New Initiated Chemical Vapor Deposition (iCVD) Polymerization of a Thermally Responsive Polymer, Poly(N-vinylcaprolactam)

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Poly(N-vinylcaprolactam), PNVCL, is a nontoxic, water soluble, thermally sensitive and biocompatible polymer. A temperature-responsive polymer pNVCL is synthesized successfully using the method of initiated chemical vapor deposition(iCVD) and exhibits a sharp lower critical solution temperature(LCST) transition centered at 32–34 °C. FTIR results showed that polymerization takes place by opening of carbon-carbon double bond without any change in the caprolactam ring. Polymer was characterized by FTIR, Contact Angle and UV absorption techniques. Temperature-responsive intelligent surfaces exhibit hydrophilic/hydrophobic alterations with external temperature changes, which, result in thermally modulated attachment and detachment with cells. The advantage of this system is that cells cultured on such temperature-responsive surfaces can be recovered as a cell sheet, simply by lowering the temperature without conventional enzymatic treatment.