

# **TOPICAL APPLICATION OF HONEY AND BEE PRODUCTS-OLIVE OIL MIXTURE IN TREATMENT OF CANCER THERAPY-RELATED ORAL MUCOSITIS**

## *Thesis*

Submitted for Partial Fulfillment of Master Degree  
*In Pediatrics*

## *By*

**Rania Said Ebrahim**

*M.B., BCh., Ain Shams University*

## *Under Supervision of*

**Prof Dr./ Mamdouh Abdul-Maksoud Mohamed**

*Professor of Pediatrics  
Faculty of Medicine – Ain Shams University*

**Dr. / Nancy Samir Al-Barbary**

*Lecturer of Pediatrics  
Faculty of Medicine  
Ain Shams University*

**Dr. / Dina Ahmed Amin**

*Lecturer of Pediatrics  
Faculty of Medicine  
Ain Shams University*

*Faculty of Medicine  
Ain Shams University*

**2011**

# تأثير الاستخدام الموضعي للعسل ومزيج من منتجات النحل وزيت الزيتون في علاج التهابات الأغشية المخاطية للفم الناجمة عن علاج السرطان

## رسالة

توطئة للحصول على درجة الماجستير في طب الأطفال

## مقدمة من

**الطبيبة / رانية سعيد إبراهيم**

بكالوريوس الطب والجراحة – جامعة عين شمس

## تحت إشراف

**الأستاذ الدكتور / ممدوح عبد المقصود محمد**

أستاذ طب الأطفال

كلية الطب – جامعة عين شمس

**الدكتورة / نانسي سمير البربري**

أستاذ مساعد طب الأطفال

كلية الطب – جامعة عين شمس

**الدكتورة / دينا أحمد أمين**

مدرس طب الأطفال

كلية الطب – جامعة عين شمس

كلية الطب

جامعة عين شمس

٢٠١١

## SUMMARY

This was a random clinical trial aim to compromise between the therapeutic effect of topical honey applied on patients had oral mucositis as an adverse effect of cancer therapy and the uses of traditional treatment in management of oral mucositis. The patients were randomly divided into 3 groups:

**Group 1 (n=20):** which included: (male=14, female=6), (ALL=13, Neuroblastoma=2, Hodgkin lymphoma =2, Non-Hodgkin lymphoma=3), mean age=8.20 ±4.0).

**Group 2 (n=20):** (male =13, female =7), (ALL= 11, Neuroblastoma =3, Hodgkin lymphoma=2, Non-Hodgkin lymphoma=4), (mean age=7.1±3.7).

**Group 3 (n=20):** (male= 11, female=9), (ALL=8, AML=2, Hodgkin lymphoma=1, Non-Hodgkin lymphoma= 8, Neuroblastoma=1, mean age=6.90). This group served as a control group and followed the traditional treatment of oral mucositis.

The first group received pure honey, patients rinsed it in oral mucosa than swallowed it 3 times per day.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَأَوْحَىٰ رَبُّكَ إِلَى النَّحْلِ  
أَنْ اتَّخِذِي مِنَ الْجِبَالِ  
بُيُوتًا وَمِنَ الشَّجَرِ  
وَمِمَّا يَعْرِشُونَ. ثُمَّ كُلِّي  
مِنْ كُلِّ الثَّمَرَاتِ  
فَاسْلُكِي سُبُلَ رَبِّكِ ذُلًّا  
يَخْرُجُ مِنْ بُطُونِهَا  
شَرَابٌ مُخْتَلِفٌ أَلْوَانُهُ  
فِيهِ شِفَاءٌ لِلنَّاسِ إِنَّ  
فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَةً لِّقَوْمٍ  
يَتَفَكَّرُونَ

صدق الله العظيم  
سورة النحل آية (٦٨ و ٦٩)

## *Acknowledgments*

First of all, many thanks will never be enough to express my endless gratitude to **ALLAH** for giving me the strength and support to carry out this work.

*I would like to express my deep appreciation wrapped with great respect to **Prof. Dr. Mamdouh Abdul-Maksoud Mohamed**, Professor of Pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, Ain Shams University, who not only encouraged me but also provided tireless help and continuous guidance throughout this work.*

*I am greatly honored to express my deepest gratitude to **Dr. Nancy Samir Al-Barbary**, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, Ain Shams University, for her precious advices and valuable observations.*

*Special thanks go to **Dr. Dina Ahmed Amin**, Lecturer of Pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine Ain Shams University for her encouragement & expert supervision.*

*Many thanks to all professors, staff and colleagues in our department, for offering help whenever I needed during this research.*

*I would like to thank all my **Patients**, for their help and understanding hoping them a good health.*

*Last but not least, I must thank my **Family** and **Friends** for their encouragement and support not only during the period of this research but also during my whole life.*

*Rania Said Ebrahim*

# LIST OF CONTENTS

Title	Page No.
Introduction .....	1
Aim of the study .....	4
Review of Literature	
• Cancer in childhood.....	5
• Oral mucositis.....	12
• Management and prevention of oral mucositis .....	24
• Uses of diflucan in treatment of oral mucositis.....	33
• Bee honey.....	35
• Propolis .....	58
• Olive oil .....	64
Subject and methods .....	65
Results .....	75
Discussion .....	83
Summary .....	94
Conclusion.....	96
References.....	97
Arabic Summary .....	—

# LIST OF TABLES

Tab. No.	Title	Page No.
<b>Table (1):</b>	Incidence of childhood cancers:.....	5
<b>Table (2):</b>	The relative frequency of pediatric cancers in Egypt (1993-1997)......	6
<b>Table (3):</b>	Adverse effect of radiotherapy.....	7
<b>Table (4):</b>	Adverse effect of chemotherapy.....	8
<b>Table (5):</b>	Variables that affect the incidence of anticancer treatment induced oral mucositis.....	15
<b>Table (6):</b>	Honey composition.....	35
<b>Table (7):</b>	Descriptive statistics of Honey group (n=20).....	75
<b>Table (8):</b>	Descriptive statistics of Hope JR group (n=20).....	76
<b>Table (9):</b>	Descriptive statistics of Diflucane group (n = 20). ....	77
<b>Table (10):</b>	Comparison between different studied groups.....	78
<b>Table (11):</b>	Comparison between cases with grades (I/II) in Honey and Diflucane.....	79
<b>Table (12):</b>	Comparison between cases with grades (III/IV) in different studied groups.....	80
<b>Table (13):</b>	Correlation between recovery period and different parameters in different studied groups.....	81
<b>Table (14):</b>	Costs of different treatment groups.....	81

# *LIST OF FIGURES*

<b>Fig. No.</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Page No.</b>
<b>Figure (1):</b>	Stages of oral mucositis. ....	19
<b>Figure (2):</b>	The Consort E-Flowchart Aug. 2005.....	74



## INTRODUCTION

**O**ral mucositis is a common side effect of cancer therapies, particularly radiation therapy for head and neck cancer. It commonly results in severe oral pain that can compromise the duration and success of cancer management (*Spencer, 2005*).

Oral cancer management (*Spencer, 2005*). Oral mucositis is defined as oral mucosal change secondary to cancer therapy. It manifests first by thinning of oral tissues leading to erythema. As these tissues become to be thinner, eventually ulceration occurs. The primary symptom is severe debilitating oral pain (*Epstein, 2003*).

Severe mucositis can greatly complicate the management of cancer. It often leads to interruption of cancer treatment, which can compromise cure rates (*Trotti et al., 2002*). Hospitalization is common since patients lose the ability of oral intake due to severe pain and must have alimentation support during this period (*Reddwing et al., 2004*).

The most commonly used scales for grading of oral mucositis are the World Health Organization (WHO) scales and the National Cancer Institute-Common toxicity Criteria (NCI-CTC) scales (*Sonis et al., 2004*). Although, oral mucositis has been studied

for many years, no available treatment has been proved to be reliably effective to prevent or treat mucositis. Studies investigating single anti-microbial agents such as clorhexidine, clindamycin or antibiotic pastilles combining polymyxin, tobramycine and amphotricin given locally with intent of enhancing oral hygiene have shown only variable success in alleviating oral mucositis (*Cheng et al., 2004*).

Honey has anti-inflammatory (*Al-Waili et al., 2003*), anti-oxidant ,and anti-microbial effects (*Molan, 1992*). The anti-inflammatory effect of honey may be due to its effect in lowering plasma prostaglandin concentration (*Al Waili, 2003*). The honey antioxidant effect is due to the honey polyphenols (*Gheldof et al., 2002*).

Propolis is a natural product derived from plant resins collected by honeybees. It is used by bees as a glue, a general-purpose sealer, and as draught-extruder for beehives. Propolis has been used in folk medicine for centuries. It is known that propolis possesses anti-microbial, antioxidative, anti-ulcer and anti-tumor activities (*Khalil, 2006*). The main active components of olive oil include oleic acid, phenolic constituents, and squalene. The main phenolics include hydroxytyrosol, tyrosol, and oleuropein, which occur in highest levels in virgin olive oil and have demonstrated

antioxidant and antimicrobial activities (*Waterman et al., 2007*).

In the cancer setting, honey may be used for radiation-induced mucositis, radiotherapy-induced skin reactions, hand and foot skin reactions in chemotherapy patients and for oral cavity and external surgical wounds (*Bardy et al., 2007*).

The large volume of literature reporting its effectiveness indicates that honey has potential for treatment of periodontal disease, mouth ulcers, and other problems of oral health (*Molan, 00*).

## **AIM OF THE STUDY**

**E**valuation of the effect of topical application of a 4:2:1 mixture of honey, olive oil propolis extract and bees wax as natural products in treatment of cancer therapy-related oral mucositis in children.

## CANCER IN CHILDHOOD

*A*lthough the incidence of childhood cancer increased slightly in the early 1980s, there has been no substantial change in the incidence of major pediatric malignancies since the mid-1980s. Mortality rates for childhood malignancies have declined significantly as a result of improvements in supportive care and therapy (*Linet et al., 1999*).

The most common childhood malignancies are acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL), central nervous system (CNS) tumors and lymphomas. Together, these cancers account for 63% of cases (*Gloeckler Ries et al., 2003*).

**Table (1):** Incidence of childhood cancers:

Cancer	Incidence (%)
Leukemia	30.2
Central nervous system tumors	21.7
Lymphoma	10.9
Neuroblastoma	8.2
Soft tissue sarcomas	7.0
Renal tumors	6.3
Bone tumors	4.7
Other types	11.0

(*Linet et al., 1999*)

In Egypt, there has been a changing pattern in the prevalence of childhood malignancies, with increasing incidence of acute lymphoblastic leukemia, neuroblastoma and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL).

**Table (2):** The relative frequency of pediatric cancers in Egypt (1993-1997).

Cancer	Egypt NCI (1997)
Leukemia	36.7%
Central nervous system tumors	1.6%
Lymphoma	32%
Neuroblastoma	1.6%
Wilm's tumor	3.7%
Soft tissue sarcomas	9.2%
Bone tumors	8.8%
Liver tumors	0.2%
Retinoblastoma	1.3%
Other	5%

*(National Cancer Institute of Egypt, 2006)*

**Table (3):** Adverse effect of radiotherapy.

<b>Organ system</b>	<b>Sequelae</b>
All tissues	Second malignancies, functional and cosmetic problems
Teeth and salivary glands	Dry mouth, dental developmental abnormalities, periodontal disease, tooth decay cosmetic problems, oral mucositis
Muscles and soft tissues	Atrophy or hypoplasia, fibrosis and contracture, lymphedema
Eye	Cataract, retinopathy, dry eye, vision loss, photophobia
Ear	Chronic cerumen impaction
Heart	Pericardial effusion, constrictive pericarditis, early-onset coronary artery disease
Chest	Pulmonary fibrosis, restrictive lung disease, recurrent pneumothorax, breast cancer
Central nervous system	Neurocognitive deficits, chronic seizure disorder, cerebrovascular accident (stroke), imaging changes: cerebral atrophy encephalomalacia, lacunes, and ventriculomegaly
Kidneys	Hypertension, renal insufficiency
Bladder and collecting system	Bladder fibrosis, dysfunctional voiding, urinary incontinence, urinary tract obstruction
Pituitary gland	Reduced growth or growth failure, early or delayed puberty, other hypothalamic-pituitary endocrinopathies
Thyroid gland	Hypothyroidism, hyperthyroidism, thyroid nodules
Gonads	Males: sterility, Leydig's cell dysfunction. Females: ovarian failure, early menopause
Gastrointestinal tract	Malabsorption, intestinal stricture hepatic dysfunction, chronic enterocolitis

*(Castellino and Hudson, 2002)*

---