



### Instructions for Use

After each use, instruments should undergo a cycle consisting of disinfection, pre-sterilization cleaning and sterilization.

**I. Disinfection.** Immediately after use the instrument should be placed in disinfectant solution permitted for use in the medical facility. Disinfectant concentration, solution temperature and exposure time should comply with the requirements of the instruction manual to the disinfectant. We strongly advise avoiding chlorine-containing solutions and hydrogen peroxide because the use of these chemical agents will result in rapid wear of the instruments. The instruments should then be rinsed in cold water for 30 seconds.

**II. Pre-sterilization cleaning** is performed using synthetic detergents in the following sequence:

1. Soaking in a hospital-grade cleaner at a temperature of 30-40°C (86-104°F) for 15 minutes keeping the instruments fully submerged.
2. Cleaning of the instruments with a soft brush or cotton wads. Please pay special attention to joints, teeth and serrations of the instrument. Do not use metal brushes, steel wool, metallic sponges or abrasive powders – they can seriously damage the surface of instruments. Nylon (polyamide) brushes may be advised for that purpose.
3. Rinsing in running water for 2-3 minutes.
4. Rinsing in distilled water for 30 seconds.
5. Drying with hot air at a temperature of 85-90°C (185-194°F) until all moisture evaporates.

Ultrasonic cleaning may also be used with the exception for microsurgical knives with diamond and sapphire blades. Please consider these general recommendations:

- Follow instructions supplied by the manufacturer of your ultrasonic cleaner and use cleaning solutions recommended for stainless steel and titanium alloys.
- Use demineralized or distilled water preheated to 65°C (149°F).
- Instruments should be fully submerged in the cleaning solution but should not be in contact with each other.
- After cleaning the instruments, rinse them thoroughly with demineralized or distilled water.
- Dry instruments with a hot air blower or a lint-free cloth.

**III. Sterilization of Instruments.** *Sterilizing is not cleaning!* Before sterilization, instruments should be placed in a sterilizing container. Microsurgical instruments can be sterilized with any conventionally accepted method, such as:

- Steam autoclaving. Instruments are processed with saturated steam under excess pressure of 0.14 MPa at a temperature of 126°C (258.8°F) for 10 minutes.
- Dry heat sterilization (*not recommended for sterilization of microsurgical knives with diamond and sapphire blades!*). Instruments are processed with dry hot air at a temperature of 180°C (356°F) for 45 minutes.
- Gas sterilization (ethylene oxide)
- Chemical or cold disinfectant sterilization

The recommended sterilization cycles are suitable for CILITA instruments only and may not be appropriate for sterilization of other medical devices. Regardless of sterilization method, please always follow the instructions supplied by the manufacturer of the sterilizer.

#### Special care instructions for microsurgical knives with diamond and sapphire blades

While transporting, storing, cleaning, and sterilizing, the diamond blade of the knife should be retracted into the handle.

I. The knife is **disinfected** by soaking it in 1% solution of sodium benzoate at 22°C (71.6°F) for 60 minutes. Then the knife is thoroughly rinsed with running water for 30 seconds.

II. **Pre-sterilization cleaning** is performed using synthetic detergents in the sequence described above. *The knives must never be cleaned in ultrasonic baths!*

III. The knives are **sterilized** with saturated steam in an autoclave under the pressure of 0.2 MPa at a temperature of 132°C (269.6°F) for 20 minutes. The knife should be placed in a sterilization tray to prevent any self-movement of the instrument.

*Do not heat the knives above 140°C (284°F)!*