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Pre-Clean Confidence Begins with a Closer Look

Learning from Vijf Meren Kliniek / Spaarne Gasthuis, a leading hospital in The Netherlands
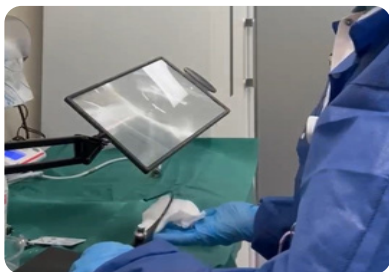

Infection Prevention teams play a crucial role in ensuring that every step of endoscope reprocessing meets the highest standards. One universal truth remains unchanged across all high-level disinfection methods: **effective pre-cleaning is essential**. This applies equally to chemical, thermal, and UV-C based processes.

When the **Vijf Meren Kliniek / the Spaarne Gasthuis** in Haarlem & Hoofddorp in the Netherlands evaluated the **UV Smart D60 to upgrade their channel-less ENT endoscope high-level disinfection process**, their Infection Prevention department raised a familiar concern:

How can we be certain that pre-cleaning is consistently executed to the required level?

To strengthen confidence, the hospital introduced a **simple** and **low-cost** quality-reassurance measure. They placed a **magnifying glass on the pre-cleaning station**. This allowed staff to perform the pre-clean with a visual confirmation that no visible debris or contamination remained on the ENT scope before every high-level disinfection step. This visual reassurance step is particularly valuable to give all stakeholders the right **reassurance before implementing UV-C disinfection on ENT scopes**

This practical implementation **did not alter protocols, add burden, or compensate for any disinfection limitations. Instead, it demonstrated a proactive commitment to quality assurance**. With this reassurance in place, Infection Prevention gained full confidence, knowing that the essential pre-cleaning step was reinforced.

So what?

The Vijf Meren Kliniek / Spaarne Gasthuis's experience shows how a simple and low-cost measure can support consistent pre-cleaning quality and provide Infection Prevention with additional reassurance, while keeping the validated UV Smart D60 process exactly as designed.

It highlights how simple improvements can help teams adopt innovative disinfection technologies with confidence.

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