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Opinion

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Clinical Significance of Image Analysis of Biomaterial-Tissue Interactions

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Abstract

Through delivering anatomical, functional, and molecular data of biological species with high spatial resolution, deep penetration depth, greater temporal responsiveness, and improved chemical specificity, modern biomedical imaging has transformed life science. These imaging techniques have become more and more specialised in recent years to characterise biomaterials and examine their interactions with biological tissues. This has led to significant improvements in designing material qualities that were previously impossible to suit various imaging modalities.

Keywords

Biomedical imaging; Life science; Designing material; Biological tissues.

Introduction

By functioning as carriers to transport bioactive chemicals and/or therapeutic molecules in precision medicine, as well as scaffolds to assist the fabrication of functional tissues in regenerative medicine, biomaterials have been playing increasingly important roles in biomedicine. It is ideal to visualise biomaterials-tissue interactions with low invasiveness and high fidelity in order to maximise the performance of biomaterials. Imaging biomaterial-tissue interactions has historically been difficult since it typically calls for the biomaterials or cells to be designed with the appropriate imaging contrast [1]. Due to the increased imaging depth, complex tissue environment, and interference from the working biological system, it becomes much more difficult in *in vivo* situations.

The interactions between the applied probing energy format (such as light, sound, magnetic field, or x-ray photon) and the biomaterials/tissues are the foundation of all biomedical imaging modalities. These interactions often include the objects' absorbing, dispersing, and polarising the probing energy [2]. Imaging technologies may be categorised using a wide range of characteristics, including resolution, imaging depth, and contrast techniques. Specifically choosen the contrast mechanism because it best describes the physical, chemical, and biological characteristics of a particular material or tissue type, and because it can serve as the most useful manual for choosing the technologies that are most appropriately suited for probing biomaterials and living things.Thus, based on their contrast processes, the common biomedical imaging modalities may be divided into acoustic imaging, magnetic imaging, optical imaging, electron imaging, x-ray imaging, and nuclear imaging.

Tissue engineering properties to enhance visual characterization

Though the various imaging modalities can all directly see certain characteristics of the specimens of interest, the sensitivity attained might not be sufficient to define the intended biomaterial-tissue interactions. As a result, in order to make biological entities and non-biological materials clearly apparent using the chosen imaging modalities, exogenous contrast mechanisms must frequently be included.Since they are significantly more compatible with improvements in optical qualities, the bulk of these synthetic biological contrast mechanisms have been restricted to application in optical imaging [3].

For various optical imaging modalities, there are several contrast mechanisms available. OCT imaging is made possible by optical scattering, which is made possible by polymeric biomaterials and the cell membrane, both *in vitro* and *in vivo*. Labels with higher refractive indexes, such magnetic beads and gold nanocages, may help to highlight the differences between the cells and the scaffolds [4]. In addition to scattering contrasts, optical imaging has found widespread uses for absorption and fluorescence, which often need for the addition of additional contrast mechanisms.

While many fluorescent molecules have been created and improved to enable confocal and multi-photon microscopy, or whole-body luminescence imaging, including its use for scaffold degradation, PAT is a more recent imaging modality based on absorption contrast that is gaining interest in studying cell-scaffold interactions. Contrasts, which can be based on chemical substances like chromogenic dyes, formazans that are digested by live cells or doped in scaffolds, gold nanoparticles, and carbon nanomaterials, are among the frequently used methods to enhance the signals of biomaterials and/or cells.

However, additional opportunities for other imaging modalities, such as US, OCT, MRI, and EM, may be provided by other potential means of generating contrasts, such as *in situ* synthesis of nanomaterials directly within biological cells using green chemistry, similar to cellular metabolism of tetrazolium salts to formazan crystals in the case of PAT imaging [5].

Conclusion

Improvements in the contrast mechanisms that allow for better visibility by these various imaging modalities as well as advances in imaging techniques that allow for a better understanding of the interactions between biomaterials and tissues. Additionally, several design concepts for enhancing these capabilities were put out. These design principles are crucial for domains like cancer theranostics,

tissue engineering, and regenerative medicine.It is likely that multi-scale characterization of biomaterial-tissue interactions will eventually be made possible in a high capacity thanks to the development of specialised multi-modality imaging systems and multiplexed contrast mechanisms, possibly in combination with new toolkits beyond these two conventional considerations.

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