

**UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA**

**RHEOLOGICAL AND  
MECHANICAL PROPERTIES OF  
YTTRIA STABILIZED ZIRCONIA  
(YSZ) PRODUCED BY CERAMIC  
INJECTION MOULDING**

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Thesis submitted in fulfillment  
of the requirements for the degree of  
**Master of Science**

**Faculty of Mechanical Engineering**

March 2017

## ABSTRACT

Powder Injection Moulding (PIM) is a promising approach to producing a near net-shape product of intricate geometry with cost-effective production. PIM by using ceramic powders has been studied recently due to interest as ceramic biomaterials. Yttria Stabilized Zirconia (YSZ) powders are renowned materials with their, biocompatibility, superior dimensional stability and excellent mechanical properties resulting from mechanisms of transformation toughening. The focus of this study is to fabricate root pins for dental implantation structure through Ceramic Injection Moulding (CIM). 3 mol% YSZ powders were used to mix with binder components that consist of palm stearin (PS) as a primary binder and polyethylene (PE) as a backbone binder in 60:40 ratios. Four different powder loadings were prepared in this study; 57, 58, 59 and 60 vol. % based on critical powder volume percentage (CPVP) experiment. The homogeneity of the feedstocks was evaluated via torque rheometry data and scanning electron microscopy (SEM) observation. The flow ability of the feedstock were determined through rheological characteristic which are the relationship of viscosity and shear rate formed pseudoplastic behaviour, the flow behaviour index value ( $n$ ) is below than 1 and lower activation energy ( $E$ ). Then, all feedstocks were injected in a screw thread shape and rectangular bar mould for further experiment. All moulded specimens were embedded into alumina powder (wicking agent) before undergoing thermal debinding process at 550°C to remove the binders and pre-sintering at 1100°C was carried out simultaneously after debinding process in the same furnace. The parts were subsequently sintered in the furnace up to 1450°C for 3 hours without wicking agent with 3°C/min heating rate. The characterization of sintered parts, physical properties, and mechanical properties was performed. It is expected that, low powder loading specimens (57 vol. %) had lower viscosity, strength, density and hardness but higher in porosity compared to higher powder loading specimens (58 vol. %, 59 vol. % and 60 vol. %). The elastic modulus of compressive strength and hardness for 60 vol. % specimens was  $4.79 \pm 1.24$  GPa and  $398.5 \pm 10.4$  HV respectively. Overall, root pins for dental implantation structure was successfully fabricated via CIM technique using PS as the binder system.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In the name of Allah, the Most Beneficent and the Most Merciful

Alhamdulillah, all praises go to the almighty Allah for his blessings in completing this thesis. I would like to express my gratitude to the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, UiTM Shah Alam for giving me the opportunity to be a student here. Special appreciation goes to my supervisor, Dr Muhammad Hussain Ismail for his supervision throughout the project. His support and guidance has enabled me to complete the experimental and thesis work. I would also like to extend my appreciation to the Ministry of Higher Education and Universiti Teknologi Mara for Young Lecturer Scheme. Special recognition is also given to Dr Abu Bakar Sulong from UKM, Dr Azuddin Mamat from UM and Dr Afian Omar from SIRIM for allowing me to use the equipment at their research centre during my experimental works.

To the staff at Material Science and Heat Treatment Laboratory, thank you so much especially to En Rahimi and En Emy for their assistance in the laboratory. Not forgotten, my sincere appreciation goes to my colleagues for their kindness and support throughout my time as postgraduate student. May Allah reward you for the blessing.

Last but not least, my deepest gratitude is due to my parents who have given me so much until these days of my life. Also, my appreciation goes to my family for their moral support, love and prayers. To those who had indirectly contributed in this research, thank you.

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