the DRYLAB is adequate method for daily repetitive training of basic surgical skills. However, an alternative is needed for self-training in the DRYLAB stage instead of the supervisors.

II. OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this study is a development of the self-training system for surgical technique. The first stage of the study, our group develops the self-training system for anastomotic technique of CABG, which is used in the DRYLAB then differentiates surgical skills of expert and trainee surgeon by using newly developed evaluation system.

III. DEVELOPMENT

The self-training system consists of following portions. 1) "YOUCAN", coronary and graft vascular silicone model, 2) "BEAT", a device, simulating stabilized myocardial surface, and 3) Quantitative evaluation system based on *in vitro* mock circulatory system.

A. Coronary artery and graft model "YOUCAN"

These models provide repetitive anastomotic training under static condition as shown in fig.3. An anastomosis between Left Anterior Descending coronary artery (LAD) as recipient and Left Internal Thoracic Artery (LITA) as graft has been simulated by these models, because it is the most common combination for CABG. Inner diameter of the model is 2.0mm and the models are made of silicone rubber (KE1603 A/B, Shin-Etsu chemical co. ltd). Elasticity of the models was controlled to satisfy the surgeons' tactile feeling reasonably, by the ratio of compounded silicone oil [2]. Tethering, a self-expandable function of incised part was reproduced by remaining stress in myocardial model. Therefore surgeon could handle a surgical needle and strings as if under the clinical condition.

B. Off-Pump CAB training device "BEAT"

Fig.4 shows Off-Pump CAB training device named BEAT. Off-Pump CAB is CABG under on-beating condition avoiding the invasiveness derived from extracorporeal circulation. The BEAT adds pulsatile up-and-down uniaxial motion of stabilized myocardial surface onto the coronary model [3]. Biometal, shaped memory alloy developed by TOKI Corp, has been employed as the actuator because of the compactness and controllability. The heart rate and amplitude were adjustable between 50~100 bpm (0.83~1.67 Hz) and 0~3mm as a trainee surgeon desired by the controller. Various coronary arterial positions, including LMT, LAD, RCA, and Cx, could be set by the attitude adjuster, which is flexible ball joint. The surgical field was simulated by cavity unit. By the development of above portions, our group could provide a DRYLAB environment to train the anastomotic technique under the fixed condition.

C. in vitro Coronary Circulatory System

Fig.5 shows the evaluation system for anastomosed model based on in vitro Coronary Circulatory System (CCS). CCS had been originally developed by Kawai et. al. in 2004[4]. It is composed of the systemic circulatory system and the CCS.

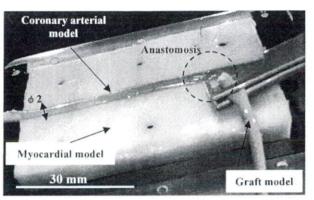


Fig.3. Coronary arterial model" YOUCAN" and graft model of silicone rubber, which elasticity had been

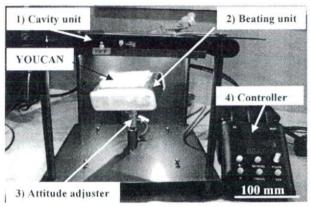


Fig.4. Off-Pump CAB training device "BEAT"

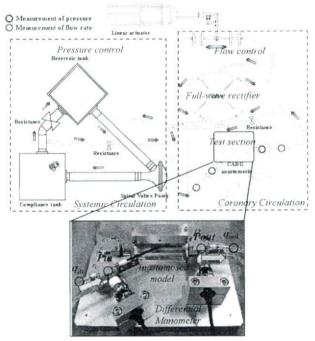


Fig.5. in vitro Coronary Circulatory System for hydrodynamic evaluation of the anastomosed model

The CCS, driven by linear actuator composed of stepping motor, has been designed to reproduce natural coronary hemodynamics. Pressure and flow rate were measured at the inlet and outlet of the test section. Differential manometer (AP-12S, KEYENCE) was installed to measure pressure loss of vicinity of the anastomosis.

IV. EVALUATION

Our group has conducted the experiment to clarify the difference among expert and trainee surgeon's skills by using above newly developed self-training system as shown in Fig.5. A registered cardiac surgeon was selected as the expert surgeon. And a cardiac surgeon, who has never been an operator in clinical has been selected as the trainee surgeon. The both expert and trainee surgeon anastomosed the coronary artery and graft model, which was set onto the BEAT under non beating condition. The anastomosed model s were set onto the test section of the CCS. Identical waveforms in coronary artery were applied into the inlet of the anastomosis under the following conditions, 120/80mmHg of pressure (normotension), 53ml/min of mean flow rate. Pressure and flow rate were measured at proximal and distal ends of the anastomosis. Then energy loss was calculated by equation (1), using the following parameters: pressure gradient ΔP and flow rate Q_m

$$E_{loss} = \oint (\Delta P \cdot Q_{in}) dt \tag{1}$$

V. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

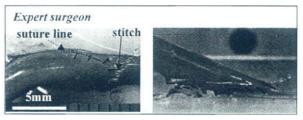
Our group considered the experimental results in terms of relevance between morphological and hydrodynamics characteristics of the bypass grafting anastomosis.

A. Morphological characteristics

Fig.6 shows comparative visual inspection of the anastomosis, which has been done by the expert and the trainee surgeon. The both models were anastomosed by continuous suture using PROLENE 7-0 (Ethicon Inc.). In the overhead view of anastomosis, it was observed that intervals of each stitch were regular in expert surgeon's anastomosis. Moreover, a length of each stitch was nearly equal and its direction was almost normal to the suture line. In contrast, the orientation of each stitch was irregular in the trainee's anastomosis. The irregular stitch was caused to configuration of the collapsed orifice area, which is pointed with dotted line in Fig.6. In the frontal view of the anastomosis, expert model has an outline of the graft model, which straightly and smoothly connected to the coronary artery. On the other hand, an outline of the graft model in trainee model was formed as downhill in part. It was observed that a cross-stitch was on the suture line in collapsed orifice area in trainee's anastomosis. The cross-stitch may cause to stenotic pattern of an inner lumen. In order to investigate a shape of inner lumen, wax injection molding has done as shown in Fig.7. Then, Effective Orifice Area (EOA) has been quantified by image analysis on cross-sectional surface of the anastomosis. As the result. which was shown in TABLE I, an EOA of the trainee model has been calculated as 19.4% of the expert model. The effect of this difference of EOA to hydrodynamics in the anastomosis has been considered in next section.

B. Hydrodynamic effect to an anastomosis

Fig.8 shows natural waveforms of pressure and flow rate in a coronary artery. It was confirmed that the typical double-peaked waveforms of flow rate and single-peaked waveforms in coronary artery were reproduced by CCS as shown in Fig.9. Pressure loss could be found from the difference between waveforms of inlet and outlet pressure in the both expert and trainee models. Then, energy loss was calculated as $41.30 \pm 3.08 \text{mJ}$ for the expert and $67.28 \pm$ 1.75mJ for the trainee surgeon as shown in Fig.10. The energy loss of the expert surgeon was 38.6% less than the trainee surgeon. If we discuss the anastomotic models as bended tubular shaped elastic model, a drastic change of the EOA may be cause of a significant pressure gradient on tubular axis between inlet and outlet of the tube. It was inferred that this pressure gradient affects to separate the local flow of near vascular wall. Thus, it was thought as that energy loss of the trainee model was higher than the expert model.



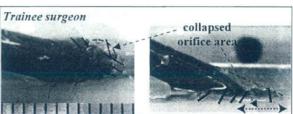


Fig.6. Appearance of anastomosed model of the expert and the trainee.



(a) Expert model (b) Trainee model Fig.7. Inner geometry of anastomosed model, fabricated by wax injection molding.

TABLE I
EFFECTIVE ORIFICE AREA OF EXPERT AND TRAINEE MODEL

Class	EOA (mm²)
Expert surgeon	2.73
Trainee surgeon	0.53

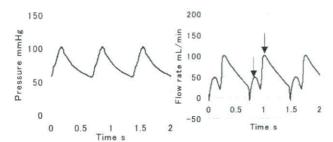


Fig.8. Natural waveforms of pressure and flow rate in a coronary artery (hypotension)

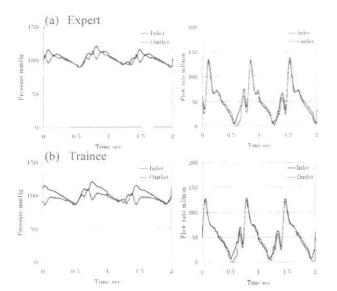


Fig.9. Waveforms of pressure and flow rate at the inlet and outlet of the anastomosed model

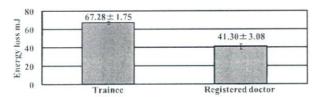


Fig.10. Energy loss for the trainee and the expert (registered) surgeon's anastomosis.

This experimental result implies that the technique of controlling EOA is relevant to improve the hydrodynamic characteristics of the anastomosis. The further study is required to clarify the characteristics of these local flows by using flow visualization technology such as Particle Image Velocimetry.

VI. CONCLUSION

In this study, a self-training system for the anastomotic technique in CABG has been developed. The selected expert and trainee surgeon's anastomotic skill has been differentiated by using the coronary circulatory system.

Throughout the visual inspection, it was observed that the orientation of the trainee surgeon's each stitch was irregular, comparing to expert surgeon. This has caused to narrow EOA. and then the higher energy loss has been induced in the trainee anastomosis. In conclusion, it has been suggested that an expert and a trainee surgeon's anastomosis could be differentiated by using in vitro mock circulatory system. We will continue studying to reveal an essence of expert surgeons' skills by following approaches. The one is statistic analysis of the anastomotic technique to find typical pattern among expert and trainee surgeons. The other is considering the relation between configuration of the EOA in an anastomosis and the hydrodynamic characteristics by analyzing local flow. It is expected that these study will contribute to the establishment of an evaluative criteria for human surgeons and robot surgeons in the future.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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Nanotechnology in Artificial Organ Development and its Application in Diagnosis Methodology in Baroreflex Sensitivity of Patients with Hypertension

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Space in the human body is so limited that nanotechnology and micromachining technology are important for development of the internal artificial organs. Based on nanotechnology, development of various kinds of artificial organ has been conducted in Tohoku University, including artificial myocardium, artificial heart, rotary blood pump, artificial esophagus and artificial sphincter. Furthermore, automatic control algorithm for the artificial heart and assisted circulation was applied in the invention of the new diagnosis methodology for the baroreflex sensitivity of patients with hypertension. A successful clinical application of this new invention was made. Technical application of the large range of the developments is expectable in artificial internal-organs development.

Keywords: nanotechnology, artificial myocardium, rotary blood pump, baroreflex sensitivity, hypertension

1. Introduction

From the historical point of view, miniaturization of artificial internal organs has been one of the most important factors until now. Space in the human body is so limited that nanotechnology and micromachining technology are important in development of the internal artificial organs. Based on nanotechnology, various artificial organs have been p developed in Tohoku University, the including artificial myocardium, the artificial heart, the rotary blood pump, the artificial esophagus and artificial sphincter. These various artificial internal organs are based on the common base technology. Biocompatible nano materials are important. Transcutaneous energy transmission

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systems using nanotechnology are also an important factor. In this paper, the recent progress of the artificial internal organ development is reported. Furthermore, automatic control algorithm for the artificial heart and assisted circulation was applied to the invention of the new diagnosis methodology for the baroreflex sensitivity of patients with hypertension. A successful clinical application of this new invention was performed. Technical application of the artificial internal-organ developments is expectable.

2. Artificial Internal Organs Using Nanotechnology

Based on nanotechnology, development various artificial organs has been performed in Tohoku University, the including artificial myocardium, the artificial heart, the rotary blood pump, the artificial esophagus and artificial sphincter.

2.1. Artificial Esophagus

Everybody knows that surgery of esophageal cancer is difficult because of the reconstruction of the esophagus after the resection of the carcinoma tissue. If there is an artificial esophagus, surgery will be simple and easy. Surgery with artificial esophagus will be feasible with only fiberscope.

In Tohoku University, the project on the artificial esophagus is ongoing [1]. Based on the achievements of the project, invention of the therapeutic stent, which has a therapeutic effect on the carcinoma tissue and the drinking function, is now under development. This therapeutic and drinking stent is easily inserted into the esophagus without any invasion. So this therapeutic and drinking stent was easily used for patients with the end stage esophageal cancer, which is not respectable.

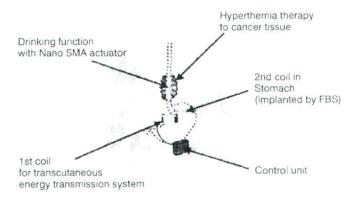


Fig. 1. Therapeutic and drinking stent for the end stage esophageal cancer

2.2. Artificial Myocardium

The final place which should be assisted is the myocardial contraction after a complete surgical repair. Even after complete revascularization of the coronary artery and a complete repair of the heart valve, cardiac output cannot be maintained when the contraction power is insufficient. An artificial myocardium system was invented in Tohoku University by the use of nanotechnology [2]. This system consists of various kinds of nanotechnology units, including the surface finishing technology, several kinds of nano sensors, .nano mictotip PC, and TETS with nano tech.

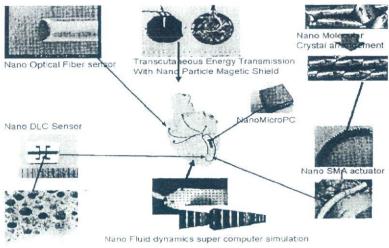


Fig. 2. Artificial myocardium

2.3. Artificial Heart

By the use of nanotechnology, an artificial heart system using the Undulation Pump system has been developed in Tohoku University. This system consists of various kinds of nanotechnology items, the including surface finishing technology, several kinds of nano sensors, nano mictotip PC, and TETS with nano tech. The control logic for the artificial heart and the artificial myocardium needed the system identification, so this logic might be useful for the diagnosis of the circulatory condition of the patients.

3. Baroreflex Sensitivity of the Artery in the Patients with Hypertension

A system identification is required for the automatic control of the artificial heart and the artificial myocardium. The system identification is useful for the diagnosis of patients with circulatory diseases.

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Metabolic syndrome attracts attention as an important pathophysiology item in Japan [3]. Hypertension is one of the important elements which constitute the Metabolic syndrome. In a healthy human body, even if the blood pressure rises, the heartbeat decreases reflectively, the blood vessel relaxes and the blood pressure is lowered. However, this reflective function fails in the hypertensive patient [4–5]. It is known that the baroreflex function is insufficient or weak especially in the case of youth hypertension [6–7].

In order to diagnose the function of baroreflex, there are some diagnostic methods. For example, there is the method of calculating from the reaction of the heartbeat to blood-pressure change. No method of diagnosing the baroreflex function of a blood vessel existed at all.

We invented the first method of diagnosing the baroreflex function of a blood vessel. This new diagnostic method is outlined in this paper. The equipment which diagnoses the baroreflex function of a blood vessel does not exist in all in the world. This is because the method of measuring the elasticity of a blood vessel by the noninvasive method is difficult. Then, we paid our attention to the pulse wave transmission time (PTT) and the pulse wave velocity (PWV).

PTT and PWV are dependent on the elasticity of the arterial wall. According to the increase of the arterial wall elasticity, PWV will become increased. This phenomenon was applied, and the methodology which measures the baroreflex function of a blood vessel was invented from PWV information. The conceptual diagram of the system is shown below.

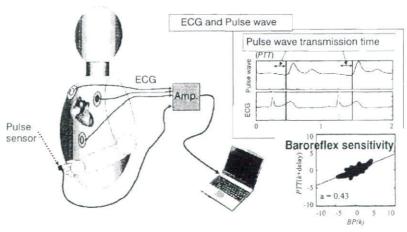


Fig. 3. Baroreflex sensitivity evaluating system

In this system, the measurement parts are only the pulse wave and the electrocardiogram. Cardiophonogram may be used for substitution of the electrocardiogram. The arm, the wrist, or the ankle are sufficient as the measurement part of the pulse wave. The data will become exact if loads, such as conversion of the posture and injection of the medicine, are added. Diagnostic measurement is possible even if there is no load.

The acquired time series information is input into a personal computer through an AD converter. Quantification and statistics processing are calculated. The time series of the cardiac contraction is measured from the R wave of the electrocardiogram or two sound of the cardiophonogram. The RR interval is changed into the Y-axis. The wave by which the smoothing was carried out by the Spline interpolation is re-sampled in 200 ms. As for the digital data, by which the discrete sampling was carried out, the frequency analysis is performed. Fluctuation of each time series curve is calculated. The delay time with the greatest correlation is calculated from the cross-correlation of the obtained time series. By this means, the influence that a change of blood pressure produces on the elasticity of the blood vessel will be calculated. The X axis is set as the change of the blood pressure, and the Y-axis is set as PWV or PTT after the delay time with the greatest correlation. The regression straight line is computed using the method of the least square. The methodology which adds a band pass filter to the time series curve and enables to observe the Mayer wave around 0.1 Hz is sufficient.

An example of the cross-correlation of the systolic blood pressure time series and the pulse wave transmission time series is shown in Fig.4.

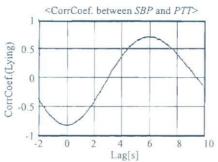


Fig. 4. Cross correlation of the SBP and PTT

In this example, the greatest cross-correlation in the delay time around about 6.0 seconds is observed. Then the pulse wave transmission time after the blood-pressure change and the delay time of the maximum correlation was plotted.

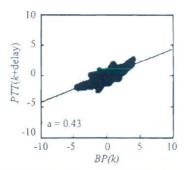


Fig. 5. Baroreflex sensitivity of the artery

The result by which a significant correlation was observed showed that blood-pressure change changed the blood vessel elasticity, reflectively. The regression straight line was calculated by the method of the least square. The sensitivity of the baroreflex function of the blood vessel can be calculated from this result. In the case in which the blood pressure is high, the baroreflex function of the blood vessel showed a falling tendency.

Previously the method of calculation of the baroreflex function of a blood vessel did not exist. We invented the method of calculation of the baroreflex function of the blood vessel from information processing of the blood pressure and the pulse-wave propagation time. The correlation analysis showed a changing PTT according to the blood-pressure change after several seconds.

From the regression straight line, it is expected that the sensitivity of the reflective function of the blood pressure is calculable. From now on, collection of cases can be performed after their examination by the Ethics Committee of the appropriate hospital.

Acknowledgments

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Restructuring of myocardium using shape memory alloy fibres

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Background and objectives

Recently, the ventricular assist devices are widely applied for a surgical treatment of the final stage of severe heart failure as the bridge to heart transplantation or the destination therapy. However, it was anticipated that the artificial components in the ventricular assist devices might cause the problems concerning thrombosis and infection. As heart failure involves the decrease in myocardial contractile function, the mechanical assistance by using an artificial myocardium might be effective. The authors have been developing a mechano-electric artificial myocardial assist system (artificial myocardium), which is capable of supporting natural contractile function from the outside of the ventricle. The system was originally designed by using sophisticated covalent shape memory alloy fibres (Toki Corp., Biometal®), and no special surface modification of the device was not applied for enhancing blood compatibility. The purpose of the project on the development of an 'intelligent artificial myocardium' was to design a sophisticated myocardial assist device, which could represent direct mechanical myocardial assistance in response to physiological demand.

Structural design for functional improvement

Some methodologies using novel devices other than the artificial hearts are proposed so far with severe heart disease. However, it was also anticipated that the decrease in cardiac functions owing to the diastolic disability might be caused by using those 'static' devices. Then, this study was focused on an artificial myocardium using shape memory alloy fibres with a diameter of 100 um, and moreover the structural design was examined for its functional improvement. The authors investigated the myocardial structure in native hearts, and fabricated several types of myocardial assist device based on these results; the circumferential type, and the oblique types which were three-dimensionally constructed. Their hydrodynamic or hemodynamic functions were also examined in a mock circulatory system as well as in animal experiments using goats.

Results

The structure of myocardial fibers of a goat's heart could be represented by a single muscular band [1]. The oblique design of the myocardial assist device was made to form the contractile streamlines from the apex to ascending aorta. Basic characteristics and hemodynamic effects of the circumferential or oblique types were examined in goat experiments (n=4) as well as in the mock circulatory system. The results were as follows:

- a) In the hydrodynamic test using the mock circulatory system, the volume assisted which was elevated by 39% by morphological design.
- b) Hemodynamic data obtained in goats indicated the more effective volumetric assistance by the oblique design, and on the other hand there was no significant difference in systolic assisted pressure.

Therefore, it was suggested that the morphological design of artificial myocardial support system could be more effective for the functional improvement of artificial myocardium as well as its control system design.

Figure: Oblique type of artificial myocardium (bottom right), which was girdling the goat's ventricle designed from the native myocardial structure (bottom left), might be more effective.

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心室と心不全のメカニクスモデリングに基づく人工的心筋補助の試み

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Artificial Myocardial Assistance using the Sophisticated Shape Memory Alloy Fibre Based on Engineering Approach for Cardiac Mechanics

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Abstract

The authors have been developing a mechano-electric artificial myocardial assist system (artificial myocardium), which is capable of supporting natural contractile function from the outside of the ventricle. Some methodologies using novel devices other than the artificial hearts are proposed so far with severe heart disease. However, it was also anticipated that the decrease in cardiac functions owing to the diastolic disability might be caused by using those 'static' devices. Then, this study was focused on an artificial myocardium using shape memory alloy fibres with a diameter of 100 um, and moreover the structural design was examined for its functional improvement. The authors investigated the myocardial structure in native hearts, and fabricated several types of myocardial assist device based on these results; the circumferential type, and the oblique types which were three-dimensionally constructed. Their hydrodynamic or hemodynamic functions were also examined in a mock circulatory system as well as in animal experiments using goats.

キーワード: 心筋構造, 形状記憶合金線維, 人工心筋, 循環補助, 血行動態

(Keywords: myocardial structure, shape memory alloy fibre, artificial myocardium, ventricular assist device, hemodynamics)

1. はじめに

心臓が全身の臓器の需要に見合う充分な血液量を駆出できない場合や、または血液拍出が充分であっても心室充満圧が上昇する場合、内科的にもしくは外科的に治療がなされる(1)。現在、このような心不全状態がとくに重篤であれば、心臓移植を最終手段として、補助人工心臓を用いた循環の補助が行われる。しかしながら医用アクチュエータとして人工的補助循環に用いられるシステムは、主として血液との直接的な接触によってポンプ機能を代替するものであり、自己化した組織でない人工物と接することによって促進される微小血栓による梗塞形成の問題が臨床応用時には懸念されている。

病的に心室壁の局所または心臓全体のサイズが拡張した 心不全治療の外科的なアプローチの方法として、心臓の収 縮形態を外科的に再形成し、正常な心室壁形状に構築し直

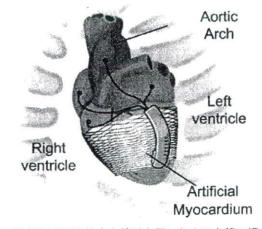


図1 微細径形状記憶合金線維を用いた人工心筋の構成 Fig. 1 Schematic drawing of the myocardial assist device developed

すことによって心室内腔容積を縫縮させる手技や、静的に心臓の過拡張を妨げる人工物によって心室壁の挙動範囲を制限する方法などがこれまでに開発され、臨床に応用されている。しかしながら、これらの手技や方法によって心室メカニクスの本態的な変化がどのように生じるのかは、未だ詳細は解明しておらず、臨床現場においても多くの検討がなされている⁽²⁾⁻⁽⁶⁾。

心不全によって引き起こされる血液拍出機能低下の本質 は、心臓を構成する心筋の収縮能の低下であり、その治療 メタコンセプトは心臓の収縮機能を改善させることにある と考えることができる。そこで筆者らは、これまで生体心 筋の収縮を力学的にサポートする人工心筋開発を進めてい る(1)。このシステムは心臓の収縮を外部から力学的にサポー トし、生体および機械の制御系とを統合することによって 必要なときに必要なだけ血液拍出機能を支援するものであ る。現在開発中の装置では、微細形状記憶合金線維を用い たユニットを構成し、それらを組み合わせることによって 自然心臓の収縮によく似た人工的補助を実現することを設 計目標としている (図 1) ⁽⁸⁾⁽⁹⁾。その駆動原理のため、血液 と人工物との直接接触がなく、したがって溶血や血栓形成 の問題がない。本研究では、これまでの開発研究の成果を ふまえ、さらに生体との力学的親和性の高いシステムを設 計するため、生体心臓の形態学的構造に似た収縮走行方向 を有する装置の開発を試みた。

2. 方法

〈2·1〉 生体心臓の構造と心筋走行 ポンプ機能の異なる二つの心室から構成される生体心臓は、一つの心筋バンドに展開することができる⁽¹⁰⁾。図 2 は健常成山羊の心臓を摘出後、心臓壁層を心筋の走行に沿って剥離展開したものであるが、大動脈から肺動脈に至るまで複雑なねじれ構造を持ちながらほとんど単一の方向性を有するバンド状の心筋相から構成されていることがわかる。

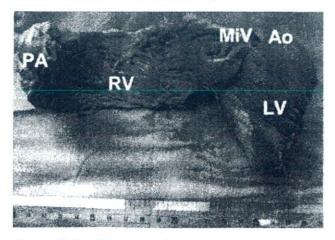


図2 健常成山羊摘出心の心筋バンド展開

Fig. 2 A goat's heart showing the ventricular myocardial band dissection which was unfolded by Torrent-Guasp's procedure

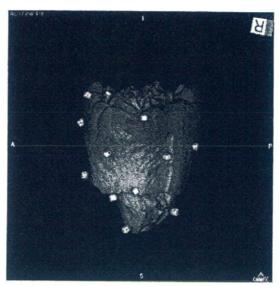


図3 MDCTを用いて3次元構成した摘出展開山羊心臓(白色の点は心筋層に縫合された樹脂製マーカで、心筋バンド中央及び端部をそれぞれ示したもの)

Fig. 3 Numerical reconstruction of the goat's heart from the data measured by MDCT; the white coloured plastic markers indicated the centre and the edges at each portion of myocardial band unfolded.

さらに、この摘出心の走行構造を明らかにするため、樹脂製のマーカを縫合し、再構成した心臓構造を MDCT を用いて計測した(図3)。

〈2·2〉 3 次元的収縮を実現する人工心筋装置と基礎特性 上述の心筋走行に関する知見は、通常左開胸下で観察され る心臓全体の収縮期の挙動と一致しており、人工心筋によ る補助時にもこれらの収縮方向を考慮することが有効であ ると考えられたため、(a)従来の左室短軸に沿った収縮装置、(b)左室の収縮方向に対して可変角をもたせた収縮装置、(c) 左室壁の心筋走行に沿う人工心筋走行とした収縮装置の 3 種類を試作した。またこれらの装置による駆出性能を定圧 負荷の水力学的試験回路を用いて計測し、駆出サポートに よる収縮期の流量補助量の基礎データを取得し比較した。

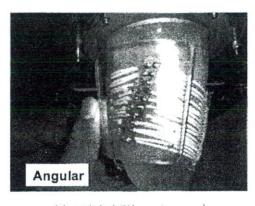
〈2·3〉 動物実験による生体心筋走行を模擬した人工心筋装置の血行力学的効果の基礎検討 試作した人工心筋装置について、健常成山羊(体重 50kg)の心臓に装着し、心臓外部からの収縮支援による効果を血行力学的に調べた。なお、本研究で実施した動物実験はすべて東北大学加齢医学研究所および東北大学大学院医学系研究科の動物実験倫理委員会の審査を受け、定める規則に厳密に則って行われたものである。

3. 結果

(3·1) 試作した人工心筋装置 CT などの計測結果に 基づいて試作した人工心筋装置は図 4 に示すごとくである。 シリコーン製左心室モデルに対して装着し、いずれも過度 な変形など認められなかった。



(a) 従来型(circumferential type)



(b) 可変角度型(angular-type)

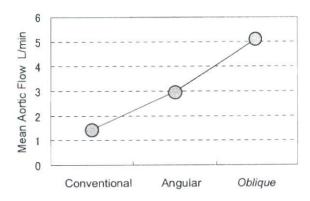


(c) 斜方収縮型(oblique type)

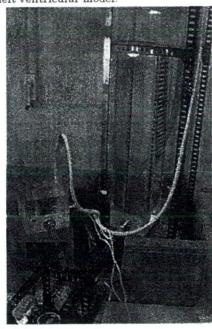
図3 シリコーン製左心室モデルに装着された、試作した3 種類の人工心筋装置

Fig. 3 Three different types of prototype models for the artificial myocardial support, which were attached on the silicone left ventricular model.

〈3・2〉 水力学的試験結果 図4は、シリコーン製左心室モデルおよび水力学的試験によって得られた人工心筋装置収縮期の単位時間あたり駆出量を比較しまとめたものであるが、自然心臓の心筋走行の走行に沿った収縮補助形態の装置 (Oblique・type)では、従来形状のもの(circumferential・type)に比べて約3倍の駆出効果を得ることが示された。



(a) 左心室モデルを用いた収縮期駆出量の比較, comparison of systolic output obtained in the hydrodynamic test circuit indicated in (b) by using the silicone left ventricular model.



(b) 定圧負荷駆出流量試験装置; hydrodynamic test circuit for the examination of output by the contraction of three types of myocardial assist devices

図4 3種の収縮補助装置の水力学的試験

Fig. 4 Hydrodynamic test circuit with the silicone left ventricular model which is capable of simulating arterial pressure loading. (3·3) 動物実験による血行力学的効果の基礎検討 いずれの収縮補助形態を用いても心臓周囲の臓器に圧迫を起こすといった空間容積的な問題は観察されなかった。図 5 従来型(circumferential)と斜方型(oblique)は動脈圧および大動脈基部流量を比較したものであるが、心筋走行に沿う形態での収縮サポートを行うことにより、収縮補助率は約1割の増大が得られることが示された。一方、収縮支援による収縮期圧の人工心筋装置非駆動時に対する上昇率は大きな違いは見られず、斜方形態の収縮によって心室駆出容量補助が有効に行われたことが示された。

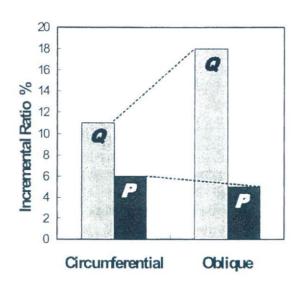


図 5 収縮支援形態の違いと非駆動時と比較した圧流量駆 出率変化

Fig. 5 Comparison of incremental ratios in cardiac output and systolic arterial pressure between the circumferential and oblique type myocardial assistance obtained in a goat.

4. まとめ

生体心臓の心筋の走行を解剖学的に調べ、有効な心筋収縮補助を行える人工心筋アクチュエータの設計を試みた。微細形状記憶合金線維を用いた人工心筋によって、充分な血液拍出をサポートしつつ生体心臓と力学的整合性の高いシステムを具現化するために、装置の形状と機能の制御のみならず、負荷側の生体心臓のメカニクスを考慮した設計が必要であることが示されつつある。多くの医用アクチュエータは、人工物の機能を強力かつ工学的に高機能にすることで、生体機能を超えた人工的なサポートを実現している。図6は左室形成術前の心室瘤をMRIデータを元に作成したものであるが、現実には、このような個別の病態に対応して外科治療戦略の一選択肢として有用なシステムの開発が望まれる。臨床現場でのシステム自体の柔軟性を保持しながら、生体一機械のアフォーダンスを具現化する人工

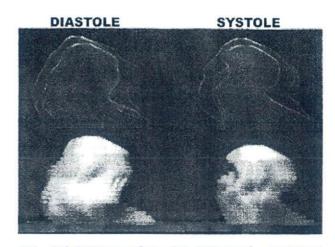


図 6 左室瘤形状のモデリング例: 術前評価データの数値再 構築 (上) および内腔形状モデル (下)

Fig. 6 An example of iastolic and systolic structure calculated from a patient's preoperative MRI measurement of ventricular aneurysm (upper) and their plastic modelling sculptured (bottom) for the preparation of ventriculoplasty.

心筋システム開発が必要であると考えられ、国産の微細機 能材料成形加工技術を応用した新しい医用アクチュエータ として今後の設計開発の展開がおもしろいところである。

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心臓収縮を補助する新しいアクチュエータ

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A sophisticated mechanism for an artificial myocardial assist device Yasuyuki SHIRAISHI¹, Tomoyuki YAMBE¹, Yoshifumi SAIJO¹, Mitsuo UMEZU³, Atsushi BABA³, Yun Luo¹, Dukyoung JUNG¹, Telma Keiko SUGAI¹, Makoto YOSHIZAWA¹, Tetsuo FUJIMOTO³, Dai HOMMA⁴ Tohoku University¹, Waseda University², Shibaura Institute of Technology³, Toki Corporation⁴

1. 緒言

これまでの重症心不全の治療に対する外科的 治療方法には, 左室形成術, 補助人工心臓など があり, 近年では, 組織工学的手法を応用した 心筋再生も現実的な治療方法となりつつある. 本研究では, 心不全の本質が心筋自体の収縮機 能の低下にあることに着目して, 収縮拡張機能 を力学的に心筋外部から補助するシステムの開 発を進めている. これは、極細の形状記憶合金 線維を応用したもので,アクチュエータ要素の 線維はおおよそ 10 億回以上の収縮弛緩繰り返し 耐久性をもち、100 マイクロメートルの直径の 線材単体で生体心筋収縮に対して約 1000 倍のオ ーダの張力を発生することができる. 要素機能 は収縮のみであるが、モータなどのもつシステ ム微小化に関わる寸法効果の問題がなく、さら に高度な可制御性を有するため循環補助要素と して種々の応用が可能であると考えている.

2. 人工心筋の構造と機能

ポンプ機能の異なる二つの心室から構成され る生体の心臓は、一つの心筋バンドに展開する ことができる. 図 2 は、健常成山羊の心臓を摘 出後,心臓壁層を心筋の走行に沿って剥離し展 開したものである. このように解剖学的には, 大動脈から肺動脈に至る複雑なねじれ構造を持 ちながらほぼ単一の収縮方向性を有する帯状の 心筋層から構成されている. さらに, 生体心臓 では、図 3 に示すように、wall-thickening effect と呼ばれる収縮時の心筋層の厚みの増加 が観察される. 微細形状記憶合金線維をアクチ ュエータとして人工心筋を構成する際に,これ らの生体心臓の構造と機能的特長を機械的に再 現することを試みている. 図 4 は、心筋層の走 向の解析に基づく人工心筋による力学的支援を 模擬循環回路において再現したものであるが, 水力学的には,心筋走向と方向が合致した左心 室収縮の補助によって、有効な血行力学的支援

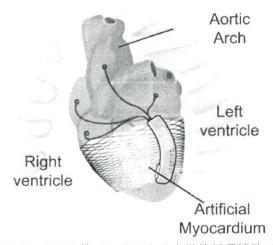


図 1 人工心筋バンドによる力学的循環補助の模式図;心臓の壁面外部に装着し,心筋収縮をサポートする.

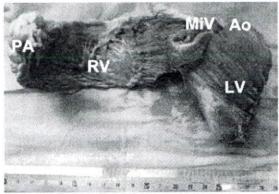


図 2 健常成山羊の摘出心を心筋層に沿って剥離展開したもの;左室心筋層が心尖部から大動脈基部に向かって約45°で走向する.

が行えることが示唆されている。さらに、これらを機械的に再現することのできる新たな構造を開発し、図 5 に示すように人工心筋バンドに構造的に付加し、成山羊を用いた動物実験においてその効果を確認しつつある。

3. 結果及び考察

これらの人工心筋の形状と機能は、充分な血行力学的補助を実現するとともに、胸腔内の限られた空間の中に埋め込まれ、心臓及び他の臓器に対する障害となってならない。そのため、長期使用を前提とした動物実験を行い、開発した人工心筋による血行力学的補助効果の検討に加えて、組織病理学的検討も併せて進めている。図4に示した構造では、水力学的には最大験では、補助時の心拍平均で約18%の平均流量の増加が観察された。また、図5に示す構造を付加した人工心筋バンドでは、従来形状のものと比較して約2.8倍の補助増加率が得られている.

4. まとめ

医工学技術を駆使した人工心筋を構築するこ とで,必要なときに制御可能で,血行力学的に 有効な補助が行える機械式人工心筋のアクチュ エータを開発した. これまで重症心不全の補助 循環治療に用いられてきた人工心臓などに関わ る血栓形成や微小梗塞の生成といった問題は少 ない装置であるが、生体心臓を介して血流に有 効な外力を伝達するメカニズムを応用するには, 心臓の収縮拡張能を妨げることなく, また組織 学的損傷を引き起こすことなく心臓外部に適正 に装着されなければならない. さらに, これら の人工心筋による収縮機能は, 自律神経系によ って制御される心臓血管系の状態に影響を及ぼ すことが考えられ,循環補助効果を得るだけで はなく生体制御系との整合を詳細に検討するシ ステムの開発が必要である. 現在, 慢性実験に よってこれらの評価を進めつつあるが、アクチ ュエータ自体の体積が小さく高効率で収縮を補 助できる人工心筋システムによって,新たな補 助循環に対するアプローチとなる可能性もあり, 今後の研究の展開が楽しみなところである.

4. まとめ

本研究およびその一部は厚生労働科学研究費補助金(H17-ナノ-009)、文部科学省科学研究費補助金(17790938, 19689209)、日本学術振興会藤田記念医学研究振興基金の助成のもと行われた。関係諸氏に謝意を表する。

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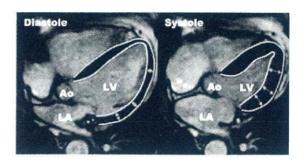


図3 健常生体心臓で観察される心臓収縮時の 壁厚増加(左:拡張期,右:収縮期);収縮時 には有効な血液拍出が行われる.

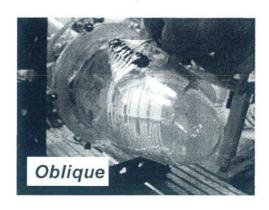


図4 模擬循環回路のシリコーン製左心室モデルに装着された人工心筋バンド (Oblique型);心尖部を囲み心室壁長軸に対して斜方に固定設置される.

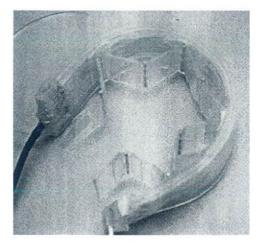


図5 心筋バンドに付加された人工心筋の収縮による効果を増大させる構造

[2] Yambe T, et al.. Development of the pulsation device for rotary blood pumps .Artif Organs. 2005 Nov;29(11):912-5

A111 形状記憶合金繊維の可制御性を応用した心筋収縮の工学的モデリング

Mechanical simulation for myocardial contractile assistance based on controllability of a sophisticated shape memory alloy fibre

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Key words: artificial myocardium, shape memory alloy fiber, heart failure, duty ratio, strain, tensile force,

1. 緒言

現在,血液と人工物の直接接触に由来する血液適合性の 問題の少ない,心臓の収縮を外部からサポートする人工心 筋システムの開発を進めている.

心不全の病態は、本質的には心筋収縮力の低下に起因する血液拍出能力の減退にあると考えられる。本研究で開発を進めるシステムは、Fig. 1 に示す形状記憶合金(トキ・コーポレーション、Biometal BMF100)を応用し、心臓の外部に直接して必要なときに必要なだけ心収縮を力学的にサポートする¹⁾. 本装置のアクチュエータである形状記憶合金繊維は、通電加熱することにより硬化、及び収縮する。また、制御方法である PWM 制御によって通電量の制御を行うことにより、生体心臓との熱伝達収支を考慮した収縮加熱を実現可能となり、アクチュエータの応答性、耐久性の向上が可能となる。

本研究では、生体心臓との収縮拡張期の力学的相互関係を考慮した人工心筋の駆動制御を目的とし、形状記憶合金繊維の可制御性を応用した制御方法の基礎的検討を行う.

2. 方法

2.1 形状記憶合金を応用した人工心筋

人工心筋は、心室内の血液拍出方向の重要因子と考えられる心筋走行を考慮して設計している.心臓に力学的な圧力を与えるタイミングとしては、心電図のR波を基準入力信号として 100~200msec の時間遅れをかけて駆動し、必要にあわせて任意の拍動数に1回収縮支援が可能である.しかしながら、生体心臓の電気的収縮信号の伝播と力学的な応答には生理学的な遅れがあるため、最適な力学的収縮支援タイミングの設定のためには、人工心筋の収縮開始時間遅れの設定だけではなく、収縮変位、収縮速度、収縮力の3つのパラメータにおいて形状記憶合金を的確に制御することが必要である.

2.2 PWM 制御の概要と制御方法

人工心筋は、一定周期で形状記憶合金に連続電流を流し、加熱収縮させる。その入力パルスを微小な時間で分割し、平均電圧を下げる PWM 制御の概要を Fig.2 に示す。 Ton の幅を変化させることにより、デューティ比を決定することができる。 Fig.2 のようにデューティ比を一定にした従来の駆動方法に対し、 Fig.3 のように通電開始から時間 Ton₁ におけるデュティ比を通電終了までの時間 Ton₂ におけるデューティ比よりも小さく設定することで、形状記憶合金に加わる通電エネルギ量が減少し、収縮速度の制御が可能になる。

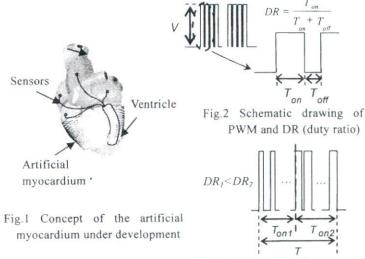


Fig.3 Schematic drawing of PWM and DR (duty ratio) on *Ton*₁ and *Ton*₂

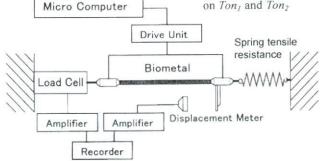


Fig.4 Schematic drawing of the measurement systems for the stress-strain characteristics of artificial myocardium

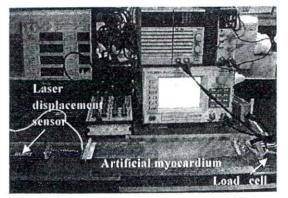


Fig.5 Whole view of the measurement system for the tensile force and strain of artificial myocardium

2.3 PWM 制御による人工心筋の応答特性試験

人工心筋の通電時の収縮変位,及び張力を計測するための試験装置の概要と試験装置全体図をそれぞれ Fig.4,5 に示す. PWM 制御のデューティ比を一定にした駆動方法と通電開始から時間 Ton₁と通電終了までの時間 Ton₂ においてそれぞれ異なるデューティ比を設定し,通電エネルギ量の変化による人工心筋の応答性を評価した.

実験条件を Table.1 に示す. 試験のために使用した人工 心筋は, 長さ 280mm, 直径 100μm の形状記憶合金繊維 20 本が並列になって構成される. 人工心筋の一方を微小荷重ロードセルに接続し, 他方は収縮抗力としてバネ常数 0.481kgf/mm の引っ張りバネに接続した. 直流電流を流して 伸長・収縮させた. 収縮変位, 及び張力はそれぞれレーザ変 位センサ, ロードセルを用いて計測を行った.

3. 結果および考察

PWM 制御による人工心筋の応答特性試験によって得られ た収縮変位,及び張力の変化を Fig.6,7 に示す. デューティ 比を低減させ、通電エネルギ量を低下させた場合には、変位、 張力とも極大値を示す時間は延長した. 極大値に達するまで の平均収縮速度は, デューティ比が20%の時間が150, 100, Omsec それぞれで 5.86cm/sec, 9.03cm/sec, 20.9cm/sec であ った. ここで, デューティ比の平均値を平均エネルギとして 収縮速度,及び極大値までの時間との関係を Fig.8 に示す. 生体心の心室短軸の表面収縮速度が2.5cm/secであることを 考慮すると2)、形状記憶合金に加える平均エネルギが約27% で生体心筋の収縮速度に相当する速度を生成できる. また, 加えるエネルギ量を減らすことにより,極大値までの時間遅れ は大きくなるが、極大値にはほとんど変化がないことから、収 縮変位と収縮力を保ったまま収縮速度の制御が可能となっ た. このように負荷エネルギを変化させることによって、R 波か ら心室圧上昇までの遅れ時間と血液拍出時の圧力と拍出量 血管系の負荷を考慮した収縮メカニズムに対応した収縮補 助が可能となる.

4. 結言

本研究では、通電加熱時の負荷エネルギ量を変化させ、 収縮変位、速度、発生張力の応答性を調べた.PWM 制御の デューティ比を的確に変化させることにより、人工心筋の収縮 変位、最大収縮速度を制御することが可能であることが示さ れた.

今後, 生体に埋め込む場合, これらの関係を考慮した駆動 方法とともに生体の収縮速度とそれに伴って圧制する心室内 圧と整合して心収縮を補助することが望まれる.

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Table1 Strain and tensile force test condition under the different duration energized for each duty ratio

Items			Values	
Duration energized 7	ms		200	
Ton_I	msec	150	100	
Duty ratio on Ton ₁	%	2	20	_
Ton ₂	msec	50	100	200
Duty ratio on Ton2	%	95		
Drive voltage	V	34		
Period	sec	5.0		
Average energy	%	38.6	58.6	95

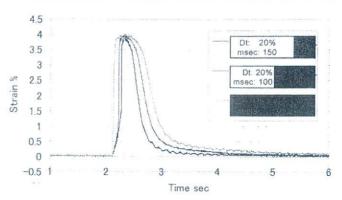


Fig.6 Changes in the strain from three different duty ratio

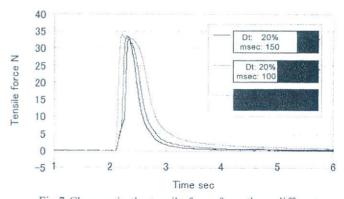


Fig.7 Changes in the tensile force from three different duty ratio

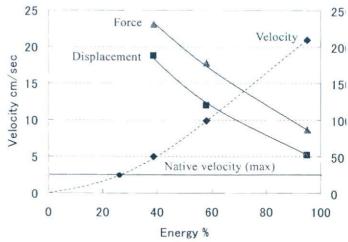


Fig.8 Energy-velocity and peak delay relations of artificial myocardium from three different duty ratio

637 人工心筋補助のための生体心臓メカニクスの基礎検討

Mechanical analysis of morphological structure of a heart for more sophisticated design of the artificial myocardium

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Keywords: myocardial structure, artificial myocardium, hemodynamics, animal experiment, shape memory alloy fibre

1. 緒言

心臓が全身の臓器の需要に見合う充分な血液量を駆出できない場合や、または血液拍出が充分であっても心室充満圧が上昇する場合、内科的にもしくは外科的に治療がなされる。現在、このような心不全状態がとくに重篤であれば、心臓移植を最終手段として、補助人工心臓を用いた循環の補助が行われる。しかしながら医用アクチュエータとして人工的補助循環に用いられるシステムは、主として血液との直接的な接触によってポンプ機能を代替するものであり、自己化した組織でない人工物と接することによって促進される微小血栓による梗塞形成の問題が臨床応用時には懸念されている。

現在、形状記憶合金線維を応用した生体心筋の収縮を力 学的にサポートする人工心筋開発を進めている。これは、 血液駆出能力の低下した心臓を外部から心電図と同期させ て心室挙動の一部を補助するものである。

心不全の病態には、さまざまなものがあるが、その本質は心筋自体の収縮能の低下であると考えられる。これまで、心臓を外部から力学的にサポートすることにより、循環動態と改善しうる血圧および流量の増大可能性が示されているが、本研究では、より詳細に心筋走行の観点から生体心臓構造を調べ、それに基づいて形状機構合金線維を用いた人工心筋装置を試作し、動物実験においてその基礎的な血行力学的効果を検討した。

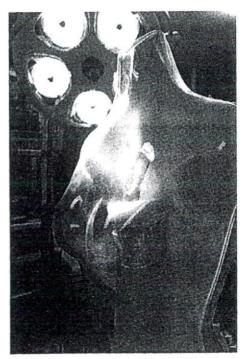


Fig. 1 A shape memory alloy fibred artificial myocardium presented, which was attached onto a silicone rubber left ventricle.

2. 方法

2.1. 生体心臓の心筋走行

Fig. 2 は、健常成山羊の摘出心を心筋走行および層構造に対して剥離し展開したものであるが、ポンプ機能の異なる左右の心室から構成される生体の心臓は、このように一つの心筋バンド形状として示される。おおよそ、肺動脈弁(図中 PA)から、右心室部位を心臓の周方向に巻き、多層構造を形成しながら、左心室自由壁および中隔を心尖部から大動脈弁に至るがごとく回旋した形で展開される。本研究では、展開し固定した心臓バンドに樹脂製マーカを縫着し、正常形態に再構成した後、MDCT (Siemens, Somatom Definition)により各層を構成する心筋走行方向を計測した。

2. 2. 人工心筋装置による収縮方向と左室収縮補助効果の 基礎検討

心筋走行に関する解剖学的知見は、通常左開胸下で観察される心臓全体の収縮期の3次元的な挙動と一致しており、人工心筋による補助時にもこれらの収縮方向を考慮することが有効であると考えられたため、(a)従来の左室短軸に沿った収縮装置(b)左室壁の心筋走行に沿う人工心筋走行とした収縮装置を試作した。この人工心筋装置それぞれについて、健常成山羊(体重50kg)の心臓に装着し、心臓外部からの収縮支援による効果を血行力学的に調べた。なお、本研究で実施した動物実験はすべて東北大学加齢医学研究所および東北大学大学院医学系研究科の動物実験倫理委員会の審査を受け、定める規則に厳密に則って行われたものである。

3. 結果とまとめ

MDCTによる健常心臓の形態再構築により、左室自由壁外側の心筋走行方向は、左室長軸に対して平均40°の迎え角で構成された。実際には、収縮および拡張時にこれらの心筋走行も含めてさらに複雑な収縮拡張形態を示すが、Fig.4 に示すがごとく人工心筋装置を試作した。Fig.5 は動物実験において、得られた大動脈基部の圧流量関係から算出した血流交流成分の特性インピーダンスであるが、これらの結果から、心尖部から大動脈への収縮支援が容量駆出により有効である可能性が示された。微細形状記憶合金線維を用いた人工心筋によって、充分な血液拍出をサポートしつつ生体心臓と力学的整合性の高いシステムを具現化するために、装置の形状と機能の制御のみならず、負荷側の生体心臓のメカニクスを考慮した設計が必要であることが示されつつある。

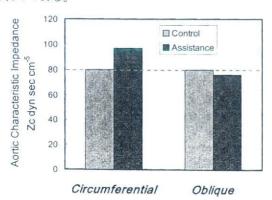


Fig. 5 Changes in characteristic impedance obtained in the goat by using two different types of myocardial assist devices.



Fig. 2 A goat's heart unfolded by Torrent-Guasp procedure.

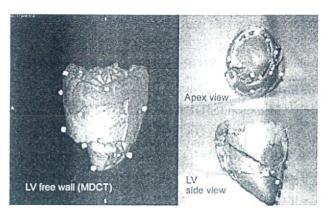


Fig. 3 Reconstruction and 3D representation by a MDCT of the goat's heart with plastic markers



(a) Circumferential design



(b) Oblique design

Fig. 4 Two different types of the artificial myocardial assist devices applied in the healthy goats' cardiac support.

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