Accepted Manuscript

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PII:	S0032-5910(13)00393-8
DOI:	doi: 10.1016/j.powtec.2013.05.035
Reference:	PTEC 9606

To appear in: *Powder Technology*

Received date:7 February 2013Revised date:14 May 2013Accepted date:17 May 2013

Please cite this article as: Ernesto Reverchon, Renata Adami, Supercritical Assisted Atomization to produce nanostructured chitosan-hydroxyapatite microparticles for biomedical application, *Powder Technology* (2013), doi: 10.1016/j.powtec.2013.05.035

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Supercritical Assisted Atomization to produce nanostructured chitosan-hydroxyapatite microparticles for biomedical application

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Abstract

Supercritical Assisted Atomization (SAA) has been applied to the production of coprecipitates formed by hydroxyapatite nanometric particles and chitosan, used as binding agent.

Precipitation temperatures between 90°C and 110°C have been used and a chitosan concentration lower than 20 mg/mL has been required to avoid microparticle coalescence. Furthermore, to obtain a good compromise between particle size and hydroxyapatite loading, a gas to liquid ratio of 1.8 was adopted. The best operating conditions for particle diameter and coprecipitate stability were: precipitation temperature 110°C, chitosan concentration in the starting solution 10 mg/mL, that produced spherical composite microparticles with a mean diameter of 0.6 µm and a loading efficiency of about 91%. The nanostructure and particle surface roughness has been modulated varying hydroxyapatite percentages in the starting suspension. The results obtained have been explained in terms of suspension stabilization and atomization efficiency. Possible biomedical applications for these powders are described.

Keywords:

Supercritical, atomization, chitosan, hydroxyapatite, microparticles, nanostructured

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