

Scope Reprocessing

Note: Use of protective hand and eye-wear during endoscope handling/reprocessing is recommended.

1. **First step in reprocessing: pre-cleaning**
Immediately following procedure, gently wipe down insertion tube and distal tip with a soft cloth (gauze) with enzymatic cleaner to remove gross debris. It is also recommended to clean the lens tip with a cotton swab and 70% isopropyl alcohol to clear any oils/debris.

2. **Leak Testing**
Note: To pre-determine if scope may contain leaks, pressurize the leak tester in air and watch for obvious immediate pressure loss.
If cuts or holes to external sheathing are visible or if it is suspected that scope contains leaks, do not follow steps 3 & 4. Spray scope with disinfectant solution and follow manufacturer's cleaning directions. Wipe scope down thoroughly to remove solution, dry entirely, and package to return for evaluation for repair.

If leaks are not suspected, leak test per Leak Testing Instructions.

3. **Cleaning**
Note: Before immersing scope, ensure ETO/Vent Cap is OFF
 - a. Gently wash all surfaces with an enzymatic solution
 - b. Soak in enzymatic solution, following manufacturers' instructions
 - c. Rinse thoroughly with clean, lukewarm water
 - d. Dry thoroughly

4. **Disinfecting**
 - a. Immerse scope in high-level disinfectant such as 2% glutaraldehyde solution for time recommended by manufacturer
 - b. Remove and thoroughly rinse with water
 - c. Wipe down with soft cloth to dry
 - d. Note: ensure lens and eyepiece window are wiped clean

5. **Storage**
 - a. Scope should be completely dry before storing and should be kept in a dry, well-ventilated environment
 - b. Insertion tube should be kept straight
 - c. Umbilical should be kept straight or neatly coiled
 - d. DO NOT STORE IN CARRYING CASE

Helpful Hints and Information

1. Hints & Reminders

- a. Always wear gloves when handling/reprocessing scopes
- b. Leak test after every procedure. Note: This is the single most important preventative measure in avoiding fluid invasion, which causes 80% of all image problems and costly repairs
- c. Rinse off solutions well, as solution build-up can cause external damage

2. Common damage

- a. Angle section – pinholes, cuts, tears
- b. Insertion tube – pinches, stretching
- c. Fluid invasion – internal corrosion as well as breakdown of epoxies and sealants

3. Common handling errors

- a. Delaying repairs – worsens scope conditions
- b. Not properly following disinfectant manufacturer's instructions and immersing scope in disinfectant too long or at improper concentrations; can cause corrosion, premature wear
- c. Immersion in fluid with vent cap on; vent is the "door" to your scope, and allows fluid invasion if left on
- d. Delaying initial cleaning; contributes to corrosion, premature wear
- e. Reprocessing with other instruments (sharp edges)
- f. Transporting and gas sterilizing without the vent cap attached
- g. Storing in carrying case or communal storage; compromises sterility and proper ventilation
- h. Not verifying compatibility of light source to scope – ensure properly functioning filters, adapters, strength of light source, etc.
- i. Manually articulating scope; should only use lever control
- j. Third-party repairs
- k. Stretching/folding of sheathing or cover – endosheath use/removal or manual cleaning/wiping

4. Remarks

Proper maintenance and handling of your endoscopes will:

- Increase the life of the unit
- Lower repair or replacement costs
- Reduce possibility of cross-contamination (to patients and to other instruments)