

**Table S1.** Growth of *Lactobacillus brevis* RK03 attached onto hydrogels in MRS medium.

	<b>Incubation Time (h)</b>						
	<b>12 h</b>	<b>24 h</b>	<b>36 h</b>	<b>48 h</b>	<b>60 h</b>	<b>72 h</b>	<b>84 h</b>
<b>MRS Broth pH</b>	4.61	4.73	4.89	7.42	7.33	7.19	7.08
<b>Absorption Rate</b>	$0.95 \pm 0.14$	$0.98 \pm 0.09$	$1.01 \pm 0.12$	$1.05 \pm 0.17$	$1.14 \pm 0.11$	$1.03 \pm 0.15$	$1.01 \pm 0.19$

Absorption rate:  $\text{Hydrogel}_{\text{cell count (log CFU/mL)}} / \text{Planktonic Control}_{\text{cell count (log CFU/mL)}}$ .