Chapter 11
Exploring the Potential of Chitosan–Polydopamine Nanocomposites for Neural Tissue Regeneration

Deniz Eren Erisen
https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3416-3732
Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics, China

ABSTRACT

The chapter discusses the optimization of the physical and chemical properties of these nanocomposites to enhance their suitability for neural applications, such as tuning the surface chemistry to improve cell-material interactions and modifying the mechanical properties to match those of the native neural tissue. It also highlights the importance of rigorous in vitro and in vivo testing to evaluate the material's performance in supporting neural cell viability, differentiation, and integration with host tissue. The potential implications of this research are far-reaching, contributing not only to the advancement of neural tissue engineering but also to the broader scope of regenerative medicine. The chapter concludes with a discussion on the prospects of Chi-PDA nanocomposites in the development of next-generation neural interfaces, implants, and scaffolds, and their potential to significantly improve the quality of life for individuals with neural damage or degenerative conditions.

DOI: 10.4018/979-8-3693-3065-4.ch011

INTRODUCTION

The exploration of Chitosan-Polydopamine (Chi-PDA) nanocomposites in neural tissue engineering is a testament to the dynamic nature of biomedical research, where the integration of nanotechnology and biomaterial science holds the potential to revolutionize therapeutic strategies for neural repair and regeneration. Chi-PDA nanocomposites have garnered attention due to their unique properties that are conducive to neural tissue engineering, such as biocompatibility, enhanced electrical conductivity, and the ability to promote cell adhesion and proliferation. These characteristics are particularly beneficial in the context of neural tissue, which requires precise electrical signaling and robust neuron-supportive scaffolds for effective repair and function. The proposed investigation into the potential of Chi-PDA nanocomposites will likely delve into the optimization of the material's physical and chemical properties to enhance its suitability for neural applications. This includes tuning the surface chemistry to improve cell-material interactions, modifying the mechanical properties to match those of the native neural tissue, and ensuring the material's stability and function in the physiological environment. Additionally, the assessment of neurocompatibility will involve rigorous in vitro and in vivo testing to evaluate the material's performance in supporting neural cell viability, differentiation, and integration with host tissue. The outcomes of such research could have far-reaching implications, not only in advancing the field of neural tissue engineering but also in contributing to the broader scope of regenerative medicine. By establishing the efficacy and safety of Chi-PDA nanocomposites, this work could pave the way for the development of next-generation neural interfaces, implants, and scaffolds that could significantly improve the quality of life for individuals with neural damage or degenerative conditions. As the field continues to evolve, the synergy between material science and neural biology will undoubtedly unlock new horizons in the quest to repair and regenerate the complex and delicate neural tissues of the human body.

Introduction to Neural Tissue Engineering

Neural tissue engineering is a fascinating and rapidly evolving field that sits at the intersection of neuroscience, biology, and engineering. This discipline focuses on the development of new strategies to repair, replace, regenerate, or improve neural tissues using a combination of engineering methods, biomaterials, cellular engineering, and drug delivery technologies. The ultimate goal is to overcome the limitations of the body's ability to heal the nervous system, whether due to injury, disease, or degenerative conditions. The nervous system is incredibly complex, consisting of the central nervous system (CNS), which includes the brain and spinal