

**THERMAL OXIDATION AND  
HYDROXYAPATITE COATING OF SLMed 316L  
STAINLESS STEEL SUBSTRATES**

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### **SUPERVISOR'S DECLARATION**

We hereby declare that we have checked this thesis and in our opinion, this thesis is adequate in terms of scope and quality for the award of the degree of Master of Science.

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### **STUDENT'S DECLARATION**

I hereby declare that the work in this thesis is based on my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously or concurrently submitted for any other degree at Universiti Malaysia Pahang or any other institutions.

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## **TABLE OF CONTENT**

### **DECLARATION**

### **TITLE PAGE**

<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b>	ii
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<b>ABSTRAK</b>	iii
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<b>ABSTRACT</b>	iv
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<b>TABLE OF CONTENT</b>	v
-------------------------	---

<b>LIST OF TABLES</b>	viii
-----------------------	------

<b>LIST OF FIGURES</b>	viii
------------------------	------

<b>LIST OF SYMBOLS</b>	ixi
------------------------	-----

<b>LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS</b>	xiii
------------------------------	------

<b>CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION</b>	1
-------------------------------	---

1.1 Research Background	1
-------------------------	---

1.2 Problem Statement	2
-----------------------	---

1.3 Research Objectives	4
-------------------------	---

1.4 Research Scopes	4
---------------------	---

1.5 Thesis Outline	5
--------------------	---

<b>CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	6
------------------------------------	---

2.1 Introduction	6
------------------	---

2.2 Metallic Materials as Biomedical Implants	6
---	---

2.3 Material Selection Criteria for Implant	8
---	---

2.4 Selective Laser Melting of 316L Stainless Steel	10
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2.5	Current Issues with Metallic Biomaterials: Corrosion	12
2.5.1	Types of Corrosion in Metal Implants	15
2.5.2	Corrosion: <i>In Vitro</i> and <i>In Vivo</i> Studies	17
2.5.3	Effect of Implant corrosion to Human Body	19
2.6	Requirements of Implant Surface Modification	20
2.6.1	Hydroxyapatite Coating Materials for Implants Surface Modification	20
2.6.2	Sol-Gel Dip Coating Method	24
2.6.3	Introduction of Oxide Layer on Metallic Substrate by Thermal Oxidation	26
2.7	Summary of the Literature Review	30
<b>CHAPTER 3 METHODOLOGY</b>		<b>32</b>
3.1	Introduction	32
3.2	Substrates Preparation	34
3.2.1	The 316L SS Substrate	35
3.2.2	Fabrication of 316L SS Substrate	35
3.2.3	Post Processing of SLMed 316L SS Substrate	37
3.3	Thermal Oxidation Process	37
3.4	Sol-Gel Dip Coating Process	39
3.4.1	Sol-Gel Slurry	39
3.4.2	Dip Coating Process	39
3.4.3	Sintering Process	40
3.4.4	Preliminary Studies on Hydroxyapatite Coating Parameter	40
3.5	Physical Testing	41
3.6	Surface Characterisation	43
3.7	Corrosion Testing	46

3.8	Summary of the Methodology	48
<b>CHAPTER 4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION</b>		<b>49</b>
4.1	Introduction	49
4.2	Powder Metal and Substrates Characterisation	49
4.3	Formation of the Oxide Layer by Thermal Oxidation	51
4.3.1	Substrate Physical Condition	52
4.3.2	Weight Increment	52
4.3.3	Surface Characterisation	53
4.3.4	Corrosion Behaviour	58
4.4	Sol-Gel Dip Coating	62
4.4.1	Preliminary Results on Hydroxyapatite Coating	64
4.4.2	Weight Increment	64
4.4.2	Surface Characterisation	65
4.4.3	Corrosion Behaviour	67
4.5	Discussions	70
4.6	Summary	71
<b>CHAPTER 5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS</b>		<b>72</b>
5.1	Introduction	72
5.2	Conclusions	72
5.3	Knowledge Contribution	73
5.4	Recommendations	73
<b>REFERENCES</b>		<b>75</b>
<b>APPENDIX A LIST OF PUBLICATIONS</b>		<b>92</b>

## LIST OF TABLES

Table 2.1	Four classes of metallic biomaterials and their primary applications as implants	7
Table 2.2	Elements in the human body	9
Table 2.3	Materials used total joint replacements	14
Table 2.4	Standards for corrosion resistance testing of biomaterials	15
Table 2.5	Composition of SBF's, Ringer's and Hank's Solution	18
Table 2.6	Composition of different artificial saliva	19
Table 2.7	HAp requirements as coating material	22
Table 2.8	Different techniques to deposit HAp coatings	23
Table 2.9	Possible surface oxide layers on various biocompatible metals	28
Table 3.1	Schematic diagram of four different conditions of SLMed 316L SS substrates	34
Table 3.2	Parameters for Selective Laser Melting (SLM) process in this study	36
Table 3.3	Parameters for dip coating process	39
Table 3.4	Chemical composition of Ringer's solution	48
Table 4.1	Chemical composition of 316L SS gas powder	50
Table 4.2	Particle size distribution of 316L SS gas atomised powder	50
Table 4.3	Density of SLMed 316L SS after fabrication	50
Table 4.4	Average thickness of oxide layer formation	54
Table 4.5	Electrochemical data obtained from potentiodynamic polarisation curves for non-oxidised and thermally oxidised substrates	60
Table 4.6	Electrochemical data obtained from potentiodynamic polarisation curves for coated non-oxidised and coated thermally oxidised substrates	69

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 2.1	Schematics of selective laser melting (SLM)	11
Figure 2.2	Corrosion scale on a Charnley SS stem, and (b) pitting and corrosion of a Muller SS stem after implant removal	14
Figure 2.3	SEM microscopic images (at 100x) of samples after tests; (a) Pitting corrosion (b) Uniform corrosion	17
Figure 2.4	Flow chart of HAp coating preparation by a sol-gel process	25
Figure 2.5	Fundamental stages of dip coating technique	26
Figure 2.6	The Deal-Grove Model assumption on thermal oxidation reaction	27
Figure 2.7	SEM images of (a) bare SS in Ringer's solution (b) SS surface coated in un-passivated-HAp (c) surface of borate passivated in Ringer's solution (d) borate passivated-HAp coated surface in Ringer's solution	29
Figure 2.8	Time taken for regeneration of surface oxide layers for several alloys	30
Figure 3.1	Research flow chart	33
Figure 3.2	3D CAD design for SLMed 316L SS substrate	35
Figure 3.3	SLM 280 HL machine used to fabricate SLMed 316L SS substrates	36
Figure 3.4	SLMed fabricated 316L SS substrates fabricated via SLM process	36
Figure 3.5	(a) EDM Die Sinking Machine and (b) the process smoothing the substrate by copper electrode	37
Figure 3.6	Graph pattern used for TO conducted at 700 °C for 150h	38
Figure 3.7	The sol-gel dip coating process of the SLMed substrates	40
Figure 3.8	Weighing Machine Precisa Series 320 XB - Model XB220A	41
Figure 3.9	The density of substrate is measured using Weighing Machine	42
Figure 3.10	The sample is measured in (a) air and (b) water using Archimedes Principle to obtain density	42
Figure 3.11	Tabletop SEM with EDX equipment	43
Figure 3.12	Laser scattering particle analyzer	44
Figure 3.13	MEIJI light optical microscope	44
Figure 3.14	FESEM with EDX attachment used to examine the substrate morphology of oxide layer and HAp coating	45
Figure 3.15	X-ray diffractometer used to determine phase and composition analysis of the oxidised substrate and HAp coating	45
Figure 3.16	Electrodes and electrolyte used for electrochemical testing	46

Figure 3.17	Exposed area of working electrode before and after coated by acrylic painting for electrochemical corrosion testing	47
Figure 3.18	Experimental set-up for electrochemical corrosion testing	47
Figure 4.1	SEM image of 316L SS gas atomised powder	49
Figure 4.2	Particle size distribution of 316L SS gas atomised powder	50
Figure 4.3	OM image of SLMed fabricated 316L SS substrate after fabrication	51
Figure 4.4	SLMed 316L SS substrate; (a) before TO (b) after TO 150 h (c) after TO 200 h (d) after TO 250 h	52
Figure 4.5	Weight increment of SLMed 316L SS substrate before and after TO	53
Figure 4.6	SEM cross-sections on the non-oxidised; (a) and thermally oxidised at 700 °C for; (b) 150 h (c) 200 h (d) 250 h	54
Figure 4.7	EDX line analysis of the thermally oxidised at 700 °C for; (a) 150 h (b) 200 h (c) 250 h	55
Figure 4.8	EDX area analysis of the thermally oxidised at 700 °C for; (a, d) 150 h (b, e) 200 h (c, f) 250 h	56
Figure 4.9	XRD analysis of the non-oxidised and thermally oxidised at 700 °C for 150 h, 200 h and 250 h	57
Figure 4.10	Variation of open-circuit potential with time of the non-oxidised and thermally oxidised SLMed substrates at 700 °C for 150 h, 200 h and 250 h	59
Figure 4.11	Potentiodynamic polarisation curves of the non-oxidised and thermally oxidised SLMed substrates at 700 °C for 150 h, 200 h and 250 h	60
Figure 4.12	Corrosion rates of the non-oxidised and thermally oxidised SLMed substrates at 700 °C for 150 h, 200 h and 250 h	61
Figure 4.13	XRD pattern of the supplied HAp powder	63
Figure 4.14	Morphology of (a) supplied HAp powder and (b) particle size of the HAp powder	63
Figure 4.15	Surface morphology of different number of dipping of HAp coating on SLMed substrates; (a) two times dipping, (b) three times dipping and (c) four times dipping	64
Figure 4.16	Weight increment of SLMed coated substrates for condition; (b) non-oxidised (C1) and (d) thermally oxidised (C2)	65
Figure 4.17	FESEM morphologies of HAp coating on SLMed coated substrates for condition; (a) non-oxidised (C1) and (c) thermally oxidised 150 h (C2); and FESEM cross-section of the HAp coating thickness on SLMed coated substrates for condition; (b) non-oxidised (C1) and (d) thermally oxidised 150 h (C2)	66

Figure 4.18	XRD patterns of the SLMed coated (a) non-oxidised (C1) and (b) thermally oxidised substrates (C2)	67
Figure 4.19	Variation of open-circuit potential with time of the non-oxidised substrate (B1), thermal oxidised substrate (B2_TO150 h), coated non-oxidised substrate substrates (C1) and coated thermally oxidised substrate (C2)	68
Figure 4.20	Potentiodynamic polarisation curves of SLMed non-oxidised substrate (B1), thermal oxidised substrate (B2_TO150 h), coated non-oxidised substrate substrates (C1) and coated thermally oxidised substrate (C2)	69
Figure 4.21	Corrosion rate of SLMed non-oxidised substrate (B1), thermal oxidised substrate (B2_TO150 h), coated non-oxidised substrate substrates (C1) and coated thermally oxidised substrate (C2)	70

## LIST OF SYMBOLS

%	Percentage
°	Degree
$2\Theta$	$2\theta$ theta
Å	Angstrom
CR	Corrosion rate (mm/yr)
$D_{10}$	Range of particle size diameter at 10 %
$D_{50}$	Range of particle size diameter at 50 %
$D_{90}$	Range of particle size diameter at 90 %
$E_{corr}$	Potential current density (mV vs SCE)
EW	Equivalent weight
$I_{corr}$	Corrosion current density ( $\text{mA}/\text{cm}^2$ )
K	Constant ( $3.27 \times 10^{-3}$ mmg/ $\mu\text{A}\text{cm}\text{yr}$ )
$\lambda$	Wavelength

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

$\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$	Aluminium dioxide
$\Delta\text{-Fe}$	Delta ferrite
316L SS	316L stainless steel
3D	Three dimensional
AM	Additive manufacturing
ASTM	American Society for Testing and Materials
CAD	Computer aided design
Ca-P	Calcium phosphate
$\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$	Chromium oxide
EDM	Electrical discharge machining
EDX	Energy dispersive X-ray
FDA	Food and Drug Administration
$\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$	Iron oxide
FESEM	Field emission scanning electron microscope
HAp	Hydroxyapatite
ICDD	The International for Diffraction Data
ISO	The International Organization for Standardization
OCP	Open-circuit potential
OM	Optical microscope
PMMA	Poly(methyl methacrylate)
SCE	Saturated calomel electrode
SEM	Scanning electron microscopy
SLM	Selective laser melting
TCP	Tricalcium phosphate
THA	Total Hip Arthroplasty
$\text{TiO}_2$	Titanium oxide
TTCP	Tetracalcium phosphate
UK	United Kingdom
USA	United State of America
XRD	X-ray Diffraction
$\text{ZrO}_2$	Zirconium oxide
$\gamma\text{-Fe}$	Austenite

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## **ABSTRAK**

Keluli tahan karat 316L (316L SS) merupakan satu daripada biomaterial logam yang telah digunakan sebagai implan logam di dalam bidang bioperubatan sebagai pengganti atau pemulihan fungsi tisu-tisu atau organ-organ yang merosot. Dalam kajian ini, 316L SS telah dipilih sebagai substrat logam dan difabrikasikan dengan menggunakan teknologi-teknologi pembuatan budaya tambah (AM) melalui kaedah teknik laser lebur (SLM). Bersandarkan masalah kakisan 316L SS, pengoksidaan haba (TO) dan penyalutan *hydroxyapatite* (HAp) telah dilakukan dalam kajian ini. TO telah dijalankan pada 700 °C selama 150 jam, 200 jam dan 250 jam untuk membentuk lapisan oksida. 316L SS *SLMed* yang terma teroksida telah diselidiki berdasarkan pencirian permukaan dan sifat kakisan. Keadaan optimum bagi TO diteruskan dengan penyalutan HAp. Substrat 316L SS *SLMed* yang tidak teroksida dan terma teroksida disalut *sol-gel* penyalutan celup dan disinter selama 1 jam pada 500 °C. Kesan daripada TO dan penyalutan HAp telah dikaji ke atas substrat 316L SS. Peratus berat substrat dan ketebalan lapisan oksida telah meningkat dengan peningkatan masa dedahan semasa TO. Kemunculan besi oksida ( $Fe_2O_3$ ) sebagai lapisan oksida telah dikesan pada substrat terma teroksida. Namun begitu, kromium oksida ( $Cr_2O_3$ ) telah dikesan pada substrat terma teroksida selama 150 jam. Dalam kajian ini, hanya TO 150 jam menunjukkan penambahbaikan dalam sifat kakisan kerana kehadiran lapisan-lapisan  $Fe_2O_3$  dan  $Cr_2O_3$ . Masa pendedahan yang lama menyebabkan tiada perubahan dalam sifat kakisan. Oleh yang demikian, terma teroksida 316L SS *SLMed* telah diteruskan kepada penyalutan HAp. Salutan HAp ke atas terma teroksida 316L SS *SLMed* menujukkan salutan tebal dan bebas retakan. Berdasarkan keputusan kakisan, ianya terbukti bahawa kehadiran lapisan oksida dan salutan HAp mampu meningkatkan sifat kakisan terhadap 316L *SLMed*. Kadar kakisan bagi substrat 316L SS yang bersalut ternyata paling rendah berbanding kedaan substrat yang lain. Ternyata, kehadiran lapisan-lapisan oksida bagi substrat bersalut terma teroksida menunjukkan perbezaan ketara dalam sifat kakisan kerana kehadiran  $Cr_2O_3$  dan  $Fe_2O_3$  sebagai lapisan oksida. Kesimpulannya, lapisan-lapisan oksida dan salutan HAp yang terbentuk pada substrat 316L SS terma teroksida membantu dalam meningkatkan sifat kakisan untuk substrat 316L SS *SLMed*. Dengan kemunculan kaedah fabrikasi yang baru untuk biomaterial logam bersama lapisan oksida dan penyalutan HAp ternyata mampu membaik pulih kadar kakisan 316L SS. Nilai-nilai kadar kakisan bagi semua keadaan 316L *SLMed* juga boleh diterima berbanding dengan kaedah fabrikasi konvensional yang lain.

## ABSTRACT

316L Stainless Steel (316L SS) is one of the metallic biomaterials that commonly applied as a metal implant in the biomedical field as substitute or function restoration of degenerated tissues or organs. In this study, 316L SS taken as the metal substrate and fabricated through to additive manufacturing (AM) technology which is via selective laser melting (SLM) process. Concerning the corrosion issue of 316L SS, thermal oxidation (TO) and hydroxyapatite (HAp) coating were introduced in this study. The TO was conducted at 700 °C for 150, 200 and 250 h to develop oxide layer formation. The thermally oxidised SLMed 316L SS substrates were investigated based on a surface characterisation and a corrosion behaviour. The optimum condition for TO then continues with the HAp coating application. Sol-gel dip coating coated the non-oxidised and thermally oxidised SLMed 316L SS substrates and sintered at 500 °C for 1 h. The effect of TO and HAp coating were examined on the SLMed 316L SS substrates. The weight percentage of the SLMed substrates and the thickness of oxide layer increased with the increment of soaking time during TO. The iron oxide ( $Fe_2O_3$ ) was detected as the oxide layer on thermally oxidised substrates. However, chromium oxide ( $Cr_2O_3$ ) was detected on thermally oxidised for 150 h. In this study, only TO for 150 h showed improvement in corrosion behaviour due to the presence of  $Fe_2O_3$  and  $Cr_2O_3$  layers. Prolonged soaking time shows no improvement in corrosion behaviour. Consequently, the thermally oxidised SLMed 316L SS substrates for condition 150 h have proceeded to coat with HAp. The HAp coating on thermally oxidised SLMed 316L SS substrates exhibited thicker coating deposition and free crack coatings surface compared to coated non-oxidised SLMed substrates. Based on corrosion result, it confirmed the formation of the oxide layer and HAp coating able to enhance corrosion resistance of the SLMed 316L SS. The corrosion rate for coated thermally oxidised SLMed substrates is the lowest compared to other substrate conditions. The presence of oxide layers on the coated thermally oxidised SLMed 316L SS substrates show a significant difference in the corrosion behaviour due to the presence of  $Cr_2O_3$  and  $Fe_2O_3$  layers. It concluded that the oxide layers and HAp coating formed on thermally oxidised SLMed substrate gave full support to enhance corrosion behaviour of the SLMed substrate. Introducing new fabrication method for metallic biomaterials with presence of oxide layer and HAp coating was able to improve corrosion behaviour of 316L SS. The values of corrosion rate for all SLMed 316L conditions were also acceptable and tolerable compared to others conventional fabrication methods.

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