

Original Review Article

Mechanical properties and Biological behavior of bioactive glass in restorative dentistry

Ola M. Sakr^{1,2*}

¹Department of Conservative Dentistry, College of Dentistry, Qassim University, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

²Department of Operative Dentistry, College of Dentistry, Misr University for Science and Technology, Egypt

*Corresponding author email: olasakr2004@yahoo.com

	International Archives of Integrated Medicine, Vol. 5, Issue 12, December, 2018. Copy right © 2018, IAIM, All Rights Reserved. Available online at http://iaimjournal.com/	
	ISSN: 2394-0026 (P)	ISSN: 2394-0034 (O)
	Received on: 12-11-2018	Accepted on: 16-11-2018
Source of support: Nil		Conflict of interest: None declared.
How to cite this article: Ola M. Sakr. Mechanical properties and Biological behavior of bioactive glass in restorative dentistry. IAIM, 2018; 5(12): 146-151.		

Abstract

Generally recent bioactive glasses are finding increasing applications in dentistry due to their potential of hard tissue remineralization stimulation. New compositions of bioactive glasses incorporating specific ions added in polymers will be the most important direction for future restorative dentistry researches. Until now, it shows weaker mechanical properties than commercially available restorative materials. Studying of new compositions for enhancing their mechanical properties with bioactivity maintaining is a big challenge in restorative dentistry.

Key words

Bioactive glass, Restorative dentistry, Mechanical properties, Biological behavior.

Introduction

With the development of science and technology and reported living standards improvement, rapid development of biomaterials with great qualitative improvement of life and longevity of human beings has occurred [1, 2]. There are several dental bioactive materials available in the market including implants, impression materials,

core materials, dental cements, restorative materials and bonding agents [3, 4].

Researchers report expected that the global dental implants and prosthetics market will reach approximately \$10.5 billion in 2020 and growing rate per year will be of 7.2% from 2015 to 2020. Therefore, competition exists between a lot of

companies in developmental researches, marketing and product prices, which lead to continuous technological improvement in dental material. Also, different research groups have expected that the bioactive restoratives, dental cements, core build-up materials and bonding agents will significantly increase in market value in the 2010–2020 decade [5-7].

Some restorative dentistry researchers reported that certain restorative categories might decline including amalgam and resin-based restoratives, which will be, step by step, replaced by more modern bioactive materials processed by CAD/CAM, 3D printing and tissue engineering technologies [8–16].

Bio glass show excellent biological properties, mainly ion release induced differentiation but bio glass are brittle materials showing low tensile strength and fracture toughness representing cracks easily. These properties considered as an obstacle to their use for stress or load-bearing areas [17].

Nowadays It is a challenge to develop a new bioactive glass containing dental material with improved mechanical, physical characteristics and superior biological behavior through incorporation of different elements while material synthesis.

It was found that glass crystallinity shows improved mechanical characteristics but decrease glass bioactivity.

Many studies showed that glass amorphous structure preserved with addition of silver, magnesium, strontium, zinc, boron, aluminum, fluoride, potassium, gallium, barium and zirconia. Also Silver and boron addition improve the glass mechanical characteristics and develop antibacterial and antimicrobial behavior of the material. Addition of Calcium shows a great rule in osteoblast proliferation [18-22].

Recently, bioactive glass particles containing dental material are commercially available as

conventional composites fillers and in field of tissue engineering, Several attempts studied composite scaffolds for bone tissue engineering to obtain materials that shows improved mechanical characteristics and biocompatible to host tissue. Increase in bioactivity recorded when polymeric bioactive glass composite scaffolds used. It was noted that proper bioactivity degree can be adjusted by shape, size and bio glass filler arrangement. Improved mechanical properties were shown as increased volume fraction ratio of bioactive glass fibers instead of particles [23].

Many groups of bioactive glass have been studied like: A- Silicate-based glasses, e.g. 45S5, are silica (SiO_2) glasses network-former. Its basic unit is SiO_4 tetrahedron, it could share up to 4 oxygen atoms with other elements. B- bioactive glass system based on Phosphate ($\text{CaO-Na}_2\text{O-P}_2\text{O}_5$). This group is formed by PO_4 units and has a tetrahedral structure. It has a charge of 5+ so it contains at least one terminal oxygen. It has a limited connectivity which act as a cause of unique dissolution properties in aqueous-based fluids for these types of glasses [24]. C- Borate-based glasses group with a B_2O_3 as basic network. it shows a very good results in bone regeneration due to its conversion to apatite crystals through a series of dissolution-precipitation reaction [25].

Mechanical properties of bioactive glass in dentistry

Bioactive behavior of dental materials is directly proportioned to its filler size. As increasing in Bioactive glass filler surface areas allow faster ion leaching [26].

Bioactive fillers coatings are important for improve restorative material performance by providing strong bonding between the resin cement and hard dental tissues [27].

45S5 bio glass are applied to commercially available dental products and pastes for the treatment of early enamel demineralized lesions [28] dentin hypersensitivity [29] and teeth bleaching agents [30].

A lot of studies described methods used to achieve particular mechanical properties. These researches are focused especially on silicate systems. Although dental bioactive glass composition used in most commercially available materials is always well detailed [31].

Some studies analyzed the effect of different elements added to a silicate system. Improved mechanical properties were detected through addition of Barium, Nitrogen, Calcium, Silicon and Aluminum into the glass composition [32-35]. Barium addition which acts as a sintering additive mean of melting acceleration and increase glass homogeneity and more rigidity. Barium ions shows a larger ionic radius than Silicon ions, and this situation allows formation of a denser network in the glass structure. Also, Barium addition increase the flexural strength [35].

Nitrogen addition increases microhardness and modulus of elasticity. Also, it can influence the network structure by subsuming the trivalent N³⁻ ions for the divalent O²⁻ ions and affects the network contraction with subsequent increases the density [36].

Increase of the modulus of elasticity was detected with increasing the CaO/P₂O₅ ratio [34].

Addition of Silicon and Aluminum which act as network former elements improves compressive strength of tested material and the Young's modulus [32, 33].

Addition of Sodium cations results in weaker ionic links between two non-bridging oxygens in the glass structure resulting in a less rigid glass network. This was shown to decrease the Vickers's hardness of the material [37].

The Bioactive material synthesis method affects the mechanical properties; foaming sol-gel synthesis delivers an enhanced porosity and consequently a weaker compressive strength [38].

Immediate thermal treatment after bio silicate material synthesis can improve the load bearing capacity and help the material crystals nucleation producing a glass-ceramic like material [39].

Many studies investigated the influence of the addition of polymers forming bioactive glass based composites. These composites combine bioactivity and the mechanical properties of glass with flexibility and elasticity of the polymers.

Incorporation of bioactive glass in Polycaprolactone polymer improve modulus of elasticity. Also, mechanical properties were improved when bioactive glass powders mixed with Polylactic acid and its copolymer poly-l-lactic-co-glycolic acid (PLGA) [40-42].

Biological behavior of bioactive glass in dentistry

Bioactive glass is recently use in restorative dentistry. Jamie Kruzic stated that Bioactive glass, which is a type of crushed glass that is able to interact with the body, has been used in some types of bone healing for decades [43].

Restorative Bioactive powdered glass is made with variety of compounds such as silicon oxide, calcium oxide and phosphorus oxide. It categorized as bioactive as human body shows a response and reaction to it [29].

Many researches mentioned that bioactive glass help prolong the fillings life span, researchers explained that the depth of bacterial penetration into the interface with bioactive glass-containing fillings was significantly smaller than for composites lacking the bioactive glass [44-45].

Davis H et al studied that fillings made with bioactive glass showed slow secondary tooth decay, and also provide some minerals that could help replace those being lost [46].

Sliver Dopped Bioactive Glass Composite (Ag-BGCOMP) is a new bioactive dental composite incorporating quaternary ammonium dimethacrylate (QADM) and silver nanoparticles

(AgNP). This new generation of dental bioactive composite have been manufactured and observed to inhibit action of streptococcus mutans and enhances remineralization. Combined antibacterial and regenerative action have been the ultimate aim of the new generation of bioactive dental composites. While the total bond strength of the newly developed material is not significantly affected [47].

Conclusion

The investigation of new bioactive glass compositions in dental restorative materials offer a very promising area for future researches which should be conducted.

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