Nitrogen Plasma Immersion Ion Implantation (PIII) of nickel titanium shape memory alloy

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Abstract – Nickel Titanium (NiTi) is a shape memory alloy is a unique material showing the shape memory effect and superelastic property that are attractive to biomedical applications. However nickel is an allergy compound and its liberation inside human body must be controlled with a NiTi alloys surface modification by nitrogen plasma immersion ion implantation (PIII), which implants a TiN layer on the substrate surface, enhancing the alloys surface corrosion resistance. This work presents the influence of NiTi alloys surface modification by nitrogen plasma immersion ion implantation (PIII) on its corrosion resistance.

The plasma immersion ion implantation (PIII) was applied in the thermally treated NiTi alloy and this nitrogen layer thickness in the sample surface can vary according the electrical tension variation. The condition of PIII for the samples of NiTi for the present experiments were typically: 10 kV (T1) and 16 kV (T2) peak voltage, 400 Hz frequency, 40 µs pulse duration, total processing time of 2h, using nitrogen with p = 3.5x10⁻⁵ mbar.

The potentiodynamic polarization tests were performed by scanning the applied potential from -1000 mV_{Ag/AgCl} and moved in the anodic direction to 1000 mV_{Ag/AgCl} at a scan rate of 1mV/s⁻¹ in 0.9 %wt NaCl aqueous solution, pH 6.0, at room temperature (~25 °C). The Figure 1 shows potentiodynamic curves of the NiTi alloy after nitrogen plasma immersion ion implantation (PIII) on its corrosion resistance.

Figure 1:

- STD
- T1
- T2

Figure 1: Potentiodynamic curves of the NiTi alloy after nitrogen plasma immersion ion in NaCl 0.9% solution at temperature room and pH 6.0