



CFS OF *LACTOBACILLUS*: A NATURAL AGENT AGAINST BACTERIAL CONTAMINATION OF COSMETICS TOOLS

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ABSTRACT

A study was conducted to investigate the potential of cell free supernatant (CSF) of *Lactobacillus* to prevent microbial growth in cosmetic tools. A total of 34 samples including mascara and face sponge were used. Results revealed that microbial contamination was detected in 31 samples. Bacterial and fungal contaminations were defined in these products with 29 and 2 samples respectively. In 29 samples, a total bacteria numbers were distributed by *staphylococcus*, *proteus*, *E.coli*, *Shigella*, *Citrobacter*, *Klebseilla*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. The highest number was recorded by *staphylococcus*. 16 sample of *staphylococcus aureus* were differentiated from 13 samples of *staphylococcus epidermides*. CFS of *Lactobacillus* was able to inhibit all bacterial isolates with high inhibition zones, so these filtrates can be used as added agent to cosmetics tools to increase their resistance and to prevent the contamination.

KEYWORDS: Cosmetic tools, CFS of *Lactobacillus*, contamination.

INTRODUCTION

The cosmetics industry achieved stupendous growth within a short span of time & is now a multi-billion dollar industry. It would continue to grow as long as people are ready to spend a fortune to look their best. Cosmetics are defined by the U.S. food & Drug Administration (FDA) as an “articles intended for beautifying, cleansing, promoting, and attractiveness or altering appearance^[1]. Makeup can do wonders for women, but it can be dangerous to their health, if not handled properly^[2]. Cosmetic contamination leads to several types of infections that range in severity from mild to serious, the ability of organisms to grow & reproduce in cosmetic products has been known for many years & makeup can easily be contaminated by the repetitive use to the skin using an applicator, or finger & also by poor handling procedures during manufacturing that can cause defect in the preservative capacities^[3]. Small sponges made of cellulose or nylon are commonly used in daily hygiene as exfoliative beauty aids & in removing makeup, after use, these sponges are generally cleansed under running water & reutilized, these natural & synthetic sponges are reported mostly caused by gram negative & positive bacterial^[4]. Contamination of microorganism in cosmetics may cause spoilage of the product and when pathogenic, they represent a serious health risk for consumers^[5], contamination of cosmetic by micro-organism such as clostridium tetani, staphylococcus aureus, moulds and yeasts *etc.* may cause serious disease of the eye, skin and mucous membrane which are difficult to cure in several cases^[3]. Lactic acid bacteria (LAB) are a group of gram – positive bacteria including many of genera^[19]. Within the group of LAB *Lactobacillus* species due to their potential beneficiary properties as probiotics, the activity of this bacteria is known to inhibit a large number of pathogenic bacteria, the use of *Lactobacillus* products to control certain

infections has started gaining acceptance, the alarming rise of inappropriate antibiotic use and antimicrobial resistance, along with renewed interest in ecological natural methods to prevent infections, make CFS (products) a very interesting field for research^[20]. The present study focuses on isolation & detection of human skin pathogens, on selective media for the assessment of microbes contaminating the cosmetics tools. In the same time, there is a lot of research about antimicrobial activity and antibiotic resistance of LAB but no research was dictated towards occurrence the inhibitory activity of CFS of *Lactobacillus* against bacterial contamination of cosmetic tools and used it as industrial natural agent with these tools to reduce their contamination by resistance the microorganisms

MATERIALS & METHODS

Cosmetic samples

In the study^[2] mascara^[11] blushers^[21] sponges, that were used before were investigated in case of microbial contamination, none of the samples had a reported expiry data. These samples were taken from January to March 2012.

- Media used: blood agar, eosin methylene blue (EMB), brain heart infusion, mannitol salt, macConkey agar was used for isolation of bacteria and fungi. All of the media mentioned above were prepared under aseptic conditions according to the manufactures specifications.
- Methodology :- (34) samples put in (2ml) normal saline, swabs were taken (1ml) from each of them and cultured on brain heart infusion, incubated in 37°C, for 24 hr. vortex was done to make the dilution. Last dilution cultured on nutrient agar for 24 hrs in 37°C. Selective media were chosen like macConkey agar, EMB, mannitol salt agar to separate and

purification the bacterial isolates, then cultured each of them alone on nutrient agar to identification [6].

- Identification of bacterial isolation: All bacterial isolates were identified based on their gram reaction & biochemical reactions as described [7].
- Identification of fungal isolation: - All fungal isolates were identified based on their macroscopic and microscopic appearance with reference to manuals of [8].

• *Lactobacillus* isolate: From Al- Mustansiriya university / science collage / biology department / high studies laboratories, this isolate was obtained and identified again according to [21].

• Cell free supernatant (CFS) preparation : CFSs were obtained by centrifugation (4000x g, 10 min) of *Lactobacillus* cultures grown in 20 ml MRS broth at 37 c for 24 h. the supernatant was filtered through a 0.22 mm filter to remove cells [22].

• Determination of inhibitory activity of CFS against microorganisms:

Agar well diffusion assay was made to determine the antimicrobial activity of CFS against test bacteria, depending on this method, streaking of Muller Hinton agar medium by 0.1 ml of bacterial inoculum, two wells were made by using cork borer on each plate and filled with CFS and control (media just), these plates incubated at 37 c for 18-24 h. The results were read by measuring the inhibition zone with mm.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

In the present study, [31] from [34] samples makeup sponges and mascara were observed for microbial contamination. Of bacterial (29 sample) and fungi (2 sample just), staphylococcus was found in these sample alone and with two species staph. Aureus [13] samples and staph. Epidermidis [16] samples. Table (1,2) show that face sponge brusher, eye lashes had 91.1 % microbes contamination 93.5% and 6.4% contamination for the microbes types (bacteria and fungi) respectively was observed, the percentage of bacterial contamination among all samples in area in the makeup samples were klebsiella, *E. coli*, proteus, citrobacter, shigella, pseudomonas, and staphylococcus found in over experience, as previously reported by other studies, true pathogenic bacterium found was, all the others were considered opportunistic pathogenic bacteria. [4] Matching the result of the table (3) it was evident that the most frequently found bacteria were the same in kind of sponges, then brushers, this observation seemed to demonstrate that the environment conditioned the bacterial growth more than the body area, even if the possibility of hand carry-over of bacteria should be taken in consideration, environmental factors like humidity and high temperature favour bacterial growth; in normal use, people keep their sponges in the shower box and it is possible that the interval between showers is not sufficient to allow them to dry completely [1].

TABLE 1: Percentage of microbes in total samples

sample	Presence	Microbes	No result
Faces ponge, brushers		31	3
Mascara.		91.1 %	8.8 %

* Total count of sample (31).

TABLE 2: Percentage of microbes types in microbes samples

Sample	Microbe type	Bacteria	Fungi
Face sponge		29	2
Brushers & mascara		93.5%	6.4%

* Total count of sample (31)

TABLE 3:- percentage of G -ve bacterial isolates in total sample

Sample	Presence Bacteria					
	Citrto	Proteus	Klebsiella	Shigella	E.coli	Pseudomonas aeru ginosa
Sponge	1 4.3%	3 13%	7 30.4%	2 8.6%	2 8.6%	1 4.3%
Brusher	3 13%	1 4.3%	0 0%	1 4.3%	1 4.3%	1 4.3%
Mascara	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%

Table (3) & figure (1) also reveal the differential tests between staphylococcus isolates by blood and mannitol salt agar and coagulase test using that all staphylococcus aureus isolated were grown on blood and mannitol salt agar appeared their heamolysis to blood and positive test to coagulase opposite of staphylococcus epidermidis

isolated that were not heamolysis to blood and negative to coagulase test.

In Table (5) & figure (2) Almost 55.1% of the total staphylococcus isolates revealed staph. Epidermidis, whereas 44.8% contamination was caused by staph. aureus. Other there was another reason, may be explain by cosmetics have to treat a large number of costumers in

a limited time, the repeated use of same brush or face sponge to apply facial makeup causes spread of microbial contamination as these pathogens are reported to adhere to

the (poly ethylene oxide) - PEO face sponge coatings very well.

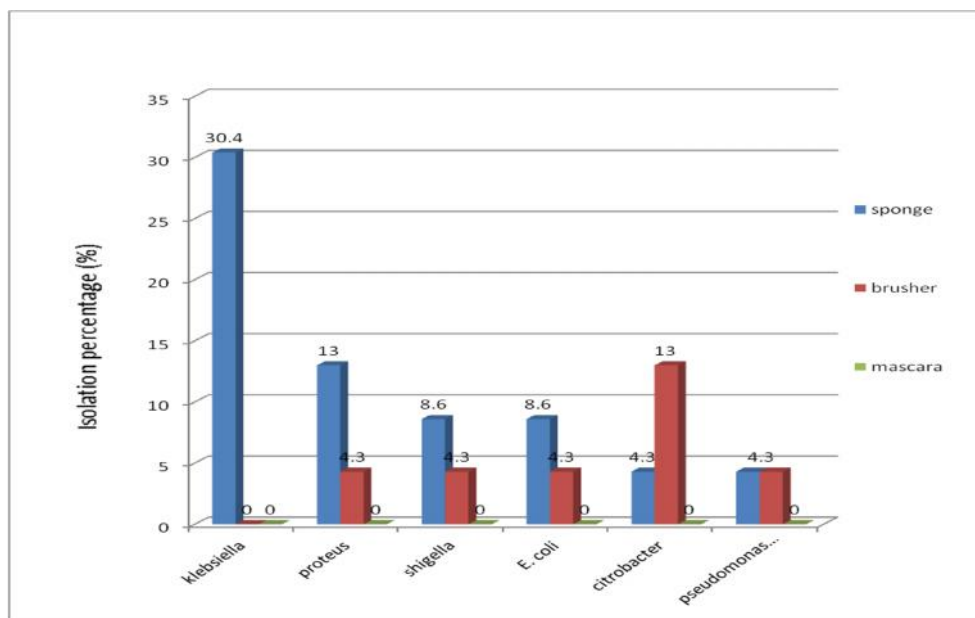


FIGURE 1- Isolation percentage that isolated from cosmetics

This cause may explain contamination the cosmetics samples with microbes^[9]. Also in the present study staphylococcus contamination was seen in large number for two type of cosmetic tools that are frequently used , many authors have reported the isolation of pathogens from different parts of the face, in one such study^[10]. *Staphylococcus aureus* overcome on staph. Epidermidis in contamination that obtained from eyelashes, it was also reported that cosmetics tools items in possession of persons harbor *Staphylococcus aureus* in these samples. Similarly on face sponge samples, *Staphylococcus aureus* presence. Inadequate preservation or outdated products can lead to microbial deterioration and also favors growth and proliferation of skin pathogens after use^[11]. Many authors have reported the presence of coagulase-positive *Staphylococcus* in cosmetics tools and explained that may be from unpreserved cosmetic products after use , lending importance to adequate preservation or from external

factors like hands, dust, skin ^[12]. Behravan *et al.* ^[13] have reported the incidence of contamination by gram- positive bacteria , and *staphylococcus aureus* was higher for used cosmetics tools eyelashes and face sponge .in the other side contamination of microorganism in cosmetics may cause spoilage of the products and when pathogenic , they represent a serious health risk for consumers ^[14,15] in addition to that these contaminated tools will contaminate the original cosmetics when touch it in repeat use, zhang has investigated the creams that were tested before and after use contaminated cosmetic tools became not prepare for using because presences pathogens in this cosmetic product^[16]. Many other author have also reported contamination of cosmetics tools with skin pathogens, cosmetic applicators can be an instrument of accidental trauma that introduces potentially hazardous microorganisms ^[14,15].

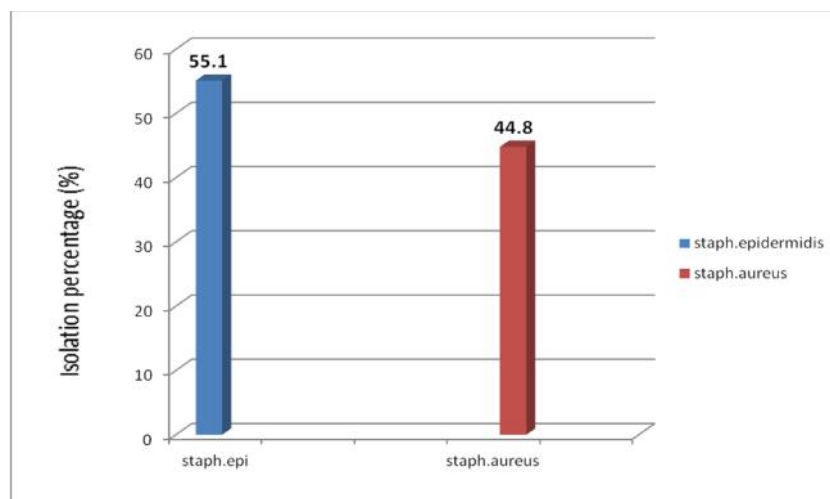
TABLE 4 :- Differential test between staphylococcus isolates

No.of sample	Result	Coagulase test	Culture	
			Blood agar	Mannitol salt agar
1	<i>Staph.aureus</i>	+	B+	+
2	<i>Staph.aureus</i>	+	B+	+
3	<i>Staph.aureus</i>	+	B+	+
4	Staph. Epidermidis	—	—	—
5	Staph. Epidermidis	-	-	+
6	staph. Epidermidis	-	-	+
7	<i>Staph.aureus</i>	+	B+	+
8	<i>Staph.aureus</i>	+	B+	+
9	staph. Epidermidis	-	—	—
10	<i>Staph.aureus</i>	+	B+	+
11	staph. Epidermidis	-	-	+
12	staph. Epidermidis	-	-	+

13	<i>Staph.aureus</i>	+	B+	+
14	<i>Staph.aureus</i>	+	B+	+
15	<i>Staph.aureus</i>	+	B+	+
16	<i>Staph.aureus</i>	+	B+	+
17	<i>Staph. Epidermidis</i>	-	-	
18	<i>Staph. Epidermidis</i>	-	-	+
19	<i>Staph.aureus</i>	+	B+	+
20	<i>Staph. Epidermidis</i>	-	-	+
21	<i>Staph. Epidermidis</i>	-	-	+
22	<i>Staph. Epidermidis</i>	-	-	+
23	<i>Staph. Epidermidis</i>	-	-	+
24	<i>Staph. Epidermidis</i>	-	-	+
25	<i>Staph.aureus</i>	+	B+	+
26	<i>Staph. Epidermidis</i>	-	-	+
27	<i>Staph. Epidermidis</i>	-	-	+
28	<i>Staph.aureus</i>	+	B+	+
29	<i>Staph. Epidermidis</i>	-	-	+
30	<i>Staph. Epidermidis</i>	-	-	-
31	<i>Fungi</i>	-	-	-
32	<i>fungi</i>	-	-	-
33	<i>Staph. Epidermidis</i>	-	-	+
34	<i>Staph. Epidermidis</i>	-	-	+

TABLE 5: Percentage of G+ bacterial isolates in total samples

sample	Bacteria type	<i>Staphylococcus</i>	Other isolate
Face sponge , brushers and mascara		29	0
		100%	0%
		Staphylococcus Aureus	Staphylococcus Epidermidis
		13 44.8%	16 55.1%

**FIGURE 2:** Isolation percentage of *Staphylococcus* sp.**The inhibitory activity of CFS against microorganisms**

During the experiment, all isolated bacteria from contaminated cosmetics were sensitive to CFS activity, these results means a good activity for LAB *Lactobacillus*, as the results indicate in table (5), the diameter of inhibition zones were varied, it ranged between (11- 22) mm , in spite of occurrence low and high degree of inhibition , all test bacteria was respond to the product of

Lactobacillus. The mechanisms underlying *Lactobacillus inhibition* of test bacteria may be due to presence many fraction containing proteins with a molecular mass below 5.000 Da and the finding of in vitro pointed to the peptidic nature of the *Lactobacillus* linked to bacteria inhibition^[20]. However, there are also reports of compounds of proteinaceous nature with antagonistic activity against all bacteria (these proteinaceous inhibitors

target the cell membrane and depolarize it, and also inhibit synthesis of the cell wall, there are one of those peptides were characterized as Bacteriocin called plantracin^[21].

Diacetyl, hydrogen peroxide {H₂O₂ can have a strong oxidizing effect on membrane lipids and cellular proteins } ,organic acids such as lactic acid ,acetic and propionic acids ,the most documented kind of metabolites .The antagonistic actions of acids are believed to be :1.interference with the maintenance of cell membrane potential , 2. Inhibition of active transport, 3. Reduction of intracellular pH and 4.inhibition of various metabolites functions .They have a broad mode of action and inhibit both Gram-negative and positive bacteria as well as yeasts and molds by provide an acidic environment an unfavorable for the growth of many pathogenic bacteria^[23].

^{25]}. Besides the production of inhibitory compounds *Lactobacillus* have ability to compete with the pathogens for nutrients during the growth, the combined influence of large numbers of competing *Lactobacillus* and the resulting decrease in pH produce also an unfavorable environment for many pathogens such as studied bacteria^[24, 26, 27]. All of the reasons above give clear reasons for the high activity that obtained in our results. All these factors enable *Lactobacillus* to use as probiotic that used in many lines like (food preservative , alternative drugs , flavored foods and others^[28,29,30] so we suggest to use these product industrial as alternative agent from chemical agent that used in cosmetics because it is safe and have high activity against pathogens.

TABLE 5: the inhibitory activity of CFS against microorganisms

Isolates	Inhibition zons (mm)
<i>Klebseilla</i>	12
<i>Proteus</i>	11
<i>Pseudomonas</i>	17
Staphylococcus	22
Salmonella	19
E.coli	18

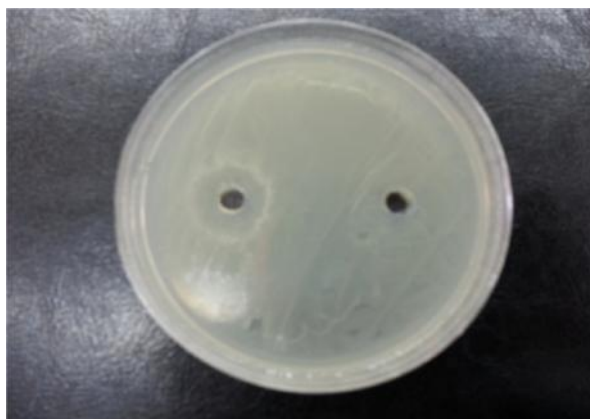


FIGURE 3- anti- *E. coli* activity of Lactobacillus CFS



FIGURE 4- anti – Salmonella activity of Lactobacillus CFS

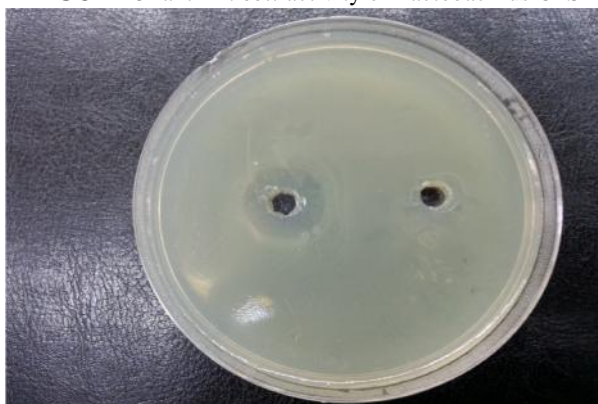


FIGURE 5- Anti –Pseudomonas activity of Lactobacillus CFS

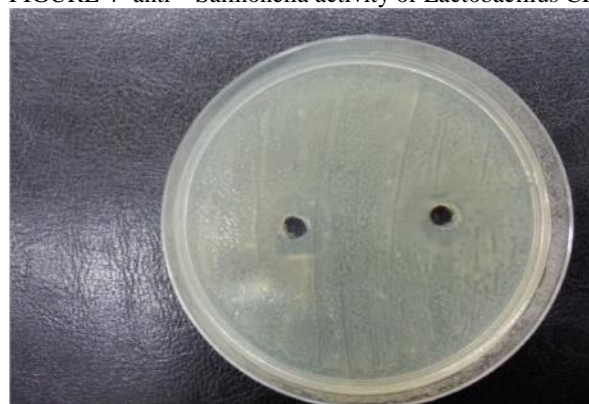


FIGURE 6- anti- Proteus activity of Lactobacillus CFS

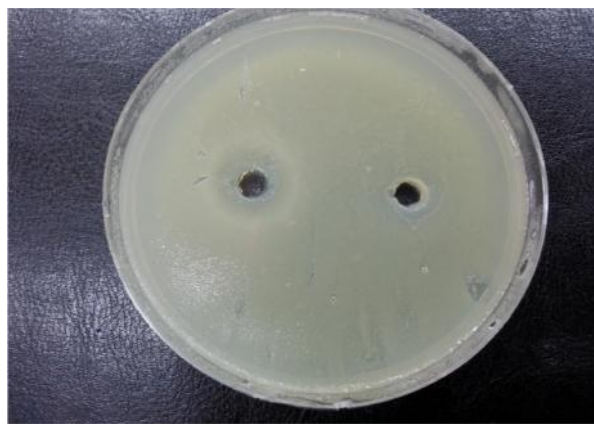


FIGURE 7- anti- *Klebsiella* activity of *Lactobacillus* CFS



FIGURE 8- anti -*Staphylococcus* activity of *Lactobacillus* CFS

CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

From the present study it can be concluded that repetitive use of cosmetics tools harbors large number of pathogens that cause serious skin infections. By adapting the proper preventive precautions such as sterilization and proper washing of these tools the microbial contamination from one person to other can be controlled. Use the CFS of *Lactobacillus* as industrial agent with cosmetic tools (as preservative) to protect them from contamination by inhibitory the microorganisms.

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