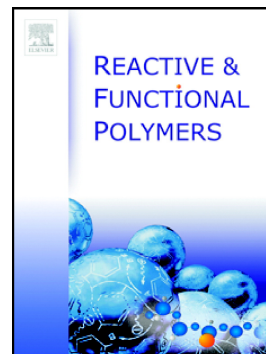


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Monolithic polydimethylsiloxane-modified silica composites prepared by a low-temperature sol-gel micromolding technique for controlled drug release

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Abstract

Sol-gel derived multi-component silica composites are widely accepted as smart materials in orthopedic surgery as bone fillers and bioactive skeleton drug delivery systems. This paper discusses the effect of hydroxy-terminated polydimethylsiloxane (PDMS) (10, 20, 30 and 40 % (w/w)) on the physicochemical properties of low temperature sol-gel processed polydimethylsiloxane/calcium phosphate/silica (PDMS-modified CaP/SiO₂) composites. The micromolding technique was employed to obtain PDMS-modified CaP/SiO₂ composites-monolithic granule-type formulations. The effectiveness of PDMS-modified CaP/SiO₂ granules as potential skeleton drug delivery systems was studied *in vitro* using Rhodamine B (ROD) as a model for highly water-soluble molecules. Results indicated that the composites with PDMS contents at 20 and 30% (w/w) showed similar mechanical properties to those of human cancellous bones. The content of PDMS had a significant effect on the release of ROD. These results showed that PDMS-modified CaP/SiO₂ granules with 20 and 30% (w/w) PDMS could provide the zero-order release profile of highly water-soluble molecules.

Keywords: monolithic silica composites; sol-gel process; micromolding technique; controlled release

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