

Effect of Latex of *Jatropha multifida* (Coral Bush) on Blood Coagulation

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Latex of *Jatropha multifida* is widely used in indigenous medicine as an external blood coagulant in treating wounds. However, blood clotting property of this plant has not been studied widely. This study was carried out to determine the effects of the latex of *J. multifida* on human blood coagulation using Lee and White method. Twenty five healthy individuals of both sexes (age range: 22-25 years) participated in the study. The test and the control were run separately at the same time. Latex of *J. multifida* (0.5 mL each) was added to three Kahn tubes. Same volume of normal saline containing separate three Kahn tubes were set as the control. 1 ml of drawn blood was added to each six Kahn tubes immediately and all tubes were incubated in a water bath adjusted to 37°C. Every tube was observed for clotting without disturbing. The average clotting time of each control set of tubes and test set of tubes were calculated separately. The test was carried out for all 25 individuals and average clotting time of test sample per individual was compared with that of the control set. There was a statistically significant reduction in the average clotting time ($p \leq 0.5$) of the test samples containing the latex of *J. multifida* than the average clotting time of control. Therefore, it can be concluded that latex of *J. multifida* is an effective external blood coagulant.

Keywords: Clotting time, *Jatropha multifida*, coagulation