

The Study of Structure and Properties of Binary Ti-Cr Alloys for Biomedical Applications

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to investigate the structure, mechanical properties and grindability of a series of binary Ti-Cr alloys with Cr contents ranging from TiC1-TiC5 wt% were investigated, with the aim of developing a dental titanium alloy. In addition, this study was also to evaluate the bond strength of experimental binary Ti-Cr alloys to dental porcelain. Through SEM with energy-dispersive spectrometry (EDS), the bonding interface between metal and porcelain substrates after the bending test was also observed. In addition, the CTE values of the Ti-Cr alloys and c.p. Ti was also evaluated. Experimental results indicated that the structure of Ti-Cr alloys is sensitive to the Cr content. The cast c.p. Ti has a hexagonal phase. With TiC1, metastable phase starts to be retained. With Cr contents higher than TiC2, the equi-axed phase is almost entirely retained. In addition, athermal phase was found in the TiC1 and TiC2 alloys. The largest quantity of phase and highest microhardness were found in TiC2 alloy. The grinding rate of the Ti-Cr alloys showed a similar tendency with the microhardness. The TiC2 alloy exhibited the best grindability, especially at 1000 m/min, which presumably due to the brittle nature of the alloy containing the phase in the matrix. The bending strength of the TiC3 alloy was about 1.8 times greater than for c.p. Ti. TiC2 alloy had relatively higher bending strength almost near the TiC3 alloy. This is believed to be a result of the strengthening effect of phase. From SEM fractographs, the TiC2 alloy was featured by coarse cleavage facets in the fracture surface together with some terrace-type morphology. The TiC3 exhibited ductile properties, but not for alloys with other compositions. In addition, the elastic recovery capability of TiC3 alloy was greater than that of c.p. Ti by as much as 460%. From the unpolished optical micrographs, the surfaces of TiC3 alloys were covered with large amounts of slip bands. It showed that the deformation of TiC3 alloy was dominated by slip of dislocations. By judging from the results of mechanical properties and deformation behavior, TiC3 is considered to be the most expected alloy for prosthetic dental applications if other properties necessary for dental casting are obtained. The bond strengths of all the Ti-Cr alloys were higher than that of c.p. Ti. Except TiC1 and TiC2 alloys, the bond strengths of all the other Ti-Cr alloys exceeded the lower limit value in the ISO 9693 standard for the 3-point bending test (25 MPa). On the other hand, c.p. Ti surface after debonding exhibited the least amount of retained porcelain on the metal surface, and mainly adhesive bond failure. However, more traces of retained porcelain were observed on specimens that contained higher alloying elements, such as TiC4 and TiC5 alloys, attesting to a better mechanical performance. In addition, the CTE of the Ti-Cr alloys ranged from $10.0 \times 10^{-6}/\text{oC}$ (TiC2) to $11.8 \times 10^{-6}/\text{oC}$ (TiC5), and were higher than that for c.p. Ti ($10.1 \times 10^{-6}/\text{oC}$). The TiC5 alloy had significantly higher bond strength than the other Ti-Cr alloys and c.p. Ti. It was concluded that the difference in the CTE between TiC5 alloy and Duceratin porcelain is less than $1 \times 10^{-6}/\text{oC}$, ratifying the data obtained by bond strength testing.

Keywords : Titanium alloy ; Structure ; Mechanical property ; phase ; Grindability ; Bong strength ; Thermal expansion coefficient

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