



# Spectroscopic Investigation and Magnetic Study of Iron, Manganese, Copper and Cobalt-doped Hydroxyapatite Nanopowders

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## Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration between both authors. Author HK designed the study, wrote the protocol, and wrote the first draft of the manuscript, also managed the literature searches, analyses of the study performed. The spectroscopy analysis were managed the experimental process. Both authors read and approved the final manuscript.

## Article Information

DOI: 10.9734/PSIJ/2015/18676

### Editor(s):

(1) Daniel Beysens, OPUR International Organization for Dew Utilization, France.

(2) Christian Brosseau, Distinguished Professor, Department of Physics, Université de Bretagne Occidentale, France.

### Reviewers:

(1) Anonymous, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi, Romania.

(2) Anonymous, Madras University, India.

Complete Peer review History: <http://sciencedomain.org/review-history/9768>

Original Research Article

Received 5<sup>th</sup> May 2015  
Accepted 27<sup>th</sup> May 2015  
Published 15<sup>th</sup> June 2015

## ABSTRACT

Pure, Mn<sup>+2</sup>, and Fe<sup>+3</sup>- doped hydroxyapatite (HAp) nanoparticles were synthesized by the wet chemical method. Another two samples were prepared by mixing Mn<sup>+2</sup> with Cu<sup>+2</sup> into HAp (Mn-Cu HAp) and Fe<sup>+3</sup> with Co<sup>+2</sup> into HAp (Fe-Co HAp). All samples were prepared without change in the stoichiometric ratio of Ca/P inside the structure of HAp. Samples were characterized by different types of techniques such as XRD, FTIR, ESR, SEM, and EDX. The measurements revealed that a typical HAp powder patterns were obtained. Comparing with pure HAp, Mn<sup>+2</sup> substituted HAp (Mn-HAp) and Fe<sup>+3</sup> substituted HAp (Fe-HAp) did not demonstrate significant structure deviation. Since the ion exchange mechanism was achieved for the preparation process, the morphology and particle size were not significantly affected but the calculated crystallinity index (CI) values were affected.

The absorption spectra of the doped samples are presented as absorption bands a typical Mn<sup>+2</sup>, and Fe<sup>+3</sup> occupying to different crystalline sites. The obtained data agrees well with that obtained

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from XRD. The crystal field parameters and crystallinity index for sites of these ions in the HAp matrix were calculated. SEM analysis indicated that nanoparticles aggregates were formed. EPR properties make the studied sample to be used in the field of hyperthermia application.

*Keywords: Hydroxyapatite; crystallinity index; nanoparticles and magnetic Hydroxyapatite.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

It is well known that hydroxyapatite (HAp) is the main inorganic phase of human bones and teeth [1]. Hydroxyapatite (HA) is the main inorganic phase of human bones and teeth which consist of nearly 72 wt% apatitic materials for bone and 96 wt% for teeth. Calcium to phosphate ratio (Ca/P) in the building structure of HAp is 1.67. This ratio is very close to that Ca/P of natural bone [2,3]. Synthetic Hydroxyapatites have a wide range of applications both in medicine and dentistry due to its excellent bioactivity, osteoconductivity and biocompatibility [4,5]. The bioactivity behavior of HAp obtained from their ability to bond directly with the living tissues. The biocompatibility property comes from having no toxic effects on human tissues [6,7]. Hydroxyapatite (HAp) and another calcium phosphate (CaP) materials in addition to its excellent bioactive they have good osteoconductive properties because of their similarity to natural bone material [8,9]. Implants coated with HAp promote a direct physiochemical bond with the bone, which leads to more rapid implant fixation and the development of a stable bone biomaterial interface [10].

The main disadvantage of HAp is that they cannot be applicable to use for heavy load bearing applications because of its low mechanical properties in wet environments. The long term performance is limited by problems like coating adhesion, rapid dissolution, fatigue failure and the creation of particulate debris but in another way it has the ability to promote bone attachment [11].

Magnetic nanoparticles are used in bio-applications are usually made from biocompatible materials such as magnetite ( $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ ) for which susceptibility is large. These magnetic particles have to be integrated into the structure of hydroxyapatite thus it has the potential to achieve localized tumor healing without any side effects i.e. hyperthermia effects. One of the main biomedicine sciences is the hyperthermia application consists of targeting magnetic nanoparticles to tumor tissue followed

by application of an external alternating magnetic field. The temperature in tumor tissue is increased to above  $43^\circ\text{C}$ , results in necrosis of cancer cells, then it does not damage surrounding normal tissue [12]. So, Magnetic hydroxyapatite is made by combining a super paramagnetic  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  nanoparticles and hydroxyapatite, thus it can form a composite material [13].

Nanoparticles are incorporated into different materials such as polymers, noble metals, metal oxides and silica. Many researchers have developed different magnetic nanoparticles of ferromagnetic bioglass ceramics which provide magnetic properties for hyperthermia purposes [14]. Many studies have indicated that HAp ceramics shows no toxic effects, inflammatory response, and pyrogenetic response. It is well known that HAp ceramics has excellent fibrous tissue formation between implant and bone and then better ability to bond directly to the host bone [15].

It was reported that insertion of the spinel ferrite  $\text{MnFe}_2\text{O}_4$  through a wet chemistry process resulted in nanoparticles having a core-shell structure (in which the core was made up of the ferrite and the shell of HAp. Synthetic HAp is capable of undergoing bonding osteogenesis and is relatively insoluble *in vivo* and successfully used in hard tissue surgery [16].

$\text{Mn}^{2+}$  containing HAp and tricalcium phosphate (TCP) were studied previously [17,18]. The motivation for the addition of  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  ions to HA was due to the fact that divalent  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  has been linked to the activation of integrins which are defined as a family of receptors which mediate cellular interactions with extracellular matrix and cell surface ligands. In the presence of  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  ions, cell adhesion is promoted because the ligand affinity of integrin increases.

Copper (Cu) ions are of interest with respect to materials for bone regeneration because of their proangiogenic potential. The most important problems with synthetic bone scaffolds is fast decrease in cells' viability with increasing distance from the surface of the scaffold material,

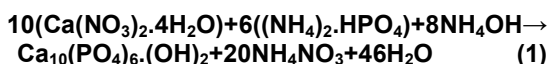
which occur from the inability of nutrients and oxygen to diffuse further than 150-200  $\mu\text{m}$  from the surface without a blood supply [19]. Stimulating infiltration of blood vessels into a bone substitute scaffold could increase the viability of bone forming cells within the scaffold then hasten the healing process.

The aim of this study is to shed more lights on new categories of magnetic hydroxyapatites. These types are having a good degree of magnetic properties and compatibility properties. These types of hydroxyapatites contain  $\text{Fe}^{+3}$ ,  $\text{Mn}^{+2}$ ,  $\text{Co}^{+2}$  and  $\text{Cu}^{+2}$  ions into the structure of HAp aiming to limit the formation of magnetic secondary phase and able to be manipulated in situ by magnetic forces. These new types of magnetic hydroxyapatites are a good candidate to be used in hyperthermia applications. As a fact, the use of magnetic stimulation in the field of tumor treatment is one of the modern trends which have received increased attention in scientific circles.

## 2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

### 2.1 Preparation Hydroxyapatite with Ca/P Molar Ratio of 1.67

Analytical grades of calcium nitrate  $\text{Ca}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (Merck) and diammonium hydrogen phosphate  $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{HPO}_4$  (Sigma-Aldrich) with Ca/P molar ratio 1.67 were used to produce pure HA was produced using the following chemical reaction



$\text{MnCl}_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (Sigma-Aldrich),  $\text{FeCl}_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ((Merck)),  $\text{CoCl}_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (Sigma-Aldrich), and  $\text{CuCl}_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ((Merck), were used as sources of,  $\text{Mn}^{+2}$ ,  $\text{Fe}^{+3}$ ,  $\text{Co}^{+2}$  and  $\text{Cu}^{+2}$  respectively [20]. The different types of hydroxyapatites were presented in Table 1. To produce a pure hydroxyapatite sample, a calculated amount of calcium nitrate ( $\text{Ca}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) was dissolved in 1 L distilled water with vigorous stirring (2 h) to form 0.5 M/L. then, Calculated amount of diammonium hydrogen phosphate  $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{HPO}_4$  was also dissolved in 1 L distilled water with vigorous stirring (2 h) to form 0.5 M/L and added dropwise to the calcium nitrate, the pH of the solution was adjusted to 10-11 using ammonia solution. The two solutions were mixed to obtain a Ca/P molar ratio of 1.667 at a controlled constant pH of

about 10-11. The mixture was continuously stirred about 1hr at temperature  $80^\circ\text{C}$  until a white transparent gel was obtained. The gel was cooled and incubating at  $40^\circ\text{C}$  for 24 h until a white precipitate was produced. The precipitate was decanted and filtrated under vacuum by using sintered Buchner funnel with continued washing by distilled water to remove ammonia solution and then dried in an oven at  $90^\circ\text{C}$ . The powdered sample was sintered at  $10^\circ\text{C}/\text{min}$  to  $900^\circ\text{C}$  for 1 h then placed in air-cooling to ambient temperature. The sintered product was crushed using agate mortar and pestle to obtain a resultant powder.

**Table 1. Chemical formulas and symbols for prepared samples**

Chemical formula	Symbol
$\text{Ca}_{10}(\text{PO}_4)_6(\text{OH})_2$	HAp
$\text{Ca}_{7.6}\text{Mn}_{2.4}(\text{PO}_4)_6(\text{OH})_2$	Mn- HAp
$\text{Ca}_{7.6}\text{Mn}_{1.6}\text{Cu}_{0.8}(\text{PO}_4)_6(\text{OH})_2$	Mn-Cu-HAp
$\text{Ca}_{7.6}\text{Fe}_{2.4}(\text{PO}_4)_6(\text{OH})_2$	Fe- HAp
$\text{Ca}_{7.6}\text{Fe}_{1.6}\text{Co}_{0.8}(\text{PO}_4)_6(\text{OH})_2$	Fe-Co- HAp

### 2.2 FTIR Measurements

Fourier transform infrared absorption signals of the studied HAp samples were measured at room temperature ( $20^\circ\text{C}$ ) in the wavelength range  $4000\text{-}400\text{ cm}^{-1}$  using a computerized recording FTIR spectrometer (Mattson5000, USA). Fine powdered samples were mixed with KBr in the ratio 1:100 for quantitative analysis and the weighted mixtures were subjected to a load of  $5\text{t}/\text{cm}^2$  in a revocable i.e to produce clear homogenous discs. Then, the IR absorption spectra were immediately measured after preparing the discs to avoid moisture attack.

### 2.3 X-ray Diffraction Analysis

The structure of dried and calcined samples was assessed using an X-ray powder diffractometer (a Philips PW1390 X-ray diffractometer) with Cu  $\text{K}\alpha$  target (Ni filter), wavelength ( $\lambda$ ) =  $1.54\text{ \AA}$ .  $\text{C/S} = 1 \times 10^3$ ,  $\text{KV} = 40$ , time constant (T.C) = 2 and  $\text{mA} = 25$  was used. The Bragg's angle ( $2\theta$ ) in the range of  $4\text{-}70^\circ$ , step size = 0.02 and step time 0.4s at room temperature. Crystallographic identification of the phases of synthesized apatites was accomplished by comparing the experimental XRD patterns to standards compiled by the Joint Committee on Powder Diffraction Standards (JCPDS).

The size of the crystallites responsible for the Bragg reflection of the (002) and (300) planes were determined using Scherer equation:

$$d = \frac{K \lambda}{\beta \cos \theta} \quad (2)$$

where  $d$  is the crystalline diameter in nm,  $\beta$  is the peak width at half-maximum peak height in radians,  $\lambda$  is the x-ray wavelength, typically 1.54 Å and  $\theta$  is the Bragg angle.

## 2.4 Electron Paramagnetic Resonance

Electron paramagnetic resonance (EPR) spectra were recorded at room temperature using a BRUKER ESP 300 FT-EPR spectrometer.

## 2.5 Surface Structural Analysis Using Scanning Electron Microscopy

Scanning electron microscopic (SEM) investigations were performed on glass samples at room temperature using an SEM model Philips XL30 attached with energy dispersive X-ray (EDX) unit, with accelerating voltage 30 kV, magnification up to 400,000. Surfaces of studied samples were coated with gold for morphological investigations.

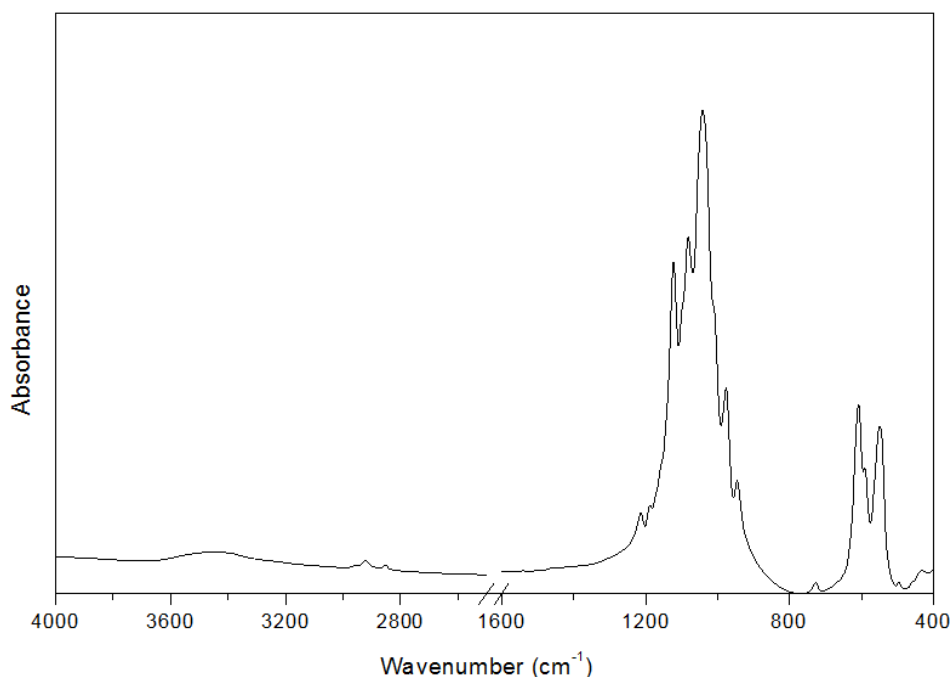
## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 3.1 Interpretation of the FTIR Spectra of the Pure Hydroxyapatite

During preparation of hydroxyapatite, the gel formed during the precipitation is an amorphous calcium phosphate (non-crystalline). This gel is then dried and fired at temperature 900°C which helps it to convert slowly to crystalline hydroxyapatite phase with Ca/P ratio 1.67 [21].

Fig. 1 show FTIR spectrum of pure HAp prepared by the wet chemical method. All hydroxyapatite characteristic bands are shown clearly. The observed FTIR spectra of the studied different types of hydroxyapatites can be realized and interpreted as follows.

The asymmetric stretching ( $\nu_3$ ) and bending ( $\nu_4$ ) modes of  $\text{PO}_4^{3-}$  ions were detected at 1048, 605 and 565  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , respectively [22]. Symmetrical stretching modes of  $\text{PO}_4^{3-}$  ions  $\nu_1$  and  $\nu_2$  were also found at around 960 and 470  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , respectively [23]. Stretching mode of the hydroxyl group ( $\text{OH}^-$ ) were detected at around 3570 and 1630  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  respectively [24].



**Fig. 1. FTIR of pure hydroxyapatite (HAp)**

### 3.2 Measurement of Crystallinity Index Using FTIR Spectra of the Pure Hydroxyapatite

The splitting of the peak in the wavenumber range (500-700)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  into a well-defined doublet indicates the presence of a fully crystalline solid [25]. This peak is attributed to antisymmetric bending of phosphate ions. This splitting of the peak can be used to measure a crystallinity index (CI) of such prepared HAp [26]. With this index, it can clearly show the effect of calcium ions substitution with other metal on the crystallinity of the prepared material. A graphical representation shown in Fig. 2 for this method is to measure the splitting of phosphate ion antisymmetric bending mode at 600  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . The steps are summarized in the following section.

A baseline was drawn at the bottom of the absorption band to mark the limit of ( $A_2$ ) region of the band. The upper two edges of the splitted band connected to determine the region which limits what is called the splitting area ( $A_1$ ). The relation between the two areas is defined to be as splitting function (SF) so, for an amorphous calcium phosphate a single broad peak exists; therefore the value of the splitting function also will be zero. The two areas  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  are calculated for the prepared HAp. Its values are 14.91 for  $A_1$  and 28.78 for  $A_2$ . Then the calculated crystallinity index for pure HAp is  $0.518 \pm 0.02$ .

A second method proposed by Weiner and Bar-Yosef [27]. In order to measure crystallinity index using FTIR, a baseline is drawn from 700 to 500  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  and the heights of the bands  $\nu_4$  at 605  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , 565  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , and 595  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  are measured. The  $(CI)_{FTIR}$  index is then the value calculated by the relation:

$$(CI)_{FTIR} = \frac{A_{565} + A_{605}}{A_{595}} \quad (3)$$

This method is used to give an indication for the change in crystallization behavior. It can be seen from this equation that (CI) depends on the absorption values at the wavenumbers 605  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , 565  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , and 595  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  then the crystal size increases the absorption at 565 and 605  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  increase. CI decreases as the increase of absorption at 595  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . In a general case for a sample with a high concentration of non-crystalline phases, the  $(CI)_{FTIR}$  index for a single peak in the range (700-500)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  can be made by using  $A_{565} \approx A_{605} \approx A_{595}$  (a sample with a high percentage of non-crystalline phase). The calculated value of  $(CI)_{FTIR}$  in this case  $\approx 2$ . In case of the presence of an abundance of crystalline phases i.e a well-defined double peak, the values of absorbance at 565  $\approx$  605  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  and 595 be equal to 1/2, then  $(CI)_{FTIR} \approx 4$ . The calculated values of the crystallinity indices for the all prepared samples measured by the two methods are given in Table 2.

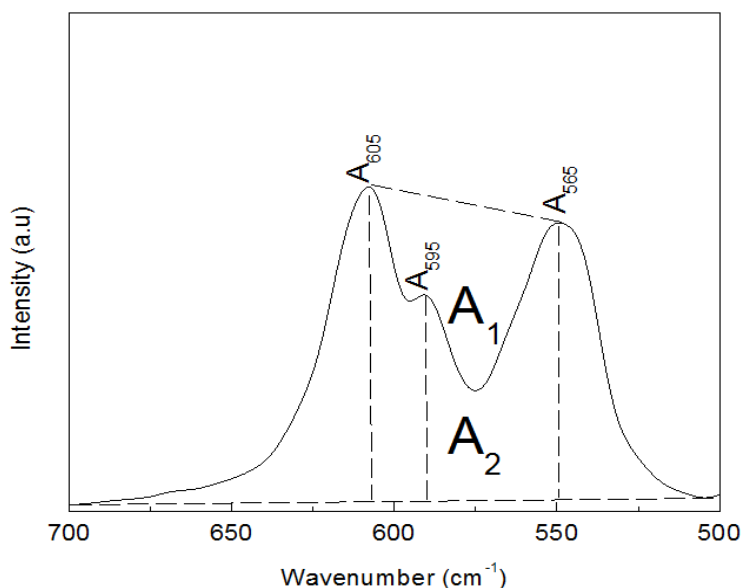


Fig. 2. A sketch represents the position of areas  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  used to calculate the crystallinity index also absorptions at wavenumbers 565, 595 and 605  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  also illustrated

### 3.3 Interpretation of the FTIR Spectra of Hydroxyapatite Doped with Mn and Cu

Fig. 3a shows FTIR of pure hydroxyapatite (HAp), Fig. 3b shows hydroxyapatite doped with Mn atoms at the expense of calcium atoms with the stoichiometric ratio of  $(Ca+metal)/P=1.667$  and Fig. 3c hydroxyapatite doped with Mn and Cu atoms. The figure reveals some structural changes that may be attributed to the conversion of crystalline structure hydroxyapatite to the amorphous structure.

In Fig. 3c the peak in the wavenumber range  $500$  to  $700\text{ cm}^{-1}$  are now merged and becomes a broad peak rather than splitting in pure hydroxyapatite which is attributed to the presence of amorphous calcium phosphate. There is an increase in intensity of the peak at  $720\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and the envelope in the ranges of  $800$  to  $1300\text{ cm}^{-1}$  becomes broader, this may also attribute to the amorphous structure. The sharpness of vibrational peaks at  $972\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $1160\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in hydroxyapatite decreases and the peaks become broader and less intense. The presence of small peak for C-O vibration bonds of carbonate group at  $1423\text{ cm}^{-1}$  provided the information that this sample contained carbonate ion and the presence of the carbonate ions promoted the incorporation of cation in the doped apatite [28]. The stretching mode of the  $\text{OH}^-$  was detected at around  $3570$  and  $1630\text{ cm}^{-1}$  respectively. The absence of the sharp vibrational peaks at  $940\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $1110\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , and  $1178\text{ cm}^{-1}$  may also be seen. The presence of Cu-O species was confirmed by a band at  $710$ - $760\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , which was assigned to a Cu-O stretch (characteristic of  $\text{Cu}^{+2}$ ) in O-Cu-O units [29]. The appearance of this feature was concurrent with the greatly decreased intensity of the OH stretch ( $3572\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) and the OH liberation ( $631\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) bands upon Cu doping. Bands related to OH stretches were disturbed by nearby Mn and Mn-Cu HAp and observed between  $3100$  and  $3600\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . Additional bands of low intensities are visible at  $818\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $833\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . These bands can be assigned to  $\nu_1$  and  $\nu_3$  vibrations of  $\text{Mn O}_4^{3-}$  groups.

### 3.4 Interpretation of the FTIR Spectra of HAp, Fe-HAp, and Fe-Co-Hap

The observed characteristic broad peaks (Fig. 4b and 4c) representing the phosphate ( $\text{PO}_4^{3-}$ )

group for the samples supported the formation of apatite. Additionally peaks for adsorbed water also appeared in the case of Fe-HAp sample. However due to sintering at  $900^\circ\text{C}$  the broad peak of the  $\text{PO}_4^{3-}$  group significantly changed to sharp and distinct peaks as clear for sample Fe-HAp. Particularly, the significant gap between the band positions of  $\text{PO}_4^{3-}$  group at  $560\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $620\text{ cm}^{-1}$  suggested the formation of the HAp. This result was then subsequently confirmed from the XRD data. The width of the broadband in the range,  $1200$ - $800\text{ cm}^{-1}$  increased in the sample Fe-Hap and Clearly the characteristic band positions observed for both of the synthesized samples are in good agreement with that of pure HAp. This observation supported the formation of the expected cation substituted HAp within the present experimental protocol.

### 3.5 Interpretation of the XRD of the Pure Hydroxyapatite

Fig. 5 shows XRD for pure HAp. All peaks are indexed to the hexagonal lattice of  $\text{Ca}_{10}(\text{PO}_4)_6(\text{OH})_2$  crystal. The wide and high peaks reveal that the pure HAp has a very small size (nanoparticles), also excellent crystal quality and no impurities were detected by X-ray. The d-spacing, intensities and lattice parameters for the Hexagonal HAp are compared with JCPDS Card (data file No. 74-0565) standard for HAp. The obtained lattice parameters are ( $a=9.424$  and  $C=6.879$ ) and the d values of the strongest three lines are  $2.81$ ,  $2.72$  and  $2.78$ .

Person et al. [30] suggested a model that can be used to calculate crystallinity index using the X-ray powder diffraction patterns. In this model, he suggested several peaks that are very close to each other located in the  $2^\circ$  range between  $30$  and  $35^\circ$  of an HAp X-ray chart. The reflections were (202), (300), (211), and (112). A baseline is drawn between  $24$  and  $38^\circ$  then the height of the highest peak with reflection (211) is measured from a baseline set between  $24$  and  $38^\circ$  of  $2\theta$  up to the top of the peak;  $H_{(211)}$ , and heights of the other peaks which are  $H_{(202)}$ ,  $H_{(300)}$  and  $H_{(112)}$  measured from the top of the corresponding peak and the "valley" separating it from the next peak, this method can be represented as shown in Fig. 6 Then, the (CI) XRD value is calculated by the following relation mentioned in equation (4). All the X-ray spectra have been checked for the presence of other different magnetic atoms which are Mn, Cu, Fe, and Co.

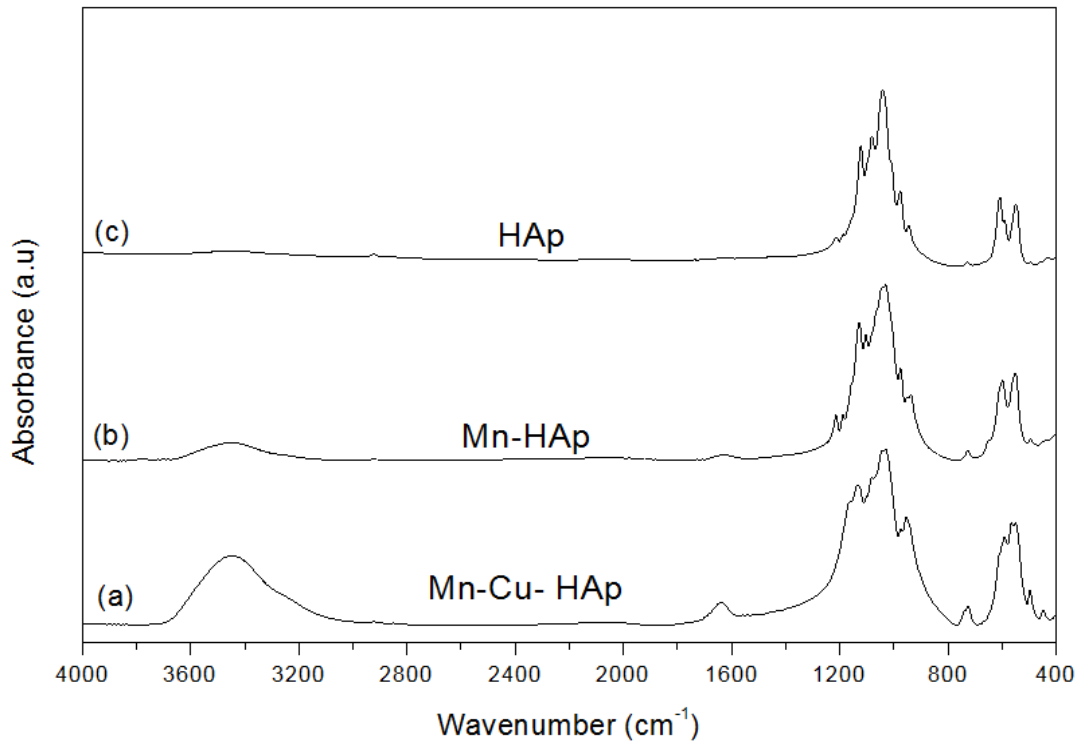


Fig. 3. FTIR of (a) pure hydroxyapatite HAp,(b) Mn-HAp and (C) Mn-Cu-Hap

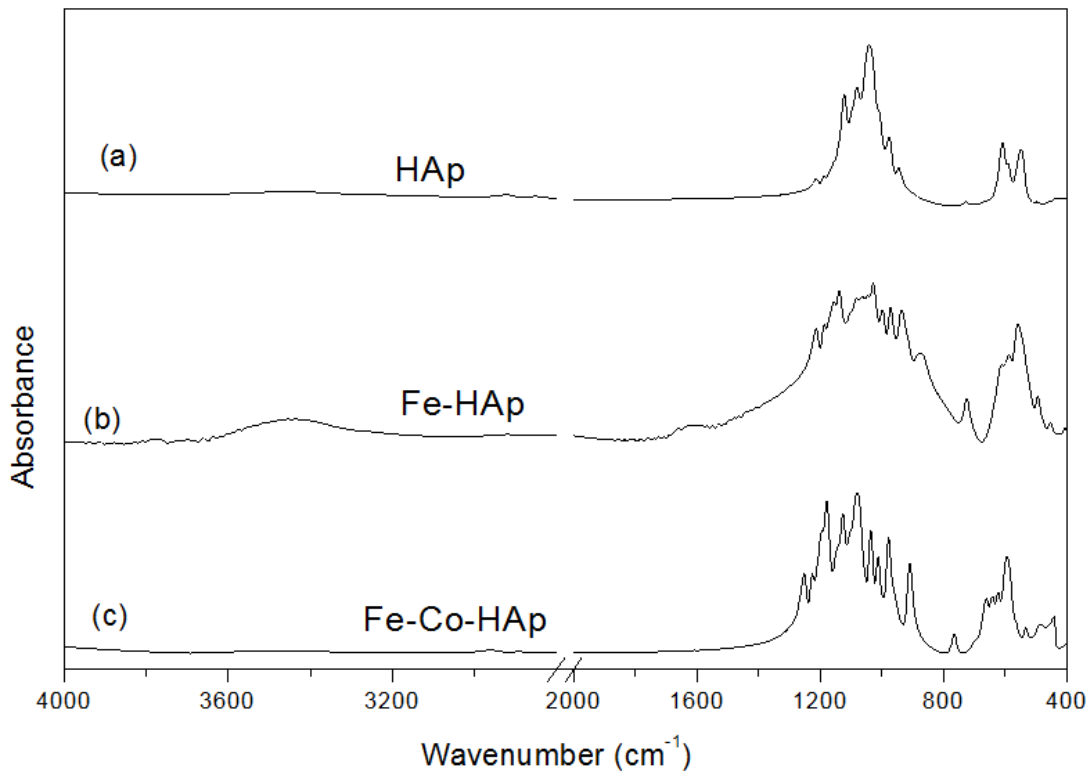


Fig. 4. FTIR of (a) pure hydroxyapatite HAp,(b) Fe-HAp and (C) Fe-Co-Hap

### 3.6 Interpretation of the XRD of Pure HAp, Mn-HAp, and Mn-Cu-HAp

Fig. 7 shows XRD patterns of all samples HAp, Mn-HAp, and Mn-Cu-HAp. In Fig.7 (a) the peaks present agree well with ICSD file no. 74-0565 which is hexagonal hydroxyapatite and none of the patterns displayed extra peaks indicating that all samples were single phased HAp.

Fig. 7 (b,c) shows XRD for Mn ions substituted HAp and a combination between Mn and Cu ions. Compared with pure HAp, all metal ions substituted HAp in this case which are Mn and Cu ions, showed comparable peaks without significant shifting of peak positions, regardless of substitution concentrations. This suggested that the ion exchange process did not greatly modify the structure of HAp.

$$CI = \sum \frac{H_{(202)} + H_{(300)} + H_{(112)}}{H_{(211)}} \quad (4)$$

The amount of manganese added distorted the structure unit of HAp and lower the degree of

crystallinity to some extent and formation of a newly crystalline phases. These phases are manganese oxide ( $\beta\text{-Mn}_3\text{O}_4$ ) ICSD file no. 86-2337, orthorhombic one with lattice parameters ( $a=9.55$ ,  $b=9.79$ , and  $c=3.02$ ) in cases of sample b in the curve, and copper manganese oxide ( $\text{CuMn}_2\text{O}_4$ ) ICSD file no. 45-0505 tetragonal phase with lattice parameters ( $a=5.971$  and  $c=8.964$ ) in cases of sample c in the curve. Also, it can be noted that lines corresponding to crystalline phases of other calcium-phosphate-based compounds are absent.

### 3.7 Interpretation of the XRD of Pure HAp, Fe-HAp, and Fe-Co-HAp

Fig. 8 shows XRD patterns of all samples HAp, Fe-HAp, and Fe-Co-HAp. A similar behavior in XRD results for samples of Mn-HAp and Mn-Cu-HAp. The peak positions are not clearly changed, but the peaks intensity changed and thus the degree of crystallization gradually. Clearly a number of prominent peaks for apatite phase were in the XRD pattern. However, the observed intensity and d-spacing values for both the samples are in excellent agreement with the JCPDS standard data for HAp.

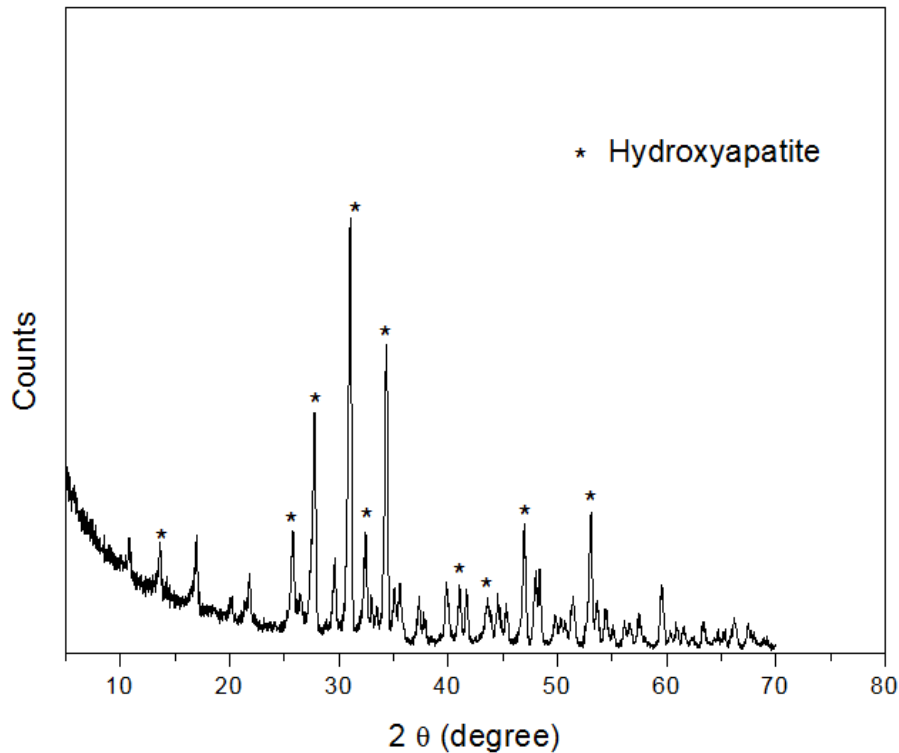
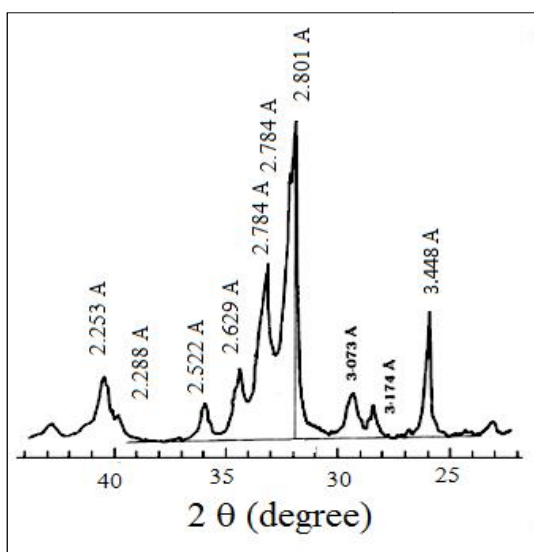


Fig. 5. XRD of pure HAp





**Fig. 6. Person's model for measuring crystallinity indices for hydroxyapatites. The represented spectrum is for pure HAp ( $2\theta$  from 25 to 40)**

The amount of Fe added to the basic hydroxyapatite changes the basic structural unit and lowers the degree of crystallinity by the formation of newly crystalline phases. These phases are magnetite ( $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ ) iron oxide, ICSD file no. 89-0951, cubic with lattice parameters ( $a=8.491$ ) in cases of sample b in the curve, and cobalt iron oxide or cobalt ferrite ( $\text{CoFe}_2\text{O}_4$ ) ICSD file no. 22-1086 cubic phase with lattice parameters ( $a=8.391$ ) in cases of sample c in the curve. Also, it can be noted that lines corresponding to crystalline phases of other calcium-phosphate-based compounds are absent.

The XRD spectrum (Fig. 3b) of the Mn-doped apatite shows the presence of amorphous phase which supports the observed FTIR data. The reason of this nature is the temperature effect. It is well established that the degree of crystallinity increases with the increase of sintering temperature resulting several distinct peaks.

Analysis an increase of the a axis and a decrease of c axis was detected as expected in the case of Ca substitution with ion species having a lower radius. This observation confirmed the formation of Fe-HAp, Mn-HAp, Fe-Co-HAp and Mn-Cu-HAp substituted apatite of hexagonal structure and conclusively proved that a variety of substitutions of both cationic and anionic is possible in hydroxyapatite structure

without any significant modification of its hexagonal system.

The crystallite size, crystallinity index and lattice parameters of doped and calcined (at  $900^\circ\text{C}$ ) samples were calculated as described previously. The calculated values are tabulated in Table 2.

The lattice parameters and cell volume values of the Fe-HAp did not significantly change as compared to those of pure HA. But in case of Fe-Co-HAp doped apatite, lattice parameters values are lower than that observed in the case of pure HAp.

However for both cases lower values of crystallite size and crystallinity were observed as substitution significantly reduces the crystallite size as well as crystallinity. Possibly, the changes in cell volume for the latter case would be due to the substitution of more cation. The crystallinity indices were measured by FTIR and XRD are written in Table 3.

### 3.8 SEM and EDX Analysis

Fig. 9 shows a scanning electron microscope (SEM) and energy dispersive x-ray analysis (EDX) for different samples. As clear from the SEM micrographs, the thin-film surface morphology is characterized by a granular structure, composed of grains that are tens of nanometers in size. The micrographs showed hydroxyapatite (HAp) was present in most of the areas of each studied sample. Since the synthesized hydroxyapatites showed the presence of crystalline phase after sintering at  $900^\circ\text{C}$ . So the morphology and microstructural nature of the metal substituted apatites synthesized at this temperature were observed by SEM. The presence of Mn, Cu, Fe and Co in the structure of hydroxyapatites was confirmed by EDX. Furthermore, the roughness of the surfaces may be enhanced by the presence of spherical particulates with dimensions in the micrometer range. Rough surfaces do not present a problem for biocompatible of implants since it was found that surfaces with certain roughness ensure a better osteo integration as compared to smooth implants [31]. It is well known that nanoparticles are usually form the core of nano-biomaterial so, it can be used as a convenient surface for molecular assembly. Natural bone surface is quite often contains features that are about 100 nm across. If the surface of an artificial bone implant were left

smooth, the body would try to reject it. Because of that smooth surface is likely to cause production of a fibrous tissue covering the surface of the implant.

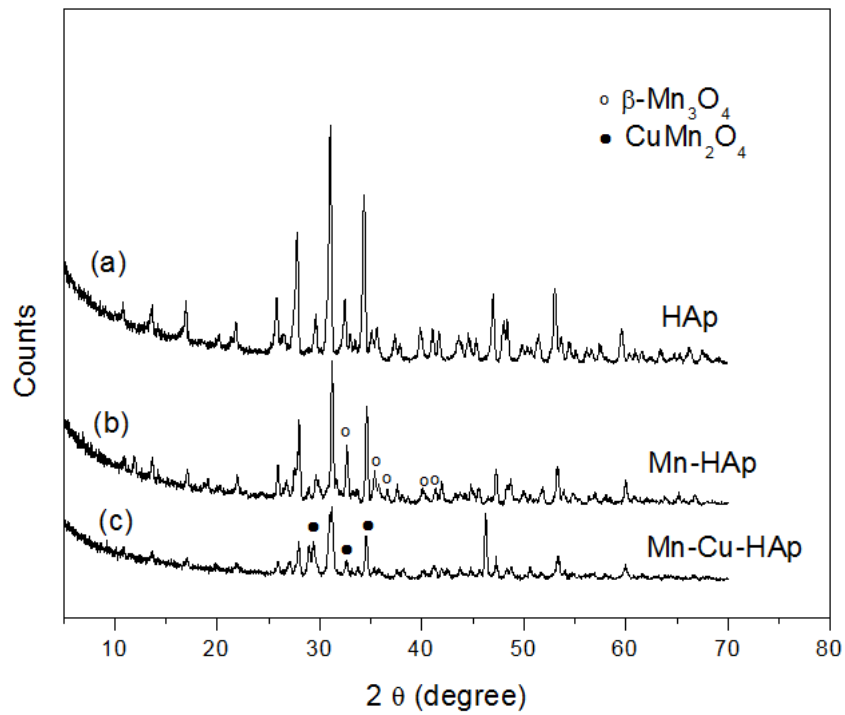


Fig. 7. XRD of pure hydroxyapatite and HAp, Mn-HAp and Mn-Cu-HAp

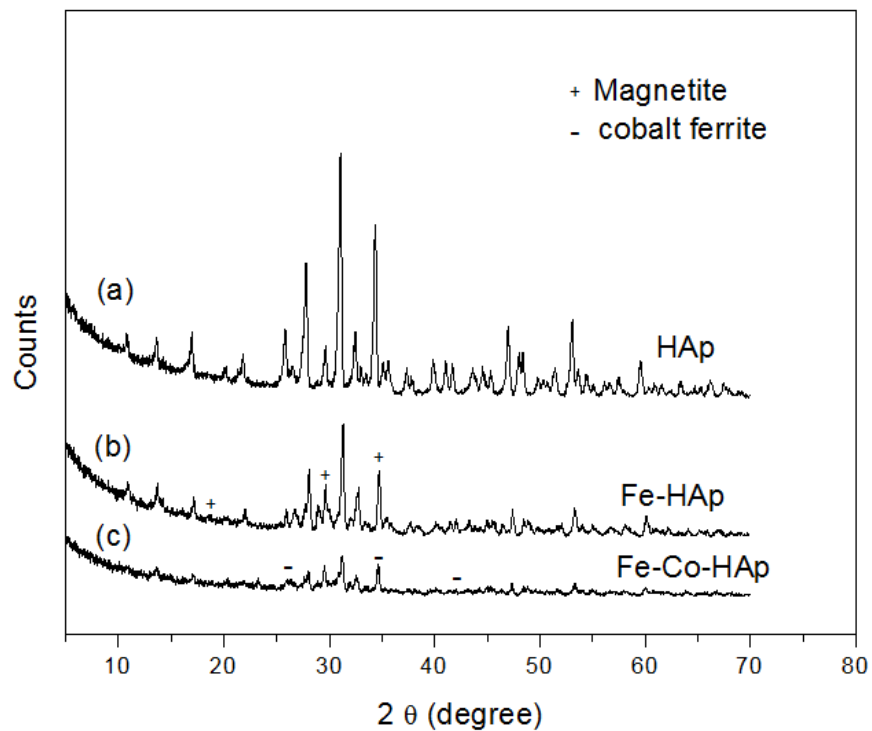


Fig. 8. XRD of pure hydroxyapatite and HAp, Fe-HAp and Fe-Co-HAp

**Table 2. Crystallite size, degree of crystallinity and lattice parameters for prepared powder samples**

Symbol	Crystallite size	Degree of crystallinity	Lattice parameters	
HAp	28.76 nm	81.3%	a=9.420 Å	c=6.881 Å
Mn-HAp	28.90 nm	59.2%	a=9.592 Å	c=6.870 Å
Mn-Cu-HAp	29.01 nm	43.6%	a=9.454 Å	c=6.869 Å
Fe-HAp	28.63 nm	61.8%	a=9.451 Å	c=6.873 Å
Fe-Co-HAp	29.05 nm	41.3%	a=9.450 Å	c=6.872 Å

**Table 3. (CI)<sub>FTIR(areas)</sub> measured by areas method, (CI)<sub>FTIR(height)</sub> measured by height method and (CI)<sub>XRD</sub> for prepared powder samples**

Symbol	(CI) <sub>FTIR(areas)</sub>	(CI) <sub>FTIR(heights)</sub>	(CI) <sub>XRD</sub>
HAp	0.518	2.36	0.376
Mn-HAp	0.467	2.11	0.315
Mn-Cu-HAp	0.413	1.87	0.246
Fe-HAp	0.483	2.21	0.327
Fe-Co-HAp	0.238	1.08	0.264

### 3.9 Interpretation of EPR for HAp, Fe-Co-HAp, and Mn-Cu-HAp

It is well known that the total magnetic field of each ion is established from the spin-spin interaction of neighboring paramagnetic ions [32]. The spin-spin interaction caused by small magnetic fields and this play an important role to alter the total magnetic field of each ion. So, the energy levels of the unpaired electrons to be shifted which led to a variation of energies resulting in a broadened EPR signal.

In Fe-HAp sample (as shown in Fig. 10), the broad feature in the g of 2.0 region is attributed to separation of ferric oxide phases with different content in iron cations ( $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ ), and their separation results presence of surface oxyhydroxides and Fe-O-Fe clusters [33]. The presence of high concentration of  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  caused electron spin-spin interactions between neighboring  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  nuclei which yielded the broad g 2.0 signal. The poor crystallinity with sample Fe-HAp that results from the Fe-phosphates and Fe-oxyhydroxides would be expected to have a high concentration of neighboring  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  ions. These agree well with results of XRD and FTIR results. The rhombic crystal field symmetry assigned to Fe-SHA suggested that  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  was occupying the rhombic Ca(2) site, and not the axial Ca(1) site. However, charge compensation from  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  substituting for  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  could cause a symmetry distortion and lead to a rhombic environment in the Ca(1) site.

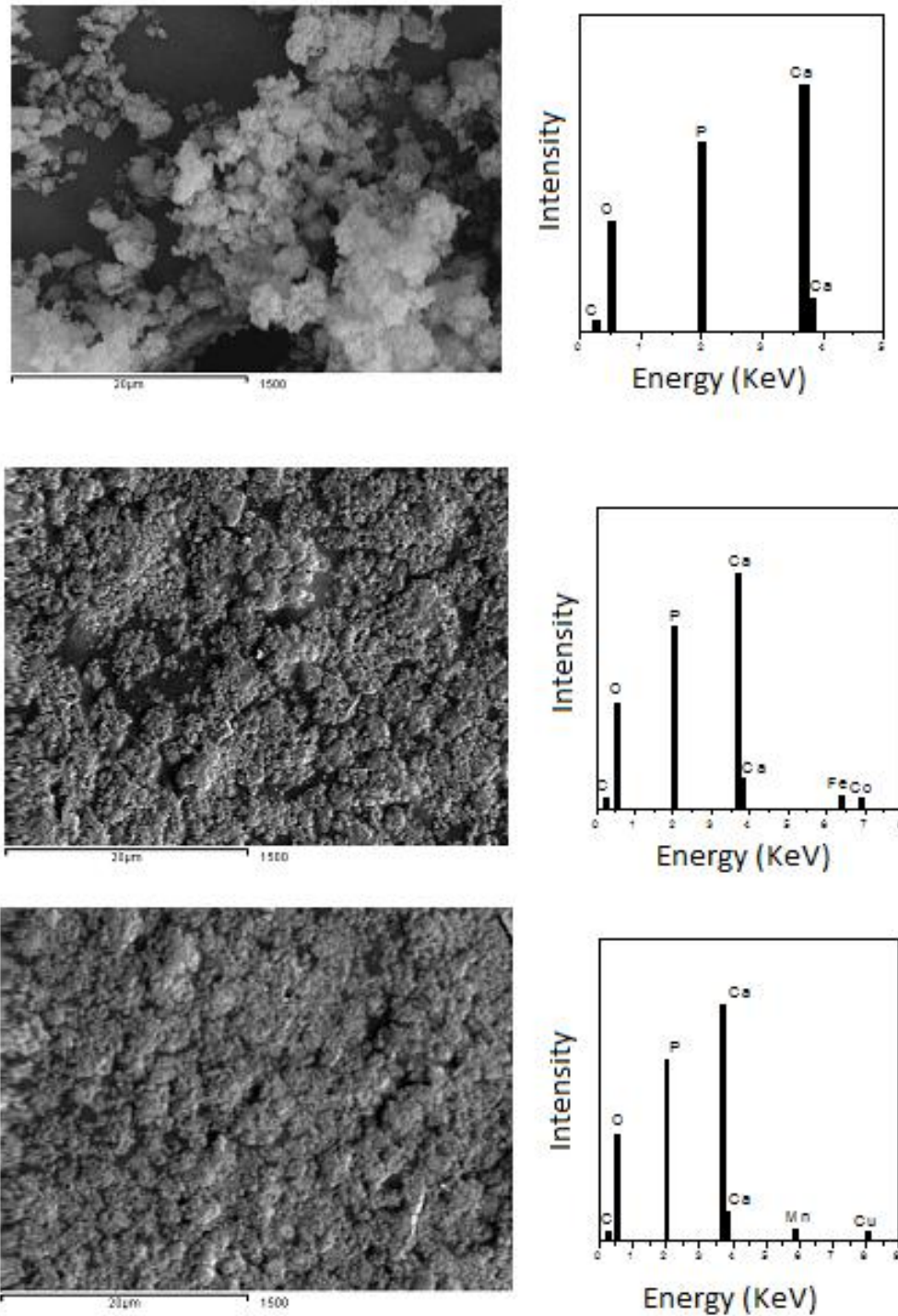
The number and position of EPR transitions for isolated  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  ions in a site of well-defined symmetry observable in a powder spectrum depends sensitively on the local ligand-field symmetry of the sites and possible magnetic interactions between them. In the presence of a rhombic distortion of the ligand field the g values of the three doublets of the  $S = 5/2$  system change as a zero-field splitting parameters depending of its value it becomes possible to observe ESR signal arising from the  $\pm 3/2$  and  $\pm 5/2$  doublet of the excited states. Iron (III) rhombic crystal field symmetry may indicate substitution into either of the Ca sites in Fe-HAp.

The Fe-Co-HAp had lower g-value 2.0 peak intensity relative to the g-value 2.0 peak intensity of Fe-HAp. This suggests that nonstructural poorly crystalline Fe-oxyhydroxides or Fe-phosphates phases were associated with the HAp crystallites [34].

Manganese (IV) may be the cause of the low field X-band hyperfine patterns. Manganese (IV) would have originated from  $\text{Mn}^{+2}$  oxidation during Mn-HAp synthesis. However, the pink color of the Mn-SHA materials indicated that  $\text{Mn}^{+2}$  was the dominant oxidation state in the g-value 2 [35].

The hyperfine lines of the Mn-Cu-HAp were barely detectable. Minor spectral differences were observed between the Mn-Cu-HAp and Fe-Co-HAp showed a marked decrease in peak intensity relative to standard HAp.

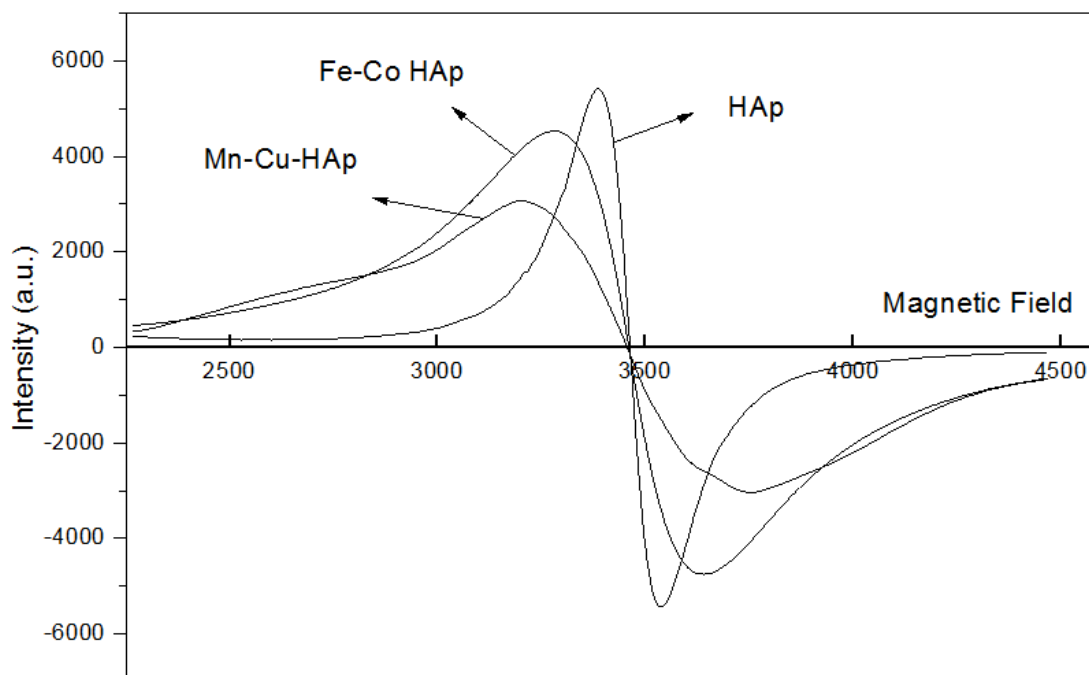
The large decrease of the Mn-Cu-HAp g 2.01 peak indicated that nonstructural Mn phase(s) such as poorly crystalline Mn-oxyhydroxide and Mn-phosphate phase(s) associated with the SHA crystallites [36]. Poorly crystalline Mn phase(s) also explain the broad g-value 2.01 peak in Mn-HAp that was superimposed on the hyperfine pattern because  $\text{Mn}^{+2}$  would be closely associated with one another leading to spin-spin interactions.



**Fig. 9. SEM and EDX of (a) pure hydroxyapatite HAp, (b) Fe-Co-Hap**

The central sharp peak observed in Mn-HAp and was possibly from a small concentration of an inorganic or organic contaminant in the synthesis

reagents. The high intensity of the  $Mn^{+2}$  peaks Mn-HAp dominated the spectrum and masked any contamination peak.



**Fig. 10. EPR of pure HAp, Fe-Co-HAp, and Mn-Cu-HAp**

Spin-spin exchange interactions because of Mn and Cu atoms were the cause of an increase of signal broadening [37]. The entire Fe-Co-HAp spectrum was superimposed on the broad signal that suggested the presence of sites with strong spin-spin interactions caused by poorly crystalline Fe-oxyhydroxide or Fe-phosphate phase(s).

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Nano-sized particles of pure HAp and various Fe, Mn, Fe-Co and Mn-Cu doped HAp powders have been successfully prepared via a novel wet chemical method. Doping of Fe into HAp powders has greatly influenced the crystallinity in a trend that the crystallinity was decreased with Fe substitution. A similar behavior was obtained for Mn. The addition of Co to sample Fe-HAp greatly decreases the crystallinity index. Also, the addition of Cu to Mn-HAp was found to do the same effect. This is in good agreement with the FTIR result where the splitting of the band in the wavenumber range  $500-700\text{ cm}^{-1}$  is decreased upon the addition of different metal ions in substitution of Ca. The data obtained from XRD for different powder samples were found to be in a good agreement with that obtained from FTIR. The crystallinity index was found to decrease upon substitution and the intensities of lines were

also decreased. Our results indicate that nano crystallites of the Co-ferrite ( $\text{CoFe}_2\text{O}_4$ ) and magnetite ( $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ ) are being formed in a hydroxyapatite. When a further investigation will be carried out using SEM, EDX, and EPR, it was found the magnetic properties of the prepared materials will play a vital role to enhance the bioactivity and physiochemical properties of the apatite.

#### COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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