

Study of Natural Antibacterial Body Wash Against Pathogenic Bacteria, Fungi and Covid-19 (SAR-Cov-2) and Its Efficacy to Protect Skin from Pathogenic Bacteria

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Introduction:

The onset of COVID-19 worldwide pandemic has increased awareness of personal hygiene. Many studies show that body wash products are effective in killing bacteria and fungi but the effect on viruses is still limited. This paper presents a study on the analysis of an antibacterial body wash containing soap and surfactants also *Mentha piperita* (leaf) extract on killing and protection of bacteria, fungi and Covid-19.

Materials & Methods:

Minimum Inhibitory of *Mentha piperita* (leaf) extract

Microbial Culture Inoculation

Concentration range 2 mg/ml to 100 mg/ml

The lowest concentration showing clear Suspension was determined as MIC

Percentage Kill Test

EN 1276:2019 and EN 1650:2008 method

Tested Microorganisms:
- *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* ATCC9027
- *Staphylococcus aureus* ATCC25928
- *Escherichia coli* ATCC35969
- *Candida albicans* ATCC10231
- *Aspergillus brasiliensis* ATCC18040

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- *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* ATCC9027
- *Staphylococcus aureus* ATCC25928
- *Escherichia coli* ATCC35969
- *Salmonella enterica* subsp. *Enterica* serovar *Typhimurium* ATCC14028
- isolate *Cultibacterium acnes*
- *Candida albicans* ATCC10231
- *Aspergillus brasiliensis* ATCC18040

Virucidal Efficacy Suspension Test

EN14476:2013+A2:2019 method against Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome-related Coronavirus 2 (SAR-CoV-2)

Body Wash Formulation

Mentha piperita (leaf) extract is produced by the water distillation process. The extract dose that was used in this formulation is 0.5% as raw material (as active 0.1%). The body wash contained soap and surfactant are processed with Multinix. The appearance of body wash is low viscous gel with viscosity 2000-3000 CP having white color. The pH of the body wash is measured around 8.5-9.5.

12 Hours Protection Test from Pathogenic Bacteria

Treatment and (-) control: wash hand
(+) control: didn't wash hand

Periodic hand wash at 0-hr, 5-hr, 8-hr, 10-hr, and 12-hr

Pour plate 1 ml sample suspension in MacConkey Agar Media to isolate Gram negative bacteria

Colony morphology observation and microorganism identification using Witek

Pilot study was conducted on 5 panelists for each 3 test groups. Subjects exposed to dirt and microorganisms such as outdoor workers were recruited for the study.

Results & Discussion:

Microorganisms	MIC (mg/ml)
<i>S. aureus</i>	3
<i>A. brasiliensis</i>	10
<i>E. coli</i>	25
<i>C. albicans</i>	25
<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	100

Peppermint extract was effective inhibiting *S. aureus* at 3 mg/mL and required a high concentration of 100 mg/mL to inhibit *P. aeruginosa*. *E. coli* and *C. albicans* were inhibited at the extract concentration of 25 mg/mL, while *A. brasiliensis* was inhibited at 10 mg/mL. In peppermint leaves, some compounds have antimicrobial activity namely menthol which is included in one of the terpenoid groups, namely monoterpenes [1]. It has been reported [2] that the leaves of mint have a very strong antibacterial activity against Gram-negative as well as Gram-positive bacteria.

The body wash in a neat condition showed an ability to kill >99.999% of *S. aureus*, *E. coli*, and *Salmonella enterica* subsp. *Enterica* serovar *Typhimurium*, *P. aeruginosa* and *C. acnes*, and >99.991% of *C. albicans* and *A. brasiliensis* in 60 second.

Test	Dilution Tested	Contact Time	Input Load (Log ₁₀ TCID ₅₀)	Output Load (Log ₁₀ TCID ₅₀)	Reduction (Log ₁₀ TCID ₅₀)
Natural Mint Body Wash (Lot No. FH08)	Neat (80% intest)	60 seconds	6.60	≤ 2.51	≥ 4.09
	1/13			≤ 4.13	≥ 2.47
	1/1334			6.10	0.50

The body wash showed ≥ 4.09 log₁₀ reduction at a test concentration of neat (80% in-test), ≥ 2.47 log₁₀ reduction at 1/13, and 0.50 log₁₀ reduction at 1/1334 concentration against SARS-CoV-2. The body wash met the European Standard EN 14476:2013+A2:2019 guideline and all controls met the criteria for a valid test. In this study, the surfactant Sodium Lauryl Ether Sulfate (SLES) was used mainly because of its easy availability and safety profile. The mechanism of SLES in inactivating microbes is by hydrophobic interactions. The hydrophobic group of the SLES surfactant interacts with the microbial surface which is covered by a double layer of the membrane. This is because the interaction between SLES and microorganisms shows the dominant hydrophobic interaction between SLES and viruses. Therefore, the use of SLES surfactant in preparations is sufficient to prevent microbial infection [3].

Positive control showed no bacteria growth starting from 0 hours to 10 hours but showed bacterial growth at 12 hours in 40% of panels. In the treatment group, no microbes were detected from 0 to 12 hours, which was the same as positive controls who washed their hands at every sampling point. There were 2 types of bacterial colonies obtained from positive control. The first bacterial colony is yellowish-white with a flat surface (a) and the second bacteria is yellowish-white to form wrinkles (b). Vitek 2 identified that bacteria were *Pseudomonas stutzeri* and *Bacillus pumilus*. *Pseudomonas stutzeri* is Gram negative bacteria widely distributed in the environment. It was reported as opportunistic pathogen and can cause pneumonia, meningitis, bacteremia, osteomyelitis, ocular infection and joint infection [4]. *Bacillus pumilus* is Gram positive bacteria commonly found in soil. Some reported that the bacteria can cause various infection such as endocarditis, skin infection, sepsis and food poisoning in human [5].

Conclusions:

The MIC of *Mentha piperita* (leaf) extract against *S. aureus*, *P. aeruginosa*, *E. coli*, and *A. brasiliensis*, *C. albicans* was 3 mg/mL, 100 mg/mL, 25 mg/mL, 10 mg/mL, and 25 mg/mL respectively, showing that the extract can inhibit the bacteria, yeast and mold. By quantitative suspension test, body wash was found to be very effective in killing >99.999% *S. typhimurium*, *C. acnes* isolate, *E. coli*, *S. aureus* and *P. aeruginosa*, also >99.991% of *C. albicans* and *A. brasiliensis* within 60 second contact time. It was also effective in inactivating the Covid-19 virus by reducing 4.09 log₁₀ within 60 second contact time. Skin protection efficacy tested on panelists shows that after 12 hours of application there were no pathogenic bacteria detected.

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