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Z. Haydu Mfg. Corp. Sterilization of UltraSonic Scaler Inserts

This Infection Control information is based upon reports supplied by the Centers for Disease Control and The American Dental Association. It supplements published general guidelines for reducing cross-contamination of infectious diseases when using any Z. Haydu Mfg. ultrasonic scaler insert. In the event any regulatory agency disagrees with this information, the agency requirements take precedence.

Ultrasonic scaler inserts should be sterilized upon receipt and after each use. This is done by using both good cleaning and sterilizing techniques. We will review these techniques and briefly discuss various sterilization methods, their general effectiveness, and their effect on the insert's useful life.

CLEANING Removal of organic debris is very important and is most easily accomplished by soaking inserts immediately after use in a container of 70% Isopropyl Alcohol (Isopropanol) or an alcohol-low-sudsing detergent solution. Then when time permits, place inserts in an ultrasonic cleaning basket and immerse in a low-sudsing detergent. Cover ultrasonic cleaner and operate as per manufacturer's directions. Alternatively, using heavy-duty utility gloves and eye protection, scrub inserts in warm water with a low-sudsing detergent and an autoclavable brush. "CAUTION Do not use chemical disinfectants other than those recommended previously herein." To do so before or during sterilization may result in rapid deterioration of the scaler insert.

AFTER CLEANING Rinse cleaned inserts thoroughly in warm water to remove all chemicals. As a final rinse, replace the insert into the scaler handpiece and operate the scaler for 10 seconds at the maximum water flow setting to flush out any retained chemicals. Finally, dry inserts completely with air syringe. Be sure that all water is removed from inside insert before autoclaving. Failure to follow these directions can result in premature fracture of the plastic grip and can damage internal parts.

PACKAGING Z. Haydu scaler inserts are made of the highest quality stainless steel; therefore, use of a rust inhibitor before steam sterilization is acceptable, although not required. Package in proper wrap, bags, pouches, trays, or cassettes. Add spore tests and chemical indicators. Biologic monitoring devices should be used AT LEAST once a week. Additionally, whenever new packaging, new personnel, new procedures, new equipment, or repaired equipment are used, biologic monitoring should be added to verify any of these changes as effective. "CAUTION Do not use closed containers during sterilization with steam or Ethylene Oxide."

STERILIZE WITH ETHYLENE OXIDE Place the dried packaged materials in the unit and operate as per manufacturer's directions.

STERILIZE WITH STEAM Place the dried packaged materials in autoclave. Recommended settings are 250 F for 20 minutes at 15 PSI for an average load. Temperatures of 275 F steam for short periods (5-10 minutes at 15-25 PSI) will not damage inserts. These conditions do not include warm up time and vary depending upon the nature and volume of load.

REGARDING STERILIZATION Ethylene Oxide is the preferred method of choice. Steam Autoclaving is the preferred method of Dentistry. Dry heat SHOULD NOT be used for those materials that can be sterilized by steam. Chemical agents, although generally effective, are discouraged as their effectiveness cannot be monitored biologically, their cycle times are longer (6-10 Hrs.), and all rinsing and handling must be done aseptically. Dry heat and chemical vapor methods of sterilization are considered ineffective methods with risk of damage to materials as per American Dental Association Supplement to J.A.D.A. 8/92. DO NOT use chemiclaves or dry heat ovens to sterilize Z. Haydu scaler inserts as this may jeopardize its performance and void any warranty. Refer any comments or questions regarding this product to your distributor.

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