Original Research Paper

The Study of Effectiveness of Chitosan from Pearl Oyster (*Pinctada maxima*) Shell as Antibacterial in Bone Scaffold Application

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Article History

Received: December 12th, 2024 Revised: December 30th, 2024 Accepted: January 10th, 2025

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Abstract: Chitosan is a functional material with potential for bone scaffolds due to its antibacterial properties, biocompatibility, biodegradability, low toxicity, and ability to support tissue regeneration and prevent infections in graft implantation. This study aims to identify changes in functional groups in each isolation process and identify the effect of chitosan concentration on the activity of Straphylococcus aureus and Escherichia coli bacteria. Chitosan isolation methods are demineralization, deproteination, decolorization, and deacetylation by microwave irradiation. Analysis of chitosan functional groups using FTIR, while antibacterial activity test using diffusion method. Isolation of chitosan from pearl oyster shells (Pinctada maxima sp.) obtained a degree of deacetylation of chitosan of 95.37%. Pearl oyster shell powder identified typical peaks of calcium carbonate (CaCO₃). The demineralized powder sample had calcium carbonate (CO₃²⁻) peaks that disappeared. Furthermore, the deproteinated powder sample produced peaks with amide groups (C=O dan N-H) of reduced protein. Decolorized powder samples did not show drastic changes in the bands of the deproteinated powder spectra, but the spectra could show cleaner and clearer peaks without any interference from pigments. The last, deacetylated powder sample showed a decrease in peak intensity in the 1650 cm⁻¹ (C=O amide). The analysis of the ability of chitosan to inhibit the growth of E. Coli and S. Aureus bacteria was effective at a minimum chitosan concentration of 20%. In comparison, antibacterial activity in S. aureus is better than in E. coli. Chitosan from this shell can serve as an antibacterial, but its manufacturing techniques need optimization for better efficacy.

Keywords: Biomaterials; Degree of Deacetylation; Functional Groups

Introduction

Bone loss caused by periodontal disease or injury can be treated through graft placement (Lu et al., 2022). Graft placement is vulnerable to bacterial infection, so an alternative is to design a scaffold with antibacterial properties (Dubey et al., 2023). Antibacterials are substances that can inhibit the growth of bacteria and kill bacteria that cause infection. *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Escherichia coli* are Gram-positive and Gramnegative bacteria that can cause disease in the body. One of the biopolymer compounds that can be utilized as an antibacterial is the chitosan

compound (Yarnpakdee et al., 2025 and Pei et al., 2021).

The activity of chitosan as an antibacterial is influenced by various intrinsic and extrinsic factors including PH, concentration, chitosan source, type of bacteria, degree of polymerization, degree of deacetylation, and others (Ardean et al., 2021). The source of raw materials for the production of chitosan affects its antimicrobial activity against gram-positive and negative bacteria, as well as fungi. Various raw materials for chitosan sources have been tested

for antibacterial activity including crab shells, silkworms, shrimp shells, cuttlefish, squid cartilage, book clam shells, and green mussel shells. The results of the antibacterial activity test show that chitosan isolated from these animals can be used as an antibacterial from various types of bacteria such as Staphylococcus aureus, Bacillus thuringiensis, Burkholderia Mycobacterium pseudomallei. tuberculosis. Escherichia coli, Vibrio chlores, Pseudomonas aureginosa, and Staphylococcus epidermidis (Ningsih et al., 2022). The antibacterial effectiveness of chitosan is influenced by intrinsic factors and operating conditions, particularly the pH of the environment and the substrate on which it is applied (Gomes et al., 2021). The degree of deacetylation (DD) of chitosan is an intrinsic factor that defines its characteristics (Weißpflog et al., 2021).

Isolation of chitosan from pearl oyster shells by deacetylation, demineralization, and deacetylation processes. The isolation results obtained a degree of deacetylation (DD) of up to 80.53% (Handayani et al., 2022). The method of isolating chitosan from pearl ovster shells was also carried out using the gradual deacetylation technique, where in this technique deacetylation was carried out with three additions of 60% NaOH. The technique obtained a degree of deacetylation of 57.50% (Nurlaili et al., 2022). In addition to producing chitosan, Pearl clam shell powder can also be synthesized into nano chitosan with DD reaching 88.63% (Alawiyah et al., 2024). Research conducted by Nurmaulida et al., (2023) succeeded in isolating chitosan with a high DD of more than 80%, but only produced a yield of 7.06%. The resulting yield is so small that innovation is needed in the chitosan isolation process to improve the characteristics of the chitosan produced. The process of isolation that uses high-power microwave irradiation achieves a purity level of up to 89.75%, while also resulting in low crystallinity and reduced viscosity (Kurniawidi et al., 2024). Another study showed that microwave deacetylation of chitin resulted in a degree of deacetylation of 83.4% and a molecular weight of 222.185 Da (Destrianingtvas et al., 2024).

The selection of an efficient chitosan hydrolysis method remains a challenge due to various influencing factors, and new technologies are needed to produce oligomers with specific sizes for the desired applications (Gonçalves et al., 2021). Several studies above indicate that the isolation of chitosan by microwave irradiation is very advantageous compared to conventional methods as previously done. This study found that microwave heating can produce chitosan with a deacetylation degree comparable to conventional heating methods, but in a shorter time (60 minutes compared to 180 minutes). Despite using the same temperature conditions, microwave heating reduced the reaction time by approximately 1/3 and resulted in chitosan with lower molecular weight and viscosity. These results suggest that microwave technology is more efficient, energy-saving, and environmentally friendly for utilizing rigid shrimp shells and other crustacean materials (Ha et al., 2019). Furthermore, antibacterial test research on chitosan from Pearl clam shells has also never been done. The source of chitosan, the method of its isolation, and its degree of influence deacetylation (DD) will its antibacterial effectiveness. Chitosan extracts demonstrated effective antibacterial activity against Bacillus subtilis, Listeria innocua, Salmonella typhimurium, Staphylococcus aureus, and Pseudomonas aeruginosa (Khrunyk et al., 2020 and Amor et al., 2024). Therefore, in this study, chitosan production was carried out by microwave method and then analyzed the antibacterial activity of chitosan Straphylococcus aureus and Escherichia coli. The results of this study will play an important role in functional development as a bone scaffold-forming material.

Material and Method

Material

The research was conducted over a period of eight months in the materials laboratory and the medical laboratory. The study utilized pearl oyster shell waste (Pinctada maxima sp.) as the main material. Materials used for the isolation process include distilled water, NaOH pro analyst (Merck, Germany), and 1 M HCl pro analyst (Mallinckrodt, USA). The equipment utilized in the preparation and isolation of chitosan comprises a grinder (SY-150 Pulp Grinder Yamamoto, Indonesia), milling machine (FGD-Z100 Fomac, Indonesia), magnetic stirrer

and hot plate (IKA-CMAG HS7, Indonesia), oven (Mito, Indonesia), and microwave (Sharp, Indonesia).

Method

The pearl oyster shell powder preparation process involves cleaning and drying the clam shells. The shells are reduced in size using a grinder and milling to form clam shell powder (Sample A). Furthermore, the powder was isolated through several processes, namely demineralization, deproteination, decolorization, and deacetylation (Destrianingtyas et al., 2024). This isolation method modifies the method of Kurniawidi et al, 2023, namely adding the decolorization process and the demineralization process as the first process. Demineralization begins by dissolving 80 grams of clam shell powder in 1 M HCl solution with a ratio of 1:15 (m/v) using a magnetic stirrer for 3 hours at room temperature. The precipitate obtained was rinsed until neutral and oven at 80 °C (Sample B). Furthermore, deproteination by dissolving the demineralized powder into NaOH in a ratio of 1:10 (m/v) and homogenized. The resulting precipitate was rinsed until neutral and dried to form chitin powder (Sample C). The chitin powder was dissolved in 0.5% NaOCl in a ratio of 1:10 (m/v) and homogenized at 75 °C for 1 hour. This process is referred to as the decolorization process which produces chitin powder with brighter white pigments (Sample D). Furthermore, the final process of isolation is deacetylation. Chitin powder was dissolved in 60% NaOH solution then homogenized for 1 hour and given microwave radiation for 15 minutes. The precipitate from the radiation was rinsed until neutral and oven-dried (Sample E).

Data Analysis

Five powder samples from each isolation process were analyzed for functional groups using FTIR. From the results of the functional group analysis, the changes in functional groups that occur in each process will be identified. In vibration addition, the and degree deacetylation of the powder were identified through this analysis. The degree deacetylation of chitosan can be determined by measuring and comparing absorbance values at specific wavelengths.

 λ 1655 cm⁻¹ (A₁₆₅₅) with the absorbance at wavelength λ 3450 cm⁻¹ (A₃₄₅₀) (Fatima, 2020):

$$DD (\%) = \left[100 - \left(\frac{A_{1655}}{A_{3450}} \times \frac{100}{1,33}\right)\right] \tag{1}$$

Chitosan isolated from clam shells was tested for antibacterial activity using a modified diffusion method of Magani et. Al (2020). A petri dish equipped with 10 mL of NA media as the first layer was left to harden. Next, 10 mL of NA media was poured in which there were test bacteria as the second layer. Then the media was allowed to stand in laminar air flow for two hours so that the media hardened and the bacteria diffused. The blocker was removed so that wells with a diameter of 6 mm were obtained. Pouring antibacterial chitosan and comparative control into each well as much as 200 µL after that put into an incubator at 37 °C for 3x24 hours. The incubation results were observed for a clear zone or zone of inhibition every 24 hours. Calculation of the chitosan antibacterial inhibition zone is measured based on the radius (r_p) and the inhibitor in the form of a clear area around the test well. The radius is measured by determining the distance from the edge of the test well to the circular boundary of the inhibition zone (with an accuracy of 0.05 mm) at multiple points around the test well, and then calculating the average. (Muhardi, 2002). Calculation of the inhibition zone area followed the procedure of Adam et al., (2014).

$$D = \frac{d_1 + d_2}{2} \tag{2}$$

D is the antibacterial diameter of chitosan, d1 the vertical diameter of chitosan antibacterial, and d2 the horizontal diameter of chitosan antibacterial (Magani et al., 2020).

Result and Discussion

Pearl oyster shell powder has been successfully extracted into chitosan through the isolation method. The chitosan isolation process starts with demineralization, deproteination, decolorization, and deacetylation. Each process produces powders with physical characteristics that are not too much different (Figure 1).

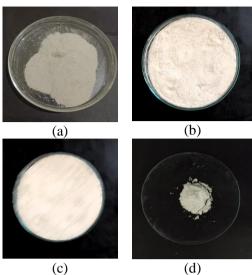


Figure 1. Powder from the isolation process at each stage (a) demineralization (b) deproteination (c) decolorization, and (d) deacetylation.

The physical changes in the powder occur due to the removal of non-chitosan components during the isolation process. Isolation of clam shell powder removes minerals, proteins, color pigments, and acetyl groups (Abolude, 2016). Once these components are removed, the color of the powder tends to be lighter and is white or light yellowish depending on the final purity of the chitosan.

Functinonal Group Analysis

The purity of chitosan is generally associated with its degree of deacetylation (DD). The %DD of chitosan in sample E, as determined through IR analysis, was found to be 95.37%, indicating that its purity complies with medical material standards (figure 2).

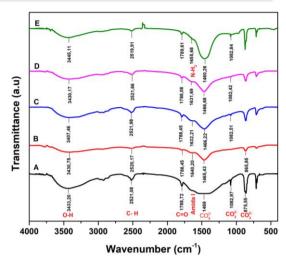


Figure 2. IR analysis of sample a (pearl oyster shell powder), sample B (demineralization), sample C (Deproteination), sample D (decolorization), and sample E (deacetylation)

IR spectrum analysis (Figure 2) shows the waveform shift in each isolation process. Interpretation of the spectrum of each stage shows the characteristic features of each material. Sample a (pearl ovster shell powder) identified the characteristic peaks of the main components of the shell, such as calcium carbonate (CaCO₃). An absorption band in the range of 1400-1500 cm⁻¹ signifies the presence of asymmetric vibrations of the carbonate group (CO₃²⁻) (Capelo-Avilés et al., 2024). Then in the area of 875 cm⁻¹ visible vibration thread of the group CO₃²⁻ indicates the presence of calcium carbonate. Protein or chitin groups may also appear in certain areas but are not dominant. Sample В (demineralized) has calcium carbonate-related peaks (CO₃²⁻) reduced or disappeared, mainly peaks in the vicinity of cm^{-1} . 1400-1500 cm^{-1} and 875 demineralization process is aimed at removing minerals such as calcium carbonate so that the peaks associated with the vibration of CO₃²⁻ become significantly reduced or disappear completely. The remaining bands indicate the presence of organic compounds such as chitin. Furthermore, sample C (deproteination) produces peaks with amide groups (C=O and N-H) of the reduced protein. The amide I and amide II vibrations of the protein usually appear around 1650-1550 cm⁻¹ (Sadat & Joye, 2020). After deproteination, the peak intensity in this area decreases, signaling protein removal. The

dominant vibrations on this spectrum are most likely from chitin. The D (decolorized) sample does not show a drastic change in the C band of the spectrum, but the spectrum can show cleaner and clearer peaks without any interference from pigment. Finally, the sample (deacetylation) there is a decrease in peak intensity in the region of 1650 cm⁻¹ (C=O amide I), and there is a shift in the wavenumber around 1655.58 cm⁻¹ which indicates the vibrational stretching of the N-H bond of chitosan the emergence of a new peak around 1590 cm⁻¹ which indicates the vibrational N-H of chitosan (Kurniawidi et al., 2024). The reduction in amide indicates the success deacetylation process, which converts chitin to chitosan by breaking off the acetyl group. Peaks in the 3400 cm⁻¹ area also become wider due to the increased content of hydroxyl groups (-OH) associated with chitosan.

Antibacterial Analysis

The data in Table 1 demonstrate that chitosan effectively inhibits the growth of E. coli and S. aureus bacteria at a minimum concentration of 20%. This shows that chitosan from pearl shells has the potential as an antibacterial of gram-positive (S. Aureus) and gram-negative (E.Coli).

Table 1. The results of the analysis of antibacterial test E.Coli and S.Aureus

Chitosan Concentration	Ability To Inhibit Bacteria	
(%)		
	E. Coli	S. Aureus
10	-	-
20	+	+
30	+	+
40	+	+
50	+	+
60	+	+
70	+	+
80	+	+

The antibacterial properties of chitosan arise because it has an amino group (-NH₂) that is positively charged at acidic to neutral pH (F). The positive charge can interact with the negatively charged bacterial cell wall, particularly in E. coli. This interaction between

positive and negative charges disrupts the bacterial cell wall, leading to bacterial death.

Table 2. Analysis of the inhibitory zone of bacteria E.Coli and S.Aureus against chitosan

Type of	Negative	Positive	Inhibition Zone
bacteria	Control	Control	(mm)
	(mm)	(mm)	
E. Coli	0.7	0.9	1.0
S. Aureus	0.7	0.9	1.3

Bacterial activity in chitosan was analyzed based on positive and negative control in the experiment (Table 2). The antibacterial activity against S. aureus is stronger than against E. coli. While the inhibition zone is larger compared to the control, the antibacterial effect of chitosan on both bacteria remains relatively weak, suggesting that adjusting chitosan concentrations or conditions could enhance its effectiveness (Akbarzadeh et al., 2021).

Conclusion

Chitosan isolated from pearl oyster (Pinctada maxima) shells achieved a degree of deacetylation of 95.37%. Functional group analysis revealed characteristic changes in each isolation process, with pearl shell powder showing typical calcium carbonate (CaCO₃) peaks, which were reduced or disappeared after demineralization. Deproteinated powder samples displayed peaks associated with amide groups (C=O and N-H), indicating reduced protein content. Decolorization led to cleaner spectral peaks without pigment interference. In the deacetylated powder, a decrease in peak intensity around 1650 cm⁻¹ (C=O amide) was observed. Chitosan exhibited antibacterial properties, effectively suppressing the growth of E. coli and S. aureus at a minimum concentration of 20%. Its antibacterial properties are attributed to the positively charged amino group (-NH2) at acidic to neutral pH, with stronger activity observed against S. aureus compared to E. coli.

Acknowledgments

The research is collaborative research between medical science at FKIK Unram and Materials Science at FMIPA Unram. This research was sourced from the internal Independent Research Collaboration Fund of the University of Mataram.

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