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A novel method to synthesize low-cost phosphate-based particles from natural water

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Abstract

Calcium phosphate (CaP) and magnesium phosphate (MgP) are widely used as biomaterials. A novel method for low-cost manufacturing of calcium phosphate spheres and magnesium phosphate micro particles was studied. The method focuses on novel strategies of utilizing seawater and lake water. In the natural water, the molar ratios of Mg/Ca are constant. The morphologies of the particles are determined by ratio of Ca/P. This simple method provides a prototype to synthesize low-cost inorganic spheres with natural water, which facilitate large-scale production.

Key words: Phosphate-based, spheres, seawater, lake water

Introduction

Calcium phosphate particles as bioactive material have widely applications[1,2]. Compared to CaP particles, magnesium phosphate particles are not well studied even though magnesium phosphates have higher biocompatibility and faster degradation rate[3]. The recent studies demonstrated that magnesium phosphate based biomaterials can be applied in orthopaedics, bone cements, production of magnesium phosphate-polymer composite scaffolds, and as gene and drug delivery vehicles [4,5]. Current syntheses of calcium phosphate spherical particles are concentrated on spraying and self-assembly using surfactants and biomolecules[6,7]. Due to template residue, template-free methods become more popular and promising. In absence of templates, there are few reported studies[8,9]. However, there remain some challenges. The

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