. IC₅₀ of standard and *S.costus* and *S.costus*-@PdNPs were presented in Fig. 9, Fig. 10 and Fig. 11. IC₅₀ of standard is 8.2 µg/mL, 9.8 µg/mL, 15.6 µg/mL against HCT-116, HepG-2 and MCF-7 respectively, as shown in Fig. 9 A, D, G. IC₅₀ of *S.costus*

was 82.5 µg/mL, 91.5 µg/mL, 114.6 µg/mL against HCT-116, HepG-2 and MCF-7 respectively, as shown in Fig. 9 B, E, H. IC₅₀ of *S.costus*-@PdNPs 7.8 µg/mL, 11.8 µg/mL, 26.7 µg/mL against HCT-116, HepG-2 and MCF-7 respectively, as shown in Fig. 9 C, F, I. According to the results obtained for the IC₅₀ values shown in Fig. 10 indicated the following order of % cell viability for the HCT-116 was *S.costus*-@PdNPs is greater than Standard is greater than *S.costus*. While the order of the % cell viability obtained for the HepG-2 cell line, was Standard is greater than *S.costus*-@PdNPs greater than *S.costus*. The last cell line % viability for MCF-7 was Standard is greater than *S.costus*-@PdNPs is greater than *S.costus*. Overall, we obtained better inhibition toward HCT-116 for *S.costus*-@PdNPs. In contrast to HepG-2 and MCF-7 colon cancer is the third most frequent type of cancer and continuing to be a major cause of morbidity and mortality globally (Zhou et al., 2022). The difference between the IC₅₀ *S.costus*-@PdNPs and standard was 2 µg/mL, 11.1 µg/mL of HepG-2, MCF-7, respectively. Our present findings and previous literature suggested that the PdNPs are more potent in anticancerous activity compared to other nanoparticles like ZnO, ZnO-NPs which showed distinct IC₅₀ of 50.1 µg/mL against HeLa cells line without harming normal fibroblast cells. The cytotoxicity results of Ag/Fe₃O₄ nanocomposite revealed IC₅₀ of 55.83 µg/mL against HeLa cells. Chemotherapeutic toxicity has substantial toxic side effects on various organ systems, including the cardiac, pulmonary, renal, hepatic, gastrointestinal, bone marrow, and nervous system (Zeien et al., 2022). Palladium nanoparticles from different plant sources have been utilized against cancerous cell previously and the results found in this study are in accordance with it. The palladium nanoparticles have high specific cytotoxicity

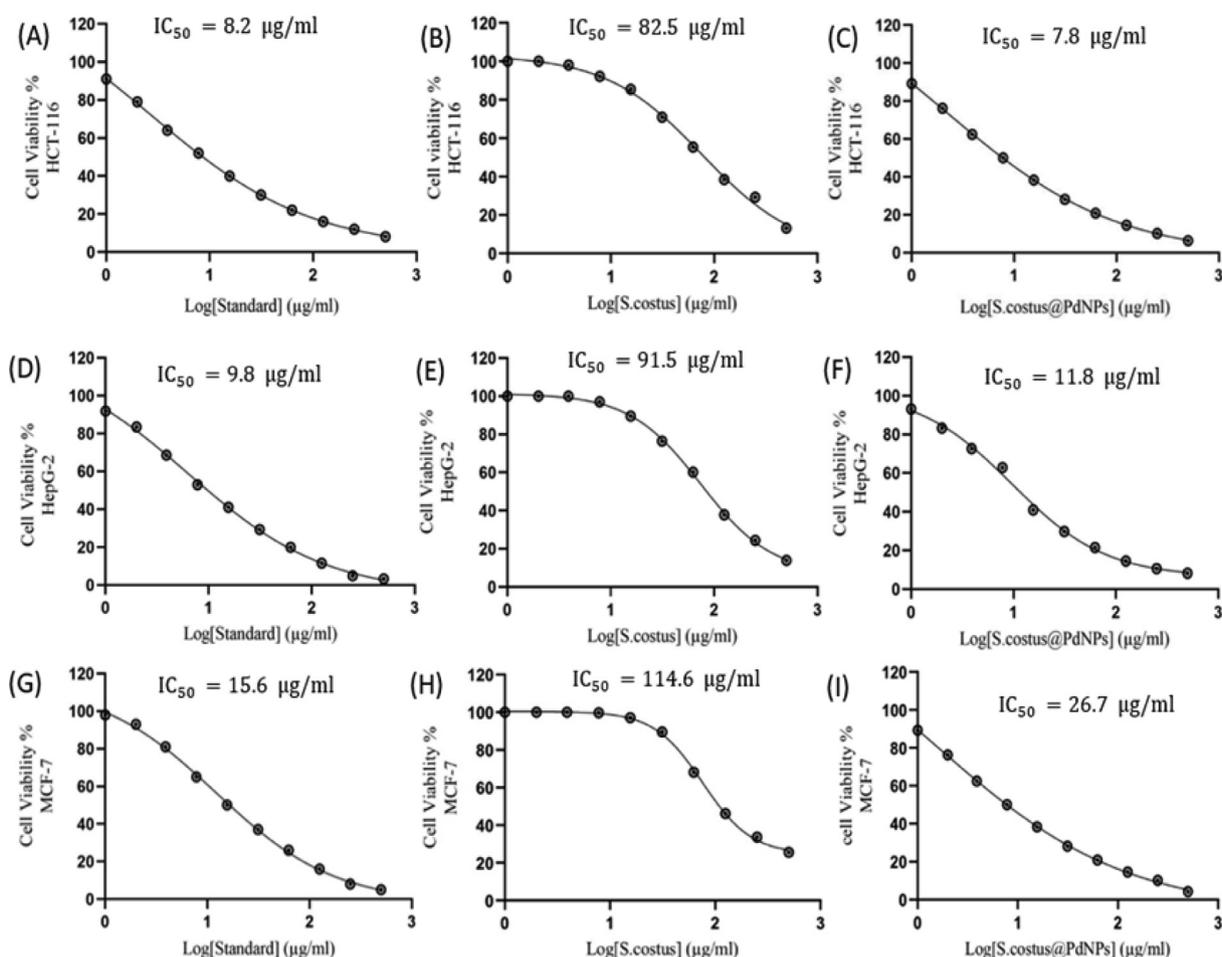


Fig. 9 The dose–effect curve for standard $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ against (A) HCT-116 (B) HepG-2 (C) MCF-7 and *S.costus* $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ against (D) HCT-116 (E) HepG-2 (F) MCF-7 and *S.costus*-@PdNPs $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ against (G) HCT-11 (H) Hepg-2 (I) MCF-7. The IC_{50} values were determined using nonlinear regression according to the following equation: $\log(\text{inhibitor})$ versus response-variable slope.

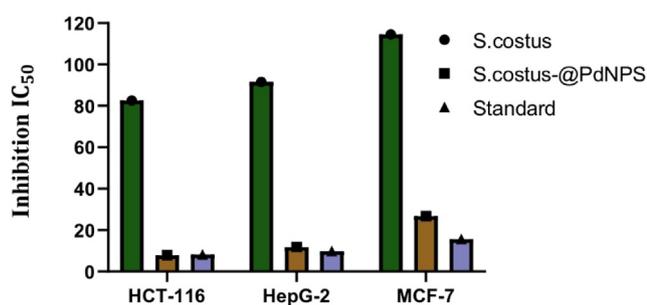


Fig. 10 Anti-cancer potential of *S.costus* and standard and *S.costus*-@PdNPs.

towards the targeted tumour cells (Sonbol et al., 2021; Arsiya et al., 2017). PdNP synthesis by brown alga *P. boryana* showed 53 % and 38 % reduction of MCF-7 cellular activity by MTT assay at 125 and 62.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ respectively. Chemotherapy medications are not specific to cancer cells; they can also destroy healthy, fast-growing normal cells (Yafout et al., 2021) and

they fail to reach the target site. Targeted delivery using nanoparticles has the potential to increase drug accumulation at the target site, reduce toxicity to non-cancerous cells, and overcome the drug resistance (Sheikh et al., 2022), resulting in improved drug delivery with much fewer side effects (Al-Radadi., 2022d). As a result, *S.costus*-@PdNPs could be a promising cancer therapeutic candidate (Shati et al., 2020) after successful clinical trials.

3.9. Anti-Alzheimer activity

The most prevalent form of dementia is Alzheimer's disease. AD is a neurological disease that causes memory loss and cognitive impairment. Alzheimer's disease is expected to double in prevalence every 20 years (Oliver and Reddy, 2019). The physiology of Alzheimer's disease is complicated and involves numerous mechanisms. Both acetylcholine (ACh) and butyrylcholine (BCh) are important for memory learning. The appearance of nicotinic receptors stimulated by ACh is linked to learning ability. When nerve terminals are depolarized, ACh is released from neuron vesicles and binds to the synaptic receptor. This occurs because an AD patient's brain contains

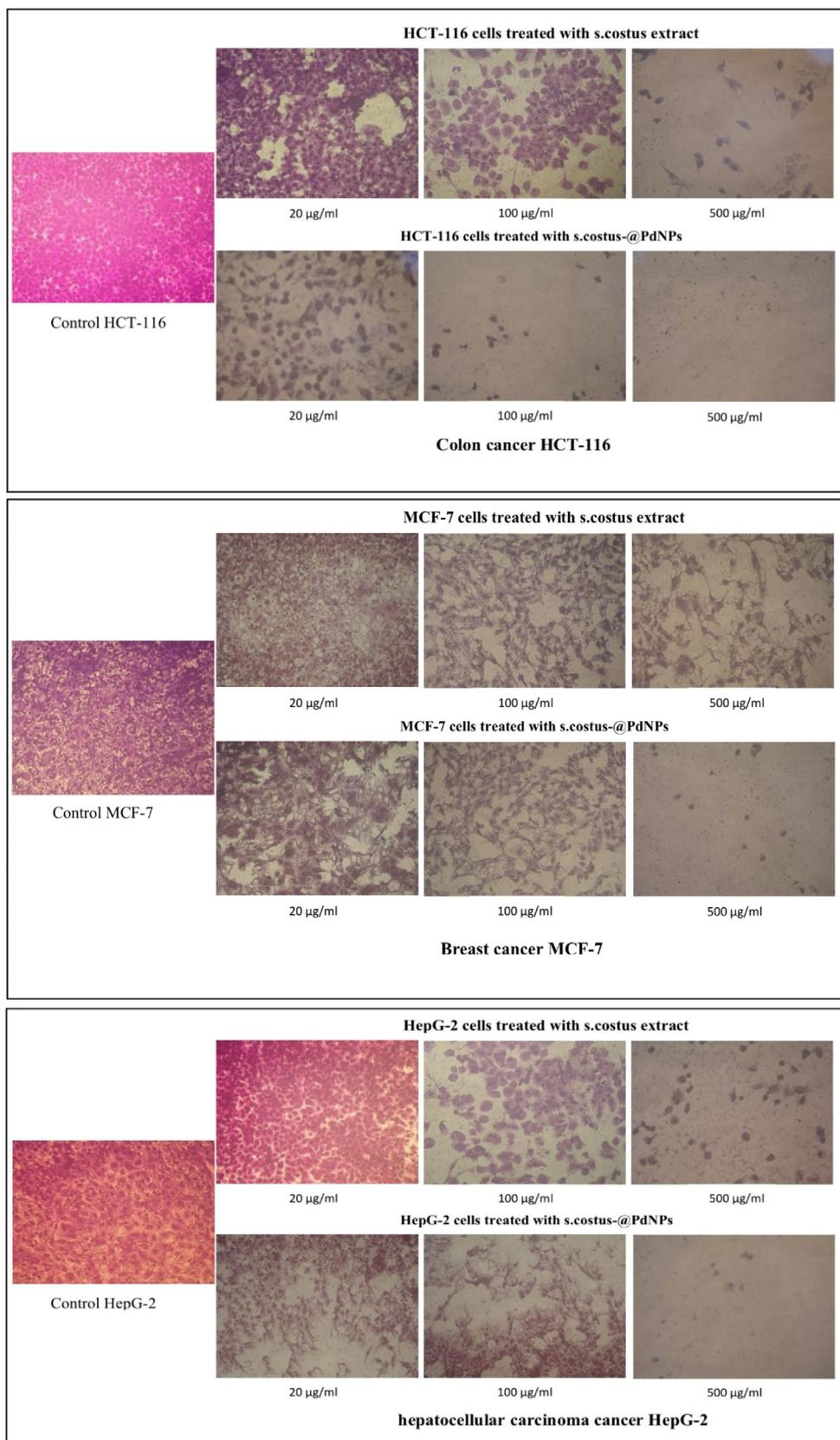


Fig. 11 Effect of synthesized. *S.costus*-@PdNPs on morphological assessment of HCT-116, HepG-2, and MCF-7 cells.

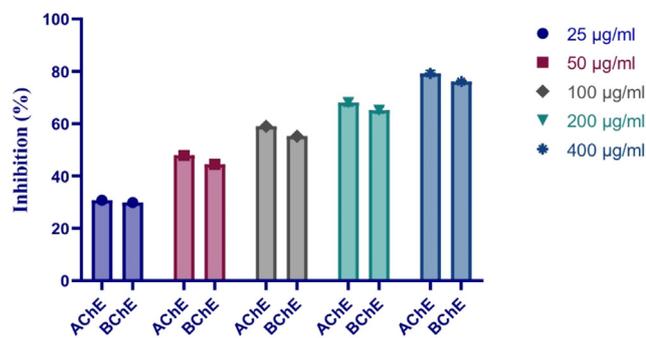


Fig. 12 Anti-Alzheimer potential of *S.costus*-@PdNPs.

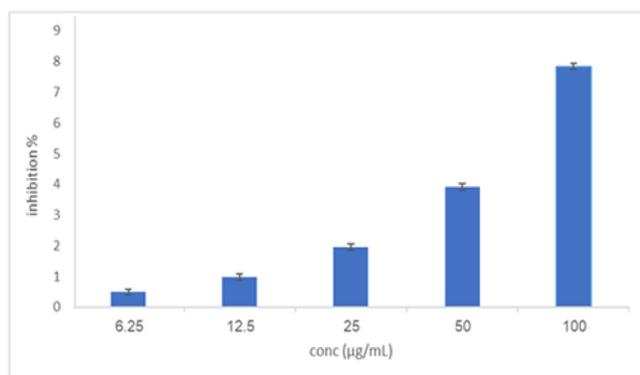


Fig. 13 Anti-inflammatory potential of *S.costus*-@PdNPs.

a large number of acetylcholinesterase (AChE) and butyrylcholinesterase (BChE) enzymes, which frequently change the neurotransmitters activity and shorten the half-life of ACh and BCh (Gul et al., 2021; Hampel et al., 2019). In this work the production of 5-thio-2-nitrobenzoate and DTNB complex hydrolyzed ATChI to AChE and BTChI to BChE results in the color transformation of the reaction to yellow. The absorbance

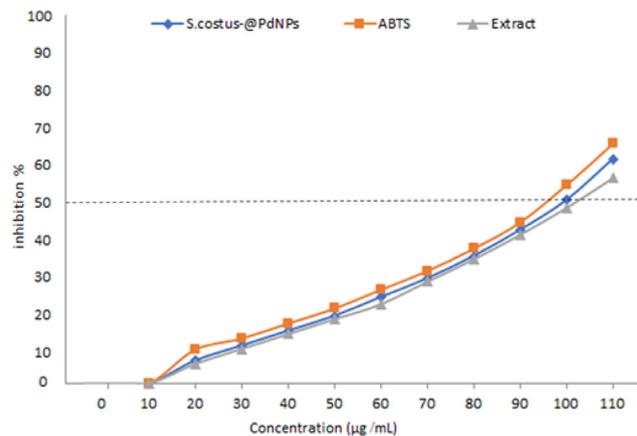


Fig. 15 The antioxidant activity of ABTS, *S.costus* extract, and *S.costus*-@PdNPs.

of the coloured transformed solution was taken at 412 nm and percent enzyme inhibition was calculated which clearly indicated that Alzheimer's disease can easily be inhibited by *S.costus*-@PdNPs at 400 mg/mL, with inhibition rate of 79.23 ± 1.11 % against AChE and 76.13 ± 0.43 % against BChE. As indicated in Fig. 12 (see Table 2), the inhibitory activity was dosage dependent. Nanoparticles assist medications pass the blood-brain barrier (BBB) and allow for targeted administration and regulated release, they offer a new treatment option for Alzheimer's disease (Gong et al., 2022). Though the other complications like *in vivo* toxicological study needs to be done in both male and female rat.

3.10. Anti-inflammatory activity

In anti-inflammatory assay 7.84 %, 3.92 %, 1.96 %, 0.98 %, 0.49 % of low inhibition was showed by PdNPs at a concentration of 100, 50, 25, 12.5, and 6.25 µg/mL respectively against LPS-induced nitric oxide (NO) shown in Fig. 13. Similar

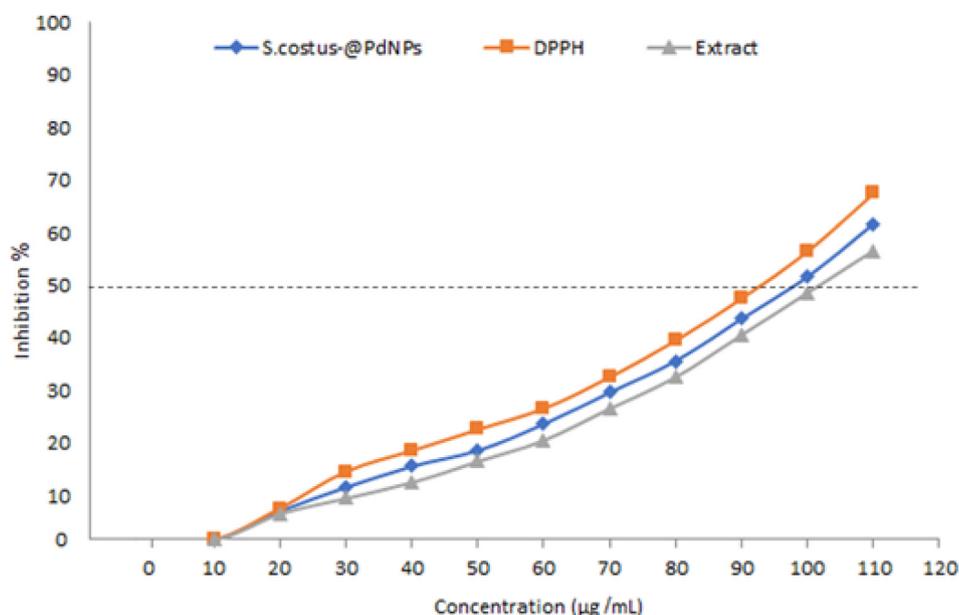


Fig. 14 The antioxidant activity of DPPH, *S.costus* extract, and *S.costus*-@PdNP.

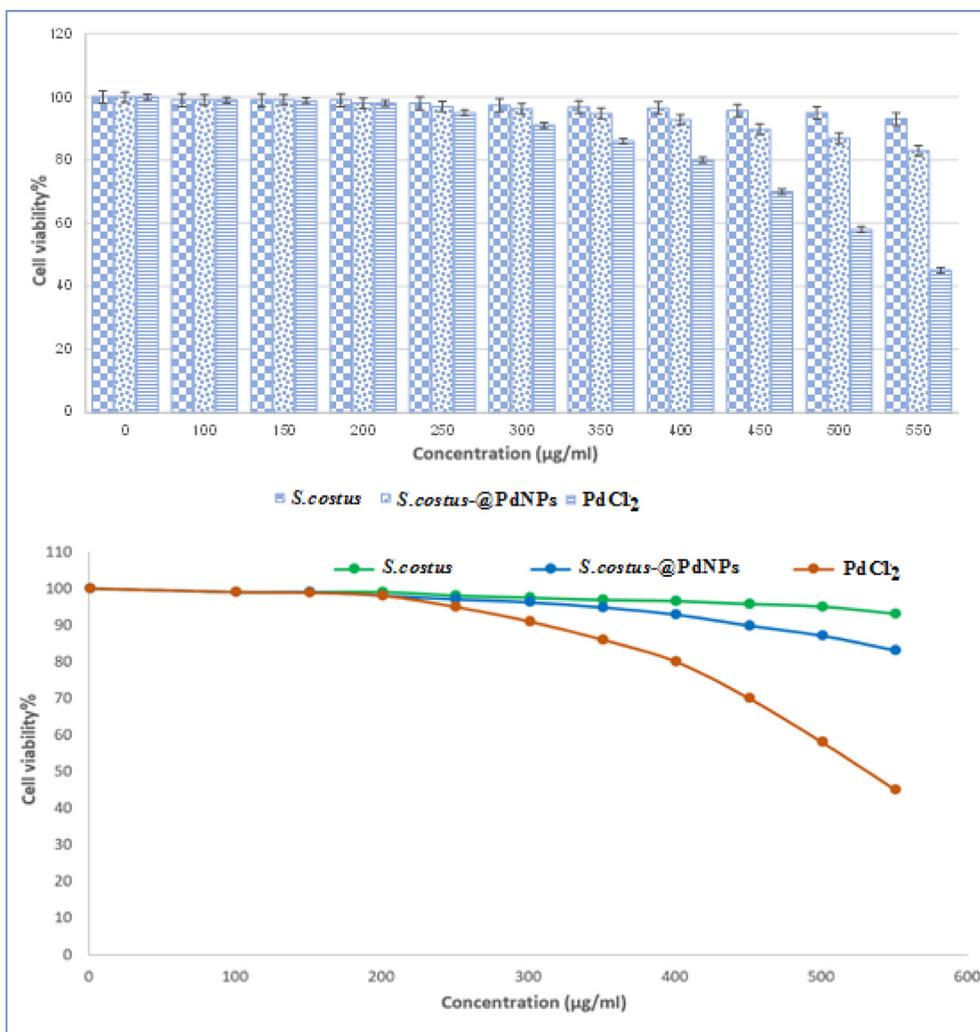


Fig. 16 Percent viability measured after treatment with present *S.costus*, and *S.costus*- @PdNPs and PdCl₂.

results was also found by researcher in previous studies (Houchi and Messasma, 2022; Singh et al., 2018).

3.11. Antioxidants DPPH and ABTS activity

DPPH radicals react immediately with antioxidants because antioxidants are stable enough to give an electron to a rogue free radical and tends to neutralize it. It reduces the effects of free radicals. These antioxidants work by scavenging free radicals to postpone or prevent cellular damage (Zangeneh et al., 2019; Kumar et al., 2022). DPPH and ABTS assays were used to assess the antioxidant activity of the *S.costus* extract and *S.costus*-@PdNPs. The DPPH, ABTS-scavenging activity was observed to increase with increasing concentration; the DPPH radical scavenging activity data are shown in Fig. 14. The IC₅₀ of DPPH, *S.costus*-@PdNPs, and *S.costus* extract were 90 µg /mL, 92 µg /mL respectively. Fig. 15 shows the findings of the ABTS radical scavenging activity. ATBS, *S.costus*-@PdNPs, and *S.costus* extract had IC₅₀ of 90, 92 µg /mL respectively. The scavenging activity of DPPH and ABTS radicals was found to be in the following order: ascorbic acid is greater than *S.costus* extract is greater than *S.costus*-@PdNPs. The activity of the *S.costus*-@PdNPs extract was

significantly higher than that of the *S.costus*. The Pd nanoparticles displayed good antioxidant activity and eliminated different free radicals, according to DPPH and ABTS (Mahdavi et al., 2019) found similar results by using *Agaricus bisporus* for the synthesis of palladium nanoparticles, the synthesized PdNPs scavenged DPPH free radicals up to 77 %. The high phenolic and flavonoid content of *S.costus* root can be linked to its antioxidant activity(Abdel-Wahhab et al., 2022; Singh and Chahal, 2018).

3.12. Cytotoxicity of *S.costus* and *S.costus*-@PdNPs

Cancer cell lines were used to investigate the cytotoxic effect of *S.costus* and *S.costus*-@PdNPs. Surprisingly, *S.costus* did not show substantial cytotoxicity against a cancer cell line in this study. Fig. 16 shows cell viability was 99, 99, 98, 97, 96.2, 94.8, 92.8, 89.8, 87, and 83 % at concentrations of 100, 150, 200, 250, 300, 350, 400, 450, 500, and 550 µg/mL of PdNPs. The results of the MTT assay and cytotoxicity data demonstrate that PdNPs contact reduces cancer cell viability and is dosage or concentration dependent (BalaKumaran et al., 2020). Metal salts removed their toxicity when they combine with biological molecules (Venil et al., 2021; Zangeneh et al.,

2019) As a result, produced PdNPs show an outstanding biocompatibility (Shivakumar et al., 2021). This synthesis approach is therefore a potential procedure for future use (Kiani et al., 2020).

4. Conclusion

It is concluded from the study that PdNPs effectively synthesized by utilizing *S.costus* extract using a direct, cost-effective, energy-saving, and environmental friendly method. Herein this study *S.costus* extract acted as a reducing and capping agent for *S.costus*-@PdNPs. UV-visible absorption, FTIR, TEM, HR-TEM, zeta-potential, Powder X-ray pattern, XPS, and EDX analytical methods used to analyse and confirm the formation of spherical, FCC crystalline nanosized particles of palladium synthesized. TEM examination concluded the average grain size of the *S.costus*-@PdNPs is 1.9 to 17.6 ± 1.2 nm. FTIR and additionally and XPS proved that the nanoparticles of Pd synthesized using bioactive materials in the *S.costus* extract. The biosynthesized palladium nanoparticles showed inhibition of MCF-7, HepG-2, HCT-116 cancerous cell lines. In addition as synthesized nanoparticles exhibited good antibacterial, anti-inflammatory, anti-Alzheimer and anti-oxidant activity. The *S.costus* extract in these activities showed less effective comparatively *S.costus*-@PdNPs. Thus we recommend the use of palladium nanoparticles in therapeutic applications only after successful clinical trial *in vivo*.

5. Future perspective

Metal nanostructures provide tremendous opportunities for targeted drug delivery, detection, diagnosis, and bioimaging, with recent promising outcomes. Nanoparticles are on their way to have a favorable impact on medicine in this case. PdNP-based nanotechnology with significant therapeutic properties can be better used to create a progressive and healthy binding affinity with a variety of biomolecules and targeted medications for cancer, inflammation and other diseases. Nanoparticles have been used against cancer cells MCF-7, HCT-116, and HepG-2, as well as antibacterial activity against Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria (*Staphylococcus aureus*, *Escherichia coli*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, and *Bacillus subtilis*), as well as inhibition of two Alzheimer's enzymes, AChE and BChE, and inhibition of LPS-induced nitric Pd-based nanopharmaceuticals could soon join the nanomedical repertoire soon.

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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