
Yale New Haven Health

Department of Central Sterile Supply

Process #ASS004 Inspection Forceps
Standard Operating Procedure

Original:
Last Reviewed:
Approved by:

Purpose: To provide the procedures for testing forceps for cleanliness and functionality

Definitions:

Background:

- Head covering
- Mask
- Facial hair covering (if applicable)
- Clean surgical scrub attire

Equipment/tools required

- Lighted magnification (preferred, but optional)
- Magnifying glass

Procedures:

1. Test forceps for cleanliness and functionality each time they are processed
2. Check tips/teeth for proper alignment
 - a. Check that tips and teeth line up
 - b. Close instrument to ensure that handle is not sprung
3. Check for missing tips or teeth
 - a. Check under lighted magnification to make sure teeth are present and line up correctly
 - b. Check teeth to make sure that teeth or tips are not broken or bent
4. Check serrations for retained debris or bioburden
 - a. Check under lighted magnification to make sure teeth and serrations are free of bioburden
 - b. Send tray to decontamination if instrument is dirty – no cleaning is allowed in assembly
5. Check handles for cracks especially proximal end
6. Forceps used in pairs must match
 - a. Check to make sure that tips, length, number of teeth, serration pattern, etc, match exactly
 - i. Common forceps used in pairs, but mismatched, are Adson's with teeth (delicate or regular) and Debaquey forceps
7. Notify supervisor if functionality is in question