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## Local pseudoelastic behavior and surface characteristics of N<sup>-</sup> ion implanted NiTi shape memory alloy

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Due to pseudoelasticity phenomena, shape memory effect and durability in many environments, NiTi shape memory alloys (SMAs) are being intensively adapted for biomedical applications. However, high Ni concentration and its possible release from the surface create a problem of negative effects on biological environment. The main goal of the proposed article is to present results of the effect of nitrogen ion implantation on mechanical and corrosion properties of NiTi SMA. Local pseudoelasticity phenomena of NiTi were determined using ultra low-load applied system. The load–penetration depth curves show that the lower of nitrogen improve mechanical properties in the near surface layer, but higher ion dose ( $10^{18}\text{j/cm}^2$ ) leads to degradation of pseudoelasticity properties.

Corrosion resistance of NiTi carried out in Ringer solution was evaluated by means of electrochemical methods. The results of potentiodynamic measurements in anodic range for indentation system. The indentation curves show that the lower doses ( $10^{17}\text{j/cm}^2$ ) of implanted NiTi indicate a decrease of passive current density range in comparison with non-treated NiTi, without any signs related to Ni release. The results of impedance measurements recorded at the corrosion potential show a capacitive behaviour for all samples without clear predominance of one of them. It can be explained by the fact that this result concerns the first stage of corrosion exposition. It is shown that nitrogen ion implantation leads to a creation of modified surface of improved physicochemical properties with unchanged pseudoelasticity phenomena. Obtained results were correlated with X-ray diffraction techniques.

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