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Quantitative biokinetics of titanium dioxide nanoparticles after intravenous injection in rats (Part 1)

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Keywords:	Size-selected, radiolabeled titanium dioxide nanoparticles, intravenous injection, accumulation in organs and tissues, translocation across organ membranes, Hepato biliary nanoparticle clearance
Abstract:	<p>Submicrometer TiO₂ particles, including nanoparticulate fractions, are used in an increasing variety of consumer products, as food additives and drug delivery applications are envisaged. Beyond exposure of occupational groups this entails an exposure risk to the public. However, nanoparticle translocation from the organ of intake and potential accumulation in secondary organs is poorly understood and in many investigations excessive doses are applied.</p> <p>The present study investigates the biokinetics and clearance of a low single dose (typically 40-400 µg/kg BW) of 48V-radiolabeled, pure TiO₂ anatase nanoparticles ([48V]TiO₂NP) with a median aggregate/agglomerate size of 70 nm in aqueous suspension after intravenous injection into female Wistar rats. Biokinetics and clearance were followed from 1-hour to 4-weeks. The use of radiolabeled nanoparticles allowed a quantitative [48V]TiO₂NP balancing of all organs, tissues, carcass and excretions of each rat without having to account for chemical background levels possibly caused by dietary or environmental titanium exposure.</p> <p>Highest [48V]TiO₂NP accumulations were found in liver (95.5%ID on day-1), followed by spleen (2.5%), carcass (1%), skeleton (0.7%) and blood (0.4%). Detectable nanoparticle levels were found in all other organs. The [48V]TiO₂NP content in blood decreased rapidly after 24h while the distribution in other organs and tissues remained rather constant until day-28.</p> <p>The present biokinetics study is part 1 of a series of studies comparing biokinetics after three classical routes of intake (intravenous (IV) injection (part 1), ingestion (part 2), intratracheal instillation (part 3)) under identical laboratory conditions, in order to verify the common hypothesis that IV-injection is a suitable predictor for the biokinetics fate of nanoparticles administered by different routes. This hypothesis is disproved by this series of studies.</p>

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Quantitative biokinetics of titanium dioxide nanoparticles after intravenous injection in rats (Part 1)

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33 **Keywords**

34 Size-selected, radiolabeled titanium dioxide nanoparticles; intravenous injection,
35 accumulation in organs and tissues, translocation across organ membranes, Hepato biliary
36 nanoparticle clearance

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3 38 **Abstract**
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5 39 Submicrometer TiO₂ particles, including nanoparticulate fractions, are used in an increasing
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7 40 variety of consumer products, as food additives and drug delivery applications are envisaged.

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10 41 Beyond exposure of occupational groups this entails an exposure risk to the public. However,
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12 42 nanoparticle translocation from the organ of intake and potential accumulation in secondary
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14 43 organs is poorly understood and in many investigations excessive doses are applied.

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16 44 The present study investigates the biokinetics and clearance of a low single dose (typically
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18 45 40-400 µg/kg BW) of ⁴⁸V-radiolabeled, pure TiO₂ anatase nanoparticles (⁴⁸V]TiO₂NP) with a
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20 46 median aggregate/agglomerate size of 70 nm in aqueous suspension after intravenous
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22 47 injection into female Wistar rats. Biokinetics and clearance were followed from 1-hour to 4-
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24 48 weeks. The use of radiolabeled nanoparticles allowed a quantitative [⁴⁸V]TiO₂NP balancing
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26 49 of all organs, tissues, carcass and excretions of each rat without having to account for
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28 50 chemical background levels possibly caused by dietary or environmental titanium exposure.

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33 52 spleen (2.5%), carcass (1%), skeleton (0.7%) and blood (0.4%). Detectable nanoparticle levels
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35 53 were found in all other organs. The [⁴⁸V]TiO₂NP content in blood decreased rapidly after 24h
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37 54 while the distribution in other organs and tissues remained rather constant until day-28.

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40 55 The present biokinetics study is part 1 of a series of studies comparing biokinetics after three
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42 56 classical routes of intake (intravenous (IV) injection (part 1), ingestion (part 2), intratracheal
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44 57 instillation (part 3)) under identical laboratory conditions, in order to verify the common
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46 58 hypothesis that IV-injection is a suitable predictor for the biokinetics fate of nanoparticles
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48 59 administered by different routes. This hypothesis is disproved by this series of studies.
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61 Introduction

62 Submicron titanium dioxide particles are increasingly used in food additives, in cosmetics and
63 personal care products such as tooth paste, as UV-absorbers in sunscreen (Jia, 2008), and in
64 other products such as pigments or fillers in paints, inks, and ceramics (Christensen, 2011).
65 Their antimicrobial and even antiviral effects make them advantageous in water and air
66 disinfection (Li, 2008). An analysis of (Weir, 2012) showed that approximately one third of
67 the number of TiO₂ particles in common food products are nano-sized (<100 nm). (Peters,
68 2014) recently confirmed in 27 food items and personal care products that between 10% and
69 25% of the TiO₂ particles exhibit dimensions below 100 nm. Despite the extraordinary growth
70 of use and applications of titanium dioxide nanoparticles (TiO₂NP) it is still unclear whether
71 this entails health risks, especially for subjects occupationally exposed to inhalation of
72 TiO₂NP during manufacturing and handling (Christensen, 2011) and when considering their
73 high biopersistence and long-term retention known for 2-3 decades as reviewed by Shi and
74 co-workers (Shi, 2013).

75 Recently medical applications of TiO₂NP for drug delivery have also been envisaged
76 (Carlander, 2016), e.g., for restenosis treatment (Gu, 2013), making use of their physical
77 properties for light-controlled drug release (Wang, 2015) or ultrasound cancer treatment
78 (Ninomiya, 2014). On the other hand the release and fate of nanosized fractions of wear
79 corrosion debris from orthopedic and dental titanium implants has become a concern
80 (Matusiewicz, 2014).

81 Numerous *in vivo* and *in vitro* studies describe adverse effects in the mammalian organism but
82 the results are not yet conclusive. One important issue is the dose of intravenously
83 administered TiO₂NP when studying the behaviour of nanoparticles that reach systemic
84 circulation. Doses of 10 mg/kg body weight (BW) and more have been reported. However,
85 the question arises as to whether the results achieved with such high doses are still
86 representative for the biodistribution that can be expected for much smaller quantities that

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3 87 may reach systemic circulation following realistic exposure scenarios. Given our concern
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5 88 about excessive doses we refer to several studies which report biodistribution data (Fabian,
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7 89 2008) (Patri, 2009) (Xie, 2011) (Geraets, 2014) and a likelihood of pro-inflammatory (Fabian,
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9 90 2008) (Setyawati, 2013), genotoxic (Louro, 2014), immunotoxic (Auttachoat, 2013) as well as
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11 91 fetotoxic (Yamashita, 2011) responses to IV-injected TiO₂NP at high doses, with and without
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13 92 measurements during a recovery time.

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16 93 Interestingly, an electron-microscopic study on the micro-biokinetics of 40 nm gold
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18 94 nanoparticles in the liver of mice after administration of 1.4 mg/kg BW (Sadauskas, 2009)
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20 95 found most of the nanoparticles in lysosomal / endosomal vacuoles of Kupffer cells, but the
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22 96 number of Kupffer cells containing nanoparticles decreased over time, while the nanoparticle
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24 97 load in the vacuoles increased since the overall nanoparticle clearance out of the liver was
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26 98 very low (Sadauskas, 2009). In our low-dose IV-injection study of monodisperse 18 nm gold
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28 99 nanoparticles (30 µg/kg BW) we confirmed the nanoparticle presence in Kupffer cells
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30 100 together with additional nanoparticles in sinusoidal endothelial cells and hepatocytes (Hirn,
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32 101 2011). A recent comprehensive review addressed these issues in more detail (Shi, 2013).
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34 102 Furthermore, biokinetics data obtained from IV-injected engineered TiO₂NP are controversial
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36 103 since some reports note accumulation in organs after IV-injection, whereas others only note
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38 104 liver retention, depending very much on the sensitivity of the detection methodology used
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40 105 (Shi, 2013).

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43 106 In the present series of three biokinetics studies we performed quantitative biokinetics studies
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45 107 in female rats by applying radiolabeled, engineered, commercially available TiO₂ anatase
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47 108 agglomerated/aggregated nanoparticles. After size selection of a true nano-fraction with a
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49 109 hydrodynamic diameter of about 70nm single doses of aqueous [⁴⁸V]TiO₂NP suspensions
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51 110 were applied by three routes of intake: intratracheal instillation (Kreyling, submitted-a) , intra-
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53 111 oesophageal instillation (gavage) (Kreyling, submitted-b), and in the present first part by
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55 112 intravenous injection. By using nanoparticles radiolabeled with the gamma-emitting
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3 113 radionuclide ^{48}V , a high sensitivity is achieved over five orders of magnitude which is not
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5 114 affected by chemical background levels that might be caused by dietary and environmental
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7 115 titanium exposure of the animals. Moreover, no chemical processing of the biological
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9 116 specimens is required for subsequent γ -spectrometry and a complete [^{48}V]TiO₂NP balancing
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11 117 of all organs, tissues, carcass and excretions can be performed even for low administered
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13 118 doses. However, using the ^{48}V radiolabel, which is chemically different from the element Ti,
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15 119 requires stable integration into the NP matrix and careful control of labeling stability *in vivo*.
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17 120 Therefore, we conducted additional auxiliary biokinetics studies to quantify any release of the
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19 121 label for each organ and corrected the biokinetics data accordingly.
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21 122 For each of these routes of intake quantitative biokinetics studies were performed by serial
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23 123 biodistribution analyses at five different retention time points between one hour and 28 days
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25 124 after application in order to determine the accumulated and retained nanoparticle doses in
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27 125 different organs of interest, selected tissues and body fluids, and also to provide a complete
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29 126 overview of the fate of the applied [^{48}V]TiO₂NP in the entire organism by additional
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31 127 evaluations of the carcass and the entire fecal and urinary excretion of each animal. The entire
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33 128 nanoparticle distribution is balanced in each animal and not normalized to a nominally
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35 129 administered nanoparticle dose loaded in a syringe, which (as reported below) may differ
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37 130 appreciably from the dose effectively delivered to an animal. Only such a quantitative
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39 131 approach can provide a detailed overview of the nanoparticle biokinetics and fate, whereas
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41 132 biokinetics studies focusing on a few organs of interest cannot provide sufficient information
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43 133 for a comprehensive understanding of the nanoparticle transport and accumulation processes
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45 134 within the organism.
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47 135 The IV-injection study was carried out firstly to check the hypothesis that IV-injection may be
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49 136 a suitable surrogate approach for the biokinetics after oral or respiratory delivery of
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51 137 nanoparticles, and secondly to provide a quantitative biokinetics assay for a better
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53 138 understanding of targeted delivery of TiO₂NP-based drugs via the circulation. Since we knew
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3 139 from previous biokinetics studies on a suite of monodisperse gold nanoparticles (AuNP)
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5 140 administered via the same three routes (Kreyling, 2011, Hirn, 2011, Kreyling, 2014, Schleh,
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7 141 2012) and after inhalation of 20 nm iridium nanoparticles (IrNP) (Kreyling, 2002, Semmler,
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9 142 2004, Semmler-Behnke, 2007) or 20 nm elemental carbon nanoparticles (ECNP) (Kreyling et
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11 143 al., 2011), that the accumulation dynamics occurs rather rapidly during the first 24-hours we
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13 144 chose three time points of investigations – 1h, 4h, 24h – in order to study the rapid
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15 145 accumulation dynamics observed previously, followed by two time points at 7d and 28d in
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17 146 order to assess possible slower processes of accumulation, redistribution and clearance.
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22 23 24 148 **Materials and Methods**

25 26 27 149 **Radiolabeling and size selection of TiO₂NP**

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29 150 Two batches of 20 mg ST-01 TiO₂NP were irradiated with a protons at a beam current of 5
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31 151 μA. One, with an activity concentration of 1.0 MBq/mg (⁴⁸V-activity per TiO₂ mass), was
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33 152 used for the 1h, 4h and 24h retention experiments. The second one was irradiated on five
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35 153 consecutive days, yielded an activity concentration of 2.35 MBq/mg and was used for the 7d
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37 154 and 28d retention experiments. At these radioactivity concentrations the atomic ratio of ⁴⁸V:Ti
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39 155 in the nanoparticles is about 2.6×10^{-7} and 6.2×10^{-7} , respectively. Since proton
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41 156 bombardment and the chemical difference of the radiolabel, may result in a non-perfect
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43 157 integration of the ⁴⁸V in the TiO₂ matrix the [⁴⁸V]TiO₂NP were repeatedly washed to remove
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45 158 released ⁴⁸V-ions.
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49 159 Size selection was performed in a repeated sequence of nanoparticle suspension, ultrasound
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51 160 homogenization, washing by centrifugation and re-suspension in order to remove excess
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53 161 sodium pyrophosphate, to eliminate larger aggregates/agglomerates and to minimize the
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55 162 content of free, ionic ⁴⁸V (see Supplementary Materials (SM-IV)). The final size selected and
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3 163 radiolabeled, nano-sized aggregates or agglomerates of [^{48}V]TiO₂NP were suspended and
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5 164 dispersed in water.

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7 165 For each of the retention time points to be studied a new batch of size-selected [^{48}V]TiO₂NP
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9 166 was prepared, characterized and immediately applied intravenously, by gavage or
10 167 intratracheal instillation to groups of four rats each, which improves the comparability
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12 168 between the exposure routes as the studies were started with the same nanoparticle properties.
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20 170 **Characterization of [^{48}V]TiO₂NP**

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22 171 The hydrodynamic diameter of the size-selected [^{48}V]TiO₂NP and the zeta potential were
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24 172 measured in triplicates several times during the size selection process for control purposes and
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26 173 prior to IV-injection using a Malvern Zetasizer (Malvern, Herrenberg, Germany). Samples for
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28 174 transmission electron microscopy were prepared from the aqueous suspension ready for
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30 175 administration on glow discharged 300 mesh Formvar[®]-coated copper grids and investigated
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32 176 with a Philips 300 TEM at 60 kV acceleration voltage.
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38 178 **Study design – Main study with [^{48}V]TiO₂NP and auxiliary study with soluble ^{48}V**

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41 179 After a single IV-injection dose of typically 10-20 μg (1h, 4h, 24h) nano-sized [^{48}V]TiO₂NP
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43 180 suspended in 60 μL water into the tail vein over 20-30 seconds, the biokinetics was followed
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45 181 in five groups of four rats each up to five time points (1h, 4h, 24h, 7d and 28d) as sketched:
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Study	IV-injection, 0h	dissection time-points for biodistribution analyses				
183 MAIN	[^{48}V]TiO ₂ NP	1h	4h	24h	7d	28d
184 AUX	^{48}V ions			24h	7d	

54 185 The time points at 7d and 28d were studied with higher doses (see Table 1) in order to ensure
55
56 186 sufficient sensitivity in spite of radioactive decay and to detect also minor redistribution and
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58 187 clearing processes.
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3 188 In addition to the study with [^{48}V]TiO₂NP, an auxiliary study was performed to investigate the
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5 189 absorption and biodistribution of soluble, ionic ^{48}V at 24h and 7d after IV-injection. These
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7 190 data were used for correction of ^{48}V release from the [^{48}V]TiO₂NP. In order to mimic ^{48}V
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9 191 released by [^{48}V]TiO₂NP we added 0.33 $\mu\text{g}/\mu\text{L}$ ionic Ti(NO₃)₄ to the carrier-free, ionic ^{48}V
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11 192 isotope, thus obtaining a nitrate solution of sufficient ionic strength to stably maintain the ions
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13 193 in solution, and adjusted the pH value to 5. For the experiments 60 μL of solution containing
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15 194 27 kBq ionic ^{48}V and 20 μg of ionic Ti were IV-injected into the tail vein of each rat.
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20 196 **Animals**

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22 197 Healthy, female Wistar-Kyoto (WKY) rats (Janvier, Le Genest Saint Isle, France), 8–10
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24 198 weeks of age (263 ± 10 g mean (\pm STD) body weight) were housed in pairs in relative-
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26 199 humidity and temperature controlled ventilated cages on a 12-hr day/night cycle. Rodent diet
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28 200 and water were provided ad libitum. After purchase, the rats were adapted for at least two
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30 201 weeks and then randomly attributed to the experimental groups. All experiments were
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32 202 conducted under German federal guidelines for the use and care of laboratory animals and
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34 203 were approved by the Regierung von Oberbayern (Government of District of Upper Bavaria,
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36 204 Approval No. 211-2531-94/04) and by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee of
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38 205 Helmholtz Centre Munich.
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44 207 **[^{48}V]TiO₂NP IV-injection and animal maintenance in metabolic cages**

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46 208 Using minimal-dead-space, 1-mL-insulin-syringes (Omnican[®] 100, Braun, Melsungen,
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48 209 Germany, specified dead space <0.4 μL), aqueous [^{48}V]TiO₂NP suspensions (60 μL) were
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50 210 intravenously injected into the tail vein of non-fasted animals early in the morning. The
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52 211 syringes and cannulas used for intravenous injection were collected for measurements of the
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54 212 residual [^{48}V]TiO₂NP content, which was motivated by the discovery of losses of
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56 213 nanoparticles due to adherence on the polymer syringe material. After IV-injection of the
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3 214 [^{48}V]TiO₂NP suspensions, rats of the first four groups (up to 7-day retention time) were kept
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5 215 individually in metabolism cages for separate daily collection of urine and feces. Rats of the
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7 216 28-day group were maintained individually on cotton cloths in normal cages. The cloth was
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9 217 replaced by a new one every 3-4 days and fecal droppings were separated from the collected
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11 218 cloth; after separation the dried cloth contained only non-particulate ^{48}V originating from
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13 219 urine.
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221 **Sample preparation and ^{48}V radioanalysis**

222 At 1h, 4h, 24h, 7d and 28d after IV-injection, rats were anesthetized (by 5% isoflurane
223 inhalation) and euthanized by exsanguination *via* the abdominal aorta. For γ -spectrometry,
224 blood, all organs, tissues and excretions were collected and ^{48}V -radioactivities were measured
225 without any further physico-chemical processing, as detailed in the SM-IV and in earlier
226 works (Kreyling, 2011, Hirn, 2011, Kreyling, 2014, Schleh, 2012). Since by exsanguination
227 only about 60-70% of the blood volume could be recovered the residual blood contents of
228 organs and tissues after exsanguination were calculated according to the findings of (Oeff,
229 1955) and the ^{48}V -radioactivities of the organs were corrected for these contributions.

230 Throughout this report nanoparticle quantities are given as percentages of the total
231 intravenously injected [^{48}V]TiO₂NP radioactivity in each animal. The total injected activity
232 was calculated as the sum of all samples of each entire animal, including its total fecal and
233 urinary excretion, corrected for background and radioactive decay during the experiments
234 using detectors calibrated in γ -ray energy and detection efficiency for ^{48}V . The percentages
235 are averaged over the group of four rats per each retention time point and are given with the
236 standard error of the mean (SEM). Samples yielding background-corrected counts in the 511
237 keV region-of-interest of the ^{48}V γ -spectrum were defined to be below the detection limit
238 (<DL; 0.2 Bq) when the number of counts was less than three standard deviations of the
239 background counts.

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3 240 The data compiled in Table 2 below are presented (i) as raw data of the ^{48}V -activity directly
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5 241 determined from the retrieved samples, (ii) as data corrected for the residual blood content in
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7 242 the organs or tissues and (iii) additionally corrected for free ^{48}V -ions. The detailed execution
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9 243 of these corrections is presented in the SM-IV. All calculated significances are based on the
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11 244 One-Way-ANOVA test and the post-hoc Tukey test. In case of direct two-groups comparison,
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14 245 the unpaired t-test was used. $p \leq 0.05$ was considered significant.
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247 **Results**

248 **Physicochemical properties of [⁴⁸V]TiO₂NP**

249 The size distributions of the size-selected [⁴⁸V]TiO₂NP determined by DLS are presented in
250 Figure 1. These were prepared for each of the five retention time points prior to intravenous
251 injection. They indicate a good reproducibility of the size selection procedure. The Z-averages
252 (see Table 1) are in a narrow range of 88 ± 11 nm, and the PDI values 0.18 ± 0.04 indicate
253 that the size distributions have a rather narrow size distribution. Only the suspension for the
254 4h time point appeared to have a particle size somewhat smaller than the others. These
255 conclusions are supported by TEM investigations after the size selection and dispersion
256 process (see Figure 2) which revealed approximately spherical aggregated/agglomerated
257 entities of roughly 50 nm in diameter, made up of smaller primary particles.

258 From the known activity concentration (1 MBq/mg (1h, 4h, 24h) and 2.35 MBq/mg (7d, 28d))
259 after proton irradiation and the determined ⁴⁸V-activity of the applied [⁴⁸V]TiO₂NP, the
260 applied nanoparticle mass was calculated for each IV-injection as reported in Table 1. The
261 effectively injected dose (activity) takes into account that a fraction of the activity loaded into
262 the syringes was retained there after injection.

264 **Biokinetics of [⁴⁸V]TiO₂NP in blood, whole organs and tissues**

265 Table 2 gives a comprehensive summary of the biodistribution of intravenously injected
266 [⁴⁸V]TiO₂NP at the five retention time points. For each organ or tissue the [⁴⁸V]TiO₂NP
267 content is given in percent of the injected dose (ID) based on the measured ⁴⁸V-activity
268 balance, referred to as *raw data*. As described earlier and elaborated in mathematical detail in
269 the SM-IV the data were corrected for the residual blood retained in organs and tissues after
270 exsanguination. These data are referred to as *w/o residual blood content*. In a next step the
271 contribution of free ⁴⁸V-ions was also corrected for, referred to as *w/o free ⁴⁸V ions*, making
272 use of the auxiliary study with ionic ⁴⁸V (see SM-IV for the mathematical correction

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3 273 procedure). This step is advisable because ^{48}V could be released from $[\text{}^{48}\text{V}]\text{TiO}_2\text{NP}$ even after
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5 274 careful washing during suspension preparation when diffusion processes bring radiolabels
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7 275 close to the surface of the nanoparticles or by a slow dissolution process of the nanoparticles
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9 276 (Vogelsberger, 2008). This correction effect would be most prominent if $[\text{}^{48}\text{V}]\text{TiO}_2\text{NP}$ and
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11 277 free ^{48}V -ions had distinctly different biodistribution patterns. The fully corrected data are
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13 278 visualized in Figure 3 (panels A-C).

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15
16 279 Table 2 shows that during the first hour after IV-injection more than 99% of $[\text{}^{48}\text{V}]\text{TiO}_2\text{NP}$
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18 280 were very rapidly removed from the blood. After that the $[\text{}^{48}\text{V}]\text{TiO}_2\text{NP}$ concentration
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20 281 decreased slowly over the following week and then it remained approximately constant until
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22 282 day 28. This implies that the corrections for retained blood become rather small already after
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24
25 283 1h.

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27 284 The data show that the $[\text{}^{48}\text{V}]\text{TiO}_2\text{NP}$ rapidly cleared from the blood were retained mainly in
28
29 285 the liver (95.5% of ID after 4h) with only slow clearance from there over the entire
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31 286 observation period (88.9% of ID after 28d). Retention in the spleen was between 2.5% and
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33 287 4% of ID over the entire observation period, while retention was only about 0.1% in the lungs.
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35 288 Accumulation in the kidneys increased slightly over the four-week period (from 0.05% to
36
37 289 about 0.2% of ID) while retention in all other secondary organs, such as brain, heart and
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39 290 uterus was rather low, which is also reflected in the scatter of the data. No trend can be
40
41 291 identified over the four-week period showing virtually constant values and no net clearance
42
43 292 from those organs. The lowest, but still detectable, $[\text{}^{48}\text{V}]\text{TiO}_2\text{NP}$ retention of 0.0005% was
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45 293 observed in the brain. The corrections for free ^{48}V -ions, which contribute well below 1% of to
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47 294 the total retained activity, may lead to significant reductions of the values for $[\text{}^{48}\text{V}]\text{TiO}_2\text{NP}$
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49 295 retention. However, since all input data are very small and subjected to large scatter, these
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51 296 corrections are also subject to large uncertainty. Nevertheless, the corrections are conservative
52
53 297 enough to attribute a measureable radioactivity to the presence of a tiny amount of
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55 298 $[\text{}^{48}\text{V}]\text{TiO}_2\text{NP}$ after 24h and 28d. Remarkably, the skeleton and to a lesser extend the soft
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3 299 tissue (non-osseous tissues of the carcass including muscles, fat, skin, connective tissue,
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5 300 paws) exhibit a persistent [^{48}V]TiO₂NP content that amounts to nearly 1% and 0.7% of ID at
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7 301 28d, respectively. The relatively high [^{48}V]TiO₂NP retention in the skeleton may be explained
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9 302 by reported experimental evidence (Rinderknecht, 2008) that [^{48}V]TiO₂NP are retained in the
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11 303 bone marrow following blood translocation into the bones and probable uptake by phagocytes
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13 304 and other cells like pluripotent stem cells.
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18 306 [^{48}V]TiO₂NP concentrations per weight of organ or tissue

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20 307 Due to their importance for toxicological comparisons, in Table 2 the percentages of injected
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22 308 activity assigned to [^{48}V]TiO₂NP after all corrections for residual blood content and presence
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24 309 of free ^{48}V , are converted into mass (ng) of nanoparticles per gram of organ or tissue. Since
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26 310 these data allow a straightforward comparison only for the same injected dose, the data are
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28 311 additionally presented as percentages of the injected dose per organ mass (%ID/g) and shown
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30 312 in Figure 3 (panel D-F). The effectively injected mass doses varied because a highly variable
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32 313 fraction of the [^{48}V]TiO₂NP loaded into the syringes for intravenous injection was retained
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34 314 there after application. Additionally, the study design has foreseen higher doses for the 7d and
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36 315 28d studies, in order to preserve high detection sensitivity in spite of the radioactive decay
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38 316 during the prolonged retention times.
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42 317 The highest concentrations of about 10-11 %ID•g⁻¹ are determined in the liver and are about
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44 318 2.5-4 %ID•g⁻¹ in the spleen. Both of these stayed rather constant during the entire time period.
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46 319 In the lungs the concentrations were much lower at about 0.05 %ID•g⁻¹ and remained rather
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48 320 constant over time. The concentrations in kidneys increased from 0.02 to 0.08 %ID•g⁻¹ during
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50 321 the 28-days observation period. Fractional concentrations in the heart and uterus were below
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52 322 0.01 %ID•g⁻¹ throughout the observation period. No [^{48}V]TiO₂NP were detected in the brain
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54 323 at 1h, 4h and 7d (< DL) but a detectable concentration of 0.0006 %ID•g⁻¹ was reached after
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3 324 28d. This very low concentration is however notable since it is already corrected for
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5 325 nanoparticles retained in the residual blood of the brain and for free ^{48}V .

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10 327 **Urinary excretion**

11 328 Figure 4 shows the fraction of ^{48}V -activity excreted daily in urine. The data sets obtained
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13 329 from the 7-days and the 28-days retention experiments were used. The data show that there is
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15 330 rapid decline of daily urinary excretion from 0.34% to 0.18% of ID during the first three days
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17 331 after IV-injection followed by a slower decrease towards 0.12%ID after 2 weeks before a
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19 332 plateau below 0.1%ID of daily urinary excretion is reached after about 20 days. For the
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21 333 applied estimates on ^{48}V -ion release we assumed no nanoparticulate urinary excretion as a
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23 334 conservative (upper) estimate of ionic ^{48}V -release, although excretion of smaller nanoparticles
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25 335 cannot be totally excluded. This assumption is in agreement with the work of Choi and co-
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27 336 workers (Choi, 2007) who suggest that renal glomerular filtration does not allow urinary
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29 337 nanoparticle excretion of nanoparticles larger than 8 nm.

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36 339 **Hepato-biliary [^{48}V]TiO₂NP clearance (HBC)**

37 340 [^{48}V]TiO₂NP observed in the gastro-intestinal tract (GIT) and fecal excretions resulted from
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39 341 their clearance from the liver *via* bile into the small intestine. The cumulative cleared fraction
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41 342 of [^{48}V]TiO₂NP is shown in Figure 5. Over four weeks there was a steady increase of
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43 343 clearance up to about 3% of the applied dose *via* this pathway.

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49 344 **Discussion**

50 345 In order to estimate relevant dose levels for nanoparticle toxicology studies we should
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52 346 consider the main routes of intake which are either *via* inhalation or ingestion, since there is
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54 347 growing evidence that dermal uptake is usually so low that it is not detectable (Gontier, 2008).
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56 348 For inhalation the New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization
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3 349 (NEDO) in Japan has recently estimated an acceptable workplace airborne particulate
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5 350 concentration to be 1.2 mg/m³ TiO₂NP as a time weighted average for an 8h working day and
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7 351 a 40h working week (Morimoto, 2010). This may lead to a daily deposited TiO₂NP dose in
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9 352 the lungs of 2.4 mg per day (assuming an inhaled volume of 20 m³ per day and a deposition
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11 353 fraction of 0.3 averaged over a size range of 20-100 nm (MPPD (Multiple Path Particle
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13 354 Dosimetry); ((A.R.A.), 2009) corresponding to a daily dose of 34 µg/kg BW for a normal 70-
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15 355 kg person. No human translocation data across the air-blood barrier (ABB) are available but
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17 356 based on animal data the daily translocated TiO₂NP fraction should be 1% or less (Kreyling,
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19 357 2013). Therefore, a relevant daily dose to the circulation resulting from inhalation should not
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21 358 exceed 0.34 µg/kg BW.
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25 359 A similar estimate can be made for ingested TiO₂NP: Based on a survey of the British
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27 360 population (Lomer, 2004) the average daily intake of submicron and nano-sized TiO₂ particles
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29 361 is 2.5 mg/d by an average consumer corresponding to a daily dose of about 35 µg/kg BW of a
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31 362 normal 70-kg person. Also for absorbed TiO₂NP across the human gut no consolidated data
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33 363 are available but based on animal data the daily absorbed TiO₂NP fraction should be 5% or
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35 364 less (Jani, 1990). Therefore, a realistic daily dose to the circulation resulting from ingested
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37 365 and absorbed TiO₂NP should not exceed 2 µg/kg BW. Taking together the daily TiO₂NP
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39 366 absorbed through the gut epithelium into the circulation, a relevant daily dose would be a few
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41 367 tenths of µg/kg BW. With respect to this value, IV-injected TiO₂NP doses of 1 mg/kg BW are
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43 368 100-fold higher or more and usually applied over about 10 seconds corresponding to
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45 369 instantaneous dose rates about a million times higher than in realistic exposure scenarios. For
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47 370 the identification of potential organs at risk the extrapolation from results obtained from such
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49 371 high and even higher doses are not straightforward. In light of these considerations *in vivo*
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51 372 biokinetics studies using TiO₂NP intravenous doses beyond tenths of µg/kg BW need solid
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53 373 justification.
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3 374 For the present study a commercially available, engineered pure titanium dioxide material
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5 375 with (aggregated/agglomerated) primary particles of 7-10 nm in size has been used.. In
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7 376 contrast to many other studies our study aim was to quantify the biokinetics fate of
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9 377 nanoparticles (<100nm) in the entire organism, including total excretion, by making use of the
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11 378 high sensitivity of radiotracer studies which are not susceptible to matrix and background
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13 379 effects or artefacts introduced by specimen preparation. Hence, a truly nano-sized fraction
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15 380 was separated and prepared for simultaneous IV-injection, gavage and intratracheal
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17 381 instillation. The preparation was repeated five times to study a single retention time point (1h,
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19 382 4h, 24, 7 days and 28 days) by all three exposure routes with the same [⁴⁸V]TiO₂NP
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21 383 suspension. Quantitative biokinetics studies analyzing the entire organism with similar
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23 384 precision are presently not available in literature. However, several papers have also reported
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25 385 highest particle accumulations in the liver, followed by spleen, and then by the other organs
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27 386 studied (Fabian, 2008, Geraets, 2014, Louro, 2014, Patri, 2009, Shi, 2013, Yamashita, 2011)
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29 387 (Xie, 2011). In addition, there is a recent review on the toxicology of titanium dioxide
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31 388 nanoparticle including a discussion of biokinetics (Shi, 2013), but no data are reported
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33 389 concerning nanoparticle translocation to the skeleton and soft tissues.

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38 390 Using ⁴⁸V-labeled pure anatase TiO₂NP allowed us to perform rather precise determinations
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40 391 of the biokinetics of IV-injected [⁴⁸V]TiO₂NP over a dynamic dose range of five orders of
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42 392 magnitude between the applied dose and the content in individual organs and tissues up to 28
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44 393 days after IV-injection. Since we found that blood contained circulating [⁴⁸V]TiO₂NP at any
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46 394 retention time, we estimated the [⁴⁸V]TiO₂NP content in the residual blood volume of each
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48 395 organ and tissue after exsanguination by applying the results of Oeff and Konig (Oeff, 1955),
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50 396 and subtracted this amount from the measured organ activity to determine with greater
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52 397 accuracy the parenchymal [⁴⁸V]TiO₂NP organ/tissue content.

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56 398 Additionally, we aimed to use rather low [⁴⁸V]TiO₂NP doses of about 10 µg/rat for the
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58 399 biokinetics studies up to 24 hours and of about 100 µg/rat for the 7-day and 28-day studies (to
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3 400 compensate for radioactive ^{48}V decay and $[^{48}\text{V}]\text{TiO}_2\text{NP}$ elimination from the body), which is
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5 401 a compromise between physiologically reasonable daily doses and preserving high detection
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7 402 sensitivity. The combination of applied low doses and high detection sensitivity ensures that,
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9 403 neither the rather low $[^{48}\text{V}]\text{TiO}_2\text{NP}$ mass used in our study nor its radioactivity is likely to
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11 404 cause any detectable detrimental effect. Additionally, the ^{48}V -radioactivity concentration
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13 405 chosen corresponded to an atomic ratio of $^{48}\text{V}:\text{Ti}$ in the order of 4×10^{-7} which represents a
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15 406 negligible mass-impurity of the ^{48}V in the TiO_2NP matrix, unlikely to affect its lattice stability
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17 407 or any physico-chemical property.

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20 408 However, the study design is also associated with some shortcomings. This study remains at
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22 409 the level of macroscopic biokinetics and does not provide any microscopic details, such as
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24 410 any cell-type interactions with the $[^{48}\text{V}]\text{TiO}_2\text{NP}$ in any of the secondary organs or tissues,
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26 411 which of course would have been highly desirable. It should be noted that we never directly
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28 412 observed actual TiO_2 particles in our *in vivo* studies and relied on γ -spectrometric
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30 413 determination of ^{48}V -activity. At the low activity levels detected in some organs the
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32 414 calculated amounts of $[^{48}\text{V}]\text{TiO}_2\text{NP}$ are more sensitive to errors especially when subtracting
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34 415 the estimated contribution of free ^{48}V -ions. Therefore, further independent studies with
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36 416 similarly high sensitivity are desirable. Although we corrected for the $[^{48}\text{V}]\text{TiO}_2\text{NP}$ content in
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38 417 the residual blood of all organs and tissues, we could not distinguish between $[^{48}\text{V}]\text{TiO}_2\text{NP}$
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40 418 content translocated to the parenchyma and that eventually trapped in the walls of minor
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42 419 blood vessels. Yet, at the doses chosen it would have been impossible to identify and quantify
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44 420 $[^{48}\text{V}]\text{TiO}_2\text{NP}$ in biological specimens using electron microscopy because of their very sparse
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46 421 distribution in any of the secondary organs and tissues probably with exception of the liver.
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48 422 However, in a previous inhalation study on WKY rats using freshly generated TiO_2 anatase
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50 423 nanoparticles (median size 20 nm) the lung distribution of TiO_2NP had been
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52 424 morphometrically quantified by TEM analysis (Geiser, 2008, Geiser, 2005). Furthermore, in
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54 425 an earlier study, we have identified 18 nm gold nanoparticles in electron-micrographs of
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3 426 Kupffer cells, hepatocytes and endothelial cells of the rat liver 24h after IV-injection (Hirn,
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5 427 2011), indicating that nanoparticles do indeed translocate into the organ tissues.

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7 428 Intravenous injection of suspended [^{48}V]TiO₂NP provides a high dose rate to blood.

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9 429 Therefore, it is likely that only very few nanoparticles will be taken up by monocytes and/or

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11 430 thrombocytes of the blood and, hence, most will initially interact and bind to blood proteins

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13 431 and biomolecules (called opsonization or more recently protein-corona) which subsequently

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15 432 will affect uptake in organs and tissues. Most organs and tissues have only a relatively low

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17 433 capacity for acute particle uptake via their mononucleated-phagocytic-system (MPS) which

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19 434 differs considerably between organs and tissues (Hume, 2008). In contrast, the liver has a high

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21 435 capacity which causes rapid and predominant accumulation in the liver for many

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23 436 nanoparticles (Almeida, 2011, Zarschler, 2016). This uptake is likely be affected by the

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25 437 protein-corona in blood. However, it remains unclear which biomolecules lead to rapid

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27 438 receptor recognition and phagocytosis by Kupffer cells, and, likewise, how and by which

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29 439 biomolecule mediation the uptake occurs in MPS cells of the other organs and tissues. After

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31 440 only 1h the [^{48}V]TiO₂NP concentration in blood decreases 200-fold so that circulating

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33 441 [^{48}V]TiO₂NP may well be phagocytized/endocytosed, and subsequently the composition of

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35 442 the dynamic protein corona may change and/or blood monocytes and thrombocytes may

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37 443 modify their further fate in the body.

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39 444 It is quite remarkable how constant the [^{48}V]TiO₂NP retention is in most of the organs,

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41 445 skeleton and the tissue after the correction for ^{48}V release from the nanoparticle matrix (see

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43 446 Table 2 and Figure 3). It underlines the stability of the nano-fraction of the commercial ST-01

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45 447 TiO₂ powder and its radiolabel ^{48}V . However, the increasing hepato-biliary clearance (HBC)

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47 448 over time (see Figure 5) highlights that minor biokinetic [^{48}V]TiO₂NP exchanges and/or

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49 449 clearance occurs in the liver and probably in the entire organism over time. The cumulative

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51 450 HBC steadily increases up to 3% over 28 days. In our previous IV-injection study we could

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53 451 only determine 24-hour data because of the short half-life of the ^{198}Au radiotracer used, but

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3 452 we showed that HBC is linearly inversely related to the Au nanoparticles diameter between
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5 453 2.8 nm to 80 nm (Hirn, 2011). For 80-nm-size Au nanoparticles we obtained 0.5% HBC after
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7 454 24h. This corresponds reasonably well with the clearance level of 70 nm [⁴⁸V]TiO₂NP (0.4%)
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9 455 at 24h found in this study. Differences may be related to the differences in nanoparticle
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11 456 materials and/or their morphologies.

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14 457 In the SM-IV (Figure S7) we derive a small release rate (less than 0.1% per day) of ⁴⁸V from
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16 458 the [⁴⁸V]TiO₂NP which appears to be effective during the whole study period of 28d. This
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18 459 might be interpreted either as loss of imperfectly fixed labels in the TiO₂ matrix or as a very
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20 460 slow dissolution and shrinking of the nanoparticles (Vogelsberger, 2008) setting free less than
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22 461 0.1% of the nanoparticle mass per day. If the latter would be the case (or even a combination
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24 462 of the two) such a process may contribute to nanoparticle clearance from organs and from the
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26 463 organism.

464 **Conclusion**

465 The quantitatively balanced biokinetics assay used for retention times up to 28d after IV-
466 injection of ⁴⁸V radiolabeled TiO₂NP provides a sensitive methodology with a dynamic dose
467 range over five orders of magnitude and allows quantitative [⁴⁸V]TiO₂NP distribution
468 balancing at each retention time point in the entire organism, including excretions. The ⁴⁸V
469 release rate from the [⁴⁸V]TiO₂NP matrix was less than 0.1% per day and the ⁴⁸V-activity
470 related to free ⁴⁸V-ions was corrected for according to the auxiliary biokinetics study on ionic
471 ⁴⁸V. [⁴⁸V]TiO₂NP were detected in most organs and tissues most likely retained in their MPS.
472 Highest [⁴⁸V]TiO₂NP accumulations were found in liver (95.5% ID during day-1), followed
473 by spleen (2.3%), skeleton (0.7%), blood (0.5%) and, with detectable nanoparticle burdens in
474 all other organs. It is remarkable that nanoparticles were retained in organs and tissues that are
475 usually not considered in biodistribution studies. The [⁴⁸V]TiO₂NP content in blood decreased
476 200-fold within one hour while the distribution in other organs and tissues remained roughly

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3 477 constant over 28 days. Hepato-biliary clearance of [⁴⁸V]TiO₂NP from the liver continued over
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5 478 the entire 28-days period.
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6

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14
15
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21 487
22 488 **Declaration of Interest**
23

24
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26
27 490 other people or organizations that could influence (bias) the author's work.
28

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36 494 228625-2).
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40 496 **Supplementary Material available online.**
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43 497 • Radiolabeling of titanium dioxide (TiO₂) nanoparticles
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45 498 • Nanoparticle preparation for application and characterization
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47 499 • Animals and animal housing
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49 500 • Nanoparticle application and animal maintenance in metabolic cages
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51 501 • Sample preparation for radiometric analysis
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53 502 • Radiometric and statistical analysis
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55 503 • Blood correction and total blood volume
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3 504 • ^{48}V -activity determination of skeleton and soft tissue
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5 505 • Biokinetics of soluble ^{48}V in ionic form after IV-injection
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7 506 • Correction of the biokinetics assigned to $[^{48}\text{V}]\text{TiO}_2\text{NP}$ for the effect of free ^{48}V -ions
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10 507 • Evaluation of the auxiliary and main study by pharmacokinetic modeling
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11 567 Quantitative biokinetics of titanium dioxide nanoparticles after intratracheal
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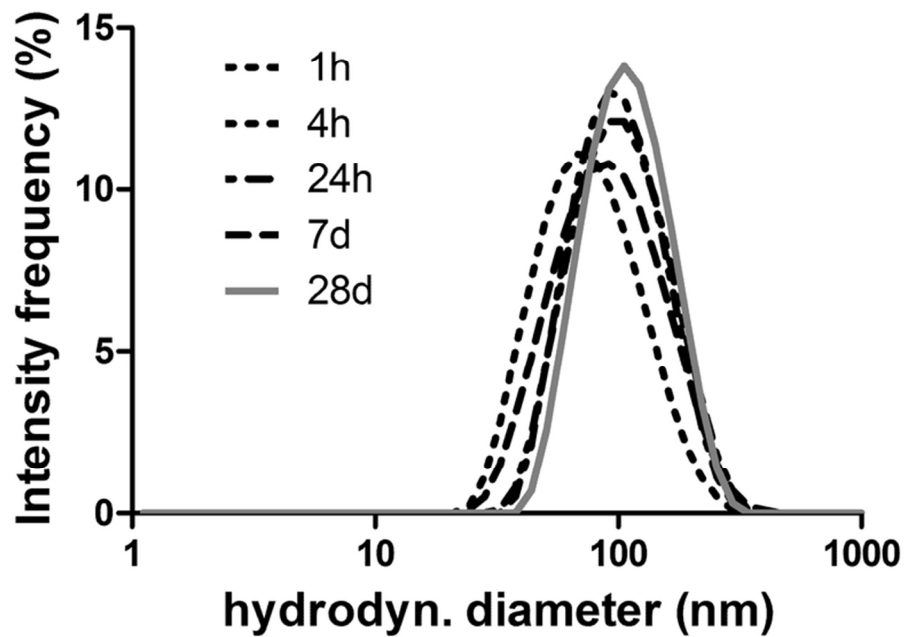


Figure 1: Hydrodynamic diameter of the five separately prepared [48V]TiO₂NP suspensions used to study the five retention times of 1h, 4h, 24h, 7d and 28d measured directly before IV-injection.

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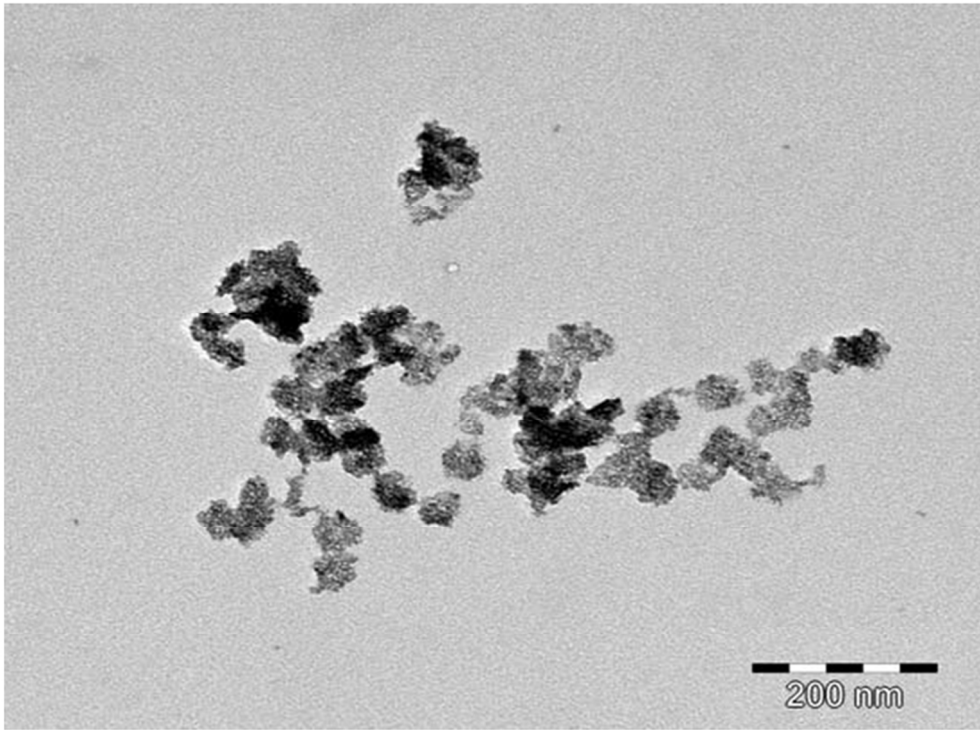


Figure 2: Transmission electron micrograph of size-selected TiO₂NP sampled immediately after the size-selection procedure. TEM sample preparation leads to 'clumping' together of aggregates/agglomerates on the support grid.

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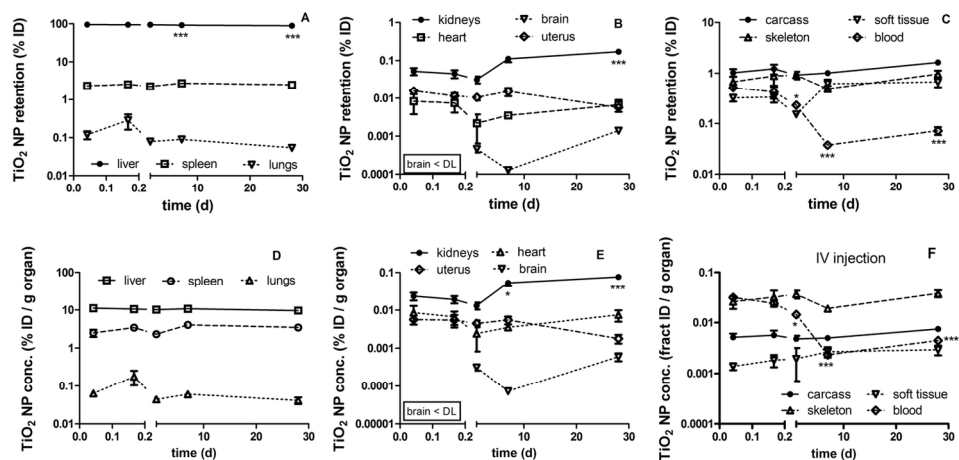


Figure 3: Graphical presentation of the biokinetics of IV-injected [48V]TiO₂NP. The [48V]TiO₂NP retention is expressed in terms of the retained percentage of the effectively injected nanoparticle dose which is equivalent to the percentage of injected 48V-activity corrected for the effect of free 48V-ions (% ID) (panels A-C). In panels D-F the values normalized to the organ weight are presented in %ID•g⁻¹. Mean ± SEM of n=4 rats at each time point. Compared to 1h data levels of significance are p<0.05 (*), p<0.01 (**), p<0.001 (***).

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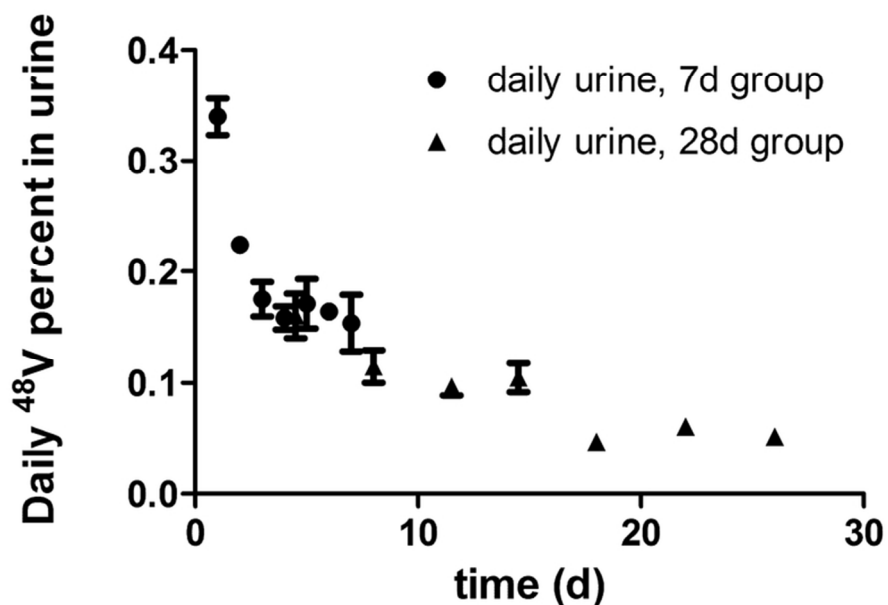


Figure 4: Daily urinary ⁴⁸V-activity excretion presented as percent-rates of the total IV-injected radioactivity (%ID) over four weeks. Data from 24h to 7d after IV-injection are daily averages of the 24h group and the 7d group (n = 4). Data of the 28d group were determined as integral samples over 3-4 days and are plotted as daily urinary excretion at the mean day of the sampling period. Mean ± SEM of n=4 rats at each time point.

75x49mm (300 x 300 DPI)

Figure 5, IV, 13-12-2016

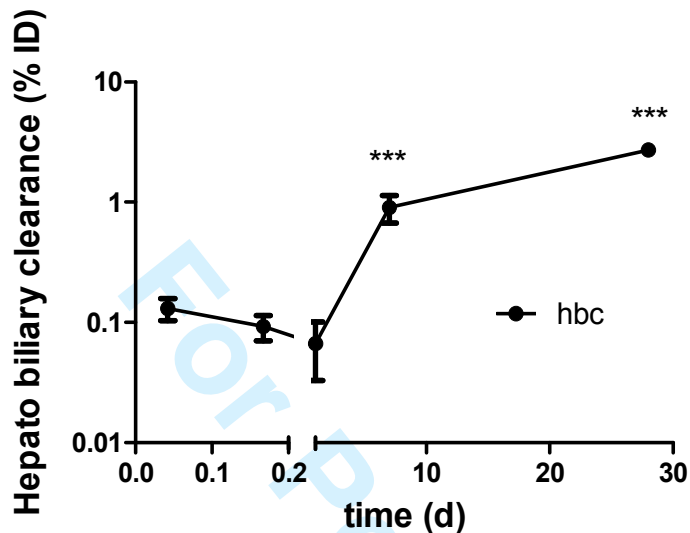


Figure 5: Cumulative Hepato-Biliary Clearance (HBC) of [^{48}V]TiO₂NP from the liver into the GIT and fecal excretions as percent of the total IV-injected [^{48}V]TiO₂NP radioactivity (%ID) over four weeks. Mean \pm SEM of n=4 rats at each time point. Compared to 1h data levels of significance are p<0.001 (***).

Table 1: Physicochemical characteristics of the [^{48}V]TiO₂NP suspensions used for IV-injection studies at five different retention times and the mean values of the applied ^{48}V activity and mass of [^{48}V]TiO₂NP effectively received by the rats. The mean dose in $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ BW is also given. Additionally, [^{48}V]TiO₂NP losses in the syringe and/or cannula are provided as detailed in SI-IV.

Retention time		1h	4h	24h	7d	28d
Zeta Potential	[mV]	-38.9 ± 4.2	-33.2 ± 2.4	-29.9 ± 8.1	-42.7 ± 9.2	-35.2 ± 7.6
Z-average	[nm]	93	72	93	82	101
PDI		0.157	0.228	0.160	0.197	0.135
Effective ^{48}V radioactivity received by rats	[kBq]	18.15 ± 3.37	11.29 ± 3.69	16.53 ± 3.69	253.99 ± 54.23	110.27 ± 5.76
applied [^{48}V]TiO ₂ NP mass	[μg]	18.15 ± 3.37	11.29 ± 3.69	16.53 ± 3.69	108.08 ± 54.23	23.08 ± 46.92
Mean applied dose	[$\mu\text{g}/\text{g}$ BW]	69.62 ± 69.7	40.13 ± 13.29	60.24 ± 13.29	392.54 ± 73.52	127.44 ± 10.17
Percentage of [^{48}V]TiO ₂ NP retained in the syringe after application	[%]	62.8 ± 6.2	71.3 ± 1.7	32.6 ± 4.5	n.d.	n.d.

Table 2: [^{48}V]TiO₂NP retention in organs and tissues at five time points 1h, 4 h, 24h, 7d and 28d after intravenous injection. The data are presented as retained percentage of the total intravenously injected [^{48}V]TiO₂NP dose (*raw data*). The raw data were corrected for the [^{48}V]TiO₂NP content in the residual blood present in organs and tissues after exsanguination (*w/o residual blood content*) and additionally for the contributions of free ^{48}V -ions to the biodistribution (*w/o free ^{48}V*). After these corrections the ^{48}V -activity data were converted into [^{48}V]TiO₂NP concentrations per mass of organ or tissue, given in $\text{ng}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$, and as $\% \text{ID}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$. Since the effectively applied [^{48}V]TiO₂NP doses varied due to nanoparticle retention in the syringes and were intentionally increased for the 7d and 28d groups most mass concentrations in $\text{ng}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$ exhibit an increase from 24h to 7d. The values in $\% \text{ID}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$ are independent of the applied doses. (< DL = below detection limit).

organ	retention time (d) percent (%)	1h mean \pm SEM	4h mean \pm SEM	24h mean \pm SEM	7d mean \pm SEM	28d mean \pm SEM
liver	raw data (% ID)	95.56 \pm 0.42	94.77 \pm 0.50	94.61 \pm 0.23	92.55 \pm 0.50	88.97 \pm 0.17
liver	w/o resid. blood cont.	95.52 \pm 0.42	94.74 \pm 0.51	94.59 \pm 0.23	92.54 \pm 0.50	88.96 \pm 0.17
liver	w/o free ^{48}V	95.50 \pm 0.42	94.70 \pm 0.51	94.48 \pm 0.23	92.44 \pm 0.45	88.92 \pm 0.17
liver	TiO ₂ conc. (% ID $\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$ tiss.)	11.14 \pm 0.19	10.62 \pm 0.23	10.16 \pm 0.18	10.74 \pm 0.32	9.67 \pm 0.62
liver	TiO ₂ conc. ($\text{ng}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$ tiss.)	2008 \pm 222	1208 \pm 213	1682 \pm 38	11564 \pm 1243	4551 \pm 364
spleen	raw data (% ID)	2.35 \pm 0.26	2.57 \pm 0.18	2.27 \pm 0.07	2.77 \pm 0.20	2.48 \pm 0.27
spleen	w/o resid. blood cont.	2.35 \pm 0.2576	2.57 \pm 0.18	2.27 \pm 0.07	2.77 \pm 0.20	2.48 \pm 0.27
spleen	w/o free ^{48}V	2.34 \pm 0.26	2.57 \pm 0.18	2.26 \pm 0.07	2.75 \pm 0.20	2.48 \pm 0.27
spleen	TiO ₂ conc. (% ID $\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$ tiss.)	2.51 \pm 0.55	3.43 \pm 0.31	2.32 \pm 0.21	4.06 \pm 0.44	3.49 \pm 0.32
spleen	TiO ₂ conc. ($\text{ng}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$ tiss.)	454 \pm 122	402 \pm 90	384 \pm 35	4299 \pm 389	1635 \pm 145
kidneys	raw data (% ID)	0.078 \pm 0.011	0.078 \pm 0.018	0.100 \pm 0.007	0.169 \pm 0.018	0.193 \pm 0.012
kidneys	w/o resid. blood cont.	0.062 \pm 0.010	0.065 \pm 0.015	0.090 \pm 0.007	0.167 \pm 0.018	0.191 \pm 0.012
kidneys	w/o free ^{48}V	0.0523 \pm 0.0111	0.045 \pm 0.0107	0.032 \pm 0.007	0.112 \pm 0.021	0.172 \pm 0.011
kidneys	TiO ₂ conc. (% ID $\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$ tiss.)	0.023 \pm 0.005	0.019 \pm 0.004	0.0131 \pm 0.003	0.053 \pm 0.010	0.076 \pm 0.007
kidneys	TiO ₂ conc. ($\text{ng}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$ tiss.)	3.89 \pm 0.43	1.93 \pm 0.15	2.16 \pm 0.44	54.10 \pm 6.05	35.60 \pm 2.39
lungs	raw data (% ID)	0.134 \pm 0.032	0.297 \pm 0.125	0.092 \pm 0.010	0.095 \pm 0.013	0.057 \pm 0.008
lungs	w/o resid. blood cont.	0.119 \pm 0.028	0.286 \pm 0.123	0.083 \pm 0.009	0.094 \pm 0.013	0.055 \pm 0.008
lungs	w/o free ^{48}V	0.118 \pm 0.029	0.285 \pm 0.123	0.079 \pm 0.009	0.089 \pm 0.013	0.054 \pm 0.008
lungs	TiO ₂ conc. (% ID $\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$ tiss.)	0.063 \pm 0.008	0.178 \pm 0.0742	0.044 \pm 0.005	0.060 \pm 0.009	0.041 \pm 0.008
lungs	TiO ₂ conc. ($\text{ng}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$ tiss.)	10.83 \pm 0.43	16.21 \pm 3.71	7.24 \pm 16.46	67.02 \pm 16.46	19.51 \pm 4.31
heart	raw data (% ID)	0.013 \pm 0.005	0.012 \pm 0.005	0.006 \pm 0.001	0.005 \pm 0.0002	0.008 \pm 0.003
heart	w/o resid. blood cont.	0.009 \pm 0.005	0.008 \pm 0.003	0.004 \pm 0.002	0.005 \pm 0.0002	0.007 \pm 0.002

heart	w/o free 48V	0.008 ± 0.005	0.007 ± 0.003	0.002 ± 0.002	0.004 ± 0.0003	0.007 ± 0.002
heart	TiO ₂ conc. (% ID·g ⁻¹ tiss.)	0.009 ± 0.004	0.007 ± 0.003	0.002 ± 0.002	0.004 ± 0.0002	0.008 ± 0.003
heart	TiO ₂ conc. (ng·g ⁻¹ tiss.)	1.29 ± 0.51	0.614 ± 0.111	0.40 ± 0.27	3.76 ± 0.36	3.52 ± 1.18
brain	raw data (% ID)	< DL	< DL	0.0015 ± 0.0001	0.0005 ± 0.00005	0.0015 ± 0.0002
brain	w/o resid. blood cont.	< DL	< DL	0.0009 ± 0.0001	0.0005 ± 0.00004	0.0013 ± 0.0002
brain	w/o free 48V	< DL	< DL	0.0005 ± 0.0001	< DL	0.0011 ± 0.0002
brain	TiO ₂ conc. (% ID·g ⁻¹ tiss.)	< DL	< DL	0.0003 ± 0.0001	< DL	0.0006 ± 0.0001
brain	TiO ₂ conc. (ng·g ⁻¹ tiss.)	< DL	< DL	0.051 ± 0.009	< DL	0.273 ± 0.059
uterus	raw data (% ID)	0.018 ± 0.001	0.015 ± 0.003	0.016 ± 0.002	0.026 ± 0.005	0.009 ± 0.0006
uterus	w/o resid. blood cont.	0.016 ± 0.001	0.013 ± 0.003	0.015 ± 0.002	0.026 ± 0.005	0.009 ± 0.0006
uterus	w/o free 48V	0.016 ± 0.001	0.011 ± 0.002	0.011 ± 0.002	0.015 ± 0.004	0.006 ± 0.0008
uterus	TiO ₂ conc. (% ID·g ⁻¹ tiss.)	0.006 ± 0.001	0.006 ± 0.002	0.005 ± 0.001	0.006 ± 0.001	0.002 ± 0.0005
uterus	TiO ₂ conc. (ng·g ⁻¹ tiss.)	1.00 ± 0.15	0.66 ± 0.28	0.74 ± 0.15	5.51 ± 1.13	1.01 ± 0.15
blood	raw data (% ID)	0.524 ± 0.060	0.443 ± 0.115	0.300 ± 0.018	0.047 ± 0.004	0.075 ± 0.013
blood	w/o resid. blood cont.	0.524 ± 0.060	0.443 ± 0.115	0.300 ± 0.018	0.047 ± 0.004	0.075 ± 0.013
blood	w/o free 48V	0.512 ± 0.062	0.419 ± 0.111	0.230 ± 0.018	0.037 ± 0.003	0.072 ± 0.013
blood	TiO ₂ conc. (% ID·g ⁻¹ tiss.)	0.031 ± 0.004	0.024 ± 0.006	0.015 ± 0.001	0.002 ± 0.0002	0.004 ± 0.0007
blood	TiO ₂ conc. (ng·g ⁻¹ tiss.)	5.42 ± 0.10	3.60 ± 0.41	2.4006 0.19	2.48 ± 0.24	2.09 ± 0.36
carcass	raw data (% ID)	1.2 ± 0.16	1.53 ± 0.31	1.63 ± 0.12	1.75 ± 0.09	1.90 ± 0.02
carcass	w/o resid. blood cont.	1.14 ± 0.15	1.44 ± 0.23	1.57 ± 0.12	1.74 ± 0.09	1.89 ± 0.021
carcass	w/o free 48V	1.03 ± 0.18	1.22 ± 0.27	0.92 ± 0.13	1.01 ± 0.12	1.63 ± 0.03
carcass	TiO ₂ conc. (% ID·g ⁻¹ tiss.)	0.005 ± 0.001	0.006 ± 0.001	0.005 ± 0.001	0.005 ± 0.0006	0.008 ± 0.0003
carcass	TiO ₂ conc. (ng·g ⁻¹ tiss.)	0.89 ± 0.10	0.58 ± 0.08	0.13 ± 0.13	5.22 ± 0.23	3.54 ± 0.18
skeleton	raw data (% ID)	0.81 ± 0.13	1.02 ± 0.34	1.28 ± 0.17	1.04 ± 0.12	1.22 ± 0.16
skeleton	w/o resid. blood cont.	0.79 ± 0.13	1.00 ± 0.33	1.27 ± 0.17	1.04 ± 0.12	1.22 ± 0.16
skeleton	w/o free 48V	0.68 ± 0.16	0.88 ± 0.32	0.92 ± 0.16	0.49 ± 0.06	0.96 ± 0.15
skeleton	TiO ₂ conc. (% ID·g ⁻¹ tiss.)	0.026 ± 0.006	0.032 ± 0.011	0.036 ± 0.007	0.019 ± 0.002	0.038 ± 0.006
skeleton	TiO ₂ conc. (ng·g ⁻¹ tiss.)	4.18 ± 0.53	3.02 ± 0.57	6.02 ± 1.05	18.43 ± 2.50	17.71 ± 2.90
soft tissue	raw data (% ID)	0.44 ± 0.07	0.51 ± 0.05	0.352 ± 0.07	0.71 ± 0.13	0.68 ± 0.14
soft tissue	w/o resid. blood cont.	0.34 ± 0.05	0.43 ± 0.05	0.30 ± 0.07	0.70 ± 0.13	0.67 ± 0.14
soft tissue	w/o free 48V	0.32 ± 0.05	0.33 ± 0.07	0.15 ± 0.01	0.61 ± 0.13	0.67 ± 0.14
soft tissue	TiO ₂ conc. (% ID·g ⁻¹ tiss.)	0.0014 ± 0.0002	0.0013 ± 0.0003	0.0007 ± 0.0001	0.0027 ± 0.0005	0.0029 ± 0.0006
soft tissue	TiO ₂ conc. (ng·g ⁻¹ tiss.)	0.24 ± 0.02	0.16 ± 0.05	0.11 ± 0.01	2.54 ± 0.46	1.38 ± 0.32