

prepared by the mixed biological ink system enhanced by alginate and extracellular matrix have been proved to promote cell proliferation and differentiation and angiogenesis in vivo (Figure 1.9).

Xie et al. [82] explored the potential application of 3D printing technology in drug screening in vitro. They successfully constructed a liver cancer model in a 3D structure made from a mixture of gelatin and sodium alginate. In the process of long-term culture in vitro, its tumorigenic potential and histological characteristics were preserved, which provided a platform for screening anticancer drugs in vitro.

Ma et al. constructed a multi-scale hierarchical bioactive calcium silicate nanowire/alginate composite hydrogel scaffold for tendon-to-bone interface tissue engineering. Three-dimensional printing technology was combined with mechanical stretching methods to introduce biomimetic reinforcement structures from nano- to micrometer- to micro-scale in this composite hydrogel, which significantly improved the mechanical properties. Experiments showed that the biochemical and topographical characteristics of the composite hydrogel provided a favorable microenvironment for rabbit bone marrow mesenchymal stem cells and tendon stem cells to promote their directional alignment and induced differentiation. The composite scaffold significantly promoted the regeneration of tendon–bone tissue in vivo, especially in the fibrocartilage transition zone. Therefore, this multi-scale structural design provides an innovative strategy for the engineering of functionalized tendon–bone tissues [83].

Zhu et al. prepared a multifunctional nanocomposite bioink for extrusion bioprinting using amine-functionalized copper (Cu), oxidized alginate, gelatin, and mesoporous bioactive glass nanoparticles (ACuMBGNs). This ink has good rheological properties and structural stability. Rapid cell spreading and high survival were supported by the reversible dynamic microenvironment and cell adhesion ligands introduced by aminated particles. Osteogenic differentiation and angiogenesis of mouse bone marrow stromal stem cells (BMSCs) were promoted in the bioprinted scaffolds without additional growth factors. This nanocomposite biomaterial is expected to be a superior platform for bioprinting complex three-dimensional matrix environments for superior cell support [84].

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