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可降解金属血管支架的研发进展

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[摘要] 血管支架作为心血管介入治疗的重要手段, 随着心血管疾病发病率的增加, 其需求越来越大。相比于永久性支架易导致血管再狭窄、药物洗脱支架引起迟发性支架内血栓, 可降解支架在完成早期为血管提供径向支撑, 避免血管弹性回缩的使命后开始降解, 从而使血管恢复正常的生理收缩和积极重塑。回顾目前主流可降解金属(镁基合金、铁基合金、锌基合金)支架的临床前研究和临床研究的主要结果发现, 镁基合金支架可操作性良好, 血栓形成率较低, 存在的问题主要在降解速率快、释氢反应和微环境pH值变化较大等方面; 铁基合金支架力学性能、成型加工性、生物相容性和血液相容性优异, 但其腐蚀速率过慢, 提高降解速率是扩大铁基金属支架临床应用的关键; 锌基合金的降解速率适中, 强度较低, 加入不同合金元素改善锌基合金支架强度是目前锌基合金支架的主要改良方向。可降解金属支架材料的革新和突破需要材料学、生物学、化学、医学等多学科共同合作, 除此以外, 优化材料性能, 以及改进制作工艺如注射成型技术、可降解药涂支架、纳米载药技术等可能是未来可降解金属支架的发展方向。

[关键词] 生物可降解支架; 血管支架; 金属支架; 生物相容性; 机械性能

Progress in research and development of biodegradable metallic vascular stents

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ABSTRACT

Vascular stents are an essential tool in cardiovascular interventional therapy, and their demand is growing with the increasing incidence of cardiovascular diseases. Compared with permanent stents, which are prone to in-stent restenosis, and drug-eluting stents, which may cause late stent thrombosis, biodegradable stents offer advantages. After providing early radial support to prevent elastic recoil, biodegradable stents gradually degrade, allowing the vessel to regain its natural physiological contractility and undergo positive remodeling. A review of the current mainstream biodegradable metal stents, magnesium-based, iron-based, and zinc-based alloys, shows promising findings in both preclinical and clinical research. Magnesium-based stents exhibit good operability and low thrombosis rates, but their limitations include rapid degradation, hydrogen evolution, and significant pH changes in the microenvironment. Iron-based stents demonstrate excellent mechanical strength, formability, biocompatibility, and hemocompatibility, but their slow corrosion rate hampers broader clinical application; accelerating degradation remains key. Zinc-based alloys have a moderate degradation rate but relatively low mechanical strength; enhancing stent strength by alloying with other elements is the main improvement direction for zinc-based stents.

KEY WORDS

biodegradable stent; vascular stent; metal stent; biocompatibility; mechanical properties

随着人类生活水平不断提高,心脑血管疾病已经成为病死率最高的致死病因^[1-2]。血管支架植入术在临床心血管领域得到飞速发展和应用^[3],主要经历了金属裸支架(bare metallic stent, BMS)、药物洗脱支架(drug-eluting stent, DES)和生物可降解支架(bioabsorbable stent, BRS)3个阶段。BMS具有不可降解性,存在血管慢性炎症、内膜增生、支架植入术后血管再狭窄及支架内血栓形成等问题;DES虽然显著降低了支架植入术后血管再狭窄的发生率,但DES植入后晚期血栓的发生率仍较高,并且抗增殖药物代谢完成后残留在体内的支架不可降解,仍面临远期不良的问题^[4-5]。BRS在植入体内初期具有良好的生物相容性与力学性能,当支架使命完成以后开始逐步缓慢降解,狭窄的血管恢复为舒缩能力正常的血管,可避免支架长期带来的慢性损伤和炎症反应,降低了晚期支架内血栓形成的概率。

BRS根据主要基体材料的不同可分为生物可吸收聚合物支架(bioresorbable polymeric stent, BPVS)和生物可降解金属合金支架(bioresorbable metallic alloy stent, BMAS)。尽管BPVS质量轻、柔性好且不会干扰磁共振成像(magnetic resonance imaging, MRI),但相比于BMS, BPVS内血栓形成的概率更高,径向支撑不足。相比之下, BMAS表现出更好的性能(如机械强度和生物相容性),可以解决BPVS的局限性。目前BMAS材料主要有镁基合金、铁基合

金和锌基合金3类^[2,6]。可降解金属使BMAS制备的整个工艺流程逐渐成熟,并成为目前血管支架研究的热点。

1 可降解镁基金属支架

1.1 研究现状

镁是最重要的微量营养素之一,可降解镁基金属支架在人体内降解为无机盐后产生的炎症反应较轻,此外,镁具有抗血栓作用,可通过抑制内皮素的产生调节血管活性物质的释放,进一步调节血管收缩,从而使急性支架血栓形成及早期血管再狭窄问题显著减少^[7-8]。

可降解镁基金属支架的研究较为深入, AE21[镁基合金(含2%铝和1%稀土)]和WE43[镁基合金(含钇和钕)]是较早出现的镁基合金。Heublein等^[9]首次报道AE21可降解支架植入猪冠状动脉8周后未观察到明显的支架血小板凝集、支架内血栓形成及全身毒性反应。但AE21的缺点是体内降解速度较快,难以给病变血管提供良好的机械支撑,其快速降解使血管残腔的直径大幅减少(约40%),从而限制了该金属支架的临床应用。随后, Biotronik改良镁基合金材料,使用WE43研发新一代可降解镁基金属支架(AMS-1)^[10]植入猪冠状动脉,4周后的定量冠状动脉造影显示, AMS-1组的最小管腔直径大于对照组,植入术

后35 d发生明显降解。Maeng等^[11]将西罗莫司洗脱支架、BMS和AMS支架植入猪冠状动脉进行对比, 90 d时新生内膜形成最少, 且在90 d时AMS支架管腔面积最小。

Erbel课题组^[12-13]开展PROGRESS-AMS临床试验, AMS支架在植入后4个月完全降解, 降解速度较快, 观察到明显的血管内膜增生, 对比BMS支架植入后6个月随访数据, AMS支架植入4个月时病变处管腔丢失明显, 术后血管再狭窄限制了可降解镁基金属支架AMS系列的临床应用。在AMS基础上, 为抑制支架植入术后新生内膜增殖和血管再狭窄, 第1代及第2代药物洗脱可吸收金属支架(drug-eluting absorbable metal scaffold, DREAMS)增加了药物涂层—聚乳酸-羟基乙酸共聚物[poly(lactide-co-glycolide acid), PLGA]/紫杉醇, 并进行了首次前瞻性、多中心临床试验(BIOSOLVE-I, BIOSOLVE-II)^[14]。第2代DREAMS支架在植入12个月时完全降解, 对比AMS支架, 降解行为明显改善, 对比第1代DREAMS支架, 病变处管腔丢失、总靶病变失败(target lesion failure, TLF)率更低^[14-15]。2016年, 第2代DREAMS——Magmaris®作为可降解金属支架首获CE认证, 在欧洲上市。2019年, BIOSOLVE-II试验3年随访未发现明显的支架血栓形成^[16]。BIOSOLVE-IV试验随访1 075例患者12个月, 进一步在大规模人群中证实Magmaris®支架的安全性和性能, 但术后12个月TLR高达4.6%, 未达到试验预期^[17]。第3代DREAMS支架采用BIOTRONIK专有的BIOMAG镁基金属制成, 厚度降至99~147 μm , 增加了铝元素, 径向支撑力更强, 植入后12个月开始吸收^[18-19]。BIOMAG-I^[18-19]数据显示较前代支架靶病变失败率更低, 且基本无支架血栓形成, 在减少晚期管腔丢失方面效果优异。

中国镁基血管支架的研究多处于临床前阶段, 具有代表性的是JDBM(镁-钹-锌-铅合金)镁基金属支架和镁-锌-钹-钹镁基金属合金支架。以镁和锌为原料的JDBM镁基金属合金支架植入兔腹主动脉后降解时间为6个月, 未观察到明显的血管闭塞^[20-21]。Zhang等^[22]将JDBM支架植入家兔颈总动脉, 在28 d内完全再内皮化, JDBM支架支柱在4个月内被降解产物取代, 发现含钙的降解产物在体内可以进一步降解, 未发现合金元素在主要器官中持续富集, 一定程度上消除了植入后可能出现的血管钙化和元素富集。Zhu等^[23]研究发现外消旋聚乳酸[poly(D, L-lactic acid), PLLA]/雷帕霉素(rapamycin, RAPA)包被的JDBM在体外能够抑制平滑肌细胞黏附, 并调节JDBM BRS的药物释放率, 在体内模型猪中显示JDBM BRS的

局部和全身风险较低, 植入6个月后机械完整性保持不变。郑州大学材料与工程学院自主开发的镁-锌-钹-钹镁基金属合金采用循环挤压压缩(cyclic extrusion compression, CEC)改善耐腐蚀性及机械性能^[24]。通过改变表面涂层以及微量合金成分, 可以满足不同的临床需求。目前中国自主研发的镁基金属合金支架尚处于临床前研究, 临床有效性需进一步验证。

1.2 存在的问题及解决方案

镁基金属支架最大的问题在于降解速率过快导致的晚期管腔丢失。各研究^[25-28]通过增加药物涂层的方法来解决这一问题。Menze等^[26]通过改变镁基金属支架的紫杉醇聚涂层的组成的策略, 在晚期管腔丢失、内膜面积、纤维蛋白评分和内皮化方面优于EUCATAX支架(紫杉醇洗脱式永久性金属支架)。在镁基金属支架表面设计通过非水相合成法制备出邻苯二酚基高分子纳米涂层来偶联生物活性铜, 可显著减缓镁基金属支架早期降解(1个数量级以上)并抑制溶血, 显示出优异的组织与血液相容性^[27-28]。该研究为可降解金属材料开辟了基于“与基体主动交互作用(active interplay with the matrix, AIM)”的表面功能化调控设计新策略。

镁基金属支架降解过程中析出的氢气除影响体内环境的局部碱度以外, 还会影响周围组织的愈合并可能发生气体栓塞危害事件, 产物代谢的相关临床研究也不充分^[29-31]。

如何在支架降解速率、病变血管内皮修复、个体化设计等方面寻找平衡点仍然是镁基金属支架研究的热点。目前降低镁基金属支架的被血液腐蚀率的方法有纯化(铁、钹、铜等), 微合金化(添加锌、锰、钙、稀土元素等)、晶粒细化等, 添加稀土元素(如钹)和增加药物洗脱能提高镁基金属合金的耐腐蚀性和拉伸性能。

2 可降解铁基金属支架

2.1 研究现状

铁是人体必需的微量元素之一, 机械性能良好。可降解铁基金属支架在降解过程中释放出来的亚铁离子对平滑肌细胞有抑制作用, 能减少血管再狭窄, 因此被认为是理想的可降解材料。

可降解铁基金属支架中纯铁和注氮铁支架材料研究较多。Peuster等^[32]将纯铁支架植入兔主动脉, 支架支撑筋大部分在植入6个月时降解消失, 可降解铁基金属支架不会因炎症、新生内膜增生或血栓事件造成支架血管的严重阻塞。Peuster等^[33]将纯铁支

架和316L不锈钢支架分别植入猪降主动脉内,血管再狭窄率无明显差异,均无系统毒性,表明了纯铁支架良好的生物相容性和安全性。

先健科技采用真空等离子渗氮技术研发的注氮铁支架(nitrogen injected iron stent, NIS)具有良好的生物安全性^[34]。NIS植入幼年猪髂动脉后3~6个月,支架内血流保持通畅;然而,12个月后观察到支架内血管段内膜增生和相对狭窄引起的轻微管腔损失^[35]。Lin等^[36]随后在NIS上增加药物涂层继续试验,其制备的可吸收铁基金属支架(iron bioresorbable scaffold, IBS)采用镀锌+载有RAPA的PDLLA涂层,植入兔主动脉后,前3个月主体支架未发生降解,径向支撑力良好;4~13个月支架迅速降解,但在支架周围残留大量降解产物。Shi等^[37]将镀锌+载有PDLLA/西罗莫司涂层的IBS植入大鼠腹主动脉,对比不锈钢支架,均未观察到毒性或死亡。Zheng等^[38]对比新型西罗莫司洗脱铁生物可吸收冠状动脉支架系统与钴铬依维莫司洗脱支架(cobalt-chromium everolimus-eluting stent, CoCr-EES),在28~180 d内,IBS和EES之间的区域狭窄差异无统计学意义。在180 d时,IBS的少数支柱中观察到腐蚀。植入后14 d内,IBS的内皮化率高于XIENCE Prime支架。均无支架或支架内血栓形成。光学相干断层扫描(optical coherence tomography, OCT)结果显示,IBS植入后6个月降解34%,1年降解52%,2年降解82%,3年降解95%。

可降解铁基金属支架临床研究仍在进行,其长期随访结果有待后续公布。2019年,IBS可吸收药物洗脱冠脉支架系统首次人体试验(first time in man trial, FIM)临床入组完成。2023年全球植入铁基可降解心脏支架IBS的患者3年随访完成,定量冠状动脉造影(quantitative coronary angiography, QCA),OCT和血管内超声(intravascular ultrasound, IVUS)结果显示血管通畅,植入后2年吸收率达到(82±10)%,植入后3年吸收率达到(95±4)%,验证了可降解铁基金属支架在人体内可被安全吸收^[39]。

2.2 存在的问题

可降解铁基金属支架降解慢,且降解产物(主要是氧化铁)残留在新内膜中,导致支架周围的组织炎症反应、过敏反应^[40]。Huang等^[41]根据电化学和浸没结果研究发现,加入银或金得到了比纯铸铁和烧结纯铁更高的腐蚀速率。改善制备工艺如烧结法制备的铁-35锰合金对比致密的合金样品,降解速率明显增加^[42]。在可降解铁基金属支架外面包裹聚乳酸涂

层,其降解产生酸性环境,使铁更快降解为可溶性铁离子,从而提高了铁基金属支架降解速率。

可降解铁基金属支架的生物相容性也是一个问题。与其他元素合金化有利于加速纯铁的腐蚀速率,提高材料强度,例如,铁-锰合金可以显著提高腐蚀速率,是纯铁的2倍^[43-45]。

除此以外可降解铁基金属支架需要考虑解决支架铁磁性对MRI的干扰,支架邻近组织受到射频引发的局部加热影响,以及磁场对铁支架产生的力的影响。铁-锰合金有效解决了MRI的问题,同时增加了铁基合金的降解速率。

3 可降解锌基金属支架

3.1 研究现状

锌是人体必需微量元素之一,毒性较低,延展性、强度和耐腐蚀性较好^[46]。可降解锌基金属支架研究目前主要集中在纯锌和其他锌基合金的临床前研究,缺乏相应的临床研究。Yang等^[47]将纯锌支架植入兔主动脉,植入术后前6个月保持机械支撑力,12个月时降解率为(41.75±29.72)%,同时发现纯锌支架存在径向支撑力不足等缺点。Zhou等^[48]将锌-0.8铜支架植入猪冠状动脉,植入1个月内支架内皮化完成,植入6个月后支架能够保持结构的完整性,而在植入9个月后支架发生解体,植入24个月后支架约保留了(28±13) vol%,24个月内未见炎症反应或血栓形成。Zhao等^[49]将锌基锂合金丝(含0.1%锂的锌合金)穿刺植入大鼠腹主动脉,结果显示该材料在动脉环境中具有良好的生物相容性,在2个月和12个月时,锌-锂的生物降解率分别约为0.008 mm/年和0.045 mm/年。微合金化超薄支柱(65 μm)锌基金属支架通过添加锂合金改善了锌基金属支架的力学性能和降解行为,将其植入猪冠状动脉6个月时,观察到支架变形和断裂,在12个月时,观察到支架的进一步降解^[50]。山东瑞安泰医疗技术有限公司研发的可降解锌基金属支架采用锌+0.8%铜合金为支架骨架,厚100 μm,径向支撑力为不锈钢的一半,植入后2年降解70%,生物相容性良好,并已获药监局批准进行FIM临床研究。

3.2 存在的问题

锌基金属支架临床应用的挑战在于加工软化行为和老化问题。锌基金属支架的老化表现为随室温存放时间延长,支架力学性能不稳定变脆,可能导致植入扩展过程中支架断裂。解决的对策包括抑制

锌基合金室温变形过程中动态再结晶的发生、促进非基面滑移的启动、控制晶粒尺寸。如添加微量溶质原子、引入第二相粒子等方式,在纯锌中加入铜可提升锌基合金动态再结晶起始温度。

镁基金属抗拉强度不够,力学性能有待改善。研究^[51]发现添加1%的镁可以使锌的机械抗拉强度提高到大约190 MPa,添加1.2%镁、1.4%镁的锌基合金的抗拉强度分别为117 MPa和130 MPa。Qin等^[52]研究发现,镁浓度的增加提高了锌-镁合金的强度和硬度,Liu等^[53]研究发现锌-1.5镁-0.1锆抗拉强度、延伸率、屈服强度较锌-1.5镁合金显著提高。

同时,添加其他合金可能导致毒性增加,从而限制了锌基金属支架在生物体内的应用^[54-57]。减少添加合金的比例或是一种解决方式。未来的研发需提升锌基金属支架的生物相容性,如增加表面功能化涂层来抑制Zn²⁺的过量释放、促进内皮化和抑制新生内膜过度增生、降低支架的炎症反应。

4 可降解金属支架对比

对比3种可降解金属材料,镁基金属支架可操作性良好,血栓形成率较低,存在的问题主要在于降解速率快、释氢反应和微环境pH值变化较大等方面,经过研发改良,镁基金属支架的强度得到提升,厚度更薄,最先在欧洲上市。铁基金属支架力学性能、成型加工性、优异的生物相容性和血液相容性优异,其优异的支撑力使铁基金属支架能做到十分轻薄,但与镁基金属支架相比,铁基支架降解速率过慢,提高降解速率是扩大铁基金属支架临床应用的关键。目前,通过增加新涂层和改变铁基支架降解速率已研发出各种新产品。而锌基合金的降解速率适中,强度较低,加入不同合金元素改善锌基金属支架强度是目前锌基金属支架的主要改良方向,不同合金的锌基金属支架仍需要进一步验证其生物相容性和降解代谢途径(表1)。

表1 可降解金属支架研究进展对比
Table 1 Comparison of research progress in metal degradable stents

产品	生产厂家	支架材质	涂层	支架壁厚/ μm	降解时间	研究现状
Magmaris® ^[17]	德国BIOTRONIK	镁基合金	聚左旋乳酸+雷帕霉素	150	1年	欧洲上市
第3代DREAMS ^[18]		镁基合金	—	99~147	1年	临床前研究
镁基BRS ^[58]	江苏沭沅医疗器械有限公司	镁基合金	—	—	—	早期研发
镁基BRS ^[58-59]	北京中科利安科技有限公司	镁基合金	—	—	—	早期研发
镁基BRS ^[58]	赛诺医疗科学技术股份有限公司	镁基合金	—	—	—	早期研发
镁基BRS ^[58-59]	日照天一生物医疗科技有限公司	镁基合金	—	—	—	早期研发
IBS ^[34-36]	元心科技(深圳)有限公司	渗氮铁	锌+PDLLA+西罗莫司	70	1.5~2年	FIM临床中
锌基BRS ^[58]	西安爱德万思医疗科技有限公司	锌基合金	—	—	—	临床前研究
锌基BRS ^[58]	山东瑞安泰医疗技术有限公司	锌基合金	—	100	2~3年	临床前研究

DREAM: 药物洗脱可吸收金属支架; BRS: 生物可降解支架; IBS: 可吸收铁基金属支架; PDLLA: 外消旋聚乳酸; FIM: 首次人体试验。

5 结 语

可降解金属支架在医学领域发展迅速,现有的试验以铁、镁、锌等可降解金属支架为主,其他合金可降解支架研究不断推进,潜力巨大。出色的机械性能、良好的生物相容性、与组织愈合速率匹配的降解速度是理想BRS需具备的性质。但不可忽视的是可降解材料的强度及塑性问题、降解速率的问题以及生物安全性问题,如何根据外部环境因素的

变化,有效平衡金属支架的降解速率和血管修复速率是实现不同病变部位的个体化设计的难点。可降解金属血管支架材料的革新和突破需要材料学、生物学、化学、医学等多学科共同合作,以提高可降解金属支架的性能,常见策略是调整支架材料成分种类和比例、优化支架结构设计、完善加工工艺相结合。除此以外,优化材料性能,以及改进制作工艺如金属注射成型技术、可降解药涂支架、纳米载药技术等也可能是未来可降解金属支架发展的方向。

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