

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Efficient DNA release from PAMAM dendrimer-modified superparamagnetic nanoparticles for DNA recovery

Atsushi Arakaki¹, Keiyu Shibata¹, Takeyuki Mogi², Masahito Hosokawa¹, Keiichi Hatakeyama¹, Hideyuki Gomyo¹, Tomoyuki Taguchi², Hitoshi Wake², Takeo Tanaami², Tadashi Matsunaga¹ and Tsuyoshi Tanaka¹

DNA recovery using solid-phase extraction is a fundamental technique in molecular biology and biotechnology. Our research group developed a novel DNA recovery method using amine-modified magnetic nanoparticles (MNPs) as a solid support. The use of MNPs simplifies the DNA recovery processes and permits their use in automated systems. In this study, we prepared polyamidoamine-modified superparamagnetic particles (PAMAM–SpMNPs) with 10-nm magnetite cores and used them for DNA recovery. To improve the DNA-release efficiency, the surface amine numbers on the particles were evaluated to modify each generation of PAMAM. With this optimization, the PAMAM–SpMNPs maintained a high DNA adsorption capacity and high dispersivity in solution. As a result, the DNA release from the PAMAM–SpMNPs of every generation was highly efficient. In particular, the release of DNA from the G4 to G6 PAMAM–SpMNPs was greater than 95%. Furthermore, an alternating magnetic field (AMF) was applied to expedite the DNA release from the PAMAM–SpMNPs. Complete DNA release was achieved using AMF treatment for 10 min. The DNA recovery method using the PAMAM–SpMNPs will permit various types of testing using DNA from a low volume sample, such as in a micro total analytical system.

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INTRODUCTION

DNA recovery is an important process for biological tests based on nucleic acid sequences such as bacterial detection, virus genotyping, and gene diagnosis. A typical DNA recovery process uses solid-phase extraction. In particular, a technique developed by Boom *et al.*¹ using silica particles has been applied to various commercially available DNA extraction kits. This method consists of several processes, including removing hydrated water from a DNA molecule using highly concentrated chaotropic reagents, inducing DNA adsorption to the silica particles, washing with an organic solvent, and drying the particles, thus making the protocol complicated. In addition, the method uses chaotropic reagents and organic solvents, which may inhibit downstream applications requiring enzymatic reactions (for example, PCR amplification, gene cloning, digestion, and sequencing).

Magnetic nanoparticles (MNPs) are an ideal material for use in automated separation processes because they can be conveniently collected by a magnet. They have been used in various biotechnological applications, including cell separation,^{2–4} immunoassays,^{5–7} DNA detection,^{8–12} and DNA recovery.^{13–18} We have developed various types of amine-modified MNPs and have applied them to automated DNA recovery.^{13,15,18} This development was based on the

electrostatic interactions between the amino groups on the MNPs and the phosphate groups from nucleic acids.¹⁹ The method consists of several consecutive processes, including DNA adsorption, washing, and release, although it does not require any chaotropic reagents or organic solvents. This method is especially applicable to DNA extraction from plant cells, which cannot be achieved using the Boom method because the addition of chaotropic agents increases the solution viscosity owing to aggregation of the proteoglycans.¹⁸

The DNA binding capability of amine-modified MNPs was significantly improved by modifying them with polyamidoamine (PAMAM) dendrons.¹⁶ The high amine density increased the DNA adsorption capacity of the PAMAM-modified MNPs (PAMAM–MNPs). In addition, the dispersivity of the MNPs in a solution was increased with the high amino density, generating a repulsive force among the PAMAM–MNPs. However, the highest DNA-release ratio was approximately 80% of the total DNA captured onto the PAMAM–MNPs. The remaining 20% of the DNA molecules were tightly associated with the high-density amino groups on the solid surface by electrostatic interaction and could not be easily released from the surface.²⁰ An improvement in the DNA-release efficiency is required for complete DNA recovery using PAMAM–MNPs.

¹Division of Biotechnology and Life Science, Institute of Engineering, Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology, Tokyo, Japan and ²Yokogawa Electric Corporation, Tokyo, Japan
Correspondence: Professor T Tanaka, Division of Biotechnology and Life Science, Institute of Engineering, Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology, 2-24-16, Naka-cho, Koganei, Tokyo, Japan.

E-mail: tsuyo@cc.tuat.ac.jp

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In this study, we prepared polyamidoamine-modified superparamagnetic particles (PAMAM-SpMNPs) using 10-nm magnetite cores and used them for DNA recovery. To improve the DNA-release efficiency, we optimized the surface amine numbers of the PAMAM-SpMNPs to control the interaction between a DNA molecule and the amine groups on the particle. Furthermore, an alternating magnetic field (AMF) was applied to expedite the DNA release from the PAMAM-SpMNPs. The DNA-release method using the PAMAM-SpMNPs introduced in this study will contribute to DNA recovery from extremely small biological samples.

EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE

Materials

PAMAM dendrimers with cystamine cores (generations 1–6 (G1–G6 dendrimers)) were obtained from Sigma-Aldrich (St Louis, MO, USA). 3-[2-(2-Aminoethylamino)-ethylamino]-propyltrimethoxysilane (AEEA) was obtained from Fluka Chemical (Buchs SG, Switzerland). *N*-(4-maleimidobutyryloxy) succinimide (GMBS) and dithiothreitol (DTT) were purchased from Wako Pure Chemical Industries (Osaka, Japan). Sulfo-succinimidyl 6-[3'-(2-pyridyldithio)-propionamido] hexanoate (Sulfo-LC-SPDP) was purchased from Pierce Chemical (Rockford, IL, USA). A PicoGreen ($\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 502 \text{ nm}$, $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 523 \text{ nm}$) dsDNA assay kit was purchased from Invitrogen (Carlsbad, CA, USA). Superparamagnetic nanoparticles (SpMNPs) were purchased from the Ferrotec Corporation (Tokyo, Japan). The average diameters of the SpMNPs were 10 nm, and these particles were used as solid supports for silanization. The other commercially available reagents were either of analytical or laboratory grade.

Preparation of AEEA-modified SpMNPs (AEEA-SpMNPs)

SpMNPs (10 mg) were incubated with 20 ml of 2% AEEA solution in EtOH at room temperature for 10 min. After washing with dimethylformamide (DMF), the AEEA-SpMNPs were baked at 120 °C in 20 ml DMF for 30 min with sonication every 10 min. After this treatment, the particles were washed with MeOH three times and stored in MeOH at 4 °C. The concentration of the SpMNPs in suspension was determined by measuring the optical density of the solution at 660 nm using a spectrophotometer (ES-2; Malcom, Tokyo, Japan).

Surface modification of AEEA-SpMNPs with PAMAM dendrimers

PAMAM-SpMNPs were synthesized using a convergent method.²⁰ As a consequence of using this method, the density of the amino groups on the PAMAM-SpMNPs was easily controlled with high reproducibility. The method used is described briefly below. G1–G6 dendrimers (final concentration: 0.5 mM) in 200 μl of MeOH were mixed with 800 μl of DTT (final concentration: 0.5 mM) in a 10 mM phosphate buffer containing 140 mM NaCl (phosphate buffered saline; PBS, pH 7.4) to produce dendron-thiols. After stirring at room temperature for 12 h, the dendron-thiol solution was diluted 10-fold with PBS buffer. Simultaneously, the AEEA-SpMNPs (10 mg) were incubated with a 1 mM GMBS solution in 20 ml PBS for 1 h to introduce maleimide groups on their surface. After washing with PBS three times, the maleimide-functionalized SpMNPs (final concentration: 0.5 mg ml⁻¹) were reacted with the dendron-thiol solution. The PAMAM-SpMNP suspension was incubated and sonicated at room temperature for 1 h. After washing with MeOH three times, the PAMAM-SpMNPs were stored in MeOH at 4 °C. The size distributions of the PAMAM-SpMNPs were evaluated using a laser particle analyzer (ELS-8000, Otsuka Electronics, Osaka, Japan), and the monodispersity of the PAMAM-SpMNPs was verified before use.

Determination of surface amine numbers of PAMAM-SpMNPs

To determine the number of amine moieties on their surfaces, PAMAM-SpMNPs (250 μg) were incubated in 10 mM Sulfo-LC-SPDP in PBS at room temperature for 30 min. The Sulfo-LC-SPDP-conjugated MNPs were washed three times with PBS and incubated in 200 μl of 20 mM DTT in PBS to release 2-pyridylthiol. The absorbance of 2-pyridylthiol at 343 nm was measured using a spectrophotometer. The concentration of the Sulfo-LC-SPDP that reacted with the primary amino groups on the SpMNPs was determined using a standard curve generated with different concentrations of Sulfo-LC-SPDP in 20 mM DTT.

Measurement of zeta potentials of PAMAM-SpMNPs

The zeta potential of the PAMAM-modified SpMNPs was analyzed using a laser particle analyzer (ELS-8000). The PAMAM-SpMNPs were diluted to 1 $\mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$ using ultrapure water for measuring. The zeta potential was calculated from their electrophoretic mobilities.

Recovery of λ DNA using PAMAM-SpMNPs

The DNA recovery scheme is presented in a simplistic form in Figure 1a. The PAMAM-modified SpMNPs (10 μg) were mixed with appropriate amounts of lambda DNA (λ DNA) (Takara Bio, Shiga, Japan) in 40 μl of 10 mM Tris-HCl buffer and incubated at room temperature. The DNA-SpMNP complexes were collected magnetically and washed three times with Tris-HCl buffer. The adsorbed DNA was quantified as the initial DNA amount minus the DNA amount in the supernatant after magnetic separation. To evaluate the DNA release behaviors, the λ DNA-MNP complexes were dissolved with 1 M phosphate buffer (pH 8.0) for 20 min at 80 °C. After magnetic separation, the supernatants were collected as DNA-released fractions. The amount of DNA was determined using the DNA intercalator, PicoGreen (excitation at 502 nm, emission at 523 nm). The fluorescent intensity was measured using a fluorescence microplate reader (FLUO Star Galaxy, BMG Lab Technologies Inc., Offenburg, Germany). Calibration curves for DNA quantification were prepared using λ DNA as a standard in appropriate buffers.

DNA release from PAMAM-SpMNPs by applying an AMF

A 3-kW induction heating power supply (EASYHEAT, Ameritherm Inc., Scottsville, NY, USA) was used with a remote heating station and custom-made coils. A 2-turn, 30-mm OD coil resonating at 248 kHz was used. During the experiments, cooling water (10–16 °C) was circulated through the coil. To investigate the DNA release behaviors in the presence of an AMF, PAMAM-SpMNPs (1 mg) were used to adsorb the λ DNA or Cy3-labeled oligonucleotide. The DNA-PAMAM-SpMNPs complexes were dispersed in a 1 M phosphate buffer (pH 8.0) and placed in a PCR microtube. The suspensions were subjected to AMF treatment for 1–10 min. After magnetic separation, the supernatants were collected as DNA-released fractions. The amount of DNA was determined using the DNA intercalator, PicoGreen. The fluorescent intensity was measured using a fluorescence microplate reader. Calibration curves for the DNA quantification were prepared using λ DNA or a Cy3-labeled oligonucleotide as a standard in appropriate buffers. The temperature changes in the suspensions containing PAMAM-SpMNPs were monitored using a thermometer (FL-2000, Anritsu Meter Co., Ltd., Tokyo, Japan) equipped with a fiber optic sensor (FS-100, Anritsu Meter Co., Ltd.).

RESULTS

Preparation and characterization of PAMAM-SpMNPs

The 10-nm SpMNPs were modified using 1–6 generations of PAMAM dendrimers. The PAMAM dendrimers were covalently bound to the SpMNPs of magnetite using AEEA and GMBS. The dendrimer modification was confirmed by measuring the surface amine numbers from the PAMAM-SpMNPs. The experimental and theoretical amine numbers of the PAMAM-SpMNPs in each generation are listed in Table 1. The experimental amine numbers of the PAMAM-SpMNPs increased from generations 1 through 6. The amine number of the G6 PAMAM-MNPs (5.2×10^2 amino groups/particle) was approximately four times that of the G1 PAMAM-SpMNPs (1.2×10^2 amino groups/particle). The theoretical amine numbers were estimated for a PAMAM dendrimer that was tightly immobilized on the surface of a SpMNP, such as a 10-nm sphere with close hexagonal packing. On the basis of the repulsive force among the dendrons, the experimental amine numbers were lower than the theoretical amine numbers for each generation. The experimental amine number of the G6 PAMAM-SpMNPs divided by the surface area of a SpMNP yields a value of approximately 1.6 amino groups nm⁻². The amino-group density of the 10-nm G6 PAMAM-SpMNPs was approximately 80% of that of the 80-nm

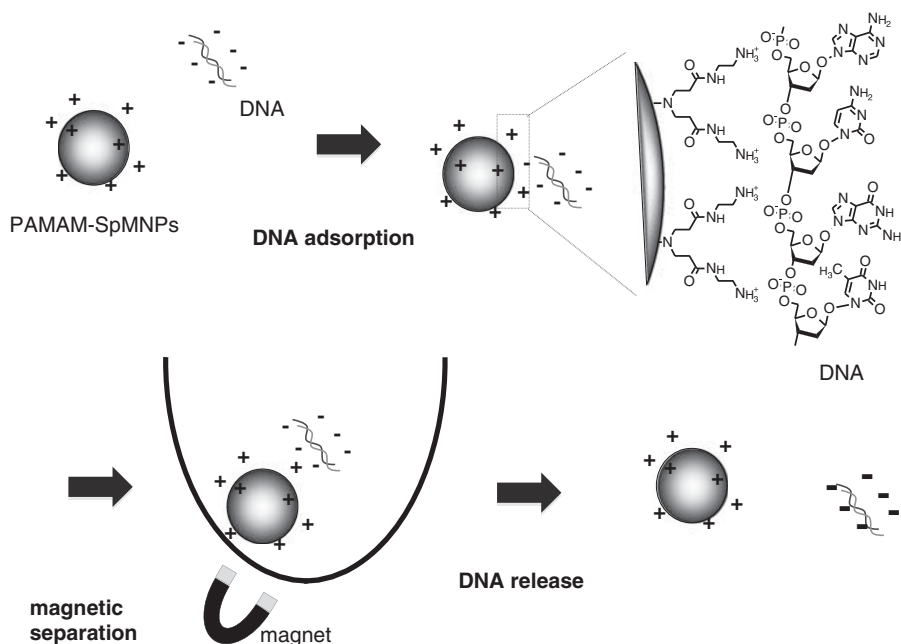


Figure 1 Scheme for DNA recovery using PAMAM-SpMNPs. DNA molecules were adsorbed onto the PAMAM-SpMNPs via electrostatic interactions. The DNA and PAMAM-SpMNP complexes were separated from the supernatant by an attracting magnetic force. After removal of the supernatant and washing of the PAMAM-SpMNPs, DNA was released from the PAMAM-SpMNPs in a phosphate buffer by heating the solution. Alternatively, an AMF was applied to expedite the DNA release from the PAMAM-SpMNPs.

Table 1 Amine numbers immobilized on PAMAM-SpMNPs

Diameter (nm)	Generation	Theoretical amine number/particle	Experimental amine number/particle	Experimental/ theoretical $\times 100$ (%)
10	G1	299	124 \pm 6	41
	G2	345	246 \pm 17	71
	G3	448	331 \pm 23	74
	G4	573	348 \pm 28	61
	G5	796	431 \pm 26	54
	G6	1034	517 \pm 59	50

G6 PAMAM-MNPs prepared using the self-assembly dendronization method using thiol core, functionalized PAMAM dendrons.

The prepared PAMAM-SpMNPs exhibit a high dispersivity in solution, and the dispersivity increased with successive dendrimer generations. Figure 2 shows the suspensions of PAMAM-SpMNPs in PBS buffer (pH 8.0) after sonication for 1 h. The G1–G4 PAMAM-SpMNPs settled out by aggregation, whereas the G5 and G6 PAMAM-SpMNPs remained dispersed in the solution. The ζ potential of the PAMAM-SpMNPs in the successive generations was then measured (Table 2). The ζ potential correlated with the amine number of the PAMAM-SpMNPs ($R^2 = 0.94$), suggesting that the electrostatic interaction between the SpMNPs had a major role in the observed aggregations in the solution.

DNA binding to and release from PAMAM-SpMNPs

The DNA binding to and release from the PAMAM-SpMNPs were evaluated using λ DNA as a model sample. λ DNA was bound to the PAMAM-SpMNPs via electrostatic interactions between the phosphate groups from the DNA and the amino groups from the PAMAM dendrimers. After binding, the PAMAM-SpMNPs immediately

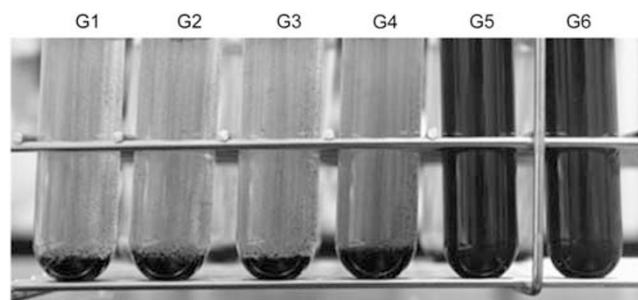


Figure 2 PAMAM-dendrons immobilized on SpMNPs in a PBS buffer. The SpMNPs were incubated for 1 h after dispersion by sonication.

Table 2 ζ potentials of PAMAM-SpMNPs

Generation	ζ Potentials (mV)
G1	12.5 \pm 13.7
G2	26.5 \pm 11.7
G3	31.8 \pm 8.9
G4	37.0 \pm 16.7
G5	38.8 \pm 10.2
G6	43.0 \pm 8.1

aggregated; the aggregation increased the net magnetization of the PAMAM-SpMNPs and facilitated their magnetic collection from solution. The DNA was then released by adding phosphate ions, which replaced the DNA bound to the PAMAM-SpMNPs, and heating at 80 °C for 20 min. The amounts of both the bound and released DNA using 10 μ g of PAMAM-SpMNPs increased with the successive dendrimer generations (Figure 3). The amount of DNA

bound to the G6 PAMAM–SpMNPs (566 $\mu\text{g}/10\text{ }\mu\text{g}$ SpMNPs) was 333% of the amount bound to the G1 PAMAM–SpMNPs (170 $\mu\text{g}/10\text{ }\mu\text{g}$ SpMNPs). The DNA release from the PAMAM–SpMNPs for all of the generations was highly efficient, especially for the G4–G6 PAMAM–SpMNPs, which released greater than 95% of their DNA.

The DNA-binding capability of the PAMAM–SpMNPs was compared with that of PAMAM–MNPs prepared using 80-nm magnetite cores, as previously reported.²⁰ A binding experiment was performed using the same amount of particles under the same binding conditions. The resulting amount of DNA bound to the G6 PAMAM–SpMNPs was four times that bound to the G6 PAMAM–MNPs (Table 3). Moreover, the amine number of the G6 PAMAM–SpMNPs was six times larger than that of the G6 PAMAM–MNPs.

Enhancement of DNA release from PAMAM–SpMNPs by AMF

MNPs subjected to an external AMF generate a remarkable heating effect because of their magnetic loss.^{21,22} Because the heat is generated from the MNP core, the energy should be directly transferred to the water and other molecules that exist locally on the MNP surface, resulting in the rapid and efficient heating of the target molecule. In this study, we used an AMF to enhance DNA release from the PAMAM–SpMNP surface.

Before the investigation, heat generation from bare MNPs was confirmed by applying an external AMF to a glass vessel containing MNPs dispersed in a phosphate buffer. When 80-nm ferromagnetic MNPs were added at a concentration of 250 $\mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$, a rapid increase in

the solution temperature was observed within 1 min (Supplementary Figure 1). In contrast, a slow and small temperature change was observed when 10-nm SpMNPs were used at the same concentration, although the SpMNPs should have experienced a local temperature increase at the surface region (Figure 4). These behaviors conformed to the ferromagnetic and superparamagnetic characteristics derived from the 80-nm and 10-nm sizes of the magnetite particles.

The temperature changes in the solution containing SpMNPs were determined when different AMF power levels were applied to the SpMNPs. The Cy3-labeled oligonucleotide was bound to the PAMAM–SpMNPs, and an AMF was applied. The release of the oligonucleotide was monitored by measuring the fluorescent intensity of the solution. The time course of the oligonucleotide release indicated that it occurred within 1 min (Figure 4), whereas no temperature increase was observed over 10 min. This result suggests that the heat generated from a SpMNP increases the local temperature at the surface and facilitates the release of the oligonucleotide from the surface.

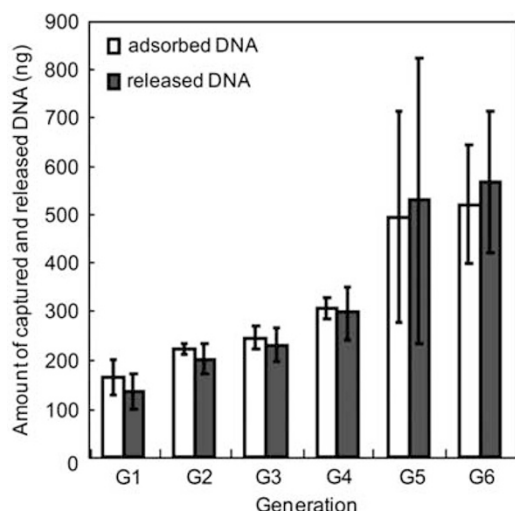


Figure 3 DNA amounts adsorbed on and released from the PAMAM–SpMNPs as a function of dendrimer generation. The data are compiled from triplicate experiments and are expressed as \pm s.d.

Table 3 Amount of adsorbed DNA by G6 PAMAM–MNPs

	Amine number (amines per 10 μg -MNPs)	Amount of adsorbed DNA (ng per 10 μg -MNPs)
10 nm	1.9×10^{15}	566
80 nm	3.1×10^{14}	114

Abbreviation: MNPs, magnetic nanoparticles.

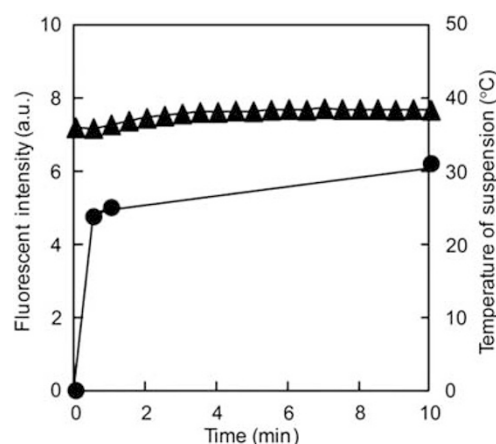


Figure 4 Fluorescent intensities of the Cy3-labeled oligonucleotide released from G6 PAMAM–SpMNPs by applying an AMF at 248 kHz. ●: Fluorescent intensity, ▲: Temperature of suspension.

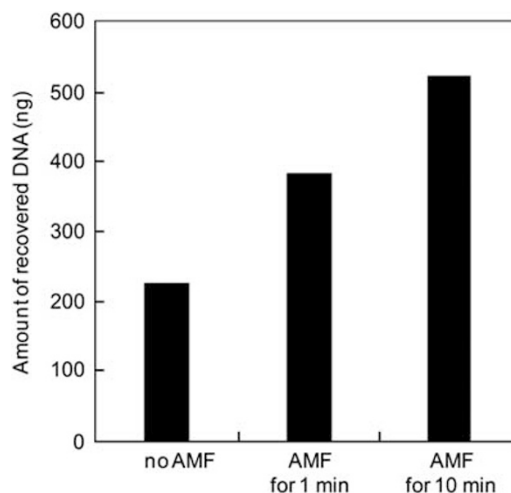


Figure 5 Amount of released lambda DNA from G6 PAMAM–SpMNPs by applying or not applying an AMF at 248 kHz. The particle suspensions were incubated for 20 min at room temperature.

The DNA release from the G6 PAMAM-SpMNPs was investigated by applying an external AMF to the vessel. When no AMF was applied to a solution containing DNA bound to G6 PAMAM-SpMNPs, approximately 40% (200 ng) of the DNA was released from the PAMAM-SpMNPs after 20 min of incubation in a phosphate buffer (Figure 5). When an AMF was applied for 1 min and 10 min, approximately 80% (400 ng) and 100% (500 ng) of the DNA was released from the PAMAM-SpMNPs, respectively. Complete DNA release was achieved after AMF treatment for 10 min. The heat generation of the SpMNPs was considered to support the rapid and highly efficient DNA release from the SpMNPs.

DISCUSSION

In a previous report, we developed a novel DNA recovery method based on electrostatic interactions between the phosphate groups of DNA and the amino groups on the solid support.^{16,19} The solid support first used nanoparticles that had been modified with an amino-silane monolayer. These particles had a low DNA adsorption capacity and low particle dispersivity, although the DNA release was efficient.¹⁷ The capacity of the amine-modified nanoparticle was then improved by covering it with PAMAM using divergent synthesis.^{15,16} However, the PAMAM-modified particles had two problems: controlling the amine numbers on the particles was difficult using the divergent method, and the DNA-release efficiency was low, with a high amino-group density for high dispersivity. We recently developed the self-assembly dendronization method using thiol core, functionalized PAMAM dendrons as a convenient method for PAMAM modification, which allowed the PAMAM-MNPs to be fabricated with sufficient reproducibility.²⁰ In this study, to improve the DNA-release efficiency, the self-assembly dendronization method was used for the synthesis of PAMAM-modified particles. SpMNPs were used as a solid support, and two effects were expected. One effect was an improvement of the capacity for DNA adsorption to the particle because of the enlargement of the specific surface area per weight. The other expected effect was a lower interaction per particle between the amino groups on the particle and the phosphate groups in the DNA. These effects were capable of achieving a significant improvement of DNA-release efficiency from the PAMAM-modified particles.

The PAMAM-MNPs, which have a diameter of 80 nm, require a high amino-group density for a high dispersivity and DNA adsorption capacity. However, a high amino-group density is not effective for DNA release.¹⁶ Thus, we used SpMNPs as a solid support for PAMAM modification. The average diameters of the SpMNPs were 10 nm. Therefore, the magnetic agglomerations did not occur easily, and the specific surface area was larger than that of the 80-nm MNPs used in the previous study. The G6 PAMAM-SpMNPs, which had only 80% of the amine density of the previous 80-nm PAMAM-MNPs, exhibited high dispersivity. A superparamagnetic particle is not magnetic without an external magnetic field. Therefore, the G5 or G6 PAMAM-SpMNPs remained dispersed in a high salt concentration buffer (PBS) for 1 h, despite having a lower repulsive force than the previous 80-nm PAMAM-MNPs of the lower amino density. The PAMAM-SpMNPs that adsorbed DNA were able to collect easily and rapidly because of the cancelation of the electrostatic repulsive force among the particles by the DNA. Our proposed method offers the following benefits over conventional methods: reduced chemical requirements, ease of separation using a magnet and ease of automation, whereas conventional methods using a silica column require centrifugation, which is the most difficult step to automate. In addition, our method yielded a DNA recovery ratio of 95%, which is high compared with the other methods.^{23,24}

The DNA adsorbed on the G6 PAMAM-SpMNPs could be completely released from their surfaces. We considered the efficient release to be caused by the magnitude of the electrostatic interaction between the DNA and amine-modified particles. The numbers of amino groups and the amounts of adsorbed DNA on the SpMNPs (10-nm) and MNPs (80-nm) are summarized in Table 3. The particle numbers in 10 μ g of the particles and the adsorbed DNA molecule numbers were calculated by considering the interaction model between the particles and the DNA. The 10- μ g samples of the 10-nm and 80-nm PAMAM-modified particles contained 1.7×10^{12} particles and 3.4×10^9 particles, respectively. The following numerical values were used for the calculations: single particle volumes of $5.2 \times 10^2 \text{ nm}^3$ and $2.7 \times 10^5 \text{ nm}^3$ from spherical modes for the 10-nm and 80-nm particles, respectively; a 0.84-nm lattice constant for Fe_3O_4 ; and a unit lattice volume of 0.28 nm^3 . The molecular numbers of the adsorbed λ DNA (48502 bp) on the 10-nm particles and 80-nm particles were 1.1×10^{10} and 2.7×10^9 , respectively. Because the total specific surface area of the 10-nm particles was larger than that of the 80-nm particles of the same weight, the DNA-adsorption capacity of the 10-nm particles was larger than that of the 80-nm particles. However, the amine number that could interact with the phosphate group of the DNA on the single 10-nm particle was less than that for the single 80-nm particle. The 80-nm single PAMAM-MNP possesses 4.1×10^4 amino groups, whereas the 10-nm single PAMAM-SpMNP possesses 5.2×10^2 amino groups. Thus, the binding interaction of the DNA molecule with the single PAMAM-SpMNP was weaker than that with the single PAMAM-MNPs. The reduced binding interaction from the localized area of individual particles resulted in highly efficient DNA release from the PAMAM-SpMNPs. The dispersivity of the PAMAM-SpMNPs may have also contributed to the high efficiency of the DNA release. In the previous study, we revealed that the release of DNA from amine-modified MNPs occurred by replacing the phosphate groups of the DNA with the phosphate ions in the buffer.²⁰ The replacement reaction was promoted by the easy attack of phosphate ions in low agglomeration. We have reported in our previous studies that the use of AEEA-modified MNPs with 1.1 amino groups nm^{-2} results in a DNA-release efficiency of 85%, whereas the use of the PAMAM-MNPs with 2.0 amino groups nm^{-2} had an efficiency of 80%.¹⁹ Another research group reported the release of 65% of DNA from cationic poly(lactide) nanoparticles.²⁴ In contrast, by optimizing the amino-group density on the 10-nm PAMAM-SpMNPs, we achieved a highly efficient DNA release of greater than 95% from the surface in this study.

The PAMAM-SpMNPs used in combination with an AMF enabled the acceleration of the DNA recovery. The temperature near the SpMNP surface appeared to rise to 80 °C or higher; however, the temperature of the suspension remained nearly constant. Several research groups have proposed using various DNA carriers such as gold nanoparticles,^{25–27} polyglycolic acid particles,^{24,28} or liposomes.²⁹ The application of these DNA carriers is expected to control the timing of the DNA release and result in little injury to cells. When PAMAM-SpMNPs are used in conjunction with an AMF for gene transfection, the DNA release can be controlled without cell death.

In this study, PAMAM-modified SpMNPs were developed for efficient DNA release. The PAMAM-SpMNPs permitted highly efficient DNA recovery. Furthermore, the DNA recovery using the PAMAM-SpMNPs was accelerated by applying an AMF without a change in temperature. Thus, by enabling control of the DNA release timing, the proposed method for DNA recovery could expand the range of applications to include rapid bacterial testing, gene transfection and the detection of genetically modified organisms.

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