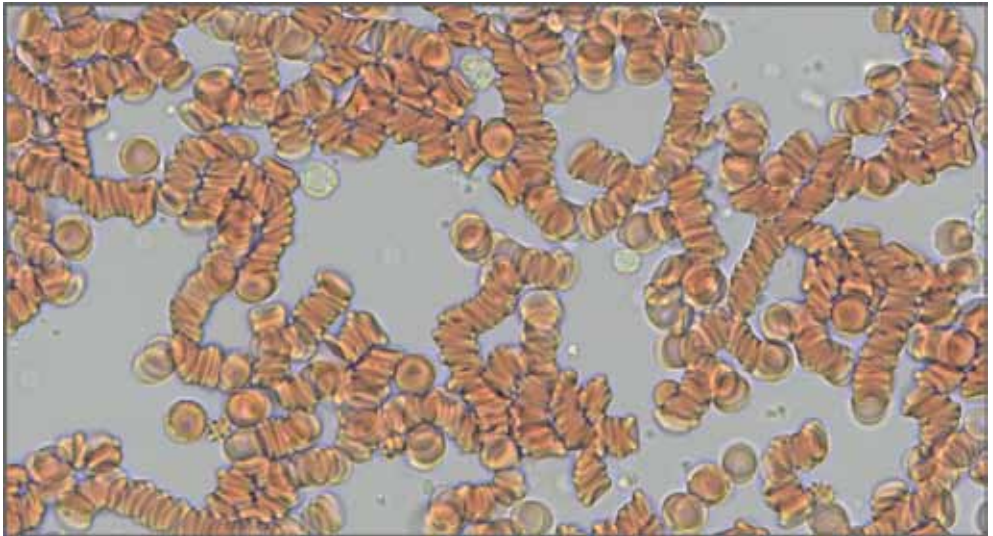


Sebastian V. Jansen

Development of an In-Vitro Fluorescent Haemolysis Detection Method Using Ghost Cells



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Herausgeber:

Univ.-Prof. Dr.-Ing. Dr. med. Steffen Leonhardt

Univ.-Prof. Dr.-Ing. Klaus Radermacher

Univ.-Prof. Dr. med. Dipl.-Ing. Thomas Schmitz-Rode

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Entwicklung einer fluoreszenzbasierten in-vitro Hämolyse
Detektion mit Ghost Cells

Von der Fakultät für Maschinenwesen der Rheinisch-Westfälischen Technischen Hochschule Aachen zur Erlangung des akademischen Grades eines
Doktors der Ingenieurwissenschaften genehmigte Dissertation

vorgelegt von
Sebastian Victor Jansen

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Univ.-Prof. Dr.-Ing. W. Schröder

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Ein Beitrag aus dem Institut für Angewandte Medizintechnik der RWTH Aachen, Lehr- und Forschungsgebiet Kardiovaskuläre Technik (Leitung: Univ.-Prof. Dr.-Ing. Ulrich Steinseifer).



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Internet: www.shaker.de • e-mail: info@shaker.de

**To My Parents
and
Miriam**



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Abstract

Cardiovascular devices that are in direct contact to the blood stream, such as heart-valve prostheses or blood pumps, need to be designed with respect to a minimal extent of blood damage. Device induced, flow field related stress can cause mechanical destruction of blood cells (haemolysis) or artificially trigger a physiological blood clotting reaction (thrombosis) with life-threatening consequences. In order to analyse the risk of blood damage in a device, a variety of experimental and numerical methods are available. However, experimental methods are currently impeded by the inapplicability of optical measurement techniques, due to the low transparency of blood, which is majorly determined by the protein haemoglobin inside the red blood cells. The haemoglobin content of the red blood cells can be diluted by a special procedure and the remaining haemoglobin-poor erythrocytes are termed ghost cells. Due to the reduced haemoglobin content, ghost cells possess a markedly higher transparency compared to normal erythrocytes.

This thesis shows that a suspension of ghost cells can be used as a blood analogue fluid in combination with optical measurement techniques in order to improve the determination of blood damage. Especially, a novel optical measurement principle based on ghost cells is presented that is able to detect haemolysis spatially resolved for the first time. Ghost cells are prepared from porcine erythrocytes using a customized procedure. The rheology of the ghost cell suspension is comparable to normal blood, whereas the transparency of the suspension is highly increased and enables the use of optical measurement techniques. The novel haemolysis detection method, for which the term Fluorescent Haemolysis Detection (FHD) is proposed, is based on the idea that a target substance is enclosed in the ghost cells and a corresponding fluorescent indicator is suspended in the plasma. In the case of a cell lysis (haemolysis) the indicator binds to the target and emits a fluorescent signal which can be recorded by a camera. A corresponding experiment proves the functioning of the principle. This might help manufactures of cardiovascular devices to reduce device-induced blood trauma and might boost the understanding of the underlying mechanisms of haemolysis and thrombosis.

Übersicht

Kardiovaskuläre Systeme in direktem Blutstrom, wie zum Beispiel Herzklappenprothesen oder Blutpumpen, müssen im Hinblick auf eine minimale systeminduzierte Blutschädigung ausgelegt werden. Das vom System veränderte Strömungsfeld und dessen Kräfte können zur mechanischen Zerstörung von Blutzellen (Hämolyse) führen sowie eine Gerinnungsreaktion auslösen (Thrombose) mit möglicherweise lebensgefährlichen Konsequenzen. Es existieren eine Reihe von numerischen und experimentellen Methoden, um die Blutschädigung eines Systems zu analysieren. Eine Limitation dieser Methoden ist jedoch die mangelnde Transparenz von Blut, die eine Anwendung optischer Methoden nicht möglich macht. Die Opazität des Bluts wird durch das Protein Hämoglobin in den Erythrozyten hervorgerufen. Durch eine Prozedur kann der Hämoglobingehalt der Erythrozyten verringert werden. Die hämoglobinarmeren Erythrozyten werden Ghost cells genannt und sind wesentlich transparenter als normale Erythrozyten.

In dieser Doktorarbeit wird gezeigt, dass eine Suspension mit Ghost cells als blut-analoges Fluid für optische Messmethoden eingesetzt werden kann und somit die Analyse von Blutschädigung verbessert. Insbesondere wird ein neuartiges Messprinzip vorgestellt, welches zum ersten Mal eine orts aufgelöste Detektion von Hämolyse ermöglicht. Ghost cells werden aus Erythrozyten von Schweineblut in einer angepassten Prozedur hergestellt. Die Rheologie der Suspension ist vergleichbar mit normalem Blut, die Transparenz ist dagegen deutlich höher und ermöglicht die Anwendung optischer Messmethoden. Die neuartige Hämolyse detektion basiert auf der Idee eine Targets substanz in den Ghost cells einzuschließen, wohingegen ein fluoreszierender Indikator ins Plasma suspendiert wird. Im Falle der Zellyse (Hämolyse) bindet der Indikator an das Target und emittiert ein Fluoreszenzsignal, welches mit einer Kamera aufgezeichnet werden kann. Die Funktion dieses Prinzips wird in einem entsprechenden Experiment gezeigt. Dieses Prinzip kann Herstellern kardiovaskulärer Systeme bei der Reduzierung systeminduzierter Blutschädigung helfen. Darüber hinaus kann eine solche Methode auch zu einem größeren Verständnis über die zugrundeliegenden Mechanismen von Hämolyse und Thrombose beitragen.

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