

ATP so we guarantee the cleaning process?

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The cleaning process consists of removing organic and inorganic dirt and reducing the microbial load present in health products, to make the product safe to be handled and prepared for disinfection or sterilization. (Brazil, 2012). Some materials have complex compliance and limited internal spaces which are difficult to be reached, such as, the central core of biofilm prevention and control. Ensuring cleanliness requires well-defined processes, time, training, and follow-up, since any failure in the processing of materials is considered a severe event, which may compromise the sterility of the material, causing a risk of infection.

At AACD hospital, after cleaning, we perform the Adenosine Triphosphate (ATP) test on some materials such as: cannulated endoscopes with lumen, scoliosis material, hip and knee arthroplasty and handpiece for shaver blades. The test is a quick, simple, efficient and reliable method to verify the effectiveness of the cleaning and decontamination process.

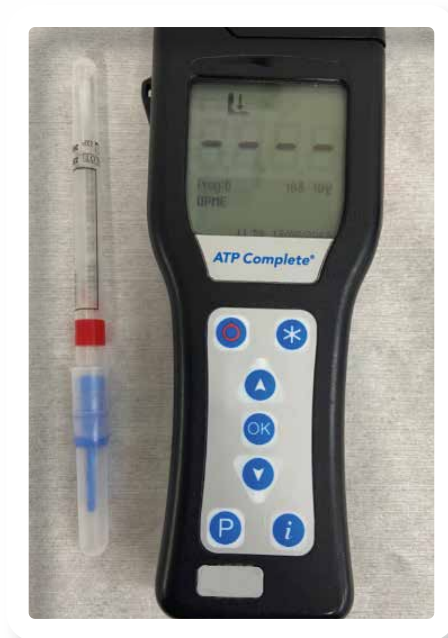
The test is a valuable tool for the MSC teams, for the surgical process, and the hospital infection control team, as it complements the protocols of the cleaning processes established in the institution or automated cleaning processes to guarantee the care quality.

Results:

The manufacturer's guideline is that the results should be below 45 URLs; however, since we challenge our own process, we've set the limit up to 10 URLs. Out of the 1610 samples, 53 were disapproved resulting in 3.29% of non-compliance.

Conclusion:

The need to assess and measure the level of residual contaminants in healthcare products is indisputable. ATP test has as a benefit not only to monitor the cleanliness of the material as the primary and most important procedure in the process, but also reduce the risk of infection in order to ensure that the process was carried out successfully. Therefore, since the ATP tests were applied by our team in our own environment, we could conclude that the cleaning conditions in our institution are adequate and safe.



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