

ABSTRACT

The increased multi-functionality of today's very precise microstructures/components, along with a gradual decline in weight and cost, has made them more attractive in various industries. Several products and features, including micro-slots, microneedles, micro-pins, micro-barbs, microfluidic devices, and microtextured surfaces on biomedical implants, were developed using titanium-based alloys, particularly Ti6Al4V alloy, which found extensive use in the aerospace and biomedical areas. Micromilling used to manufacture complex 3D micro parts and features such as watch making, miniature heat exchanger, micro mould, micro valves, lab-on-chip and micro injection nozzles in a variety of materials. Micro milling is the most flexible process that fabricates three-dimensional microfeatures or components. Moreover, because of the micro tool's minimal diameter (1-999 μm), many factors, including size effect, minimum uncut chip thickness effect, tool run-out, and plowing, impact the chip formation process. The Ti6Al4V alloy's poor thermal conductivity and heat buildup properties promote rapid tool wear, lower the quality of the finished surface, and make it more difficult to machine the material. Two solutions to this problem include introducing hard, wear-resistant coated tools and sustainable cooling and lubrication systems. As an outcome, it is believed that the application of both nanofluid based MQL and coated tools together can enhance the micro-machinability even more, but no related studies have been discovered presently. Also, there is a scope to investigate the impact of hybrid nanofluids (nanofluids where constituent of nanomaterials is more than one) in micro milling of Ti6Al4V. This research uses coated tools and minimum quantity lubrication with eco-friendly vegetable oil and its nanofluids, water-based nanofluids, and vegetable oil-water emulsion to improve micromilling performance. Thus, micromilling tests were performed with uncoated WC and two different coated tools: AlTiN and TiAlN coated

micro end mills. First, the various volume concentrations of CuO nanofluids are made, and their stability, wettability, and viscosity are assessed in reducing the gap. Experimental research was done to evaluate the impacts of the various systems on cutting force, tool wear, surface roughness, and burr formation. Tool wear is analyzed in terms of percentage diameter reduction and various tool wear mechanism such as adhesion, abrasion, grains pull-out, edge chipping, built-up edge, and coating delamination. Uncoated tool in dry conditions is subjected to severe tool wear due to combined influence of residual stress, cyclic loading and abrasion. AlTiN coated tool shows better machining performance in dry conditions due to a lower coefficient of friction and higher hardness. The surface morphology of uncoated and coated tools after machining under 1 vol% CuO nanofluids MQL conditions shows the absence of built-up edge and material adhesion. This happens due to the enhanced lubrication and cooling rate of nanofluids with an increased volume percentage of CuO nanoparticles. The outcomes demonstrated that the AlTiN-coated WC micro end-mill with 0.25 vol% CuO water-based nanofluids significantly reduced surface roughness and cutting forces. Minimum average top burr widths of 9.93 μm and 10.58 μm were found in up milling and down milling, with AlTiN and TiAlN coated WC tools under 0.25 vol% CuO nanofluid based MQL. Using uncoated and coated tools, MQL generated a consistent surface topography with fewer defects.

Another experiment was done to determine how effectively minimum quantity lubrication (MQL) would work by adding CuO and MoS₂ nanoparticles separately and mixing them together with vegetable oil. Further, these nanofluids are utilized in the micromilling of Ti6Al4V under plowing (0.3 $\mu\text{m}/\text{tooth}$ feed) and shearing (4 $\mu\text{m}/\text{tooth}$ feed) conditions. Results showed that hybrid CuO-MoS₂ nanofluids significantly improved surface finish due to the combined effect of rolling and shearing by CuO

nanoparticles and MoS₂ nanoplatelets. Viscosity, wettability, and coefficient of friction of pure soybean oil and mono and hybrid nanofluids are characterized. The results demonstrated that the addition of CuO and MoS₂ nanoparticles improved the wettability, viscosity, and tribological properties of the cutting fluid and provided a considerable improvement over dry conditions in tool wear, specific cutting force, burr formation, and surface roughness. CuO nanofluid-based-MQL exhibited the best result in the shearing-dominant region by reducing tool wear, burrs, and specific cutting force due to the best wetting nature and rolling action. The surface roughness at 0.3 $\mu\text{m}/\text{tooth}$ feed was lessened by about 34.8%, 50.1%, 37.6% and 59.9% using soybean oil MQL, CuO, MoS₂ and CuO-MoS₂ nanofluids MQL compared to dry conditions. Similarly, at 4 $\mu\text{m}/\text{tooth}$ feed surface roughness is reduced by about 34.8%, 50.1%, 37.6% and 59.9% using soybean oil MQL, CuO, MoS₂ and CuO-MoS₂ nanofluids MQL compared to dry conditions. For the shearing regime at 4 $\mu\text{m}/\text{tooth}$ feed, CuO and MoS₂ NF-MQL were found more effective for adhesion wear than vegetable oil MQL and dry conditions. However, for plowing regime at 0.3 $\mu\text{m}/\text{tooth}$ feed, pure soybean oil MQL reduces tool adhesion through proper lubrication. Surface topography has also shown smoother with fewer feed marks and surface defects for hybrid nanofluids due to synergistic effect produced by the spherical CuO and the lamellar MoS₂, as well as by the improvement in the effectiveness of the interfacial slipping action mechanism.

The objective of the final section of this study was to select the appropriate emulsion for Ti6Al4V alloy micromilling at a specific flow rate and a range of spindle speeds, as well as to evaluate micromilling performance in terms of cutting force, burr formation, surface roughness, and surface topography. It has been observed that significant cutting force, surface roughness, and burr reduction occur using emulsions (paraffin oil-water emulsion and soybean oil-water emulsion) at different flow rates.