



BestBETS for Vets

Supporting veterinary clinicians in making evidence-based decisions



The University of
Nottingham

UNITED KINGDOM · CHINA · MALAYSIA

Do wounds in canines heal quicker with Manuka honey?

Clinical Scenario

Henry, the 2 year old Labrador Retriever, has been involved in a road traffic accident in which he partially degloved his distal left fore limb. You think you can repair some of the damage with surgery, but know that some areas will have to heal by second intention. You've recently been on a CPD course about wounds that recommended applying Manuka honey to wounds. You wonder whether adding medical grade Manuka honey to your usual dressing protocol would improve the rate of healing...

3-Part Question (PICO)

In [dogs with acute superficial wounds] does using [a dressing alone versus a dressing plus medical grade Manuka honey] result in [more rapid wound healing]?

Search Strategy

MEDLINE(R) In-Process & Other Non-Indexed Citations and MEDLINE(R) 1946 to Present using the OVID interface

(dog.mp. OR dogs.mp. OR canine.mp. OR canines.mp. OR Canis.mp. OR exp Dogs/)

AND

(wound.mp. OR wounds.mp. OR (wounds and injuries).mp. OR abrasion.mp. OR abrasions.mp. OR laceration.mp. OR lacerations.mp. OR lesion.mp. OR lesions.mp. OR exp Wounds and Injuries/ OR exp Lacerations/)

AND

(honey.mp. OR Manuka.mp. OR Medihoney.mp. OR Activon.mp. OR exp Honey/)

CAB Abstracts 1910 to Present using the OVID interface

(dog.mp. OR dogs.mp. OR canine.mp. OR canines.mp. OR Canis.mp. OR exp Dogs/ OR exp Canis/)

AND

(wound.mp. OR wounds.mp. OR (wounds and injuries).mp. OR abrasion.mp. OR abrasions.mp. OR laceration.mp. OR lacerations.mp. OR lesion.mp. OR lesions.mp. OR exp wounds/ OR exp injuries/ OR exp abrasion/ OR exp lesions/)

AND

(honey.mp. OR Manuka.mp. OR Medihoney.mp. OR Activon.mp. OR exp honey/)

Search Outcome

MEDLINE

- 7 papers found in MEDLINE search
- 6 papers excluded as they don't meet the PICO question
- 1 papers excluded as they are in a foreign language
- 0 papers excluded as they are review articles/in vitro research/conference proceedings
- **0 total relevant papers from MEDLINE**

CAB Abstracts

- 91 papers found in CAB search
- 82 papers excluded as they don't meet the PICO question
- 2 papers excluded as they are in a foreign language
- 7 papers excluded as they are review articles/in vitro research/conference proceedings
- **0 total relevant papers from CAB**

Total relevant papers

0 relevant papers from both MEDLINE and CAB Abstracts

Comments

No citations have been included in this BET as none of the papers found directly compared the approaches of interest to each other (e.g. they did not answer the PICO), were narrative review articles, conference proceedings or related to *in vitro* and experimental research. Therefore, the table of evidence below has been left blank.

Summary of Evidence

No Summary of Evidence yet.

Comments

The search strategy used to identify evidence sources for this PICO question was not designed to include wounds resulting from burns. A search with terms relating to burns would need to be carried out to address the role of Manuka honey in burn wound healing.

There were publications found that described the use of honey in wound management, but these were primarily case reports (and therefore couldn't answer the comparative component of our PICO) or opinion pieces.

Narrative reviews, expert opinion pieces and those describing novel wound management, along with other sources such as textbooks and reputable online resources, can be used when deciding which approach to employ when no peer-reviewed evidence exists. However, an awareness of the strengths and limitations of all of these evidence sources in relation to decision-making is important.

There is a need for further research to directly compare success rates of the different wound management approaches, in order to improve the strength of the evidence base in this area.

Bottom line

At the time of publishing this BestBET, there was no comparative peer-reviewed evidence published looking at the difference in time to healing between acute superficial wound management with and without medical grade Manuka honey in dogs. Therefore, choice of management strategy should be based on other forms of evidence (e.g. expert opinion, narrative reviews etc.).

Disclaimer

The BETs on this website are a summary of the evidence found on a topic and are not clinical guidelines. It is the responsibility of the individual veterinary surgeon to ensure appropriate decisions are made based on the specific circumstances of patients under their care, taking into account other factors such as local licensing regulations. **Read small print (/disclaimer)**

References

About this BET

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