



COLLOIDAL SILVER CONTROVERSY

An article titled "The Facts on Colloidal Silver" by Tom Valentine quotes two well-known and respected mavericks in health, Dr. Robert O. Becker and Dr. Hal Huggins, stating colloidal silver is toxic to the body. We were not able to contact Dr. Becker. His research with silver and electricity did not include Colloidal Silver. We feel he must have a degree of frustration as he has often been quoted in articles supporting the use of Colloidal Silver. Here are Dr. Becker's words from page 167 of *The Body Electric* using an electrical current with silver wires: "Silver at the positive pole killed or deactivated every type of bacteria without side effects, even with very low currents." And page 177: "...I believe low-current silver electrodes stimulate bone formation directly..."

When we contacted Dr. Huggins, he informed us by fax: "We have noted that many people feel good for a few days, weeks, or even a month or two, then drop energy."

After talking with David Garstin of the Colloidal Association of America, we faxed the following explanation to Dr. Huggins: "Silver in colloidal form is not studied by established educational institutions so the information about how silver and heavy metal compounds are used in the body is accepted as fact. Of course such compounds are poisonous to the body. These compounds, however, are rarely found in nature. In these forms the body has to react chemically to break down the compound. The components are residual. ... Modern-day silver colloids made electrically are largely ionic. In this form silver is not residual. It resembles the form plants provided in greater amounts when trace elements such as silver were more prolific in our soils. The body can use the ionic form of silver readily. In this form it is a nutrient rather than a poison. The body takes what it needs and passes the rest out." (Note that the Colloidal Association of America no longer exists.)

Dr. Huggins replied: "Thank you for correcting me ... now if you could only correct the patients who do react. Paper and pen are one thing, but live folks are another."

In another article, Alex Duarte, O.D. Ph.D., tells how his daughter who was raising three children with a heavy workload had a recurrence of an infection in her heart. Years earlier, an accident left her with a small hole in her heart. The infection meant open-heart surgery was necessary. Her father recommended colloidal silver. Her infection cleared and hasn't come back. "I have encouraged every member of my family to keep colloidal silver in the medicine cupboard and use it at the first sign of infection," says Dr. Duarte in "What Will Protect Us if Antibiotics Fail?" in the *Journal of Longevity*, Vol. 4/No. 4 1998.

In a third article, Michael Coyle, an expert in live-blood analysis, states: "Colloidal silver interferes with the enzyme system that anaerobic microbes use for respiration. Therefore they cannot mutate around it or become resistant and are eliminated instead. ... Contrary to popular gossip and contrary to invested promoters, there appears to be some negative side effects to colloidal silver consumption, when used over long periods of time and in relatively high amounts. These include drainage problems and the destruction of intestinal floras. ... Many individuals have been known to exhibit extreme Herxheimer's (healing crisis) reactions with silver." ("Fungus," *Explore! Magazine*, Vol. 8 No. 3, 1997)

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In his newsletter *Second Opinion*, Dr. Douglass speaks out against colloidal silver. He confuses the issue by equating Colloidal Silver with colloidal minerals in general. Then he says, "I'm not particularly concerned about toxicity..." but goes on to warn about the toxicity of silver compounds without making it clear that a silver compound is very different from ionic colloidal silver.

Yes, there is controversy. As with all things in life, there are conflicting views. There is evidence that argyria is a risk when drinking large amounts over a longer period of time. We believe that used wisely Ionic Colloidal Silver is highly beneficial and safe. Ultimately, we each must decide for ourselves how much Ionic Colloidal Silver to drink.