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Colloidal Silver

by Marvin Robey

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Colloidal Silver

by Marvin Robey

Can a few dollars worth of silver and water mixed at home cure almost any sickness, even cancer and AIDS? Can the same remedy heal burns fast without scarring and replace common toxic home disinfectants at a fraction of the cost with absolutely no toxicity? Is it possible that it may soon completely replace our modern antibiotics? Some people say it can, and will. In fact, some of the most noted medical research scientists are telling us it can.

For instance, the March 28, 1994 issue of Newsweek featured a 6 page article entitled "*Antibiotics - The End of Miracle Drugs?*" as the cover story. It went on to say that "*The rise of drug resistant germs is unparalleled in recorded history ... Penicillin and tetracycline lost their power over staph back in the 1950's and 60's. Another antibiotic, methicillin, provided a backup for awhile, but methicillin-resistant staph is now common in hospitals and nursing homes worldwide ... trying to cripple bacteria's defenses ... will not do much more than buy us five to ten years ... A better strategy might be to abandon antibiotics altogether in favor of different kinds of drugs.*" Not a very pretty picture, if true.

The September, 1995 issue of Time magazine featured an article entitled "*Revenge of the Killer Microbes*". Sounds like a sci-fi thriller, doesn't it. But Time was serious. "*Faced with AIDS, and with an ever increasing number of antibiotic-resistant bacteria, doctors were forced to admit that the medical profession was actually retreating in the battle against germs. The question ceased to be, When will infectious diseases be wiped out?, and became, Where will the next deadly new plague appear?... Humanity once had the hubris to think it could control or even conquer all these Microbes. But anyone who reads today's headlines knows how vain that hope turned out to be. New scourges are emerging--AIDS is not the only one--older diseases like tuberculosis are rapidly evolving into forms that are resistant to antibiotics ... In 1992, 13,300 hospital patients died of infections that resisted every drug doctors tried.*"

The basic problem is simply that bacteria have tremendous ability to adapt to substances. They can, and do, mutate to overcome antibiotics. When the antibiotics destroy the bacteria which are susceptible to them, they only clear the way for the resistant bacteria to move in uninhibited. Still another problem that has plagued the medical profession from the beginning with modern antibiotics has been the fact that throughout the body, beneficial bacteria and organisms play various important, natural functions in the body. Antibiotics often play havoc with some of these necessary organisms, producing long lasting side effects that may be difficult to correct. Robert S. Mendelsohn, M.D., in his 1979 book entitled "*Confessions of a Medical Heretic*" (pp. 22-25) concludes that antibiotics are "miracle[s] of mayhem".

Science Digest suggested an answer back in March, 1978 in an article entitled "*Our Mightiest Germ Fighter*". This article by Jim Powell stated: "*Thanks to eye-opening research, silver is emerging as a wonder of modern medicine. An antibiotic kills perhaps a half-dozen different disease organisms, but silver kills some 650. Resistant strains fail to develop. Moreover, silver is virtually non-toxic.*" This article further relates that "*A speeding car overturned and burst into flames. The 18-year old driver suffered burns over his face, neck, arms, hands, back, stomach, and legs --- burns covered more than 80 percent of his body. Until recently, this would have been a death sentence. Doctors knew how to restore vital body fluids and salts, but had no way to fight infection; the primary cause of death in bum cases. Fortunately for this youth, a new silver compound killed deadly bacteria and enabled him to heal. He was out of the hospital within four months.*"

In the 1970's Dr. Carl Moyer, Chairman of Washington University's Department of Surgery, received a grant to develop better treatments for burn victims. Dr. Harry Margraf worked with Dr. Moyer and other surgeons as chief biochemist on this project. They tested 22 antiseptic compounds and rejected all of them. The problem was that infections in burns often failed to respond to antibiotics. Most antiseptics actually destroyed the delicate tissues in severe burns and were very painful. The greatest problem was the bacterium *Pseudomonas Aeruginosa* which is particularly infectious to burns and fails to respond to all common antiseptics and antibiotics.

In his research into medical history, Dr. Margraf found numerous references to silver as an anti microbial agent. It was found that silver has been used for hundreds of years in one form or another to treat infection and has well proven itself to be totally non-toxic at all concentrations. Bacteria have never developed an immunity to it. He found references to it as a catalyst that disables the enzymes anaerobic microorganisms depend on.

Doctor Margraf therefore tried silver nitrate, the same solution used in newborn babies' eyes at birth. It did work, However, he found it disturbed the balance of body salts, stained everything it touched and in high concentrations was corrosive and painful. After further study, he found that all of these problems were solved by colloidal silver. He then developed a salve, marketed as "silversuladiazine" that has been very effective. It is now routinely used for severe burn victims, resulting in a large reduction of scarring and a heavy reduction of deaths from infections. Skin grafts have also been drastically reduced.

The University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) ran some tests on colloidal silver and their report states, *"The silver solutions were antibacterial for concentrations of 10 to the 5th power organisms per ml. of Streptococcus pyogenes, Staphylococcus aureus, Neisseria gonorrhoea, Gardnerella Vaginalis, Salmonella Typhi, and enteric pathogens, and fungicidal for Candida Albicans, Candida globata, and M. flarfur."*

If it is so effective, this safe, and has so many advantages, why have we not been using it? What makes researchers now believe it is effective? What has led to this change of thinking. One line of research that has led to this change is described in the best seller, "The Body Electric" (1985), by Robert O. Becker, M.D., who is a leading research scientist in the field of bone regeneration. He states on page 167 of his book: *"Of course, the germ-killing action of silver had been known for some time ... the Soviets use silver ions to sterilize recycled water aboard their space station ... It kills even antibiotic-resistant strains, and also works on fungus infections."* On page 175 he says: *"It stimulates bone-forming cells, cures the most stubborn infections of all kinds of bacteria, and stimulates healing in skin and other soft tissues."*

Certainly that is a broad statement! But Dr. Becker further relates a fascinating story which would seem to substantiate his claim. As the story goes, a man's broken right tibia and fibula refused to bond and the skin refused to heal over a large area of the leg for a year and a half. The leg was infected with 5 kinds of bacteria, all of which refused to respond to antibiotics. As a last resort before amputation, Dr. Becker treated the condition with silver charged with a very minute electrical current. This produced silver ions in the bone area, as well as the surface area. *"...I debrided the wound, removing the dead tissue and all grossly infected or dead bone. There wasn't much left afterward. It was an enormous excavation running almost from his knee to his ankle. In the operating room we soaked a big piece of silver nylon in saline solution and laid it over the wound ... We packed the fabric in place with saline-soaked-gauze, wrapped the leg, and connected the battery unit."* About 10 days later, Dr. Becker discovered that *"...all of our bacterial cultures were sterile; all 5 kinds had been killed. The soft healing tissue, called granulation tissue, was spreading out and covering the bone. In two weeks, the whole base of the wound, which had been over 8 square inches of raw*

bone, was covered with this friendly pink carpet. The skin was beginning to grow in, too, so we could forget about the grafts we thought we'd need to do.

"I decided to take an X-ray to see how much bone he'd lost. [He was expecting the bone to start withdrawing before the knitting process began] I could hardly believe the picture. There was clearly some bone growth! ... I removed the cast, felt the leg, and found that the pieces were all stuck together. John watched, and when I was done he lifted his leg into the air triumphantly."

But AIDS? Cancer? Yeast infection? Here no antibiotic is of much value, and never has been. Certainly it seems doubtful that any one substance can treat all of these problems. Yet some researchers are telling us that silver can.

When Dr. Becker placed the silver coated nylon in the wound and connected an electrode at each end, he produced silver ions within the body fluids, i.e. "colloidal silver". This alone cannot be credited with the rapid healing of the bone, as his research proved that the small electrical current was effective in the bone growth all by itself. However, the silver electrodes proved much more effective than other metal electrodes, including stainless steel, and this would seem to lead to the supposition that the silver ions are effective in stimulating healing of the bone when in direct contact. There is a company here in the United States by the name of Argentum Research, Inc. in Georgia that is currently applying Dr. Becker's research. Its product (Silverlon) is essentially a tight, nylon mesh with each strand silver-plated. Check their website (Case Studies) at silverlon.com for graphic examples of what their products can do. Absolutely fascinating!

Silver has been known to be a bactericide for at least 1200 years. Even in ancient times, it was known to prevent disease and it was said that disease could not be transmitted by drinking from a silver cup. Silver coins were commonly used to prevent the spoilage of milk and other drink, and silver containers were used to prolong the freshness of foods in general. Even today, we commonly call all tableware "silverware" although now it is usually made of stainless steel. Until about 1970 it was common usage for scientists to put a silver dime in a petri dish to sterilize it.

Silver was long used for plates in the surgical repair of bones. In the 1920's, 30's, and 40's silver was ground very fine like flour and was used orally for many infections and disease conditions, topically on bums, and for fungal infections. Over 650 bacteria, virus, and fungus were considered treatable with this silver in 1938. With the development of the patented antibiotics, silver lost usage in the United States and most other places, although the antibiotics are only effective against bacteria, not viruses, yeasts, and fungus, as is silver. Now, with the greatly improved colloids, the tables are turning and silver may be the most effective treatment.

All of this is happening at the same time that disease bacteria are developing immunity to modern antibiotics. Furthermore, immunity to the antibiotics seems to be developing all over the world, even in isolated areas. The medical profession is alarmed. Can silver save us? Many authorities think so.

In "*Use of Colloids in Health and Disease*", author Dr. Henry Crooks found that colloidal silver is highly germicidal. In laboratory testing he found that "*all fungus, virus, bacterium, streptococcus, staphylococcus, and other pathogenic organisms are killed in three or four minutes. In fact, there is no microbe known that is not killed by colloidal silver in six minutes or less in a dilution of as little as five parts per million.*" Dr. Crooks found colloidal silver particularly affective in intestinal problems, and tells us there are no serious effects whatsoever from high concentrations.

In "Colloidal Silver" by the Association for Colloidal Research, it is reported that: *"Medical Journal Reports and documented studies spanning 100 years indicate no known side-effects from oral or intravenous administration for properly manufactured colloidal silver in animal or human testing ... There has never been a reported reaction with colloidal silver and any prescription medication..."*

It is suggested that colloidal silver not be used along with intravenous EDTA chelation, as silver is a metal, and this treatment works by absorbing/removing metals from the blood. For this reason, the two work against each other.

Some have asked, "Does colloidal silver destroy the friendly organisms?" "How can it differentiate between friendly and unfriendly organisms?" It seems that most friendly organisms are aerobic (i.e. do well in an oxygen-rich atmosphere), whereas unfriendly organisms are anaerobic (i.e. don't like oxygen). Silver attacks only the anaerobic organisms.

How does colloidal silver do all this? Researchers tell us that the silver ion, of very minute size and having a positive charge, attaches itself to certain enzymes needed by anaerobic bacteria, viruses, yeasts and fungus and destroys it. It is said that these organisms require a particular enzyme (superoxide dimutase) for their sustenance. The silver acts as a catalyst and is not consumed in the process. It is probable that the reason these bacteria cannot develop a resistance to silver, as they do to antibiotics, is because silver does not attack them directly, but rather destroys the enzyme they depend on.

But what basis is there to think that colloidal silver can cure cancer? Is cancer caused by a treatable organism such as a virus or yeast? The general evidence would seem to be contrary. No such organism has yet been proven to be responsible for cancer. Some correlation of cancer to candida albicans has been shown in some studies. As UCLA has said, colloidal silver has been shown to be effective against candida. It is possible that the main effect colloidal silver has on cancer is due to the production of "undifferentiated cells (blastemas)". ****Since this article was written, it has been discovered that at least two forms of cancer are now KNOWN to be directly caused by viruses****

However, there is some more direct evidence that colloidal silver may be effective against cancer. Dr. Robert O. Becker, author of The Body Electric as quoted above, also did cancer research and states on page 178: *"...silver [electrodes], which when negative had no effect on, and when positive, suspended mitosis of cancer cells in our lab."* It is the positive silver electrode that produces colloidal silver ions. Although the exact cause of the suspension of the cancer tissue was not conclusive, it seems very likely to be the positive ionic silver colloid produced. Electrodes of numerous other metals were tested and only the silver electrodes suspended the mitosis of the cancer cells. It is unfortunate that Dr. Becker was unable to obtain the funds to continue this promising research.

Dr. Bjorn Nordstrom, of the Karolinska Institute, Sweden, has used silver in his cancer cure method for many years. He says this brought rapid remission to patients given up by other doctors. Note however, that silver was used in combination with other treatments and should not be credited alone.

Cancer research scientist, Dr. Gary Smith reports that he has noticed a correlation between low silver levels and sickness. He found people who have low silver levels to be frequently sick and to have innumerable colds, flu, fevers, and other illnesses. He says: *"Success [in cancer treatment] depends on silver in the person's body and failures result from the lack of silver...When silver is present, the cancer cells differentiate and the body is restored. When silver levels are ... nonexistent, the cancer growth rate ...*

continues ... because the cells cannot differentiate ... I suspect a silver deficiency is possibly one of the main reasons cancer exists and is increasing at such a rapid rate."

Colloidal silver may be an entirely natural healing agent. Some theorize that years ago we normally had much higher levels of silver in our bodies. They claim that our bodies are depleted of silver because our soils have been depleted of silver, as well as other minerals, which had a much higher concentration before high yield farming practices came into vogue. Prior to that time, these minerals were much more bioavailable to our bodies by our food supply. It is theorized that by hauling our foods from our farm lands to the cities, consuming these foods and then dumping our sewage into our rivers and oceans, we are depleting the soil of the silver, along with all of the other natural minerals, while replacing only potassium, phosphorus and nitrogen. Thus, now our immune systems are depleted, while the loads on them are increased by many factors in our modern life-style. Dr. Joel Wallach has more to say on this subject in his book, "Rare Earths, Forbidden Cures: The secrets of Health and Longevity" located on his website deaddoctorsdontlie.com. (translated Dead Doctors Don't Lie)

Seemingly, it seems as if the final word may never be in concerning the effects of colloidal silver on cancer. However, the silver appears to be more promising against AIDS, because there seems to be no doubt that the silver supplements and supports the T-cells in their fight against foreign organisms in the blood. It is strongly suggested by research scientists such as Dr. Gary Smith, and others, that silver ions are essential to the immune system. Most of these facts point to the general strengthening of the immune system by the silver. In as much as AIDS is the result of a virtually destroyed immune system, it would be surprising to find that colloidal silver did not have a dramatic effect on AIDS.

AIDS is a viral disease, and antibiotics seldom have effect on viruses, but the colloidal silver ion does as above-mentioned. Also, the silver seems to be very effective in building up the immune system, so silver may be our best hope against AIDS. Alfred Searle, founder of Searle Pharmaceuticals, wrote that: *"Applying Colloidal Silver in human subjects has been done in a large number of cases with astonishingly successful results."*

The Herald of Provo, Utah in its February 2, 1992 edition, ran an article on page DI in which a member of the administration staff of Brigham Young University by the name of Daryl Tichy has been successfully experimenting with colloidal silver in the treatment of AIDS, along with warts and parvo-virus in a dog. *"Tichy said he had the material [colloidal silver] tested at two different labs; results showed the solution killed a variety of pathogens, including the HIV virus."* Tichy then states, *"I don't have a doubt in my mind [that this was the case]"*. He then said he had not been able to obtain funds to continue his research.

So, there is now evidence that colloidal silver is very effective in strengthening the immune system; curing very serious diseases, especially viruses, yeasts, and fungus which have been so difficult to treat, and improves general healing, both internally and externally.

When will we see silver in our everyday life for non-medical use? It seems it is already more prominent in our lives than most people realize. In Health Consciousness, Vol. 15, No. 4, pg. 5 we read: *"In the former Soviet Union silver is used to sterilize recycled water aboard space shuttles. NASA has also selected a silver/water system for its space shuttle. Internationally, many airlines use silver water filters to guarantee passenger safety against water-borne diseases such as dysentery. The Swiss government has approved use of such silver water filters in homes and offices. Silver works so well in purifying water that it is sometimes used to purify swimming pool water (used in conjunction with 1/10th the amount of chlorine, thus making*

silver chloride), and it doesn't sting the eyes as full-strength chlorine treatments do. An experiment conducted in Nebraska demonstrates its effectiveness: Fifty gallons of raw sewage were pumped into a pool that contained no E. coli, a bacteria organism found in the intestinal tract. The count soared to 7000 E. coli cells per millilitre of water. When the water was exposed to silver electrodes, within three hours it was completely free of E. coli."

Many other uses are suggested by Bob Beck, Ph.D. (not to be confused with Robert O. Becker, MD) such as spraying for fungus on plants, purifying swimming pool and spa water, disinfectants for home cleaning, diaper rash, all skin infections, eye infections (using a weak solution), misting as you inhale for lung problems, as well as for animals (dogs, cats, reptiles, etc.).

In general, modern colloidal silver is of superior quality to that made in the 1930's and 40's due to modern advances in technology.

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