

Reprocessing

Focused on Infection Prevention. Together.

Reprocessing Enhancements for Reusable Medical Devices to Promote Patient and Healthcare Professional Safety

Olympus has delivered high performance medical devices across multiple diagnostic and therapeutic areas throughout its long history in endoscopy. Further, Olympus and its healthcare partners recognize that advancements in endoscopy play an important role in patient care. As a key component to the safe and effective use of reusable endoscopes, reprocessing (cleaning, disinfection, and/or sterilization) is gathering more attention from regulatory authorities and hospitals owing in large part to reports of infection events associated with endoscopes. Moreover, hospitals are increasingly encountering novel microorganisms and viruses, such as multidrug-resistant bacteria and the COVID-19 virus even though the transmission of COVID-19 via endoscopes is low. Olympus is committed to playing an important role in addressing this challenge and pushing itself to ensure that safe, effective products reach those who need them the most.



COVID-19 Delayed Nonurgent Medical Procedures, such as Cancer Screening

Olympus' number one priority is the safety of patients. Beginning in early 2020, COVID-19 challenges faced by Olympus' healthcare partners prevented many patients from undergoing medical procedures, for example endoscopic cancer screenings, which could contribute to unrecognized disease progression. This novel virus brought multiple challenges not only to healthcare professionals and patients, but also to the medical device industry. In collaboration with healthcare professional societies, Olympus produced helpful information on how to safely perform endoscopic procedures during the COVID-19 pandemic and this information was made available to healthcare professionals through specific websites, webinars, e-learning and helplines. This is just one of our efforts to further contribute to infection prevention together with healthcare professionals.



COVID-19 webinar

Beyond COVID-19, Improving the Approach to Infection Prevention and Control

Beyond COVID-19, Olympus has further increased the efforts to prevent infections associated with endoscopes. Post-market surveillance studies have shown that duodenoscopes are reprocessed to a condition that is considered to be safe in most cases, however, a percentage, even if low, of clinically used and reprocessed endoscopes may culture positive for contamination, indicating there is room for improvement. While contamination does not mean patient infection, Olympus emphasizes the key importance of providing meaningful education on effective endoscope reprocessing as well as the periodic hygienic monitoring of reusable devices.

To this end, Olympus has initiated several affirmative steps to enhance endoscope reprocessing at hospitals and has expanded the multichannel education of healthcare professionals via digital offerings on infection prevention. Examples of these ongoing actions include improvements to instructions for use and training videos called "Visual Reprocessing Guide (VRG)," for an easier and better understanding of the different reprocessing steps. Moreover, Olympus will provide webinars, e-learning and checklists on additional topics such as endoscope routine inspection, microbial culturing as well as on-site support, and hands-on education to the various target groups in healthcare professionals.



Review of reprocessing steps



New hire training tool



Mock auditing tool



Summarized reprocessing guide

Olympus is committed to patient safety in endoscopy and will continue closely working with healthcare professionals to achieve our shared goal of improving patients' lives.

COLUMN



For More Access to the Latest Endoscopes

Olympus commercialized a duodenoscope with a removable distal-end cover to markets in Europe, Asia, Japan, and the U.S. that allows healthcare professionals to visualize and access a detailed structure at the distal-end of duodenoscopes more easily. Although Olympus believes existing duodenoscopes can be safely used, in the interest of furthering infection prevention efforts, Olympus has initiated voluntary actions to facilitate duodenoscope upgrades to the new, easier-to-use duodenoscope by collaboratively working with regulatory authorities in each market.