**Vertical Soaking of Laparoscopic Instruments**

Vertical soaking is a method for cleaning laparoscopic instruments.

Laparoscopic instruments vary in make, model and style. Always refer to the original manufacturer’s instructions for cleaning parameters and use of chemical agents.

Laparoscopic instruments usually have long, narrow shafts. The vertical soaking vessel is particularly useful for cleaning the shaft and channel. Instruments are hung vertically in the soaker (see picture). This allows fluid to enter the instrument’s distal end and rise up. Note that the instrument’s ring handles rest at the top of the vertical soaker; the ring handle and areas not submerged in the soaker must also be cleaned.

*The vertical soaker is made of polypropylene and is approximately 20” high and 3.5” in diameter. It is graduated to 2000 ml.*

Fill the vertical soaker with approved cleaning solution (usually an enzymatic cleaner). The volume of approved cleaning solution should be diluted according to the manufacturer’s instructions. Soaking time depends on many factors, from quality of water to amount of soil on the instrument. Consult the cleaning solution and device manufacturers for specific instructions and dwell times. Generally a minimum of five minutes is recommended for enzymatic soak. It is acceptable to soak multiple smaller instruments together (follow individual hospital procedure).

**Note:** Some laparoscopic instruments have a flush port. Consult the original manufacturer on how to clean flush ports and special channels.

References
ANSI/AAMI ST-79-2006; 3.2.2.2