

Efficiency of shea nuts hulls extract in skin damages repairing : Healing effect on rat wounds

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In shea producing countries, shea butter constitutes an ointment base which is most of time supplemented with extracts from other plants, while shea nut hulls are considered as rejects. These ointments are used either for body care or skin affections treatment.

An experience was carry out in order to demonstrate the healing efficiency of shea hull extract on rats injured skin. Therefore, two ointments made of shea butter and shea hulls dry hydroalcoholic extract (99 % + 1 % and 95 % + 5 % : base + extract), a pur shea butter and a pharmaceutical ointment (*cicatryl*) were used to treat wounds induced on rats skin, for 30 days. Histological analyses of rats liver and kidney werethen, performed to detect eventual toxicity.

Complete heal with small hairs growth, was observed about 17th, 23th and 23th days of treatment with 5 %, 1 % of shea hulls extract and *cicatryl*, respectively. Rats treated with pur shea butter were not completely healed, even at the end of the experience. Based on their healing ability, ointments made of shea hull extract (5 %) showed the best efficiency, compared to *cicatryl*. However, histological analysis of rats livers and kidneys indicated no toxicity.

Such results suggested a regenerating ability of shea hulls extracts. Hence its valorization ùight be considered for pharmaceutical purposes, mainly to set skin aging, repairing, and wound healing preparations.

Key words: Shea hulls extracts, ointments, healing efficiency, rats