REVIEW ARTICLE

RECENT ADVANCES IN NANO-CELLULOSE BASED SUSTAINABLE BIOMATERIAL

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DOI: https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15156612

Abstract:

Advances in nanotechnology have made it possible to produce cellulose nanocrystals (CNCs), cellulose nanofibers (CNFs), and bacterial cellulose (BC), which have demonstrated great potential in a variety of applications, including biomedical, pharmaceutical, and environmental fields. Recent developments in nano-cellulose-based sustainable biomaterials have revolutionised the field of biomaterials science. Nano-cellulose, which is derived from renewable plant sources, has emerged as a promising biproduct. Biomaterials based on nanocellulose have a wide range of quickly growing uses. Scaffolds based on nanocellulose have been created for tissue engineering and regenerative therapy in the biomedical field. Drug delivery systems based on nanocellulose have been developed for pharmaceutical applications in an effort to increase the safety and effectiveness of medications. Adsorbents based on nanocellulose have been developed for environmental applications such as pollution remediation and wastewater treatment. Additionally, composites based on nanocellulose have been created for environmentally friendly textile and packaging applications. All things considered, sustainable biomaterials based on nanocellulose have the power to revolutionise a number of sectors and help create a more sustainable future.

Keyword: Nano-Cellulose, Biomedical Applications, Drug Delivery Systems, Cellulose Nanocrystals (CNCs), Cellulose Nanofibers (CNFs), Bacterial Cellulose (BC).

Introduction:

Concerns about human health and environmental sustainability have grown in recent years, drawing a lot of attention to the creation of sustainable biomaterials. Nano-cellulose, derived from renewable plant sources, has emerged as a promising biomaterial due to its unique properties, such as biodegradability, biocompatibility, and non-toxicity. Numerous techniques have been developed to produce nano-cellulose with a variety of properties and applications, including mechanical grinding, enzymatic treatment, and chemical hydrolysis. The extraction of nano-cellulose from plant biomass, such as wood pulp, cotton linters, and agricultural waste, has been the subject of extensive research [1]. A recent study published in the journal Carbohydrate Polymers found that nanocellulose-based biomaterials have shown great potential in biomedical applications, including wound healing, tissue engineering, and drug delivery. Another study published in the journal Environmental Science & Technology found that nanocellulose-based adsorbents can effectively remove heavy metals and organic pollutants from wastewater. Recent research has focused on the development of nanocellulose-based sustainable biomaterials for a variety of applications, including biomedical, pharmaceutical, and environmental fields [2]. For instance, scaffolds based on nanocellulose have been developed for tissue engineering and regenerative medicine, while drug delivery systems utilising nanocellulose have been developed to improve the efficacy and safety of drugs.

Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine:

Nanocellulose scaffolds have emerged as exceptional biomaterials for cell growth and tissue regeneration, boasting high porosity and mechanical stability. By mimicking the extracellular matrix (ECM), three-dimensional nanocellulose-based hydrogels and aerogels promote cell adhesion, proliferation, and differentiation. Furthermore, nanocellulose has shown promise in bone regeneration when combined with hydroxyapatite or collagen, enhancing osteogenic properties to facilitate bone tissue repair. Researchers are also exploring the potential of functionalized nanocellulose scaffolds in neural regeneration and cartilage repair, highlighting the versatility and vast potential of nanocellulose in tissue engineering and regenerative medicine [3].

Wound Healing and Antimicrobial Coatings:

Nanocellulose films and hydrogels have shown remarkable potential in facilitating wound healing, thanks to their exceptional moisture retention, breathability, and antimicrobial properties [4]. Bacterial cellulose-based dressings, in particular, have been effectively used to treat burns and chronic wounds by creating a moist environment that accelerates the healing process. Furthermore, antimicrobial nanocellulose composites have been developed by functionalizing them with silver nanoparticles, chitosan, or antibiotics, thereby enhancing their antibacterial and antifungal properties. These advanced biomaterials hold great promise for improving wound care and management.

Drug Delivery Systems:

Nanocellulose has emerged as an exceptional carrier for controlled and targeted drug delivery, offering a promising platform for revolutionizing pharmaceutical applications. Its potential lies in its ability to form sustained release formulations, where nanocellulose hydrogels can encapsulate drugs and release them in a controlled and predictable manner [5]. Furthermore, functionalized nanocellulose, modified with antibodies or peptides, enables targeted delivery, allowing for site-specific release of drugs and minimizing side effects. Additionally, nanocellulose nanoparticles have shown great promise as oral and transdermal drug carriers, improving the bioavailability of poorly soluble drugs and enhancing their therapeutic efficacy [6].

Biosensors and Medical Diagnostics:

Nanocellulose has been instrumental in the development of highly sensitive biosensors, enabling the detection of biomolecules, pathogens, and disease markers with unprecedented accuracy [7]. By functionalizing nanocellulose, researchers have created enzyme-based sensors that enhance electrode stability and signal detection in glucose and cholesterol biosensors. Moreover, nanocellulose-based flexible sensors have been integrated into wearable devices, allowing for real-time monitoring of sweat composition, body temperature, and hydration levels. Additionally, nanocellulose has been utilized in paper-based diagnostics, providing a low-cost and accessible platform for detecting diseases such as COVID-

19, malaria, and tuberculosis, making it an invaluable tool for point-of-care diagnostics and global healthcare initiatives [8].

Antimicrobial and Biofilm Prevention Applications:

Nanocellulose surfaces can be engineered with antibacterial agents, such as silver nanoparticles, chitosan, or essential oils, to prevent the formation of biofilms, which are notorious for causing hospital-acquired infections (HAIs). By incorporating these antimicrobial agents, nanocellulose-based materials can be used to develop medical implants, catheters, and wound dressings that are resistant to bacterial colonization, thereby reducing the risk of HAIs and promoting better patient outcomes [9].

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