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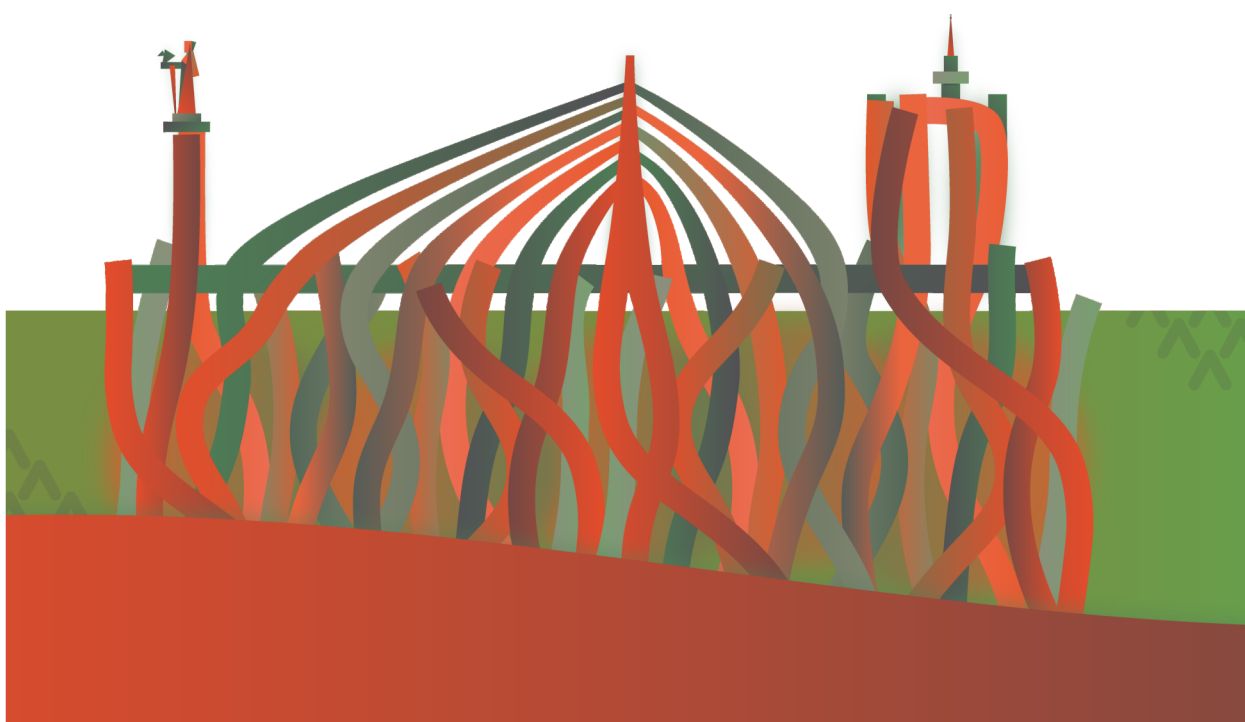
Vol. 78

Časopis Saveza hemijskih inženjera Srbije

Chemical Industry

Supplementary Issue
ExcellMater Conference 2024 Abstracts

Innovative biomaterials
for novel medical devices
Conference 2024



Aktivnosti Saveza hemijskih inženjera Srbije pomažu:



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Chemical Industry
Химическая промышленность

Hemijska industrija

Časopis Saveza hemijskih inženjera Srbije
Journal of the Association of Chemical Engineers of Serbia
Журнал Союза химических инженеров Сербии

VOL. 78

Beograd, mart 2024.

Broj 1s

Izdavač

Savez hemijskih inženjera Srbije
Beograd, Kneza Miloša 9/1

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Redakcija

11000 Beograd, Kneza Miloša 9/1

Tel/fax: 011/3240-018

E-pošta: shi@ache.org.rs

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Izdavanje časopisa pomaže

Republika Srbija, Ministarstvo nauke, tehnološkog
razvoja i inovacija

Uplata pretplate i oglasnog prostora vrši se na tekući
račun Saveza hemijskih inženjera Srbije, Beograd, broj
205-2172-71, Komercijalna banka a.d., Beograd

Menadžer časopisa i kompjuterska priprema

Aleksandar Dekanski

Štampa

Razvojno-istraživački centar grafičkog inženjerstva,
Tehnološko-metalurški fakultet, Univerzitet u
Beogradu, Karnegijeva 4, 11000 Beograd

Indeksiranje

Radovi koji se publikuju u časopisu *Hemijska Industrija*
ideksiraju se preko *Thompson Reuters Scietific®* servisa
Science Citation Index - Expanded™ i *Journal Citation
Report (JCR)*

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Bioactivity of gentamicin-loaded hydroxyapatite/poly(vinyl alcohol)/chitosan composite coatings aimed for orthopedic application

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Keywords: Antibacterial activity; electrophoretic deposition; alkaline phosphatase

Hem. Ind. **78(15)** 59 (2024)

Available on-line at the Journal web address: <http://www.ache.org.rs/HI/>

INTRODUCTION: Following orthopedic surgery, bacterial infection may lead to significant complications related to inflammation in the peri-implant region, including the potential for implant loosening. To address this concern, the surface of metallic implants was modified through the application of bioactive and antibacterial coatings, aiming to mitigate these issues.

EXPERIMENTAL: HAP/PVA/CS/Gent coatings was single-step electrophoretically deposited from four-component aqueous suspension containing 1 wt.% hydroxyapatite powder (HAP, particles < 200 nm particle size, Sigma-Aldrich), 0.1 wt.% poly(vinyl alcohol) (PVA, medium molecular weight 89 to 98 kDa, 99 % hydrolysed, Sigma-Aldrich), 0.05 wt% chitosan powder (CS, medium molecular weight, 190 to 310kDa with 75 to 85 % deacetylation degree, Sigma-Aldrich), and aqueous gentamicin sulfate solution (Gent, concentration 50 mg/ml, Sigma-Aldrich) on titanium plates (Sigma-Aldrich). Antibacterial activity of HAP/PVA/CS/Gent coating was evaluated against *Staphylococcus aureus* TL (culture collection-FTM, University of Belgrade, Serbia) and *Escherichia coli* ATCC 25922, while kinetics of antibacterial activity was monitored according to our previously published data [1]. In vitro cytotoxicity assay was performed towards two fibroblast cell lines of different origin-mouse origin cell line (L929 (ATCC CRL-6364)) and human lung origin cell line (MRC-5 (ATCC CCL-171)) [2]. To evaluate the statistical significance of the biological assay results (antibacterial activity, cytotoxicity and ALP activity), one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) followed by a multiple comparisons posthoc test was used.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION: HAP/PVA/CS/Gent coating exhibited strong antibacterial effect against both *S. aureus* and *E. coli*, especially pronounced against *S. aureus*, causing bactericidal effect. Cytotoxic effect of HAP/PVA/CS/Gent coating was not pronounced in investigated MRC-5 and L929 cell lines. MRC-5 fibroblast cells in contact with HAP/PVA/CS/Gent doubled alkaline phosphatase levels compared to their contact with the control samples (HAP/PVA/CS), indicating good osteogenic properties.

CONCLUSIONS: Electrophoretically deposited HAP/PVA/CS/Gent bioceramic coatings on titanium, demonstrated significant potential as implants in orthopedic practice, functioning as drug carriers. Not only do they possess antibacterial properties, but they also exhibit no adverse effects on living tissue.

Acknowledgements: This research is supported by The Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation, Republic of Serbia, (Contract No. 451-03- 47/2023–01/200287 and 451-03-47/2023–01/200023), by European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation program under grant agreement No. 952033, and University Union - Nikola Tesla, Belgrade, Republic of Serbia.

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