

A coaxial-slot antenna for invasive microwave hyperthermia therapy

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ABSTRACT

When the technique of invasive microwave hyperthermia is applied to cancer treating, the distribution of microwave thermal field and the effect of the therapy are determined by the type of microwave radiative antenna. The thermal field of biological tissue produced by microwave radiative antenna is investigated in this paper. The distribution of thermal field and specific absorption rate (SAR) of invasive coaxial-slot antenna in the frequency of 2450 MHz are obtained by the technique of finite element analysis. According to the experiment of heating the *ex vivo* pork liver by this kind of antenna, the result concordant with the theory is obtained. Therefore, it is suggested that this research could be a reference for clinical therapy and operation scheme.

Keywords: Microwave Hyperthermia Therapy; Antenna; Thermal Field; SAR

1. INTRODUCTION

Recent years, invasive microwave hyperthermia for cancer treating has been widely investigated. In the research of the biological effects of microwave and microwave therapy, the radiator, which is also called antenna, is used to radiate the electromagnetic energy of the microwave oscillator to the exposed biosystem spatially or couple the biosystem directly.

When the technique of invasive microwave hyperthermia is applied to cancer treating, the distribution of microwave thermal field is determined by the type of microwave radiative antenna. In the microwave mesenchymal thermal therapy, the radiative antenna is linear antenna, which portrait length is far more than transverse diameter. The invasive system distribution energy obtained from the thermotherapeutic probe or duct's energy

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source of powerful small antenna. Invasive microwave radiative antenna is different from other antennas which are utilized on the humanbody's superficial surface. And it should be smaller volume, stronger radiative capability and considerable intensity. Due to such advantages as direct exposure into the tissue of pathological changes, high efficiency of heating and easy control of power *et al.*, it has been largely utilized clinically.

The performance of antenna can be determined by simulating tumorous SAR. Concretely, it is calculated by three dimension data model as EFIE and MFIE. Jaehoon *et al.* inserted an antenna into the human body and calculated the distribution of SAR by FDTD [1]. Zouheir *et al.* developed an electrothermal cordis duct model to distinguish RF and microwave energetic transmission [2]. Monoantenna made by coaxial wire was inserted into myocardium for heating, and SAR was calculated by finite element modeling. Mikaya *et al.* established the precise model of antenna by GBM [3]. Francesca Rossetto calculated the distribution of SAR of 915 MHz microwave antenna by FDTD and simulated on three different human tissues that is of importance to clinic [4]. Wayne *et al.* investigated 915 MHz and 2450 MHz Monoantenna and did some microwave ablation experiments on cardiac muscle *in vitro* [5]. Rosenbaum *et al.* obtained some optimum frequency and pattern of antenna in way of heating phantoms by helical and whip shape antennas [6-8].

In order to investigate the distribution of thermal field and optimum antennal pattern in invasive microwave thermal therapy better, the invasive coaxial-slot antenna in the frequency of 2450 MHz was design. After investigating the thermal field of biological tissue which induced by microwave radiative antenna, the distribution of thermal field and SAR of invasive coaxial-slot antenna in the frequency of 2450 MHz were obtained by the technique of finite element analysis. What's more, the 2450 MHz HDZ-1 intelligent multifunctional microwave oncotherapeutic device was used to do heating experiment on pork liver *ex vivo*, and a contrast and discussion be-

tween simulative results and experimental results was made.

2. ANTENNA DESIGN

That a radiative slot is opened in some distance from the top of 50 Ω coaxial wire and slot point is exposed from the media layer. In addition, exterior and interior conductor is connected on the top of the antenna. The structure of coaxial-slot antenna and its size and parameter were shown in **Figure 1**.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Early in year 1948, Pennes proposed the famous biological conduct heat equation, which demonstrate the balance between heat conduction of perfused tissues, heat loss from blood flow, metabolic heat from heating and energy deposition. For a long time, this equation has showed its metal in tumorous thermotherapy, blood

circulation inhibition, clinical thermal science such as freezing and empyrosis and so on. Because of simplicity and applicability, it is the most popular model in biology conduct heat domain as well. Its equation format is:

$$\rho C \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = \nabla \cdot \kappa \nabla T + \omega_b \rho_b C_b (T_a - T) + Q_i \quad (1)$$

T_a is proper artery temperature, and usually be hypothesized as core temperature (about 37°C).

$\omega_b \rho_b C_b (T_a - T)$ is item of heat transfer due to hemoperfusion called Q_b . This equation can also write as:

$$\rho C \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = \nabla \cdot \kappa \nabla T + \omega_b \rho_b C_b (T_b - T) + Q_{met} + Q_{ext} \quad (2)$$

ρ is tissue density and ρ_b is blood density, whose unit is kg/m³. C is tissue specific heat and C_b is blood specific heat, whose unit is J/kg·K. κ is tissue heat conductivity, whose unit is W/m·K, ω_b is blood perfusion rate, whose unit is s⁻¹, T is tissue temperature and T_b is blood temperature, whose unit is K. Q_{met} is metabolic heat and Q_{ext} is absorbing microwave radiation energy per tissue unit, whose unit is J/m³·s.

In this experiment, we use pork liver ex vivo. Thus, it is no need to consider the effect of blood filling rate when analyzed, and power input is pulse power. So Pennes equation is changed as:

$$\rho C \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = \nabla \cdot \kappa \nabla T + Q_{av} \cdot k(t) \quad (3)$$

Q_{av} is impedance heat, which is heat source in heating process. $k(t)$ is power's duty ratio factor, which calls the square function from Matlab in calculation, and expression as follow:

$$k(t) = [\text{square}(2\pi \cdot t/60, 100D) + 1] / 2 \quad (4)$$

D is duty ratio, which values as 25% (15 s/60 s) or 75% (22.5 s/30 s) in this article.

The finite element method was adopted to solve Pennes equation. Antennal duty ratio of output power is 25%. Dielectric characteristic parameter in calculation is introduced in **Table 1** and model's finite element mesh in **Figure 2**.

Figures 3 and **4** show the distribution of temperature and SAR after coaxial-slot antenna heating tissue for 240 s respectively, and coaxial-slot antennal hot area range is about 2.6 cm × 3.5 cm.

Figure 5 is a curve of SAR changes in company with depth of penetration in the antennal external verge (distance r from axis equals 1.66 mm).

Make a line tightly near antenna external diameter from antenna axis and $r = 1.66$ mm. On this line, SAR variation is showed in **Figure 5**. There are three peaks in the coaxial-slot antenna, with the highest one corresponding to top of antenna, other two corresponding to antennal slot. Therefore, radiation is weakest in coaxial-

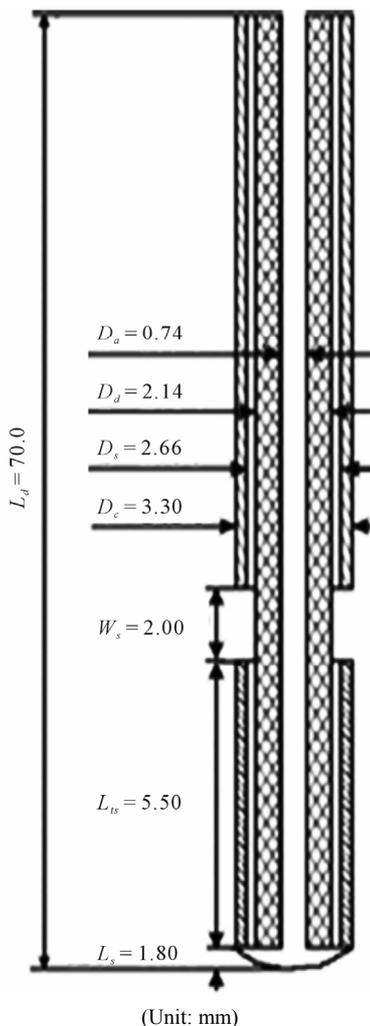


Figure 1. The structure, size and parameter of coaxial-slot antenna.

Table 1. Pork liver tissue and antennal thermal parameter and dielectric characteristic parameter.

parameter	numerus	demonstration
ϵ_{ri}	2.03	Medium layer relative dielectric constant
ϵ_{rc}	2.60	sheath relative dielectric constant
ϵ_r	43.03	hepatic tissue relative dielectric constant
σ	1.69 (S/m)	hepatic tissue electrical conductivity
κ	0.512 (W/m·K)	hepatic tissue heat conductivity
ρ	1060 (kg/m ³)	hepatic tissue density
C	3.60×10^3 (J/kg·K)	Hepatic tissue specific heat
ρ_b	1000 (kg/m ³)	blood density
C_b	4.18×10^3 (J/kg·K)	blood specific heat
ω_b	3.6×10^{-3} (s ⁻¹)	density filling rate

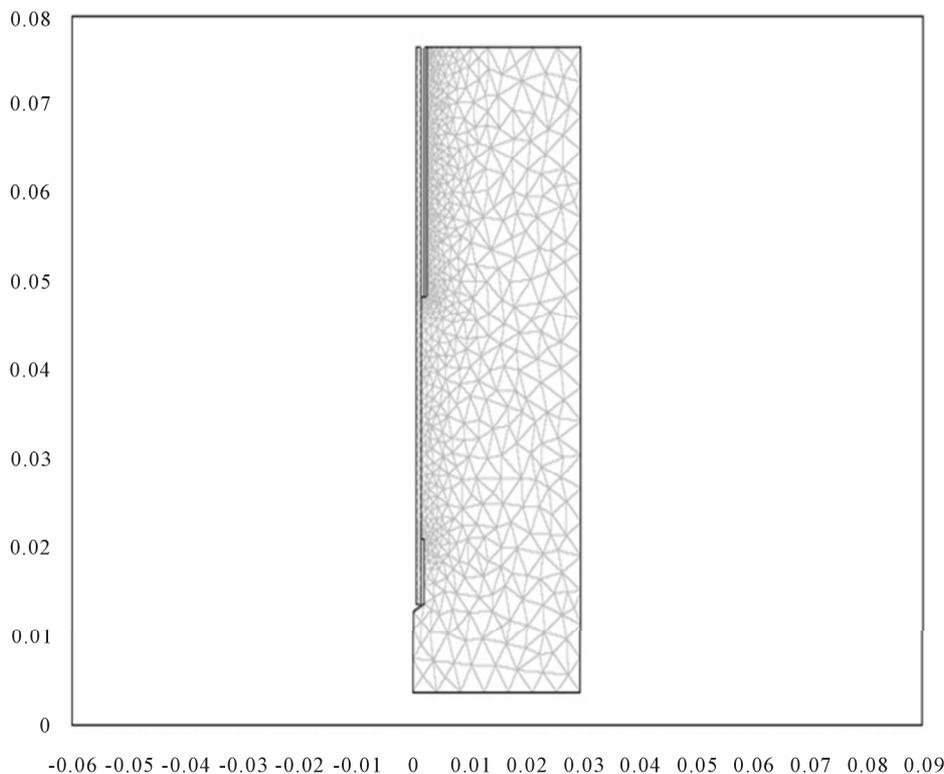


Figure 2. Model's finite element mesh.

slot antennal slot and strongest on top of antenna. In actual thermotherapy, we should correspond antennal strongest radiation point to the middle of tumor tissue to obtain best heating effect.

To investigate the distribution of thermal field and optimum pattern of antenna in invasive microwave thermotherapy better, the 2450 MHz HDZ-1 intelligent multifunctional microwave oncotherapeutic device was used to carry out *ex vivo* pork liver experiment. Microwave on-

cotherapeutic device is composed of microwave heating system and thermo-measurement system. Microwave system is composed of four 2450 MHz microwave power source, whose average power is 200 W.

Thermo-measurement system is composed of 8-channel Pt 1000 platinum electric resistance thermo-measurement needle and corresponding magnified and sampling circuit. The diameter of thermo-measure needle is only 2 mm, and it can resist high temperature and acid base and

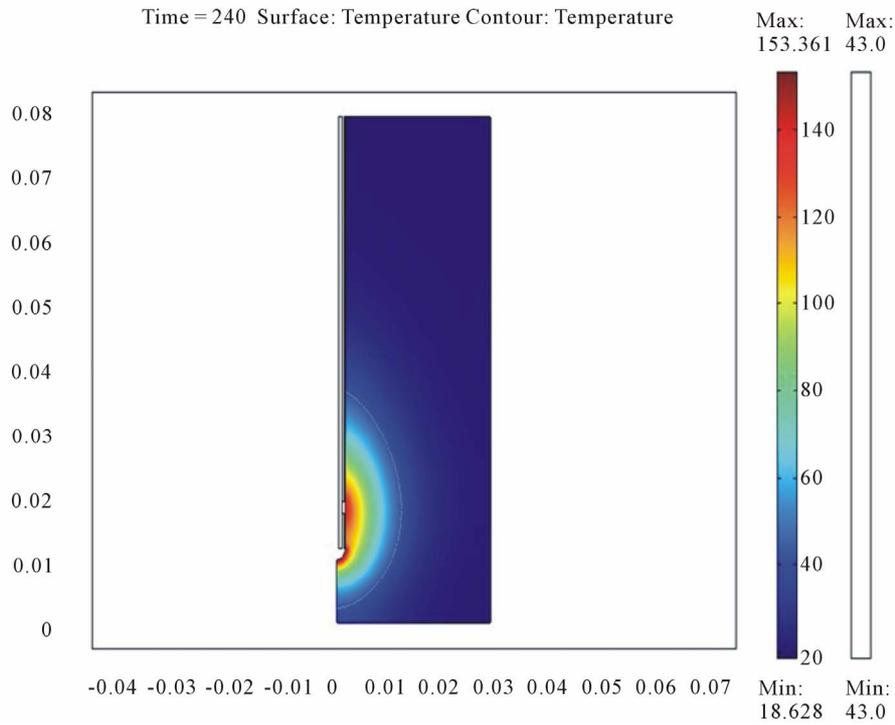


Figure 3. Temperature distribution after heating 240 s.

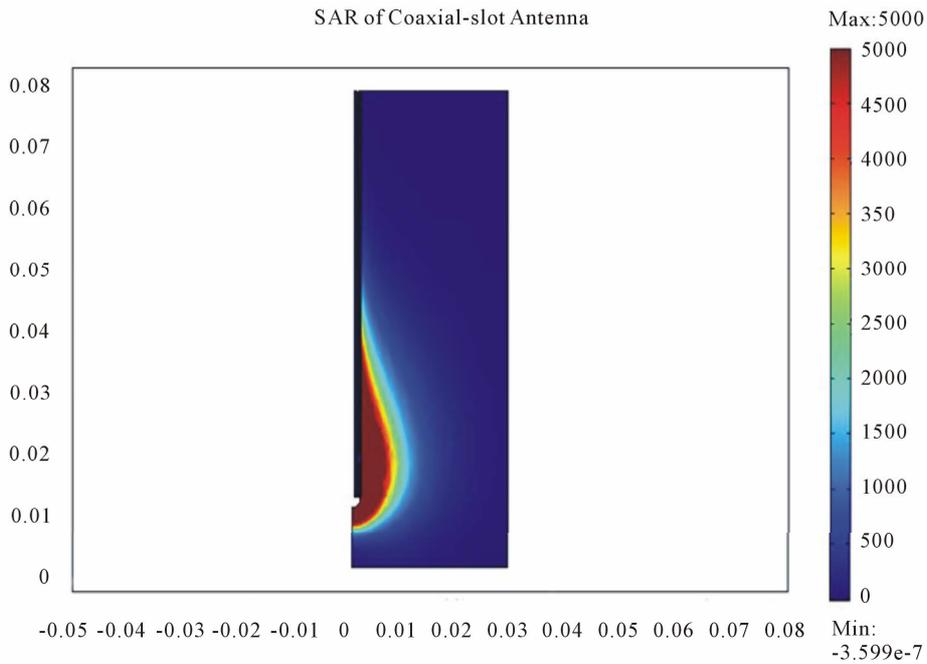


Figure 4. SAR distribution after heating 240 s.

has strong strength. Because it will bring about damage on tissue with this measure method, it limits point amounts of measure temperature. So, we choose only 2 or 3 thermo-measure needles to monitor variation tendency in this experiment but it can not be set up actual temperature distribution diagram. On account of protein

denaturation when heating tissue, which shows as proteic coagulation, we can compare coagulation field and simulative denaturation field to check up reliability of results and investigate efficiency of microwave radiometer, offering theoretical reference to clinical oncotherapy.

Figure 6 shows cross-section picture of coaxial-slot

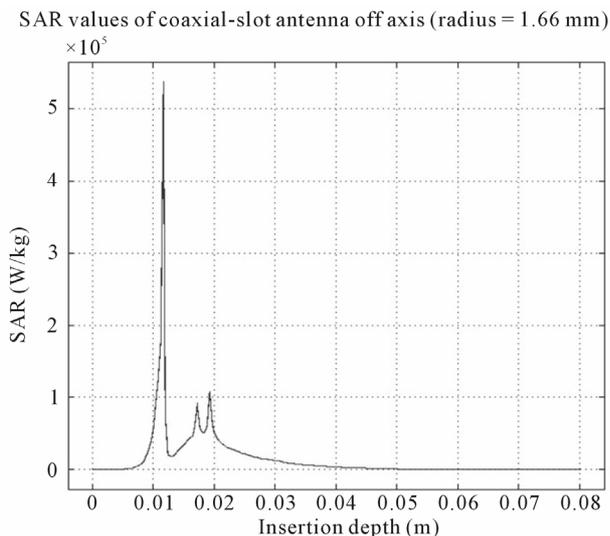


Figure 5. SAR curve in coaxial-slot antenna external diameter.

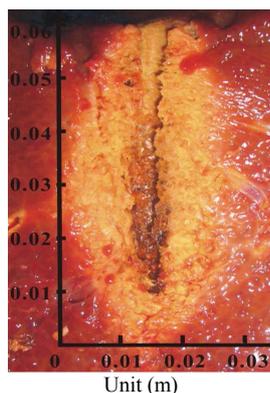


Figure 6. Cross-section picture of coaxial-slot antenna heating pork liver tissue for 240 s.

antenna heating pork liver tissue for 240 s and hot area range is 2.8 cm × 6.0 cm after experiment. Temperature distribution is concordant with theoretic result.

4. CONCLUSIONS

Therefore, the technology of invasive microwave hyperthermia therapy heat the cancer regions up to 43 degrees and simultaneously make as little damage as possible to normal tissues, finally kill the tumor cells [9].

The antennal simulative results and experimental results show that the entirely temperature distribution of coaxial-slot antenna is homogeneous and this antenna has better heating effect. Even if around the antenna, the top temperature does not exceed 200°C. So the phenomenon of part hyperpyrexia near the antennas will not

occur. And after heating, tissue will not be scorched. Therefore, it is suitable for clinical thermotherapy.

5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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