

REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE			Form Approved OMB NO. 0704-0188		
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1. REPORT DATE (DD-MM-YYYY) 29-02-2012		2. REPORT TYPE Abstract		3. DATES COVERED (From - To) -	
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE A Novel Methodology for Exposing Tissue Cultures to Blast Overpressure for Determining Injury Criteria			5a. CONTRACT NUMBER W911NF-10-1-0526		
			5b. GRANT NUMBER		
			5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER 611103		
6. AUTHORS Matthew B. Panzer, Cameron R. 'Dale' Bass, Bruce P. Capehart, Barclay Morrison III, David F. Meaney			5d. PROJECT NUMBER		
			5e. TASK NUMBER		
			5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER		
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAMES AND ADDRESSES University of Pennsylvania Office of Research Services University of Pennsylvania Philadelphia, PA 19104 -			8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER		
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) U.S. Army Research Office P.O. Box 12211 Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-2211			10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S) ARO		
			11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S) 58155-LS-MUR.10		
12. DISTRIBUTION AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited.					
13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES The views, opinions and/or findings contained in this report are those of the author(s) and should not be construed as an official Department of the Army position, policy or decision, unless so designated by other documentation.					
14. ABSTRACT Introduction: A growing number of clinicians and scientists acknowledge that there exists some level of primary blast exposure that can disrupt or damage neuronal tissue resulting in traumatic brain injury. This injury may be associated with persistent and progressive sequelae. While the groundwork for identifying the brain's tolerance to primary blast has been created using animal and computational models, the mode (volumetric or deviatoric) and threshold of tissue-level deformation associated with brain tissue injury remains unknown. We report here a new					
15. SUBJECT TERMS blast exposure, brain tissue, blast overpressure, shock-tube					
16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:		17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT		15. NUMBER OF PAGES	19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON
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Report Title

A Novel Methodology for Exposing Tissue Cultures to Blast Overpressure for Determining Injury Criteria

ABSTRACT

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Materials and Methods: Blast waves were generated by a helium-driven shock tube (76 mm diameter tube with a 25 mm driver and a 1220 mm driven section). The blast wave impacts a fluid-filled apparatus that contains living brain tissue, creating a single overpressure pulse that propagates through the suspended tissue. Downstream, the apparatus was designed to mitigate returning shock reflections. An axisymmetric numerical model of the apparatus and tissue was developed in LS-DYNA to assess the response of the tissue that could not be measured experimentally. Experimental and modeled results were compared.

Results and Discussion: The apparatus was able to generate blast overpressure waves at the tissue culture that were characteristic of Friedlander blast waves with minimal amount of reflected overpressure, but with slightly longer rise times (Figure 1A). Peak reflected overpressures generated using the shock tube ranged from 500 to 1500 kPa with durations from 0.5 to 1.0 ms. The numerical model was validated using the experimental results for both the external shock tube overpressure response and the fluid-filled environment at the location of the tissue culture (Figure 1B). Analysis of the numerical model showed minimal deviatoric deformation in the tissue culture.

Conclusions: The test apparatus was developed to simulate the in vivo conditions of tissue within a brain exposed to a single blast wave by sustaining the tissue culture in fluid that has been impacted by a shock tube-generated blast. Since results indicate that the experimental apparatus was effective in isolating the tissue from deviatoric stress, this apparatus and model can be utilized for studying overpressure-based injury criteria. Pressure-based injury criteria will be further enhanced in future studies by extending the range of input overpressures on the living brain tissue, as well as identifying additional measures of histopathologic tissue damage and functional impairment from electrophysiology measurements.

A Novel Methodology for Exposing Tissue Cultures to Blast Overpressure for Determining Injury Criteria

Target Track: Neural Engineering

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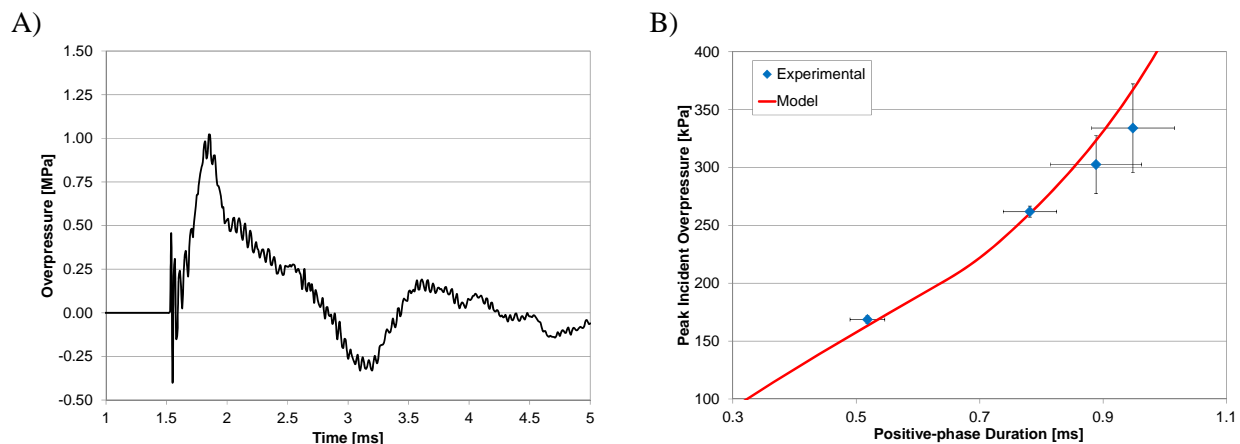


Figure 1: A) A typical overpressure time-history at the tissue produced by the shock tube, and B) the validation of the shock tube model using the external shock tube overpressure response

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