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Pityrosporum follicultis presenting as targetoid lesions in polycythemia vera: A case report of a 52 year old Filipino male

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Yeasts of the genus *Malassezia* also as *Pityrosporum* are opportunistic, basidiomycetous lipophilic yeasts that are constituents of the normal human skin flora responsible for a wide spectrum of clinical manifestations. Pityrosporum folliculitis is a typically a benign disorder that results from an overgrowth of *Pityrosporum* yeasts that usually presents as dome-shaped papules and superficial pustules on the upper back, shoulders and chest. However, rare overt cutaneous manifestations may be observed in severely immunocompromised individuals. We report a rare case of a 52 year old male Filipino patient with polycythemia vera presenting as targetoid lesions. Histopathologic examination and special staining showed Pityrosporum folliculitis with subsequent successful treatment with fluconazole.

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Formulation and evaluation of hair enhancing cream derived from propolis ethanolic extract

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Propolis is a resin-like material used by bees to fill large gap holes in the beehive. It has been found to possess antiinflammatory property, which stimulates hair growth in rats by inducing hair keratinocytes proliferation, causing water retention and preventing damage caused by heat, ultraviolet rays and other microorganisms without abnormalities in hair follicles. The present study aimed to formulate 10% and 30% propolis hair cream for use in enhancing hair properties. Raw propolis sample was tested for heavy metals using Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy; zinc and chromium were found to be present. Likewise, propolis was extracted in a percolator using 70% ethanol and concentrated under vacuum using a rotary evaporator. The propolis extract was analyzed for total flavonoid content. Compatibility of the propolis extract with excipients was evaluated using Differential Scanning Calorimetry (DSC). No significant changes in organoleptic properties, pH and viscosity of the formulated creams were noted after four weeks of storage at 2-8 oC, 30 oC, and 40 oC. The formulated creams were found to be non-irritating based on the Modified Draize Rabbit Test. *In vivo* efficacy was evaluated based on thickness and tensile strength of hair grown on previously shaved rat skin. Results show that the formulated 30% propolis-based cream had greater hair enhancing properties than the 10% propolis cream, which had a comparable effect with minoxidil.

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