

Sterilization

- Cleaning
- Monitoring
- Packaging & Storage

Monitoring

- > How is the sterilization process monitored?
- > Does the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend a specific type of chemical indicator?
- > Are bead sterilizers an effective means of sterilization?
- > What is air removal testing (e.g., Bowie-Dick Test)?
- ▼ How often should biological monitoring (spore testing) be done?

A spore test should be used on each sterilizer at least weekly. Users should follow the manufacturer's directions for how to place the biological indicator in the sterilizer. A spore test should also be used for every load with an implantable device. Ideally, implantable items should not be used until they test negative.

- > What are the next steps if a spore test result is positive?

What can cause sterilization failure?

- > What type of information should be included in my sterilization records?
- > How long should sterilization monitoring records be maintained?

References

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