

### STORAGE

Surgical instruments should be stored in sterilizing trays of proper size lined with soft silicone mats. Instruments should not touch each other. We recommend using protective tips made of soft silicone tubing of the proper size and thickness. Do not use rubber or plastic protective tips, which can melt during autoclaving and cause damage to instruments.

### INSPECTION

Be sure to inspect every instrument at the end of your surgical day. Please conduct this inspection under a microscope or with magnification lens.

### CLEANING

Proper cleaning and maintenance will ensure the life of your instruments. All surgical instruments should be disinfected, thoroughly cleaned, inspected and tested after each use. Be sure to pay special attention to inaccessible areas. Clean and rinse instruments immediately after use. Failure to clean foreign matter promptly may cause particles or secretions to adhere to the instrument making cleaning more difficult and sterilization ineffective.

**Manual Cleaning.** Use a mild soap solution approved for surgical instruments with a soft brush or instrument wipe to clean instrument and remove stains. Never use abrasive powders or steel wool to remove stubborn stains—these can damage the super fine finish of an instrument and can actually cause corrosion of stainless instruments. Cleaning solutions at or near neutral pH 7.0 are the best cleaning solutions. **Use distilled or de-mineralized water to rinse instruments thoroughly. Carefully dry instruments with a hot air blower or lint-free cloth.**

**Ultrasonic Cleaning.** Be sure that you and your staff members are completely familiar with the manufacturer's ultrasonic cleaner recommended instructions. Use only cleaning solutions approved for surgical instruments. Change the solution frequently, always use de-mineralized or distilled water. Heat water to 150° Fahrenheit (62 ° C) using an immersion heater or use a separate stainless container if your unit does not have an automatic built-in water heater. Instruments should never touch each other in the ultrasonic cleaner. After removing instruments from the ultrasonic cleaner, rinse the instruments under running water first then rinse again in clean de-mineralized water. Dry with a lint-free cloth or a hot air blower.

### LUBRICATION

It is recommended to lubricate all moving parts after each cleaning. Use silicone or Teflon lubricants which can withstand autoclaving. We recommend the use of "Instrument Milk". Never use ordinary lubricants or cover up even the slightest corrosion with a lubricant.

### STERILIZATION

Stainless Steel and Titanium instruments can be sterilized via steam autoclaving, chemical disinfectants, ethylene oxide gas, or even dry hot air. The most practical method of sterilization is heat or steam, which require less time. Be sure to separate instruments by material and make sure the instruments do not come into contact with each other when being placed in the sterilization tray.

### THE FOLLOWING CYCLES HAVE BEEN VALIDATED

- High speed (flash) autoclave: 270°F (132°C) for 10 minutes, unwrapped. This method should be reserved for emergencies only. Consult AAMI ST79 and your institution's policy for restrictions regarding the use of flash sterilization
- Standard gravity autoclave: 250°F (121°C) for 30 minutes, wrapped
- Pre-vacuum high temperature autoclave: 274°F (134°C) for 3 minutes, wrapped

**Be sure you and your staff have read and fully understand how to properly use your sterilizer. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for your sterilization unit. Consult the AAMI ST79 procedures and your institution's sterilization processes for proper sterilization of your instrumentation.**