

## Supplementary Information

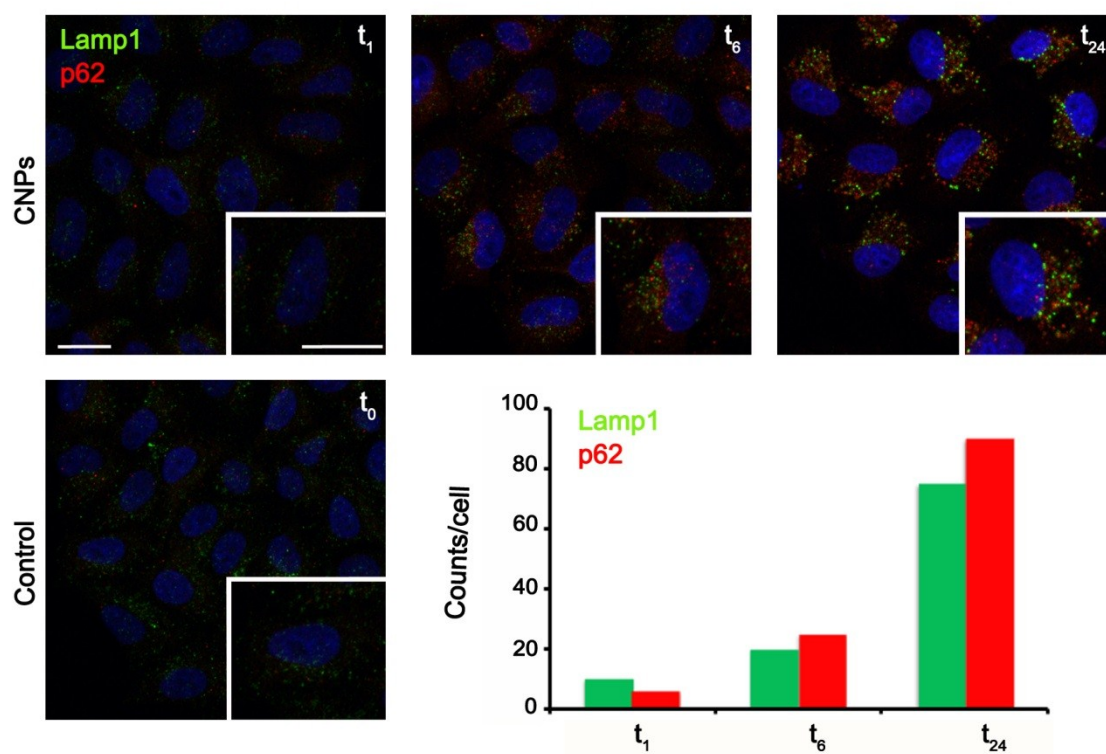


Figure S1. Confocal microscopy showing the increase in lysosomes (Lamp1) and autophagic vesicles (p62) in cells incubated for 1, 6 and 24 h with CNPs. Increasing Lamp1 and p62 correlated with CNP exposure time, as shown in the histogram. Images are from one single confocal section. Bars, 50  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Cells previously incubated with CNPs for 1, 6 and 24 h were processed for immunofluorescence as previously described (1). Lysosome-specific mouse-monoclonal anti-Lamp1 primary antibody (BD Biosciences, San Jose, CA, USA), mouse monoclonal anti-p62 (Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Santa Cruz, CA, USA), fluorescent secondary antibody Texas-Red-labeled anti-mouse IgG (Jackson ImmunoResearch, West Grove, PA, USA) and Alexa-488-labeled anti-mouse IgG were used. Samples were analyzed with a TCS SP5II confocal laser scanning microscope equipped with PL APO 40 $\times$ /1.25 NA and 63 $\times$ /1.40 NA oil-

immersion objectives (Leica, Heidelberg, Germany). ImageJ software and related plugins (National Institutes of Health) were used for image processing, intracellular NP quantification, and NP co-localization.

(1) Ferraro D, Anselmi-Tamburini U, Tredici IG, Ricci V, Sommi P. Overestimation of nanoparticles-induced DNA damage determined by the comet assay. *Nanotoxicology*. 2016 Sep;10(7):861–70.

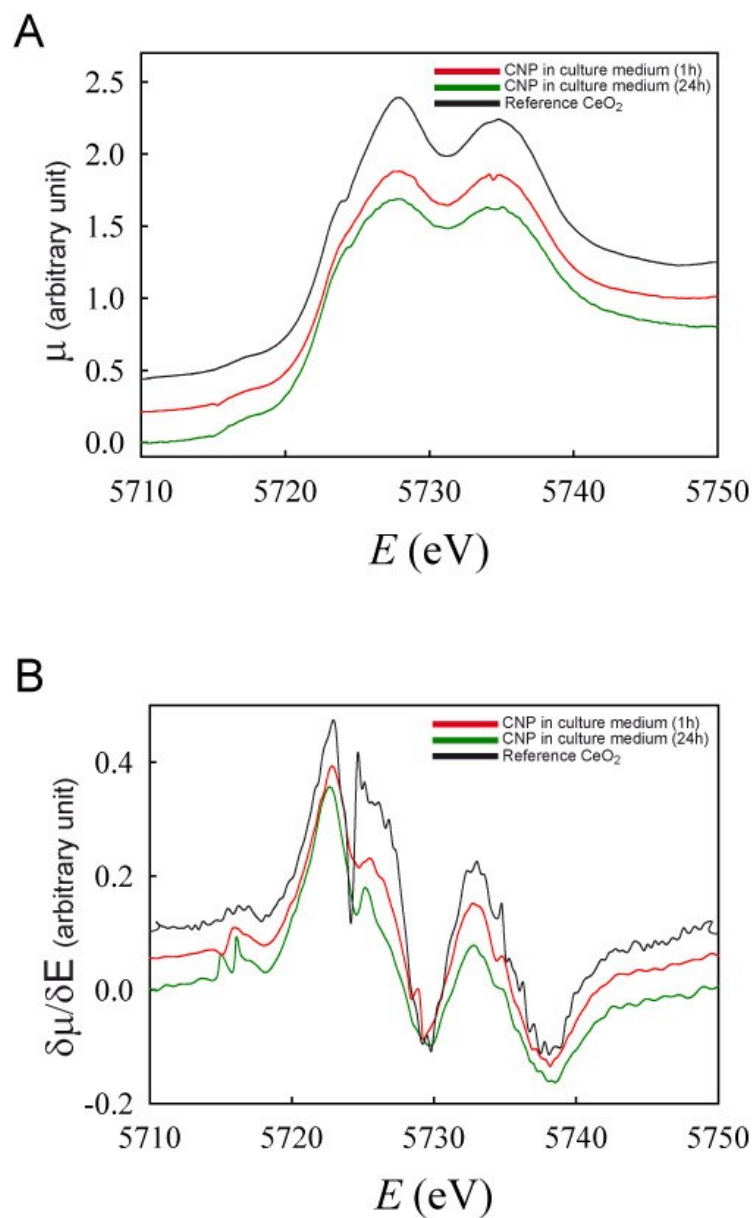


Figure S2. XANES spectra (A) and their respective derivatives (B) of CNPs incubated with culture medium for 1 and 24 h.

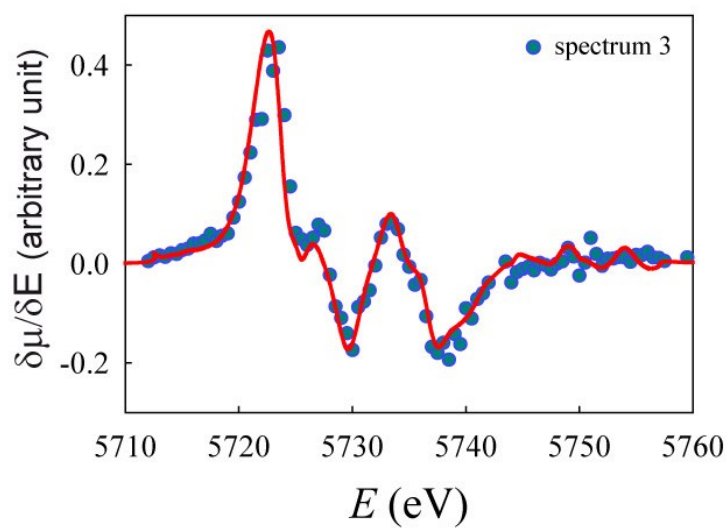
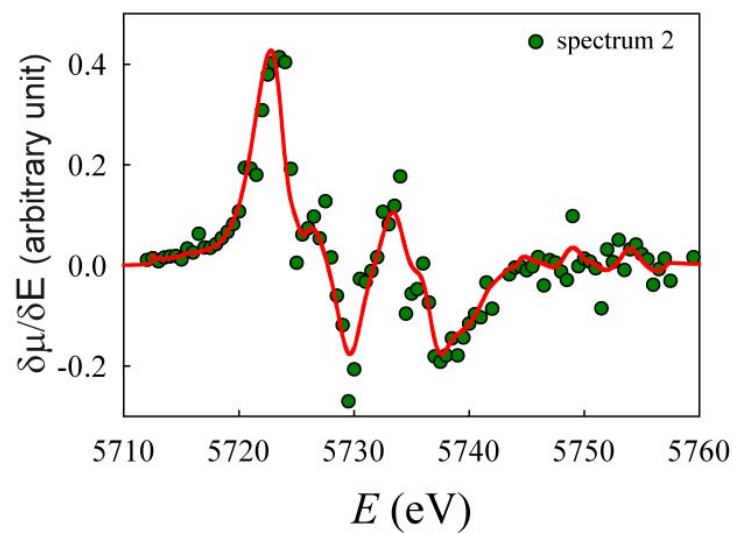


Figure S3. Fits of Spectra 2 and 3 of Figure 6 according to the linear combination. Circles: experimental data; red line: fit.