

IMPORTANT SUGGESTIONS FOR MAINTENANCE AND STERILIZATION OF INSTRUMENTS

Cleaning and rinsing:

Immediately after use instruments must be rinsed in warm water to remove all blood and mucosa that remains on the instruments.

Instruments placed in ultrasonic units are the most efficient way to clean extraction forceps, needle holders and various forceps and scissors.

Be sure of the following:

1. Don't place different types of instrument metals: ex. Stainless steel and common steel, chromed or nickel plated, brass or copper in the same wash.
2. Observe all suggestions from the manufacturer for the cleaning and washing of instruments, most manufacturers recommend that the wash cycle doesn't exceed ten minutes.
3. All instruments must be completely opened and submersed in cleaning solution.
4. Dry all instruments.
5. After having washed instruments in ultrasonic unit, never open and close instruments without first placing a drop of lubricant in the opening and closure. Use only specific surgical lubricant. Don't use industrial lubricant.
6. If it's not possible to wash instruments in an ultrasonic unit, special care must be taken when washing instruments. Use a plastic brush with rigid bristles, don't use metal bristles.
7. Rinse under running water, making sure all instruments parts are opened so that all residue is washed away.

Sterilization in autoclave:

1. After having carefully washed dried and oiled, place instruments in sterilization packets and place in appropriate trays.
2. Be careful not to over load autoclave. When an autoclave is too full it is possible that proper sterilization has not taken place.
3. After the sterilizing cycle has taken place, follow manufacturer's suggestions for drying cycle.

Cold Sterilization:

When using a solution for sterilizing instruments careful attention must be made so that the solution kills specific bacteria and virus. Many solutions have no effect on bacteria or virus when in the presence of blood, also many solutions recommend a soak time of 20 hours. Because of the long soak time the chemical action can damage the instrument. If possible reduce soak time where indicated use a corrosion inhibitor.

When proper care is taken, stainless steel instruments can last for many years.