

**Supporting Information**

**Nitrogen-doped orange emitting carbon dots for  $\beta$ -carotene detection and lysosomal imaging**

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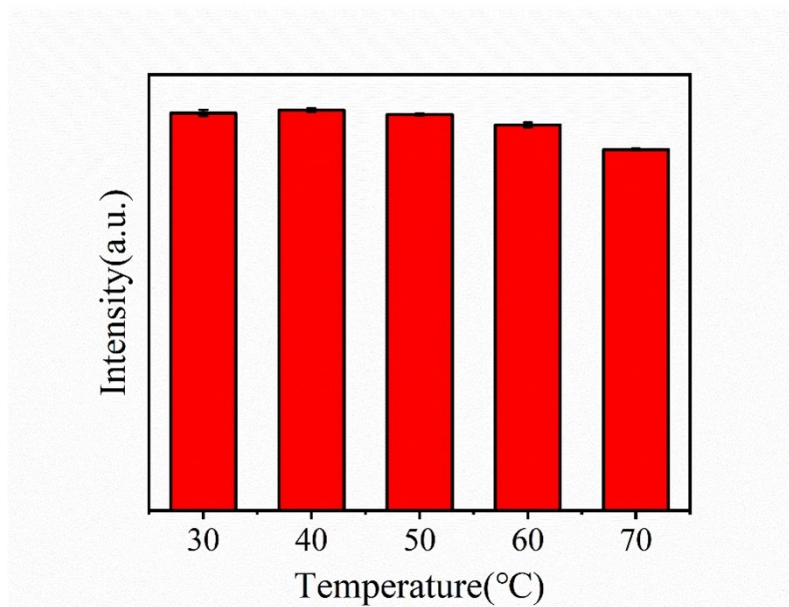


Fig. S1 Fluorescence intensity of O-CDs at different temperatures

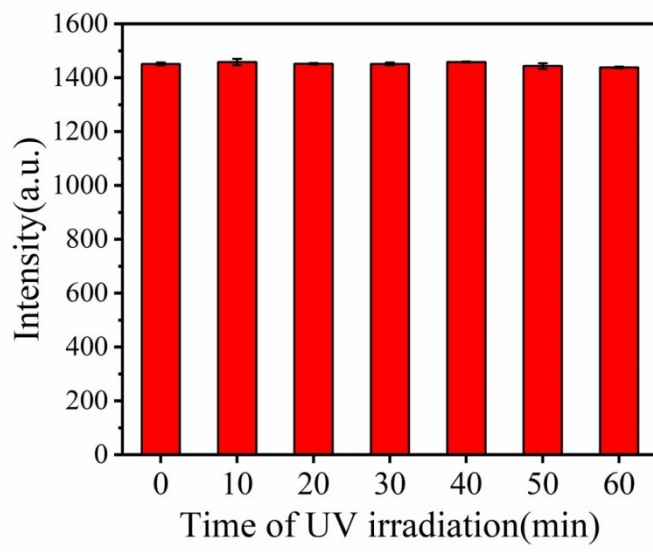


Fig. S2 Fluorescence intensity of O-CDs after a period of UV irradiation

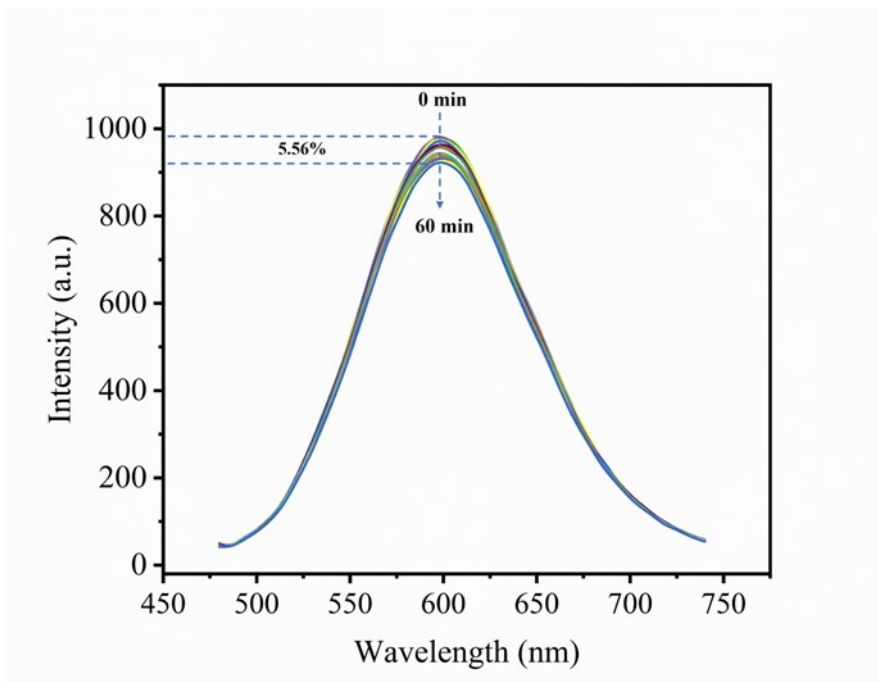


Fig. S3 Variation of the FL intensity of the O-CDs between 0-60 min under the irradiation of 470 nm.

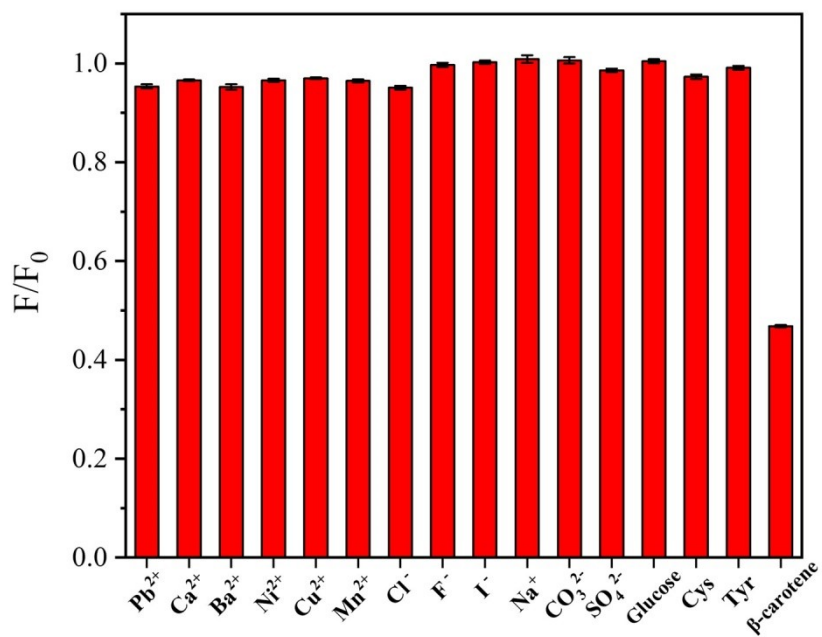


Fig. S4 The ratio of fluorescence intensity of O-CDs solution before and after adding every substances.

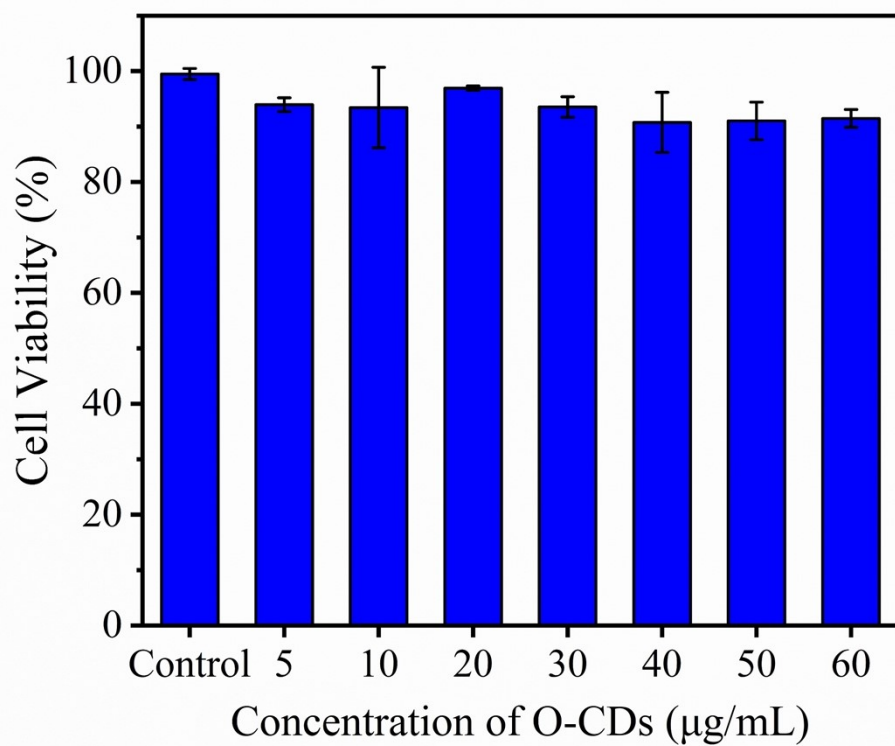


Fig. S5 Cell viability of HeLa cells incubated with 0 to 60 µg/mL O-CDs for 24 h.

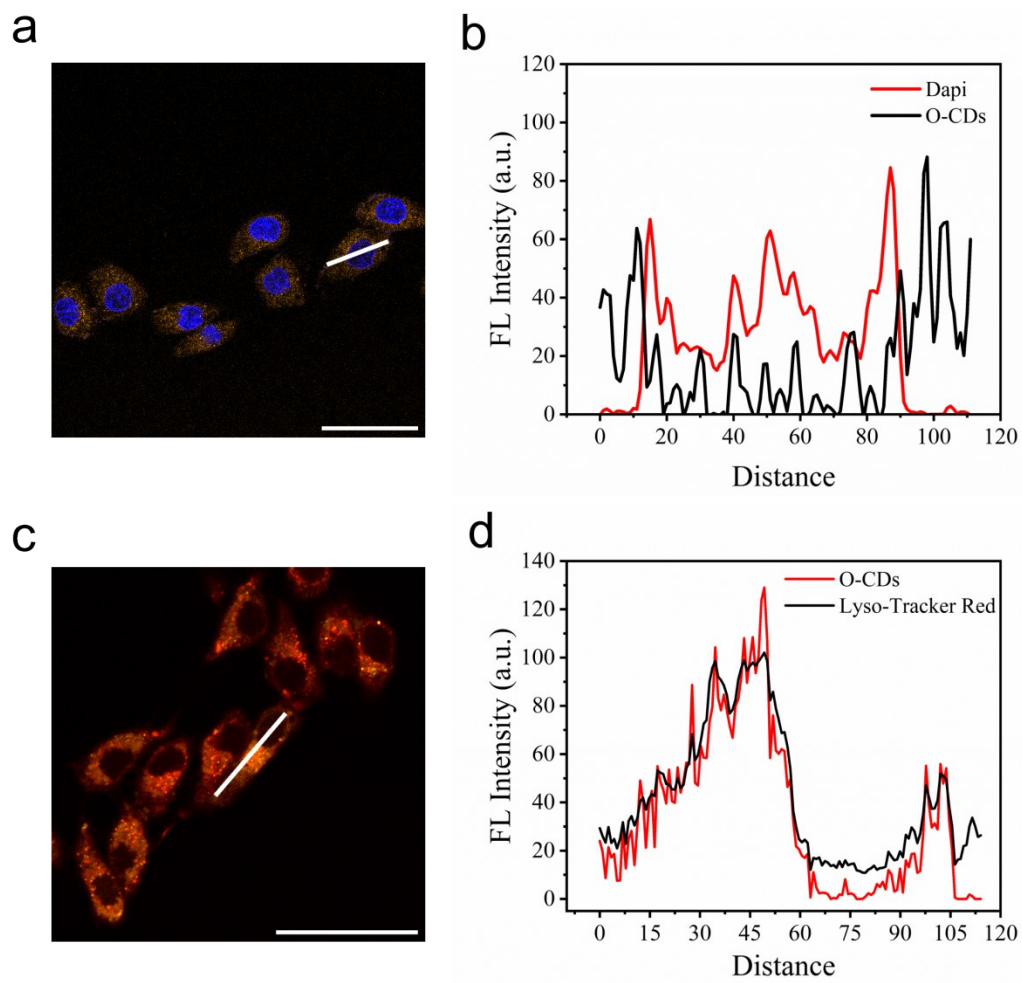


Fig. S6 (a-b) The fluorescence intensity of the region of interest (ROIs) in the HeLa cells in the O-CDs and DAPI dihydrochloride channels. (c-d) The fluorescence intensity of the region of interest (ROIs) in the HeLa cells in the O-CDs and Lyso-Tracker Red channels.

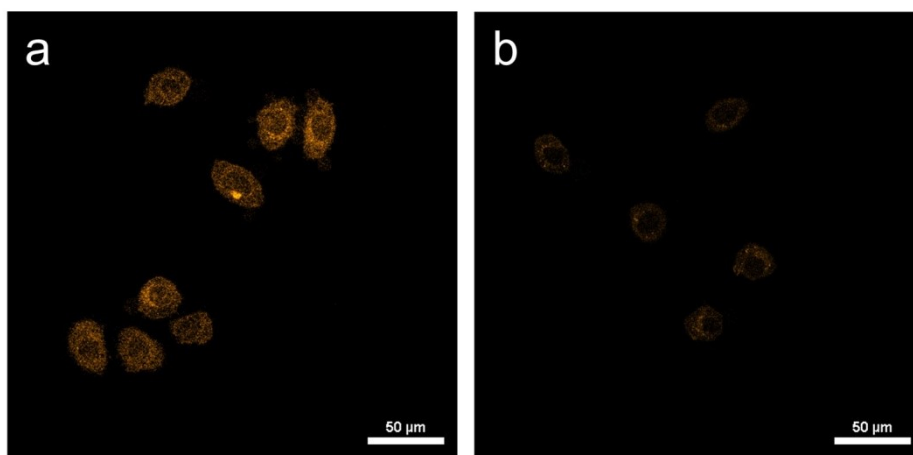


Fig. S7 (a) Confocal laser scanning microscope (CLSM) images of HeLa cells incubated at 37°C. (b) Images of HeLa cells incubated at 4°C.



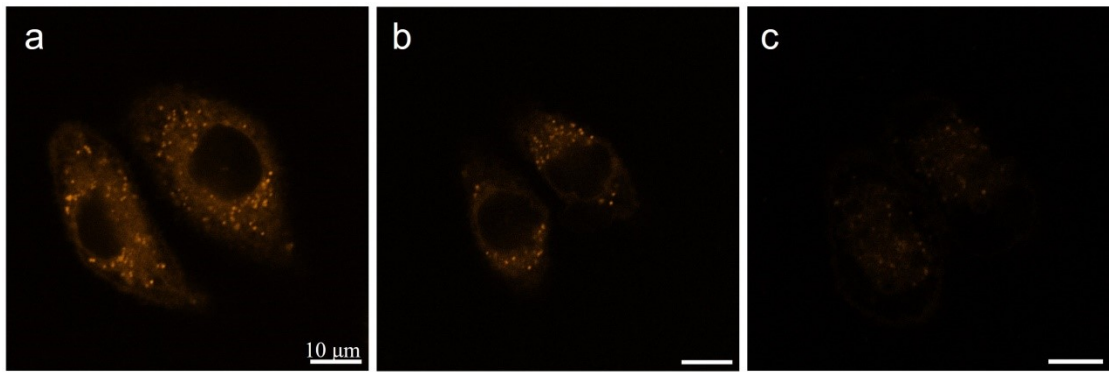


Fig. S8 Necrosis evolution tracking of HeLa cells induced by NaOH solution.

Table 1. Comparison of the different approach with other reported methods for determining  $\beta$ -carotene

Method	Linear range	Detection limit	Ref.
Oxidation Voltammetric	9.9-91.4 $\mu\text{M}$	1.9 $\mu\text{M}$	1
Electrochemistry	1-150 $\mu\text{M}$	1 nA/ $\mu\text{M}$	2
MnTTPCl/n-Au	9.8-115.4 $\mu\text{M}$	—	3
POSS@ANT	0.2-4.3 mg/L	0.081 mg/L	4
O-CDs	20-2000 $\mu\text{M}$	2.75 $\mu\text{M}$	This work

Table 2. Results for the determination of  $\beta$ -carotene in real samples. (n = 3)

Sample	Added ( $\mu\text{mol/L}$ )	Found ( $\mu\text{mol/L}$ )	Recovery (%)	RSD (%)
capsule	—	270.55	—	1.36
	200	199.23	99.61	1.50
	250	236.58	94.63	0.79
	300	283.48	94.49	0.62
soft gel capsule	—	335.39	—	0.72
	200	216.42	108.21	0.62
	250	260.04	104.01	0.64
	300	296.69	98.90	1.63

## References

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