STUDY OF THE EFFECT OF ALOE VERA OIL EXTRACT ON INCISIONAL WOUND HEALING IN FEMALE RABBITS

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ABSTRACT

The influence of Aloe vera oil extract on wound healing was studied topically, the study involved preparation of oil extract of Aloe vera oil preparation of oil ointment was done. The study involved 18 female rabbits, they were divided into three groups (1st group animal treated for 3 days), 2nd group treated for 7 days, 3rd group treated for 14 days). Full thickness incisional open wounds were done on the shoulder region of each group animals. The wound (treated and control) were treated continuously with 0.5 mg oil ointment.

All wounds evaluated macroscopically to the degree of hyperemia and exudation and microscopically to the neutrophil and macrophages infiltration, re-epithelization, fibroblast proliferation with collagen deposition and new blood capillary formation. Both macroscopic and microscopic results show the efficacy of Aloe vera oil extract in healing process as compared with control wounds.

INTRODUCTION

For medicinal purpose, Aloe vera is most commonly used externally to treat various skin condition and burn not only does it soothe the skin, ease pain and reduce inflammation. (1) showed that the healing of moderate sever burn was sped up by six days when covering the wound with Aloe vera gel, compared to the healing of the wound covered in a gauze bandage.

Previous studies have amply demonstrated the wound healing influence of Aloe vera (2,3) found that 50% of rats treated with Aloe vera exhibited improved wound healing. (4), reported that Aloe vera advanced healing with tissue regeneration. This response could explained by the fact that Aloe vera dilated capillaries to increase blood flow to injured area. This study attempts to show the topical activity of Aloe vera oil extract in improving the
healing process in full thickness incisional wounds, and the decreasing in length wound throughout the period of experiment.

Microscopically results show infiltration of neutrophils in all groups, but it was disappear in animal groups which are treated with Aloe vera extract as well as the macrophages cells were infiltration highly.

**MATERIAL AND METHODS**

- **Collection and preparation of the plant leaves for study:**
  The leaves of Aloe vera had been brought from local garden in Basra Province Iraq, after cleaning, the leaves were cuts by knife to small pits.

- **Preparation of oil extract of Aloe vera:**
  The small pits of Aloe vera leaves were transferred to the thumble of Soxhlet apparatus, extracted with 250ml aceton (BDH England ) for 24hrs. Then solution was concentrated by rotary evaporator (Puchi Rotavapor,RE) at 40C, the final dryness was done by the evaporation of remnant solvent by leaving the residue in room temperature, the result was 20g oil material kept in dark glass container at 4C(5).

  ✤ **Oil ointment preparation:**
  The ointment was prepared with vaseline base by triturating method using 2 spatulas to admix the oil extract of the plant with gradual addition of vaseline to obtain a homogenous ointment, with ratio 3:1 oil extract to Vaseline(6), then ointment had been kept at 4C until the use time.

  ✤ **Animal & Housing:**
  Eighteen adult female rabbits of(3-4) months age were used. The animals were housed in metallic cages. They were fed on alfa alfa and bread and water ad libitum at room temperature.

  ✤ **Experimental design:**
  In this study, oil extract of plant leaves used to study its effect on wound healing efficacy using one type of wound models (full thickness incisional open wound) in 18 rabbits which divided in to three with six animals per each group(5):
  - A) 3rd day post wounding
  - B) 7th day post wounding
  - C) 14th day post wounding
  All rabbits were clipped and prepared for a septic surgery. They were anesthetized with 1M administration of 10 mg / kg body weight Xylazin hydrochloride (Rompun, Haverlock
Hart, Shawnee, K.s.) and 50mg /kg body weight Ketamin hydrochloride (Ketanes, Areco. Fort Dodge, IA.).

In each animal, two standard linear skin incisions were made on both sides of back (on the shoulder, near the neck region) using a standard blade. The incisions were made by a scalpel with a septic technique through the epidermis, dermis and subcutaneous fat, the length of linear incision were 1cm . The right sided incision was used as treated wound while, the left one used as control. All wounds were covered with non-adherent occlusive gauzes to maintain the ointment, to keep the wounds clean and to prevent the animal from licking or scratching the wound. Finally, a bandage was wrapped around the trunk of animals to fix the gauze dressing; the bandage in turn was externally strengthened with cotton vest to prevent detachment and self-infliction as explained in the following figure:

**Fig (1):** Determine the wound area by the marker

**Fig (2):** The wound was done by scalpel

**Fig (3):** Wounds were treated

**Fig (4):** The external dressing by cotton cloth vest
RESULTS

Macroscopic evaluation:

The effect of Aloe vera oil extract on macroscopic wound healing categories (hyperemia, & exudation) was explained in table (1-1). On 3rd day post wounding, the severity of these categories was less in treated wound than in control. Fig. (1,2). At 7th day, hyperemia and exudation showed a reduction in their severity in treated wound, while became obvious in control wounds. By 14th day post wounding, hyperemia and exudation had disappeared early in treated wounds than the control.

Table (1-1): The effect of Aloe vera oil extract on macroscopic wound healing categories:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>days</th>
<th>groups</th>
<th>hyperemia</th>
<th>exudation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3rd day</td>
<td>control</td>
<td>++</td>
<td>++</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd day</td>
<td>treated</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th day</td>
<td>control</td>
<td>+++</td>
<td>+++</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th day</td>
<td>treated</td>
<td>++</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14th day</td>
<td>control</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14th day</td>
<td>treated</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: - = absent, + = mild, ++ = moderate, +++ = severe

The decreasing in the length of the wounds:

Table (2) explains the decreasing in the length of the wounds in both treated and control throughout the period of experiment.

Table (2): The decreasing in the length of the wounds (treated & control)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>groups</th>
<th>0 day</th>
<th>3rd day</th>
<th>7th day</th>
<th>14th day</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>control</td>
<td>1 cm</td>
<td>0.9 cm</td>
<td>0.7 cm</td>
<td>0.1 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>treated</td>
<td>1 cm</td>
<td>0.7 cm</td>
<td>0.4 cm</td>
<td>0 cm at 10 day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fig (1A): Treated wound (3rd day) the length was 0.7 cm

Fig (1B): Control wound (3rd day) length was 0.7 cm

Fig (2A): Treated wound (7th day) the length was 0.4 cm there is no exudates

Fig (2B): Control wound the (7th day) length was 0.7 cm and obvious exudates

Fig (3A): Treated wound (10th day) complete healing

Fig (3B): Control wound the (14th day) non complete healing the length was 0.1 cm
Fig (1A): Treated wound (3rd day) few inflammatory cells

Fig (1B): Control wound (3rd day) more inflammatory cells (Neutrophils)

Fig (2A): Treated wound (7th day) more macrophages with few Neutrophils and clear re-epithelization

Fig (2B): Control wound (7th day) less macrophages with more Neutrophils and less obvious re-epithelization

Fig (3A): Treated wound (10th day) complete re-epithelization

Fig (3B): Control wound (14th day) completed re-epithelization
The results of the effect of Aloe vera oil extract on histological elements of wound healing were showed in table (1-2) and figure (2).

On 3rd day post wounding, the infiltration of neutrophils was less in treated than in control wounds, figure (1-A),(1-B). On 7th day, the neutrophil infiltration is still lesser in treated than control wounds figure (2-A,B). The infiltration became mild on 14th day in control wounds and disappeared completely in treated wounds, figure (3-A,B).

The infiltration of macrophages was higher in treated wounds than in control at 3rd and at 7th day and decrease in their infiltration at 14th day. The granulation tissue (new blood capillaries and proliferative fibroblast with collagen deposition) appear early at 3rd day post wounding and became more obvious on 1 Oth day post wounding. Through out the period of experiment, the progression of new epithelium to cover the defected area in treated wound is more than the control wounds figures (1-A,B),(2-A,B),(3-A,B).

Table (3): The effect of Aloe vera on microscopic categories

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Groups</th>
<th>Neutrophils</th>
<th>Macrophages</th>
<th>Re-epithelization</th>
<th>Granulation tissue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>New blood capillary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd day</td>
<td>Control</td>
<td>++</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Treated</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th day</td>
<td>Control</td>
<td>+++</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>++</td>
<td>++</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Treated</td>
<td>++</td>
<td>+++</td>
<td>+++</td>
<td>+++</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14th day</td>
<td>Control</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+++</td>
<td>++</td>
<td>+++</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Treated</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>++</td>
<td>+++</td>
<td>+++</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: - = absent, + = mild, ++ = moderate, +++ = severe
Fig (1A): Treated wound (3rd day) few inflammatory cells

Fig (1B): Control wound (3rd day) more inflammatory cells (Neutrophils)

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Fig (2B): Control wound (7th day) less macrophages with more Neutrophils and less obvious re-epithelization

Fig (3A): Treated wound (10th day) complete re-epithelization

Fig (3B): Control wound (14th day) completed re-epithelization
DISCUSSION

Normal wound healing occurs in three stages: inflammation, proliferation, and remodeling. The wound healing process depends on given provision of local circulation as well as formation and deposition of collagen (7). In the present study, the topical application of Aloe vera oil extract on full thickness incisional wound results in more accelerated healing with complete re-epithelialization at 10th day post wounding, while in control wounds the complete healing occurs till the end of experiment, Aloe vera contains important ingredients necessary for wound healing such as polysaccharides (8,)(9,)(10) found in their study that polysaccharides in Aloe vera ointment increase collagen activity and promote healing process (11) showed that Aloe vera improve the vascular supply and make more oxygen available to improve collagen formation for wound healing.

From this study observe the clearance of treated wounds from exudates as compared with control wounds. This result agree to the opinion of (7) who conclude that the presence of Aloe vera seemed to reduce the amount of dead tissue at the wound site and provide better wound healing.

During the wound healing process, epithelial cells proliferate, migrate from the edges of the wound and eventually cover the wound with new epithelium (7)

In the present study the application of Aloe vera oil extract results in decreasing the length of wound which become chiefly at 10th day post wounding this regard to the presence of oxygen caused by Aloe vera improving microcirculation, should greatly improve the wound healing process (12). As a results the Aloe vera is effective topical in improving the healing process and decrease the length of treated wounds as compared with control wounds.

دراسة تأثير المستخلص الزيتي لنبات الصبر على التنام الجروح الخشنة في إتات الأرانب

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الخلاصة

تم دراسة تأثير المرهم الزيتي لنبات الصبر، موضعياً على التنام الجروح. استمرت الدراسة تحضير المستخلص الزيتي لنبات الصبر ومن ثم تحضير المرهم الزيتي. تمّ الدراسة 18 من إتات الأرانب حيث قسم إلى ثلاث مجموعات (اليوم الثالث، اليوم السابع واليوم الرابع عشر). تم عمل جرحين خفيفين مُطْحَّنين تبلى كل الطبقات من جلد منطقة الكاف في جميع جوانب الجرحية مع شرابات الجروح (العالجية والمستوردة) بالاستعداد B (0.5) مل ممزج من مرهم الزيتي وقاعدته النزلي على النوايا لمدة 14 يوم ويعمل
REFERENCES