

The pyjamas with a lining - they beat M

By David Wilkes

THE latest weapon in the battle against the MRSA superbug could be pyjamas made out of silver.

Yarn made out of the precious metal in the £20 garments wipes out 99.99 per cent of the germ in less than an hour, claim its makers.

Doctors believe the pyjamas could act as a 'magic wand' against MRSA, which kills at least 5,000 patients each year.

Each pair contains 2g to 3g of silver which helps fight infection by suffocating the germs and stopping them mutating.

The 'Toray' cloth used for the pyjamas - which also eradicates 800 other micro-organisms - is undergoing clinical trials in Newham University Hospital in East London.

Dr Peter Wilson, a consultant microbiologist at the hospital, said: 'Silver is known to be a very active and efficient agent in the fight against infection.'

'It is also remarkably safe and these two properties provide the ideal combination.'

'I can envisage a transformation in our hospitals to the extent that all patients will be required to wear pyjamas containing silver.'

'It will be like waving a magic wand in the fight against MRSA.'

Experts have long known silver can tackle the superbug and can be highly toxic to other bacteria.

The metal is already used in some plasters and hospital dressings. Its use in fabric could extend to nurses' uniforms, curtains and other furnishings.

Dr Wilson said the silver pyjamas - part of the See-it-Safe range made by Nottinghamshire-based firm Toray - will be tested for a year.

Leukaemia sufferer Nikki Townsend saw her MRSA infection clear within 24 hours of being given a pair to wear.

The superbug had been holding up doctors caring for her at City Hospital, Nottingham, said her mother Yvonne.

'Nikki had been awaiting critical treatment but was unfortunately suffering from MRSA infection on her skin, making it impossible for her to undergo this potentially life-saving treatment,' she added.

'I heard on the local news about this fabric that could eliminate pre-existing MRSA and contacted the company.'

'They donated a pair of pyjamas

for my daughter to wear. Within 24 hours of putting them on, hospital tests concluded that her MRSA had been completely eradicated, and her treatment could be scheduled immediately.'

The pyjamas can be washed and used by more than one person.

But it is not necessary for an individual patient to change every day because the silver's anti-bacterial properties also mean that smells are eliminated.

Mark Andrews, Toray's business group leader, said: 'The product has been around for a number of years but it seems the NHS is in a position to start taking it seriously because of the clinical trials.'

'The fact is that the response to the MRSA crisis shows no sign of bearing fruit.'

'Even if everyone going into

hospitals was diligent about washing their hands, it would by no means stop MRSA.

'Bearing in mind that the average human male sheds about 4,000 skin cells per minute, one sneeze with one absent-minded wipe of my nose and thousands of skin cells will be shed into the ward.'

'Every official effort being made to stamp out MRSA would be negated.'

The costs, however, could prove off-putting to ministers as a pair of standard NHS pyjamas costs only £5.

But a patient developing MRSA can cost the Health Service tens of thousands of pounds to treat.

Silver yarn will be woven into the England football team's kit at this summer's World Cup to regulate players' temperature.



Material girl: The garment which fights infection

METAL WITH A

SILVER has long been known for health-giving properties.

Its effectiveness against MRSA comes from trillions of electrical charged particles called ions which are triggered by heat or moisture.

This process - called ionisation - suffocates germs and gives them no chance to mutate into anything else.

In another anti-MRSA innovation, medics from Leicester University have developed an aerosol spray containing microscopic particles of silver. Trials are due to begin soon.

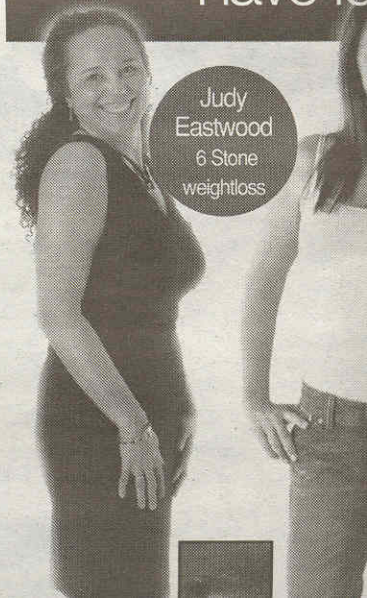
Silver's anti-bacterial properties were used by sailors in the past, who put silver coins in barrels of water to purify it. The metal is still used today in water purification.

And the phrase 'born with a silver spoon in his mouth' refers to the fact that babies fed with silver spoons in the 1800s were generally healthier than those fed with utensils made from cheaper metals.

This year, Austrian Professor Robert

THE UK'S NUMBER ONE

Thanks to Surgery the have lost



Judy Eastwood 6 Stone weightloss

The Fat Duck

House prices

Pyjamas with a silver - they beat MRSA



METAL WITH A MEDICINAL TOUCH

SILVER has long been known for its health-giving properties.

Its effectiveness against MRSA comes from trillions of electrically charged particles called ions which are triggered by heat or moisture.

This process - called ionisation - suffocates germs and gives them no chance to mutate into anything else.

In another anti-MRSA innovation, medics from Leicester University have developed an aerosol spray containing microscopic particles of silver. Trials are due to begin soon.

Silver's anti-bacterial properties were used by sailors in the past, who put silver coins in barrels of water to purify it. The metal is still used today in water purification.

And the phrase 'born with a silver spoon in his mouth' refers to the fact that babies fed with silver spoons in the 1800s were generally healthier than those fed with utensils made from cheaper metals.

This year, Austrian Professor Robert



Threads of silver in the cloth

Strohal found that dressings containing silver used in Britain can virtually eradicate MRSA cross-infection in hospitals.

But there are no official figures on how widely silver-backed dressings are used for infected patients.

The NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency said £10million worth are bought each year, with most going to treat burn and skin graft patients.

to wear. Within
ng them on, hos-
cluded that her
en completely
her treatment
ed immediately.
can be washed
more than one

hospitals was diligent about washing their hands, it would by no means stop MRSA.

'Bearing in mind that the average human sheds about 4,000 skin cells per minute, one sneeze with one absent-minded wipe of my nose and thousands of skin cells will be shed into the ward.

'Every official effort being made to stamp out MRSA would be negated.'

The costs, however, could prove off-putting to ministers as a pair of standard NHS pyjamas costs only £5.

But a patient developing MRSA can cost the Health Service tens of thousands of pounds to treat.

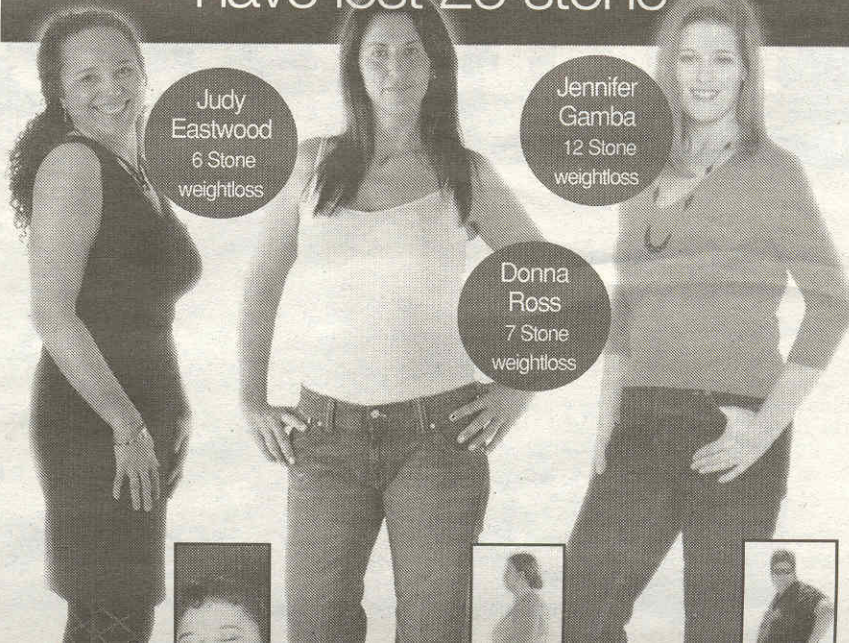
Silver yarn will be woven into the England football team's kit at this summer's World Cup to regulate players' temperature.

necessary for an
ent to change
use the silver's
properties also
s are eliminated.
s, Toray's busi-
sider, said: 'The
en around for a
but it seems the
sition to start
y because of the

the response to
shows no sign of
one going into

THE UK'S NUMBER ONE OBESITY SURGERY PROVIDER

Thanks to Gastric Band
Surgery these three women
have lost 25 stone



Judy Eastwood
6 Stone weightloss

Jennifer Gamba
12 Stone weightloss

Donna Ross
7 Stone weightloss

House prices
down 1.2pc