

## Precautions for handling transvaginal probes

The Japan Society of Ultrasonics in Medicine  
Ultrasound Equipment and Safety Committee

Sterilization of transvaginal probes has recently been recommended, and relevant devices for this purpose are commercially available overseas because of possible human papillomavirus (HPV) contamination.

Comparable rates of HPV contamination have also been reported by the Subcommittee and Research and Development Group of Transvaginal Probe Disinfection of our Society. Although a large-scale study is being planned, we make the following recommendations for handling transvaginal probes: (1) Keep in mind possible HPV contamination on transvaginal probes before probe cover placement; (2) In case of probe cover damage during an examination, wash the probe with running water and replace the cover before use, even though the risk of HPV exposure is relatively low when transvaginal probes are used with probe covers; and (3) Change surgical gloves before new probe cover placement.

## Reference

Kuwata T, et al. Incidence of human papillomavirus contamination of transvaginal probe in Japan and possible contamination prevention strategy., J Med Ultrasonics. 43(4), pp505-508, 2016