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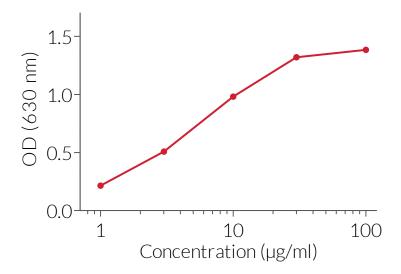
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Silica dioxide nanoparticles (Nano-SiO₂) are inducers of the NLRP3 inflammasome, a large intracellular multiprotein complex that plays a central role in innate immunity^{1,2}. NLRP3 inflammasome activation requires an initial signal ('priming'), provided by microbial molecules, such as lipopolysaccharide (LPS), and a secondary signal, provided by a wide array of stimuli including bacterial toxins, endogenous molecules, crystals or nanoparticles such as Nano-SiO_a. This triggers the multimerization of the NLRP3 inflammasome and caspase-1 activation with the subsequent maturation and secretion of IL-1 β and IL-18.

The ability of Nano-SiO, to induce the NLRP3 inflammasome has been validated using THP1-Null cells. The production of IL-1β by THP1-Null cells was measured using HEK-Blue™ IL-1β cells. Treatment with Nano-SiO₃ induced IL-1β secretion, an indicator of NLRP3 inflammasome activation, in a dose-dependent manner.

1. Schroder K. & Tschopp J., 2010. The inflammasomes. Cell 140(6):821-32. 2. Franchi L. et al., 2012. Sensing and reacting to microbes through the inflammasomes. Nat Immunol 13(4)325-32.

Evaluation of NLRP3 inflammasome activation



IL-1β production in THP1-Null cells. THP1-Null cells, primed with LPS (1 μg/ml for 3h), were stimulated with increasing concentrations of Nano-SiO₂. After overnight incubation, IL-1 β secretion was analyzed by adding 50 μ l of supernatant from treated THP1-Null cells to HEK-BlueTM IL-1 β cells. IL-1β-induced activation of NF-κB was assessed by measuring the levels of SEAP in the supernatant of HEK-Blue™ IL-1β cells using QUANTI-Blue™ Solution, a SEAP detection reagent, and by reading the optical density (OD) at 630 nm.

