



DERMATOPATHOLOGY

# VALIDATION OF HONEY VERSUS MICHEL'S MEDIUM AS A TRANSPORT MEDIUM FOR DIRECT IMMUNOFLOUORESCENCE MICROSCOPY AND ANTIGEN MAPPING

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Background: Michel's medium (MM) is currently recommended transport medium of skin biopsy specimens for direct immunofluorescence (DIF) microscopy. MM has a shelf life and may not always be available with the dermatologist especially with those who are practicing at the semi-urban and peripheral centres.

Objective: To compare the utility of honey with that of MM as a transport medium of skin biopsy specimens for DIF and antigen mapping.

Method: Group I consisted of 45 freshly taken skin specimens posted for DIF. It was randomly divided into three groups (A,B and C), each containing 15 specimens. Biopsy specimens were cut into two halves one each for MM and honey. Samples in group A were processed at the end of one week while that in group B and C were processed at the end of week two and four respectively. Group II consisted of five specimens of epidermolysis bullosa (EB) which was divided into 3 groups; two specimens were processed for antigen mapping at the end of one week while others were processed at the end of two (two specimens) and four weeks (one specimen).

Results: Eight specimens preserved in honey were tested negative at week 4 in contrast to two at week 2 and one at week one. Antigen mapping was positive in all specimens.

Conclusion: It was observed that samples preserved in honey were equally comparable in efficacy at 1 and 2 weeks but not at 4 weeks.

Key words: Honey, Michel's medium, direct immunofluorescence

