Enhanced Sealing by Hydrophobic Modification of Alaska

Pollock-Derived Gelatin-Based Surgical Sealants for the Treatment of

Pulmonary Air Leaks.

Authors: Mizuta R., Taguchi T.

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Abstract:

Pulmonary air leaks are medical complications of thoracic surgery for which fibrin sealant is the main

treatment. In this study, innovative sealants based on hydrophobically modified Alaska

pollock-derived gelatin (hm-ApGltn) and a poly(ethylene)glycol-based 4-armed cross-linker

(4S-PEG) have been developed and their burst strengths have been evaluated using fresh rat lung.

The developed sealants show higher lung burst strength compared with the nonmodified original

ApGltn (Org-ApGltn)-based sealant and a commercial fibrin sealant. The maximum burst strength of

the hm-ApGltn-based sealant is 1.6-fold higher than the Org-ApGltn-based sealant (n = 5, p < 0.05),

and 2.1-fold higher than the commercial fibrin sealant (n = 5, p < 0.05). Cell culture experiments

show that modification of ApGltn with cholesteryl or stearoyl groups effectively enhances anchoring

to the cell surface. In addition, binding constants between hm-ApGltn and extracellular matrix

proteins such as fibronectin and fibrillin are increased. Therefore. the new

hm-ApGltn/4S-PEG-based sealant has the potential for applications in thoracic surgery. (Figure

presented.).

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