Are your endoscopes reliably dry?

Inadequate drying increases infection risk, yet there isn't industry consensus on the actual drying times needed for an endoscope to be measurably dry.

Based on a recommendation from a study published in 1991, the accepted industry standard for the minimum dry time before an endoscope is stored has traditionally been 10 minutes.[1]

A more recent study published in 2018 showed residual moisture and waterborne pathogens were present in endoscopes after 24 to 48 hours in storage.[2]

And if an endoscope is not entirely dry, the presence of water during storage promotes bacteria proliferation and biofilm formation. In other words, improper drying can cancel out all the hard work done in the previous steps of the reprocessing cycle.

We know that thorough drying completes the process to make endoscopes safe for patient use, but current industry standards don't include constructive advice on how to do it.

On top of that, cost reduction and time pressures interfere with best practice – leaving healthcare facilities with little clarity to repeatedly produce a dry, safe, patient-ready endoscope.

It has become clear that the accepted industry protocol is lacking, leaving patients at a higher risk of hospital acquired infections (HAIs). However, there is a push for change.

Compelling new data, published in the *American Journal of Infection Control (AJIC)*, strongly suggests that it's time to elevate drying's role in infection prevention.

If you're interested in learning more visit www.relyondry.com and download the free 12-page white paper that includes a summary of *Endoscope reprocessing: Comparison of drying effectiveness and microbial levels with an automated drying and storage cabinet with forced filtered air and a standard storage cabinet,* the drying study published in AJIC, current societal drying guidelines and best practices from industry experts.

DOWNLOAD THE WHITE PAPER

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1. M.J. Alfa, D.L. Sitter, In-hospital evaluation of contamination of duodenoscopes: a quantitative assessment of the effect of drying, *Journal of Hospital Infection*, Volume 19, Issue 2, 1991, Pages 89-98, ISSN 0195-6701, https://doi.org/10.1016/0195-6701(91)90101-D.(http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/019567019190101D)

2. Residual moisture and waterborne pathogens inside flexible endoscopes: Evidence from a multisite study of endoscope drying effectiveness Ofstead, Cori L. et al. *American Journal of Infection Control*, Volume 46, Issue 6, 689 696