

Characterization and Application of Hydroxyapatite From Chicken Egg Shell with Green Template as a Potential Drug Delivery System

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Abstract

Hydroxyapatite (HAp) is a calcium phosphate biomaterial widely studied in the medical field because of its good biocompatibility properties. This study aims to identify the effect of increasing variations in banana peel template concentration on the characteristics of hydroxyapatite so that it has the potential as a drug delivery system. This study includes the characterization and application of the potential of the hydroxyapatite drug delivery system with the addition of variations in the concentration of green template. Then, hydroxyapatite was characterized using X-ray diffraction (XRD) and a surface area analyzer (SAA). This study's results indicate that adding a banana peel template affects the characteristics of hydroxyapatite. The higher the template concentration, the smaller the crystallite size, pore size, pore volume, and surface area, but the degree of crystallinity is greater. The results showed that the characterization of hydroxyapatite K15% with a crystal size of 34.73 nm, a degree of crystallinity of 89%, a pore size of 7.2178 nm, a surface area of 30.111 m²/g, and a pore volume of 0.1145 cc/g. The results of the study of the potential of the drug delivery system obtained a loading efficiency value of 67% for ibuprofen. However, the ibuprofen release process results at time intervals tend to be unstable.

Keywords: Egg shell, hydroxyapatite, banana peel, drug delivery system

1. INTRODUCTION

Hydroxyapatite (HAp) is a calcium phosphate biomaterial widely studied in the medical field due to its high biocompatibility and similarity to the structure of human bones¹. However, hydroxyapatite used in Indonesia still comes from other countries, so it is necessary to develop research on hydroxyapatite synthesis. Biomaterials are materials or medical devices that can be synthetic, biological, or a mixture of both to regenerate or replace body parts or tissues or help, add, or restore body functions. Applications are extensive in the medical field, such as scaffolds² and drug delivery³.

HAp can be synthesized using natural precursors such as calcium and phosphate. Usually, HAp synthesis uses precursors in the form of phosphoric acid (H₃PO₄) and calcium hydroxide (Ca(OH)₂). Currently, many researchers are studying

chicken eggshells as an alternative to HAp synthesis because chicken eggshells contain high calcium carbonate (CaCO₃) elements, known to contain 91.60%⁴. HAp from natural sources contains ions, such as Na⁺, Zn²⁺, Mg²⁺, K⁺, Si²⁺, Ba²⁺, F⁻ and CO₃²⁻⁵.

The HAp synthesis process greatly determines hydroxyapatite particles' morphology, crystallography, and phase purity in crystal size, surface area, porosity, and adsorption capacity. It is the fact that materials with smaller sizes are more reactive and show increased physicochemical properties due to the larger open surface area, which ultimately determines the final properties of the material for use in biomedical applications⁶. To ensure that the synthesized HAp is on a nanoscale or to control its agglomeration and morphology, it is necessary to pay attention to the synthesis method used⁷.

Plant extracts mediate the most widely used synthesis method for nanoparticles. Plant extracts are alternative chemicals that are widely used to anticipate agglomeration. HAp mediated by plant extracts offers an environmentally friendly method. In addition to its environmentally friendly nature, natural sources act as reducing agents and stabilizers of the product and control the shape and size of the particles. Banana peel extract is known to contain phytochemicals with anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties. Banana peel is considered a good source of nutrition with bioactive phenolics, antioxidants, and potassium⁸.

Banana peel contains various compounds such as reducing sugars and antioxidant compounds (phenolic compounds, alkaloids, tannins, and flavonoids) more than other parts^{9 10 11}. It is known that the flower, fruit skin, and banana stems contain phenolic and flavonoid compounds of 1.69% and 0.33%, respectively¹²; 5.65% and 2.25%¹³; also 2.91% and 0.80%¹⁴ per 100 grams of dry sample weight.

Banana peel is known to regulate the shape and size of crystals and overcome agglomeration barriers during HAp production compared to other parts. It is in accordance with what Alfi did in 2023 that adding banana plant part templates (flowers, fruit skin, and stems) can reduce the crystal size and increase the degree of crystallinity from XRD characterization. In FTIR characterization, no OH-bonds were detected, indicating the presence of water in the flowers and fruit skin. In the PSA characterization results, increasing the concentration of banana peel can reduce particle size by up to 45%¹⁵.

Banana peel contains pectin, which plays a role in forming HAP crystals. It is known that the pectin content in banana peel varies greatly, around 1.92–3.25% of its dry weight. Pectin is also identified as being rich in carboxyl and hydroxyl groups, which act as stimulants for binding calcium ions (Ca^{2+}) from solution to carboxylate ions, which causes the nucleation process of hydroxyapatite crystal growth¹⁶. The content has biocompatible, biodegradable, antimicrobial, anticoagulant, and anti-inflammatory properties. So, this banana peel has shown potential in biomedical applications in drug delivery systems.

2. RESEARCH METHODS

Materials and Instruments

The materials used in this study were $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{HPO}_4$ (Merck® p.a.), NH_4OH (25% Merck® p.a.), acetone (technical), 96-well plate, cisplatin, dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO), PrestoBlue™ Cell Viability Reagent, Roswell Park Memorial Institute Medium (RPMI), Fetal Bovine Serum (FBS), Antibiotics (Sigma Aldrich P4333), CV-1 cells, Trypsin-EDTA, Trypan Blue, Ibuprofen, SBF media,

deionized water, filter paper, chicken egg shells, and banana fruit peels.

The instruments used include X-ray Diffraction (XRD), NOVAe Surface Area Analyzer (SAA), Quantachrome Novatouch Lx4 brand with Brunauer-Emmett-Teller (BET) method, CO_2 Incubator (Thermo Scientific Series 8000DH), Microscope (Thermo Scientific EVOS XL Core), Multimode Reader (Tecan Infinite M200 PRO), centrifugation, incubator shaker, and UV-Vis spectrophotometer.

Calcination of Chicken Egg Shells

One hundred grams of chicken eggshell waste was washed with tap water several times. Then, it was rinsed using Aqua DM. Next, it was ground with a mortar and pestle and sieved with a 120 mesh sieve. The sieving results were then calcined at 1000 °C for 5 hours.

Extraction of Template from Banana Peel

Five hundred grams of banana peel were cleaned, washed with distilled water, rinsed with acetone, and then cut into small pieces. The cut part was dried in the sun for 4 hours, then dried again using an oven at 60 °C for 24 hours, and then heated in 250 mL of water for 10 minutes. Then, the banana peel was filtered, and the filtrate was used as a green template for the next process.

Synthesis of Hydroxyapatite with Green Template

2.8625 g of calcium oxide (CaO) from the calcination results and 3.9431 g of diammonium hydrogen phosphate $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{HPO}_4$ were put into a 200 mL autoclave. Then, 50 mL of deionized water and 5 mL of template from each variation were added and stirred until evenly distributed. Next, ammonium hydroxide solution (NH_4OH) was added drop by drop while stirring to maintain a pH of 10. After that, the mixture was heated in an autoclave in an oven at a temperature of 230 °C for 48 hours. Next, the mixture was filtered, and the residue was washed with deionized water until pH 7. Then, the residue from the washing was dried at 110 °C for 24 hours. After that, the residue was ground to get a more uniform size. The result of this refinement is HAp material, which can then be characterized

Hydroxyapatite Characterization

An XRD (X-ray diffraction) instrument uses X-ray tube rays in the form of $\text{CuK}\alpha$ (1.54060 Å) for testing crystal size analysis, degree of crystallinity, and crystal structure. Furthermore, the SAA (surface area analyzer) brand Quantachrome Novatouch Lx4 is used by removing adsorbed gas (degassing), and then nitrogen gas is used for the analysis process. Testing

the analysis of pore size, pore volume, and surface area using the BET method (Brunauer-Emmett-Teller).

Hydroxyapatite Application

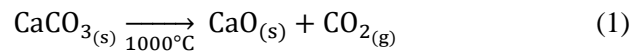
The application of synthesized hydroxyapatite as a potential drug delivery system was carried out on the most optimal characterization results, HAp K15%, because of the better crystal size and surface area. Toxicity testing was carried out on HAp K15% on normal cells as a parameter for biomedical applications. Furthermore, drug loading and drug release capabilities were tested on ibuprofen as a requirement for the drug delivery system.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Preparation of Precursors

In the calcination process, CaCO₃ begins to break down or decompose into CaO at a temperature

of 750 °C, then wholly breaks down at 1000 °C . The reactions that occur are:



In the calcination process of CaCO₃ into CaO, there is a weight reduction because CO₂ gas is another product of the decomposition process. This process is accompanied by a change in color in the CaO material to become whiter with finer grains; this indicates that the degradation process of organic material is no longer occurring. CaCO₃ decomposes due to combustion power into CaO by 56.40%. The CaO produced is then used as a calcium precursor in the reaction of hydroxyapatite formation with (NH₄)₂HPO₄ as a phosphate precursor and banana peel as a green template precursor after the reaction. Banana peel extract is used because it can help control morphology and reduce crystal size compared to flowers and stems ¹⁵.

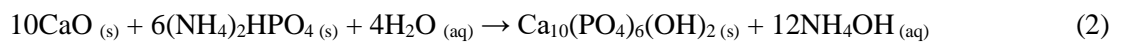


Figure 1. Egg shell A) before and B) after the calcination process

Characterization of HAp using XRD

The HAp XRD data were compared with the HAp standard database. The analysis results can be seen in **Figure 2** and **Table 1**. The crystals crystallographic characteristics can be determined from the X-ray diffraction pattern. Typical HAp peaks in the diffractogram of the synthesized sample appear at $2\theta = 25^{\circ}$, 31° , and 32° . However, in addition to these peaks, other peaks indicate the presence of impurity phases at $2\theta = 17.9^{\circ}$. The ICSD database compared these peaks: 01-089-6440. In addition, it is known that the crystal structure of the synthesized HAp obtained is hexagonal with a space group of P63/m. The degree of crystallinity is determined by comparing the crystal area fraction with the sum of the crystal area fraction and the amorphous area that can be calculated from the XRD data in Equation (3). Furthermore, the crystallite size can be determined using the Debye-Scherrer equation, Equation (4) below:

$$Xc = 100 \times \frac{(I_{300} - V_{112/300})}{I_{300}} \quad (3)$$

Where I_{300} is the intensity of the diffraction peak at (300), $V_{112/300}$ is the intensity (112) and (300). The purity of HAp K5% is 70.34%, HAp K10% is 74.06%, and HAp K15% is 89.77%. It proves that the low solid/liquid ratio affects the crystallinity of the HAp obtained, although not much.

$$D = \frac{k\lambda}{\beta \cos \theta} \quad (4)$$

This equation requires the FWHM value; this value can be found using the Highscore software or can also be found using the Gaussian method in the Origin software. Next, D is the crystallite size, β is the Full Width at Half Maximum (FWHM) in radians, k is the Scherrer constant (0.9), λ is the X-ray wavelength of Cu K α radiation, which is 1.5406 Å, and θ is the Bragg angle.

After obtaining the shape and group space of the HAp sample, an analysis is carried out by comparing the lattice parameters of each variation of the NHA synthesis results with the lattice parameters of the standard compound to show that the synthesis results are truly HAp. Shown in the **Table 1**.

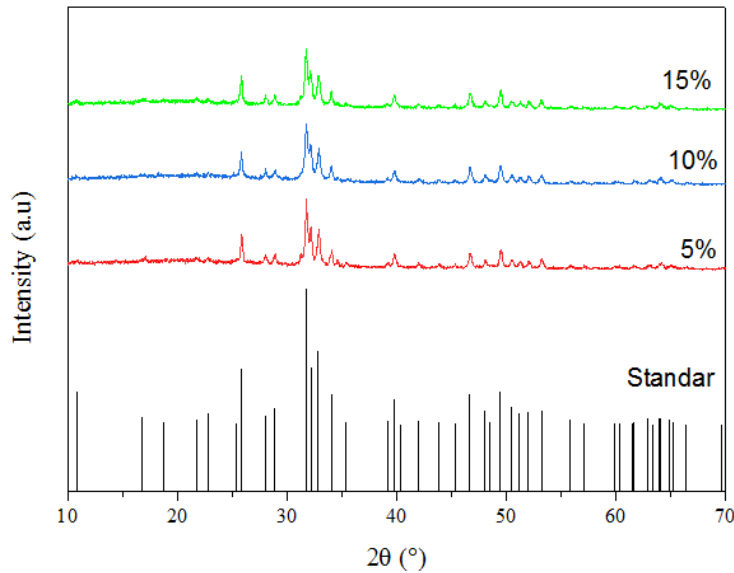


Figure 2. XRD diffraction patterns for each variation of HAp synthesis results

Table 1. Lattice Parameters of NHA Synthesis Results from Each Variation

Sample	Lattice Parameters			
	a=b (Å)	c (Å)	$\alpha = \beta$ (°)	γ (°)
HAp Standart	9,4240	6,8860	90	120
HAp K5%	9,3869	6,8882	90	120
HAp K10%	9,4429	6,8882	90	120
HAp K15%	9,4459	6,8841	90	120

Several sources affect the purity of the XRD test results. Some of the causes are the presence of contamination of raw materials used in the synthesis, which can cause additional diffraction peaks that are not indexed in the XRD pattern; improper synthesis processes such as temperature or time so that the synthesis does not run optimally, and the use of doping can also cause impurities; if the dopant is not evenly distributed, it will produce additional diffraction peaks or change the position of the existing diffraction peaks¹⁷.

Table 2 shows that the higher the template concentration, the smaller the crystal size and the higher the degree of crystallinity. The role of banana peel templates greatly affects the HAp synthesis process. In addition to the high phytochemical content, banana peels contain pectin in varying amounts. The pectin content in banana peels is around 1.92%–3.25% of the dry weight¹⁸. This increase occurs because the template's content is cross-linked with Ca^{2+} to form a Ca-template complex through electrostatic and ionic interactions between Ca^{2+} and the carboxyl and hydroxyl groups located in phenolic and flavonoid compounds on the template. This complex then reacts with PO_4^{3-} to form HAp crystallites. This mechanism is in accordance with the **Figure 3**.

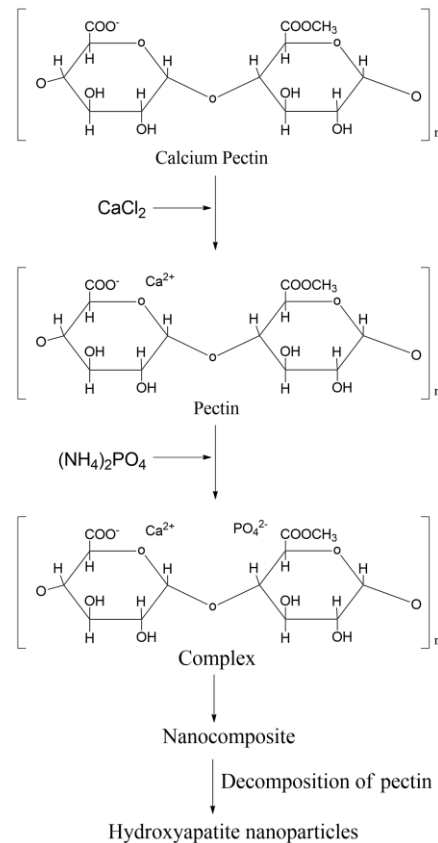


Figure 3. Formation mechanism of HAp nanoparticles

Table 2. The crystal size and degree of crystallinity of the HAp synthesized from each variation

Sampel	Crystal size (nm)	Crystallinity(%)
HAp K5%	39.9237	70.3430
HAp K10%	37.5358	74.0644
HAp K15%	34.7379	89.7748

HAp Characterization Using BET

The surface area, pore size, and pore volume of HAp of each variation of synthesis results were analyzed to identify its physical and chemical properties. The analysis was carried out using the Brunauer-Emmett-Teller (BET) method, and the adsorption-desorption plot shown in **Figure 4.** showed that HAp of each variation showed a shape similar to the type IV physisorption isotherm and the type H3 loop. It indicates the formation of secondary pores in larger gaps in the nanoparticle aggregates ¹⁹.

The results of the analysis of pore volume and pore diameter of particles in HAp of each variation using the BET method are shown in **Table 3.** In this case, the pore diameter can determine the type of pores in HAp particles, significantly affecting their physical and chemical properties. Of the three HAp variations, the synthesis results have an average pore diameter of 7 nm. Thus, it can be concluded that the HAp of each variation of the synthesis results is included in the mesoporous category ²⁰.

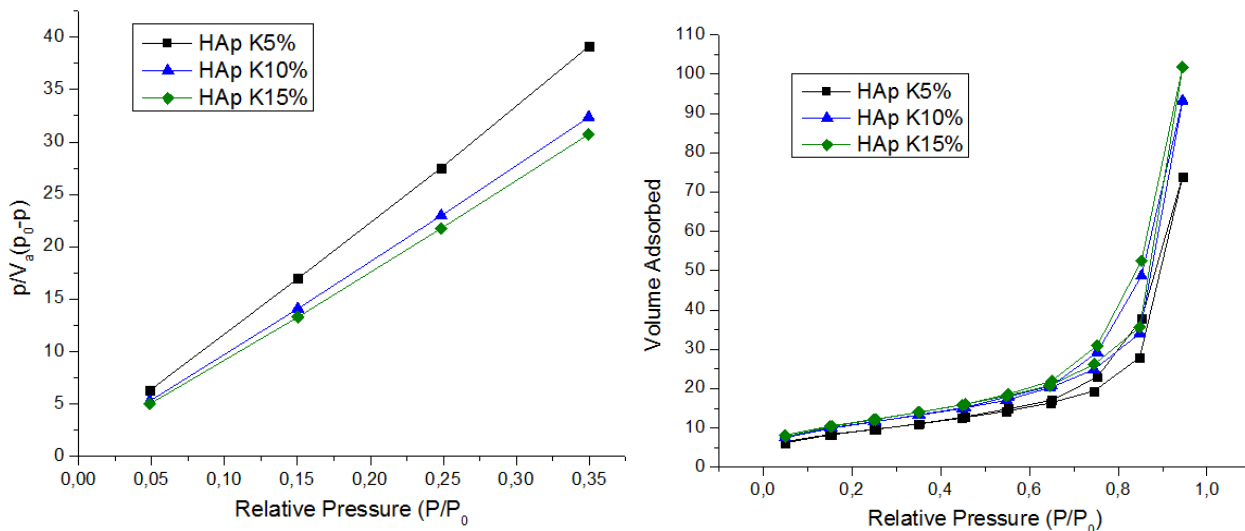


Figure 4. Linear plot of BET equation & adsorption-desorption isotherm HAp for each variation

Table 3. Measurement results with BET HAp for each variation

Sample	Pore Size (nm)	Surface Area (m ² /g)	Pore Volume (cc/g)
HAp K5%	7.2178	30.111	0.1145
HAp K10%	7.5536	39.664	0.1446
HAp K15%	7.8164	42.316	0.1577

The table above shows that of the three HAp variations. HAp, with a 15% green template concentration, has a larger pore volume and diameter than other variations, which are 0.1577 m²/g and 7.8164 nm. It is in accordance with the effect of the green template on the HAp synthesis process and the characteristics produced. In HAp synthesis, the green template can act as a pore former that maintains the initial template structure, thus affecting the pore size and porosity formed. Therefore, the use of green template in hydroxyapatite synthesis can affect the pore size and porosity produced, which is essential in the application of HAp as a drug delivery system ²¹.

HAp toxicity test on CV-1 cells

Toxicity testing is significant as a parameter for biomedical applications because biocompatibility is one of the critical parameters that need to be considered in the selection of materials in the medical field. Biocompatibility is defined as the ability of a material to provide an excellent biological response when applied to the body ²².

Toxicity testing is carried out in vitro using cell cultures to detect the presence of antineoplastic activity from a compound. The results of the HAp K15% toxicity test on CV-1 cells are shown in **Table 4,** with variations in HAp concentrations of 7.81, 15.63, 31.25, 62.50, 125.00, 250.00, and 500.00

µg/mL in each cell. Dilution is carried out to allow for a more accurate measurement of cytotoxic activity. By changing the sample concentration, the critical point at which these substances begin to show toxic effects can be determined ²³.

Table 4. Percentage of live cells HAp K15% toxicity test

Sample (µg/mL)	Percentage of living cells (%)
Media & sel (+)	101.76
Cisplatin (-)	29.94
29.94	109.62
7.81	105.16
15.63	103.21
31.25	98.30
62.50	94.93
125.00	86.96
250.00	67.16
500.00	109.62

The analysis results showed the highest percentage of living cells at a concentration of 7.81 µg/mL with a percentage of living cells of 109.62%. The high percentage of living cells is due to the optical density value of the sample, which is getting closer to the optical density value of the control. Based on ISO 10993-5:2009 (Part E), the results of the toxicity test on cells show that HAp at each concentration is not toxic because the growth of living cells exceeds the toxic limit of 50% (grade 2) and can potentially be used as a drug delivery system. However, the table above shows that the higher the concentration of HAp, the smaller the percentage of living cells. Therefore, in its application, it must be noted that high concentrations of HAp can increase its toxic properties. It can be seen in the cell morphology, indicating that the higher the concentration of HAp, the greater the damage to the morphology. The morphology can be seen in **Figure 5**.

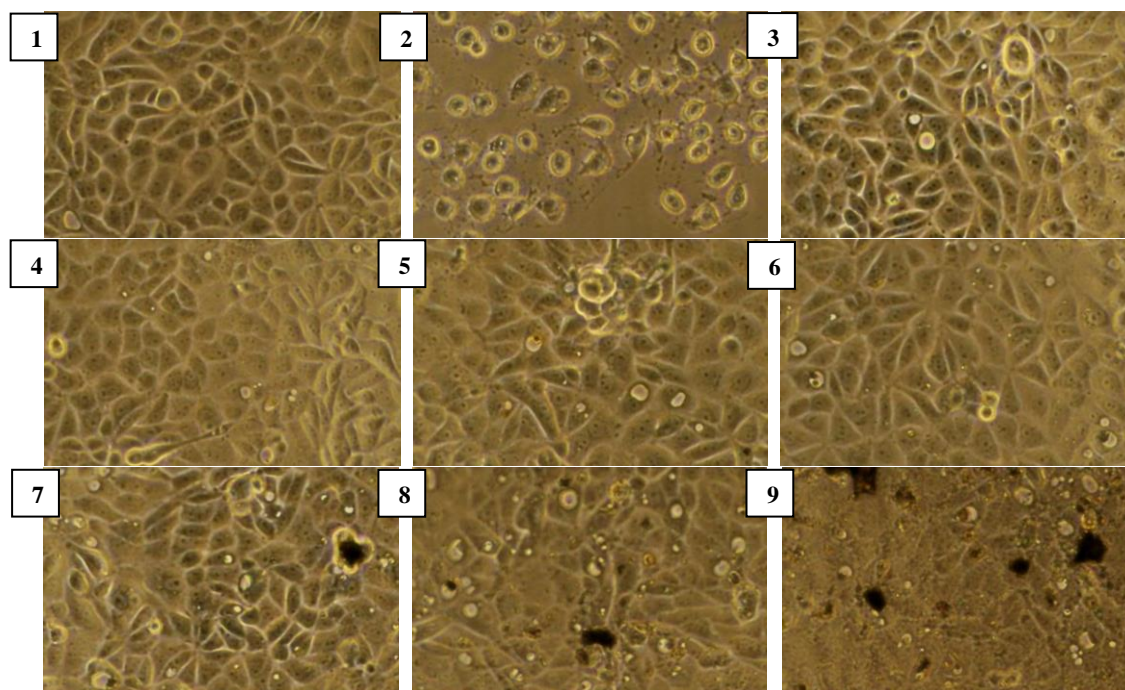


Figure 5. Control (+); 2) Control (-); 3) 7.81 4) 15.63; 5) 31.25; 6) 62.50; 7) 125.00; 8) 250.00; 9) 500.00

Drug loading and drug release

The drug loading test was carried out for 24 hours to determine the efficiency of drug loading into HAp. The drug release test determined the concentration of ibuprofen released in a medium at 30, 60, 90, 120, 150 and 180 minutes at a temperature of 37 °C.

The loading efficiency of ibuprofen HAp K15% of 67.86% is shown in **Figure 6**. In previous research by Singh et al. in 2020, loading ibuprofen drugs on pure HAp only obtained an efficiency value of 33% ²⁴. It is appropriate because of the pore size, pore volume, and surface area of Hap K15% in the BET results above. Larger pore size, pore volume, and

surface area can increase drug loading capacity. The larger the pore size can increase the surface area; likewise, if the available pore volume is larger, the more active substances can be adsorbed or absorbed ²⁵.

The percentage of ibuprofen released in the solution was carried out for 180 minutes with a 30-minute interval, as shown in **Figure 7**. At 60 minutes, there was a spike in its levels; this spike was caused by drug molecules that attached to the surface area quickly, and then there was a slow, linear, and continuous release of the drug when the SBF solvent entered the drug carrier matrix through the pores and diffused ²⁶. At a later time, there was no spike in the levels of ibuprofen released. However, the release that

occurred to ibuprofen tended to be unstable; this could be associated with uneven drug absorption, where some drugs diffused into the pores of the HAp matrix while the rest attached to the surface²⁷.

At 60 minutes, there was a significant spike in ibuprofen concentration. This spike can be attributed to drug molecules' rapid attachment to the HAp matrix's surface area. Meanwhile, a study conducted by Singh in 2020 found that pure-HAp nanoparticles showed drug release without a burst release effect, with 30% drug release in the first 25 hours. Although in the first 10 hours, the decline tended to be unstable, like HAp K15%²⁴.

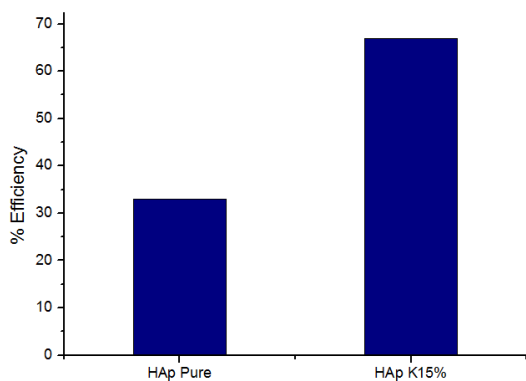


Figure 6. Comparison of pure UAp efficiency with HAp K15%

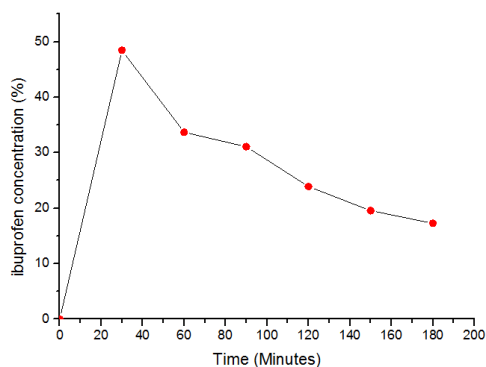


Figure 7. Percentage of ibuprofen released over time interval

This behavior is consistent with the principle of drug release kinetics, where an initial rapid release often occurs due to the presence of drug molecules available on the surface of the carrier material. This phenomenon is commonly observed in drug delivery systems, where surface-bound drugs are released rapidly before a more gradual release of drug molecules embedded in the matrix begins²⁸. After this initial spike, the release profile shifts to a slow, linear, and sustained release phase. This sustained release can be explained by the diffusion of artificial body fluid (SBF) solvents into the drug carrier matrix. As the solvent penetrates the pores of the HAp, it facilitates the diffusion of ibuprofen molecules from within the matrix to the surrounding solution. This mechanism is consistent with established drug release theory, where

the release rate is influenced by the ability of the solvent to penetrate the matrix and the drug concentration gradient. However, the paper also notes that the subsequent release of ibuprofen did not show a further spike and was characterized by instability. This instability may be related to the uneven adsorption of the drug within the HAp matrix. Specifically, it suggests that while some ibuprofen molecules successfully diffuse into the pores of the HAp, others remain attached to the surface. This uneven distribution may lead to fluctuations in the released ibuprofen concentration over time, as surface-bound drug molecules may be released at different rates than those encapsulated in the matrix²⁹. The release behavior of ibuprofen from the HAp matrix reflects a complex interplay between surface attachment, matrix diffusion, and the characteristics of the drug carrier itself. These findings have explored the mechanism of drug release in similar biomaterials, highlighting the importance of understanding the physical properties of the drug carrier and the interactions between the drug and the matrix in optimizing drug delivery systems³⁰.

4. CONCLUSIONS

Based on the findings of this study, it can be inferred that an increase in the concentration of the green banana peel template significantly influences the properties of the synthesized hydroxyapatite (HAp). The X-ray diffraction (XRD) analysis indicates that using the banana peel template contributes to a reduction in crystal size and an enhancement in crystallinity. Specifically, the crystal sizes observed during HAp synthesis were 39.9237 nm at a 5% concentration, 37.5358 nm at 10%, and 34.7379 nm at 15%. The degree of crystallinity measured varied between 70% and 89%. Additionally, the Brunauer-Emmett-Teller (BET) analysis revealed that the pore sizes across the different concentrations ranged from 7.2 to 7.8 nm, with surface areas between 30 and 42 m²/g, and pore volumes from 0.11 to 0.15 cc/g. Notably, the HAp synthesized with a 15% concentration of the banana peel template shows promise for application as a drug delivery system. Toxicity assessments on normal cells indicated that viable cells remained above 50%. Furthermore, drug loading experiments conducted over 24 hours achieved a loading efficiency of 67%. However, the results from the drug release studies indicated that the concentration of ibuprofen released at various time intervals (30, 60, 90, 120, 150, and 180 minutes) exhibited instability.

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