



Better Cleaning and Proper Care of Surgical Instruments

PREPARATION

1. ALWAYS wear surgical gloves to protect your skin from any cleaning solutions and any possible infections.
2. Make sure to carefully mix all cleaning solutions according to instructions on containers.
3. If necessary use protective eye shields when using any chemicals or cleaners to prevent splash injury/contamination.

DAILY CLEANING

Immediately Following Surgery:

1. Soak contaminated instruments in warm enzyme cleaning solution for 15 minutes.
2. After soak, use cleaning brush to remove remaining surface blood and debris.
3. Clean out hinges of hemostat, clamps and needle holders with pipe cleaners
4. Rinse instruments in fresh water bath.
5. While in bath, use stain removing powder with cleaning brush to remove any stains on instruments or in hinges.
6. Rinse stain removing powder off instruments.
7. Place wet instruments on terry cloth towel and blot dry with another towel. Take care to dry instrument hinges.
8. Check scissors for blade nicks and dull edges, needle holders for poor gripping in jaws, and hemostat clamps for alignment. Check all instruments for cracks.
9. Open and close each instrument to feel for tightness or grinding of hinges.
10. If necessary, use only a pen oiler to lubricate the hinges of the instrument.
Do NOT use instrument milk, it dries out in autoclave and binds in the hinges.
11. Gather instruments without locking ratchets and repack for sterilization.

TWICE MONTHLY

- 6A. After rinse, place instruments in warm bath of SSK-80 Stainless steel cleaner for 15 minutes. Make sure that you DO NOT put any Tungsten Carbide (TC or Gold Handled) instruments into the SSK-80 solution.
- 6B. Completely rinse the instruments of Stainless Cleaner before drying and lubricating.

AVOID

1. Using any type of spray on or dipping instrument milk or lube/rust preventer. They don't really work that well.
2. Using an "ultrasonic cleaner" to clean instruments. It damages scissors, fine forceps, ophthalmology instruments, and needle holders.
3. Never click or lock closed any surgical instrument when packing for autoclave sterilization it will eventually cause the hinges or jaws of an instrument to weaken, crack and fail possibly during surgery.
4. Prolonged exposure of instruments to "Cold Sterile Solutions". These solutions will damage the stainless steel.