Care & Handling of Tweezers

CLEANING

Manual cleaning

Use soft cotton cloth for cleaning. Do not use steel wool or wire brushes. Make sure all instrument surfaces are visibly clean and free from stains and adhesive. Inspect each instrument for proper function and condition. Check that forceps tips are properly aligned.

Use only neutral pH (7) detergents. (Low pH detergents, if not rinsed off properly, will cause breakdown of stainless protective surface and black staining. High pH detergents will cause surface deposit of brown stain, which will also interfere with smooth operation of the tweezers.)

After cleaning, rinse instruments thoroughly under running water. While rinsing, open and close tweezers to ensure that hinge areas are also rinsed out.

AUTOCLAVING

Never lock an instrument during autoclaving. This will prevent the steam from reaching and sterilizing the metal-to-metal surfaces. Do not overload the autoclave chamber, as this may also hinder steam penetration. Instruments may be autoclaved individually or in sets.

Individual instruments—Disposable paper or plastic pouches are ideal. Make sure you use a wide enough pouch so the instrument can be sterilized in an open (unlocked) position.

Instrument Sets—Un-lock all instruments and sterilize them in an open position.

Place a towel on bottom of pan to absorb excess moisture during autoclaving. Make sure the towels contain no detergent residue and are neutral pH (7) when immersed in water.

CAUTION— At the end of the autoclave cycle (before the drying cycle) unlock autoclave door and open it no more than a crack (about 3/4”). Then run dry cycle for the period recommended by the autoclave manufacturer. If the autoclave door is opened fully before the drying cycle, cold room air will rush into the chamber, causing condensation on the instruments. This will result in water stains on instruments and also cause wet packs.

COLD STERILIZATION

Most cold sterilization solutions require a 10-hour immersion to render instruments sterile, but this prolonged chemical action may be more detrimental to surgical instruments than the 20-minute autoclave cycle. If the instruments need only to be disinfected (basically clean), cold sterilization is acceptable since disinfection will take place in only 10 minutes.
To render the instruments sterile (with absolutely no living organism surviving), autoclaving is recommended.

AFTER CLEANING

If instruments are to be stored, let them air dry and store them in a clean and dry environment.

US Customers: Consult with your State Board of Cosmetology.