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Antibacterial surfaces prepared by electrospray coating of

photocatalytic nanoparticles

Blanca Jalvo¹, Marisol Faraldos^{2, *}, Ana Bahamonde², Roberto Rosal^{1, *}

¹ Department of Chemical Engineering, University of Alcalá, E-28871 Alcalá de Henares, Madrid, Spain

² Instituto de Catálisis y Petroleoquímica, ICP-CSIC, Marie Curie 2, E-28049 Madrid, Spain

*Corresponding authors: roberto.rosal@uah.es, Tel.: +34918856395, Fax: +34918855088, mfaraldos@icp.csic.es, Tel.: +34915854820, Fax: +34915854760

Abstract

The aim of this work was to use electrospray to create photocatalytic TiO₂ coatings and to study their antibacterial and antibiofilm capacity. The electrospray used a sol of TiO₂ anatase nanoparticles prepared by a sol-gel method, which formed stable suspensions of positively charged particles (ζ-potential +22.3 \pm 3.7 mV). The electrospray deposited TiO₂ on non-porous glass surfaces at two loading densities originating homogeneous coatings (3.2-4.3 µm) of particles the top layer of which displayed aggregates ranging from the micron scale to a few hundreds of nanometers, with lower size as TiO₂ loading increased. TiO₂-functionalized surfaces were tested for the inactivation of the Gram-positive bacterium *Staphylococcus aureus*. The electrosprayed surface was moderately hydrophilic turning highly hydrophilic upon irradiation (water contact angle 9.6° after 15 h under Xe-arc lamp). photocatalytic surfaces were put in contact with exponentially growing bacterial cultures in a flow system in which solar simulated irradiation followed two different 24 h dark-light arrangements with 9 or 18 h dark exposure followed by 15 or 6 h irradiation. The electrosprayed surfaces

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