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Dry Carbon/Salt Adhesive electrodes for recording

Electrodermal Activity

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Abstract

In this work, dry carbon/salt adhesive (CSA) electrodes are found to be suitable for collecting

electrodermal activity (EDA) signals. Silver/silver chloride (Ag/AgCl) electrodes have been

considered as a reliable media to obtain EDA signals. However, mainly the cost and the need

for a hydrogel layer make it difficult to disseminate the practice of using EDA signals in

practical applications. A mixture of carbon salt and adhesive has shown to be suitable for

collecting bioelectric signals (FLEXcon's Patent #8,673,184). With the objective of testing

how these electrodes compare for collecting EDA signals, AC and DC source devices were

employed. Sixteen subjects underwent electric shocks and tonic emotional and cognitive

stress. No significant differences were found in amplitude, onset-to-peak time and onset time

between CSA and Ag/AgCl electrodes. Frequency-domain index, EDASympn, was not found

to be different between the two electrode types. The time-varying spectral index was different

between Ag/AgCl and EDA electrodes for DC devices, not for the AC devices. Ag/AgCl

electrodes often polarized impeding the collection of EDA signals, suggesting that CSA

electrodes provide better fidelity EDA measures. We conclude that CSA electrodes are a

suitable surrogate of Ag/AgCl electrodes for collecting EDA signals.

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