

# Antibacterial Effect of Cannabidiol Oil against *Propionibacterium Acnes*, *Staphylococcus Aureus*, *Staphylococcus Epidermidis* and Level of Toxicity against *Artemia Salina*

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## 8 Abstract

9 Acne is one of the most common skin pathologies, one of the causes is Propionibacterium  
10 acnes, an anaerobic and gram-positive microorganism that lives in the hair follicles of the skin,  
11 currently presents resistance to antibiotic based treatments; this research topic has the  
12 purpose of evaluating the antibiotic activity of Cannabidiol oil against Propionibacterium  
13 acnes, Staphylo-coccus aureus and Staphylococcus epidermidis and the level of toxicity against  
14 Artemia salina. For the methodology, antibiograms were used by the Kirby-Bauer method,  
15 where the concentrations were evaluated: 0,8

17 *Index terms—*

For the methodology, antibiograms were used by the Kirby-Bauer method, where the concentrations were evaluated: 0,8 %; 0,6 %; 0,4 %; 0,3 % and 0,1 %; Amoxicillin for positive control and Dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) for negative control; the percentage of inhibition against *Propionibacterium acnes* and two control bacteria were calculated: *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Staphylococcus epidermidis*. Once the percentage of inhibition was tested, a toxicity study was carried out against *Artemia salina* to determine its LD50.

23 The Cannabidiol oil obtained from the Ecuadorian company was used as the antibiotic agent to be evaluated,  
24 and it was found that at a concentration of 0,8% it presented a percentage of inhibition of 91,2 %; 98,7 % and  
25 93,6 % against Propionibacterium acnes, Staphylococcus aureus and Staphylococcus epidermidis, respectively,  
26 data that do not present a significant difference against amoxicillin; for the Artemia salina test, a LD50 of 4,8 %  
27 was obtained; taking into account that the commercial oil has a presentation of 1,6 % (500 mg/30 mL), it results  
28 in a relatively innocuous product. Thus concluding that Cannabidiol oil is a very promising antibiotic due to the  
29 inhibition percentages presented and low toxicity.

30 1 INTRODUCTION

31 The use and abuse of antibiotics not only in Ecuador but worldwide, is a fashionable and controversial topic,  
32 due to the efforts made by professionals, this is a practice that continues to leave in its wake several serious and  
33 irreversible consequences. One of them is the bacterial resistance acquired by microorganisms to antibiotics.

Several resistances of *Propionibacterium acnes* have been reported over the years, as is the case of Clindamycin and Erythromycin, which were reported in 1979, and later in 1983 the first resistance to tetracycline was reported 10 .

37 It

## 38 2 II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

39 Cannabidiol oil was obtained from an Ecuadorian company, in a 500 mg/30mL presentation. The bacterial strain  
40 of *Propionibacterium acnes* ATCC 11827; *Staphylococcus aureus* ATCC 29213 and *Staphylococcus epidermidis*  
41 ATCC 14990 were obtained from the Cryobank of the Life Sciences Laboratories of the Salesian Polytechnic

## 4 IV. DISCUSSION

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42 University. The manual described by 20 was used as a reference and the tubes containing the bacterial beads  
43 were thawed, with a punch to perform the striation in triplicate throughout the petri dish.

44 The recommendations of 7 were followed to prepare dilutions with oils and dimethyl sulfoxide. Five oil-based  
45 dilutions were prepared at concentrations of 0.1 %; 0.3 %; 0.4 %; 0.6 % and 0,8 % whose solvent was DMSO; the  
46 final volume for each dilutions was 5 mL in every amber bottle.

47 A commercial antibiotic (Amoxicillin) was taken as a positive control, which is a betalactam antibiotic used for  
48 both gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria, due to its broad spectrum of bacterial activity 1 . This antibiotic  
49 is used for antibiotic testing in the *Staphylococcus* and *Propionibacterium* families, because of their sensitivity  
50 to its compounds ??,10 .

51 *P. acnes* was incubated in TSB medium under anaerobic conditions at 35 °C for 16 hours, for *S. aureus* and  
52 *S. epidermidis* were incubated in TSB medium at 37 °C in an incubator.

53 After the established time passed. It was centrifuged at 350 rpm for 20 minutes, the supernatant was discarded  
54 in a beaker with alcohol, the bottom of the bacterial biomass was conserved, sterile saline was added to each  
55 tube and vortexed for 2 minutes until reaching the 0,5

56 McFarland scale and read in the JASCO V-730 spectrophotometer with the spectra manager TM software  
57 until reaching an absorbance of 0,200 at 655 nm, obtaining an inoculum of 106 CFU/mL. 500  $\mu$ L of bacterial  
58 inoculum was taken, dropped in the center of the Petri dish with Muller Hinton 15 . One disc of antibiotic  
59 Amoxicillin was placed as positive control, one blank disk with DMSO as negative control and 5 blank discs with  
60 the respective dilutions from Cannabidiol oil, which would be at concentrations of 0,1 %; 0,3 %; 0,4 %, 0,6 % and  
61 0,8 % in a volume of 20  $\mu$ L. Petro dishes with *S. aureus* and *S. epidermidis* were placed in an incubator at 37°C  
62 for 24 hours; *P. Acnes* was incubated in anaerobiosis at 35 °C.

63 When the time of 24 hours in the incubator for *S. aureus*, *S. epidermidis* and *P. acnes* had passed, each Petri  
64 dish was checked to with a caliper ruler.

65 The percentage of inhibition of each bacterium with respect to each concentration was calculated using the  
66 following reference formula (1) from 9 .

67 7 grams of *A. salina* eggs were obtained from a commercial house, 2 g of egg were weighed, hydrated for 30  
68 min with distilled water, then 25 mL of sodium hypochlorite were added (4 replicates), the eggs were recovered  
69 and rinse with distilled water. For the incubation, a 3 liter bottle was used, 1500 mL of 2 % salina water was  
70 added, pH 8, temperature 24 °C and constant aeration for 48 hours 22 .

71 To make the emulsions with Cannabidiol (CBD) oil, a 1:1 ratio of oil and tween 80 was used a co-emulsifier  
72 used in the cosmetic and food area due to its low toxicity level and according to the work carried out by 15 it is  
73 considered innocuous with Artemia. Cannabidiol oil was used to obtain emulsion at 3.2 %; 1.6 %; 0.8 %; 0.4 %  
74 and 0.2 % with which we worked in test tubes with *A. salina* to determine the LD50.

75 After 24 hours of incubation, dead nauplii were counted using a NIKON SMZ745 stereoscope, where those  
76 that did not show any seconds were considered dead. The percentage of inhibition for *P. acnes* is 91.2% at a  
77 concentration of 0.8% of Cannabidiol oil, which gives a high percentage of inhibition compared to a commercial  
78 antibiotic, Amoxicillin, supporting of inhibition compared with a commercial antibiotic, Amoxicillin, supporting  
79 the alternative hypothesis showing that Cannabidiol oil inhibits *P. acnes*.

80 A Tukey study showed that there is an important group of data, in which their averages are not significantly  
81 different; the group is formed by the positive control (commercial antibiotic), CBD5 (0.8% Cannabidiol oil). 2  
82 Average halo and percentage inhibition of cannabidiol oil against *S. aureus*.

83 The concentration of Cannabidiol oil at 0.8 % has an inhibition percentage of 98.7 %, a value very close to the  
84 positive control which was the commercial antibiotic Amoxicillin.

85 With a Tukey test it was proved that there is a group of interest where their averages are not significantly  
86 different, the group is formed by the positive control (antibiotic Amoxicillin) and CBD5 (0.8% Cannabidiol oil).  
87 The results show that the percentage of inhibition for *S. epidermidis* with 0.8 % oil was 93.6 %, affirming the  
88 alternative hypothesis on the inhibition of Cannabidiol oil against *S. epidermidis*.

89 The Tukey test shows that there is an important group where the positive control (Amoxicillin) and CBD5  
90 (0.8 % Cannabidiol oil) are grouped together. As a result, we would obtain that the 0.8 % Cannabidiol oil is  
91 similar in inhibition to the positive control (Amoxicillin) supporting the alternative hypothesis that there is at  
92 least one concentration that inhibits *S. epidermidis*.

## 93 3 Toxicity test

94 Dilutions of Cannabidiol oil were made at the intervals of: 3.2 %; 2.8 %; 2.4 % 2.0 %. In order to determine the  
95 lethal dose, a linear regression was performed and an LD50 of 4.86 % (48 mg/mL) was obtained.

## 96 4 IV. DISCUSSION

97 In accordance with the studies of 18 where he mentions that Cannabidiol has a potential antimicrobial activity  
98 against gram-positive bacteria, such as *P. acnes* with which, using it could be beneficial for the treatment of acne  
99 vulgaris. Cannabidiol has a potential role as an antimicrobial agent 22 , it was demonstrated through clinical  
100 studies that Cannabidiol oil acts on sebocytes, thus having an anti-acne function, controlling sebum production,

101 mitigating the inflammatory process and functioning as a bactericidal agent by reducing bacterial proliferation  
102 4,21 .

103 Cannabidiol oil inhibits *S. aureus*; the results obtained by 2 can be compared with those of this work since  
104 Cannabidiol, one of the main cannabinoids of the plant showed a potent activity against the strain *S. aureus*.

105 The results obtained from the test with *S. epidermidis* can be compared with the study conducted by 19 ,  
106 where the mechanism of action of Cannabidiol in causing the death of gram-positive bacteria was evaluated, due  
107 to the ability of this compound to inhibit the release of vesicles from the bacterial membrane; these vesicles are  
108 extremely important for cell communication and pathogen-host interaction.

109 In the negative control of the toxicity test with *Artemia salina*, saline water was used, there was no dead  
110 individual so that the test is validated as there are no natural factors that can kill the study individuals; as  
111 indicated by ??4,13 ; the percentage of mortality in the negative controls did not exceed 10 %. In the positive  
112 control where 96% alcohol was used, it was confirmed as an adequate positive control since the death of the  
113 individuals in the study was confirmed as indicated by the study of 23 .

114 The use of Cannabidiol oil at concentrations from 2 % onwards gradually increases the number of dead *A.*  
115 *salina* 14 . A plant oil when exceeding a LC50 of 1000 ppm in bioassays with *A. salina* does not have a high  
116 degree of toxicity, due to the ability of the nauplii to present a very thin cuticle, which makes them sensitive to  
117 toxicants in the medium, which penetrate through the physiological barriers and are rapidly absorbed 6,25 .

## 118 5 V. CONCLUSIONS

119 The valued Cannabidiol oil was obtained from an Ecuadorian company, which presents a concentration of 500  
120 mg/30mL. evaluation by means of the HPLC technique.

121 Cannabidiol oil showed antibacterial activity with halo averages of 1.8 cm; 1.7 cm and 1.8 cm for *Propionibacterium*  
122 *acnes*, *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Staphylococcus epidermidis* respectively at a concentration of 0.8  
123 %, compared to the control antibiotic (Amoxicillin) with 2 cm of halo, by means of the statistical analysis it was  
124 possible to reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternative since Cannabidiol oil inhibits *Propionibacterium*  
125 *acnes*, *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Staphylococcus epidermidis* with the proposed concentrations. Likewise, the  
126 alternative hypotheses for the analysis of variance and Tukey are accepted, at least one degree of concentration  
127 of Cannabidiol oil inhibits the 3 bacteria with a similar effect to Amoxicillin. At the end of the experimental  
128 work, it was concluded that the results obtained under the laboratory test show that the use of Cannabidiol  
129 oil is effective for the control of the mentioned bacteria and it is a promising field for possible elaboration of  
130 phytoproducts for human use in order to improve and provide all the benefits offered by Cannabidiol oil.

131 For the toxicity bioassay where *Artemia salina* was used, a LD50 value of 4.8 % was obtained, which showed  
132 that the commercial Cannabidiol oil in a 500 mg/30mL presentation, equivalent to 1.6 %, is a relatively innocuous  
133 product at the highest concentration and non-toxic at very low London Journal of Medical and Health Research  
134 concentrations. Although at higher concentrations survival may be negatively affected by swimming problems,  
135 the results confirmed the alternative hypothesis that the concentration of Cannabidiol oil is directly proportional  
to the percentage of mortality of *Artemia salina*. <sup>1</sup>



Figure 1: 14 Volume 23 |

## 5 V. CONCLUSIONS

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### ABSTRACT

Acne is one of the most common skin pathologies, one of the causes is Propionibacterium acnes, an anaerobic and gram-positive microorganism that lives in the hair follicles of the skin, currently presents

treatments; this research topic has the purpose of evaluating the antibiotic activity of Cannabidiol oil against Propionibacterium acnes, Staphylococcus aureus and Staphylococcus epidermidis and the level of toxicity against Artemia salina.

resistant antibiotic based

Figure 2:

1

Bacteria	Concentration	?	% inhibition
P. acnes	0,8	1,9	91,2
	Control +	2,0	100

1 Average halo and percentage inhibition of cannabidiol oil against P. acnes

Antibacterial Effect of Cannabidiol Oil Against Propionibacterium Acnes, Staphylococcus Aureus, Staphylococcus Epidermidis and Level of Toxicity against Artemia Salina © 2023 Great Britain Journals Press III. RESULTS

Figure 3: Table 1 :

2

Bacteria	Concentration	?	% inhibition
S. aureus	0,8	1,7	98.7
	Control +	1,8	100

Figure 4: Table 2 :

3

Bacteria	Concentration	?	% inhibition
S. epidermidis	0,8	1,8	93.6
	Control +	1,9	100

3 Average halo and percentage inhibition of cannabidiol oil against S. epidermidis

Figure 5: Table 3 :

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146 The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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