

Supporting Information

A fully-printed wearable bandage-based electrochemical sensor with pH correction for wound infection monitoring.

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Supporting Experimental Section

1. Chemicals and reagents

Pyocyanin, aniline, potassium hexacyanoferrate (III) ($K_3[Fe(CN)_6]$), L-ascorbic acid, uric acid, lactic acid, creatine monohydrate, polyvinyl butyral (PVB), sodium deoxycholate, sodium dodecyl sulfate, and creatinine were from Sigma Aldrich. Glucose and urea were from Fluka (USA). Sodium chloride (NaCl), sodium bicarbonate ($NaHCO_3$), calcium chloride dihydrate ($CaCl_2 \cdot 2H_2O$), and calcium carbonate ($CaCO_3$) were from Merck (Germany). Magnesium chloride ($MgCl_2 \cdot 6H_2O$) was from Carlo Erba Reagents (Germany). Potassium hexacyanoferrate (II) trihydrate ($K_4Fe(CN)_6 \cdot 3H_2O$) was brought from RDH Laborchemikalien GmbH & Co. KG., Germany. Sodium carbonate (Na_2CO_3) was from Ajax Finechem. Hydrochloric acid (HCl) and methanol were from RCI Labscan Limited (Ireland). Sulfuric acid (H_2SO_4) was from Labscan Asia Co., Ltd. (Thailand), Toluene was from Guangdong Guanghua Chemical Factory Co., Ltd. (China), Multiwalled carbon nanotubes (MWCNTs, diameter: 60–100 nm, length: $>5 \mu m$, special surface area: $40\text{--}70 m^2 g^{-1}$) was from Shenzhen Nanotech Port Co., Ltd. (China). Graphene conductive ink (UGDC033SSCDSV) was from UGENT company (Malaysia). Carbon conductive ink (DSNSMF0001) was from DSN thermal solution (China). Ag/AgCl ink was from Sun Chemical Ltd. (UK). Ecoflex® 50 was from Smooth-On, Inc. (USA). Tetrahydrofuran (THF) was purchased from Honeywell, B&J brand, USA. All reagents were used without further purification. All chemical solutions were prepared using ultrapure water ($18.2 M\Omega cm$) from a Milli Q Merck system (Germany). Tryptic Soy Agar (TSA) and Mueller Hinton broth (MHB) were purchased from Difco, Becton, Dickinson and company (USA).

2. Preparation of artificial wound

Artificial wound used in this experiment to test the ability of the sensor is the modified form [1], prepared by mixing $1.00 \times 10^{-3} M$ of glucose, $9.00 \times 10^{-4} M$ of urea, $5.60 \times 10^{-3} M$ of $CaCl_2$, $8.00 \times 10^{-8} M$ of $MgCl_2$, $1.9 \times 10^{-4} M$ of NaCl, and $1.00 \times 10^{-5} M$ of $NaHCO_3$.

3. Preparation of MHB broth (1X)

21 g of MHB powder was suspended in 1 L of water and gently warmed to dissolve. Then, it was autoclaved at $121 \text{ }^\circ C$ for 15 min.

4. Preparation of TSA agar (1X)

40 g of TSA powder was suspended in 1 L of water and gently warmed to dissolve. Then, it was autoclaved at $121 \text{ }^\circ C$ for 15 min.

5. Biocompatibility test using MTT assay

The biocompatibility of the sensor materials was assessed using L-929 cells through the 3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide (MTT) assay. Specifically, L-929 cells (Earles's cells, L cells, or NCTC clone 929 cells from fibroblast tissues) were obtained from ATCC (Manassas, VA, USA) and cultured in a 1:1 mixture of Dulbecco's Modified Eagle Medium (D-MEM), supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS), 100 U mL⁻¹ penicillin, and 100 µg mL⁻¹ streptomycin. The cultures were maintained in a humidified incubator at 37 °C with 5% CO₂ and incubated for 72 hours. For the cytotoxicity assay, the sensor was exposed to UV light for 30 min, then soaked in cell culture medium for 5 hours. Afterward, the electrodes were removed, and L-929 cells were seeded into 96-well plates at a density of 8,000 cells per well. The electrode-soaked medium was added to the wells in a 1:1 ratio with fresh culture medium, and the plates were incubated at 37 °C for 72 hours. After incubation, the cells were washed with 1X PBS (pH 7.4) and incubated with 100 µL of 0.5 mg mL⁻¹ MTT at 37 °C with 5% CO₂ for 30 min. Dark blue formazan crystals, indicative of MTT metabolism, were then dissolved in 100 µL of dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) at room temperature, protected from light. The plates were incubated again at 37 °C for 30 min in the dark and absorbance was measured using a microplate reader spectrophotometer at 570 and 650 nm. Percent survival was calculated using the formula:

$$\text{Survival (\%)} = \frac{(A_{\text{sample},570} - A_{\text{sample},650})}{(A_{\text{control},570} - A_{\text{control},650})} \times 100$$

where $A_{\text{sample},570}$, $A_{\text{sample},650}$, $A_{\text{control},570}$, and $A_{\text{control},650}$ are the absorbance of the test samples (at 570 and 650 nm) and negative control (at 570 and 650 nm), respectively [2].

6. Instrumentation

Electrochemical experiments were conducted using a µAutolab II potentiostat (Metrohm Autolab, The Netherlands) and controlled by the Nova 2.1 software to investigate the electrochemical performances via cyclic voltammetry (CV), square wave voltammetry (SWV), and electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (EIS). The three-electrode system used in SWV and EIS experiments. SWV experiments consisted of a flexible printed working electrode (e.g., the porous CNT/graphene electrode), a carbon counter, and a Ag/AgCl pseudoreference electrode. Square wave voltammetry (SWV) was chosen for pyocyanin

analysis. The SWV detection was carried out at a frequency of 10 Hz, with a step potential of 20 mV, and an amplitude of 50 mV. Each set of experiments was performed with three replicates ($n = 3$). The EIS experiments used a root mean square (RMS) amplitude of 10 mV, employing a single sine wave type. The bias potential was set at +0.60 V for the unmodified electrode and at +0.35 V for the porous CNT/graphene electrode. The frequency sweep spanned from 1×10^4 Hz down to 1×10^{-1} Hz. The two-electrode system used in potentiometric experiments consisted of a flexible working (PANI/CNT) and a Ag/AgCl pseudoreference electrode. A compact voltmeter (Vernier GO Direct® Electrode Amplifier) was used to record the output voltage of the pH sensor. Potentiometric measurement was carried out by recording the electrochemical potential of the two electrodes of pH sensor to perform pH detection. The contact angle was calculated using ImageJ 1.50a software package (National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD, USA). Characterize morphology of electrodes using SEM/EDX technique used field emission scanning electron microscope (FESEM) (Apreo model, Brand FEI, Netherlands). Bacterial growth and pyocyanin production were measured by optical density using a microplate reader (LUMIstar Omega, Germany).

Supplementary Figures

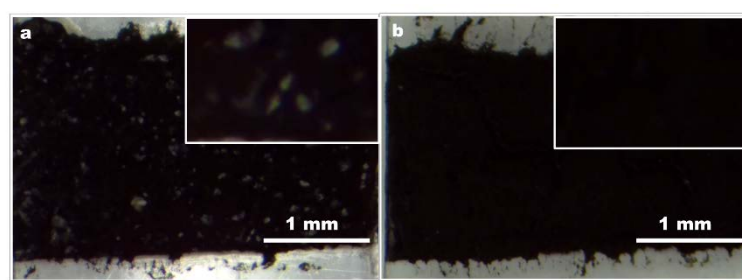


Fig. S1. Surface characterization by optical microscopy of **a** non-porous CNT/graphene electrodes (before CaCO₃ removal) and **b** porous CNT/graphene electrodes (after CaCO₃ removal). Insets depict images digitally magnified 5 times.

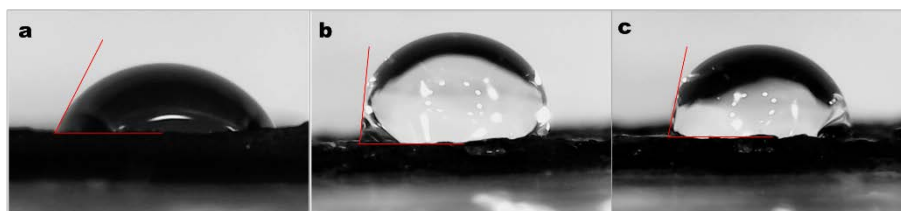


Fig. S2. Contact angle measurements of **a** unmodified ink electrode, **b** porous CNT/graphene electrode without electrochemical treatment, and **c** porous CNT/graphene electrode with electrochemical treatment via anodization in Na₂CO₃ solution.

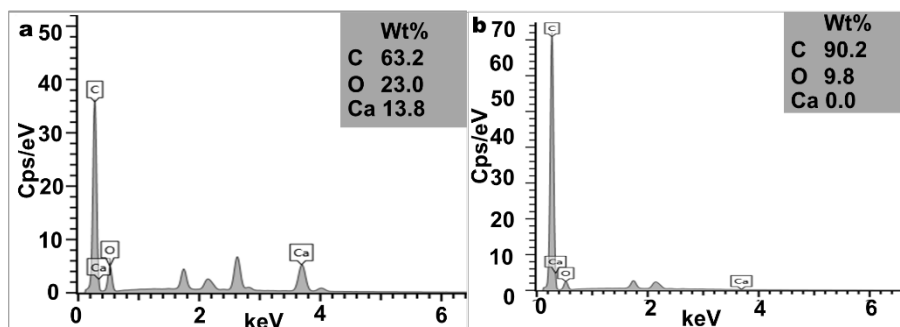


Fig. S3. The characterization using energy dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDX) spectrum analysis. **a** EDX spectrum of the CNT/graphene electrode (before etching to remove CaCO₃) and **b** the resulting porous CNT/graphene electrode (after CaCO₃ removal).

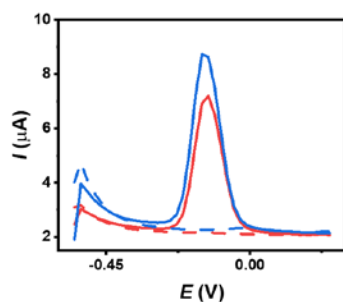


Fig. S4. SWVs obtained from a non-porous CNT/graphene electrode (red line) before removal of CaCO_3 and a porous CNT/graphene electrode (blue line) after CaCO_3 removal in the absence (dash line) and presence (solid line) of $10 \mu\text{M}$ pyocyanin in 0.10 M PBS, pH 7.00.

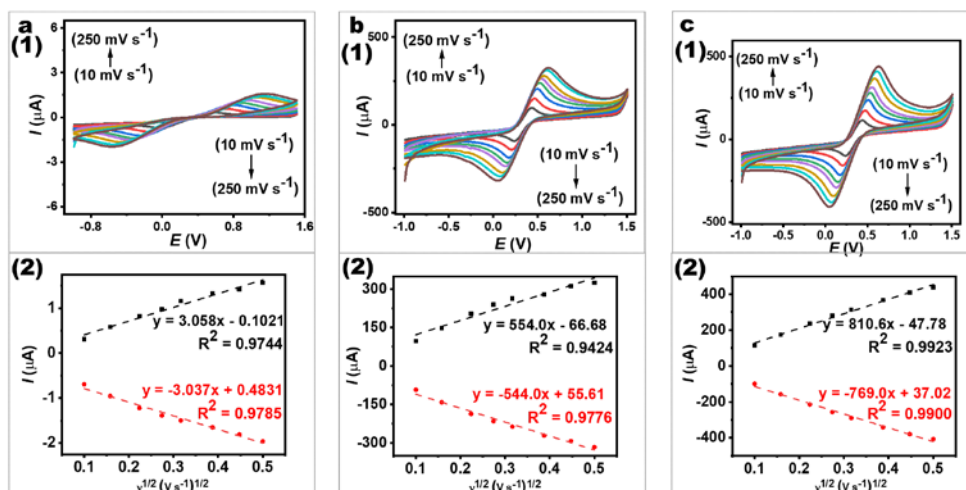


Fig. S5. Electrochemical performances of different printed electrodes: **a** unmodified material electrode, **b** the CNT/graphene electrode before CaCO_3 removal, and **c** porous CNT/graphene electrode after CaCO_3 removal. (1) The experiments were conducted using CV in the presence of 10 mM $\text{K}_3[\text{Fe}(\text{CN})_6]$ in 1.0 M KCl at various scan rates ranging from 10 to 250 mV s^{-1} . (2) Anodic and cathodic peak current densities plotted against the square root of the scan rates.

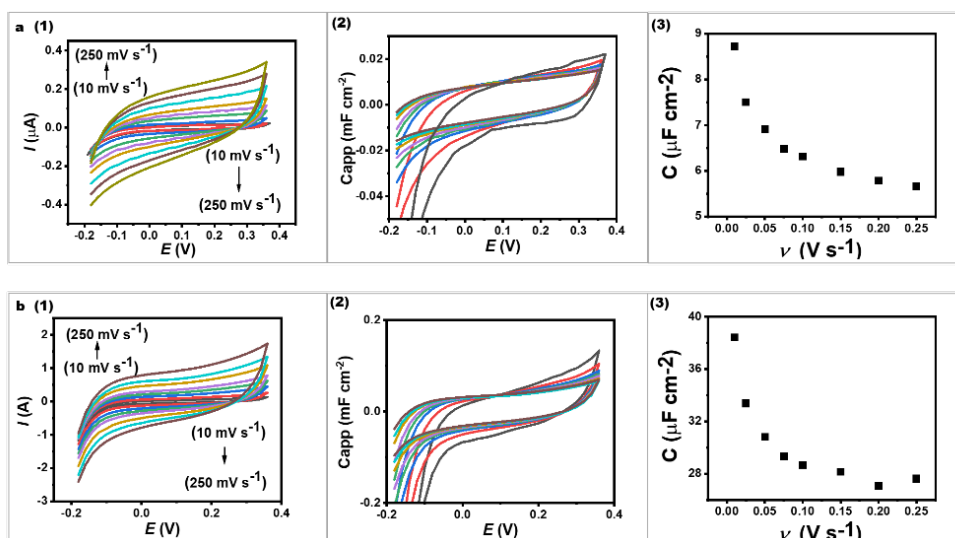


Fig. S6. Surface study of various printed electrodes in electrolytes, including **a** unmodified material electrode and **b** the porous CNT/graphene electrode after CaCO_3 removal. The investigations include: (1) Cyclic voltammograms (CVs) obtained in 1.0 M KCl at scan rates ranging from 10 to 250 mV s^{-1} . (2) Apparent capacitance profile. (3) Plot depicting capacitance variations at different scan rates.

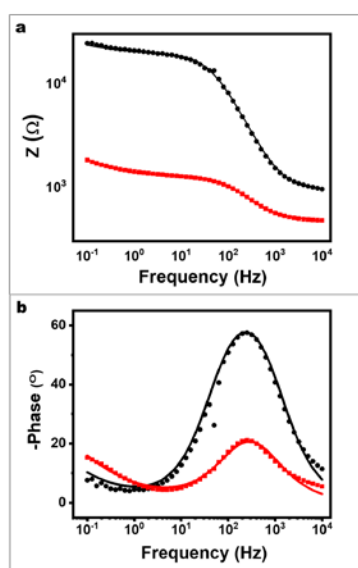


Fig. S7. Bode plots obtained from printed electrodes, including the unmodified material electrode (black plot) and the porous CNT/graphene electrode after CaCO_3 removal (red plot). Electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (EIS) studies were conducted in 2.5 mM $\text{K}_3[\text{Fe}(\text{CN})_6]$ and 2.5 mM $\text{K}_4[\text{Fe}(\text{CN})_6]$ in 1.0 M KCl, utilizing a frequency range of 1×10^{-1} – 10^4 Hz, an amplitude of 10 mV, 0.60 V DC bias for unmodified electrode, and potential apply at 0.35 V DC bias for porous CNT/graphene electrode. The solid lines over the black dot or red square points represent the fitted graphs following the equivalent circuit model, corresponding to Fig 2c.

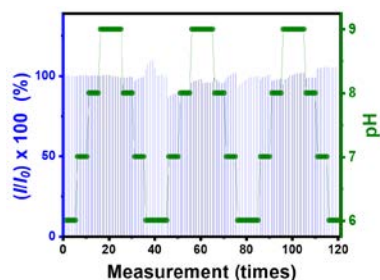


Fig. S8. Stability test of pyocyanin measurements across varying pH values. The pH was increased from 6.0 to 9.0, and also decreased from 9.0 to 6.0.

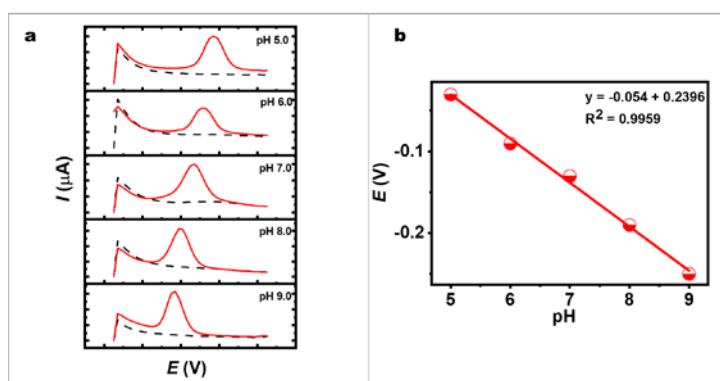


Fig. S9. **a** SWV illustrating the influence of pH on the electrochemical behavior of pyocyanin oxidation (with 10 μM pyocyanin across pH levels ranging from 5.0 to 9.0). **b** Corresponding relationship plot showing the pyocyanin oxidation peak position relative to medium solution pH.

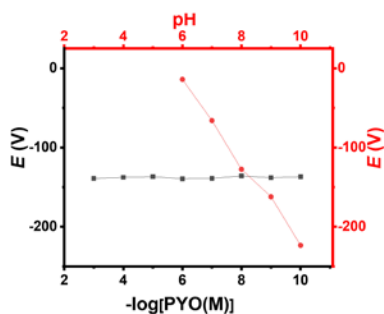


Fig. S10. Selectivity of the bandage-based pH sensor. **Set I (Red plot):** Pyocyanin concentration fixed at 10 μM . Voltage data recorded in solutions with pH ranging from 6.0 to 10.0. **Set II (Black plot):** Pyocyanin concentration varied from 1×10^{-3} to 1×10^{-10} M, prepared in 0.1 M PBS at pH 8.0. Voltage data recorded for these concentrations at constant pH 8.0.

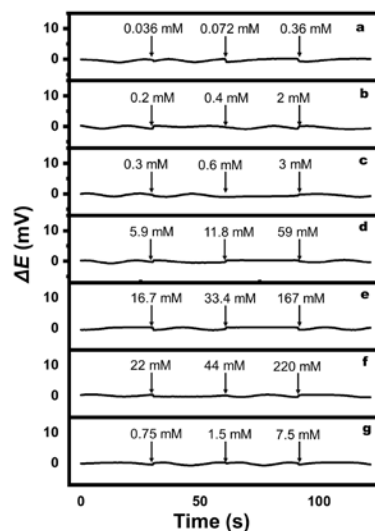


Fig. S11. Study the effect of possible interfering species on the reference electrode by varying the concentrations of additional species, including **a** ascorbic acid (0, 0.036, 0.072, and 0.36 mM), **b** creatine (0, 0.2, 0.4, and 2 mM), **c** creatinine (0, 0.3, 0.6, and 3 mM), **d** glucose (0, 5.9, 11.8, and 59 mM), **e** lactate (0, 16.7, 33.4, and 167 mM), **f** sodium bicarbonate (0, 22, 44, and 220 mM), and **g** uric acid (0, 0.75, 1.5, and 7.5 mM), added to an artificial wound solution. Changes in potential versus a standard reference Ag/AgCl electrode with a 3.0 M KCl internal solution were recorded.

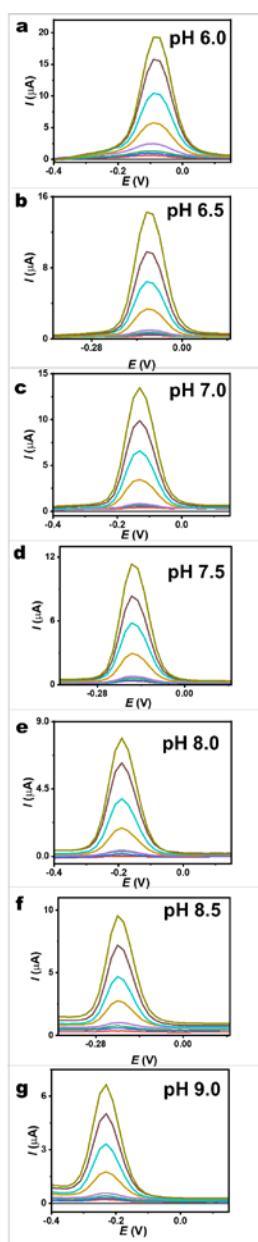


Fig. S12. Analytical signal dependence on pyocyanin concentration (0–20 μM) at various pH levels for pH **a** 6.0, **b** 6.5, **c** 7.0, **d** 7.5, **e** 8.0, **f** 8.5 and, **g** 9.0.

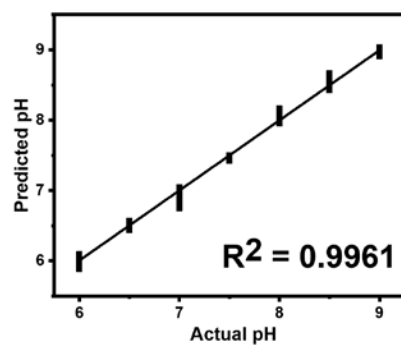


Fig. S13. PLS regression plot from the developed model for predicting pH levels.

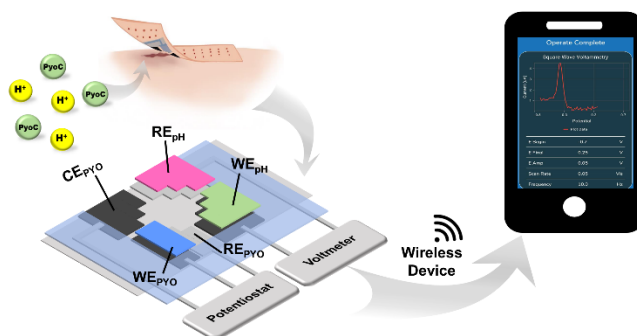


Fig. S14. Schematic illustration of a printed flexible sensing array for detecting pyocyanin and pH on a bandage, alongside the system's circuit configuration.

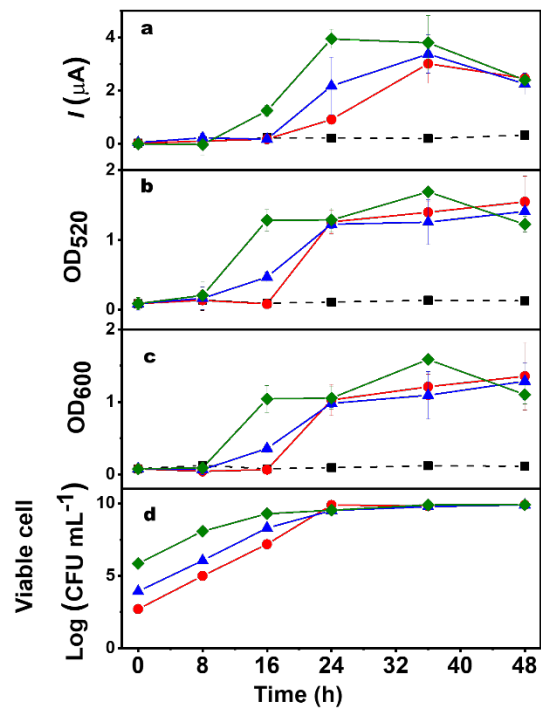


Fig. S15. **a** Current response, **b** optical density at 520 nm, **c** optical density at 600 nm, and **d** viable cell count in a simulated wound environment at three different initial bacterial inoculum levels including 0 (black line), 10¹ (red line), 10³ (blue line), and 10⁵ (green line) CFU mL⁻¹.

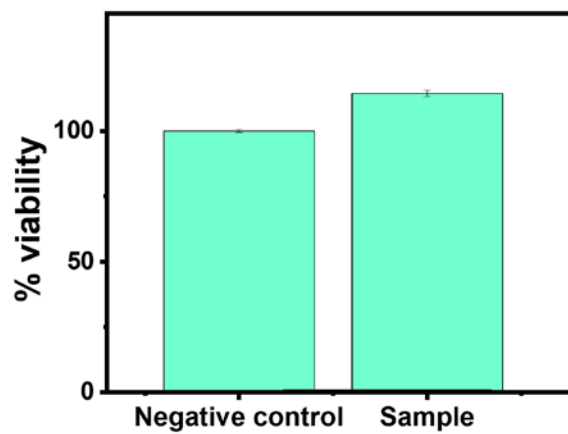


Fig. S16. Biocompatibility test for the materials in the printed wearable bandage sensor.

Supplementary Tables

Table S1 Electrochemical sensors using various materials for the detection of pyocyanin.

Electrodes	Electrochemical techniques	Integrating pH sensor	Printable	Wearable bandage	Range (μM)	LOD (μM)	Ref
agar Au-Ag nanoalloy/SPCE	SWV	X	X	X	0.12 – 25	0.04	[3]
carbon fiber tow laminate working electrode	SWV	X	X	X	1 – 100	0.03	[4]
carbon ink/photo paper	SWV	X	✓	X	1 – 40	0.10	[5]
carbon nanodots/disposable paper electrodes	DPV	X	✓	X	4.45 – 52.47	0.15	[6]
CNT/PVA hydrogel/SPCE	SWV	X	✓	X	100	0.48	[7]
dielectric paste /carbon graphite ink	SWV	X	✓	X	1-10	0.15	[8]
Au electrode	CV	X	X	X	2 - 100	2.00	[9]
AuNPs/rGO/SPCE	DPV	X	X	X	0-100	0.27	[10]
Au working electrode	SWV	X	X	X	1-100	0.60	[11]
MIP/chitosan/AuNP/SPCE	CV and SWV	X	X	X	1-100	0.74	[12]
PDMS/AuNPs/Au electrodes/glass substrate	DPV	X	X	X	0.5-250	0.10	[13]
planar transparent macroelectrodes	SWV	X	X	X	0.75-25	0.75	[14]
PMMA/Al ₂ O ₃ /PSSs/PPF/PET substrate	SWV	X	X	X	1-250	1.00	[1]
Polyaniline/AuNPs/ITO electrodes	CV	X	X	X	1.9-238	0.50	[15]
thin film BDD electrode	DPV	X	X	X	5-50	2.06	[16]

Electrodes	Electrochemical techniques	Integrating pH sensor	Printable	Wearable bandage	Range (μM)	LOD (μM)	Ref
transparent carbon ultramicroelectrode arrays	SWV	×	×	×	1-250	1.00	[17]
CoTAPc-MXene/GCE	DPV	×	×	×	0.1-200	0.039	[18]
Printed porous CNT/graphene electrode	SWV	✓	✓	✓	0.25-100	0.22	Present work

Abbreviations: Materials: Agar Au-Ag nanoalloy/SPCE Agar gold-silver nanoalloy/screen printed carbon electrodes, CNT/PVA hydrogel/SPCE Carbon nanotube/Poly(vinyl alcohol) hydrogels/screen printed carbon electrodes, Au working electrode Gold working electrode, AuNPs/rGO/SPCE Gold nanoparticles/reduced graphene oxide/screen printed carbon electrodes, MIP/Chitosan/AuNP/SPCE Molecularly imprinted polymers/chitosan/gold nanoparticles/screen printed carbon electrodes, PDMS/AuNPs/Au electrodes/glass substrate Polydimethylsiloxane/gold nanoparticles/gold electrode/glass substrate, PMMA/Al₂O₃/PSSs/PPF/PET substrate Poly(methyl methacrylate)/aluminum oxide/polystyrene spheres/pyrolyzed photoresist film/poly(ethylene terephthalate) substrate, Polyaniline/AuNPs/ITO electrodes Polyaniline/gold nanoparticles/indium tin oxide electrodes, thin film BDD electrode Thin film boron-doped diamond electrode. CoTAPc-MXene/GCE cobalt(II) tetra-aminophthalocyanine and MXene composites/glassy carbon electrode. **Techniques:** DPV Differential pulse voltammetry, SWV Square wave voltammetry, CV Cyclic voltammetry.

Table S2 The EIS results showing parameter values obtained from equivalent circuit settings using different printed electrodes, including the unmodified material electrode and the porous CNT/graphene electrode after CaCO₃ removal.

Materials	Elements				
	R _s (Ω)	R _{ct} (k Ω)	CPE _{dl} Y ₀ (S . s ^N) (μMho)	CPE _{dl} N	W _D Y ₀ (S . \sqrt{s}) (mMho)
The unmodified material electrode	941	18.2	0.326	0.908	0.217
CNT/graphene electrode	468	0.788	4.35	0.821	1.80

Table S3 Comparison of analytical recovery studies using our model with a printed bandage-based biosensing array incorporating the pH-correction system and traditional calibration methods using modeled wound fluids at various pH levels.

Our proposed model				Traditional calibration method			
Sample	Concentration (μM)	Detected (μM)	%Recovery \pm SD (n=3)	Sample	Concentration (μM)	Detected (μM)	%Recovery \pm SD (n=3)
pH 6.5	5	5.28	105.16 \pm 0.01	pH 6.5	5	5.35	106.91 \pm 0.03
	10	10.08	101.53 \pm 0.04		10	10.37	107.49 \pm 0.03
	20	20.10	101.00 \pm 0.06		20	22.31	123.14 \pm 0.03
pH 7.0	5	4.88	97.58 \pm 0.05	pH 7.0	5	4.98	99.62 \pm 0.01
	10	9.82	96.35 \pm 0.01		10	9.72	94.43 \pm 0.02
	20	19.35	93.55 \pm 0.01		20	20.08	100.79 \pm 0.02
pH 8.5	5	5.03	100.57 \pm 0.06	pH 8.5	5	3.88	77.60 \pm 0.01
	10	9.96	99.24 \pm 0.04		10	6.73	34.67 \pm 0.06
	20	20.68	106.75 \pm 0.12		20	14.00	40.00 \pm 0.09

Supporting Information Note 1: The peak current value

The active surface areas of the electrodes were determined by analyzing the relationship between the peak current (I_p) and the square root of the scan rate ($v^{1/2}$) using a known concentration of the $K_3[Fe(CN)_6]$ redox probe. This estimation relies on the Randles–Sevcik equation:

$$I_p = 2.69 \times 10^5 n^{3/2} A D_0 C_0 v^{1/2} \quad (\text{Supporting Equation S1})$$

Here, I_p represents the peak current (A), n indicates the number of electrons transferred (set to 1 for $K_3[Fe(CN)_6]$), A is the surface area of the electrode (cm^2), D_0 is the diffusion coefficient ($D_0 = 7.6 \times 10^{-6} \text{ cm}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$ for $K_3[Fe(CN)_6]$), C_0 is the concentration of the electroactive species (mol cm^{-3}), and v is the scan rate (V s^{-1}) [19].

Supporting Information Note 2: The areal capacitance calculations

$$C_{areal} = \left(\frac{1}{2 \times (V_2 - V_1) \times v} \int_{V_1}^{V_2} |I(V)| dV \right) \frac{1}{A} = \frac{C}{A} \quad (\text{Supporting Equation S2})$$

To calculate the specific capacitance (F cm^{-2}) from cyclic voltammetry data, where I (V) represent the current at each voltage (A), V_2 and V_1 denote the upper and lower limits of the chosen voltage range (V), v stands for the scan rate (V s^{-1}), and A represents the geometric surface area of the electrode (cm^2). Then, the resulting specific capacitance is divided by the area of the working electrode (0.1 cm^2) [20].

Supporting Information Note 3: The surface concentration of the electroactive pyocyanin species

The surface concentration of the electroactive pyocyanin species, denoted as Γ , can be estimated using the following relationship:

$$I_p = n^2 F^2 \frac{A \Gamma v}{4RT} \quad (\text{Supporting Equation S3})$$

Here, n represents the number of electrons involved in the oxidation ($n = 2$), A denotes the geometric surface area of the electrode (0.1 cm^2), Γ (in mol cm^{-2}) signifies the surface coverage, v denotes the scan rate, F is Faraday's constant ($96,485 \text{ C mol}^{-1}$), R is the gas constant ($8.314 \text{ J K}^{-1} \text{ mol}^{-1}$), and T is the temperature (298.15 K). The surface concentration coverage of pyocyanin can be estimated by utilizing the slope of the anodic peak current versus scan rate [21, 22].

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