



Natural latex membrane for use in skin dressings

IDEA

LABORATORY

PROTOTYPE

SCALE-UP

MARKET

> **Description** A new process has been developed to produce natural latex membranes with controllable porosity and which also allows for the insertion of bioactive molecules. These membranes are gas permeable, serve as a matrix for drug delivery systems, and can be used as skin dressings.

> **Problem** Natural latex membranes produced by other methods present low control of porosity, thus limiting their range of applications. Moreover, the process whereby such membranes are produced is usually time consuming.

> **Benefits** The natural latex membranes produced by this method present controlled porosity – in terms of pore size and volume – and shorter processing time. The high porosity of the membrane enhances its gas permeability, which is an interesting feature for its use as a skin dressing, since it facilitates tissue healing. Moreover, this application can be extended by adding bioactive molecules to the material. Preliminary tests indicate that the allergenic activity of this membrane is low, which makes it even more attractive.