

Preface

Chitosan is a linear polysaccharide composed of randomly distributed β -(1 $\rightarrow$ 4)-linked D-glucosamine (deacetylated unit) and N-acetyl-D-glucosamine (acetylated unit). It is made by treating the chitin shells of shrimp and other crustaceans with an alkaline substance, such as sodium hydroxide. Chitosan has a number of commercial and possible biomedical uses. It can be used in agriculture as a seed treatment and biopesticide, helping plants to fight off fungal infections. In winemaking, it can be used as a fining agent, also helping to prevent spoilage. In industry, it can be used in a self-healing polyurethane paint coating. In medicine, it is useful in bandages (in the form of chitosan hydrocolloid dressing) to reduce bleeding and as an antibacterial agent; it can also be used to help deliver drugs through the skin.¹

In the present book, ten typical literatures about chitosan published on international authoritative journals were selected to introduce the worldwide newest progress, which contains reviews or original researches on chitosan. We hope this book can demonstrate advances in chitosan as well as give references to the researchers, students and other related people.

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¹ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chitosan>