Fabrication of MMP2-Responsive Nano-sized Particles Using Coaxial Electrospray Template Removal Method

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Introduction

In this work ,a coaxial electrospray and template removal method was used to prepare MMP2-responsive nano-sized particles for encapsulating of DOX. Polyethylene glycol (PEG) was used as shell materials ,the mixture of poly (L-lactide-co-MMP2 cleavable peptide)and DOX was used as core materials. Microparticles with core-shell structure were first prepared through coaxial electrospray, the shell layer was subsequently removed to decrease the particle size from micro scale to nanometer scale. DOX-an anticancer drug released in response to the environment of tumor cell because of excessive secreted protease MMP-2 of cancer cells. The morphologies of the microparticles were characterized, and the result of the laser scanning confocal microscope(LSCM) demonstrated that the microparticles prepared were with core-shell structure. Nano-sized particles after removing PEG template and the MMP-sensitive behaviors of nanoparticles were also studied.

Experimental



Scheme 1. Synthesis of the poly (L-lactide-co-MMP2 cleavable peptide) copolymer



2.Preparation of microparticles with core-shell structure by electrospray technique



Fig 2. (a) SEM images (b) LSCM images of electrospray microparticles with core-shell structure

3.Preparation of nanoparticles through removing PEG template

Scheme 2. Preparation of nanoparticles by coaxial electrospray and template removal method

Results and discussion

1. Synthesis of the PLA-peptide-PLA copolymer

Fig 3. (a) TEM images and size distribution (b)SEM images of nanoparticles after removing PEG template

4. The MMP-2 protease responsive behaviors of the nanozised particles

Fig 1. (a) ¹H NMR spectra of peptide,PLA-peptide-PLA and LA.(b) FTIR spectra of peptide,PLA-peptide-PLA and LA.(c)GPC spectra of PLA-peptide-PLA.

Conclusions:

In summary, we use a coaxial electrospray and template removal method to prepare nano-sized particles, which can specially respond to overexpressed MMP protease in cancer cells. DOX, an anticancer drug could be released effectively. The result demonstrates that the targeting drug delivery nano-carrier can be prepared simply and efficiently with coaxial electrospray and template removal method.

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