

Tuesday March 1, 2005

## MEDIHONEY® – Kills wound ‘superbugs’ - dead

**A medical honey could be the answer to wounds infected with anti-biotic resistant ‘superbugs’, with the first pure medical honey dressing that has clinically proven data against MRSA now available to all UK hospitals.**

Clinical and *in vitro* research has shown Medihoney® wound care products have successfully healed both acute and chronic wounds colonised with methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) bacteria, which is estimated to cause more than 5,000 deaths<sup>i</sup> in UK hospitals and cost the NHS £1billion per year, and extend infected patients stay in hospital for additional 11 days<sup>ii</sup>.

Honey has been used for centuries to promote the healing of wounds and leg ulcers. Its high concentration of natural sugars creates an environment that both cleans the wound and inhibits bacteria. Many honeys release low levels of antiseptics, such as hydrogen peroxide and gluconic acid, which can inhibit the growth of skin bacteria. Some honeys, however - especially those derived from the nectar of medicinal plants native to New Zealand and Australia – also contain unique substances with more powerful, antimicrobial actions.

Medihoney® wound care products contain a blend of these medical honeys selected for their exceptional, antibacterial activity against a broad spectrum of bacteria - including antibiotic-resistant strains. Clinical and *in vitro* research has shown Medihoney® is effective against more than 250 clinical strains, including the highly infectious MRSA (methicillin resistant staphylococcus aureus), MSSA (methicillin sensitive Staphylococcus aureus), vancomycin-resistant enterococci (VRE), *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Actinetobacter calcoaceticus* and *Klebsiella pneumoniae*.<sup>iii iv v vi vii</sup>

According to Microbiologist at the University of Wales, Cardiff, Dr Rose Cooper:

“Hospitals and community health care providers are under increasing pressure to find effective ways of reducing the incidence of wound infections. In laboratory tests medical honeys have shown to inhibit a broad range of bacteria including multi-resistant strains such as MRSA.”

Medihoney® has proven to be an exceptionally effective treatment option for healing wounds, even in difficult cases that have not responded to conventional treatment. In addition to providing an answer to hospital-and-community-acquired resistant infections through its high antibacterial activity, Medihoney® wound care products have proven to have a multi-action effect on wounds by:

- protect the wound from drug-resistant bacteria that can cause serious complications
- providing a protective, antibacterial barrier against cross infection and secondary infections
- inhibits drug resistant bacteria even when diluted over 10 fold
- promoting autolysis of wounds and the removal of slough and dead tissue
- creating a moist, healing environment in which new cells can flourish<sup>viii</sup>
- minimising pain and wound disturbance during dressing changes, as it helps stop dressings adhering to tissues
- rapidly neutralising malodours (within 12 to 24 hours).

Leading Medihoney®'s UK trials, and Clinical Nurse Specialist in Leg Ulcer Care at Aintree Hospital Trust Liverpool, Val Robson, says the impressive results of Medihoney® should gain the product a high level of acceptability amongst healthcare professionals, and just as importantly, high acceptability to patients.

“Patients like Medihoney because it is an effective yet natural treatment. It is easy to apply, aids healing and thereby reduces pain, promptly deodorises malodour and assists painless dressing removal. Patients whose wound had failed to heal with conventional treatment, but successfully healed on switching to Medihoney, reported satisfaction with honey dressings and the dressing regime<sup>ix</sup> x.

“Honey is suitable for use on a wide range of wounds that may previously have required several different products, therefore wound management is simplified and dressing consumables reduced.”

The diversity of Medihoney®'s uses is exemplified by the number of international trials recently completed or underway including: in the kidney dialysis unit at the Princess Alexandra Hospital - Brisbane, Australia; the palliative care unit for cancer patients with malodorous tumours at Prince Charles Hospital - Brisbane, Australia; the University of Aintree Hospital Trust - Liverpool, UK, where it is being used to treat leg ulcers plus a variety of wounds included in a randomised controlled trial; and at the Red Cross Hospital in South Africa for treatment of burns in children.

Medihoney® clinical wound care products are now available to Hospital Trusts from the NHS Logistics Authority in 10g and 20g single use tubes.

Consumers can purchase Medihoney® Antibacterial Wound Gel over the counter from pharmacies in 25g reusable tubes designed for use in family first-aid kits to treat cuts, grazes and burns.

#### Indications:

- Acute and chronic wounds
- Venous ulcers
- Diabetic ulcers
- Surgical wounds
- Burns
- Donor and recipient graft sites
- Pressure ulcers
- First Aid

#### **Note to Editors**

Medihoney® Wound Gel is manufactured by Medihoney™ Pty Ltd, a world leader in the clinical research and marketing of medical products utilising the antibacterial, anti-inflammatory and anti-allergenic properties of medical honeys.

Medihoney® Wound Gel can be used throughout the healing process for both chronic and acute wounds.

Medihoney® Wound Gel has been specially formulated with natural waxes and oils to provide a high viscosity gel that is easy to apply with good wash off characteristics when dressings are changed. This makes the gel easy to use.

Not for use on heavily exudating wounds or body cavities.

Do not use on patients with known hypersensitivity to bee products and/or pollen.

In the event of a slow or non-responding wound please seek medical advice.

Do not apply 'normal' unsterilised honey to wounds – only apply a product specifically designed for wound healing.

Medihoney® Wound Gel helps to achieve continuity of wound care from the hospital setting into the community.

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