

Title: Antifungal Efficacy of Natural Antiseptic Products Against *Candida Auris*

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Background: *Candida auris* is an emerging fungal pathogen responsible for healthcare-associated infections and outbreaks with high mortality around the world. It readily colonizes the skin, nares, respiratory and urinary tract of hospitalized patients, and such colonization may lead to invasive *Candida* infection in susceptible patients. However, there is no recommended decolonization protocol for *C. auris* by international health authorities. **Methods:** This study evaluated the susceptibility of *C. auris* to commonly used synthetic and natural antiseptic products using an in vitro broth microdilution assay. **Results:** Synthetic antiseptics including chlorhexidine, povidone-iodine, and nystatin were fungicidal against *C. auris*. Among the natural antiseptics tested, tea tree oil and manuka oil were fungicidal at concentrations $\leq 1.25\%$ (v/v), while manuka honey inhibited *C. auris* at 25% (v/v). Among commercial products tested, manuka body wash and mouthwash were fungicidal at concentrations $\leq 0.39\%$ (w/v) and $\leq 6.25\%$ (v/v) of products as supplied for use, respectively. Tea tree body wash and Medihoney™ wound gel demonstrated fungistatic properties. **Conclusion:** This study demonstrated good in vitro antifungal efficacy of tea tree oil, manuka oil, manuka honey, and commercially available antiseptic products containing these active ingredients. Further studies are warranted to evaluate the effectiveness of these antiseptic products in clinical settings.