

Complete unfolding of fibronectin reveals surface interactions

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SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

Preparation of HA Pellets

HA powder (Sigma-Aldrich, UK) was pressed using the highest pressure setting of a hardened stainless steel die a total of three times to minimize the crack formation on the pellet surface whilst polishing. The pellets were then baked in an atmospheric furnace using the procedure shown in Table I. The baked pellets were polished using a wet 1200-grit silicon carbide paper polishing machine (Knuth Rotor, Struers, Denmark) followed by polishing with 3, 1 and 0.25 μm diamond polishes to produce pellets with smooth, flat surfaces. The pellets were then rinsed twice in an ultrasonic bath with methanol and ultra pure water to ensure the surfaces were free from oil contamination from the polishing process. The clean pellets were stored in a desiccator until needed.

Table I Sintering procedure for the preparation of HA pellets

Step	Temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)	Rate ($^{\circ}\text{C min}^{-1}$)	Duration (min)
1	400	0.3	300
2	800	0.8	120
3	1100	1.7	999
4	1105	1.7	441
5	25	0.8	999