Recommendations by the Quality Task Group (72)
Reprocessing ophthalmologic medical devices (Part 3)

THE FLOW CHARTS can be used as a guide when drafting SOPs.

Before procuring new MDs feasibility of reprocessing must be reviewed, and it must be evaluated whether the entire process is advisable in an economic and ecological sense.

4. Flow charts
The group of authors engaged in compiling the Guideline «Standardisation of manual cleaning and chemical disinfection» have produced FLOW CHARTS clearly outlining the reprocessing steps for lumened and non-lumened MDs (Fig. 1 and 2). These charts can be consulted as a guide when drafting explicit SOPs for instruments. Please refer to Quality Task Group Recommendations No. 66 and 67 when using ultrasound for reprocessing.
Regular staff training as well as activity-related documentation are needed, and proof of training must be furnished.

5. Procurement of new medical devices
When PROCURING new medical devices one must ensure that these will tolerate automated cleaning using an alkaline agent as well as thermal disinfection. Furthermore, the instruments should be able to withstand steam disinfection.
Before taking any decisions on reprocessing, apart from a critical review of feasibility, one should also elucidate whether the entire process is advisable in an economic and ecological sense. Already before purchasing a medical device, it is recommended that some thought be given to how it can be reprocessed and to involve users and those persons responsible for reprocessing in the decision to procure a new medical device [4] Single-use devices might be a better option.

6. References
2 Guideline Compiled by the DGGH, DGSV and AKI for Validation and Routine Monitoring of Automated Cleaning and Disinfection Processes for Heat-Resistant Medical Devices as Well as Advice on Selecting Washer-Disinfectors. Zentr Steril 2007; Suppl. 2.
Disposal

manual precleaning, if necessary

Cleaning

Intermediate rinse

Disinfection

Final rinse

Drying

Transfer

Documentation

Dry in a closed container after precleaning immediately after use by wiping off with a swab at the OR table

Immerse in cleaning solution* as per manufacturer’s instructions, then clean mechanically with a brush beneath the liquid level until the medical device is visually clean

Rinse with running tap water for at least 5 seconds

Drain (to prevent dilution of the disinfectant solution)

Complete immersion in instrument disinfectant solution

Rinse under running demineralised water for at least 5 seconds (at least microbiological quality of drinking water)

Dry on inside and outside with sterile filtered compressed air and/or with a clean, germ-free, non-linting towel

Transfer to clean area (packaging zone)

Further steps follow until devices are released for use (e.g. care, functional testing, packaging, sterilisation if necessary)

Placing the instrument on white crepe paper helps to reveal residual soils in sites that cannot be visually inspected

Observe dosage, spectrum of action and exposure time

Avoid recontamination! Wear clean gloves!

Complete documentation of working steps and release for use

* instead of a cleaning solution a combined detergent/disinfectant agent can be used
** cleaning can also be conducted in an ultrasonic basin, if available

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Fig. 1: Flow chart: Surgical instruments without a joint or lumen
**Lumened surgical instruments**  
(e.g. trocars, suction devices)

**Disposal**
- Dry in a closed container after precleaning immediately after use by wiping off with a swab at the OR table

**Manual precleaning, if necessary**
- Prerinse under running cold water

**Cleaning**
- Immerse in cleaning solution* as per manufacturer’s instructions, then clean mechanically with a brush beneath the liquid level brushing through the lumen at least 5 × and clean mechanically until the medical device is visually clean
- Rinse with running tap water for at least 10 seconds; rinse inner lumen of the instrument for at least 10 seconds
- Placing the instrument on white crepe paper helps to reveal residual soils in sites that cannot be visually inspected

**Medical device clean?**
- NO
- YES

**Intermediate rinse**
- Drain (to prevent dilution of the disinfectant solution)
- Observe dosage, spectrum of action and exposure time

**Draining**
- Complete immersion in instrument disinfectant solution while ensuring that the lumen is completely filled with the solution
- Avoid recontamination! Wear clean gloves!

**Disinfection**
- Rinse under running demineralised water for at least 10 seconds (at least microbiological quality of drinking water); also rinse inner lumen for at least 10 seconds

**Final rinse**
- Dry on inside and outside with sterile filtered compressed air and/or with a clean, germ-free, non-linting towel
- Complete documentation of working steps and release for use

**Drying**
- Transfer to clean area (packaging zone)

**Transfer**
- Further steps follow until devices are released for use (e.g. care, functional testing, packaging, sterilisation if necessary)

**Documentation**

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* instead of a cleaning solution a combined detergent/disinfectant agent can be used
** cleaning can also be conducted in an ultrasonic basin, if available

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Fig. 2: Flow chart: Surgical instruments with lumen