



Practical tips

Changing the instrument disinfectant

It's in your hands –
infection prevention in veterinary medicine



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Practical tips

Changing the instrument disinfectant

When using instrument disinfectants over a longer period of time, it is possible that residues of the active substances will stay on the instruments and reprocessing utensils (instrument trays) or migrate into the materials in the case of soft surfaces (e.g. flexible endoscopes). When changing the reprocessing agent, these residues must be removed before using the new product so that no chemical incompatibility reactions occur.

The following procedure is recommended:

1. Instruments and instrument trays incl. reprocessing utensils with water and a cleaning agent, e.g. Clean Helizyme®; flexible endoscopes with brushes according to manufacturer's recommendations.
2. Rinse thoroughly with water until there is no more foam in the rinsing water – do not forget the channels for endoscopes.
3. Rub alcohol-resistant surfaces with a cloth soaked in alcohol (e.g. 70% isopropyl alcohol).



Steps 2 and 3 are particularly advisable if the new instrument disinfectant is based on active ingredients other than the previous disinfectant. When switching from products containing aldehyde to products containing amines and vice versa, the active ingredients can react with each other and lead to reddish-brown discolorations.

If automated reprocessing, in addition to manual disinfection, is also intended for endoscopes in the washer-disinfector, it must be ensured that all reprocessing agents (both mechanical and manual) are compatible.

The following table lists the most common names of aldehydic active substances and amines:

| Active ingredient group | Aldehydes | Amines/alkylamines |
|--|-------------------------------|--|
| Caution: Active ingredients from the aldehyde group are not compatible with active ingredients from the amine group; thorough cleaning is necessary before changing the product! | Succinic acid dialdehyde | Alkylpropylenediamine |
| | 1.6-dihydroxy-2.5-dioxahexane | Bis(aminopropyl)laurylamine |
| | Formacetal | Cocospopylenediamine |
| | Formaldehyde/methanal | Cocospopylenediamine guanidine diacetate |
| | Glutaraldehyde/glutaral | Dodecylbispropylenetriamine |
| | Glutardialdehyde | Glucoprotamine |
| | Glyoxal | Laurylpropylenediamine |
| | | N-(3-aminopropyl)-N-dodecylpropane-1.3-diamine |