

Contents

<i>Preface</i>	xi
1. Introduction	1
1.1 Cell Ability to Deform	2
1.1.1 Monitoring Chitosan Effect on Cancerous Cells	6
1.1.2 Mechanosensitivity of Cancerous Cells	8
1.1.3 Stiffness as Cancer Grades	10
1.2 Cell Ability to Adhere	11
1.2.1 Specific Interactions in Living Cells	12
2. Cell Structure and Functions	23
2.1 Extracellular Matrix	25
2.1.1 The ECM Proteins	26
2.1.2 Proteoglycans	28
2.1.3 Other Components of the ECM—Hyaluronan	29
2.2 Cell Membrane	29
2.2.1 Membrane Structure	30
2.2.1.1 Lipids	31
2.2.1.2 Proteins	35
2.3 Surface Receptors	37
2.3.1 Integrins	38
2.3.2 Cadherins	39
2.3.3 Selectins	42
2.3.4 Immunoglobulin Family	43
2.3.5 Glycans	44
2.4 Cytoskeleton	46
2.4.1 Actin Filaments	47

2.4.2	Microtubules	48
2.4.3	Intermediate Filaments	49
3.	Principles of Atomic Force Microscopy	53
3.1	Principles of the AFM Operation	53
3.1.1	Cantilevers	55
3.1.2	Detection System of Cantilever Deflection	58
3.1.3	Feedback Loop	60
3.1.4	Scanning and Positioning System	60
3.2	Force Spectroscopy	67
3.2.1	Calibration	69
3.2.1.1	Photodetector sensitivity	69
3.2.1.2	Correction factor κ for PSD sensitivity	71
3.2.1.3	Spring constant	72
3.2.1.4	Force versus sample-distance conversion	81
3.2.1.5	Hydrodynamic drag	83
3.2.1.6	Force detection limit	85
3.2.1.7	Scanner linearization	87
3.2.1.8	Scanner velocity determination	89
4.	Quantification of Cellular Elasticity	95
4.1	Materials Properties and Theoretical Models	95
4.1.1	Basic Terms Used in Material Mechanics	95
4.1.2	Rheological Models	98
4.1.2.1	Mechanical behavior of soft materials	99
4.1.2.2	Soft glassy model	102
4.1.2.3	Tensegrity theory	104
4.1.2.4	Classification of material properties based on indentation	106
4.2	Single-Cell Deformability Measurements	107
4.2.1	Experimental Conditions for the AFM	110
4.2.2	Criteria for Force Curve Selection	113

4.2.3	Force versus Indentation Curves	116
4.2.4	Determination of Young's Modulus	117
4.2.4.1	The final Young's modulus calculations	119
4.2.5	Depth-Sensing Analysis	121
4.2.6	Stiffness Tomography	126
4.2.7	Distinct Factors Influencing Cell's Elasticity	127
4.2.7.1	Calibration-based discrepancy	128
4.2.7.2	Variability stemming from cell-related factors	129
4.2.7.3	The influence of the AFM experimental conditions	132
4.2.7.4	Discrepancies stemming from the Hertz contact mechanics theory	134
4.2.7.5	The contact point determination and data analysis	136
4.2.7.6	Substrate properties	138
4.2.7.7	Comparing properties of human bladder cancer cells	139
5.	Adhesive Properties Studied by AFM	149
5.1	Unbinding of Molecules: Theoretical Basis	150
5.1.1	Brief Introduction to Kramer's Theory	150
5.1.2	Force-Induced Single Bond Disruption	152
5.1.3	Hierarchic Crossing through the Energy Barriers	156
5.1.4	The Energy Barrier Height	158
5.1.5	Multiple Bond Rupture	159
5.1.5.1	Sequential bond rupture: the "zipper-like" model	159
5.1.5.2	Sequential bond rupture: the "parallel-like" model	161

5.1.6	Comparing Unbinding Properties of Two Single Complexes	163
5.1.7	Other Theoretical Models for Single Molecule Interactions	166
5.1.7.1	Dudko-Hummer-Szabo model	166
5.1.7.2	Friddle-Noy-De Yoreo model	167
5.2	AFM Measurements of Adhesive Properties	167
5.2.1	Attachment of Molecules to Desired Surfaces	169
5.2.1.1	AFM probe functionalization	169
5.2.1.2	Preparation of a cell probe	174
5.2.1.3	Cells preparation for the AFM measurements	176
5.2.2	Inhibition of Binding Site	176
5.2.3	The Unbinding of Molecular Complexes: Force Curves	178
5.2.4	Parameters Derived from a Single Force Curve	180
5.2.4.1	The pull-off force and force histogram	181
5.2.4.2	Relation between the unbinding force and the number of ruptured bonds	184
5.2.4.3	The rupture length and its histogram	186
5.2.4.4	The number of ruptured bonds	187
5.2.4.5	The unbinding probability	189
5.3	Single Molecule Interaction in Living Cells: A Case Study	190
5.3.1	Properties of N-Cadherin in Bladder Cancer Studied by AFM	190
5.3.1.1	Shape of the force curves for Ncad-GC4 complex	191
5.3.1.2	Unbinding force dependence on loading rate	192

5.3.1.3	Force histograms for Ncad-GC4 complex	193
5.3.1.4	Multiple unbinding in human bladder cells	195
5.3.1.5	Bell-Evans model parameters	197
5.3.1.6	Energy landscape reconstruction	198
5.3.1.7	Kinetics profiles	199
5.3.1.8	Specificity of the Ncadh-GC4 complex	200
5.3.1.9	Summary for Ncadh-CG4 complex	202
5.4	Living Cell as a Probe	203
6.	Conclusions	217
	Index	221