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Care and Handling of Microsurgical Instruments**

Sterilizing Stainless Instruments

Recommended sterilization process is autoclaving (steam under pressure) at:

Minimum time standards for steam sterilization after effective steam penetration and heat transfer.

- **Note: Time and temperature parameters required for different steam sterilizers may vary from one type of sterilizer to another based on cycle design, and packaging material used. Always follow the manufacturers recommendations.**

Minimum exposure times for steam sterilizers are as follows:

Method	Cycle	Materials	Temperature 250° F (121° C) Minimum Exposure	Temperature 270° F (132° C) Minimum Exposure
Steam	Gravity Displacement	Wrapped as a set in double-thickness wrappers.	30 Minutes	15 minutes
Steam	Gravity Displacement	Instruments completely unwrapped.	15 minutes	3 minutes
Steam	Prevacuum	Instruments completely unwrapped.		4 Minutes

Warning

- **Do not sterilize at temperatures greater than 275° F (135° C)**
- **Sterilizing in liquid solutions is not recommended**
- **Stainless steel surgical instruments should never be soaked in solvents that are not recommended for their specific use; use of these solvents will cause permanent damage to the stainless steel surgical instrument.**

Caution

- **Added care needs to be taken when sterilizing the instrument to prevent accidental contact with other instruments that can damage the polished surfaces of the stainless steel surgical instrument. Scratches and or burrs can develop if accidental contact is made and may cause corneal abrasions to occur during use.**
- **Contaminates (mineral deposits) from the water supply may leave surface deposits on the instrument during the autoclave cycle. If this occurs repeat instrument-cleaning procedures to remove surface deposits.**