

THE GENERAL INFIRMARY AT LEEDS

PHARMACY SERVICES

To Whom It May Concern

CG/KJY/2000
23rd October 2001.

Summary of a trial using EBIOX Ultra as a pre wash soaking agent.

Introduction

EBIOX Ultra is supplied as a light blue granular powder in 600 gramme tubs and 5Kg pails. The tubs are screw topped with a peelable foil sealer protecting the contents, an identification label attached to the outside of the container. The label carries suitable identification as to the product contained, how to use the product (including dilution strengths). For comprehensive instructions reference should be made to the products chemical data sheet.

Protocol

A four week trial of EBIOX Ultra was to be undertaken in the SSD, where the detergent would be used to act as a pre soak solution for equipment being returned from the Gynaecological Out Patient Departments.

The Gynaecological Department was chosen for the trial as there was a higher than acceptable return rate of speculum being encountered with the present product.

It was agreed that following soaking in the EBIOX Ultra all the speculae would be processed through a mechanical washer/disinfector (although the manufacturer claims the product has bacteriocidal properties.)

The detergent would be prepared fresh for each batch of instruments using the manufacturers suggested dilution strengths and water temperatures.

The dilution strength used was 2 scoops (20 gm) per 2 litres of warm water. This dilution strength was chosen due to the hard water supplied to the Sterile Service Department and the general state of the instrumentation returned from the clinics. The out patient departments returning the instrumentation do not pre wash or clean instruments returned to the SSD.

Instruments would be opened to their fullest extent and put into the sink so that they would lie under the surface of the water. They would then be left for a period of approximately 10 minutes in the soak, removed, rinsed and processed through an automated washer/disinfector, during the final decontamination process the instruments would be subjected to both a cleaning process (by ultrasonic activation) and thermal disinfection.

All instrumentation was then subject to a 100% visual inspection prior to packing and sterilisation.

An independent protein test was carried out on a randomly selected instrument during each batch. The results of this test were all negative for protein residue post soaking.

No testing for residual chemical contamination on the instrumentation was carried out post wash.

Following the initial trial of using EBIOX Ultra on the gynaecological specula, the use of the detergent was expanded to include orthopaedic instruments.

It is common knowledge that orthopaedic instruments especially of the type used in joint replacement and medullary reaming are extremely difficult to clean even when using an automated washing process.

Following some problems with the cleaning of these devices we introduced a change in the manner in which we processed these instruments using EBIOX Ultra, again with extremely good results.

Following the return of the orthopaedic sets to the SSD, they were immersed into a sink containing a solution of the EBIOX Ultra. The instruments were where possible opened so that all surfaces were exposed to the detergent solution, the instruments were left submerged for a period of between 10 & 15 minutes, after which they were processed using an automated washer/disinfector.

The pre-soaking of the instruments has considerably improved the efficiency of the wash process, reducing the incidence of secondary washing.

During pre-soaking the instruments are not handled or manually washed.

Prior to the introduction of this procedure the advice of the Infection Control Team was sought.

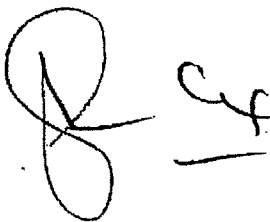
As a future development we are trailing the use of an enzymatic foam spray which is applied to instruments directly after use. The theory in applying this foam is 2 fold in that the concretions, blood and tissue are kept moist which makes washing more effective and starts to break down any proteinous residue.

Summary

The results obtained by the use of EBIOX Ultra as a pre wash soaking agent were extremely good with a very high cleanliness rate. A rewash rate of less than 1% wash achieved using the detergent, the figure was significantly lower than the detergent presently being used.

This product recommendation is based on my personal opinion and may not reflect those of the Trust as the efficiency and efficacy of this product. This recommendation for the detergent is made with reference to good practice and at no time has any consideration been offered by the manufacturers to myself as an inducement for this statement.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Graham Cox', with a horizontal line underneath.

Graham Cox
Manager, Sterile Services
Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust