The additive roles on the microstructure and sintering properties of Li<sub>2</sub>O · 2SiO<sub>2</sub> glass ceramics

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The  $Li_2O \cdot 2SiO_2$ glass ceramics draw current research attention due to its specific nucleation phenomena as well as its application in dental clinic. In this investigation a serials of heat treatment on the material as additives were chosen based on Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, MgO, K<sub>2</sub>O, and P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, were undertaken. The optimum heat treatment and composition were supposed to be obtained. As well, a process of making fine crystal microstructure by sintering individual sheets that were nucleated beforehand and then stacked by sintering twice was also described currently. As compared, the role of additive in the place of P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, such as ZrO<sub>2</sub> and TiO<sub>2</sub> on the microstructure and sintering property were also tested, respectively. This investigation provided an approach of preparing Li<sub>2</sub>O · 2SiO<sub>2</sub> glass ceramics with fine crystals and favorable hardness values. A conclusion is drawn that ZrO<sub>2</sub> and TiO<sub>2</sub> have less positive role than P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> in the chosen glass ceramic composition. Scanning electron microscopy (SEM) and X-ray diffraction (XRD) was employed to observe the microstructure and determine final products, respectively. Hardness value was measured as the reference of the mechanical property.