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Ultrasonic-assisted conversion of limestone into needle-like hydroxyapatite nanoparticles

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Abstract

Needle-like hydroxyapatite nanoparticles were successfully synthesized *via* a reaction between calcium oxide (CaO) that was obtained from calcined limestone and orthophosphoric acid (H₃PO₄) under ultrasonic irradiation at 25°C. The reaction systems were exposed to ultrasonic waves of 20 kHz for various times ranging from 0 to 4 h. The initial and final pH values of the mixtures of CaO and H₃PO₄ solution were continuously observed (pH<4.0) after ultrasonic irradiation. The powder was then dried at 60°C and calcined at 300 °C for 3 h (3 °C/min). The products were characterized using X-ray diffraction (XRD), Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR) and transmission electron microscopy (TEM). The results showed that the formation of needle-like hydroxyapatite (HAp) nanoparticles was substantially accelerated compared with the reaction without ultrasonic irradiation. The HAp phase was increasingly visible with longer ultrasonic irradiation time compared with the monetite phase (CaHPO₄). This

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