

Are microbes hitchhiking on your probes and putting patients at risk?



Ultrasound probes are a potential route for healthcare-associated infections (HAI).

Standards and guidelines in the United States and Canada require that probes used in endocavitary procedures must minimally undergo high-level disinfection (HLD) before they are used on the next patient.¹⁻³

Disinfection considerations to mitigate risk for patients and staff

If a patient asks how you are disinfecting your endocavitary probes, could you confidently assure them that their safety is considered at every step?

Inadequately disinfected ultrasound probes can pass serious infections from patient to patient.⁴

Does your disinfection solution kill HPV?

HPV has been shown to cause 99% of cervical cancers, yet there is conflicting evidence regarding whether common soaking disinfection methods such as glutaraldehyde and ortho-phthalaldehyde are effective at inactivating this virus on surfaces.⁵⁻⁷

Do you have appropriate safety measures for your staff who are routinely exposed to your disinfection solution?

Depending on the method used, manual disinfection methods could expose both patient and staff to dangerous chemicals, be detrimental to fertility⁹ and even lead to spontaneous abortion.⁹

Is your staff properly trained on your disinfection solution?

Not following manufacturer's Instructions for Use (i.e., under- or over-exposure, not rinsing with critical water, and improper storage) can lead to inadequate disinfection and patient risk.

Have you thought about how your probe handles are being disinfected?

In a study on probe disinfection, more than 80% of handles were not properly high-level disinfected, potentially leading to cross-contamination to both patient and staff.¹⁰



Does this look familiar?

Just a few considerations for soaking in this scenario: Open chemicals need to be handled with appropriate PPE and ventilation, probes cannot be reprocessed at point-of-care, exposure time needs to be monitored for efficacy and to prevent probe damage.

Business card

To speak to an ultrasound disinfection expert, visit www.nanosonics.us/WomensHealth



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