

Evaluation of *Cucurbita moschata* effect on experimental full-thickness wound healing in rat

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Background and Aims: Medicinal plants have been used in traditional medicine for a long time. In some of the traditional texts, *Cucurbita moschata* has been reported as a healing agent. The aim of the present study was to examine the effect of aqueous extract of *Cucurbita moschata* on experimental full-thickness wound healing in rats as experimental model.

Methods: 30 female wistar rats (150-300 g) were divided into 3 groups. After anesthesia, the wound was created by a biopsy punch with a diameter of 8 mm on the dorsal part of all animals. The animals received three different treatments locally: 0.9% saline (control), the *Cucurbita moschata* extract (200 mg/ml) and phenytoin (as positive control) for 8 days. On day 8 tissue samples of the wounds were prepared for microscopic studies.

Results: According to the obtained results in the group receiving the aqueous extract of *Cucurbita moschata*, fibroblasts were observed in large amounts also replaced new collagen and horny tissue surface were visible. The new vessels were seen abundantly in the region. Mentioned changes were not observed in the saline group but the findings in the group receiving phenytoin was similar to *Cucurbita moschata* group.

Conclusions: Based on our results, *Cucurbita moschata* aqueous extract could be effective in healing of full-thickness wound in rat.

Keywords: *Cucurbita moschata*; Wound healing; Rat