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Glutaraldehyde High-Level Disinfection Solutions and Surfactants

The use of glutaraldehyde solution for the sterilization and high-level disinfection of flexible endoscopes is well documented in the literature and is the most commonly practiced method of reprocessing these delicate devices. Of concern is the use of those glutaraldehyde solutions containing surfactants within their formulation.

Surfactants are added to some glutaraldehyde solutions in order to extend the use-life of the solution. Producers of such solutions claim the addition of surfactants will extend their use-life from 14 to 28 days by stabilizing the solution. The downside is that surfactants can make the product unsuitable for use on some flexible endoscopes. In some instances the surfactant containing solutions has caused damage to some scopes.

The general rule of thumb has been to use a 14-day glutaraldehyde on scopes and a 28-day glutaraldehyde solution on other instruments and devices. For this very reason, some manufacturers produce both a 14-day and a 28-day glutaraldehyde solution. This leads to confusion in the industry. In some instances users have used the wrong solution for the wrong purpose. This is not to mention, the cost of having to inventory and order two different products.

Micro-Scientific Industries new generation product, Micro-Cide^{28}™ HLD Solution is a 28-day use-life product absent surfactants. Micro-Cide^{28} HLD is FDA approved for use on endoscopes as well as all other surgical instrumentation.

GI / Endoscopic facilities are now able to use one product for all uses, including flexible endoscopes for up to 28-days before changing the solution.

For additional information contact the Scientific and Technical Support Group at Micro-Scientific Industries Scientific 1-888-253-2536.