



Guidance on Fine Lumen Instruments

Executive Summary

The Hospital Acquired Infection (HAI) rate is in the UK around 9% of hospitalised patients and 30% of critically ill patients.

HAI are transmitted during medical procedures, due to infected vectors that are not clean, such as surgical cannulae. The critical issue with this kind of instrument is that it is difficult to check that all debris inside the cannula has been removed. As a result, biofilms can develop that enable bacteria to resist sterilisation and disinfection treatment. The consequence is that the transmission of disease (e.g. vCJD, HIV,...) can occur.

In response to the hard-to-clean instruments problem, many official bodies (WHO, MDA, DoH,...) recommend that hospitals change their hard-to-clean reusable instruments used in critical procedures to single use alternatives. The transition to single use instruments can often save the hospital money, where the cost of single use instruments is more than offset by reduced costs related to liabilities and hospitalisation of patients contaminated by HAI.

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