

Support for Utilizing Sterile Wipes for Drying Endoscopes After Disinfection

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The following statements are example labelling from both flexible endoscope and AER Instructions for Use. These label instructions clearly indicate the use of sterile wipes to dry endoscopes after disinfection.

1. Duodenoscope labelling¹:

- a. Use sterile equipment, such as sterile syringes and cloths, for all reprocessing steps occurring after immersion of the endoscope and accessories in disinfectant solution.
- b. When rinsing and drying the endoscope and accessories after high-level disinfection, the use of sterile equipment (e.g., basin, cloths, syringes, etc.) is recommended.
- c. Cover the distal end and the control section of the endoscope with a sterile, lint-free cloth(s) to prevent splashing from the channel openings.
- d. Thoroughly dry the external surfaces of the endoscope, the channel plug, and the injection tube, by wiping with a sterile, lint-free cloth(s).
- e. For sterilization, Wipe and dry all external surfaces of the endoscope and accessories, using a sterile, lint-free cloth(s) moistened with alcohol.

2. For Olympus GI endoscopes, bronchoscopes and surgical flexible scopes such as uretoscopes, the reprocessing manual states the following²:

- a. Use sterile equipment, such as sterile syringes and cloths, for all reprocessing steps occurring after immersion of the endoscope and accessories in disinfectant solution.
- b. After rinsing, thoroughly dry the electrical contacts of the endoscope connector by wiping with sterile lint-free cloths. Otherwise, hard water residue may be deposited on the electrical contacts, which may cause an abnormal endoscopic image when the endoscope is used.
- c. Wipe all external surfaces of the endoscope and accessories, using sterile lint-free cloths.
- d. Cover the distal end and the control section of the endoscope with sterile lint-free cloths to prevent splashing from the channel openings.
- e. Thoroughly dry the external surfaces of the endoscope including the electrical contacts, the channel plug, the injection tube, and the auxiliary water tube by wiping with sterile lint-free cloths.
- f. Following disinfection, it is very important not to recontaminate the endoscope and accessories with potentially infectious microorganisms. When rinsing and drying the endoscope and accessories following disinfection, the use of sterile equipment (e.g., basins, cloths, syringes, etc.) is recommended.

3. OER-Pro Instruction Manual³:

- a. Disconnect the connector jig from the reprocessing basin, wipe off any water using a piece of sterile gauze, and store them in a clean place.
- b. Take the endoscopes and valves out of the reprocessing basin. Wipe off any water using a piece of sterile gauze. Attach the auxiliary water inlet cap to the auxiliary water inlet.
- c. Take the connecting tubes and leak test air tubes out of the reprocessing basin, wipe off any water using a piece of sterile gauze, and store them in a clean place.

4. Fuji IFU^{4,5}:

- a. The manual states the following for accessories, “After the parts have been thoroughly rinsed with running water (sterilized water), remove remaining water completely using dry sterilized gauze to dry the parts”.
- b. For the endoscopes itself, the IFU states, “Wipe water off external surfaces of Endoscope with sterilized gauze”.



Healthmark's Prepackaged Sterile Wipes, 9"x9"

References:

1. Olympus Reprocessing Manual: EVIS EXERA II TJF TYPE Q180V REPROCESSING MANUAL; Version RC2409 05. 2/16
2. Olympus Reprocessing Manual: EVIS EXERA III Reprocessing Manual for OLYMPUS GIF-XP190N, OLYMPUS GIF-H190, OLYMPUS GIF-HQ190, OLYMPUS GIF-1TH190, OLYMPUS CF-H190L/I, OLYMPUS CF-HQ190L/I, OLYMPUS PCF-PH190L/I, OLYMPUS PCF-H190L/I, OLYMPUS PCF-H190DL/I. Other manuals for bronchoscopes, uretoscopes, and others state the same information.
3. Olympus Instruction Manual: ENDOSCOPE REPROCESSOR OER-Pro™
4. Fujifilm Colonoscope, EVE 200 System Endoscope Manual, 202B1259891B, 131226-3.0-DT-E2
5. Fujifilm Video Bronchoscope, EB-450/470 Series Endoscope Manual, 202B1260061A, 110722-2.0-DT-E2