

An evaluation of washer-disinfectors (WD) and dishwashers (DW) effectiveness in terms of processing dental instruments

Purpose: The aim of this study is to consider the effectiveness of a small sample of dishwashers (DW) compared to washer-disinfectors (WD) for cleaning dental instruments prior to sterilisation.

Processing instruments in the context of this article means cleaning and disinfecting the instruments.

Materials and methods: A number of tests were carried out on three domestic dishwashers and two instrument washer-disinfectors.

These tests included: visual test; soil test; residual protein test; and, the TVC of the final rinse water.

Results: The washer-disinfectors (one bench-top and one under-bench) passed all the tests.

The results indicate that the instruments cleaned in the dishwashers were visibly clean and dishwashers passed the TOSI soil test. There was residual protein on some of the instruments cleaned in the all of the dishwashers and the final rinse water did not comply with standard ISO 15883.¹

Conclusion: Dishwashers are not effective for cleaning instruments and they do not disinfect the instruments either. They cannot be validated and there is no record available outlining the parameters of the process. Dishwashers are not designed by manufactures for processing dental instruments prior to sterilisation.

The authors do not recommend the use of dishwashers in dental clinical practice.

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Case report: Sublingual epidermoid cyst in an elderly patient

The occurrence of epidermoid cysts in the floor of the mouth is uncommon, particularly in elderly patients. We present the case of a 77-year-old female, who presented with minimal symptoms, despite a large floor-of-mouth swelling, which obscured her tongue from vision. The mass was removed via an intraoral approach under local anaesthesia (LA) and intravenous (IV) sedation, keeping complications and recovery time to a minimum. The mass was revealed to be an epidermoid cyst and the patient made a swift recovery. The features and classification of these cysts are discussed.

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