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Pharmacological Potentials of Royal Jelly in Dentistry: A Review

Review Article

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Abstract

"Royal Jelly" is a viscous material which is secreted by the cephalic gland of the "worker bee." This is the key component of the "queen bee's" diet, rendering it with longer life span compared to worker bees. "Royal Jelly" possess various pharmacological properties. These includes antioxidant, neurotropic, anti-inflammatory, immunomodulatory and antibiotic, anti-aging, antihypertensive properties. This article summarizes biological properties, composition, criteria of quality evaluation of "Royal Jelly" and published studies on the efficacy of "Royal Jelly" as a "wound healing agent", as a component of mouth wash used in treatment of oral mucositis, periodontal diseases, as a storage media and as a pulp capping agent. "Royal Jelly" can emerge as a viable alternative to conventional synthetic agents, which may avoid usual drawbacks of synthetic medicaments.

Key Words: Royal Jelly, Honeybee, Oral health, Apicultural pulpotomy medicaments, Queen bee.

Introduction

"Royal Jelly" is a glandular secretion of the worker bees.(1) During initial days of maturation process all larvae use Royal Jelly as their food. However, for the queen bee, "Royal Jelly" is the food for their life.(2) This is the reason why queen bee has numerous benefits which includes its bigger size than all the other bees, and longer lifespan which ranges from 5–6 years, and that of working bee is only 35–40 days. (3)(4)(5)

Composition of Royal Jelly and its quality evaluation

Chemically, "fresh Royal Jelly" comprises "50– 70% water", "7–18% carbohydrates", "9–18% proteins", "3–8% fat", "1.5% minerals" (Ca.) and minor quantities of polyphenols and various vitamins. Its colour ranges from whitish to yellowish colour. (6)(7) The yellow shade deepens upon storage. It has pungent odour, tastes sour and sweet. Proper storage of "Royal Jelly" is necessary; otherwise it has a tendency to become darker and rancid. It has pH in the range of 3.4–4.5 and a density of 1.1 g/mL. (7) It is not completely soluble in water. To maintain best possible quality, it should be stored at freezing temperature. This will avert disintegration of bio-active proteins of "Royal Jelly". Therefore, it should be frozen as soon as it is extracted. (7)(8)

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Biological properties of Royal Jelly

Bioactive components of "Royal Jelly" and its possible role in mechanism of action as per the previous studies conducted are presented below in a categorised manner that will allow a medical articulacy.

Antimicrobial property

As per the evidences of numerous studies, the principal antimicrobial property of "Royal Jelly" is accredited to its lipid component i.e. 10HDA. (9) (10) However, "Royal Jelly" possess proteins and peptides (11) (12) which shows antibiotic activity against different pathogens. (13) (14) (15) (16) It usually contains 7-8 % of protein, out of which 80%-90% is "Major Royal Jelly Protein" (MRJPs).(17)(18) Amongst "MRJPs", "MRJP -2", and "MRJP -4"possess antimicrobial properties against bacteria, yeast. This is achieved by inducing cell wall and cell membrane impairment and dysfunction. (19)(20) "Royal Jelly" also contains peptides named Royalisin and lipid constituent which is 10-HDA both has antibacterial (Gram+, Gram-), antifungal properties (12) (16). Strong antibacterial activity of Royalisin is due to its 3 intramolecular disulfide bonds which are present between cysteine residues (22) Whereas other peptides such as "Jelleine I-III", " Jelleine- II", and " Jelleine-II" (phosphorylated) possess antimicrobial properties against yeast and against both Gram+, Gram- bacteria. (22) (11) Antimicrobial peptides are positively charged owing to presence of "Lysine", " Arginine", and "Histidine". These positively charged peptides interact with negatively charged phospholipids of the cell membrane and cause cell wall impairment. (23) According to Han et al. when threonine traces in Jelleines are phosphorylated they delivered a negative charge to "Royal Jelly" peptides. This resulted in



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significant reduction in antibiotic activity. Thus, the study concluded that the net charge of "Jelleines" possibly plays essential role in antibiotic property of "Royal Jelly". (22) (5)

Wound-healing property

It shows wound healing activity by reducing exudation along with formation of collagen in granulation tissue, whereas another mechanism is by reducing the capillary permeability, thereby decreasing healing period of desquamated skin lesion.(24)Other possible mechanism is by reducing the formation of "TNF α , IL 1, IL6", reactive oxygen species (ROS) and increasing production of collagen I and collagen III.(25) Constituents of royal jelly and its possible role in wound healings are as follows: 10HDA encouraged the production of TGF- β 1, which is essential for collagen production.(26) A chief protein component, MRJ- 2, 3, 7 stimulates growth as well as migration of keratinocytes. (27) Royal Jelly's defensin-1 peptides improve matrix metalloproteinase-9 secretion and movement of keratinocytes there by repairing the wound in a brief period of time. (28) Moreover other peptides like royalisin provides antimicrobial wound protection. Thus, these components can initiate the development of new wound healing medication.

Antioxidant activity

To get best antioxidant activity "Royal Jelly" should be extracted subsequently after 24 hours of the larval transfer. As per literature, "Royal Jelly" shows its antioxidant effect by increasing "catalase" (CAT) activity, along with reduction of "malondialdehyde" (MDA) levels which is indicator of oxidative stress.(29)

Studies of Royal Jelly related to dentistry

Efficacy of "Royal Jelly" on Periodontal diseases

The clinically important periodontopathic bacteria present at sites of disease activity are "Porphyromonas gingivalis (Pg)", "Aggregatibacter actinomycetemcomitans (Aa)", "Fusobacterium nucleatum (Fn)", "Prevotella intermedia (Pi)", "Tannerella forsythia", and "Parvimonas micra". (30) (31) New approaches for treatment of periodontal disease have been developed and especially the discovery of alternative treatments that will partially or totally exclude the use of antibiotics. Antimicrobial action of RJ has already been shown, and various studies report on antibacterial and antifungal actions.

- According to the study conducted by Coutinho D, Karibasappa SN, Mehta DS. 2018, the minimum bactericidal concentration values of Royal Jelly are in the range between 12.5 and 100 μ g/ml. "Royal Jelly" possess active antimicrobial agents such as royalisin and 10 HDA, which are absent in other bee products. According to study results the inhibitory effects on "Porphyromonas gingivalis" (Pg) and "Prevotella Intermedia" (Pi) at lower concentration. However, higher concentrations were required to inhibit the growth of "Aggregatibacter actinomycetemcomitans" and "Fusobacterium nucleatum" (Fn) (12.5 to 100 ug/ml). (15)

"Periodontal diseases" are mostly accompanied by bone resorption. "Porphyromonas Gingivalis" is the commonest pathogenic bacteria of chronic inflammation in periodontium. In response to lipopolysaccharides of "Porphyromonas Gingivalis", PDLcells produce inflammatory cytokines and chemokines. Also, CD54 is the surface adhesion molecule whose levels are increased at inflammatory sites in periodontal lesions. According to the animal study carried out by Yanagita M et al, Royal Jelly reduced "Porphyromonas Gingivalis" cell wall induced interleukin- 6 as well as CXC chemokine ligand 10 formations from MPDL22 cells. Also, Royal Jelly reduced the production of adhesion molecule i.e. CD54 from MPDL22 cells which usually increases in diseased condition.(32) These findings suggest that Royal Jelly has osteoinductive and anti-inflammatory effect and the study concluded that it can provide aids in the treatment and prevention of periodontal diseases.

Bone healing

Researchers have suggested possible role of "Royal Jelly" in bone healing, which is by inducing collagen cross linking gene expression and regulating formation of enzymes of collagen-modifying in vitro. Thus, by controlling the post translational alterations of type "I collagen", "Royal Jelly" can enhance bone quality. (33) In vivo human study should be carried out further to evaluate scope of "Royal Jelly" in Periodontal Diseases.

Royal jelly as storage media

Many studies have revealed the importance of the viability of "PDL cells" at the root surface as a crucial factor for durable success of the replanted teeth after avulsion, since they are needed for new PDL tissue regeneration. However, Royal Jelly has positive effect on wound healing process by way of encouraging human dermal fibroblast migration whereas there is increase in collagen production of skin fibroblast by the function of 10H2DA by encouraging production of "TGF- β 1". (34)(35)

- Study conducted by Yanagita et al. has revealed that "Royal Jelly" at the concentrations between 4 – 500 μg/ml were not toxic to PDL cells. In another study which was conducted by, Dhanesuan et al validated that "Royal Jelly" crude extract at the concentrations from 0.1-1mg/ml enhanced PDL cell proliferation while significant inhibition was observed with "Royal Jelly" at5mg/ml. (36)
- However, study was carried out Sricholpech M, Srisupabh D 2015, to evaluate the efficacy of "Royal Jelly" regarding viability and function of "periodontal ligament fibroblasts" (PDLF) in an in vitro tooth avulsion model. According to the study results Royal Jelly solutions dose dependently



maintain higher PDLF (periodontal ligament fibroblasts) viability compared to HBSS (p<0.05). However, results were comparable with that of low fat milk, when "Royal Jelly" solution was used as transport media at 500 and 900µg/ml concentrations. Also, "Royal jelly" solutions promoted proliferation of the survived PDLF when compared to HBSS. These findings demonstrate potential of "Royal Jelly" as a Transport media.(37)

Effect of Royal Jelly Oral mucositis

Currently, as there is no definitive preventive measure for radiation induced oral mucositis, the therapy which gives symptomatic relief is essential. Considering the pharmacological potentials of "Royal Jelly", its effects on oral mucositis can be beneficial, so various studies conducted regarding it are mentioned below: As per the study conducted by Erdem Ö, Güngörmüs Z. 2016, when "Royal Jelly extract" is swished for 30 secs orally, 2 times /day, of total dose of 1 g/day showed marked reduction in the signs, symptoms and healing time of oral mucositis.(38) However, according to the study carried out by Watanabe S et al, use of "Royal Jelly films" in the early stages of "oral mucositis" was more beneficial than late stages.(39)

Effect of Royal Jelly application on wounds

Fewer experiments have tested the application of "Royal Jelly" on wound healing, as seen below:

Diabetic foot ulcer

Abdelatif et al, used "Pedyphar ointment" (Royal Jelly and panthenol in an ointment base) for dressing of "diabetic foot ulcer". "Pedyphar ointment" which contains "Royal Jelly", promoted healing by creating an alkaline environment in the wound, while the antimicrobial, immunomodulating and nutritional properties of "Royal Jelly" and "panthenol" help eradicate infection and promote healing. Study concluded that "Pedyphar ointment" can be a promising and safe conservative local treatment. (40)

Role in granulation tissue formation

Whereas the study conducted by Fujii et al. presented some anti-inflammatory activity by decreasing exudation and collagen formation in granulation tissue with Royal Jelly. It also shortened the healing period of desquamated skin lesions. (24)

Use of Royal Jelly in candidial infection

Denture sore mouth involves 60 % of the population of denture wearer. C. albicans is the most common causative microorganism which tend to cause denture stomatitis. (41) The antifungal medications are can lead to drug-resistance when used continuously. Recently, consecutive studies regarding antibacterial activity of "Royal Jelly", a natural product, have been published.(42) (16) Studies regarding it are in the literature as follows: -

- Study was carried out by Danai Jet al 2017, where he placed the samples of heat-cured, self-cured acrylic resin as well as tissue conditioners in a various concentration of "Royal Jelly" extract solution, keeping Nystatin as the comparator group. Royal Jelly inhibited the adherence of C. albicans between 25-50 mg/mL concentration which was equivalent to 23 mg/mL Nystatin. Hence, "Royal Jelly" might even be Nystatin's substitute as an anti-fungal product. (43)
- Moselhy et al. carried out similar study where significant antifungal efficacy of "Royal Jelly" against "C. albicans" "Aspergillus fumigant", "Syncephalastrum racemosum", "Aspergillus niger" was found. The most appropriate concentration observed was 15 mg/mL. However, larger zone of inhibitions were resulted at higher concentrations. (43)

"Royal Jelly" as Pulpotomy medicament

Numerous studies have reported healthpromoting activities of "Royal Jelly" such as antimicrobial activity, immunomodulation, antiinflammation, anti-oxidation, and anti-aging effects. These properties render its use for pulpotomy. Studies regarding it are few in the literature which are mentioned below:

- Histopathology events: Aida Meto and Argon Meto, 2017 carried out the study to evaluate the antiinflammatory and regenerative actions of Royal Jelly pastes through histological slides in vital amputation. Paste with "Royal Jelly" positively influenced over radicular pulpal tissue, accelerated the healing and stimulated the odontoblasts. "Royal Jelly" composed in the pastes combined with Propolis to havean expressed action of analgesic, anti-inflammatory, odontoblasts stimulant, regeneration. (44)

Royal Jelly as mouth wash

Aida M et al, 2017 carried out the comparative evaluation of effectiveness of Royal Jelly and chlorhexidine as antimicrobial agent against faecalis, S aureus, S. mutans, E. coli, and C. albican. The study results concluded that Royal Jelly has comparable antimicrobial efficacy with that of 0.2 % chlorhexidine. However, as per Khosla A et al to get similar results as that of chlorhexidine higher concentrations of Royal Jelly extract with lesser dilutions can be used. (45)

Future scope of Royal Jelly in Dentistry

Keeping in mind various study results of Royal Jelly

- 1. It has potential role in wound healing, further vivo studies can be carried out.
- 2. It can be used as natural remedy for treating periodontal diseases.
- 3. Royal Jelly can be a good alternative option for storage of avulsed tooth.
- 4. In cancer patients, oral mucositis can be treated effectively at early stages when Royal Jelly is used as mouth wash.



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- 5. Royal Jelly can be used for prevention of Denture stomatitis.
- 6. Its use as pulpotomy medicament can be explored by conducting in vivo studies.

Conclusion

Royal Jelly can be developed into a potent apitherapeutic agent due to its various pharmacological properties which may avoid usual drawbacks of synthetic medicaments. However, in order to show the efficacy of "Royal Jelly" in human models and to identify successful "Royal Jelly" compounds that may contribute to the synthesis of new drugs, further clinical trials are required.

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