

Research Article

Multi Targets Detecting Based on Glucose Monitoring Platform

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Abstract

The enzyme sensor field has grown greatly since 1962. Today's biosensor market is dominated by glucose electrodes which are used for the rapid detection of blood sugar levels by diabetes sufferers. In this paper we take a comprehensive review on the inception, growth and development of the enzyme sensor field from a commercial viewpoint. The current status of the technology is evaluated and future trends that multi targets enzyme sensor i.e. cholesterol, lactate and ethanol enzyme sensors in this dynamic and fast moving field are also discussed.

Keywords: Biosensor; Enzyme; Screen-Printing; Electrochemistry; Amperometry; Glucose; Cholesterol; Lactate; Ethanol

Abbreviations

GOx: Glucose Oxidase; ChOx: Cholesterol Oxidase; ChEt: Cholesterol Esterase; LOx: Lactate Oxidase; ALOx: Alcohol Oxidase; GDH: Glucose Dehydrogenase; LDH: Lactate Dehydrogenase; HEC: Hydroxyethyl Cellulose; BSA: Bovine Serum Albumin; POD: Horseradish Peroxidase; SPEs: Screen-printed electrodes; Med: Mediator (oxidation state); Med⁺: Mediator (reduction state); CV: Cyclic Voltammetry

Introduction

One of the main challenges facing the bio-analytical chemist is the development of different methods that respond to the growing need to perform rapid tests. These methods must be sensitive and accurate, and able to determine various substances with different properties in living samples. Lab on chip is a great idea but it is difficult to fabricate and expensive for a simple test. Recent years, electrochemical techniques have been much considered as routine methods due to their high sensitivity and selectivity, portable field-based size and low-cost. For example, glucose meter and glucose sensor is the most successful monitoring system for diabetic products, which account for approximately 95% of the current Chinese market for biosensors, and have been estimated at approximately \$120–150 million. The reasons why the blood glucose market was particularly receptive are numerous, but the biggest factor is the prevalence of diabetes in China. 140 million adults with diabetes were confirmed and a further 230 million adults were also found with pre-diabetes (120 million men and 110 million women). These results indicate that diabetes has become a major public health problem in China, and national strategies aimed at preventing, detecting, and treating diabetes are urgently needed. In the absence of a cure for diabetes, home blood glucose monitoring will need to continue, and the current commercial dominance of mediated electrochemical biosensors will not be easily replaced. Since diabetic patients need to control their blood glucose levels carefully, the importance of self-monitoring of blood glucose has been widely recognized as an effective method of measuring blood sugar not only in clinics but also at home and in the

working place.

Cardiovascular diseases in people are increasing day by day and cardiac arrest is a major cause of death in universal consensus. There are several causes for this but one of the most important reasons is hypercholesterolemia i.e. the increased concentration of cholesterol in the blood [1,2]. The development of efficient rapid analytical methods is important. HPLC [3], gas-liquid chromatography [4,5] methods used for the determination of total cholesterol offer sensitivity and selectivity but are neither suitable for rapid nor cost effective detection.

Enzymatic procedures have practically replaced the chemical methods based on the classical Libermann-Burchard reaction, used traditionally for free and total cholesterol determination [6]. Owing to the advantages of simplicity, rapidness and cost effectivity, a few cholesterol biosensors have been developed which are based on Cholesterol Oxidase (ChOx) and Cholesterol Esterase (ChEt) [7-14], Cytochrome P450sc [15], fiber-optic biosensor [16,6] and acoustic wave [17]. Lactate levels in human blood or tissues are correlated to the presence of several diseases such as tissue hypoxia, cardiogenic or endotoxic shocks, respiratory failure and systemic disorders derived from neoplastic diseases, liver and renal failures or diabetes mellitus.

Thus, the development of highly sensitive and reliable lactate monitoring methods are of great interest in clinical diagnostics [18,19], food technology [20], beverage and fermentation industries [21] and clinical medicine [22,23]. Various procedures have been proposed for the direct measurement and monitoring of lactic acid levels in very different samples. The fundamentals, advantages and disadvantages of some of these methodologies have been summarized and compared in a recent review [24]. Among them, biosensor is one of the most widely investigated devices for two fundamental reasons: (1) the immobilization of an enzyme on the electrode surface may be done in an easy and reproducible way; and (2) the specificity of enzymes allows analytical measurements to be performed directly on the sample, regardless of their complexity, reducing the analysis time. Biosensors based on L-lactate Oxidase (LOx) and L-lactate

Dehydrogenase (LDH) has been widely used for the determination of l-lactate [25-27] and allows the determination of hydrogen peroxide generated in the enzymatic reaction [28].

The measurement of ethanol plays an important role in the quality control of alcoholic beverages during the fermentation process. It is also necessary to have rigorous analytical methods for ethanol in beverages for tax regulation purposes. Meanwhile, there are a large number of alcoholics in China which ignore the traffic regulations and life safety. The quick test of blood alcohol is important in this country trying to give a warning to those people after drink too much.

A variety of methods and strategies had been reported for the determination of ethanol including: gas chromatography [29], liquid chromatography detection [30], refractometry [31], spectrophotometry [32] based on the detection of NADH. These methods are relatively expensive, complex to perform and time consuming; therefore, alternative approaches are desirable. We had a solution in this work that an amperometric biosensor might offer such an alternative [33] as this device can be fabricated at low cost and any lay person could use it easily.

As these four substances mentioned above need to be tested in great amount daily, we described the development and fabrication of four enzyme electrodes (glucose, cholesterol, lactate and ethanol) integrated into a single strip by using screen-printing technology. The multi-targets test strip can be used to detect four substances in one drop of blood sample based on amperometric principle. This method offers the possibility of mass-production of biosensors at easy way and very cost effective. There have many investigations and studies for the four kinds of biosensors respectively, but the rest three products are rare commercially available in the market.

Technologies

Since the 1990s, screen-printing technology, adapted from the microelectronics industry, has offered high-volume production of extremely inexpensive, and yet highly reproducible and reliable single-use sensors; a technique which holds great promise for on-site and point of care test. Therefore, the use of screen printing technology in the serial production of disposable low-cost electrodes for the electrochemical determination of a wide range of substances is currently undergoing widespread growth [34,35].

Screen-Printed Electrodes (SPEs) are devices that are produced by printing different inks on various types of plastic or ceramic substrates. Plastic material is commonly used as it is easy to cut into different shape. Polyester screens are generally used for printing with patterns designed by the analyst in accordance with the analytical purpose in mind. The composition of the various inks used for printing on the electrodes determines the selectivity and sensitivity required for each analysis. Alternatively, a wide variety of devices of this type are commercially available. The great versatility presented by the SPEs lies in the wide range of ways in which the electrodes may be modified. The composition of the printing inks may be altered by the addition of very different substances such as metals, enzymes, polymers, complexation agents, etc. On the other hand, the possibility also exists of modifying the manufactured electrodes by means of depositing various substances on the surface of the electrodes such as metal films, polymers, enzymes and mediators, etc. [36,37].



Figure 1: Enzyme ink.

Table 1: Ingredient of enzyme inks.

Enzyme	Binder	Stabilizer	Mediator	Surfactant	Buffer
GOx, ChOx, LOx, AIOx	HEC DCM5	BSA Animal glue Sodium glutamate	Ferrocene, ferricyanide, ferrocyanide, thionine, phenothiazine	Triton X-100 Sodium cholate Tween 80	Phosphate buffer

Enzymes

Enzymes were the first biocatalysts used in biosensors and remain by far the most commonly employed. Clark and Lyons [38] were the pioneers who showed that an enzyme could be integrated into an electrode, thus making a biosensor for the determination of glucose. Since then, enzymes have been extensively used in biosensor construction [39]. Disposable biosensors based on enzyme immobilization on SPEs have been widely used for the analysis of several analytes.

Enzyme inks are made of different oxidase with binder, stabilizer, mediator and surfactant etc. Glucose Oxidase (GOD), Cholesterol Oxidase (ChOD), Lactate Oxidase (LOD) and Alcoholic Oxidase (AIOX) enzyme inks were printed separately in different working areas on a single strip. Figure 1 shows an enzyme ink product and Table 1 lists the normal ingredient of an enzyme ink.

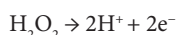
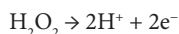
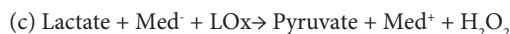
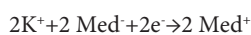
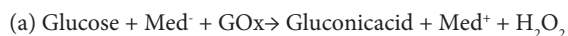
Mediators

A typical electrochemical reaction for a mediated oxidation proceeds in three steps. The enzyme takes part in first redox reaction with the substrate and is then re-oxidized by a mediator. Finally the mediator is re-oxidized by the electrode. In this paper, a variety of reversible electron acceptors have been studied as mediators for redox enzymes. The electron transfer mediator has to satisfy the following requirements: (i) the redox potential of the mediator should be small enough to avoid interfering electrochemical reactions, (ii) both oxidized and reduced forms of mediator should be stable enough and (iii) the second-order rate constant for reaction between mediator and enzyme should be high enough to minimize competition with oxygen [40]. Consequently, the choice of the mediator is critical to achieve high sensitivity and selectivity.

Various chemicals can be used as electron transfer mediators for redox enzymes when immobilized on an electrode surface. Ferrocene and its derivatives, ferri/ferrocyanide, complexes of transition metals such as osmium and ruthenium as well as redox organic dyes are widely used redox mediators for oxidases. Ferri/ferrocyanide is one

of the most commonly used and efficient soluble inorganic mediators [41-44].

In this paper, several mediators such as ferrocene, ferri/ferrocyanide, thionine, and phenothiazine et al. have been studied for different redox enzymes (GOx, ChOx, LOx, ALOx) and the best mediator for different biosensors was chosen after rigorous investigation. The enzyme reactions and the electron transfer processes are showed as below.



Fabrications

Screen printing inks: In this paper, a flat semi-automatic printer is used to print working and reference electrode on surface of a plastic support, and then insulation ink layer is printed forming a working and reference reaction area and leave the area open in order to print enzyme ink covering on it. It will lead a good reproducibility for detection and decrease the noise happening in enzyme reaction. After printing, printed working and reference electrode should be dried in a conveyor oven at 75. Then the insulation ink is printed on the finished base working and reference electrode, the UV generator is used to dry the ink in seconds. The enzyme ink printing is the last stage of the processing; the ink should be printed in well controlled conditions such as temperature and humidity. The processing of the enzyme ink presents a great advantage: it avoids problems of enzyme denaturation as it is not necessary to employ organic solvents, and the curing temperature is therefore milder. It enables the production of test strip to be increased to half-million pieces per day, which leads to a considerable reduction in operation cost. This processing technology for large-scale production of enzyme sensor has been successfully commercialized in local industries [45].

In this paper, carbon inks were printed both as working and reference electrode for glucose biosensor, but for cholesterol/lactate/ethanol biosensor, the carbon material is only used as working electrode. Ag/AgCl ink was chosen as a reference electrode for cholesterol/lactate/ethanol biosensors to improve the sensitivity of electrodes.

Assembling and cutting procedures: After semifinal electrode products are fabricated, double bonding, single bonding and hydrophilic membrane materials were assembled on the electrode substrate to form a sample inlet spacer in which blood sample could be automatically suck in quantitatively by capillarity. Also the conductive part of the strip is sealed leaving the strip contact opening. An automatic cutting machine is used to cut the assembled strips into single one which were stored into a strip vial with desiccant. It can be

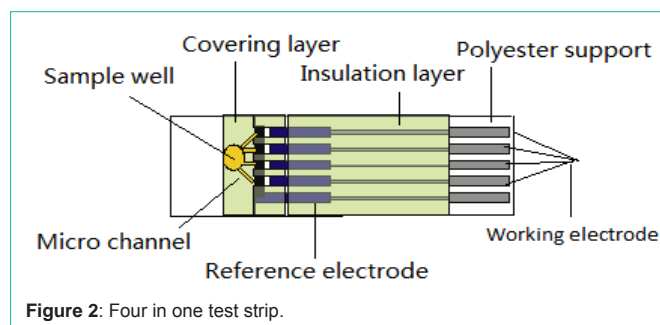


Figure 2: Four in one test strip.

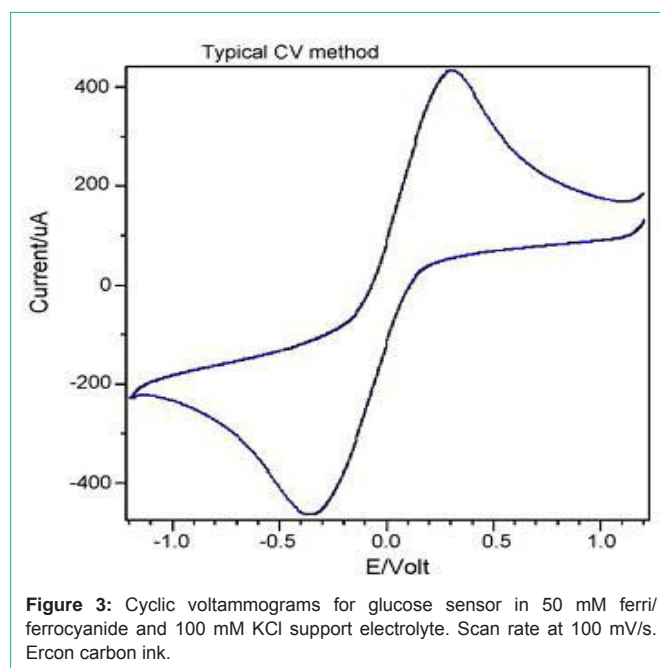


Figure 3: Cyclic voltammograms for glucose sensor in 50 mM ferri/ferrocyanide and 100 mM KCl support electrolyte. Scan rate at 100 mV/s. Ercon carbon ink.

stable for about 18 months without opening and 3 months after first opening. Figure 2 shows the 4 in 1 strips produced from the company.

Result and Discussion

A bio-potentiostat was used for cyclic voltammetry and chronoamperometric measurements.

Figure 3 shows the result of glucose CV curve. Figure 4 shows the response current of glucose biosensor. Figure 5 shows the linear range of glucose biosensor.

Figure 6 shows the result of cholesterol CV curve. Figure 7 shows the response current of cholesterol biosensor. Figure 8 shows the linear range of cholesterol biosensor.

Figure 9 shows the response current of lactate biosensor. Figure 10 shows the linear range of lactate biosensor.

Table 2 shows the linear ranges and the sensitivities of the glucose/cholesterol/lactate biosensors. The glucose biosensor has a linear range from 1mM to 33.3mM. The cholesterol biosensor has a detection range from 2.59 mM to 12.94 mM and the lactate biosensor can be detected from 0.5mM to 6mM which covers the whole clinical criteria of human blood cholesterol and lactate level, but the sensitivity needs to be further improved.

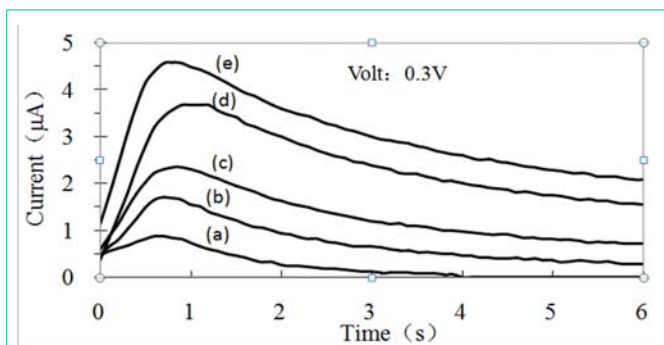


Figure 4: Response current of the glucose sensor against time. Glucose concentration: (a) 2.8mM, (b) 5.6mM, (c) 11.1mM, (d) 16.6mM, (e) 22.2mM.

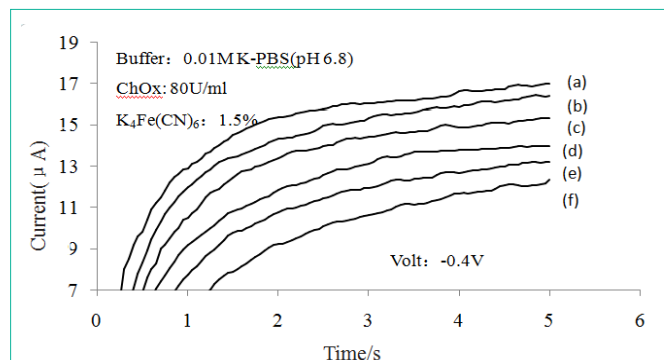


Figure 7: Response current of the cholesterol sensor against time. Cholesterol concentration: (a) Blank, (b) 2.59mM, (c) 5.18mM, (d) 7.76mM, (e) 10.35mM, (f) 12.94mM.

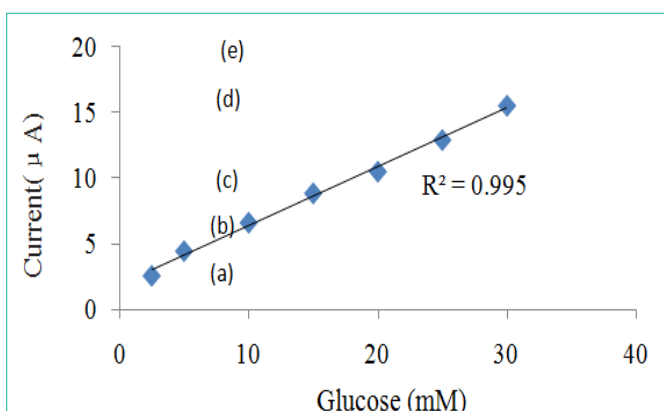


Figure 5: Linear range for different glucose concentration.

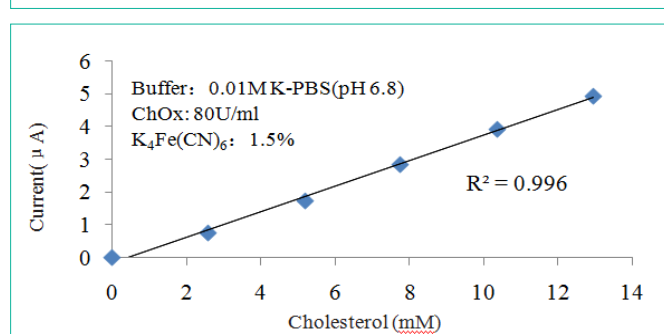


Figure 8: Linear range for different cholesterol concentration.

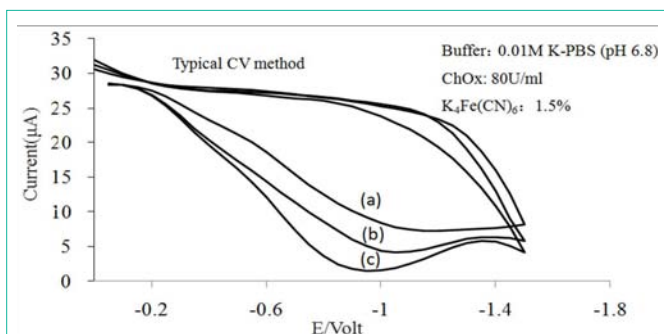


Figure 6: Cyclic voltammograms for different cholesterol concentration of cholesterol sensor. Scan rate at 100 mV/s. (a) Blank, (b) 7.76mM, (c) 12.94mM.

Selectivity

Enzyme specificity is a key property which can be exploited in biosensor technology. Compared with chemical catalysts, enzymes demonstrate a significantly greater level of substrate specificity, primarily because of the constraints placed on the substrate molecule by the active site environment. This fact involves factors such as molecular size, stereochemistry, polarity, functional groups and relative bond energies.

GOD has higher substrate specificity than PQQ-GDH, because the later can react with maltose, galactose and maltotriose. Table 3 the enzyme properties from the manufacturer show GOD having better substrate specificity. Table 4 and 5 show the substrate specificity

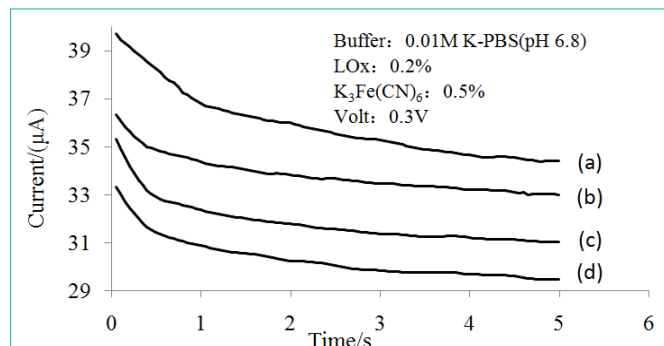


Figure 9: Response current of the lactate sensor against time. Lactate concentration (a) 2mM, (b) 4mM, (c) 6mM, (d) 8mM.

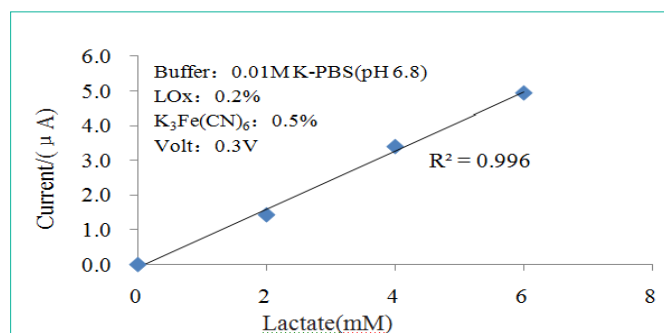


Figure 10: Linear range for different lactate concentration.

of cholesterol oxidase and alcohol oxidase from manufacturer. Although some chemical substances can react with ChOx or ALOx as a substrate, they are very low concentration in human blood so we

Table 2: The linear ranges and the sensitivities of the glucose/cholesterol/lactate biosensors.

	Linear range	Sensitivity
Glucose biosensor	1~33.3mM	430nA/mM
Cholesterol biosensor	2.59~12.94 mM	351nA/mM
Lactate biosensor	0.5 to 6mM	650nA/mM

Table 3: Substrate specificity of glucose oxidase from the manufacturer.

Substrate (0.1M)	Relative activity
D-Glucose	100
2-Dexy- D-glucose	16.2
Glucono-1,5-lactone	0.06
Galactose	3.10
Mannose	2.10
Fructose	0.24
Xylose	0.93
Maltose	0.69

Table 4: Substrate specificity of cholesterol oxidase from manufacturer.

Substrate (0.1mM)	Relative activity
Cholesterol	100
Pregenolone	53
β -Cholestanol	63
Stigmasterol	33
Ergosterol	37
Lanosterol	2
Dehydroiso-androsterone	23

Table 5: Substrate Specificity of Alcohol oxidase from manufacturer.

Substrate (0.1mM)	Relative activity (%)
Ethanol	79.3
n-Propanol	46.3
Iso- Propanol	25.8
n-Butanol	39.6
From aldehyde	48.2

can detect targets without big interference.

Applications

Multi-targets electrode like, glucose, cholesterol, lactate and alcohol can be integrated and fabricated into a single strip by screen-printing technology. All of targets mentioned above have similar electrochemical determination principle which can be detected based on the amperometry assay. Not only so, most of elderly patient with chronic diseases needs to test these chemicals every day, They are suffered from needle puncture for sampling blood, if we can integrate these four test targets into single strip (4 in 1), it will be a large market because these is no commercial multi-targets enzyme electrode product right now and this novel four-in-one super test strip will be very helpful to the people suffer from diabetes, hyperlipidemia, cardiovascular diseases and alcoholics.

Future perspective

Geriatric diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, hyperlipidemia

and cardiovascular are becoming epidemic diseases to affect the life of seniors. People suffered from these diseases are looking forward to have a smart device which uses tiny sample blood and reads multiple data back in seconds [46]. This four in one test strip obviously satisfies with the requirement.

Furthermore, most of people over the world have a long history of drinking, people like drinking for various reasons and leading to certain diseases. Although administration has issued different traffic management regulations against drunk driving for years, people still want to know their blood alcohol level after drink with luck psychology. The quick test of blood alcohol based on this monitoring platform is trying to give a warning to those people after drink too much. In this paper, screen-printing technology was used to fabricate a “four-in-one” integrated electrochemical biosensor to measure blood glucose, total cholesterol, blood lactate and blood alcohol in one shoot. For patients, it may be a better way to detect these targets by one piece of “four-in-one” super test strip and only need 1-5 μ L blood sample, 5-10 seconds time needed.

Until now, we have good results from glucose, cholesterol and lactate from the single strip. We have made a breakthrough progress about the screen-printing technology for four targets and figured out a scheme for these four electrodes. All of this shows that we can print at least four kinds of enzyme in different areas on one strip to create four current responses in separated circuit without interference. It is really expected that the “four-in-one” super test strip will be in mass produced and commercialized in near future.

Conclusion

The 4 in1 test strip is compatible with commercially available platform of glucose testing system. This improvement substantially increases the range of options for four analytes based on the principle of electrochemical detection for applications in resource-constrained environments.

This electrochemical system has several potential advantages.

(i) It is portable reliable, and inexpensive. (ii) It takes advantage of the sophisticated engineering already embedded in commercially available, inexpensive glucose testing platform. (iii) It can be adapted to analytes other than glucose. (iv) The electrochemistry is insensitive to local conditions, and to certain types of contaminants (suspended solids) present in samples. (v) It can be interfaced with a cell phone (either by human reporting of the data or by photography of the LCD display or, in principle, by a coded interface). It can also be used in home patient care with telephone or internet communications. (vi) It can also be in principally adapted to a range of different types of assays (amperometry, as here chronoamperometry, cyclic voltammetry, anodic stripping voltammetry, and others) This 4 in 1 test strip with four useful characteristics for applications in resource-limited environments. (i) It is well suited to mass production at low cost using screen-printing technology. It can, therefore, be manufactured almost everywhere, and easily adapted to local use. (ii) Its fundamental design is sufficiently simple that this design can be modified to generate test strips that fit into different analytes. (iii) It is based on a system of plastic-based support which is easily cut into different shape. (iv) It has sufficient flexibility to manufacture in mass, a half million test strips can be produced in single day which is

very cost effective with four different functionalities—concentration of analytes by the technology. At this stage of development, the 4 in 1 strip that we have fabricated are slightly less accurate than single used commercial test strips, possibly due to the manual procedures we used in their fabrication; this accuracy will certainly improve with further engineering and attention to manufacturing detail specially in the processing in four kinds of enzymes deposit on the same surface of a single strip. We are aware that production process of the strip might be sensitive to temperature and humidity. A systematic study needs to be carried out to achieve a better understanding on this issue; this problem, however, can be fixed by improved engineering, such as well controlled humidity and temperature conditions in clean room for test strip production.

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