

If possible, cleaning and thermal disinfection should be carried out by machine, followed by steam sterilization at 134°C. In the case of thermolabile instruments such as flexible endoscopes, chemo-thermal machine preparation can be used.

All rigid and flexible telescopes as well as endoscopic instruments manufactured by KARL STORZ are suitable for machine preparation. Motorized systems or devices containing electronic components may be exceptions. This is mentioned expressly in the product information in each case. The advantage of machine preparation lies in the reduction of risk for the staff and in standardizing the cleaning and disinfection process (processes that can be or have been validated).

Selection of a method for cleaning and disinfecting telescopes and other complex instruments in terms of their material composition and/or geometry must be discussed with the machine manufacturers and the manufacturer of the chemical reagents. Only special methods must be used, which have been verified for this purpose. Usually, special programs are available for endoscopic instruments, which are more suitable for cleaning and which are more gentle on materials than general programs.

Particular care is required in the selection of the chemical substances and their concentration. We recommend using only chemicals tested and shown not to attack the surface and approved by KARL STORZ. If the current list does not contain a certain chemical, its use is to be discouraged since it can lead to surface changes and damage to functional components such as adhesive or soldered joints.

For the protection of the surfaces we recommend the use of demineralized water, at least at the final rinsing. Depending on the water quality and used purifier it is necessary to give an additional rinsing with a neutralisation agent after the cleaning. When the process is finished the telescopes should be taken out of the chamber to avoid corrosion.

Please consider that following instruments are not suitable for machine cleaning (The relevant Instruction Manuals offer detailed information on this):

- Optics with eyepiece drive mechanism according to HAMOU® (not autoclavable version)
- Magnifying glass with drive mechanism (only significant for not autoclavable models)
- Fluid Light Cables
- Motors and associated hand pieces (e.g. for shaver)
- IMPERATOR hand pieces for drilling
- Standard-, tungsten carbide- and diamond burrs
- Prism projector (according to model)
- Magnetic Instrument Rack

It has to be noticed that

- rigid telescopes should not be heated over 199,4°F (93°C). Telescopes with HAMOU®-head are not suitable for machine cleaning and disinfection.

- flexible telescopes should not be heated over 149°F (65°C). This is also valid for gas sterilization, transport and storage.
- Special retaining devices, such as instrument trays with soft instrument holders should be used to prevent mechanical damage to rigid telescopes in particular.

In the case of telescopes with an irrigation channel, the channel is to be connected to irrigation port of the machine.

Please see the relevant Instructions Manual for additional information.