Tube Brushes for Cleaning Lumens/Cannulated Instruments

This information is for all of the TR type brushes.

Cleaning any type of lumen/tube type item like a suction tube always use the proper size cleaning brush for each lumen/tube item. Match the French size of the item you are cleaning with the brush. Use the Healthmark brush-sizing chart. The length of the brush used varies based on the length of the item being cleaned. You always allow the brush to completely exit the lumen/tube then draw back the brush through the lumen/tube. (See Figure #1)

TR style brushes are only used in the decontamination area.

The TR style brushes can be reused if they are properly cleaned and disinfected after usage

1. Brushes are inspected daily to make sure they are in a condition to perform cleaning.  
2. Inspect the bristles on the brush to make sure they are not frayed. Do not use a brush with any frayed bristles.  
3. When available, all brushes should be cleaned in an automatic washer, on the instrument cycle. If an automatic washer is not available soaking of brushes in approved hospital enzymatic solution is also recommended  
4. Follow the Spaulding Classification for disinfection and sterilization to determine the level of disinfection required for each brush (based upon the instrument usage the brush comes in contact with).  
5. Follow all manufacturers directions on proper usage of all cleaning solutions used and rinsing.  

Note: A Central Service Department should stock probably somewhere between 12 and 15 different-sized brushes. It is absolutely necessary to use the appropriately sized brush.

References:
Nancy Chobin: Infection Prevention; Cleaning and Sterilizing Cannulated Instruments  
http://www.outpatientsurgery.net/2005/os06/infection_prevention.php


Figure 1 shows a cannulated item being clean