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Global NEWS

A Glimpse into the US Healthcare Market, the new Dr. Weigert Partner and the Activities On Site. By Stefan Muench.

Manual neodisher® enzymatic cleaners now available for central sterilization departments in the USA – the largest healthcare market in the world.

Healthcare in the United States is provided by many distinct organizations. Healthcare facilities are largely owned and operated by private sector businesses. About 58% of US community hospitals are non-profit, 21 % are government owned, and 21% are for-profit. Healthcare coverage is provided through a combination of private health insurance and public health coverage (e.g., Medicare, Medicaid).

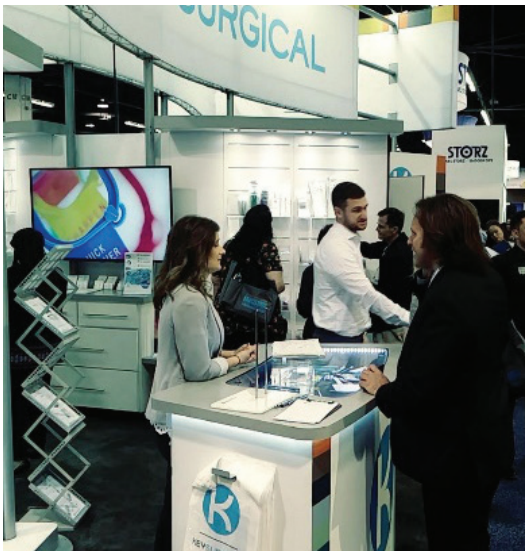
About 64 % of health spending is paid for by the government and funded via programs such as Medicare, Medicaid Services (CMS), the Children's Health Insurance Program, and the Veterans Health Administration. People aged under 65 acquire insurance via their or a family member's employer, by purchasing health insurance on their own, or are uninsured.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) promulgated regulations commencing October 1, 2008, which deny payment for selected conditions occurring during the hospital stay and are not present on admission. Three of the 10 hospital-acquired conditions covered by the new CMS policy involve healthcare-associated infections, which are a common, expensive, and often preventable cause of inpatient morbidity and mortality. Surgical site infections are the most common and costly of hospital infections, which affect as many as 300,000 patients per year in the United States. This has created a significant incentive for hospitals to improve the reprocessing procedures for medical devices. Revised Standards and guidelines for reprocessing of medical devices have been recently published by AAMI, AHORN and CDC.

Standards and guidelines recommend an immediate wetting of instruments after use and manual cleaning in the central sterilization department. For both procedure steps the instrument manufacturers typically recommend the use of a pH neutral enzymatic cleaner. The hospitals are strictly advised to follow the instructions for use (IFU). After the manual cleaning procedure, the instruments either first go through an ultrasonic bath application or directly through an automatic washer process followed by inspection and sterilization.

Key Surgical located in Minneapolis is now the exclusive channel partner for both neodisher products – neodisher® MultiZym and neodisher® PreStop. The company is a first-class medical distributor focused on the single sourcing of central sterilization products offering quick on time delivery backed up by a strong educational program.

"Key Surgical has excellent relationships with the central sterilization department managers and the GPOs (Group Purchasing Organizations) working with an excellent sales team across the country".



A GPO is an entity that helps healthcare providers such as hospitals realize savings and efficiencies by aggregating purchasing volume and using that leverage to negotiate discounts with manufacturers, distributors and other vendors. About ninety six percent of all acute-care hospitals and 98 percent of all community hospitals hold at least one GPO membership.

Dr. Weigert Hamburg had the opportunity to share their expertise with the attendants of the "International Association of Healthcare Central Service Materiel Management" (IAHCSMM) conference. A White Paper with the title 'Cleaning Verification of Cleaners for Manual Reprocessing of Medical Devices' was published and Dr. Tschoerner (Head of R&D & Application) had the opportunity to present the topic 'Surface Changes of Medical Devices – Prevention of Deposits, Discoloration and Corrosion'.

Highly Concentrated Knowledge Applications Department neodisher®

Basic cleaning of instruments

The treatment and cleaning of medical devices often poses serious challenges. Even after a single cleaning process it is possible that build-ups or deposits develop on the surfaces of medical devices.

These deposits develop due to chemical, thermal or physical effects. If not caused by the usage itself, surfaces are mostly affected by different factors during reprocessing*. Such factors can be, for example, insufficient water quality, lengthy waiting times until reprocessing, fixation of protein residues e.g. due to disinfectants containing aldehydes, or due to high temperatures during the cleaning process. Furthermore, improper loading of the washer-disinfector and therefore insufficient water flow or even channel obstruction, or a suboptimal sequence of cleaning cycle phases can cause problems such as discolorations and, either organic or inorganic, residues on the instruments.

Thus, it can be necessary to conduct basic cleaning of the surgical instruments at regular intervals, especially of instruments made from stainless steel. This basic cleaning of the instruments can be carried out either manually or automated. In the following, the manual cleaning process will be described using two examples from clinical practice.

To remove organic deposits such as residual blood or protein, the liquid and mildly alkaline detergent neodisher® Alka 300 can be used. This formulation contains bleach based on chlorine and phosphate for an optimal removal of organic deposits. Displayed in figure 1 is an example for manual cleaning.

Figure 1: Wrongly reprocessed retractor with organic residues before basic cleaning (left) and after partial basic cleaning with neodisher® Alka 300 (right).

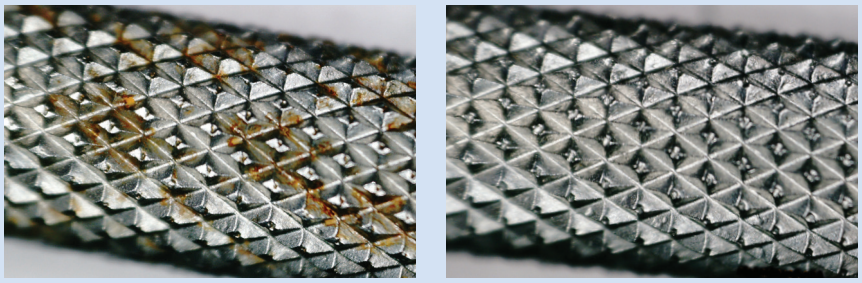


Figure 2: Close-up of the handle surface of a wound retractor with brownish surface changes, before basic cleaning with neodisher® IR (left) and after basic cleaning with neodisher® IR (right)

Figure 3: Kidney dish before basic cleaning (left) and after partial basic cleaning with neodisher® IR in an immersion bath (right)

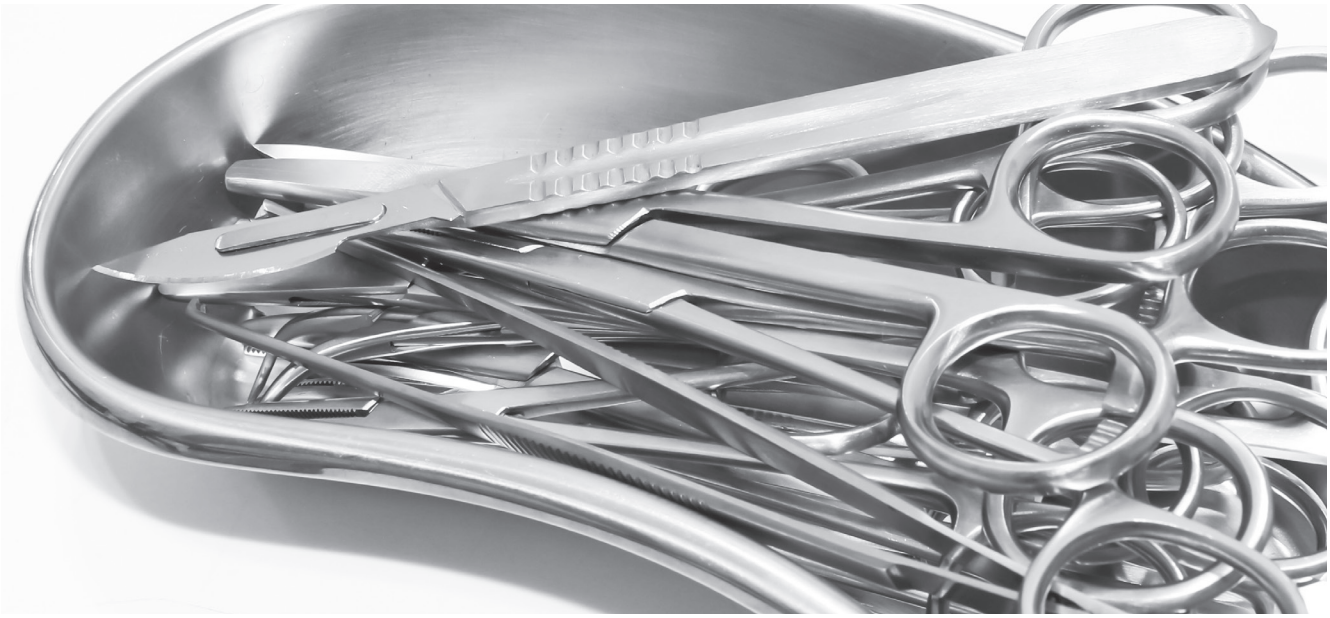
To remove inorganic deposits, however, acidic detergents based on phosphoric acid should be used: neodisher® IR. This special formulation, for use in immersion baths, can remove discolorations and rust coverings e.g. due to iron particles or increased chloride content in the water (c.f. figure 2 and 3). The remaining corrosion holes can only be treated mechanically by the manufacturer or by a repair service.

Reprocessing should always be carried out following the instructions in the data sheet of the respective product as well as following the recommendations of the medical device manufacturer. Moreover, care should be taken to determine the causes of surface changes and to resolve them.

* Working Group Instrument Reprocessing (2017). Instrument Reprocessing - Resprocessing of Instruments to Retain Value (11th Edition), red brochure

BEST PRODUCTS

neodisher® IR – acid cleaning agent for use in basic cleaning by immersion



Main fields of application:
Thorough cleaning of stainless steel surgical instruments using immersion baths and ultrasonic baths. Only instruments made of hardened chrome steel or chrome-nickel steel can undergo a thorough cleaning using neodisher® IR.

Characteristics:
neodisher® IR is a special product for basic cleaning to remove tarnishing, loose rust and rust stains. Stubborn inorganic residues on the instruments to be cleaned, which can result from various faults in preparation, are automatically removed with neodisher® IR thus ensuring the longevity of high-quality materials.

Application and dosage:
For surgical instruments made of hardened chrome steel or chrome-nickel steel only!

Basic cleaning in immersion baths:
Instruments are immersed in a warm 1–10 % neodisher® IR solution (10–100 ml/l, max. 50 °C). For instruments with carbide insert, use only a 1–3 % neodisher® IR-solution (10–30 ml/l). After a contact time of approx. 1 hour, the instruments are removed, thoroughly rinsed with water and dried. Instruments which now appear spotless are further reprocessed.

Basic cleaning in ultrasonic baths:
Instruments are immersed in a 1.5–3 % neodisher® IR solution (15–35 ml/l, max. 50 °C).The contact time should be between 1 and 5 min in accordance with the instrument manufacturer's data.

If spots and stains have not yet been completely removed, which may be the case with discolouration built up over a long time, the treatment must be repeated. In addition, the contact time in immersion baths may be extended for up to four hours. The instruments should under no circumstances remain unchecked in the solutions overnight.

If the dark stains are not removed after immersion, the advice of our applications technology department must be sought, to determine the nature of the discolouration and to work out a special method for its removal. In any case an attempt should be made to determine the cause(s), in order to remedy it as quickly as possible.

Scrubbing with wire brushes must be avoided, otherwise the stainless steel surfaces will be irreversibly damaged.

Subsequently, the neodisher® IR solution has to be rinsed off completely.

INFORMATION

Dr. Weigert tutorials

Specific prevention of chloride-induced pitting corrosion

If surgical instruments are placed into the disposal container and are not immediately reprocessed, long drying-on times can occur. These do not only make the subsequent cleaning more difficult but can also lead to pitting corrosion. This tutorial shows how pitting corrosion caused by chloride-containing solutions, such as blood or physiological saline solution, can be avoided in order to prevent irreparable damage to steel surfaces of surgical instruments, incl. MIS instruments and to ensure the value preservation of the instruments.

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Cleaning of surgical instruments with the aid of enzymes

Depending on area of application the most stubborn of residues can occur on surgical instruments and utensils, such as dried-on blood. Different residues require different measures. For example, different ingredients are needed for removing protein residues than for removing fat-containing soiling. This tutorial shows how to achieve maximum cleaning performance with the aid of different enzymes, thereby facilitating the manual reprocessing of surgical instruments

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Meet and Greet International Trade Fairs and Conventions

Visit us at the Medica, the World Forum for Medicine, and at the Arab Health Exhibition and Congress, the largest medical exhibition and conferences in the Middle East. We are looking forward to welcoming you at our booth!

MEDICA at Messe Düsseldorf, Germany, November 18 – 21, 2019

Arab Health at Dubai International Convention and Exhibition Centre Dubai, United Arab Emirates, January 27 – 30, 2020

After 50+years partnership

Veru Chemie Belgium will become Dr. Weigert Belgium.

With the acquisition of Veru Chemie the 9th Dr Weigert Subsidiary in Europe will be established in January 2020. We are more than happy to present you this enlargement of the Dr. Weigert Group which is a great example of a successful, long-term business relationship!

IMPRINT

Chemische Fabrik
Dr. Weigert GmbH & Co. KG
Mühlenhagen 85
D-20539 Hamburg
www.drweigert.com

Editors
Alejandro Giletto/Stefanie Küpper
stefanie.kuepper@drweigert.de
Phone: 0049-40 / 789 60-246

Production
MWI GmbH, D-50667 Köln

Always on Hand to Help with Hygiene – in Europe and Around the World.

Contact Dr. Weigert:

Please contact us if you have any questions or suggestions that you are interested to read about – we will gladly take your ideas into consideration!

stefanie.kuepper@drweigert.de

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