

duct and machine-assisted disinfection using hot water (170°F for 30 minutes). Both types of machines had a wash cycle built into the process, followed by the disinfection cycle. The chemically-assisted machine also had a rinse cycle. Our study differed from previously published studies in that we inoculated the tubing with a known inoculum of *Pseudomonas* species and *Acinetobacter* species. We found that in our study the machine-assisted chemical disinfection was more efficient in killing the organism we had introduced than the hot water disinfection alone.

Our study will be published shortly in the *Journal of Hospital Infection* (British).

**Inge Gurevich, R.N.**  
**Patricia Tafuro, R.N.**  
Infection Control Practitioners  
Nassau Hospital  
Mineola, L.I., New York

## Sterilization of Surgical Instruments

### To the Editor:

A question regarding proper sterilization of surgical instruments has arisen for us, and we are hoping you may be able to help us with the solution. For some time we have been aware that instruments must be left unclamped and open in surgical packs to enable the autoclave steam to penetrate to all surfaces in order to assure sterility.

The surgery crew is afraid to do this with sharp instruments such as towel clips and tenaculums, however, because of the danger to the staff in opening the packs. Most of the staff claim they have had unfortunate accidents of this nature in the past. We know that hooking them into a towel is not a suitable solution because of the potential problems with "holy" surgical linen.

We are hoping you have encountered dilemmas such as this before and can "shed some light" on our problem.

**Annette Rhodes, R.N.**  
Infection Control Coordinator  
Barton Memorial Hospital  
South Lake Tahoe, California

*The preceding letter was referred to Carole Van Antwerpen, R.N., and Peter A. Gross, M.D., for a reply.*

Safe packaging for sterilization is a common problem with sharp instruments such as towel clips and tenaculums.

In our operating room, after the cleaning process towel clips and tenaculums are autoclaved in baskets in the unlocked position. We define unlocked as keeping the edges touching while the instrument is not locked completely. In this position you can imagine that the tips of the towel clips or tenaculums are just touching or are slightly separated. The use of this technique has virtually eliminated unfortunate accidents.

In our central sterile processing area towel clips and tenaculums are usually packaged in procedure trays or heat-sealed pouches. Again the unlocked position rather than the completely open position is preferred. For the trays, a towel is placed over the sharp objects to prevent unnecessary puncture wounds when opening the trays. For the peel-back pouches, a square piece of gauze (3x3 or 4x4) is placed over the sharp points. This method will prevent the tips from piercing the pouch. So this method will not only keep the instrument sterile while it is in the pouch but, also prevent puncture wounds when the instrument is being removed from the pouch. Whatever preventive measures are used, in-service education on a continuing basis is necessary to minimize the hazards of sharp instruments for the staff.

### REFERENCES

1. Perkins J: Processing of surgical instruments, in *Principles and Methods of Sterilization in Health Sciences*, ed 2. Springfield, Illinois, Charles C Thomas Pub, 1976, p 257.
2. *Principles and procedures of asepsis*, in Rhodes MJ, Gruendeman BJ, Ballinger W (eds): *Alexander's Care of the Patient in Surgery*, ed 6. St Louis, CV Mosby Co, 1978, p 67.

**Carole Van Antwerpen, R.N.**  
Nurse Epidemiologist  
**Peter A. Gross, M.D.**  
Director, Department of  
Internal Medicine  
Professor of Medicine,  
New Jersey Medical School  
University of Medicine  
and Dentistry of New Jersey  
Hackensack, New Jersey

# CALGON ACUTE-KARE™

## The Most Important Ingredient In Your Healthcare Personnel Handwash Is Not Always The Ingredients...

Many Healthcare handwashing products contain proven antimicrobial ingredients. However, Calgon's new Acute-Kare Healthcare Personnel Handwash,\* with 1% PCMX, has been shown to be significantly superior in FINAL FORMULATION, to current widely used products in rate and completeness of bacterial kill. And, its emollient-enriched formula is gentle, even after repeated use.



\*As defined in the FDA Panel 1 monograph, Federal Register 1/6/78.



### Antimicrobial Protection You Can Count On...

- Acute-Kare is recommended for high use frequency locations where antimicrobial insurance against contamination from transient organisms is required or desirable.
- Contains 1% PCMX (Para-chloro-meta-xenol), a broad spectrum antimicrobial ingredient recognized as safe to use in topically applied products.
- Broad spectrum-activity against gram negative and gram positive bacteria and yeast.
- Residual Activity—Handwashing tests following an FDA approved protocol, show a significant reduction in inoculated microorganisms versus a control after 25 wash sequences.

### With Gentleness You Deserve...

- Acute-Kare is non-irritating, even after repeated use.
- Acute-Kare contains unique skin conditioners and emollients.
- Acute-Kare has a pH balanced formula which is compatible with the skin's natural pH.

**Call Your Calgon Healthcare Sales Specialist  
For A FREE Demonstration And Test.**

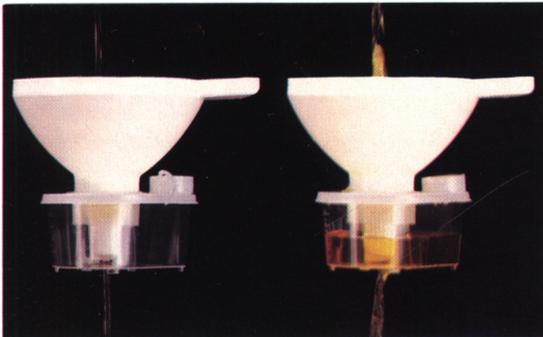


SUBSIDIARY OF **MERCK**  
& CO., INC.

COMMERCIAL DIVISION • HEALTHCARE GROUP • BOX 147 • ST. LOUIS, MO 63166



## This is no way to collect an accurate midstream sample.



*With the TruCatch kit, the first few cc's of urine automatically flow through. Then the container automatically begins to fill.*

**The CURITY® TruCatch™ kit results in more accurate cultures. Without the usual stop-and-go.**

Accurate culture of urine specimens requires a true midstream collection. Unfortunately, to obtain midstream samples, most collection devices require patients to interrupt their flow.

Not only is that messy and undependable. It's also not always accurate.

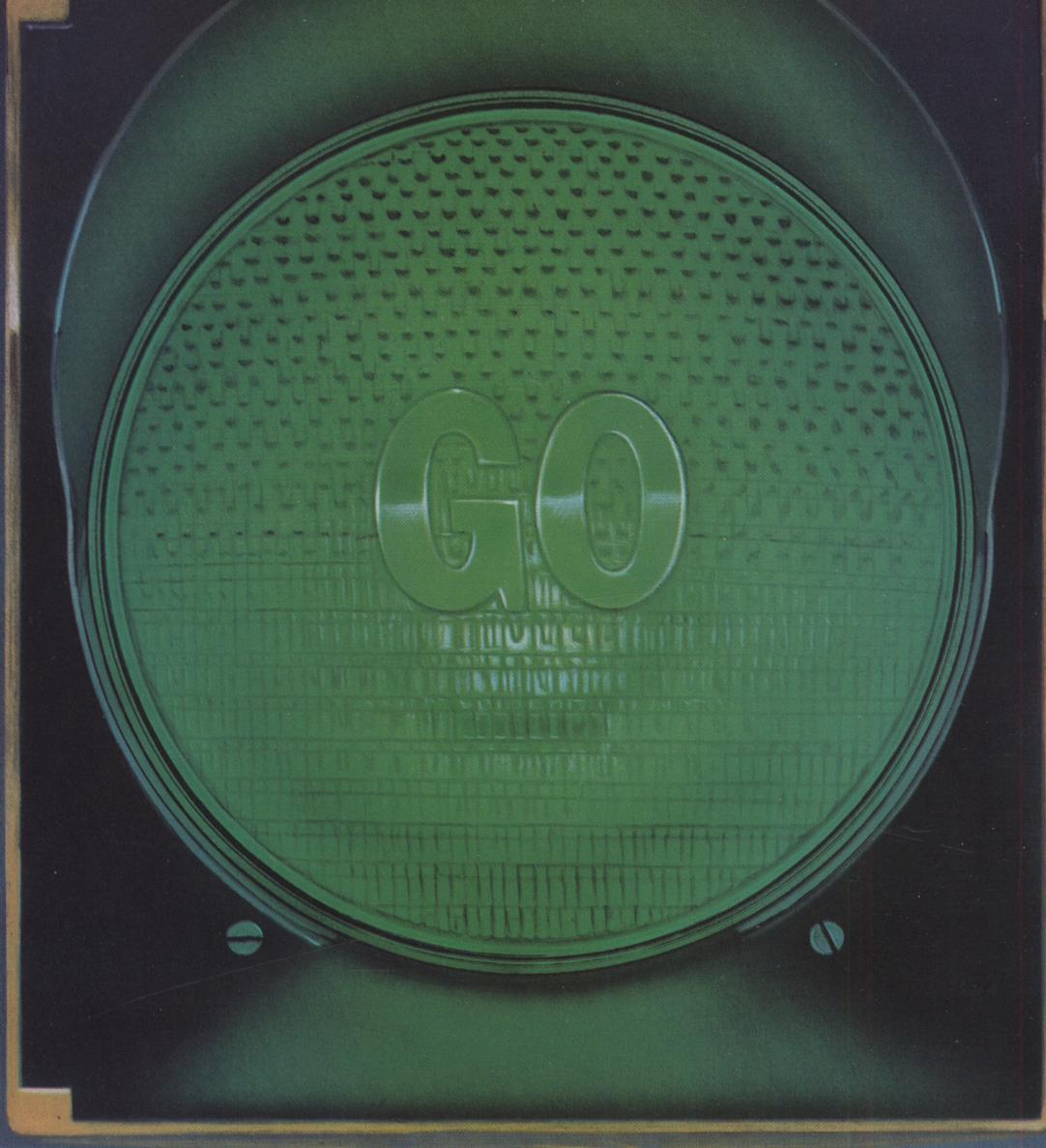
But now there's a new midstream collection kit as accurate as it is easy to use.

**The flow-through is automatic.**

With the TruCatch kit,

patients don't even have to use cleansing towelettes. They simply void into the funnel of the collector and the first few cc's of contaminated urine automatically flow through. As the stream increases, the collection chamber automatically fills. So a true midstream sample is obtained. When a sufficient amount has been collected, any remaining urine flows through the bottom into the toilet. Again automatically.

Even sealing the container is automatic. All you do is push down on the funnel, discard it and the container is sealed. There's no contact with the inner chamber.



This is.

**Three times fewer false positives.**

From a total sample female population of 542 specimens, false positive\* results were obtained in over 19% of cases with one of the leading mid-

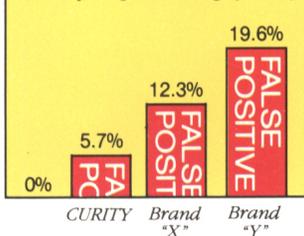
stream collection kits and over 12% with a second.

With the TruCatch kit, on the other hand, false positives were significantly reduced (see chart).

So if you value reliable testing, reduction of nursing time and ease of patient use, there's only one way to go.

The new CURITY TruCatch kit.

*In a recent study, the TruCatch kit reduced false positives significantly.*



\*False positive: a negative catheter specimen and a positive midstream specimen of 10<sup>4</sup> colonies or more.

Patent Nos. 4,252,132, 4,276,889.  
Other patent pending.

**"You've got the green light to send me a free kit."**

I'd like a free sample of your new CURITY TruCatch kit.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Hospital \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Send to the Kendall Company, Hospital Products, One Federal Street, Boston, MA 02101  
ATTN: Marketing Services.  
HM-2768 D

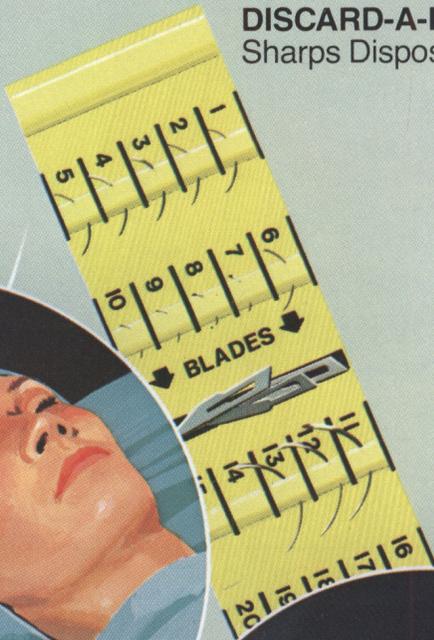
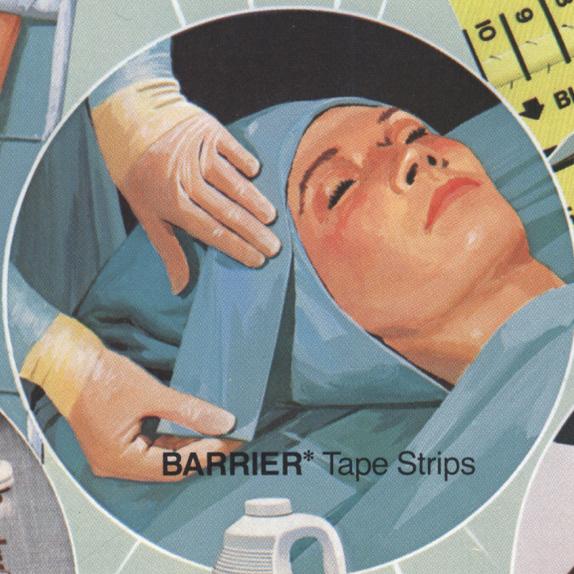
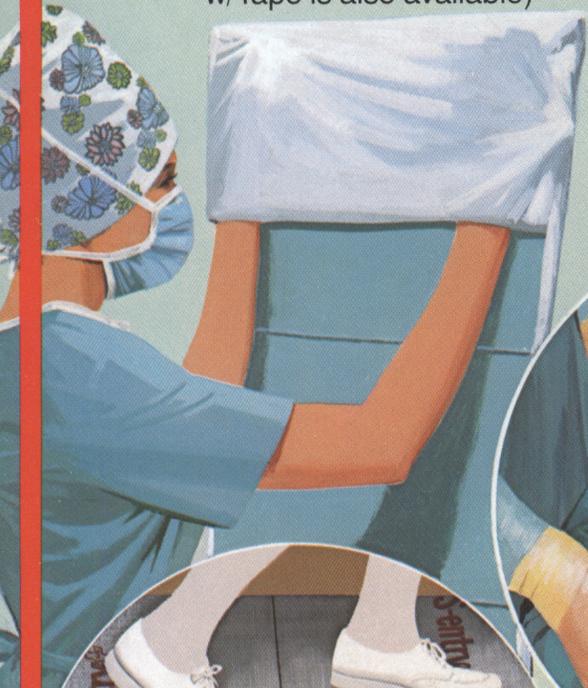


# ASEPSIS SAFETY CONVENIENCE

...provided by Surgical Specialty  
Products from SURGIKOS

**BARRIER\*** Prep Pad  
(BARRIER Extremity Prep Pad  
w/Tape is also available)

**DISCARD-A-PAD\***  
Sharps Disposal System



**BARRIER\*** Tape Strips



**S-ENTRY PLUS\***  
Contamination Control  
Dry Mat

**SURGIKOS\***  
Electro-Surgical Tip  
Cleaner

**IOPREP\*** Antiseptic

## SURGIKOS

SURGIKOS, INC., ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76010

\*Trademark © SURGIKOS 1982 S-0581