

USE OF THE USNIC ACID OF *Cladonia substellata* VAINIO IN EXPERIMENTAL CUTANEOUS CICATRIZATION

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Lichens have been used since the antiquity as medicinal plants. Their metabolites are active against fungus, bacteria, tumors and carcinogen cells. In Brazil occurs many species of lichens, like *Cladonia substellata* whose main compound is usnic acid. This substance has being studied for decades with result significant. The objective of this work is to explore the effect of the daily topical treatment with the cream from purified usnic acid of *C.substellata* on the induction of the cutaneous cicatricial process in mice. An aseptic surgical incision was produced in the dorsal region of the animals and treated daily with the cream of usnic acid (10mg/g and 20mg/g). During the postoperative period (PO), the cutaneous injuries had clinical evaluation until the 12°days. Histopathological analyzes carried out at 2°, 7° and 12° days PO. The tested creams of usnic acid had sped up the cicatricial process, especially the concentration of 20mg/g, observing the clinical aspects (inflammatory signals and decreasing of the area of injuries) and the histopathological results. It is suggested a possible clinical use of usnic acid preparations in cutaneous inflammatory processes.

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