Effect of Hydration in Corona Layer on Structural Change of Thermo-responsive Polymer Micelles

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Contents

Small-angle X-ray scattering (SAXS) from poly(ethylene glycol)-block-poly(octadecyl acrylate) (PEG-b-PODA) micelles at 25 and 50 °C.

SAXS from PEG-b-PODA micelles.

In order to compare temperature responsiveness of PODA containing polymer micelles, change in SAXS profiles of micelles consisting of poly(ethylene glycol)-*block*-poly(octadecyl acrylate) (PEG*b*-PODA) with elevating temperature was investigated. Here, number- and weight-averaged molecular weight (M_n and M_w) of PEG block are 3.0 x 10⁴ and 3.5 x 10⁴, respectively, and Mn and Mw of PODA were 1.3 x 10⁴ and 1.5 x 10⁴, respectively.

Figure S1 shows SAXS profiles from PEG-*b*-PODA micelles at 25 °C (below melting temperature $(T_{\rm m})$ of PODA) and 60 °C (above $T_{\rm m}$ of PODA). SAXS curve measured at 25 °C shows q^{-2} dependence of I(q) in q < 0.2 nm⁻¹. This means PEG-*b*-PODA micelles form disk-like shape. Actually, the experimental SAXS curve of PEG-*b*-PODA at 25 °C well agree with the theoretical scattering curve calculated for core-shell disk particle shown as solid line in Figure S1. On the contrary, in the SAXS curve measured at 50 °C, q^{-2} dependence of I(q) is disappeared and I(q) does not show q dependence in q < 0.2 nm⁻¹. Therefore, at 50 °C, PEG-*b*-PODA micelles form spherical shape. Therefore, in the case of PEG-*b*-PODA micelles, melting of PODA simply causes transformation from disk-like to spherical shape, although two-step transformation from disk to sphere *via* ellipsoidal oblate is observed in PVP-*b*-PODA micelles.



Figure S1. SAXS profiles of PEG-*b*-PODA micelles in aqueous solution at 25 °C (below T_m of PODA) and 50 °C (above T_m of PODA).