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Summary

Developments in hygiene for Duodenoscopes (FUJIFILM Healthcare Europe)

UEG Week Barcelona 2026 | Presentation

Nurses

October 17, 2026

The speaker describes low-temperature plasma sterilization as an additional reprocessing option for duodenoscopes following high-level disinfection, aimed at reducing infection transmission risk.

KEY POINTS

- Following a 2013 US outbreak of duodenoscope-transmitted infections, all major manufacturers added removable distal caps and sealed channels, and extended cleaning instructions to approximately 147 steps according to the speaker.
- The speaker states that low-temperature plasma sterilization using the Sterrad device (maximum 60 degrees, one-hour cycle for two scopes) can now be added after high-level disinfection and drying for compatible duodenoscopes and bronchoscopes.
- The speaker reports pilot implementations in Leuven, Belgium and University of Leipzig, Germany, with workflows placing sterilization either in the endoscopy department or in the central sterile services department.
- Complete drying is essential before sterilization as the Sterrad machine will reject wet endoscopes and require the cycle to restart, and a ventilation adaptor must be connected to prevent endoscope damage.
- The speaker recommends that sterilization could be an essential step especially for immunocompromised patients or special treatments, while acknowledging the need to balance patient safety with costs, staffing, and facility constraints.

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