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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Development of a Novel Loading Device for Studying Magnesium Degradation under Compressive Load for Implant Applications

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Abstract

Medical implants play a key role in treating bone fractures. Permanent implants are currently used for immobilization of fractures and bearing physiological loads during bone healing. After bone has healed, these implants, if not removed, often cause complications in the long run; and secondary surgeries for removing them pose additional discomfort and expenses for patients. Magnesium (Mg)-based bioresorbable implants, can potentially eliminate the need for additional surgeries by degrading safely over time in the human body. When studying the degradation behaviors of Mg-based implants *in vitro*, it is important to simulate physiological conditions *in vivo* closely, including loading. Considering that implants often carry physiological loads *in vivo* and mechanical stresses affect the degradation rate of Mg, a novel loading device was designed and manufactured for studying Mg degradation under load over a long period of time in a simulated body fluid *in vitro*. Degradation of Mg rods were investigated by immersing in a revised simulated body fluid (rSBF) for two weeks while a consistent compressive load was applied using the loading device. The results showed that the loading device provided a consistent load of 500 ± 45 N during the two weeks of immersion. Mg rods showed a significant

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