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[Honey for Oral Mucosal Disorders]

DEAR SIR,

It is not an immense surprise that honey has not only with great taste but has important medicinal properties. Honey is flower nectar contains moisture, fructose, glucose, sucrose, maltase and other compounds, along with trace elements (1). Recently, several studies are being conducted with the use of several forms of honey. In dentistry its use is diverse especially in the field of Oral medicine.

Quite a lot of studies were conducted in the management of aphthous ulcer by accelerating the healing of ulcer through decreasing bleeding, reducing the vascular permeability, against the growth of common pathogenic organisms that grow at the site of ulcers, fructose a predominant sugar is very hygroscopic (2), moist wound environment (3), and viscosity provides protective barrier (3).

The treatment of oral squamous cell carcinomas (OSCC) and human osteosarcoma (HOS) includes surgery and/or radiotherapy which often lead to reduced quality of life. Tualang honey showed antiproliferative effect on OSCC and HOS cell lines by inducing early apoptosis (4).

Antimicrobial properties have also been reported due to osmolarity, acidity, generation of hydrogen peroxide on dilution (antimicrobial and debridement of wound) and the presence of unidentified phytochemicals (3). A study results shows that hypertonic sugar concentration in the honey played an important role against oral streptococci (5). The effect of honey on infection is not only related to antibacterial agents but also to its effect on the proliferation of B and T lymphocytes. Furthermore, 1% honey in a tissue culture can release TNF, IL-1, and IL-6 from monocytes. All such properties discussed was effective in radiation mucositis (1,6).

It was also found to have anticirogenic (7), anti plaque (8) and reduction of erosion (9), management of split thickness skin graft donor sites (10), chemotherapy-induced mucositis (11), Ethiopian multiflora honey has antifungal activity against fluconazole-resistant Candida species isolated from the oral cavity of AIDS patients (12).

Such properties of honey establish that honey undergo wide-ranging investigation in the field of dentistry. However such properties of honey can be used in several oral disorders as mentioned in this letter, there are still unknown properties need to be researched.

REFERENCES

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