

## Two-way shape memory-clips for colonic anastomosis

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**Abstract.** The compression anastomosis clip (CAC) is an elliptic shape double-ring device produced from nickel-titanium shape memory alloy. Until now the CAC works basing on the one-way shape memory effect. The aim of presenting studies was finding out the technology of two-way shape memory (TWSME) clips formation which should fulfil the requirements for clinical application. The clips were formed by wires of an alloy with 51.02 at. % Ni – balance Ti. The best value of the TWME and uniform compression force of the clips was achieved by combining deformation, constrained aging and thermomechanical cycling.

### 1. Introduction

Since a century surgeons have attempted to produce a device which should enable them to perform a competent anastomosis both quickly and cost effectively. For a long time hand suture has been used. Current routine surgery practice deals with using staplers for mechanical suture to create a uniform anastomosis [1]. Sutureless anastomosis using the shape memory clips ensure anastomosis that is highly resistant to leakage which may cause sepsis.

The new anastomosis method based on compression clip which operate on the basis of one-way shape memory effect was studied and described in [2-5]. A new concept concern the possibility of using the superelastic effect in clips for gastrointestinal tract anastomosis was performed in [6]. The analysis of the actual state of art and own broad experience in experimental and clinical research of the anastomosis with shape memory and superelastic clips is given in [7].

The aim of this paper was to find out the technology of clips formation with a TWSME which should fulfil the requirements for clinical application in anastomosis of gastrointestinal procedure.

### 2. Experimental

The compression anastomosis clip (CAC) is an elliptic shape double-coil ring device produced from wire of nickel-titanium shape memory alloy. The chemical analysis and characteristic temperatures of the studied alloys used for clips with one-way shape memory and TWSME are given in table 1.

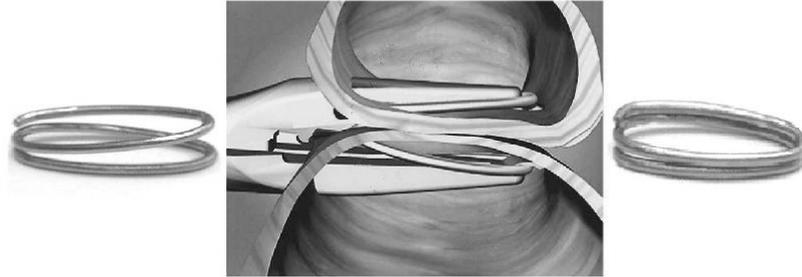
**Table 1.** Chemical composition and characteristic temperatures of the studied alloys used for clips

Alloy	Ni [at %]	Ti [at %]	Al [at %]	Si [at %]	M <sub>s</sub> [°C]	A <sub>f</sub> [°C]	State of the wires	Kind of clips
1	50.8	49.2	-	-	n.m. -15	n.m. +11	As received quenching 800°C/1h	one-way shape memory
2	51.02	48.71	0.12	0.14	-80 -65 -30	-30 -35 +15	As received quenching 800°C/1h ageing 500°C/15min	TWSME

n.m.- no measurable

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In the martensite state achieved by cooling below  $M_f$  temperature (about  $0^\circ\text{C}$ ) the coils of the ring is open to an angle of  $30$  to  $40^\circ$  and each coil of the ring is inserted through two incisions into one of the intestinal loops to be anastomosed. The procedure of inserting the clips into the bowles and its final shape is shown in Fig. 1.



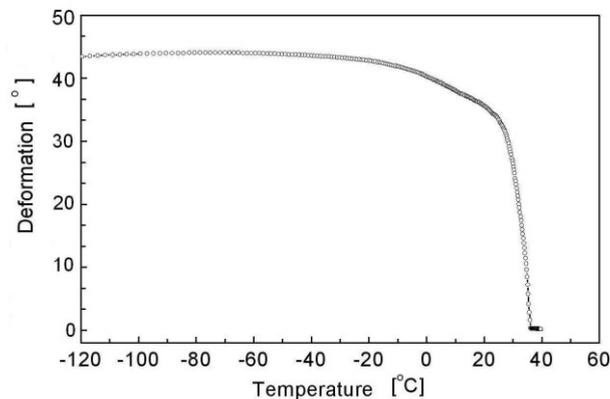
**Fig.1.** Model illustrate the side-to side bowels anastomosis procedure by means of shape memory clip.

During the reverse martensitic transformation by warming the ring by body heat the two coils join together and creates the compressive force on the connected bowel walls. The continuous compression of the bowel walls entrapped by the clip leads to necrosis within 5 to 10 days. The two coils of the device detaches itself and is expelled with the feces. New natural scar tissue is formed along the necrotic perimeter during the period of necrosis, resulting in a uniform perfectly anastomosis.

The studies were carried out on wires supplied by SMATEC- company (Belgium). The wires were heat treated to achieve the  $M_s$  temperature below  $0^\circ\text{C}$  and  $A_f < 30^\circ\text{C}$ . The compression of the device was achieved by using the body heat of the patient.

### 3. Results

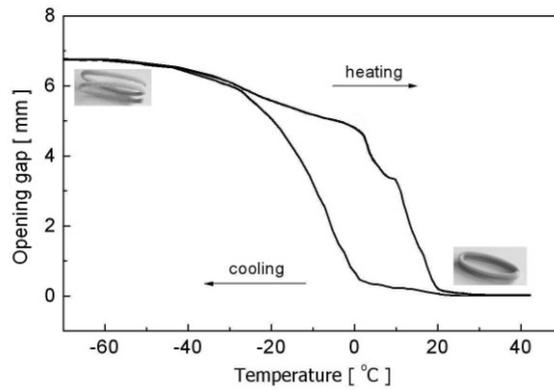
Fig. 2 shows the shape recovery curve for a formed clip. The compression force of clip can be varied by formation procedure in the range between  $400 \div 1400\text{G}$ .



**Fig. 2.** Shape recovery of a clip.

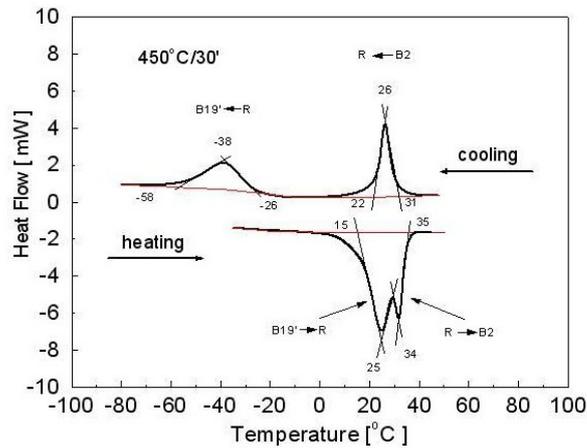
It is well known that the two-way memory effect TWME is not an inherent property and requires thermomechanical training [8]. To obtain the TWME it is necessary to generate some dislocation arrays and residual stress field induced by: single deformation, aging under external stress and thermomechanical cycling [9].

The high value of TWME respond and a uniform compression force on the whole perimeter of the double coil ring was obtained by combining three methods of it generation: deformation the two ends of the coil in the parent phase, constraining ageing of the coil and thermomechanical cycling. The opening gap of the clip induced by TWME using combine methods versus temperature is shown in Fig. 3. The two-step on the heating curve is the result of overlapping the retransformation sequence:  $B19' \Rightarrow R \Rightarrow B2$  at a narrow range of temperature. The value of the induced opening gap of the clip is 7 mm and the compression force is equal 10 N.



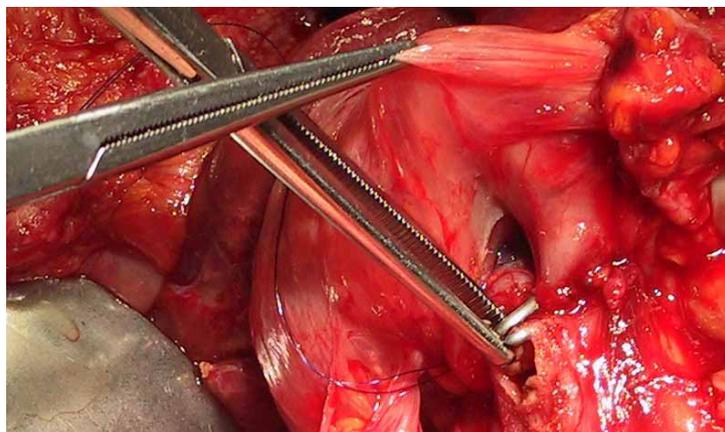
**Fig. 3.** Characteristic of a clip with TWSM induced effect.

The ageing of alloy 2 introduced by TWSME generation causes the change of the transformation sequence from  $B2 \leftrightarrow B19'$  for the quenched state to the transformation through the R-phase as shown on the DSC curves after ageing at 450°C (Fig. 4).



**Fig. 4.** DSC curves recorded during cooling and heating of alloy 2 after aging at 450°C for 15 minutes.

Before the sterilization by irradiation, the clips have undergone the surface passivation into an autoclave at 134°C for 30 minutes in order to improve their biocompatibility. The first testing of the clips were carried out on pig bowels and allowed the second step – their clinical applications as shown on Fig. 5 [10]



**Fig. 5.** Clinical application of CAC for joining of bowels.

## 4. Conclusions

- A technology was elaborated which allows production of clips for compression anastomosis.
- Two-way shape memory effect was induced in the CAC which allows to achieve 7 mm opening gap during cooling and a uniform compression force on the perimeter of the coil up to 10 N.
- The clinical studies shows that the shape-memory clips for CAC are easy to apply, shorten the time of operation and reduce the cost of operation.

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