



M E D I C A L

360 Merrimack Street, Building #9
Lawrence, MA 01843

WHY USE THE OfficeSPEC DISPOSABLE SIDE-OPENING SPECULUM?

Cost Savings

If yours is a large, busy office seeing many patients throughout the day, you know just how much time your staff spends reprocessing, re-sterilizing and repackaging metal specs. By using **OBP Medical's OfficeSPEC Disposable Speculum with Built-In Light Source**, you'll eliminate the time your staff spends on these tasks, allowing them to focus on other necessary things within the practice. Here are just a few things to consider when comparing disposable speculum to metal:

Estimated Cost Analysis for OBP Medical's OfficeSPEC

Number of exams you perform at your site per week X Cost per disposable speculum

Estimated Cost Analysis of Metal Vaginal Speculum*

- Purchase of Autoclave
- Training of Staff-Initial training course plus annual audit meeting
- Reprocessing Time-Includes soaking, cleaning, rinsing, placing in and removing from Autoclave, replacing in exam rooms
- Annual Maintenance Contract for Autoclave
- Annual Testing of Autoclave
- Cleaning Solution Cost
- Weekly Testing of Autoclave**
- Record Keeping
- Purchase of Inventory

***Information from www.smtl.co.uk**

****Salary and training based on U.S. data from www.healthresource.org**

Safety and Comfort: *Why Disposable Products Are Safer for the Environment and Your Patients*



M E D I C A L

360 Merrimack Street, Building #9
Lawrence, MA 01843

Environmental Issues

Reprocessing involves the use of powerful detergents, disinfectants, solvents and plastics which all end up as dangerous waste products.

Resterilization of a reusable vaginal speculum almost always requires the use of ethylene oxide (EtO) or sporicidal disinfectants, both of which are harmful to the environment. Also, ethylene oxide is a colorless and odorless gas which can cause acute toxic reactions and is a probable human carcinogen.

Mercury, which is a persistent, bioaccumulative pollutant with toxic and developmental effects on wildlife and humans, is sometimes found in laboratory chemicals and cleaning materials such as bleach, which is often used to help clean reusable devices.

Facilities frequently release PBTs (persistent bioaccumulative toxins) when medical chemical waste is incinerated. PBTs are long-lived toxic chemicals that have been linked to serious human and ecological health problems.

Reusable devices often have to be repackaged after going through the sterilization process, producing more packaging waste. Often this secondary packaging has more mass than the packaging that single-use devices come in because the secondary packaging is not made specifically for the device.

Cross Contamination and Infection Issues

Because reprocessing can alter the reusable devices' surface structure and properties such as biocompatibility, material and functional degradation often occurs, causing the device to fail or malfunction during use and causing harm to the patient.

If a reusable speculum is not made entirely out of surgical stainless steel there is a chance the chemicals used for disinfecting the device will be absorbed by the speculum and leach out during subsequent use, causing possible chemical injury to a patient.

Cleaning and sterilizing procedures are not always followed correctly.

"Reprocessing Single-Use Medical Devices." Jan Schultz (RN) And Associates

"Healthy Hospitals: Environmental Improvements through Environmental Accounting." The Tellus Institute on Resource and Environmental Strategies

"Green Purchasing Goals." Health Care without Harm

"A New Prescription: Pollution Prevention Strategies for the Health Care Industry." Boston University Corporate Education Center

"Stop reprocessing 'single use' medical devices—Patient safety at risk!" Eucomed

"Cause for Concern: The Reuse of Single-Use Medical Devices (A Position Paper)." MEDEC