



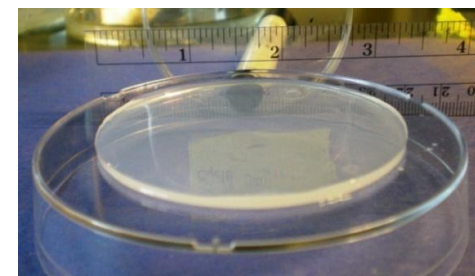
## Effects of Common Sterilization Methods on Mechanical Properties of Novel Alginate Hydrogels

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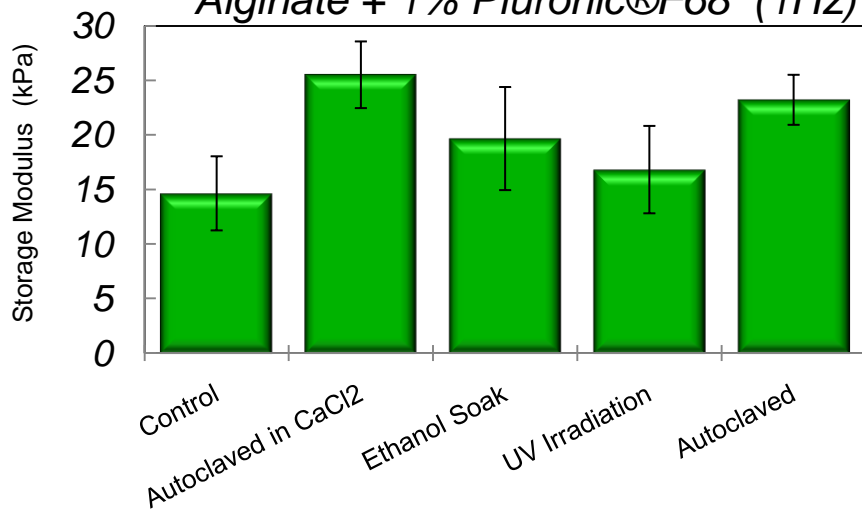
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Novel alginate-based wound dressings may enhance healing of chronic wounds. Dressings must be sterilized for use in clinical applications while preserving mechanical integrity.



*Alginate + 1% Pluronic®F68 (1Hz)*



Rheology was used to assess the effects of common sterilization methods on the mechanical properties of the polymer matrix using gels like the one shown above.

Results (shown left) indicate that sterilization utilizing ethanol or UV-irradiation yields a modulus similar to the untreated dressing, while autoclaving changes the properties.