

## **Safety and Maintenance of Reusable, High Frequency Cables/Handpieces/Electrodes/ Accessories**

**WARNING: Electrical contacts must be completely dry prior to connection with other electrical equipment and instruments. Use of damaged equipment or wet contacts may cause electrical burns to the patient, staff or doctor.**

**Note: Do not use dry heat as product damage may occur.**

**Refer to generator instruction manual for more detailed procedural instructions.**

### **HANDLING**

1. Inspect prior to each use for any sign of damage.
2. Immediately replace any product which has visible damage or is not functioning properly.
3. Reusable items have a limited life span which may be prolonged by careful handling during procedures and sterilization.
4. Avoid sharply bending, kinking or puncturing insulation. Broken wires may result in intermittent or permanent malfunction.
5. Disconnect cables from generator by pulling on plug and not cable.
6. Electrodes should only be handled by the insulated shafts; the surgical grade wires have thin diameters and are very fragile.
7. When using bendable electrodes, bend only at the insulated shaft.
8. Tissue should be moist for cutting and coagulation.
9. Pressure is not required for cutting and coagulation.
10. When used for cutting and coagulation, activate prior to making tissue contact.
11. When used for treatment of wrinkles, only activate while in contact with skin.

### **Storage**

1. Store cables loosely coiled (4-5" diameter).
2. Do not kink cables
3. Do not set heavy objects on devices.

## **Cleaning Electrodes During Procedure**

1. Always clean and disinfect devices.
2. Prior to sterilization, clean cables with a damp cloth moistened in a mild detergent water solution.
3. Avoid immersion in any solution.

**Note: No scalpel, scissors or similar pointed objects should be used for cleaning the electrodes since they may damage the electrode surface. Such damage increases the adhesion of tissue to the surface of the electrodes during use.**

## **STERILIZATION**

**Note: When sterilizing handpieces, be sure to open or loosen the top (chuck) portion of the handpiece.**

### **Steam Sterilization:**

1. Clean the product thoroughly.
2. Carefully place the device in a sterilization container, avoiding contact with metal instruments, metal trays or metal chamber walls.
3. Steam gravity cycle 134° for 18 minutes. Steam prevacuum cycle 134° for 4 minutes.
4. When steam sterilization cycle is complete, remove container and allow to cool to room temperature.
5. Thorough drying of electrical contacts is essential.

**Gas Sterilization: Devices may be sterilized by Ethylene Oxide (ETO) in any standard cycle at temperatures up to 68.3° C (155° F) and a pressure up to 29 PSI. Follow instructions from the manufacturer of the ETO sterilizer regarding cycle time, temperature, humidification requirements, vacuum and gas concentration.**

**Aeration: Devices may be aerated in an aeration chamber for 8-12 hours at 48.9° C (120° F) – 68.3° C (155° F). Follow aerator manufacturer's instructions regarding exact temperatures.**

## **DISINFECTION**

**Chemical Disinfection: Only EPA hard surface disinfection solutions capable of high-level disinfection, e.g. 2% glutaraldehyde, should be used and manufacturer's recommendations must be followed. Solutions with a strong acidic or alkaline pH are not recommended.**

1. Clean thoroughly.
2. Follow solution manufacturer's instructions paying close attention to proper dilution and recommended minimum exposure times to attain disinfection.  
DO NOT EXCEED RECOMMENDED MAXIMUM EXPOSURE TIME OR 45 MINUTES, WHICHEVER IS LESS.
3. After removal from the disinfection solution, rinse thoroughly with sterile water, particularly the electrical contact areas of the connector.
4. Thorough drying of the electrical contacts of the cables/handpieces is essential.