

DNA纳米花在疾病诊断中的应用研究进展

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收稿日期: 2026年2月24日; 录用日期: 2026年3月20日; 发布日期: 2026年3月31日

摘要

DNA纳米花(DNA Nanoflowers, DNFs)作为滚环扩增介导自组装的新型三维纳米材料, 凭借其高负载能力、良好生物相容性与高度可编程性, 成为突破传统诊断技术瓶颈的重要工具。本文综述了DNFs的合成原理与关键调控因素, 重点阐述其在疾病诊断中的应用进展。在肿瘤诊断领域, 可实现BRCA1基因、CEA等标志物的高灵敏检测, 并在液体活检中高效分离识别肿瘤细胞、外泌体及相关miRNA; 在病原体检测中, 与CRISPR、等温扩增等技术联用, 实现乙肝、新冠等病毒及金黄色葡萄球菌、黄曲霉毒素B1等的超灵敏、多重检测; 同时在糖尿病、肾损伤等疾病标志物检测中展现出优异性能。此外, 本文还剖析了其在体内稳定性、规模化制备及临床转化方面的核心瓶颈, 并从材料优化、技术融合与应用场景拓展三方面, 展望了其未来发展方向与临床转化潜力。

关键词

DNA纳米花, 疾病诊断, 生物传感, 肿瘤标志物, 病原体检测

Research Progress on the Application of DNA Nanoflowers in Disease Diagnosis

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Received: February 24, 2026; accepted: March 20, 2026; published: March 31, 2026

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Abstract

DNA nanoflowers (DNFs) are a new type of three-dimensional nanomaterial that self-assembles through rolling circle amplification. With high loading capacity, good biocompatibility, and high programmability, they have become a core tool for breaking through the bottlenecks of traditional diagnostic technologies. This article reviews the synthesis principles and key regulatory factors of DNFs, and focuses on their application progress in disease diagnosis. In the field of tumor diagnosis, they can achieve high-sensitivity detection of biomarkers such as BRCA1 genes and CEA, and efficiently separate and identify circulating tumor cells, exosomes, and related miRNAs in liquid biopsy; in pathogen detection, when combined with CRISPR, isothermal amplification, etc., they can achieve ultra-sensitive and multiplex detection of viruses such as hepatitis B and COVID-19, and bacteria such as *Staphylococcus aureus* and aflatoxin B1; at the same time, they show excellent performance in the detection of disease markers such as diabetes and kidney injury. In addition, this article also analyzes the core bottlenecks in in vivo stability, large-scale preparation, and clinical transformation of DNFs, and from three aspects of material optimization, technology integration, and application scope expansion, looks forward to its future development direction and clinical transformation potential.

Keywords

DNA Nanoflowers, Disease Diagnosis, Biosensing, Tumor Markers, Pathogen Detection

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1. 引言

疾病的早期精准诊断对于改善患者的预后、减轻全球疾病负担意义重大,做到早发现、早治疗可以明显提高其5年生存率[1]。基于临床的需求,无论是肿瘤标志物的微量测定还是病原体的快速鉴定等,都需要具有高灵敏度、高特异性及易操作的检测技术来实现。但是,传统的检测手段依旧存在许多限制因素,比如酶联免疫吸附试验检测方法检测时灵敏度不高,容易出现漏检的情况;通过常规PCR检测的灵敏度很高,但是需要经历核酸的提取、扩增等过程,过程繁琐且容易出现假阳性的情况;利用免疫层析试纸条虽然方便简单但是不适用于微量分析。DNA纳米材料由于具有不同于普通材料的特殊性质在生物传感领域中获得了突破性的进展。DNA纳米花(DNA Nanoflowers, DNFs)是以环形单链DNA为模板,在DNA聚合酶的作用下,引物经滚环扩增(Rolling Circle Amplification, RCA)形成超长单链DNA,与反应副产物焦磷酸根及溶液中的阳离子自组装而成的一类尺寸约50~500 nm的三维花状纳米颗粒[2]。相较于普通的纳米载体,DNFs具有四个重要的特征。首先,其具有高效的自组装性能,控制模板的设计及反应的条件可以实现对粒径大小的精细调控(50~500 nm)以满足不同的使用需求;其次,DNFs的三维花状结构赋予其超高负载能力,一个DNFs可负载上百种信号分子或者靶向配体,使得信号放大及功能集成更加方便;此外,DNFs具有良好的生物相容性,其DNA骨架本身无毒副作用,经过PEG修饰、多糖包裹等方式修饰后,也可以大幅度降低其免疫原性及增强内化能力,并有效避免体内核酸酶的降解;最后,由于DNFs具有可编程性,可以将DNFs分别用于修饰抗体、适配体、核酸探针等不同靶向分子,实现对其不同类型的靶标的选择性识别,相比传统纳米材料的一元化功能具有很大优势[3] [4]。DNA纳米花在

疾病诊断及治疗[5][6]、靶向递送[7][8]、生物成像[9][10]、生物分离工程[11]、蛋白质固定[12]等生物医学领域有广泛应用前景。本文就疾病诊断方面综述了 DNFs 的研究进展, 首先简要介绍了 DNA 纳米花的合成原理, 其次如图 1 所示, 围绕肿瘤、病原体感染等重点方面阐述了该技术应用于疾病的检测能力和重要性能。

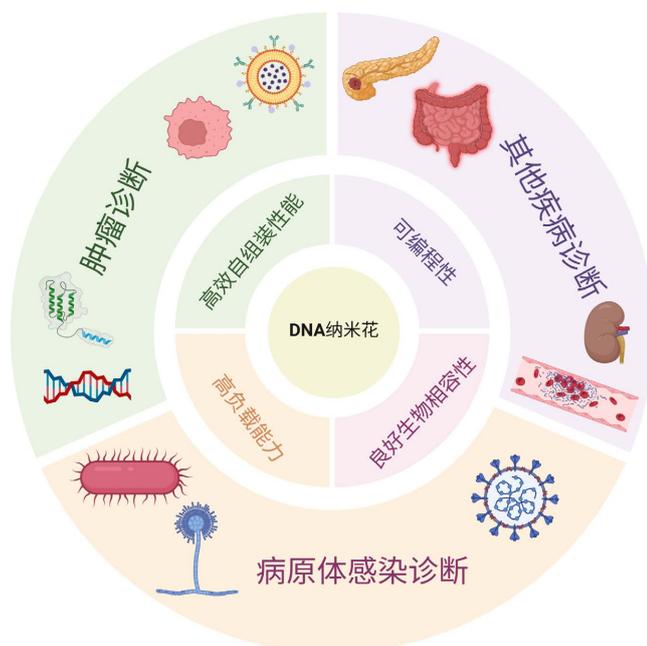


Figure 1. The application of DNA nanoflowers in disease diagnosis
图 1. DNA 纳米花在疾病诊断中的应用

2. DNA 纳米花的合成原理

DNFs 的合成过程是 RCA 介导的有机 - 无机杂化自组装。该过程主要分为三个关键步骤, 即环形模板制备、酶促扩增与杂化自组装。首先, 通过 T₄ DNA 连接酶等工具将线性单链 DNA 环化, 构建具有互补序列的环形单链 DNA 模板; 随后, 在 DNA 聚合酶的催化下, 引物与环形模板特异性结合并启动连续的链延伸反应, 通过 RCA 技术实现目标序列的指数级扩增, 最终生成长度可达数万个核苷酸的超长单链 DNA, 该过程中脱氧核苷三磷酸(dNTP)的聚合会释放焦磷酸根, 其可与反应缓冲液中存在的 Mg²⁺、Co²⁺、Mn²⁺、Cu²⁺等金属离子共结晶, 形成无机纳米晶核; 最后, 超长单链 DNA 凭借自身携带的大量互补重复序列, 通过 Watson-Crick 碱基配对发生自发折叠、缠绕, 同时与无机晶核相互作用, 自组装形成形貌均一、具有三维网状结构的花状纳米颗粒, 即 DNFs [2] [13]。这种有机 - 无机杂化结构不仅赋予其良好的结构稳定性, 部分金属离子(如 Co²⁺、Mn²⁺、Cu²⁺)还可使 DNFs 具备磁性等额外功能[14] [15]。

DNFs 的合成效率、形貌均一性与功能特性, 受多种因素调控。DNA 纳米花的结构刚性及稳定性受序列组成(如 C 碱基、T 碱基)、重复长度与排列顺序调控, 适度重复的模块化序列可通过形成规则结构增强刚性, 过度重复的同源序列(如 G 均聚物)会因异常稳定结构(如 G-四链体)导致整体僵化。模板序列的长度与重复单元数量决定超长单链 DNA 的折叠程度与 DNFs 粒径(可实现 50~500 nm 精准调控); 聚合酶的种类与用量影响 DNA 链的扩增效率, Phi29 DNA 聚合酶因具有高保真度与强链置换活性, 仍是目前 RCA 介导合成中最常用的酶, 而 TdT 酶则适用于无需模板的功能化 DNFs 合成; 反应体系的温度、pH 值、dNTP 浓度与金属离子类型, 直接影响酶活性、焦磷酸结晶效率与自组装过程, 优化反应条件可有效

减少粒径分布不均、结构松散等问题[16];此外,DNA链的修饰方式也可调控合成过程,如通过引入特定功能基团,可实现DNFs的定向自组装与功能集成[17][18]。

3. DNA 纳米花在疾病诊断中的应用

3.1. 肿瘤诊断

DNFs在肿瘤诊断中不仅展现在蛋白质、核酸等肿瘤标志物检测中的应用价值,其聚焦液体活检更是突破传统肿瘤诊断局限的有力尝试。并且对于肿瘤标志物检测,DNFs已实现完备、有层次的多维靶标分析,展现出鲜明的技术优势与临床转化潜力。

通过合理构建基于DNFs的检测平台可高灵敏检测肿瘤标志物。张玉琪等[19]开发了二亚胺-金属有机框架与DNFs量子点复合的双电位比率电化学发光传感器,通过DNA步行器扩增与滚环扩增自组装增强信号,实现BRCA1基因与CEA的同步检测。另外,基于滚环扩增长成光催化DNA/SYBR Green I纳米花,结合酶联免疫吸附测定构建的比色传感器可实现CEA的可视化检测[20]。余新生等[21]提出Y形DNA介导的生物矿化策略合成Y-DNA@CuP杂化纳米花,以其为基因载体通过荧光成像实现肿瘤相关TK1 mRNA的细胞内高灵敏检测,可区分肿瘤与正常细胞。李亚楠等[22]以DNFs为核心载体开发了肾清除型CRISPR纳米传感器,其可靶向递送CRISPR/Cas12a系统至肿瘤细胞线粒体,特异性识别mtDNA突变并产生可经肾脏清除的荧光生物标志物,通过尿液检测实现肿瘤进展与转移的无创、高灵敏监测,能检出~1 mm³的微小病灶。张帆等[23]开发了程序化荧光编码DNFs系统,整合了CD63适配体靶向区域、双荧光团编码区域及miRNA识别区域,通过调控双荧光团与三个强度等级生成9种独特条形码,可在乳腺癌细胞中实现9种相关miRNA的细胞特异性靶向多重成像。

液体活检以血液等体液为检测样本分析外泌体、循环肿瘤细胞等肿瘤相关标志物,具备微创/无创、可实时动态监测、早期可及的核心特点[24]。DNFs不仅能通过滚环扩增长成含重复EpCAM适配体以实现肿瘤来源外泌体(T-EVs)的高效分离、特异性检测及温和释放,还能结合单颗粒分析技术实现单胞外囊泡水平蛋白与miRNA的共定位检测[25][26],是肿瘤早期诊断的极佳工具。Chia-Wei Kuo等[27]开发了无表面、无洗涤的溶液内检测方法,利用高密度负载约200个荧光量子点的DNFs与转移性去势抵抗性前列腺癌(mCRPC)相关miRNA原位化学计量组装,可通过比率和五色QD特征区分多种miRNA序列,成功检测mCRPC患者小体积血浆外泌体miRNA。针对肿瘤细胞的检测,向佳辉等[28]通过滚环扩增长成封装辣根过氧化物酶的DNFs,结合多价适配体构建兼具荧光与比色信号的多功能探针,用于临床细胞学标本快速检测,荧光检测灵敏度与特异性分别达88.64%和84.85%,且步骤简化、耗时显著缩短。魏朝晖等[29]以含多聚腺嘌呤的双嵌段DNA为支架,通过一锅法金属化合成长纳米花状光热纳米酶,其兼具高比表面积、过氧化物酶模拟活性及生物识别能力,对HeLa细胞的检测限低至10 cells/mL,选择性良好且在稀释人血清样本中回收率达98.5%~99.5%。

DNFs在肿瘤诊断中的优势集中于多靶标同步检测,特别是在液体活检中展现出超越传统技术的潜力。例如,传统载体脂质体的负载量受囊泡表面积限制,靶向结合效率偏低。而DNFs的三维花状结构由超长单链DNA自组装形成,表面及内部存在大量可修饰位点,可实现上百个靶向分子与信号分子的高密度共负载。

3.2. 病原体感染诊断

DNFs的高负载特性与信号放大优势结合适配体等靶向元件可实现病毒、细菌、真菌及其代谢产物等的高灵敏、高特异检测,且兼容电化学、荧光等多元检测模式,能耐受各类复杂样本基质,满足实验室分析与现场快速筛查需求。

DNFs 可与等温扩增、CRISPR、固态纳米通道等技术联用, 显著提升病毒检测的灵敏度与特异性, 实现单核苷酸分辨、多重病原快速筛查及超灵敏无标记检测, 为乙肝、新冠等多种病毒的高效精准检测提供了高性能新方案。齐丽娟等[30]整合了 DNFs、环介导等温扩增(LAMP)与链置换反应构建无分离核酸检测平台, 以商用验孕试纸为信号读出工具, 特异性检测 HBVrtL180M 耐药突变, 可区分单核苷酸多态性。张宏等[31]开发了一站式 CRISPR 检测平台, 以 DNFs 提升探针负载量与信噪比, 结合商用验孕试纸与四通道微流控芯片, 25 分钟内实现 SARS-CoV-2、MERS、流感 A/B 等呼吸道病毒的多重检测。张曼等[32]基于滚环扩增合成 DNFs, 通过荧光探针杂交与 HRP 封装 DNFs 催化 TMB 显色实现双信号输出检测 SARS-CoV-2 刺突蛋白 RBD。林美华等[33]开发了集成双基因 RCA 与氧化石墨烯纳米流体离子通道的固态纳米通道生物传感器, 通过 S/N 基因触发 RCA 生成高电荷 DNA 纳米花并与 GO 膜表面捕获探针杂交, 对 SARS-CoV-2 假病毒的检测限低至 0.3 copies/ μL (S 基因)和 0.4 copies/ μL (N 基因), 比单基因检测灵敏度提升 10 倍, 为新冠病毒的超灵敏特异性检测提供了无标记平台。

在细菌及真菌检测中, 通过构建基于 DNA 步行器与 DNFs 的双信号放大电化学传感器, 可以实现对金黄色葡萄球菌的特异、灵敏检测。金黄色葡萄球菌与适配体结合后释放 DNA 步行器, 经外切核酸酶 III 水解及 RCA 合成负载亚甲基蓝的 DNA 纳米花增强信号, 检测限 9 CFU/mL [34]。王玉彤等[35]开发了基于万古霉素功能化磁珠(Van-MNPs)磁分离与 RCA 合成 DNFs 信号放大的比色生物传感器, 通过 Van-MNPs 富集金黄色葡萄球菌, 利用生物素-链霉亲和素系统介导 DNFs 与 SA-HRP 结合, 经 TMB 显色实现检测, 检测限达 3.3×10^3 CFU/mL。介孔二氧化硅纳米颗粒、核酸掺杂纳米花增强的单交叉引物荧光传感器, 结合便携式 PCR 管荧光阅读器, 通过纳米花提高单交叉引物扩增效率, 实现副溶血性弧菌的等温现场检测[36]。牛兴远等[37]开发了一种基于可编程 DNFs 原位合成金纳米簇并与 Mn-MOF 结合的荧光适体传感器, 实现对 AFB1 的高灵敏检测, 检测限达 7 pg/mL。

DNFs 与 CRISPR、等温扩增等技术的联用极大提升了病原体检测的灵敏度与速度, 尤其适用于基层医疗机构的现场筛查。例如, CRISPR/Cas 系统严格的 PAM 序列识别和靶标序列互补配对对双重约束赋予了其单碱基水平的精准区分能力, 且 DNFs 与 CRISPR 的组合实现了 RCA 靶标扩增与 CRISPR 反式切割信号放大的双重级联。

3.3. 其他疾病诊断

基于 DNFs 的高负载、可编程等特性, 通过多酶共固定、级联信号放大、光电催化、电化学发光等技术路径, 学者们还构建了针对糖尿病、肾损伤、炎症性肠病等疾病的高灵敏检测平台, 在临床血清、尿液、粪便等样本中表现出良好的准确性、回收率及适用性, 为相关疾病的诊断提供了高效、可靠的生物传感工具。

李雅丽等[38]提出一种基于 DNA 定向固定化策略的 DNFs 多酶共固定系统, 将葡萄糖氧化酶(GOx)和辣根过氧化物酶(HRP)分别偶联互补序列后锚定于 DNFs 预设位点, 在最优酶摩尔比下催化活性是游离酶的 7.4 倍, 适用于人体血清样本中葡萄糖的比色检测。李宇轩等[39]构建了以 DNFs 为信号放大元件、石墨烯包覆铜掺杂氧化锌量子点修饰 FTO 为工作电极的光电化学生物传感器, 实现了凝血酶的灵敏检测。季晨等[40]开发了 DNFs 驱动的 CRISPR/Cas12a 生物传感平台, 通过 DNFs 实现蛋白质标志物输入信号放大、CRISPR/Cas12a 反式切割实现输出信号的级联放大机制, 对肾损伤标志物的检测限达 500 fg/mL。吕福金等[41]通过 RCA 技术制备了负载 ZnPPIX/TSPP 卟啉光电话活性中心的电化学发光 DNA 纳米花, 并构建突变体嵌入钙卫蛋白结合基序, 对炎症性肠病标志物粪便钙卫蛋白的检测限比标准 ELISA 低 2 个数量级。

DNFs 在糖尿病、肾损伤等疾病检测中展现出高灵敏、高特异的优点, 尤其适合微量标志物的精准定

量。DNFs 的应用提升了传统疾病标志物的检测方法的性能。例如, DNFs 对酶、信号分子或电子媒介体的高负载能力使得传统比色检测、电化学检测等的信号大大增强, 通过可编程序列设计还可实现多重检测。

4. 讨论与展望

DNFs 作为一种新型纳米材料, 由于其具有高效自组装性能、高负载能力、良好生物相容性、可编程性等诸多突出优点, 在疾病诊断领域成为解决诊断难题的良好工具。在肿瘤诊断、病原体快速筛查及多类疾病标志物检测中都实现了对传统诊断技术灵敏度低、特异性差、操作繁琐等瓶颈的有效突破。尽管如此, 从目前的研究到真正的临床应用, 仍存在几个关键性问题需要解决。一是体内稳定性不足, 其 DNA 骨架易被核酸酶降解, 体内代谢、免疫原性及长期安全性尚未充分验证, 且 DNFs 的 DNA 骨架带有负电荷, 同时表面存在疏水区域, 易与生物样本中的带电分子、疏水分子发生非特异性相互作用; 二是规模化制备困难, 依赖 RCA 技术, 易出现粒径不均、结构不稳定问题, 且成本较高; 三是临床转化滞后, 多停留在细胞与动物实验阶段, 缺乏大规模临床试验数据, 试剂标准化与流程规范化尚未完善, 三者共同制约其临床落地。未来可从以下三个方面推动 DNFs 诊断技术发展。材料优化上, 优化合成与修饰工艺, 如聚乙二醇修饰、牛血清白蛋白修饰, 提升其体内抗降解能力与生物安全性, 减少非特异性吸附; 技术融合上, 整合微流控、CRISPR 等前沿技术, 简化操作、提升检测性能, 推动诊断与治疗一体化; 应用场景上, 拓展至疾病预后与疗效监测, 开发基层便携产品, 延伸应用范围。

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