<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Improved brushing durability of titanium dioxide coating on polymethylmethacrylate substrate by prior treatment with acryloxypropyl trimethoxysilane-based agent for denture application</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Author(s)</td>
<td>Amano, D; Ueda, T; Sugiyama, T; Takemoto, S; Oda, Y; Sakurai, K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal</td>
<td>Dental materials journal, 29(1): 97-103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URL</td>
<td><a href="http://hdl.handle.net/10130/1561">http://hdl.handle.net/10130/1561</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Improved brushing durability of titanium dioxide coating on polymethyl methacrylate substrate by prior treatment with acryloxypropyl trimethoxysilane-based agent for denture application

Daichi AMANO1, Takayuki UEDA1, Tetsuya SUGIYAMA1, Shinji TAKEMOTO2, Yutaka ODA2 and Kaoru SAKURAI1

1Department of Removable Prosthodontics and Gerodontology, Tokyo Dental College, 1-2-2 Masago, Mihama-ku, Chiba 261-8502, Japan
2Department of Dental Material Science, Tokyo Dental College, 1-2-2 Masago, Mihama-ku, Chiba 261-8502, Japan

The present study focuses on the durability of a TiO2 coating on a PMMA substrate in response to brushing stress in a denture model utilizing a brush-wear test machine equipped with a commercially available denture brush. First, the structure and chemical characteristics of the coating, with or without prior treatment, and its interface with the PMMA substrate were characterized by Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FT-IR), scanning electron microscopy (SEM) and element analysis using an electron probe microanalyzer (EPMA). Next, durability of the TiO2 coating on the PMMA substrate was investigated in a practical model. The TiO2 coating was subjected to simulated stress in a brush-wear test machine utilizing a commercially available denture brush, followed by SEM-EPMA to evaluate its resistance to friction.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

(1) Characterization of TiO2 coating on PMMA substrate

PMMA substrates were prepared from a commercial acrylic resin for dentures (Acron, GC Corporation, Tokyo) by a heat-curing procedure. PMMA powder was mixed with methyl methacrylate (MMA) monomer at a volume ratio of 2:1 = PMMA:MMA, and the resulting paste filled into an epoxy mold (22 mm in diameter and 23 mm in height: EX-ring, Refine Tech, Kanagawa, Japan). The paste was put at 60°C for 30 min due to primary polymerization, and then put in boiling water for 30 min due to secondary polymerization. To obtain an ideal interface between the TiO2 coating and PMMA substrate, the surface of the substrate was polished.
with #1200 silicon carbide abrasive paper and polished with a 0.3-µm alumina suspension. The polished specimens were then ultrasonically washed in distilled water for 10 min.

A TiO$_2$ coating was applied to both sets of specimens, with or without prior treatment with a type of silane-coupling agent, hereafter, referred to as siloxane primer (SP). In SP treatment, a commercial agent (PO-3000, Nihon Parkerizing, Kanagawa, Japan), which mainly composed of acryloxypropyl trimethoxysilane (4.5% converted for SiO$_2$) in ethanol, was sprayed on to the PMMA substrate for 2 s with an air brush gun (Super airbrush advance, WAVE, Tokyo, Japan), after which, it was dried in an oven for 10 min at 70°C in air atmosphere. The commercial agent (Paltitan PTI5603, Nihon Parkerizing, Kanagawa, Japan), which contains 2.0% anatase-type TiO$_2$ in water and ethanol, was used for the TiO$_2$ coating (TC). The coating was sprayed on to the substrate for 2 s, after which, it was dried in an oven for 10 min at 70°C. The 3 types of specimen prepared were referred to as SP-treated (siloxane primer only), TC-treated (TiO$_2$-coating only), and SP+TC-treated (both siloxane primer and TiO$_2$-coating). Surface structure was investigated in all 3 types of specimen. Specimens were characterized by Fourier transformed infrared (FT-IR) spectroscopy. The FT-IR spectrum was determined with the infrared spectrometer (FT/IR 430, JASCO, Tokyo) equipped with a microscope (MICRO-20, JASCO, Tokyo) at 4 cm$^{-1}$ resolution. Crystalline phases in the specimens were analyzed by X-ray diffraction (XRD) using X-ray diffraction device (RINT 2500, Rigaku, Osaka, Japan) operated at 40 kV and 200 mA. Surface morphology and composition were determined by observation under a field emission scanning electron microscope (SEM; ERA-8900FE, Elionix, Tokyo, Japan) and an electron probe X-ray microanalyzer (EPMA; JXA-8200, JEOL, Tokyo, Japan). Cross-sectional views were also observed to determine surface characteristics after the following preparation: the specimens were cut into small pieces and embedded in an epoxy mold with a self-curing epoxy resin (Scandiplex, Scandia, Hagen, Germany). The surface was then mirror-polished with buff and a 0.3-µm alumina suspension. After the specimens were sputter-coated with gold, SEM observations were performed at an accelerating voltage of 15 kV. Mapping analysis of silicon (Si), titanium (Ti), carbon (C) and oxygen (O) was performed with the EPMA at an accelerating voltage of 15 kV.

2) **Brush-wear test of TiO$_2$ coating on PMMA**

The durability of the TiO$_2$ coating on the TC- and SP+TC-treated PMMA substrates in response to brushing stress was evaluated. Our aim was to establish a clinical model which would resemble normal use-conditions as closely as possible. To achieve this, we first prepared PMMA substrates by polishing with #1000 silicon carbide abrasive paper only, followed by ultrasonic washing in distilled water for 10 min. Next, we further prepared two types of PMMA substrate: one with a TC coating only, and the other with both SP treatment and TC coating. Both types of substrate were then subjected to a brush-wear test with a brush-wear test machine (K236, Tokyo Giken, Tokyo, Japan) equipped with a denture brush (Liodent Denture Brush, Lion Dental Products, Tokyo, Japan) to simulate brushing-induced friction, as shown in Figure 1. The brush was positioned so that the bristles were perpendicular to the surface of the specimen, and was applied at a force of 300 gf. The gliding speed of the machine was set to 150 cycles per 60 s. Brushing was continued until distinct frictional evidence was observed. The TC-treated specimens were brushed for $1 \times 10^4$ or $1 \times 10^5$ cycles, and the SP+TC-treated specimens for $1 \times 10^5$ or $2 \times 10^5$ cycles. Compositional changes were determined by calculating the atomic ratio of titanium to carbon (Ti/C) in the specimens. The Ti/C ratio was obtained from 10 locations on each specimen. Compositional mapping analysis using the EMPA under SEM observation was also performed on the surface of specimens after the brush-wear tests. Ten specimens were tested in each group. The Ti/C ratio in the TC-treated and SP+TC-treated specimens at before and after brushing was statistically analyzed using a one-way analysis of variance, and a comparison between before and after brushing was made using the Bonferroni test. Statistical significance was set at $\alpha=0.05$ for all data obtained, as determined by statistical analysis software (SPSS 11.0J for Windows, SPSS Inc, Illinois, USA).

**RESULTS**

1. **Surface and morphology of TiO$_2$ coating on PMMA substrate**

Figure 2 shows the FT-IR spectra of each specimen and difference spectra subtracted from the spectra of the non-treated, SP-treated and SP+TC-treated specimens.
All spectra showed peaks at close to 1150, 1240, 1450 and 1720 cm\(^{-1}\) originating in the C-C and -CH\(_3\) methacrylate groups of the PMMA\(^{23}\). The difference spectra showed peaks at close to 1110 cm\(^{-1}\), indicating the presence of Si-O-Si and Si-O-C of silicate or siloxane on SP-treated and SP+TC-treated specimens. The XRD patterns of each specimen showed halo peaks at close to 28° (data not shown), indicating no distinct crystalline structures. This indicates that the coating was too sparse in terms of thickness and/or volume to be detected on the specimens.

Figure 3 shows SEM images of the surface and cross-section in each specimen. The SP-treated specimens (Figure 3(b)) showed a rougher surface than the non-treated PMMA substrate specimens (Figure 3(a)). A large number of fine grains were confirmed on the TC-treated specimen, as shown in Figure 3(c). Additionally, part of the specimen showed aggregated particles resembling islands. On the other hand, the SP+TC-treated specimen had a smoother surface than the SP-treated specimens (Figure 3(d)). As shown in Figures 3(f), (g), and (h), layers were clearly visible in the SP-treated, TC-treated and SP+TC-treated specimens, whereas the non-treated specimen showed no such a layer in Figure 3(d). The thicknesses of these layers by SP treatment (Figure 3(f)) and TC treatment (Figure 3(g)) were 2-µm and 1-µm, respectively. The SP+TC-treated specimens had an approximately 2-µm thick layer which then divided into two layers (Figure 3(h)).

Figure 4 shows SEM image and mapping images from the EPMA analysis of the cross-section of an SP+TC-treated specimen. Two layers between acryl and epoxy resins on SEM image were seen as well as Figure 3(h). Silicon, Ti, and O were predominantly observed throughout all layers. Both the top and bottom layers contained Si and O (Figures 4(b) and 4(d)). Titanium was revealed only in the top layer.

2. Evaluation of TiO\(_2\) coating on PMMA substrate by brush-wear test
Number of brushing cycles was terminated at 1×10\(^5\) and 2×10\(^5\) in TC-treated and SP+TC-treated specimens, respectively, as they showed clear evidence of surface scratching at this point. The TC-treated specimens began to show distinct traces of scratching after only
$1 \times 10^5$ brushing cycles, whereas the SP+TC-treated specimen showed little sign of scratching at this point. Measurement of Ti/C atomic ratio by EPMA analysis revealed clear degradation of the TiO$_2$ coating after brushing, especially on the surface of the specimens, revealing traces of scratching, even on visual observation. Figures 5(a) and 5(b) show a comparison of the Ti/C ratio in the TC-treated and SP+TC-treated specimens in terms of number of brushing cycles, respectively. The values of Ti/C ratios in the TC-treated specimens at before brushing and at after $1 \times 10^4$ and $1 \times 10^5$ brushing were $0.036 \pm 0.007$, $0.031 \pm 0.014$.

**Fig. 4** EPMA mapping analysis of cross-sectional SP+TC-treated specimen. (a) SEM image, (b) Si, (c) Ti, and (d) O

**Fig. 5** Comparison of Ti/C atomic ratios between at before and at after brush-wear test. (a) TC specimen (b) SP+TC specimen **: $p<0.01$ bar: Standard deviation. SP: Siloxane primer. TC: TiO$_2$ coating.
and 0.017 ± 0.013, respectively. The statistical analysis revealed no significant difference in Ti/C ratio between at before brushing and at after 1×10^4 brushing ($p=0.09$), but a significant difference ($p=0.0001$) was observed between at before brushing or at 1×10^4 brushing and after 1×10^5 brushing cycles.

The Ti/C ratios in the SP+TC-treated specimens at before brushing, at after 1×10^5 brushing, and at 2×10^5 brushing were 0.027 ± 0.010, 0.026 ± 0.009 and 0.021 ± 0.004, respectively. No significant difference in Ti/C ratio was observed between at before brushing and at after 1×10^5 brushing. On the other hand, significant differences were observed in Ti/C ratio between at before brushing or at after 1×10^5 brushing and at after 2×10^5 brushing ($p=0.0001$).

Figure 6 shows SEM images of the TC-treated and SP+TC-treated specimens after brushing. At 1×10^5 brushing, the TC-treated specimens showed peeling at one layer from the surface (Figure 6(a)), whereas small defects were observed in parts of the surface of the SP+TC-treated specimens (Arrows shown in Figure 6(b)). At 2×10^5 brushing, defects of 20-40 µm in diameter size were observed in places (Figure 6(c)), and the number of defects increased with the increase of brushing cycles. The high magnification image of defect, as shown in Figure 6(d), was peeling at one layer from the surface. Figure 7 shows SEM and mapping images by EPMA analysis of Si, Ti and C obtained at after 2×10^5 brushing. In some areas where a lower concentration of Ti and Si was detected, there was pitting, with the bottom of the pits showing a higher concentration of C. The holes appeared as defects in the coated layers not only with TC treatment, but also with SP treatment.

**DISCUSSION**

1. Coating of TiO$_2$ on PMMA substrates

The FT-IR spectrum revealed that SP treatment resulted in the creation of siloxane or silicate on the PMMA substrate. Acrylate groups in the acrylate-modified siloxane agent hydrophobically bonded with the PMMA substrate, siloxane groups were also detected at the surface layer coated with TiO$_2$. The results of SEM and EPMA analysis revealed that application of an acrylate-modified siloxane agent yielded a rough surface and an approximately 2-µm thick layer on the PMMA substrate. An organic solvent of the siloxane agent such as acetone might have produced this rougher surface and layered structure. The rough surface created on the PMMA substrate was capable of facilitating mechanical bonding of the TiO$_2$ coating to the surface.

Application of TiO$_2$ to denture bases involves use of either composite created by addition of TiO$_2$ andapatite to PMMA powder, or surface-coating with
Fig. 7 EPMA mapping analysis of defective coating specimens (SP+TC) after 2×10⁵ brushing. (a) SEM image, (b) Si, (c) Ti, (d) C. SP: Siloxane primer. TC: TiO₂ coating

TiO₂⁵⁸, as used in this study. Although the former method offers the advantage of semi-permanent antimicrobial and antifouling properties, mixing PMMA powder, which is an organic material, with TiO₂, which is an inorganic material, may compromise the mechanical strength of the denture. On the other hand, surface coating with TiO₂ appears to exert a minimal influence on the mechanical strength of the whole denture, as the coating affects only the 2-µm upper surface of the denture base. Since the thickness of denture bases is more than 1 mm, their mechanical strength may not be compromised. Further study is needed to determine the relationships between thickness of coating and bonding strength to substrate and antibacterial effect, bearing in mind that thickness can be changed by concentration of sol or spray time⁵⁹.

2. Brush-wear durability of TiO₂ coating

The present study investigated the durability of a TiO₂ coating on a PMMA substrate against mechanical cleaning with a denture brush. The loading force of 300 gf and gliding speed of 150 cycles per 60 s were determined in a preliminary experiment by averaging the loading forces and gliding speeds applied by 5 healthy subjects during the cleaning of PMMA blocks. According to Harrison et al., the typical brushing time of a complete upper denture is 90 s per day²⁴. Based on this, the 1×10⁵ brushing cycle used in this study would correspond to more than approximately 1 yr of brushing.

The durability of the TiO₂ coating was evaluated by calculating the ratio of the amount of Ti, which comes from the TiO₂ coating, to the amount of C, which comes from the siloxane agent and PMMA substrate. A decrease in Ti/C ratio should indicate a loss of TiO₂ coating. The TC-treated specimens showed a decrease in Ti/C ratio after 1×10⁵ brushing. On the other hand, in the SP+TC-treated specimens, a decrease in Ti/C ratio was seen at after 2×10⁵ brushing. These results suggest that a TiO₂ coating on an SP treated-PMMA substrate can withstand at least 1×10⁵ brushing. This indicates that a TiO₂ coating would offer sufficient durability in clinical application.

As shown in Figure 5, SEM after 1×10⁵ brushing revealed peeling at one layer from the surface of the TC-treated specimens, and small cracks were observed in parts of the surface of the SP+TC-treated specimens. Additionally, small defect areas where the TiO₂ coating had become detached were observed in the SP+TC-treated specimens after 2×10⁵ brushing. In such areas, little or no Si, and no Ti were detected (as shown in Figure 7), indicating that the bonding strength of the
TiO2 coating might depend on the strength of the layer formed by SP treatment. This suggests that the acrylate-modified siloxane agent enhanced bonding of TiO2 to the PMMA substrate through chemical, rather than mechanical, bonding.

The present study demonstrated that a TiO2 coating on a PMMA substrate remained in place, even after mechanical stress consisting of 2x10^5 brushing cycles. Defects in the TiO2 coating were larger than the oral bacteria that cause denture plaque, as shown in Figures 6 and 7. However, it could be considered that antifouling and antibacterial properties would be maintained, as long as sufficient TiO2 coating remained around the defect on the PMMA substrate. Since the method of TiO2-coating used in this study is a simple technique, it would allow the surface to be re-coated without significantly altering the shape or mechanical properties of the denture itself.

CONCLUSIONS

The results demonstrate that a thin 2-µm double-layer TiO2 coating was obtained on a polymethyl methacrylate substrate by prior treatment with an acryloxypropyl trimethoxysilane-based agent, and that the durability of the TiO2 coating was superior to that without prior treatment. These results suggest that application of an acrylate-modified agent enhances the durability of a TiO2 coating in response to brushing.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This work was supported by a grant from the Special Expenses for Hi-tech Promotion in Graduate Schools Fund. The authors would like to thank Mr. Katsumi Tadokoro and Ms. Eiko Watanabe of the Oral Health Science Centre of Tokyo Dental College for their valuable support in the experiments. We would also like to thank Associate Professor Jeremy Williams, Tokyo Dental College, for his assistance with the English of this manuscript.

REFERENCES