GE HealthCare

Probe Care Cleaning & Disinfection

Point of Use Guidelines

After each use, remove protective sheath from the probe and gently remove all coupling gel from the probe by wiping with soft, low-lint cloth.
Wipe the probe with a cloth saturated with one of the detergents or one of the approved wipes from the strain relief to the lens. Wipe the cable with a low-lint cloth dampened with potable water to remove chemical residue.
Manual cleaning is required to ensure the probes are cleaned to the extent necessary for further processing. Choose the most appropriate method, either the wipe or enzymatic detergent soak.

Warning: Do not use a twisting motion or abrasive paper products when wiping the probe as this may damage the soft lens. To extend the life of the probe lens, pat dry only.

Cleaning

Only one cleaning process is required – either wipes or soak

Wipes

1) Hold the probe at the proximal end near the strain relief cable. Do not suspend or hold the probe by the cable as this may damage the probe.
2) Dispense a cleaning wipe from the wipe canister.
3) Gently wipe the probe with a cleaning wipe from the cable strain relief to probe lens
4) Turn the probe and continue wiping until the entire surface of the probe has been cleaned. Dispense fresh wipes as the wipe becomes soiled.
5) Wrap a clean wipe around a soft nylon bristle brush to access crevasses, such as biopsy notches, on the surface of the probe. Do not use the brush on lens.
6) Inspect the probe for any remaining soil and, if necessary, repeat until the probe is clean

Detergent

1) Prepare the cleaning solution in accordance with the detergent manufacturer's instructions.
2) Immerse the probe in the cleaning solution up to the immersion line in the Ultrasound console's user manual. Ensure no air bubbles are trapped on the surface. Do not submerge probe beyond the indicated immersion line.
3) Brush with a clean, soft, nylon bristle brush from the base of the cable strain relief to the distal tip for at least the minimum contact time listed on the detergent manufacturer's label. Do not use the brush on lens.
4) Inspect the probe for any remaining soil and, if necessary, repeat until the probe is clean.
5) Rinse the probe under running warm water.
6) Thoroughly dry all surfaces of the probe using a soft, low-lint wipe or cloth.

Disinfection

Intermediate-Level (Wipe)

Note: *Intermediate-level disinfectant wipes are not appropriate for disinfection of endocavity or TOE probes. These semi-critical probes require high-level disinfection.*

1) Put on a new pair of gloves. Holding the probe near the strain relief, apply the wipe to the patient contacting lens. Wipe the probe lengthwise from the lens to the strain relief.
2) After the probe has been completely wiped, use a second wipe and starting at the probe lens begin wiping the probe in a rotating motion moving down towards the strain relief.
3) Ensure the wipe solution contacts recessed areas, seams, and ridges.
4) Once the probe has been completely wiped, use a third wipe and continue wiping the probe as needed to ensure the surface remains wet for the required exposure time. Use as many wipes as needed to ensure all surfaces remain wet for the minimum required contact time listed in the disinfectant manufacturer's instructions for use.

Warning: Failure to properly rinse probes with water following disinfection may cause skin irritation.

5) Thoroughly dry all surfaces of the probe.
6) Store the probe in a manner that will protect and keep the probe from being contaminated.

High-Level (Immersion Bath)

Note: *High-Level Disinfection is required for devices that contact intact mucous membranes or non-intact skin.*
Note: *Handles of semi-critical probes that are not submerged during High-Level Disinfection require Intermediate-Level Disinfection to avoid cross contamination*

1) Ensure the probe has been disconnected from the console. Prepare the High-Level Disinfectant per the disinfectant manufacturer's instructions.
2) Immerse probe in the disinfectant up to the immersion line in the ultrasound console user's manual and ensure no air bubbles are trapped. The probe must remain submerged for the minimum contact time listed on the HLD label.
3) Thoroughly rinse the probe to remove residual disinfectant. Thoroughly dry all surfaces of the probe using a soft, low-lint or lint-free wipe or cloth.
4) Store the probe in a manner that will protect and keep the probe from being contaminated. This may be accomplished by placing the probe in a storage cabinet with filtered air flow and/or by using a disposable storage cover placed over the probe.

High level (automated system)

High level disinfection can also be performed by automated system such as Lumicare® for standard and endocavitary probes.

1) Upon completion of probe cleaning, carefully dry the probe with a clean, low-lint soft and dry cloth or wipe.
2) Visually inspect the probe to ensure the probe is visibly clean.
3) Follow the Lumicare instructions for probe placement and operation of the Lumicare system.
4) Once the Lumicare High-Level Disinfection cycle is complete, don a new set of gloves and promptly remove the probe from the Lumicare machine.
5) Wipe the probe from the distal end to the proximal end with a clean, lint-free soft and dry cloth or wipe.

For TOE probes, you can use automated system such as TD100.

1) Upon completion of probe cleaning, carefully dry the probe by wiping with a clean, low-lint soft and dry cloth or wipe from the distal tip to the strain relief.
2) Follow the TD100 instructions for probe placement and operation of the TD100 system.
3) Once the TD100 High-Level Disinfection cycle is complete, don a new set of gloves and promptly remove the probe from the TD100 machine.
4) Wipe the probe from the distal end to the proximal end with a clean, lint-free soft and dry cloth or wipe.

For more information on probe care and handling procedures: Ultrasound Transducers