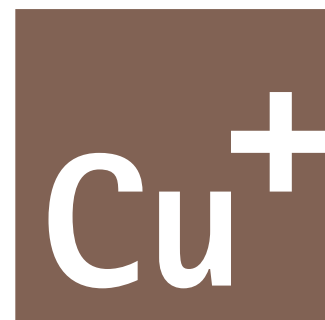


Antimicrobial Copper



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Antimicrobial
Copper
is a newsletter specially
created for healthcare
interest groups

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Copper Surfaces cut Infection Risk by 40%



First results from a major multi-site clinical trial in the US found antimicrobial copper surfaces reduced the risk of acquiring a hospital infection by 40.4%

The study was funded by the US Department of Defense and examined whether the use of antimicrobial copper surfaces in intensive care rooms could reduce both the level of pathogens in hospitals and rates of infection of patients.

The three hospitals involved in the trial—Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York, the Medical University of South Carolina and the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center, both in Charleston, South Carolina—replaced commonly-touched items like bed rails, over bed tray tables, nurse call buttons and IV poles with ones made from antimicrobial copper.

Rooms with copper surfaces demonstrated a 97 percent reduction in surface pathogens, the same level achieved by “terminal” cleaning: the regimen conducted after each patient vacates a room.

The results were presented at the World Health Organization’s 1st International Conference on Prevention and Infection Control (ICPIC) in Geneva, Switzerland on 11 July by Dr Michael Schmidt, Professor and Vice Chairman of Microbiology and Immunology at the Medical University of South Carolina.

“Bacteria present on ICU room surfaces are probably responsible for 35-80 percent of patient infections, demonstrating how critical it is to keep hospitals clean,” Dr Schmidt said.

“The copper objects used in the clinical trial supplemented cleaning protocols, lowered microbial levels, and resulted in a statistically significant reduction in the number of infections contracted by patients treated in those rooms.”

Final results from the study will be published toward the end of the year. However the overwhelmingly positive outcome so far is expected to strengthen the Antimicrobial Copper brand globally, the only solid touch surfaces registered by the US EPA to continuously kill bacteria that cause infections and pose a risk to human health.

See an interview with Dr Schmidt at
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JMdJbSxeCuE&feature=mfu_in_order&list=UL
For more information on Antimicrobial Copper, including a list of all the US EPA registrations, go to www.antimicrobialcopper.com

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Australian Infection Needs National Approach

A new, independent report suggests that Australia's push for a national approach to fighting Hospital Acquired Infections still faces a number of obstacles.

Produced by Frost & Sullivan Research Services, "Hospital-acquired Infection Incidence - Trends in Australia" provides a detailed overview of the issue, including the latest statistics. The company pointed out national standards are helping, but 'that differing regulations across the country are hampering efforts to stem the rising tide of HAI's-estimated to be roughly 200,000 per year in 2009.

According to John Fennell from the International Copper Association in Australia, the move by government to regulate and manage the fight against hospital infections is opening up new options to promote the use of Antimicrobial Copper.

"It represents one more barrier in the fight to stop the spread of disease in health settings and has the advantage of being easily applied across all facilities in a standard way," Mr Fennell said.



Cu+ Uptake Spreads

Antimicrobial Copper - or Cu+ as it's also known - has been steadily finding customers since it launched last year.

Most recently Trafford General Hospital in Manchester in the UK announced that a new eight-bed intensive care unit will be outfitted with antimicrobial copper products like door handles and plates, and work surfaces for the preparation of medications. Trafford NHS Trust, which operates the hospital, says that fighting hospital infections is a major priority and that antimicrobial copper is now part of that strategy.

Over in Chile, Codelco-the world's biggest copper producer-is also banking on CU+. It's not only helping to get Antimicrobial Copper hand rails in to the subway system, but is in talks with the Chilean Government to have Cu+ products installed in new health facilities around the country.

ICA Australia is also in discussion with a number of childcare providers to look at outfitting one or two centres in Sydney with Antimicrobial Copper products as part of a demonstration and research project. A similar approach is underway in the States where the Copper Development Association (CDA) and the Ronald McDonald House of Charleston have been working to outfit certain touch surfaces at the Charleston Home with Antimicrobial Copper.



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Global Snapshot of Healthcare Infections

The World Health Organization (WHO) has just published a comprehensive report on infections and disease picked up in health care settings.

The 'WHO Report on the burden of endemic health care-associated infection worldwide'-which is accompanied by a detailed Fact Sheet-not only provides data on HCAI in a broad range of countries, but sets out what is being done to tackle the problem across regions.

Most importantly it lists a number of strategies that should be undertaken to fight this growing problem, including improved surveillance and reporting, as well as implementing precautions and research to help find effective solutions. WHO sees HCAI's as a major threat to world health, especially in poorer countries, and has released the report as part of its 'Clean Care Is Safer Care' initiative.

*More Information:
WHO Report on the burden of endemic health care-associated infection worldwide
Fact sheet on HCAI endemic burden worldwide*



Writing's On The Wall

A new study has found that pens being used by medical staff are often infected with bacteria, but replacing them with Antimicrobial Copper versions could help.

The study - run by University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust - compared both stainless steel and copper pens in two busy critical care units. Total contamination on the brass pens was 87.3% less than on the stainless steel pens at the end of the working day and 94.8% less after 11 hours at normal room temperature.

"Our findings clearly demonstrate that the use of copper-containing pens significantly reduces the level of microbial contamination on writing instruments. Thus, copper pens may provide a tool to prevent re-inoculation of decontaminated hands," study-leader Dr Anna Casey said.

The study will be published in the next issue of the American Journal of Infection Control.



MSRA Moves Into Community

In a sign of the continuing spread of deadly bacteria a new US study is suggesting that MSRA infections may be appearing in fire stations as well.

The study-the first to look in depth at the presence of methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MSRA) outside a health setting-was recently published in the American Journal of Infection Control, the official publication of APIC, the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology.

Researchers sampled common areas in two fire stations and found MSRA contamination similar to hospital strains of the bacteria in all areas, as well as in 30 percent of fire station staff.

More information: <http://www.ajicjournal.org/>

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Shrinking Zinc & Copper

University of Bath scientists in the UK have made antimicrobial films from zinc and copper that can be used in wound dressings or on hard surfaces.

The team found that the copper and zinc complexes were good at killing germs like *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, limiting bacterial growth for up to 16 hours. Silver is commonly used as an antimicrobial metal, but it's not only expensive to use, but is less effective at temperature and humidity levels typical of indoor environments.

The copper and copper alloy options are also a cheaper option given the small amount needed for each film. The team involved is working to improve the films so that they can be used with medical devices like catheters and personal care items, as well as advanced wound dressings for burn victims.

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Copper is an essential element, meaning that it is an essential inorganic nutrient that is required by both plants and animals in order to live.

Copper, brass and bronze kill pathogens—including “superbug” MRSA—responsible for hospital- and community-acquired infections.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has approved the registration of antimicrobial copper alloys, with public health claims.

These public health claims acknowledge that copper, brass and bronze are capable of killing harmful, potentially deadly bacteria. Copper is the first solid surface material to receive this type of EPA registration, which is supported by extensive antimicrobial efficacy testing.