

Junior EUROMAT
July 21st, 2022

Improving the interface between orthopaedic implants and bone – a comparison between different surface treatments

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The team



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Research unit: CICECO-
Instituto de Materiais de
Aveiro (CICECO/UA)

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- I. Motivation
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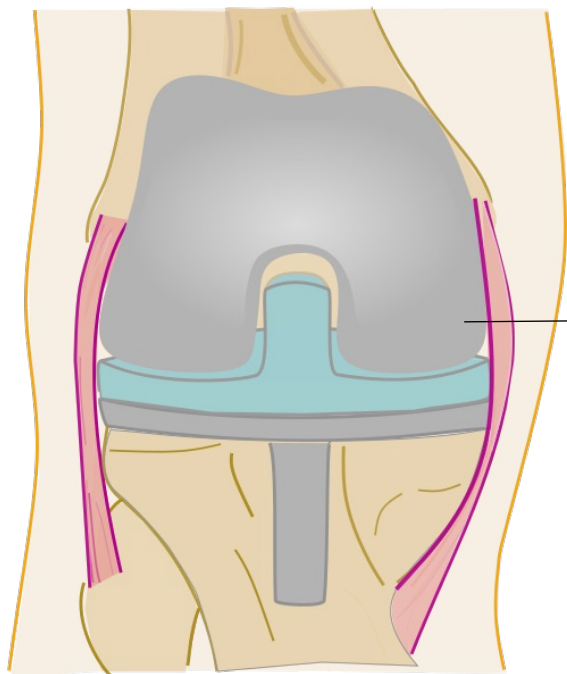


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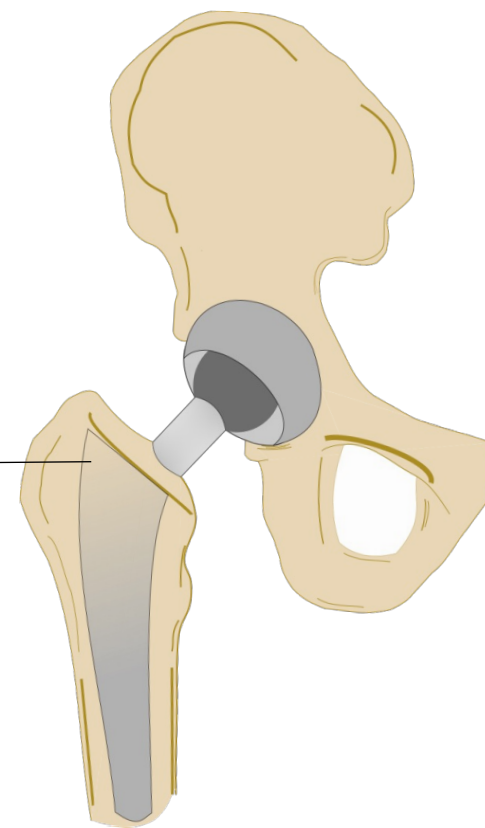
- I.** **Motivation**
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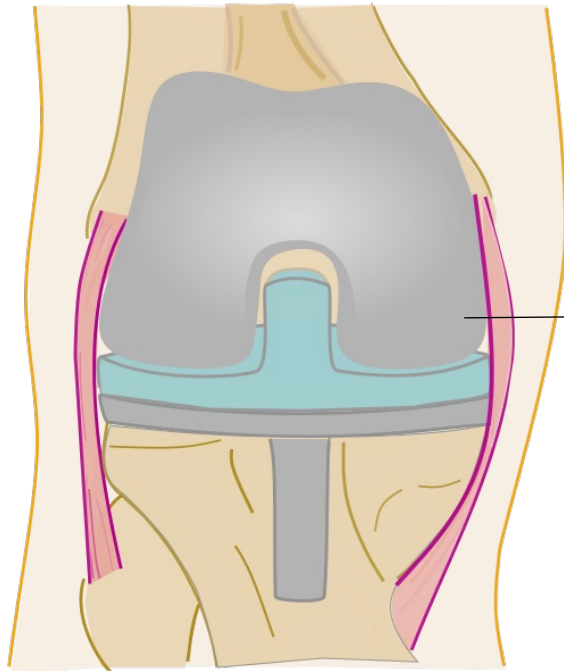
Motivation



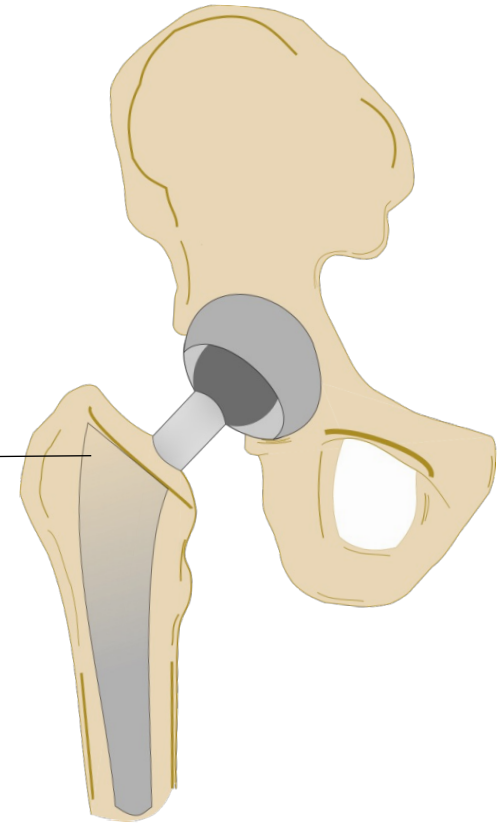
Titanium-based material



Motivation

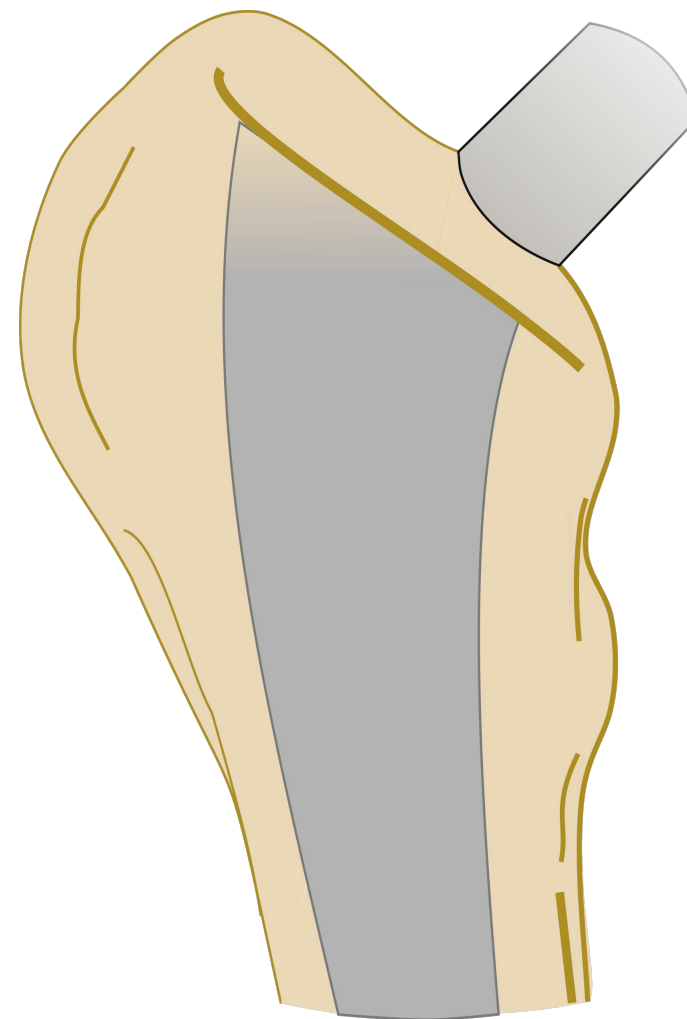


Insufficient bioactivity



Compromised osseointegration

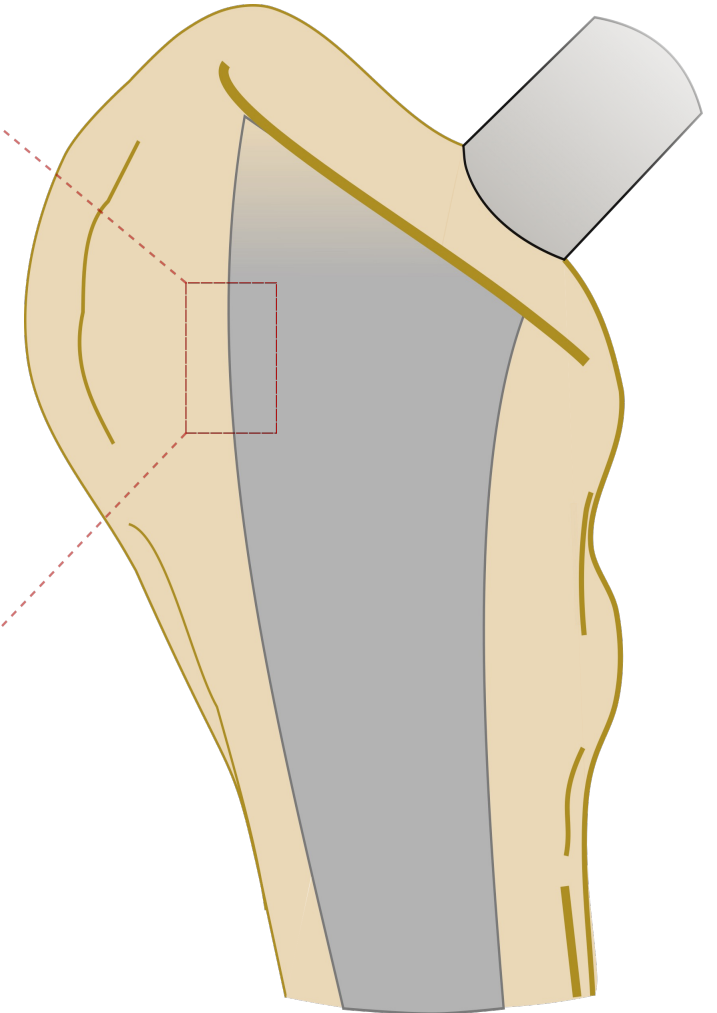
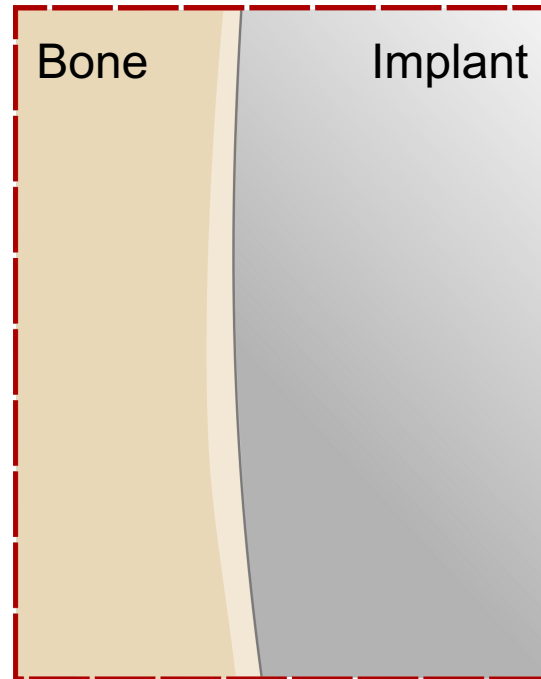
Motivation



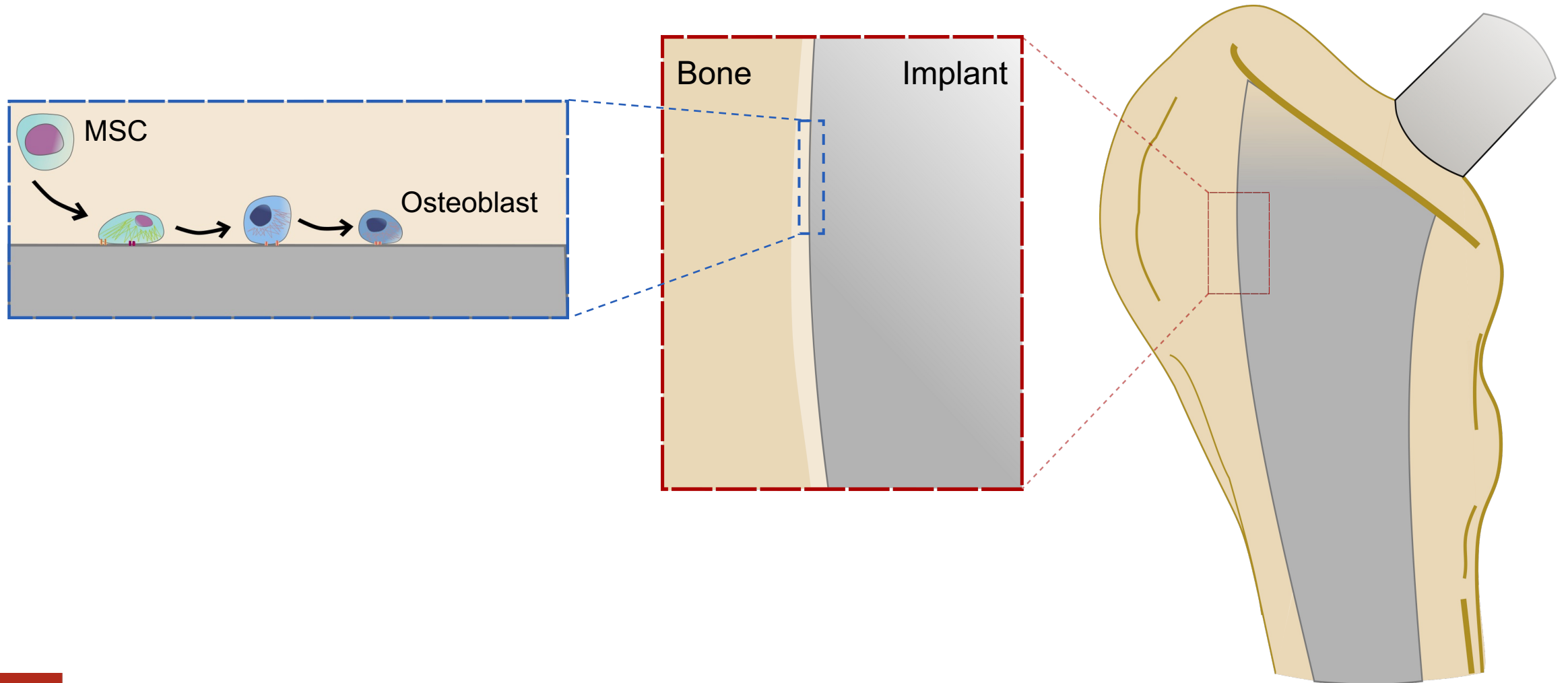
Motivation

Improvement of implant-bone interface:

- Surface chemical composition
- Surface energy
- Roughness
- Topography



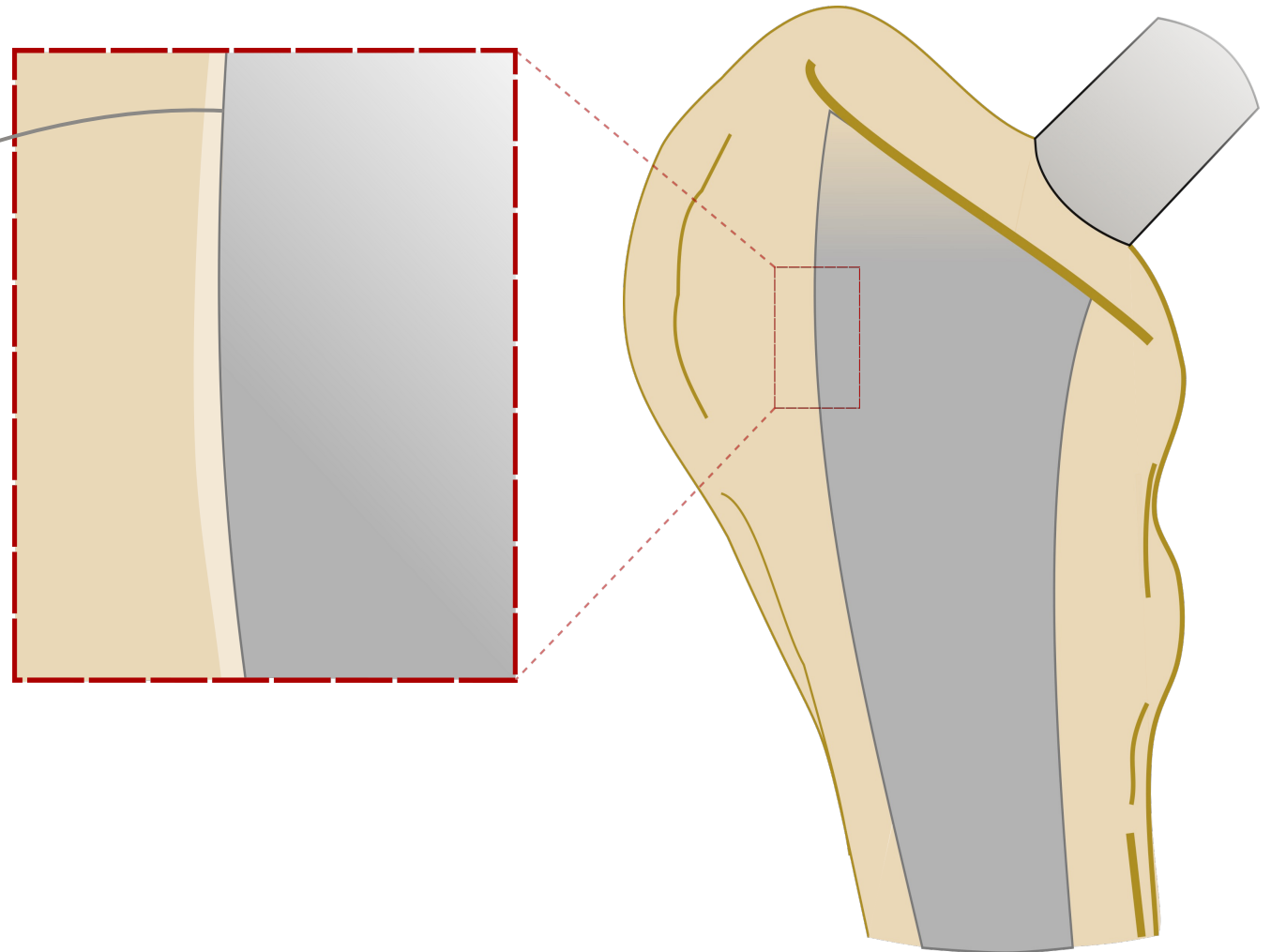
Motivation



Motivation

TiO₂ layer

- When naturally formed, this layer has a thickness of 3-7 nm and is amorphous
- Thicker TiO₂ layer improves bioactivity and mechanical properties



Motivation

This oxide layer may be achieved by **surface modification techniques**

Pre-treatments:

- Mechanical polishing
- Chemical: alcohol cleaning vs acidic pre-treatment

Surface treatments:

- Anodic oxidation
- Hydrothermal treatment
- Anodic oxidation + hydrothermal treatment



Motivation

Compare surface treatments and investigate whether a simpler treatment would be effective to improve surface properties of titanium implants



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Experimental

Commercially pure Ti (Ti grade 2)

Ti6Al4V (Ti grade 5)



Experimental

Commercially pure Ti (Ti grade 2)

Ti6Al4V (Ti grade 5)

1. Pre-treatments:

○ Non-polished vs polished → mirror finishing

Experimental

Commercially pure Ti (Ti grade 2)

Ti6Al4V (Ti grade 5)

1. Pre-treatments:

- Non-polished vs polished
- Alcohol cleaning vs acidic pre-treatment



Experimental

Commercially pure Ti (Ti grade 2)

Ti6Al4V (Ti grade 5)

1. Pre-treatments:

- Non-polished vs polished
- Alcohol cleaning vs acidic pre-treatment

↓
Cleaned with
isopropyl alcohol



Experimental

Commercially pure Ti (Ti grade 2)

Ti6Al4V (Ti grade 5)

1. Pre-treatments:

- Non-polished vs polished
- Alcohol cleaning vs **acidic pre-treatment**



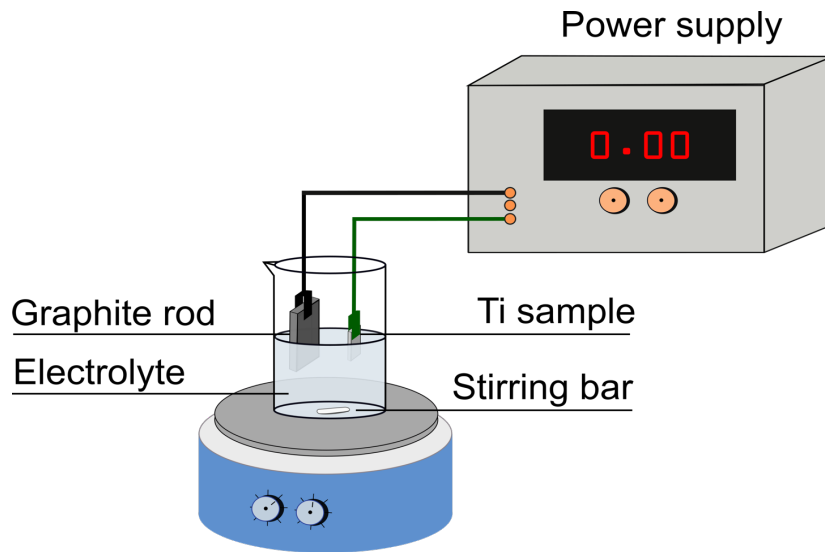
**10 M HCl (30 min) followed
by ultrasonic rinsing with
acetone (30 min)**



Experimental

Commercially pure Ti (Ti grade 2)

Ti6Al4V (Ti grade 5)



Electrolyte: 0.4 M H_3PO_4

Constante voltage of 120 V for 1 min

2. Surface treatment:

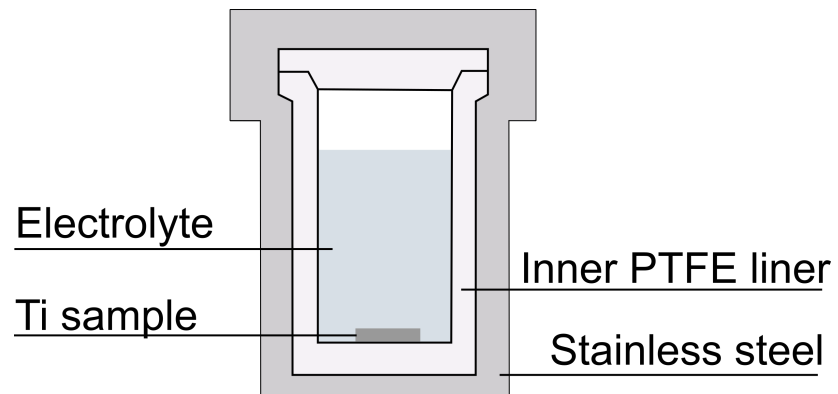


Anodic oxidation (AO)

Experimental

Commercially pure Ti (Ti grade 2)

Ti6Al4V (Ti grade 5)



Electrolyte: distilled water
180 °C for 180 min

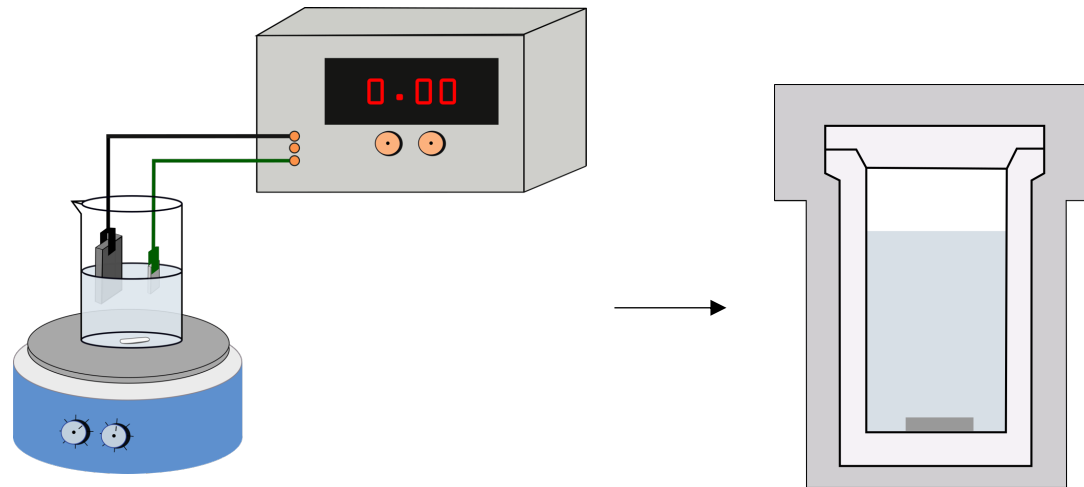
2. Surface treatment:

- Anodic oxidation (AO)
- Hydrothermal treatment (Hydro)

Experimental

Commercially pure Ti (Ti grade 2)

Ti6Al4V (Ti grade 5)



2. Surface treatment:

- Anodic oxidation (AO)
- Hydrothermal treatment (Hydro)
- Anodic oxidation + hydrothermal treatment (AO + hydro)

Experimental

Commercially pure Ti (Ti grade 2)

Ti6Al4V (Ti grade 5)

3. Sterilization and storage

- 125 °C for 15 min
- 5X PBS for 24 h

Experimental

Characterization:



Scanning Electron Microscopy



X-rays Diffraction



Atomic Force Microscopy



Wettability



Experimental

1. Ti grade 2 and Ti grade 5 were subjected to different modification techniques
2. TiO₂ layer was characterized in-depth
3. Osseointegration potential was assessed by a preliminary cellular assay



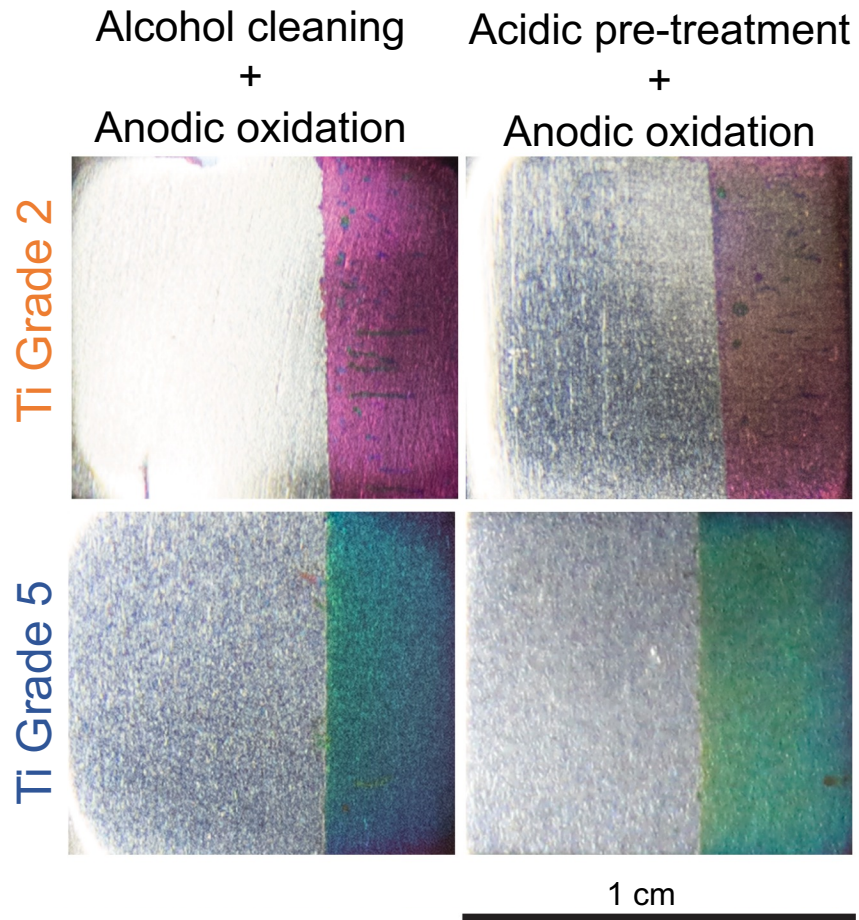
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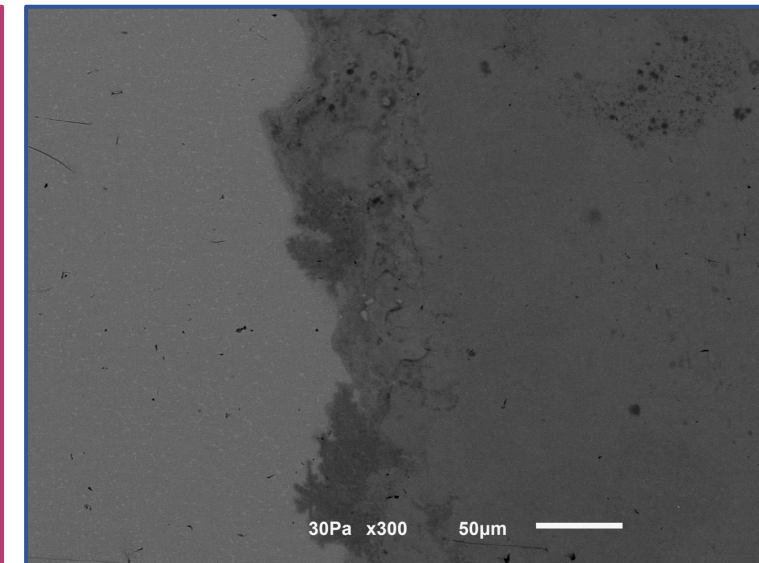
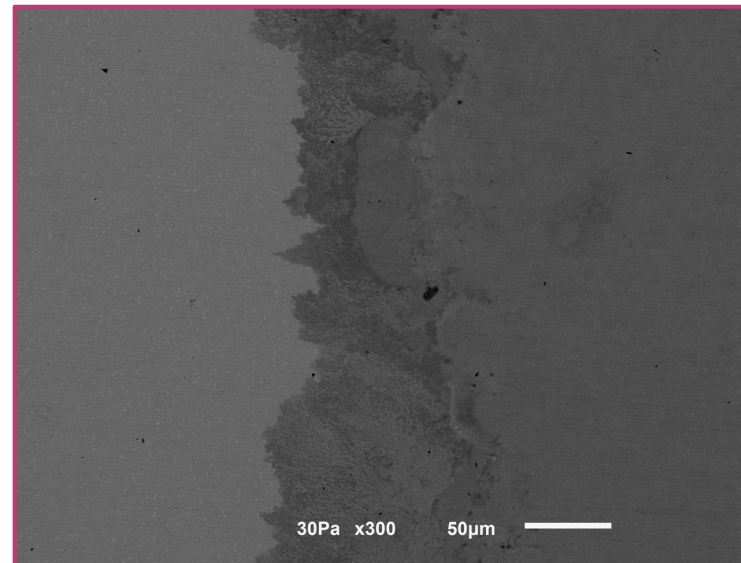
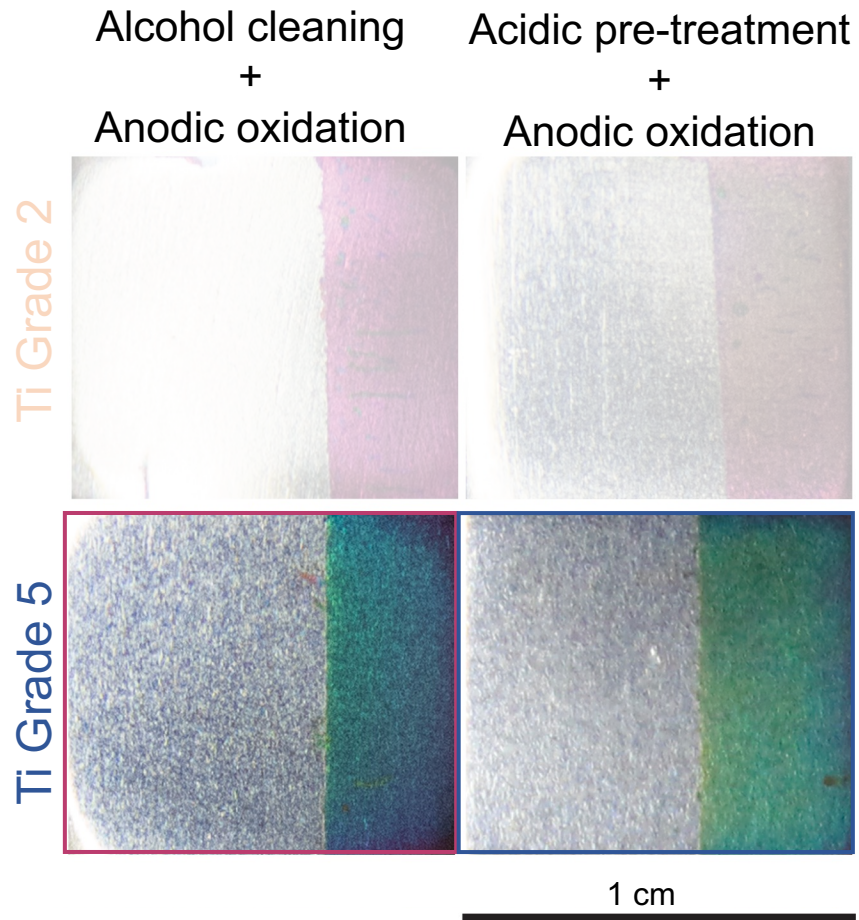
Results

Morphology



Results

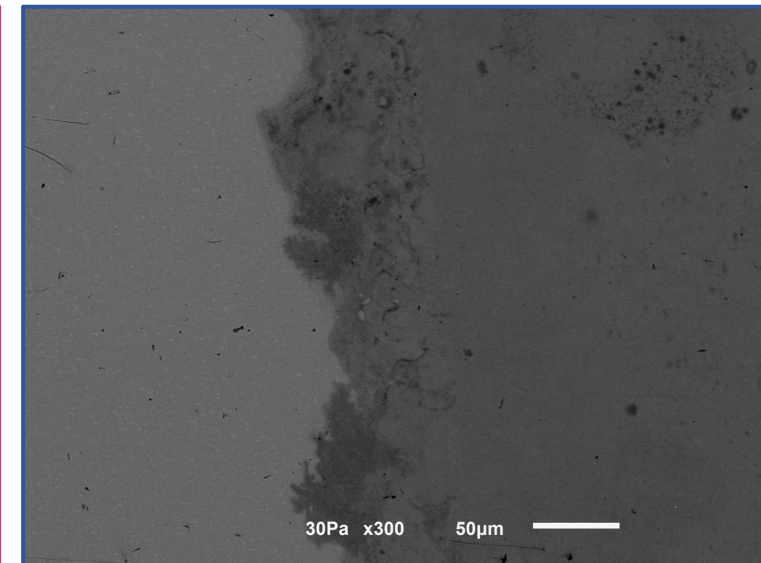
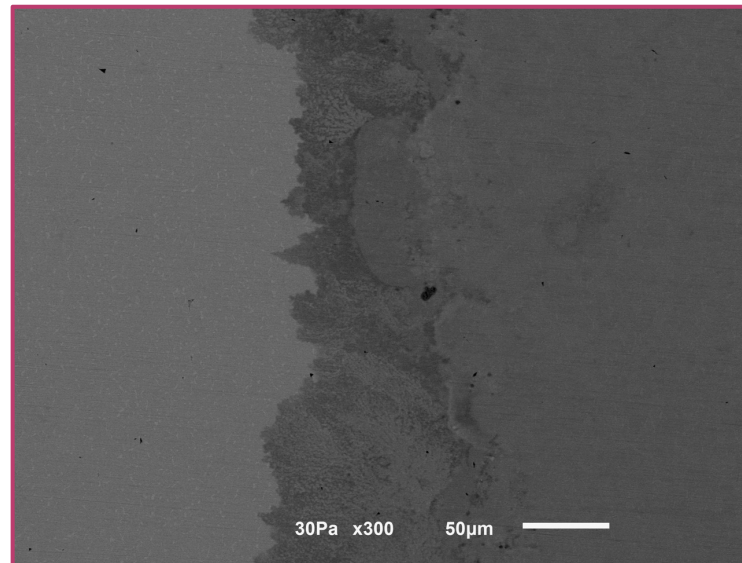
Morphology



Results

Morphology

Both chemical pre-treatments are effective in **samples cleaning** and did not alter the surface morphology

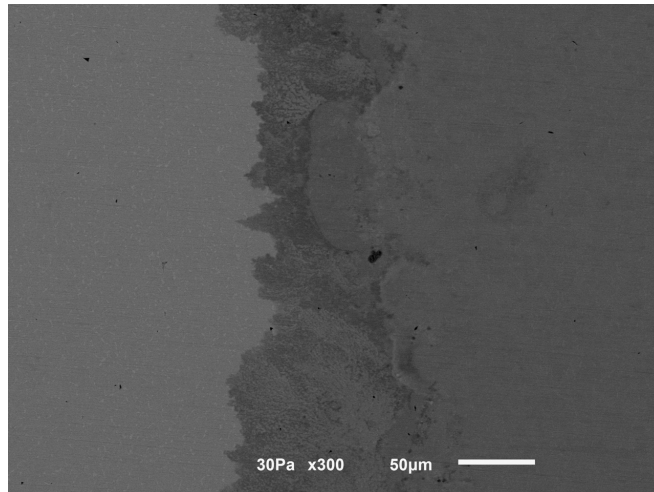


Results

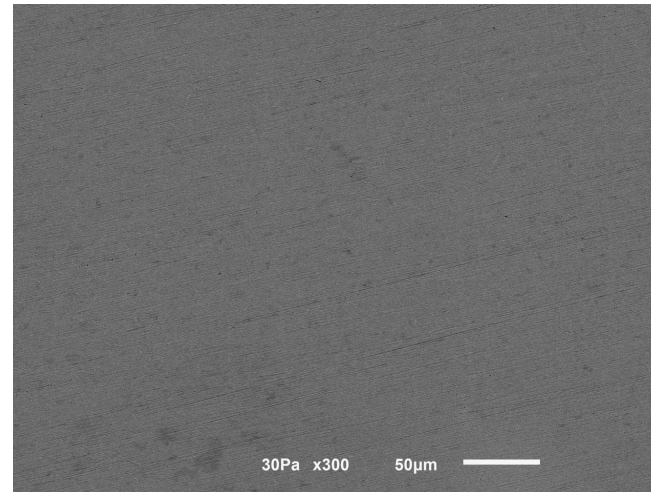
Morphology

Ti Grade 2

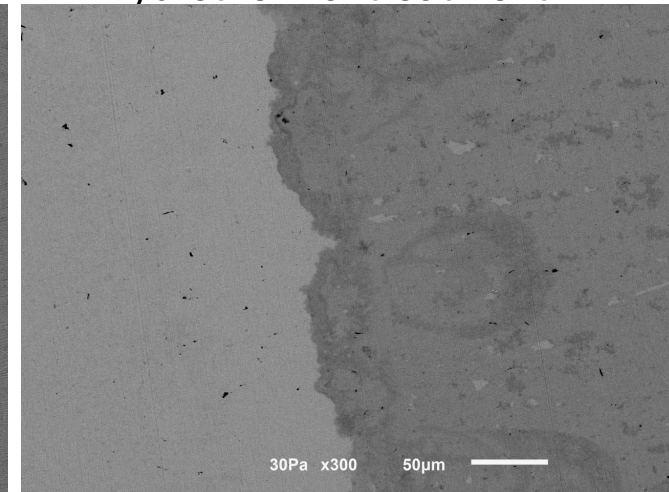
Anodic oxidation



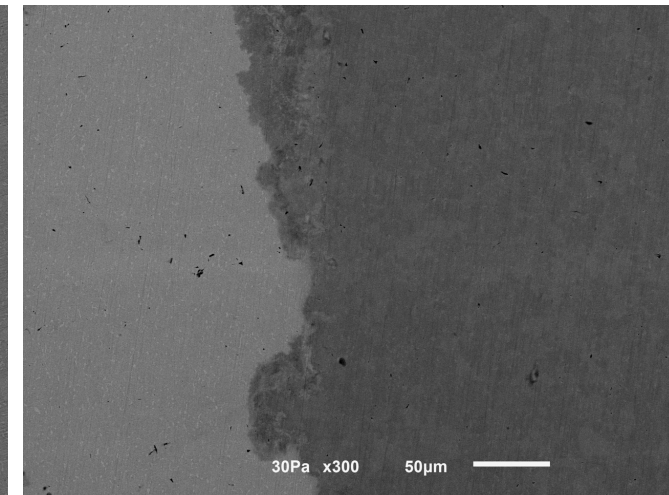
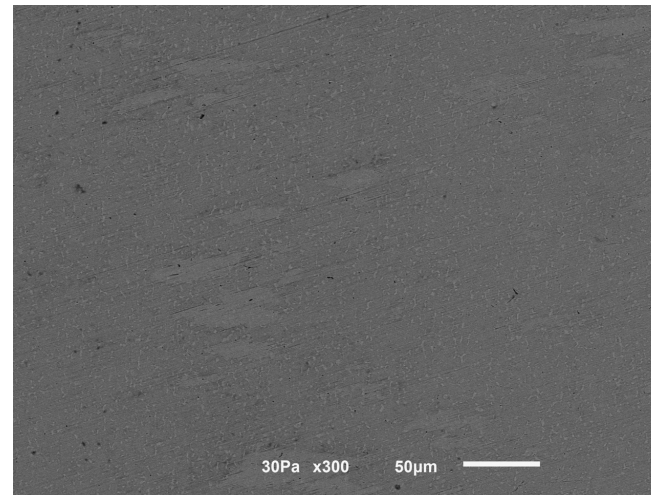
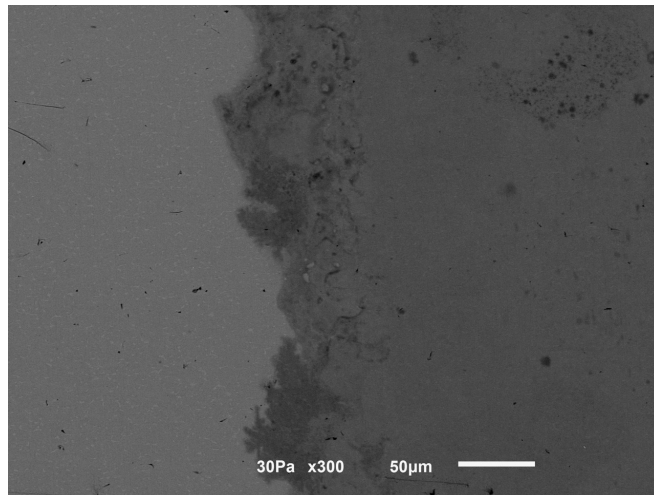
Hydrothermal treatment



Anodic oxidation +
hydrothermal treatment



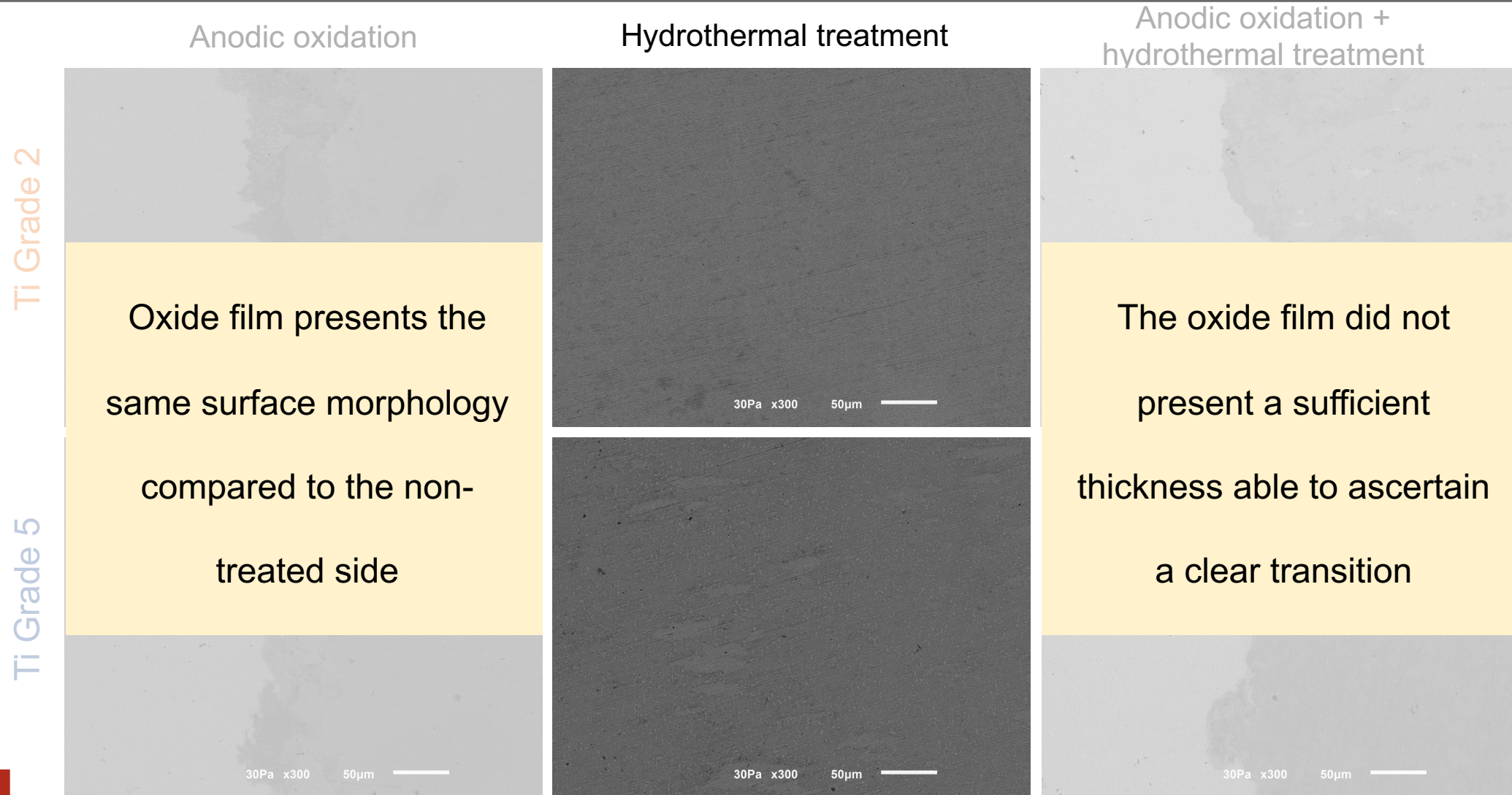
Ti Grade 5



Ti-based samples subjected to the acidic pre-treatment

Results

Morphology



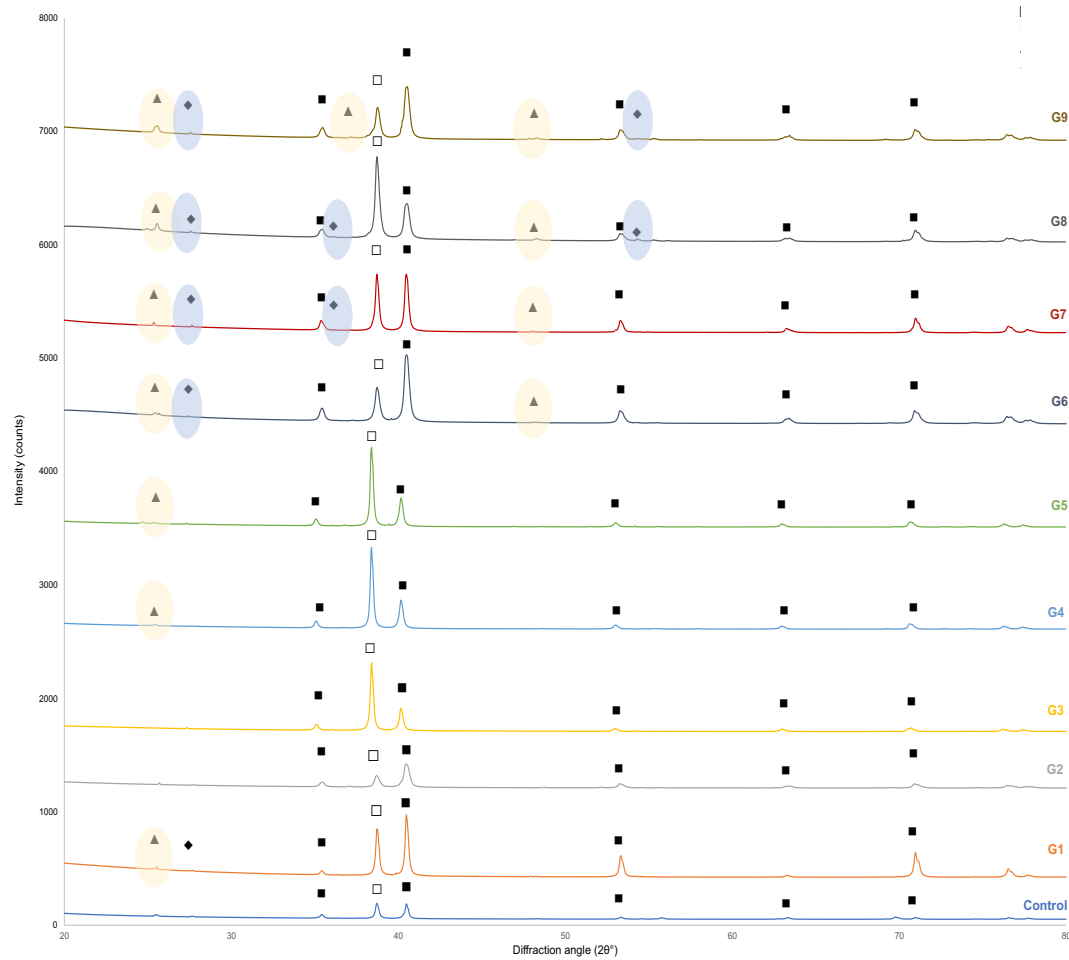
Ti-based samples subjected to the acidic pre-treatment



Results

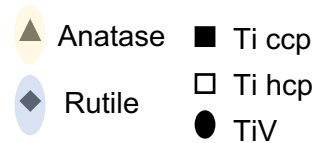
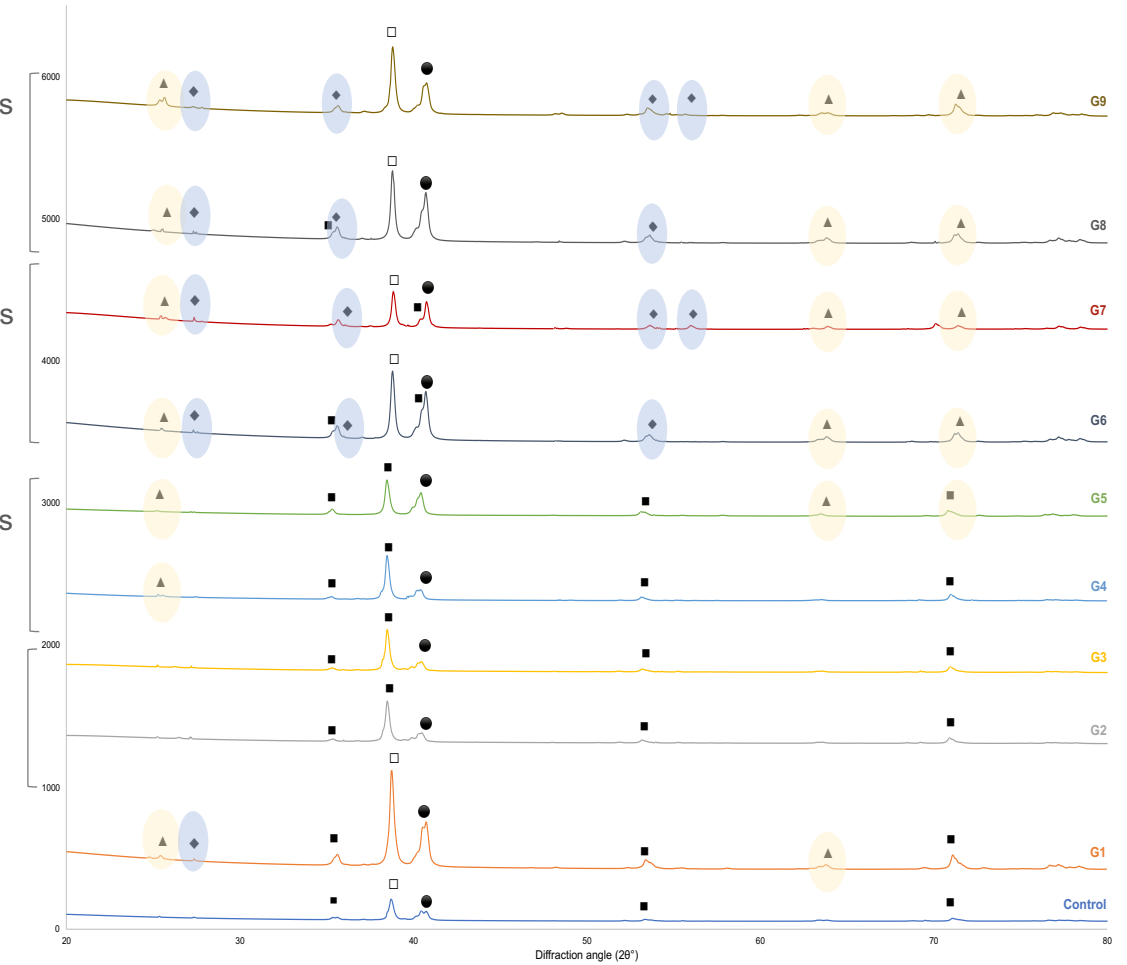
Phase composition

Ti Grade 2



Pre-treatments + AO + hydro
 Pre-treatments + Hydro
 Pre-treatments + AO
 No surface treatment
 Hydro

Ti Grade 5



Results

Phase composition

Anatase was found for **all** treated samples,
whereas **rutile** was only obtained for the **hydrothermal treatment**

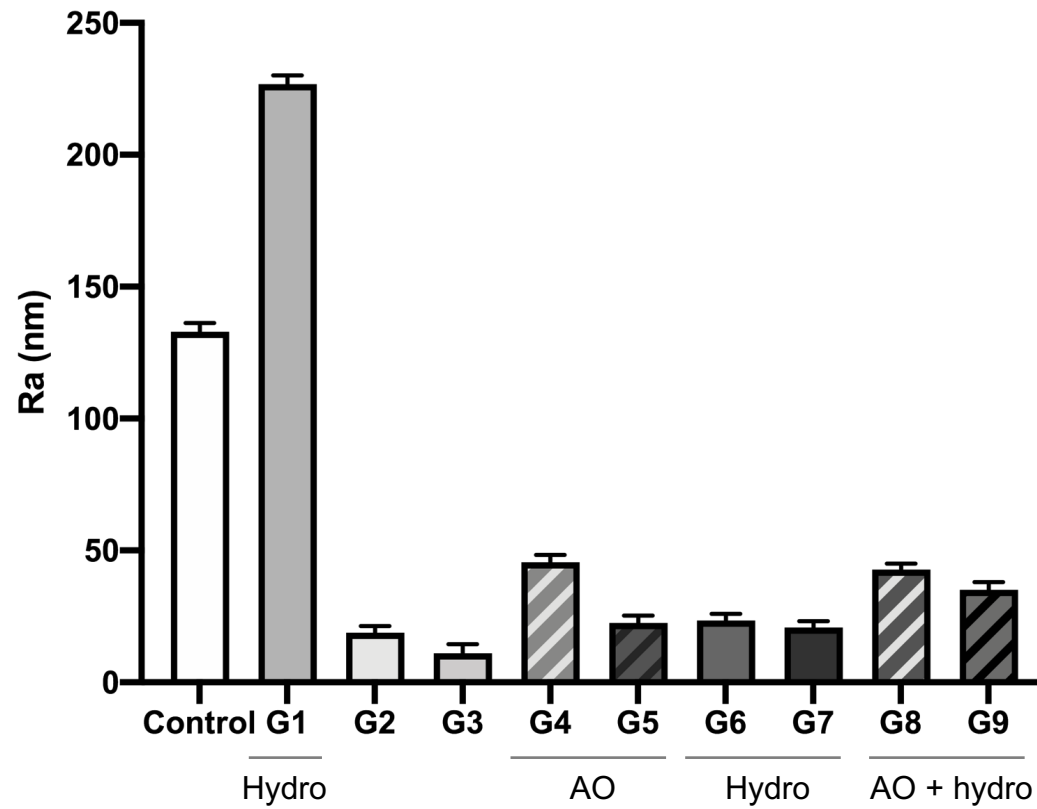
The presence of **both crystalline phases** is preferable than an amorphous or
plain anatase structure



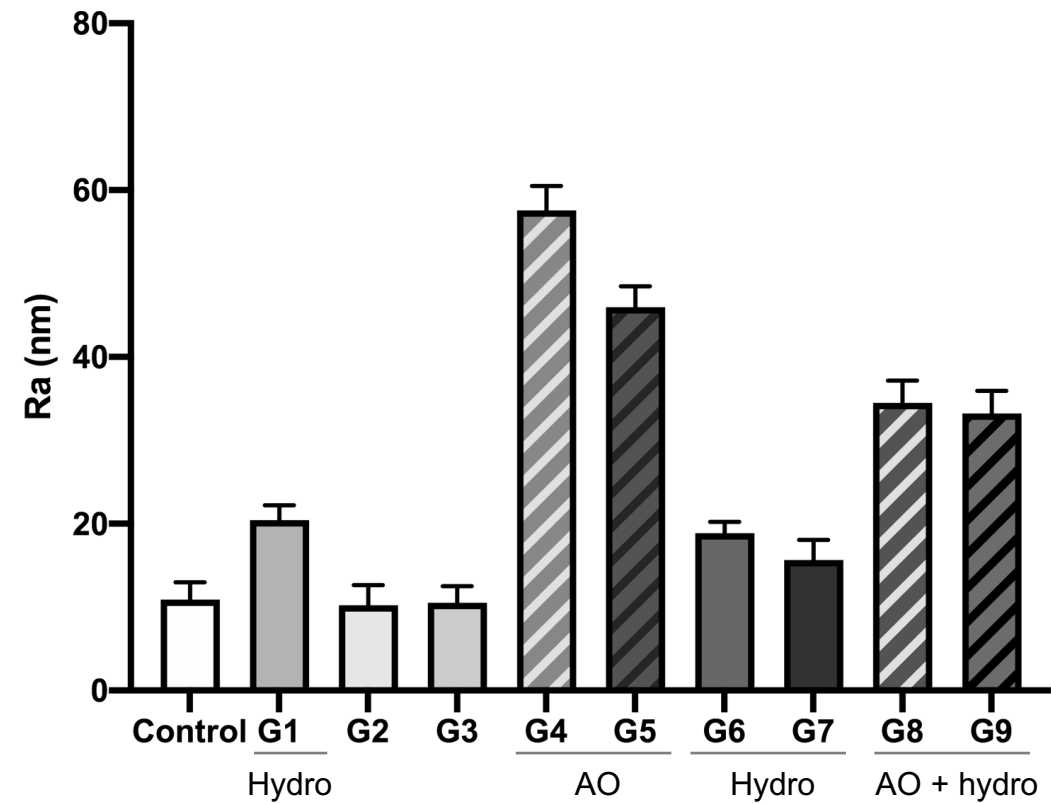
Results

Roughness

Ti Grade 2



Ti Grade 5

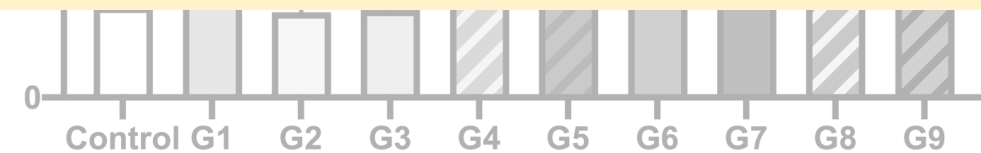
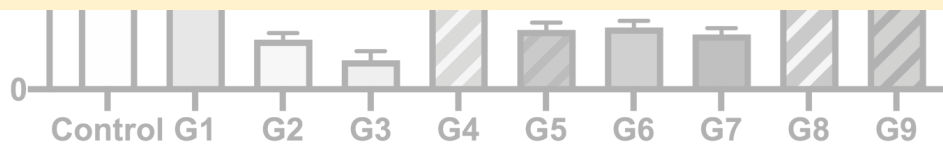


Results

Roughness



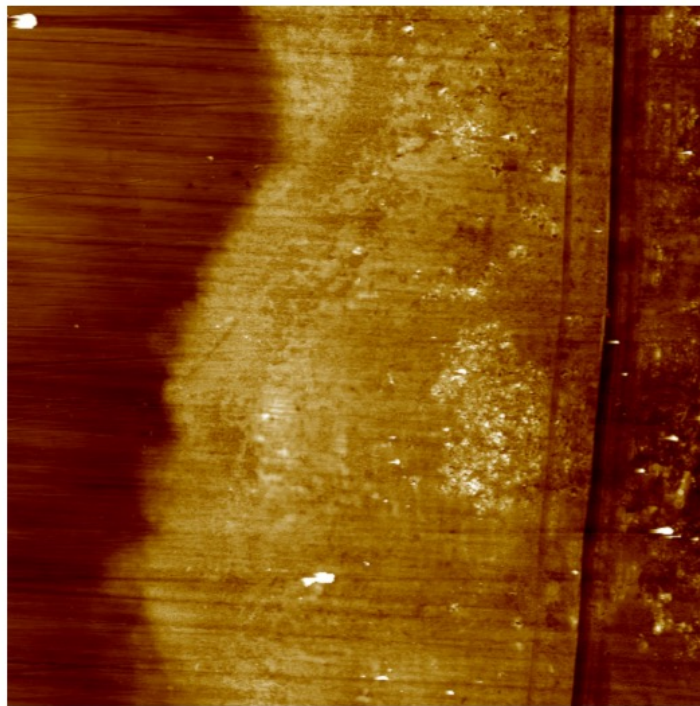
All samples presented $Ra < 1\mu\text{m}$ and the control and non-polished hydrothermally treated samples are the roughest samples



Results

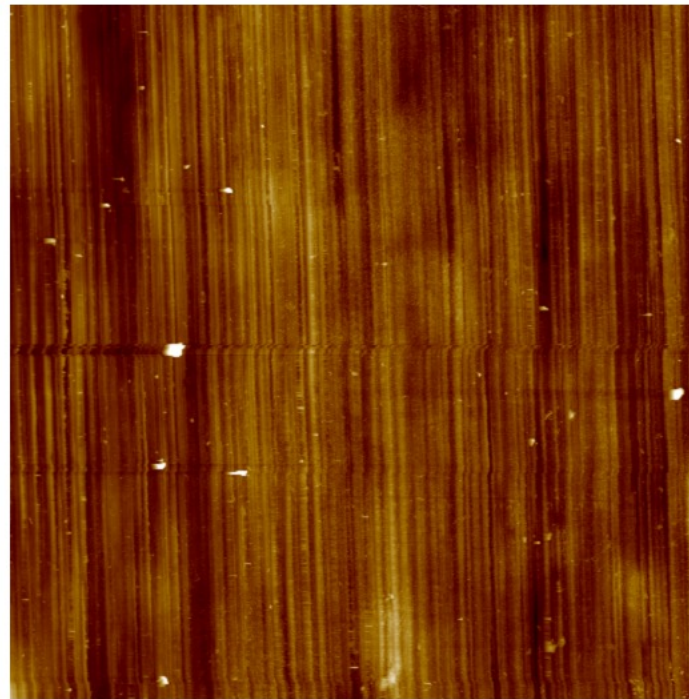
TiO₂ thickness

Anodic oxidation

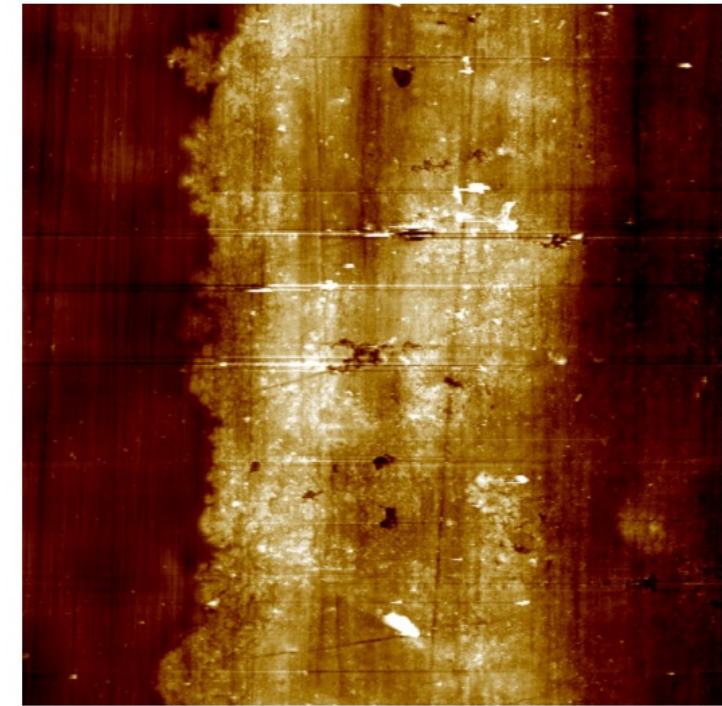


20.0 μm

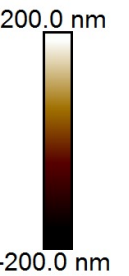
Hydrothermal treatment



Anodic oxidation +
hydrothermal treatment



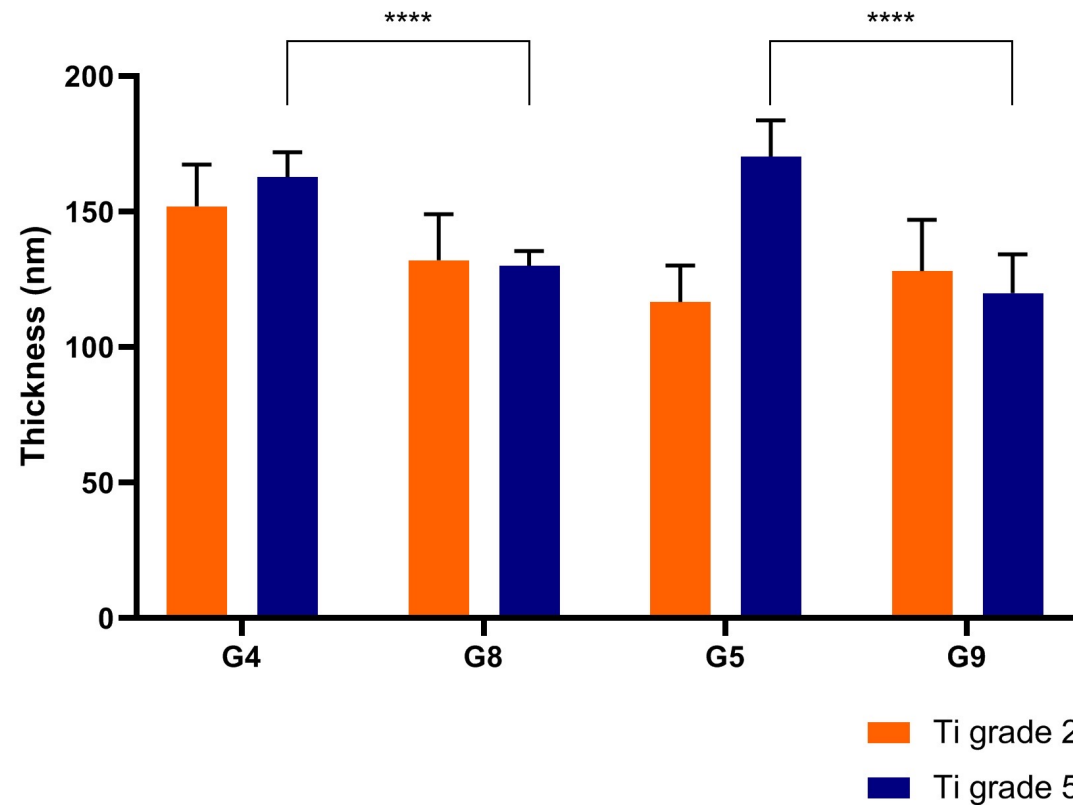
20.0 μm



Ti grade 2 samples subjected to the acidic pre-treatment

Results

TiO₂ thickness



- G4: Alcohol treatment + anodic oxidation
- G5: Acidic pre-treatment + anodic oxidation
- G8: Alcohol treatment + anodic oxidation + hydrothermal treatment
- G9: Acidic pre-treatment + anodic oxidation + hydrothermal treatment

Anodic oxidation and anodic oxidation + hydrothermal treatment produced an oxide layer with a thickness > 100 nm



Results

Wettability

Pre-treatment		No pre-treatment	Mechanical polishing and chemical pre-treatment			
Surface treatment		Hydro	No surface treatment	AO	Hydro	AO + hydro
Ti Grade 2	Anatase	+		+	+	++++
	Rutile	+			+++	++
	Wettability (0h)	++	+	++	+	++
	Wettability (24h in 5XPBS)	++	+	++	++	+++
Ti Grade 5	Anatase	+++		++	+	++++
	Rutile	+			++	++
	Wettability (0h)	+	+	++	+	+
	Wettability (24h in 5XPBS)	++	++	++	+++	+++



Results

Overview

The presence of both anatase and rutile is preferable for cellular outcomes and confers bioactivity

Micro-rough surfaces are more prone to cell anchorage than smooth surfaces

Moderate-hydrophilic surfaces promote cellular and protein adhesion



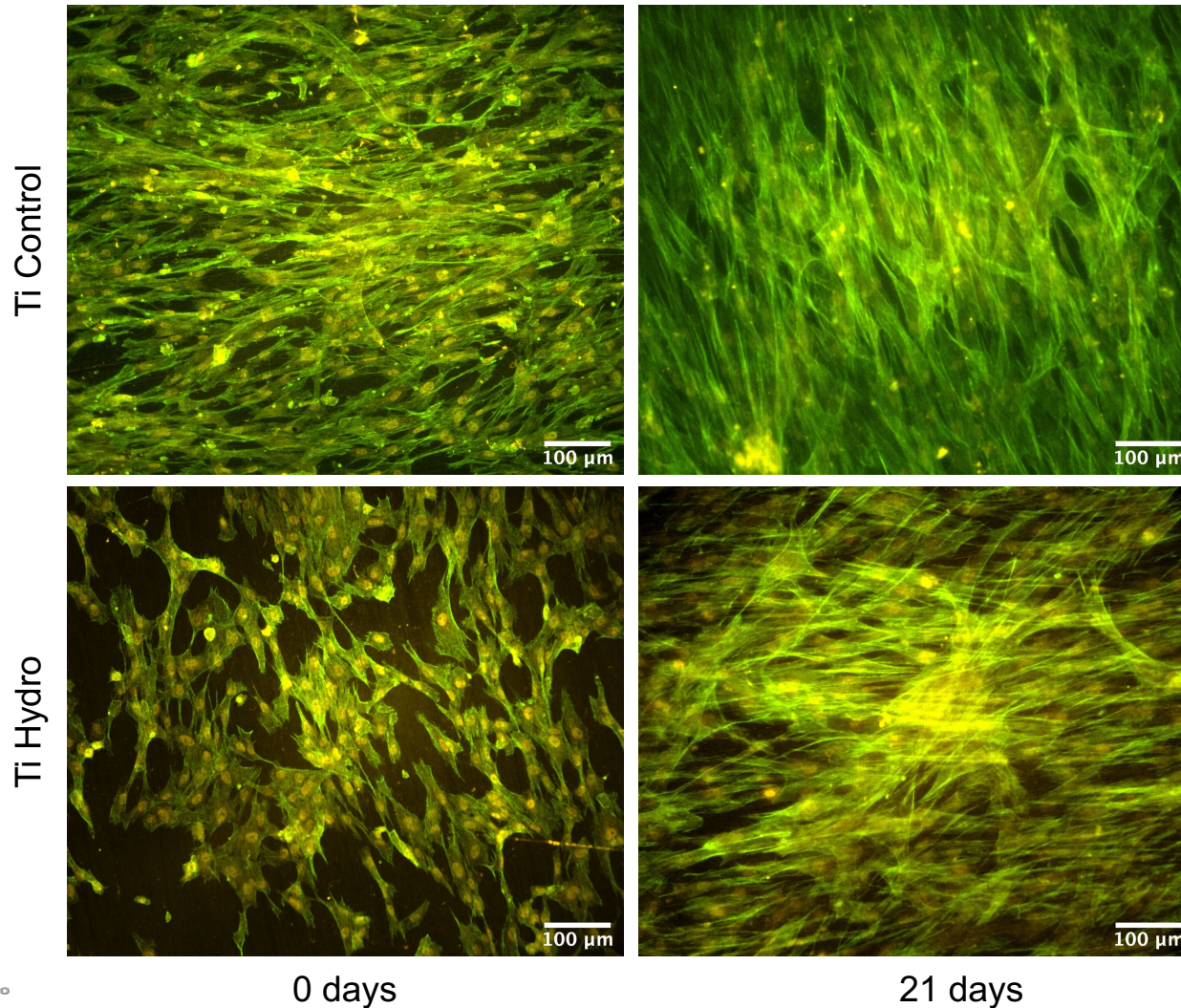
Alcohol cleaning and **hydrothermal treatment** followed by immersion for 24 hours in 5X PBS is an effective and simple surface modification treatment capable of creating a moderate-hydrophilic and bioactive surface

Results

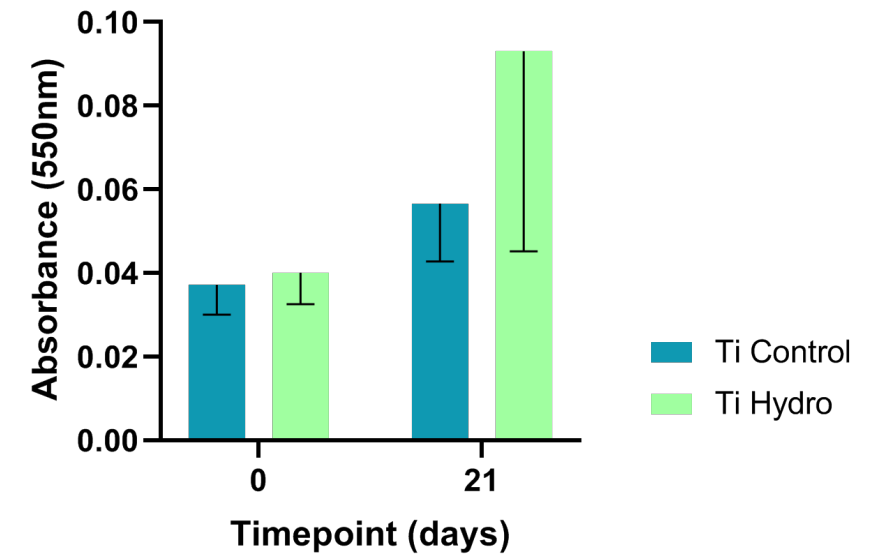
BM-hMSC adhesion

Bone marrow derived human Mesenchymal Stem Cells (BM-hMSC) on Ti grade 5

Actin RUNX2



Alizarin red quantification



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Conclusions

No major differences were observed between **pre-treatments** (alcohol cleaning vs acidic pre-treatment) considering surface crystallinity, roughness and wettability

TiO₂ layer obtained by AO, Hydro and AO + hydro presented different characteristics regarding its crystallinity, roughness, thickness and wettability

Alcohol cleaning followed by hydrothermal treatment is a simple methodology that results in a bioactive oxide layer which properties are capable of enhancing bone-implant interface



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Acknowledgments

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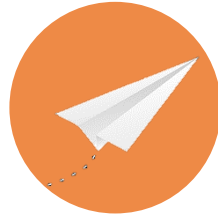
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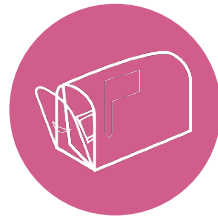
Thank you for your attention!



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