SURFACE CHARACTERISTICS AND
IN VITRO BIO-ACCEPTABILITY OF
MACHINED AND CAST
PURE TITANIUM
AND TITANIUM ALLOY

BY

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Thesis submitted in fulfillment for the requirements of the degree

Philosophiae Doctor

In the School of Dentistry
Faculty of Health Sciences
University of Pretoria

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January-2003
DECLARATION

I, Lorna Celia Carneiro, declare that this thesis entitled:

"Surface Characteristics and In Vitro Bio-acceptability of Machined and Cast Pure Titanium and Titanium Alloy"

which I herewith submit to the University of Pretoria for the Degree of Philosophiae Doctor in Dentistry, is my own original work, and has never been submitted for any academic award to any other tertiary institution for any degree.

Date 2003
Lorna Celia Carneiro
DEDICATION

My late brother-in-law
Agnelo

My parents

My husband
Primo

Our children
Ryan, Elton and Michael
Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed

Proverbs 16:3
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Training Fund for Tanzanian Women for the partial scholarship grant.

The Muhimbili National Hospital/Muhimbili University College of Health Sciences for study leave and partial scholarship grant.

Prof SJ Botha for his untimely effort in planning, constant encouragement and many other aspects for which there are no words just gratitude.

Prof PL Kemp for his profound contribution to unlimited knowledge, constant assistance and guidance.

Colleagues in the Centre of Stomatological Research and Department of Prosthetic Dentistry.

Southern Implants - Graham Blackbeard and Hein van Heerden for all machined samples and the enhancement of cast samples.

J & D Chrome, Deon Botha and Johan Voss for the fabrication of Cast Titanium samples.

Department of Materials Science and Metallurgical Engineering, University of Pretoria for the different microscopic utilities especially Prof Von Moltke, Robert Ehlers and Prem Premachandra.

Gerrit Myburg for doing the Radio Frequency Glow Discharge Treatment of samples.

Wynand Louw - from the Council for Scientific & Industrial Research for the Depth profile analysis of samples.

Department of Electron Microscopy, University of Pretoria and especially Ian Hall and Chris van de Merwe for samples preparation, training and assistance in using the Scanning Electron Microscope.
Dr PJ Becker from the Medical Research Council, for guidance assistance and processing of the statistics.

Gerald Grossberg — L N dministrator, School of Dentistry for help with the network, digital camera and computer technicalities.

Library staff (Susan Marsh, Maria Skosana, Antionette Kemp, Patrick Maibelo and Marinda Maritz) of the Pre Clinical Library of the University of Pretoria for their tireless effort in retrieving of publications.

Colleagues from the assistent Dental Officer’s Training School/Faculty of Dentistry, Muhimbili University College of Health Sciences, Tanzania.

Primo, my husband, for his love, support, prompting, advice and encouragement to persevere.

My children, Ryan, Elton and Michael who besides many sacrifices were deprived of my presence.

My parents for their continued love and support.

Ivan, my brother for his spiritual support besides the many other times he has been there for me.

Riantes Residence — The Rossi’s — you provided not only boarding and meals during the many times I was busy working but love, care and consideration.

My friends Monica, Hulda, Marna, Carol, Cecilia and lice — both near and far, for their prayers, friendship and words of encouragement.

Lastly not forgetting the families of Dr Hennie and nnalie van Jaarsveld, Monica and Guillermo Hamity, Fanie and Francien Botha, Rina and Hennie de Wet, Ina and Jan de Wet and Hulda and Fidelis Swai — you all provided me a family to be part of.

Thank-you.
SUMMARY

Properties making Ti and its alloys popular implant materials are determined by manufacturing conditions. With introduction of cast Ti into the dental fraternity, alternative methods of implant fabrication are possible. This study determined and compared differences in bio-acceptability between surface characteristics of machined and cast Ti and Ti-alloy in relation to materials used, fabrication procedure employed, surface enhancements and Radio Frequency Glow Discharge Treatment (RFGDT). Discs of 6.35mm diameter, 2mm thick, were prepared using cpTi and Ti6Al4V by machining and casting, and specific topographies were introduced. The first group of surfaces was from machining and casting procedures (controls). The second group was surfaces enhanced according to proprietary specifications of Southern Implants (SI). The third group was experimentally enhanced surfaces (ES). Enhancement included grit blasting and acid etching. From each group 21 of 24 samples were RFGDT. Electron Spectroscopy and Profilometric analysis of the Ti surfaces determined chemical composition, oxide thickness and surface roughness. Growth of human gingival fibroblasts and osteoblast-like cells, and scanning electron microscopy (SEM) determined in vitro bio-acceptability of different samples. Surface chemical composition was the same for cpTi and Ti6Al4V samples. Cast and enhanced samples were different from machined samples with higher % concentration of Sodium and Aluminium (p<0.05). RFGDT reduced Carbon and other surface contaminants and enhanced the Oxygen and Titanium atomic % concentration (p<0.05). The Sodium and Aluminium atomic % concentration was not affected. The major surface peak was TiO₂ for Ti and oxygen peaks varied considerably between machined and cast samples. Surface topography of cast samples had higher surface analysis values compared to machined samples (p<0.05). RFGDT increased surface area and Rp values (p<0.05). No significant differences in
oxide thickness were observed between materials employed, but it was significantly higher for cast and enhanced samples. RFGDT significantly increased oxide thickness of samples. Fibroblasts showed significant increases in % attachment efficiency and proliferation (%AEP) with time while osteoblast-like cells showed a significant decrease with time. The %AEP of fibroblasts and osteoblast-like cells on different samples was not significantly different. Cast Ti6Al4V control and machined Ti6Al4V SI samples had relatively higher %AEP for osteoblast-like cells than the control or other samples. SEM revealed that fibroblasts and osteoblast-like cells displayed similar attachment behaviour. On machined surfaces cells spread, displaying the underlying topography while on cast and enhanced surfaces cells attached to the available peaks and used these attachments to suspend themselves over the surface. Filopodia were responsible for the attachment of cells. Significant differences in chemical composition were introduced by casting and surface enhancement procedures. RFGDT significantly reduced the concentration of Carbon and other contaminants on the surface exposing the surface Titanium oxide. Cast samples had rougher surface topography than machined samples. RFGDT significantly increased surface area and peak height. Casting, surface enhancement and RFGDT significantly increased oxide thickness. With time fibroblasts showed significant increases in %AEP while osteoblast-like cells significant decreases. Fibroblasts tended to proliferate on relatively smooth surfaces whereas osteoblast-like cells favored rougher surface topography produced by casting and surface enhancement.
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