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Effects of sintering temperature on physical and compositional properties of α -tricalcium phosphate foam

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Abstract:

Effects of sintering temperature on the physical and compositional properties of α -TCP foam fabricated using the polyurethane foam method were examined. When a polyurethane foam coated with α -TCP slurry was sintered at 1,400–1,550°C, α -TCP foam having basically the same fully interconnected porous structure was produced although shrinkage occurred with increasing sintering temperature. On porosity of the α -TCP foam, a higher foam porosity of 95% was obtained when sintered at 1,400°C as compared to the 90% porosity obtained at a higher sintering temperature of 1,550°C. Further, at 1,500°C or higher temperature, frame became dense with disappearance of micropores. On compressive strength, it increased from approximately 50 to 250 kPa when sintering temperature was increased from 1,400 to 1,550°C. Nonetheless, no compositional changes were observed even when the α -TCP foam was cooled in the furnace without quenching process. In light of the results obtained, it was concluded that α -TCP foam fabricated using the polyurethane method was useful as a bone substitute and/or scaffolding material for tissue engineering. Besides, α -TCP foam could be useful as a precursor for the fabrication of other calcium phosphate foams.

Key words:

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