

Long- And Short-Range Interactions Initiates The Axonal Growth On Rigid Substrates.

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Abstract:

Substrate factors such as surface energy distribution can affect cell functions, such as neuronal differentiation of PC12 cells [1]. However, the surface effects that trigger such cell responses need to be clarified and analyzed. Here we show that the total surface tension is not a critical parameter [2]. Self-assembled monolayers of alkylsiloxanes on glass were used as culture substrates [2-3]. By changing the nanoscale structure and ordering of the monolayer, we designed surfaces with a range of dispersive (γ^d) and non-dispersive (γ^{nd}) potentials, but with a similar value for total free-energy ($50 \leq \gamma^d + \gamma^{nd} \leq 55$ mN/m) [4]. When seeded on surfaces displaying $\gamma^d/\gamma^{nd} \leq 3.7$, PC12 cells underwent low level of neuritogenesis [5]. On surfaces exhibiting $\gamma^d/\gamma^{nd} \geq 5.4$, neurite outgrowth was greatly enhanced and apparent by only 24 h of culture in absence of nerve growth-factor treatment [5]. These data indicate how the spatial distribution of surface potentials may control neuritogenesis [1; 5], thus providing a new criterion to address nerve regeneration issues on rigid biocompatible substrates.

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