Synthesis and Characterization of PDLLA nanospheres encapsulated with dexamethasone for treatment of inflammatory deseases.

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**Introdução**

Bioabsorbable and biodegradable polymers are extremely importante in medical applications such as sutures and controlled drug release systems because they do not produce toxic products. In this sense, several researches prepare and characterize polylactic acid but do not apply it or vice-versa. The present work aimed to prepare and characterize polylactic acid and perform in vitro and in vivo tests in inflammed knees of sheeps.

In this work, the polymer PDLLA was synthesized by melt policondensation method. In order to reach a higher molecular weight of polymers, catalysts were used based on zinc and tin supported on sulfonated styrene-divinylbenzene (Sty-DVB) copolymers. PDLLA was characterized by inherent viscosity measurements, X-ray diffraction, thermogravimetric analysis and nuclear magnetic resonance of $^1$H and $^{13}$C. PDLLA nanospheres¹ were prepared through nanoprecipitation method without and with the incorporation of dexamethasone, an anti-inflammatory drug. The polymeric nanospheres were characterized by dynamic light scattering to measure medium diameter and polydispersity index, as well, zeta potential. The encapsulation efficiency, the drug loading, the yield were 75 %, 3.5 % and 78 %, respectively.

**Resultados e Discussão**

PDLLA nanospheres containing encapsulated dexamethasone with medium diameter of 80 nm and polydispersity index near 0.110 were obtained with excellent reproducibility. The encapsulation efficiency, the drug loading, the yield were 75 %, 3.5 % and 78 %, respectively.

![Figure 1. Dexamethasone chromatogram obtained by HPLC using C18 (150x4.6mmx3um), mobile phase ACN: H$_2$O pH 4 (v/v) 50:50 e solvent flux 0.7mL/min.](image)

**Conclusões**

The results show that it was possible to quantify dexamethasone through HPLC in optimized conditions. The encapsulation efficiency, the drug loading, the yield were 75 %, 3.5 % and 78 %, respectively. This values are excellent when compared to literature. Also, PDLLA nanospheres have a high stability until the 10th day of study.

In vivo tests showed a much improved visual appearance of knee ligament reconstruction of sheeps when nanospheres with dexamethasone is used in comparision to commercial product.

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