

# Effect of *Agaricus Sylvaticus* (Schaeffer) Extract in Rats Skin Wound Healing



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## Abstract

Mushrooms are an excellent food option for diets, since they are nourishing and not fattening, mainly due to their nutritional characteristics. They have a high protein content, low lipid values, besides the presence of vitamins (thiamine, riboflavin, niacin), minerals (calcium, iron, phosphorus), beta-glucans and antioxidant compounds. Several people are using it in Brazil as a blood glucose level controller and Anvisa released the *Agaricus blazei* as a nutraceutical product. In the present project the objective was to evaluate the healing of open cutaneous wounds in rats treated with topical use of *Agaricus sylvaticus* extract 10% in gel by macroscopic analysis of the cicatricial process. For skin healing of wound in rats, a total of 15 adults male Wistar rats (UNINOVE Vivarium) were used, divided in three groups. Animals in group 1 were treated with 1mL of gel at 10% *Agaricus*; group 2 with 1mL of distilled aqueous gel and group 3 with fibrinase. Daily applications were performed over the wound of total 4cm<sup>2</sup> area in dorsal region of each animal. The wound evaluation was made macroscopically in the time stamps of 0, 7, and 14 days, and the wound evolution, and skin healing retraction measures evaluated by digital planimetry.

Results indicated that extract from *Agaricus* presented proteins, phenols and beta glucan. As phenols chlorogenic, caffeic, coumaric and benzoic acid were presented and provided antioxidant reaction. The animals treated with *Agaricus* showed increased healing when compared with control and fibrinase treatment. After 14 days, the wounds in animals treated with *Agaricus* were healed corresponding to 73.79% of control group, while animals with fibrinase corresponded to 56,58% of control group. This demonstrates that fibrinase was not as efficient as *Agaricus* and when compared to control group. Thus, since *Agaricus* has an antioxidant factor and acted as a healing agent, it can be stated that the presence of phenols in the extract was important. It is possible to conclude that the gel with *Agaricus* is effective at skin healing in rats.

**Keywords:** *Agaricus*; Cicatrization; Skin

## Introduction

Mushrooms have been used as a food source since ancient times, due to the believe of its high nutritional value and medicinal potential and were considered a noble ingredient in culinary dishes. Approximately 2000 edible species are known and about 25 of them are commercially grown. Mushrooms are an excellent food source for diets, since they are nourishing and not fattening, mainly because of their nutritional characteristics. They have high protein content (27-48%), low lipid values (2-8%), and vitamins (thiamine, riboflavin, niacin), minerals (calcium, iron, phosphorus), beta-glucans and compounds with antioxidant activity [1]. Few things are known about the quality of edible mushrooms grown in Brazil, about its nutritional or medicinal value. The data found on international literature are scare and the cultivation conditions are different from those found in Brazil [2]. Brazil has an immense and unexplored microflora. Wild species have untapped and unknown potential, both from the point of view of production and

consumption, as well as secondary metabolites and their biological activity [3, 4]. In Brazil, we have ANVISA (National Agency of Healthy Surveillance-Brazil) which released for sale only powder of mushrooms for diet or as nutritional [5]. Currently, *Agaricus sylvaticus* (Schaeffer), *Agaricus blazei* (Murril) and *Agaricus brasiliensis* S. Wasser are similar names.

The beta glucan was one of *Agaricus*' extracted compounds, which is a polysaccharide polymer naturally found as the largest component of fungi cell wall [6]. *Agaricus* extracts were found in the laboratory concentrations above 200mg of beta glucan in addition to proteins and evaluated as an antidiabetic [7] and antitumor effect [4]. About healing that is a process by which an injured tissue is replaced by vascularized connective tissue, whether the lesion has been traumatic or necrotic [8]. Despite the predominance of synthetic substances in the therapeutic arsenal, including anti-inflammatory substances, over the years there has

occurred the valorization of complementary therapeutic practices like the use of medicinal herbs. Several tests using phytotherapies in the healing process of skin lesions were promising. For example, Aloe Vera (mucilage) was effective in the treatment of cutaneous wounds in normal and diabetic rats [9]. The topical use of the 2% papain solution also showed good results in this wound in rats [10]. Compounds from mushrooms have also been explored as hypoglycemic, antitumor among others, but nothing has been published about its healing action. The aim of the present study was to evaluate the effect of *Agaricus sylvaticus* (Schaeffer) extract 10% gel on the healing of surgical skin wounds in rats using macroscopic analyses.

## Materials and Methods

### *Agaricus sylvaticus*: Preparation and Analysis

The fruiting bodies of *A. sylvaticus* were cultivated in Rio Grande do Sul (Brazil) and after harvest, washed in water and dried. Dry fruiting bodies were then milled in a hammer mill equipped with a 1mm mesh stainless steel sieve in Firm Vitali Cogumelos. The sieve powder was stored dry until further use. Dry weight was normally found between 7 and 10% fresh weight. One gram of dry mushroom was homogenizing in 40mL of distilled water and maintained in cool for one hour and then filtered with paper filter. Extract was submitted to quantify values of proteins [11], phenols [12] and beta-glucan by Lever method [13]. After the quantification, phenols were analyzed by HPLC. Phenolic compounds were separated in a HPLC system (Young Lin YL 9300) equipped with a quaternary gradient pump unit, an UV-vis detector and the column oven (YL9330). The analytical column used was a Kinetex C18 (4.6mm×250mm i.d., 5µm). The wavelength for UV detection was 340 nm. Elution was carried out at a flow rate of 1.0ml/min at 3 °C. The mobile phase A consisted of methanol and the mobile phase B was 0.1% of acetic acid in water. The injection volume was 20µL. The standard phenolic compounds were purchased from Sigma (coumaric acid, ferulic acid, rutin, caffeic acid, quercetin, kaempferol) and dissolved in HPLC grade (methanol). For identification was used specific retention times and the peak areas were automatically measured by software Clarity to get the calibration curve.

### Animals

Male 4-week-old Wistar rats weighing between 250-280g were obtained from UNINOVE (Ethics Committee AN 37/2014). The animals were kept in polypropylene cages (three animals per cage) covered with metallic grids in a room maintained at 23C, 55±10% humidity, 12h light and 12h dark cycle and fed ad libitum for two weeks before the start of the study. The rats were then randomly divided into three different groups (N=5) with two repetitions. Animals in group 1 were treated with 1mL of gel at 10% *Agaricus*; group 2 with 1mL of distilled aqueous gel and group 3 with fibrinase. Daily application was performed over the wound of total 4cm<sup>2</sup> area in dorsal region of each animal. The wound evaluation was made macroscopically in time stamps of 0, 7, and 14 days, and skin healing retraction measures evaluated by digital planimetry.

### Antioxidant

The ABTS + solution was prepared by the reaction of 7mM ABTS (5mL) and 2.45mM (88mL) of potassium persulfate, after

incubation at room temperature in the dark for 16h. It was then diluted with 80% ethanol to give an absorbance of  $0.700 \pm 0.005$  at 734 nm. The ABTS + solution (2.7mL) was carefully mixed with 0.3mL of the test samples. The reaction mixture could stand at 30 °C for 30min, and the absorbance at 734 nm was measured in a spectrophotometer. Trolox samples with the same concentrations were used as standards [14].

### Statistical Analysis

Statistical analysis were performed using Assistat-2012 program (Anova, T student test, Tukey).

## Results and Discussion

### Analysis of *A. sylvaticus*

The fruiting bodies from mushrooms have yellow clear color indicating that the drying was carried out at temperatures not assist caramelization of product. The powder when was finely milled, present solubility in water and that was the product used in the present study. For biochemical analysis, extract from *Agaricus* was made with cool-water because molecules of proteins were protected containing also a little of phenols and peroxidase activity [7]. When used hot water, more phenols were extracted, and protein decreased giving a brown color in solution corresponding to an oxidation of molecules [2]. Biochemical analysis from powder mushrooms resulted 1.15mg for proteins, 0.96mg for phenols and 224mg for beta-glucan when extract 1g of mushrooms powder. In HPLC were observed four peaks with concentration in mMols, that was present: chlorogenic acid, benzoic acid, caffeic acid and coumaric acid (Table 1). Mascaro et al. [7] was observed in TLC presence of coumaric acid and chlorogenic acid and more two unknown bands.

**Table 1:** Concentration in mM of phenols present in *Agaricus* extract by HPLC.

| Phenols Standard | Rt   | conc mM |
|------------------|------|---------|
| chlorogenic acid | 2.70 | 11.38   |
| benzoic acid     | 3.03 | 226.60  |
| caffeic acid     | 3.20 | 2.44    |
| coumaric acid    | 3.40 | 13.95   |

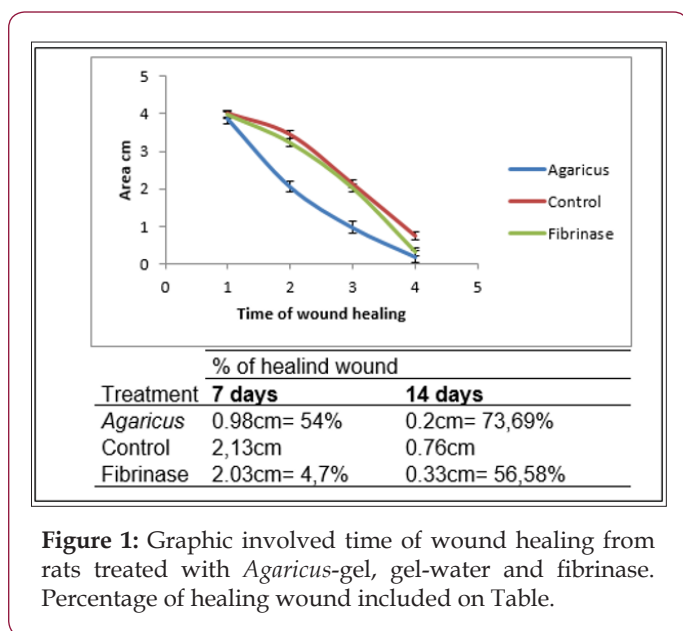
### Antioxidants

The *Agaricus* extract presented antioxidant activity around 118.32µmol TE (Trolox). g<sup>-1</sup>, indicating a high activity. Due to the antioxidant action, phenolics cooperate with the reduction of cellular oxidative damage caused by reactive species of oxygen and nitrogen [15, 16], as well as in the prevention of cancers, mutations, healing aid and in the control of other chronic degenerative diseases [17].

### Animals

Animals treated with *Agaricus* + gel showed faster healing than when compared to the control group and with fibrinase. At 7 days, the fibrinase group presented 4.7% healing compared to control, while the *Agaricus* group was 54% (Figure 1). After 14 days, the wounds in animals treated with *Agaricus* were healed corresponding to 73.79% of control group, while animals with fibrinase corresponded to 56,58% of control group. This

demonstrates that fibrinase was not as efficient as *Agaricus* and when compared to control group. The fibrinase is the positive control, that is, it has proven healing action, but when compared with the *Agaricus* gel the healing was 17% more effective with the gel. The polysaccharides of *Agaricus*, as  $\beta$ -glucan, can assist in the healing because they can form a thin layer and protect against external agents that may damage the tissue. According to LIMA et al. [18], it worked with ascorbic acid shown to have anti-inflammatory and healing effects, guaranteeing a suitable environment and conditions for faster skin repair healing. Thus, since *Agaricus* has an antioxidant factor and acted as a healing agent, it can be stated that the presence of phenols in the extract was important.



**Figure 1:** Graphic involved time of wound healing from rats treated with *Agaricus*-gel, gel-water and fibrinase. Percentage of healing wound included on Table.

## Conclusion

It is possible to conclude that the gel with *Agaricus* is effective at skin healing in rats.

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