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The potential of hybrids for bone regeneration, bioactivity biodegradation and cytotoxicity

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Introduction. Bioactive silica-based glasses, ceramics, and hybrids are called to play an important role as osteoproduktive materials that induce quick bone regeneration¹. Organic-inorganic hybrid materials based on SiO₂-modified PDMS-P₂O₅-CaO may be relevant in the field because they offer the capacity of tailoring properties². The influence of the composition on the reaction kinetics, dissolution mechanism, obtained porosities, biodegradation, bioactive behavior, and cytotoxicity are studied in this work.

Methods. The hybrids were synthesized by a *sol-gel* method. The degradation and bioactivity of the hybrids were tested by soaking the specimens into SBF and PBS. The materials were characterized by FT-IR, XRD, MAS-NMR, TGA, and SEM. Raman spectroscopy, tensiometry and N₂ adsorption/desorption curves were used to measure the changes during degradation. Surface parameters, fractal constant and anisotropy of the pores were determined. Cytotoxicity assays were carried out using MG63 cells.

Results and Conclusions. SiO₂-modified PDMS-P₂O₅-CaO hybrids were synthesized and proven to be highly bioactive³. Degradation of the hybrids occurred simultaneously to the apatite growing and the apatite crystallization depends on the hybrid P₂O₅ content. As P₂O₅ content increased, the hybrids are denser and more stable. Hybrids with low-P₂O₅ presented a surface-driven degradation mechanism. Hybrids enriched in P₂O₅ showed a matrix dissolution process. During degradation, the surface parameters, fractal constant and anisotropy of the pores changed. The slight increase of the fractal constant in low-containing P₂O₅ materials suggested the formation of a homogeneous silica-like layer in the first stage of degradation, which also works as anchoring nucleus for subsequent apatite formation⁴. In all the cases, the degradation leads to ink-bottle shaped pores, increasing their volume as degradation occurs, but keeping their neck shape. Although the degradation products excreted during these processes, cellular viability was maintained over 70% at all the studied times.

References

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