

# Ratcheting Driver Handle Care

## 1) INTRODUCTION

The following guidelines are intended to provide care and handling instructions for stainless steel ratcheting drivers. These guidelines are not intended for use with electrical, pneumatic or powered surgical instruments.

## 2) NEW INSTRUMENTS

All instruments are shipped in a *NON-STERILE* condition and *MUST* be cleaned, lubricated, and autoclaved prior to use.

## 3) MANUAL CLEANING

Clean instruments as quickly as possible after each use. It is important not to allow blood or debris to dry on the instruments. If cleaning must be delayed, store the ratcheting driver in a covered container with the appropriate detergent or cleaning solution to delay drying. Do not use high concentrations of chlorine bleach on stainless steel instruments or pitting will occur. Do not use abrasive pads or cleansers. This will scratch the surface of the driver and remove the protective coating. This can lead to corrosion, dirt collection, and water deposits. Sort instruments by similar metal for subsequent processing to avoid electrolytic deposition (galvanic corrosion) due to contact between dissimilar metals.

## 4) ULTRASONIC CLEANING

Ultrasonic cleaners are effective when used per the manufacturer's instructions with specially formulated detergents. It is recommended that all visible blood and debris be removed from the instrument prior to ultrasonic cleaning. Sort instruments by similar metal for subsequent processing to avoid electrolytic deposition (galvanic corrosion) due to contact between dissimilar metals.

## 5) LUBRICATION

Ultrasonic cleaning effectively removes all lubricant, so it is important to re-lubricate each driver immediately after cleaning. The use of an antibacterial, lubricating rust inhibitor is highly recommended. This water-soluble lubricant should be mixed in a bath solution made with demineralized water. Instruments should be immersed in this solution for 30 seconds and allowed to drip dry. This allows for the formation of a lubricant film that will remain throughout the sterilization process and this film will continue to protect the drivers during storage. This process guards instruments from staining and corrosion during sterilization and storage.

## 6) AUTOCLAVING

Staining and spotting may result if residual chemicals are not completely rinsed from instruments prior to steam sterilization. It is imperative to follow the proper sterilization and drying cycles outlined in the enclosed equipment literature. Failure to follow the provided instructions may result in incomplete sterilization, excess moisture formation, and water spotting.

## 7) RINSING THE DRIVER

Avoid using tap water for rinsing the driver. The minerals in tap water can cause driver discoloration or staining. Use demineralized water for rinsing in order to prevent spotting. If tap water must be used for the final rinsing, dry the instruments immediately to prevent staining.

## 8) MAINTAINING CORROSION RESISTANCE

The ratcheting drivers are made of corrosion resistant specialty stainless steels. These steels form a passive oxide layer on the driver surface to protect them against corrosion. In order to maintain the quality of this protective layer, it is imperative to use and maintain the ratcheting driver properly. Failure to follow the provided instructions can lead to rust formation, which reduces the life of the instrument and the corrosion resistance.

## 9) CALIBRATING TORQUE LIMITING HANDLES

Calibration cycles are dependent on product handling and the frequency of use. In general, it is recommended to return the product for torque verification or adjustment after one of the following are met:

- Six months of use
- 200 autoclave cycles
- Approximately 3000 actuations (Clicks)

**IF AT ANY TIME A DEVICE SEEMS TO BE MALFUNCTIONING, REMOVE IT FROM SERVICE IMMEDIATELY AND RETURN IT FOR RECALIBRATION OR REPLACEMENT**

## 10) CONCLUSION

These guidelines were written to provide general information on the care and cleaning of surgical instruments. Attention has been paid to chemical and corrosion contacts that may inadvertently degrade, corrode, or otherwise shorten the expected life of hand held surgical instruments. These guidelines are not all-inclusive and do not outline every possible chemical contact or reaction that may occur while handling or cleaning.

Symbol	Meaning
	Catalog Number
	Batch Code
	Authorized Representative of the European Community
	Caution, Consult Accompanying Documents
	Consult Instructions for Use
	Do Not Reuse
	Not Made with Natural Rubber Latex
	Do Not Use if package is damaged
	Non-Sterile
	Caution: Federal Law (USA) restricts this device to sale by or order of a physician
	Manufacturer



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