

Guidelines for manual processing of instruments

In accordance with the current RKI (Robert-Koch-Institut) guideline "Hygiene Requirements for Processing Medical Devices", Federal Health Publication 44 (2001), Page 1115-1126; a) Thermostable Medical Devices.

All reusable instruments, which are not marked as sterile, must be cleaned and sterilised before first-time use as well as after each use.

Note:

Bausch & Lomb recommends sterile single-use tubing systems as well as sterile single-use instruments for all applications involving hard to clean medical devices. A selection of sterile single-use instruments is shown on the reverse page.

Manual Cleaning Process

When using ultrasonic cleaning, it must be ensured that the ultrasonic bath is not overloaded. Instruments should not be piled on top of one another. Furthermore, a silicone mat in the instrument tray may diminish the cleansing effect. It must be ensured that the instrument tray is placed in the area of maximum cleansing effectiveness. In most ultrasonic baths, this area is located approx. 35 mm above the bottom of the sink. For medical instruments a bath with a frequency of approx. 31 kHz should be used. Please inquire with your ultrasonic bath manufacturer for further information. The quality of water should be at least equivalent to potable water. (refer to EN285).

1 Instruments with unobstructed channel openings need to be rinsed with potable water for 20 seconds with the aid of a water gun.

2 Place instruments in the ultrasonic bath containing 1% enzyme cleansing solution at 35°-40°C for 15 minutes. Please note: due to the energy created in the ultrasonic bath, the temperature of the solution may rise. The temperature of the solution must not exceed 40°C, as this may result in a decreased cleansing effect as well as denaturation of protein residues in the instruments.

3 Place instruments in ultrasonic bath with alkaline cleansing agent (pH>10) at 70°C for 15 minutes.

4 After this cleaning step, all instruments with unobstructed channel openings are thoroughly rinsed with de-ionised water.

5 Subsequently instruments are rinsed in ultrasonic bath with de-ionised water at room temperature in order to eliminate any residues of alkaline solution.

6 After each cleaning and disinfection step, instruments are checked for cleanliness, functionality and damages, i.e. bent, chapped, worn or broken parts. Only functional instruments must be used.

7 Drying the instruments with micro-filtered compressed air after the cleansing process will ensure a successful sterilisation process.

The cleansing solution of the ultrasonic bath must be renewed at least once a day. As a high contamination level reduces the cleansing effect and promotes corrosion, more frequent changing of the cleansing solution may be beneficial.

Sterilisation

8 Standardised steam sterilisation: 18 minutes at 134°C (fractionated vacuum evaporation). Sterilisation periods of more than 18 minutes do not increase effectiveness.