

# Soon, a bandage that clots blood

It Could Help Save Lives On Battlefield And Also Be Widely Used In Civilian Life

**London:** Coming soon: A chemical bandage which would help save lives on the battlefield by instantly helping to clot blood and staunch wounds, say scientists.

A team at Edinburgh University, which is developing such a bandage, has already discovered a group of polymers — molecules used in the manufacture of plastics — which could accelerate the crucial clotting properties of blood platelets.

The polymers could have significant use in battlefield conditions as they can be sprayed on to bandages and applied directly to an injury to instantly begin coagulation process, say the scientists.

The problem of treating battlefield wounds remains a major challenge with “bleeding out” — the loss of too much blood to sustain pressure and heartbeat — one of the major causes of death after injury.

The polymers could also have a much wider use in civilian life if incorporated into the sticking plasters commonly used to stop blood flow from cuts and other injuries, the Scotsman reported.

Using a new identification technique, the scientists tested huge numbers of polymer combinations for more than 12 months before pinpointing the few types which have the key characteristics needed to



**TIMELY HELP:** The bandage uses a group of polymers that accelerate the crucial clotting properties of blood platelets

kick-start the healing process. Lead scientist Professor Mark Bradley said the poly-

mers have practical applications in both military and civilian situations.

“Polymers can be processed on to a bandage or even a mesh, similar to that used in a plaster, to stop the gauze adhering to the scab, to start clotting process. Hopefully, you would be able to whip out a packet of bandages that would immediately staunch the blood from the wound,” he said.

The team used technology similar to that incorporated in inkjet printers to mix the materials to create the thousands of polymers needed to find the ones with the right qualities.

The new process developed

at the university allows up to 2,000 polymers to be tested as quickly as it took to test five before. The polymers were then sprayed onto glass plates where they were placed in contact with blood platelets.

Professor Bradley said: “We then took this very large number of polymers and added platelets, the materials in our body that coagulate and stop bleeding.

“The idea was that by adding blood, we could identify which of these polymers the platelets were, firstly, binding to, and, secondly, were being activated by — that is to say to start forming the fibres that seal up the wound,” professor Bradley added. ✉

# Jarring notes: Poor taste in music can ruin a relationship

**London:** A bad taste in music can really ruin a relationship, say researchers.

A new study has revealed that music actually predicts sexual attraction — in fact, music functions as a “badge” that people use to not only judge others, but at the same time, to express their own ideas.

For their study, the researchers examined the link between identity, music and what makes people “click”. The study, published in the ‘Psychology of Music’ journal, explored what it’s about why people like, what people like, and perhaps more importantly, how this can make or break a relationship.

During adolescence, music becomes a symbol of one’s identity to help one belong. This symbol of identity also helps one strike a balance between belonging but also being original, the study found.

The researchers believe that rock is associated with



**OUT OF TUNE:** A new study says that music predicts sexual attraction — it functions as a ‘badge’ that people use to not only judge others, but also to express their own ideas

social awareness and rebelliousness while pop is connected to values about gender roles and conformity. They discovered that people who like jazz, classical and folk are liberal and more open to experiences.

The study also found that a woman’s devotion to country music diminishes her at-

tractiveness to a potential male mate and a man’s interest in country music make him less attractive to women.

It also found that men were more strongly attracted to women with whom they shared musical tastes. But for women, this had only a ‘negligible effect’ on their attraction to men. ✉

## SHORT CUTS

### A kiosk that scans faces to recommend snacks

A new kiosk developed by Kraft scans your face and according to your gender and age, recommends snack or dinner options. Using anonymous video analytics (AVA), the kiosk categorizes the customer into gender and demographic groups in order to make suggestion, reports Discovery News. So a hungry 16-year-old boy might be suggested a McDonald’s burger while a family would be suggested to get a family pasta dinner. And according to Kraft, the kiosk’s dinner suggestions are absolutely healthy.

### Saturn’s moon could support life:

Saturnian moon Enceladus may have a fizzy ocean capable of harbouring life, suggests new data from Nasa’s Cassini spacecraft. The findings could explain the vast icy plumes of water that spray into space through fissures — known as tiger stripes — on the moon’s frozen surface. Lead Cassini planetary scientist Dennis Matson from Nasa’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory said the team was surprised to find that the moon is covered with geysers shooting plumes of vapour.

### Less time with fathers makes kids bullies:

Children who feel they do not get to spend sufficient time with their fathers are more likely to become bullies, new research suggests. “Our behaviour is driven by our perception of our world, so if children feel they are not getting enough time and attention from parents then those feelings have to go somewhere and it appears in interaction with their peers,” said Vanderbilt University sociologist Andre Christie-Mizell. For the research, Christie-Mizell studied 687 children aged between 10 to 14 years.

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# This car won’t allow drunk driving

**Boston:** Future technology may put the brakes on drunk drivers and save many lives as researchers in Massachusetts are developing a system that will prevent a car from starting if the driver’s blood alcohol level is higher than the legal limit.

The new technology, known as the Driver Alcohol Detection Systems for Safety, would use sensors that would measure blood alcohol content of the driver in two possible ways — by analysing a driver’s breath or through the skin, using sophisticated touch-based sensors situated in places like steering wheels and door locks. If the system detects the blood alcohol content in a person to be above the legal limit of .08, the vehicle would not start.

The technology, being developed by research and development facility QinetiQ North America Inc in conjunction with companies in



**PUTTING BRAKES ON DUI:** The system will prevent the car from starting if the driver’s blood alcohol level is higher than the legal limit

Sweden and New Mexico, would be optional for car manufacturers.

QinetiQ engineers said that unlike court-ordered breath-analyser ignition locks, which require a

driver to blow into a tube and wait a few seconds for the result, their new systems will analyse a driver’s blood-alcohol content in less than one second. ✉

# Cellphone offers clue to your personality

**Melbourne:** Believe it or not, mobile phones say quite a lot about their owners, says a new study.

Social analyst David Chalke said a person’s mobile phone could give outsiders insight into their attitudes towards work, rest and play.

“Twenty years ago when you said ‘your phone’, you meant the white Telecom commander on the wall in the kitchen, but it doesn’t mean that at all now it means your social accessory. In fact, a research by Roy Morgan revealed most attributes differed between owners of



**OWNER’S CALL:** A person’s cellphone gives outsiders insight into her attitudes towards work, rest and play, says a new study

mobile phone brands.

The iPhone users thinks computers give them control over their lives. “iPhone is the Alfa Romeo,” Chalke said. SonyEricsson users like a full social life. LG users are women aged 14 to 24. Samsung users tend to be conservative dressers over 50. “Samsung is the Daihatsu.” BlackBerry users are high-earners aged 35 to 49. Nokia users are unlikely to be aged 14 to 24 and less likely to have played arcade video games in the past three months, according to him. “Nokia is the security blanket.” ✉

This piece is from the pages of The Times of India CREST Edition, available every Saturday at **Rs 6/-**

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# POSH PERCHES

We’ve all hankered after a den in the treetops. It’s time to go out on a limb and embrace a lofty new concept. Forget about room service, though.

Neelam Raaj | TNN

A den in the treetops used to be a rickety DIY thing thrown together in the summer with a few spare planks. Every kid who didn’t have a big garden (and an industrious parent) dreamed of one. Enid Blyton understood the significance of the treehouse, even the fictional variety, in the lives of children. In *Well Done, Secret Seven*, Peter, Janet, Jack, Barbara, Pam, Colin and George had a super den in the Windy Woods where they dined on orangeade and biscuits. With treehouse hotels tapping into a lucrative branch of hospitality, these arboreal hideouts are no longer just for kids.

After all, who can resist the chirping of birds, the creaking of branches and the sound of the wind whistling through the leaves? Especially when there’s the option of retreating to an air-conditioned space when you’ve had enough of fresh, clean air.

While most Indian treehouse hotels are not super-luxurious, they have all the mod cons. And they definitely don’t look as if a team of elves (or the Swiss Family Robinson) had hammered them together. Most of them could sit as comfortably on the ground as they do nestled among branches. **TOI-Crest looks skyward...**

**Tranquil resort-plantation hideaway, Wayanad, Kerala** There’s no way a guest here won’t sleep like a log. After all, there’s a gulmohar trunk growing through the bedroom and the delicious smell of vanilla wafting through the air. Located on a private coffee and vanilla plantation in the picturesque Wayanad district of northern Kerala,



**HIGH TIME:** Tiger safaris, bonfires and mahua wine...what more can a traveller ask for?

Tranquil Resort’s main attraction is a 500-sq-ft Tree House perched 35 feet high. There’s also the bigger Tree Villa which can house a family of four. It’s insect-proof, says Ajay Mathulla, who looks after both the plantations and the resort. “While everyone loves the elements, no one really wants to share their room with leeches and creepy crawlies from the rainforest.” Tranquil also tries to achieve the intimacy of a home-stay with the owners, Victor and Ranjini Dey, welcoming guests personally. Home-cooked meals are taken around a big communal table in a beautifully restored bungalow. The food and desserts have been rated quite highly by everyone who’s been there. Those who don’t just want to relax by the pool or enjoy a massage have the option of lovely treks (try the Braveheart Trail) around the 400-acre estate. Or ask for a plantation visit to learn how coffee is picked. An hour’s drive away is the Pookote lake where boating facilities are available and closer still is the Muthanga wildlife sanctuary.

**While most Indian treehouse hotels are not super-luxurious, they have all the mod cons. And they definitely don’t look as if a team of elves (or the Swiss Family Robinson) had hammered them together**

*Doubles in the Treehouse: Rs 12,450 (meals included)*

**The Machan, Lonavala** The Machan started as a weekend home for the Hooja family. It’s now transformed into a popular getaway for Mumbaikars and Puneites who’re looking for peace and quiet. “It’s only for those who truly love nature,” warns Varun Hooja, who quit his consulting job at Accenture to look after the property. The treehouse, a cleverly designed structure that has only two supports and is held up suspension bridge-style, was built by his father. “Friends kept borrowing it. Even my



father couldn’t get it free sometimes, so we decided to turn it into a hotel some 11 months ago,” he says.

This vertiginous accommodation is 45 feet above the ground and is built along a wild fig tree. The views from both the Machan and the smaller Camp Canopy are spectacular, with the valley falling away dramatically below. The forest in Jambulne is evergreen and Machan has a naturalist who takes guests on guided treks. So be prepared to look down that rabbit hole and spot the barking deer who have made the 25-acre property their home.

With only 12 to 14 guests staying there at any time, there are almost two acres of green space for every guest. Green is also a philosophy at Machan, which relies solely on renewable energy and contributes part of the tariff to conservation.

This treehouse hotel definitely isn’t for those who are looking to party. The rooms don’t even have a TV, just a music system and an iPod dock. Food is home-style Indian cuisine, but, as Hooja points out, “even dal-chaawal tastes great in the jungle”.

*Machan (up to six adults): Rs 20,000 for weekdays and Rs*



**BOUGH WOW:** The Machan near Ambay Valley is for nature buffs who don’t mind the absence of TV and bad mobile connectivity



*25,000 for weekends. Breakfast and dinner included Camp Canopy (two adults): Rs 10,000 for weekdays and Rs 12,000 for weekends*

**Treehouse hideaway, Bandhavgarh**

Nestled among mahua and banyan trees in the Bandhavgarh National Park are five treehouses that bring the jungle right till your room. The arboreal abodes have big balconies which are a great place to welcome the morning with the forest waking up before you. Even the reception is up in a treehouse, with an open-air dining area that

is wrapped around a mahua tree. The bar is well-equipped though there is the option of sampling the local tippale-mahua wine. There are bonfires every night. And if you’re feeling adventurous in the morning, safaris are arranged with experienced guides. The resident naturalist will help you spot a tiger. If luck isn’t on your side, there are sloth bears, mongooses, antelopes and many species of birds.

*The national park opens on October 15*

**Rainforest Boutique Hotel, Athirappally, Kerala**

Located at the foot of the Athirappally Falls, this treehouse will make you feel as if you never want to come down to earth. The lush green of the rainforest and the exhilarating sight of the 80-foot-high waterfall is quite an experience. Imagine going to sleep listening to water gushing over rocks and waking up to the chatter of exotic birds. This boutique hotel is one of Mani Rathnam’s favourite places to shoot with scenes in both Guru and Raavan shot here. The treehouse itself (there’s only one) is a fusion of nature with modern architecture. Designed by a Swiss architect, it has been engineered such that it allows the tree to grow. *Getting there: Closest airport*

*is Kochi Doubles: Rs 9,500 (including breakfast)*

**Sunset Bay, Srirangapatnam**

Convinced that treehouse tariffs are as high as the abode? Here’s a budget option just half an hour’s drive from the busy Bangalore-Mysore highway. Located 140 km from Bangalore, this small retreat is aptly named as it has a nice view of the sunset from across the K R Sagar Dam reservoir. There are three treehouses at Sunset Bay, each with its own sit-out facing the water. You can enjoy the water better by kayaking or just lazing by the banks in a bid to catch a fish or two.

As dusk falls, guests can snuggle by the bonfire and then retire to minimally yet tastefully decorated rooms. There is an attached bathroom but no air conditioning. Meals are simple affairs. The renowned Brindavan Gardens are a few minutes walk from Sunset Bay, while Mysore city itself is not too much farther. That makes Sunset Bay ideal as a base to explore Mysore. *Tree house inland: Rs 3,500 (including breakfast). Tree house by the water: Rs 4,000 (including breakfast). Meals: Rs 200 for non veg, Rs 150 for veg*