



Synthesis of PBAT/CNT Bone Scaffold

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Abstract:

Bone marrow produces blood cells and supports the immune system in our body but due to some reasons like diseases, injuries, medical treatment damages bone marrow. Traditional bone marrow regeneration methods, like transplantation, face limitations due to donor availability and immune rejection. Researchers are exploring bio scaffolds for functional tissue regeneration. The bio scaffolds are synthesized by using PBAT and CNT at different ratios. PBAT/CNT (0.5%) and PBAT/CNT (5%). This can be done in 4 steps (1) PBAT synthesis (2) g-PBAT synthesis (3) Amine CNT (4) Final Product PBAT/CNT. Characterized was done using FTIR, NMR, mechanical strength, DSC, & SEM. FTIR intensity at 1741 shows PBAT grafted to maleic acid and 3498 peak shows NH stretching, NMR explain about the structure. PBAT/CNT 3.5% got high tensile strength. DSC could calculate the melting point. SEM gives images of pore size, PBAT, is a biodegradable polymer through a process of hydrolysis, it is mimicking bone marrow's extracellular matrix, providing support, growth, and promoting biocompatibility. Carbon nanotubes (CNTs) are incorporated into PBAT offering high mechanical strength, electrical conductivity, and cell adhesion, making them ideal for tissue engineering applications. Biodegradability of PBAT prevents surgical removal, and the bio scaffold gradually breaks down over time, promoting regenerated tissue development.

Keywords; PBAT (polybutylene adipate teraphthalate), CNT (carbon nano tubes), bio composite, bio degradable, mechanical strength, bio availability, cell differentiation, Osteoblast proliferation

Introduction:

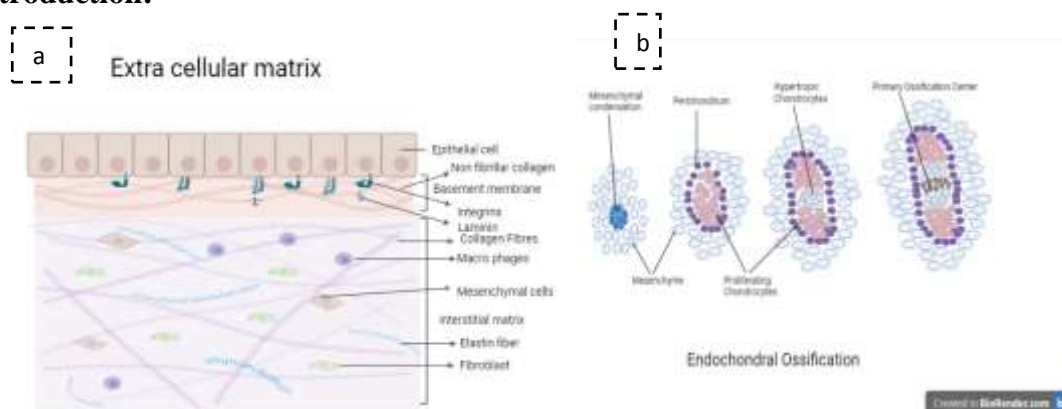


Fig-1(a) Extracellular Matrix & (b) Endochondral Ossification

Poly ethylene teraphthalate is a non degradable plastic it is used in the preparation of plastic bottles. Poly ethylene teraphthalate converted to PBAT with different reactants like zinc acetate , butyl stannic acid preparation.^{1,2} now a days using the esterification reaction the synthesis of PBAT was done by PET .Using poly ethylene teraphthalate to the synthesis of PBAT can be useful to reduce plastic pollution.

PBAT (Poly butylene adipate teraphthalate) is a biodegradable polymer now a days it is used to synthesis of biodegradable plastics, packaging material due to the elasticity and their strength. before the synthesis of PBAT was done by di methyl teraphthalate.³⁻⁵

PBAT is a easily bio degradable, hydrophilic, and non toxic to the fibroblast cells. due to this reason the PBAT is selected for bone tissue engineering⁶. Bone tissue engineering contains the bone cells are made up of osteoblast which are belongs to epithelial cells. The epithelial cells are differentiated into cuboidal cells, squamous epithelial cells, rectangular cells etc. in this the bone cells are belongs to cuboidal cells. these cells are a composite of collagen, elastin, and fibronectin.

Before bone scaffolds bone regeneration process was done by an autologous cells (from patient cells) , Allogenic cells (other human beings), and xenogenic cells (different specimens) are used to form bone regeneration. when different cells are used it forms an immunological diseases⁷. Now a days the problems are solved by cells producing on bone scaffolds.

The bone scaffolds are need to satisfy the (1) bio compatibility for cell adhesion, (2) porous structure is greater than 100 for cells migration. (3) hydrophilicity for cell attachment (4) immobilisation for receptor attraction, (5) Mechanical strength for loading cell weight, (6) no toxicity for cell growth and survival.⁸ The bone scaffolds are metals, ceramics, and natural and synthetic polymers are used.

First titanium metal was used in bone regeneration process but it needs to remove after bone regeneration due to their non degradable property and again surgery was needed to remove a titanium metal⁹. The polymers are bio degradable and it is easily degradable through the process of bone formation.

Bone Scaffold Preparation:

Bone scaffolds are fabricated by different techniques that is wet methods. which are fabricated by using solvents. Wet methods are Solvent casting, Thermal induced phase separation, electrospinning techniques are used. Solvent free methods are gas forming

techniques, microcellular injection, melt extrusion, batch forming, stereo lithography techniques and blending and particle leaching techniques are used.¹⁰

Bone Scaffold Mechanism:

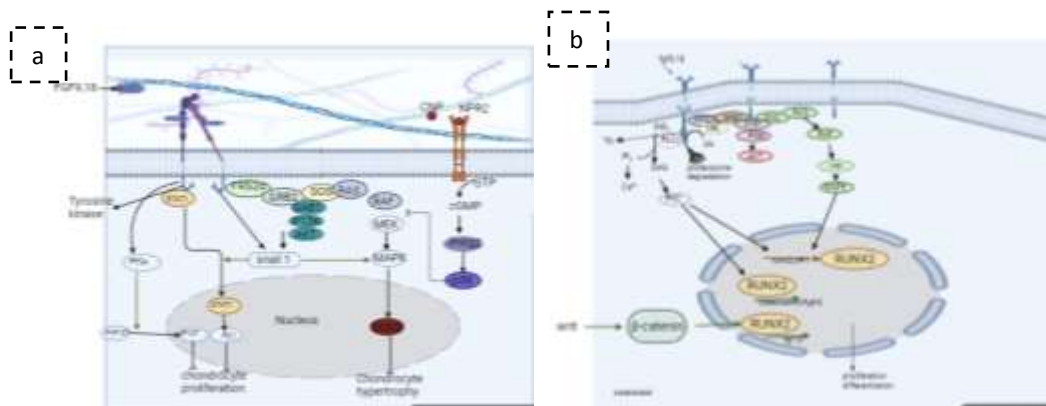


Fig-2:Chondrocyte Hypertrophy & Osteoblast Proliferation

The bone is formed by connective tissue. The connective tissue contains an Extracellular matrix. Extra cellular matrix made up of collagen fiber, elastin fiber, Mast cells, Fibroblast and Macrophages. Bone scaffolds are mainly supportive environment to the Extra cellular matrix¹¹. PBAT polymer shows good biocompatibility with Extracellular matrix and fibroblast cells. PBAT has good tensile strength and young modulus.¹²

Bone scaffold serves as an Extracellular matrix due to their biocompatibility and bioadhesive when bone scaffold are induced at a fracture bone it allows the Extra cellular matrix due to their pore size¹³. Mesenchymal stem cells start an aggregate interact with fibronectin receptors in extracellular matrix releases kinase and phosphorylation reaction in Mesenchymal stem cells.

The reaction induces a Wnt signaling pathway and bone morphogenetic proteins release transcriptional factors like RUNX2 and SATB. The transcriptional factors change mesenchymal stem cells to osteoprogenitors and chondrogenesis. These are type-I and type-II collagen. When chondrocytes improve it forms pre hypertrophic chondrocytes. The pre hypertrophic chondrocytes are developed into a chondrocyte hypertrophy through a process of IHH pathway, parathyroid hormone, collagen.

IHH pathway, parathyroid hormone, collagen changes RUNX2, RUNX3 transcriptional changes in chondrocytes. Chondrocyte hypertrophy converts into chondrocyte maturation.¹⁴

Angiogenesis process: (Formation of Blood vessels):

Vascular endothelial growth factors interact with endothelial cells. After endothelial cells migrate and proliferate due to gene expression in Chondrocyte Hypertrophy. Migrated endothelial cells interact with fibronectin receptor through the integrins in ECM. Where the fibronectin receptors are present endothelial cells form a tubular structure. These are blood vessels in bone.¹⁵ When chondrocytes are mature and convert into osteoblast cells. The osteoblast forms spongy bone.

PBAT/CNT was degraded through a hydrolysis reaction. CNTs enhance PBAT strength, stiffness, and impact resistance by reinforcing the matrix, increasing durability and toughness, and enhancing Young's modulus. The characteristics and performance of PBAT-CNT composites are impacted by CNT type, concentration, fabrication method,

and processing conditions. Dispersion and alignment within the PBAT matrix considerably impact composite characteristics, requiring careful processing processes. These PBAT/CNT scaffolds facilitate cell adhesion, proliferation, and differentiation, allowing bone marrow regeneration to occur.

Materials:

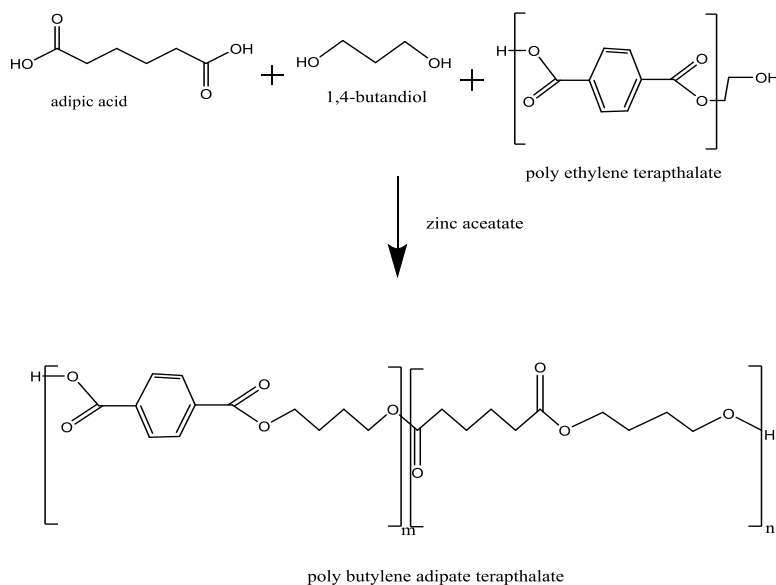
Materials and chemicals:

PET(poly ethylene teraphthalate) ;Adipic acid; 1,4-butandiol; Butyl stannic acid. PBAT(polybutylene adepic teraphthalate) ; Maleic acid ; Benzoyl peroxidase;Chloroform; Acetone.MWCNT,NaNO₂,Ethylene diamine, and H₂SO₄ .G-PBAT,amine CNT,Ethyl carbodimaide.

Synthesis:

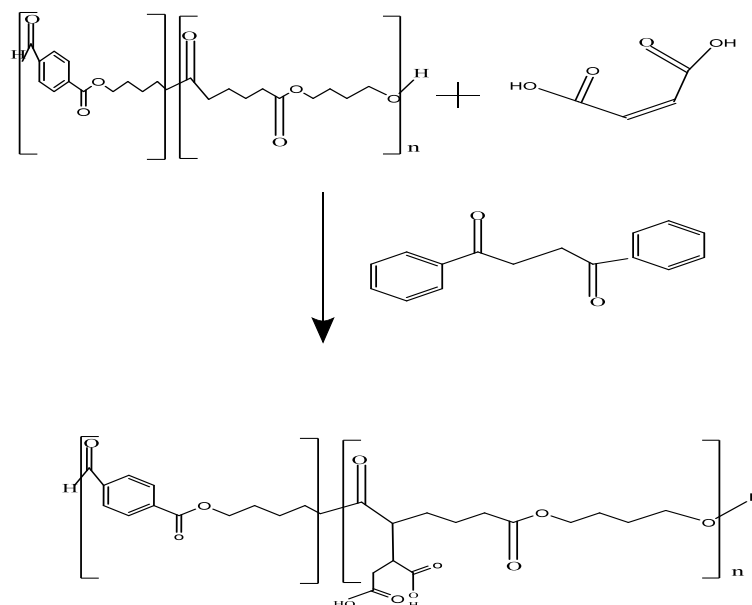
PBAT SYNTHESIS:

Polyethylene teraphthalate (50gm), adipic acid(37 gm), 1,4-Butandiol(95gm) and Butyl stannic acid (0.5gm) was taken in a 500 ml round bottom flask Stittred with 250 rpm at 145°C for 3 hours to produce an esterification reaction.after the reaction was proceed at 250°C for 250 rpm for 4 houurs to produce polymerisation reaction.the solution was kept in vaccum at 250°C for 1.5 hour to remove an excess 1,4-Butandiol



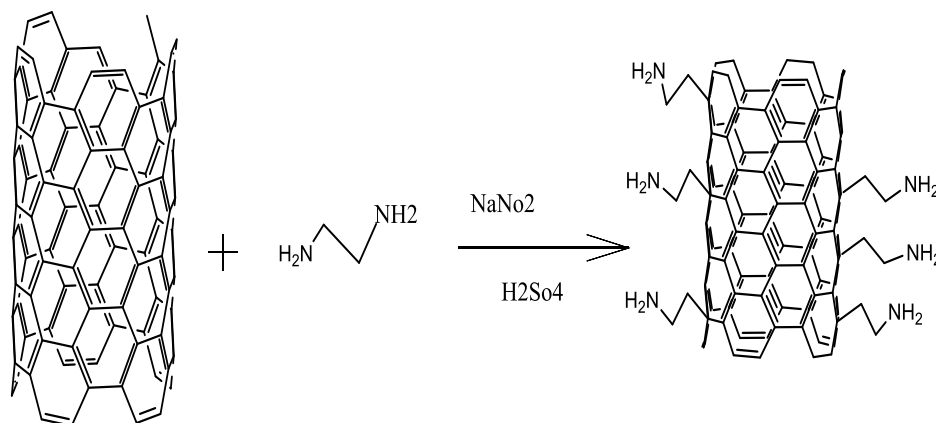
G-PBAT synthesis:

First we took PBAT(polybutylene adepic teraphthalate)(10gm), Maleic acid (50mg), Benzoyl peroxidase(10mg). After PBAT was dissolved in 90 ml of chloroform in one beaker and in another beaker, maleic acid was dissolved in 50 ml of acetone. After that, both solutions were added tothe round bottom flask.These solutions were mechanically stirred at 60°Cfor 3 hours.Then the benzoyl peroxide was dissolved in 90 ml of chloroform and this solution was added to PBAT and maleic acid solution¹⁶. Finally, both solutions were heated at 60°C for 24 hours to permit the grafting reaction occur.



Amine CNT synthesis:

First we took MWCNT(0.9gm), NaNO_2 (12gm), Ethylene diamine(1.1gm), and H_2SO_4 (0.8ml). After Sodium nitrite, CNT, Ethylene diamine are added into a 100ml of round bottom flask and H_2SO_4 was slowly introduced in those mixtures at 60°C for 1 hour. When the reaction was completed then cool the mixture and 50ml of dimethyl formamide was added to the product rinse the solution therefore centrifuge the solution to remove an extra ethylene diamine¹⁷⁻¹⁹. Finally it washed with water and dry the product.



G-PBAT/amine CNT synthesis: PBAT/CNT was synthesised in 5 composites. that is 5% of PBAT/CNT, 3.5% of PBAT/CNT, 2.5% of PBAT/CNT, 1.5% of PBAT/CNT, 0.5% of PBAT/CNT.

PBAT/CNT 5%: First we took G-PBAT(10gm), amine CNT (500mg), Ethyl carbodiimide(10mg). Next, these are separately dissolved in DCM(dichloro methane) and the solution is mixed in a round bottom flask. then these solutions were mechanically

stirred at room temp for 3 days. After g-PBAT/amine CNT are obtained^{20, 21}, these were washed and dried in a vacuum.

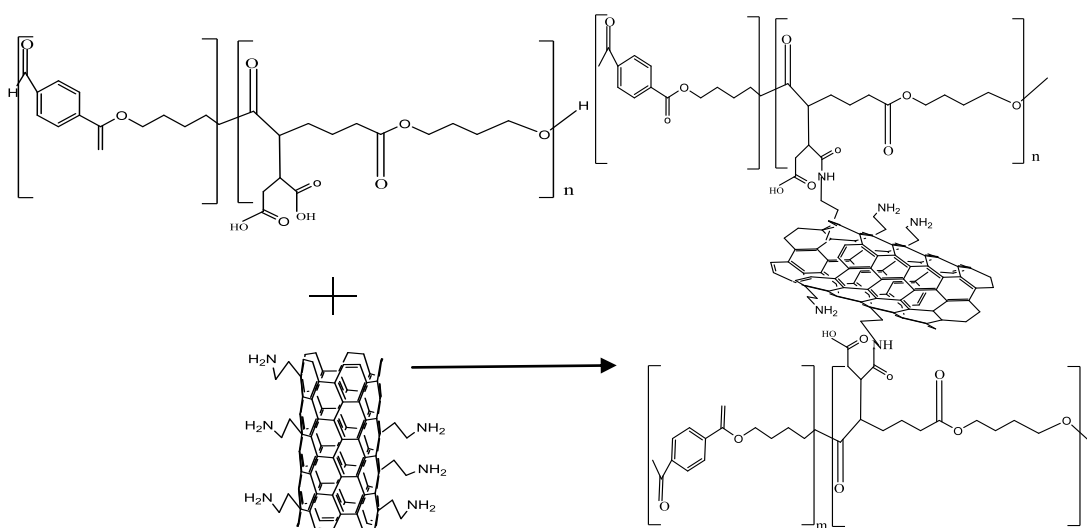
PBAT/CNT 3.5%: First we took G-PBAT(10gm), amine CNT (350mg), Ethyl carbodimide(7mg). Next, these are separately dissolved in DCM(dichloro methane) and the solution is mixed in a round bottom flask. Then these solutions were mechanically stirred at room temp for 3 days. After g-PBAT/amine CNT are obtained these were washed and dried in a vacuum.

PBAT/CNT 2.5%: First we took G-PBAT(10gm), amine CNT (250mg), Ethyl carbodimide(5mg). Next, these are separately dissolved in DCM(dichloro methane) and the solution is mixed in a round bottom flask. Then these solutions were mechanically stirred at room temp for 3 days. After g-PBAT/amine CNT are obtained these were washed and dried in a vacuum.

PBAT/CNT 0.5%: First we took G-PBAT(10gm), amine CNT (50mg), Ethyl carbodimide(1mg). Next, these are separately dissolved in DCM(dichloro methane) and the solution is mixed in a round bottom flask. Then these solutions were mechanically stirred at room temp for 3 days. After g-PBAT/amine CNT are obtained these were washed and dried in a vacuum.

Salt Leaching:

Different compositions of PBAT/CNT liquid material was poured on a glass slide. After that sodium chloride salt was added. PBAT/CNT material was kept for drying at room temp. PBAT/CNT material dipping into a water the salt particles are leached out. Finally the material got a pore sizes.



FTIR (FOURIER TRANSFORM INFRARED SPECTROSCOPY):

The material infra-red frequencies were measured using perkin-elmer spotlight 400 FTIR. The particle frequency was measured at middle infra-red region. It is between 500-4000 cm^{-1} .

NMR (Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy):

Proton signals were measured using Bruker Avance 600MHz NMR Spectrophotometer. The instrument measures Number of signals were measured between 0-8.5 ppm. Position of signals were measured for a functional group identification; Peak area of signal were measured for calculation of number of protons and splitting of signals were measured information about neighboring protons.

Tensile Test: Each composite was prepared in 4 dumbbell shape using Hydraulic press at 150°C /20Pas. The dumbbell shape material had 65mm length,6mm width,0.963mm thickness. Each Composites were tested using Universal Tensile Machine. at a constant rate of 1N min⁻¹.

DSC (Differential scanning calorimetry):

Each sample was weighted from 1.3-1.6 mg. Two aluminum pans were taken to heat the samples. The reference sample was an empty aluminum pans and the samples were sealed in Aluminum pans, the both aluminum pans were heated using DSC (404 F3) at 10°C/min from 30-450°C under nitrogen atmosphere.

FE-SEM (Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscopy):

The pore size was measured in 100-600 micrometers range. The pore size was measured using Image –J Software.

RESULTS:

FTIR: Ftir spectrum: PBAT grafted to maleic acid peak was observed at 1714. This frequency range shows a highly single carboxylic acidit shows the highest peak for PBAT grafted to maleic acid.

3021 frequency range shows a multi-carboxylic acid group present in small amounts.

below 1000 frequency range shows CH bending and between 1000 to 1500 range shows an ester and alcoholic groups present in it. These peaks are commonly observed in both graphs.

2959 frequency range shows the alkene group present in maleic acid and that peak did'tappeared in the PBAT graph.

FTIR spectrum for PBAT : Here the single carboxylic acid peak shows a smallest peak in PBAT than maleic acid grafted PBAT. here we did not get the alkene group present for PBAT. 3360 peak indicates the aliphatic primary amine stretching. 3553 peak indicates OH group with intermolecular bond.

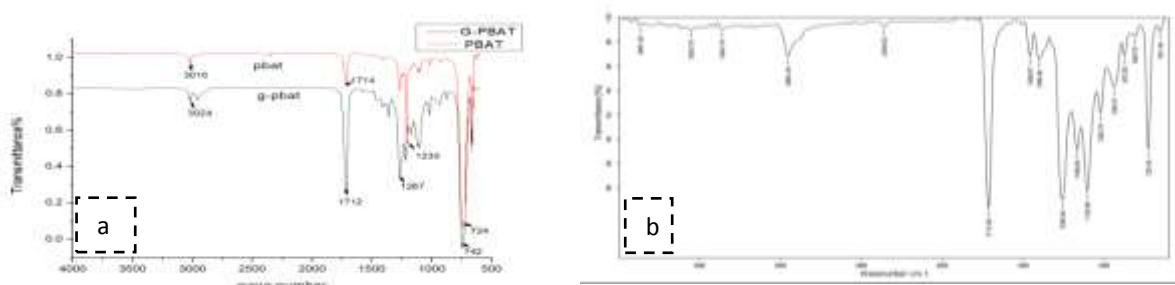
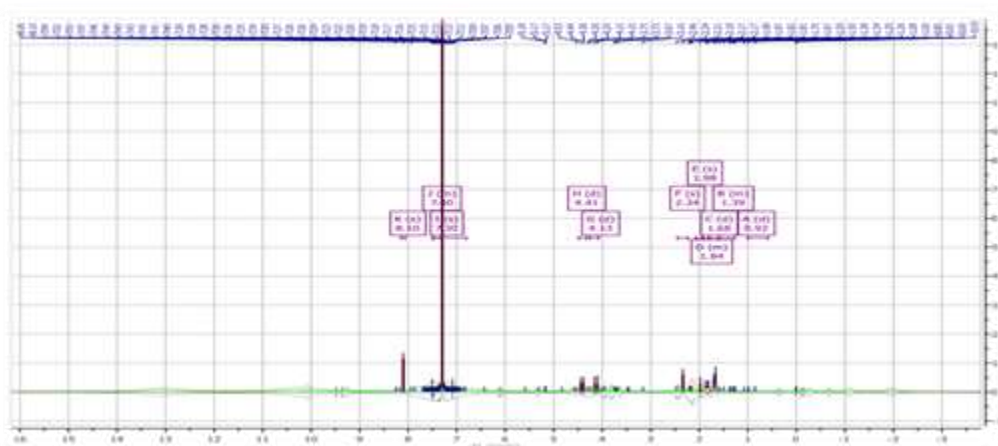


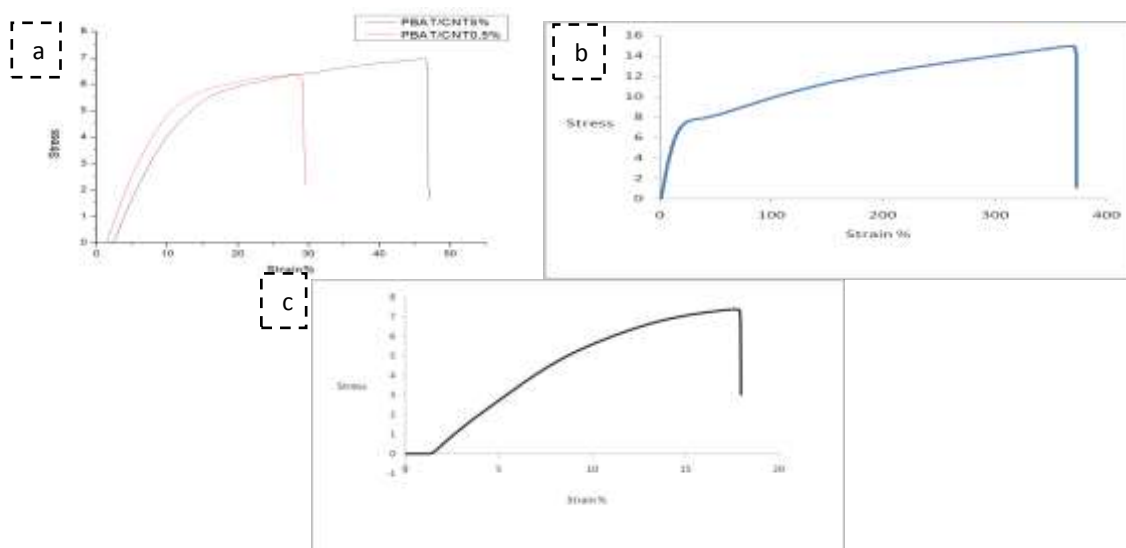
Fig-3:(a)pbat,g-pbat, (b)pbat/cnt.

NMR:

This graph shows the g-PBAT structure. Here A,B,C are methyl attached to the oxygen group and D,E, and F shows the methyl groups attached to an ester group. Here we got a G different ester at 2.33 ppm. H and I at the peak of ester groups at 4-4.5 ppm are shown. J and K are between 6.5 to 8.10 ppm which shows the aromatic presence. The carboxylic acid group did not definitely identify due to in COOH the H proton could convert into a D proton but these are shown in C NMR.

**Fig-4:NMR Spectroscopy****Tensile Strength :**

PBAT/CNT 0.5% got 7MPa of tensile strength. PBAT/CNT 5% got 6.2MPa of tensile strength. PBAT/CNT 2.5 got 7.3844 MPa of tensile strength. PBAT/CNT 3.5 got 14.3853 MPa of Tensile Strength. Here the strain percentage distance was changed due to increasing load per area. PBAT/CNT 0.5% got high tensile strength than PBAT/CNT 5% due to an agglomeration. It perfectly shows high amount of CNT causes to decrease the tensile strength and young modulus.

**Fig-5:(a)PBAT/CNT 0.5% & 5%, (b) PBAT/CNT 3.5% (c) PBAT/CNT 2.5%.**

DSC (Differential Scanning Calorimetry):

In Differential scanning calorimetry the peak temp was observed at 400.99°C for 5% of PBAT/CNT and their enthalpy is -426.80J/g. The heat of melting(ΔH_f) is 2556J/mg for PBAT/CNT 5%. The highest peak temp was observed at 402°C for 0.5% of PBAT/CNT and their enthalpy was measured at 712.59J/g. The heat of melting(ΔH_f) is 4272.00J/mg. The 0.5% had a highest melting point than PBAT/CNT 5%.

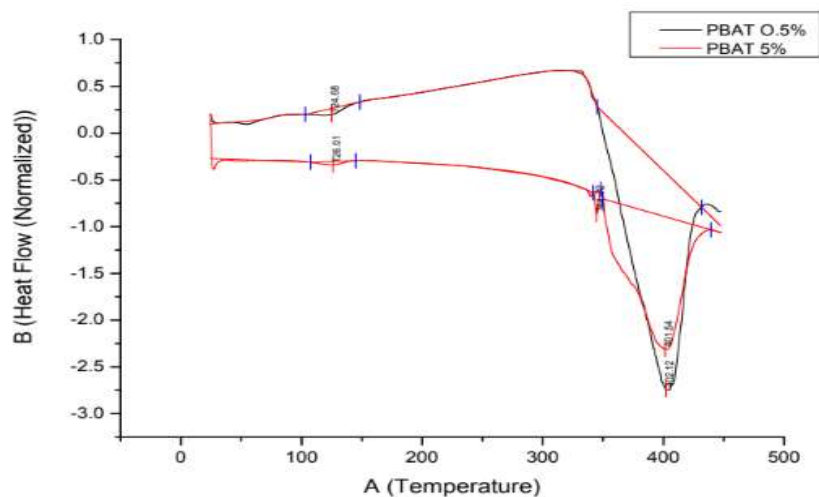


Fig-6:DSC(Differential Scanning Calorimetry)

FE-SEM

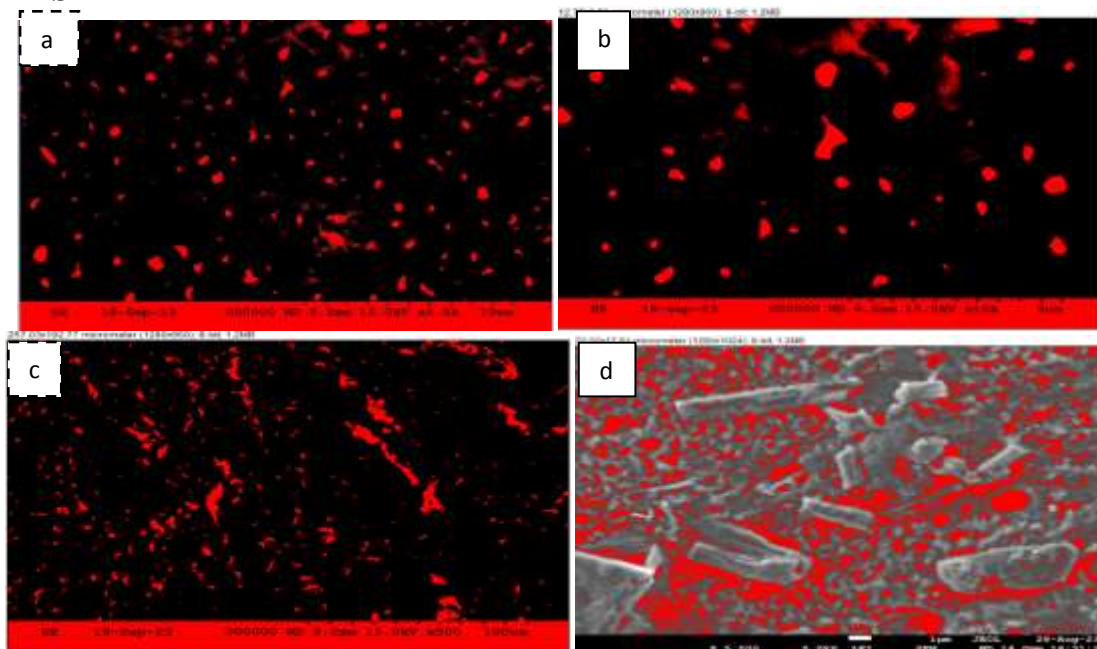


Fig-7: (a) PBAT/CNT 0.5% (b) PBAT/CNT 2.5% (c) PBAT/CNT 3.5% (d) PBAT/CNT 5%

PBAT/CNT 5% got 84 micrometers pore size. PBAT/CNT 0.5% got 124.6 micrometers pore size. PBAT/CNT 2.5% got 202.1% micro pore size. PBAT/CNT 3.5% got 167.8 micrometers pore size. The 84 micrometers is not enough for cell availability.

because it has less than 100. and other micrometer pore size perfectly enough for cell availability.

Conclusion:

PBAT/CNT material degraded through a process of hydrolysis at ester bonds. Carbon nanotubes grafting increasing the mechanical strength of PBAT. PBAT 0.5% , 2.5% , 3.5% are perfectly fit as a bioscaffold because it satisfy pore size greater than 100. PBAT/CNT 5% got low mechanical strength and less pore sizes due to carbon nanotubes are agglomerate.

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