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4. The Development of Biomaterials for Medical Implants

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ABSTRACT

Advanced materials with excellent biocompatibility that readily adapt to the system in which they are implanted without causing negative reactions or side effects are categorized as biomaterials. All four of the primary types of biomaterials—bioceramics, metallic biomaterials, biopolymers, and bio composites—have intriguing properties that make them useful for the medical field. These properties include biocompatibility, bioactivity, degradability, long-term stability, and many more.

They can also be used to manufacture cutting-edge medical devices. It is obvious that more adaptable and efficient implantable biomaterials are required, as is the training of skilled workers for biomaterials design and manufacturing research and development. Science and technology are imposing new designs on all these implantable biomaterials through the combination of novel biomaterials, novel coatings, and novel design and manufacturing technologies (biomimetic biomaterials, functional biomaterials, nanotechnology, finite element modeling, additive manufacturing, 3D printing, tissue engineering, and drug delivery), which will, in the near future, revolutionize the implant industry.

A crucial element in the long-term viability of implants is the appropriate choice of implant biomaterial. Implants should be chosen to minimize the adverse biologic response while preserving appropriate function because the biologic environment does not accept all materials. Biomaterials are used in many different applications, such as implant materials, medication delivery systems, probes and nanoparticles, tissue regeneration, and integrated approaches to enhance tissue repair. This paper will talk about. Evolution of Biomaterials for Implants in Medicine.

KEYWORDS

Biomaterials, Medical Implants, Biocompatibility, Bioactivity, Degradability, Biopolymers, Drug Delivery, Nanoparticles, Ceramics, Polymers, Composite.

Introduction:

Modern technology has developed in large part because to the contributions of material science. Materials and their use are among the most essential components of technology in all of its various fields. The medical or biomedical field is one that plays a significant part in human life and aids in the continuation of life on Earth by resolving and treating health-related concerns in people. Advanced materials are those kinds of materials with the right qualities to be used in medical inventions and the medical profession. [1] Biomaterials, smart materials, semiconductors, and nanomaterials are the four basic categories into which advanced materials are typically classified. Due to a number of significant characteristics, including biocompatibility, bioactivity, degradability, long-term stability, and many more, biomaterials are the most widely used among them in the medical field. These characteristics allow biomaterials to adapt to the environment and organs in which they are implanted as a medical treatment and to stay in place for an extended period of time without losing their effectiveness. In addition, they can be made to have a specific activation time when the body's or the organs' cells renew; additionally, they can be made to decay and vanish so that they don't need to be removed again. This feature sets them apart from other kinds of advanced materials. [2]

New product development is never as easy as one may initially think or idealize and always takes longer than anticipated. A translational research symposium was arranged for the European Society for Biomaterials (ESB) 2022 congress, which took place in Bordeaux, France. It was intended to show, through four actual cases provided by the firms AlchiMedics, TISSIUM, Cousin Surgery, and Medtronic, the clinical development path of biomaterials. Three instances show how the trip began with scholarly study and was then expanded upon by businesses, either in collaboration with or independently from academic research teams. On the other hand, Medtronic worked with two teams, one in the US and the other in France, to fully develop their innovative resorbable mesh internally.

Biomaterials

The term "biomaterial" was first introduced in 1987 by the European Society for Biomaterials to describe a nonbiological material intended to interact with biological systems in a medical device. Over time, the definition of biomaterial has changed, taking on many meanings based on the context in which it is used. As of right now, biomaterials are any materials that interact with biological systems in order to assess, cure, or replace any kind of tissue or bodily function.

The capacity of a material to elicit a sufficient response from the host in a particular circumstance is known as biocompatibility, and it sets a biomaterial apart. Depending on the necessary performance or function, the definition of biocompatibility can also be interpreted differently. According to Chen et al.'s study, biocompatibility has been measured in certain research based on the substance's capacity to cause immunological response, tumor formation, genetic damage, cell death in live tissues, or blood clot formation. The Food Drug Administration (FDA) determined that a substance must not injure a patient in order for it to be deemed biocompatible, taking into account the variety of concerns that may arise.

Therefore, a medical device's biocompatibility needs to take into account both the biological compatibility of the materials used and the design, including the mechanical performance, electric control, and shape. [3]

Today's medical practices rely heavily on biomaterials to help patients recuperate from illnesses and injuries by restoring function. Biomaterials provide support, enhancement, or replacement for injured tissue or a biological function in medical applications. They might be synthetic or natural. Ancient Egyptians employed animal sinew sutures, which is when biomaterials were first used in history. Medicine, biology, physics, chemistry, and more recently, tissue engineering and materials science have all influenced the study of biomaterials today. The discipline has expanded dramatically over the last ten years as a result of advancements in regenerative medicine, tissue engineering, and other areas.

A biomaterial can be made from any material, including glass, ceramics, metals, plastic, and even living cells and tissue. For application in biomedical goods and gadgets, they can be reengineered into molded or machined parts, coatings, fibers, films, foams, and textiles. Heart valves, hip replacements, dental implants, and contact lenses are a few examples of them. They are frequently biodegradable and, in the case of some, bio-absorbable, which means they leave the body gradually after serving a purpose. [4]

Review of Literature:

Biomaterials are materials that have been developed and designed to interact with biological systems in implants and medical devices. These materials should be biocompatible, meaning they shouldn't have an adverse effect on the body, and they should also possess the mechanical and physical properties required for their intended usage. Biomaterials can be easily separated into metals, ceramics, polymers, and composites. Numerous biomaterial devices, including dental implants, joint replacements, pacemakers, artificial heart valves, drug delivery systems, and tissue scaffolds, have been developed using these materials. (Y.-H. Hwang, 2020) [5]

Biomaterials can also be engineered to deliver therapeutic medicines to specific bodily regions or to encourage the creation of new tissue. Biomaterial selection for biomedical devices and implants is based on the intended use as well as the unique requirements of the patient.

For instance, a patient with a heart condition might need a biomaterial that is flexible and can withstand the heart's constant movement, and a patient with a bone fracture might need a biomaterial that is strong and can support the body's weight. Metals like titanium and stainless steel are commonly used for orthopedic implants because of their durability and strength. M. Shimabukuro (2020). [6]

Objectives:

- Biomedical implants demand has increased recently due to poor lifestyles.
- The surface modification technique improves the bioactivity of the bio-implants.
- To Study the Development of Biomaterials for Medical Implants

Research Methodology:

The overall design of this study was exploratory. The research paper is an effort that is based on secondary data that was gathered from credible publications, the internet, articles, textbooks, and newspapers. The study's research design is primarily descriptive in nature.

Result and Discussion:

Even with the advancements in medical technology, organ dysfunction or failure as a result of tissue damage or degeneration remains a global disease that poses a threat to people's health and quality of life. Therefore, it is becoming more and more necessary to replace or repair tissues or even complete organs. In the clinic, autologous or allograft therapy is the gold standard. However, the use of auto-/allo-grafts is often hampered in many cases by factors such as donor scarcity, mismatched size and modality, functional loss of the donor region, potential immunological rejection, and so on. Fortunately, new hope has been raised by the development of biomaterials, which have been designed to improve human life in a variety of ways, from healing damaged tissues like the heart and bones to restoring tissue/organ functions following atherosclerosis, arthritis, and tooth decay. From the first to the fourth generation (Figure 1), the concept of the essential essence of biological materials has changed significantly throughout time, and this process is still going on now. [7]

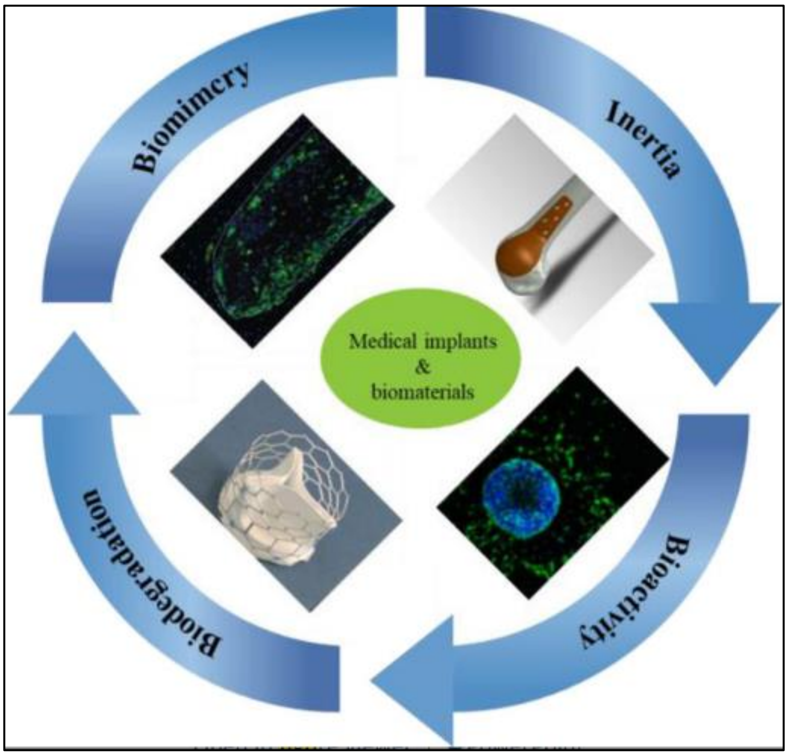

Figure 1: The evolution of biomaterials. The lateral femur is where the biocompatible Latella knee implant is positioned. Reproduced with permission. Copyright 2017, SAGE. Spheroid-laden hydrogels after culturing for seven days. Reproduced with permission.

First-generation biomaterials were created for use in traditional medical devices and implants. Typically, these biomaterials are inert, striving for biocompatibility to replace injured tissues and offer structural support.

The creation of bioactive elements (the second generation) that would facilitate particular biological reactions at the material interface became the primary focus of the biomaterials area after a thorough understanding of the foreign body reaction was gained. Afterwards, in order to satisfy the demands for repairing increasingly complicated and severe tissues and organs, the design of biomaterials got more intricate and carefully regulated. The third generation of biomaterials is equipped with programmable rates of disintegration and absorption in biological environments, together with the ability to promote the regeneration of live tissue, in an effort to further overcome the shortcomings of solid permanent implants. Furthermore, during material decomposition and absorption, this type of substance can integrate and repair tissues because it can be chemically broken down and absorbed by living things. The extracellular matrix (ECM), which can be precisely edited on a nanoscale or microscale to control cell proliferation and differentiation in tissue engineering, is the primary model for the structure and component features of biomimetic or smart biomaterials (the fourth generation). [8]

The main goal of medical intervention is to return the human anatomy to its pre-damaged state following physical trauma, illness, or genetic abnormality. Two important markers of successful implant surgery are biocompatibility and bespoke manufacturability.

Over the years, biomaterials have become more and more prevalent in numerous medical sectors as a result of ongoing research and development. "Any material used to manufacture devices that replace a part or a function of the body in a safe and reliable way" is the definition of a biomaterial.

The general population's increased average life expectancy has resulted to an increase in the frequency of implant installations, particularly for orthopaedic implants. Patients have reduced mobility and related pain as their joints deteriorate with age. This suggests that a growing segment of the population requires implant surgery.

The necessity for these devices has emerged as a major motivator for biomaterials and medical implant research and development. Because of this, it is crucial that biomaterials are applied to as many bodily parts as feasible. In order to permanently address problems like mobility and function, this will be crucial.

The variety of biomaterials available for experiment is growing, but only those that have been approved can be used to make biomedical implants. Only when comprehensive medical testing has been completed to determine a material's biocompatibility with the human body can it be considered authorized. Medical issues that could arise from the use of a particular material in the design of an implant include tissue damage, blood clots, and bacterial infections. Because of this, the material in question needs to go through extensive clinical trials in order to prove that it is biocompatible and meet FDA or equivalent regulations. To enable the implant to be placed in vivo, an appropriate surface coating may be used. [9]

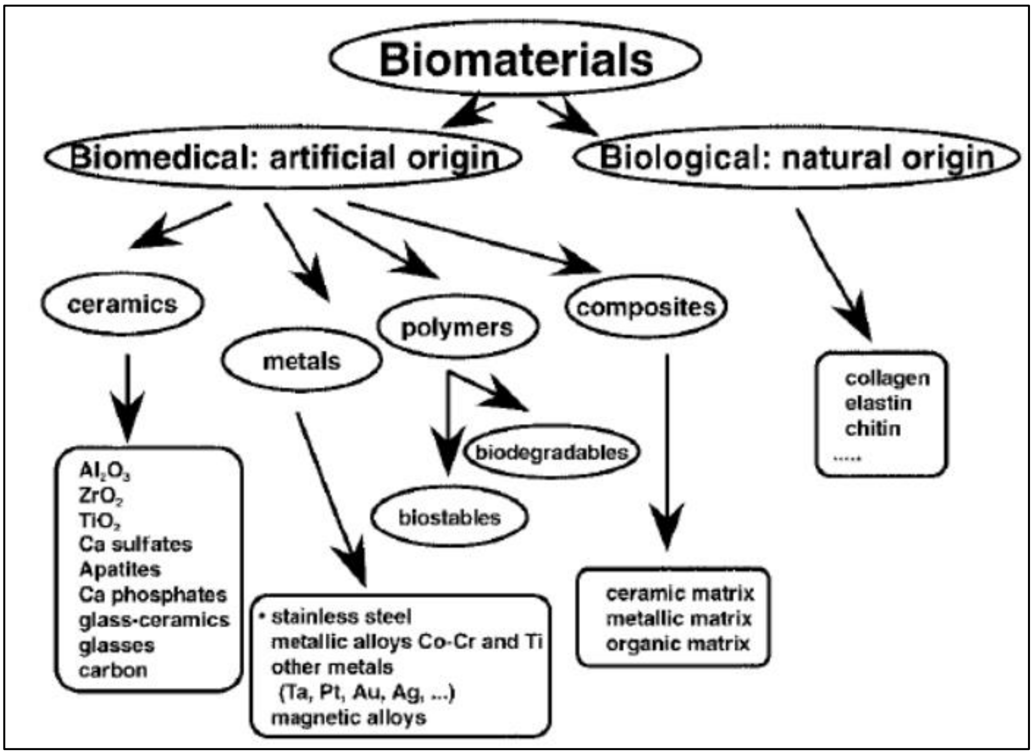

Figure 2: Classification of biomaterials.

It's likely that in the upcoming years, life expectancy will rise significantly. Both good and bad news may be found in this fact at the same time. The good news is that most people will undoubtedly concur that the later we pass away, the better. The bad news is that biomaterials technology is still in its infancy and that the additional medical expenses resulting from this extended mean life will be substantial. Additionally, extending one's life should strive to improve quality of life in terms of economy and health. To find the best answers, biomaterials need to be studied and produced. Implant availability is very high these days, as Figure 2 illustrates. The study of prostheses and implants, surgical tools and supplies, and all the chemistry and biology that goes along with it are all included in health engineering. A coordinated effort involving several experts from multiple fields of expertise is always required in the field of biomaterials. [10]

Without this crucial coordination, biomaterials work would not be what it is today because it would consist of isolated inquiries into various aspects that, while potentially fascinating basic research, would not address the ultimate goal of the material. Instead, the biomaterial would require the realization of several stages, starting with the manufacture of the material to be used, continuing with the processing and control of quality and bio health requirements, and concluding with the clinical application and its subsequent removal of implants. There is a lot of work involved in resolving issues, from the initial idea of what to manufacture to the final placement of the implant in the patient. These professionals range widely and include medical professionals, research scientists, engineers, veterinarians, industrial managers, and legal counselors. As befits a multifaceted discipline, intervention from remarkably various expertise is therefore necessary over this lengthy journey. [11]

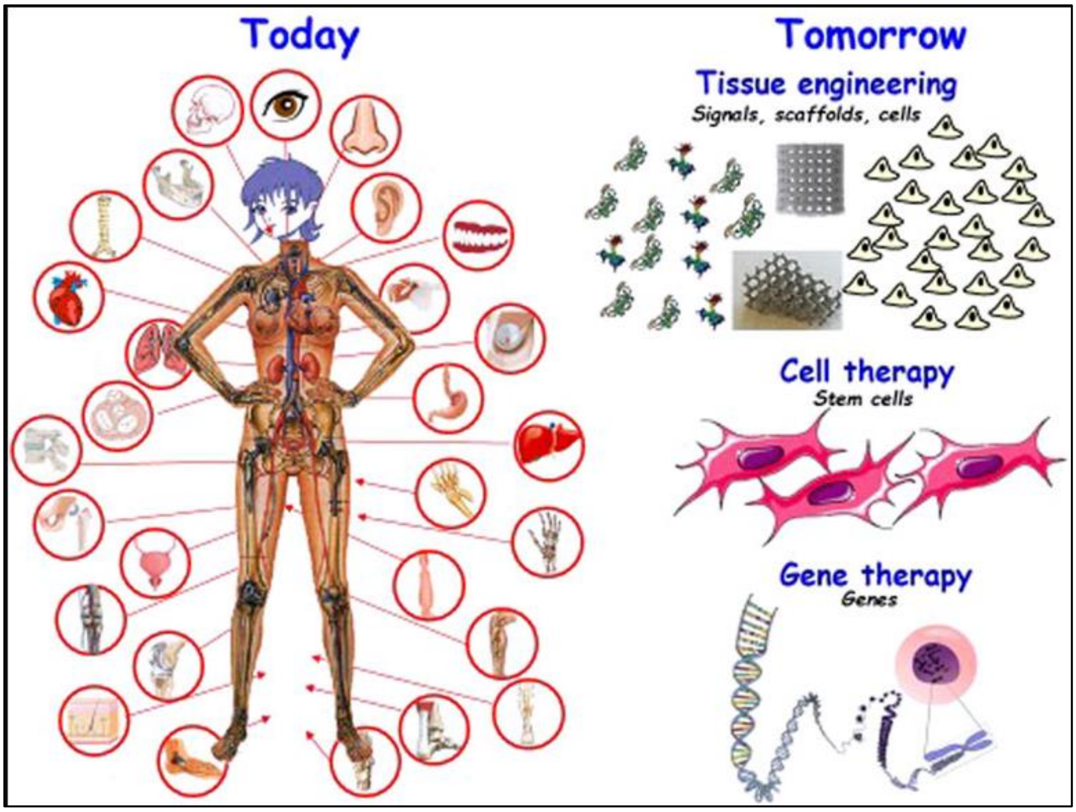

Figure 3. Translation from the laboratory to the patient's bed.

The idea that biomaterials should be designed and evaluated in vitro and in vivo without taking biology into account is out of date. They are obviously required, and we have the option of using several materials to make them. Initially, the materials themselves were considered to be the most crucial component in the creation of these replacements for the damaged human body parts, and provided they satisfied certain requirements, you may begin using them. [12]

Polymeric Biomaterials for Medical Implants:

The different materials utilized in biomedical implantable devices, such as the polymeric materials used as substrates and for the packaging of these devices, are the main topic of this review article.

Because they are biocompatible, flexible, and easy to fabricate, polymeric materials exhibit a wide spectrum of mechanical, electrical, chemical, and thermal characteristics when paired with other materials to form composites. Implanted device packaging is commonly made of biocompatible and biostable polymers. The primary requirements are water and gas permeability of the packaging material to shield the device's electronic circuit from ions and moisture within the human body. Additionally, polymeric materials need to be able to hold the device for the anticipated lifetime of the implant and have a high tensile strength.

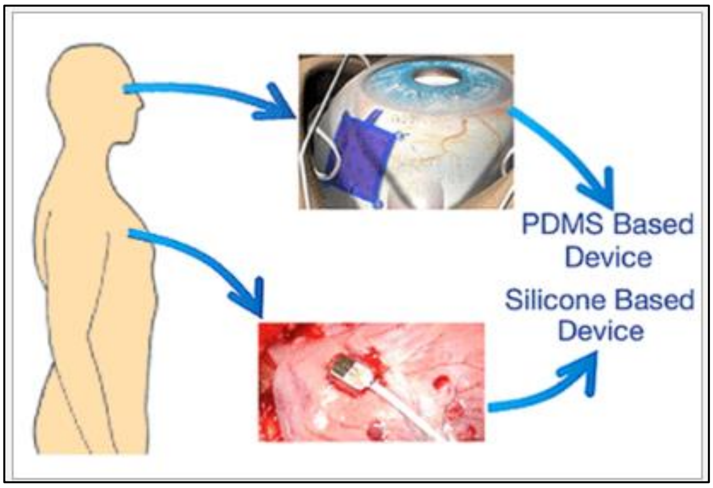

Figure 4: Polymeric Biomaterials for Medical Implants

Structural and, occasionally, electrical qualities would be more important for substrates. A few medical devices and implants are introduced in Section 1, together with the specifications and qualities needed for the materials. Following an examination of a variety of synthetic polymeric materials, including polyvinylidene fluoride, polyethylene, polypropylene, polydimethylsiloxane, parylene, polyamide, polytetrafluoroethylene, poly (methyl methacrylate), polyimide, and polyurethane, liquid crystalline polymers and nanocomposites were assessed as biomaterials appropriate for biomedical packaging (section 2). [13]

Types of Biomaterials and their Medical Applications:

Generally speaking, there are two primary groups of biomaterials: natural and synthetic (Figure 5). Hyaluronic acid, chitosan, collagen, and silk are examples of natural biomaterials derived from natural sources. They can be derived from plants or animals, and they often exhibit excellent biological degradation and biocompatibility.

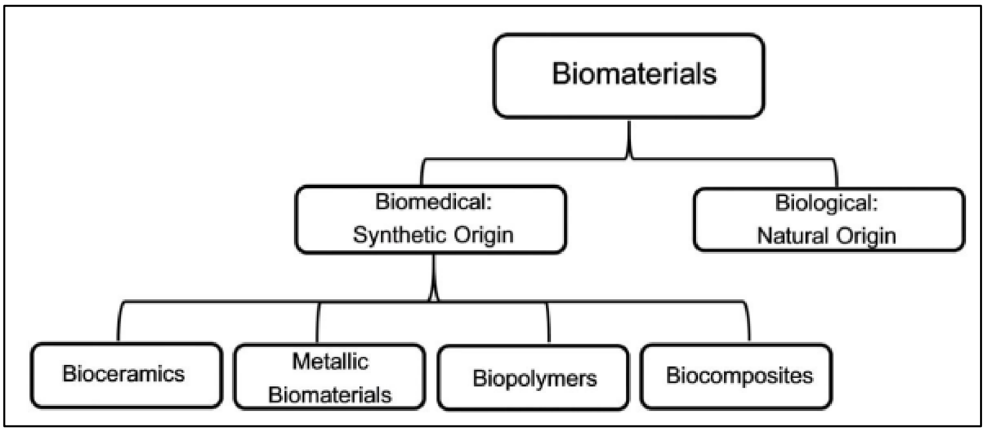

Figure 5: Classification of Biomaterials

However, synthetic biomaterials can be produced chemically; they cannot be obtained from a natural source. We will concentrate on the second one in this review, which has four primary categories: bioceramics, metallic biomaterials, biopolymers, and biocomposites. Each of these types has unique properties that aid in technological advancement.

Biocompatibility: the host must tolerate the imposed material for the duration of contact; biofunction: the suitability of the intervention must be ensured to avoid interferences that could impair its performance; and biodegradable: to increase their biocompatibility and minimize a patient's negative immune response involving removal of the medical device. These are some of the main requirements described by Reinwald regarding the functional characteristics of a biomaterial. Safety is thought to be the most important feature of a medical device. Table 1 lists the primary biomaterial classes, attributes, and uses that are currently in use. [14]

Table 1: Group of biomaterials, characteristics, and applications.

Material	Advantages	Disadvantages	Applications
Polymer	Easy to produce, low density	Low mechanical resistance, easily degradable	Sutures, arteries, veins, artificial tendons, implants
Metal	Ductility, high resistance to wear and impact	Low biocompatibility and resistance to corrosion in physiological environment, mechanical properties very different from biological tissues	Staples, plates and wires, joint prostheses, dental implants, cranial plaques
Ceramics	High biocompatibility, corrosion resistance, inert, low thermal and electrical conductivity	Low impact strength, difficult to reproduce properties, difficult manufacturing and processing	Coatings, medical equipment and tools, bone filling
Composite	High biocompatibility, corrosion resistant, inert	Inconsistent and difficult replication	Heart valves, implants, artificial joints

When it comes to toxicology, biomaterials can still be distinguished by the way they respond: they become toxic when adjacent and surrounding tissues die, nontoxic and biologically inactive when fibrous tissue of varying thickness forms, nontoxic and biologically active when bonding forms in the interface zone, and nontoxic and biodegradable when the involving tissue takes the place of the implant.

The four primary materials utilized in the manufacture of medical devices are metal, ceramics, polymers, and composites. The choice of material for each application is directly related to the natural properties of each material, such as its biocompatibility and resistance to corrosion, mechanical and metallurgical properties, as well as the material's performance during processing and use, cost, and availability. This is because it is necessary to identify the most appropriate solution for each situation.

Biomaterials are synthetic or natural materials that can be utilized in medical devices to administer therapeutic substances, enhance function, or replace or repair damaged tissues.

Their characteristics can significantly affect how effective they are in therapeutic settings because they are made to interact with biological systems.

- **Metals and Alloys**

Metals and alloys are widely used as biomaterials in medical devices because of their superior durability, biocompatibility, and resistance to corrosion. They are perfect for use in dental and orthopedic implants, where robustness and longevity are essential. Because of its great strength, low weight, and exceptional biocompatibility, titanium and its alloys are frequently utilized in orthopedic applications such as hip and knee replacements and dental implants. Because of its affordability, ability to withstand corrosion, and strength, stainless steel is also frequently utilized in medical devices.

- **Ceramics**

A family of biomaterials known for its superior mechanical, chemical, and biocompatibility qualities is ceramics, which finds extensive application in medical devices. These are inorganic materials that are formed into dense, hard, and brittle materials by processing metal or non-metallic components at high temperatures.

Because of its excellent strength, inert behavior, and physical characteristics including low thermal and electrical conductivity, ceramics were utilized in surgical implant devices. Ceramics' low ductility and brittleness, among other characteristics, have restricted its application.

- **Polymers**

Due to their affordability, ease of manufacture, and flexibility, polymers constitute a diverse class of biomaterials that find widespread application in medical devices. It is possible to modify the composition and processing parameters of these synthetic materials, which consist of repeating units, to customize their mechanical and physical characteristics.

- **Composites**

Composites are a class of biomaterials with enhanced performance features that are created by combining two or more materials with different properties. Because they can provide a balance of mechanical, physical, and biological qualities that is impossible to attain with a single material, composites are frequently utilized in medical devices.

Conclusion:

Bioceramics, metallic biomaterials, biopolymers, and biocomposites are the four main categories of biomaterials. Each of these materials has a wide range of significant uses in the biomedical field, including bone regeneration, tissue engineering, total hip replacements, dental castings, rib straightening, wound healing, and many more. Rethinking the past is necessary when assessing the present and making predictions about the future.

The majority of implant-related literature does not discuss the materials used in implants, their makeup, or their characteristics. The impact of material qualities on implant success and failure, as well as their impacts on the surrounding tissues, are likewise absent from the literature.

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