

血流介导组织荧光光谱测量系统及仿体验证

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摘要 基于血流介导组织还原型辅酶 I (NADH) 荧光光谱检测技术的微循环功能评估对心血管病的早期预警具有重要价值, 然而血流介导过程中氧饱和度的变化会干扰荧光信号的测量。本课题组搭建了集成有组织漫反射率测量模块的血流介导组织荧光光谱测量系统, 并引入生理参数提取和荧光光谱复原算法, 以排除干扰。不同光学参数的组织仿体试验结果表明, 复原算法可以有效降低吸收、散射的影响, 复原后的 NADH 的荧光强度与其浓度呈线性相关 (拟合优度 $R^2=0.99$); 血液血氧仿体试验结果显示, 组织氧饱和度的变化会干扰荧光的检测, 经过校正的 NADH 的固有荧光光谱与氧饱和度的变化无关。4 位受试者的在体试验结果显示, 经过光谱复原后, 荧光闭塞响应值和恢复响应值的平均值分别下降了 22.8% 和 22.1%, 这可以解释为氧饱和度的变化对实测 NADH 荧光的干扰。本研究结果预期能够有效提升血流介导组织荧光光谱测量系统的检测准确性。

关键词 医用光学; 组织荧光光谱; 光谱复原; 还原型辅酶 I; 组织仿体

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1 引言

脑卒中、冠心病等心血管病是造成我国居民死亡和疾病负担的首要病因, 带来了严重的社会经济负担^[1]。研究表明, 微血管功能障碍可能先于大动脉内皮损伤及后续临床症状, 对于心血管病的早期预警具有重要价值, 可作为心血管病的评价指标^[2-3]。烟酰胺腺嘌呤二核苷酸(NAD⁺)及其还原形式(NADH)通过介导细胞内的氧化还原反应参与能量代谢。在氧化还原反应中, NADH 和 NAD⁺ 作为氢和电子的供体和受体, 相互转化, 进而调节线粒体的呼吸作用等生理过程。与 NAD⁺ 不同, NADH 具有显著的受激发射荧光特性。近年来, 研究人员提出了血流介导组织荧光光谱检测技术, 该技术通过测量肱动脉闭塞与释放过程中人体前臂皮肤组织中 NADH 的荧光强度变化来反映组织的微循环功能^[4-5]。临床研究表明, 糖尿病、心血管疾病

患者的血流介导的皮肤荧光变化响应值显著低于正常人群, 对于疾病的防控具有重要作用^[6-7]。

然而, 肱动脉闭塞与释放过程不仅可以促使 NADH 和 NAD⁺ 互相转化, 还会导致组织中氧合血红蛋白和脱氧血红蛋白互相转化, 即氧饱和度会发生变化。由于氧合血红蛋白与脱氧血红蛋白在可见及近红外波段的消光系数存在显著差异, 因此血流介导过程中组织的吸收系数会不断地变化。组织的吸收系数会同时影响照射到荧光分子上的激发光以及荧光分子再发射的荧光。当前的血流介导组织荧光检测技术仅测量肱动脉闭塞及释放过程中总体组织荧光强度的变化, 并未考虑由氧饱和度改变引起的组织的吸收系数的变化对 NADH 荧光测量的干扰。因此, 该问题可能会直接导致血流介导组织荧光技术无法实现准确测量, 从而限制了该技术的临床应用。

本文针对组织微循环功能快速、非侵入检测的

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迫切临床需求,搭建了血流介导的组织荧光光谱测量系统。在实现组织荧光光谱测量的基础上,增加漫反射光谱测量,用于提取组织的吸收系数,同时利用稳态组织固有荧光光谱复原方法,校正肱动脉闭塞与释放过程中吸收系数的变化对 NADH 荧光测量的干扰,提高了检测系统的准确性。本研究开展了不同光学参数的生物组织固体仿体以及模拟肱动脉闭塞与释放生理过程的血液血氧仿体验证试验,并通过比较正常人群血流介导组织荧光光谱校正前后的变化,验证了血流介导组织荧光光谱测量系统的有效性。

2 原理与方法

2.1 血流介导组织荧光光谱测量系统

血流介导组织荧光光谱测量系统主要包括荧

光激发光源、宽带光源、传输光路、光谱探测模块、血流介导模块以及信号分析、处理模块,具体结构如图 1 所示。其中,激发光源为近紫外 LED,用于激发组织中的荧光分子发射荧光。宽带光源为白光 LED,用于测量组织的漫反射率,提取组织的光学参数,进而复原组织的固有荧光光谱。传输光路为 3×1 型光纤探头,分别连接激发光源、宽带光源、探测模块以及待测组织。探测模块为紫外至近红外波段光纤光谱仪。血流介导模块为气泵及袖带组成的压力控制及血压测量单元。信号分析和处理模块是包含光谱测量过程控制、信号处理以及结果显示等软件程序的计算机。荧光闭塞响应值(LFR)的定义为(波峰-基线)/基线×100%,恢复响应值(HFR)的定义为(基线-波谷)/基线×100%。

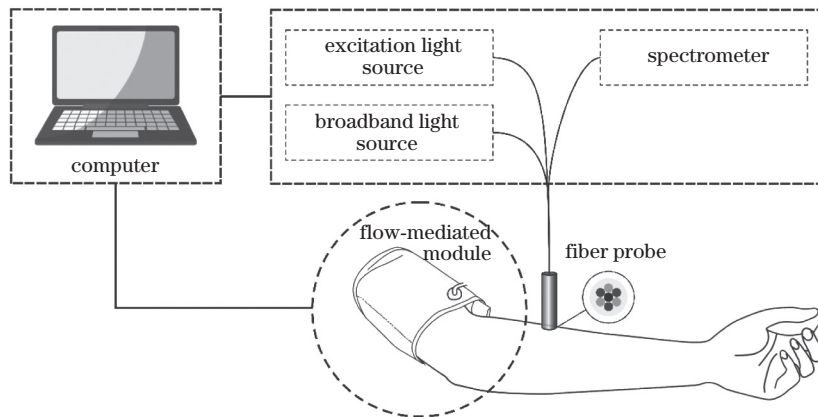


图 1 血流介导组织荧光光谱测量系统结构及探头端面分布

Fig.1 Schematic of flow-mediated tissue fluorescence spectrum measurement system and end distribution of probe

光纤探头探测端面内的光纤分布以及光纤结构参数决定了光子在组织中的传输路径以及光子的收集效率。本系统中的光纤探头采用 3 根光纤传输激发光,3 根光纤传输宽带光,1 根光纤收集组织的荧光及漫反射光;收集光纤位于探测端面中心,激发光纤与宽带光纤相间分布在收集光纤周围。光纤芯径均为 400 μm,数值孔径 NA 均为 0.22,收集光纤与外围光纤纤芯的距离为 480 μm。光纤探头收集效率的计算公式为^[8-9]

$$p(r_t) = \frac{1}{\pi^2 r_i^2} \int_{l_b}^{u_b} (s-x) \cdot \arccos \left[\frac{s^2 + (s-x)^2 - r_i^2}{2(s-x)s} \right] \cdot \arccos \left[\frac{r_i^2 + (s-x)^2 - r_c^2}{2(s-x)r_t} \right] dx, \quad (1)$$

式中: $u_b = \min(r_i, s-r_t+r_c)$; $l_b = \max(-r_i,$

$s-r_t-r_c)$; r_i 为宽带光纤的纤芯半径; r_c 为收集光纤的纤芯半径; s 为宽带光纤与收集光纤纤芯的距离; r_t 为光子出射点与光源入射中心点的距离。

2.2 组织荧光光谱复原及生理参数提取方法

组织的散射特性决定着光子在组织中的传输路径,而吸收特性则会影响光子的能量。本研究采用的双波段荧光光谱复原算法的数学公式为^[10-11]

$$f_{\text{recovered}}(\lambda) = \frac{f_{\text{meas}}(\lambda)}{R_x^\alpha \cdot R_m^\beta(\lambda)}, \quad (2)$$

式中: f_{meas} 为实测组织的荧光光谱,波长范围为 420~600 nm; R_m 为组织发射波段的漫反射率谱,波长范围为 420~600 nm; R_x 为组织激发波段漫反射率的均值,波长范围为 360~380 nm; α, β 是与光学系统结构相关的经验参数。通过优化可以得到 α, β 的最佳取值,从而尽可能降低吸收、散射对实测荧光光谱的干扰,获得最佳的复原效果。

在可见、近红外波段范围内,组织的吸收来源于黑色素和血红蛋白^[12]。根据朗伯-比尔定律,组织的吸收系数可以表示成

$$\mu_a(\lambda) = \sum_{i=1}^N \ln 10 \cdot \epsilon_i(\lambda) C_i, \quad (3)$$

式中: μ_a 为吸收系数; ϵ_i 为吸收物质的摩尔消光系数; C_i 为吸收物质的浓度; λ 为波长。组织的约化散射系数呈指数分布,可以表示成^[13-14]

$$\mu'_s(\lambda) = \mu'_s(\lambda_0) \cdot (\lambda/\lambda_0)^{-b}, \quad (4)$$

式中: μ'_s 约化散射系数; b 为散射指数; $\lambda_0 = 500 \text{ nm}$ 。

在半无限媒质、外推边界条件下,由扩散方程可以计算出距光源径向距离 r_t 处出射的漫反射光的光强,计算公式为

$$R(r_t, \lambda) = \frac{a'}{4\pi} \left[z_0 \left(u_{\text{eff}} + \frac{1}{r_1} \right) \frac{\exp(-\mu_{\text{eff}} r_1)}{r_1^2} + (z_0 + 2z_b) \left(u_{\text{eff}} + \frac{1}{r_2} \right) \frac{\exp(-\mu_{\text{eff}} r_2)}{r_2^2} \right], \quad (5)$$

式中: a' 为媒质反照率, $a' = \mu'_s / (\mu_a + \mu'_s)$; μ_{eff} 为有效衰减系数, $\mu_{\text{eff}} = \sqrt{3\mu_a(\mu_a + \mu'_s)}$; $z_0 = 1/\mu'_s$; $z_b = 2/[3(\mu_a + \mu'_s)]$; $r_1 = \sqrt{z_0^2 + r_t^2}$; $r_2 = \sqrt{(z_0 + 2z_b)^2 + r_t^2}$ 。

结合光纤探头的实际结构,系统实际收集到的漫反射光强为

$$R_s(\lambda) = 3 \int_{s-r_c}^{s+r_c} R(r_t, \lambda) p(r_t) dr_t. \quad (6)$$

通过最小化实测漫反射率 $R_m(\lambda)$ 与 $R_s(\lambda)$ 之间的误差,即可得到组织的生理参数^[8]。

2.3 组织仿体及血液血氧仿体的制备

2.3.1 组织仿体

采用单层组织仿体模拟人体皮肤组织,验证组织光学参数提取以及固有荧光光谱复原的有效性。仿体基质采用上海贝晶生物技术有限公司生产的无荧光特性的琼脂(BIOWEST AGAROSE);吸收剂采用生物相容性良好的血红蛋白(Hb);散射剂采用尺寸和浓度可控的聚苯乙烯微球,微球直径 $d = 0.2 \sim 0.5 \mu\text{m}$;荧光成分选用的是本研究感兴趣的还原型辅酶 I (NADH),其激发波长为 $350 \sim 420 \text{ nm}$,发射波长覆盖 $420 \sim 600 \text{ nm}$ 。根据仿体的吸收系数、散射系数接近人体皮肤吸收系数、散射系数范围^[15]设置吸收剂和散射剂的浓度。荧光剂浓度参考肌肉组织中 NADH 的含量设置^[16]。仿体的吸收系数、散射系数范围以及详细的制备流程见本

课题组的前期报道^[17]。

具体的浓度信息如下:吸收剂的质量浓度分别设置为 $0.2, 0.4, 0.6 \text{ mg/mL}$;散射剂的质量浓度分别设置为 $0.017, 0.033, 0.050 \text{ mg/mL}$;荧光剂的质量浓度分别设置为 $0.0625, 0.125, 0.250, 0.50, 1.0 \text{ mg/mL}$,形成 $3 \times 3 \times 5$ 维参数矩阵。此外,在各荧光成分浓度下增加一个无吸收及散射特性的阳性对照,共计得到 50 组仿体。

在组织的固体仿体试验中, α, β 采用统计方法得到,并优化取值,使其尽可能同时满足以下 3 个条件:1) 吸收、散射特性不同,荧光成分浓度相同的组织仿体,其复原后的荧光光谱强度差异尽可能小;2) 吸收、散射特性不同,荧光成分浓度呈梯度分布的组织仿体,其复原后的荧光光谱强度与荧光成分浓度尽可能线性相关;3) 吸收、散射特性不同,相同荧光成分的组织仿体,其复原后的光谱曲线形状尽可能重合。

2.3.2 血液血氧仿体

开展血液血氧仿体试验^[18-19],以模拟人体动脉闭塞与释放过程中血氧饱和度的变化对荧光测量的影响。

血液血氧仿体由新鲜血液(新鲜鸡血)、20% 脂肪乳注射液(购于安徽丰原药业股份有限公司)、等渗生理盐水($1 \times \text{PBS}$ 溶液,购于生工生物工程(上海)股份有限公司)等组成。仿体的主要制作流程为:1) 用等渗 PBS 洗涤全血,离心力为 $2000g$,然后倒出上清液,重复这一过程直至上清液清澈;2) 在一个总容积为 100 mL 的玻璃烧杯内,配制含有 0.5 mg/mL NADH(荧光剂)、1% 脂肪乳(散射剂)、约 1.6% (体积分数) 血液的 PBS 混合溶液;3) 将玻璃杯放置在磁力搅拌装置的板上,试验期间将溶液温度控制在 $(37 \pm 1) \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ 。

3 试验结果及分析

利用搭建的组织荧光光谱系统测量标准白板的漫反射光谱以及组织仿体的漫反射光谱、荧光光谱。用组织仿体的漫反射光谱除以标准白板的漫反射光谱计算组织仿体的漫反射率。采用(2)式优化 α, β 的取值,并复原组织仿体的荧光光谱。对于每个 α, β 的取值组合,进行如下分析:1) 针对组织仿体,首先计算每种浓度下荧光光谱强度的变异系数,然后将 5 种浓度下的荧光强度的变异系数相加取平均值,结果如图 2(a) 所示。变异系数越小,说明相同浓度下的荧光强度越接近。2) 分别计算每种浓度下的复原荧光强度,对 5 种荧光强度与相应的 5 种

NADH 浓度进行线性拟合,得到的线性相关系数如图 2(b)所示。线性相关系数越大,说明荧光强度与加入的荧光物质的浓度越线性相关。3)对添加有吸收、散射成分和未添加吸收、散射成分的对照仿体的荧光光谱分别进行归一化,计算两条光谱曲线之间的差异,结果如图 2(c)所示。差异越小,光谱曲线形状越接近。考虑到组织的固有荧光光谱特性,荧

光成分的浓度相同时,荧光光谱的强度接近,荧光成分的浓度与荧光光谱强度线性相关;吸收、散射特性不影响固有荧光光谱曲线的形状。当 α 、 β 的取值分别为 0.67 和 0.31 时,可以同时满足相同浓度下荧光强度的变异系数小、梯度的荧光强度与浓度的线性相关系数大、曲线形状最接近。这说明复原效果较好。

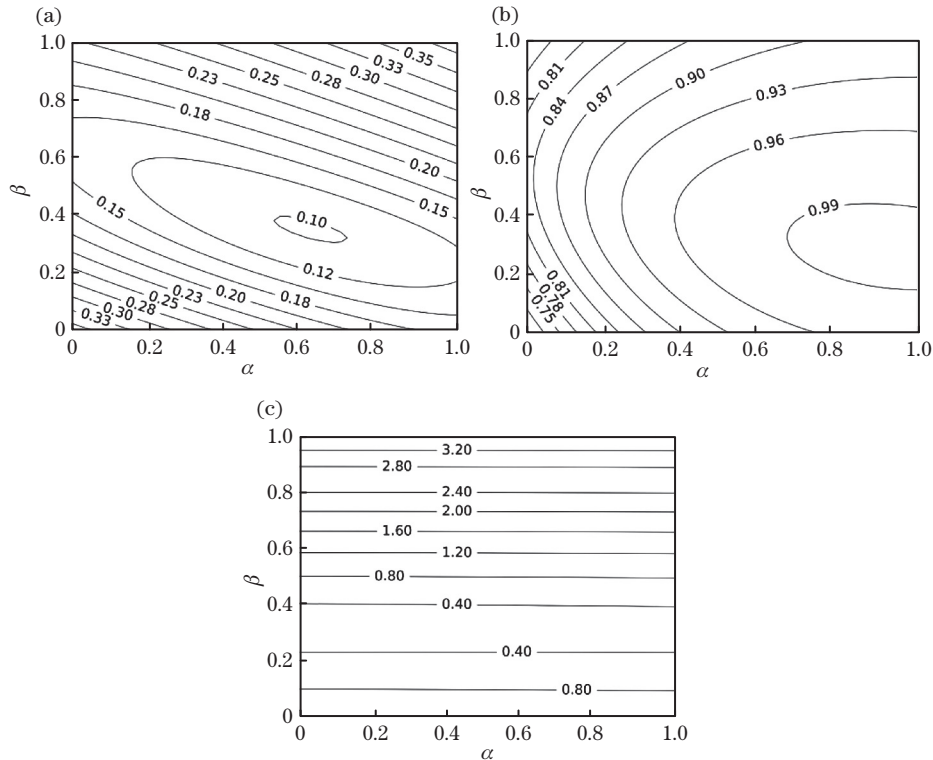


图 2 不同的 α 、 β 取值时 3 个筛选条件的计算值。(a)组织仿体的荧光强度变异系数;(b)荧光强度与荧光成分浓度的相关系数;(c)荧光光谱曲线形状的差异分布

Fig. 2 Calculated values of three filter criteria with different α and β pairs. (a) Variable coefficient of fluorescence intensity of tissue phantom; (b) linear correlation coefficient between fluorescence intensity with fluorescent component concentration; (c) difference distribution of fluorescence spectrum curve shapes

在得到最优的 α 、 β 组合后,对组织仿体的荧光光谱进行复原。由图 3(a)可以看出,实测组织仿体荧光光谱强度与荧光成分浓度无明显的线性相关性。对于具有相同荧光成分浓度的组织仿体来说,荧光光谱强度的变异系数约为 36%。由图 3(b)可以看出,复原后组织的荧光光谱强度与荧光成分浓度线性相关,拟合优度 $R^2=0.99$ 。在不同的吸收和散射系数下,荧光光谱强度的变异系数小于 10%。由图 3(c)可以看出,复原后的组织的荧光光谱曲线更接近无吸收、散射特性下组织的荧光光谱曲线。综上所述,复原后组织仿体的荧光光谱强度与荧光成分浓度线性相关,且与组织仿体的吸收、散射特性无关,更接近仿体的固有荧光光谱。

血液仿体试验按照如下步骤进行:1)采集 60 次荧光光谱和漫反射光谱基线,完成一次检测的时间约为 7 s;2)向血液仿体中加入质量浓度为 2 mg/mL 的亚硫酸钠(Na_2SO_3 ,作为去氧剂),降低仿体中的氧气含量,诱导氧合血红蛋白(HbO_2)脱氧并逐渐转变为脱氧血红蛋白(Hb);3)连续测量 220 次荧光光谱和漫反射光谱,完成第一次仿体去氧过程;4)对仿体溶液进行充氧处理,待仿体颜色不再发生变化后,停止充氧;5)再连续测量 120 次荧光光谱和漫反射光谱,完成第二次仿体的去氧过程。根据漫反射光谱以及标准漫反射板反射谱计算血液仿体的漫反射率,并提取仿体的氧饱和度(StO_2),同时复原仿体固有的荧光光谱。

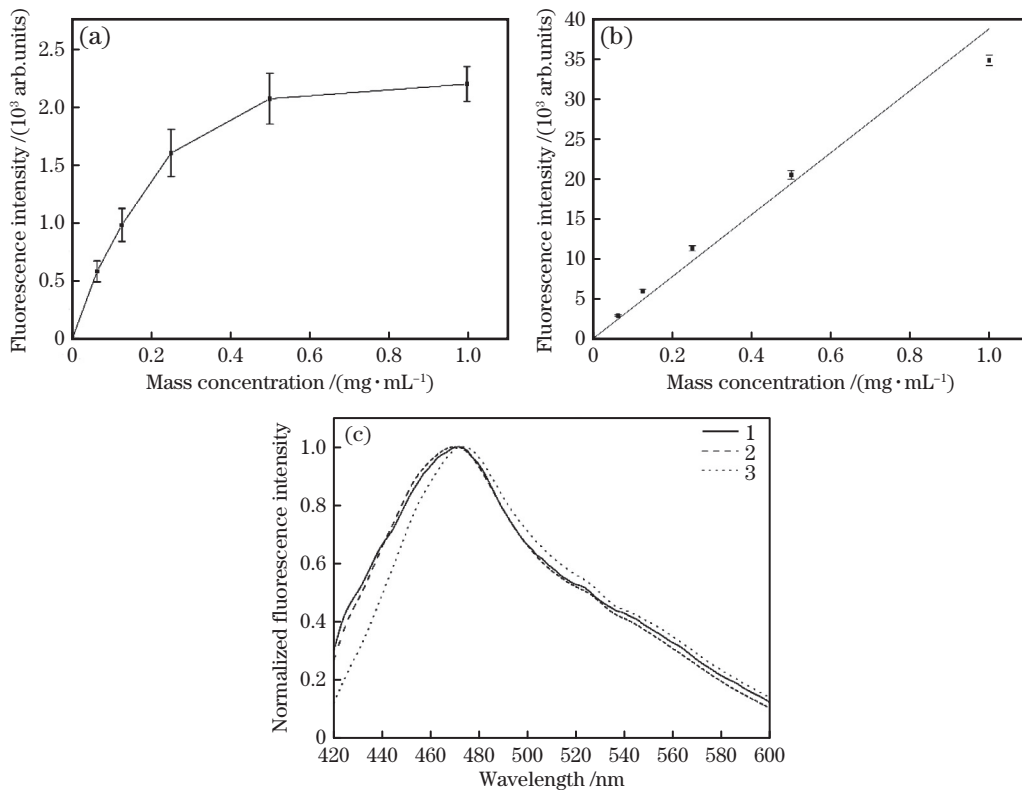


图 3 复原前后荧光成分浓度与荧光强度的关系以及仿体组织的光谱曲线。(a)复原前荧光成分浓度与荧光强度的关系；(b)复原后荧光成分浓度与荧光强度的关系；(c)复原前后仿体组织的光谱曲线，曲线 1 是无吸收、散射特性下 5 种不同浓度的 NADH 组织的荧光光谱归一化后的均值光谱曲线，曲线 2 是经过光谱复原后的不同吸收、散射特性下 45 组 NADH 组织的荧光光谱归一化后的均值光谱曲线，曲线 3 是实测得到的不同吸收、散射特性下 45 组 NADH 组织的荧光光谱归一化后的均值光谱曲线

Fig. 3 Relationship between concentration of fluorescent components and fluorescence intensity before and after recovery. (a) Relationship between concentration of fluorescent components and fluorescence intensity before recovery; (b) relationship between concentration of fluorescent components and fluorescence intensity after recovery; (c) fluorescence spectrum curves of phantom before and after recovery. Among them, curve 1 is the normalized mean spectral curve of fluorescence spectra of five different concentrations of NADH tissue without absorption and scattering characteristics, curve 2 is the normalized mean spectral curve of fluorescence spectra of 45 groups of NADH tissue with different absorption and scattering characteristics after spectral recovery, and curve 3 is the measured normalized mean spectral curve of fluorescence spectra of 45 groups of NADH tissue with different absorption and scattering characteristics

由图 4(a)可以看出：在基线状态下，氧合血红蛋白、脱氧血红蛋白以及总血红蛋白的相对浓度比较稳定；加入 Na_2SO_3 后，氧合血红蛋白开始脱氧转化成脱氧血红蛋白，氧合血红蛋白浓度明显降低，脱氧血红蛋白浓度明显升高，而总血红蛋白浓度基本不变；充入氧气后，氧合血红蛋白和脱氧血红蛋白的相对浓度基本恢复到基线水平，在不加入 Na_2SO_3 的情况下，氧合血红蛋白再次向脱氧血红蛋白转变，变化规律与第一次去氧过程一致，只是第二次的转变速度更快。图 4(b)显示了仿体中氧饱和度的变化情况，可见：随着 Na_2SO_3 的加入，氧饱和度显著降低，直到稳定；重新充入氧气

后，氧饱和度回到基线水平，之后进入第二次降低的过程。这表明本系统能够准确提取血液仿体的生理参数。

对血液仿体的荧光光谱进行复原，计算复原前后归一化荧光光谱强度随耗氧过程的变化，结果如图 5 所示。整个过程中的荧光强度缓慢下降，其原因可能是 NADH 与 Na_2SO_3 混合后在 37°C 不稳定。由于补偿了氧饱和度变化导致的荧光强度变化，复原后的荧光强度的变化幅度低于复原前的荧光强度。尤其是在第 280 次重新加入 O_2 后，复原前的荧光强度由于氧饱和度的变化明显升高，而经过复原的固有荧光光谱的强度则没有显著变化。这

表明由具有不同吸收系数的氧合血红蛋白和脱氧血红蛋白相互转化引起的氧饱和度的变化干扰了荧光

的检测,而经过光谱校正复原的 NADH 固有荧光光谱与氧饱和度的变化无关。

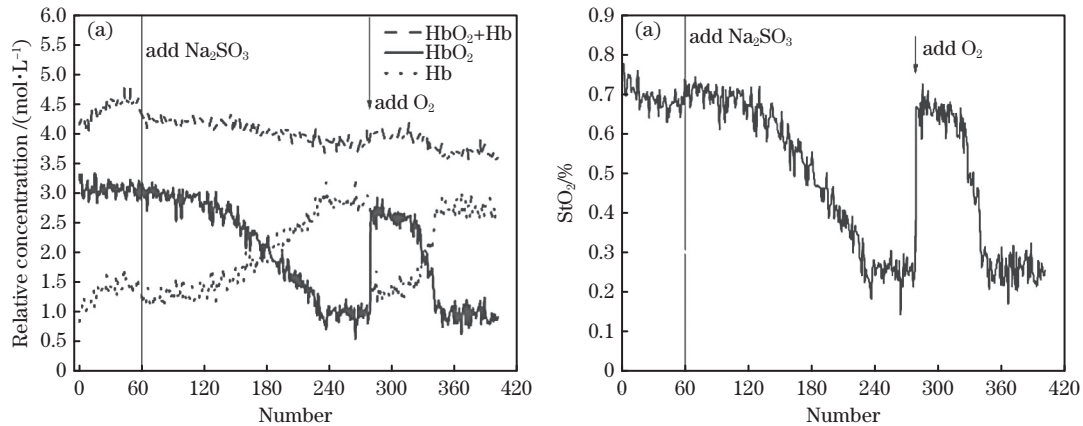


图 4 在耗氧过程中,血液仿体中血红蛋白浓度及氧饱和度的变化。(a)血红蛋白浓度的变化;(b)氧饱和度的变化

Fig. 4 Changes of blood hemoglobin concentration and oxygen saturation during oxygen consumption.

(a) Change of blood hemoglobin concentration; (b) change of oxygen saturation

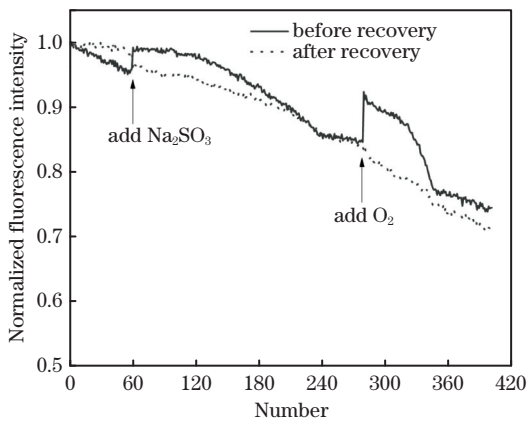


图 5 血液仿体中 NADH 的荧光强度在复原前后的变化

Fig. 5 Changes of NADH fluorescence intensity of blood phantom before and after recovery

最后,采用血流介导组织荧光光谱测量系统检测 4 位受试者皮肤组织在肱动脉闭塞与释放过程中的漫反射光谱和荧光光谱。测量过程如下:1) 执行 20 次组织荧光光谱与漫反射光谱基线的测量,完成一次检测的时间约为 5 s;2) 血压模块加压至 140 mmHg (140 mmHg=18.62 kPa),开始加压时即开始测量组织的荧光光谱和漫反射光谱,检测 40 次;3) 释放全部气压,同步测量组织的荧光光谱和漫反射光谱,检测 50 次。根据组织的漫反射光谱计算组织的漫反射率,同时复原组织的固有荧光光谱。图 6(a)所示为实际测量的其中 1 位受试者的皮肤组织在肱动脉闭塞与释放过程中的归一化荧光强度的变化趋势,图 6(b)为复原的皮肤组织固有的

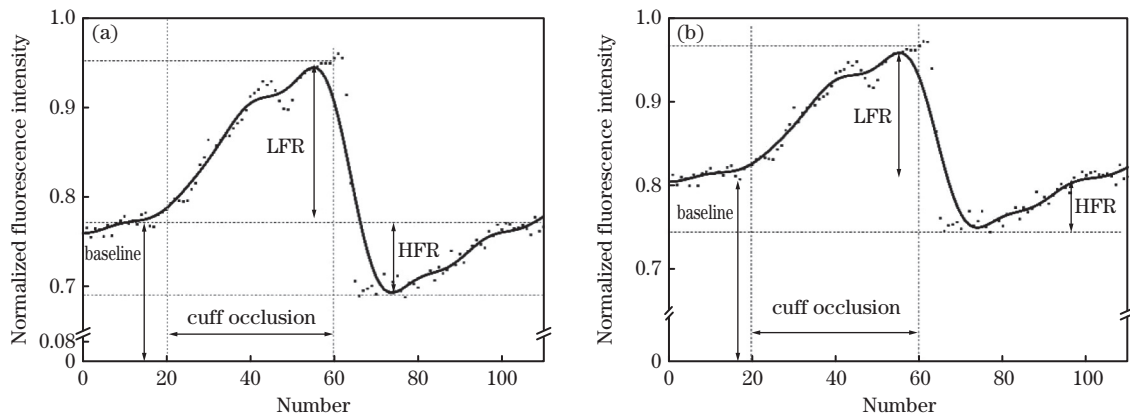


图 6 血流介导过程中受试者皮肤的归一化荧光强度在复原前后的变化。(a)复原前皮肤的归一化荧光强度;

(b)复原后皮肤的归一化荧光强度

Fig. 6 Changes of normalized fluorescence intensity of the subject's skin before and after recovery in the blood flow mediated process. (a) Normalized fluorescence intensity of skin before recovery; (b) normalized fluorescence intensity of skin after recovery

归一化荧光强度的变化趋势。二者都显示出归一化荧光强度随动脉闭塞时间延长而升高,随动脉血流释放先急剧降低后恢复的趋势。其原因在于人体皮肤组织中的 NADH 会随氧气的供应发生转化。在闭塞缺氧过程中, NAD^+ 逐渐向 NADH 转化, 荧光强度升高; 恢复供氧过程后, NADH 被消耗, 转变为 NAD^+ , NAD^+ 不具有荧光特性, 荧光强度降低。该结果与国外报道一致^[5]。

分别计算 4 位受试者的 LFR 和 HFR, 结果显示, LFR 和 HFR 的平均值分别为 19.8% 和 13.6%, 见表 1。LFR 的均值较国外报道的正常人群的均值^[20-21] 偏高, 这可能与数据量较小有关, 而 HFR 的

均值则与国外报道的一致, 极大值和极小值也在国外公布的正常人群数据范围内。作为新的监测指标, 后续需要进一步扩大样本量, 以百分位数法取其 2.5%~97.5% 作为正常参考值范围, 并进一步寻找疾病筛查切点, 才能应用于临床。此外, 经过光谱校正后, LFR 和 HFR 降低了, 平均变化率为 23.0% 和 22.0%, 如表 1 所示。这是因为在肱动脉闭塞-释放过程中, 氧饱和度也会发生变化, 进而导致吸收系数发生变化, 干扰了荧光的测量。结果显示, 光谱复原后, LFR 和 HFR 的平均值分别下降了 22.8% 和 22.1%。这可以解释为吸收系数的变化对实测荧光的影响, 与 NADH 的荧光变化并不相关。

表 1 复原前后 4 位受检者肱动脉闭塞与恢复的荧光响应值及变化率

Table 1 Fluorescence response value and change rate of brachial artery occlusion and recovery in 4 subjects before and after recovery

Subject number	LFR	LFR (recovery)	Change rate	HFR	HFR (recovery)	Change rate
Subject 1	26.7	19.5	27.0	12.7	10.1	20.5
Subject 2	14.6	10.2	30.1	17.0	13.6	20.0
Subject 3	14.4	11.6	19.4	14.2	9.9	30.3
Subject 4	23.4	19.8	15.4	10.4	8.6	17.3
Average value	19.8	15.28	23.0	13.6	10.6	22.0

4 结 论

本研究将稳态组织荧光光谱技术中的组织光学参数提取以及固有荧光光谱复原方法引入到血流介导组织荧光光谱测量中, 实现了血流介导过程中组织固有荧光光谱的动态测量。利用搭建的血流介导组织荧光光谱测量系统, 开展了吸收、散射、荧光特性梯度分布的组织仿体的试验验证。结果显示, 具有相同浓度荧光成分的组织仿体, 在不同吸收、散射特性下, 实测荧光强度变异系数约为 36%, 固有荧光光谱强度的变异系数小于 10%。这说明复原算法减小了吸收、散射特性对组织固有荧光光谱检测的影响。此外, 固有组织荧光光谱强度与荧光成分浓度的线性相关系数为 0.99, 呈显著线性正相关, 这表明组织的固有荧光光谱可能实现荧光成分的定量检测。血液血氧仿体试验结果显示, 血氧饱和度的变化会干扰荧光的测量, 经过校正的组织固有荧光光谱与氧饱和度的变化无关, 进一步验证了算法的可靠性。最后进行了在体试验, 试验结果表明, 复原后的 LFR 和 HFR 的平均值分别下降了 22.8% 和 22.1%。这说明引入组织光学参数提取以及组织固有荧光光谱复原算法后, 血流介导组织荧光光谱可能更能反映组织中 NADH 荧光的变化, 预期

能够有效提升该技术对组织微循环功能评估的准确性。

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Flow Mediated Tissue Fluorescence Measurement System and Phantom Verification

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Abstract

Objective The technique called flow-mediated NADH fluorescence measurement is used to reflect tissue microcirculation function, which has important value for early screening of cardiovascular disease. However, due to the obvious difference in the extinction coefficients of oxyhemoglobin and deoxyhemoglobin in the visible and near-infrared bands, the tissue absorption coefficient will change constantly during the blood flow-mediated process. The excitation light and emission fluorescence of fluorescent molecules are affected by the tissue absorption coefficient. The current flow-mediated tissue fluorescence detection technology only measures the change in total tissue fluorescence intensity during brachial artery occlusion and release and does not account for the interference of tissue absorption coefficient changes caused by changes in oxygen saturation on NADH fluorescence measurement. Therefore, this problem may directly lead to blood flow-mediated tissue fluorescence technology failing to achieve an accurate measurement, thus limiting the clinical application of the technology.

Methods First, we created the flow-mediated tissue fluorescence measurement system. The tissue absorption coefficient was calculated using a combination of tissue fluorescence and diffuse reflectance measurements. To improve the detection system's accuracy, a steady-state tissue intrinsic fluorescence recovery method was used to correct the interference of absorption coefficient changes during the process of brachial artery occlusion and release on NADH fluorescence measurement. Second, we carried out the validation experiments of biological tissue solid phantom with different optical parameters and blood oxygen phantom simulating the physiological process of brachial artery occlusion and release. Furthermore, we validated the flow-mediated tissue fluorescence measurement system's accuracy by comparing the corrected and uncorrected changes in blood flow-mediated tissue fluorescence in normal subjects.

Results and Discussions The results of tissue solid phantom experiments with different optical parameters showed when the values of α and β are 0.67 and 0.31, respectively, the small coefficient of variation of fluorescence intensity of the same concentration, the large linear correlation coefficient of gradient fluorescence intensity and concentration, and the closest curve shape could be satisfied at the same time (Fig. 2). After obtaining the optimal combination of α and β , the fluorescence spectra of tissue phantom were recovered. The fluorescence intensity of NADH after recovery was linearly correlated with its concentration ($R^2 = 0.99$), which indicated that the recovery effect was better (Fig. 3). The results of blood oxygen phantom experiments showed that with the increase of sodium sulfite treatment time, oxygen saturation decreased significantly until stable. After being recharged, O_2 returned to its baseline level and then decreased for the second time. The results demonstrated that the system could accurately extract the physiological parameters of a blood phantom. We found that changes in tissue oxygen saturation could interfere with NADH fluorescence detection, whereas the corrected intrinsic fluorescence spectrum of NADH was unaffected by changes in oxygen saturation (Fig. 5). Finally, the blood flow-mediated tissue fluorescence system was used to measure the diffuse reflectance and fluorescence of four subjects during the brachial artery occlusion and release process. The low flow response (LFR) and high flow response (HFR) of four subjects were calculated separately. The results showed that the average values of LFR and HFR were 19.8% and 13.6%, respectively. *In vivo* experiments showed that after spectral recovery, the LFR and HFR decreased by 22.8% and 22.1%,

respectively (Table 1). This change could be explained by the interference of oxygen saturation on the measured NADH fluorescence.

Conclusions The extraction of tissue optical parameters and the recovery of intrinsic fluorescence in steady-state tissue fluorescence technology were introduced into flow-mediated tissue fluorescence measurement in this study to achieve the dynamic measurement of tissue intrinsic fluorescence spectrum in the blood flow-mediated process. The tissue phantom experiment of the distribution of different absorption, scattering, and gradient fluorescence characteristics was validated using the flow-mediated tissue fluorescence and diffuse reflectance measurement system. The results showed that the coefficient of variation of fluorescence intensity of tissue phantom with the same concentration of fluorescence components was approximately 36% under different absorption and scattering characteristics, whereas the coefficient of variation of intrinsic fluorescence intensity was less than 10%. The results demonstrated that the recovery algorithm reduced the impact of absorption and scattering properties on the detection of the intrinsic fluorescence spectrum. Furthermore, there was a significant positive linear correlation between the intensity of the intrinsic tissue fluorescence spectrum and the concentration of fluorescent components, indicating that the intrinsic tissue fluorescence spectrum could be used to detect fluorescent components quantitatively. The results of blood oxygen phantom experiments showed that the change of blood oxygen saturation would interfere with the fluorescence measurement, and the corrected tissue intrinsic fluorescence spectrum was independent of the change of oxygen saturation, which further verified the reliability of the algorithm. Finally, it was found through *in vivo* experiments that the blood flow-mediated tissue fluorescence may better reflect changes in NADH fluorescence in tissues by introducing the tissue optical parameters extraction and tissue intrinsic fluorescence spectrum recovery algorithm, which was expected to effectively improve the accuracy of this technology's tissue microcirculation function evaluation.

Key words medical optics; tissue fluorescence spectrum; spectrum recovery; NADH; tissue phantom

OCIS codes 170.6280; 170.6510; 170.7050