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ONLINE ISSN : 1881-1361 PRINT ISSN : 0287-4547

JST Link Cen

Dental Materials Journal

Vol. 27 (2008), No. 3 p.408-414

[Image PDF (804K)] [References]

Mechanical Properties of Dental Zirconia Ceramics Changed with Sandblasting and Heat Treatment

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(Received November 2, 2007) (Accepted November 30, 2007)

Abstract:

Two types of tetragonal zirconia polycrystals (TZP), a ceria-stabilized TZP/Al₂O₃

nanocomposite (CZA) and a conventional yttria-stabilized TZP (Y-TZP), were sandblasted with 70- μ m alumina and 125- μ m SiC powders, then partially annealed at 500—1200°C for five minutes. Monoclinic ZrO₂ content was determined by X-ray diffractometry and Raman spectroscopy. Biaxial flexure test was conducted on the specimens before and after the treatments. Monoclinic ZrO₂ content and biaxial flexure strength increased after sandblasting, but decreased after heat treatment. However, in both cases, the strength of CZA was higher than that of Y-TZP. Raman spectroscopy showed that a compressive stress field was introduced on the sample surface after sandblasting. It was concluded that sandblasting induced tetragonal-to-monoclinic phase transformation and that the volume expansion associated with such a phase transformation gave rise to an increase in compressive stress on the surface of CZA. With the occurrence of such a strengthening mechanism in the microstructure, it was concluded that CZA was more susceptible to

stress-induced transformation than Y-TZP.

Key words: Zirconia, Sandblasting, Heat treatment



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To cite this article:

Hideo SATO, Kiyotaka YAMADA, Giuseppe PEZZOTTI, Masahiro NAWA and Seiji BAN. Mechanical Properties of Dental Zirconia Ceramics Changed with Sandblasting and Heat Treatment . Dent. Mater. J. 2008; 27: 408-414 .

doi:10.4012/dmj.27.408 JOI JST.JSTAGE/dmj/27.408

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