

Translocation of particles deposited in the respiratory system: a systematic review and statistical analysis

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Abstract Many epidemiological studies have demonstrated that ambient particulate matter poses consistent risks for respiratory and cardiovascular disorders. The translocation of inhaled particles is one hypothesis that could explain such systemic effects. The objectives of this study were to conduct a systematic review of previous reports on particle translocation from the respiratory system and to discuss factors important for translocation. A PubMed search was conducted in August 2011 for the period from 1967 with four main keyword domains (particle, translocation, detection site, and exposure route). The systematic review identified 61 original articles written in English that met the specified criteria (i.e., information on experiment and particle detection). Categorical regression analysis was performed with the site of particle detection as the objective variable, and particle size, particle material, animal species, and exposure route as the explanatory variables. All explanatory variables showed statistically significant effects. The effects for particle size and particle material were large, while the effects for animal species and exposure route were relatively small. There was a broad relationship between particle size and detection site: ≤ 50 nm for brain and remote organs; ≤ 1 μ m for blood; and ≤ 10 μ m for lung tissues. However, these results should be considered within the context of several limitations, such as deficiency of information.

Keywords Particle · Translocation · Respiratory system · Systematic review · Categorical regression

Introduction

A number of epidemiological studies have shown that airborne particulate matter (PM) is associated not only with respiratory diseases but also with cardiovascular diseases [1–3]. The existence of very small particles with diameters of <100 nm (i.e., ultrafine particles; UFPs) could explain, at least in part, the effects of airborne PM on the cardiovascular system [4, 5]. Predictive mathematical models for the deposition of inhaled particles indicate that particles of <100 nm are commonly deposited in the alveoli [6, 7]. The high surface-to-volume ratio of UFPs allows them to adsorb large amounts of substances, including various organic and inorganic compounds that induce oxidative stress and/or inflammation [8]. Inhalation of UFPs therefore triggers inflammatory responses in the lung and increases the release of inflammatory mediators into the blood. This, in turn, can lead to various changes in the cardiovascular system, such as an increase in blood coagulability and the progression of atherosclerotic lesions [1, 4].

In addition to such indirect effects via inflammatory responses, UFPs may directly affect the cardiovascular system by translocation from the respiratory system to the systemic circulation [9]. UFPs deposited in the lung may pass through the epithelial barrier because of their very small size; some particles may move into lung capillaries and then into the systemic circulation. Furthermore, inhaled UFPs could migrate to the brain from the nasal cavity via the olfactory nerve [9].

To evaluate the possibility of particle translocation from the airway or alveolar lumen, various studies have been conducted in which artificial particles were inhaled or administered into the airway. Afterwards, various organs or tissues, including the lymph nodes, blood, liver, heart, spleen, kidney, and brain, were examined for the presence of

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particles. Although several review articles concerning particle translocation have been published [9–12], no systematic reviews have been performed. In addition, important factors that affect inhaled particle translocation could be identified by a multivariate analysis of integrated data on particle translocation. Therefore, the purposes of this study were to summarize the studies published to date on particle translocation from the respiratory system, and to discuss factors important for the translocation of solid particles. In the literature search for the present study we did not limit particle size because it was felt that information on the translocation of large particles (i.e., >100 nm) would be useful for the subsequent statistical analysis. To the best of the authors' knowledge, this is the first systematic review of particle translocation including statistical examination.

Materials and methods

Data source and keywords for literature search

A systematic search of the PubMed database (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/entrez>) was performed for articles published in peer-reviewed journals from February 1967 through August 2011. The search was conducted using four main keyword categories, with terms related to: (1) particle (i.e., particle, particulate, nanoparticle, or *sphere); (2) translocation (i.e., pass, passage, translocat*, move*, migrat*, transport*, or incorporat*); (3) detection site (i.e., systemic, circulat*, blood, brain, liver, lymph*, nerv*, epithel*, or interstiti*); and (4) methods by which particles were exposed or the site into which particles were administered (i.e., inhal*, intratracheal*, respir*, airway, trache*, bronc*, alveol*, lung, nose, nostril, or nasal).

Selection of studies

Five main criteria were used for study selection.

1. Type of report: Original reports written in English.
2. Design of experiment: Animal or human studies in which particles were either inhaled or administered into the airway. Neither *in vitro* studies nor studies using isolated respiratory organs were included.
3. Information on experiment: Material and size of the particle, animal species, route of exposure, and the major results were specified. Major results should be shown with figures, tables, or photographs. Information on the particle concentration and duration in inhalation experiments or the amount of administered particles in administration experiments was not required, but was included for reference.

4. Detection of solid particles: Studies focusing on the translocation of solid particles. In reality, the constituents of the particles may dissolve or labels may be released from the particles. Such soluble fractions pass the epithelial barrier more easily than solid particles. An attempt was therefore made to exclude the cases where soluble fractions were detected. More specifically, papers were excluded in which such possibilities were pointed out by the authors themselves or by other researchers.
5. Validity of detection: Reports in which translocated particles were detected were evaluated for the validity of detection. Data that met at least one of the following four additional criteria were regarded as having successful detection at the translocated sites: [A] particles were observed histologically in the target tissue; [B] statistically significant amounts were detected in the target tissue; [C] a dose-response relationship was observed for more than two different doses or concentrations; or [D] more than 0.1% of the administered dose or lung deposition was observed in the target tissue.

Statistical analysis

Categorical regression (CATREG) analysis was performed using the studies that met the criteria described in the previous section. The objective variable was the site where particles were detected, and the explanatory variables were particle diameter, particle material, animal species, and exposure route. Doses or concentrations were not adopted as the explanatory variables for the following reasons: (1) there were several reports in which such information was not available; (2) varying descriptions were used in the inhalation studies (e.g., initial lung burden or initial body burden instead of concentration and time); and (3) subgroup analyses would have been required because of the difficulty in standardizing the exposure conditions in different styles of experiments, but there were not enough data to conduct such analyses.

The sites where particles were detected were classified into five nominal categories: (1) no translocation (remained in the lumen of the airways or alveoli); (2) lung tissues (in the epithelial cells of the airways or alveoli, submucosal tissue, interstitium, lung-associated lymph nodes, or endothelial cells of capillaries); (3) blood (in pulmonary capillary lumens, systemic blood circulation, liver, or spleen); (4) remote organs (organs other than lung, liver, spleen, or brain); and (5) brain (olfactory bulb, cerebrum, limbic system, brainstem, or cerebellum). The liver and the spleen were categorized as “blood” because these organs inherently function as eliminators of particles from the blood. Studies in which particles could not be detected in certain tissues were not included in the statistical analysis.

and were considered “negative results.” However, in studies in which particles were not detected in the lung tissue, the results were adopted as “no translocation.” Studies in which particles were detected in alveolar macrophages were also classified as “no translocation” because alveolar macrophages phagocytize foreign materials in the alveoli, and most of the cells migrate to terminal bronchioles, where they are cleared by the mucociliary escalator.

Particle diameter was classified into five ordinal categories: (1) ≤ 50 nm (nanoparticles); (2) >50 and ≤ 100 nm (UFPs without nanoparticles); (3) >100 and ≤ 1 μm (accumulation mode particles); (4) >1 and ≤ 10 μm (inhalable particles); and (5) >10 μm (non-inhalable particles). Particle material was classified into six nominal categories: (1) heavy metals and salts [gold (Au), silver (Ag), platinum (Pt), copper (Cu), iridium (Ir), tantalum (Ta), and barium sulfate (BaSO_4)]; (2) metal oxides [manganese dioxide (MnO_2), trimanganese tetraoxide (Mn_3O_4), cadmium oxide (CdO), titanium dioxide (TiO_2), iron(II,III) oxide (Fe_3O_4), and cerium(IV) oxide (CeO_2)]; (3) inorganic carbons (carbon black, C60 fullerene, and carbon particles generated with a Palas® (Palas, Karlsruhe, Germany) aerosol generator); (4) silicates (fly ash, silica, and aluminosilicate); (5) plastics [polystyrene and its conjugates, Teflon® (DuPont, Wilmington, DE, USA), polyacrylamide, polylactic acid, and methoxypoly (ethylene glycol) (mPEG)]; and (6) proteins (albumin and ferritin). BaSO_4 had only one datum; it was combined with heavy metals because a preliminary CATREG analysis indicated that quantification of BaSO_4 was similar to that of heavy metals. Animal species was classified into four nominal categories: (1) rat; (2) mouse; (3) guinea pig and hamster; and (4) dog. There were no human data available for CATREG analysis because all the data showed negative results. There was one datum each for guinea pig and hamster; these data were combined because a preliminary CATREG analysis indicated that quantifications of these species were similar. Exposure route was classified into three nominal categories: inhalation, intratracheal administration, and intranasal administration.

Statistical analysis was performed with IBM SPSS Statistics v. 19 (IBM, Armonk, NY, USA) and IBM SPSS Categories v. 19 (IBM).

Results and discussion

Selection of studies

The literature search was conducted in August 2011. Eight hundred thirty-seven reports met all four main subject heading domains. Figure 1 illustrates the selection process. First, based on their titles and abstracts, 709 articles were

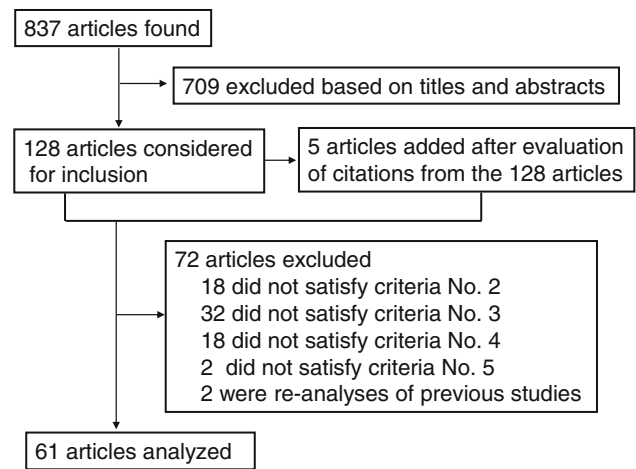


Fig. 1 Flow diagram of the study selection process. Criteria for the exclusion of 64 articles are described under the heading “Selection of studies” in the “Materials and methods” section

excluded because they were not obviously related to the purpose of this study (e.g., review articles, in vitro studies, and articles on drug delivery). Of the remaining 128 articles (plus 5 articles that were added after evaluation of citations within the 128 articles), 61 articles met the criteria for study selection. Table 1 shows summaries of these articles.

After 2000, many reports examined the possibilities of particle translocation to the systemic circulation, remote organs, or brain. Most reports before 2000 evaluated translocation to the lung interstitium or the lung-associated lymph nodes. As for particle materials, 29 kinds of materials were used in the articles analyzed in this report: 14 metals and their oxides and salts; 7 inorganic carbons and silicates; and 8 organic compounds. Polystyrene and its conjugates were the most frequently used (26 reports), at sizes that were usually >100 nm in diameter. Titanium dioxide (18 reports) and inorganic carbons (16 reports) were also frequently used. In general, inorganic materials other than silica were frequent among particles whose diameters were ≤ 100 nm, and plastics and silica were popular among particles of >100 nm. The smallest particle was C60 fullerene (0.68 nm), and the largest was polystyrene (40 μm). As for the animal species, rat was the most frequently used (68 reports, approximately 60%), followed by mouse (24 reports), dog (12 reports), and human (4 reports). All of the human reports were on inhalation of Technegas, and reported that no translocation to the systemic circulation or remote organs could be detected. As for the sites where particles were detected, there were 9 reports for the brain, 7 reports for the kidney, 3 reports for the heart, 2 reports for the thyroid, 20 reports for the liver, 4 reports for the spleen, 14 reports for blood, and 4 reports for lung capillary lumens.

Table 1 Summaries of the selected studies on particle translocation

Material	Diameter (nm)	Animal	Route	Dose or concentration	Results	Reference
Fe ₃ O ₄	1,300	Rat	Inhalation	0.01, 0.02, 0.05, 0.1 mg/m ³ , 4 weeks	Detected in lung-associated lymph node [B, C]	[13]
Human serum albumin	7	Rat	Intratracheal	10 pmol/g wt	Detected in kidney, liver [A], and lymph node [A, D]	[14]
mPEG 20 kDa	9	Rat	Intratracheal	10 pmol/g wt	Detected in lymph node [D]	[14]
Polystyrene–polyacrylate	34	Rat	Intratracheal	10 pmol/g wt	Detected in lymph node [D]	[14]
Polystyrene–polyacrylate	48	Rat	Intratracheal	10 pmol/g wt	<0.02% in lymph node	[14]
Polystyrene–polyacrylate	68	Rat	Intratracheal	10 pmol/g wt	<0.02% in lymph node	[14]
Polystyrene–polyacrylate	120	Rat	Intratracheal	10 pmol/g wt	<0.02% in lymph node	[14]
Polystyrene–polyacrylate	270	Rat	Intratracheal	10 pmol/g wt	<0.02% in lymph node	[14]
TiO ₂	3	Mouse	Intratracheal	0.1 mg × 4	Detected in brain [B]	[15]
CeO ₂	7	Rat	Intratracheal	0.2 mg	Detected in blood [B]. <0.01% in heart, kidney, brain, testis	[16]
Cu	24	Mouse	Intranasal	1 mg, 40 mg	Detected in blood, liver, kidney, olfactory bulb [B]. Not significant in spleen, heart, brain	[17]
Cu	17,000	Mouse	Intranasal	1 mg	Not significant in blood, liver, kidney, olfactory bulb, spleen, heart, brain	[17]
Polyacrylamide	31	Mouse	Intratracheal	0.1 mg	Detected in blood, liver, heart, thyroid [D]	[18]
Polyacrylamide	1,800	Mouse	Intratracheal	0.1 mg	Detected in blood, liver, spleen, kidney, heart, thyroid [D]	[18]
Ir	20	Rat	Inhalation		Detected in blood, liver, spleen, kidney, heart, brain [D]	[19]
Ir	80	Rat	Inhalation		Not detected in blood, liver, spleen, kidney, heart, brain	[19]
TiO ₂	700–800	Rat	Inhalation	2, 10, 50 mg/m ³ , 6 h/day, 5 days	Detected in mediastinal lymph node [D]. Not detected in liver, kidney, spleen, olfactory bulb, brain	[20]
Polystyrene	100	Mouse	Intranasal	6.8 × 10 ⁸ particles	Detected in apical cells of olfactory epithelium [A]	[21]
C60	0.68	Mouse	Intratracheal	0.625, 1 mg	Detected in lung capillary, lymph nodes, type I epithelial cells [A]	[22]
Au	2	Mouse	Intratracheal	3 mg	Detected in liver [D]	[23]
Au	40	Mouse	Intratracheal	15 mg	Not detected in liver	[23]
Au	100	Mouse	Intratracheal	15 mg	Not detected in liver	[23]
TiO ₂	1,100	Rat	Inhalation	250 mg/m ³ , 6 h/day, 5 days	Detected in mediastinal lymph node [D]	[24]
Silica	1,200	Rat	Inhalation	100 mg/m ³ , 6 h	Detected in mediastinal lymph node [D]	[24]
TiO ₂	80	Mouse	Intranasal	0.5 mg	Detected in olfactory bulb, hippocampus, cerebral cortex, cerebellum [B]	[25]
TiO ₂	150	Mouse	Intranasal	0.5 mg	Detected in olfactory bulb, hippocampus, cerebral cortex, cerebellum [B]	[25]
TiO ₂	21	Rat	Intratracheal	0.52 mg	Detected in lymph node [B]	[26]
TiO ₂	1,000	Rat	Intratracheal	10.7 mg	Not significant in lymph node	[26]
Carbon black	120	Rat	Inhalation	16 mg/m ³ , 4 weeks	Detected in endothelial cells of blood capillary [A]. Not detected in liver, spleen, aortic endothelial cells	[27]

Table 1 continued

Material	Diameter (nm)	Animal	Route	Dose or concentration	Results	Reference
Carbon (Technegas)	100	Human	Inhalation		Not detected in liver	[28]
MnO ₂	30	Rat	Inhalation	0.5 mg/m ³	Detected in olfactory bulb, striatum, frontal cortex, cerebellum [B]	[29]
Polystyrene	56	Rat	Intratracheal	0.6 mg	Detected in liver, blood [D]	[30]
Polystyrene	202	Rat	Intratracheal	0.6 mg	Detected in liver, blood [D]	[30]
Carbon (Technegas)	108	Human	Inhalation		No obvious uptake by liver or spleen	[31]
Carbon black	14	Mouse	Intratracheal	1 mg	Detected in interstitium, capillary lumen [A]	[32]
Au	16	Rat	Inhalation	0.088 mg/m ³ , 6 h	Detected in blood [B], alveolar epithelial cells [A]	[33]
Carbon (Technegas)	35	Human	Inhalation	4.6 × 10 ⁵ particles/cm ³ , 6 min	No significant translocation to systemic circulation	[34]
TiO ₂	22	Rat	Inhalation	0.11 mg/m ³	Detected in capillary lumen [D], interstitium [A, D], alveolar epithelial cells [D]	[35]
Carbon black	14	Mouse	Intratracheal	(25, 125, 625 µg) × 4	Detected in mediastinal lymph node [A, B, C]	[36]
Carbon black	95	Mouse	Intratracheal	(25, 125, 625 µg) × 4	Detected in mediastinal lymph node [A, B, C]	[36]
Carbon	36	Rat	Inhalation	0.16 mg/m ³	Detected in olfactory bulb, cerebrum, cerebellum [B]	[37]
Ir	15–20	Rat	Inhalation	0.2 mg/m ³	Detected in liver, spleen, kidney, brain [D]	[38]
CdO	40	Rat	Inhalation	0.07, 0.55 mg/m ³ , 6 h	Detected in liver, kidney [B]	[39]
Poly(lactic acid)	1,500	Rat	Intranasal		Detected in submucosal layer [A]	[40]
Polystyrene	240	Rat	Intratracheal	9.5 mg	Not observed in alveolar epithelial cells, endothelial cells, capillary lumen	[41]
Carbon (Technegas)	33	Human	Inhalation		No accumulation was observed in vicinity of liver	[42]
MnO ₂	1,300	Rat	Inhalation	3 mg/m ³ , 15 days	Detected in cerebral cortex [B]. Not significant in liver, olfactory bulb, cerebellum, brainstem, diencephalon, basal ganglia	[43]
MnO ₂	18,000	Rat	Inhalation	3 mg/m ³ , 15 days	Not significant in liver, olfactory bulb, cerebral cortex, cerebellum, brainstem, diencephalon, basal ganglia	[43]
Ir	15	Rat	Inhalation	2.5 mg/m ³ , 1 h	Detected in liver [D]	[44]
Ir	80	Rat	Inhalation	2.5 mg/m ³ , 1 h	<0.1% in liver	[44]
Carbon	20–29	Rat	Inhalation	0.08, 0.18 mg/m ³ , 6 h	Detected in liver [B]	[45]
Ag	15	Rat	Inhalation	0.113 mg/m ³ , 6 h	Detected in liver, kidney [D]	[46]
Ag	15	Rat	Intratracheal	0.05 mg	Detected in liver [D]	[46]
Polystyrene	20	Rat	Intranasal	0.2 mg	Detected in blood [D]. <0.1% in liver, kidney, spleen, brain	[47]
Polystyrene	100	Rat	Intranasal	0.2 mg	Detected in blood, liver [D]. <0.1% in kidney, spleen, brain	[47]
Polystyrene	500	Rat	Intranasal	0.2 mg	Detected in blood, liver [D]. <0.1% in kidney, spleen, brain	[47]
Polystyrene	1,000	Rat	Intranasal	0.2 mg	Detected in blood, liver [D]. <0.1% in kidney, spleen, brain	[47]
Polystyrene	1,100	Mouse	Intranasal	1 mg	Detected in nasal-associated lymphoid tissues, posterior lymph nodes, mediastinal lymph nodes [A, D]. <0.1% of lung burden in spleen	[48]

Table 1 continued

Material	Diameter (nm)	Animal	Route	Dose or concentration	Results	Reference
Colloidal albumin	<80	Hamster	Intratracheal	0.1 mg	Detected in blood, liver [D]. <0.1% in spleen, kidney, brain	[49]
Teflon	18	Rat	Inhalation	5×10^5 particles/cm ³	Detected in interstitium [A]	[50]
Carbon	25	Mouse	Inhalation		Detected in alveolar epithelial cells [A]	[50]
Pt	13	Rat	Inhalation	5.6×10^6 particles/cm ³	Detected in liver [D]	[50]
TiO ₂	2,100	Rat	Inhalation	25, 50 mg/m ³	Detected in lymph nodes [C]	[51]
BaSO ₄	4,300	Rat	Inhalation	37.5, 75 mg/m ³	Detected in lymph nodes [C]	[51]
Polystyrene	2,130	Rat	Intratracheal	2.4×10^8 particles	Detected in lymph nodes [D]	[52]
Mn phosphate	4,900	Rat	Intratracheal	40, 80, 160 µg Mn/kg	No significant increase in striatum	[53]
Mn phosphate	1,670–15,500	Rat	Intratracheal	40, 80, 160 µg Mn/kg	No significant increase in striatum	[53]
Mn ₃ O ₄	730	Rat	Intratracheal	40, 80, 160 µg Mn/kg	No significant increase in striatum	[53]
Polystyrene	40,000	Guinea pig	Intratracheal		Did not penetrate basement membrane	[54]
Polystyrene	830	Rat	Intranasal	8×10^9 particles	Detected in blood [A]	[55]
TiO ₂	20	Rat	Inhalation	23 mg/m ³ , 12 weeks	Detected in lymph nodes, interstitium [D]	[56]
TiO ₂	250	Rat	Inhalation	23 mg/m ³ , 12 weeks	Detected in lymph nodes, interstitium [D]	[56]
Silica	300	Mouse	Intratracheal	1 mg	Detected in interstitium [A, B]	[57]
TiO ₂	21	Rat	Inhalation	23.5 mg/m ³ , 12 weeks	Detected in hilar lymph nodes [D], alveolar epithelial cells [A]	[58]
TiO ₂	250	Rat	Inhalation	23 mg/m ³ , 12 weeks	Detected in hilar lymph nodes [D], alveolar epithelial cells [A]	[58]
TiO ₂	20	Rat	Intratracheal	0.065, 0.1, 0.2, 0.5, 1 mg	Detected in epithelial cells/interstitium [C, D]	[59]
TiO ₂	250	Rat	Intratracheal	0.5, 1 mg	Detected in epithelial cells/interstitium [D]	[59]
TiO ₂	12	Rat	Intratracheal	0.5 mg	Detected in epithelial cells/interstitium [D]	[59]
TiO ₂	220	Rat	Intratracheal	0.5 mg	Detected in epithelial cells/interstitium [D]	[59]
Carbon black	20	Rat	Intratracheal	0.5 mg	Detected in epithelial cells/interstitium [D]	[59]
Polystyrene	1,700	Rat	Intratracheal	10^7 , 10^9 particles	Detected in interstitium [A, C, D]	[60]
Polystyrene	1,700	Dog	Intratracheal	10^7 , 10^9 particles	Detected in interstitium [A, D]	[60]
Carbon black	240	Rat	Inhalation	7 mg/m ³ , 1, 3, 6 weeks	Detected in hilar lymph nodes [C, D]	[61]
Fly ash	2,700	Rat	Inhalation	1.7 mg/m ³ , 1 year	Particles less than 2,300 nm transported to bronchopulmonary lymph nodes [A]	[62]
Polystyrene	1,900	Rat	Intratracheal	4×10^8 particles	Detected in tracheobronchial lymph nodes [A]	[63]
Polystyrene	1300	Dog	Intratracheal	5×10^{10} particles	Detected in lymph nodes [A, D]	[64]
TiO ₂	400	Rat	Inhalation	10, 50, 250 mg/m ³ , 2 years	Detected in liver [A, C], spleen [A, C], lymph node [C], type I epithelial cells [A]	[65]
Polystyrene	3,000	Dog	Intratracheal	11 mg	Detected in tracheobronchial lymph nodes [D]	[66]
Polystyrene	7,000	Dog	Intratracheal	0.7 mg	Detected in tracheobronchial lymph nodes [D]	[66]
Polystyrene	13,000	Dog	Intratracheal	0.4 mg	Not detected in tracheobronchial lymph nodes	[66]
Aluminosilicate	700	Dog	Inhalation	IBB 11 µCi	Detected in lung-associated lymph nodes [D]	[67]
Aluminosilicate	1,500	Dog	Inhalation	IBB 21 µCi	Detected in lung-associated lymph nodes [D]	[67]

Table 1 continued

Material	Diameter (nm)	Animal	Route	Dose or concentration	Results	Reference
Aluminosilicate	2,800	Dog	Inhalation	IBB 29 μCi	Detected in lung-associated lymph nodes [D]	[67]
Aluminosilicate	700	Rat	Inhalation	IBB 0.2 μCi	<0.1% in lung-associated lymph nodes	[67]
Aluminosilicate	1,500	Rat	Inhalation	IBB 2.4 μCi	<0.1% in lung-associated lymph nodes	[67]
Aluminosilicate	2,800	Rat	Inhalation	IBB 0.43 μCi	<0.1% in lung-associated lymph nodes	[67]
Aluminosilicate	700	Mouse	Inhalation	IBB 0.075 μCi	<0.1% in lung-associated lymph nodes	[67]
Aluminosilicate	1,500	Mouse	Inhalation	IBB 0.56 μCi	<0.1% in lung-associated lymph nodes	[67]
Aluminosilicate	2,800	Mouse	Inhalation	IBB 2.5 μCi	<0.1% in lung-associated lymph nodes	[67]
Aluminosilicate	1,700	Dog	Intratracheal	ILB 0.5–64 μCi	Detected in thoracic lymph nodes [D]	[68]
Silica	1,400	Rat	Inhalation	109 mg/m^3	Detected in alveolar epithelial cells, interstitium [A]	[69]
Carbon	30	Mouse	Intratracheal	4 mg	Detected in type I alveolar epithelial cells and interstitial cells [A]	[70]
Polystyrene	100	Mouse	Intratracheal	4 mg	Detected in interstitial cells and type I alveolar epithelial cells [A]	[70]
Polystyrene	1,000	Mouse	Intratracheal	4 mg	Detected in type I alveolar epithelial cells [A]	[70]
Colloidal ferritin	8	Rat	Intratracheal		Detected in vesicles in lymphatic endothelium [A]	[71]
Carbon	35	Rat	Intratracheal		Detected in a vesicle within epithelial lining of alveolar wall, vesicles within lymphatic endothelium [A]	[71]
Au	30	Rat	Intratracheal	0.65 mg	Detected in intracapillary platelets [A]	[72]
^{182}Ta	1,000	Dog	Inhalation	ILB 30–7230 mg	Detected in lymph nodes [A, D]	[73]
^{182}Ta	5,000	Dog	Inhalation	ILB 2700–14000 mg	Detected in lymph nodes [A, D]	[73]
^{182}Ta	10,000	Dog	Inhalation	ILB 5240–5950 mg	Detected in lymph nodes [D]	[73]

[A]–[D] indicate the criteria for validity of particle detection (see “5. Validity of detection” under the heading “Selection of studies” in the “Materials and methods” section)

wt weight, *IBB* initial body burden, *ILB* initial lung burden, *mPEG* methoxypoly (ethylene glycol)

Statistical analysis of translocation

Evaluation of factors that affect translocation

One characteristic of this study was that the factors associated with particle translocation from the airway were statistically evaluated using information contained in preceding systematic reviews. For this present study, CAT-REG analysis was conducted with 113 sets of available data found in 61 previous studies. The objective variable was the particle detection site, and the explanatory variables were particle diameter, particle material, animal species, and exposure route. The *F* value of the model was 6.933 ($p < 0.001$). The coefficient of determination (R^2) was 0.477 (unadjusted value; adjusted R^2 was 0.408), indicating that <50% of the variance was explainable with these four variables. This model does not seem to be sufficient to predict particle translocation, but is reasonably acceptable to evaluate the relative importance of the

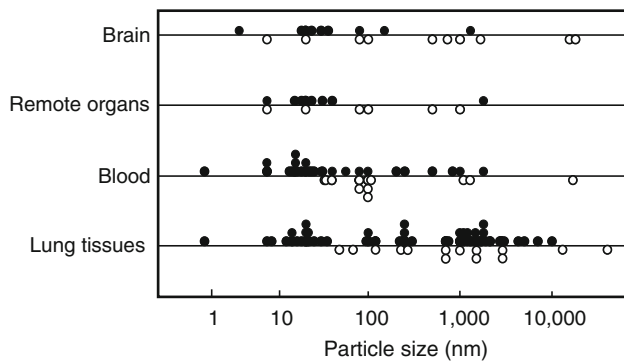
explanatory variables for particle translocation. Table 2 summarizes the results of the analysis. The standardized partial regression coefficient (β) values of all the explanatory variables were statistically significant. Both particle size and particle material showed large effects. On the other hand, the effects of exposure route and animal species were relatively small. Furthermore, Pratt’s measure of relative importance, which is useful for comparing the contribution of each explanatory variable [74], also showed large contributions of particle size and particle material, followed by exposure route. The effect of animal species on particle translocation was very small.

Effects of particle size

As shown in Table 2, particle size was a strong factor for translocation. In addition, because particle size is a numerical variable, it can easily be expressed on the abscissa. Figure 2 shows the relationship between particle

Table 2 Results of categorical regression analysis

	Explanatory variable	Scale (number of categories)	Coefficient		<i>p</i>	Pratt's relative importance
			β	SE		
β standardized partial regression coefficient	Size	Ordinal (5)	0.427	0.131	0.000	0.43
	Material	Nominal (6)	0.441	0.102	0.000	0.49
	Animal species	Nominal (4)	0.204	0.103	0.011	-0.05
	Route of exposure	Nominal (3)	0.258	0.093	0.001	0.14

**Fig. 2** Relationship between particle size and site of particle detection. *Closed circles* show the data of successful particle detection. *Open circles* show the data of negative results

size and detection site. Negative data for which particles were not detected are also included (shown by open circles in Fig. 2). Particles that were translocated to various sites were observed to have the following sizes: ≤ 50 nm for remote organs, $\leq 1 \mu\text{m}$ for blood, and $\leq 10 \mu\text{m}$ for lung tissues. In order to be detected in the blood, particles that have passed through the epithelial barrier must migrate into the capillaries. In addition, in order to be detected in remote organs, particles must be incorporated from the systemic blood circulation. Therefore, the conditions under which particles can be detected should be strictest for the remote organs, followed by the blood, and, finally, the lung tissues. In this context, it seems reasonable that detected particle size would be smallest for remote organs and largest for the lung tissues.

To further confirm the relationship between particle size and translocation, the odds ratios (ORs) for various cutoff points of size were calculated (Table 3). The OR was largest at the following cutoff points: 50 nm for brain and remote organs; 1 μm for blood; and 10 μm for lung tissues. The observations recorded in Fig. 2 were therefore also supported statistically.

Translocation to the brain

The largest OR for translocation to the brain was observed at a 50-nm cutoff size (Table 3). However, MnO_2 particles as large as 1.3 μm have also been

Table 3 Odds ratios for various cutoff points of particle diameter

Cutoff point (nm)	Brain	Remote organs	Blood	Lung tissues
50	8.0	9.3	6.3	5.4
100	5.3	4.0	1.8	3.1
1,000	3.4	0.4	9.0	0.9
10,000	5.6	1.5	7.4	28.7

detected in the cerebral cortex [43]. Translocation to the brain via the systemic circulation would be very difficult, as the blood–brain barrier (BBB) restricts intrusion into the brain. There are three possibilities as to why such large particles were detected in the brain. The first is that translocation to the brain occurs via a pathway other than the systemic circulation. The second is that Mn particles easily pass through the BBB. The third is that a small amount of soluble Mn was detected with a sensitive detection method.

As for the first possibility, Oberdörster et al. [9] advocated a mechanism in which particles deposited in the olfactory mucosa of the nasal cavity are subsequently taken into axons of the olfactory nerve and migrate into the olfactory bulb of the brain ventricle. In the present review, successful detection of particles in the brain was found mostly in data from inhalation and intranasal administration studies (8 sets of data), but in only one study of intratracheal administration [15]. The success rate of detection was 0.8 for inhalation and intranasal administration (8 successful detections out of 10 inhalations or administrations), but was less than 0.2 for intratracheal administration (1 successful detection in 6). This finding seems to support the hypothesis of Oberdörster et al., at least in part, that both inhalation and intranasal administration give particles a chance to contact olfactory nerves in the nasal cavity, while intratracheal administration, which skips the nasal cavity, does not. Although the statistical analysis suggested that the effect of the exposure route was relatively small for translocation to the brain, the exposure route might, nevertheless, be important.

As for the second and third possibilities, Yokel and Crossgrove [75] demonstrated that soluble Mn was transported into the brain via some transporting system(s) other

than a divalent metal transporter (i.e., DMT-1). However, it is questionable as to whether MnO₂ particles that exceed 1 μm in diameter pass through the BBB with the help of some transporting system(s) similar to that for soluble Mn. On the other hand, various neurobehavioral effects have been reported among workers in the dry battery industry who had inhaled MnO₂ aerosol [76, 77]; however, olfactory disorders were not specified among the workers. These findings suggest that the translocation of a substantial amount of Mn into the brain occurs via a route other than through the olfactory system. At present, the reason why 1.3-μm MnO₂ particles were detected in the brain remains unclear.

Study limitations

Deficiency of information

The statistical analysis conducted in the present study was based on currently available data; therefore, it is possible that the results of statistical evaluation will differ in the future when more information on particle translocation is accumulated. Particle materials and animal species varied, and some categories had only a few cases. Such types of information bias may have increased the uncertainty of the statistical analysis. Moreover, differences in crystal structures and fabrications of the particle surfaces were not considered because such information was limited.

Publication bias

This study was conducted based only on the information in published reports. There were 97 sets of data that reported successful detection of translocated particles. On the other hand, there were 42 sets of data indicating that particles were not detected. The degree of publication bias could not be evaluated objectively (e.g., by funnel plot) because of the characteristics of the collected data. Therefore, the possibility cannot be denied that publication bias was incorporated into the present review.

Restriction by purpose of study

There were several reports in which only neighboring tissues were examined because of the purposes of the studies, even though particles that could possibly translocate to distant tissues were used. It seemed, however, that a statistical analysis with plenty of data would make it possible to discern some broad trend, although some of the data in the reports mentioned above were included.

Particle characteristics and detection

Varying definitions of particle size and concentration were used (e.g., average and median for size, mass and particle number for concentration). In addition, size distribution can also vary among products. However, such differences were not considered. Particle detection was evaluated qualitatively; differences in the efficiency of translocation were not considered. Also, as for the method of particle detection, instead of morphological observation, the elements or labels of particles were measured in many studies. Regarding the measurement of elements or labels, the possibility cannot be ruled out that a translocated soluble fraction was detected. Reports with such a possibility were excluded by setting criteria on particle detection; however, it is possible that some papers that should have been excluded were included in this analysis.

No consideration of interaction among the explanatory variables

A lack of consideration of interaction among the explanatory variables may be one of the reasons why R^2 was less than 0.5.

No consideration of the effects caused by particles

Based on the purpose of this study, any effects caused by the translocated particles were not considered.

Conclusions

This present study gives the results of a systematic review and statistical analysis of particle translocation from the respiratory system. A categorical regression analysis based on currently available data showed that all of the effects of particle size, particle material, animal species, and exposure route were statistically significant. The effects were large for particle size and particle material, and small for exposure route and animal species. These results suggest that, in an experiment to evaluate the translocation of solid particles, the characteristics of the particles (i.e., size and material) should be considered carefully. On the other hand, the selection of the types of experimental animals might be less important. When translocation to the brain is to be evaluated, inhalation and intranasal administration would be recommended. However, the results of this study should be considered within the context of several limitations. Similar analyses should be conducted when more information becomes available, especially related to the surface characteristics of particles.

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