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Facile production of porous bioactive glass scaffolds by the foam replica technique combined with sol-gel/electrophoretic deposition

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## **ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT**

Facile production of porous bioactive glass scaffolds by the foam replica technique combined with sol-gel/electrophoretic deposition

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## Abstract

3D porous bioactive glass (BG) scaffolds were fabricated by the foam replication technique combining sol-gel and electrophoretic deposition (EPD) processes. A special EPD set-up was built to optimize the scaffolds fabrication, which results in the rapid production of BG-based scaffolds in comparison to the traditional time-consuming foam replication technique normally used for the same kind of BG scaffolds. The influence of parameters related to the BG sol (aging time) as well as to the electrically driven process (deposition voltage) were studied and discussed in terms of the final scaffolds microstructure. Bioactivity of the samples, in terms of hydroxycarbonate apatite (HCA) formation in simulated body fluid (SBF), was confirmed after 1 day of immersion in SBF, confirming the suitability of the new scaffolds for bone regeneration applications.

Keywords: electrophoretic deposition, bioactive glass, scaffolds, sol-gel, foam replication technique

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