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BIOMATERIALS APPLICATION IN ORTHOPAEDICS

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ABSTRACT

Biomaterials technology progress has led to tremendous advances of its application for tissue and bone replacement. The aim of biomaterials application is for bone and tissue repair purposes and it leads to better quality of life. In Orthopaedics, it is applied for osteosynthesis, spine implant, joint replacement, oncology, traumatology etc. The common types of biomaterials mainly used as orthopaedic implants are metals, ceramics and polymers. Currently we have resistant materials to replace bones, and elastic materials capable to act as soft tissue substitutes. Stainless steels, commercially pure titanium, titanium base alloys, cobalt chrome alloys, polyethylene or methyl-methacrylate are essential items in orthopaedic surgery and traumatology. Metal is mostly used for plates, nails, internal and external fixators. Ceramic is applied for porous coating, drug delivery system and repair materials for bone. Each of the components has their own advantages and disadvantages. Intelligent biomaterials are another emerging possibility. Biocompatibility of the biomaterials is observed as prevention of the toxic effect to host cells. However, complications such as infection, allergy, corrosion and implant failure cases are still a common problem in the orthopaedic field. Several innovations such as tissue engineering, surface modification and nanotechnology have been discovered for better quality of implant material. In conclusion, biomaterials are an essential part of daily implants used by orthopaedic surgeons to treat patients.