

Preparation and characterization of alginate/chitosan composite scaffolds for wound dressings

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ABSTRACT

Wound pain, tissue trauma and infection are the main considerations of wound management. Appropriate dressing selection plays an important role in all. Traditional dressings may adhere to the wound, resulting in significant pain and trauma to new tissue upon removal. And superficial infection and microorganisms are the other problems resulting in complications and delayed wound healing. Current research is focused on developing newer dressing materials to treat wounds with coated or porous devices to improve the functional and aesthetic outcome of the regenerating skin or scar tissue. Alginate and chitosan are natural biopolymers with properties like biocompatibility and biodegradability. They are widely used as scaffolds for tissue engineering applications. In this study, we developed and characterized novel alginate/chitosan composite scaffolds with surface incorporating calcium ion, as a non-adherent dressing for wound healing applications. The physicochemical properties of the prepared composite scaffolds were also studied by Cone and Plate viscometer, texture profile analyzer and DSC. The alginate/chitosan composite scaffolds were found to exhibit great viscosity, bioadhesion and showed high tensile strength. In addition, it was observed that the mechanical properties of the matrices increased with alginate/chitosan concentration. Alginates with elongated alternating sequences displayed, upon interaction with calcium solution, a notable decrease in swelling behavior, which was not paralleled by their mechanical properties (Young's modulus). The non-adherent nature of scaffold surface provides a protective covering to the wound, may also offer benefits in prevention trauma of new tissue.

These results suggested that these alginate/chitosan composite scaffolds could be used for wound healing applications.

Key words: Alginate, Chitosan, Hydrogel, Wound dressing, Texture profile analyzer