

Specialty Medical Monthly

Your Surgical Repair Specialists!

SMS is a full service, surgical and endoscopy repair company based in Kansas City, Missouri. SMS takes pride in its ability to communicate with its customers, provide quality service, rapid turnaround, all at highly competitive prices.

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26 Tips to Make Instruments Last 26 Years

by Derek Lashua, Marketing Director, Spectrum Surgical Instruments Corp.

German made Surgical Instruments can last 26 years if properly cared for. The “care” is only part of the longevity formula. Proper use, scheduled maintenance and adequate number of instrument sets all contribute to the longevity of surgical instruments.

Maximize surgical instrument usage with these tips:

1. Always make an effort to prevent blood from drying on instruments.
2. Eliminate the use of saline as a soaking agent.
3. Always ultrasonically clean instruments.
4. Conduct annual Instrument Care Educational Programs for Surgery.
5. Certify Sterile Processing personnel while rewarding education.
6. Lubricate instruments often with a neutral Ph spray on lubricant.
7. Monitor the water quality of Sterilizers and the Sterile Processing Department.
8. Know what Surgical Instrument Sets get used the most and perform preventative maintenance/repair on these Sets.
9. Spend money on Surgical Instrument Preventative Maintenance - it costs 70%-80% less than buying new replacement instruments.
10. Have purchasing get Instrument Warranty in writing, including how to use the warranty and how to obtain warranty replacements.
11. Is your Instrument Vendor providing sales representation or service representation?
12. Is your GPO Agreement truly lowest price? Be a consumer and have Purchasing shop the pricing.
13. Is the Instrument Vendor providing Education on Care and Handling of Surgical Instruments?
14. Buy gold handled needleholders - they last 10-15 times longer than standard needleholders.
15. Are your catalog numbers being “buffed off” your instruments in the repair process? If so, this negative element eliminates your Instrument Warranty.
16. Buying lowest price is usually lowest quality and Pakistan made.
17. All Orthopedic Trays should contain a pair of Stainless Needle Nose Pliers so the surgeon doesn’t damage the needleholder.
18. For the Instrument Sets that get “flashed” the most, buy additional sets to prevent flashing and overuse.

Product Spotlight

Zutron Medical's Surgical Instrument Cleaner will help restore your stainless steel surgical instruments by removing rust and corrosion. It will also help prevent pitting. This type of damage can cost your facility thousands of dollars in instrument repair and replacement. Take cost saving action by ordering our Surgical Instrument Cleaner today.



Article Continued

26 Tip Continued...

19. Teach Sterile Processing how to disassemble the instruments for proper cleaning.
20. Provide Sterile Processing the proper tools to clean instruments, such as soaps, enzymatic cleaners, mechanical washers, ultrasonic cleaners, brushes.
21. Buy Instrument Protection Devices for Scopes and delicate instruments.
22. Negotiate with you Repair Vendor to offer free Set Inspection - this service will find minor repairs and adjustments that will save the instrument and your budget.
23. Never overload an Instrument Tray with more than 25 lbs.
24. Be proactive - test scissors and Orthopedic Instruments for sharpness.
25. Replace the few Chrome Instruments with Stainless Steel - this will reduce cross plating/staining.
26. Protect Laser and LEEP Instruments from metal to metal contact - use silicone mats, foam or towels in the bottom of these trays.

**Congratulations to our
Monthly Drawing Winner!!**

**Christopher Huff
Truman Lakewood - Biomed**

**Contact Summer Youngkin at 816.803.9686 to
claim your \$30 gift card to the restaurant of
your choice. You can also reach her by email
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