

吸入类药物临床前研究中鼻组织脱钙技术优化：用于大鼠鼻黏膜组织病理学检查

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摘要: 目的 研究不同脱钙液对大鼠鼻组织的脱钙作用及其病理切片染色效果。方法 选择 10% 乙二胺四乙酸(ethylene diamine tetraacetic acid, EDTA)、10% 甲酸、5% 硝酸脱钙液 3 种不同脱钙液, 在室温静置及微波条件下, 对大鼠鼻组织的脱钙时间和脱钙效果进行比较分析, 综合评估骨组织经不同脱钙方法后制成病理切片质量。结果 常温条件下鼻组织经过 EDTA 脱钙液所需脱钙时间最长, 微波条件下鼻组织经硝酸脱钙液所需脱钙时间最短, 经 EDTA 脱钙液的鼻组织切片质量、HE 染色、MASSON 染色和免疫组化染色中质量最佳, 硝酸脱钙液的鼻组织的切片质量最差, 甲酸脱钙液的鼻组织 HE 染色效果较佳, MASSON 和免疫组化染色质量略差。结论 EDTA 脱钙液配合微波进行的鼻组织脱钙, 脱钙效率明显提升, 且切片和染色效果俱佳。

关键词: 鼻; 脱钙; 骨组织; 大鼠; 组织病理学; 吸入类药物

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Optimization of Nasal Tissue Decalcification Technique in Preclinical Studies of Inhaled Drugs: Histopathological Examination of Nasal Mucosa in Rats

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ABSTRACT: OBJECTIVE New inhaled formulations that act on the nose, mouth, respiratory tract, and whole body have received increasing attention. Meanwhile, the research and declaration of inhaled drugs have become hot spots amid infectious respiratory pandemic diseases worldwide. Due to the special anatomic structure of the nose, folds, grooves, and special structures may cause the specific uptake and deposition of inhaled substances. There are various epithelial tissues, glands, muscles, and cartilages in the vestibule, respiratory, and olfactory parts of the nose. Inhaled substances can generate irritating and toxic effects on various parts. The pathological diagnosis results from the preclinical safety evaluation of inhaled drugs are considered the gold standard for judging drug toxicology. The nose is composed of many bone components, and decalcification is required for the sectioning of hard bone tissues. Therefore, an efficient and high-quality decalcification method is the crucial pathological technique for evaluating inhaled drugs. **METHODS** In this study, 10% ethylenediamine tetraacetic acid(EDTA), 10% formic acid, and 5% nitric acid decalcification solutions were selected. Besides, the decalcification time and effect of these decalcification solutions for rat nasal tissues were compared and analyzed under static room temperature and microwave conditions. Moreover, the quality of pathological bone tissue sections prepared through different decalcification methods was comprehensively evaluated. **RESULTS** Compared with the decalcification method under normal temperature, the decalcification time under the treatment of KOS decreased significantly. The treatment with the EDTA decalcification solution had the longest decalcification time under normal temperature, while the treatment with the nitric acid decalcification solution had the shortest decalcification time under microwaves. During section evaluation, the EDTA decalcification solution had a higher quality score under normal temperature and microwaves, which indicated that the section quality was favorable. The nitric acid decalcification solution had a lower section quality score under microwaves, which indicated that the section quality was unfavorable. There was medium section quality for the formic acid decalcification solution under microwaves and normal temperature and for the nitric acid decalcification solution under normal temperature. The HE staining results suggested that there were incomplete nasal mucosa epithelia, fragmentation, and pink nasal bone tissues in the tissue sections treated by the nitric acid decalcification solution, presenting a peracid state. In the tissue sections treated by the formic acid decalcification solution and the EDTA decalcification solution, the nucleus of epithelial cells was blue-purple, the cytoplasm and interstitial components were pink, and the epithelial tissue structure of nasal mucosa was intact. The MASSON staining results suggested

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that in the tissue sections treated by the nitric acid decalcification solution, the whole section staining was red, the positive area was not obvious, and the epithelial cell differentiation was not prominent, with a fuzzy structure. In the tissue sections treated by the formic acid decalcification solution, the sections were slightly detached during staining, and slight cracks were observed in submucosa tissues. In the tissue sections treated by the EDTA decalcification solution, the structure of positive regions and epithelial mucosa regions was clear, and the nuclear and interstitial components were clearly distinguished. The immunohistochemical staining (Ki67) results suggested that in the tissue sections treated by the nitric acid decalcification solution, the staining of positive regions was uneven, and there were nonspecific negative reactions in some regions. In addition, local epithelial cells were unstained. In the tissue sections treated by the formic acid decalcification solution, the local regions were not clearly stained, and nonspecific negative and positive reactions appeared in some local regions. In the tissue sections treated by the EDTA decalcification solution, the positive regions were prominent, the boundaries between negative regions and positive ones were clear, and each region of the sections was stained evenly. **CONCLUSION** Among the three decalcification solutions in this study, the nitric acid decalcification solution had the shortest decalcification time while the poor section and staining quality. The decalcification time of nasal tissues through the EDTA decalcification solution combined with microwaves was significantly shorter than that through the EDTA decalcification solution at normal temperature. Furthermore, this decalcification method achieved favorable section and staining quality.

KEYWORDS: nose; decalcification; bone tissue; rat; histopathological; inhaled drugs

吸入给药已经有数千年的应用史^[1], 目前有多种吸入装置可用于输送吸入类药物, 包括加压剂量吸入器、干粉吸入器及雾化器等^[2]。通过吸入装置药物可抵达肺部, 肺部既是局部作用的靶向位置, 也是全身作用药物的吸收部位, 该给药方式的优势在于全身不良反应发生率低和起效快^[3]。以吸入方式作用于口鼻、呼吸道及全身的新剂型备受关注, 同时由于全球传染性呼吸道疾病大流行等因素, 吸入药物的研发成为热点^[4]。

吸入药物通过整个呼吸道进入肺部, 其过程会受到机械、化学、免疫及行为屏障等多因素的影响^[5]。因此, 在临床前安全性评价及药效研究中, 会对鼻黏膜、口腔黏膜、咽喉部组织、气管及肺脏等组织进行组织病理学检查。由于鼻部结构的特殊性, 鼻部内的褶皱、凹槽及特殊结构可能导致吸入物质的特异性摄取和沉积^[6]。鼻的前庭部、呼吸部和嗅部含多种上皮组织、腺体、肌肉和软骨等组织, 吸入物可对各个部位产生刺激性及毒性作用, 吸入类药物临床前安全性评价的病理诊断结果是判定药物毒理的金标准。

脱钙步骤是鼻部进行组织病理学观察的重要及必备步骤, 鼻部内含有较多骨组织, 骨组织包含矿物质含量较高的胶原蛋白和非胶原蛋白, 矿物质主要以钙和磷不溶性盐(羟基磷灰石)组成^[7]。钙及羟基磷灰石与有机蛋白基质结合为骨组织提供硬度^[8], 由于骨组织的硬度, 骨组织切片的制作较为困难。因此在骨组织切片制作过程中, 开发一种高效和高质量兼具的脱钙方法较为困难。在进行骨组织切片时的“脱钙”又是其关键技术难点, 脱

钙效果直接影响病理制片、阅片及结果评价, 也成为不少新药申报的限速环节。

本研究选择大鼠鼻组织, 选择 10%乙二胺四乙酸(ethylene diamine tetraacetic acid, EDTA)、10%甲酸、5%硝酸脱钙液 3 种不同脱钙液, 在室温静止及微波条件下, 对脱钙时间和脱钙效果进行比较分析, 综合评估骨组织经不同脱钙方法后制成病理切片的质量, 为药物临床前研究中鼻部骨组织脱钙规范化方法提供科学数据。

1 材料与方法

1.1 动物与材料

SPF 雄性 SD 大鼠 30 只, 体质量 180~220 g, 购自北京维通利华实验动物技术有限公司, 实验动物生产许可证号: SCXK(京)2021-0006。动物饲养于上海市食品药品检验研究院实验动物设施内, 实验动物使用许可证号: SYXK(沪)2021-0026。本实验通过上海市食品药品检验研究院动物伦理委员会审核, 动物伦理批准号为 IACUC-SIFDC-21037。

乌来糖(批号: 20210712)、甲酸(批号: 20220171)、硝酸(批号: 20190382)、EDTA(批号: 20180103)、二甲苯(批号: 20230607)均购自国药集团化学试剂有限公司; 石蜡(德国徕卡公司, 批号: 39601095); MASSON 染色试剂盒(批号: 20221022)和免疫组化二抗试剂盒(批号: 20220184)均购自北京索莱宝科技有限公司; Ki67 一抗(批号: ab15580)购自 Abcam 公司。

KOS 微波快速组织脱水机(意大利 Milestone 公司); HistoCore 组织包埋机、RM2255 轮转切片机、ST5020 自动组织切片染色机均购自德国徕卡公司); ZEISSScopeA1 显微镜(德国蔡司公司)。

1.2 动物处置

大鼠进入本单位动物设施后由兽医进行检疫检查,结果显示无明显异常。适应性饲养 3 d 后,20%乌来糖溶液(1 g·kg⁻¹)腹腔注射麻醉,处死后进行系统性大体剖检,取鼻组织入 10%中性福尔马林固定液。

1.3 组织处理

将上述 30 个鼻组织随机分为 6 组,每组 5 个标本,分别进行脱钙操作,分组及脱钙试剂见表 1。

表 1 骨组织脱钙程序分组

Tab. 1 Bone tissue decalcification of program

组号	脱钙液	溶剂	浓度/%	微波处理
1	EDTA	4%甲醛溶液	10	✓
2	甲酸	4%甲醛溶液	10	✓
3	硝酸	4%甲醛溶液	5	✓
4	EDTA	4%甲醛溶液	10	/
5	甲酸	4%甲醛溶液	10	/
6	硝酸	4%甲醛溶液	5	/

进入脱钙流程后,每 12 h 对 EDTA 和甲酸脱钙液中的骨组织进行检查,每小时对硝酸脱钙液中微波处理的骨组织进行检查,针刺入骨无顿挫感即为脱钙结束。

1.4 脱钙结束后操作

脱钙结束后,使用 10%碳酸氢钠水溶液中和 4 h,完成中和后进行组织病理学制片工作。鼻组织经过乙醇梯度脱水、二甲苯透明、浸蜡(62℃液态石蜡),石蜡包埋后进行组织切片。

1.5 切片评分

在切片过程中,对脱钙后的组织进行质量评分,内容包括包埋组织块的完整性,组织碎裂情况,摊片平整性,烘干后完整性,对上述指标分别计分,分值为 1~5 分,即 1 分为效果最差,5 分为效果最好,统计各项分数,并统计总分,以判别何种脱钙方式更容易制作切片。

1.6 切片染色

将切片完成的骨组织进行常规切片染色(HE)、特殊染色(MASSON)和免疫组织化学(Ki67)染色,以评估染色后,镜下骨组织制片效果,计分方式同“1.5”项,以判别何种脱钙方式的染色质量最佳。

1.7 骨组织脱钙制片评估

对第“1.5”“1.6”项的内容进行综合评估,包括分数、操作时间和合理性,评估后选出最适合的脱钙方法,进行后续研究使用。

1.8 数据处理

采用 GraphPad Prism 5.01 软件进行统计分析并制图,统计数据以 $\bar{x} \pm s$ 表示。通过 Shapiro Wilk 方法检验数据是否正态分布,如数据正态分布,两组间采用 *t* 检验,如数据呈非正态分布,则使用秩和检验,*P*<0.05 为差异具有统计学意义。

2 结果

2.1 脱钙时间比较

与常温脱钙方法相比,KOS 微波脱钙方法的脱钙时间明显减少。其中常温条件下 EDTA 脱钙液所需的脱钙时间最长,微波条件下硝酸脱钙液所需的脱钙时间最短,见图 1。

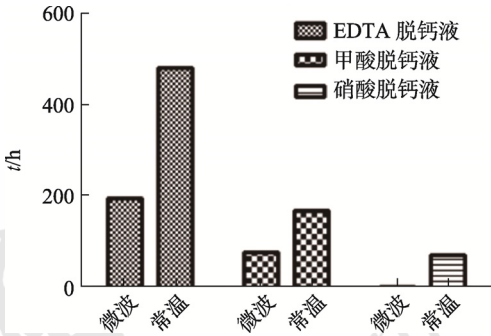


图 1 不同脱钙条件下脱钙时间的比较

Fig. 1 Comparison of decalcification time under different decalcification conditions

2.2 切片过程中评价比较

在切片评估过程中,EDTA 脱钙液在常温及微波条件下,切片质量评分分数较高,表明切片质量较好;硝酸脱钙液在微波情况下,切片质量评分分数较低,表明制片质量存在一定的问题;甲酸脱钙液微波、常温条件及硝酸常温条件下,切片质量居中,见表 2。

2.3 HE 染色效果比较

HE 染色可见,经过硝酸脱钙液的组织切片,鼻黏膜上皮不完整,切片可见碎裂情况,鼻内骨组织粉红色,表现为过酸的状态;经过甲酸脱钙和 EDTA 脱钙液的组织切片,上皮细胞的细胞核呈蓝紫色,细胞浆和间质成分呈粉红色,鼻黏膜上皮组织结构完整,见图 2。

2.4 特殊染色比较

MASSON 染色可见,经过硝酸脱钙液的组织切片,染色整体呈红色,其阳性区域并不明显,上皮细胞分化不明显,结构模糊;经过甲酸脱钙的组织切片,染色过程中轻度脱片,黏膜下层组织可见轻度裂痕;EDTA 脱钙液的组织切片,阳性

区域和上皮黏膜区域结构清晰,细胞核及间质成分区分明确,见图3。表明硝酸脱钙和甲酸脱钙结果所示异常情况为制片过程中的人工假象。

表2 不同条件脱钙后组织的质量评分比较($\bar{x} \pm s, n=5$)
Tab. 2 Comparison of tissue quality scores after decalcification under different conditions($\bar{x} \pm s, n=5$)

评分项	脱钙条件	EDTA 脱钙液	甲酸脱钙液	硝酸脱钙液
包埋完整	微波	5.0±0.0	4.6±0.5	3.6±0.5 ¹⁾³⁾
	常温	5.0±0.0	4.6±0.5	4.2±0.4 ¹⁾
组织碎裂	微波	5.0±0.0	4.0±0.0 ¹⁾	3.6±0.5 ¹⁾
	常温	5.0±0.0	3.6±0.5 ¹⁾	4.0±0.0 ¹⁾
摊片平整性	微波	5.0±0.0	4.8±0.4	3.2±0.4 ²⁾³⁾
	常温	5.0±0.0	4.8±0.4	3.4±0.5 ²⁾³⁾
烘干后完整性	微波	5.0±0.0	4.2±0.4	3.8±0.4 ¹⁾
	常温	5.0±0.0	4.6±0.5	4.0±0.0 ³⁾

注:相同脱钙条件下,与EDTA脱钙液组相比,¹⁾ $P<0.05$,²⁾ $P<0.01$;与甲酸脱钙液组相比,³⁾ $P<0.05$ 。
Note: Under the same decalcification conditions, compared with the EDTA decalcifying group, ¹⁾ $P<0.05$, ²⁾ $P<0.01$; compared with the formic acid decalcifying group, ³⁾ $P<0.05$.

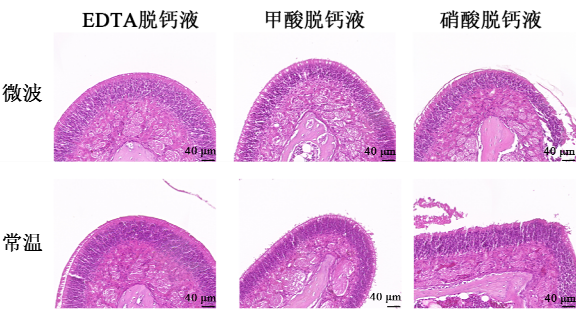


图2 不同脱钙条件下鼻黏膜HE染色结果
Fig. 2 Results of nasal mucosa in different decalcification conditions with HE staining

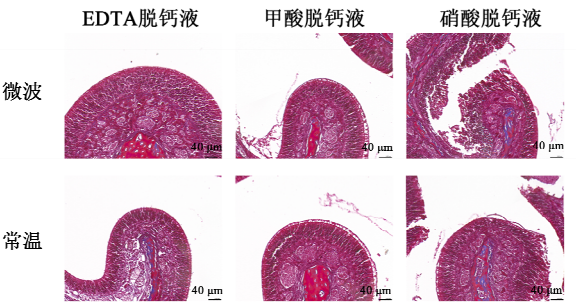


图3 不同脱钙条件下鼻黏膜MASSON染色
Fig. 3 Results of nasal mucosa in different decalcification conditions with MASSON staining

2.5 免疫组织化学染色比较

免疫组织化学染色(Ki67)可见,经过硝酸脱钙的组织切片,阳性区域着色不均,部分区域染色

非特异阴性反应,局部上皮细胞出现未着色的情况;甲酸脱钙液的组织切片,局部区域着色不清,局部区域出现非特异性阴性及阳性反应;EDTA脱钙液的组织切片,阳性区域均较为明显,阴性区域和阳性区域区别清晰,切片各区域染色均匀,见图4。

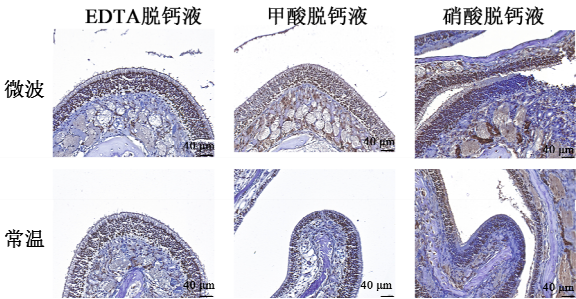


图4 不同脱钙条件下鼻黏膜免疫组化Ki67染色结果
Fig. 4 Results of nasal mucosa in different decalcification conditions with IHC staining of Ki67

3 讨论

酸性脱钙液(甲酸和硝酸)为常用脱钙液,随酸性脱钙液浓度提高其脱钙时间也会缩短,酸性脱钙液对于啮齿类、犬及非人灵长类骨组织脱钙效果较好,速度较快。而使用硝酸脱钙液的组织会变黄,微波可进一步加快酸性脱钙液的脱钙速度,但是切片质量会受到一定的影响,在MASSON染色和免疫组化染色中,使用酸性脱钙液的组织较容易脱片,颜色不佳等情况,使用甲酸脱钙液处理的组织进行HE染色可保持较好状态。在强酸中长时间脱钙可降低抗原和酶活性,而弱酸或者使用螯合剂可能更好地保持抗原反应性、形态和染色质量,从而节省脱钙时间^[9]。然而,长时间脱钙也可对染色质量产生不利影响^[10]。因此,准确控制脱钙持续时间可提高切片和染色质量。

通过使用MASSON染色和免疫组化染色(Ki67)对鼻黏膜结构及细胞组织形态进行评估分析,MASSON主要对纤维胶原组织进行染色,在鼻黏膜组织受到刺激和损伤后,黏膜及黏膜下纤维结缔组织出现胶原沉积表现^[11]。本研究未出现损伤后特异性的MASSON染色阳性,本研究所见组织裂片和黏膜上皮不完整等改变均为人工假象,因此可以判断甲酸和硝酸脱钙液的使用会对鼻黏膜的MASSON染色造成影响。

Ki67在肿瘤诊疗过程极为重要,可准确反映肿瘤细胞增殖活性^[12]。本实验中使用的Ki67是对

鼻黏膜上皮细胞进行评估的指标,因 Ki67 是一种增殖细胞的相关抗原,其功能与有丝分裂密切相关,在细胞增殖中是不可缺少的,所以黏膜组织上皮可大量表达 Ki67,黏膜组织上皮通常表达为阳性。本研究中,使用 Ki67 染色可较好的体现黏膜层细胞的完整性,黏膜层细胞核组织结构呈现非特异性阴性和阳性的表达,表明硝酸脱钙液对免疫组化 Ki67 的表达产生一定影响,因此在后续进行免疫组化或者化学特殊染色时应谨慎选择脱钙液。

非酸性脱钙液 EDTA 是一种常用的螯合脱钙剂,EDTA 与骨组织中的羟基磷灰石结晶的该组织结合,形成水溶性的非离子化合物,并且促进该晶体内层的结合钙向外转移。研究发现使用 EDTA 的脱钙液再切片质量,HE 染色、MASSON 染色免疫组化实验中均表现出较好的效果,而传统状态下使用 EDTA 脱钙液时间较长,甚至在低浓度 EDTA 脱钙过程可能超过 2 个月^[13],在微波条件下使用 EDTA 脱钙液,可有效缩短脱钙时间,同时可以保证脱钙质量,为后续研究提供保障。利用该项脱钙技术,可使骨组织中羟基磷灰石晶体溶解于脱钙液中,脱钙液 pH 值为中性时起到螯合脱钙作用,EDTA 的脱钙特性,对骨组织损伤较小,保证其内部酶活性和抗原特征的保留,为后续制作免疫组化/荧光和组织化学染色提供保障。

综上所述,不同脱钙溶液可影响石蜡包埋骨组织切片的完整度和染色质量。本研究所用 3 种脱钙液中,硝酸脱钙液脱钙时间最短,而切片和染色质量不佳,EDTA 脱钙液配合微波进行的鼻组织脱钙,脱钙时间明显短于常温状态的 EDTA 脱钙时间,且切片和染色效果俱佳。

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