

Rationalization of instruments – improve quality and economy !

A tray system should facilitate the handling of instruments through the whole hygienic circle. Evaluations of effective traysystems has shown reduced time for handling the instruments at disinfection and sterilization.

Rationalization of the handling of instruments during all parts of work - from preparation to sterile keeping is a good way to improve practice quality and economy.

Handling of instruments - logistics

The effect of cleaning, disinfection and sterilization is affected by the design of the cassetts/trays being used. Shadow effects may easily ensue from the use of solid cassetts, so that the instruments are not being properly cleaned, both in washer disinfectors as well as in ultrasonic bath.

Instruments should be free and fastened on trays so that ultrasonic waves, water jets and steam can reach every part to clean and inactivate efficiently during the whole procedure of disinfection and sterilization.

Reduce number of storage areas

Materials and instruments are often placed in several of the clinic's storage facilities, from larger ones to the sterile supply area or cupboards in the treatment rooms. Instruments and other supplies are often geographically located in several different storage areas in the dental clinic. Many storage facilities make it difficult to survey how many articles and instruments there really are in the clinic.

Tray-prep increases efficiency and security

To organize the logistics and handling of instruments requires a lot of time, and unfortunately few clinics take that time to go through these processes.

To obtain a flow of instruments as secure and efficient as possible, the use of a system as complete as possible is recommended.

The first thing to do to ameliorate the logistics of instruments and materials in the clinic is to minimize the number of instruments in the treatment area. Tray systems facilitate the flow of instruments and goods the whole way between treatment, via sterile area, to storing. With a carefully planned tray system you can handle the tray, the accessories and the instruments (products) as one unit throughout the whole process of work.

Tray systems and "tray-prep-stations" facilitate the handling of goods. A good tray system with practical tray accessories and carefully planned hygiene routines facilitates the flow of materials. Unstructured handling of instruments results in losing valuable time and heightens the risk of reducing security and disregarding aseptics.

Secure handling of instruments also leads to minimizing prick- and puncture wounds, at the same time as simplifying the inspection of instruments. It also means that single use materials and hazardous waste can be easily removed and thrown into a lidded waste bin, if using a tray-prep-station in the surgery.

Stands for burs and endofiles – a hidden problem

Stands for burs and endofiles are very often a hidden problem in the clinic. A simple solution to the problem is to use one standard kit that is in use during the whole process of work and the whole hygiene circle. Preprepared trays with all instruments in place also minimizes the process time between patients.

Stainless steel is not forever

Dental metal instruments are for the most made by high quality stainless steel with high elasticity and high stretch. The material has high resistance against wear and corrosion. All of these capacities can be negatively influenced by erroneous handling of the instruments, particularly in connection with cleaning, disinfection and sterilisation.

Often instruments made of stainless steel are supposed to be extremely strong and fit for using for almost any amount of time. But the truth is that all kinds of instruments can be harmed both by mechanical, thermal and chemical influences. Dental instruments often consist of different parts and of different kinds of metals and alloys, even in the same instrument.

It is important to maintain the tenability of the instruments with careful handling. They are not to be thrown in the process of decontamination. The instruments should be processed in trays, holders or stands so as not to clash against each other. They should also be in contact with each other as little as possible when washed, disinfected and sterilized.

Corrosion is a common problem. When in the same fluid, instruments and other articles made of different metals may corrode, and corrosion destroys sharp and delicate instruments. Corrosion pits will also make the surface rough, which increases the possibilities of microorganisms to attach themselves to the instruments.

Metallic weight is decisive in decontamination and sterilization. The heat energy from the water in a dishwasher or washer disinfector as well as the saturated steam from the sterilizer shall be concentrated on the instruments that are to be processed. A load that is too heavy lessens the effect of disinfection and sterilization. The steam sterilizers that are most frequently used in dental clinics are adapted to loads of 4,0 – 4,5 kilos.