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Optimization of Silver-containing Bioglass Nanoparticles Envisaging Biomedical Applications

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Abstract.

Bioglass nanoparticles (BGs) are of outmost importance in the biomedical field, because their unique characteristics, namely osteoconductivity and osteoinductivity, and also in certain conditions, angiogenic and bactericidal properties. In this work, novel bioglass nanoparticles containing silver (AgBGs) were synthesized by a sol-gel method, adopting different thermal treatments to obtain new nanoparticles with bioactive and antibacterial features. This is the first systematic study of the effect of the thermal treatment on the properties of AgBGs. The effect of the studied thermal treatments on the properties of synthesized nanoparticles was analysed by several characterization techniques: FT-IR, XRD, S-TEM, SEM-EDS and Zeta potential. FT-IR allowed the identification of the characteristic peaks of the nanoparticles and XRD revealed the presence of the characteristic peaks of an apatite-like phase. By S-TEM analysis it was found that the produced nanoparticles are dense and have a diameter less than 200 nm. The SEM micrographs showed their surface morphology and Zeta potential measurements were performed to study their suspension stability. Additionally, in vitro bioactivity tests confirmed their bioactive potential and the microbiological tests evidenced their bactericidal effect. These promising AgBGs could be incorporated either in 2D or 3D structures for several biomedical applications, namely in the orthopedic and dental fields.

Keywords: Nanoparticles, bioglass® (BG), silver (Ag), antibacterial activity.

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