Recommendations for the storage, inspection, cleaning, lubrication and sterilization of microsurgical instruments.

Storage
Surgical instruments should be stored in sterilizing trays of proper size lined with soft silicone mats. Instruments should not touch each other. We recommend using protective tips made of soft silicone tubing of the proper size and thickness. Do not use rubber or plastic protective tips, which can melt during autoclaving and cause damage to instruments.

Inspection
Be sure to inspect every microsurgical instrument at the end of your surgical day. Please conduct this inspection under a microscope or with a magnifying lens. If a damaged instrument is detected, send it out for repair or replace it.

Ultrasonic Cleaning
This is the best method of cleaning surgical instruments. Use only cleaning solutions approved for surgical instruments. Change the solution frequently, always use demineralized or distilled water. Heat water to 150 degrees Fehrenheit (62 degrees Celcius) using an immersion heater, or in a separate stainless container, if your unit does not have an automatic built-in water heater. Be sure that you and members of your staff are completely familiar with the manufacturer’s instructions, which came with your ultrasound cleaner. Instruments should not touch each other in the ultrasonic cleaner. After removing instrument(s) from the ultrasonic cleaner, rinse the instrument(s) under running water first, and then rinse again in clean demineralized or distilled water. Dry with a lint-free cloth or hot air blower.

Lubrication
Normally, microsurgical instruments do not require lubricating baths. However, it is recommended to lubricate all moving parts after each cleaning.

Use only silicone or Teflon lubricants which can hold up under autoclaving. We recommend the use of Instrument Milk. Never use ordinary lubricants or cover up even the slightest corrosion with a lubricant.

Sterilization
Unless otherwise marked, Millennium Surgical instruments are reusable. All reusable instruments meet ANSI/AAMI standards for sterilization. Sterilization must always be performed in accordance with your institution’s standards. Stainless steel and titanium instruments can be sterilized via steam autoclaving, chemical disinfectants, ethylene oxide gas, or even in dry hot air. Follow the sterilizer manufacturer’s instructions for operation and loading autoclave.

For standard sterilization, steam autoclaving is recommended at the standard cycle of 270 F (130 C) for five (5) minutes. Other times and steam temperature cycles may also be used. Consult manufacturers of the autoclave to confirm appropriate cycle times and temperature. Autoclave temperatures should not exceed 280 F (137 C) or damage to non-metallic instrument parts may occur. Use care when sterilizing your instruments and make sure that you and your staff understand the instructions supplied by the manufacturer of your particular sterilizer.

Warning: If this device is/was used in a patient with or suspected of having Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD), the device cannot be reused and must be destroyed due to the inability to reprocess or sterilize to eliminate the risk of cross-contamination!