

Capital Radiology find compliance, speed and efficacy with Tristel

As clinical managers within one of Australia's busiest and fastest growing Medical Imaging providers, Capital Radiology's Omar Ameen and Angus Richmond saw the need to standardise the company's ultrasound probe disinfection method. Through clinical experience, Omar and Angus knew they needed to find a method that was compliant with required standards of practice, as well as quick, reliable and safe for patients and sonographers, and preferably requiring no capital outlay or ongoing maintenance.

Capital Radiology's multiple clinics utilised differing methods of ultrasound probe reprocessing including an orthophthalaldehyde (OPA) based soaking solution, a sodium hypochlorite based soaking solution and a quaternary ammonium compound (QUAT) based disinfecting spray. An automated system using hydrogen peroxide was also in place, and whilst this is compliant, the seven-minute cycle time inhibited clinics from increasing patient throughput.

As commonly happens, the membranes on the ultrasound probes showed signs of damage (often through chemical corrosiveness) and Capital Radiology were keen to eliminate regular costly replacements. "We were eager to find a solution that wasn't going to degrade our equipment", says Omar.

Capital Radiology met with Tristel representatives at the exhibition of the Australasian Sonographers Association (ASA) in Canberra in May 2012. Angus was on a mission: "I wanted to find a solution so that we could start driving change. I looked at all the positives and negatives of different products and to be honest Tristel was initially the underdog, having only recently become available in Australia."

Samples and information were taken back to sonographers at



The Capital Radiology Clinic.

Capital Radiology and it was decided for all clinics to start using the Tristel Trio Wipes System for the decontamination of ultrasound probes.

The Tristel Trio Wipes System is a three-part decontamination system for heat-sensitive, non-lumened medical devices such as transvaginal and transrectal ultrasound probes, transoesophageal echocardiography (TOE/TEE) probes, nasendoscopes, laryngoscope blades and manometry catheters. The Tristel Trio Wipes System is designed to clean, high-level disinfect and rinse medical devices in their entirety: the probe, cord, plug and holder can all be reprocessed to the highest level. Each decontamination procedure takes a matter

of minutes, depending on the user's familiarity with the System. Either manual or automated traceability is provided.

The Tristel Sporidical Wipe is effective in 30 seconds against organisms of concern in ultrasound. These include Human Papilloma Virus (using EN 14476 with Polyoma Virus SV40), *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, *Candida albicans*, MRSA, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, VRE, *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, *Gardnerella vaginalis* and *Streptococcus agalactiae*.

The Tristel Trio Wipes System is manufactured in the United Kingdom and classified as a medical

device. It meets the provisions of the European Council Medical Device Directive 93/42/EEC and amendment thereto 2007/47/EC. Each of the Wipes and Activator Foam carry a CE mark.

The Tristel Trio Wipes System is used across the European Union. In addition, it has received a license from the Health Department of the People's Republic of China and approval from the Russian Ministry of Health. Other approvals include Hong Kong, Israel, Turkey and Saudi.

In Australia and New Zealand, the Tristel Trio Wipes System is regulated as a Therapeutic Good by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA). It meets TGA requirements and has been approved as a Class IIb medical device since 3 May 2011 (ARTG Identifier: 182843).

Capital Radiology's decision to change clinics over to the Tristel Trio Wipes System was based on multiple reasons: compliance, speed, reliability, compatibility with all leading brands of ultrasound equipment, in-use economy and the absence of service contracts.

"To date, we haven't found anything that matches the Tristel Trio Wipes System", says Angus. "We quickly moved away from the

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Mr. Omar Ameen while reprocessing a transvaginal ultrasound probe with the Tristel Trio Wipes System.

solutions and systems we had been using. We actually received phone calls from Tristel's competitors questioning whether Tristel was TGA approved for use in Australia, but we had done our homework and knew it met the required regulatory status."

Education and training is high on Capital Radiology's agenda. "When you're busy you tend to rush", says Omar. "We ensure that staff use the Tristel Trio Wipes System correctly. Education and training is important for any disinfection method and we can rely on Tristel and their Australian distributor AshMed for support in delivering thorough education to all of our staff".

The ability to track and trace each Tristel decontamination process is another aspect that Capital like about the Tristel Trio Wipes System. "Traceability is a very important part of the process and has proven its importance", says Angus. "Tristel Trio Wipes System traceability covers the patient in two ways: in our central log book and in patient records. We always felt confident that our probes were clean, but being able to prove it gives patients and staff real peace of mind."

With over 70 sites throughout Victoria and New South Wales, Capital Radiology are an important part of the health system. Since partnering with Tristel in 2012, Capital Radiology have been able to ensure compliant, fast, reliable and economical decontamination of

ultrasound probes. Capital Radiology continue to expand their services and with Tristel by their side, the future is looking bright.

Contributors

- Mr. Omar Ameen – Victorian & New South Wales Ultrasound Coordinator, Capital Radiology.
- Mr. Angus Richmond – South East Regional Coordinator, Capital Radiology.

Capital Radiology are a leading diagnostic imaging provider, committed to providing comprehensive diagnostic support across all imaging modalities to both patients and referrers. Capital Radiology is perfectly positioned in the Australian diagnostic imaging market place for robust and continued growth. For more information, visit: www.capitalradiology.com.au

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