



ACTIVE MANUKA HONEY ANHYDROUS CREAM® 25%

Notes for **Veterinary Professionals:**

There are two **major characteristics** found in **all** honey and **one unique factor** found only in **Active Manuka Honey** (honey derived from *Leptospermum* sp.) In NZ *Leptospermum scoparium* - manuka bush and in Australia *Leptospermum polygalifolium* - jellybush.

Major Characteristics:

1. Honey is a **super saturated sugar** compound with a small % of water. This makes the honey act to draw moisture out of exposed and damaged tissue.
2. **Natural peroxide effect.** All honey releases a small amount of active oxygen (hydrogen peroxide) and this H_2O_2 is released only when the acidity of honey is neutralised by body fluids, so acts as an antibacterial. However the honey has then become diluted and if there is not any **non-peroxide** effect to enhance the antibacterial qualities the antibacterial effect is diminished.

ACTIVE MANUKA HONEY special phenomena:

The **activity factor**, unique to Manuka Honey has only recently been identified as **methylglyoxal (MGO)** and an unidentified synergistic component which can more than double the antibacterial activity of MGO. These components are what gives ACTIVE MANUKA HONEY (from *Leptospermum* species) the special natural antibacterial function able to inhibit many infectious bacteria. This antibacterial phenomenon (antibiotic effect) is identified by a modified Phenolic challenge test specially developed by the University of Waikato NZ by professor Peter Molan.

Ref: <http://bio.waikato.ac.nz/honey/special.shtml>

This activity is designated by a number, and the number increases as the potency value rises up to 20+ or more. The accepted optimum potency value is 15 to 16+ and is known by **UMF (Unique Manuka Factor)** or activity number. UMF or Activity numbers from 10+ upwards are beneficial for antibacterial purposes.

Ref: <http://bio.waikato.ac.nz/pdfs/antibacterial.pdf>

TYPES OF ACTIVE MANUKA HONEY AVAILABLE FOR TOPICAL APPLICATION.

1. **PURE ACTIVE MANUKA HONEY.** Pure Active Manuka Honey when applied directly onto damage skin areas will be antibacterial by virtue of the unique effect. A dressing is required to keep the honey in place on the skin (e.g. Activon dressings by Dechra).
Note: that if a dressing is to be applied to surgical procedure areas then a sterile dressing is recommended.
Gamma Irradiation will NOT degrade the activity factor of Active Manuka Honey.
Heat sterilisation will degrade the Active factor of the honey.
2. **ACTIVE MANUKA HONEY ANHYDROUS CREAM® 25%** is suitable to apply to minor wounds such as damaged skin areas or minor cuts. The cream will stay in place on most skin areas without a covering dressing, or can be covered with a dressing for convenience. **Active Manuka Honey Anhydrous Cream® 25%** is applied daily or more frequently to utilise the natural antibacterial (antibiotic) effect of the Active Honey. The Unique activity of the honey is **not diminished** by the structure of the **anhydrous cream**. The **peroxide and super saturated sugar** is **not altered** by the formulation. This cream contains preservatives to assist in maintaining a pathogen free medium.
3. When **water based** creams are added to Active Manuka Honey, this will alter the natural active honey value.
4. **Active Manuka Honey Anhydrous Cream® 25%** does **not add water** and therefore the UMF activity value is not altered.

Active Manuka Honey Anhydrous Cream® 25% maximises the tested UMF antibacterial function of the honey therefore may be of assistance when applied to wounds that may have potential bacterial invasion. The unique fraction of Active Manuka Honey is noted for its special antibiotic effect distinct from the traditional Pharmaceutical topical applications.

Active Manuka Honey is also anti-inflammatory so will soothe irritated skin areas.

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