Method for Viral-Proofing a Protective Barrier

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Technology description

Summary

A method for viral-proofing protective barrier materials has been invented that will make it less likely that those who use condoms and latex gloves will contract viruses such as HIV from infected individuals. With the emergence of the AIDS epidemic and related concerns, the effectiveness of barrier materials such as latex has come into question. Recently, there has been great concern that the pores in such barrier materials may not be small enough to block the passage of extremely small pathogenic viruses such as HIV. Other available tests of barrier integrity do not have the ability to test for hole sizes smaller than many pathogenic viruses. This method overcomes such limitations by treating a protective barrier material with an ionic surfactant that imparts a charge to it. Thus, electrostatic forces are created between the material and the viral particle, which effectively makes the material impenetrable by even the smallest of viral particles regardless of the pore size of the material.

Institution

NIH - National Institutes of Health

联系我们

叶先生

电 话：021-65679356

手 机：13414935137

邮 箱：yeyingsheng@zf-ym.com