

Tristel Stella for simple cystoscope reprocessing



Time for a change at the Reading Urology Partnership

When the Reading Urology Partnership moved away from the Berkshire Independent Hospital site and into their own premises as part of Berkshire Health Ltd, they needed a quick yet reliable method of decontaminating cystoscopes. Having researched all the possibilities, they opted for the convenience and rapid turnaround times afforded by the Tristel Stella disinfection system.



Tristel's portable *Stella* disinfection system with *Pulse* attachment and sporicidal *Fuse for Instruments* burstable sachet

Decontaminating cystoscopes

Senior practice nurse Jacquie Fielding explains, "We routinely perform flexible cystoscopies, which are endoscopies of the bladder via the urethra. The cystoscopes used to perform this procedure must be cleaned and disinfected between uses. We have five consultants working here and the number of cystoscopies we perform varies but, for example, we have done eight today. The practice only has two cystoscopes so we are relying on them to be made ready for re-use quickly."

While the team was hospital-based, a large Lancer washer was used for various endoscopes from a number of departments, including the cystoscopes. The running time of the machine was at least 40 minutes, making the total turnaround time about an hour. Berkshire Health Limited looked into having a similar system for the new premises, but not only was there a large financial outlay it would also have required the removal of part of a wall. It is recommended that such disinfectant washers are situated between a dirty room and a clean room to maintain the integrity of the disinfected item prior to surgery. Using an offsite decontamination service was another alternative. However, this would have required the purchase of eight new cystoscopes. At a cost of around £15,000 each this simply wasn't viable.



The main features of Stella:

- Controlled cycle time and process
- Reduces amount of disinfectant needed per cycle
- Unique shape creating protective environment
- Single-use of disinfectant in a manual process
- Best practice for partially immersible instruments
- Recording of all events
- Small, battery powered, mobile device
- Easy set-up and low maintenance
- Low capital investment

Stella is a revolution in instrument disinfection, a system developed with practicality in mind.

Introducing Stella

Jacqui continues, “We were really lacking suitable alternatives, then one of our consultants saw the Tristel Stella disinfection system at a British Association of Urology Surgeons meeting and was bowled over by it. We were wary initially as it seemed too good to be true and there are so many rules about the cleaning of cystoscopes, but having done thorough research we are delighted that Stella meets the necessary criteria.”

The Reading Urology Partnership started using Stella in October 2011. The system is designed for the disinfection of small and medium-sized heat-sensitive instruments. It combines the simplicity of manual soaking with the safety features and sophistication of an automated washer-disinfector. Stella has a five litre capacity and its inner compartment optimises the amount of disinfectant needed to cover the instrument. The disinfectant fills the instrument compartment and a small volume flows over the edges into the overflow compartment.

Combined with a concave lid, this guarantees that all inner surfaces of the compartment are also sterilised to prevent later contamination of the cystoscope. Stella is a battery operated mobile device that can be set up anywhere near a sink or other drain reservoir. By detaching the Stella IQ control unit, the base and lid can double-function as a sterile case for transportation and short term storage.

Jacqui remarks, “The instrument remains in the Stella case until use. In my experience, the unit is much lighter and easier to carry into the treatment room than the plastic trays used in hospitals.”

“When I joined the practice and saw the Stella in use, I was amazed,” adds Carol Williams, practice nurse. “I was used to these big, industrial washers and the Stella was so small and easy to use. It seemed to be so perfectly designed.”

In practice

Jacqui continues, “Stella lives up to our expectations. The cystoscope turnaround times are very quick – just a wash by hand and ten minutes in and out of the Stella – so around 20 minutes in total. An audit trail book is provided which includes a sheet to be inserted in the patient notes. A log can be printed regularly for practice use.”

The benefits of using Stella Pulse Disinfection System and Tristel chlorine dioxide based Fuse for Instruments include:

- Quick turnaround of instruments allows faster patient throughput
- Significant cost savings in comparison to a fully automated washer disinfector
- Safety and peace of mind for doctors, nurses, infection control officers and patients
- Fast, safe and convenient decontamination of solid state catheters
- Recommended by catheter manufacturers, including for use with high resolution manometry catheters





“Another advantage of Stella is that it requires no maintenance and therefore no maintenance contract,” adds Carol. “We’ve only once had a problem with the system. I phoned Tristel and they were incredibly helpful. The guy stayed on the phone until we’d managed to troubleshoot and solve the problem. He also followed up later to make sure everything was still ok.”

The team also finds it reassuring being responsible for their own cystoscope cleaning rather than sharing with other departments like they did in the hospital. Jacquie explains, “Not all endoscopes have the same requirements and, unlike many others, cystoscopes must be kept sterile. In the past we have had to cancel cystoscopies when there were problems with sterilising the scope (either not kept sterile or washer broke down). We’ve not been in that position since using the Stella.”

Performing a service

Julia Rahman, practice manager, joins the conversation, “With the Stella, we are able to plan cystoscopies as part of our clinics, and provide a better service to consultants and patients as a result.

Around 20% of cystoscopies are unscheduled but even if the cystoscope isn’t yet prepared, it can be ready for use in twenty minutes – a waiting time that patients find perfectly acceptable. In some urgent cases, the sooner the cystoscopy can be performed, the sooner life-saving treatment can commence. Or the sooner the patient is reassured they have the all clear.

The Stella is a really neat piece of kit that does the job perfectly. It enables us to perform our service and to keep the consultants happy.”

In conclusion

The team couldn’t believe that there could be such a simple solution to their needs. Jacquie concludes, “We were amazed that no other urologists seemed to be using it. Tristel put us in touch with a team in New Zealand who were using Stella and they just raved about it. Now, with six months use ourselves, I can completely understand why.”

www.berkshire-health.co.uk

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For further details regarding Tristel’s Stella system, or to find out more about any of Tristel’s other products, please contact:

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