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Planta Med 2014; 80 - SL18

DOI: 10.1055/s-0034-1394506

Synergistic activity of cold pressed seed oils from Indian neem (*Azadirachta indica*), karanja (*Pongamia glabra*) and aloe vera gel (*Aloe barbadensis*) in a cosmeceutical moisturizer

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Congress Abstract

The increased interest and knowledge on the beneficial activity of plants and their compounds in human health have contributed to the development of several drugs, widely used in clinical practice worldwide. Over the last years the incorporation of natural products, particularly plant based products, in cosmeceuticals has also increased, leading the industry to adapt and redirect its production in order to correspond to the consumers' needs. Scientific studies are, however, still insufficient leading to the constant introduction in the market of products with unknown benefits and risks. *Azadirachta indica* (neem) and *Pongamia glabra* (karanja) oils, and *Aloe barbadensis* (aloe vera gel) are three components that have been employed in topical cosmeceutical products. On the present study the optimization of a pharmaceutical preparation originated a cream with extracts of the three plants mentioned above. This formulation was then applied in adult volunteers (more than 150) with skin disorders, namely psoriasis and skin burns. The synergy of the properties of these plants, in specific treatment situations, resulted in very positive results. In all cases, after repeated applications, notorious improvements or complete treatment were observed, without side effects. Examples of the treatments are shown in Figure 1. The three plants revealed to be associated to a high degree of skin hydration, contributing, therefore, to cellular skin regeneration. Ongoing clinical evidences have shown that mixtures with these three plants are effective in the treatment of some skin injuries. The results demonstrate a similar effectiveness, when comparing to the conventional treatments.

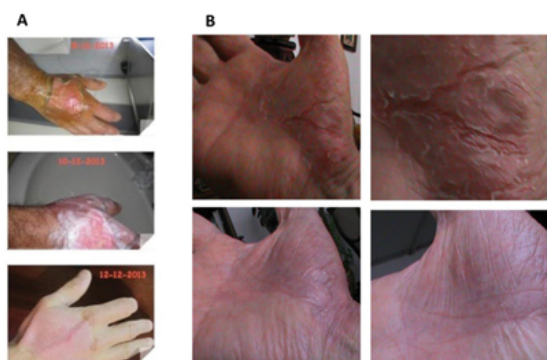


Fig. 1: Treatment of a hand-burn in 96h (column A) and of a palmoplantar psoriasis in 3 months (column B).

Keywords: *Azadirachta indica*, *Pongamia glabra*, *Aloe barbadensis*, dermocosmetics, psoriasis, skin burns