



Fabrication Polyvinyl alcohol - Poly-Acrylic acid/ Niobium Carbide New Bio-Films for Antibacterial Applications

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Abstract

Films of polyvinyl alcohol - poly-acrylic acid biopolymer blend and biopolymer blend doped with niobium carbide nanoparticles have been prepared by using casting method for antibacterial application. Bionanocomposites were prepared with concentration polyvinyl alcohol (85 wt.%) and poly-acrylic acid (15 wt.%). The niobium carbide nanoparticles were added to biopolymer blend by different concentrations. The (PVA-PAA-NbC) nanocomposites were tested for antibacterial against staphylococcus aureus (*S. aureus*). The experimental results showed that the nanocomposites have good activity for antibacterial.

Key words: nanocomposites, antibacterial, staphylococcus aureus, biopolymer

INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, microbial infections are a great concern because they are one of the main primary causes of death worldwide, especially in healthcare institutions, where people are generally more vulnerable. This fact is mainly due to the persistence of potentially pathogenic microbes (bacteria, viruses and fungi) in several locations, such as textiles, healthcare products, medical devices, water purification systems, sanitation facilities, among others. Particular relevance is given to the medical field, in which healthcare infections represent the majority of the adverse events occurring in hospitals. Moreover, most patients exposed to the microorganisms are already in poor health conditions and, therefore, are unable to resist further disorders and other additional complications. For instance, serious infections derived from the use of long-term medical implants (e.g., catheters) can be caused by bacteria that are resistant to different antibiotics. Indeed, the increasing growth of multidrug-resistant microbes, along with the fact that they can easily spread to different environments and by different ways (air, soil and water), makes the prevention of antimicrobial infections very challenging [1]. Gradual development of different antibiotic resistant bacterial strains has nowadays made it imperative to research new drugs or materials with a wide spectrum of effective antimicrobial activities. Recent studies on nanomaterials elicit that different metallic and metal oxide nanoparticles (NPs) may have very promising and potent roles as antimicrobial agents. Such NPs, due to their large surface to volume ratio and crystalline structure, trigger biological responses different from those produced by the traditional ionic form of the metals. Moreover, metallic NPs were found to have (a) 7–50 times less toxic effect to mammalian cells than their corresponding ionic forms and (b) prolonged effect as a source of elements in an organism [2]. Polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) is an important water-soluble transparent polymer and is extensively used in industries due to the excellent chemical and physical properties, non-toxicity, good chemical resistance, good film formation capacity, biodegradability and high crystal modulus. PVA is used here in hydrolyzed form with the degree of 85% hydrolysis. It is a polymer with many technological, pharmaceutical and biomedical applications [3]. Poly (vinyl alcohol) (PVA) is a biodegradable synthetic polymer, which is a kind of thin film material with excellent performance and wide application. In addition, the research results on the composite film of polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) with a variety of materials, including essential oils, modified nanomaterials etc., proved its good packaging performance, and the existence of film pores and the size of the loading affect the number of antimicrobial agents, thus affecting the antibacterial properties of the film [4]. The metal nanoparticles exhibit unique optical, electrical, magnetic, thermal, chemical and biological properties, providing opportunities for potential technological, biological, medical applications [5]. Nanocomposites materials have properties combine the properties of the filler and matrix. The new material has applications in fields: antibacterial [6-11], humidity sensors [12-17], pressure sensors and piezoelectric [18-22], radiation shielding [23-25] and thermal energy storage and release [26-29]. Niobium carbide is type of transition metals carbides which has unique properties resembling with metal and ceramic constituents and used in many technological applications due to their high strength, durability [30].

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The nanocomposites of polyvinyl alcohol (PVA)- poly-acrylic acid (PAA) and polyvinyl alcohol- poly-acrylic acid doped with niobium carbide (NbC) nanoparticles have been prepared by using casting method. The (PVA-PAA-NbC) nanocomposites films were prepared by dissolving 1 gm of polymers with concentration 85 wt.% PVA and 15 wt.% PAA by using magnetic stirrer to mix the blend for 1 hour to obtain more homogeneous solution. The NbC nanoparticles were added to blend with concentrations are (1.5, 3, 4.5 and 6) wt.%. Antibacterial activity of the nanocomposites tested samples was determined using a disc diffusion method. The antibacterial activities were done by using gram positive organisms (*Staphylococcus aureus*). The disks of nanocomposites were placed over the media and incubated at 37°C for 24 hours. The inhibition zone diameter was measured.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Characteristics Breeders:

The arrangements of NbC nanoparticles in (PVA-PAA) blend at magnification power (40x) is shown in figure 1. The figure shows that the NbC nanoparticles is aggregated as a cluster at lower concentrations. When increasing the concentrations of NbC nanoparticles, the nanoparticles form a paths network inside the (PVA-PAA) blend [31]. This behavior consistent with the results of researchers [32,33].

The antibacterial properties of the (PVA-PAA-NbC) nanocomposites were tested against gram-positive (*Staphylococcus aureus*) and the obtained data are presented in figure 2. From the figure, it can see the inhibition zone increases with increasing the concentrations of NbC nanoparticles. The toxic mechanisms of antimicrobial materials coming from the mixture of an antimicrobial agent and a non-active polymer, are as similar as the mechanism of the agent itself. In polymer/metal nanocomposites therefore the main toxic mechanism relates with the nanoparticles meaning, as previously discussed, two possible routes depending on the species considered as the active agent: (1) the metal nanoparticle or (2) the metal ions released from the particles. However, a growing number of reports indicate that the ion release is the driving force behind the antimicrobial properties of antibacterial nanoparticles. In fact, most of the analyses regarding antimicrobial metal nanoparticles focused on the metal ion release instead of the particle absorbed by the bacteria. This was confirmed by the results coming from polymer/metal nanocomposites where the antimicrobial effect of these materials related with the metal ion releases rather than with the leaching of the particle [34].

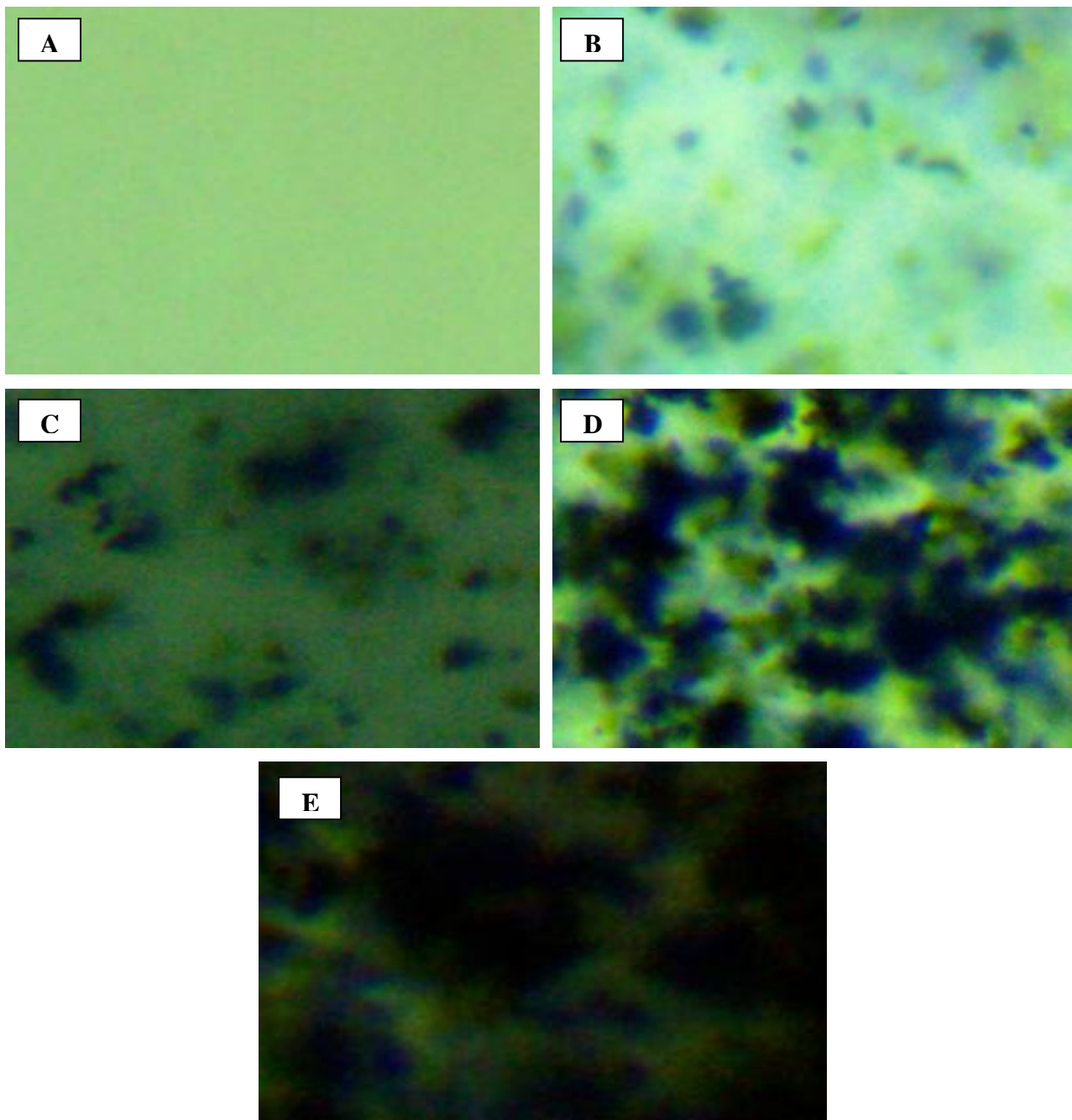


Fig. 1. Photomicrographs (40X) for (PVA-PAA-NbC) nanocomposites: (A) for (PVA-PAA) blend, (B) for 1.5 wt.% NbC, (C) for 3 wt.% NbC, (D) for 4.5 wt.% NbC, (E) for 6 wt.% NbC.

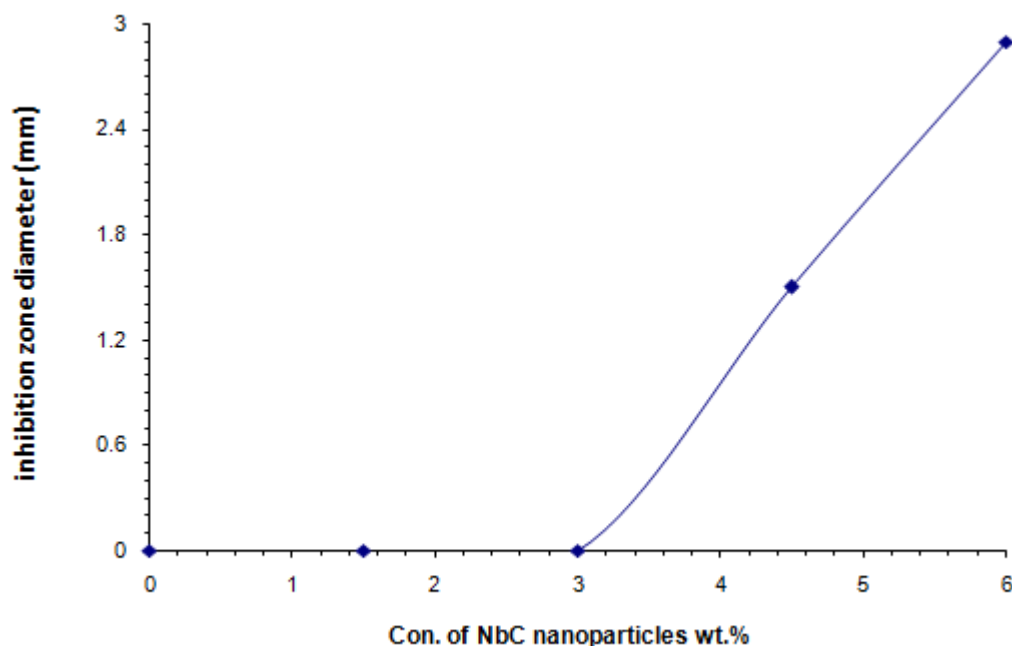


Fig. 2. Variation of inhibition zone diameter with concentration of NbC nanoparticles against gram-positive (*Staphylococcus aureus*).

CONCLUSIONS

- 1- The NbC nanoparticles is aggregated as a cluster at lower concentrations. At high concentrations of NbC nanoparticles, the nanoparticles form a paths network inside the (PVA-PAA) blend.
- 2- The inhibition zone for *S. aureus* increases with increase in concentrations of NbC nanoparticles.
- 3- The (PVA-PAA-NbC) nanocomposites have good antibacterial activity against *Staphylococcus aureus*.

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