

Histotripsy

Histotripsy is the first noninvasive, non-ionizing, and non-thermal ablation technology guided by real-time imaging. Using focused ultrasound delivered from outside the body, histotripsy mechanically destroys tissue through cavitation, rendering the target into acellular debris.

Histotripsy in neurosurgery

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A in vitro study investigated the effects of ultrasound frequency and focal spacing on blood clot liquefaction via transcranial histotripsy. Histotripsy pulses were delivered using two 256-element hemispherical transducers of different frequency (250 and 500 kHz) with 30-cm aperture diameters. A 4-cm diameter spherical volume of in vitro blood clot was treated through 3 excised human skullcaps by electronically steering the focus with frequency proportional focal spacing: $\lambda/2$, $2\lambda/3$ and λ with 50 pulses per location. The pulse repetition frequency across the volume was 200 Hz, corresponding to a duty cycle of 0.08% (250 kHz) and 0.04% (500 kHz) for each focal location. Skull heating during treatment was monitored. Liquefied clot was drained via catheter and syringe in the range of 6-59 mL in 0.9-42.4 min. The fastest rate was 16.6 mL/min. The best parameter combination was λ spacing at 500 kHz, which produced large liquefaction through 3 skullcaps (23.1 ± 4.0 , 37.1 ± 16.9 and 25.4 ± 16.9 mL) with the fast rates (3.2 ± 0.6 , 5.1 ± 2.3 and 3.5 ± 0.4 mL/min). The temperature rise through the 3 skullcaps remained below 4°C ¹⁾

Dosages

Duclos et al. studied the effect of various histotripsy dosages on tumor cell kill and associated bleeding in a murine glioma model (glioma [GL261] and lung metastasis [LL/2-Luc2]).

GL261 or LL/2-Luc2 cells were cultured and implanted into the brains of C57BL/6 mice. Histotripsy (1-cycle pulses, 5 Hz PRF, 30 MPa-P) was performed using a 1 MHz transducer for five different dosages for each cell line: 5, 20 or 200 pulses per location (PPL) at a single treatment point, or 5 or 10-20 PPL at multiple treatment points. MRI, bioluminescence imaging and histology were used to assess tumor ablation and treatment effects within 4-6 h post-treatment.

All treatment groups resulted in a reduction of BLI intensity for the LL/2-Luc2 tumors, with significant

signal reductions for the multi-point groups. The average pre-/post-treatment BLI flux (photons/s, $\times 10^8$) for the different treatment groups were: 4.39/2.19 (5 PPL single-point), 5.49/1.80 (20 PPL single-point), 3.86/1.73 (200 PPL single-point), 2.44/1.11 (5 PPL multi-point) and 5.85/0.80 (10 PPL multi-point). MRI and H&E staining showed increased tumor damage and hemorrhagic effects with increasing histotripsy dose for both GL261 and LL/2-Luc2 tumors, but the increase in tumor damage was diminished beyond 10-20 PPL for single-point treatments and outweighed by increased hemorrhage. In general, hemorrhage was confined to be within 1 mm of the treatment boundary for all groups²⁾

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