

## Supporting information

### **Cross over between anti- and pro-oxidant activities of different manganese oxide nanoparticles and their biological implications**

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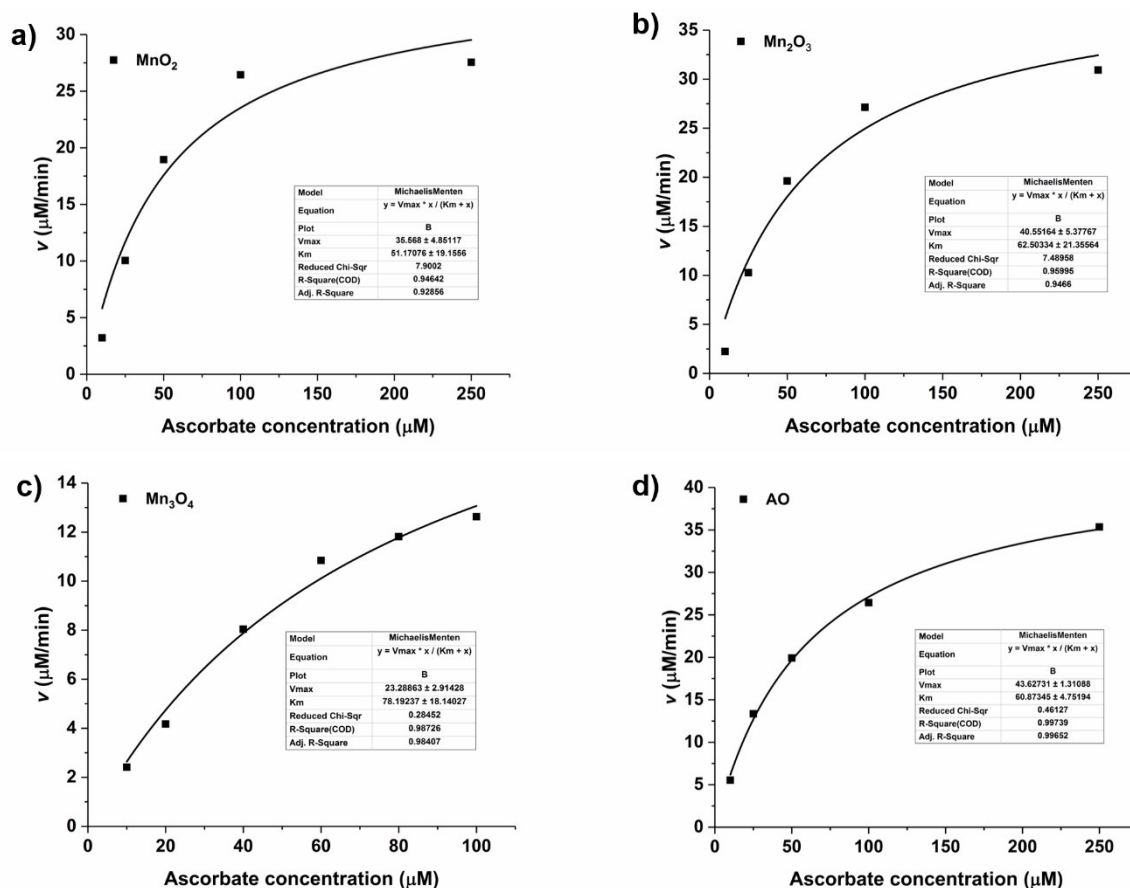


Figure S1. Characterization of the catalytic kinetics of ascorbate oxidase-like activities of  $\text{MnO}_x$  NPs. Michaelis-Menten curves for (a)  $\text{MnO}_2$ , (b)  $\text{Mn}_2\text{O}_3$ , and (c)  $\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4$  NPs and (d) ascorbate oxidase (AO). The concentration of  $\text{MnO}_x$  NPs are 100  $\mu\text{M}$ , AO concentration is 1 U/ml and the ascorbate concentration varied from 10 to 250  $\mu\text{M}$ .

### Hydroxyl radical generation activity of $\text{MnO}_x$ NPs

The spin trap DMPO was used to detect hydroxyl radical ( $\bullet\text{OH}$ ) generation in the reaction of  $\text{MnO}_x$  NPs and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ . The spin adduct DMPO/ $\bullet\text{OH}$  yields a typical ESR spectrum with a relative intensity of 1:2:2:1. The instrument settings for hydroxyl radical measurement are 20 mW microwave power, 1 G modulation amplitude, and 100 G scan range.

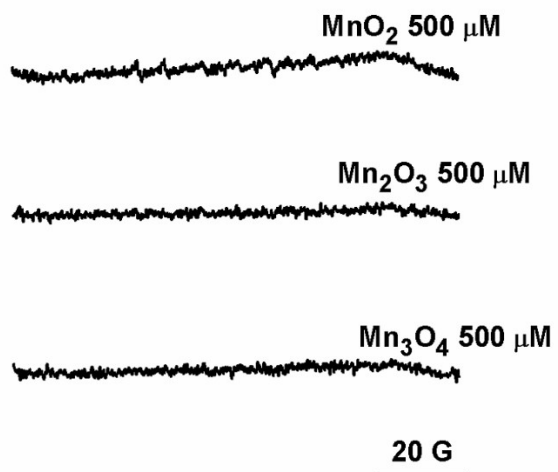


Figure S2. No hydroxyl radical was detected in the reaction of  $\text{MnO}_x$  NPs and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ . The concentrations are  $\text{MnO}_x$  500  $\mu\text{M}$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  20  $\mu\text{M}$ . The ESR spectra were recorded 5 min after the reaction started.

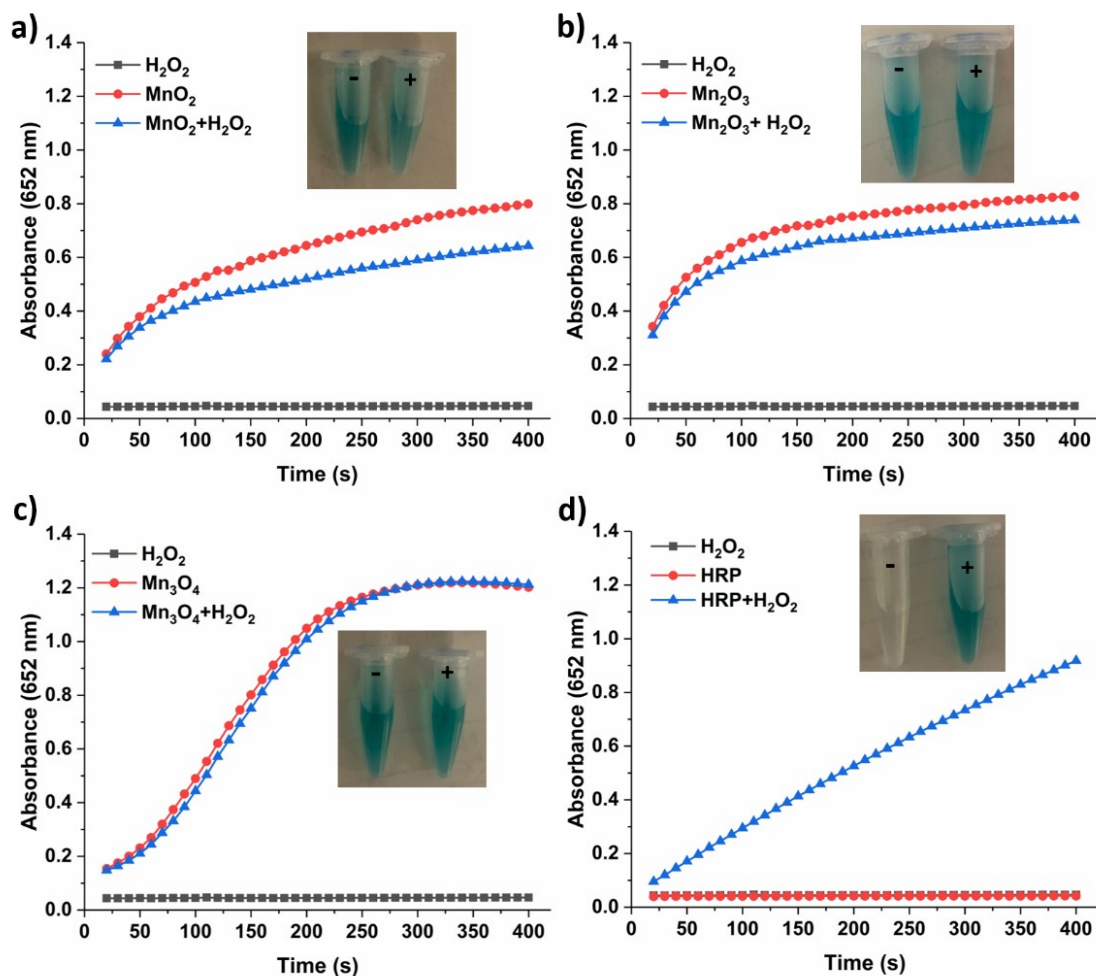


Figure S3. MnO<sub>x</sub> NPs exhibit no peroxidase-like activity. Reaction-time curve of TMB catalyzed by (a) MnO<sub>2</sub>, (b) Mn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, (c) Mn<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, and (d) HRP in the presence or absence of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>. The absorbance at 652 nm was monitored 20 s from the reaction started and recorded every 10 s for 400 s. The concentrations are: TMB 0.1 mM, MnO<sub>2</sub> 50 μM, Mn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> 20 μM, Mn<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> 100 μM, HRP 50 ng/mL, H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> 0.1 mM. The reaction takes place in 0.2 M HAc-NaAc buffer at pH 3.5. Inserted photographs indicate the color of the TMB oxidation/peroxidation reaction. The +/- indicate with/without H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, respectively.

### Hydroxyl radical scavenging activity of MnO<sub>x</sub> NPs

In order to determine whether  $\text{MnO}_x$  NPs scavenge hydroxyl radical, we used Fenton reaction ( $20\ \mu\text{M}\ \text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  and  $20\ \mu\text{M}\ \text{FeSO}_4$ ) to generate hydroxyl radicals and mix with  $\text{MnO}_x$  NPs. The instrument settings are 20 mW microwave power, 1 G modulation amplitude, and 100 G scan range.

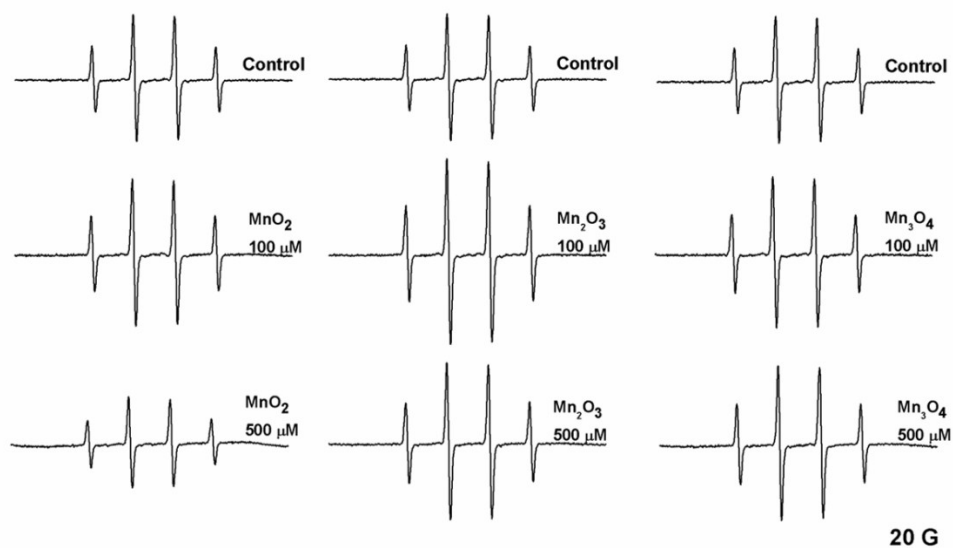


Figure S4.  $\text{MnO}_x$  NPs exhibit no hydroxyl radical scavenging activity. The hydroxyl radical was generated by the Fenton reaction, including  $\text{FeSO}_4$  ( $20\ \mu\text{M}$ ) and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  ( $20\ \mu\text{M}$ ) and mixed with different  $\text{MnO}_x$  NPs ( $100\ \mu\text{M}$ ,  $500\ \mu\text{M}$ ). The spin trap DMPO ( $50\ \text{mM}$ ) was used to trap hydroxyl radicals in the reaction. The spectra were recorded 5 min after the reaction started.

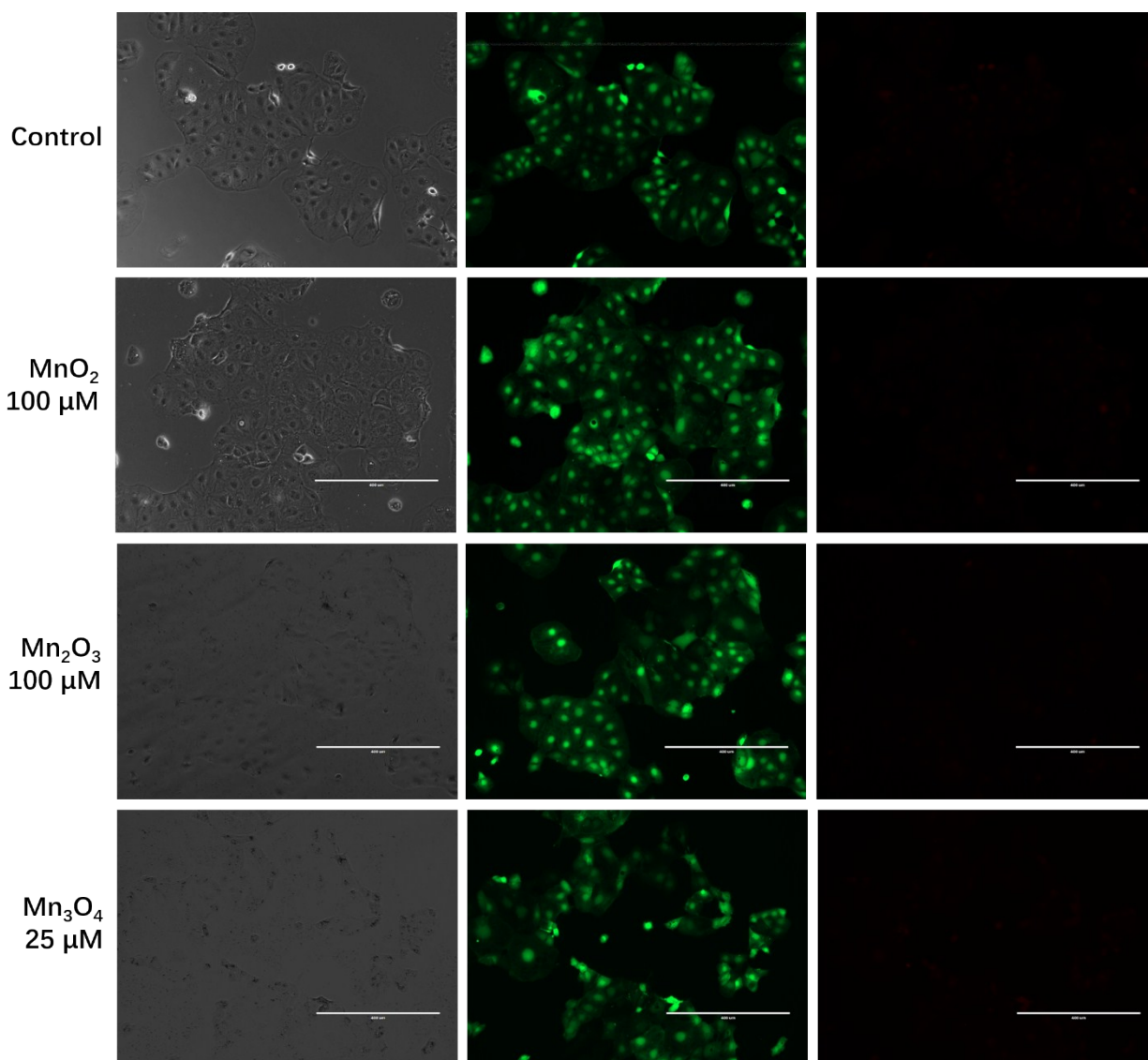


Figure S5. Live-dead cell staining of Caco-2 cells after exposure to different MnO<sub>x</sub> NPs for 24 h. Live cells were stained with calcein-AM (2 μg/ml) (green color) and dead cells with propidium iodide (PI, 2 μg/ml) (red color) for 30 min. The images were taken at 100 × magnification. Scale bars are 400 μm.

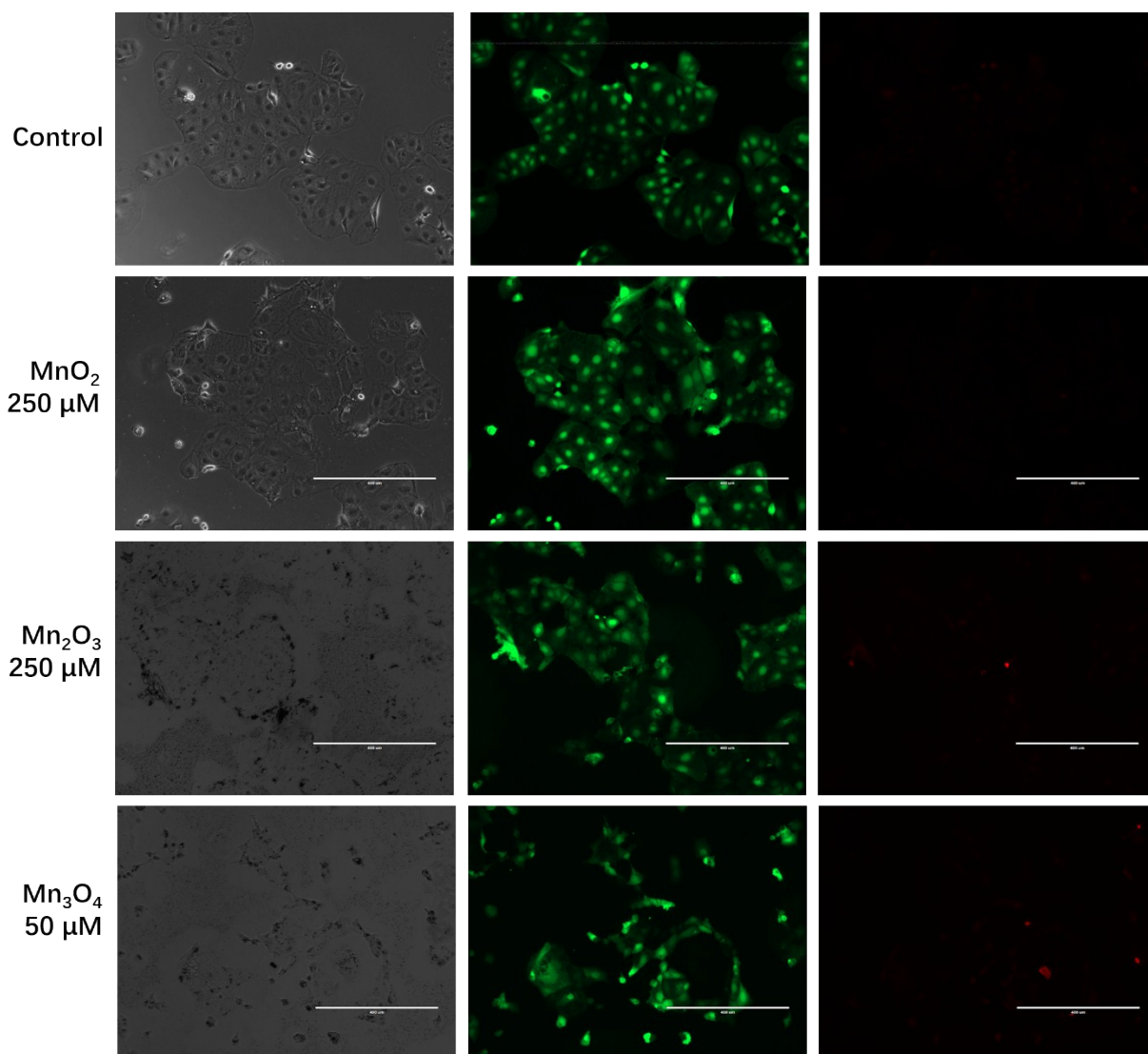


Figure S6. Live-dead cell staining of Caco-2 cells after exposure to different  $\text{MnO}_x$  NPs for 24 h. Live cells were stained with calcein-AM (2  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ ) (green color) and dead cells with PI (2  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ ) (red color) for 30 min. The images were taken at 100  $\times$  magnification. Scale bars are 400  $\mu\text{m}$ .