

# Fighting Sepsis with Colloidal Silver

## A Clinical overview – Paul D. Cosman, PhD

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The **CDC** has declared sepsis a medical emergency that strikes nearly **1.7 million Americans a year** and kills an astonishing **350,000 people a year** nationally. What's more, they estimate *"1 in 3 patients who dies in a hospital had sepsis."*

That's because if a case of sepsis advances to the septicemia and septic shock stage, the resulting organ failure is fatal between **28% and 50% of the time**. Weakened immunity is said to be the top reason for contracting sepsis after an infection. And according to MayoClinic.com, *"Antibiotic resistant bacteria are often the root cause of the infections that trigger sepsis."*

And according to the CDC, the risk of sepsis is higher in, *"adults aged 65 or older, children younger than 1, people with weakened immune systems, people with chronic medical conditions, such as diabetes, lung disease, cancer, and kidney disease, people with recent severe illness or hospitalization, and sepsis survivors."*

Thankfully, colloidal silver has a long history of successfully combating the condition, especially in its early stages.

## **History of the Use of Colloidal Silver for Sepsis and Septicemia**

In the early days of colloidal silver usage, *thousands* of sepsis victims were successfully treated with various forms of antimicrobial silver.

For example, according to a 1901 entry in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (volume 36, page 252, January 26, 1901), “*Silver...has been successfully employed in many forms of general sepsis.*”

And according to a 1901 entry in *The American Journal of Medical Sciences* (volume 121, page 605) titled “*Colloidal Silver as a Specific*”:

*“Dr. P. Viett advocates the use of colloidal silver as an efficient means of combating sepsis. He reports a number of illustrative cases, all resulting favorably. Should his results be substantiated, a distinct advance step in therapeutics can be recorded.... In two severe toxemic cases of scarlet fever and in one of diphtheria favorable results followed promptly after the introduction of the treatment. The results were equally striking in two patients suffering apparently from acute appendicitis. Three patients suffering from puerperal sepsis recovered. From his experience in the twenty cases reported, the author is led to believe that as an effective agent against various pyogenic organisms colloidal silver should be regarded as taking first place, and that the results are certainly encouraging that an internal antiseptic has been made practicable.”*

According to Dr. J. Roberts Deering, M.D., writing in a 1901 edition of the *Southern Practitioner* (vol. 23, page 21) about other practitioners who had begun employing colloidal silver in their fight against infections that were turning septic:

*“Crede claimed that the Colloidal Silver has a very beneficial influence and often effects a rapid cure in recent and chronic sepsis and furunculosis, when secondary changes in the vital organs have not occurred. He and others have treated osteomyelitis, phlegmonous angina, furunculosis, erysipelas, so-called gonorrhoeal and articular rheumatism, etc., by this method. Various reports, some very enthusiastic, have been presented ; on puerperal fever, cerebrospinal meningitis, acute mastitis, malignant scarlet fever, divers septic processes, furunculosis, and finally in purpura in the horse). Wilcox’s own experience in septic phlebitis, of which an unusually large percentage has occurred in his typhoid fever cases, has been most satisfactory ...In one instance of septic phlebitis following amoebic dysentery the results were almost marvelous.”*

According to Dr. John Zahorsky, M.D., writing in the May 6, 1899 issue of *Medical Review*, in an article titled “The Therapeutic Value of Soluble Silver”:

*“Crede states that he has had no deaths from sepsis in his surgical hospital since the introduction of silver salts and colloidal silver. There seems, therefore to be quite a large number of clinical cases reported to induce the clinician to give this medicament a trial.”*

According to a January 1900 issue of the *Albany Medical Annals* (volume 21, no. 1):

*“This ‘colloidal silver’ is almost entirely soluble in water and albuminous fluids, and apparently hinders the development of and destroys certain pathogenic germs, viz., staphylo and streptococci, to such an extent as to very often effect a rapid and absolutely surprising cure in recent cases, and also in chronic ones, such as slow sepsis and furunculosis, where secondary changes of vital organs, such as abscesses, or gangrene, have not occurred.”*

In other words, as long as silver was introduced into the body *before* the function of vital organs was seriously affected, it appeared to stop the developing sepsis in its tracks. While most of this fascinating history regarding the use of antimicrobial silver in fighting sepsis is long forgotten, a 1995 issue of the *Journal of Industrial Microbiology* (15, 372-376) affirmed silver’s long, historical use against sepsis, stating:

*“Silver has been known for years for its broad spectrum antimicrobial properties. Colloidal silver was used in wound anti-sepsis and in combination with citrate salts for skin infections.”*

In the 1990’s, biochemist James South, MA, also confirmed silver’s long history of use against various forms of sepsis, stating:

*“From 1900 to the beginning of the modern antibiotic era – circa 1940 with the introduction of sulfa drugs – silver was one of the mainstays of medical practice in Europe and America. Various forms of Silver were used to treat literally hundreds of ailments... [including] various forms of septicemia, including puerperal fever, peritonitis and post-abortion septicemia.”*

## **The Modern-Day Use of Silver Against Sepsis**

More recently, according to Dr. Kent Holtorf, of Holtorf Medical Group, writing in a white paper titled "[Safety and Efficacy of Intravenous Oligodynamic Silver](#)," various forms of silver are still used to help prevent or fight active cases of sepsis and septicemia:

*"Silver sulfadiazine is used for the treatment of burns and to prevent sepsis or bacterial infection in severe burns. Silver formulations have also been used in hundreds of various infections and other conditions including pneumonia, tuberculosis, STD's, eczema, meningitis, erysipelas, Mediterranean fever, corneal ulcers, conjunctivitis and septicemia."*

British clinical researcher Richard J White, writing in the August 3, 2001 issue of the *British Journal of Community Nursing* (pp 3-8), advocates for the topical use of silver wound dressings in order to prevent sepsis from taking place in wounds that have been colonized by bacteria, or even in cases where they've been critically colonized and infection is setting in. He writes that silver's long history as an anti-sepsis agent bears out its usefulness in helping prevent modern-day cases of sepsis:

*"There is now a rationale for the judicious use of suitable topical anti-sepsis in certain colonized, critically colonized, and infected wounds. The increasing evidence available on products containing silver suggests that this element can fulfill a valuable role in wound care."* Various online reports explain that since 2004 microbial-contaminated or infected catheters have been a major source of hospital-acquired infections responsible for up to 40% of all episodes of sepsis in acute-care hospitals. Indeed, according to a clinical overview titled "[Silver Nanoparticles Interactions with the Immune System: Implications for Health and Disease](#)",

*"The released silver is active against microorganisms with no risk of systemic toxicity and safety of use in animals. This suggests that catheters coated with this method could provide local protection against infections (Roe et al., 2008)."* In other words, by using silver-impregnated catheters, microbial contamination is **dramatically reduced**, along with risk of infection and the resulting sepsis induced by such hospital-acquired infections.

Finally, according to a 2008 clinical report titled "[Colloidal silver for lung disease in cystic fibrosis](#)," published in the Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine:

*"An American study has shown benefits for silver in the treatment of Burkholderia dolosa infection in a murine model of severe lung sepsis."*

As you can see, colloidal silver and other forms of silver have been used since the early 1900s, and are still being used in certain circumstances to this very day in the treatment and prevention of sepsis and septicemia.

As biochemist James South, MA, related in an article published in the April/May 1999 issue of the Anti-Aging Bulletin (Vol. 4, Issue 3): *“The most amazing case of colloidal silver usage which I’ve had personal knowledge involved an 83 year old woman who was suffering severe septicemia (infectious blood poisoning).*

*Her doctors were unable to control the raging infection and had sent her home, expecting her death in 48-72 hours.*

*Her husband contacted an intermediary, through whom I recommended trying colloidal silver. The woman was immediately put on one tablespoon of 5 ppm colloidal silver three times daily. Within 24 hours her septicemia began to disappear, and within 48 hours her septicemic crisis was over, and she did not die as expected.”*

## **Pathogens that Cause Sepsis**

As noted earlier, sepsis is often caused when drug-resistant superbugs infect the body. This can happen through a simple cut, a surgical wound in a hospital, a lung infection such as pneumonia, and even common internal infections such as a urinary tract infection, diverticulosis and others.

Common bacterial infections that can result in sepsis include:

- [Escherichia coli \(E. coli\)](#)
- [Klebsiella pneumonia](#)
- [Enterobacter](#)
- [Pseudomonas aeruginosa](#)

- [Staphylococcus aureus \(MRSA\)](#)
- [Streptococcus pneumonia and pyogenes](#)
- [Enterococcus](#)

But first, if you'd like to learn more about colloidal silver's astonishing effectiveness against drug-resistant pathogens that can cause sepsis, here are just a few resources you might want to check out:

- [Colloidal Silver versus the Superbugs](#)
- [Colloidal Silver Vanquishes Drug-Resistant Superbugs](#)
- [Does Colloidal Silver \*Really\* Kill MRSA, the Deadly Antibiotic-Resistant Form of Staph?](#)
- [Another Reason You Need Colloidal Silver: 50% of U.S. Meat Supply Tested Now Contaminated with Deadly MRSA Pathogen](#)

As you'll see in the articles above, colloidal silver is one of the most powerful natural infection-fighting agents in the world.