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Chitosan-based blended films for wound dressing applications

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Introduction

Chronic wounds (CW) have numerous entry ways for pathogen invasion and prosperity, which further damages host tissue and hinders tissue remodeling. Essential oils (EOs) exert quick and efficient antimicrobial (AM) action, unlikely to induce bacterial resistance. Cinnamon leaf oil (CLO) is a well-studied EO with strong AM properties. In this work, CLO was added to chitosan (Ch) and polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) solutions. Ch is a natural cationic polysaccharide with antibacterial, anti-inflammatory and regenerative properties. PVA adds flexibility and hydrophilicity to the blend. Ch and PVA (72 KDa, 88% hydrolysed) films were prepared by solvent casting and phase inversion method (as previously done by the lab). CLO was added to Ch solution shortly before blending. The goal of this work is to provide a first proof of concept that CLO can be dispersed into Ch and PVA films and show bactericidal effects, opening new perspectives for CW therapeutics.

Ch/PVA Film Production

Materials: Ch, Mw 100,000-300,000 and 9.7±0.6% of acetylglucosamine units, and PVA, Mw 72,000 and 88% hydrolyzed; acetic acid and distilled water as solvents; coagulation bath of sodium sulfate (Na₂SO₄) and sodium hydroxide (NaOH)

1) Antibacterial action of CLO

Antimicrobial Agent	MICs (µg/mL)	
	S. aureus	E. coli
CLO	26.2	19.7

2) Fourier-Transformed Infrared Spectroscopy with Attenuated **Total Reflectance (ATR-FTIR)**



Water	Water content (%)	
Ch	82.7 ± 1.3	
Ch/PVA	85.1 ± 2.3	

Method: Solvent Casting followed by Phase-Inversion



Ch/PVA

S. aureus E. coli





Conclusions: CLO functionalized Ch/PVA films has potential for CW wound dressing applications. For more details please refer to **DOI: 10.1002/app.48626**

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