



A few always-timely tips for avoiding scope damage that can lead to fluid invasion

Handling: Protect the scope at all times.

- ▶ Avoid coiling insertion tubes too tightly.
- ▶ Avoid stacking scopes with accessories or other scopes during transport.
- ▶ Use care when handling scopes around sharp objects and metal surfaces.

Setup: Check compatibility and working condition.

- ▶ Examine condition and size-compatibility of accessories to avoid damaging channels.
- ▶ Inspect and test scopes prior to each procedure to catch damage early on.
- ▶ Regularly check caps, pistons and visible seals for wear and tear to ensure the scope is watertight.

Endoscopy Procedure: Follow original equipment manufacturer's (OEM) operating instructions.

- ▶ Take care when picking up the instrument or putting it down.
- ▶ Avoid exerting too much force on buttons, switches, angulation cables or the control grip during use to help prevent punctures, cracks and buckling.
- ▶ Inspect each EndoTherapy device before inserting it into the channel. Stop when you encounter a restriction and don't attempt to advance the device while the scope is angulated.
- ▶ Make sure the device is in the field of view before opening or engaging; good communication between nurse and physician is critical.

Reprocessing: Train, train, train.

- ▶ Avoid stacking a scope on its own distal tip.
- ▶ Do not reprocess scopes together unless using a reprocessing machine specifically designed for reprocessing two scopes in a single basin.
- ▶ Check sinks, drains and countertops for sharp edges; remove unnecessary objects nearby.
- ▶ Ensure reprocessing staff has adequate reprocessing time. Don't rush.

▶ Always follow all four reprocessing steps:

1 Bedside Cleaning

- Check integrity of water resistant cap and make sure it is dry.
- Put the cap on before cleaning at bedside.
- Clean at bedside before bioburden hardens to avoid the need for aggressive cleaning later.

2 Leak Testing

- Leak test before manual cleaning.
- Use a sink that is large enough to avoid crimping the instrument.
- Post the appropriate OEM leak testing instructions. (For scopes that fail leak testing, see www.olympusamerica.com/damagedscopes for instructions on cleaning and high-level disinfection or sterilization of the damaged endoscope prior to shipment to a service center for repair.)

3 Manual Cleaning

- Avoid undue chemical damage by adhering to OEM instructions for reprocessing time/temperature/concentrations using recommended detergents and sterilants.
- Follow the detergent manufacturer's instructions to ensure the proper detergent concentrations.
- Use appropriate cleaning brushes that are in good working condition.

4 High-Level Disinfection (HLD) or Sterilization

- Follow the scope manufacturer's approved protocols for high-level disinfection or sterilization.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions for use of automated endoscope reprocessors (AER) or sterilants.
- Use only endoscope-compatible liquid chemical germicides recommended by the scope manufacturer that have been tested for proper potencies.

Storage: Protect scopes when they aren't in use.

- ▶ Store scopes in a clean, ventilated and uncluttered cabinet (not in carrying case).
- ▶ Hang scopes vertically with valves and caps removed and with locks in the "free" position.

Preventive Maintenance: Fix minor damage quickly before it escalates.

- ▶ Regularly check endoscopic equipment and accessories for wear.
- ▶ Ensure scopes are repaired to OEM specifications.
- ▶ Retire outdated equipment and keep active scope inventory levels on par with patient volumes.
- ▶ Keep appropriate staff trained on handling, operating and reprocessing protocols.

For more CDS information relative to Olympus endoscopes and to download reprocessing videos visit www.olympusamerica.com/cds.