

Appendix S2. Gold-plated titanium earrings (Blomdahl Medical AB, Halmstad, Sweden), with a mean weight of 161 mg/ring and a surface area of 0.77 cm² were extracted in the different solutions (9). One earring was placed in 5 ml solution in a polypropylene test tube. The test tubes were placed on a rocker and constantly shaken gently during extraction. The following extraction solutions were used: (i) artificial sweat (pH 5.0–7.5); (ii) nitric acid, 0.5 M (pH 1); (iii) lactic acid, 1% (pH 1); (iv) sodium hydroxide, 0.1 mM (pH 10); (v) glutathione, 0.1 M in deionized water (pH 1.2–9.2); (vi) penicillamine, 0.1 M in deionized water (pH 7.2–9.2); and (vii) cysteine, 0.1 M in deionized water (pH 7.0–9.5). Extracts were analysed on days 4 or 5. See Table I.