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www.elsevier.com/locate/ceri

PII: S0272-8842(17)31186-0
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ceramint.2017.05.346>
Reference: CER115506

To appear in: *Ceramics International*

Received date: 4 April 2017
Revised date: 14 May 2017
Accepted date: 29 May 2017

Cite this article as: Agripina Zaharia, Viorica Mușat, Elena Maria Anghel, Irina Atkinson, Oana-Cătălina Mocioiu, Mariana Bușilă and Viorica Ghisman Pleșcan Biomimetic chitosan-hydroxyapatite hybrid biocoatings for enamel remineralization, *Ceramics International*, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ceramint.2017.05.346>

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Biomimetic chitosan-hydroxyapatite hybrid biocoatings for enamel remineralization

Agripina Zaharia¹, Viorica Mușat^{2*}, Elena Maria Anghel³, Irina Atkinson³, Oana-Cătălina Mocioiu³, Mariana Bușilă², Viorica Ghisman Pleșcan²

¹Faculty of Dentistry, Ovidius University of Constanta, 124 Mamaia Blvd., 8700 Constanta, Romania

²Centre of Nanostructures and Functional Materials-CNMF, Department of Materials Science and Engineering, “Dunărea de Jos” University of Galați, 111 Domnească, 800201 Galați, Romania,

³Institute of Physical Chemistry “Ilie Murgulescu” of Romanian Academy, Spl. Independentei 2020, 060021 Bucharest, Romania

*Corresponding author. viorica.musat@ugal.ro

Abstract

Development of biomimetic ceramic-based materials is currently a challenge in dental tissue engineering. Synthetic hybrid chitosan (CS)-hydroxyapatite (HAP) layers are regarded as candidates for teeth remineralization, protection against further demineralization ensuring also antibacterial activity. Thus, the aim of this work was to obtain new biomimetic CS-HAP layers for restoration of damaged mature enamels and to pursue morphological, compositional, structural and hardness modifications of the grown layers by immersion for 4, 7 and 10 days into artificial saliva (AS) under CS-Emdogain (EMD) hydrogel action. SEM-EDX, HRTEM-SAED, FTIR and micro-Raman findings indicated formation of carbonate-substituted HAP, B-type, with c-axis orientation in the newly formed CS-HAP coatings. Prolonged immersion span of 10 days caused increasing CS content in the superficial grown layer while carbonate content diminished. Optimum Ca/P ratio (1.85 at. %) and hardness of 2.48 GPa were recorded for seven days growth using CS-EMD hydrogel. Subtle changes in HAP lattice parameters were recorded for 10-day grown layer while c-axis orientation of HAP crystals at mesoscale was preserved. Mechanism of CS interaction during in situ biomimetic synthesis and self-assembly of HAP crystals under CS-EMD hydrogel presence is also discussed.

Graphical Abstract

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