

RESPONSE TO EXAMINER'S COMMENTS

Thesis Title: "Evaluation of bone repair using chitosan-hydroxyapatite biomaterial for Bone tissue engineering"

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Response to Examiner-I

Suggestions:

Preface

Comment 1: Please refer to the sentence "The innate properties of the scaffold constituents, namely chitosan, gelatin and hydroxyapatite were modified by combining the by gelate freeze-drying." In page no 23 and correct the grammatical mistake.

Response: As per the suggestion, the grammatical mistake has been corrected.

Chapter 1. Introduction

Comment 1: Please refer to the sentence "This supports in reducing the mismatch between current in vitro and clinical approaches" in page no. 24 and specify what 'this' means.

Response: As suggested, 'This' has been changed to 'These techniques' as a follow up of the previous statement.

Comment 2: Please refer to the sentence "It lead the focus on alternate available procedures to reconstrucy bone after trauma, tumour resection, and congenital diseases" in page no. 25 and please correct the grammatical mistake.

Response: I acknowledge the suggestion, the error has been corrected.

Comment 3: Please refer to the sentence "Tissue-Engineering was given by Langer and Vacant, 1993 [12] states Tissue Engineering (TE) involves controlled stimulation of target cells via systematic combination of molecular and mechanical signals" in page no. 25 and correct grammatical mistake.

Response: As per the suggestion, the implied grammatical error has been corrected.

Comment 4: Please refer to the sentence “As a promising alternative, tissue engineering of bone evolved by involving materials that induce bone formation in response to the neighboring tissue” in page no. 25 and correct the grammatical mistake.

Response: As per the suggestion, the implied grammatical error has been corrected.

Comment 5: Please refer to the sentence “Scaffold raw materials mimicking ECM component properties be an effective strategy in restoring majority of bone related deformities.” In page no. 26 and correct the grammatical mistake.

Response: As per the suggestion, the implied grammatical error has been corrected.

Chapter 2. Literature Review

Comment 1: Please note that the thesis suffers from usage of long sentences which reduces the focus of the statement. This also creates room for errors in tense in multiple places. For instance, please refer to the sentence “Nowadays, with the rise in incidences of facial trauma, the better understanding of the new procedural techniques and osteogenesis process had urged the need to optimize materials required for bone-defect healing” in page no. 28. The clarity of thought and inconsistency in tense can be taken care of by using short sentences. The style also will improve.

Response: The examiner has suggested correctly to limit the usage of long sentences. As per the suggestion, longer sentences have been shortened throughout the ‘Literature Review’.

Comment 2: Please refer to the “Figure 2.2 Materials classification on the basis of their chemical origin.” In page no. 30 and explain it elaborately. Please explain what do the star marks included in the figure indicates.

Response: As per the suggestion, usage of star marks have been included in the figure legend of figure 2.2.

Comment 3: Please refer to the sentence “The use of natural or synthetic polymer’s as three-dimensional (3D) structures for bone regeneration has been quite interesting quite interesting” in page no. 31 and remove the repetitive words.

Response: As per the suggestion, the repetitive words have been removed.

Comment 4: Please write “w.r.t” in the full form “with respect to” or include it in the list of abbreviations.

Response: As per the suggestion, “w.r.t” in the full form “with respect to” has been included in the list of abbreviations.

Comment 5: Please refer to “Figure 2.3 Parameters influenced from the biodegradation and biomineralization properties” and describe the figure briefly in legend of the figure.

Response: As per the suggestion, the figure legend has been re-written for Figure 2.3.

Comment 6: Please refer to the sentence “Osteoblasts found to be located along the surface of bone and show morphology characteristic to any protein synthesizing cell” in page no. 51 and correct the grammatical mistake.

Response: As per the suggestion, the indicated grammatical error has been corrected.

Chapter 3. Materials & Methods

Comment 1: Please refer to “Table 3.2 Composition of the prepared Simulated Body Fluid (SBF)” in page no. 64 and mention about concentration of 40 ml HCl.

Response: As per the suggestion, the concentration of 40ml HCl has been included in the Table 3.2.

Comment 2: Please keep the page margins of page no. 71 as similar to other pages in the thesis.

Response: As per the suggestion, the page margin of page no. 71 has been aligned as same as to other pages in the thesis.

Response to the Examiner-II

Comment 1: The concept of using porous materials for bone tissue engineering has been reported for decades, the rationale and the innovation of using the composition of gelatin, hydroxyapatite and chitosan need to be clearly justified. Yes, they are nature biomaterials, but what are the advantages of these materials compared to many other sophisticated nature materials? Such as biomechanic properties, the cost, the stabilities, etc.

Response: As per the suggestion, the rationale and innovation of using the composition of gelatin, hydroxyapatite and chitosan have been mentioned in Chapter 3: Materials and Methods, Table 3.1. The justification has been included in the 'Chapter 2. Literature Review, 2.4 Recent advances in the Multi-component System.

Also, advantages of these material compared to other sophisticated natural materials (in term with their biomechanical properties, cost, stability) has been incorporated in the Table 2.2.

Comment 2: The innovation of the technical approach of “freeze-dried slurry and lyophilization” should be discussed in detail, by comparison with other common tissue engineering methods.

Response: As per the suggestion, the technical approach of scaffold fabrication 'freeze-dried slurry and lyophilization' have been discussed in terms of being innovative. Also, it has been compared with the existing common tissue engineering methods in the section '2.3.4 Comparative study on the methods of fabrication' in terms of being the innovative.

Comment 3: While the project attempted to mimic the in vivo microenvironment using the in vitro model, the factors tested in the thesis are limited to the characterization of scaffold composition and cell differentiation. As the matter of fact, the in vivo environment is way more complicated than the in vitro conditions the current project tests. In addition to the physical characterization and cell proliferation test, at least, the other considerable matrixes for evaluating cell-scaffold interaction should be discussed.

Response: I understand and acknowledge the comment. The *in vivo* microenvironment was restricted to the comparative analysis performed in the *in vitro* experiments. In addition, it could serve as the scope for the future work on the *in vitro* appropriate scaffold-cell combination.

Comment 4: in vitro osteogenesis and metabolic study of co-culture with HCG, rT over rM are limited at mineralization and osteogenic gene expression, discussion about other metabolism elements like ATP/ADP, glucose, NADH (if any) will provide complementary information.

Response: As per the suggestion, the study supporting metabolism elements have been included via the 'Glucose diffusion analysis' of the co-cultured samples in the 'Chapter 4, as section 4.2.11'.

NOTE: Necessary changes have been incorporated in the thesis. The same have been highlighted in red.

Chapter 2

Table 2.1 Comparative study of the raw materials used in this study w.r.t natural materials using matrix mapping.

Sr. no.	Properties	C	H	G	Collagen	SF	A	HAA
1.	Biomechanical [125,182,189]	2	3	2	1	3	1	1
2.	Cost [111,114]	1	2	1	3	2	1	3
3.	Stability [46,77,115]	2	3	2	2	2	-q	1
4.	%Composition [185-188]	Nil	50	Nil	20	Nil	Nil	0.7
5.	Biocompatibility	3	2	3	3	2	2	3

* Matrix score: 1-low, 2-intermediate, 3-high or strong.

Chitosan-C, Gelatin-G, Hydroxyapatite-H, Silk Fibroin-SF, Alginate-A, and Hyaluronic acid-HAA

Table 2.3 Comparative study on the methods of fabrication (in terms of being innovative)

Sr.no	Fabrication Methods	State of scaffold	Contamination	Accessibility	Mechanical property
1.	Lyophilization [22,23,29-30]	Rapid-solidification	Reduce chances	High	Superior
2.	Dry/wet-spinning based extrusion [57-60]	Amorphous consistency	Low	low	Inferior
3.	Gas-foaming [184-187]	Highly viscous	Relatively higher	intermediate	Intermediate
4.	Cryo-tropic gelation [111,125,187]	Interconnections not guaranteed	Intermediate	high	Inferior

Chapter 3

3.5.8.3 Glucose diffusion analysis

3.5.8.3b Measurement of the D value

Two slots in the 12-well cell culture plate were used for single-point data collection.

Each well was 7.3cm³ in volume (dimension of the cylindrical well: 2.2cm diameter X 1.9 cm depth). Each well can hold up to 1.2ml media volume.

The wells were incubated with cell culture media saturated 'cell-scaffold' combination. The set-up was kept at 37°C. Glucose at 1mg/ml was added to saturation in one in every two wells. The 12 well plates were incubated in the CO₂ incubator.

As per Fick's law, Diffusion flux, J is directly proportional to the concentration gradient of the particle (dΦ/dx). Provided there was no change in the volume of the diffusion cell.

$$J = -D \frac{d\Phi}{dx}$$
$$= -DA \frac{\Phi_d - \Phi_r}{x}$$

J is the diffusion flux, mass transfer through an area per unit time

Φ is the concentration of the diffusing solute

x is the scaffold thickness,

A is the area of the scaffold

D is the effective diffusivity of glucose in the seeded scaffold

V is the volume of the well

D was calculated by fitting the experimental values into the equation for J. All experiment was performed at n=3. Also, no significant deviation among the data values were recorded.

3.5.8.3b Measurement of D value for cell-scaffold saturated cell culture media

A UV spectrophotometer was used to record the change in glucose concentration w.r.t time at 190nm. Each well was filled to saturation using 1.2 ml of glucose (1mg/ml). Sampling was done from both the wells, with and without cell-scaffold saturated with water after 1,2,4,6 and 8 hours. All the readings were recorded in triplicate.

Chapter 4

Results and Discussion

4.3.7.2 Determination of the Glucose Diffusion Coefficient (D)

The varying surface and core morphology tend to influence the diffusion of the glucose moieties. Hence, the value of D is directly correlated to both, the porosity and morphology.

Figure illustrates the changes in glucose concentration over a period of eight hours from 0 to 27 culture days.

The GH based scaffold depicts lesser degree of diffusion than the CGH scaffold. Also, rTCGH displayed maximum glucose diffusion, independent to its rate of biodegradation.

Also, the rT seeded groups (rTGH and rTCGH) displayed marginally lower resistance to glucose diffusion over the rM seeded groups (rMGH and rMCGH).

The effective glucose diffusion coefficient was higher for CGH groups than the GH groups.

From the study done by H.Suhaimi et.al. the diffusion coefficient for the scaffold material increases at 37°C.

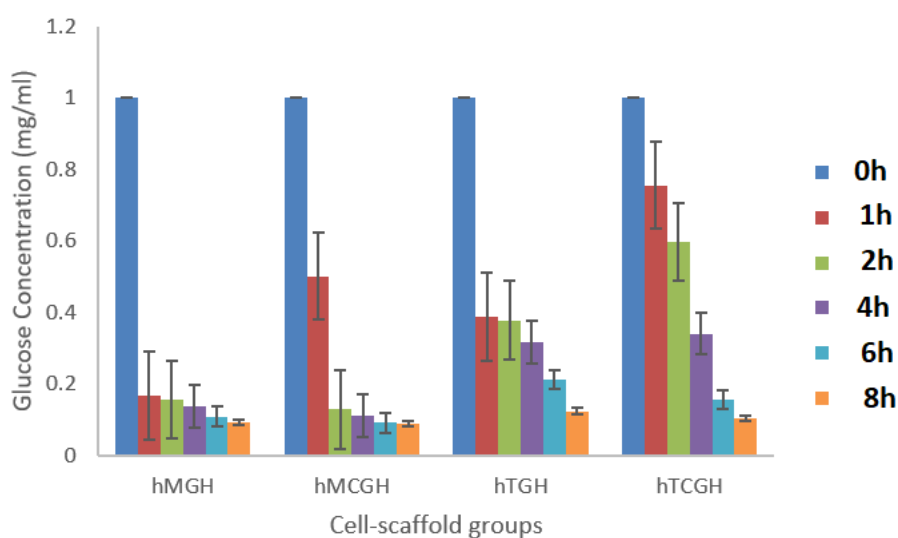


Figure 4.42 Variation in the glucose concentration w.r.t time factor among the four cell-scaffold groups: hMGH, hMCGH, hTGH and hTCGH

Table 4.11 Effective diffusion coefficient with standard deviation for glucose across cell-scaffold saturated with cell culture media.

Sr. no.	Cell-scaffold group	Std Deviation (σ)	D (m ² /s) After 27 culture days
1.	hMGH	$2 \pm 2.67 * 10^{-10}$	$2.05 \pm 0.77 * 10^{-10}$
2.	hMCGH	$2.05 \pm 0.11 * 10^{-11}$	$1.05 \pm 0.1 * 10^{-11}$
3.	hTGH	NA	$1.011 \pm 2.66 * 10^{-10}$
4.	hTCGH	$9.01 \pm 0.66 * 10^{-9}$	$7.05 \pm 0.12 * 10^{-9}$

Dedicated
to
My Beloved Parents

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Any accomplishment requires a combined effort of many individuals and my project is no different. I would like to express my gratitude towards a number of people whose help has been instrumental for the success of my Ph.D. study. So it is with deep gratitude that I express my appreciation to the following people for their contribution.

First of all I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my supervisor Professor Pradeep Srivastava, School of Biochemical Engineering, IIT (BHU) for his valued guidance and instruction at every step which were truly enlightening. I am grateful for his wholehearted support and innovative suggestions. I have benefited greatly from his imperial style of developing innovative ideas and the implementation of those ideas. I sincerely show profound sense of veneration for his helping attitude, prospective comments, constant help, moral support, and suggestions throughout the period of the project. I would not have imagined a better supervisor and advisor for my Ph.D. work.

I wish to express my profound gratitude again to Prof. Pradeep Srivastava, Co-ordinator, School of Biochemical Engineering, IIT (BHU), Varanasi, for providing effective management, necessary facilities and valuable suggestion for the completion of my work.

I thank my doctoral evaluation committee (RPEC Members), Prof. S.K. Srivastava, Prof. P.K.Mishra, and Dr.(Mrs.) Abha Mishra, for their constant monitoring and valuable suggestions which helped in completion of the Ph. D. work successfully.

I also take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks and respect to all respect to all the faculty members of my School, for their indispensable suggestions, help and support. Prof. Subir Kundu (Retd.), Prof. S.K. Srivastava (Retd.), Prof. R.M. Banik, Prof. Mira (Debnath) Das, Prof. Vikas Kumar Dubey, Dr. Ashish Kumar, Dr. Vishal Mishra, and Dr. Sanjay Kumar, School of Biochemical Engineering, IIT-BHU, Varanasi for their indispensable suggestions and encouragement throughout my Ph..D. work.

I would also like to thank the non-teaching staff of School of Biochemical Engineering, Mr. Rama Shankar Singh, Mr. Dinesh, Mrs. Usha Yadav, Mr. Subhash, Mr.

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I admire sincere thanks to all the Research Scholars and Masters Students of School of Biochemical Engineering, for their invaluable suggestions, constant help and kind cooperation.

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I acknowledge Central Instrument Facility (CIF), IIT-BHU, Varanasi for providing FESEM, TEM and AFM facilities, DBT-BHU Interdisciplinary School of Life Science (ISLS), BHU for providing confocal microscopy and FACS facilities, NIT Trichy for the DSC facility. I also thanks the staff of these respective institutes who wholeheartedly helped in successful completion of the services rendered.

I also thank the members of the Bio-molecular Engineering Laboratory, School of Biochemical Engineering, for providing friendly and conducive environment to work.

I would like to thank my friends Ms Deepika Kushwaha, Ms. Reena Vishvakarma, Ms. Renu Bala, and Mr. Sarada Prasana Mallick for their encouragement, co-ordination, and inspiration.

I would also like to put in words my gratitude to my mother, to whom I owe my success for being the inspiration, my father for the abundant blessings and unconditional support, my darling husband for being my pillar of strength, my brother and my baby daughter for being the cordial. I extend my gratitude to my new found family in my in-laws.

I am indebted to many more people that could possibly not be mentioned in this brief space. So my sincere apologies are offered to those who contributed significantly but whose names regretfully do not appear here.

Finally, I thank to GOD for giving me the strength and wisdom to do this work and complete it successfully.

*Namrata Yadav
(Roll No.-13011004)*

CONTENTS

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xiv-xv	
LIST OF TABLES	xvi-xvii	
LIST OF FIGURES	xviii-xxii	
PREFACE	xxiii	
ABSTRACT	xxiv-xxviii	
CHAPTER 1.	INTRODUCTION	1-4
1.1	Background	1
1.2	Significance Tissue Engineering	2
1.3	Scaffolds for Bone tissue Engineering	3
1.4	Objectives of this study	4
CHAPTER 2.	LITERATURE REVIEW	5-32
2.1	Bone tissue Engineering	5
2.2	Scaffold biomaterial	6
2.3	Single Component System	8
2.3.1	Hydroxyapatite: The inorganic component of Bone matrix	8
2.3.2	Chitosan	12
2.3.3	Gelatin	13
2.4	Recent advances in the Multi-component System	18
2.4.1	Morphological Studies	19
2.4.1.1	<i>Surface properties</i>	
2.4.1.2	<i>Core morphology</i>	
2.4.2	Elemental Study	21
2.4.3	Crystal nucleation and pore size	21
2.4.4	Crystallinity and chemical structure	22
2.4.4.1	<i>Selected Area Electron Diffraction based study</i>	
2.4.4.2	<i>X-ray diffraction Study</i>	
2.4.4.3	<i>Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy</i>	

	<i>(FTIR) based study</i>	
2.4.5	Diffraction Scanning Calorimetry (DSC) based thermal study	23
2.4.6	Uni-axial Compressive Strength study	23
2.4.7	Porosity and its influence	24
2.4.8	Biodegradability: Stability in scaffold structure	25
2.4.9	Biom mineralization: Bioactivity of the scaffold architecture	26
2.4.10	Antibacterial Properties	27
2.5	Bone cells	28
2.5.1	Osteoblast	28
2.5.2	Osteoclast	28
2.5.3	Osteocytes	28
2.5.4	Mesenchymal stem cells	28
2.6	Cell Selection	29
2.7	Cytocompatibility	29
2.8	Extracellular matrix Mineralization potential	30
2.9	Growth factors gene expression profile	30
2.10	Biochemical analysis	31
2.10.1	Collagen	31
2.10.2	Osteocalcin	32
2.11	<i>In vivo</i> osteoblast studies: Scaffold ability to promote bone regeneration	32
CHAPTER 3.	MATERIALS AND METHODS	33-58
3.1	Materials	33
3.1.1	Scaffold materials based studies	33
3.1.2	Bone cell <i>in vitro</i> studies	33
3.2	Methods	34
3.2.1	Hydroxyapatite synthesis	34
3.2.2	Scaffold Material preparation	34
	3.2.2.1 <i>Constituents Slurry Preparation</i>	
	3.2.2.2 <i>Scaffold Material Synthesis</i>	

3.3 Scaffold Material studies	37
3.3.1 Morphology analysis	37
3.3.1.1 <i>Surface morphology</i>	
3.3.1.2 <i>Core morphology</i>	
3.3.2 Crystal phase Analysis	38
3.3.2.1 <i>Qualitative Analysis of Ca-P deposits</i>	
3.3.2.2 <i>Quantitative Analysis of Ca-P deposits</i>	
3.3.3 Thermal behaviour	39
3.3.4 Uniaxial Compressive Strength	40
3.3.5 Porosity	40
3.3.6 <i>in vitro</i> degradation	40
3.3.7 <i>in vitro</i> biomineralization	41
3.3.8 Antibacterial activity	42
3.4 Bone osteoblast studies	43
3.4.1 Animal care and bone defect introduction	43
3.4.2 Cell isolation	43
3.4.3 MSCs identification	44
3.4.4 Cell Culture	45
3.4.5 Cell cycle analysis	45
3.4.6 Growth curve analysis	45
3.4.7 Scaffold sterilization and conditioning	46
3.4.8 Osteoblast Cell-seeding	46
3.4.9 Sample pre-treatment	47
3.4.10 Osteoblast and its matrix	48
3.5 Scaffold Material-Bone cell studies	49
3.5.1 Sample treatment	49
3.5.2 Surface Roughness	50
3.5.3 Micro-morphology	50
3.5.4 Cytocompatibility	51
3.5.4.1 <i>DNA</i>	
3.5.4.2 <i>Alamar Blue fluorometric Assay</i>	
3.5.5 Mineralization	53
3.5.5.1 <i>Alkaline Phosphatase (ALP) based assay</i>	

3.5.5.2	<i>Alizarin Red S (ARS) based assay</i>	
3.5.6	RNA isolation and real-time PCR	54
3.5.7	Immunoblot	55
3.5.8	Biochemical Analysis	56
3.5.8.1	<i>Hydroxyproline based Collagen assay</i>	
3.5.8.2	<i>Osteocalcin assay</i>	
3.5.8.3	<i>Glucose diffusion analysis</i>	
3.6	Statistical Analysis	58
3.7	<i>In vivo</i> osteoblast studies	58
CHAPTER 4.	RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	60-125
4.1	Scaffold material characterization	60
4.1.1	Macroscopic evaluation	60
4.1.2	Microscopic evaluation	60
4.1.2.1	<i>Surface morphology</i>	
4.1.2.2	<i>Core Morphology</i>	
4.1.2.3	<i>Elemental Mapping</i>	
4.1.2.4	<i>TEM-SAED</i>	
4.1.3	Physicochemical characterization	65
4.1.3.1	<i>XRD</i>	
4.1.3.2	<i>FTIR</i>	
4.1.4	Thermal Study	72
4.1.5	Mechanical Study	73
4.1.6	Porosity	76
4.1.7	Degradation and mineralization	77
4.1.7.1	<i>Degradation</i>	
4.1.7.2	<i>Mineralization</i>	
4.1.8	Innate Antibacterial Activity assessment	81
4.2	Rabbit osteoblast study	83
4.2.1	<i>MSC identification</i>	84
4.2.2	Cell cycle analysis	84
4.2.3	Growth curve analysis	85
4.2.4	<i>in vitro</i> cell morphology, attachment and	86

proliferation	
4.2.5 Morphology Characterization	90
4.2.5.1 <i>Surface morphology</i>	
4.2.5.2 <i>Core Morphology</i>	
4.2.5.3 <i>Elemental Mapping</i>	
4.2.6 Cytocompatibility	95
4.2.6.1 <i>Cell number</i>	
4.2.6.2 <i>Metabolism</i>	
4.2.7 Mineralization	99
4.2.7.1 <i>Early mineralization marker</i>	
4.2.7.2 <i>Late mineralization marker</i>	
4.2.8 Growth Factor gene expression analysis	101
4.2.9 Growth factor expression	103
4.2.10 Biochemical analysis	104
4.2.11 XRD analysis	105
4.2.12 FTIR Analysis	107
4.3 Human osteoblast studies	110
4.3.1 <i>in vitro osteoblast</i> attachment, proliferation and morphology	110
4.3.2 Morphology analysis	112
4.3.3 Thermal behaviour	112
4.3.4 Chemical analysis	114
4.3.4.1 <i>XRD analysis</i>	
4.3.4.2 <i>FTIR analysis</i>	
4.3.5 Cytocompatibility	117
4.3.6 Mineralization	118
4.3.7 Biochemical analysis	119
4.4 <i>In vivo</i> evaluation of the scaffold rTCGH	121
4.4.1 Clinical observation after rTCGH implantation	121
4.4.2 Macroscopic assessment of the bone defect repair	121
4.4.3 Histological Examination	125

CHAPTER 5.	SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION	126-132
	REFERENCES	132-158
	APPENDIX	159

List of Abbreviations

βGP	Beta-Glycerophosphate
δ	Chemical Shift
%	Percent
μg	micro gram
μl	micro litre
μM	Micro molar
°C	degree Celsius
AB	Alamar Blue
AFM	Atomic Force Microscopy
ALP	Alkaline Phosphatase
ANOVA	Analysis of Variance
ARS	Alizarin Red S
CLSM	Confocal Laser Scanning Microscope
DMEM	Dulbecco's Modified Eagle's Medium
DPBS	Dulbecco's Phosphate Buffer Saline
ECM	Extracellular Matrix
EDTA	Ethyl di-amine tetra acetic acid
EtBr	ethidium bromide
FACS	Fluorescence Activated Cell Sorter
FBS	Fetal Bovine Serum
FC	Flow Cytometry
FESEM	Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope
FITC	Fluorescein Isothiocyanate
FTIR	Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy
h	hours
MNCs	Mononuclear Cells
MSCs	Mesenchymal Stem Cells

n	Number of experiments
NaHCO ₃	Sodium Bicarbonate
Na ₂ SO ₄	Sodium Sulphate
pH	Hydrogen ion concentration
PBS	Phosphate Buffer Saline
Q-PCR	Real Time Polymerase Chain Reaction
rOb	Rabbit osteoblast
RPM	Revolutions per minute
RH	Relative Humidity
SAED	Selected Area Electron Diffraction
SD	Standard Deviation
SEM	Scanning Electron Microscope
t _{1/2}	half life
TE	Tissue Engineering
TEM	Transmission Electron Microscope
v/v	Volume per unit volume
w/v	Weight per unit volume
XRD	X-ray Diffraction

List of Figures

Chapter 2

- Figure 2.1 Schematic representation of the bone cells and extracellular matrix components. 6
- Figure 2.2 **Figure 2.2** Classification of the raw-material on the basis of their chemical origin for scaffold constitution for various research studies in tissue engineering. 7
**Indicates the raw materials utilized for scaffold constitution in this research work*
- Figure 2.3 Parameters influenced from the balanced rate of biodegradation to biomineralization in the scaffold structure have been summarised: (a) Affected cell function & (b) Affected material function. 25

Chapter 3

- Figure 3.1 Schematic representation of the osteoblast type-scaffold group studied: (A) Osteoblast cell selected: rM and rT, (B) Scaffold type optimised and selected: Gelatin and hydroxyapatite based scaffold [GH] & Chitosan, gelatin and hydroxyapatite based scaffold [CGH] and (C) Osteoblast seeded in the scaffold type: rMGH and rMCGH stands for rM seeded on GH and CGH, respectively. Likewise, rTGH and rTCGH stands for rT seeded on GH and CGH, respectively. 49
- Figure 3.2 Schematic display of the *in vivo* study carried out for rabbit tissue derived osteoblast. 57

Chapter 4

- Figure 4.1 Naked eye view of the scaffold material in the 24-well plate before cell-seeding: (A) CH, (B) CG, (C) GH and (D) CGH. 59
- Figure 4.2 3D AFM graph of the scaffolds: (A) CG, (B) GH, (C) CH and (D) CGH. 60
- Figure 4.3 SEM-EDX spectrum of the individual constituents present in the scaffold materials: (A-C) and the comparative display of crystal content in terms of Ca/P from EDX spectrum: (D). 62
- Figure 4.4 SEM-EDX spectrum of the scaffold materials: (A) CG, (B) CGH, (C) CH and (D) GH. 63
- Figure 4.5 Morphological characteristics of composites sectioned as TEM image of pore structure and SAED displaying crystal spots and diffraction ring: A. CG, B. GH, C. CH and D. CGH. 64
- Figure 4.6 XRD spectra of the scaffold constituents i.e. Chitosan, Gelatin and Hydroxyapatite. 66
- Figure 4.7 XRD Intensities (I, in arbitrary units, a.u.) of the scaffold materials. 67
- Figure 4.8 Display of the characteristic FTIR spectra of the scaffold constituents. 68
- Figure 4.9 Qualitatively analyse the crystalline structure of Ca-P deposits in the scaffolds: A. (A) CG; (B) CH; (C) GH and (D) CGH. And B. The Typical FTIR spectra of bone, Ha and collagen showing the vibrational assignments of the most significant bands. 70
- Figure 4.10 DSC thermograph of the scaffold materials namely, CH, CG, GH and CGH before cell-seeding. 72
- Figure 4.11 Uniaxial Compressive Strength measurement of the scaffolds GH and CGH. 74
- Figure 4.12 Porosity defined for the scaffolds: CGH, CH, GH and CG. 76
- Figure 4.13 SEM, TEM-SAED images of composites (a) GH and (b) CGH showing (c) degradation as a function of time after immersed in lysozyme. **P<0.01, *P<0.0001. 78

- Figure 4.14 SEM-EDX, TEM-SAED images of composites (a) GH and (b) CGH showing (c) mineralization as a function of time after immersed in SBF. **P<0.01, *P<0.0001. 80
- Figure 4.15 Comparative display of innate antibacterial activity of scaffold materials studied *in vitro*, namely CH, CGH, GH and CG. 81
- Figure 4.16 Histograms from flow cytometry analysis of cell surface markers for MSC identification from the bone marrow (A) Dot plot before sorting, (B) Dot plot after sorting, (C) CD73 positive fraction after sorting, (D) CD90 positive fraction after sorting. (E) CD105 positive fraction after sorting, (F) CD34 positive fraction after sorting and (G) CD45 positive fraction after sorting. 83
- *CD- cluster of differentiation as cell surface markers.
* FITC- Fluorescein IsoThyoCyanate
- Figure 4.17 Cell cycle analysis of the rabbit osteoblast isolated from the bone tissue (rT) and osteoblast obtained after differentiation of Mesenchymal stem cells from bone marrow (rM): (a) Cell Cycle overlay and (b) Cellular distribution. 85
- Figure 4.18 Growth curve analysis of rT and rM. 85
- Figure 4.19 Effect of scaffold on the biological response of cells studied *in vitro* by CLSM. Hoechst 33258 labelled images of both the cell and the four scaffold composites after cell seeding: (A-E). Magnification (63X). 86
- Figure 4.20 CLSM Images of Alexa fluor 488 labeled four composites after cell seeding: (A-D) and the E.Corrected Fluorescence. Magnification (63X). 88
- Figure 4.21 Dot plots and cell count from the flow cytometric analysis of rM (A) when cultured in monolayer and (B-C) cultured in the scaffolds GH and CGH. 89
- Figure 4.22 Dot plots and cell count from the flow cytometric analysis of rT (A) when cultured in monolayer and (B-C) cultured in the scaffolds GH and CGH 89
- Figure 4.23 Surface topography of cell seeded composites observed in the 90

AFM spectrum: A. rMGH. B. rMCGH, C. rTGH. D. rTCGH
(Scale bar 5µm).

- Figure 4.24 Pore Morphology and elemental percentage of the composites 92
GH and CGH 21 days after seeding with rM: (A) rMHG,
(B) rMHCG. (Scale bar 100 µm).
**Mineralization displayed in the inset picture of the framed
area in the experimental groups (10 µm).*
- Figure 4.24 Pore Morphology and elemental % of the composites GH and 93
CGH 21 days after seeding with rT: (A) rTHG and (B)
rTHCG. (Scale bar 100 µm).
**Mineralization displayed in the inset picture of the framed
area in the experimental groups (10 µm).*
- Figure 4.26 Relative expression (A)DNA content by the Hoechst 33258 (B) 96
Growth kinetics via Cell viability and metabolic activity by AB
assay in the four study groups namely rMGH, rMCGH, rTGH
and rTCGH (n = 5).
- Figure 4.27 Relative expression of (A) Potency via Alkaline Phosphatase 99
and (B) Calcium content by Alizarin Red S in the study groups
namely rMGH, rMCGH, rTGH and rTCGH (n = 5), . All
values are expressed as mean±S.D. · and * the indicates
significant difference within group with P<0.05 and P<0.01
respectively.
- Figure 4.28 Relative expression of osteogenic growth factor genes: A. 101
Osteocalcin, B. BMP-2 and C. Collagen I.
- Figure 4.29 Immunoblot of Collagen I, GAPDH, BMP-2 and Osteocalcin in 103
the cell seeded scaffolds: rMGH, rMCGH, rTGH and rTCGH.
- Figure 4.30 Collagen I and osteocalcin expression analysis in the rabbit 104
osteoblast cell seeded scaffolds: rMGH, rMCGH, rTGH and
rTCGH.
- Figure 4.31 Crystallinity pattern of the the rabbit osteoblast cell seeded 106
scaffolds: rMGH, rMCGH, rTGH and rTCGH from XRD.
- Figure 4.32 Transmittance intensities of the scaffolds after seeding them 108
with either rM or rT namely rMGH, rMCGH, rTGH and rTCGH.
- Figure 4.33 Fluorescence micrographs of human Osteoblast cultured in the 110

scaffolds (B-E) FACS analysis of (A-E) CLSM Hoechst 33258 labelled nuclei in the osteoblast seeded composites and (F) Human osteoblast cell cycle analysis.

- Figure 4.34 Fluorescence micrographs of Alexa flour 488 labelled ‘human Osteoblast cultured in the scaffolds’ (A) hMGH, (B) hMCGH (C) hTGH and (D) hTCGH (Magnification-63X). 111
- Figure 4.35 SEM compares the pore morphology and mineral deposition in the scaffolds (A) hMCGH and (B) hTCGH. *Arrows show the cells that have adhered to the scaffolds 112
- Figure 4.36 Thermal behavior of human cell seeded scaffolds: A. hMGH, B. hMCGH, C. hTGH and D. hTCGH.(with T_g value indicated). 113
- Figure 4.37 XRD demonstrating quantitative phase development in the scaffold after seeding with either osteoblast of human origin (rM or rT) A. hMGH, B. hMCGH, C. hTGH and D. hTCGH. 114
- Figure 4.38 Quantitative FTIR spectra of scaffold after seeding and culturing with osteoblast from human. 116
- Figure 4.39 Fluorescence measure of the A. DNA concentration and B. Metabolic activity of the four groups of cell seeded scaffolds (hMGH, hMCGH, hTGH and hTCGH). 118
- Figure 4.40 *In vitro* studies of the of the four groups of cell seeded scaffolds (hMGH, hMCGH, hTGH and hTCGH) to determine A. Early marker of differentiation B. Late marker for mineralization from ALP activity and calcium deposition from Alizarin Red S(ARS), respectively. 119
- Figure 4.41 Biochemical markers of mineralization A. Collagen I and B. Osteocalcin 120
- Figure 4.42 Variation in the glucose concentration w.r.t time factor among the four cell-scaffold groups: hMGH, hMCGH, hTGH and hTCGH 121
- Figure 4.43 Progressive *in vivo* display of the rTCGH scaffold implantation at the critical-defect site in the rabbit ulna (X-ray images). 123

PREFACE

Despite great progress in the available bone healing procedures. Large scale production had been lagged by the mismatch between the demand and requirement. Over a decade tissue engineering have evolved to cater substitutes for damaged tissue/organ. Bone related degeneration could be reduced in the elderly by utilizing scaffolds when seeded and cultured with osteoblast. Combining technologies in engineering scaffolds which can mimic the extracellular matrix of the bone in terms of the morphological and mechanical properties, directly influences the healing step employing bone tissue engineering. The scaffold was evaluated both before and after seeding them with either rabbit osteoblast followed by the human osteoblast, derived from both bone tissue and bone marrow mesenchymal stem cells.

The innate properties of the scaffold constituents, namely chitosan, gelatin and hydroxyapatite were modified by combining them by gelate freeze-drying. The obtained scaffold variations were characterized by studying their morphology, chemical structure, crystallinity and mineral content, degradation to mineralization behaviour, antibacterial response and mechanical to porosity parameter. The most bone extracellular biomimic scaffolds were studied *in vitro* at different time-points to scrutinize the osteoblast-scaffold combination for further *in vivo* implantation studies. Data suggested that the osteoblast-scaffold when used together as bone extracellular matrix substitute can have great potential in promoting bone repair during clinical practices. The presented study also highlighted the areas on which research is needed with relevance to enhance the understanding of the complex role of scaffold and osteoblasts in bone tissue engineering.

CERTIFICATE

It is certified that the work contained in the thesis titled "Evaluation of bone repair using chitosan-hydroxyapatite biomaterial for Bone tissue engineering" by Namrata Yadav has been carried out under my supervision and that this work has not been submitted elsewhere for a degree.

It is further certified that the student has fulfilled all the requirements of Comprehensive Examination, Candidacy and SOTA for the award of Ph.D. Degree.

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DECLARATION BY THE CANDIDATE

I, **Namrata Yadav** certify that the work embodied in this thesis is my own bona fide work and carried out by me under the supervision of **Prof. Pradeep Srivastava**, from July 2013 to July 2019, at the School of Biochemical Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology (Banaras Hindu University), Varanasi. The matter embodied in this thesis has not been submitted for the award of any other degree/diploma. I declare that I have faithfully acknowledged and given credits to the research workers wherever their works have been cited in my work in this thesis. I further declare that I have not wilfully copied any other's work, paragraphs, text, data, results, *etc.*, reported in journals, books, magazines, reports, dissertations, theses, *etc.*, or available at websites and have not included them in this thesis and have not cited as my own work.

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