

Role of Textiles in Medical Clinical Case Reports

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Submitted: 1 May 2026; **Accepted:** 7 May 2026; **Published:** 25 May 2026

Citation: Gokarneshan, N., & Kayalvizhi, C. (2026). Role of Textiles in Medical Clinical Case Reports. *J Medical Case Repo* 8(3):1-1. DOI : <https://doi.org/10.47485/2767-5416.1153>

In medical clinical case reports, textiles are frequently implicated as fomites (inanimate carriers of infection) or showcased as advanced therapeutic tools. While long associated with hospital-acquired infection (HAI) outbreaks, recent case studies increasingly focus on innovative "smart" textiles used for wound healing, diagnostics, and patient monitoring.

Textiles as Vectors of Infection (Fomites)

Clinical case reports often document textiles as the source of outbreaks, particularly when laundering or storage protocols fail.

Healthcare Apparel: White coats, surgical scrubs, and neckties are frequently cited for harboring multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs) like MRSA and VRE. One case report identified a nurse's domestic washing machine as the source of *Gordonia bronchialis* infections in postoperative patients.

Hospital Linens: Contaminated bed sheets and pillows have been linked to outbreaks of *Bacillus cereus* and *Acinetobacter*. Privacy Curtains: Studies show high contamination rates (up to 92%) within one week of hanging, making them a common subject in environmental hygiene case reports.

Advanced Therapeutic & Bioactive Textiles

Modern case reports highlight textiles that actively participate in treatment rather than just serving as passive barriers.

Comparison of Textile Roles

Role	Clinical Significance	Examples
Fomite	Risk of infection/outbreaks	Uniforms, bedding, privacy curtains
Non-Implantable	Healing and protection	Advanced wound dressings, bandages
Implantable	Tissue repair/replacement	Sutures, vascular grafts, meshes
Smart/E-Textile	Diagnostic monitoring	ECG vests, diabetic pressure-sensing socks

Are you researching the infection control side of medical textiles, or are you more interested in the biomedical engineering of new smart fabrics?

Antimicrobial Impregnation: Textiles treated with copper, silver, or zinc oxide are used to reduce microbial loads and HAI rates in clinical trials.

Smart Wound Dressings: Recent reports feature pH-responsive fabrics that change color to indicate infection status or moisture-retentive textiles that accelerate healing by up to 30–40% compared to traditional gauze.

Implantable Textiles: Case reports in orthopedic surgery utilize woven and braided structures for artificial ligaments, tendons, and vascular grafts.

Wearable Monitoring (E-Textiles)

Textiles now play a diagnostic role in case reports involving long-term patient surveillance.

Smart Garments: "Smart shirts" equipped with embedded sensors monitor vital signs like heart rate, respiration, and ECG in real-time.

Biometric Data: In oncology and chronic disease management, these textiles provide objective, continuous data that can alert clinicians to early warning signs before symptoms escalate.

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