



VESTEX®

3 Functions in 1 Fabric¹



Real-world, hospital wear experience and evaluation of the VESTEX product was published in a peer-reviewed journal². In a prospective, crossover trial (Bearman) in which users alternated weekly between VESTEX fabric and standard fabric garments, 2,000 microbiological samples were evaluated from the apparel of 32 healthcare workers (HCWs) in an intensive care unit (ICU) comparing the VESTEX scrubs to the control scrubs over a 16-week period. Cultures were obtained weekly from the high touch areas (the abdominal and the leg cargo pocket) known from prior testing to be most highly contaminated areas of the scrubs, as well as from the HCW's hands. The VESTEX scrubs demonstrated a statistically significant overall 4 to 7 mean log reduction of MRSA in the leg cargo and abdominal area pocket when compared to the control scrubs, in an actual hospital ICU setting. The study did not assess the impact of antimicrobial scrubs on hospital-acquired infection rates. The authors noted that the findings are difficult to generalize beyond the ICU environment and study population, and also note that the fabric was not tested to establish the ability of the apparel to reduce disease transmission. They concluded, however, that garments that contain demonstrated antimicrobial and fluid repellent characteristics, "when bundled with known infection prevention strategies such as hand hygiene, may limit the bacterial burden of the inanimate environment" and "may be a useful adjunct to other infection prevention measures."

The performance of the VESTEX Active Barrier fabric was further demonstrated directly with peer-reviewed published in vitro data showing statistically significant reduction of levels of MRSA on the fabric compared to control fabrics³. The results of these in vitro assays strongly correlate with the real-world conditions examined by Bearman. The fabric challenge assays involved modes of inoculation that mimic "real world" exposures that textiles might face in the healthcare environment, but with established quantities of known challenge organisms. These in vitro studies, showed consistent and reproducible reductions of MRSA challenge microorganisms on the VESTEX fabric under the conditions of the test. Although more study is needed, the authors of the in vitro study conclude that Bearman's findings in the clinical setting of an intensive care unit validate their findings.