

Corrosion of instruments is frequently underestimated

During the inspection of instruments care must be taken that their surfaces are intact and not corroded. If instruments are corroded this will result in surface changes that can affect both the patient and the user. These changes may make it impossible to reliably carry out controlled reprocessing. Pitting corrosion can also take root under the corroded surface; microbes multiply underneath the corroded area but coatings also remain in place (1).

If the affected instrument is not repaired, the corrosion will continue to develop, possibly compromising the instrument's function or causing irreparable damage as a result.

During the inspection of instruments care must be taken that their surfaces are intact. If the affected instruments are sterilized in the steam sterilizer the corrosion can be transferred by water and steam to other medical devices and equipment. The chamber in the autoclave can also be affected (1).



Bibliography:

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