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Transesophageal Echocardiographic (TEE) Probe Cleaning

The Japan Society of Ultrasonics in Medicine

Ultrasound Equipment and Safety Committee

Ordinary endoscopes are classified as semi-critical devices under Spaulding's¹ medical device classification because they come into contact with mucous membranes or unhealthy skin, and gastrointestinal endoscopes require disinfection with a high-level disinfectant². Transesophageal echocardiographic (TEE) probes also require disinfection, and even when a probe cover is used, it is recommended that the probe be cleaned in accordance with institutional regulations or the manufacturer's instructions.

1. Spaulding EH. Chemical disinfection of medical and surgical materials. In: Lawrence C, Block SS, eds. Philadelphia: Lea & Febiger, 1968:517-31.
2. A Multi-Society Practice Guideline on infection control in gastrointestinal endoscopy, revised edition. Committee for the preparation of the multisociety practical guide on infection control in gastrointestinal endoscopy (Japanese Society for Environmental Infection, Japan Gastroenterological Endoscopy Society, and Japan Gastroenterological Endoscopy Technicians Society), 2013.

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