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Mucoadhesive Brazilian propolis gel for prevention of radiation-induced oral mucositis

Vagner Rodrigues Santos
Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Brazil

Abstract

Oral care is an important aspect in the quality of life of patients undergoing radiation therapy for oral cancer. Oral mucositis are commonly seen in this group of patients.Propolis has anti-inflammatory, antifungal, antibacterial, antioxidative, and anesthetic properties and it has been used worldwide as an alternative medicine for the treatment of various conditions. This phase II study was to determine the effectiveness of a mucoadhesiveBrazilian propolis gel in the prevention of radiation-induced oral mucositis. Twenty-four patients who were selected to undergo radiation therapy for oral cancer were included. They were advised to use a mucoadhesive gel containing propolis 5,0% w/v three times a day starting one day before the course of radiation therapy and concluding after 2 weeks of radiation therapy. A weekly follow-up for evaluation of food intake, pain and grading of mucositis was performed. In order to confirm the absence of *Candida*-related mucositis in patients who developed mucositis, it was performed exfoliative cytology stained with Periodic Acid Schiffand Candifast® kit for biochemical *Candida*spp identification. Twenty patients did not develop mucositis, two patients developed grade 1 mucositis and two patients developed grade 2 mucositis. None of the patients discontinued food intake and no pain was observed during the study. Candidosis was not detected in any patient. Mucoadhesivepropolis gel could be considered as a potential topical medication for preventing radiation-induced oral mucositis. Phase III study with larger number of patients and comparing with market product will be made for confirmation of these results.

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Biography

Vagner Rodrigues Santos is dentist and biologist, has completed his PhD at the Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management in University of California at Berkeley in 2012. Doctor in Oral Pathology (1996), Master in Microbiology (1992) professor from the Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG), has more than 30 papers on medicinal plants and propolis. He was the director and vice-director of the School of Dentistry (FO) of UFMG. Currently coordinates the Laboratory of Pathology Buco maxillofacial and Extension Project "Support Call Dental Patient Irradiatedin head and neck region" in FOUFMG and guides doctoral, masters and scientific initiationstudents. Is also member of the of UFMGEthics Committee.