## **Supporting Information**

## L-carnosine Loaded on Carboxymethyl Cellulose Hydrogels Promoting Wound Healing

Wei Zhang,<sup>a,†</sup> Xinyi Li,<sup>a,†</sup> Wenjian Chen, <sup>d,†</sup> Xiaoyi Huang,<sup>b,†</sup> Tianfeng Hua,<sup>c</sup> Jinpeng Hu,<sup>a</sup> Jing Zhu,<sup>b</sup> Sheng Ye,<sup>b,\*</sup> Xiaojing Li<sup>a,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Plastic Surgery, The First Affiliated Hospital of Anhui Medical University, Hefei 230022, Anhui, China.

<sup>b</sup> School of Materials and Chemistry, Anhui Agricultural University, Hefei, Anhui 230036, China.

<sup>c</sup> Department of Emergency Surgery & The 2nd Department of Intensive Care Unit, the Second Hospital of Anhui Medical University, Hefei, Anhui 230001, China.

<sup>d</sup> Department of Orthopaedics, Anhui Provincial Children's Hospital, Hefei, Anhui 230022, China

\* Correspondence: sye503@ahau.edu.cn (S.Y.); ay\_lxj@yahoo.com (X.L.)

<sup>+</sup> These authors contributed equally to this work.



**Figure S1**. Hydrogel samples with different ratios by mixing (A) 5 mg, (B) 6 mg, and (C) 7 mg of CMC hydrogel separately with 200  $\mu$ L of CRN solution in test tubes.



Figure S2. Frequency sweep test of the CMC hydrogel.



**Figure S3.** The mass remaining ratios of CMC hydrogel and CRN@hydrogel after swelling experiments. \*\*\*P < 0.001.



**Figure S4.** Hemolysis ratio of red blood cells incubated with CRN@hydrogel and the photographs of red blood cells after centrifugation in set. \*P < 0.05, \*\*P < 0.01 and \*\*\*P < 0.001. ns represents no significant difference.



**Figure S5.** Wound healing process of treated rats with normal saline, hydrogel and CRN@hydrogel within 12 days of the incision model.



**Figure S6.** The incision wound closure rates of CRN@hydrogel, hydrogel and control groups on postoperative days 3, 6, 9 and 12. \*\*\*P < 0.001, +++ represents a statistically significant difference (p < 0.001) when compared to the wound closure rate of the same group on the third day, ### and ## represent statistically significant differences (p < 0.001 and p < 0.01, respectively) when compared to the wound closure rate of the same group on the sixth day, <sup>&&&</sup> and <sup>&&</sup> represent statistically significant differences (p < 0.001 and p < 0.01, respectively) when compared to the wound closure rate of the same group on the sixth day, <sup>&&&</sup> and <sup>&&</sup> represent statistically significant differences (p < 0.001 and p < 0.01, respectively) when compared to the wound closure rate of the same group on the ninth day.



**Figure S7.** (A) Representative images of hematoxylin and eosin staining of CRN@hydrogel, hydrogel and control groups on postoperative day 14. (B) Representative images of Masson's trichromatic staining of CRN@hydrogel, hydrogel and control groups on postoperative day 14. The black arrows indicate skin appendages.



**Figure S8.** (A) Absorption curves of different concentrations of CRN. (B) Drawing of the standard curve of CRN.



Figure S9. Ultraviolet analysis of the degradation product of the CMC hydrogel.