Ion Releasing Abilities of Phosphate Invert Glasses Containing MgO, CaO or SrO in Tris Buffer Solution

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Abstract

CaO-TiO2-P2O5-Na2O invert glasses developed in our group showed bioactivity and good sinterability. In the present work, phosphate invert glasses, in which CaO was substituted with MgO or SrO (PIG-MO, M = Mg, Ca, Sr), were prepared and their ion-releasing behaviors were evaluated. Glass transition temperature (Tg) and crystallization temperature (Tc) were estimated from differential thermal analysis. (Tc − Tg)/Tg value, which indicates glassification of the glass, of PIG-MgO was higher in comparison with those of the other glasses. Laser Raman spectroscopic analysis indicated that peaks due to P2O74− group in the spectrum of PIG-MgO were smaller than those in the spectra of PIG-CaO and PIG-SrO. The structure of PO43−-M2+-PO43− was expected to form easily, resulting in the good glassification of PIG-MgO. The ion amounts dissolved from PIG-MgO containing a large amount of PO43− group were 2 ∼ 3 times larger than those of the other glasses.

Keywords: phosphate glass; magnesium; calcium; strontium; ion release; biomaterial

1 Introduction

CaO-TiO2-P2O5-Na2O invert glasses (Phosphate Invert Glasses, denoted by PIGs), which contain ortho- and pyrophosphate groups, were successfully prepared by a conventional melting method in our group [5]. Powders of the glasses have good sinterability when heated at 850 °C [4]. Hydroxyapatite deposits on the glass and glass-ceramic surfaces after soaking in simulated body fluid (SBF) [4,6]. The glass-ceramics was successfully coated on a Ti-29Nb-13Ta-4.6Zr alloy [7,10] and then expected to be applicable to coating for artificial implant materials.

Trace amounts of Si4+, Si2+, Mg2+, and Zn2+ ions were reported to enhance bone formation [3,8,11,17]. We have investigated in PIGs which release these ions. Mg2+ and Sr2+ ions can be easily substituted with Ca2+ ions in PIG. Mg2+ ion concentration in body has been reported to influence bone strength [11]. Sr2+ ion has been reported to inhibit bone resorption by osteoclasts and enhance bone formation by osteoblasts [8]. Wu et al. developed calcium-magnesium phosphate cement. The calcium-magnesium phosphate cement induced higher proliferation of human osteosarcoma MG63 cells in comparison with calcium phosphate cement [16]. Qie et al. prepared calcium polyphosphate substituted with strontium. The proliferation and alkaline phosphatase (ALP) expression of osteoblast-like cell line (ROS17/2.8) were higher on the calcium polyphosphate substituted with < 20 mol% strontium than on an unsubstituted one [13].

The present work was a fundamental study for developing new types of glasses with Mg2+, Ca2+ and Sr2+ ion releasability. PIG, in which CaO was substituted with MgO or SrO, was prepared by a conventional melt-quenching method and evaluated in their solubilities in Tris buffer solution (pH 7.40), assuming to the body system. The glass structures and their glassification were discussed.

2 Materials and methods

60MO·30P2O5·7Na2O·3TiO2 (mol%, M = Mg, Ca, Sr, nominal composition, denoted by PIG-MO) were prepared. Glass batches were prepared using MgO (99.5%), CaCO3 (99.5%), SrCO3 (99.5%), H3PO4 (85% liquid), Na2CO3 (99.5%), and TiO2 (99.5%). All reagents were purchased from Kishida Chemical Co. The reagents were mixed with distilled water to make a slurry, and then dried at 140 °C overnight. The resulting sample was melted at 1400 °C for 30 min and then quenched on a stainless steel, resulting in the formation of the glass. Glass transition temperature (Tg) and crystallization temperature (Tc) of the resulting glasses were estimated from differential thermal analysis (DTA, Rigaku Thermo plus, TG8120), which was performed until 1000 °C at a heating rate of 5 °C/min. Glass structure was examined by laser Raman spectroscopy (LRS, JASCO, NRS-2000, 514.5 nm).
The glasses were pulverized into 125 ∼ 300 µm in size. Tris buffer solution was prepared using 6.118 g of Trishydroxymethylaminomethene (NH₂C(CH₂OH)₃, Kishida Chemical Co.) and 1 liter of distilled water and its pH was adjusted to 7.40 at 37 °C using hydrochloric acid. 15 mg of the glass powders were soaked in 15 mL of Tris buffer solution at 37 °C for 1 week. The amounts of the ions dissolved from the glasses were measured by inductively coupled plasma atomic emission spectroscopy (ICP-AES, Shimadzu, ICPS-7000).

3 Results and discussion

Figure 1 shows Tg, Tc, and (Tc – Tg)/Tg, which indicates a degree of glassification [12]. The (Tc – Tg)/Tg value of PIG-MgO is twice larger than that of PIG-CaO, and the value of PIG-SrO is half of that of PIG-CaO. PIG-MgO is suggested to show good glassification due to its larger (Tc – Tg)/Tg value than those of the others.

Figure 2 shows laser Raman spectra of the glasses. The peaks matching to phosphate groups are as follows; 1040 cm⁻¹: P-O stretching due to non-bridging oxygen Q¹ species, 950 cm⁻¹: P-O stretching due to non-bridging oxygen Q⁰ species and 740 cm⁻¹: P-O-P stretching due to bridging oxygen Q¹ species [1]. Q⁰ and Q¹ indicate orthophosphate (PO₄³⁻) and pyrophosphate (P₂O₇⁴⁻) groups, respectively. The peaks matching to Ti-O polyhedra are as follows; 880 cm⁻¹: TiO₄ tetrahedra and 650 cm⁻¹: TiO₆ octahedra [15]. The peaks due to Q⁰, Q¹ and TiO₆ appeared in the all of the spectra. The peaks due to TiO₄ appeared in PIG-CaO and PIG-SrO. The pyrophosphate (Q¹) peaks of PIG-MgO were smaller than those of the other glasses. All peaks red-shifted with increasing atomic number of M (Mg, Ca, Sr) in the glasses. Dietzel proposed the field strength that is the simplified Coulomb’s force in oxides.

$$F = \frac{Z \cdot \text{valance}}{a^2} \ (\text{valance/Å}^²).$$

F is field strength, Z is cation valance and a is distance between cation and anion. The field strength of Mg²⁺, Ca²⁺, and Sr²⁺ ions are 0.53 (4-fold coordination) or 0.46 (6-fold coordination), 0.33, and 0.28 valance/Å², respectively [2]. Nelson et al. reported that Raman peaks of phosphate groups in alkaline earth metal containing phosphate glasses red-shifted with increasing the atomic number of the metals [9]. As the atomic numbers of the metals increase, their field strengths decrease. This causes attributes to the increase in the angle of P-O-P bonds in PO₄ tetrahedra. The Raman peaks red-shifted with the increase in O-P-O angle, due to decrease in its bonding energy [14].

Figure 3(a) shows the ion concentration in Tris buffer solution after soaking the glass powders for 1 week, and Figure 3(b) shows the ratios of the dissolved ion-amount to the total one in the glasses. The ion amounts dissolved from PIG-MgO were about 2 ∼ 3 times larger than those from the other glasses.

The field strength of Mg²⁺ ion is larger than those of Ca²⁺ and Sr²⁺ ions and Mg-O bonding strength is larger than those of Ca-O and Sr-O. LRS analysis showed that pyrophosphate group (Q¹) peaks in the spectrum of PIG-MgO were smaller in comparison with those of the others. This means PIG-MgO contains a larger amount of orthophosphate group (Q⁰) than PIG-CaO and PIG-SrO. The structure of PO₄³⁻-M²⁺-PO₄³⁻ is suggested to form more easily in PIG-MgO in comparison with the other glasses. This may cause the good glassification of PIG-MgO, as shown in Figure 1. The (Tc – Tg)/Tg value of
PIG-MgO contains a larger amount of orthophosphate group than the other glasses, it showed good glassification due to the high field strength of Mg$^{2+}$. On the other hand, PIG-MgO showed lower chemical durability due to a large amount of orthophosphate group. M$^{2+}$ ions in the phosphate invert glasses play an important role in their glassification and ion-releasing.

### 4 Conclusions

MO-TiO$_2$-P$_2$O$_5$-Na$_2$O invert glasses (M = Mg, Ca, Sr) were prepared and evaluated in their glass structures and ion-releasing abilities in Tris buffer solution. Although

**Figure 3:** Ion amounts dissolved from the glasses in Tris buffer solution after soaking for 1 week. (a) Concentration of ions in Tris buffer solution, and (b) ratio of dissolved ions against their total amounts in the glasses.

PIG-MgO is high, while the glass contains a larger amount of Q$^0$ than the others. In the case of PIG-CaO and PIG-SrO, pyrophosphate groups (Q$^1$) formed predominantly, since the field strengths of Ca$^{2+}$ and Sr$^{2+}$ are smaller than that of Mg$^{2+}$.

The bonding strength of P$_2$O$_7$$^{4-}$-M$^{2+}$ may be larger than that of PO$_4$$^{3-}$-Mg$^{2+}$. The dissolution behavior of PIG-MgO is suggested to be attributed to a large amount of orthophosphate group in the glass.

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