Nickel Ferrite (NiFe₂O₄) Nanoparticle Clusters for the Efficient Recyclable Separation of Histidine— Tagged Proteins

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Affinity separation based on a specific interaction between a metal ion and histidine-tagged (His-tagged) protein is one of the most efficient methods for purifying recombinant proteins. In order to devise a simpler and more efficient method for the recyclable separation of His-tagged protein, nickel ferrite (NiFe₂O₄) nanoparticle clusters (NPCs) were synthesized by a simple hydrothermal method and employed in this work. The structure of NiFe₂O₄ NPCs provides a large surface area (105.0 m² g⁻¹) and pore volume (0.32 cm³ g⁻¹), which are preferable for the separation of large amounts of proteins. The high magnetic saturation value (41.3 emu g⁻¹) and superparamagnetic property of these materials lead to a more efficient magnetically recyclable separation of His-tagged proteins. We confirmed that the binding capacity and selective separation ability seen in the first separation were strongly maintained for up to 7 cycles.