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The Production of Chitosan from Shrimp Shell Waste and Its Formulation in Patch Dosage Form Combined with *Aloe vera* Extract as Antiinfection Agent

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Abstract

Chitosan can be obtained from chitin isolated from shrimp waste through the process of deacetylation of chitin. Chitosan can be used as a patch base material because of its biocompatibility and biodegradability, and has antibacterial activity. The combination of Chitosan and *Aloe vera* extracts may be useful in patch dosage forms as wound dressings that have antiinfective activity. The aims of this research was to obtain patch from combination of *Aloe vera* L. leaves extract and chitosan isolated from shrimp shell waste as antiinfection agent. Chitosan was obtained from shell waste sequentially by deproteinisation, demineralisation, and deacetylation processes, and analyzed its characteristic, respectively; *Aloe vera* gel was extracted using maceration methods with ethanol as solvent; patch was formulated using 2% chitosan in 1.5% glacial acetic acid, 1.6% *Aloe vera* extracts and 10 % glycerin and evaluated its physical properties, skin irritation test, and antibacterial test against *S.aureus*. The results showed that patch made from the combination of shrimp waste chitosan and *Aloe vera* had good physical characteristics and effectively inhibit the growth of *S.aureus*. So, the combination of *Aloe vera* leaves extract and chitosan from shrimp shell as patch can be used as antiinfection wound healing.

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Keyword

Aloe vera L.,
Chitosan,
wound dressing,
patch,
shrimp shell waste.

Introduction

The injury in which skin is torn, cut or punctured, also called wound (Katari *et al.*, 2014; Varshney & Dhyani, 2015). Wound healing is the process comprising of healing of dermal and epidermal tissues by their regeneration (Katari *et al.*, 2014; Takeo *et al.*, 2015). It involves consecutive cascade of stages inflammation, migration, proliferation, and maturation (Katari *et al.*, 2014; Takeo *et al.*, 2015). Skin itself repairs the wound but open wounds faces a number of anomalies like infection (sepsis) from air, water pollutants and microorganisms, its spread to health tissues and tissue disruption (rupture) and even to others (Katari *et al.*, 2014; Devika & Koilpillai, 2014). *Staphylococcus aureus* is one of the most common bacteria caused infection (Choudury *et al.*, 2012; Rajan *et al.*, 2016). Previous research showed that this type

of bacteria caused mild skin infections and postoperative wounds since 1880s (Choudury *et al.*, 2012; Vijayalakshmi, 2015).

One of the most popular local drug delivery system today is transdermal drug delivery system in the form of transdermal patch (Fathima *et al.*, 2017; Sachan & Bajpai, 2013). It is preferred because it has many advantages compared to other preparations (e.g. oral dosage form) (Fathima *et al.*, 2017; Sachan & Bajpai, 2013). One of the polymers used in transdermal patch formulation is chitosan (Fathima *et al.*, 2017; Daniel & Hamblin, 2016). Chitosan is used as the part of drug delivery system because of its biocompatibility and biodegradability (Fathima *et al.*, 2017; Daniel & Hamblin, 2016).

Chitosan can be obtained from chitin that is isolated from shrimp shell waste by chitin deacetylation (Alami & Permatasari, 2016; Ahing & Wid, 2016). Chitin content on shrimp shell waste is about 15-20% of dry weight (Alami & Permatasari, 2016; Danujatmiko *et al.*, 2014). Shrimp waste is its head and shell that cause environmental pollution (Alami & Permatasari, 2016; Ahing & Wid, 2016). Therefore, this waste can be utilized as chitosan source (Alami & Permatasari, 2016; Ahing & Wid, 2016). Based on Bellamkonda *et al.* (2017) showed that the obtained chitosan has antibacterial activity against *Staphylococcus aureus* (Bellamkonda *et al.*, 2017). Hence, chitosan in patch preparation has two functions, as polymer in patch formulation and as antibacterial agent.

One of the natural materials that has been known to be used in wound healing is *Aloe vera* L. (Silva *et al.*, 2013; Sharma *et al.*, 2015). *Aloe vera* L. has an activity as antibacterial, as evidenced by the results of a study conducted by Jothi *et al.* (2014) showing that *Aloe vera* can inhibit the growth of *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteria with a percentage of resistance of 61-66% (Jothi *et al.*, 2014). Aside from being an antibacterial, *Aloe vera* L. also has increased collagen content within the wound, supporting faster wound healing (Silva *et al.*, 2013; Sharma *et al.*, 2015). *Aloe vera* contains many active substances that are essential for wound healing (Silva *et al.*, 2013; Mahor *et al.*, 2016). Based on the results of research conducted by Tudose *et al.* (2009) on NCTC2544 cells showed that cells given *Aloe vera* extract experienced higher cell proliferation than control (Tudose *et al.*, 2009). These results suggest that *Aloe vera* can be used as a topical natural treatment (Tudose *et al.*, 2009; Mahor, 2016). Both activities possessed by *Aloe vera* are very useful in wound healing due to its synergistic effect in this research. This study aims to obtain patch from *Aloe vera* extract combination and chitosan as wound dressing.

Materials and Methods

Isolation of Chitosan

Shrimp shell was obtained from Kima industry in Makassar. The waste was then washed and cleaned using running water, and mashed using blender. Next, the dried waste was kept in closed container.

Isolation of Chitin

The process of chitin isolation involved two steps. Firstly, demineralization which was done by soaking the dried waste in 2 liters of 3% hydrochloric acid for 16 hours at room temperature. After that, the residue was washed and soaked in distilled water until neutral. Secondly, deproteinization which was done by soaking the residue in 2 liters of 4% sodium hydroxide solution for 20 hours at room temperature.

Purification of Chitosan (Deacetylation)

The residue was washed and soaked in distilled water until neutral then dried. Deacetylation process was done by soaking the residue in 2 litres of 60% sodium hydroxide solution for 20 hours at 65°C. Afterwards, it was washed using distilled water until neutral. The obtained residue was chitosan which was then dried for 4 hours at 65 ± 5°C and ready to characterize.

Analysis of Chitosan

Chitosan analysis consists of pharmaceutical and chemistry analysis. The pharmaceuticals analysis includes pH measurement of chitosan solution using pH meter, viscosity measurement of chitosan solution Brookfield® viscometer, solubility test which was done by dissolving 0.5 g of chitosan with 50 ml of 1% acetic acid, stirring for 30 min and observed solubility, and morphology observation using Scanning Electron Microscopy. The chemistry analysis includes crystallinity detection using X-Ray Diffraction Spectrometer, functional groups observation using infrared spectroscopy in 4000 – 400 cm⁻¹, and degree of deacetylation calculation based on FT-IR results, using the following formula:

$$DDA (\%) = \left[\left(1 - \left(\frac{A_{1655}}{A_{3450}} \times \frac{1}{1,33} \right) \right) \times 100 \right]$$

Extraction of *Aloe vera*

Aloe vera leaves was washed using distilled water to remove the dirt and then peeled. The gel of *Aloe vera* was cut into small pieces and then mashed. After that, it was dried in the oven for 24 hours at 80°C. The dried gel was macerated using ethanol 96% for 24 hours. The solvent was evaporated using rotary evaporator to obtain the viscous extract.

Analysis of *Aloe vera* Extract

Antibacterial Test

Antibacterial test was done by using agar diffusion method. A total of 30 mg of extract were dissolved in 3 ml of DMSO. Ten microlitres of *Staphylococcus aureus* culture suspension was added into petri dish followed by 15 ml of MHA media. A total of 40 µl and 80 µl of extract solution was added into paper disc which was placed on the agar surface. It was incubated for 1 x 24 hours at 37°C. The formed inhibit zone was then observed.

Qualitative Test of Acemannan in *Aloe vera* Extract

A total of 100 mg extract was added to 1 ml of distilled water. After that, 2.5 ml of 0.2 M sodium hydroxide solution and 1 ml of 0.0002 M congo red solution were added consecutively. The formed color was observed.

Formulation of Patch

Two percents of chitosan was dissolved in 1.5% (v/v) glacial acetic acid. Afterwards, 10% of glycerin and 1.6% of *Aloe vera* extract were added consecutively while stirring. About 20 g of the solution was poured into petri dish and then dried in the oven for 48 hours at 40°C.

Evaluation of Patch

The thickness of the patch was measured using vernier calipers at 3 different points. The folding endurance of patch was measured manually by cutting the patch by 1 cm² and

folded repeatedly in the same place till broken. The number of folds without fracture was the value of folding ability. Patch was weighed and placed in container containing 100 ml saturated solution of potassium chloride. After 24 hours, patch then weighed again. The percentage of moisture uptake was measured using the following formula:

$$\% \text{moisture absorption} = \frac{\text{final weight} - \text{Initial weight}}{\text{Initial weight}} \times 100$$

Moisture Content Measurement

Patch was weighed accurately and placed in container containing silica gel. After 24 hours, patch then weighed again. The percentage of moisture loss was calculated using the formula below:

$$\% \text{moisture loss} = \frac{\text{Initial weight} - \text{Final weight}}{\text{Final weight}} \times 100$$

Skin Irritation Test

The test used three rats (*Rattus novergicus*) as test animals. The patch was pasted on the back of the rat (*Rattus novergicus*) for 24 hours. Erythema and edema were observed after 24 hours treatment.

Antibacterial Test

Antibacterial test was conducted using *Staphylococcus aureus* culture in Mueller Hilton Agar media and tetracycline as a positive control. 0.1 ml of bacteria suspension was added in petri dish followed by MHA media. Circle shaped patch with diameter 5.5 mm was placed on the surface of the media. Twenty microliters of 30 ppm tetracycline solution in paper disk was also placed on the surface of medium. It was then incubated for 1 x 24 hours at 37°C. The formed inhibitory zone was observed.

Results and discussion

Isolation and Characterization of Chitosan from Shrimp Shell Waste

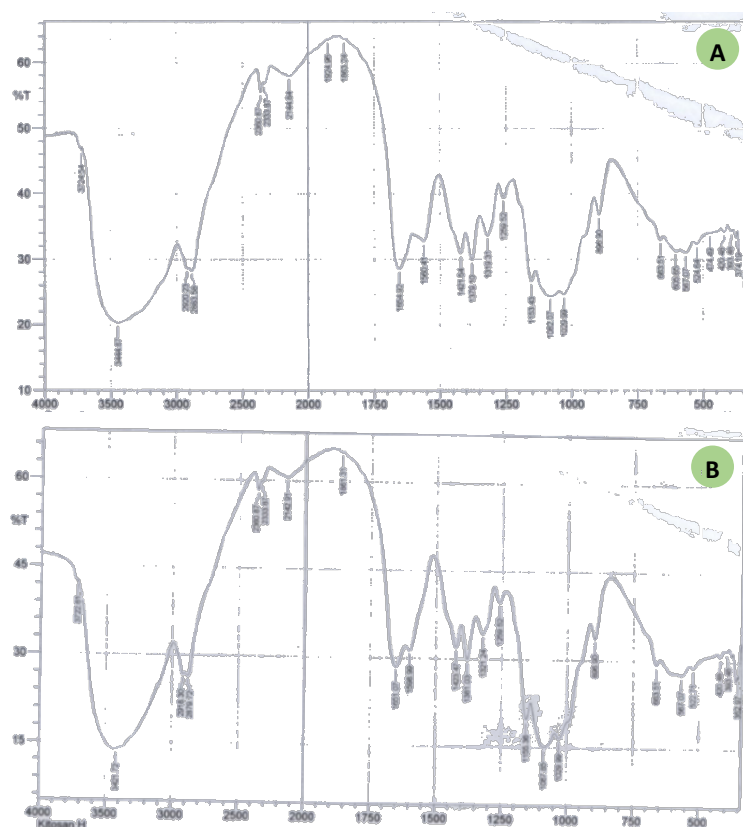
The percentage of yield of chitosan that obtained was 32.67%. In addition, there are also 8% - 10% of calcium phosphate of total anorganic substances. Deproteinization purpose is to break the bond between protein and chitins, by adding sodium hydroxide. In its extracted crude form, chitin has a highly ordered crystalline structure, is translucent, resilient and quite tough. It has, however, poor solubility and low reactivity (Abbaas, 2015). Deacetylation aims to remove the acetyl group that attach in chitin. In deacetylation process, high concentration of sodium hydroxide solution (40 – 60%) is used to obtained chitosan from chitin. Chitosan characterization results is presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Characterization of Chitosan Isolated from Shrimp Shell Waste

Analysis	Result
pH	4
Solubility in glacial acetic acid	Soluble in 1 % solution
Viscosity	93.33 cps

In table 1, pH of chitosan was 4, while the previous studies got 8.5. In the extraction process, strong acid (hydrochloric acid) and strong base (sodium hydroxide) were used, so that different volume or concentration that used can affect the pH of chitosan. The solubility of chitosan in glacial acetic acid was one of the parameters that can be used as standard of chitosan quality. The highest the solubility, the better chitosan obtained. In this test, the solubility of chitosan sample and chitosan standard was the same that 1 gram of chitosan dissolved in 100 ml of glacial acetic acid. The measurement of viscosity gave the result of 93.33 cps of chitosan sample and 86.67 cps of chitosan standard.

The result of chitosan characterization using FT-IR spectroscopy was given in Figure 1 which was chitosan sample and chitosan standard, respectively. In the analysis using FT-IR, it can be clearly seen that peak area of chitosan sample was in the range of 3724.54 – 349.12 nm^{-1} , while the peak area of chitosan standard was in the range of 3722.61 – 352.97 nm^{-1} . For the deacetylation degree calculation is obtained 30% and 37.7% for chitosan sample and chitosan standard, respectively. It indicated that there is no significant characteristic differences between sample and standard.



**Figure 1. FT-IR Spectra of Chitosan
(A. Chitosan Sample, B. Chitosan Standard)**

In the analysis using XRD, theoretically said that the crystal of chitin will be decreased after changed to chitosan, which the strongest reflection index was at the 9 – 10 degrees because in that area there was an incorporation of water molecules into crystal lattices. Crystallinity degree is depend on deacetylation degree of chitosan; the higher the degree of deacetylation, the higher the degree of crystallinity (Yuan *et al.*, 2011). This may be caused by the fact that chitosan chain with higher deacetylation cause the particles become more

flexible and have less acetyl groups. The results of this analysis is presented in Table 2 and Figure 2.

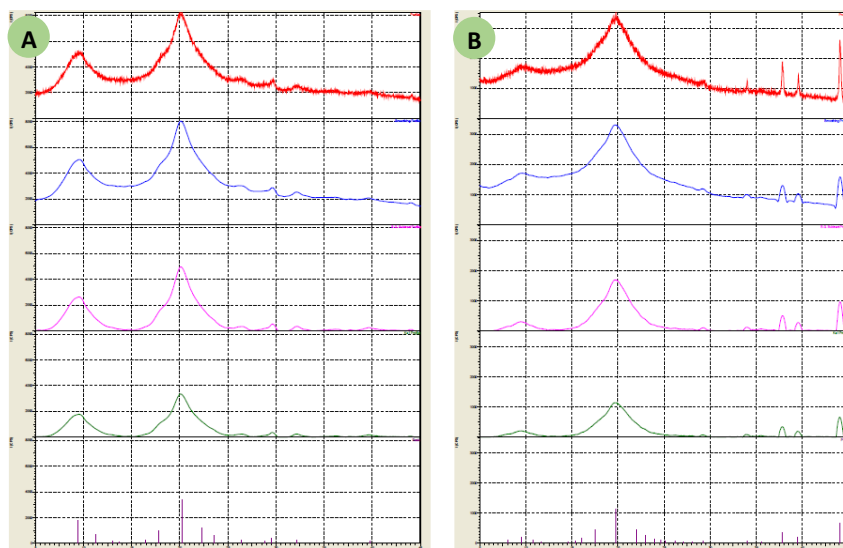


Figure 2. X-Ray Diffraction Results
(A. Chitosan Sample, B. Chitosan Standard)

Table 2. *Crl* Value of Chitosan Standard and Chitosan Sample

Types of Chitosan	<i>Crl</i>	
	<i>Crl</i> ₁₁₀	<i>Crl</i> ₀₂₀
Chitosan Standard	18.5144	-101.25
Chitosan Sample	18.7048	-75.20

Observation of chitosan structure using scanning electron microscopy (SEM), theoretically said that chitosan has smooth morphology with minimum residue, while according to research that is conducted by Islam et al. (2011), reported that chitosan was not homogen and has a bit not smooth surface with the presence of bond and shrinkage on the surface. Based on that information, the result that obtained were appropriate (Figure 3).

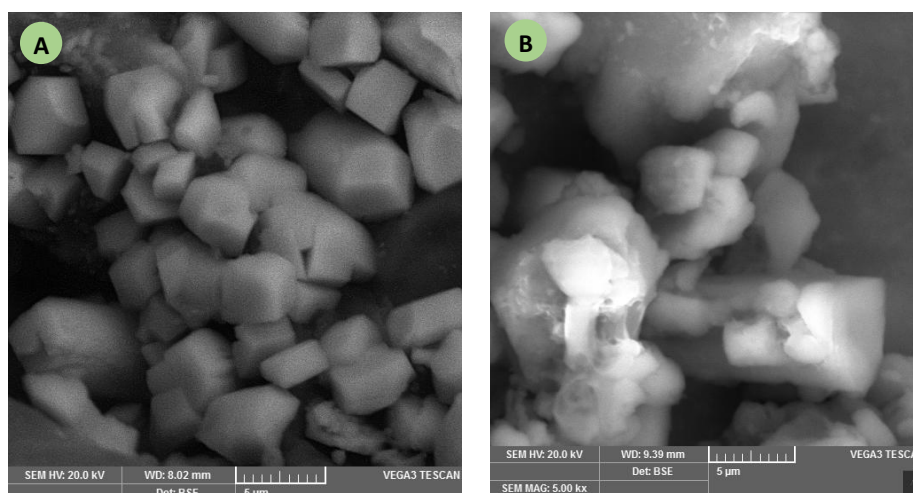


Figure 3. Morphology Observation Results Using SEM
(A. Chitosan Sample, B. Chitosan Standard)

Extraction of *Aloe vera* Leaves

The results of *Aloe vera* leaves extraction was obtained the percentage of yield of 22.73%. The qualitative test of acemannan in *Aloe vera* extract gave positive result which was showed by red complex formed after the addition of congo red in an alkaline situation. This positive result indicated that *Aloe vera* extract contained acemannan as cell regeneration stimulating agent. Acemannan is a linear polysaccharide composed by (1,4)-linked mannosyl residues, with C2 or C3 acetylated and some side-chains formed by galactose units attached to C6. It is $\alpha\beta$ -(1,4)-linked polydispersed, highly acetylated mannan with an average molecular weight of approximately 1000 kDa, is obtained from the inner leaf of *Aloe vera*. Acemannan has shown to accelerate wound healing. Acemannan produces immune agents such as interferon and interleukin which help to destroy viruses, bacteria, and tumor (cancer) cells (Coche *et al.*, 2014). The result of antibacterial activity test is shown in Table 3.

Table 3. Average Diameter of Inhibitory Zone of *Aloe vera* Extract (mm)

Concentration of Extract	Diameter of Inhibitory Zone		Average Diameter
	1	2	
80 μ l (1.6%)	7.78	8.84	8.31
40 μ l (0.8%)	0	0	0

Formulation and Evaluation of Transdermal Patch

The obtained chitosan and *Aloe vera* extract were then formulated in transdermal patch which evaluation results is shown in Table 4.

Table 4. Evaluation Results of Transdermal Patch

Tests	Results
Moisture Uptake Test (%)	40.03
Moisture Content Test (%)	23.64
Thickness Test (mm)	0.45
Folding Endurance Test (times)	114
Skin Irritation Test	Not irritating

Prepared transdermal patch showed good physical characteristic. As in study by Jaydatt & Sreenivas (2013) showed that transdermal patch have good physical characteristic with thickness varies between 0.42-0.45 mm, folding endurance between 102-137 times (Jaydatt & Sreenivas, 2013) while the higher percentage of moisture uptake and moisture content is due to its hydrophobic nature of the polymer used (Kumar *et al.*, 2012).

The antibacterial activity test was done using positive control (tetracycline) in order to compare the activity of patch with tetracycline. Tetracycline is one of antibiotic which is commonly used to treat infection caused by *S. aureus*. The result of antibacterial activity test showed that transdermal patch of chitosan and *Aloe vera* extract has antibacterial effect against *Staphylococcus aureus* with the average diameter of inhibitory zone of 6.39. The diameter of inhibitory zone of positive control (tetracycline) was 7.73 mm which was not significantly different from the patch. This indicated that the ability of *Aloe vera* extract and chitosan to inhibit the growth of *S. aureus* was not much different with tetracycline. Arunkumar & Mutuselyam (2009) showed that ethanol extract from *Aloe vera* can inhibit *S. Aureus* (Arunkumar & Mutuselyam, 2009), and Morshed *et al.* (2011) showed chitosan

isolated from shrimp shells having activity against *S. aureus* bacteria with a 10 mm inhibit zone (Morshed *et al.*, 2011).

The description of results above are supported by several studies, including: Rahman *et al.* (2017), which said that *Aloe vera* has a cell regeneration effect of acemannan compounds and the antibacterial effects of aloin compounds (Rahman *et al.*, 2017). Another study, Hong *et al.* (2017), said that chitosan is a polymer that is often used in topical preparations because of its highly beneficial mucoadhesive properties against drug delivery to mucoid-covered organ targets (Hong *et al.*, 2017). In addition, it has the effect of wound healing as well as antibacterial.

Research has shown that *Aloe vera* increases the collagen content and promotes faster wound healing. In addition, chitosan has been widely used as a base material in matrix production for wound management because of its easy production, long shelf life and the intrinsic nature of this polymer (Silva *et al.*, 2013). Therefore, it can be said that the results of this research has been in accordance with existing theories and supported by some previous research.

Conclusion

Combination of chitosan form shimp shell waste and *Aloe vera* extract can be formulated into patch dosageform which had antibacterial activity against *Staphylococcus aureus*.

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