



## Disposable Patterned Electroceutical Dressing (PED-10) Is Safe for Treatment of Open Clinical Chronic Wounds

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**Objective:** To evaluate if patterned electroceutical dressing (PED) is safe for human chronic wounds treatment as reported by wound care providers.

**Approach:** This work reports a pilot feasibility study with the primary objective to determine physically observable effects of PED application on host tissue response from a safety evaluation point of view. For this pilot study, patients receiving a lower extremity amputation with at least one open wound on the part to be amputated were enrolled. Patients were identified through the Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center (OSUWMC) based on inclusion and exclusion criteria through prescreening through the Comprehensive Wound Center's (CWC) Limb Preservation Program and wound physicians and/or providers at OSUWMC. Wounds were treated with the PED before amputation surgery.

**Results:** The intent of the study was to identify if PED was safe for clinical application based on visual observations of adverse or lack of adverse events on skin and wound tissue. The pilot testing performed on a small cohort ( $N=8$ ) of patients showed that with engineered voltage regulation of current flow to the open wound, the PED can be used with little to no visually observable adverse effects on chronic human skin wounds.

**Innovation:** The PED was developed as a second-generation tunable electroceutical wound care dressing, which could potentially be used to treat wounds with deeper infections compared with current state of the art that treats wounds with treatment zone limited to the surface near topical application.

**Conclusion:** Technology advances in design and fabrication of electroceutical dressings were leveraged to develop a tunable laboratory prototype that could be used as a disposable low-cost electroceutical wound care dressing on chronic wounds. Design revisions of PED-1 (1 k $\Omega$  ballast resistor) circumvented previously observed adverse effects on the skin in the vicinity of an open wound. PED-10 (including a 10 k $\Omega$  ballast resistor) was well tolerated in the small cohort of patients ( $N=8$ ) on whom it was tested, and the observations reported here warrant a larger study to determine the clinical impact on human wound healing and infection control.

**Keywords:** electroceutical, wound care dressing, clinical, safety, chronic wound



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## INTRODUCTION

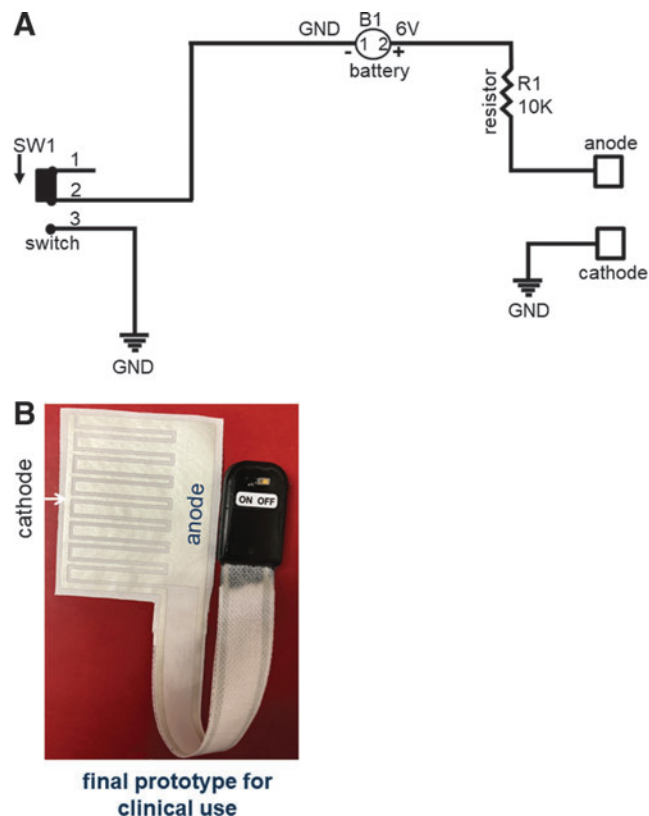
IN THE UNITED STATES, 6.5 million patients are affected by chronic wounds adding an estimated US\$25 billion annually to health care costs.<sup>1</sup> A recent meta-analysis of 9 chronic wound studies involving 185 wounds reported >75% prevalence of biofilms in chronic wounds.<sup>2</sup> In addition to impaired cellular wound healing processes, the presence of biofilm infection derails natural wound healing.<sup>3–14</sup> Innovative strategies to combat wound biofilm infection, while promoting healing of hard-to-heal wounds, are urgently needed.

The human skin has an intrinsic transepithelial potential (TEP) generated and maintained by ion flow.<sup>15</sup> After injury, when the skin continuity is disrupted, a wound electrical current (EC) is momentarily generated followed by establishment of a lateral electric field (EF).<sup>16–19</sup> There is growing research to suggest that this transverse EF promotes wound healing by stimulating the (1) migration of neutrophils and macrophages,<sup>20,21</sup> (2) activity of fibroblasts,<sup>22</sup> and (3) blood flow.<sup>23–30</sup> In the United States, electrical stimulation (ES) devices have been used for the treatment of chronic wounds since 2002.<sup>19,31,32</sup> Such treatment has also been reimbursed by Medicare in wounds that have failed to heal using standard wound therapies.<sup>32</sup> Multiple clinical studies have demonstrated that ES together with standard of care (SoC) is more effective than SoC alone.<sup>19</sup>

The concept of smart electrical bandages is slowly gaining momentum<sup>33–37</sup>; the idea of providing engineered, controllable EC and EF through disposable low-cost electroceutical wound care dressing is innovative and not currently available. The first-generation technology, a wireless electroceutical dressing (WED), is available commercially (Procellera<sup>®</sup>) with FDA clearance for burn care dressings.<sup>38–42</sup> This textile-based dressing is wireless and does not need any external power supply, making it well suited for application as disposable antimicrobial wound care dressing. We reported that EF generated by the WED due to the silver-zinc (Ag/Zn) redox chemistry is effective as prohealing<sup>38</sup> and antibiofilm.<sup>39,40</sup>

We have recently developed the next-generation disposable dressing (patterned electroceutical dressing or PED) that can deliver controlled EC to wounds. Notably, the PED operates with a constant input voltage source, currently provided by a 6V battery, making it an active dressing as opposed to the WED, which is a passive dressing. Based on our unpublished *in vitro* and preclinical porcine biofilm infection data on burn wounds, we designed a clini-

cal study to test PED in human chronic wounds. To test clinical prototype design viability, we developed an *in vitro* biofilm assay.<sup>43</sup> Following multiple iterations of designs to evaluate size, spacing, impact of electrode geometry patterns, we observed that maximal biofilm inhibition was observed on the anode.<sup>43</sup> Based on this observation, a novel interdigitated electrode pattern with a broader anode interwoven with a narrower cathode (Fig. 1) was developed for the clinical prototype. The purpose behind this choice of design was to provide minimal internal resistance to flow of electric current as it flows from anode to cathode while providing high contact area for the anode with respect to the open wound area. PED treatment was applied to infected porcine wounds for 14 days with intermittent dressing changes. Importantly, initial host response of wound repair (epithelialization and granulation tissue) to PED was noted to be not impaired, establishing that the treatment was safe for host tissue. These results prompted this study, which was



**Figure 1.** PED clinical prototype. **(A)** Schematic for PED is shown. The electroceutical dressing consists of an interdigitated silver ink pattern on silk fabric; the dressing is powered by a 6V battery **(B)** (Model No. 36-3025-2-ND) with a 10 k $\Omega$  resistor (R) that limits the current in the active circuit. GND, ground; SW, switch (Model No. 563-1151-ND). **(B)** Fully assembled PED-10 for clinical use. PED, patterned electroceutical dressing; PED-10, dressing with 10 k $\Omega$  ballast resistor.

designed as a feasibility study with the primary objective to determine if PED treatment for human chronic wounds is safe to use in a clinical setting based on visual reporting by wound care providers on the lack of adverse events (AEs) after treatment with PED.

## CLINICAL PROBLEM ADDRESSED

Chronic wounds are an ongoing challenge for clinicians and a serious public health burden due to the high cost of care of the ulcers themselves and post-ulceration complications such as amputations. The identification of an alternate effective therapy to either complement SoC or work independently than the current SoC, promoting wound healing while being safe for application, is a key clinical need.

ES as wound therapy is not a new technology, and has been supported by numerous preclinical and clinical studies. However, the lack of clearly defined, standardized methods for using the available electrical devices has limited their widespread application in the wound care arena. Moreover, a priority with using such devices is to ensure that it is safe for use on the human skin.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### PED Design and Quality Control

The clinical PED prototype reported in this article (Fig. 1) was engineered through an iterative design process with significant *in vitro* experiments.<sup>44</sup> The clinic-ready PED prototypes were mass produced by professional engineering staff at the Center for Design and Manufacturing Excellence (CDME) at The Ohio State University (OSU) using highly specific medical-grade silk material, silver ink, and medical tape backing. The concept, design, laboratory-scale development, and initial testing of the laboratory-scale prototypes, including simplified setups to evaluate mechanisms of operation for the PED, have been reported previously<sup>44</sup> (and unpublished observations: Stoodley P, The Ohio State University; Prakash S, The Ohio State University). The circuit and batteries attached to the dressing were encased in a fluid-resistant injection molded encasing. For insulating patients from electrical exposure, the circuit includes a ballast resistor connected in series with the battery to limit current below the approved FDA standards (in compliance with IEC 60601). The first version of clinical PED named as dressing with 1 k $\Omega$  ballast resistor (PED-1) included a 1 k $\Omega$  ballast resistor, the subsequent version was named as dressing with 10 k $\Omega$  ballast resistor (PED-10) and comprises a 10 k $\Omega$  ballast resistor to reduce the amount of cur-

rent to wounds compared with the 1 k $\Omega$  dressing, and scaled by Ohm's law.<sup>44</sup> These dressings were sterilized at a commercial sterilization facility. All sterile units of PED-10 were individually packed and identified using a unique serial number ID. As part of quality control (QC), each unit was individually tested electrically before sterilization by CDME staff to meet the specification of delivering  $\leq 0.6$  mA to the wound.

**Biological QC of PED: *in vitro* agar biofilm assay.** We utilized an *in vitro* agar biofilm assay<sup>45</sup> to test the biological activity of clinical PED. To perform biological QC of every lot of the CDME manufactured PED, 5% of the dressings were randomly selected and subjected to an agar *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (PA) biofilm assay (Fig. 2A). This bacterium is a known pathogen in wound infections,<sup>2,3,6-8,10,12,39,40,46</sup> and has been previously used as a model organism to test antibiofilm effects of electroceuticals and other treatments.<sup>39,40,47</sup> The strain of *Pseudomonas* used for this assay is a bioluminescent strain of *P. aeruginosa* (Xen41; base strain PA01; PerkinElmer).<sup>6,39,40</sup> This strain contains an integrated plasmid carrying a luciferase gene that is constitutively expressed. *P. aeruginosa* strains were cultured in low-salt Luria broth (LB) for planktonic culture and the respective agar formats for biofilm studies (Thermo Fisher Scientific). Bioluminescent bacteria only produce light when they are metabolically active. Thus, we used light emission as detected with the *in vivo* imaging system (IVIS) spectrum system (PerkinElmer), as an indicator of bacterial activity.<sup>47</sup>

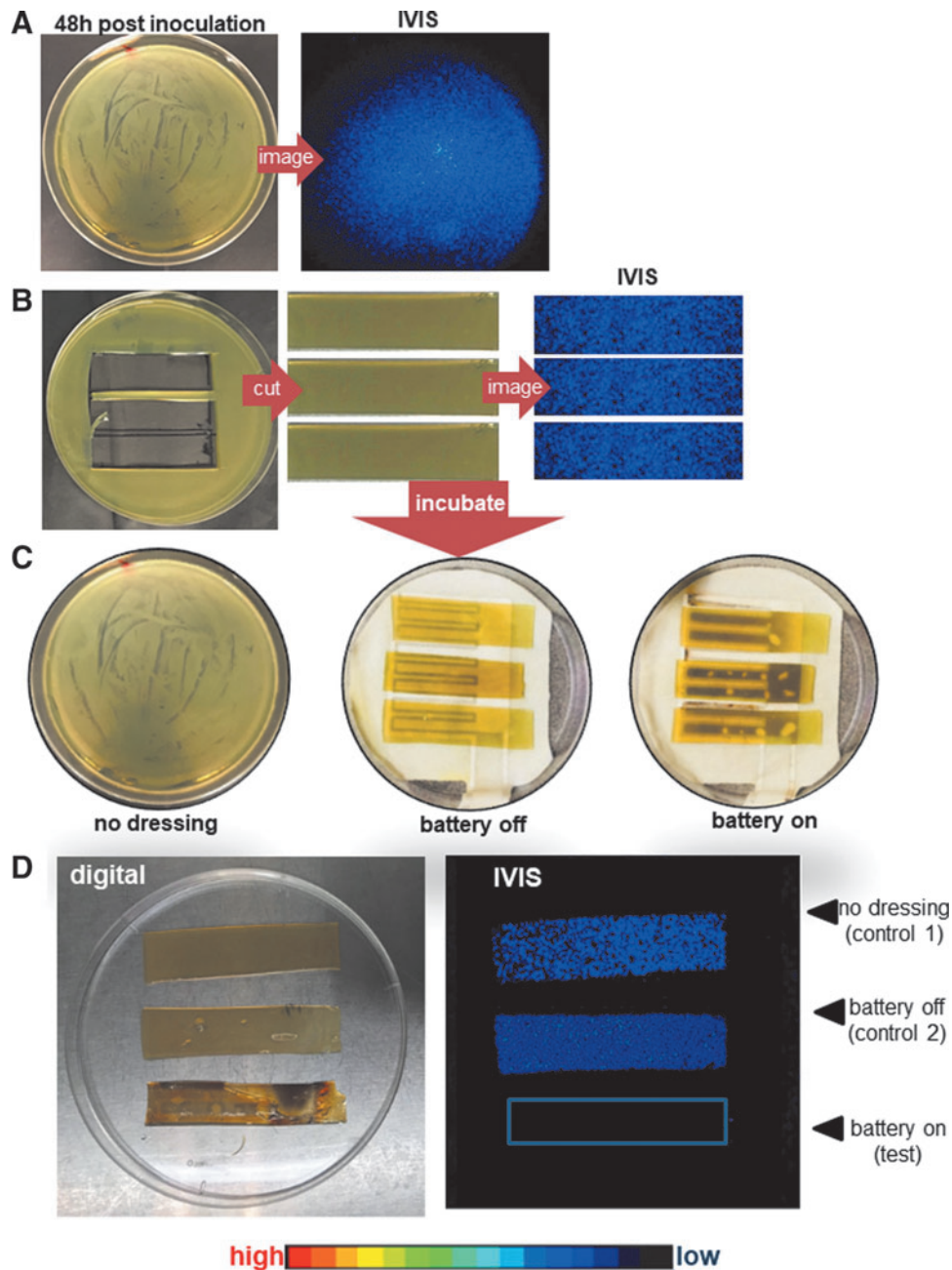
Static biofilms were developed *in vitro* using an agar biofilm model and Xen41. Grown overnight in LB media at 37°C, bacteria were cultured on LB agar plates, and allowed to form a mature biofilm for 48 h (Fig. 2A). The bioluminescence imaging confirmed presence of a thick biofilm (Fig. 2B). Interestingly, PA biofilms could not be grown on the agar directly formed on top of the PED. Therefore, agar sections containing mature biofilms were transferred to a new culture plate, and placed either directly on the plate (control 1: no dressing, Fig. 2C) or on a PED placed in the agar plate (Fig. 2C). All dressings were connected to batteries that were turned either OFF (control 2, Fig. 2D) or ON (test, Fig. 2D). Agar biofilms with treatments were incubated at 37°C for 24 h in a moist environment to prevent dehydration of the agar sections. After incubation, agar sections with biofilms were subject to IVIS imaging.

### Clinical study: human subjects and study design.

This study was designed as a pilot feasibility study with the primary objective to determine

effects of PED application on host tissue response from a safety evaluation point of view. The study was approved by the OSU Institutional Review Board (IRB 2015H0408). The Declarations of Helsinki protocols were followed, and the patients gave their written informed consent. For this pilot

study, patients receiving a lower extremity amputation with at least one open wound on the part to be amputated were enrolled. Our treatment was not with the intent of limb salvage but to determine safety and experience of PED use in the clinic. Patients were identified and enrolled through



**Figure 2.** Biological testing of clinical PED-10 using agar biofilm bioluminescent assay. **(A)** Forty-eight-hour mature *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (PA Xen41) biofilms on agar strips were placed on culture plates with or without PED-10. The experimentation setup of the agar biofilm bioluminescence assay for clinical PED biological testing. *Top panels* show the appearance of the agar biofilms 48 h postinoculation with Xen41. **(B)** Agar lawn biofilms were confirmed using IVIS imaging for metabolic activity, followed by excising strips of agar containing mature biofilm from plated. *Bottom panels* show the excised strips that were tested again for metabolic activity of biofilm by IVIS imaging before transfer onto control or test plates. **(C)** Plates ( $n=3$  agar slices/plate) included control 1 (no dressing), control 2 (PED-battery OFF), and test (PED-battery ON). **(D)** Representative digital and corresponding IVIS image of Xen41 exposed to controls or test treatment. Also included is a heat map showing intensity ranges. The intensity of *blue* signal shows that bacteria in both control groups show detectable metabolic activity, whereas the test group (battery ON) showed no activity indicating absence of viable bacteria. IVIS, *in vivo* imaging system.

the Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center (OSUWMC). The patients were selected based on inclusion and exclusion criteria through pre-screening (partial HIPAA waiver) through the Comprehensive Wound Center's (CWC) Limb Preservation Program and wound physicians/providers at OSUWMC. The decision of whether to amputate was made independently of the study, and was solely made by the patients and their physician/provider. The provider decides based on the severity of the condition if or when the limb should be amputated and scheduled the surgery based on current clinical SoC. Patients enrolled in the study wore the PED on the wound(s) for a minimum of 24 h or a maximum of 3 weeks or until amputation, whichever came first. Patients were consented on their first visit to the CWC. The patients were instructed to change the PED every second day or more frequently if excessive drainage was observed as advised by the treating physician and/or medical provider. Patients were advised to report any adverse indications visually observed during the dressing changes. Observation of any adverse indications was corroborated by the attending physician, and detailed reports were filed per IRB requirements. PED risks: the use of the current limiter served as a fail-safe mechanism, and eliminated the possibility of excessive and uncontrolled current flow into the wound area. Thermal imaging confirmed that the heat generated by PED is minimal and negligible as determined by negligible temperature rise across the agar gel plates.<sup>44</sup>

## RESULTS

### PED Clinical Prototype Fabrication and Design

The PED comprises a biocompatible and commercially available silk fabric, medical-grade Ag/AgCl ink, and a waterproof medical tape backing (Fig. 1). The power source includes a 1 k $\Omega$  (PED-1) or 10 k $\Omega$  (PED-10) resistor to limit current flow, an ON/OFF switch, and a battery (6 V) with positive and negative leads that attach to the dressing, all enclosed in an epoxy resin molded waterproof casing to minimize direct contact of the active electric circuit components with the wound fluid. The power source for the PED, that is, 6 V batteries, is comparable with smaller devices using 9 V batteries that are approved by the FDA for human use, such as the TENS 7000 pain management unit. In addition, manual control elements have been included in the PED design to limit current flow, which allows nominal estimates based on the geometric area of the electrodes, and to permit deposition of power density to tissue within FDA limits. The estimates

for power density were conducted by the CDME staff by corresponding current flow measurements in saline. The manual control features include (1) an ON/OFF switch for the patient to switch off the device in case of perceived or felt discomfort—none of the  $N=8$  patients reported any discomfort with the application of powered ON PED; (2) a ballast resistor, connected in series between the positive lead of the battery and the positive lead of the dressing to limit current flow through the dressing. The maximum power density measured with this electroceutical wound care dressing and the 6 V battery was 60.3  $\mu\text{W}/\text{cm}^2$  at the anode and 753.6  $\mu\text{W}/\text{cm}^2$  at the cathode, well below the FDA power density limit (0.25 W/cm<sup>2</sup>)<sup>44</sup> with measurements on an agar gel plate without a bacterial lawn. The calculations took the nominal, geometric conductive surface area, maximum current measured under steady current flow conditions, and voltage from the power source into consideration during *in vitro* measurements. The maximum power density was based on the maximum current measured from a dressing coated with hydrogel, as used with pig models and consented patients (Fig. 1).

The last PED applied to the patient during the feasibility study protocol and subsequently taken off in the operating room (OR) was checked for voltage and current flow levels using a multimeter (Amprobe 34XR-A True-rms Digital Multimeter). Results from patients postapplication for five of the eight dressings tested are presented in Table 1. Before use on the subject's wound, unused PED-10 exhibited a consistently stable voltage of 6.4 V and maximum current of 600  $\mu\text{A}$ . The measurements performed on the used dressings indicated that no stable voltage or current could be detected post-application. The study did not monitor the compliance of the subject for changing dressing every 48 h.

**Table 1.** Testing of electrical activity/parameters of PED-10 before and after clinical application

Subject ID	Anode to Cathode Resistance (M $\Omega$ )		Voltage Across PED (V)		Current Through PED ( $\mu\text{A}$ )	
	PRE	POST	PRE	POST	PRE	POST
PED 004	open (>40)	Open (>40)	6.44	0	600	0.0
PED 005	open (>40)	Open (>40)	6.48	2.85	607	0.0
PED 006	open (>40)	Open (>40)	6.43	0	607	0.0
PED 007	open (>40)	Open (>40)	6.44	0	605	0.2
PED 008	open (>40)	Open (>40)	6.45	0	607	0.2

Electrical parameters such as resistance between electrodes, voltage, and current across the dressing were measured using a multimeter. "PRE" values represent measurements before application on subject wounds. "POST" values represent readings that were taken after dressing removal from subject wounds.

PED, patterned electroceutical dressing; PED-10, dressing with 10 k $\Omega$  ballast resistor; POST, postapplication; PRE, preapplication.

**Table 2.** Subject demographics and wound etiology

Subject ID	Age	Gender	Race	Smoker	Diabetes	Wound Location	Days of PED Use	Amputation Cause
PED001	43	Male	Caucasian	N	Yes	Right foot	2	Charcot foot
PED002	62	Female	Caucasian	N	Yes	Right foot	4	Uncontrolled infection
PED003	59	Female	African American	N	Yes	Left foot	10	Osteomyelitis
PED004	52	Male	Caucasian	N	Yes	Left foot	8	Osteomyelitis
PED005	63	Male	Caucasian	N	Yes	Toe and left plantar	10	Osteomyelitis
PED006	62	Male	Caucasian	N	Yes	Right great toe	18	Great toe ulceration with concern for osteomyelitis
PED007	51	Male	Caucasian	Y	Yes	Left heel	21	Bone infection
PED008	59	Male	Caucasian	Y	Yes	Right plantar	1	Chronic osteo/Charcot foot

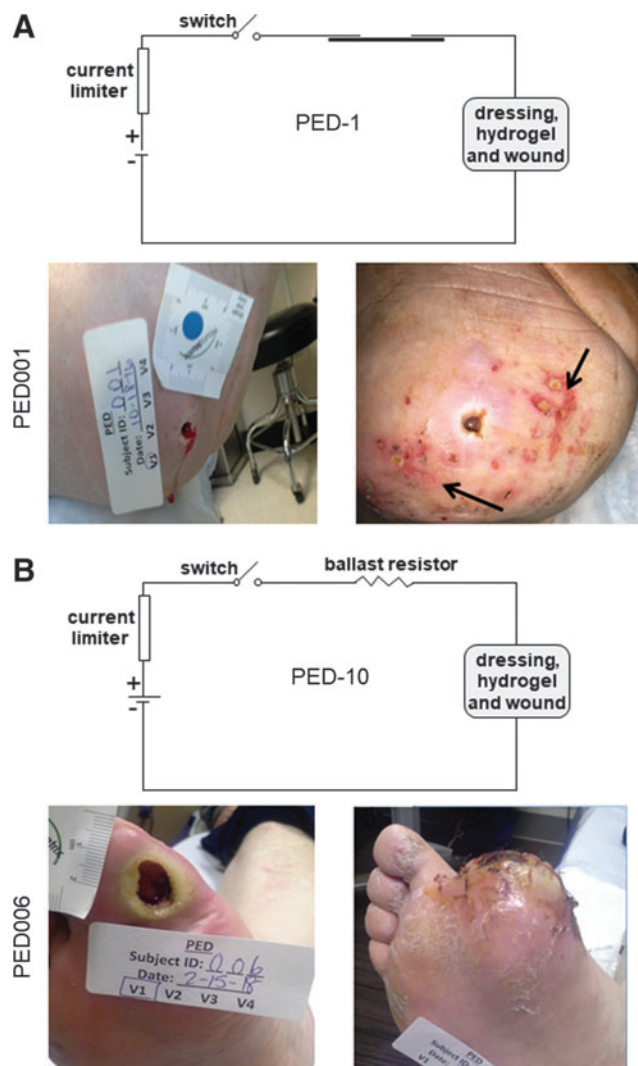
None of the patients reported any physical discomfort, pain, or irritation post-PED-10 application.

### PED Inhibits Biofilm Formation *In Vitro*

An agar biofilm assay<sup>45</sup> was utilized to test the biological efficacy of PED against biofilm growth *in vitro* (Fig. 2A). Preformed (48 h) biofilm treated with PED-10 with battery turned ON resulted in partial loss of bioluminescence signal as imaged using IVIS. This loss of signal is indicative of inhibition in the metabolic activity of PA biofilm, and was confirmed by monitoring colony-forming units. Such inhibition was not evident in the absence of an active EC (control 2 or no PED treated control 1, Fig. 2B). As a standard QC criterion, from every lot of CDME-fabricated PED-10, the biological test is performed on 5% from a lot of 100 of the dressings (based on random selection) to confirm the biological efficacy of the fabricated dressings.

### Pilot Clinical Testing with PED-10 Indicated Safe Application for Chronic Wound Use

Demographics and wound etiologies of eight enrolled subjects in the study are presented in Table 2. Subjects were all diagnosed with chronic nonhealing wounds that required amputation. The primary objective of this study was not to save the lower extremity part or determine PED efficacy but to determine if PED application could be potentially safe for chronic wound use as reported by the patients based on their personal level of comfort and/or visual changes to the wound environment. Of the eight subjects enrolled, only PED001 was treated with PED-1 (with the 1 k $\Omega$  ballast resistor). During the first dressing change 48 h postinitial treatment, the patient's care provider noted skin irritations and some skin discoloration that was photodocumented, and reported to the study team including the physician immediately (Fig. 3). The event was deemed as an AE that was anticipated and reported as a nonserious AE to IRB. At that point, the study team met and decided to limit the amount of current delivered to the wound by in-



**Figure 3.** Mild AEs associated with clinical PED-1 treatment application. (A) The first subject with PED-1 application reported AE associated with the PED treatment. This report described that during the first dressing change, the nurse noted a skin discoloration and minor irritation in skin surrounding the ulcer that was documented in the attached photograph (right). The treatment of PED-1 was immediately discontinued, and the event reported to IRB as unanticipated nonserious AE. At this stage, the study was put on a hold, and clinical PED was redesigned to replace 1 k $\Omega$  with 10 k $\Omega$  ballast resistor to reduce current to wounds and surrounding tissue. This PED was named as PED-10. Subsequently all subjects received PED-10. (B) Representative image of a wound treated with PED-10. AEs, adverse events; IRB, Institutional Review Board; PED-1, dressing with 1 k $\Omega$  ballast resistor.

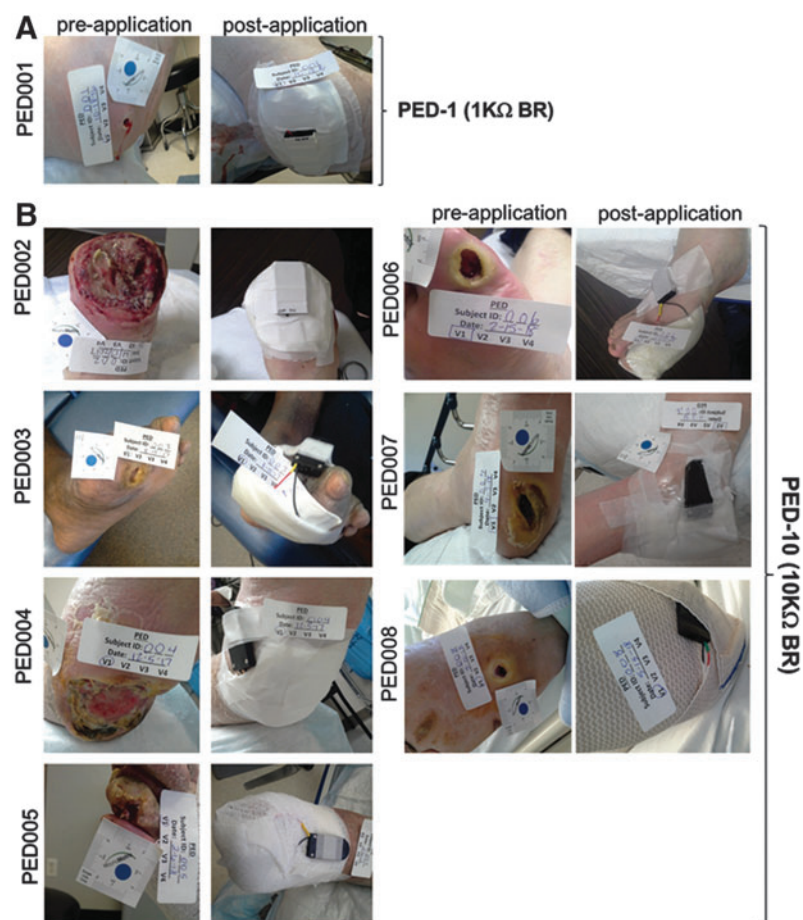
creasing the electrical resistance in the circuit by changing the ballast to 10 k $\Omega$  (PED-10). All subsequent subjects were treated with PED-10, and no further similar AE were noted or reported. In one other case (PED006), a minor discoloration of the area of application at the amputation visit was noted and was deemed by the study physician as a standard response to silver dressings, and therefore no changes to the PED-10 or testing protocols were made. The photographs of the wounds before and immediately after the application of the first PED at clinic are also presented (Fig. 4). Any other images of the wound could not be obtained because of challenges in obtaining images within the OR. For PED001, the PED-1 dressing was used, and for all other subjects the PED-10 dressing was used.

## DISCUSSION

Bacterial biofilms are complex aggregations of bacteria and extrapolymeric substances.<sup>3,46,48</sup> The composition and organization of biofilms and their

inherent resistance to antibiotics and host immune cells make these structures particularly challenging to treat.<sup>4,5,49–51</sup> The prevalence of biofilm infection in chronic wounds is exceedingly high (>75%).<sup>2</sup> Several studies, including those from our own laboratories, have indicated that biofilm infections impair wound healing.<sup>2,6–8,10,11,13,14</sup> Therefore, novel strategies of dismantling biofilms are a primary and immediate need in wound care.

ES therapy of chronic wounds has emerged as a viable therapeutic option nationally and internationally.<sup>52</sup> In the United States, since 2002, ES has been reimbursed by Medicare in the context of nonhealing leg ulcers and pressure ulcers.<sup>32</sup> The rationale for ES use arises from the existence of an intrinsic TEP that promotes the migration of neutrophils and macrophages, stimulates fibroblasts, and improves blood flow.<sup>23,25–30</sup> The strength of EFs present during normal wound healing varies throughout the healing process—starting high and dissipating at the end of the healing process.<sup>25</sup> The majority of studies found that ES stimulated the



**Figure 4.** Clinical studies with PED. Digital images of wounds of all consented subjects before and immediately after the PED dressing application in clinic were obtained. The subjects did not come back to CWC until their amputation visit. **(A)** Wounds treated with PED-1 (1 k $\Omega$  ballast resistor). **(B)** Wounds treated with PED-10 (10 k $\Omega$  ballast resistor). CWC, Comprehensive Wound Center.

efficacy of antibiotics against the biofilms.<sup>51,53–56</sup> Among the earliest methods that showed great promise against biofilms included those that utilized either direct or alternating current with or without antibiotics.<sup>51,53–61</sup> The term “bioelectric effect (BE)” was specifically used in the context of EC enhancing antibiotic efficacy.<sup>51,54,56</sup> Details of the fundamental mechanisms of the BE or treatments using EC alone are still unclear, and could be attributed to diversity in applied electrical parameters and methods for treatment purposes<sup>5,33,51,53–57,59–67</sup> and no standardized approach to conduct clinical evaluations. Low-intensity direct current (LIDC) and high-voltage pulse current (HVPC) have both been used to demonstrate antimicrobial effect. Our laboratory initially showed *P. aeruginosa* biofilm disruption *in vitro* using WED, which generates weak EFs. Recently, we published preclinical porcine studies showing the efficacy of WED in treating biofilm-infected wounds.<sup>38–40</sup> In this study, PED embedded in agar inhibited initial establishment of biofilm (data not shown) likely because of the release of the silver from the dressing that inhibited/killed planktonic bacteria,<sup>43</sup> therefore to study the effects of PED on biofilm disruption, mature biofilms were first allowed to develop followed by placing the agar pieces containing mature biofilm on PED. Although PED inhibited metabolic activity of the *P. aeruginosa* biofilm identified using IVIS imaging, this study does not address if the effect was due to bactericidal or static effects.

The effects of electrical therapy such as LIDC are thought to be antibacterial due to (1) changes in pH conditions near the electrode capable of killing pathogens<sup>68,69</sup>; (2) electrolytic generation of toxic compounds ( $H_2O_2$  and chlorinated species such as HOCl)<sup>70</sup> (and unpublished observations: Stoodley P, The Ohio State University); (3) disruption of bacterial cell division<sup>71</sup>; (4) overstimulation of cell membranes due to ion excitation leading to leakage<sup>72</sup> and in some cases; and (5) interfering with adhesion and cohesion of biofilm structures resulting in a planktonic phenotype.<sup>63</sup> Similar observations have been made with HVPC treatments.<sup>69,73–75</sup>

PED has been developed with the intent of providing a disposable device that can provide controlled EC to wounds to achieve elimination of biofilm infection. The differences in battery usage by wounds in different patients noted in this study are likely due to differences in electrical resistances in these wounds. Future studies mapping current and field in chronic wounds may help inform the frequency of PED-10 dressing change to obtain maximal efficacy against wound biofilm infection. In this feasibility study, the EC was ad-

justed based on AE reported by the first subject treated with PED-1. None of the other seven subjects on whom PED-10 was used reported any significant AEs, suggesting that PED-10 was well tolerated and was deemed safe for use in a larger clinical study based on visual observations of the local wound area where the efficacy of this dressing against chronic wound biofilm infection can be explored.

## INNOVATION

We developed a novel electroceutical treatment for clinical wound biofilm infection that was tested for topical application as determined by patient physical sensation and visual changes in the region on and around chronic human wounds. While the concept of electrically active bandages is gaining momentum, the idea of providing controlled electric current through disposable electroceutical wound care dressings is innovative and not currently available. The PED reported here presents a platform that is tunable for current control, and can likely be readily adapted to unique wound and patient needs. The ability to dial up or down the current output of PED for a given, constant electric potential with minimal physically observable AEs under topical use on open chronic wounds is an innovation of the device. The pilot study as reported here demonstrated the ability to apply the device on human wounds.

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## AUTHOR DISCLOSURE AND GHOSTWRITING

The authors declare no competing financial interests or other conflicts of interest. No ghostwriters were involved in the preparation of this article.

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### KEY FINDINGS

- PED is an electroceutical wound care dressing that can be tuned to minimize AEs on chronic wounds.
- PED-10 is a disposable device that provides low-level electric current to wounds.
- Pilot feasibility studies enabled the determination of appropriate dose of electric current to mitigate observed adverse side effects.
- PED-10 was well tolerated in the small cohort of patients (7) tested, and these observations warrant a larger study to determine impact on wound healing and infection control.

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#### ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AE	=	adverse event
CDME	=	Center for Design and Manufacturing Excellence
CWC	=	Comprehensive Wound Center
EC	=	electrical current
EF	=	electric field
ES	=	electrical stimulation
HVPC	=	high-voltage pulse current
IRB	=	Institutional Review Board
IUH	=	Indiana University Health
IVIS	=	<i>in vivo</i> imaging system
LB	=	Luria-Bertani
LIDC	=	low-intensity direct current
MAE	=	Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering
OR	=	operating room
OSUWMC	=	The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center
PED	=	patterned electroceutical dressing
PED-1	=	dressing with 1 k $\Omega$ ballast resistor
PED-10	=	dressing with 10 k $\Omega$ ballast resistor
QC	=	quality control
SoC	=	standard of care
TEP	=	transepithelial potential
WED	=	wireless electroceutical dressing