HEPARINIZATION OF POLYURETHANE SURFACES

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Due to heparin antithrombogenic action on endotelial surfaces in vivo, its immobilization on polymeric surfaces gives a interesting approach to solve the biomaterial hemocompatibility problem. The polyurethane surface modification by grafting induced radiation polymerization showed to be a valuable technique for the polyurethane heparinization.

The heparin molecule was immobilized by covalent bond on a polyurethane surface grafted with acrilic acid (PU-g-AA) and by adsorption, on a non modified polyurethane (PU), polyurethane coupled with bovine serum albumin (PU-g-AA-BSA) and polyurethane grafted with N-isopropyl acrylamide (PU-g-NIPAAm). The coefficient of immobilization yielded the range of 5 - 28,2%. The antithrombogenicity of the surfaces was evaluated by te platelet adhesion through scanning electron micrographs (SEM). There was a straight correlationship between the heparin immobilization grades and the decrease or absence of thrombi occurrence on the polymeric samples.

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