

Australia deploys nanotechnology to design new ultra-thin skin patch to monitor health

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The research could change how we deliver remote healthcare and be the future of personal alarms and communications devices

A new ultra-thin skinpatch with nanotechnology able to monitor 11 human health signals has been developed by researchers at Monash University, Australia.

Researchers from the Faculty of Engineering and Faculty of Information Technology combined nanotechnology and artificial intelligence (AI) to bring machines one step closer to communicating with the human body.

Worn on the neck, lead researcher Professor Wenlong Cheng said the ultra-thin wearable patch has three layers, measuring speech, neck movement and touch. It also measures breathing and heart rates.

Emerging soft electronics have the potential to serve as second-skin-like wearable patches for monitoring human health vitals, designing perception robotics and bridging interactions between natural and artificial intelligence.

The sensor is made from laminated cracked platinum film, vertically aligned gold nanowires and a percolated gold nanowire film.

Neck skin is the most sensitive skin on the body and connects up to five physiological activities associated with the human throat: speech, heartbeats, breathing, touch and neck movement.

This work was mainly performed at the Monash Nanobionics lab and in part at the Melbourne Centre for Nanofabrication (MCN) in the Victorian Node of the Australian National Fabrication Facility (ANFF) and the Monash Centre for Electron Microscopy.