



MEDICAL THERAPIES AND PHARMACOLOGY

## PODOPHYLLIN IN DERMATOLOGY :NEW CONCEPT AND APPLICATIONS

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**Background:** Podophyllin has been initially used in to reduce obesity and as a purgative. Later on podophyllin was kept only for treatment condyloma accuminata with a lot of restrictions. Most practicing physician have phobia from using podophyllin as therapeutic option depending on the medical records that intensified the side effects and complications.

**Objectives:** As podophyllin has multiple pharmacological actions, these studies were carried to evaluate the therapeutic action of podophyllin in treatment of following diseases like: solar keratosis, basal cell carcinoma, keratoacanthoma, cutaneous leishmaniasis, genital warts in children and infants and in mild to moderate plaque type of psoriasis .

**Patients and Methods:** Through performing multiple open labeled, interventional and placebo controlled studies that had been conducted in Department of Dermatology and Venereology-Baghdad Teaching Hospital, Baghdad, Iraq, from 1998 – 2015, podophyllin had been used in treatment of following diseases: solar keratosis (25% solution), basal cell carcinoma(25% solution), keratoacanthoma(25% solution), cutaneous leishmaniasis (25% solution), genital warts in children and infants(15% solution). Podophyllin has been applied once weekly for 4-6 applications until complete clearance and to assess any local or systemic side effects for all mentioned diseases. Podophyllin(5-10%) ointment was applied once time every other day and used for treatment of mild to moderate psoriasis.

**Results:** Podophyllin was effective topical therapy in cure and clearance of the following skin diseases: Solar keratosis, basal cell carcinoma, keratoacanthoma, cutaneous leishmaniasis, genital warts in children and infants and in mild to moderate plaque type of psoriasis. There were no topical or systemic side effects were reported in all these diseases.

**Conclusions:** Podophyllin is an effective safe therapeutic weapon in treatment of many skin diseases with a high success rate and without noticeable topical or systemic side effects.

