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IR Luminescence of Polyfunctional Associates of Indocyanine Green and Ag₂S Quantum Dots*

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In this work, manifestations of IR luminescence sensitization of Indocyanine Green during conjugation with colloidal Ag₂S quantum dots with an average size of 2.2 and 3.7 nm, passivated with thioglycolic acid molecules (Ag₂S/TGA QDs) are studied using absorption and luminescence techniques. The possibility of enhancing luminescence in the dye monomer band (820 nm) under excitation at 660 nm by a factor of 6 in the presence of Ag₂S/TGA QDs (2.2 nm) due to a decrease in the polymethine dye chain movement via coordination interaction with QDs was demonstrated. The way to switch-over from the first therapeutic window of biological tissue transparency (NIR-I, 700–950 nm) to the second (NIR-II, 1000–1700 nm), based on sensitization of IR luminescence of Ag₂S/TGA QDs with an average size of 3.7 nm in the region of 1040 nm due to of resonance non-radiative transfer of excitation energy from Ag₂S/TGA (2.2 nm) QDs at 900 nm to Ag₂S/TGA QDs (3.7 nm) via the J-aggregate of ICG dye, which acts as an exciton bridge.

Keywords: J-aggregate, non-radiative decay, exciton absorption.

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