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标题: In vivo terahertz imaging of rat skin burns

作者: Tewari, P (Tewari, Priyamvada); Kealey, CP (Kealey, Colin P.); Bennett, DB (Bennett, David B.); Bajwa, N (Bajwa, Neha); Barnett, KS (Barnett, Kelli S.); Singh, RS (Singh, Rahul S.); Culjat, MO (Culjat, Martin O.); Stojadinovic, A (Stojadinovic, Alexander); Grundfest, WS (Grundfest, Warren S.); Taylor, ZD (Taylor, Zachary D.)

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摘要: A reflective, pulsed terahertz (THz) imaging system was used to acquire high-resolution ($d(10-90)/\lambda$ similar to 1.925) images of deep, partial thickness burns in a live rat. The rat's abdomen was burned with a brass brand heated to similar to 220 degrees C and pressed against the skin with contact pressure for similar to 10 sec. The burn injury was imaged beneath a Mylar window every 15 to 30 min for up to 7 h. Initial images display an increase in local water concentration of the burned skin as evidenced by a marked increase in THz reflectivity, and this likely correlates to the post-injury inflammatory response. After similar to 1 h the area of increased reflectivity consolidated to the region of skin that had direct contact with the brand. Additionally, a low reflecting ring of tissue could be observed surrounding the highly reflective burned tissue. We hypothesize that these regions of increased and decreased reflectivity correlate to the zones of coagulation and stasis that are the classic foundation of burn wound histopathology. While further investigations are necessary to confirm this hypothesis, if true, it likely represents the first in vivo THz images of these pathologic zones and may represent a significant step forward in clinical application of THz technology. (C) 2012 Society of Photo-Optical Instrumentation Engineers (SPIE). [DOI: 10.1117/1.JBO.17.4.040503]

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地址: [Tewari, Priyamvada; Bajwa, Neha; Singh, Rahul S.; Culjat, Martin O.; Grundfest, Warren S.; Taylor, Zachary D.] Univ Calif Los Angeles, Dept Bioengn, Los Angeles, CA 90095 USA

[Kealey, Colin P.; Singh, Rahul S.; Culjat, Martin O.; Grundfest, Warren S.] Univ Calif Los Angeles, Dept Surg, Los Angeles, CA 90095 USA

[Bennett, David B.; Grundfest, Warren S.] Univ Calif Los Angeles, Dept Elect Engn, Los Angeles, CA 90095 USA

[Barnett, Kelli S.] Univ Calif Los Angeles, Div Lab Anim Med, Los Angeles, CA 90095 USA

[Stojadinovic, Alexander] Walter Reed Army Med Ctr, Combat Wound Initiat Program, Washington, DC 20307 USA

[Stojadinovic, Alexander] Walter Reed Army Med Ctr, Dept Surg, Washington, DC 20307 USA

通讯作者地址: Taylor, ZD (通讯作者), Univ Calif Los Angeles, Dept Bioengn, Los Angeles, CA 90095 USA

电子邮件地址: zdeis@seas.ucla.edu

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