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Perspective

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Magnetic Hydrogels in Revolutionizing Biomedical and Environmental Applications

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DESCRIPTION

Magnetic hydrogels, a subclass of smart hydrogels that respond to magnetic fields, are hybrid materials composed of hydrogel matrices incorporated with magnetic nanoparticles. Their unique properties, including biocompatibility, responsiveness to external stimuli, and the ability to encapsulate and release bioactive agents, make them ideal for diverse biomedical and environmental applications. Magnetic hydrogels are used for controlled and targeted drug delivery. Under the influence of an external magnetic field, the hydrogel's structure changes, thereby triggering the release of the encapsulated drug at the desired site. For instance, cancer treatment often involves the targeted delivery of chemotherapeutic drugs, reducing systemic toxicity and enhancing therapeutic efficacy. The biocompatible and porous structure of magnetic hydrogels supports cell growth and tissue regeneration, making them suitable scaffolds for tissue engineering. For instance, they have been utilized in bone, cartilage, and vascular tissue regeneration.

An external magnetic field can guide and manipulate these hydrogels, providing additional control over tissue construction. In hyperthermia therapy for cancer treatment, magnetic hydrogels are used to generate localized heat. When subjected to an alternating magnetic field, magnetic nanoparticles within the hydrogel heat up, destroying the surrounding cancer cells without damaging healthy tissues. Magnetic hydrogels are also used in biosensing applications. Changes in magnetic fields can be detected and correlated with the presence of specific biomolecules, enabling the diagnosis of diseases. Magnetic hydrogels have been employed for water purification, removing pollutants like heavy metals, dyes, and organic pollutants. The hydrogel can encapsulate pollutant particles, and an external magnetic field can then be used to collect and remove the hydrogel from the water.

AT1 in response to environmental disasters such as oil spills, magnetic hydrogels can absorb and encapsulate the oil. Subsequently, a magnetic field can be used to recover the oil-laden hydrogel, facilitating cleanup. Despite these applications, challenges remain. The synthesis of magnetic hydrogels must be optimized to ensure high magnetic sensitivity, biocompatibility, and stability. Furthermore, *in vivo* studies are needed to fully understand their biocompatibility, degradation, and potential side effects. The surge in the use of magnetic hydrogels in biomedical and environmental applications can be attributed to the unique ability of magnetic hydrogels to respond to external magnetic fields enables the controlled and targeted release of drugs. This reduces systemic toxicity and enhances therapeutic efficacy, offering an effective solution to a significant challenge in pharmaceutical therapies.

Magnetic hydrogels are usually biocompatible, making them ideal for biological applications such as tissue engineering and regenerative medicine. They can function as a scaffold for cell proliferation without causing adverse immune responses. The chemical and physical properties of magnetic hydrogels can be adjusted by varying their components, allowing for tailored solutions for specific applications. For example, the absorption capacity can be increased for environmental cleanups, or the release rate of drugs can be tuned for targeted therapies. The ability to guide and manipulate these hydrogels using external.