

## Safety of Colloidal Silver

### REPORT QUICK LINKS

Professional: [Dr. Alexander Schauss Ph.D](#) | [Dr. Paul Farber](#) | [Dr. Robert O. Becker](#)

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### PROFESSIONAL REPORTS

#### Professional Report # 1: Dr. Alexander Schauss Ph.D

Metabolic Solutions Info Report  
Metabolic Solutions Institute  
902-584-3810

"...we recently completed an extensive review of the scientific literature on the safety of silver, especially as it relates to its one known potential side effect, namely, Argyria. Argyria is an irreversible discoloration of the pigment (skin) caused by excessive silver intake or chronic exposure to silver by certain tissues. The amount of silver required to develop Argyria is estimated to be 3.8 grams per day.

By comparison standard 10 ppm colloidal silver contains silver in amounts equaling less than 1 milligram of silver (1,000 micrograms = 1 milligram; 1,000 milligrams = 1 gram), which therefore represents an amount approximately 1/500th to 1/1000th of the amount of silver considered to be a risk in the development of Argyria.

Most cases of Argyria reported in the medical literature over the last 100 years involved chronic intravenous or intramuscular use of the silver preparations, most often involving a silver drug prescribed by physicians which in most cases contained silver nitrate. Other cases of Argyria reported in the medical literature involve application of silver preparations used for many months or years in the treatment of the eye or vagina for certain diseases. We could not locate a single case of orally consumed colloidal silver manufactured in the last 25 years causing Argyria in our review of the literature.

Sincerely,

Alexander G. Schauss, Ph.D.  
Director, Life Sciences Division  
John Hopkins University

#### **About Dr. Alexander Schauss Ph.D:**

Alexander G. Schauss, Ph.D., is the Director of the Life Sciences Division of the American Institute for Biosocial Research, Inc. in Tacoma, WA.

He is a member of the Government's Commission on Dietary Supplements.

He holds joint faculty positions as Associate Professor of Research and Senior Director of Research and Development at the Southwest College of Naturopathic Medicine and Health Sciences, in Tempe, Arizona.

Associate Professor of Behavioural Sciences at the National College of Naturopathic Medicine in Portland, Oregon.

Dr. Schauss is an Emeritus Member of the New York Academy of Sciences.

Former Chairman of the Food Policy Council of the National Council for Public Health Policy.

Founding Member of the British Society of Nutritional Medicine,

Emeritus Executive Director of the American Preventive Medical Association.

Emeritus Executive Director and current President of Citizens for Health.

Member of the American Public Health Association.

Member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Dr. Schauss is an accomplished author and lecturer, and has appeared on almost every major radio and television talk show in the United States. His most recent book, "MINERALS, TRACE ELEMENTS AND HUMAN HEALTH" has become a national best seller.

## **Professional Report # 2: Dr. M. Paul Farber**

### **Argyria Rebuttal**

The term Argyria describes the condition of a bluish-gray colour of the skin, and Argyrosis the bluing of the eye white, resulting from the use of SILVER COMPOUNDS.

To better understand the misconception regarding Argyria, I will quote from the book "The Micro Silver Bullet"(tm) by Dr. M. Paul Farber 1996 page XII (ISBN 1-887742-00-X) In reference to a "Journal of American Medical Association" article, October 18 1995, volume 274 # 15, where cases of Argyria were cited to have been caused by silver compounds (not colloidal silver, but silver mixed with other metals), note:

"These Case history presentations represent biased and unprofessional writing. The author's apparent inability to understand the difference between a silver nitrate, sulfide, or other silver compound demonstrates their lack of understanding of basic chemical properties. The matrix, substrate, and particle size are all critical to the varied functions and reactions with use of these products. That is why there has not been a single case of Argyria from a properly manufactured modern-day colloidal silver product. [editor's emphasis] The cases of Argyria reported in the 1920's and 1930's resulted because the technology of the day was unable to produce a pure colloidal silver product with a small enough particle size."

Ref. (4-A)

The reported cases of Argyria usually involved very high and frequent doses over extended periods of time of silver salts/compounds such as silver sulfate, silver nitrate, silver chloride, etc.

## **Professional Report # 3: Dr. Robert O. Becker**

Dr. Robert Becker is one of the greatest orthopaedic surgeons and research scientists the world has ever seen. In his best selling book, "The Body Electric" Dr. Becker states in a chapter entitled "The Silver Wand" that unlike other metals, silver has absolutely no toxicity whatsoever.

On the contrary, what he found was that the positively charged silver ion had remarkable disinfectant properties and an amazing power to heal and regenerate damaged tissue.

After countless experiments over many years, he states that "we are just touching the surface of a miracle in modern medicine".

## **REPORTS FROM GOVERNMENT & OTHER OFFICIAL ORGANISATIONS**

### **EEC, WHO and Israel Ministry of Health**

The EEC, WHO and Israel Ministry of Health have specifically approved the use of colloidal silver as a drinking water disinfectant at an MCL of 80 ppb. (1) Switzerland, Germany and Australia have given approval for the use of a commercial formulation of colloidal silver and hydrogen peroxide as a drinking water disinfectant. (1)

The US EPA has declared that silver does not cause adverse health effects and has set a Maximum Level at 100 ppb for all drinking water.

A new European Union Drinking Water Standard in draft form has removed any upper limit for silver in drinking water following the WHO's Guidelines for Drinking Water Quality which states that "it is not necessary to recommend any health-based guidelines for silver as it is not hazardous to human health". (2)

1) Pedahzur, R et al, Water Science Technology, Vol. No. 5-6, pp 123-129, 1995;

2) Press Release, The Silver Institute, March 25, 1997. "Silver Water Purification Systems Offer Reliable Alternative to Chlorine". (<http://www.silverinstitute.org/news/prwater1.htm>)

### **Dr. Samuel Etris – Silver Institute**

Dr. Samuel Etris, a senior consultant at the Silver Institute, says there has never been any allergenic, toxic or carcinogenic reactions to Colloidal Silver. The U.S. Government's Center for Disease Control confirmed that fact in 1995.

Further facts attesting to the safety of silver:

- The ceramic "candles" commonly found in household water filters and used by millions worldwide, contains silver nitrate or silverized activated carbon filters and ion-exchange resins.
- A silver based product is now the standard medication for the treatment of severe burns in all major hospital burn centres throughout the world.
- NASA researched 23 different methods of water purification and finally chose a silver water filter system for recycling water aboard the space shuttles.

### **FDA Correspondence**

Here is an interesting letter to the FDA requesting information on the harmful effects of Colloidal Silver. The FDA's response was that they could not locate any cases responsive to the request.

Website: [http://www.colloidalsilvergens.com/colloidal\\_silver\\_safety\\_information.htm](http://www.colloidalsilvergens.com/colloidal_silver_safety_information.htm)

#### **LETTER TO THE FDA**

Brent Finnigan LMP  
Tacoma, WA 98408

October 14th, 1999

Food and Drug Administration  
U.S. Department Of Health and Human Services  
Public Health Service  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Sirs/Madam,

Persuant to the Freedom of Information Act and in regard to your August 17th, 1999 ruling regarding colloidal silver, could you please supply the following documentation on which you based your decision?

1. The number of deaths related to the consumption of colloidal silver.
2. The number of allergic reactions to the consumption of colloidal silver.
3. The number of harmful drug interactions from both OTC and prescription drugs when combined with colloidal silver.
4. The number of reported cases of Argyria from colloidal silver made with the AC or DC electrical process.
5. The number of cases of Argyria from colloidal silver that did not contain protein stabilizers.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Brent Finnigan



**THE FDA's RESPONSE**

Public Health Service  
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research  
Office of Training and Communication  
Freedom of Information Staff HFD-205  
5600 Fishers Lane 12 B 05  
Rockville, Maryland 20857

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

November 3, 1999

In Response Refer to File: F99-22589  
Brent Finnigan Takoma (sic), WA 98408

Dear Mr. Finnigan:

This is in response to your request of 10/14/99, in which you requested adverse events associated with the use of Colloidal Silver. Your request was received in the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research on 10/25/99.

We have searched the records from FDA's Adverse Event Reporting System (AERS) and have been unable to locate any cases that would be responsive to your request.

Charges of \$3.50 (Search \$3.50, Review \$0, Reproduction \$0, Computer time \$0) will be included in a monthly invoice. DO NOT SEND ANY PAYMENT UNTIL YOU RECEIVE AN INVOICE.

If there are any problems with this response, please notify us in writing of your specific problem(s). Please reference the above file number.

Sincerely,

Hal Stepper  
Freedom of Information Technician  
Office of Training and Communications  
Freedom of Information Staff, HFD-205