



## Letter

**Topical application of honey in the management of chemo/radiotherapy-induced oral mucositis: Comment on Yang et al., 2019**


Dear Editor,

Yang and colleagues (2019) claim to have conducted a meta-analysis regarding the efficacy of honey in the management of chemo/radiotherapy-induced oral mucositis. I agree that it is an important topic but I believe that it is important for the readers to realize that there are some flaws in the analysis which seem worth mentioning.

- The authors included two studies which have tested not honey but propolis (bee glue) and essential oils *Leptospermum scoparium* (manuka) and *Kunzea ericoides* (kanuka) respectively (Tomažević and Jazbec, 2013; Maddocks-Jennings et al., 2009). I believe that it is incorrect to analyze these two trials together with honey.
- The authors also included studies with patients who received chemotherapy, radiotherapy or a combination of chemotherapy and radiotherapy. It does not seem justified to combine patients under these different conditions because the various forms of cancer treatment-induced mucositis may have different underlying pathomechanisms.
- Furthermore, the authors have missed seven trials for their analysis. These are the trials by Charalambous et al. (2018); Rao et al. (2017); Amanat et al. (2017); Jayalekshmi et al. (2016); Alvi et al. (2013) and Parsons et al. (2012) and Biswal et al. (2003).

Considering the problems of the analyses, the conclusions drawn in this meta-analysis can only be considered as preliminary at best.

**Conflict of interests**

There was no funding. There are no conflicts of interest, except that KM is a hobby beekeeper.

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