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PGS 支架的合成、特性及在生物医学中应用的研究进展 *

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摘要:聚癸二酸甘油酯(PGS)是一种生物可降解的高分子聚合弹性体,因其良好的性能,在许多生物医学研究中应用广泛。PGS 支架的机械性能与机体软组织相似,依从性好,降解时以表面侵蚀的方式降解,不伴有膨胀或变形,周围组织炎症反应、纤维变性轻,与多种细胞相容性好。基于 PGS 良好的性能,主要应用于软组织替代和软组织工程,比如心肌、血管、神经、软骨、视网膜、鼓膜,另外也有用于药物转运载体、组织粘附材料的研究。

关键词:组织工程支架;聚癸二酸甘油酯;生物相容性

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Synthesis, Properties and Biomedical Applications of Poly(Glycerol Sebacate)*

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ABSTRACT: Poly(glycerol sebacate) (PGS) is a biodegradable polymer increasingly used in a variety of biomedical applications because of its good performance. PGS is an elastomeric polymer with mechanical properties similar to human tissues, which allows mechanical compliance with tissue and enables facile surgical handling of the polymer. Especially important for the present application, PGS degrades through a surface erosion process that results in loss of mass with no detectable swelling or change in the geometry of the bulk polymer. Recent studies demonstrate the in vitro biocompatibility of PGS with 3T3 human fibroblasts, baboon primary endothelial progenitor cells and smooth muscle cells, rat Schwann cells, and mouse retinal progenitor cells. In vivo studies have shown that PGS causes less inflammation and fibrosis than poly (lactide-co-glycolide), a well-studied and widely used biomaterial, and in contrast to poly(lactide-co-glycolide), PGS does not induce a foreign body giant cell response.

Key words: Tissue engineering scaffold; Poly (glycerol-sebacate); biocompatibility

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聚癸二酸甘油酯(PGS)是一种生物可降解的高分子聚合弹性体,由 Yadong Wang 等人于 2002 年报道^[1],因其良好的体内相容性和生物降解能力,在生物医学工程中应用日趋广泛。PGS 支架的机械性能与机体软组织相似,依从性好,以表面侵蚀的方式降解、不伴有膨胀或变形,周围组织炎症反应、纤维变性轻,与多种细胞如 3T3 成纤维细胞、狒狒血管内皮祖细胞、平滑肌细胞、鼠施万细胞、视网膜祖细胞相容性好^[2]。PGS 的机械特性和降解动力学可以根据应用的需要,通过控制固化时间、温度、反应物浓度或者丙烯酸化的程度等加以调整。基于 PGS 良好的性能,主要应用于软组织替代和软组织工程,比如心肌、血管、神经、软骨、视网膜、鼓膜,另外也有用于药物转运载体、组织粘附材料的研究^[3]。

1 PGS 的合成

PGS 是 Yadong Wang 等人于 2002 年报道,是由甘油和癸二酸按摩尔比 1:1 通过聚缩反应合成,最初的合成方法分两

步:1、预聚过程,反应物在 120℃ 氩气环境下反应 24 小时,然后真空压强由在超过 5 小时时间内由 1 torr 将至 40 mtorr;2、交联过程,预聚物置入 40 mtorr、120℃ 条件下 48 小时^[1]。以上方法应用广泛,虽然后来有关于通过改变合成参数^[20]和温度^[35]以改变产物性能的研究,其基本过程仍如上所述。

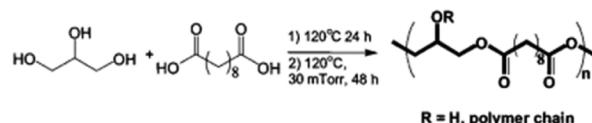


图 1 合成 PGS 的反应式^[1]
Fig.1 Reaction scheme for the synthesis of poly(glycerol sebacate)^[1]

然而这种方法需要的条件($> 80^\circ\text{C}$, $< 5 \text{ Pa}$, 反应时间 $> 24 \text{ h}$, 真空等)过于苛刻,导致不能在体内合成或联合温度敏感的分子,Nijst 等人利用 UV 光聚合作用克服这一缺陷:以丙烯酸盐对 PGS 进行化学修饰合成 PGSA, 在 DMPA 存在下光聚合

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作用可在常温环境下迅速进行,另外调节丙烯酸化程度亦可改变PGSA的性能^[6]。

JIN GAO等^[3]对以上方法进行了改进,用盐熔融法制做平片状和管状PGS支架:氯化钠微粒研磨至75~150 μm大小并加入模具中(模具由聚四氟乙烯包被的不锈钢盘、聚四氟乙烯包被的高精度钢垫和永久磁铁组装成,通过选择不同厚度的垫片可以改变盐粒层厚度进而改变PGS厚度),置入37℃、80%相对湿度温箱中8小时,再转入120℃、100 mTorr的真空环境中干燥过夜,将PGS的四氢呋喃(THF)溶液(3.2 mL,3.3 wt%)加入其中,放置30 min使THF挥发,然后转移到150℃、100 mTorr真空温箱固化48小时,最后浸泡在等离子水中24小时后冷却至室温(前12小时需每4小时换一次水);制作管状PGS的模具是由固体石蜡心轴和纵向分为两半的聚四氟乙烯套筒构成。

Crapo等^[4]后来提出了2种制作无缝的管状支架的方法,在心轴材料、涂层条件和模具装配方面各有不同,并与原始方法进行对比,通过分别检测PGS产量和特性发现,热固缩法合成的具有PGS产量高、次品少、厚度均匀、孔隙多而分布均衡等优点,且细胞相容性好。该方法以聚烯烃丙烯酸酯(poly(olefin))作为热固缩套筒,环绕在由聚四氟乙烯(PTFE)套管包裹的钢条周围。新设计模具的分上下两部分,内径7.94 mm,长60 mm,可以保持盐槽宽度(热固缩法为1.33 mm而另2种为1.19 mm)以致支架壁厚度,以适应心轴直径增加的0.5 mm。加工的过程增加了从120℃(≤5min)冷却到20℃以去除poly(olefin)的过程。

2 PGS的特性

根据抗拉试验,PGS的应力应变曲线表现为低模量、大延长率,是一种有弹性的、结实的材料。PGS的应力应变曲线类似于橡胶,其弹性性质来源于共价交联无规卷曲形成的三维网络结构。比如PGS的拉力杨氏模量为0.282±0.0250 MPa,极限抗拉强度>0.5 MPa;与之相比,聚4-羟基丁酸(P4HB)的拉力杨氏模量为253±5.29 MPa,极限抗拉强度为10.4±0.554 MPa,说明PGS的机械性能优于P4HB。PGS的杨氏模量介于韧带(含大量弹性蛋白和胶原蛋白)和肌腱(主要为胶原)之间,损伤应变(267±59.4%)近似动脉和静脉(达260%)而高于筋膜(达18%),说明PGS的机械性能与机体组织相似^[1]。

PGS的机械性能可以通过改变以下三个参数进行调整:固化温度,甘油和癸二酸的摩尔比以及固化时间^[20,35,36]。Chen等人^[35]研究显示,固化温度在110℃、120℃、130℃时产物的杨氏模量分别为0.056 MPa、0.22 MPa、1.2 MPa。Kempainen和Hollister等人^[20]研究结果显示杨氏模量随着甘油摩尔比例增加而降低,随着固化时间延长而增加。PGSA的丙烯酸基团影响交联的密度,因而丙烯酸化程度(DA)改变可以影响机械性能。PGSA的杨氏模量(0.05 MPa(DA=0.17),1.38 MPa(DA=0.54))和抗拉强度(0.05 MPa,0.50 MPa)与丙烯酸化程度线性相关^[6,37]。

PGS机械性能稳定,浸泡于水中24小时后仍保持不变^[1]。在体内60天后以表面侵蚀的方式完全降解,降解过程中保持外形不变和表面完整,其质量呈线性丢失,而机械强度恒定;与之不同的是PLGA以块状溶解方式降解,其机械强度随质量丢

失而下降,几何形状发生变化^[1]。

在生物相容性实验中,将NIH 3T3成纤维细胞分别接种于PGS与PLGA表面,6天后观察发现PGS组细胞活力、形态及增殖速度明显优于对照组(PLGA组);在体内实验中,将PGS与PLGA分别种植于大鼠皮下,2周后PLGA组发现支架周围形成~140 μm纤维增生囊,而PGS组仅见极少或没有纤维增生^[1,5]。

3 PGS在生物医学中的应用

3.1 PGS支架用于心肌修复

PGS作为一种合适的心肌组织工程材料引起了广泛关注,多数研究注重于以PGS为基质的心肌补片的开发,目的在于向梗死局部输送健康心肌细胞并支持左心心肌收缩^[35,53,8-10]。要成功之作人工心肌补片,PGS基质的硬度必须与天然心肌组织匹配^[11]。心肌细胞大约占心肌组织的1/3,非心肌细胞主要是成心脏纤维细胞(CFs),研究发现CFs在人工心肌组织重塑中具有重要作用。Milica等人^[10]在研究中发现,以成纤维细胞预处理PGS之后再接种培养心肌细胞,可以为心肌细胞提供一个更好的微环境(可能是由于成纤维细胞对支架改造),有利于心肌细胞的粘附、分化,能够显著提高工程心肌组织的收缩功能。

由于心肌的各向异性,以前的支架机械结构与心肌兼容性不足,支架的选择受到很大局限。George C等人^[8]首次提出,利用微加工技术,将PGS支架加工为一种折叠式蜂巢状三维支架,其各向异性与天然心肌更加相似,且硬度和各向异性均可调控,可以克服以前支架机械结构方面的主要限制,并且与心肌细胞共培养时可以促进心肌细胞规律性排列、诱导其形成方向依赖的电生理特性,适合心肌细胞的生长。Aurélie等人^[9]对这种折叠式蜂巢状三维支架(ALH PGS)应用有限元分析方法进行数学建模,创建了一种有限元模型,可以根据模型设计合成各向异性更适合心肌组织、硬度更小(可以加强心肌细胞介导的收缩功能)的ALH PGS支架。Rebekah等^[12]根据有限元模型设计了一种双层组装的PGS三维弹性支架,可以更好地模拟天然心肌的结构和机械特性,不仅提供了一种增加心肌细胞功能组装的支架设计,也是三维弹性支架进一步计算和实证研究的基础。

3.2 动脉组织工程中的PGS弹性支架

目前,用于心脏搭桥手术的血管替代治疗有自体移植、同种异体移植、人工材料移植,但因为其实用性少、血栓并发症、顺应性不协调以及迟发内膜增生等原因,在直径小于6 mm的动脉中使用较受限。Kee-Won Lee等人^[13]应用盐熔融法,制作出一种管状PGS支架(外径7 mm),并植入经特殊培养的平滑肌细胞,电镜扫描显示其管壁厚度一致(539±18 μm),官腔面大小毛孔随机分布,并且所有毛孔相连通,且与平滑肌细胞相容性良好,能很好的支持在脉冲流细胞反应器中的平滑肌细胞定向培养,表明这种支架在动脉组织工程中有很好的应用前景。

人工小动脉移植后,若其与动脉顺应性不协调,长期灌流会出现内膜增生、再狭窄甚至闭塞等严重并发症。血管壁中层含有大量由平滑肌细胞合成的弹性蛋白并整合为弹力纤维,形成了血管的弹性和顺应性,在血管组织工程中具有重要意义。

^[16]。PETER 等人^[14]在实验中以 PGS 与 PLGA 为基质分别构建人工动脉,检测发现 PLGA 人工动脉表达胶原蛋白多,表现为塑性变形,而 PGS 人工动脉表达弹性蛋白多,表现为弹性变形、能自动恢复、与天然血管相似,表明 PGS 在生理顺应性上优于 PLGA,更适合作为人工动脉基质。Kee-Won 等人^[15]将

PGS 制成血管状,在脉冲流细胞反应器中与平滑肌细胞共培养,3 周后检测显示其弹性蛋白含量约为天然血管的 20%,类似天然血管成分,这是在没有外生因素和病毒转染条件下首例组织工程合成成熟的、有组织的弹性蛋白的报道,是组织工程合成小动脉的重要进步。

表 1 生物医学常用的各种多聚材料的相关特性比较

Table 1 Compilation of relevant properties of biomaterials used in biomedical applications

Polymer	Origin	Polymer type (E or T)	Young's modulus	Tm(℃)	Tg(℃)	Tensile strength (MPa)	Degradation mechanism	Degradation time	Application area	References
PGA	Synthetic	T	7-10GPa	225	36	70	Surface	Faster degradation; 6 months in vivo	Hard and soft tissue engineering; drug delivery	[38,39]
PLGA	Synthetic	T	40.4-13 4.5MPa	159.75	59.25	2.1-2.6	Bulk	32 %weight loss observed at 5 weeks in vitro	Hard and soft tissue engineering; drug delivery	[40,41]
PLLA	Synthetic	T	1-4GPa	182.4	65.1	30-80	Surface	Slow degradation, at least 4 years in vivo	Hard and soft tissue engineering; drug delivery	[42-44]
PCL	Synthetic	T	343.9-36 4.3MPa	56-64	-60	10.5-16.1	Surface	Slow degradation of up to 4 years in certain conditions in vivo	Hard tissue engineering; drug delivery. Composites of PGS for soft tissue engineering	[7,45-47]
P(3HO)	Natural	E	1-1.2MPa	46.6	-35.5	1.8	Surface	No data available for in vivo degradation	Soft tissue engineering; wound dressing	[50]
P4HB	Synthetic	E	253± 5.29 MPa	-	-	10.4± 0.554MPa	-	-	Soft tissue engineering	[51,52]
P(3HB)	Natural	T	3.5GPa	169	1.9	43	Surface	24-30 months in vivo	Bone tissue engineering; drug delivery and biomedical devices	[48,49]
PGS	Synthetic	E	0.04-1.2 MPa	-25.4	6	>0.5	Surface	60 days invivo	Soft tissue engineering, drug delivery, tissue adhesive	[1,35]

Note: T = thermoplastic; E = elastomeric; Tm = melting temperature; Tg = glass transition temperature; PCL = poly (ϵ -caprolactone); PGA = polyglycolic acid; PGS = poly(glycerol-sebacate); P(3HO) = poly(3-hydroxyoctanoate); P(3HB) = Poly(3-hydroxybutyrate); PLGA = poly(lactic-co-glycolic acid); PLLA = poly(L-lactide acid); P4HB = poly-4-hydroxybutyrate.

3.3 PGS 作为神经引导材料

神经修复和再生由于能直接影响病人的生活质量而受到广泛重视,神经组织工程的成就在于应用类似于细胞外基质并能支持细胞生长的人工支架调节细胞行为和组织生长,传统的自体神经嫁接方法和最新的神经重建疗法仍面临许多问题^[17],许多组织工程材料如 PGA,PLLA,PLGA,聚丙交酯 ϵ -己内酯(poly(lactide- ϵ -caprolactone)),可生物降解聚氨酯(biodegradable polyurethanes),聚磷腈(poly(organo)phosphazenes),碳酸己

内酯环丙烷(trimethylene carbonate-caprolactone)等^[54-60],由于引起明显的肿胀和促炎性,经研究不利于神经组织工程应用。Sundback 等^[18]将 PGS 与施万细胞(Schwann cell)在体外共培养,以 PLGA 作为对照组,通过检测发现 PGS 对施万细胞代谢活动、粘附、增殖没有毒性,不会引起细胞凋亡,相似或优于 PLGA;在体内降解时 PGS 与 PLGA 相比,不发生肿胀,周围组织炎症反应及纤维变性轻微,表明 PGS 与 PLGA 相比具有明显的优越性,说明 PGS 是可以应用于神经重建的优秀的候选

材料;PGS 适用于神经组织工程的另一证据是其杨氏模量(0.04~1.2 MPa)接近神经组织(0.45 MPa)。与丙交酯/乙交酯、丙交酯/己内酯共聚物在体内膨胀100~300%相比,PGS几乎没有膨胀,PGS的这个优点减少了膨胀扭曲的基质使管腔变窄从而阻止神经再生的出现^[6]。Sundback等的实验证明PGS的这些优良特性可以用于神经再生的研究,不过仍需要进一步的实验研究以获得大量体内外实验数据。

3.4 PGS 用于软骨组织工程

虽然有报道认为,PGS由于能促进细胞去分化、mRNA过度表达以及降解速度过快等原因不适合应用于软骨组织工程^[19],也有报道认为,可以通过改变PGS聚合时基础材料的摩尔比和固化时间,甚至用微加工方法设计三维结构,使得支架性能适合于软骨组织工程,此外通过有限元模型,可以有效地预测所设计的支架的性能,开发出适合软骨组织工程的新型支架结构,因此PGS支架可以用于支持软骨组织的再生^[20]。Catherine等^[21]在实验中将纤维软骨细胞接种到PGS支架中共培养4周后,检测到有大量胶原和粘多糖表达,细胞大量增殖,检测细胞支架复合体的切线模数与羊颞下颌关节盘相近,表明PGS在颞下颌关节盘组织工程中有极大的应用潜力。

3.5 视网膜变性疾病治疗

视网膜变性疾病是由于感光细胞退化、光电信号转化功能障碍,可引起视力损害甚至失明。目前的治疗只能延缓疾病进展,而不能挽回丢失的感光细胞^[22,23]。William等人^[22]合成厚度为45 μm的PGS薄片,作为视网膜前体细胞(RPCs)移植的载体,用于视网膜变性疾病的感光细胞替代治疗,研究发现PGS的机械特性与视网膜组织相近,优于之前报道的PMMA、PLA/PLGA等支架。

视网膜移植治疗视网膜变性疾病的实验研究已进行了数十年,供体视网膜与宿主视网膜神经元之间难以形成有功能的突触连接是视网膜移植手术应用于临床的重要难题^[24]。Christopher等人^[25]将经过多肽(RGD)修饰、以静电纺纳米纤维(层粘连蛋白和PCL)包被的PGS薄片与供体视网膜共培养,形成的复合体利于细胞粘附,并在共培养过程中去除了神经节细胞、视杆双极细胞、无长突细胞等,有利于供体视网膜与宿主视网膜神经元之间形成突触连接。Fredrik等人^[26]报道了一种选择性消除宿主感光细胞的方法:显微镜下将厚45 μm的PGS薄片置入视网膜下腔,28天后,PGS降解,种植区的感光细胞层消失而视杆双极细胞、无长突细胞等仍保留、未受影响,这种方法从宿主方面为供体视网膜与宿主视网膜神经元之间形成突触连接提供了良好的环境。

3.6 用于鼓膜穿孔的治疗

目前慢性耳部感染多采用鼓膜造孔置管引流术治疗,引流管拔出后,由于鼓膜组织再生能力差,部分病人出现慢性鼓膜穿孔难以愈合。Aaron等^[27]在试验中制作用南美栗鼠制作鼓膜穿孔(3~4 mm)的动物模型,以线轴状的PGS塞子填塞修补穿孔,6周后所有11只实验动物中有10只穿孔愈合,组织学观察显示穿孔部位有新血管生成,表明PGS可以用于鼓膜穿孔的修补。Sundback等^[28]在进一步的实验中显示,应用灵活的两步固化过程可以合成任何大小的线轴状PGS塞子,PGS良好

的弹性性能使得PGS塞子置入过程简单易行,并且PGS可以促进细胞移行并稳定内外细胞层,使穿孔关闭。

3.7 应用PGS作为生物可降解的药物载体

局部给药可以减小药物的全身毒副反应,同时增加局部药物浓度,提高疗效,目前常用的方法是多聚物控制药物释放^[29]。Zhi-Jie Sun等人^[30]以氟脲嘧啶(5-fluorouracil)与PGS复合得到5-FU-PGSs,此复合体在PBS中降解的过程中能保持原有形状,电镜扫描显示其表面形成不规则凹凸面,累积氟脲嘧啶释放统计显示第1天有双向的爆发释放高峰,7天释放完毕,并且体内实验要比体外实验快,HE染色显示移植复合体周围没有明显炎症反应,与周围组织相容性好、无组织毒性,以上表明,PGS是合格的可降解药物载体之一。在后续实验中证实,5-FU-PGSs的聚缩温度决定其机械特性、降解和药物释放,提高聚缩温度,可降低5-FU释放速率。Zhi-Jie Sun^[31]等用姜黄素(curcumin)和PGS合成一种多聚复合物poly(glycerol-sebacate-curcumin),体外实验证实该复合物能抑制人胶质瘤细胞(U87和T98 cells)生长,在体内表现出持续的药物线性模式释放。Irene等^[32]将PGS做成带微孔(100~150 μm)的管状,管腔填环丙沙星满固体粉末,制成基本的渗透泵结构,在体外药物释放试验中检测药物释放速率,结果显示药物释放形式为零级控制释放,装置显示出良好的功能效果和稳定性,在泌尿系疾病尤其是慢性前列腺炎的治疗中有很好的应用前景。

3.8 用于组织粘附材料

壁虎足底每个趾垫都有若干行微小的绒毛,绒毛末梢具有很多分叉,当压在物体表面时产生分子吸力从而能够黏附在光滑表面,受此启发Alborz等^[33]用PGSA模仿壁虎足底形状制做出一种组织表面粘附材料,由于PGSA良好的组织相容性、弹性性能和可吸收性,可以用于替代缝合、空腔脏器水密缝合,疝、溃疡、烧伤的网眼材料,止血敷料等。Howard等^[34]实验发现,在腹腔手术中在损伤局部垫敷PGS薄片,可以有效防止术后腹腔内组织粘连。

综上所述,PGS是一种具有无限改进和应用潜力的新型组织工程材料,由于其优良的特性,十年来在生物医学领域中得到了广泛关注及研究,但也必须清楚地认识到这种材料目前还处在研发的初级阶段,要正式运用到临床还需要很长的过程。展望今后一段时间的研究方向,会集中在以下几个方面:①改进PGS合成过程,优化PGS组成成分和性能;②对PGS材料微加工和三维组装,使其顺应性更适合机体组织;③探索应用于更多的生物医学领域,如在脑组织、脊髓组织等中应用。在政府正确导向、合理规范以及广大临床、科研人员的努力下,PGS生物支架在未来生物工程中一定会发挥巨大的作用。

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