

Supporting Information

Extracellular matrix mimetic supramolecular hydrogels reinforced with covalent crosslinked mesoporous silica nanoparticles

Aygül Zengin[#], Shazad Hafeez[#], Pamela Habibovic, Matthew Baker, and Sabine van Rijt^{*}

¹Department of Instructive Biomaterials Engineering, MERLN Institute for Technology-Inspired Regenerative Medicine, Maastricht University, P.O. Box 616, 6200 MD Maastricht, The Netherlands

[#] authors contributed equally to this work

^{*} Corresponding author: Sabine van Rijt: s.vanrijt@maastrichtuniversity.nl

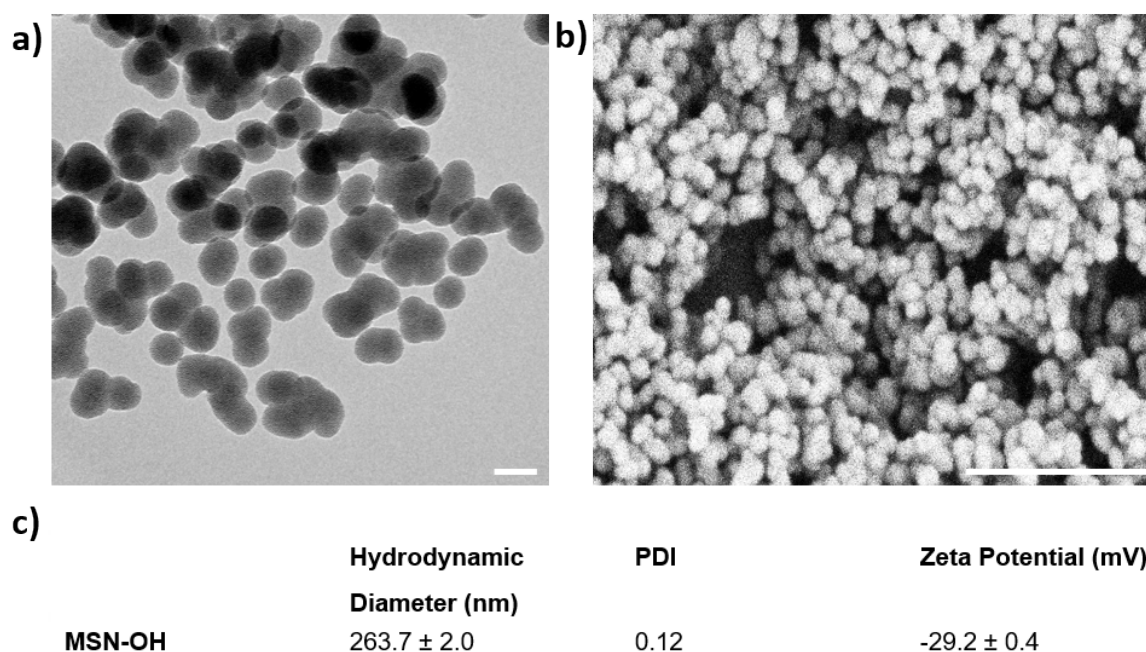


Fig. S1: Characterization of the synthesized MSN-OHs. (a) TEM imaging of MSN-OH (Scale bar: 50 nm); (b) SEM imaging of MSN-OH (Scale bar: 1 μM); (c) Hydrodynamic size and zeta potential of MSN-OHs.

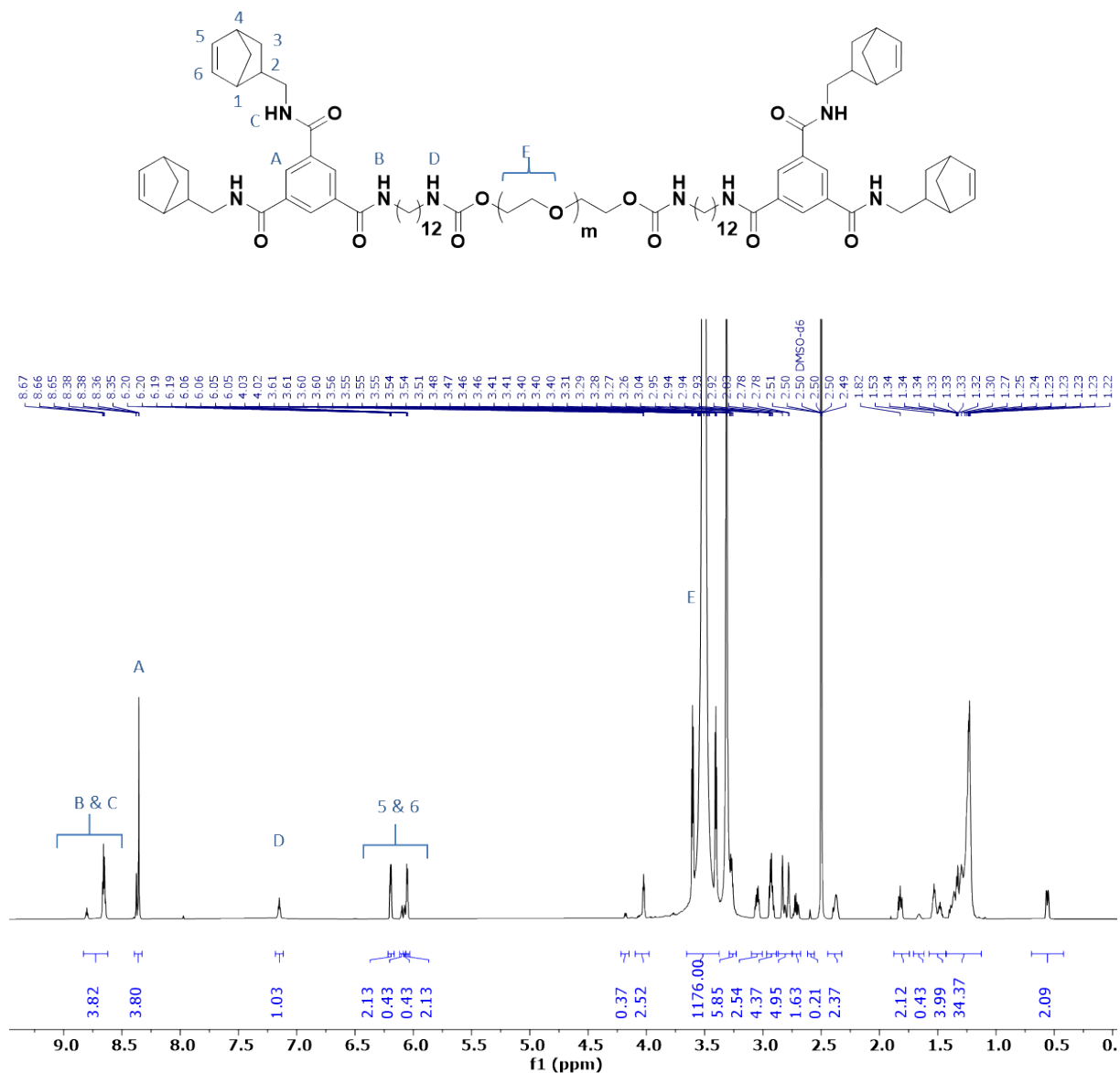


Fig. S2 ¹H NMR data of NBTA macromonomers

Table S1: Weight average (*M_w*), number average (*M_n*), and polydispersity (*Đ*) of the starting material (PEG 20K) and the final NBTA macromonomer.

Sample name	M _w (Daltons)	M _n (Daltons)	Polydispersity (<i>Đ</i>)
PEG 20K	35368	31747	1.11
NBTA	47607	45583	1.04

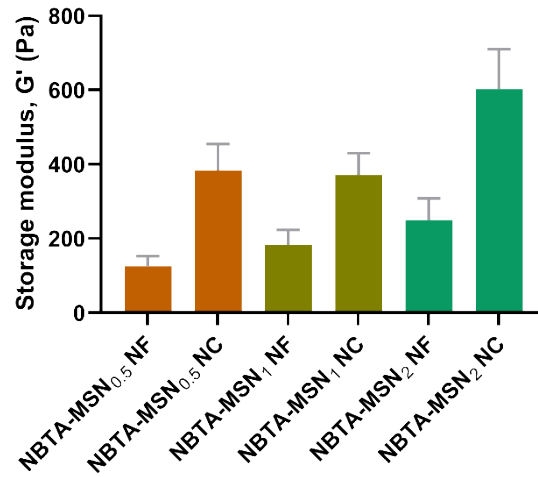


Fig. S3 The storage modulus of NBTA-MSN_{0.5}, NBTA-MSN₁, and NBTA-MSN₂ hydrogels before UV light exposure where MSNs act as nanofillers (NF) and after UV light exposure as allowing MSNs to crosslink (NC)

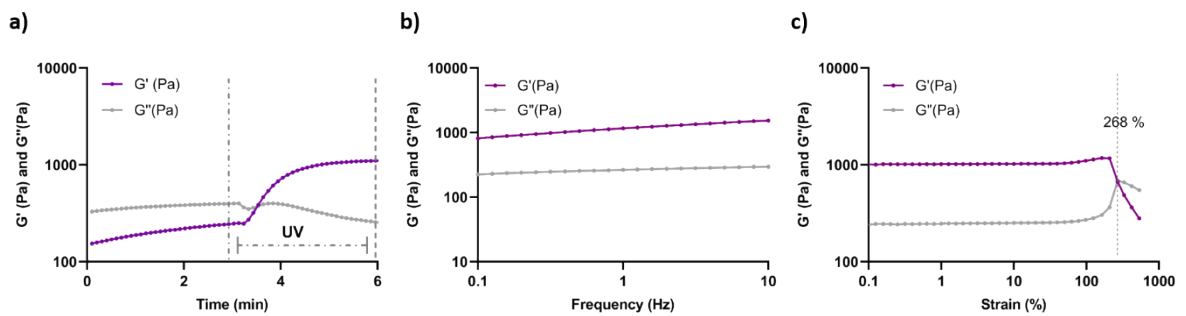


Fig. S4 *In situ* photorheological characterization of NBTA-MSN-CaP₁ supramolecular nanocomposites. (a) Time sweep test of NBTA-MSN- CaP₁; (b) Frequency sweep test of NBTA-MSN- CaP₁; (c) Strain sweep test of NBTA-MSN-CaP₁

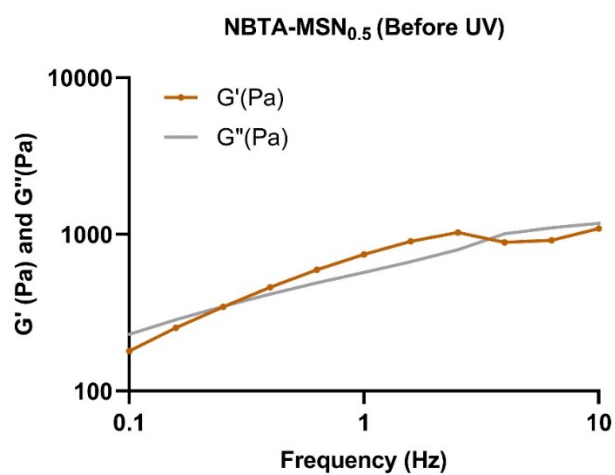


Fig. S5 Frequency sweep of NBTA-MSN_{0.5} supramolecular nanocomposite hydrogel before crosslinking. The frequency sweep test showed a typical viscoelastic behavior.



Fig. S6. Injectability of NBTA-MSN₁ nanocomposite hydrogels through the 19-Gauge syringe needle

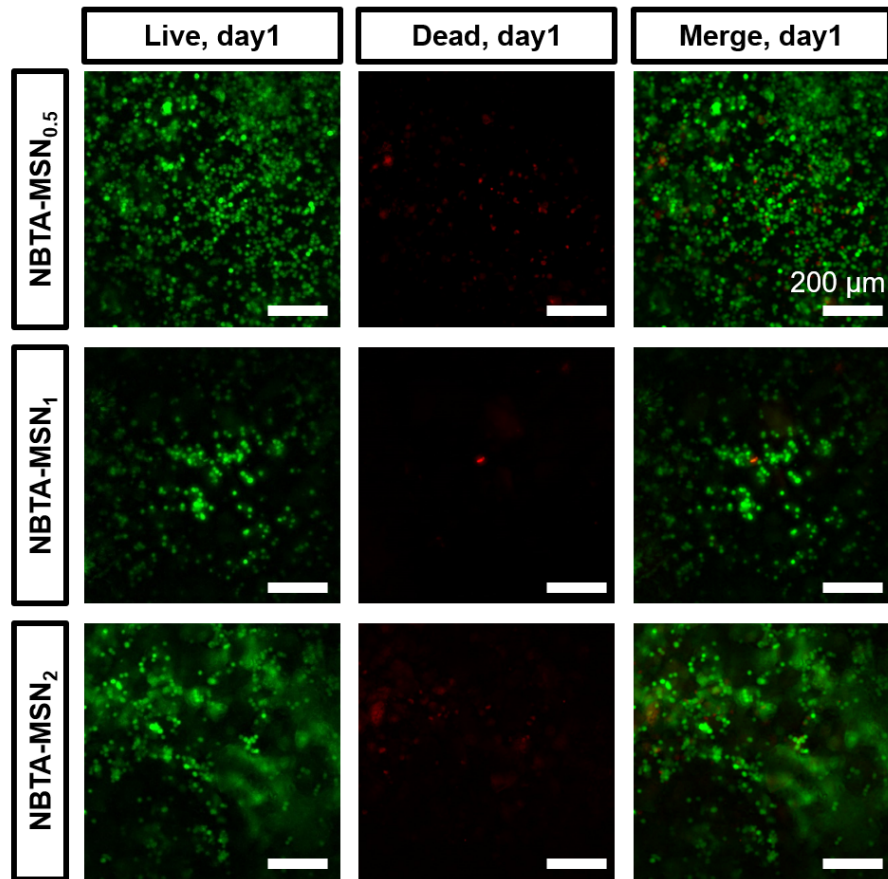


Fig. S7 Viability of encapsulated MG63 cells inside NBTA-MSN_{0.5}, NBTA-MSN₁ and NBTA-MSN₂ hydrogels at day 1. The representative images of encapsulated cells stained with calcein AM (Green = live cells) and ethidium homodimer (EthD-1, red = dead cells). Scale bar: 200 μ m

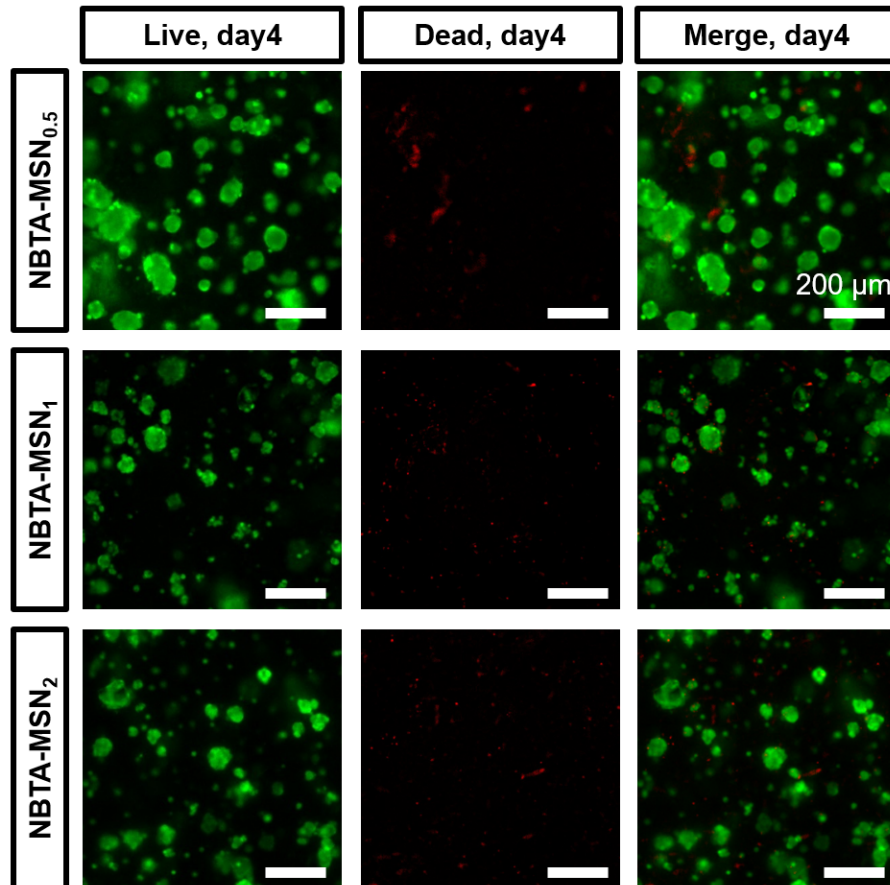


Fig. S8 Viability of encapsulated MG63 cells inside NBTA-MSN_{0.5}, NBTA-MSN₁ and NBTA-MSN₂ hydrogels at day 4. The representative images of encapsulated cells stained with calcein AM (Green = live cells) and ethidium homodimer (EthD-1, red = dead cells). Scale bar: 200 μ m

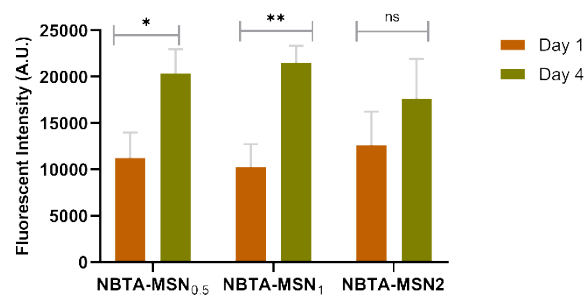


Fig. S9 Metabolic activity of MG63 cells encapsulated NBTA-MSN_{0.5}, NBTA-MSN₁, NBTA-MSN₂ hydrogels during 4 days incubation in cell culture media. The data are presented as the mean \pm SD for 3 replicates. Two-way ANOVA followed by Turkey's multiple comparison test was used, * $P < 0.05$; ** $P < 0.01$; ns = not significant

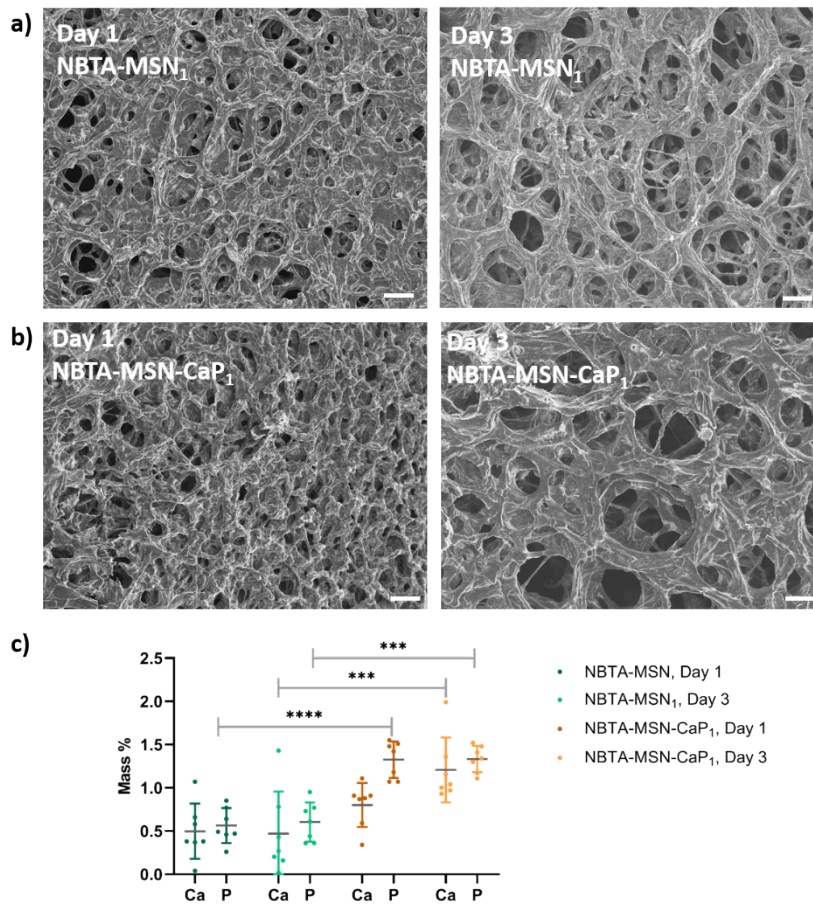


Fig. S10 In vitro mineralization of NBTA-MSN₁ and NBTA-MSN-CaP₁ hydrogels in m-SBF buffer for 1 day and 3 days. (a) SEM image of freeze-dried NBTA-MSN₁ hydrogels after 1 day (left) and 3 days (right) of incubation in m-SBF buffer. (b) SEM images of freeze-dried NBTA-MSN-CaP₁ hydrogels after 1 day (left) and 3 days (right) of incubation in m-SBF buffer. (c) EDX analysis of Ca and P ions within freeze-dried NBTA-MSN₁ and NBTA-MSN-CaP₁ hydrogels (n=7). Scale bar for SEM images: 100 μ m on the left and 10 μ m on the right. The data are presented as the mean \pm SD for 7 sample areas. Two-way ANOVA followed by Turkey's multiple comparison test was used, * P; ***p=0.002, ****p<0.0001

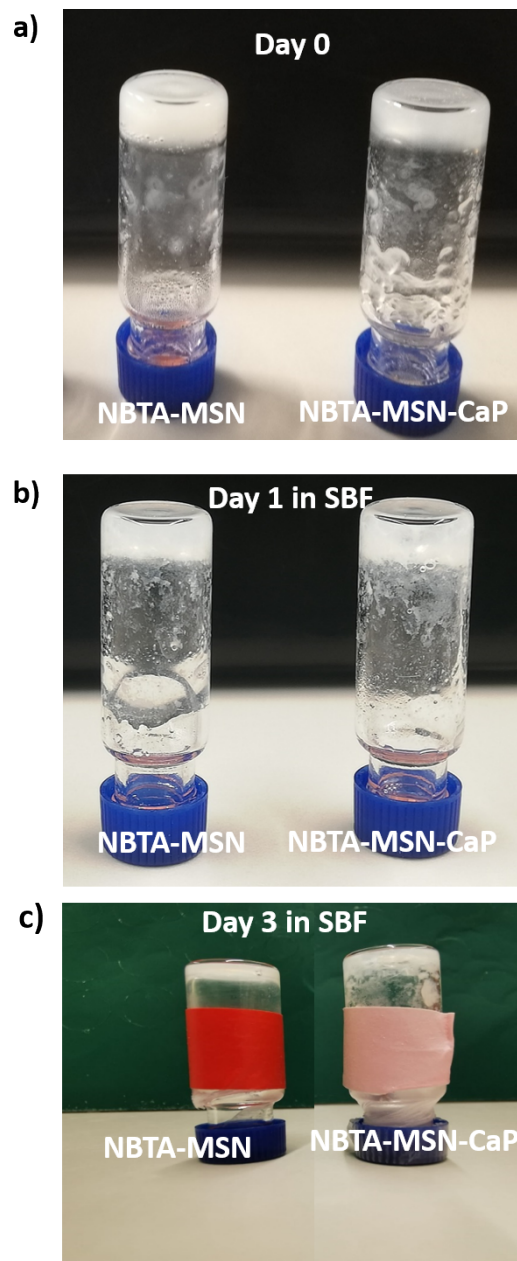


Fig. S11. Photographs of NBTA-MSN₁ and NBTA-MSN-CaP₁ nanocomposites (a) before SBF incubation, (b) after 1 day of incubation, and (c) 3 days of incubation in SBF buffer.