

USE OF CLAYEY SAMPLES IN THERMAL THERAPEUTIC MUDS

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Clays are frequently used in topical health products (with therapeutics or cosmetics purposes) because of the special properties of their water suspensions (1-2). A particularly interesting employ of clays to promote health is their use in complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) products. Beside their employ by some important non allopathic medical systems as Ayurvedic medicine and traditional Chinese medicine, they are also frequently used in some complementary treatments of conventional medicine, as fundamental ingredients of thermal muds used in medical hydrology. With this purposes, hydrothermal or hydrothermalized pastes produced by primary or secondary mixing of clayey (geo)materials with salty thermo-mineral waters, are topically applied (3). These therapeutic agents are named peloids and the treatment pelotherapy. Composition, preparation, quality and suitability of the peloids should be exhaustively studied as they are health care products. Thermal muds are nowadays frequently prepared by mixing clayey raw materials with mineral thermal waters and as semisolid health care products; preparation, characterization and clinical use of these products must be considered under the pharmaceutical point of view (4-6). With these premises, three different clayey materials mainly constituted of kaolinite, palygorskite or smectites were extemporaneous mixed with thermal water from Graena thermal station (Granada, Spain). The constituent and resultant water/solid systems were characterized and compared with similar suspensions in purified water. The results allowed determining the possibilities of these samples to be used as thermal muds.

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