Electronic Supplementary Information

Rotaxane-branched Radical Dendrimers with TEMPO Termini

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Table of Contents (38 Pages)

Section A. Materials and General Methods

Section B. Synthesis and characterization of the rotaxane-branched radical dendrimers

Section C. EPR data

Section D. Preparation and characterization of rotaxane-branched radical dendrimer-based

nanoparticles

Section E. References

Section A. Materials and General Methods.

All reagents were commercially available and used as supplied without further purification, compounds **G1-c**, **G1-YNE**, **G2-YNE**, and **G3** were prepared according to the published procedures.^{S1} Deuterated solvents were purchased from Cambridge Isotope Laboratory (Andover, MA).

All solvents were dried according to standard procedures and all of them were degassed under N_2 for 30 minutes before use. All air-sensitive reactions were carried out under inert N_2 atmosphere. ¹H NMR and ³¹P NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker 500 MHz Spectrometer (¹H: 500 MHz; ³¹P: 202 MHz) at 298 K. The ¹H chemical shifts are reported relative to residual solvent signals, and ³¹P 1 H} NMR chemical shifts are referenced to an external unlocked sample of 85% H₃PO₄ (δ 0.0). The MALDI MS experiments were carried out on a Bruker UltrafleXtreme MALDI TOF/TOF Mass Spectrometer (Bruker Daltonics, Billerica, MA), equipped with smartbeam-II laser and the matrix is trans-2-[3-(4-tert-Butylphenyl)-2-methyl-2-propenylidene]malononitrile (DCTB). The HR-ESI mass spectra were performed on an Agilent (Santa Clara, CA, USA) ESI-TOF mass spectrometer (6224). CW X-band EPR spectra for radicals were acquired on Bruker EMX instrument EMXPLUS-10/12. The samples were typically contained in 4.0 mm EPR sample tubes. The liquid sample was encapsulated in 0.9×80 mm capillary tube and then placed in a special EPR sample tube. The solid sample was placed directly in the EPR sample tube for testing. For VT EPR experiments, the dewar was added the and the frequency changed from 9.8 (without dewar) to 9.4 GHz. According to the equation $H = hv/g\beta$ (H: magnetic field; v: frequency; h: Planck's constant; g: g-factor; β : Bohr magneton), the EPR signal peaks appeared at 3475-3525 G is correspond to the experiment condition at room temperature in the absence of dewar and 3300-3400 G is correspond to the VT experiment condition with dewar. All the TEM measurements were performed under a Tecnai G2 20 TWIN device and the TEM samples were deposited on copper grids, followed by a slow evaporation in air at room temperature. The r_1 relaxivity constants were determined by Siemens Magnetom Prisma 3T at room temperature. Single crystal X-ray data were measured on a Xcalibur E diffractometer with graphite monochromated Cu-Ka radiation ($\lambda = 1.54184$ Å). Data collection and structure refinement details can be found in the CIF files or obtained free of charge via www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data request/cif.

Section B. Synthesis and characterization of the rotaxane-branched radical dendrimers.

Scheme S1: Synthesis of the radical building block T2.

$$= \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} \mathsf{OH} \\ \mathsf{b} \end{pmatrix} \mathsf{Et}_{3}\mathsf{N}, 4 \cdot \mathsf{NH}_2 \cdot \mathsf{TEMPO} }_{83\%} \xrightarrow{\mathsf{HN}} \underbrace{\mathsf{HN}}_{\mathsf{O}} \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} \mathsf{Pt} \\ \mathsf{Pt} \\ \mathsf{HN} \\ \mathsf{HN$$

Synthesis of T1: DMF (10 µL) was added to a solution of 4-ethynylbenzoic acid (200 mg, 1.37 mmol) and oxalyl chloride (347 mg, 2.74 mmol) in dry DCM. The mixture was stirred for 2 h at room temperature. The solution was evaporated and the resultant acyl chloride was dried in vacuum at room temperature for 30 min. Then the compound was dissolved in dry DCM and added dropwise to a mixture of 4-NH₂-TEMPO (352 mg, 2.05 mmol) and Et₃N (277 mg, 2.74 mmol) in dry DCM at room temperature. The solution was stirred overnight. The organic layer was washed with water and dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, then evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude material was purified by column chromatography on silica gel using PE / EA (1 : 1, v / v) as eluent to afford the orange solid 166 mg with the yield of 83 %. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, Acetone-*d*₆): δ 7.92 (d, *J* = 5 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (d, *J* = 5 Hz, 2H), 3.81(s, 1H); HR-ESI-MS: Calcd. For [C₁₈H₂₅N₂O₂]⁺: 301.1916, Found: 301.1909.

Synthesis of T2: A mixture of compound T1 (100 mg, 0.33 mmol) and Pt(PEt₃)₂I₂ (686 mg, 1.0 mmol) in degassed diethylamine (15 mL) was stirred 2 h at room temperature in the presence of a catalytic amount of CuI. The solution was then evaporated under pressure and the reside was purified by column chromatography on silica gel using PE / EA (1 : 1, v / v) as eluent to afford the pale-yellow solid 200 mg with the yield of 70 %. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, Acetone-*d*₆): δ 7.80 (s, 2H), 7.35 (s, 2H), 2.27(m, 12H), 1.17(m, 18H). ³¹P NMR (202 MHz, Acetone-*d*₆): δ 11.54. MALDI-TOF-MS: Calcd. For [C₃₀H₅₂IN₂O₂P₂Pt]⁺: 856.2, Found: 856.1.

Scheme S2: Synthesis of rotaxane-branched radical dendrimer G1-TEMPO.



Synthesis of rotaxane-branched radical dendrimer G1-TEMPO: A mixture of compound G1-YNE^{S1} (64 mg, 0.012 mmol) and T2 (67 mg, 0.078 mmol) in degassed dichloromethane (10 mL) and diethylamine (5 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 10 min. Then catalytic amount of CuI was added. The solution was stirred overnight and then evaporated under pressure. The reside was first purified by column chromatography on silica gel using DCM / MeOH (1 : 1, v / v) as eluent and then by GPC for further purification to afford the pale-yellow solid 95 mg with the yield of 72 %. ³¹P NMR (202 MHz, CD₂Cl₂): δ 12.27, 11.89; MALDI-TOF-MS: Calcd. For *M_r* := 9806.2 Da; Found: *m/z* =9827.4.



Scheme S3: Synthesis of the rotaxane-branched radical dendrimer G2-TEMPO.

Synthesis of the rotaxane-branched radical dendrimer G2-TEMPO: A mixture of compound G2-YNE^{S1} (28 mg, 0.0018 mmol) and T2 (19.8 mg, 0.023 mmol) in degassed dichloromethane (5 mL) and diethylamine (3 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 10 min. Then catalytic amount of CuI was added. The solution was stirred overnight and then evaporated under pressure. The reside was first purified by column chromatography on silica gel using DCM / MeOH (1 : 1, v / v) as eluent and then by GPC for further purification to afford the pale-yellow solid 30 mg with the yield of 60 %. ³¹P NMR (202 MHz, CD₂Cl₂): δ 12.27, 12.09, 11.90; MALDI-TOF-MS: Calcd. For M_r := 24745.7 Da; Found: m/z = 24877.2.

Scheme S4: Synthesis of the rotaxane-branched radical dendrimer G3-TEMPO.



Synthesis of the rotaxane-branched radical dendrimer G3-TEMPO: A solution of TBAF·3H₂O (21.4 mg, 0.068 mmol) in THF (5 mL) was added dropwise into the solution of G3^{S1} (58 mg, 0.0014 mmol) in THF (10.0 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 4 h. The resultant mixture was washed by water, then dried with Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. The residue was first purified by column chromatography on silica gel using DCM / MeOH (10 / 1, v / v) as eluent and then by GPC for further purification to afford the pale-yellow solid G3-YNE. The mixture of compound G3-YNE and T2 (32 mg, 0.036 mmol) in degassed dichloromethane (5 mL) and diethylamine (3 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 10 min. Then catalytic amount of CuI was added. The solution was stirred overnight and then evaporated under pressure. The reside was first purified by column chromatography on silica gel using DCM / MeOH (10 : 1, v / v) as eluent and then by GPC for further purification to afford the pale-yellow solid 41 mg with the yield of 54 %. ³¹P NMR (202 MHz, CD₂Cl₂): δ 12.23, 12.06, 11.87.



Scheme S5: Synthesis of the model radical dendrimer G1-c-TEMPO.

Synthesis of the branched radical dendrimer G1-c-TEMPO: A solution of TBAF·3H₂O (163 mg, 0.52 mmol) in THF (5 mL) was added dropwise into the solution of G1-c^{S1} (160 mg, 0.04 mmol) in THF (35 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 4 h. The resultant mixture was washed by water, then dried with Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. The residue was first purified by column chromatography on silica gel using DCM / MeOH (10 / 1, v / v) as eluent and then by GPC for further purification to afford the pale-yellow solid G1-c-YNE. The mixture of compound G1-c-YNE and T2 (355 mg, 0.42 mmol) in degassed dichloromethane (30 mL) and diethylamine (10 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 10 min. Then catalytic amount of CuI was added. The solution was stirred overnight and then evaporated under pressure. The reside was first purified by column chromatography on silica gel using DCM / MeOH (10 : 1, v / v) as eluent and then by GPC for further purification to afford the pale-yellow solid 185 mg with the yield of 75 %. ³¹P NMR (202 MHz, CD₂Cl₂): δ 12.20, 11.92.



Fig. S1 ¹H NMR spectrum (Acetone- d_6 , 298 K, 500 MHz) of T1.



Fig. S2 HR-ESI-MS spectrum of T1.



Fig. S3 Stick representation of the X-ray structure of **T1**. Crystallographic data for the structure analyses of the single crystal of **T1** have been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre (CCDC) as 2108849.











Fig. S6 MALDI-TOF-MS spectrum of T2.



Fig. S7 ¹H NMR spectrum (CD₂Cl₂, 298 K, 500 MHz) of G1-TEMPO.



Fig. S8 ³¹P NMR spectrum (CD₂Cl₂, 298 K, 202 MHz) of G1-TEMPO.



Fig. S9 MALDI-TOF-MS spectrum of G1-TEMPO.



Fig. S10 ¹H NMR spectrum (CD₂Cl₂, 298 K, 500 MHz) of G2-TEMPO.



Fig. S11 31 P NMR spectrum (CD₂Cl₂, 298 K, 202 MHz) of G2-TEMPO.



Fig. S12 MALDI-TOF-MS spectrum of G2-TEMPO.



Fig. S13 ¹H NMR spectrum (CD₂Cl₂, 298 K, 500 MHz) of G3-TEMPO.



Fig. S15 ¹H NMR spectrum (CD₂Cl₂, 298 K, 500 MHz) of G1-c-TEMPO.



Fig. S16 ³¹P NMR spectrum (CD₂Cl₂, 298 K, 202 MHz) of G1-c-TEMPO.



Fig. S17 ¹H NMR spectrum (CD₂Cl₂, 298 K, 500 MHz) of **G1-c-TEMPO** in the presence of excess phenylhydrazine.



Fig. S18 (a) X-band EPR spectra of **T2**, **G1-TEMPO**, **G2-TEMPO** and **G3-TEMPO** (0.1 mM in THF) obtained under identical conditions; (b) Double integral of the EPR spectra *vs* number of radical units. (All experiments were performed in the same conditions for the evaluation of the numbers of the anchored TEMPO units, especially the EPR's acquisition parameters. EPR spectrum is the first derivative of the absorption spectrum and the EPR intensity of **Gn-TEMPO** can be calculated by double integral which is suitable for quantitative analysis.)



Fig. S19 VT-EPR spectra of G1-TEMPO (0.1 mM in THF).











Fig. S24 VT-EPR spectra of G2-TEMPO (2 mM in THF).



Fig. S25 VT-EPR spectra of G3-TEMPO (0.1 mM in THF).







Fig. S27 VT-EPR spectra of G3-TEMPO (2 mM in THF).

For all half-field VT-EPR spectra shown below, the broad peak at 1500 G might be attributed to the impurity in the capillary tube or nuclear magnetic tube.



1475 1500 1525 1550 1575 1600 1625 1650 1675 1700 1725 1750 1775 1800 1825 1850 1875 Magnetic Field (G)

Fig. S28 The half-field VT-EPR spectra of G1-TEMPO (0.1 mM in THF).



1475 1500 1525 1550 1575 1600 1625 1650 1675 1700 1725 1750 1775 1800 1825 1850 1875 Magnetic Field (G)

Fig. S29 The half-field VT-EPR spectra of G1-TEMPO (1 mM in THF).

where the second s	290 K
	270 K
	250 K
	230 K
	210 K
	190 K
	170 K
	150 K
the second secon	130 K

Fig. S30 The half-field VT-EPR spectra of G1-TEMPO (2 mM in THF).



1475 1500 1525 1550 1575 1600 1625 1650 1675 1700 1725 1750 1775 1800 1825 1850 1875

Magnetic Field (G)

Fig. S31 The half-field VT-EPR spectra of G2-TEMPO (0.1 mM in THF).

- March - Marc	290 K
and the second and the se	270 K
warmen and the second	250 K
and and a second and	230 K
management and the second s	210 K
when the second s	190 K
	170 K
	150 K
for a second sec	130 K

1475 1500 1525 1550 1575 1600 1625 1650 1675 1700 1725 1750 1775 1800 1825 1850 1875 Magnetic Field (G)

Fig. S32 The half-field VT-EPR spectra of G2-TEMPO (1 mM in THF).



Fig. S33 The half-field VT-EPR spectra of G2-TEMPO (2 mM in THF).



Fig. S34 The half-field VT-EPR spectra of G3-TEMPO (0.1 mM in THF).



1475 1500 1525 1550 1575 1600 1625 1650 1675 1700 1725 1750 1775 1800 1825 1850 1875 Magnetic Field (G)

Fig. S35 The half-field VT-EPR spectra of G3-TEMPO (1 mM in THF).



1475 1500 1525 1550 1575 1600 1625 1650 1675 1700 1725 1750 1775 1800 1825 1850 1875 Magnetic Field (G)

Fig. S36 The half-field VT-EPR spectra of G3-TEMPO (2 mM in THF).



Fig. S37 VT-EPR spectra of G1-TEMPO (0.1 mM in DCM).







Fig. S40 VT-EPR spectra of G1-TEMPO in solid state.



Fig. S41 VT-EPR spectra of G2-TEMPO in solid state.







Fig. S43 The half-field VT-EPR spectra of G1-TEMPO in solid state.



Fig. S44 The half-field VT-EPR spectra of G2-TEMPO in solid state.



Fig. S45 The half-field VT-EPR spectra of G3-TEMPO in solid state.



Fig. S46 The EPR spectra of T1 with the sequential addition of TBAA and Na⁺ (0.1 mM in THF).



Fig. S47 The EPR spectra of G1-TEMPO with the addition of DMSO (0.1 mM in THF).



Fig. S49 VT-EPR spectra of G1-c-TEMPO (1 mM in THF).





Fig. S51 The half-field VT-EPR spectra of G1-c-TEMPO (0.1 mM in THF).



Fig. S52 The half-field VT-EPR spectra of G1-c-TEMPO (1 mM in THF).

and a construction of the second s	290 K
	270 K
way to a second	250 K
warman and the second and the	230 K
Marine	210 K
and the second	190 K
	170 K
	150 K
	130 K

Magnetic Field (G)

Fig. S53 The half-field VT-EPR spectra of G1-c-TEMPO (2 mM in THF).



Fig. S55 The half-field VT-EPR spectra of G1-c-TEMPO in solid state.

Section D. Preparation and characterization of rotaxane-branched radical dendrimer-based nanoparticles

Preparation of nanoparticle Gn-NPs (n = 1, 2 and 3)^{S2}: The nanoparticles **Gn-NPs** containing **Gn-TEMPO** (n = 1, 2 and 3) were prepared by film hydration method. Briefly, soya bean lecithin (72 mg), cholesterol (32 mg), PEG₂₀₀₀-DSPE (26 mg) and **Gn-TEMPO** (**G1-TEMPO**: 16.3 mg; **G2-TEMPO**: 20.6 mg; **G3-TEMPO**: 22.8 mg) were dissolved in 10 mL of chloroform dealt with potassium carbonate. The organic solvents were evaporated under reduced pressure by using dried rotary evaporator to form a thin transparent film on the wall of the flask. After being dried under vacuum to eliminate the residual solvent, the film was dissolved with 10 mL MilliQ water, and then evaporated without pressure for 2 h at 55 °C. Finally, the suspensions were passing through a 0.22 μ m syringe filter for 10 times and the **Gn-NPs** (n = 1, 2 and 3) were obtained.

Table S1 DLS data of **Gn-TEMPO** and **Gn-NPs** (n = 1, 2 and 3).

	Size (d. nm)		
G1-TEMPO	2.4		
G2-TEMPO	4.0		
G3-TEMPO	5.9		
G1-NPs	95.8		
G2-NPs	77.7		
G3-NPs	100.4		



Fig. S56 The DLS spectra of (a) Gn-TEMPO (n = 1, 2 and 3) and (b) Gn-NPs (n = 1, 2 and 3).



Fig. S57 The TEM images of (a) G1-NPs, (b) G2-NPs and (c) G3-NPs.

Sequence No.: 4 Sample ID: DY-1 Analyst: Logged In Analyst (Original) : Administrator Initial Sample Wt: Dilution: Wash Time (before sample):			Autosampler Location: Date Collected: 8/20/2021 12:39:57 AM Data Type: Reprocessed on 8/20/2021 12:50:10 AM Initial Sample Vol: Sample Frep Vol:					
Nebul Analy All	izer Parame te	ters: DY-1 Back Press 312.0 kPa	ure Flow 0.70 L/m	in				
Repli	cate Data: 1	DY-1						
Repl#	Analyte	Intensi	ty Intensity	Conc. Units	Conc.	Units Time		
1	Pt 265.945	1104	.3 1054.9	0.718 mg/L	0.718	mg/L 12:40:44 AM		
2	Pt 265.945	1140	.2 1090.7	0.740 mg/L	0.740	mg/L 12:40:50 AM		
3	Pt 265.945	1075	.1 1025.6	0.700 mg/L	0.700	mg/L 12:40:57 AM		
Mean	Data: DY-1							
		Mean Corrected	Calib.		Sample			
Analy	te	Intensity	Conc. Units	Std.Dev.	Conc. Units	Std.Dev. RSD		
PT 26	5.945	1057.1	0./19 mg/L	0.0200	0./19 mg/L	0.0200 2.78%		

Fig. S58 The actual Pt contents (mg/L) in G1-NPs measured by ICP.

Sequence No.: 5	Autosampler Location:
Sample ID: DY-2	Date Collected: 8/20/2021 12:43:26 AM
Analyst:	Data Type: Reprocessed on 8/20/2021 12:50:10 AM

Metho	d: 20210819-z	1	P	age 3	Date:	8/20/202	1 12:52:04
Logge Initi Dilut Wash	d In Analyst al Sample Wt: ion: Time (before	(Original) : Admin: sample):	istrator	Initial Sample Vo Sample Prep Vol:	bl :		
Nebul Analy All	izer Paramete te	rs: DY-2 Back Pressure 312.0 kPa	e Flow 0.70 L/m				
Repli	cate Data: DY	-2					
Pen1#	Analyte	Net	Intensity	Conc Units	Conc	Unite	Analysis Time
1	Pt 265,945	3691.7	3642.2	2.303 mg/L	2,303	mg/L	12:44:12 AM
2	Pt 265.945	3663.4	3613.9	2.286 mg/L	2.286	mg/L	12:44:18 AM
3	Pt 265.945	3766.0	3716.5	2.349 mg/L	2.349	mg/L	12:44:23 AM
Mean	Data: DY-2						
		Mean Corrected	Calib.		Sample		
Analy Pt 26	te 5.945	Intensity 3657.5	Conc. Units 2.313 mg/L	Std.Dev. 0.0325	Conc. Units 2.313 mg/L	std . 0.0	Dev. RSD 0325 1.40%

Fig. S59 The actual Pt contents (mg/L) in G2-NPs measured by ICP.

Sequence No.: 6 Sample ID: DY-3 Analyst: Logged In Analyst Initial Sample Wt: Dilution: Wash Time (before :	Autosampler 1 Date Collect Data Type: Re Initial Samp Sample Prep V	Location: ed: 8/20/2021 aprocessed on le Vol: Vol:	12:47:1 8/20/20	=== 11 ам 021 12:	50:10 AM		
Nebulizer Parameter Analyte All	rs: DY-3 Back Pressure 312.0 kPa	e Flow 0.70 L/m	in				
Replicate Data: DY-	-3 Net	Corrected					Analucie
Repl# Analyte 1 Pt 265.945 2 Pt 265.945 3 Pt 265.945	Intensity 1710.6 1722.0 1708.4	Intensity 1661.1 1672.5 1658.9	Conc. Un: 1.089 mg, 1.096 mg, 1.088 mg,	/L 1 /L 1 /L 1	Conc. Un L.089 mg L.096 mg L.088 mg	nits g/L g/L g/L	Time 12:47:57 AM 12:48:02 AM 12:48:07 AM
Mean Data: DY-3 Analyte Pt 265.945	Mean Corrected Intensity 1664.2	Calib. Conc. Units 1.091 mg/L	Std.Dev. 0.0045	Sa Conc. Un 1.091 mg	ample nits g/L	std .	Dev. RSD 1045 0.41%

Fig. S60 The actual Pt contents (mg/L) in G3-NPs measured by ICP.

Fable S2 Double	integral of the	e EPR spectra fo	or Gn-NPs (n =	1, 2 and 3).
			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	

	G1-NPs	G2-NPs	G3-NPs
Double Integral	14.2	21.2	14.4

Relaxometric measurements: Longitudinal (r_1) relaxivities were determined per concentration of TEMPO units. Sample at varying concentrations (1 to 20 mM) in water were prepared. The software used for the calculation of T₁ were ImageJ and Mathematica. T₁-weighted MRI images were acquired for each concentration of TEMPO to obtain T₁ maps based on a magnetization saturation experiment and the following parameters: repetition time (TR) = 23, 100, 200, 300, 400, 800, 1200, 1500, 2000 ms, echo time (TE) = 11 ms. The T₁ values were calculated from the mean signal in the region of interest for each repetition time, adjusted to the equation: S = $S_0 \times [1 - \exp(-TR / T_1)]$. The relaxivities r_1 of **Gn-NPs** (n = 1, 2 and 3) was determined from the slopes of linear fits.



Fig. S61 (a) T₁-weighted MRI images of Gn-NPs (n = 1, 2 and 3) at various concentration of TEMPO radicals. The relaxivities r_1 of (b) G1-NPs, (c) G2-NPs and (d) G3-NPs was determined from the slopes of linear fits.

Table S3	Comparison	table for	the	relaxivity	of	gold-standard	GD-DTPA	and	reported	radical
dendrime	rs.									

	Per radical	Molecule	Deferences
	$(mM^{-1}s^{-1})$	$(mM^{-1}s^{-1})$	Kelerences
GD-DTPA		3.87^{a}	Sci. Rep., 2017, 7, 3799.
G3-TEMPO	0.16 ^{<i>a</i>}	3.86 ^{<i>a</i>}	This work
PAMAM	0.15^{c}	5.0^{c}	Magn. Reson. Chem., 2002, 48, 965.
G2-NIT	$0.25 - 0.29^d$	$3-3.48^{d}$	Magn. Reson. Chem., 2003, 41, 81.
G4	0.42^{b}	$\sim 5^b$	J. Am. Chem. Soc., 2012, 134, 15724.
G3-Tyr-PROXYL	0.27^{b}	12.96 ^b	ACS Appl. Bio. Mater., 2020, 3, 369.

The relaxivities r_1 was determined in room temperature at 3T^{*a*}, 7T^{*b*}, 1.5T^{*c*} and 0.1 MHz^{*d*}.

Section E. References

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