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Scott E. Wharram
CMB Sciences, Inc.

Stephen McCarthy
University of Massachusetts - Lowell

Raymond Dunn
University of Massachusetts Medical School

See next page for additional authors

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Presenter Information

Scott E. Wharram, Stephen McCarthy, Raymond Dunn, and Ronald A. Ignatz

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BIODEGRADABLE WOUND DRESSING FOR SKIN REGENERATION

Scott E. Wharram¹, Stephen McCarthy²; Raymond Dunn³; Ronald Ignatz³

¹CMB Sciences, Inc.; ²Department of Plastics Engineering, UMASS-Lowell; ³Division of Plastic Surgery, UMASS Medical School, Worcester, MA

Contact Ronald.ignatz@umassmed.edu, 508-334-7692

Using the delayed healing model of diabetic (db/db) mice, we evaluated the ability of a novel silk based dressing to facilitate healing of full-thickness excisional wounds. Silk protein from Bombyx mori was used to create wound dressings via a proprietary electrospinning technique. The resulting dressing is vapor and air transmissible. Eight millimeter diameter full-thickness wounds were created on the backs of diabetic mice and covered with either a standard (n=12) telfa-gauze or the silk (n=12) dressing. At 2 day intervals, the telfa dressings were removed, the wounds photographed, measured and fresh dressings placed. For mice receiving the silk dressing, it was allowed to remain in place unless it became dislodged. In that case, a fresh dressing was placed into the wound bed. Wound healing was followed for 21 days at which time the mice were sacrificed, the wound areas excised and subjected to H & E and Trichrome staining. Wounds covered with the silk dressings developed an eschar encompassing the silk whereas wounds dressed with gauze remained moist and without eschar throughout the study period. Upon histologic examination, 1 of the gauze dressed wounds developed a complete epithelial layer across the wound. The remaining 11 wounds had large areas remaining without an epithelial cover. In contrast, 5 of 12 mice receiving the silk dressing developed complete epithelial layers, 2 additional mice had very small areas remaining without a complete epithelium. The remaining 5 had modest areas without an epithelial covering. The ability of silk dressings to permit the formation of an eschar versus gauze in which the wounds remained wet may contribute significantly to the healing response observed. These results suggest that the breathable, vapor transmissible nature of the silk dressing may be an effective dressing for difficult to heal wounds such as diabetic foot ulcers.