

Microfluidic one-step preparation of magnetic PVA microspheres with magnetic hyperthermia effect and magnetic resonance imaging

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Poly (vinyl alcohol) (PVA) microspheres are a kind of vascular embolic materials commonly used in clinic for the interventional therapy of tumor. The drug loaded magnetic PVA microspheres would be combined with chemoembolization and magnetic mediated hyperthermia, which also could be seen under magnetic resonance (MR). In this paper, PVA microspheres encapsulated in situ-forming superparamagnetic iron oxide nanoparticles (SPIO NPs) have been prepared by one step using a T-junction droplet-based microfluidic device. Herein, PVA aqueous solution containing Fe²⁺/Fe³⁺ salt was used as dispersed phase and liquid paraffin containing surfactants was used as a continuous phase. The PVA droplets

containing Fe²⁺/Fe³⁺ salt formed in the microchannel were dripped into NaOH solution. Wherein, SPIO NPs were formed by the reaction of Fe²⁺/Fe³⁺ with OH⁻, and the in situ synthesized SPIO NPs acted as a cross-linking agent for PVA to form PVA microspheres. The obtained magnetic PVA microspheres had regular morphology with uniform size (~320 μm). Under external alternating magnetic field, the temperature of the microspheres dispersion was elevated more than 8 °C and the magnetic microspheres could be detectable under the magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). The results of cytotoxicity test showed that microspheres had good biocompatibility. While the cytotoxicity of the doxorubicin-loaded microspheres under 42 °C was more than that under 37 °C, which indicated that the hyperthermia therapy and chemotherapy had synergetic effect to kill the tumor cells. Thus, the one-step prepared magnetic drug-loaded PVA microspheres integrated interventional chemoembolization therapy, hyperthermia therapy and MR visualization.

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