

Applications of Bee Products in modern medicine

Nowadays bee products have lost their importance and play only a marginal role in modern Westernized medicine. In general bee products do not fulfill the requirements of pharmaceutical and medical products. Indeed, the application and registration of bee products for modern clinical use should better be based on well-designed studies, preferably prospective randomized trials. Although there are only a few registered drugs based on bee products there are promising clinical studies and applications of the bee products. Here are some examples: The efficacy of honey in the treatment of wounds and burns has been shown in many clinical studies. Use of honey for the treatments of mucositis is also very promising, while there is also some clinical evidence for its use against peptic ulcers, gastritis, cardiovascular diseases and hepatitis. Specific flower pollen preparations, but not yet of bee pollen, have been successfully used against chronic prostatitis and hay fever. There are clinical studies showing that royal jelly may be used for hypercholesterolemia and diabetes and in paediatrics and geriatrics. Due to its antimicrobial properties propolis can be successfully used in many dentistry disorders, surgical diseases wounds, minor burns and HPV associated dysplasias. Bee venom's most important use is against rheumatoid arthritis. It has also been successfully used against diseases of the central and peripheral nervous system like back pain, limb pain, neuralgia, neuritis, radiculitis, polyneuritis and ear inflammation. Beeswax is widely used in creams and ointments. In summary, bee products have promising therapeutic effects and can or should be developed further into medicinal products if they offer new or better treatment alternatives.