

Sea Pearls™ Press Release

“Toxic Shock Syndrome on the rise again after 25 years

Toxic shock syndrome linked to tampon use, which made headlines 25 years ago when the dangerous illness sickened thousands of U.S. women and killed dozens, may be re-emerging as a public health threat, according to physicians and other experts.

Two leading researchers say the number of cases reported to them by doctors nationwide has increased during the last three years, though the levels are not thought to be as high as they were in 1980, the peak year for toxic shock cases.

A U.S. Food and Drug Administration official said recently that the agency had received an increasing number of reports of toxic shock syndrome linked to tampon use. The suspected increase is still largely anecdotal, and government statistics are unavailable because federal researchers stopped actively monitoring TSS cases in 1987.

In Los Angeles County, five cases of TSS have been discovered in teenage girls using tampons in the last year - four since September, according to physicians who treated the girls. Some health officials are concerned about the possible reappearance of the illness, thought to have largely disappeared when a brand of tampon linked to TSS was withdrawn from the market in 1980. The illness can strike swiftly, and cases could easily be missed if people assume that tampon-related TSS is no longer a threat, experts said.”

Los Angeles Times March 28, 2005

Sea Pearls™, Natural Re-usable Sea Sponge Tampons – a new alternative form of sanitary protection can reduce the risks of Toxic Shock Syndrome. Research has determined that health risks associated with conventional tampons are related to the use of Dioxin, a by-product of the tampon fibre's bleaching process. Sea Pearls are completely natural sea sponge tampons containing no Dioxin, Rayon or any synthetic fibres. Sustainably harvested and reusable for six months or more, they are healthy, economical, easy to use, and earth friendly.

Toxic Shock Syndrome develops when the common bacteria, *Staphylococcus aureus*, produce a toxin which is absorbed into the bloodstream. The toxin rapidly overwhelms the immune system and attacks the major organs, leading to kidney failure, collapse of the lungs and in severe cases, cardiac arrest. Alarmingly, half of all known cases of Toxic Shock are women using Tampons. Artificial fibres (like rayon) used in tampons are abrasive, so when a tampon lengthens it pushes against the cervical area, causing tiny cuts and imbedding pieces into the tissue. This has been traced as the probable cause of Toxic Shock Syndrome and has been shown to damage the vaginal walls by causing ulceration and peeling of the mucous membrane.

“Toxic Shock Syndrome is a deadly disease which most UK women know very little about” says Deb Peters, Director Pure Balance, “Sea Pearls are a natural alternative, which are not only better for your health, they're better for the environment and your purse.”

Sea Pearls™ Natural Sea Sponge Tampons are available from most natural health food stores, independent chemists and beauty salons. If you require any further information on the benefits of Sea Pearls™, please visit www.seapearls.co.uk.