

Starch materials for resorbable medical devices, application for a shape memory stent

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ABSTRACT :

Starch-based materials have attracted significant interest for the development of innovative materials for biomedical applications¹. Thanks to its thermoplastic behaviour, 3D objects can be fabricated by use of processes such as extrusion, thermomoulding or injection. Moreover, natural extruded thermoplastic starch presents efficient shape memory properties, which can be triggered by body temperature or humidity². It allows applications in outpatient surgery, thus minimizing the need for anesthesia and reducing hospitalization time. The structure, swelling and mechanical properties of starch-based materials from potato and amylose-rich maize starches, with and without plasticizer have been studied on materials immersed in physiological conditions on a period of 30 days. It is shown that glycerol plasticization favors a fast crystallization of potato starch materials which enhanced their mechanical strength and durability and a weak swelling³. Potato starch presented a good tissue integration and no significant inflammation or foreign body response after 30 days intra-muscular implantation in a rat model, contrary to amylose-rich maize starch materials. This allows them to be used as a bioresorbable and biocompatible material for innovative implantable medical devices. Finally the design and the evaluation of a shape memory starch-based stent for the treatment of a salivary duct disease will be presented. We propose an overview of these studies realised in our group since several years.

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KEYWORDS :

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