Development of Non-gassing Electroosmotic Pump and Its Application for Drug Infusion System

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I have enjoyed developing non-gassing electroosmotic pump with Adam from 2009. The most of the electroosmotic pumps use platinum electrodes and the pumped solution keeps being electrolyzed to produce O2 from anode and H₂ from cathode. For the continuous pumping the continuous electrochemical reaction is essential and the trapped bubbles in the MEA block the fluid movement, making the flow irregular. Even the coproduction of O_2 and H_2 makes the system unsafe in the closed loop. We substituted the platinum electrode to Ag/Ag₂O electrode and enabled the pump operation without gassing. The 8 mm diameter, 2 mm thick pump operates at 5 - 40 μ L min⁻¹ upon applying 0.3 - 2.0 V. The resulting efficiency of the pump is 14,000 water molecules pumped per reacted electron.¹ It is made of only 2.3 coulombic amount of Ag/Ag_2O deposited consuming electrodes and provides continuous operation for 3 hours at 20 μ L min⁻¹ flow rate at 1 V; or pulsed operation for 30 sec every 30 min for 70 hours ; or daily operation for 5 min for 1 month.² The pump was applied in a miniature (36 x 30 x 8 mm), single-use, subcutaneous drug infusion system.³ Further developments and possible biomedical applications of the pump will be discussed in detail.

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