

Original Research Article

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Effect of Peptone on the Antifungal Activity of Povidone Iodine

Mohamed Saifeldin Sidahmed^{1*} and Abdel Hafeez Hassan Nimir²

¹Ministry of Climate Change & Environment, P.O Box 60, Ras Al Khaimah, UAE

²Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Khartoum, Sudan

*Corresponding author

ABSTRACT

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This study was conducted *in vitro* to test the effect of Peptone as one of the protein-rich materials, on the antifungal activity of Povidone Iodine. The Povidone Iodine was tested against two fungi (*Candida albicans* and *Aspergillus flavus*) cultured on Sabouraud Dextrose Agar medium which contains peptone, and Potato Dextrose Agar medium as a negative control with the Agar well diffusion method, and the diameters of the inhibitory zones were measured in millimeters. The Povidone Iodine antifungal activity was deactivated against fungi cultured on SDA (*C. albicans*= 0 mm, *A. flavus*= 0 mm) while it had maintained its antifungal activity on PDA (*C. albicans*= 15 mm, *A. flavus*= 5 mm). In conclusion, this *in vitro* study demonstrated that Peptone can deactivate the antifungal activity of Povidone Iodine.

Introduction

Since the discovery of Iodine in 1812 by the French scientist Courtois, this element underwent many pharmaceutical improvements as the scientists developed a number of Iodine compounds to overcome its adverse side effects (e.g., its painfulness on open wounds, toxicity, the possibility of allergic reactions etc.) without significant loss of germicidal efficacy (Fleischer and Reimer, 1997). Their endeavors were culminated in Iodophors, such as Povidone Iodine (Polyvinylpyrrolidone Iodine) which was

introduced to the pharmaceutical markets in the 1950's as an antiseptic agent against a broad-spectrum of disease-causing microorganisms (Shelanski and Shelanski, 1956; Siggia, 1957).

The typical applications of Povidone Iodine are: skin antiseptics, scrubs, wound cleansing, minor injury applications, treatment of burns, treatment of ulcers, applications in Gynecology, Dental and Oral use, etc., and these applications usually are furnished with organic materials.

A number of articles have stated that Povidone Iodine is neutralized in the presence of protein-rich biomaterials. Chaiyakunapruk *et al.*, (2002) stated that blood, serum, and other protein-rich biomaterials can deactivate the germicidal effect of povidone Iodine. In addition, Motai *et al.*, (1992) found that the germicidal activity of Povidone Iodine is retarded in the presence of peptone.

In comparative study between Chlorhexidine and Povidone Iodine as skin antiseptics for blood cultures conducted by Mimoz *et al.*, (1999), they stated that the protein-rich biomaterials of the skin can neutralize the germicidal activity of Povidone Iodine, and they pointed out that the efficacy of Povidone Iodine solution may be improved if several minutes are allowed to lapse between application and venipuncture.

The majority of the available data about the influence of protein-rich materials on the germicidal effect of Povidone Iodine are basics. The antibacterial efficacy of Povidone Iodine like many commercially available disinfectants has been well documented, but very little information exists on their antifungal properties (Cremieux and Fleurette, 1983; Grayson, 1982).

The aim of this study was to investigate the Antifungal activity of Povidone Iodine in the presence of Peptone.

Materials and Methods

This study was conducted on Povidone Iodine 10% against 2 fungi, *Candida albicans* ATCC90028 and *Aspergillus flavus* obtained from Central Veterinary Researches Laboratories-Soba. The *in vitro* fungicidal activity was assayed by agar well diffusion method (Kavanagh, 1972). Cultures of

Aspergillus flavus and *Candida albicans* were grown on Sabouraud Dextrose agar slants, and incubated at 30°C (*A. flavus*) and 37°C (*C. albicans*) for 4 days, then fungal spore suspensions were prepared and stored in the refrigerator. One ml of each fungal suspension was thoroughly mixed with 100ml of molten sterile Sabouraud Dextrose Agar and Potato Dextrose Agar (as a negative control) which were maintained at 50°C. Twenty ml aliquots of the inoculated SDA and PDA were distributed into each sterile Petri dish and left to set. In each of these plates 2 cups (10 mm in diameter) were cut using a sterile cork borer (No. 4) and agar discs were removed. Alternate cups were filled with 200 microliter of Povidone Iodine 10% using automatic micro pipette, and allowed to diffuse at room temperature for two hours. The plates were then incubated for 48 hours at 37 °C for *Candida albicans* and at 30°C for *Aspergillus flavus*. Two replicates were carried out. After incubation, the diameters of the resultant inhibition zones were measured in millimeters, averages were tabulated.

Results and Discussion

The antifungal activity of Povidone Iodine was measured on fungi cultured on media contain Peptone (SDA) and other without Peptone (PDA) using Agar well diffusion method.

The antifungal activity of Povidone Iodine yielded no inhibition zone against *Candida albicans* and *Aspergillus flavus* growth that were cultured on SDA as shown in table 1. The antifungal activity of Povidone Iodine (10%) resulted in an inhibition zone against *Candida albicans* (15 mm) and *Aspergillus flavus* (5 mm) that were cultured on PDA as shown in table 2.

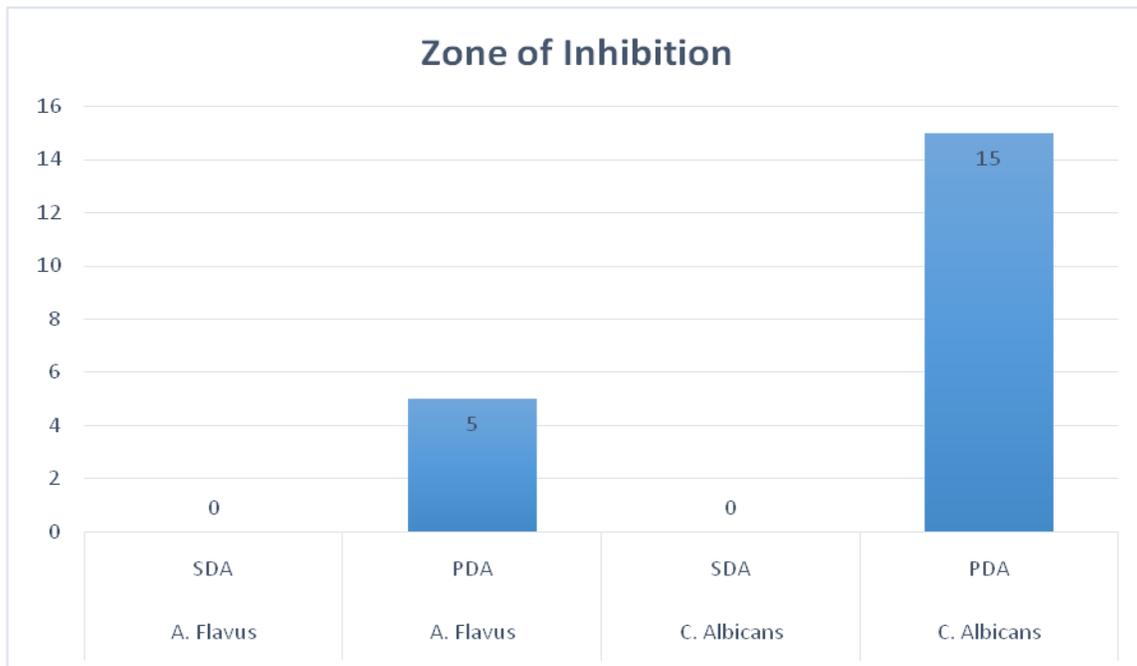
Table.1 Diameters of zones of inhibition of Povidone Iodine (in mm) against Fungi on SDA

Fungi	Zone of inhibition (in mm)	Average
<i>Aspergillus flavus</i>	0	0
<i>Candida albicans</i>	0	0

Table.2 Diameters of zones of inhibition of Povidone Iodine (in mm) against Fungi on PDA

Fungi	Zone of inhibition (in mm)	Average
<i>Aspergillus flavus</i>	4	5
	6	
<i>Candida albicans</i>	16	15
	14	

Figure.1 Sensitivity of the fungi to the antimicrobial activity of Povidone iodine on SDA and PDA (in mm)



For many years, Iodine has been recognized as an effective broad spectrum germicidal agent. Its adverse side effects have been significantly reduced by using Povidone Iodine (Carroll *et al.*, 1955).The Povidone Iodine is commonly used as the disinfectant

of choice in different practices and applications, and practically, the povidone Iodine is one of the most efficient disinfectants. The antimicrobial effect was attributed to the Iodine, which achieve this effect through non-specific mode of action in

different forms like hydrated molecular iodine (I²), hypoiodous acid (HOI) and Iodide ion (I⁻), but in pharmaceutical formulations it is almost entirely attributed to the free molecular iodine (Gottardi, 1972; Rackur, 1985).

This *in vitro* study investigated the influence of Peptone; as one of the protein-rich materials, on the antifungal efficacy of Povidone iodine.

In the present study, the antifungal activity of povidone iodine was valid on the Potato Dextrose Agar media while it was absent on Sabouraud Dextrose Agar media due to the presence of the Peptone which it is one of the SDA chemical constituents, and this agrees with the work of Motai *et al.*, (1992) and Chaiyakunapruk *et al.*, (2002). This result suggests that the protein-rich materials neutralize the antifungal efficacy of Povidone Iodine likewise the antibacterial activity in the previous studies (Fig. 1). In contrary to Zamora *et al.*, (1985) and Gottardi (1991), they found that in practice, there is no substantial decrease in the antimicrobial efficacy of 10% Povidone-Iodine preparations are likely with body fluids having a composition similar to plasma. Therefore, these results; like any *in vitro* findings, should be considered as preliminary findings and should be confirmed under *in vivo* conditions simulating organic matter load, and with more replication.

In conclusion, this study proved that the presence of the peptone can suppress the antifungal activity of Povidone Iodine *in vitro*.

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