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Summary

Clean it right: Why bedside cleaning matters (OLYMPUS EUROPA SE & CO. KG)

UEG Week Barcelona 2026 | Presentation

Nurses

October 17, 2026

Bedside cleaning is the critical first step of endoscope reprocessing and should be performed immediately after withdrawal to prevent soil drying and bioburden buildup.

KEY POINTS

- The speaker outlined the ESG-recommended bedside cleaning steps: wipe external surfaces with cleaning solution, suction channel with detergent solution followed by air, and flush water and auxiliary channels.
- A study by Lee reported that detergent use during bedside cleaning resulted in significantly lower residual contamination than water alone, though after high level disinfection no significant difference was observed.
- The speaker stated that ESG guidelines recommend roughly 30 minutes between bedside and manual cleaning, while Olympus IFU specifies one hour, and individual facilities may be able to validate longer delays.
- The speaker presented two studies with different findings: a German study found overnight storage after pre-cleaning did not affect reprocessing quality when measuring post-disinfection, while a study by Chen found cleaning pass rates declined when delays exceeded two hours when measuring pre-disinfection.
- The speaker recommended starting cleaning immediately, using detergent as specified in manufacturer IFUs, not delaying transport to reprocessing, and documenting timing to detect delays.
- The speaker disclosed full-time employment with Olympus and stated some content shown was not fully aligned with Olympus IFU.

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