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# Self-assemblied CeVO4/Ag Nanohybrid as Photoconversion Agents

with Enhanced Solar-driven Photocatalysis and NIR-responsive

# Photothermal/Photodynamic Synergistic Therapy Performance

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## **Experimental Section**

**Materials and Reagents:** All of the chemicals used were of analytical grade and were used without further purification. Sodium hydroxide (NaOH), ammonium metavanadate (NH<sub>4</sub>VO<sub>3</sub>), silver nitrate (AgNO<sub>3</sub>), fluorescein isothiocyanate (FITC) were purchased from Aladdin. Oleic acid (OA), Ce(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>·6H<sub>2</sub>O, Nd(NO)<sub>3</sub> were purchased from Science and Technology Parent Company of Changchun Institute of Applied Chemistry. Tetrahydrofuran (THF), n-butanol, cyclohexane were purchased from Beijing chemical works. 2,2-Dimethoxy-2-phenylacetophenone (DMPA) was purchased from Tokyo Chemical Industry. Thiol-polyethylene glycol with different chemical groups (HS-PEG<sub>1000</sub>-OH, HS- PEG<sub>1000</sub>-NH<sub>2</sub>) were purchased from PegBio Co., Ltd (Jilin, China).

**Characterization:** The X-ray diffraction (XRD) patterns were tested with a D8 Focus diffractometer (Bruker) with the use of Cu K $\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda$  = 0.15405 nm). Transmission electron microscopy (TEM) was recorded using a FEI Tecnai G2 S-Twin with a field emission gun operating at 200 kV. Fouriertransform Infrared spectra (FT-IR) were measured on a Vertex Perkin–Elmer 580BIR spectrophotometer (Bruker) with the KBr pellet technique. The UV-Vis adsorption spectral values were measured on a U-3310 spectrophotometer (Hitachi). The X-ray photoelectron spectra (XPS) were taken on a VG ESCALAB MK II electron spectrometer using Mg K $\alpha$  (1200 eV) as the excitation source. Dynamic light scattering (DLS) and Zeta potential were obtained by using a Malvern instrument Zetasizer Nano system. Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA) of the products were performed using a Setaram TGA 92 instrument in the temperature range from room temperature to 800 °C at a heating rate of 10 °C min<sup>-1</sup> in nitrogen. The UV-vis diffuse reflectance spectra were obtained from Lambda 35 spectrophotometer (PerkinElmer). Inductively Coupled Plasma (ICP) was taken on an ICAP 6300 of Thermo scientific. MSOT was taken inVision 128 small animal imaging system (iThera Medical GmbH, Munich, Germany).

**Statistical Analysis:** Statistical analysis was performed with the Statistical Program for Social Sciences software (SPSS, Chicago, IL, USA) as needed. All data were expressed as means (standard deviation, and a statistically significant difference was considered to be present at p < 0.05. Except as mentioned, all assays were repeated in triplicate in three independent experiments.

### **Materials Synthesis:**

# 1) Synthesis of Oleic Acid-Capped CeVO<sub>4</sub> Nanosheets:

CeVO<sub>4</sub> nanosheets were prepared according to the previous literature.<sup>1</sup> 0.6 g NaOH and 0.0585 g NH<sub>4</sub>VO<sub>3</sub> were added to 5 mL water under magnetic stir. A mixed solution of 9 mL oleic acid and 10 mL ethanol was added under strong agitation. Then 1 mL Ce(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>·6H<sub>2</sub>O aqueous solution (1 M) was added dropwise. After stirring for 10 min, the mixture was transferred into a 40 mL Teflon-lined vessel, which was sealed in an autoclave and then treated for 8 hours at 140 °C. As the autoclave cooled to room temperature naturally, the samples could be collected from the bottom of the vessels by dissolving in cyclohexane. Finally, CeVO<sub>4</sub> nanosheets were centrifuged at 3000 rpm for 5 min, and washed three times with cyclohexane and ethanol. Then, the CeVO<sub>4</sub> nanosheets were dispersed in 5 ml cyclohexane.

# 2) Synthesis of HS-PEG-functionalized CeVO<sub>4</sub> Nanosheets:

Hydrophobic CeVO<sub>4</sub> nanosheets were converted into hydrophilic ones *via* a facile thiol-ene click method.<sup>2</sup> The 2 mL of above CeVO<sub>4</sub> nanosheets were precipitated by adding enough ethanol and collected by centrifugation at 3000 rpm for 5 min. Then the samples were dissolved into 2 mL of THF solution. Then 0.2 g of HS-PEG<sub>1000</sub>-OH and 100  $\mu$ L of photoinitiator DMPA (10 mg/mL) dissolved in THF were added. The mixture was irradiated with UV-light (1000 W, 365 nm wavelength) for 60 min in an

ice bath under magnetic stirring. After completion of UV irradiation, the HS-PEG-functionalized CeVO<sub>4</sub> nanosheets were collected by centrifugation at 12000 rpm for 15 min, and washed three times with deionized water.

# 2) Synthesis of CeVO<sub>4</sub>/Ag Heterojunction Nanocrystals:

The CeVO<sub>4</sub>/Ag heterojunction nanocrystals were one-step synthesized. Briefly, The above HS-PEGfunctionalized CeVO<sub>4</sub> nanosheets dispersed in 5 mL n-butanol was added dropwise into AgNO<sub>3</sub> solution (0.01 M) dispersed in 5 mL n-butanol, then nitrogen gas was introduced to provide protective atmosphere. The mixture was refluxed at 90 °C for 4 h in the dark. The products were collected by centrifugation at 12000 rpm for 10 min and washed three times with deionized water.

### 3) Contrast Experiment:

In addition, for verifying the redox environment playing a decisive role in synthesizing CeVO<sub>4</sub>/Ag, we implemented contrast experiment under same conditions except using Nd(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> instead of  $Ce(NO_3)_3 \cdot 6H_2O$  to test whether NdVO<sub>4</sub>/Ag could be synthesized.

**Photocatalytic Degradation of Methyl Blue:** In order to compare photocatalytic property of asprepared CeVO<sub>4</sub>/Ag with CeVO<sub>4</sub>, we dispersed 15 mg materials into 3 mL methyl blue aqueous solution (50 mg/L). Before irradiation under the solar light, the mixture solution was stirred in darkness for 30 min to attain absorption-desorption equilibrium. After different time intervals of degradation under the solar light, the supernatant was collected and its absorption was measured using a UV-vis spectroscopy. Considering the factors of methyl blue self-degradation under the solar light, the absorption of methyl blue was measured under the same condition.

**Extracellular**  $\cdot O_2^-$  **Detection.** For the extracellular  $\cdot O_2^-$  generation test, a 1, 3-diphenylisobenzofuran (DPBF) probe was employed to detect the ROS. 10 µL of DPBF (10 mg/mL) solution was added to 3 mL of NdVO<sub>4</sub> or NdVO<sub>4</sub>/Au (5 mg/mL) aqueous solution. Then the mixtures were irradiated under 808 nm

laser (1.0 W/cm<sup>2</sup>) for different times (0, 5, 10, 20, 30 and 60 min). Afterwards, the supernatant was collected and its absorption was measured by a UV-vis spectroscopy.

**Extracellular** •**OH Detection.** For the extracellular •**OH** generation text, we dispersed 15 mg materials into 3 mL MB aqueous solution (50 mg/L). Before irradiation under the solar light, the mixture solution was stirred in darkness for 30 min to attain absorption-desorption equilibrium. After different time intervals (0, 5, 10, 20, 30 and 60 min) of degradation under the 808 nm (1.0 W/cm<sup>2</sup>) irradiation, the supernatant was collected and its absorption was measured using a UV-vis spectroscopy.

**Photothermal Effect of CeVO**<sub>4</sub> and **CeVO**<sub>4</sub>/Ag in Aqueous Solution: The aqueous CeVO<sub>4</sub> and CeVO<sub>4</sub>/Ag solution (0.1 mL) was added into 96-well plates separately at different concentrations (0, 50, 100, 150 and 200  $\mu$ g mL<sup>-1</sup>) and was exposed to the NIR laser (808 nm, 1.9 W/cm<sup>2</sup>) for 5 min. Simultaneously, an infrared camera (NEC, with an accuracy of 0.1 °C) was used to measure the real-time temperature, and the change in temperature was recorded every 15 s. And, the photothermal effect of aqueous CeVO<sub>4</sub> and CeVO<sub>4</sub>/Ag solution with the same concentration of 200  $\mu$ g mL<sup>-1</sup> and different power density (0.7, 1.0, 1.3, 1.6 and 1.9 W/cm<sup>2</sup>) was also measured in the same way.

**Photothermal Conversion Efficiency of CeVO**<sub>4</sub> and CeVO<sub>4</sub>/Ag in Aqueous Solution: To examine the photothermal conversion efficiency, the aqueous solution of CeVO<sub>4</sub> and CeVO<sub>4</sub>/Ag with concentration of 0.2 mg/mL (1 mL) was irradiated using an 808 nm laser (BWT Beijing Ltd., China) with power density of 1.3 W/cm<sup>2</sup> for 20 min, which was followed by natural cooling for another 20 min. Subsequently, 1 ml of deionized water was measured in the same way. The temperature was recorded using the infrared camera.

The photothermal conversion efficiency ( $\eta$ ) of CeVO<sub>4</sub> and CeVO<sub>4</sub>/Ag could be calculated

according to the the eq1

$$\eta = \frac{hS(T_{max} - T_{surr}) - Q_{dis}}{I(1 - 10^{-A_{808}})}$$
(1)

The Tmax (K) means the equilibrium temperature; Tsurr (K) is ambient temperature of the surroundings. The Qdis (W) is heat loss from light absorbed by the container, and it was calculated to be approximately equal to 0 mW. I (W/cm<sup>2</sup>) represents incident laser power density; A808 is the absorbance of samples at 808 nm. Where h (W/(cm<sup>2</sup>·K)) means heat transfer coefficient, S (cm<sup>2</sup>) represents the surface area of the container, the hS is calculated from the Figure 2F and S14B using the following eq 2

$$\tau_s = \frac{\mathrm{m}_D c_D}{hs}$$
(2)

Where  $\tau s$  is the sample system time constant,  $m_D$  and  $c_D$  are the mass (1 g) and heat capacity (4.2 J/(g·°C)) of the solvent. Thus, according to the calculation, the heat conversion efficiency ( $\eta$ ) of the samples is listed in the table.

	Tmax-Tsurr	A808	τs	η
CeVO <sub>4</sub>	9	0.265	779.54	14.91 %
CeVO <sub>4</sub> /Ag	18	0.561	624.17	23.48 %

Ag ions release test. The CeVO<sub>4</sub>/Ag (200  $\mu$ g/mL) aqueous solution was irradiation with NIR laser (1.9 W/cm<sup>2</sup>) for 10 min, then the supernatant were collected by centrifugation at 10000 rpm for 10 min. The Ag ions concentrations were measured by ICP-MS. Meanwhile, the supernatant of CeVO<sub>4</sub>/Ag (200  $\mu$ g/mL) aqueous solution without NIR laser irradiation was also detected as control.

Cell Culture: The HeLa cells line was cultured in DMEM culture medium supplemented with 1% (v/v)

penicillin, 1% (v/v) streptomycin, and 10% (v/v) fetal bovine serum at 37 °C in 5% CO<sub>2</sub>. L929 cells line was cultured in MEM culture medium supplemented with 1% (v/v) penicillin, 1% (v/v) streptomycin, and 10% (v/v) fetal bovine serum at 37 °C in 5% CO<sub>2</sub>.

**Cell Compatibility:** The L929 cells were used to assay the cell compatibility using the MTT test. The cells were incubated in a 96-well plate (8000 cells per well) and treated with fresh MEM culture medium in 5% CO<sub>2</sub> at 37 °C for 24 h. Then, CeVO<sub>4</sub> and CeVO<sub>4</sub>/Ag at serial concentrations of 0, 12.5, 25, 50, 75, 100, 125, 150, 175, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600, 700 and 800 µg/mL were added to the above medium. Then, cells were incubated in 5% CO<sub>2</sub> at 37 °C for another 24 h. At the end of incubation, 10 µL of 3-[4, 5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl]-2, 5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide (MTT) solution was added into each well. The supernatant was aspirated after 4 h and 150 µL of dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) was added into each well. The viability of HeLa cells was evaluated using a microplate reader at 490 nm.

In vitro Cytotoxicity Evaluation: In vitro cytotoxicity of CeVO<sub>4</sub> and CeVO<sub>4</sub>/Ag was assayed on HeLa cells by the MTT test. HeLa cells were incubated in a 96-well plate (8000 cells per well) and treated with fresh DMEM in 5% CO<sub>2</sub> at 37 °C for 24 h. Then, CeVO<sub>4</sub> and CeVO<sub>4</sub>/Ag at serial concentrations of 0, 12.5, 25, 50, 75, 100, 125, 150, 175 and 200 µg/mL were added to the medium. After incubation for 4 h, the medium of HeLa cells was removed and the cells were washed once with PBS, and then the Hela cells were irradiated for 5 min with 808 nm laser (1.9 W/cm<sup>2</sup>) in the fresh culture medium. Then, they were incubated again at 37 °C with 5% CO<sub>2</sub> for 24 h. At the end of incubation, MTT solution was added to each well. The supernatant was aspirated after 4 h and DMSO was added into each well. The viability of HeLa cells was evaluated using a microplate reader at 490 nm. The MTT assay of CeVO<sub>4</sub> and CeVO<sub>4</sub>/Ag at 200 µg/mL with different power density (0.7, 1.0, 1.3, 1.6 and 1.9 W/cm<sup>2</sup>) was also performed under the same situation.

**Cellular Uptake:** Fluorescein isothiocyanate (FITC) was labeled to CeVO<sub>4</sub> (labeled as CeVO<sub>4</sub>-FITC) as follows: 2 mL of CeVO<sub>4</sub> nanosheets dispersed in 2 mL of THF solution. Then, 0.2 g of HS-PEG<sub>1000</sub>-NH<sub>2</sub> and 100  $\mu$ L of photoinitiator DMPA (10 mg/mL) dissolved in THF were added into it. The mixture was irradiated with UV-light (1000 W, 365 nm wavelength) for 60 min in an ice bath under magnetic stirring. After completion of UV irradiation, the CeVO<sub>4</sub>-PEG<sub>1000</sub>-NH<sub>2</sub> was collected by centrifugation at 12000 rpm for 15 min, and washed three times with deionized water. The 20 mg of above CeVO<sub>4</sub>-PEG<sub>1000</sub>-NH<sub>2</sub> was dispersed in 20 mL ethanol, then 20  $\mu$ L of FITC (2 mg/mL) dissolved in ethanol was added into it. The mixture was refluxed at 80°C for another 12 h in the dark. Then, the CeVO<sub>4</sub>-FITC were separated by centrifugation at 12000 rpm for 15 min, and washed with ethanol and dialysis against water (cutoff molecular weight: 12,000 Da) for one day.

HeLa cells were seeded in 6-well plate at a density of  $1 \times 10^5$  cells per well and cultured overnight. Then the medium was replaced with fresh culture medium containing CeVO<sub>4</sub>-FITC (200 µg/mL). After incubation for 4 h, the cells were washed with PBS several times and fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde for 10 min. For nucleus labeling, the cells were incubated with DAPI solution for 10 min. Then the medium was removal and rinsed with PBS several times. The celluar uptake was examined using a fluorescence microscope.

**Cell Apoptosis:** For flow cytometry, Hela cells were seeded into 6-well plates at a density of  $2 \times 10^5$  cells per well and cultured overnight, and then treated with (a) control; (b) 808 nm laser irradiation only; (c) CeVO<sub>4</sub> (200 µg/mL); (d) CeVO<sub>4</sub>/Ag (200 µg/mL); (e) CeVO<sub>4</sub> (200 µg/mL) + 808 nm laser and (f) CeVO<sub>4</sub>/Ag (200 µg/mL) + 808 nm laser. After NIR light irradiation (1.9 W/cm<sup>2</sup>, 5 min), all Hela cells were incubated for 24 h in 5% CO<sub>2</sub> at 37 °C. To obtain a single cell suspension, the Hela cells were handled using trypsinization and cold PBS, in sequence. Then, the cells were stained by the annexin V-

FITC and PI staining kit. Next, the induction of apoptosis was determined by A FACS Calibur flow cytometer (BD Biosciences).

**Animal Xenograft Model:** Female Balb/c mice (six weeks old) were purchased from the Center for Experimental Animals, Jilin University (Changchun, China). All animal studies were conducted in accordance with the guidelines of the National Regulation of China for Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. The H22 tumor model was established by subcutaneous injection with H22 cells into the left axilla of healthy Balb/c mice. When the tumor volume reached an approximate volume of 100 mm<sup>3</sup>, the *in vivo* studies were carried out.

In vivo Phototherapeutic Efficacy: H22 tumor-bearing Balb/c mice with an average tumor volume of 100 mm<sup>3</sup> were randomly assigned into six groups: (a) control (only injected with saline), (b) 808 nm laser irradiation alone, (c) CeVO<sub>4</sub> injection alone, (d) CeVO<sub>4</sub>/Ag injection alone, (e) CeVO<sub>4</sub> injection + 808 nm laser irradiation (0.7 W/cm<sup>2</sup>) for 5 min and (f) CeVO<sub>4</sub>/Ag injection + 808 nm laser irradiation (0.7 W/cm<sup>2</sup>) for 5 min and (f) CeVO<sub>4</sub>/Ag injected with the same volume of saline, (c) CeVO<sub>4</sub> or CeVO<sub>4</sub> (100  $\mu$ L, 20 mg/kg) solution. The tumor sizes and weight of mice were measured every 2 days. Tumor volume = length×width<sup>2</sup>/2, relative tumor volume was calculated as V/V<sub>0</sub> (V<sub>0</sub> was the corresponding tumor volume when the treatment was initiated). These mice were sacrificed at day 14 to harvest the major organs for histological analysis.

**Toxicology Evaluation:** Healthy Balb/c mice were intravenously injected with saline (control group) and CeVO₄/Ag NCs at a dose of 20 mg/kg (test group), respectively. The weight of each group was recorded every 2 days. After injection at different times (day 1, day 7 and day 14), mice were euthanized and then the blood was collected for biochemistry analysis. In addition, the major organs (heart, liver, spleen, lung and kidney) were harvested and dissected to make paraffin sections for

further haematoxylin and eosin (H&E) staining.

**Histological Analysis:** Major organs (heart, liver, spleen, lung and kidney) were harvested, fixed in 10% neutral buffered formalin, processed routinely into paraffin, sectioned into thin slices and stained with H&E for histological analysis.

**Bio-distribution of CeVO**<sub>4</sub>/Ag in Mice: Healthy Balb/c mice were injected with CeVO<sub>4</sub>/Ag (100  $\mu$ L, 20 mg/kg) intravenously. Then the mice (n = 4) were euthanized at different points in time (1 h, 6 h, 12 h, 1 day, 3 days, and 7 days). The major organs (heart, liver, spleen, lung and kidney) and tumors were collected in a beaker to be weighed. Then all of the organs and tumors were treated with concentrated nitric acid and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (v/v = 1:2) on heating (70 °C) until the solutions became clear. The concentrations of Ce and Ag in the solutions were measured by ICP-MS, and the concentrations in each organ and tumor were calculated.

**Excretion Trace of CeVO**<sub>4</sub>/Ag NCs: CeVO<sub>4</sub>/Ag NCs (20 mg/kg) were intravenously injected into mice (n = 3). And mice were placed in a metabolism cage. The feces and urine were collected and weighted every 24 h, and the contents of Ce and Ag were detected by ICP-MS.

*In vitro* and *In vivo* Photothermal Imaging: For *in vitro* imaging, the aqueous CeVO<sub>4</sub> and CeVO<sub>4</sub>/Ag solution (4 mg/mL, 100 μL) were placed in 96-well plates and were exposed to the NIR laser (808 nm, 0.7 W/cm<sup>2</sup>) for 5 min. Simultaneously, an infrared camera was used to measure the real-time temperature, and the change in temperature was recorded every 1 min. For in vivo photothermal imaging, H22 cells were subcutaneously inoculated into the left armpit of Balb/c mice. When the tumor size reached about 100 mm<sup>3</sup>, 100 μL of saline, CeVO<sub>4</sub> and CeVO<sub>4</sub>/Ag (20 mg/kg) were intratumorally injected into the tumors, respectively. After injection, the tumor was exposed to NIR laser (0.7 W/cm<sup>2</sup>), and IR images were recorded using infrared camera.

*In vitro* and *In vivo* PA Imaging: To measure the photoacoustic (PA) signal sensitivity of CeVO<sub>4</sub> and CeVO<sub>4</sub>/Ag, a phantom filled with the different concentrations of 0.03, 0.06, 0.125, 0.25 and 0.5 mg/mL nanoparticles was measured using a real-time multispectral optoacoustic tomographic (MSOT) imaging system (inVision 128, iThera Medical GmbH, Neuherberg, Germany). The phantom was then suspended inside a water tank and imaged at the 680–980 nm laser. Finally, the PA signals were measured in regions of interest (ROIs) for each sample and the correlation between the PA signal and concentration response curve was calculated.

To perform in vivo PA imaging, CeVO<sub>4</sub> and CeVO<sub>4</sub>/Ag NCs (100  $\mu$ L, 20 mg/kg) were intratumorally injected into the tumor-bearing mouse. Mouse was anesthetized with 2% isofluorane throughout the experiments, and placed in a horizontal position in a holder surrounded by a thin polyethylene membrane to prevent direct contact with water and allowed acoustic coupling between mouse and transducer array. The light fibers and ultrasonic transducer array were in a fixed position for all data acquisitions, whereas the mouse can be translated through the imaging plane using a linear stage. The mouse was scanned before and after intratumorally injection of CeVO<sub>4</sub> and CeVO<sub>4</sub>/Ag. Regions of interests (ROIs) were selected and the PA signal was analyzed using ViewMOST<sup>TM</sup> software.

# **Results and Discussion**



**Fig. S1** Schematic illustration of the synthetic process for grafting HS-PEG on  $CeVO_4$  NCs by thiol-ene click chemistry and the corresponding reactive mechanism.



**Fig. S2** TEM images of the OA-capped CeVO<sub>4</sub> dispersed in hexane (A) and CeVO<sub>4</sub> after modification with HS-PEG<sub>1000</sub>-OH dispersed in THF (B). Digital photographs of OA-capped CeVO<sub>4</sub> dispersed in hexane and CeVO<sub>4</sub> modified by HS-PEG<sub>1000</sub>-OH dispersed in water (inserts of A and B). HR-TEM image of OA-capped CeVO<sub>4</sub> (insert of A) and HR-TEM image of CeVO<sub>4</sub> modified by HS-PEG<sub>1000</sub>-OH (insert of B).



Fig. S3 XRD patterns of OA-capped CeVO<sub>4</sub> (a) and CeVO<sub>4</sub> after modification with HS-PEG<sub>1000</sub>-OH (b).



**Fig. S4** (A) FTIR spectra of OA-capped CeVO<sub>4</sub> (a) and CeVO<sub>4</sub> modified by HS-PEG<sub>1000</sub>-OH (b). (B) The enlarged region of Figure S3A for comparison.



Fig. S5 TGA curves of CeVO<sub>4</sub> before (a) and after (b) modifying with HS-PEG<sub>1000</sub>-OH.



Fig. S6 TEM images of CeVO<sub>4</sub>/Ag.



Fig. S7 XRD patterns of CeVO<sub>4</sub>/Ag.



**Fig. S8** Hydrodynamic size of CeVO<sub>4</sub> and CeVO<sub>4</sub>/Ag.



**Fig. S9** The size distribution of CeVO<sub>4</sub> and CeVO<sub>4</sub>/Ag measured in  $H_2O$ , PBS and DMEM containing 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS).



Fig. S10 The stability of  $CeVO_4$  and  $CeVO_4/Ag$  in DMEM containing 10% FBS.



Fig. S11 The zeta potential of  $CeVO_4$  and  $CeVO_4/Ag$ .



**Fig. S12** XPS spectra of the CeVO<sub>4</sub> (A) and CeVO<sub>4</sub>/Ag (C). XPS high-resolution scans of Ag 3d peaks in CeVO<sub>4</sub> (B) and CeVO<sub>4</sub>/Ag (D).



Fig. S13 The XRD patterns (A) and TEM images (B) of the ultimate product in control experiment.



**Fig. S14** (A) XPS spectra of the the ultimate product in control experiment. XPS high-resolution scans of Nd 3d (B), V 2p (C), O 1s (D), C 1s (E) and Ag 3d (F) peaks.



Fig. S15 Photocatalytic activity of CeVO<sub>4</sub> (A) and CeVO<sub>4</sub>/Ag (B) under solar light.



**Fig. S16** Photothermal activity of  $CeVO_4$  (A) and  $CeVO_4/Ag$  (B) with different concentration under 1.9 W/cm<sup>2</sup> 808 nm laser irradiation for 5 min. (D) Photothermal activity of  $CeVO_4$  with a concentration of 200 µg/mL under different power density of 808 nm laser irradiation for 5 min.



**Fig. S17** (A) The temperature change of CeVO<sub>4</sub> aqueous solution (200  $\mu$ g/mL, 1mL) and H<sub>2</sub>O (1mL) response to 0.7 W/cm<sup>2</sup> 808 nm laser on and off in period of 2400 s. (B) Linear time data versus -ln $\theta$  obtained from the cooling period of CeVO<sub>4</sub> aqueous solution.



Fig. S18 Plots of  $(Ahu)^2$  and photon energy (hu) for the band gap energy of  $CeVO_4$  and  $CeVO_4/Ag$ .



**Fig. S19** Depletion of DPBF due to  $\cdot O_2^-$  generation over CeVO<sub>4</sub> (A) and CeVO<sub>4</sub>/Ag (B) with 808 nm laser irradiation.



**Fig. S20** Depletion of MB due to  $\cdot$ OH generation over CeVO<sub>4</sub> (A) and CeVO<sub>4</sub>/Ag (B) with 808 nm laser irradiation.



Fig. S21 Ag<sup>+</sup> release profiles from  $CeVO_4/Ag$  NCs.



Fig. S22 L929 cells viability incubated with CeVO<sub>4</sub> and CeVO<sub>4</sub>/Ag for 24h at different concentrations.



**Fig. S23** The thermal images of  $H_2O$ , CeVO<sub>4</sub> and CeVO<sub>4</sub>/Ag (4 mg/mL, 100  $\mu$ L) exposed to 808 nm laser light (0.7 W/cm<sup>2</sup>) for different times (0, 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 min).



**Fig. S24** (A) Temperature increasing curve of the *in vitro* thermal imaging of aqueous CeVO<sub>4</sub> and CeVO<sub>4</sub>/Ag solution (4 mg/mL, 100  $\mu$ L) and H<sub>2</sub>O exposed to 808 nm laser light (1.3 W/cm<sup>2</sup>) over time. (B) Temperature increasing curve of the H22-tumor-bearing mice with intratumor injection of normal saline, CeVO<sub>4</sub> and CeVO<sub>4</sub>/Ag solution (20 mg/kg, 100  $\mu$ L) exposed to 808 nm laser light (0.5 W/cm<sup>2</sup>) over time.



**Fig. S25** Linear relationship between PA signal intensity and concentrations of  $CeVO_4$  and  $CeVO_4/Ag$ , respectively.



**Fig. S26** The H&E stained images of major organs after the treatment with normal saline as control; 808 nm laser irradiation only;  $CeVO_4$  only;  $CeVO_4/Ag$  only;  $CeVO_4 + 808$  nm laser irradiation;  $CeVO_4/Ag + 808$  nm laser irradiation (0.7 W/cm<sup>2</sup>, 5 min).



**Fig. S27** (A-C) Blood serum biochemistry data of healthy Balb/c mice with intravenous injection of normal saline (control group) and CeVO<sub>4</sub>/Ag (20 mg/kg, 100  $\mu$ L). The data were collected at different time points of 1st, 7th, and 14th day. (D) Body weight change of Balb/c mice treated with CeVO<sub>4</sub>/Ag (20 mg/kg, 100  $\mu$ L) within 14 day compared to control group.



Fig. S28 The H&E stained histological slices from mice receiving intravenous injection of normal saline (control group) or CeVO<sub>4</sub>/Ag (20 mg/kg, 100  $\mu$ L) after 14 days.



**Fig. S29** Bio-distribution of Ce (A) and Ag (B) in major organs and tumors of mice after injection of CeVO<sub>4</sub>/Ag (20 mg/kg, 100  $\mu$ L) intravenously at different time points.



Fig. S30 The content of Ce (A) and Ag (B) in urine and feces collected at various time points after intravenous injection.

	Reference range	Untreated control	1 day	7 day	14 day
ALT (IU)	105 ± 65	55.75 ± 4.45	54.15 ± 7.75	53.55 ± 11.20	58.81 ± 11.75
AST (IU)	217 ± 150	127.51 ± 12.38	115.32 ± 10.81	136.91 ± 3.77	116.72 ± 13.12
ALP (IU)	187 ± 78	223.43 ± 5.76	249.04 ± 0.75	220.39 ± 1.68	225.18 ± 7.93
BUN (mmol/L)	20 ± 13	9.32 ± 1.03	$9.65 \pm 0.76$	9.42 ± 0.57	9.03 ± 0.69
CRE (mmol/L)	35 ± 15	28.92 ± 0.78	26.08 ± 0.78	24.67 ± 0.57	26.85 ± 0.89

**Table S1.** The blood analysis parameters for control group and CeVO<sub>4</sub>/Ag treated group, including alanine aminotransferase (ALT), alkaline phosphatase (ALP) and aspartate aminotransferase (AST) for hepatic function, blood urea (BUN) and serum creatinine (CRE) for renal function.

## References

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