

IN BRIEF

Tissue Engineering Technologies in the Management of Bone Infections

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Received: 26 October 2024

Accepted: 31 December 2024

Abstract

Osteomyelitis is a calamitous illness produced by microbial infection in deep osseous tissue. Its elevated recurrence percentage is a major defiance in management. Besides, microbial-mediated dysregulation of the osseous tissue immune microhabitat hinders the process of osseous regeneration, resulting in defective repair of the osseous defect. In spite of advancements in surgical approaches and medication employments for the management of infections of the osseous tissue within the most recent years, dares endure in clinical treatment. The creation and employment of tissue engineering materials have rendered new approaches for the management of infections of the osseous tissue. In the discipline of tissue engineering, we should center on utilizing materials science and engineering technology to create biomimetic 3D printed degradable frameworks with structure, layout, and mechanical attributes; accomplishing controlled liberation of antimicrobial medications via nanocarriers or scaffold surface coating technologies; and utilizing coaxial printing or gradient printing techniques to accomplish graded controlled liberation of antimicrobial medications and osteogenic active drugs.

Level of evidence: III

Keywords: Bone, Infection, Tissue engineering technologies, Treatment

Introduction

The objective of managing infections of the osseous tissue is to entirely remove the infection area, ensure coverage of the soft tissue, promote the consolidation of bone ends, and maintain the length and function of the affected extremity. After the full elimination of the infection area, osseous defects frequently happen, which are zones where infection is inclined to repeat. At present, there are various problems in the management of infections of the osseous tissue [Figure 1].¹ Current approaches for the treatment of infectious defects of the osseous tissue and for their repair are shown in [Figure 2].² Consequently there is a dire clinical necessity for a material that offers suitable antibacterial activity and facilitates the repair of osseous tissue.³ The objective of this paper was to perform a review of the literature on the current status of tissue engineering technologies in the management of infections of the osseous tissue. To accomplish this objective, a search of the literature in PubMed was performed on September 18, 2024, using “bone infection engineering technologies 2023” and “bone infection engineering technologies 2024” as keywords. Of the 467

articles recognized (245 in 2023 and 222 in 2024), twenty specifically related to bone infection engineering technologies were chosen (inclusion criteria). The rest of papers did not fulfil this prerequisite (exclusion criterion) and were consequently excluded.

Main body

The dire challenge to be confronted is the election of a filling scaffold that mixes antimicrobial properties and osseous tissue-promoting capacities to avert secondary bone graft surgery and diminish the percentage of infection recurrence. The characteristics of a good restoration scaffold for infections of the osseous tissue are shown in [Figure 3].⁴ Current existing materials for bone infection repair are displayed in [Figure 4].⁵⁻⁸ The establishment methods of scaffolds for the repair of infection of the osseous tissue are shown in [Figure 5].⁹⁻¹² Composite scaffold systems for the repair of infections of the osseous tissue are displayed in [Figure 6].¹³⁻¹⁶

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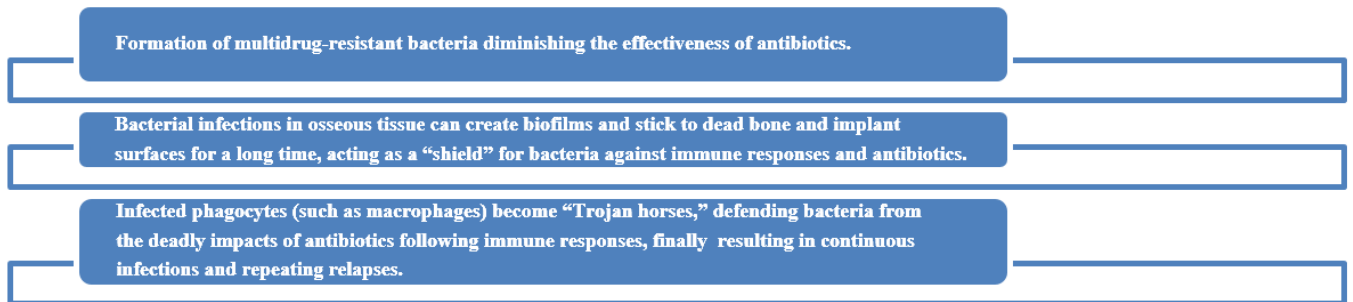


Figure 1. Main current problems in the treatment of bone infections

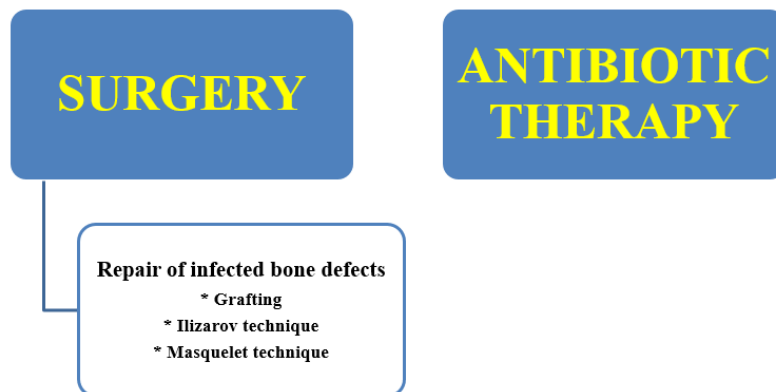


Figure 2. Main current clinical treatments for infectious bone defects and their repair

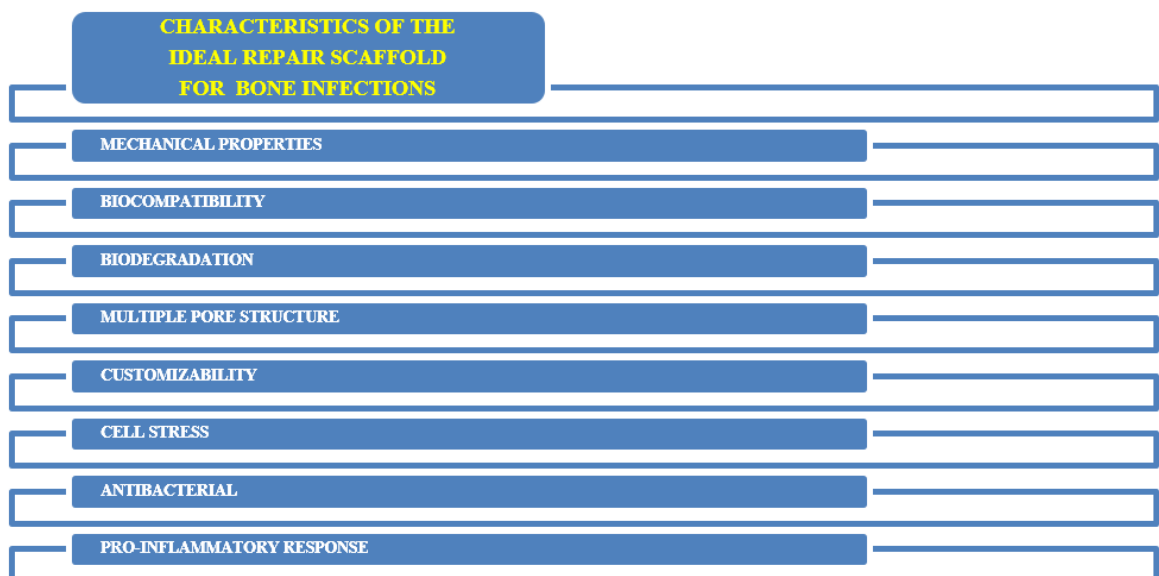


Figure 3. Characteristics of an ideal repair scaffold for bone infections

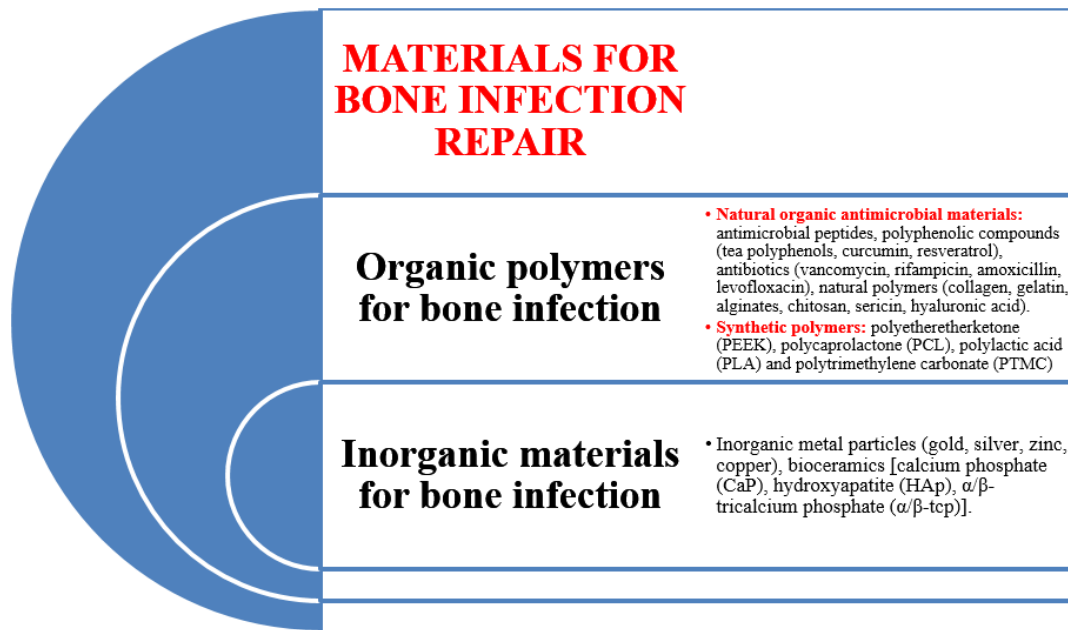


Figure 4. Current existing materials for bone infection repair

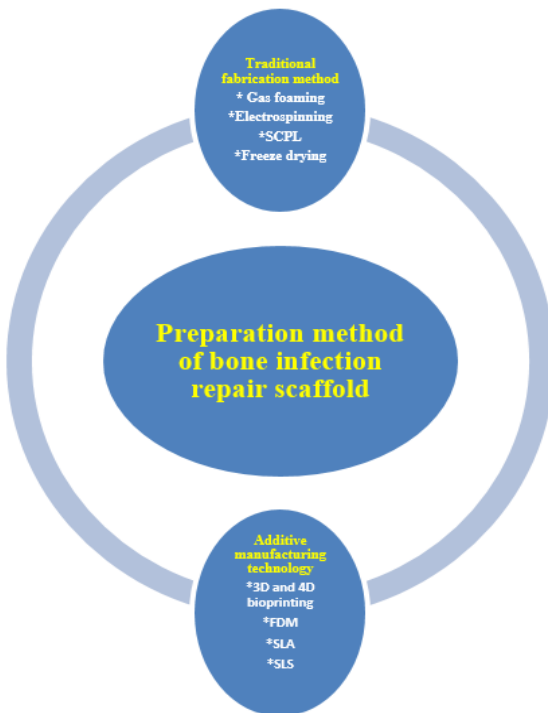


Figure 5. Preparation methods of bone infection repair scaffold. SCPL = Solvent casting/particle leaching; 3D = Three-dimensional; 4D = four-dimensional; FDM = Fused deposition modeling; SLA = Stereo lithography appearance; SLS = Selective laser sintering

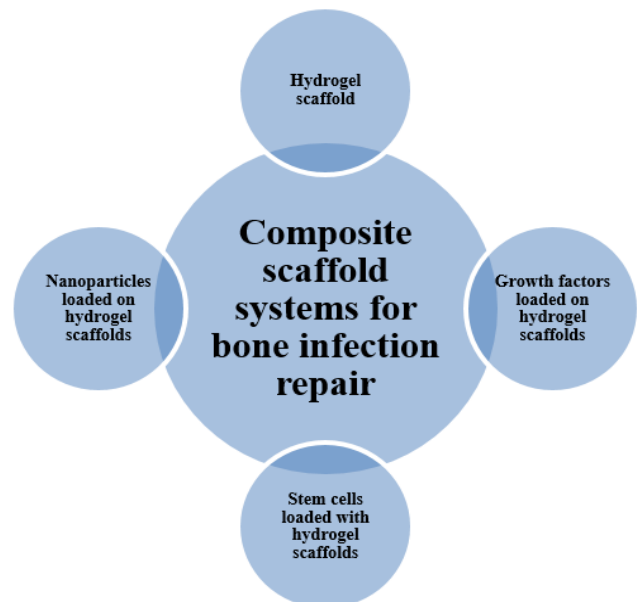


Figure 6. Composite scaffold systems for bone infection repair

The most usual technique for tissue engineering and culturing stem cells is using 3D scaffolds. Under adequate circumstances, cells multiply, differentiate, and liberate extracellular matrix (ECM) molecules, led by the three-dimensional space of the scaffold. This method yields an ideal therapeutic approach for tissue repair.¹⁷ Solid bone tissue substitutes are shown in [Figure 7].^{18,19}

The usage of polymeric biomaterials, either as pre-made

solid scaffolds or injectable glues that can toughen *in situ*, has shown interesting results as a substitute for frequently utilized autografts and allografts.¹⁹

According to Ghassemi et al people working together is paramount for the success of any process of tissue regeneration.²⁰

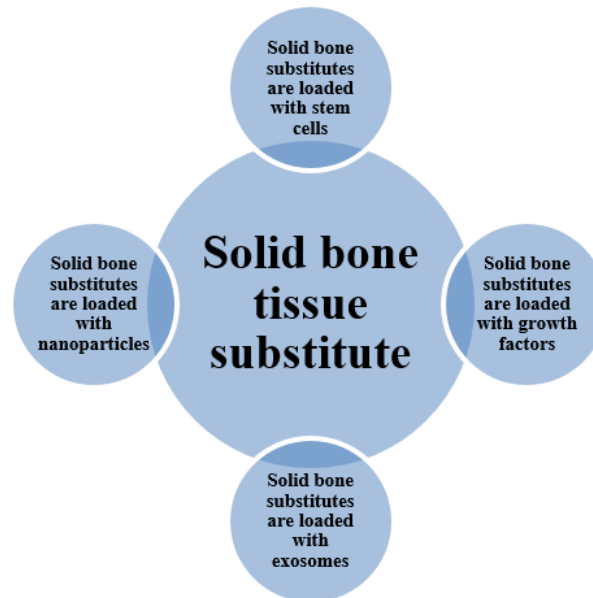


Figure 7. Solid bone tissue substitutes

Conclusion

In the management of osteomyelitis, the elimination of pathogenic bacteria is the principal factor to be considered. Even though numerous improvements in antimicrobial approaches for antibiotics in the last 50 years have been made, there has been no qualitative jump in the creation and employment of antibiotics, and the current clinical treatments have not essentially varied. In the discipline of tissue engineering, we should use materials science and engineering technology to create biomimetic 3D printed degradable scaffolds; accomplish controlled liberation of antimicrobial medications; and utilize coaxial printing or gradient printing techniques to accomplish graded controlled liberation of antimicrobial medications and osteogenic active drugs.

Acknowledgement

N/A

Authors Contribution: Authors who conceived and designed the analysis: ECR-M and ADD-M/ Authors who collected the data: ECR-M and ADD-M/Authors who contributed data or analysis tools: ECR-M and ADD-M/Authors who performed the analysis: ECR-M and ADD-M/Authors who wrote the paper: ECR-M and ADD-

M/Other contribution: ECR-M and ADD-M

Declaration of Conflict of Interest: The authors do NOT have any potential conflicts of interest for this manuscript.

Declaration of Funding: The authors received NO financial support for the preparation, research, authorship, and publication of this manuscript.

Declaration of Ethical Approval for Study: Our institutions do not require ethical approval for reporting "In Brief" review articles.

Declaration of Informed Consent: The authors declare that there is no information (names, initials, hospital identification numbers, or photographs) in the submitted manuscript that can be used to identify patients.

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