



## INSTRUMENT CARE

### INDICATIONS FOR USE

Surgical and dental instruments are designed to perform specific functions such as cutting, grasping, clamping, dissecting, probing, retracting, draining, aspirating, suturing or ligating. Surgical instruments may also be used to facilitate the insertion of surgical implants.

### CONTRAINDICATION

Instruments should only be used for their intended purpose.

### WARNING

If a device has been used in a patient with, or suspected of having Creutzfeldt Jakob Disease (CJD), the device cannot be reused and must be destroyed after exposure. Our instruments have not been validated to be subjected to the chemical and thermal exposure recommended to eradicate prions associated with this disease.

Users should consult individual national infection control/prevention protocols for specific guidance regarding processing medical devices with suspected exposure to CJD.

### PRECAUTIONS

- RICA Surgical Products instruments are supplied non-sterile and must be cleaned, lubricated and sterilized prior to use according to hospital protocol and procedures referred to or outlined in this document.
- Using instruments inappropriately may result in patient injury, damaged or broken instruments.
- Appropriate cleaning, handling, sterilization and standard routine maintenance (such as sharpening, if applicable) will help the instruments perform as intended and will extend their useful life.
- Special handling must be used for delicate surgical instruments to prevent damaging the tips. Be careful with these instruments during cleaning and sterilization.
- Do not use dry heat sterilization on instruments or expose them to phenols or iodophors.
- Do not apply excessive stress or strain at joints; misuse will result in misalignment or cracks at the box locks or jaws.
- Rongeurs and bone cutting forceps should only be used to cut bone. Do not use to cut wire or pins. Do not twist or apply excessive stress during use.

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- Always use appropriate protective gloves, eyewear and clothing when handling biologically contaminated instruments.
- Instruments manufactured from different metals or with a special coating, should be processed separately to avoid electrolytic action between the different metals.
- Inspect the instruments for possible damage, wear or non-functioning parts before use. Carefully inspect the critical, inaccessible areas, joints and all movable parts.
- Do not use or process damaged or defective instruments.
- RICA Surgical Products recommends use of only distilled or deionized water in all steps of the decontamination and sterilization process.

## **DECONTAMINATION AND STERILIZATION PROCEDURES**

Follow accepted guidelines as recommended in ANSI/AAMI ST79 - Comprehensive guide to steam sterilization and sterility assurance in health care facilities and ISO 17664. For Ethylene Oxide sterilization, follow the ANSI/AAMI ST41 Ethylene Oxide sterilization in health care facilities: Safety and effectiveness, 4th edition. The decontamination procedure does not sterilize the instruments. Refer to and process the instruments as outlined in the STERILIZATION section.

## **CARE AND HANDLING**

### **1. PRECLEANING:**

- Be sure to keep instruments moist and do not allow blood and/or bodily fluids to dry on the instruments.
- Always remove gross contaminants with a steady stream of lukewarm/cool distilled or deionized water (below 110°F/43°C). Be sure to rinse each instrument thoroughly. Do not use saline or chlorinated solutions.
- Open the jaws of hinged instruments before cleaning. Joints and serrations should receive special attention. Disassemble instruments having more than one part or piece in order to expose all surfaces to the cleaning process. All parts should be retained to facilitate reassembly.
- Sharps and delicate surgical instruments should be separated. Instruments of different metallic composition should not be processed together.
- Ebonized instruments should be kept separate from other stainless-steel instruments to avoid removal of the ebonized coating and scratches.

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## **2. RINSE:**

- Instruments should be rinsed thoroughly under warm distilled or deionized water.

## **3. CLEANING:**

### **CLEANING PRECAUTIONS:**

- Disassemble surgical instruments prior to cleaning and sterilization, when appropriate.
- To avoid coagulation of mucus, blood or other body fluids, do not soak instruments in hot water, alcohol, disinfectants or antiseptics. Instruments should not be soaked for over two hours in any solution.
- Steel wool, wire brushes, pipe cleaners or abrasive detergents should not be used to remove soil as these will damage the instrument and lead to corrosion.
- Manually clean microsurgical, plated and delicate instruments, and they should not be processed in an ultrasonic cleaner. The tips of delicate microsurgical instruments should be protected throughout the entire cleaning and sterilization process.
- Keep ebonized instruments separate from other instruments and avoid mechanical cleaning and abrasive cleaners to preserve the surface coating of ebonized instruments, as these processes can scratch the surface and remove the surface coating.
- Color anodized aluminum instruments may lose their color through the use of conventional, mechanical treatment processes.

**A. MANUAL CLEANING:** Cleaning should occur as soon as possible after instrumentation is used to prevent formation of biofilm.

- A cleaning solution appropriate for surgical instruments should be chosen, and then follow the manufacturer's instructions for use of this solution.
- The use of neutral pH detergents is recommended to avoid corrosion, pitting and breakage.
- Using a small, clean hand-held brush, remove soil from all surfaces of the instrument while fully immersed in the cleaning solution.

### **B. ULTRASONIC AND MECHANICAL CLEANING**

- When using ultrasonic cleaning, follow the manufacturer's specifications for temperature, water level and concentration levels of cleaning agent.

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- After gross soil has been removed, use an ultrasonic cleaner to remove soil from hard to reach surfaces such as grooves, crevices and moving parts.
- Open or disassemble instruments as appropriate.
- When using a mechanical washer, make sure all instruments stay properly in place and do not touch or overlap each other.
- Do not allow ebonized instruments to come in contact with each other or other instruments.
- Always follow the manufacturer's specifications for automatic washer-sterilizers and use a free-rinsing, low-sudsing detergent with a neutral pH (6.0 - 8.5). Due to variations in water quality, the type of detergent and its concentration may require adjustment for optimal cleaning.

**4. RINSE AND DRY:** Rinse all instruments thoroughly with distilled or deionized water to remove all traces of debris and cleansing agents. All internal lumens and ratchets must be thoroughly rinsed. Before they are stored, instruments must be thoroughly dried and all residual moisture must be removed. A soft absorbent towel/cloth should be used to dry external surfaces. The drying process may be aided by using compressed air.

**5. LUBRICATE:** Before instruments are sterilized, the use of a water-soluble instrument lubricant that is compatible with the method of sterilization to be used is recommended.

- After thoroughly cleaning instruments, lubricants should be properly applied to all joints and movable mating surfaces to keep them moving freely and aid in protecting the surface from mineral deposits.
- All instruments must be properly lubricated, regardless of surface coatings.
- Ultrasonic cleaners remove all lubrication; therefore, this maintenance procedure should be done routinely after ultrasonic cleaning and before sterilization.
- If following the lubricating procedure, do not rinse after this step.

#### **6. STERILIZATION:**

Reusable instruments are ready for sterilization after following decontamination recommendations.

- Personnel should follow accepted guidelines as recommended in ANSI/AAMI ST79 - Comprehensive guide to steam sterilization and sterility assurance in health care facilities and ISO 17664. For Ethylene Oxide sterilization, follow the ANSI/AAMI ST41 Ethylene Oxide sterilization in health care facilities: Safety and effectiveness, 4th edition.

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- AAMI standards recommend that sterilizer manufacturer's written instructions for cycle parameters should also be followed.
- Instruments may be packaged in rigid containers, or packaging cleared for use in sterilization. Packaging should ensure sterility of instruments until opened for use at the sterile field and permit removal of contents without contamination.

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