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Medical-grade honey kills antibiotic-resistant bacteria in vitro and eradicates skin colonization.

Kwakman PH, Van den Akker JP, Güçlü A, Aslami H, Binnekade JM, de Boer L, Boszhard L, Paulus F, Middelhoek P, te Velde AA, Vandenbroucke-Grauls CM, Schultz MJ, Zaat SA

Clin Infect Dis 2008 Jun 1 **46**(11):1677-82 [**abstract on PubMed**] [**citations on Google Scholar**] [**related articles**] [**full text**] [**order article**]

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David Calfee Mount Sinai Medical Center, United States of America INFECTIOUS DISEASES Hypothesis	**In the current environment of increasing bacterial resistance to currently available antibiotics, there is a critical need to identify and develop novel antimicrobial compounds with different mechanisms of action and resistance. This work explores the possible effectiveness of honey in modern medicine.** The authors studied the in vitro antibacterial activity of medical-grade honey against several gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria. They also studied its ability to reduce skin colonization in healthy volunteers. They found that medical-grade honey had significant in vitro activity against common bacterial pathogens, including antibiotic resistant organisms such as MRSA and extended spectrum beta-lactamase (ESBL)-producing gram-negative bacilli. Its application also produced significant reductions in forearm skin colonization of the healthy volunteers tested. The findings of this interesting work suggest that further study based on the clinical effectiveness of medical-grade honey as a topical antimicrobial agent for the prevention or the treatment of bacterial infections is warranted.

Competing interests: No potential interests relevant to this article were reported.
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