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· 耳科疾病专栏 ·

多功能纳米复合水凝胶在耳科领域中的应用研究

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摘要:随着纳米技术及新型医学材料领域的交叉发展,目前已衍生出许多纳米医学材料应用于临床。多功能纳米复合水凝胶(MNH)因在水凝胶中聚合了不同特性的纳米颗粒,故在许多不同性能方面均有着优异的表现,成为目前研究热点之一,又因其优良的组织相容性及稳定性在耳科研究领域如中耳、内耳药物递送、人工耳蜗(CI)技术优化、耳廓组织工程等方面尤为适用。近年来已有许多研究成功将MNH应用至耳科部分关键领域并取得良好效果。本文将对MNH在耳科领域方面的研究现状及应用前景作一综述。

关键词:人工耳蜗;耳廓组织工程;纳米复合水凝胶;药物递送

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Research progress on the application of multifunctional nanocomposite hydrogel in the field of otology

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Abstract: With the development of cross nanotechnology and new medical materials, many nano medical materials have been derived and applied in clinical diseases. The multifunctional nanocomposite hydrogels (MNH) exhibit outstanding performance in many different aspects due to the polymerization of nanoparticles with different characteristics in the hydrogels. It has become one of the current research hotspots. Due to its excellent tissue compatibility and stability, it is particularly suitable in the field of otology research, such as drug delivery in the middle ear and inner ear, optimization of cochlear implant(CI) technology, and auricle tissue engineering. In recent years, many studies have successfully applied MNH to some key areas of otology and achieved good results. This paper will review the research status and application prospects of MNH in the field of otology.

Keywords: Cochlear implant; Auricle tissue engineering; Multifunctional nanocomposite hydrogels; Drug delivery

目前,在耳科疾病领域中,仍有许多前沿的关键技术问题亟待攻克或解决,例如中耳/内耳药物递送、人工耳蜗(cochlear implant, CI)技术优化、耳廓组织工程学等方面。随着近年来纳米技术及新型医学材料领域的交叉与创新,给耳科临床及基础研究者们提供了良好的研究契机。在纳米颗粒与水凝胶结合的复合体系不断增加的趋势背景下,许多学者开发出更多更加贴合医学或临床应用的多功能纳米复合水凝胶(multifunctional nanocomposite hydrogel, MNH)产品。将新型MNH尝试应用至耳科

尚未解决的难题中,近年来的研究结果展现出可喜的效果。因此,本文将对MNH在部分耳科领域如中耳与内耳药物递送、CI、耳廓组织工程等方面的研究现状及应用前景作一综述。

1 MNH的材料优势

水凝胶材料本质上是由亲水性聚合物组成的三维网状结构,类似于“渔网”或“海绵”,能够最大限度吸收并锁住水分子,发生溶胀而非在水中溶解掉,

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因而具有良好的亲水性。并且由于其吸水后组织亲和力大大增加,且制备过程中纯化度较高以及其聚合物的大分子链的伸展使得在形态上能够成流体状,因而也获得了良好的生物组织相容性^[1-2]。

MNH是由不同特性的纳米颗粒或纳米分子通过不同的化学键以物理作用力或化学共价相互作用与水凝胶三维网状结构聚合或交联制成。在水凝胶亲水性、高吸水性的材料优势基础上,不仅可以增加柔韧性、稳定性等良好的力学性能,并且还能结合不同属性的纳米颗粒赋予其独特的特性,比如光热敏感性^[3-4]、导电性^[5-6]、靶向肿瘤特性^[7-12]等,大大增加了其在医学方面的应用。

2 中耳与内耳药物递送

MNH系统具有巨大药物递送的潜力,可以携带药物精准到达中耳腔或内耳,持续、缓慢地释放药物提供治疗,并且不改变内耳结构。Yu等^[13]首先开发了一种水凝胶中耳药物递送系统,能够搭载脑源性神经营养因子(brain-derived neurotrophic factor, BDNF)-聚乳酸-羟基乙酸(poly lactic-co-glycolic acid, PLGA),结果表明其在逆转耳蜗神经元突触病变和恢复噪音性聋小鼠模型听力功能方面具有一定的功效。为了解决噪音导致的耳蜗带状突触的损伤,其团队又进一步开发了能够搭载BDNF-PLGA的热敏性MNH,单次可控地注射进入噪声暴露小鼠的中耳鼓室,能够在小鼠中耳腔内存在2周。结果表明噪音性聋小鼠的耳蜗带状突触表现出不同程度的恢复,并且进行单次噪声处理(115 dB, 4 h)的小鼠耳蜗在暴露于BDNF后显示原肌球蛋白受体激酶B信号的激活。

在内耳药物递送方面,Lajud等^[14]研究将这一难题突破,并且首次证明纳米水凝胶可以作为一种可控和有效的递送方式,将稳定、完整的纳米颗粒中的治疗药物递送至内耳的细胞结构中。他们研发出一种壳聚糖水凝胶纳米颗粒传递系统可作为治疗性生物材料通过圆窗膜送入小鼠内耳。该团队构建出荧光标记的脂质体D,1-丙交酯-PLGA纳米颗粒(nanoparticles, NPs),并将其装入壳聚糖水凝胶中形成纳米水凝胶,在体外进行研究以评估其特性和释放动力学,并通过外淋巴管和形态学分析来评估NPs在内耳中的传递和分布。结果表明脂质体纳米水凝胶颗粒在体外生理条件下保持了超过2周的稳定性,并且水凝胶纳米颗粒传递系统能够将这些稳

定的纳米颗粒通过圆窗膜释放到外淋巴中,最终将其负载的药物分子传递到内耳结构中。随后,Cai等^[15]也利用豚鼠实验证明PLGA-NPs具有携带单个或复合药物穿过圆窗膜的潜力,能够显著提高封装药物在内耳的局部生物利用度。

Chen等^[16]受贝类生物黏附作用的启发,构建了具有优异黏附能力的甲基丙烯酸酯明胶纳米微球(gelatin methacrylate nanospheres, GMN)偶联聚多巴胺(polydopamine, PDA)层,并将Ebselen脂质体进一步加载到GMN@PDA中,形成GMN@PDA@Lipo-Ebselen复合体。GMN@PDA@Lipo-Ebselen可以经中耳注射到圆窗膜上,并通过PDA紧密粘附在圆窗膜表面,甚至在360°旋转和倒摇后微球仍附着在圆窗膜上。体内成像系统显示,此类携带药物的黏附性纳米微球可在中耳腔内的滞留时间延长7 d以上。结果数据表明,GMN@PDA@Lipo-Ebselen组小鼠听力明显恢复,尤其噪声暴露后第14天,各频率听力均恢复到基线水平。在32 kHz频率下,外毛细胞存活率从(48±6)%恢复到(93±2)%。

更进一步地,Kim等^[17]开发了一种鼓室内传递系统,以多洛沙美水凝胶为内耳药物传递载体,联合使用PLGA-NPs负载糖皮质激素地塞米松-21-磷酸二钠盐(dexamethasone-21-phosphate disodium salt, DEX-21-PDS),用于内耳药物缓释。他们对NPs的尺寸、zeta电位和封装效率进行了表征,并测定了水凝胶在体内的凝胶化时间。此外,在体外的释放研究还预测了鼓室内给药后该制剂的释放速率和程度。在制剂到达内耳毛细胞后,检测了该制剂的细胞毒性和细胞安全性,同时使用组织病理学和荧光成像技术观察给药后DEX-21-PDSNPs凝胶制剂在体内毒性和保留情况。结果显示,这种鼓室内传递系统具有优越的有效性和安全性。

3 推进CI技术创新

Kikkawa等^[18]开发了一种CI电极的生长因子洗脱明胶水凝胶涂层,该水凝胶涂层能够成功地在添加胶原酶的生理盐水中释放生长因子。与普通硅胶电极相比,这种MNH涂层电极能够促进术后听力进一步提高。并可以减轻CI电极插入损伤以及促进损伤恢复,对临床内耳损伤的治疗提供了新策略。

研究显示,CI植入术后可能会导致耳蜗内骨组织的纤维化生长,以及有8%的发生率出现残余听

力丧失^[19-21]。Hütten 等^[22]研发了可重复填充的水凝胶功能化硅胶储层联合局部药物应用于内耳,以反应性 NCO-sP(EO-stat-PO)预聚物制备的聚乙二醇基纳米水凝胶,作为体外和体内药物输送和递送系统,延长控制 DEX-21-PDS 在内耳的释放,结果显示可以有效减少 CI 植入后纤维组织的生长和残余听力的丧失。

Liao 等^[23]利用具有导电性能的 $\text{Ti}_3\text{C}_2\text{Tx}$ MXene 基质与 MNH 结合,构建了一套新型 CI 电刺激系统,其可以进一步观察和调节 CI 靶向作用的螺旋神经节神经元(spiral ganglion neurons,SGNs)的形态和功能。结果表明,系统的低频声刺激能够促进 SGNs 的生长发育和神经突触的生长以及细胞间的信号传递。此系统的研发可能对 $\text{Ti}_3\text{C}_2\text{Tx}$ MXene 水凝胶在提升 CI 植入术后的听力恢复效果有帮助。

4 耳廓组织工程学

目前,完全理想化的耳廓软骨修复与再生的方法尚未见报道^[24-25],仍是需要攻克的难题。MNH 的良好力学特征赋予了其应用于耳软骨组织工程领域的独特优势。Lee 等^[26]开发了一种使用丝素蛋白(silk fibroin, SF)和聚乙烯醇(polyvinyl alcohol, PVA)水凝胶来设计耳软骨的策略。其团队采用盐浸法、硅胶模铸法和冻融法制备了 SF 和 PVA 不同比例的纳米复合水凝胶。结果表明,以 50% PVA 和 50% SF (P50/S50)结合的混合水凝胶效果最好。皮下植入软骨细胞胚胎的 3D 耳廓软骨使用 P50/S50MNH 6 周后,大鼠形成完整的 3D 耳形软骨,并且体外和体内组织学层面均可以观察到其具有典型的腔隙结构。该研究表明人耳型 MNH 在耳廓组织工程学中具有潜在的应用价值。

综上所述,MNH 在耳科领域中的研究和应用将会愈发广泛,有着更为广阔的发展前景。例如:MNH 可作为类器官组织培养的基质,在内耳类器官相关基础研究中发挥潜力,将来可建立人耳类器官生物信息库^[27]。再者,中耳、内耳的药物递送目前仍是需要攻克的难题之一,笔者认为其关键点在于如何既能够精准地调控进入中耳或内耳的药物剂量和缓释时间,使其刚好达到所需的治疗浓度、治疗周期且能够同时避免浓度过高、时间过长造成相应不良反应或不良后果的发生。因此,MNH 载药递送的技术优势以及若能在此基础上再结合人工智能调控技术等恰好可为我们提供解决这一难题的思路。另

外,炎症、外伤、手术创伤是耳科疾病诊治过程中影响愈合的重要因素,将来 MNH 可作为耳科伤口敷料更有效地促进创面的愈合,缩短恢复时间^[28-33]。此外,众所周知,听觉功能的正常执行首先必须有赖于声信号能够在中耳、内耳进行良好的物理传导,而组合了新型纳米材料的复合水凝胶还可作为听觉传导支架^[34-35],在中耳、内耳中发挥物理的支撑、封堵和声信号的传导作用,为实施中耳手术材料选择方面提供更多可能性。因此,多能性 MNH 可能是耳科领域未来极具前景的生物新材料,具有非常好的创新性研究价值和应用潜力。

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