

Supplementary information

Imaging-Guided Companion Diagnostics in Radiotherapy by Monitoring APE1 Activity with Afterglow and MRI Imaging

Renye Yue^{1,2}, Zhe Li¹, Huiyi Liu¹, Youjuan Wang¹, Yuhang Li³, Rui Yi¹, Baoli Yin¹, Haisheng Qian², Heemin Kang^{4,5}, Xiaobing Zhang¹, Guosheng Song^{1,5*}

¹ State Key Laboratory of Chemo/Biosensing and Chemometrics, College of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Hunan University Changsha 410082 (P.R. China)

² School of Biomedical Engineering, Research and Engineering Center of Biomedical Materials, Anhui Medical University, Hefei 230032 (P.R. China)

³ Department of Hepatobiliary Surgery/Central Laboratory, Hunan Provincial People's Hospital (The First Affiliated Hospital of Hunan Normal University), Changsha 410082 (P.R. China)

⁴ Department of Materials Science and Engineering and College of Medicine, Korea University, Seoul 02841 (Republic of Korea)

⁵ Shenzhen Research Institute, Hunan University, Shenzhen 518000, China

*Corresponding author

E-mail address: Song G (songgs@hnu.edu.cn)

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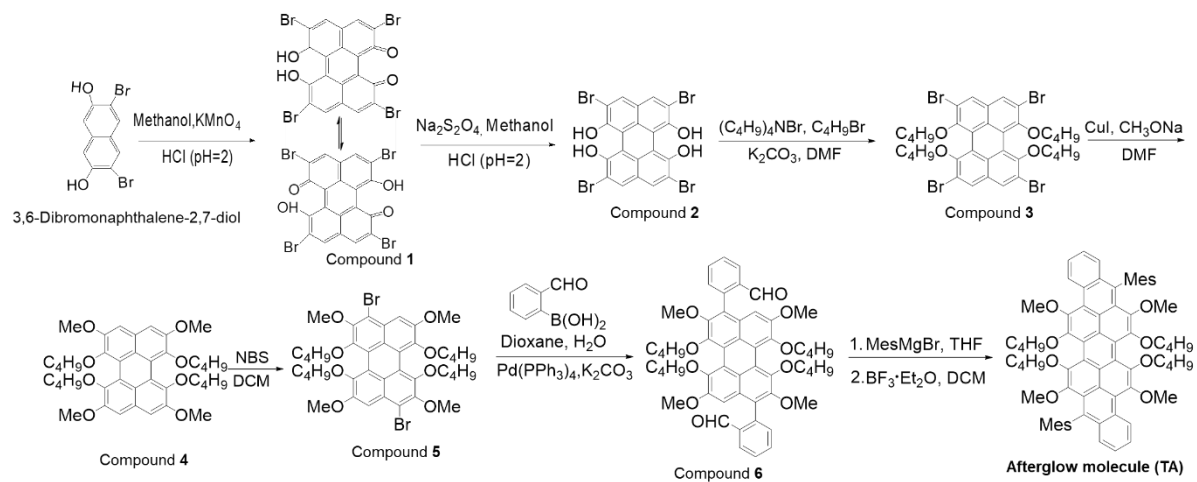
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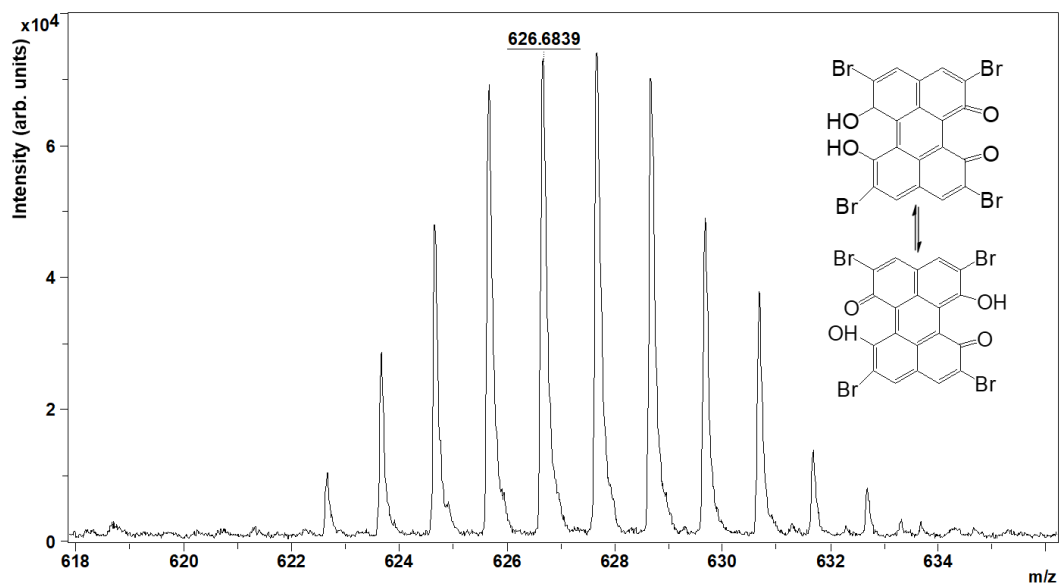
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Supplementary References

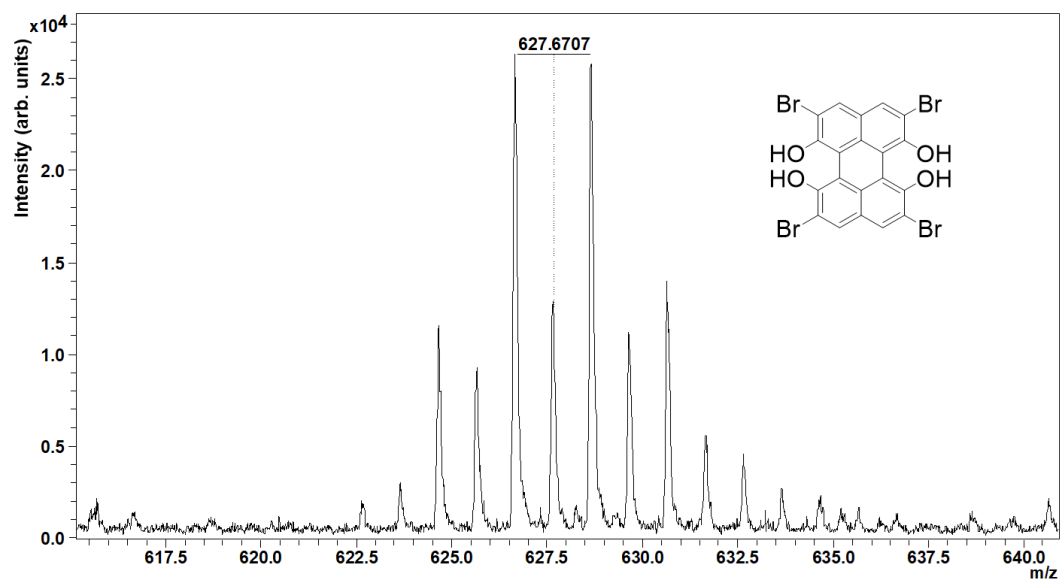
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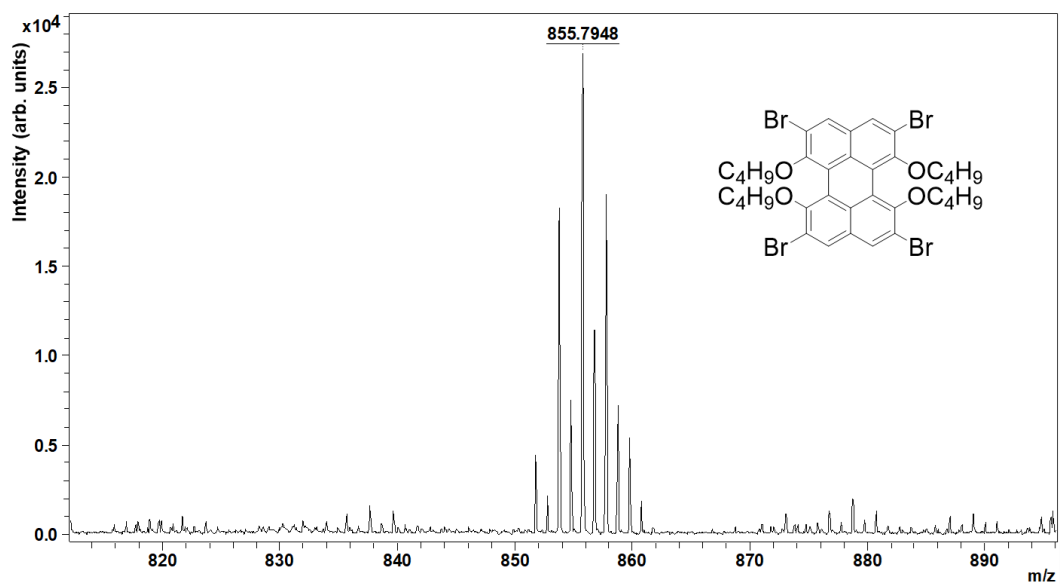
Supplementary Fig. 1 The synthesis procedure for TA molecules^{1,2}.



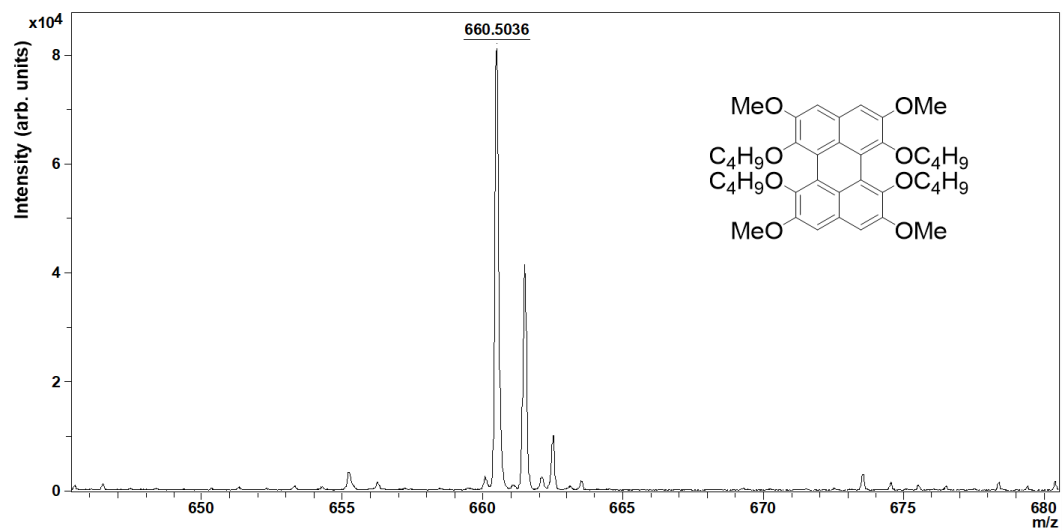
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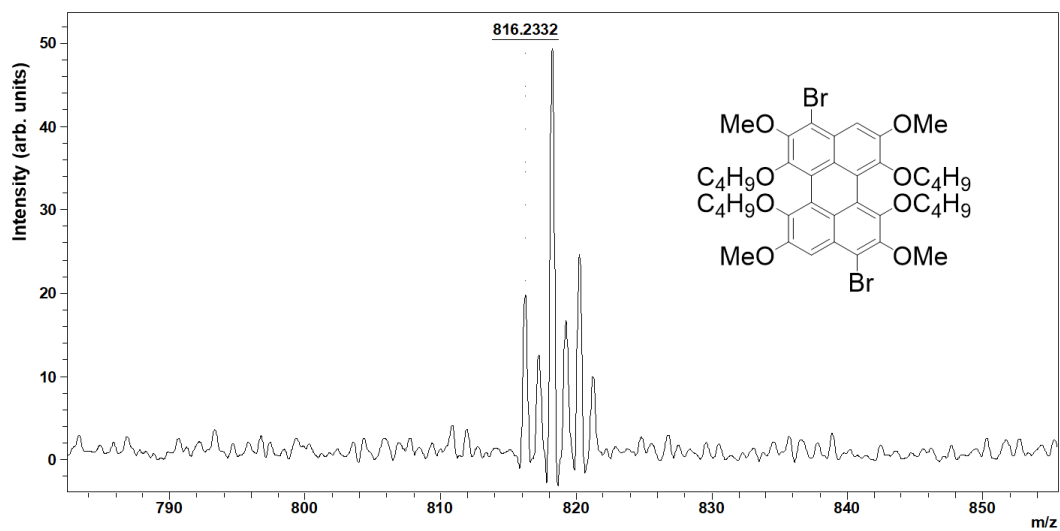
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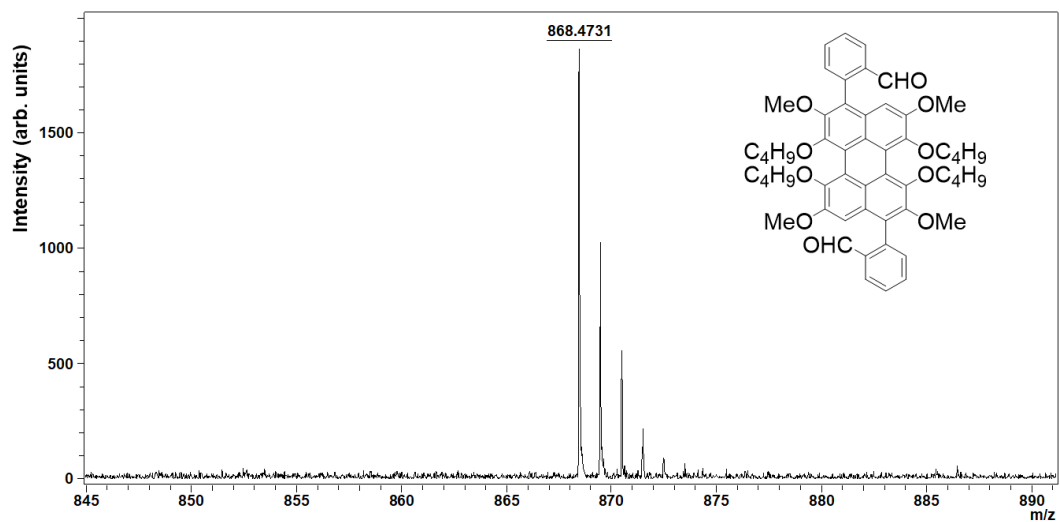
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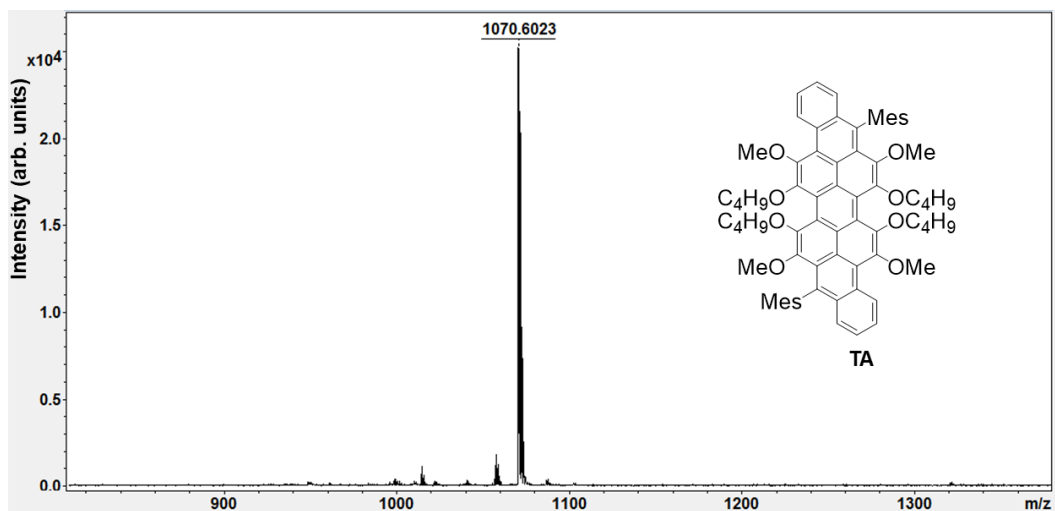
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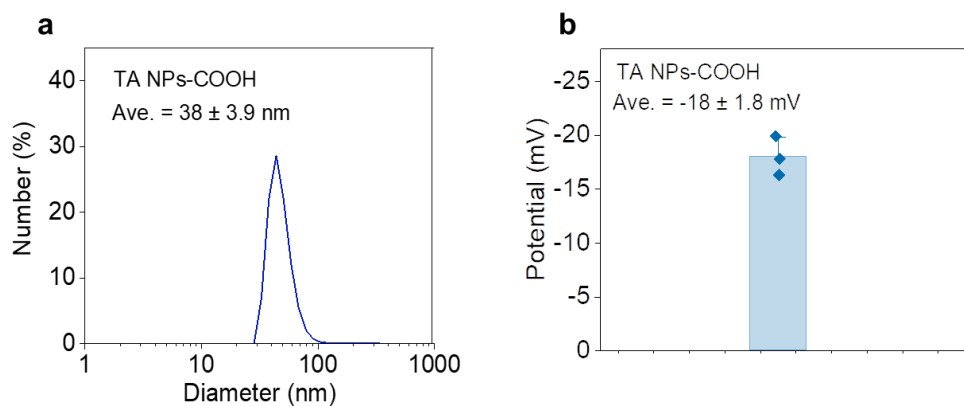
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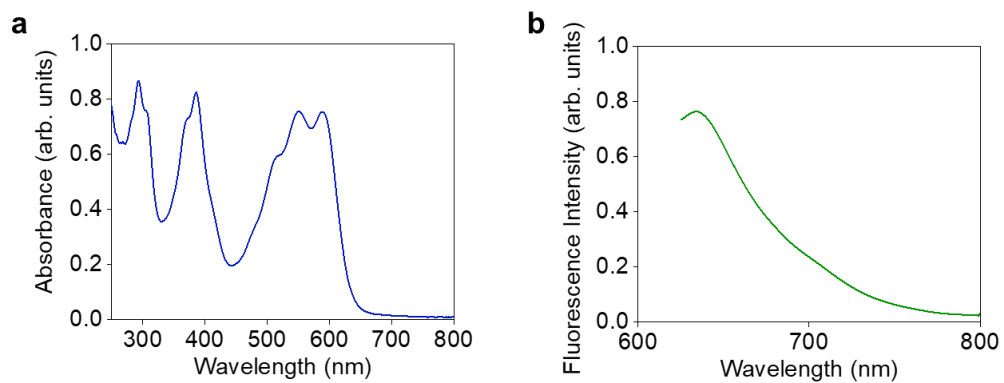
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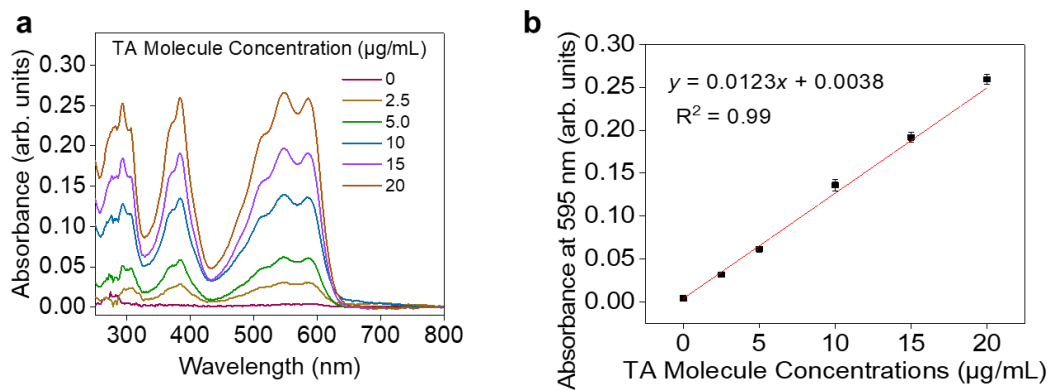
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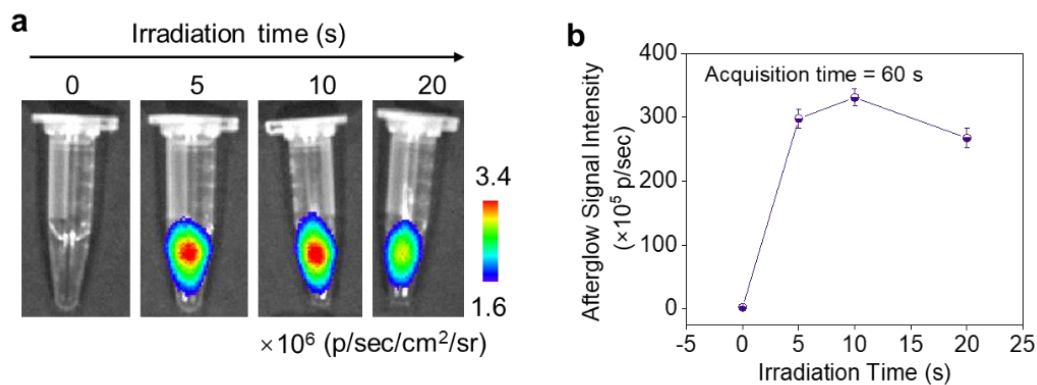
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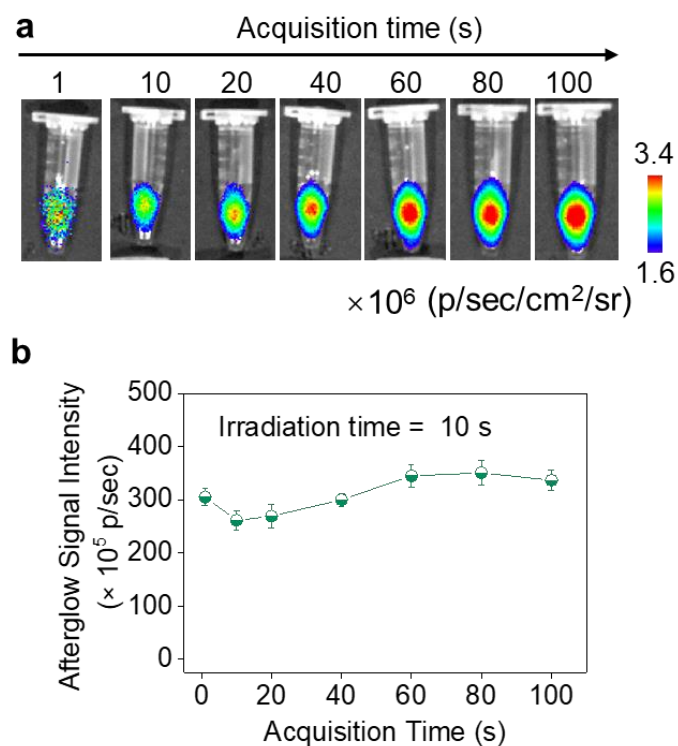
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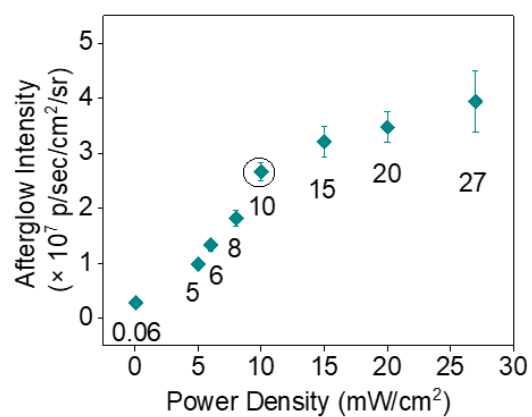
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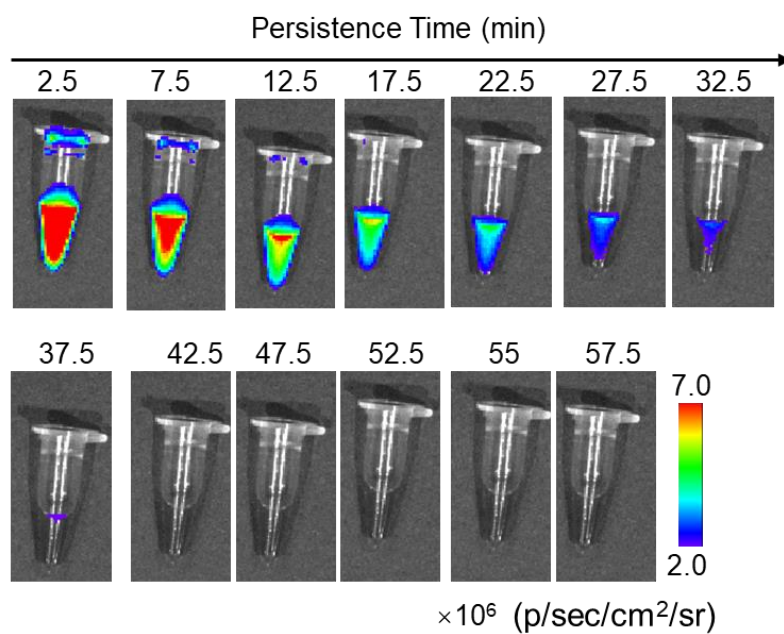
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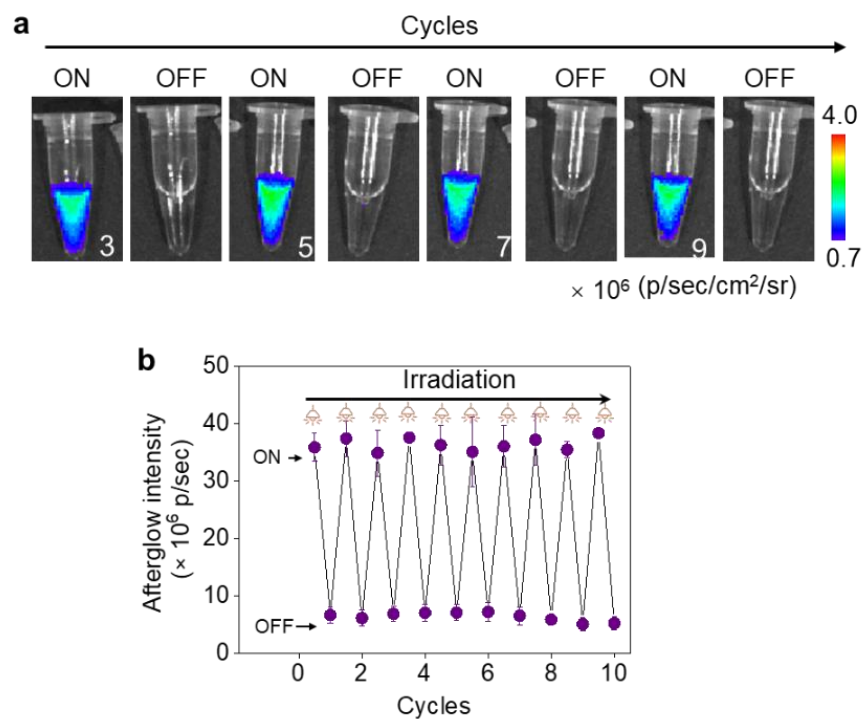
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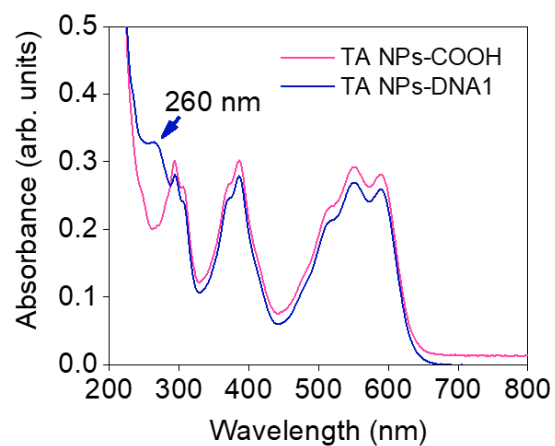
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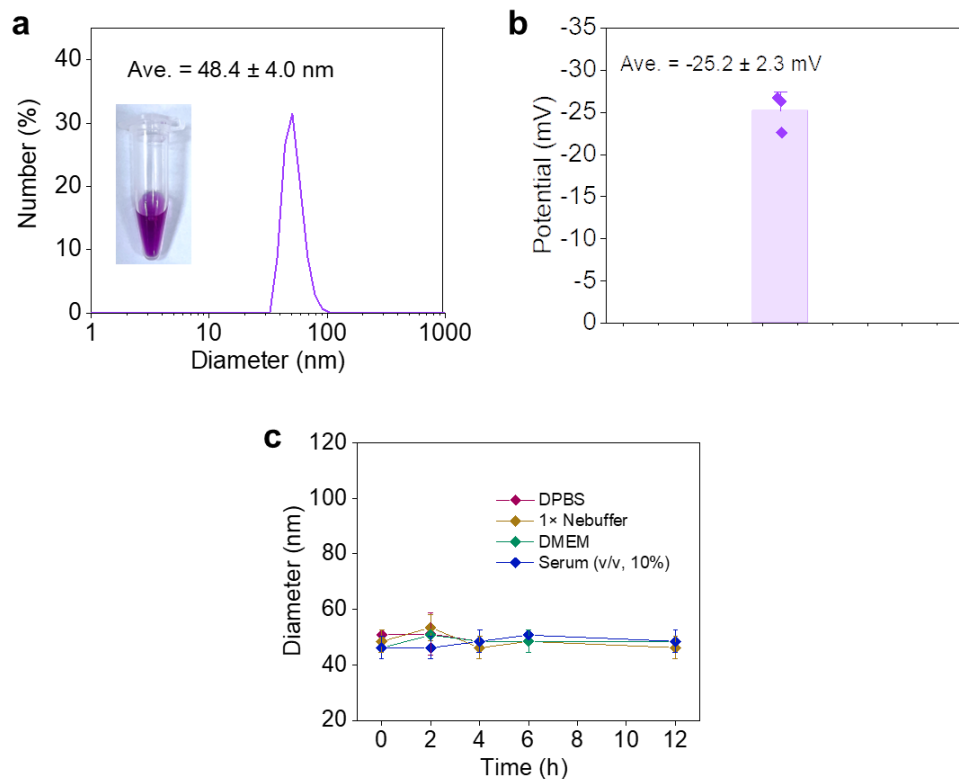
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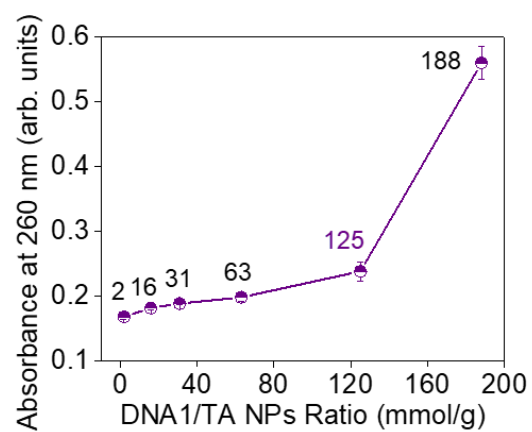
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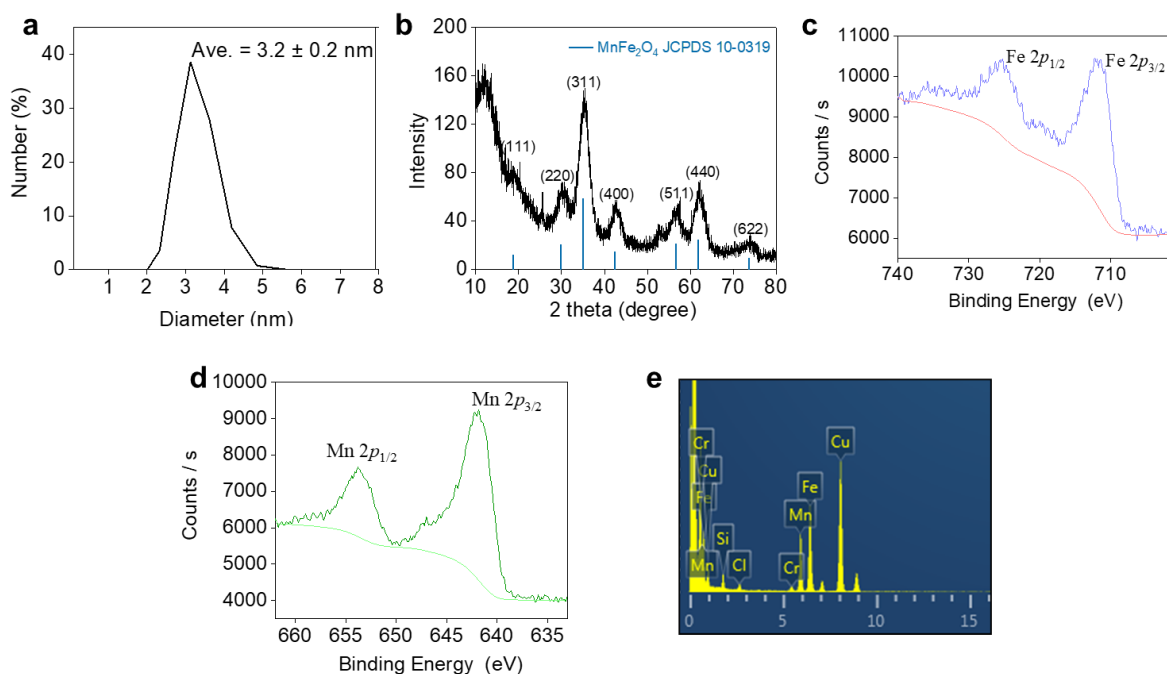
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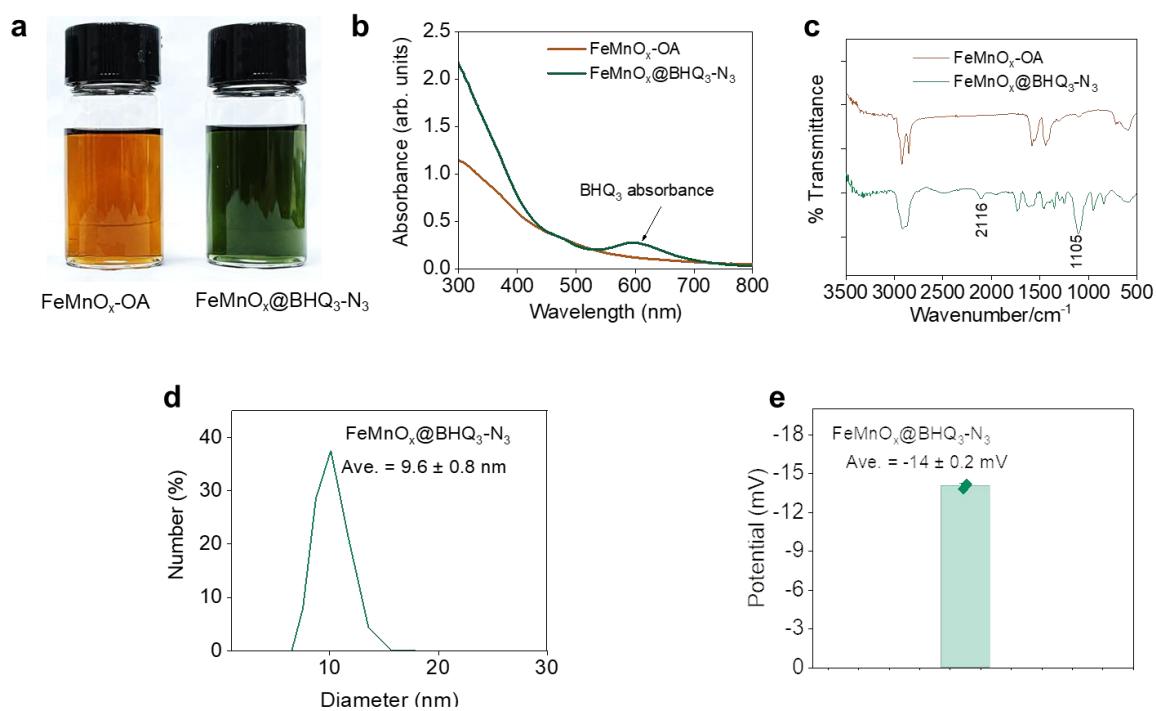
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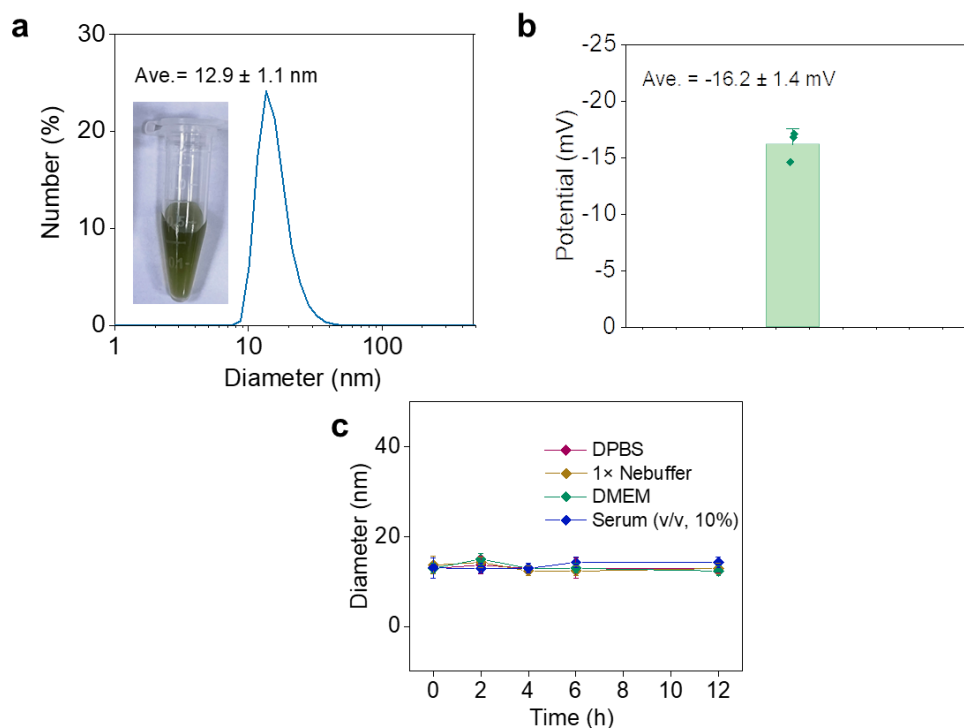
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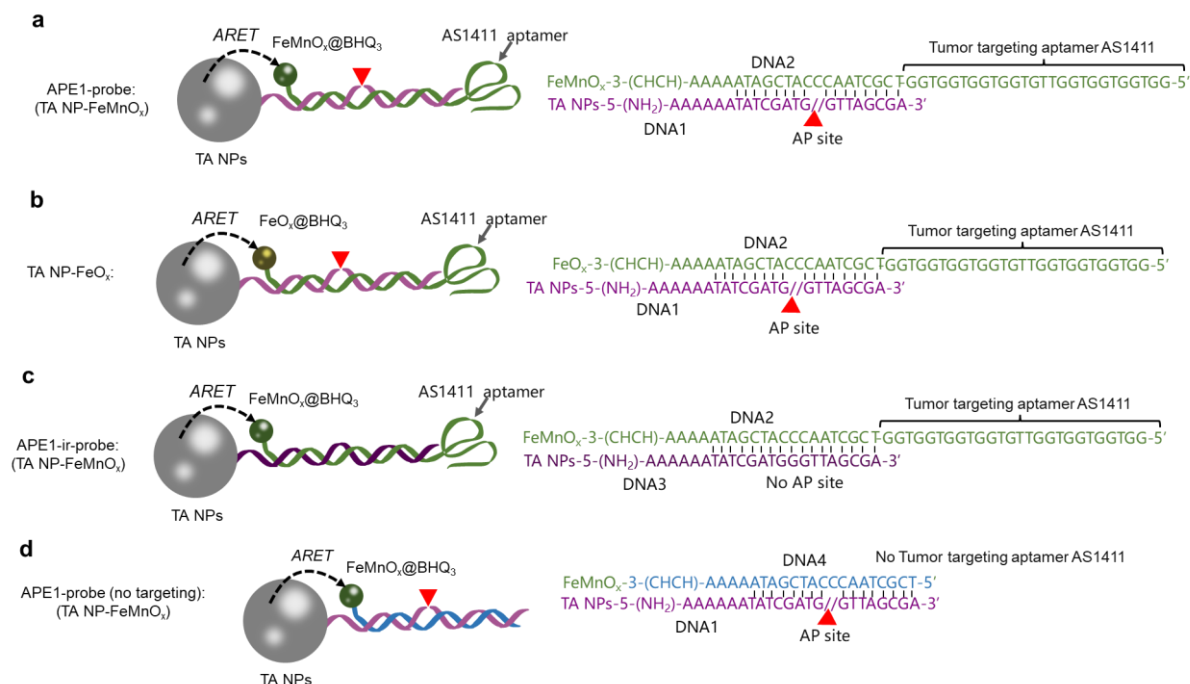
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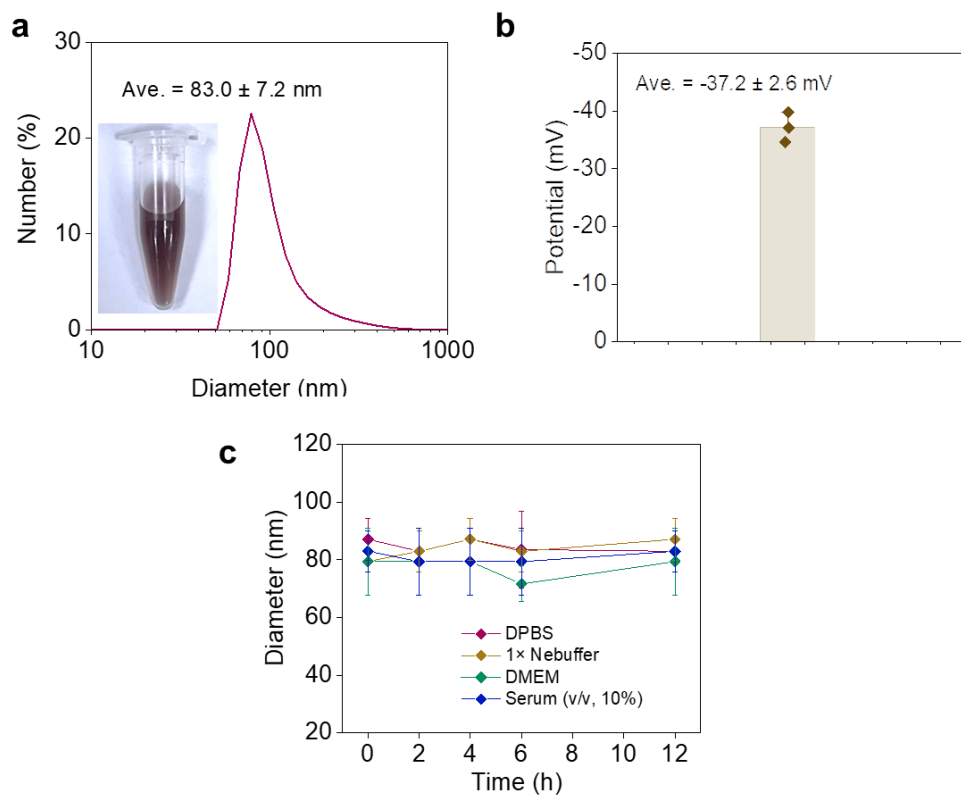
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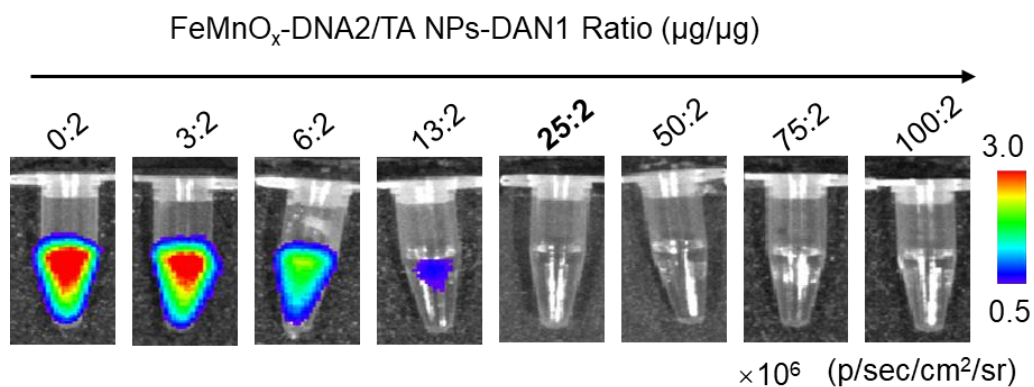
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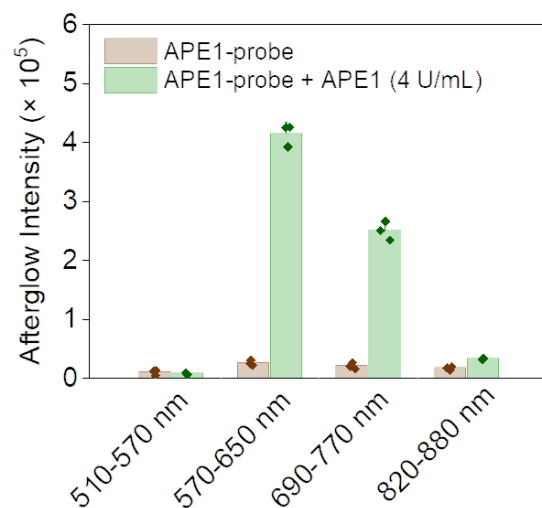
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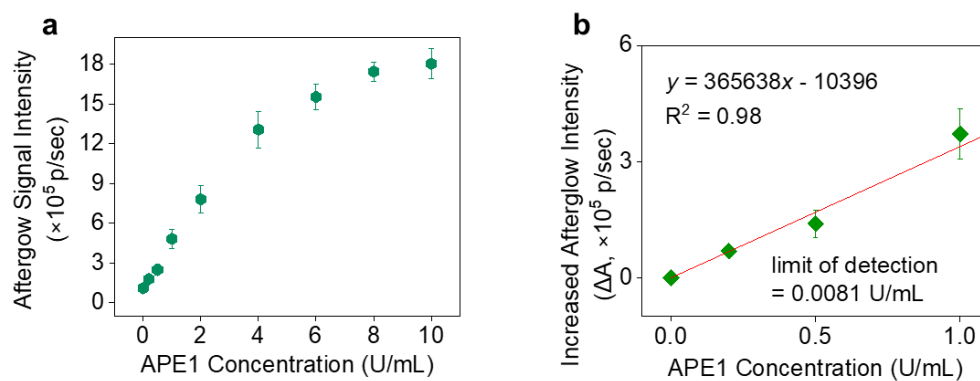
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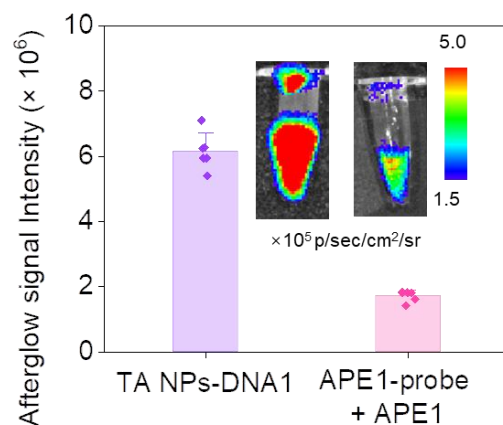
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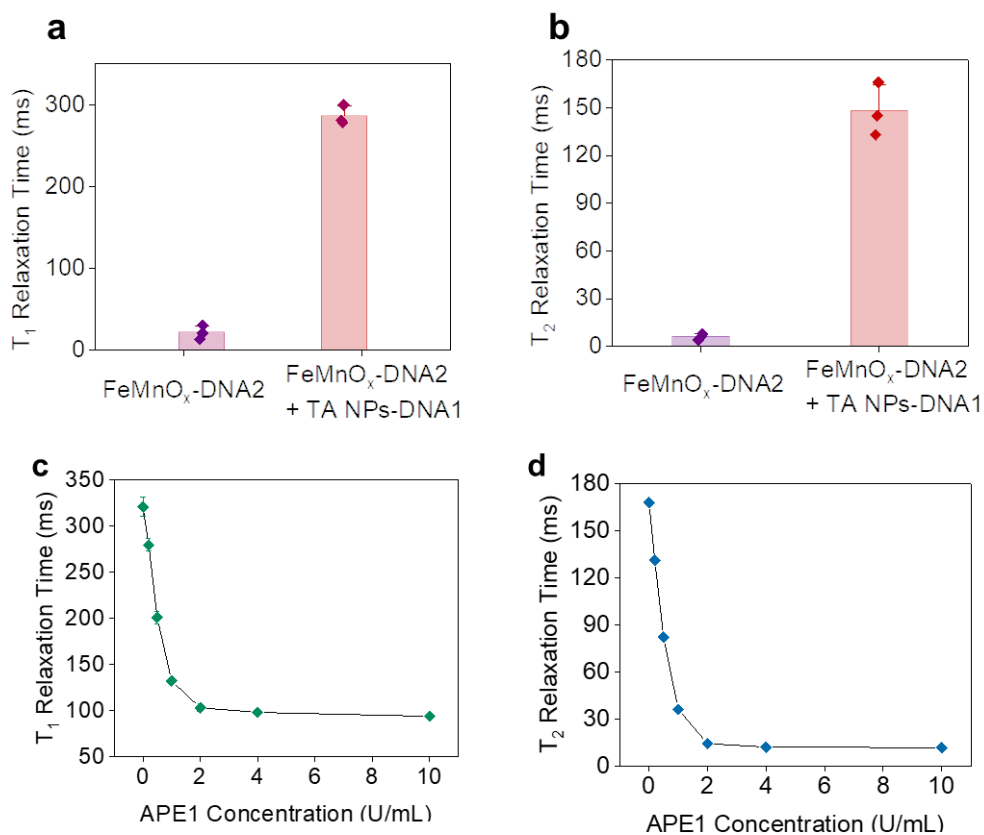
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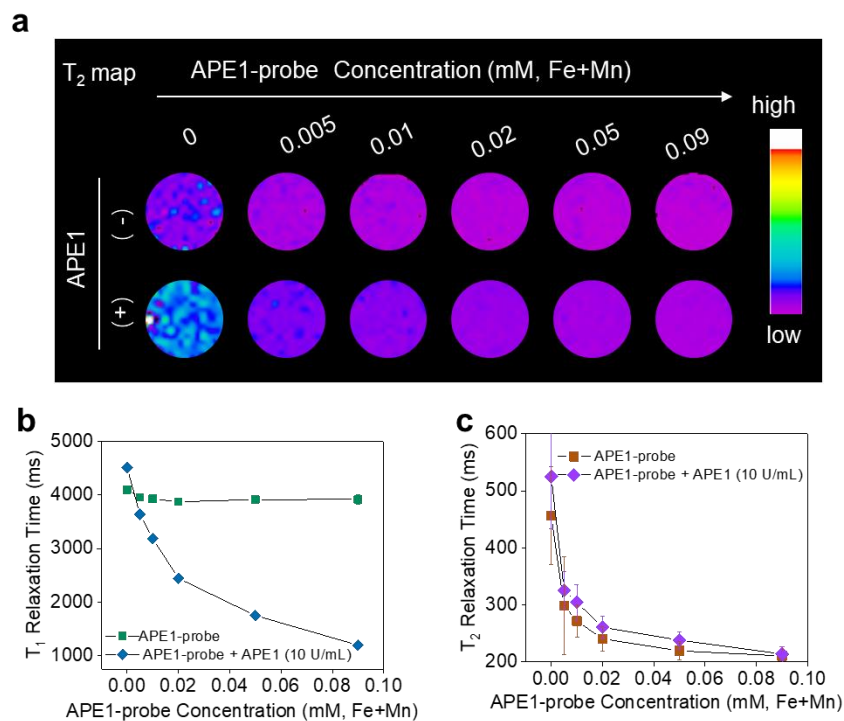
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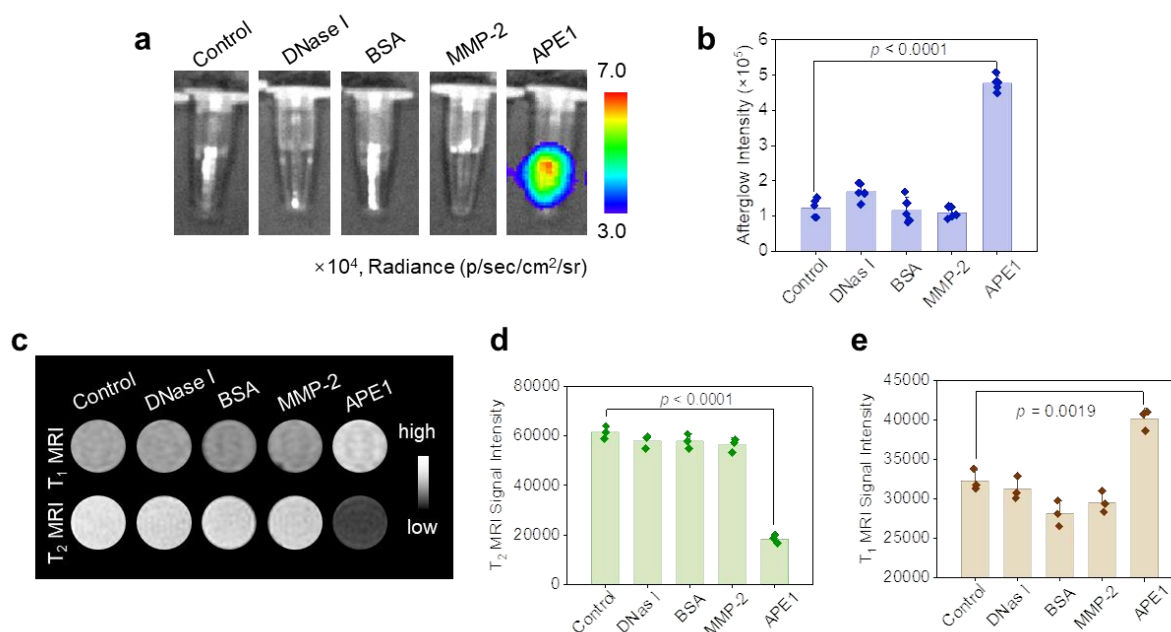
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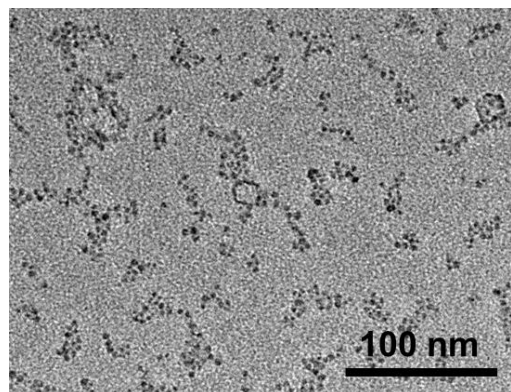
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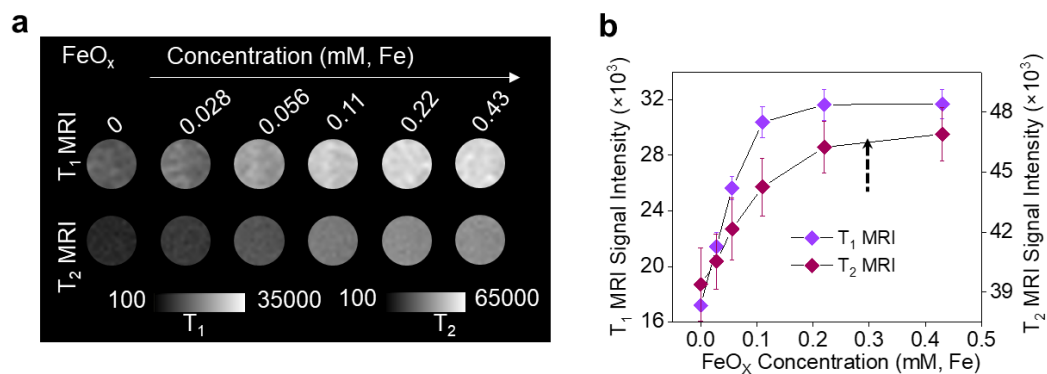
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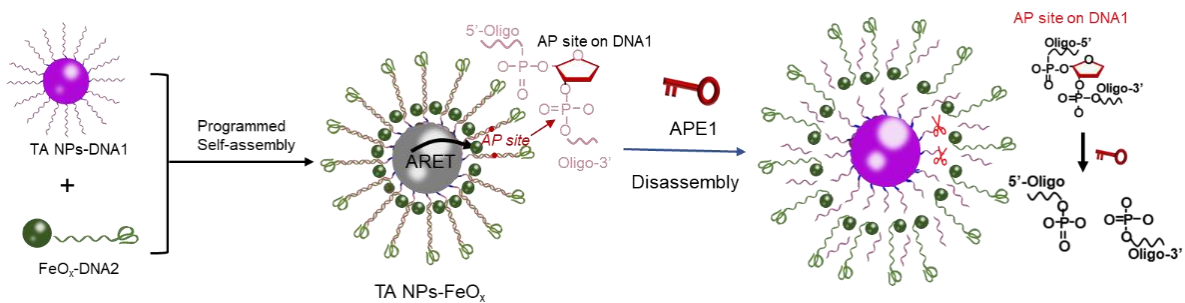
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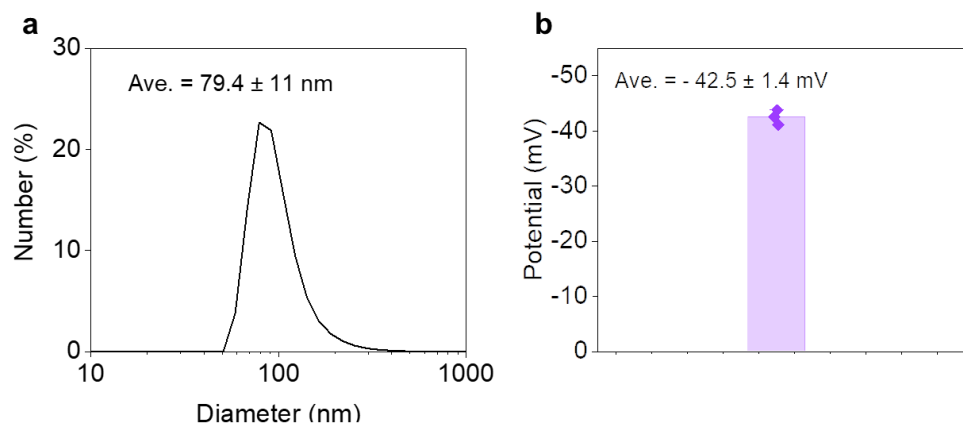
Supplementary Fig. 32 Representative TEM image of ultrasmall iron oxide nanoparticle (FeO_x).



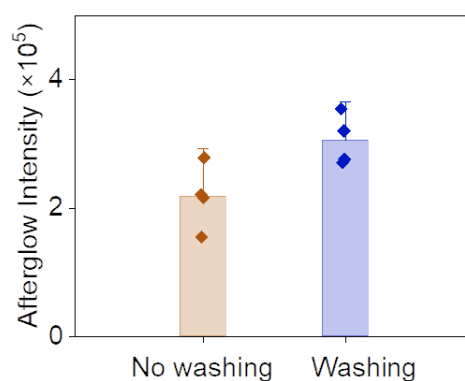
Supplementary Fig. 33 Representative MRI determination of different concentrations of FeO_x@BHQ₃-N₃ nanoparticle (n = 3 independent experiments). (a) T₁ and T₂ images. (b) Quantified of MRI signal Intensity from(a). Data are presented as means ± SD.



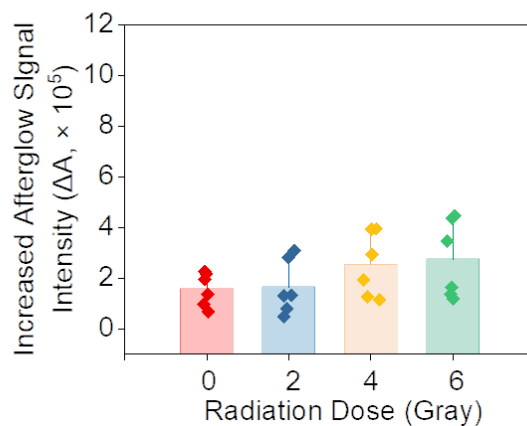
Supplementary Fig. 34 Schematic illustration for preparation and response process of APE1-activated TA NPs-FeO_x disassembly.



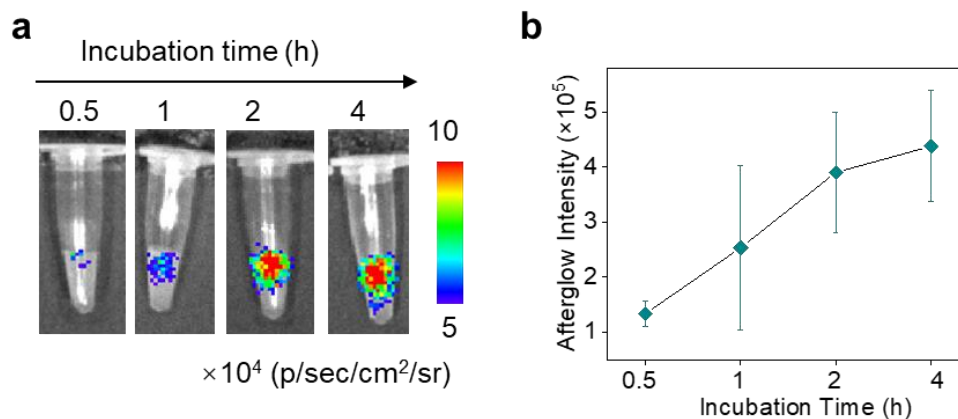
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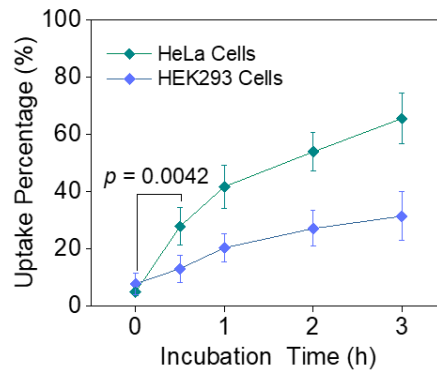
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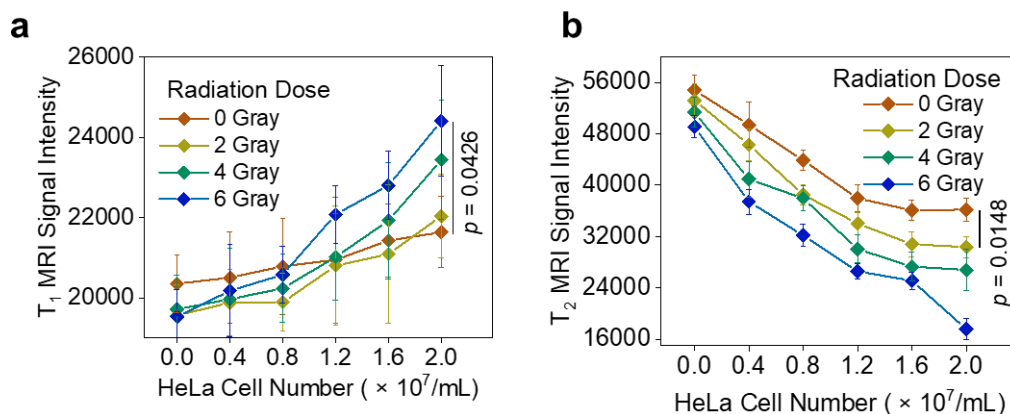
Supplementary Fig. 37 Afterglow intensity of HEK293 cell (1×10^7 cell/mL) incubated with APE1-probe ($10 \mu\text{g/mL}$) for 4 hours after radiation treatment (0, 2, 4, and 6 Gray, respectively) (10 mW/cm^2 , irradiation time: 10 s, acquisition time of 60 s, $n = 6$ independent biological samples after DPBS washing). Data are presented as means $\pm$ SD.



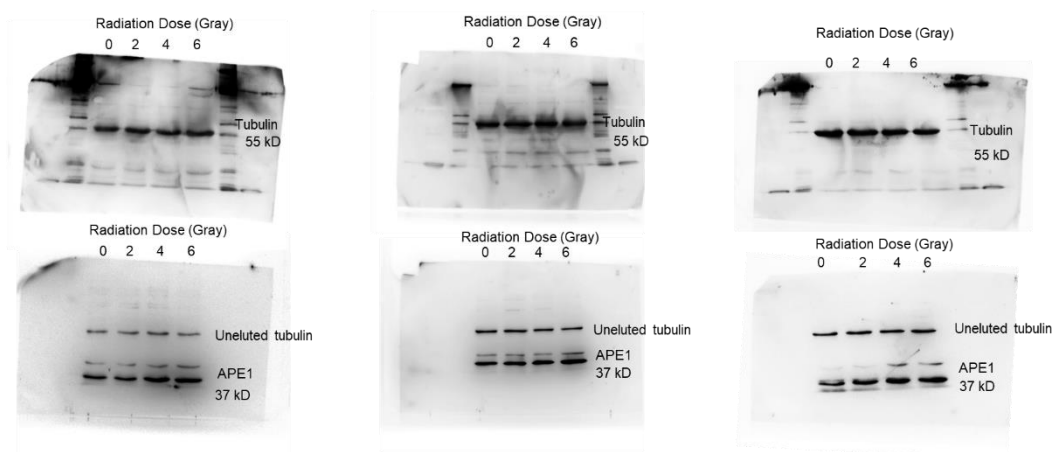
Supplementary Fig. 38 Afterglow imaging and quantification of the HeLa cell after incubating with APE1-probe for various times (after radiation of 6 Gray) (10 mW/cm², irradiation time: 10 s, acquisition time: 60 s, n = 6 independent biological samples after DPBS washing). (a) Afterglow images. (b) Quantification of afterglow signal intensity from (a). Data are presented as means $\pm$ SD.



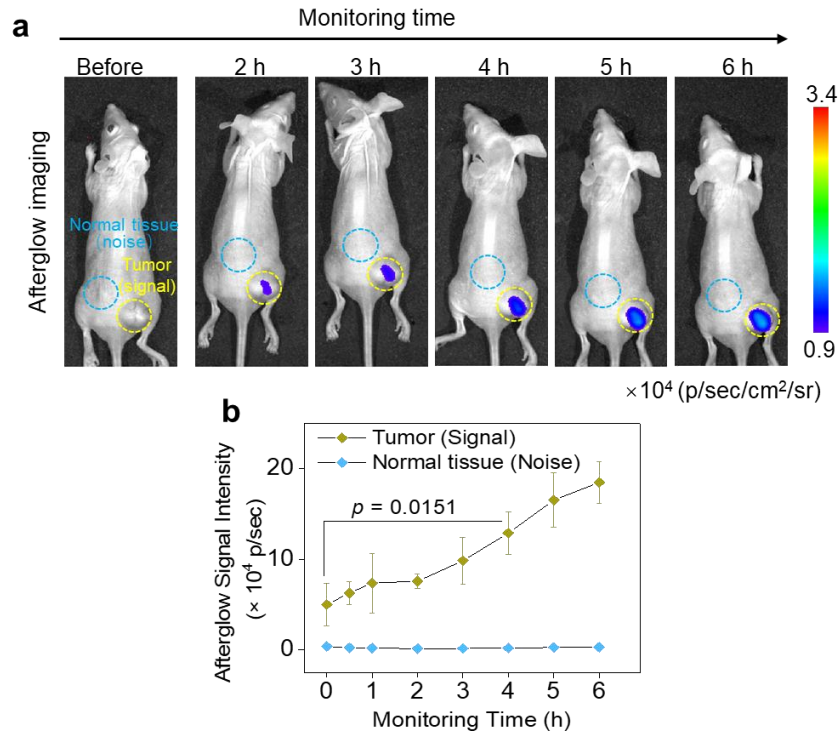
Supplementary Fig. 39 Quantification of uptake percentage of APE1-probe into two types of cells (HeLa and HEK293 cells) after radiation (6 Gray) (10 mW/cm^2 , irradiation time: 10 s, acquisition time: 60 s, $n = 3$ independent biological samples after DPBS washing). Data are presented as means $\pm$ SD. Statistical significance was determined using a two-tailed Student's t-test for pairwise comparisons, and a one-way ANOVA analysis of variance for multiple groups. P values > 0.05 were considered non-significant, while p values < 0.05 were considered statistically significant. HeLa cells and HEK293 cells were seeded into a 48-well plate for 24 hours, and then the cells were treated with 6 Gray of radiation. After 2 hours, the treated cells were incubated with APE1-probe (containing $10 \text{ }\mu\text{g/mL}$ TA NPs) at various times. The cells from different times were collected, counted, and diluted for Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry (ICP-MS) measurement.



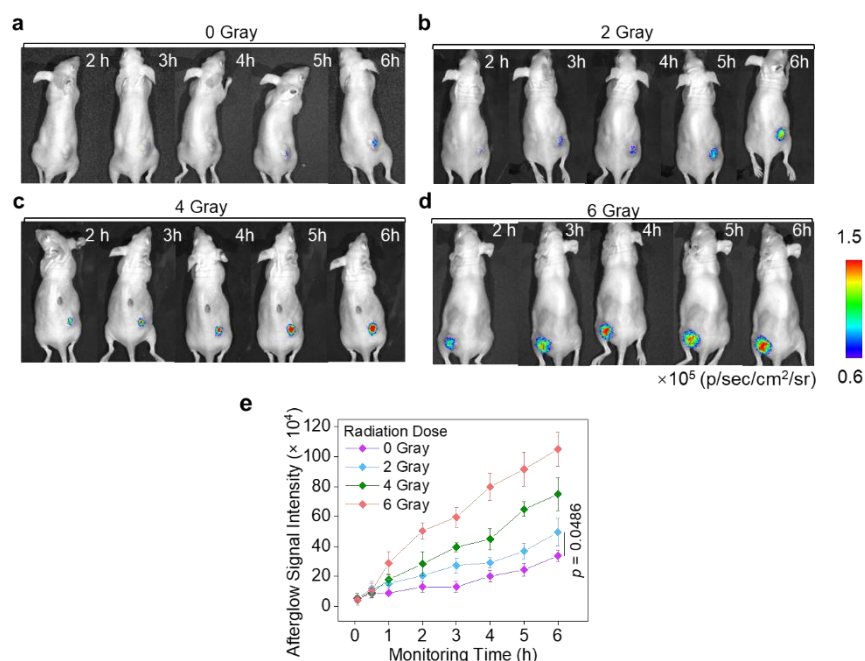
Supplementary Fig. 40 MRI signal intensity of the various concentrations of HeLa cells treated with various doses of radiation (0, 2, 4, and 6 Gray, respectively) and APE1-probe (n = 3 independent biologically samples after DPBS washing). (a) Quantified T₁ MRI signal intensity. (b) Quantified T₂ MRI signal intensity. Data are presented as means ± SD. Statistical significance was determined using two-tailed Student's t-test for pairwise comparisons, and one-way ANOVA analysis of variance for multiple groups. P values > 0.05 were considered non-significant, while p values < 0.05 were considered statistically significant.



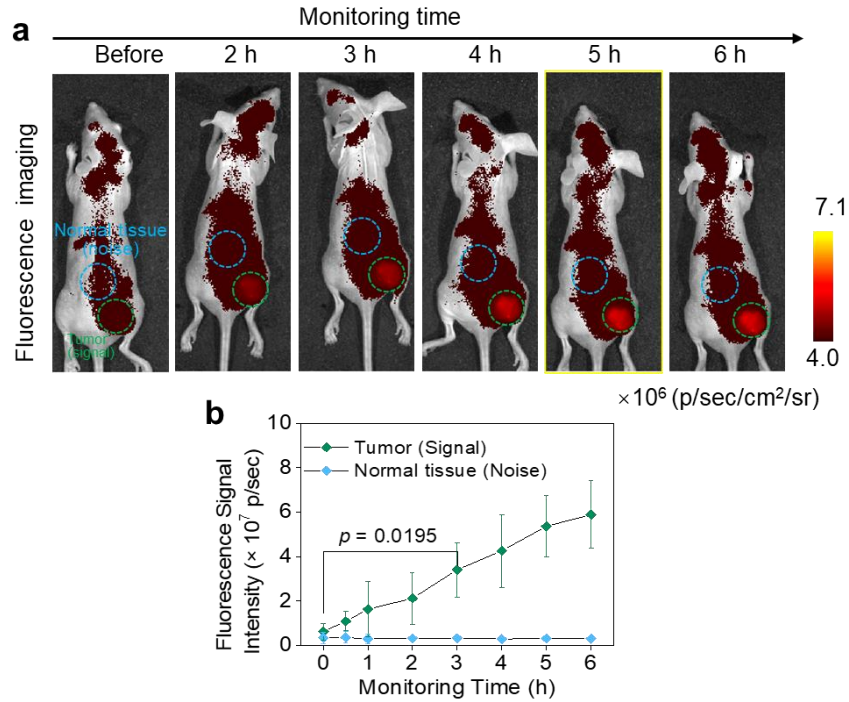
Supplementary Fig. 41 Uncropped western blot images depicting the levels of APE1 (37 kDa) and the intrinsic reference protein tubulin (55 kDa) in HeLa cells following a post-treatment period of 2 hours under varying radiation doses. The images, captured with an exposure time of 15 seconds, clearly show the distinct bands corresponding to the protein levels after treatments with 0, 2, 4, and 6 Gray, respectively, from left to right. These images are captured using the Tanon 4600 Chemiluminescent Imaging system (Tanon, China) and exported image is the format of TIFF.



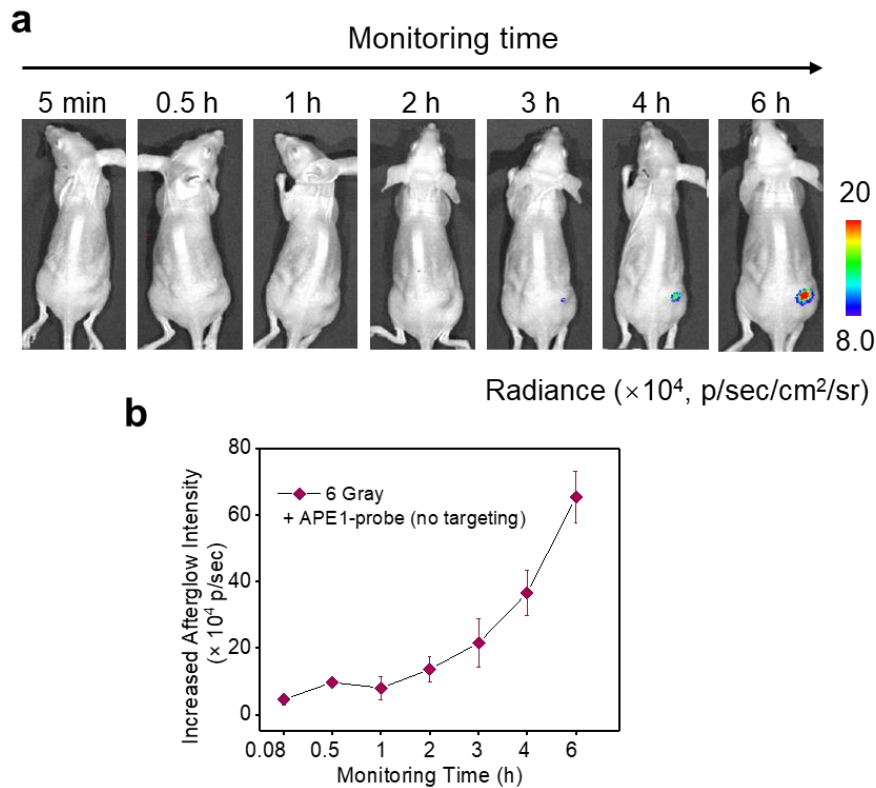
Supplementary Fig. 42 Afterglow imaging of mice after injection of APE1-probe (no targeting) (120 μ L, 80 μ g/mL) at different periods (10 mW/cm², irradiation time of 10 s, acquisition time of 60 s, $n = 3$ mice per group). (a) Afterglow images. (b) Quantified afterglow signal intensity. Data are presented as means $\pm$ SD. Statistical significance was determined using two-tailed Student's t-test for pairwise comparisons, and one-way ANOVA analysis of variance for multiple groups. P values > 0.05 were considered non-significant, while p values < 0.05 were considered statistically significant.



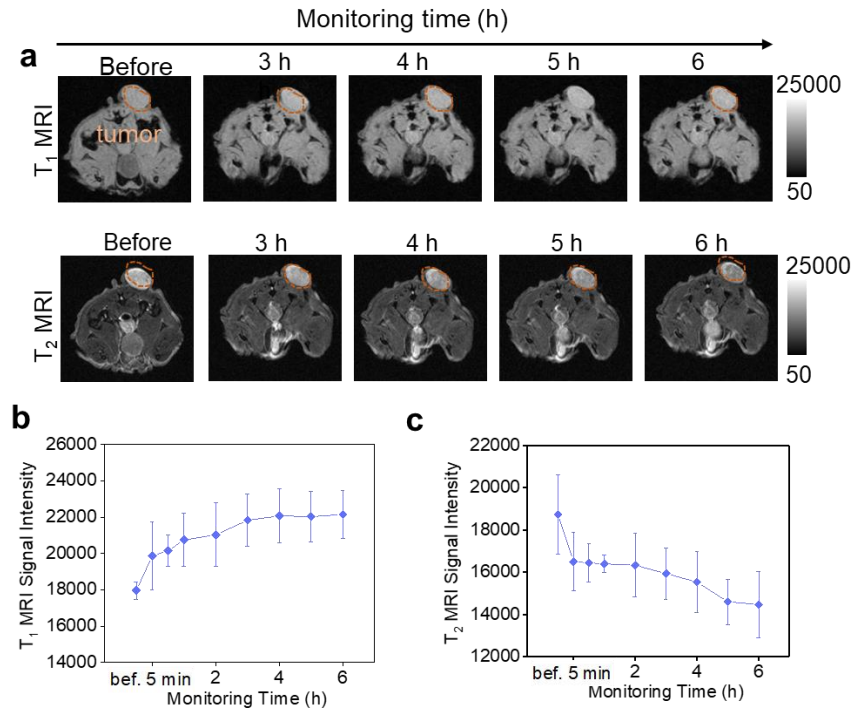
Supplementary Fig.43 Afterglow imaging of the mice treated with various radiation doses, and then intravenously injected with APE1-probe (120 μ L, 80 μ g/mL) (10 mW/cm², irradiation time: 10 s, acquisition time: 60 s, n = 3 mice per group). (a) 0 Gray radiation treatment. (b) 2 Gray radiation treatment. (c) 4 Gray radiation treatment. (d) 6 Gray radiation treatment. (e) Quantified afterglow signal intensity from (a – d). Data are presented as means $\pm$ SD. Statistical significance was determined using two-tailed Student's t-test for pairwise comparisons, and one-way ANOVA analysis of variance for multiple groups. P values > 0.05 were considered non-significant, while p values < 0.05 were considered statistically significant.



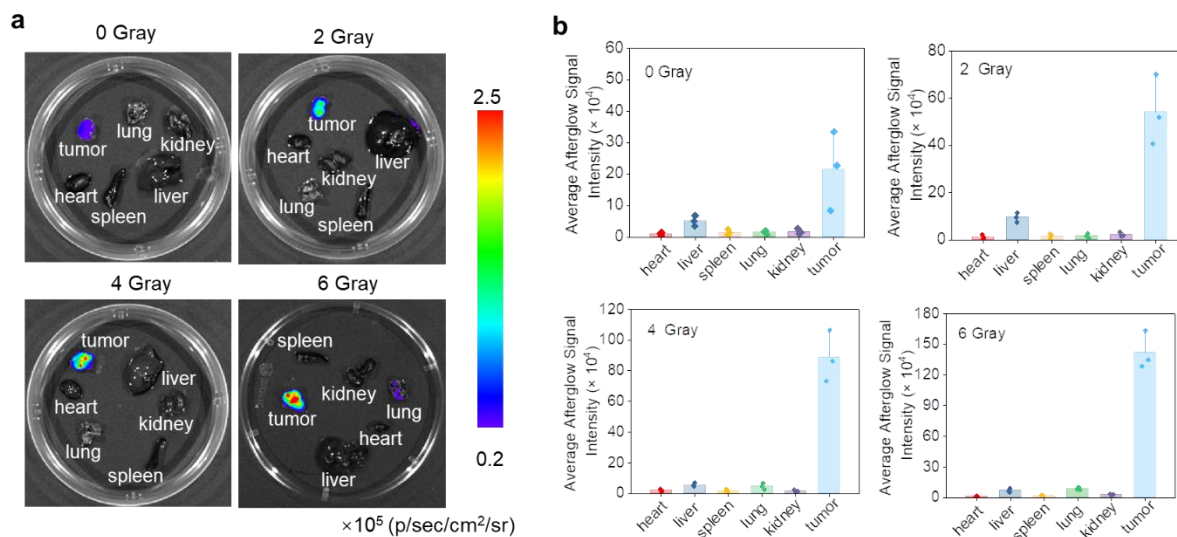
Supplementary Fig. 44 Fluorescence imaging of mice after injection of APE1-probe (no targeting) at different periods (Excitation wavelength: 605 nm, emission: Cy5.5 channel, $n = 3$ mice per group). (a) Fluorescence images. (b) Quantified fluorescence signal intensity. Data are presented as means $\pm$ SD. Statistical significance was determined using two-tailed Student's t -test for pairwise comparisons, and one-way ANOVA analysis of variance for multiple groups. P values > 0.05 were considered non-significant, while p values < 0.05 were considered statistically significant.



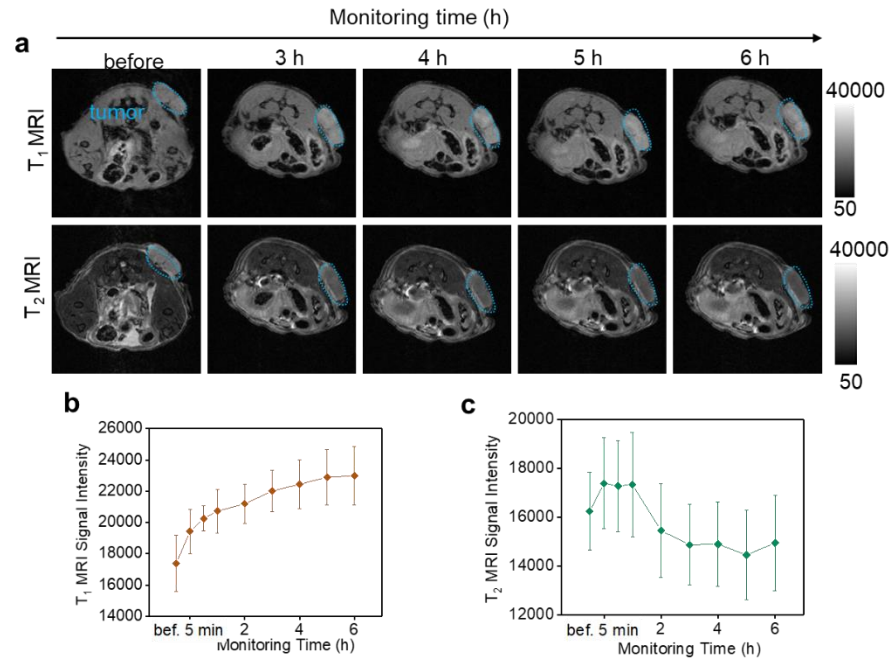
Supplementary Fig. 45 Afterglow imaging and quantification of signal intensity of the mice with the injection of APE1-probe (no targeting) after radiation treatment (6 Gray, 10 mW/cm², irradiation time: 10 s, acquisition time: 60 s, n = 3 mice per group). (a) Afterglow images. (b) Quantification of afterglow signal intensity from (a). Data are presented as means $\pm$ SD.



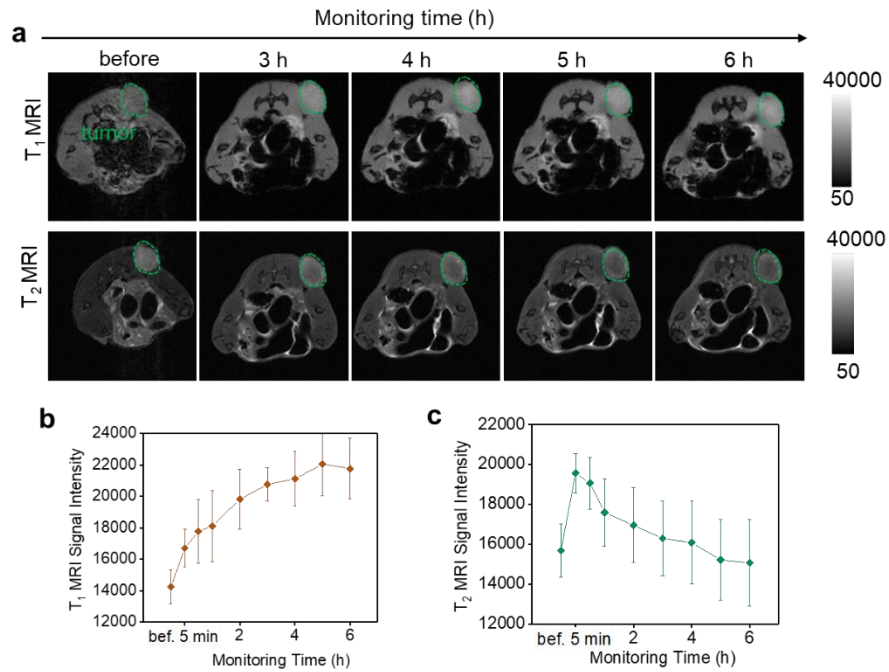
Supplementary Fig. 46 MRI imaging of the mice after intravenous injection of APE1-probe (no targeting) at different periods (n = 3 mice per group). (a) T₁ and T₂ MRI images. (b) Quantified T₁ MRI signal intensity. (c) Quantified T₂ MRI signal intensity. Data are presented as means $\pm$ SD.



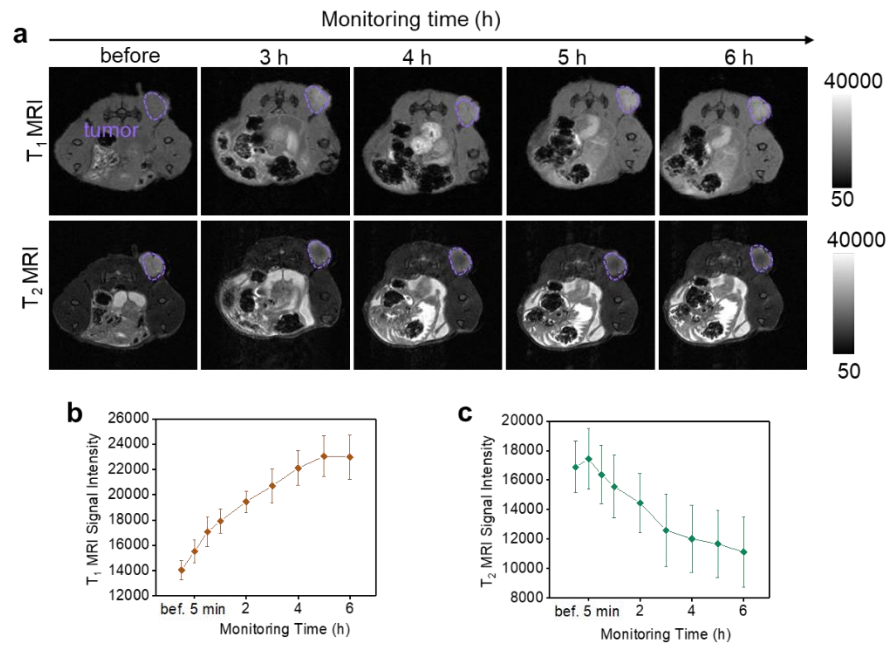
Supplementary Fig. 47 Afterglow imaging of organs and tumors harvested from mice at 8 hours post intravenous injection of APE1-probe (at 10-hour post-radiation treatment) (10 mW/cm², irradiation time: 10 s, acquisition time: 60 s, n = 3 mice per group). (a) Afterglow images. (b) Quantified afterglow signal intensity from (a). Data are presented as means $\pm$ SD.



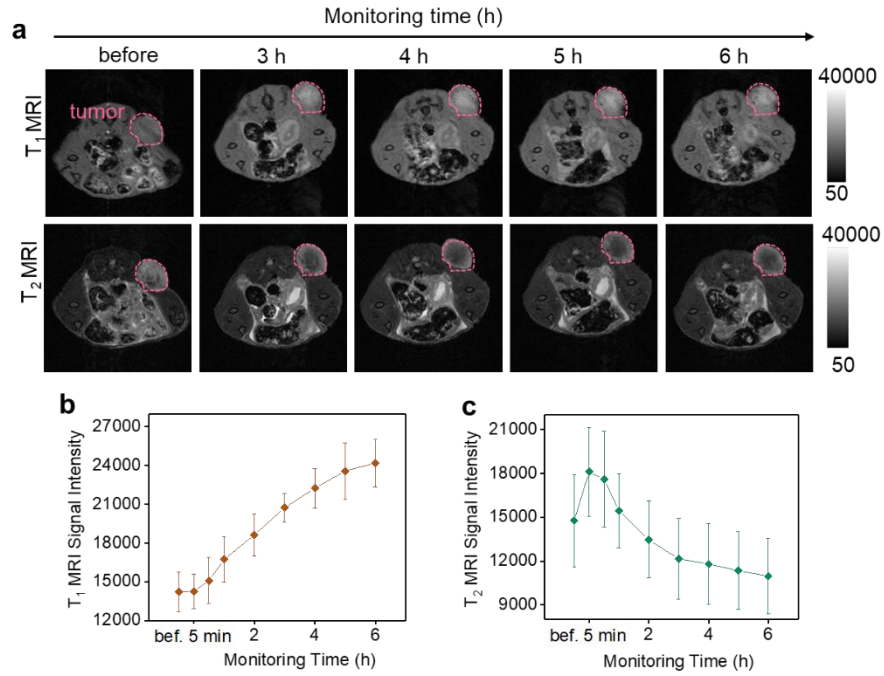
Supplementary Fig. 48 MRI imaging of the mice after intravenous injection of APE1-probe (n = 3 mice per group). (a) T₁ and T₂ MRI images. (b) Quantified T₁ MRI signal intensity. (c) Quantified T₂ MRI signal intensity. Data are presented as means $\pm$ SD.



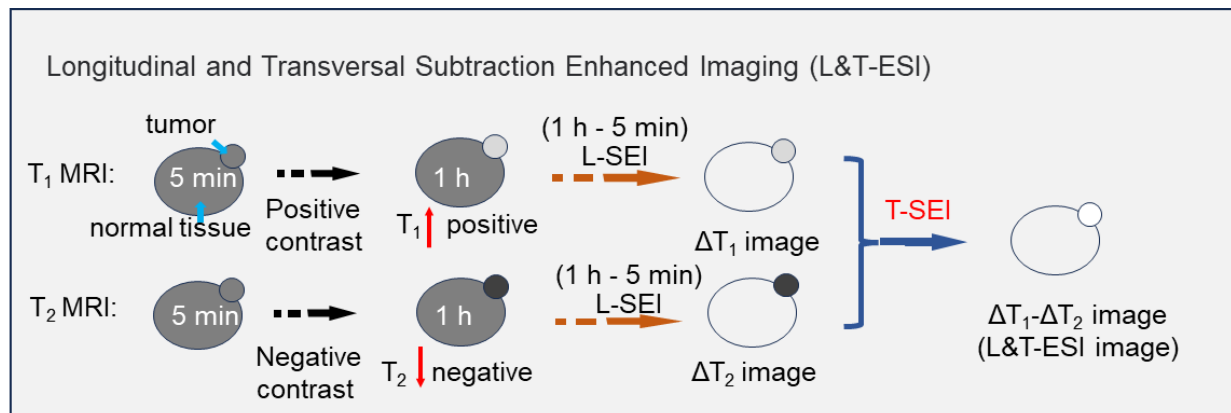
Supplementary Fig. 49 MRI imaging of the mice treated with 2 Gray radiation and then intravenous injection of APE1-probe (n = 3 mice per group). (a) T₁ and T₂ MRI images. (b) Quantified T₁ MRI signal intensity. (c) Quantified T₂ MRI signal intensity. Data are presented as means ± SD.



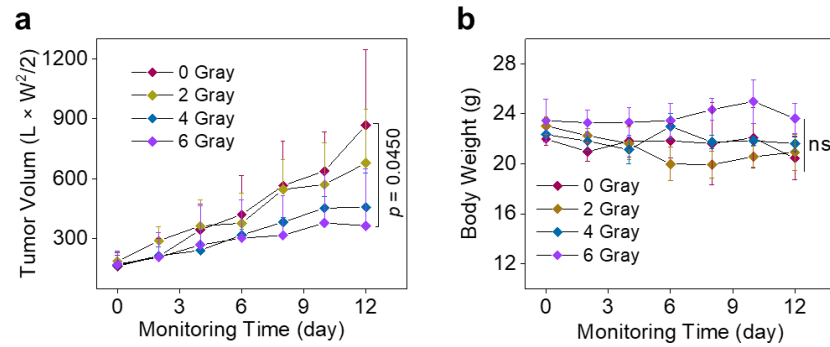
Supplementary Fig. 50 MRI imaging of the mice treated with 4 Gray radiation and then intravenous injection of APE1-probe (n = 3 mice per group). (a) T₁ and T₂ MRI images. (b) Quantified T₁ MRI signal intensity. (c) Quantified T₂ MRI signal intensity. Data are presented as means ± SD.



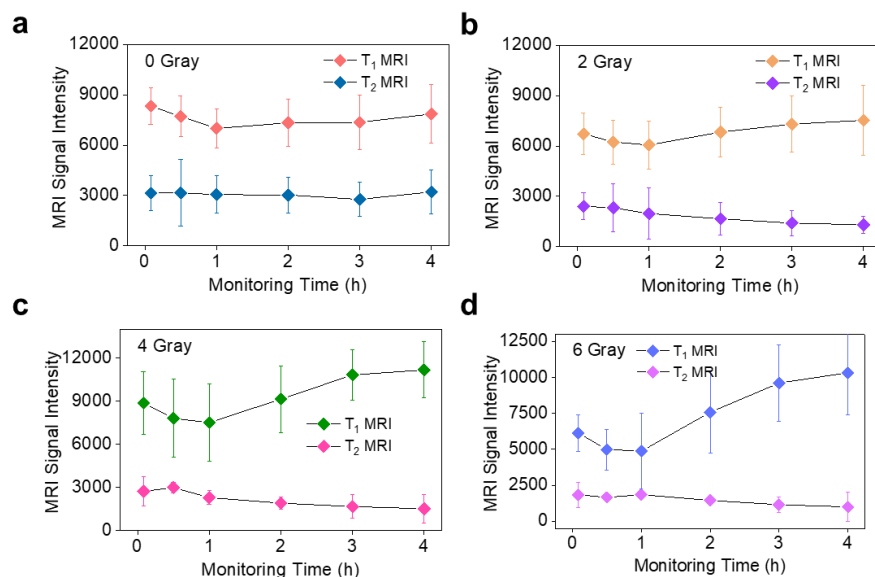
Supplementary Fig. 51 MRI imaging of the mice treated with 6 Gray radiation and then intravenous injection of APE1-probe (n = 3 mice per group). (a) T₁ and T₂ MRI images. (b) Quantified T₁ MRI signal intensity. (c) Quantified T₂ MRI signal intensity. Data are presented as means ± SD.



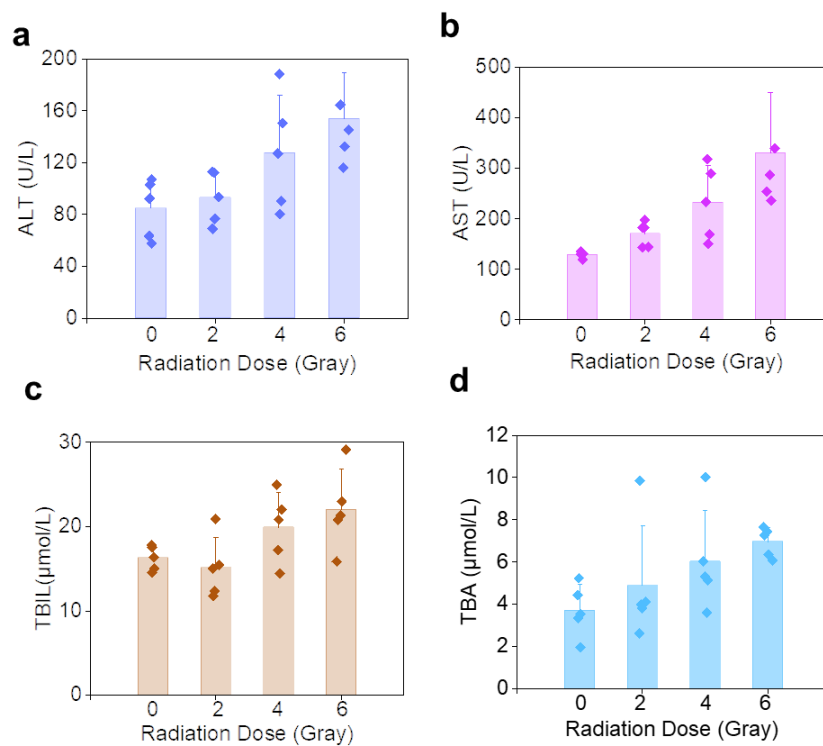
Supplementary Fig. 52 Subtraction process for longitudinal and transversal subtraction enhanced imaging (L&T-ESI).



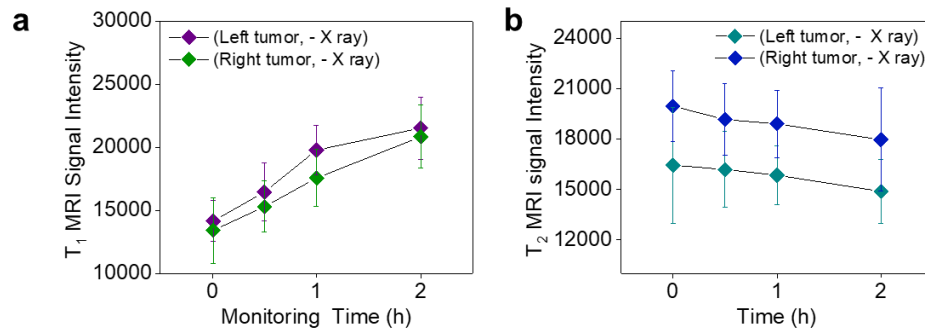
Supplementary Fig. 53 Radiotherapy for tumors of mice in vivo under various radiation intensities (n = 5 mice per group). (a) Tumor growth curve. (b) Body weight. Data are presented as means $\pm$ SD. Statistical significance was determined using two-tailed Student's t-test for pairwise comparisons, and one-way ANOVA analysis of variance for multiple groups. P values > 0.05 were considered non-significant (ns), while p values < 0.05 were considered statistically significant.



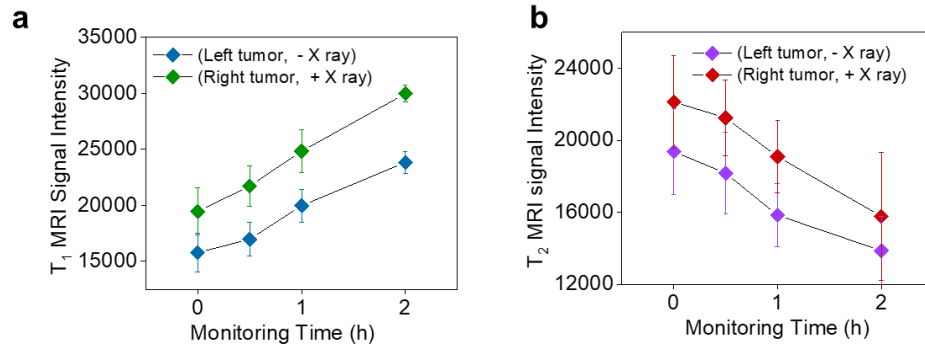
Supplementary Fig. 54 Quantified MRI signal intensity of the liver of mice after various radiation treatments and then intravenous injection of APE1-probe (n = 3 mice per group). (a) 0 Gray treatments. (b) 2 Gray treatments. (c) 4 Gray treatments. (d) 6 Gray treatments. Data are presented as means $\pm$ SD.



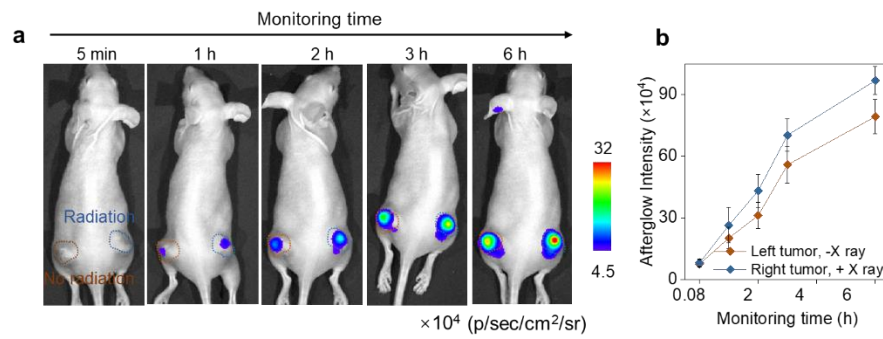
Supplementary Fig. 55 The determination of liver function index of the mice treated with various radiation doses (n = 5 mice per group). (a) Alanine aminotransferase (ALT), (b) Aspartate aminotransferase (AST), (c) Total bilirubin (TBIL), (d) Total bile acids (TBA). Data are presented as means $\pm$ SD.



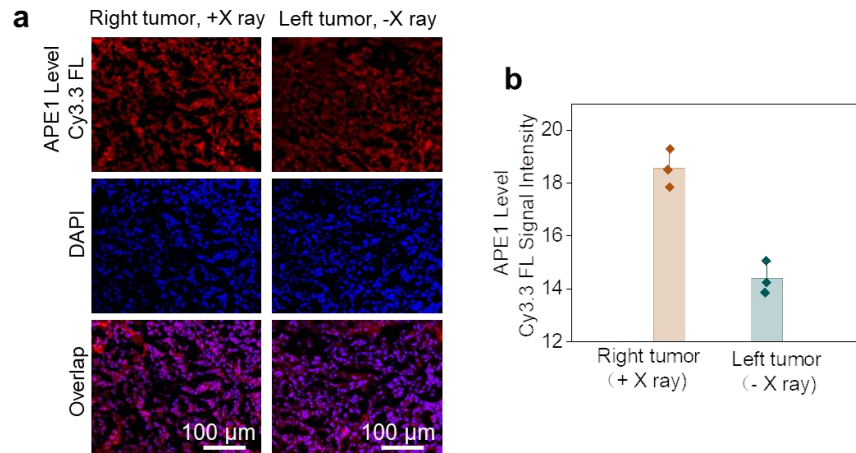
Supplementary Fig. 56 MRI signal intensity of the Group 2 mice with intravenous injection of APE1-probe (n = 3 mice per group). (a) T₁ MRI signal intensity. (b) T₂ MRI signal intensity. Data are presented as means $\pm$ SD.



Supplementary Fig. 57 MRI signal intensity of the Group 1 mice with radiation treatment only in the right tumor and then intravenous injection of APE1-probe (n = 3 mice per group). (a) T₁ MRI signal intensity. (b) T₂ MRI signal intensity. Data are presented as means $\pm$ SD.



Supplementary Fig. 58 Afterglow imaging of the Group 1 mice with radiation treatment only in the right tumor and then intravenous injection of APE1-probe (10 mW/cm², irradiation time: 10 s, acquisition time: 60 s, n = 3 mice per group). (a) Afterglow images. (b) Quantification of afterglow signal intensity from (a). Data are presented as means $\pm$ SD.



Supplementary Fig. 59 Fluorescence confocal images and signal intensity for immunofluorescence of tumors slice from the Group 1 mice with radiation treatment (6 Gray) only in the right tumor while no radiation by incubating with anti-APE antibody and Cy3-labeled IgG for testing APE1 level treatment in left tumor (n = 3 mice per group). (a) Fluorescence confocal images. (b) Mean fluorescence signal intensity. Data are presented as means $\pm$ SD.

Supplementary tables

No.	Detection method	Target	Imaging agent	In-vivo Imaging	Radiation types	Monitor therapy	Evaluate toxicity	Reference
1	Afterglow imaging	APE1	Afterglow nanoparticle	Yes	External beam radiation	Yes	Yes	This work
	MRI imaging		FeMnO _x nanoparticle					
2	Immunohistochemistry	Ki67	No	No (ex vivo tissue)	External beam radiation	No	No	<i>Histopathology</i> . 2023 Doi: 10.1111/his.15032.
3	PET	Chemokine receptor 4	⁶⁸ Ga-pentixafor	Yes	Internal radioisotope radiation	No	No	<i>Clin. Nucl. Med.</i> , 42 , e29-e34 (2017).
4		Tumor accumulation	[⁶⁸ Ga]PSMA-11	Yes	Internal radioisotope radiation	No	No	<i>Sci Rep.</i> , 11 , 15263 (2021)
5	SPECT	Tumor accumulation	[¹²³ I]NaI	Yes	Internal radioisotope radiation	No	No	<i>Mol. Pharmaceutics.</i> , 20 , 3460-3470 (2023)

Supplementary tab. 1 Representative companion diagnostic studies for guiding radiotherapy

Signal type	Limit of detection and medium	Design strategy	Detection range	In-vivo imaging	Background interference	Reference
Ultrastrong afterglow luminescence	0.0092 U/mL in 1× NeBuffer 4	No amplification	0 ~ 4 U/mL	Yes	No	This work
Subtraction-enhanced MRI	0.16 U/mL in 1× NeBuffer 4		0 ~ 2 U/mL			
Cy3 fluorescence	0.139 U/mL	No amplification	0 ~ 2.24 U/mL	No		<i>Chem. Sci.</i> , 10 , 5959–5966 (2019)
Cy5 fluorescence	3.34×10^{-5} U/mL In 1× NEBuffer 4	DNA chain hybridization amplification	0 ~ 0.1 U/ μ L	No		<i>Chem. Sci.</i> , 14 , 2318 (2023)
Cy5 fluorescence	0.23 U/mL in 1× NeBuffer 4	No amplification	0.5 ~ 100 U/mL	No		<i>Anal. Chem.</i> , 95 , 3551–3555 (2023)
FAM fluorescence	0.007 U/ mL unmentioned medium	Toehold-mediated strand displacement	0 ~ 1 U/mL	No		<i>Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.</i> , 62 , e202213884 (2023)
Cy5 fluorescence	0.01 U/mL in 1×Nebuffer 1.1	Catalytic hairpin assembly	0.2 ~ 1 U/mL	No		<i>Chem. Sci.</i> , 11 , 10361–10366 (2020)
FAM and TAMRA fluorescence	7.8×10^{-5} U/ mL in buffer	Hybridization chain reaction and catalytic hairpin assembly	0.0001 ~ 1.0 U/ mL	No		<i>Small</i> , 19 , 2207736 (2023)
Cy5.5 fluorescence	0.22 U/mL in 1× NeBuffer 4	No amplification	0 ~ 2 U/mL	Yes	Autofluorescence	<i>ACS Nano</i> , 14 , 13792–13810 (2023)
Cy3 fluorescence	0.078 U/mL in Tris-acetate buffer	No amplification	0 ~ 1 U/mL	Yes	Autofluorescence	<i>ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces</i> 15 , 22, 26316–26327 (2023)
Cy5 fluorescence	0.01 U/mL In Tris-HCl buffer	No amplification	0 ~ 0.1 U/mL	Yes	Autofluorescence	<i>Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.</i> 60 , 14887–14891 (2021)

Supplementary tab. 2 Characterization comparison of the representative probe for APE1 detection.

Organic afterglow particle	Excitation source	Minimum excitation powder density in solution	Maximum emission wavelength or range	Emission lifetime	Afterglow intensity in solution and in vivo imaging of subcutaneous tumor	References
TA NPs	White light source	60 $\mu\text{W}/\text{cm}^2$	640 nm	$t_{1/2} \approx 600$ s	In 1×NeBuffer: $\sim 1.6 \times 10^6$ (p/s/cm ² /sr)/(5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$) with white light irradiation (10 mW/cm ²) of 10 s and acquisition time of 60 s; In vivo imaging: $\sim 1 \times 10^6$ (p/s/cm ² /sr)/(80 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$, 120 μL) with white light irradiation (10 mW/cm ²) of 10 s and acquisition time of 60 s	This work
P1–P5 polymers	365 nm UV light	20 mW/cm ²	508 nm	$t_{1/2} \approx 869$ ms	None	<i>J. Am. Chem. Soc.</i> 2023 , 145, 13, 7343–7351
MAS-pH/AL/Cu/G SH	660 nm laser	0.5–1.0 W/cm ²	510–570 nm	$t_{1/2} \approx 30$ s	In PBS buffer: $\sim 8 \times 10^5$ (p/s/cm ² /sr)/(50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$) with 660 nm laser irradiation (0.5 W/cm ²) of 30 s, and acquisition time of 10 s; In vivo imaging: $\sim 10^6$ (p/s/cm ² /sr)/(100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$, 25 μL) with 660 nm laser irradiation (1.0 W/cm ²) of 30 s, and acquisition time of 30 s	<i>J. Am. Chem. Soc.</i> 2023 , 145, 24386–24400
MAP-pH /O ₂ ²⁻ /LAP	660 nm laser	0.8–1.0 W/cm ²	510–570 nm	$t_{1/2} \approx 60$ s	In PBS buffer: $\sim 2.6 \times 10^5$ (p/s/cm ² /sr)/(50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$) with 660 nm laser irradiation (0.8 W/cm ²) of 30 s and acquisition time of 30 s; In vivo imaging: $\sim 4 \times 10^5$ (p/s/cm ² /sr)/(50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$, 25 μL) with a 660 nm laser irradiation (1.0 W/cm ²) of 30 s and acquisition time of 30 s	<i>J. Am. Chem. Soc.</i> 2023 , 145, 9, 5134–5144
Chlorin Nanoparticle	Halogen lamp, 808 nm laser	0.1 W/cm ² or 1 W/cm ²	660–680 nm	$t_{1/2} \approx 1.5$ h	In PBS buffer: $\sim 1.5 \times 10^5$ (p/s/cm ² /sr)/(50 μM) with Halogen lamp irradiation of 60 s and acquisition time of 10 s; In vivo imaging: $\sim 3 \times 10^3$ (p/s/cm ² /sr)/(25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$, 50 μL) with Halogen lamp irradiation of 60 s and acquisition time of 10 s	<i>J. Am. Chem. Soc.</i> 2022 , 144, 15, 6719
P-TNP	White LED lamp, xenon lamp	2 W/cm ²	630 nm	$t_{1/2} \approx 120$ s	In H ₂ O solution: ~ 800 (cps/mm ²)/(100 mg/mL) with white LED lamp irradiation (2 W/cm ²) of 60 s, and acquisition time of 10 s; In vivo imaging: $\sim 1.5 \times 10^4$ (p/s/cm ² /sr)/(0.1 mg/mL, 200 μL) with white LED lamp irradiation (2 W/cm ²) of 120 s, and acquisition time of 60 s	<i>Chem. Sci.</i> 2020 , 11, 419
F12 ⁺ -ANP	808 nm laser	1 W/cm ²	775 nm	$t_{1/2} \approx 396$ s	In PBS buffer: $\sim 6 \times 10^6$ (p/s/cm ² /sr)/(58/28/2.2 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ F12 ⁺ (BF ⁺) ₂ /MEH-PPV/NIR775) with 808 nm laser irradiation (1 W/cm ²) of 60 s, and acquisition time of 60 s; In vivo imaging: $\sim 3 \times 10^5$ (p/s/cm ² /sr)/(211/100/8 μg F12 ⁺ (BF ⁺) ₂ /MEH-PPV/NIR775, 200 μL) with 808 nm laser irradiation (1 W/cm ²) of 60 s, and acquisition time of 60 s	<i>Nat. Commun.</i> 2020 , 11, 446
OSN1-T	365 nm UV light	10 mW/cm ²	530 nm and 570 nm	$t_{1/2} \approx 10$ s	In PBS buffer: $\sim 6 \times 10^{18}$ (p/s/cm ² /sr)/(1.6 μM) with handheld UV lamp irradiation (12 W) of 60 s, and acquisition time of 10 s; In vivo imaging: $\sim 1.5 \times 10^4$ (p/s/cm ² /sr)/(16 μM) with UV light irradiation (18 mW/cm ²) of 60 s, and acquisition time of 10 s	<i>Adv. Mater.</i> 2017 , 29, 1606665
SPN-NCBS; SPN-thiol	808 nm laser	1 W/cm ²	780 nm	$t_{1/2} \approx 396$ s	In water: $\sim 1 \times 10^6$ (p/s/cm ² /sr)/(1.25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$) with 808 nm laser irradiation (1 W/cm ²) of 60 s, and acquisition time of 30 s; In vivo imaging: $\sim 7 \times 10^5$ (p/s/cm ² /sr)/($\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$, 0.25 mg/mL, 2 μL) with 808 nm laser irradiation (0.5 W/cm ²) of 60 s, and acquisition time of 180 s	<i>Nat. Biotechnol.</i> 2017 , 35, 1102–1110
APIN	808 nm laser	0.25 W/cm ²	550 nm	$t_{1/2} \approx 960$ s	In PBS buffer: $\sim 1.5 \times 10^6$ (p/s/cm ² /sr)/(1 mg/mL) with 808 nm laser irradiation (0.25 W/cm ²) of 10 s, and acquisition time of 60 s; In vivo imaging: $\sim 1.5 \times 10^4$ (p/s/cm ² /sr)/(400 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$, 200 μL) with 808 nm laser irradiation (0.25 W/cm ²) of 20 s, and acquisition time of 60 s	<i>Adv. Mater.</i> 2019 , 31, 1902672
mTPA-N	365 nm UV light	95 mW/cm ²	515 – 640 nm	$t_{1/2} \approx 13$ ms	In aqueous solution: $\sim 7 \times 10^4$ (p/s/cm ² /sr)/(300 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$) with UV irradiation (95 mW/cm ²) of 5 s and exposure time of 5 s; In vivo imaging: $\sim 9 \times 10^5$ (p/s/cm ² /sr)/(600 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$, 50 μL) with UV irradiation (95 mW/cm ²) of 5 s, and exposure time of 5 s	<i>Adv. Mater.</i> 2020 , 32, 2006752
Q-SNAP	Ultrasound	1.5 W/cm ²	780 nm	$t_{1/2} \approx 90$ s	In PBS buffer: $\sim 2 \times 10^6$ (p/s/cm ² /sr)/(10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$) with ultrasound irradiation (1.5 W/cm ²) of 30 s, and acquisition time of 1 s; In vivo imaging: $\sim 7 \times 10^4$ (p/s/cm ² /sr)/(2 mg/kg mice) with ultrasound irradiation (1.5 W/cm ²) of 30 s and acquisition time of 10 s	<i>Adv. Mater.</i> 2023 , 35, 2211651
TPP-DO	Halogen lamp	50 mW/cm ²	650 nm	$t_{1/2} \approx 120$ s	In PBS buffer: $\sim 4.0 \times 10^6$ (p/s/cm ² /sr)/(25 μM) with halogen lamp irradiation (50 mW/cm ²) of 10 s, and acquisition time of 5 s; In vivo imaging: $\sim 4.0 \times 10^5$ (p/s/cm ² /sr)/(200 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$, 200 μL) with halogen lamp irradiation (50 mW/cm ²) of 10 s, and acquisition time of 10 s for,	<i>Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.</i> 2024 , 63, e202313117

Supplementary tab. 3 Luminescence characterization comparison of reported organic afterglow materials.

Supplementary References

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2. Guo, J. *et al.* Large aromatic hydrocarbon radical cation with global aromaticity and state-associated magnetic activity. *Chem. Mater.* **32**, 5927-5936 (2020).