EFFECT OF HEAT TREATMENT AND OXYGEN DOPING ON MICROSTRUCTURE, HARDNESS AND ELASTIC MODULUS OF TI20NI ALLOY

D. Cascadan[*1], M. A. R. Buzalaf[2] and C. R. Grandini[1]

[1] UNESP – Univ. Estadual Paulista, Laboratório de Anelasticidade e Biomateriais, 17.033-360, Bauru, SP, Brazil

[2]USP, Faculdade de Odontologia, Departamento de Ciências Biológicas, 17.012-901, Bauru, SP, Brazil

1. Introduction

Ti-20wt%Ni alloy can be used as a biomaterial because the addition of nickel enhances the mechanical strength, corrosion and wear resistance of cp-Ti [1,2]. Among properties of a biomaterial, elastic modulus and hardness are very important and, varies according to microstructure and the amount of interstitial elements such as oxygen and nitrogen [3,4]. For this purpose, it was used thermal and mechanical treatments. The heat treatments are used to obtain a homogeneous microstructure, free from internal stresses, but also to modify the amount and proportion of the phases. Mechanical treatments are required to perform tests that need symmetrical samples.

2. Experimental

In this work, Ti-10wt%Ni alloy were obtained by melting of commercially pure metals in an arc furnace under argon inert atmosphere. To prove the composition of the alloy, chemical analysis was performed by optical emission of induced plasma. Then, the sample was subjected to a heat treatment at 870 °C for 24 hours with heating and cooling rate of 15°C/min in preparation for hot rolling, made at 870 ^{o}C. Again it was performed homogenizing heat treatment to relieve the internal stresses arising from the lamination process. The treated samples were divided and each suffered doping processes with oxygen at different temperatures and partial pressures. For the characterization of the samples were performed diffraction x-ray in a Rigaku diffractometer. The micrographs of the samples were prepared according to standard metallographic procedure and SEMs were performed by an EVO/EVO LS15 microscope. The oxygen and nitrogen analyzes were obtained by the method of melting under inert gas in a LECO TC-400 equipment. Hardness tests were performed with a microdurometer Shimadzu HMV, under load of 1.9 N in 60s. The dynamic elastic modulus was obtained from the free oscillations using Sonelastic® equipment.

3. Results and Discussions

The obtained sample have the correct concentration of nickel and small amounts of other metallic impurities. Its XRD patterns show that the alpha phase of titanium is predominant beyond of the Ti_4Ni_2O oxide, whose proportions changed with processing. The micrographs show the Ti_4Ni_2O oxide in a matrix of eutectoid microstructure composed by alpha phase and Ti_2Ni intermetallic. Images by EDS show higher concentrations of nickel in the Ti_4Ni_2O precipitates and higher concentration of titanium in the matrix alpha + Ti_2Ni. Concentration of oxygen and nitrogen and microhardness elements are variable in each processing step. However, there were no significant changes in the values of elastic modulus.

4. References

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*dcascadan@yahoo.com.br