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Perspective

Biodegradable Implants for Long-Acting Drug Delivery: Developing Convenience and Enhanced Patient Outcomes in Chronic Disease Management

Honore Halusika*

Department of Pharmaceutics, National Cheng Kung University, Tainan, Taiwan

DESCRIPTION

Chronic diseases pose a significant global health challenge, requiring ongoing and often complex treatment regimens. Managing chronic conditions effectively often depends on maintaining consistent medication levels over extended periods. Biodegradable implants have emerged as a promising solution to this challenge, offering a convenient and patient-friendly approach to long-acting drug delivery. This article delves into the design, formulation, and potential benefits of biodegradable implants, which steadily release therapeutic agents over time, transforming the landscape of chronic disease management.

Chronic diseases such as diabetes, cardiovascular diseases require continuous medication administration to maintain disease control and prevent complications. Traditional dosing regimens often involve multiple daily doses, leading to issues of patient non-compliance, interrupted therapy, and suboptimal outcomes. Long-acting drug delivery systems, including biodegradable implants, offer a way to address these challenges by providing sustained drug release over weeks, months, or even years.

Designing biodegradable implants

Biodegradable implants are designed to gradually degrade and release the encapsulated drug, eliminating the need for repeated injections or oral doses. These implants are typically made from biocompatible polymers, which are carefully chosen to ensure compatibility with the body and the controlled release of the drug.

Biocompatible materials: The choice of polymer is important to ensure biocompatibility and controlled degradation. Commonly used materials include Polylactic Acid (PLA), Polyglycolic Acid (PGA), and their copolymers.

Drug incorporation: The drug is incorporated into the polymer matrix during the manufacturing process. Factors such as drug solubility, stability, and release kinetics must be optimized to ensure precise dosing over the desired duration.

Implant geometry: The shape and size of the implant are carefully designed to fit the targeted implantation site and ensure controlled drug release. Implants can be cylindrical, rod-shaped, or customized to specific therapeutic needs.

Degradation rate: The rate at which the implant degrades and it releases the drug is a critical parameter. Researchers aim to match the degradation rate with the therapeutic needs of the patient, considering factors like disease progression and drug half-life.

Formulation and drug release

The formulation process of biodegradable implants involves the careful mixing of drug and polymer to achieve a homogenous distribution. This formulation is then transformed into solid implants through various techniques such as extrusion, compression, or solvent casting. Once implanted, the implant gradually degrades, releasing the drug in a controlled manner.

Drug release from biodegradable implants follows various mechanisms, including diffusion, erosion, and a combination of both. The degradation of the polymer matrix creates pores, allowing the drug to diffuse out. Factors like polymer composition, molecular weight, and drug-polymer interactions influence the release kinetics, enabling tailored delivery profiles.

CONCLUSION

Biodegradable implants represent a innovative approach to long-acting drug delivery, offering a convenient and patient-friendly alternative to frequent dosing for chronic diseases. These implants have the potential to enhance patient compliance, improve disease management, and reduce healthcare system costs. As research and development efforts continue to evolve, biodegradable implants are poised to play an increasingly vital role in the future of healthcare, transforming the way chronic diseases are treated and managed.

Correspondence to: Honore Halusika, Department of Pharmaceutics, National Cheng Kung University, Tainan, Taiwan, E-mail: honohaluka00@gmail.com

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