### THE ABCs OF SURGICAL INSTRUMENT CARE

**A. Surgery**

Begin the washing process within 10 minutes after surgery.

Keep contaminated (bloody) instruments moist by placing a moist towel over the instruments or using an instrument pre-cleaning solution (product #SS6). Do not let blood or other soils dry on the instruments.

**B. Washing**

Wash instruments with a neutral pH soap (product #SS2). Do not use Betadine, Chlorhexidine solution, or any surgeon's hand scrub. These products cause spotting and corrosion of surgical instruments. Using an instrument cleaning brush (product #45-303SS), brush out serrations and hinged area.

**C. Ultrasonic Cleaning**

If an ultrasonic unit is available, place instruments in the ultrasonic machine for 10 to 20 minutes using a neutral pH solution (product #SS1).

Note: Ultrasonic cleaning provides vastly superior results over manual cleaning and can greatly reduce the risk of cross-contamination and infection.

**D. Rinsing**

After ultrasonic cleaning, rinse with fresh, clean water or distilled water (optional).

**E. Drying**

Place instruments on a towel with ratchets open and blot off water with a towel. Allowing instruments to air dry without towel-drying causes water spots and minor rusting.

**F. Lubrication**

After instruments are dry, spray the open instruments with lubricant (product #45-303). Eliminate the use of white lubricant “milk” baths, as they have a tendency to become contaminated and harbor bacteria. Also, avoid using mineral or silicone-based lubricants, as these interfere with steam sterilization.

**G. Sterilization**

All instruments should be sterilized with the hinges and ratchets in the open position. This allows better steam penetration and prevents cracking of the box lock (hinged area). If putting instruments in a pan or on a tray, use a perforated pan or tray, which allows better steam penetration and more effective drying. Place heavy instruments on the bottom, lighter, more delicate instruments on the top. If sterilizing in paper/plastic pouches, do not stack pouches on top of one another during sterilization.

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### IS IT RUST OR STAIN?

In the event that a brown/orange colored stain appears on an instrument, use a standard pencil eraser to determine the source of discoloration. If the discoloration is removed with the eraser and the metal underneath is smooth and clean, this is only a stain. If a pit mark appears under the discoloration, this is corrosion and/or rust. Use an instrument stain remover (product #SS7) to remove stubborn stains and keep instruments bright, clean and shiny.

### SURGICAL INSTRUMENT SHARPENING & REPAIR

We offer scissor and clipper blade sharpening, needleholder re-jawing, complete pack restoration, endoscopy and power equipment repair, and more. Fast turn-around. Simply enclose an Instrument Repair Form (download online) and ship instruments to the address below:

**STERIS Animal Health**
Attn: National Repair Facility
4575 Hudson Dr.
Stow, OH 44224

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### Order products and solutions to help maintain surgical instrument performance:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SS1</td>
<td>Spectra-Sonic® Instrument solution for ultrasonic - makes 70 gallons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SS2</td>
<td>Spectra-Soap® Instrument washing soap - makes 160 gallons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SS3</td>
<td>Spectra-Lube® Autoclave spray cleaner - 32 oz. spray bottle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SS4</td>
<td>Spectra-Clave® Instrument disinfectant soak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SS8</td>
<td>Complete Ultrasonic Cleaning Package includes Spectra-Soap, Spectra-Sonic, Spectra-Lube, Spectra-Clave, instrument cleaning brushes, autoclave cleaning brush and tabletop ultrasonic cleaning machine, 8/10 gallon with 2 transducers, lid, drain hose, timer, stainless steel tank and basket, 24 month warranty</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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