



## **Reprocessing; Cleaning and Sterilization Reusable Stainless Steel Instrumentation**

The operator performing disinfection and cleaning steps should wear appropriate personal protective equipment.

### **Cleaning**

1. Immediately after use, disassemble instruments, if applicable and initiate the decontamination process. Do not delay reprocessing instruments, which may allow tissue, blood or body fluids to dry on instruments. Reprocessing delays make instrument cleaning more difficult, and may reduce the useful life of the instrument.
2. Place the instruments in neutral pH enzymatic cleaning agent intended for breakdown of blood, body fluids and tissues.  
Caution: To ensure instruments are properly disinfected, avoid overloading instruments and/or reusing the cleaning solution.
3. Soak the (disassembled) instruments for 20 minutes in the enzyme solution making sure that the instruments are completely covered by the solution.
4. Use a soft-bristled, nylon brush to gently scrub the instruments until all visible soil has been removed. Particular attention must be given to crevices, connectors and other hard-to-clean areas.
5. Remove the instruments from the solution and rinse with tap water a minimum of 3 minutes. Thoroughly flush holes and difficult-to-reach areas.
6. Place prepared cleaning agents in an ultrasonic unit. Completely submerge device in cleaning solution and sonicate for 10 minutes.  
Caution: Avoid overloading the ultrasonic unit and/or reusing cleaning solution. These habits will reduce the effectiveness of this step.
7. Rinse instrument in purified water for at least 3 minutes, ensuring all holes and difficult-to-reach areas are flushed thoroughly.
8. Inspect instruments for cleanliness. It may be necessary to repeat the steps 6 and 7.
9. Remove excess moisture from the instrument with a clean, absorbent and non-shedding wipe.
10. All instruments must be completely dry before sterilization.
11. Perform inspection and maintenance of the instruments. Remove damaged or worn instruments for replacement.
12. Package the instruments for sterilization using wrap designed specifically for steam autoclave use. If instruments are contained in a perforated sterilization container, the container must be wrapped after placement of instruments within the container.

### **Steam Sterilization**

The sterilization equipment must be properly maintained and checked regularly.

Sterilize wrapped instruments by using a full cycle pre-vacuum steam sterilization cycle at a temperature of 132°C (270°F) for an exposure time of 4 minutes. Dry for 30 minutes.