

Track: 4. Basic Science

Cleaning Procedures of Genital Measures in Sexlabs: Current Practices and Emerging Challenges

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Introduction & Objectives: Sexual psychophysiology is a scientific field which has vastly contributed to the understanding of the human sexual response. Genital response measurements have been consistently assessed in laboratory studies across the world, wherein the most common measures are vaginal photoplethysmography for women and penile circumferential response for men. These instruments require direct genital contact or insertion, and thus hygiene procedures have been carefully practised allowing the reuse of the devices while minimizing the chance of transmitting infections. Current guidelines suggest high-level disinfection for such procedures, and researchers commonly use glutaraldehyde (e.g. Cidex Plus) and orthophthalaldehyde (e.g. Cidex OPA) formulations. Because such disinfectants have not shown clear evidence of killing Human Papillomavirus (HPV), recommendations include a pre-wash with sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS) based on studies reporting SDS to kill both HPV and HIV. However, recent studies on microbiology have suggested new methodologies on how to deal with HPV, and new disinfection protocols have been introduced in the medical field (e.g. low-temperature gas plasma sterilizers). The present work intends to discuss current sterilization protocols in light of the new findings regarding HPV resistance

and raise awareness about the possibility of adopting new guidelines that allow for more effective use and disinfection/sterilization of genital devices in Sexology laboratories.

Conclusion & Recommendations: Vaginal photoplethysmographs as internal probes are classified as semi-critical devices and, hence, their cleaning procedures should take into account HPV susceptibility to disinfection. Gas plasma technology (e.g. STERRAD), which already has been utilized in some SexLabs in Europe, is discussed as an optimized solution. Advantages regarding time consumption and resources are also addressed. When unable to use high technology sterilisers, condom protective covers may be recommended, considering preliminary evidence showing that condoms do not significantly impact photoplethysmography data.

Keywords: Genital response devices, Disinfection, Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

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Processing of Pictorial Stimuli with and without Sexual Content in Individuals with High Neuroticism: An ERP Study

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Introduction & Objectives: Our cognitive system relies on emotional and attentional mechanisms in order to select the important information from the environment and ignore or inhibit distracting stimuli.

Such ability is often influenced by individual / personality traits and neuroticism has been associated with a particular tendency for distraction. Moreover, neuroticism has been proposed as a vulnerability factor for