



## PROPER CARE AND MAINTENANCE

As a manufacturer of surgical products, we often receive inquiries from customers asking for information on the proper care of instruments. These questions encompass decontamination, cleaning methods, drying, lubrication, inspection, sterilisation and storage. Described here are basic informations regarding the care and maintenance procedures necessary in the hospital to help insure a longer, more trouble-free life for your valuable tools.



### THE BASICS AT A GLANCE

- Always inspect, clean, rinse and lubricate brand-new surgical instruments prior to the first sterilisation.
- Do not allow blood, tissue, cellular debris or saline to dry on the instruments.
- Always use a demineralised or distilled water for the last cleaning process.
- Remember that instruments cleaned with BSS without thorough rinsing thereafter, will start corroding in the autoclave.
- Use a soft brush to clean handles and nothing rougher than facial tissue for the tips of the instruments.
- If ultrasonic cleaning is practised, do not clean by this method for more than 3 minutes and use only low-powered cleaners.
- Dry the instrument carefully by using a dust-free cloth or a hot-air blast before storing them.
- Lubricate the joints and locking devices after cleaning.
- Store and sterilise instruments in a protective tray.
- Autoclave instruments. The temperature should not exceed 273°F / 134°C.

### AND ALWAYS REMEMBER:

## HANDLE YOUR INSTRUMENTS WITH TENDER LOVING CARE

Everything you need to know about the proper care and maintenance of micro surgical instruments please contact:

[www.A-K-I.org](http://www.A-K-I.org)



## IMPROPER CARE AND MAINTENANCE

**Fretting corrosion** is due to lack of sufficient lubrication agents.

**Encrusted and brownish-red contamination** layers on surface are due to insufficient cleaning.

Microsurgical instruments are subject to extreme wear. Therefore, inspect them regularly and replace, if necessary.

**Chloride induced pitting.** Pitting can only be avoided if instruments are cleaned immediately after use.

Worn, corroded, deformed or otherwise damaged instruments must be sorted out and discarded.

**Discolourations** on Barraquer Iris Scissors appear because of poor quality water used for cleaning and/or autoclaving.

Faulty instruments returned for repair must be cleaned and sterilised by the hospital prior to despatch in order to avoid contamination.

**Stress corrosion cracking.** In order to avoid such damage all instruments should be kept in an open position during the complete cleaning phase.

The processing and sterilisation of the instruments remains exclusively your responsibility.

**Water spots** are due to an excessively high concentration of minerals in the water.

PMS shall not be liable for any damage arising from the use of the device.

**Contact corrosion** is due to preparation of instruments on a brass rack.