



## CLINICAL TRIALS START WITH SILVER CLOTH THAT KILLS MRSA

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A new silver fabric that destroys the killer bug MRSA, is being tested in a London hospital. The See-it-Safe cloth, made by Toray Textiles in Mansfield, England has already been proven to eliminate 99.99 per cent of more than 800 micro-organisms, including MRSA, within less than an hour of direct exposure to the fabric. New clinical trials will establish its impact on patient health in a hospital setting.

Dr Peter Wilson, a consultant microbiologist, will be supervising trials at Newham University Hospital, East London, with 300 patients, to ascertain if wearing pyjamas made of the material controls and kills MRSA. MRSA kills up to 800 people a year in the UK and is resistant to many antibiotics. The trials are expected to begin within the next 6-8 weeks and will be completed in 2007, with interim results expected by the end of this Summer (2006).

Dr Wilson says: "Silver is known to be a very efficient agent against infection and in aiding recovery. It is already used on occasion in a variety of medical products including wound dressings and products which are inserted into the body such as the cement used for hip replacements. It is also a very safe material.

'We will be monitoring patients who have contracted MRSA over a period of 12 months. To permit a direct and meaningful comparison, some patients will be provided with pyjamas made by Toray Textiles and others will wear conventional hospital clothing. It will be a huge bonus to be able to treat MRSA without using antibiotics. This will preserve and extend the useful life of 'anti MRSA' antibiotics so they can be used, and they will remain effective where they are really needed.'  
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The use of silver to fight germs dates back to Egyptian times. The See it Save cloth is interwoven with threads of silver that are activated by moisture and heat from the body to kill bacteria.

Keith Mitchell, Managing Director of Toray Textiles says: "We know that direct contact with our See-it-Safe fabric kills the vast majority of bacteria, including MRSA. We also believe it has a positive effect in minimising other skin conditions such as eczema. We will not know the full extent of the pyjamas' impact on the prevention and cure of MRSA until clinical trials are completed in 2007, but we are very optimistic."

Given the laboratory findings to date, Toray is expecting significant demand for its materials from retailers and clothing manufacturers around the world. We see a strong, immediate market for pyjamas," says Mitchell, "And when the clinical trials come through with the expected result we will see a huge increase in demand for our bacteria-resistant material extending into nurses' uniforms, surgical gowns and hospital curtains and bedding".

Keith Mitchell adds: "We have evidence that if somebody with a colonisation of MRSA on their skin wears our pyjamas, they will become colony-free. Once activated, the silver interferes with the development of the cell. The electron release of the silver works on an intra-cellular level, disrupting the DNA and RNA of any micro-organism that 'lands' on the fabric."

The fabric is the only textile recognised as an established product by the NHS Rapid Review Panel, the only official Government response to assess anti-microbial products.

Toray Textiles are in discussions with a number of retailers and are expecting that pyjamas and other clothing made with their fabric will be in stores around the world by the end of this year. In the meantime, early press reports have resulted in a number of people contacting the company direct. Keith Mitchell says: "We had a number of people contact us and, although we have no intention of becoming a direct sales operation, we are filling the gap between launch and availability in stores through provision of very basic pyjamas for people with medical conditions. Pyjamas cost £55, including postage and packaging within the UK. Outside the UK there will be a small supplement to cover any additional postage costs. Orders are available by calling or e-mailing Maria Smith +44 1623 415102 / mjs@ttel.co.uk

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More information at [www.seeitsafe.info](http://www.seeitsafe.info)

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**Notes to editors:**

**Toray Textiles Europe Limited**, a wholly owned subsidiary of Toray Industries Inc., is the largest manufacturer of woven polyester and nylon fabrics in Europe. We are renowned for our high levels of customer service, innovation, technical expertise and product quality. Our quick response manufacturing concept means that we can offer short lead times from our purpose built state of the art manufacturing plant in the UK. We offer a large range of products with full EU origin certification and our integrated logistics network offers worldwide delivery. Our customers also benefit from a bespoke, quick response full colour matching and sampling service to facilitate targeted development.