

# Coated gloves keep SP materials tech on the job



## Medical Gloves with Neu-Thera®

After nearly 20 years in health care, Silvia Gongora was looking into a career in real estate because her hands couldn't take it anymore.

The materials sterile processing tech at Urology Associates of Central California Surgery Center in Fresno developed an allergy to metals about two years ago that made it too painful for her already-sensitive hands to be in gloves 75 percent of the day.

"I'm constantly putting on new gloves to make sure I don't have cross contamination between dirty and clean processes," she said. "We do between 11 and 15 procedures a day, and I and one other person do all the washing and sterilizing in the center."

Constant exposure to metal instruments, as well as detergents and acidic solutions, proved too much. Gongora's hands looked like they'd suffered chemical burns. Contact dermatitis caused scaling, sores and itching so painful she stopped cooking dinner for her husband and three children and started on a course of steroids to relieve the swelling.

"My husband would look at my hands and say 'Honey, you used to have such pretty hands,'" she recalls. "And he and the kids all pitched in and made dinner because it hurt too much for me to do it."

Lotions helped a little, but real relief came when Gongora started wearing gloves with Neu-Thera® formulation from Cardinal Health. Designed specifically for healthcare professionals, the gloves are coated with a clinically proven formulation of ingredients that soothes and protects compromised skin.

The formulation on the exam gloves includes gluconolactone to restore skin smoothness, glycerin to moisturize and plasticize the stratum corneum (outermost layer of the skin) and provitamin B5 to restore softness and elasticity. The surgical gloves formulation also contains chitosan to inhibit inflammation and promote regeneration of injured tissues.

The gloves proved effective in an extensive series of dermatologist-supervised tests at the California Skin Research Institute, a division of PRACS (formerly DermTech International), but Gongora decided to run a test of her own after Cardinal Health representative Gordon Westhoff suggested she try them.

For two weeks, she wore a glove with Neu-Thera® formulation on her left hand and a standard hospital glove on her right.

"The skin on my left hand wasn't being as damaged as my right," she said. "It didn't itch and it felt much better."

There was a noticeable difference as soon as she put the glove on, she adds.

**"These gloves are very soothing, comfortable and cool,"** she said. "They slide on really easily and even when I had to wear a larger size that didn't fit me right I could still feel everything I needed to feel. **They have excellent tactile sensation.**"

Because Gongora is also allergic to green and blue dyes, she was a little concerned that gloves with Neu-Thera® are blue, but that has not been a problem.

**"There is a big difference in my hands now,"** she said. "My family can't believe how much better they are. Some of the recovery and



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pre-op nurses were having trouble with their hands, and I suggested they try these gloves. They love them, too.”

The response has been so positive, in fact, that the surgery center may start using gloves with Neu-Thera® exclusively.

“I even told my sister about them,” Gongora said. “She works in pathology for a children’s hospital. I told her she’d be able to feel everything she needs to – veins and all – in these gloves and that if there were employees working in pain or with a latex allergy these gloves would help.”

The gloves are allowing Gongora to continue a career that has included positions as hospital sterile processing technician, dialysis technician and housekeeping supervisor at a psychiatric facility.

“I’ve been at the urology surgery center since it opened six years ago,” she said. “When this started two years ago, the allergist and dermatologist told me I’d have to get used to it or get out of the field. I love working in the medical field, and as long as my hands are getting better, I won’t have to change jobs.”

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