

Supporting Information

***In Vivo* Integrity and Biological Fate of Chelator-Free Zirconium-89-Labeled Mesoporous Silica Nanoparticles**

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Calculation of number of silanol groups per MSN (and dSiO₂) particle

To calculate the number of silanol groups per MSN (and dSiO₂) particle, we first calculated the number of nanoparticles per gram based on a previously reported method.^{1,2}

The volume of a MSN was first divided into two parts: the pore volume (V_p) and the solid silica volume (V_s). We then define the fraction of pore volume as $x = \frac{V_p}{V_p + V_s}$, where V_p was given by the BET data. For V_s , each gram of MSN will have $V_s = \frac{m_s}{\rho} = \frac{1 \text{ g}}{2.2 \frac{\text{g}}{\text{cm}^3}} = 0.455 \text{ cm}^3$, where ρ is the density of silica (2.2 g/cm³). The mass of each MSN was then defined as $m_{MSN} = \rho * V_{MSN} = \rho * \frac{4\pi r^3(1-x)}{3}$, where r is the radius of MSN determined from TEM images. Therefore, number of nanoparticles per gram of MSN could be calculated by using the following equation:

$$N_{MSN} = \frac{1}{m_{MSN}} = \frac{1}{\rho * \frac{4\pi r^3 \left(1 - \frac{V_p}{V_p + V_s}\right)}{3}} = \frac{0.749(V_p + 0.455)}{\pi r^3}$$

For ~90 nm sized dSiO₂, the volume of each dSiO₂ is $V_{dSiO_2} = \frac{4\pi r^3}{3} = \frac{4\pi(45 \times 10^{-7})^3}{3} = 3.8 \times 10^{-16} \text{ cm}^3$. The number of dSiO₂ per gram can be calculated as $N_{dSiO_2} = \frac{1}{V_{dSiO_2} * \rho} = \frac{1}{3.8 \times 10^{-16} * 2.2} = 1.2 \times 10^{15} / \text{g}$.

According to the Zhuravlev model, the concentration of silanol group is directly proportional to the specific surface area of amorphous silica particle, with the surface silanol group density (-Si-OH/nm²) found to be in the range of 4 to 5 (also known as the Kiselev–Zhuravlev constant).³ The number of silanol group per MSN particle can be estimated, which are listed in the following table.

Table S1. Number of silanol groups per MSN (and dSiO₂) particle.

	Radius (nm)	Surface area (m ² /g)	Pore volume (cm ³ /g)	Number of particles per gram	Surface area per particle (nm ²)	Total silanol groups per particle
MSN	~75	581.5	1.31	1.0×10 ¹⁵	5.8×10 ⁵	~2.6×10 ⁶
dSiO₂	~45	40.8	0.06	1.2×10 ¹⁵	3.4×10 ⁴	~1.5×10 ⁵

Table S2. ⁸⁹Zr-labeling yields of MSN with varied concentrations

	2.0 mg/mL	2×10⁻¹ mg/mL	2×10⁻⁴ mg/mL
15 min	69.0 %	43.0 %	6.3 %
30 min	74.2 %	49.9 %	8.4 %
60 min	80.5 %	60.3 %	7.7 %
120 min	82.5 %	72.2 %	10.8 %

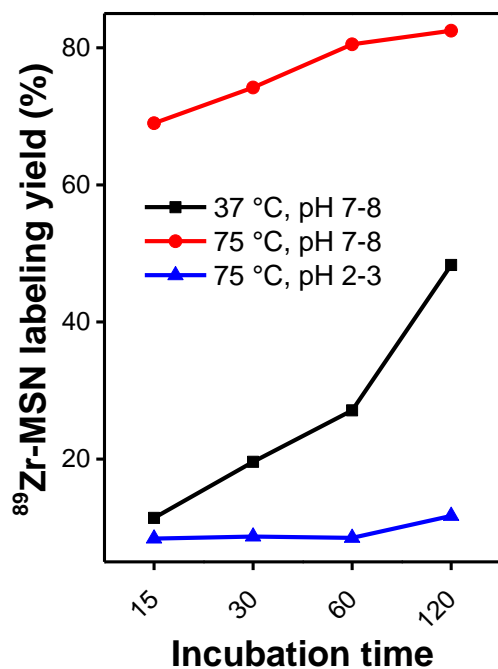


Figure S1. Labeling yields of ^{89}Zr to MSN (2 mg/mL) under different incubation temperatures or in solutions with different pH values.

Table S3. ^{89}Zr -labeling yields of MSN under varied incubation temperatures and in solutions with different pH values

	15 min	30 min	60 min	120 min
37 °C, pH 7-8	11.4 %	19.6 %	27.1 %	48.3 %
75 °C, pH 7-8	69.0 %	74.2 %	80.5 %	82.5 %
75 °C, pH 2-3	8.4 %	8.7 %	8.5 %	11.7 %

Table S4. Drug loading capacity of MSN(DOX) and ^{89}Zr -MSN(DOX).

Samples	Mass of samples	DOX used	Amount of free DOX	DOX in MSN	Loading efficiency	Loading capacity
MSN	500 μg	500 μg	84.9 μg	415.1 μg	83.0 %	830 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mg}$
^{89}Zr-MSN	500 μg	500 μg	103.5 μg	396.5 μg	79.3 %	793 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mg}$

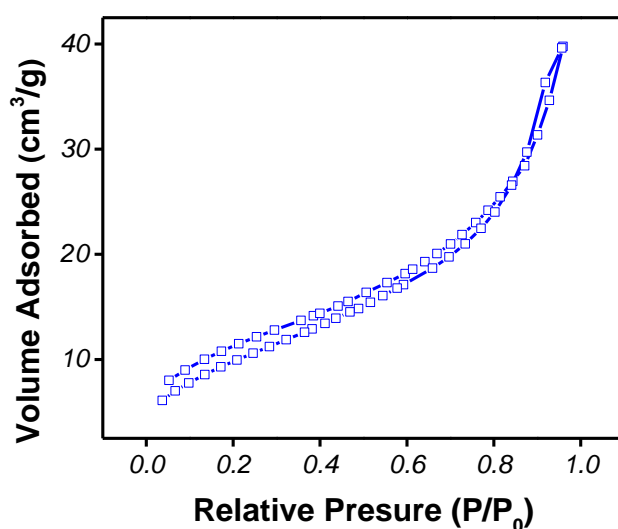


Figure S2. Nitrogen adsorption-desorption isotherms of ~ 90 nm sized dSiO_2 . BET surface area was estimated to be $40.8 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$.

Table S5. ^{89}Zr -labeling yields of dSiO_2 with varied concentrations

	2.0 mg/mL	2×10^{-1} mg/mL	2×10^{-4} mg/mL
15 min	30.6 %	9.4 %	7.4 %
30 min	38.7 %	18.5 %	5.3 %
60 min	57.5 %	33.7 %	6.9 %
120 min	76.6 %	38.1 %	10.1 %

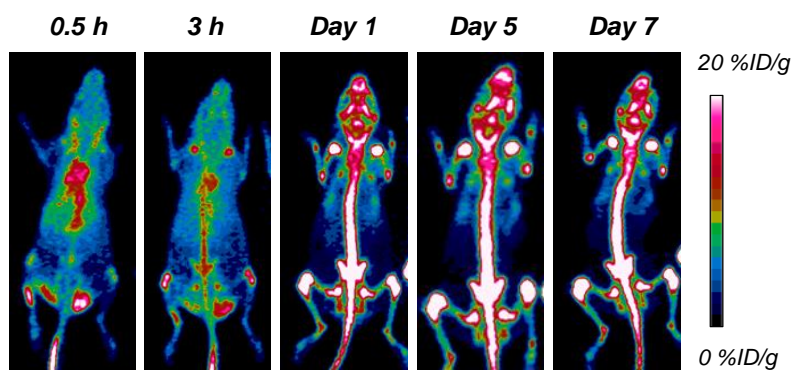


Figure S3. *In vivo* PET maximum intensity projection images of mice injected with free ^{89}Zr -oxalate.

Table S6. ROI quantification data of ^{89}Zr -dSiO₂ and ^{89}Zr -MSN uptake in bone at different time points post-injection.

Bone	^{89}Zr-dSiO₂ (%ID/g, n=3)		^{89}Zr-MSN (%ID/g, n=3)	
	<i>Ave.</i>	<i>Std.</i>	<i>Ave.</i>	<i>Std.</i>
<i>0.5 h</i>	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1
<i>3.0 h</i>	0.6	0.5	0.2	0.1
<i>Day 1</i>	6.5	5.9	0.5	0.1
<i>Day 3</i>	11.1	7.5	0.7	0.1
<i>Day 7</i>	11.0	7.0	0.8	0.1
<i>Day 14</i>	11.8	6.6	1.1	0.2
<i>Day 21</i>	9.9	5.6	1.5	0.2

Table S7. ROI quantification data of $^{89}\text{Zr-dSiO}_2$ and $^{89}\text{Zr-MSN}$ uptake in liver at different time points post-injection.

Liver	$^{89}\text{Zr-dSiO}_2$ (%ID/g, n=3)		$^{89}\text{Zr-MSN}$ (%ID/g, n=3)	
	<i>Ave.</i>	<i>Std.</i>	<i>Ave.</i>	<i>Std.</i>
<i>0.5 h</i>	38.1	14.5	29.7	4.8
<i>3.0 h</i>	36.6	15.2	30.0	4.7
<i>Day 1</i>	25.2	2.7	32.8	4.8
<i>Day 3</i>	27.0	0.3	38.5	7.4
<i>Day 7</i>	27.3	2.6	39.5	4.5
<i>Day 14</i>	24.6	0.8	37.7	3.1
<i>Day 21</i>	21.1	1.4	34.2	3.3

Table S8. *Ex vivo* biodistribution data of $^{89}\text{Zr-dSiO}_2$ and $^{89}\text{Zr-MSN}$ at Day 21 post-injection

Day 21	$^{89}\text{Zr-dSiO}_2$		$^{89}\text{Zr-MSN}$	
	(%ID/g, n=3)		(%ID/g, n=3)	
	<i>Ave.</i>	<i>Std.</i>	<i>Ave.</i>	<i>Std.</i>
<i>Blood</i>	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.1
<i>Skin</i>	1.3	0.3	0.7	0.1
<i>Muscle</i>	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.1
<i>Heart</i>	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.1
<i>Lung</i>	0.8	0.3	0.7	0.4
<i>Bone</i>	6.3	3.4	1.2	0.4
<i>Liver</i>	23.2	0.3	39.3	5.5
<i>Spleen</i>	42.9	32.5	47.1	21.0
<i>Kidney</i>	1.2	0.3	1.0	0.1
<i>Pancreas</i>	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.2
<i>Stomach</i>	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.1
<i>Intestine</i>	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.0
<i>Tail</i>	1.9	0.5	0.9	0.4
<i>Brain</i>	0.2	0.1	0.32	0.20

References

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3. Zhuravlev, L. T., The Surface Chemistry of Amorphous Silica. Zhuravlev Model. *Colloids Surf. A* 2000, 173, 1-38.