



Flavokine, a Novel Topical Antiviral for Use Against Molluscum Contagiosum in Children and Adults.

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Flavokine [Dalos BioPharma] is a novel complex botanical entity containing over 270 flavonoids and other components. Different fractions of flavokine have been associated with antiviral, antibacterial, antitumor, anti-inflammatory and enhanced wound healing activity. Mechanisms of action include direct activity against viruses and bacteria including MRSA, as well as stimulation of factors and cells within the skin through a variety of biologic pathways. Molluscum contagiosum (MC) is a common infection worldwide, and accounts for about 1% of all diagnosed skin disorders in the US. Children, most commonly under 5 years old, become infected through direct skin-to-skin contact or by touching MC-contaminated objects. In adults, MC can be a sexually transmitted disease. It is estimated that 5% of children and up to 20% of AIDS patients have MC. In healthy children and adults, the MC rash will eventually clear, but it can last 18 months or longer, and is bothersome for parents and children due to its appearance and contagiousness. MC causes a characteristic lesion/rash with one or more round, dome-shaped pink, waxy papules, with a small central indentation. They are usually 2.5 mm in diameter but can be as large as 1 centimeter in diameter. Current treatments for MC include curettage, cautery, cryotherapy, or blistering agents.

Eighty-two patients aged 18 months to 62 years who had used flavokine twice daily for MC were evaluated for their response to the agent. The mean time of application was 6 weeks. Thirty-seven patients (45%) had complete clearing of their lesions. Twenty-four patients (30%) experienced partial clearing of their lesions. Twenty-one patients (25%) had no clearing of their lesions. Two patients reported mild skin irritation that may or may not have been related to flavokine. A partial or complete response rate of 75% of MC to flavokine is very positive, as no other topical antiviral agent demonstrates this response in this troublesome albeit benign skin disease. Flavokine may have potential across a broad range of topical conditions due to its complex nature and biologic activity.

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