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Formation of Periodic Nanostructures on Titanium Dioxide Film by Femtosecond Laser Irradiation[†]

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Abstract

Periodic nanostructures formation on Titanium dioxide (TiO₂) film by scanning of femtosecond laser beam spot is reported. Periodic nanostructures, lying perpendicular to the laser electric field polarization vector, were formed on TiO₂ film by femtosecond laser irradiation for 1mm/sec at laser fluence from 0.35 J/cm² to 0.65J/cm². For 0.5mm/sec, they were formed at laser fluence from 0.35 to 0.55 J/cm². Periodic nanostructures were also formed on large areas of the film. The period of Periodic nanostructures was 200 nm.

KEY WORDS: (Femtosecond Laser), (Titanium dioxide), (Aerosol beam), (Periodic nanostructures)

1. Introduction

Metals are most widely used in medical devices. Titanium (Ti) is one of the most used biomaterials in metals, because of its excellent anti-corrosion and mechanical properties. However, Ti is an artificial material and has no biofunction. Thus, it is necessary to improve the bioactivity of Ti. It is well known that microstructures formation on Ti surface is one of the useful methods to improve its biocompatibility¹⁾. Recently, coating of the titanium dioxides (TiO₂) film on Ti plate has been also proposed to improve biocompatibility of Ti²⁾. We have developed a coating method of TiO₂ film on Ti plate with an aerosol beam³⁻⁴⁾. Then, we proposed periodic microstructures formation on TiO₂ film. Biocompatibility of the TiO₂ film could be more improved than a bare TiO₂ film.

The femtosecond laser is one of the useful tools for creating microstructures on metals⁵⁻⁷⁾ and semiconductors⁸⁻⁹⁾. In our previous study, periodic nanostructures, lying perpendicular to the laser electric field polarization vector, were formed on Ti plate by femtosecond laser irradiation⁵⁻⁶⁾. Femtosecond laser induced periodic nanostructure is self-formed in the laser spot. Period of periodic nanostructures is about 600 nm. This is shorter than the wavelength of the femtosecond laser. Periodic nanostructures were also formed on TiO₂

single crystal with femtosecond laser by another group⁸⁾. Then, the period of periodic nanostructures was about 200 nm. Hence, Periodic nanostructures could be formed on TiO₂ film by femtosecond laser irradiation. It is necessary for biomaterials to form periodic nanostructures on large areas of the TiO₂ film. Periodic nanostructures formation on Ti and TiO₂ film by scanning of a femtosecond laser focusing spot has not been elucidated yet.

In this study, we try to create periodic nanostructures on large areas of TiO₂ film by scanning of the femtosecond laser spot. The influence of the laser fluence and scanning speed for producing the periodic nanostructures was investigated. Period of periodic nanostructures of TiO₂ film was also examined. After femtosecond laser irradiation, TiO₂ film surface was observed by scanning electron microscope (SEM).

2. Experimental

TiO₂ film was produced on Ti plate by aerosol beam irradiation. An aerosol beam is produced by mixing the TiO₂ particles and Helium (He) gas. The TiO₂ particles are accelerated by the flow of He gas and carried to the processing chamber through the tube and nozzle. After TiO₂ particles impact with the substrate, TiO₂ films are deposited on the substrate. Pure Ti plate was used for

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substrate in this experiment.

Schematic diagrams of femtosecond laser irradiation are shown in **Figs. 1 (a)**. A commercial femtosecond Ti : sapphire laser system was employed in our experiments, which was based on the chirped pulse amplification technique. The wavelength, pulse duration, repetition rate, and beam diameter of the femtosecond laser were 775 nm, 150 fs, 1 kHz, and approximately 5 mm, respectively. The laser beam was focused on the TiO₂ surface by using a lens with 100 mm focal length. The Gaussian laser beam had a diameter of 60 μm (at the 1/e² intensity points) on the film. The laser beam was scanned on the TiO₂ film surface by using the XY stage as shown in **Fig. 1 (b)**. Scanning speed was changed from 0.5 to 1 mm/s. Laser fluence was changed from 0.25 J/cm² to 0.85 J/cm² by controlling the energy attenuator. To form periodic nanostructures on large areas of the film, laser beam was also scanned on the TiO₂ film surface by using the XY stage as shown in **Fig. 1 (c)**. Scanning speed, laser fluence and hatching distance was 1.0 mm/s, 0.35 J/cm² and 20 μm, respectively. After the femtosecond laser irradiation, the film surface was

observed with an SEM.

3. Results and Discussion

SEM images of bare TiO₂ film (no laser irradiated area) surface and femtosecond laser irradiated areas for 1 mm/sec at laser fluences of 0.25, 0.35, 0.45, 0.55, 0.65, 0.75 and 0.85 J/cm² are shown in **Figs. 2 (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g) and (h)**, respectively. Periodic nanostructures were not formed on bare TiO₂ film surface as shown in Fig.2 (a). As Fig. 2 (b) shows, the topography of laser irradiated area was changed at 0.25 J/cm². However, periodic nanostructures formation was not clearly observed. As Figs. 2 (c), (d), (e) and (f) show, periodic nanostructures, lying perpendicular to the laser electric field polarization vector *E*, were formed on the film surface at 0.35, 0.45, 0.55 and 0.65 J/cm², respectively. The period of periodic nanostructures formed on the film 0.35 J/cm² was about 200 nm. It was not changed from 0.35 to 0.65 J/cm². Over 0.75 J/cm², the film was broken. But, periodic nanostructures were formed on Ti plate as shown in Figs. 2 (g) and (h). The period of periodic nanostructures formed on Ti was about 600 nm. These results show periodic nanostructures were

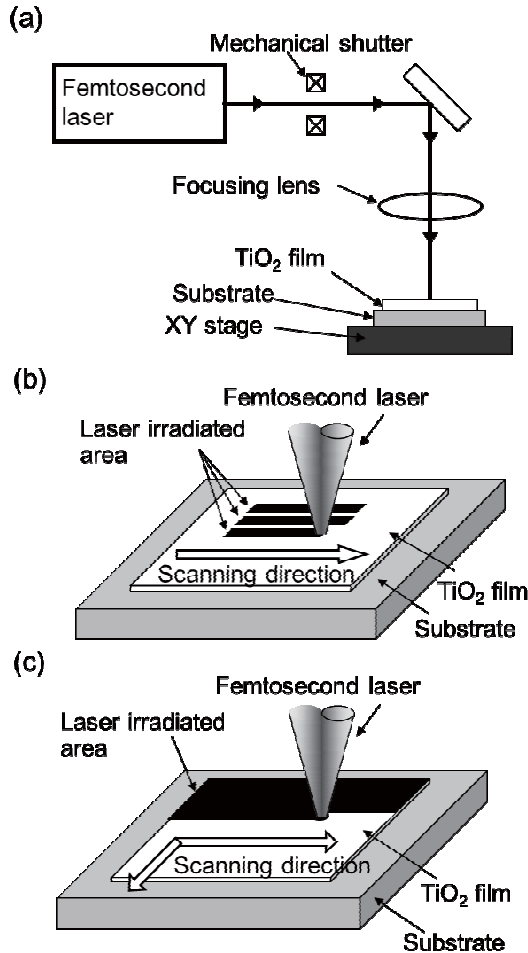


Fig. 1 (a) Schematic diagram of experimental setup for femtosecond laser irradiation. (b) Scanning of the laser focusing spot. (c) Scanning of the laser focusing spot to create periodic nanostructures on large areas of the film.

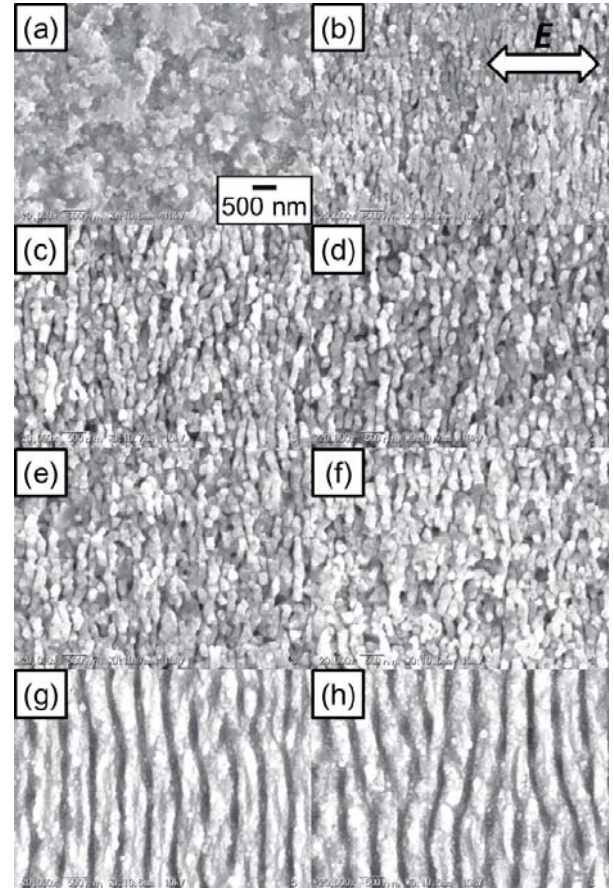


Fig. 2 SEM images of (a) bare TiO₂ film surface and TiO₂ film surface after femtosecond laser irradiation for 1 mm/sec at the laser fluence of (b) 0.25, (c) 0.35, (d) 0.45, (e) 0.55, (f) 0.65, (g) 0.75 and (h) 0.85 J/cm², respectively.

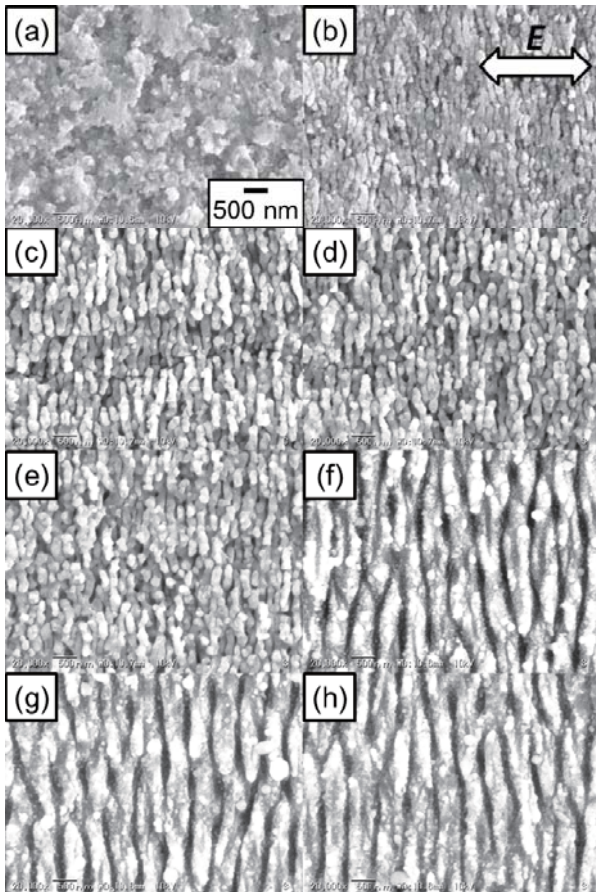


Fig. 3 SEM images of (a) bare TiO₂ film surface and TiO₂ film surface after femtosecond laser irradiation for 0.5 mm/sec at the laser fluence of (b) 0.25, (c) 0.35, (d) 0.45, (e) 0.55, (f) 0.65, (g) 0.75 and (h) 0.85 J/cm², respectively.

formed on the film by scanning of femtosecond laser spot for 1 mm/sec at laser fluence from 0.35 to 0.65 J/cm².

For 0.5 mm/sec, SEM images of bare TiO₂ film surface and femtosecond laser irradiated areas at laser fluences of 0.25, 0.35, 0.45, 0.55, 0.65, 0.75 and 0.85 J/cm² are shown in **Figs. 3 (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g) and (h)** respectively. As Fig. 3 (b) shows, topography of laser irradiated area was changed at 0.25 J/cm². However, periodic nanostructures were not clearly formed on the film. As Figs. 3 (c), (d) and (e) show, periodic nanostructures, lying perpendicular to the laser electric field polarization vector *E*, were formed on the film surface at 0.35, 0.45 and 0.55 J/cm², respectively. The period of periodic nanostructures formed on the film at 0.35 J/cm² was about 200 nm. It was not changed from 0.35 to 0.55 J/cm². Over 0.65 J/cm², the film was broken. But, periodic nanostructures were formed on Ti plate as shown in Figs. 3 (f), (g) and (h), respectively. The period of periodic nanostructures formed on Ti was about 600 nm. These results show periodic nanostructures were formed on the film by scanning of femtosecond laser spot for 0.5 mm/sec at laser fluence from 0.35 to 0.55 J/cm².

To create periodic nanostructures on large areas of the film, we tried to form periodic nanostructures on

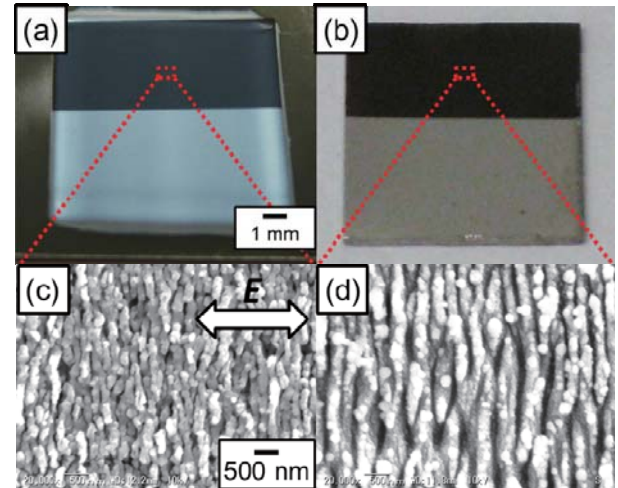


Fig. 4 Optical and SEM images of periodic nanostructures formation on large areas: (a) and (c) on TiO₂ film, (b) and (d) on Ti plate.

the TiO₂ film surface in 10 mm × 5 mm by scanning of the femtosecond laser spot as shown in Fig. 1 (c). Optical and SEM image of TiO₂ film surface after scanning of femtosecond laser beam spot for 1mm/sec at 0.35 J/cm² was shown in **Figs. 4 (a) and (c)**. As Figs. 4 (a) and (c) show, periodic nanostructures were clearly formed on film surface in 10 mm × 5 mm. The period of periodic nanostructures formed on TiO₂ film was about 200 nm. We also created periodic nanostructures on Ti plate with the same condition. Optical and SEM images of the Ti surface after scanning of a femtosecond laser beam spot for 1mm/sec at 0.35 J/cm² are shown in **Figs. 4 (b) and (d)**. As Figs. 4 (b) and (d) show periodic nanostructures were produced on Ti plate in 10 mm × 5 mm. The period of periodic nanostructures formed on Ti was about 600 nm. The period of periodic structures formed on TiO₂ film and Ti plate was very different by scanning of femtosecond laser spot. It was suggested that mechanism of periodic nanostructures formation is very different from TiO₂ film and Ti plate.

4. Summary

We tried to create periodic nanostructures on large areas of TiO₂ film. Periodic nanostructures were formed for 1 mm/sec at laser fluence from 0.35 to 0.65 J/cm². For 0.5mm/sec, they were formed at laser fluence from 0.35 to 0.55 J/cm². Periodic nanostructures were also formed on large areas of the film. The period of Periodic nanostructures was about 200 nm. It was very different from TiO₂ film and Ti plate.

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