

Cleaning and Sterilization of FHC Research Microelectrodes



L015-34

CLEANING

1. Immediately following use, rinse electrodes/microelectrodes by swirling them individually in distilled/deionized water (ddH₂O).
2. Follow with a 15 minute soak in multi-purpose contact lens solution to remove tissue debris.
3. Rinse Electrodes/Microelectrodes by swirling in fresh ddH₂O, air dry.
4. Before next use, inspect Electrodes/Microelectrodes tip for damage, bent tips, etc. Discard any with damaged tips. If not following up with sterilization (see below), microelectrodes can be disinfected using a variety of commercially available products¹.

STERILIZATION

For research Electrodes/Microelectrodes FHC recommends the following validated protocols² for clinical microelectrodes, where possible. These protocols are validated in accordance with FDA for clinical application; however research application does not require formal validation. Our internal studies and use of these protocols have not shown adverse effects to the product being sterilized.

Steam:

Steam Cycle	Gravity Steam	Prevacuum Steam
Preconditioning Pulses		3
Minimum Temperature	132°C	132°C
Full Cycle Time	10 minutes	4 minutes
Minimum Dry Time	0 minutes	20 minutes
Sample Configuration	Unwrapped in Tray	Wrapped in Tray

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Ethylene Oxide:

- Preconditioning:
 - Temperature, wrapped: 54+/- 2 °C
 - Relative Humidity: 40 +/- 20%
 - Steam partial pressure: 2.18 psia
 - Preconditioning set point: 0.87 psia
 - Preconditioning time: 60 minutes
- Sterilization:
 - Temperature, wrapped: 54+/- 2 °C
 - Relative Humidity: 40 +/- 20%
 - Pressure set point: 7.37 psia
 - EtO concentration: 725 +/- 25 mg/L
 - Gas exposure time: 120 minutes
 - Detoxification and drying time: 0 hr

¹Do not use alcohol-based disinfectants on FHC's axial array microelectrode (Catalog #: AM003).

²FHC has validated a Sterrad cycle for some clinical devices and can recommend its use for mono-polar microelectrodes such as microneurography needles. Sterrad is not recommended for microelectrodes like our clinical products where there are small crevices such as those between the protective tube and the microelectrode.

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