Book of abstracts



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& Machine Learning with Photonics Symposium (ML-Photonica 2019)



Editors: Milica Matijević, Marko Krstić and Petra Beličev

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Optical fiber grating sensors for the measurement of superficial temporal artery pulsations

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The measurement of arterial blood pressure waveform can provide important data about arterial health, from which general cardiovascular health can be estimated. The arterial blood pressure wave is created by heart contraction which then propagates along the arterial tree. Along its path, the pressure wave causes the distention of arterial walls which consequently can be palpated and measured as micro-movements on the surface of the body.

The most frequently used places on the body for recording of the blood pressure waveform are in the fingers and above the radial artery on the wrist. However, since waveforms recorded on the periphery of the body alter from central ones, there is the necessity for non-invasive measurements closer to the ascending aorta [1]. The purpose of this study was to evaluate the possibility of utilizing the superficial temporal artery (STA) as a potential candidate for obtaining arterial waveform recorded non-invasively by fiber grating sensors. The STA is a terminal branch of the external carotid artery and it represents the major artery of the head. The sites over the main branch (near the ear) and the frontal branch of the STA (near ocular area) are easily accessible ones with negligible amounts of fat and muscle tissues.

Assessment tests were carried out by using fiber grating sensors (fiber Bragg grating (FBG) and long-period grating (LPG)) as sensors of the arterial distention movement. Here we were focused on the possibility to record the STA pulsations in healthy volunteers when the sensors were just placed on the skin over the STA and fixed with the tape or elastic bandage. Our results show that with this type of application, LPG technology outperformed FBG in a sense of sensitivity and signal to noise ratio. The reason possibly lies in the fact that cladding modes generated by an LPG are much more affected by arterial distention than back-propagating core modes of an FBG [2]. By using LPG sensor we were able to record STA pulsations in all volunteers.

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