

研究综述

表面改性技术降低生长棒临床并发症 发生率研究进展

张悦¹, 边焱焱², 马东林¹, 黄楠¹, 仇建国², 冷永祥¹

(1.西南交通大学 材料科学与工程学院, 成都 610031; 2.北京协和医院, 北京 100730)

摘 要: 生长棒是应用于早发性脊柱侧凸患者矫正治疗的医疗器械。首先介绍了由钛合金或钴铬合金材料制造的单生长棒、双生长棒、Shilla 生长棒等在早发性脊柱侧凸矫正领域的临床应用现状; 同时总结了生长棒在体内服役时, 由于金属疲劳、固定螺钉松动、植入物的磨损和腐蚀等原因导致的金属棒断裂、固定螺钉拔出、金属离子富集等问题, 以及由此引起的过敏反应、炎症反应、骨溶解等相关并发症。为降低生长棒临床应用并发症发生率, 国内外研究人员采用喷丸、微弧氧化、等离子喷涂、物理气相沉积等表面改性手段, 对生长棒进行表面改性。国内外研究表明, 采用激光冲击强化、喷丸等可以提高生长棒系统中金属棒的表面硬度及应力, 提高金属棒的微动疲劳特性, 避免金属棒断裂; 采用喷丸、微弧氧化处理和等离子喷涂处理等方法, 可以促进生长棒系统中椎弓根螺钉和天然骨界面长合, 增强椎弓根螺钉-骨组织的结合强度; 采用物理气相沉积可以提高生长棒系统的耐磨性、耐蚀性, 进而降低其离子释放量。经过表面改性后的生长棒系统, 生物相容性提高, 过敏反应、炎症反应、骨溶解等相关并发症的发生率降低。

关键词: 生长棒; 表面改性; 固定螺钉拔出; 断棒; 磨损

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Advances in Research on Surface Modification to Reduce the Incidence of Clinical Complications of Growing Rods

ZHANG Yue¹, BIAN Yan-yan², MA Dong-lin¹, HUANG Nan¹,
ZHANG Jian-guo², LENG Yong-xiang¹

(1. School of Materials Science and Engineering, Southwest Jiaotong University, Chengdu 610031, china;

2. Peking Union Medical College Hospital, Beijing 100730, China)

ABSTRACT: The growing rod is a kind of medical device widely used in the corrective therapy of patients with early-onset scoliosis (EOS). In this paper, the clinical applications of growing rods, such as single growing rod, dual growing rod and Shilla growing rod, made of titanium alloy or cobalt chromium alloy, in the EOS treatment were introduced firstly. In addition, the

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作者简介: 张悦 (1996—), 女, 硕士研究生, 主要研究方向为材料表面改性。

Biography: ZHANG Yue (1996—), Female, Master, Research focus: surface modification of materials.

通讯作者: 冷永祥 (1972—), 男, 博士, 教授, 主要研究方向为材料表面改性。

Corresponding author: LENG Yong-xiang (1972—), Male, Doctor, Professor, Research focus: surface modification of materials.

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problems such as rods breakage, pedicle screw extraction, and metal ion enrichment, which were caused by metal fatigue, screw loosening, wear, and corrosion during growing rods applied in vivo, were summarized. The related complications including allergic reaction, inflammatory response and osteolysis caused by such problems were also clarified. In order to reduce the incidence of clinical complications, researchers at home and abroad have improved the metal rod of growing rod system by surface modification, such as peening, micro arc oxidation, plasma spray and physical vapor deposition. These researches show as follows: The surface hardness and stress of metal rods of growing rod system can be improved by laser shock peening and cavitation peening, thus the fretting fatigue property can be improved to avoid metal rod fracture. Peening, micro arc oxidation, and plasma spray can promote the osseointegration of pedicle screw of growing rod system and bone interface, and enhance the pedicle screw-bone strength. The wear resistance and corrosion resistance of the growing rods can be enhanced by physical vapor deposition, which inhibits the metal ion release. After surface modification, the biocompatibility of the growing rods was improved, and the incidence of related complications such as allergic reaction, inflammatory response and osteolysis was reduced.

KEY WORDS: growing rods; surface modification; pedicle screw extraction; rod fracture; wear

早发性脊柱侧凸 (early-onset scoliosis, EOS) 一般指发生于 10 岁以下儿童的脊柱侧凸畸形^[1], 也泛指发生于低龄儿童具有极大畸形加重和呼吸功能不全风险的脊柱侧弯畸形, 具有畸形重和进展快的特点^[2]。根据脊柱侧弯的角度, 临床上具有相应的治疗方案。对于不超过 20° 的脊柱侧弯, 可以通过康复训练 (包括改变呼吸方式, 改善不良姿势, 改善肌力平衡等) 来进行矫正。对于 20°~30° 的脊柱侧弯, 多采用佩戴外部支具^[3]并结合康复训练的方式进行治疗。对于超过 30° 的脊柱侧弯, 现阶段多采用植入脊柱矫形内固定物的手段进行矫正。临床应用的脊柱矫形内固定物主要包括生长棒系统和人工假体钛肋。其中, 生长棒系统能拉伸脊柱畸形部分, 具有不破坏脊柱生长潜能、保留脊柱节段运动功能、有效延缓侧凸进展、保留脊柱的部分生长能力^[4]、可降低临近节段退变 (adjacent level degeneration, ALD) 的发生率^[5]、矫形能力强的特点, 是目前治疗早发性脊柱侧凸应用较多的方法。

1 生长棒的临床应用

生长棒是一种植入人体内的脊柱矫形内固定物, 如图 1 所示^[6]。生长棒系统主要由金属棒 (Metal Rod)、固定物 (一般选用椎板钩 (Hook) 或者椎弓根螺钉 (Pedicle Screw)) 和连接器 (Connector) 组成。其中, 金属棒是整个生长棒系统的主要构件, 用于给畸形脊柱提供矫正力, 椎板钩和椎弓根螺钉将其固定在脊柱上。连接器是 B. A. AKBARNIA 和 R. E. MCCARTHY 在 1998 年为了便于生长棒延长所使用的一种设计^[7], 它用于连接两段独立的金属棒, 在做生长棒延长手术时, 只需要在连接器处开刀, 而不需要切开整个生长棒区域。

生长棒系统的临床应用主要经历了单生长棒 (single growing rod)、双生长棒 (dual growing rod)、Shilla 生长棒 (Shilla growing rod) 等阶段。早期临床上应用的是如图 1 所示的单生长棒系统, 手术时先将金属

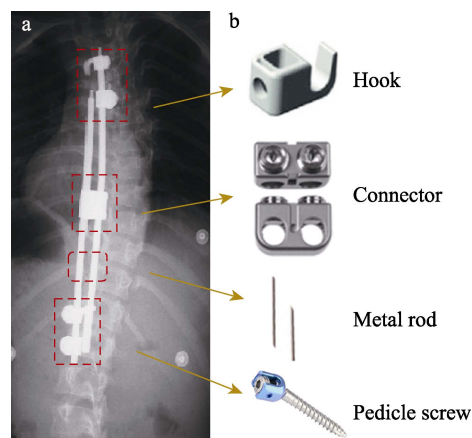


图 1 (a) 生长棒系统在脊柱侧凸治疗中的临床应用^[6]及 (b) 生长棒系统组成示意图

Fig.1 (a) The clinical application of growing rod system in early-onset scoliosis treatment^[6] and (b) the schematic diagram of growing rod system composition

棒放在脊柱曲线的凹陷处, 再使用椎板钩或者椎弓根螺钉将其固定。单生长棒有一定的矫正作用, 但其固定效果的稳定性不高, 应用过程中, 断棒及固定椎板骨折发生率较高^[8]。为了解决这些问题, 在单生长棒系统的基础上, 研究人员开发出了双生长棒系统。双生长棒系统使用了两根金属棒, 其矫形原理与单生长棒基本一致, 减少了单根金属棒的机械应力, 具有较低的断棒率、更高的畸形矫正率, 且对脊柱生长速度的影响更小^[9]。但是, 在单生长棒和双生长棒的临床应用中, 都需要根据脊柱的生长速度, 定期通过手术来对金属棒进行延长。然而, 每增加一次手术, 发生并发症的可能性就增加 24%^[9-10]。为了避免生长棒植入后进行多次手术延长金属棒, 降低临床并发症的发生^[11-12], R. E. MCCARTHY 等人^[13]设计开发了可滑动固定方式的 Shilla 生长棒, 并于 2015 年 9 月获得 FDA 的批准^[14]。

与传统的单生长棒和双生长棒不同, Shilla 生长棒的金属棒可以在其两端的螺钉中滑动, 具体结构如图 2 所示, 中部的固定螺钉把生长棒和脊柱锁定在一

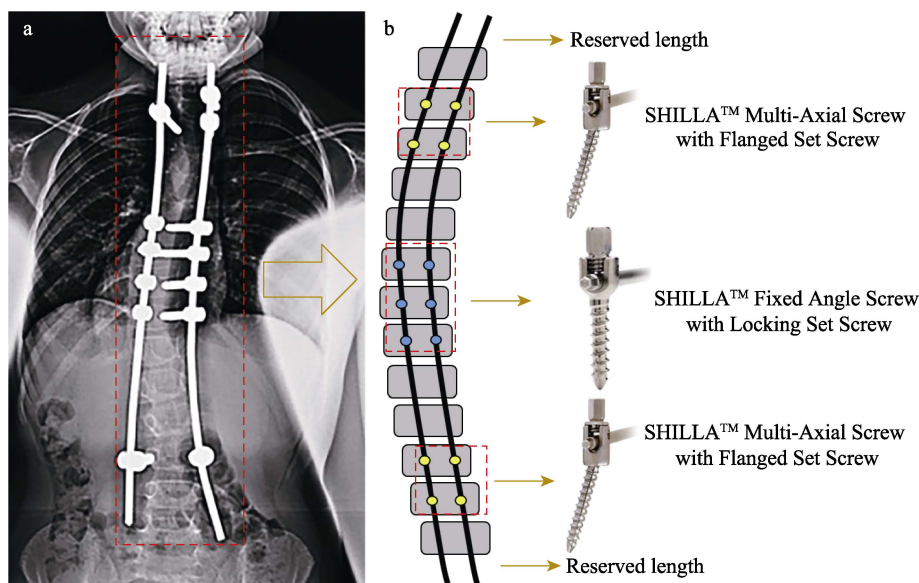


图 2 (a) Shilla 生长棒在脊柱侧凸治疗中的临床应用^[15]及 (b) Shilla 生长棒组成示意图

Fig.2 (a) The clinical application of Shilla growing rods in early-onset scoliosis treatment^[15] and (b) the schematic diagram of Shilla growing rod composition

起，两端的可滑动式螺钉固定在脊柱上，并在滑动式螺钉的两端预留一段金属棒。随着脊柱的生长，固定在脊柱上的可滑动式螺钉可以在螺帽孔的引导下沿着金属棒滑动。因此，Shilla 生长棒不会限制脊柱的生长，解决了普通单生长棒和双生长棒限制脊柱生长、必须进行多次手术的问题。

2 生长棒在临床应用中存在的问题

虽然生长棒在治疗早发性脊柱侧凸方面具有良好的矫正效果，但其在临床应用过程中，还存在断棒（17/538，发生率为 3.2%）、椎弓根螺钉松动（69/538，发生率为 12.8%）等生长棒失效的问题^[16]，并且生长棒的磨损和腐蚀会引起一系列并发症，如过敏反应^[17]、炎症反应^[18]、骨溶解^[19]、神经功能受损^[20]等。

2.1 生长棒断裂

生长棒在矫正患者的脊柱侧凸时，要跨过后凸顶椎区域，需要较大的预弯及牵引力，在患者术后的日常活动中，脊柱有一定幅度的活动，用于矫正脊柱的金属棒会随之移动，使得弯曲的金属棒可能由于金属疲劳而断裂，尤其是顶端融合处^[21]和连接器两端的金属棒，最易发生断裂^[22]。M. DAVID 等^[22]发现生长棒植入患者体内后，如图 3a 所示，连接器上端的金属棒发生了断裂。W. N. SANKAR 等^[23]也发现了生长棒在人体内服役一定时间后，如图 3b 所示，连接器下端的金属棒发生断裂。为了避免金属棒断裂，临床手术过程中，应根据患者的体重和体型，尽量选择直径较大的生长棒^[24-25]。

2.2 固定物（椎弓根螺钉）失效

患者在日常生活中，上半身移动时，脊柱随之有

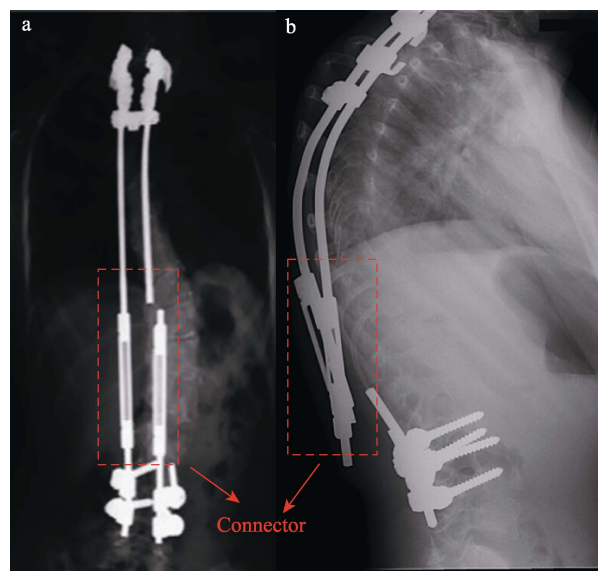


图 3 X 光片显示 (a) 生长棒连接器上端的金属棒断裂^[22]及 (b) 生长棒连接器下端的金属棒断裂^[23]

Fig.3 A radiograph of a growing rod showing (a) rod fracture above the tandem connector^[22] and (b) rod fracture below the tandem connector^[23]

一定幅度的运动，金属棒也会随之移动，导致固定金属棒的椎弓根螺钉可能发生松动或被拔出^[26]，从而引起固定物-椎弓根螺钉失效。另外，对于同时患有骨质疏松症的儿童，他们的骨密度较低，骨小梁较薄，椎弓根螺钉的轴向抗拔出力会直线下降^[27-28]，螺钉会因为切割骨质而造成微动，微动导致螺钉松动，甚至疲劳断裂^[28]。

在防止椎弓根螺钉松动或被拔出方面，适当增大螺钉直径有助于螺钉的固定。R. H. WITTENBERG 等人^[29]研究发现，在相同的骨质密度下，直径为 6 mm 的椎弓根螺钉的平均轴向拉力比直径为 5 mm 的椎弓

根螺钉大 500 N 左右。加用横向连接装置 (cross-link device, CLD) [28-30]、强化骨水泥以及在椎弓根螺钉表面制备涂层[31]等手段,也有助于螺钉的固定。但这些措施也存在一些弊端,如增大螺钉直径、增加骨水泥可能会导致椎弓根骨折、神经损伤、血管或内脏损伤、骨水泥渗漏等[32]。使用横向连接杆可能会导致术后脑脊液漏及迟发感染发生率增加[28],故在临床实践中,对于这些措施的使用与否应权衡利弊后谨慎决定,尤其是对于早发性脊柱侧凸患儿,由于他们年龄较小,脊柱骨骼发育尚未完成,产生的后果也可能更为严重。

2.3 生长棒磨损和腐蚀导致并发症

生长棒在患者体内长期服役过程中,由于患者的脊柱生长和日常活动,金属棒会和两端的椎弓根螺钉摩擦,导致椎弓根螺钉及金属棒的磨损,产生大量金属磨屑,进而激活人体局部巨噬细胞,出现坏死区域,并导致血清肿 (seroma)、窦道 (sinuses) 等临床并发症的发生[33]。此外,在生长棒与生理溶液环境接触时,会发生金属材料的腐蚀,产生的金属离子会随着体液循环到达各个脏器,造成脏器功能受损,特别是对发育阶段的患儿以及育龄期的女性,影响尤为严重。

R. E. MCCARTHY 等人[34]在 11 只山羊体内植入 Shilla 生长棒,6 个月后对生长棒的磨损情况进行了分析,结果如图 4a 所示,椎弓根螺钉的螺帽上有两个明显的凹坑,与金属棒的形状吻合,应为生长棒在反复滑动摩擦过程中所形成的。而如图 4b 所示,在 S. M. MORELL 与 R. E. MCCARTHY 的另一项研究中,金属棒上的磨痕情况也佐证了这个观点[25]。R. E. MCCARTHY 等人[34]进一步分析了椎弓根螺钉的磨损情况,研究发现,螺钉和螺帽间、螺钉与金属棒间都存在磨损现象,且两端可滑动式螺钉与金属棒的磨损比中间固定螺钉严重。R. E. MCCARTHY 等人[34]还发现,在螺钉附近的软组织中及邻近的腹主动脉旁淋巴结中都可观察到金属磨屑,颗粒粒径最大可达 45 μm 。由于金属磨屑的存在,人体局部巨噬细胞被激活,将引起金属病,在局部组织出现中度至重度的炎症反应,如图 5 所示,临床表现为脊柱前方与 Shilla 螺钉相邻的腹主动脉旁淋巴结颜色变深[18,25,34]。另外,金属磨屑还会增加骨溶解[19]和螺钉松动[35]发生的概率。

生长棒在服役过程中,除了磨损会引发相关并发症,腐蚀也会导致相关并发症的发生[20]。由金属材料制成的生物医用植入体与生理溶液环境接触时,植入体经常会被腐蚀,并且这种多部件且可活动的脊柱植入器械,一般还伴随着微动腐蚀的发生[36]。对于生长棒而言,椎弓根螺钉与椎骨、椎弓根螺钉与金属棒之间都存在微动摩擦[37],材料表面所形成的钝化膜因微

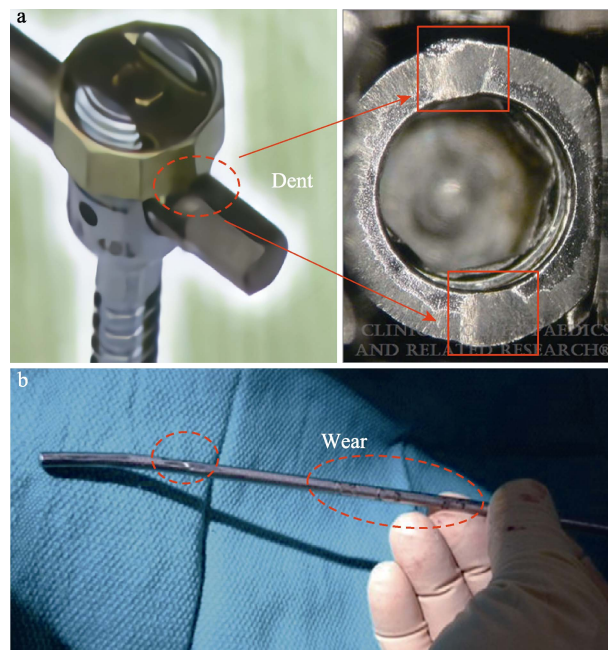


图 4 (a) 椎弓根螺钉的螺帽磨损[34]和 (b) 金属棒上的磨痕[25]

Fig.4 (a) Wear of the pedicle screw cap[34] and (b) wear on the metal rod[25]

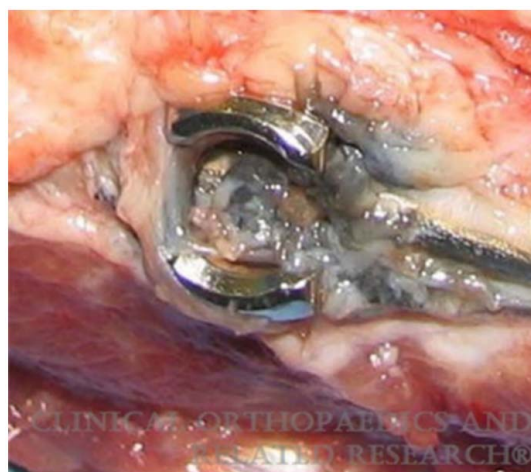


图 5 局部组织出现炎症反应[34]

Fig.5 Inflammatory reaction of local tissue[34]

动摩擦的机械作用而被破坏,金属离子释放。从金属脊柱植入物表面释放出的金属离子会扩散到周围组织、血液、淋巴系统中,患者血液中金属离子浓度明显升高[38-39],从而引起局部巨噬细胞被激活,导致炎症、过敏反应等相关并发症,甚至引发癌症。

3 表面改性降低生长棒的失效率及临床并发症的发生率

生长棒在患者体内服役的过程中,会出现金属棒断裂、椎弓根螺钉松动、金属棒与椎弓根螺钉摩擦、植入物在生理溶液环境中易被腐蚀等问题。目前主要有两种途径来解决生长棒所存在的这些问题:一是从

材料本身入手, 选用性能更为优良的金属材料或对合金成分进行改良; 二是对生长棒进行表面改性。

在材料选择方面, 早期的生长棒主要采用不锈钢材料制造, 但是不锈钢材料容易腐蚀, 会导致深部伤口感染、疼痛或植入物失败等问题^[40]。钛合金具有耐腐蚀性好、比强度高、磁共振成像兼容性好等优良性质, 为现阶段生长棒等脊柱矫形内固定物的主要材料^[37,41]。与钛合金相比, 钴铬合金同样具有优异的磁共振成像兼容性, 同时具有良好的生物相容性、更高的强度以及更好的矫正率, 使得钴铬合金生长棒替代钛合金生长棒的临床应用实例逐渐增加^[42-44]。

除此之外, 由于患者在日常生活中上半身移动时, 金属棒承受着循环弯曲应力, 为避免断棒, 金属棒还应该具有良好的抗弯疲劳强度^[45]以及合适的杨氏模量。杨氏模量过高, 容易出现应力屏蔽效应; 杨氏模量过低, 抗弯疲劳强度较差, 金属棒在体内服役时易回弹变形、易断裂^[46]。因此, 对合金成分改良, 开发抗弯疲劳特性优异、杨氏模量合适的新型合金也是一个新的研究方向。近年来, 研究者在开发应用于脊柱矫形等医用金属植入物的新型合金方面做了大量研究工作^[47-48], 以提高材料的疲劳强度, 降低应力屏蔽。

表面改性方法是提高生长棒质量的另外一种方法。表面改性方法既能保持金属材料(钛合金或者钴铬合金)作为生长棒材料具有的比强度高、磁共振成像兼容性好、与人皮质骨弹性模量接近的优势, 又可以使金属材料的耐磨性、耐腐蚀性、生物相容性等性能获得大幅度的改善。常见的表面改性方法有喷丸、微弧氧化、等离子喷涂、物理气相沉积等。大量研究表明: 表面改性可以增强椎弓根螺钉-骨组织结合强度, 提高植入物的耐磨、耐腐蚀性, 减少植入物的磨损和断裂, 降低金属离子释放量, 最终提高生长棒的可靠性和生物相容性, 降低过敏反应、炎症反应、骨溶解等并发症的发生率。

3.1 表面改性降低生长棒系统中金属棒断裂率

生长棒在体内服役过程中, 易遭受微动疲劳, 萌生裂纹并在交变应力下扩张, 导致断裂。S. R. MANNAVA^[49]和 O. TAKAKUWA^[50]分别采用激光冲击强化(laser shock peening, LSP)和水空化喷丸(cavitation peening, CP), 对应用于脊柱矫形的金属棒进行表面处理, 处理后材料的表面硬度提高且产生残余压应力, 残余压应力有效地延迟了疲劳源区的裂纹萌生, 减缓了疲劳裂纹的扩展速率^[51-52], 大幅度提高了金属棒的微动疲劳寿命, 防止了微动磨损引起的裂纹萌生和扩展^[50], 有效地避免了生长棒在患者体内服役过程中, 在弯曲和扭转载荷作用下发生疲劳失效和断裂^[53], 降低了断棒率。

3.2 表面改性增强生长棒系统中椎弓根螺钉-骨组织结合强度

临床研究表明, 在椎弓根螺钉-骨组织结合不好的情况下, 可能会出现椎弓根螺钉松动或被拔出现象^[37]。现阶段, 椎弓根螺钉新的重点发展方向并不集中在螺钉本身, 而是对其进行表面处理, 以提高其固定性和拔出强度^[54]。在椎弓根螺钉表面制作粗糙或多孔表面, 有利于刺激成骨细胞活性来促进成骨结合, 并使骨-种植体接触面积更大, 从而促使椎弓根螺钉和天然骨在界面处长合, 显著降低螺钉松动或被拔出的可能^[55-57]。喷丸处理、微弧氧化和等离子喷涂技术等表面改性手段, 均可促进椎弓根螺钉和天然骨界面长合, 有利于增强椎弓根螺钉-骨组织的结合强度。

对椎弓根螺钉进行喷丸处理可以使其表面产生纳米或微米级凹坑, 获得一定的表面粗糙度, 这种纳米或微米级的多孔表面形貌有利于 Ca、P 沉积, 促进成骨细胞在植入体表面粘附、增殖和生长, 使骨组织和种植体表面形成机械锁结, 增加植入体和骨组织的结合力^[58-60]。另外, 在喷丸处理的基础上, 将喷丸和酸蚀相结合, 对椎弓根螺钉进行表面处理, 可以形成微粗糙度和微纹理化的复杂表面, 进一步促进成骨细胞的增殖及椎弓根螺钉-骨组织界面处骨形成, 从而提高椎弓根螺钉的抗拉强度^[61]。

采用微弧氧化(micro arc oxidation, MAO)在脊柱植入物表面生成的羟基磷灰石涂层, 有利于提高脊柱植入物-天然骨界面的生物力学性能, 降低其发生松动或被拔出的可能性^[62]。L. SHI 等^[32]比较了经微弧氧化处理和未经处理的钛合金制椎弓根螺钉在绵羊体内的固定强度, 发现微弧氧化处理可以显著改善椎弓根螺钉-骨界面的机械连锁和生物化学结合性能。

通过等离子喷涂技术在椎弓根螺钉表面制备羟基磷灰石^[56]、钛^[63]等涂层, 也可以增强椎弓根螺钉-骨组织的结合强度。羟基磷灰石与人体骨骼的化学成分(Ca/P 比值)相似^[64], 能使医用植入物周围骨组织的生长加快, 具有良好的生物相容性和结合性。等离子喷涂过程中, 等离子体火焰的高温使羟基磷灰石和钛基体形成化学键, 增加了涂层和基体的结合强度^[56], 而羟基磷灰石涂层可以改善植入物的附着和固定, 消除与微动相关的问题, 如植入物的松动, 降低螺钉松动的发生率^[65]。并且, 在羟基磷灰石涂层和金属基体中加入硅酸二钙(Ca_2SiO_4)粘结层^[64], 或加入 Ti、 ZrO_2 等形成 HA-Ti 和 HA- ZrO_2 复合涂层^[66], 可降低基体和涂层的热膨胀系数失配程度, 进一步提高涂层和基体的结合强度, 降低植入物松动的风险。除了在椎弓根螺钉上喷涂羟基磷灰石涂层外, 喷涂钛涂层也能提高椎弓根螺钉-骨组织的结合强度。D. Y. Kim 等^[63]尝试了在钛合金制椎弓根螺钉上喷涂钛涂层, 并进行了体外模拟实验, 发现喷涂钛涂层可以提高椎弓根

螺钉的固定强度,且由于钛涂层椎弓根螺钉-骨组织界面形成的骨多于羟基磷灰石涂层椎弓根螺钉-骨组织界面,钛涂层具有更好的骨整合性能,其固定效果要好于喷涂羟基磷灰石涂层。

3.3 表面改性提高生长棒的耐磨耐腐蚀性能

生长棒在患者体内服役时,金属棒与椎弓根螺钉之间的摩擦磨损会产生大量的金属磨屑,从而造成离子释放。此外,生长棒在生理溶液环境中被腐蚀,也会造成离子释放。金属离子释放使局部金属离子浓度升高,引起巨噬细胞被激活,最终导致炎症反应、过敏反应、骨溶解等相关并发症的产生。物理气相沉积

(physical vapor deposition, PVD) 技术可用于提高生长棒的耐磨性、耐蚀性,进而降低其离子释放量。

E. LUKINA^[67]发现,采用物理气相沉积技术,在用于脊柱矫形的钛合金制椎弓根螺钉上沉积一层 TiN 薄膜和类金刚石(diamond-like carbon, DLC)薄膜,可以提高螺钉的耐磨性,减少金属磨屑的产生。Y. P. PAN^[68]在生长棒表面制备了一层 DLC 薄膜。ApiFix 公司在一种脊柱矫形内固定物表面也制备了 DLC 薄膜^[69-70],如图 6 所示。他们发现该涂层不仅有效减少了脊柱矫形内固定物的摩擦和磨损,还可以提高其疲劳寿命,抑制细菌的生长潜力,降低术后深部伤口感染的发生率。

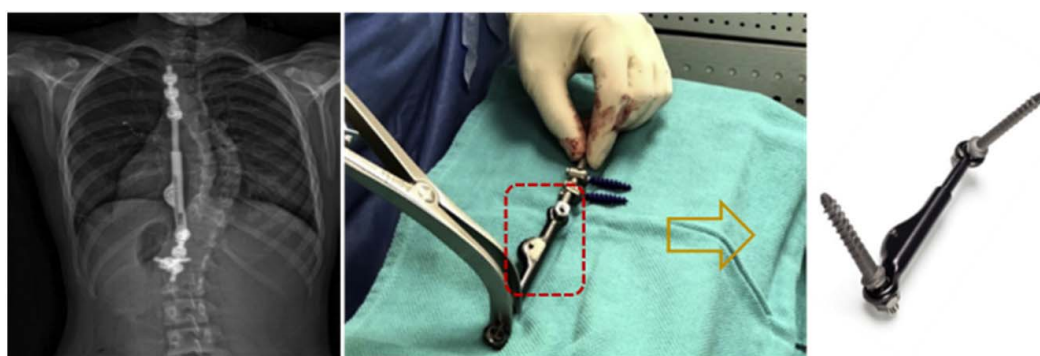


图 6 临床使用的 DLC 薄膜改性脊柱矫形内固定系统^[69-70]
Fig.6 DLC film modified spinal orthopedic internal fixation system in clinic^[69-70]

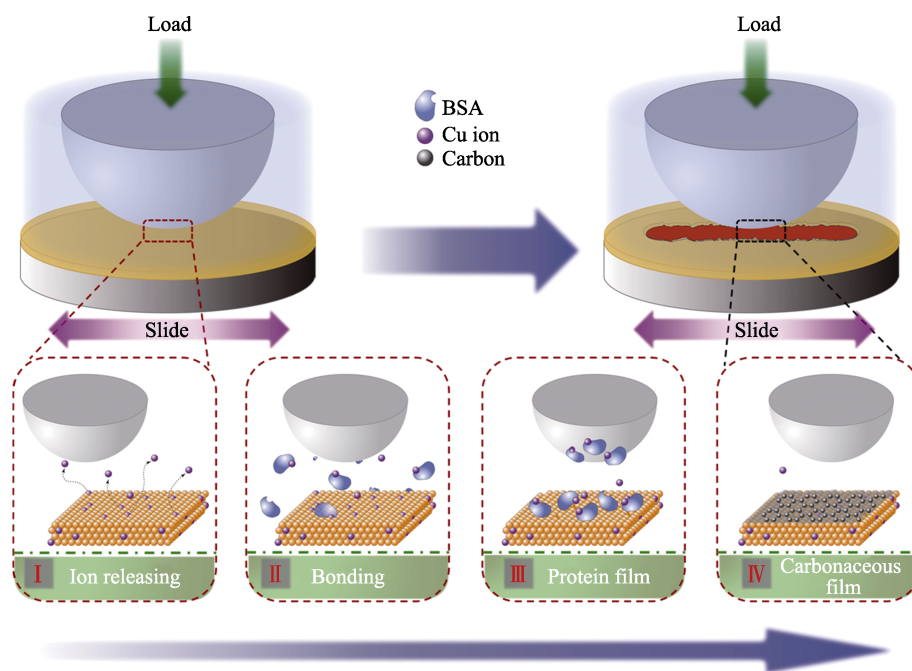
在提高生长棒耐磨损、耐腐蚀性能方面,通过沉积薄膜对生长棒进行表面改性的研究相对较少,但在人工关节领域^[71-73],薄膜技术的应用已经比较成熟。人们发现,在金属植入物表面沉积 DLC 薄膜^[74]、TiN 薄膜^[75]、TiAlN 薄膜^[76]等陶瓷薄膜,可改善其耐腐蚀性能,减少金属离子的释放,从而延长其在人体内的服役寿命。

尽管上述薄膜可以提高医用金属植入物的耐磨、耐腐蚀性,但在体外试验和体内植入实验研究中发现,薄膜中存在残余应力及薄膜致密度不足,可能会导致薄膜在服役过程中发生剥落失效^[77]。薄膜剥落后还会产生严重的三体磨损,影响植入物的服役寿命^[75]。在硬质薄膜中掺杂少量的 Cu (5.2%)^[78]、Ag (0.8%)^[79]等金属元素,可以提高薄膜的硬度、耐磨性,降低薄膜的孔隙率^[80]。另外,由于 Cu 和 Ag 可以抑制革兰氏阳性/阴性细菌活性,Cu 和 Ag 的引入还可以提高抗菌性^[81]。

本团队研究证明,在 DLC 薄膜中掺杂 Ag (0.40%~2.99%)^[82]、Cu (3.19%~11.28%)^[83],可以提高其耐磨性能。使用高功率脉冲磁控溅射沉积方法,通过调控 C_2H_2/Ar 气体流量比,制备了具有不同 Ag 含量 (0.40%~2.99%) 的 DLC 薄膜。在摩擦过程中,Ag 原子向磨损区域迁移,加速了薄膜摩擦界面处的石墨化过程,而高石墨化结构的界面更易发生塑性变形,并产生富 Ag 的棒状磨屑。这种棒状磨屑可以减少摩

擦副之间的接触,并使得摩擦方式由滑动状态变为滚动状态,从而提高了 DLC 薄膜的耐磨性能。另外,采用反应高功率脉冲磁控溅射技术,通过调整 Cu-石墨镶嵌靶中 Cu 棒的数量,沉积了不同 Cu 含量 (3.19%~11.28%) 的 DLC 薄膜。在摩擦磨损过程中,摩擦界面产生了棒状磨屑,并且掺 Cu 薄膜的磨屑中产生了更明显的石墨化转变,这种石墨化的磨屑可以作为一种固体润滑剂,从而降低摩擦系数和磨损率。

Y. LIAO^[84]及 M. A. WIMMER^[85]等人研究发现,金属离子与蛋白质之间的摩擦及化学反应能使得金属-金属人工关节表面形成“类石墨碳润滑层”,从而提高其摩擦磨损性能,减少腐蚀性离子的运输,降低腐蚀速率。本团队研究证明了在人工关节、生长棒等服役于特殊生理环境(存在蛋白质等生物分子)的医用金属植入物的表面沉积一层掺杂金属 Cu 的薄膜,可以有效改善其摩擦磨损性能,且 Cu 离子可通过特定的结合位点与白蛋白配位结合,促进白蛋白构象的转变,催化白蛋白在摩擦界面吸附、变性、分解,并形成“类石墨碳润滑层”,从而进一步改善其润滑性和耐腐蚀性能^[86]。“类石墨碳润滑层”的形成机理如图 7 所示,在摩擦磨损过程中,薄膜中释放出的 Cu 离子与溶液中的 BSA 分子结合,促进 BSA 分子吸附于磨痕处,形成一层蛋白生物膜。该蛋白生物膜在摩擦副副剪切力和金属离子的共同作用下转化为“类石墨碳润滑层”,有效降低了摩擦副之间的磨损。

图 7 掺 Cu 薄膜表面形成“类石墨碳润滑层”示意图^[87]Fig.7 The schematic diagram of formation of a carbonaceous film on the surface of Cu doped film^[87]

通过气相沉积对生长棒进行表面处理,可以提高生长棒耐磨损、耐腐蚀性能,减少离子释放,降低炎症反应、过敏反应及骨溶解等相关并发症的发生率,从而明显改善生长棒的使用安全性和延长使用寿命,推动生长棒的发展。

4 结语

植入生长棒对早发性脊柱侧凸具有良好的矫正作用,然而,生长棒临床应用中仍然存在金属棒断裂、椎弓根螺钉松动和被拔出等并发症。生长棒在体内服役过程中,由于摩擦和腐蚀会导致周围组织中金属磨屑堆积、金属离子富集,激活局部巨噬细胞,引起炎症反应,增加骨溶解和螺钉松动的发生概率,导致过敏反应、组织坏死等相关并发症。

采用喷丸、微弧氧化、等离子喷涂、物理气相沉积等表面改性技术,可以有效提高生长棒系统的疲劳特性、生物相容性、耐磨性和耐腐蚀性。经过改性后的生长棒系统,其断棒率降低,椎弓根螺钉-骨组织的结合强度增大,耐磨性和耐腐蚀性提高,过敏反应、炎症反应、骨溶解等相关并发症的发生率降低。

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