

Inside the September Issue

MONSTRIC

HEALTHCARE PURCHASING NEWS



Follow @HPN_Online

CLINICAL INTELLIGENCE FOR SUPPLY CHAIN LEADERSHIP

Like us on Facebook

Invest in hands-on training from the infection prevention experts. 

September 21-26 • Austin, TX **Register early and save!** **Learn more.**

Click the cover above for the online edition, or click below for the digital flip book.

INSIDE THE CURRENT ISSUE

September 2015

CS Solutions

Visit our **CS Solutions Archive**

Questions can be sent to: vdiamond@hpnonline.com
 called in to Valerie J. Dimond at HPN: (941) 927-9345 ext.202 or mailed to:
HPN CS Questions, 2477 Stickney Point Road, Suite 315B, Sarasota, FL 34231
 Names and hospital identification will be withheld upon request.

Current Issue
September 2015
Featured advertisers:

- [Aramark Uniform Services](#)
- [B Braun Interventional Systems](#)
- [Baxter Healthcare Corporation](#)
- [BD Sharps Disposal Systems](#)
- [Boston Scientific](#)
- [Cardinal Health Wound Care Division](#)
- [Contec, Inc.](#)
- [Cook Medical](#)
- [Dale Medical Products Inc.](#)
- [Diversey Care](#)
- [Endochoice](#)
- [Exergen Corp](#)
- [Getinge](#)
- [Healthmark Industries](#)
- [HealthTrust Purchasing Group](#)
- [Hy-Tape Corp.](#)
- [Innovative Sterilization Technologies](#)
- [Kem Medical Products](#)
- [Metrex Research Corp.](#)
- [Olympus America](#)
- [Parker Labs Inc.](#)
- [PDI](#)
- [PolyFoam Inc.](#)

September Cover Story

[Greening the cleaning process](#)

HPN 2015 INDUSTRY GUIDE

[Self Study Series](#)

[White Papers](#)

[Special Reports](#)

[Purchasing Connection](#)

[Resources](#)

[Show Calendar](#)

[HPN Hall of Fame](#)

[HPN Buyers Guides](#)

SHOP HPN
FEATURED PRODUCTS
INFORMATION LINK



Absorbing moisture in orthopedic trays, mysterious washer test results

by Ray Taurasi

Q I am the sterile processing clinical resource nurse and quality control manager in an orthopedic specialty hospital. We run 10 operating rooms (ORs) with a very high, daily case load. The demand for timely turnaround on many of our specialty sets is great. As you know, orthopedic trays are large and consist of large metal mass, which makes moisture and tear management a major challenge that we confront on a daily basis. We have been utilizing a combination of various foam and silicone products to reduce our sterile packaging tear ratio and while we've had some good results in this regard, we're encountering a rise in moisture problems. I have increased the use of OR towels to help facilitate wicking of the moisture with some success but the combined cost of all foam products and towels has adversely affected the SPD budget. The OR is also opposed to the use of towels as tray liners as they feel the towels can shed lint and fibers as well as leach detergent residuals onto the instruments. Can you suggest any alternatives to the use of foam, silicone or OR towels?

A The OR's objective and concern

- [Classifieds](#)
- [Issue Archives](#)
- [Advertise](#)
- [About Us](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Subscribe](#)

 **Sign up for our Email Newsletter**

Privacy by  **SafeSubscribe**SM
For Email Marketing you can trust

HOME

KSR Publishing, Inc.
Copyright © 2015

regarding the use of OR towels as packaging accessories is a legitimate one and, for the reasons noted, should not be used as tray liners or packaging aids. Silicone and foam products used as tray liners, corners, or other packaging aids can affectively protect instruments and reduce tearing; however such materials have no moisture absorption or wicking capabilities and thus are more prone to moisture retention. Further, due to a lower thermal capacity, they may also contribute to the creation of condensate. A more economical and effective alternative you might want to consider is the use of medical grade cellulose (paper) products, as pictured in Figures 1 through 3 at right.



Figure 1:

Tray liners are used to protect instruments, provide wicking and prevent instruments from protruding through mesh baskets.

Q We have been following AAMI guidelines, which recommend weekly, preferably daily, monitoring of automated washers. We firmly believe that daily monitoring of all washers is critical and is the best practice. Thus, we test all six of our washers daily. For the first several weeks that we implemented the daily monitoring of all our automated washers, all of the test results were A+, indicating that the washers were performing as they should. Over the past couple of weeks, I have been getting puzzling and conflicting results. One day all of the washers will pass then one will fail for no apparent reason the next day and then the next day after that the same washer passes the test but another one will fail. I started conducting additional testing on all of the washers and kept getting conflicting results amongst them. On consecutive testing days, a washer may pass one test but then fail the very next test. It may sound crazy, but it's like the machines are taking turns failing. All of my printouts look fine, the instruments look clean, and the maintenance team claims the washers seem to be functioning fine. I am really baffled and at wit's end here. What are your thoughts on this? Should I continue testing?



Figure 2:

An under guard liner placed under an instrument tray or loaner case is used to absorb and wick moisture and provide padding to reduce tearing.

A I am a strong advocate and supporter of the AAMI and AORN recommendations relative to cleaning verification and monitoring the performance of your automated washers. I do strongly recommend that you continue your testing and monitoring of all automated washers. A failed cleaning verification test is a

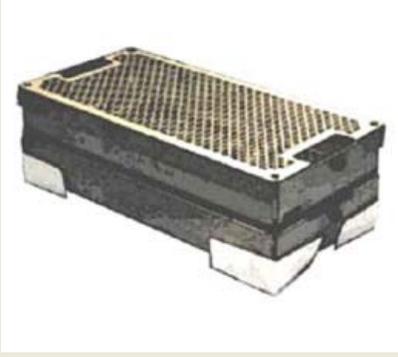


Figure 3:

Protective corners used on instrument trays, baskets or cases will prevent tears and punctures while the cellulose material delivers excellent wicking action.

- [\(Miller Law\)](#)
- [Pure Processing](#)
- [Ruhof Corporation](#)
- [Sanosil International](#)
- [Spectra254](#)
- [Steriliz](#)
- [TECSYS Inc.](#)
- [TOMI Environmental Solutions](#)
- [TRU-D SmartUVC](#)
- [Tuttner USA Co. Ltd.](#)
- [Viscot Medical/OP-Marks](#)
- [Xenex](#)

serious matter indicating that your equipment and cleaning process is not at optimum performance and, as a result, your instruments may not be effectively cleaned. A faulty washer rack used between the various washers often causes conflicting results, such as those that you have described. You must recognize that a washer rack is actually, in and of itself, a piece of processing equipment and must function properly. Washer racks must be carefully inspected before use for problems or defects which could affect their proper performance, some things you should observe and check include:

- Ensure that spray arms are free of debris and occlusions.
- Be certain that spray arms are all present, in good condition, and spin freely.
- The rack condition must be free of any damage, bends, etc.
- Make sure rack and spray arm bushing are present and free of crack or breaks.
- Confirm that all rack wheels are present, sitting properly on the washer track and functioning.
- Check to see that the rack properly aligns to the coupler and water source feed.

When you have multiple washers sharing or using racks interchangeably, I would suggest that you identify and label each rack so that when you conduct your cleaning verification testing, you can include the rack identification on the record sheet. Now, when attempting to determine the cause, you have the ability to identify whether or not the conflicting results might be a defective rack circulating between washers. **HPN**

Ray Taurasi is Eastern Regional Director of Clinical Sales and Services for [Healthmark Industries](#). His healthcare career spans over three decades as an Administrator, Educator, Technologist and Consultant. He is a member of AORN, AHA, SGNA, AAMI and a past president of IAHCSSM and has served on and contributed to many national committees with a myriad of professional organizations, manufacturers, corporations and prestigious healthcare networks. Taurasi has been a faculty member of numerous colleges teaching in the divisions of business administration and health sciences.

