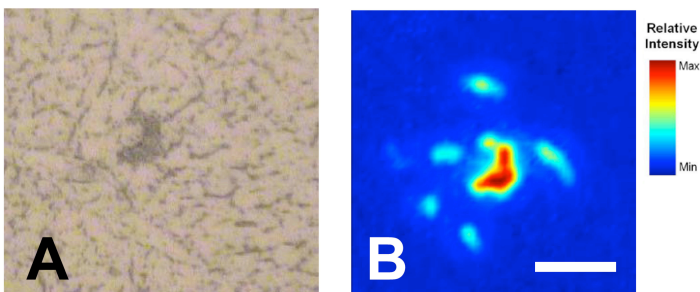


Supplementary Figure 1: Evidence for the existence of creatine zwitterion or HCl salt. FTIR functional group image of creatine deposit using (A) the $\nu_s(\text{COO}^-)$ band centered at 1402 cm^{-1} , and (B) the band centered at 2780 cm^{-1} (assigned to a molecular vibration of the NH_3^+ group or the HCl salt). (C) A representative spectrum from the creatine deposit, highlighting the band centered at 2780 cm^{-1} (arrow).



Supplementary Figure 2: (A) Optical image of a creatine micro-deposit on a thin section of tissue mounted on a Si_3N_4 window. (B) FTIR functional group image of creatine micro-deposit (second-derivative intensity at 1402 cm^{-1}) collected in transmission mode. Scale Bar = $50\text{ }\mu\text{m}$.