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Colloidal Silver: An Amazing Cure–All or a Deadly Poison?

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Afif Jazimin Abdullah¹, Ahmad Fauzan Ariffin¹, Nurul Izzati Saldi¹, Nur Sabrina Nasron¹, Che Suriani Kiflee¹, Saiful Irwan Zubairi², Zalfah Mohd Kasim²

¹Pusat GENIUS@Pintar Negara, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, 43600 UKM Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia

²Centre for Biotechnology and Functional Food, Faculty of Science & Technology, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, 43600 UKM Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia

INTRODUCTION

Colloidal silver, silver nanoparticle, ionic silver water, and nanosilver are some of the names used for silver particles of 1-100 nm at least one of the dimensions. Ionic silver water (sometimes known as colloidal silver) is widely promoted to humans that promise health benefits especially. Though, ionic silver water is not that famous in Malaysia due to lack of awareness and might lack of scientific studies towards it. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is proposing to establish that all over-the-counter (OTC) drug products containing colloidal silver ingredients or silver salts for internal or external use are not generally recognized as safe and effective and are misbranded. Despite FDA's ruling, there is no regulation regarding colloidal silver sale and consumption in Malaysia.

OBJECTIVES

- To survey the usual amount of silver components dissolved in colloidal silver sold nearby
- To measure people's knowledge about colloidal silver
- To compare the advantages and disadvantages of colloidal silver

METHODOLOGY



SAMPLE ANALYSIS

Samples from various brands are gathered and run in Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry (ICP-MS) to determine the number of silver particles in the samples. Sample are also identified their characteristics and features.



LITERATURE ANALYSIS

The reading materials were analyzed in three main items which are (1) the advantages (2) disadvantages (3) justification so that conclusion can be drawn by combining statements from (1) and (2) based on scientific findings and also canceling bogus statements.



DESIGN OF QUESTIONNAIRE

A questionnaire about colloidal silver is distributed among people nearby. The questions consists of respondents' impression and experience towards colloidal silver.

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RESULTS

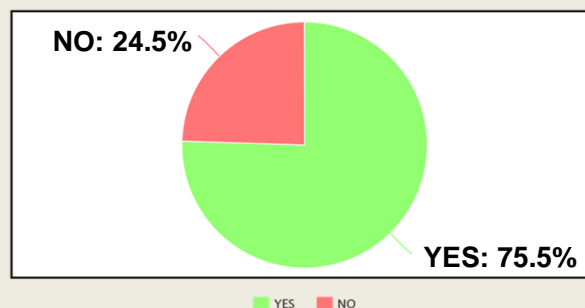
SAMPLE	pH	Conductivity (µs)	Total Dissolved Substances (ppm)
A	7.25 ± 0.01	21 ± 0.0	11 ± 0
B	7.38 ± 0.03	12 ± 0.0	6 ± 0
C	7.44 ± 0.04	10 ± 0.0	5 ± 0
D	9.86 ± 0.01	153 ± 8.0	76 ± 4
E	7.76 ± 0.03	70.5 ± 0.5	35 ± 0

Table 1 ICP-MS result

SAMPLE	Ag (mg/l)	Consumer	Directions	Usage
A	0.2	pets	Directly into your pet's mouth with an oral syringe. For external use, spray directly onto affected area 2-3 times daily	Both
B	0.001	human	Apply on wounds	External
C	0.002	human	2 teaspoons, 2-3 times daily	Internal
D	0.618	human	Spray 3-4 times	External
E	0.319	human	Spray in mouth/on face	Both

Table 2 Sample characteristics

Have you ever heard about colloidal silver before?



CONCLUSION

Based on our survey, it is concluded that 3 of 4 people might have heard about colloidal silver, but never thought of using it, perhaps since it is not fully proven that it can cure diseases. We suggest that Malaysian researchers to investigate more regarding this colloidal silver since it can be made at home and low-cost. If it is proven positive to mankind, then we can commercialize this product and encourage people to have their own colloidal silver as an easy and multipurpose remedy.