

MAYBE THE MONASTERIES WERE RIGHT - PRECIOUS METALS DO WORK.

Following many years exhaustive R&D work, **Toray Textiles** recently launched a range of fabrics with silver woven into the material in carefully controlled ratios. During routine use the silver ionises, and liberates minute quantities of energy as it does so. Minute it might be, but it is sufficient to kill any bacteria adjacent to the material. The reaction is so successful that MRSA is killed within one hour of contact with the cloth. Amazingly, so are 99.9% of over 800 other bacteria tested to date including the new "horror-bug" Clostridium Difficile. The implications of this UK discovery are tremendous. As a demonstration of this, just take a second to read the statistics associated with our hospitals. The stark truth is that at a cost of £1b around 300,000 people contract infection in UK hospitals and an estimated 5,000 people die as a result. The causes of this hospital acquired infection (HAI) are, of course, many and varied and no single invention or discovery can eliminate it altogether. The "See-it-Safe" range of fabrics now available from Toray Textiles do, however, offer significant prospects for some dramatic improvements. As examples, if all nurses uniforms were made from the new silver-technology material, cross contamination between patients in the same and different wards could be reduced and the nursing staff totally protected at all times. If bed screens were also manufactured from



silver-containing fabrics, the effects of MRSA and other unpleasant bacteria associated with any single patient could be isolated and contained. It doesn't take a genius to think of other applications for these new, silver-based wonder materials within hospitals and other medical environments. (Doctors waiting rooms??)

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