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Mechanical characterization of a rotating bioreactor for tissue engineering

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INTRODUCTION

Biological scaffolds composed of an extracellular matrix (ECM) derived from decellularized tissues are increasingly used in regenerative medicine [1]. **Esophageal tissue engineering** is a promising approach to create an esophageal substitute and improve clinical outcomes in the treatment and surgery of diseased esophagus. In this study, decellularized scaffolds are prepared from porcine esophagus using mild detergents, acids and enzymes to remove animal cells, with the aim of providing scaffolds for recellularization with human stem cells, thereby producing a new human esophagus [2]. For this purpose, a flow-through perfusion bioreactor is used: the Rotary Cell Culture System (RCCS), commercially available from Synthecon (Houston, TX) [3]. The objective of this paper is to demonstrate the usability of the RCCS for decellularization and to characterize the flow through the device for recellularization.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

BIOLOGICAL

Decontamination of the sample

The esophagus is incubated under constant agitation at 200 rotation per minute (RPM) for 24 hours at room temperature in a solution with 320mg/L Gentamycin (Sigma-Aldrich), 600mg/L Clindamycin (Sigma-Aldrich), 500mg/L Vancomycin (Sigma-Aldrich), 100mg/L Amphotericine B (Eurobio Scientific). [4]

Decellularization of the sample

3 phases of detersion with chemical solutions [2]:

- Sodium Azide (Sigma-Aldrich)
- Sodium Deoxycholate (Sigma-Aldrich)
- DNase I from bovine pancreas (Sigma-Aldrich)

The process is amplified by mechanical action of the RCCS system. [4]

Paraffin inclusion and histological sections stained with Saffron Eosin Hemathein (HES).

Detoxification of the sample

Incubation of the matrix in Amberlite XAD16N resin (Sigma-Aldrich) in potassium phosphate buffer (VWR) at pH 6.5, for 72 hours under constant agitation at 150 RPM at 30°C. [4]

Evaluation of cytotoxicity by direct contact with BALB/c 3T3 cells (ISO 10993-5).

DISCUSSION

Biological

DM is composed of a submucosa and a muscularis, the mucosa having been previously removed. Mechanical tests and mass spectrometry of the DM are to be performed.

DM is biocompatible and can be recellularized using Wharton's Jelly mesenchymal stem cells before being implanted as an esophageal substitute.

Mechanical

Equations (1) and (2) indicate that particle motion may be affected by: density difference between fluid and particle, vessel rotation rate, fluid viscosity and particle radius.

CONCLUSION

The use of RCCS for tissue engineering requires that the perfusion rate and rotation speed remain moderate (ω < 20 rpm and Q < 30 ml/min). These parameters allow us to obtain a decellularized and biocompatible biological matrix.

MECHANICAL CHARACTERIZATION

The rotary cell culture system (RCCS, from Synthecon) allows liquid flow within the tubular esophagus, as well as a mechanical rotation in and around the tissue.

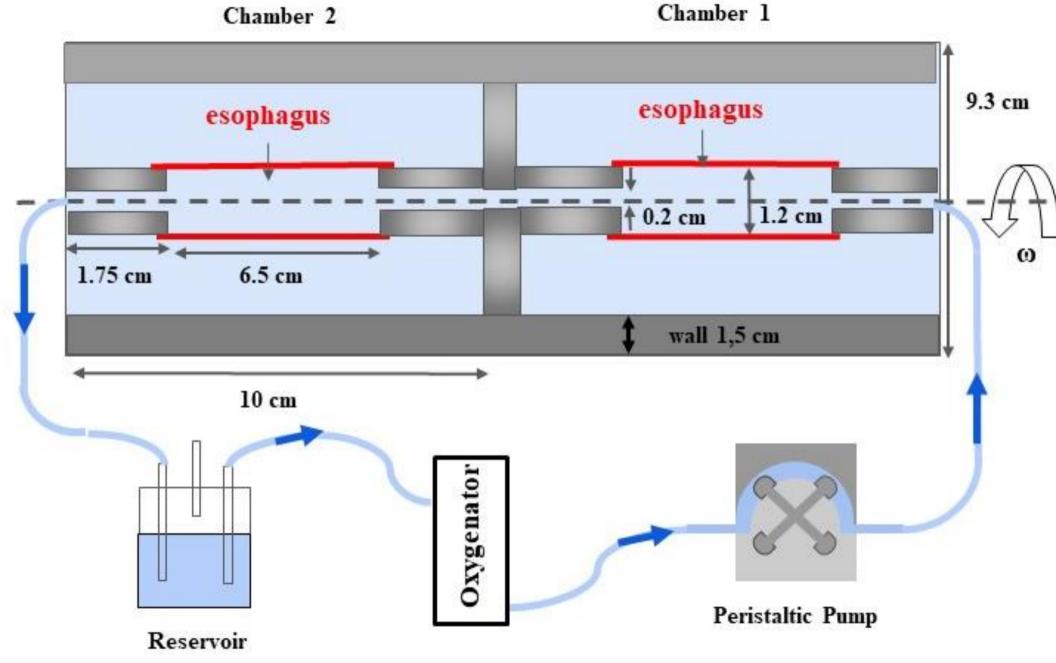


Fig. 2: Schematic representation of the experimental set-up.

The motion of the particle in the rotating frame is governed by the following differential equations:

BIOLOGICAL

Fig. 1: Rotary Cell Culture

System (RCCS)

Detoxification 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 80 10

Fig. 3: Cytotoxicity assay by direct contact for 2 DM (n=3)

 The cell viability rate is higher than the required 70%.

RESULTS

Decellularization

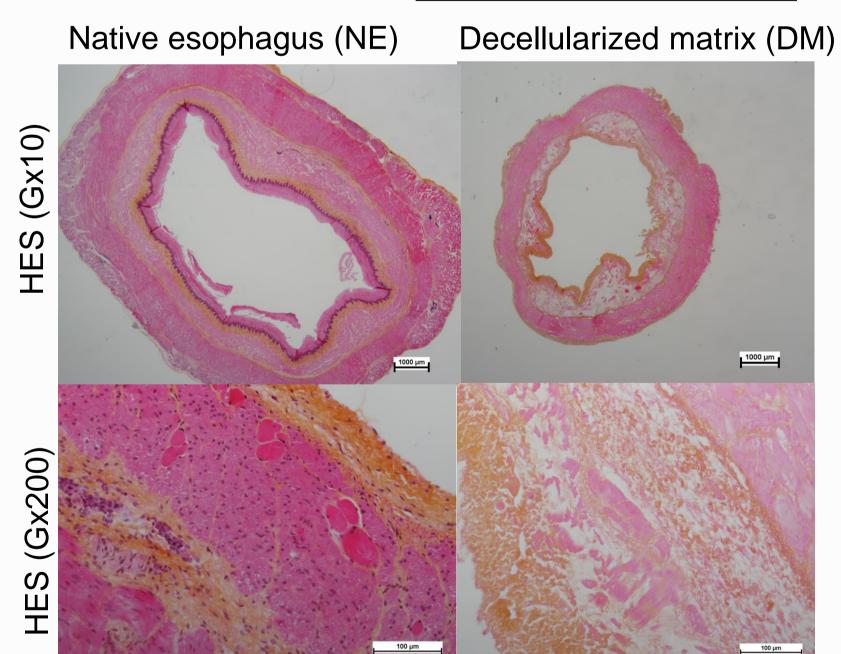


Fig. 4: Histological observations of NE and MD with HES staining.

- Absence of nuclei in the different tissue layers of the MD.
- Preservation of the structural framework of the esophagus.

MECHANICAL

In the rotating frame, the particle follows a periodic nearly circular path in the clockwise direction, associated with a very slow centrifugal drift towards the esophagus wall. In the ground-based frame, the particle appears to have an increasing circle of rotation in the counter-clockwise direction with a stationary center.

Submission of the paper "Mechanical characterization of a rotating bioreactor for tissue engineering" in progress...

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