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## Chemical and biological studies of a mixed valent diruthenium tetraacetate containing the metronidazole drug

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Metronidazole (MTZ, 1-[2-hydroxyethyl]-2-methyl-5-nitroimidazole) a potent antiparasitic and antibacterial drug worldwide clinically used, was reacted with  $[\text{Ru}_2]^{5+}$  carboxylate core giving the  $[\text{Ru}_2(\mu\text{-O}_2\text{CCH}_3)_4(\text{MTZ})_2]\text{PF}_6\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$  correspondent metallodrug. A paddle-wheel type structure and a metal-metal multiple bond for the new complex are supported by electronic spectroscopy, FTIR and Raman vibrational spectroscopies and magnetic susceptibility. Both MTZ ligands axially coordinate to the metal centers by nitrogen atoms of the imidazole rings. Thermal stability of the solid was determined by TGA and its behavior in solution was monitored by electronic spectroscopy, cyclic voltammetry and conductivity measurements. Biological assays *in vitro* show that the metallodrug exhibits higher toxicity for *HeLa* cancerous cells than for NCTC-done L929 normal cells. The metal complex has antibacterial activity for anaerobic (*B. fragilis*) and micro-aerophilic (*C. coli*) cells. No activity was detected for aerobic cells (*E. coli*, *P. aeruginosa* and *S. aureus*).

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