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THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE «INTEGRATION NETWORK OF THE PHARMACEUTICAL ECOLOGY - 2025»

Eco-Healing Innovations: Turning Natural Polymers into Life-Saving Burn Therapies

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Background & Rationale

Burn injuries demand wound dressings that promote tissue regeneration, prevent infection, and allow localized drug delivery.

Pectin–alginate biomatrices combine two natural polysaccharides—pectin and alginate—into a hydrated 3D network capable of incorporating medicinal substances of both natural and synthetic origin.

This dual-polymer system maintains optimal moisture, enhances epithelial recovery, and enables controlled release of therapeutic agents at the wound site.

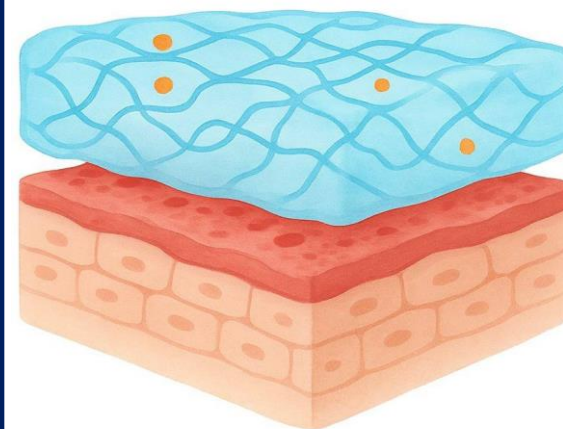
Due to their biodegradability, renewability, and low cost, these biomatrices represent a sustainable alternative to synthetic polymer systems for modern burn care.

Objectives

Develop pectin–alginate biomatrices as biocompatible carriers for topical drug delivery in burn therapy.

- Characterize the biomatrix's drug-loading capacity, release profile, and bioactive stability.
- Assess its regenerative and anti-inflammatory potential in burn healing applications.
- Evaluate environmental and economic benefits of scalable hydrogel and film fabrication.

Pectin–alginate hydrogel matrix



Composition & Functional Design

The pectin–alginate composite integrates two anionic polysaccharides through ionic crosslinking with calcium ions (Ca^{2+}) to form a stable, flexible hydrogel.

Pectin contributes surfactant and adsorption properties via D-galacturonic acid, improving the dispersion and encapsulation of therapeutic agents.

Alginate provides mechanical strength and moisture retention, ensuring structural integrity and sustained drug release.

The resulting biomatrix can serve as a carrier for various medicinal substances such as antiseptics, anti-inflammatories, antioxidants, or herbal extracts while simultaneously accelerating tissue regeneration.

Expected Outcomes

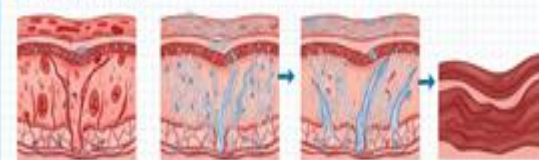
- Controlled and sustained release of incorporated medicinal substances.
- Enhanced wound-healing kinetics through antioxidant and immunomodulatory activity.
- High drug-loading efficiency and compatibility with natural and synthetic bioactives.
- Excellent biocompatibility, biodegradability, and absence of cytotoxicity.
- Reduced production cost and environmental footprint compared with synthetic dressings.
- Potential for large-scale manufacturing of hydrogels, films, and hydrogel patches.

PECTIN-ALGINATE
PATCH



THE SCIENCE OF HEALING: HYDROGEL VS. UNTREATED WOUND

UNTREATED WOUND



HYDROGEL PATCH



Conclusion

Pectin–alginate biomatrices represent an innovative, eco-friendly platform for **drug delivery and burn wound management**.

Their synergistic chemical and pharmacological properties enable efficient incorporation and controlled release of therapeutic agents while providing intrinsic wound-healing benefits. From both environmental and economic perspectives, these composite materials offer a sustainable, scalable solution for next-generation wound dressings and tissue-engineering applications.