



Title	Cleaning and Disinfection of Minimally Invasive Instruments
Agency	VATAP, VA Technology Assessment Program Office of Patient Care Services, Room JP9-321, 150 S. Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA 02130; Tel: 857-364-4469, Fax: 857-364-6587; vatap@va.gov , www.va.gov/vatap
Reference	VA Technology Assessment Program Bibliography, May, 2010. www.va.gov/VATAP/docs/cleaninginstruments2010.pdf

Aim

To identify research addressing the cleansing of laparoscopic instruments, particularly comparing clinical outcomes for single-use versus reused instruments.

Conclusions and results

Thirteen articles (5 quasi-systematic reviews, 4 analytic studies, and 4 observational studies) met the inclusion criteria. Any risk associated with reprocessing instruments has not been addressed by substantial research. Reusable instruments are less expensive than disposable instruments.

Methods

A literature search was conducted for articles in English published between 1990 and 2010 in the following databases: Cochrane Library, PubMed, EMBASE, and INAHTA. Search terms were “laparoscopic instruments”, “endoscopic instruments”, “cleaning”, “disinfection”, and “iatrogenic infection”. Included were available systematic reviews, HTAs, and economic analyses. If these were not available, we included the highest quality and most recent available studies that reported clinical outcomes. The searches captured 517 citations.

Further research/reviews required

No clinical trials were identified that would provide definitive answers in the near future.