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RE: Delayed Reprocessing & Difficult-to-Clean Flexible Endoscopes

Dear Health Care Professional:

There have been a number of questions about reprocessing flexible endoscopes when there has been a significant delay between use of the endoscope and initiation of reprocessing or when the endoscope is difficult to clean. Olympus has recently developed reprocessing recommendations entitled "Presoak for Excessive Bleeding and/or Delayed Reprocessing" which may help answer these questions. This procedure has been included in most of recent flexible endoscope reprocessing manuals at the end of the Manual Cleaning section (copy attached). There are a number of important points regarding delayed reprocessing that need to be stressed:

- The procedure described in "Presoak for Excessive Bleeding and/or Delayed Reprocessing" was developed as an additional reprocessing step to be added to the normal reprocessing scheme before Manual Cleaning:
 - Precleaning
 - Leakage Testing
 - Presoak for Excessive Bleeding and/or Delayed Reprocessing
 - Manual Cleaning
 - Disinfection or Sterilization
- In order to minimize debris from drying on the endoscope it should be Precleaned at bedside immediately following the patient procedure:
 - Wipe down insertion tube with a detergent-soaked cloth
 - Aspirate detergent solution through suction channel
 - Flush water and air into the air/water channel
- The procedure described in "Presoak for Excessive Bleeding and/or Delayed Reprocessing" is not meant for routine reprocessing. Since the endoscope is soaked for 10 hours during this procedure, it should be utilized only when necessary. Routine, prolonged soaking of flexible endoscopes may result in damage to the instrument.

Please insure timely precleaning and avoid prolonged immersion times as you develop procedures to deal with delayed reprocessing at your institution.

Sincerely,

Steve Goldstine, DDS, PhD
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Enclosure: "Presoak for Excessive Bleeding and/or Delayed Reprocessing" from Olympus GIF/CF/PCF/JF/TJF/SIF Endoscope Reprocessing Manual, 1997.