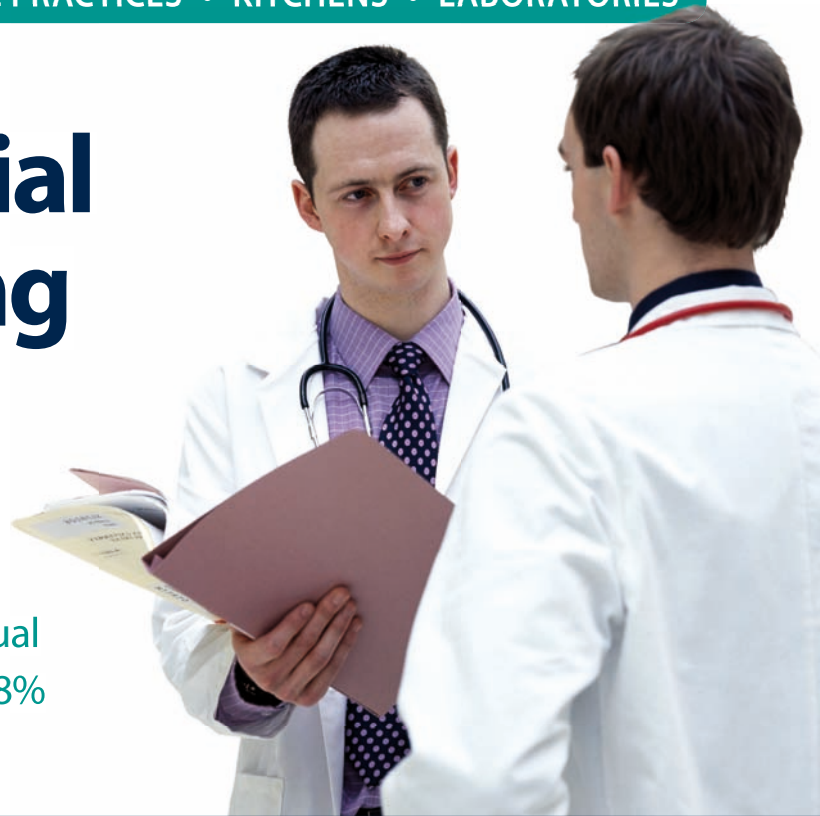


Proven bacterial reduction using BioCote®

The first ever trial to investigate the effectiveness of silver-based products at reducing levels of bacteria in an actual hospital environment has shown a 95.8% reduction in bacteria.



The environmental study was carried out by BioCote Ltd, in association with the Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust. It compares two out-patient wards, one at Heartlands Hospital, containing furniture and equipment with BioCote® antimicrobial protection and one containing standard, untreated items.

BioCote® protected products contain silver, a natural antimicrobial, with a high efficacy against bacteria, mould and fungi. When micro-organisms come into contact with the silver, their ability to reproduce is inhibited and they die.

The environment with BioCote® protected products saw a 95.8% reduction in bacteria.



Results from the trials show that the facility at Heartlands, which contained BioCote® protected products, had 95.8% less bacteria present in the environment, than the standard ward with no BioCote® present. The products tested in the trials included waste bins, blinds, tiles, door handles and light switches.

92.6% reduction in bacteria on BioCote® protected products being used in a hospital environment.

Within the facility at Heartlands, furniture and equipment with BioCote® protection harboured 92.6% less bacteria than those without protection. These results prove that silver can complement cleaning and hygiene practices, working in-between cleans to reduce levels of bacteria on BioCote protected equipment.

A total antimicrobial environment BioCote protected products can also help reduce bacteria counts on unprotected products within their vicinity and reduce the overall levels of

bacteria in the complete environment. Standard equipment and furniture which were in the Heartland's ward alongside BioCote® protected products had 43.5% less bacteria on their surfaces than standard products in the ward without BioCote®.

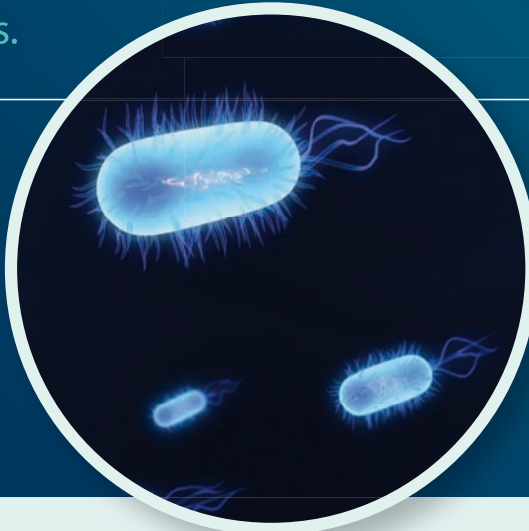


Leaders in Bacterial Control

Hygiene's helping hand

Initial indications show that using BioCote® protected products in a hospital environment can lead to a reduction in bacterial colonisation, resulting in a more hygienic and safer environment for patients.

With fewer bacteria in the environment, it is logical that the risks of cross contamination and consequently the risks of patients being infected with 'superbugs', such as MRSA are reduced. BioCote® protected products can complement hygiene practices, working in-between cleans to reduce levels of bacteria.



The project facts

The collaboration between the Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust and BioCote Ltd began in May 2006, when Heartlands Hospital was the first in the UK to equip an out-patient facility with furniture and equipment that had BioCote® antimicrobial protection.

To make the study as consistent as possible, both environments were out-patient wards with a similar through-flow of patients. The Heartland's ward was in use 12 months prior to swabbing commencing. All testing was carried out at an independent laboratory. The study concentrated on bacteria counts on the surface of objects, in the form of TVCs and does not identify actual organisms at this stage.



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