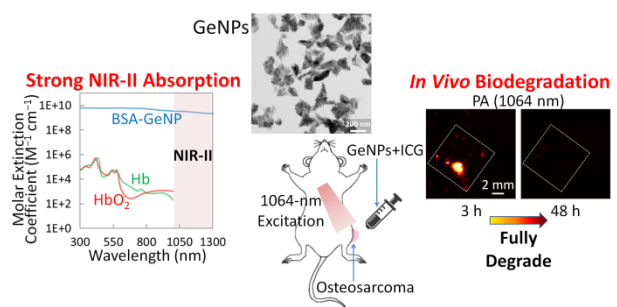


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Researchers develop novel germanium nanoparticles (GeNPs) as contrast agents for near-infrared-II photoacoustic imaging. The GeNPs are found to have high photothermal stability, good biocompatibility and most importantly, *in vivo* biodegradability.