

Stella reduces capital spend and reprocessing times at Xuan Wu Hospital

Xuan Wu Hospital in Beijing, China was founded in 1958. It is a large Grade 3, Class A hospital providing outpatient services to 4,000 patients every day. Nurse Zhang heads up Theaters on the fifth floor. In such a busy hospital, time is of the essence.

Increasing patient throughput and reducing capital spend were key criteria when Nurse Zhang set out to search for an alternative reprocessing method for cystoscopes. *“We were sending our instruments to another building for reprocessing”, she explains. “The reprocessing methods that we had in place were ethylene oxide and a low-temperature plasma sterilisation system, but it was taking too much time. I wanted to avoid having to transport valuable instruments from one place to another as well as having to invest in more instruments.”*

In August 2014, Nurse Zhang attended the Infection Control Nurses Association Conference in Hong Kong where Tristel were exhibiting. Tristel is a manufacturer of infection prevention and contamination control products, headquartered in the United Kingdom with offices in China, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Russia and Germany and a worldwide distributor network.

Tristel’s Stella is an automated reprocessing system for rigid and flexible single-lumened and non-lumened medical devices such as cystoscopes, bronchoscopes, hysteroscopes, laryngoscopes, transesophageal echocardiography probes (TOE/TEE) and nasendoscopes.

“I was immediately taken by Stella”, nurse Zhang remembers. “It is small, so we could install it in the department, right next to the theatres. Its short five-minute cycle time means we could increase patient throughput and avoid buying more instruments. And, because Stella is portable, we could easily incorporate it into our work flow. Stella ticked all the right boxes.”

Stella is used with Tristel’s patented chlorine dioxide chemistry. Tristel Fuse for Stella is a high-level disinfectant solution and is proven to be sporicidal, mycobactericidal, virucidal, fungicidal and bactericidal in a five-minute contact time.



After the conference, with the support of its Infection Control and Purchasing departments, Xuan Wu Hospital placed an order for four Stella's.

“Ever since we have had the Stella's installed, we have saved valuable time. We have not had to transport our instruments to another building. Stella has had an incredible impact on our capital expenditure, because we are no longer facing the need to invest in more instruments in order to rotate with those that are being disinfected.”

Today, the reprocessing protocol at Xuan Wu Hospital includes a manual pre-clean with brushes, followed by cleaning in an ultrasonic bath after which the endoscopes are placed inside Stella for their five-minute disinfection cycle with Tristel Fuse for Stella. At the end of each cycle, Stella is used to transport the reprocessed endoscopes to theaters through the specially manufactured hatches, which connect the reprocessing area with theaters.

Nurse Zhang can't imagine using anything else. *“Stella has transformed our services and I would recommend it to other hospitals without doubt.”*