

instrumental cleansing

The Miele G 7881 Dental Disinfector increases productivity, enhances patient care, and ensures staff safety. Thomas Hoerrner, of Miele, explains.



IN THIS UNCERTAIN ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT, dentists are challenged by the same problems that most businesses face: through evaluation and justification of capital expenditures. If a product can increase productivity and favorably impact the bottom line, it moves to the top of the purchase list. Typically, a back-office sterilization center is not the first place a practice looks for a product purchase that can impact the bottom line. But Dr. Kevin G. Murphy looked at it and purchased a Miele G 7881 Dental Disinfector. It has not only increased patient and staff safety, but it also has the practice's productivity up 20%.

A time saver

In July 2007, Dr. Murphy, a periodontist/prosthodontist, two general dentists, and four hygienists moved to new offices and installed the Dental Disinfector. Maggie Schulze, CDA, is Dr. Murphy's surgical assistant and the primary user of the system. She said the move presented a good opportunity to analyze equipment upgrades.

"Prior to the move, we utilized a small ultrasonic unit that could hold just a few instrument cassettes, which oftentimes caused a backup in central," Schulze stated. "Dr. Murphy looked at a variety of automated cleaning systems because he knew that our practice would need a unit that would be efficient and large enough to accommodate the many cassettes that we generate in a small amount of time."

In addition to improving efficiency and capacity, Dr. Murphy was looking for a cleaning system that delivered a high-level clean, Schulze said. "We know sterilization is not enough for instrument reprocessing, as debris remaining on an instrument will act as a barrier to the steam and prevent sterilization," she said. "So he wanted a product that could truly clean." Schulze said those were the primary reasons for the



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purchase of the G 7881, but to date it has exceeded Dr. Murphy's expectations.

"Today with the use of the G 7881, we never run out of cassettes and we feel confident that our instruments are critically clean after they are run through the system. We also have achieved an immediate 20% increase in doctor productivity and have reduced the amount of activities we do in the back office so we can concentrate more time chairside and focus on patient care, which is leading to a greater financial return for the practice," she said.

Today, much like Dr. Murphy's practice has done, many dentists rely on ultrasonic machines for cleaning prior to sterilization. However, more and more practices are pur-

chasing a system which is long overdue for its time in the spotlight. As Schulze has seen, an automated cleaning system is a time saver. It eliminates the need to presoak or scrub instruments and reduces the entire presterilization process to just one step. Cassettes are simply loaded into the system. Then, when the cycle is complete, the instruments can be wrapped or placed in sterilization pouches and placed in the sterilization unit.

A hot product

Not all automated cleaning systems are created alike. The Miele G 7881 Dental Disinfector takes cleaning effectiveness one step further, providing maximum capacity and delivering high-level disinfection that exceeds OSHA standards for microbial contami-

FOR DR. MURPHY, AN ADDED BENEFIT OF INCORPORATING THE DENTAL DISINFECTOR INTO THE PRACTICE IS ENHANCED STAFF SAFETY, AS IT HAS DECREASED THE STAFF EXPOSURE TO BLOOD AND BODY FLUIDS.



chasing automatic cleaning systems, more importantly a dental disinfector. This is a product and

nation reduction of 99.99%. Even blood that has been dried on instruments for up to six hours is reliably removed. The G 7881's high level thermal disinfection is achieved in the last 10 minutes of the final rinse cycle of the Disinfection Vario Program. The temperature rises to 93°C / 200°F and holds for ten minutes. This is also important because the instruments will be at

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their hottest at the end of the program, allowing for faster and more efficient drying results.

The G 7881 looks strikingly similar to a residential dishwasher and can be fitted with panels to fit the new design and decor of a practice. But the disinfectant is not a dishwasher. It is specifically designed to clean and disinfect instruments. It has baskets and inserts created to accommodate the instruments, including injector baskets for the proper cleaning of hollow instruments and mesh trays for hinged instruments. It is also equipped with a steam condenser, which eliminates contaminated air from venting back into the reprocessing area. While dishwashers utilize detergents with chemicals that are not compatible with medical grade instrumentation and do not provide deionized (DI) water rinses, the disinfectant utilizes the right detergents, neutralizing, and rinsing agents.

Purchasing a disinfectant makes good sense for instrument preservation, as most manufacturers will not honor warranties for instruments damaged in residential dishwashers. Some manufacturers even recommend a DI water rinse as the final processing step prior to sterilization. Rinsing with DI water ensures the elimination of detergent residues and naturally occurring minerals, which could lead to instrument stains and corrosion.

Safe and sound

For Dr. Murphy, an added benefit of incorporating the Dental Disinfectant into the practice is enhanced staff safety, as it has decreased the staff exposure to blood and body fluids. "That was the added benefit," Schulze said. "With the disinfectant, there is very little handling of the instruments themselves so getting 'stuck' is a nonissue, unlike when using an ultrasonic unit. In addition, the ultrasonic cleaning bath that we formerly used provided no reliable means of validation, and its use for instrument decontamination is at least questionable."

Dr. Murphy's decision to "clean up" the back office made good business sense as well as good practice sense. In Schulze's words: "Something as simple as adding the right equipment to an office can completely set the right balance of the dental team as a whole and bring a much needed spark that helps take the practice to the next level. Once a solid system is in place, the doctor and his team can reduce the number of activities in which he or she is involved and concentrate more on patient care. For our practice, the Dental Disinfectant helped us improve upon our mission statement – to provide the highest level of patient care." ■

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