Lithograph-Moulded Poly-L-co-D,L Lactide Porous Membranes for Osteoblastic Culture

Andre D. Messias\textsuperscript{a,b,*}, Carolina Lucchesi\textsuperscript{c}, Débora C. Coraça-Huber\textsuperscript{b,d}, Aristides Pavani Filho\textsuperscript{e}, Eliana A. R. Duek\textsuperscript{a,b}

\textsuperscript{a}Department of Material Engineering, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, State University of Campinas – UNICAMP, Campinas, SP, Brazil
\textsuperscript{b}Laboratory of Biomaterials, Faculty of Medical Sciences and Health, Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo – PUC-SP, Sorocaba, SP, Brazil
\textsuperscript{c}Wyss Institute, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA, USA
\textsuperscript{d}Experimental Orthopedics, Department of Orthopedic Surgery, Medical University Innsbruck, Innsbruck, Austria
\textsuperscript{e}Laboratory of Microsystems Technology, Department of Information Technology, Renato Archer Research Center, CTI, Campinas, SP, Brazil

Received: February 10, 2013; Revised: August 16, 2013

Pore size, shape, wall morphology, porosity, and interconnectivity are important characteristics of the scaffolds. Lithography is a manufacturing technique that allows the production of tridimensional scaffolds with a controllable and reproducible inner architecture. The aim of this study was to use lithography to create a poly-L-co-D,L lactide (PLDLA) scaffold with symmetrical pore size and distribution, and to evaluate its biocompatibility with osteoblasts in vitro. Lithographic moulds were used to produce porous PLDLA membranes by a casting procedure. Osteoblasts were removed from calvarial bones and seeded onto porous and smooth PLDLA membranes after which cell viability and adhesion assays, cytochemical analysis and scanning electron microscopy were used to characterize the cells. Cell viability and adhesion assays, cytochemical analysis, and scanning electron microscopy were carried out. Cell viability was similar on porous and smooth PLDLA membranes but higher than on a polystyrene substrate (positive control). Although osteoblasts adhered to the surface of all the materials tested, cell adhesion to lithographed PLDLA was greater than to smooth PLDLA membranes. In conclusion, osteoblasts interacted well with PLDLA membranes, as shown by the viability and adhesion assays and by the enhanced collagen production.

Keywords: bone tissue engineering, cell adhesion, lithography, osteoblastic cells, poly-L-co-D,L lactide, porosity, viability

1. Introduction

In tissue engineering, cells cultured on biomaterial surfaces provide a simple method for screening the biocompatibility of materials prior to testing in vivo testing\textsuperscript{1,2}. Pore size, shape, porosity and interconnectivity are important characteristics of scaffolds. These characteristics are important for cell attachment, growth and new tissue formation, diffusion of nutrients and metabolic waste products to and from the implant, and angiogenesis\textsuperscript{1}. Bone tissue engineering is based on studies of bone cells cultivated on biomaterials in vitro\textsuperscript{3}. Mesenchymal stem cells seeded on scaffolds can dramatically accelerate bone regeneration when compared to scaffolds without cells\textsuperscript{4}. Osteoblasts synthesize collagen type I that is involved in bone mineralization and this collagen production is influenced by the biomaterial on which these cells are seeded. Consequently, the compatibility of biomaterials can be partially characterized by the amount of minerals produced as the cells grow on the polymer surface\textsuperscript{5}.

The quality of the pores in scaffolds used for bone tissue engineering is important, with pores >100 \(\mu m\) in diameter being recommended for biomaterials used as bone substitutes. Soluble particles, including salts and carbohydrates, or hydrophobic systems are used to produce pores in a polymeric matrix but allow only partial control of porosity. In addition, porogen waste and solvent residues can be toxic when the scaffold is applied in vitro or implanted in vivo\textsuperscript{6}. An alternative to porogen substances is lithography, a controlled manufacturing technique that allows the production of tridimensional (3D) scaffolds with a controllable and reproducible inner architecture\textsuperscript{7}.

Patterned surfaces produced by lithographic techniques show improved adhesion of rat mesenchymal stem cells and greater proliferation on scaffolds containing hyaluronic acid biofunctionalized with peptides\textsuperscript{8}; the proliferation of osteoblast-like MG-63 cells and rat mesenchymal stem cells on Bioglass®-based glass-ceramic scaffolds is also enhanced\textsuperscript{9}. A micropatterned surface facilitates the alignment, elongation and colonization of human

*e-mail: andre_messias@ymail.com
osteoblastic-like cells\textsuperscript{11} and rat mesenchymal stem cells\textsuperscript{12} in vitro. The use of lithography to modify the surface morphology of titanium substrates enhances the osteointegration between implants and bone tissue\textsuperscript{13}.

Poly-L-lactide can be used as a scaffold for bone tissue engineering\textsuperscript{14,15}. Poly-L-lactide (PLLA) is a biomaterial that shows increasing crystallinity during degradation\textsuperscript{16}. The co-polymer poly-L-co-D,L lactide (PLDLA) has similar mechanical features to poly-L-lactide without the inconvenience of long degradation and high crystallinity. Moreover, PLDLA is a polyester that can be hydrolyzed into lactic acid monomers and eliminated through the tricarboxylic acid cycle\textsuperscript{17}. Finally, PLDLA-based bioresorbable device are entirely replaced by cells and extracellular matrix\textsuperscript{18}.

The aim of this study was to use lithography to create a PLDLA scaffold with a symmetrical pore size and distribution and evaluate its biocompatibility with osteoblasts in vitro.

2. Material and Methods

2.1. Mould fabrication using lithography

The mould was designed using the computer-aided design (CAD) software AutoCAD\textsuperscript{®} (Autodesk Inc. San Rafael, CA, USA.) in drawing exchange format (DXF). The design was a bidimensional (2D) hexagonal array of closed polylines with 100 µm between two opposed vertices. The distance between two contiguous pillars was 200 µm. The design was converted to GDSII stream format (industry standard database binary file format) to generate a mask. The chrome dark field glass mask was produced using electron beam lithography equipment (Electron Beam Microfabricator EBMF 10.5 Leica Lithograph, Cambridge, UK) and a positive tone resist EBR9 (Toray Industries Inc., Tokyo, CA, USA.) at an energy of 350 mJ/cm\textsuperscript{2} after which the exposed film was immersed in SU-8 developer for 4 min. The resulting SU-8 structures were hardened by curing on a hot plate at 150 °C for 5 min. The lithographic process yielded an array of pillars 100 µm in height. The resulting mould was characterized by using an optical profilometer (Zygo NewView 5032, Zygo Corporation, Middlefield, CT, USA; Figure 1).

2.2. Membrane preparation

Poly-L-co-D,L lactide (PLDLA; Mw=205,000 Da) was prepared by ring-opening polymerization, as previously described by Motta and Duek\textsuperscript{19} using of L-lactide and D,L-lactide monomers (70:30, w/w) (Purac Biomaterials, Schiedam, The Netherlands). The membranes were obtained by casting. The co-polymer was dissolved in 5 % (w/v) chloroform (Sigma-Aldrich) for 2 h with mixing and poured into the mould created with the lithograph. After the solvent evaporation, the membrane was removed manually from the plate under sterile conditions. Smooth membranes were used as a control to determine whether the scaffold morphology influenced the cellular responses. The membranes were sterilized in a sterile laminar flow biohazard cabinet (Pachane, Piracicaba, SP, Brazil) with ultraviolet irradiation for 30 min and then placed in 96-well plates for cell culture.

2.3. Osteoblast isolation and culture

Osteoblasts cells were removed from calvarial bones of 20-day old Wistar rats, as described by Yamamoto et al.\textsuperscript{20}. The rats were euthanized by cervical displacement followed by decapitation. The calvaria were removed, immersed in Dulbecco’s Modified Eagle’s Medium (DMEM) containing bath for 7 min followed by a DI spray and immersion in an isopropyl alcohol dehydration bath for 7 min, after which they were dried in isopropyl alcohol vapor. The substrate was covered with SU-8 50 resist (Microchem, Newton, MA, USA) by spinning at 1,500 rpm for 40 s to yield a 100 µm thick film and then heated on a hot plate at 65 °C for 5 min and cured at 95 °C for 15 min. Subsequently, the substrate was exposed to ultraviolet light using a G-line mask copier (Tamarack model 155, Tamarack Scientific Co. Inc., Corona, CA, USA.) at an energy of 350 mJ/cm\textsuperscript{2} after which the exposed film was immersed in SU-8 developer for 4 min. The resulting SU-8 structures were hardened by curing on a hot plate at 150 °C for 5 min. The lithographic process yielded an array of pillars 100 µm in height. The resulting mould was characterized by using an optical profilometer (Zygo NewView 5032, Zygo Corporation, Middlefield, CT, USA; Figure 1).

![Figure 1. Microscopic view (a) and oblique profilometry plot (b).](image-url)
Lithograph-Moulded Poly-L-co-D,L Lactide Porous Membranes for Osteoblastic Culture

2.5. Cytochemical analysis

A 100 µL aliquot of osteoblasts (2×10⁴ cells.mL⁻¹) was seeded on porous and smooth PLDLA membranes and cultured with osteogenic DMEM. The plates were incubated in a 5% CO₂ atmosphere at 37 °C and the culture medium was replaced every two days. After 6 h and 48 h, and 7, 14 and 21 days in culture the samples were fixed with formaldehyde, dehydrated in ethanol and stained with toluidine blue (TB), a dye that binds to basic anionic groups, xylidine ponceau (XP), a dye that binds to cationic groups, von Kossa (VK), which stains mineralization nodules, and picrosirius (PS) which stains collagen type I/III. The samples were observed with a light microscope (Eclipse E800, Nikon Americas Inc., Melville, NY, USA) and images were captured with an FDX-35 camera (Nikon) attached to the microscope.

2.6. Scanning electron microscopy (SEM)

The culture conditions (cell number, culture medium and length of culture) were the same as used for the cytochemical analysis. At the end of the culture period, the samples were fixed for 30 min at room temperature in in fixative containing 2.5% paraformaldehyde, 2.5% glutaraldehyde, 1% picric acid and 1% tannic acid dissolved in 0.1 M PBS, pH 7.4. Subsequently, the samples were post-fixed in 1% osmium tetroxide for 15 min in the dark, washed in water, dehydrated with ethanol (all reagents from Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO, USA), critical point dried (Balzers CDT 030, Balzers Inc., Elgin, IL, USA) and coated with gold in a sputter coater (Balzers CDT 050, Balzers Inc., Elgin, IL, USA). The coated specimens were examined with a JEOL JXA-840A scanning electron microscope (JEOL Ltd., Peabody, MA, USA).

2.7. Statistical analysis

Numerical results are reported as the mean ± standard deviation. Cell viability and adhesion were analyzed statistically with one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) followed by the Tukey test for post hoc analyses. A value of p<0.05 indicated significance. All data analyses were done using BioEstat version 5.0.

3. Results

3.1. Cell viability and adhesion

Osteoblast viability was similar in porous and smooth PLDLA membranes and not significantly different from that seen with polystyrene (Figure 2). In contrast, cell adhesion to lithographed PLDLA membranes was greater than for smooth PLDLA membranes (Figure 3).

Figure 2. Cell viability assessed by the MTT assay in 24-h osteoblast cultures. The columns represent the mean ± standard deviation (n=6). Columns with the same letter did not differ significantly. There were no significant differences in viability between the positive control (polystyrene, PS) and lithographed (Litho PLDLA) and smooth (Smooth PLDLA) membranes. Cell viability in these three groups was significantly greater (p<0.01) than in the the negative control (1% phenol).
was used to obtain porous membranes. The MTT assay was used to assess PLDLA cytotoxicity (based on mitochondrial activity) and to measure cell adhesion. Morphological alterations were assessed by light microscopy after selective staining and SEM was used to examine ultrastructural features.

The measurement of mitochondrial activity is a suitable criterion for assessing cell viability since toxic substances affect not only the molecular structure but also several cellular functions\(^23\). PLDLA (70:30) has already been tested with regards to cytotoxicity, and the MTT, agar and filter diffusion assays have shown good cytocompatibility for this copolymer\(^27\). In addition, the mortality of human osteoblasts in extracts containing PLLA degradation products is ~30\%, indicating low cytotoxicity\(^28\). These results support the low cytotoxicity reported here.

A number of studies that have investigated the use of PLLA in tissue engineering in vivo have reported satisfactory results for bone regeneration\(^29,30\), guided tissue regeneration\(^31\), nerve peripheral regeneration\(^32\), and cartilaginous tissue\(^33\). PLDLA copolymer is compatible with\(^34\) and suitable for use as a bone graft substitute\(^35-38\), meniscus replacement\(^39,40\), suture cords/threads\(^41\) and axon regeneration\(^42\).

Cellular adhesion to biomaterials is extremely important in material sciences. As shown here, more osteoblasts adhered to the surface of porous PLDLA than to smooth PLDLA. Once adhered to the substrate, the cells migrate and proliferate or show specific physiological activities, such as the production of extracellular matrix\(^33,44\), Wu et al.\(^45\) reported enhanced osteoblast adhesion to scaffolds with larger pores (300-500 μm) compared to those with smaller pores (150-180 μm), and adhesion to the latter was greater than to smooth surfaces. However, other cellular responses such as proliferation and osteogenic function are not significantly influenced by pore size. Micro- and nano-scale structures on PLLA and polystyrene improve the efficiency of adhesion when compared to smooth substrates\(^41\). Porous PLDLA membranes (50-70 µm) enhanced meniscal cell proliferation, differentiation and activity when compared to smooth membranes\(^46\). Nevertheless, the influence of porosity and pore size is a controversial. Whiston et al.\(^22\) showed that the surface relief (micro- and nano-scale structures) of PLLA did not enhance the metabolic activities of osteoblasts after two days, as assessed by the MTT test\(^22\). Bet et al.\(^47\), reported that fibroblast adhesion to PLLA scaffolds was low and there was no difference in adhesion among membranes containing pores of different sizes. Pore quality and quantity do not influence the proliferation of osteogenic cells from rat calvaria cultivated on PLGA (75:25) for different periods of time\(^48\). Thus, as other studies have demonstrated, the interaction between osteoblasts and materials with variable porosities and pore sizes does not affect the cellular response\(^49,50\). Consequently, different cell types respond differently to the substrate surface topography\(^12\).

The light microscopy and SEM findings described here indicate that osteoblasts adhered to and spread over smooth and porous membranes, in addition to showing the spindle-shaped and polyhedral cells characteristic of osteoblasts. None of the images showed cells bridging or

**Figure 3.** Osteoblast adhesion to PLDLA scaffolds. The columns represent the mean ± standard deviation (n=6). Columns with different letters were significantly different from each other. Polystyrene (PS; positive control) showed the highest adhesion and polylactide-fluorooxyethylene (PTFE; negative control) the lowest (p<0.05 compared to smooth PLDLA and p <0.01 compared to lithographed (Litho) PLDLA). Porosity significantly increased cell adhesion (Litho vs. Smooth PLDLA; p<0.05).

### 3.2. Cell morphology

Osteoblasts adhered to the surface of all materials tested. The morphology of these cells on the surfaces of porous and smooth polymeric membranes was examined. On the 14th day and 21st day after seeding, some cells formed multiple layers suggestive of cellular proliferation and synthetic activity. The cell nuclei and cell borders were difficult to visualize in these layers. Six hours after seeding, the cells had not yet completed the spreading process because their morphology was spherical and sometimes slightly flat (Figure 4a and b; Figure 5a). After 48 h the cells had adhered and showed long, thin protrusions but were still separated from each other (Figure 4c and d). After 7 days, the cells were flat, long and spindle-shaped and were connected to each other by cellular protrusions such as filopodia and lamellipodia (Figure 5b and c); there was also marked intercellular contact indicative of proliferation (Figure 4e and f). After 14 days, several pores colonized by a cellular monolayer were observed on the lithographed membrane. Cells outside these pores maintained contact with cells inside the pores (Figure 4g and h; Figure 5d). The cell number after 14 days was greater than at previous times. By 21 days post-seeding, the cells formed very tight, multilayered structures that made it difficult to visualize nuclei and the areas inside and outside the pores (Figure 4i and j; Figure 5g and h). The presence of collagen nets showed that the cells were able to synthesize extracellular matrix (Figure 4j) and the occurrence of mineralized nodules indicated that the cells were depositing calcium phosphate crystals (Figure 4i). Some cells stretched from the bottom of the pores to their edge (Figure 5e, f).

### 4. Discussion

In this study, the interaction between osteoblasts and porous and smooth PLDLA membranes was evaluated. A computer designed metallic mould produced by lithography
Figure 4. Osteoblasts cultured on PLDLA for 6 h (a and b) and 48 h (c and d), and 7 (e and f), 14 (g and h) and 21 (i and j) days using porous (b, d, f, g-j) and smooth (a, c and e) membranes. Staining with xylidine ponceau (a-c, e-g), toluidine blue (d and h), picrosirius (j) and von Kossa (i) dyes. Magnifications: 400× (a, b, d-f), 200× (c and g) and 100× (i and j).
covering the pores; rather, they were frequently observed within the pores (lining the bottom or wall). Pores generally increase the surface areas of porous membranes compared to smooth membranes and it was therefore expected that cell adhesion would be greater on porous membranes. Several studies have used SEM to demonstrate the extensive colonization of biomaterials\textsuperscript{51-53}. Although these studies have used different cell types, culture conditions and polymeric substrates, in all cases confluent monolayers with poorly defined cellular limits form a continuous cellular mat covering the scaffold surface\textsuperscript{51-53}. In contrast to these findings, as shown here, instead of a confluent layer of cells,
large groups of cells growing separately in various areas of the membranes were observed, especially 14 and 21 days after seeding. Light and scanning electron microscopy revealed a non-homogeneous cell distribution on the membrane surfaces, with osteoblasts always concentrated in small, condensed groups; this finding agrees with the observation that cellular aggregation is an important step in ossification. Indeed, membrane pores may favor cellular aggregation. Substrates with low capability to stimulate adhesion may be able to sustain cellular adhesion. In addition, the differentiation and synthesis of extracellular matrix can be stimulated by materials with low adhesion and proliferation rates. As shown here, cells that adhered to the membranes were capable of producing collagen.

The micropatterned silica films were capable of inducing guided osteoblastic cell adhesion, spreading and propagation. Isotropic and anisotropic surfaces change cell-material and cell-cell interactions. Therefore, the surface topography can modulate the way the cells adhere to and proliferate on the material.

Pelaez-Vargas et al. reported that the surface microtexture modified cell morphology and spreading, which could influence important factors such as cell alignment, migration, implant surface colonization, and function. This suggests that the surface topography and pore uniformity may control cells responses in a different manner than the increased porosity offered by alternative fabrication techniques such as solvent casting.

5. Conclusion

Based on the results described here, we conclude that osteoblasts interact well with PLDLA membranes. These membranes can sustain adhesion and maintain viable cells, as shown by the ability of cells to produce collagen. PLDLA membranes represent a suitable biomaterial for cultivating osteoblasts and their potential usefulness in vivo deserves further investigation. An increase in the porosity of PLDLA can enhance cellular adhesion.

Acknowledgements

The authors thank the technicians of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and of the Electron Microscopy Laboratory of the Institute of Biology, UNICAMP, for help in this investigation, and Dr. Stephen Hyslop for the English review of the manuscript. This work was supported by FAPESP. The authors have no conflicts of interest with this work.

References

1. Beresford JN, Graves SE and Smoothy CA. Formation of mineralized nodules by bone derived cells in vitro: a model of bone formation? American Journal of Medical Genetics. 1993; 45(2):163-178. PMID:8456798. http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/ajmg.131804205

2. Elgendy HM, Norman ME, Keaton AR and Laurencin CT. Osteoblast-like cell (MC3T3-E1) proliferation on bioerodible polymers: an approach towards the development of a bone-bioerodible polymer composite material. Biomaterials. 1993; 14(4):263-269. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/0142-9612(93)90116-J

3. Tang ZG and Hunt JA. The effect of PLGA doping of polycaprolactone films on the control of osteoblast adhesion and proliferation in vitro. Biomaterials. 2006; 27(25):4409-4418. PMID:16677705. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.biomaterials.2006.04.009

4. Service RF. Tissue engineers build new bone. Science. 2000; 289(5484):1498-1500. PMID:10991738. http://dx.doi.org/10.1126/science.289.5484.1498

5. Wang H, Li Y, Zuo Y, Li J, Ma S and Cheng L. Biocompatibility and osteogenesis of biomimetic nano-hydroxyapatite/polyamide composite scaffolds for bone tissue engineering. Biomaterials. 2007; 28(22):3338-3348. PMID:17481726. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.biomaterials.2007.04.016

6. Wan Y, Wang Y, Liu Z, Qu X, Han B, Bei J et al. Adhesion and proliferation of OCT-1 osteoblast-like cells on micro- and nano-scale topography structured poly(L-lactide). Biomaterials. 2005; 26(21):4453-4459. PMID:15701374. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.biomaterials.2004.11.016

7. Sarazin P, Roy X and Favis BD. Controlled preparation and properties of porous poly(l-lactide) obtained from a co-continuous blend of two biodegradable polymers. Biomaterials. 2004; 25(28):5965-5978. PMID:15183611. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.biomaterials.2004.01.065

8. Lee SJ, Kang HW, Park JK, Rhie JW, Hahn SK and Cho DW. Application of microstereolithography in the development of three-dimensional cartilage regeneration scaffolds. Biomedical Microdevices. 2008; 10(2):233-241. PMID:17885804. http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10544-007-9129-4

9. Mendes AC, Smith KH, Tejeda-Montes E, Engel E, Reis RL, Azevedo HS et al. Co-assembled and microfabricated bioactive membranes. Advanced Functional Materials. 2013; 23(4):430-438. http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/adfm.201201065

10. Detsch R, Guillou O, Wondraczek L, Boccaccini AR. Initial attachment of rMSC and MG-63 cells on Patterned Bioglass® substrates. Advanced Engineering Materials. 2012;14(3):B38-B44. http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/adem.201180068

11. Pelaez-Vargas A, Gallego-Perez D, Carvalho A, Fernandes MH, Hansford DJ and Monteiro FJ. Effects of density of anisotropic microstamped silica thin films on guided bone tissue regeneration – In vitro study. Journal of Biomedical Materials Research - Part B Applied Biomaterials. 2013; 101(5):762-769. PMID:23359600. http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/jbmb.32879

12. Wang P-Y, Li WT, Yu J and Tsai WB. Modulation of osteogenic, adipogenic and myogenic differentiation of mesenchymal stem cells by submicron grooved topography. Journal of Materials Science: Materials in Medicine. 2012; 23(12):3015-3028. PMID:22903603. http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10856-012-4748-6

13. Prodanov L, Lamers E, Domanski M, Lutte R, Jansen JA and Walboomers XF. The effect of nanometric surface texture on bone contact to titanium implants in rabbit tibia. Biomaterials. 2013; 34(12):2920-2927. PMID:23380354. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.biomaterials.2013.01.027

14. Cai Y-Z, Zhang G-R, Wang L-L, Jiang Y-Z, Ouyang H-W and Zou X-H. Novel biodegradable three-dimensional macroporous scaffold using aligned electrospun nanofibrous yarns for bone tissue engineering. Journal of Biomedical Materials Research Part A. 2012; 100(5):1187-1194. PMID:22345081. http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/jbma.a.34063
15. Ciapetti G, Granchi D, Devescovi V, Baglio SR, Leonardi E, Martini D et al. Enhancing osteoconduction of PLLA-based nanocomposite scaffolds for bone regeneration using different biomimetic signals to MSCs. International Journal of Molecular Sciences. 2012; 13(2):2439-2458. PMid:22408463 PMCID:PMC3292032. http://dx.doi.org/10.3390/jims13022439

16. Motta A and Duk E. Síntese, caracterização e degradação in vitro do poli(L-ácido lático). Polímeros. 2006; 16(1):26-32. http://dx.doi.org/10.1590/S0104-14282006001000008

17. Agrawal CM and Ray RB. Biodegradable polymeric scaffolds for musculoskeletal tissue engineering. Journal of Biomedical Materials Research. 2001; 55(2):141-150. http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/1097-4636(200105)55:2<141::AID-JBM100b>3.0.CO;2-J

18. Peters M and Mooney D. Synthetic extracellular matrices for cell transplantation. In: Liu D and Dixin V. Porous materials for tissue engineering. Materials Science Forum. Einfield: Trans Tech Publication; 1997. v. 250, p. 43-52.

19. Motta A and Duk E. Síntese e caracterização do copolímero poli(L-co-D,L-ácido lático). Polímeros. 2007; 17(2):123-129. http://dx.doi.org/10.1590/S0104-14282007000200011

20. Yamamoto N, Furuya K and Hanada K. Progressive development of the osteoblast phenotype during differentiation of osteoprogenitor cells derived from fetal rat calvaria: model for in vitro bone formation. Biological and Pharmaceutical Bulletin. 2002; 25(4):509-515. http://dx.doi.org/10.1248/bpb.25.509

21. Moreira PL, An YH, Santos AR Jr and Genari SC. In vitro analysis of anionic collagen scaffolds for bone repair. Journal of Biomedical Materials Research: Part B, Applied Biomaterials. 2004; 71(2):229-237. PMid:15386402. http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/jbmb.30026

22. Whiston SW, Whitson MA, Bowers DE Jr and Falk MC. Factors influencing synthesis and mineralization of bone matrix from fetal bovine bone cells grown in vitro. Journal of Bone and Mineral Research. 1992; 7(7):727-741.

23. Mosmann T. Rapid colorimetric assay for cellular growth and survival: application to proliferation and cytotoxicity assays. Journal of Immunological Methods. 1983; 65(1-2):55-63. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/0022-1759(83)90303-4

24. Lucchesi C, Ferreira B, Duek E, Santos A and Joazeiro P. Increased response of Vero cells to PHBV matrices treated by plasma. Journal of Materials Science: Materials in Medicine. 2008; 19(2):635-643. PMid:17619989. http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10856-007-0169-3

25. Uzumaki ET, Lambert CS, Santos AR Jr and Zavaglia CAC. Surface properties and cell behaviour of diamond-like carbon coatings produced by plasma immersion. Thin Solid Films. 2006; 515(1):293-300. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.tsf.2005.12.081

26. International Organization for Standardization - ISO. Biological evaluation of medical devices. Part 5: Tests for cytotoxicity: in vitro methods. ISO; 1992.

27. Ignatius AA and Claes LE. In vitro biocompatibility of bioreorbosorbable polymers: poly(L, DL-lactide) and poly(L-lactide-co-glycolide). Biomaterials. 1996; 17(8):831-839. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/0142-9612(96)81421-9

28. Marques AP, Cruz HR, Coutinho OP and Reis RL. Effect of starch-based biomaterials on the in vitro proliferation and viability of osteoblast-like cells. Journal of Materials Science: Materials in Medicine. 2005; 16(9):833-842. PMid:16167112. http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10856-005-3580-7

29. Coraça DC, Duck EA, Padovani CA and Camilli JA. Osteointegration of poly(L- -lactic acid)PLLA and poly(L- -lactic acid)PLLA/poly(ethylene oxide)PEO implants in rat tibiae. Journal of Materials Science: Materials in Medicine. 2008; 19(7):2699-2704. PMid:18283533. http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10856-008-3397-2

30. Coraça-Huber DC, Duck EA, Etchebehere M, Magna LA and Amstalden EM. The use of vancomycin-loaded poly-L-lactic acid and poly-ethylene oxide microspheres for bone repair: an in vivo study. Clinics. 2012; 67(7):793-798. http://dx.doi.org/10.6061/clinics/2012(07)15

31. Ku Y, Shin IK, Lee JY, Park YJ, Rhee SH, Nam SH et al. Chitosan/poly(L-lactic acid) multilayered membrane for guided tissue regeneration. Journal of Biomedical Materials Research: Part A. 2009; 90(3):766-772. PMid:18615563. http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/jbm.a.31846

32. Pierucci A, De Dukk EA and De Oliveira AL. Peripheral nerve regeneration through biodegradable conduits prepared using solvent evaporation. Tissue Engineering: Part A. 2008; 14(5):595-606. PMid:18399734. http://dx.doi.org/10.1089/tea.2007.0271

33. Gong Y, Ma Z, Zhou Q, Li J, Gao C and Shen J. Poly(lactic acid) scaffold fabricated by gelatin particle leaching has good biocompatibility for chondrogenesis. Journal of Biomaterials Science: Polymer Edition. 2008; 19(2):207-221. PMid:18237493. http://dx.doi.org/10.1163/156852087X151639201200500154

34. Barauna G, Coraça-Huber DC and Duck EAR. In vitro degradation of Poly-L-c-O, D-Lactic acid membranes. Materials Research. 2013;16(1):221-226. http://dx.doi.org/10.1590/S1516-143920120050000159

35. Coimbra ME, Elias CN and Coelho PG. In vitro degradation of poly-L-D-lactic acid (PLDLA) pellets and powder used as synthetic alloplasts for bone grafting. Journal of Materials Science: Materials in Medicine. 2008; 19(10):3227-3234. PMid:18454304. http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10856-008-3425-2

36. Ikavalko M, Skyutta ET and Belt EA. One-year results of use of Poly-L-D-lactic acid joint scaffolds and bone packing in revision metacarpophalangeal arthroplasty. The Journal of Hand Surgery, European Volume. 2007; 32(4):427-433. PMid:17950198. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jhsbe.2007.03.006

37. Stores SL, Boeils L, Fredel MC, Aragones A and Duck EAR. Self-reinforced bioresorbable polymer P (L/DL) LA 70:30 for the manufacture of craniofacial implant. Polímeros. 2012; 22(4):378-383. http://dx.doi.org/10.1590/S0104-14282012005000056

38. Assaf K, Duck EAR and Oliveira NM. Efficacy of a combination of simvastatin and poly(DL-lactic-co-glycolic acid) in stimulating the regeneration of bone defects. Materials Research. 2013; 16(1):215-220. http://dx.doi.org/10.1590/S1516-143920120050000159

39. Pulliainen O, Vasara AI, Hyttinen MM, Tiiu V, Valonen P, Kellomaki M et al. Poly-L-D-lactic acid scaffold fabricated by gelatin particle leaching has good biocompatibility for chondrogenesis. Journal of Biomaterials Science: Polymer Edition. 2008; 19(2):207-221. PMid:18237493. http://dx.doi.org/10.1163/156852087X151639201200500154

40. Esposito AR, Bonadio AC, Pereira NO, Cardoso TP, Barbo MLP and Duek EA. The use of PLDLA/PCL-T scaffold to repair osteochondral defects in vivo. Materials Research. 2013; 16(1):105-115. http://dx.doi.org/10.1590/S1516-143920120050000159

41. Kangas J, Pajala A, Leppilahit J, Ryhanen J, Lansman S, Tormala P et al. Histomorphometric analysis of poly-L-D-lactide 96/4 sutures in the gastrocnemius tendon of rabbits. The
Lithograph-Moulded Poly-L-co-D,L Lactide Porous Membranes for Osteoblastic Culture

Bioglass composite foam scaffolds: Assessment of cell attachment, proliferation and extracellular matrix production. *Biomaterials*, 2007; 28(11):2010-2020. PMid:17250887. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.biomaterials.2007.01.011

Oliveira AL, Malafaya PB, Costa SA, Sousa RA and Reis RL. Micro-computed tomography (micro-CT) as a potential tool to assess the effect of dynamic coating routes on the formation of biomimetic apatite layers on 3D-plotted biodegradable polymeric scaffolds. *Journal of Materials Science: Materials in Medicine*. 2007; 18(2):211-223. PMid:17323152. http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10856-006-0683-8

Salgado AJ, Figueiredo JE, Coutinho OP and Reis RL. Biological response to pre-mineralized starch based scaffolds for bone tissue engineering. *Journal of Materials Science: Materials in Medicine*. 2005; 16(13):267-275. PMid:15744619. http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10856-005-6689-9

Hall BK and Miyake T. The membranous skeleton: the role of cell condensations in vertebrate skeletogenesis. *Anatomy and Embryology*. 1992; 186(2):107-124. PMid:15102420. http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/BF00174948

Lombello CB, Santos AR Jr, Malmonge SM, Barbanti SH, Wada ML and Duek EA. Adhesion and morphology of fibroblastic cells cultured on different polymeric biomaterials. *Journal of Materials Science: Materials in Medicine*. 2002; 13(9):867-874. PMid:15348552. http://dx.doi.org/10.1023/A:1016552413295

Pelaez-Vargas A, Gallego-Perez D, Magallanes-Perdomo M, Fernandes MH, Hansford DJ, De Aza AH et al. Isotropic micropatterned silica coatings on zirconia induce guided cell growth for dental implants. *Dental Materials*. 2011; 27(6):581-589. PMid:21459429. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.dental.2011.02.014

Pelaez-Vargas A, Gallego-Perez D, Ferrell N, Fernandes MH, Hansford D and Monteiro FJ. Early spreading and propagation of human bone marrow stem cells on isotropic and anisotropic topographies of silica thin films produced via microstamping. *Microscopy and Microanalysis*. 2010; 16(6):670-676. PMid:20964878. http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S1431927610094158

Carvalho A, Pelaez-Vargas A, Gallego-Perez D, Frenno L, Fernandes MH, De Aza AH et al. Micropatterned silica thin films with nanohydroxyapatite micro-aggregates for guided tissue regeneration. *Dental Materials*. 2012; 28(12):1250-1260. PMid:23026648. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.dental.2012.09.002

Mata A, Kim EJ, Boehm CA, Fleischman AJ, Muschler GF and Roy S. A three-dimensional scaffold with precise micro-architecture and surface micro-textures. *Biomaterials*. 2009; 30(27):4610-4617. PMid:19524292. PMCID:PMC3677580. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.biomaterials.2009.05.023