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## SYNTHESIS, MICROSTRUCTURAL AND TRIBOLOGICAL CHARACTERIZATION OF CALCINED NANO-BIOCERAMIC $\alpha$ -AL<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, SINTERED AT DIFFERENT TEMPERATURES

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### ABSTRACT

The current research was undertaken to study the improvement of the tribological behavior of nanocrystalline bioceramic,  $\alpha$ -alumina sample, produced by the calculations of gibbsite at different temperatures (300 to 1200°C), followed by uniaxial pressing, sintering and HIP treatment. The improved friction and wear resistance is attributed to the fine microstructure of the sample calcined at 1400 °C.

### 1. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The calcined aluminas powders were uniaxially pressed at 150 MPa into discs of 17 mm in diameter and 4 mm thickness. The compaction was carried out at a constant strain rate. After ejecting from the die, the samples were measured and weighed to calculate the density. Green compacts were placed into an alumina crucible with Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> powder and sintered at different temperatures of 1250, 1300, 1350, 1400 and 1450 °C for 2 h at a heating rate of 30 K min<sup>-1</sup> in order to obtain a closed porosity (high density) as observed by M.H. Bocangera [1, 2]. The sintered samples were then introduced into a boron nitride crucible with an alumina powder bed to minimize possible reactions with the graphite heating element and subsequently hot isostatically pressed at 1325 °C and 1350 °C respectively at a heating rate of 30 K.min<sup>-1</sup> and at an isostatic pressure of 150 MPa for 35 min.

The temperatures of sintering and hot pressing of the alumina were determined on the basis of our previous published work [1] and of many authors [3, 4 and 5]. This HIP treatment was applied to the powder in order to produce a fine grained material with a final relative density of 98 %.

## 2. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The friction and wear properties, structural evolution, lattice parameters, hardness morphological changes as a function of calcination, sintering temperature and nanocrystallinity were reported using XR diffraction, XPS, MEB and Tribometer. The different transition aluminas are formed and may even be present simultaneously. It is observed that the crystallite size of the particles reduced to 8 nm after calcinations at 1250°C. Morphological studies of powder particles indicated that the powder particle size continuously decreases with increasing temperature of calcinations.

The sliding wear rate and wear coefficient of friction were lower in the nanocrystalline samples sintered at 1400 °C at same load (3, 6 or 10N). The improved friction and wear resistance is attributed to the finer microstructure of the sample calcined at 1400°C.

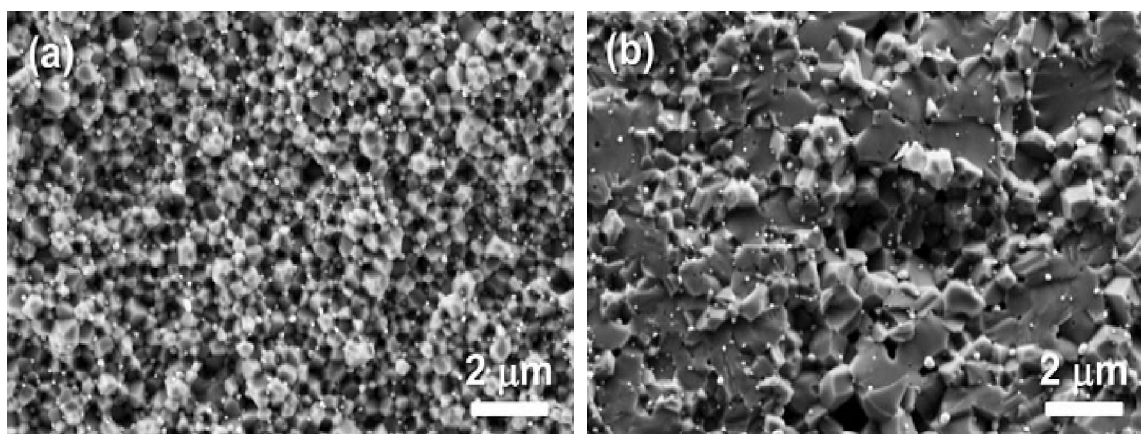


Figure 1: surfaces SEM micrographs corresponding to HIPed Alumina, sintered at: a) 1250 °C and b) 1350°C.

## 3. References

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