

Processing of bioceramic scaffolds: state of the art and current trends



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How to mimic natural bone for substitute processing?



Bone structure



Natural composite of collagen and mineral.

2 types of bone:

- cortical with dense $\mbox{ structure } \rightarrow$

compact bone

-cancellous or trabecular bone with high porosity \rightarrow spongy bone



How to mimic natural bone?

Criteria for an ideal scaffold for bone regeneration:

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²- acts as template for tissue growth in 3 dimensions,

 3 - has an interconnected macro-porous network with diameters > 100µm for cell penetration, tissue ingrowth and vascularisation, and nutrient delivery to the centre.

⁴- bonds to the host tissue

⁵- exhibits a surface texture favorable to cell adhesion

⁶- resorbs at the same rate as the tissue is repaired

⁷- is made from processing technique that can produce irregular shapes to match that of the defect in the bone of the patient,

⁸- exhibits mechanical properties sufficient to be able to regenerate tissue in bone in load bearing sites,

⁹- has the potential to be commercially producible to the required ISO or FDA standards.

J.R.Jones, L.L.Hench Current opinion in solid state and materials science 7 (2003) 301-307

High level of porosity: value higher than 60 vol%

 \rightarrow cellular ceramics

Various technologies

1: Replica

2: Sacrificial templates

3: Direct foaming

4: 3D-Additive Manufacturing

1.Replica techniques



Replica technique is based on the impregnation of a cellular structure with a ceramic slurry in order to produce a macroporous ceramic exhibiting the same morphology as the original porous material. Many synthetic or natural cellular structures can be used as

templates.



Synthetic templates:

-Highly porous polymeric sponge (typically polyurethane) is initially soaked into a ceramic suspension until the internal pores are filled in with ceramic material.

-The impregnated sponge is then passed through rollers to remove the excess suspension and enable the formation of a thin ceramic coating over the struts of the original cellular structure.

-The ceramic coated polymeric template is dried and pyrolysed and finally the ceramic coating is sintered.



Polyurethane foam: currently called carbamate, product of reaction between isocyanate and alcohol







Macropore and interconnection sizes depend on foam charateristics and on CaP slurry properties
El elièvre & A Destainville

F. Lelièvre & A. Destainville , Thèses, Limoges, 1992 & 2005



Synthetic templates: polyurethane sponges coated with a carbon slurry: The carbon coating layer would result in the formation of large pores suitable for bone ingrowth.



1°) Coating of stretched polymeric sponge with carbon slurry/ drying
2°) Casting a CaP/camphene slurry into carbon-coated polymeric templates,
followed by freeze-drying to remove the solid camphene.

3°) Heat-treatment at 800 °C for 3 h to remove the template and at 1250 C for 3 h to sinter the CaP walls.

Replica from carbon coated sponge



Example Creation of highly elongated pores with a size of 512+/- 96 μ m, surrounded by dense CaP walls with a thickness of 841+/- 239 μ m.

Ji-Hyun Sung Ceramics International 38 (2012)



The compressive strength (21 MPa) of the sample tested parallel to the direction of pore elongation was much higher than that (12 MPa) of the sample tested normal to the direction of pore elongation $\rightarrow \sigma_c$ can be improved significantly by creating highly elongated pores, which can be achieved using stretched polymeric sponges with a carbon coating layer as a template.



The cells appeared to grow and spread actively on the sample surface after culturing for 1 day Fig A. Furthermore, the surface was covered almost completely with the cells after culturing for 3 days Fig B.

15



Natural templates: Coral CaCO₃

The coral exhibit the presence of both calcite and aragonite phases and presents a porous structure which depends on coral species:

- Acropora (20% porosity) near to compact bone
- Porites (50% porosity) near to spongious bone

The pore size varies between 150 and 500 microns versus species.

 \rightarrow coral can be directly used as bone substitute









Natural templates: Coral

First method: 1970 White et al. lost-wax method named "replamineform"

-The coral is first impregnated with wax under vacuum to obtain a negative form of the cellular form.

-After hardening the wax, the calcium carbonate of the coralline skeleton is leached out using a strong acidic solution.

-The wax model is impregnated with a ceramic suspension and subsequently removed by pyrolysis.





Replica from coral





Natural templates: wood

The presence of oriented vessels in the structure of wood enables the preparation of macroporous ceramics with highly anisotropic aligned pores.



CRITERIA OF SELECTION:

- Hierarchical and anisotropic structure
- Microstructural properties (pore size and distribution, pore interconnection)

RATTAN wood







RATTAN WOOD REPRODUCES SPONGY BONE





Replica from wood STAGES OF BIOMORPHIC TRANSFORMATION OF WOOD



Slow heating/cooling (1°C/h) to decompose the organic component and maintain the wood structure





1mm

Carburization Carbon \rightarrow CaC₂

Highly controlled heterogeneous gas/solid reaction between gaseous Ca and solid carbon.

Oxidation $CaC_2 \rightarrow CaO$



Two chemical reactions are competing in the oxidation process. $CaC_2 + 2H_2O \rightarrow CaC_2$

$CaC_2 + 2H_2O \rightarrow Ca(OH)_2 + C_2H_2$	$2CaC_2 + 5O_2 \rightarrow 2CaCO_3 + 2CO_2$	
$Ca(OH)_2 \rightarrow CaO + H_2O$	$CaCO_3 \rightarrow CaO + CO_2$	
$CaC_2 + H_2O \rightarrow CaO + C_2H_2$	$2CaC_2 + 5O_2 \rightarrow 2CaO + 4CO_2$	

3mm

STAGES OF BIOMORPHIC TRANSFORMATION OF WOOD

 $CaO + CO_2 \rightarrow CaCO_3$



Carbonation of CaO is carried out at high temperature and CO_2 pressure to achieve effective CO_2 diffusion in the whole scaffold.





 $10CaCO_3 + 6(NH_4)_2HPO_4 + 2H_2O = Ca_{10}(PO_4)_6(OH)_2 + 6(NH_4)_2CO_3 + 4H_2CO_3$



Replica from wood



2.Sacrificial template technique



Sacrificial template technique consists of the preparation of a biphasic composite comprising a continuous matrix of ceramic particles and a dispersed sacrificial phase. This phase is extracted to generate pores within the structure. This method leads to porous materials displaying a negative replica of the original sacrificial template contrarily to the previous replica methods.



Wide variety of sacrificial materials: synthetic organics : PVB beads, PMMA or PMMA-PEG beads, ... natural organics: sucrose, wax, starch...

The biphasic composite is prepared by various ways:

- a) Pressing a powder mixture of the two components
- b) Forming a two-phase suspension that is processed by wet colloidal routes such as slip or tape casting
- c) Impregnating previously consolidated preforms of the sacrificial material with the ceramic suspension.

The organics are after extracted through pyrolysis by applying long heating times at temperatures between 200 and 600°C depending on organic species.



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- c) Impregnating previously consolidated preforms of PMMA beads scaffold with the CaP powder suspension.

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Impregnation of PMMA beads consolidated preforms with CaP powder suspension.



Chemical forming with acetone



under pressure





- Bonding between PMMA beads (scaffold)

- Controlled diameter bonding (Interconnection) depends on time, temperature, pressure



Impregnation of PMMA beads consolidated preforms with CaP powder suspension.



- > Control of pore size depending on PMMA beads size
- Control of interconnection diameters: Id
 PMMA beads (500 600 μm)
 Id : 60 μm





Id: 260 μm



Control of porosity gradient in pore size and interconnection size





Possibility to add microporosity by mixing graphite as micropore forming agent.



Impregnation of PMMA beads consolidated preforms with CaP powder suspension.

Debinding: 220°C 30 hours + 400°C 5 hours

Sintering: 1115°C 3 hours

Density of ceramic walls = 99 % Porosity = 65% Spherical pores homogeneously distributed in space with several interconnecting holes.





Impregnation of PMMA beads consolidated preforms with CaP powder suspension.





Wide variety of sacrificial materials:

synthetic organics: PVB beads, PMMA or PMMA-PEG beads, ...

natural organics: sucrose, wax, starch...

liquids: freeze-drying of water

By using liquid pore formers such as water and oils, liquids and volatile oils can be evaporated or sublimated at milder conditions without generating toxic gases and excessive stresses during pore former removal.



Freeze Foaming

- Foaming process is based on pressure reduction in the vacuum chamber of a freeze dryer
- Pores through rising water vapor, procedural air and later sublimation of frozen water (aqueous suspensions)





Freeze Foaming : Advantages (structural)





Patent: DE 10 2008 000 100, Tassilo Moritz

- No pore-forming agents needed (Replica or Placeholder Technique)→ environmentally friendly
- Foam with high amount of open porosity (50 -95%) and bimodal pore size distribution
- Meso- to macropores
- Near-net shaping possibility \rightarrow personalization
- Different materials → different product lines according to the needs.

Freeze casting – ice templating

The objective was to mimic the nacre structure by using an oriented freezing process to allow oriented pore development.



Freeze casting



S. Deville et al,, Biomaterials 27 (2006) 5480-5489





Pore long axis size:

- between 150 and 340 µm versus dry matter content
- between 13 and 210 μm versus cooling rate.

Total porosity: 36 to 67 % versus dry matter %



Freeze casting

Human bone





D Hautcoeur Ph D I IMons-BCRC Nov 2014

Colonization tests with MG63 osteoblasts



Freeze casting

4 days

1 day

198 μm/37 μm





3.Direct foaming technique



Direct foaming technique consists of the incorporation of air into a suspension to create air bubbles.

The incorporation of bubbles can be carried out by mechanical agitation or by chemical reaction accompanied by degassing.

The total porosity of sintered foamed ceramics is proportional to the amount of gas incorporated into the liquid and is between 40% - 97%. The pore size depends on the stability of the wet foam before setting takes place \rightarrow foam stabilization with surfactant is necessary to control bubble size and final pore size (10 µm - 300 µm).

Schematic dependence of the disjoining pressure among two interacting gas bubbles as a function of their distance D.



Coalescence is favored by attractive van der Waals forces (a)

and can only be hindered by providing steric and/or electrostatic repulsion among the interacting bubbles (b) by adding long-chain surfactants or proteins or by adding colloidal particles.

A.R.Studart et al JACS 89 [6]1771-1789 (2006)

Direct foaming technique

Direct foaming with surfactant



Direct foaming technique

Direct foaming with surfactant



Direct foaming with particles

The foam lifetime can be increased to several hours by adsorbing long-chain surfactants.



The foam lifetime can be increased to several days by adsorbing colloidal particles in the air bubbles.

Direct foaming technique



A.R.Studart et al JACS 89 [6]1771-1789 (2006)



Direct foaming by gel casting technique

Another way to stabilise the bubbles is to gelify the slurry. Suspensions of CaP particles in water with dispersing agents and organic monomers are foamed by agitation with surfactant under a nitrogen atmosphere. In situ polymerisation of the monomers is initiated to provoke cross-linking and form a 3D polymeric network (gel) before casting. Porous samples are sintered. Foam volume (and hence porosity) could be controlled by the surfactant concentration in the slurry, producing pores of maximum diameter of 100–200 μ m.

Comparison of porosity between various techniques





	Method	Porosity (%)	Pore size (µm)	Pore size distribution	Pore shape	Space distribution
Replica	PU sponge	40 to 95	150 to 1300	Wide	Random	Anisotropic
	Coral	20 to 50	150 to 500	Wide	Random	Anisotropic
	Wood	25 to 95	10 to 300	Trimodal	Elongated	Columnar
Sacrificial templates	PMMA	25 to 90	250 to 1000	Monomodal or	Spherical	Isotropic
	beads			multimodal		
	Freeze	50 to 95	2 to 90	Bimodal	Spherical	Isotropic
	foaming					
	Ice-	30 to 65	5 to 200 width	Monomodal	Ellipsoidal	Columnar
	templating		10 to 500			
	(freeze		length			
	casting)					
Direct foaming	With	40 to 95	30 to 1000	Wide	Spherical	Isotropic
	surfactant					
	With	40 to 90	20 to 300	Wide	Spherical	Isotropic
	particles					
	Gel casting	40 to 90	100 to 1000	Wide	Spherical	Isotropic

4. 3D-Additive manufacturing technique

3D Additive manufacturing technique consists of production of highly complex 3D objects using data generated by computer aided design (CAD) systems.

An image of a defect in a patient can be taken (e.g. by X-ray microtomography, CT scan), which is used to develop 3D CAD computer model. The computer can then reduce the model to slices or layers.

The 3D objects are constructed layer-by-layer using rapid prototyping techniques :

- Paste extrusion techniques,
- Selective laser sintering,
- Binder jetting,
- Stereo lithography.

These techniques are traditionally applied to polymers and recently extended to ceramics.

Robocasting

Robotic-assisted deposition consists of the robotic deposition of inks capable to fully supporting their own weight during assembly.



Cross section



HA part with a gradient in porosity after printing and sintering.

P: 45% $\sigma_c = 25-40$ MPa

Paste extrusion

FDM : fused deposition modeling

- Incandescent material extruded through a nozzle
- The solidification of each layer takes place instantly in contact with the previous one

3DPlot : threedimensional-plotting

Liquid or paste extruded through a mobile head, using compressed air

MJS : multiphase jet solidification

- Binder-powder mixture heated and extruded through a nozzle by a pumping system
- The nozzle scans horizontally to deposit the melting loading

[Kupp et al., Proceedings of the SFF Symposium. 1997]

ROD : robotic dispensing

- Ejection of a slurry in a solvent to induce precipitation
- Freezing and lyophilizing



Polymer [Zein et al., Biomaterials. 2002;23:1169–85]



Hydroxyapatite

[Dellinger et al., J Biomed Mater Res. 2007;82A:383-94]



HA/Chitosan

[Ang et al., Mater. Sci. Eng. 2002;20:35–42]

Selective laser consolidation

SLS : selective laser sintering

- A laser beam scans the surface of a powder bed, mixed with a binder
 - → formation of a layer of material by selective sintering
- The non-sintered powder is then removed by brushing and / or blowing



CaP craniofacial implant [Lee et al., Proc. Solid Free. Fabr. Symp. 1994;191–7]



Polymer ; CaP ; polymer/CaP composite [Duan et al., Acta Biomater. 2010;6:4495–505]



Polymer/HA composite [Eosoly et al., Acta Biomater. 2010;6:2511–7]

Selective laser consolidation

SLM : selective laser melting

The powder is melted under the laser irradiation



Titanium

[Fukuda et al., Acta Biomater. 2011;7:2327–36]



 $\beta\text{-TCP}$ / PDLLA composite

[Lindner et al., J. Biomed. Mater. Res. A. 2011;97:466–71]



Binder jetting

 Binder jetting – a liquid bonding agent is selectively deposited to consolidate a powder bed

3DP : threedimensional-printing



[Warnke et al., J. Biomed. Mater. Res. B Appl. Biomater. 2010;93:212-7]

Stereolithography (SLA) and microstereolithography (µ-SLA)

suspension of ceramic particles in UV sensitive monomer/oligomer



Stereolithography (SLA) and microstereolithography (μ -SLA)

HAP Biactive Implant



Third method: 3D printing of ceramic slurry Human bone







Lithoz

3D AM techniques	Tolerance	Advantages	Limitations
Material extrusion	0.5 to 1mm	 Ease of support removal Good mechanical properties No material waste 	 Precision limited by the filament diameter (about 1mm)
Binder jetting	0.05 to 0.1mm	 Wide variety of materials Simple technology 	 High roughness of the surface Expensive technology Poor mechanical properties Use of toxic organic binders
Selective laser consolidation	0.2 to 0.5mm	 High production rates possible Complex designs Low costs Good surface finishing 	 High roughness of the surface Poor mechanical properties Limited to materials which absorb IR light
Stereolithography	0.01 to 0.1mm	 Complex designs Good surface finishing Good mechanical properties High accuracy 	 Expensive photosensitive resins Cleaning step necessary Control of the vertical accuracy

Review: Additive Manufacturing to Produce Complex 3D Ceramic Parts T. Chartier. C. Dupas.M. Lasgorceix. J. Brie.E. Champion.N. Delhote. Chr. Chaput *J. Ceram. Sci. Tech.*, **xx** [xx] xx (2015) DOI: 10.4416/JCST2014-00040

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Criteria for an ideal scaffold for bone regeneration:

¹ - Is made from a biocompatible material,

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53% porosity a=6 μm and b=13 μm



36% porosity a=44 μm and b=149 μm



MG63 size: 10 μ m width, 50 μ m length





Vitoss Bone Graft Substitute Stryker









Granule form of synthetic β -TCP with pore size of 100-500 μ m (Synthes- "ChronOS").

In vitro cell colonisation



7 days

Favoured colonization in salient angles and concave areas

Flat or convexes areas → migration decrease



* collaboration with Dr Urda Rüdrich





M.Lasgorceix, Ph.D. SPCTS Limoges 2014

Conclusion

- Many techniques are today employed to produce macroporous bioceramics with varying structural and mechanical properties.
- Most of them are already commercially used.
- The more recent 3D-manufacturing methods are promising to producing specific interconnected scaffold architectures with various pore size and morphologies, not achievable by the usual techniques.
- The choice of the shaping technique has to be done according to the desired pore size range and architecture in relation to the application (implantation site, defect size...)

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