

# NEWS RELEASE

## 23 October 2003

### King's College Hospital chooses Tristel chlorine dioxide instrument sterilants

King's College Hospital (London, UK) has replaced glutaraldehyde with chlorine dioxide instrument sterilants from the Tristel Company (Snailwell, UK).

The health and safety of the staff was a major driving force in looking to move away from glutaraldehyde, but there was the added concern that while glutaraldehyde offers high level disinfection, it is not a sterilant. There were also issues of lengthy exposure times when dealing with endoscopes used on patients with, or suspected of having, tuberculosis. Here the normal 20 minutes disinfection time had to be increased to one hour, delaying the next use of that scope and occasionally raising questions about the effectiveness of the disinfectant.

The main user of glutaraldehyde at King's College Hospital was the endoscopy department, but there were a number of other smaller scale users, including the ENT and urodynamics departments.

"The changeover to Tristel's chlorine dioxide instrument sterilants proved to be straightforward," said Bill Houston, senior infection control officer at King's College Hospital. "We are now looking to expand the use of Tristel into non-endoscopy areas. These may include the sterilisation of instruments used in the diabetic foot clinic."

Chlorine dioxide has long been established as a highly effective sterilant, penetrating microbiological structures and acting as an oxidising agent to disrupt metabolic processes. The Tristel system generates chlorine dioxide rapidly and reliably and the incorporation of a patented buffering and inhibition system stabilises the pH close to neutral and protects sensitive materials.

On activation of the Tristel sterilant, chlorous acid is produced in solution ( $\text{HClO}_2$ ) with the release of chlorine dioxide on contact with the surface of micro-organisms. Unlike other chlorine based products, no free chlorine (a hazardous substance) is produced.

**Text ends**

### **About The Tristel Company**

Tristel is an aldehyde-free sterilant that can meet all the chemical decontamination needs of a hospital, safely and economically, and has become one of the most widely-used sterilants in UK hospitals.

Tristel products are emerging as the leading replacements for aldehyde-based disinfectants, which because of health and environmental concerns are being withdrawn in many countries.

In England, Scotland and Wales, the Tristel Company markets its products directly to National Health Service and private sector hospitals, GP practices, dental and veterinary establishments. Tristel sterilants are manufactured in an ISO 9002 accredited plant in Kent, England. In overseas markets, Tristel is marketed through distributors.

### **Press information**

Trish Appleton  
Kapler Communications Ltd  
Suite 2, Cressner House  
12 Huntingdon Street  
St Neots  
Cambridgeshire  
PE19 1BD

Tel: +44 (0) 1480 471117  
Fax: +44 (0) 1480 471118  
[trish@kapleronline.com](mailto:trish@kapleronline.com)

### **Please send enquiries to:**

Polly Oates  
The Tristel Company Limited  
Lynx Business Park  
Fordham Road  
Snailwell  
Cambridgeshire  
CB8 7NY

Tel: +44 (0) 1638 721500  
Fax: +44 (0) 1638 721911  
[mail@tristel.com](mailto:mail@tristel.com)  
[www.tristel.com](http://www.tristel.com)