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Blood Draw Barriers for Treatment with Clozapine and Development of Point-of-Care Monitoring Device

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Abstract

Background: Clozapine is the most effective antipsychotic drug for schizophrenia treatment, however it is currently underused. In order to understand the barriers of frequent blood draws for white blood cell counts (WBCs) and clozapine levels, we developed a psychiatrist survey and began an integrative approach of designing a point-of-care device that could eventually have real-time monitoring with immediate results. **Methods:** We ascertained barriers related to clozapine management and the acceptance of possible solutions by sending an anonymous survey to physicians in psychiatric practice (N=860). In parallel we tested clozapine sensing using a prototype point-of-care monitoring device.

Results: 255 responses were included in the survey results. The two barriers receiving mean scores with the highest agreement as being a significant barrier were patient nonadherence to blood work and blood work's burden on the patient (out of 28). Among nine solutions, the ability to obtain lab results in the physician's office or pharmacy was top-ranked (mean±sd Likert scale (4.0±1.0)). Physicians responded that a point-of-care device to measure blood levels and WBCs would improve care and increase clozapine use. Residents ranked point-of-care devices higher than older physicians (4.07±0.87 vs. 3.47±1.08, $p<0.0001$). Also, the prototype device was able to detect CLZ reliably in 1.6, 8.2, and 16.3µg/mL buffered solutions. **Discussion:** Survey results demonstrate the physician's desire for point-of-care monitoring technology, particularly among younger prescribers. Prototype sensor results identify that clozapine can be detected and integrated for future device development. Future development will also include integration of WBCs for a complete detection device.

Keywords: Clozapine; Antipsychotic; Medication underutilization; Sensing lab-on-a-chip; Point-of-care; Therapeutic Drug Monitoring (TDM)

1. Introduction

Schizophrenia is one of the most challenging and complex psychiatric disorders that afflicts humans. It is a devastating illness that affects 1% of the population worldwide. The burden of the disorder is high with the estimated direct and indirect costs of the illness (2002 figures) exceeding \$60 billion annually (1). Currently there is no cure for the disorder and lifelong treatment with antipsychotics is recommended (2). Clozapine (CLZ) is the most effective antipsychotic treatment for chronic and treatment refractory patients with schizophrenia. It is the only antipsychotic that has been FDA-approved for treatment-resistant schizophrenia and it provides effective treatment even when patients do not respond to other second-generation antipsychotics (3). No existing first or second-generation antipsychotic is as effective as CLZ monotherapy in treatment-resistant patients (2, 4-7).

Current evidence-based pharmacologic guidelines for the treatment of schizophrenia recommend prescribing CLZ for individuals who are unresponsive or partially responsive to first line medications, which is up to 40% of patients with schizophrenia (8). Despite the overwhelming evidence of the superior effectiveness of CLZ compared to other antipsychotics in treatment-resistant schizophrenia, prescription rates for CLZ in the U.S. are far lower than the estimated prevalence of treatment-resistant schizophrenia (9-12). There are many possible barriers to using CLZ and a few reports have noted the most significant barriers to be the registration process, tolerability and side effects, and nonadherence to blood draws (13, 14). Also, lack of education and experience with CLZ serves as a barrier as psychiatrists have been reported to overestimate the actual risk of agranulocytosis (15) and underestimate how well patients like taking it (16),

One of the most frequently identified barriers known is the issue around frequent bloodwork needed to effectively manage this medication. In current practice, CLZ patients have many blood draws to monitor white blood cell (WBC) counts for agranulocytosis, a rare but potentially fatal side effect. Since WBCs need to be monitored weekly for six months, the addition of separate blood draws to measure CLZ

levels involves considerable inconvenience to the patient on a weekly basis. CLZ is the only antipsychotic whose efficacy has been predicted by blood measurement (17-22). In addition, the Schizophrenia Patient Outcomes Research Team (PORT) guidelines recommend that blood level monitoring be performed to aim for optimal therapeutic response (2). Blood levels can also help in identifying medication nonadherence which is a widespread problem in people with psychiatric disorders, as nonadherence can make it more difficult to re-achieve a response on relapse (23) and nonadherence is associated relapse and possibility for hospitalization or even suicide (24, 25). Blood levels provide important guidance during acute illness and changes in smoking patterns that could lead to large fluctuations both high and low leading to relapse or toxicity (26-32). However, currently despite these blood draws as standard of care, they are frequently overlooked (2) or due to the lag time of results and the infrequent psychiatry visits, the utility is often less limited than ideal.

We hypothesized that among many barriers to care, better ways to monitor real-time treatment with CLZ could make this medication more acceptable and widely utilized. Thus, we developed a survey for psychiatrists to better understand the impact of blood work and other barriers on CLZ use. At the same time we began a collaboration between the School of Medicine and the Department of Engineering to begin to test and develop ways to provide technology as a solution to monitoring of CLZ (33). The research plan was to also ascertain how psychiatrists feel about technological aids for to help with blood draws. In particular we focused on point of care (POC) monitoring devices. POC testing devices are based on lab-on-a-chip (LOC) sensing micro-systems that provide numerous advantages in clinical diagnostics, environmental monitoring, and biomedical research fields (34-38). The ideal LOC will combine the ability to provide real time monitoring of WBC and CLZ levels to the physicians with minimal invasiveness and immediate results. Here we focus on the novel development of technology to detect the CLZ levels. Technology for WBC detection is available and other techniques by our group is currently also under development but not the focus of this paper. Others have reported that using types of POC devices for hematological monitoring and patients with schizophrenia feel less discomfort and inconvenience (39). Our group along with many schizophrenia treatment experts believe that CLZ is

grossly underutilized in the U.S. and improving acceptability and accessibility could significantly improve outcomes for schizophrenia patients (10-12, 40-46). This paper presents barriers and identifies one advancement that may help improve outcomes of people in need of CLZ treatment.

2. Methods

Questionnaire survey

We prepared an anonymous survey questionnaire sent to psychiatrists (psychiatry residents, fellows, psychiatrists) in the State of Maryland. This survey asked a series of questions on a 5 point Likert Scale (1 = strongly disagree, 5 = strongly agree) regarding the barriers related to CLZ use, blood draw issues with CLZ, and the physician's interest and willingness to use novel technology and point of care devices to monitor CLZ. In addition, the survey solicited the physician's willingness to increase the utilization of CLZ if LOC technology was available. This survey was sent to 860 physicians in the state of Maryland and response was anonymously returned by mail or Survey Monkey®. Respondents were recruited from different settings including University of Maryland and Medical System and affiliates, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene State facilities, the Sheppard Pratt Health System, through direct research of community facilities and prescribers, and through the Maryland Psychiatric Society. The survey consisted of 56 questions: 12 demographic, 28 related to barrier perception, 9 related to solutions; 6 related to a POC device, 1 open ended text. Here we report on data related to the POC device and blood draws primarily (47, 48). The anonymous protocol was determined exempt by the University of Maryland and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Institutional Review Boards

Lab-on-a-chip sensor for clozapine detection

Following the results of the survey from physicians we developed a prototype for a POC LOC sensor to detect CLZ. This was performed between a collaboration of investigators from the University of Maryland – Baltimore and College Park campuses (Maryland Psychiatric Research Center and the Institute for Systems Research at the School of Engineering). The integrated LOC device is composed

of 2 components (Figure 1): a sensor (an array of sensor electrodes in the bottom part) and a testing chamber (3 parallel chambers in the top part). Because a bare gold electrode does not produce an adequate signal, we have been testing the amplification of the electrical signal of clozapine using chitosan, a natural polymer, that is compatible with microfabrication (49), modified with a redox material catechol. The resulted catechol-modified chitosan sensor enables CLZ detection through a redox cycling mechanism. The grafted catechol moieties in the redox cycling system can participate in an electron transfer reaction and be inter-converted between oxidized (Q) and reduced (QH₂) forms ($E_0 = +0.2$ V). CLZ ($E_0 = +0.4$ V) is an electro-active species that can diffuse freely within the chitosan film. Upon the application of voltage values higher than its E_0 (overpotential conditions), CLZ is oxidized, followed by its reduction by the grafted QH₂ moieties, and re-oxidation at the electrode (Figure 2a and 2c). This continuous CLZ reduction/oxidation cycle results from this use of CLZ as an oxidizing mediator (Figure 2b). With such continuous redox reaction we hypothesize that the total charge transferred by CLZ oxidation is increased, amplifying the generated electrochemical current and improving the signal-to-noise ratio. Redox cycling system recovering to the reduced state is achieved by the application of negative potential in the presence of a reducing mediator, hexaammineruthenium(III) (HARu, $E_0 = -0.2$ V of Ru^{2+/3+} reaction).

All chemicals were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich. All chemical testing solutions were prepared in phosphate buffer (PB; 0.1 M, pH 7). The electrochemical characterization technique cyclic voltammetry was used to record CLZ sensing signals (range of -0.4 V to $+0.7$ V, scan rate of 0.02 V/s, scan resolution of 0.001 V). Background signals were similarly recorded using buffered solution with only 25 μ M HARu. All electrochemical tests were carried out using a CHI660D single channel potentiostat from CH Instruments (Austin, TX). All voltages were denoted versus the relevant reference electrode half-cell potential. The initial establishment of the feasibility to detect CLZ was tested with buffer solutions containing various concentrations of CLZ. See supplementary information for a full description of the sensor development and optimization.

3. Results

Questionnaire survey

We sent out 860 surveys and received back 277 (32% response). Two-hundred fifty five surveys were included in the final analyses as 16 were incomplete and 6 respondents declined stating they didn't feel they could adequately respond. Table 1 lists the demographic features of the survey respondents.

Among 28 listed barriers (clinical, nonclinical and side effects) to more frequent use of CLZ, the two that ranked highest were: 1) Patients will likely be non-adherent to blood work (score 3.7 ± 1.1) and 2) The burden of blood work on the patient (score 3.6 ± 1.2) (Table 2). Also, among nine potential solutions for increased CLZ use, CLZ levels and WBC measurement in the physician office or pharmacy was top ranked (4.0 ± 1.0). Physicians agreed that a POC device would improve care and that it would increase their CLZ use with a mean score of 3.9 ± 1.0 .

Agreement ratings were significantly higher for residents compared to older physicians, suggesting that residents are eager to use technology to improve patient care (4.07 ± 0.87 vs. 3.47 ± 1.08 ; $t = 3.40$, $df = 340$, $p < 0.0001$). Among the types of devices suggested, 59% of physicians ranked a handheld device as the preferred monitoring modality. Among residents and younger physicians, 73% preferred a handheld device to monitor CLZ treatment (47).

Clozapine detection with the lab-on-a-chip sensor

. The electrochemical signal of CLZ was recorded in the presence and absence of the catechol-modified chitosan system and the results are presented in figure 3. An anodic current density peak at an electric potential of +0.4 V, as expected due to CLZ oxidation reaction, showed the amplification effect. A signal 2.5-fold higher compared to an unmodified bare electrode was determined, which is close to our previously determined 3-fold for millimeter-scale electrodes (33).

The detection feasibility of 5 ($1.6 \mu\text{g/mL}$), 25 ($8.2 \mu\text{g/mL}$), and 50 ($16.3 \mu\text{g/mL}$) μM CLZ in buffered micro-liter solutions with the microelectrodes is shown in figure 4. The calculated total oxidative charge generated between 0 and +0.7 V in the measured cyclic voltammograms reveals a positive CLZ dose-

dependence. These results provide initial promise as the first step towards the development of a POC testing device based on a microfluidic LOC for CLZ detection.

4. Discussion

Here we presented an integrated approach to develop an engineered medical solution for CLZ treatment management. By understating the barriers and identifying the technological needs, new paradigms will be established and will help designing innovative and effective solutions. The results of this study demonstrate the need for POC testing technology, particularly among younger prescribers. Psychiatrists feel their use of CLZ is hindered by frequent blood draws and welcome technology that could advance the ease of sensing CLZ and WBC blood levels. In fact our study shows that nonadherence to blood work is the top rated barrier by practicing psychiatrists in the State of Maryland. Furthermore, the top rated solution for improving CLZ use was the use of POC monitoring devices. We realize there are many barriers to care and many aspects to improve upon but have used this survey as the framework for developing POC technology.

A miniaturized prototype sensor for CLZ detection is developed as a model POC monitoring solution to overcome some of the barriers around blood draws. With this prototype, challenges related to sensor development such as sensitivity and detection limit, as well as compatibility with blood samples and integration of pretreatment steps are identified. In future work, we will focus on defining specific technological requirements for improved sensitivity and better acceptance by users. The next level of a questionnaire will be conducted to evaluate usability factors (*e.g.*, human factors, mode and place of use, and cost) that will impact this developing solution. The detection limit and the dynamic range of the sensor will be characterized in the next steps with relation to the required clinical range. Following performance characterization of the device with serum fluids, a flow system will be integrated to realize a fully autonomous micro-system for clinical monitoring of CLZ blood levels in schizophrenia patients. This device will allow treatment teams to perform analysis at the POC in a low cost, fast, and

straightforward way aiming to guide CLZ dosages within the effective range (21), to decrease the patient's burden, and to personalize medical care. To further reduce the burden of monitoring, we also plan to incorporate WBC monitoring into a fully miniaturized and portable instrument that can return both blood level monitoring and WBC detection in the same unit.

The main challenges that arise within micro-scale systems are the large deviations observed in CLZ detection and the overall lower sensing performance. Accurate control of system biofabrication is critical to overcome these challenges. Therefore, a comprehensive characterization of the microfluidic device architecture (*e.g.*, electrodes and microfluidics geometry), the biofabrication process (*e.g.*, chitosan electrodeposition and catechol grafting steps) and the sensing performance (*e.g.*, sensitivity, selectivity, and compatibility with human serum) will be conducted in future studies to maximize the amplification performance and accuracy of the sensor. The main limitation to the survey was that only about 1/3 of all prescribers sent the surveys responded which may overestimate favor of CLZ use or more motivated prescribers. However, understanding more about the needs and solutions for prescribers is critical and the majority responding think they would benefit and patients would benefit by POC monitoring.

By addressing the need for real time monitoring of blood antipsychotic levels, more rapid results can be available to help guide treatment. This approach could potentially reduce the cost and burden of monitoring, and increase the acceptability of psychiatric drug treatment to patients and prescribers. It will also aid in higher acceptability and treatment response. The incorporation of WBC counts would make a LOC biosensing device attractive for POC use, decreasing costs and patient burden and changing the paradigm of how we currently monitor psychiatric drug treatment. This novel application of LOC monitoring of psychiatric drug treatment can revolutionize and provide a new model for mental health disorder research. It is a first step in personalized medical care that millions of mental health patients could benefit from worldwide.

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Supplemental Information 1

Lab-on-a-chip sensor manufacturing and optimization

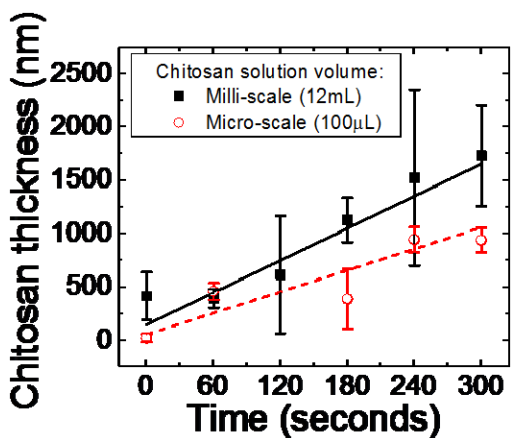
The electrochemical micro-chip is modified from previous work (1). Briefly, an array of 3×3 gold working electrodes is patterned using microfabrication technology (radius of 100 μm for amplification characterization, and 500 μm for biofabrication characterization work). A set of on-chip gold counter and pseudo-reference electrodes are included in each of the 3 rows. Photolithography and wet etching processes are used to fabricate the lab-on-a-chip (LOC). 20 nm of chrome and 180 nm of gold were sputtered on 4 inch diameter silicon wafer insulated by 500 nm of silicon oxide formed using plasma-enhanced chemical vapor deposition (PECVD) instrument. The chrome/gold coated wafers were patterned using photolithography, and diced into chips. A consecutive cleaning step using acetone, methanol, isopropanol, “piranha” solution (25% H₂O₂ /75% H₂SO₄), and deionized (DI) water was done prior to experiments. The polydimethylsiloxane (PDMS) chip with the defined chambers was cut from cured slabs of the material and bonded to the electrochemical micro-chip.

All chemicals were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich. Chitosan solution (1%, pH 5–6) was prepared by dissolving chitosan flakes in dilute HCl as previously described (2). All other chemical solutions were prepared in phosphate buffer (PB; 0.1 M, pH 7). Chitosan deposition and catechol modification steps were optimized. An application of a 1.19 A/m² cathodic current density was used to fabricate the chitosan film. Then, the catechol was grafted on the chitosan films by immersion in 5 mM catechol and application of +0.6 V, followed by immersion for 5 minutes in deionized (DI) water to discard unbound catechol (Figures 1b: no chitosan and catechol electrical modification steps & 1c: catechol-modified chitosan). Chitosan deposition and catechol grafting times were varied to characterize the fabrication process. Chitosan film height was determined in a Veeco contact profilometer instrument after drying the hydrogel under nitrogen flow. Analytical solutions contained either 110 μL or 12 mL (for micro- and milli-scales solution volumes respectively) of 25 μM hexaammineruthenium(III) chloride (Ru(NH₃)₆Cl₃; HARu) and ferrocenedimethanol as an oxidizing mediator. When milli-

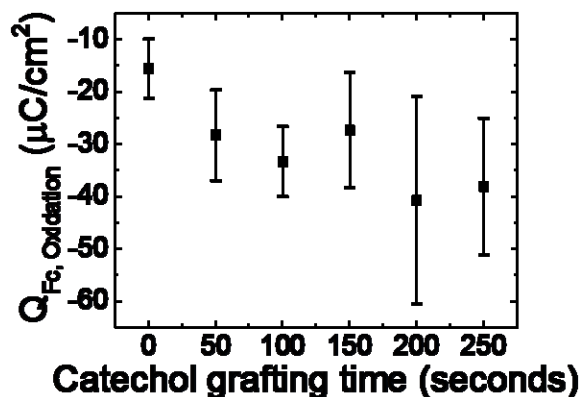
scale volume solution was used (for volumes greater than 200 μL), the micro-chip was dipped in a petri dish for testing.

We studied the chitosan electrodeposition rate on the microelectrodes in the presence of either micro- or milli-liter solution volumes of chitosan to obtain better understanding and control of fabrication parameters. Using profilometry of films to characterize the chitosan film thickness, we determined a linear correlation of film thickness with duration of the electrodeposition fabrication step, 3.0 ± 0.6 nm/s for 110 μL (micro-scale volume) and of 5.0 ± 0.8 nm/s for 12 mL (milli-scale volume) (Figure S1a). The difference between the chitosan electrodeposition rates for milli- and micro-liter solutions is likely due to the additional constraints placed on diffusion by the presence of the PDMS chambers. Different micro- and milli- scale distances between the counter and working electrodes may contribute to the observed variability due to non-uniform uncompensated resistance. An optimized chitosan deposition time of 210 seconds (resulted 750 nm dry chitosan thickness) was chosen for further characterization tests to resemble a film thickness similar to our previous macro-scale work.

The impact of the catechol functionalization time on amplification performance was further investigated with solutions of the model oxidizing mediator ferrocenedimethanol. Figure 1Sb demonstrates a positive relationship between catechol grafting time (0–250 seconds) and the total oxidative charge generated between 0 and +0.7 V of a cyclic voltammogram. The positive relationship is expected due to the additional catechol that is available to donate electrons to the mediator. This relation was observed in a previous macro-scale study of the catechol-modified chitosan system (3), indicating that the same redox film properties were obtained in the micro-scale. However, the increase in standard deviation with grafting time indicates a trade-off between amplification and accuracy of the measurement. This may be due to physical variations in chitosan matrix density at the electrode affected by longer grafting times.



(a)



(b)

Figure S1. (a) The influence of the electrodeposition duration on the chitosan thickness with milli- and micro-scale solution volumes. (b) The effect of catechol grafting duration on the amplification of ferrocenedimethanol oxidative charge generated between 0 V and +0.7 V of a cyclic voltammogram (210 seconds chitosan deposition, 110 µL solution).

References:

1. Ben-Yoav H, Dykstra PH, Bentley WE, Ghodssi R. A Microfluidic-based electrochemical biochip for label-free diffusion-restricted DNA hybridization analysis. *Biosensors and Bioelectronics*. 2012;38(1):114-20.
2. Fernandes R, Wu L-Q, Chen T, Yi H, Rubloff GW, Ghodssi R, et al. Electrochemically Induced deposition of a polysaccharide hydrogel onto a patterned surface. *Langmuir*. 2003;19(10):4058-62. doi: 10.1021/la027052h.
3. Kim E, Liu Y, Shi X-W, Yang X, Bentley WE, Payne GF. Biomimetic approach to confer redox activity to thin chitosan films. *Advanced Functional Materials*. 2010;20:2683-94. doi: 10.1002/adfm.200902428.

Supplementary Information 2

“Identifying Barriers to the Use of Clozapine for Schizophrenia” survey questions

Identifying Barriers to the Use of Clozapine for Schizophrenia

A. Clozapine Use:

For the following statements bellow, please describe your experience in prescribing clozapine and select the one response that best describes your practice.

1a. Have you ever prescribed clozapine?

1. Yes
2. No

***** **STOP** (If not yes then go to question 3, else continue) *****

1b. If yes, for approximately how many patients?

1. 1-5
2. 6-10
3. 11-15
4. 16-20
5. 21-25
6. 26+

2a. Have you prescribed clozapine in the past year?

1. Yes
2. No

***** **STOP** (If not yes then go to question 3, else continue) *****

2b. If yes, for approximately how many patients?

1. 1-5
2. 6-10
3. 11-15
4. 16-20
5. 21-25
6. 26+

3. If you have never prescribed clozapine, why not? (please select the most significant answer)

1. Too much trouble
2. Not on formulary
3. Too many side effects
4. No experience with prescribing
5. Patients do not qualify for prescription
6. Not applicable to my practice setting
7. Other Please specify:

Please complete the questionnaire below even if you have never prescribed clozapine.

Please select one of the following ratings to answer questions 4 to 31.

- 1= Never or likely not
- 2= Not likely
- 3= Sometimes
- 4= Mostly
- 5= Always or significantly

B. Non-Clinical Barriers to Use of Clozapine:

For the following statements below, to what extent does the statement limit your more widespread use of clozapine? Please answer in your opinion only.

4. Process of signing-up self to clozapine registry(ies).

- | | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Never or likely not | Not likely | Sometimes | Mostly | Always or significantly |

5. Process of singing-up your patient to clozapine registry(ies).

- | | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Never or likely not | Not likely | Sometimes | Mostly | Always or significantly |

6. Time spent on administrative tasks to get patient started on clozapine.

- | | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Never or likely not | Not likely | Sometimes | Mostly | Always or significantly |

7. Lack of structure in your practice setting to facilitate clozapine prescribing and monitoring.

- | | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Never or likely not | Not likely | Sometimes | Mostly | Always or significantly |

8. Lack of a centralized comprehensive system where all registry, pharmacy, and laboratory data can be stored and accessed.

- | | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Never or likely not | Not likely | Sometimes | Mostly | Always or significantly |

9. Lack of educational and marketing materials.

- | | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Never or likely not | Not likely | Sometimes | Mostly | Always or significantly |

10. More aggressive marketing of other antipsychotic medications.

- | | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Never or likely not | Not likely | Sometimes | Mostly | Always or significantly |

11. Cost of clozapine.

- | | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Never or likely not | Not likely | Sometimes | Mostly | Always or significantly |

C. Clinical Barriers to Use Clozapine:

For the following statements below, to what extent does the statement limit your more widespread use of clozapine? Please answer in your opinion only.

12. Limited experience with clozapine prescribing during residency training.

1 Never or likely not 2 Not likely 3 Sometimes 4 Mostly 5 Always or significantly

13. Not feeling competent prescribing clozapine.

1 Never or likely not 2 Not likely 3 Sometimes 4 Mostly 5 Always or significantly

14. Need for initial titration of clozapine

1 Never or likely not 2 Not likely 3 Sometimes 4 Mostly 5 Always or significantly

15. Lack of connectivity between inpatient and outpatient treatment settings.

1 Never or likely not 2 Not likely 3 Sometimes 4 Mostly 5 Always or significantly

16. Need for even closer monitoring of patient than with other antipsychotics.

1 Never or likely not 2 Not likely 3 Sometimes 4 Mostly 5 Always or significantly

17. Patients may not be adherent to clozapine treatment.

1 Never or likely not 2 Not likely 3 Sometimes 4 Mostly 5 Always or significantly

18. Burden of mandatory weekly/bi-monthly/monthly blood draws on patient.

1 Never or likely not 2 Not likely 3 Sometimes 4 Mostly 5 Always or significantly

19. Patients may not be adherent with blood work.

1 Never or likely not 2 Not likely 3 Sometimes 4 Mostly 5 Always or significantly

20. Delay/error in WBC collection/report to pharmacy may cause delay/failure to dispense medication to patient.

1 Never or likely not 2 Not likely 3 Sometimes 4 Mostly 5 Always or significantly

21. Benign ethnic neutropenia: patients having a low neutrophil count at baseline.

1 Never or likely not 2 Not likely 3 Sometimes 4 Mostly 5 Always or significantly

22. Little understanding of interpretation of clozapine blood levels.

1 Never or likely not 2 Not likely 3 Sometimes 4 Mostly 5 Always or significantly

D. Side Effects of Clozapine:

For the following statements below, to what extent does the statement limit your more widespread use of clozapine? Please answer in your opinion only.

23. Potential risk for agranulocytosis or neutropenia.

1 Never or likely not 2 Not likely 3 Sometimes 4 Mostly 5 Always or significantly

24. Potential risk for cardiomyopathy.

1 Never or likely not 2 Not likely 3 Sometimes 4 Mostly 5 Always or significantly

25.

1 Never or likely not 2 Not likely 3 Sometimes 4 Mostly 5 Always or significantly

26. Potential risk for metabolic syndrome, including weight gain, increased cholesterol, hypertension, or diabetes mellitus.

1 Never or likely not 2 Not likely 3 Sometimes 4 Mostly 5 Always or significantly

27. Potential risk for extrapyramidal side-effects, including pseudo-parkinsonism, akathisia, dystonia, or tardive dyskinesia.

1 Never or likely not 2 Not likely 3 Sometimes 4 Mostly 5 Always or significantly

28. Potential risk for gastrointestinal hypomotility resulting in constipation or impaction.

1 Never or likely not 2 Not likely 3 Sometimes 4 Mostly 5 Always or significantly

29. Potential risk for hypersalivation.

1 Never or likely not 2 Not likely 3 Sometimes 4 Mostly 5 Always or significantly

30. Potential risk for drowsiness.

1 Never or likely not 2 Not likely 3 Sometimes 4 Mostly 5 Always or significantly

31. Interactions with other medications.

1 Never or likely not 2 Not likely 3 Sometimes 4 Mostly 5 Always or significantly

32. Other barriers (not mentioned above), please specify _____

Please select one of the following ratings to answer questions 33 to 45.

- 1= Strongly disagree
- 2= Somewhat disagree
- 3= Neutral
- 4= Agree
- 5= Strongly agree

E. Possible Solutions for Improving Clozapine Utilization:

How strongly do you believe the following can facilitate the prescribing of clozapine in your practice?

33. More time dedicated to learning about clozapine with emphasis on practical use and solutions to its challenges during residency training.

- 1 Strongly disagree 2 Somewhat agree 3 Neutral 4 Agree 5 Strongly agree

34. Comprehensive CME lectures in your facility or dedicated symposiums

- 1 Strongly disagree 2 Somewhat agree 3 Neutral 4 Agree 5 Strongly agree

35. Free internet-based educational programs for prescribers, including section for patients' education.

- 1 Strongly disagree 2 Somewhat agree 3 Neutral 4 Agree 5 Strongly agree

36. Centralized internet-based database for physician, patient, and pharmacy clozapine registries, blood work results, and other information regarding patient care.

- 1 Strongly disagree 2 Somewhat agree 3 Neutral 4 Agree 5 Strongly agree

37. Simplified blood draws for WBC, ANC and clozapine levels in the form of fingersticks or a specific point-of-care device with clinical staff collecting results in your office.

- 1 Strongly disagree 2 Somewhat agree 3 Neutral 4 Agree 5 Strongly agree

38. Simplified blood draws for WBC, ANC and clozapine levels in the form of fingersticks or a specific point-of-care device available at local pharmacy.

- 1 Strongly disagree 2 Somewhat agree 3 Neutral 4 Agree 5 Strongly agree

39. Simplified blood draws for WBC, ANC and clozapine levels in the form of fingersticks or a specific point-of-care device available to patient or to caregiver in his/her home with results transmitted directly to your office.

- 1 Strongly disagree 2 Somewhat agree 3 Neutral 4 Agree 5 Strongly agree

40. Modified clozapine prescribing guidelines that permit less frequent blood draws.

1 Strongly disagree 2 Somewhat agree 3 Neutral 4 Agree 5 Strongly agree

41. Modified clozapine prescribing guidelines that permit lower WBC and ANC thresholds in patients with benign ethnic neutropenia.

1 Strongly disagree 2 Somewhat agree 3 Neutral 4 Agree 5 Strongly agree

F. Improving Clozapine Use with Point of Care Monitoring:

Point of care devices to assist blood monitoring in real time are in various stages of development. Please comment

on how strongly you agree or disagree with the following:

42. A specific test that would provide immediate WBC and ANC results would increase my use of clozapine.

1 Strongly disagree 2 Somewhat agree 3 Neutral 4 Agree 5 Strongly agree

43. A specific test that would provide immediate clozapine blood levels would increase my use of clozapine.

1 Strongly disagree 2 Somewhat agree 3 Neutral 4 Agree 5 Strongly agree

44. An available device that could electronically transmit data from patient home testing for WBC, ANC and clozapine level blood testing outside the office would increase my use of clozapine.

1 Strongly disagree 2 Somewhat agree 3 Neutral 4 Agree 5 Strongly agree

45. Immediate results by point-of-care device would be an improvement over waiting for blood test results to return from the laboratory.

1 Strongly disagree 2 Somewhat agree 3 Neutral 4 Agree 5 Strongly agree

46. Which of the following point of care types of device you would be interested in using: (select one or more)

- a) patch
- b) handheld
- c) implantable
- d) attached or worn on body
- e) urine test
- f) regular blood draw

47. If you could receive electronic blood test results (ANC, WBC or clozapine levels) whenever you wanted, at what frequency would you find it most useful? (select one)

- a) every month
- b) biweekly
- c) once a week
- d) twice a week
- e) three times a week
- f) once a day
- g) twice a day
- h) four times a day

G. Demographics:

48. Gender: (select one)

- 1. Male
- 2. Female

49. Age in years: (select one)

- 1. 25-35
- 2. 36-45
- 3. 46-55
- 4. 56-65
- 5. 65+

50. Ethnicity: (select one)

- 1. Hispanic or Latino
- 2. Not Hispanic or Latino

51. Race: (select one or more)

- 1. American Indian or Alaska Native
- 2. Asian
- 3. Black or African American
- 4. Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- 5. White
- 6. Other, specify _____
- 7. Unreported

52. Professional information (select one):

- 1. Psychiatry Resident or Fellow
- 2. Boards Eligible or Boards Certified Psychiatrist
- 3. Other: specify _____

53. Subspecialty (select one or more):

- 1. Adult Psychiatry
- 2. Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
- 3. Geriatric Psychiatry
- 4. Emergency Psychiatry
- 5. Consultation Liaison
- 6. Forensic Psychiatry
- 7. Substance Abuse
- 8. Clinical Research
- 9. Other: specify _____

54. Work Description/Setting (select one or more):

1. Does not apply (resident/fellow)
2. Inpatient or Partial Hospitalization
3. Psychiatry ER
4. Consult Liaison
5. Outpatient Clinic or Private Practice
6. Community Mental Health Center
7. Correctional or Forensic Facility
8. Nursing Home
9. Residential Treatment Center
10. Student/College Mental Health
11. Other, Specify _____

55. Number of years in practice (select one):

1. Still in residency/fellowship
2. 1-5
3. 6-10
4. 11-15
5. 16-20
6. 21-25
7. 26+

56. What is the approximate percentage of patients diagnosed with a psychotic disorder (ie., schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder or psychotic disorders NOS) in your practice? (select one)

1. 0-10%
2. 11-25%
3. 26-50%
4. 50%+

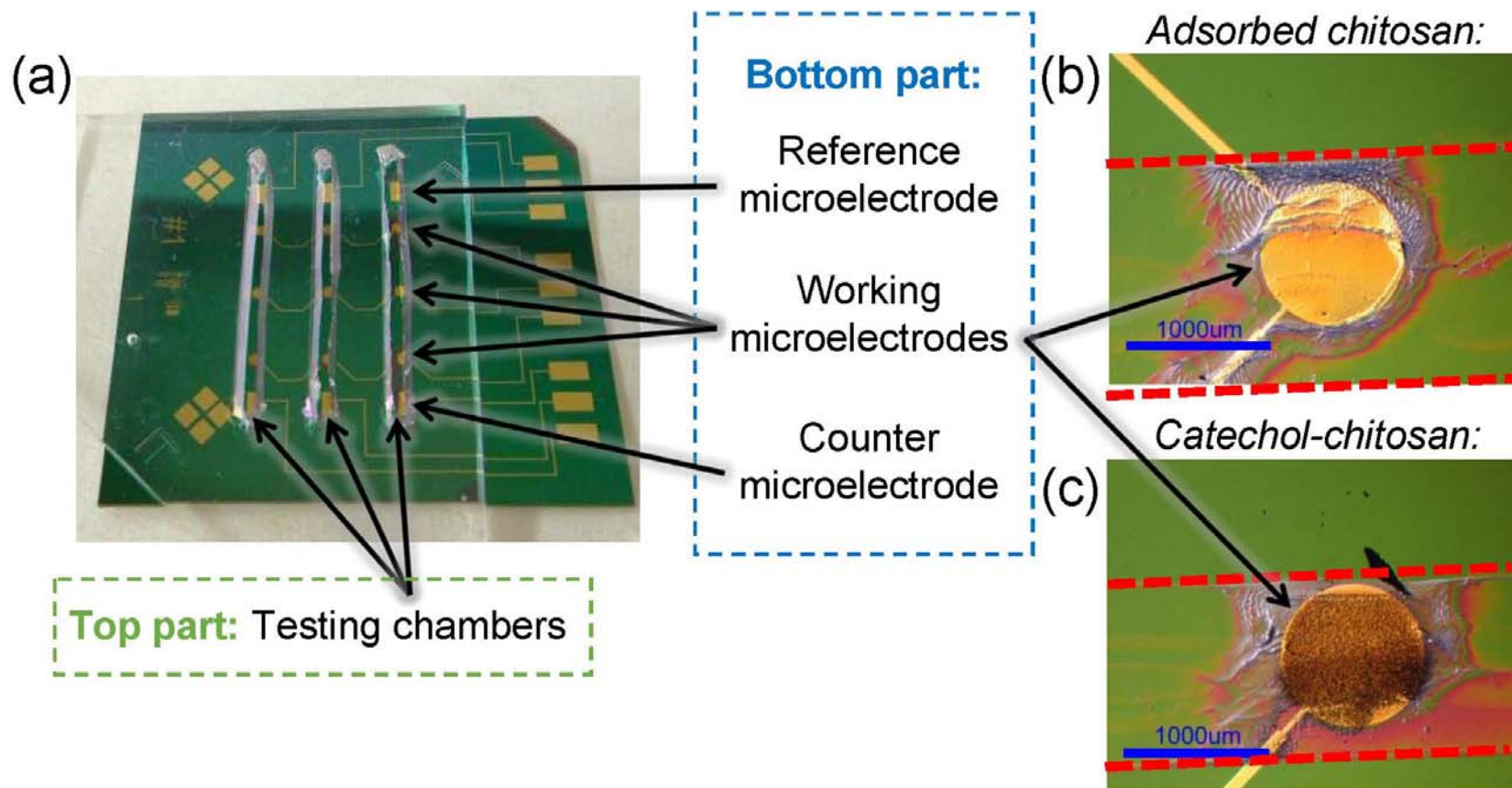


Figure 1. (a) Photograph of the fabricated arrayed electrochemical LOC (3.5 cm × 4 cm), a single microelectrode with (b) no chitosan and catechol modifications (chitosan residues due to chitosan solution in the chambers without electrical current application) and (c) catechol-chitosan modifications (210 seconds chitosan deposition followed by 150 seconds catechol functionalization). Red dashed lines indicate the chamber's borders.

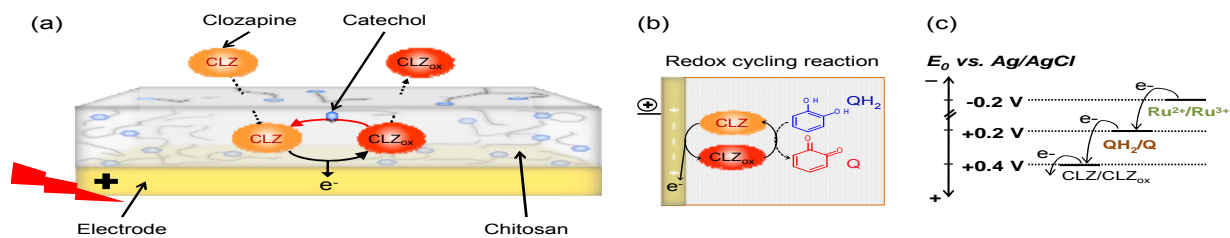


Figure 2. CLZ as an oxidizing mediator in the catechol-chitosan system. (a) Schematic of the CLZ oxidation/reduction cycle for signal amplification. (b) Continuous oxidation of CLZ in the presence of catechol (Q) reduction. (c) CLZ acts as an oxidizing mediator of QH₂, and Ru²⁺ as a reducing mediator regenerating the Q.

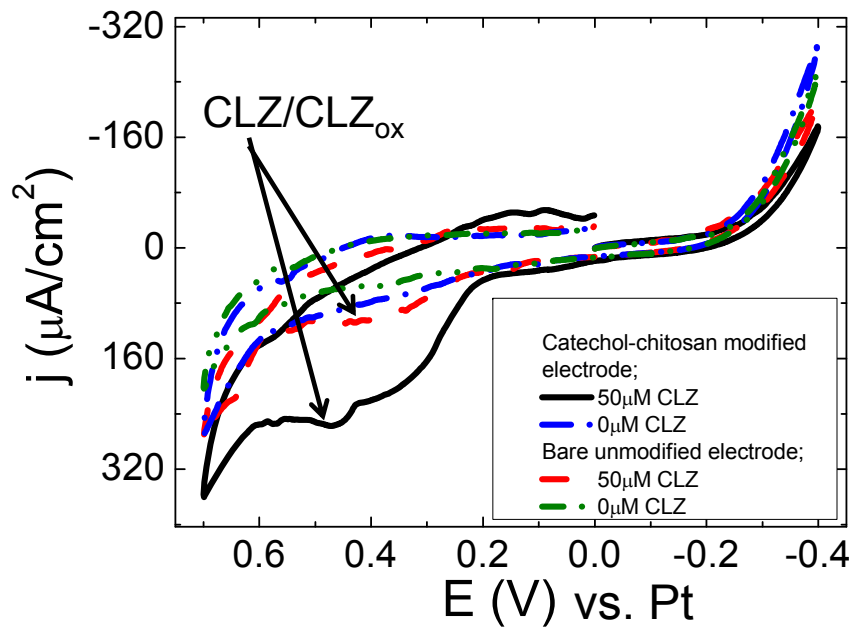


Figure 3. Cyclic voltammograms in the presence and absence of CLZ with either bare unmodified (with CLZ – dashed red; without CLZ – dash-dot-dotted green) or catechol-modified chitosan (with CLZ – solid black, without CLZ – dash-dotted blue) electrodes. Arrows indicate CLZ oxidation peaks.

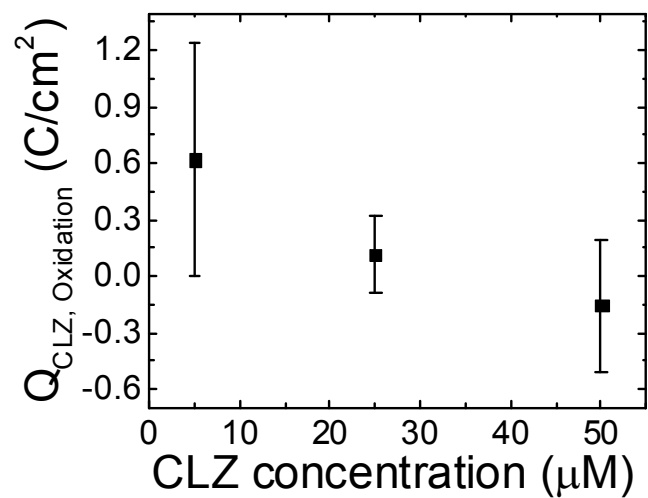


Figure 4. CLZ detection in 110 μL buffer solutions with 5, 25, and 50 μM concentrations. Y-axis values are the total oxidative charge calculated between 0 V and +0.7 V from measured cyclic voltammograms. Optimized biofabrication duration parameters of 210 and 50 seconds for chitosan electrodeposition and catechol grafting, respectively.

Table 1.

Demographic Information of Survey Results (N=255)		
	Categories	Values
Sex	Male	134 (53%)
Age*	25-35 years 36-45 years 46-55 years 56-65 years 65+ years	48 (19%) 49 (19%) 56 (22%) 54 (21%) 45 (18%)
Race**	White	185 (73%)
Years in practice	Still in training 1-10 years 11-20 years 20+ years	45 (18%) 44 (18%) 47 (19%) 115 (45%)
Treatment of Psychotic Disorders	>50% of patients	31 (12%)
Clozapine Prescribing	Ever Last Year	217 (85%) 131 (61%)

*3 missing race

**4 missing years in practice

Table 1. Survey results. Demographic information (277/860; 32% responded).

Table 2.

Results Reported from Survey	Questions on Survey	Mean Value and SD from Likert scale*	
Ten Top Ranking Barriers (Among 28)	Patients likely nonadherent to blood work	3.7 ± 1.1	
	Burden of blood draws on patient	3.6 ± 1.2	
	More monitoring than other antipsychotics	3.2 ± 1.2	
	Medication nonadherence	3.2 ± 1.1	
	Risk of neutropenia	3.0 ± 1.0	
	Risk or weight gain and associated complications	3.0 ± 1.0	
	Delay in WBC may delay medication	2.8 ± 1.2	
	Lack of structure to facilitate prescribing	2.8 ± 1.4	
	Time spent administratively to start	2.7 ± 1.2	
	Inpatient to outpatient disconnection	2.7 ± 1.2	
Five Top Ranked Solutions (Among 9)	WBC and CLZ levels in office	4.0 ± 1.1	
	WBC and CLZ levels at pharmacy	4.0 ± 1.0	
	Centralized internet based database for registration, results and other information	3.9 ± 1.1	
	WBC and CLZ levels at home	3.8 ± 1.2	
	Modified CLZ prescribing guidelines permitting less frequent blood draws	3.8 ± 1.1	
Device Feasibility	POC device would improve care	3.9 ± 1.0	
	POC device with WBC would increase CLZ use	3.6 ± 1.1	
	POC device with CLZ levels would increase CLZ use	3.3 ± 1.0	
	Immediate transmitted results would increase use of CLZ	3.5 ± 1.0	
	Type of device highest ranked	59% handheld	
Interested in Using Handheld Monitoring Device	Females vs. males	65% vs. 53%	p=0.052
	Residents vs. board certified	73% vs. 55%	p=0.02
	Prescribers of CLZ vs. never prescribed	61% vs 45%	P=0.056

*Mean and SD of the Likert Scale score reported. Results are listed in descending order with most agreement to statement listed at the top. This survey asked a series of questions on a 5 point Likert Scale (1 = strongly disagree, 5 = strongly agree) regarding the barriers related to CLZ use, blood draw issues with CLZ, and the physician's interest and willingness to use novel technology and point of care devices to monitor CLZ. In addition, the survey solicited the physician's willingness to increase the utilization of CLZ if LOC technology was available. Mean values above 3 indicate agreement with the statement as 3 was neutral.

Table 2. Survey results. Barriers and device feasibility (277/860; 32% responded).