

Research



TOHOKU
UNIVERSITY

Development of Titanium Alloys for Load Bearing Implant Devices through Focusing on Young's Modulus Control

Mitsuo Niinomi

Institute for Materials Research, Tohoku University

Properties required for medical metallic materials



Artificial shoulder joints



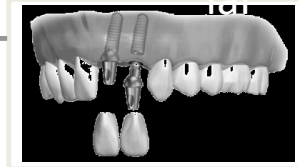
Spinal fixation devices



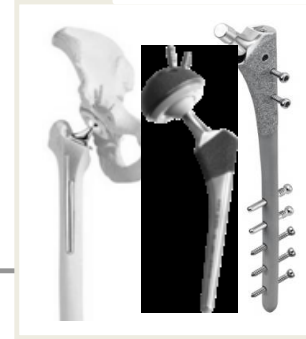
Artificial elbow joints



Artificial dental implants



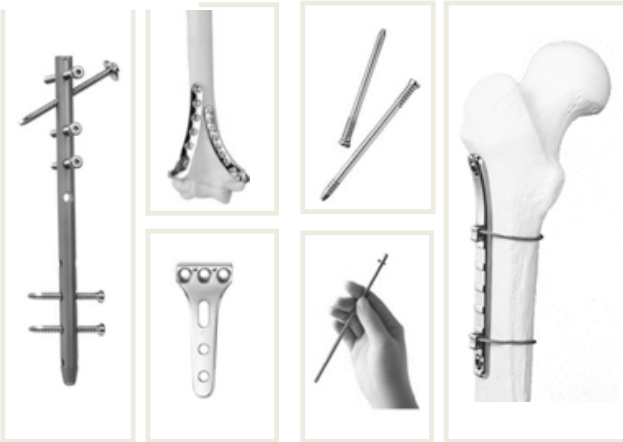
Artificial hip joints



Artificial finger joints



Bone fixation devices



Artificial ankle joints



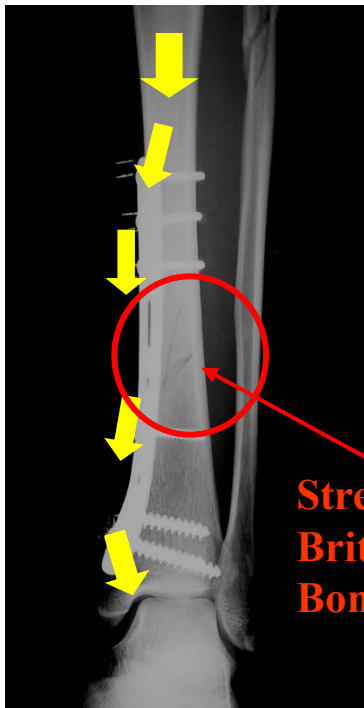
Artificial knee joints



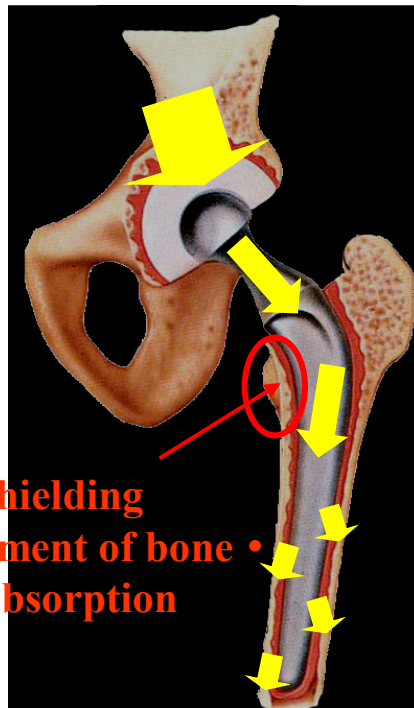
High mechanical reliability

Reducing stress shielding

Bone absorption or shrinking occurs due to the remodeling according to the decrease in mechanical stimulation when, for example, the artificial joints or bone plates made of the conventional high modulus metallic materials are implanted or fixed to the fractured bone. They become to be the causes loosening of the artificial hip joints or re-fracture of bone after extraction.



Stress shielding
Brittleness of bone
Bone absorption



Development of **metallic materials with low moduli**, which are similar to that of the cortical bone is required.

SUS316L stainless steel: 180 GPa

Co-Cr alloys : 210 GPa

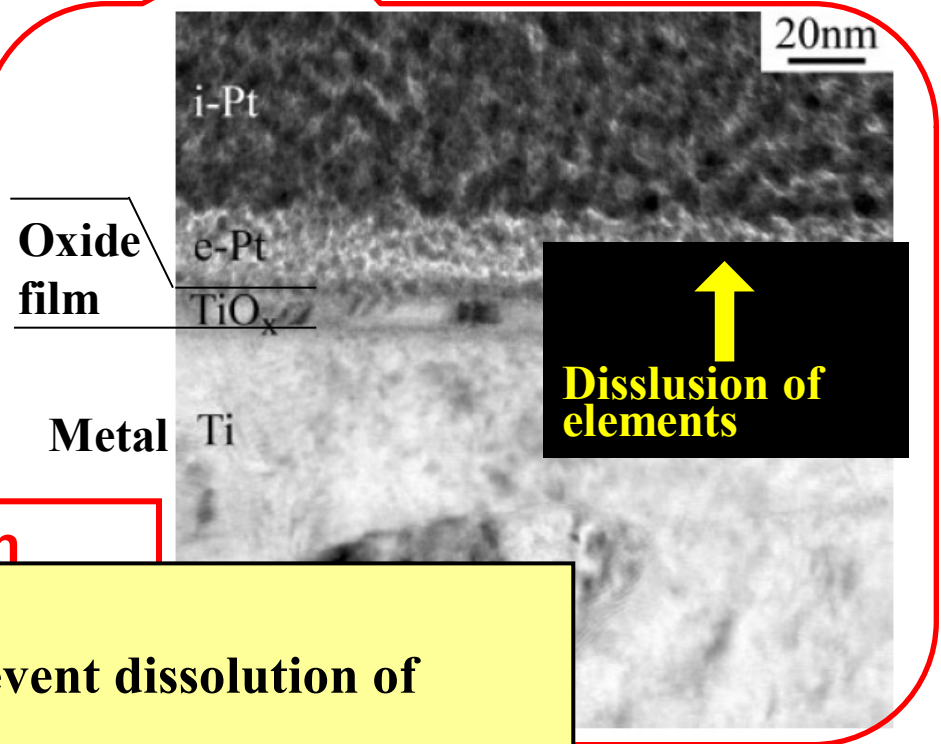
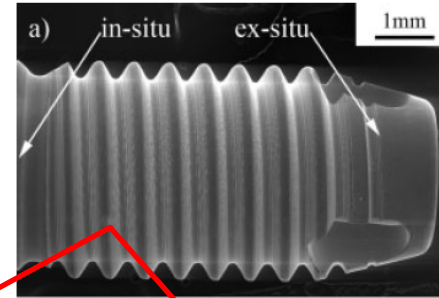
Ti-6Al-4V ELI: 110 GPa

Cortical bone: 10-30 GPa

Properties required for medical metallic materials



Allergy problems appeared on fingers and hands due to metals in the mouse



Allergic and toxic problems happen

Required properties:

1. High corrosion resistance to prevent dissolution of metallic elements.
2. Using elements showing low toxicity and allergic problems

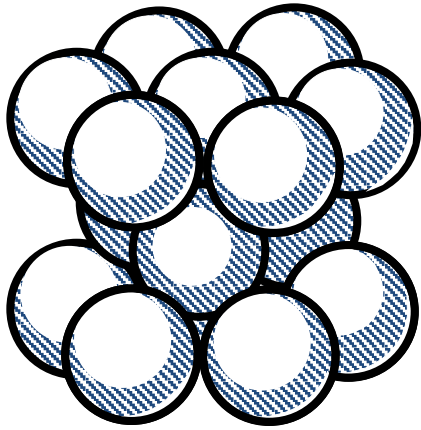
Photograph of the *in situ* sample showing the layer covering the Ti surface. The interface between the electron deposited Pt layers.

- **High mechanical reliability**
- **High corrosion resistance to prevent dissolution of metallic elements**
- **Using elements showing low toxicity and allergic problems**
- **Low Young's modulus close to that of bone**

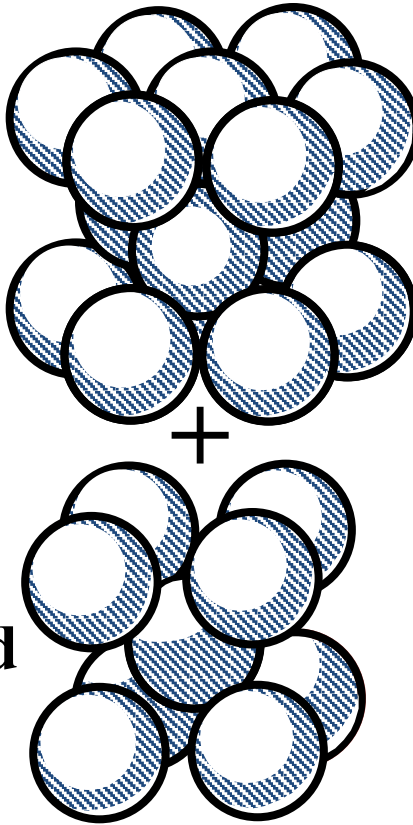
Table Biocompatibility of various biomaterials judged by patterns of osteogenesis

| Pattern of osteogenesis | Biomaterials | |
|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Intervend osteogenesis | Stainless steel, Vitallium, PMMA (Polymethyl methacrylate) | Biotolerant materials |
| Contact osteogenesis | Titanium, Titanium alloys, Carbon, Alumina, Zirconia, Titania, TiN, Si₃N₄ | Bioinert materials |
| Bonding osteogenesis | Bioglass, Ceravital, Tricalcium phosphate, Hydroxyapatite, A-W glass ceramic | Bioactive materials |

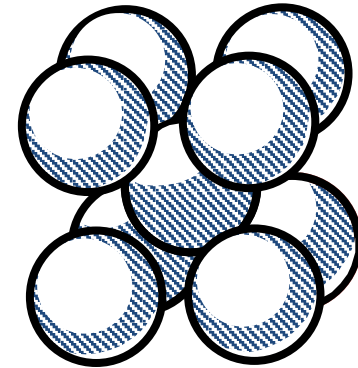
Crystal structures of titanium alloys



(a) Hexagonal close packed structure (HCP)
 α -type titanium alloy



(b) HCP + BCC
 $(\alpha + \beta)$ -type titanium alloy



(c) Body centered structure (BCC)

β -type titanium alloy

Fig. Schematic explanation of α -, $(\alpha + \beta)$ -, and β -type titanium alloys based on crystal structure.

β -type titanium alloys are advantageous for developing low Young's modulus medical metallic biomaterials.

Many kinds of low modulus β -type titanium alloys with non-toxic and allergy-free elements have been developed.

Representative ones , for example, are as follows:

- **Ti-13Nb-13Zr (ASTM F1713-96) : near β type, Low modulus**
- **Ti-12Mo-6Zr-2Fe (ASTM F1813-97): β type, Low modulus**
- **Ti-15Mo : β type (ASTM F2066) (U.S.A.), Low modulus**
- **Ti-16Nb-10Hf : β type, Low modulus**
- **Ti-15Mo-2.8Nb-0.2Si-0.26O : β type, Low, modulus**
- **Ti-35Nb-7Zr-5Ta (TNZT) : β type, Low modulus**
- **Ti-29Nb-13Ta-4.6Zr (TNTZ): β type, Low modulus**
- **Ti-Mo-Sn : β type, Low modulus**
- **Ti-40Ta, Ti-50Ta : β type, High corrosion resistance**

Selection of non-toxic and allergy-free elements

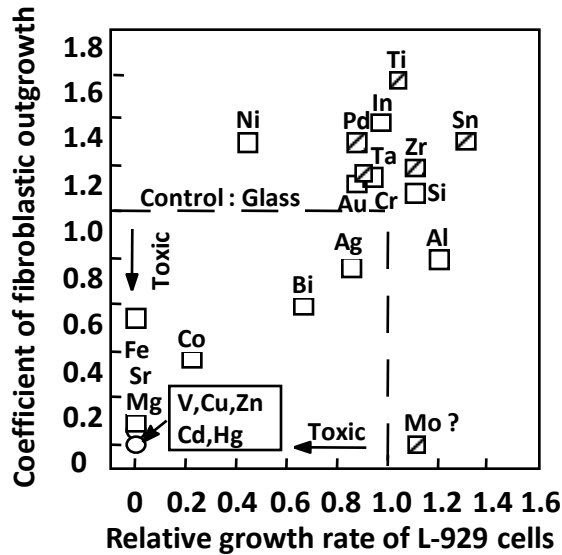


Fig. Cyto-toxicity of pure metals

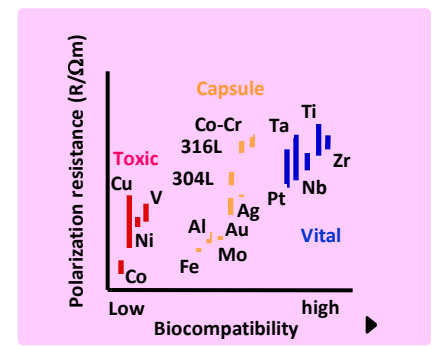


Fig. Corrosion resistance and biocompatibility of representative pure metals and metallic biomaterials

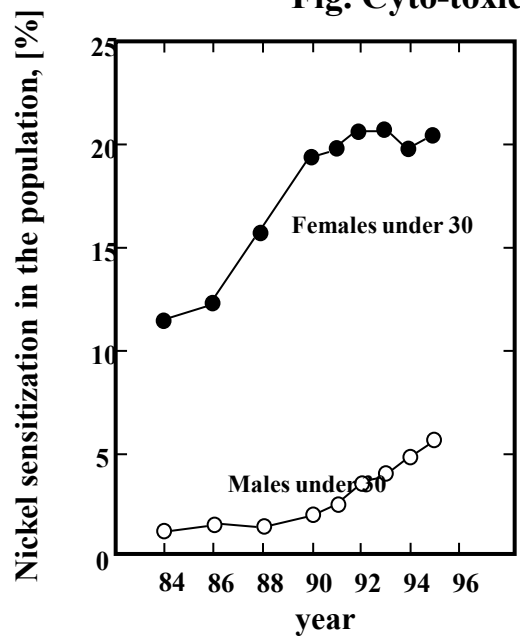


Fig. Frequency of nickel sensitization in the population.

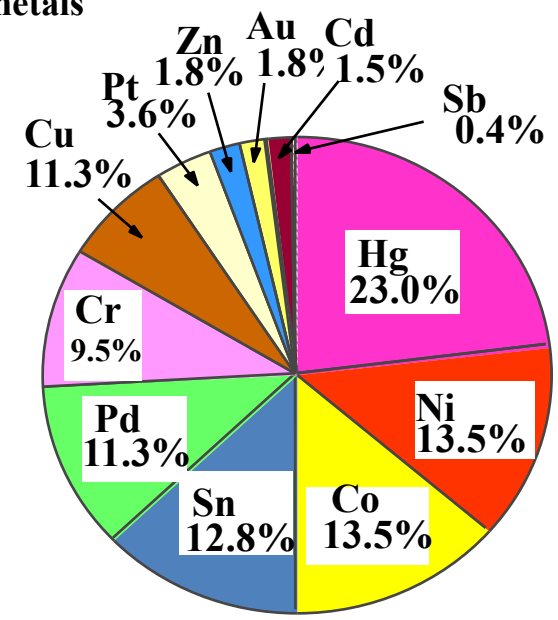
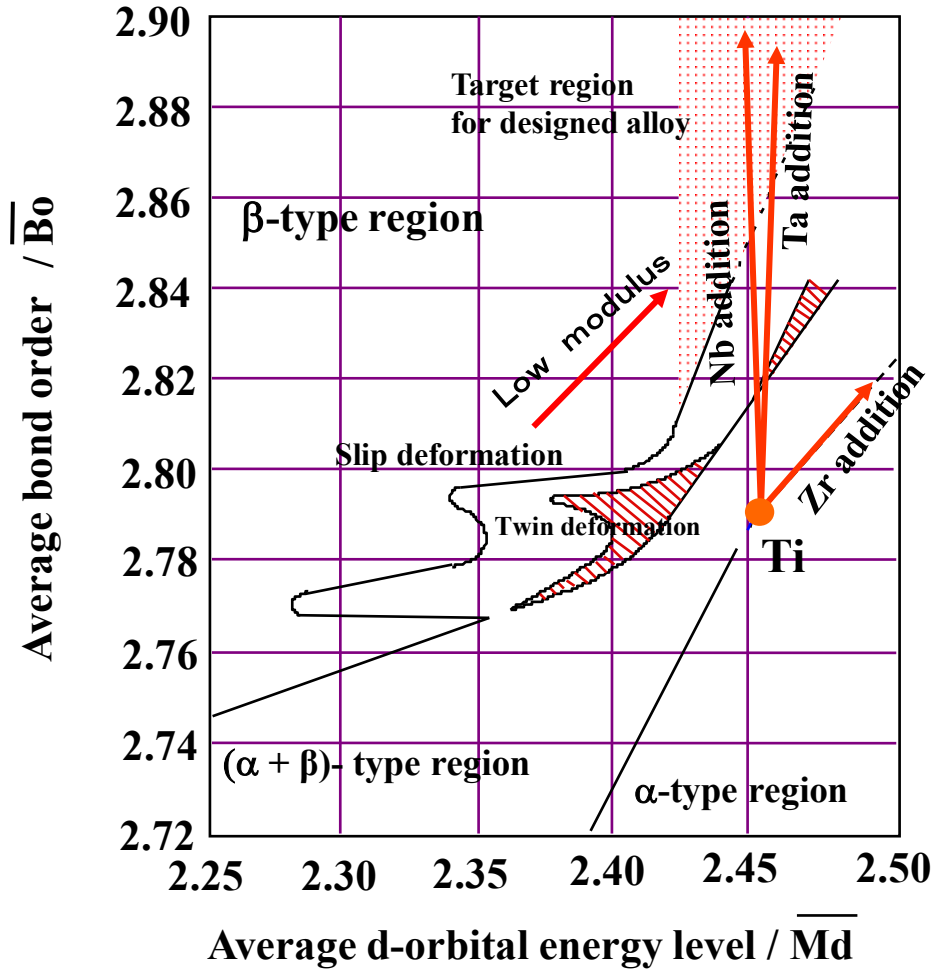


Fig. Rate of metallic allergy of each pure metal.



Bo-Md map.

Nb, Ta, and Zr are the most suitable for alloying elements.

Low Young's modulus β -type Ti-Nb-Ta-Zr alloys

Ti-29Nb-13Ta-4.6Zr(TNTZ)

Table *Young's moduli of ($\alpha + \beta$)–type Ti-6Al-4V ELI ,
 β -type Ti-29Nb-13Ta-4.6Zr (TNTZ), and cortical bone.*

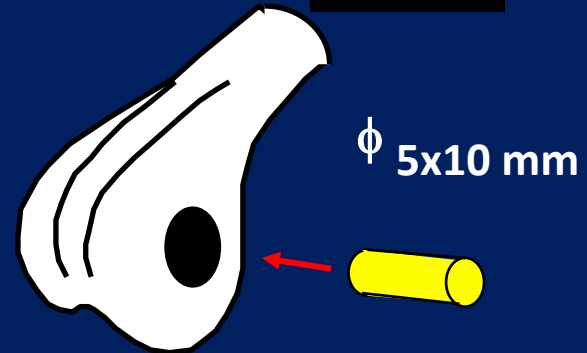
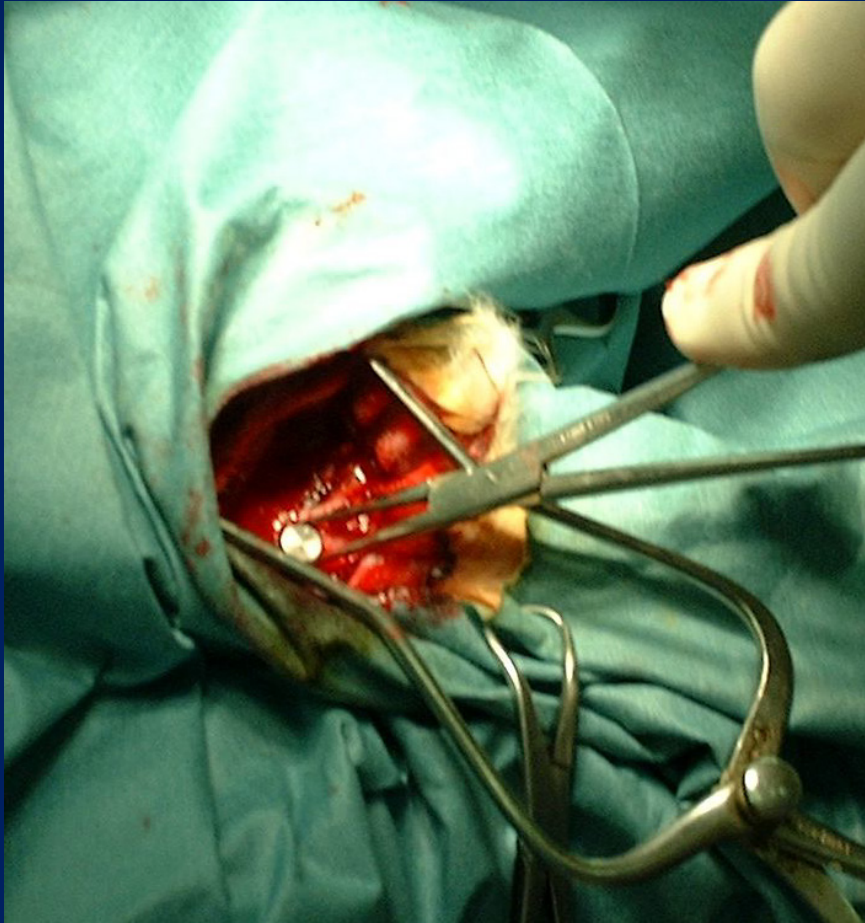
| Material | Young's modulus (GPa) |
|---|------------------------------|
| Ti-6Al-4V ELI (WQ) | 110 |
| Ti-29Nb-13Ta-4.6Zr | |
| ▪ WQ | 63 |
| ▪ WQ + aged at 673 K for 3.6 k | 97 |
| ▪ WQ + CW | 55 - 60 |
| Cortical bone | 10 - 30 |

WQ: Water quenching after solution treatment

AC: Air cooling after solution treatment

CW: Cold working

EXPERIMENT 1: BIOCOMPATIBILITY TEST

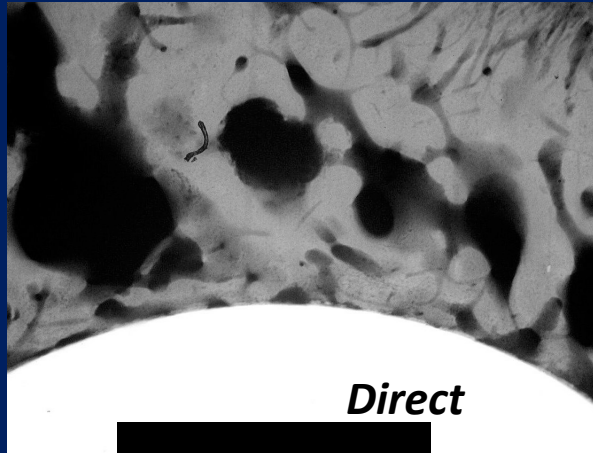


Implantation of columnar specimen into lateral femoral condyle under intravenous anesthesia.

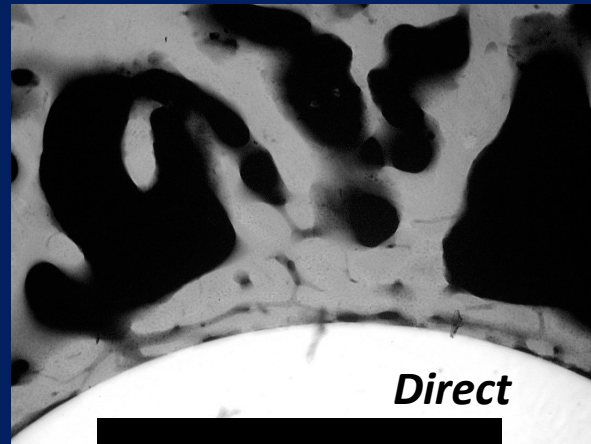


C. M. R of boundary of bone and columnar specimen implanted into lateral femoral condyle of rabbit at 8 weeks after implantation.

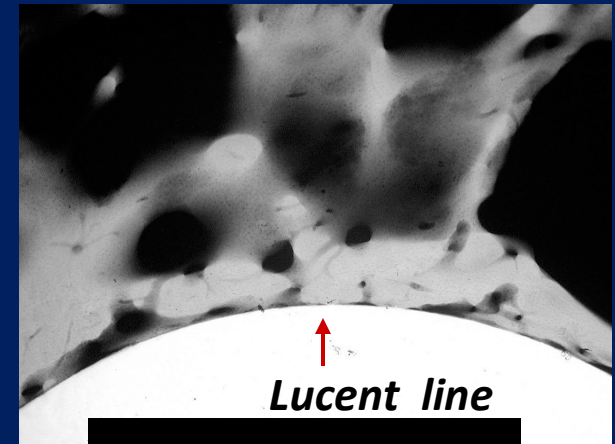
C.M.R.



TNTZ



Ti6Al4V



SUS316L

Regarding biocompatibility, TNTZ is equal to or possibly greater than Ti6Al4V both showing direct contact, and much better than SUS316L with a radio lucent line.

Evaluation of bone formation versus low modulus

Experiment 1 : Intramedullary fixation

1.



2.



3.



Intramedullary rods made of
Ti-29Nb-13Ta-4.6Zr (TNTZ),
Ti-6Al-4V ELI and SUS 316 L
stainless steel



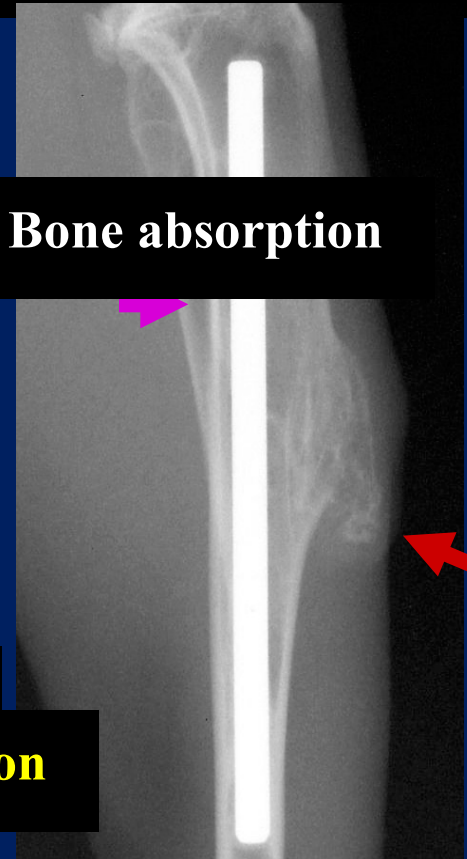
Remodeling at 24 weeks after implantation



TNTZ



Ti-6Al-4V ELI

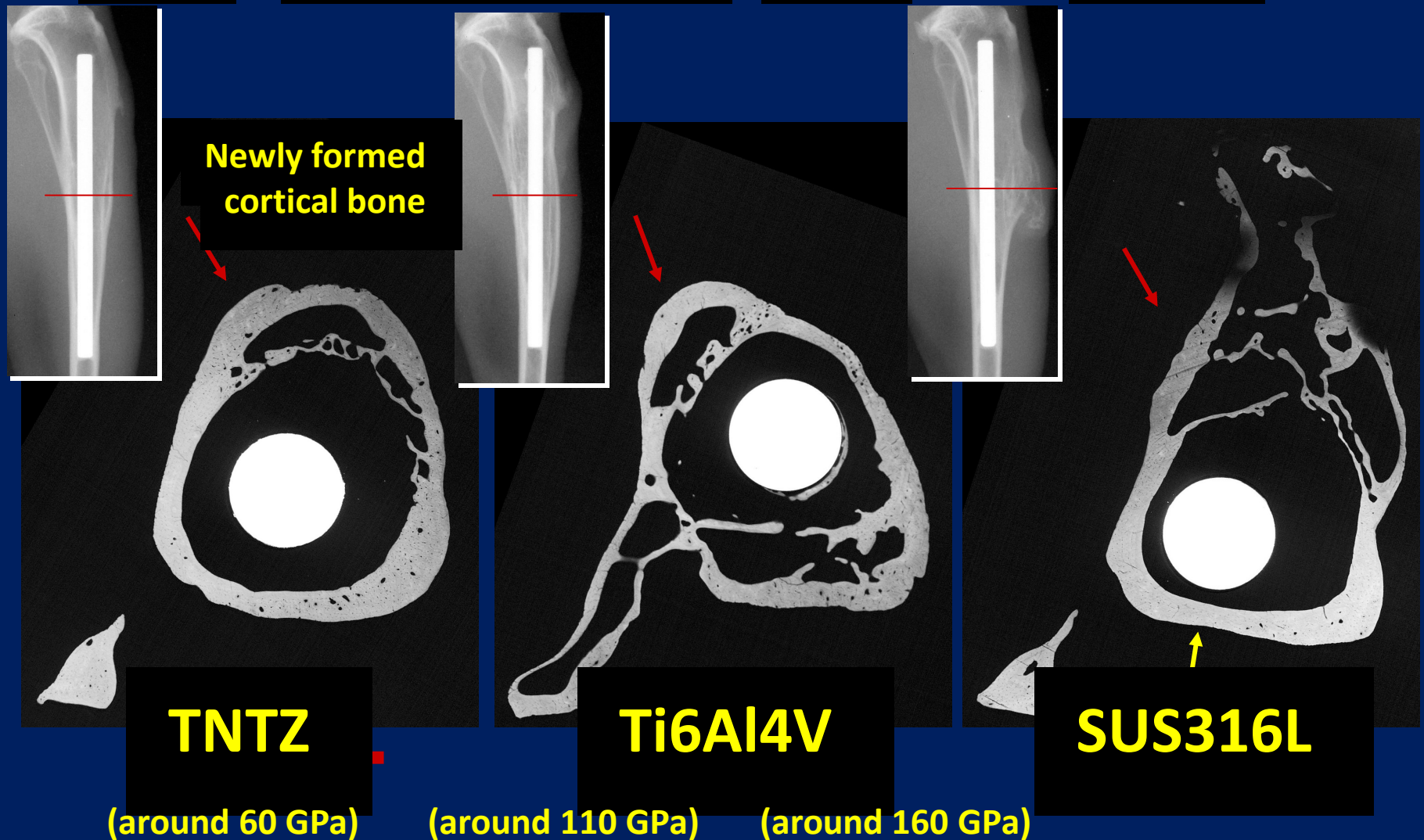


Bone absorption

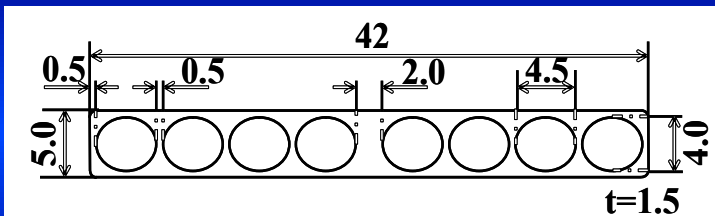
Bone formation

SUS316L

RESULT 2: C.M.R. CROSS SECTION AT 24W



AO mini dynamic compression plate (AO mini DCP)



Based on the design of AO mini DCP for human finger, the bone plate were made of TNTZ.

The plate and screws of Ti-6Al-4V and SUS316L were also provided as control.

As experimental animal, mature New Zealand white rabbits (all male, weight about 3kg) were used.

Increase of tibia diameter in TNTZ

The double wall structure is observed with different X-P densities and a clear boundary line at the middle and distal levels is observed

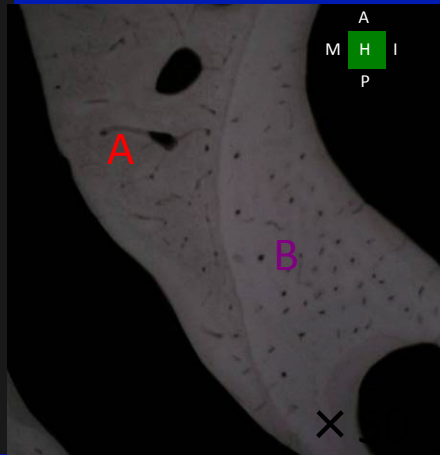
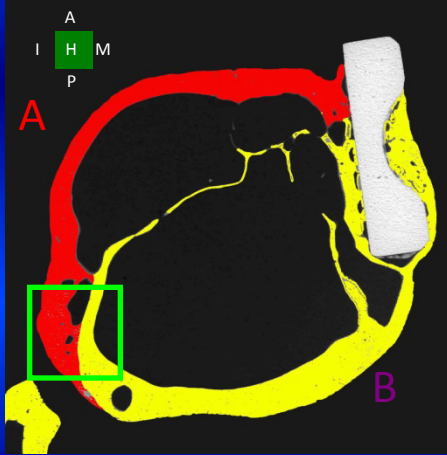
The shape of the inner wall is close to the original cortical bone,

The outer wall seems to be newly formed cortical bone.

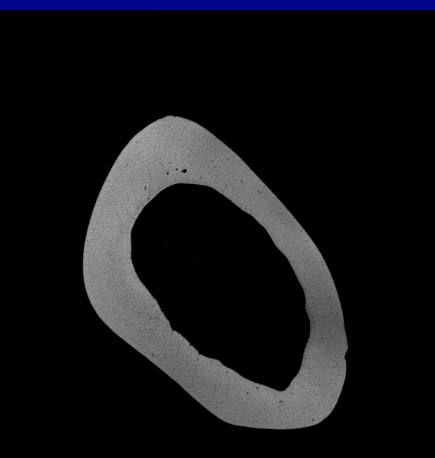
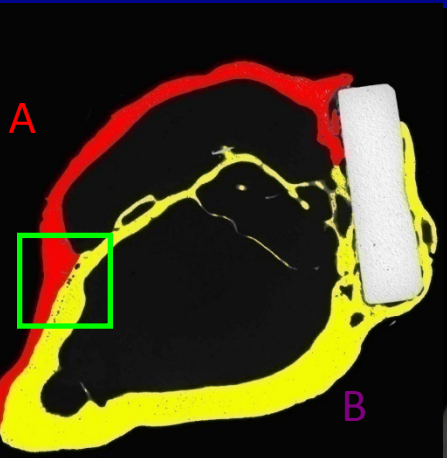
The inner wall seems to be the remains of old cortical bone.



Bone remodeling according to the stress condition occurs

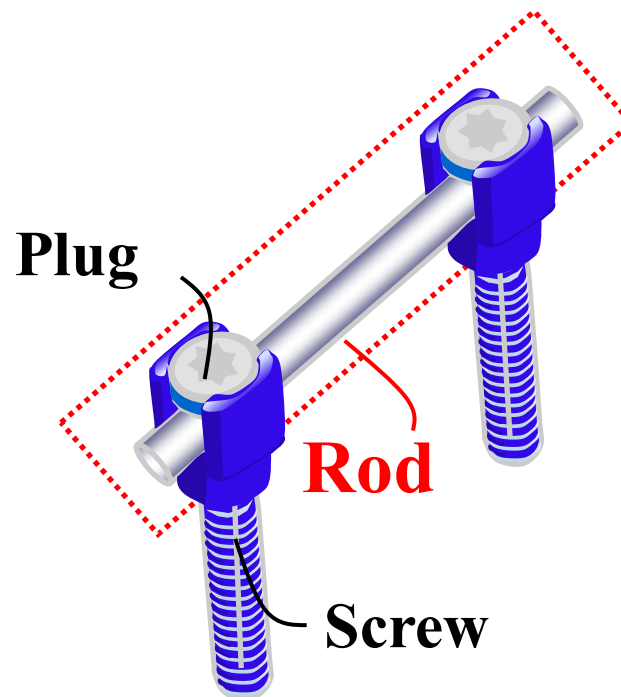
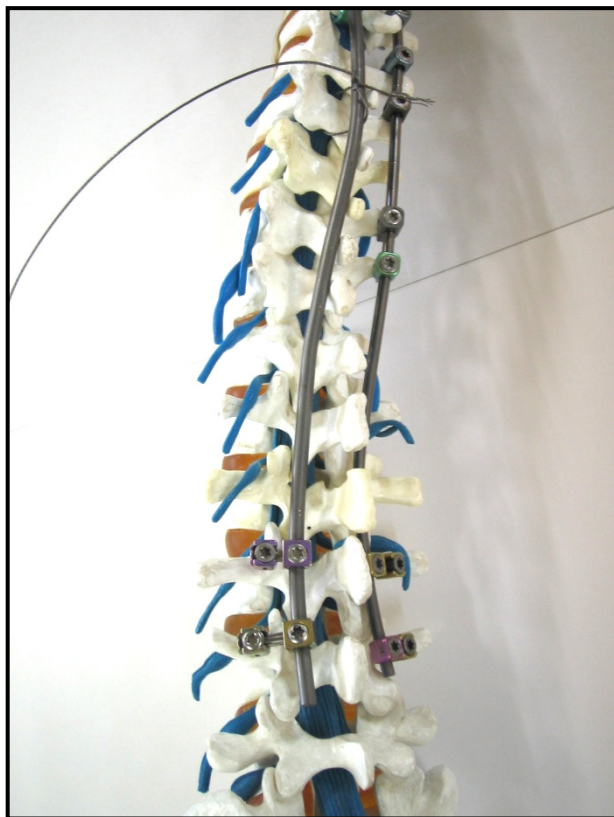


Middle



Distal

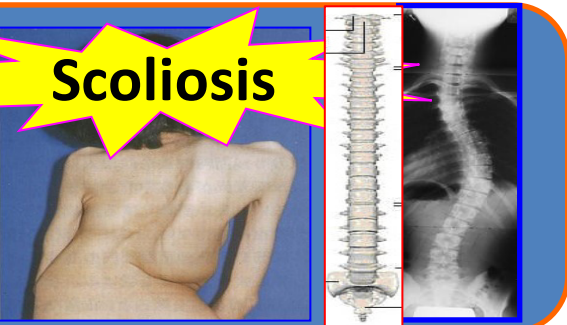
Material development for specific devices



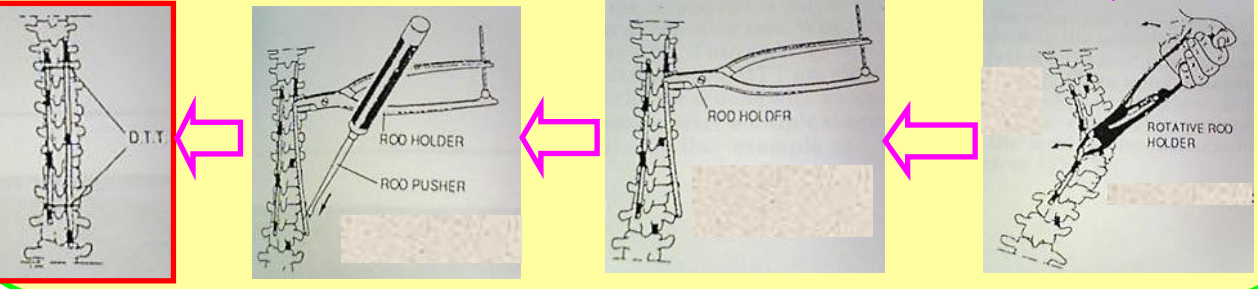
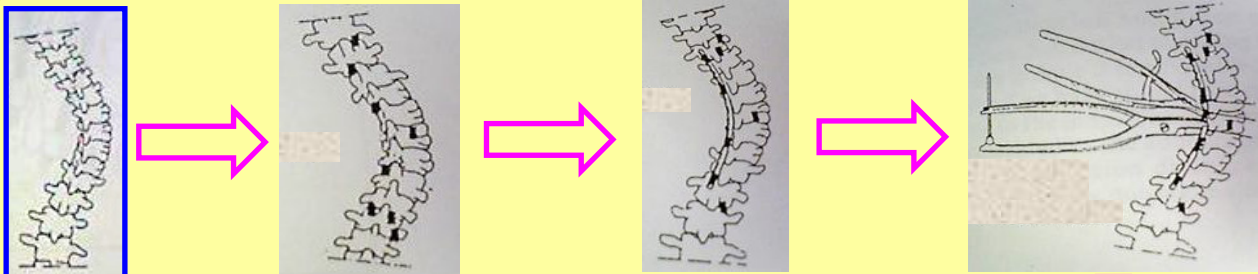
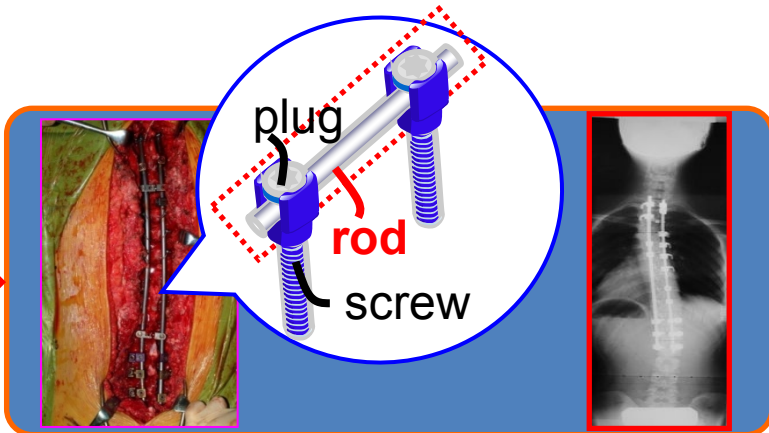
Spinal fixation device is composed of three parts of rod, screw and plug. Spine is corrected to be normal shape using two rods.

Principle for developing new medical devices

Scoliosis



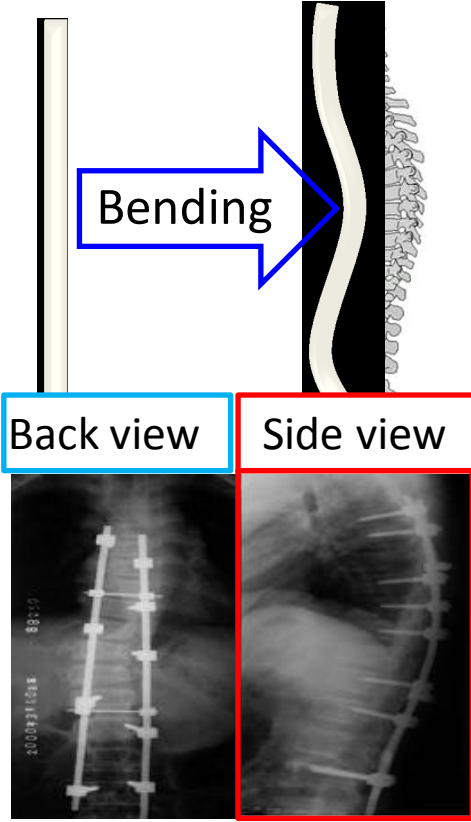
Operation



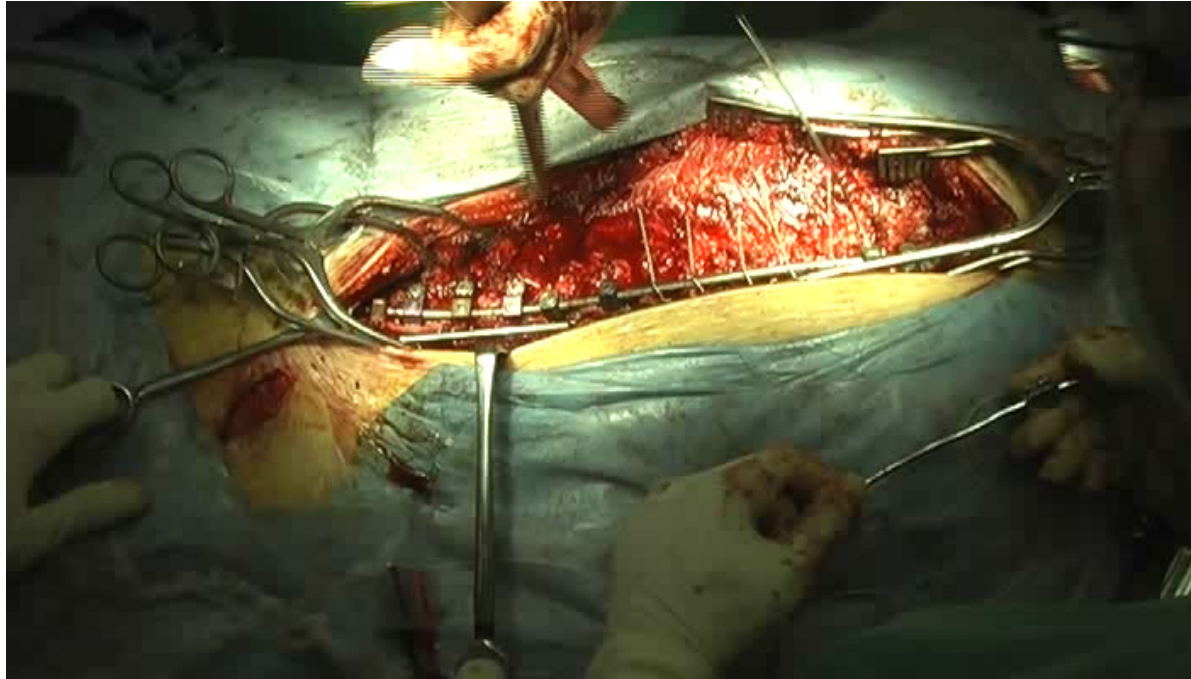
Bending

Back view

Side view



Operation with spinal fixture



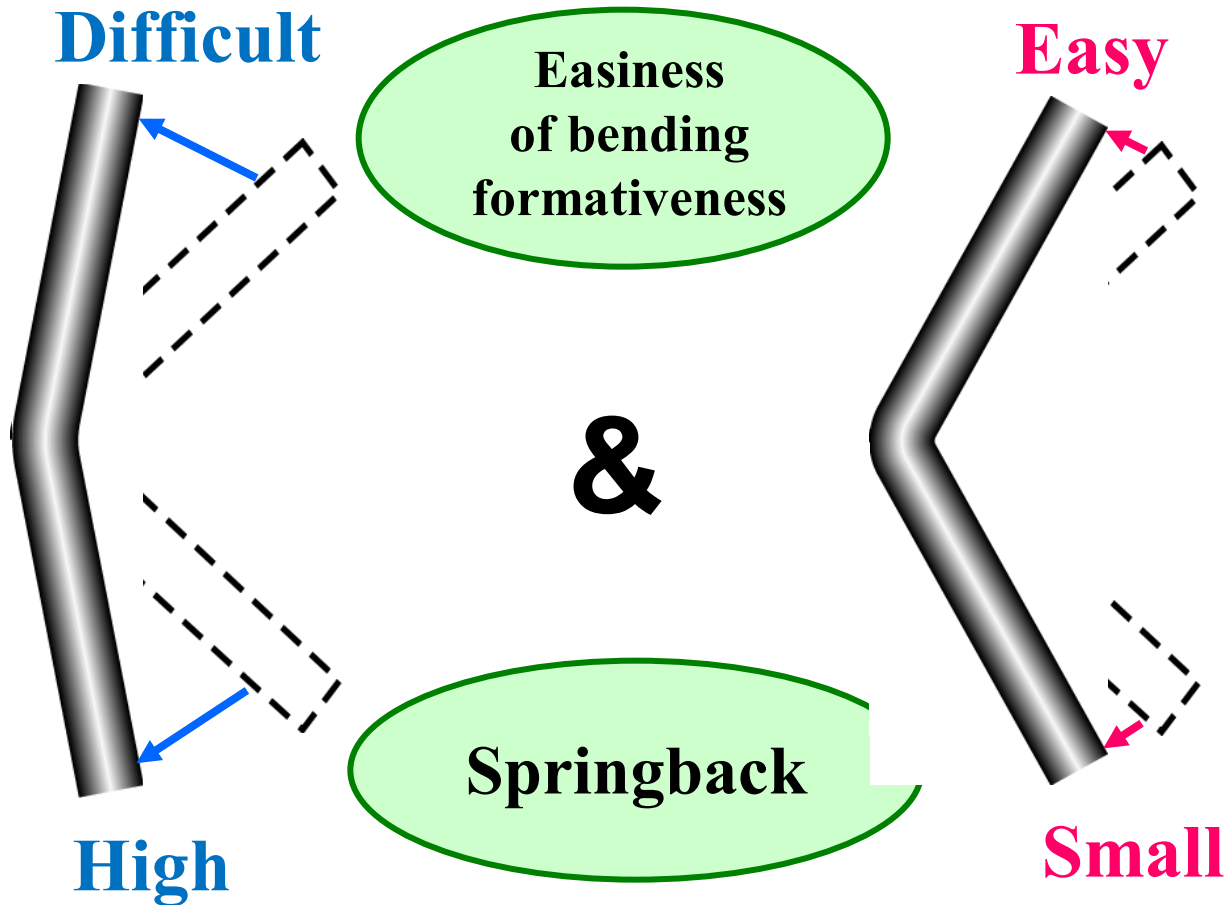
**Bend during operation → Portion needed bending is unknown before operation
(treatment before operation is difficult)**

Space for bending is narrow → High bending formability is required.

Scratch is formed by contacting with bending device. → Fatigue strength is degraded by notch effect.

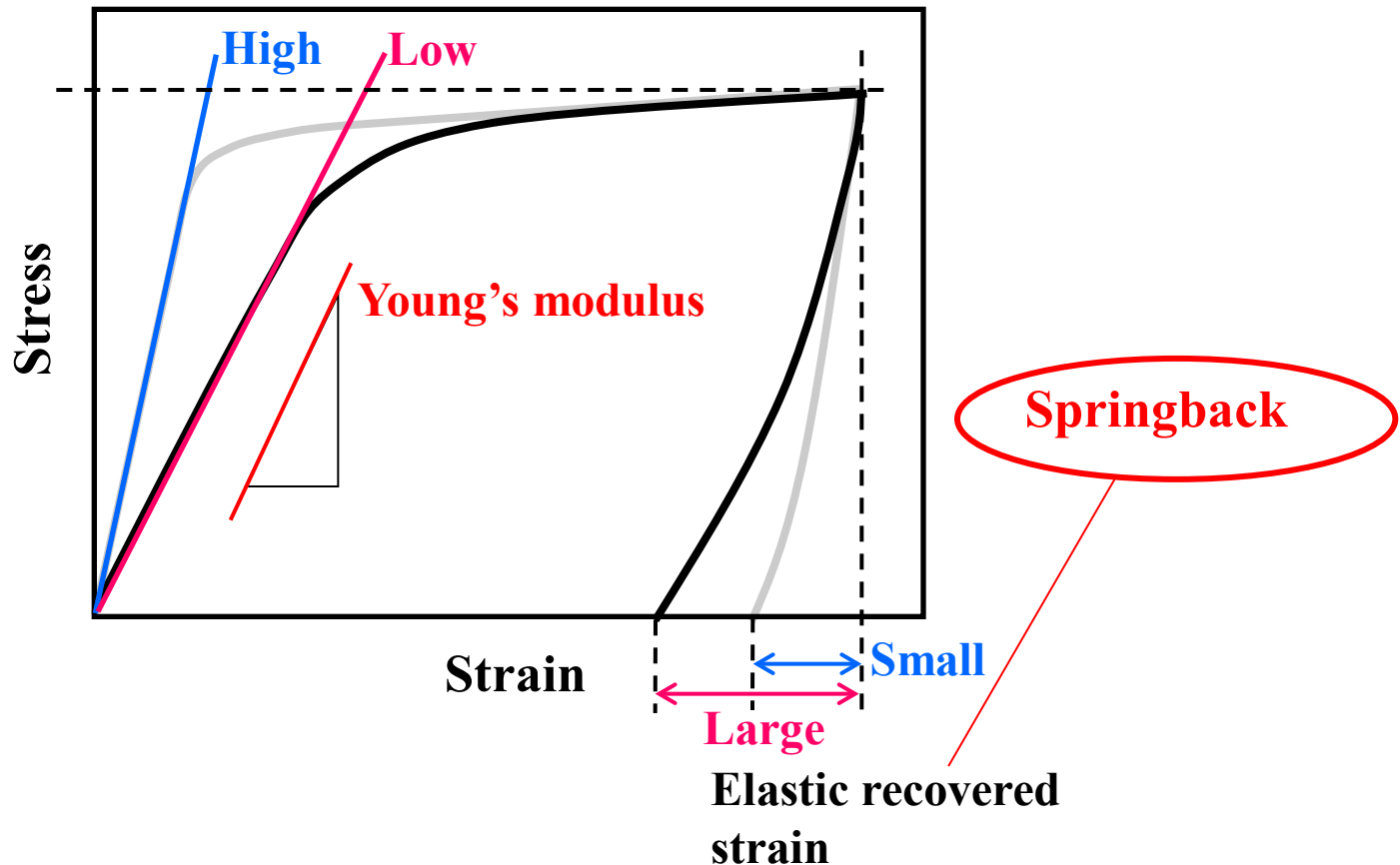
**Required property: bending formability
(easy operation)**

Factor, which determines bending formativity



Bending formativity is higher with decreasing springback.

Concept of suppressing springback



Springback is smaller with increasing Young's modulus

Fig. The relationship between Young's modulus and springback

Young's modulus required for spinal fixation devices

Surgeons

High formattiveness is required.

High Young's modulus



Conflicting requirement

Patients

Suppressing stress shielding is required.

Low Young's modulus



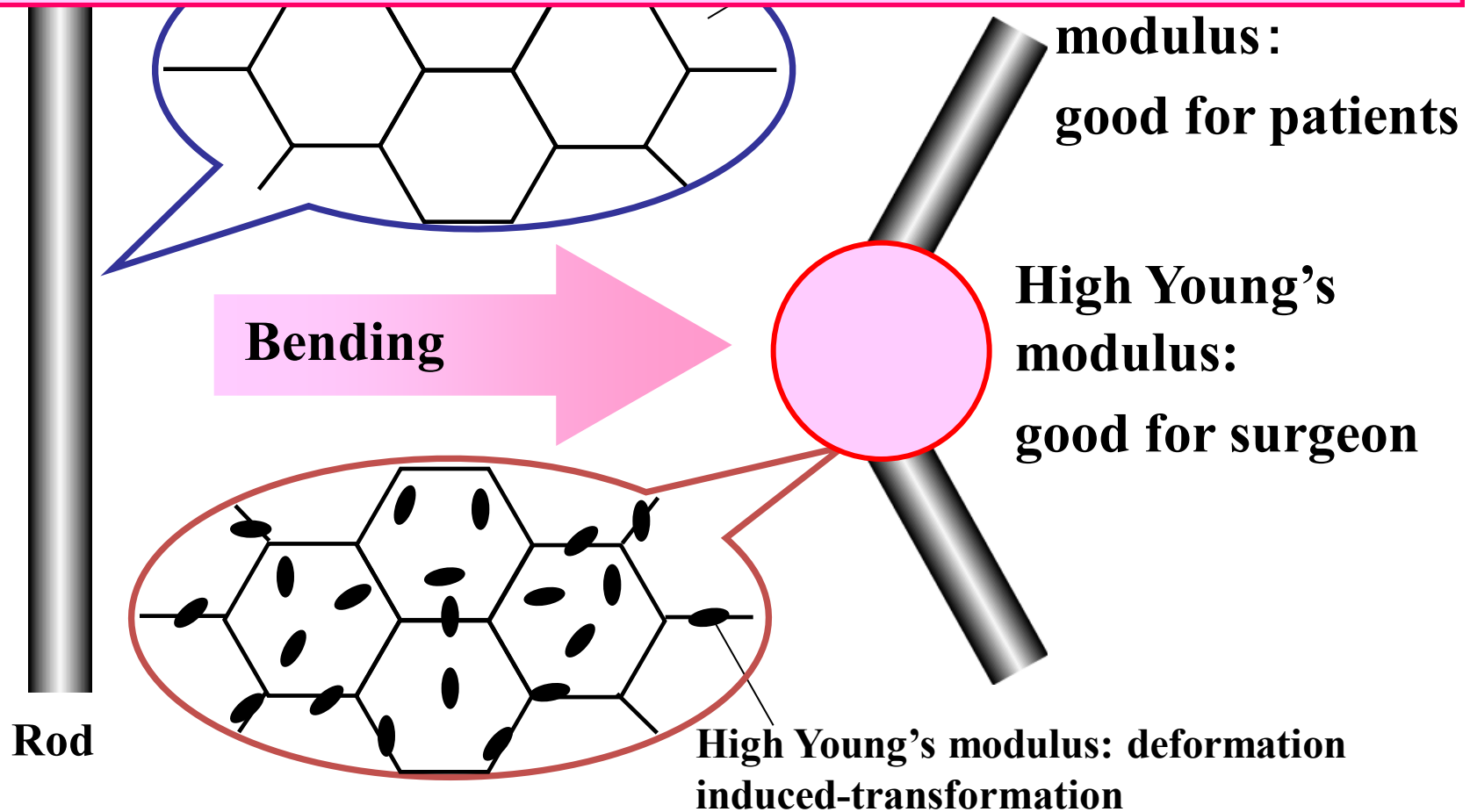
Achieving Young's modulus satisfying both requirements of surgeons and patients.

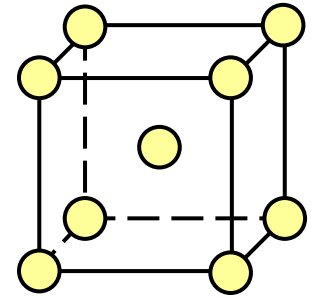
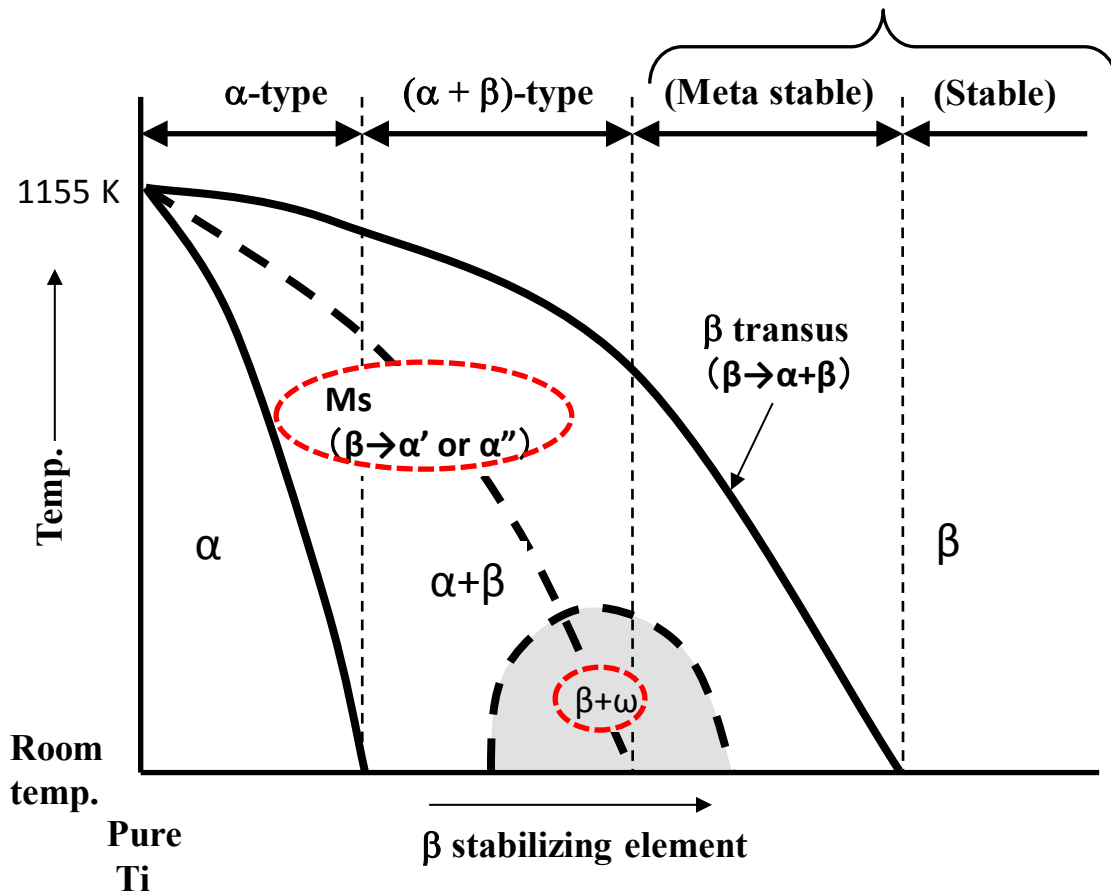
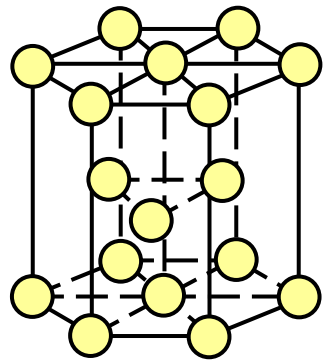
Principle for developing new medical devices



**Titanium alloy of which Young's modulus is changed during operation
(Biomedical titanium alloys with changeable Young's modulus)**

Lo





Low

β stability

High

hcp- α
phase

hcp- α'
phase

orthorhombic-
 α'' phase

hexagonal-
(trigonal-) ω
phase

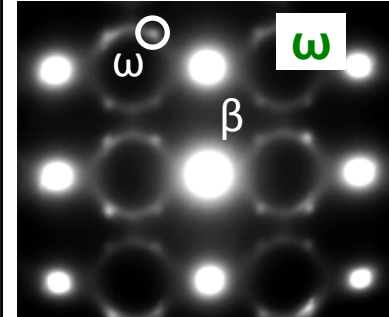
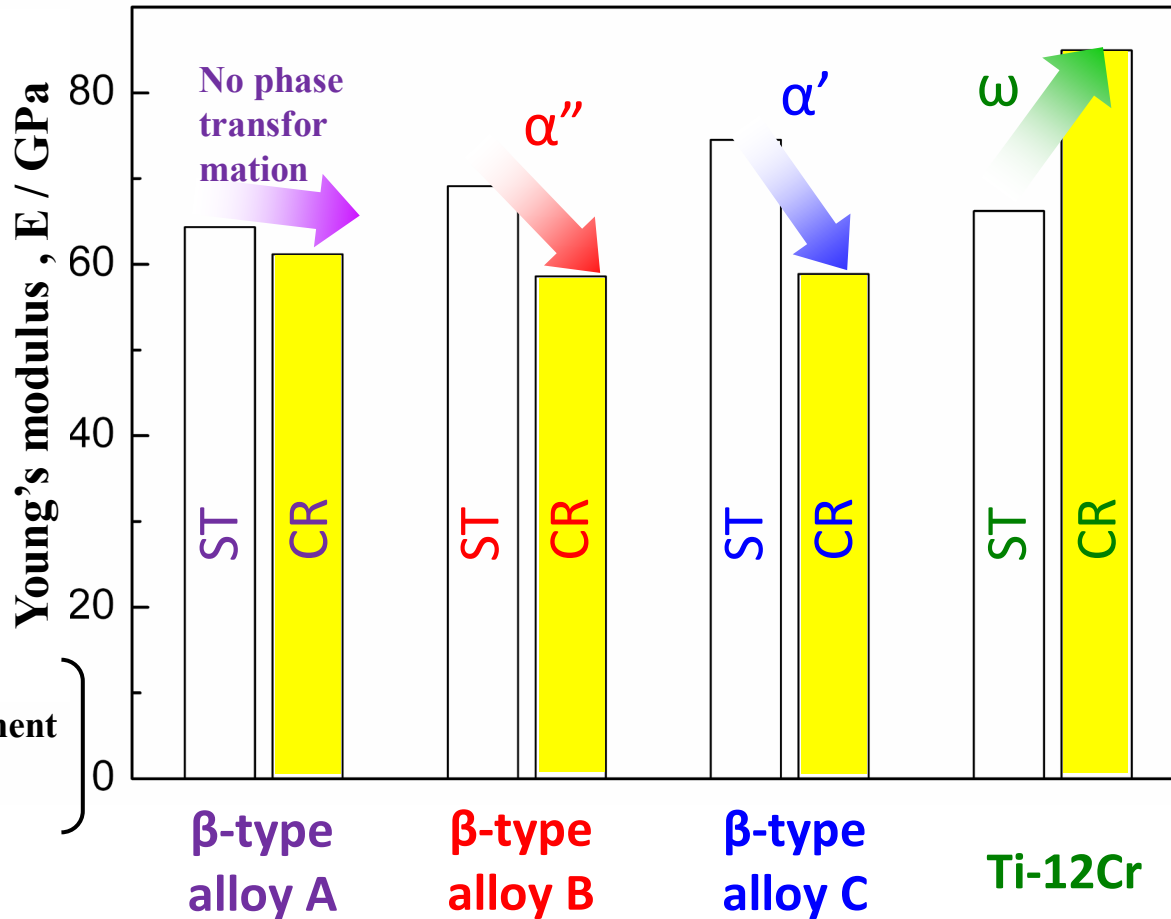
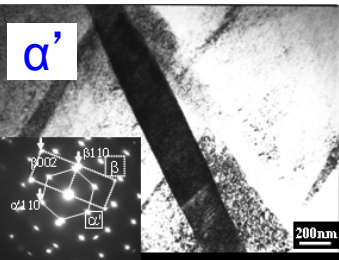
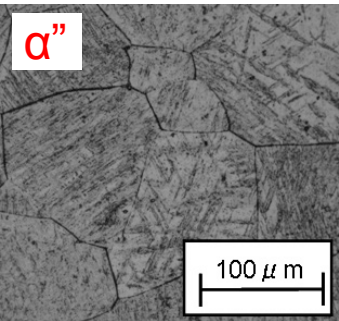
bcc- β
phase

Relationship between schematic phase diagram of titanium alloys and β stability.

Determining deformation induced phase

Change in Young's modulus due to deformation

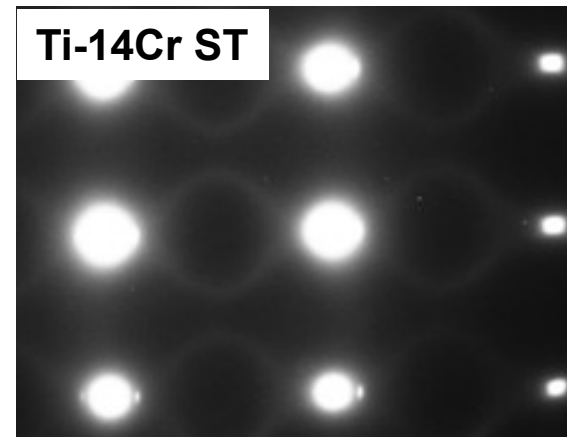
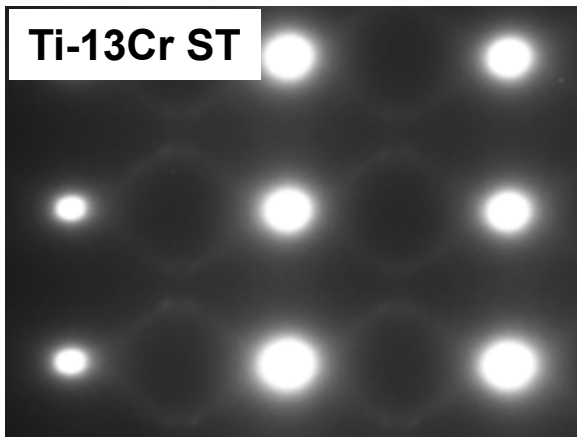
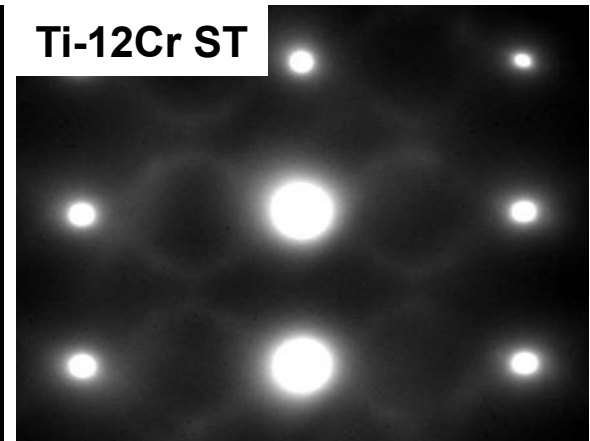
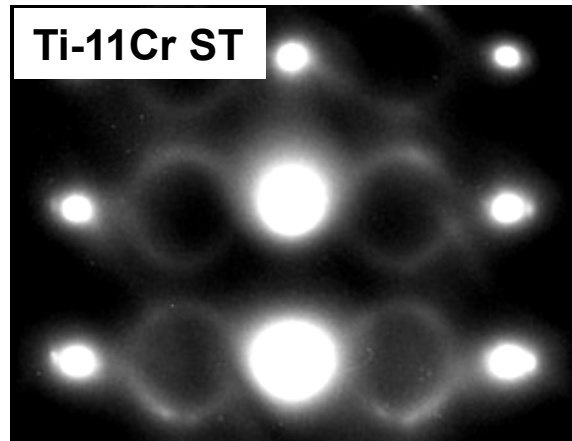
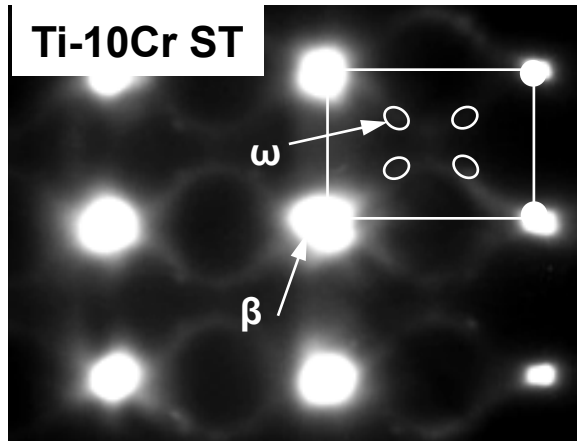
Realization of increase in Young's modulus by deformation



ST: Solution treatment
CR: Cold rolling

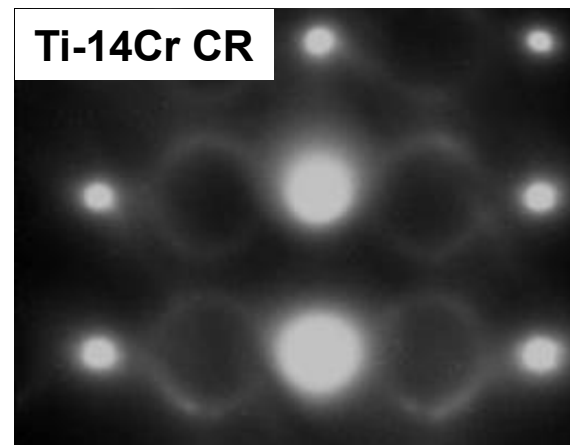
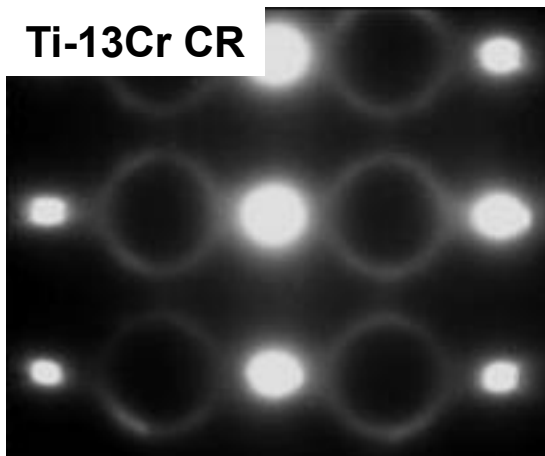
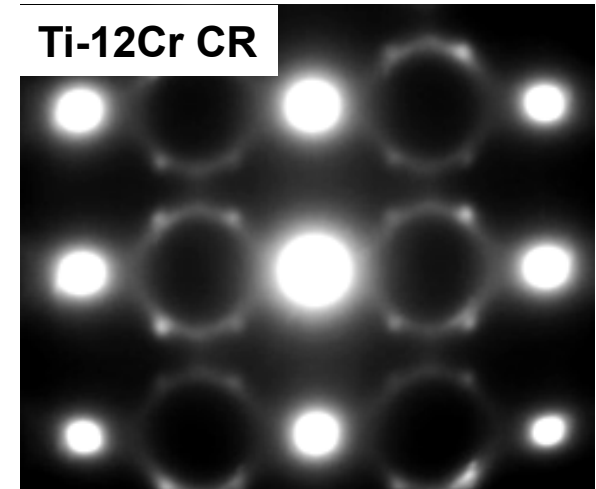
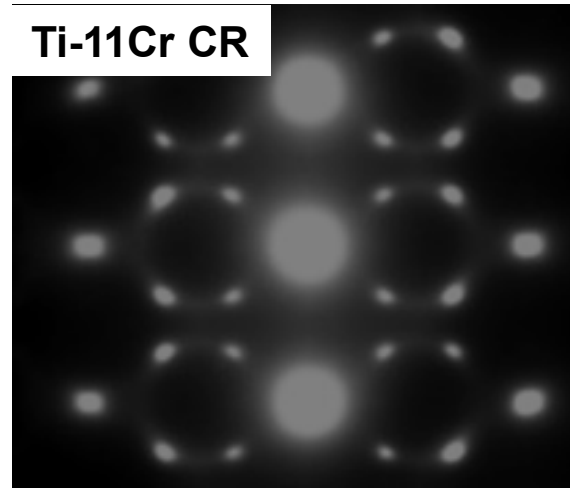
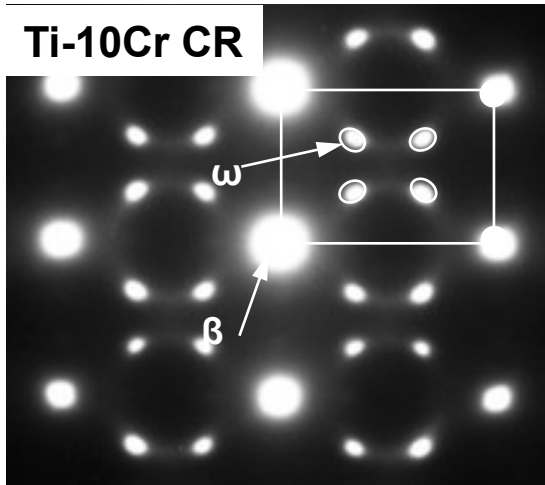
Utilizing ω phase is effective to increase Young's modulus by deformation.

Optimizing alloy composition (example of Ti-12Cr)



**Circular streaks related to athermal ω phase are recognized.
Amount of athermal ω phase is decreased due to increase in β stability.**

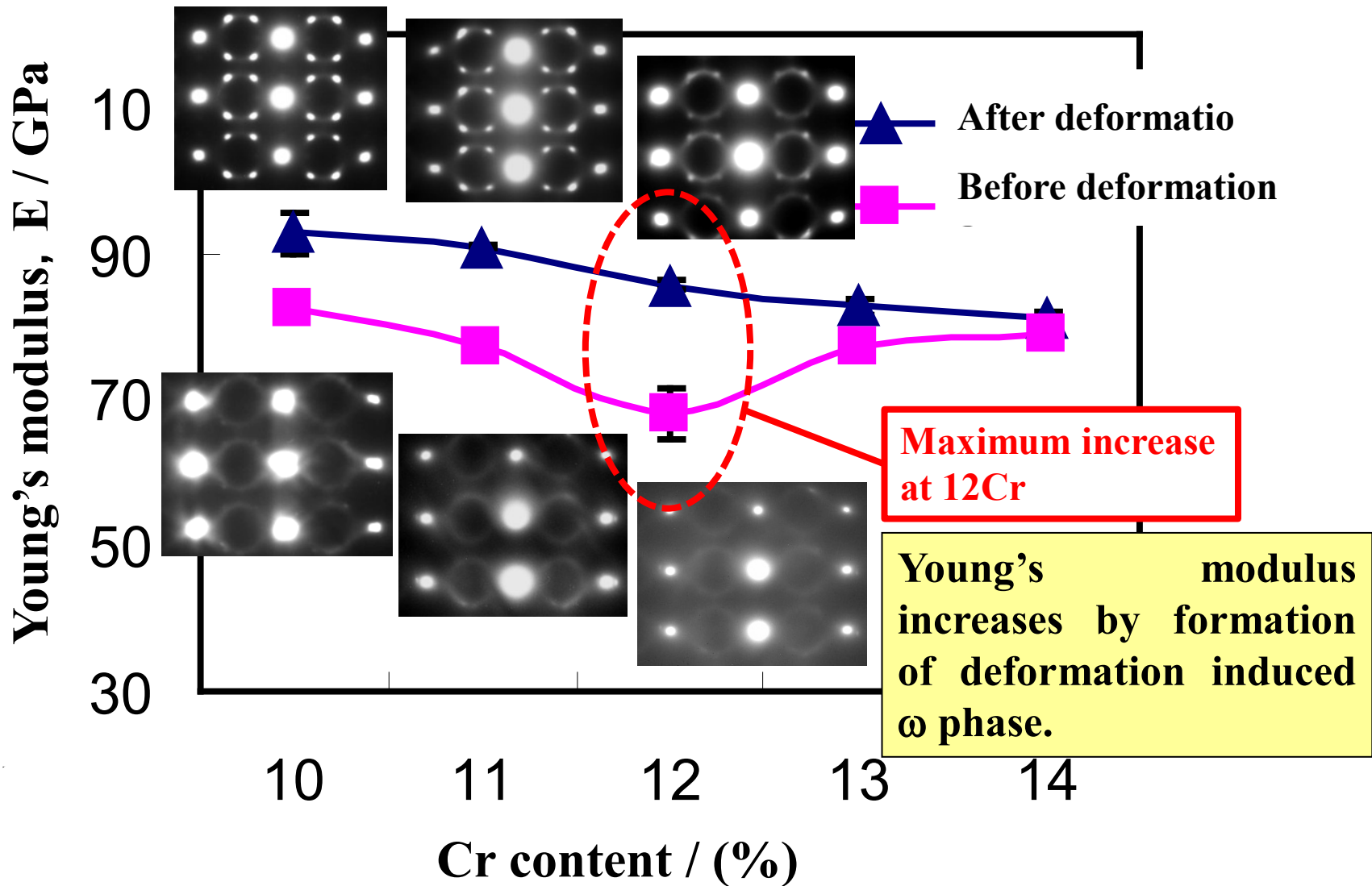
Optimizing alloy composition (example of Ti-12Cr)



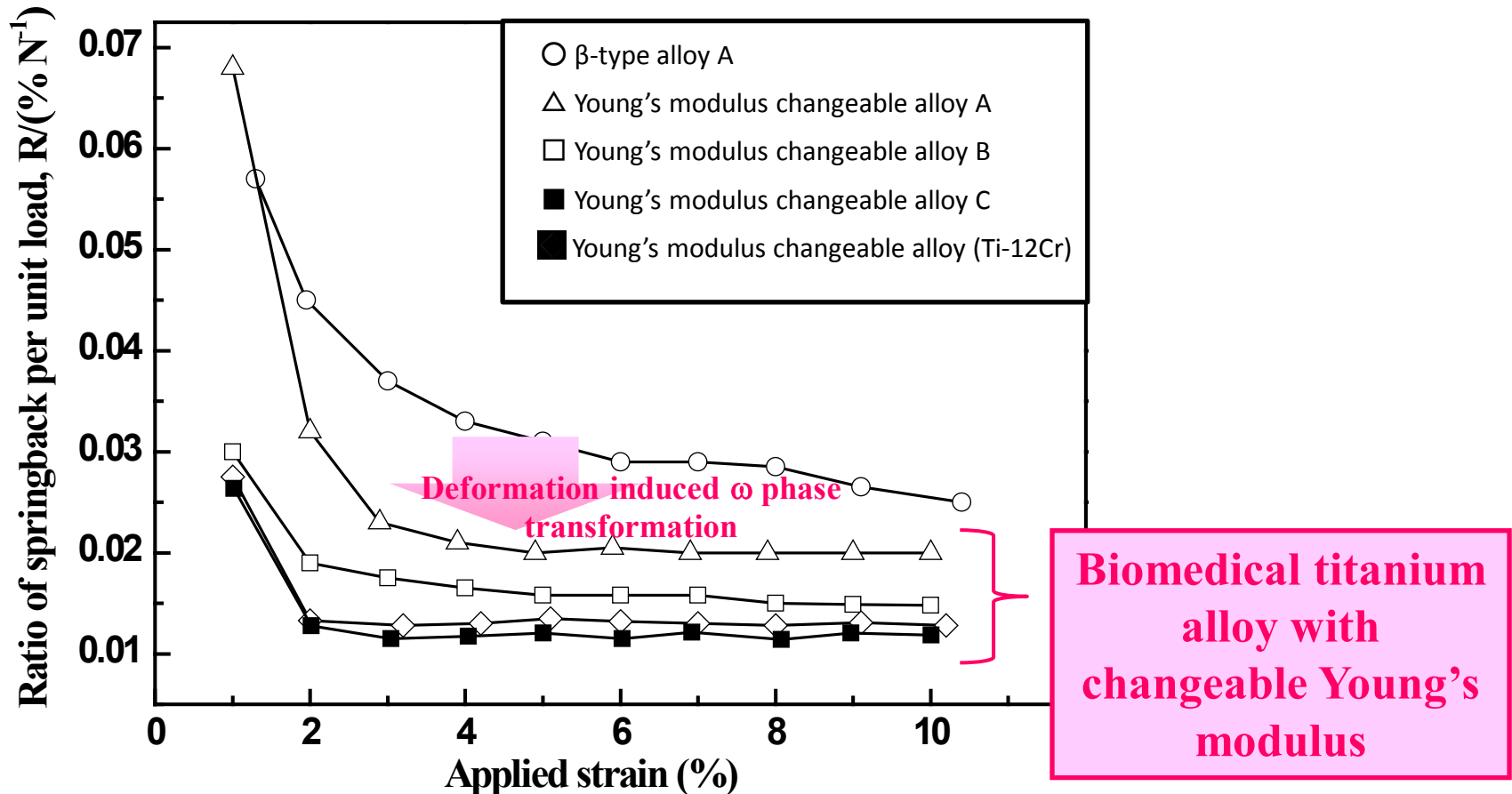
Deflection from ω phase becomes to be strong \rightarrow Formation of deformation induced ω phase

Determining deformation induced phase

Change in Young's modulus and microstructure due to deformation



Springback



Springback is suppressed by increasing Young's modulus due to deformation induced ω phase transformation.

Future of titanium alloys with changeable Young's modulus for biomedical applications

New usage of deformation induced ω phase

Spinal fixation devices

Utilize deformation induced ω phase transformation to suppress springback



Utilize deformation induced ω phase to controlling shape

Self-tunable Young's modulus

~~Expanding scope of applications~~



Intramedullary rods

Strengthening of loading portion by deformation induced ω phase



Artificial hip joints



Cerebral aneurysm



Bone fracture fixation devices

Stress responding self-strengthening function

Metallic medical devices, which exhibit optimized mechanical functionality according to the individual usage conditions such as treated area, sex, year, living circumstances like living tissues can be developed.

Thank you very much for your kind attention!