

# DEVELOPMENT OF WOUND HEALING HERBAL FORMULATION

## “HERBAL WOUND GUARD”

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**Abstract** The present study was to evaluate the wound healing activity of developed polyherbal formulation in the form of ointment by using hydroalcoholic extracts of leaves of *Ficus religiosa*, *Mentha arvensis* and roots of *Rauwolfia serpentina* with excipients. The phytochemical studies revealed the presence of alkaloids, phytosterol, tannins, flavonoids and protein. The developed polyherbal ointment was examined for wound healing activity in two types of wound models on rats; the excision and incision wound model. The polyherbal formulation was applied once daily until complete healing of wound and it was noted that the period of epithelization significantly ( $P < 0.05$ ) reduced when compared with vehicle control group ( $15 \pm 0.34$ ) which was nearly comparable with standard drug group. The tensile strength of healed wound was significantly increased ( $P < 0.05$ ) as compared to vehicle control group. Hence the developed polyherbal formulation showed significant ( $P < 0.05$ ) wound healing activity as compared to control group. The obtained results were nearly compared with standard drug group betadine ointment in terms of contractibility, wound closure time and tensile strength.

**Index Terms-** Polyherbal formulation, Ointment, Hydroalcoholic extracts.

### I. INTRODUCTION

Wound is a physical trauma where the skin is torn, cut or punctured. On exposure to air, on microorganism enter the wound which leads to wound contamination and finally development of infection<sup>1</sup>. Dermal wound is a common pathologic condition and may be defined as any break in the integrity of the skin. It is associated with high degree of morbidity due to blood loss, pain, edema, inflammation and loss of functionality. Cut wound are characterized by migration and proliferation of fibroblasts, endothelial cells, deposition of connective tissue, angiogenesis, re-epithelization and finally contraction of wound<sup>2</sup>. Presently the scientists are keen to evaluate drugs from plant origin. It is due to their specific healing properties, healing action and non-toxic effects. Several plants and their products are used in folk medicine to treat wound, and the plants like Ginseng, Sunflower, Brahmi etc. have been reported to promote the healing<sup>3</sup>.

The leaves of the *Ficus religiosa* belonging to family Moraceae have purgative properties and are also recommended for wounds and skin infection<sup>4</sup>, anticancer activity<sup>5</sup>, antiulcer activity<sup>6</sup>, anti-diabetic activity<sup>7</sup>. The leaves of *Mentha arvensis*, Lamiaceae

known as “Pudina” acrid, aromatic, thermogenic, stimulant, anodyne, deodorant, antiseptic, vulnerary, anthelmintic, carminative, digestive, stomachic, antiemetic, cardiotoxic, expectorant, diuretics, depurative, dentifrice, antispasmodic, febrifuge and contraceptive. They are useful in vitiated condition of vata, arthralgia, halitosis, indolent ulcers, wounds, cuts, helminthiasis, dyspepsia, flatulence, colic, peptic ulcer, vomiting, diarrhea, cardiac debility, cough, asthma, bronchitis, strangury, skin disease, amenorrhoea, fever and general weakness<sup>8</sup>. It is also have antimicrobial activity<sup>9</sup>, antiulcer activity<sup>10</sup>, antifungal activity<sup>11</sup>, anti-bacterial activity<sup>12</sup>. Roots of *Rauwolfia serpentina*, Apocynaceae, are bitter, acrid, laxative, anthelmintic, thermogenic, diuretic and possess sedative properties. It is highly reputed for hypertension and is useful in strangury, fever, wound, colic, insomnia, epilepsy, giddiness, dyspepsia and vitiated conditions of kapha and vata. The decoction of the root is used to increase uterine contractions<sup>13</sup>. Roots of the plant also used as antidiabetic<sup>14</sup> and antidiarrhoeal drug<sup>15</sup>.

The objective of the present study was to investigate wound healing activity of developed polyherbal formulation in form of suspension by using combined herbal extracts.

### II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

#### Plant Material:

Leaves of *Ficus religiosa*, *Mentha arvensis* and roots of *Rauwolfia serpentina* were procured from local market and same were authenticated by Dr. Seema Bhadhauria, Head of Department of Botany, R.B.S. College, Agra and sample specimen (Voucher No. of the Specimen: RBSC/2014/196) were deposited in the herbarium of the Department of Pharmacognosy, Anand College of Pharmacy, Agra for future reference.

#### Extraction:

Two hundred gram each, standardized powder of leaves of *Ficus religiosa*, *Mentha arvensis* and roots of *Rauwolfia serpentina* in the ratio of 1:2:1 were subjected to extraction with 60% hydroalcohol by maceration for seven days at room temperature<sup>16</sup>. After extraction, the extract was filtered and concentrated at room temperature. The extract was subjected to qualitative chemical tests adopting standard procedure.<sup>17, 18</sup>

#### Development of Polyherbal Formulation (PHF):

The polyherbal formulation was prepared by using 6% hydroalcoholic extracts as bioactive ingredient and formulated in the form of simple ointment base BP<sup>19</sup>. Dissolve above specified quantity of extract in 7.75 ml of water and added remaining ingredients in water and heat the solution to 70 °C in a beaker. Melt the stearyl alcohol and white petrolatum on a hot plate. Heat this mixture to 70 °C. Add the oleaginous phase slowly to the

aqueous phase with constant stirring. Remove from the heat and stir the mixture until it congeals. The ingredients and their quantity were used to prepare formulation or ointment specified in Table I.

**Table I: Formula for Formulation**

Sr. No.	Name of Ingredients	Quantity in percent	Quantity Taken
1	Hydroalcoholic extract	6%	1.5g
2	Sodium Lauryl Sulphate	1%	0.25g
3	Propylene Glycol	12%	3.0ml
4	Stearyl Alcohol	25%	6.25g
5	White Petrolatum	25%	6.25g
6	Purified Water	31%	7.75ml

**Standardization of polyherbal formulation (PHF):**

Standardization of developed polyherbal formulation in the form of ointment was done by using different organoleptic characters (color, odor and taste) as well as physicochemical parameters like pH, loss on drying, spreadability, diffusion study, skin irritation study<sup>20</sup>. The results of the studies were shown in Table II.

**pH:** The pH of the formulation was recorded by using a digital pH meter of Systronic, Ahmedabad. Weighted quantity of the sample was dissolved in distilled water and stored for two hours. The measurement of pH was done in triplicate and average values were considered.

**Spread-ability:** The spread ability was expressed in terms of times in seconds taken by two slides to slip off from ointment placed in between the slides under the direction of certain load. Spread ability was calculated by using the formula.

$$S = (M \times L \div T)$$

Where,

- S=Spreadability
- M=Weight tied to upper slide
- L=Length of glass slides
- T=Time taken to separate the slide

**Diffusion study:**

The diffusion study was carried by preparing agar nutrient medium of known concentration. It was poured into a petridish and allowed to set. A hole was bored at the center of the petridish and the prepared formulation was placed in it. The time taken for the ointment to get diffused was noted.

**Skin irritation study:**

Healthy rabbits were selected and were shaved in two different areas of the dorsal side, each about 500mm. The rabbit was kept in rabbit holder and the first area was kept as control, to which emulsifying ointment base was applied, the second area was treated with polyherbal ointment. After 48 hrs the skin was observed and compared with control.

**Table II: Physicochemical properties of the formulation**

Sr. No.	Physicochemical parameters	Formulation
1	Color	Light skin color

2	Odor	Sweetish with bitter characteristic
3	Loss on drying	9.6 % w/w
4	pH	7.0
5	Spreadability (seconds)	18
6	Diffusion study	0.68 cm
7	Skin irritation study	No skin irritation was observed

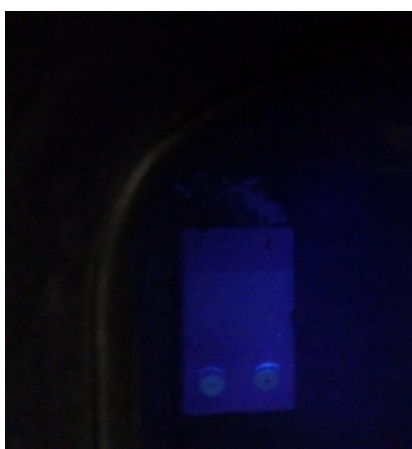
**CHROMATOGRAPHY STUDIES:**

Chromatography study through Thin Layer Chromatography was done to evaluate the developed formulation for the presence of different chemical constituents which is responsible for wound healing activity and compare it with extracts. The obtained results were shown in Figure 1 and Table III.

**Experimental condition:**

TLC glass plate: Silica gel G  
Solvent system: Chloroform: Acetone (9.5: 0.5)

**Figure 1: Thin Layer Chromatography Profile of Extract and Formulation**



**Table III: Results of TLC Profile of Extracts and Formulation**

Name of compounds	Rf values	Presence possibility	of	Standard of Rf values
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		compounds	
1.Extracts and Formulation	0.285	Myrecetin hexaacetate	0.1
		Dimethoxycinnamic acid	0.20
		Trimethoxycinnamic acid	0.30
		Catechin Penta acetate	0.40
		Khellin	

**STABILITIES STUDIES:**

The purpose of it to find out the quality of product during storage at Room temperature, 4 °C and 45 °C due to environmental factor's effect.

**Method:**

The formulation means ointment was packed in white colored glass bottle, which are tightly capped. They were then stored for three months and evaluated for various parameters at Room temperature, 4 °C and 45 °C. The obtained results were shown in Table IV.

**Table IV: Stability data of the formulation (Ointment)**

S r. No	Month	Temperature	Physical appearance	pH	Spreadability
1	1 <sup>st</sup>	4 °C	Skin color	6.9	13
		RT	Skin color	6.9	13
		45 °C	Skin color	6.9	13
2	2 <sup>nd</sup>	4 °C	Skin color	6.7	19
		RT	Skin color	6.7	15
		45 °C	Skin color	6.7	13
3	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 °C	Skin color	6.6	19
		RT	Skin color	5.6	16
		45 °C	Skin color	6.6	20

**WOUND HEALING ACTIVITY:**

**Toxicity studies:**

Toxicity studies were done as per the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), revised 423 guidelines<sup>21</sup>. Albino mice were kept overnight fasting prior to extract administered in suspension form. A total 6 animals of two groups three in each group received formulation from 300 mg/kg to 2000 mg/kg body weight. After each administration of dose food was withheld for further 3-4 hours. Animals were observed individually daily for a period of 14 days. Based on these studies the doses were selected for the evaluation of wound healing activities. The LD<sub>50</sub> of the extracts falls under the class for values with no signs of acute toxicity till 2000 mg/kg body weight, so that 1/10<sup>th</sup> was taken as effective therapeutic doses for

formulation. The selected doses for formulation were 200 mg/kg body weight.

**Administrations:**

Experimental animals were grouped into three, six each and were treated as follow. Group I treated with simple petroleum jelly (Vaseline) served as control or vehicle control group, Group II rats were treated with standard drug betadine serve as positive control or standard group, Group III animals treated with polyherbal formulation (PHF) in the form of ointment serve as treatment or formulation group.

**Excision wound model:**

An impression was made on the dorsal thoracic region 1cm away from the vertebral column and 5 cm away from the ear of the anesthetized rat. Skin was excised to full thickness to obtain a wound area of about 500 mm<sup>2</sup>. The ointment was applied once daily until complete healing of wound and the wound area was measured on a millimeter scale graph paper on alternate days. The percentage of wound healing was calculated. Falling of scar was taken as the endpoint for complete epithelization and the day taken for this was considered as period of epithelization<sup>21</sup>. The obtained results were shown in Table V.

**Incision wound model:**

Two paravertebral straight incisions of 6 cm were made on either sides of the vertebral column. Homeostasis was achieved by blotting the wound with a cotton swab dipped in saline and the wound was closed by means of interrupted sutures at equidistance 1 cm apart. Animals were treated daily with formulation, as mentioned above under excision wound model from initial days to 14<sup>th</sup> post wounding day. The tensile strength in each group is determined on the 15<sup>th</sup> day by continuous, constant water flow<sup>20</sup>. The results were shown in Table VI.

**Statistical analysis:**

Data were analysed using Graphpad Prism Software version 2.01 (GraphPad Software, La Jolla, USA). All the values were expressed as mean ± standard error of mean (SEM). The significance of difference between two groups for antidiarrhoeal activity was analysed using one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) followed by post hoc Dunnet's tests. For statistical analysis, P < 0.001 was considered statistically significant.

**III. RESULTS**

**Preliminary phytochemical screening of hydroalcoholic extracts:**

The hydroalcoholic extracts was subjected to qualitative method of preliminary phytochemical analysis that showed the presence of tannins, saponins, flavonoids, triterpenoid, alkaloids, glycosides and carbohydrates.

**Wound healing activity:**

In excision wound model, the fifty percent closure of wound area for the polyherbal ointment was found to be 5.2 ± 0.17, increase significantly (P < 0.05; F=80) when compared with vehicle control group (8.0 ± 0.90) as well as standard drug group (P < 0.05; F=73.84). The obtained data showed that the rate of wound contraction was significantly higher in the animals treated with developed formulation when compared with vehicle control and it was nearly comparable with standard drug group. The ointment exhibited significantly decreased (P < 0.01, P < 0.05; F=0.161) period of epithelization compared to control group.

**Table V: Effect of the polyherbal formulation in excision wound models**

Sr. No.	Name of groups	50% wound contraction in days	Periods of epithelization in days
1	Control	8.0±0.90	15.0±0.34
2	Standard	4.6±0.98	9.0±0.98**
3	Formulation	5.2±0.17	11±0.15**

All values are mean ± SEM, n=6,\*p<0.05 indicates significant compared to the control.

In incision wound model, significantly increase in tensile strength of healed wounds of polyherbal ointment 298 ± 7.90 when compared with vehicle group 200 ± 9.19 and this results was nearly compare with standard drug group 345 ± 6.89.

**Table VI: Effects of the polyherbal formulation in excision wound model**

Sr No.	Name of groups	Tensile strength
1	Control	200±9.19
2	Standard	345±6.89
3	Formulation	298±7.90**

All values are mean ± SEM, n=6,\*p<0.05 indicates significant compared to the control.

#### IV. DISCUSSION

Wound healing is a complex process. That involves a chain of biochemical and cellular processes. These processes are mainly classified into three phases- inflammation, proliferation and remodeling. The inflammatory cells promote migration and proliferation of endothelial cells, leading to neovascularization. The proliferative phase is characterized by angiogenesis, collagen deposition, granulation tissue formation, epithelization and wound contraction. Finally the fibroblasts grow and form extracellular matrix as part of tissue remodelin<sup>22</sup>. Healing is delayed and the ability to accelerate the wound healing is highly desirable<sup>19</sup>.

In the present study the phytochemical investigation of extracts showed the presence of triterpenoids, saponins, alkaloids, carbohydrates and flavonoids. The literature survey reveals the presence of several phytoconstituents like triterpenoids, saponins, alkaloids and flavonoids are known to promote wound healing process due to their antioxidant, anti microbial activities<sup>23</sup> and astringent property<sup>24</sup>. Furthermore the wound healing effect can be attributed to free radical scavenging activity of flavonoids and triterpenoids. Both these type of phytoconstituents are known to reduce lipid peroxidation, not only by preventing or slowing the onset of cell necrosis, but also improving vascularity. Hence any drug that inhibits lipid peroxidation is believed to increase the viability of collagen fibrils, which in turn results in increase in the strength of collagen fiber by increasing the circulation, preventing the cell damage and promoting the DNA synthesis<sup>25</sup>. The increase in tensile strength may be due to the promotion of collagen formation which significantly contributes to better and effective healing.

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