

Mark'n Read™ News

TECHNIFOR NEWSLETTER - SURGICAL INSTRUMENT TRACEABILITY - SPECIAL EDITION

IT'S YOUR TURN TO TALK:

The CHPL (Loire Private Hospital Center) shares their experience...

> See page 2

EXCLUSIVE:

A global solution...

> See page 4

Medical Instrumentation Traceability

Most instruments used during surgery are reusable. Instrument tracking has now become an independent specialty, a service centralised in an in-house sterilization department, supervised by a pharmacist.

The sterilization cycle is made up of several steps: pre-disinfection, cleaning, refurbishment, sterilization. This cycle is repeated after each use, throughout the instrument's lifetime. Therefore, process-resisting traceability is essential.

technifor

French legislation now requires proven evidence-based traceability of medical equipment. That is, the last five patients having been in contact with a medical instrument must be recorded. The methods to achieve this, on the other hand, are not defined.

Today, it is not mandatory to track each instrument, but nevertheless, each instrument batch must be. Each establishment is responsible for finding the best-adapted identification technology.

// A simple, practical and foolproof instrument identification methodology. Technifor's DataMatrix™ is the clearest solution. //



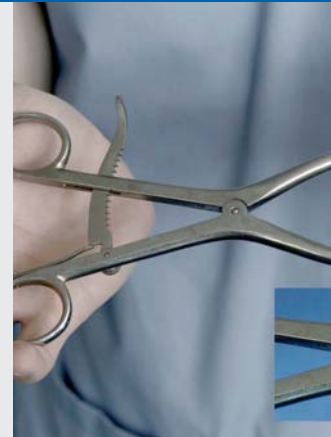
The most commonly used method of traceability offers "identical" re-packaging. Reusable medical equipment may be sterilized:

- as a single unit, wrapped in a single-use packaging,
- as a batch (composed of various instruments needed for a given intervention), placed in a tray using a Pasteur folding wrapping,
- and finally, as a batch in a container, using a reusable wrapping in this case.

The CHPL chose single-instrument traceability using the Micro-Percussion process an ideal solution for optimal "identical" reprocessing.

During reprocessing, a unique identification code (DataMatrix™) is read on every previously marked instrument. Data bases save and check the data read, which guarantee perfect reprocessing of the wrappings or Pasteur-folded trays corresponding to a container. Each kit is then sterilized in its container, reused and followed-up throughout every future intervention.

Proven Permanent Marking Solution: Your Accounts



The Loire Private Hospital Center operates up to 100 patients a day. For these interventions, the hospital center has an instrument inventory. According to Christine Chave, CHPL sterile processing department manager, approximately 20,000 devices will be progressively marked by a Technifor Micro-Percussion machine (to this day, 5,000 instruments are already identified). "This represents many, many patients, many operations and a great deal of surgical instruments" Chave explains, and adds: "but it is our responsibility to sterilize and trace each item. Furthermore, it's our will to track instruments that optimizes our production management."



// Tracking the sterilization process greatly surpasses the legal aspect, it allows a production follow-up, piloting and the related analysis: activity log-book, simultaneous inventory, unitary instrument maintenance follow-up. //

- Francis Reymondon, engineer in charge of the project's setup.

During reprocessing, instruments that aren't marked yet can be intercepted and given to the device operator, Patrick Jeandet, in charge of marking medical instruments with a 2-dimensional DataMatrix™, or an alphabetical text with Technifor's CN312Cm Micro-Percussion machine.

"We have compared a fair amount of methods before choosing Micro-Percussion," explains Jeandet "but the other alternative solutions are less adapted. Laser marking has quality-related consequences such as corrosion, which appears after several reprocessing cycles.

Technologies such as "stickers" or RFID chips are too expensive when compared with Micro-Percussion. Such chips are retailed at €1 per instrument. When calculated, the investment return on a Technifor marking machine is reached once 40% of the instrument inventory is marked."



Sterilization & Micro-Percussion

Various studies comparing traceability techniques have been carried out: laser marking, stickers, RFID chips, Micro-Percussion were evaluated. Yet, considering the constraints linked to the sterilization process (18 minutes at 134°C), **Micro-Percussion proved to be the most effective marking technology:**

- No corrosion,
- Cost-efficient,
- Time-efficient,
- User-friendly,
- Easy reading with means available on the market.

Furthermore, Micro-Percussion meets a pharmacist's two most important criteria: hygiene and CE medical instrument manufacturer's warranty validity. Therefore, no hygiene hazard to worry about: the "new" marked tools are not altered. In the event where marking may somewhat physically alter tools, Micro-Percussion will not alter their mechanical properties.

The aeronautical industry chose Micro-Percussion and that should tell us something! Never would an aeronautics engineer consider weakening parts!



DataMatrix™, Permanent Marking

Even if Micro-Percussion is an impact process, even the most intricate surgical instruments can be marked. As well, since marking is 100% indelible, an instrument can be sterilized an unlimited number of times without the slightest marking alteration.

// A 100% integrated solution, without external intervention. A user-friendly technology. That's what Micro-Percussion is all about. //

The decision to mark instruments in-house was taken after careful consideration. Contract sterilization would have required, time after time, complex wrapping and sending. With such an important workload, the health establishment could neither afford to let its tools go, nor extra costs associated



with such a process. "Some of our instruments must be operational within hours of arrival in the sterilization department." - **Pierre Faure, engineer in charge of the project.** "We didn't want to depend on exterior factors. With the Technifor system, we are both autonomous and efficient."

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Medical instrumentation traceability

EXCLUSIVITY

Technifor's Global Solution

To meet the medical sector's specific surgical instrument identification needs, Technifor launched a new global and exclusive solution for 2D DataMatrix™ marking and reading.

This set is composed of a Micro-Percussion marking machine and a **universal clamping system** which marks even the most complexly-shaped instruments (tweezers, scissors, cups...).

This marking machine can mark remarkably small codes. A position compensator assists the machine operator into placing and clamping the instrument.

For DataMatrix™ code rereading, a **sealed table reader** is supplied with an easy-to-use interface.

Its integrated lighting allows for faultless 2D-type code reading in the event where there is little contrast.

Its reading process requires no operator manual triggering.



Universal bracing



Precision marking



Sealed table reader



A MARK WHICH DEFIES TIME

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