## Cold plasmaassisted wound healing: from bactericidal effects to tissue regeneration

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Non-healing wounds represent a serious problemfor the modern medicine. In most cases, infections accompany non-healing wounds and might not only make the wounds worse but result in a generalized disease, amputations and even lethality. Non-thermal plasmas deliver a flow of bioactivecomponents including charged particles, neutral active species and UV photons.Concentration of each component is low enough to be permissive for humantissues. Acting in synergy, these components provide non-specific bactericidal effects against a wide range of bacteria that makes non-thermal plasmas an ideal mean for treatment of mixedwound infections. Indeed, e.g. argon plasma applied to superficial slash woundswith a mixed infection resulted in a statistically significant reduction of bacterialloads on the wound surface and accelerated pathogen elimination. Comparison ofin vitro and in vivo tests demonstrated about a 5-fold increase in a timerequired for argon microwave plasma to get a similar drop in bacterial loads onPetri dishes and on the wound surface. Meanwhile, shorter wound treatmentswhile were not fully bactericidal still increased rates of wound healing. Comparisonof 2D-, 3D- cell and in vivo models suggested plasma-stimulated production of signaling molecules by fibroblasts to be responsible for improved connective andepithelial tissue growth. Similar mechanisms seem to be responsible for acceleratedangiogenesis. Plasma treatments are stimulating at inflammatory and proliferationstages of wound healing but might have a counter-productive effect at the remodelingstage. Taken together, available results supported the view on non-thermal plasma as a promising agent in healing of bothinfected and aseptic wounds therapy. Further studies will focus on revealingbiological indicators to carry out, or refrain from, plasma treatments in thecourse of wound healing.

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