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## 面向下肢康复的柔性外骨骼机器人进展研究\*

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**摘要:**作为近年来新兴的机器人技术,柔性外骨骼结合了柔性驱动和可穿戴机构,有效解决了传统刚性外骨骼机器人重量大、顺应性差、效率低、穿戴舒适性差的问题,因此尤其适用于运动障碍患者的辅助行走及运动康复,已成为主动康复领域发展的重要方向之一。本综述聚焦下肢柔性外骨骼助行机器人近十年的创新与应用进展,收集整理了60篇目标文献,其中,线驱动50篇,气动驱动7篇,其他驱动3篇,从柔性驱动结构设计、控制方法、康复应用3个方面对相关研究进行剖析讨论。目前,柔性外骨骼主要以线驱动和位置控制研究为主,发展方向为设备轻量化,驱动柔顺化,并结合电生理信号研究和人机交互理论以期降低人体代谢。相关临床试验表明柔性外骨骼有利于患者步态的对称性增强,步速增加,更接近于正常步态。未来,柔性外骨骼机器人有望为步态障碍患者带来更好的主动康复效果和穿戴体验。

**关键词:** 康复; 柔性外骨骼; 下肢助行; 康复机器人

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## Soft exoskeleton robot facing to lower-limb rehabilitation: a narrative review

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**Abstract:** As an emerging robotics technology, soft exoskeleton incorporates soft drives and wearable structure, efficiently solves the problems of traditional rigid exoskeleton robots, such as heavy weight, poor compliance, low efficiency and poor wearing comfort. It is suitable for the walking assistance and movement rehabilitation of the patients with motor dysfunctions and has become one of the main developing directions in the field of active rehabilitation. This review focuses on the research development of innovation and application of soft exoskeleton in recent 10 years, collects and sorts out 60 target papers, which include 50 papers about cable drives, 7 papers about pneumatic drives and 3 papers about other drives. This paper analyzes and discusses the related researches from three aspects: soft drive structure design, control method and rehabilitation application. Currently, the soft exoskeleton research is mainly on cable drive and position control. The development direction is the equipment weight lightening and drive compliance, which combines electrophysiological signal research and human-computer interaction theory to reduce human metabolism. The related clinical trials show that the soft exoskeleton is beneficial to increase the symmetry and pace of the patient gait, which is closer to the normal gait. In the future, soft exoskeleton robots are expected to bring better active rehabilitation effects and wearing experience for patients with gait disorders.

**Keywords:** rehabilitation; soft exoskeleton; lower limb walking assistance; rehabilitation robot

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## 0 引言

脊柱损伤、脑卒中等神经损伤疾病患者愈后多有步态障碍问题<sup>[1-9]</sup>。病人部分或完全丧失其运动行为能力,严重影响其生活质量和心理状态<sup>[10-13]</sup>,对其家庭乃至社会造成了沉重的经济负担<sup>[10-16]</sup>。康复训练是运动障碍患者病后重获肢体功能的关键<sup>[3, 17-25]</sup>。传统康复方法多依靠康复师在特定的机构或场所对患者进行一对一指导运动训练,以改善提高患者的运动功能。然而,高人力成本和场地要求及国内医疗资源有限等问题导致多数患者病后无法进行长期有效的康复治疗,错过其黄金康复时期,无法达到理想的康复效果<sup>[3]</sup>。近十几年,机械电子与智能技术的快速发展促进了外骨骼康复机器人领域研究的兴起。康复机器人辅助患者进行重复性运动训练,可替代医疗人员的人力看护,从而有效降低康复成本,扩展康复训练环境,摆脱了场地局限性<sup>[26-30]</sup>。

目前具有市场代表性的外骨骼系统,如 Lokomat<sup>[31-34]</sup>、Rewalk<sup>[35-37]</sup>和 HAL<sup>[38-39]</sup>,多采用刚性连接驱动设计。刚性外骨骼的优势在于能够实现快速且精确的位置控制,然而刚性外骨骼的重量一般较大,作为额外负担可能会增加穿戴者的能量消耗,同时,刚性机构对关节的运动自由度会造成一定限制,进而会改变穿戴者的自然步态模式<sup>[40-43]</sup>。这些问题降低了刚性外骨骼的助行效果,也局限了外骨骼系统在运动康复中的实际应用。近十几年来,研究者们提出了柔性结构设计,其概念是采用柔性结构和驱动设计代替传统刚性外骨骼,模拟人体肌肉作用原理实现关节辅助<sup>[44]</sup>。柔性驱动的优势在于其避免了刚性机构对关节的约束,减少了系统重量,提高了外骨骼的可穿戴性<sup>[45-48]</sup>。

作为新兴外骨骼技术,柔性外骨骼对患者步态康复的促进作用受到了越来越多的研究关注。然而,现有的外骨骼综述多关注于硬件和系统设计,较少从运动康复应用场景出发,尤其缺少关于柔性外骨骼助行系统在运动康复应用的相关综述。因此,本综述聚焦柔性外骨骼机器人近十年的创新与应用进展,从柔性结构设计、控制方法、康复应用3个方面对相关研究进行剖析讨论,并展望其未来发展方向。

## 1 文献调研

本研究在 Pubmed、Scopus 和 Web of Science 数据库检索 2010 年到 2020 年期间所发表相关文献,采用关键词((soft exoskeleton) AND (walk OR lower limb)),共检索到文献 313 篇,采用筛选标准进行进一步筛选:1)文章为原始研究文章,非综述;2)涉及柔性外骨骼设计,且非

肢体替代型外骨骼;3)进行了人体实验验证系统效能。最终 60 篇文献被纳入本次的综述范围。

## 2 结果

本文调研发现柔性驱动结构对外骨骼系统整体设计起到了决定性作用。相关文献提及的驱动结构主要可分为 3 种类型:线驱动、气动肌肉驱动和基于创新材料的新型驱动,如图 1 所示,目前柔性外骨骼多采用线驱动形式。

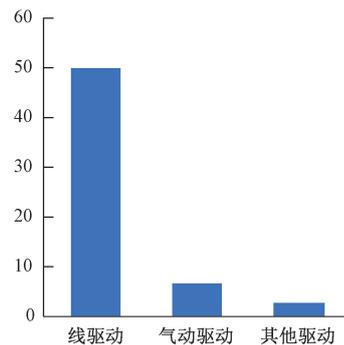


图1 不同柔性驱动类型的文献数量比较

Fig. 1 Comparison of the published papers related to various types of soft drives

### 2.1 柔性驱动设计

#### 1) 线驱动 (cable drive)

线驱动结构通常由电机、线传动机构和固定装置组成:固定装置连接线与关节,电机通过拉伸线传动机构,模拟肌肉运动以施加机械力,实现驱动关节运动。其中作为“锚点”或负载路径的固定装置对柔性驱动的结构设计起到了重要的作用<sup>[49-51]</sup>。

基于线驱动的柔性外骨骼多采用鲍登线(Bowden Cable)<sup>[45-46, 52-53]</sup>,如图 2 所示。MyoSoft 外骨骼机器人采用鲍登线连接髌、膝关节进而辅助关节伸展<sup>[47, 54-55]</sup>,其关键在于鲍登线施加力方向与人体肌肉解剖学位置一致,以实现自然有效的关节驱动。因此,通过设计鲍登线、施力固定位置与穿戴织物可以完成多个关节驱动。哈佛大学团队研发的 Exosuit 以织物带和鲍登线连接腰带前端与小腿绑带后侧,沿鲍登线向上的机械力可同时驱动辅助髌关节弯曲和踝关节跖屈动作<sup>[49]</sup>。

XoSoft 外骨骼采用半被动驱动方式辅助髌、膝关节,即使用离合器控制鲍登线装置积蓄和释放辅助力<sup>[48, 56-57]</sup>(详见 3.2 节)。Yandell 团队设计了类似驱动方式的无动力踝关节外骨骼(unpowered ankle exoskeleton, UAE),其结构与 Exosuit 踝关节类似。但区别在于,UAE 没有外部动力源,而是设计了一个足下离合器结构,根据穿戴者

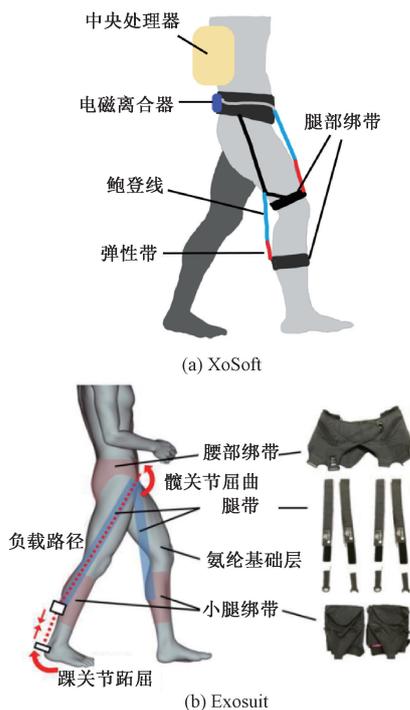


图2 典型线驱动外骨骼系统

Fig. 2 Typical cable-driven exoskeleton systems

自身重量及运动位置提供被动辅助力<sup>[58]</sup>。被动/准被动的的外骨骼减少或取消了主动驱动装置需求,在质量和便携性上具有较大优势,但同时由于缺少主动驱动,需要穿戴者具备一定运动能力,限制了其适用人群和应用场景。

Jin 等<sup>[50-51, 59-61]</sup>开发了一种由硬带驱动(stiff belt driven)而非鲍登线的外骨骼,可辅助穿戴者完成髌关节屈曲。硬带驱动外骨骼系统在机械结构上与鲍登线外骨骼相似,都是通过电机转动拉动介质以实现对关节施加辅助力或力矩,其输出力上限高于鲍登线驱动。但是,硬带驱动柔顺性差,其可穿戴位置和使用形式相较可弯曲的鲍登线驱动有一定的局限性。

中央控制器和电机是线驱动外骨骼重量的主要来源。研究表明下肢负重会显著增加穿戴者的代谢水平,而一定范围内的腰部负重影响较小<sup>[62]</sup>。所以,大多外骨骼系统采用背包或腰带放置电池和驱动模块以分担承载重量<sup>[47, 54, 56-57, 63]</sup>。硬带驱动外骨骼的设备总质量为 2.7 kg(不包括供电系统),最大辅助力可达 23.3±4.9 N;MyoSuit 的质量为 4.09 kg(不包括供电系统),在连续辅助情况下可提供 435 N 力,并能在短时间内承受高达 630 N 力;Exosuit 总重为 5 kg,辅助力随穿戴者体重进行正相关调节。UAE 的重量最轻,设备总重仅有 0.46 kg,在 1.25 m/s 的行走速度下可提供最大扭矩为 0.75 Nm/kg。

也有研究者将电机和处理器集成为外部控制系统<sup>[64-67]</sup>,有效地减少了外骨骼机器人的穿戴重量,但同时也牺牲了便携性。此类外骨骼仅适用于固定实验场所,可移动性低<sup>[66-70]</sup>。文献[71]中用于偏瘫患者的 Exosuit 采用了外部控制系统,从而大大减轻患者穿戴外骨骼的重量(仅为 0.9 kg)。

在正常人的步行实验中,Exosuit 表现出了最高的代谢收益。相较外骨骼断电状态,穿戴者代谢水平降低了 15.36±5.53%,髌和踝关节的净功率分别提高到了 0.4±0.08 W/kg 和 0.2±0.15 W/kg<sup>[72]</sup>。硬带驱动外骨骼辅助下,穿戴者代谢水平平均降低了 7.7%<sup>[60]</sup>。

## 2) 气动肌肉驱动

气动肌肉驱动(pneumatic artificial muscle, PAM)是通过外部提供压缩气体,改变人工肌肉长度以模拟人体肌肉收缩效果,从而实现驱动关节运动。与线驱动相比,气动肌肉的工作模式更接近实际肌肉,具有重量相对较轻、能量转换率高的优点,可满足康复设备的安全性、简单性和轻便性的要求。但是,气动肌肉驱动器具有高度非线性,难以实现精准的闭环控制<sup>[73-76]</sup>。

近几年,研究者们利用气动驱动优势改善外骨骼性能,同时创新外骨骼设计。Ogawa 等<sup>[77]</sup>提出了气动人工肌肉内胎材料改进方法,将柔性凝胶制成蜂窝状结构,在减小 PAM 内部体积的同时增加了驱动弹性,气压支持范围为 50~300 kPa。实验结果证明新式 PAM 结构设计有效提高了低压工作效率,且具有实用性。

Sridar 等<sup>[78]</sup>提出了可贴合膝关节后侧的柔性气动驱动设计,如图 3(a)所示,通过采用外部控制系统,极大减轻了系统重量,穿戴部分仅重 0.16 kg。同时外骨骼仅需两个 27.57 kPa 的充气执行器即可产生 4.4 N·m 的辅助扭矩,即最大关节扭矩的 20%,可有效辅助膝关节的伸展。

除了模块化的单关节设计,也有基于气动肌肉的多关节驱动外骨骼。Miyazaki 等<sup>[73]</sup>使用气动人造橡胶肌肉模拟人体双关节肌,实现辅助髌、膝、踝多关节完成行走任务。该系统采用外部控制台,且穿戴部分没有任何电子传感器,减小了穿戴质量,增加了安全性和轻便性。上海交通大学机器人研究所提出了基于关节铰链模型的弯曲气动人工肌肉(curl pneumatic artificial muscle, CPAM),并集成气泵、处理器、压力传感器、运动传感器和蓝牙模块等器件开发了无线 CPAM 控制模块。其下肢外骨骼机器人由 3 个 CPAM 和 4 个包含控制模块的刚性部分组成。当 CPAM 充气时,一侧腔室的增压会引起另一侧的弯曲变形,从而实现对接施加扭矩<sup>[79]</sup>。该外骨骼体积较大,在气动驱动下响应速度较慢。髌膝踝关节的压力响应延迟分别为 0.21, 0.18 和 0.12 s,小于运动响应。

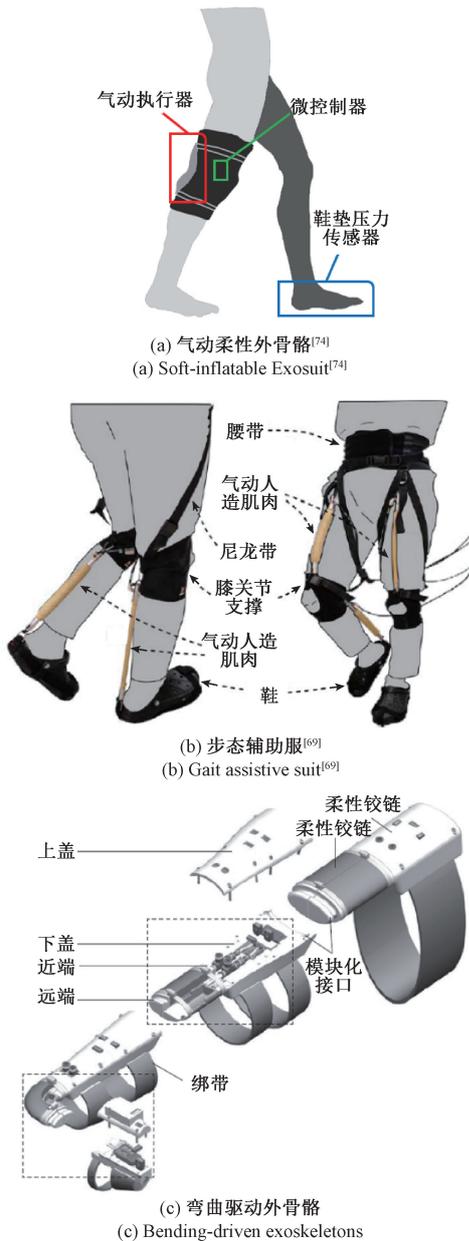


图 3 基于气动肌肉的外骨骼结构  
Fig. 3 The pneumatic muscle-based exoskeleton structures

3) 基于创新材料的柔性驱动

上述提及的两种柔性驱动使用电机或气缸,质量较大,但因关节驱动的功率需求导致无法进一步减轻驱动器的重量。因此,近年来很多研究者致力于新型驱动材料和机构的研究,以期在柔性驱动器方面获得重要突破。

Li Yi 等利用 PVC 凝胶在不同电极下的蠕变特性设计了新的人工肌肉,并将其应用于模拟大腿肌肉的收缩功能,为髌关节的屈曲动作提供辅助。基于 PVC 驱动的柔性外骨骼单侧腿重量仅有 0.6 kg,其重量相比于其他柔性外骨骼具有显著优势<sup>[80]</sup>。

Kim 等<sup>[81]</sup>设计了形状记忆合金驱动器,并应用于辅助踝关节屈曲的柔性外骨骼,利用了形状记忆合金在受到发热等外部刺激后产生应变的特性,将其嵌入可穿戴织物上通过形状变化产生驱动力。其优势在于不需要大型电池且可以产生足够大的力矩,系统整体重量为 0.428 5 kg。

总而言之,驱动装置作为柔性外骨骼最重要的设计部分,在很大程度上影响了外骨骼其他结构的设计思路。除此之外,外骨骼结构设计的关键技术还包括人机柔性匹配技术和传感器技术。柔性外骨骼需要在保证穿戴舒适的前提下提供有效的助力,减少人机干涉,最大限度地提高安全性<sup>[44]</sup>。Exosuit 团队研究了织物材料的应变特性和力-位移曲线,以改善载荷分布;使用定向力板检测,保证织物的主要轴线与所需的负载路径平行<sup>[82]</sup>。XoSoft 团队通过量表和压力检测,改善结构和织物设计<sup>[48]</sup>。在传感器技术方面,哈佛大学微型机器人实验室设计了可以测量应变、压力、曲率和剪切力的柔性传感器,通过将液态金属嵌入超弹性硅材料中作为可变电阻,当电阻收到外部扰动会引发材料的几何形状变化从而改变电阻<sup>[83]</sup>。这使得柔性传感器可集成到柔性可穿戴服装或外骨骼机器人中,进一步减轻柔性外骨骼质量。

2.2 控制模型

传统下肢外骨骼系统都是由刚性材料制成,并将负载传递到地面,其连接可以提供与人体肌肉平行的辅助扭矩,实现精准控制<sup>[84-86]</sup>。而柔性外骨骼机器人采用的驱动结构具有高度的非线性,系统建模比较困难,难以进行构型分析。因此,目前较为成熟的柔性外骨骼机器人多采用的是基于步态相位和步态事件识别的控制策略<sup>[48, 56-57]</sup>。

如图 4 所示, XoSoft 通过压力鞋垫的地反作用力识别不同的步态阶段,安装在大腿和小腿上的两个惯性测量单元 (inertial measurement unit, IMU) 可以提供膝关节的角度/速度信息,用来判断摆动期相位。然后,根据基于时间或事件的方法触发执行器,在站立相前中期积蓄能量,站立相末期和摆动相前期释放能量,实现辅助踝关节屈曲动作。这种开环控制模型优势在于计算简单,其控制主要依靠机械定时结构和电子离合器开关来实现预设的辅助模式,但其抗扰动性相对较差。

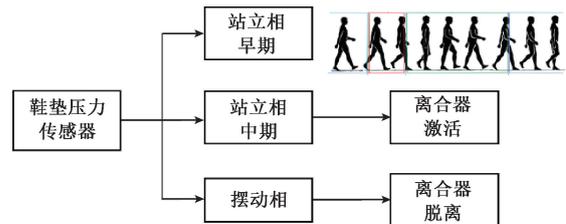


图 4 开环控制模型  
Fig. 4 Open-loop control model

现有柔性外骨骼研究多以结构和驱动设计创新为主。多数外骨骼采用开环控制模型,以步态相位或事件作为输入信号进行控制<sup>[58, 76-78]</sup>。2019年,Natali等<sup>[48]</sup>使用 XoSoft 对两种开环控制模型进行了比较,结果表明合适辅助时间的选取才能带来更好的助力收益。

闭环控制模型多采用 PID 控制,通过步态识别和反馈系统调整参数达到期望控制效果。北京航空航天大学<sup>[87]</sup>和广西大学<sup>[88]</sup>都采用前馈、反馈控制与 PID 控制结合的控制方法调整外骨骼机器人的输出力矩,以逐步迭代的方式达到稳定的期望踝关节力矩。Exosuit 团队提出了一个可实时调整参数、适用于不同患者的线性时不变控制模型,以实际角度和角速度为输入,实现电机控制,输出理想鲍登线位置曲线,驱动关节运动<sup>[64-65, 70-71]</sup>,如图 5(a)所示。类似的,MyoSuit 在前馈和线驱动策略的基础上,利用运动生物力学模型计算肢体角度和躯干姿态,根据瞬时膝关节角度进行实时比例调节,并基于反重力辅助方法实现穿戴者的坐立任务转换。如图 5(b)所示。

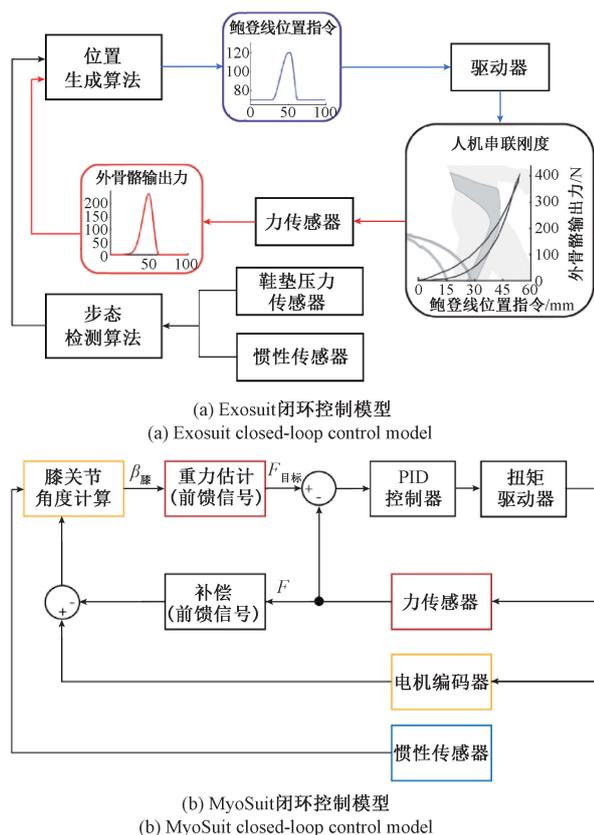


图 5 下肢外骨骼闭环控制模型示意图

Fig. 5 Schematic diagrams of lower extremity exoskeleton closed-loop control models

Grimmer 等<sup>[72]</sup>实验比较了两种常用闭环控制模型: APIT (ankle positive power inspired technique) 和 AMIT

(ankle moment inspired technique)。APIT 控制模型从关节功率角度考虑,使用 IMU 检测踝关节角度的过零点—这个步态事件代表了踝关节功率从负到正的转变:在负功率阶段,鲍登线保持在一个恒定位置,产生被动预张力;在正功率阶段,电机开始拉动鲍登线,产生主动动力并传递正功率。AMIT 模型从关节力矩角度出发,参考踝关节力矩曲线,在站立相鲍登线就开始以恒定速度收缩,鲍登线位置轮廓近似为线性曲线。两种模型均对鲍登线收缩幅度进行迭代调节,实现闭环反馈控制,试验结果表明两种控制方法下肢生物力学变化有差异,但得到了相似的代谢水平效益。研究者指出,人类在穿戴外骨骼的情况下会以最大化能量效益的方式改变自身步态。在未来,有望通过结合肌肉-肌腱动力学模型等技术,实现对于代谢减少和生物力学变化机制的进一步深入研究。

结合机器学习技术,中科院团队采用脚跟触地瞬间时刻的髌关节角度,通过支持向量机的机器学习模型,实现上坡、下坡、平地的多种步态任务识别,减少了传感器数量,有效地拓展了外骨骼使用场景。该研究还采用参数最优迭代学习控制算法,降低了穿戴者身高和位置差异产生的误差。

已有研究证明主动康复对卒中患者病后神经可塑性和康复效果具有显著促进作用。柔性康复机器人不仅需要引导患者运动,更应跟随其动作,使患者可以更加主动地参与到康复训练中来。因此,研究者们提出了“人在环”(human in the loop)主动控制策略,以提高外骨骼人机交互水平。文献[89]提出了利用人体电生理信号对下肢外骨骼机器人进行自适应阻抗控制的方法。该方法通过建立神经肌肉模型,以下肢肌电信号和运动信息作为控制模型的输入信号和反馈,计算踝关节力矩,进行步进迭代,计算出最优的力矩控制曲线。

### 2.3 临床实验研究

相比于传统外骨骼机器人,柔性外骨骼机器人没有刚性连杆与机械关节的设计,对人体关节自由度影响较小,具有质量轻、人机约束强度弱、人机相容性好、穿戴舒适性好等显著优势,使其在运动康复训练应用领域具有很大的潜力。然而,作为新兴的外骨骼技术,多数柔性外骨骼助行康复机器人仍处于实验室研究阶段。本文总结了文献中柔性外骨骼对患者的临床康复效果进行了总结,如表 1 所示。

哈佛大学团队对 9 名卒中引起的偏瘫患者穿戴 Exosuit 外骨骼在跑步机和平地行走期间的生理和步态参数变化进行了研究,结果表明外骨骼机器人降低了患者的代谢水平,减轻了行走负担,并且显著提高了肢体运动对称性<sup>[64]</sup>。Li 等<sup>[90]</sup>实验验证了基于 PVC 驱动的新型外骨骼机器人提高了卒中偏瘫患者的平均行走速度以及步长。文献同样发现通过 MyoSuit 机器人辅助脊髓损伤

表1 柔性外骨骼临床康复研究总结

Table 1 Research summary of clinical rehabilitation research using soft exoskeleton

外骨骼	被试信息	辅助关节	实验结果
Exosuit <sup>[65]</sup>	3名慢性卒中患者	单侧踝关节	外骨骼改善了步长和站立时间的对称性和麻痹性肢体推进力。
Exosuit <sup>[70-71]</sup>	9名卒中患者	单侧踝关节	穿戴者患病足背屈和前向推进力增加,肢体不对称性和代谢消耗改善,代谢成本降低。
Exosuit <sup>[46]</sup>	6名卒中患者	踝关节	在卒中后的患者中,正的增强力会影响总正踝关节力的变化,而负的增强力对总负踝关节力没有影响。
Xosoft <sup>[56-57]</sup>	1名卒中损伤患者	髋关节	穿戴者在摇摆阶段最大膝关节屈曲度提高,髋关节的最大伸展度降低,但在摇摆后期依赖于补偿性策略,并没有达到预期的效果。
Xosoft <sup>[48]</sup>	1名卒中损伤患者	髋、膝关节	穿戴者足部间隙提高
Myosuit <sup>[55]</sup>	1名脊髓损伤患者	髋、踝关节	穿戴者行走速度从0.36 m/s提高到0.52 m/s
PVC-外骨骼 <sup>[90]</sup>	1名偏瘫性卒中患者	髋关节	穿戴者步长增加,肌肉活动减少。
ReWalk ReStoreTM <sup>[92]</sup>	44名受试(60%卒中,41%偏瘫)	踝关节	用该设备进行5天的步行练习后,参与者都提高了他们在设备辅助和无辅助下的最大步行速度。

患者行走,患者的平均行走速度从0.36 m/s提高到0.52 m/s,并且患者的髋关节和膝关节的弯曲及伸展运动范围更趋近于健康人的正常范围<sup>[55]</sup>。Jin等<sup>[61]</sup>研究了柔性外骨骼机器人对老年人日常步行功能的康复效果,发现经过6周使用后,4名被试者(两男两女,平均年龄74.8±5.0岁)的步态特征得到显著改善,具体表现为步速增加,步态运动参数与健康被试组更接近。这一实验表明基于柔性外骨骼康复机器人的长期运动训练对老年人运动功能的康复具有积极作用。2020年,Exosuit外骨骼商业版ReWalk ReStore已正式投入市场,并且在最新文献中首次对多达44名不同症状的步态障碍患者进行了外骨骼步态辅助效果研究,证明了其康复效果的有效性<sup>[92]</sup>。这些研究结果充分说明了柔性外骨骼对于患者的运动康复具有积极作用。

在柔性外骨骼的使用安全性方面,He等<sup>[91]</sup>回顾了外骨骼相关事故问题,指出传统刚性外骨骼机器人可能引起骨折、皮肤和软组织损伤等问题,这是限制外骨骼康复应用的重要因素,应得到更多的重视。ReWalk ReStore验证了设备在实际使用中的低故障率和器械相关的跌倒或严重不良事件的零报告,但外骨骼依然存在疼痛和擦伤等问题<sup>[92]</sup>。文献<sup>[57]</sup>采用国际NPUAP/EPUAP压疮分级标准对XoSoft外骨骼机器人的可穿戴性进行了评估,结果表明穿戴XoSoft的皮肤压疮分级为I期,说明其相对于传统机器人具有更好的穿戴性。外骨骼系统应对人机交互界面作进一步探讨,同时引用国际通用标准更有利于验证外骨骼的安全性,穿戴者也更易接受。

### 3 结 论

当前柔性外骨骼机器人发展迅速,主要以线驱动方式为主,创新型外骨骼设计也趋于多样化,质量越来越轻,一部分较成熟的外骨骼系统陆续开展了临床康复验证实验。在控制模型上,以开环控制、位置控制为主流。同时越来越多研究者开始关注“人在环”策略在柔性外骨骼人机交互优化的应用;已有研究者将电生理信号作为控制模型的输入与反馈,通过人机交互策略提高运动辅助效果。而从目前临床康复研究可见国外领先研究团队正致力于推动柔性外骨骼系统走出实验室,实现市场化应用。

而在柔性外骨骼助行康复系统的研究中,依然有若干重要问题等待研究者去继续探索和挑战:1)实现高效的运动功能辅助。目前柔性驱动无法达到刚性驱动的辅助功率水平,柔性机器人并不能实现完全替代患者关节运动功能,对患者自身运动能力有一定要求。如何通过优化穿戴结构,设计新式驱动机械方式,创新柔性材料来提高驱动效能一直是该领域的研究重点。2)深入研究人机交互策略,实现患者主动康复。这不仅需要对患者个体能力或特定任务的运动表现进行测量,更应评估人与机器间交互的有效性,依据其运动能力和主观运动意图调节控制输出,即通过控制各关节的位置或速度,保证康复外骨骼机器人能够随患者柔顺运动,不对人体造成二次伤害。3)临床测试与应用问题。从现有文献研究的归纳分析中发现,现有大部分机器人系统仅对小样本的健康被试或者患者进行了测试实验,需更严格的临床测试与康复评价证明系统的有效性。同时,需考虑改进设备

可穿戴性,例如,穿戴织物易发生织物滑动而引起皮肤摩擦及疼痛问题,外骨骼系统针对不同身高穿戴者的穿戴调节问题等。

面对临床康复的巨大需求,柔性外骨骼作为一种新型的外骨骼机器人技术,现已成为备受研究者关注的前沿研究领域。随着传感、控制等机器人技术的不断发展,柔性外骨骼机器人有望为步态障碍患者带来更好的主动康复方式,更有可能成为辅助患者日常生活的新手段。

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