

۱ **Smart Polymeric Nanocomposite Based on Protonated Aluminosilicate,**
۲ **Curcumin, and Chitosan for Mesalamine Drug Delivery as an Anti-**
۳ **inflammatory Nanocarrier**

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۱۲ **Abstract**

۱۳ Due to the importance of the colon-specific disease, its treatment with reduced side effects has
۱۴ become fascinating over the last decades. The aim of this study was the synthesis of the
۱۵ nanocomposite based on the protonated aluminum-modified mesoporous silica nanoparticles
۱۶ (H/Al-MSN) and curcumin possesses mesalamine to develop its efficacy and eliminating side
۱۷ effects for enhancing permeability in intestinal tissues. Here, different amounts of mesalamine
۱۸ were loaded and studied under accurate analysis in order to evaluate release quality. The
۱۹ aluminosilicate nanoparticles are encapsulated by the combination of curcumin as an herbal
۲۰ product and also chitosan as a natural biopolymer with the advantages of non-toxicity,
۲۱ biocompatibility, biodegradability, and non-allergenic. The release of mesalamine from the
۲۲ nanocomposite was investigated in different pH included acidic, neutral, and alkaline media. The
۲۳ results showed that the release of mesalamine is dependent on acidity. A colonic drug delivery
۲۴ system was designed based on the release time and pH sensitivity. The drug release was studied at
۲۵ pH 5.5, 7, and 8 a different region of the gastrointestinal tract was simulated. The results showed

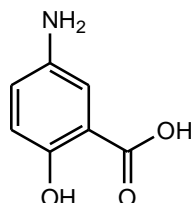
۲۶ that the trend of mesalamine release is higher at pH 8 with high efficacy performance of more than
۲۷ 90 percent at room temperature for about 90 h.

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۲۹ **Keywords:** Mesalamine; Aluminosilicate; Drug delivery; colon-specific disease; Anti-
۳۰ inflammatory; Mesoporous silica nanoparticles.

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۳۲ **Introduction**

۳۳ The overall prevalence rate for inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) in the world is 6.8 million and
۳۴ high rates has been reported in the industrial areas [1]. The reason why IBD occurs is still a mystery
۳۵ but researchers believe that some factors such as geographical location, inappropriate diet,
۳۶ genetics, and inappropriate immune conditions can be attributed to this prevalence [2]. Despite
۳۷ several ways that have been reported to treat IBD, they have not been quite successful. That's an
۳۸ essential reason that needs to find therapy for this disease is becoming more important every day.
۳۹ IBD treatments may involve using a suitable diet, drug therapy, or in some cases surgery. Using
۴۰ anti-inflammatory drugs are often the first step to treat Crohn's disease (CD) and Ulcerative-Colitis
۴۱ (UC) [3]. Mesalamine with the other name of mesalazine and the chemical name of 5-
۴۲ aminosalicylic acid with three function groups of amine, carboxylic acid, and phenolic groups
۴۳ (Scheme 1) is used for the treatment of inflammatory bowel disease, such as Crohn's disease and
۴۴ ulcerative colitis. This drug generally applied for moderately disease. Mesalamine (5-ASA) is a
۴۵ cyclo-oxygenase inhibitor and anti-inflammatory drug to manage both UC and CD disorders, all
۴۶ the same, it is the first drug in the treatment of UC [4]. As this drug is a kind of rapidly absorbed
۴۷ medicine by the small intestine so it needs to develop a colon-specific delivery system that is able
۴۸ to enhance its therapeutically efficacy and reduce the side effects [5].



Scheme 1. Mesalamine chemical structure

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۵۱ Planet extracted medicines like curcumin have also anti-inflammatory effects [6]. Curcumin is a
۵۲ polyphenol extracted from the rhizome of *Curcuma longa* (turmeric). This material has been used
۵۳ traditionally as a medicine for the treatment of a large range of illnesses, such as infectious
۵۴ diseases, inflammation, and blood disorders, hepatic, and gastric. Low cost, minimal side effects,
۵۵ and abundance of Curcumin are the benefit.[7] Existence of biological properties such as
۵۶ sustainability, chemical flexibility, human and eco-friendliness in natural polymers like curcumin
۵۷ and chitosan is the reason of popularity of them in drug delivery system [8].
۵۸ Chitosan as a versatile natural biopolymer is a great selection for curcumin encapsulation by dint
۵۹ of its biodegradability, biocompatibility, non-toxicity, and non-allergenic. The cationic character
۶۰ like of Chitosan is related to the primary amino group which is responsible for several advantages
۶۱ of this polymer such as controlled drug delivery, mucoadhesion, in situ gelation, transfection,
۶۲ enhancement of, and efflux pump inhibitory properties [9]. Plant based medicines are used as
۶۳ biomedical treatments from ancient time. Nowadays we use them instead or over synthetic drugs
۶۴ because herbal drugs have lesser side effects comparing with chemical synthesized medicines.
۶۵ Novel Drug Delivery System (NDDS) play essential roles in increasing the efficacy of plant drugs
۶۶ and solving some problems such as slow efficacy of herbal drugs, poor stability in gastric
۶۷ environment, high extent of first metabolism, and etc. [10].
۶۸ An ideal colon targeting system is a type of system which deliver a therapeutic agent, selectively
۶۹ and effectively, to the colon. Colon-specific drug delivery systems perfectly sustain the drug
۷۰ release in the upper GI tract (stomach and small intestine), while triggering the drug release in the
۷۱ colon [11].

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۷۲ Nanotechnology and Nanomaterial drug delivery systems are rapidly developing where materials
۷۳ in the nanoscale range are applied to deliver the therapeutic agents to targeted sites in a controlled
۷۴ manner or as means of diagnostic tools. Chemotherapeutic agents, biological agents,
۷۵ immunotherapeutic agents are the recent outstanding applications of nanomedicine in the treatment
۷۶ of various diseases [12].

۷۷ Oral colon-specific drug delivery system (OCDD) has become more advance as a site-specific
۷۸ drug delivery system using nanomaterials over the past decade. The use of this system helps us to
۷۹ control drug release in the gastrointestinal (GI) track by the combination of one or more controlled
۸۰ mechanisms. This mechanism leads to the release of drugs in the upper part of GI track, but rapidly
۸۱ release in the colon. Due to approximately low proteolytic enzyme activities existence and
۸۲ completely long transit time, the Colon has been mentioned to be the optimal absorption site for
۸۳ protein and polypeptides after oral administration [13,14].

۸۴ Enteric-coated systems (ECS) are frequently used for colonic drug delivery. PH difference
۸۵ between small intestine and colon is not really marked, so this can be a kind of disadvantage for
۸۶ PH dependent approaches. The time-dependent systems also have some limitations; the inability
۸۷ to any variation in the upper gastrointestinal track transit time, and also any variation in gastric
۸۸ discharge time may be caused to start on drug release in the small intestine before reaching the
۸۹ colon [15].

۹۰ Mesoporous silica nanoparticles are the mesoporous form of silica that recently have developed in
۹۱ the nanomaterial field. Mesoporous silica nanoparticles (MSNs) as carriers for colonic drug
۹۲ delivery has been introduced for their application as a promising platform in the medical field in
۹۳ recent decades. MSN has been widely used to develop drug delivery strategy in the field of
۹۴ nanotechnology [16]. The large surface area, high pore size and pore volume, hydrothermal
۹۵ resistance, non-toxicity, safe carriers, considerable biocompatibility and biodegradability, uniform
۹۶ aqueous dispersion are the inherent properties of MSNs that introduce these nanoparticles the great
۹۷ candidate as carriers for the colonic drug delivery. The pure and modified MSN for possessing the

۹۸ range of pore size between 2 and 50 nm are the suitable platforms for the biomedical application
۹۹ and drug delivery systems [17-18]. They can be easily synthesized using sol-gel technique so
۱۰۰ producing it cost effective. Besides, the morphology, pore size and volume and particle size can
۱۰۱ be appropriately transformed by parameters control during synthesis [19].
۱۰۲ Some studies show that the GO nanoparticle platform which contains a grafted cell-targeting
۱۰۳ functionality also can be used for the activation of pharmaceutical ingredients used in
۱۰۴ magnetothermal therapy [20]. In addition, graphene oxide, when conjugated with ciprofloxacin,
۱۰۵ exhibits low cytotoxicity and high stability and shows antimicrobial activity [21].
۱۰۶ The aim of this study was to synthesis a nanocomposite based on mesoporous silica nanoparticles
۱۰۷ modified with the active ingredient curcumin and natural chitosan polymer which its structure was
۱۰۸ evaluated by FTIR, XRD, nitrogen adsorption-desorption, SEM, and TEM analysis. The release
۱۰۹ ability of mesalamine was investigated in different PH which is explained in detail.

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۱۱۱ **Experimental**

۱۱۲ **Materials and methods**

۱۱۳ Tetraethyl orthosilicate (TEOS), (3-Aminopropyl) Trithoxysilane (APTES), Aluminum chloride,
۱۱۴ Cetrimonium Bromide (CTAB), Hydrochloride Acid (HCL), Sodium Hydroxide (NaOH), Sodium
۱۱۵ Hydroxide (NaOH), and Ammonia, were purchased from Merck Company. Mesalamine was
۱۱۶ prepared from Hakim Pharmaceutical Company in Tehran, Iran. Curcumin and chitosan were
۱۱۷ purchased from Sina Daru Company.

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۱۱۹ **Synthesis of mesoporous silica nanoparticles (MSN)**

۱۲۰ A suitable amount of CTAB (12 g) was poured into distilled water (200 ml) in an Erlenmeyer (250
۱۲۱ ml) flask and magnetically stirred. After 30 min, the Ammonia Ethanol solution which contained
۱۲۲ Ammonia 25% (20 ml) in of Ethanol (30 ml) was added continuously to the container of CTAB
۱۲۳ till the solution became clear. Then added TEOS (25 ml) to the stirring solution and stirred for 4

۱۲۴ h. At the end left in static for 24 h. The sediments were then filtered and washed with 200 ml
۱۲۵ Ethanol and distilled water. Afterward, the sediments were dried at 110 °C and weighed. The
۱۲۶ materials were then calcined at 550°C for 3 h. This was denoted as MSN [22].

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۱۲۸ **Synthesis of H/Al-MSN**

۱۲۹ The amount of MSN (2.7 g) was stirred with distilled water (50 ml) in a beaker for 15 min. After
۱۳۰ that an aqueous solution of the aluminum nitrate with the initial molar ratio of Si/Al=20 was added
۱۳۱ to the mixture and stirred continues for 24 h at room temperature. The results were centrifuged and
۱۳۲ washed with distilled water (20 ml) followed by dried at 90 °C and then calcined at 550 °C for 3
۱۳۳ h. after that, the obtained powder was added to a 3% sulfuric acid solution and stirred for 3 h and
۱۳۴ then filtered, washed with distilled water (30 ml) and dried in an oven at 90 °C for 5 h. The product
۱۳۵ was denoted as H/Al-MSN. The XRF analysis showed the Si/Al molar ratio of 18.9 for H/Al-
۱۳۶ MSN.

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۱۳۸ **A protocol for the synthesis of H/Al-MSN-Mes (Loading of mesalamine)**

۱۳۹ Dispersed the specified weighted H/Al-MSN (1 g) in ethanol (30 ml) and sonicated for 20 min.
۱۴۰ Different concentrations of the ethanolic mesalamine solutions (included 0.1, 0.15, and 0.2 %
۱۴۱ mesalamine, respectively, in a 20 ml ethanol) were added separately and then stirred in a 60°C
۱۴۲ water bath for 14 h. The products were washed twice with ethanol (20 ml) and distilled water (20
۱۴۳ ml), separately, followed by centrifuged and then dried in an oven at 60 °C for 10 h. The light
۱۴۴ pinkish powder was denoted as H/Al-MSN-Mes.

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۱۴۶ **A common protocol for the synthesis of AMCC**

۱۴۷ The amount of chitosan (0.5 g) dissolved with distilled water (30 ml) and then defined amount of
۱۴۸ curcumin (0.05 g) was added and magnetically stirred at room temperature for 2 h. The mixture
۱۴۹ was represented as Chs-Cur. After that, the synthesized Chs-Cur was added to the H/Al-MSN-Mes

۱۵۰ with different mesalamine concentrations of 0.1, 0.15, and 0.2 % and were magnetically stirred for
۱۵۱ 3 h. The materials were then centrifuged and washed with ethanol (20 ml) and dried up. This final
۱۵۲ product is denoted as AMCC.

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۱۵۴ **Mesalamine release under different acidity**

۱۵۵ The release of mesalamine was evaluated in three different pH (acidic, alkaline, and neutral). The
۱۵۶ aqueous solutions were 50 ml and the amount of investigated AMCC were 0.05 g for each samples.
۱۵۷ The assay was performed at room temperature.

۱۵۸ The absorbance of the mesalamine remaining in the supernatant was measured using UV-vis
۱۵۹ spectroscopy at 230 nm. The amount of mesalamine adsorbed onto nanocomposites of AMCC and
۱۶۰ adsorption efficiency were calculated using Equations (1) and (2), respectively:

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$$162 \quad M_e = \frac{(C_0 - C_e)}{m} \times V \quad (1)$$

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$$164 \quad AEC\% = \left(\frac{C_0 - C_e}{C_e} \right) \times 100 \quad (2)$$

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۱۶۶ Where M_e (mg/g) is an amount of mesalamine adsorbed at the equilibrium state, $AEC\%$ is an
۱۶۷ Adsorption Efficiency Coefficient, C_0 (mg/L) is an initial mesalamine concentration, C_e (mg/L) is
۱۶۸ a mesalamine concentration at equilibrium state, V (L) is a volume of mesalamine solution, and m
۱۶۹ (g) is the mass of the nanocomposite used.

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۱۷۱ **Nanocomposites characterization**

۱۷۲ Fourier transform infrared (FTIR) measurements of the nanocomposites were carried out using an
۱۷۳ Agilent Carry 640 FTIR spectrometer. Nitrogen physisorption analysis was conducted on a
۱۷۴ Quantachrome Autosorb-1 at 77 K. Before the measurement, the samples were evacuated at 573

۱۷۵ K for 3 h. The crystallinity of nanocomposites was measured with a Bruker Advance D8 X-ray
۱۷۶ powder diffractometer with Cu K α ($\lambda = 1.5418 \text{ \AA}$) radiation as the diffracted monochromatic beam
۱۷۷ at 40 kV and 40 mA. The morphology of the nanocomposites were studied from scanning electron
۱۷۸ microscope (SEM). A scanning electron microscope equipped with an energy dispersion X-ray
۱۷۹ spectrometer (EDX) was conducted on SEM (JEOL JSM-6701 F) to observe the morphology as
۱۸۰ well as to obtain the elemental analysis of the nanocomposites using. Before observation by SEM-
۱۸۱ EDX, the sample was coated by Pt using a sputtering instrument. The measurement of mesalamine
۱۸۲ was occurred using UV-Vis spectrophotometer model UV-1800, Shimadzu, Kyoto, Japan. The
۱۸۳ bulk Si/Al molar ratio of 20 was determined by Bruker S4 Explorer X-ray fluorescence
۱۸۴ spectroscopy (XRF) using Rh as anode target material operated at 20 mA and 50 kV. XRF analysis
۱۸۵ reported the Si/Al molar ratio of 18.9.

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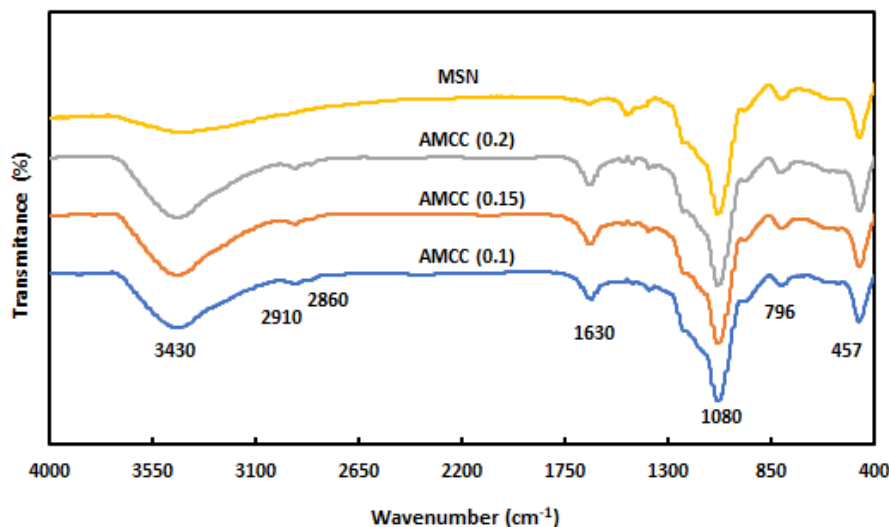
۱۸۸ **Result and Discussion**

۱۸۹ **Characterization of the nanocomposites**

۱۹۰ The pure MSN was prepared by using the sol-gel method and the AMCC nanocomposites were
۱۹۱ synthesized through the post-synthesis technique using aluminum nitrate, mesalamine, curcumin,
۱۹۲ and chitosan, respectively. The Si/Al molar ratio of 18.9 was obtained and the different
۱۹۳ concentrations of 0.1, 0.15, and 0.2% mesalamine were used to prepare of the AMCC
۱۹۴ nanocomposites.

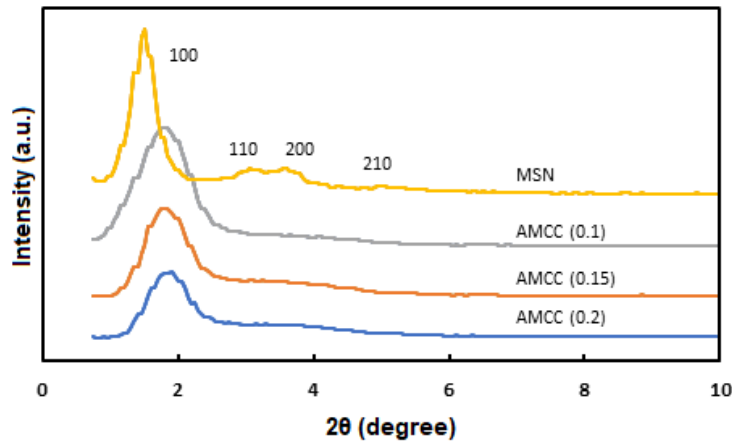
۱۹۵ **Fig. 1** shows the FTIR spectroscopy of the pure MSN and the three nanocomposites of AMCC
۱۹۶ (0.1 %), AMCC (0.15 %), and AMCC (0.2 %) at the range is 400-4000 cm^{-1} . The functional groups
۱۹۷ among variant AMCC with the different mesalamine concentrations can be identified using FT-IR
۱۹۸ spectroscopy. The non-acidic silanol groups (Si-OH) or water molecules (OH) that remained on
۱۹۹ the pure MSN surface were observed as a broad band at the range of 3100–3600 cm^{-1} .

۲۰۰ The AMCC samples represented the wide bonds at the range of 2700-3600 cm^{-1} attributed to the
۲۰۱ presence of the carboxylic group in their structures. A various number of hydrogen bonding due
۲۰۲ to the presence of the carboxylic, phenolic, and the amine groups resulted in the formation of the
۲۰۳ broad bands at this area for the nanocomposite samples. The sharp peaks at 3430 cm^{-1} showed the
۲۰۴ presence of amine group in the AMCC nanocomposites. Two bands at the regions of 2910 and
۲۰۵ 2860 cm^{-1} are attributed to the C-H stretching bands due to the existence of curcumin and chitosan
۲۰۶ in the nanocomposite structures [23, 24].



۲۰۷ **Fig. 1** FTIR spectra of MSN, and AMCC (0.1, 0.15, 0.2 g) at the region of 400-4000 cm^{-1}
۲۰۸ The strong peak at 1080 cm^{-1} and the medium peak at 457 cm^{-1} attributed to the stretching vibration
۲۰۹ of the Si-O-Si bond, while two peaks of 796 and 1630 cm^{-1} are related to the bending vibration of
۲۱۰ the Si-O-Si bond. Moreover, the peak of 1630 cm^{-1} shows the N-H bending vibration
۲۱۱ corresponding to the mesalamine as well as chitosan structures in the AMCC nanocomposites.
۲۱۲ Incorporating aluminum in the MSN structure resulted in vibration at around 457 cm^{-1} that has
۲۱۳ been covered by the stretching vibration of the Si-O-Si bond [24].
۲۱۴ **Fig. 2** shows the low-angle XRD pattern for the pure MSN and the AMCC nanocomposites with
۲۱۵ different concentrations of mesalamine (0.1, 0.15, and 0.2 %) at the range of 0° -10°. XRD patterns
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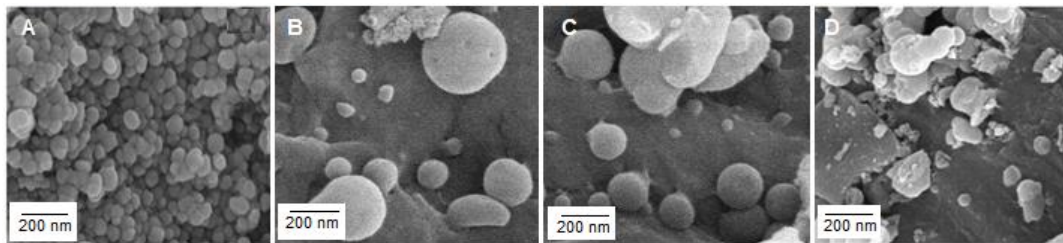
۲۱۷ of MSN clearly showed the ordered mesoporous silica structure through the presenting of four
۲۱۸ diffraction peaks indexed as 100, 110, 200, and 210 at the low angle degree of 1.5-5.1° in terms of
۲۱۹ 2θ . They are illustrated the presence of a 2D hexagonal framework with a d_{100} -spacing of around
۲۲۰ 3.4 nm. The loading aluminum atoms accompanied with the mesalamine molecules into the pure
۲۲۱ MSN, and after that encapsulation with two bulky components of curcumin and chitosan has
۲۲۲ shifted the intense peak of 100 from 1.5° for MSN to the higher degree of 1.85° for all the
۲۲۳ nanocomposite samples. Simultaneously, all of these four diffraction peaks drastically were
۲۲۴ decreased so especially the peaks of 110, 200, and 210 approximately were disappeared which this
۲۲۵ phenomenon indicated the essential disordering into the nanocomposite structures.



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۲۲۷ **Fig. 2** XRD patterns of the pure MSN and the AMCC (0.1, 0.15, and 0.2) nanocomposites at the
۲۲۸ low-angle degree of 0°-10°.

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۲۳۰ On the other hand, the change appearances in the peak heights and locations of the XRD pattern
۲۳۱ confirmed the formation of the three nanocomposites with irregular silica mesoporous structures.
۲۳۲ The results of XRD patterns exhibited that the intensity of the highest peak (100) more decreased
۲۳۳ with increasing the mesalamine concentration. Therefore, the crystallinity of the nanocomposites
۲۳۴ more led to the less ordered structure with increasing mesalamine species [25].

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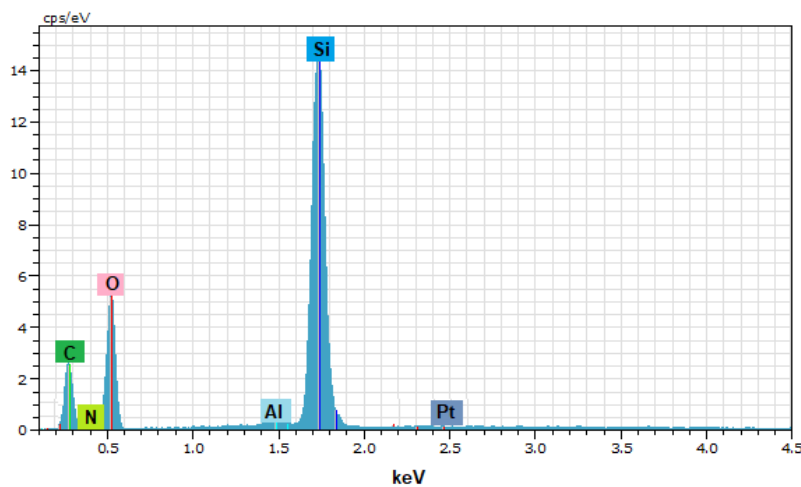
۲۳۷ **Fig. 3** SEM images of the (A) MSN, (B) AMCC (0.1), (C) AMCC (0.15), and (D) AMCC (0.2)
۲۳۸ samples

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۲۴۱ The morphology of the pure MSN and the AMCC (0.1), AMCC (0.15), and AMCC (0.2)
۲۴۲ nanocomposites have exhibited by SEM images [14] that is shown in Fig. 3. The image of 3A
۲۴۳ belong to the MSN which presented a fairly uniform spherical particles with average particle sizes
۲۴۴ of 70-150 nm. The synthesized AMCC nanocomposites showed the fragment-like morphology
۲۴۵ with larger and less uniform spherical particles and large chitosan-curcumin fragments are well
۲۴۶ seen in the SEM images.

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۲۴۹ **Fig. 4** Energy-dispersive X-ray spectroscopy of the AMCC (0.1) sample
 ۲۵۰ As a symbolic sample, the EDX analysis of the AMCC (0.1) nanomaterial is shown in Fig. 4,
 ۲۵۱ indicated to the presence of silicon, aluminum, carbon, nitrogen and oxygen.

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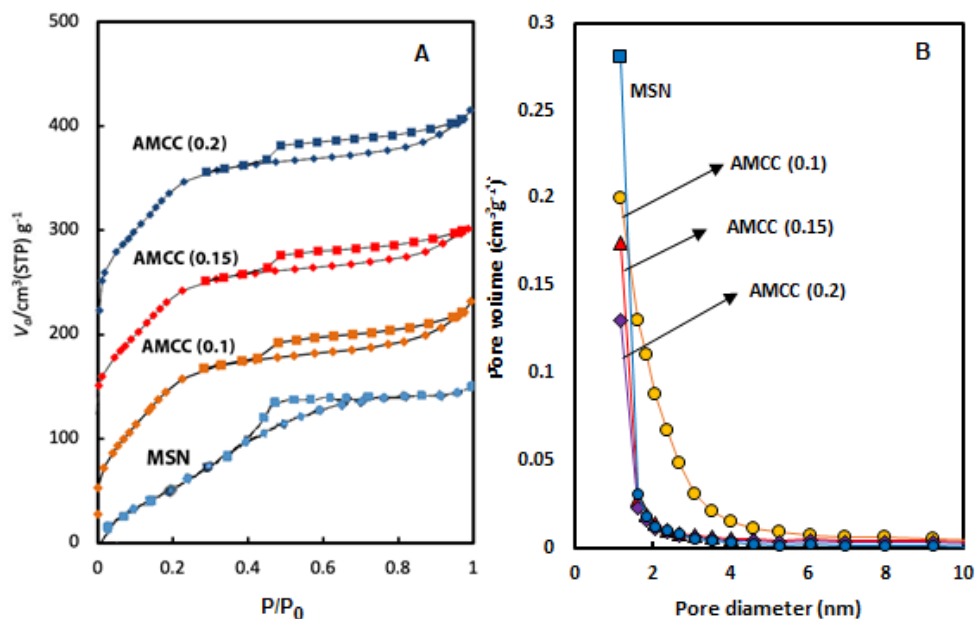
۲۵۳ **Table 1** physical characteristics of the MSN and AMCC samples

Sample	<i>S</i> (m ² /g)	<i>V_p</i> (cm ³ /g)	<i>W</i> (nm)
MSN	998	0.82	3.34
AMCC (0.1)	581	0.35	2.89
AMCC (0.15)	493	0.25	2.30
AMCC (0.2)	365	0.22	1.64

S, BET surface area (m²/g) obtained from N₂ adsorption; *V_p*, total pore volume (ml/g);
W, pore size (nm) obtained from BJH method.

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 ۲۵۵ **Table 1** presents the distinguishable difference in the surface area, pore size, and volume of the
 ۲۵۶ MSN, AMCC (0.1), AMCC (0.15), and AMCC (0.2). A decrease in the surface area was observed
 ۲۵۷ from 998 m²g⁻¹ for MSN to 493 m²g⁻¹ for the AMCC (0.2) is due to the occupation of the MSN
 ۲۵۸ surface area by the various species such as aluminum, mesalamine, curcumin, and chitosan. The
 ۲۵۹ blockage of the pores with the mentioned materials resulted in a decrease in the pore volumes from
 ۲۶۰ 0.82 cm³g⁻¹ for MSN to 0.3 cm³g⁻¹ for the AMCC (0.2). As similar to the pore volume, the pore
 ۲۶۱ size also has been decreased from 3.34 to 1.26 nm for the MSN and AMCC (0.2), respectively.
 ۲۶۲ Therefore, the results showed that the reduced trend of the surface area, pore volume and size
 ۲۶۳ directly is related to the increase in the mesalamine amount.
 ۲۶۴ The loading curcumin and chitosan components, accompany by mesalamine and aluminum could
 ۲۶۵ affect the reduction of these physical properties [26].

۲۶۶ Fig. 5A and 4B show nitrogen adsorption-desorption isotherms and pore size distributions of the
 ۲۶۷ MSN and AMCC (0.1, 0.15, QND 0.2) samples, respectively. The nitrogen sorption isotherm of
 ۲۶۸ these nanomaterials showed type IV isotherms with H4 hysteresis loops which indicated to the
 ۲۶۹ presence of the porous nanomaterials [27]. The isotherm of the MSN and AMCC nanocomposites
 ۲۷۰ exhibited the characteristic of the sharp inflection of the capillary condensation with almost uniform
 ۲۷۱ pore structures at a relative pressure of around 0.1-0.3 that indicated the presence of the uniform
 ۲۷۲ mesoporous structures [28].

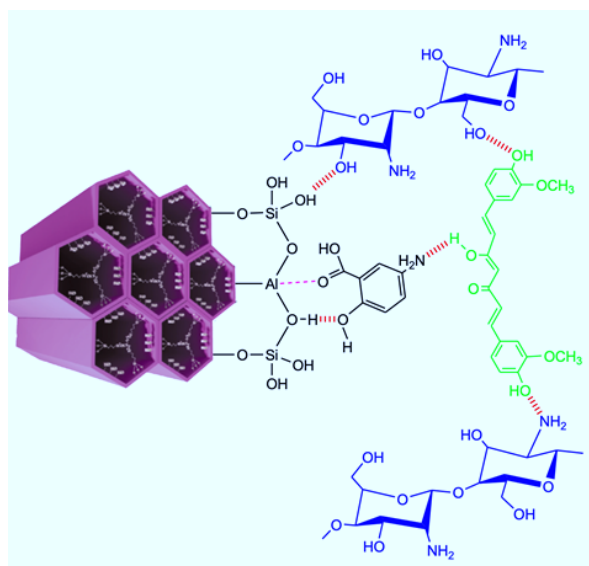


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 ۲۷۴ **Fig. 5** (A) Nitrogen sorption isotherms and (B) pore size distribution for the MSN, AMCC (0.1),
 ۲۷۵ AMCC (0.15), and AMCC (0.2) samples.

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 ۲۷۸ The isotherms at higher relative pressure of 0.9-1.0 exhibited a slow increase in the adsorbed
 ۲۷۹ nitrogen that is an evidence to the existence of the weak extra-framework structure. The moderate
 ۲۸۰ nitrogen adsorption in the relative pressure at the range of 0.3-0.9 showed the uniform microporous

۲۸۱ structures in the nanocomposites which described a 2D porous structure for these nanomaterials.
۲۸۲ Fig. 5B described the narrow pore size distributions at the pore diameters around 1-3 nm.
۲۸۳ The proposed schematic chemical structure of the AMCC nanocomposite was exhibited in Scheme
۲۸۴ 1. In this structure, the protonated Al-MSN has bonded to mesalamine through hydrogen bonding
۲۸۵ and this fragment also is bonded to the curcumin and chitosan molecules.

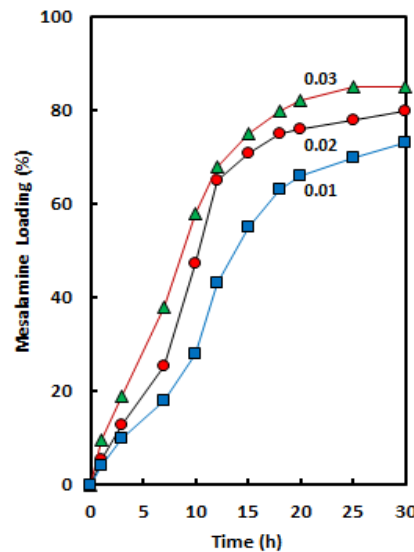
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۲۸۷ **Loading efficiency of mesalamine into the H/Al-MSN sample**
۲۸۸ In mesalamine delivery process, the mesalamine loading capacity of the H/Al-MSN nanostructures
۲۸۹ was investigated. The storage of mesalamine in the modified nanostructures was studied through
۲۹۰ the UV monitoring of the mesalamine solution.



Scheme 1. Suggested chemical structure for the AMCC nanocomposite

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۲۹۵ The color of the pure mesalamine solution in ethanol was pinkish and after the reaction between
۲۹۶ different concentration of mesalamine and H/Al-MSN, the color of the solution became light
۲۹۷ pinkish while the white powder of H/Al-MSN changed to the light pinkish color. The loading

۲۹۸ efficiency of the mesalamine adsorbed on the H/Al-MSN surface is one of the important factors
۲۹۹ for the bio-application of nanomaterials that was calculated using equation 1 [29]. The results
۳۰۰ showed that the loading efficiency of mesalamine on the H/Al-MSN surface was a mesalamine
۳۰۱ concentration-dependent process. There was an optimum concentration of mesalamine absorbed
۳۰۲ on the H/Al-MSN surface. The initial concentration of mesalamine was 7 mg/mL, which the
۳۰۳ highest loading efficiency were 73, 80, and 85% for the samples of 0.01, 0.02, and 0.03 g,
۳۰۴ respectively (Fig. 6).
۳۰۵ This means that the drug loading efficiency of mesalamine has been dependent on the drug
۳۰۶ concentrations, nanoparticles concentrations, and the media acidity [30]. The adsorption process
۳۰۷ of mesalamine onto the H/Al-MSN is related to the electrostatic interactions between the drug and
۳۰۸ catalyst. Therefore, the anti-inflammatory drug of mesalamine can be efficiently absorbed onto the
۳۰۹ H/Al-MSN surface. To establish a therapeutic platform, the synthesized nanocomposites should
۳۱۰ be checked with the biomedical experiments.



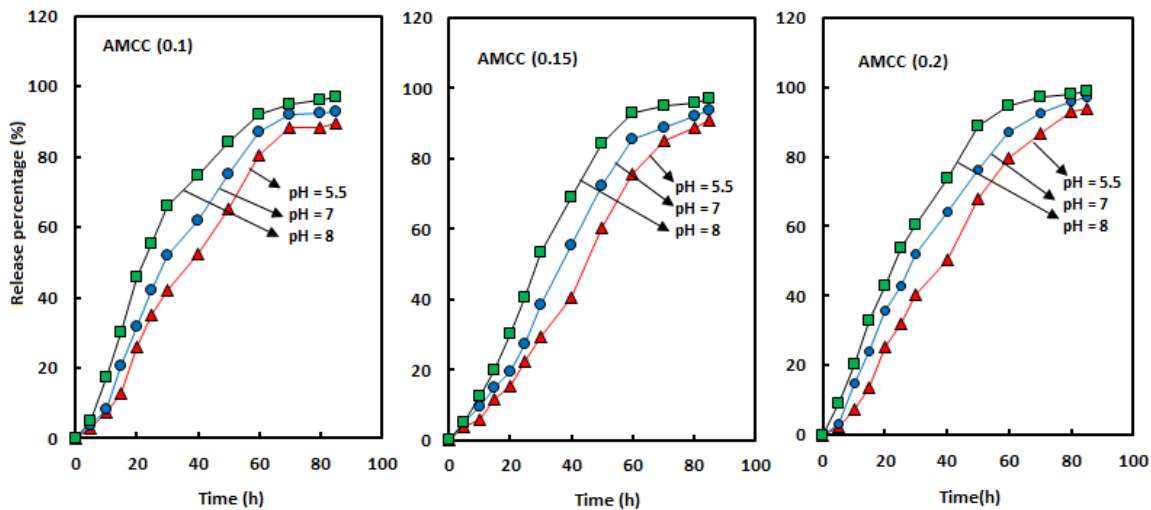
۳۱۲
۳۱۳ **Fig. 6** The loading process of the different concentrations of mesalamine on the H/Al-MSN surface

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۳۱۶ **Release efficiency of mesalamine from the AMCC nanocomposites**

۳۱۷ The in vitro anti-inflammatory drug-release of mesalamine of the AMCC nanocomposites was
۳۱۸ demonstrated under three different media pH in Fig. 7. The release of mesalamine from the AMCC
۳۱۹ nanocomposites included the different loaded anti-inflammatory drug (0.1, 0.15, and 0.2%) was
۳۲۰ investigated in the pH of 5.5, 7, and 8. The released mesalamine from the AMCC nanocomposites
۳۲۱ was monitored using UV-vis spectroscopy in the different acidic media at pH 5.5, 7, and 8.



۳۲۲

۳۲۳ **Fig. 7** Mesalamine release profile of the AMCC (0.1, 0.15, and 0.2) in different pH media of 5.5,
۳۲۴ 7, and 8 at room temperature.

۳۲۵ **Table 2** shows the maximum release of mesalamine from the AMCC(0.1), AMCC(0.15), and
۳۲۶ AMCC(0.2) nanocomposites. The results showed that release rate of this anti-inflammatory drug
۳۲۷ from the AMCC samples at pH 8 is higher than that at pH 5.5 and 7 at around 80 h. This means
۳۲۸ that the amount of mesalamine concentrations have an important rolls in the release rate of
۳۲۹ mesalamine. It can be seen the AMCC samples included 0.2% mesalamine exhibited higher drug
۳۳۰ release in comparison with the AMCC samples containing the 0.1 and 0.15% mesalamine.

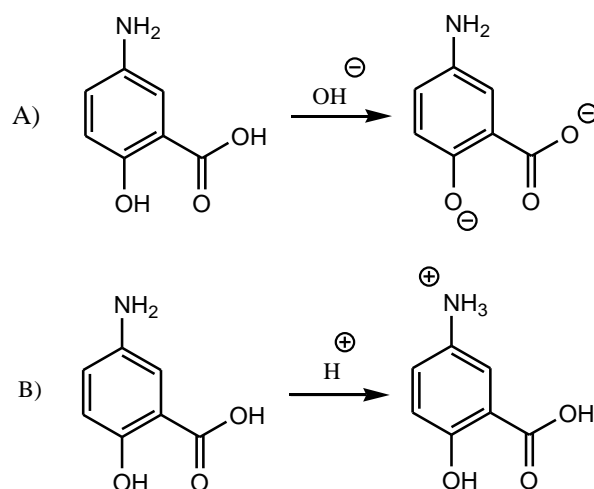
۳۳۱ The trend of the drug release at pH 8 can be divided into two sections including the initial 60 h
۳۳۲ and the section between 60-80 h. While the release percentage of 92.3, 93.1, and 94.6% were
۳۳۳ observed for the AMCC(0.1), AMCC(0.15), and AMCC(0.2) samples, respectively, after 60 h,
۳۳۴ these percentages entered the stable stage of slow release and revealed 97.4, 98.6, and 99.3%,
۳۳۵ respectively, after 80 h for the mentioned AMCC samples.

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۳۳۷ **Table 2** The maximum of mesalamine release from the AMCC nanocomposites at
۳۳۸ pH 5.5, 7, and 8 at room temperature after 80 h

Sample	pH 5.5	pH 7	pH 8
AMCC (0.1)	89.5	93.2	97.4
AMCC (0.15)	91.2	94.3	98.6
AMCC (0.2)	94.7	97.1	99.3

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۳۴۱ **Scheme 2** the ionic structures of mesalamine molecule in the alkaline (A) and acidic (B) medium

۳۴۲ The drug release observed at pH 5.5 and 7 were the slow processes in these two release steps. The
۳۴۳ chemical structure of mesalamine in an alkaline medium forms an ionic compound with two ionic
۳۴۴ centers, consequently it can better dissolve through the hydration process in the aqueous medium
۳۴۵ (scheme 2). This phenomenon may be to the attraction of the ionic mesalamine and aqueous
۳۴۶ solution at high pH values [31]. Therefore, the AMCC nanostructures are pH-responsive systems
۳۴۷ for mesalamine delivery and suitable way for the inflammatory therapy. In an acidic liquid
۳۴۸ medium, mesalamine molecules are protonated and form stronger bonds with aluminum as Lewis
۳۴۹ acid, resulting in slower and less release of mesalamine.

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۳۵۱ **Conclusion**

۳۵۲ In this study, the AMCC nanocomposites were successfully prepared based on protonated
۳۵۳ aluminosilicate nanoparticle with the high drug loading efficiency in order to decrease the side
۳۵۴ effects of mesalamine as an anti-inflammatory drug. Here, we used curcumin as a natural anti-
۳۵۵ inflammatory drug and also used the natural polymer of chitosan for the treatment of colonic
۳۵۶ disease. The characterization of the intermediate nanoparticles and nanocomposites were carried
۳۵۷ out using several methods such as FTIR spectroscopy, XRD patterns, SEM images, and nitrogen
۳۵۸ adsorption-desorption isotherms. The activity of the synthesized nanomaterials were investigated
۳۵۹ in vitro conditions in the different environments included acidic, neutral, and alkaline media. This
۳۶۰ evaluation can be led to the finding a pathway for mesalamine release in gastrointestinal tissues.
۳۶۱ The drug release was investigated with accuracy in different PH. The results showed that the trend
۳۶۲ of mesalamine release is higher at the pH 8 with high efficacy performance more than 90
۳۶۳ percentage at room temperature for about 90 h.

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۳۶۵ **Acknowledgments**

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۳۶۸ Disclosure

۳۶۹ The authors report no conflicts of interest in this work.

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