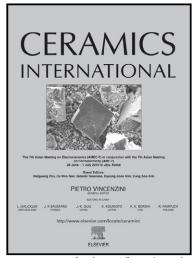
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Effect of layer printing delay on mechanical properties and dimensional accuracy of 3D printed

porous prototypes in bone tissue engineering

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Abstract

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Recent advancements in computational design and additive manufacturing have enabled the

fabrication of 3D prototypes with controlled architecture resembling the natural bone. Powder-based

three-dimensional printing (3DP) is a versatile method for production of synthetic scaffolds using

sequential layering process. The quality of 3D printed products by this method is controlled by the

optimal build parameters. In this study, Calcium Sulphate based powders were used for porous

scaffolds fabrication. The X- direction printed scaffolds with a pore size of 0.8 mm and a layer

thickness of 0.1125 mm were subjected to the depowdering step. The effects of four layer printing

delays of 50, 100, 300 and 500 ms on the physical and mechanical properties of printed scaffolds were

investigated. The compressive strength, toughness and tangent modulus of samples printed with a

delay of 300 ms were observed to be higher than other samples. Furthermore, the results of SEM and

μCT analyses showed that samples printed with a delay of 300 ms have higher dimensional accuracy

and are significantly closer to CAD software based designs with predefined 0.8 mm macro pore and

0.6 mm strut size.

Keywords

Additive Manufacturing, 3D printing, Dimensional accuracy, Compressive strength, Delay in

Printing.

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