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An insight into the effect of buffer layer on the electrochemical performance of MgF₂ coated Magnesium alloy ZK60

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Abstract

Magnesium (Mg) has emerged as potential implant material owing to its property of biodegradation. The roadblock to the commercial use of Mg as implant material is its fast degradation in body fluids. The degradation of the Mg and its alloys can be retarded by surface coatings. In this work, the potential of MgF₂ coating on the surface of Mg alloy ZK60 (Mg-6.9Zn-0.8Zr) was evaluated for its corrosion properties. Two-step chemical conversion process was used to coat MgF₂ on the surface of ZK60 alloy. In the first step, a secondary layer of Mg(OH)₂ was introduced by boiling the samples in NaOH solution. In the second step, these samples were immersed in hydrofluoric acid to obtain MgF₂ coating. SEM, IR Spectroscopy, and XRD were employed to confirm the formation of Mg(OH)₂ and MgF₂. The wettability tests showed an increase in surface hydrophobicity as a result of conversion treatment. The potentiodynamic polarization tests exhibited an improvement in the corrosion potential from -1.52 V vs. SCE to -1.49 V vs. SCE after two-step conversion treatment. Moreover, coated sample witnessed a noticeable drop in hydrogen evolution compared to untreated ZK60. For a better insight, the results were compared to the MgF₂ coatings achieved on the surface of ZK60 without any buffer layer. The coating of MgF₂ with a buffer layer of Mg(OH)₂ on the surface of ZK60 exhibited a noble corrosion potential, controlled degradation, and nominal hydrogen evolution compared to the untreated ZK60.

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