SUMMARY

The use of bee honey as a wound dressing material is an ancient remedy that has been rediscovered. It is becoming of increasing interest as more reports of its effectiveness are published, the clinical observation recorded that infection is rapidly cleared, inflammation, swelling and pain are quickly reduced, odourless, sloughing of necrotic tissue is induced, granulation and epithelialization are hastened and healing occurs rapidly with minimal scarring. The antimicrobial properties of honey prevent microbial growth in the moist healing environment created, honey causes no tissue damage and actually promotes the healing process. There is no pain or tissue damage when dressings are changed, the amount of honey required per unit area of the wound would depend on the amount of exudation, the usage of honey as a dressing for infected wounds renders it sterile in 3-6 days. Honey has also been found to act as a barrier preventing wounds from becoming infected i.e. preventing cross infection.

The following results were deduced from the study:

- Honey used as dressing reduces the incidence of skin graft areas, helps skin regenerate, making plastic surgery.

- Application of honey causes no pain on dressing, no irritating, no allergic and reaction, and no harmful effect on tissues.

- The highest percentages of types of organism in both the study and control groups respectively were staph aureus, (45% & 46%) followed by pseudomomas (17% & 21%), then proteus (14% & 11%).

- Duration of wound healing was the highest in young aged women (<20 years) among both the study and control groups.

- Mean duration score of wound healing was higher (12.8±3.0 & 19.7±4.5) table 27 among the study and control groups respectively in cases with vicryl suture closure with highly significant difference between them.

- Local bee honey applications reduced the degree of pain, wound, edema, exudation, inflammation, scar, resuture and hospital stay.

- Honey provides a moist healing environment yet prevents bacterial growth even when wounds are heavily infected.

- Honey gives a fast rate of tissue regeneration and suppression of inflammation, oedema, exudation and malodour in wounds.

- Honey is expected to have a direct nutrient effect on regenerating tissue, it contains a wide range of amino acids, vitamins and trace elements.

- Honey would provide an antibacterial action and barrier to further infection of the wound.

- It can decrease postoperative wound sepsis by treatment and management of chronic cases; hypertension, diabetes mellitus, anaemia and obesity.

- Cleaning site of operation by antiseptic solution and air current in operating rooms, reducing number of personnel during operation procedure and wearing gloves, gown, mask, overshoes, overhead during surgery are preventive measures for cross infection.

- Administer antibiotics before operation and postoperatively correctly, isolating infected wound patients, doing culture to this wound and decreasing visitors inside patient room, all participate in accelerating wound healing.

- Health education of nurses workers and patients about hygienic pre-, intra- and post-operative care and alarming signs (manifestation of infection).

- Holding conferences about approaches and standardization of wound care at hospitals.