

Silver Makes a Comeback

by John T Wilson

Colloidal silver is emerging as one of the wonders of science that the medical establishment is just beginning to rediscover. It's being used in bone surgery in the United States and in 70% of US burns units; Swiss biochemists are studying silver's ability to interrupt the cellular replication of HIV at various stages; and in Canada, Switzerland and the US, doctors use various forms of silver to treat a multitude of infections.

About the author

John Wilson is a writer, lecturer and publisher who is also involved in a nutritional supplement business.

- For a FREE fact sheet on colloidal silver write, including a stamped self-addressed envelope and mentioning this article, to: Business Innovations Research, Tregeraint House, Zennor, St Ives, Cornwall, TR26 3DB.

Colloidal silver is emerging as one of the wonders of science that the medical establishment is just beginning to rediscover. It's being used in bone surgery in the United States and in 70% of US burns units; Swiss biochemists are studying silver's ability to interrupt the cellular replication of HIV at various stages; and in Canada, Switzerland and the US, doctors use various forms of silver to treat a multitude of infections. In one of the Monty Python books there is a comic advertisement for the spoof Welsh self-defence art of Llap Goch in which it was pointed out that it was so powerful that you would be able to attack and disable your enemy before he had even thought of attacking you! It is a thought that those who have been mugged in the street relish, for even if the police are informed and the attackers caught (unlikely) you have still suffered the attack, with all the pain, loss and trauma involved. Our attempts to defend ourselves against illness are a bit like that – the enemy illness strikes, we call in the doctor, who gives us a prescription for antibiotics and we mop up the remaining symptoms with it, wishing we had been able to avoid catching the illness in the first place. Why can't we take the antibiotic first?

Interestingly, genetic engineers have recently been working on research to deal with the hundreds of bacteria which threaten our health by altering one of the bacterial enzymes (called RnaseP) so that their resistance to antibiotics is lowered. In the fight against disease, medicine is increasingly coming up against bacteria which have developed resistance to modern antibiotics, and these "super bugs" represent a great threat to health as they multiply and spread. The result is a worrying increase in the incidence and virulence of traditional viral and bacteria-caused diseases which we thought we had all but conquered – tuberculosis, bronchitis, candida, diphtheria, dysentery, meningitis, salmonella infection, etc.

Modern antibiotics have, of course, other disadvantages. You cannot buy them over the counter, so, for those ailments such as colds, flu and other minor infections, you have to make a doctor's appointment, sometimes waiting for two or three days before you can get a prescription – by which time the infection has virtually run its course. Also, many people are allergic to various modern antibiotics and suffer side effects that can be as bad (if not worse!) than the original complaint.

In fact, evidence is now emerging that in some instances antibiotics are implicated in the increase in some forms of serious illness. A team of specialists in Gloucester found that in towns with meningitis clusters there were 50% more prescriptions for antibiotics and nine times more cases of B-group bacterial meningitis than in comparative towns with a lower incidence of the disease. While the team has been unable to conclude that the greater frequency of antibiotic prescriptions is actually responsible for the increased incidence of meningitis, it did conclude that there are strong reasons for further investigation.

However similar enquiries in the United States and France suggest that antibiotics may kill off natural bacteria in the respiratory tract which are natural protectors against meningitis. More disturbing, perhaps, is a report in Newsweek Magazine which stated that in the USA 13,000 hospital patients died of infections that resisted every drug that the doctors tried. More and more people are becoming disillusioned by the "take this prescription" syndrome which is the hallmark of modern medicine, which waits until a disease develops and

then simply prescribes a dose of powerful antibiotics. This is a short sighted policy, particularly when we know that continually taking antibiotics weakens our resistance to illnesses in the long term and plays havoc with our immune system – the body’s natural defence. The immune system is a highly complicated group of mechanisms (antibodies, antitoxins and white blood cells) that go into action to protect the body from invasion or attack by foreign or harmful organisms. There is increasing evidence that over-prescribing of antibiotics can lead to damage to the immune system and its ability to respond effectively to infections and other threats. Added to this is the ever-increasing threat from free radicals – free-floating molecules within the body that seek to attach themselves to healthy cells causing the damage known as oxidation which leads to cell and tissue degeneration and disease. Many scientists and researchers believe that it is this process which is the root cause of many of the degenerative diseases such as arthritis, rheumatism, heart disease – perhaps even cancer and AIDS.

Given the above, it is not surprising that in the UK we now spend £1.4 billion in over-the-counter medicines, from vitamins and herbal preparations to non-prescription drugs and potions, as Mintel has reported recently. Another survey by MORI also showed that 47% of 1,000 adults interviewed said they were more likely to buy over-the-counter drugs for self-treatment than they were two years ago. Significantly, more than half the adult population were shown to suffer from colds, flu, headaches, coughs, sore throats, stuffy noses, indigestion, chapped lips and diarrhoea – and these are the areas where both prescription medication and alternative medicines are most used. The interest in natural and holistic approaches to health is growing apace, with an increasing recognition of the importance of a positive approach to health through a better diet, regular exercise and a return to some of the traditional ways of keeping illness at bay.

One of these, you will be pleased to know, works on the Monty Python principle of attacking a wide range of illnesses before they even think of attacking you! In other words, there is something you can do to give yourself prior protection against a whole range of bacteria and viral-caused infections and illnesses before they strike you down. Interestingly, this is based on a substance used by the ancient Greeks and Romans, and later by the Wild West settlers, to keep liquids pure – silver.

While it is thought that silver was used as a remedy in ancient Egypt, the first written mention of its use in a medical context is found in a pharmacopoeia published in Rome in 69BC, while the first clear record of its use as a medical agent is in the writings of the Mohammedan School founded by Geber (702–765AD).

Much later, in 1834, the German obstetrician F. Crede used a one per cent solution of silver (silver nitrate) on the eyes of new-born children, virtually eliminating the incidence of blindness from disease in new-born babies. Among many other results reported by medical researchers and practitioners was that of J. Mark Howell, who wrote in the British Medical Journal in 1917 of his successful use of colloidal silver for septic conditions of the mouth (including pyorrhoea alveolaris – Rigg’s Disease), throat (including Meniere’s symptoms and closure of Valsalva’s inflation) and in generalised septicaemia, leucorrhoea, cystitis, whooping cough and shingles. Dr Robert Becker noticed a correlation between low levels of silver in the body (the human body naturally contains about .001% silver derived from the soil through the food we eat) and their vulnerability to ailments, concluding, since those with low silver levels were frequently sick, had innumerable colds, flu, fevers and other sicknesses, that a silver deficiency in the body was the reason for the improper functioning of the immune system.

“What we have actually done”, says Becker, “was rediscover the fact that silver killed bacteria, which has been known for centuries. When antibiotics were discovered, clinical uses for silver were discarded.”

Further extensive research carried out in the early years of this century and in the 1970s and 1980s established colloidal silver (minute particles of silver suspended electronically in a pure water solution) as a highly effective agent against over 650 pathogens, with none of the side effects found with the powerful modern antibiotics.

For example, in 1910, Dr Henry Crooks, a pioneer in colloidal chemistry, wrote that: “Certain metals, when in a colloidal state, have a highly germicidal action but are quite harmless to human beings... it may be applied in a much more concentrated form and with better results... Bronchial tuberculosis... Staphylococcus pyogenes, various Streptococci and other pathogenic organisms are all killed in three to four minutes: in fact,

no microbe is known that is not killed by this colloid in laboratory experiments in six minutes, (and) the concentration of the (silver) does not exceed twenty-five parts per million...". (There is, in fact, a small number of silver resistant bacteria which have so far been documented, including: Citrobacter Freundii; Enterobacter Cloacae; Enterobacteriaceae (some strains); Escherchia Coli (some strains); Klebsiella Pneumonize; P. Stunzeri (some strains); Proteus Mirabilis; and Vegetative B. Cereus Spores.)

That assessment has been borne out by all later research – indeed NASA, in common with over half the world's airlines, uses silver to provide its space crews with safe drinking water. It would seem that the researches of the genetic engineers referred to earlier in this article could be largely wasted effort, given that, for most practical purposes, the problem has already been solved (but subsequently forgotten about) over eighty years ago.

Silver began its more recent come-back in the 1970s when the late Dr Carl Moyer, Chairman of the University of Washington's Department of Surgery was given a grant to develop improved treatment for burn victims. Dr Harry Margraf of St Louis, the chief biochemist working in the programme under Dr Moyer, tested 22 antiseptic compounds, finding drawbacks to all of them until he focussed on colloidal silver, which proved to be the most effective and is now used in all major burn centres throughout the world.

In 1971 Dr E. Henderson, Professor of Microbiology at Temple University's School of Medicine reported his experiments which tested colloidal silver's ability to block production of HIV in human T-cell Lymphocytes (white blood cells). At very low doses the colloidal silver dramatically blocked viral production with little, if any, toxicity.

With the widespread loss of confidence in the medical establishment, at least as far as everyday ailments and medications are concerned, people are increasingly taking more responsibility for their own health, returning to folk and herbal medicines and realising the importance of preventative health care. The growing interest in the benefits of colloidal silver is part of this general move towards taking responsibility for one's own health rather than waiting to be cured once illness has been allowed to take hold.

The experts who have revived interest in this effective, traditional "cure-all" recommend taking approximately a teaspoonful of colloidal silver a day. This has the effect of strengthening the immune system and giving protection against a wide range of disease-causing organisms. Colloidal silver can also be added to plant water to prevent disease and kill mould and various other harmful organisms and can be sprayed on fruits and vegetables to keep them from turning brown through oxidation.

Colloidal silver is emerging as one of the wonders of science that the medical establishment is just beginning to rediscover. It's being used in bone surgery in the United States and in 70% of US burn units; Swiss biochemists are studying silver's ability to interrupt the cellular replication of HIV at various stages; and in Canada, Switzerland and the US, doctors use various forms of silver to treat a multitude of infections.

Silver can save lives and, on a less dramatic but nonetheless important scale, it can keep us free of many of the irritating and debilitating illnesses that modern antibiotics are becoming increasingly powerless to ward off. Silver has always been a synonym for wealth; now, it appears, it has equal importance as a determinant of health.

References

- Colloidal Silver, the Antibiotic Alternative, Canty & Baranowski, Association for Advanced Colloidal Research, Oregon.
- The Body Electric and Cross Currents, R. Becker, MD.
- Colloidal Silver, Where Have You Been?, Iris A. Moore, The New Times, Seattle WA, May 1994.
- Remembering the Wonder Cure Time Forgot: Colloidal Silver, Tonita d'Raye, Ten Minute Read Company, Oregon, 1996.
- More News on Silver, Leonard Herschberg, John Hopkins Hospital.
- Colloidal Silver, the Hidden Truths, Keith F. Courtenay.
- Antibacterial Efficacy of a Colloidal Silver Complex, L. Bretano & H. Margraf, Surgical Forum, Vol. 17, 1966, pp 76–78.

- The Molecular Mechanics of Copper and Silver Ion Disinfection of Bacteria and Viruses, R. B. Thurman & C. P. Gerba, paper presented at the First International Conference on Gold and Silver in Medicine, The Silver Institute, Wash., Vol.18, 4, Pp 295–302, 1989.

COLLOIDAL SILVER - REFERENCES

Below are listed some statements and extracts from various government agencies, scientific studies, and other related documents.

- 1.) In his book "Colloidal Silver" The Hidden Truths, Dr.Keith F.Courtenay explains what Silver Colloid has done for him, and outlines all the positive aspects of this "natural super germicide" This book is a must to read for anyone who has come up against the modern over prescription of antibiotics, and who has a seemingly impossible disease that can not be cured using modern medicine.
- 2.) "The Bactericidal Action of Colloids of Silver and Mercury",by Professor C.R.Marshall,M.D. Medical School Dundee, Scotland.... from the experiments conducted by the professor and his associate G.B.Killoh.M.D.....he states "I know of no microbe that is not killed in laboratory experiments in six minutes".
- 3.) Dr. W.J.Simpson C.M.G. M.D. (professor of Hygiene) Kings College London, and Dr. R.Tanner Hewflefer. M.D. F.R. C.P. (Professor of Bacteriology) University of London published an article in The Lancet Dec.12th 1914. In essence it said that the typhoid bacillus, which they were working on, was killed outright by a silver colloidal solution.
- 4.) Alexander Tomasz, M.D. Rockefeller University of New York City, states "Common Bacteria that cause pneumonia, children's ear infections and many other diseases are evolving into forms untreatable by all known medicines, threatening a frightening post-antibiotic era that is a looming medical disaster"
- 5.) "Use of Colloids in Health and Disease". Colloidal Silver is proven particularly effective in cases of intestinal troubles. Dr. Henry Crooks found that Silver in the colloidal state is high germicidal, quite harmless to humans and absolutely non-toxic. Rather than in chemical compound the Silver, in the colloidal state, may be applied in a much more concentrated form, with correspondingly better results. All fungus, virus, bacterium, streptococcus, staphylococcus, and other pathogenic organisms are killed in three to four minutes; in fact there is no microbe known that is not killed by Silver Colloid in six minutes or less, at a dilution of a little as 5 parts per million, though there are no side effects what so ever from high concentrations.
- 6.) American Drug Index, section on Inorganic Pharmaceuticals Chemistry, recognised Silver for its germicidal action..
- 7.) The FDA has stated that because Colloidal Silver is (by fifty years) a pre-1938 drug, it may continue to be marketed. 13 Sept. 1991 letter received from consumer safety officer, Harold Davis, US Food and Drug Administration. Moreover, the FDA has no jurisdiction regarding a pure, mineral element.
- 8.) Environmental Protection Agency's Poison Control Centre reports no toxicity listing for Colloidal Silver, considering it harmless in any concentration.
- 9.) Dr. Robert Becker "The Body Electric", recognised a correlation between low Silver levels and sickness. He said the silver deficiency was responsible for the improper functioning of the immune system. Dr Becker's experiments conclude that Silver works on the full spectrum of pathogens without any side effects or damage to any cells of the body (being tissue, and not single cells.) He also states that the Silver was doing something more than killing disease-causing organisms. It was also causing major growth stimulation of injured tissue. Burn patients and even elderly patients noticed more rapid healing. He discovered that all cancer cells change back to normal cells. All strains of pathogens resistant to other antibiotics are killed by Silver. Yet at that

time he couldn't find a Silver supplement on the market.

10.) Dr. Bjorn Nordstrom, of the Karolinska Institute, Sweden, has used Silver in his cancer cure method, for many years. He says the whole thing is quite simple. This brought rapid remission in patients given up by other doctors.

11.) "Silver our Mightiest Germ Fighter" Science Digest March 1978. As a antibiotic., Silver kills over 650 disease-causing organisms, resistant strains fail to develop. Silver is absolutely non-toxic. Silver is the best all round germ fighter we have. Doctors are reporting that, taken internally, it works against syphilis, cholera, malaria, diabetes and severe burns. Richard L. Davies, executive director of the Silver Institute, which monitors Silver technology in 37 countries, reports: " In four years we've described 87 important new medical uses for silver".

12.) "Colloidal Preparations of Silver in Pharmacy". British Medical Journal, Feb. 1923. Pure silver is entirely non-irritant. In tests, at very high dilution rates, exceeding two hundred thousand to one, it has been shown repeatedly that the rapidly exerted disinfectant action is of considerable therapeutic value.

13.) There has never been a drug interaction with any other medication. Colloidal Silver has been found to be both a remedy and a prevention of all colds, all flu, all infections and all fermentation due to any bacteria, fungus or virus, especially staph and strep, which are found present in every disease condition Through simple high school biology studies we learn that all living things exist in the colloidal form. The body can more readily use medications already in the colloidal form, as opposed to crystalline.

14.) Colloidal Silver is the most useable form of the most effective disease fighter there is. The body actually needs Colloidal Silver to fight disease-causing organisms, and to aid healing. The adult RDA for Silver is 400 milligrams. Taken orally each day, it's like having a second immune system . Older folks feel younger because their body energies are used for other than fighting disease, and digestion is better.

15.) Medical research has proven that Silver promotes rapid healing, with less scar tissue, even in the case of sever burns. Silver aids the developing foetus in growth, health and eases the delivery and recovery. Fantastic successes have been reported in may cases previously given up by establishment doctors.

16.) Colloidal Silver is tasteless and won't sting, even babies eyes, and won't upset the stomach It is produced today by modernised original process, at a tiny fraction of the pre-1938 cost and is more concentrated. Contain no free radical, as the Silver acts only as a catalyst, and is stabilised. This is not a chemical compound containing Silver, but pure metallic Silver of sub-microscopic clusters of just a few atoms, held in suspension, in pure water, by the tiny electric charge on each atom. It is absolutely non-toxic, (except to one-celled plants and animals), and non-addicting. Colloidal Silver is the remedy for all infections, even the non-apparent, low-grade, general body infections most people have.

17.) Silver is a powerful, natural prophylactic/antibiotic, used for thousands of years, with no side effects. It is a catalyst, disabling the particular enzyme that all one-celled bacteria, fungus and virus, use for their oxygen metabolism: they suffocate. Yet it is of no harm to human enzymes of any part of the human body chemistry. It kills all disease-causing organisms, in six minutes or less, upon contact, even those pleomorphic, no matter how they mutate.

18.) Resistant strains fail to develop, and the body doesn't develop a tolerance. Colloidal Silver is both a remedy and a prevention of infections of any kind. Having sufficient Colloidal Silver in your body is to have a superior, second immune system. It was in common use until 1938. Great Grandma put a silver dollar in the milk, to keep it fresh at room temperature.

19.) Water is purified by adding one teaspoon per gallon, shake well, wait six minutes, and shake again, wait six minutes, and drink. Mix it his way, it's tasteless a, and drink two quarts, over a day's time, especially with meals, as a great digestive aid, because it eliminates fermentation. It is the ideal food preservative, because it is good for you. Use in canning at one teaspoon per quart, for example, those already using Colloidal Silver report that they cat milder, and fewer if any, colds or flu. The emphasis is on the prevention of all infections

There are Never any side effects It never does any harm to the liver, kidneys, any other organ, system or any part of the body. No-one has ever overdosed, regardless of the amount, as it is not at all an allopathic poison. the intravenous Formula, (½ oz. Bottle/adult, proportional) is often preferred as it is more long lasting and for some people, works better.

Colloidal Silver

The fourth in a series of article on so-called "Alternative" or "Complimentary" treatments in regards to asthma.

Even though the FDA does not approve of Colloidal Silver's use in animals, people can still turn their skin a ugly bluish-grey color.

Although not directly marketed to asthmatic, Colloidal Silver promoters do claim to treat a wide variety of infections, including sinusitis which is a common affliction for many asthmatics. The increase problems caused by lung infections would also make asthmatics more susceptible to the false claims of Colloidal Silver hawkers.

During the late 1800's, before the advent of antibiotics, silver compounds were used as antibacterial agents. They're still used as a topical agent in the form of Silver Nitrate to help treat severe burns. Silver has a long history of its disinfection qualities being used as a way to discourage growth of bacteria and algae. Copper has also been used for centuries for the same purposes. You'll still find copper widely used to reduce bacterial growth in a variety of places. These metals' ability to retard the growth of organisms is evidence of their toxic nature. Colloidal Silver's advocates claim it only kills "pathogenic" organisms, in truth, it has an effect on all living cells. There is also a small percentage of the population that will develop allergies to silver for the same reasons. The true toxic nature of silver is not fulling understood, another reason for caution and scepticism.

The only known result of taking Colloidal Silver is a condition known as Argyria. Argyria is an irreversible skin discoloration cause by the cumulative effect of being exposed to silver and silver compounds. Over a period of time, usually years, silver deposits itself in the skin, organs, and other tissues of the body and is characterized by the grey or blue-grey discoloration of the skin. A must read essay on Argyria and the effects of having this condition can be found in Rosemary Jacobs' site on Argyria. Rosemary speaks of her being ostracized by her peers and harassed by Colloidal Silver promoters. As a child, Rosemary was prescribed Colloidal Silver nose drops as a treatment for sinus problems. Ms. Jacobs has filed a citizen's petition with the FDA that all orally-administered products containing Colloidal Silver be required to carry a warning label, and that the FDA consider banning all ingestible silver products that have not been proven effective.

The facts are there is no documentation that Colloidal Silver effectively treats anything! The FDA has issued statements that Colloidal Silver is a "potentially serious public health concern." The National Nutritional Foods Association (NNFA) has stated that Colloidal Silver has not been demonstrated to be either safe or effective (NNFA Today, Oct. 1996). Colloidal Silver causes Argyria.